

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	5
505.3.11	Timber Sale Roads	5
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	7
505.5	ARTIFICIAL REGENERATION	7
505.5.1	Mechanical Site Preparation	7
505.5.2	Chemical Site Preparation	7
505.5.3	Prescribed Burning.....	8
505.5.4	Tree Planting / Seeding.....	8
505.6	TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT.....	8
505.6.1	Release	8
505.6.2	Non-Commercial Thinning	8
505.6.3	Pruning	8
510	RECREATION	8
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	9
510.4.2	Fishing.....	9
510.4.3	Picnicking.....	9
510.4.4	Camping.....	9
510.5	INTENSIVE RECREATION AREAS.....	10
510.5.1	Campgrounds.....	10
510.5.2	Picnic Areas	10
510.5.3	Swimming Areas	10
510.5.4	Boat Landings	10
510.5.5	Waysides.....	10
510.6	MANAGED TRAIL AREAS.....	11
510.6.1	Motorized Trail Opportunities.....	11
510.6.2	Non-Motorized Trail Opportunities	12
510.7	RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.....	13
510.8	CONVERSION OF EXISTING TRAILS TO AN ALTERNATIVE TRAIL USE.....	13
515	SPECIAL USES.....	13
515.1	SAND AND GRAVEL	13
515.2	EXPLORATION, PROSPECTING AND MINING.....	14
515.3	SANITARY LANDFILLS	14
515.4	MILITARY MANEUVERS	14
515.5	PUBLIC UTILITIES.....	14
515.6	PRIVATE UTILITY SERVICE LINES	15
515.7	CELLULAR COMMUNICATION TOWERS.....	15
515.8	OTHER.....	15
520	AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONES.....	15
520.1	AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE A.....	16
520.1.1	Examples – Zone A.....	16
520.1.2	Boundaries – Zone A	16
520.1.3	Management – Zone A.....	16
520.1.4	Permitted Uses – Zone A	16
520.2	AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE B.....	16
520.2.1	Examples – Zone B.....	16
520.2.2	Boundaries – Zone B	17
520.2.3	Management – Zone B.....	17
520.2.4	Permitted Uses – Zone B	17
520.3	AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE C.....	17
520.3.1	Examples – Zone C.....	17
520.3.2	Boundaries – Zone C	17
520.3.3	Management – Zone C	17
520.3.4	Permitted Uses – Zone C.....	17

520.4	AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE D.....	17
520.4.1	Examples – Zone D.....	17
520.4.2	Management – Zone D	17
525	TREATY RIGHTS: GATHERING MISCELLANEOUS FOREST PRODUCTS.....	17
530	HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS, AREAS AND EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCES ...	18
530.1	AREAS HIGH IN REGIONALLY OR NATL SIGNIFICANT BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY.....	18
530.1.1	Wisconsin State Natural Areas	18
530.1.2	Specific Sites High in Locally Significant Biological Diversity	20
530.1.3	Significant Features High in Local Biological Diversity	20
530.1.4	Geological Features of Significance	21
530.1.5	Culturally Significant Features	21

2 **500 LAND USE**

3 500.1 OBJECTIVES

- 4 A. To identify policies and procedures employed to effectively manage, use, and sustain the
- 5 resources of the County Forest.
- 6 B. To identify regulated management activities, land uses, and special resource areas.
- 7

8 **505 SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES**

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

16 505.1 EVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT

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

20 505.2 UNEVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT

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

25 505.3 TIMBER SALES

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

36 505.3.1 Field Preparation of Timber Sales

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

40 505.3.2 Advertising for Bids

41 After fieldwork is completed and necessary reports prepared for DNR approval, the
42 administrator/foresters shall prepare a sale prospectus and make it available to interested
43 loggers. Timber sale advertisements, at a minimum, will be by classified ad in a newspaper
44 with general circulation in the county (s. 28.11(6)(b), Wis. Stats). Ads shall run once each
45 week for two consecutive weeks, the last being at least one week prior to the bid opening. A
46 longer advance time will be given when feasible. Sealed bid sales will generally be offered in
47 early spring and fall, or as needed.
48

49 505.3.3 Prospectus

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

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

59 505.3.4 Method of Bidding

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

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

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

72 505.3.5 Awarding Sales

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

76
77 Grounds for rejecting bids may include without limit:

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

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

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

93 Award of contract to the successful bidder shall be based upon the bid most advantageous to
94 the County.

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

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

- 101 505.3.6 Sales Contracts
- 102 a. Contract copies will be provided to the logger. The originals filed in the Forest and
- 103 Parks Administrator's office.
- 104 b. Contracts are to be signed by the successful bidder within 30 days of the bid opening
- 105 or before cutting begins, whichever occurs first.

- 106 505.3.7 Timber Sale Performance Bond
- 107 a. The performance or surety bond will be 10% of the total sale value (\$100 minimum).
- 108 The first \$100/10% (bid bond) must be a check or money order and the balance may
- 109 be in the form of a check or approved letter of credit (issued by a member of the
- 110 Federal Reserve System bank or insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance
- 111 Corporation) and received within 30 days of the contract award date. The letter of
- 112 credit or surety bond must be in effect for a period of time equal to the term of the
- 113 contract plus 60 days.
- 114 b. The bid bond may be transferred to the performance bond.

115 505.3.8 Contract Provisions

116 All timber sale contracts will be on the form approved by the Forest and Parks Committee

117 and all provisions therein shall apply. A copy of the timber sale map will be attached to

118 and become a part of the contract. The County will not execute the contract until after

119 the County receives proof of worker's compensation and the federal identification number

120 of the logger.

121 505.3.8(a) Soil Disturbance

122 The objective of this section is to minimize inadvertent soil disturbances and potential

123 adverse impacts to soil productivity, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and other

124 natural resources thru management activities. Maintain roads and related structures to

125 intended design standards and provide a protocol for identifying and responding to

126 maintenance needs.

127

128 Soil disturbances, (soil compaction, rutting, etc.) may occur and be identified through two

129 mechanisms – either as part of a timber sale contract on County lands or as part of

130 county forest trail inventory and maintenance. These guidelines apply in both situations.

131 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.

148 Note: The depth is to be measured from the original soil surface to the bottom of the depression. If

149 individual lug depressions are visible, the depth would be measured to the lesser of the two depths (the

150 "top" of the lug). The length is measured from the start of the "too deep" section to the end of the "too deep"

151 section. Measurements are not cumulative.

