

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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REV: 5/18/2021

CHAPTER 2000

PLANNING, REPORTS, BUDGET

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2000 NEEDS OBJECTIVE AND FORMAT

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

Format and Policy:

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

2005 DETAILED ANNUAL NEEDS FOR FIFTEEN YEARS

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

2010 SUMMARY OF FIFTEEN YEAR NEEDS

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

A. Equipment Purchases/Replacement and Recreational Development

Eau Claire County utilizes a 5-year outlook on Capital Improvement budgeting. Needs beyond 5 years are difficult to project, as the list can change from year to year. Below is a full breakdown of capital needs anticipated from 2021 to 2026.

Anticipated Year	Project Description	Estimated Cost
2021	Grader Replacement	190,000
2021	Large Equipment Trailer	32,000
2021	Coon Fork Playground Replacement	80,000
2021	Coon Fork Blacktop	65,000
2021	Coon Fork Office Building	175,000
2021	Replacement pickup	30,500
2021	LL Phillips Pavilion	22,000
2021	Materials Bin System Lake Eau Claire	24,000
2021	Parks Maintenance Building Paving	37,000
2021	Ski Trail Groomer	40,000
2022	Black Creek Forest Road Bridge	95,000
2022	Coon Fork Group Campsite Development	245,000
2022	Playground addition Lowes Creek	61,000
2022	Replacement pickup	32,000
2022	Construct steps and lookout Hamilton Falls	28,000
2022	ADA Canoe Launch point Lake Eau Claire	16,000
2023	Replacement pickup	32,500
2023	Replacement Trailer	13,000
2023	60' Bucket Truck	68,000
2023	Track Hoe purchase	88,000
2024	Replace New Holland Tractor	87,000
2024	Replacement pickup	32,500
2024	Black Creek Bridge Coon Fork Hiking Trail	43,000
2024	Woodchipper	26,000
2024	Coon Gut Bridge	54,000
2025	Replacement Skid Steer Expo Center	46,000
2025	Harstad Park Playground Replacement	64,000
2025	New well and Hand pump LL Phillips Park	7,000
2025	Replacement pickup	33,000
2025	Canoe Campsite Development EC River	8,000
2025	Wooden Boardwalk Big Falls	18,000
2025	County Forest Paper company land purchase	300,000
2026	Horse Campground Development	71,000
2026	Improve Canoe landings on county forest	50,000
2026	Replacement Lawnmower	20,000
2026	ADA Canoe Launch point Coon Fork	15,500

B. Roads: Construction and maintenance

As of January 1, 2021, there are 17.94 miles of Gas-Tax County Forest Roads within the county forest area. Section 86.315 (4) (a) Wisconsin Statutes states in part "...the committee designated to administer the county forest program shall, not later than September 15 of every year, file with the department and the county clerk a certified plat of the county forests showing the roads to be open and used for travel as of the succeeding January 1. The certified plat shall show the mileage of the roads for use by the department in making computations of road aids under this section..."; (3) states in part..."County forest roads must meet the minimum design standards under 82.50 (1) (a) 2 and 3 in order to qualify for aids..." This requires at least a 16-foot surface width and a 20-foot roadway width.

In comparison with county forest roads, narrower woods trails on the forest are open to public travel with licensed motor vehicles unless they are gated, posted as closed, or bermed with dirt to restrict access. See Chapter 700 for further discussion on forest access.

There are no immediate plans for construction of additional miles of county forest roads. However, should the need arise, department staff will develop the roads utilizing existing equipment and renting additional equipment if necessary, within budget constraints. Typically, the need for new forest roads would be to improve public access to portions of the county forest that are felt to have inadequate drivable public access. New county forest roads should be constructed only after it is determined that a strong need exists. All new forest roads would be built utilizing blue granite material and consist of a minimum 8" road base. If sufficient staff and/or equipment are not available, new construction could be done under contract by outsourcing. New construction will be subject to following all necessary guidelines including best management practices, construction standards, acquiring any required permits, etc. and shall be located to minimize erosion concerns. Forest fragmentation is another concern that must be analyzed when considering the

impacts of any newly constructed roadway.

Once developed, all county forest roads must be properly maintained within acceptable standards of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to maintain state funding. The department staff will utilize existing or rented equipment in maintaining good crown, ditches, and sufficient surface and roadway widths on the county forest roads. The frequency of maintenance of the county forest roads 16-foot surface width will be dependent on road conditions including wetness, roughness, rutting, snow depth, and other factors. Equipment used for maintaining surface width would typically be a grader or dozer. County forest road roadway width outside the surface width (including ditches and culverts) will be maintained with a brush hog mower, grader, dozer, backhoe, and track hoe. Frequency of maintaining ditches and other areas outside the surface width will be dependent on need. If necessary, rental of equipment and outsourcing the maintenance could be done, depending on the availability of department staff and equipment. The annual county forest road aid payment from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation should be deposited in an account to be used only for that maintenance of the county forest roads. It is recognized that this annual county forest road payment will not cover all the annual maintenance costs. Additional funding will be necessary from the Parks and Forest Department operational budget.

