

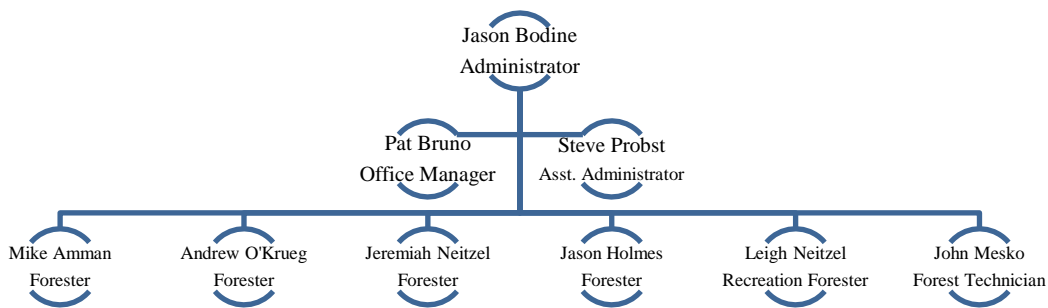
**BAYFIELD COUNTY FORESTRY AND PARKS DEPARTMENT  
ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT  
FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR  
2014**

**FORESTRY AND PARKS COMMITTEE**

Shawn Miller, Chair  
Marco Bichanich, Vice-Chair  
Harold Maki

Fred Strand  
John Bennett

**DEPARTMENT STAFF**



**LAND AREA**

The present County Forest acreage is as follows:

Barnes	39,317.36	Cable	5,556.33	Oriente	4,720.00
Bayfield	32,792.56	Clover	5,386.57	Port Wing	8,876.18
Bayview	12,951.56	Hughes	24,056.56	Russell	8,570.82
Bell	14,585.03	Iron River	6,042.22	Tripp	6,539.52

Official County Forest Acreage: 169,394.71

There are approximately 3,300 acres of County tax title lands, not including lots and small parcels, in addition to the above listed County Forests Lands. On occasion, the Forestry and Parks Department will monitor these parcels for land and/or timber sales, monitor for potential trespass issues, and negotiate road/utility easements and sand and gravel permits.

**COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN**

A comprehensive land use plan that will guide the management of the County Forest for the next 15 years was developed in 2005 and approved by the County Board in January 2006. This plan will be periodically reviewed and amended as the need arises. Amendments must be approved by the County Board of Supervisors.

Revisions to the County Forest Blocking Boundary map were approved by the County Board in 2014 (the map is located in Chapter 900 of the Land Use Plan).

Revisions to Chapter 700 (Access Management) were approved by the County Board in 2013. No other revisions were made to the plan.

## FOREST MANAGEMENT

The forest management program is one of the most significant responsibilities of the Department. There are three major facets of the program: 1) forest management (primarily timber sale establishment), 2) reforestation, and 3) forest reconnaissance. The quality and quantity of goal accomplishments, as well as the sold value of timber sales, are some of the best indicators used to evaluate performance. Below are summaries of the major forest management priorities.

- 1) Sustainable Timber Harvest Goals: sustainable timber harvest goals for every major forest type are calculated based upon sound silvicultural guidelines and principles.

Table 1 displays the sustainable harvest goals and accomplishments of the timber sale program by major forest type since 2009.

