

LINCOLN COUNTY FOREST FIFTEEN-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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CHAPTER 500

LAND MANAGEMENT AND USE

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500 LAND USE

500.1 OBJECTIVES

1. To identify policies and procedures employed to effectively manage, utilize and sustain the resources of the County Forest.
2. To identify regulated forest management activities, recreational activities, aesthetic management zones, land uses and special resource areas.

505 SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES

Silviculture is the practice of controlling forest composition, structure, and growth to maintain and enhance the Forest's utility for any purpose. These practices are based on research and general silviculture knowledge of the species being managed. The goal is to maintain a variety of forest cover-types, successional stages and age classes native to the area. The application of silviculture to a diverse forest requires a unified, systematic approach. The DNR Public Forest Lands Handbook (2460.5) and DNR Silvicultural and Forest Aesthetics Handbook (2431.5) will be used as guidelines for management practices used on the County Forest.

505.1 EVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT

An even-aged stand is a forest stand composed of trees having relatively small differences in age. Typical cutting practices include: clear cutting, shelterwood cutting and seed-tree cutting.

505.2 UNEVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT

An uneven-aged stand is a forest stand composed of trees that differ markedly in age. A true uneven-aged stand has a minimum of 3 distinct age classes. The typical cutting practice is selection cutting, where individual trees are removed from the stand to achieve a desired basal area. Regeneration is continually occurring after the stand is cut.

505.3

TIMBER SALES

Regulated harvesting of timber is essential to the goals and objectives of this Plan. Annual timber harvesting will be conducted following accepted silvicultural practices in an effort to achieve as near as possible the annual allowable harvest while maintaining the sustainability of the County Forest. Timber harvesting areas will be distributed throughout the forest to accommodate such needs as biodiversity, wildlife habitat, aesthetics, watershed protection and other biological considerations. The DNR forest reconnaissance program will be used as the basis for planning and scheduling harvests. All sales will be established, administered and reported in accordance with the DNR Timber Sale Handbook (2461). All sales on the forest are to be advertised for public bidding, with the exception of small sales with an estimated value of \$3000 or less, or sales that would qualify under a salvage provision (§28.11(6)(c), Wis. Stats). These sales may be sold direct without advertising.

505.3.1 Field Preparation of Timber Sales

The County and the DNR will cooperate to locate, designate and prepare harvest areas for sale. The Forest Administrator and DNR Liaison Forester shall jointly be responsible to see that the field work on sales is accomplished.

505.3.2 Advertising For Bids

After field work is completed and necessary reports prepared for DNR approval, the Administrator shall prepare a sale prospectus and make it available to interested contractors. Timber sale advertisements, at a minimum, will be by classified ad in a newspaper having general circulation in the County (§ 28.11(6)(b), Wis. Stats). Ads shall be run once each week for two consecutive weeks, the last being at least one week prior to the bid opening. A longer advance time will be given when feasible. Sealed bid sales will generally be offered in early spring and fall, or as needed.

505.3.3 Prospectus

The following information will be made available to prospective bidders:

- a. Species to be harvested and estimated volume
- b. Minimum acceptable bid or alternative bidding method
- c. Maps of sale areas
- d. Special contract provisions
- e. Procedures for bidding
- f. Bid forms
- g. Timber sales bond

505.3.4 Method Of Bidding

Bids will be reviewed at a meeting of the Committee. A sealed envelope showing tract number and marked "Timber Sale Bid" shall be submitted on bid forms obtained by the bidder at Lincoln County Forestry Office for each tract bid on, and shall contain:

1. The bid price per cord or per thousand board feet for each species offered and the total for each species bid. The total value of the timber sale bid shall be indicated on both scaled and lump sum bids. The total bid value must meet or exceed the advertised sale minimum.
2. A minimum of 25% of the bid value of each tract must accompany the bid as a bid bond, payable to Lincoln County.

505.3.5 Awarding Sales

1. The high bidder is normally awarded the sale contract; however, the Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and accept the bid offer most advantageous to the County. Grounds for rejecting bids may include without limit:
 - a. Non-compliance with County Forest contract requirements.
 - b. Delinquent financial obligations.
 - c. Unsatisfactory past performances.
 - d. Inability to demonstrate financial or professional capability.

Evaluation criteria on timber sales will be price and documented ability to satisfactorily complete the contract. Factors to be assessed may include proposed equipment and operation, references, proof of financial stability, past performance and documented training completed. Lincoln County requires appropriate training of logging contractors. The Lincoln County Forestry Department will be using the State of Wisconsin SFI® Training Standard. The contract holder and one “in woods” person must meet the Training Standard. The award of contract to the successful bidder shall be based upon the bid determined most advantageous to the County.

2. Tie bids may be settled by toss of a coin if both parties are agreeable; otherwise the bids on that tract will be rejected and the sale re-advertised.
3. Sales remaining unsold after being advertised for two bid openings may be sold direct at not less than the appraised value even though their estimated value exceeds \$3,000.00. (See DNR Timber Sales Handbook No. 2461 - Chapter 52).

