

Lincoln County Forest

Annual Work Plan – 2017

THE HONORABLE LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Following is the annual Lincoln County Forest work plan for the calendar year 2017. The plan gives direction and meaning to the proposed County Forest budget, and further defines and supplements the Lincoln County Forest Fifteen-Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan and emphasizes the current needs of the County Forest and Recreation program. This plan is needed to comply with Wis. Statute 28.11(5) and Chapter NR47.70 (4) of the Wisconsin Administrative Code for the administration of the County Forest Administration Grant program.

LINCOLN COUNTY FOREST ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2017

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 2017. 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 2,100 acres for harvest in the following timber types in 2017:

Northern Hardwoods	<u>1100</u> Acres
Aspen	<u>800</u> Acres
Red Pine	<u>100</u> Acres
Other Species as Needed	<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.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION OF FOREST

Lincoln County will maintain its current cover type acreage to the greatest extent possible, especially with forest cover types that are decreasing in acreage largely due to fire suppression and/or an emphasis on managing for shade tolerant, later successional species on other forest ownerships. Aspen, white birch, jack pine, swamp conifer and red oak are all timber types that are dwindling on the landscape and are important to the ecology and diversity of the forest as well as for their value to the timber industry and to wildlife. When possible, these cover types will be sustained with full consideration being given to aesthetics, recreation, and other multiple-use values that the forest provides, along with the costs and logistics of maintaining these cover types. The management and planning of forest structure will target goals defined in the attached report 207 for the desired future condition of the Lincoln County Forest.

REFORESTATION

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|
| A. | Site Preparation: | 15 Acres (Brush Raking & Patch Scarification) |
| B. | Aspen Regeneration: | 800 Acres |
| C. | Plantings: | 16 Acres |
| D. | White Birch Regeneration: | 20 Acres |
| E. | Survival Checks | 58 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.
Culvert replacement schedule is being implemented based on priority.
High priority culverts have been replaced.
Continue roadside brushing and ditch improvement work.

LAND ACQUISITION

On Going
Work on trade possibilities for private interior forty.
Work on purchase of interior forty.
Use Stewardship Program to cost share any land acquisition projects.

SURVEYING

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

FOREST PROTECTION

On Going

- A. Implement Gypsy Moth, Oak Wilt 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, oak 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 work on Signing and Access/Landing Improvements on Small Lakes.
- B. Continue to complete wildlife habitat enhancement projects of merit.

Wildlife Habitat

- A. Forest Openings Maintenance and Improvements, including mowing hunter walking trails in conjunction with openings. Long term goal is to prioritize and better manage forest openings.
- B. Any Combination of Release; tag alder, oak or green cover.
- C. Green Cover Planting along trails.
- D. Alder shearing if winter conditions are favorable.
- E. Gating and access projects.
- F. Hunter parking lots along main roads.
- G. Site prep. For early successional species such as oak and birch.
- H. 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.
Install Meadow Creek Snowmobile Bridge on 39 Trail with acquired grant funding.
Explore ATV Trail development as grant funding is acquired.
Continue improvements to X-C ski trail with RTA Grant Funding.



Forest Structure - Past, Present, Future

Print Date: 9/28/2016
Report 207

3500 - LINCOLN COUNTY FOREST

Timber Text	Acres Past (1977)	Acres Present (2016)	Acres Future
ASPEN	40,839	39,812	38,352
BALSAM FIR	0	173	712
BLACK SPRUCE	4,300	5,693	5,683
BOTTOMLAND HARDWOODS	0	175	175
FIR SPRUCE-OLD CODE, RECODE	2,810	58	58
HEMLOCK	159	201	197
JACK PINE	784	195	198
NORTHERN HARDWOODS	20,410	24,102	24,835
OAK	49	1,556	1,335
RED MAPLE	0	1,096	974
RED PINE	1,501	2,133	2,131
SWAMP CONIFER-OLD CODE, RECODE	1,445	260	240
SWAMP HARDWOODS	1,618	1,934	1,934
TAMARACK	583	1,688	1,676
WHITE BIRCH	2,641	695	316
WHITE CEDAR	450	1,471	1,130
WHITE PINE	0	242	366
WHITE SPRUCE	0	585	766
Total:	77,588	81,070	81,098



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3500 - LINCOLN COUNTY FOREST

CAMPGROUND	0	21	21
DEVELOPED USE	0	32	32
FARM LAND	0	3	3
HERBACEOUS VEGETATION	56	0	0
LOW - GROWING SHRUBS	87	6	8
LOWLAND BRUSH	7,427	692	692
LOWLAND BRUSH - ALDER	3,368	9,303	9,303
LOWLAND GRASS	0	260	254
LOWLAND HERBACEOUS VEGETATION	0	18	18
MARSH	7,979	4,289	4,289
MINOR LAKE	0	1,016	1,016
MINOR STREAM	0	81	81
MUSKEG BOG	0	2,397	2,397
PARKING AREA	0	2	2
RIGHT OF WAY	0	778	778
TRUE GRASSES	801	427	419
UPLAND BRUSH	881	58	44
UPLAND GRASS	10	133	133
WATER	0	10	10
Total:	20,589	19,526	19,498