

LINCOLN COUNTY FOREST FIFTEEN-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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3000 OBJECTIVE AND POLICY

OBJECTIVE

To provide a quantifiable means of evaluating progress on both short and long term goals on the Lincoln County Forest.

POLICY

Annual accomplishments will be recorded as a historical record, to assist in future planning, and to provide documentation for both the County, and the County Forest system. This information is invaluable in addressing public, County Board, and other legislative inquiries on the operation of the Forest as well as assessing progress on goals.

3100 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORTS

A copy of an annual accomplishment report shall be prepared and provided to members of the County Board and to official copyholders of this Plan for inclusion into this chapter.

This report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

1. Timber sale accomplishments including gross and net sale receipts and harvest goals achieved.
2. Timber stand improvements accomplishments.
3. Recreation development and maintenance accomplishments including recreation revenues and expenses.
4. Wildlife management accomplishments including revenues and expenses.
5. Fisheries management accomplishments including revenues and expenses.
6. Other accomplishments identified as “needs” in Chapter 1000.

3200 PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

3210 TIMBER SALES

3210.1 Timber

Annual Gross Timber Sale Receipts

1965-\$ 27,208.61	1979-\$ 137,416.30	1993-\$ 341,290.09
1966-\$ 31,566.35	1980-\$ 208,737.05	1994-\$ 420,827.44
1967-\$ 37,090.62	1981-\$ 246,592.36	1995-\$ 568,158.05
1968-\$ 34,010.27	1982-\$ 262,901.96	1996-\$ 693,378.82
1969-\$ 33,604.57	1983-\$ 257,283.06	1997-\$ 833,757.68
1970-\$ 43,206.40	1984-\$ 255,906.66	1998-\$ 636,711.90
1971-\$ 29,550.02	1985-\$ 256,362.59	1999-\$ 918,324.31
1972-\$ 35,556.99	1986-\$ 232,682.41	2000-\$1,193,249.92
1973-\$ 56,220.84	1987-\$ 268,758.75	2001-\$ 914,778.57
1974-\$ 92,616.60	1988-\$ 265,785.90	2002-\$1,228,723.76
1975-\$ 97,265.85	1989-\$ 256,480.21	2003-\$1,059,741.00
1976-\$ 125,003.91	1990-\$ 210,147.23	2004-\$1,270,586.91
1977-\$ 102,132.06	1991-\$ 277,416.91	
1978-\$ 88,361.07	1992-\$ 274,197.67	

3210.2 Non-Timber Forest Products

Gravel

Year	Revenue	Yards
1994	\$39,083.50	129,941.57
1995	\$15,653.85	59,682.00
1996	\$35,786.53	126,896.64
1997	\$22,325.53	66,924.93
1998	\$61,551.25	198,672.43
1999	\$39,382.03	100,437.92
2000	\$84,005.40	195,150.00
2001	\$57,896.75	135,791.00
2002	\$25,525.06	48,903.68
2003	\$15,650.00	35,625.00
2004	\$60,024.15	106,747.00

Boughs, firewood and other miscellaneous permits

1994	\$2,214.28	2000	\$3,108.06
1995	\$2,227.65	2001	\$4,976.91
1996	\$2,238.14	2002	\$5,419.66
1997	\$2,393.50	2003	\$4,122.22
1998	\$2,464.84	2004	\$4,756.76
1999	\$3,062.78		

3220 REFORESTATION

<i>Year</i>	<i># of Trees Planted</i>	<i>Acres</i>
1992	65,000	63.5
1993	54,580	64.0
1994	43,200	44.0
1995	52,200	52.0
1996	35,050	46.0
1997	42,250	50.0
1998	55,100	60.0
1999	40,500	46.5
2000	44,900	53.0
2001	60,670	70.0
2002	45,700	53.0
2003	33,900	36.0
2004	27,600	26.0

3230 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT (Acres Completed)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Aspen Release</i>	<i>Pine Release</i>	<i>Spruce Release</i>	<i>Oak Release</i>	<i>White Pine</i>
1992	376	127.7	2.0	25.0	
1993	1,448	51.5			
1994	786	28.0	43.0	10.0	
1995	662	35.5	54.0		
1996	777	13.0	21.0		
1997	770	19.0	6.0		
1998	282	22.0	22.5		
1999	278		94.0		
2000	327	25.0	37.5		
2001	433	13.0	14.0		
2002	49	77.0	10.0	33.0	
2003	557	34.0	42.0	15.0	20.0
2004	803	14.0		4.0	

3240 RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

1992- Development of Horseman Park in Underdown. Acquisition of Wirth property in Harrison for aesthetics and silent sport management.

1993- Developed parking areas in New Wood. Took over maintenance of Larson Lake from DOT.

1994- Instillation of fishing platform at Sara Park and railroad crossing at Heafford Jct. on Hiawatha Trail.

- 1995- Developed parking areas in New Wood. Added 2.5 miles funded snowmobile and 26 miles funded winter ATV trail to County-wide system.
- 1996- Developed parking areas in New Wood.
- 1997- Developed parking areas in New Wood. New outhouse facility constructed at New Wood Park.
- 1998- Developed parking areas in New Wood. New outhouse facility constructed at Underdown Parking Lot. Added 3.5 miles funded winter ATV trail to County-wide system.
- 1999- Trail surface prepared for mountain bike trail at Underdown. New outhouse facility constructed at Otter Lake Campground.
- 2000- New outhouse and changing area facility constructed at Otter Lake picnic area. Improvement and erosion control at Underdown Lake boat landing.
- 2001- Purchased a 5 acre parcel next to Prairie Dells and a 26 acre parcel next to Haymeadow Park for future development of Prairie Dells Scenic Area. New well developed at New Wood Park. New playground equipment installed at New Wood and Tug Lake Park. Added 1 mile funded snowmobile trail to County-wide system. Educational and Identification signs in the Underdown. Improvement and erosion control at Bruce and Sawmill Lake boatlandings.
- 2002- Added 2.9 miles winter ATV trail to County-wide system. Educational and County Forest Identification Signs at Underdown. Improvement and erosion control at Kordick Lake boatlanding.
- 2003- A gravel surface was added to road in camping area at Underdown Park. Developed 8 additional miles summer ATV trail on County Forest in Harrison. Added 18.9 miles funded snowmobile and 10.7 miles funded winter ATV trail to County-wide system. Improvement and erosion control at Mist, Mailroute and Ament Lake boatlandings.
- 2004- Began work on hunter access roads and parking lots in Highway 8, Wildwood and New Wood Block. Developed 10 additional miles summer ATV trail in Harrison. Expanded Turtle Lake Road ATV Parking Lot. Opened Wildwood Avenue to ATV use. Designated 3,700 acre quiet area in Harrison adjacent to Wirth Property. Improvement and erosion control at New Wood Park boatlanding.

