

BAYFIELD COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN
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ACCESS MANAGEMENT
ROADS AND TRAILS

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700 ACCESS MANAGEMENT/ROADS AND TRAILS

700.1 HISTORY

Most of the existing roads and trails on the Bayfield County Forest were originally developed as logging roads or railroad grades. Many of these roads and trails were constructed prior to the land being owned by the County.

Road maintenance has generally been performed in conjunction with harvest activities, primarily by the holders of County timber sale contracts and, secondarily, by Forestry Department staff with department equipment. A few roads were closed to motorized use. This was largely done on forest roads that were converted to trails or in special use areas. In 1998 it was calculated that less than two percent of forest roads on the County Forest were closed to motorized use.

Due to a lack of policies and guidelines for roads within the County Forest, a variety of problems developed over time. For instance, roads constructed for winter only harvesting operations or which did not adequately protect wetlands, streams, soils, or other forest components often remained open for recreational use. In some cases this use has caused non-point source pollution, erosion, damage to roads needed for future access, or other natural resource degradation.

At the same time, social changes increased the demands on the County Forest's access system. The increase in demand for recreational opportunities on the Forest resulted in a greater potential for conflict between different user groups. The explosive growth in the ownership and use of all-terrain vehicles also led to greatly increased motorized use on the County Forest.

In response to these pressures, in 1998, the County Board amended the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use plan. The amendment completely replaced the existing Chapter 700 and provided a new access management plan for the County Forest.

That plan provided a process for classifying all of the roads on the County Forest into one of three categories: Primary, Secondary, and Temporary County Forest Roads. The Plan further provided for placing appropriate use restrictions on roads as they were placed into one of these three categories.

700.2 CURRENT STATUS

Resource management and protection activities, recreational uses, and other public uses on the Bayfield County Forest require several different types of road and trail access. Since the Forest is large and diverse, a broad network of access routes have been developed.

Below is a summary of designated roads and recreational trails (by recreational use type) on the Bayfield County Forest. Some designated recreational trails occupy the same segment of trail i.e. bike trail in the summer and ski trail in the winter (*all designated trails are located on either a primary, secondary or tertiary road, except for single track mountain bike trails, or any other trail less than 50 inches in width*):

Road or Trail Type	Total Miles
Primary Road	38
Secondary Road	834
Tertiary Road	334
Unclassified Road	0
Snowmobile Trails (<i>state funded</i>)*	95
ATV Trails (<i>state funded</i>)*	38
Cross Country Ski Trails	32
Mountain Bike Trails**	21
Walking Trails	15
Dog Sled Trails	44
Total Miles of Roads and Trails	1,206

* does not include trails located on town roads or those that run through private land.

** does not include new single track trail construction in Cable and near Mt. Ashwabay.

There are more than 22,000 acres of private land within the County Forest blocking, which has, over time, led to an increase in requests for access. The Forestry and Parks Committee has handled these requests on a case-by-case basis. Where appropriate the Committee has issued a ten-year temporary access permit.

In a few rare cases Bayfield County has issued permanent easements across County Forest land. Generally these have been granted as part of a reciprocal easement or for public utility access. As a result, in some instances, access permits or easements will grant the permitted individual(s) motorized access on a road or trail that is otherwise closed to motorized use.

700.3 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Road and trail use has increased in types and volume, and now includes, but is not limited to, licensed highway vehicles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs and UTV's), mountain biking, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, horseback riding, dog sledding, hunting access, scenic driving, mushroom/berry picking, wildlife viewing, firewood gathering and other forestry activities. As the population of Wisconsin and surrounding states increases and as more private lands are posted closed or are developed, Bayfield County can expect continued increases in recreational use pressures.

Throughout this plan, highway vehicles (licensed cars, trucks, motorcycles, etc.) will be referred to as HV and off-highway vehicles (registered ATV's, UTV's, snowmobiles, etc.) will be referred to as OHV.

700.3.1 Objectives

Recreation comes in all forms, shapes and sizes. To some, it involves a motor. To others, it takes the form of leisurely walks down a seldom traveled woods trail. Everyone has their own unique way to unwind and enjoy the benefits provided by the county forest. The diversity of recreational uses shall be considered during planning to achieve the following objectives:

1. Provide a safe, economical, efficient, and properly engineered and maintained

network of roads and trails on the County Forest for resource management activities such as timber sale establishment, harvesting operations, reforestation activities, timber stand improvement (TSI), and protection from insect, disease, and fire.

2. Address and provide field level direction regarding the recreational use of highway and off-highway vehicles, considering the different types of vehicles and their potential uses or impacts on the landscape, seasonal constraints, other land uses and natural resource values.
3. Provide safe, sustainable public access for a variety of recreational activities on County Forest lands and when appropriate, links to adjacent lands.
4. Have an ecologically, economically, and socially sound access management plan for the forest.

700.3.2 Goals

The management guidelines in this plan will be used to meet these objectives. To insure that this plan is properly implemented and the objectives are met, Bayfield County will:

1. Inventory and maintain a record of all current roads and trails.
2. Evaluate current road infrastructure and plan a transportation system that meets current and future needs.
3. Designate and convey permitted recreational uses on all inventoried roads and trails. This may be accomplished through individual road or trail designations or through area designations.
4. Maintain the transportation system so that it is safe, efficient, and environmentally sound.
5. Periodically monitor the transportation system and make adjustments to it as needed.
6. Identify the existing and future County Forest roads eligible for transportation aids under s.86.315(1), Wis. Stats.

