COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN
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1000 OBJECTIVES, FORMAT, AND POLICY

1000.1 OBJECTIVES

To provide guidelines to define the optimum level of activities, which should be undertaken to achieve full potential benefits from the forest.

1000.2 FORMAT AND POLICY

Needs for the county forest shall be listed without regard to budgetary constraints or other limitations. This list shall identify the forest potential in terms of public benefits, investment opportunities, and financial returns. Silvicultural needs of the county forest are identified in the Forest Compartment Reconnaissance printout. The DNR Public Lands Handbook describes procedures for use of this information. Other needs shall be determined by the Committee and the forest administrator, with technical assistance from the DNR and other interested agencies or individuals qualified to provide such assistance.

1100 DETAILED ANNUAL NEEDS FOR TEN YEARS

Annual silvicultural needs are identified in the Forest Compartment Reconnaissance printout. The printout, referenced in the plan, is available in the County Forest administrator's office. Printout listings include timber harvests, tree planting, and other silvicultural activities. Other unanticipated needs will be addressed in accordance with procedures outlined in this plan. These items will be identified and plans made for implementation, as part of the annual budget work plan prepared by the Forest Administrator and Committee. Annual work plans are approved by the County Board and forwarded to the DNR as required by statute (s. 28.11(5)(b) and s.28.11(5m)(b), Wis. Stats.

1110 PURPOSE OF TIMBER HARVESTING

Sustained timber harvesting is the primary tool that the Marathon County and Department of Natural Resources foresters use to meet a variety of objectives including:

- maintaining forest health
- increasing forest productivity (growth and quality)
- providing a sustained flow of forest products
- improving and maintaining wildlife habitat
- promoting biological diversity through ecosystem management
- maintaining desired aesthetic conditions

1120 INVENTORY AND SCHEDULING

Ten year timber management practices are identified and scheduled using the county forest reconnaissance printout (3/28/05) and the county Geographic Information System (GIS). Foresters will adjust these schedules to reflect current forest stand conditions and address multiple use concerns.

Forest Reconnaissance Program 12B identifies stands scheduled for harvest or cultural treatments during the ten year planning period. In the next ten year period 7,064 acres have been scheduled for regeneration or selection harvests on the forest. The Forest types and acreage identified for harvest* are:

Aspen	3,168 Acres
Northern Hardwoods	2,249 Acres
Oaks	657 Acres
White Birch	73 Acres
Conifers	917 Acres (Pw, Pr, Pj, Sw, Fs)
	7,064 Acres

*Includes even-aged, all aged, and intermediate harvests.

Approximately 706 acres will be evaluated each year for commercial timber harvests. However, it is likely that 600 - 650 acres of harvests will be established annually because of scheduling errors, aesthetic, wildlife habitat, and environmental concerns.

1130 ASPEN RESOURCE

Aspen is the most critical forest type which must be considered during the next ten years. Approximately half of the aspen scheduled for harvest is mature or over-mature, ranging in age from 55 to 70 years of age. It will be necessary to assess regeneration and/or conversion potential, address sustainable forestry concerns and harvest aspen stands without incurring an unacceptable loss in volume or regeneration capacity. The other half of the aspen scheduled for harvest is younger maturity, ranging in age from 30 to 40 years of age. Some of these stands will be evaluated for early harvest to diversify age classes.

1135 CONVERSION OF ASPEN TO OTHER TYPES

Most of the aspen scheduled for regeneration harvest will be treated using even-aged (clearcutting) methods. Some of the aspen sites will be converted to other forest which can be managed selectively. The type of harvest in an aspen stand is dependent upon a number of factors:

- Age of aspen and years past maturity
- Stand health (cankers, trunk rot, windfalls)
- Site productivity (habitat type)
- Volumes of various species
- Proximity and age of adjacent regeneration cutting
- Quantity and quality of residual hardwoods
- Regeneration potential and regeneration condition
- Stocking of understory hardwood species
- Unit goals
- Wildlife habitat needs
- Ecosystem management goals

1135.1 ASPEN CONVERSION CRITERIA

Aspen stands may be converted to other forest types if all three criteria listed below in 1135.1.1 - 1135.1.3 are met.

1135.1.1 Site Capability

An assessment of the ecological capability (habitat type) indicates the site is capable of growing medium quality or better oak, hardwoods, or conifers. Site productivity indicators such as site index and soil analysis/type confirm the assessment.

1135.1.2 Stocking of Desired Species

An acceptable stocking of preferred species is present or can be established before an unacceptable loss of volume or aspen regeneration capacity occurs.

1135.1.3 Landscape Perspective

Converting the stand to a type other than aspen meets ecosystem management objectives such as diversifying patch size or developing or maintaining wildlife habitat..

