

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN
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2 **700 ACCESS CONTROL AND HISTORY**

3 Resource management and protection activities, recreational uses, and other public uses on the
4 Chippewa County Forest require several different types of access. Since the Forest is large and
5 diverse, a broad network of access routes has developed. A combination of geography, soils,
6 vegetation, surface waters, seasons of the year, presence/absence of roads or trails, ownership of
7 adjoining lands, and public regulations interact to control access to any part of the County Forest.
8 Most of Chippewa County Forest roads and trails were developed in part for the harvesting and
9 transporting of forest products.

10
11 Many of the older, existing roads and trails were originally developed as logging roads, forest fire
12 protection lanes, or trails used to reach popular hunting and fishing areas. The locations and
13 standards for these earlier roads were not routinely established by County personnel.

14
15 Over the years, the road density and frequency of vehicle use on the County Forest has increased in
16 response to an expanding number of motorized recreational vehicles and to an active timber harvest
17 program. Often times, different uses have occurred on the same trails with minimal conflicts. But the
18 diverse demands for, and uses of, the County Forest warrants an integrated access management
19 plan.

20
21 **LIST OF PROBLEM AREAS AND REASONS FOR ACCESS PLANNING**

22 User conflict between groups: e.g., snowmobiling and ATV use versus cross-country skiing;
23 hunting on foot versus use of vehicles for access to game populations.

24 Safety: e.g., pleasure riding of horses on the same trail with ATV vehicle traffic, or hiking.

25 Erosion: soils eroding due to use, or over-use by vehicles.

26 Damage to access: rutted or impassable roads requiring costly repair by the County or other
27 specific user groups.

28 Litter: depositing garbage and waste on the Forest.

29 Over-utilization of resources: e.g. reduced availability of trophy-sized deer, excessive harvest of
30 ruffed grouse along trails, etc.

31 Crowding: e.g. complaints from hunters about intensified competition for traditional hunting areas
32 as a result of better access.

33 Fires: e.g. increased exposure of the resource to forest fire occurrence.

34 Endangered species management: e.g. high road densities conflict with timber wolf recovery,
35 eagle and osprey nest disturbance.

36 Invasive species: e.g. introduction of invasive exotic species along travel routes.

37 Developmental trends: e.g. preservation of the County Forest solitude by limiting access versus
38 development of high intensity use by additional roads and unlimited access.

39 Road placement: e.g. roads can be closed for improper location and evaluated for replacement.

40 Clear and concise policy for the public.

41
42 **705 CHAPTER OBJECTIVES**

- 43 A. Provide direction to the Committee and resource managers in order to maintain a network of
44 roads and trails on the County Forest. This will meet the needs for resource management and
45 protection activities, as well as provide public access for recreation opportunities.
- 46 B. Identify the distribution, density, and types of roads and uses of roads and trails needed to
47 establish a safe and efficient transportation and recreation system that complements the
48 economic, environmental, and social interest in the County Forest.
- 49 C. Identify the existing and future County Forest roads eligible for transportation aids under s.86.315
50 (1), Wis. Stats.
- 51 D. Identify areas on the County Forest where the access is limited or restricted.
- 52 E. Identify the provisions and criteria that will be policy when addressing management issues on the
53 County Forest.

54 **710 ROADS**

55 Chippewa County Forest and Parks staff will oversee the construction and maintenance of all roads
 56 within the County Forest. These roads may be constructed and maintained by the County, or a
 57 private contractor working under the direction of the County. The specifications for road construction
 58 and maintenance will vary with the frequency, duration, and planned use of each road. Three major
 59 types of roads occur on the Forest: permanent primary roads; permanent secondary roads, and
 60 temporary roads.
 61

62 New road establishment should consider information identifying areas with sensitive soils or severe
 63 slopes that have the potential for adverse water quality impacts from land management practices.
 64 County staff can work with local DNR water resources staff to develop site-specific measures where
 65 appropriate.

