COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN
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700 ACCESS CONTROL AND HISTORY

Resource management and protection activities, recreational uses, and other public uses on the Marathon County Forest require several different types of access. Since the Forest is large and diverse, a broad network of access routes has developed. A combination of geography, soils, vegetation, surface waters, seasons of the year, presence/absence of roads or trails, ownership of adjoining lands, and public regulations interact to control access to any part of the Forest.

During the 1970's, Marathon County decided to gate or berm most roads and trails intersecting with Town, County or State roads. The policy was to prohibit vehicular traffic except on designated trails and to prevent resource damage. About the same time, the County designated snowmobile trails using existing logging roads and opened gates in the winter for this recreational pursuit. In the late 1980's, the County also designated 14 miles of ATV trails in the Burma Forest Unit. Some of the trails were closed to ATV's because they were located in lowland areas to prevent resource damage. Currently, about 11 miles of trails are designated for ATV use. During the last two planning processes, 1986-1995 and 1996-2005, there was overwhelming support by County residents to continue this gating and designated trail policy.

Many of the existing roads and trails were originally developed as logging roads, forest fire protection lanes, or trails used to reach popular hunting and fishing areas. The locations and standards for these earlier roads were not routinely established by County personnel.

Over the years, the road density and use of Forest roads and trails on the Forest has increased in response to an expanding number of motorized recreational vehicles and to an active timber harvest program. Often times, different uses have occurred on the same trails with minimal conflicts. But the diverse demands for, and uses of, the County Forest have reached the point where an integrated access management plan is needed.

LIST OF PROBLEM AREAS AND REASONS FOR ACCESS PLANNING

User conflict between groups: Example, hunting on foot versus use of ATV's for disabled hunting.

Safety: Example, pleasure riding of horses on the same trail with ATV vehicle traffic or hiking.

Erosion: Soils eroding due to use or over-use by vehicles.

Litter: Depositing garbage and waste on the Forest.

Over-utilization of a resource: Example, reduced availability of trophy-sized deer, excessive harvest of ruffed grouse along trails, etc.

Crowding: Example, complaints from hunters about intensified competition for traditional hunting areas as a result of better access.

Fires: Example, increased exposure of the resource to forest fire occurrence.

Endangered species management: Example, high road densities conflict with eagle and osprey nest disturbance.

Invasive species: Example, introduction of invasive exotic species along travel routes.

Developmental trends: Example, preservation of the County Forest solitude by limiting access versus development of high intensity use by additional roads and unlimited access.

Road placement: Example, some roads should be closed for improper location and evaluated for replacement.

Clear and concise policy for the public.

705 CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

1. Provide direction to the committee and resource managers in order to maintain a network of roads and trails on the County Forest. This will meet the needs for resource management and protection activities, as well as provide public access for recreation opportunities.

2. Identify the distribution, density, and types of roads and uses of roads and trails needed to establish a safe and efficient transportation and recreation system that complements the economic, environmental, and social interest in the County Forest.
3. Identify the existing and future County Forest roads eligible for transportation aids under §86.315(1), Wis. Stats.
4. Identify areas on the County Forest where the access is limited or restricted.
5. Identify the provisions and criteria that will be policy when addressing management issues on the County Forest.

710 ROADS

Marathon County Parks and Forestry staff will oversee the construction and maintenance of all roads within the County Forest. These roads may be constructed and maintained by the County or private contractors working under contract. The specifications for road construction and maintenance will vary with the frequency, duration, and planned use of each road. Three major types of roads occur on the Forest: permanent primary roads; permanent secondary roads, and temporary roads.

New road establishment will consider information identifying areas with sensitive soils or severe slopes that have the potential for adverse water quality impacts from land management practices. County staff can work with local DNR water resources staff to develop site-specific measures where appropriate.