152

153 Classifying a soil disturbance as “excessive” does not mandate closing of a timber sale or
154 a forest road; however, actions should be taken, as appropriate, to minimize further soil
155 disturbances.
156

157 **Definitions and Terms**

- 158 • A gully is an erosion channel cut into the soil along a line of water flow.
- 159 • A rut is an elongated depression caused by dragging logs or by wheels or
160 tracks of harvesting machinery, equipment or other vehicles. Ruts are often
161 exacerbated by erosion from uncontrolled storm water runoff.
- 162 • A primary skid trail is used for three or more passes.
- 163 • A secondary skid trail is used for one or two passes.
164

165 505.3.8(b) Slash Disposal, Residual Damage, Landings and Decking

166 The objective of this section is to control conditions affecting the following: fire, insects,
167 disease, aesthetics, regeneration, wetlands, wildlife and public interest.
168

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

- 171 i. All slash must be reduced to a maximum specified height: no trees, tops or
172 limbs shall be leaning or hanging in standing timber. Slash will normally be kept
173 to a height of 24 inches or less.
- 174 ii. No machinery may be operated in lakes or streams, except at stream crossings
175 approved and designated by the County.
- 176 iii. No slash may be deposited in lakes or streams (26.12(6), Wis. Stats.)
- 177 iv. No slash, logging debris, or machinery operation is allowed outside the sale
178 boundary unless approved by the County.
- 179 v. Landings and decks are not allowed within 100 feet of any public road except by
180 proper authorization from the County.
- 181 vi. Any debris or material not natural to the land shall be properly disposed of by
182 the contractor as it is generated. Contractors will be subject to penalty for
183 littering on logging sites.
- 184 vii. Residual damage to other forest products not specifically described in a
185 contract, the county may pursue any and all remedies for cutting, damage or
186 removal of property without authorization.
- 187 viii. No merchantable wood shall be left on a sale for longer than 6 months.
188 Exceptions may be made in cases of extenuating circumstances.
- 189 ix. All slash disposal, road or landing areas, and other woods operations shall be
190 conducted in compliance with state regulations and local shore-land and
191 wetland zoning restrictions.

192 505.3.8(c) Duration and Extension of Contracts

- 193 i. All contracts will be issued for not less than 6 months or longer than 30 months,
194 unless otherwise stated on advertisement and/or contracts. Contracts will be
195 dated to expire on January 1st or July 1st depending on what date is closest to
196 the anniversary date of the sale. Exceptions may be made in cases of
197 extenuating circumstances.
- 198 ii. Contracts may be extended based on initial volume, initial contract length and if
199 there are restrictions on cutting the sale area.
- 200 iii. The maximum time duration of a timber sale contract, including extensions, shall
201 be 5 years. Only in the event of special justification will the Committee consider
202 an extension beyond 5 years. Special stumpage rate adjustments may also be
203 made.
- 204 iv. If purchasers do not wish to renew or extend contracts, double stumpage may
205 be charged for any timber designated for harvest left in the sale area.
- 206 v. The contractor may request a contract release due to severe physical or
207 financial disability. The Forest and Parks Committee shall determine whether or

208 not a release shall be granted and may withhold all, or a portion of the bond
209 deposit for damages.

210 505.3.8(d) Contract Violations

211 Field enforcement of timber sale contracts will be the responsibility of the County Forest
212 Administrator or designee employing the following procedure:

- 213 i. The Administrator, or designee, or Forester will attempt to resolve inadvertent or
214 minor violations by verbal contact with the contractor.
- 215 ii. The Administrator, or designee, or Forester may immediately suspend logging
216 operations when a serious or emergency situation arises.
- 217 iii. The suspension will be followed by written notice to the contractor, stating the
218 nature of the violation and informing them of Committee action taken or
219 pending.
- 220 iv. The Committee, in consultation with legal counsel, may consider, but is not
221 limited to the following remedies: charge double stumpage; charge for actual
222 damages; suspend the contract; retain a portion or all deposits; foreclose on cut
223 forest products on sale; refer to District Attorney for prosecution; seek civil
224 damages in addition to the performance bond.
- 225 v. Suspension of operation will remain in effect until the contractor receives written
226 notice from the County that the suspension has been lifted.
- 227 vi. Failure of the contractor to comply with the Committee decision may result in the
228 contractor becoming a non-qualifying /ineligible bidder in the future. At the
229 Committee's discretion, the contractor may be banned from future purchase of
230 county timber sales for a minimum of 1 year. All deposits may be retained and
231 forest products on sale areas may be seized and sold by the County. At the
232 Forest and Parks Committee's discretion, the contractor may be banned from
233 future purchase of county timber sales or required to pay a higher performance
234 bond, up to a 100% bond.

235 505.3.9 Timber Sale Restrictions

- 236 a. To minimize resource damage, the County may restrict the types of logging
237 equipment, methods used, and times of operation.
- 238 b. Special restrictions may be required in accordance with the aesthetic policy set forth in
239 Section 520.
- 240 c. Seasonal restrictions may be applied to protect roads, minimize recreation use
241 conflicts, benefit wildlife management, avoid endangered resources concerns,
242 minimize insect and disease problems, or to assist in fire protection.
- 243 d. Restrictions will be incorporated as necessary, to adhere to Best Management
244 Practices for Water Quality in accordance with the DNR's BMP manual.

245 505.3.10 Special Forest Product Contracts

246 Fuelwood, posts, poles, boughs, and saplings, or other special forest products with an
247 appraised value of greater than \$300, will be handled as a timber sale, which includes a sale
248 contract and performance bond. The contract will be modified from the standard timber sale
249 contract to fit the type of product being harvested. *Christmas trees are not sold from the*
250 *County Forest.*

251 505.3.11 Timber Sale Roads

- 252 a. The contractor will be responsible for securing legal access to sale areas across non-
253 county ownership property unless secured by forester when established.
- 254 b. The contractor will be responsible for securing permission to conduct logging activities
255 within town, county or state road rights-of-way (e.g. decking, skidding).
- 256 c. Forest and Parks personnel will approve the layout of all woods trails and make other
257 necessary special provisions within the sale contract.
- 258 d. Skidding, decking, or other logging activity within 33 feet of the centerline of County
259 Forest roads, recreation trails, or ditches must have prior approval by the

260 Administrator or designee. These areas will be kept free from logging debris. County
261 forest access trails will be maintained by the logger and be left in good as or better
262 than the original condition at the close of the sale. County personnel will inspect
263 access trails to insure minimal resource damage from the logging operation. If
264 intersections are modified or created between logging tracts and County or Town
265 roads, County or Town personnel must be notified prior to construction.

