

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN
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1 **300 MANAGEMENT PLANNING**

2 OBJECTIVES

3 Management planning shall be used to establish objectives, policies, procedures, rules and
4 regulations, and to promote an efficient and orderly program of development and management of the
5 County Forest in the interest of:

- 6 A. Determining needs and priorities.
- 7 B. Achieving goals set forth in the mission statement of this plan.
- 8 C. Satisfying the statutory requirements of s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.
- 9 D. Satisfying requirements for participation in various state and federal aid programs.
- 10 E. Providing broad long-term and detailed short-term guidelines for actions.

12 **305 COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN**

13 POLICY

14 This plan shall incorporate or reference all official County Forest policies, pertinent County regulations,
15 planning documents and the needs and actions for the period 2006 through 2020.

16
17 The plan complements and should be encompassed within local planning efforts required under s.
18 66.1001, Wis. Stats. There are similarities between the plans, however, the County Forest plan is
19 smaller in scale and focused by s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.
20

21 **305.1 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN**

22 S. 28.11, Wis.Stats places responsibility for the plan development on the Forest and Parks
23 Committee with technical assistance from the Department and other agencies. The Forest
24 and Parks Administrator will take the lead at the committee's direction. The Department, with
25 the assistance of the County, will prepare the environmental assessment as required by
26 Chapter 150 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. During development of the plan and the
27 environmental assessment, public participation procedures should be developed and adopted
28 to provide for broad public participation throughout the planning process. Public participation
29 and inputs into the plan should consider s. 28.11, Wis.Stats. which governs the County Forest
30 program and provides the sideboards to which this plan must adhere.
31

32 Chippewa County's public participation process includes the following:
33

<u>Stage of Process</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Tools/Techniques</u>
<i>Chapter Draft Development</i>	<i>Data collection</i>	<i>Forest and Parks Committee, Website access and comment solicitation</i>
<i>Preliminary draft</i>	<i>Consult</i>	<i>Public meeting Website access, Comment solicitation</i>
<i>2nd Draft</i>	<i>Collaborate</i>	<i>Newspaper, Website</i>
<i>Final draft completion & Environmental Assessment</i>	<i>Inform</i>	<i>Public notice</i>

34 **305.2 APPROVAL OF THE PLAN**

35 Comments received by the Forest and Parks Committee shall be given consideration in
36 developing the final plan draft. Following the public comment period and certification by the
37 Department, the county will consider the comments received on the plan and assessment and
38 will finalize the plan. The Forest and Parks Committee will then present the plan to the County
39 Board for their approval. Following County Board approval, the plan will then be forwarded to
40 the DNR's Central office in Madison through the local DNR liaison forester. Approval of the
41 plan by the DNR is required by s. 28.11(5) (a) Wis. Stats.
42

43 305.3 DISTRIBUTION OF THE PLAN

44 Each member of the County Board will receive a copy of the plan at the time of initial review
45 and approval. Subsequently, updated official copies will be maintained for those regularly
46 involved in the County Forest Program. Official copies and amendments will be held by the
47 following:

- 48 1. Forest and Parks Administrator
- 49 2. Department of Natural Resources - Liaison and Division of Forestry. (5 copies*)
- 50 3. Executive Secretary - Wisconsin County Forest Association.
- 51 4. County Board Chair, Forest and Parks Committee Chair, County Clerk, County Administrator
- 52

53 *DNR copies of the plan will be provided to Division County Forest Specialist, Regional
54 Forestry Supervisor, Area Forestry Supervisor, Liaison and the local Wildlife Biologist.
55

56 305.4 UPDATING THE PLAN

57 Necessary changes in policy and procedure will be incorporated into the plan by amendment
58 as required. Amendments to the plan will require approval by both the County Board and the
59 Department of Natural Resources as stated in ss. 28.11(5)(a), Wis.Stats. The annual work
60 plan and budget (Chapter 2000) and the annual accomplishment report (Chapter 3000) are
61 appended to the plan and do not require official DNR approval.
62

63 305.4.1 Schedule for Updating

64 By June 30th of each year the Forest and Parks Administrator will develop and distribute
65 copies of the following to each official copyholder of the County Forest Plan.

- 66 a. Approved amendments.
- 67 b. Annual accomplishment report
- 68 c. Current annual work plan and budget
- 69

70 305.5 COORDINATION WITH OTHER PLANNING

71 The development and any future amendments to this plan will include considerations, and if
72 warranted, participation in other planning efforts. It is expected these other plans will also, in
73 turn, consider and mesh their efforts with the County Forest Plan. Coordination between
74 Town and County Comprehensive Plans (e.g. Smart Growth) s.66.1001, Wis. Stats, Statewide
75 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation plans (SCORP), State Land Master Plans, Land & Water
76 Resource Plans, Forest Legacy, and others are essential for effective land management.
77

78 **310 FOREST RESOURCE PLANNING**

79 The Forest and Parks Committee will support and use the procedures as set forth in the DNR Public
80 Forest Land Handbook No. 2460.5 and Forest Aesthetic and Silviculture Handbook No. 2431.5. The
81 DNR forester and the Forest and Parks Administrator will be responsible for the completion and
82 maintenance of the compartment reconnaissance system and will assist in interpretation of the data
83 to be used for planning and scheduling purposes.

84 Forest management plans are made by qualified, professional staff employed by the County or the
85 DNR trained in silvicultural principles. This staff will apply environmental, biological, and economic
86 considerations in planning. Forest management decisions are made using the most recent
87 resource materials including forest habitat type classification, soil surveys, and forestry's best
88 management practices for water quality guidelines.
89

90 **315 OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING**

91 The Five Year Outdoor Recreation Plan and other recreation surveys, plans, and reports are used as
92 available in planning efforts. Assistance will be sought from DNR park planners. Responsibility for
93 County Forest recreation planning is with the Forest and Parks Committee.

94 **320 OTHER RESOURCE PLANNING**

95 Additional data necessary to make management decisions on the County Forest will be sought from
96 agencies or individuals best equipped to provide that service. Refer to Chapter 800 for information on
97 integrating outside expertise into management planning.

98 **325 FOREST CERTIFICATION**

99 The forest products industry is increasingly requiring their suppliers to verify the raw materials being
100 supplied have originated from well-managed forestlands. Third-party certification of forestlands is
101 growing in popularity for objectively evaluating the sustainable management of forestlands.
102 Chippewa County has committed to Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in the management of the
103 Chippewa County Forest. These certification standards fit within the framework of the County Forest
104 Law program (s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.).

105
106 Chippewa County Forest provides a vital contribution to the State and the world by providing
107 economic, environmental and social benefits important to our quality of life. Chippewa County
108 believes that accomplishing such sustainable forestry requires a commitment and partnership from all
109 the groups and individuals that benefit from these public lands.

110
111 Within the scope of the Wisconsin County Forest Law and the County Forest Comprehensive Land
112 Use Plan, Chippewa County will implement forestry practices that promote forest sustainability and
113 multiple use of the forest. In the management of the Forest that will include the sustainable harvest of
114 forest products, the protection of special sites, wildlife, plants, water quality and aesthetics.

115
116 All forestland owners have a responsibility to provide sound forest stewardship. Chippewa County will
117 work in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other natural resources
118 groups / agencies in providing sustainable forestry information to those landowners and individuals
119 impacting forest sustainability in Wisconsin. Research to improve the health, productivity, and
120 management of forestlands both internally and through cooperative efforts will be supported. In
121 managing the Chippewa County Forest a spectrum of forestry practices will be employed to achieve
122 sustainable forestry objectives. Both intensive and more extensive forest management techniques
123 will be used to provide for wildlife, forest products, recreation, water quality, aesthetics and ecosystem
124 maintenance. Chippewa County is committed to the following:

- 125 A. **Sustainable Forestry Principles** – To practice sustainable forestry to meet present needs of
126 society without sacrificing the ability to meet anticipated needs of future generations. Chippewa
127 County integrates reforestation, managing, growing and harvesting trees for forest products with
128 conservation of air and water quality, soil, ecosystem diversity, wildlife, recreation and aesthetics.
- 129 B. **Responsible Practices** – To employ economically, environmentally and socially responsible
130 practices in Chippewa County Forest management and encourage other forest owners to do the
131 same.
- 132 C. **Forest Health & Productivity** – To work cooperatively with the DNR and other agencies in
133 protecting the forest from pests, diseases, wildfire and other damaging agents to improve long-
134 term productivity and forest health.
- 135 D. **Unique Sites** – To manage areas of special biological, geographical, cultural or historical
136 significance to preserve their unique qualities.
- 137 E. **Legal Compliance** – To comply with applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations in the
138 management of the Chippewa County Forest.
- 139 F. **Monitoring and Continuous Improvement** – To continually seek improvement in the
140 management of the Chippewa County Forest and to monitor, assess and report performance
141 towards the objective of sustainable forestry.

142
143
144 **330 ORDINANCES**

145 The following ordinances will be considered in all planning. Refer to Chapter 900 – Appendix for full
146 text of the County Forest and Park and Recreation ordinances.

- 147 A. County Forest Lands (Chapter 16.02)

- 148 B. Forest Crop Law Administration (16.05)
- 149 C. Forest Finances (16.06)
- 150 D. County Forest Land Use and Regulation (16.07)
- 151 E. ATV/Motorcycle Regulations (16.09)
- 152 F. Parks and Recreation (Ch. 50)
- 153 G. Non-Metallic Mining (30)
- 154 H. Flood Plain (32)
- 155 I. Shoreland (54)
- 156

157 **335 TECHNOLOGY**

158 Use of present day technology is an important facet of County Forest management. Computers and
 159 operating systems increase the ability to analyze and store data. This ability to analyze and evaluate
 160 the Forest has improved planning and management of the Forest. Electronic communication is now
 161 essential. Below are technologies in use (now or in the future), on the Chippewa County Forest.
 162

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 163 | Global Positioning Systems | Computers and e-mail |
| 164 | Compartment Reconnaissance | Geographic Information Systems |
| 165 | WisFIRS | |

166 **335.1 GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEMS**

167 A global positioning system (GPS) determines location as an electronic surveying technology
 168 system using satellites. Position on earth is calculated by measuring the distance from a group
 169 of satellites. The components of this system are a transmitter (in the satellites), a receiver
 170 (GPS unit) and a computer and software to do the actual calculations. This technology is
 171 used for mapping, acreage determination, and land control efforts. Sub-meter accuracy is
 172 available with high end units. Hand held units are useful for sale mapping and road layouts.

173 **335.2 COMPUTERS**

174 Computers are common fixtures in nearly all offices. The different types of software currently
 175 being used include: word processing, databases, spread sheets, and mapping. Future plans
 176 include use of fGIS (WI DNR forestry mapping software) and GIS

177 **335.3 COMPARTMENT RECONNAISSANCE (RECON)**

178 Recon is used in assessing geographical, structural and compositional attributes of the forest
 179 resources. This information is collected and computerized by the DNR. Recon is useful in
 180 land management planning. The data is linked to spatial information on hand drawn maps or
 181 computerized maps. Resource information is collected, and updated continuously. The data
 182 is used to analyze existing resources, evaluate management alternatives, and assist in
 183 planning management development/implementation. Recon assesses forest resource
 184 information at the property level and is useful for regional analysis.

185 **335.4 GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

186 Geographic information systems (GIS) interrelates spatial information, e.g. maps, with tabular
 187 data and reconnaissance information. GIS allows managers to consider options with
 188 computer generated maps. Managers can look at the timing/spacing of timber sales, layout
 189 aesthetic zones, buffer strips, calculate acreage and update reconnaissance files.

190 **335.5 WISFIRS (WISCONSIN FOREST INVENTORY & REPORTING SYSTEM)**

191 WisFIRS (Wisconsin Forest Inventory & Reporting System) is a system that will enable the
 192 forestry staff to store data collected in the field, plan and track completed forest management
 193 practices (e.g. timber sales), report accomplishments, calculate the financial aspects of the
 194 programs. WisFIRS will serve both our DNR staff and county forests. The new system will
 195 enable foresters to track and report where forestry practices are being implemented because

196 geographical information systems (GIS) will be integrated in the new system. WisFIRS is
197 replacing three existing applications that are running on old technology and are at risk of
198 failing.
199