

AGENDA

Eau Claire County

• **Committee on Parks & Forest** •

Monday, March 13, 2023

5:00 p.m. *Room AG 103 and 104*

Join from the meeting link.

<https://eauclairecounty.webex.com/eauclairecounty/j.php?MTID=m5b4b18e18216321cf4faf3afdbea93da>

Join by meeting number.

Meeting number (access code): 2597 671 9830

Meeting password: p6QAbnVsv63

For those wishing to make public comment, you must e-mail Winnie.parker@eauclairecounty.gov at least 60 minutes prior to the meeting. Comments limited to 3 minutes/person and 30 minutes maximum for the public comment period.

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Meeting Notice
2. Roll Call
3. Review/Approval of Committee Minutes - **Discussion/Action**
 - a. February 20, 2023
4. Public Comment
5. Presentation on Park Master Plans - **Discussion/Action**
6. Update from Advisory Committee on County Forest Access - **Discussion/Action**
7. Ski Sprites Agreement for Use of Lake Altoona (draft agreement attached) - **Discussion/Action**
8. Resolution 22-23/093 Granting Utility Easements to Eau Claire Energy Cooperative in Section 34, T27H, R6W, in the Town of Ludington, Section 24, T27N, R6W, in the Town of Ludington and Section 3, T26N, R6W, Town of Bridge Creek (Resolution and Fact sheet attached) - **Discussion/Action**
9. Resolution 22-23/094 Authorizing Submittal of Outdoor Recreation Grant Application and Agreement with the Wisconsin DNR; Directing the Parks and Forest Director to Take All Steps Necessary to Comply with Grant Requirements (Resolution and Fact sheet attached) - **Discussion/Action**
10. Resolution 22-23/095 Authorizing the Parks and Forest Director to Submit an Application to the State of WI DNR for any Financial Aid that may be Available for Maintaining, Acquiring, Insuring or Developing Lands for Public Outdoor Motorized Trails (Resolution and Fact sheet attached) - **Discussion/Action**
11. Sustainable Forestry Grant Application (application attached) - **Discussion/Action**
12. Director's Report
13. Future Committee Meetings and Items for Discussion
Next Meeting – April 10, 2023, at 5 p.m.
14. Adjourn

Prepared by Winnie Parker, Parks & Forest

Please note: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through sign language, interpreters or other auxiliary aids. For additional information or to request the service, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 839-4710 (FAX) 8391669 or (TDD) 8394735 or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources Department, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Ave., Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703.

MINUTES

Eau Claire County

• Committee on Parks & Forest •

Monday, February 20, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Agricultural and Resource Center – Rooms 103 and 104

Members Present: Joe Knight, Tami Schraufnagel, Jodi Lepsch, Dane Zook

Others Present: Josh Pedersen – Director, Jody Gindt – Supervisor, Winnie Parker – Administrative Specialist III (Committee Clerk), Erika Gullerud – Finance Analyst, Michele Skinner – Lake Altoona District Chair

Call to Order Committee on Parks & Forest and confirmation of meeting notice.

Chairman Knight called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and confirmed public posting of the meeting.

Public Comment

Kevin Stelljes commented via email regarding the Airport Commission voluntarily mitigating the tree removal, with the aim of reducing wildlife habitat to improve airport safety.

Placement of Lake Altoona Bedload Machinery

The Committee on Parks and Forest discussed the pros and cons of where to allow the Lake Altoona District to place and store bedload machinery they recently acquired. Supervisor Zook motioned to approve that the Lake Altoona District store the bedload collector portion of the machinery at the upper section of the Highline Canoe Landing Site, while storing the rest of the equipment at the Sand Spoil site. Supervisor Schraufnagel and Supervisor Zook voted in favor while Chairman Knight and Supervisor Lepsch opposed. Motion did not pass. Supervisor Lepsch motioned to approve the Lake Altoona District to store all the bedload machinery at the Sand Spoil site. Supervisor Schraufnagel, Supervisor Zook, and Supervisor Lepsch voted in favor while Chairman Knight opposed. Motion passed 3:1.

Request from Beaver Creek for Free Parks Week during Earth Week

After a brief history of the Beaver Creek Earth Week, the request to have a Free Parks Week during this year's Earth Week was presented. Supervisor Lepsch motioned to approve the Free Parks Week to coincide with Beaver Creek's efforts to honor Earth Week during April 17-23, 2023, provided that Beaver Creek volunteers would put up and take down signage. All in favor, none opposed.

Director's Report

Director Pedersen highlighted that Ski Striders - Kickin' Kids were wrapping up their season in the next couple of weeks. Although the City of Eau Claire has stopped their grooming efforts, Parks and Forest Department will continue to groom while weather permits, and we are able.

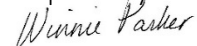
Future Parks & Forest Committee Meetings and Items for Discussion

Committee on Parks and Forest Meeting - March 13, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Committee on Parks & Forest Adjournment

The Committee on Parks & Forest adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Winnie Parker

Committee Clerk

Administrative Specialist III

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FOREST
 COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN
 CHAPTER 700 – ROADS AND ACCESS

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EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FOREST
COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN
CHAPTER 700 – ROADS AND ACCESS

700 [ACCESS CONTROL AND HISTORY](#)

Forestry, protection activities, recreation and public uses on the Eau Claire County Forest require different types of access. Since the forest is large and diverse, a broad network of roads has developed over time. A combination of soil types, water resources, road densities, ownership of adjacent lands, ordinances and other regulations all contribute to the need to manage access to areas of the forest.

For the purpose of this plan, a forest road is defined as a road constructed by leveling or grading, originally intended to provide for motorized vehicle access by cars, trucks or other equipment. In addition, a forest road will also generally be mapped and inventoried within the Eau Claire County’s Road inventory system. Skid roads and other temporary impacts do not meet the definition of a forest road.

For the purpose of this Plan, a forest trail is defined as a recognized recreational system, designated by the County as an official trail. They include motorized and non-motorized trails and certain sections may be categorized as both a trail and a road depending on the circumstances of use.

For the purpose of this chapter, all timber related, or any other non-recreational trail access will be referred to as “roads”. All recreation designated trails related will be referred to as “trails”.

The existing road network on the Eau Claire County Forest developed over many years. The original system can be traced back to the late 1800’s when sleigh roads were developed to haul logs to streams and rivers for transport to mills. The road network expanded with the introduction of railroads in the early 1900’s. As highway infrastructures were built, along with the development of trucks capable of hauling wood, the network continued to expand and grow. The high road densities, coupled with increasing recreational demands for a variety of uses on the forest both justify a need for continued road and access planning.