**Table 1: Bayfield County Forest Sustainable Harvest Goals and Accomplishments (acres)**

Species	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		Average	
	Goal	Accomp.	Goal	Accomp.	Goal	Accomp.	Goal	Accomp.	Goal	Accomp.	Goal	Accomp.	Goal	Accomp.
Aspen <sup>1</sup>	850	928	870	853	1,189	1,191	1,005	1,230	1,170	1,151	1,265	1,314	1,058	1,111
Nor. Hdwd	900	721	900	418	914	973	1,321	1,349	970	1,069	900	857	984	898
Red Oak	670	554	670	607	808	798	763	577	795	680	700	981	734	700
Paper Birch	200	16	200	156	200	38	100	132	50	15	90	131	140	81
Scrub Oak	85	15	85	167	85	188	140	142	215	254	205	275	136	174
Red Pine	749	572	870	743	978	987	991	917	900	952	880	811	895	830
Jack Pine	405	413	540	518	516	480	504	493	275	274	190	182	405	393
White Pine	50	76	50	15	50	35	100	93	120	169	120	127	82	86
Fir/Spruce	100	33	100	180	100	140	60	25	130	119	40	36	88	89
Swamp Conifer <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0	0	142	160	130	138	140	141	120	54	89	82
Swamp Hdwd. <sup>2</sup>	0	0	0	0	126	0	120	87	50	41	110	74	68	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,009</b>	<b>3,328</b>	<b>4,285</b>	<b>3,657</b>	<b>5,108</b>	<b>4,990</b>	<b>5,234</b>	<b>5,183</b>	<b>4,815</b>	<b>4,865</b>	<b>4,620</b>	<b>4,842</b>	<b>4,679</b>	<b>4,478</b>

<sup>1</sup> Greater accomplishments are a result of managing some of the backlog

<sup>2</sup> Timber types included in goals starting in 2011

A total of 4,842 acres of County Forest was managed in 2014. This represents an increase of roughly 40% when compared to the average accomplishments prior to 2011. The significant increase in accomplishment is a direct result of adding a new forester position in 2011.

On occasion, the Department also manages County owned land that is not part of the County Forest. In 2014, a total of 206 acres were managed on County owned, non-County Forest lands.

In general, most of the harvest goal is in the form of a timber sale, however, there are occasions when a stand is updated and managed at a later date. Updates typically occur when a stand has not attained the predicted amount of growth in between harvests, when the data describing the stand is

incorrect, or when the stand is removed from management due to a restrictive feature i.e. riparian buffers or inoperable slopes.

On average, approximately 90% of total accomplishments are in the form of a timber sale. In 2014, roughly 89.5% of the total accomplishment acres were timber sales.

Table 2 displays a summary of the accomplishments for the sustainable timber harvest program.

**Table 2: Bayfield County Forest Sustainable Harvest Summary (acres)**

Year	Management Goal	Timber Sale Establishment	Stand Update <sup>1</sup>	Total Accomplishments
2008	3,511	2,736	573	3,309
2009	4,009	3,157	243	3,400
2010	4,285	3,331	326	3,657
2011	5,108	4,491	499	4,990
2012	5,234	4,588	595	5,183
2013	4,815	4,348	517	4,865
2014	4,620	4,331	511	4,842
Average	4,512	3,855	466	4,321

<sup>1</sup> Stands are updated, in part, due to inaccuracies in the data or insufficient growth for management.

- 2) Timber Sale Program: Bayfield County offers two timber sale lettings per year, one in the spring and one in the fall.

Table 3 displays the summary of timber sale offerings since 2008, including the total number of sales sold per year, total acres, the total value of the winning high bids, the average bid value per acre and total revenues received from the sale of timber during each calendar year.

**Table 3: Bayfield County Forest Timber Sale Summary**

Calendar Year	Sales Offered	Acres Offered	Sales Sold	Acres Sold	Acres Not Sold	Timber Sale Bid Values	Bid Value per Acre	Timber Revenues
2008	58	3,546	55	3,507	39	\$2,381,513	\$679	\$2,621,308
2009	45	3,297	42	3,100	197	\$2,510,601	\$810	\$2,305,259
2010	40	3,218	40	3,218	0	\$2,404,178	\$747	\$2,047,663
2011	54	4,156	54	4,156	0	\$3,629,330	\$873	\$2,477,066
2012	53	4,782	53	4,782	0	\$4,900,194	\$1,025	\$2,696,756
2013	54	4,277	53	4,179	98	\$3,616,758	\$865	\$3,904,104
2014	61	4,388	61	4,388	0	\$5,252,530	\$1,197	\$4,534,831
Average	52	3,952	51	3,904	48	\$3,527,872	\$885	\$2,940,998

Timber revenues were at an all-time high in 2014. The total revenue from harvested timber on County Forest Land was \$4,534,831. This was an increase of over 15% when compared to 2013 (which was the previous record for revenues), an increase of over 68% from 2012 and an increase of nearly 92% when compared to the average stumpage revenues received

prior to 2012. The Department also generated an additional \$20,471 in stumpage on County land not part of the County Forest.

