

OFFICIAL NOTICE & AGENDA
of a Meeting of the County Forest
Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee of the
Marathon County Board of Supervisors

COUNTY OF MARATHON
Wausau, WI 54403

A meeting of the County Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee will be held at 212 River Drive, Rm. #2, Wausau, WI, 54403, at **6:00pm** on **MARCH 8, 2017.**

Members: Mike Lane (chair), Marcell Wieloch (vice-chair), John Burke, Mark Chickering, Gary Weiland, Susan Haug, Dale Heil, Paul Klocko, Greg Klos, Jeff Lawrence, Carol Mills

A G E N D A

- I. Minutes
 - A. Approve Minutes of the December 21, 2016 Meeting

- II. New Business
 - A. 2016 Forestry Division Annual Report
 - B. 2016 County Forest Law Enforcement Report
 - C. Forestry Division Expense/Revenue Report
 - D. Potential Land Acquisition – Town of Rib Mountain
 - E. Winter Recreation Trail Program Update
 - F. 2017-2019 State Budget
 - G. Bluegill Bay Park Fishing Pier Project
 - H. Drones in Parks and Forests Policy
 - I. Fee for Undesignated Camping Permits
 - J. 2017-2019 Governors State Budget Proposals Affecting Forestry Programs
 - K. Member Items

- III. Old Business
 - A. Update on Land Acquisition in the Town of Hewitt for County Forest
 - B. County Deer Advisory Council Upcoming Spring Meetings
 - C. County Forester Hiring Update

- IV. 2017 Meeting Dates – June 7, September 21 and December 20, 2017 at 6:00pm.

- V. Adjourn

Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 261-1500 or e-mail infomarathon@mail.co.marathon.wi.us one business day before the meeting.

ATTN: News Department

THIS NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE

Daily Herald, City Pages, Marshfield News, Midwest Radio Group &

Faxed by: _____	Date: _____
Date: _____	Time: _____
Time: _____	By: _____

Members present: John Burke, Susan Haug, Paul Klocko, Greg Klos, Mike Lane, Jeff Lawrence, Carol Mills, Gary Weiland

Excused: Mark Chickering, Dale Heil, Marcell Wieloch

Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department staff present: Tom Lovlien - Forest Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Lane.

I. Minutes

Lane asked for comments. **Motion** by Burke to approve the minutes of September 21st, 2016. Motion **carried**.

II. New Business

A. 2017 County Forest and Wildlife Work Plans

Lovlien discussed highlights from the County Forest Work Plan and the Wildlife Work Plan including timber management, road maintenance, developed recreation, administration, public outreach and professional development, invasive species management, flowage maintenance, wild rice seeding, forest opening maintenance, grassland work and the Nickel-N-Acre budget.

B. 2016 Fall Timber Bid Opening and Summary

Lovlien reported there were fourteen bids on four tracts from five different contractors. The appraised value of the sales was \$183,770.25 and they sold for \$211,829.50. The average per ton price was \$17.60 or \$40.00 a cord. The average dollar per acre was \$808.00 which is the return the County receives.

C. Wausau Daily Herald Forests Forever Supplement

Lovlien said this is the 18th annual supplement which has many good educational articles. The DNR and the County usually contribute forestry articles.

D. 2017 County Conservation Aids Project – Scholfield Boat Landing Piers

Lovlien said this \$4,357.00 in State grant is matched with \$4,357.00 of County money. The project this year is to replace the piers at the Scholfield Park boat landing.

E. Potential Land Acquisition – Town of Hewitt

Lovlien said the County was approached about purchasing a 198 acre piece of property that borders County forest land. It fits in well and has been managed correctly. The County Board has approved staff negotiating and applying for a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant that would fund up to 50% of the purchase price. Lovlien will be hiring an appraiser to get a State approved appraisal. Lovlien hopes the property can be acquired by the end of the State fiscal year which is June 30th.

F. Article: DNR Names New Chief State Forester

Lovlien said the new Chief State Forester is Fred Souba Jr. Souba Jr. has worked in the forest industry for the past forty plus years and is a good pick for integrating the conservation and industry interests. He will also be implementing the strategic alignment that the DNR is currently undergoing.

G. County Deer Advisory Council Meeting on Chronic Wasting Disease – Jan. 17, 2017

Lane reported the meeting will be held in this building at 7:00 p.m. on January 17th. The meeting will only be discussing the Chronic Wasting Disease Plan. Other meetings discussing quota permits for the 2017 seasons will occur in March and April. Lane mentioned that the DNR website is open for public comments on the plan. Public input will be taken the night of the meeting or people can send written comments to him. The Council will be voting on the plan that night. Lovlien mentioned that the DNR has an online survey about chronic wasting disease on their website.

H. Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Update

Lovlien said Nine Mile recently opened up for cross country skiing. There is not a lot of snow on the ground and it is tough to keep the leaves and rocks from mixing in with grooming. The trails will be open during the holidays when a lot of people ski and snowshoe. Burke said the Nordic ski programs are up and running and going well. He also noted there were quite a few snowshoer's at Nine Mile as well.

I. Survey on ATV Trail Mileage in Wisconsin

Lovlien said the Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) has been working with the Wisconsin ATV Association in trying to come to some type of agreement on funding priorities. A survey was put together to figure out how many miles the Counties actually take care of on public and private lands. The Counties play a big role and are also resource managers. There is not a lot of money available and WCFA doesn't support developing new trails when they are not sustainable. There are some issues in the north where there are hundreds of miles of trails. Lovlien thinks there will be some new trail standards coming out of WCFA and presented to the State. If the State ATV doesn't accept those trail standards and fund what the Counties think are needed then some of the Counties may decide not to build any more trails or close some if they are not repaired.

J. Member Items

Haug distributed a new Wausau Bird Club checklist of birds. She mentioned that because of the Wausau cat policy they may not be able to keep their high flyer status in the Bird City designation. The Bird Club will have two years to get the policy changed in order to keep the high flyer status. Lovlien said staff met with the school cross country athletic directors this year. The County will be installing no parking signs on one side of Red Bud Road and schools are being asked to keep their events to one day instead of spread over two days. Fees for races and events are being changed.

Old Business

A. County Forester Recruitment Update

Lovlien said Joe Tucker has been hired and will be starting on January 16, 2017. He looks forward to working with him.

B. Ragnar Trail Relay Running Race Summary

Lovlien said this race at Nine Mile had a limit of 2250 participants. The race will be back next September and they might allow more race participants. It was a well-run event with very good cleanup. The community benefits with people staying and visiting area hotels and restaurants. Staff will be negotiating the fees for their next event.

C. Division of Forestry Headquarters Final Relocation Proposal

Lovlien said Rhinelander, Wausau and Hayward were the three locations chosen with the preferred locations being Rhinelander or Wausau. If this item is included in the next State budget then the DNR Forestry Division would be required to do a cost analysis and try to find buildings to lease or purchase. The estimates right now are that it would be between six and ten million dollars to move forty to sixty positions out of Madison. Lovlien said members of the Natural Resources Board commented that there are already almost eighty percent of forestry personnel in the north and they are asking why they need the rest of them moved. Lovlien said it's up to the Governor and State legislature to make a final decision.

D. DNR Hires New Wildlife Biologist

Lovlien said Brandon Stefanski has been the Wildlife technician for Wood, Portage and Marathon Counties for the last eight years and has been hired as the Marathon County Wildlife Biologist. Lovlien said Stefanski knows the County forests well and is a good choice.

