

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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2/16/2021

CHAPTER 2000

PLANNING, REPORTS, BUDGET

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2000 NEEDS 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.

2005 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 and 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.

2010 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.

- Equipment purchases
 - Trucks/Trailers – needs for the department for daily work routine are 4- ½ ton

pickup trucks, one ¾ ton pick up truck with plow and 1 1 ton dump truck with plow. Trailers include 3 utility trailers and one equipment trailer.

- GIS equipment – GIS equipment is 2 computers with Arc Map, 2 iPad with Forestry Software as well as cell phones for all staff.
- GPS equipment – use of GPS equipment is with Garmin GPS and use of iPad
- Heavy Equipment – equipment is one Skid steer with attachments, one loader/backhoe, and farm tractor with attachments.
- UTV’s – 2 UTV’s with tires and tracks for winter ski trail grooming
- Roads – maintenance and reconstruction of roads is an ongoing annual need.
- Land acquisition goals – no defined goal of land acquisition.
- Timber harvests – this will be based on the annual and long-term harvest goals set in planning tab of WISFIRS

Long Term Harvest Goals		
Forest Type	15 year Total Acres	15 year Average Acres
A	5509	367
C	81	5
FB	2	0
H	16	1
MC	10	1
MD	6	0
NH	2337	156
O	1386	92
OX	35	2
PJ	54	4
PR	1172	78
PW	207	14
SB	315	21
SC	241	16
SH	10	1
SW	113	8
T	194	13
Total	11688	779

- Other silvicultural activities – Items such as pruning, planting, release, etc. will be

scheduled in WISFIRS and carried out as needed.

- Property maintenance: There is a budget line for surveying, this is used as needed for Timber Sale preparation and other property management needs
- Recreation (new and maintenance):
 - –yearly maintenance of trails (snowmobile, ATV, x-ski, hiking)
 - –yearly maintenance of Campsites
 - –yearly maintenance of Shelters
 - – yearly maintenance of Keyes Peak Recreation Area
 - – yearly maintenance of boat landings
 - – yearly maintenance of Parking areas
 - Upgrades to motorized and nonmotorized trails, campgrounds, Ski Hill, boat landings and other recreational amenities is needed. The county will be looking into funding options for all recreation areas.
- Wildlife management: mowing of hunter walking trails, managing water levels at Hall’s Creek Flowage, working with Wildlife Biologist on needs within the County Forest
- Fisheries management: No needs on the county forest, however work with Local Biologist to assist with fisheries surveys within the County.
- Personnel- The Forestry and Parks Department has a need for 6 full-time staff and 2 part-time summer staff. As workloads continue to increase there may be a need to add another full-time worker to the staff. This will be based on available funds within the County Budget.

Note: The “Needs” list 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 and Parks Department to fulfill identified needs. Refer to Chapter 2020 – Annual Work Plan and Budget, for reference on progress towards the identified needs in this chapter.

2015 WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE AND POLICY

OBJECTIVE

To develop an annual work plan and budget that will satisfy the needs specified in Chapter

2000 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.

2020 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. Annual work plans are approved by the County Board and Division of Forestry 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 of the Annual Work Plan is provided to official copy-holders of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan for inclusion as an amendment in Chapter 3000 of this plan. The Annual Work Plan and Annual Budget for the Forestry and Parks Department may be found at the following weblink.

<https://www.florencecountywi.com/i/f/files/2021%20ANNUAL%20WORK%20PLAN.pdf>

<https://www.florencecountywi.com/i/f/files/2021%20Annual%20Budget.pdf>

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORTS 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.

2030 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 chapter 3000.

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. Other accomplishments/ information