In 2014, the Department awarded 61 new timber sale contracts, covering 4,388 acres with an estimated value of \$5,252,530. The total acres sold increased by approximately 5% when compared to 2013 and nearly 24% when compared to the average prior to 2012. The total winning bid values were over 92% higher than average winning bid values prior to 2012. The average bid values per acre were approximately 54% higher when compared to the average prior to 2012.

Table 4 displays the total volume of timber harvested from Bayfield County Forest timber sales from 2009 through 2014. Pulp (cords) and logs (Mbf – thousand board feet) are displayed for each primary timber type. For the sake of comparison, all tonnage sales (chips) were converted to cords (approximately 20% off all timber sales are sold by the ton). The table also displays the total amount of timber sale revenue received each year.

**Table 4: Bayfield County Forest Timber Harvest Volume Summary (pulp in cords and logs in thousand board feet)**

Species	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		Average	
	Pulp	Logs	Pulp	Logs	Pulp	Logs	Pulp	Logs	Pulp	Logs	Pulp	Logs	Pulp	Logs
Aspen	15,048	0	15,041	3	14,570	0	14,647	1	20,288	0	26,154	0	17,625	1
Mx. Hardwood <sup>1</sup>	19,487	182	18,465	261	19,061	212	13,316	129	17,960	377	25,238	506	18,921	278
Oak	6,678	516	9,807	782	11,334	1,221	7,916	1,127	10,796	1,293	18,162	2,439	10,782	1,230
Paper Birch	901	7	736	43	766	13	1,083	22	1,169	17	562	9	870	19
Basswood	1,204	525	1,439	116	1,197	135	1,022	62	1,801	252	1,538	130	1,367	203
Red Pine	6,692	0	4,554	0	8,873	16	10,694	0	14,637	0	13,266	0	9,786	3
Jack Pine	8,410	0	6,572	0	4,533	0	5,352	0	11,211	0	5,715	0	6,965	0
White Pine	715	0	651	0	137	0	48	0	2,083	0	460	0	682	0
Other Conifer <sup>2</sup>	500	0	302	0	669	0	465	0	1,079	0	2,227	0	874	0
Total	59,633	1,230	57,566	1,205	61,139	1,597	54,543	1,341	81,024	1,939	93,321	3,084	67,871	1,733
Revenue	\$2,305,259		\$2,047,663		\$2,477,066		\$2,696,756		\$3,904,104		\$4,534,831		\$2,994,280	

<sup>1</sup> Maple, yellow birch, ash

<sup>2</sup> Spruce, Fir, Tamarack

In summary, 2014 was a record year for total volume removed from the County Forest, both in pulp (93,321 cords) and logs (3,084 Mbf). When compared to 2013, total pulp and logs harvested on the County Forest were 15% and 59% greater, respectively. When compared to the average total volume harvested prior to 2012, the total volume harvest in 2014 was over 61% higher. Harvested cordwood volumes for aspen, red oak, mixed hardwood and other conifers were at all-time highs in 2014, as were total log volumes, driven primarily by red oak.

- 3) Reforestation Program: 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. Newly regenerating stands are monitored 3 to 4 times over a 10 year period to determine success.

Table 5 displays the summary of the reforestation program.

**Table 5: Bayfield County Forest Reforestation Program Summary 2008 - 2014 (acres)**

Year	Planting				Seeding	Site Preparation				Maintenance				Monitoring
	Red Pine	Jack Pine	White Pine	Other <sup>1</sup>	Jack Pine	Trench	Fire Plow	Scarify	Spray	Fire	Spray	TSI <sup>2</sup>	Bud Cap	Regen
2008	378	207	24	0	0	796	88	0	442	0	0	0	0	1,683
2009	487	415	0	0	0	726	72	0	348	40	0	0	0	2,652
2010	367	196	0	0	0	363	118	0	420	42	305	0	0	2,183
2011	319	153	35	68	0	900	88	0	186	21	324	0	0	1,424
2012	295	107	274	0	0	0	177	120	727	32	609	0	0	2,736
2013	281	174	92	0	558	264	0	175	0	0	449	0	239	2,522
2014	0	0	0	0	0	506	20	115	264	0	273	0	239	2,929
Avg.	304	179	61	10	80	508	80	59	341	19	280	0	68	2,304

<sup>1</sup> In 2011, tamarack and white spruce.