702 RECREATIONAL USE REGULATIONS ON ALL COUNTY FOREST LANDS

The following recreational use regulations apply to all roads, trails and area classifications on the county forest. Vehicles used by county forestry staff for the purposes of managing the county forest, or used by individuals given prior authorization by the Administrator or Committee, may be exempted from any of the listed regulations:

1. All roads and trails are closed to all forms of motorized vehicle use unless posted open or designated open as per area classifications.
2. Permissible motorized uses will be designated (signed) on all applicable roads and trails, unless permitted as per an area designation or given prior

authorization from the Administrator or Committee or otherwise specifically addressed in this plan.

3. Foot travel is permitted on all areas of the county forest, unless otherwise specifically addressed in this plan. It is suggested that individuals wear blaze orange during open firearms seasons and take extra care when traveling upon designated motorized trails.
4. Mountain biking, cross-country skiing, dog-sledding, snowshoeing, ski-joring, horseback riding and other similar non-motorized recreational activities are permitted on all roads and trails throughout the forest, unless posted (signed) and/or closed to a particular use or otherwise specifically addressed in this plan.
5. No off-road (cross-country) vehicle use is allowed, including for game retrieval or trail connecting purposes.
6. No off-road (cross-country) equestrian or mountain bike travel is permitted on the county forest.
7. No motorized vehicles are allowed to travel over or around earthen berms, piled logging debris, boulders, gates, signs, etc, where the intent was to restrict motorized use with a closure device, even if signs are missing or closure devices damaged, unless posted, by Bayfield County, with a sign allowing such use.
8. No motorized vehicle use is allowed on any road or trail between spring break up (roughly April 1st) and May 15th, or as determined by the Administrator, unless given prior authorization by the Administrator or Committee.
9. Unlicensed highway vehicles (trucks, cars, motorcycles, etc) and unregistered off highway vehicles (ATVs, UTVs, snowmobiles, dirtbikes etc) are prohibited on all roads and trails within the county forest, unless permission has been granted by the Administrator or Committee.

705 AREA CLASSIFICATIONS

For the purposes of providing a general, big picture overview of typical permitted motorized uses, the county forest was divided into three area classifications:

- 1) High Motorized Areas
- 2) Moderate Motorized Areas
- 3) Low Motorized Areas

The classifications are meant to serve as a general reference and are to be used as a guide for management and planning purposes associated with recreational use.

In some instances, opportunities exist to designate most or all of the roads and trails located within one of the three area classifications as open or closed to all or specified motorized uses. However, unless specifically addressed in the individual area classification, all inventoried roads and trails on the county forest are closed to all motorized vehicles, unless signed to designate the permitted use. Trails or areas designated as open to motorized use may be closed at any time, if the permitted use is causing or has the potential to cause, significant natural resource degradation, as determined by the Administrator or Committee.

Similarly, trails or areas designated as closed to one or more forms of motorized use may

be opened to one or more forms of motorized use, if it can be demonstrated that such use will not cause significant natural resource degradation or negatively impact existing non-motorized uses, as determined by the Administrator or Committee. Additional public input will be required if considering opening trails to motorized use that are located within heavily used non-motorized areas i.e. the Cable Block. See Chapter 900 for area maps.

The table below summarizes the total acreage contained within each area classification, as well as the total amount of mileage where motorized recreational use is permitted.

Summary of Permitted Motorized Use by Type per Area Classification (miles)

Area Classification	Acres	Type of Permitted Use				Total
		Highway Vehicles (HV)	Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV)	Snowmobile	Non-Motorized (NM)*	
High Motorized	47,017 (28%)	354 (95%)	368 (99%)	368 (99%)	5 (1%)	373 (31%)
Moderate Motorized	84,086 (50%)	148 (25%)	488 (82%)	590 (99%)	106 (18%)	594 (49%)
Low Motorized	36,024 (22%)	3 (1%)	6 (2%)	143 (60%)	233 (98%)	239 (20%)
Total	167,127	505 (42%)	862 (72%)	1,101 (91%)	344 (28%)	1,206

* amount of trails where motorized recreation is not allowed (excluding snowmobile use).

705.1 High Motorized Areas

These areas contain the greatest potential for motorized recreational use on the county forest. Approximately 47,017 acres or 28% of the county forest is classified as a High Motorized Area. The areas are generally dominated by deep, sandy, outwash soils, contain very little or no riparian or other sensitive wetland features, and have mostly flat or gently rolling terrain. Trails located in these areas can withstand repeated motorized use and typically require very little maintenance.

In general, all licensed highway and registered off-highway motorized vehicles are allowed on all inventoried roads and trails located within High Motorized Areas. The area may be signed as open to motorized use in strategic, commonly used access points. Segments of road or trail that may require closure to all or a particular form of motorized use will be obstructed with an earthen berm, logging debris, gate, sign or similar device. No motorized use will be permitted beyond the point of closure.

Permitted Uses: licensed highway vehicles, registered off-highway vehicles, and all forms of non-motorized recreational use on all roads and trails not posted closed.

Restricted Uses: Unlicensed highway vehicles and unregistered off-highway vehicles; cross-country motorized, equestrian and mountain bike travel; motorized use of any kind on roads or trails posted closed to motorized use.

705.2 Moderate Motorized Areas

Of the three area classifications, this area is the largest and contains the greatest diversity of permitted uses. Approximately 84,086 acres or 50% of the county forest is classified as a Moderate Motorized Area. The area also provides the greatest combination of motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities on the county forest. Unless

posted closed, all trails located within Moderate Motorized Areas will be open to OHV use. Also, unless posted closed, all trails located within Moderate Motorized Areas will be open to HV use. Other posting or signing options may be considered.

