

**ADDENDUM**

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 18, 2019.**

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

A G E N D A

- I. Minutes
  - A. Approve Minutes of the September 18, 2019 Meeting
  
- II. New Business
  - A. Request by IronBull to Use Nine Mile Snowmobile Trail for the Red Granite Grinder Gravel Bike Race – Andrea Larson – Executive Director
  - B. 2020 County Forest and Wildlife Work Plans
  - C. 2020 County Conservation Aids Project – Duane Corbin Shooting Range Park
  - D. 2019 Fall Timber Bid Opening and Summary
  - E. County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2021-2035 Survey Results
  - F. Review Revisions to the Marathon County Comprehensive Land Use Plan Chapters 400-600
  - G. 2020 Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Budget
  - H. Wausau 24 and NICA Bike Race Participation and Revenue
  - I. Request by Wausau School District for Use of Nine Mile for Conference Cross Country Meet October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020
  - J. Discussion on Facilities Opening Dates and Posting on County and Social Media Websites
  - K. Winter Recreational Program Update
  - L. Member Items
  
- III. Old Business
  - A. Update on the Proposal to Add Snowmaking at Nine Mile Forest - Burke
  - B. Status of the Kerswill, Romatowski and Ceres County Forest Land Acquisitions
  - C. 2019 Deer Season Harvest and Activity Levels on County Forest Land
  - D. Ragnar Trail Relay Running Race Summary and New Three Year Contract
  - E. Final Approved Nine Mile Event and Use Policy

IV. 2020 Tentative Meeting Dates – March 18, June 3, September 16, and December 16, 2020

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](mailto: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: /s/ Jodi Luebbe

Date:

Date: December 17, 2019

Time:

Time: 9:00 a.m.

By:

Members present: John Burke, Dale Heil, Paul Klocko, Greg Klos, Mike Lane, Ryan Schleifer, Susan Stomieroski, Gary Weiland, Marcell Wieloch

Excused: Mark Chickering, Susan Haug

Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Rec, and Forestry Department staff present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director, Chad Keranen-DNR Forest Liaison, Pat Peckham

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

## I. Minutes

**Motion** by Wieloch to approve the June 5, 2019 minutes. Motion **carried**.

## III. New Business

### A. Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee Appointments

Lovlien reported that the five members whose terms were expiring expressed interest in staying on the Subcommittee. Those appointments were approved at the August Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting.

### G. Marathon County Forest Timeline and Public Participation Process

Staff has started revisions of the 15-Year Plan. A general survey is available online and will close September 25<sup>th</sup>. This Committee will review chapters of the plan at each quarterly meeting and will recommend any changes to the Forestry/Recreation Committee. At the end of the process, the Forestry/Recreation and Environmental Resource Committees will approve the plan and move it on to County Board. It will be sent to the DNR for review and approval by December of 2020. There will be an Open House on July 14, 2019 followed by a public comment period until August 17, 2019.

### B. Review Revisions to the Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Plan Chapters 100 - 300

Lovlien gave highlights of Chapter 100 which include the definition of County Forest Law. He stressed that the law states optimum production of timber is most important which is different than State and Federal forests. The 29 County forest system in Wisconsin is the largest public landowner in the State and provides the most public land timber to the forest industry. Other topics in Chapter 100 include plan updates and distribution, forest program history, development, trends and Forest Certification Commitment. He noted that currently the County is certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. There are two different certification systems, and staff is studying the FSC system and will decide if Marathon County should become dual certified. Questions were answered. Discussion occurred about the certification systems. Chapter 200 includes information on general administration. It explains the different roles of County Board and other Committees, County expenditures, County records, personnel and equipment. Chapter 300 includes description of forests, County forest ownership, and natural feature information. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Burke to approve chapters 100, 200 and 300 and recommend that the Forestry/Recreation Committee approve and move those on to the Environmental Resource Committee. **Motion** by Burke. Motion **carried**.

### C. Review 2019 Timber Sale Package

The fall timber sale package offers 327 acres of timber on six tracts with an estimated volume of 15,470 tons and 480.0 thousand board feet. Keranen discussed all of the sales. The sales will be advertised and the bid opening is September 30th. Questions were answered.

### D. Results of the 2019 County Forest Certification Audit

Lovlien said a full recertification audit was completed this year. This was the first year there were no Corrective Action Requests, no Opportunities for Improvement, and no Observations. This means that the County forest program according to third party auditors is doing a very good job in balancing the needs of a lot of different users on the County forests and managing for sustainability.

### E. Results of the Cross Country Skiing Survey from the 2018-19 Season

Lovlien said the survey was sent to the annual ski and snowshoe pass holders and the response rate was about 38%. From the written comments it seems there are people that are happy with grooming and people that are unhappy with the grooming

done at Nine Mile. Lovlien mentioned that a lot of things affect grooming including timing and temperature when they groom, the weather, and when people come out to ski. Staff is always looking for ways to improve. There are a lot of times the larger groomers cannot be used because there is not enough snow. Burke thought that grooming will always be commented on no matter where and he felt it was hard to make everyone happy especially when dealing with marginal snow conditions. Discussion followed.

F. Oak Wilt Confirmed at Nine Mile and Planned Treatment

Keranen said that three more pockets of Oak Wilt have been found at Nine Mile. Oak Wilt spreads either through the root systems or by beetles. The beetles feed on the sap of trees that are cut or damaged in storms. An effective way of controlling the spread is to girdle and treat the infected tree with chemicals to kill them so that the disease cannot spread through the root systems. Because of all the storms this year Keranen felt there would be more pockets next year. Internal discussions are occurring whether oak is the best species to grow long term at Nine Mile if Oak Wilt continues to be a problem.

H. Wisconsin Endurance Mountain Bike Participation and Revenue

Lovlien reported the event had 79 participants and the County received \$642.75 in revenues. The trails are not closed to the public during the event.

I. Good Neighbor Authority in Wisconsin

Keranen explained that in 2014 the State signed a master agreement with the forest service to perform timber sale establishment on the national forest. The DNR is helping to set up the timber sales and the revenues from those sales are paying for the work that is done. In 2016 the Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest was the number one timber producing forest in the nation. Ten thousand acres have been sold since they went into the agreement with a seven million dollar bid value. The extra money from the sales have been going back into the forest for beaver control, timber stand work, and updating all the recon on the national forest. The County forest program in this State is the model forestry program in the whole U.S. in how efficient and productive it is.

J. County Forest Tour – October 10, 2019

The tour will take place on October 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am to 3:00pm. Items discussed include invasive species and planned park development at the Wisconsin River Forest Unit; road aids, wildlife, balancing competing uses, a timber sale, rotating 80 year old red pine, and oak scarification at the Nine Mile Forest Unit; and the Burma Forest Unit ATV trail. Lovlien will email a reminder about the tour.

K. Member Items

Burke said the Nordic Ski Club is hosting an open house on October 13<sup>th</sup> at Nine Mile to welcome anyone wishing to find out more about the facilities and the Club. Wieloch said that hunters can help the local Citizen Deer Advisory Committees by using their bonus and doe tags.

## II. Old Business

A. Revised Nine Mile Event and Use Policy

Lovlien said staff incorporated some of the items discussed at the previous Subcommittee meeting when revising the Nine Mile Event and Use Policy. Staff would like to have everything spelled out in the policy because they continue to receive more requests for use. He discussed the current regulations in the policy that did not change. He mentioned that the regulation prohibiting E-Bikes may be revisited in the future as more guidance is received from bike groups and the State who now allows one category of E-Bikes on State trails. Lovlien discussed the application policy for holding events at Nine Mile and the criteria used to evaluate event applications. He noted if some events are not approved at Nine Mile that staff will assist in finding a different venue such as a park if possible. Lovlien discussed the upcoming 2020 schedule of events at Nine Mile and whether or not the trails will be closed or open to the public. The biggest change in the policy is that a maximum of six weekend trail based special events can be held from May through October 15<sup>th</sup>. And of those six, only two

will be allowed between September 1<sup>st</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> to accommodate fall hunting seasons. An exception is an IronBull bike gravel race located on the snowmobile trail which may occur the Saturday following October 15<sup>th</sup> each year that had been approved by the Forestry/Recreation Committee. Staff is trying to see if that race could be moved before October 15<sup>th</sup> for 2020 and will not approve any other events after October 15<sup>th</sup>. Burke commented that the policy isn't changing who is using what and when. Lovlien said the policy will be given to event organizers. Lane questioned how many of the events close the road. Lovlien thought that only two events and that was for safety reasons because of crossing the road. Lovlien said he is asking this Committee to approve the policy, they are not approving the event schedule itself. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Burke to approve the regulations as presented. Motion **carried** unanimously.

#### B. Update on the Proposal to Add Snowmaking at Nine Mile Forest

Burke explained that two holes were dug at Nine Mile to determine water table depth. In both cases, water was found ten to twelve feet down. They talked about pumping the water and then seeing the recharge rates but their water specialist felt that wouldn't make much difference. He suggested they consider digging a third test hole a little bit closer to where the projected wetlands area would be and make a determination from there. Lovlien said that the water specialist suggested shooting some grades to determine where another test hole should be dug. The ski club needs to figure out through their engineer whether or not shooting grades and digging another test hole is going to give some scientific evidence that's going to say a two acre pond 10 feet deep is going to have enough groundwater that is needed about two million gallons. A hydrologist or an engineer should be involved throughout this process. Burke said they know that the pond will fill itself to a certain level. Will the drainage provide sufficient flow to fill it up the rest of the way to give them the appropriate amount of water or would a well need to be drilled and pumped during a part of the year to fill it up? They are at a point now where they know they have some water but is it enough? None of them are in a position to answer that and they need the engineer's experience. Lovlien said they need to know if there is enough water first and he thought it was important to know that probably by freeze up or it will wait another year. Burke agreed. Lovlien said the project is in a holding pattern. He will keep the Committee updated every meeting. A lot of questions need to be answered before moving forward.

#### C. Status of the County Forest Land Acquisitions

Lovlien reported that staff closed on the addition of 200 acres to the Hewitt-Harrison County Forest Unit and also on 80 acres in Easton that had been donated by the Park Foundation. The County was able to acquire all of that land for around \$8,000. Currently, staff is working on acquiring a 200 acre parcel from CERES timber. A second appraisal was done on that property and because it came in over \$350,000 automatically triggered a third appraisal which is paid for by the DNR. Eventually the DNR appraisal reviewer will look at all of the appraisals and certify one of them. Once the appraisal is certified we would be eligible for a fifty percent grant. He is also working on a 40 acre parcel in the Village of Kronenwetter that is attached on two sides to County forest. Lovlien mentioned that acquiring land is in the County's Strategic Plan and that the County only works with willing sellers.

#### D. Ragnar Trail Relay Running Race September 20, 21, 2019

Set-up has begun for the Ragnar Race. The trail systems will be closed to the public during the race on Friday and Saturday and then opened back up on Sunday. Last year there were approximately 2600 racers.

#### IV. Remaining 2019 Meeting Dates – December 18, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

#### V. Adjourn

**Motion** to adjourn by Wieloch. Motion **carried**. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Thomas Lovlien  
Secretary

Members present: Arnold Schlei (c), James Bove, Rick Seefeldt

Also present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director, Chad Keranen-DNR Liaison, John Beatty, Mike Lane, Gary Zimbric

Call meeting to order – Meeting called to order by Chairman Schlei at 12:30pm, Rm 3, 212 River Dr., Wausau.

Public Comment Period – Not to Exceed 15 Minutes – Mike Lane, 921 Landfried Ave., Mosinee, Wisconsin responded to public comments from the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. He disagreed with closing the area immediate to the chalet to hunting to accommodate greater trail usage. Lane felt that trail usage has expanded to the point where the need to limit races and events has occurred, so that residents are not being denied access to recreate without paying an entry fee. He felt designed special use areas are elitism and should never be considered in a multiple use County forest unit which is owned by all county taxpayers. He said trails may be skied as soon as the snow conditions allow and skiers are not prevented by rules, usage is limited by the weather. Closing areas to hunters will create more wildlife refuge areas. Forest regeneration is a problem in certain areas. The muzzle loader and the four-day antlerless seasons are very important tools in deer management. Increasingly through Learn to Hunt programs offered by the DNR, non-hunters become new hunters primarily to provide healthy low fat non processed food sources. This new movement to get back to nature through hands on harvest will also promote tourism and growth and healthier lifestyles. While public lands are open to hunting and gathering are available they are not plentiful. Further restricting areas reducing opportunities which has been identified as a limiting factor in hunter retention and recruitment. Encouraging back to the land activities such as hunting will create a greater appreciation for our public forests, ecosystems and animal populations. He felt special use areas and limiting uses will cause more friction and animosity between the user groups. While this proposal may seem insignificant due to size, it may impact many acres beyond the chalet area and he believes this is only the first step in further closures. He felt the proposal to close a section of property would spur other groups to want their areas closed off. He is also concerned the next thing then would be for new sports to come in and want their own areas. He felt something like this can spur more unrest between the user groups.

Approve Minutes – **Motion** / second by Bove / Seefeldt to approve the minutes from the September 3, 2019 regular Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. County Forest Tour – October 10, 2019 – Lovlien said the tour is set and he is hoping for better weather conditions. Forestry units to be toured include the Wisconsin River, Nine Mile and the Burma Forest Units.

B. Update on the 2020 Forestry Division Budget – Polley said that the Departments budget overall is just slightly over a 2.31 percent increase. The budget specific to forestry is at a zero percent increase. She noted some project funds were shifted to help pay for some of the land purchases that may occur in 2020. If the purchases do not take place the money can be moved back into those project areas or may be put into a segregated land account to help build up those funds. Lovlien said the County Board made a policy decision that land acquisition was important and the Department is starting to draw down the funds it has to match the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grants. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is in place for the next two years but after that it would have to be renewed by the State. They would like to utilize the 50% grant match for the next two years to acquire additional lands. Questions were answered.

C. 2019 Final Timber Bid Summary – Chad Keranen reported that four total bids were received on six sales. One sale sold at the Leathercamp Forest Unit and one sale at Mission Lake County Park. One bid was received on another sale and was rejected because it was below the advertised and appraised value. Loggers are backlogged because of the work from summer storms and also because most are frozen ground sales and loggers are two to three winters out as it is. Markets are down because there is so much wood out there right now. The four sales that did not sell will be opened on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The value of the sales sold was \$52,412.10. Questions were answered.

D. Ragnar Trail Relay Race Summary – Lovlien reported that the race had about 2900 participants. The County will receive approximately \$20,000 in total revenues from the race. It's a race that has very little impact on the resource. The organizers are looking at applying for a new three-year contract with the County going into the future.

E. Article – How Long Will the Paper Industry Stay Healthy – Lovlien said this was an article on the paper industry and how it is adapting. In Wisconsin it is an 18 billion dollar industry and the 5<sup>th</sup> largest manufacturing sector employing about 30,000 workers. The direct output in Marathon County’s economy alone was one billion with almost 1,760 jobs working for 10 businesses. Local mills have changed their packaging to meet demand with some challenges including trade, shortage of truck drivers and young workers.

Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Timber Sale Closeout – Bell Timber Inc. Contract #663-17 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 1440 tons and 1253.72 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$32,272.84. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close Bell Timber Inc. contract #663-17 and return their cash bond. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Bove to close Bell Timber Inc. contract #663-17 and return their cash bond. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

2. Consider Alternate County Conservation Aids Project at Shooting Range Park – Lovlien said Committee had previously discussed a road project which would cost more than the grant and will instead look at a potential CIP project for that. They then discussed a second project for a retaining wall project. Staff discussed it a little more and feel that project can wait a year or two and a more pressing is a development project at the gun range which would be to construct twenty-two concrete shooting tables for users to site in their rifles. Currently, there are wood shooting benches with logs to sit on. This would be a project for poured in place concrete tables and possibly nicer seating. Lovlien said they have been used in other places and are well received. Questions were answered. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Schlei to approve the concrete tables as the project. Motion carried by voice vote, no dissent.

3. Review Timber Bids and Award Contracts – Lovlien reported that one bid was received on tract 6-19 that was well below the advertised and appraised value so it was rejected. The only bid received on tract 7-19 was from Verso Corporation and it was over the appraised value so his recommendation is to enter into contract with Verso Corporation for tract 7-19. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Bove to enter into contract with Verso Corporation for tract 7-19. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent. Tract 11-19 was a Mission Lake County Park Sale. United Wood Products was the high bidder on that sale so his recommendation to the Park Director will be to enter into a contract and she will inform the Park Commission.

5. Consider Request by National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) to Allow Charging for Parking at Nine Mile Forest – Lovlien said the organizers of this high school race are requesting if it would be permissible to charge for parking in the Nine Mile Forest Unit lot during their races. Their request is based on potentially fundraising for their program. Lovlien said similar requests to allow charging have come up in the past and he would like Committee to decide whether to allow/not allow all groups the ability to charge for parking. That policy then would be put into the fifteen year plan. He said neither the current fifteen year plan nor County Forest law addresses charging for parking so it would be up to each County to decide. However, if they charge for parking, there’s a caveat that says they may want to look into recreational immunity laws based on either profit or non-profit status of the group holding the event. County forest ordinance that deals with parking is silent on this. County Forest law says they must be open to hiking, hunting, trapping, off trail cross country skiing, and fishing and cannot charge for these activities. There’s a 2009 legal opinion from the DNR on the recreational immunity law that deals with charging spectators for events. That law says if the owner charges spectators to watch an event on County forest the recreational immunity law no longer comes into play so the County would take on all the liability if someone would get hurt. Lovlien said the entire Nine Mile Forest Unit is never closed to all people at all times. At times, portions of it are closed for events. Lovlien presented a situation where if a group was charging for parking and a member of the general public wanted to hike nearby and pulled into that parking lot they would have to pay. How could they determine who is a spectator or part of the event and who isn’t? Why should a general user have to park down the road and not be able to park near the area he wants to use? Lovlien said this may not apply to County park property if there is an event that closes down an entire park that may be an area where they may want to charge for parking if the recreational immunity law protects the County. **Motion** / second by Bove / Schlei to deny the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) to Allow Charging for Parking at Nine Mile Forest Unit. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

4. Consider Proposed Changes to the Nine Mile Event and Use Policy – Lovlien said the revised draft of the policy attempts to balance all the uses at Nine Mile noting that all the uses are important. Nine Mile has been a multi-use forest for a long time and the user groups have to make compromises. A Forest Citizen Advisory Committee was formed in 1998 to try to manage all the different uses. This revised draft policy went to the citizen group in September and was unanimously approved. Lovlien discussed the each of the regulations in the policy. He said there were no changes on most of what was proposed in 2018. One item that may be revisited in the future is the use of e-bikes. A major revision in the policy is where it spells out the application process for events and the criteria used to evaluate applications. It also spells out how many events and when the events can be held. He noted that if an event is not approved, staff would assist the organizers in trying to find a different venue if possible. He mentioned that between May 1<sup>st</sup> and October 15, seventy-five percent of the weekends are available to the public without any scheduled events. Between October 16<sup>th</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup>, eighty-two percent of the weekends are open to the public. Lovlien discussed the events that have been scheduled for 2020 and whether parts of Nine Mile are closed or open to the public. His job as land manager is to look at County Forest Law and make sure user conflicts are minimized. He would like Committee to consider this revision and to include it in the next fifteen year plan so that the policy can be given to event organizers. He suggested adding the denial of charging for parking or spectators at events into the County forest use and event regulations. Discussion followed and questions were answered. **Motion** / second by Bove / Seefeldt to deny charging parking or spectator fees for events at all County Forests county wide. **Motion carried** by voice vote, no dissent. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Schlei to adopt the Nine Mile Forest Event and Use Policy including the amendment regarding not charging for parking or spectators and then to add that policy into the Forest Comprehensive 15 year land use plan.