3250 WILDLIFE PROJECTS

- 1992- Continued monitoring efforts of the Eastern Timber Wolf in Averill Creek and Ranger Island Pack. Trapped and radio collared a yearling female in the Averill Creek Pack on 7/2/92. Mowed 43 constructed openings and connecting trails, reconstructed 15 openings and completed seeding and fertilizing of 8 openings. Chemically treated 58 natural

openings with herbicide for grass maintenance. Reconstructed Camp 26 Flowage dike and replaced the water control structure. Managed and maintained the Coffee Creek, Camp 26 and Trapper Morrison Flowage. Trapping of nuisance beaver conducted on trout streams, winter deer yards, flowages and other problem areas.

- 1993- Continued monitoring efforts of the Eastern Timber Wolf in Lincoln County. Mowed 50 constructed openings and connecting trails, reconstructed 14 openings in New Wood, leveled and seeded 11 openings in Harrison Hills. Chemically treated 50 natural openings with herbicide for grass maintenance. Converted 7 natural openings into mowable openings in Harrison Hills and top-dressed 31 openings. Repaired minor leaks in the water control structures at Camp 26 and Coffee Creek flowages and managed water levels as needed. Started reconstruction of Trapper Morrison Pond. Trapping of nuisance beaver conducted on trout streams, winter deer yards, flowages and other problem areas. Planting and release of spruce to improve green cover.
- 1994- Continued monitoring efforts of the Eastern Timber Wolf in Lincoln County. Trapped and radio collared a young male in Averill Creek Pack. Mowed 100 constructed openings and connecting trails, leveled and seeded 14 openings in New Wood. Chemically treated 19 natural openings with herbicide for grass maintenance. Seeded Camp 26 Flowage with wild rice. Trapper Morrison Pond water control structure, emergency rock spillway, and a portion of the dam reconstruction were completed. Abandonment and reclamation of Upper Grandfather Flowage completed. Trapping of nuisance beaver conducted on trout streams, winter deer yards, flowages and other problem areas.
- 1995- Continued monitoring efforts of the Eastern Timber Wolf in Lincoln County. Wolf track activity noted in the Harrison Hills area. Mowed 107 constructed openings and connecting trails and leveled 10 openings in New Wood. Chemically treated 13 natural openings with herbicide for grass maintenance. Converted 5 natural openings to mowable ones and top-dressed with fertilizer 17 constructed openings in Harrison. Managed water levels on Camp 26, Coffee Creek and Trapper Morrison flowage as needed. Completed Trapper Morrison Pond Flowage project. Completed repairs to Harrison Flowage Dam. Trapping of nuisance beaver conducted on trout streams, winter deer yards, flowages and other problem areas. Planting and release of spruce to improve green cover.
- 1996- Continued monitoring efforts of the Eastern Timber Wolf in Lincoln County. Mowed 75 constructed openings and connecting trails and reconstructed 14 openings. Chemically treated 16 openings with herbicide for grass maintenance. Water levels were managed as necessary on Camp 26, Coffee Creek and Trapper Morrison Flowage. Wild rice seed was planted on Camp 26 Creek Flowage. Trapping of nuisance beaver conducted on trout streams, winter deer yards, flowages and other problem areas. Planting and release of spruce to improve green cover.
- 1997- Eastern Timber wolf monitoring in Lincoln County was limited this year due to the Wildlife Biologist vacancy and the fact that there is less of an emphasis due to the relative stability of the wolf population throughout the state. Mowed 75 constructed wildlife openings and connecting trails. Fourteen openings were seeded and disced with berms being pushed out on 10 of the openings. Water levels were managed as necessary

on Camp 26, Coffee Creek and Trapper Morrison Flowage. Trapping of nuisance beaver conducted on trout streams, winter deer yards, flowages and other problem areas. Planting and release of spruce to improve green cover. Began development of Mail Route ruffed grouse management area.

- 1998- Continued monitoring efforts of the Eastern Timber Wolf in Lincoln County. Mowed 103 constructed wildlife openings and 100 miles of walking trails and reconstructed 17 wildlife openings. The water control structure on Camp 26 Flowage was re-constructed, a berm along Coffee Creek Flowage was repaired and additional rock was placed on the emergency spillway on Trapper Morrison Pond. Corrected rubble build up in front of Somo Lake Dam and rip/rap of shoreline to reduce erosion. Wild rice seed was planted on Trapper Morrison Pond. Trapping of nuisance beaver conducted on trout streams, winter deer yards, flowages and other problem areas. Planting and release of spruce to improve green cover.
- 1999- Wildlife surveys were completed on the following species on the County Forest: ruffed grouse, woodcock, black bear, fur-bearers, gray wolf and waterfowl. One female wolf pup was collared on the Averill Creek pack. Wildlife openings work consisted of mowing 135 openings and 100 miles of connecting trails. Eleven openings were completely reconstructed and 4 openings had the berms pushed out to reclaim topsoil. Water levels on 3 flowages were managed to provide waterfowl habitat. Trapping of nuisance beaver conducted on trout streams, winter deer yards, flowages and other problem areas. Installed boat planks to reduce erosion at boat landings. Planting and release of spruce to improve green cover.
- 2000- Conducted wildlife surveys for ruffed grouse, woodcock, black bear, furbearers, gray wolf and waterfowl. Cut approx. 4 acres of speckled alder to promote sprouting. Mowed 125 openings and connecting trails, fertilized 135 openings to promote growth and enhance quality of opening and pushed out berms to reclaim topsoil on 2 openings. Managed water levels and planted wild rice seed on 3 flowages to maintain shallow water communities. Trapping of nuisance beaver conducted on trout streams, winter deer yards, flowages and other problem areas. Purchased boat planks and completed work to reduce erosion at boat landings. Planting and release of spruce to improve green cover.
- 2001- Conducted wildlife surveys for ruffed grouse, woodcock, black bear, furbearers, gray wolf and waterfowl. Fertilized 120 openings to enhance grass and forb quality and re-constructed 6 openings. Managed water levels and planted wild rice seed on all 3 flowages to maintain shallow water communities. Trapping of nuisance beaver conducted on trout streams, winter deer yards, flowages and other problem areas. Placement of gates. Purchased boat planks and completed work to reduce erosion at boat landings. Planting and release of spruce to improve green cover.
- 2002- Conducted wildlife surveys for ruffed grouse, woodcock, black bear, furbearers, gray wolf and waterfowl. Confirmed Harrison Hills, Spirit Lake and Somo River wolf packs in Lincoln County. Mowed two wildlife openings and associated trails (Efforts severely limited due to wet year and time commitment to chronic wasting disease). Water levels on 3 flowages were managed to provide waterfowl habitat. Trapping of

nuisance beaver conducted on trout streams, winter deer yards, flowages and other problem areas. Placement of gates. Purchased boat planks and completed work to reduce erosion at boat landings. Planting and release of spruce and release of oak.