266 e. A timber sale contractor may request permission to gate a timber sale access trail.
267 The Administrator or designee may grant a gate permit to prohibit motorized traffic
268 only by installation of a cable or gate. Whenever a timber sale access is blocked, a
269 blaze board should be installed on the gate to make it more visible for safety
270 purposes.

271 505.3.12 Supervising Sales

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

274 505.3.13 Forest Products Accountability

275 505.3.13(a) Scaling Merchantability

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

- 277 • 8" diameter or larger inside bark at 8' in length (plus trim) for softwood
- 278 • 10" diameter or larger inside bark small end at 8' (plus trim) in length for hardwood

279
280 The standard unit of measure for cordwood is measuring 4' x 4' x 100" of unpeeled wood.
281 Peeled wood will be converted to the standard cord by adding 12.5% for sap-peeled and
282 adding 25% for machine-peeled wood to the gross volume of wood measured. A
283 pulpwood tree contains at least one (1) 8' stick, to a minimum top diameter as defined in
284 the contract.

285
286 DNR Timber Sale handbook 2461 will be used as a guide in determining the conversion
287 rates for posts, poles, bolts, chips, weight-scaled wood or other types of forest products.

288 505.3.13(b) Utilization Standards

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

292 505.3.13(c) Methods of Accountability/Billing

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

- 296 i. The ticket system uses serialized three-part tickets. The original ticket will be
297 placed in the site box prior to truck departure. One copy goes to the mill. The
298 remaining copy is to be retained by the logger. Mill scale will be accepted for
299 volume determination.
- 300 ii. Forest and Parks or DNR personnel may also scale wood on the landing. This
301 method will always be used for saw logs, and may be used for pulpwood if the
302 ticket system is not used. Payment for wood products scaled is normally due
303 within 30 days of billing.
- 304 iii. Lump sum sales may also be utilized and divided into cutting units when
305 practical. Payment for a cutting unit must be received in full before any cutting
306 begins in that unit.
- 307 iv. An interest charge of 18% annual percentage rate (1.5% monthly) will be added
308 to all account balances more than 30 days past the billing date.

309
310 The billing cycle is from the 1st to the last day of the month. Payment is due by the last
311 day of the following month. Abuse of credit may require prepayment of stumpage.

312 505.3.14 Special Forest Product Permits

- 313 a. A written permit for harvesting fuel-wood for personal use must be purchased for a
314 specific area designated on the permit.
- 315 b. Written permits may be issued for special forest products for community, personal use, or
316 commercial use up to \$300, as established by the Forest and Parks Committee.
- 317 c. A written permit for cutting boughs or saplings for commercial use for up to \$300
318 estimated value will be issued for a specific area designated in the permit. Value of
319 boughs or saplings will be established by the Forest and Parks Administrator.
- 320 d. An annual summary report of cut products sold by permit will be filed with the DNR using
321 Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report (Form 2460 – 1).

322 505.4 NATURAL REGENERATION

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

332 505.4.1 Removal of Non-Merchantable Residual Trees

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

339 505.4.2 Prescribed Burning For Natural Regeneration

340 Fire is one of the most natural means available to stimulate the re-growth of early succession
341 species. Fire should be employed as a management tool whenever possible and practical.
342 Prescribed burning for site preparation, slash removal, or replacement of natural fire ecology
343 will be conducted when conditions allow. DNR Fire Control will be the major source of
344 guidance and direction. See DNR Fire Pre-suppression Handbook (4360.5) for more
345 information.

346 505.4.3 Other

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

349 505.5 ARTIFICIAL REGENERATION

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

354 505.5.1 Mechanical Site Preparation

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

360 505.5.2 Chemical Site Preparation

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

372 505.5.3 Prescribed Burning

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

377 505.5.4 Tree Planting / Seeding

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

385 505.6 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT.

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

392 505.6.1 Release

393 Release work, if it cannot be done by commercial timber harvest, will be conducted by either
394 mechanical or chemical means as site or environmental conditions warrant. Release is
395 defined as the removal of competing vegetation from the desired tree species.

396 505.6.2 Non-Commercial Thinning

397 Most thinning can be accomplished through commercial harvest operations. Non-commercial
398 thinning will be considered if the individual site requirements, funding and/or available labor
399 make it desirable.

400 505.6.3 Pruning

401 Pruning will be considered for conifers and carried out if deemed economically feasible.

402 **510 RECREATION**

403 The County Recreation Ordinance and S.28.11, Wis. Stats. authorize the Forest and Parks
404 Committee to provide recreational opportunities for the public. This authority is further recognized in
405 the mission statement for the Chippewa County Forest (Chapter 100), which specifically identifies
406 outdoor recreation opportunities. The mission statement also charges the Committee to conduct
407 activities in a manner that prevents or minimizes the degradation of natural resources.

408 A. The Committee may establish and maintain recreation areas and facilities within the County
409 Forest. The Committee has been empowered to establish and enforce rules and regulations for
410 the use of such developments and to establish fees for their use.

- 411 B. The County Five Year Outdoor Recreation Plan, updated every five years, will reflect the public
412 use and interest in the county's recreation facilities and how the county plans to accommodate
413 those uses and interests.
- 414 C. The Chippewa County Parks and Recreation ordinance shall govern the lands designated by the
415 county for park or recreation purposes.
- 416 D. The county recreation ordinances are in Chapter 900.

417 510.1 RECREATIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS

418 It is permissible for the Committee to contract with clubs or individuals to provide recreational
419 services for the public. An agreement with the Chippewa Valley Snowmobile Council for
420 assisting the County with grooming and maintaining county snowmobile trail facilities is an
421 example of this type of agreement.

422 510.2 RECREATIONAL USE PERMITS.

- 423 1. The Forest and Parks Committee may issue permits or enter into agreements for
424 recreational use of the County Forest.
- 425 2. Other types of special use permits are found in Section 515.
- 426 3. Permits will not be issued for cabin sites on the forest.
- 427 4. Organized events or special uses, other than informal recreation use require specific
428 permission from the Forest and Parks Committee.

