

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 **December 19, 2018.**

Members: Mike Lane (chair), Marcell Wieloch (vice-chair), John Burke, Mark Chickering, Gary Weiland, Susan Haug, Dale Heil, Paul Klocko, Greg Klos, Ryan Schleifer, Equestrian Representative vacant

A G E N D A

- I. Minutes
 - A. Approve Minutes of the September 19, 2018 Meeting

- II. New Business
 - A. Discussion on Equestrian Vacancy and Other Interest Group Possibilities
 - B. 2019 County Forest and Wildlife Work Plans
 - C. 2018 County Conservation Aids Project
 - D. 2018 Fall Timber Bid Opening and Summary
 - E. Park Foundation Land Donation to Marathon County
 - F. Potential Land Acquisitions in the Town of Hewitt
 - G. 2019 Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Budget
 - H. Sustainable Forestry Grant Application
 - I. Cross Country Ski and Snowshoe Update
 - J. Application for an Ironbull Event at Nine Mile
 - K. Member Items

- III. Old Business
 - A. Ragnar Trail Relay Running Race Summary
 - B. Update on Study Regarding Snow Making at Nine Mile Forest - Burke
 - C. Update on the Process to Delist Wolves
 - D. 2018 Deer Season Harvest and Activity Levels on County Forest
 - E. E-Bike Discussion and Demonstration on Different Classes of Electric Assist Bikes

- IV. 2019 Tentative Meeting Dates – March 13, June 5, September 18 and December 18 at 6:00 pm.

- 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, Mark Chickering, Susan Haug, Paul Klocko, Mike Lane, Dale Heil, Ryan Schleifer, Marcell Wieloch

Excused: Gary Weiland, Greg Klos

Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Rec, and Forestry Department staff present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director, Joe Tucker-County Forester

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

I. Minutes

Motion by Wieloch to approve the June 6, 2018 minutes. Motion **carried**.

III. New Business

A. Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee Appointments

Lovlien said that the Forestry Committee had appointed the five returning members of this committee. Carol Mills has resigned so the equestrian representative position is vacant. There has been no response from advertising the vacancy. Lovlien asked members to let him know of any one that may be interested. He asked for other options if he cannot find an equestrian member like a new interest group or another general member. Members suggested an Ice Age Trail representative (general hiking) or adjacent landowner. Burke thought they should try and get an equestrian member back on the Committee. Lovlien will advertise again for the equestrian representative.

B. Review the 2018 Fall Timber Sale Package

Tucker explained that the sale offers 435 acres of timber on seven tracts with an estimated volume of 19,780 tons and 263.0 thousand board feet. Tucker explained that tract 5-18 didn't sell in the spring and is being re-advertised. Tucker discussed all of the sales. The sales will be advertised and the bid opening is October 2nd. Questions were answered.

C. Nine Mile County Forest Oak Scarification and Regeneration Project

Tucker explained that he finished establishing a timber sale at Nine Mile that will be advertised this spring. The sale is predominantly the beginning of an oak regeneration sale of 54 acres also a small stand of over-mature aspen and maple. A good portion of the sale will be regenerated for oak that are along the snowmobile trail. There was a lot of brush in the understory, some red maple, and not many oak seedlings so the DNR scarified to rough up the ground and remove the brush. A lot of the oak forests have brush competition because fires have been suppressed for so many years. Scarification is a good way to mimic the fire disturbance by reducing the litter layer and brush competition. The oak acorn crop is good this year so the seed bed is prepped and there could be up to 3000 seedlings per acre. Staff is looking to do this elsewhere based on what they can manage in terms of coordinating this type of work. Tucker met with the leadership from the ski club about the timber sale to discuss aesthetic and snow management issues along the trail. Questions were answered.

D. Results of the 2018 County Forest Certification Audit

A. Lovlien said the audit is held in four or five different counties every year. There were no corrective actions for either SFI or FSC. There were two minor opportunities for improvement. One was for some ponding of water on a County forest gas tax road and the other for a forester who had his chemical applicator certification lapse. Lovlien said Marathon County will be one of the counties audited in 2020.

E. Forestry Division Timber Sale Revenue Projection for 2018

Last year's net revenue was just over \$243,000. That followed a year with a poor winter and tough markets. To date the revenue is about \$549,000. Lovlien noted 20% goes to the State to pay back an interest free loan and 10% goes back to the towns in lieu of taxes. Currently, there are two active timber jobs and two more may be starting. Lovlien said if it stays dry and a good freeze occurs in December it could be the second highest revenue on record. He said timber contracts are two to three years so fluctuations occur based upon weather and markets. The even flow amount is set at \$245,000.

F. Press Release – Wisconsin County Forests Association Receives Tourism Grant

Lovlien said this is the second year a tourism grant has been received from the State to promote grouse and woodcock hunting in Wisconsin. The Leather Camp Forest Unit is an area displayed on an interactive website. The Association is eligible to apply one more year for this grant. This year the amount was approximately \$2,000.

G. Results of the Cross Country Skiing Survey From the 2017-2018 Season

Lovlien said overall the survey showed a positive reflection of skiing experiences. The majority of the customers really liked the grooming while others did not. There were differing opinions on when grooming should occur and also when the trails should open. Lovlien noted that the trails and chalet aren't open until after the last gun deer season and the hope is to be open for the holiday season.

H. Wausau 24 and Wisconsin Endurance Mountain Bike Race Participation and Revenue

Lovlien reported that Wausau 24 had 561 participants and the revenue was \$5411.20. The WEMS race had 75 participants and revenues of \$611.00. Both events were well run.

I. Badger State Games Winter Triathlon Event at Nine Mile Forest January 27, 2019

Burke said this joint venture between the Central Wisconsin Off Road Cycling Coalition (CWOCC) and the Wausau Nordic Ski Club will be a winter triathlon held the day after the cross country skiing events of Badger State Games. The winter triathlon will consist of cross country skiing, biking and snowshoeing. The Forestry Committee has given a one day exception that allows biking at Nine Mile. The bike and ski clubs are going to advertise that there is no early or late bike riding so it will only be during the morning event from 9am to noon on Sunday. Bike riding will only be on existing trails. Most of the single track grooming is going to be done by the clubs and crossing of ski trails will be mostly at ninety degree angles. Lovlien said the event will be evaluated for future years. There will be no resource damage and is a good thing for the community. Burke said the intent is not to bike on ski trails but to utilize existing bike trails/snowshoe trails. Certain trails will be closed but they don't intend on using all of the trails. They may use bike trails that are east of Red Bud Road where there are no snowshoers but that is still to be determined.

J. Member Items

Lane questioned if the County could sell birch seedlings and collect the revenues. Lovlien said in some northern counties there are major issues with theft of birch and he does not want to create problems like that here. Marathon County doesn't have a lot of birch so not a lot of problems either. Questions were answered. Polley mentioned that there will be a presentation on E-bikes at the upcoming Parks Commission and Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. It is being organized by the Marathon County Pedestrian and Bicycle Committee who want people to understand what the bikes are because there are a lot of misconceptions. This is not a consideration of any policy change it's strictly an educational presentation. Staff's biggest concern would be regulation on certain types of E-bikes. Chickering felt as awareness builds, public opinion changes and right now there is a general non acceptance of E-bikes by the mountain bike community but that is starting to change. Polley also mentioned that there are options for winter bike riding at Big Eau Pleine and that the Ringle landfill is opening its first section of mountain bike trail there this fall.