- 2003- Conducted wildlife surveys for ruffed grouse, woodcock, black bear, furbearers, gray wolf and waterfowl. Mowed 150 wildlife openings and associated walking trails. Water levels and wild rice plantings on 3 flowages were managed to provide waterfowl habitat. Trapping of nuisance beaver conducted on trout streams, winter deer yards, flowages and other problem areas. Placement of gates. Purchased boat planks and completed work to reduce erosion at boat landings. Planting and release of spruce and release of oak.
- 2004- Conducted wildlife surveys for ruffed grouse, woodcock, black bear, furbearers, gray wolf and waterfowl. There are five confirmed wolf packs that have territories located in Lincoln County. Mowed 165 wildlife openings and 160 miles of associated walking trails. Water levels on 3 flowages were managed and wild rice plantings on 2 flowages was conducted to provide waterfowl habitat. Trapping of nuisance beaver conducted on trout streams, winter deer yards, flowages and other problem areas. Placement of gates. Purchased boat planks and completed work to reduce erosion at boat landings. Completed work on Mail Route ruffed grouse management area. Began work on New Wood ruffed grouse management area.

3260 FISHERY PROJECTS

- 1992- Approximately 3,500 brook trout were released in Ament and Henson Lake and 3,500 rainbow trout were released in Larson, Moraine and Tahoe Lake.
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- 2002- Approximately 3,500 brook trout were released in Ament and Henson Lake and 3,500 rainbow trout were released in Larson, Moraine and Tahoe Lake.
- 2003- Approximately 3,500 brook trout were released in Ament and Henson Lake and 3,500 rainbow trout were released in Larson, Moraine and Tahoe Lake.
- 2004- Approximatley 3,500 brook trout were released in Ament and Henson Lake and 3,500 rainbow trout were released in Larson, Moraine and Tahoe Lake.

3300 MONITORING

3310 FOREST TYPES

Insert Lincoln County Forest Composition Table

Lincoln County Forest Composition

Forest Type	Original Acres	Original %	1995 Acres	1995%	2005 Acres	2005%	Proposed Acres	Proposed %
A	39,830	40.6%	38,472	38.9%	39,272	39.0%	38,605	38.3%
AX	1,009	1.0%	621	0.6%	464	0.5%	326	0.3%
BH		0.0%	147	0.1%	233	0.2%	233	0.2%
BW	2,641	2.7%	2,265	2.3%	1,468	1.5%	654	0.6%
C	450	0.5%	580	0.6%	1,034	1.0%	730	0.7%
FS	2,810	2.9%	2,132	2.2%	1,110	1.1%	2,122	2.1%
HH	158	0.2%	277	0.3%	329	0.3%	325	0.3%
MR		0.0%		0.0%	333	0.3%	319	0.3%
NH	20,410	20.8%	23,208	23.5%	26,065	25.9%	27,389	27.2%
O	49	0.0%	815	0.8%	1,904	1.9%	1,581	1.6%
PJ	784	0.8%	321	0.3%	275	0.3%	285	0.3%
PR	1,501	1.5%	2,066	2.1%	2,422	2.4%	2,492	2.5%
PW		0.0%	177	0.2%	188	0.2%	341	0.3%
SB	3,997	4.1%	3,919	4.0%	4,730	4.7%	4,730	4.7%
SC	1,445	1.5%	1,245	1.3%	1,232	1.2%	1,195	1.2%
SH	1,618	1.6%	1,819	1.8%	1,735	1.7%	1,722	1.7%
SX	168	0.2%	216	0.2%	285	0.3%	285	0.3%
SXSB	135	0.1%	97	0.1%	141	0.1%	141	0.1%
SXT	24	0.0%	24	0.0%	31	0.0%	31	0.0%
T	559	0.6%	676	0.7%	971	1.0%	964	1.0%
Total Forested	77,588	79.0%	79,077	80.0%	84,225	83.6%	84,472	83.9%
G	10	0.0%	10	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
GG	801	0.8%	917	0.9%	140	0.1%	139	0.1%
GH	56	0.1%	45	0.0%	15	0.0%	15	0.0%
GLS	87	0.1%	887	0.9%	13	0.0%	13	0.0%
I		0.0%		0.0%	6	0.0%	6	0.0%
K	7,979	8.1%	2,587	2.6%	3,292	3.3%	3,292	3.3%
KB		0.0%	2,464	2.5%	2,905	2.9%	2,905	2.9%
KG		0.0%	162	0.2%	418	0.4%	418	0.4%
LB	7,427	7.6%	1,757	1.8%	1,176	1.2%	930	0.9%
LBA	3,368	3.4%	8,353	8.4%	7,054	7.0%	7,054	7.0%
LM		0.0%	1,103	1.1%	1,088	1.1%	1,088	1.1%
LMS		0.0%	205	0.2%	74	0.1%	74	0.1%
ROW		0.0%	897	0.9%	85	0.1%	85	0.1%
UB	861	0.9%	401	0.4%	183	0.2%	183	0.2%
Z		0.0%	2	0.0%	34	0.0%	34	0.0%
Total non-forest	20,589	21.0%	19,790	20.0%	16,484	16.4%	16,237	16.1%
Total Property	98,177	100.0%	98,867	100.0%	100,709	100.0%	100,709	100.0%

3320 HARVESTING

Insert Timber Sale Monitoring Table

3330 FLORA/FAUNA

Habitat Type information is collected on timber stands throughout the Lincoln County Forest. As stands are harvested, and reentered into the recon system, they are rescheduled for future harvest. When these stands come up for a revisit in recon, the stands are cruised and assessed by foresters. When this reassessment occurs, any significant changes in flora/fauna would be recognized, noted and addressed. During routine field visits to harvest and recreation areas on the County Forest foresters will be alert for changing conditions in flora and fauna. As training becomes available Department staff will participate in invasive species identification. When Best Management Practices for Invasive Species in Wisconsin Forests become available they will be considered on the Lincoln County Forest.