429 510.3 ENTRANCE AND USER FEES

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

435 510.4 EXTENSIVE RECREATIONAL USE OF THE FOREST

436 Extensive (informal) County Forest recreational uses by the public shall include, but not be
437 limited to, hunting, fishing, picnicking, snowshoeing, mountain biking, hiking, cross-country
438 skiing, horseback riding, snowmobiling and ATV riding (on authorized trails), photography, and
439 nature study. Such uses do not require a permit but must be conducted according to the
440 provisions of County Ordinances and state statutes.

441 510.4.1 Hunting

442 The entire county forest is open for regulated hunting with the exception of County Parks.
443 Temporary hunting stands including elevated are permissible but must be removed from the
444 forest after use each day. The use of nails, lag screws, screw steps, or other damaging
445 devices is not permitted. No permanent type structures are permitted.

446 510.4.2 Fishing

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

449 510.4.3 Picnicking

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

452 510.4.4 Camping

453 Camping on County Forest land is not permitted near County Parks or unless otherwise
454 designated or posted by the Forest and Parks Committee. No permit is required to camp. The
455 following general rules will apply to all County Forest campers:

- 456 a. No littering or site destruction will be tolerated.

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

466 510.5 INTENSIVE RECREATION AREAS

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

471 510.5.1 Campgrounds

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

- 473 • Otter Lake County Park (22 campsites)
 474

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

- 476 • Morris-Erickson County Park (28 campsites)
 477 • Pine Point County Park (48 campsites)

478 510.5.2 Picnic Areas

479 Picnic areas open to the public include:

- 480 • Otter Lake County Park
 481 • Round Lake County Park
 482 • Morris-Erickson County Park
 483 • Pine Point County Park

484 510.5.3 Swimming Areas

485 Designated swimming areas include:

- 486 • Otter Lake County Park beach
 487 • Round Lake County Park beach
 488 • Morris-Erickson County Park beach
 489 • Pine Point County Park beach
 490

491 Lifeguards are not provided at these areas.

492 510.5.4 Boat Landings

493 At several locations in the county, on and off the County Forest, areas have been developed
 494 for water access. These generally include a parking lot, surfaced approach to the water (boat
 495 landing), some with docks, and appropriate signing. Canoe landings and portages are more
 496 primitive. Canoe route guides are available from the Forest and Parks Department. Canoe
 497 and boat landings are provided for public access to waters for recreational purposes and are
 498 shown on the recreation maps in Chapter 900. Water access is also addressed in Chapter
 499 700. These landings are not to be considered boat-mooring sites.

500 Boat landings are located on Bass Lake # 2, Bass Lake # 3, Horseshoe Lake, Townline Lake,
 501 Otter Lake and Round Lake.
 502

503 510.5.5 Waysides

504 Waysides are day use areas and are located at various points throughout the County.
505 Locations are Bass Lake # 3, Bradley Lake, Hickory Ridge Ski Trail parking area, Hickory
506 Ridge Horse and Snowmobile Trail parking area near Lowland Lake and Townline Lake.

507 510.6 MANAGED TRAIL AREAS

508 Where possible, multiple uses of the various trail systems are encouraged and subject to
509 policy review of the Committee. The goal is to minimize user conflicts between recreational
510 users themselves as well as with timber management operations. However, recreational
511 users will frequently encounter forest management activities instrumental to the existence and
512 future of the Chippewa County Forest. The trail systems are identified in Chapter 900 and
513 referenced in Chapter 700.

514 510.6.1 Motorized Trail Opportunities

515 The Chippewa County Forest is a multiple use forest. Motorized travel on trails can be a
516 legitimate use of this forest if these trails are designed and maintained in a manner to
517 minimize damage to the environment and reduce user conflict. Trail use and development
518 must be compatible and sustainable with the characteristics of the landscape. Generally if a
519 woods trail on the forest is not gated, posted as closed, or bermed, it is open for operation of
520 licensed motor vehicles. If open woods trails develop problems (erosion, littering, or arson
521 activities) they may be closed by the County. Refer to Chapter 700 for motorized recreation
522 opportunities on the Chippewa County Forest.

523 510.6.1.1 Snowmobile Trails

524 It is the policy of the Forest and Parks Committee to provide some opportunity for
525 snowmobiling on the Chippewa County Forest. The Forest and Parks Department will
526 coordinate the county-wide snowmobile trail program under s 23.09(11) and (26) and
527 350.12(4) of the Wisconsin Statutes, Natural Resources Code NR 50.09 and the Chippewa
528 County Park and Recreation Ordinance. A maintenance program, now in place, utilizes cost-
529 sharing funds from the Department of Natural Resources. The trails may be used for logging
530 access when necessary and are subject to restrictions on use and restoration as designated
531 by the County Forest and Parks Administrator or designee.

532
533 These trails will be closed and gated during the off-season to keep out motorized traffic and to
534 minimize summer maintenance.

535
536 Trail maintenance is primarily done by the Chippewa Valley Snowmobile Council under a
537 maintenance agreement with the Forest and Parks Committee. The Council is a Corporation
538 made up of the various snowmobile clubs within the County. The Forest and Parks
539 Department performs a limited amount of non-winter trail maintenance on the trails within the
540 County Forest as permitted under the maintenance agreement. Refer to Chapter 900 for a
541 copy of the trail maintenance agreement.
542

543 510.6.1.2 ATV Trails

544 It is also the policy of the Forest and Parks Committee to provide some opportunity for ATV
545 recreation on the Chippewa County Forest. More than 20 miles of ATV trails wind and loop
546 through portions of the County Forest. There are 2 convenient parking areas located on the
547 trail system. ATV's may only operate on designated ATV trails and routes. ATV's are
548 prohibited behind any gated, bermed or blocked location, or on any sign-restricted trail or
549 designated non-motorized trail. The trails may be used for logging access when necessary
550 and are subject to restrictions on use and restoration as designated by the County Forest
551 Administrator or his designee.
552

553 These trails are normally open to ATV riding from May 1st to November 15th of each year,
554 except in the case of emergencies, when the County may close and gate the trails.
555

556 ATV registration, out-of-state user fees and the gas tax formula are used to support trail
557 development, signing, maintenance and bridge construction.
558

559 510.6.2 Non-Motorized Trail Opportunities

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

- 565 a. Ski trails
- 566 b. Hiking/nature trails
- 567 c. Horseback riding trails
- 568 d. Mountain biking trails
- 569 e. Snowshoe trails
- 570 f. Hunter walking/wildlife trails

571
572 Refer to Chapter 700 for further discussion on non-motorized recreation opportunities on the
573 Chippewa County Forest.