505.3.6 Sales Contracts, Stumpage and Payment Methods

1. Contracts will be prepared with copies provided to the contractor and the DNR with the original on file at the Lincoln County Forestry Office.
2. Proof of Workers Compensation Insurance or exemption must be provided by contractor.
3. Proof of completion of required training must be provided by the contractor.
4. Contracts are to be signed by the successful bidder within 30 days of the sale or before cutting begins, whichever occurs first, with payment being made according to the County Timber Sale Contract. Failure to sign the contract within 30 days may result in forfeiture of bid bond.
5. As specified in Timber Sale Contract or as agreed upon in writing, all stumpage payments must be paid to the County within 14 days of scale date. Delinquent stumpage payments are grounds to suspend the contract and forfeit all or a portion of the bond and deny future timber sale bids.

505.3.7 Timber Sale Performance Bond

At the time of bidding, the purchaser must deposit cash, cashiers check, personal check or money order in the amount of 25% of the total bid value of the sale. The successful bidder's deposit will be retained as the performance bond or may be replaced by the contractor with an acceptable irrevocable letter of credit. The Performance Bond may not be credited against the stumpage. In the event of a non-compliance incident, the Performance Bond shall be retained by the County in whole or in part as payment for damages. At the option of the Administrator, up to 60% of the performance bond may be used as collateral to secure lock box tickets or for woods scale. The County must receive stumpage payments upon the contractor receiving payment from the mill or other purchaser.

505.3.8 Contract Provisions

All timber sale contracts will be on the form approved by the Committee and all provisions therein shall apply. A copy of the timber sale map will be attached and become a part of the contract. A copy of Lincoln County's timber sale contract can be found in Chapter 900, Appendix.

505.3.8(a) Slash, Roadwork, Landings, Decking and Waste

The objective is to control conditions that affect fire, insects, disease, aesthetics, regeneration, wetlands, wildlife and public interest. Each timber sale contract will have specific slash disposal instructions and aesthetic safeguards and will include without limit the following:

1. Purchaser agrees to comply with the State Slash Disposal Law [§26.12 (6-7), Wis. Stats.], and with requests regarding forest fire prevention and suppression made by the Seller.
2. All slash must be removed from below the high water mark of any lake, stream or other water body, grass openings, neighboring non-county lands and recreational trails as directed by the County.
3. No machinery may be operated in lakes, streams or other unfrozen wetlands.

4. Any and all roadwork must have prior approval from the County and must follow Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality guidelines.
5. Landings and decking areas are not allowed within 100 feet of any public road or on neighboring non-county lands except by proper authorization from the County.
6. Any and all solid waste, trash, waste oil, hydraulic oil or other petroleum products generated by the Purchaser shall be removed from County property and properly disposed of by the Purchaser.
7. All slash disposal, road construction or landings, and other woods operations shall be conducted in compliance with state regulations and local shoreland and wetland zoning restrictions.

505.3.8(b) Duration and Extension Of Contracts

1. All contracts will be issued for not less than 6 months nor more than 2 years, unless otherwise stated on advertisement and/or contracts. Contracts will be dated to expire on the anniversary of the sale. Exceptions may be made in cases of extenuating circumstances.
2. The Administrator will review current conditions and renewal applications. A one year extension may be granted with a 5% increase in the stumpage rates. A second extension may be granted with an additional 10% increase in stumpage rates. See Chapter 900 for renewal application and renewal policies.
3. Unless extenuating circumstances exist, the maximum duration of a timber sale contract, including extensions, shall be 4 years. If circumstances are deemed reasonable, extensions may be granted with special stumpage rate adjustments applied.
4. If purchasers do not wish to have contracts renewed or extended appropriate penalties may be assessed.
5. Purchasers who do not wish to have contracts renewed or extended due to severe physical or financial disability may request a release. The

Committee shall determine whether or not a release will be granted and may withhold all or a portion of the bond deposit for damages or expenses accrued to re-sell the timber sale.

505.3.8(c) Sale Supervision and Contract Violations

Routine sale inspections will be performed periodically by State or County staff with corresponding reports filed with the County Forest Administrator. Field enforcement of Timber Sale Contracts will be the responsibility of the County Forest Administrator, Assistant County Forest Administrator, County Forester or State personnel. Communication with the contractor regarding contractual issues will be done in the name of the County by the Administrator or appointee.

1. Violations, depending on severity or number of offenses, shall result in:
 - a. Warnings, verbal contact with the contractor for minor or inadvertent violations
 - b. Suspension of sale operations, possibly immediate, followed by written notice stating the nature of the violation and information regarding Committee action taken or pending. Harvesting activities may not resume until Contractor receives written notice from the Forest Administrator.
 - c. Fines, amounts to be determined by the Administrator.
2. In extreme cases the Committee, in consultation with legal counsel, may consider, but is not limited to the following remedies:
 - a. Charge double stumpage
 - b. Charge for actual damages
 - c. Cancellation of contract
 - d. Retain all deposits
 - e. Foreclose on cut forest products on sale
 - f. Refer to District Attorney for prosecution
 - g. Seek civil damages in addition to the performance bond.
3. Timber sale contract holders will be given an opportunity for a hearing before the Committee to make amends. Failure of the contractor to

comply with the Committee decision may result in the contractor becoming a non-qualifying and ineligible bidder in the future. At the Committee's discretion, the contractor may be banned from future purchase of County timber sales. All deposits may be retained and forest products on sale areas may be seized and sold by the County.