3340 RECREATION

Different types of monitoring occur on intensive use areas of the County Forest. Campground use is monitored and assessed through collected user fees. Recreational trail use is monitored through maintenance activities and trail patrols. Dispersed camping activities can be monitored by changes in the landscape. If overuse is proving detrimental to the resources of the Forest appropriate measures may be taken by the Forestry Department or the Committee.

3350 EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCES AND HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS

Areas of the County Forest outlined in the Exceptional Resources section of Chapter 500 will be monitored by the County Forestry Department along with outside agencies and organizations like the WDNR Bureau of Endangered Resources. The degree of this monitoring will be determined by the titles associated with these areas (i.e. State Natural Areas). There is no established policy for the monitoring of these areas as they have only recently been recognized on the County Forest. If a formal monitoring system is established for these areas in the future it will be amended to the Plan.

3360 ROADS AND ACCESS

Primary roads and recreational trails are monitored through regular maintenance. Gated and bermed areas are monitored by field staff. Environmentally sensitive areas will continue to be

closed to vehicular traffic through the use of berms and gates. The problem of unauthorized access to gated and bermed areas is likely to continue in the absence of additional law enforcement. Many of the County Forest access concerns were addressed in the County Forest Access Plan found in Chapter 900, Appendix.

LINCOLN COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors
Lincoln County, Wisconsin

The following is a report of the various activities of the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department from January 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006.

OUR 2006 COUNTY FOREST consists of 100,805.05 acres.

2006 TIMBER SALES REVENUE TOTALED \$1,486,394.04. \$20,371.13 was revenue received on timber sales on County Lands not entered under the Forest Crop Law. 2006 revenue from County Forest Lands was \$1,466,022.91. This revenue is distributed as follows: \$146,602.29 (10%) to Towns with County Forest Lands; \$293,204.58 (20%) to the County General Fund; and \$1,026,216.04 (70%) to the County Forestry Fund.

DURING THE YEAR, 36 TIMBER SALES WERE SOLD with an estimated value of \$1,146,982.10.

TWENTY-TWO BOUGH PERMITS WERE ISSUED @ \$100.00 per permit = \$2,200.00; boughs confiscated = \$57.60; restitution for bough removal without permit = \$192.00; revenue totaled \$2,449.60.

GRAVEL REVENUE TOTALED \$12,489.34 from the sale of 24,979 yards of gravel.

GRANT REVENUES administered in the Forestry, Land & Parks Department during 2006 totaled \$435,478.00. \$25,171.00 of this \$435,478.00 was provided by Lincoln County for those grants requiring 50/50 cost share.

REVENUE FROM WOOD SALES AND FIREWOOD PERMITS DURING 2006 TOTALED \$5,456.75. Seven wood sales (\$3,956.75) and one hundred fourteen 30-day permits were issued. Thirty-six permits were extended.

IN 2006 APPROXIMATELY 20,500 TREES were planted on 21 acres. The Forestry field crew completed these plantings. Two of these sites were mature CCC jack pine plantations that had been clear-cut.

16,500 (2-0) jack pine were planted by machine in the Town of Wilson.

4,000 (3-0) white spruce were planted by hand in the Town of Harding on the recently purchased Crocker Property.

Fifteen acres of white birch on two sites in the Town of Harrison were whole tree skidded with tops intact during leaf-off periods, as a requirement of the timber sale contract, in order to prepare the site for natural white birch regeneration.

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT (TSI) work included 17 acres of white spruce plantation that was mechanically released by our field crew on County Forest Land in the Town of Harding. 770 acres of aspen release was completed in clear-cut areas as a requirement of the timber sale contract.

SURVEYING; The majority of surveying done in 2006 was in conjunction with the Lincoln County Surveyor.

In Section 19 of T35N-R8E, corrections were made to a previous survey.

In Section 23 of T35N-R8E, Steel, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along the 1 mile of County Forest boundary. Trees along the line were blazed and painted blue.

In Section 36 of T35N-R8E, Steel, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundaries for the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ totaling approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of boundary.

In Section 25 of T35N-R8E, Steel, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ totaling approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of boundary.

In Section 25 of T33N-R7E, Steel, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ totaling approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of boundary.

In Section 22 of T35N-R4E, Steel, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary in the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ totaling approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of boundary. A brass cap was set at the W $\frac{1}{16}$ NW of the same section.

CONTINUED OUR COUNTY FOREST ROAD MAINTENANCE program including graveling, installing culverts, improving drainage, and regular grading and snowplowing of roads. Completed improvements and upgrades on 2.0 miles of the former Averill Creek Firelane; applied for state road aids on these sections of road.

THE COUNTY FOREST ROAD AIDS PROGRAM: In 2006 we received \$336/mile for maintaining 27.25 miles of roads for a total of \$9,156.00. We applied for additional funding on 1.25 miles of East Averill Creek Road and .75 miles of West Averill Creek Road.

COUNTY CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT FUNDS FOR 2006: We continued work on our County Conservation Aids grant for improving lake access by constructing boat ramp planks. Wildlife Habitat funds were used for hunter/walking trail improvements and expansions, alder shearing and mowing of wildlife openings.

THE UNDERDOWN RECREATION AREA is available for a variety of uses year round. Groomed and tracked X-C ski trails, horse trails, bike trails, hiking trails, and a snowmobile/winter ATV trail are all mapped and signed in the Underdown. A new trail user fee was implemented for the 2006-2007 ski season and will be in place for spring, summer and fall of 2007. Season passes for trail use were made available to the public.

ORGANIZED AND/OR COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED on the County Forest in the Underdown Recreation Area by the Underdown Horse Club, Wisconsin Off Road Bike Association (WORBA), and Marathon County 4-H Horse Masters. The Mobil Skills Crew of the Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation was provided camping at the New Wood Park Campground during a work session in June. The local chapter of the Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation held organized hikes on the trail throughout the year.