B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration

1. Review of Proposed Policy Revisions to the Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan Chapters 100 – 300 – Lovlien explained that Committee is not approving chapters specifically today because at the end of the process they will consider approving the entire plan and forward to the Environmental Resource Committee. He will bring a couple of chapters every quarter so that Committee doesn't have to review the entire plan at the end. The first three chapters have gone to the Forest Citizen Advisory Subcommittee and were approved unanimously for acceptance. Lovlien said that a lot of the language in the first three chapters is State statute, description, and administration information. Bove questioned an item under Federal Funds and Programs that Lovlien will research where language came from and get back to him by the next meeting.

Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – November 5, 2019 at 12:30pm, 212 River Dr., Rm. 3

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – none

B. Future Agenda Items – Review Timber Bids and Award Contracts, Land Acquisition Updates, Wausau 24 Race Participation and Revenue, Feasibility of buying farmland for County Forest and planting with high dollar wood such as black walnut.

Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Bove to adjourn at 2:00pm. **Motion carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Members present: Arnold Schlei (c), James Bove

Excused: Rick Seefeldt

Also present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director, Chad Keranen-DNR Liaison

Call meeting to order – Meeting called to order by Chairman Schlei at 12:30pm, Rm 3, 212 River Dr., Wausau.

Public Comment Period – None

Approve Minutes – **Motion** / second by Schlei / Bove to approve the minutes from the October 1, 2019 regular Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. County Forest Land Acquisition Updates – CERES and Romatowski Properties – The DNR is reviewing the appraisals for both the CERES and Romatowski properties. Lovlien is hopeful that by the December meeting he will have both of the certified appraisals so that he can start negotiating with the landowners on the two properties.

B. Wausau 24 and NICA High School Race Participation and Revenue – Lovlien reported that the Wausau 24 Race had 458 mountain bike and 47 trail run participants. The NICA High School Mountain Bike Race had 212 campers and 706 racers. Revenues were around \$10,000. Both races were well run and staff expects them to return next year.

C. County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2021 – 2035 Survey Results – Lovlien said input on the plan was taken over a month long period and less than 10% responded to the surveys. Lovlien listed some themes. There is general support for sustainable forestry and replanting; support for keeping forests open to all multiple uses including hunting, hiking, and recreational opportunities; concerns over excessive development and that protections need to be in place to minimize environmental degradation; concerns over invasive species and how to manage them; expand recreational opportunities that allow for more mountain biking, winter fat biking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing; general support for snowmaking capabilities for skiing at Nine Mile which is under a feasibility study right now by the Nordic ski group; some suggested adding new trails others say no new trails; limiting additional motorized use of the forest; conserving and protecting forests for all species of wildlife; and balancing all uses on county forests. Some people want more and some people want less and staff's job is to develop a plan that protects the forest, compromises and balances all of the different uses while following the intent of the County Forest Law.

D. County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan Chapter 200 Section 215.2.3 Other Funds – Lovlien said Bove had raised a question under the section that says Committee will consider donations, endowments and other gifts whether real estate, equipment or cash and whether the County Corporation Counsel is the best person to be consulted to ascertain if such gifts benefit the County. The Corporation Counsel's Office is the appropriate office to ask whether or not something is a gift or endowment. Lovlien said it is boiler plate language. Bove thought it was redundant because as a Committee they have the option to ask Corporation Counsel's opinion on anything that they feel they need to. He felt there were other and better options and that they always have the right to retain Corporation Counsel's opinion if needed. **Motion** / second by Bove / Schlei to strike the sentence pertaining to Corporation Counsel. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Lovlien clarified that the entire plan requires DNR approval. If there is anything that they need included for legal purposes the DNR will let them know.

E. Wisconsin Forest Products Week – Lovlien explained that Wisconsin Forest Products Week is October 20-26. Wisconsin's forests are very important to Marathon County and the State with over 17 million acres, 24 billion in goods and employing over 60,000 citizens. It's the second leading employer in Marathon County next to agriculture.

F. National Forest Products Week – Ninety-six percent of the nation's industrial wood comes from domestic supplies. Wisconsin is number one in the nation for papermaking and has been for the past sixty years.

Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Review Timber Bids and Award Contracts – A second bid opening was held on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Lovlien said they have to advertise and open bids twice and then are allowed to sell the sales over the counter. A total of four bids were received with one bid on tract 6-19, one bid on tract 9-19, and two bids on tract 8-19. The high bids received on tracts 6-19 and 8-19 were above the advertised values. Lovlien recommends awarding those contracts to the high bidders. Lovlien explained that the bid on tract 9-19 was below the advertised value and the County is allowed to sell the sale if it's above that value. There had been a case in the past where bids were not over the advertised value and because of the amount of bidding and the markets at that time staff made a case to sell sales. Lovlien stated with the amount of bids, winter only work, poor markets, and the amount of staff time it takes to set up the sales his recommendation is to award the sale. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Bove to award tract's 6-19 and 8-19 to the high bidders. **Motion carried** by voice vote, no dissent. **Motion** / second by Bove / Schlei to award tract 9-19 to the high bidder. **Motion carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

2. County Forest Land Acquisition – Committee Discussion on Priorities for Blocking – Lovlien said a question arose at the last meeting on how priorities are determined for land acquisition and if farm land could be purchased and reforested. Lovlien said the first priority for acquisition is anything that blocks in the existing County forest along with if there is timber of value that could be harvested. The acquisition maps are currently in the County Forest Plan. The plan can be amended at any time with County Board and DNR approval. Lovlien said planting different species would involve the soil type and determining what species would grow on the site. Keranen discussed the costs involved to plant trees and some of the challenges they have had in planting on farm land in the northeastern part of the County. Bove was interested in this because the western part of the County doesn't have many County owned recreational forest lands and he would like to see more but understands there were challenges. Lovlien said with some of the farms closing it may be an opportunity to get some forested land along with farm land. They can look at properties as they come up for sale.

B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration - None

Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – December 3, 2019 at 12:30pm, 212 River Dr., Rm. 3

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – none

B. Future Agenda Items – 2020 County Forest Work Plan, 2020 County Forest Wildlife Work Plan, Resolution: Application for County Forest Acreage Share Payment, 2020 Forestry/Recreation Committee Tentative Meeting Schedule.

Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Bove / Schlei to adjourn at 1:15 pm. **Motion carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Members present: Arnold Schlei (c), James Bove, Rick Seefeldt

Also present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director, Chad Keranen-DNR Liaison, Brandon Stefanski-DNR Wildlife Biologist

Call meeting to order – Meeting called to order by Chairman Schlei at 12:30pm, Rm 3, 212 River Dr., Wausau.

Public Comment Period – None

Approve Minutes – **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Bove to approve the minutes from the November 5, 2019 regular Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Wisconsin Counties Earn High Marks for Forest Management – Lovlien said that the article discusses the Forest Certification five year audit that recently took place on four county forests. The State holds the license and Marathon County is part of the group certification. The third party independent auditors didn't find anything that the counties could improve on. The auditors will be coming to Marathon County in August 2020. The field audit is interesting and could be a mini-tour for interested members next year.

B. Pixelle Specialty Solutions to Acquire Business from Verso – Lovlien said Pixelle Specialty Solutions bought a mill in Stevens Point which will be the largest specialty paper business in terms of annual production. Selling and purchasing of mills has been more common in the last ten years.

C. Final County Forest Fall 2019 Timber Bid Summary – Keranen gave a summary of the two fall bid openings and said the general theme is that prices are down. The sales sold for over the total advertised value and the County received \$575.96 per acre. Typically the spring bids and summer ground wood fetch far higher stumpage values than the fall bid openings with winter ground wood only. With the markets and storm damage it appears that few want winter sales. All of the sales sold except one and staff is hoping this sale will be sold direct or it may be re-appraised and re-advertised in the spring.

Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. 2020 Forestry/Recreation Tentative Meeting Schedule – Committee agreed to keep the meetings on the same schedule of the first Tuesdays of the month at 12:30pm.

B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration

1. Review and Consider Approving the 2020 County Forest Wildlife Work Plan – Brandon Stefanski, DNR Wildlife Biologist – The workplan had been previously distributed. Stefanski reported on accomplishments from 2019. He discussed 2020 plans including flowage maintenance, wild rice seeding, alder and invasive species management, forest opening maintenance and the Nickel-An-Acre budget.

2. Review and Consider approving the 2020 County Forest Work Plan – Resolution to Approve – Lovlien reviewed the work plan. He gave highlights on upcoming work including timber management, road and trail maintenance, conservation aids projects, administration, GIS work and professional development. He noted that this past year they have replaced more culverts than they typically do in three years because of all the rain, washouts and beaver problems. This work will continue in 2020. The priority in 2020 will be to continue to work on and finalize the 15-Year County Forest Comprehensive Land Use plan. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Bove to approve the 2020 County Forest Wildlife Work Plan and the 2020 Annual County Forest Work Plan and forward them along with the resolution to the Environmental Resource Committee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

3. Resolution: Application for County Forest Acreage Payment – Lovlien explained that this interest free loan is based upon the number of County forest acres at 50 cents for the purchase, development, preservation and maintenance. The loan is paid back through a 20% severance tax on timber. **Motion** / second by Bove / Seefeldt to approve the application for County Forest Acreage Share Loan Payment Resolution and forward it to the Environmental Resource Committee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – January 7, 2020 at 12:30pm, 212 River Dr., Rm. 3

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – Lovlien announced that the policy is not to officially open the Nine Mile Chalet and ski and snowshoe trails until the last gun deer season is over which is December 16<sup>th</sup> this year. A compromise was made with the user groups to groom at night and turn the lights on for night skiing as a courtesy to the Ski Club. There has not been enough snow to open Nine Mile earlier than December 15<sup>th</sup> since 2007. Staff is reminding the user groups of the 2008 adopted Forestry/Recreation policy and asking the skiing community not to ski during daylight hours as a courtesy to the hunting community.

B. Future Agenda Items – Review of Proposed Policy Revisions to the Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan Chapters 400-600, Request by IronBull to Use Nine Mile Trail System for Red Granite Grinder Gravel Bike Race, Timbersale Closeouts, Land Acquisitions.

Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Bove / Seefeldt to adjourn at 1:15 pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

## Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department Forestry Division 2020 Work Plan

<b>Personnel:</b>	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
	Recreational Officer (Sheriff)	0.04 FTE
	DNR Cooperative Assistance (State Funded)	0.35 FTE
	 Total	 3.27 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 26 timber sales on 1711 acres established on County Forest Land with an estimated stumpage value of \$1,383,051.96.
4. Administer the cutting and scaling of one timber sale on 23 acres at Mission Lake Park with an estimated stumpage value of \$12,472.65.
5. Allow forest succession to naturally convert some oak and aspen stands to hardwood.
6. Complete deer browse surveys at Big Eau Pleine Park and on County forest lands to determine to what extent tree regeneration is being affected.
7. Complete year two utilizing a \$31,200 DNR Sustainable Forestry Grant to remove undesirable invasive species, brush and trees at Kronenwetter and Leathercamp forest units to allow for oak regeneration.
8. Classify habitat types on a minimum of 1000 acres.
9. Calculate allowable harvest levels out 20 and 30 years to ensure sustainability.
10. Evaluate 35-40 year-old aspen stands to determine feasibility of harvesting stands early to improve age class distribution and stabilize harvest levels.
11. Issue approximately 25 firewood permits.
12. Release 2019 planting of white pine and white spruce at Kronenwetter Forest Unit.

13. Evaluate release needs for all acres of red pine planted since 2002. Release plantations by mechanical or herbicides as needed.
14. 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.
15. Plant approximately 500 red pine at the Miller Forest Unit.
16. Continue implementing the policy on annosum root rot disease requiring contractors to spray conifer stumps with fungicide to prevent infection according to DNR recommendations.
17. Establish timber sales on selected park properties as directed.
18. Monitor timber sales for unauthorized timber removal using the video detection system.
19. Monitor, evaluate, and treat oak wilt pockets in Nine Mile and other Forest Units.
20. Monitor, evaluate, and treat invasive species on the forest.
21. 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 Burma 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 Duane Corbin Shooting Range Park that replaces shooting benches.
15. Complete a County Conservation Aids Project at DC Everest County Park that replaces boat planks and asphalt near the landing.
16. Replace culverts in Leathercamp, Kronenwetter, Nine Mile, Harrison-Hewitt and Burma Forest Units as needed.

17. Continue mitigation of the 2010 flood using a FEMA grant at the Bern Forest Unit.
18. Check the National Heritage Inventory (NHI) for any “occurrences” on any project on County Forest lands.

**C. Land and Equipment:**

1. Negotiate the purchase of additional lands to enter as County Forest that will improve blocking, facilitate management and aligns with the Marathon County Strategic and County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plans.
2. 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 Leathercamp 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. Complete revisions of the 2021-2035 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan and obtain County Board and Department of Natural Resources approval.
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).
14. Follow the Bern Flowage emergency action plan, if required, due to flooding.
15. Review county zoning to ensure alignment with the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
16. Apply for grants and permits that accomplish County Forest and Park land improvements.
17. Supervise the County Forester and other seasonal employees.

18. Continue to educate the new Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director on County Forest management.
19. Continue to be part of an administration team working on strategic planning and other initiatives to meet 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. Attend County sponsored training including IDEAS, inclusivity and other management as required.
3. Participate in job shadows introducing students into the forestry profession.
4. Continue to assist the public with insect, disease, and timber management information.
5. Give tours on the County Forest including UW-Stevens Point and the Forestry/Recreation Committee as time allows.
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 2020-2025.
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.

# 2020 MARATHON COUNTY FOREST WILDLIFE WORK PLAN

This represents the 2020 Annual Wildlife Work Plan, pursuant to the fifteen-year Comprehensive Plan for the Marathon County Forest.

## Personnel

For the first time in several years, the DNR Wildlife Biologist and Wildlife Technician positions assigned to Marathon County were filled throughout the year. The DNR Area Wildlife Supervisor position is currently vacant but is planned to be filled during the fall of 2019. 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 spring, summer and fall of 2019 due to above average precipitation. Managers monitored flowages to keep them at ideal water levels throughout the year. Waterfowl production and sightings were variable on Marathon County flowages. Beaver issues and damage were above average, and their presence prevented some water manipulation activities.

### **Dike Maintenance:**

Muskrat and beaver holes on the flowage dikes are usually patched to maintain the integrity of the dikes. Steinke Pond had extensive damage due to beaver and was repaired by a contractor during the summer of 2019. The other dikes were checked, but rodent damage was minimal, and repairs were not needed.

The USDA-Wildlife Services was contracted to trap and remove problem beaver in 2019 due to increased beaver numbers and issues. The USDA removed beaver at East Flowage in Nine Mile, Whiskey, Swamp and Lower Nienow flowages in the Harrison-Hewitt forest unit, and Steinke Pond at Bitzke Refuge. In 2020, DNR plans to contract with USDA-Wildlife Services to trap beaver on the flowages due to increasing beaver damage. DNR wildlife is also exploring additional payment options for beaver damage.

Nienow, Nine Mile East #1 and Birch flowage dike tops were mowed, and dike slopes of these flowages were brushed and treated with herbicides to prevent regrowth.

### **Bern Flowage:**

Bern flowage is chronically affected by floating cattail masses that have moved to the Northeast 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 and water levels stable. There are still cattails that need to be removed from the flowage as they move closer to the weir. A contractor is scheduled to remove cattails during November of 2019 and will continue to remove cattails in 2020 as needed.

## **Wild Rice:**

Wild Rice production varied on many flowages in 2019. Rice production was slightly higher on Lower Nienow and Lower Leo flowages compared to previous years. Patches of rice were seen at Nienow, Leo and Swamp flowages in the Harrison-Hewitt unit and the East #2 and Birch flowages at Nine Mile. In October of 2019, managers purchased 115 lbs. of wild rice and seeded Leo and Lower Leo flowages.

## **Flowage Management:**

Planned flowage management for 2020 includes a continuation of the flowage drawdown rotation. All the flowages will benefit from being drawn down periodically (~ every 5 years). Drawdowns reduce undesirable plant species, allow desirable plant species to germinate and return nutrients to the soil. The drawdown plan for 2019 called for drawdowns on Steinke and Nienow flowages. All the boards were pulled at Steinke flowage, but it never reached full draw down with the large amount of precipitation received. Nienow flowage was not brought down due to various reasons. In 2020, managers plan to draw down Nienow flowage and leave Steinke drawn down for another year. We will also plan to draw down the Nine Mile East #2 flowage if beaver do not prevent it.

## **Herbicide treatments:**

In 2019, exotic invasive species were sprayed on 8.5 miles of dikes and trails between flowages. In 2020, managers will spray thistle, tansy and spotted knapweed on dikes and trails as needed.

## **Forest Management**

### **Openings Management:**

Maintaining early successional habitat, such as grass openings, is an important part of Central Wisconsin forest management. In 2019, seventeen forest openings were treated and another three were field checked with no management needed (28% of the total) in the Harrison-Hewitt, Kronenwetter, Leather Camp, Nine Mile and Burma units. The openings were treated with mowers, brush saws, chainsaws and/or herbicide applications. Thirty-four openings were scheduled to be managed in 2019. The openings not managed will be added to future work plans.

In 2020, wildlife staff plan to manage twenty-seven openings in Harrison-Hewitt, Nine Mile, Leather Camp and Ringle forest units.

### **Trails:**

Several forest trails (~ 2.4 miles) on the Kronenwetter and Leather Camp units were seeded with a clover/grass mix in the spring and summer of 2019. 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 be seeded in Marathon County in 2020 as requested by Marathon County Forestry staff.

### **Alder Management:**

Approximately 18 acres of alder was mowed on three sites in Leather Camp during January of 2019. Managers have set a goal of mowing 10-20 acres of alder during the winter of 2019-20. 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. Multiple sites in Leather Camp County Forest Unit have been identified for alder mowing. Additional sites in Harrison-Hewitt will be selected as another option.

## Grasslands/ Hoffman Farm

In 2019, managers planned to conduct a prescribed burn on Unit 4 of the Hoffman Farm. Due to very wet conditions and burn priorities, this burn was not accomplished.

The large burn unit south of County Road G is scheduled to be burned during the fall of 2020. The firebreak will need to be installed during the summer of 2020 to accomplish this burn.

### 2019/2020 Nickel-an-Acre Budget

The following table lists the 2019 Nickel-an-Acre project budgets and expenses. It also includes proposed 2020 projects and the associated spending plan.