710.1 PERMANENT PRIMARY FOREST ROADS

Permanent primary roads provide primary access to the County Forest and are designed, constructed, and maintained for year-round use. These roads serve essential access corridors for multiple use management. Some of these roads are graveled and routinely graded. Vehicle use may be restricted at various times of the year to minimize physical damage to the road or to accommodate a groomed snowmobile trail.

Some forest roads in this category qualify for the County Forest Road Aids program. Qualifying roads must meet minimum design standards of a 16-foot surface width and a 20-foot roadway width. A yearly aid payment is used to maintain and improve these certified public roads. The following table lists the roads currently certified under §86.31(1), Wis. Stats. County forest management is met with the current primary forest road system. No additional permanent primary roads are needed at this time.

TABLE 6 MARATHON COUNTY CURRENT AND FUTURE WDOT CERTIFIED

TOWNSHIP	SECTION	LENGTH (MI)	ROAD NAME/COMMENTS
Guenther	Sec. 11, T26N-R8E	.77	Hunters Road
Guenther	Sec. 12, 13, T26N-R8E	.18	Leather Camp Drive
Harrison	Sec. 4, T30N-R10E	.81	Hansen Road
Harrison	Sec. 7, T30N-R10E	.13	Bitzke Access
Harrison	Sec. 31, T30N-R10E	.30	Rocky Road
Hewitt	Sec. 1, 2, T30N-R10E	.50	Mill Road
Hewitt	Sec. 12, T30N-R9E	.13	Bitzke Access
Hewitt	Sec. 36, T30N-R9E	.30	Rocky Road
Marathon	Sec. 36, T28N-R6E	.51	Hollywood Road
Reid	Sec. 6, T27N-R9E	.13	Timber Ridge Road
Rib Mountain	Sec. 29, 30, 32, 33, T28N-R7E	2.60	Red Bud Road
Ringle	Sec. 31, T28N-R9E	.12	Timber Ridge Road
TOTALS		6.48	

These permanent primary roads will be maintained and remain open to public use. See Chapter 900 (900.7) for a map of the certified County Forest roads.

During certain times, primarily spring break up, the Parks and Forestry Department may post roads as Class B to limit damage. Red Bud Road in the Town of Rib Mountain will be the only permanent primary road snowplowed. All other permanent primary roads lead in to forest parking areas and will not be snowplowed by the Parks and Forestry Department.

710.2 PERMANENT SECONDARY ROADS

Secondary roads are maintained for three season access (summer, fall, winter) to accomplish forest management, wildlife management, fire protection, and provide recreation. These roads are maintained as part of a permanent road system but are often narrower than permanent primary roads and are built and maintained to lower standards. Some of these roads are designed for use only when the ground is frozen or firm. The roads will be blocked, gated, and/or signed. All secondary roads are closed to public motorized use except by permit or as otherwise designated by the Committee. There are 67.4 miles of permanent secondary roads on the Marathon County Forest. The map of the permanent secondary roads is in Chapter 900 (900.2).

In instances where motorized traffic is restricted, vehicle access will only be authorized for planned management activities or fire protection. Foot traffic is allowed on all roads.

710.2.1 Permanent Secondary Road Additions

New access roads will be evaluated by the Forest Administrator before being classified as a permanent secondary road. Consideration will be given to distribution by geographic unit, road density, and need as it relates to potential use, and available funding for long-term road maintenance. In the interest of resource protection, all access roads which are not needed may be bermed or blocked to restrict all but non-motorized traffic.

710.3 TEMPORARY ROADS

Many of the roads on the Forest fall into this classification. These roads are designed and constructed for short-term use for a specific project, often for timber harvest access. These roads are used only for a short duration and when the activity is done, the temporary road is closed. These roads are naturally or artificially revegetated and closed by use of earthen berms/bunkers, gates, or other physical barriers.

Temporary roads on existing and past sales will be considered for closure. Reasons will include protection of perpetually wet soils, human safety, and prevention of illegal dumping.

The need for new temporary roads will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Road locations will be included in designing timber harvests. Consideration will be given to the objectives within each County forest unit, existing road density, potential use, and soil type.