1200 SUMMARY OF TEN YEAR NEEDS

A schedule giving a summary of silvicultural needs and other needs for the period covered by this plan, appears as an inclusion in this chapter.

Note: The “Needs” schedule is put together for planning purposes. The best available information has been used in developing the schedule. It is not intended to be followed without modification. Forests are dynamic and managers must be adaptive to change. Funding and staffing shortfalls may also impact the ability of Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department to fulfill identified needs. Refer to Chapter 2000 – Annual Work Planning, for reference on progress towards the identified needs in this chapter.

TABLE 13 MARATHON COUNTY FOREST SUMMARY OF 10 YEAR NEEDS
2006 THROUGH 2015

Plan Section	Function and Units	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	Average/ Year
225	Personnel:												
225.1	Employees: Total FTE	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	N.A.	N.A.
	Forestry Division	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	N.A.	N.A.
	Parks Division	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	N.A.	N.A.
230	Equipment:												
	Pickup	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	N.A.
	Chainsaw	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	N.A.
	Snowmobile	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	N.A.
	Track Truck	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	N.A.
	ATV/Gator	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	N.A.
410	Land Acquisition - Acres	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	2000	200
415	Entry of Lands - Acres	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	2000	200
425	Land Surveying - Mi	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	1
430	Boundary Fencing - Mi	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	2.5	0.25
505	Timber Harvest - Acres - Total	1850	645	676	636	695	655	522	495	381	509	7064	706
	Regeneration Cut Acres - Total	920	297	377	339	338	199	103	202	294	178	3247	325
	Aspen - Acres	782	297	304	339	338	192	103	202	294	145	2996	300
	White Birch - Acres	38	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	10	55	6
	Oak - Acres	81	0	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	147	15
	Jackpine - Acres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Northern Hardwood - Acres	15	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	45	5
	Swamp Hardwood/Conifer Acres	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fir - Spruce - Acres	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1
	Intermediate Cut - Acres - Total	930	348	299	297	357	456	419	293	87	331	3817	382
	Red Pine - Acres	180	95	69	23	76	128	135	3	21	11	741	74
	Oak - Acres	195	0	0	0	26	64	48	59	57	61	510	51
	Fir - Spruce - Acres	72	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	83	8
	White Pine - Acres	53	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	6	0	65	7
	White Birch - Acres	12	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	2
	Swamp Hardwood/Conifer Acres	16	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	2
	Northern Hardwood - Select Acres	296	245	230	261	249	264	232	179	0	248	2204	220
	Aspen Acres	106	0	0	7	0	0	4	52	3	0	172	17
505.4	Cultural Practices:												
505.6.4	Reforestation												
	Planting - Acres*	221	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	222	22
	Site Preparation - Acres*	140	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	222	102	464	46

TABLE 13 MARATHON COUNTY FOREST SUMMARY OF 10 YEAR NEEDS													
2006 THROUGH 2015													
505.7	Timber Stand Improvement - Total*	349	0	39	0	2	0	0	8	0	0	398	40
505.7.1	Conifer Release - Acres*	97	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	99	10
	Hardwood Release - Acres*	74	0	39	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	117	12
505.7.2	Thinning - Non Commercial	167	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	171	17
505.7.3	Pruning - Red Pine	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.7
505.7.3	Pruning - Fir/Spruce	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.4
510	Recreation:												
	Parking Areas - Dev. Units	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
	Parking Areas - Mtc. Units	34	34	34	34	34	35	35	35	35	35	345	35
710	Roads (Certified Co. Forest):												
	Construction - Mi.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Maintenance - Mi.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	65	6.5
725.1	Nature Trails-Bitzke Birdwalk Mtce. Miles	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20	2
725.2	Mtn. Bike Trails - Single Trk Mtce Miles	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	110	11
725.3	Horse Trails - Mtce. Miles	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	290	29
725.4	X-C Ski Trails - Dev. Miles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	X-C Ski Trails - Mtce. Miles	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	190	19
725.5	Snowshoe Trails - Miles	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	40	4
725.6	Hunter Trails - Dev. Miles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Hunter Trails - Mtce. Miles	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	150	15
730.1	Sno Trails - Dev. Miles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sno Trails - Mtce. Miles	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	360	36
730.2	ATV Trails - Mtce. Miles	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	110	11
730.3	Hewitt-Harrison Auto Trail												
775	Signs:												
	Unit Signs	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	230	23
	Informational	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	750	75
	Regulatory	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	102	1020	102
	Gates	52	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	57	565	57
840	Wildlife Management												
	Trail Seeding - Miles	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20	2
	Trail Mowing - Miles	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	150	15
840.3.3	Openings Mtce. - Openings	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	100	10
	*80 Total Openings												
840.3.5.2	Waterfowl Management:												
	Flowage - Mtce.	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	20	2
	*17 Total Flowages												
*Represents - Sites scheduled for evaluation													