

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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2/16/2021

CHAPTER 900

RECREATION

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900 RECREATION

Recreation is an integral part of the management of the Florence County Forest and recreation uses are referenced in most of the previous chapters. Due to the tremendous growth in recreational demands over the duration of the last planning period, this plan recognizes the importance of more intensive recreational planning and emphasizes its importance with a separate chapter. The Florence County Forestry and Parks Department manages recreational assets both on and off of the County Forest Lands. This chapter will incorporate all recreational assets the department manages.

905 PLANNING

In addition to this plan, the Florence County Outdoor Recreation Plan also guides the recreation program. This plan is revised every five years and is made part of this plan. The Florence County Outdoor Recreation Plan includes activities on the County Forest as well as activities across Florence County. It incorporates snowmobile and ATV plans, campgrounds, parks and boat landings, recreational maintenance and development plans and other recreation surveys and reports. The Outdoor Recreation Plan, Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), public input, and other local or regional planning documents will be used as resources in recreational planning and development efforts. The responsibility for recreational planning, development and maintenance on the County Forest will rest with the Committee.

910 AUTHORITY

Chapter 19 of the Florence County Code of Ordinances and s. 28.11 Wis. Stats, authorize the Florence County Forestry and Parks Committee to provide recreational opportunities for the public. This authority is further recognized in the mission statement for the County Forest Plan (Chapter 100), which specifically identifies outdoor recreational opportunities. This mission statement also charges the Committee to conduct activities in a manner that prevents or minimizes environmental damage.

Maps of the recreational facilities managed through the Florence County Forest program maybe found at <https://www.exploreflorencecounty.com/tourism/maps-and-brochures>

915 ENTRANCE AND USER FEES

The Committee is empowered and shall have responsibility for establishing entrance, camping and other user fees on recreational facilities maintained by the Florence County Forestry and Parks Department. Camping, entrance or other fees shall be comparable to fees charged by

similar private facilities and other adjacent counties. Fees are subject to periodic change by the Committee. Fees, where appropriate, will be utilized to assist in the maintenance of recreational facilities. Fees for campgrounds are posted at the entrance of each campground. Fees for boat launches are posted at each launch.

920 RECREATIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS

It is permissible for the Committee to contract with clubs or individuals to provide for recreational maintenance or services to the public. As part of the Plan, the County contracts for the following services

1. Snowmobile trail grooming and maintenance
2. ATV trail grading and maintenance
3. Horse trail maintenance
4. Florence County Rifle Range maintenance

925 RECREATIONAL USE PERMITS FOR ORGANIZED EVENTS

Any event on the Forest or lands administered by the Florence County Forestry and Parks Department, which is advertised to the public, for which a fee is charged, or is otherwise organized as an event, requires a permit or authorization by the Administrator or the Committee. Permits may be issued by the Committee provided the use is consistent with management activities and will not cause resource damage. Appropriate levels of event liability insurance are required as set in the Personnel and Administration Handbooks of Florence County.

930 UNDESIGNATED RECREATIONAL USE OF THE FOREST

Undesignated recreation includes those informal activities for which the county generally does not provide a facility or service. These uses include activities such as hunting, fishing, biking, hiking and others. These uses do not require a permit but must be conducted in compliance with ordinance. The Forest Administrator and the Committee shall periodically review such uses and enact ordinances as necessary to protect from resource damage.

930.1 HUNTING and TRAPPING

The entire County Forest is open for regulated hunting, with the exception of areas developed for high public use. There are currently 6 areas where hunting is not allowed.

1. Lake Emily Park and Campground
2. West Bass Park and Campground

3. Fisher Lake Park and ATV Park
4. Keyes Lake Park
5. Keyes Peak Recreational Area
6. Florence County Forest Rifle Range

The Florence County Code of Ordinances regulates activities relating to hunting. The following website will direct you to Chapter 19 of the Florence County Ordinance related to the Florence County Forestry and Parks program:

<https://www.florencecountywi.com/i/f/files/FP%20Ordinance%20Chapter%2019%20Updated%208-20-2019.pdf>

930.2 FISHING

All lakes and streams within the forest are available for fishing unless otherwise listed in state regulations.