700.1 TIMBER HARVEST ROADS

Many of the existing roads on the forest were built and developed over many years, by timber producers, for the purpose of transporting forest products. Rarely did staff from the County or the DNR establish proper locations or set standards for these roads.

Many of the early access roads for timber removal were used for frozen ground access and were constructed to accommodate hauling equipment that was much smaller than what is used today.

As the forestry program evolved, more care and planning were implemented in the development of road networks. Bridges, culverts and primary haul roads were built and installed, providing feasible access to most areas of the forest.

Currently, a majority of the forest is accessible using the existing road system. Road construction needs are minor but may still be needed for access to certain areas. In most cases, roads either exist, or will need re-construction to provide access. In some cases, re-construction will include abandonment/reclamation of certain sections and new construction of segments to provide more practical and sustainable access. Unsuitable roads will be abandoned and reclaimed.

700.2 RECREATIONAL ACCESS

Timber harvest was the primary reason for road construction. Gradually these timber access roads began to see increasing use by those seeking access for outdoor recreation. The earlier uses were periodic and scattered across the forest. Currently there is enough public use of forest roads to warrant restrictions or regulations.

Through the 1960's and 1970's, snowmobiles began to appear, along with a demand for recreational trails. A system of designated trails was slowly developed, leading to the network that exists today. Outdoor recreation began to increase in popularity, with County Forest lands rapidly becoming popular recreation destinations. Many of the roads and trails began to see much more public motorized recreational uses.

The 1980's brought a tremendous increase in demand for motorized recreation. ATVs were introduced and began to appear on the forest. As use increased, damages and user conflicts began to occur. Through the 1990's the use of ATVs on the forest exploded, leading to a need to regulate motorized uses.

The public began to demand ATV access through the late 1990's and into the early 2000's. The County struggled to manage the increased demands and chose to start designating ATV trails. As machines grew in size and weight, as well as popularity, it became evident that ATV trails needed to be designed and engineered to a certain standard to accommodate the heavy uses that they attracted. The introduction of UTVs / side by sides increased the impacts to these trail systems.

Conflicts between those seeking non-motorized recreational access and those seeking motorized access continue to increase. The establishment of segregated trail systems has helped to satisfy demand and resolve user conflicts, but outside of official trail systems, this conflict continues to increase.

705 CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

1. Provide direction to the committee and resource managers to maintain a network of roads and trails on the County Forest. This will meet the needs for resource management and protection activities, as well as provide public access for recreation opportunities.
2. Identify the distribution, density, and types of roads and uses of roads and trails needed to establish a safe and efficient transportation and recreation system that complements the economic, environmental, and social interest in the County Forest.
3. Identify the existing and future County Forest roads eligible for transportation aids under s.86.315(1), Wis. Stats.
4. Identify areas on the County Forest where the access is limited or restricted.
5. Identify the provisions and criteria that will be policy when addressing management issues on the County Forest.
6. Publish a comprehensive map for public use.

710 FOREST ROADS

Eau Claire County Forestry staff will oversee the construction and maintenance of all forest roads within the County Forest. These forest roads will be constructed and maintained primarily by Eau Claire County and timber producers operating under contract. Other public resource agencies or non-profit organizations may maintain roads under special agreement or circumstances permitted by the Forest Administrator or the Committee on Parks and Forest. Private parties may be granted road use and maintenance authorization under forest road use agreements that provide access to private parcels. The specifications for forest road construction and maintenance will vary with the frequency, duration and planned use of each forest road.

New forest road establishment will consider information identifying areas with sensitive soils or severe slopes that should be avoided as part of new road planning efforts. County staff will work with DNR water resources staff, as needed, to develop site-specific measures where appropriate. New roads will be classified, at the time of construction, as one of the four major road types described later in this chapter. A forest road inventory and classification program were initiated in 2003. All roads on the Forest will be mapped and classified based on road type, public access allowed, logging chance, work needs and problem areas. Data will also be collected for culverts, gates, berms, bridges and other features.

Four major types of roads occur on the Forest, which include permanent primary roads, permanent secondary roads, tertiary roads and temporary roads.

710.1 PERMANENT PRIMARY ROADS

These roads are the primary roads accessing the County Forest. They are designed and constructed to allow for year-round use, but they are maintained as three season roads and will not be plowed for travel during winter months. Certain roads may be plowed if they are being utilized for timber sale operations. Some of these roads are graveled and all are usually graded at least once per year. Vehicle use may be restricted at various times of the year to minimize damage or to accommodate a groomed snowmobile trail. Although these are generally gas tax roads, they are not required to be posted with directional or caution type signage. The public may travel these roads at their own risk and discretion.

Most Permanent Primary Roads are either entered or scheduled to be entered in the County Forest Road Aids Program. Qualifying roads must meet a minimum design standard of a 16-foot road surface and 20-foot roadway width. A yearly aid payment is used to help maintain and improve these certified public roads. The following list details the roads currently certified under s.86.31, Wis. St.

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY CURRENT WDOT CERTIFIED

TOWNSHIP	SECTION	LENGTH (MI)	ROAD NAME/COMMENTS
Wilson	Sec. 25 27N R5W	.95	Forest Road #1
Wilson & Bridge Creek	Sec. 36 27N R5W	.50	Forest Road #2
	Sec. 1 26N R5W	.49	
Bridge Creek	Sec. 13 26N R5W	1.01	Forest Road #3
Bridge Creek & Fairchild	Sec. 36 26N R5W	.79	Forest Road #4
	Sec. 3 25N R5W	1.01	
Fairchild	Sec. 14 25N R5W	1.3	Forest Road #5
Bridge Creek	Sec. 16 26N R5W	1.0	Canoe Landing Forest Road
Fairchild	Sec. 1, 12, 13, 24, 25 25N R5W	5.34	Black Creek Forest Road
Bridge Creek	Sec. 10, 11, 14 26N R5W	2.32	East Channey Forest Road
Lincoln & Seymour	Sec. 19 27N R7W	1.01	Big Falls South
	Sec. 24 27N R8W		
	Sec. 13 27N R8W		
Seymour	Sec. 20 27N R8W	.42	Highline Forest Road
Bridge Creek	Sec. 10, 11 26N R6W	1.6	Connector Forest Road
TOTAL		17.96	

A map of Permanent Primary roads, including County Forest Roads and other primary roads is included in the appendix.