505.3.9 Timber Sale Restrictions

1. To minimize resource damage or encourage scarification, the types of logging equipment, methods, and times of operation used on sale areas may be restricted by the County.
2. Special restrictions may be required in accordance with the aesthetic policy set forth in Section 520.
3. Seasonal restrictions may be applied to protect roads, minimize recreation use conflicts, benefit wildlife management, avoid endangered resources concerns, minimize insect and disease problems, or to assist in fire protection.

505.3.10 Timber Sale Roads

1. The contractor will be responsible for securing legal access to sale areas across private or other non-county ownership.
2. Location, construction and use of logging roads must have prior approval from Forestry Department personnel and shall follow Best Management Practices for Water Quality guidelines. All roads used or constructed by the contractor must be maintained and restored to a condition satisfactory to Forestry Department personnel prior to termination of the contract.
3. No skidding or decking on any Town, County, County Forest, State or Federal highway or right-of-way will be permitted unless agreed upon by the contractor, municipality involved and the Lincoln County Forestry Department. Access routes to and from such roads must also be agreed upon by said parties. Any damage from operation of equipment on or near such roads shall be the liability of the contractor. These areas will be

kept free from logging debris. Roads will be inspected by Forestry personnel to insure minimal resource damage.

4. A contractor may request permission to gate a timber sale access road. The Administrator may grant a gate permit to prohibit motorized traffic.

505.3.11 Forest Products Accountability

505.3.11(a) Scaling Merchantability

1. Sawlogs will be scaled by the Scribner Decimal C. log rule following Lake States Northern Hardwoods Grading Rules. A log is defined as:
 - 10" or larger diameter inside bark (d.i.b.) at small end, at 8' in length (plus trim) for hardwood
 - 8" or larger diameter inside bark (d.i.b.) at small end, at 8' in length (plus trim) for softwood
 - Minimum net scale of 50% of the gross scale of the log
2. The standard unit of measure for cordwood is measuring 4' x 4' x 8' deck of unpeeled wood.
 - a. Peeled wood will be converted to the standard cord by adding 12.5% for sap-peeled and adding 25% for machine-peeled wood to the gross volume measured.
 - b. Whole tree chipped volumes will be determined by adding 30% to the total estimated sale volume. The additional 30% will be charged at ½ of the bid rate.
 - c. Billing volumes of weight scaled forest products may be determined by using the DNR conversion table, found in DNR Timber Sale Handbook #2461, or by using the purchasing mill's conversion.
3. DNR Timber Sale Handbook #2461 will be used as a guide in determining the conversion rates for posts, poles, bolts, chips or other types of forest products.
4. A merchantable pulpwood tree contains at least one (1) 8' stick, to a minimum top diameter as defined in the contract.

505.3.11(b) Utilization Standards

Utilization standards will be specified on individual contracts to ensure maximum utilization of all merchantable timber and will be based on the scaling standards in

505.3.11(c) Methods of Accountability

Wood harvested from the timber sale area must be accounted for and payment made within 14 days after billing. One or more of the following may be used on an individual sale:

1. The ticket system utilizes serialized three-part tickets. One ticket must accompany each load of wood to the mill. Mill scale will be accepted for volume determination. Pre-payment of the approximate stumpage value of the wood to be hauled per ticket may be required.
2. At the request of the contractor or as a condition of the contract, forest products may also be scaled on the landing by a County or DNR Forester. This method is generally used for sawlogs or firewood.
3. Lump sum sales may be utilized and divided into cutting units when practical. Payment for a cutting unit must be received in full before any cutting begins in that unit.

505.3.12 Special Forest Product Permits

1. A written permit for cutting fuelwood for personal use must be purchased for a specific area designated on the permit.
2. A written permit for cutting boughs for personal or commercial use will be issued for a specific area designated in the permit. Bough payment rate will be set by the Committee.
3. Written permits may be issued for special forest products for community or personal use, with fees established by the Committee.
4. A semi-annual summary report of cut products sold by permit (fuelwood, Christmas trees, boughs, posts and poles, etc.) will be filed with the DNR using Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report (Form 2460 – 1).

505.4 NATURAL REGENERATION

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

505.4.1 Removal of Non-Merchantable Residual Trees

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

505.4.2 Prescribed Burning For Natural Regeneration

Prescribed burning for purposes such as site preparation, slash removal, or replacement of natural fire ecology will be conducted when conditions allow. DNR Fire Control will be the major source of guidance and direction. See DNR Fire Presuppression Handbook (4320.5).

505.4.3 Other

Site preparation by other means may be considered where natural regeneration will be aided by treatment methods. Biological, chemical and mechanical methods will be used to carry out these activities in the most efficient, effective

and environmentally sound manner.

505.5 ARTIFICIAL REGENERATION

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

505.5.1 Mechanical Site Preparation

Mechanical site preparation includes the use of soil disturbance equipment prior to tree planting or seeding. This type of equipment is used to: reduce logging debris to a smaller size, incorporate debris into the soil, reduce competition, and clear brush and debris from the site to facilitate planting or seeding.