II. Old Business

A. Nine Mile Forest Bird Survey Completed by Wausau Bird Club

Haug and another member of the Wausau Bird Club completed a bird survey in June and early July to determine if cerulean warblers were present. Cerulean warblers are a State threatened bird and species guidelines prohibits harvesting some timber stands until after August 24 due to nesting birds. No warblers were heard or seen within the harvest area which allows for harvesting on or after July 16. This allowed the logging contractor to move into the sale early. Lovlien thanked the Bird Club for completing the survey. Two male hooded warblers were heard outside of the area which has a different species habitat and staff will have to determine what that means for future timber sales.

B. Ragnar Trail Relay Running Race September 21-22, 2018 at Nine Mile

Lovlien said set up has started for the race. The race will be Friday and Saturday. There will be around 3000 runners. This is the first year there may be some adverse weather including cold and rain. Burke mentioned the organizers are urging people to not come until Friday and that they should bring warm clothes.

C. Update on Feasibility Study Regarding Snow Making at Nine Mile Forest

Burke said the Wausau Ski Club has commissioned a snow making technical feasibility study with HKD out of Utah. HKD has provided them with an initial idea of what it would take to create a snow making venue at Nine Mile of approximately

three kilometers of skiable trail. He noted that this is just in the beginning stages and has to go through an approval process. From getting the County on board as far as wanting to accept a project like this and maintain it over the period of time and the challenges of financing it. The next step is to study the economic feasibility. Trying to decide what snow making can do from a revenue standpoint as well as offset additional expenses that may be incurred as a result of having it. The system being looked at is heavy on infrastructure installation up front which means less operating expense on the other end. What it involves is putting piping in the ground and having head stands every 200 meters or so which makes it easier to just move the snow making equipment around. The other alternative is to build a big pile and move the snow which involves a lot of time and effort and labor in terms of moving the snow. This is cheaper initially but more costly to operate over the long term. This would be a project that can be done all at once or phased in. They will be having a board meeting in the near future and have to decide if they want to continue looking into this. Burke discussed some of the other ski areas that make snow. Lane questioned what the water source would be. Burke said the ground and that question needs to be answered. Is there enough water available? More likely a pond would be built by the north parking lot on the west end. It would be filled during the course of the year and discharged for snowmaking. Snowmaking would run one to two weeks.

D. Remaining 2018 Fall Events at Nine Mile Forest – Ragnar Trail Relay Race - Sept 21-22, Edgar Cross Country Trail Running Race - Sept. 25, High School Bike Race - Oct 6-7, Edgar Cross Country Trail Running Race - Oct. 11, DC Everest Cross Country Trail Running Race - Oct. 13, Mountain Bike season closes October 15, ATV Training - north snowmobile parking lot - Oct 20.

IV. Remaining 2018 Meeting Dates – December 19, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

V. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Wieloch. Motion **carried**. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Thomas Lovlien
Secretary

Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department Forestry Division 2019 Work Plan

Personnel:	Forest Administrator	1.00 FTE
	County Forester	0.80 FTE
	Director	0.06 FTE
	Department Clerical Support	0.50 FTE
	Maintenance Specialist (labor)	0.26 FTE
	Maintenance Technician (labor)	0.26 FTE
	Chief Ranger	0.04 FTE
	DNR Cooperative Assistance (State Funded)	0.30 FTE
	 Total	 3.22 FTE

A. Timber Management:

1. Evaluate a minimum of 5% of the forest (1500 acres) and update compartment reconnaissance.
2. Establish and advertise 625-675 acres of timber for sale. Timber sale acreage and locations are determined using the Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System (WisFIRS) and proposed harvest maps in chapter 900 of the County Fifteen Year Comprehensive Plan. Specific locations and details about timber harvests scheduled for the coming year can be obtained by contacting the County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Office.
3. Administer the cutting and scaling of twenty-five timber sales on 1,722 acres established on County Forest Land with an estimated stumpage value of \$1,173,428.11.
4. Allow forest succession to naturally convert some oak and aspen stands to hardwood.
5. Complete deer browse surveys at Big Eau Pleine Park and County forests to determine to what extent tree regeneration is being affected.
6. Utilize a DNR Sustainable Forestry Grant if awarded to remove undesirable brush and trees to allow for oak regeneration.
7. Classify habitat types on a minimum of 1000 acres.
8. Calculate allowable harvest levels out 20 and 30 years to ensure sustainability.
9. Evaluate 35-40 year-old aspen stands to determine feasibility of harvesting stands early to improve age class distribution and stabilize harvest levels.
10. Issue approximately 20 firewood permits.
11. Evaluate release needs for all acres of red pine planted since 2002. Release plantations by mechanical or herbicides as needed.

12. Continue to assist the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with an oak wilt study to confirm the frill-girdle-herbicide method to stop the disease from spreading through interconnected root systems.
13. Plant approximately 500 white spruce and red pine at two locations on the County forest.
14. Continue implementing the policy on annosum root rot disease requiring contractors to spray conifer stumps with fungicide to prevent infection according to DNR recommendations.
15. Establish timber sales on selected park properties as directed.
16. Monitor timber sales for unauthorized timber removal using the video detection system.
17. Monitor, evaluate, and treat oak wilt pockets in Nine Mile and other Forest Units.
18. Monitor, evaluate, and treat invasive species on the forest.
19. Apply techniques that reduce the ash component in forest stands on County forest and Park lands according to DNR recommendations due to Emerald Ash borer being found in the County for the first time in 2017.

B. Road, Trail, and Facility Construction and Maintenance:

1. Continue the contract with APHIS for beaver control.
2. Inspect county forest and park boundaries as needed to control encroaching uses from neighboring private land owners.
3. Contract with professional land surveyors to complete surveys where needed to facilitate administration between County Forest and private lands.
4. Mow 50 miles of hunter walking trails and associated wildlife openings.
5. Mow all forest road ditches in the County Forest.
6. Maintain pit toilets at Bitzke Nature Trail, Burma Road and Nine Mile Forest Units.
7. Continue to assist law enforcement for illegal tree stands, unauthorized motorized use, and dumping on County Forest property.
8. Continue to assist law enforcement to enforce seasonal closures and ordinance violations at Nine Mile and other Forest Units.
9. Resurface up to 3 miles of trails in Kronenwetter and Leathercamp Forest Units.
10. Maintain 6.48 miles of certified County Forest Roads.
11. Fabricate and install gates where needed.
12. Place granite on roads and trails in Forest Units to patch holes as needed.
13. Check the National Heritage Inventory Database (NHI) and the Wildlife Action Plan for endangered resources on any project that occurs on the County Forest.
14. Complete a County Conservation Aids project at Scholfield Park that replaces two piers.
15. Complete a County Conservation Aids Project at DC Everest Park that replaces boat planks and asphalt near the landing.
16. Replace culverts in Leathercamp, Kronenwetter, Nine Mile, and Burma Forest Units as needed.
17. Continue mitigation of the 2010 flood using a FEMA grant at the Bern Forest Unit.