710.2 [PERMANENT SECONDARY ROADS](#)

These roads serve a variety of uses, including forest management, fire protection, dredging operations, and recreation. These are maintained as part of a permanent road system but are often narrower than permanent primary roads and are built to lower standards. In general, these roads are secondary arteries leading from the primary roads. Some are maintained for public

travel, others are restored after use and closed to public motorized traffic. In instances where motorized traffic is restricted, vehicle access will be allowed for authorized vehicles only. A map of permanent secondary roads is included in the appendix.

710.3 [TERTIARY ROADS](#)

These roads primarily serve forest management activities and numerous undesignated recreational uses. They may allow year-round or only seasonal use for forest management. In general, they are not maintained or improved unless management activities are occurring.

These roads may or may not be open to some level of public motor vehicle use. Many lie in heavier or wetter soils that allow only frozen ground use for forest management activities. Design and construction standards are minimal. They are used on a much less frequent basis than primary or secondary roads. Many of these are used infrequently. These roads also provide many opportunities for hunter walking trails and other non-motorized uses.

710.4 [TEMPORARY ROADS](#)

Temporary roads are almost always used for timber management purposes. They are generally short segments of roads designated for short-term use. They are closed and reclaimed in accordance with the timber sale prospectus and contract when the activity is complete. Roads can be seeded, and public motorized travel is prohibited. The need for temporary roads will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and are permitted only when approved and designated as part of a timber sale contract. Some of these roads may be deemed obsolete and may be gradually restored to a forested setting.

710.5 [OBSOLETE ROADS](#)

Scattered throughout the Eau Claire County Forest are numerous old roads, constructed for timber harvest, that are no longer suitable for future use. Many of these were constructed for frozen ground conditions. Roads categorized as obsolete may have been designed poorly, sited in unsuitable locations, have a high risk of erosion or may impact water quality or other resources.

The intent of this classification is to create a list of roads to gradually remove and restore to forested settings. Once classified as obsolete, they should be removed from the forest

reconnaissance system and road inventory. A separate listing should be maintained for monitoring purposes and to assure that these are not designated for future forestry or recreational use.

Criteria for consideration as an obsolete road will include any or all of the following:

- Steep slopes.
- Soils with high potential for erosion.
- Streams and wetland crossings.
- Drainages with potential of siltation/sedimentation into water or wetlands.
- Roads that do not serve any future management purpose.
- Management area can be accessed using better road systems.
- Environmental, cultural, social or other factors would benefit by abandonment.

This Plan recommends that staff identify and prioritize obsolete roads and to reclaim/restore as opportunities are available.

710.6 [BRIDGES](#)

Eau Claire County will maintain bridges consistent with roads listed in 710.

710.6.1 [Timber Access Bridges](#)

Currently, there are no timber access specific bridges constructed on the County Forest.

710.6.2 [Recreational Trail Bridges](#)

Currently, there is only one recreational trail bridge on the County Forest. There are numerous snowmobile trail bridges on private property that are property of the County. Bridges have been built to a wide variety of standards. Motorized recreational trail bridges have been constructed to a range of weight ratings ranging from 12,000 to 25,000 pounds. Recreational trail bridges currently maintained on the Forest are:

- [County Land](#) -- Troubled Waters Bridge – NESW Section 25 T40N-R12W (snowmobile / ATV)

710.7 [FORDS](#)

The Parks and Forest Department has found that culverts typically require a high degree of maintenance. The Department began to test rock ford crossings during the late 2000's. A ford crossing is constructed by replacing stream bottoms with softball sized rocks, while maintaining the original elevation of the stream bed. This allows traffic to cross the water without causing

erosion or sedimentation. A Chapter 30 permit is required for any ford crossings in a navigable stream.

710.8 [UTILITIES](#)

Crossing any pipeline, utility line, or railroad in areas that are not designated crossings will require a permit from the utility owner.

710.9 [CULVERTS](#)

In many cases culverts are needed in all three classifications of roads that are on the County Forest when dealing with drainages, wetlands, and stream crossings. Some of these are temporarily placed culverts that are used during a specific project then removed, while others are permanent structures.

In all instances, culverts should be placed according to required DNR permitting procedures and should follow BMPs for culverts that can be found in chapters 4 and 5 of the WI BMP's for Water Quality PUB FR-093 2010.

Routine maintenance of these structures should also be completed to make sure structures are adequately working. The county may want to consider documenting the location of culverts on the forest and provide a list of the culverts that should be routinely checked.

710.10 [DRIVEWAY PERMITS](#)

710.10.1 [State Highways](#)

Wisconsin DOT and Eau Claire County review and plan all access driveways connecting County Forest lands to state highways. It is critical that the County maintain permanent records of these driveway permits as they often tend to be considered obsolete by DOT without notification to the County. Whenever state highways are reconstructed, the County will make efforts to assure that all existing permits are included into project designs and that each driveway remains a viable access point, not only for recreation but timber management as well.

710.10.2 [County Highways](#)

Eau Claire County requires permits for all driveways onto county highways from County Forest lands. All new timber sale access points require a written permit from the County

Highway Commissioner.

710.10.3 Town Roads

The Towns in Eau Claire County may or may not require driveway permits for access to private lands. There is a legal question as to whether a town can require a permit for driveways/access from town roads onto County Forest Land. Regardless, it is the policy of Eau Claire County to contact towns whenever new driveways are needed onto the County Forest.

Eau Claire County will make efforts to install driveways in a manner that limit environmental damage and considers public safety.

710.10.4 Access Across Private Lands

It is often necessary to cross private or other lands in order to conduct forest management activities. Wherever an access point across other lands will repeatedly be needed, the Parks and Forest Director shall attempt to secure an easement deeded to Eau Claire County for forest management purposes. These easements shall be requested for official use only with language outlining the County's responsibility to repair any damages that occur as a result of timber management activities conducted by the County. These easements may be purchased at the discretion of the Committee and County Board.

In cases where adjoining landowners are willing to allow access but are unwilling to grant an easement, an agreement should be executed.

715 RECREATIONAL ACCESS

The forest road network provides for many recreational opportunities on the Forest. Providing recreational access that does not damage resources and is compatible with other uses is an important role of the Eau Claire County Forest. The Committee has the authority to open and close forest roads and trails to use and to promulgate rules regulating those uses.

This section is intended to define undesignated recreational uses of forest roads. Undesignated is intended to refer to those uses where there is no formally provided or recognized trail system or facility. Designated recreational uses, meaning official trails and facilities are included in Chapter 900 of this Plan.

