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BAYFIELD COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL WORK PLAN
January 1 through December 31, 2014

The Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Department Work Plan for the 2014 calendar year gives direction and meaning to the Forestry and Parks budget, further defines and supplements the Comprehensive Fifteen Year Land Use Plan, and emphasizes current needs of the County Forest, Parks and Trails Programs. This plan complies with Chapter NR47 Wisconsin Administrative Rules for the administration of the County Forest Administrator Grant Program.

SUSTAINABLE TIMBER HARVEST

One of the primary missions of the Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Department is to manage, conserve, and protect the natural resources of the County Forest. Multiple use and sustainable forest management practices will be utilized to provide a wide variety of forest products and amenities for current and future generations. Sustainable forest management is commonly defined as meeting the forest resource needs and values of the present without compromising the similar necessities of future generations.

Timber harvests are important for the economic well being of Bayfield County, as well as for the health and vigor of the forest. One of the objectives of timber management is to produce a perpetual sustained yield of forest products. In part, this is realized through the analysis and scheduling of forest stands for management and, ultimately, the development of sustainable annual and long term harvest goals.

Professional implementation of proper forest management and harvesting techniques is essential. Existing reconnaissance data, along with thorough field inspections conducted by department and DNR foresters, will be used to determine which stands are ready for treatment. In addition, the long term monitoring of stands that have received treatment is crucial in determining the success of past management practices, as well as the development and implementation of future prescriptions.

Annual Sustainable Harvest Goal

The estimated 2014 sustainable allowable harvest goal for the Bayfield County Forest is 4,620 acres. This represents a decrease of 195 acres (roughly 4%) when compared to the harvest goal for
2013. Natural fluctuations in acres of mature manageable jack pine and northern hardwood and thinnable stands of mature red oak are the primary reasons for the decrease.

Table 1 displays the sustainable harvest goal (acres) per primary timber type for 2014 (annual harvest goals may be adjusted for a variety of reasons, i.e. response to unanticipated natural events or significant changes in reconnaissance data). The goal for 2013 is also included for comparison:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timber Type</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aspen</td>
<td>1,170</td>
<td>1,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Hardwood</td>
<td>970</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Oak</td>
<td>795</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Birch</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrub Oak</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Pine</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Pine</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Pine</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swamp Conifer</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swamp Hardwood</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fir/Spruce</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,815</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,620</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One of the objectives in managing the forest is to strive for a regulated, even flow of treatments, equally distributed over the landscape. However, sustainable harvest goals typically fluctuate slightly from year to year. Most fluctuations are explained by the irregular distribution of age classes over the entire forest and, subsequently, when they are ready for management.

Among other things, fluctuations are also a result of a change in management direction for individual timber types, responses to natural disturbances or other unforeseen natural events, a relatively poor response in growth from previous management, or modifications in response to accomplishments from the previous year (i.e. the management of backlogged stands).

On the Bayfield County Forest, the primary annual differences in sustainable harvest goals are a result of a variety of factors, some of which include: improved reconnaissance information, a significant increase in the number of stands reaching management age (particularly in the aspen and red pine types), the inclusion of harvest goals for the swamp hardwood and swamp conifer timber types, adjustments in the management approaches of the aspen, red oak and northern hardwood timber types, and modifications as a result of previous accomplishments.

Since 2006, the sustainable harvest goal has changed significantly. The peak harvest goal was in 2012, with a target of 5,238 acres. This was primarily due to the addition of numerous backlogged stands. Now that all of the backlogged stands have been managed, the annual sustainable harvest goal should hover between 4,500 and 4,800 acres per year.
Since 2006, the harvest goal has increased by approximately 47%; from 3,134 acres to 4,620 acres in 2014. Figure 1 displays the total sustainable harvest goals over the past nine years.

Maximizing the sustainable management of the county forest was a primary goal heading into calendar year 2011. As displayed in Figure 1, the average sustainable harvest goal from 2011 through 2014 increased by nearly 1,500 acres per year when compared to the average goals from 2006 through 2009. In addition, numerous other forest management responsibilities increased over the same time period creating a significant deficit in accomplishments for annual and long term goals.