C. Land and Equipment:

1. Negotiate the purchase of additional lands to enter as County Forest that will improve blocking, facilitate management that aligns with the Marathon County Strategic and County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plans.
2. Accept a donation of 80 acres of Park Foundation property in the Town of Easton and enter the property under the County Forest Special Use designation.
3. Maintain all vehicles and equipment.

D. Developed Recreation (Non-Motorized):

1. Participate in the planning, administration and approval of all trail construction, expansions, relocations, and maintenance on County Forest Lands.
2. Monitor reconstruction of 2 km of the Nine Mile ski trail to improve trail profile and surface characteristics.
3. Assist park facilities division in administering intensive recreation at Nine Mile.
4. Utilize volunteers to brush up to 20 km of ski trail.
5. Monitor the non-motorized recreation on County Forest Land.

E. Developed Recreation (Motorized):

1. Participate in the planning, administration, and approval of all trail construction, expansions, relocations, and maintenance on County Forest Lands.
2. Monitor and approve reconstruction of the Burma Road Forest ATV/UTV trails.
3. The Central Wisconsin Trailblazers ATV/UTV club will maintain 11 miles of ATV/UTV trail in the Burma Road Forest to include brushing, grading, signing, and mowing.
4. Assess all trails and land in the Burma Road Forest to protect the resource from excessive soil erosion and to prevent illegal off-trail use.
5. Volunteers will brush up to 30 miles of snowmobile trail on County Forest Land.
6. Monitor the snowmobile program on County Forest Land.
7. Monitor and enforce ordinances pertaining to the unauthorized motorized use (ATV/UTV) on all County Forest Units.

F. Wildlife Management: (Partially Grant funded)

1. Complete work identified in the DNR annual wildlife work plan. (See attached plan).
2. Mow flowage dikes, forest trails and select openings for brush control.
3. Seed select forest trails following timber sales to enhance wildlife habitat.
4. Improve forest opening condition through mechanical and chemical applications.
5. Cooperate with the DNR on identifying tag alder to shear in the Harrison-Hewitt and Leather Camp Forest Units.

6. Cooperate with the Ruffed Grouse Society and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on tag alder shearing in Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit.

G. Administration and GIS:

1. Implement the 2006-2020 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
2. Begin drafting the 2021-2035 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
3. Develop and improve the Forestry Division portion on the Department's web page.
4. Continue to work with the Forest Citizen's Advisory Subcommittee for county forests to address issues of concern including use conflicts at Nine Mile during the fall season, the sustainability of mountain biking, equestrian user needs, and the impact of forest management on hunting.
5. Amend the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan to reflect ordinance, boundary, and policy changes.
6. Continue implementing marking guidelines, Best Management Practices for Invasive Species and Biomass Harvesting guidelines on the County Forest.
7. Attend the Annual DNR integrated planning meeting to evaluate, maintain, and improve the County/DNR partnership.
8. Develop interpretive displays explaining the benefits of sustainable forest management for display at recreation areas.
9. Monitor and administer all road use, land use, and other agreements/leases currently on County Forest Lands. Develop new agreements or leases when appropriate.
10. Implement and monitor third party Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) forest certification on the Marathon County Forest.
11. Coordinate integration of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan with the Marathon County Comprehensive and Strategic Plans.
12. Continue to implement the DNR Wisconsin Forest Inventory Reporting System (WisFIRS).
13. Continue monitoring the effects of deer browsing on forest regeneration within the deer exclosures at Big Eau Pleine Park.
14. Follow the Bern Flowage emergency action plan, if required, due to flooding.
16. Review county zoning to ensure alignment with the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
17. Apply for grants and permits that accomplish County Forest and Park land improvements.
18. Supervise the County Forester and other seasonal employees.
19. Continue to educate the new Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director on County Forest management.
20. Continue to be part of an administration team working on culture and strategic planning to meet to Department and County goals.

H. Public Outreach/Professional Development:

1. Participate in school career programs and make at least two classroom presentations on forestry and natural resource management.
2. Participate on the editorial board for the 21st annual Forests Forever supplement in the Wausau Daily Herald and submit articles for publication.
3. Participate in job shadows introducing students into the forestry profession if time allows.
4. Continue to assist the public with insect, disease, and timber management information.
5. Give two tours on the County Forest including UW-Stevens Point and the Forestry/Recreation Committee.
6. Attend appropriate professional development training.
7. Maintain membership in the Society of American Foresters.
8. Attend Forest Certification training as required.
9. Continue to work with the Wisconsin County Forests Association(WCFA) by serving as a member of the Legislative/Forest Certification Committee on issues affecting County Forests.
10. Continue involvement on numerous WCFA committee's advancing the practice of forestry.
11. Participate in the revision of the WCFA strategic plan 2019-2024.
12. Continue updating maps to be included in new Forest Unit brochures and website for the public.
13. Revise and develop recreational maps for the public including cross country skiing, snowmobiling, equestrian and single track mountain biking for County Park and Forest lands.

2019 MARATHON COUNTY FOREST WILDLIFE WORK PLAN

This represents the 2019 Annual Wildlife Work Plan, pursuant to the fifteen-year Comprehensive Plan for the Marathon County Forest.

Personnel

Marathon County spent most of 2018 with a DNR Wildlife Technician vacancy. The position was temporarily filled through the summer but was vacated in August. In early November, the DNR hired Paul Napierala to a FTE Wildlife Technician position based out of Wisconsin Rapids. Paul will cover Marathon County as part of his work duties. Assistance to the County Forest Administrator and DNR Liaison Forester will be provided in all wildlife matters concerning the County Forest.

Flowage Management

Water levels on most Marathon County flowages were above average during the spring and summer of 2018. Managers monitored flowages to keep them at ideal water levels throughout the year. Waterfowl and shorebird production and sightings seemed to vary on Marathon County flowages. Beaver sign was limited during the spring and summer months but did increase in the fall.

Dike Maintenance:

Muskrat and beaver holes were not patched in 2018. Rodent holes are a maintenance issue on many of the dikes. The USDA-Wildlife Services was not contracted to trap and remove beaver in 2018 due to increased costs and lack of beaver sign in the spring. Beaver problems were limited throughout the year, but USDA did remove some beaver at East Flowage in Nine Mile and Lower Nienow in Harrison-Hewitt in the fall as part of the forestry contract. In 2019, DNR plans to contract with USDA-Wildlife Services to trap beaver on the flowages due to increasing beaver damage. DNR wildlife is also exploring the idea of contracting with USDA-Wildlife Services to trap beaver at an area level.

Bern Flowage:

Bern flowage has been affected by floating cattail masses that have accumulated on the West side of the flowage. These cattail masses occasionally plug the dam. Contractors have removed cattails for several years along the dike and weir with an excavator. This technique has proven to be effective at keeping the water flowing. There are still multiple acres of cattails to be removed from the flowage. A contractor is scheduled to remove cattails during November of 2018 and will continue to remove cattails in 2019 as needed.