More specific area designations may be possible if a large enough tract of land with common forms of permitted recreation is identified.

Permitted Uses: registered off-highway vehicles on all roads, trails or areas not posted closed; licensed highway vehicles on all roads and trails, unless posted closed; all forms of non-motorized recreational use.

Restricted Uses: unlicensed highway vehicles and unregistered off-highway vehicles; cross-country motorized, equestrian and mountain bike travel; motorized use of any kind on roads, trails or areas closed to motorized use.

705.3 Low Motorized Areas

Low Motorized Areas contain the greatest potential for non-motorized recreation and cover approximately 36,024 acres or 22% of the county forest. Generally, snowmobile use will be the only permissible form of motorized recreation and will only be allowed on state funded snowmobile trails, as well as specific designated trails or areas. In some instances, a few select, well-constructed trails may be open for a specific motorized use, but only if such use will not negatively impact the natural resources or established non-motorized activities. Additional motorized use may be granted by the Administrator or Committee on a case by case basis (usually in the form of a private access permit). In essence, motorized vehicles (other than snowmobiles) will be prohibited on most or all of the trails that exist in Low Motorized Areas.

These areas typically contain abundant riparian features, sensitive soils, unique ecological attributes, existing abundant non-motorized recreational land uses, or other features that do not readily support motorized traffic.

The areas will be signed as closed to motorized use in strategic, commonly used access points. Certain access points may require a closure device to further deter motorized use. If motorized use has been permitted within these areas, the section of road or trail will be signed designating the appropriate use.

Permitted Uses: all forms of non-motorized recreation. Registered snowmobiles and grooming equipment on state funded trails or designated areas. Other motorized recreation only on trails signed as open for such use.

Restricted Uses: motorized vehicles on any road or trail not designated (signed) for such use; cross-country motorized, equestrian and mountain bike travel; motorized use of any kind on roads or trails closed to motorized vehicles.

710 ROADS AND TRAILS

710.1 ROAD CLASSIFICATIONS

Most of the roads on the Bayfield County Forest have been or will be placed into one of

three road classifications. These classifications are primary, secondary, and tertiary forest roads. Any road that has not been placed in one of these three categories is designated an unclassified road. These classifications will provide long term direction for how individual roads on the County Forest will be used, closed, improved, constructed, and maintained.

710.1.1 Primary Roads

Roads in this category have been, or are intended to be, enrolled in the County Forest Road Aids program. Qualifying roads must meet minimum design standards. State law requires a 16-foot surface width and a 20-foot roadway width. A yearly aid payment is made by the State of Wisconsin for the maintenance of these roads. There are currently 38 miles of roads in this program. Maps of all of primary roads are located in Chapter 900.

Primary roads will be maintained by the Department or their designee and will remain open for public use. Use by motorized vehicles other than licensed highway vehicles may be restricted. These roads may be temporarily closed only to resolve an emergency such as public safety, fire suppression, environmental damage, law enforcement, or other critical event requiring immediate action.

710.1.2 Secondary Roads

These roads serve as the main access corridors for multiple use management on the County Forest. They also serve a variety of uses including, but not limited to, forest management, fire protection, and recreation. These roads are maintained as part of a permanent road system, but are built and maintained to a lower standard than primary roads. Some of these roads are designed for use only when the ground is frozen or during unusually dry periods.

When motorized vehicles are permitted on Secondary County Forest Roads, a sign may be posted to designate the authorized use. The Administrator will designate which roads are open and the approved motorized use(s) permitted. Permitted motorized use may include, but not limited to, licensed highway vehicles, registered off-highway vehicles (i.e. ATVs, UTVs, snowmobiles) or similar registered and/or licensed units powered by a motor.

In cases where motorized use is permitted on all Secondary County Forest Roads within a designated area, a few strategically placed signs may be constructed to present the allowable use. Roads or trails that are closed within these areas will be posted with a sign or other restrictive closure device. Similarly, in cases where all motorized use is restricted in a designated area, signs may be placed in strategic locations to present the designated use. Closure devices may also be required to further obstruct unauthorized motorized access (see Section 705 for more information on Area Classifications).

710.1.3 Tertiary Roads

Tertiary Roads are designed and constructed for short-term use on a specific project, usually for timber harvest access. These roads are typically used only for a short duration and are often closed when the activity is done. Generally these roads are naturally or artificially re-vegetated. Unless designated otherwise, these roads are closed to all motorized use. The Administrator will employ criteria outlined in Section 710.2 to determine the permitted uses on these roads once timber sale activity has been completed.

710.1.4 Unclassified Roads

This category includes any existing road on the County Forest that has not been placed into one of the other classifications. In general, very little, if any, roads will be designated as unclassified. These roads are not maintained, receive little use, and do not warrant the expense of closure due to resource needs. Unless designated otherwise these roads are closed to all motorized use.

710.1.5 Minimum Road Standard

Travelways that are less than 50 inches wide are not considered to be a road under this plan. Motorized use is prohibited on these travelways.

710.2 ROAD AND TRAIL PLANNING

It is the policy of Bayfield County to plan, develop, and maintain an environmentally sound road and trail system.

710.2.1 Road and Trail Analysis and Classification.

The Administrator will evaluate the current road or trail network, future access needs, and engineering/environmental factors and select, for long term use, the routes that best meet the County's needs. For each existing and/or new road or trail, the Administrator will select the classification and the appropriate motorized use designation that best meets current and future needs.

