

**Lincoln County Board of Supervisors
Meeting January 17, 2012**

The Lincoln County Board of Supervisors met at the Lincoln County Service Center, County Board Room, 801 N. Sales St., Merrill, WI, in session assembled pursuant to law. Chair Lussow called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance followed. Roll was called with the following present: Alber, Bailey, Berndt, Bloomer, Caylor, Fox, Giese, Krueger, Lee, Loka, Lussow, Mittelsteadt, Nelson, Pampuch, Rankin, Rusch, Saal, Simon, Weaver, Woller, and Zeitz (21).

4. a. Announcements – None
- b. Service Recognitions for January 2012
 - 10 years: Anthony Grochowski – Pine Crest
 - 15 years: Sarah Koss – Register of Deeds
James Wayda – Highway Department
Randall Scholz – Administrative Department
 - 20 years: Joann Benedict – Social Services
- c. Appointments & Re-Appointments:
 1. M/S Zeitz/Woller to appoint Lawrence Lebal as a citizen member of the ADRC-CW Board, to fill the unexpired term of Ken Crass, term expires 4/30/14. Following discussion, motion carried on a voice vote.
 2. & 3. M/S Caylor/Woller to re-appoint Claude R. Willet to the Veterans Service Commission with a term to expire 11/13, and Michael F. VanLieshout to the Veterans Service Commission with a term to expire 11/14. Following discussion, motion carried on a voice vote.
5. Approval of Journal – M/S Caylor/Woller to approve the minutes of December 20, 2011 as printed. Motion carried on a voice vote.
6. a. Letters, Petitions – In packet. Mr. Alber requested permission to attend the WCA training in Stevens Point on 1/23/12. As Chairman of the Administrative & Legislative Committee Mr. Lussow gave Mr. Alber permission to attend.
- b. Memorials – None
7. Reports of Standing & Special Committees:
 - a. 2011 Year-to-Date Budget Report – Finance Director
 - b. Administrative Coordinator’s Written Report - December - Randy Scholz - In packet.
 - c. Ad Hoc Committee Report – John Bailey. Mr. Bailey stated there is a possibility several recommendations will be ready for the next Board meeting and requested this be placed on the agenda.
8. Resolutions and Ordinances for Board Action

1. a. Resolution 2012-01-01

Title: Adopt the 2012-2016 Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Plan

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources requires counties to have current Outdoor Recreation Plans to be eligible for certain state and federal grant programs and funds; and

WHEREAS, said Outdoor Recreation Plans must be updated every five years; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee retained the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to assist in preparing the 2012-2016 Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, said report sets forth goals and objectives to be used as guidelines in formulating future recreational projects; and

WHEREAS, said report establishes recommendations for improving the recreational system in Lincoln County over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee has reviewed and approved said plan;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this 17th day of January, 2012 that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors hereby adopt the proposed 2012-2016 Lincoln County Outdoor Recreation Plan and that the Plan be forwarded to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for their acceptance.

Dated this 17th day of January, 2012.

Introduced by: Forestry, Land and Parks Committee

Committee Action: Forestry, Land and Parks Committee; Passed 5-0 on 12/12/11

Fiscal Impact: Continued eligibility for certain state and federal grant programs

M/S Nelson/Berndt to adopt. Following discussion, motion carried on a voice vote.

b. Resolution 2012-01-02

Title: Amendments to 15-Year Lincoln County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan

WHEREAS, The Lincoln County Board of Supervisors approved the 2006-2020 Lincoln County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan on October 18, 2005; and

WHEREAS, This 15-year plan is a working, dynamic document subject to amendments by the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Committee and the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, Plan amendments for the 2006-2020 Fifteen-Year Lincoln County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan have been prepared by the Lincoln County Forestry Committee and are submitted for approval before the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors approves the attached amendments to Chapters 600, 800 and 900 (Appendix) of the 2006-2020 Lincoln County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan..

Dated this 17th day of January, 2012.

Introduced by: Forestry, Land and Parks Committee Committee Action: Forestry, Land and Parks Committee; Passed 5-0 on 12/12/11 Fiscal Impact: None

Lincoln County Forest
GREEN TREE RETENTION GUIDELINES
(GTR)

Reserve Trees

Reserve trees are living trees, ≥ 5 inches dbh, retained after the regeneration period under even-aged or two-aged silvicultural systems. They are retained well beyond stand rotation, and for purposes other than regeneration. They may be harvested eventually or retained to complete their natural lifespan (becoming a snag and then coarse woody debris). Reserve trees can be dispersed uniformly or irregularly, as single trees or aggregated groups or patches, or any mixture thereof. Synonyms include standards, legacy trees, and green tree retention.