930.3 PICNICKING / DAY USE

Picnicking and other day uses, outside of established facilities is allowed. The Florence County Code of Ordinances also regulates day use. In general, the following activities are regulated:

1. All litter, trash or rubbish must be removed
2. Cutting or harvesting vegetation is not permitted
3. Fires may not be left unattended unless the ground is 100% snow covered
4. Use of pavilions is first come-first served unless it has been reserved through the Forestry and Parks office.
5. Others

930.4 CAMPING

A permit is not required to camp outside of developed campgrounds on the County Forest. Dispersed camping is allowed for a period of 14 days.

930.5 MOTORIZED TRAVEL

The Florence County Code of Ordinances regulates motorized uses on the County Forest. The ordinances may be found at

<https://www.florencecountywi.com/i/f/files/FP%20Ordinance%20Chapter%2019%20Updated%208-20-2019.pdf>

[dated%208-20-2019.pdf](#) In general, the following regulations apply to motorized travel outside of a developed recreational trail system:

1. It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle on a trail designated closed with a gate, earthen berm, sign, or other closure
2. Two-wheeled motorized travel (motorcycles, minibikes, dirt bikes) is not permitted unless the machine is street legal.
3. Other regulated items

930.6 BERRY PICKING, MUSHROOMS, AND HARVESTING OF OTHER VEGETATION

The Florence County Forest is open to picking berries and mushrooms. However, the Forestry Committee has not allowed the picking of Ginseng on the Florence County Forest. A person may also obtain a permit for harvesting boughs or a Christmas Tree on the Florence County Forest.

930.7 OTHER USES

Other uses of the County Forest are permitted provided they are not specifically addressed with the County Code of Ordinances. Mountain biking, horseback riding, and other non-motorized uses are currently not regulated. The County Board may, at any time, enact ordinances to protect the forest should damage begin to occur.

935 DESIGNATED RECREATION AREAS/USES

Designated recreation includes those uses for which the county provides a trail or facility. The Florence County Forest has developed sites and areas to accommodate a fairly high degree of public use. The Committee may prohibit other recreation activities that are not compatible with the intent of the developed facilities.

The Forestry and Parks Committee and Forestry and Parks Department has noted a marked increase in demand for recreation facilities. Florence County may attempt to develop additional facilities and will maintain its currently developed facilities.

All Campgrounds, County Boat Landings, Parks and Day Use areas are considered closed from December 1- April 15. The County does not maintain these sites for winter use by the public. The public may still enter these areas during the winter months, however there will be no routine maintenance of the bathrooms or plowing of these facilities by Florence County Staff. Most County boat landings are on or near town roads. The towns may plow the landings, or the public

may plow them for access to the frozen lakes for fishing. Florence County does not plow boat landings in the winter months.

935.1 CAMPGROUNDS

Lake Emily Campground

Lake Emily Park is located in the Town of Commonwealth off of County Highway D. The park facilities include 18 campsites, electricity, water at each site, 2 pit toilets, beach, fishing pier, boat landing, and firewood. The facility is fee based for camping.

West Bass Lake Campground

West Bass Lake Park is located in the Town of Homestead off of County Park Road. The park facilities include 28 campsites, electricity, one hand pump and one other water source, 4 pit toilets, beach, fishing pier, boat landing, and firewood. The facility is fee based for camping

935.3 PICNIC / DAY USE AREAS/SWIMMING AREAS

- **Fisher Lake Park**, pit toilets, beach, volleyball court, swing set, water slide and swim platform, grills, baseball field, boat landing, and dock
- **Lake Emily Park**, pit toilets, beach, swing set, pavilion, dock, grills and boat landing
- **West Bass Lake Park**, pit toilets, beach, swing set, pavilion, grills, dock, and boat landing
- **Keyes Lake Park**, pit toilets, beach, swing set, pavilion, grills, dock, and boat landing
- **Vagabond Park**, pit toilets, beach, grills, 2 docks and boat landing
- **Highway 101 Wayside**, grills and walking trail

935.5 BOAT LANDINGS

As a result of the wide distribution of lakes, streams, rivers, and other surface waters in the county, water access may be planned, developed, or restricted as a component of the overall forest access management plan. Several boat landings, canoe landings, and adjacent roads currently provide water access on the forest primarily for recreational activities. In addition, these water access points also provide water supply points for fire apparatus working to suppress forest fires or nearby structural fires.