Roads and trails will be classified as: 1) open to HV and OHV use; 2) open to OHV use only; or 3) non-motorized. Designations may be per individual road or trail or per area. Snowmobile use is specifically addressed in Section 730.1 and will be allowed on most inventoried roads and trails. Road and trail classifications and motorized use designations will be periodically reviewed, with road and trail classifications and associated use designations updated accordingly, as determined by the Administrator and/or Committee.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate forest roads and trails in the classification process:

1. Road density as it relates to area management requirements.
2. Presence of threatened or endangered species or other wildlife considerations.
3. Soil characteristics and the corresponding ability of the road to support vehicles.
4. Expected maintenance requirements of individual roads.
5. Suitability for seasonal use – priority will be given to roads which can be used 3 seasons or year round.
6. Water quality concerns: BMPs and proximity to wetlands, streams, or lakes.
7. Present and future needs for forestry activities in the area.
8. Presence of steep topography that will impact the road's use and maintenance requirements.
9. Protection of special use areas, features, or other ecological considerations.
10. Current and future recreational uses and user group needs.
11. Presence of known archeological or cultural sites.

The Administrator will keep the appropriate Red Cliff Tribal Government person(s) advised of all transportation planning within the Reservation boundary that may affect tribal interests. In addition, the Administrator will cooperate with other agencies and landowners to resolve access needs which span different ownerships, and to find mutually agreeable solutions.

710.2.2 New Roads and Trails

The Administrator will evaluate the needs for additional roads or trails and for relocations of all or portions of existing roads or trails. The Administrator will determine the location, classification and motorized use designation for new and relocated roads and trails, will determine the standards to which new and relocated roads or trails will be constructed, and will prepare plans and specifications for their construction. New roads or trails will be constructed in accordance with Wisconsin's Best Management Practices for Water Quality and with all applicable County, State, and Federal regulations. The administrator will inspect all construction projects to ensure that work is in compliance with contract plans and specifications. Often, these roads or trails will be constructed by loggers or other users.

710.3 Road and Trail Closure Methods

In general, all roads and trails located on county forest land are closed to motorized uses unless posted (signed) as open or designated open as per an area classification. To protect the integrity of the natural resource or to restrict unauthorized motorized use, many roads and trails will need to be physically closed.

Preferably, strategically placed signs will be used to communicate the permitted motorized use of any given road, trail or area. Whenever possible, roads or trails that require more restrictive closure devices will be constructed in conjunction with timber sale activities. The most common form of closure will be an earthen berm. Logging debris, boulders, downed logs and other similar forms of closure may also be used to deter motorized access. Roads or trails that serve as significant access points for forest management purposes, that provide permitted access routes into private property or are part of major recreational trail networks may be gated.

When incorporating the installation of closure devices with timber sale activities is not an option, the Department or their designee may install closure devices on any segment of road or trail where unauthorized recreational use has caused or has the potential to cause significant resource degradation, or for any other reason where there is a demonstrated need to physically restrict motorized access, as determined by the Administrator or Committee.

Additionally, closure devices, or modified devices, may be used to inhibit the access of certain motorized vehicles that are restricted on a road or trail, but allow vehicles that are permitted (i.e. a modified gate that allows OHV's to pass, but obstructs trucks). In some instances, OHV's will be allowed to travel over berms in areas where berms were originally constructed to restrict all forms of motorized use. Where allowed, the berms will be signed to communicate the permitted use. Unless signed to permit the use, no motorized vehicles are allowed to travel through, around, over or under a road or trail closure device.

In summary, where permitted, a sign will designate which form of motorized vehicle is authorized on any inventoried road or trail on the county forest, unless authorized via an area designation.

720 RECREATIONAL ACCESS

An important role of the Bayfield County Forest is to provide sustainable recreational opportunities. These opportunities include both cooperatively maintained trail systems and dispersed recreation. Efforts will continue to be made to provide a rewarding recreational experience for all of the user groups on the County Forest, while minimizing conflicts between them. Input from various user groups and from other interested members of the public will assist Bayfield County in achieving this goal.

Management activities adjacent to recreational trails will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and, when possible, attempts will be made to minimize the impact that these activities have on trail users. However, recreational users will encounter forest management activities. The Administrator has the authority to temporarily close or relocate trails to assure a safe and rewarding experience for the users of the trails.

Existing trail systems will be identified in sections 725 and 730 of this chapter. Maps of existing trail systems and area classifications are located in Chapter 900.

720.1 TRAIL CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND ABANDONMENT

Requests for recreational trail development or re-routing will be reviewed by the Administrator. Individuals or groups requesting specific new trail development or use must present a plan for the long term funding and maintenance of proposed trails. The Administrator will make a recommendation to the Committee on whether the recreational trail plan should be approved. If the Committee approves the trail plan, in most cases, a ten year recreational use agreement will be issued that specifies the conditions under which the trail may be developed, maintained and used.

Minor proposed re-routes of recreational trails previously approved by the Committee will require approval by the Administrator or Committee prior to construction. Major trail re-routes will require Committee approval prior to construction.

Bayfield County will require all parties or organization(s) named in the agreement to carry a minimum of one million dollar liability insurance policy, naming Bayfield County as additionally insured, and provide a certificate of insurance as proof of coverage.

Parties listed on the agreement will be responsible for all development, maintenance and/or promotion of designated trails, assume all liability associated with the trail designation, and consent to abide by all other requirements listed in the agreement. When the recreational use agreement expires, the Committee may renew the agreement or inform the user group the reasons why the agreement was not renewed.