<sup>2</sup> Timber Stand Improvement - Hand release of established regeneration

- a) **Planting and Seeding:** 2014 was the first year in over a decade where no acres were planted or seeded. A temporary, natural lull in the program was the primary reason.
  - b) **Site Preparation:** to get sites ready for future planting or seeding, 506 acres were power trenched, 115 acres were scarified with a dozer and straight blade and 20 acres were treated with a dozer and fireplow. Most of the scarification was accomplished with assistance from the DNR.
  - c) **Maintenance:** approximately 273 acres of existing young red pine plantations were released from undesirable completion via herbicide applied with a helicopter. Also, 239 acres of young jack pine plantations were treated with terminal bud caps to deter browsing from white tailed deer. Assuming browsing pressure remains high in these stands, bud capping may be necessary every year for the next three or four years (or until trees have developed beyond the reach of white tailed deer).
  - d) **Monitoring:** nearly 3,000 acres of previous regeneration attempts were monitored in 2014. This includes both artificial (planted or seeded) and natural regeneration. Two deer exclusions fences are also maintained to monitor the effects of deer browsing on regenerating red oak, paper birch and white pine.
- 4) **Forest Reconnaissance Program:** forest reconnaissance, or updating stand information, is also a vital component of the forest management program. Accurate, up-to-date stand information is essential in the development of viable 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. Table 6 displays the summary of compartment/stand updates from 2009 through 2014.

**Table 6: Bayfield County Forest Inventory (acres)**

Year	Goal	Accomplishment
2009	10,000	2,872
2010	10,000	4,079
2011	10,000	9,728
2012	10,000	8,135
2013	10,000	9,316
2014	10,000	8,552
Average	10,000	6,826

Prior to 2014, the primary goal was to update stand information on a compartment level basis. The target has traditionally been 10,000 acres per year, with the goal of completing the inventory process every 15 to 16 years.

Starting in 2014, the decision was made to focus some of the inventory goal on specific forest types. The goal of stand specific inventory is to develop more accurate short and long term management strategies on forest types that are, in general, mature or over mature. Stands of jack pine and red oak were targets in 2014. Red oak and northern hardwood will be targeted in 2015. In total, 3,342 acres of compartments, 1,950 acres of mature jack pine and 3,260 acres of mature red oak were re-inventoried in 2014.

Through 2014, approximately 85% of the forest (nearly 140,000 acres) has been updated (via compartments).

In addition to compartment and targeted stand updates, 511 acres of individual stands were also updated during the timber sale establishment process. Most updates were needed to correct inaccurate data or to remove a stand from the harvest schedule (i.e. riparian buffer or sensitive site).

### Invasive Species

Over the past few years, the Department has become more involved in the treatment of invasive species on the County Forest. Invasive species have the potential to alter the ecological relationships among native species, negatively affect the natural functions and structure of forested ecosystems, and can negatively impact the economic value of the forest.

Non-native invasive species like spotted knapweed and common buckthorn and native invasive species like black locust are the most common plants treated on the Forest.

In 2014, approximately 12 acres were treated to manage common buckthorn and approximately 3 acres were treated to manage black locust. Treatments typically involve herbicide applied on a freshly cut stump or via foliar applications.

Also in 2014, the Department received a \$37,500 Sustainable Forestry Grant for the treatment of spotted knapweed on 50 miles of forest roads in the Barnes Barrens Management Area. Herbicide will be used to treat knapweed in the area and, hopefully, prevent any further spread into the barrens. The project focuses on roads that are the most heavily infested, but more still needs to be done. This grant will help kick start the program, which will require additional inputs in order to keep the problem in check. Work on the project will begin in 2015.

### **ROADS AND TRAILS**

The Forestry and Parks Department maintains approximately 1,200 miles of roads and trails on the Forest. These roads and trails provide a plethora of recreational opportunities. Some of the more popular pursuits include: hiking, hunting, mountain biking, snowmobiling, ATVing, cross country skiing, dog sledding, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, firewood gathering and more. See Table 8 below for a summary of designated and non-designated road and trail mileage on the County Forest.

