

At the December 19, 2018 LCFM Committee meeting, several questions arose, including:

1. Does the County Board action not to approve Resolution 43-18 prohibit public use of snowmobiles and operation of ATV/UTV's by legally disabled persons on the Tealey Creek Game Loop?
2. Was Land and Water Conservation Act (LAWCON) grant funding used to construct the Tealey Creek Game Loop?
3. Did the Tealey Creek Game Loop precede the Snowmobile Trail?

Answer to Question 1: No. County Board action not to approve Resolution 43-18 DOES NOT directly prohibit public use of snowmobiles and operation of ATV/UTV's by legally disabled persons on the Tealey Creek Game Loop.

Approval of Resolution 43-18 would have amended the 2006-2020 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan to allow for increased motorized access. As a result of the County Board action not to approve Resolution 43-18, the regulations as established under Chapter 16 of the Chippewa County Code of Ordinances and the 2006-2020 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan remain in effect under current terms.

Section 16-4(13) of the Chippewa County Code of Ordinances states:

“Unauthorized motor vehicles shall be prohibited from travel on roads or trails so gated except for winter snowmobiling activities”.

Section 16-9(L) of the Chippewa County Code of Ordinances states:

The Director of the Department of Land Conservation and Forest Management, or his designee, shall have the authority to issue special use permits for motor vehicles, motorcycles, and all-terrain vehicles on county lands. Such permits may be issued in the following instances:

- a) To physically disabled persons, as defined in the Wisconsin Statutes and Wisconsin Administrative Code; and
- b) For activities beneficial to the county department of land conservation and forest management, including but not limited to, trapping of nuisance animals, cleanup activities including firewood gathering by permit, trail maintenance activities, logging activities authorized under timber sales contracts with the county and investigating established timber sales for timber procurement. Issuance of such special use permits shall be subject to the review of the county land, forest and parks committee.

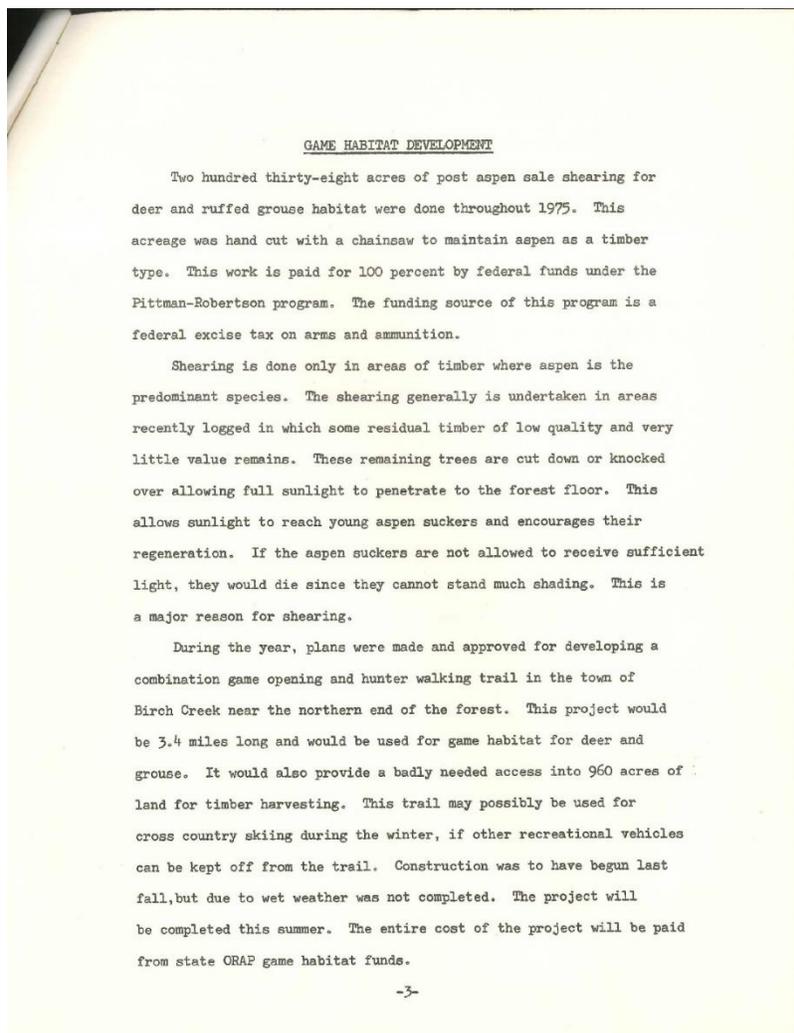
The 2006-2020 Chippewa County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan establishes snowmobiling as an authorized use when the ground is snow-covered on all primary, secondary, and temporary roads, except where posted as closed (Section 730.1)

Answer to Question 2: No. Land and Water Conservation Act (LAWCON) grant funding DOES NOT appear to have been used to construct the Tealey Creek Game Loop.