Wild Rice:

Wild Rice production varied on many flowages in 2018. Rice production was slightly down on Lower Nienow and Leo flowages compared to previous years. Patches of rice were seen at Nienow, Leo, Lower Leo and Swamp flowages in the Harrison-Hewitt unit and the East and Birch flowages at Nine-Mile. Wild rice seeding efforts have fluctuated recently as availability of wild rice seed has been inconsistent. In 2018, managers purchased 100 lbs. of wild rice and seeded Leo, Lower Leo, Nienow and Lower Nienow flowages.

Flowage Management:

Planned flowage management for 2019 includes a continuation of the flowage drawdown rotation. All the flowages will benefit from being drawn down periodically (every 3-5 years). Drawdowns reduce undesirable plant species, allow desirable plant species to germinate and return nutrients to the soil. The drawdown plan for 2018 called for drawdowns on Steinke and Nienow flowages. Steinke flowage was not brought down due to beaver problems in front of the structure. Nienow flowage was not brought down due to lack of staff availability. In 2019, managers plan to draw down Steinke and Nienow flowages.

Herbicide treatments:

In 2018, dikes and trails between flowages were not sprayed due to reduced staff availability. In 2019, managers plan to spray thistle, tansy and spotted knapweed with Milestone during the growing season.

Forest Management

Openings Management:

Maintaining early successional habitat, such as grass openings, is an important part of Central Wisconsin forest management. In 2018, twenty-two forest openings (31% of the total) were treated in Marathon County in the Harrison-Hewitt, Kronenwetter and Leather Camp blocks. The openings were treated by hand with brush saws, chainsaws and herbicide applications. Openings management was mostly paid for through turkey stamp dollars. Thirty-four openings were scheduled to be managed in 2018. Several of the scheduled openings were checked with no management needed. The other openings not managed will be added to the work plan for 2019.

A GIS management database was set up in early 2010 to ensure that each opening was treated in a timely fashion. The openings are typically managed on a 3-4-year rotation. In 2019, managers plan to manage thirty-four openings in Harrison-Hewitt, Nine-Mile, Kronenwetter, Leather Camp and Burma. Funding for this management will be paid for by turkey stamp and Nickel-an Acre.

Trails:

Several forest trails on the Nine-Mile and Harrison-Hewitt units were seeded with a clover/grass mix in the spring and summer of 2018. Seeding trails post-logging prevents erosion and provides a valuable food source for ruffed grouse and other game and non-game species. Trails and log landings will likely need to be seeded throughout Marathon County in 2019. Turkey stamp funding has been secured for any spring or early summer trail projects.

Alder Management:

Alder mowing for regeneration purposes continued in Marathon County in the early winter of 2018. Approximately 12 acres was mowed at two different locations in Leather Camp. With Drummer Grant (Ruffed Grouse Society) and Nickel-an-Acre funding in place, alder shearing in the winter of 2018-19 should be productive if the weather cooperates. Multiple sites in Leather Camp County Forest have been selected for alder mowing. Additional sites in Harrison-Hewitt will be selected as another option. Managers have set a goal of mowing 10-15 acres of alder during the winter of 2018-19. Meeting these goals will rely on acceptable weather conditions as well as having equipment and an operator available. Contactors may be hired to accomplish this work if DNR staff and/or equipment are unavailable.

Grasslands/ Hoffman Farm

In previous years, managers have always mowed the Hoffman Farm to knock back the growth of cool-season grasses and promote the establishment of warm-season grasses and native forbs. In 2018, managers planned to conduct a prescribed burn on Unit 4 of the Hoffman Farm. Due to wet conditions, vacancies, and burn priorities, this burn was not accomplished. In the spring of 2019, Unit 4 will once again be looked at to burn. The firebreak will need to be freshened up beforehand to make sure the burn could be done safely. The rest of the units will be put on a 4-5-year burn rotation instead of a mowing rotation.

2018/2019 Nickel-an-Acre Budget

The following table lists the 2018 Nickel-an-Acre project budgets and expenses. It also includes proposed 2019 projects and the associated spending plan.

Project Activity	2018 Budgeted	2018 Expended	2019 Budgeted
Flowage Maintenance (dikes, spillways, structures)	\$400	\$0	\$500
Flowage Maintenance (brush/cattail removal-dikes)	\$300	\$0	\$400
Wildlife Opening Maintenance	\$200	\$0	\$400
Trail Seeding	\$0	\$0.00	\$100
Wild Rice Seeding	\$400	\$410.80	\$400
Alder Management	\$500	\$523.26	\$500
Totals	\$1,800	\$934.06	\$2,300

After all expenses are subtracted, the Nickel-an-Acre account balance at the end of 2018 should be \$2289.63. This will increase to \$3693.63 after deposit of the 2019 allotment.

Submitted by:

Brandon Stefanski, DNR Wildlife Biologist, Marathon County

Paul Napierala, DNR Wildlife Technician, Marathon County

Approved by:

Tom Lovlien, Marathon County Forest Administrator

Arnold Schlei, Chairperson, Marathon County Forestry/Recreation Committee

Chad Keranen, DNR Forestry Liaison, Wausau

MARATHON COUNTY FOREST FALL 2018 BID OPENING RESULTS

SPECIES	TONS	HIGH BID	LOW BID	Weighted Average of All Bids	Weighted Average of High Bids	Wt. Av. High Bids Spring 2018	Wt. Av. High Bids Fall 2017	Wt. Av. High Bids Fall 2016
ASPEN	9550	\$13.50	\$8.00	\$9.81	\$10.60	\$14.33	\$16.24	\$15.27
MIXED HWD	5260	\$13.50	\$7.80	\$10.06	\$11.71	\$13.22	\$16.18	\$18.36
OAK	340	\$5.45	\$4.00	\$5.04	\$4.85	\$8.00	\$7.87	\$11.15
BASSWOOD	410	\$4.00	\$1.00	\$2.33	\$2.98	\$5.11	\$8.73	\$2.00
WHITE SPRUCE	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	\$22.65	\$19.27	\$6.00
RED PINE	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	\$31.87	\$26.62	XXXX
MBF								
RED OAK	18	\$262.00	\$195.00	\$215.93	\$227.56	\$321.88	\$445.00	\$445.00
RED MAPLE	75	\$302.00	\$150.00	\$173.75	\$205.00	\$220.16	\$297.55	\$297.55
WHITE ASH	45	\$269.00	\$150.00	\$209.50	\$269.00	\$200.00	\$259.29	\$220.00
BASSWOOD	25	\$175.00	\$150.00	\$162.50	\$175.00	\$200.00	\$205.00	\$200.00
SUGAR MAPLE	15	\$350.00	\$300.00	\$325.00	\$350.00	\$310.00	\$475.00	XXXX
MIXED HWD	55	\$200.00	\$140.00	\$123.74	\$154.18	\$200.00	\$212.69	XXXX
BIOMASS								
All Species	690	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.50	\$1.00	\$1.00

Number of sales sold	6/7	6/7	4/4
Acres sold	377	301	262
Value of sales sold	\$222,496.55	\$170,890.35	\$211,829.50
Appraised value of sales	\$288,901.50	\$174,647.15	\$183,770.25
\$ / acre sold	\$590.18	\$567.74	\$808.51
Ton eq. sold	16,710	11,630	12,035
\$ / ton ave.	\$13.31	\$14.69	\$17.60
Cord eq. sold	7270	5055	5232
\$ / cord ave.	\$30.60	\$33.80	\$40.49

This bid opening was for 7 county forest sales
 Received 7 bids from 4 different contractors in October bid opening.
 Unsold sales re-bid in November. 2 bids were received on the 5 remaining sales.