Construction or maintenance of any recreational trail in which the activity would impact one acre or more of land is subject to state and federal storm water runoff requirements. Recreational trail development will employ Wisconsin's Best Management Practices for Water Quality and will comply with all applicable County, State, and Federal regulations.

The Administrator, or designee, will periodically inspect all trail construction and maintenance projects to ensure that work is in compliance with permit specifications. Any minor changes to the original recreational use agreement must be approved, in writing, by the Administrator. Significant changes, as determined by the Administrator, will require Committee approval.

Before any trail or special use area is discontinued or abandoned, the individual(s) or group(s) identified in the agreement must complete all rehabilitation and closure requirements specified by the Administrator or Committee.

720.2 EVENTS

Requests to host events on county forest land will be reviewed by the Administrator. The individuals or groups requesting the use of existing trails or land to host an event must provide the Administrator information including, but not limited to:

1. A summary of the event, including dates and times when the event will take place.
2. Listing of individuals or groups assuming responsibility for the event.
3. Map of the trails and/or area requested for use.
4. Summary of set up and clean up plans.
5. Expected participation and associated registration/entry fees, if any.
6. Completed permit application, if applicable.

The Committee will review all new event requests. The Administrator will make a recommendation to the Committee on whether the event should be approved. If the Committee approves the event, a recreational use permit, or other written documentation, will be issued that specifies the conditions under which the trails or land may be used. All recurring events that were previously approved by the Committee may be re-approved by the Administrator, assuming no significant changes have been made to the event.

If approved, the individuals and/or groups listed on the permit will be required to carry a minimum of a one million dollar liability policy, naming Bayfield County as additionally insured, and provide a certificate of insurance as proof of coverage. The individuals or groups approved to host the event must consent to all other parameters listed on the permit or other written correspondence pertaining to the event.

720.2.1 Event Fees

Currently, there are no fees associated with events on the County Forest. However, Bayfield County may develop a payment structure for events that require an entry or participation fee.

725 NON-MOTORIZED RECREATION

All inventoried roads and trails located on county forest land, except for designated snowmobile trails between December 1st and March 31st, are open to non-motorized use, unless marked with signs closing a specific trail or area to a particular non-motorized use or as otherwise specifically addressed in this plan. This includes, but is not limited to, the categories of use listed within this section.

Roads and trails designated as open to non-motorized use may be closed at any time, if the permitted use is causing or has the potential to cause, significant natural resource degradation, as determined by the Administrator or Committee.

Additional non-motorized recreation restrictions may be placed on designated ATV or snowmobile trails. Please refer to Section 12-1-5 (Regulation of County Trail System) of the Bayfield County Code of Ordinances for up to date information.

Designated non-motorized recreation opportunities on the County Forest include:

725.1 WALKING TRAILS

1. North Country National Scenic Trail

The North Country Trail is unique as one of only twelve such dedicated National scenic hiking trails in the Country. It crosses approximately 8 miles of Bayfield County Forest land.

Whenever possible, closure devices and/or signs will be used to restrict unauthorized motorized use on this trail. However, a few integral motorized access corridors either cross over or share small portions of the trail. The goal will be to keep these common overlaps at a minimum and reinforce the non-motorized nature of the trail where intersections exist.

Permitted Uses: hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing.

Restricted Uses: all forms of motorized vehicles, equestrian and mountain bike travel.

2. Raspberry River Walking Trail

This trail is maintained by Friends of the Raspberry River Walking Trail

Permitted Uses: hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, equestrian.

Restricted Uses: all forms of motorized vehicles, mountain bike travel.

3. Lost Creek Falls Walking Trail

Non-motorized trail providing access to a series of waterfalls on Lost Creek Number One.

Permitted Uses: hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing.

Restricted Uses: all forms of motorized vehicles, equestrian and mountain bike travel.

725.2 MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

1. CAMBA Trails (Cable and Mt. Ashwabay)

These trails are maintained by the Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA). Trails utilize forest roads and off season cross country ski trails, in addition to single track trails built through the County Forest.

Permitted Uses: mountain biking, hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing. Equestrian use allowed on all trails except designated single track.

Restricted Uses: all forms of motorized vehicles, equestrian on designated single track trails.

725.3 CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS

1. Tomahawk Ski Trail

2. North End Ski Trail

This trail is maintained by the North End Ski Club. A trailhead is also maintained that includes a warming cabin, outhouse, informational sign and a donation tube. The club also maintains a storage building located near the warming cabin.

3. Birkebeiner Ski Trail

The Birkebeiner ski trail traverses 2.6 miles of County Forest land as part of its 33 mile length. The trail was established exclusively for the American Birkebeiner ski race and is maintained by the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation.

4. Kortelopet Ski Trail

The companion event to the Birkebeiner, the Kortelopet trail is also maintained by the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation.

5. CHASTA Ski Trail & Jolly Pike's Creek Trail

These trails are maintained by the Chequamegon Area Ski Trail Association and Mt. Ashwabay Outdoor Education Foundation.

6. Telemark Ski Trail

This trail is maintained by Telemark Ski Resort. All portions of the trail on the County Forest are open to the public.

725.4 DOGSLED TRAILS

The Northern Wisconsin Dog Musher's Association maintains three trail networks on the County Forest. The Sand River Trail hosts the annual Apostle Island Sled Dog Race. The three trails are:

1. Hollander Road Trail

2. Sorenson Road Trail

3. Sand River Trail

725.5 EQUESTRIAN TRAILS

There are no designated equestrian trails on the Bayfield County Forest, though horseback riding is allowed on most inventoried roads and trails, unless specifically addressed in this plan.