C. Land Acquisition Goals

Overall goal will be to continue blocking of lands within the Eau Claire County Forest where possible by purchase, trade, or donation, as described in Chapter 400. Land acquisition funds acquired from the sale of county land overseen by the Parks & Forest Department should be used for county forest land acquisition. Land acquisition is discussed in Chapter 420. Land acquisition funds are not put into the annual Parks & Forest Department budget. However, there is a balance in the account to be used for that purpose. There is not a specific goal for acres to be acquired annually. Periodically there are parcels of land that become available for the county to consider purchasing or trading for. As these become available, the

Committee on Parks & Forest will determine whether the county should pursue those parcels. Depending on the need, other funding options through the Department of Natural Resource include the Knowles- Nelson Stewardship fund, annual variable acreage share (\$0.00 to \$0.50/acre) and the Project Loan Program.

D. Timber Harvests Projected for the next 15 years

Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) is based on the total acres to be harvested over the next 15 years and then dividing by 15 to determine the number of acres harvested each year. This spreads the harvest out across the planning period and evens out the high and low acre years to produce a steady work need and income to the county. This prevents harvesting more than 7% of the harvest ready acres each year during the planning period. AAC is a tool in practicing sustainable forestry and sound forestry practices on the Eau Claire County Forest.

The AAC is determined by the acres scheduled for harvest. Actual harvest is based on current growth and condition of the stand. Some stands are not ready for harvest at the scheduled time, while others have succeeded toward a different type. The database is updated at that time to reflect changes and the stand is not harvested. This is called “Recon update in lieu of timber sales” and is counted in the harvest acres even though a harvest does not occur. This creates a variable in the number of acres actually harvested in any given year. The numbers below are used in determining the number of harvest acres but do not reflect the actual number of acres that will be harvested in any given year.

YEAR	Oak Thinning	Oak Clearcut	Jack Pine	Red Pine	White Pine	Aspen	Red Maple	Central Hardwoods	Swamp Hardwoods	TOTAL
2021	203	256	60	259	100	150	40	0	0	1068
2022	143	240	23	259	133	141	40	0	0	979
2023	417	224	5	252	145	49	101	0	0	1193
2024	109	102	77	222	117	276	87	0	0	990
2025	230	846	43	306	140	416	59	0	0	2040
2026	133	177	0	231	134	194	59	0	0	928
2027	83	206	65	240	107	73	44	0	0	818
2028	56	127	35	228	171	234	64	0	10	876
2029	26	115	85	94	111	191	47	0	0	669
2030	18	452	156	5	132	667	20	0	0	1450
2031	0	154	67	4	179	178	30	0	0	612
2032	20	123	75	0	112	158	45	0	0	533
2033	0	128	82	9	83	402	58	0	0	762
2034	10	109	16	0	91	213	40	51	0	530
2035	121	222	158	0	87	492	24	10	0	1091
TOTAL	1569	3481	947	2109	1842	3834	758	61	10	14539
AAC*	105	232	63	141	123	256	51	4	1	971

*AAC is the total # of acres scheduled for harvest over a 15-year period divided by 15 to determine the number of acres to harvest annually

	Acres	% of Total Acres Harvests
Even Aged Harvests	637	66%
Thinnings	334	34%
Total Acres/Year	971	100%

Even aged harvests are used to regenerate stands. Seed tree and shelterwood harvests, clearcuts, coppice harvests, and group selection methods are considered even aged harvests. Stands of aspen, red maple, jack pine, and oak are managed using even aged harvests to regenerate the species.

Thinnings are defined as a selective harvest made to reduce stand density of trees primarily to improve growth, enhance forest health, or recover potential mortality. Thinnings are typically conducted in hardwood stands including better quality oak and red and white pine plantations.

- E. Silvicultural activities: pruning, planting, release, etc.
1. Annually seed, plant, or reestablish jack pine, red pine, or hardwood species as recommended by forester or DNR Liaison. NOTE: In 2021 we will be seeding 34 acres of jack pine and planting 25 acres of red pine. In some years there is no need for planting or seeding. It is recommended that an average of 40 acres of jack/red pine be planted or seeded annually. Nickel/acre wildlife funding could be used for species such as jack pine, which are of wildlife benefit.
 2. Annually pre-sale scarify 40 acres of jack pine and oak areas.
- F. Property maintenance: surveying, fire control, insect/disease etc.
1. Surveying
 - a. Annually establish county forest boundaries from private
 - b. Work with county surveyor as needed (boundary disputes, resurveying county forest monuments, blazing, etc.)
 2. Fire Control
 - a. Annually assist DNR fire control during high fire danger by providing dozer and manpower.
 - b. Annual attend fire control training to provide certification.
 3. Insect/Disease
 - a. Annually inspect county forest areas for any insect or disease outbreak.
 - b. Annually work with DNR staff to provide information on outbreaks, (*i.e. budworm, gypsy moth, forest ten caterpillar, oak wilt, red pine pocket decline).
 - c. As needed, establish preventive measures as seen fit by forester, DNR pathologist/entomologist, or parks forest staff.
 - d. As needed, establish timber sales to salvage or prevent further outbreaks.
- G. Recreation (new and maintenance)

