

**Questionnaire For 2021-2035 Chippewa County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan
Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting #3 of 3: Focus Silviculture and Forest Administration**

Instructions:

The following questions are intended to gather written feedback from members of the Stakeholder Advisory Group. Group members are encouraged to contact Matt Hansen, County Forest Administrator, at (715) 738-2599 or mhansen@co.chippewa.wi.us for clarification of the questions.

There are several supporting documents posted on the [plan update website](#). Group Members are encouraged to review all materials and questions prior to developing final answers.

Written answers to the questions provided below can be provided to the County Forest Administrator through **May 14, 2020**. We hope this allows enough time for stakeholders and other members of the groups they represent to consider this round of questions as well as those from other meetings. Completed forms can be submitted to the County in hard copy or via email. **Please feel free to attach additional pages as necessary.**

Introduction / Background:

The Chippewa County Forest is comprised of approximately 34,654 acres. The majority of this acreage is located in the Towns of Sampson (16 %), Cleveland (22 %), Ruby (23 %), and Birch Creek (34 %). This acreage includes seven (7) "County Forest Special Units" dispersed throughout the County.

Approximately 26,000 acres of the County Forest is productive forest cover types. The dominant forest types are 35% aspen, 25% Oak and 15% Northern Hardwoods. Less abundant timber types include: naturally regenerated stands of Swamp Hardwoods 7%, Tamarac 6%, Red Maple 4%, Spruce 3% and plantations of Red/White Pine 3% and White Spruce 2%.

Most of the Chippewa County Forest regenerated naturally after the initial cutover and wildfires that occurred early in the State's development. Aspen and Oak became the dominant timber types because they are early successional species which respond well to disturbance. Succession is the trend for forests to shift away from shade intolerant tree species (Aspen, White Birch and Red Oak) toward shade tolerant Northern Hardwoods species (Sugar Maple, Basswood and Yellow Birch).

Past management, soil productivity, weather events, fire, insects, diseases and other disturbances all shaped and continue to affect the forests that occur today. Planning for these factors can allow managers to influence the forests that will occur in the future. These questions are intended to help guide management so that all the benefits we enjoy from forests today can be sustained in the future.

Policies and procedures for managing County Forests are in the [Public Lands Handbook](#), [Timber Sale Handbook](#) and [Forestry Silviculture Handbook](#).

[Wisconsin State Statute 28.11 \(1\)](#) The purpose of this section is to provide the basis for a permanent program of county forests and to enable and encourage the planned development and management of the county forests for optimum production of forest products together with recreational opportunities, wildlife, watershed protection and stabilization of stream flow, giving full recognition to the concept of multiple-use to assure maximum public benefits; to protect the public rights, interests and investments in such lands; and to compensate the counties for the public uses, benefits and privileges these lands provide; all in a manner which will provide a reasonable revenue to the towns in which such lands lie.

