

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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CHAPTER 300

MANAGEMENT PLANNING

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### **300 MANAGEMENT PLANNING**

#### **OBJECTIVES**

Management planning shall be used to establish objectives, policies, procedures, rules and regulations, and to promote an efficient and orderly program of development and management of the County Forest in the interest of:

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

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

#### **POLICY**

This plan shall incorporate or reference all official County Forest policies, pertinent county regulations, planning documents and the needs and actions for the period 2006 through 2015.

This plan complements and should be encompassed within local planning efforts required under s. 66.1001, Wis. Stats. There are similarities between the plans, however, the County Forest plan is smaller in scale and focused by s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.

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

S. 28.11, Wis.Stats. places the responsibility for the plan development on the Committee with technical assistance from the Department and other agencies. The County Forest administrator will take the lead at the committee's request. The Department, with the assistance of the County, will prepare the environmental assessment as required by Chapter 150 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. During development of the plan and the environmental assessment, public participation procedures should be developed and adopted to provide for broad public participation throughout the planning process. Public participation and inputs into the plan should consider s. 28.11, Wis.Stats. that governs the

County Forest program and provides the sideboards to which this plan must adhere.

Plan objectives include:

- Getting feedback on a particular draft or a specific element of the plan
- Identifying public recreational interests on the forest
- Involve townships that have County Forest Lands
- To understand the full range of needs and concerns in managing the County Forest and the various uses
- Identifying issues that need to be addressed in the plan

Oconto County's public participation process includes the following:

Open houses, key community contact interviews, websites, informational meetings, monthly meetings and town meetings.

<u>Stage of Process</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Tools/Techniques</u>
Draft Development	Inform	Newspaper, Website
Preliminary draft	Consult	Public meeting
Final draft completion & Environmental Assessment	Inform	Public Meeting

Oconto County – Received several comments on 10 Year Plan during public meeting and comment period. These comments will be address in appropriate chapters and listed in Chapter 900.

### 305.2 APPROVAL OF THE PLAN

Comments received by the committee shall be given consideration in developing the final plan draft. Following the public comment period and certification by the Department, the county will consider the comments received on the plan and assessment and will finalize the plan. The Committee will then present the plan to the County Board for their approval. Following County Board approval, the plan will then be forwarded to the DNR's Central office in Madison through the local DNR liaison forester. Approval of the plan by the DNR is required by s. 28.11 (5) (a) Wis. Stats.

### 305.3 DISTRIBUTION OF THE PLAN

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

Official copies and amendments will be held by the following:

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

Additional copies of the plan will be provided to DNR Regional Forestry Supervisor, Area Forestry Supervisor and local Wildlife Biologist.

#### 305.4 UPDATING THE PLAN

Necessary changes in policy and procedure will be incorporated into the plan by amendment as required. Amendments to the plan will require approval by both the County Board and the Department of Natural Resources as stated in ss. 28.11(5)(a), Wis.Stats. The annual work plan and budget (Chapter 2000) and the annual accomplishment report (Chapter 3000) are appended to the plan and do not require official DNR approval.

##### 305.4.1 Schedule for Updating

By June 30th of each year the Forest administrator will develop and distribute copies of the following to each official copy-holder of the County Forest plan.

- (1) Approved amendments.
- (2) Annual Accomplishment report
- (3) Current annual work plan and budget

#### 305.5 COORDINATION WITH OTHER PLANNING

The development and any future amendments to this plan will include considerations, and if warranted, participation in other planning efforts. It is expected that these other plans will also, in turn, consider and mesh their efforts with the County Forest plan. Coordination

between Town and County Comprehensive plans (e.g. Smart Growth) s.66.1001, Wis. Stats, Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation plans (SCORP), State Land master plans, the Chequamegon-Nicolet N.F. plan, Land & Water Resource Plans, Forest Legacy, and others is essential for effective land management.

### **310 FOREST RESOURCE PLANNING**

The Committee will support and utilize the procedures as set forth in the Department of Natural Resources Public Forest Lands Handbook No. 2460.5 and Forest Aesthetic and Silviculture Handbook No. 2431.5. The DNR forester and the Forest administrator will be responsible for the completion and maintenance of the compartment reconnaissance system and will assist in interpretation of the data to be used in planning and scheduling purposes.

Forest management plans are made by qualified, professional staff employed by the County or the DNR who are trained in silvicultural principles and apply economic, biological, and environmental considerations in the planning process. Forest management decisions are made utilizing the most recent resource materials including the forest habitat type classification, soil surveys, and forestry's best management practices for water quality guidelines.

### **315 OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING**

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

### **320 OTHER RESOURCE PLANNING**

Additional data necessary to make management decisions on the County Forest will be sought from agencies or individual's best equipped to provide that service. Refer to Chapter 800 for information on integrating outside expertise into management planning.

## 325 **FOREST CERTIFICATION**

The forest products industry is increasingly requiring their suppliers to verify that the raw materials being supplied have originated from well-managed forest lands. Third-party certification of forest lands is becoming the norm for objectively evaluating the sustainable management of forest lands. To that end, Oconto County has committed to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in the management of the Oconto County Forest. These certification standards fit within the framework of the County Forest Law program (s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.).