To address the deficit, in the early winter of 2011, one full time forester position was added to the staff. The impact of the additional forester was immediate. Figure 2 displays the annual sustainable harvest goal, accomplishment and sold timber sales from 2007 through 2014 (2013 and 2014 are estimates):

Maximizing the sustainable harvest of the forest has numerous benefits. Not only does it have the potential to significantly increase revenues, but it also supports numerous local jobs, fosters new job growth, provides additional recreational opportunities, and provides exceptionally well managed products to local wood industries.
Prior to 2011, the Forestry and Parks Department averaged 45 sales, covering 3,044 acres per year. The average total winning bid value for those sales was approximately $2.4 million. Since 2011, the Department has averaged 53 sales, covering nearly 4,500 acres. During that time, the average total winning bid values have increase by 73%, to nearly $4.1 million.

Once these changes become fully regulated and bid values normalize to reflect the increase in managed acreage (and prices remain relatively constant), Bayfield County could see annual stumpage revenues that approach $4.0 million…nearly double our current average!

Figure 3 displays the total sold value of timber sales from 2007 through 2014 (2014 is an estimate and is based upon the average prices paid over the last three years):

**FOREST INVENTORY**

Correct, up-to-date stand information is imperative in the development of accurate short and long term sustainable harvest goals. There is a direct correlation between the quality and accuracy of the reconnaissance data and the ability for forest managers to confidently develop precise short and long term sustainable harvest goals. The accuracy of any sustainable harvest goal is only as good as the data from which it was derived. Therefore, it is important to update a certain level of stand information on an annual basis.

In 2014, approximately 10,000 acres of the County Forest will be re-inventoried. The emphasis will differ slightly compared to previous years. In 2014, the focus will be on individual stands rather than entire compartments, though a few compartments will still be updated. Two major timber types will be targeted in 2014: mature stands of red oak and mature stands of jack pine. The goal of re-inventory is to develop a system to help prioritize future management of these two types.

In red oak timber type, the county forest contains roughly 12,000 acres of previously unmanaged mature stands, most between 85 and 95 years old. The goal is to spread out the regeneration of these stands over the next 25 to 35 years. In order to do that effectively, we need to identify which stands need management now and which are capable of being harvested in the distant future. Data acquired from the re-inventory process will be used to help schedule future red oak thinnings and
will be integral in the development of accurate annual sustainable harvest goals. The goal is to re-inventory roughly half of the mature red oak acreage in 2014 and the other half in 2015.

In the jack pine timber type, the county forest contains roughly 1,700 acres of mature stands, all greater than 60 years of age. The objective has been to manage a few stands every year and carry the rest as long as possible, with the goal of providing a relatively stable flow of volume. These stands are now at the point of breaking up and may need to be managed sooner than planned. Re-inventory of these stands is required to determine current conditions and develop accurate management goals. If re-inventory discovers excessive mortality, the jack pine harvest goal for 2014 may be increased accordingly.

There will still be approximately 3,000 acres of compartment updates in 2014. Since 2001, 162 of 202 compartments, totaling nearly 135,000 acres have been updated. The goal is to re-inventory the remaining 40 compartments over the next 5 years. Once completed, it will put the department on pace to achieve the 15 year re-inventory goal. At which time, a 15 year, modified re-inventory cycle will be put in place. When updating entire compartments, priorities will be placed on those that contain a larger percentage of old data (≥20 years old), as well as compartments that contain a larger percentage of stands prescribed for management in the near future.

**REFORESTATION**

Reforestation, be it natural or artificial, is a core building block of forest sustainability and a fundamental component of any forest management program. A successful reforestation program provides numerous benefits, some of which include: the restoration of forest productivity, fertility and environmental function; the assurance of a perpetual, sustainable supply of forest resources and amenities for future generations; the protection of soil and water quality; and the establishment and development of quality wildlife habitat.

Table 2 displays the reforestation efforts that are planned for 2014:

**Table 2: Bayfield County Forest Reforestation Program Summary 2007 - 2014 (acres)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Planting</th>
<th>Site Preparation</th>
<th>Maintenance</th>
<th>Monitoring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 In 2011, tamarack and white spruce.
2 Timber Stand Improvement - Hand release of established regeneration.

