

# **ANNUAL FLORENCE COUNTY FOREST ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT 2014**

The following is an outline of our accomplishments for the Florence County Forestry and Parks Department for 2014.

## **Timber Harvest**

- a. Sale Preparation – 12 sales were established on 866 acres. The total sold value for 2014 is \$1,134,321.80.
- b. Sale Administration –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.
- c. Revenues – The Florence County Forest Total Timber Sale revenue deposited in the general fund for 2014 was \$840,485.76. There are currently 25 timber sales under contract that are in various stages of completion for a value of \$2,558,664.80.
- d. The Forestry and Parks Department is also working on a Stewardship Agreement with the Forest Service to assist in establishing timber sales and coordinating other projects with in Florence County.

## **Reforestation**

In 2014, there were no trees planted on the County Forest. There was over 400 acres of site prep done through a grant received from the Wildlife Conservation Society. Trees will be planted in the spring of 2015.

## **Recon Work**

A grant funded LTE Forester was hired and work for approximately 3 months conducting recon work and survival checks on the county forest.

## **County Forest Roads**

- a. Maintenance - Road maintenance of 36.39 miles of existing County Forest Roads. The County has received \$336.00/mile for a total of \$10,329.66. Using the Highway department our roads were graded twice this year and a 2 mile stretch of LaSalle Falls road was resurfaced.
- 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.

## **Surveying:**

With use of a local surveyor there has been an effort underway to monument the Marm Lake Block of the County Forest. Survey information in this area is very lacking and we are putting as much into this project as we can afford. In 2014 additional funds were spent on this project and we continue to accomplish this in phases.

### **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.
- b. Insect & disease –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, W. Bass Lake Park, and other areas of the county forest. We have treated the area and have been monitoring adjacent stands closely, this will continue throughout 2015.

### **Multiple Use -Wildlife**

- a. Hunter Access & Trails – Disc and reseed the Walking trail areas as needed.
- b. Continue to work as a member of the Spread Eagle Barrens Operations Team and Wild Rivers Advisory Committee.

### **Recreation motorized and non-motorized**

- a. Snowmobile Trails – Continue the maintenance of 149 miles of trail with the Blue Ox Trail riders.
- b. ATV Trails – Continue the maintenance of 66+ miles of trail with the Blue Ox Trail riders.
- c. X country Ski Trails – Continue maintenance of the Lake Emily trail and the Halls Creek Trails.
- d. Hunter Walking Trails – Mow trails and openings throughout County Forest, which includes four gated areas.
- e. Parks – Maintain and improve two campgrounds and six-day use areas. In 2014, there were 1126 days camped at Lake Emily and 1701 days camped at W. Bass Lake. Total Campground revenue was \$25,532.00. A small timber sale was conducted to remove dead, dying, and hazardous trees throughout the campground.
- f. Day Use Areas- Vagabond Park had a major event in 2014 that the Forestry Department was involved with.
- 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 15<sup>th</sup> – November 15<sup>th</sup>. In 2014, the revenue for the Ski hill was \$28,501.24 for the ski season and for summer lodge rentals.

- h. Boat landings
  - 1. Maintain or assist in the maintenance of the 26 boat landings in the county.
  - 2. Florence County received a grant for improvements to the Sealion Lake Boat Landing and a new boat landing on the Menominee River. This work will be completed in 2016.

### **Assistance to other Projects within the County**

- a. Continued to assist the Fisheries Biologist on area lakes for their survey needs. In 2014, we assisted with mapping fisheries projects and assisted in fish surveys on several area lakes. We also assisted with a fish stick project on Keyes Lake and a Walleye spawning reef on Lake Emily.
- b. Assisted with UWEX and Health Department on the Community Garden.
- c. Accomplished dredging the channel between the lakes on Cosgrove Lake for better access for the public
- d. Assisted WDNR and CAMO to construct fish cribs on Lake Emily.
- e. Assisted with DNR, Friends, and EDC on Wild Rivers Signage Project.
- f. Attended the Canoecopia in Madison with EDC and Friends in an effort to promote the Florence County.
- g. Assisted in the tree trimming and removal at the Courthouse along with removal of the debris.

### **Natural Resource Center**

- a. 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.
- b. Promotion of Tourism is an annual need – work with the Chamber of Commerce, State of Wisconsin, US Forest Service, Florence County Economic Development Department and the Interpretive Center Friends Group.

### **Land Sales:**

No land sales were conducted in 2014.

### **Firewood & Christmas Tree Sales:**

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

### **Summary**

2014 was a very busy year for the Forestry Department. Our Timber program did excellent as well as our parks. The grant program is busier than ever and hopefully that will continue

with the new employee. Below is a short summary of our revenues and expenses for 2014 to date.

<b>2014 Short Budget Summary</b>	
Budgeted Expense	\$ 1,039,257.00
Actual Expense	\$ 1,328,425.06
Difference	<b>\$ -289,186.06</b>
Budgeted Revenue	\$ 1,142,346.00
Actual Revenue	\$ 1,423,482.45
Difference	<b>\$ 281,136.45</b>



# Forest Structure - Past, Present, Future

Print Date: 8/11/2015  
Report 207

## 1900 - FLORENCE COUNTY FOREST

DEVELOPED USE	0	28	28
EMERGENT VEGETATION	0	14	14
HERBACEOUS VEGETATION	252	84	84
LOW - GROWING SHRUBS	39	4	4
LOWLAND BRUSH	1,226	1,175	1,140
LOWLAND BRUSH - ALDER	176	363	320
LOWLAND BRUSH - WILLOW	14	13	13
LOWLAND GRASS	0	147	147
LOWLAND HERBACEOUS VEGETATION	0	25	25
MARSH	953	161	161
MINOR LAKE	0	206	206
MINOR STREAM	0	23	23
MUSKEG BOG	0	24	0
PICNIC AREA	0	15	15
RIGHT OF WAY	0	246	246
ROCK OUTCROPS	0	8	8
TRUE GRASSES	18	0	0
UPLAND BRUSH	60	82	81
UPLAND GRASS	1,562	408	353
<b>Total :</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>3,026</b>	<b>2,868</b>

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry  
dnr.wi.gov

Page 2 of 2



# Forest Structure - Past, Present, Future

Print Date: 8/11/2015  
Report 207

## 1900 - FLORENCE COUNTY FOREST

Timber Text	Acres Past	Acres Present	Acres Future
	(1977)	(2015)	
ASPEN	15,069	18,582	18,330
BALSAM FIR	0	54	219
BLACK SPRUCE	913	1,037	1,037
BOTTOMLAND HARDWOODS	18	0	0
FIR SPRUCE-OLD CODE, RECODE	1,259	4	0
HEMLOCK	0	50	50
JACK PINE	2,676	2,095	2,528
MISCELLANEOUS CONIFEROUS	0	150	150
MISCELLANEOUS DECIDUOUS	0	6	6
NORTHERN HARDWOODS	3,363	2,960	3,100
OAK	2,039	2,968	2,897
RED MAPLE	0	168	225
RED PINE	1,538	2,380	2,185
SCRUB OAK	2,837	482	387
SWAMP CONIFER-OLD CODE, RECODE	1,026	480	459
SWAMP HARDWOODS	211	382	382
TAMARACK	28	247	244
WHITE BIRCH	765	31	44
WHITE CEDAR	123	573	524
WHITE PINE	0	402	402
WHITE SPRUCE	0	241	241
<b>Total :</b>	<b>31,865</b>	<b>33,252</b>	<b>33,410</b>

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry  
dnr.wi.gov

Page 1 of 2