Currently, horseback riding is only prohibited on the North Country National Scenic Trail, the Lost Creek Falls Walking Trail, designated single track mountain bike trails, groomed cross country ski trails and designated snowmobile trails.

Trails or areas open to equestrian use may be closed at any time, if the permitted use is causing or has the potential to cause, significant natural resource degradation or a considerable conflict with other existing forms of recreation, as determined by the Administrator or Committee.

730 MOTORIZED RECREATION

Primary, secondary, tertiary, and unclassified roads are in some cases designated and signed open to registered snowmobiles, ATVs, UTVs or similar registered off highway motorized vehicles and/or licensed highway vehicles. In order to protect these roads, they are closed to all motorized vehicles in the spring during the same period that the state funded ATV trail system is closed.

In addition, there is a network of ATV and Snowmobile trails which provide riding opportunities within the County Forest. No cross-country motorized vehicle travel of any kind is permitted. Motorized vehicles other than registered snowmobiles, ATV's, UTV's or similar registered off highway recreational vehicles and licensed highway vehicles are not allowed on the County Forest.

For the purposes of this plan, an All-Terrain Vehicle (or ATV) is defined as specified in Section 340.01(2g), Wis. Stats. Snowmobile is defined as specified in Section 340.01(58a), Wis. Stats. Utility Terrain Vehicle (or UTV) is defined as specified in Section 23.33(1)(ng), Wis. Stats. A licensed highway vehicle means any wheeled vehicle that meets all legal requirements for use on a state highway. Motorized vehicles, other than licensed highway vehicles, will be classified collectively as off-highway vehicles, unless specifically addressed in this plan.

Roads, trails or areas designated as open to motorized use may be closed at any time, if the permitted use is causing or has the potential to cause, significant natural resource degradation, as determined by the Administrator or Committee. Similarly, roads, trails or areas designated as closed to one or more forms of motorized use may be opened to one or more forms of motorized use, if it can be demonstrated that such use will not cause significant natural resource degradation or negatively impact existing non-motorized uses, as determined by the Administrator or Committee. Additional public input will be required if considering opening trails to motorized use that are located within heavily used non-motorized areas i.e. the Cable Block.

Additional restrictions may be placed on the use of highway vehicles or other forms of motorized vehicles on designated state funded ATV or snowmobile trails. Please refer to Section 12-1-5 (Regulation of County Trail System) of the Bayfield County Code of

Ordinances for up to date information.

The table below summarizes the amount of roads and trails permitted for motorized use on Bayfield County Forest land (including all designated and undesignated roads and trails):

Motorized Use Type	Permitted Miles	% of Total
Licensed Highway Vehicle	505	42%
Off Highway Vehicle (ATV,UTV,etc.)	862	72%
Snowmobile	1,101	91%
Total Miles of Roads and Trails	1,206	

730.1 SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

730.1.1 Undesignated Snowmobile Trails

Snowmobile use on the Forest is permitted on all inventoried roads and trails located within High and Moderate Motorized Areas when the ground is snow covered or on roads and trails specifically designated for such use. Snowmobile use within Low Motorized Areas is only allowed on designated state funded snowmobile trails, roads or trails specifically posted as open by Bayfield County or where entire areas have been posted as open by Bayfield County. Snowmobile use is not permitted on trails that are being groomed for another designated purpose i.e. cross country ski trails, except where the vehicles are used to aid in the grooming activities. No cross country snowmobile use is allowed. Snowmobile use on the Forest when the ground is not snow covered is prohibited.

730.1.2 Designated Snowmobile Trails

Currently, there are 95 miles of groomed designated snowmobile trails on the County Forest. Most of these are on improved forest roads. There are two types of groomed snowmobile trails on the Forest; state-funded trails and local club trails.

State trails: A system of state approved and funded snowmobile trails is authorized on designated trails and roads. This system is part of the statewide network of snowmobile trails, which links Bayfield County with adjoining Counties as well as the rest of the state. Snowmobile registration, motor fuel tax, and out-of-state user fees are used to support trail development, enforcement, signing, maintenance, grooming and bridge construction.

Local trails: A smaller network of local club-sponsored snowmobile trails is also permitted on designated trails and roads. Maintenance of these trails is supported by club membership fees and fund raising activities.

For safety reasons, cross country skiing, dog sledding, mountain biking, pedestrian traffic, skiing while being pulled by dogs, and other non-motorized activities are not allowed on designated snowmobile trails from December 1st through March 31st or whenever the trails are actively being groomed, without written approval from the Administrator.

All groomed snowmobile trails are also closed to all unregistered motorized vehicles, licensed highway vehicles and registered ATV's, UTV's and other similar off highway

motorized vehicles from December 1st through March 31st or whenever the trails are actively being groomed, unless part of a winter designated ATV trail or otherwise authorized by the Administrator or Committee.

730.2 ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE TRAILS (ATV)

730.2.1 Undesignated ATV Trails

All ATV's and UTV's must be registered or licensed in order to be used on the Bayfield County Forest.

ATV, UTV or similar registered or licensed off highway motorized vehicles are permitted on all inventoried roads and trails that are signed indicating the allowable use. In some instances, use by registered or licensed off highway vehicles is permitted in designated areas. These areas will be signed in numerous strategic locations to convey the permitted uses. Use by off highway vehicles is not permitted on roads, trails or areas not signed indicating the allowable use. No cross country off highway vehicle use is allowed.

