

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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CHAPTER 2000

ANNUAL PLANNING

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2000 OBJECTIVE AND POLICY

OBJECTIVE

To develop an annual work plan and budget that will satisfy the needs specified in Chapter 1000 to the greatest extent feasible, consistent with program priorities established in the Mission Statement.

POLICY

The County Forest program will sustain a level of operation that considers the needs of the forest and the public in accordance with the goals identified in Chapter 100.

2100 ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

Each year an Annual Work Plan and Budget shall be prepared by the forest administrator with assistance from the Committee and the DNR liaison forester. This plan shall be based upon the detailed annual needs contained in Section 1100 of the Plan. Annual work plans are approved by the County Board and forwarded to the DNR as required by Wisconsin statutes s. 28.11(5)(b) and s.28.11(5m)(b). Following County Board approval, a copy is provided to official copy-holders of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan for inclusion as an amendment in this chapter.

ANNUAL FLORENCE COUNTY FOREST WORK PLAN 2012

The Following is the proposed Florence County Forest Work Plan for the year 2012.

The plan follows the approved County Forestry & Parks budget. The plan defines and supplements the current Florence County Forest Fifteen-year plan.

Timber Harvest

- a. Sale Preparation - Prepare ten to twenty sales on approximately 940 acres. Approximately four hundred acres of Aspen regeneration cuts. The balance is thinnings of Northern hardwoods, Red Oak, and Red Pine stands. Sales

will be sold normally spring and fall. If any need for an emergency sale comes up, such as salvage sales due to flooding, storm, insect & disease, or other unforeseen circumstances, those needs will be sold apart from allowable cut.

b. Sale Administration - Sale Administration will continue on the existing sales plus any of the sales that are sold in 2012 and become active. Administration includes scaling all sales that are not lump sum and continually checking the sales in progress to make sure the contractors are completing the sales according to contract specifications. Most of the time there are about thirty contracts that are open, some active and some not. Administration now includes SFI Certification tracking of all Loggers, and also tracking Insurance coverage (Liability and Worker's Compensation) at all times that a Sale is Open.

c. Revenues - The Florence County Forest Total Timber Sale revenue for 2011 is \$881,124.05 as of November 22, 2011. Revenue for 2011 - Florence County Forestry and Parks Department is expected to be \$1,391,887.99. The County Timber Sales sold in 2011 totaled \$804,446.04.00 on 914 acres.

Reforestation

a. Site preparation/Planting - Florence County has received two sustainable forestry grants for \$75,750 to aid in reforestation costs. This is to include site prep and planting costs for 2010, 2011, and possibly 2012. There have been 212 acres disc trenched in fall of 2011 for a spring 2012 planting. Reforestation efforts are focused on salvage harvest on Scrub Oak sites and mature Jack Pine harvests. Florence County has also received grants through the Arbor Day Foundation and Polar Bear International programs. These grants will aid in the reforestation efforts in our Scrub Oak areas.

Recon Work

Sale Close Outs are a continuous process, which includes updating Recon. This will provide needed accuracy on the County Forest. There is currently about 9% of the forest recon that is older than 20 years old. Efforts will be made identify those stands and update that recon.

Timber Stand Improvement

a. There are no current plans in place for TSI work in 2011.

County Forest Roads

a. Maintenance - Road maintenance of 36.39 miles of existing County Forest Roads. The County has received \$336.00/mile.

We have a stock pile of crushed gravel to be used for road upkeep.

- b. Signage – Maintain County Forest signs at entrance points on main roads that cross County Forest Lands. Work on signing County Forest Roads. Work with the School on repairing or replacing old worn out signs. This work is being coordinated through EDC, DNR, WRIC, and Florence County Highway Department.

County Forest Access and Land Sales and Acquisition

- a. SW Halls Creek Flowage – There is a block of County Forest that has no road access for the public and adjacent landowners have exclusive use of – We have a verbal agreement for access for Forest management activities across an adjacent ownership. We will be pursuing a written agreement over these lands. We will be working on the roads when we have time in the coming years.
- b. The Sale of the last piece of County Forest land in the Roaches Fire Lane Block within the Spread Eagle Barrens to the State has occurred we will be working on withdrawing the 320 acres from the CFL.
- c. Any land that comes up for sale within the blocking of County Forest should be considered for purchase.