10500

12100

13700

15300

Subject 16900

18500

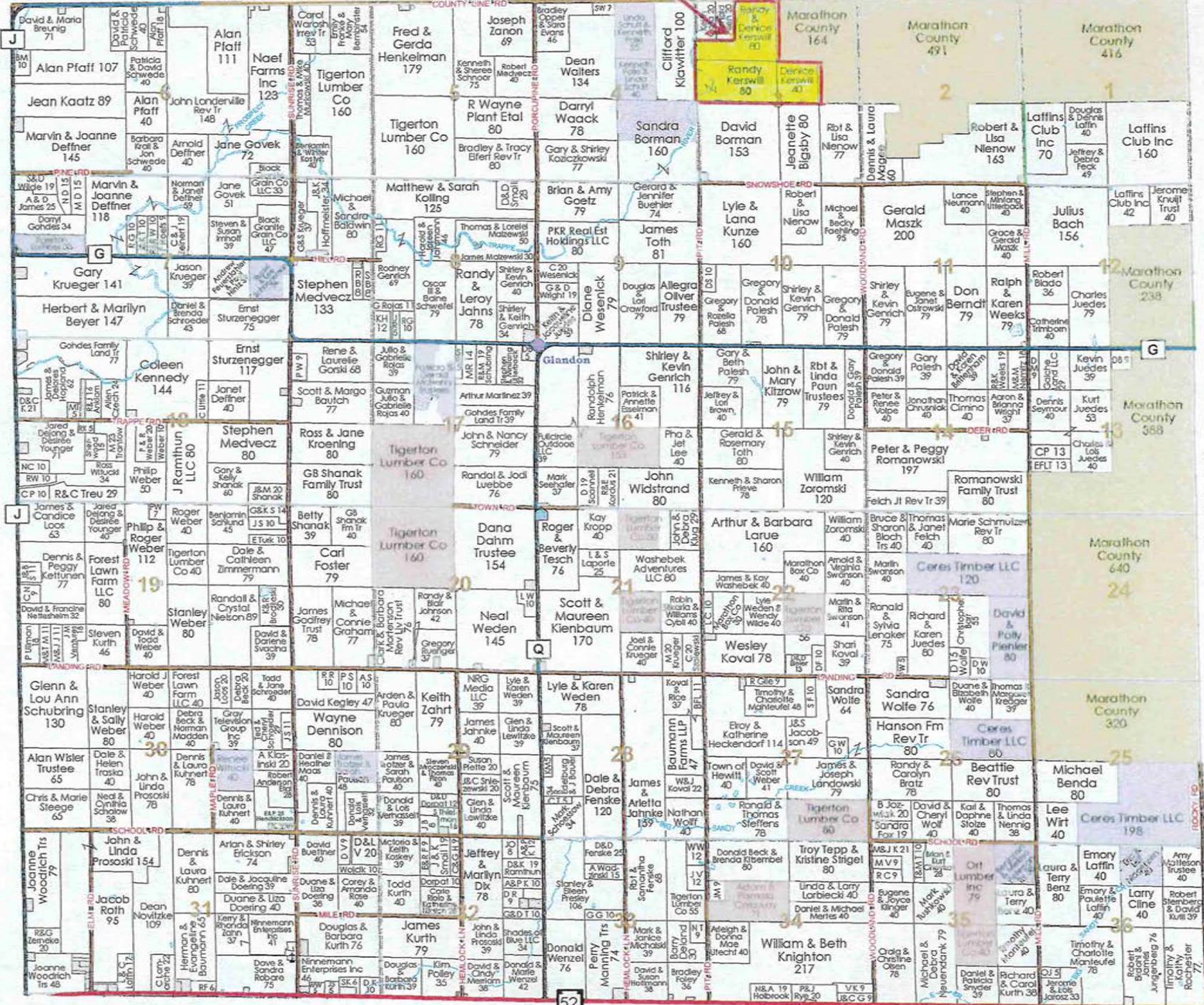
20100 KERSWILL

21700

LINCOLN COUNTY

LANGLADE COUNTY

17200
15600
14000
12400
10800
9200
7600



Hewitt



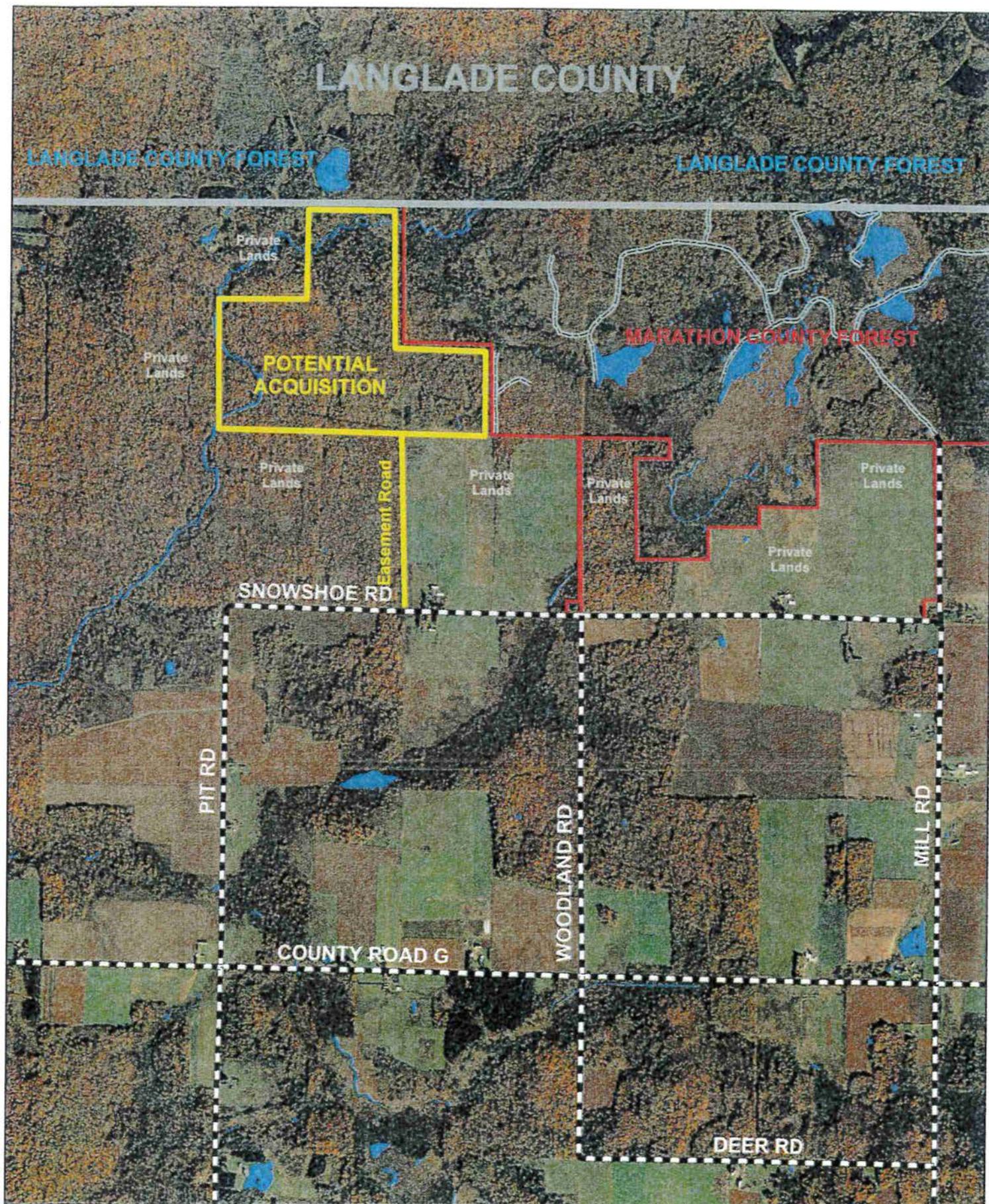
Township 30N - Range 9E
Copyright © 2017 Mapping Solutions