COUNTY PARKS ACTIVITIES: Regular maintenance of County parks and facilities was performed during 2006. Grant dollars were applied for and awarded to construct new toilet/changing house facilities, re-roof the shelter, and add new granite to the parking area at Tug Lake Park. This work is scheduled for 2007. A Campground Host agreement was developed for Otter Lake Park.

PRAIRIE DELLS SCENIC VIEWING AREA: Two viewing platforms were constructed, trails and parking area were graveled, and new signage was erected at Prairie Dells Scenic Viewing Area. The grant for this work was closed in December, 2006.

NEW WOOD RIVER ACCESS: A road was constructed, existing old buildings were razed, and a parking area was graveled providing access to the New Wood River south of Whiskey Bill Road. The area was constructed to provide access for canoeing, shore fishing, hunting and other recreational activities.

IMPLEMENTATION OF LINCOLN COUNTY ACCESS PLAN AND COUNTY FOREST ORDINANCES: We completed road improvements and signage for access to Mist, Henson, and Underdown Lakes. We continue to work on acquiring access permits for private individuals that access their lands through the County Forest. Issued 5 temporary access permits for individuals hauling forest products from private lands across the County Forest. The hiring of a Recreation Officer was approved by the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors in October, 2006.

LINCOLN COUNTY'S 2005-2006 SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MAINTENANCE PROJECT was approved for \$76,650.00 consisting of 306.6 miles of trail @ \$250/mile. Six clubs contracted to maintain 252.3 miles of trail and our department maintained 54.3 miles.

ATV PROGRAM: We received trail maintenance aids of \$19,845.00 consisting of 197 miles of winter trails @ \$100.00/mile and \$18,125.00 consisting of 40.2 miles of summer trails at \$450/mile maintained by our department. Five clubs contracted to maintain 196.95 miles of winter trail and our department maintained 44.7 miles. The winter trails are part of our snowmobile trail system, while the summer mileage traverses through the Harrison Hills and links up with Langlade and Oneida County ATV Trails, the communities of Gleason, Harrison, and the Pine Lake area. Worked with Trail Patrol Ambassadors to identify problem areas on trails. Worked with ATV clubs in the Somo, Wilson and Spirit Falls area to identify possible sites for an ATV trail/route link. An area Eagle Scout completed a service project by constructing 2 map/sign boards on the ATV trail system; one in the Turtle Lake Road parking lot and one on Cinder Road. New ATV trail maps were developed by the Forestry, Land and Parks Department and the GIS office of the Land Information and Conservation Department. ATV grant dollars were awarded for the construction of a multi-use shelter building to be constructed in the Hwy B parking lot located near Ski Hill Road. ATV mileage was added through private property south of 1st Avenue and west of Hwy X linking ATV Routes to the Community of Gleason.

LAND SOLD, RATIFIED, CONFIRMED AND APPROVED by the Lincoln County Board in 2006 included 4 tax deed parcels sold at a land sale for a total of \$131,776.62.

LAND PURCHASED: The Lincoln County Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of 40 acres of land described as NE ¼ NW ¼ Section 9 T33N-R8E in December, 2006.

BEAVER PROGRAM: Continued to work with USDA APHIS regarding beaver problems on the Lincoln County Forest and on the county road system.

FOREST CERTIFICATION: Worked on implementing necessary changes on the County Forest required by SFI forest certification.

LINCOLN COUNTY 5-YEAR OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN was developed in conjunction with North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning, the City of Tomahawk, The City of Merrill, local townships and special interest groups. The Plan was approved by the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors in December, 2006 and is effective January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2011.

DEPARTMENT SAFETY PLAN: Continued development and implementation of our department safety plan. The Lincoln County Public Works Safety Group (Highway, Forestry, Solid Waste and Maintenance Departments) are under contract with Alpha Terra Science to develop a safety plan. Programs are in place for hazardous communication, control of hazardous energy, confined space entry and excavation safety.

DNR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS on the Lincoln County Forest in 2006, submitted by Pat Rominski, Wildlife Technician:

Managed water levels on Camp 26, Trapper Morrison and Coffee Creek Flowages.

Approximately 300 pounds of wild rice was planted on the Harrison Flowage.

Regenerated approximately 8 acres of alder for ruffed grouse and woodcock.

Mowed 101 forest openings on the County Forest along with approximately 101 miles of connecting trails.

Conducted wildlife surveys for the following wildlife species: ruffed grouse, woodcock, black bear, fisher, bobcat, mink, otter, timber wolf, deer, coyote, wild turkey, waterfowl, song birds and other wildlife species.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES IN 2006: 2007 Dodge RAM 1500 truck. Wrote for and received a \$16,000.00 Sustainable Forestry Grant for the purchase of surveillance equipment.

COMPUTER SOFTWARE: New software was purchased for use in the County Forest Timber Sale Program. TimberBase software was purchased from a private vendor and is used by other counties in the County Forest Program.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane F. Severt
Administrator

LINCOLN COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors
Lincoln County, Wisconsin

The following is a report of the various activities of the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department from January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007.

OUR 2007 COUNTY FOREST consists of 100,845.05 acres.

2007 TIMBER SALES REVENUE TOTALED \$1,325,817.60. \$5,032.58 was revenue received on timber sales on County Lands not entered under the Forest Crop Law. 2007 revenue from County Forest Lands was \$1,320,785.02. This revenue is distributed as follows: \$132,078.50 (10%) to Towns with County Forest Lands; \$264,157.00 (20%) to the County General Fund; and \$924,549.52 (70%) to the County Forestry Fund.

DURING THE YEAR, 31 TIMBER SALES WERE SOLD with an estimated value of \$1,279,754.10.

TWENTY-THREE BOUGH PERMITS WERE ISSUED @ \$100.00 per permit = \$2,300.00.

GRANT REVENUES administered by the Forestry, Land & Parks Department during 2007 totaled \$337,029.00. \$31,772.00 of this \$337,029.00 was provided by Lincoln County for those grants requiring 50/50 cost share.

REVENUE FROM WOOD SALES AND FIREWOOD PERMITS DURING 2007 TOTALED \$1,770.00. Three wood sales (\$360.00) and one hundred five 30-day permits were issued. Thirty-six permits were extended.

