

# **Lincoln County Forest Annual Work Plan – 2024**

## **THE HONORABLE LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Following is the annual Lincoln County Forest work plan for the calendar year 2024.

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 required 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 2024**

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 2024. 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) and field proofing will be used to determine stands where timber harvesting is needed. When harvesting in these stands 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 1,900 acres for harvest in the following timber types in 2024:

Northern Hardwoods	<u>900</u> Acres
Aspen	<u>800</u> Acres
Red Pine	<u>100</u> Acres
Other Types 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 the current cover types in similar acreages. Changes in cover type acreages may occur over time due to natural succession or conversion in areas where it makes sense economically and ecologically. Aspen, white birch, jack pine, swamp conifer and red oak are timber types whose acreage is decreasing across the landscape. These decreases are largely due to fire suppression and/or an emphasis on managing for shade tolerant, later successional species on other forest ownerships. These types and associated species are important to wildlife, the timber industry, and the ecology and diversity of the forest. When possible, early successional cover types will be

maintained with 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: 50 Acres (Brush Raking & Patch Scarification)
- B. Aspen Regeneration: 800 Acres
- C. Plantings: 65 Acres red pine
- D. White Birch Regeneration: 10 Acres
- E. Survival Checks 195 Acres

### **TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT**

Release: Spruce and Pine release 10 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.

Continue roadside brushing and ditch improvement work.

### **LAND ACQUISITION**

On Going

Explore trade possibilities or purchase of private interior properties as they arise.

Use Stewardship Program to cost share land acquisition projects.

### **SURVEYING**

As Required

Work with County Surveyor as needed.

### **FOREST PROTECTION**

On Going

A. Implement Gypsy Moth, Oak Wilt and HRD Plan.

B. Monitor Pine Root Collar Weevil, Jack Pine Budworm, armillaria root rot, 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 and glossy buckthorn.

- D. Educate user groups on invasive species.

## **FISH AND WILDLIFE PROJECTS**

### County Conservation:

- A. Improve forest access roads for hunting, trapping and fishing.
- B. Continue roadside brushing on roads in New Wood.
- 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. Release cutting: oak or green cover.
- D. Alder shearing if winter conditions are favorable.
- E. Hunter parking lots/access improvement.
- F. Site prep. For early successional species such as oak and birch.
- G. 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. 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. Make site improvements and install new wells at Otter Lake and New Wood campgrounds. Install woodchips in New Wood Park and Tug Lake playgrounds.
- C. Boat Landings: On-going improvements to lake access.
- D. Other: Implement Lincoln County Forest 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan and 5-Year Recreation Plan.

## **FOREST CERTIFICATION**

Implement SFI and FSC standards and procedures.



Continue to complete Environmental and Social Risk Assessment for every pesticide application with a specific chemical.

Implement additional documentation for Best Management Practices for Water Quality in Timber Sale Cutting Notice Form 2460. Review BMPs when sale becomes active.

Maintain chain of custody information in timber sale contract and on haul tickets

### **BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

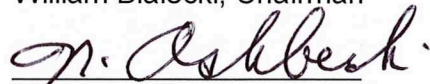
- A. Forestry Department Facilities: On Going Maintenance
- B. Equipment: Repair or Acquire as Needed


### **SPECIAL PROJECTS, GRANTS, AND FUNDING**

- A. Ruffed Grouse Society
- B. Turkey Stamp
- C. Woodcock Initiative
- D. Snowmobile and ATV Rehabilitation/Development Funding
- E. Recreational Trails Grant
- F. Sustainable Forestry Grant
- G. Lumberjack RC&D
- H. Acquisition and Development of Local Parks Grant

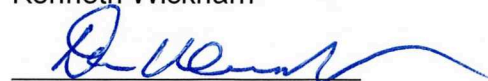
Annual Work Plan approved this 11th day of September, 2023 by the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department Committee.

  
William Bialecki, Chairman

  
Norbert Ashbeck, Vice Chair

  
Greg Hartwig, Secretary

  
Kenneth Wickham

  
Don Wendorf



# Forest Structure - Past, Present, Future

Print Date: 9/5/2023

Report 207

## 3500 - LINCOLN COUNTY FOREST

Timber Text	Acres Past	Acres Present	Acres Future
	(1977)	(2023)	
ASPEN	40,839	39,443	38,926
BALSAM FIR	0	132	595
BLACK SPRUCE	4,300	8,077	8,067
BOTTOMLAND HARDWOODS	0	195	195
FIR SPRUCE - *OLD CODE, RECODE	2,810	0	0
HEMLOCK	158	220	216
JACK PINE	784	268	268
NORTHERN HARDWOODS	20,410	22,831	23,360
OAK	49	1,537	1,319
RED MAPLE	0	1,773	1,745
RED PINE	1,501	2,144	2,068
SWAMP CONIFER-*OLD CODE, RECODE	1,445	0	0
SWAMP HARDWOODS	1,618	2,009	1,989
TAMARACK	583	2,242	2,242
WHITE BIRCH	2,641	384	299
WHITE CEDAR	450	1,637	1,285
WHITE PINE	0	189	340
WHITE SPRUCE	0	657	824
<b>Total :</b>	<b>77,588</b>	<b>83,738</b>	<b>83,738</b>
CAMPGROUND	0	24	0
COOL SEASON GRASS	0	570	21
DEVELOPED USE	0	1	0
EMERGENT WETLAND	0	2,415	0
FARMLAND	0	3	0
HERBACEOUS VEGETATION - *OLD CODE, RECODE	56	0	0
LOW - GROWING SHRUBS - *OLD CODE, RECODE	87	0	0
LOWLAND BRUSH - *OLD CODE, RECODE	7,427	0	0



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## 3500 - LINCOLN COUNTY FOREST

LOWLAND BRUSH - ALDER - *OLD CODE, RECODE	3,368	0	0
MARSH - *OLD CODE, RECODE	7,979	0	0
MINOR LAKE	0	1,032	0
MINOR STREAM	0	82	0
MUSKEG - BOG	0	1,617	0
PARKING AREA	0	37	0
RIGHT OF WAY	0	797	0
TRUE GRASSES - *OLD CODE, RECODE	801	0	0
UPLAND BRUSH - *OLD CODE, RECODE	861	0	0
UPLAND GRASS - *OLD CODE, RECODE	10	0	0
UPLAND SHRUB	0	38	0
WATER	0	13	0
WETLAND SHRUB	0	204	0
WETLAND SHRUB - ALDER	0	10,109	707
<b>Total :</b>	<b>20,589</b>	<b>16,942</b>	<b>728</b>