### **Oconto County's Commitment to Sustainable Forestry**

Our county forests provide a vital contribution to the State and the world by providing economic, environmental and social benefits important to our quality of life. Oconto County believes that accomplishing such sustainable forestry requires a commitment and partnership from all the groups and individuals that benefit from these public lands.

### **Oconto County's Commitment**

Within the scope of the Wisconsin County Forest Law and the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Oconto County will implement forestry practices that promote forest sustainability and multiple use of the forest. In the management of the Forest that will include the sustainable harvest of forest products, the protection of special sites, wildlife, plants, water quality and aesthetics.

All forestland owners have a responsibility to provide sound forest stewardship. Oconto County will work in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other natural resources groups / agencies in providing sustainable forestry information to those landowners and individuals impacting forest sustainability in Wisconsin. We will support research efforts to improve the health, productivity, and management of forestlands both internally and through cooperative efforts. In managing the Oconto County Forest a spectrum of forestry practices will be employed to achieve our sustainable forestry objective. Both intensive and more extensive forest management

techniques will be used to provide for wildlife, forest products, recreation, aesthetics, water quality, aesthetics and ecosystem maintenance. In keeping with this responsibility Oconto County is committed to the following:

1. **Sustainable Forestry Principles** – To practice sustainable forestry to meet the present needs of society without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their anticipated needs. In doing so, Oconto County will integrate the reforestation, managing, growing and harvesting of trees for forest products with the conservation of air and water quality, soil, ecosystem diversity, wildlife, recreation and aesthetics.
2. **Responsible Practices** – To employ practices that are economically, environmentally and socially responsible in the management of the Oconto County Forest and to also encourage other forest owners to do the same.
3. **Forest Health & Productivity** – To work cooperatively with the DNR and other agencies in protecting our forests from pests, diseases, wildfire and other damaging agents in order to improve long-term productivity and forest health.
4. **Unique Sites** – To manage areas of special biological, geographical, cultural or historical significance in such a way as to preserve their unique qualities.
5. **Legal Compliance** – To comply with applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations in the management of the Oconto County Forest.
6. **Monitoring and Continuous Improvement** – To continually seek improvement in the management of the Oconto County Forest and to monitor, assess and report performance towards the objective of sustainable forestry.

### **330 ORDINANCES**

The following ordinances will be considered in all planning. Refer to Chapter 900 – Appendix for full text of these ordinances.

- (1) Forestry ordinance
- (2) Park ordinance
- (3) Zoning ordinance (parcel zoning, & setbacks only)
- (4) Floodplain - Shoreland Zoning ordinance

## **335 TECHNOLOGY**

Use of present day technology has become an important facet of county forest management. Computers and operating systems have increased the ability to analyze and store data. The increased ability to analyze and evaluate the Forest has improved planning and management of the Forest. Electronic communication is now essential. Following are technologies available, and in use, on the Oconto County Forest.

### **335.1 GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEMS**

A global positioning system (GPS) is a system of electronic surveying technology utilizing satellites to determine location. GPS is based on satellite ranging. That means that a position on earth is calculated by measuring the distance from a group of satellites to that position. The basic components needed for this system are a transmitter (located in the satellites), a receiver (at the point to be identified) and a computer and software to do the actual calculations. This technology is invaluable for mapping, acreage determination and land control efforts. Sub-meter accuracy is available with some of the survey grade units. Hand held units costing only \$200-\$300 have also proven beneficial for sale mapping and road layouts.

### **335.2 DATA RECORDERS**

The traditional data recording method is the paper and pencil system. But there are other tools that have proven useful. Tape recorders and hand held computers are becoming commonplace. Oconto County will continue to test new types of data recorders for usability in the field and the office.

### **335.3 COMPUTERS**

Computers are a common fixture in nearly all offices. The different types of software currently being used include: word processing, databases, spread sheets, mapping and geographic information systems (GIS).



#### 335.4 GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Geographic information systems (GIS) are particularly well suited for natural resources management. A GIS interrelates spatial information e.g. maps with tabular data, reconnaissance information, ownership, name and address. It is a system through which managers can ask "what if?" and have the computer represent the answer in the form of the best organized spatial output, a map. By using such a system, managers can look at the timing and spacing of timber sales, layout aesthetic zones, buffer strips, calculate acreage and update reconnaissance files in an efficient manner. Interrelating recon data with the GIS through a Recon ArcView Editor (RAVE) program has provided state-of-the-art mapping and data analysis in many counties. A GIS can do in a few hours what often was impossible or took months to complete.

#### 335.5 COMPARTMENT RECONNAISSANCE (RECON)

Recon is another tool in the assessment of geographical, structural and compositional attributes of the forest resources. This information is collected and computerized in tabular format through the DNR. The recon system has historically been the backbone of land management activities. The tabular information is linked to spatial information on hand drawn maps or computerized maps found in the GIS. Basic resource information is collected, stored and updated systematically and continuously. The database is used to analyze existing resources, evaluate management alternatives and assist in the development and implementation of management plans. Recon is one tool used to assess forest resource information at the property level. This information will provide a data layer that can be used for regional analysis.

#### 335.6 RAVE / RAVEN (Recon ArcView Editor)

RAVE and RAVEN are computer programs that link the tabular data in the Recon system with the spatial data available through a GIS system. They are ArcView (GIS software) custom extensions that allow the user to easily edit forest timber type and stand-level features (polygons), while at the same time updating tabular records.

