

## **LINCOLN COUNTY FOREST ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2014**

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 2014. 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 2,000 acres for harvest in the following timber types in 2014:

Northern Hardwoods	<u>1000</u> Acres
Aspen	<u>800</u> Acres
Red Pine	<u>100</u> Acres
Other Species as Needed (to include Fir-Spruce)	<u>100</u> Acres

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

## **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:                | 40 Acres                                      |
| D. | White Birch Regeneration: | 20 Acres                                      |
| E. | Survival Checks           | 145 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.

Begin roadside brushing and ditch improvement work.

Apply crushed gravel to newly rehabilitated Krueger Firelane non-gas tax road.

### **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.

### Wildlife Habitat:

- A. Ruffed Grouse Project Areas  
\* Will monitor three existing ruffed grouse areas and construct additional trails along Poplar Road and north of 4-Mile Road when the demand for additional trails develops followed up by gating.
- B. 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.
- C. Any Combination of Release; tag alder, oak or green cover.
- D. Green Cover Planting along trails.
- E. Wild Rice planting and waterfowl improvements on the Harrison Flowage. This includes signing.
- F. Alder shearing if winter conditions are favorable.
- G. Gating and access projects.
- H. Hunter parking lots along main roads.
- I. Site prep. For early successional species such as oak and birch.
- J. Any Other Meritorious Fish and Wildlife Projects.

## RECREATION AREAS

- A. Recreation Trails: \*On Going Programs (Snowmobile, ATV, Cross Country Ski, Snowshoe, Ice Age, Horse, & Mountain Bike Trails)  
Re-apply for funding to develop Pine Lake/Theis Road ATV Trail.
- A. Parks & Campgrounds: Maintenance as needed at all parks and campgrounds.  
Look into upgrading wells in parks and campgrounds.  
Install new campfire rings in campgrounds.  
Develop plan for Underdown shelterhouse.
- C. Boat Landings: On Going improvements to lake access.
- D. Other: Continue implementation of Lincoln County Forest Access Plan and 5-year Recreation Plan.

## FOREST CERTIFICATION

Implement SFI and FSC standards and procedures.

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS

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

## SPECIAL PROJECTS, GRANTS AND FUNDING

- A. Ruffed Grouse Society
- B. Forest Invasive Plant Suppression Grant
- C. Turkey Stamp
- D. Woodcock Initiative
- E. Snowmobile and ATV Rehabilitation Funding
- F. RTA Grant


Annual Work Plan approved this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2013 by the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department Committee.

  
Graham Rankin, Chairman

  
David Fox, Vice Chairman

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Carl VanderSanden, Secretary

  
John Bailey

  
Don Nelson



# Forest Structure - Past, Present, Future

Print Date: 9/12/2013  
Report 207

## 3500 - LINCOLN COUNTY FOREST

Timber Text	Acres Past (1977)	Acres Present (2013)	Acres Future
ASPEN	40,839	38,857	38,529
BALSAM FIR	0	143	684
BLACK SPRUCE	4,300	5,917	5,908
BOTTOMLAND HARDWOODS	0	176	176
FIR SPRUCE*OLD CODE, RECODE	2,810	86	86
HEMLOCK	158	209	205
JACK PINE	784	205	275
MISCELLANEOUS CONIFEROUS	0	13	13
MISCELLANEOUS DECIDUOUS	0	8	8
NORTHERN HARDWOODS	20,410	24,143	25,127
OAK	49	1,724	1,238
RED MAPLE	0	774	579
RED PINE	1,501	2,140	2,114
SWAMP CONIFER*OLD CODE, RECODE	1,445	287	266
SWAMP HARDWOODS	1,618	2,057	2,057
TAMARACK	583	1,611	1,601
WHITE BIRCH	2,641	884	397
WHITE CEDAR	450	1,413	1,075
WHITE PINE	0	263	385
WHITE SPRUCE	0	561	762
Total :	77,588	81,471	81,485