720 RECREATIONAL TRAIL ACCESS

This trail network provides access for many recreational opportunities in the Forest. An important role of the Forest is to provide sustainable recreational trails that do not cause long-term natural resource damage and that are compatible with other uses. Management activities adjacent to recreational trails will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Where deemed necessary, alterations will be made to accommodate the recreational use. The committee has the authority to open, close, or relocate trails. Non-motorized use of groomed snowmobile trails is not recommended due to serious safety concerns.

TABLE 7 COUNTY RECREATIONAL TRAILS - MILES BY TYPE	
TRAILS	**LENGTH (MI)**
Burma Road ATV	10.9
Bitzke Bird Walk	1.9
Nine Mile Forest Cross-Country Ski Lighted Cross-Country Ski	19.1 4.2
Nine Mile Forest Single Track Mountain Bike	10.7
Boy Scout Hiking Trail	7.5
Kronenwetter/Leather Camp Equestrian	19.1
Nine Mile Forest Snowshoe Trail	4.1
Nine Mile Equestrian	9.5
Snowmobile and Winter ATV	36.2

Maps for all of the recreational uses of the Forest are in Chapter 900 (935).

720.1 TRAIL CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for recreational trails will be reviewed by the Committee. Groups requesting specific trail development or use must present a plan for the long-term funding and maintenance of proposed trails.

Construction or maintenance of any recreational trail in which the activity would increase the erosion potential of one acre or more of land is subject to state and federal stormwater runoff requirements (NR216, Wis. Adm. Code and §283.33, Wis. Stats.). Construction or development for silvicultural purposes is presently exempt from these requirements. Recreational trail development in Marathon County meeting these parameters will employ best management practices for water quality (PUB-FR-093-95) to mitigate any adverse impacts. In addition, an erosion control plan will be prepared for each project depicting the location of the project and surrounding wetlands and what erosion control measures will be employed.

720.2 ORGANIZED TRAIL USE

The Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department reserves the right to impose a bond for damage to the forest. Organized trail uses and group-sponsored activities must protect Marathon County with $1,000,000 liability insurance coverage and provide a certificate of insurance as proof of coverage.

725 NON-MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL TRAILS

725.1 HIKING

725.1.1 Undesignated Hiking Trails

All portions of the County Forest are open to hiking or foot travel unless marked with signs closing an area.

725.1.2 Designated Hiking Trails

Bitzke Bird Walk

This 1.9-mile walking trail in the Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit meanders through a series of wetlands and flowages created for wetland animals. Designated as a waterfowl refuge by the Department of Natural Resources in 1985, the area has a history which includes logging, fire, draining, and agriculture. As farming failed, nature began to reclaim the wetland. Aspen trees grew up on surrounding uplands which provided food for beaver. This trail is open to the public year round, but because of the refuge status, the public is required to stay on the marked trail from September 1 through November 15 and to abide by posted regulations.

Boy Scout Hiking Trail

This 10.2-mile trail, of which 7.5 miles are designated, in the Nine Mile Forest Unit primarily follows existing snowmobile and cross-country ski trails. The nature trail was

built by the Boy Scouts to fulfill a need for a sanctioned metered course in the North Central Wisconsin area. Merit badge requirements make it compulsory that a scout travel a pretabulated course in compiling part of the mileage necessary for the award. A map of the Boy Scout hiking trail is in Chapter 900 (935).

Management practices on, and adjacent to, these designated trails will be designed to maintain the character of the landscape and minimize disruption to the trail and its users. The trail corridors are considered Zone B aesthetic management zones and referenced in Chapter 500. Temporarily rerouting the trail to avoid conflict and safety concerns may be necessary. Trees and signage identifying the trail will be maintained and protected by inclusion into timber sale contracts. In order to avoid confusion with trail users, an effort will be made to avoid the use of blue or yellow paint on projects immediately adjacent to the trails. Trails bisecting timber sales will be cleared of trees and logging debris daily.