505.5.2 Chemical Site Preparation

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

505.5.3 Prescribed Burning

Prescribed burning for site preparation can be used to: reduce logging debris, clear

the site, kill or set back unwanted vegetation and release nutrients into the soil. DNR Fire Control staff will be the major source of guidance and direction for the use of fire as a tool. See DNR Fire Presuppression Handbook (4320.5).

505.5.4 Tree Planting / Seeding

Both machine and/or hand planting/seeding will be utilized to insure adequate regeneration. The selection of species will be determined according to the specific management objectives and capabilities of each site. The majority of planting/seeding will be in harvested areas where natural regeneration is inadequate. Planting/seeding may also be employed to maintain a desirable species distribution on the forest for purposes such as aesthetics, biodiversity, and wildlife. It shall be the policy of the Committee to maintain a number of existing forest openings and manage them for wildlife habitat.

505.6 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT.

Timber stand improvement will involve release, thinning, and pruning as the primary practices during this plan period. Timber stand improvement includes any practices that increase the health, growth and quality of existing stands of trees. It can include activities such as release work, non-commercial thinnings of dense stands and pruning of lower tree branches. Practices can be done either mechanically or chemically. All practices and applications may be employed during this plan period.

505.6.1 Release

Release work, if it cannot be done by commercial timber harvest, will be conducted by either mechanical or chemical means as site or environmental conditions warrant. Release is defined as the removal of competing vegetation that is hindering growth and development of the desired tree species.

505.6.2 Non-Commercial Thinning

Most thinning can be accomplished through commercial harvest operations. Non-

commercial thinning will be considered if the individual site requirements, funding and/or available labor make it desirable.

505.6.3 Pruning

Pruning will be considered mainly for conifer species and carried out when deemed economically feasible.

510

RECREATION

The County Forest Ordinance and §28.11 Wis.Stats. authorizes the Committee to provide recreational opportunities for the public. This authority is further recognized in the mission statement for the Lincoln County Forest (Chapter100) which specifically identifies outdoor recreation opportunities. The mission statement also charges the Committee to conduct activities in a manner that prevents or minimizes the degradation of natural resources.

1. The Committee may establish and maintain recreation areas and facilities within the County Forest. The Committee has been empowered to establish and enforce rules and regulations for the use of such developments and to establish fees for their use.
2. The County Outdoor Recreation Plan, updated approximately every 5 years, will reflect the public use and interest in the County's recreation facilities and how the County plans to accommodate those uses and interests.
3. The Lincoln County General Code shall govern the lands designated by the County for park or recreational purposes.
4. The County recreation maps, the County Forest and Recreational Trails Ordinance and County Parks and Recreation Ordinance are appended in Chapter 900.

510.1

RECREATIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS

It is permissible for the Committee to contract with clubs or individuals to provide recreational services for the public. An agreement with a local snowmobile club to assist in grooming and maintaining County snowmobile trail facilities is an

example.

510.2 RECREATIONAL USE PERMITS.

1. Permits or Use Agreements for use of the County Forest may be issued by the Committee for recreational purposes.
2. No permits for sale of malt or intoxicating beverages will be issued on the County Forest.
3. Other types of special use permits are found in Section 515.
4. Permits will not be issued for cabin sites on the forest.
5. Organized events or special uses, other than informal recreation (see Sec. 510.4) require specific permission from the Committee.

510.3 ENTRANCE AND USER FEES

1. Fees for camping shall be in accord with fees charged by similar private facilities so as not to provide undue competition. Fees shall be subject to change periodically at the discretion of the Committee.
2. Detailed information on park or recreation area use regulations can be found in the Lincoln County Parks and Recreation Ordinance.

510.4 EXTENSIVE RECREATIONAL USE OF THE FOREST

Extensive (informal) County Forest uses shall include, but not necessarily be limited to; hunting, fishing, picnicking, snowshoeing, biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, photography and nature study. Such uses do not require a permit but must be conducted according to the provisions of County Ordinances.

510.4.1 Hunting

The entire County Forest is open for regulated hunting with the exception of designated areas, such as the Roothouse Lake area. Temporary hunting stands are permissible but must be removed from the forest after use. The use of nails, lag screws, screw steps, wire or other damaging devices is not permitted. No permanent type structures shall be permitted. Refer to Chapter 900 for the

ordinance pertaining to the use of tree stands and ground blinds on the County Forest.

510.4.2 Fishing

All lakes and streams within the forest are available for regulated fishing, unless otherwise listed in State and County regulations.

510.4.3 Picnicking

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

510.4.4 Camping

Camping outside of developed campground on the County Forest is permitted for a period not to exceed 14 days. The Committee may designate areas of the County Forest where camping is not allowed.

1. No littering or site destruction will be tolerated.
2. Natural vegetation and terrain may not be damaged or altered in any way, except for the construction of an adequate fire ring. Fasteners such as nails, screws or bolts may not be attached to trees.
3. Manufactured materials (lumber, concrete, plastics, etc.) may not be left on the site when it is vacated. No trees or other vegetation, either native or exotic, may be planted on the site.

510.5 INTENSIVE RECREATION AREAS.

Lincoln County Forest has sites developed to accommodate a high degree of public use. The Committee may prohibit other recreation activities that are not compatible with the intent of the developed facilities.