Wisconsin DNR Natural Resource Financial Assistance Specialist Elizabeth Norquist has provided LCFM with a record of grants (on file) issued to Chippewa County since 1968. The list includes five (5) LAWCON grants, none of which apply to the Tealey Creek Game Loop.

According to Ms. Norquist, the DNR issued County Conservation Aids grant, #1873 to develop the Tealey Creek Game Trail in Chippewa County in T32N R8W, Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9. DNR records do not include a paper file because the 20 year life of the project is gone. County Conservation Aid Grant, #1873 would not, by nature, prohibit motorized vehicles use as a grant program, however, Chippewa County could have stated that this trail will be for walk-ins only. Ms. Norquist further advised that no sponsor of a state or federal grant can prohibit the use of the trail by disabled persons.

In addition to DNR records, the 1975 Annual Report of the County Forest & Parks Department states that the entire cost of the Tealey Creek Game Trail was planned to be paid for from State ORAP habitat funds.



Answer to Question 3: No. The Wissota-Rusk snowmobile trail was completed in 1974 and work on the Tealey Creek Game Trail commenced no earlier than 1975 and was completed in 1982.

According to the 1974 Annual Reports of the Forest & Parks Department and records relating to Snowmobile Trail Development, a trail named the Wissota-Rusk Snowmobile Trail was completed. The

trail connects Lake Wissota State Park with Rusk County via Jim Falls and the County Forest. The map attached to a bid solicitation dated October 9, 1974 shows the Proposed Wissota-Rusk Trail traversing the area in question.

From the stumpage revenue taken in, 20 percent was or will be returned to the state of Wisconsin as severance under the County Forest Law. An additional 10 percent of revenue was paid back to the townships having County Forest land within them.

Fourteen sales were closed out during the year and 18 new ones were sold. Approximately 5,710 cords of wood were sold with an estimated stumpage value of \$16,108.

VOLUME OF TIMBER SOLD & CUT IN 1974

	<u>Balsam</u>	<u>Aspen</u>	<u>White Birch</u>	<u>Mixed Hwd.</u>	<u>Pine</u>	
Cordwood Cut In 1974	109	4,495	380	257	196	
	<u>Oak</u>	<u>Elm</u>	<u>Basswood</u>	<u>Hard Maple</u>	<u>Ash</u>	<u>Misc.</u>
Board Feet Sawtimber Cut In 1974	71,000	29,400	17,000	10,400	37,700	10,800

SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

A major addition to the county's snowmobile trail system was made this year with the development of the Wissota-Rusk Snowmobile Trail. The trail contains 34 miles of new trail running from Lake Wissota State Park to the Rusk County line via Jim Falls and the County Forest. This trail was developed primarily through the efforts of the Chippewa County Snowmobile Council which put in a great deal of work in acquiring the land use agreements across private property, brushing the trail, building bridges and erecting signs. Important contributions were also made by the DNR in writing up the environmental impact statement and assisting in completion of application forms for receiving snowmobile trail aids. Construction of this trail required building five bridges and obtaining land use agreements to cross 38 private landownerships.

In addition to this trail, 12 miles of trail were completed in the County Forest making a total of 28 miles of trail in the County Forest.

A parking lot was also constructed off County Highway 'M' for access to the snowmobile trails. The county now has a total of 62 miles of state approved snowmobile trails.

Sealed Bid Folder

CHIPPEWA COUNTY
Land, Forest, and Parks Committee

COURT HOUSE - CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN 54729

Timber Management - Recreation - Soil and Water Conservation
October 9, 1974

Dear Contractor:

Sealed bid proposals will be received at the office of Doyle L. Richards, County Forest and Parks Administrator, in the Chippewa County Court House, P.O. Box 550, Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729 until 2:00 p.m. October 18, 1974 for the Wisconsin-Rusk Snowmobile Trail.