574 510.6.2.1 Horse Trails

575 A horseback riding trail called the “Hay Meadow Horse Trail” has been developed in the
576 County Forest. The Chippewa Valley Trail Riders, a local horseback riding organization, has
577 been a key force in locating, developing and maintaining the trail. Trail maintenance and
578 modification of normal forest management activities will be included in this agreement. A map
579 of the horse trail can be found in Chapter 900.

580 510.6.2.2 Ski Trails

581 It is the policy of the Forest and Parks Committee to provide cross country skiing opportunities
582 on the County Forest while taking into account that forest management activities may dictate a
583 specific trail be temporarily closed or relocated. It is the goal of the Forest and Parks
584 Committee to offer both ski-skating and traditional Nordic skiing opportunities. Where feasible,
585 attempts will be made to have local ski enthusiasts or organizations do winter grooming and
586 maintenance of ski trails. A map of the ski trails can be found in Chapter 900.

587 510.6.2.3 Ice Age Hiking Trail

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

592
593 This trail is part of a continuous trail system across Wisconsin, linking the units of the Ice Age
594 National Scientific Reserve. The trail is primarily used for hiking, snowshoeing and cross
595 country skiing. Portions of the trail use old logging access roads and therefore can be
596 impacted by the County Forest timber sale program. Use of the trail for logging must comply
597 with any restrictions designated under the land use agreement.

598
599 The long-term goal for the Ice Age Trail is that the trail be developed, managed and
600 recognized as a premier hiking trail of national significance for its scenic and recreational
601 qualities, and that it eventually becomes part of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Most if not
602 possibly all of the Ice Age Trail within Chippewa County Forest has obtained certification from
603 the National Park Service (NPS) for its portion of the trail. Under this certification and the
604 previously referenced land use agreement, the county forest agrees to follow to the *Ice Age
605 National Scenic Trail: A Handbook for Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance*, which lays
606 out the standards for the trail as put forth by the NPS.

607 510.6.2.4 Canoe (Portage) Trails

608 Several portage trails have been constructed along a canoe route between Townline Lake
609 parking lot and Knickerbocker Lake. The route has a starting point on the east end of
610 Townline Lake parking lot and involves six portage trail segments and canoeing across

611 several lakes and ponds before reaching its end at the west end of Knickerbocker Lake. The
612 route provides an opportunity for fishing and scenic enjoyment while canoeing the
613 undeveloped lakes within the terminal moraine of the County Forest. The portage trails are
614 signed and maintained by the Forest and Parks Department.

615 510.6.2.5 Other Trails

616 Other types of trails and policies may come under consideration in the future by the Forest
617 and Parks Committee. Examples of such trails are mountain bike, snowshoe, scenic
618 information routes and self-guided nature trails.

619 510.7 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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

626 510.8 CONVERSION OF EXISTING TRAILS TO AN ALTERNATIVE TRAIL USE

627 In the event that the development of a new trail would result in the displacement of an existing,
628 authorized trail use, new trail development shall not be authorized unless the following
629 conditions are met:

630
631 C. The sponsor of the new trail demonstrates that all reasonable alternatives to displacement
632 have been considered, including, but not limited to: land use agreements, leases, or
633 acquisition of private lands to accommodate the proposed or displaced trail.

634 D. The sponsor of the new trail agrees to provide, at no expense to the displaced trail user
635 group, a replacement that is comparable or superior, as defined by the displaced trail user
636 group. Reasonable attempts shall be made to develop the replacement trail following the
637 existing protocol of the displaced trail user group. Use of the previously existing trail shall not
638 be interrupted or discontinued, without agreement from the displaced trail user group, until
639 the replacement is available

640
641 Nothing in this subsection supersedes authorization requirements established elsewhere in the
642 2006-2020 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan or other County policy.
643

644 515 SPECIAL USES

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

649
650 All requests for specialized uses of any County Forest land will require a permit authorized by the
651 Committee. A list of existing special use areas is appended in Chapter 900.

652 515.1 SAND AND GRAVEL

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

- 658 1. Requiring the pit and its access road to be screened from view from any public highway.
- 659 2. Severing trees from the stump.
- 660 3. Disposition of brush and dirt spoil by leveling or hauling away.
- 661 4. Sloping to prevent steep banks.

662 5. Filing with the Forest and Parks office, an annual written report of gravel and sand
663 removed.

664
665 Other conditions may be set at the discretion of the Committee or Forest and Parks
666 Administrator. The Committee may also set fees for materials removed. Consideration for
667 extraction of other non-metalliferous materials will be dealt with on an individual basis.
668

669 All active, nonmetallic sites greater than one acre in size, including those on the County
670 Forest, are also subject to the provisions of the Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Program,
671 Chapter NR 135, WI Adm. Code. The County Forest and Parks Department shall work with
672 the County Land Conservation and Zoning Departments to obtain the necessary permits for
673 nonmetallic mining operations.
674

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

680 515.2 EXPLORATION, PROSPECTING AND MINING

681 1. The committee may investigate all mineral exploration, prospecting and mining requests
682 as they are received.

683 2. The DNR shall be notified of all requests, as they become known in accord with Manual
684 Code 2712.1. (Mineral exploration on County Forests per S.S. 28.11 (3)(i) Wis. Stats.), or
685 other codes which may be subsequently adopted.

686 3. The Public Forest Lands Handbook should be referenced for more detailed procedure.

687 515.3 SANITARY LANDFILLS

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

690 515.4 MILITARY MANEUVERS

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

700 515.5 PUBLIC UTILITIES

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

707 1. Utility will be billed for merchantable forest products and existing timber reproduction.

708 2. Utility will be billed for land removed from production due to right-of-way clearing for losses
709 of future income and multiple use benefits.