510.5.1 Campgrounds

Designated camping areas are provided on the County Forest. These facilities include:

- a. Camp New Wood County Park

- b. Otter Lake Recreational Area
- c. Horseman's Park

510.5.2 Picnic Areas

Picnic areas open to the public include:

- a. Camp New Wood County Park
- b. Otter Lake Recreational Area
- c. Tug Lake Recreational Area
- d. Underdown Recreational Area
- e. Haymeadow County Park
- f. Larson Lake County Park

510.5.3 Swimming Areas

Designated swimming areas include:

- a. Otter Lake Recreational Area
- b. Tug Lake Recreational Area

Lifeguards are not provided at these areas.

510.5.4 Boat Landings

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

510.5.5 Waysides

Waysides are day use areas and are located at various points throughout the County. They are shown on the Recreation map found in Chapter 900.

510.5.6 Shooting Ranges

Ranges that allow for public use of firearms and archery are permitted on County Forest lands. A firearms shooting range on County Forest land has been developed and maintained by the Law Enforcement Committee for use by Law Enforcement Personnel. The range is located in the NE ¼ SW ¼ Sec. 10 T32N-R07E. If a range is developed and operated by an organization other than the County, a written land use agreement, including proof of insurance, will be required. A provision for use by the public will be included in the agreement.

510.6 MANAGED TRAIL AREAS

Whenever possible, multiple uses of the various trail systems are encouraged and are subject to policy review by the Committee. Recreational users will frequently encounter forest management activities instrumental to the existence and future of the Lincoln County Forest. All trail systems are subject to temporary closing or relocation due to forest management activities or changing trail conditions. Gates or other barriers may be constructed to control access for the purpose of reducing user conflicts or to protect sensitive areas.

A trail maintenance program depends on utilizing and maximizing cost sharing funds and volunteer work. The trail systems are identified in the recreation maps appended in Chapter 900 and referenced in Chapter 700.

510.6.1 Motorized Trail Opportunities

The Lincoln County Forest is a multiple use forest. Motorized travel on trails can be a legitimate use of this forest provided that these trails are designed and maintained in a manner that minimizes damage to the environment and reduces user conflict. Trail use and development must be compatible and sustainable with the characteristics of the landscape. It shall be the policy of the Committee to consider opportunities for motorized trail use. Refer to Chapter 700 for further information on motorized recreation opportunities on the Lincoln County Forest.

510.6.2 Non-Motorized Trail Opportunities

The Lincoln County Forest is a multiple-use forest. Non-motorized travel on trails is a legitimate use of this forest. Design and maintenance of these trails may highlight natural features present on the Forest, should minimize damage to the environment and reduce user conflict. Trail use and development must be compatible and sustainable with the characteristics of the landscape. It shall be the policy of the Committee to consider opportunities for non-motorized trail use. Refer to Chapter 700 for further information regarding non-motorized recreation opportunities on the Lincoln County Forest.

510.7 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Lincoln County will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act regulations. Corrective measures will be implemented as facilities are upgraded. It is the policy of the Committee to provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities where possible.

515 SPECIAL USES

Recognizing the vast potential for a variety of special uses of the County Forest by governmental units, businesses, organizations or individuals, the Committee may designate specified areas for special uses. Specific management methods are to be considered on these areas. Uses must be consistent with the intent of the County Forest Law. All requests for specialized uses of any County Forest lands will require a permit authorized by the Committee.

515.1 SAND AND GRAVEL

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

- a. requiring the pit and its access road to be screened from view from any

- public highway
- b. severing trees from the stump
- c. disposing of brush and dirt spoil by leveling or hauling away
- d. sloping to prevent steep banks
- e. filing with the Forestry office an annual written report of gravel and sand removed

Other conditions may be set at the discretion of the Committee or County Forest Administrator. The Committee may set fees for materials removed. Other non-metalliferous materials will be dealt with on an individual basis.

All active, nonmetallic sites greater than one acre in size, including those on the County Forest, are also subject to the provisions of the Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Program, Chapter NR 135, Wis. Adm. Code. The County Forestry Department shall work with the Lincoln County Zoning Department in obtaining the necessary permits for nonmetallic mining operations.

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

515.2 EXPLORATION, PROSPECTING AND MINING

- a. The Committee may investigate all mineral exploration, prospecting and mining requests as they are received.
- b. The DNR shall be notified of all requests as they become known in accord with Manual Code 2712.1. (Mineral exploration on County Forests per §28.11 (3)(i) Wis. Stats.) or other codes which may be subsequently adopted. Public Forest Lands Handbook should be referenced for more detailed procedure.

515.3 SANITARY LANDFILLS.

The use of County Forest lands for sanitary landfills will not be allowed unless the

lands involved are withdrawn from the County Forest Law.

515.4 MILITARY MANEUVERS

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

515.5 PUBLIC UTILITIES.

Easements for public utilities will be considered by the Committee. Underground installations will be encouraged. The following main provisions shall be included in any County Board resolution granting permission for construction of any utility transmission line:

- a. Utility may be billed for merchantable forest products and existing timber reproduction.
- b. Utility may be billed for land removed from production due to right-of-way clearing for losses of future income and multiple use benefits.
- c. Land removed for utility operations that is no longer suited “primarily for timber production or, that is no longer suitable for scenic, outdoor recreation, public hunting & fishing, water conservation or multiple use purposes” (§28.11(4)(c) Wis. Stats.) may need to be withdrawn from County Forest Law designation. The utility may replace any lands requiring withdrawal from County Forest with other lands suitable for County Forest entry that are in the forest blocking of the County Forest.