The existing water access points will be maintained to provide a place to launch a small fishing boat or canoe. Not all watercraft will be able to use these access points. These landings are

built for public use and not for private boat mooring sites. Mooring or storing boats for longer than 24 hours is prohibited.

The following public boat access sites have been developed in Florence County and are open to public use:

935.3.1 Public Boat Access Sites Maintained by the Florence County Forest

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 1. Hwy 139/ Morgan Lake
Popple River Canoe Access | 11. Cosgrove Lake |
| 2. Camp One Canoe Access on
Popple River | 12. Frog Lake |
| 3. Highway 101 Wayside Canoe
Access Site | 13. Menominee River PUD
Landing |
| 4. West Bass Lake | 14. Twin Falls Flowage |
| 5. Hwy 139 Pine River Canoe
Access | 15. Lake of Dreams |
| 6. Patton Lake | 16. Lake Edith |
| 7. Sea Lion Lake | 17. US 2 Canoe Access |
| 8. Loon Lake | 18. Fisher Lake |
| 9. Seidel Lake | 19. Keyes Lake |
| 10. Lake Emily | 20. Montgomery Lake |
| | 21. North Lake of Spread Eagle
Chain |
| | 22. 139 Brule River Canoe Access |

935.3.2 Public Boat Access Sites Maintained by Towns

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Lunds Lake (Homestead) | 9. Menominee River (Aurora) |
| 2. Mirror Lake (Homestead) | 10. Long Lake (Long Lake) |
| 3. Sand Lake (Homestead) | 11. Fay Lake (Long Lake) |
| 4. East Bass Lake (Homestead) | 12. Lake Anna (Florence) |
| 5. Scout Lake (Homestead) | 13. Lake Elwood (Florence) |
| 6. Bush Lake (Homestead) | 14. Camels Clearing (Florence) |
| 7. Price Lake (Fern) | 15. Woods Rd Landing (Florence) |
| 8. Fisher Lake (Aurora) | |

935.3.3 Public Boat Access Sites Maintained by the DNR

1. Savage Lake
2. Robago Lake
3. 101 Pine River Access
4. Sand Lake
5. Oxbow (put-in & take-out)
6. Barrens Lake

935.3.4 Public Boat Access Sites Maintained by the USFS

1. Halsey Lake
2. Morgan Lake
3. Lost Lake
4. Daumitz Canoe Access
5. Pentoga Canoe Access

935.3.5 Public Boat Access Sites Maintained by the WE Energies

1. Pine River Flowage Site 24
2. Pine River Flowage Site 34
3. Lower Pine Boat Launch Site 5
4. Brule River Landing Site 28
5. Canoe Access Brule River Dam

935.3.6 Undeveloped Water Access Points

Other undeveloped water access points for canoes and boats currently exist on the Forest. These are used routinely to hand launch boats or canoes but have not been developed for boat trailer launching. These sites are not routinely maintained and may be closed if erosion damage becomes severe. All new sites for developed water access must be reviewed and approved by the Committee.

935.4 KEYES PEAK RECREATION AREA

The Keyes Park Recreational Area is located on Highway 101, and has a variety of amenities. There is a beautiful rustic log lodge that serves as a ski lodge in the winter months and is used for wedding receptions and graduation parties in the summer months. There are 6 ski runs on the hill for the local children to use. Currently there are 3 tow ropes on the hill and one tubing run.