Surveying:

Plastic Boundary markers will be placed on the property as warranted. Funding may be available to survey other areas and a series of corners have been identified for priority. There is funding available in the budget for surveying when the need arises for concerns, and/or timber sale boundaries. There is a need for a fairly extensive survey in the Marm Lake area of the county forest. This will likely use up the survey allotment for 2012 plus some forestry account money.

Forest Protection

- a. Fire control – Work with the DNR on prescribed burns on the Barrens project and help with any fire control needs on the County Forest and Parks lands. In the event of need the County Forestry and Parks Department will help with Fire Control anywhere in the County.
- b. Insect & disease – Continue to cooperate on Gypsy Moth trapping and spraying program and when needed ask for assistance from the DNR specialist. Continue to cooperate with monitoring for oak wilt, red pine pocket decline and jack pine budworm outbreaks. Work on education and

prevention of the Emerald Ash Borer in the parks. Oak Wilt has been discovered on the Tower Road Grouse area. We have treated that area and have been monitoring adjacent stands closely, this will continue throughout 2012.

Multiple Use -Wildlife

- a. Hunter Access & Trails - Disc and reseed the Walking trail areas. These areas are in need of replanting. Most of our road networks are only growing low nutrient value cool season grasses.
- b. Wildlife Considerations -- Continue the rice seeding on several shallow water lakes, (Hall's Creek, Legerski's Pond and Kopka Pond). Also, work with Wildlife and Fisheries Biologists for considerations for the Homestead conservation Pond.
- c. Continue to work as a member of the Spread Eagle Barrens Operations Team and Wild Rivers Advisory Committee.
- d. Walking/Biking/x-ski Trails - Continue to work with communities on developing trails. Hall's Creek walking trails will be used as an x-ski trail. Continue to work on ski trails for better signage and more loops for all ranges of experience.
- e. Work with the sheriff's department to Enforce regulations ATV, Snowmobile Trails, Parks, Rifle Range, County Forest Ordinances, patrol timber sales and gated areas and working with Clubs.
- f. Seeding roads, trails, and openings - about five miles of timber sale roads and landings will be seeded after the sales are completed with a wildlife seed mixture.

Recreation Areas

- a. Snowmobile Trails - Continue the maintenance of 149 miles of trail. Add the existing ATV Trail from Keyes Peak Ski Hill to the Oxbow (Pine River) to State approved Snowmobile Trail system.
- b. ATV Trails - Continue the maintenance of 50 miles of trail. Continue development on approximately 20 miles of ATV trail. A route needs to be worked through to link Aurora to the ATV trail system. Florence County is involved in a Pilot Program allowing UTV's to use the County ATV Trails and Routes for a total two year period of time. Several other Counties are included in this Pilot Program.
- c. X country Ski Trails - Continue maintenance of the Lake Emily trail and possible expansion into existing logging roads. Create a trail at the Ski Hill incorporate this with

a timber sale and with the current forest roads in the area. The Burma trail has been eliminated and we have created a new 7 mile trail on the Hall's creek walking trails the trail head will be the parking lot of the LaSalle Falls walking trail. We will try to coordinate plowing of the LaSalle Falls County Forest road with the Town of Homestead.

- d. Hunter Walking Trails - Mow trails and openings throughout County Forest, which includes four gated areas.
- e. Water Fall Walking Trails - In the fall of 2011 the Washburn Falls walking trail was improved with crushed gravel and the parking lot was also graveled. Improve parking lot at trailhead to LaSalle Falls. The LaSalle Falls walking trail is in need of necessary improvement as it has been a number of years since it was maintained. Florence County should be encouraging cooperation from the WDNR on improvements to the LaSalle Falls Trail.
- f. Parks - Maintain and improve two campgrounds, six-day use areas, and twenty-six boat landings.
- g. Ski Hill - Continue to operate Keyes Peak for skiing, snowboarding, and tubing. Continue to encourage Lodge Rentals for Weddings, Anniversaries, Class Reunions, and Banquets from April 15th - November 15th. Evaluate the hill for possible expansion of tubing or skiing opportunities.
- h. Boat landings -
 - 1. Lake Edith - Work with the DNR to maintain the access and address any erosion issues.