**Spring Planting**

2014 marks the first year in recent memory where 0 acres are to be planted. The reason for the
temporary lack of planting is due to a variety of factors: 1) old fuel break areas have been mostly re-planted. The remaining 144 acres will be seeded to jack pine in 2016; 2) a general lack of previously open areas, which, in the past, were planted to red pine; 3) a lack of mature red pine stands that are ready for regeneration; 4) movement towards primarily jack pine regeneration in the Barnes Barrens Management Area.

Even after this year, the expectation is a little less red pine plantings will occur in the future until current stands begin to reach maturity. We will look at red pine to determine if there is a need to begin regeneration harvests sooner, in an attempt to evenly distribute age classes over the landscape.

Spring Seeding

There will also be a temporary lull in the seeding program. In 2014, there will be 0 acres of jack pine seeded. Before a site is seeded it needs to be mechanically prepped and usually sprayed. Also, there needs to be enough acres available before local contractors are interested in the work. Acres that were trenched in 2013 will be sprayed this year. The seeding program will resume in 2015.

In the future, there will most likely be years where no seeding occurs. Again, the primary reasons are due to timing in harvesting of a timber sale (two year contracts with up to two, one year extensions) and accumulating enough acres for site prep, spraying and aerial seeding. The goal is to regenerate jack pine by seed whenever possible.

Site Preparation

In 2014, approximately 560 acres are planned for site preparation via power trenching, 263 acres will be treated with chemical and 0 acres will be fire plowed. In addition, approximately 100 acres of red oak will be scarified, usually with a dozer and straight blade. Scarification will facilitate the natural regeneration of red oak and paper birch, as well as reduce competition from non-desirable species, such as ironwood and red maple. If fire plow sites are ready in 2014, there may be some acres treated.

Release

Approximately 350 acres of young red pine plantations will be aerial sprayed to release the conifer from competition. The prescribed burn program will be reviewed in 2014 to gauge the effectiveness of fire. As a result, 0 acres will be treated with fire in 2014. Approximately 40 acres of red oak and/or white pine many be mechanically released (TSI with a chain or brush saw), if conditions allow.

Seedling Protection

In 2013, the Department used bud caps to protect young jack pine seedlings from browsing by white tailed deer. In total, 239 acres were bud capped. This literally involves stapling a 3”x 3” piece of copy paper over the terminal bud/leader of each planted seedling. The reason: plantation monitoring in this area has shown signs of excessive deer browsing. Failure to protect the seedlings could lead to plantation failure. Bud capping would need to be repeated every year until the seedlings are beyond the reach of the deer, which typically takes 3 or 4 years. Currently, the focus
is on stands that are planted with containerized jack pine (as these seedlings are a little more nutrient rich when compared to bare root stock or natural regeneration).

In 2014, the same 239 acres will be bud capped again. Because most of the jack pine in the future will be regenerated via seed, bud capping will most likely only be used when absolutely necessary.

**Natural Regeneration**

Thousands of acres of natural regeneration will occur on a variety of forest types. The exact amount is solely dependent on the total number of acres harvested in previous years. Forest types such as northern hardwoods and aspen regenerate naturally via seed, stump sprouting and/or coppicing (vegetative sprouting from existing root system) and require very little additional input from the department. However, the natural regeneration of hardwood forest types such as red oak and paper birch do require additional departmental maintenance efforts.

Also, natural regeneration monitoring is finding excessive ironwood competition in stands of northern hardwoods. These stands may require additional inputs from the department in order to achieve the desired future stand condition.

Examples of additional inputs include: pre or post sale site scarification to prepare a favorable seed bed and reduce competition, pre or post sale burning or timber stand improvement (TSI) to reduce competition from undesirable tree seedlings and/or prepare favorable seedbeds, and deer browse protection i.e. fencing, repellents, etc. to improve the tree seedlings chance of survival. These additional inputs occur when opportunities arise and are treated on a case by case basis.

