

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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Revised 4/28/11

CHAPTER 1000

NEEDS

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1000 OBJECTIVE AND FORMAT

Objectives:

To provide guidelines which define the optimum level of activities that should be undertaken to achieve full potential benefits from the forest.

Format and Policy:

Needs for the county forest shall be listed without regard to budgetary constraints or other limitations. This list shall identify the forest potential in terms of public benefits, investments or opportunities, and financial returns. Silvicultural needs of the county forest are identified in the Forest Compartment Reconnaissance printout. The DNR Public Lands Handbook describes procedures for use of this information. Other needs shall be determined by the Committee and the forest administrator, with technical assistance from the DNR and other interested agencies or individuals qualified to provide such assistance.

1100 DETAILED ANNUAL NEEDS FOR FIFTEEN YEARS

Annual silvicultural needs are identified in the Forest Compartment Reconnaissance printout. The printout, referenced in the plan, is available in the County Forest administrator's office. Printout listings include timber harvests, tree planting, and other silvicultural activities. Other unanticipated needs will be addressed in accordance with procedures outlined in this plan. These items will be identified and plans made for implementation, as part of the annual budget work plan prepared by the administrator and Committee. Annual work plans are approved by the County Board and forwarded to the DNR as required by statute (s. 28.11(5)(b) and s.28.11(5m)(b), Wis. Stats.

1200 SUMMARY OF FIFTEEN YEAR NEEDS

A schedule giving a summary of silvicultural needs and other needs for the period covered by this plan, appear as an inclusion in this chapter.

The Forestry and Parks Committee will pursue the use of equipment owned by other governmental agencies within the County whenever practical. The Committee may be willing to allow other agencies the use of Forestry and Parks equipment as long as there is a mutual agreement between

agencies.

The Committee may be able to actually own less equipment than is listed below if mutual agreements can be made between agencies. This would benefit both agencies in county by not maintaining two pieces of the same equipment. The equipment will be replaced when necessary to have cost effective machinery. An equipment inventory can be found in Chapter 900. The following is a list of equipment desirable for completing operations on the Florence County Forest.

Trucks:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Pickups- 3-4 four wheel drives | Pickups- 2 two wheel drives |
| Flat Dump Bed Pickup- 1 | |

Heavy Equipment:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Dozer*- 1 | |
| Front-end loader/Backhoe*- 1 | |
| Tree planter- 1 | Farm tractor with front bucket- 1 |
| Snow Groomers- 1 | |

Other equipment:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Utility trailer- 2 | Lowboy trailer- 1 twelve ton |
| Snowmobile trailer (2 place)- 2 | Riding lawnmower- 2 |
| Push Mower- 2 | Grass Trimmer- 1 |
| Alpine Snowmobile- 1 | Snowmobile- 2 |
| ATV- 2 | Generator/Welder- 1 |
| Tig/wire feed Welder- 1 | Chainsaws- 5 |
| Discer- 1 | Cultivator- 1 |
| Brush hog- 1 | Snowmakers- 4 |

(*- possible equipment use agreement could be made with Florence County Highway Dept. for use of these pieces of equipment and also utilize DNR and Town of Florence equipment when agreeable.)

Personnel and Office Equipment:

Personnel needed to manage the County Forest, Parks, Ski hill, and other recreation trails and activities in the County should include: County Forest Administrator, Business Manager, Assistant

Forest Administrator, Parks/Ski hill manager, Parks/Ski hill assistant, and Forester, and An additional person on staff for operating equipment. In addition limited term employees should be hired to help with the parks and ski hill care, and local inmates from the Florence County jail may be used for parks and ski hill care. Other government-funded crews will be utilized when available.

The equipment needed will include computers, phones, cell phones, two-way radios, copiers, fax, and calculators. The County Forestry Department will continue to implement and upgrade the GIS and GPS systems in conjunction with the Florence County Zoning and Treasurer's Departments.

The parks and ski hill will need necessary equipment for proper operation. This will include replacing snow groomers when necessary.

The Forestry and Parks Office is located in the Florence Natural Resources and Wild Rivers Interpretive Center. The Center has a visitor center, which shows the Wild Rivers and the history of logging in the area, and the future of logging. The purpose of the visitor center is to educate the public on proper forest management. The sales area in the visitor center needs full time staffing and equipment.

The Forestry and Parks Department also has a garage at the Resource Center for mechanical work. Proper tools and equipment will be needed to perform these functions.

Future equipment purchases:

- Pickup trucks : 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2020
- Flat Dump Bed Pickup truck: 2008, 2015
- *Heavy Equipment: Dozer- 2007, ,
- , Loader-Backhoe- 2008
- ATV: 2008, 2014, 2020
- Grooming equipment: 2010, 2015, 2020

(*- possible equipment use agreement could be made with Florence County Highway Dept. for use of these pieces of equipment.)

Recreation

Recreation is a large part of this department's responsibility. Trails, parks, boat landings, and the ski hill are coordinated through the forestry and parks department.