710 3. Land removed for utility operations that is no longer suited "primarily for timber production or,
711 that is no longer suitable for scenic, outdoor recreation, public hunting & fishing, water
712 conservation or multiple use purposes" (s. 28.11(4)(c) WI Stats) may need to be withdrawn
713 from County Forest Law designation. The utility shall replace any lands requiring withdrawal

- 714 from county forest with other lands suitable for County Forest entry within the forest blocking
715 of the County Forest.
- 716 4. Utility companies will be encouraged to use existing corridors and underground lines to
717 minimize disturbance to the County Forest and native plants and animals.
- 718 5. Merchantable timber will be removed in a manner specified by the Forest and Parks
719 Administrator and approved by the Committee. Timber cut must be reported to the DNR
720 on form 2460-1.
- 721 6. Utility must provide notice of proposed route, including a map of not less than 1 inch /mile
722 scale, 90 days in advance of proposed construction.
- 723 7. Special maintenance, controlled access and signage concerns shall be addressed in any
724 proposal.
- 725 8. An appropriate fee shall be charged for easements.

726 515.6 PRIVATE UTILITY SERVICE LINES

- 727 If a landowner cannot gain utility access across other lands, the Forest and Parks Committee
728 may consider a land use agreement for access across County Forest. Requests will be
729 considered on a case-by-case basis. These agreements should consider the inclusions
730 mentioned in Section 515 for easements as well as:
- 731 1. The permit is non-transferable.
- 732 2. The County retains full ownership of the utility corridor; however it shall not be liable for
733 maintenance, upkeep, or other damages associated with the utility service.
- 734 3. The permittee waives any rights to any declaration of ownership or interest in the utility
735 corridor on County land for administrative costs as a result of this Land Use Agreement –
736 Utility permit. This agreement is granted upon the signature and any fees being received
737 by Chippewa County.
- 738 4. The fee for such a land use agreement would be set by the Forest and Parks committee,
739 with approval by the County Board.

740 515.7 CELLULAR COMMUNICATION TOWERS

- 741 The Committee will consider the siting of cellular communication towers on the Chippewa
742 County Forest on a limited basis. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis
743 subject to the following conditions:
- 744 1. It must be demonstrated that the site is the most practical location for such a tower.
- 745 2. Land selected for such a tower is no longer suitable for continued entry in the County
746 Forest program. In addition, any accompanying lands needed for tower support wires
747 that inhibit the practice of forestry and are no longer suitable for scenic, outdoor
748 recreation, public hunting & fishing, water conservation or multiple use purposes (s.
749 28.11(4), Wis. Stats) may also need to be withdrawn from County Forest Law.
750 Withdrawal is subject to approval by both County Board and DNR. The cellular
751 communication company shall replace any lands requiring withdrawal from County Forest
752 with other lands suitable for County Forest entry that are in the forest blocking.
- 753 3. The fee for such a land use agreement would be set by the Forest and Parks committee
754 with approval by the county board.
- 755 4. Any agreement should also consider the inclusions listed under 515.5 (Items 1-7).

756 515.8 OTHER

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

760 520 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONES

- 761 Aesthetic forest management will be applied to the County Forest. The degree of application of

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

768 520.1 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE A

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

771 520.1.1 Examples – Zone A

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

777 520.1.2 Boundaries – Zone A

- 778 a. Park or recreation areas: Zone boundaries may include the area within the
779 reasonable visible horizon as determined from any location within the recreation
780 area. It may also include adjacent areas that receive a considerable amount of use
781 as a result of the recreation area.
- 782 b. Travel corridors: The boundaries will be a reasonable distance from the traveled part
783 of the zone.

784 520.1.3 Management – Zone A

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

787 520.1.4 Permitted Uses – Zone A

- 788 a. Timber harvesting/thinning operations may be prohibited during periods of peak
789 public use. All slash may be required to be lopped and/or removed from view.
- 790 b. Stands in zone A will be managed for the greatest scenic potential.
- 791 c. Borrow pits may be permitted near a road during road construction. When borrow
792 operation is completed, the site will be restored pursuant to Chapter NR 135, Wis.
793 Adm. Code and must aesthetically conform to general use of the area. Permanent
794 pits should be screened from view. Only units of government or contractors
795 performing public works may use gravel/borrow pits located on the County Forest.
- 796 d. County directional, informational, and recreational signs conforming to approved
797 standards are permitted.
- 798 e. Tree and shrub planting will be spaced at random to prevent an artificial appearance.
- 799 f. New access roads will be permitted if they join the main road at right angles. All such
800 access roads will be, when possible, curved so that no cleared line of sight will be
801 created from the main road to the exterior boundary of the zone.

802 520.2 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE B

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

806 520.2.1 Examples – Zone B

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

811 520.2.2 Boundaries – Zone B

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

814 520.2.3 Management – Zone B

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

818 520.2.4 Permitted Uses – Zone B

819 All land management activities are permissible but should incorporate sensitivity to aesthetics.
820 Examples: Timber sales may employ slash reduction, roads and landings rehabilitation,
821 erosion control and prevention, and irregular harvest lines to mitigate aesthetic impact.
822

823 520.3 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE C

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

826 520.3.1 Examples – Zone C

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

828 520.3.2 Boundaries – Zone C

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

830 520.3.3 Management – Zone C

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

834 520.3.4 Permitted Uses – Zone C

835 All land management activities consistent with the goals of the forest.

836 520.4 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE D

837 Areas designated as special resources.

838 520.4.1 Examples – Zone D

- 839 a. Scientific/Natural Areas
840 b. Wilderness Areas

841 520.4.2 Management – Zone D

842 Manage these areas as outlined in Chapter 800 or the individual management plan.

843 **525 TREATY RIGHTS: GATHERING MISCELLANEOUS FOREST PRODUCTS**

844 In 1993, Federal District Court Judge Barbara Crabb ruled the Chippewa Indians do not have a right
845 to cut timber commercially from state and county owned lands for free. Judge Crabb did rule that the
846 tribes retained the rights to gather forest products as they used them at the time the treaties were
847 signed with the federal government in 1837 and 1942. In this decision, Judge Crabb also ruled that

848 the Chippewa Indians may gather firewood, tree bark, maple syrup, lodge poles, boughs, marsh hay
849 or other miscellaneous forest products. In accordance with such ruling, Chippewa County requires the
850 following:

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

859
860 B. The County may not deny a request to gather miscellaneous forest products on County
861 property under this section unless: (a) the gathering is inconsistent with the management
862 plan for the property, (b) the gathering will conflict with the pre-existing rights of a
863 permittee or other person possessing an approval to conduct an activity on the property,
864 including a contractor of the County or, (c) is otherwise inconsistent with conservation or
865 public health or safety. Subchapter IV, Ch.NR13, WI. Adm. Code details the regulations.
866

867

868 **530 HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS, AREAS AND EXCEPTIONAL** 869 **RESOURCES**

870
871 High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) is a term that identifies those areas possessing unique
872 qualities locally, regionally or nationally. Chippewa County's focus in managing these areas will
873 be to maintain or enhance the qualities that make these areas special. In some instances, this
874 may involve altering management practices to mitigate impacts and in others, it may entail no
875 active management.