During the summer months there is an 18-hole disc golf course on and adjacent to the ski hill. There is also a sidewalk and steps running up the hill for visitors to climb the hill to take in the

spectacular views. This recreational area is located directly across from Keyes Lake Park and is also next door to a private campground.

935.5 FLORENCE COUNTY FOREST RIFLE RANGE

Florence County has one public rifle range located in the Town of Homestead off of County Highway C. This range is open to the public for most of the year. It is not plowed in the winter months. There is no fee to use the range, but there is a donation box at the site. Donated funds are used to help maintain the range throughout the year. The Aurora/Homestead Conservation Club has been working in cooperation with the department to help in the maintenance of the range. Competition type shooting events are not allowed at the rifle range, however the range maybe used for other type events such as fundraising shoots for the club or public benefits.

940 DESIGNATED RECREATION TRAILS

Designated recreation trails are those for which the county provides a designated trail and/or facility. The county currently provides trail systems that accommodate a fairly high degree of public use. The committee may prohibit other activities on these trails that are not compatible with the intent of the development.

Whenever possible, multiple uses of various trail systems are encouraged and are subject to policy review of the Committee. Wherever possible, attempts will be made to avoid user conflicts. Recreational users, however, will frequently encounter forest management activities instrumental to the existence and future of the County Forest. Trail systems are identified in Chapter 1000.

940.1 NON-MOTORIZED RECREATION TRAILS

The Florence County Forest is a multiple use forest. Non-motorized recreation trails are a legitimate use of the forest. Design and maintenance of these trails may highlight natural features present on the forest, should minimize damage, and reduce user conflict. Trail use and development must be compatible and sustainable with the characteristics of the landscape. It is the policy of the Committee to manage non-motorized recreation trails on the County Forest.

940.1.1 Hiking Trails

There are multiple trails in Florence County that are considered hiking trails. Currently any hunter walking trails, horse trails, and cross-country ski trails located on the County Forest are open to

hiking. There are also 2 trails that lead to waterfalls located on the County Forest, Washburn Falls and LaSalle Falls.

940.1.2 Mountain Bike/Fat Tire/Bicycle Trails

Currently there are no designated biking trails on the Florence County Forest. However, this is an activity that would fit well into the Keyes Peak Recreational Area. There have been many discussions about designing a trail in that area of the County Forest.

940.1.3 Equestrian Trails

There are two horse trails on the Florence County Forest: Bush Lake Flats and Hall's Creek Flowage Trails. Each trail has a trail head, and the trails are connected with a segment of trail for a longer riding experience for users. Hall's Creek trail is used as a cross-county ski trail in the winter months. Portions of the Bush Lake Trail are used for snowmobile trails. There has been great cooperation between the user groups. The Northern Saddle Club has been doing most of the maintenance of the trails in the summer months. They have also been successful at obtaining grants for each trail for signing, well, bathroom and other items needed at the trail heads.

940.1.4 Ski Trails

The Florence County Forest has two cross country ski trails:

- Lake Emily Trail- located off of County Highway D. This trail is approximately 6 miles long with several loops to vary the length of the trail.
- Hall's Creek Trail- located off of LaSalle Falls Road. This trail is approximately 8 miles long also with several loops to vary lengths of the trail.

Both trails are maintained by the Florence County Forestry and Parks Department.

940.1.5 Future non-motorized trail systems

The development of additional non-motorized trail systems will include careful consideration of public demand, analysis of user conflicts and potential damage to the natural resource. Trail system development should comply with the Outdoor Recreation Plan goals and be referenced in SCORP or other regional planning documents.

Non-motorized trail systems generally are not supported by statewide grant programs. The County may require proof of an organized club, or user group, with the ability to assist with maintenance and support of the trail and associated facilities.

940.2 MOTORIZED RECREATION TRAILS

940.2.1 Designated Snowmobile Trails

Designated snowmobile trails are those recognized by the Committee as the official trails within the County. The Forestry and Parks Department manages the snowmobile trail system in Florence County. Annual agreements outline the operation, maintenance and insurance obligations between the County and local club. Currently there is only one snowmobile/ATV club in Florence County.