Snowmobile trails have been established for a number of years. There will be a need from time to

time to adjust the trails, but there should not be much of a need for new snowmobile trail construction.

ATV trails are currently in construction around the county forest. There will be a continuing process of adding more trails to help connect parts of the county.

Mountain Biking and Cross-Country Ski trails need to be maintained, possibly lengthened, and possibly more trails if the need arises.

The county operates six parks, two of which have campgrounds. There is a need for increasing the number of electrical sites at the Lake Emily campground, and possibly adding electric to West Bass Lake campground.

The Keyes peak ski lodge has just been completed. There is now a need for newer up-to-date grooming equipment at the ski hill.

Roads

There are 33.95 miles of State approved County Forest Roads. A map in chapter 900 has the locations of the existing County Forest Roads and planned County forest roads in the future. There is approximately 9.25 miles of roads to be built in the future. The goal is to complete 1-3 miles of roads each year. In addition other woods roads throughout the county forest will be established as needed for timber sales and access. Other roads may be closed to stay within the policy to have no more than a travelable road every ½ mile. The actual roadwork for each year will be in the annual work plan.

The plan is to maintain the County Forest Roads as often as necessary to keep them in a travelable condition. Because of the limited funding that comes from the Department of transportation for maintenance, the roads may be left in poor condition at times due to lack of funding.

Land Acquisition

The County Forest blocking as indicated on the map found in chapter 900 will be a guide for land acquisition on the county forest. In 1995 the Department of Natural Resources(DNR) purchased 4,000 acres from Florence County (Spread Eagle Barrens). This land was located in the Northeast portion of Florence County. This land was purchase to establish a Barrens ecosystem in northeast Wisconsin. The DNR's goal is to acquire from willing sellers all the land within the project boundary set of the Barrens. The total acreage of this will be approximately 8,800 acres. There is approximately 320 Acres of County Forest remaining within the Barrens blocking. There is currently a deal being worked on to sell the 320 acres to the DNR and reenter 320 acres of land purchase by the county from International Paper. The Forestry and Parks Committee and the County Board will approve all acquisitions.

The Goodman timber is being sold and this land would be an ideal addition to the county forest. Cooperate timber land divestitures will be present possible additional county forest additions through time. Maintaining these lands as working forest is critical to the economic well being of Florence County. County Forest ownership may be a good option for these lands.

Forest Management Needs

The annual County Forest Work Plan will include the amounts, and types of timber harvested each year. Data from the County Forest Reconnaissance will be the basis for planning the annual harvest. There have been between 600 and 1000 acres of timber sales setup and sold annually. The County Forest Administrator, County Forester, and the DNR Liaison will jointly work together to establish these objectives. There is a need to prepare the sales as accurately as possible and also using the most up-to-date methods to accomplish this. The following are general policies that will be used in establishing the individual harvesting practices for the Florence County Forest timber sales. Updating Recon is vitally important to the county forest. The county forest is in need of updating. Currently there is a Sustainable Forestry grant to help accomplish some of this. There may be more applications made for sustainable forestry grants for updating the entire forest recon.

HARVEST PROJECTIONS - FLORENCE COUNTY FOREST

Acres scheduled for harvest as determined by Recon Program 8A 2006-2015

YEAR	A		NH		O		OX		PR	
	Even Age	All aged + thinning								
2006	390	20	200	2113	27	733	58	31	23	140
2007	420	0	0	142	0	53	103	0	0	108
2008	429	0	0	105	0	89	233	0	0	4
2009	386	0	0	0	17	15	257	0	0	121
2010	417	11	0	268	0	252	104	0	51	209
2011	411	0	4	66	0	92	55	0	0	0
2012	447	0	0	34	0	11	134	0	0	368
2013	102	0	0	100	0	0	33	0	0	11
2014	366	0	0	90	3	142	95	0	0	66
2015	1040	0	56	314	36	69	26	37	0	102
Total	4408	31	260	3232	83	1456	1098	68	74	1129
10 Yr Average (resource need)	441	3	26	323	8	146	110	7	7	113
	A		NH		O		OX		PR	
10 Yr Average (resource need consolidated acres by type)	444		349		154		117		120	

Florence County Annual Allowable Cut

Species	Aspen	Northern Hardwood	Oak	Scrub Oak	Red Pine	Jack Pine	Total
Allowable Cut Acres/Year	400	150	80	40	50	40	760



Long Term Harvest Goals

Print Date: 4/28/2011
Report 201

1900 - FLORENCE COUNTY FOREST

Forest Type	15 Year Total (acres)	15 Year Average (acres)	Forest Type Description
A	6,323	422	ASPEN
BW	182	12	WHITE BIRCH
C	330	22	WHITE CEDAR
FB	36	2	BALSAM FIR
MC	75	5	MISCELLANEOUS CONIFEROUS
MD	6	0	MISCELLANEOUS DECIDUOUS
MR	75	5	RED MAPLE
NH	2,522	168	NORTHERN HARDWOODS
O	2,124	142	OAK
OX	189	13	SCRUB OAK
PJ	61	4	JACK PINE
PR	1,536	102	RED PINE
PW	219	15	WHITE PINE
SB	311	21	BLACK SPRUCE
SC	270	18	SWAMP CONIFER-*OLD CODE, RECODE
SH	63	4	SWAMP HARDWOODS
SW	265	18	WHITE SPRUCE
T	97	6	TAMARACK
Total:	14,684	979	

* This report reflects average acreage goals over a 15 year period. The specific acreage goals for each year are presented on the Annual Goals page. The information presented above should not be used for annual target amounts.



