AGENDA

Eau Claire County

• Committee on Parks & Forest •

• Advisory Committee on Parks & Forest •

Friday, September 29, 2023

11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Meet at the Agricultural Center

227 1st Street West, Altoona, Wisconsin 54720

Destination/Stop

Stop 1: Big Falls - review timber sale and parking lot/trails project review

Stop 2: Karow Road Lumber Mill

Stop 3: Coon Fork - review park improvements and bathroom break

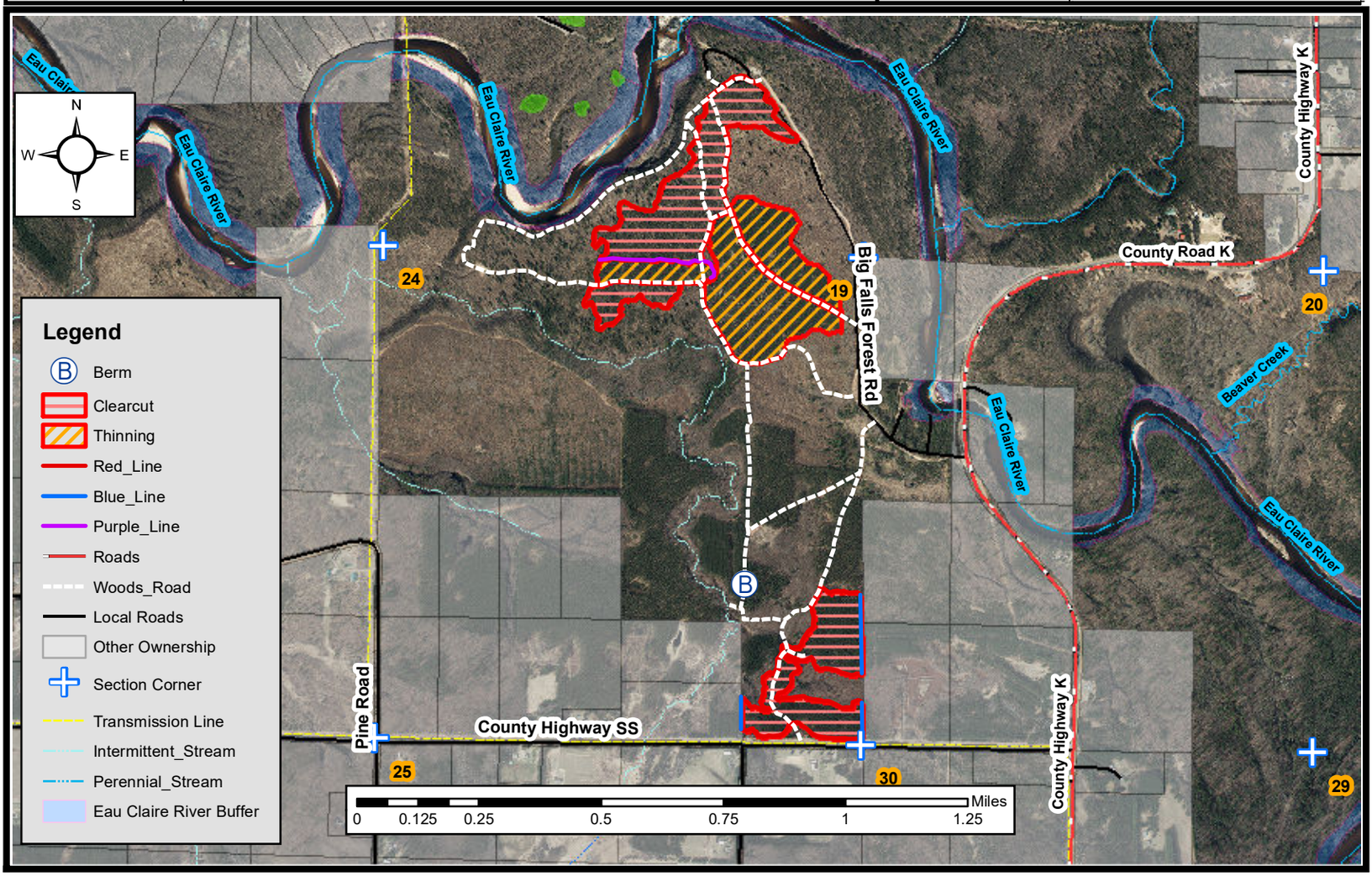
Stop 4: Highway G oak scarification site and review monitoring well installation

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.