The Florence County Code of Ordinances regulate snowmobile trails. A summary of rules and regulations relating to snowmobile trails is as follows:

- a. No person shall operate a licensed motor vehicle on state approved groomed snowmobile trails, without permission from the County Forest Administrator or designee unless the trail is designated and marked with signs as allowing such as.
- b. The Forest Administrator will make determinations to officially open and close snowmobile trails based on snow and maintenance conditions.
- c. Snowmobile trails used for logging access during snowmobile season will be posted with signs warning users of activity.
- d. No person shall operate an ATV or other motorized off-road vehicle on state approved snowmobile trails when trails have snow and are groomed and the temperature is 28 degrees or warmer.
- e. See Chapter 19 of the Florence County Code of Ordinance for a complete list of rules.

Florence County recognizes the following categories of snowmobile trail:

940.2.1.1 Snowmobile Trail Types

The county recognizes several different classifications of snowmobile trail:

State Funded Trails – these are state approved and funded trail miles on designated trails that are part of a statewide network of trail systems. Snowmobile registration fees and gas tax allotments fund grants that support maintenance, rehabilitation and development of these trails. There are approximately 150 miles of funded trails in Florence County.

Unfunded Trails – these are segments of trail that meet the eligibility requirements for a funded trail system but have not been included in the grant system due to restrictions on available funding. There are very few miles of unfunded trails in Florence County.

Local/Club Trails – these are trails that are not funded by State maintenance grants and may or may not be groomed by local clubs. These trails may not meet eligibility requirements of a funded trail and may dead end at local businesses.

940.2.1.2 Snowmobile Trail Maintenance

Florence County contracts with The Blue Ox Trail Riders Club to groom the funded snowmobile trail system. The County periodically assists with mowing, grading or other trail maintenance projects as needed.

The County shall inspect and monitor bridges and other infrastructure on the trail system and attempt to secure funding from grants, or other sources, to periodically replace or rehabilitate as needed.

940.2.1.3 Future Snowmobile Trails

The Committee shall have jurisdiction over any trail development proposals. It is recommended that future trails be considered only after careful consideration of costs, benefits and impacts and as part of a larger planning effort.

Florence County deems that the existing number of snowmobile trail miles is sufficient to satisfy public demand. Proposals to relocate trails or to make adjustments to the existing trail system will be encouraged where there are concerns of public safety or environmental damage. Unfunded and club trails should be evaluated for maintenance funding application.

940.2.2 Designated ATV Trails

Designated ATV Trails are those recognized by the Committee as official trails within the County. These may lie on County, private, or other agency lands. Annual agreements outline the operation, maintenance and insurance obligations between the County and local clubs. The County contracts with the Blue Ox snowmobile/ATV clubs for trail maintenance:

There are numerous types of designated ATV trail managed by Florence County. These trails are further identified in the appendix.

940.2.2.1 Trail Types

The County recognizes several different classifications of ATV trail. Links to maps are appended in Chapter 1000 for reference.

1. Funded Winter ATV Trails – A majority of state funded snowmobile trails on the County Forest are also designated and funded as winter use ATV trails. There are approximately 81.6 miles of winter funded ATV trail managed by Florence County.

2. Funded Spring/Summer/Fall ATV Trails – these are trail systems funded for only summer winter use. These trails are open from approximately May 1- Opening of Snowmobile season. There are approximately 62.7 miles of summer use ATV trails managed by the County.

3. Funded UTV Trails – All ATV trails in Florence County are open to UTV’S.

4. Funded Troute/Hybrid Trails – The ATV/UTV program does not allow for full maintenance funding on ATV/UTV trails that are open to highway traffic (cars, trucks, etc.) ATV trails with this dual use that were maintained and funded prior to August 1, 2012 are still funded at 100% of the annual per mile maintenance rate. Trails funded after August 1, 2012 allow for partial funding under the following categories:

4a. County Forest Gas Tax Roads – these are gas tax roads used as a connector to trails or services and are funded at a rate determined by the full per mile funding rate, less gas tax funding rate, not to exceed 50% of the full maintenance funding rate. Florence County maintains 19.5 miles of County Forest Road Troutes.