E. Wausau 24 Bike Race Participation and Revenues

Lovlien said the Wausau 24 race occurred in late July and had 507 participants with a total of \$3,606.00 in revenues. The event was well run and plans to return next year.

F. Deer Season Harvest and Activity Levels on County Forests

Lovlien said the State-wide deer season harvest was down a little bit from last year. In the north they harvested twenty percent more bucks so it looks like the deer population is on the rise in certain areas. Twenty thousand less licenses were sold and this was the lowest deer hunter participation in the last 40 years. Lane said there has been a drop in licenses the last two years. Lawrence wondered with the 4,000 fewer deer shot if it was possible that some of those weren't registered because of the changes the DNR made to how deer are registered.

G. Big Eau Pleine Vegetation Management Harvest Update

Lovlien reported that this sale was on the east side of the park road. About a quarter of the sale was completed. The contractor will probably continue harvesting the sale late this summer or fall. Questions about the sale were answered.

IV. 2017 Meeting Dates – March 8, June 7, September 21 and December 20, 2017 at 6:00 pm. (The second Wednesday won't work for Weiland, the first Wednesday may not work for Mills. Lovlien said if one or two people cannot make it they will go with these dates, if four or five people cannot make it then they may change the dates. Weiland thought that Heil also had a meeting the same night he did which is the second Wednesday's of the month).

V. Adjourn

Motion by Klos to adjourn, motion **carried**. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Thomas Lovlien
Secretary

Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department

2016 County Forest Division Annual Report

January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2016

Program Highlights:

- Net timber sale revenue to Marathon County of \$371,715.86.
- Total net revenue for the Forestry Division program was \$430,101.33 and expenses were \$341,929.53. Returned \$88,171.80 to the general fund.
- Practiced sustainable forestry on 121 acres on the Marathon County Forest. This is based on closed out sales with DNR in 2016.
- Treated pockets of invasive species at several locations on County Forest land.
- Continued participation as a member of the Wisconsin County Forests Association Forest Legislative/Certification Committee.
- Mowed 50 miles of hunter walking trails and associated wildlife openings.
- Continued participation in the County Forest Administrator grant program that funds one-half the salary and fringe benefits of the Forest Administrator position.
- Continued participation in third party forest certification under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) standard.
- Resurfaced 2.20 miles of roads and trails in Nine Mile, Elderon and Leathercamp Forest Units adding 4219 yards of granite and breaker material.
- Completed a County Conservation Aids Project at Oak Island Park in the City of Wausau that replaced the concrete launch, pier and anchored the shoreline for erosion control.
- Regulated uses at Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area to allow all user groups to have safe and quality recreation experiences.
- Three Mountain Bike Races were held at Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area with 795 participants resulting in \$5,158.95 in revenue for Marathon County.
- Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area hosted the first ever Ragnar Trail relay running race with 2220 participants from 20 states resulting in \$9,826.25 in revenue. The trail organizers said they will be returning in 2017.
- Updated the Marathon County Snowmobile map for the Snowmobile Council.
- Utilized volunteers to complete work on both the ski and mountain bike trails.

Land Holdings:

Acreage in 2016:

County Forest - Regular County Forest Law	29,384.47
County Forest - Special County Forest Law	<u>552.10</u>
Total County Forest	29,936.57

Other Land Holdings:

Parking & road access	8.59
Farm Lease (Pingel)	80.00
McMillan Marsh Lease (DNR)	1,661.40
Under water, island & wetlands	192.74
Railroad ROW/Snowmobile Trail	<u>85.04</u>
Total Other Lands	2,027.77

Total Lands Managed: 31,964.34 Acres

Timber Management, Cultural Projects, and Reforestation:

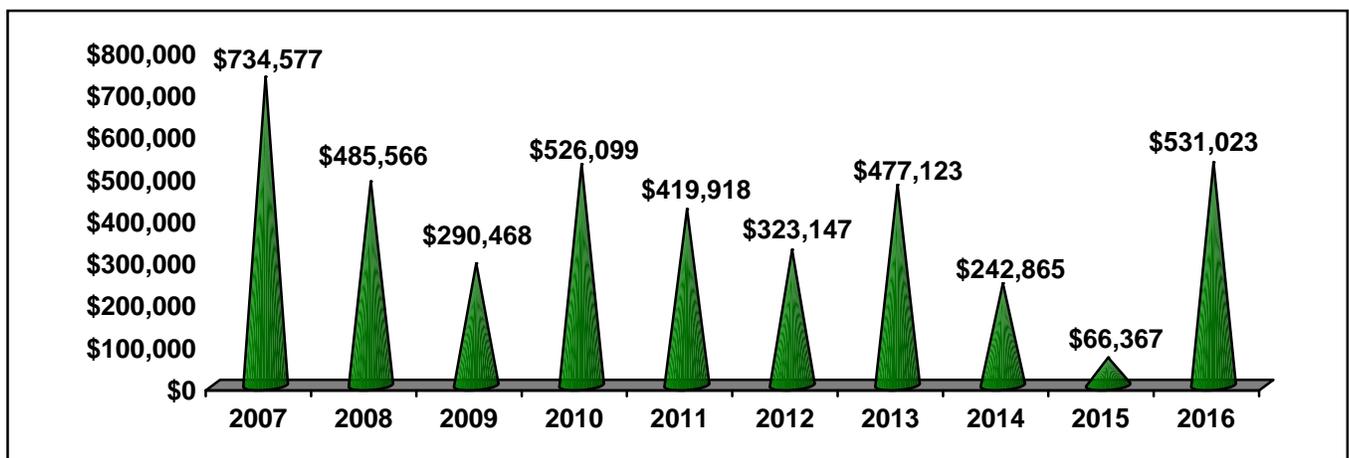
Timber Sales:

Timber sales generated 6689 cords of pulpwood and 208,000 board feet of logs worth \$531,022.66 (unaudited) in 2016. The following is a listing of the gross value of timber cut from the forest over the past 10 years:

2007	\$734,576.86	2012	\$323,146.07
2008	\$485,565.44	2013	\$477,122.61
2009	\$290,467.76	2014	\$242,865.33
2010	\$526,099.29	2015	\$66,366.74
2011	\$419,917.34	2016	\$531,022.66

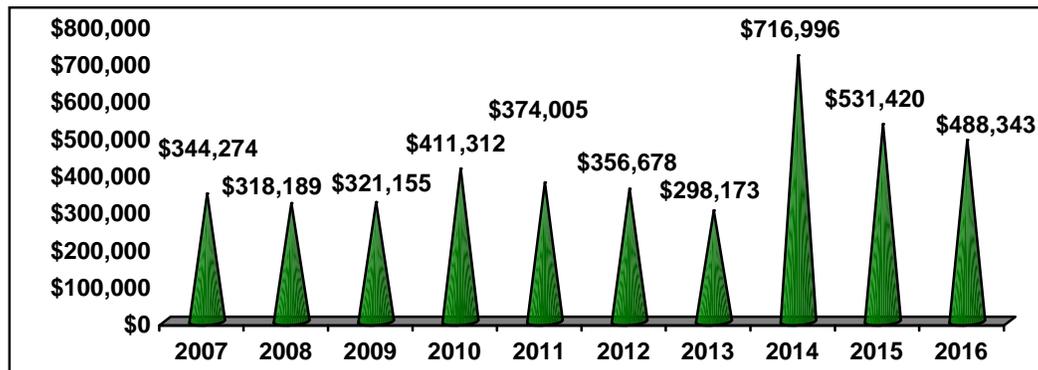
Marathon County Forest

Timber Sales Annual Gross Revenue – Cut and Hauled



Other Timber Sale Data:

New sales – 10 were established on 666 acres with 11,480 cords appraised at \$381,434.75.