725.2 BICYCLING

725.2.1 Undesignated Bicycle Trails

All trails, roads, and fire lanes are open for recreational bicycle use. Off-trail mountain bike use is prohibited to minimize the potential for erosion or other environmental damages.

725.2.2 Designated Bicycle Trails

<u>Nine Mile Forest Bike Trail</u>

It is the policy of the Committee to provide public designated mountain biking opportunities at Nine Mile County Forest. There are approximately 29.8 miles of trails, including over 10.7 miles of single track and 19.1 miles of cross-country ski trails designated open for bicycling. The trails open May 1-May 15 to October 15 each year depending on trail conditions. During the first three weeks of May, trails open at Noon to allow safe and quality spring turkey hunting opportunities. Biking at Nine Mile requires the user to purchase a trail pass. A map of the designated bike trails can be found in Chapter 900 (935).

725.3 HORSEBACK RIDING

725.3.1 Undesignated Horseback Riding Trails

All trails, roads, and fire lanes are open for recreational horseback trail riding except in the Ringle, Harrison-Hewitt, and Bern Forest Units along with the Nine Mile cross-country and bike trails where horseback riding is prohibited. Off-trail horseback riding is also prohibited to minimize the potential for erosion, introduction of exotic species, and other environmental damage.

725.3.2 Designated Horseback Riding Trails

It is the policy of the Committee to provide public designated horseback riding trails at Nine Mile, Kronenwetter, and Leather Camp Forest Units. The snowmobile trail, approximately 10 miles at Nine Mile Forest, is signed and designated as a horseback riding trail. Additionally, both the Kronenwetter and Leather Camp Forest Units have approximately 19.1 miles designated for horseback riding although these trails are not signed. A map of the designated equestrian trails can be found in Chapter 900 (935).

725.4 CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

725.4.1 Undesignated Cross-Country Ski Trails

All trails, roads, and fire lanes are open for cross-country skiing. Undesignated cross-country ski trails are not signed or maintained. Off trail cross-country skiing is permitted on the County Forest.

725.4.2 Designated Cross-Country Ski Trails

It is the policy of the Committee to provide designated cross-country skiing opportunities in the County Forest. Nine Mile Forest offers 19.1 miles of regularly groomed ski trails that offer both skate skiing and diagonal skiing and facilities which provide a variety of terrain and scenery. Additionally, Marathon County also maintains ski trails at Big Eau Pleine Park, American Legion Golf Course/Sylvan Hill, and Ringle Landfill for residents in outlying communities to enjoy. Cross-country skiing on Nine Mile designated trails requires the user to purchase a trail pass. Donations are

accepted on other designated cross-country ski trails that are maintained. Dog use on groomed cross-country ski trails is discouraged due to safety and maintenance concerns. A map of the County Forest cross-country ski trails can be found in-Chapter 900 (935).

725.5 SNOWSHOEING

725.5.1 Undesignated Snowshoe Trails

All trails, roads, and fire lanes are open for snowshoeing except on the Nine Mile cross-country ski trails. Undesignated snowshoe trails are not signed or maintained. Off-trail snowshoeing is also permitted on the County Forest.

725.5.2 Designated Snowshoe Trails

It is the policy of the Committee to provide public designated snowshoeing opportunities on the County Forest. Nine Mile Forest offers approximately 4 miles of signed snowshoe trails which include a variety of terrain and scenery. Snowshoeing on designated trails requires the user to purchase a trail pass. A map of the designated snowshoe trails can be found in Chapter 900 (935).

725.6 OTHER NON-MOTORIZED USE

All County Forest trails are designated for non-motorized use except by permit, posted as closed, or as otherwise designated by the Committee. Gates and/or barriers will be constructed and strategically located to allow optimum maintenance while restricting motorized vehicular travel. Trail maintenance may be conducted in cooperation with the DNR Wildlife Manager.

