

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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3000 OBJECTIVE AND POLICY

OBJECTIVE

To provide a quantifiable means of evaluating progress on both short and long term goals on the Florence County Forest.

POLICY

Annual accomplishments will be recorded as a historical record, to assist in future planning, and to provide documentation for both the County, and the County Forest system. This information is invaluable in addressing public, County Board, and other legislative inquiries on the operation of the Forest as well as assessing progress on goals.

3100 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORTS

A copy of an annual accomplishment report shall be prepared and provided to members of the County Board and to official copyholders of this Plan for inclusion into this chapter.

This report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

1. Timber sale accomplishments including gross and net sale receipts and harvest goals achieved.
2. Timber stand improvements accomplishments.
3. Recreation development and maintenance accomplishments including recreation revenues and expenses.
4. Wildlife management accomplishments including revenues and expenses.
5. Fisheries management accomplishments including revenues and expenses.
6. Other accomplishments identified as “needs” in Chapter 1000.

3200 PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

3210 FOREST PRODUCTS

3210.1 Timber

2010	14	659	478	1137	81.2	25625	cds	269.7	mbf	\$ 956,290.00	\$ 841.06	\$ 37.32
2009	14	459	737	1196	85.4	26260	cds	299	mbf	\$ 1,040,250.75	\$ 869.77	\$ 39.61
2008	11	476	276	752	68.4	17260	cds	116	mbf	\$ 838,254.85	\$ 1,114.70	\$ 48.57
2007	11	516	452	968	88.0	18725	cds	62.5	mbf	\$ 646,469.06	\$ 667.84	\$ 34.52
2006	12	437	481	918	76.5	19370	cds	36	mbf	\$ 893,567.50	\$ 973.39	\$ 46.13
2005	13	388	314	702	54.0	16725	cds	106.7	mbf	\$ 1,033,336.15	\$ 1,471.99	\$ 61.78
2004	14	451	364	815	58.2	18345	cds	103.6	mbf	\$ 849,557.50	\$ 1,042.40	\$ 46.31
2003	9	203	499	702	78.0	13,020	cds	139	mbf	\$ 486,884.35	\$ 693.57	\$ 37.40
2002	15	426	447	873	58.2	18862	cds			\$ 713,318.90	\$ 817.09	\$ 37.82
2001	12	346	361	707	58.9	12757	cds			\$ 414,742.70	\$ 586.62	\$ 32.51
2000	10	227	362	589	58.9	10597	cds			\$ 309,928.00	\$ 526.19	\$ 29.25
1999	12	357	356	713	59.4	14149	cds			\$ 440,287.00	\$ 617.51	\$ 31.12
1998	9	246	362	608	67.6	8090	cds			\$ 244,879.00	\$ 402.76	\$ 30.27
1997	13	237	312	549	42.2	10450	cds			\$ 343,697.00	\$ 626.04	\$ 32.89
1996	13	266	374	640	49.2	10285	cds			\$ 266,051.00	\$ 415.70	\$ 25.87
1995	15	269	286	555	37.0	12089	cds			\$ 371,813.00	\$ 669.93	\$ 30.76
1994	20	417	373	790	39.5	14751	cds			\$ 424,980.00	\$ 537.95	\$ 28.81
1993	15	307	369	676	45.1	9875	cds			\$ 213,616.00	\$ 316.00	\$ 21.63
1992	24	332	407	739	30.8	10900	cds			\$ 189,246.00	\$ 256.08	\$ 17.36
1991	22	442	347	789	35.9	11227	cds			\$ 141,700.00	\$ 179.59	\$ 12.62
1990	18	314	390	704	39.1	11108	cds			\$ 168,300.00	\$ 239.06	\$ 15.15
1989	21	427	357	784	37.3	12348	cds			\$ 166,400.00	\$ 212.24	\$ 13.48
1988	16	715	302	1017	63.6	12023	cds			\$ 152,000.00	\$ 149.46	\$ 12.64
1987	16	453	470	923	57.7	13488	cds			\$ 124,700.00	\$ 135.10	\$ 9.25
1986	9	412	217	629	69.9	7795	cds			\$ 67,700.00	\$ 107.63	\$ 8.69
1985	10	788	287	1075	107.5	16764	cds			\$ 185,000.00	\$ 172.09	\$ 11.04
1984	13	724	523	1247	95.9	19621	cds			\$ 219,000.00	\$ 175.62	\$ 11.16
1983	12	574	589	1163	96.9	18295	cds			\$ 200,497.00	\$ 172.40	\$ 10.96

* Based on County Forest acreage of 36,296.81 acres.

