

Lincoln County Forest

Annual Work Plan – 2020

THE HONORABLE LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Following is the annual Lincoln County Forest work plan for the calendar year 2020.

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 2020

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 2020. 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 2020:

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: 20 Acres (Brush Raking & Patch Scarification)
- B. Aspen Regeneration: 800 Acres
- C. Plantings: 5 Acres
- D. White Birch Regeneration: 20 Acres
- E. Survival Checks 146 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 HRD 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 north of Harrison Flowage.
- 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 Poplar 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: Update Lincoln County Forest 15-Year Comprehensive  
Land-Use Plan and implement 5-Year Recreation Plan.

**FOREST CERTIFICATION**

Implement SFI and FSC standards and procedures.  
Address BMP's for water quality on recreational trails and forest roads.

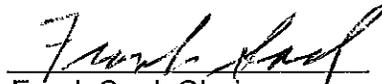
**BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

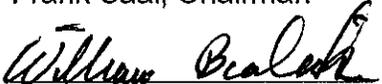
- A. Forestry Department Facilities: On Going Maintenance
- B. Equipment: Repair or Acquire as Needed

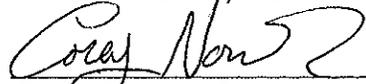
**SPECIAL PROJECTS, GRANTS AND FUNDING**

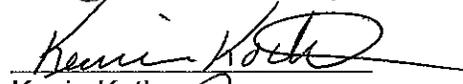
- A. Ruffed Grouse Society
- B. Forest Invasive Plant Suppression Grant
- C. Turkey Stamp
- D. Woodcock Initiative
- E. Snowmobile and ATV Rehabilitation/Development Funding
- F. RTA Grant

Annual Work Plan approved this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2019 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: 9/25/2019

Report 207

## 3500 - LINCOLN COUNTY FOREST

Timber Text	Acres Past	Acres Present	Acres Future
	(1977)	(2019)	
ASPEN	40,839	38,856	38,415
BALSAM FIR	0	197	694
BLACK SPRUCE	4,300	7,947	7,938
BOTTOMLAND HARDWOODS	0	174	174
FIR SPRUCE - *OLD CODE, RECODE	2,810	0	0
HEMLOCK	158	227	223
JACK PINE	784	295	295
NORTHERN HARDWOODS	20,410	23,543	24,107
OAK	49	1,600	1,378
RED MAPLE	0	1,197	1,160
RED PINE	1,501	2,092	1,976
SWAMP CONIFER-*OLD CODE, RECODE	1,445	215	195
SWAMP HARDWOODS	1,618	2,009	2,009
TAMARACK	583	2,042	2,042
WHITE BIRCH	2,641	447	302
WHITE CEDAR	450	1,571	1,222
WHITE PINE	0	198	320
WHITE SPRUCE	0	589	763
<b>Total :</b>	<b>77,588</b>	<b>83,199</b>	<b>83,213</b>
CAMPGROUND	0	24	24
COOL SEASON GRASS	0	21	21
FARMLAND	0	3	3
HERBACEOUS VEGETATION - *OLD CODE, RECODE	56	0	0
LOW - GROWING SHRUBS - *OLD CODE, RECODE	87	6	6
LOWLAND BRUSH - *OLD CODE, RECODE	7,427	701	701
LOWLAND BRUSH - ALDER - *OLD CODE, RECODE	3,368	8,892	8,892
LOWLAND GRASS - *OLD CODE, RECODE	0	250	244
LOWLAND HERBACEOUS VEGETATION - *OLD CODE, RECODE	0	18	18
MARSH - *OLD CODE, RECODE	7,979	2,199	2,199
MINOR LAKE	0	1,006	1,004
MINOR STREAM	0	80	80
MUSKEG - BOG	0	1,624	1,498
PARKING AREA	0	3	3
RIGHT OF WAY	0	789	789
TRUE GRASSES - *OLD CODE, RECODE	801	406	398
UPLAND BRUSH - *OLD CODE, RECODE	861	43	43
UPLAND GRASS - *OLD CODE, RECODE	10	135	135
WATER	0	10	10
WETLAND SHRUB - ALDER	0	673	341
<b>Total :</b>	<b>20,589</b>	<b>16,883</b>	<b>16,409</b>