- Snowmobile Trails – The County has an agreement with the Associated Snowmobile Clubs of Eau Claire County to maintain the 181 miles of snowmobile trail that crisscrosses the county north to south and east to west linking with trails in adjoining counties. Approximately 12% are on county forestland with the remaining on private land. It is not likely there will be much demand for expanding the trails in the foreseeable future.
- All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) trails – The County oversees 16.4 miles of trail and approximately 14 miles of ATV routes within county forest boundaries. Currently, there are two known ATV clubs in the county (Augusta and Quad County). The county does not have any current agreements with either of these clubs and maintains the trails and routes with funding assistance from the state ATV funding program. It is anticipated there may be some demand for expanding these trails in the future with the increased number of registered ATV's in the County.
- Cross-country ski trails – The County maintains four ski trails, three of which are on county forestland. These include: Tower Ridge Recreation Area in the town of Seymour; Evergreen Ski Trail in the town of Bridge Creek near Coon Fork Park; Coon Fork Ski Trail within the park boundary; and Lowes Creek Park trails in the town of Washington (outside the forest boundary). Trails at Tower Ridge, Lowes Creek, and Evergreen are groomed for both skate skiing and diagonal striding, while Coon Fork are striding only. It is felt the demand for cross-country skiing is being met within the County by these trails and others on both public and private land.
- Biking: There are many options for bicyclists to enjoy their sport through both road and mountain biking opportunities within the County. Areas on county land open for mountain biking include Lowes Creek County Park (several miles of single and double track trails); Coon Fork Park (one seven- mile trail on county forest north off CTH CF; and one five-mile trail that starts at the campground entrance and utilizes CTH CF, Black Creek Town Road, CTH M, North Center Road, and onto a trail on County forestland linking with the dayside entrance road in the park) and Backwater Trail west of CTH G east of

Lake Eau Claire which is a combination of woods trail open to motor vehicles as well as horses. In addition to these mountain biking opportunities, the area has the Department of Natural Resources' Chippewa River State Trail, an old railroad grade on the west side of Eau Claire. For the road biker, some roads in the country have paved shoulders or biking lanes.

- Hiking: There are numerous opportunities for hiking on county forestland as well as other parkland and public trails that is not county forestland. All cross-country ski trails on the county forest are open for hiking. In addition, mountain bike trails, and all county forestland is open for hiking.
- Horseback riding: There are three designated horseback trails on county forestland. These are at Tower Ridge Recreation Area, Backwater Trails off CTH G east of Lake Eau Claire, and the newly established Hamilton Falls Trails. Trails are signed with blazers that have a horseshoe on them. There appears to be demand for some additional signed horseback trails currently. Horseback camping also appears to be in demand. Presently, the County does not have any horseback campsites developed.
- Disc Golfing: There are two disc golf courses on County forestland. They are located at the Tower Ridge Recreation Area. The County has an agreement with the Chippewa Valley Disc Golf Organization to maintain (2) 18-hole courses and the baskets ("holes") that were donated to the County by the organization. The organization has plans to expand the current course as donated funds become available.
- Canoe and Boat Landings: The County maintains several canoe landings on the Eau Claire River as well as boat landings on Lake Altoona (one in Lake Altoona Park and one under the Highline in the town of Seymour), Lake Eau Claire (one on the north shore and two on the south shore), and Coon Fork lake (one on the dayside and one on the campground side of the park).
- Campsites: There are a total of 135 campsites in the county forest at Coon Fork (108) and Harstad (27) Parks. Coon Fork offers electrified and non-electric sites while Harstad is non-electric only. Harstad is a primitive

campground with self-registration while Coon Fork has staff on hand to register campers as well as flush toilets and showers. Dispersed camping in the county forest is allowed year-round, with the appropriate permit.

- Shelters: There are several opportunities for picnicking on county land. The amenities include 14 picnic shelters, 15 restrooms, 189 picnic tables and 70 grills. Many, but not all of these are in the county forest. There are currently no group camping opportunities on the forest.
- Shooting Ranges: There is currently one existing shooting range on county forestland operated under a Land Use Agreement with the Eau Claire National Rifle Club off CTH Q in the town of Seymour. The public is allowed on the range during specified times and supervised by club members.
- Swimming Beaches: There are three beaches on county forestland. These include one on the north shore of Lake Eau Claire, and two at Coon Fork Park.
- Nature Centers: Beaver Creek Reserve is an environmental education and outdoor recreation center for the County on, county forestland under special use designation. The Reserve is located off CTH K approximately three miles north of the village of Fall Creek.
- Parking areas: There are numerous parking areas throughout the county forestland as well as at the recreation trail heads with fees charged for parking in some of these areas. All county parks, boat landings, Tower Ridge Recreation Area, and Evergreen Ski Trail require vehicle passes to park in them. Either annual or daily passes can be purchased on site at the locations where they are required.

H. Wildlife Management

Hunter Walking Trails: There are several miles of hunter walking trails that were once logging access trails that, after completion of the logging contract were closed to vehicle traffic and seeded to clover and other grasses to benefit wildlife. These trails will again periodically be used for logging access and reseeded after the timber sales are completed.

Flowages: There is one wildlife flowage on the county forest known as the Pea Creek Flowage located east of Black Creek Town Road in Section 33, T26N, R5W. There is a small water drop control structure that dams up approximately 80 acres of water from Pea Creek thereby maintaining the level of the flowage for waterfowl and other wildlife.

Fisheries Management (per Joseph Gerbyshak, Fisheries Biologist for Chippewa, Dunn, Eau Claire, and Pepin Counties, , DNR)----

Fisheries Management Eau Claire County Forest Waterbodies: 2020-2035

Lake Altoona:

Lake Altoona is a 720-acre impoundment of the Eau Claire River and is a popular fishery that attracts anglers from around the region. Lake Altoona is known for its quality panfish fishery, specifically its excellent yellow perch size structure. The walleye population is very healthy, and Lake Altoona consistently has some of the best walleye natural reproduction in the state which will continue to fuel the fishery for year to come. Musky stocking occurs every other year to diversify fishing opportunities in Lake Altoona and the Eau Claire River upstream.