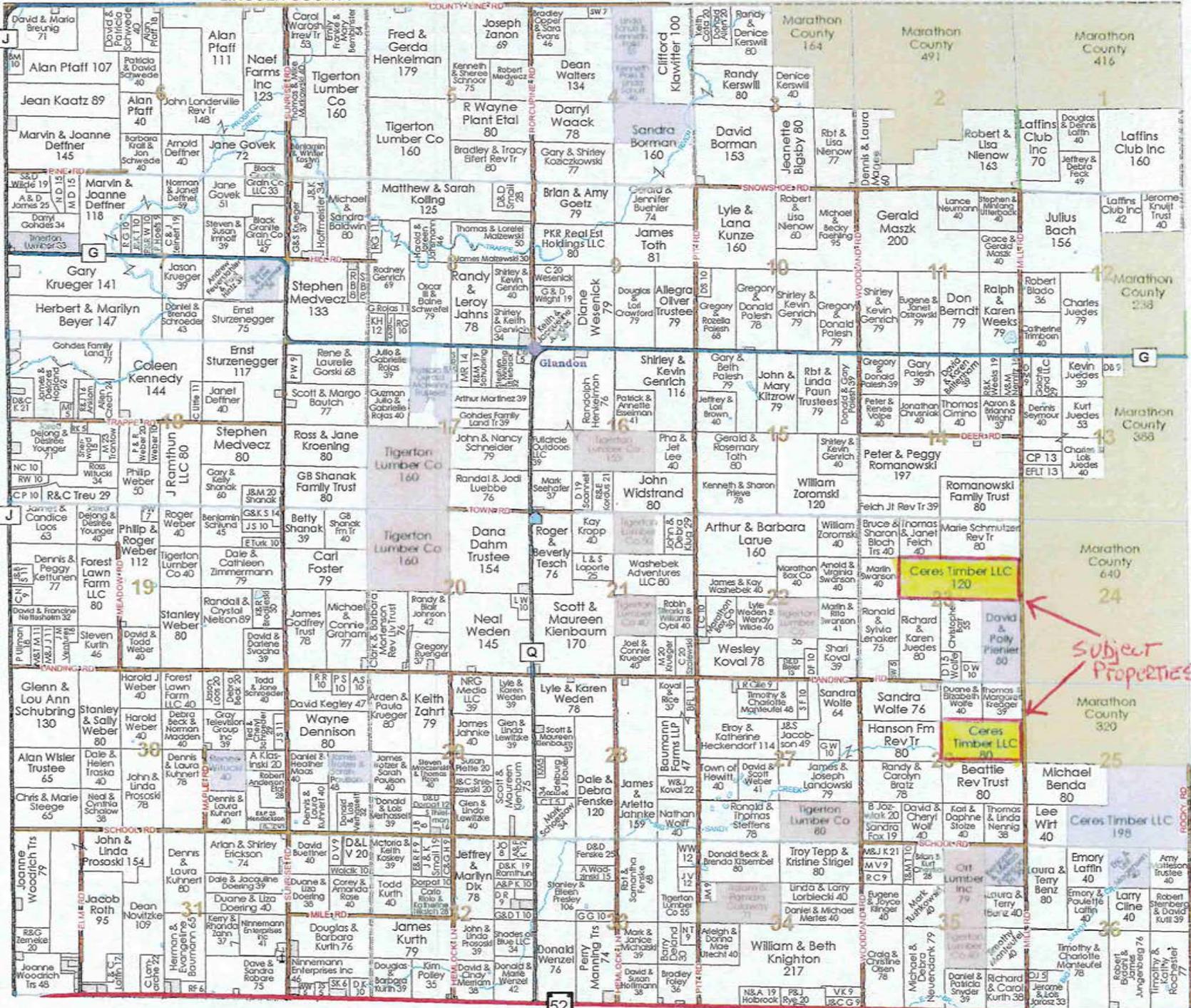
SEE PAGE 97

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SEE PAGE 79

Harrison-Hewitt Acquisition For County Forest





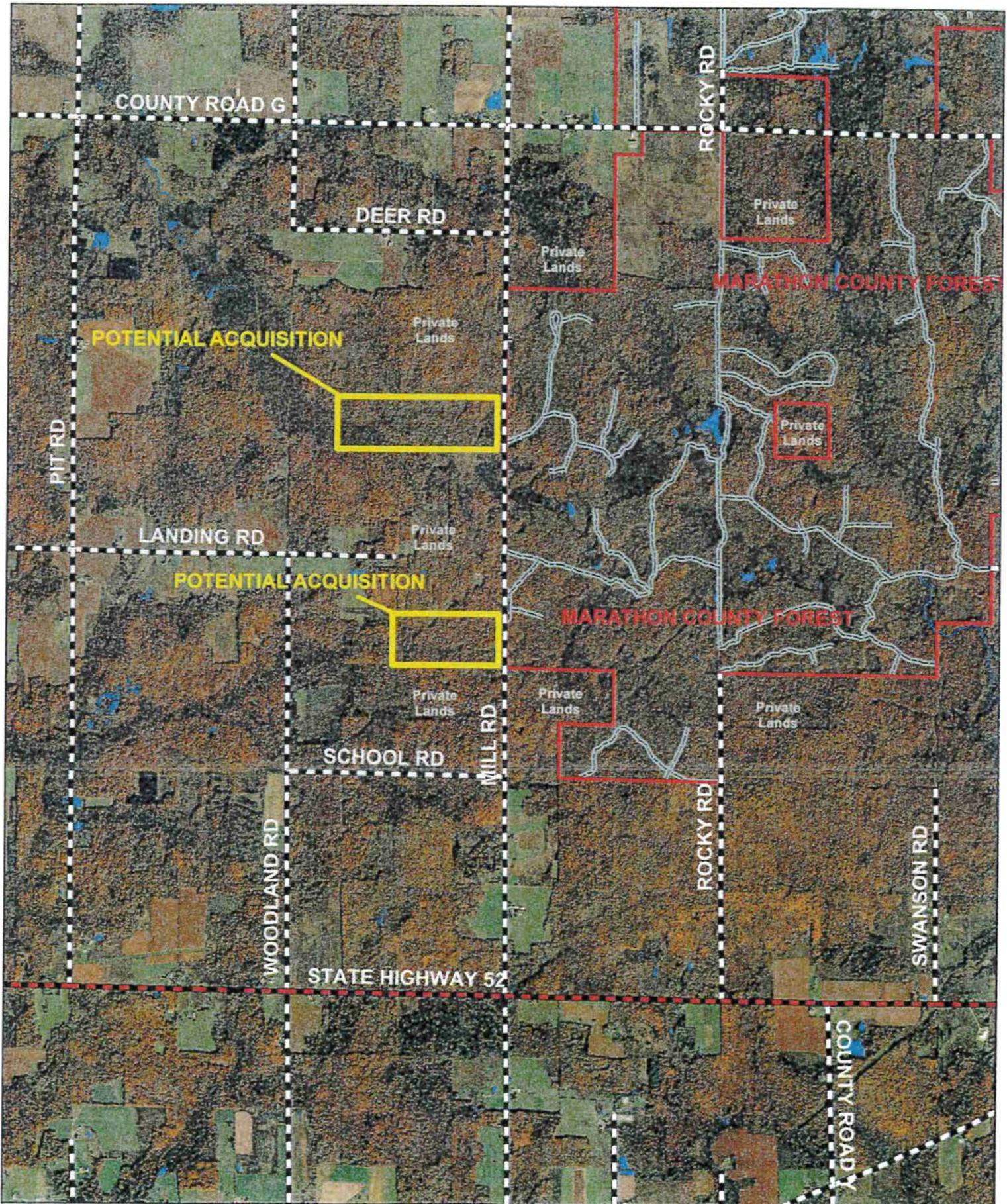
SEE PAGE 97

SEE PAGE 93

SEE PAGE 79

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Harrison-Hewitt Acquisition For County Forest



0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Marathon County 2019 Budget
 Levy by Org. Parks Recreation and Forestry

<u>Budget Section</u>	<u>2018 Levy</u>	<u>2019 Levy</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>
101-692 Snowmobile Trails Coordinator	18,179	13,821	(4,358)
101-710 County Park	1,898,078	2,008,969	110,891
101-711 Playgrounds Summer Recreation	-	-	-
101-712 Challenge Grant	-	-	-
101-714 Mountain-Bay Trail	-	-	-
142-726 Sports Complex	102,849	98,412	(4,437)
145-724 Marathon Park - Junction/Train	7,000	15,893	8,893
147-716 Fairgrounds Maint	-	-	-
150-722 Reclamation Rib Falls	-	-	-
150-723 WI River Park	-	-	-
151-725 Park Gifts	-	-	-
152-727 Park Land & Products	-	-	-
152-728 Park Ice Resurfacer Replacement	-	-	-
153-778 Segregated Land Purchase	-	-	-
154-690 Nine Mile Trails	-	-	-
171-758 Knowles-Nelson Stwrd 2017	-	-	-
174-759 Fema Cattail Removal 2011-2012	-	-	-
254-751 County Conservation Program	4,357	4,357	-
255-752 County Forest Road Aids	-	-	-
257-755 Forestry State Aids	-	-	-
58-756 Wildlife Habitat Management	-	-	-
285-693 Snowmobile Trails 2016-2017	-	-	-
297-718 Snowmobile Trails 2017-2018	-	-	-
331-694 Snowmobile Trails 2007-2008	-	-	-
345-720 Park 45N 90W Marker	-	-	-
354-695 Snowmobile Trails 2014-2015	-	-	-
355-696 Snowmobile Trails 2015-2016	-	-	-
378-730 Special Projects RTA Grant	-	-	-
404-760 Sustainable Forestry 2016	-	-	-
429-691 Snowmobile Grant 2018-2019	-	-	-
431-697 Summer ATV 2018-2019	-	-	-
432-698 Summer ATV 2015-2016	-	-	-
433-699 Winter ATV 2018-2019	-	-	-
439-701 Summer ATV 2016-2017	-	-	-
440-702 Winter ATV 2016-2017	-	-	-
454-703 Special Projects Snowmobile	-	-	-
455-704 Summer ATV 2017-2018	-	-	-
456-705 Winter ATV 2017-2018	-	-	-
469-706 Special Projects ATV	-	-	-
482-757 Co Forest Admin	-	-	-
434-700 WINTER ATV 2019-2020	-	-	-
436-694 SNOWMOBILE GRANT 2019-2020	-	-	-
437-695 SUMMER ATV/UTV 2019-2020	-	-	-