715.1 NON-MOTORIZED ACCESS

715.1.1 [Hiking](#)

All areas of the Eau Claire County Forest are open to hiking or foot travel unless an individual site is marked with signs closing an area. Closure to foot travel will normally not occur except in special circumstances such as erosion control projects or in situations where management activities endanger public safety.

715.1.2 [Bicycling](#)

All roads and fire lanes are open for recreational bicycle use. Bicycle use may be further restricted by rule adopted by the Committee if erosion or other environmental damage occurs.

This Plan recommends restricting bicycle use on designated horseback trails.

715.1.3 [Horseback Riding](#)

All roads and fire lanes are open for horseback riding use. Horse use may be further restricted by rule adopted by the Committee, if erosion or other environmental damage occurs. This Plan recommends that the Committee consider restricting horseback use on designated bicycle trails.

715.1.4 [Cross Country Skiing](#)

The entire forest is open to cross country skiing, although the use of groomed snowmobile trails is not recommended due to safety concerns.

715.1.5 [Dog Sleds](#)

Dog sleds are permitted on the Forest, with the exception that dogsleds may not be operated on designated winter trails at any time that the trails are groomed, maintained or officially declared open.

715.1.6 [Other Non-Motorized Uses](#)

In general, non-motorized uses are permitted on the County Forest without regulation. If the use is not identified in the Eau Claire County Code of Ordinances, or in a rule adopted by the Committee, it is considered unregulated.

The Committee may further regulate non-motorized uses as need arises, either through adoption of rule or creation of County ordinance.

715.2 [MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL USES](#)

The demand for use of motorized vehicles on the Forest continues to increase. ATVs and UTVs

continue to increase in size, weight and horsepower, and are capable for operation across almost any kind of terrain on the Forest. This has led to more widespread use, user conflicts, environmental damage and increased costs of maintenance for the County. Restrictions on motor vehicles need to remain in place to protect the forest and limit impact.

It is the goal of this Plan to provide motorized access to the forest on certain roads capable of sustaining continued motorized use without incurring undue damage and in a manner that provides for a balance between motorized and non-motorized uses. See Section 730 for more information on road and access planning.

715.2.1 [Snowmobiling](#)

Undesignated trails are those not approved as a part of the official County snowmobile trail system and are not funded under the DNR Snowmobile Aids program. Travel off a designated snowmobile trail or route is not permitted. Cross-country travel is not allowed.

More detail on areas and roads open to undesignated snowmobile travel is contained within the Road and Access Plan. See the most current county snowmobile trail map by visiting www.eauclairecounty.gov.

715.2.2 [All-Terrain Vehicles](#)

The Eau Claire County Code of Ordinances regulates the use of ATVs / UTVs on roads not designated as ATV trails. The following summarizes regulations applying to ATV/UTV use:

1. Cross-country travel is not permitted anywhere on the County Forest.
2. Motorized vehicles are not allowed on roads blocked with earthen berms, piled logging debris, signs, gates, or other closures installed by or directed to be installed by the County Forest Administrator.
3. Motor vehicle travel is allowed only on those roads designated as open by the Committee.
4. ATV use is not allowed from March 16 through May 15 or at any time when DNR fire danger is posted at very high classification or higher. The Forest Admin may establish alternative dates based on fire danger and road conditions.
5. UTVs are not allowed on trails from December 1 through May 15.

715.2.3 [ATV Defined](#)

Eau Claire County, for the purpose of use on County Forest Lands, utilizes the definition of an ATV as described in s.340.01(2g), Wis. Stats.

The Committee may elect to continue to use the definition above if State Statutes are amended to accommodate a larger and/or heavier machine.

715.2.4 [UTV Defined](#)

Eau Claire County, for the purpose of use on County Forest Lands, utilizes the definition of a UTV as described in s.23.33(1) (ng), Wis. Stats.

The Committee may elect to continue to use the definition above if State Statutes are amended to accommodate a larger and/or heavier machine. The definition in this Plan must be amended if Eau Claire County determines that it is appropriate to allow machines exceeding this definition to operate on the County Forest.

715.2.5 [ATV and UTV Use on the Forest](#)

ATV and UTV use on officially designated ATV trails is further defined in Chapter 900. In general ATVs and UTVs are permitted on officially established, designated summer ATV trails. UTVs are generally not permitted on designated snowmobile trails.

Operation of ATVs and UTVs on roads not designated as an ATV trail is regulated by Eau Claire County Code and by the Eau Claire County Road and Access Plan. In general, the following regulations apply to undesignated ATV/UTV use:

- Certain roads are designated as open to all motor vehicle use. On these roads, ATV and UTV use is permitted.
- Certain roads are designated as open to motor vehicles under 2000 pounds. On these roads, only ATVs and certain UTVs weighing less than 2000 pounds are permitted.
- Certain roads are designated as open to motor vehicles under 2000 pounds AND are designated as official summer use ATV trails. UTV and ATV use is permitted on these roads/trails.
- Certain roads are designated as open to motor vehicle use under 900 pounds

December 1 through March 15. These are normally designated snowmobile trails and only ATV use is permitted during the allowed time period. UTVs are not permitted.

715.2.6 [Modified ATV/UTV Use on the Forest](#)

ATVs and UTVs that have been modified in any manner that would prohibit the machine from being registered with the State of Wisconsin as an ATV or UTV are not permitted on any roads or trails on the Eau Claire County Forest. This includes machines that were modified after registration has been made and stickers affixed to the machine. Modified machines are permitted only on private lands and users are required to carry a legitimate registration on machines operating on the County Forest, whether they are on a designated motorized recreation trail or on a forest road open to motor vehicle use.

715.2.7 [Other Motorized Vehicles on the Forest Roads](#)

Other motor vehicle uses by the public, such as cars, trucks, and licensed motorcycles, is allowed on certain forest roads as long as they are generally less than 10,000 pounds and are a vehicle registered for highway use. Unlicensed vehicles such as golf carts, mini-pickups or other vehicles that cannot be registered as a highway vehicle, snowmobile, ATV or UTV are not permitted to operate on the Forest. Vehicle use is permitted only on those roads designated open by the Committee and recognized as such in the Road and Access Plan.

715.2.8 [Motorized Access for Disabled Persons](#)

Eau Claire County allows for motorized access to the forest for persons with disabilities. These permits allow a disabled party to use a motor vehicle under a permit issued by the County.