66 **710.1 PERMANENT PRIMARY FOREST ROADS**

67 Permanent primary roads provide primary access to the County Forest and are designed,
 68 constructed, and maintained for year-round use. These roads serve as essential access
 69 corridors for multiple use management. All of these roads have received at least some gravel
 70 surface improvement and are periodically graded. Vehicle use may be restricted at various
 71 times of the year to minimize physical damage to the road.
 72

73 Forest roads in this category qualify for the County Forest Road Aids program. Qualifying
 74 roads must meet minimum design standards of a 16-foot surface width and 20-foot roadway
 75 width. A yearly aid payment is used to maintain and improve these certified public roads. The
 76 following table lists the roads currently certified under s. 86.31(1), Wis. Stats.
 77
 78

CHIPPEWA COUNTY CURRENT WDOT CERTIFIED

TOWNSHIP	SECTION	LENGTH (MI)	ROAD NAME/COMMENTS
Birch Creek	Sec. 22, T32N-R7W	0.93	Birch Creek Flowage Trail
Birch Creek	Sec. 19 & 30, T32N-R7W Sec. 36, T32N-R8W	3.00	Deer Fly Trail
Birch Creek	Sec. 31, T32N-R7W Sec. 36, T32N-R8W	1.16	High Ridge Trail
Birch Creek	Sec. 27 & 34, T32N-R7W	0.41	Horseshoe Flowage Trail
Birch Creek	Sec. 33, T32N-R7W	0.24	Spring Creek Flowage Trail
Birch Creek	Sec. 18, T32N-R7W	0.67	Willow Cr. Flowage Trail #1
Birch Creek	Sec. 17, T32N-R7W	1.10	Willow Cr. Flowage Trail #2 & #3
Cleveland	Sec. 1 & 11, T31N-R8W	2.44	Deer Fly Trail
Cleveland	Sec. 11 & 14, T31N-R8W	1.22	Hay Meadow Flowage Trail
Cleveland	Sec. 9, 10 & 11, T31N-R8W	2.31	Hickory Ridge Trail
Cleveland	Sec. 5, T31N-R7W	0.70	Norway Trail

Cleveland	Sec. 7, T31N-R7W Sec. 12, T32N-R8W	0.96	Old Farm Road
Cleveland	Sec. 4 & 9, T31N-R7W	2.63	O'Neil Creek Flowage Trail
Ruby	Sec. 4, T31N-R5W Sec. 31, 32 & 33, T32N-R5W	3.32	Buck Horn Trail
Ruby	Sec. 31, T32N-R5W	0.35	Mallard Flowage Trail
TOTAL		21.44 miles	

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The County periodically reviews roads which may have potential to be developed as a WDOT certified forest road. Decision to improve to certified status is based on cost of improving, work planning needs, and benefit to public.

A map of these roads can be found in Chapter 900.

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710.2 PERMANENT SECONDARY ROADS

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These roads often serve a variety of uses including forest management, fire protection, and recreation. These roads are maintained as part of a permanent road system but are often narrower than permanent primary roads and are built and maintained to lower standards. Some of these roads are designed for use only when the ground is frozen or firm. These roads constitute the majority of roads in the forest, in both mileage and number.

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Most roads in this category are located in areas on the County Forest where motor vehicle use is limited or restricted, due to concerns about perpetually wet soils, user conflicts, resource protection, potential for erosion, maintenance expense, illegal dumping, and human safety. For the most part, the roads will be blocked with either a gate or dirt berm and/or signed as restricted from un-authorized motor vehicle traffic.

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Vehicle access will only be authorized for planned management activities or fire protection. Foot traffic is allowed on all roads.

103

710.3 TEMPORARY ROADS

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Many of the roads on the County Forest fall into this classification. These roads are designed and constructed for short-term use for a specific project, often for timber harvest access. These roads are used only for a short duration and when the activity is done, the temporary road is closed. Many of these roads are accessed via permanent secondary roads. These roads are naturally or artificially revegetated and often closed by use of earthen berms/bunkers or other physical barriers.

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Temporary roads on existing and past sales will be considered for closure. Reasons will include protection of perpetually wet soils, potential for erosion, potential for rutting, human safety, and prevention of illegal dumping.

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The need for new temporary roads will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Road locations will be included in designing timber harvests. Consideration will be given to the objectives within each County Forest unit, existing road density, potential use, and soil type.