TREE PLANTING: No trees were planted during 2007 in the Lincoln County Forest. Approximately 23 acres of swamp conifer were strip clear cut with slash bunched to prepare the site for natural seeding. White birch seed tree harvesting was done on approximately 54 acres with whole tree skidding as a requirement of the timber sale contract to prepare the site for natural seeding.

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT (TSI): Approximately 8 acres of pine in the Town of Wilson were mechanically released by the Forestry Department work crew. Approximately 77 acres of site prep work was completed by contractors as required by timber sale contracts. Approximately 705 acres of aspen release was completed in aspen regeneration areas by contractors as a requirement of timber sale contracts.

SURVEYING: The majority of surveying done in 2007 was in conjunction with the Lincoln County Surveyor.

In Section 21 of T33N-R5E steel, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the W 1/2 NE1/4 totaling approximately 1 mile of boundary. Monuments were set at the C1/4, CE1/16, and the C1/16 NE in Section 21.

In Section 7 of T33N-R5E steel, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south line of the SW1/4 NE1/4 totaling approximately 1/4 mile of boundary. Monuments were set at the C1/4 and the CE1/16 in Section 7.

In Section 23 of T34N-R5E monuments were set on County Forest boundary at the W1/4, CW1/16, and N1/16NW.

In Section 20 of T35N-R8E steel, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the NW1/4 totaling approximately 1 mile of boundary. A monument was set at the C1/4 in Section 20.

In Section 21 of T34N-R4E steel, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the W1/2 totaling approximately 1 mile of boundary.

In Section 5 of T33N-R8E steel, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the SW1/4 NW1/4 totaling approximately 1/2 mile of boundary. Monuments were set at the CW1/16 and the C1/16NW in Section 5.

In Section 36 of T33N-R7E steel, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the N1/2 NW1/4 totaling approximately 3/4 mile of boundary. A monument was set at the CN1/16 in Section 36.

CONTINUED OUR COUNTY FOREST ROAD MAINTENANCE program including graveling, installing culverts, improving drainage, and regular grading and snowplowing of roads.

THE COUNTY FOREST ROAD AIDS PROGRAM: In 2007 we received \$336/mile for maintaining 27.25 miles of roads for a total of \$9,156.00.

COUNTY CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT FUNDS FOR 2007: We continued work on our County Conservation Aids grant for improving lake access by constructing boat ramp planks and improving the Long Lake boat landing. Wildlife Habitat funds were used for hunter/walking trail improvements and expansions, alder shearing, hiring a summer intern to develop a GIS wildlife opening layer and mowing of wildlife openings and trails.

THE UNDERDOWN RECREATION AREA is available for a variety of uses year round. Groomed and tracked X-C ski trails, horse trails, bike trails, hiking trails, and a snowmobile/winter ATV trail are all mapped and signed in the Underdown. A new trail user fee was in place for 2007. Season passes for trail use were made available to the public.

ORGANIZED AND/OR COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED on the County Forest in the Underdown Recreation Area by the Underdown Horse Club, Wisconsin Off Road Bike Association (WORBA), Distance Riding Association of Wisconsin (D.R.A.W.), and Marathon County 4-H Horse Masters. Boy Scout Troop 451 was provided camping at the New Wood Park Campground.

COUNTY PARKS ACTIVITIES: Regular maintenance of County parks and facilities was performed during 2007. A new restroom/changing house facility was constructed and the shelter was re-roofed at Tug Lake Park using grant dollars. A collapsed culvert draining Larson Lake was replaced at Larson Lake Park. An enclosed multi-use building was developed for users of the County Forest in Harrison using Off Road Vehicle funding.

PRAIRIE DELLS SCENIC VIEWING AREA: In 2006, the development of two viewing platforms and walking trails was completed on the east side of the river along with parking area improvements. Use will be monitored at this facility to see if additional developments are required.

NEW WOOD RIVER ACCESS: A road and parking area was maintained to provide access to the New Wood River south of Whiskey Bill Road. The area was constructed to provide access for canoeing, shore fishing, hunting and other recreational activities.

LINCOLN COUNTY ACCESS PLAN: We completed road and landing improvements and signage for access to Mist Lake. An access road was developed into the County Forest south of Hwy. 8 in the Town of Bradley. We continue to work on acquiring access permits for private individuals that access their lands through the County Forest. Issued temporary access permits for individuals hauling forest products from private lands across the County Forest. A Recreation Officer began working on the County Forest and helped reduce vandalism and restore order to our public lands and recreational facilities.

LINCOLN COUNTY'S 2007-2008 SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MAINTENANCE PROJECT was approved for \$78,525.00 consisting of 314.1 miles of trail @ \$250/mile. Six clubs contracted to maintain 261.3 miles of trail and our department maintains 52.8 miles. We added 8.5 miles of funded snowmobile trail to the counties system with the completion of the final phase of the Merrill to Tomahawk trail located along the Highway 51 ROW.

ATV PROGRAM: We received trail maintenance aids of \$19,754.00 consisting of 195.95 miles of winter trails @ \$100/mile and \$20,015.00 consisting of 44.4 miles of summer trails at \$450/mile maintained by our department. Five clubs contracted to maintain 195.95 miles of winter trail and our department maintained 43.2 miles. The winter trails are part of our snowmobile trail system, while the summer mileage traverses through the Harrison Hills and links up with Langlade and Oneida County ATV Trails, the communities of Gleason, Harrison, and the Pine Lake area. We developed a connection from our summer ATV trail system to the Village of Gleason by utilizing several open town roads and an easement to cross private property. Worked with ATV clubs in Somo, Wilson and Spirit Falls area to identify possible sites for an ATV trail/route link. Acquired state-funding for the printing of new maps for the summer trail system.

LAND SOLD, RATIFIED, CONFIRMED AND APPROVED by the Lincoln County Board in 2007 included the sale of approximately 3.86 acres to the Town of Birch for construction of a new town hall for a total of \$15,000.00.

LAND PURCHASED: Added 40 acres of land described as NE1/4 NW1/4 Section 9 T33N-R8E to the Lincoln County Forest land base.

BEAVER PROGRAM: Continued to work with USDA APHIS regarding beaver problems on the Lincoln County Forest and on the county road system.

FOREST CERTIFICATION: The Lincoln County Forest became FSC certified in July, 2007. We worked on implementing necessary changes on the County Forest required by SFI and FSC forest certification.

