

Lincoln County Forest

Annual Work Plan – 2016

THE HONORABLE LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Following is the annual Lincoln County Forest work plan for the calendar year 2016. The plan gives direction and meaning to the proposed County Forest budget, and further defines and supplements the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan and emphasizes the current needs of the County Forest and Recreation program. This plan is needed to comply with Wis. Statute 28.11(5) and Chapter NR47.70 (4) of the Wisconsin Administrative Code for the administration of the County Forest Administrator Grant program.

LINCOLN COUNTY FOREST ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2016

**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 2016. The plan gives direction and meaning to the proposed County Forest budget. The plan further defines and supplements the Fifteen-Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan and emphasizes the current needs of the County Forest and Recreational System.

TIMBER HARVEST

Timber harvests are not only important for the economic well-being of Lincoln County, but for the health and vigor of the forest. This includes all aspects of the forest; wildlife, watershed protection, air quality, recreation, and other noncommercial values. Professional implementation of proper forest management and harvest techniques is essential. The timber management goal is to produce a sustained yield of forest products by scheduling timber sales to achieve the average annual allowable cut. Compartment reconnaissance information from the Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System (WisFIRS) will be used to determine stands where timber cutting is needed. When harvesting in these sales takes place, inspections and reports will be filed as needed and as required by Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Forest Certification. The Lincoln County Forest became SFI certified in March of 2005 and FSC certified in July of 2007. Lincoln County Forest plans to offer for sale approximately 2,100 acres for harvest in the following timber types in 2016:

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

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: | 15 Acres |
| D. | White Birch Regeneration: | 20 Acres |
| E. | Survival Checks | 89 Acres |

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

Release: Spruce and Pine release 20 Acres

COUNTY FOREST ROADS

Total Miles approved: 27.25

Maintenance will be done as needed on County Forest Roads.

Culvert replacement schedule is being implemented based on priority.

High priority culverts have been replaced.

Continue roadside brushing and ditch improvement work.

LAND ACQUISITION

On Going

Work on trade possibilities for private interior forty.

Work on purchase of interior forty.

Use Stewardship Program to cost share any land acquisition projects.

SURVEYING

As Required

Will work on a list of priorities with County Surveyor.

FOREST PROTECTION

On Going

- A. Implement Gypsy Moth, Oak Wilt and Annosum Root Rot Plan.
- B. Monitor Jack Pine Budworm and pockets of oak decline. Watch for signs of Emerald Ash Borer activity, oak wilt, oak and red pine pocket decline.
- C. Control exotic invasive plant species such as garlic mustard.
- D. Educate user groups on invasive species.

FISH AND WILDLIFE PROJECTS

County Conservation:

- A. Continue work on Signing and Access/Landing Improvements on Small Lakes.
- B. Continue to complete wildlife habitat enhancement projects.

Wildlife Habitat

- A. Forest Openings Maintenance and Improvements, including mowing hunter walking trails in conjunction with openings. Long term goal is to prioritize and better manage forest openings.
- B. Any Combination of Release; tag alder, oak or green cover.
- C. Green Cover Planting along trails.
- D. Alder shearing if winter conditions are favorable.
- E. Gating and access projects.
- F. Hunter parking lots along main roads.
- G. Site prep. For early successional species such as oak and birch.
- H. Any Other Meritorious Fish and Wildlife Projects.

RECREATION AREAS

- A. Recreation Trails: *On Going Programs (Snowmobile, ATV, Cross Country Ski, Snowshoe, Ice Age, Horse, & Mountain Bike Trails)
 Complete Pine Lake/Theis Road ATV Trail with acquired grant funding.
 Complete Ice Age Trail Shelter
 Continue improvements to X-C trail with RTA Grant Funding.

- B Parks & Campgrounds: Maintenance as needed at all parks and campgrounds.
Complete shelterhouse roof at Newwood Park.
Continue to install new campfire rings in campgrounds.
Complete Underdown shelterhouse.
Install new woodchips at Newwood Park playground.
- C. Boat Landings: On Going improvements to lake access.
Complete Lost Lake Access Improvements.
- D. Other: Continue implementation of Lincoln County Forest
Access Plan and 5-year Recreation Plan.

FOREST CERTIFICATION

Implement SFI and FSC standards and procedures.

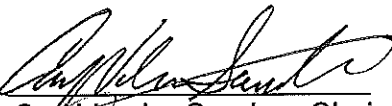
BUILDING AND GROUNDS


- 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/Development Funding
F. RTA Grant

Annual Work Plan approved this 5th day of October, 2015 by the
Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department Committee.


Carl Vander Sanden, Chairman


Curtis Powell, Vice Chair


Ryan Schwartzman, Secretary


Kevin Koth


Robert Reichelt



Forest Structure - Past, Present, Future

Print Date: 9/21/2015
Report 207

3500 - LINCOLN COUNTY FOREST

Timber Text	Acres Past (1977)	Acres Present (2015)	Acres Future
ASPEN	40,839	38,937	38,518
BALSAM FIR	0	169	717
BLACK SPRUCE	4,300	5,878	5,868
BOTTOMLAND HARDWOODS	0	175	175
FIR SPRUCE*OLD CODE, RECODE	2,810	81	81
HEMLOCK	158	203	199
JACK PINE	784	207	207
NORTHERN HARDWOODS	20,410	24,093	24,869
OAK	49	1,630	1,408
RED MAPLE	0	868	717
RED PINE	1,501	2,158	2,142
SWAMP CONIFER*OLD CODE, RECODE	1,445	277	257
SWAMP HARDWOODS	1,618	1,992	1,992
TAMARACK	583	1,662	1,652
WHITE BIRCH	2,641	818	380
WHITE CEDAR	450	1,441	1,096
WHITE PINE	0	257	381
WHITE SPRUCE	0	561	762
Total :	77,588	81,407	81,421



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3500 - LINCOLN COUNTY FOREST

CAMPGROUND	0	21	21
DEVELOPED USE	0	32	32
FARM LAND	0	3	3
HERBACEOUS VEGETATION	56	0	0
LOW - GROWING SHRUBS	87	5	5
LOWLAND BRUSH	7,427	729	729
LOWLAND BRUSH - ALDER	3,368	9,202	9,202
LOWLAND GRASS	0	247	241
LOWLAND HERBACEOUS VEGETATION	0	18	18
MARSH	7,979	4,143	4,143
MINOR LAKE	0	1,016	1,016
MINOR STREAM	0	81	81
MUSKEG BOG	0	2,252	2,252
PARKING AREA	0	2	2
RIGHT OF WAY	0	777	777
TRUE GRASSES	801	426	418
UPLAND BRUSH	861	44	44
UPLAND GRASS	10	133	133
WATER	0	9	9
Total :	20,689	19,140	19,126