Marathon County Forest**Timber Sales Annual Sold Value**

1. Sold sales - 10 of 10 sales advertised were sold in 2016 for a value of \$488,343.00.
2. Uncompleted timber contracts – 21 with 29,950 cord equivalents worth \$1,178,025.63.
3. Cut volume reports filed with DNR (form 2460):
 - Final reports - 2 sales worth \$60,396.34.
 - Partial reports - 0 sales worth \$0.
4. Severance paid to DNR on interest free loans \$12,079.27.
5. Severance Tax Escrow for Town payments (10% of gross receipts) \$52,995.58.
6. Firewood permits – 5 permits were issued worth \$150.00.
7. New sale establishment – evaluated 791 acres for potential sale (established 632 acres).
8. Forest reconnaissance - updated 1205 acres.
9. Administered a timber sale for the Village of Kronenwetter.
10. Administered a timber sale for the Rib Mountain Metropolitan Sewerage District.
11. Established and began administering a timber sale at Big Eau Pleine County Park.

Cultural Projects:

1. Classified forest habitat types on 1205 acres for inclusion in our GIS database.
2. Monitored for additional oak wilt areas in Nine Mile and Kronenwetter Forest Units.
3. Identified a new pocket of oak trees in Nine Mile infected with the oak wilt fungus, treatment was completed in October.
4. Utilized a \$25,000 Sustainable Forestry grant to attempt to control invasive species on high-use areas of the County Forest. A contractor treated approximately 114 acres in late summer and early fall at Nine Mile, Burma and Kronenwetter Forest Units. Treatment will continue in 2017.
5. Treated areas of tansy, thistle and spotted knapweed on several wildlife flowage dikes and forest unit trails.
6. Released tamarack seedlings using herbicides on an abandoned farm field at Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit.

Reforestation:

1. No reforestation took place in 2016 as all plantations were fully stocked and growing well.

Road, Trail, and Facility Construction and Maintenance:

1. APHIS trapped 24 beaver and removed 16 dams at problem locations in the county forest. Six dams were blown using dynamite.
2. Replaced four culverts in the Kronenwetter and Leather Camp Forest Units and added granite in problem locations.
3. Brushed approximately 8 miles of trails in the Bern and Leather Camp Forest Units.
4. Placed 4219 yards of granite on forest trails in the Nine Mile, Elderon and Leather Camp Forest Units.
5. Completed repairs to dikes and water control structures from muskrat and beaver damage.
6. Reconstructed several segments of Nine Mile ski trails to improve drainage and level the surface.
7. Performed normal maintenance on 190 miles of forest roads and trails.
8. Repaired several sections of trail in Nine Mile Forest due to heavy use and erosion.
9. Graded several sections of the Burma Road ATV trails to prevent erosion.
10. Inspected County Forest boundaries to control encroaching land uses.
11. Removed many blown over trees on mountain bike and ski trails in Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area.
12. Installed one gate and repaired others on roads and trails that access the County Forest.

Administration:

1. Continued utilizing DNR forestry reconnaissance program (WisFIRS).
2. Evaluated one parcel for potential land acquisition as an addition to County Forest land.
3. Recruited and interviewed several candidates for the County Forester position. The position was filled in January 2017.
4. Developed policy and implemented principals of Forest Certification - Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) on the Marathon County Forest.
5. Drafted amendments to the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan to reflect forest certification, language and policy changes.
6. Park and forest rangers removed 12 illegal tree stands and 3 trail cameras from County Forest lands.
7. The Chief Ranger issued 7 citations on County Forest lands. One for operating a bike without paying the established fee, one for dumping waste, three for using a tree stand in an unauthorized manner and two for disorderly conduct.
8. Issued three ATV/UTV disabled person access permits to people with disabilities for County Forest access. One was revoked for not following the conditions of the permit.
9. Revisions were made to County Forest Ordinances and were adopted by the County Board.
10. Held quarterly meetings with the Forest Citizen's Advisory Subcommittee to discuss forestry and recreation issues.

Wildlife and Fisheries Management:

In cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:

1. Maintained 17 flowages.
2. Mowed forest openings, Nine Mile and Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit flowage dikes, several fields and the Bitzke Bird Walk trail.
3. Mowed most forest unit trails suitable for mowing.
4. Monitored status of black bear at Ringle, Leathercamp, Kronenwetter and Harrison-Hewitt Forest Units.
5. Treated 24 out of 71 forest openings in the forest units by either mowing or applying herbicides. Several other openings were field checked and didn't need treatment.
6. Seeded roads and trails with a wildlife mixture in Kronenwetter and Leather Camp Forest Units.

7. Removed cattails in front of the water control structure at Bern Forest Unit utilizing Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding. Removal of additional cattail masses will continue in 2017 and beyond.
8. Seeded wild rice in numerous flowages in Harrison-Hewitt Forest Units.
9. Completed a woodcock survey in Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit that showed increasing numbers of this species over previous years.
10. Chemically or manually treated tansy, spotted knapweed and thistle along flowage dikes.

Recreation:

Nine Mile County Forest Cross Country Ski Trails:

The ski season opened on December 29, 2015 and the chalet closed for the season on February 15, 2016. Total paid attendance at Nine Mile was 6,762 patrons; this includes 5,918 skiers and 844 people who snowshoed. These numbers represent a 35% decline in the number of participants from the previous season. This was due to a very short snow season.

The Wausau Nordic Ski Club offered free adult ski lessons on Tuesday evenings in January. The County assisted by allowing free ski rental and free ski passes for those taking lessons. This partnership was developed to help promote the ski area and increase the interest in cross country skiing.

The Snekkevik ski race was held in January and had 340 participants. Both Special Olympics' and the Badger State Games were canceled due to poor weather conditions. Stomp the Swamp Snowshoe race was again held in February with about 100 participants. Total annual receipts associated with skiing and snowshoe activity was \$61,982.40.

Ski Trail Maintenance at Nine Mile Forest Unit:

1. Brushing of all trails is ongoing, and the efforts of the volunteers are greatly appreciated.
2. Volunteers from the Nordic Ski Club sponsored work days in October. They performed tasks such as rock picking, lifting trees and brushing trails.
3. Trail signs were inspected and damaged trail signs replaced, some new signage added, this work will continue in 2017 as the signage is evaluated and updated.

Mountain Biking at Nine Mile Forest Unit:

The 2016 mountain bike season opened at noon on May 1st as scheduled. The bike trails closed as scheduled on October 15.

There were three Mountain Bike events held at Nine Mile in 2016; The Rib Mountain Adventure Challenge, Wisconsin Endurance Mountain Bike Series, and the Wausau 24. A total of 1,742 daily passes and 531 annual passes were sold in 2016. Total receipts associated with mountain biking in 2016 totaled \$26,057.48

Central Wisconsin Off-Road Cycling Coalition, (CWOCC) continues to be a great partner in maintaining the trail system. The volunteers donate many hours of their time to maintain the single track trails.