119

720 RECREATIONAL TRAIL ACCESS

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121

This trail network provides access for many recreational opportunities on the Forest. An important role of the Forest is to provide sustainable recreational trails that do not cause long-term natural

122 resource damage, and that are compatible with other uses. Management activities adjacent to
123 recreational trails will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. If deemed necessary, alterations will be
124 made to accommodate the recreational use. The Forest and Parks Committee has the authority to
125 open, close or relocate trails.
126

127 Maps for recreational trail uses of the Forest are in Chapter 900-Appendix.

128 720.1 TRAIL CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

129 Requests for recreational trails will be reviewed by the Forest and Parks Committee. Groups
130 requesting specific trail development or use must present a plan for the long term funding and
131 maintenance of proposed trails.
132

133 Construction of a recreational trail which would increase the erosion potential of one acre or
134 more of land is subject to state and federal stormwater runoff requirements (NR216, Wis.
135 Adm. Code and s. 283.33, Wis. Stats). Construction or development for silvicultural purposes
136 is presently exempt from these requirements. Recreational trail development in Chippewa
137 County meeting these parameters will employ best management practices for water quality
138 (PUB-FR-093-95) to mitigate any adverse impacts. An erosion control plan will be prepared
139 for each project depicting the location of the project and surrounding wetlands and what
140 erosion control measures will be employed.
141

142 Note: Best management practices for water quality, as they relate to trail construction and
143 maintenance, are currently being refined and revised along with technical standards for trail
144 construction. Once completed, a copy of the standards will be kept in the Forest and Parks
145 Administrator's office.
146

147 725 NON-MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL TRAILS

148 725.1 HIKING

149 725.1.1 Undesignated Hiking Trails

150 All of the County Forest is open to hiking or foot travel, unless marked with signs closing an
151 area.

152 725.1.2 Designated Hiking Trails

153 Ice Age Trail

154 A portion of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail has been developed across Chippewa County
155 Forest land. This portion of the trail has been developed and is operated and maintained
156 under a land use agreement with the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation Inc. and its Chippewa
157 Moraine Chapter. See Chapter 900 for a copy of this agreement.
158

159 This trail is part of a continuous trail system across Wisconsin, linking the units of the Ice Age
160 National Scientific Reserve. The trail is primarily used for hiking, snowshoeing and cross
161 country skiing.
162

163 The long-term goal for the Ice Age Trail is that the trail be developed, managed and
164 recognized as a premier hiking trail of national significance for its scenic and recreational
165 qualities, and that it becomes part of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. All of the Ice Age Trail
166 within the Chippewa County Forest has obtained certification from the National Park Service
167 (NPS). Under this certification and the previously referenced land use agreement, the County
168 and the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation agrees that the trail should be designed and
169 maintained to follow the guidelines of the *Ice Age National Scenic Trail: A Handbook for
170 Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance*. This handbook lays out the trail standards, as
171 put forth by the NPS.
172

173 The Ice Age Trail crosses the County Forest in Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6 in the Town of
174 Cleveland, Sections 31, 32, 33 & 36 in the Town of Birch Creek and Sections 26 & 35 in the
175 Town of Sampson. The trail is both a National and State Scenic Trail and follows the end

176 moraines of the most recent glacial period in Wisconsin. It is intended to provide a high
177 quality, rustic walking experience across Wisconsin.

178
179 Management practices in, and adjacent to, this designated trail will be designed to maintain
180 the character of the landscape and minimize disruption to the trail and its users. The trail
181 corridors are designated as a Zone B aesthetic management zone which is referenced in
182 Chapter 500.

183
184 Portions of the trail have been routed on old logging roads. This was done in the past
185 because the trails already existed and minimized construction. They were also used in some
186 cases because they may have gone past scenic or important glacial features. In addition,
187 these roads are typically used only on a periodic basis and might not be used for a period of
188 years, and were re-vegetated and easy to maintain. The county forest timber sale program
189 occasionally impacts trail sections using these logging roads when the roads are again used
190 for timber access. Use of the trail for logging must comply with any restrictions designated
191 under the land use agreement. If the trail is located on a logging road which is actively used,
192 appropriate signing will be installed by the County informing trail users of truck traffic and
193 timber sale activities. To avoid user conflict and safety concerns it may be necessary to
194 temporarily re-route the trail. Re-routing the trail requires substantial work by volunteers
195 associated with the trail and tends to be confusing to the public and is, therefore, used as a
196 last resort.

197
198 Trees and signing identifying the trail will be maintained and protected by inclusions into
199 timber sale contracts. In order to avoid confusion with trail users, an effort will be made to
200 avoid the use of medium blue and yellow paint on projects immediately adjacent to the Ice
201 Age Trail. Yellow (Ice Age Trail) is the standard color for designating this trail. Trails bisecting
202 timber sales will be cleared of trees and logging debris daily.