Bids will be accompanied by a bid bond, payable to the Chippewa County Treasurer, in an amount of 10% of the bid.

Chippewa County reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities in bidding.

A project description and map are enclosed to help you locate the project area. If you have any questions regarding the project, be sure to contact Brian F. Marinello, DNR Forester or myself at the Court House in Chippewa Falls.

Sincerely yours,

Doyle L. Richards
Doyle L. Richards
Forest & Parks Administrator

DLR/vw

Enclosures

WISSOTA-RUSK SNOWMOBILE TRAIL

Construction Specifications

1. Build approximately 29 miles of snowmobile trail located in the towns of Anson, Arthur, Cleveland and Birch Creek. Trail starts at Wissota State Park and goes to County Forest trail. Second second goes from County Forest trail to Rusk County line.
2. Construction work will consist of:
 - Heavy Bulldozing - approximately 4 miles
Involves removal of trees, stumps, rocks; 12 foot wide trail
 - Medium Bulldozing - approximately 1½ miles
Involves removing scattered trees, brush, rocks; 12 foot wide trail
 - Light Bulldozing - approximately 10½ miles
Involves removal of light brush, rocks and general leveling;
12 foot wide trail

-SEE ENCLOSED MAP-

PROPOSAL

The undersigned contractor proposes to construct approximately 29 miles of the Wissota-Rusk Snowmobile Trail located in the towns of Anson, Arthur, Cleveland and Birch Creek to a total width of 12 feet as listed in the project description as per specifications, for the sum of:

_____ Dollars \$ _____

Enclosed is a bid bond for 10% of the above bid \$ _____

If awarded the contract, we will commence work within _____ days

and will complete the work within _____ days.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 1974.

Company

Person Bidding

Address of Company

The Forest and Parks Department Annual Report for 1982 indicates that construction of the Tealey Creek Game Trail occurred between approximately 1978 and 1982.

can realistically be maintained without DNR assistance. Game habitat development funds from the state have been used to cover expense of mowing these trails.

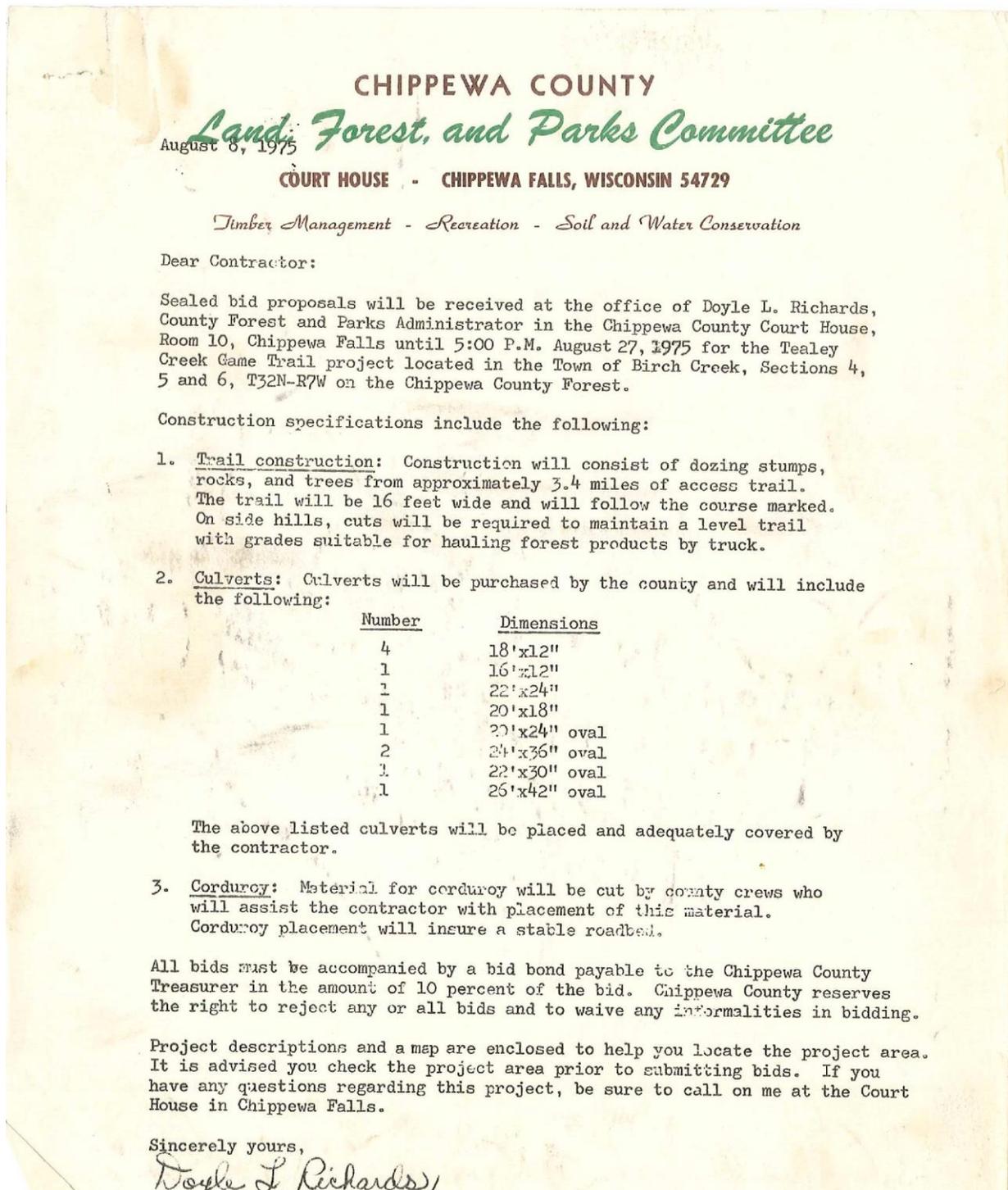
Development proceeded on three hunter walking trails this past summer. All three trails are being developed as multiple use trails. The trails will provide valuable habitat for wildlife thru the associated vegetation that will grow on these open trails. In addition, they will provide access for hunters as walking trails and as access roads for logging. All three trails are or ordinarily will be blocked off to prevent vehicle traffic except during logging operations.