720 [PRIMITIVE/WILDERNESS AREAS](#)

In addition to providing motorized units and roads, Eau Claire County also provides designated areas where motorized vehicles are not permitted, unless authorized by the Parks and Forest Director or Committee. The intent is to provide areas for quiet, secluded recreation, along with preventing environmental damage and protecting unique values. These are detailed in the Road and Access Plan and also in Chapter 800. The following units and sub-units are designated as primitive / wilderness use areas:

- Bruce Willett Wilderness Area: 64 acres of white pine, red maple, tamarack, lowland

brush and creek bottom

- Horse Creek Wilderness Area: 232 acres of white pine, oak, red maple, and lowland
- Wilson Wilderness Area: 160 acres of white pine, mixed hardwood and oak along Hay Creek
- Browns Creek Pines: 10 acre stand of mature white pine on a terrace above Brown Creek.

725 WETLANDS

All wetlands on the County Forest are closed to recreational motorized vehicle use. The only exception is on designated snowmobile trails during winter months. The Eau Claire County Code of Ordinances regulates operation of motor vehicles in a wetland and subsequent penalties for violations.

730 ACCESS TO PRIVATE LANDS

The Department of Natural Resources has determined that granting a private easement across County Forest lands is not consistent with the County Forest Law program. The determination is based on 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 on County Forest land unless the easement or if the easement helps to achieve the purposes of the County Forest Law program.

730.1 TEMPORARY ACCESS

Requests for temporary access across County Forest lands will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. In general, temporary access would be for timber harvesting on private lands, utility maintenance and others. If there are no potential conflicts with management activities or possible resource damage, the Parks and Forest Director may grant permission for temporary access. Access permission should be issued under form of a permit, agreement, or letter of authorization. Any authorization for access should contain requirements of restoration and may include performance deposits or other sureties. In cases of access for timber sales, the Parks and Forest Director may request that the performance deposit and contract on the private timber sale be expanded to include coverage to the County Forest property being used.

730.2 ACCESS AGREEMENTS

Given that easements across County Forest lands are restricted, access to private parcels may be granted under access agreements. Applications for an access agreement may be made by private

parties to build, improve or use access roads across the County Forest. All requests will be made to the Parks and Forest Director and referred to Committee for review.

Access agreements will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and it is the position of the Committee that Eau Claire County is not legally obligated to provide access to private lands. Access across County Forest lands must be demonstrated by the applicant as the route of last resort, including evidence of an offer of fair compensation for access across other private lands. In addition, these agreements are not attached to title and do not transfer with ownership. Upon land sale of the private parcel, the new owners must apply to the Committee for an access agreement.

The following stipulations will be included in access agreements:

1. Access roadway may not exceed 20 feet in width.
2. The agreement may be cancelled by 30 days written notice should the use interfere with present or future management objectives of the County.
3. The agreement is non-transferable.
4. No merchantable wood products will be cut without written approval of the County.
5. The permittee shall, as directed by the County, dispose of all stumps, slash, waste materials and other debris resulting for construction activities.
6. The agreement area shall be maintained in a safe and environmentally sound condition at all times, causing no obstruction to public use.
7. Any reconstruction or improvements must be approved in advance by the County.
8. No gates, signs, or other articles of the permittee will be allowed on County Forest land.
9. Permittee agrees to waive any rights to any declaration of ownership or interest in the road on County Forest land.
10. The agreement will be null and void if the use has changed from the originally intended use.
11. Agreement will be null and void if not used for two or more years.
12. Permittee agrees to follow all County Forest rules and ordinances while on County Forest lands.

Agreements will be issued for a term not to exceed 10 years. They may be extended by a request, in writing, at least 30 days in advance of expiration. Fees will be assessed as a minimum

base fee. The rates are to be established by the Committee and reviewed periodically. Fees may be waived in cases of permit renewal or where the requested agreement lies on existing forest roads. The Committee may also elect to establish new fee schedules at the time of application for agreement renewals.

730.3 PRIVATE UTILITY ACCESS

Access requests for utilities serving private residencies are subject to the same Attorney General Opinion based easement restrictions as defined in Section 730. All private utilities shall be handled by permit or agreement.

735 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE FOR WATER QUALITY

The layout and construction of any new road or trail on the Forest shall adhere to Wisconsin's Best Management Practices for Water Quality (PUB-FR-093-2010). Areas with highly erodible soil types, close proximity to streams or lakes, or steep slopes may require mitigating measures in excess of those described in the manual. Other areas may allow for alternate prescriptions than those listed in the BMP guidelines if it can be shown that equal or greater water quality protection is provided for.

740 RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Eau Claire County will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act regulations in the development and maintenance of any publicly accessible County Forest building or developed facility or intensive use area. If instances are found where this is not the case, procedures for corrective measures will be considered.

It is the opinion of the Committee that the ADA act is not intended to apply to undeveloped areas or the general forest. The Committee, however, will make a reasonable effort to provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities. As part of this commitment, Eau Claire County provides the following:

1. Areas of the County Forest are open to motorized travel on designated roads and trails.
2. Disabled persons holding a State Class "A", Class "B" or other proof of disability may receive a permit from the County to operate a motor vehicle in areas or on roads

designated closed. A copy of this permit form is appended in Chapter 1000.

3. The Committee may help sponsor special disabled hunts in accordance with State regulations and will consider such requests as a valid use of the Forest.

745 FOREST ROAD AND ACCESS PLAN BACKGROUND

Roads provide access for activities on the Forest such as timber harvests, other management activities and recreation by the public. Over time, the frequency of vehicle use on the Forest has increased due to expanding numbers of motorized recreational vehicles. The public's desire to use many of these roads often conflicts with a road's capacity to support continued traffic interferes with management objectives and creates user conflicts. The following issues indicated a continued need to manage access:

1. User conflicts between user groups, e.g., snowmobiling versus cross-country skiing; hunting on foot versus use of vehicles to access game.
2. Safety, mixing motorized uses with non-motorized.
3. Erosion – soils eroding and impacting water quality due to overuse/damage by motor vehicles.
4. Damage – rutted or impassable roads, requiring repair costs by the County or others.
5. Litter/dumping – depositing/dumping garbage in remote areas.
6. Crowding – complaints about intensified competition for traditional hunting areas.
7. Fires – increased risk of accidental fire occurrence
8. Invasive Species – introduction of invasive species along travel routes.
9. Road Placement – many existing roads are in unsuitable locations or may not support unregulated motor vehicle use.
10. Large Machines – ATVs and especially UTVs are continually being manufactured as larger, heavier and with bigger horsepower.