The characteristics of desirable reserve trees are highly variable and depend on the intended benefits, the species present, stand condition, and site. Desired compositional and structural attributes may be present when trees are selected and stands are rotated, or additional time may be required for development.

Typical characteristics of desirable individual reserve trees (either scattered or within patches) include:

- Large size (tree height, diameter, crown dimensions) for the species and site.
 - If large trees are lacking, then potential future large trees can be selected.
- Older trees with large size and rough bark.
- A mix of vigorous and decadent trees.
 - Vigorous trees of long-lived species can enable long-term retention and potentially yield a variety of benefits.
 - Decadent trees can provide current and future cavity trees, as well as future snags and down coarse woody debris.
- A mix of species, including locally uncommon species and mast trees.

The development and maintenance of large structures (vigorous trees, cavity trees, snags, down woody debris) and species diversity is typically encouraged.

Generally, poor candidates for individual reserve trees include:

- Relatively small (height, diameter, crown), suppressed to intermediate trees.
- Relatively young trees within the stand.

These smaller, younger trees are retained in reserve groups and patches along with larger, older trees.

Exceptions to these typically desirable and generally poor reserve tree characteristics will occur.

Benefits of Reserve Tree Retention

Silvicultural practices are designed to manipulate vegetation to achieve management objectives. At its foundation, silviculture is based on understanding and working with ecological processes. Silvicultural practices that more closely emulate natural disturbance and stand development processes are more likely to sustain a wide array of forest benefits. Most natural disturbance regimes and events retain compositional and structural legacies in heterogeneous patterns and create ecological complexity. Silvicultural practices that develop and maintain reserve trees in managed stands can enable the promotion of ecological complexity – composition, structure, and pattern.

The retention of reserve trees can provide a “lifeboat” function that contributes to the conservation of biological diversity (see preceding section). These structures facilitate the perpetuation of some biota (plant and animal species and genotypes) on site. They also perpetuate habitat for re-colonization and occupation. They can improve landscape connectivity, facilitating the movement of some organisms. Reserve trees influence reorganization and recovery processes in post disturbance ecosystems; they can sustain functional roles and modify the post-disturbance environment.

The actual benefits achieved through the retention of reserve trees can be variable, depending on such factors as landscape composition and structure, stand composition and structure, site, retention design, and management objectives.

Some specific potential benefits include:

- Timber Production
 - Reserve high quality trees for future harvest
 - Perpetuation of tree species diversity
- Wildlife and Plant Habitat (Biodiversity)
 - Cover
 - Cavity (den) and nest trees
 - Display locations
 - Food (foraging, hunting)
 - Future snags and down woody debris (coarse and fine)
 - Habitat diversity
 - Protect special habitat
 - Travel corridors
- Aesthetics
 - Limit line of vision
 - Break up “clearcut” look
 - Retain visually unique trees
 - Provide diversity in future stand
- Water and Soil Quality
 - Reduce run-off
 - Reduce erosion
 - Maintain water and nutrient cycles
- Miscellaneous
 - Buffer adjacent stands
 - Protect cultural resources
 - Landmarks, such as marker trees and witness trees

Potential Costs of Reserve Tree Retention

The retention of reserve trees in actively managed stands can provide ecological benefits desired by landowners and society. However, there are also costs or trade-offs. The primary potential cost is reduced timber yield at the stand-level. Also, retention can result in less available habitat for some wildlife species, particularly those that prefer open, treeless habitat. However, impacts on long-term forest ecosystem sustainability and productivity are uncertain; current understanding suggests that the maintenance of ecological complexity will more likely sustain long-term productivity.

Some specific potential costs include:

- Potential additional operational costs to manage reserve tree retention
- Potential for reduced timber growth rates maintained by larger, older trees
- Potential for reduced short-term stand-level timber yields by foregoing harvest of some trees
- Potential for epicormic branching
- Potential for stem and crown damage during stand harvest
- Potential for crown dieback and mortality following harvest
- Potential for windthrow, particularly on wet or shallow soils, or for shallow rooted species
- Potential damage to younger stand if reserve trees are harvested during mid-rotation
- Reduced growth rates of regeneration occurring beneath reserve trees
- Potential sites for pathogen breeding and maintenance
- Potential for reduced habitat for or increased predation of certain wildlife species