730 MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL TRAILS

The use of motorized vehicles, particularly all-terrain vehicles (ATV's) on designated trails in the Forest continues to increase due to the popularity, design, maneuverability, and power of the improved machines. Increased participation of activities that share multiple use trail systems may lead to additional trail use conflicts, unnecessary environmental damage, and increased expenses for trail maintenance. There is the potential for additional regulations or restrictions on ATV's in order to protect the Forest and limit adverse impacts on other non-motorized users.

730.1 SNOWMOBILING

730.1.1 Undesignated Snowmobile Trails

There are no undesignated snowmobile trails on County Forest. Snowmobile use is permitted on designated trials only.

730.1.2 Designated Snowmobile Trails

Two types of groomed snowmobile trails are authorized on the Forest: State funded trails and local club trails. Annual agreements outline the operation, maintenance, and insurance obligations between Marathon County and local snowmobile clubs.

<u>State funded trails:</u> A system of State approved and funded snowmobile trails is authorized on designated trails or routes. This system is part of the statewide network of snowmobile trails which links Marathon County with adjoining counties as well as the rest of the state. Snowmobile registration and out-of-state user fees are used to support trail development, signing, maintenance, grooming, and bridge construction.

The County will maintain State trails in cooperation with the Marathon County Snowmobile Council and snowmobile clubs with cost sharing funds from the DNR. The Park and Forestry Department will coordinate and administer the county-wide snowmobile trail program under §23.09(11) and (26) and 350.12(4), Wis. Stats., Natural Resources Code NR 50.09, and County General Code 7.09.

<u>Local club trails:</u> A smaller network of local club-sponsored snowmobile trails is also permitted on designated trails or routes. Maintenance of these trails is supported by club membership fees and fundraising activities.

It is the policy of the Committee to provide adequate public trails on the County Forest for snowmobiling. All groomed snowmobile trails are closed to all cars and trucks unless vehicle use is authorized by Marathon County. When vehicle use is authorized, contractors must maintain the trail in a safe condition, free from debris and equipment, and with a minimum of 3 inches of snowpack. Trail width shall not exceed 16 feet.

DNR's Trail Signing Handbook will be used as the guide for posting standardized signs and will assist in promoting uniformity for trail signing throughout the county. Only trail signs that provide information for safety, regulations, or trail directions will be permitted. Private and business signs are not authorized on the Forest. All trail signs must be mounted on wooden or metal posts.

A map of the snowmobile trails can be found in Chapter 900 (935).

730.2 ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATV)

730.2.1 Undesignated ATV Trails

There are no undesignated ATV trails on County Forest. ATV use is permitted on designated trails only.

730.2.2 Designated ATV Trails

Burma Forest ATV Trail

It is the policy of the Committee to provide public designated ATV opportunities on the County Forest. The Burma Road Forest Unit trails are designated for year-round use. Summer trails are open from May 1 through September 31 and winter trails are open from December 1 through March 31. The County has contracts with local clubs and organizations for the grooming, brushing, signing, and maintenance of these trails. Funding for maintenance is provided by the State ATV program.

Winter ATV Trails

Designated snowmobile trails on County Forest are open for winter ATV use during the snowmobile season if the air temperature is 28°F or colder. ATV's are permitted on designated snowmobile trails on County Forest approximately one week following the opening of the trails. The trails remain open until the snowmobile trails are closed. A map of the summer and winter ATV trails can be found in Chapter 900 (935).

730.3 HARRISON-HEWITT AUTO TRAIL

This auto trail connects the Bitzke Waterfowl Refuge parking lot with the County Forest parking lot at the north end of Mill Road. The purpose of the trail is to view sandhill cranes, geese, and other animals that frequent agricultural fields next to the Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit. The Committee may consider and designate other auto trails.

730.4 OTHER MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL VEHICLE TRAILS

730.4.1 Undesignated

There are no other undesignated motorized recreational vehicle trails on County Forest. Other motorized recreational use on the County Forest is prohibited.