2035 PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2035.1 FOREST PRODUCTS

2035.1.1 Timber

Florence County Forest Sold Values Through 2019												
Summary 1983-2019												
Year	Number	Acres	Acres	Total	Average	Total Volume				Total	\$/Acre	\$/Acre
	of sales	sold	sold			Acres	sale size					
	sold	spring	fall			7429	cds	308.5	mbf	\$	\$	\$
2019	5	433	0	433	86.60	7429	cds	308.5	mbf	\$ 425,429.25	\$ 982.52	\$ 11.79
2018	8	436	276	712	89.00	11166	cds	453	mbf	\$ 640,502.55	\$ 899.58	\$ 17.75
2017	9	523	353	876	97.33	14949	cds	456	mbf	\$ 753,496.81	\$ 860.16	\$ 20.88
2016	8	541	361	902	112.75	17295	cds	431	mbf	\$ 1,079,738.95	\$ 1,197.05	\$ 29.92
2015	7	543	352	895	127.86	19111	cds	607	mbf	\$ 862,456.00	\$ 963.64	\$ 23.90
2014	12	354	512	866	72.17	18545	cds	467	mbf	\$ 1,134,321.80	\$ 1,309.84	\$ 31.43
2013	11	486	425	911	82.8	17990	cds	372	mbf	\$ 874,307.60	\$ 959.72	\$ 24.23
2012	12	546	434	980	81.7	16015	cds	518	mbf	\$ 962,951.32	\$ 982.60	\$ 26.68
2011	12	662	252	914	76.2	15600	cds	377	mbf	\$ 804,446.04	\$ 880.14	\$ 22.29
2010	15	659	543	1202	80.1	25625	cds	269	mbf	\$ 983,670.00	\$ 818.36	\$ 27.26
2009	14	459	737	1196	85.4	26260	cds	299	mbf	\$ 1,040,250.75	\$ 869.72	\$ 28.82
2008	11	476	276	752	68.4	17260	cds	116	mbf	\$ 838,254.85	\$ 1,114.70	\$ 23.23
2007	11	516	452	968	88.0	18725	cds	62.5	mbf	\$ 646,469.06	\$ 667.84	\$ 17.91
2006	12	437	481	918	76.5	19370	cds	36	mbf	\$ 893,567.50	\$ 973.39	\$ 24.76
2005	13	388	314	702	54.0	16725	cds	106.7	mbf	\$ 1,033,336.15	\$ 1,471.99	\$ 28.63
2004	14	451	364	815	58.2	18345	cds	103.6	mbf	\$ 849,557.50	\$ 1,042.40	\$ 23.54
2003	9	203	499	702	78.0	13,020	cds	139	mbf	\$ 486,884.35	\$ 693.57	\$ 13.49
2002	15	426	447	873	58.2	18862	cds			\$ 713,318.90	\$ 817.09	\$ 19.77
2001	12	346	361	707	58.9	12757	cds			\$ 414,742.70	\$ 586.62	\$ 11.49
2000	10	227	362	589	58.9	10597	cds			\$ 309,928.00	\$ 526.19	\$ 8.59
1999	12	357	356	713	59.4	14149	cds			\$ 440,287.00	\$ 617.51	\$ 12.20
1998	9	246	362	608	67.6	8090	cds			\$ 244,879.00	\$ 402.76	\$ 6.79
1997	13	237	312	549	42.2	10450	cds			\$ 343,697.00	\$ 626.04	\$ 9.52
1996	13	266	374	640	49.2	10285	cds			\$ 266,051.00	\$ 415.70	\$ 7.37
1995	15	269	286	555	37.0	12089	cds			\$ 371,813.00	\$ 669.93	\$ 10.30
1994	20	417	373	790	39.5	14751	cds			\$ 424,980.00	\$ 537.95	\$ 11.78
1993	15	307	369	676	45.1	9875	cds			\$ 213,616.00	\$ 316.00	\$ 5.92
1992	24	332	407	739	30.8	10900	cds			\$ 189,246.00	\$ 256.08	\$ 5.24
1991	22	442	347	789	35.9	11227	cds			\$ 141,700.00	\$ 179.59	\$ 3.93
1990	18	314	390	704	39.1	11108	cds			\$ 168,300.00	\$ 239.06	\$ 4.66
1989	21	427	357	784	37.3	12348	cds			\$ 166,400.00	\$ 212.24	\$ 4.61
1988	16	715	302	1017	63.6	12023	cds			\$ 152,000.00	\$ 149.46	\$ 4.21
1987	16	453	470	923	57.7	13488	cds			\$ 124,700.00	\$ 135.10	\$ 3.46
1986	9	412	217	629	69.9	7795	cds			\$ 67,700.00	\$ 107.63	\$ 1.88
1985	10	788	287	1075	107.5	16764	cds			\$ 185,000.00	\$ 172.09	\$ 5.13
1984	13	724	523	1247	95.9	19621	cds			\$ 219,000.00	\$ 175.62	\$ 6.07
1983	12	574	589	1163	96.9	18295	cds			\$ 200,497.00	\$ 172.40	\$ 5.56
Averages	13.8	434.9	399.4	834.3	64.1	14967.3		238.8		\$ 497,058.52	\$ 596.86	\$ 13.77

* 2018 figures are based only on the Spring 2018 Sold Values
** Based on County Forest acreage of 36,089 acres.
Allowable Cut Acreage 730 acres

updated 1/13/2020

2035.1.2 Non-timber forest products

Florence County does not have an historical record of Non-timber forest product permits sold by year. On average approximately 20-30 firewood permits are sold, 5-10 Christmas tree permits and 2-5 bough cutting permits are sold annually.

2035.2 REFORESTATION

Florence County does not maintain a spreadsheet tracking by year for reforestation efforts. However, there are dedicated files for reforestation efforts with files by year to

reference planting practices by year. This information is currently housed in paper form and will be converted to electronic format as a backup for historical information.