Lake Altoona is considered a high priority lake and is on a four-year rotation for spring netting/electrofishing surveys. The next survey is scheduled to occur in 2021. Fyke nets will be set right after ice out to monitor the yellow perch and northern pike populations. Electrofishing will occur in May to evaluate the bass, bluegill, and crappie populations. A walleye population estimate will occur every 8 years and it will be conducted in conjunction with the spring surveys, which is scheduled to occur in 2021. Walleye recruitment indexes are conducted annually each fall via an electrofishing survey.

Lake Eau Claire:

Lake Eau Claire is an 870- acre impoundment of the Eau Claire River and has a reputation to produce quality panfish and walleye. Lake Eau Claire has numerous fish habitat improvement projects occur over the past 15 years and they are scheduled to continue. The Lake Eau Claire Lake Association have installed tree drops, nearshore cribs and offshore cribs to help improve the fishery. Musky stocking occurs every other year to provide diverse fishing opportunities in Lake Eau Claire and the Eau Claire River upstream.

Lake Eau Claire is considered a high priority lake and is on a four-year rotation for spring netting/electrofishing surveys. The next survey is scheduled to occur in 2022. Fyke nets will be set right after ice out to monitor the yellow perch and northern pike populations. Electrofishing will occur in May to evaluate the bass, bluegill, and crappie populations. A walleye population estimate will occur every 8 years and it will be conducted in conjunction with the spring surveys which is scheduled to occur in 2022. Walleye recruitment indexes are conducted annually each fall via an electrofishing survey.

Coon Fork Lake:

Coon Fork Lake is a 62-acre impoundment of Black Creek. Coon Fork Lake is scheduled to be surveyed in 2028 and is considered a medium priority lake so it is on a 10-year rotation. The survey will consist of spring electrofishing targeting bass and panfish.

Eau Claire River:

The Eau Clair River is difficult to survey due to its size but is a popular float for anglers. Smallmouth bass and musky are the primary targets for anglers. Musky stocking will occur in Lake Altoona and Eau Claire every other year to continue to provide a diverse fishing opportunity in the Eau Claire River.

Streams:

The Eau Claire County Forest contains several classified trout streams. Many of these streams are class I trout streams located primarily in the County Forest and require little active fisheries management. They are surveyed intermittently. Active management occurs on Bears Grass Creek, a Class II Trout Stream,

which is considered the best brook trout stream in Eau Claire County. Bears Grass Creek is surveyed annually at the CTH V road-stream crossing and more locations throughout the watershed are surveyed every several years. Brook trout stocking occurs on Bears Grass Creek to supplement natural reproduction. The DNR has purchased several easements on Bears Grass Creek over the past five years and hopefully that program will expand in the future in the Bears Grass Creek watershed. Beaver Creek is a Class I trout stream that is supported entirely by natural reproduction. It is surveyed annually at the 140th Ave road- stream crossing and surveyed more intensely every several years. Black Creek and Horse Creek are both Class III trout streams and are scheduled to be declassified in the near future because there are no plans to stock these streams.

Endangered Resources:

- L. Natural Heritage Conservation Project/Assessment Needs on the Eau Claire County Forest (per Dean Edlin, West Central District Ecologist, DNR)

Coon Fork Barrens State Natural Area

The focus is to restore and maintain the rare pine/oak barrens natural community. Four management tools will be used to accomplish this over the next 15 years: exotic species control, prescribed fire, non-commercial TSI, and commercial timber harvest. Exotic species control - DNR Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation will use appropriate herbicide to eradicate known populations of leafy spurge and spotted knapweed. Surveys will locate new populations of these species and other invasive exotics. Prescribed fire using low intensity patchy burns to reduce fuel loads, stimulate vegetation, and maintain the oak/pine component. Four burn units have been established with the goal of burning 1 unit every 1-2 years. Non- commercial TSI will focus on control of oak grubs and expansion of small barrens openings. Timber harvest will be consistent with barrens management objectives.

<u>Exotic Species</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Control	Annually
Surveys	Annually
Prescribed Fire	1 per 2 yrs.
Non-commercial TSI and forestry mowing	As needed
Timber Harvest	As needed

South Fork Barrens State Natural Area

The focus is to restore and maintain the rare pine/oak barrens natural community. Four management tools will be used to accomplish this over the next 15 years: exotic species control, prescribed fire, and timber harvest. Exotic species control - DNR Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation will use herbicide to eradicate known populations of leafy spurge and spotted knapweed. Surveys will locate new populations of these and other invasive exotics. Prescribed fire of low intensity patchy burns to reduce fuel loads, stimulate vegetation, and maintain the oak/pine component. Non-commercial TSI will focus on maintaining and expanding small barrens openings. Timber harvest will be consistent with barrens management objectives.

<u>Exotic Species</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Control	Annually
Surveys	Annually
Prescribed Fire	1 per 5 years
Non-commercial TSI	As needed
Timber Harvest	As needed

Canoe Landing Prairie State Natural Area

The focus is to restore and maintain the rare pine/oak barrens and sand prairie natural communities found at this site. Three management tools will be used to accomplish this over the next 15 years: exotic species control, prescribed fire, and non-commercial TSI. Exotic species control - DNR Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation will use herbicide to eradicate known populations of leafy spurge and spotted knapweed. Surveys will locate new populations of these and other invasive exotics. Prescribed fire of low intensity patchy burns to reduce fuel loads, stimulate vegetation, and maintain the oak/pine component. Two burn units have been established with the goal of burning 1 unit every 2-3 years.