## Primary Roads

Approximately 38 miles are classified as primary gas tax roads, which receive maintenance funds from the Wisconsin DOT. These roads serve as primary access routes into portions of the county forest. A few of these roads located in the Towns of Barnes and Hughes also play an integral role in the wildfire protection plan that was developed in 2006.

The Department performs routine annual inspections on every mile of primary road to monitor for both road quality and invasive species. The Department also performs annual routine maintenance on the rights of way for each primary road. Maintenance usually is in the form of mowing, but can also include herbicide if encroaching vegetation is unable to be mowed.

## Recreational Use

Trails on the County Forest are used for a variety of recreational purposes. Non-motorized uses such as cross country skiing, mountain biking, hiking, nature watching and dog sledding are extremely popular. Motorized uses such as snowmobiling and ATVing are also very popular. The demand for recreational use on public land is increasing every year.

In addition to daily general recreational use, trails on the County Forest also play an integral role in numerous popular organized events. Such events include, but are not limited to, the American Birkebeiner, Apostle Islands Sled Dog Race, Chequamegon Fat Tire Festival and the Cable Area Off-Road Classic mountain bike race.

Table 7 displays the number of recreational use permits per recreation type that were approved in 2014. All approved permits were for events that utilized a portion of the Bayfield County Forest.

**Table 7: Summary of Approved Events**

Type of Event	Number of Events
Mountain Biking	8
Cross Country Skiing	6
Running	5
Dog Sledding	1
Sledding	1
Total	21

The Forestry and Parks Committee approved 21 organized events on County Forest land in 2014. Mountain biking and cross country skiing were the largest event types. The number of requests for mountain bike events has increased steadily over the past decade.

Table 8 displays the approximate miles of designated trails currently located on County Forest land.

**Table 8: Summary of Designated Recreational Trails on Bayfield County Forest land (miles)**

Snowmobile	Walking	Dog Sled	ATV	Cross-Country Ski	Mountain Bike
95	15	44	38	32	21

In addition to designated trails, the County Forest offers an abundance of recreational opportunities on roads and trails that are not designated (i.e. signed and maintained by friends or use groups). For example, of the approximate 1,200 miles of roads and trails on the County Forest, 41% can be traveled with a licensed highway vehicle, 70% with an off-highway vehicle (i.e. ATV,UTV) and 94% with a snowmobile. In addition, all are open to hiking and virtually all are open to mountain biking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing.

The Department staff works closely with all recreational user groups on the establishment and/or maintenance of trail systems. Recreational use agreements with organized clubs continue to be pursued at every opportunity.

Town Road Aids

In 2010, Bayfield County developed the Town Road Aid Fund. This fund was created to help improve problem areas on Town Roads that provide critical access to the County Forest. Town Road Aids were initially funded at 1% of total annual timber sale revenues (enacted once actual revenues exceed the budgeted amount). All projects are selected and administered by the Department.

Starting in 2013, Bayfield County increased the funding level to 2%. As a result, there was a little over \$78,000 awarded to Towns in 2014 (based on the amount of stumpage received in CY 2013). Of the 29 County Forests in the State of Wisconsin, Bayfield County is the only one to offer this additional source of funding.

**PERMITTED USES**

Permits are issued by the Forestry and Parks Department for events, right-of-ways, timber storage, private property access, firewood, miscellaneous forest products, and other recreational activities. Table 9 displays a summary of permits issued on the forest from 2008 through 2014 (a summary of permitted events can be found in Table 7).

**Table 9: Bayfield County Forest Summary of Issued Permits and Approvals**

Year	Fire Wood	Balsam Boughs*	Cones**	Christmas Trees	Birch Stems	Access	Events	Disabled Hunting	Storage
2008	360	8	0	1	0	2	9	3	1
2009	423	5	1	1	0	0	10	3	1
2010	436	5	1	1	0	3	10	3	2
2011	503	7	1	6	0	9	10	10	2
2012	441	6	1	7	0	8	12	7	2
2013	406	16	13	3	2	6	17	6	2
2014	486	9	6	4	1	7	21	5	2
Avg.	436	8	3	3	0	5	13	5	2

\* in 2014, includes 1 permit for sheet moss and 1 for princess pine

\*\* specifically advertised for jack pine cones in 2013

Firewood permits comprise the vast majority of the total permits issued on an annual basis. In 2014, 486 firewood permits were issued, which was roughly 20% more than 2013.