4b. Hybrid Trails – these are trails designated as ATV trails, opened after August 1, 2012, that also permit highway vehicle traffic. These are funded at 50% of the annual maintenance funding rate. Florence County maintains 12.2 miles of Hybrid/Troute trails.

4c. Club Trails – These are trails not funded under the state ATV program. In some cases these are trails that are maintained and may be added as a funded trail at a future date. Florence County recognizes less than 5 miles of club trails.

4d. State Trails – Florence County maintains one State Designated Trail. The Nicolet Trail is located on the west side of Florence County. The trail runs from the North from the State of Michigan through Florence County then into Forest County to the south. The trail primarily runs through the National Forest and private lands. It does not cross any Florence County Forest lands.

940.2.2.2 ATV Trail Maintenance

For the purpose of ATV/UTV trails, the term sustainability is intended to mean the development of a trail surface that is maintainable. It appears evident there are no circumstances where an ATV trail can be considered sustainable without intensive maintenance. Of primary importance, trail surfaces need to be conducive to periodic grading or restoration that promotes water runoff from the trail surface and eliminates the opportunity for water flow to gain velocity, causing erosion.

The Blue Ox Trail Riders club takes care of the day-to-day maintenance of the trails. This includes grading/grooming, signing and brushing. Any work that is over and above is taken care of through the Florence County Forestry and Parks Department with assistance from the Highway Department as well as future developments or rehab projects.

The County shall inspect and monitor trails, bridges and other infrastructure and attempt to secure funding from grants, or other sources, to periodically replace improvements or rehabilitate trail surfaces or bridges as needed.

940.2.2.3 Future ATV Trails

The use and popularity of ATV's and UTV's increased dramatically over the period of the 2006-2020 County Forest Plan. Increased usage of trail systems proved a tremendous need for much higher levels of trail maintenance in order to manage environmental damages.

Adding ATV trails should be done as part of larger planning effort that incorporates considerations for impact on other users and user groups; how future trail systems will be

maintained; and impact on the natural resources. New ATV trail systems will only be considered with the following framework:

- Trails should be designed and planned to connect communities
- Loop trails will be discouraged unless part of a larger trail system that connects communities
- Dead end trails will not be sanctioned as part of the County ATV trail system
- Intensive use areas will not be allowed on the Florence County Forest
- Trails will only be considered on suitable soils and in appropriate locations

It is critical that trail layout and design is done in such a way as to prevent erosion and soil loss. Trails must be developed to be sustainable. For the purpose of this plan, sustainability is defined as follows:

Sustainability – For the purpose of ATV trails, the term sustainability is intended to mean the development of a trail surface that is maintainable. It appears evident there are no circumstances where an ATV trail can be considered sustainable without intensive maintenance. Of primary importance, trail surfaces need to be conducive to periodic grading or restoration that promotes water runoff from the trail surface and eliminates the opportunity for water flow to gain velocity, causing erosion. Trails should be built with a slight crown and appropriate ditching to allow for adequate and proper water dispersal. To this end, the construction and development of new ATV trails are to comply with the **WCFA ATV/ORV and/or WDNR Trail Standards.**

940.2.3 Designated Motorcycle Trails

Currently there are no designated motorcycle trails in Florence County. If funding becomes available for future development and maintenance, Florence County will look into the possibility of adding this use to the trail system. Florence County will only look to add this use to the current ATV/UTV trails and not to create another standalone trail system.

940.3 RECREATION TRAIL PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

940.3.1 Storm Water Discharge

In general, any trail construction or rehabilitation activities that disturb one acre or more of land will require a Storm Water Discharge Permit. There have been instances of inconsistent application of permit requirements statewide. In order to further define the county's understanding and implementation of permit requirements, the following current acceptable process will be used for determining when a permit is needed.