<u>Exotic Species</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
Control	Annually
Surveys	Annually
Prescribed Fire	1 per 3 years
Non-commercial TSI and forestry mowing	As needed
Timber Harvest	As needed

Rare Plant, Animal, and Natural Community Surveys

Because the County Forest has not undergone a comprehensive biotic inventory, the need exists to locate rare element occurrences of plants, animals, and natural communities. This information will help guide future management on the County Forest to ensure viability of these resources into the future.

Surveys: As time and funding permits

Other Projects- projects not listed can be added as an addendum to the County Forest plan.

* Project completion and frequency subject to available funding and work plan priorities.

I. Personnel:

There are currently nine full-time employees in the County Parks & Forest Department including the Director, Supervisor, Administrative Specialist III, Forester, Maintenance Technician Lead, (2) Maintenance Technicians, Lake Altoona Park Ranger, and Lake Eau Claire Park Ranger. During summer months, upwards to 17 seasonal employees work in the parks and Eau Claire County Expo Center. The greatest need for an additional position is in a Recreation Officer position to help manage recreation trails year-round. This position could be partially funded through the state's Snowmobile and ATV Trail programs, and the Recreational Boating program.

Note: The "Needs" schedule is put together for planning purposes. The best available information has been used in developing the schedule. It is not intended to be followed without modification. Forests are dynamic and managers must be adaptive to change. Funding and staffing shortfalls may also impact the ability of Eau Claire County Parks & Forest Department to fulfill identified needs. Refer to Chapter 2020 – Annual Work Plan and Budget, for reference on progress towards the identified needs in this chapter.

2015 WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE AND POLICY

OBJECTIVE

To develop an annual work plan and budget that will satisfy the needs specified in Chapter 1000 to the greatest extent feasible, consistent with program priorities established in the Mission Statement.

POLICY

The County Forest program will sustain a level of operation that considers the needs of the forest and the public in accordance with the goals identified in Chapter 100.

2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN ANDBUDGET

Each year an Annual Work Plan and Budget shall be prepared by the forest administrator with assistance from the Committee and the DNR Liaison forester. This plan shall be based upon the detailed annual needs. Annual work plans are approved by the County Board and Division of Forestry and forwarded to the DNR as required by Wisconsin statutes s. 28.11(5)(b) and s.28.11(5m)(b). Following County Board approval, a copy is provided to official copyholders of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan for inclusion as an amendment in this chapter.

Annual Work plans and Annual Budgets will be appended to this chapter.

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORTS OBJECTIVE AND POLICY

OBJECTIVE

To provide a quantifiable means of evaluating progress on both short- and long-term goals on the Eau Claire County Forest.

POLICY

Annual accomplishments will be recorded as a historical record, to assist in future planning, and to provide documentation for both the County, and the County Forest system. This information is invaluable in addressing public, County Board, and other legislative inquiries on the operation of the Forest as well as assessing progress on goals.

2030 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORTS

A copy of an annual accomplishment report shall be prepared and provided to members of the County Board and to official copyholders of this Plan for inclusion into this chapter.

This report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

1. Timber sale accomplishments including gross and net sale receipts and harvest goals achieved.
2. Timber stand improvements accomplishments.
3. Recreation development and maintenance accomplishments including recreation revenues and expenses.
4. Wildlife management accomplishments including revenues and expenses.
5. Fisheries management accomplishments including revenues and expenses.
6. Annual timber sale revenue model, projecting predicted timber revenue for the upcoming fiscal year.
7. Other accomplishments identified as “needs” in Chapter 1000.

2035 PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2035.1 FOREST PRODUCTS

2035.1.1 Timber

Eau Claire County Forest Timber Sales

Historical Record of Sold Timber Sales by Year					
Year	# of Sales	Acres sold	Sawtimber	Pulpwood	Sale values
			MBF	Cords	
1996	29	1055	43	11,241	\$ 280,967.53
1997	30	1364	69	13,797	\$ 340,474.15
1998	31	1011	185.6	10,167	\$ 306,828.02
1999	27	1005	61.6	9,210	\$ 273,437.25
2000	21	710	173.1	7,068	\$ 254,923.99
2001	21	800	106.4	7,818	\$ 300,907.28
2002	28	1063	371.3	13,049	\$ 502,688.40
2003	25	1015	218	10,835	\$ 412,548.10
2004	25	784	302.5	8,105	\$ 376,360.44
2005	27	823	81.6	9,885	\$ 381,578.60
2006	13	664	354	7,722	\$ 413,075.10
2007	22	1015	466.7	13,461	\$ 601,010.65
2008	25	1104	774.5	15,496	\$ 722,374.10
2009	18	905	789	14,328	\$ 721,948.45
2010	25	976	476	13,681	\$ 667,490.95
2011	16	585	284	8,535	\$ 387,304.00
2012	23	849	613	14,233.01	\$ 885,514.37
2013	23	806	443	12,474.39	\$ 690,045.05
2014	20	750	1,336	17,155.10	\$ 1,563,150.56
2015	17	966	1,426	15,722.18	\$ 1,573,473.45
2016	19	1096	2,117	13,920.10	\$ 1,465,930.00
2017	22	1010	1,538.84	13,861.41	\$ 1,006,757.75
2018	20	1025	1,415	11,991.30	\$ 978,414.40
2019	25	1326	2,372.92	16,475.98	\$ 1,433,583.50
2020	19	759	1,275.67	13,837.75	\$ 780,029.70