876
877 Exceptional Resources contain such things as High Conservation Value Forests, wild rivers and
878 lakes, significant geological features, natural areas, ruffed grouse management areas, historical
879 and archeological sites. HCVF contain such communities as relict old-growth forest; habitat for
880 endangered, threatened, and species of greatest conservation need; natural origin pine stands;
881 rare natural communities, such as forested seeps, large muskegs, shorelines of wild rivers and
882 lakes, and animal concentration spots. It is the policy of Chippewa County to manage these types
883 of resources and protect their individual exceptional features.

884 **530.1 AREAS HIGH IN REGIONALLY OR NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

885 **530.1.1 Wisconsin State Natural Areas**

886 Chippewa County manages a variety of property designations including Wisconsin State
887 Natural Areas (SNA). The SNA system represents the wealth and variety of Wisconsin's
888 native landscape. They contain outstanding examples of native biotic communities and are
889 often the last refuges in the state for rare and endangered plant and animal species. The
890 Wisconsin SNA program works with counties to further recognize outstanding native biotic
891 communities that Chippewa County is presently managing as exceptional areas. SNA's
892 are unique in that they can exist as stand alone properties or be designated within the
893 boundaries of another property type. Chippewa County maintains its land ownership,
894 management, and decision-making authority, but with cooperative recognition of these
895 sites, the county can enhance its ability to provide a broader range of opportunities for the
896 citizens.

897
898 DNR State Natural Areas staff will work cooperatively with the County Forest by
899 coordinating educational, monitoring, and research activities. Assistance on management
900 projects can provide the County with more resources to accomplish necessary
901 management. Management will protect the unique character of the area. The importance

902 of the Wisconsin State Natural Areas has been recognized on the County Forest by
903 cooperating with the Department through designating and managing approximately 800
904 acres of the County Forest for proposed 5 SNA sites. At this time though, no SNA's are
905 designated in the County Forest.
906

- 907 i. Tealey Creek Cedars - This 160-acre high conservation value forest features a large high
908 quality white cedar-black ash swamp. Many white cedar trees are 18 inches in diameter.
909 Balsam fir and red maple are common associates. Numerous rare plants are found
910 throughout the site. White cedar is rare in this part of the state. Disturbances appear to be
911 minimal, although water level alteration by beaver is a concern for the rare plants. Goal for
912 the stand is old-growth white cedar swamp. Passive management is recommended,
913 because natural process can establish and perpetuate the cover type, and furthermore,
914 regeneration under the influence of high white-tailed deer populations is tenuous at best.
915 One of western Wisconsin's most outstanding cedar swamps will benefit from recognition of
916 this site.
917
- 918 ii. Chippewa Moraine Lakes. The outstanding feature of this site is a dense concentration of
919 lakes set in a relatively natural state. Lakes exhibit differences in species composition and
920 population densities due to depth, alkalinity, shore features, and whether the lake drained or
921 gets its water via seepage. A combination of features harbored within nine moraine-
922 influenced lakes could form an exceptional ecological reference site. The lakes have a range
923 of qualities when combined would be unequaled as a reference site.
924
- 925 • Camp Lake – Acid bog lake with muck bottom and diverse wetlands
 - 926 • Spence Lake – Deep soft water seepage lake with associated wetlands
 - 927 • Deer Lake – Deep soft water drainage lake with associated wetlands
 - 928 • Bass Lake No 5 – Deep hard water drainage lake
 - 929 • Fishpole Lake – Meromictic lake with a bog wetland
 - 930 • Little Plummer Lake – Deep hard water drained lake
 - 931 • Plummer Lake - Deep hard water seepage lake
 - 932 • Burnt Wagon Lake- Shallow soft water seepage lake
 - 933 • Bass Lake – A deep hard water seepage lake

934
935 Such a series of reference areas is unique on County Forest land. Activities such as fishing,
936 boating, and other existing legal water activities would not be affected. Shore activities such
937 as camping and shore lunches would not be affected. Timber harvest would continue
938 utilizing BMP's, however, emphasis will be on retaining longer lived trees, especially white
939 pine. The larger and deeper lakes have northern pike, bass, and panfish, while the
940 shallower lakes are subjected to winterkill conditions. Special recognition as a Wisconsin
941 State Natural Area would bring in outside resources to establish baseline data and monitor
942 trends over the long-term.
943

- 944
- 945 iii. Dorothy Lake. This 230-acres site features a diverse mosaic of natural communities. Within
946 a short-distance, different natural communities are found including a northern dry-mesic
947 (pine dominated) forest, northern hardwood forest, tamarack swamp, red maple swamp,
948 poor fen, and undeveloped lakes. Several rare plants and animals are found on the site. The
949 lakes have an extremely diverse invertebrate fauna. The complexity of the site's biology
950 signifies this site has high conservation values. The goal of the site is to have undeveloped
951 lakes and wetlands surrounded by old-growth forest of hardwoods and pines. Recent
952 harvest activity has increased the vigor of the remaining trees, which will enhance growth
953 rates. Short-term management will not be needed, but long-term limited management to
954 increase compositional diversity. Long-term management will be needed to regenerate the
955 pines and oaks. Red pines, white pines, red oak, and white oak will be carried to biological
956 maturity before regeneration harvest occurs. Special recognition as a Wisconsin State
957 Natural Area would bring in outside resources to establish baseline data and monitor trends
958 over the long-term.
959
960

