

BAYFIELD COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN  
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**MANAGEMENT PLANNING**

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## CHAPTER 300 – MANAGEMENT PLANNING

### **300 MANAGEMENT PLANNING**

#### OBJECTIVES

This Plan establishes objectives, policies, procedures, rules and regulations, to promote an efficient and orderly program of development and management of the County Forest in the interest of:

- (1) Determining needs and priorities.
- (2) Achieving goals set forth in the mission statement of this plan.
- (3) Satisfying the statutory requirements of s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.
- (4) Satisfying requirements for participation in various state and federal aid programs.
- (5) Providing broad long-term and detailed short-term guidelines for actions.

### **305 COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN**

#### POLICY

This plan incorporates or references all official County Forest policies, pertinent county regulations, planning documents and the needs and actions for the plan period

This plan complements and should be encompassed within local planning efforts required under s. 66.1001, Wis. Stats. There are similarities between the plans, however, the County Forest plan is focused on the day-to-day and long range management activities associated with managing a county forest as directed by s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.

#### **305.1 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN**

S. 28.11, Wis.Stats. places the responsibility for the plan development on the Committee with technical assistance from the DNR and other agencies. The County Forest administrator took the lead at the committee's request. The DNR, with the assistance of the County, prepared the environmental assessment as required by Chapter 150 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. Public participation into the plan considered s. 28.11, Wis.Stats. that governs the County Forest program and provides guidelines for plan preparation.

#### **305.2 APPROVAL OF THE PLAN**

Comments received by the Committee shall be given consideration in developing the draft plan. The DNR will conduct a Regional Forestry Review of the draft plan. The County will consider comments received on the draft plan and will finalize the plan. The plan shall be approved by the County Board and the DNR as required by s. 28.11 (5) (a) Wis. Stats. Following approval by the County Board, the plan will be forwarded to the local DNR Liaison Forester. The DNR will prepare an Environmental Assessment of the plan and make a final decision on WEPA compliance. The DNR's Central Office in Madison will issue a letter of its findings to the County Board.

### 305.3 DISTRIBUTION OF THE PLAN

Each member of the County Board will receive a copy of the plan at the time of initial review and approval. Subsequently, updated official copies will be maintained for those regularly involved in the County Forest Program.

Official copies and amendments will be held by the following:

- (1) Forest administrator
- (2) Department of Natural Resources - Liaison and Division of Forestry. (5 copies and CDROMs as requested)
- (3) Executive Secretary - Wisconsin County Forest Association.

A copy of the plan will be posted, and maintained, on the County's website. A copy of the Plan will be sent to the Town Offices within Bayfield County, and local libraries. The plan will also be available in hard copy or CDROM for a fee, as determined by the Forestry Committee.

### 305.4 AMMENDING THE PLAN

Necessary changes in policy and procedure will be incorporated into the plan by amendment as required. Procedures for amending the Plan are similar to those required in preparing the original Plan. Amendments to the plan will require recommendation by the Committee for approval by the County Board. Approved amendments will be forwarded to the DNR for verification of state law compliance. The Forest Administrator will distribute copies of plan amendments to each official copy-holder (see 305.3) of the County Forest Plan as they are approved.

### 305.5 SCHEDULE FOR FOREST PLAN REVISION

By state law, the County is required to revise the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan on a scheduled periodic basis. This Plan is scheduled to be revised after the plan period.

### 305.6 COORDINATION WITH OTHER PLANNING

This plan complements and should be encompassed within local planning efforts required under s. 66.1001, Wis. Stats. There are similarities between the plans, however, the County Forest plan is focused on the day-to-day and long range management activities associated with managing a county forest as directed by s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.

The development and any future amendments to this plan may include consideration, and if warranted, participation in other planning efforts. It is expected that these other plans will also, in turn, consider and mesh their efforts with the County Forest plan. Coordination between Town and County Comprehensive plans, Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation plans (SCORP), State Land master plans, the Chequamegon-Nicollet N.F. plan, Land & Water Resource Plans, Forest Legacy, and others is essential for effective land management.

### **310 FOREST RESOURCE PLANNING**

This Comprehensive Land Use Plan is a strategic planning document which looks toward the long term sustainable management of the Bayfield County Forest. This Plan supersedes all previous Comprehensive Land Use Plans approved by the County Board and DNR. This Plan supersedes all other resource plans in effect prior to the approval of this Plan unless such plans are specifically included or referenced in this document. The Forest Administrator will prepare an annual work plan that is tactical in nature. The annual work plan will identify measurable/quantifiable goals to be accomplished by the Forestry Department and will in some cases be assisted by the DNR in attaining those goals to the extent called for in the DNR County time standards agreement. Individual resource plans may also be prepared as specified in this Plan, i.e. integrated resource management unit plans, recreation plans, access management plans, etc. The committee will utilize, as guidelines, the procedures as set forth in the Department of Natural Resources Public Forest Lands Handbook 2460.5 and Forest Silvicultural Handbook 2431.5, where appropriate, to manage the Bayfield County Forest. When the County makes the determination on a course of action not consistent with the guidelines and procedures set forth in the DNR Handbooks, the rationale for the appropriateness of the decision will be documented.

Forest management plans are made by qualified, professional staff employed by the County or the DNR who are trained in silvicultural principles and apply economic, biological, and environmental considerations in the planning process. Forest management decisions are made utilizing applicable up-to-date resource materials including, but not limited to, the forest habitat type classification system, soil surveys, and forestry's best management practices for water quality guidelines.

### **315 OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING**

The Outdoor Recreation plan, Snowmobile Trail plan, and other recreation surveys, plans and reports will be used as available in planning efforts. Additional assistance will be sought from the DNR park planners. The responsibility for setting recreation policy on the County Forest will rest with the Committee.

### **320 OTHER RESOURCE PLANNING**

Additional data necessary to make management decisions on the County Forest will be sought from agencies or individuals best equipped to provide that service.

### **325 FOREST CERTIFICATION**

Refer to Chapter 100, sec.101.

## **330 FOREST PLANNING TOOLS**

### **330.1 FOREST INVENTORY**

Forest inventory is a tool in the assessment of geographical, structural and compositional attributes of the forest resources. This information is collected and computerized in a data base maintained by the County. The tabular information is linked to spatial information on computerized maps found in the County's Geographic Information System. Basic resource information is collected, stored and updated systematically and continuously. The County's goal is to inventory 10% of the County Forest each year. The database is used to analyze existing resources, evaluate management alternatives and assist in the development and implementation of management plans.

### **330.2 GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

Geographic information systems (GIS) are particularly well suited for natural resources management. A GIS interrelates spatial information e.g. maps with tabular data, reconnaissance information, ownership, name and address. It is a system through which managers can ask "what if?" and have the computer represent the answer in the form of the best organized spatial output, a map. By using such a system, managers can look at the timing and spacing of timber sales, calculate acreage and update forest inventory files in an efficient manner. Interrelating inventory data with the GIS through a Recon ArcView Editor (RAVE) program has provided state-of-the-art mapping and data analysis in Bayfield County.