**Seedling Counts**

All planting sites and many areas that were regenerated naturally require survival counts. Data collected from the counts are used to determine stocking levels of desired tree species and, ultimately, to evaluate the success of the reforestation attempt. Seedling counts are administered at one, two, three and five years after the regeneration attempt on most planted sites. Seedling counts on naturally regenerating hardwood stands are typically administered two to four years after harvest (depending on the forest type) and also include one to two additional surveys to determine success.

In 2014, seedling counts will be administered on roughly 2,500 acres of sites that were regenerated artificially (planted or seeded) and on roughly 1,000 acres of sites regenerated naturally.

**Prescribed Fire**

Prescribed fires have traditionally been used to maintain portions of the fuel breaks located in the Township of Barnes, as well as to facilitate natural red oak reproduction in stands located throughout the county forest.

In 2014, 0 acres of forested stands will be treated with prescribed fire. Portions of the existing fuel breaks may be treated with fire if conditions allow. If conditions allow, portions of the existing fuel break may receive maintenance burns.
WILDLIFE

A number of wildlife projects will again be undertaken in 2014. The majority of wildlife habitat improvement work conducted on County Forest land will be accomplished utilizing funding from Wisconsin DNR grant programs, specifically, the County Conservation Aids and Nickel-an-Acre programs. The Nickel-an-Acre program reflects a change from the previous Dime-an-Acre funding. As indicated in the name, the program funding was cut in half starting in 2010 and will continue to be funded at a nickel an acre into the foreseeable future. The County Conservation Aid grant requires a 50% County match on eligible projects.

The Conservation Aids project for 2014 have yet to be determined. There is approximately $7,986 available for eligible projects. Additional monies may also be available, as determined by the total amount of unallocated funds.

The Nickel-an-Acre grant totals $8,467. This grant has been used to fund a variety of County Forest wildlife projects in the past.

Potential projects for 2014 could include, but are not limited to:

- Hunter walking trail repair, clearing, and mowing.
- Site prep and seeding for jack pine in the Barnes Barrens Management Area.
- Mechanical and/or chemical treatments for wildlife opening maintenance (currently roughly 100 acres combined per year).
- Wildlife habitat development/improvement.
- Mechanical site prep for natural white birch and red oak regeneration.
- Prescribed burning of wildlife openings and oak regeneration areas.
- Fish habitat projects.
- Habitat projects on old homesteads.
- Wildlife monitoring.
- Breeding bird surveys.
- Land acquisition.
- Invasive species eradication.
- Deer exclosures for red oak regeneration (fencing).
- Seedling protection (bud capping, spraying, etc.).

ACCESS MANAGEMENT

The revised Access Management Plan was finalized and approved in 2013. Implementation of the plan will commence in 2014. The focus will be on the placement of informational signage, minor repairs of existing trails and the installation of restrictive features (i.e. berms, gates, etc.) to control prohibited motorized access.

The Forestry Department will continue to maintain 36.09 miles of Primary Forest roads, for which we receive DOT County Forest Road Aids. The Department will also continue identify, plan and/or develop additional forest roads and trails, as the need arises, for later entry into the County Forest Road program.
BAYFIELD COUNTY FOREST PLAN

The existing County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the period 2006 – 2020 may be amended to reflect changes and/or updates. Some items that may require updating in 2014 include, but are not limited to:

- Integrated Resource Management Unit (IRMU) summaries.
- IRMU boundaries.
- Barnes Barrens Management Plan summary.
- Timber sale contract language.
- Firewood permit language.
- Timber sale rutting policy.
- Forest certification (addition of FSC).
- Silvicultural revisions/updates on individual forest types.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Recreation:

The department will continue to work with the County Tourism Department and interested user groups regarding recreational activities occurring on the County Forest. The demand for recreational use on County Forest land continues to increase. Over the past few years, the Forestry and Parks Committee has approved numerous re-routes of snowmobile and ATV trails, the construction of a new mountain bike trail network and improvements to existing cross country ski trails.