DEPARTMENT SAFETY PLAN: Continued development and implementation of our department safety plan. The Lincoln County Public Works Safety Group (Highway, Forestry, Solid Waste and Maintenance Departments) are under contract with Alpha Terra Science to develop a safety plan. Programs are in place for hazardous communication, control of hazardous energy, confined space entry and excavation safety.

DNR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: 2007 Accomplishments on the Lincoln County Forest submitted by Rick Weide, Wildlife Biologist:

FLOWAGES: Water levels were monitored and managed on Camp 26, Trapper Morrison, and Coffee Creek Flowages. Coffee Creek was drawn down in 2007 to assist Wildlife Services with beaver control and stimulate moist soil plants for waterfowl and non-game. Approximately 150 pounds of rice was seeded in the Harrison Flowage to supplement and expand existing beds.

WILDLIFE OPENINGS: Despite two flat tires, 81 openings comprising 95 acres were mowed in 2007. Another significant accomplishment in 2007 was the use of an intern to field check all openings. Data collected included acreage (using GPS), opening cover, adjacent cover, opening values, and management recommendations. This information will facilitate analysis of the opening program, especially with regard to changes over time. Relative values of openings has been an issue, and the new data will assist in future management planning to insure that openings continue to provide the habitat values that were originally intended.

WILDLIFE SURVEYS: 2007 surveys on the Lincoln County Forest included woodcock, ruffed grouse and turkey, including spring breeding activity as well as later brood counts, bear bait survey, summer deer observations (fawn:doe ratio), furbearer, and waterfowl.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES IN 2007: 2006 Komatsu Wheel Loader, 2007 Ford F-150 truck and 2007 Ski-Doo Skandic Utility Snowmobile.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Kleinschmidt
Administrator

LINCOLN COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors
Lincoln County, Wisconsin

The following is a report of the various activities of the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

OUR 2008 COUNTY FOREST consists of 100,845.05 acres.

2008 TIMBER SALES REVENUE TOTALED \$1,692,287.46. This revenue is distributed as follows: \$169,228.75 (10%) to Towns with County Forest Lands; \$338,457.49 (20%) to the County General Fund; and \$1,184,601.22 (70%) to the County Forestry Fund.

DURING THE YEAR, 24 TIMBER SALES WERE SOLD with an estimated value of \$1,005,035.50.

TWENTY-ONE BOUGH PERMITS WERE ISSUED @ \$100.00 per permit = \$2,100.00.

GRANT REVENUES administered by the Forestry, Land & Parks Department during 2008 totaled \$158,031.30. \$34,111.00 of this \$158,031.30 was provided by Lincoln County for those grants requiring 50/50 cost share.

REVENUE FROM WOOD SALES AND FIREWOOD PERMITS DURING 2008 TOTALED \$3,180.00. Eleven wood sales (\$1,280.00) and one hundred forty-two 30-day permits (\$1,420.00) were issued. Forty-eight permits (\$480.00) were extended.

TREE PLANTING/SITE PREP: The forestry field crew hand planted approximately 15,000 2-year old red pine seedlings on 15 acres along Honey Road in the town of Wilson. This site was an 18 acre red pine stand that had been clear-cut. The red pine was whole tree skid with the tops piled on the landing by the logging contractor. A biomass harvest was conducted on the site to utilize the slash and logging residue and was used to fuel a local paper mill boiler. The forestry crew used a bulldozer and v-blade to further prepare the site for planting. The 3 remaining acres will be planted in 2009.

Approximately 42 acres of swamp conifer were clear cut with slash bunched, as a requirement of the timber sale contract, to prepare the site for natural seeding.

Approximately 58 acres of white birch seed tree harvesting was done with whole tree skidding during leaf off conditions, as a requirement of the timber sale contract, to prepare the site for natural seeding.

Approximately 4 acres of red maple seed tree harvesting was done with whole tree skidding during leaf off conditions, as a requirement of the timber sale contract, to prepare the site for natural seeding.

Approximately 15 acres of jack pine was whole tree skid and the slash piled as a requirement of the timber sale contract. A biomass harvest was conducted on the site to utilize the slash and logging residue and was used to fuel a local paper mill boiler. Due to the amount of dead trees on this site, the remaining slash was brush raked and burned by the LCF crew.

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT (TSI): Approximately 15.5 acres of white spruce in the Town of Wilson were mechanically released by the Forestry Department work crew. Approximately 9 acres of red pine were released from aspen through the application of herbicide by the LCF crew.

Approximately 10 acres of jack pine were mechanically released from aspen by DNR crew.

Approximately 5 acres of white spruce were mechanically released by DNR crew.

Approximately 1,068 acres of aspen release was completed in aspen regeneration areas by contractors as a requirement of timber sale contracts.

SURVEYING: The majority of surveying done in 2008 was in conjunction with the Lincoln County Surveyor.

In Section 14 of T35N-R4E steel, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the north line of the SW1/4 totaling approximately 1/2 mile of boundary.

In Section 6 of T34N-R5E steel, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south line of the NE1/4 totaling approximately 1/2 mile of boundary. A monument was set at the E1/4 in Section 6.

In Section 13 of T34N-R4E steel, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the SW1/4 NW1/4 totaling approximately 1/2 mile of boundary.

In Section 35 of T34N-R4E steel, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south section line and for the east line of the SE1/4 SE1/4 totaling approximately 1 1/4 mile of boundary. A monument was set at the E1/16SE and a monument was reset at the SE in Section 35.

In Section 31 of T33N-R5E steel, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south line of the SW1/4 totaling approximately 1/2 mile of boundary.

In Section 12 of T35N-R8E T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the NE1/4 NW1/4 totaling approximately 1/4 mile of boundary.

In Section 13 of T34N-R7E T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the NE1/4 NE1/4 totaling approximately 1 mile of boundary. Monuments were set at the N1/16NE, C1/16NE, and the E1/16NE.

In Section 18 of T34N-R8E T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the NW1/4 SW1/4 totaling approximately 3/4 mile of boundary. A monument was set at the CW1/16.

In Section 20 of T35N-R4E steel, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along the County Forest property boundary between the NW 1/4 and the N 1/16 NW.

CONTINUED OUR COUNTY FOREST ROAD MAINTENANCE program including graveling, installing culverts, improving drainage, and regular grading and snowplowing of roads.

THE COUNTY FOREST ROAD AIDS PROGRAM: In 2008 we received \$336/mile for maintaining 27.25 miles of roads for a total of \$9,156.00.