203 725.2 BICYCLING

204 725.2.1 Undesignated Bicycle Trails

205 If not gated or posted to prohibit travel, all trails, roads and fire lanes are open for recreational
206 bicycle use. Off-trail mountain bike use may be restricted in a specific area if use causes
207 erosion or other environmental damages.

208 209 725.2.2 Designated Bicycle Trails

210 Old Abe State Trail

211
212 The Old Abe State Trail is a cooperative effort between the State of Wisconsin and
213 Chippewa County. This paved 19.5 mile trail connects Lake Wissota State Park in
214 Chippewa Falls and Brunet Island State Park in Cornell. The trail is an abandoned railroad
215 grade and has been developed into a trail for bicyclists, snowmobiles, hikers, horse back
216 riders and in-line skaters. The trail winds through agricultural and forest land while following
217 the undeveloped shoreline of the Chippewa River. The trail is operated under a
218 memorandum of use agreement between the County and the Department of Natural
219 Resources, and is located outside the boundaries of the county forest.

220 221 Hickory Ridge Bike Trail

222
223 A short mountain bike trail system has been developed as a trial basis trail system, in the
224 area near the Hickory Ridge Cross Country Ski Trail. Local bicycle enthusiasts developed
225 the trail. The trail is being evaluated for potential erosion problems and user demand. The
226 trail may be expanded if erosion is not a significant problem and there aren't any user
227 conflicts with the nearby ski and horse trails.

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230 725.3 HORSEBACK RIDING

231 725.3.1 Undesignated Horseback Riding Trails

232 There are no undesignated trails for horseback riding in the County Forest. All horseback
233 riding is restricted to designated trails only.

234
235

236 725.3.2 Designated Horseback Riding Trails

237 In the County Forest, the Hay Meadow Horse Trail provides 22 miles of designated horseback
238 riding trail with several loop trails. The Chippewa Valley Trail Riders, a local horseback riding
239 organization, has been a key force in locating, developing and maintaining portions of the trail.
240 A map of the horse trail can be found in Chapter 900.

241

242 Outside the County Forest, the Old Abe Horse Trail, which parallels the Old Abe State Trail
243 from 97th Avenue to Jim Falls, provides approximately 5.5 miles of trail. There are parking
244 areas at both ends of the trail.

245 725.4 CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

246 725.4.1 Undesignated Cross-Country Ski Trails

247 All trails on county forestland, except snowmobile trails, are open for cross-country skiing.
248 Cross-country skiing on groomed snowmobile trails is not permitted due to safety concerns.

249

250 725.4.2 Designated Cross-Country Ski Trails

251 There are two trails maintained and groomed for cross country skiing in the Chippewa County
252 Forest. The Friends of Hickory Ridge Trail have agreed to maintain and groom the 8.8 mile
253 Hickory Ridge Ski Trail system. These duties include: trail surfacing, track setting, bathroom
254 cleaning, litter removal from parking lots and sign placement as required to maintain a safe
255 skiing experience. The Friends of Hickory Ridge Trail were granted permission to collect trail
256 donations to be used for maintenance purposes.

257

258 The River Road Cross Country Ski Trail is located 2.5 miles north of Cornell and adjacent to
259 the Chippewa River. The trail is groomed and maintained for public use by Chippewa County,
260 and is approximately 4 miles long.

261

262 It is the goal of the Forest and Parks Committee to offer both ski-skating and traditional Nordic
263 skiing opportunities. Where feasible, attempts will be made to have local ski enthusiasts or
264 organizations do winter grooming and maintenance of ski trails. A map of the ski trails can be
265 found in Chapter 900.

266 725.5 OTHER NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL USE

267 Other non-motorized recreational trail uses including but not limited to, snowshoeing, dog
268 sledding (except on groomed cross country ski trails), hiking, and hunting on foot are
269 permitted on all trails except where otherwise posted as closed.

270 **730 MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL TRAILS**

271 The use of motorized vehicles on the County Forest continues to increase. The design,
272 maneuverability, and power of the vehicles have improved. ATV use in particular, has grown in
273 popularity. The growing number of users has increased the need and expense for trail maintenance.
274 It's important that with the increasing numbers, that users stay on designated trails that are designed
275 and maintained to minimize user conflicts and avoid unnecessary environmental damage.