Requests to host events on trails located within the county forest continues to increase as well. Some of the more notable events that utilize portions of trails located on the county forest include: the American Birkebeiner Cross Country Ski Race, the Chequamegon Fat Tire Mountain Bike Race, the Cable Area Off-Road Classic Mountain Bike Race and the Apostle Islands Sled Dog Race.

Requests for new or improvements to existing motorized and non-motorized trail systems are expected to continue in 2014 and beyond. Requests for additional trails will be treated on a case by case basis, as per the Access Management Plan.

Trail counters have been used in a variety of settings to determine actual use of certain trails and/or areas. Data received from these counters will provide the County with valuable information needed to determine future direction. Counters will continue to be used throughout the forest to monitor usage in 2014.

The lost creek falls trail will need some minor attention. The trail needs to be better defined and signed, including some brush work and the removal of a few hazard trees, and possibly re-routed in areas to avoid sensitive soils.

Insects and Disease:

The Department is continuing to monitor the effects of forest insects such as the Jack Pine
Budworm, Two-Lined Chestnut borer, Emerald Ash borer, and Gypsy Moth. If any additional sites containing a significant amount of damage are discovered, they will be promptly managed. Also, as new threats are encountered, the Department may need to alter management plans accordingly.

The most notable “new” threat regarding the overall health of the forest is the Gypsy Moth. Gypsy Moth numbers, and subsequent defoliation, have been previously observed in very high numbers in the Bayfield Peninsula. The greatest numbers have been found along higher elevations located in the general vicinity of Jammer Hill and Echo Valley Roads. Red oak and aspen are their preferred primary food sources and are the most susceptible to potential mortality, especially the suppressed and over mature individuals. Significant defoliation of red oak and aspen occurred in these areas during the summer of 2012.

However, egg mass numbers declined dramatically in 2013, indicating that defoliation may be minor in 2014 and beyond. As a result, we may resume all red oak management in the areas where egg mass counts were high in 2012 (currently IRMU’s 1 and 8). If oak management is reduced in IRMU’s 1 and/or 8, the sustainable goal in all other units may be adjusted accordingly.

The Department is currently working with the DNR to determine the best course of action regarding general forest management practices in the face of a threatening Gypsy Moth defoliation event, in particular, the management of the red oak type.

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was recently discovered in Douglas County. As a result, that county was quarantined. To date, EAB has not been discovered in Bayfield County. It is estimated that ash contributes approximately 0.5% of annual stumpage revenues and is present on approximately 1.5% of the County Forest. Other than targeting ash a little more often during management (and encourage maple regeneration), Bayfield County is not expecting a major change in forest management practices if EAB is found on the forest.

Land Acquisition:

The department will continue efforts to acquire private properties on a willing seller, willing buyer basis when advantageous to the long term goals of Bayfield County. A priority will be given to land located within the existing county forest blocking.

PARKS

The management of all Bayfield County parks and campgrounds was assigned to the Forestry Department in September 2010. The four parks and campgrounds include:

1. Twin Bear Campground
2. Delta Lake Campground
3. Big Rock Campground
4. Atkins Lake Park

Since 2010, numerous changes and upgrades have been made to many of the campgrounds. Some of the more significant improvements include:

1. Twin Bear Campground
a. Complete electrical rebuild and upgrade throughout entire campground.
b. Repair of all major outbuildings and store.
c. New fishing pier near the beach area.
d. New ADA ramp construction near beach area.
e. Creation of new tent camping site.
f. Re-establishment of sand beach.

2. Delta Lake Campground
   a. Complete re-grade on nearly all existing campsites.
   b. New playground equipment near beach area.
   c. New fishing pier.
   d. Repair of all major outbuildings.
   e. New electric added to remaining campsites.

All parks and campgrounds undergo routine cleanup of brush and downed trees on a regular basis. Parks and campgrounds are also regularly inspected for hazard trees, which are removed as needed. The removal of hazard trees typically occurs when camping is inactive, usually in the late fall or early spring. Most of the trees are cut up and left on site to be used as firewood.