- 961 iv. Deer Fly Swamp. The 30-acre site features a perched wetland dominated by white pine. This
962 natural community white pine - red maple swamp is rare in Wisconsin, and even rarer in the
963 moraines. Several rare plants find refuge in this swamp. The goal for this site is to
964 encourage old-growth characteristics in this unique natural community. From elsewhere in
965 its Wisconsin range, this natural community is self-perpetuating, therefore a passive
966 management regime is recommended. Special recognition as a Wisconsin State Natural
967 Area would bring in outside resources to establish baseline data and monitor trends over the
968 long-term.
969
- 970 v. Townline Lake. This 200-acre site lies mostly within the Ice Age Reserve, although the
971 eastern portion falls within the county forest. The site features a complex aquatic system
972 with deep and shallow areas, a much attenuated shoreline, and numerous points and drop-
973 offs. The uplands harbor an oak dominated forest that was very typical of western Chippewa
974 County for millennia. Several mature forest loving bird species, such as the state-threatened
975 Cerulean Warbler are found breeding in these woods. The goal of the site is to have the lake
976 surrounded by old-growth forest of oaks and hardwoods. Short-term management will not be
977 needed, but long-term limited management to increase compositional diversity. Long-term
978 management will be needed to regenerate the oaks. Red oak and white oak will be carried
979 to biological maturity before regeneration harvest occurs. Patch shelterwood harvest will
980 need to occur in order to regenerate the oaks within a concept of a shifting mosaic of age
981 classes. Special recognition as a Wisconsin State Natural Area would bring in outside
982 resources to establish baseline data and monitor trends over the long-term.
983

984 530.1.2 Specific Sites High in Locally Significant Biological Diversity

985
986 In addition to the regionally important areas listed above, Chippewa County harbors many other
987 important areas of biological diversity. Chippewa County should manage these resources to
988 maintain or enhance their ecological values.
989

990 Moonridge Ice-walled Lake Plain. This 100-acre site is perched on an ice-walled lake plain. These
991 features developed during glacial periods when lakes formed over ice and debris, when the
992 surrounding glacial ice melted, the silt at the bottom of the lake now became perched above the
993 surrounding land. Nutrient-rich and well drained, these sites are very productive. Many species of
994 herbaceous plants found nowhere else on the forest thrive on the features. The County has
995 many ice-walled lake plains. Most have been converted to agricultural uses, although several are
996 forest and part of the County Forest. Biologically the most diverse, the Moonridge ice-walled lake
997 plain, can provide an ecological reference for other similar managed sites on both public and
998 private lands. This feature and the natural community would make an excellent research site. The
999 goal is to have a mature northern hardwood forest. Short-term management would focus on
1000 getting the stands into an all-aged system, and then long-term would manage using extended
1001 rotation silviculture.
1002

1003 Ruby Swamp: This is a large wetland complex dominated by northern wet forest, tamarack
1004 swamp, muskeg, and northern sedge meadow. Gently rolling ground moraine occurs on the
1005 surrounding uplands. Reed canary grass has a foot-hold in the swamp that needs some level of
1006 attention. The site is considered a High Conservation Value Forest in the county.
1007

1008 Buckhorn Trail Bog: This bog is a high quality wetland in a shallow depression on ground
1009 moraine. The bog has muskeg in the center with an outer ring of northern sedge meadow and
1010 alder thicket. The bog and northern wet forest have been given A rank. The site is a high
1011 conservation value forest in the county.
1012

1013 Yellow River Woods: This woods lies along a one-mile free-flowing reach of the Yellow River. The
1014 steep slopes are forested with a second growth hardwoods and hemlock. Two special concern
1015 plants live on the site. Management needs to consider perpetuation of the rare plants as well as
1016 maintaining water quality of the Yellow River.
1017

1018 M & E Woods: The site is located on a 135-acre ice walled lake plain, most of which has been
1019 cleared for agriculture. The site contains good quality second growth forest of red oak and sugar
1020 maple. A few hemlocks occur on the site. Management could focus on retaining old trees,

1021 especially hemlock. The site also contains exceptional geological interpretation values. The goal
1022 is to have a mature northern hardwood forest. Short-term management would focus on getting
1023 the stands into an all-aged system, and then long-term would manage using extended rotation
1024 silviculture.

1025
1026 O'Neil Creek Hardwoods: The site contains a high quality example of a northern hardwood forest
1027 with a significant population of a state-threatened plant. Management for late seral stages with
1028 accommodations for the rare plant should perpetuate the species of concern.

1029 530.1.3 Significant Features High in Locally Biological Diversity

1030

1031 Relict Old Growth Stands

1032 Eastern hemlock and white cedar stands will be maintained. Hemlock is important to the diversity
1033 of our northern hardwood stands and provides needed habitat for many species, including
1034 migratory songbirds and a seed source for regeneration. Management is currently keyed to
1035 maintaining hemlock as a component of northern hardwood stands and improving the health and
1036 vigor of individual trees and islands of trees. Regeneration is dependent on overcoming high deer
1037 populations. Silvicultural techniques in conjunction with repellents, fencing, and/or bud capping
1038 may prove useful in regenerating hemlock and enhancing its presence on the County Forest.
1039 Cedar is equally important to the diversity of our forested wetlands and provides needed habitat
1040 for many species, including migratory songbirds and a seed source for regeneration. With regard
1041 to the difficulties in regenerating white cedar, due mostly to high deer populations, these stands
1042 are currently not being harvested. Regeneration is dependent on overcoming high deer
1043 populations. Silvicultural techniques in conjunction with repellents, fencing, and/or bud capping
1044 may prove useful in regenerating hemlock and enhancing its presence on the County Forest.

1045

1046 Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat

1047 As part of, and in addition to, the unique natural communities listed in Chapter 530.1, rare,
1048 threatened, and endangered plant and animal species exist in the Chippewa County Forest. A
1049 complete species list and their Wisconsin status can be found in Chapter 900.

1050 530.1.4 Geological Features of Significance

1051 Kames, moraines and other glacially influenced landforms are common on the forest. Chippewa
1052 County will maintain the area's geological features.

1053

1054 Ice-walled Lake Plains are features that form in rugged moraines. Typically the only flat areas in
1055 very hilly topography, these plains were once lake bottoms. The sediment that formed at the
1056 bottom became perched when the surrounding ice blocks melted. The richer nutrients and the
1057 well-drained position at the top of hills permitted exceptional conditions for forest development.

1058 530.1.5 Culturally Significant Features

1059 There are several old log dams and ice ways that date back to the 19th century and are still part of
1060 the landscape. Though there are no documented cultural features that currently exist, lack of
1061 known occurrence does not preclude the existence of these resources.

1062