276

277 730.1 SNOWMOBILING

278 730.1.1 Undesignated Snowmobile Trails

279 No cross-country use of snowmobiles is permitted. Snowmobile use is permitted when the
280 ground is snow-covered, on all primary, secondary and temporary roads, except where posted
281 as closed. The Hickory Ridge and River Road Cross Country Ski Trails are closed to
282 snowmobiles. Snowmobiling is not allowed on any county authorized snowmobile trails when

283 trails are closed for use or contrary to posted notice. Use on the Forest during other times of
284 the year is not allowed.

285

286 730.1.2 Designated Snowmobile Trails

287 It is the policy of the Forest and Parks Committee to provide some opportunity for
288 snowmobiling on the Chippewa County Forest. The Forest and Parks Department will
289 coordinate the county-wide snowmobile trail program under s 23.09(11) and (26) of the
290 Wisconsin Statutes, Natural Resources Code NR 50.09 and the Chippewa County Park and
291 Recreation Ordinance. A maintenance program, now in place, utilizes cost-sharing funds from
292 the Department of Natural Resources.

293

294 Chippewa County applies annually for state funding for the operation and maintenance of a
295 countywide snowmobile trail system. There are approximately 13 miles of the state funded
296 snowmobile trail located within the County Forest, which represents only a small portion of the
297 overall countywide trail system. The County has a maintenance agreement with the
298 Chippewa Valley Snowmobile Organization, outlining the operation, maintenance, and
299 insurance obligations between the County and the Snowmobile Organization. The
300 Snowmobile Organization is a non-profit organization that represents the various snowmobile
301 clubs within the County. Within the County Forest, the Snowmobile Organization does the
302 winter trail grooming and signing and the County does the summer maintenance. Refer to
303 Chapter 900 for a copy of the trail maintenance agreement.

304

305

306 The County trail system is a part of the statewide network of snowmobile trails which link
307 Chippewa County with adjoining counties as well as the rest of the state. Snowmobile
308 registrations, gas tax, and out of state user fees are used to support trail development,
309 signing, maintenance, grooming, and bridge construction.

310

311 All groomed snowmobile trails are closed to cars and trucks during the snowmobile season
312 unless vehicle use is authorized by Chippewa County. The trails may be used for logging
313 access when necessary and are subject to restrictions on use and restoration as designated
314 by the County Forest and Parks Administrator or designee. When vehicle use is authorized,
315 contractors must maintain the trail in a safe condition, free from debris and equipment, and
316 with a minimum of 3 inches of snow-pack. Trail width shall not exceed 16 feet.

317

318 DNR's Trail Signing Handbook will be used as the guide for posting standardized signs and
319 will assist in promoting uniformity for trail signing throughout the county. Only trail signs that
320 provide information for safety, regulations, or trail directions will be permitted. Private and
321 business signs are not authorized on the Forest. All trail signs must be mounted on wooden,
322 metal, or flexible plastic posts.

323

324 The snowmobile trails will be closed and gated during the off-season to minimize summer
325 maintenance, unless the trail is used for some other authorized purpose. A portion of the
326 snowmobile trail is used for an ATV trail during the summer and any maintenance expense
327 incurred from ATV use is paid for from ATV maintenance funds received from the State DNR.

328

329 There are currently no club sponsored trails on county forest land. Club sponsored trails
330 would be considered by the Committee, on a case-by-case basis, if requested. If a club trail is
331 approved, an agreement would be required, outlining the operation, maintenance and
332 insurance obligations between Chippewa County and the local snowmobile club.

333 730.2 ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATV)

334 730.2.1 Undesignated ATV Trails

335 There are no undesignated ATV trails on the County Forest. ATV use is permitted only on
336 designated trails and operation by holders of a special use permit for such purposes as
337 disabled access.

338

339

340

341 730.2.2 Designated ATV Trails

342
343 It is the policy of the Forest and Parks Committee to provide some opportunity for ATV
344 recreation on the Chippewa County Forest. More than 19 miles of ATV trails wind and loop
345 through portions of the County Forest. There are 2 convenient parking areas located on each
346 end of the trail system. ATV's may only operate on designated ATV trails and routes. The
347 trails may be used for logging access when necessary and are subject to restrictions on use
348 and restoration as designated by the County Forest Administrator or his designee.

349
350 These trails are open to ATV riding from May 1st to November 15th of each year, except in the
351 case of emergencies, when the County may close and gate the trails. The ATV trail is also
352 open after hunting hours during the gun deer season for retrieving a deer carcass. It is the
353 intent of the County to consider changes to the County Code of Ordinances that may expand
354 the opportunity for game retrieval using an ATV.