Most undesignated ATV trails are not built or maintained to the same standards as state funded designated trails, nor does the County receive maintenance funds from the state to maintain them. Undesignated trails are capable of handling light regular motorized use and are intended to provide recreational opportunities for local residents. If motorized use is causing or has the potential to cause, significant natural resource degradation, as determined by the Administrator or Committee, all or sections of the road or trail will be permanently closed or closed temporarily until the damage is repaired.

On all roads, trails or areas where off highway vehicle use is allowed, all permitted motorized recreation will be prohibited from Spring Break-up (typically around April 1st), through May 15th or as determined by the Administrator.

730.2.2 Designated ATV Trails

Currently there are 38 miles of designated ATV trails on the County Forest. Most of these are on improved forest roads. There are two types of designated ATV trails that may be authorized on the Forest; state-funded trails and local club trails.

State trails: A system of state approved and funded ATV trails is authorized on designated trails and roads. This system is part of the statewide network of ATV trails, which links Bayfield County with adjoining Counties as well as the rest of the state. ATV registration, motor fuel tax funds, and out-of-state user fees are used to support trail development, enforcement, signing, maintenance, grooming and bridge construction.

Local trails: A smaller network of local club-sponsored ATV trails is also permitted on designated trails and roads. Maintenance of these trails is supported by club membership fees and fund raising activities.

At the present time all of the designated ATV trails on the County Forest are State funded, however local trails may be developed in the future.

Off-highway vehicles, including ATV's and UTVs, are permitted on roads and trails

throughout the county forest that are signed open to such use or when classified in an area designation (see Section 900 for motorized use maps). On all roads, trails or areas where off highway vehicle use is allowed, all permitted motorized recreation will be prohibited from Spring Break-up (typically around April 1st), through May 15th or as determined by the Administrator.

735 AESTHETIC ZONE CLASSIFICATIONS

This section designates which Aesthetic Management Zone classification that individual recreational trails will be placed in. Aesthetic Management Zones are addressed in Section 520 of this plan.

1. The Birkebeiner and Kortelopot ski trails are classified as aesthetic zone A.
2. Non-motorized trails listed in 725.2 thru 725.5 and the North Country Trail are classified as aesthetic zone B.
3. Walking trails as listed in 725.1.2 and 725.1.3 and motorized recreation trails are classified as aesthetic zone C.

740 MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ADJACENT TO TRAILS.

740.1 NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS.

Bayfield County will work to mitigate the impact that management activities have on the users of non-motorized trails. When planning management activities the following guides and actions will be considered:

1. The group or organization that maintains the trail will be notified of pending management activities adjacent to the trail.
2. A slash free zone will be maintained within 25' of trails that are classified as aesthetic zone A or B.
3. To avoid unnecessary increases in road density, existing trails may be used as haul roads (many trails utilize roads that were originally built for logging).
4. Trail crossings will be minimized whenever possible.
5. At the completion of management activities, trails will be left free of any slash or other debris and, if necessary, will be graded flat or returned to a condition equal to or better than before.
6. Landing and decking wood on trails will be avoided whenever possible.
7. Seasonal restrictions will be used when possible to minimize conflicts.
8. When establishing plantations along trails, where possible, the rows of trees will be planted parallel to the trail to minimize the aesthetic impact.
9. Where practical, a biological rotation age will be used instead of an economic

rotation age within 100 feet of trails that are classified as aesthetic zone A.

10. Where practical, harvests will maintain a residual stocking basal area of at least 60 sq. ft. within 50 feet of trails that are classified as aesthetic zone A and 40 sq. ft. within 50 feet of trails that are classified as aesthetic zone B. Silvicultural requirements for some tree species or catastrophic events such as fire, insect, or disease outbreaks, or wind damage may require heavier harvests.
11. Sun rotation, slope direction, and angle will be considered when clearcuts are necessary along trails that are classified as aesthetic zone A.
12. Where practical, the Department may place educational signs and/or kiosks along trails providing information on current or future forest management activities.

740.2 MOTORIZED TRAILS

The primary concern when planning and executing management activities adjacent to motorized trails is safety. When possible, seasonal restrictions will be used to minimize potential hazards. Hauling and decking on trails will be avoided whenever possible, however many trails utilize roads that were built for logging and may need to be used again. Whenever trails are crossed, or utilized as roads, signs will be posted to warn users.

750 SPECIAL USE AREAS

Access management within special use areas is addressed in chapter 530 of this plan.

755 ACCESS TO PRIVATE LANDS

755.1 TEMPORARY ACCESS

The Administrator may grant permission for a temporary access route for silvicultural activities (forest management) on private land. Road construction, reconstruction and/or improvements, upgrading, and road closure at the completion of operations will be done to standards approved by the Administrator and in accordance with Wisconsin's Best Management Practices for Water Quality. The private landowner will be responsible for all costs associated with the temporary access, including, but not limited to, payments to the County for any timber harvested, County administrative time and mileage, road construction, maintenance and closure, and returning the route to an acceptable condition, as determined by the Administrator.

755.2 ACCESS PERMITS

Applications by private parties to use, build, or improve access roads through County Forest land will be reviewed by the Administrator on a case-by-case basis. Access across County Forest lands must be demonstrated by the applicant to be a better option than access across other adjacent private lands. The Administrator will make a recommendation to the Committee on whether the proposed access permit should be approved. If the Committee approves an access permit, the following conditions will apply.

1. Permit may only be issued to cross County Forest lands. It is the responsibility of

the landowner to arrange access across any other lands that may need to be crossed.

