

## LINCOLN COUNTY FOREST ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2012

TO: THE LINCOLN COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND AND PARKS DEPARTMENT  
COMMITTEE AND HONORABLE SUPERVISORS OF THE LINCOLN COUNTY  
BOARD

Following is the proposed Lincoln County Forest work plan for the year 2012. The plan gives direction and meaning to the proposed County Forest budget. The plan further defines and supplements the Fifteen-Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan and emphasizes the current needs of the County Forest and Recreational System.

### TIMBER HARVEST

Timber harvests are not only important for the economic well being of Lincoln County, but for the health and vigor of the forest. This includes all aspects of the forest; wildlife, watershed protection, air quality, recreation, and other noncommercial values. Professional implementation of proper forest management and harvest techniques is essential. The timber management goal is to produce a sustained yield of forest products by scheduling timber sales to achieve the average annual allowable cut. Compartment reconnaissance information from the Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System (WisFIRS) will be used to determine stands where timber cutting is needed. When harvesting in these sales takes place, inspections and reports will be filed as needed and as required by Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Forest Certification. The Lincoln County Forest became SFI certified in March of 2005 and FSC certified in July of 2007. Lincoln County Forest plans to offer for sale approximately 2,050 acres for harvest in the following timber types in 2012:

Northern Hardwoods	<u>1000</u> Acres
Aspen	<u>850</u> Acres
Red Pine	<u>100</u> Acres
Other Species as Needed (to include Fir-Spruce)	<u>100</u> Acres

Information about what timber sale establishment activities are occurring may be obtained by contacting the Lincoln County Forestry Office, Lincoln County Service Center, 801 N. Sales Street, Suite 106, Merrill, Wisconsin 54452, Phone (715) 539-1034.

## REFORESTATION

- A. Pre-Harvest Scarification: None planned
- B. Site Preparation: 15 Acres (Brush Raking & Patch Scarification)
- C. Aspen Regeneration: 850 Acres
- D. Plantings: 15 Acres
- E. White Birch Regeneration: 40 Acres

## TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

Release: Spruce and Pine release 20 Acres

## COUNTY FOREST ROADS

Total Miles approved: 27.25  
Maintenance will be done as needed on County Forest Roads.

## LAND ACQUISITION

On Going  
Work on trade possibilities for private interior forty.  
Work on purchase of interior forty.

## SURVEYING

As Required  
Will work on a list of priorities with County Surveyor.

## FOREST PROTECTION

- A. Implement Gypsy Moth and Annosum Root Rot Plan.
- B. Monitor Jack Pine Budworm and pockets of oak decline. Watch for signs of Emerald Ash Borer activity, oak wilt, and red pine pocket decline.

- C. Control exotic invasive plant species such as garlic mustard.
- D. Educate user groups on invasive species.

## **FISH AND WILDLIFE PROJECTS**

### County Conservation:

- A. Continue to renovate and maintain wildlife openings and connecting trails on the County Forest. Long term goal is to prioritize and better manage forest openings.
- B. Continue work on Signing and Access/Landing Improvements on Small Lakes.
- C. Continue to complete wildlife habitat enhancement projects.

### Wildlife Habitat:

- A. Ruffed Grouse Project Areas
  - \*Trail work, gating, signing and mapping.
  - \*Completed trail work improvements near Whisky Bill Road.
  - \* Will monitor existing ruffed grouse areas and construct additional trails along Poplar Road and north of 4-Mile Road when the demand for additional trails develops followed up by gating.
  - \* Utilize the use of DNR wildlife resources for grouse trail and other wildlife habitat development or enhancement.
- B. Forest Openings Maintenance and Improvements, including mowing hunter walking trails in conjunction with openings.
- C. Any Combination of Release; tag alder, oak or green cover.
- D. Green Cover Planting along trails.
- E. Wild Rice planting and waterfowl improvements on the Harrison Flowage. This includes signing.
- F. Alder shearing if winter conditions are favorable.
- G. Gating and access projects.
- H. Wildlife opening improvements (backhoe and dozer) as time and equipment availability allows.
- I. Site prep. For early successional species such as oak and birch.
- J. Any Other Meritorious Fish and Wildlife Projects.

## RECREATION AREAS

- A. Recreation Trails: \*On Going Programs (Snowmobile, ATV, Cross Country Ski, Snowshoe, Ice Age, Horse, & Mountain Bike Trails)  
Continue with development planning for This Road ATV Trail
- B. Parks & Campgrounds: Maintenance as needed at all parks and campgrounds.  
Look into upgrading wells in parks and campgrounds.  
Develop plan for Underdown shelterhouse.
- C. Boat Landings: On Going improvements to lake access.
- D. Other: Continue implementation of Lincoln County Forest Access Plan and 5-year Recreation Plan.

## FOREST CERTIFICATION

Implement SFI and FSC standards and procedures.

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS

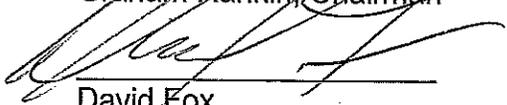
- A. Forestry Department Facilities: On Going Maintenance
- B. Equipment: Repair or Acquire as Needed

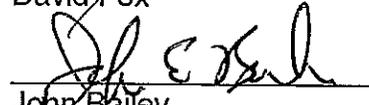
## SPECIAL PROJECTS, GRANTS AND FUNDING

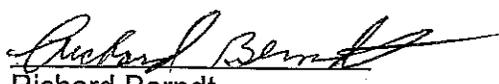
- A. Ruffed Grouse Society
- B. Sustainable Forestry Grant to control exotic invasive plants on County Forest.
- C. Turkey Stamp
- D. Woodcock Initiative
- E. Snowmobile and ATV Rehabilitation Funding
- F. RTA Grant

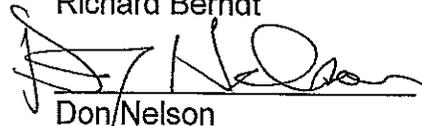
Annual Work Plan approved this 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2011 by the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department Committee.

  
Graham Rankin, Chairman

  
David Fox

  
John Bailey

  
Richard Berndt

  
Don Nelson