<b>Project Activity</b>	<b>2019 Budgeted</b>	<b>2019 Expended</b>	<b>2020 Budgeted</b>
Flowage Maintenance (dikes, spillways, structures)	\$500	\$0	\$500
Flowage Maintenance (brush/cattail removal-dikes)	\$400	\$0	\$500
Wildlife Opening Maintenance	\$400	\$0	\$500
Trail Seeding	\$100	\$0	\$100
Wild Rice Seeding	\$400	\$440.80	\$400
Alder Management	\$500	\$500	\$500
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$2,300</b>	<b>\$940.80</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>

After all expenses are subtracted, the Nickel-an-Acre account balance at the end of 2019 should be \$2907.20. This will increase to \$4,321.53 after deposit of the 2020 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 2019 BID OPENING RESULTS

SPECIES	TONS	HIGH BID	LOW BID	Weighted Average of All Bids	Weighted Average of High Bids	Wt. Av. High Bids Spring 2019	Wt. Av. High Bids Fall 2018	Wt. Av. High Bids Spring 2018
ASPEN	4140	\$15.51	\$6.00	\$8.43	\$9.47	\$17.38	\$10.60	\$14.33
MIXED HWD	6080	\$13.00	\$7.00	\$9.13	\$10.07	\$15.69	\$11.71	\$13.22
OAK	635	\$6.00	\$5.00	\$5.48	\$5.91	\$11.40	\$4.85	\$8.00
BASSWOOD	500	\$3.00	\$0.01	\$0.84	\$0.61	\$3.44	\$2.98	\$5.11
<b>MBF</b>								
RED OAK	58	\$240.00	\$80.00	\$209.63	\$217.93	\$414.66	\$227.56	\$321.88
RED MAPLE	215	\$250.00	\$150.00	\$196.44	\$213.72	\$332.84	\$205.00	\$220.16
WHITE ASH	70	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$139.00	\$142.86	\$257.94	\$269.00	\$200.00
BASSWOOD	80	\$150.00	\$120.00	\$145.26	\$159.38	\$200.00	\$175.00	\$200.00
SUGAR MAPLE	10	\$240.00	\$150.00	\$190.00	\$186.00	xxxx	\$350.00	\$310.00
MIXED HWD	3	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$250.00	\$154.18	\$200.00
<b>BIOMASS</b>								
All Species	650	\$0.25	\$0.21	\$0.25	\$0.25	\$0.50	\$0.25	\$0.50

Number of sales sold	4/5	6/6	6/7	6/7
Acres sold	276	397	377	301
Value of sales sold	\$183,708.45	\$551,371.85	\$222,496.25	\$170,890.35
Appraised value of sales	\$253,627.50	\$426,645.25	\$288,901.50	\$174,647.15
\$ / acre sold	\$575.96	\$1,388.85	\$590.18	\$567.74
Ton eq. sold	13,760	16,880	16,710	11,630
\$ / ton ave.	\$13.35	\$32.66	\$13.31	\$14.69
Cord eq. sold	5980	7340	7270	5055
\$ / cord ave.	\$30.72	\$75.11	\$30.60	\$33.80

This bid opening was for five county forest timber sales  
 Only received six total bids on the five sales, in two separate bid openings  
 One sale sold in the September 30th bid opening and three sales sold in the November bid opening  
 Appears the summer storms, markets and frozen ground all contributed to minimal interest in these sales.

Name (Optional):	I represent the following organization (fill in if applicable):	Address:	City/State/Zip Code:	Phone:	E-Mail Address:	The following are the forest issues that I (or my organization) feel should be addressed in the updated forest plan. Please list:
Kirk Stark	Wisconsin River Valley Trout Unlimited	811 2nd Street	Rothschild, WI 54474	715-432-0560	kfgstark@gmail.com	<p>Logging of older woodlands to support animals of all kinds</p> <p>Logging of marsh areas in winter near or separated by streams to allow flooding water to recede so streams retain and remain at normal flow rates</p> <p>Removal of fallen trees from streams</p> <p>Long term plan to bring back white pines to the area</p>
Marilyn K. Bhend	Town of Johnson Clerk / Marathon County ERC Committee / Wisconsin Towns Association Director	113445 County Road A	Athens. WI 54411-5008	715-581-7006	marilyn.bhend@gmail.com	<p>Plan for cutting/logging of the forest land...purchasing of forest land that is contiguous to other county forest through stewardship grants.</p> <p>Should any of the county forest land be open to trails...bike/walking/atu/utv.</p> <p>nine mile forest should be considered separately from the other forests as it used in a far different and more frequent manner</p> <p>Keeping in mind the counties commitment to healthy residents; nine mile offers opportunities that other forest do not</p> <p>more accommodation should be made for use by cyclists, skiers, runners, and other active citizens</p>
Tom Builer	builers cycle and fitness	215 south 3rd ave	ausau wi 54401	715 842 4185	builerscycle@aol.com	regulation of e bikes at nine mile and other locations. define what a e bike is or is not
Greg and Rachel Kresse		7107 Blueberry LN	Wausau, WI 54401	715-355-0821	r_kresse@yahoo.com	<p>NO clear cutting when harvesting forests</p> <p>Continued Silent Sport Activities (skiing, mountain biking) within 9 Mile Recreational Forest</p> <p>Continue restricted access by 4 wheelers/ATVs and, snowmobiles</p> <p>Replanting of harvested forests</p> <p>maintaining young forest habitat</p>
Paul Klocko	General interests, hunting	3907 Pat St	Weston	7152416940	pklocko@dwave.net	Less clear cutting to improve species diversity.
Ralph Fischer	Ice Age Trail Alliance,	730 E Bridge St	Wausau, WI 54403	920-716-3384	rusk55geor@gmail.com	<p>Watershed protection through the promotion of silent sports which create less environmental degradation.</p> <p>Reduce forest fragmentation and create wildlife corridors to reduce motor vehicle fatalities of all life.</p>
Don Nelson Fiber Procurement Manager	Domtar Rothschild Mill	200 n Grand Ave	Rothschild WI 54474	715-355-6361 / 715-966-0040	donald.nelson@domtar.com	I have viewed several logging jobs in the forest and have agreed with all of the mgnt. plan prescriptions. I have cooperatively worked well w/forest staff in my previous role. Domtar would really benefit and utilize more fiber from the forest if Marathon County was certified also as FSC. I also would like to discuss a "log a load" for kids some day.
Mike Lane	Mosinee Sportsman's Alliance	921 Landfried Ave	Mosinee WI 54455	715-693-2749		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. sustainable forestry</li> <li>2. over utilization</li> <li>3. environmental degradation</li> <li>4. excessive development</li> <li>5. wildlife, water quality, soils, and resource management</li> </ol>
James B Riedel		880 River Rd.	Mosinee WI 54455			We have 80 acres and it abuts Marathon County land. Our 80 is in Forest Protection and selective cutting has been done and is supervised by the D.N.R. We are satisfied with this arrangement. The County land in this area has been well managed.
Daniel Brandon		177926 County Rd G	Antigo WI 54409	715-627-2772		Install useable roads for county forest access. Plant conifers for wildlife cover.
Jim Borski		2250 Linwood Dr	Stevens Point WI 54481	715-341-3307		To keep the pulping or clear cutting done where needed to keep forest young and help the wildlife.
Aaron Nelson	DC Everest Area School District	6300 Alderson Street	Weston WI 54476	715-359-4221 x1213	anelson@dce.k12.wi.us	<p>-Continue a forest plan that makes land accessible to public. Continue to provide walking, biking trails, hunting and other recreational opportunities.</p> <p>-Provide a long term management plan that provides protection for water, plants and animals.</p> <p>-Provide a long term revenue source from timber sales for management of the County forests and public park system.</p>

Name (Optional):	I represent the following organization (fill in if applicable):	Address:	City/State/Zip Code:	Phone:	E-Mail Address:	The following are the forest issues that I (or my organization) feel should be addressed in the updated forest plan. Please list:
	no organization but property connected to several acres of county land	Kronenwetter				No need to blacktop a well taken care of granite road a short distance to accommodate one family(4) total for a very short ways on private land and hunters, dog walkers for that short ways. Stop certain nationality persons from taking robins, doves, any small birds from county forest to eat (not game birds). Do not let wet-lands be filled in for township gains - sub divisions - mini malls, etc. Control hunting on county forest land - stricter poaching laws and punishment. Keep doing the good job of forest management you're doing - realize some of what I've written isn't exactly county forest but does effect those lands.
James Peterleus		3770 Teri Lane	Hartford WI 53027	414-801-0235	bpeterleus@sbcglobal.net	Allow hunters to leave tree stands up during hunting season as long as no damage is done to the tree. Maybe sell a permit limit 2 per hunter. Langlade allows stands during season and I have not heard of any complaints.
Kevin Robbins		3640 North Rd	Mosinee WI 54455	715-409-0821	krobbsin@apog.com	1. Timely harvest of mature woodlands. 2. Preservation of mature oak stands. 3. Allow ladder stand placement during hunting season without daily removal. 4. Support adjacent landowners with watershed management support - culverts, roadway placement advice/support, etc.
Thomas C. Kurth, Sr.						Sustain the forest for future generations to enjoy. Which includes managing and harvesting timber, controlling invasive plants and animals, insects. Allowing public access to the forest with expectations for the public to enjoy, hunt, hike, bird watch, etc. But also to use it responsibly. Keeping the public informed about all management plans for present and future forest use.
Roger Welbes		4113 Martin Rd.	Kronenwetter WI 54455	715-359-9214	zoomzoom@netzero.com	Living near Kronenwetter Forest unit parking lot on Martin Rd. We notice its being over used, during the hunting seasons. Look into developing the right of way at end of Schmidt place, easement in place, to lighten use of original lot. Change padlocks occasionally to prevent road hunting and illegal firewood cutting and no ATV's.
					c.leslie@uwsp.edu	Close hunting in certain area's to let deer reproduce, 5 year period! Total clear cutting should not be allowed. Leave mother tree's. Maintain trails in or through County lands.
			Wausau, WI 54401			Please make sure the forest maintains a significant deer population.
David Piehler		Crimson Road 1025 Weston Ave.	Wausau WI 54401 Wausau WI 54403-6771	715-432-7745	daveauw@piehlerfamily.com	Pine trees planted in forest are starting to die off. Plant and animal species diversity Wildlife habitat Invasive species elimination Establish a healthy forest ecosystem Manage for recreation Sustainable forestry management
Mike Heinrich		W9920 Huggins Rd.	Antigo WI 54409	715-623-6954		Keep all-terrain users off all closed trails. Use good forest practices on County land
Scott Geboy	I own land next to County	W16656716 Oak Hill Dr	Muskego WI 53150	1-414-422-4664		I have none - I think the DNR forest Dept. is doing a fine job now and in past 17 years. Thank you
Gary A Zimbric	Wausau Nordic Skiers	4011 North Lakeshore Drive	Wausau	7153554491	garyzimbric1@gmail.com	1) Snowmaking on the lighted trails at Nine Mile 2) Logging and habitat management to optimize snow conditions on the ski trails 3) Preseason trail maintenance to minimize the snowfall needed for safe ski conditions 4) Working agreements to allow XC skiing on a limited portion of the XC trail season during any late season deer hunting periods. 5) We support efforts to improve opportunities for greater access for mountain bikers, runners and hikers to Nine Mile, including special events.
Chuck Theiler						All forest should be used for their best possible potential whatever that is recreation or income. Taking into account the amount of human traffic is on that parcel of property
Carl Foster		7605 Blueberry Ln	Wausau WI 54401	715-359-4918	cwf.foster@gmail.com	Practice sustainable forestry so our forest produce a good income. Promote forest use for other recreation uses other then just the trails and parks - ex. - hunting, fishing, hiking, berry picking, etc. This would give more community support and help preserve them forever.
Larry Cihlar	Wausau School District	650 S 7th Avenue	Wausau WI 54401	715-261-0801	lcihlar@wausauschools.org	Forest insect and disease -oak wilt -EAB
Charlie Bauer	rib knights snowmobile club	7010 Woodsmoke Rd	Wausau	7155510375	charlie.bauer@charter.net	keep in mind that all user of the forest are considered hunters fishing snowmobilers atvs not just the silent sports with docs and lawyers pouring money at there interest
Chris Portman		799 Violet Way	Antigo WI 54409	715-216-0007		My concern is keeping property taxes reasonable for recreational land. I believe in being good stewards of the land but high property taxes for recreational land can be too much to handle for some. MFL was a good program to help with the cost of property taxes.

Name (Optional):	I represent the following organization (fill in if applicable):	Address:	City/State/Zip Code:	Phone:	E-Mail Address:	The following are the forest issues that I (or my organization) feel should be addressed in the updated forest plan. Please list:
Coleen Kennedy		237246 Forest Lawn Rd	54403	715 297 4588	Kennedyjuers@gmail.com	<p>Please consider the importance of installing, preserving and protecting native plants, shrubs and trees to promote a healthy ecosystem to support habitat for wildlife.</p> <p>Healthy resources for animals means healthy resources for humans.</p> <p>Declining habitat is one of the primary causes of bird populations. One-third of bird species are endangered. Like canaries in the coal mine, birds everywhere serve as the bellwether to environmental degradation.</p> <p>Please pick areas as sanctuary and keep them native and undisturbed. Practice conservation in the most literal sense and conserve and protect and improve areas for our native plant, shrubs and trees.</p>
Kevin Fabel	myself	1100 Grand Avenue, #310 A	Schofield, WI 54476	715-581-3478	Kevin.Fabel@ci.wausau.wi.us	<p>Please ensure that public hunting/trapping is accommodated. Places to hunt and trap are becoming more and more limited/expensive and this resource allows people the opportunity to hunt and trap who would not be able to otherwise...Thank You.</p>
Jason Jankowski		166776 County Road Z	Wausau WI 54403	715-297-4136		<p>Please leave the park/forest alone on Rivers Edge Road. I am for managed forest but not for hiking trails, parking lot and restrooms. This will just create problems and trash this beautiful 80. There is generations of family's that bird, deer, squirrel and bear hunt this woods. Hiking trails and hunting don't mix. I personally walk with my son and dog on this land and enjoy it just the way it was INTENDED. Thank you for sending this!</p>
Lavralle (nee Lewens) Donahue / DC Everest Class of '56		4627 W. Good Hope Road	Milwaukee WI 53223	414-352-3238		<p>Limited vehicular damage  *Wetland preservation  -Wise forest harvest with sustainability and trees/ to protect oxygen as a goal  -animals/harvest - same goal (sustainability)  -public education on issues especially visuals to show users and nearby owners how the water resources flow underground! Anti-pollution</p> <p>Additional hiking trails throughout the different forest units. These trails should be for people to explore and enjoy the forest units. The trails could resemble the trails at the Big Eau Pleine Park where they can be used by multiple users but are easy for families.</p> <p>Infrastructure funding at Nine Mile to update the current facilities to accommodate the events which are already taking place.</p> <p>A balance of the use of Nine Mile and the amount of revenue it could generate.</p> <p>More patrol of the forest units.</p>
Susan Haug	Wausau Bird Club	168305 River Road	Ringle, WI 54471		sjhaug@charter.net	<p>Due to chimney swift decline the club would like snags to continue to be left standing when cutting is done in an area.</p> <p>Due to presence of Lyme Disease the group also is concerned that some of the forest trails aren't mowed early in the season during migration. This makes foot travel difficult.</p> <p>Not all members are aware of all the many different hunting seasons that take place. Safety concerns are sometimes voiced at meetings. I do share the information I receive at the subcommittee meetings. I do appreciate that.</p> <p>Monoculture planting limits the variety of insects available for the birds so birders prefer diversity.</p> <p>Group does feel that there is plenty of forest to find birds in and usually when we are out in the early morning no one is present.</p>
Debora Auner	Town of Bern	240327 Cty Rd M	Athens WI 54411-8424	715-560-0864	debauner@gmail.com	None
Deborah Seymour		213680 Hog Creek Drive	Mosinee WI 54455	715-693-4928	debseymour53@gmail.com	All comments related to Big Eau Pleine Park not County Forests
Patrick J Kluz		808 19th Street	Mosinee WI 54455	715-693-6876	PJK92984@yahoo.com	Eradication of buckthorn and any other invasive exotic species. Stopping oak wilt and other diseases that are killing native tree species.
Charles Janssen		5206 Lakeshore Dr	Wausau WI 54401	715-571-3492	whntal@gmail.com	Invasive plants that are taking over. I am in the process of dealing with them, but still being encroached from the Nine Mile Forest Unit. Buckthorn has not been treated or addressed in the Unit.
Susan Henning		4706 Tate Ct.	Wausau, WI. 54401	715-574-1099	sue.henning37@gmail.com	Please keep the snowshoe and cross country trails, as they are used by many! So happy to see a choice of 4K, 6k, 8k, and 10k for the snowshoe trails! I use the trails a lot during winter.

