

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN
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CHAPTER 1000

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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1000 OBJECTIVE AND FORMAT

Objectives:

To provide guidelines which define the optimum level of activities that should be undertaken to achieve the full potential of benefits from the forest.

Format and Policy:

The management activities presented in this chapter for the county forest shall be listed without regard to budgetary constraints, staffing levels, or other limitations. This list shall identify the forest potential in terms of public benefits, investments, opportunities, or financial returns. Silvicultural needs of the county forest have been identified in Chapter 800 and are also identified in the Forest Compartment Reconnaissance printout. 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.

1100 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2006-2015

1105 SILVICULTURE

Annual silvicultural activities, and the process used in determining those needs, are described in Chapter 800. The DNR's Forest Compartment Reconnaissance printout also lists annual needs including; timber harvests, tree planting, and other silvicultural activities.

Table 1100.1: Annual Harvest and Cultural Activity Levels per Timber Type per Silvicultural System per Year ¹

Timber Type	Allowable Harvest per System per Year (Acres)						Cultural Activities (Acres)			
	Silv. System	Total Acres ²	Thins	Regen Harvests ³	Overstory Removal	Harvest Totals	Site Prep	Release/ TSI	Reforestation	
									Natural	Plant/Seed
Northern Hardwood	Uneven	11,800	440	150	0	590	----	----	150	----
	Even	9,993	84	83	83	250	----	----	83	----
Aspen	Even	65,201	0	1,087	0	1,087	----	----	1,087	----
Red Oak	Even	17,587	293	146	146	585	80	180	146	----
Scrub Oak	Even	5,902	0	85	0	85	----	----	85	----
Paper Birch	Even	2,422	0	58	0	58	58	----	58	----
Red Pine	Even	14,085	750	0	117	867	250	200	----	250
Jack Pine	Even	13,966	0	330	0	330	400	----	----	400
White Pine ⁴	Even	2,283	----	----	----	----	25	25	15	10
Fir/Spruce ⁴	Even	1,933	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	20

¹ Annual allowable harvest levels and cultural activities are projections based on current available data and are subject to change.

² Total Acreage that is suitable for active timber management.

³ Harvest where the main objective is to regenerate a new stand of timber.

⁴ Species are treated on a case by case basis with no scheduled harvests or cultural practices, however, regeneration is encouraged whenever possible.

1110 INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNIT SUMMARIES

Seven Integrated Resource Management Units have been designated in the County Forest (see Chapter 860). Summaries of the proposed multiple-use management activities to occur in these units over the period covered by this plan will be prepared during the first three years of the Plan; i.e. the end of 2008.

1115 ACCESS MANAGEMENT

Access management plans (see Chapter 700) have been completed for IRM Units 6&7. Access management plans will be completed for the remaining five units by the end of 2008. Implementing the access management plans will be ongoing throughout this planning period. Road and trail maintenance needs will be approximately 20 miles per year, with an additional 2-4 miles of road construction /reconstruction.

1120 WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Conservation Aids and Wildlife Habitat Development Grants will continue to supplement the County's wildlife habitat management program. Additional funding sources will be sought out to enhance habitat diversity on the County Forest and the dissemination of information pertinent to wildlife conservation. Aspen, pine barrens, grass/brush openings, wetlands, and oak habitat continue to be high priority habitat management activities. The Wildlife Opening GIS layer is targeted for completion by 2007. Annual maintenance levels will be derived from that data base. Other wildlife habitat projects will be generated by the guidance provided in this plan and scheduled for implementation at the joint County/DNR annual meetings.

1125 RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Recreation management activities will continue to increase during this plan cycle. Trail use demands, dispersed camping, water access, user conflicts, and law enforcement will require additional staff time. The recreation groups sponsoring trails or other recreation uses on the County Forest need to be recognized and permitted under the County's recreation permit system. Currently only two trail systems; The North Country Trail (US Park Service), and the North End Ski Club (Cable), and one rifle range are adequately documented. There are at least seven other existing sponsoring groups that need to go through the permitting process for current recreational developments on the Forest.

1130 PROTECTION

Continuously monitor the insect and disease situation on the forest, and take appropriate action. Take action on suspected trespasses/encroachments to ensure the County's interests are protected. The rapid increase in subdivisions and summer homes in formerly forested in-holdings within the County Forest has resulted in numerous encroachments onto the Forest. The survey and marking of these legal boundaries need to be accomplished in a timely manner. Continue to participate in the Community Wildfire Protection Planning Program. Work with the Town Governments, Forest Service and the DNR to take appropriate actions to manage the threat of wildfires in fire prone communities including the enhancement of

approximately 30 miles of Town roads for use as control lines in wildfire situations. Work closely with the County Sheriff's Department and DNR on law enforcement issues.

1135 BUILDINGS AND CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

The existing storage space for the Forestry Department's equipment and fleet is less than half of what is needed. The County is pursuing the construction of a new facility co-located with the County Highway Department in Washburn. Fleet vehicles will be replaced at 100,000 miles unless maintenance costs necessitate earlier replacement. Non-fleet equipment will be replaced/acquired on an as-needed basis. The flat bed trailer is currently in need of replacement. The dozer should be replaced within 1-2 years.

1140 PERSONNEL

To accomplish the level of activity identified in this plan will require an additional position within the County Forest Department. The revenues gained, due to the increase in volume to be harvested, will be more than adequate to cover the costs incurred by the addition of this position. Duties performed by this position will include; 1) timber sale layout, marking, and cruising, 2) forest inventory, 3) reforestation and timber stand improvement, 4) land line location and trespass/encroachment resolution, and 5) recreation and trail management.

1145 LAND ACQUISITION

Lands within forest blocking boundaries or areas possessing special or unique values will be acquired on a willing seller/willing buyer basis. Acquisition may be made by purchase, exchange, donation/gift, or action to foreclose tax liens. Interest in lands, such as conservation easements, may be acquired in a similar manner.

1150 MONITORING

The annual monitoring process is documented in Chapter 3000 Annual Accomplishment Reports. Chapter 3200 contains a running historical summary of management activities and accomplishments. Monitoring accomplishments and the evaluation of results is an on-going task. The County, Wisconsin DNR and others conduct periodic monitoring of management activities and the status of forest resources. Compartment/Stand updates, Reforestation Reports, Harvest Inspections, as well as periodic audits, and technical field assistance trips by DNR personnel provide documented monitoring and evaluation reports. The effectiveness of implementing Best Management Practices for the protection of water quality, wildlife populations and the status of threatened and endangered, and the occurrence/impact of insect and disease outbreaks and weather related incidents are also monitored. In 2005, the County Forest became certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Program. The SFI Program issues an annual report to the public on Program Participants' compliance with, and progress on, sustainable forestry. An external review panel assists in the preparation of the annual report, including validation of conclusions and the assessment of reported progress. Bayfield County Forest is a member of a Group Certificate as part of the Wisconsin County Forest Association. The Certificate holder for the Group is the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

1155 OTHER MANAGEMENT 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 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.

Note: This chapter is put together for planning purposes. The best available information has been used in developing the proposed activities. 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 Bayfield County Forestry Department to fulfill identified needs. Refer to Chapter 2000 – Annual Work Planning, for reference on progress towards the identified management activities described in this chapter.