Other Recreation:

1. Six cross country running races were held at Nine Mile in 2016.
2. Sixty-six undesignated camping permits were issued for the county forests in 2016. Fifty were issued for Nine Mile Forest Unit.
3. The number of people using all County Forest Units continues to increase. Activities such as hiking, dog walking, berry picking and horseback riding are growing and the demand for more trails is increasing.
4. Five ATV safety classes were held in the north parking lot at Nine Mile Forest Unit.

Recreational GIS Mapping:

1. Completed changes for the 2015-2016 snowmobile maps for Marathon County.
2. Provided mapping for the CWOCC bike club.
3. Created a new Big Eau Pleine Park winter recreation map.
4. Created a new Big Eau Pleine Park Disc Golf Course map.
5. Updated the Nine Mile Cross Country Ski trail map.
6. Revised and updated the Sylvan Park winter map.
7. Updated the kids "Cookie trail" map for the Nine Mile Forest Unit ski trails.

Snowmobile Trails:

1. Trails were open 18 days during the 2015-16 season. Looking back 25 years, the seasonal average has been 46 days.
2. Six local snowmobile clubs contract with Marathon County to groom, sign, brush and perform other work related to maintaining the trail system on County Forest property.
3. Clubs are responsible for signing the trails to DNR specifications.
4. The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department annually update the snowmobile trail map for the Snowmobile Council to print.
5. Printed trail maps are made available at numerous locations throughout Marathon County.
6. Marathon County snowmobile clubs continue to receive financial assistance for trail maintenance from the Snowmobile and ATV Aids Programs through grants administered by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department and disbursed by the DNR.
7. The Wausau/Central Wisconsin Convention and Visitors Bureau maintain the snow and trail conditions hotline which is updated by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department as snow conditions change.
8. Current trail conditions are also updated by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department on the Marathon County website.
9. Marathon County was one of four Counties statewide to participate in the Wisconsin Snowmobile Automated Reporting System (SNARS) pilot program mandatory for snowmobile clubs statewide starting with the 2017-2018 season.

Burma Forest ATV/UTV Trails:

1. Through the summer and fall trails were rehabilitated using \$3,346.00 of State ATV and UTV trail maintenance funds.
2. The Mid-Wisconsin Trailblazers ATV Club, through a contract with Marathon County, was responsible for the routine maintenance of 11 miles of summer ATV/UTV trails.
3. Volunteers from the Mid-Wisconsin Trailblazers ATV Club continued their trail patrol to encourage safe and ethical riding. Patrol members talked to other riders about the importance of staying on the trail.

Public Outreach/Professional Development:

1. Tom served as a member of the Wisconsin County Forests Association

Legislative/Certification and Personnel Committees.

2. Tom served as a member of the Marathon County Deer Advisory Committee.
3. Contributed an article on Forestry that was included in the Forests Forever section of the Wausau Daily Herald.
4. Doug served as a member of the WDNR silvicultural guidance team representing the Wisconsin County Forests Association.
5. Attended several Society of American Foresters, Wisconsin County Forests Association and Forest Certification training sessions.
6. A presentation was given to students at Stoney Brook Elementary.
7. A presentation and field tour was given to a senior level UW-Stevens Point class on timber sale design and how to follow Best Management Practices for water quality.
8. Analyzed plant samples for insect and disease problems.
9. Interviewed by media on forestry related issues.
10. Created interpretive displays to educate the public about the benefits of sustainable forest management.
11. Cooperated on a tree recruitment research project with UW-Madison on County Forest land.
12. Assisted UW-Stevens Point on a study to determine how oak trees respond to thinning.
13. Participated in a research project on how seasonal timber harvesting restrictions affects sustainable forest management in Wisconsin.
14. Cooperated with UW-Madison on a climate change research project to determine how warming winters and pathogens could affect tree species in the future.
15. Attended leadership development training for Marathon County managers.

Budget Summaries(available upon request)

Forest Resources:

County Forest Program
 County Forest Administrator
 County Forest Road Aids
 County Conservation Aids
 FEMA Cattail Removal
 Sustainable Forestry
 Segregated Land
 Wildlife Habitat
 Forestry State Aid

Debt Redemption:

General Debt - Aid to County Forest

Recreation:

Burma Trail ATV 15-16
 Cross-Country Ski Trails
 General Fund - Snowmobile Coordinator
 Snowmobile Grant 15-16

Memo

To: Tom Lovlien, County Forest Administrator
From: Jon Daniels, Chief Ranger
Date: February 2, 2017
Re: 2016 County Forest Law Enforcement Report

The following is my report on county forest law enforcement activity from last year. I have listed each event in order by date of occurrence.

1. July 2, 2016 @ Nine Mile Forest; (1) citation issued to a 16 year old male for disorderly conduct with a motor vehicle. The driver of an auto with two male passengers was doing "donuts" in the Chalet parking lot.
2. June 21, 2016 @ Nine Mile Forest; (1) citation issued to a 43 year old male for disorderly personal conduct. A mountain biker urinating alongside his car in the Chalet parking lot.
3. August 26, 2016 @ Burma Forest; (1) tree stand seized.
4. September 28, 2016 @ Nine Mile Forest; (1) citation issued to a 33 year old male for using a facility without paying the established fee. A mountain biker riding trails without purchasing a trail pass.
5. October 2, 2016 @ Wisconsin River Forest; (1) citation issued to a 38 year old male for disposing of residential waste in a county forest. A Wausau resident dumped household refuse at the west end of Pine Bluff Rd.
6. November 2, 2016 @ Ringle Forest; (1) tree stand and (1) trail camera seized.
7. November 6, 2016 @ Kronenwetter Forest; (1) tree stand seized.
8. November 9, 2016 @ Kronenwetter Forest; (2) tree stands and (1) trail camera seized.
9. November 9, 2016 @ Ringle Forest; (1) citation issued to a 47 year old male for using a tree stand in an unauthorized manner. This stand was seized on 11/02/2016. His camera was returned with a warning for using a camera without identifying information.
10. November 16, 2016 @ Kronenwetter Forest; (1) citation issued to a 44 year old male for using a tree stand in an unauthorized manner. This stand was seized on 11/09/2016.
11. November 18, 2016 @ Leather Camp Forest; (1) tree stand seized.
12. November 19, 2016 @ Ringle Forest; (1) tree stand seized.
13. December 9, 2016 @ Kronenwetter Forest; (1) tree stand seized and @ Leather Camp Forest; (1) tree stand seized.
14. December 14, 2016 @ Leather Camp Forest; (1) citation issued to a 37 year old male for using a tree stand in an unauthorized manner. This stand was seized on 12/09/2016.
15. December 21, 2016; @ Kronenwetter Forest; trial jury found a 42 year old male guilty of using a tree stand in an unauthorized manner. This citation was issued on 12/01/2014.

Orange signs were placed on each tree from which a stand was seized. This sign references the county ordinance and provides a phone number if the owner wants to claim their stand.