- The 1-acre threshold will be determined by measuring/estimated new disturbance or disturbance of previously grassed surfaces.
- Periodic grading of impervious or non-grassed trail surfaces is not considered disturbance.
- Restoration of water filtration/diversion devices, such as sediment traps or catch basins is considered maintenance and not disturbance
- Reconstruction of previously grassed ditch lines as part of trail rehabilitation is considered disturbance.

940.3.2 WDNR Chapter 30

Permits are required for bridges or culvert crossings of navigable waterways. These permits will either be classified as general or individual depending on specific site conditions. These permits are not required for culvert or bridge crossings of non-navigable or intermittent streams, nor are they required to install a clear span bridge over wetlands.

940.3.3 WDNR Wetland Fill

Permits are required at any time that fill is placed in a wetland. Permits are available to fill small wetlands for recreation trail purposes. Wetland fill must be less than 10,000 square feet and the permit does not require wetland mitigation. Clear span bridge and boardwalks placed on pilings generally do not require a wetland fill permit. Puncheon style bridges do require a permit.

945 RECREATION PROGRAM FUNDING AND GRANTS

945.1 RECREATION AREA FUNDING

Funding for recreation areas is generally fee based or grant funded. Aid for Development of Local Parks (ADLP) funding is available for facility development or enhancement but there is normally a very high level of completion for these funds. Currently the only fee charged by Florence County is for use of boat landings. This fee was established at \$3.00/launch or a yearly pass of \$25.

945.2 RECREATION TRAIL FUNDING

945.2.1 Non-motorized trail systems

At this time, there is very limited access to any grant funds that will assist with non-motorized recreational trail maintenance. Florence County has been successful in obtaining grants for assistance in maintenance of our cross-county ski trails. This has helped Florence County greatly with improvements to these trail systems.

945.2.2 Motorized trail systems

There are numerous grant programs available to offset motorized trail system costs. Florence County utilizes the following funding sources:

1. Snowmobile Maintenance - \$300/mile
2. ATV Summer Maintenance - \$600/mile
3. ATV Winter Maintenance - \$100/mile
4. UTV Maintenance - \$100/mile
5. ATV Rehabilitation - 100% grants
6. ATV Development - 100% grants
7. ATV Troute Grants - \$300/mile

950 PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE RECREATION PROGRAM

The following are recommended changes that this Plan recognizes as improvements or enhancements to the recreation program:

950.1 ENFORCEMENT NEEDS

Florence County is in need of more enforcement on the trail system. The Forestry and Parks Department would like to work closer with the Sherriff's Department on enforcement issues on the trails.

950.2 STAFF NEEDS

Current staff meets the needs of the Department. However, staffing will need to be reevaluated if more trail and recreational developments are built in the future.

950.3 CAMPGROUNDS

There is no need to add additional campgrounds, however the Lake Emily Campground should be considered for expansion. There is more demand than space available. When expansion is considered a modern bathhouse with showers should also be looked into. Consideration has also been given to the development of cabins to rent to the public. This should be further assessed in the future. Areas of consideration for cabin placement are: Lake Emily, Fisher Lake, Lake Edith, and West Bass Lake.

950.4 PARKS

The current park system is adequate. The day-use areas and boat launches need periodic upgrades. Over the past several years Lake Emily, Keyes Lake, Sea Lion Lake and the Menominee River PUD Boat landings have all been updated or constructed. During the next 15 years, attempts should be made to upgrade Cosgrove Lake, North Lake, Patten Lake, and Siedel Lake boat landings. Vagabond and Fisher Lake Park are also in need of pavilions for the public to use.

950.5 TRAILS

There is a need to add to the current trail system. Currently there is not a decent ATV/UTV trail in the town of Aurora. This is mainly due to the amount of private properties in that area. It has proven difficult to obtain permission to cross the private lands to create a link to there. It has been a goal to create a connection to Aurora for many years. Currently there is a connection that uses many miles of town road routes.