355
356 ATV registration, out-of-state user fees and the gas tax formula are used to support trail
357 development, signing, maintenance and bridge construction.

358
359 For the specific location of this trail, please see the "Chippewa County ATV Trail" map in
360 Chapter 900.

361

362 730.3 OTHER MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL VEHICLE TRAILS

363 730.3.1 Undesignated

364 Other motorized recreational use of the County Forest is prohibited on trails that are blocked
365 with rock, bermed, gated or signed as closed. Due to concerns of erosion and per county
366 code, motorcycles are not allowed on county forestland except registered motor vehicles on
367 designated gas tax roads.

368 **735 RESTRICTED ACCESS AREAS**

369 In addition to providing trails for motorized vehicle use, the Forest and Parks Committee may also
370 provide and designate areas where motorized equipment is not permitted unless authorized. The
371 principal intent of these areas is to prevent environmental damage to sensitive areas, protect
372 historical or archeological sites, protect endangered and threatened species, provide for human safety
373 and provide areas for quiet, secluded recreation. Cross country use of the forest for motorized use is
374 prohibited. The Committee may consider and designate restricted access areas on the Chippewa
375 County Forest.

376 **740 WATER ACCESS**

377 As a result of the wide distribution of lakes, streams, rivers and other surface waters on the County
378 Forest, water access may be planned, developed or restricted as a component of the overall Forest
379 access management plan. Several boat landings, canoe landings and adjacent roads currently
380 provide water access on the County Forest primarily for recreational activities. In addition, these water
381 access points may also provide water supply points for fire apparatus working to suppress forest fires
382 or nearby structural fires.

383
384 Existing water access points will be maintained to provide for launch of small fishing boat or canoe.
385 Not all watercraft will be able to use these access points. These landings are built for public use and
386 not for private boat mooring sites. Mooring or storing boats for longer than 24 hours is prohibited.

387 740.1 PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS SITES MAINTAINED BY CHIPPEWA COUNTY ON THE FOREST

388 These public boat access sites developed on the Chippewa County Forest are open to public
389 use:

- 390 1. Bass Lake # 2 (T31N-R8W, Sections 1 & 2)
- 391 2. Bass Lake # 3 (T31N-R8W, Section 3)
- 392 3. Hay Meadow Flowage # 1

- 393 4. Horseshoe Lake (T32N-R8W, Section 33)
- 394 5. Knickerbocker Lake
- 395 6. Otter Lake (Otter Lake Park) – two landing, one at Otter Lake Park and one on the east side
- 396 of the Lake
- 397 7. Town Line Lake
- 398 8. Round Lake

399 **740.2 UNDEVELOPED WATER ACCESS POINTS**

400 Other undeveloped water access points for canoes and boats currently exist on the County
 401 Forest. These are used routinely to hand launch car-top boats or canoes but have not been
 402 developed for boat trailer launching. These sites are not routinely maintained and may be
 403 closed if erosion damage becomes severe. All new sites for developed water access must be
 404 reviewed and approved by the Forest and Parks Committee.
 405

406 **745 WILD LAKES**

407 The surface waters encompassed under the “wild lakes designation” include those restricted use
 408 areas that are not open to any gasoline-powered vehicles, watercraft or snowmobiles except when
 409 snow covered. In general, all or most of the shorelines of these lakes and streams are owned by
 410 Chippewa County. Under the authority of s. 30.77 (3) Wis. Stats., Chippewa County may request
 411 that Townships establish regulations restricting motorized use on waters that are designated Wild
 412 Lakes. The intent of these restrictions is to protect aquatic resources of these lakes but still allow
 413 human access. Currently, no lakes in the County Forest are designated “wild lakes”.

414 **750 WETLANDS**

415 In addition to surface waters, all wetlands on the Forest are closed to motorized recreational vehicle
 416 use when soils are not frozen. Vehicle use during non-frozen seasons causes soil rutting,
 417 compaction, and damage to vegetation. The wetlands are not listed individually here but include all
 418 areas where soils, groundwater or surface waters support the growth of vegetation commonly
 419 associated with wetland plant communities.