2007-2016 FORESTRY DIVISION EXPENSE/REVENUE REPORT

Year	Gross Timber Sold Amount	Net Timber Sold Amount	Acres	Timber Revenue Even-Flow Budget	Net Timber Revenue Actual ¹	Other Revenue ²	Total Revenue	Expenses ³	Program Net
2007	\$344,274	\$240,992	707	\$213,000	\$514,204	\$54,656	\$568,860	\$345,131	\$223,729
2008	\$318,189	\$222,732	641	\$213,000	\$339,896	\$53,529	\$393,425	\$322,621	\$70,804
2009	\$321,155	\$224,809	619	\$213,000	\$203,327	\$55,849	\$259,176	\$350,989	(\$91,813)
2010	\$411,312	\$287,918	622	\$213,000	\$368,270	\$56,986	\$425,256	\$344,442	\$80,814
2011	\$374,005	\$261,804	551	\$213,000	\$293,943	\$60,870	\$354,813	\$357,721	(\$2,908)
2012	\$356,678	\$249,675	548	\$213,000	\$226,203	\$57,170	\$283,373	\$346,272	(\$62,899)
2013	\$298,173	\$208,721	543	\$213,000	\$333,986	\$53,239	\$387,225	\$308,336	\$78,889
2014	\$716,996	\$501,897	578	\$213,000	\$170,006	\$98,093	\$268,099	\$342,956	(\$74,857)
2015	\$531,420	\$371,994	596	\$245,000	\$46,457	\$57,908	\$104,365	\$345,387	(\$241,022)
2016	<u>\$488,343</u>	<u>\$341,840</u>	<u>666</u>	<u>\$245,000</u>	<u>\$371,716</u>	<u>\$58,385</u>	<u>\$430,101</u>	<u>\$341,930</u>	\$88,171
TOTALS	\$4,160,545	\$2,912,382	\$6,071	\$2,194,000	\$2,868,008	\$606,685	\$3,474,693	\$3,405,785	\$68,908

¹ Revenue to Marathon County after 20% payment to State for loans and 10% payment to townships

² Includes County Forest Administrator grant, firewood permits, bond recovery and misc. revenues

³ Includes all personnel and operating expenses

BLACKBERRY DR

WOODSMOKE RD

LAUREL RD

PEPPERBUSH LN

Acquisition Parcels

County Forest

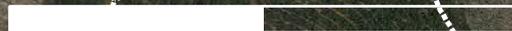
County Forest

RED BUD RD

Nine Mile County Forest Area



1,200 0 1,200 Feet



The Drones are Coming



Virtually anyone who has flown a quadcopter or other modern drone will say that they are a blast to fly. Drones combine the cool factor of impressive technology, the excitement of unmanned flight and the thrill of exploration, all in one amazingly simple and easy-to-operate package. Whether you fly alone, with friends or with your kids, flying drones is just plain fun.

But drones aren't only about fun. They will have an impact on virtually every aspect of our lives from agriculture to energy, scientific research, conservation, public safety and more. Drones have been labeled "disruptive technology," and held up as avatars of the mythical "billion-fold improvements" that have taken place in computing, imaging, aeronautics, medicine and other fields. Drones will come to shape our lives every bit as much as cellphones, tablet computers and other game-changing technology.

Futurists are abuzz with speculation that you will soon have your Amazon packages or Papa John's pizzas delivered to your door by drones. Mainstream media outlets breathlessly report breaking-news stories about unauthorized or potentially dangerous drones, such as the recent story of an errant drone piloted by a possibly inebriated operator in Washington, D.C., who, while reportedly trying to impress a female friend at 3 a.m., flew his friend's quadcopter from an apartment balcony a few blocks from the White House and crashed it on the White House grounds, causing major heartburn for the Secret Service.

Industry and media statistics on how many drones have been sold to the public differ slightly, but the sales totals almost defy belief. Hobby and commercial drones are reported to be selling at the rate of 15,000 or 16,000 per month, or almost 200,000 per year. That's a lot of people who will be looking to get outdoors and fly their new drones. And where will these people want to fly their drones? Why, in the wide open spaces designed for outdoor recreation, of course — parks!

There is no doubt drones are coming, and they are likely to have a profound effect on parks and recreation. The public and commercial use of drones will present substantial challenges to park managers very soon and agencies will do well to be prepared for the coming wave.

The Allure of Drones

It is not difficult to understand why drones are becoming so popular. Flying a drone is a cool thing to do. The technology is amazing, the flying is exciting, and if there was ever a gadget that appealed to people's imagination, drones would have to be near the top of the list.

Drones and quadcopters are also relatively inexpensive and easy to operate. But just as they are fun to fly, they are more than just cool toys. They represent a quantum leap in how technology can be used not just for personal enjoyment and enrichment, but also to expand human knowledge, aid research, fight environmental threats, save lives and much more. We haven't even plumbed the depths of what drones might be able to do, but we are starting to see those scenarios take shape.

There may be challenges ahead related to public flying of drones in parks, but there are also tantalizing opportunities for park agencies to utilize drone technology to fulfill important conservation, natural resource management and public-safety responsibilities. These include search-and-rescue operations, wildfire control, managing threatened natural areas, mapping the spread of invasive species, monitoring remote park locations and others. Drones may be able to provide agencies substantial time and cost savings for a wide variety of tasks. There is no doubt that drones are already stimulating interest among park planners, GIS specialists, park managers, rangers and even recreation program staff. Some agencies are already making plans for how they might use drones.

From a recreational perspective, one of the most popular uses of hobby drones is for photography. New drones can carry high-resolution cameras with onboard image stabilization and other advances. "It's all new," says Eric Cheng, director of aerial imagery for DJI, one of the largest manufacturers of hobby and commercial drones in the world. In a recent interview, he said the ability of drones to facilitate extraordinary new ways to photograph objects and landscapes has provoked intense curiosity and public interest. "The view from right overhead is unique. Nobody has ever seen such photographs before, and you are taking them. It's exhilarating."

Legitimate Fears

So what's not to like about drones? Well, crashes, lost drones, operator errors, mechanical failures, privacy invasions and other undesirable consequences of inept or irresponsible drone flying, just to name a few reasons. Such outcomes are becoming an increasing concern of those responsible for public safety, not to mention the ever-present threat of a drone being used in a terrorist plot. There is already a compendium of hair-raising stories of near-misses or collisions with drones including reports of drones flying too close to aircraft or in other highly inappropriate locations. Reports of drones flying within 50 feet of commercial aircraft at New York City airports make some believe that a collision with an airliner is not a matter of if, but when.

Parks have not been exempt from problems created by irresponsibly piloted drones, including a number of high-profile incidents at iconic national parks such as Zion and Grand Canyon. A

widely reported incident occurred at Mount Rushmore National Park when a hobby drone was launched from a parking lot, hovered over a crowd of 1,500 people gathered for an evening program at the monument, and then flew over and around the four sculpted heads before being flown back to the parking lot. Other public complaints about inappropriate or unauthorized use of drones have been received by the National Park Service (NPS), including harassment of wildlife, noise at iconic scenic viewing points and drone crashes in parks.

Jeffrey Olson, public affairs officer for NPS, says that the prohibition on unmanned aircraft in national parks issued by Director Jon Jarvis in a policy memo last June was “basically a timeout.” The ban on new drone flying was prompted by public complaints concerning incidents similar to what happened at Mount Rushmore. NPS management policies call for careful consideration of any “new form of recreation,” which drone flying clearly is, and the impact of this activity has not been evaluated. The administrative action will trigger a review of existing and proposed policies and will lead to a Notice of Proposed Regulation, a process that is likely to take about 18 months, according to Olson.