State & Federal Funded Projects

- a. \$.05/ acre - (Approximately \$1,800) use funds to maintain Wildlife openings and trails as listed under multiple uses - hunter access. Other uses for this funding include purchasing gates, locks for gates, rice seed, mowing.
- b. County Conservation Aides - (Approximately \$1,300 this is a 50-50 cost share - Total Project value \$2,600); these funds were used to purchase a new disc in 2010. We will put together another project application for 2012 funds. A 2011 county conservation aid was funded for the improvement of the Kretz and Buckskin hunter walking trails. This will include brushing, disking and seeding of approximately 2 miles of hunter walking trail.
- c. Fish Management -
 - 1. To encourage fishing we need a Bessie Babbit Access road and small parking lot.

2. Halls Creek Flowage - Continue the three year seeding of wild rice and seed other areas.

Natural Resource Center

- a. Exhibit - Continue the efforts to obtain funding to finish exhibits inside and outside.
- b. Maintenance - Continue the same maintenance schedule.
- c. Responsibilities - Administer to the buildings needs and continue to be responsible for policy, purchases, accounts payable, and billing to agencies for their portion within the building.
- d. Promotion of Tourism is an annual need - work with the Business league, State of Wisconsin, US Forest Service, Florence County Economic Development Department and the Interpretive Center Friends Group.
- e. Forestry and Parks Administrator be involved in decision making policy on any Grant Funds spending.

Land Sales:

Advertise and sell lands as directed by the Florence County Board of Supervisors.

Firewood & Christmas Tree Sales:

Continue to provide the permits for obtaining firewood and Christmas trees for personal use.

Personnel- The Forestry and Parks Department personnel includes:

- a. Full Time Administrator of Forestry and Parks.
- b. Full Time Assistant Administrator of Forestry and Parks.
- c. Business Manager (65% County Forestry and 35% DNR Forestry).
- d. Full Time Parks & Ski Hill Manager.
- e. Full Time Forester
- f. Full Time Parks & Ski Hill Assistant.

**ANNUAL FLORENCE COUNTY FOREST BUDGET
2005**

FINAL 2005 BUDGET

FORESTRY REVENUE

ACCOUNT#	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
43572	FOR - STATE AID / SNOWTRAILS MTC & DEVELOP	\$34,375.00
43577	FOR - STATE GRANTS PROMOTION/TOURISM	\$990.00
43579	FOR - STATE AID / ATV TRAILS - MTC & DEVELOP	\$97,880.00
43580	FOR - STATE AID PARKS - PROJECTS	\$16,250.00
43581	FOR - STATE AID FOREST RESOURCES (KINKAID)	\$50,890.00
43583	FOR - STATE AID - FOR. ADM GRANT/SUST F. GRANT	\$62,134.00
43584	FOR - STATE AID - WILDLIFE HABITAT	\$6,946.00
43586	FOR - STATE AID - FOREST ROADS	\$11,407.00
46731	FOR - SKI HILL REVENUE	\$10,000.00
46732	FOR - PARKS REVENUE	\$10,000.00
46734	FOR - TIMBER SALE REVENUE	\$370,500.00
46735	FOR - MISC FOREST REVENUE	\$38,274.00
46736	FOR - RESOURCE CENTER MTC & OPERATIONS REVENUE	\$48,158.00
46737	FOR - EQUIPMENT FUND REVENUE	\$26,000.00
48205	FOR - LODGE (SKI HILL) REVENUE	\$2,665.00
48290	FOR - LAND SALE (INT PAPER LAND) REVENUE	\$1,048,500.00
48300	FOR - COUNTY LAND SALE REVENUE	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL		\$1,834,969.00

FORESTRY EXPENSE

ACCOUNT#	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
51600	FOR - RESOURCE CENTER EXPENSE - MAINTENANCE	\$56,500.00
51910	FOR - LAND SALE EXPENSE - ALL LAND SALES	\$8,480.00
51931	FOR - LIAB INSURANCE - LODGE RENTAL	\$930.00
55200	FOR - PARK EXPENSE	\$83,383.00
55300	FOR - PROMOTION/TOURISM EXPENSE	\$1,418.00
55440	FOR - SKI HILL EXPENSE	\$99,330.00
55445	FOR - SNOWTRAIL MTC & DEVELOP EXPENSE	\$34,375.00
55447	FOR - ATV TRAIL MTC & DEVELOP EXPENSE	\$97,879.00
56120	FOR - FORESTRY EXPENSE	\$213,042.00
56122	FOR - FOREST ROAD EXPENSE	\$18,475.00
56126	FOR - WIDLIFE EXPENSE	\$36,747.00
57130	FOR - RESOURCE CENTER EXPENSE - OPERATIONS	\$14,887.00
TOTAL		\$665,446.00