Considerations for Reserve Tree Retention

Reserve overstory trees will shade portions of a newly developing stand. Increased numbers of dispersed reserve trees and trees with larger and denser crowns will cause more shading. Furthermore, reserve tree crowns can expand over time, increasing shading effects. Shading by reserve trees potentially can reduce growth within portions of newly developing established even-aged stands. The point at which growth reductions become significant depends on a variety of factors, including: stand management objectives (for reserve trees and young trees), growth rates and potential development of reserve trees, growth rates and shade tolerance of species comprising the new stand, site quality, understory competition, and potential damaging agents. In general, to promote optimum growth of established even-aged stands of reproduction, (nearly) full sunlight is preferred. Under even-aged management systems, when objectives include the retention of reserve trees beyond the regeneration establishment phase, crown cover of <20% generally (for most species and conditions) will not significantly reduce vigor, growth, and development of most of the developing stand. If reserve trees are dispersed and expected to survive and grow, crown cover will increase over time; 15% crown cover is a generally recommended maximum for dispersed retention at final rotation. If reserve trees are aggregated, then shading impacts will be reduced; total crown cover retained could be greater, and will depend on stand management objectives.

Excessive shading may also be a concern when regenerating shade intolerant species in small stands or in narrowly linear stands, surrounded by relatively mature forest. In such cases, it may be necessary to retain fewer reserve trees. Alternatively, there may be opportunities to redesign stand boundaries creating a larger stand with increased opportunities for internal tree retention.

Reserve tree retention is a generally recommended silvicultural practice for stands ≥ 10 acres. It is encouraged in smaller stands, but operational, shading, and other biological issues may limit application.

Insect and disease issues and potential impacts on tree health should be another consideration in reserve tree selection and design. Regeneration methods are designed to foster the vigor of the regenerating stand.

Although the imminent mortality of some reserve trees may be desirable or acceptable, typically some vigorous trees will be retained with the expectation of continued growth and survival (perhaps for a long time).

When regenerating a stand and retaining reserve trees, potential risks to tree health should be evaluated, and methods implemented to reduce risks while achieving stand management objectives. In most cases, well designed regeneration and retention strategies can minimize risks; however, stand and site conditions may limit options in some cases. Refer to the cover type chapters in this handbook and forest pest management guidelines to appropriately consider and address insect and disease risks when selecting and designing regeneration methods and reserve tree retention for a specific stand and site.

Two examples of how insect and disease considerations can influence reserve tree selection and design:

- Red pine: Retaining red pine reserve trees when regenerating a new red pine stand may significantly increase the risk of *Sirococcus* and *Diplodia* incidence within the young stand. This risk is highly variable geographically; where experience has shown the risk to be significant, then retaining red pine reserve trees over red pine regeneration would be poor silviculture. In such cases, retain other species (e.g. oak) as reserve trees if available; if not available, then it may not be possible to retain reserve trees as generally recommended, but consider including representation of other species as part of stand regeneration to

provide increased options for future managers. Red pine can be an excellent reserve tree when regenerating other species (e.g. aspen or oak).

- Jack Pine: In general, retaining jack pine reserve trees when regenerating a new jack pine stand is not recommended, because of the risk of budworm outbreaks. When regenerating jack pine, other species (e.g. oak) should be retained as reserve trees if available. Jack pine can be retained as a reserve tree when regenerating other species.

Representation of reserve trees can range from none to many. If silviculture is to simulate, to some extent, natural disturbance processes, then most actively managed stands should include some level of structural retention. To accomplish general sustainable forestry goals that include multiple stand management objectives, recommended representation could typically range from 3-15% of stand area or crown cover. In some stands, particularly intensively managed single objective stands (e.g. maximize short-term economic returns, maximize pulp production, or maximize populations of wildlife species that prefer completely open, treeless habitat), landowners may choose to not retain reserve trees. In some stands, with appropriate species and site characteristics, where the optimization of tree vigor and timber quantity and quality is a minor concern, adaptive silvicultural practices that retain 20-60% cover could be considered by the landowner. It is recommended that sound reasons and expected impacts be documented when the decision is to retain reserve trees at less than or greater than the recommended level of 3-15% of stand area or crown cover. Distribution of reserve trees can be evenly or irregularly dispersed individuals, groups, and patches.

Retention in aggregated patches generally provides the most benefits, including:

- patches of habitat that maintain forest floor, understory plants, and vertical structure within the patch, and increase compositional and structural diversity,
- more heterogeneity across the stand,
- less damage to retained trees during harvesting operations, and
- less impact on regeneration in stand matrix.