Eau Claire County Forest

Sale Name: Falls Big			**Tract Number:** 14-22	**Estimated Volumes**			
Twp: 27N	**Range:** 8W	**Section:** 24	**Township:** Lincoln	**SPECIES**	**Pulp (tons)**	**Bolts (tons)**	**Logs (MBF)**
Compartment: 77		**Stand:** 1, 9, 11, 14, 22		Red Pine	800	1550	-
Soil: Sand		**Topography:** Flat		White Pine	150	-	-
Acres: 111		**Timber Sale #:**		Jack Pine	575	-	-
Notes:	-Approximately 400 tons of PR Pulp are from the 1st thinning -Utility Poles in South Clearcut areas -White Pine is approximately 20% Saw -Oak volume is a mix of black and white oak -MX Hwd is a mix of Red Maple, White Ash, and Aspen			Oak	220	-	-
				MX Hwd	15	-	-
				Sale Minimum Bid:	$87,393.00		



	Cutting Specifications:
1.	Sale is delineated by red paint lines and obvious woods roads. Changes in prescription is denoted by purple paint lines
2.	Possible Spring/Summer Harvest Opportunity
3.	**First Thinning: Harvest Every Third Row**
4.	**Thinning: Harvest all trees marked with orange paint**
5.	**Clearcut: Harvest all trees 1" in diameter and larger**
6.	**All pine stumps must be sprayed according to contract from April 1st to November 30th**
7.	All cut Pine and Spruce products must be removed from the sale area within 2 weeks during the period of May 15th to August 15th
8.	All roads and landings must be approved by the sale administrator
9.	All slash must be lopped and scattered within 2' of the ground

USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Soil Scarification for Forest Regeneration

Replicating natural disturbances to promote regeneration of native tree species

All photos courtesy of Jon Steigerwaldt

Background

Wisconsin historically experienced frequent and often intense natural disturbances in both the Northern Mixed Forest and the Southern Broadleaf Forest. These natural disturbances came in the form of wind events, tree disease and blight, and most importantly fire.

Historically fire frequency varied widely; oak forests frequently burned every 1-3 years while pine forests may have burned every 5-12 years. Early accounts from explores often describe parts of Wisconsin as fire maintained, such as savanna or grassland landscapes. After widespread European settlement in the 1850s-1890s, Wisconsin's forests were aggressively harvested and converted to agriculture. Due to poor logging practices of the time, wildland fire accompanied the aggressive harvest activities up until the 1930s when the era of widespread fire suppression began. The 1930s also ushered in an era of widespread farm abandonment as land in the northern reaches of the state became infertile and farmers left due to the Great Depression.

After decades of logging, wildfire, and tillage, disturbance dependent species such as oak, birch, and aspen thrived and quickly colonized these previously disturbed areas. This management history was largely responsible for the diverse forests types Wisconsin has today.

However, today many of these forests that began from this disturbance are roughly 100-years old or older. As the overall health of these forests decline due to age and natural die-back, shade-tolerant species such as red maple, ironwood, musclewood, and hazel invade. While these species are native trees and shrubs, they prevent the regeneration of more economical and wildlife-friendly forest types and lead to a biological homogenization of the landscape as species like birch and oak are slowly replaced over time.

In order to keep these species thriving on the landscape, intensive management activities need to take place to replicate natural disturbances. While fire can be a valuable tool, it is certainly not the only tool and is not always feasible in every forest.

Today, foresters replicate these disturbances with a practice called ***soil scarification.*** Scarification involves the removal of material in the understory and forest floor. Scarification acts similar to fire or tilling the soil to plant a crop as it creates more ideal conditions for tree seeds to sprout. It is usually accompanied by timber harvesting to allow more light to hit the ground. Common silvicultural practices before and after soil scarification are shelterwood and seed tree cuts. While often visually unappealing, these methods are essential for ensuring ideal conditions for trees to sprout. Species like Oak and paper birch require full-sunlight to properly germinate; without aggressive harvest and scarification they simply won't grow.

Anchor chain being dragged to expose acorns to full sunlight prior to harvest

Scarification Methods

Mechanical

Mechanical soil scarification is one of the most common methods due to the widespread feasibility. A dozer equipped with a root rake removes undesirable species while exposing mineral soil and breaking up areas of compaction. Anchor chains dragged behind a skidder can be another affective method to expose mineral soil and provides less soil disturbance than a dozer; this method is best used prior to harvest when there is little debris and understory trees present. On sites with steep slopes and areas sensitive to erosion, mechanical scarification may not be feasible.

Dozer conducting mechanical soil scarification in recently harvested birch stand

Prescribed Fire

Fire is an affective tool, especially when a large treatment area is desirable. The manpower required to conduct a safe prescribed fire on private lands can be challenging, but fire can be a more economical and timely method in treating a large area. Fire often requires multiple treatments to the same area depending on general intensity and timing. However, this can be a great method to expose mineral soil with minimal soil disturbance and compaction, and can be completed on sites with topography that limit mechanical disturbance. Additionally, fire is a more natural disturbance that often results in a more diverse herbaceous understory that is desirable when managing for forbs, grasses, and ephemerals that benefit a wide range of wildlife species.

Ruffed Grouse Society · Quality Forests · Abundant Wildlife · Sporting Traditions
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
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