- d. Utility companies will be encouraged to use existing corridors and underground lines to minimize disturbance to the County Forest and native plants and animals.
- e. Merchantable timber will be removed in a manner approved by the Committee. Timber cut must be reported to the DNR on form 2460-1.
- f. Utility must provide notice of proposed route, including a map of not less than 1 inch /mile, 90 days in advance of proposed construction.
- g. Special maintenance, controlled access and signage concerns shall be addressed in any proposal.
- h. An appropriate fee shall be charged for easements.

515.6 PRIVATE UTILITY SERVICE LINES

If a landowner cannot gain utility access across other lands, the Committee may consider a land use agreement for access across County Forest. Requests will be considered on a case by case basis. These agreements should consider the inclusions mentioned in Section 515 for easements as well as:

- a. The permit is non-transferable.
- b. The County retains full ownership of the utility corridor; however it shall not be liable for maintenance, upkeep, or other damages associated with the utility service.
- c. The permittee waives any rights to any declaration of ownership or interest in the utility corridor on County land. The permittee may be charged a fee for administrative costs associated with this Land Use Agreement – Utility permit. This agreement is granted upon the signature and any fees being received by Lincoln County.
- d. The fee for such a land use agreement will be negotiated by the Administrator.

515.7 CELLULAR COMMUNICATIONS TOWERS

The siting of cellular communication towers on the Lincoln County Forest will be considered by the Committee on a limited basis. Requests will be considered on a

case by case basis subject to the following conditions:

- a. It must be demonstrated that the site is the most practical location for a tower.
- b. Land selected for a tower is no longer suitable for continued entry in the County Forest program. Any accompanying lands needed for tower support wires that inhibit the practice of forestry and are no longer suitable for scenic, outdoor recreation, public hunting and fishing, water conservation or multiple use purposes (§28.11 (4), Wis. Stats.) may also need to be withdrawn from County Forest Law. Withdrawal is subject to approval by both County Board and DNR. The cellular communication company shall replace any lands requiring withdrawal from County Forest with other lands suitable for County Forest entry that are in the Forest blocking boundaries.
- c. Lincoln County shall be provided use of the tower at a price established by the Committee.
- d. Any agreement should also consider the inclusions listed under 515.5.

515.8 OTHER

Other types of special uses of the County Forest may be considered by the Committee. These may include, but are not limited to; research, independent study and scientific areas. Regulations governing these uses will be developed on a case by case basis.

520 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONES

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

Management Zones is appended in Chapter 900.

520.1 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE A

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

520.1.1 Examples – Zone A

- a. Park and recreation areas, including access routes.
- b. Lakes and rivers that support significant water based recreational activity.
- c. Roads with medium to heavy use where the majority of the traffic is unrelated to the Forest or is for the specific purpose of enjoying scenery.

520.1.2 Boundaries – Zone A

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

520.1.3 Management – Zone A

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

520.1.4 Permitted Uses – Zone A

- a. Timber harvesting and thinning operations may be prohibited during periods of peak public use. All slash may be logged and/or removed

from view.

- b. Timber stands in this zone will be managed to afford the greatest scenic potential for public enjoyment.
- c. Borrow pits may be permitted near a road during the time the road is under construction. When any borrow operation is completed the site will be restored pursuant to Chapter NR 135, Wis. Adm. Code and must aesthetically conform to general use of the area. Permanent pits should be screened from view. Gravel / borrow pits located on the County Forest may only be used by units of government or contractors performing public works.
- d. County directional, informational and recreational signs conforming to approved standards are permitted.
- e. Tree and shrub planting may be spaced at random to prevent an artificial appearance.
- f. New access roads will be permitted if they join the main road at right angles. All such access roads will be, when possible, curved so that no cleared line of sight will be created from the main road to the exterior boundary of the zone.

520.2 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE B

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

520.2.1 Examples – Zone B

- a. Roads with light to medium use where the majority of the traffic is a result of some other use of the Forest other than for scenic beauty.
- b. Lakes or streams that do not have significant value for water-based recreation.

520.2.2 Boundaries – Zone B

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

520.2.3 Management – Zone B

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

520.2.4 Permitted Uses – Zone B

All land management activities are permissible but should be exercised with sensitivity to aesthetics. Examples: Timber sales may employ lopping and scattering of slash, rehabilitation of roads and landings, erosion control and prevention, and irregular harvest lines to mitigate aesthetic impact.

520.3 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE C

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

520.3.1 Examples – Zone C

All areas not included in Zone A, B or D. The majority of the Forest is normally classified as Zone C.

520.3.2 Boundaries – Zone C

All areas not included in Zone A, B or D.

520.3.3 Management – Zone C

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

520.3.4 Permitted Uses – Zone C

All land management activities consistent with the goals of the Forest.

520.4 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE D

Areas designated as special resources.