2. Permits will only be valid for the period of time that the access is needed, not to exceed 10 years, and may be renewed at the discretion of the Forestry and Parks Committee. The permit does not constitute a legal easement.
3. A prospective buyer may apply for and be granted an access permit if he/she presents the Administrator with a signed purchase agreement for the parcel to be accessed.
4. The permit is nontransferable.
5. Road construction, reconstruction and/or improvements, or upgrading will be done to standards specified by the Administrator. Administrator must be notified at least three (3) days prior to the start of any construction work.
6. The Permittee must follow Wisconsin's Best Management Practices for Water Quality.
7. All temporary access roads will be obliterated to standards specified by the Administrator by the person receiving the permit at the conclusion of his/her use of the road. A bond sufficient to cover the cost of obliteration may be required for each temporary access permit.
8. All wood that will be removed under an access permit will remain the property of Bayfield County until it has been paid for, cut, and removed from County Property.
9. The County continues full ownership of the improved roadway; however, it shall not be liable for maintenance or upkeep of the road.
10. Access permit will only be valid after approval of the Committee, the Permittee pays all costs and fees, and both the Permittee and the Administrator sign the permit.
11. The roadway through County Land must remain open to the public. However, the use of motorized vehicles may be restricted, as determined by the Administrator or Committee. The Permittee may not gate or otherwise restrict the road, unless authorized, in writing, by the Administrator. If permission to gate the access road has been granted, the Permittee will follow the Administrator's direction as to when the gate must be kept closed.
12. Permittee waives any rights to any declaration of ownership or interest in the road on County land. This includes rights acquired through adverse possession.
13. The Committee will set appropriate fees and costs for an "Access Permit". Fees will include, but are not limited to, administrative time and mileage, the value of harvested timber, and fixed rates based on the length of access road. The value of any trees needing to be cut will be based on an appraisal by the Administrator.
14. County Forestry activities have priority for use of the permitted access road. Permittee agrees not to interfere with forestry activities requiring the use of the

permitted road.

15. The standard Land Use Agreement Access permit is included in Chapter 900.

755.3 EASEMENTS

In rare cases, granting an easement across County land may be considered. Generally this will only be done as part of an exchange for either land or a reciprocal easement granting access to County land, though cash payments may also be considered. If an easement is considered, the County's Corporation Counsel and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will be consulted.

760 UTILITY ACCESS

Access across the County Forest for the purpose of a utility route is covered under Chapter 515, Special Uses.

765 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The layout and construction of any new road or trail on the County Forest shall adhere to Wisconsin's Best Management Practices for Water Quality.

770 SIGNS

Signs on the County Forest will be used to appropriately inform the public. Private signs promoting personal, commercial or political objectives will not be permitted. Signs erected by the County for management purposes or by permitted non-profit recreational trail groups will be as follows:

1. Informational Type Signs
 - A. Interpretive Signs: to educate the general public about the management of the County Forest.
 - B. Public Land Signs: to identify the land as Bayfield County Forest property.
 - C. Trail Markers: to identify permitted uses, provide direction, and promote safety for trail users on individual trails.
 - D. Area Markers: to identify permitted uses, provide direction and promote safety for users over large contiguous tracts of land.
 - E. Scientific, Historical or Geological Markers: to identify points of interest.
 - F. Recreational Facility Markers: to identify parking areas, etc.
2. Regulatory Type Signs: to regulate and/or convey the appropriate use of the County Forest in specific areas.

775 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Bayfield County will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act regulations. The Administrator may issue a special access permit to hunters who have received a WDNR disabled hunting permit or to non-hunters who meet the physical requirements

for a State disabled hunting permit. The following conditions will apply to these permits.

1. Permits will be issued allowing motorized access point to point on a specific route.
2. The permit will include conditions to protect the resource. For instance it may be restricted to ATV use only if the road in question will not support a heavier vehicle.
3. The Administrator will decide whether or not to issue a permit. Environmental concerns, potential conflicts with other user groups, or other issues may result in a permit not being issued.
4. The Permit will allow one assistant to aid the disabled hunter. The assistant must be named on the permit form.
5. The Permit will be issued for a fixed time period. The Administrator will select an expiration date that matches the concluding date (i.e. end of deer season) for the activity in question.

780 EXEMPTIONS

Motorized and non-motorized access for administrative and forest management purposes are exempted from the provisions of this plan. Administrative traffic will be limited to periods of time when resource damage will not occur. Other limited exemptions from the provisions of this plan may be authorized, in writing, by the Administrator or Committee.

785 INTERFACE WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Administrator and the Forestry Department staff will cooperate with federal, state, and local law enforcement officers as well as the agents of the various resource management agencies to assure that all applicable ordinances are followed and resource management goals are accomplished. The Administrator will also work to develop consistent standards and regulations with agencies managing adjacent forest lands to reduce confusion over permitted uses.

790 TRIBAL FOREST USER GROUPS

The Administrator will accommodate tribal members in exercising their off-reservation gathering rights, as outlined in chapter 525 of this plan.

795 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS/PLAN MODIFICATIONS

The Administrator may temporarily suspend policies specified in this plan to resolve an emergency such as public safety, fire suppression, environmental damage, law enforcement, or other critical event requiring immediate action. Suspension may be in writing or, if time does not permit, it may be verbal. If given verbally, a written follow up will be prepared documenting the reason(s) and specifications for the verbal suspension. When appropriate, signs explaining the special designation will be placed. As soon as the emergency event is over, the Administrator will rescind the temporary suspension of policies in writing.