Incidents from rogue operators or inexperienced pilots are not the only concern. Privacy advocates, industrial and national security experts, and law enforcement officials are very concerned about the potential use of drones in terrorist plots or other criminal activity. Drones are starting to be a concern at virtually every large-scale public event that someone might want to observe or photograph, such as a drone that buzzed Chicago Park District’s Lollapalooza Festival last year. The Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) even went so far as to declare the 2015 Super Bowl a “No Drone Zone,” and issued an advisory to enjoy the game, but “leave your drone at home.”

Concerns about drones range from the relatively minor annoyance of crashes in open areas to the very deep concern regarding bad behavior by pilots whose ignorance or dangerous operation of drones can literally endanger people’s lives. Many drone enthusiasts are concerned about rogue operators giving all operators a black eye. “The rogues are outliers,” according to Jon Resnick, policy and marketing representative for DJI. Christopher Vo, president of the [DC Area Drone User Group](#), says, “There are a lot of people who are interested in flying safely and who just want to find places to fly.”

Nonetheless, there are still many concerns about drones from a variety of quarters, especially park agencies that many expect to be on the front lines of managing public flying of hobby drones. Vo agrees that crashes and uncontrolled descents are an issue. “Everyone who gets their first drone and takes it out to fly will crash — that’s almost a guarantee,” he says. “But it is not necessarily a problem, just a reality. The solution is user education about where it is safe to fly and to not fly near buildings or over private property.” Technology improvements, says Vo, such as inexpensive onboard infrared sensors and downward-facing cameras will help measure changes in speed and assist automatic hold, takeoff and landing. “It is also why the industry is trying to make drones lighter, stronger and safer,” he says.

Vo points out that how a drone is flown is a factor in how safe it is. There are two principal methods of piloting drones, First-Person-View (FPV) and Line-of-Sight flying. In FPV flight, the operator flies the aircraft through the lens of an onboard camera. Some think this is a largely

unsafe way to fly, and that hobby drones should be only be flown by line-of-sight with a spotter present at all times the drone is in operation.

Rules Not Well Understood; Guidance Lacking

With the large numbers of hobby drones being purchased daily and intense interest in commercial use growing, it is perplexing that there is so little understanding of exactly what the federal rules are for operating drones. The FAA regulates all U.S. airspace and there are strict rules for any type of aircraft flying above 500 feet. The rules governing unmanned aircraft systems, however, have been criticized for being seriously out of date.

Commercially flown drones present a different set of issues than hobby drones. Guidance for the operation of both commercial and hobby drones has been long-awaited and significantly overdue. At present, virtually all commercial use of drones is currently prohibited without a very difficult-to-obtain Certificate of Authorization (COA), but few rules govern hobby drones. Since sophisticated and versatile hobby drones can be purchased easily and without licensing requirements to operate them, not many people know what is actually allowed and what is prohibited by law.

Just before publication of this edition of *Parks & Recreation* magazine, the details of a Notice of Proposed Regulation by the FAA for commercial drone use were inadvertently posted online, and the FAA was essentially forced to release the entire proposal over a holiday weekend. To the commercial drone user's relief, the proposed regulations are being viewed as reasonable. They would not require operators to have a pilot's license as some had feared, and the training and costs to obtain a required FAA operator's certificate would not be prohibitive. Other proposed restrictions include a 500-foot ceiling, operation by line-of-sight only, and no flying above any people except those involved with the drone flight, such as a spotter. So, damp your expectations — no drone pizza deliveries to your door for now. The 60-day public comment period has now closed. The review and rule-making is expected to take up to two years. Cheng believes the FAA will need to issue some interim guidance for commercial users before the proposed rule becomes final, however, because there is such interest from potential commercial users for innovation and applications.

The recent FAA announcement indicated that guidance on hobby drones will be issued in the near future. The Academy of Model Aeronautics has advocated for more education and user training of drone operators and has supported the idea that hobby drone operators be required to obtain an operator's certificate or become a part of an organized model aircraft club.

If FAA-proposed rules do require hobby drone operators to be part of an organized club as some expect, there is likely to be an uptick in the membership of local model airplane clubs and drone user groups accompanied by an increasing demand for more public spaces in which to fly drones. But solutions may not be simple. It is true that many park and recreation agencies have a long history of providing model aircraft clubs space to fly radio-controlled planes, but virtually none are prepared for drone users. In addition, some park managers who currently provide parkland for radio-control clubs believe that flying fixed-wing RC planes and quadcopters on the same fields is not workable or desirable. This may mean that there will be new demands for drone-

flying areas and that park agencies will need to expand the search for suitable spaces for this purpose.

Policies for Public Flying in Parks Unformulated

While the popularity of drones is growing exponentially, the awareness of park and recreation agency personnel who will need to manage them is not. In response to a query on NRPA Connect, a number of park administrators said their agencies either had no policies on drones or that they were unaware of any if they did.

One conclusion was clear from conversations with park agencies across the country: Those park agency personnel who have not anticipated the boom in public drone flying will be caught unprepared both on a policy level and a management level. An important lesson is emerging — if your agency hasn't started thinking about how to manage drones, it's time to start thinking about it now.

Those agencies that react with blanket prohibitions on drone flying will find them difficult to enforce and they will do a disservice to people who are just looking for a place to safely recreate. Decades of successful experience providing space for model airplane fliers have shown that park agencies can and do accommodate this kind of outdoor recreation compatibly with other activities.

Vo says, "Most of our users are law-abiding and only want to fly. But a lot of us who want to fly safely and responsibly simply don't have any places to fly. A lot of park agencies turn us down because they just don't want to deal with us." The good news for drone users like Vo is that some agencies are expressing willingness to consider how they could accommodate the drone-flying public.

Many Agencies Anticipate Using Drones Themselves

Even if some agencies are unprepared for public drone use, quite a few are thinking about how they might use drones for a variety of management, monitoring, mapping and public safety applications.

The requirements for obtaining a COA from the FAA to use unmanned aircraft systems for governmental or research purposes are quite rigorous, but Cleveland Metroparks (CMP) was willing to go the distance, said Brian Zimmerman, executive director of CMP. "When we saw the potential, we never wavered," he said. They have obtained a COA for a research project to monitor the Rising Valley wetlands complex, the largest freshwater wetlands in their park system.

Stephen Mather, geographic information systems supervisor, says that to map and study the wetlands is extremely time-consuming and difficult to accomplish. By employing a small fixed-wing drone, they will be able to do 3D mapping of surface topography and plant communities as well as track the spread of invasive species, monitor stormwater events, and create other datasets in real time to better manage and protect this valuable wetland. "We will also use the drone on a

forest restoration project, and we hope to use it to do an ongoing assessment of shoreline infrastructure along Lake Erie,” Mather says. “With resolution accurate to within an inch, we can create 3D maps of new construction and monitor its condition over time.”

The Future of Drones in Parks

Cheng of DJI says, “We are in the earliest stages of drone technology and it is literally improving daily.” According to Cheng, there will be reliable, redundant return-home programming; mandatory no-fly software to prevent flying in federally designated no-fly zones; more autonomy and self-aware behavior; “follow-me” technology; and much more safety-related decision-making capability. “There is no reason that a drone should ever fly into a tree or building, and every drone will have sufficient power to return home.”