TOTAL LEVY	<u>2,030,463</u>	<u>2,141,452</u>	<u>110,989</u>

5.47%

2019 BUDGET
PRF COUNTY MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

		<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>	<u>Not Funded</u>
Marathon Park MPB Compressor Room Refrigeration System Accumulator Replacement	\$30,000	\$30,000 2018 Contingency Oct 1 Finance		
Marathon Park Stewart Avenue Sign	\$30,000			\$30,000
Marathon Park Roadway Light Upgrades To LED (Continuation)	\$11,000		\$11,000	
Marathon Park MPB Lobby & Hallway Flooring Replacement	\$37,000		\$37,000	
Marathon Park MPB Refrigeration System Controller	\$41,760			\$41,760
Marathon Park South Perimeter/Border Fence Replacement	\$25,084			\$25,084
Sunny Vale Softball Complex Concession Stand Paver Conversion To Concrete	\$7,279		\$7,279	
Big Eau Pleine Campground Electrical Study	\$4,800	\$4,800 rollover to 2019		
Dells of the Eau Claire Campground Electric Upgrade	\$24,950		\$24,950	
Dells of the Eau Claire Masonry Repairs/Reconstruction Steps to Overlook Shelter Fireplace and Pillars	\$35,500 [18,000] [17,000]			\$35,500
Operations Storage Building Roofs (50/50 With City)	\$4,750	\$4,750 rollover to 2019		
County Shelters (East Gate Hall, Meeting Hall, Nine Mile) Table and Chair Replacements (Copy Style with City Shelters)	\$6,500		\$6,500	
County Forest Trail Reconstruction	\$13,271		\$13,271	
	\$271,894	\$39,550	\$100,000 *	\$132,344

* The \$100,000 is budgeted in the PRF 2019 budget
submittal in line item 101 - 71094890

Tom Lovlien

From: Gary Zimmer <wcfa2@frontier.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2018 9:50 AM
To: Adam Bontje; Brian Loyd; Chad Ziegler; Chris Hoffman; Eric Holm; Eric Peterson; Erik Rantala; Frederick "Fritz" Schubert; Greg Peterson; Jake Walcisak; Jason "Jake" Nichols; Jason Bodine; Jeremy Koslowski; Jim Zahasky; John Bilogan; John Cisek; John Gagnon; Jon Harris; Joshua Pedersen; Kevin Kleinschmidt; Mark Gossman; Mike Dahlby; Mike Peterson; 'Monty Brink'; Nick Gilman; Patrick Smith; Pete Villas; Rick Dailey; Tom Lovlien
Cc: Jane Severt
Subject: FW: Legal challenge to wolf delisting

CFA's,

See update regarding wolf delisting that Jake forwarded as our representative on the Wolf Advisory Committee.