2035.2 REFORESTATION

Year	Acres Planted	Trees Planted	Year	Acres Planted	Trees Planted
1996	172	316,000	2009	0	0
1997	132	91,300	2010	0	0
1998	50	49,000	2011	0	0
1999	102	80,000	2012	0	0
2000	50	50,000	2013	0	0
2001	10	10,000	2014	0	0
2002	10	10,000	2015	0	0
2003	5	5,000	2016	88	68,400
2004	0	0	2017	0	0
2005	0	0	2018	35	24,500
2006	0	0	2019	0	0
2007	0	0	2020	0	0
2008	0	0			

2035.3 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

Year	Release Oak & Red Pine (Ac)	Pruning (Ac)	Year	Release Oak & Red Pine (Ac)	Pruning (Ac)
1996	143	0	2009	10	0
1997	0	0	2010	32	0
1998	137	5	2011	15	0
1999	66	20	2012	66	0
2000	20	15	2013	59	0
2001	20	15	2014	60	0
2002	25	20	2015	132	0
2003	100	30	2016	136	0
2004	0	0	2017	50	0
2005	0	0	2018	62	0
2006	0	0	2019	25	0
2007	25	0	2020	67	0
2008	55	0			

2035.4 RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

2005

Constructed new storage building at Coon Fork Park

Clubhouse at Lake Altoona Park resided

Replaced 4 cement slabs at Lake Eau Claire southeast boat landing

Developed snowmobile trail from Skid Row Landing to Connector Forest Road

2006

Installed flagpole and landscaping at Lake Eau Claire Park

Installed two new trail sections at Tower Ridge

2007

New lights installed in A loop shower building at Coon Fork Park

2008

Installed new playground at Lake Eau Claire Park

Constructed large picnic shelter at Lake Eau Claire Park

2009

East entrance to Lowes Creek Park developed through Expo Center grounds

Widened ski trails on west side of Lowes Creek Park to allow for skate skiing

Addition on concession stand completed at Lake Altoona Park

2010

Mountain bike trail established at Coon Fork Park

Lowes Creek Park cross country ski trails were widened on east side of the park to allow for skate skiing

2011

Rock Falls boat landing and parking lot developed on Chippewa River

Tree planting at Tower Ridge with Heubsch Services group

2012

Online camping reservation system implemented for Coon Fork Park
Our Land campaign was initiated to deal with illegal dumping on county forest land

2013

Lake Altoona Boat Landing and parking lot rebuilt
Built new ATV trail from Channey Road to Forest Road 3

2014

Added Expo Center as a Parks and Forest facility to manage
Bedpost park improvements and fishing pier were installed.
Parks and Forest Facebook page developed.
Installed new snowmobile bridge on Allen trail

2015

Built grooming shed at Tower Ridge
Boat launch approach and pads replaced at Lake Altoona boat launch
Hamilton Falls and Whitetail Ridge ATV trail rehabilitations
Installed new culvert crossing on Pinter Pines snowmobile trail

2016

Installed new playground at Coon Fork Park dayside
Installed horse watering station, hitching wall, and manure bunker at Tower Ridge
Installed new canoe/kayak launch at Harstad Park.
Painted Tower Ridge Chalet, Coon Fork shower buildings, and Lake Eau Claire Clubhouse
New boat dock at Lake Eau Claire north landing
4 new snowmobile bridges installed

2017

Paved driveway at Tower Ridge Recreation Area

Lake Altoona Park master plan developed and approved by county board

Corkscrew ATV trail rehabilitation

Relocation of canoe and kayak launch at Coon Fork Park

2018

Phase 1 of new LED lights on ski trails at Tower Ridge completed

Replaced boat dock at Lake Altoona Park and Coon Fork Park New heated storage building at Lake Eau Claire Park

Installed Borne Learning trail at Lake Altoona Park

Channey Forest ATV trail rehabilitation and graveling

4 new snowmobile bridge replacements on county snowmobile trail system

2019

Phase 2 of new LED lights on ski trails at Tower Ridge completed

New well pump and water line installation at Lake Altoona Park

New bridge on Stelter property on county snowmobile trail system

2020

Phase 3 of new LED lights on ski trails at Tower Ridge completed

Tower Ridge Skills Park completed

New pole shed building completed at Lake Eau Claire Park

2035.5 WILDLIFE PROJECTS

Annual wildlife projects consist of mowing and maintaining wildlife openings and trails. Along with the annual mowing of game trails, we have conducted several other wildlife specific projects over the past 15 years including:

- North Center Rd game trail construction
- Kelly Rd tree and shrub plantings and road access construction for hunting opportunities and access
- Hunter walking trail access construction Forest Road 4 to Horse Creek

- Gate installation on sensitive areas
- Pea Creek dike rebuild and wood duck boxes
- Simes Creek grouse management area creation
- Timber sale design for bedding, nesting, and corridor movement for game birds
- Timber sale design for hawks (perch trees)
- Karner Blue Butterfly and other Endangered Species HCP along with burning and fecal management to promote early succession to promote lupine and other nectar plants
- Installation of 6 deer exclosures to monitor herbivory effects on regeneration

2040 MONITORING

2040.1 FOREST TYPES

The table below compares the original acres from the first reconnaissance of County Forest acres in 1976, with the data from 1995, 2006, and present (2021) composition.