Name (Optional):	I represent the following organization (fill in if applicable):	Address:	City/State/Zip Code:	Phone:	E-Mail Address:	The following are the forest issues that I (or my organization) feel should be addressed in the updated forest plan. Please list:
		3101 Bellflower St	Wausau, WI 54401	715-630-6444	timbuch@me.com	<p>I visit all the county forests on a regular basis, but mainly spend time at 9-mile. Would love to find a way to make two things happen:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Extend the mountain biking season at 9-mile later into the fall; even if it is still closed in the mornings for hunting. I respect the need to share between all user groups, but am always disappointed that mountain bikers such as myself miss out on one of the best times of year to ride bikes at 9 Mile.</li> <li>2. Consider opening the mountain bike trails in the winter to fat biking. This sport has become HUGELY popular, and could draw hundreds if not thousands to nine mile in the winter months if the single track were open to this. Many systems, including the Birkie trails find ways to share between skiers and fat bikers; we should be able to as well.</li> </ol>
Jeff Pepp		6341 Ashbury Drive	Wisconsin Rapids	7154515295	jeffepp@charter.net	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a member of the CWOCC off-road bike club and the CC ski club and I spend a lot of recreational time in the Nine Mile Forest.</p> <p>For as long as I have been using Nine Mile, I and my fellow bikers are deeply saddened that our access to the trails is limited by the calendar. In my opinion we should have year round access. Mountain biking has very minimal impact upon other users of the forest including hunters, skiers and hikers.</p> <p>We can all co-exist using the property year around. The trails that our club builds and maintains are used by hikers, hunters, snow-shoers alike.</p> <p>With the rise in popularity of fat-biking in recent years there is an additional reason to allow biking year round in the Nine Mile Forest. Trails crossing each other are not a significant hinderance.</p> <p>Improve and bring up to date your rental equipment at the chalet for skiers. Bring your grooming standards up to meet competing x-c ski venues in N Wisconsin.</p>
		1104 Pintail Lane	Wausau	7158437873	kmeyer1104@gmail.com	<p>Residents of Marathon County are fortunate to have the Nine Mile Forest Ski Area. Preservation and maintenance of this treasure should be included in any 15 year plan, including providing for adequate grooming equipment and trained personnel to do the grooming, as well as ongoing maintenance of the chalet. I use the trails approximately 5 times a week when there is snow.</p> <p>I would also encourage the county to consider water quality of the Wisconsin River Watershed and the Rib, Eau Claire, and Wisconsin River areas that border Marathon County lands in any 15 year plan, being proactive to maintaining these natural resources which make Wisconsin and Marathon County the special places they are, and part of the reasons we choose to live here.</p>
Rebecca Tuley		247 N 14th Ave	Wausau, WI 54401	715-223-5851	rebecca.tuley@hotmail.com	<p>If hikers/runners are not required to have a trail pass, then snowshoers should also be exempt. Also, why not develop an annual pass for those that ski and bike?</p> <p>Also, where does my bike trail fee go? Volunteers maintain the trails that everyone, including hikers and runners, utilize.</p>
Paul Martin		3337 N 13th Street	Wausau, WI 54403	715-261-6272	pmartin@uwsp.edu	<p>I mainly utilize 9-mile forest for Nordic skiing.</p> <p>I think 9-mile is a great asset and should be maintained at least at current levels.</p> <p>I think the drive out there is a little bit of a deterrent for some of the Wausau population. I would like to see perhaps a classic track set in town on the river edge trail and perhaps try to connect to Sylvan Park. It seems that if early skiing is to be pursued, perhaps snowmaking at Sylvan for a 1-2km loop would be more feasible than at 9-mile. The park lacks hunting, so December skiing would be an option, also very accessible and has a chalet too.</p> <p>A grander goal would be to work with the railroad and put in a bike/ski track along the River up to Brokaw (and perhaps eventually to Merrill) and also toward the south beyond Thomas Street.</p> <p>Please consider the opportunity to expand recreational activities in county forests. provide for more hiking, cross country skiing, and bicycles.</p>
Tracy Gorzek		2507 Juniper Ln	Wausau	WI	tgorzek@yahoo.com	<p>I would like to see a separation of the hiking/biking trails from the areas people are allowed to hunt. It is very frightening when you are out on the trails in September/October and come across hunters that are actively shooting. This has happened to me two times in the last year.</p>

Name (Optional):	I represent the following organization (fill in if applicable):	Address:	City/State/Zip Code:	Phone:	E-Mail Address:	The following are the forest issues that I (or my organization) feel should be addressed in the updated forest plan. Please list:
Rick Barnes				715 6935280	Rickbarnes@mtc.net	<p>Where possible remove oak trees within 30 feet or so of main trails to reduce oak leaves in ski tracks.</p> <p>Set aside a small area to become old growth forest for educational and aesthetic purposes.</p> <p>Budget additional dollars for repair of trails after logging operations instead of freeloading off of volunteers to repair the damage that was done.</p> <p>Thanks</p>
Dennis Fait	Hunter and Skier	2501 Starflower Lane	Wausau (Rib Mtn) WI 54401	715 241 8308	dennis.e.fait@gmail.com	<p>Optimization of ski trails. Wildlife sustainment. Forest diversity. Modest user fees for Marathon county residents. Minimization of motorized vehicle intrusion. Encourage user environmental programs. Keep it wild.</p>
Fergus E McKiernan	Wausau Nordic Skiers	2009 Eagle Valley Lane	Wausau	715-316-8003	ferguseoin@gmail.com	<p>I would like to see greater accessibility to the forest for early season skiers, including for dry land training. The impact on the land would appear to be negligible but the benefit to the skiing community could be enormous.</p> <p>While still in the conceptual stage I am hopeful that Marathon County Parks will be supportive of limited future snow making operations at Nine Mile. This is the only way our young skiers will have a chance to become internationally competitive and it would also result in a huge economic boon to the greater Wausau area.</p> <p>Thank you all for maintaining this wonderful local resource for all of us.</p>
			Wausau, WI 54403			<p>Conservation of natural resources and protection of water quality. Keep native forest healthy and peaceful for wildlife, and for people to walk and appreciate nature. Help provide links to educational resources so more can appreciate birds and native plants and the ecosystems.</p>
John McCarthy	Milwaukee Nordic Ski Club	2910 Berkshire Court	Waukesha, WI 53188	414 412 0331	johnnymac1952@gmail.com	<p>Snowmaking for cross country skiing at Nine Mile Forest -- The ski trails at Nine Mile are one of the most popular venues in the entire state. Skiers come from all over, individually and in groups, to enjoy the wonderful trails and great facilities. In recent years, a lack of snow has hampered operations, resulting in event cancellations and reduced attendance - and loss of revenue for the facility. Construction of a system for making snow for the trails would greatly enhance the ability of the facility to provide quality skiing for the entire season. Nine Mile, and the Wausau area would be an ideal venue for snowmaking, with cooler temperatures, compared to Madison and Milwaukee, where successful snowmaking operations have substantially improved the cross country skiing experience.</p>
Kelly Brandt		151195 Crimson Rd	Wausau	7152167107	brandt.kelly@marshfieldclinic.org	<p>Improving sustainability of 9 mile ski trails including the addition of snow making capabilities at the site to improve the tourism ability for the area.</p>
Will Edwards		700 Oconomowoc Pkwy	Oconomowoc, WI 53066	2623917588	700oconomowoc@gmail.com	<p>Snowmaking at Nine Mile.</p>
Paul Keber		2000 Cobblestone Court	Waukesha/WI/53188	262-547-4827	pkeber@milwpc.com	<p>I think that Nine Mile needs snowmaking.</p>
Pat Meyer		1104 Pintail Lane	Wausau WI 54401		73bqdger@gmail.com	<p>When doing logging, company who's doing the logging MUST fix the trails when done. This has not been done in the past, the ski club volunteers have had to do this work.</p> <p>I know logging must be done, but no way should the trails not be restored</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Take into account habitat protection for endangered species when planning for logging operations.</li> <li>2. Continue an emphasis on silent sports such as snowshoeing and cross country skiing</li> </ol>
Brent Brye		1317 Cedar St.	Wausau, WI 54401			
David A. Kuphal		12712 County Road U	54401	17153407746	dkuphal@sbcglobal.net	<p>As urbanization of the county grows, it is increasingly important to preserve natural areas for wildlife habitat undisturbed by development and timber harvesting. These areas are an important retreat for hunters and wildlife enthusiasts with low impact trails and access. Harvesting timber dramatically upsets the evolution of the diversified wooded biome. The reason why Marathon County is such an awesome and unique place to live is the ability to have a city center experience and then literally within 20 minutes one can be "lost" in the woods. Thank you so much for all the work that has been for this cause. I would encourage the county to grow the woods, not cut the woods.</p>

Name (Optional):	I represent the following organization (fill in if applicable):	Address:	City/State/Zip Code:	Phone:	E-Mail Address:	The following are the forest issues that I (or my organization) feel should be addressed in the updated forest plan. Please list:
	Town of Guenther	203799 Knapp Rd	Mosinee WI 54455		togclerk@mtc.net	Increase stumpage fee to towns that hold many acres within towns - to offset loss tax revenue. Town of Guenther, Town of Harrison, Village of Kronenwetter. Post where Marathon County boundaries meet private lands - so no trespassing on private lands Minimize/avoid cutting trees near the 9-Mile cross country ski trails.
Jason Myers	CWOCC Member & Wausau West HS Cross Country Running Coach	770 N 32nd Ave	Wausau, WI 54401	715-432-7905	jasonmyers314@gmail.com	Personally, I believe CWOCC has done a very nice job of communicating and working along side the county to plan and maintain mountain bike trails at 9-Mile. Ideally, CWOCC would continue to work along side the county in planning and developing several more miles of trail at this facility. The mountain bike trails are minimally invasive and serve as a lure for visitors from all around the region. Finally, with numerous high schools in the area hosting XC running events at 9-Mile, it may be time for us to find an alternative location near Wausau to create a permanent running course. This course could be utilized in the fall by various schools around the county to host meets. I'm sure a solid 5K course could also be utilized by various other groups for 5K events throughout the year.
Maggie Steder		133436 County Road C	Mosinee WI 54455	7153872174	mmsteder@gmail.com	Conservation
John Johnkoski		924 Grant Street	54403	7155814074	j.johnkoski@me.com	I would like to see more attention to Nine Mile for the use of cross-country skiing. It is a wonderful resource and the staff is very accommodating. The grooming is good, but could be better, especially in poor snow conditions. I am not an expert skier by any means, but I have many friends who are much more knowledgeable regarding grooming and I am sympathetic to their concerns. I also see an opportunity for concessions much like they have at Winter Park and I think with the demographics of Wausau, I think this might be way to increase revenue and raise the bar in terms of how Nine Mile compares to other ski areas. Finally, I would be very in favor of snow making and I know it has been discussed. Thanks for your consideration!

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 400

FOREST OWNERSHIP

<u>Section</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page</u>
400	OBJECTIVE.....	2
405	COUNTY FOREST OWNERSHIP .....	2
410	LAND OWNERSHIP GOALS.....	2
415	COUNTY FOREST BLOCKING .....	2
420	PRIVATE INHOLDINGS .....	3
425	ACQUISITION OF LAND WITHIN THE COUNTY FOREST BLOCKING BOUNDARY .....	3
430	ACQUISITION OF LAND OUTSIDE THE COUNTY FOREST BLOCKING BOUNDARY.....	4
435	ACQUISITION OF LAND RIGHTS.....	4
440	METHODS OF AUTHORIZATION OF ACQUISITION OF LAND TITLE OR RIGHTS.....	5
445	FINANCING.....	5
450	ENTRY OF LANDS .....	6
	450.1 TIME OF ENTRY .....	6
455	WITHDRAWAL OF LANDS FROM COUNTY FOREST LAW.....	6
	455.1 WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE.....	7
460	LAND SURVEYING .....	7
	460.1 LEGAL SURVEYING .....	8
	460.2 LOCATION OF LINES BY OTHER THAN LEGAL SURVEY .....	8
	460.3 PRESERVATION OF LANDMARKS, MONUMENTS AND CORNER POSTS.....	8
465	PROPERTY RIGHTS CONVEYANCES.....	9
	465.1 TERMS OF PROPERTY RIGHTS CONVEYANCES .....	10
	465.2 PROCEDURES FOR PROPERTY RIGHTS CONVEYANCES .....	11
470	TAX DEED LAND.....	11

#### **400 OBJECTIVE**

The purpose of Chapter 400 is to identify policy and procedures relating to:

1. The acquisition of land to be enrolled in County Forest pursuant to s. 28.11(4)(b), Wis. Stats. or other lands possessing special or unique values areas that are not suited primarily for timber production to be entered under s. 28.11(4)(c), Wis. Stats., special use classification.
2. The acquisition of lands throughout the county for the purpose of future trading for priority parcels to be enrolled in County Forest pursuant to s. 28.11(4)(b), Wis. Stats.
3. The acquisition of land interests such as conservation easements, first right of refusal, or other land rights of the benefit to county forests.
4. Location, identification, and protection of county forest ownership boundaries.

#### **405 COUNTY FOREST OWNERSHIP**

The majority of the County Forest lands throughout the State were previously in private ownership and came under public ownership in a substantially degraded condition, by way of real estate tax delinquency and subsequent tax deed to Counties. Continued attempts to sell much of the degraded tax deeded lands were unsuccessful. In response to the lack of demand from private owners, counties worked in cooperation with State and Federal Agencies to restore these lands into productive forests and recreational assets. (“The County Forests of Wisconsin”, WI Conservation Dept., 1938)

Over time, counties have realized benefits from continuing to retain select tax deeded land, acquiring select land from willing sellers by purchase, trade, or gift, and the continual protection of county forest ownership boundaries.

#### **410 LAND OWNERSHIP GOALS**

It is the goal of Marathon County to acquire land from willing landowners for fair prices established pursuant to Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practices or other method approved by the County. See section 425 for criteria on how to achieve these goals.

#### **415 COUNTY FOREST BLOCKING**

Since the beginning of the County Forest Program in the State of Wisconsin, counties established boundaries for the purpose of distinguishing between lands that were best suited for forestry and lands best suited for agricultural production. This boundary became referred to as a “Blocking Boundary” and provided public information, assisted long-term planning, and guided

management decisions.

In the early stages of the development of County Forests, counties commonly traded tax deed parcels that were located outside of the Blocking Boundary for the remaining privately-owned parcels within the Blocking Boundary. A primary purpose for these trades was to promote agricultural economic development by assisting farmers with obtaining the most productive agricultural lands available in a given County.

Blocking Boundaries are dynamic and should be evaluated on a routine basis to evaluate adequacy relative to the current priorities. Forestry staff will notify the Committee as parcels become available within the Blocking Boundary.

County Forest Blocking Boundaries are established by Committee and by subsequent approval of the Marathon County Board. A map of the official boundaries is found in the Appendix.

#### **420 PRIVATE INHOLDINGS**

Marathon County recognizes that extensive private landholdings lie within the forest boundaries. The County will respect the rights of the private landowners who are its neighbors. The County may approach private landowners with proposals for land purchases or trades, but will not coerce landowners to sell or trade. Marathon County will not attempt to pursue properties through condemnation to add lands for the County Forest.

Marathon County may wish to list priority properties to be pursued as they become available.

#### **425 ACQUISITION OF LAND WITHIN THE COUNTY FOREST BLOCKING BOUNDARY**

The land within the blocking boundary primarily includes private land. It is not the deliberate intent of Marathon County to acquire all lands within the blocking boundary.

Determination of a parcel's value to the County and the State of Wisconsin shall be made by the Committee in consultation with the County Forest Administrator.

Certain lands are considered to be of higher priority for acquisition due to:

1. Lands that improve management efficiencies such as reducing the length of private/public boundaries or improve access to existing county forest.
2. Lands that will increase the counties inventory of productive timberland and provide a consistent source of raw material to the forest products industry.
3. Lands that conserve surface and groundwater, maintain undeveloped shoreline, and increase public access to water features.
4. Lands that are threatened by private development or fragmentation that may result in a long-term negative impact on adjacent public lands.
5. Lands that are threatened by private development or fragmentation that may result in a long-term net negative impact to local and county governments.
6. Lands that will provide for priority trail connections and expansions or reduce or eliminate existing user conflicts.
7. Lands that contain threatened or endangered plant, animals, or communities; or other natural features considered to be of high conservation value.
8. Lands that, when acquired by the county, will not result in an unreasonable negative impact to local tax collections as determined by the Committee in consultation with the affected Towns.

**430 ACQUISITION OF LAND OUTSIDE THE COUNTY FOREST BLOCKING BOUNDARY**

Counties may consider acquisition of lands outside the blocking boundary in instances where:

1. Land becomes available to the County which possess values consistent with the priority criteria listed above and is eligible to be enrolled as County Forest Special Use under s. 28.11(4)(c) Wis. Stats.
2. Land becomes available to the County that, if acquired by the County, will facilitate a fair trade or other transaction resulting in county ownership of land within the county forest blocking boundary.

**435 ACQUISITION OF LAND RIGHTS**

In addition to acquiring fee simple land ownership, Counties may find it advantageous to acquire other interests in private or public lands within the blocking boundary such as:

1. Conservation easements for such purposes as:
  - a. Limiting residential density.
  - b. Managing runoff that affects county land.
  - c. Achieving greater silvicultural consistency, pest management, invasive species

control, research, or other on adjacent private lands.

2. First right of refusal.
3. Flowage easements.
4. Ingress and egress easements for county management purposes.

#### **440 METHODS AND AUTHORIZATION FOR ACQUISITION LAND TITLE OR RIGHTS**

Acquisition may be by outright purchase or trade based on competent appraisal of the value or values involved, or by gift, bequest or action to foreclose tax liens. The County Forest Administrator will be the agent of the Committee in making first contact with potential sellers and in carrying on acquisition activities.

In the event that the County Forest Administrator determines that a land or land rights acquisition is in the best interest of the County, in consideration of the factors described above, the County Forest Administrator shall present a recommendation to the Committee. Upon approval of the Committee, an authorizing resolution shall be forwarded for consideration by the Environmental Resource, Human Resources, Finance and Property Committees and County Board.

County Board authorization is required for execution of any legal instruments that bind the county to acquiring title or other land rights. In the event that any legal documents are signed by an agent(s) of the county, prior to County Board authorization, said legal documents must include an explicit contingency requiring County Board approval.

#### **445 FINANCING**

County Forest Administrators shall propose financing options as part of any recommendations to acquire and shall be forwarded to the Committee. Typical funding sources include:

1. Fund balance that has resulted from previous county forest withdrawal proceedings.
2. Funds that have accumulated within the County Forest Segregated Land Purchase Account.
3. Funds appropriated through the County's capital improvement program.
4. Funds appropriated in the State and Forestry Account under land.
5. Funds appropriated in the County Forest Budget under land.
6. Grants and Loans, including:
  - a. Loans
    - i. County Forest Project Loans (s. 28.11(8)(b)(2)), Wis. Stats)
    - ii. Variable Acreage Share Loans (s. 28.11(8)(b)(1)), Wis. Stats)

- iii. Board of Commissioners of Public Lands State Trust Fund Loan Program  
(s. 24.61(3)(a)(2)., Wis. Stats.)
- b. Grants
  - i. Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program (s. 23.0953, Wis. Stats.)
  - ii. County Forest Stewardship Subprogram (s. 23.0953, Wis. Stats.)
  - iii. Acquisition and Development of Local Parks Subprogram (s. 23.09(20), Wis. Stats.)
  - iv. Lake Protection (s. 281.68 Wis. Stats.)
  - v. River Protection (s. 281.70 Wis. Stats.)
  - vi. Sustainable Forestry (s. 28.11(5r), Wis. Stats.)
  - vii. County Forest Wildlife Habitat (s. 20.370(5)(as)), Wis. Stats.
  - viii. County Forest Fish and Game Projects (s. 23.09(12), Wis. Stats.)
  - ix. ATV/UTV Trail Aids (s. 23.33(9), Wis. Stats.)
  - x. Snowmobile Trail Aids (s. 23.09(26), Wis. Stats.)
  - xi. Federal Funding (s.20.370(5)(cy), Wis. Stats.)
  - xii. Any Other Grants That Are Made Available For Land Acquisition.

**450 ENTRY OF LANDS**

Lands to be entered under the regular classification of the County Forest Law must be suitable for forestry purposes and be within the County Forest blocking boundary. Lands designated for classification as County Forest Special Use need not be contained within the county forest blocking boundary nor suitable primarily for timber but they must be suitable for scenic, outdoor recreation, public hunting and fishing, water conservation or other multiple-use purposes.

**450.1 TIME OF ENTRY**

Application for entry of newly acquired lands under the County Forest Law will be made as soon as possible. Applications for entry will be prepared with the assistance of the DNR. The County Forest Administrator will secure the signatures of the proper county officials and transmit the application to DNR's County Forest Specialist.

**455 WITHDRAWAL OF LANDS FROM COUNTY FOREST LAW**

Lands within the County Forest blocking boundary will not normally be considered for withdrawal from the County Forest Law. Applications for the purchase of these lands by the private sector will be discouraged by the committee, unless a greater public benefit can be demonstrated. If, in the opinion of the committee and county board, the land will be put to better and higher use and will

benefit people of the county and State to a greater extent by being withdrawn from the County Forest Law program, the County should follow the withdrawal procedure as outlined by the Public Lands Handbook. The legal means by which counties may apply for withdrawal of lands from County Forest status is provided by s. 28.11, Wis. Stats. Initially the County Forest Administrator notifies the DNR Liaison Forester of the County Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting at which the proposed withdrawal will be considered. At that meeting DNR personnel and the County will discuss the proposed withdrawal and, if approved by the County Forestry/Recreation Committee, the withdrawal will be recommended by the Committee by resolution to the County Board. If approved by the Board by the necessary 2/3 majority, the application is prepared by the County and submitted to the appropriate DNR designee. The DNR may ask for additional information from the County and will then coordinate the public notice. Pending the results of any investigatory hearings deemed advisable, the DNR will act on the withdrawal application. If the application is denied, the County may appeal as provided in s. 28.11(11)(a)4., Wis. Stats.

