

LINCOLN COUNTY FOREST ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2021

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 2021. 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 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 2021:

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 the current cover type 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: 20 Acres (Brush Raking & Patch Scarification)
- B. Aspen Regeneration: 800 Acres
- C. Plantings: Fill in 10 Acres
- D. White Birch Regeneration: 10 Acres
- E. Survival Checks 51 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.

High priority culverts have been replaced.

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 the need arises.

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 and access road west of Mail Route Road.
- 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/access 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. 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 update 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

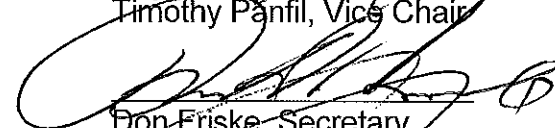
SPECIAL PROJECTS, GRANTS AND FUNDING

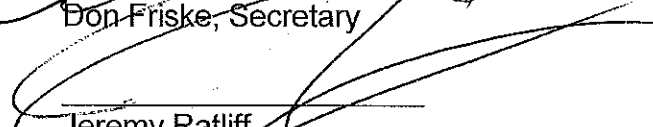
- A. Ruffed Grouse Society
B. Turkey Stamp
C. Woodcock Initiative
D. Snowmobile and ATV Rehabilitation/Development Funding
E. Recreational Trails Grant
F. Sustainable Forestry Grant

Annual Work Plan approved this 5th day of October, 2020 by the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department Committee.


William Bialecki, Chairman


Timothy Panfil, Vice Chair


Don Friske, Secretary


Jeremy Ratliff


Norbert Ashbeck