Gary



Gary Zimmer
Assistant Executive Director
Wisconsin County Forests Association
715-612-2013
wcfa2@frontier.com

From: Walcisak Jake [mailto:jake.walcisak@co.taylor.wi.us]
Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2018 7:31 AM
To: Jane Severt <wcfa@frontier.com>; Gary Zimmer <wcfa2@frontier.com>
Subject: FW: Legal challenge to wolf delisting

Jane and Gary

Please distribute to the group from the Wolf Advisory Committee. Thanks!

Jake Walcisak

County Forest Administrator
Taylor County Forestry and Recreation Department
224 South 2nd Street
Medford, WI 54451
Office: (715) 748-1486
Cell: (715) 371-1202

From: Walter, Scott E - DNR <Scott.Walter@wisconsin.gov>

Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2018 8:18 AM

To: Eklund, Dan <deklund@fs.fed.us>; Dan Hirchert <Daniel.LHirchert@aphis.usda.gov>; Eric Koens <Koens@brucetel.net>; Halfmann, David A - DNR <David.Halfmann@wisconsin.gov>; Hoffman, Steven R - DNR <Steven.Hoffman@wisconsin.gov>; Walcisak Jake <jake.walcisak@co.taylor.wi.us>; Joe Koback <koby ranch@frontier.com>; Kehrli, Sara S - DNR <SaraS.Kehrli@wisconsin.gov>; Koele, Bradley M - DNR <Bradley.Koele@wisconsin.gov>; Laurie Groskopf <harrisonhounds@hotmail.com>; Lee Sillars <lsillars@aol.com>; Luke Withrow <lucas.withrow@yahoo.com>; Michels, Dan R - DNR <Dan.Michels@wisconsin.gov>; Brust, Mike <mike@wausaubrust.com>; Mike Riggie <mjrdvm@hotmail.com>; Miles Falck (miles@glifwc.org) <miles@glifwc.org>; Olver, Linda R - DNR <Linda.Olver@wisconsin.gov>; Pete Fasbender <Peter_Fasbender@fws.gov>; Peter David <p david@glifwc.org>; Randy Jurewicz <jurewrb@yahoo.com>; Roberts, Nathan M - DNR <NathanM.Roberts@wisconsin.gov>; Roepke, Scott C - DNR <Scott.Roepke@wisconsin.gov>; Steve Suchomel (newpondflow@tds.net) <newpondflow@tds.net>; Walter, Scott E - DNR <Scott.Walter@wisconsin.gov>

Cc: Wiedenhoef, Jane E - DNR <Jane.Wiedenhoef@wisconsin.gov>; Kluge, Nathan P - DNR <Nathan.Kluge@wisconsin.gov>; Nack, Robert R - DNR <RobertR.Nack@wisconsin.gov>

Subject: Legal challenge to wolf delisting

All-

You're likely aware that there are 3 current efforts underway to delist wolves:

- 1) Delisting language in the House Department of Interior FY19 funding bill, which has passed the full House and awaits conferencing with the Senate.
- 2) A stand-alone bill recently cosponsored by Congressman Duffy, which has passed out of the House NR Committee and awaits discussion on the House floor.
- 3) The Fish & Wildlife Service is undertaking the formal ESA delisting process, with the goal of publishing a delisting rule by the end of the year.

With these 3 efforts moving visibly forward, it's not surprising that there's opposition. The Center for Biological Diversity recently announced plans to sue the FWS over a couple perceived procedural issues:

https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2018/wolf-09-19-2018.php

While it's unclear exactly what impact this will have on current delisting efforts, it certainly muddy the waters.

Scott

We are committed to service excellence.

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Scott Walter

Large Carnivore Specialist- Bureau of Wildlife Management

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

101 S. Webster St. Madison, WI 53703

Phone: (608) 267-7865

Cell Phone: (608) 279-5250

Fax: (608) 267-7589

Scott.Walter@Wisconsin.gov



dnrwi.gov





For Immediate Release, September 19, 2018

Contact: Collette Adkins, (651) 955-3821, cadkins@biologicaldiversity.org

Lawsuit Launched to Push Trump Administration Toward National Wolf Recovery Plan

Legal Action Could Scuttle Effort to Strip Gray Wolves of Protection

MINNEAPOLIS— The Center for Biological Diversity today filed a [notice](#) of intent to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for violating the Endangered Species Act by never providing a comprehensive recovery plan for gray wolves nationwide as the law requires.

Today's notice calls for a national wolf recovery plan. According to the Endangered Species Act, wolves must remain protected until the Fish and Wildlife Service implements such a plan.

Instead, this summer the agency announced plans to strip federal protection from wolves in the lower 48 states. That would make them vulnerable to trophy hunting and trapping, halting their progress toward recovery. The Service expects to publish a proposal to remove wolf protection by the end of the calendar year.

"With federal protections gray wolves have made tremendous progress, but they're not yet recovered nationwide," said Collette Adkins, a Minneapolis-based Center biologist and attorney. "If successful, our lawsuit would require the federal government to foster wolf populations in suitable areas across the country rather than rush to prematurely remove safeguards."

A recovery plan would enable wolves to establish viable populations in areas where small populations are still recovering, including California, Oregon and Washington. It would also promote recovery in areas like the southern Rockies, Dakotas and Adirondacks, which have suitable wolf habitat but no wolf populations.

The notice explains that the Service previously denied the Center's formal [petition](#) requesting development of a national wolf recovery plan.

"The Fish and Wildlife Service needs to chart a path toward truly recovering wolves," said Adkins. "We're doing all we can to make sure Trump officials fulfill their obligation to restore wolves in suitable habitats across the country."

Beyond a national plan for recovery, the Endangered Species Act requires the agency to conduct a status review every five years. But six years have passed since the last national wolf status review.



Photo courtesy Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Images are [available](#) for media use.

The Center for Biological Diversity is a national, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 1.6 million members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places.

Alaska • Arizona • California • Florida • Minnesota • Nevada • New Mexico • New York • Oregon • Vermont • Washington, DC
P.O. Box 710 • Tucson, AZ 85702-0710 tel: (520) 623.5252 fax: (520) 623.9797 www.BiologicalDiversity.org

[More press releases](#)



MEMO

To: Forest Citizen's Advisory Subcommittee
From: Tom Lovlien, Forest Administrator
Date: December 11, 2018
Re: 2019 Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 6:00 pm

Wednesday, March 13, 2019	212 River Drive, Room 2
Wednesday, June 5, 2019	212 River Drive, Room 2
Wednesday, September 18, 2019	212 River Drive, Room 2
Wednesday, December 18, 2019	212 River Drive, Room 2