520.4.1 Examples – Zone D

Wirth Property

520.4.2 Management – Zone D

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

525 TREATY RIGHTS: GATHERING MISCELLANEOUS FOREST PRODUCTS

Ordinance No. 210-92, adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of the County of Lincoln on January 21, 1992, authorizes Lincoln County to require permits for gathering miscellaneous forest products on County land by Native American treaty rights participants. The ordinance, Chapter 16 of the General Code of Lincoln County, adopts language of, and complies with, the Federal District Court decision and states as follows:

1. Sec. 16.07 (10) Any treaty rights participant interested in gathering firewood, tree bark, maple sap, lodge poles, boughs, marsh hay or other miscellaneous forest products (except fruits, seeds, or berries not enumerated in County ordinances) from County land shall obtain a County gathering permit from the County forestry office. The County shall respond to the gathering permit request no later than 14 days after receipt of the request. The gathering permit shall indicate the location of the material to be gathered, the volume of material to be gathered, and conditions of the gathering of the material necessary for conservation of the timber and miscellaneous forest products on the County land, or for

public health or safety.

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

530 EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCES

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

530.1 AREAS HIGH IN REGIONALLY, OR NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

530.1.1 Wisconsin State Natural Areas

The State Natural Areas system represents the wealth and variety of Wisconsin's native landscape. They contain outstanding examples of native biotic communities and are often the last refuges in the state for rare and endangered plant and animal species. SNAs are unique in that they can exist as stand alone properties or be designated within the boundaries of another property type. There are no designated State Natural Areas within the Lincoln County Forest at this time. The 2 areas identified as Lincoln County significant biological areas (530.1.3) are

eligible for SNA status. At a future date, if State and County personnel concur on management objectives, these areas may become SNAs. If SNAs are designated in the future, Lincoln County will work cooperatively with the DNR Endangered Resources staff to coordinate educational, monitoring, and research activities.

530.1.2 Species Concentration Areas

There are no known or documented species concentration areas on the County Forest at this time. Species concentration areas are defined as habitat areas that concentrate wildlife. They may include such things as bat hibernacula, herp hibernacula or bird rookeries. Special considerations will be given to such areas if they are identified on the Forest.

530.1.3 Lincoln County Significant Biological Areas

530.1.3.1 Tomahawk Bog

This 1,300-acre high conservation value forest site features a large semi open bog, northern wet forest, northern hardwood swamp, and alder thicket communities. Black spruce and tamarack dominate a significant portion of the area. In the eastern part are areas of mineral water influence that permits excellent cedar swamp, black ash swamp, and tamarack fen communities to develop. Lincoln County manages the uplands for sustainable forest products. Bird species of special concern: Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and Evening Grosbeak have been recorded here in good numbers. A snowmobile trail crosses the bog. This bog is one of the best large acreage bogs remaining in the state.

530.1.3.2 Harrison Hills Lakes

The outstanding feature of this site is a dense concentration of lakes set in a relatively natural state. Lakes exhibit differences in species composition and population densities due to depth, alkalinity, shore features, and whether the lake is drained or gets its water via seepage. A combination of features found on 15 lakes south of Harrison could form an exceptional ecological reference site.

The lakes, mostly in sections 7, 11, 20, and 29 have a range of qualities that when combined would be unequalled as a reference site.

- Coppes Lake – Soft water seepage lake with clear water and muck bottom
- Lake 34 - 8 – 11(5) – Shallow hard water drained lake with associated wetlands
- Lake 34 – 8 - 11(6) – Shallow hard water drainage lake with associated wetlands
- Lake 34 – 8 – 7 (15a) – Meromictic lake 0.3 surface acres, 41 feet deep
- Pine Lake 34 – 8 - 20 – Hard water drained lake with a bog wetland
- Tahoe Lake – An exceptionally deep (54 feet) soft water seepage lake
- Lake 34 – 8 – 20 (14) A very soft water seepage lake with no wetlands
- Lake 34 – 8 – 20 (15) A small soft water bog lake
- High Lake – A deep very soft water seepage lake with abundant rosette plants
- Lake 34 – 8 – 29 (8) – Deep (38 feet) with ultra soft water
- Lake 34 – 8 – 29 (11) – Bog lakes with medium soft water
- Lake 34 – 8 – 29 (12) – Deep (40 feet) with no muck on the bottom
- Lake 34 – 8 – 29 (14) – Soft water seepage lake with some muck
- Turtle Lake – The west portion is shallow with abundant emergent plants and invertebrates
- Thompson Lake – Diverse shoreline, deep, wilderness type with diverse fish population

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

AREAS HIGH IN LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

In addition to the regionally important areas, Lincoln County harbors other areas for maintaining locally important locations for biological diversity. Lincoln County will manage these resources to maintain or enhance their ecological values.