Allowable Cut Acreage 996 acres

updated 10/1/2010

3210.2 Non-timber forest products

Annually Florence County Forestry sells 1-2 bough cutting permits, 1-5 Christmas tree cutting permits, and 40-50 firewood cutting permits.

3220 REFORESTATION

Year	Acres Planted	Number of Trees by species			
		Jack Pine	Red Pine	White Pine	White Spruce
1996	111	38,000	26,000	10,000	
1997	168	56,000	56,000		
1998	109	60,000	19,000	1,500	3,000
1999	30		10,000	2,000	
2000	90	62,000	6,000	5,000	
2001	62	16,000	27,000	8,000	3,000
2002	34	11,000	10,000	5,000	
2003	19	8,000	6,000		1,000
2004	91	61,000	11,000		
2005	94	64,000	12,000		
2006	92	38,000	2,000	2,000	
2007	0				
2008	70	50,000			
2009	113	63,000	20,000		
2010	184	63,000	86,000		
2011	131	57,000	91,000		
Average	147	40,000	22,000	2,000	440

3230 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

During the era of the WCC (Wisconsin Conservation Corp) crew in Florence, there was an average of 20-30 acres of pine plantation release and pruning completed annually. Records for TSI work are incomplete. WCC annual reports may be an area to check on this information.

Plantation release on the Florence County Forest was lacking in the last ten years. A Sustainable Forestry Grant was used to release backlogged plantations. In 2005, Florence County Aerial spray released 471 acres of Red and Jack Pine. This is still an on going project, to be completed in 2006.

3240 RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Florence County Forestry and Parks Campgrounds (Lake Emily and West Bass Lake) were constructed in 1967. Other County parks and boat landings were built around that time period. Since 1973 the only park constructed was Vagabond Park in 1993. Day use areas at West Bass Park and Keyes lake were developed in the 1970's and 1980's.

Snowmobile trails started to be developed in the early 1970's. The first trail connected Long Lake and Aurora approximately 40 miles. Other trails were added in the following years. Florence County now has approximately 123 miles of trail.

ATV trails started to be developed in the early 1990's. Early in the development ATV's were only allowed on the County Forest south of the Pine River. After a long struggle to allow ATV's to cross the Pine River at the Highway N bridge Florence County now has 42.6 miles of winter ATV trails and 19.6 miles of spring, summer, and fall trails. ATV's have many miles of open roads to travel on the county forest.

Keyes Peak Ski Hill was started in 1964. The original lodge was an old logging camp building. The new lodge was constructed from 2001-2003. The Ski Hill is open on Friday for tubing and skiing, Saturday for skiing only and Sunday for tubing and Skiing. It is also open each day through the Florence School Christmas vacation, except Christmas Day. There are also 2 cross-country ski

trails on the County Forest. One is located on the south part of the forest on LaSalle Falls Road, the other is located near Lake Emily off of Highway D.

3250 WILDLIFE PROJECTS

Wildlife projects conducted annually on the Florence County Forest are:

Mowing of Hunter Walking Trails, wildlife openings, and other misc. roads.

There are more than 100 miles of trails and roads on the Forest. All new roads on timber sales are leveled and seeded. Wildlife openings are worked up and seeded as needed. Any new land purchases with wildlife openings and road networks will be disced and seeded.

Florence County Forestry and Parks with cooperation from Florence Utilities and Wisconsin DNR fisheries has developed a Walleye rearing pond in Florence.

Every year walleyes are raised and released into area lakes. Records have been kept on the numbers of Walleyes released into area lakes by year. These records may be found at the Forestry and Parks Office.