Patch retention should consider retention of large trees, cavity trees, and snags within the patches. Reserve patches can be thinned during the even-aged rotational harvest of the matrix; however, retention of unthinned patches potentially provides the greatest benefit. Patches can be located to complement other management objectives or respond to stand conditions; for example, patches can be located in riparian management zones, to provide connectivity between stands, and to protect sensitive sites (e.g. cliff faces and vernal pools) or endangered resources. Patches should be >0.1 acres and generally <2.0 acres, but can be larger; patches, particularly large ones, should be documented as retention patches.

Retention of evenly dispersed individual trees also provides unique benefits, including:

- retention of comparatively more large trees, and
- wide distribution of structural benefits (large trees, snags, and coarse woody debris) and seed sources.

Retention of irregularly dispersed individual trees and small groups provides another strategy; this can be particularly useful to develop feathered edges to stands and reduce abrupt transitions and edge effects.

The general recommended strategy is to retain irregularly distributed patches along with scattered groups and individuals.

Area (acres)	Diameter (feet)	Square (feet)
0.1	74	66 x 66
0.25	118	104 x 104
0.5	167	148 x 148
0.75	204	181 x 181
1.0	236	209 x 209
1.5	288	256 x 256
2.0	333	295 x 295

Stand representation and spatial distribution patterns of reserve trees can be highly variable. The goal of heterogeneity of conditions indicates a wide array of retention strategies. Retention design, including amount to retain, species, and distribution, can enable the production of increased benefits and minimize potential

costs. Criteria to consider when determining desired representation and distribution include: landowner goals and stand management objectives, current and desired stand and community condition, characteristics of current and desired plant and animal species, potential damaging agents, site, and landscape characteristics. Detailed landscape analysis and planning that clearly addresses the sustainable allocation of resources, including the production of timber and the conservation of biodiversity, can improve upon stand-based management guidelines (such as those offered herein).

Figure 24-7. Reserve trees retained in patches.

Lincoln County 15-Year Plan Amendments

610.3.1.7 Annosum Root Rot

Annosum Root Rot is among the greatest causes of damage to conifer forests throughout the world. The fungus that causes Annosum Root Rot is *Heterobasidion annosum*. This pathogen infects an area when spores of the fungus land in recent wounds, such as a freshly cut stump surface. Following stump colonization, the fungus spreads through interconnected root systems to attack other trees. Growth is reduced and trees eventually die. The pathogen persists for years in stumps and roots of killed trees, and can infect young trees planted in areas where the previous crop was affected. Control measures are directed towards preventing establishment of this root rot pathogen in new locations. Current control measures consist of applying a specific fungicide to freshly cut stumps. Lincoln County will require logging contractors to follow the Annosum Root Rot Prevention and Treatment guidelines as outlined in the Lincoln County Timber Sale Contract in areas where conifer management is the silvicultural objective.

810.1.6.2 Best Management Practices for Invasive Species

Forest Invasive species can pose a threat to forest ecosystems and forest productivity. Best Management Practices for Invasive Species can play an important role in slowing or controlling the spread of invasive species. The goal is to provide practices that reduce the impact of invasive species. Lincoln County will use Invasive Species BMP's with the understanding that the application of BMP's may be modified for specific site conditions with guidance from a forester or other natural resource professional. Modifications will provide equal or greater protection. Lincoln County will require all logging contractor's to comply with the general guidelines as described in "Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Invasive Species" published by the Department of Natural Resources, publication Pub-FR-444-09, unless specifically provided otherwise.

810.1.11 Biomass Harvesting Guidelines

These guidelines focus on the sustainable harvest of woody biomass from forested areas within the context of generally accepted forestry practices, and provide considerations and recommendations applicable to stand and site-level management based on best available information. The guidelines address the impacts of increased biomass harvesting on biodiversity conservation, soil nutrient depletion, physical properties of soil, and water quality.

Lincoln County will require all logging contractor's to comply with the general guidelines as described in Wisconsin Forestland Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines" published by the Department of Natural Resources, publication Pub-FR-435-09, unless specifically provided otherwise.

810.1.12 Tree Retention on Timber Harvests

Silvicultural practices are designed to manipulate vegetation to achieve management objectives. Retention of some trees, both dead and alive, has associated ecological benefits. Lincoln County will implement tree retention guidelines consistent with the Lincoln County Forest Tree Retention Guidelines found in Chapter 900 (appendix).