Eau Claire County Forest Composition

Forest Type	Original Acres	Original %	1995 Acres	1995%	2006 Acres	2006%	2021 Acres	2021%	Future Acres	Proposed %
Aspen	14,078	28.30%	12,565	24.10%	11,020	21.20%	8,812	17.25%	8,716	17.06%
Bottld. Hdwd	1,403	2.80%	1,747	3.40%	1,952	3.70%	2,649	5.19%	2,603	5.09%
W. Birch	432	0.90%	210	0.40%	50	0.10%	19	0.04%	30	0.06%
Fir-Spruce	0	0.00%	6	0.00%	10	0.00%	6	0.01%	6	0.01%
Red Maple	0	0.00%	438	0.80%	1,575	3.00%	2,054	4.02%	1,778	3.48%
N. Hdwd.	9	0.00%	499	1.00%	169	0.30%	0	0.00%	264	0.52%
Cent. Hdwd	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	539	1.06%	539	1.06%
Misc. Decid	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	73	0.14%	48	0.09%
Misc. Conifer	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	2	0.00%	2	0.00%
Oak	12,010	24.10%	15,135	29.10%	16,807	32.40%	16,365	32.04%	13,970	27.35%
Scrub Oak	624	1.30%	894	1.70%	631	1.20%	100	0.02%	100	0.20%
Jack pine	9,971	20.00%	7,251	13.90%	5,297	10.20%	4,296	8.41%	4,123	8.07%
Red pine	5,291	10.60%	4288	8.20%	4,366	8.40%	3,943	7.72%	4,113	8.05%
White pine	0	0.00%	3,102	6.00%	3,210	6.20%	5,075	9.94%	7,758	15.19%
Sw. Conifer	143	0.30%	140	0.30%	34	0.10%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Sw. Hdwd.	234	0.50%	22	0.00%	93	0.20%	20	0.04%	20	0.04%
Tamarack	42	0.10%	29	0.10%	87	0.20%	7	0.01%	0	0.00%
Total Forested	44,237	88.80%	46,186	89.00%	45,301	87.60%	43,960	86.00%	44,070	86.30%
Total non-forest	5,584	11.20%	5,714	11.00%	6,597	12.40%	7,113	14.00%	7,003	13.70%
Total Property*	49,821	100.00%	52,040	100.00%	51,868	100.00%	51,073	100.00%	51,073	100.00%

**Total property figures include +/- 1% error. Total current property acreage is 52,712.*

The data shows a decrease in white birch, aspen, northern hardwoods, oak, jack pine, and red pine. Most of the changes are due to natural succession such as jack pine, aspen, and white birch moving from early successional species to later successional species like white pine, which has increased in acres. Recon has also shown a large increase of red maple acres from 2006. Some changes have been due to updates and combining data in the database such as areas where red maple has become dominant in a previously aspen dominate stand. Aspen is still in many of these stands but there are a greater number of red maple stems, so the type is changed to red maple in the database.

2040.2 HARVESTING

The table compares acres determined as needs in the last plan and the actual activity since 2006.

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FOREST

ASPEN (Acres)

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>NEED</i>	<i>Established</i>	<i>Sold</i>	<i>Closed</i>
2006	266	74	81	82
2007	244	18	17	128
2008	268	188	183	4
2009	278	107	23	101
2010	164	134	125	24
2011	55	0	116	202
2012	261	75	15	210
2013	57	119	139	0
2014	81	0	40	75
2015	366	106	106	119
2016	233	264	62	55
2017	236	51	209	0
2018	221	145	116	0
2019	245	187	144	120
2020	249	61	64	0
<i>Totals (15yrs.)</i>	<i>3224</i>	<i>1529</i>	<i>1440</i>	<i>1120</i>
<i>Annual Average</i>	<i>214.9</i>	<i>101.9</i>	<i>96</i>	<i>74.6</i>

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FOREST

Oak (Acres)

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>NEED</i>	<i>Established</i>	<i>Sold</i>	<i>Closed</i>
<i>2006</i>	<i>1292</i>	<i>548</i>	<i>233</i>	<i>142</i>
<i>2007</i>	<i>373</i>	<i>449</i>	<i>535</i>	<i>289</i>
<i>2008</i>	<i>673</i>	<i>568</i>	<i>650</i>	<i>290</i>
<i>2009</i>	<i>381</i>	<i>656</i>	<i>664</i>	<i>420</i>
<i>2010</i>	<i>764</i>	<i>442</i>	<i>506</i>	<i>306</i>
<i>2011</i>	<i>351</i>	<i>484</i>	<i>259</i>	<i>1119</i>
<i>2012</i>	<i>487</i>	<i>477</i>	<i>633</i>	<i>540</i>
<i>2013</i>	<i>572</i>	<i>256</i>	<i>289</i>	<i>364</i>
<i>2014</i>	<i>650</i>	<i>406</i>	<i>395</i>	<i>418</i>
<i>2015</i>	<i>1311</i>	<i>775</i>	<i>424</i>	<i>394</i>
<i>2016</i>	<i>542</i>	<i>342</i>	<i>590</i>	<i>403</i>
<i>2017</i>	<i>532</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>394</i>	<i>99</i>
<i>2018</i>	<i>510</i>	<i>705</i>	<i>418</i>	<i>178</i>
<i>2019</i>	<i>411</i>	<i>472</i>	<i>623</i>	<i>580</i>
<i>2020</i>	<i>484</i>	<i>222</i>	<i>330</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Totals (15yrs.)</i>	<i>9333</i>	<i>6947</i>	<i>6943</i>	<i>5542</i>
<i>Annual Average</i>	<i>622.2</i>	<i>463.1</i>	<i>462.8</i>	<i>369.4</i>

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FOREST

Red Pine (Acres)