730.4.2 Designated

There are no designated other motorized recreational vehicle trails on County Forest. Other motorized recreational use on the County Forest is prohibited.

730.5 RECREATIONAL ACCESS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Committee supports recreational access for persons with permanent disabilities. Federal and state disabled access guidelines will be met when required.

Requests for access in non-motorized areas will be considered on a case-by-case basis and be limited to ATV's or snowmobiles. No other motorized access will be allowed. Permits may be granted if:

1. The Permittee provides proof as disabled under DOT or DNR guidelines. Requires Class A or C disabled hunter permit or disabled DOT license plate.
2. The requested use will not damage soil or vegetation in the area of use.
3. The requested use will not endanger other users.
4. The requested use will not significantly impact other users of the Forest.

Additionally, if a permit is granted, the ATV or snowmobile must be clearly marked with a sign provided by the Parks and Forestry Department that reads “Disabled” or “Disabled Hunter”. The permit shall be limited to a specific entry point and area. The permit shall not exceed two weeks.

Permits are granted by the Committee under County General Code 16.06(1)(e). A copy of the permit can be found in Chapter 900 (915.10).

735 DEMAND DEVELOPMENT/EXCLUSION

If a deficiency exists in trail mileage for a given user group, the Committee will receive recommendations and evaluate new trail proposals, with full consideration for resource protection. An existing trail may be reclassified or a new trail created to satisfy demand consistent with the Ten-Year Plan or Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Trails may be closed or their use designation changed if they fail to satisfy the intended purpose or are found to be contributors to resource degradation.

740 RESTRICTED ACCESS AREAS

In addition to providing trails for motorized vehicle use, the Forest may also provide and designate areas where motorized equipment is not permitted unless authorized by the Committee. The principal intent of these areas is to prevent environmental damage to sensitive areas, protect historical or archeological sites, protect endangered and threatened species, provide for human safety, and provide areas for quiet, secluded recreation. The Committee may consider and designate restricted access areas on the Marathon County Forest.

745 WATER ACCESS

Within the County Forest there are few water resources. There are several small streams and wildlife flowages that contribute to most of the surface waters. As a result, there are limited opportunities for water access. If additional lands are acquired or existing lands developed with water features, the Committee may consider developing access points as a component of the overall Forest Access Management Plan.

745.1 PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS SITES MAINTAINED BY MARATHON COUNTY FOREST

There are no public boat access sites maintained on the County Forest.

745.2 PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS SITES MAINTAINED BY TOWNS

There are no public boat access sites maintained by townships on the County Forest.

745.3 PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS SITES MAINTAINED BY DNR

There are no public boat access sites maintained by the DNR on the County Forest.

745.4 UNDEVELOPED WATER ACCESS POINTS

Other undeveloped water access points for canoes and boats currently exist on the Forest. These are used to hand launch boats or canoes but have not been developed for boat trailer launching. These sites are not routinely maintained and may be closed if erosion damage becomes severe. All new sites for developed water access must be reviewed and approved by the Committee.

750 WILD LAKES

The surface waters encompassed under the wild lakes designation include those restricted use areas that are not open to any gasoline-powered vehicles, water craft, or snowmobiles except when snow covered. In general, all or most of the shorelines of these lakes and streams are owned by Marathon County. Counties may request that townships, under authority of §30.77(3), Wis. Stats., establish regulations restricting motorized use on these surface waters. Canoes, kayaks, and boats propelled by wind, oars, or electric motors are permitted. Gasoline or diesel powered equipment is not permitted. The intent of these restrictions is to protect the aquatic resources of these lakes but still allow human access. There are no “wild lakes” on the County Forest.

755 WETLANDS

In addition to surface waters, all wetlands on the Forest are closed to motorized recreational vehicle use when soils are not frozen. Vehicle use during non-frozen seasons causes soil rutting, compaction, and damage to vegetation. The wetlands are not listed individually here, but include all areas where soils, groundwater, or surface waters support the growth of vegetation commonly associated with wetland plant communities.