3300 MONITORING

3310 FOREST TYPES

Florence County Forest Composition

Forest Type	Original Acres	Original %	1995 Acres	1995%	2005 Acres	2005%	Proposed Acres	Proposed %
Aspen	15,069	41.7%	18,422	50.7%	18,807	50.6%	18,495	49.8%
Bottld. Hdwd	0	0.0%	18	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
W. Birch	765	2.1%	533	1.5%	602	1.6%	503	1.4%
Cedar	123	0.3%	342	0.9%	343	0.9%	177	0.5%
Fir-Spruce	1259	3.5%	464	1.3%	581	1.6%	859	2.3%
N. Hdwd.	3363	9.3%	3693	10.2%	3747	10.1%	4144	11.2%
Oak	2039	5.6%	2130	5.9%	2289	6.2%	2108	5.7%
Scrub Oak	2837	7.9%	1837	5.1%	1757	4.7%	743	2.0%
Jack pine	2676	7.4%	2057	5.7%	1833	4.9%	2881	7.8%
Red pine	1538	4.3%	1449	4.0%	1709	4.6%	1987	5.3%
White pine	0	0.0%	176	0.5%	273	0.7%	325	0.9%
B. Spruce	913	2.5%	750	2.1%	785	2.1%	785	2.1%
Sw.. Conifer	1026	2.8%	774	2.1%	849	2.3%	849	2.3%
Sw. Hdwd.	211	0.6%	231	0.6%	227	0.6%	227	0.6%
Tamarack	28	0.1%	26	0.1%	25	0.1%	21	0.1%

Total Forested	31,847	88.1%	32,902	90.6%	33827	91.0%	34,104	91.8%
Upl. Grass	1562	4.3%	853	2.3%	921	2.5%	738	2.0%
Herb. Veg.	252	0.7%	190	0.5%	174	0.5%	166	0.4%
Low shrub	39	0.1%	96	0.3%	35	0.1%	25	0.1%
Marsh	953	2.6%	319	0.9%	319	0.9%	293	0.8%
Nonc..Grass	0	0.0%	70	0.2%	70	0.2%	70	0.2%
Nonc. Veg.	0	0.0%	44	0.1%	44	0.1%	44	0.1%
Low. brush	1226	3.4%	1129	3.1%	1069	2.9%	1027	2.8%
Alder	176	0.5%	192	0.5%	192	0.5%	192	0.5%
Willow	14	0.0%	14	0.0%	14	0.0%	14	0.0%
Minor Lake	0	0.0%	170	0.5%	170	0.5%	170	0.5%
Minor stream	0	0.0%	4	0.0%	4	0.0%	4	0.0%
R-O-W	0	0.0%	244	0.7%	244	0.7%	244	0.7%
Upland brush	60	0.2%	75	0.2%	61	0.2%	53	0.1%
Rock outcrop	0	0.0%	10	0.0%	10	0.0%	10	0.0%
Total non-forest	4282	11.9%	3410	9.4%	3327	9.0%	3050	8.2%
Total Property	36,129	100.0%	36,312	100.0%	37,154	100.0%	37154	100.0%

Timber types in the Florence County Forest will remain relatively the same over the next fifteen years unless there is a change in the ownership pattern of the county forest. However, Scrub Oak is one species that is on the decline due to the age and the recent summer droughts, and Gypsy moths. In stands where the mortality has been very high we will be planting the sites to Jack Pine, and in stands with less mortality we will be conducting regeneration harvest to promote the reproduction of the Scrub Oak. In some cases our Red Oak stands are being taken over by Red Maple. We will be trying to treat some of these sites to allow for the Red Oak to regenerate before the final shelter wood removal cut. White Birch is another species that is difficult to regenerate. We will be trying to promote the regeneration of White Birch whenever possible.