Sand and Gravel

Sand and gravel is extracted and sold from county managed pits, to be used on approved municipal projects.

Table 10 displays the total amount of sand and gravel and revenues received from 2008 through 2014.

**Table 10: Sand and Gravel Summary**

Year	Yards	Value
2008	6,120	\$3,060.00
2009	300	\$150.00
2010	12,589	\$9,441.75
2011	751	\$563.25
2012*	13,029	\$19,544.00
2013	0	\$0.00
2014	11,000	\$16,500.00
Avg.	6,256	\$7,037.00

\* Highway 13 Re-Paving Project

Most revenues received from the sale of sand and gravel are deposited in a non-lapsing account for eventual site reclamation. A total of \$16,500 was generated from sand and gravel in 2014. All of these revenues were part of the use agreement the Department has with the Towns of Bayfield and Russell and the Red Cliff Tribe.

**WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT/MONITORING**

Forest openings, dominated by forbs and grasses, are important habitat for a great diversity of wildlife species. Since the mid 1970’s, numerous, small forest openings have been maintained on the forest to encourage this diversity of habitat. The openings are relatively small in size (average about 1 acre) and are spread throughout the county forest (although they are more numerous in the Bayfield peninsula). Each opening is treated about every five years to discourage encroaching woody vegetation. Table 11 displays a summary of the wildlife opening maintenance program from 2008 through 2014.

**Table 11: Bayfield County Forest Summary of Maintained Wildlife Openings by Treatment**

Year	Mowed Number	Mowed Acres	Hand Treated <sup>1</sup> Number	Hand Treated <sup>1</sup> Acres	Total Number	Total Acres
2008	44	50	77	60	121	110
2009	62	70	53	24	115	94
2010	45	44	50	57	95	102
2011	46	53	52	24	98	77
2012	0	0	76	68	76	68
2013	59	52	63	53	122	105
2014	34	40	48	25	82	65
Average	41	44	60	44	101	89

<sup>1</sup> using a mix of herbicide and hand cutting

In 2014, 48 wildlife openings, totaling 25 acres were maintained by hand, using a mix of herbicide and cutting. Openings are also scheduled for mowing four out of every five years. There were 34 openings mowed in 2014 for a total of 40 acres. In total, 82 openings, covering 65 acres were treated in 2014.

In 2008, a breeding bird monitoring project was developed for the county forest. In 2008 and again in 2009, 350 permanent diurnal and 40 nightjar points were completed. An additional 297 diurnal and 17 nightjar points were taken in 2010. The remaining portion of the forest was completed in the spring of 2011. In total, 1,200 diurnal and 200 nightjar points have been taken. The collection of field data is now complete. We are still periodically working with the DNR and other resource professionals to analyze the data. The results will be used to measure bird/habitat associations, anticipate how forest management may influence these relationships and predict general species occurrence.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – GRANTS AND AIDS

Financial assistance plays a major role in helping to achieve annual and long term objectives. Table 12 outlines some of the major grants and aids awarded to the Department from 2008 through 2014. Every award listed in the table, with the exception of the Arbor Day grant, has come from the State of Wisconsin.

**Table 12: Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Department Summary of Major Grants and Aids**

Year	County Forest Administrator	Wildlife Habitat Improvement	County Forest Road Aid	Sustainable Forestry	County Conservation	Arbor Day	Total
2008	\$31,933	\$16,929	\$10,440	\$39,720	\$4,125	\$0	\$103,146
2009	\$35,762	\$16,945	\$12,126	\$33,000	\$2,289	\$0	\$100,122
2010	\$44,039	\$8,472	\$11,390	\$6,205	\$3,807	\$20,400	\$94,313
2011	\$44,039	\$8,472	\$11,347	\$0	\$0	\$46,202	\$110,060
2012	\$46,877	\$8,472	\$11,330	\$0	\$6,500	\$18,450	\$91,629
2013	\$47,814	\$8,416	\$11,330	\$46,328	\$8,000	\$12,450	\$134,338
2014	\$52,885	\$8,015	\$11,917	\$0	\$4,183	\$0	\$77,000
Average	\$43,336	\$10,817	\$11,411	\$17,893	\$4,129	\$13,929	\$101,515