It is also important to note here that the presence of a forest road on the landscape does not generally impact the ecology of the forest or provide any level of environmental damage. It is the continued motorized use of a road or system that often leads to erosion and resource damage. Roads that are “put to rest” for a period of time usually develop stable, grassed surfaces in a short

period of time.

750 ROAD AND ACCESS PLAN FOR PUBLIC MOTORIZED VEHICLES

The objective for the Road and Access Plan is to provide a balance between motorized and non-motorized uses on the Forest while protecting the resource from environmental damage. This Plan attempts to meet a multiple use goal of providing balanced access to a wide variety of groups while still protecting the natural resource.

It is important to note that a designation allowing for public motorized use on specific roads does not provide any level of assurance to the public that roads are maintained to a standard that guarantees that travel is feasible. Continued motorized use damages many road surfaces and over time they become impassable. What makes this situation worse is that many of these damaged roads attract 4 x 4 enthusiasts looking for “challenge” opportunities. Funding for road maintenance is limited and the public is advised that travel is at your own risk.

The Road and Access Plan applies regulations to all areas of the Forest.

750.1 VEHICLE USE REGULATIONS ON ALL COUNTY FOREST

The following regulations apply to motor vehicle access on all areas of the Forest. It is understood that vehicles used in the management of the Forest by staff, by special permission, or as allowed by contract are exempted from these regulations:

1. No off-road (cross country) vehicle use is allowed.
2. No motorized vehicles are allowed on roads designated as closed with earthen berms, piled logging debris, or gates, even if signs are missing and berms damaged.
3. Two wheeled motorize vehicles are not permitted on the Forest (except State licensed motorcycles on State funded County Forest Roads). (s.86.315(4)(a), Wis. Stats.)
4. ATV/UTV use is not generally permitted from March 16 through May 15, or at any time that DNR fire danger is posted at very high classification or higher. Opening dates are subject to change annually based on weather conditions.

750.2 PROCEDURE FOR CHANGING ROAD AND ACCESS PLAN

The Committee may make changes to the Road and Access Plan.

750.3 ROAD AND ACCESS MAPS AND REGULATIONS

The Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Committee establishes which roads are open to public motor vehicle use and has authority to adopt restrictions on the size or type of motorized access that is permitted on a particular road or trail. Roads and/or trails open for public motorized use are identified on official maps approved by the Committee and made available to the public.

755 SIGNS

Signs on the County Forest will be used discreetly to perform and function with minimal disruption to the multiple uses of the Forest. Private signs promoting personal, commercial, or political objectives will not be permitted. Signs erected by the county for management purposes or by non-profit recreational trail groups will be as follows:

1. Informational Type Signs
 - A. Interpretive Signs - to educate the public about forest management practices.
 - B. Public Land Signs - to identify the land as Eau Claire County Forest property.
 - C. Trail Markers - to provide direction and safety to trail users.
 - D. Scientific, Historical or Geological Markers - to identify points of interest.
 - E. Recreational Facility Markers - to identify park entrances, etc.
 - F. Directional Markers.
2. Regulatory Type Signs - to regulate the use of the Forest in specific areas.

755.1 SIGNING STANDARDS

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

1. All new signs will be mounted on metal U shaped channeled posts. Signs nailed to living trees are not permitted.
2. Existing signs will be transitioned and/or upgraded as change is needed.
3. Only biodegradable tape is allowed when flags are necessary for a project.

Flags must be removed once the project is complete. Unauthorized use of tape/flags is not permitted and will be removed by the Parks and Forest Staff.

4. Routed wood signs may be used wherever practical. Fiberboard or painted metal signs, when used, will be of neat appearance.
5. Signs placed on snowmobile/ATV trails must conform to state standards.
6. All authorized signs shall be protected by ordinance from being damaged, defaced, obstructed, removed, or possessed by unauthorized persons.
7. All unauthorized signs will be removed by the Parks and Forest staff. No compensation will be afforded for loss or damage to signs during removal. Individuals erecting unauthorized signs may be prosecuted under s. 943.13(3), Wis. Stats.

760 [ROAD AND ACCESS PLAN UNIT DESIGNATION MAP](#)

1. Continue to inventory and classify road systems in order to better facilitate planning.

FACT SHEET

TO FILE NO. 22-23/093

This Resolution concerns an easement request on County owned lands surrounding Lake Eau Claire. Eau Claire County Energy Cooperative (ECEC) is requesting an easement for use and service related to utility lines to improve services to their customers. The easement would cover two parcels along CTY NL; one in the town of Ludington and one in the town of Bridge Creek, and the third parcel covered by the easement is along CTY Rd ND in the town of Ludington.

ECEC is aware the Lake District conducts dredging in the area and has made assurances that the utilities will not interfere with dredging.

Fiscal Impact: \$25.00

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles R. Ellefsen, III

CRE/yk

2
3 GRANTING UTILITY EASEMENTS TO EAU CLAIRE ENERGY COOPERATIVE IN
4 SECTION 34, T27N, R6W, IN THE TOWN OF LUDINGTON, SECTION 24, T27N, R6W, IN
5 TOWN OF LUDINGTON AND SECTION 3, T26N, R6W, TOWN OF BRIDGE CREEK
6

7 WHEREAS, Eau Claire County owns lands surrounding Lake Eau Claire ; and
8

9 WHEREAS, Eau Claire County lands are administered by the Parks and Forest
10 Department; and
11

12 WHEREAS, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative is requesting easements to the Lake Eau
13 Claire area to remove overhead utility lines and to install new utility lines underground; and
14

15 WHEREAS, the areas affected by the Ludington easement cover two parcels and
16 Bridge Creek easement covers one parcel and are described and set forth in the proposed
17 easement and attached as Exhibit "A;" and
18

19 WHEREAS, Eau Claire Energy Cooperative offers to purchase the utility easement
20 described for the sum of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00); and
21

22 WHEREAS, the utility easement allows right of use and access for service.
23

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of
25 Supervisors grant easements to Eau Claire Energy Cooperative for the purpose of removing
26 overhead lines and installing underground utility lines in the Towns of Ludington and Bridge
27 Creek for the sum of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00); and
28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Clerk is authorized to sign all documents
30 necessary to transfer the aforementioned easement to the Eau Claire Energy Cooperative.
31

32 I hereby certify that the foregoing correctly
33 represents the action of the Committee on Parks and
34 Forest on March ____, 2023 by a vote
35 of ____ for, and ____ against.
36

37 _____
38 Joe Knight, Chair
39 Committee on Parks and Forest
40
41

UTILITY EASEMENT AGREEMENT

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

(hereinafter called the "Grantor"), and any lienholder executing this easement, for a valuable consideration, does hereby grant, warrant and convey unto EAU CLAIRE ENERGY COOPERATIVE, 8214 US Highway 12, FALL CREEK, WISCONSIN, 54742, a cooperative organized under Chapter 185 Wisconsin Statutes, hereinafter called the "Cooperative",

its successors and assigns, with full right to lease, sublet, and license its rights hereunder, the perpetual right, privilege and easement to enter upon the rights of way described hereinafter, and to construct, operate, repair, maintain, relocate, reconstruct, and replace over and under the surface thereof, lines for the transmission and distribution of electric energy, petroleum products, and communications signals.