3320 HARVESTING

Harvesting goals for the past ten years for Aspen and all other timber types was below the estimated goals. The average harvest goal for Aspen is approximately

400 acres and annually we have not accomplished this goal. The average annual harvest for Aspen has been approximately 259 acres. In the past 3 years we have been coming closer to the allowable harvest. Refer to the table below for the harvesting accomplishments for aspen. The Aspen timber types have been relatively disease and insect free. The harvesting that has been done has been on stands that are showing decline. This was done to diversify the age classes of aspen on the forest.

Timber types such as the Jack Pine and Scrub Oak have reached their rotation age, and our focus has changed from the Aspen to these other timber types. In the past three years our Jack Pine plantations have been declining rapidly, and Florence County has taken steps to harvest the Jack Pine and replant the sites. The Scrub Oak stands on the County Forest have also been declining in the past two years. This is due to a number of factors including, drought, Gypsy Moth infestation, and Two-Lined Chestnut Borer. We are currently in the process of harvesting the declining Scrub Oak and also Non-declining Scrub Oak in the hope of regeneration. If these Oak stands do not naturally regenerate they will be replanted to pine.

From 1996 to 2001 our harvest targets were not met, but from 2001 to present our harvesting goals have been met. This was due to a stronger push to setup more timber sale acreage. Allowable cut acreages should be met in the future. Closeouts are always behind due to the workload. There is now a system in place to insure that closeouts will be done in a timely manner.

FLORENCE COUNTY FOREST

ASPEN (Acres)

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>NEED (from 96-05 Plan)</i>	<i>Established</i>	<i>Sold</i>	<i>Closed</i>
<i>1996</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>154</i>	<i>150</i>
<i>1997</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>146</i>	<i>262</i>
<i>1998</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>179</i>	<i>153</i>
<i>1999</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>299</i>	<i>101</i>

2000	400	307	307	245
2001	400	294	294	182
2002	400	382	382	263
2003	400	268	268	44
2004	400	302	302	432
Totals (9 yrs.)	3600	2331	2331	1832
Annual Average	400	259	259	203

FLORENCE COUNTY FOREST

ALL SALES (acres)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Need (from 96-05 Plan)</i>	<i>Established</i>	<i>Sold</i>	<i>Closed</i>
1996	750	541	541	416
1997	750	549	549	730
1998	750	507	507	530
1999	750	713	713	242
2000	750	603	603	884
2001	750	666	666	354
2002	750	869	869	712
2003	750	701	701	356
2004	750	726	726	861
Totals 9 yrs.	6,750	5,875	5,875	5,085

<i>Annual Average</i>	<i>750</i>	<i>652</i>	<i>652</i>	<i>565</i>
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3330 FLORA / FAUNA

There has been some invasive species coming into the Florence County Forest. We have been starting to deal with Purple Loosestrife, Buckthorn, and Spotted Knapweed. These species have been starting to show up around the county forest. Some of the Basswood in the hardwood stands on the southwestern part of the county forest have been hit by Basswood Thrips. This has not been a serious problem, but rather one that has been noticed.

3340 RECREATIONAL USE

The demand for the motorized recreation trails has increase dramatically in the past 5 years. ATV trails are in high demand. There has been an increase in the amount of ATV traffic throughout the county. Florence County has been actively building and maintaining ATV trails around the county.

There has also been an increase in the amount of non-motorized recreation in the county. There are many walking and biking trails in the county forest. There is interest in geocaching on the county forest. Horse trails, sled dog trails and race areas are some of the recreational use needs on the county forest and/or in the county.

Florence County has also been very involved in developing access to area lakes and rivers for public use.

3350 HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FOREST AREAS

High Conservation Value Forest Areas on the Florence County Forest will be maintained for their unique values. All of the Florence County Forest acreage is considered to be multiuse. Some of these areas may be able to be used for land trades with the state for their values as part of a State Natural Area or Wild Rivers Program.

3360 ROADS & ACCESS

During the development of the last ten-year plan there was 24 miles of County Forest Roads, and the goal was to add 2-3 miles of County Forest Roads per year to target goal of 44 miles. To date there is 33.95 miles of County Forest Roads. Some of the roads that have been worked on have not yet been approved by the state to be considered County Forest Roads.

The goal over the next fifteen-year planning period is to add another 9-10 miles.

3370 OTHER