In 2014, the Department was tentatively awarded two Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grants for land acquisition. If officially approved, one grant would be used to purchase approximately 1,392 acres of forest land currently owned by Meteor Timber, LLC, while the other would be used to purchase approximately 463 acres owned by the Lyme Timber Company.

As part of the required 50% match, the County would use the appraised value of forested land already owned by the County (though not part of the County Forest). Depending on the appraised values of all respective properties, the County may include up to 982 acres as a match.

If everything is approved as planned, the County would acquire a total of 1,855 acres of former industry land for the appraised value of 982 acres of County owned land (with no or little additional out of pocket expense). All properties (2,837 acres total) would be enrolled in County Forest Law and made part of the County Forest. If all properties are added, the total acres of County Forest land would increase from 169,395 to approximately 172,232.

## **PARKS & CAMPGROUNDS**

In September 2010, the management of all county owned parks and campgrounds were assigned to the Forestry and Parks Department. This includes the management of three campgrounds (Twin Bear Lake, Delta Lake and Big Rock) and one day use park (Atkins Lake). Below is a summary of all major accomplishments since the transition.

1. Twin Bear Campground
  - a. Complete electrical rebuild and upgrade throughout the entire campground.
  - b. Repair of all major outbuildings and store.
  - c. Reconstruction of the beach area.
  - d. New fishing pier near the beach area.
  - e. New ADA access ramp to the beach area.
  - f. Creation of new tent camping site.
  - g. Re-grade of the parking area to control runoff and improve drainage.
  - h. Numerous other minor improvements throughout the campground.
  - i. New gas hot water heaters, for each shower, in the shower building.
2. Delta Lake Campground
  - a. Complete camping pad re-grade on nearly all campsites.
  - b. New playground equipment near beach area.
  - c. New fishing pier.
  - d. Repair of all major outbuildings.
  - e. New electric added to last four remaining powerless campsites.
  - f. A small timber sale was established to remove all dead and dying hazard trees. Mostly over mature white birch and aspen.
  - g. Numerous other minor improvements throughout the campground.

In addition to the physical improvements to the parks and campsites, many logistical improvements have also been made. At both Twin Bear and Delta Lake, seasonal sites have been re-structured in a way to better capture the value potential in each campground. The reservation system for each was also adjusted to give all interested an equal chance at reserving a site.

## **TRAILS AND RECREATION**

In July 2013, the management of the Bayfield County Trails program was assigned to the Forestry and Parks Department. The primary responsibilities revolve around the administration, oversight, coordination and grant/aid management of the state funded snowmobile and ATV trails located on County and private lands.

Table 13 lists the total miles per motorized trails type, as well as the amount of state maintenance aids received.

**Table 13: Mileage and Funding For Trails Managed by Bayfield County**

<b>Trail Type</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Rate/Mile</b>	<b>Total</b>
Snowmobile	437	\$250	\$109,250
ATV Summer	86.75	\$600	\$52,050
ATV Winter	168.15	\$100	\$16,815
UTV Summer	86.75	\$100	\$8,675
<b>Total</b>	<b>778.65</b>		<b>\$186,790</b>

The State of Wisconsin provides annual aids for the maintenance of existing motorized trails (see Table 13) and also offers some additional funding opportunities for individual trail rehabilitation and new trail development projects.

Bayfield County works with local clubs and Alliances to ensure that all trails are in a safe and enjoyable riding condition. All routine or minor maintenance activities are typically accomplished by the clubs, while most major rehabilitation projects are administered by the Department.

Routine maintenance can include the posting/maintenance of signs, brushing, removal of debris, mowing, grooming, minor washout or rutting repair, etc. Major rehabilitation can include significant culvert washouts, bridge repair, significant damage occurring as a result of flooding or other major storm event, etc.