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Hardwood stands will normally be managed for the production of high quality sawlogs through selective harvesting. Even aged management of hardwoods will only be utilized in off site stands with low site index, past insect or diseases, fire damage, or other natural disaster.

Aspen stands will be maintained in aspen timber type through use of clear cuts. Other fruit or nut bearing trees may be left in clusters within harvest areas. Also coniferous trees may also be left for important wildlife habitat.

Timber harvesting plans for county forest timber sales will be designed and administered in compliance with Wisconsin Best Management Practices (BMP's)

All timber management activities are based on the abilities of the soils to grow different species. A important part of any timber management program is to match the correct species to the site. Soils information will be used from the most recent soils survey information. There has just been a release of a new Soil Survey for Florence County Wisconsin.

Tree planting will continue on the county forest to restock harvested coniferous stands and to convert other species. Some monotypes, such as scrub oak may be converted to other types to increase the wildlife habitat with desirable species. The amount to be site prepared and planted will be listed in the annual work plan. Along the Wild Rivers under planting with longer-lived species will continue. Annually there has been between 70,000 to 120,000 trees planted on the county forest in the past 10 years. In 2004, Florence County received a Sustainable Forestry Grant for release of pine plantations throughout the county forest.

Wildlife Management Needs

The County Forest is broken up into six wildlife habitat units. Each unit has different needs to improve the habitat for various species of wildlife. It shall be the goal during the length of this plan to review each habitat unit individually with the help of DNR wildlife and fish staff and list the potential habitat improvement projects that would benefit wildlife.

There are three hunter/walking trail areas on the County Forest. They are in the South, Central and Northwest portions of the forest. The Ruffed Grouse Society has been very helpful with their expertise and funding to improve wildlife habitat. It shall be the goal to continue to work with this organization and others to improve the wildlife habitat on the Florence County Forest.

There will be a continued effort to improve or restore the fish habitat on lakes and streams in Florence County. Annual work planning and guidance with the area DNR fish manager is needed. When the Wisconsin Conservation Corp. (WCC) was in place fish cribs and half logs were placed in a number of lakes annually. Stream improvement was also preformed by the WCC. With the loss of the WCC crew it has been hard for the County Forestry and Parks Crew to put forth the time needed to complete these tasks. There is also a need to continue the fish-rearing pond in Florence. This project is in cooperation with Florence Utilities, area lake associations, DNR fisheries, and the Florence Walleye Association. The WCC crew was heavily involved in this project, and the Forestry and Parks Department is in need of volunteers to help keep the rearing pond running.

Example of Annual work plan needs:

Roads:

- Construction and maintenance as needed and identified for construction

Land acquisition:

- As land becomes available in County Forest Blocking

Timber harvests:

- 700 to 900 acres per year.
- GPS equipment: as needed for updating

Other silvicultural activities:

- Pruning, planting, release, etc. to be in the annual work plan.

Property maintenance:

- Fire control, insect/disease etc. to be in the annual work plan
- Surveying- an account to be put in place for surveying needs on the county forest.

Recreation (new and maintenance):

- Trails
 - o ATV trails to be added as needed
 - o Mountain Biking trails to be signed
 - o Cross Country Skiing Trails could be expanded
 - o LaSalle Falls Walking Trail improvements to parking lot and trail
 - o Snowmobile trails to be maintained and added as needed
- Campsites
 - o Look into expanding and updating campgrounds
- Shelters
 - o Pavilion to be built a West Bass Lake Day Use Area
- Parking areas
 - o Boat launch improvements
 - Patten Lake
 - North Lake of Spread Eagle Chain
 - o Boat Launch Developments
 - Lake Edith
 - Bessie- Babbit Lake
 - Price Lake

Office Equipment:

- Computer hardware and software replace or upgrade every three years.
- Copiers and faxes replace as needed.
- GIS equipment: as needed for updating

Wildlife management:

- Flowages, endangered resources assessments, hunter access trails as needed.

Fisheries management:

- Structures, surveys, and habitat work as needed.

Personnel:

- Due to the excess amount of trail maintenance and projects Forestry and Parks may be in need of an additional person in the coming years for equipment operation.

Note: The “Needs” schedule is put together for planning purposes. The best available information has been used in developing the schedule. It is not intended to be followed without modification. Forests are dynamic and managers must be adaptive to change. Funding and staffing shortfalls may also impact the ability of the Florence County Forestry & Parks Department to fulfill identified needs. Refer to Chapter 2000 – Annual Work Planning, for reference on progress towards the identified needs in this chapter.