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>NEED</i>	<i>Established</i>	<i>Sold</i>	<i>Closed</i>
<i>2006</i>	<i>594</i>	<i>160</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>156</i>
<i>2007</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>367</i>
<i>2008</i>	<i>263</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>92</i>
<i>2009</i>	<i>193</i>	<i>236</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>159</i>
<i>2010</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>270</i>	<i>141</i>
<i>2011</i>	<i>159</i>	<i>257</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>159</i>
<i>2012</i>	<i>440</i>	<i>173</i>	<i>181</i>	<i>168</i>
<i>2013</i>	<i>205</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>293</i>	<i>236</i>
<i>2014</i>	<i>352</i>	<i>217</i>	<i>145</i>	<i>181</i>
<i>2015</i>	<i>539</i>	<i>187</i>	<i>197</i>	<i>299</i>
<i>2016</i>	<i>215</i>	<i>185</i>	<i>265</i>	<i>173</i>
<i>2017</i>	<i>202</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>2018</i>	<i>191</i>	<i>365</i>	<i>332</i>	<i>139</i>
<i>2019</i>	<i>169</i>	<i>220</i>	<i>272</i>	<i>127</i>
<i>2020</i>	<i>168</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>131</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Totals (15yrs.)</i>	<i>4079</i>	<i>2839</i>	<i>2850</i>	<i>2404</i>
<i>Annual Average</i>	<i>271.9</i>	<i>189.2</i>	<i>190</i>	<i>160.2</i>

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FOREST
White Pine (Acres)

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>NEED</i>	<i>Established</i>	<i>Sold</i>	<i>Closed</i>
2006	258	60	66	23
2007	87	11	3	76
2008	54	93	94	14
2009	75	49	31	69
2010	232	20	44	40
2011	6	16	0	50
2012	164	0	16	27
2013	21	55	38	21
2014	3	32	37	16
2015	228	36	20	30
2016	118	100	59	11
2017	102	50	72	5
2018	106	165	102	29
2019	108	109	153	111
2020	114	35	90	0
<i>Totals (15yrs.)</i>	<i>1676</i>	<i>831</i>	<i>825</i>	<i>522</i>
<i>Annual Average</i>	<i>111.7</i>	<i>55.4</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>34.8</i>

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FOREST
Jack Pine (Acres)

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>NEED</i>	<i>Established</i>	<i>Sold</i>	<i>Closed</i>
2006	95	142	21	143
2007	166	214	280	263
2008	116	48	72	36
2009	86	0	48	167
2010	117	31	31	45
2011	72	59	59	99
2012	8	4	4	0
2013	13	8	8	27
2014	52	40	0	32
2015	66	10	50	25
2016	78	116	64	79
2017	72	14	60	10
2018	54	90	10	12
2019	60	55	43	60
2020	58	8	55	0
<i>Totals (15yrs.)</i>	<i>1113</i>	<i>839</i>	<i>805</i>	<i>998</i>
<i>Annual Average</i>	<i>74.2</i>	<i>55.9</i>	<i>53.6</i>	<i>66.5</i>

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FOREST
Red Maple (Acres)

YEAR	NEED	Established	Sold	Closed
2006	104	0	0	17
2007	0	6	6	0
2008	0	0	0	0
2009	0	0	0	6
2010	132	0	0	0
2011	36	38	38	0
2012	7	0	0	38
2013	28	120	39	0
2014	63	12	93	0
2015	111	23	23	39
2016	62	29	4	12
2017	60	44	69	0
2018	63	44	44	61
2019	57	118	91	30
2020	62	78	89	0
<i>Totals (15yrs.)</i>	785	512	496	203
<i>Annual Average</i>	52.3	34.1	33.06	13.5

2040.3 RECREATIONAL USE

Since the last 15-year plan, the introduction of UTV's on the county forest has seen a steady increase in the amount of motorized usage on the county forest. As UTV's have become wider, longer, and more powerful, modifications on our trail systems have occurred. This process is anticipated to continue with more manufacturers producing new body styles and makes of machines. This is a use that must be carefully planned for and maintenance should remain a top priority. The placement of gravel trail surfaces has become required to provide properly maintained trails. In addition, some trails have needed to be widened and gates have been installed to restrict access in certain areas.

Another use of the forest that has seen an increase since the last plan has been the demand for canoe and kayak launch points. This was a priority in the 2016-2020 Eau Claire County Recreation Plan. More people are looking for developed access points, maps, and potential overnight camping sites on the Eau Claire River. This trend is expected to continue.

Other silent sports have seen steady numbers in user groups and trail use including disc golf, horseback riding, skiing, snowshoeing, and mountain biking. Trails have been modified and improved for all these non-motorized uses. With expectations of increased demand in all areas as the population continues to explore the county forest.

2040.4 HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FOREST AREAS

The High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) areas on the Eau Claire County Forest are also designated as State Natural Areas. They were designated as HCVF because of unique natural features such as barrens, large white pine, wetland, etc.. Management done on these areas will be consistent with the objectives of each site. Eau Claire County relies on the local ecologist for updates on any changes to the HCVF areas. The local ecologist is also consulted if management is being considered on HCVF areas.

2040.5 ROADS & ACCESS

Primary roads for access to the County Forest were constructed prior to 1995. No new primary roads were planned or built during the last fifteen years. No additional primary forest roads are planned to be constructed unless an unforeseen need develops or if a township abandons a current road that provides access to the County Forest. New large block additions to the County Forest will remain non-motorized as much as possible to meet the growing demand for silent sports.