What’s on the horizon for drones in parks? Well, consider that drone fliers are already envisioning drone racing just like the old air races of the 1950s. Fly-ins, drone-building workshops and educational programs for drone users are already in the minds of forward-looking parks personnel. And the potential applications of commercial, hobby and agency-operated drones are mind-expanding. Hummingbird and nano-drones could aid in citizen science projects and enhance STEM learning opportunities for teens and adults. And what kid (under adult supervision of course) wouldn’t want to get connected to nature and the outdoors using a drone to observe and discover our natural world?

When asked if he could ever envision a future in which drone use in national parks could be common, Olson says, “Yes, probably, but the question will be where such use would be approved.”

So, what would the ideal future look like for users? Vo says, “Ideally, there would be park sites set aside for model aviation and open to users to fly their aircraft. There would be a way for users to communicate with park managers about what they were permitted to do and what they wanted to do. There would be a way for them to query the park managers about conditions and to be able to schedule times to fly. And there would be times and places where we could be able to educate others.” Possible? We’ll see.

[Richard J. Dolesh](#) is NRPA’s Vice President of Conservation and Parks.

FAA News



Federal Aviation Administration, Washington, DC 20591

June 21, 2016

SUMMARY OF SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT RULE (PART 107)

Operational Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unmanned aircraft must weigh less than 55 lbs. (25 kg).• Visual line-of-sight (VLOS) only; the unmanned aircraft must remain within VLOS of the remote pilot in command and the person manipulating the flight controls of the small UAS. Alternatively, the unmanned aircraft must remain within VLOS of the visual observer.• At all times the small unmanned aircraft must remain close enough to the remote pilot in command and the person manipulating the flight controls of the small UAS for those people to be capable of seeing the aircraft with vision unaided by any device other than corrective lenses.• Small unmanned aircraft may not operate over any persons not directly participating in the operation, not under a covered structure, and not inside a covered stationary vehicle.• Daylight-only operations, or civil twilight (30 minutes before official sunrise to 30 minutes after official sunset, local time) with appropriate anti-collision lighting.• Must yield right of way to other aircraft.• May use visual observer (VO) but not required.• First-person view camera cannot satisfy "see-and-avoid" requirement but can be used as long as requirement is satisfied in other ways.• Maximum groundspeed of 100 mph (87 knots).• Maximum altitude of 400 feet above ground level (AGL) or, if higher than 400 feet AGL, remain within 400 feet of a structure.• Minimum weather visibility of 3 miles from control station.• Operations in Class B, C, D and E airspace are allowed with the required ATC permission.• Operations in Class G airspace are allowed without ATC permission.• No person may act as a remote pilot in command or VO for more than one unmanned aircraft operation at one time.• No operations from a moving aircraft.• No operations from a moving vehicle unless the operation is over a sparsely populated area.• No careless or reckless operations.• No carriage of hazardous materials.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires preflight inspection by the remote pilot in command. • A person may not operate a small unmanned aircraft if he or she knows or has reason to know of any physical or mental condition that would interfere with the safe operation of a small UAS. • Foreign-registered small unmanned aircraft are allowed to operate under part 107 if they satisfy the requirements of part 375. • External load operations are allowed if the object being carried by the unmanned aircraft is securely attached and does not adversely affect the flight characteristics or controllability of the aircraft. • Transportation of property for compensation or hire allowed provided that- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The aircraft, including its attached systems, payload and cargo weigh less than 55 pounds total; ○ The flight is conducted within visual line of sight and not from a moving vehicle or aircraft; and ○ The flight occurs wholly within the bounds of a State and does not involve transport between (1) Hawaii and another place in Hawaii through airspace outside Hawaii; (2) the District of Columbia and another place in the District of Columbia; or (3) a territory or possession of the United States and another place in the same territory or possession. • Most of the restrictions discussed above are waivable if the applicant demonstrates that his or her operation can safely be conducted under the terms of a certificate of waiver.
<p>Remote Pilot in Command Certification and Responsibilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes a remote pilot in command position. • A person operating a small UAS must either hold a remote pilot airman certificate with a small UAS rating or be under the direct supervision of a person who does hold a remote pilot certificate (remote pilot in command). • To qualify for a remote pilot certificate, a person must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demonstrate aeronautical knowledge by either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Passing an initial aeronautical knowledge test at an FAA-approved knowledge testing center; or ▪ Hold a part 61 pilot certificate other than student pilot, complete a flight review within the previous 24 months, and complete a small UAS online training course provided by the FAA. ○ Be vetted by the Transportation Security Administration. ○ Be at least 16 years old. • Part 61 pilot certificate holders may obtain a temporary remote pilot certificate immediately upon submission of their application for a permanent certificate. Other applicants will obtain a temporary remote pilot certificate upon successful completion of TSA security vetting. The FAA anticipates that it will be able to issue a temporary remote pilot certificate within 10 business days after receiving a completed remote pilot certificate application. • Until international standards are developed, foreign-

	<p>certificated UAS pilots will be required to obtain an FAA-issued remote pilot certificate with a small UAS rating.</p> <p>A remote pilot in command must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make available to the FAA, upon request, the small UAS for inspection or testing, and any associated documents/records required to be kept under the rule. • Report to the FAA within 10 days of any operation that results in at least serious injury, loss of consciousness, or property damage of at least \$500. • Conduct a preflight inspection, to include specific aircraft and control station systems checks, to ensure the small UAS is in a condition for safe operation. • Ensure that the small unmanned aircraft complies with the existing registration requirements specified in § 91.203(a)(2). <p>A remote pilot in command may deviate from the requirements of this rule in response to an in-flight emergency.</p>
<p>Aircraft Requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAA airworthiness certification is not required. However, the remote pilot in command must conduct a preflight check of the small UAS to ensure that it is in a condition for safe operation.
<p>Model Aircraft</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 107 does not apply to model aircraft that satisfy all of the criteria specified in section 336 of Public Law 112-95. • The rule codifies the FAA's enforcement authority in part 101 by prohibiting model aircraft operators from endangering the safety of the NAS.

850 – UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE OR DRONE USE

I. SUBJECT MATTER DESCRIPTION

What are the limitations on the public's use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs, also commonly referred to as "drones") within the context of natural resource related activities and existing hunting, fishing, trapping, wildlife viewing, and WDNR land use regulations?

II. INFORMATION & REFERENCES

A. HUNTING

s. 29.001, Stats.

Definitions. *In this chapter, unless the context requires otherwise:*

(6) "Aircraft" means any contrivance invented, used or designed for navigation of or flight in the air.

s. 29.307, Stats.

Hunting with aid of aircraft prohibited.

(1) No person may hunt any animal with the aid of an aircraft, including the use of an aircraft to spot, group or drive, or otherwise attempt to affect the behavior of, animals for hunters on the ground.

Analysis

By statutory definition, unmanned aerial vehicles are considered aircraft, and are subject to the general "hunting with the aid of aircraft" prohibition. The broad text of the aircraft hunting prohibition means that UAVs effectively have no lawful role in assisting hunters while pursuing game in Wisconsin.

Examples of prohibited uses:

- Utilizing a weapon-equipped UAV to hunt
- Using any type of information, including digital signals, originating from a UAV (e.g. imaging-equipped) to assist with hunting, whether such signals are delivered via third-party or directly via electronic device
- Hunting animals that have been affected in any way (including grouped or driven) by the visual or auditory presence, or action of a UAV
- Searching for wounded/potentially downed game while hunting

B. FISHING

s. NR 20.05, Wis. Adm. Code.