#### 455.1 WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE

The purpose of this section is to provide general information in formulating and processing applications for withdrawal of County Forest lands under s.28.11(11) Wis. Stats. and ch. NR 48, Wis. Adm. Code. The legal means by which counties may apply for withdrawal of lands from county forests is provided by s.28.11(11)(a) Wis. Stats. This section states in part: “The County Board shall first refer the resolution to the county forestry committee which shall consult with an authorized representative of the department in formulating its withdrawal proposal.” Section. 28.11(11)(a) Wis.Stats. also states: “The county board shall not take final action thereon until 90 days after such referral or until the report thereon of the forest committee has filed with the board.”

Consequently, if the county board takes final action on a withdrawal application without referring it to the County Forestry Committee, the application is not valid. On the other hand, if the County Forestry Committee does not report to the county board within 90 days after receipt of the referral, the Board may act upon the application without a Committee recommendation.

#### 460 LAND SURVEYING

The importance of survey corner monumentation is recognized in the interest of avoiding the problems of trespass both by and against the County, facilitating the settlement of those cases which would occur, and aiding in the proper transfer of property.

#### 460.1 LEGAL SURVEYING

Of prime importance are the forest boundaries and property lines in common with other owners. All such surveying shall be under the supervision of a registered surveyor. When the office of the county surveyor is not staffed, the committee will comply with the provisions of Chapter 59, Wisconsin Statutes by hiring registered surveyors to perform the necessary running of property lines. Section corners, one-quarter corners and forty corners (1/16 corners) will be reestablished where needed and Certified Land Corner Restoration forms filled out in duplicate as time permits, under the direction of registered land surveyor.

#### 460.2 LOCATION OF LINES BY OTHER THAN LEGAL SURVEY

Forestry personnel who are not registered surveyors may, with all possible prudence, establish lines for forest management purposes including those necessary for ordinary management activities such as timber sales and road / trail locations using available equipment including, but not limited to, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), air photos, quadrangles, county surveyor's records and known corners. In the absence of known corners, lines abutting other ownership may be established by mutual agreement to avert trespass claims. At a minimum, the County will notify the adjoining landowner(s) of the management boundary in writing. This documentation will be retained in the timber sale file.

#### 460.3 PRESERVATION OF LANDMARKS, MONUMENTS, AND CORNER POSTS

Section 59.74, Wis. Stats., provides:

1. Penalties for destruction of landmarks, monuments and corner posts established by government survey, the county surveyor or a surveyor or public record.
2. A procedure for notification of intent to destroy such surveying evidence and referencing prior to destruction.
3. The assignment of enforcement responsibility to the Department of Natural Resources, District Attorneys, and professional land surveyors.

All personnel with land management responsibilities are directed to:

1. Make a reasonable search for the above-mentioned surveying evidence prior to implementing any soil moving or cover type manipulation projects, including timber sales, that could result in covering, destruction or removal of such evidence.
2. In the event such evidence is found:
  - a. If practical, redesign the project so that the evidence will not be disturbed or

- b. If destruction is unavoidable, (s. 59.74(2)(b), Wis. Stats.) notify the County surveyor at least 30 days prior to destruction giving the legal description of the monument and the reason for destruction or other obliteration. The notice shall include a description of the landmark, monument of survey, or corner post and the reason for removing or covering it.
- 3. If reasonable search fails to uncover survey evidence in the suspected vicinity, conduct an additional search if he / she sees fit.
- 4. In order to further reduce the possibility of inadvertent destruction of invaluable survey evidence:
  - a. Each forester with county forest responsibilities should discuss with county administrators the need for including adequate protective clauses in easements, rights-of-way, timber sale contracts, and other agreements that might result in destruction of monuments.
  - b. Personnel advising landowners regarding forestry or other land management practices should alert such owners to possible monument destruction that may be caused by them.
  - c. Any instances of potential or accomplished obliteration of survey monumentation discovered in the course of field operations should be brought to the County surveyor's attention.

**465      PROPERTY RIGHTS CONVEYANCES**

The instrument used for property right conveyance shall be the one which relinquishes the least amount of County control over public land. All property right conveyances will be made on a case by case basis. Examples are listed below:

- 1. Easements: An easement is a permanent right that entitles the easement owner to use of the land of another for a special purpose not inconsistent with the general property rights of the owner. Easements run with the land and do not expire. They may be appropriate for public utilities, such as gas, electric and communication uses, and public road rights-of-way.

Easements shall not be used for access to private lands unless there is exceptional advantage to the County Forest, and unless the easement further promotes the purposes of the County Forest program. The committee may consider easement requests on a case by case basis. The County Forest Administrator will consult with DNR's County Forest Specialist on these cases.

- 2. Lease: A lease is a written document which grants use of real property and/or improvements to another party for a specified period of time, for monetary or other consideration. Specific

County Forest Law provisions regarding leases can be found in ss. 28.11(3)(i) and (j), Wis. Stats. Leases on County Forest lands shall be negotiated for the shortest possible period of time and in no case shall they exceed ninety-nine years.

3. Permit: A permit is a written document conferring a right, power or privilege to do a particular act or series of acts on land of another without possessing any interest therein. A permit can be revoked with cause and cannot be assigned to other parties. A permit, unlike an easement, does not imply an interest in the land and is not transferred with the land. Permits issued on County Forest lands shall be issued for the shortest possible period of time and in no case shall they exceed ninety-nine years.
4. Permits shall be the preferred property rights conveyance for private driveways and most other activities dealing with the private individuals using County Forest lands. Driveway permits expire when the land changes ownership. A prospective new property owner may receive a driveway permit in advance of completing a property purchase. Advance permits will not become effective until the new property purchase is recorded by the Register of Deeds office. The County will retain the right to revoke a driveway permit with cause. "Cause" can include, but is not limited to, violation of permit terms, misuse of County land, damage to County property, and noncompliance with County ordinances.
5. Agreement: An agreement is a written document executed by two or more persons or entities expressing a mutual and common purpose. An agreement details the responsibilities, obligations, conditions, liabilities, etc. of all parties concerned and would be an appropriate instrument for dealing with activities such as public school forests, flowages, gravel crushing operations, and concessions. Agreements shall be effective for the shortest possible time.

#### 465.1 TERMS OF PROPERTY RIGHTS CONVEYANCES

Any agreement, license, permit, lease or easement must contain at least the following information, requirements and terms. More restrictions may be added as needed to protect the interests of the public.

1. Location by legal description.
2. Permitted uses under the conveyance.
3. Fee for the use of the land.
4. Expiration date.
5. Right of the County to cancel or suspend the conveyed rights with cause.
6. Requirement for restitution to original condition upon expiration or cancellation of the conveyance.

#### 465.2 PROCEDURES FOR PROPERTY RIGHTS CONVEYANCE

Proposals to use County Forest lands for private purposes without purchasing the land may be approved depending on the nature of the proposal and its consistency with the purpose of the forest.

The following steps are required to consider property rights conveyance to a second party:

1. All proposals must be filed with the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department on the appropriate form with the required processing fee and supportive documentation. Municipalities, other units of government, and public utilities may be exempted from the processing fee by the Forestry/Recreation Committee.
2. If the proposal can be addressed through a permit or agreement as defined in Chapter 500, then a report shall be presented at a regular meeting of the Forestry/Recreation Committee. The Committee shall consult with the DNR Liaison on the matter. The Committee may then approve, deny, or modify the proposal.

#### 470 TAX DEED LAND

Occasionally tax delinquent lands revert to the County. The lands may lie within the County Forest boundaries and may be added to the County Forest lands. The following procedure shall be observed:

1. The County Clerk on behalf of the Human Resources, Finance and Property Committee notifies the Forest Administrator who examines the property and determines if it should be added to the County Forest.
2. The Forest Administrator advises the Forestry/Recreation Committee, which considers the proposal and decides whether or not to add the land to the County Forest. The Forest Administrator advises the County Clerk of the Forestry/Recreation Committee decision.
3. If the proposal for addition is approved, the Forestry/Recreation Committee shall apply to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to enter the land under County Forest Law.

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 500

LAND MANAGEMENT AND USE

<u>Section</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page</u>
<b>500</b>	<b>LAND USE</b> .....	3
500.1	OBJECTIVES .....	3
<b>505</b>	<b>TIMBER SALES</b> .....	3
505.1	FIELD PREPARATION OF TIMBER SALES .....	3
505.2	ADVERTISING FOR BIDS.....	3
505.3	PROSPECTUS.....	4
505.4	METHOD OF BILLING .....	4
505.5	AWARDING SALES .....	4
505.6	SALE CONTRACTS.....	5
505.7	TIMBER SALE PERFORMANCE BOND.....	5
505.8	CONTRACT PROVISIONS .....	5
505.8.1	Contract Number and Contract Name .....	6
505.8.2	Contract Parties .....	6
505.8.3	Durations and Extension of Contracts .....	6
505.8.4	Termination of Contract by Seller .....	7
505.8.5	Performance Bond, Contract Violations, Damages, and Future Contracts ..	7
505.8.6	Title to Timber.....	8
505.8.7	Payment Schedule .....	9
505.8.7.1	Removal Without Payment.....	9
505.8.8	Training Requirement.....	9
505.8.9	BMPs, Roads, Landings, Mill Sites, Campsites and Erosion Control.....	9
505.8.10	Soil Disturbance and Rutting.....	11
505.8.11	Liability and Worker’s Compensation Insurance .....	12
505.8.12	Scaling and Conversion Factors .....	12
505.8.13	Forest Certification.....	13
505.8.14	Other Contract Conditions for Consideration.....	13
505.8.15	Attachments to Contract .....	17

505.9	TIMBER SALE RESTRICTIONS .....	17
505.10	TIMBER SALE ROADS .....	17
505.11	SUPERVISING SALES .....	17
505.12	FOREST PRODUCTS ACCOUNTABILITY .....	18
505.12.1	Scaling Merchantability .....	18
505.12.2	Utilization of Standards .....	18
505.12.3	Methods of Accountability .....	18
505.13	SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCTS PERMITS .....	19
<b>510</b>	<b>TIMBER THEFT .....</b>	<b>19</b>
510.1	TIMBER THEFT INVESTIGATION .....	19
<b>515</b>	<b>ENCROACHMENTS (ADVERSE POSSESSION) .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>520</b>	<b>SPECIAL USES .....</b>	<b>21</b>
520.1	SAND AND GRAVEL .....	21
520.2	EXPLORATION, PROSPECTING AND MINING .....	22
520.3	SANITARY LANDFILLS .....	23
520.4	MILITARY MANEUVERS .....	23
520.5	PUBLIC UTILITIES .....	23
520.6	ACCESS TO PRIVATE LAND .....	24
520.6.1	Temporary Access .....	24
520.6.2	Access Agreements .....	24
520.6.3	Prescriptive Easements .....	25
520.6.4	Other Types of Access .....	25
520.7	PRIVATE UTILITY SERVICE LINES .....	26
520.8	CELLULAR COMMUNICATION TOWERS .....	26
520.9	OTHER .....	27
<b>525</b>	<b>TREATY RIGHTS: GATHERING MISCELLANEOUS FOREST PRODUCTS .....</b>	<b>27</b>

## **500 LAND USE**

### **500.1 OBJECTIVES**

1. To identify policies and procedures employed to effectively manage, utilize and sustain the resources of the County Forest.
2. To identify regulated management activities, land uses and special resource areas.
3. To layout proper permits needed for certain activities on the County Forest.

## **505 TIMBER SALES**

Regulated cutting of timber is essential to the goals and objectives of this plan. Timber harvesting will be conducted to achieve a sustainable harvest level. Harvest areas will be distributed in the forest to accommodate such needs as biodiversity, wildlife, aesthetics, watershed protection and other biological needs. WisFIRS will be used for planning all timber harvests activities on the County Forest. All sales will be established, administered and reported in accordance with the DNR Timber Sale Handbook (2461). All sales on the forest are to be advertised for public bidding, with the exception of small sales with an estimated value of \$3000 or less or sales that would qualify under a salvage provision (s. 28.11(6)(c), Wis. Stats.). These sales may be sold direct without advertising.

### **505.1 FIELD PREPARATION OF TIMBER SALES**

The County and the DNR will cooperate to locate, designate and prepare harvest areas for sale. The Forest administrator and DNR liaison forester shall jointly be responsible to see that the field work on sales is accomplished. Administrator and Liaison will also jointly be responsible for ensuring that all proper documentation for each timber sale is properly filled out and routed for signatures.

### **505.2 ADVERTISING FOR BIDS**

After field work is completed and necessary reports receive DNR approval, the administrator shall prepare a sale prospectus and make it available to interested loggers. Under s. 28.11(6)(b) Wis. Stats, timber sale advertisements will be by classified ad in a newspaper having general circulation in the county (i.e. Wausau Daily Herald) and will appear a minimum of 14 calendar days before opening bids. A longer advance time will be given when feasible. Sealed bid sales will generally be offered in early spring and fall, or as needed.

### 505.3 PROSPECTUS

The following information will be made available to prospective bidders:

1. Timber sale description summary.
2. Invitation for bids.
3. Maps of sale areas with species, volumes, and harvest specifications.
4. Contract provisions.
5. Procedures for bidding.
6. Bid forms and Statement of Qualifications.
7. Timber sales bond and advance stumpage schedule.

### 505.4 METHOD OF BIDDING

Bids will be publicly read at the location and time advertised. A sealed envelope showing the tract number and marked "sealed bid" will be submitted on forms provided by the County for each tract. Bids will contain:

1. Tract number.
2. The bid price per ton or per thousand board feet for each species offered and the total for each species bid. The total value of the bid will be indicated.
3. A bidder's name, address, phone, and signature.
4. A bidder's statement of qualifications.
5. A minimum of 10 percent of the bid value of each tract must accompany the bid as a bid bond payable to the County. It must be in the form of a bid bond, personal or business check, cashier's check, letter of credit or money order.

### 505.5 AWARDING SALES

1. The Committee will award the sale contracts at a meeting of the Committee. The high bidder is normally awarded the sale contract; however, the committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids and accept the bid offer most advantageous to the county. Grounds for rejecting bids may include without limit:
  - a. Non-compliance with County Forest contract requirements.
  - b. Delinquent financial obligations.
  - c. Unsatisfactory past performances.
  - d. Inability to demonstrate financial or professional capability. Evaluation criteria

on timber sales will be price and documented ability to satisfactorily complete the contract. Factors to be assessed may include proposed equipment and operation, references, proof of financial stability, past performance and documented training completed. The award of contract to the successful bidder shall be based upon the bid determined most advantageous to the County.

2. Tie bids may be settled by toss of a coin if both parties are agreeable; otherwise the bids on that tract will be rejected and the sale re-advertised.
3. Sales remaining unsold after being advertised for two bid openings may be sold direct at not less than the appraised value even though their estimated value exceeds \$3,000. (See DNR Timber Sale Handbook).

#### 505.6 SALE CONTRACTS

1. Contracts will be prepared with copies provided to the Purchaser and the DNR and the original filed in the Forest Administrator's office.
2. Contracts are to be signed by the successful bidder within 15 working days' of the contract award, with payment being made according to the County timber sale bond and advance stumpage payment schedule. Failure to sign the contract within 15 working days will be cause for the forfeiture of the bid bond.

#### 505.7 TIMBER SALE PERFORMANCE BOND

1. Performance bonds will be not less than 25 percent of the total bid value for each contract.
2. Surety bonds or an irrevocable letter of credit issued by a bank which is a member of the Federal Reserve System or insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation may be used in lieu of cash as a performance bond on sales. The letter of credit or surety bond must be in effect for a period of time equal to the term of the contract, plus at least 60 days to allow for possible extension(s) and for closeout of the contract after cutting is completed.
3. The bid bond may be transferred to the performance bond.

#### 505.8 CONTRACT PROVISIONS

All timber sale contracts will be on the form approved by the committee and all provisions therein shall apply. A copy of the timber sale map will be attached and become a part of the contract.

The following items are essential contract provisions that should be covered in each contract.

505.8.1 Contract Number and Contract Name

Every contract shall have a unique numerical number and depending on county policies/procedures shall have a unique name.

505.8.2 Contract Parties

Contracts must have Name, Address, and other contact information of the Purchaser.

505.8.3 Duration and Extension of Contracts

1. Contracts will be issued for not less than six months or more than three years, unless otherwise stated. Contracts will be dated to expire on June 30 or December 31. Exceptions may be made in cases of extenuating circumstances.
2. Extensions may be granted if deemed in the best interest of the County. The Marathon County policy on timber sale extensions and renewals is located in the contract in the appendix.
3. The maximum time duration of a timber sale contract, including extensions, will be four years. Extension beyond this period of time will be considered by the Committee only in the event of special justification. Special stumpage rate adjustments may be made.
4. If purchasers do not wish to have contracts renewed or extended or if a contract renewal or extension is not approved by the Committee, the Forestry Division may readvertise the sale for two separate bid openings or until the sale is resold, whichever occurs first. If the sale is resold, the original Purchaser will:
  - Pay 10% of the original sale price (same amount as the original bid bond) as an administrative fee for the costs of readvertising and reestablishing the sale.
  - Pay the difference between the new sale price and the original price, but not less than 10% if the new sale price is less than the original price.If the sale is not resold after two separate bid openings, the Purchaser is liable for liquidated damages including the total performance bond.
5. The Purchaser may request a contract release due to severe physical or financial disability. The Committee will determine whether or not a release will be granted

and may withhold all or a portion of the performance bond for damages.

#### 505.8.4 Termination of Contract by Seller

Contracts have a termination clause. This is a protection to the county for breach of contract by the purchaser. (See attached timber sale contract in the appendix).

#### 505.8.5 Performance Bond, Contract Violations, Damages, and Future Contracts

##### Performance Bond

1. Performance bonds will be not less than 25 percent of the total bid value for each contract.
2. Surety bonds or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit issued by a bank which is a member of the Federal Reserve System or insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation may be used in lieu of cash as a performance bond on sales.
3. The bid bond may be transferred to the performance bond.

##### Contract Violations

Field enforcement of timber sale contracts will be the responsibility of the Forest Administrator employing the following procedure:

1. The Forest Administrator or designee will attempt to resolve inadvertent or minor violations by verbal contact with the Purchaser.
2. The Forest Administrator designee may immediately suspend logging operations when a serious violation or emergency situation arises. The suspension will be followed by written notice to the Purchaser stating the nature of the violation and informing them of Committee action taken or pending.
3. Suspension of operation will remain in effect until receipt of written notice from the County.
4. The Committee, in consultation with legal counsel, may consider, but is not limited to, the following remedies:
  - a. Charge double stumpage.
  - b. Assess damages.
  - c. Suspend contracts.
  - d. Retain all deposits.

- e. Foreclose on cut products on sale.
- f. Refer to District Attorney for prosecution.
- g. Refer to Corporation Counsel for civil action.

Damages If damages exceed the performance bond amount the bond may be used. Examples of damages include:

1. Undesignated timber removed.
2. Removal of timber without payment.
3. Damage to residual timber, roads or other infrastructure.
4. Restoration of sale area.
5. Costs associated with resale of uncut timber.
6. Other costs as determined by the Forestry/Recreation Committee.

Future Contracts

Failure of the Purchaser to comply with timber contract provisions, laws, ordinances, or regulations may result in cancellation of all timber contracts with the County. All deposits may be retained and forest products on sale areas may be seized and sold by the County. The Purchaser may be banned from future purchase of County timber sales for a period of two years or until the Purchaser can demonstrate and provide documentation of satisfactory contract compliance from other ownerships (State, industrial, private, County). The Purchaser may also be required to pay a higher performance bond, up to 100 percent bond.

505.8.6 Title to Timber

Title to all cut forest products shall remain with the County until paid for by Purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of all damage or loss of all forest products resulting from fire, flood, theft caused by his own fault during the contractual term. Forest products and stumpage remaining on the sale area at the expiration of the contract or upon breach, revert to the ownership of the County without any refund of monies paid.

505.8.7 Payment Schedule

All contracts will have a payment schedule that will layout the responsibilities of the seller and purchaser for payments under this contract. This schedule will vary based on sale type (lump sum or scaled sale).

#### 505.8.7.1 Removal Without Payment

Timber or other forest products may not be removed from the sale area until paid for as provided in this contract or other guarantees for payment have been made with and to the satisfaction of the County. Upon removal of timber or other forest products in violation of this paragraph, the Purchaser agrees to pay as liquidated damages double the mill value of the timber removed, and in addition to pursuing its remedies for breach of contract, the County may seek charges against the Purchaser for Timber Theft under s. 26.05, Wis. Stats., or a violation of ch. NR 45, Wis. Adm. Code, consider it a breach of contract and pursue all remedies provided in this contract.

#### 505.8.8 Training Requirement

The Purchaser is responsible for ensuring that the actual logging contractor engaged in performance of this contract complies with the Wisconsin SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative) Training Standard as adopted by the Wisconsin SFI Implementation Committee (SIC). Criteria for the standard can be found at the website [http://www.fistausa.org/sfi\\_standards.html](http://www.fistausa.org/sfi_standards.html) or by contacting the Forest Industry Safety & Training Alliance (FISTA). Purchaser agrees to provide documentation to Seller that training has been attained prior to initiating sale.

#### 505.8.9 BMPs, Roads, Landings, Mill Sites, Campsites and Erosion Control

1. When not otherwise designated by the County, the location of roads, landings, mill sites and campsites on County's property is subject to advance approval and under the conditions established by the County. All restoration, cleanup or repair of roads, landings, mill sites and campsites, or the cost of the cleanup, if not completed by the Purchaser to the satisfaction of the County, is the responsibility of the Purchaser.
2. All logging debris accumulated at landing areas, including bark, tops and slash, shall be scattered within the sale area to the satisfaction of the County.
3. Berms constructed on the County's property shall be leveled to restore the area to

the County's satisfaction unless they are constructed at the direction of the County under par. 4.

4. Roads and landings shall be graded or closed upon the request of and to the County's satisfaction upon completion or termination of this contract.
5. Other restoration requirements (e.g., seeding, gravel, rutting, culvert removal, etc): NONE
6. Erosion control and Best Management Practices (BMPs) requirements:
  - a. The Purchaser shall comply with all recommended BMP guidelines as described in "Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality" published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, publication Pub-FR-093, unless specifically provided otherwise below. A copy of this publication is available upon request to the County if not possessed by the Purchaser. Purchaser's certification in Wisconsin BMP training through a FISTA coordinated BMP workshop is also required.
  - b. The Purchaser shall make every attempt to comply with Forestry BMPs for Invasive Species as described in "Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Invasive Species" published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, publication Pub-FR-444-09 unless specifically provided otherwise below. In particular, the purchaser agrees to work cooperatively with the administering forester and any subcontractors to address the considerations in BMPs 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5 and 9.1. A copy of this publication is available upon request to the Seller if not possessed by the Purchaser. The publication can also be found at the Council on Forestry website at: <http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/forestry>.
  - c. The Purchaser shall comply with all General Guidelines as described in "Wisconsin's Forestland Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines" published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, publication Pub-FR-435-09, unless specifically provided otherwise below. A copy of this publication is available upon request to the County of not possessed by the Purchaser. The publication can also be found at the Council on Forestry website at: <http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/biomass/>
  - d. Other: None.

505.8.10 Soil Disturbance and Rutting

1. The Purchaser agrees to take all steps and precautions to avoid and minimize soil disturbances, such as soil compaction and rutting. If soil disturbances occur, the Purchaser agrees to work cooperatively to mitigate and repair any and all instances of soil disturbance.
2. Excessive soil disturbance (as defined in the following table) shall not be permitted. Purchaser agrees to contact Seller in the event of an excessive soil disturbance.

<b>Table – <u>Thresholds for Soil Disturbances</u></b>	
<u>Timber Sale Infrastructure</u>	<u>Soil disturbances are excessive if:</u>
<u>Roads, Landings, Skid Trails, and General Harvest Area</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>A gully or rut is 6 inches deep or more and is resulting in channelized flow to a wetland, stream, or lake.</u></li> </ul>
<u>Roads, Landings, and Primary Skid Trails</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>In a riparian management zone (RMZ) or wetland, a gully or rut is 6 inches deep or more and 100 feet long or more.</u></li> <li>▪ <u>In an upland area (outside of RMZ), a gully or rut is 10 inches deep or more and 66 feet long or more.</u></li> </ul>
<u>Secondary Skid Trails and General Harvest Area</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>A gully or rut is 6 inches deep or more and 100 feet long or more.</u></li> </ul>

Note: The depth is to be measured from the original soil surface to the bottom of the depression. If individual lug depressions are visible, the depth would be measured to the lesser of the two depths (the “top” of the lug). The length is measured from the start of the “too deep” section to the end of the “too deep” section. Measurements are not cumulative.

Note: In high use forest recreation areas such as the Nine Mile Unit and County park lands we will require the purchaser to follow a lower threshold for soil disturbance (than defined in table above). The lower threshold will be communicated to the Purchaser during the pre-logging meeting and documented on the pre-logging form.

3. The County may temporarily suspend operations under this contract due to excessive soil disturbances (as defined in table above).
4. Prior to sale completion the Purchaser shall mitigate and repair soil disturbances to the Seller's satisfaction.
5. Other restoration requirements (e.g. repair of soil disturbance or rutting on recreational trails used for skidding): NONE

#### 505.8.11 Liability and Workers Compensation Insurance

All contracts require proof of insurance. The proof of insurance shall be kept in the sale folder and must cover the entire operation period of the contract.

#### 505.8.12 Scaling and Conversion Factors

1. Product Removal - No forest products shall be removed until scaled or marked by a County representative unless prior arrangements have been made with the County.
2. Sawlogs
  - a. All sawlogs must be separated from pulpwood when piled.
  - b. Purchaser will mark the length of all logs on the small end with a lumber crayon to facilitate scaling.
  - c. Purchaser will pile all logs with the small end facing the road to facilitate scaling.
  - d. All logs must be scaled with the Scribner Decimal C Log Rule.
3. Pulpwood - All pulpwood must be piled for scaling. Piles must be level and square with at least five cords or 20 tons per pile.
4. Conversion Factors - Conversion of MBF (thousand board feet) to cords or cords hardwoods.
5. Peeled Cordwood - When peeled cordwood is measured, it is stipulated that 12.5% will be added to hand-peeled or stroke delimeter processor peeled volume and 16% to ring debarked volume to compute equivalent unpeeled volume.
6. Weight Conversions - County will accept mill weight conversion (Mill Scale) unless that conversion results in less volume than those conversions set forth in Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Handbook 2461.

#### 505.8.13 Forest Certification

Timber sales are certified to the standards of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® NSF-SFI-FM-1Y943 SFI 100%. Forest products from sales may be delivered to the mills “SFI 100%” so long as the contractor hauling the forest products is chain-of-custody (COC) certified or covered under a COC certificate from the destination mill. The purchaser is responsible for maintaining COC after leaving the sale area. Certification language will appear on all invoices, scale sheets and scale tickets.

#### 505.8.14 Other Contract Conditions for Consideration

1. Cleanup and use of sale area
  - a. The Purchaser shall remove, to the satisfaction of the seller, all equipment, tools, solid waste, oil filters, grease cartridges, trash and debris remaining on the sale area or Seller’s property upon completion of performance under this Contract, termination of this Contract due to breach by the Purchaser or when requested by the County.
  - b. No residence, dwelling, permanent structure, or improvement may be established or constructed on the sale area or other property of the County.
  - c. The Purchaser agrees to properly use and dispose of all petroleum products, including but not limited to oil, hydraulic fuel and diesel fuel. Any on-site spillage must be properly removed and cleaned up by the Purchaser to the satisfaction of the County.
2. Stump heights/tops – The maximum stump height may not exceed the stump diameter; except for stumps of a diameter of less than 10 inches, the height of the stump may not exceed 10 inches. Additionally, clumps of stumps shall be treated as individual stumps and maximum height may not exceed each individual stump diameter. Title to tops shall remain the owner’s and may not be utilized by the Purchaser, or at the Purchaser’s discretion, unless otherwise specified in this contract.
3. Zone/Unit completion – The Purchaser agrees to complete all operations on each portion of the sale area or each zone as designated on the sale area map, or other attachments or in the cutting requirements before beginning cutting in the next portion or zone, unless agreed to otherwise by the County.
4. Slash requirements – Slash as defined in s. 26.12, Wis. Stats., shall be disposed

of as follows:

- a. Slash falling in any lake or stream, in a right-of-way or on land of an adjoining landowner shall be immediately removed from the waters, right-of-way or adjoining land. Tops from felled trees may not be left hanging in standing trees. All trees shall be completely felled and not left leaning or hanging in other trees.
  - b. Other: None
5. Forest fire prevention – The Purchaser agrees to take reasonable precautions to prevent the starting and spreading of fires. Those precautions include, but are not limited to:
- a. A minimum of one fully charged 5 pound or larger ABC fire extinguisher with a flexible spout shall be carried on each off-road logging vehicle.
  - b. All chainsaws and all non-turbocharged off-road logging equipment used in the operation shall be equipped with spark arrestors which have been approved by the U.S. Forest Service. Such arrestors may not be altered in any manner or removed and shall be properly maintained.  
(Information on approved arrestors may be obtained from the Seller.)
  - c. If a fire occurs, the Purchaser agrees to promptly cooperate in the control and suppression of the fire.
  - d. The Purchaser shall comply with requests regarding forest fire prevention and suppression made by the Seller and take all reasonable precautions to prevent, suppress and report forest fires. Those requests may include ceasing or modifying operations.
  - e. The Purchaser shall be responsible for damage and forest fire suppression costs, including that provided in s. 26.14 and 26.21, Wis. Stats., caused by their operation under this Contract.
  - f. Other: None
6. Survey monument restriction – The Purchaser agrees to pay for the cost of repair or replacement of any land survey monuments or accessories which are removed or destroyed or made inaccessible. In the event that the performance bond is insufficient to cover such cost, the provisions of Statute 59.74, Perpetuation of Landmarks, shall be enforced.

7. Hold Harmless – Purchaser hereby agrees to release, indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Marathon County, their officials, officers, employees and agents from and against all judgments, damages, penalties, losses, costs, claims, expenses, suits, demands, debts, actions and/or causes of action of any type or nature whatsoever, including actual and reasonable attorney’s fees, which may be sustained or to which they may be exposed, directly or indirectly, by reason of personal injury, death, property damage, or other liability, alleged or proven, resulting from or arising out of the performance of contractor, its officers, officials, employees, agent or assigns. Marathon County does not waive, and specifically reserves, its right to assert any and all affirmative defenses and limitations of liability as specifically set forth in Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 893 and related statutes.
8. Independent contractor – The Purchaser is an independent contractor for all purposes, including worker’s compensation, and not an employee or agent of the County. The County agrees that the undersigned Purchaser shall have the sole control of the method, hours worked, time and manner of any timber cutting to be performed hereunder and takes no responsibility for supervision or direction of the performance of any of the harvesting to be performed by the undersigned Purchaser or of its employees. The County further agrees that it will exercise no control over the selection and dismissal of the Purchaser’s employees.
9. Assignment (sub-contracting) – The Purchaser is precluded from assigning payment and contract oversight, duties or other performance requirements of this contract to another. The Purchaser’s direction to or contracting with another to complete performance required under this contract does not relieve the Purchaser from the responsibility for performance required under this contract or for liability for breach. (Purchaser shall not subcontract any portion of this contract without prior written approval from the County, said approval will not be unreasonably withheld.)
10. Right of inspection by seller – The County retains for itself the right of ingress and egress to and on the sale area and may inspect the sale area and trucks hauling forest products from or traveling on the sale area at any time. If the inspection reveals any violations of this contract, the Purchaser shall promptly take measures to remedy the violation. The County may terminate the

Purchaser's operations upon oral notice to the Purchaser. Upon receipt of the notice, the Purchaser shall cease operations until the County approves resumption of them.

11. Federal/state, and local regulations compliance – Purchaser agrees to comply with all applicable OSHA or other federal, state, and local laws or regulations in connection with the performance of this contract.  
OSHA Compliance, Danger trees. The Purchaser is responsible to comply with, and assure compliance by all employees or subcontractors with, all Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) requirements for the health and safety of Purchaser's employees, including provisions relating to danger trees. In addition, the Purchaser agrees to notify, and obtain agreement from, the County if the Purchaser intends to modify performance required under this contract for the purpose of compliance with OSHA requirements.
12. Diggers Hotline – The Purchaser is responsible to contact the Diggers Hotline, or other informational sources performing similar services, prior to digging or conducting other activities on the property which may result in contact with utility or service lines or facilities.
13. Uncut trees and wasted timber – Should marked or designated trees be left uncut or unremoved, the Purchaser shall be liable to the County for damages in the amount said wood would have been valued for payment at the mill site as of the date all work to be performed pursuant to this contract was to have been completed. Young growth trees bent or held down by felled trees must be properly released or Purchaser shall be liable for damages in the amount of replacement costs. The Purchaser shall be liable for damages at double the stumpage rate specified for timber wasted in tops and stumps.
14. Other approvals – Logging roads that intersect town, county or state roads or highways must have the intersections approved by the proper authorities prior to construction and cleared of all unsightly debris at the time of construction. The Purchaser agrees to apply for and obtain all approvals. The Purchaser also agrees to fully comply with all terms and conditions of intersection approvals.
15. Other conditions: A copy of the contract can be found in the appendix.

Operating specifications and a map outlining the boundaries of the sale area are attachments and made part of timber sale contracts.

#### 505.9 TIMBER SALE RESTRICTIONS

1. To minimize resource damage, the types of logging equipment, methods, and times of operation used on sale areas may be restricted by the County.
2. Special restrictions may be required in accordance with County aesthetic policy, if applicable.
3. Seasonal restrictions may be applied to protect roads, minimize recreation use conflicts, benefit wildlife management, avoid endangered resources concerns, minimize insect and disease problems, or to assist in fire protection.

#### 505.10 TIMBER SALE ROADS

1. The Purchaser will be responsible for securing legal access to sale areas.
2. The Purchaser will construct permanent or temporary roads only at locations approved by the Forestry Division.
3. No skidding, decking, or other logging activity is allowed on County Forest roads or ditches unless approved by the Forest Administrator. Roads and trails will be kept free from logging debris. County Forest Access roads and trails will be maintained by the Purchaser and be left in as good as original condition at the close of the sale. Roads will be inspected by County personnel to insure minimal resource damage. If intersections are modified or created between logging tracts and County or Town roads, the Purchaser must notify and obtain any necessary permits from the County or township prior to construction.
4. A timber sale purchaser may request permission to gate a timber sale access road. The Forest Administrator may approve a gate permit to prohibit motorized traffic only.

#### 505.11 SUPERVISING SALES

Sale inspections will be performed periodically by State and/or County personnel with notation in the sales record explaining the results of the inspection.

#### 505.12 FOREST PRODUCTS ACCOUNTABILITY

#### 505.12.1 Scaling Merchantability

1. Logs will be scaled by the Scribner Decimal C. log rule. Minimum log specifications are defined as 9-inch top diameter inside bark (DIB) and 8-feet in length for softwood and 10-inch top (DIB), and 8-feet in length for hardwood.
2. The standard unit of measure for cordwood is measuring 4' x 4' x 100' of unpeeled wood. Hand or stroke delimeter/processor peeled wood will be converted to the standard cord by adding 12.5 percent and ring debarked wood by adding 16 percent to the peeled volume measured. A pulpwood tree contains at least one (1) 100-inch stick, to a minimum top diameter as defined in the contract.
3. DNR Timber Sale Handbook will be used as a guide in determining the conversion rates for posts, poles, bolts, chips, weight scaled wood, or other types of forest products.

#### 505.12.2 Utilization Standards

Utilization standards will be specified on individual contracts to provide maximum utilization of all merchantable timber and will be based on the scaling standards noted in 505.12.1.

#### 505.12.3 Methods of Accountability

Wood harvested from the sale area must be accounted for and payment made in accordance with existing policy and procedure. One or more of the following may be used on an individual sale:

1. Lump Sum - Wood sold based on estimated volumes with one "lump" payment or payments on individual cutting units. The lump sum method will be used whenever practical. Payment for a cutting unit must be received in full before the wood is hauled.
2. Wood Scaled - Wood may also be scaled on the landing. This method is generally used for saw logs. Payment for scaled wood must be received in full before the wood is hauled.
3. Ticket System - The ticket system utilizes serialized three-part tickets. The white copy will be placed in the ticket box prior to truck departure. The yellow copy is to be returned to the County with accompanying mill statement. Hard copy retained by

logger. Mill scale will be accepted for volume determination. Payment for tickets must be received in full before tickets are distributed to Purchaser. Note: Purchasers in good standing with Marathon County will be allowed up to five business days to submit payment under #2 and #3 above.

#### 505.13 SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCT PERMITS

1. A written permit for taking fuelwood for personal use must be purchased for a specific area designated on the permit.
2. A written permit for cutting boughs for personal use may be issued for a specific area designated in the permit. Bough payment rate will be set by the Forestry/Recreation Committee.
3. Written permits may be issued for special forest products for community or personal use, with fees established by the Forestry/Recreation Committee.

Stumpage of fuelwood, Christmas trees, boughs, posts and poles and other special forest products for resale will be handled as a regular timber sale.

#### 510 TIMBER THEFT

All cases of alleged timber theft on the county forest shall be investigated and resolved promptly. An allegation of theft by cutting and /or removing timber from the county forest does not alleviate the county from payment under s. 28.11 (9) Wis. Stats. The county will collect damages pursuant to s. 26.05 Wis. Stats. and may also pursue criminal charges under s. 943.20 Wis. Stats. and /or seek civil damages.