Said easement shall consist of two distinct rights-of-way, the service easement and the distribution easement. The service easement may cross any of Grantor's lands, described below, for the purpose of bringing electrical service from distribution lines to the service entrance of any electrical service on the premises. The distribution easement shall be for lines which are now, or in the future become, part of the system for serving Cooperative members in addition to Grantor. Both easements are further described herein.

SUBDIVISIONS: If Grantor's land is subdivided and utility easements are shown on the subdivision map, this easement includes all such "Utility Easements." If not included in said "Utility Easements," this easement includes a strip of land fifteen feet wide wherever a boundary of such lot abuts a public right-of-way and a strip six feet wide along each other boundary of each such lot.

COOPERATIVE'S FACILITIES: "Lines" includes cable, poles, anchors and guy wires, conduits, transformers and all accessories and appurtenances which the Cooperative determines to be necessary and appropriate therefor, whether above or below the ground and shall remain the property of the Cooperative which shall have the right to inspect, rebuild, remove, repair, improve and make changes, alterations, substitutions and additions in and to its facilities as it may from time to time deem advisable. The Cooperative may place signs on the easement for the purpose of monumenting the easement area.

ACCESS: This easement also grants the Cooperative the right of access to any described easement area through, over, and across other adjacent lands of Grantor, provided that said access shall be by a route which, in Grantee's judgement, will cause the least practical damage and further provided that the Cooperative will repair, restore, or reasonably compensate Grantor for any damage resulting from such use of adjacent lands.

SERVICE EASEMENT: Wherever the service easement contains overhead lines, it shall be 30 feet¹ wide. Wherever the service easement contains underground lines, it shall be 15 feet¹ wide. The center line of the service easement, which may be relocated from time to time, shall be the electrical service line running from the distribution easement to the service entrance on the premises served.

DISTRIBUTION EASEMENT: Wherever the distribution easement lies adjacent to a public highway, it shall be a strip of land 15 feet¹ wide if the line is single-phase and 20 feet¹ wide if the line is now or is later upgraded to three-phase, even if the highway is changed or relocated. In other areas, whenever the distribution easement contains overhead lines, it shall be 30 feet¹ wide if the line is single-phase and 40 feet¹ wide if the line is now or is later upgraded to three-phase. Wherever the distribution easement contains underground lines, it shall be 20 feet¹ wide. The center line of the distribution easement shall be the center most conductor of the line unless the easement is described otherwise on the reverse hereof or an attachment hereto.

This easement also includes any location used by the Cooperative at any time to place one or more anchors on Grantors' land outside the easement strip to support the Cooperative's facilities constructed within the defined easement strip, and the area necessary for service of said anchor which is defined as a circle with a radius of 10 feet centered on any such anchor facilities and a strip twenty feet wide between that anchor and the foregoing easement, the center line of which shall be a line on the ground directly beneath the guy line attached to said anchor.

OVERHEAD LINE SAFETY: If any of said facilities are constructed above the ground, the Cooperative may, by chemical, mechanical or other means, cut, trim and control the growth of vegetation within the easement and may cut down or trim from time to time all dead, weak, leaning or dangerous trees or limbs on lands adjacent to the right-of-way, which could strike the wires in falling, as it deems necessary or appropriate.

UNDERGROUND SAFETY: If any of said facilities are constructed in or under the ground, the Cooperative may excavate the soil within the easement described herein, and remove trees, rocks and other obstructions, as necessary,

Return to:

Eau Claire Energy Cooperative
8214 US Highway 12
P.O. Box 368
Fall Creek, WI 54742

Parcel No: 014105906000
014105909000
002108003000
W.O. Number: 23001

¹Unless changed in this footnote:

Service Easement _____ Overhead _____ Underground _____ Easement Width _____
Distribution Easement _____ Overhead _____ Underground _____ Easement Width _____

for the construction, maintenance, repair, replacement, safety or operation of said line or lines. No owner or occupant of the land may dig or excavate within the easement, or permit others to do so, except as permitted by the Cooperative.

GRANTOR'S USE: The land within the easement may be used for any purpose not inconsistent with the rights granted, provided such use does not interfere with or endanger the construction, operation and maintenance of the Cooperative's facilities. However, the easement shall at all times be kept clear of buildings, structures, obstructions or any condition which violates the National Electrical Safety Code, the Wisconsin Electrical Code, or the safety regulations of the Cooperative. Once lines have been constructed or installed, the surface elevation over or under said lines may not be altered by more than six inches unless permitted in writing by the Cooperative.

BINDING AGREEMENT: This conveyance is binding on and inures to the benefit of the heirs, representatives, assigns, successors, and grantees of the Grantor. The Cooperative reserves the right to license, permit, or otherwise agree to the use of the easement by any person or entity for the transmission of energy or of communication signals of any kind. The Cooperative reserves the right to charge for such a license, permit, or agreement.

Additional space for legal description or special provisions:

Section 3/34, Township 26/27 North, Range 06 West

[Inapplicable unless filled in] Easement located on the N S E W (circle one) _____ feet of:

SE-SW EX FIRST ASSESSOR'S PLAT OF LAKE EAU CLAIRE NORTH ENTERED IN CFL BEG 1986 PER 637/706, LYING IN THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 34, TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 6 WEST, TOWN OF LUDINGTON, EAU CLAIRE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

SW-SE CFL SINCE 1947, LYING IN THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 24, TOWNSHIP 27 NORTH, RANGE 6 WEST, TOWN OF LUDINGTON, EAU CLAIRE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

FRAC NW-NE CONT 42.37 AC EX LAKE EAU CLAIRE & EX BLK 8 & PRT OF BLK 9 OF FIRST ASSR'S PLAT OF LAKE EAU CLAIRE NORTH ENTERED IN CFL BEG 1986 PER 637/706, BEG 2004 PER 1741/951 REV TO 24.92 AC SEE U-591 FOR SILT DEPOSIT SITE #3, LYING IN THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 3. TOWN 26 NORTH, RANGE 6 WEST, TOWN OF BRIDGE CREEK, EAU CLAIRE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

If checked here, additional sheet is attached for legal description or other information.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Grantor:
Signature _____
Printed name _____
Signature _____
Printed name _____

Grantor:
Signature _____
Printed name _____
Signature _____
Printed name _____

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

State of Wisconsin)
) ss
_____ County)

Personally came before me this _____ day of _____, 20_____, the above named _____ and _____, to me known to be the person[s] who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged the same.