2035.3 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

There has not been a large effort of TSI on the Florence County Forest. When there was a WCC Crew (Wisconsin Conservation Corp) in Wisconsin there were efforts made to prune Red Pine stands and some hand release work done in plantations. Since the WCC program has been disbanded there has been release work done on plantations with aerial spraying of herbicide to setback hardwood competition on newly planted pine stands. Information regarding these release efforts are housed in the plantation files.

2035.4 RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

There is no historical database of when recreational developments were accomplished on the Florence County Forest. Detailed files of developments at parks, campgrounds, trails... have been kept in individual files for each development. Most developments have been grant funded and there is a file for each grant. These files are all housed in the file cabinets in the Forestry office or in the storage area in the basement of the Florence Natural Resource Center.

2035.5 WILDLIFE PROJECTS

There is no historical database of wildlife projects accomplished on the forest. Unfortunately, there has been very little information kept for wildlife type projects unless it was grant funded. All grant funded projects typically have a file associated with the funding and is kept in storage. Yearly, staff mows most roads and trails for hunter hiking opportunities as well as disking and seeding areas each year as well. Special projects do receive some funding through WDNR wildlife as well as the Ruffed Grouse Society. When there is special funding involved there will be a project file created to document the work completed.

2040 MONITORING

Many needs identified in the previous 15-year plan have been or are continually being worked on. Examples below:

Roads: Construction and maintenance as needed. Many of our Forest Roads have had major updating in the past 15 years. Culverts have been replaced as needed for increased fish passage and roads are graded and resurfaced as needed.

Land Acquisition: 2 land acquisition projects have been completed in the past 3 years. These have increased the size of the Florence County Forest by 334 acres.

Timber Harvest: we accomplished our goal of selling 700-900 acres per year. Some years we exceeded that due to insect and disease concerns. We have also updated the GPS and GIS capabilities over the past 15 years which has led to many efficiencies in sale establishment.

Other silvicultural activities: There has been many planting projects along with release projects accomplished on the forest. There is no database established for this information, files are maintained for years in which planting occurred.

Property Maintenance: Insect/disease and fire control are always high on the list for monitoring and resolution. Working closely with the WDNR on these issues is always a high priority. Surveying of property lines is also an important item. Each year we identify segments of property line needed for sale establishment or for other reasons on the county forest. A separate line item in the budget was setup to pay for this.

Recreation: Many recreational developments have occurred over the past 15 years.

- ATV trails have been added and improved as needed
- Cross country ski trails have been added and expanded.
- Improvements to hiking trails to waterfalls
- Many improvements to the snowmobile trail network
- Campsites have been updated with electricity

- Pavilion added at West Bass Lake Park
- Boat launch improvements at Patten Lake, Lake Emily, Keyes Lake, Sealion lake and a new launch on the Menominee River and Lake Edith.
- Added 2 Horse trail heads
- Added a 100-yard range to the Rifle Range

Office equipment- yearly upgrades to computer and GIS equipment

Wildlife Management- continue operation of Hall’s Creek Flowage, continue working with Ruffed Grouse Society and WDNR wildlife staff for projects to benefit wildlife on the forest.

Fisheries Management: While this department does not have a direct role in Fisheries management, we have worked closely with the WDNR Fisheries Staff to assist with management on area lakes both on and off of the Forest. This will be a continued effort in the future as needed.

Personnel: The past 15 years we have added 2 summer LTE positions to the Florence County Forest Program. The full-time staffing level has not changed.

2040.1 FOREST TYPES

Florence County Forest Composition

Below is a table that shows the Forest Composition. This table has the original, year 1995, 2005, 2020, and future composition. Each planning cycle there are changes to the composition of the forest. Most changes are not major but most notable are the increase in acres of Aspen on the Florence County Forest. This change is mostly due to recon updates. As the Recon system becomes more and more user friendly and become easier to update the more accurate our information is. This is especially important for planning purposes.