#### 510.1 TIMBER THEFT INVESTIGATION

The following procedure should be used in all cases of alleged timber theft:

##### Determination of Theft

1. Gathering facts - The County, through the Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Staff or Sheriff's Department and along with assistance of the DNR liaison, rangers, and wardens, will ascertain the facts pertinent to the alleged theft, including determination of the damages to the County. Legal counsel representing the County should be involved in all aspects of investigation. Property involved in the alleged theft may be seized with the assistance of the Parks, Recreation, and

Forestry staff or Sheriff's Department pursuant to s. 26.04, Wis. Stats., for use as evidence.

2. Boundary determination - If property boundaries are involved, the County shall conduct a legal survey of the boundary in question.
3. During the investigation, the County legal counsel should be consulted for further direction or for assistance in resolving the matter. If deemed necessary by the Committee, the District Attorney shall be requested to prosecute for violation of s. 26.05, Wis. Stats., the timber theft law, and a legal action for damages commenced. Otherwise, with advice of legal counsel for the County, the County may seek to reach a mutually agreed upon damage payment with the party alleged to have cut or cut and removed the timber without consent of the County.

#### **515 ENCROACHMENTS (Adverse Possession)**

The County will actively investigate all suspected cases of encroachments on the County Forest. To insure the integrity and continuity of the County Forest Land, all cases will be dealt with promptly and in a consistent manner. The following procedures will be used in all cases of suspected encroachments:

1. The County will establish property boundaries; if necessary, a legal survey will be conducted.
2. The County will gather all facts, including notification to all landowners or occupants involved.
3. The Committee, in consultation with the Director, Forest Administrator, County legal counsel, and the DNR, will make a decision as to the disposition of the case.
  - a. All above-ground encroachments that are movable will be removed from County property.
  - b. Permanent type facilities, such as homes, garages, and septic systems shall be addressed individually and may be removed or handled by a land use agreement. Sale or transfer of the encroachment should remain an option depending on the circumstances involved and the viability of an adverse possession claim (s. 893.29, Wis. Stats.).

- c. Provisions in the land use agreement, if that option is pursued, may include granting the encroacher permission to encroach on the County Forest Lands with the following stipulations: no other encroachments will be allowed; the permit is non-transferable; the County must be notified once encroachment is terminated; County continues full ownership and control of property; permittee agrees to waive any rights to any future declaration of ownership or interest in the encroached County property; County reserves the right to cancel the permit and the permit is to be filed in the office of the Marathon County Register of Deeds and all fees related to the land use permit shall be paid by the permittee.
4. A copy of the actual land use agreement can be found in the appendix.

## **520 SPECIAL USES**

1. Recognizing the vast potential for a variety of special uses of the County Forest by governmental units, businesses, organizations or individuals, the committee may designate specified areas for special uses. Specific management methods are to be considered on these areas. Uses must be consistent with the intent and purposes of the County Forest Law.
2. All requests for specialized uses of any County Forest lands will require a permit authorized by the Committee.
3. A list of existing special use areas can be found the Appendix.

### **520.1 SAND AND GRAVEL**

Sand and gravel pits located on the County Forest may be used only by units of government or contractors performing public works. Use of existing pits and the opening of new pits by other than the County Parks and Forestry Department will require Committee approval and be authorized by permit only. The condition of such permits may include, but are not be limited to:

1. Requiring the pit and its access road to be screened from view from any public highway.
2. Severing trees from the stump.
3. Disposition of brush and dirt spoil by leveling or hauling away.
4. Sloping to prevent steep banks.

5. Filing with the parks and forest office an annual written report of gravel and sand removed.

Other conditions may be set at the discretion of the Committee or County Forest Administrator. The Committee will set fees for materials removed. Other non-metalliferous materials will be dealt with on an individual basis.

All active, nonmetallic sites greater than one acre in size, including those on the County Forest, are also subject to the provisions of the Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Program, Chapter NR 135, Wis. Adm. Code. The County Parks and Forestry Department shall work with the local permit coordinator (often county or local zoning office) in obtaining the necessary permits for nonmetallic mining operations.

Sand and gravel may, under some circumstances, be leased to private contractors for private use. In these situations, the land must be withdrawn from the County Forest Law until sand/gravel removal and reclamation of the site is completed. Upon completion of reclamation to the satisfaction of the county and the state, the lands shall be reapplied for entry under the County Forest Law.

## 520.2 EXPLORATION, PROSPECTING, AND MINING

1. The Committee may investigate all mineral exploration, prospecting and mining requests as they are received.
2. The DNR shall be notified of all requests, as they become known, in accord with Manual Code 2712.1 (Mineral exploration on County Forests per s. 28.11(3)(i), and (j) Wis. Stats., or other codes which may be subsequently adopted.)
3. Public Forest Lands Handbook should be referenced for more detailed procedure.
4. Exploration and prospecting usually don't require County Forest withdrawal.
5. Mining would require the withdrawal and sale of County Forest Land affected. The County Board may consider requiring the replacement of withdrawn lands and other conditions in mining resolution.

## 520.3 SANITARY LANDFILLS

The use of County Forest lands for sanitary landfills will not be allowed unless the lands

involved are withdrawn from the County Forest Law.

#### 520.4 MILITARY MANEUVERS

Military maneuvers on County Forest lands will be considered under a lease or written land use agreement. Upon receipt of a written request from the military the Committee, other necessary County staff, Military, and DNR representatives will discuss the issue at a public Committee meeting. After the needs have been outlined, the site shall be field checked, DNR input and consistency with the County Forest Law sought, and town officials advised. Depending on the scope of the project, a public hearing may be appropriate. If all aspects and concerns are addressed and agreed to, a legal instrument will be drafted. The matter will then be brought back to a Committee meeting for final input and approval. The Public Forest Lands Handbook will be used for further direction in this matter.

#### 520.5 PUBLIC UTILITIES.

Applications for public utility easements will be considered by the Committee. Underground installations will be encouraged. In 2005 the State legislature passed a law that “requires a County, City, Village, Town, Public Board or Commission to convey lands to an electrical utility for the purpose of constructing electrical utility lines.” (Sec. 194.491(3e), Wis. Stats.) The following main provisions shall be included in any County Board resolution granting permission for construction of a utility transmission line:

1. Utility will be billed for merchantable forest products and existing timber reproduction.
2. Utility will be billed for land removed from production due to right-of-way clearing for losses of future income and multiple use benefits.
3. Land removed for utility operations that is no longer suited “primarily for timber production or, that is no longer suitable for scenic, outdoor recreation, public hunting and fishing, water conservation or multiple use purposes” (s. 28.11(4)(c) Wis. Stats) may need to be withdrawn from County Forest Law designation. The utility shall replace any lands requiring withdrawal from County Forest with other lands suitable for County Forest entry that are in the forest blocking of the County Forest or money that will be deposited into the segregated land purchase account.
4. Utility companies will be encouraged to use existing corridors and underground lines to minimize disturbance to the County Forest and native plants and animals.
5. Merchantable timber will be removed in a manner specified by the Forest Administrator

and approved by the Committee. Timber cut must be reported to the DNR on form 2460-1.

6. Utility must provide notice of proposed route, including a map of not less than 1 inch /mile scale, 90 days in advance of the proposed construction.
7. Special maintenance, controlled access and signage concerns shall be addressed in any proposal.
8. An appropriate fee shall be charged for easements.

## 520.6 ACCESS TO PRIVATE LAND

The Department has determined that granting a private easement across County forest lands is not consistent with the County Forest Law program. This determination is based on an Attorney General opinion (*OAG-08-10*). Easement grants to individuals are generally determined to be an exclusive right on a publicly owned asset. Counties are generally restricted from granting easements unless the overall management of the forest could be improved by granting the easement or if the easement grant will serve a greater public good.

### 520.6.1 Temporary Access

Requests for temporary access across County Forest Lands will be reviewed for any potential conflicts with management activities or public access. If impacts are minimal, access for short term needs will be permitted through the use of access agreements or letters of authorization. Temporary access is generally for activities such as access to maintain utilities (rail, powerline, etc.) or for logging access on private lands. The recipient of temporary access is required to restore the roadway to at least its prior condition and to expand coverage of any performance deposits or liability insurance to cover the use of the County road.

### 520.6.2 Access Agreements

Requests for access to private lands may be made by private parties to build or improve access roads through the County Forest. Access agreements will be considered on a case-by-case basis and with the understanding that the County is not legally obligated to provide access to private lands. The following stipulations will be adhered to before an "Access Permit" is granted:

1. Access across County Forest Lands must be demonstrated by the applicant as the route of last resort. Proposed uses must be documented by the applicant.

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

#### 520.6.3 Prescriptive Easements

Historical access points and driveways may meet the requirements of prescriptive use. A prescriptive use easement does not generally trigger a need to withdraw lands from the County Forest program unless the public is excluded from motorized travel on the subject road. Any potential claims of prescriptive easement across County Forest lands must be reviewed by legal counsel in order to determine legal validity and possible legal defense or standing.

#### 520.6.4 Other Types of Access

Complex issues of private access needs may arise in the future. Any proposals to grant an easement across County Forest must help achieve the purposes of the County Forest Law and meet a standard of better and higher public use. Easements to private parties will require withdrawal from County Forest Law and are to be discussed with the Department prior to initiating any proposals.

#### 520.7 PRIVATE UTILITY SERVICE LINES

If a landowner cannot gain utility access across other lands, the committee may consider a land use agreement for access across County Forest. Requests will be considered on a case by case basis. These agreements should consider the inclusions mentioned below:

1. The permit is non-transferrable
2. The County retains full ownership of the utility corridor, however it shall not be liable for maintenance, upkeep, or other damages associated with the utility service.
3. The permittee waives any rights to any declaration of ownership or interest in the utility corridor on County land for administrative costs as a result of this Land Use Agreement – Utility permit. This agreement is granted upon the signature and any fees being received by Marathon County.
4. The fee for such a land use agreement is set at \$5.00 per lineal foot for each utility with a minimum fee of \$5,000.

#### 520.8 CELLULAR COMMUNICATION TOWERS

The siting of cellular communication towers on the Marathon County Forest will be considered by the Committee on a limited basis. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis subject to the following conditions:

1. It must be demonstrated that the site is the most practical location for such a tower.
2. Land selected for such a tower is no longer suitable for continued entry in the County Forest program. In addition, any accompanying lands needed for tower support wires that inhibit the practice of forestry and are no longer suitable for scenic, outdoor recreation, public hunting and fishing, water conservation or multiple use purposes (s. 28.11(4)(c) Wis. Stats may also need to be withdrawn from County Forest Law. Withdrawal is subject to approval by both County Board and DNR. The cellular communication company shall replace any lands requiring withdrawal from County Forest with other lands suitable for County Forest entry that are in the forest blocking.
3. If the Committee approves siting a cell tower on County Forest Lands, the cellular company will pay for all administrative and staff time related to establishing the tower.

4. Marathon County shall be provided use of the tower for free and be provided free phone service.
5. An appropriate fee will be charged for any communication tower the Committee approves on County Forest Lands.
6. Any agreement should also consider the inclusions listed under 520.5 (Items 1-8)

#### 520.9 OTHER

Other types of special uses of the county forest may be considered by the committee. Regulations governing these uses will be developed on an individual basis. These may include, but are not limited to: research, independent study and scientific areas.

#### **525 TREATY RIGHTS: GATHERING MISCELLANEOUS FOREST PRODUCTS**

Ordinance No. 0-34-91, adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of the County of Marathon on October 15 , 1991, authorizes Marathon County to require permits for gathering miscellaneous forest products on County land by Native American treaty rights participants. The ordinance, Section 12.06 of the General Code of Marathon County, adopts language of, and complies with, the Federal District Court decision and states as follows:

1. Any treaty rights participant interested in gathering firewood, tree bark, maple sap, lodge poles, boughs, marsh hay or other miscellaneous forest products (except fruits, seeds, or berries not enumerated in County ordinances) from County land shall obtain a County gathering permit from the County Parks and Forestry office. The County shall respond to the gathering permit request no later than 14 days after receipt of the request. The gathering permit shall indicate the location of the material to be gathered, the volume of material to be gathered, and conditions of the gathering of the material necessary for conservation of the timber and miscellaneous forest products on the County land, or for public health or safety.
2. The County may not deny a request to gather miscellaneous forest products on county property under this section unless: (a) the gathering is inconsistent with the management plan for the property, (b) the gathering will conflict with the pre-existing rights of a permittee or other person possessing an approval to conduct an activity on the property, including a contractor of the county or, (c) is otherwise inconsistent with conservation or public health or safety. Subchapter IV, Ch. NR13, Wis. Adm. Code details the regulations.



COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

**CHAPTER 600**

**PROTECTION**

<u>Section</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page</u>
<b>600</b>	<b>PROTECTION</b> .....	3
<b>605</b>	<b>FIRE CONTROL</b> .....	3
605.1	COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES .....	3
605.1.1	Personnel .....	3
605.1.2	Equipment .....	4
605.1.3	Fire Detection.....	4
605.1.4	Forest Fire Prevention.....	4
605.1.5	Forest Fire Suppression .....	4
605.2	DEBRIS BURNING .....	4
605.3	CAMPFIRES.....	5
605.4	PRESCRIBED BURNING.....	5
605.5	COUNTY FOREST FIRE HAZARD AREAS.....	5
<b>610</b>	<b>CONTROL OF FOREST PESTS &amp; PATHOGENS</b> .....	5
610.1	DETECTION .....	5
610.2	PEST SURVEYS .....	5
610.3	SPECIFIC PESTS AND PATHOGENS OF CONCERN .....	6
610.3.1	Specific Pests of Interest.....	6
610.3.1.1	Gypsy Moth Strategy .....	6
610.3.1.2	Heterobasidion Root Disease (HRD).....	7
610.3.1.3	Oak Wilt.....	8
610.3.1.4	Forest Tent Caterpillar.....	8
610.3.1.5	Two-lined Chestnut Borer.....	9
610.3.1.6	Emerald Ash Borer.....	9
610.3.2	Funding.....	10
610.3.4	Special Projects .....	10
610.4	DEER BROWSE.....	10
610.5	INVASIVE SPECIES.....	10

610.5.1	Funding and Partnerships .....	10
610.5.2	Best Management Practices.....	11
610.5.3	Current Plant Invasives.....	11
610.5.3.1	Buckthorn .....	11
610.5.3.2	Garlic Mustard.....	12
610.5.3.3	Honeysuckle .....	12
610.5.3.4	Spotted Knapweed.....	13
610.5.3.5	Japanese Barberry .....	13
610.5.3.6	Other.....	14

## **600 PROTECTION**

### **OBJECTIVE**

To protect and manage the resources of the forest from preventable losses resulting from fire, insects, diseases and other destructive elements including those caused by people. Protective methods shall include proper silvicultural methods.

The DNR provides statewide technical guidance that will be used to inform local decisions. This guidance will be referenced to make decisions at the county level.

## **605 FIRE CONTROL**

Damage to the Forest caused by uncontrolled fire can create an important challenge in the management of the Forest. Loss of resource values caused by fire will be minimized through organized prevention, detection and suppression methods. Maintaining a healthy forest is key to fire management. The DNR is responsible for all matters relating to the prevention, detection and suppression of forest fires outside the limits of incorporated villages and cities. s. 26.11(1), Wis. Stats.

The DNR works cooperatively with local fire departments in all fire control efforts. The Marathon County Forest with the exception of the Kronenwetter Forest Unit, is part of the DNR intensive forest fire protection area. The Village of Kronenwetter has primary responsibility for fire suppression within the Kronenwetter Forest Unit and works closely with DNR fire control on forest fires within the forest unit. Pursuant to s. 26.11(5), Wis Stats., the village is able to request DNR assistance on wildland fires. The Fire Management Handbook No. 4325.1 and the Area Operations Plan shall serve as the guidelines for fire control activities.

### **605.1 COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

Pursuant to s. 26.11(4) and s. 28.11(4)(f), Wis. Stats., and the Marathon County Forest Ordinance, the County may cooperate with the DNR in the interest of fire prevention, detection and suppression on the County Forest. This is accomplished through agreements authorizing the DNR to use County Forest land or to utilize County personnel and equipment for fire protection activities. The DNR will notify the Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department when a fire occurs on County Forest or Park lands.

#### **605.1.1 Personnel**

County Forest personnel, upon request will be made available for forest fire control efforts within County forest or County park lands. With limited staff the County Forestry division is not readily

available to assist on forest fires. During periods of very high fire danger County Forestry personnel may be made available, upon request, for fire control efforts within the County. The DNR is responsible for training and directing the activities of County personnel in accordance with the rules identified in the Fire Management Handbook, No. 4325.1.

#### 605.1.2 Equipment

County Forest equipment, upon request, may be available for forest fire control suppression. During periods of high fire hazard, all County Forest vehicles and/or crews should be equipped with one or more back pack cans, axes or shovels, appropriate personal protective equipment, mobile communication and any other equipment deemed essential. All hand tools shall be maintained and provided by the DNR.

#### 605.1.3 Fire Detection

Fire detection is the responsibility of the DNR. County Parks and Forest personnel may assist and report any wild fires to the DNR, local Fire Department or 911 Dispatch.

#### 605.1.4 Forest Fire Prevention

DNR fire control personnel are authorized by the County to place fire prevention signs at recreational areas and other strategic locations within the forest as authorized by the Forest Administrator. The County conducts and controls all operations (including harvesting) on the forest in a manner designed to prevent forest fires. The use of the County Forest and the Department will coordinate during high fire danger periods to impose any necessary restrictions. These restrictions may include, but are not limited to, recreation and logging.

#### 605.1.5 Forest Fire Suppression

Any uncontrolled or non-prescribed fires on the County Forest will be suppressed as soon as possible.

### 605.2 DEBRIS BURNING

Unauthorized burning of debris will not be permitted on County Forest Lands pursuant to s. 26.12(5), Wis. Stats. Deposit of yard waste or any other matter is not allowed on County Forest Land. Violators subject to County ordinance.

### 605.3 CAMPFIRES

During periods of high fire danger, use of campfires may be restricted. While campfires are allowed

on the County Forest, it is unlawful to leave any fires unattended. On a DNR designated red flag day, it is unlawful to start or use any fires.

#### 605.4 PRESCRIBED BURNING

All prescribed burning on County Forest lands will follow the DNR recommendations. See Prescribed Burn Handbook No. 4360.5 for details. Prescribed fire may be an effective management tool on the County Forest. Prescribed burning may be done for wildlife habitat, site preparation for tree planting and seeding, fire hazard reduction, barrens and prairie management, insect and disease control, etc.

#### 605.5 COUNTY FOREST FIRE HAZARD AREAS

The DNR places primary emphasis on fire control efforts in pine areas. Maps of these areas are available at the local DNR field office. The County will cooperate with DNR Fire Control in providing for firebreaks or access ways. Existing access roads, firebreaks and water access points will be maintained as deemed necessary. Secondary emphasis will be placed on hardwood and aspen areas with no firebreaks developed or maintained. However, access roads will be maintained as defined in Chapter 700 of this plan.

### **610 CONTROL OF FOREST PESTS & PATHOGENS**

#### 610.1 DETECTION

Damage to the forest caused by insects, diseases, exotic plants and other pests can adversely affect management of the forest resources. Losses to resource values impacted by forest pests will be minimized through integrated pest management methods, with emphasis on silvicultural prescriptions (timber sales). The detection and control of pest problems will be accomplished by county and DNR personnel in cooperation with other agencies.