Notary Public, State of Wisconsin
My Commission Expires: _____

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

State of Wisconsin)
) ss
_____ County)

Personally came before me this _____ day of _____, 20_____, the above named _____ and _____, to me known to be the person[s] who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged the same.

Notary Public, State of Wisconsin
My Commission Expires: _____

FACT SHEET

TO FILE NO. 22-23/094

This resolution allows the county to apply for matching funding for up to 50% of our costs for maintaining the Tower Ridge Recreation Area trail system. This funding source, available from Wisconsin DNR, is one that the county has utilized in the past for reimbursement for trail maintenance.

This grant would cover 50% of our costs associated with any trail maintenance including: mowing, cross country ski trail grooming, parking lot maintenance, brushing and tree removal, etc.

If awarded the grant, the grant cycle would cover maintenance for a 2-year period of time beginning in July of 2023.

Fiscal Impact: Grant reimbursement would provide approximately \$25,000 in revenue back to the county upon completion of the grant cycle. County matching funds would primarily be in the form of force account equipment and employee hours.

Respectfully Submitted,

Josh Pedersen
Parks and Forest Director

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AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT APPLICATION AND AGREEMENT WITH THE WISCONSIN DNR; DIRECTING THE PARKS AND FOREST DIRECTOR TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO COMPLY WITH GRANT REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County is interested in acquiring or developing lands for public outdoor recreation purposes as described in the application; and,

WHEREAS, financial aid is required to carry out he project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Director to act on its behalf to:

- sign and submit the application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any financial aid that may be available,
- sign and submit reimbursement claim along with necessary supporting documentation within 6 month of project completion date,
- sign a grant agreement with WI-DNR and
- take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Eau Claire County will comply with state or federal rules for the programs; may perform force account work; will maintain the completed project in an attractive, inviting and safe manner; will keep the facilities open to the general public during reasonable hours consistent with the type of facility; and will obtain from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources or the National Park Service approval in writing before any change is made in the use of the project site.

Committee on Parks and Forest

FACT SHEET

TO FILE NO. 22-23/095

The county maintains approximately 20 miles of ATV/UTV trails and 181 miles of funded snowmobile trails throughout the county. The county is eligible to apply for maintenance funding annually for each of these programs from the Wisconsin DNR. This resolution will allow for the Parks and Forest Director to submit applications for maintenance funding, as well as capital improvement projects, for these motorized trail aids. The state ATV/UTV and snowmobile programs are funded at 100% reimbursement rate.

Fiscal Impact: Currently, our annual ATV/UTV trail maintenance funding level is around \$23,065. Our snowmobile maintenance is \$300 per mile, or \$54,360 annually. Together, maintenance funding alone is a \$77,425 positive impact.

Respectfully Submitted,

Josh Pedersen
Parks and Forest Director

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AUTHORIZING THE PARKS AND FOREST DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR ANY FINANCIAL AID THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR MAINTAINING, ACQUIRING, INSURING OR DEVELOPING LANDS FOR PUBLIC OUTDOOR MOTORIZED TRAILS

WHEREAS, Eau Claire County is interested in maintaining, acquiring, insuring, or developing lands for public outdoor motorized trails are eligible for snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle and/or motorized stewardship grant funds; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors authorizes the Parks and Forest Director of the Eau Claire County Parks and Forest Department to act on behalf of Eau Claire County to submit an application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any financial aid that may be available; sign documents; and take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

Committee on Parks and Forest

JP/yk

COUNTY FOREST SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY GRANT APPLICATION

Fiscal Year: **FY23**

County Forest: Eau Claire

CONTACT INFORMATION

Primary County Forest Contact:

Name: Josh Pedersen
Title: Director
Mailing Address: 227 1 st Street W
City, State, Zip Code: Altoona, WI 54720
Phone: 715-839-4783
Email: josh.pedersen@eau Clairecounty.gov

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Describe the project and benefits:

Hire a Limited Term Forester to assist with forest reconnaissance, regeneration surveys and timber sale establishment. The main purpose of this position is forest reconnaissance. 21% of our forested acres is over 16 years old. We are finding many of our acres are not consistent with the cover types, as typed and need to bring these stands up to date. This will help with the accuracy of our annual allowable cut and forested cover types for future management. Equipment would need to be purchased to supply the LTE with: Angle gauge/cruise stick/prism, vest, loggers tape, telescoping rod, flagging, paint gun, and compass.

PROJECT COST SUMMARY INFORMATION

Eligible Item*/Task Description	Cost of Item/Task
---------------------------------	-------------------

1. LTE Forester	\$ 12,000
2. Equipment	\$ 1,000
3. Vehicle Use	\$ 1200
4.	\$
Total Cost of Project:	\$ 14,200

GRANT REQUEST: \$14,200

* Salaries/benefits of full/part time employees of the Forestry Department are not an eligible expense.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Project proposal requests will be divided into two preference categories as follows (from Public Forest Lands Handbook):

1st Preference:

- Storm – related projects
- Hiring of temporary staff to address short-term workload projects
- Infrastructure road improvements to access summer/fall timber sales

2nd Preference:

- Invasive species inventories/control
- Drones for reconnaissance
- Timber mats
- All other eligible projects

Within a preference category, projects in counties that have received grants the most recently shall be given the lowest priority. A county may have no more than 2 projects open at one time.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

First Round: August 15th

Second Round: December 1st

Final Round (After Dec. 1, pending available funds)

SIGNATURE & CERTIFICATION

CF Administrator Signature:

Date:

DNR Liaison Signature:

Date:

Attach Forestry Committee Minute Approvals

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY	
<i>Grant Adjustment Amount, if applicable:</i>	
<i>Final Grant Allocated:</i>	

Justification:

Certified by:

Date: