

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN
 TABLE OF CONTENTS
CHAPTER 500

500	LAND USE	1
500.1	OBJECTIVES	1
505	SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES	1
505.1	EVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT.....	1
505.2	UNEVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT	1
505.3	TIMBER SALES	1
505.3.1	Field Preparation of Timber Sales.....	1
505.3.2	Advertising For Bids	1
505.3.3	Prospectus	2
505.3.4	Method Of Bidding.....	2
505.3.5	Awarding Sales	2
505.3.6	Sales Contracts	3
505.3.7	Timber Sale Performance Bond.....	3
505.3.8	Contract Provisions	3
505.3.9	Timber Sale Restrictions	5
505.3.10	Special Forest Product Contracts	6
505.3.11	Timber Sale Roads.....	6
505.3.12	Supervising Sales.....	6
505.3.13	Forest Products Accountability.....	6
505.3.14	Special Forest Product Permits.....	7
505.4	NATURAL REGENERATION	7
505.4.1	Removal Of Non-Merchantable Residual Trees	7
505.4.2	Prescribed Burning For Natural Regeneration	7
505.4.3	Other.....	8
505.5	ARTIFICIAL REGENERATION	8
505.5.1	Mechanical Site Preparation	8
505.5.2	Chemical Site Preparation.....	8
505.5.3	Prescribed Burning.....	8
505.5.4	Tree Planting / Seeding.....	8
505.6	TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT.....	8
505.6.1	Release	9
505.6.2	Non-Commercial Thinning.....	9
505.6.3	Pruning	9
510	RECREATION	9
510.1	RECREATIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS	9
510.2	RECREATIONAL USE PERMITS.....	9
510.3	ENTRANCE AND USER FEES.....	9
510.4	EXTENSIVE RECREATIONAL USE OF THE FOREST	9

510.4.1	Hunting	10
510.4.2	Fishing	10
510.4.3	Picnicking	10
510.4.4	Camping	10
510.5	INTENSIVE RECREATION AREAS	10
510.5.1	Campgrounds	10
510.5.2	Picnic Areas	10
510.5.3	Swimming Areas	11
510.5.4	Boat Landings	11
510.5.5	Waysides	11
510.6	MANAGED TRAIL AREAS	11
510.6.1	Motorized Trail Opportunities	11
510.6.2	Non-Motorized Trail Opportunities	11
510.7	RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES	12
515	SPECIAL USES	12
515.1	SAND AND GRAVEL	12
515.2	EXPLORATION, PROSPECTING AND MINING	12
515.3	SANITARY LANDFILLS	13
515.4	MILITARY MANEUVERS	13
515.5	PUBLIC UTILITIES	13
515.6	CELLULAR COMMUNICATION TOWERS	13
515.7	OTHER	14
520	AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONES	14
520.1	AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE A	14
520.1.1	Examples – Zone A	14
520.1.2	Boundaries – Zone A	14
520.1.3	Management – Zone A	14
520.1.4	Permitted Uses – Zone A	14
520.2	AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE B	15
520.2.1	Examples – Zone B	15
520.2.2	Boundaries – Zone B	15
520.2.3	Management – Zone B	15
520.2.4	Permitted Uses – Zone B	15
520.3	AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE C	15
520.3.1	Examples – Zone C	15
520.3.2	Boundaries – Zone C	15
520.3.3	Management – Zone C	15
520.3.4	Permitted Uses – Zone C	16
520.4	AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE D	16
520.4.1	Examples – Zone D	16

520.4.2	Management – Zone D.....	16
525	TREATY RIGHTS: GATHERING MISCELLANEOUS FOREST PRODUCTS.....	16
530	HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS, AREAS AND EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCES ...	16
530.1	AREAS HIGH IN REGIONALLY OR NATL SIGNIFICANT BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY	17
530.1.1	Wisconsin State Natural Areas	17
530.2	SPECIFIC SITES HIGH IN LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY.....	19
530.3	RARE, THREATENED OR ENDANGERED ECOSYSTEMS.....	19
530.3.1	Relict Old Growth Stands	19
530.3.2	Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat.....	19
530.3.3	Geological Features of Significance.....	20
530.3.4	Culturally Significant Features	20

1 **500 LAND USE**

2 500.1 OBJECTIVES

- 3 A. To identify policies and procedures employed to effectively manage, use, and sustain the
4 resources of the County Forest.
5 B. To identify regulated management activities, land uses, and special resource areas.
6

7 **505 SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES**

8 Silviculture is the practice of controlling forest composition, structure, and growth to maintain
9 and enhance the forest's utility for any purpose. These practices are based on research and
10 general silviculture knowledge of the species being managed. The goal is to encourage vigor
11 within all developmental stages of forest stands, managed in an even aged or uneven aged
12 system. The application of silviculture to a diverse forest needs a unified, systematic approach.
13 The DNR Public Forest Lands Handbook (2460.5) and DNR Silvicultural and Forest Aesthetics
14 Handbook (2431.5) will be guidelines for management practices used on the County Forest.

15 505.1 EVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT

16 This describes a forest stand composed of trees having relatively small differences in age.
17 Typical cutting practices include: clear cutting, thinning of immature stands, shelterwood
18 harvests, and seed-tree cutting.

19 505.2 UNEVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT

20 This describes a forest stand where the trees differ markedly in their ages, with trees of three
21 or more distinct age classes either mixed or in small groups. The typical cutting practice is
22 selection cutting, where individual trees or small groups of trees are removed from the stand.
23 Regeneration is continually occurring after the stand is cut.

24 505.3 TIMBER SALES

25 Regulated cutting of timber is essential to the goals and objectives of this plan. Timber
26 harvesting will be conducted in an effort to achieve a sustainable harvest level. Harvest areas
27 will be distributed in the forest to accommodate needs such as biodiversity, wildlife habitat,
28 aesthetics, watershed protection and other biological needs. The DNR forest reconnaissance
29 printout is used as the basis for planning and scheduling harvests. All sales will be
30 established, administered, and reported in accordance with the DNR Timber Sale Handbook
31 (4360.5). All sales on the forest are to be advertised for public bidding, with the exception of
32 small sales with an estimated value of \$3000 or less, or sales that would qualify under a
33 salvage provision (s. 28.11(6)(c), Wis. Stats). These sales may be sold direct without
34 advertising.

35 505.3.1 Field Preparation of Timber Sales

36 The County and the DNR will cooperate to locate, designate, and prepare harvest areas for
37 sale. The Forest and Parks Administrator and DNR liaison forester shall jointly be responsible
38 to see that the fieldwork on sales is accomplished.

39 505.3.2 Advertising for Bids

40 After fieldwork is completed and necessary reports prepared for DNR approval, the
41 administrator/foresters shall prepare a sale prospectus and make it available to interested
42 loggers. Timber sale advertisements, at a minimum, will be by classified ad in a newspaper
43 with general circulation in the county (s. 28.11(6)(b), Wis. Stats). Ads shall run once each
44 week for two consecutive weeks, the last being at least one week prior to the bid opening. A
45 longer advance time will be given when feasible. Sealed bid sales will generally be offered in
46 early spring and fall, or as needed.
47

47 505.3.3 Prospectus

48 The following information will be made available to prospective bidders:

- 49 a. Species to be harvested and estimated volume
- 50 b. Minimum acceptable bid or advertised value
- 51 c. Maps of sale areas (to include legal description, North arrow, date of sale establishment,
- 52 scale of map, legend, etc.)
- 53 d. Special contract provisions
- 54 e. Procedures for bidding
- 55 f. Bid forms
- 56 g. Timber sales bond and advance stumpage schedule

57 505.3.4 Method of Bidding

58 Bids will be reviewed at a meeting of the Forest and Parks Committee. A sealed envelope
59 showing tract number and marked "sealed bid" shall be submitted on County Forest bid forms
60 by the bidder for each tract bid on, and shall contain:

61
62 The bid price per cord or per thousand board feet for each species offered and the total for
63 each species bid. The total value of the timber sale bid shall be indicated on both scaled and
64 lump sum bids. Bid per timber sale must meet or exceed the minimum bid listed in the
65 prospectus for individual sales. The WI DNR Timber Sale Handbook will be used for standard
66 weight conversions where appropriate.

67
68 A minimum of 10% of the estimated value of each tract or \$100 (whichever is greater) must
69 accompany the bid as a bid bond, payable to the Chippewa County Treasurer.

70 505.3.5 Awarding Sales

71 The high bidder is normally awarded the sale contract; however, the Forest and Parks
72 committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and accept the bid offer most
73 advantageous to the county.

74
75 Grounds for rejecting bids may include without limit:

- 76 a. Delinquent financial obligations.
- 77 b. Unsatisfactory past performances.
- 78 c. Non-compliance with County Forest contract requirements.
- 79 d. Inability to demonstrate financial or professional capability.

80 Evaluation criteria on timber sales will be price and documented ability to satisfactorily
81 complete the contract. Factors assessed include proposed equipment and operation,
82 references, proof of financial stability, past performance and documented training completed.
83 Chippewa County requires appropriate training of logging contractors.

84 ***The Purchaser is responsible for ensuring that the actual logging contractor***
85 ***engaged in performance of this contract complies with the Wisconsin FSC (Forest***
86 ***Stewardship Council) Training Standard. Criteria for the standard can be found at the***
87 ***website: www.fscus.org/images/documents/2006_standards/ls_3.0_NTC.pdf or by***
88 ***contacting the Forest Industry Safety & Training Alliance (FISTA). Purchaser agrees***
89 ***to provide documentation to Seller that training has been attained prior to initiating***
90 ***sale.***

91 Tie bids may be settled by the toss of a coin if both parties are agreeable; otherwise the bids
92 on that tract will be rejected and the sale re-advertised at a later date.

93 Sales remaining unsold after being advertised for two bid openings may be sold direct at not
94 less than the appraised value even though their estimated value exceeds \$3,000. (See DNR
95 Timber Sales Handbook No. 2461 - Chapter 52).

96

- 96 505.3.6 Sales Contracts
- 97 a. Contract copies will be provided to the logger. The originals filed in the Forest and
98 Parks Administrator's office.
- 99 b. Contracts are to be signed by the successful bidder within 30 days of the bid opening
100 or before cutting begins, whichever occurs first.
- 101 505.3.7 Timber Sale Performance Bond
- 102 a. Surety bonds or an irrevocable letter of credit issued by a bank, which is a member of
103 the Federal Reserve System, or insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
104 may be used in lieu of cash as a performance bond on sales. The performance bond
105 must be received within 30 days of the contract award date. If the performance bond is
106 a letter of credit or surety bond it must be in effect for a period of time equal to the
107 term of the contract plus 60 days. The performance bond on all sales shall be 25% of
108 the estimated sales value or a minimum of \$100.00, whichever is greater.
- 109 b. The bid bond may be transferred to the performance bond.
- 110 505.3.8 Contract Provisions
- 111 All timber sale contracts will be on the form approved by the Forest and Parks Committee
112 and all provisions therein shall apply. A copy of the timber sale map will be attached to
113 and become a part of the contract.
- 114 505.3.8(a) Worker's Compensation Insurance
- 115 Prior to commencement of any work under the contract, the purchaser shall
116 provide to the County, a certificate showing proof of worker's compensation
117 insurance coverage for any and all employees engaged in the cutting operation
118 under the Contract. The purchaser shall have the County named as an insurance
119 certificate holder. No activity will be allowed to continue on a timber sale if
120 worker's compensation insurance is not in force.
- 121 505.3.8(b) Soil Disturbance
- 122 The objective of this section is to minimize inadvertent soil disturbances and
123 potential adverse impacts to soil productivity, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat
124 and other natural resources thru management activities. Maintain roads and related
125 structures to intended design standards and provide a protocol for identifying and
126 responding to maintenance needs.
- 127
- 128 Soil disturbances, (soil compaction, rutting, etc.) may occur and be identified
129 through two mechanisms – either as part of a timber sale contract on County lands
130 or as part of county forest trail inventory and maintenance. These guidelines apply
131 in both situations.
132

A soil disturbance is "excessive" if it has exceeded the thresholds in the table below:

County Forest Infrastructure	Soil disturbances are excessive if:
Roads, Landings, Skid Trails, and General Harvest Area	A gully or rut is 6 inches deep or more and is resulting in channelized flow to a wetland, stream, or lake.
Roads, Landings, and Primary Skid Trails	In a riparian management zone (RMZ) or wetland, a gully or rut is 6 inches deep or more and 100 feet long or more. In an upland area (outside of RMZ), a gully or rut is 10 inches deep or more and 66 feet long or more.
Secondary Skid Trails and General Harvest Area	Gully or rut is 6 inches deep or more and 100 feet long or more.

Note: The depth is to be measured from the original soil surface to the bottom of the depression. If individual lug depressions are visible, the depth would be measured to the lesser of the two depths (the "top" of the lug). The length is measured from the start of the "too deep" section to the end of the "too deep" section. Measurements are not cumulative.

Classifying a soil disturbance as "excessive" does not mandate closing of a timber sale or a forest road; however, actions should be taken, as appropriate, to minimize further soil disturbances.

Definitions and Terms

- A gully is an erosion channel cut into the soil along a line of water flow.
- A rut is an elongated depression caused by dragging logs or by wheels or tracks of harvesting machinery, equipment or other vehicles. Ruts are often exacerbated by erosion from uncontrolled storm water runoff.
- A primary skid trail is used for three or more passes.
- A secondary skid trail is used for one or two passes.

505.3.8(c) Slash Disposal, Residual Damage, Landings and Decking

The objective of this section is to control conditions affecting the following: fire, insects, disease, aesthetics, regeneration, wetlands, wildlife and public interest.

Each timber sale contract will have specific slash disposal instructions and aesthetic safeguards and will include without limit the following:

- i. All slash must be reduced to a maximum specified height: no trees, tops or limbs shall be leaning or hanging in standing timber. Slash will normally be kept to a height of 24 inches or less.
- ii. No machinery may be operated in lakes or streams, except at stream crossings approved and designated by the County.
- iii. No slash may be deposited in lakes or streams (26.12(6), Wis. Stats.)
- iv. No slash, logging debris, or machinery operation is allowed outside the sale boundary unless approved by the County.
- v. All landings and decking areas are subject to advance approval by the County.
- vi. Any debris or material not natural to the land shall be properly disposed of by the contractor as it is generated. Contractors will be subject to penalty for littering on logging sites.
- vii. If timber or other forest products not specifically designated in the sale contract for cutting are damaged, cut or removed by the Purchaser, the County may pursue any and all remedies for cutting, damage or removal of property without authorization.
- viii. No merchantable wood shall be left on a sale for longer than 6 months. Exceptions may be made in cases of extenuating circumstances.

- 190 ix. All slash disposal, road or landing areas, and other woods operations shall be
191 conducted in compliance with state regulations and local shore-land and
192 wetland zoning restrictions.

193 505.3.8(d) Duration and Extension of Contracts

- 194 a. All contracts will be issued for not less than 6 months or longer than 30 months, unless
195 otherwise stated on advertisement and/or contracts. Contracts will be dated to expire on
196 January 1st or July 1st depending on what date is closest to the anniversary date of the
197 sale. Exceptions may be made in cases of extenuating circumstances.
- 198 b. Contracts may be extended, if deemed necessary by the seller, at the discretion of the
199 Forest and Parks Committee. The first extension may be granted at the same stumpage
200 rate as the original contract, and shall be six months in length. Each successive extension
201 will have a progressive increase in stumpage rates. Stumpage increases will be based on
202 a percentage increase from the original bid or subsequent extensions and will be
203 determined based on the size of the sale and whether there are contract restrictions which
204 substantially limit the amount of time when the sale may be cut on. See Chapter 900 for
205 chart showing stumpage rate increases for timber sale extensions and the length of time
206 they will be granted, based on the type of sale. Exceptions may be made in extenuating
207 circumstances.
- 208 c. The maximum time duration of a timber sale contract, including extensions, shall be 4
209 years. Only in the event of special justification will the Committee consider an extension
210 beyond 4 years. Special stumpage rate adjustments may also be made.
- 211 d. If purchasers do not wish to renew or extend contracts, double stumpage may be charged
212 for any timber designated for harvest left in the sale area.
- 213 e. The contractor may request a contract release due to severe physical or financial
214 disability. The Forest and Parks Committee shall determine whether or not a release shall
215 be granted and may withhold all, or a portion of the bond deposit for damages.

216 505.3.8(e) Contract Violations

- 217 Field enforcement of timber sale contracts will be the responsibility of the County Forest
218 Administrator or designee employing the following procedure:
- 219 a. The Administrator, or designee, or Forester will attempt to resolve inadvertent or
220 minor violations by verbal contact with the contractor.
- 221 b. The Administrator, or designee, or Forester may immediately suspend logging
222 operations when a serious or emergency situation arises.
- 223 c. The suspension will be followed by written notice to the contractor, stating the
224 nature of the violation and informing them of Committee action taken or
225 pending.
- 226 d. The Committee, in consultation with legal counsel, may consider, but is not
227 limited to the following remedies: charge double stumpage; charge for actual
228 damages; suspend the contract; retain a portion or all deposits; foreclose on cut
229 forest products on sale; refer to District Attorney for prosecution; seek civil
230 damages in addition to the performance bond.
- 231 e. Suspension of operation will remain in effect until the contractor receives written
232 notice from the County that the suspension has been lifted.
- 233 f. Failure of the contractor to comply with the Committee decision may result in the
234 contractor becoming a non-qualifying / ineligible bidder in the future. All
235 deposits may be retained and forest products on sale areas may be seized and
236 sold by the County. At the Forest and Parks Committee's discretion, the
237 contractor may be banned from future purchase of county timber sales or
238 required to pay a higher performance bond, up to a 100% bond.

239 505.3.9 Timber Sale Restrictions

- 240 a. To minimize resource damage, the County may restrict the types of logging
241 equipment, methods used, and times of operation.
- 242 b. Special restrictions may be required in accordance with the aesthetic policy set forth in
243 Section 520.

- 244 c. Seasonal restrictions may be applied to protect roads, minimize recreation use
245 conflicts, benefit wildlife management, avoid endangered resources concerns,
246 minimize insect and disease problems, or to assist in fire protection.
247 d. Restrictions will be incorporated as necessary, to adhere to Best Management
248 Practices for Water Quality in accordance with the DNR's BMP manual.

249 505.3.10 Special Forest Product Contracts

250 Fuelwood, posts, poles, boughs, and saplings, or other special forest products with an
251 appraised value of greater than \$500, will be handled as a timber sale, which includes a sale
252 contract and performance bond. The contract will be modified from the standard timber sale
253 contract to fit the type of product being harvested. *Christmas trees are not sold from the*
254 *County Forest.*

255 505.3.11 Timber Sale Roads

- 256 a. The contractor will be responsible for securing legal access to sale areas across non-
257 county ownership property unless secured by forester when established.
258 b. The contractor will be responsible for securing permission to conduct logging activities
259 within town, county or state road rights-of-way (e.g. decking, skidding).
260 c. Forest and Parks personnel will approve the layout of all woods trails and make other
261 necessary special provisions within the sale contract.
262 d. Skidding, decking, or other logging activity within 33 feet of the centerline of County
263 Forest roads, recreation trails, or ditches must have prior approval by the
264 Administrator or designee. These areas will be kept free from logging debris. County
265 forest access trails will be maintained by the logger and be left in good as or better
266 than the original condition at the close of the sale. County personnel will inspect
267 access trails to insure minimal resource damage from the logging operation. If
268 intersections are modified or created between logging tracts and County or Town
269 roads, County or Town personnel must be notified prior to construction.
270 e. A timber sale contractor may request permission to gate a timber sale access road.
271 The Administrator or designee may grant a gate permit to prohibit motorized traffic.

272 505.3.12 Supervising Sales

273 County and / or state personnel will periodically perform sale inspections with corresponding
274 notations in the sales record.

275 505.3.13 Forest Products Accountability

276 505.3.13(a) Scaling Merchantability

277 Saw logs will be scaled by the Scribner Decimal C. log rule. A log is defined as:

- 278 • 9" diameter or larger inside bark at 8' in length (plus trim) for softwood
279 • 10" diameter or larger inside bark small end at 8' (plus trim) in length for hardwood

280
281 The standard unit of measure for cordwood is measuring 4' x 4' x 100" of unpeeled wood.
282 Peeled wood will be converted to the standard cord by adding 12.5% for sap-peeled and
283 adding 25% for machine-peeled wood to the gross volume of wood measured. A
284 pulpwood tree contains at least one (1) 8' stick, to a minimum top diameter as defined in
285 the contract.

286
287 DNR Timber Sale handbook 2461 will be used as a guide in determining the conversion
288 rates for posts, poles, bolts, chips, weight-scaled wood or other types of forest products.

289 505.3.13(b) Utilization Standards

290 Utilization standards will be specified on individual contracts to provide maximum
291 utilization of all merchantable timber and will be based on the scaling standards in
292 505.3.13(a).
293

294 505.3.13(c) Methods of Accountability/Billing

295 Wood harvested from the sale area must be accounted for and payment made in
296 accordance with existing policy and procedure. One or more of the following may be
297 used on an individual sale:

- 298 a. The ticket system uses serialized three-part tickets. The original ticket will be
299 placed in the site box prior to truck departure. One copy goes to the mill. The
300 remaining copy is to be retained by the logger. Mill scale will be accepted for
301 volume determination.
- 302 b. Forest and Parks or DNR personnel may also scale wood on the landing. This
303 method will always be used for saw logs, and may be used for pulpwood if the
304 ticket system is not used.
- 305 c. Lump sum sales may also be utilized and divided into cutting units when
306 practical. Payment for a cutting unit must be received in full before any cutting
307 begins in that unit.
- 308 d. Timber will not be removed from a sale area until paid for, except that if the
309 contractor has been in compliance on past timber contracts, the County may
310 offer the contractor the option of paying for wood products within 30 days of
311 billing. An interest charge of 18% annual percentage rate (1.5% monthly) will be
312 added to all account balances more than 30 days past the billing date. Abuse of
313 credit may require prepayment of stumpage.

314
315 505.3.14 Special Forest Product Permits

- 316 a. A written permit for harvesting fuel-wood for personal use must be purchased for a
317 specific area designated on the permit.
- 318 b. Written permits may be issued for small amounts of special forest products for
319 community, personal, or commercial use. Fees will be established by the Forest and
320 Parks Committee.
- 321 c. A written permit for cutting small amounts of boughs for personal or commercial use will
322 be issued for a specific area designated in the permit, with fees established by the Forest
323 and Parks Committee.
- 324 d. An annual summary report of cut products sold by permit will be filed with the DNR using
325 Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report (Form 2460 – 1).

326 505.4 NATURAL REGENERATION

327 Where feasible, natural regeneration will be encouraged through the use of silvicultural
328 methods or cultural activities including, but not limited to, clear-cuts, shelter-wood harvests,
329 strip cuts, scarification, prescribed burning, select cuts and seed tree cuts. These practices
330 can be enhanced by additional treatments, including the cutting of non-merchantable trees, by
331 scarification before or after cutting for natural seeding, by prescribed burning, and by chemical
332 treatment. These treatments can be used alone or in combination, depending on site needs.
333 The Silvicultural & Aesthetics Handbook (DNR Handbook. 2431.5) shall be used as a
334 reference in determining timing, techniques, and adequacy of both natural and artificial
335 regeneration.

336 505.4.1 Removal of Non-Merchantable Residual Trees

337 To meet certain silvicultural objectives, the cutting of non-merchantable residual trees may be
338 required as part of a timber sale contract. This requirement will normally be included in the
339 contract when stand evaluation indicates that the density of non-merchantable trees following
340 harvest is likely to inhibit the growth of desirable shade intolerant tree species. County crews
341 or a post-sale contractor may also do non-merchantable residual tree removal if it cannot be
342 done as part of the timber sale contract, and if funding and a labor source are available.

343 505.4.2 Prescribed Burning For Natural Regeneration

344 Fire is one of the most natural means available to stimulate the re-growth of early succession
345 species. Fire should be employed as a management tool whenever possible and practical.
346 Prescribed burning for site preparation, slash removal, or replacement of natural fire ecology

347 will be conducted when conditions allow. DNR Fire Control will be the major source of
348 guidance and direction. See DNR Fire Pre-suppression Handbook (4360.5) for more
349 information.

350 505.4.3 Other

351 Site preparation by other means may be considered where natural regeneration will be aided
352 by treatment methods.

353 505.5 ARTIFICIAL REGENERATION

354 When natural tree regeneration fails, or when tree species present do not coincide with
355 management objectives for the site, then artificial means shall be employed to establish a
356 more appropriate stand of trees. The establishment of a forest stand via artificial means
357 usually requires some sort of preparation of the site, followed by seeding or planting.

358 505.5.1 Mechanical Site Preparation

359 Mechanical site preparation includes the use of soil disturbance equipment such as a dozer
360 blade, roller chopper, patch scarifier, disk trencher, and V-plow prior to or in conjunction with
361 tree planting or seeding. This type of equipment is used to reduce logging debris to a smaller
362 size, to incorporate debris into the soil, to clear brush and debris from the site to facilitate
363 planting or seeding, and to reduce competition from other vegetation.

364 505.5.2 Chemical Site Preparation

365 Herbicide application can be an effective means of controlling unwanted vegetation in order to
366 establish seedlings or plantations. Herbicides should be used sparingly, in situations where
367 mechanical treatment is not expected to provide the level of vegetative control needed.
368 Chemicals will be selected and applied in strict accordance with label recommendations and
369 requirements. The objective of herbicide use is not to kill all competing vegetation, but rather
370 to kill or set back competing vegetation only enough to establish a reasonable stocked stand
371 of desirable trees. Proximity to private lands, residences, highways, and other public use
372 areas must be considered in selecting both the herbicide and the means of application.
373 Herbicides can be applied with hand-held equipment, by motorized ground based equipment
374 or aircraft. A written prescription for each herbicide application will be prepared, kept on file,
375 and be made available to the primary applicator.

376 505.5.3 Prescribed Burning

377 Prescribed burning for site preparation can be used to reduce logging debris, clear the site, kill
378 or set back unwanted vegetation, and release nutrients into the soil. DNR Fire Control staff
379 will be the major source of guidance and direction for the use of fire as a tool. See DNR Fire
380 Pre-suppression Handbook (4320.5) for more information.

381 505.5.4 Tree Planting / Seeding

382 Machine planting, hand planting, or seeding may be utilized to insure adequate regeneration.
383 The selection of species will be determined according to the specific management objectives
384 and capabilities of each site. It shall be the policy of the Forest and Parks Committee to
385 maintain existing forest openings and manage them for wildlife habitat rather than plant trees
386 in them. The majority of planting/seeding will be in harvested areas where natural
387 regeneration is inadequate. Planting/seeding may also be employed to maintain a desirable
388 species distribution on the forest for purposes such as aesthetics, biodiversity, and wildlife.

389 505.6 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

390 Timber stand improvement will involve release, thinning, and pruning as the primary practices
391 during this plan period. Timber stand improvement includes any practices that increase the
392 health, growth, and quality of existing stands of trees. It can include activities such as release
393 of desirable trees from vegetative competition, non-commercial thinning of dense tree stands,
394 and pruning of lower tree branches. Practices can be done by hand, mechanically, or
395 chemically. All practices and applications may be employed during this plan period.
396

- 396 505.6.1 Release
- 397 Release work, if it cannot be done by commercial timber harvest, will be conducted by either
- 398 mechanical or chemical means as site or environmental conditions warrant. Release is
- 399 defined as the removal of competing vegetation from the desired tree species.
- 400 505.6.2 Non-Commercial Thinning
- 401 Most thinning can be accomplished through commercial harvest operations. Non-commercial
- 402 thinning will be considered if the individual site requirements, funding and/or available labor
- 403 make it desirable.
- 404 505.6.3 Pruning
- 405 Pruning will be considered for conifers and carried out if deemed economically feasible.

406 **510 RECREATION**

407 The County Recreation Ordinance and S.28.11, Wis. Stats. authorize the Forest and Parks

408 Committee to provide recreational opportunities for the public. This authority is further recognized in

409 the mission statement for the Chippewa County Forest (Chapter 100), which specifically identifies

410 outdoor recreation opportunities. The mission statement also charges the Committee to conduct

411 activities in a manner that prevents or minimizes the degradation of natural resources.

- 412 A. The Committee may establish and maintain recreation areas and facilities within the County
- 413 Forest. The Committee has been empowered to establish rules and regulations for the use of
- 414 such developments and to establish fees for their use.
- 415 B. The County Five Year Outdoor Recreation Plan, updated every five years, will reflect the public
- 416 use and interest in the county's recreation facilities and how the county plans to accommodate
- 417 those uses and interests.
- 418 C. The Chippewa County Code of Ordinances shall govern the lands designated by the county for
- 419 park or recreation purposes.
- 420 D. The county recreation ordinances are in Chapter 900.

421 **510.1 RECREATIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS**

422 It is permissible for the Committee to contract with clubs or individuals to provide recreational

423 services for the public. An agreement with the Chippewa Valley Snowmobile Council for

424 assisting the County with grooming and maintaining county snowmobile trail facilities is an

425 example of this type of agreement.

426 **510.2 RECREATIONAL USE PERMITS.**

- 427 1. The Forest and Parks Committee may issue permits or enter into agreements for
- 428 recreational use of the County Forest. All agreements must be reviewed by legal counsel.
- 429 2. Other types of special use permits are found in Section 515.
- 430 3. Permits will not be issued for cabin sites on the forest.
- 431 4. Organized events or special uses, other than informal recreation use require specific
- 432 permission from the Forest and Parks Committee.

433 **510.3 ENTRANCE AND USER FEES**

- 434 1. Fees for camping shall be comparable with fees charged by similar private and other public
- 435 facilities so as not to cause undue competition. Fees shall be subject to change periodically
- 436 at the discretion of the Forest and Parks Committee.
- 437 2. Detailed information on park and recreation areas use regulations can be found in the
- 438 Chippewa County Parks and Recreation and County Forest Ordinances.

439 **510.4 EXTENSIVE RECREATIONAL USE OF THE FOREST**

440 Extensive (informal) County Forest recreational uses by the public shall include, but not be

441 limited to, hunting, fishing, trapping, picnicking, snowshoeing, mountain biking, hiking, cross-

442 country skiing, horseback riding, snowmobiling and ATV riding (on authorized trails),

443 photography, and nature study. Such uses do not require a permit but must be conducted
444 according to the provisions of County Ordinances and state statutes.

445 510.4.1 Hunting

446 The entire county forest is open for regulated hunting with the exception of County Parks.
447 Temporary hunting stands including elevated stands are permissible. The use of nails, lag
448 screws, screw steps, or other damaging devices is not permitted. No permanent type
449 structures are permitted.

450 510.4.2 Fishing

451 All lakes and streams within the forest are available for regulated fishing, unless otherwise
452 listed in state and county regulations.

453 510.4.3 Picnicking

454 Picnicking is allowed throughout the County Forest, however, the user must remove any
455 garbage or debris generated. Violators will be subject to fines for littering.

456 510.4.4 Camping

457 Camping on County Forest land is permitted, except near County Parks or unless otherwise
458 designated or posted by the Forest and Parks Committee. No permit is required to camp. The
459 following general rules will apply to all County Forest campers:

- 460 a. No littering or site destruction will be tolerated.
- 461 b. The County Board may set a permit fee upon the recommendation of the Forest and
462 Parks Committee.
- 463 c. Maximum camping period is 14 consecutive days.
- 464 d. Natural vegetation and terrain may not be cut, damaged or altered in any way, except
465 for the construction of an adequate fire ring using rocks. Fasteners such as nails,
466 screws, or bolts may not be attached to trees.
- 467 e. Manufactured materials (lumber, concrete, plastics, etc.) may not be left on the site
468 when it is vacated. No trees or other vegetation, either native or exotic, may be planted
469 on the County Forest land without permission from the County.

470 510.5 INTENSIVE RECREATION AREAS

471 The Chippewa County Forest has sites developed to accommodate a high degree of public
472 use. The Forest and Parks Committee may prohibit other recreation activities that are not
473 compatible with the intent of the developed facilities. The County Code authorizes the types
474 of use allowed on the forest.

475 510.5.1 Campgrounds

476 Designated camping areas are provided in the County Forest. These facilities are:

- 477 • Otter Lake County Park (22 campsites)

478 Designated camping areas provided outside the County Forest. These facilities are:

- 479 • Morris-Erickson County Park (28 campsites)
- 480 • Pine Point County Park (48 campsites)

482 510.5.2 Picnic Areas

483 Picnic areas open to the public include:

- 484 • Otter Lake County Park
- 485 • Round Lake County Park
- 486 • Morris-Erickson County Park
- 487 • Pine Point County Park

488

489 510.5.3 Swimming Areas

490 Designated swimming areas include:

- 491 • Otter Lake County Park beach
492 • Round Lake County Park beach
493 • Morris-Erickson County Park beach
494 • Pine Point County Park beach

495 Lifeguards are not provided at these areas.
496

497 510.5.4 Boat Landings

498 At several locations in the county, on and off the County Forest, areas have been developed
499 for water access. These generally include a parking lot, surfaced approach to the water (boat
500 landing), some with docks, and appropriate signing. Boat landings are provided for public
501 access to waters for recreational purposes and are shown on the recreation maps in Chapter
502 900. Water access is also addressed in Chapter 700. These landings are not to be
503 considered boat-mooring sites.

504 Boat landings are located on Bass Lake # 2, Bass Lake # 3, Horseshoe Lake, Townline Lake,
505 Otter Lake and Round Lake.
506

507 510.5.5 Waysides

508 Waysides are day use areas and are located at various points throughout the County.
509 Locations are the picnic and rest area at Bass Lake # 3, Bradley Lake, Hickory Ridge Ski Trail
510 parking area, Hay Meadow Horse and Snowmobile Trail parking area, Hay Meadow Flowage
511 #3 Horse Trail parking area, County Highway "M" ATV Parking Area, Lowland Lake and
512 Townline Lake.

513 510.6 MANAGED TRAIL AREAS

514 Where possible, multiple uses of the various trail systems are encouraged and subject to
515 policy review of the Committee. The goal is to minimize user conflicts between recreational
516 users themselves as well as with timber management operations; however, recreational users
517 will frequently encounter forest management activities instrumental to the existence and future
518 of the Chippewa County Forest. The trail systems are identified in Chapter 900 and
519 referenced in Chapter 700.

520 510.6.1 Motorized Trail Opportunities

521 The Chippewa County Forest is a multiple use forest. Motorized travel on trails can be a
522 legitimate use of this forest if these trails are designed and maintained in a manner to
523 minimize damage to the environment and reduce user conflict. Trail use and development
524 must be compatible and sustainable with the characteristics of the landscape. It shall be the
525 policy of the Forest and Parks Committee to consider opportunities for the following motorized
526 trail use:

- 527 a. Snowmobiles
528 b. All terrain vehicles (ATV's)

529 Refer to Chapter 700 for motorized recreation opportunities on the Chippewa County Forest.
530

531 510.6.2 Non-Motorized Trail Opportunities

532 The Chippewa County Forest is a multiple-use forest. Non-motorized trails are a legitimate
533 use of the forest. Design and maintenance of the trails may highlight natural features, should
534 minimize damage to the environment, and reduce user conflict. Trail use and development
535 must be compatible and sustainable with the characteristics of the landscape. It shall be the
536 policy of the Committee to consider opportunities for the following non-motorized trail use:

- 537 a. Ski trails
538 b. Hiking/nature trails
539 c. Horseback riding trails

- 540 d. Mountain biking trails
- 541 e. Snowshoe trails
- 542 f. Hunter walking/wildlife trails

543
544 Refer to Chapter 700 for further discussion on non-motorized recreation opportunities on the
545 Chippewa County Forest.

546 **510.7 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

547 Chippewa County will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act regulations at its
548 developed facilities. It is the policy of the Committee to provide recreational opportunities for
549 people with disabilities. Disabled individuals can access the County Forest through an access
550 permit issued by the Forest and Parks Department. To be eligible for a disabled access
551 permit, a person must possess either a DNR Class A, B, or C permit, or a DMV disabled
552 parking permit.

553 **515 SPECIAL USES**

554 Recognizing the vast potential for a variety of special uses of the County Forest by governmental
555 units, businesses, organizations or individuals, the committee may designate areas for special uses.
556 Specific management methods are to be considered on these areas. Uses must be consistent with
557 the intent of the County Forest Law.

558
559 All requests for specialized uses of any County Forest land will require a permit authorized by the
560 Committee.

561
562 **515.1 SAND AND GRAVEL**

563
564 Sand and gravel from pits located on the County Forest may be utilized, but only by units of
565 government or contractors performing public works. Use of existing pits and the opening of
566 new pits by other than the County Forest and Parks Department will require Committee
567 approval and be authorized by permit only. The condition of such permits may include but not
568 be limited to:

- 569 1. Requiring the pit and its access road to be screened from view from any public highway.
- 570 2. Severing trees from the stump.
- 571 3. Disposition of brush and dirt spoil by leveling or hauling away.
- 572 4. Sloping to prevent steep banks.
- 573 5. Filing with the Forest and Parks office, an annual written report of gravel and sand
574 removed.

575
576 Other conditions may be set at the discretion of the Committee or Forest and Parks
577 Administrator. The Committee may also set fees for materials removed. Consideration for
578 extraction of other non-metalliferous materials will be dealt with on an individual basis.

579
580 All active, nonmetallic sites greater than one acre in size, including those on the County
581 Forest, are also subject to the provisions of the Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Program,
582 Chapter NR 135, WI Adm. Code. The County Forest and Parks Department shall work with
583 the County Land Conservation and Zoning Departments to obtain the necessary permits for
584 nonmetallic mining operations.

585
586 Under some circumstances, sand and gravel may be leased to private contractors for private
587 use. In these situations, the land must be withdrawn from the County Forest Law until
588 sand/gravel removal and reclamation of the site is completed. Upon completion of
589 reclamation to the satisfaction of the County and the State, the lands shall be reapplied for
590 entry under the County Forest Law.

591 **515.2 EXPLORATION, PROSPECTING AND MINING**

- 592 1. The committee may investigate all mineral exploration, prospecting and mining requests
593 as they are received.

- 594 2. The DNR shall be notified of all requests, as they become known in accord with Manual
595 Code 2712.1. (Mineral exploration on County Forests per S.S. 28.11 (3)(i) Wis. Stats.), or
596 other codes which may be subsequently adopted.
- 597 3. The Public Forest Lands Handbook should be referenced for more detailed procedure.

598 515.3 SANITARY LANDFILLS

599 The use of County Forest lands for sanitary landfills will not be allowed unless the lands
600 involved are withdrawn from the County Forest Law.

601 515.4 MILITARY MANEUVERS

602 Military maneuvers on County Forest lands will be considered under a lease or written land
603 use agreement. Upon receipt of a written request from the military, the Committee, other
604 necessary County staff, Military, and DNR representatives will discuss the issue at a public
605 Committee meeting. After the needs have been outlined, the site shall be field checked, DNR
606 input and consistency with the County Forest Law sought, and town officials advised.
607 Depending on the scope of the project, a public hearing may be appropriate. If all aspects and
608 concerns are addressed and agreed to, a legal instrument will be drafted. The matter will then
609 be brought back to a Committee meeting for final input and approval. The Public Forest
610 Lands Handbook #2460.5, Chapter 270 will be used for further direction in this matter.

611 515.5 PUBLIC UTILITIES

612 The Forest and Parks Committee will consider easements for public utilities. Underground
613 installations will be encouraged. Wisconsin Statute 196.491 (3e) requires a County (including
614 County Forests), City, Village, Town, Public Board, or Commission to convey lands to an
615 electrical utility for the purpose of constructing eclectic transmission lines. The following main
616 provisions shall be included in any County Board resolution granting permission for
617 construction of a utility transmission line:

- 618 1. Utility will be billed for merchantable forest products and existing timber reproduction.
- 619 2. Utility will be billed for land removed from production due to right-of-way clearing for losses
620 of future income and multiple use benefits.
- 621 3. Land removed for utility operations that is no longer suited "primarily for timber production or,
622 that is no longer suitable for scenic, outdoor recreation, public hunting & fishing, water
623 conservation or multiple use purposes" (s. 28.11(4)(c) WI Stats) may need to be withdrawn
624 from County Forest Law designation. The utility shall replace any lands requiring withdrawal
625 from county forest with other lands suitable for County Forest entry within the forest blocking
626 of the County Forest.
- 627 4. Utility companies will be encouraged to use existing corridors and underground lines to
628 minimize disturbance to the County Forest and native plants and animals.
- 629 5. Merchantable timber will be removed in a manner specified by the Forest and Parks
630 Administrator and approved by the Committee. Timber cut must be reported to the DNR
631 on form 2460-1.
- 632 6. Utility must provide notice of proposed route, including a map of not less than 1 inch /mile
633 scale, 90 days in advance of proposed construction.
- 634 7. Special maintenance, controlled access and signage concerns shall be addressed in any
635 proposal.
- 636 8. An appropriate fee shall be charged for easements.

637 515.6 CELLULAR COMMUNICATION TOWERS

638 The Committee will consider the siting of cellular communication towers on the Chippewa
639 County Forest on a limited basis. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis
640 subject to the following conditions:

- 641 1. It must be demonstrated that the site is the most practical location for such a tower.

- 642 2. Land selected for such a tower is no longer suitable for continued entry in the County
643 Forest program. In addition, any accompanying lands needed for tower support wires
644 that inhibit the practice of forestry and are no longer suitable for scenic, outdoor
645 recreation, public hunting & fishing, water conservation or multiple use purposes (s.
646 28.11(4), Wis. Stats) may also need to be withdrawn from County Forest Law.
647 Withdrawal is subject to approval by both County Board and DNR. The cellular
648 communication company shall replace any lands requiring withdrawal from County Forest
649 with other lands suitable for County Forest entry that are in the forest blocking.
- 650 3. The fee for such a land use agreement would be set by the Forest and Parks committee
651 with approval by the county board.
- 652 4. Any agreement should also consider the inclusions listed under 515.5 (Items 1-7).

653 515.7 OTHER

654 The Forest and Parks Committee may consider other types of special uses of the County
655 Forest. These may include, but are not limited to: research, independent study, and scientific
656 areas. Regulations governing these uses will be developed on an individual basis.

657 **520 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONES**

658 Aesthetic forest management will be applied to the County Forest. The degree of application of
659 special management will vary and will require the classification of the forest according to the degree
660 and type of public use. Aesthetic maps can be found in chapter 900. The Wisconsin DNR Silvicultural
661 and Forest Aesthetics Handbook No. 2431.5, and the Natural Resources Board Policy on
662 management of State and County Forests contained in Chapter NR 1.24 of the Wis. Administrative
663 Code (as adopted in June of 1989) will be used for management prescription guidelines. Subsequent
664 versions of NR1.24 are subject to the approval of the County.

665 520.1 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE A

666 Zone A includes areas where there is intensive public presence because of scenic attraction, or
667 some use of the area that would be enhanced by special timber management practices.

668 520.1.1 Examples – Zone A

- 669 a. All parks and some other recreation areas within the forest boundary, including
670 access routes (Otter Lake County Park).
- 671 b. Lakes and rivers that support significant water based recreational activity.
- 672 c. Medium to heavy use roads where the majority of the traffic is unrelated to the forest
673 or is for the specific purpose of enjoying scenery.

674 520.1.2 Boundaries – Zone A

- 675 a. Park or recreation areas: Zone boundaries may include the area within the
676 reasonable visible horizon as determined from any location within the recreation
677 area. It may also include adjacent areas that receive a considerable amount of use
678 as a result of the recreation area.
- 679 b. Travel corridors: The boundaries will be a reasonable distance from the traveled part
680 of the zone.

681 520.1.3 Management – Zone A

682 Zone A management is primarily for scenic values. This will mainly involve adaptations of
683 normal timber cutting practices and may require additional expenditures.

684 520.1.4 Permitted Uses – Zone A

- 685 a. Timber harvesting/thinning operations may be prohibited during periods of peak
686 public use. All slash may be required to be lopped and/or removed from view.
- 687 b. Stands in zone A will be managed for the greatest scenic potential.

- 688 c. Borrow pits may be permitted near a road during road construction. When borrow
689 operation is completed, the site will be restored pursuant to Chapter NR 135, Wis.
690 Adm. Code and must aesthetically conform to general use of the area. Permanent
691 pits should be screened from view. Only units of government or contractors
692 performing public works may use gravel/borrow pits located on the County Forest.
- 693 d. County directional, informational, and recreational signs conforming to approved
694 standards are permitted.
- 695 e. Tree and shrub planting will be spaced at random to prevent an artificial appearance.
- 696 f. New access roads will be permitted if they join the main road at right angles. All such
697 access roads will be, when possible, curved so that no cleared line of sight will be
698 created from the main road to the exterior boundary of the zone.

699 520.2 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE B

700 Zone B includes any area of the forest where the public use is such that no one value is at all
701 times considered as the most important, but where, because of the intensity and variety of
702 use, scenic attractiveness is desirable.

703 520.2.1 Examples – Zone B

- 704 a. Roads with light to medium use where the majority of the traffic is a result of some
705 other use of the forest other than for scenic beauty (County Highway M, County
706 Highway E, County Highway G and areas adjacent to the Ice Age Trail).
- 707 b. Lakes or streams that do not have significant value for water-based recreation.

708 520.2.2 Boundaries – Zone B

709 The zone boundaries will have a reasonable visual horizon determined at periods of heavy
710 use, from the part of the zone where the use occurs.

711 520.2.3 Management – Zone B

712 Zone B Management is for normal multiple-use, but applies strict slash disposal requirements
713 for any management operations. With the use of informational signs, management practices
714 may be interpreted to the public.

715 520.2.4 Permitted Uses – Zone B

716 All land management activities are permissible but should incorporate sensitivity to aesthetics.
717 Examples: Timber sales may employ slash reduction, roads and landings rehabilitation,
718 erosion control and prevention, and irregular harvest lines to mitigate aesthetic impact.
719

720 520.3 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE C

721 Zone C includes all parts of the forest not contained in Zones A, B or D. Any significant public
722 presence in this zone is likely to occur only as result of a specific use of the forest.

723 520.3.1 Examples – Zone C

724 Any areas not included in Zone A, B or D. The majority of the forest is classified as Zone C.

725 520.3.2 Boundaries – Zone C

726 Any areas not included in Zone A, B, or D.

727 520.3.3 Management – Zone C

728 Zone C management is to optimize timber production using sound resource management
729 concepts. Natural opportunities to maintain or enhance diversity or scenic quality should be
730 considered.

731

732 520.3.4 Permitted Uses – Zone C
733 All land management activities consistent with the goals of the forest.

734 520.4 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE D
735 Areas designated as special resources.

736 520.4.1 Examples – Zone D
737 a. Scientific/Natural Areas
738 b. Wilderness Areas

739 520.4.2 Management – Zone D
740 Manage these areas as outlined in Chapter 800 or the individual management plan.

741 **525 TREATY RIGHTS: GATHERING MISCELLANEOUS FOREST PRODUCTS**
742 In 1991, the U.S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin, in a court ruling declared that the
743 Chippewa Indians retained the rights to gather forest products as they used them at the time the
744 Chippewa nation had signed treaties with the federal government in 1837 and 1842. The court ruling
745 declared that tribal members have the right to gather firewood, tree bark, maple syrup, lodge poles,
746 boughs, marsh hay or other miscellaneous forest products. In accordance with such ruling, Chippewa
747 County requires the following:

748 A. Any treaty rights participant interested in gathering firewood, tree bark, boughs, or other
749 miscellaneous forest products (except fruits, seeds, or berries not enumerated in County
750 ordinances) from County land shall obtain a County gathering permit from the County
751 Forest and Parks office. The County shall respond to the gathering permit request no
752 later than 14 days after receipt of the request. The gathering permit shall indicate the
753 location of the material to be gathered, volume of material to be gathered, and conditions
754 for gathering of the material necessary for conservation of the timber and miscellaneous
755 forest products on the County land, or for public health or safety.

756
757 B. The County may not deny a request to gather miscellaneous forest products on County
758 property under this section unless: (a) the gathering is inconsistent with the management
759 plan for the property, (b) the gathering will conflict with the pre-existing rights of a
760 permittee or other person possessing an approval to conduct an activity on the property,
761 including a contractor of the County or, (c) is otherwise inconsistent with conservation or
762 public health or safety. Subchapter IV, Ch.NR13, WI. Adm. Code details the regulations.

763 **530 HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS / AREAS AND EXCEPTIONAL**
764 **RESOURCES**

765
766 High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) is a term that identifies those areas possessing unique
767 qualities locally, regionally or nationally. Chippewa County's focus in managing these areas will
768 be to maintain or enhance the qualities that make these areas special. In some instances, this
769 may involve altering management practices to mitigate impacts and in others, it may entail no
770 active management.

771
772 Exceptional Resources contain such things as High Conservation Value Forests, wild rivers and
773 lakes, significant geological features, natural areas, ruffed grouse management areas, historical
774 and archeological sites. HCVF contain such communities as relict old-growth forest; habitat for
775 endangered, threatened, and species of greatest conservation need; natural origin pine stands;
776 rare natural communities, such as forested seeps, large muskegs, shorelines of wild rivers and
777 lakes, and animal concentration spots. It is the policy of Chippewa County to manage these types
778 of resources and protect their individual exceptional features.

780 530.1.1 Wisconsin State Natural Areas

781 Chippewa County manages a variety of property designations. The State Natural Areas
 782 system represents the wealth and variety of Wisconsin's native landscape. They contain
 783 outstanding examples of native biotic communities and are often the last refuges in the
 784 state for rare and endangered plant and animal species. The Wisconsin SNA program
 785 works with counties to further recognize outstanding native biotic communities that
 786 Chippewa County is presently managing as exceptional areas. SNA's are unique in that
 787 they can exist as stand alone properties or be designated within the boundaries of another
 788 property type. Presently there are no State Natural Areas on the County Forest; however,
 789 Chippewa County has recognized the importance of identifying high conservation value
 790 forest areas, endangered and threatened species, as well as exceptional areas within the
 791 forest. The County worked cooperatively with agencies of the Department of Natural
 792 Resources from 2002 to 2005 to do an aquatic and terrestrial feasibility study of the County
 793 Forest area. The result of the study was the publication of two documents that identified
 794 many of the unique and important ecological areas of the forest including HCVF areas,
 795 threatened and endangered species and exceptional resources. The two documents
 796 produced from the study are titled "Inventory of Chippewa County Lakes, in the Chippewa
 797 County Forest, Wisconsin" and "Biotic Inventory and Analysis of the Chippewa County
 798 Forest". Both documents are on file in the Forest & Parks Office and available for public
 799 viewing. If areas of the forest are designated as State Natural Areas, the County would
 800 maintain its land ownership, management, and decision-making authority, but with
 801 cooperative recognition of these sites, the county can enhance its ability to provide a
 802 broader range of opportunities for the citizens.

803
 804 It is the intent of the Forest & Parks Committee to work with DNR staff during the plan
 805 period to establish several State Natural Areas within the forest. Once areas are
 806 established as State Natural Areas, DNR staff would work cooperatively with the County
 807 Forest by coordinating educational, monitoring, and research activities. Assistance on
 808 management projects would provide the County with more resources to accomplish
 809 necessary management. Management will protect the unique character of the area. Six
 810 potential SNA areas have been identified involving approximately 900 acres of the County
 811 Forest. The six potential areas are as follows:

- 812
 813 a. Tealey Creek Cedars - This 160-acre high conservation value forest features a large high
 814 quality white cedar-black ash swamp. Many white cedar trees are 18 inches in diameter.
 815 Balsam fir and red maple are common associates. Numerous rare plants are found
 816 throughout the site. White cedar is rare in this part of the state. Disturbances appear to be
 817 minimal, although water level alteration by beaver is a concern for the rare plants. Goal for
 818 the stand is old-growth white cedar swamp. Passive management is recommended, because
 819 natural process can establish and perpetuate the cover type, and furthermore, regeneration
 820 under the influence of high white-tailed deer populations is tenuous at best. One of western
 821 Wisconsin's most outstanding cedar swamps will benefit from recognition of this site.
 822
 823 b. Chippewa Moraine Lakes. The outstanding feature of this site is a dense concentration of
 824 lakes set in a relatively natural state. Lakes exhibit differences in species composition and
 825 population densities due to depth, alkalinity, shore features, and whether the lake drained or
 826 gets its water via seepage. A combination of features harbored within nine moraine-influenced
 827 lakes could form an exceptional ecological reference site. The lakes have a range of qualities
 828 when combined would be unequalled as a reference site.
 829
 830 • Camp Lake – Acid bog lake with muck bottom and diverse wetlands
 831 • Spence Lake – Deep soft water seepage lake with associated wetlands
 832 • Deer Lake – Deep soft water drainage lake with associated wetlands
 833 • Bass Lake No 5 – Deep hard water drainage lake
 834 • Fishpole Lake – Meromictic lake with a bog wetland
 835 • Little Plummer Lake – Deep hard water drained lake
 836 • Plummer Lake - Deep hard water seepage lake

837
838
839
840
841
842
843
844
845
846
847
848
849
850
851
852
853
854
855
856
857
858
859
860
861
862
863
864
865
866
867
868
869
870
871
872
873
874
875
876
877
878
879
880
881
882
883
884
885
886
887
888
889
890
891
892
893
894
895

- Burnt Wagon Lake- Shallow soft water seepage lake
- Bass Lake – A deep hard water seepage lake

Such a series of reference areas is unique on County Forest land. Activities such as fishing, boating, and other existing legal water activities would not be affected. Shore activities such as camping and shore lunches would not be affected. Timber harvest would continue utilizing BMP's, however, emphasis will be on retaining longer-lived trees, especially white pine. The larger and deeper lakes have northern pike, bass, and pan fish, while the shallower lakes are subjected to winterkill conditions. Special recognition as a Wisconsin State Natural Area would bring in outside resources to establish baseline data and monitor trends over the long-term.

- c. Dorothy Lake. This 230-acres site features a diverse mosaic of natural communities. Within a short-distance, different natural communities are found including a northern dry-mesic (pine dominated) forest, northern hardwood forest, tamarack swamp, red maple swamp, poor fen, and undeveloped lakes. Several rare plants and animals are found on the site. The lakes have an extremely diverse invertebrate fauna. The complexity of the site's biology signifies this site has high conservation values. The goal of the site is to have undeveloped lakes and wetlands surrounded by old-growth forest of hardwoods and pines. Recent harvest activity has increased the vigor of the remaining trees, which will enhance growth rates. Short-term management will not be needed, but long-term limited management to increase compositional diversity. Long-term management will be needed to regenerate the pines and oaks. Red pines, white pines, red oak, and white oak will be carried to biological maturity before regeneration harvest occurs. Special recognition as a Wisconsin State Natural Area would bring in outside resources to establish baseline data and monitor trends over the long-term.
- d. Deer Fly Swamp. The 30-acre site features a perched wetland dominated by white pine. This natural community white pine - red maple swamp is rare in Wisconsin, and even rarer in the moraines. Several rare plants find refuge in this swamp. The goal for this site is to encourage old-growth characteristics in this unique natural community. From elsewhere in its Wisconsin range, this natural community is self-perpetuating, therefore a passive management regime is recommended. Special recognition as a Wisconsin State Natural Area would bring in outside resources to establish baseline data and monitor trends over the long-term.
- e. Townline Lake. This 200-acre site lies mostly within the Ice Age Reserve, although the eastern portion falls within the county forest. The site features a complex aquatic system with deep and shallow areas, a much attenuated shoreline, and numerous points and drop-offs. The uplands harbor an oak dominated forest that was very typical of western Chippewa County for millennia. Several mature forest loving bird species, such as the state-threatened Cerulean Warbler are found breeding in these woods. The goal of the site is to have the lake surrounded by old-growth forest of oaks and hardwoods. Short-term management will not be needed, but long-term limited management to increase compositional diversity. Long-term management will be needed to regenerate the oaks. Red oak and white oak will be carried to biological maturity before regeneration harvest occurs. Patch shelterwood harvest will need to occur in order to regenerate the oaks within a concept of a shifting mosaic of age classes. Special recognition as a Wisconsin State Natural Area would bring in outside resources to establish baseline data and monitor trends over the long-term.
- f. Moonridge Ice-walled Lake Plain. This 100-acre site is perched on an ice-walled lake plain. These features developed during glacial periods when lakes formed over ice and debris, when the surrounding glacial ice melted, the silt at the bottom of the lake now became perched above the surrounding land. Nutrient-rich and well drained, these sites are very productive. Many species of herbaceous plants found nowhere else on the forest thrive on the features. The county has many ice-walled lake plains. Most have been converted to agricultural uses, although several are forest and part of the County Forest. Biologically the most diverse, the Moonridge ice-walled lake plain, can provide an ecological reference for other similar managed sites on both public and private lands. This feature and the natural community would make an excellent research site. Special recognition as a Wisconsin State

896 Natural Area would bring in outside resources to establish baseline data and monitor trends
897 over the long-term.
898

899 530.2 SPECIFIC SITES HIGH IN LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

900
901 In addition to the regionally important areas listed above, Chippewa County harbors many other
902 important areas of biological diversity. Chippewa County should manage these resources to
903 maintain or enhance their ecological values.
904

905 Ruby Swamp: This is a large wetland complex dominated by northern wet forest, tamarack
906 swamp, muskeg, and northern sedge meadow. Gently rolling ground moraine occurs on the
907 surrounding uplands. Reed canary grass has a foot-hold in the swamp that needs some level of
908 attention. The site is considered a High Conservation Value Forest in the county.
909

910 Buckhorn Trail Bog: This bog is a high quality wetland in a shallow depression on ground
911 moraine. The bog has muskeg in the center with an outer ring of northern sedge meadow and
912 alder thicket. The bog and northern wet forest have been given A rank. The site is a high
913 conservation value forest in the county.
914

915 Yellow River Woods: This woods lies along a one-mile free-flowing reach of the Yellow River. The
916 steep slopes are forested with a second growth hardwoods and hemlock. Two special concern
917 plants live on the site. Management needs to consider perpetuation of the rare plants as well as
918 maintaining water quality of the Yellow River.
919

920 M & E Woods: The site is located on a 135-acre ice walled lake plain, most of which has been
921 cleared for agriculture. The site contains good quality second growth forest of red oak and sugar
922 maple. A few hemlocks occur on the site. Management could focus on retaining old trees,
923 especially hemlock. The site also contains exceptional geological interpretation values. The goal
924 is to have a mature northern hardwood forest. Short-term management would focus on getting
925 the stands into an all-aged system, and then long-term would manage using extended rotation
926 silviculture.
927

928 O'Neil Creek Hardwoods: The site contains a high quality example of a northern hardwood forest
929 with a significant population of a state-threatened plant. Management for late seral stages with
930 accommodations for the rare plant should perpetuate the species of concern.

931 530.3 RARE, THREATENED OR ENDANGERED ECOSYSTEMS

932 530.3.1 Relict Old Growth Stands

933 Eastern hemlock and white cedar stands will be maintained. Hemlock is important to the
934 diversity of our northern hardwood stands and provides needed habitat for many species,
935 including migratory songbirds and a seed source for regeneration. Management is
936 currently keyed to maintaining hemlock as a component of northern hardwood stands and
937 improving the health and vigor of individual trees and islands of trees. Regeneration is
938 dependent on overcoming high deer populations. Silvicultural techniques in conjunction
939 with repellents, fencing, and/or bud capping may prove useful in regenerating hemlock and
940 enhancing its presence on the County Forest. Cedar is equally important to the diversity of
941 our forested wetlands and provides needed habitat for many species, including migratory
942 songbirds, and a seed source for regeneration. With regard to the difficulties in
943 regenerating white cedar, due mostly to high deer populations, these stands are currently
944 not being harvested. Regeneration is dependent on overcoming high deer populations.
945 Silvicultural techniques in conjunction with repellents, fencing, and/or bud capping may
946 prove useful in regenerating cedar and enhancing its presence on the County Forest.
947

948 530.3.2 Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat

949 As part of, and in addition to, the unique natural communities listed in Chapter 530.1, rare,
950 threatened, and endangered plant and animal species exist in the Chippewa County
951 Forest. A complete species list and their Wisconsin status can be found in Chapter 900.

952 530.3.3 Geological Features of Significance

953 Kames, moraines and other glacially influenced landforms are common on the forest.
954 Chippewa County will maintain the area's geological features.
955

956 Ice-walled Lake Plains are features that form in rugged moraines. Typically the only flat
957 areas in very hilly topography, these plains were once lake bottoms. The sediment that
958 formed at the bottom became perched when the surrounding ice blocks melted. The richer
959 nutrients and the well-drained position at the top of hills permitted exceptional conditions
960 for forest development.

961 530.3.4 Culturally Significant Features

962 There are several old log dams and ice ways, used for logging, that date back to the 19th
963 century and are still part of the landscape. Currently there are no documented cultural
964 features identified on the County Forest. The lack of known occurrence does not preclude
965 the existence of these resources.
966