#### 610.2 PEST SURVEYS

Pest surveys are conducted under the direction of the DNR's forest health specialists. The County may cooperate by providing personnel and equipment to assist in these operations. Citizen reports of possible pest damage will be investigated by County Forest division staff.

#### 610.3 SPECIFIC PESTS AND PATHOGENS OF CONCERN

Integrated pest management for the purpose of this Plan, is defined as follows:

*“The maintenance of destructive agents, including insects, at tolerable levels, by the planned use of a variety of preventive, suppressive, or regulatory tactics and strategies that are ecologically and economically efficient and socially acceptable.”*

The integrated pest management control and methodology shall be determined jointly by the County Forest Administrator, and DNR liaison forester in consultation with the DNR District Forest Health Specialist. Suppression of forest pests may include the following:

1. Silvicultural prescriptions, including timber sales.
2. Biological control.
3. Chemical control.

### 610.3.1 Specific Pests of Interest

#### 610.3.1.1 Gypsy Moth

This introduced pest has moved westward from the northeastern United States since the early 1900's. Currently, moths have been found in every county; the eastern 2/3 of the State is considered infested. Marathon County Forest's strategy to combat this defoliating insect will focus on using silvicultural techniques to maintain and improve forest vigor, so as to decrease the likelihood and severity of defoliation. In addition, suppression spraying with approved insecticides may be considered in high use recreation areas and stands containing a high percentage of susceptible, high valued timber. Biological controls may also be available for introduction to help reduce outbreak frequency.

The presence or discovery of threatened or endangered species in these areas may impact both the type of treatment and the decision to apply suppression tactics. Current insecticides for gypsy moth control include a bacterial insecticide (Btk) and a commercial formulation of a naturally occurring virus (Gypchek) The Gypchek virus, specific to gypsy moth larvae, is only available through the federal suppression program administered by the DNR. The intent in combating this insect is not to eradicate, but rather to reduce populations so that tree mortality is maintained at tolerable levels. The DNR's District Forest Health Specialist will be available for consultation on control tactics and possible quarantine procedures. DATCP is the agency responsible for quarantine procedures for wood products from infested counties.

#### 610.3.1.2 HRD

Heterobasidion root disease (HRD, previously called annosum root rot), is caused by the fungus, *Heterobasidion irregulare*. It is a serious disease that causes pine and spruce mortality in Wisconsin, but over 200 woody species have been reported as hosts. Red and white pine trees are most commonly affected in plantation-grown stands subjected to thinning. The disease was first confirmed in Wisconsin in 1993 and has since been found in a number of counties throughout Wisconsin. Diseased trees, including overstory trees and understory seedlings and saplings, will show fading, thin crowns with tufted foliage, and eventual mortality. Currently, there are no curative treatments to eliminate the HRD pathogen from a stand once it is infested, so preventing disease introduction is the best approach.

Infection most often occurs when HRD spores land and germinate on a freshly cut stump. The pathogen then grows into the root tissue and progresses underground from tree to tree through root contact. As the pathogen spreads, and trees decline and die, an ever-expanding pocket of mortality is formed. HRD fruit bodies, or conks, may be found at the base of dead trees and old stumps. Fruit bodies are most commonly observed in the fall but can be found any time of the year.

Guidelines for stump treatment to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of Heterobasidion root disease in Wisconsin should be used by the county forests. The HRD guidelines are designed to help property managers and landowners determine whether the preventive pesticide treatment should be used to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of HRD at the time of harvest in a pine and/or spruce stand.

It is Marathon County's policy to follow the "Guidelines for stump treatment to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of Heterobasidion root disease in Wisconsin. It is Marathon County's policy to require the purchaser of conifer sales to purchase and apply an approved fungicide (RotstopC or Cellu-treat) to all cut pine stumps and horizontal wound surfaces for prevention of this disease. Specific requirements on treatment are included in Marathon County's timber sale contract.

#### 610.3.1.3 Oak Wilt

Oak wilt, *Bretziella fagacearum*, is a destructive disease of oak trees. It is responsible for the death of thousands of oak trees in forests, woodlots, and home landscapes each year. Oak wilt is caused by a fungus that invades and impairs the tree's water conducting system, resulting in branch wilting and tree death. Trees in both the red oak group and white oak group are affected. There is no known cure once a tree has oak wilt. Prevention of new oak wilt infection centers is the best management option and involves avoiding injury to healthy trees and removing dead or diseased trees. Counties should use the Oak Harvesting Guidelines to Reduce the Risk of Introduction and Spread of Oak Wilt for management guidance. If pruning is necessary or damage is incurred during the growing season, e.g. through construction activities or storms, the wounds should be painted immediately with a wound paint.

It is Marathon County's policy to remove infected trees. Once chipped or debarked, the materials shall be covered with plastic for a period of six months to kill the fungus and any insects in the material. In certain cases, infected trees may also be burned, eliminating the fungus and any insect. A vibratory plow, or similar implement, may be used to sever root grafts on isolated pockets where feasible. A second method to control the spread of oak wilt where pockets have been confirmed also may be used. Using this method foresters will: (1) Identify infected trees; (2) Assume all trees within a certain distance from the diseased tree based upon research are infected; (3) Girdle all oak trees within this barrier zone; (4) Apply a chemical basal spray to the girdled trees to kill the trees and root systems; and (5) Remove the treated trees. Cutting or pruning of oak will be restricted between April 15 and July 15.

#### 610.3.1.4 Forest Tent Caterpillar

Forest tent caterpillar, *Malacosoma disstria*, can be found throughout the United States and Canada wherever hardwoods grow. The favored hosts in Wisconsin are aspen and oak. This native insect causes region-wide outbreaks at intervals from 10 to 15 years; outbreaks usually last 2 - 5 years in the Lake States. Severe and repeated defoliation can lead to dieback and/or reduced growth of affected trees, which in some instances may be significant. Populations are often controlled by natural enemies, helping the population crash. Aerial spraying of insecticides can be an option for control as well. It will be Marathon County's strategy to employ sound silvicultural practices to combat this cyclic pest.

#### 610.3.1.5 Two-lined Chestnut Borer

The two-lined chestnut borer, (*Agrilus bilineatus*), is a common secondary pest in trees which have been severely defoliated several years in a row. Oaks that are under stress from drought and/or defoliation by insects such as gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*), fall canker worm (*Alsophila pomataria*), and forest tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma disstria*) can be infested and killed by two-lined chestnut borer. Prevention of two-lined chestnut borer through sound silvicultural practices is the best management option. Postponing management activities in stressed stands for two years after severe drought and/or defoliation have ended will provide time for trees to recover and reduce their susceptibility to two-lined chestnut borer attack. Infestations should be salvaged promptly. Marathon County will strive to maintain healthy trees through sound silvicultural practices to discourage infestation.

#### 610.3.1.6 Emerald Ash Borer

The emerald ash borer, (*Agrilus planipennis*), was accidentally introduced to North America from Asia in 2002. Emerald ash borer (EAB) infestations in Wisconsin have resulted in widespread mortality to *Fraxinus* species including green, white, and black ash. It is expected that 99% of the ash trees in Wisconsin will die. Ash comprises a significant component in the northern hardwood timber type and can be found in nearly pure stands in some lowland areas. Adult EAB beetles feed on foliage but it is the larvae that cause mortality by feeding on the phloem and outer sapwood of the ash trees.

The [Emerald Ash Borer Silviculture Guidelines](#) are available to help resource managers make informed stand-level decisions to manage forests that are not yet infested by EAB, as well as implement salvage harvests and rehabilitation in stands that have already been impacted by EAB.

It is Marathon County's policy to follow the Emerald Ash Borer Silviculture Guidelines.

#### 610.3.2 Funding

The County Forest will make all reasonable efforts to secure funding for control efforts,

through County funds, or other State, Federal or private funding sources.

### 610.3.3 Special Projects

The County may cooperate with other agencies in forest pest research.

## 610.4 DEER BROWSE

Forest regeneration and reproduction is critical to sustain both timber production and wildlife habitat and the overall health of the deer herd. As a keystone species, deer can affect forest regeneration, long-term forest production, and forest sustainability. This is a concern for all interested in forest production and trying to balance deer numbers with habitat.

Marathon County will monitor herbivory impacts during forest reconnaissance.

## 610.5 INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES

Invasive plants can cause significant negative impacts to the forest. Invasive species can displace native plants and hinder the forest regeneration efforts. Preventing them from dominating habitats is critical to the long-term health of the forest. There are a number of invasive plant species in varying densities on the County Forest. Some warrant immediate and continual treatment efforts while others may be allowed to remain due to extent and financial ability to control them. The County will continue to train staff in invasive species identification as well as attempt to secure funding sources to control them as much as is practical. Invasive plants on the forest should be documented as well as potential response to new infestations.

### 610.5.1 Funding and Partnerships

Grant opportunities for invasive species control funding can be found on the [Financial Assistance webpage](#) of the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council. The number of grants for local governments and county forest is limited, especially for terrestrial invasive plant control. Some grants, such as the Department of Natural Resource's [turkey stamp program](#), support invasive plant control as part of larger efforts to promote certain outcomes and might be applicable.

The Department of Natural Resources promotes the formation of cooperative invasive species management areas (CISMAs) through its [Weed Management Area – Private Forest Grant Program](#). While activities funded by this grant are restricted to non-industrial private

forests, CISMAs are encouraged to partner with other groups in their area and some can provide technical support to county forests. The CISMA's of Wisconsin can be found at this link. <http://ipaw.org/quick-links/cismas/>

#### 610.5.2 Best Management Practices

In 2009, the Department of Natural Resources and many stakeholder groups approved a series of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for minimizing the spread of forest invasive plants. The full text of the BMPs is found on the Wisconsin Council on Forestry website. Voluntary use of the BMPs during forestry stewardship activities reduces the spread of invasive plants that can impede forest regeneration in county forests.

BMPs used before, during and after a harvest promote forest regeneration. Reasonable efforts to clean vehicles, equipment, footwear and other clothing helps reduce the spread of seeds and plant fragments to un-infested forests. Planning the sequence and timing of stewardship activities to reduce contact with invasive plants during forestry operations is another helpful strategy. Similarly, controlling populations of invasive plants before logging reduces the risk of spreading them. Follow-up monitoring of disturbed stands can detect populations of invasive plants while they are still small and more easily managed.

#### 610.5.3 Current Plant Invasives

##### 605.5.3.1 Buckthorn

Two species of invasive buckthorn impact Wisconsin's forests. Common buckthorn, (*Frangula cathartica*), is more often found growing on well-drained soils while glossy buckthorn, (*Frangula alnus*), favors wetter soils. Both species grow in shade or sun, quickly form dense, even-aged thickets that shade out understory plants, including tree seedlings, and hinder forest regeneration. Their dark colored fruits are eaten by birds who disperse them long distances. Both buckthorns green-up before native plants and remain green after the natives drop their leaves.

Buckthorn can be controlled by taking advantage of the longer period in which they retain their leaves. Foliar applications of herbicide applied when buckthorn has leaves and the natives are leafless will minimize damage to native plants. Other control options include mowing the shrubs and then treating re-sprouts with foliar herbicide, basal bark herbicide applications, and cut stump herbicide applications.

#### 610.5.3.2 Garlic Mustard

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is an herbaceous, biennial, native to Europe. During the first year a basal rosette of only leaves develops. The second year, several stems from 1 – 4 feet tall grow from the basal rosette. The leaves have a distinct garlic fragrance when crushed. From the stems grow several small white flowers. Each plant can produce 100's of tiny seeds inside long, narrow capsules. Garlic mustard can quickly colonize disturbed forests as it often follows corridors such as game trails or man-made roads/paths. As garlic mustard spreads, it quickly displaces native plants and is known to radiate chemicals into the soil that disrupt associations between mycorrhizal fungi and native plants. Small populations can be hand pulled, while larger populations are better controlled with prescribed fire and/or herbicide. All pulled plant materials should be bagged and removed from the forest as seeds have been known to mature on dead plants left on site. Treatment should be repeated until the seed bank is depleted, which takes multiple years. Garlic mustard sites should be monitored annually, until no plants are discovered for several years.

#### 610.5.3.3 Honeysuckle

Bush Honeysuckles (*Lonicera maackii*, *L. tatarica*, *L. morrowii*, *L. X bella*) were introduced from Eurasia as ornamentals, wildlife cover and soil erosion control. Bush honeysuckles are upright deciduous shrubs, ranging from 5 - 12 feet tall with gray shaggy bark. The leaves are opposite, simple, oval and untoothed and can be smooth, to velvety depending on species. Flowers are fragrant and tubular ranging in colors of white, red and pink. They bloom May through June and then form red to yellow berries that are found as pairs on the leaf axils. Honeysuckles replace native forest shrubs and herbaceous plants by inhibiting growth of understory plants due to early leaf-out which shades out herbaceous ground cover and depletes soil moisture. Control options include hand pulling small infestations and prescribed burning which kills seedlings and top kills mature shrubs. Herbicide options include cut stump treatment and foliar spraying. With all control efforts repeated monitoring is needed.

#### 610.5.3.4 Spotted Knapweed

Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*) is an herbaceous, short-lived perennial native to Eurasia that can grow 2 – 4 feet tall. This plant first appears as a basal rosette of somewhat silvery leaves and may persist this way for several years before developing

pink-purple flowers on long spreading stems. The flowers are thistle-like with many petals and stiff bracts. Knapweed invades dry-upland areas including disturbed sites such as forest trails and openings. The roots exude an allelopathic chemical which inhibits establishment of other plants; hindering forest regeneration. Small populations can be hand pulled provided the entire tap root is removed. Gloves, long sleeves and pants should be worn when handling this plant as it may cause skin irritation. Chemical control should be applied directly to plants or broadcast across large areas of infestation. Biological control is also available as part of an integrated pest management plan.

#### 610.5.3.5 Japanese Barberry

Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) was introduced from Japan around 1875 and now ranges across most of North America. It is a compact, spiny, deciduous shrub with arching branches of dense foliage. It commonly grows 2 - 3 feet tall and has been known to reach heights of 6 feet. Japanese barberry regenerates by seed, creeping roots and branches that root freely when they touch the ground; which increases its overall spread. Small, rounded, smooth edged leaves are clustered in tight bunches close to the spiny branches and small yellow flowers bloom through May forming red oblong berries that mature in mid-summer and persist into winter. This plant is highly adapted to growing in young forests where it forms thorny thickets that shade out and limit the growth of native plants and spreads easily under the shade of established forests. The primary method of mechanically controlling barberry is hand pulling or digging early before seed set in areas where there are only a few plants. It has shallow roots but resprouting may occur if the entire root system is not removed. Larger populations may be controlled by herbicides with a cut stump treatment and repeated monitoring for both seedlings and roots re-sprouting.

#### 610.5.3.6 Other

Any other invasive species found on the County Forest will be evaluated and attempts to control, eradicate or slow the spread of them will be made if it's determined in the best interest of Marathon County forest management.

## Jodi Luebbe

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**From:** Cynthia Hassel  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 26, 2019 2:47 PM  
**To:** Tom Lovlien  
**Subject:** Wausau 24

Wausau 24 bike event numbers for 2019

Mountain Bike – 458 participants

Trail Run – 47 participants

505 participants @ \$9.50 = \$4,797.50

Adam paid \$5,000.00 that includes interest on above amount because payment was 3 months overdue.

Adam still needs to pay for a spider box replacement at \$561.89.

C

## Jodi Luebbe

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**From:** Cynthia Hassel  
**Sent:** Friday, October 18, 2019 1:51 PM  
**To:** Tom Lovlien; Joseph Tucker  
**Subject:** NICA High School bike race

212 campers @ \$10 = \$2,120.00

706 racers @ \$4 = \$2,824

Total = \$4,944.00

1. Sustainable timber management (timber harvests) will continue following the approved County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan and the County Forest Law(28.11 Wis. Stats). Some trails may be periodically closed to allow harvesting due to the following:
  - It has become increasingly difficult to manage the timber resource with insect and disease restrictions that prohibit harvesting during specific time periods.
  - Cross country skiing has reduced harvesting in the winter within the core ski trail area.
  - In upland areas of Nine Mile harvesting may only occur between August 10 and November 15 in certain timber stands due to threatened and endangered species guidance. The Department of Natural Resources continues to draft new species guidance each year making timber harvesting from May 1-August 31 more challenging.
  - There are few areas that harvests may occur in year round.
  - Attempts will be made to minimize conflicts on recreational trail activities.
2. Dispersed recreation such as hunting, trapping, fishing, bird watching, hiking, backpacking and berry picking will continue to occur on all County Forest Lands according to the County Forest Law and Department of Natural Resources seasons and regulations.
3. Mountain biking and horseback riding season at Nine Mile County Forest begins May 1 to May 15, depending on trail conditions, to October 15 each year. If trail conditions allow opening during the first three weeks of May, mountain biking and horseback riding will be allowed after 12:00pm daily to accommodate spring turkey hunters.
4. County ordinance prohibits the use of bicycles or riding horses on any designated trail seasonally closed.
5. Snow biking is prohibited on cross country ski or snowshoe trails due to user conflicts and the biking season being closed. Exception: One winter triathlon event is approved utilizing fat tire bikes. (Approved by Forestry/Recreation Committee May 2019.)
6. Electric mountain bikes (eMTB) falls under the definition of a self-propelled motor bicycle and are prohibited by ordinance.
7. Cross country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling are allowed on designated trails when there is sufficient snow cover as determined by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.
8. Cross country skiing and snowshoeing are allowed at any time off the designated trails according to County Forest Law.
9. Up to four high school cross country running races may be allowed at Nine Mile on or before October 15 each year.

10. Organizers may apply to hold a special event by completing a Facility Use Agreement form available at the Park office. All events or trail based activities will be considered if the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department receives an application no more than one year prior(365 days) to the year of the event and will receive priority. Any applications received less than six months prior to the event will be considered but may be rejected. If some events or trail based activities are not approved, Parks, Recreation and Forestry staff will assist in finding a different venue appropriate to be held if possible.

Applications will be evaluated using the criteria below:

- Resource Protection
- Safety
- Potential for User Conflicts
- Number of Events Already Scheduled (cap on events)
- Benefits to the Community
- Revenue Generation
- Date of Requested Event
- Community Support
- Evaluation of Event Plan
- Necessity to close down portions of the facility to the public
- Previously held Events

A maximum of six(6) weekend trail based special events can be held from May through October 15<sup>th</sup>. And of those six(6), only two(2) will be allowed between September 1<sup>st</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> to accommodate fall hunting seasons. Exception: An Ironbull bike gravel race is approved located on the Snowmobile trail only may occur the Saturday following October 15 each year. (Approved by Forestry/Recreation Committee May 2019.)

11. Charging fees for vehicle parking or admission fees for spectators to any events is prohibited at all County Forest Units under any circumstances.
12. The Park Commission has jurisdiction over the event or program if there is a conflict of use or multiple applications for events on the same date.
13. The Forestry/Recreation Committee has jurisdiction over all land use on the County forest. Any future changes or additions to these regulations will be presented to the Forest Citizen's Advisory Subcommittee for a recommendation to the Forestry/Recreation Committee. The decision of the Forestry/Recreation Committee will be final.