General restrictions. *No person may do any of the following:*

(1) Fish by any means other than hook and line except as specifically authorized in this chapter or chs. NR 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25.

s. NR 20.06, Wis. Adm. Code.

Hook and line fishing. *No person may do any of the following:*

(10) Fish in open water with a free-floating, remote controlled or anchored buoyant device with attached hook and line that is not held or otherwise controlled by the angler with the use of a line connected to the device.

Analysis

Consistent with the department's position on remote-control boats, UAVs (as remotely controlled devices, wireless or tethered) are generally not an authorized method for fishing. The only exception to this is if the line to which the hook is attached is routed through the UAV and back to the operator, such that the angler can attend the line and immediately respond to indication of a bite.

C. TRAPPING

s. NR 19.25, Wis. Adm. Code.

Wild animal protection. *Unless engaged in dog training or dog trials as authorized by the department in s. NR 17.001 (3) and (5), or other activity specifically authorized by the department, a closed season is established and no person may harass, disturb, pursue, shoot, trap, catch, take, or kill protected wild animals by any means, except as described under s. NR 12.10 (1) (b) 4.*

Analysis

UAV use while trapping is generally unregulated, likely because UAVs theoretically provide little benefit to trapping activities. However, the general “wild animal protection” code provision would prevent a UAV from being used to harass or disturb animals in an attempt to drive them into traps. Additionally, an imaging-equipped UAV cannot be used to meet trap tending requirements, similar to the department’s position that current law does not permit remotely-viewed cameras to sufficiently meet these obligations.

D. WILDLIFE VIEWING

s. NR 19.25, Wis. Adm. Code.

Wild animal protection. *Unless engaged in dog training or dog trials as authorized by the department in s. NR 17.001 (3) and (5), or other activity specifically authorized by the department, a closed season is established and no person may harass, disturb, pursue, shoot, trap, catch, take, or kill protected wild animals by any means, except as described under s. NR 12.10 (1) (b) 4.*

Analysis

The use of an UAV for observing or photographing wildlife is somewhat restricted, because a UAV cannot harass or disturb the animals, in accordance with s. NR 19.25, Wis. Adm. Code. Wildlife enthusiasts must be particularly sensitive to the auditory and visual senses of species in the vicinity of UAV operations, as predator/prey behavior and territorial instincts frequently cue from visual observations and noises, including reflections and shadows, or sounds inaudible to humans.

Factors/situations where UAV use may rise to the level of “harass” or “disturb”:

- Using a UAV in a manner that disturbs an animal’s natural behavior, such as causing a bird to leave its nest or altering the path an animal travels because of the visual or auditory presence, or action of a UAV
- Interfering with migration or hibernation through the use or presence of a UAV
- Creating harassment zones through the use of an UAV to alter the natural presence or movement of animals, unless authorized by the department as a nuisance wildlife abatement measure

E. WDNR LANDS

s. NR 45.04(1)(c), Wis. Adm. Code.

(c) Flying related activities, including but not limited to, hang gliding, parasailing, hot air ballooning, land sailing, flying model airplanes or sky diving on state parks, state recreation areas, state natural areas, Kettle Moraine and Point Beach state forests and Lower Wisconsin state riverway shall be restricted to areas posted for their use.

Analysis

The use of UAVs is prohibited, except where posted for their use, at state parks, state recreation areas, state natural areas, Kettle Moraine and Point Beach state forests, and the Lower Wisconsin state riverway. UAV use is currently unregulated by NR 45 at state wildlife areas, other state forests, and additional DNR lands not otherwise included in s. NR45.04(1)(c), Wis. Adm. Code. For regulations on other government owned properties (local, county, state, federal), users will need to contact the appropriate supervising authority.

III. BACKGROUND

As UAV technology and prevalence continues to increase, existing legal frameworks will be challenged to assess, adapt, and integrate UAV regulation. Current Wisconsin law adequately addresses most proposed UAV uses within the conservation context, although constant innovation necessitates diligent intervention when new, unanticipated uses are proposed that challenge the biological, public safety, or fair chase principles upon which Wisconsin's conservation laws are based.

NOTE: Potential users are responsible for researching and adhering to all applicable laws affecting the deployment of UAV technology. This document presents an interpretive summary of certain Wisconsin natural resource laws applicable to UAV use; other sections of state and federal law, including FAA regulations, may impose additional controlling provisions.

IV. APPROVAL

Todd Schaller
Chief Warden - Bureau of Law Enforcement

V. REVISION HISTORY

4-1-15: Created

Forestry Mill Tax: The Forestry Mill Tax is authorized in both the Wisconsin Constitution and the Wisconsin Statutes.

Wisconsin Constitution - Article VIII, Section 10, (3). "The state may appropriate moneys for the purpose of acquiring, preserving and developing the forests of the state. Of the moneys appropriated under the authority of this subsection in any one year an amount not to exceed two-tenths of one mill of the taxable property of the state as determined by the last preceding state assessment may be raised by a tax on property". (1924 amendment to the Constitution.)

Wisconsin Statute 70.58, Forestation State Tax (Forestry Mill Tax). "There is levied an annual tax of two-tenths of one mill for each dollar of the assessed valuation of the property of the state as determined by the department of revenue under s. 70.57, for the purpose of acquiring, preserving and developing the forests of the state and for the purpose of forest crop law and county forest law administration and aid payments, and for the acquisition, purchase and development of forests described under s. 25.29 (7) (a) (b), the proceeds of the tax to be paid into the conservation fund. The tax shall not be levied in any year in which general funds are appropriated for the purposes specified in this section, equal to or in excess of the amount which the tax would produce". (First created in 1931, mill tax was set at 2/10 mill in 1937).

The establishment of this tax provided a process that has generated a revenue source from which the state has been able to establish an effective forestry effort. The tax provides stable, dependable financing from which the Legislature has funded projects that significantly benefit the citizens of the state. George Blanchard, a State Senator from Rock County, and William Aberg, a Madison attorney and active member of the Izaak Walton League, were instrumental in the establishment of the Forestry Mill Tax legislation; Governor Kohler signed the legislation into law.

70.58 Forestation state tax.

(1) Except as provided in sub. (2), there is levied an annual tax of two-tenths of one mill for each dollar of the assessed valuation of the property of the state as determined by the department of revenue under s. 70.57, for the purpose of acquiring, preserving and developing the forests of the state and for the purpose of forest crop law and county forest law administration and aid payments, for grants to forestry cooperatives under s. 36.56, and for the acquisition, purchase and development of forests described under s. 25.29 (7) (a) and (b), the proceeds of the tax to be paid into the conservation fund. The tax shall not be levied in any year in which general funds are appropriated for the purposes specified in this section, equal to or in excess of the amount which the tax would produce.

(2) In each of 3 years beginning with the property tax assessments as of January 1, 2005, the department of revenue shall adjust the rate of the tax imposed under this section so that the percentage increase from the previous year in the total amount levied under this section does not exceed 2.6 percent. The rate determined by the department of revenue for the property tax assessment as of January 1, 2007, shall be the rate of the tax imposed under this section for all subsequent years.

History: 1975 c. 39 s. 734; 1977 c. 29, 418; 1979 c. 34; 1983 a. 27; 1989 a. 359; 1999 a. 9; 2005 a. 25.