M/S Nelson/Rankin to adopt. Following discussion, motion carried on a voice vote.

c. Resolution 2012-01-03

Approve Filling Authorized Position in the District Attorney's Department – Victim Witness Coordinator
 WHEREAS sec. 4, Lincoln County Code specifies a procedure for approval authorized positions, and
 WHEREAS the District Attorney recommends filling a vacant position, and
 WHEREAS the Judicial/EMS Committee and Personnel Committee approved filling the authorized vacant position

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors accepts the recommendation of the Judicial/EMS Committee and Personnel Committee and approves filling the authorized vacant position:

Fiscal Impact: Exact saving unknown – savings with new employee – lower pay, less vacation, less sick leave

Dated this 17th day of January, 2012

Introduced by: Judicial/EMS Committee Date Passed: December 14, 2011 Committee Vote: Unanimous

Introduced by: Personnel Committee Date Passed: January 9, 2012 Committee Vote: Unanimous

M/S Caylor/Simon to adopt. Following discussion, motion carried on a voice vote.

2. a. ORDINANCE 2012-01-581

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE GENERAL CODE OF THE COUNTY OF LINCOLN (Chapter 17.04 LINCOLN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN)

The County Board of Supervisors of Lincoln County, Wisconsin, does hereby ordain:

WHEREAS, Pursuant to section 59.69(2) and (3) of the Wisconsin Statutes, the County of Lincoln is authorized to prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan as defined in section 66.1001(1)(a) and 66.1001(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

WHEREAS, Chapter X of the Lincoln County Comprehensive Plan recognizes the requirement under law to update the plan, and

WHEREAS, the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 2009-03-15 Authorizing Public Participation Procedures for Amending the Lincoln County Comprehensive Plan as required by law,

WHEREAS, The County of Lincoln has held at least one public hearing on this plan update and ordinance, in compliance with the requirements of section 66.1001(4)(d) of the Wisconsin Statutes, and

WHEREAS, the Zoning Committee of the County of Lincoln, by a majority vote of the entire Committee recorded in its official minutes, has adopted an ordinance recommending to the County Board of Supervisors the adoption of the amended Comprehensive Plan and containing all of the elements specified in section 66.1001(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

Chapter 17.04, Lincoln County Code is amended to read:

17.04 LINCOLN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: The County Board of Supervisors of the County of Lincoln, Wisconsin, does, by enactment of this ordinance, formally adopt the amended Lincoln County Comprehensive Plan 2012-2021, dated December, 2011, pursuant to section 66.1001(4)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage by a majority vote of the members-elect of the County Board of Supervisors and publication/posting as required by law.

Dated this 17th day of January, 2012

Introduced by: Lincoln County Planning and Zoning Committee

Committee Action: Date Passed: January 12, 2012 Committee Vote: 3-0 Fiscal Impact: unknown

The amended Lincoln County Comprehensive Plan 2012-2021, dated December 2011, can be viewed in the County Clerk's office or on the County website at <http://www.co.lincoln.wi.us>.

M/S Mittelsteadt/Woller to adopt. After discussion M/S Simon/Alber to lay this ordinance over to next month. Roll call on lay over motion as follows: Aye – Alber, Bailey, Fox, Giese, Krueger, Nelson, Simon, and Zeitz (8). No – Berndt, Bloomer, Caylor, Lee, Loka, Lussow, Mittelsteadt, Pampuch, Rankin, Rusch, Saal, Weaver, and Woller (13). Motion defeated 8 – 13. Roll call on the original motion to adopt: Aye – Berndt, Caylor, Krueger, Loka, Lussow, Mittelsteadt, Nelson, Pampuch, Rankin, Rusch, Saal, Weaver, and Woller (13); No – Alber, Bailey, Bloomer, Fox, Giese, Lee, Simon, and Zeitz (8). Motion carried 13 – 8.

9. Reports of Claims – None.

10. M/S Caylor/Krueger to approve the mileage and per diem for this meeting. Motion carried on a voice vote.

11. Next County Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 21, 2012, at 9:00 a.m., at the Lincoln County Service Center, County Board Room, 801 N. Sales St., Merrill.

12. M/S Krueger/Caylor to adjourn. Motion carried on a majority voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

I, Sheila Pudelko, County Clerk in and for said Lincoln County, Wisconsin do hereby certify the within and foregoing is a true and accurate recital of all proceedings by and before the Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting, January 17, 2012.

Sheila Pudelko, County Clerk