760 ACCESS TO PRIVATE LANDS

Applications by private parties to build or improve access roads through County Forest land will be considered by the Committee on a case-by-case basis. The following stipulations will be adhered to before an "Access Permit" is granted:

1. Access across County Forest Lands must be demonstrated by the applicant as the route of last resort. Proposed uses must be documented by the applicant.
2. No legal easement will be granted; only permission to cross County lands.
3. The permit is non-transferable. New landowners must apply to continue the land use agreement.
4. Road improvements and upgrading must be approved and will be supervised by the Parks and Forestry staff. Prior notification of three (3) days is required before work starts.
5. All wood cut is the property of Marathon County.
6. Roadway may not be gated by the Permittee unless authorized by the Committee.
7. The County continues full ownership of the improved roadway, however, it shall not be liable for maintenance or upkeep of the road.
8. Permittee waives any rights to any declaration of ownership or interest in the road on County land for administrative costs as a result of this "Access Permit". The access permit is granted upon the signature and any fees being received by the Marathon County Parks and Forestry Department.
9. Presently, there are six existing access road permits issued by Marathon County. The fee for these permits is set at $150.00 for five years.
10. If new permits are granted by the Committee, they will follow the same stipulations as the existing permits. The fee for any new access road permits is set at $250.00 for five years.

765 PUBLIC UTILITY ACCESS

Access of the County Forest for utilities is covered under Chapter 515.5, Public Utilities.

770 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR WATER QUALITY

The layout and construction of any new road or trail situated on the County Forest shall adhere to *Wisconsin's Best Management Practices for Water Quality* (PUB-FR-093-95). This access management plan addresses the need and diversity level of forest roads and trails within the County Forest. Chapter 6 of the BMP Manual provides guidelines for road construction. Areas with highly erodable soil types, close proximity to streams or lakes, or steep slopes are identified on the soil erosion rates by watershed map included in Chapter 900 (900.11). Soil disturbance activities in these areas may require mitigating measures in excess of those currently listed in the Best Management Practices Manual PUB-FR-093-95. Wider buffers, sediment control structures, and water diversion techniques will be used as appropriate in these sensitive areas. Best management practices will be followed on all projects or activities that occur on County Forest lands.

775 SIGNS

Signs on the County Forest will be used discreetly to inform users, interpret, or regulate the multiple uses of the Forest. Private signs promoting personal, commercial or political objectives will not be permitted without authorization from Marathon County. Signs erected by the County for management purposes or by non-profit recreational trail groups will be as follows:

1. INFORMATIONAL TYPE SIGNS
   - (a) Interpretive Signs - To educate the public about forest management practices.
   - (b) Public Land Signs - To identify the land as Marathon County Forest Property.

(c) Trail Markers - To provide direction and safety to trail users.

(d) Scientific, Historical or Geological Markers - To identify points of interest.

(e) Recreational Facility Markers - To identify park entrances, etc.

(f) Directional Markers.

(g) Boundary Signs - To indicate the Forest property.

2. REGULATORY TYPE SIGNS - Regulate the use of the Forest in specific areas.

775.1 SIGNING STANDARDS

To ensure signs will serve a purpose without damaging aesthetics, the following standards will be maintained:

1. All signs will be mounted on treated wood posts, carbide posts, or steel-backed wooden posts. NO signs will be nailed or fixed in any other way to living trees.
2. Routed wood signs will be used wherever practical. Fiberboard or painted metal signs, when used, will be of neat appearance.
3. Signs placed on snowmobile trails must conform to State standards and be approved by the Committee.
4. All authorized signs shall be protected by ordinance from being damaged, defaced, obstructed, removed, or possessed by unauthorized persons.
5. All unauthorized signs will be removed by the Parks and Forestry staff. No compensation will be afforded for loss or damage to signs during removal. Individuals erecting unauthorized signs may be prosecuted under §943.13(3), Wis. Stats.