420 **755 ACCESS TO PRIVATE LANDS**

421 Applications by private parties to build or improve access roads through County Forest land will be
 422 considered by the Forest and Parks Committee on a case-by-case basis. As a general policy, the
 423 Committee will not provide permission to develop a new road across County lands for private access
 424 unless it is mutually beneficial to the County. In general, the granting of access permits across
 425 County Forest land will be discouraged, particularly if other feasible access to private lands exist. The
 426 following stipulations will be adhered to before an "Access Permit" is granted.
 427

- 428 A. Access across County Forest lands must be demonstrated by the applicant as the route of
- 429 last resort. Proposed uses must be documented by the applicant.
- 430 B. No legal easement will be granted, just permission to cross County Lands.
- 431 C. Permit is non-transferable. New landowners must apply to continue the land use agreement.
- 432 D. Access improvements and upgrading must be approved and will be supervised by the Forest
- 433 and Parks staff. Prior notification of three (3) days is required before work starts.
- 434 E. All wood cut from County Forestland is the property of Chippewa County.
- 435 F. Access must be open to the public and no gate may be erected on County Land.
- 436 G. The County continues full ownership of the improved access; however, it shall not be liable
- 437 for maintenance or upkeep of the access.
- 438 H. Permittee waives any rights to any declaration of ownership or interest in the access on
- 439 County Land as a result of this "Access Permit". The access permit is granted upon the
- 440 signature and any fees being charged by Chippewa County Forest and Parks Department.
- 441 I. A fee may be charged for an access permit.

- 442 J. The access permit may be canceled at anytime by giving reasonable written notice by the
- 443 County to the Permittee.
- 444 K. The County retains the right to use the access way at any time for any use and is under no
- 445 obligation to repair or maintain the access way.
- 446 L. The permittee agrees to reimburse the County for any unauthorized property damage.
- 447 M. Standard Land Use Agreement Access permit is included as an exhibit in Chapter 900.

448 **760 PUBLIC UTILITY ACCESS**

449 Access of the County Forest for utilities is covered under Chapter 500 Public Utilities.

450 **765 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR WATER QUALITY**

451 The layout and construction of any new road or trail situated on the County Forest shall adhere to
 452 *Wisconsin's Best Management Practices for Water Quality* (PUB-FR-093-95). This access
 453 management plan addresses the need and diversity level of forest roads and trails within the County
 454 Forest. Chapter 6 of the BMP Manual provides guidelines for road construction. Soil disturbance
 455 activities in these areas may require mitigating measures in excess of those currently listed in the
 456 Best Management Practices manual PUB-FR-093-95 and in Chapter 500.3.8 (Soil Disturbance).
 457 Wider buffers, sediment control structures, and water diversion techniques will be used as appropriate
 458 in these sensitive areas.

459 **770 SIGNS**

460 Signs on the County Forest will be used discreetly to perform and function with minimal disruption to
 461 the multiple uses of the Forest. Private signs promoting personal, commercial or political objectives
 462 will not be permitted without authorization from Chippewa County. Signs erected by the County for
 463 management purposes or by non-profit recreational trail groups will be as follows:

464 A. INFORMATIONAL TYPE SIGNS

- 466 1. Interpretive Signs - to educate the public about forest management practices.
- 467 2. Public Land Signs - to identify the land as Chippewa County Forest Property.
- 468 3. Trail Markers - to provide direction and safety to trail users.
- 469 4. Scientific, Historical or Geological Markers - to identify points of interest.
- 470 5. Recreational Facility Markers - to identify park entrances, etc.
- 471 6. Directional Markers.

472 B. REGULATORY TYPE SIGNS - REGULATE THE USE OF THE FOREST IN SPECIFIC AREAS.

474 770.1 SIGNING STANDARDS

475 To ensure signs will serve a purpose without damaging aesthetics, the following standards will
 476 be maintained:

- 477 1. All signs will be mounted on treated wood posts, Carsonite type posts, or steel posts. NO
- 478 signs will be nailed to living trees.
- 479 2. Routed wood signs will be used wherever practical. Fiberboard or painted metal signs, when
- 480 used, will be of neat appearance.
- 481 3. Signs placed on snowmobile and ATV trails must conform to state standards.
- 482 4. All authorized signs shall be protected by ordinance from being damaged, defaced,
- 483 obstructed, removed, or possessed by unauthorized persons.
- 484 5. Forest and Parks staff shall remove all unauthorized signs erected by private parties on the
- 485 Forest. No compensation will be afforded for loss or damage to signs during removal.
- 486 Individuals erecting unauthorized signs may be prosecuted under s. 943.13(3), Wis. Stats.