Forest Type	Original Acres	Original %	1995 Acres	1995%	2005 Acres	2005%	2020 acres	2020%	Proposed Acres	Proposed %
Aspen	15,069	41.70%	18,422	50.70%	18,807	50.60%	19226.00	53.00%	18,495	49.80%
Bottld. Hdwd	0	0.00%	18	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0	0.00%
W. Birch	765	2.10%	533	1.50%	602	1.60%	33.00	0.00%	503	1.40%
Cedar	123	0.30%	342	0.90%	343	0.90%	631.00	2.00%	177	0.50%
Fir-Spruce	1259	3.50%	464	1.30%	581	1.60%	450.00	1.00%	859	2.30%
N. Hdwd.	3363	9.30%	3693	10.20%	3747	10.10%	3387.00	10.00%	4144	11.20%
Oak	2039	5.60%	2130	5.90%	2289	6.20%	2481.00	7.00%	2108	5.70%
Scrub Oak	2837	7.90%	1837	5.10%	1757	4.70%	351.00	1.00%	743	2.00%
Jack pine	2676	7.40%	2057	5.70%	1833	4.90%	2074.00	6.00%	2881	7.80%
Red pine	1538	4.30%	1449	4.00%	1709	4.60%	2201.00	6.00%	1987	5.30%
White pine	0	0.00%	176	0.50%	273	0.70%	333.00	1.00%	325	0.90%
B. Spruce	913	2.50%	750	2.10%	785	2.10%	1026.00	3.00%	785	2.10%
Sw.. Conifer	1026	2.80%	774	2.10%	849	2.30%	316.00	1.00%	849	2.30%
Sw. Hdwd.	211	0.60%	231	0.60%	227	0.60%	339.00	1.00%	227	0.60%
Tamarack	28	0.10%	26	0.10%	25	0.10%	342.00	1.00%	21	0.10%
Total Forested	31,847	88.10%	32,902	90.60%	33827	91.00%	33190.00	93.00%	34,104	91.80%
Upl. Grass	1562	4.30%	853	2.30%	921	2.50%	354.00	1.00%	738	2.00%
Herb. Veg.	252	0.70%	190	0.50%	174	0.50%	60.00	0.00%	166	0.40%
Low shrub	39	0.10%	96	0.30%	35	0.10%			25	0.10%
Marsh	953	2.60%	319	0.90%	319	0.90%	165.00	0.00%	293	0.80%
Nonc..Grass	0	0.00%	70	0.20%	70	0.20%	1.00	0.00%	70	0.20%
Nonc. Veg.	0	0.00%	44	0.10%	44	0.10%	196.00	0.00%	44	0.10%
Low. brush	1226	3.40%	1129	3.10%	1069	2.90%	1128.00	3.00%	1027	2.80%
Alder	176	0.50%	192	0.50%	192	0.50%	418.00	1.00%	192	0.50%
Willow	14	0.00%	14	0.00%	14	0.00%	0.00		14	0.00%
Minor Lake	0	0.00%	170	0.50%	170	0.50%	205.00	1.00%	170	0.50%
Minor stream	0	0.00%	4	0.00%	4	0.00%	23.00	0.00%	4	0.00%
R-O-W	0	0.00%	244	0.70%	244	0.70%	241.00	1.00%	244	0.70%
Upland brush	60	0.20%	75	0.20%	61	0.20%	46.00	0.00%	53	0.10%
Rock outcrop	0	0.00%	10	0.00%	10	0.00%	9.00	0.00%	10	0.00%
Total non-forest	4282	11.90%	3410	9.40%	3327	9.00%	2846.00	7.00%	3050	8.20%
Total Property	36,129	100.00%	36,312	100.00%	37,154	100.00%	36036.00	100.00%	37154	100.00%

2040.2 HARVESTING

Timber harvesting needs have not changed in the past 15 years other than dealing with disease and insect issues as they arise. Oak Wilt and Two-Lined Chestnut Borer had a major impact on the Scrub Oak resource on the County Forest. As this plan is being written the Emerald Ash Borer has also been found on the forest. This too will have a lasting impact on the timber in the county. Overall the yearly goal has remained relatively constant for sale establishment. One goal is to keep yearly harvesting levels as consistent as possible.

2040.3 FLORA / FAUNA

Locally there has been an increase to the amount of invasive species in the county. The native Flora/Fauna has not seen any drastic changes at this time. The Emerald Ash Borer has just recently been discovered. The impact to the county has not been realized yet.

2040.4 RECREATIONAL USE

Demand for recreational use is certainly on the rise. There has been an increase in both motorized and non-motorized recreation. In the summer, ATV trails have more and more use each year as well as waterfall trails and Horse Trails. In the winter the snowmobile use has remained relatively constant while Cross Country Skiing has been increasing along with snowshoeing.

2040.5 HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FOREST AREAS

Florence County does not have any identified High Conservation Value Forest areas currently.

2040.6 ROADS & ACCESS

The needs identified in the previous plan were rather vague, however they listed construction and maintenance as needed as a need for the next 15 years. In the past 15 years the county has improved many miles of Forest roads with grading, graveling, and replacement of culverts. These improvements have created a great road network for

accessing the County Forest. Every effort will be made to continue this work as funding allows. The Florence County Forest is rather small in size and the road network is fairly easy to monitor on a daily basis. After summer storms roads are evaluated for any damage and corrected as soon as possible.

2040.7 OTHER

Other areas that are monitored or inspected yearly are the county parks/campgrounds which are located on the county forest. Each year they are inspected, and water samples taken at the wells. Hall's Creek Flowage Dam is also inspected every 5 years.