- a. Budinga Bog: This is a large wetland complex dominated by open sphagnum bog and swamp conifer forest of black spruce and tamarack. Rolling glacial topography occurs on the surrounding uplands. A town road passes through the area. Heritage natural community types are open bog and northern wet forest both of which are given high quality A rank. The site is considered a High Conservation Value Forest in the County.
- b. Sparrow Bog: Open bog plants and a forest of black spruce and tamarack dominates this muskeg. One section has a significant feature termed a domed bog. This is a muskeg of stunted black spruce lying on accumulated peat that is significantly higher in the center than the edges forming a prominent domed aspect. This part of the bog is very acidic. The bog and northern wet forest have been given A rank. The site is a High Conservation Value Forest in the County.
- c. Bradley Swamp: Another large bog area dominated by black spruce and tamarack. The same species of birds found at Tomahawk Bog are found here. The community features, northern wet forest and open bog, are ranked A. There is a road that divides the area and it is parceled into multiple owners making bog-wide management difficult.
- d. Prairie River Dells: The dells contain a gorge, rapids and cliff side vegetation. The site also contains exceptional scenic qualities.
- e. Highway 8 Bog: This is a B ranked wetland north of Hwy 8. Dominants are black spruce and tamarack with a dense bog shrub understory.

530.3.1 Relict Old Growth Stands

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

530.3.2 Old Growth Stands

Possible, suitable sites for the development of future old growth stands will be considered in the management of the Lincoln County Forest. Such sites could exist in special use areas, special aesthetic zones or areas with high recreational use. Site conditions must include criteria necessary for maintaining long-lived tree species.

530.3.3 Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat

As part of, and in addition to, the unique natural communities listed in Chapter 530.1, rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species exist in the Lincoln County Forest. A general endangered resource listing and map for

Lincoln County can be found in Chapter 900.

530.3.4 Geological Features of Significance

- a. Summit Lake moraine in sections 10 and 11 of Harrison Township - This moraine is a prominent ridge up to 90 feet high and was part of the Langlade lobe that travel in a different direction than the Harrison lobe. The upper parts consist of meltwater stream sediment.

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

- c. Drumlins, especially in Tomahawk, Somo, and Harding Townships are southeast trending and form the uplands between the extensive peatlands. This extensive field of drumlins is a significant geological feature.

- d. Prairie River Dells – The Dells contain a gorge, rapids and cliff side vegetation. The site contains exceptional scenic quality. The site is planned for minimal development with the construction of 3 viewing platforms in the “Prairie Dells Scenic Area.”

530.3.5 Culturally Significant Features

The entire Lincoln County Forest is culturally significant to the residents of Lincoln County and the State of Wisconsin. The large block of public ownership provided by the County Forest offers users many unique recreational opportunities that are dependent upon a wide degree of biological diversity. Locations of identified archeological and cultural resources on the Lincoln County Forest can be accessed by DNR personnel. 4 archeological sites have been found on the Lincoln County Forest. Site specific information is not available to the general

public. The DNR liaison forester will check for any listed archeological or cultural resources during the planning of all timber harvests.

530.3.5.1 Cemeteries

There is a marked grave near an old church site. Historically, this site was located in a lumber town that has now vanished from the landscape.

530.3.5.2 Logging Camps

Lumber camps were scattered throughout the Lincoln County Forest. Occasionally, remnants of these camp areas can be found on the Forest.

530.3.6 Exceptional Resource Areas

530.3.6.1 Ruffed Grouse/Woodcock Management Area

County Forest lands contain ruffed grouse and woodcock management areas located in the Mail Route Block, New Wood Block, Underdown Block and Wildwood Block. Some areas are established in cooperation with the Ruffed Grouse Society and the Department of Natural Resources. Chapter 900 contains maps of the Ruffed Grouse/Woodcock Management areas.

Management of the vegetation in this unit will promote aspen and oak forest types. The objectives are as follows.

1. Maintain and expand the aspen and oak acreage.
2. Establish timber harvest areas of relatively small size (20 to 40 acres), and with irregular boundaries to maximize the creation of forest edge.
3. Create and maintain structural and age class diversity in the aspen and oak types.

530.4 IMPORTANT BIRD AREA

The Important Bird Areas (IBA) program is a global initiative that links local and state conservation efforts to national and international efforts that protect essential habitat for all birds. The IBA program is a voluntary, cooperative initiative that aims to identify and protect those sites that are most important to birds in any

stage of their life cycle. These sites are considered to be exceptionally significant for bird conservation. Lincoln County Forest contains one possible IBA. The Lincoln County Peatlands site has many species that reach their highest population densities in this part of the state. This IBA encompasses the peatlands found on Lincoln County Forest south of Somo River, west of Wisconsin River and north of New Wood River. Boreal species such as Canada Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Northern Saw-whet Owl thrive in these peatlands. Other species that require more open space such as Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, and Merlin are hanging on in this habitat. Furthermore, two species of conservation concern, Boreal Chickadee and Gray Jay, are found in high numbers. The combined natural values of these species makes the habitat that these sites provide one of the most important bird areas in the state. At a future date, if County and State personnel concur on management objectives, this area may be formally recognized as an IBA. Timber management and recreation opportunities would continue, although some activities could be modified to accommodate nesting birds or enhance bird habitat. An example would be to retain more conifers in harvest areas (especially along edge of drumlins). Lincoln County could seek advice from bird habitat experts. This recognition does not affect any private land, although private landowners may choose to voluntarily participate in the IBA program.

530.5 LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES

As these sites are identified, it will be the policy of Lincoln County to manage these areas to enhance and protect their individual exceptional features. A review of the State Historical Society database will be conducted on all timber sales.