The Christmas Creek trail in the Town of Ruby was bulldozed thru to its planned end. Wet weather prevented final completion of this 1.5 mile trail but it should be completed and seeded down in 1983. The 3.4 mile Tealey Creek Trail in the north end of Birch Creek township was crowned this past summer and culverts were placed where needed. This trail will be graded and seeded to clover this coming summer. This trail was initially built about 4 years ago. A new trail just west of the Deer Fly Trail was constructed last fall. The trail was 1.5 miles long and will be seeded to clover this next year. All three trails in addition to game benefits will provide some valuable access for logging mature aspen.

FOREST ROADS AND TRAILS

County forest roads were routinely maintained by grading and roadside mowing. Efforts were made to upgrade the O'Neil trail forest road to improve its useability as a forest haul road for timber operations. About a mile of the O'Neil was widened, hills were cut down and crowned and graveled. Additional areas were also graveled.

The Request for Bids for construction of the Tealey Creek Game Loop was released after the Wisconsin-Rusk Snowmobile Trail was completed and includes a map that identifies what was considered to be the Tealey Creek Game Loop.



PROPOSAL

The undersigned contractor proposes to construct approximately 3.4 miles of access trail in the town of Birch Creek located within the Chippewa County Forest in Sections 4, 5 and 6, T32N-R7W. The width of the trail will be 16 feet and all rocks, trees and stumps will be removed along the trail route. The completed trail must be suitable for the transport of forest products by truck.

The undersigned contractor will also install corduroy where needed and the following culverts:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Culvert Size</u>	<u>Stream Type</u>
4	18'x12"	None
1	16'x12"	None
1	22'x24"	None
1	20'x18"	None
1	20'x24" oval	Intermittent
2	24'x36" oval	4"to8" deep; 30" to 48" wide
1	22'x30" oval	30" wide; 5" deep
1	26'x42" oval	Swamp hole, no stream

The county will supply the above mentioned culverts and will cut the corduroy material for the contractor. The contractor will place corduroy where needed to insure a stable roadbed.

Construction will be done as per specifications for the sum of:

_____ dollars \$ _____

Enclosed is a bid bond in the amount of 10 percent of the above bid \$ _____

If awarded the contract, we will commence work within _____ days and will

complete the work within _____ days.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 1975.

Company

