

Lincoln County Forest
Annual Work Plan – 2019

THE HONORABLE LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Following is the annual Lincoln County Forest work plan for the calendar year 2019. The plan gives direction and meaning to the proposed County Forest budget, and further defines and supplements the Lincoln County Forest Fifteen-Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan and emphasizes the current needs of the County Forest and Recreation program. This plan is needed to comply with Wis. Statute 28.11(5) and Chapter NR47.70 (4) of the Wisconsin Administrative Code for the administration of the County Forest Administration Grant program.

LINCOLN COUNTY FOREST ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2019

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 2019. 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 2019:

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

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

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION OF FOREST

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

REFORESTATION

- A. Site Preparation: 40 Acres (Brush Raking & Patch Scarification)
- B. Aspen Regeneration: 800 Acres
- C. Plantings: 40 Acres
- D. White Birch Regeneration: 20 Acres
- E. Survival Checks 75 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 Pine Root Collar Weevil, 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. Improve access road into Posey Rapids.
- C. Continue to complete wildlife habitat enhancement projects of merit.

Wildlife Habitat

- A. Forest Openings Maintenance and Improvements, including mowing hunter walking trails in conjunction with openings. Long term goal is to prioritize and better manage forest openings.
- B. Any Combination of Release; tag alder, oak or green cover.
- C. Green Cover Planting along trails.
- D. Alder shearing if winter conditions are favorable.
- E. Access improvement on Swamp Road.
- 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.
Explore ATV Trail development in the Somo Area and Merrill to Gleason.
Continue improvements to X-C ski, bike and horse trails with RTA Grant Funding.

- B Parks & Campgrounds: Maintenance as needed at all parks and campgrounds.
Complete installing new campfire rings in campgrounds.
Install new woodchips at Newwood Park playground.
- C. Boat Landings: On Going improvements to lake access.
- D. Other: Continue implementation of Lincoln County Forest
Comprehensive Land-Use Plan and 5-Year Recreation
Plan.

FOREST CERTIFICATION

Implement SFI and FSC standards and procedures.
Implement actions from 2018 audit.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

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

SPECIAL PROJECTS, GRANTS AND FUNDING

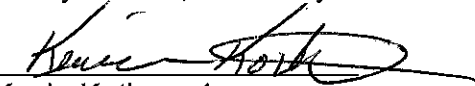
- A. Ruffed Grouse Society
B. Forest Invasive Plant Suppression Grant
C. Turkey Stamp
D. Woodcock Initiative
E. Snowmobile and ATV Rehabilitation/Development Funding
F. RTA Grant

Annual Work Plan approved this 8th day of October, 2018 by the
Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department Committee.


Frank Saal, Chairman


William Bialecki, Vice Chair

Corey Nowak, Secretary


Kevin Koth


Timothy Panfil



Forest Structure - Past, Present, Future

Print Date: 9/26/2018
Report 207

3500 - LINCOLN COUNTY FOREST

Timber Text	Acres Past (1977)	Acres Present (2018)	Acres Future
ASPEN	40,839	38,917	38,457
BALSAM FIR	0	197	694
BLACK SPRUCE	4,300	8,011	8,002
BOTTOMLAND HARDWOODS	0	175	175
FIR SPRUCE*OLD CODE, RECODE	2,810	49	49
HEMLOCK	158	222	218
JACK PINE	784	293	293
NORTHERN HARDWOODS	20,410	23,593	24,229
OAK	49	1,668	1,451
RED MAPLE	0	1,019	982
RED PINE	1,501	2,046	1,981
SWAMP CONIFER*OLD CODE, RECODE	1,445	251	231
SWAMP HARDWOODS	1,618	1,998	1,998
TAMARACK	583	1,951	1,951
WHITE BIRCH	2,641	611	360
WHITE CEDAR	450	1,503	1,154
WHITE PINE	0	199	318
WHITE SPRUCE	0	590	764
Total :	77,588	83,293	83,307
CAMPGROUND	0	23	23
DEVELOPED USE	0	35	35
FARM LAND	0	3	3
HERBACEOUS VEGETATION	56	0	0
LOW - GROWING SHRUBS	57	6	6
LOWLAND BRUSH	7,427	692	692
LOWLAND BRUSH - ALDER	3,368	9,558	9,558
LOWLAND GRASS	0	248	242

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Page 1 of 2



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3500 - LINCOLN COUNTY FOREST

LOWLAND HERBACEOUS VEGETATION	0	18	18
MARSH	7,979	2,173	2,173
MINOR LAKE	0	1,006	1,006
MINOR STREAM	0	80	80
MUSKEG BOG	0	1,622	1,622
PARKING AREA	0	3	3
RIGHT OF WAY	0	805	805
TRUE GRASSES	801	426	418
UPLAND BRUSH	861	81	81
UPLAND GRASS	10	136	136
WATER	0	10	10
Total :	20,589	16,925	16,911

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Page 2 of 2