Some anticipated projects or minor repairs needed to the parks and campgrounds in 2014 include:

1. Twin Bear Campground
   a. Replacement of water heater in shower building.
   b. Inspection of retaining walls on a few campsites for future repair.
   c. Re-grade on a few of the existing campsites.
   d. Explore the potential for two new tent campsites on the hill behind shower building.
   e. Explore the potential for the addition of a new play area.
   f. Install/re-establish speed bumps at multiple locations.
   g. Install fencing around new electrical box near garage.
   h. Replacement of numerous old picnic tables.
   i. Transplant trees from hill behind the shower building to the perimeter of the beach to provide future shade.

2. Delta Lake Campground
   a. Add water line to back loop of campground.
   b. Explore potential of tent camping on county owned island.
   c. Analyze condition of birch trees throughout the campground. Establish a timber sale to remove all hazard trees if necessary.
   d. Replacement of numerous old picnic tables.

3. Big Rock Campground
   a. Explore the potential of adding a covered pavilion near entrance of campground.
   b. Minor repair on access roads.
   c. Explore potential of developing a primitive walking/nature trail within the
40 acre county parcel.

d. Replacement of numerous picnic tables.

4. Atkins Lake Park

   a. Minor brush work along perimeter of the park.
   b. Repair or replace sign leading into the park.
   c. Replacement of dock and old picnic tables, if necessary.

Numerous unknown issues or projects will undoubtedly surface throughout the year. All unknown issues will be addressed based on significance and/or importance, as time and budgets allow.

**TRAILS AND RECREATION**

The management of County recreational trails was assigned to the Forestry and Parks Department in July 2013. Primarily, this involves the management/oversight of all state funded motorized trails located on county and private land. To help accomplish this task, Bayfield County maintains agreements with the Bayfield County Snowmobile Alliance and/or local clubs.

Table 3 displays the total miles and annual maintenance funds received from the State of Wisconsin per trail type:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Type</th>
<th>Miles</th>
<th>Rate/Mile</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobile</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>$109,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATV Summer</td>
<td>86.75</td>
<td>$600</td>
<td>$52,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATV Winter</td>
<td>168.15</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$16,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTV</td>
<td>86.75</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$8,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>778.65</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$186,790</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the routine maintenance performed on these trails by the Alliance and local clubs, below is a listing of anticipated Trails projects or issues that may be addressed in 2014:

1. Development of a database identifying each club and officers, as well as location and mileage maintained for snowmobile and ATV trails.
2. Development of a database that tracks expenses per club.
3. Development of a database identifying the location and condition of all bridges, culverts, gates and outbuildings on snowmobile and ATV trails.
4. Creating a maintenance/inspection schedule for #3.
5. Development of a database for all existing permits or easements allowing snowmobile and ATV trails to occur on private land.
6. Development of a database that categorizes the importance of each trail to the overall network/community i.e. high, medium, low. The database would help ascertain the importance of future repair work. For example, a major repair on a trail designated as low importance might not be a high priority.
7. Combine #’s 5 and 6 to determine where to focus obtaining easements or access permits.
8. Update contracts with the Snowmobile Alliance and ATV Alliance or local ATV clubs.
10. Pursue the concept of compensation to private landowners who allow recreational trails on their land.
11. Complete repair work on Trail 63 near Dauby Lane.
12. Complete repair work on Trail 1 off Klemik Road.
15. New clearspan bridge on Trail 3, over the East Fork of the Flag River.
16. New trailhead shelter on Trail 3, near the intersection of Flag Road and the Battleaxe.
17. Rehab existing bridge located Trail 3 over the Flag River tributary (south of Flag River Road).
18. Rehab approaches to the Ounce River bridge on Trail 31 (Barnes).
19. Install floating bridge deck (puncheon) on a section of Trail 63 that runs through the Bibon Swamp.

The above listed items are known issues or projects that need attention in 2014. All or most of the projects that will require significant repair work or new construction/installation will be submitted to the State for funding.

Numerous unknown issues or projects will undoubtedly surface throughout the year. All unknown issues will be addressed based on significance and/or importance, as time and budgets allow.

Submitted by Jason Bodine, Bayfield County Forest Administrator, December 10, 2013.