COUNTY CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT FUNDS FOR 2008: We continued work on our County Conservation Aids grant for improving lake access by improving the Doering Lake boat landing as well as completing renovation work on eight wildlife openings. Wildlife Habitat funds were used for hunter/walking trail improvements and expansions, wild rice planting on flowages, green cover release, hiring a summer intern to assist with wildlife opening maintenance and renovation and mowing of wildlife openings and trails.

THE UNDERDOWN RECREATION AREA is available for a variety of uses year round. Groomed and tracked X-C ski trails, snowshoe trails, horse trails, bike trails, hiking trails, and a snowmobile/winter ATV trail are all mapped and signed in the Underdown. Season trail passes were made available to the public to offset the cost of these trails. A grant from the state and the Wisconsin Horse Council was utilized to expand and improve the parking lot at the trail head.

ICE AGE TRAIL: Several sections of the Ice Age Trail were relocated and/or reconstructed. The major work was completed in the New Wood area.

ORGANIZED AND/OR COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED on the County Forest in the Underdown Recreation Area by the Underdown Horse Club and the Wisconsin Off Road Bike Association (WORBA).

COUNTY PARKS ACTIVITIES: Regular maintenance of County parks and facilities was performed during 2008. A new restroom/changing house facility was completed, the old unit was removed, electrical service was improved and the parking lot was resurfaced at Tug Lake Park using grant dollars. Improvements were made to the well in the Otter Lake Campground. The enclosed multi-use building in the Harrison South ATV parking lot was furnished with picnic tables and shelves.

INVASIVE SPECIES: In 2007, a significant garlic mustard infestation was discovered in the Underdown Block of the County Forest and on adjacent private land. Our department took immediate action to try to control the spread of this invasive plant by conducting a search to find new infestations and applying herbicide where the plant was known to occur. Several other small, satellite colonies of this invasive plant have been found in other locations of the Underdown and Harrison Block. In 2008, a two-year sustainable forestry grant was obtained from the state to cover the associated costs of controlling invasive species on the County Forest which included the hiring of a contract herbicide applicator to spray the identified garlic mustard sites. We continue to treat known locations with herbicide, monitor roads and trails for new sites and educate adjacent property owners and user groups about invasive species in an attempt to control this problem on the County Forest.

LINCOLN COUNTY ACCESS PLAN: We began road and landing improvements for access to Doering Lake. An access road was completed into the County Forest south of Hwy. 8 in the Town of Bradley. We continue to work on acquiring access permits for private individuals that access their lands through the County Forest. Issued temporary access permits for individuals hauling forest products from private lands across the County Forest. A Recreation Officer continued working on the County Forest and helped reduce vandalism and restore order to our public lands and recreational facilities.

LINCOLN COUNTY'S 2008-2009 SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MAINTENANCE PROJECT was approved for \$78,350.00 consisting of 313.4 miles of trail @ \$250/mile. Six clubs contracted to maintain 260.6 miles of trail and our department maintains 52.8 miles. The final 8.5 mile connection on the trail between Merrill and Tomahawk along the Highway 51 ROW was completed and state maintenance funding for this trail segment was also acquired.

ATV PROGRAM: We received trail maintenance aids of \$19,754.00 consisting of 195.95 miles of winter trails @ \$100/mile and \$20,015.00 consisting of 44.4 miles of summer trails at \$450/mile maintained by our department. Five clubs contracted to maintain 152.75 miles of winter trail and our department maintained 43.2 miles. The winter trails are part of our snowmobile trail system, while the summer mileage traverses through the Harrison Hills and links up with Langlade and Oneida County ATV Trails and the communities of Gleason, Harrison, and the Pine Lake area. We received a \$6,000.00 grant for the printing of new maps for the summer trail system. We also received a \$28,500.00 grant to construct a pit toilet building at the Harrison Hills ATV trailhead on County Hwy B along with various parking lot improvements. This work is scheduled for 2009. We completed renovation work on the connector trail from our summer ATV system to the Village of Gleason and also on other areas of the funded summer trail. Worked with ATV clubs in Somo, Wilson and Spirit Falls area to identify possible sites for an ATV trail/route link and supported the opening of a section of CTH CC to ATV traffic. Explored development of a new trail north of Pine Lake in Harrison. Lincoln County also participated in the Light-Utility Vehicle pilot program.

LAND SOLD, RATIFIED, CONFIRMED AND APPROVED by the Lincoln County Board in 2008 included 3 tax deed parcels that were sold for a total of \$3,782.93.

BEAVER PROGRAM: Continued to work with USDA APHIS regarding beaver problems on the Lincoln County Forest and on the county road system.

FOREST CERTIFICATION: The Lincoln County Forest became SFI certified in March, 2005 and FSC certified in July, 2007. We worked on implementing necessary changes on the County Forest required by SFI and FSC forest certification.

DEPARTMENT SAFETY PLAN: Continued development and implementation of our department safety plan. The Lincoln County Public Works Safety Group (Highway, Forestry, Solid Waste and Maintenance Departments) are under contract with Alpha Terra Science to develop a safety plan. Programs are in place for hazardous communication, control of hazardous energy, confined space entry and excavation safety, emergency action and fire prevention plan, personal protective equipment, occupational noise exposure and bloodborne pathogens. Alpha Terra has set up a webpage for the user groups above to manage and maintain safety records.

DNR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: 2008 Accomplishments on the Lincoln County Forest submitted by Rick Weide, Wildlife Biologist:

Flowages – Water levels were monitored and managed as needed on Camp 26, Trapper Morrison, and Coffee Creek flowages. Approximately 200 pounds of rice were seeded along the north end of the Harrison Flowage to supplement and expand existing beds. This followed 150 pounds seeded in 2007. The bed on the southeast side of the flowage was the best in recent years, consisting of about 8 acres of good, medium-density rice. As time permits, additional monitoring will be conducted in 2009 to reevaluate management potential/options.

Wildlife Openings – Openings maintenance focused on the Harrison block in 2008. Dry weather combined with rolling topography facilitated equipment access by late spring. A total of 116 openings were mowed by late July. Eight of these were only partially mowed due to sparse and degraded cover. The parts of these openings that lacked significant grass and other preferred herbaceous cover were later renovated using a Howard rotovator. Most of the openings that become candidates for renovation were identified in a 2007 intern study. GPS and other data collected in 2007 have proved to be very useful for planning and record-keeping related to the opening program.

Wildlife Surveys – 2008 surveys on the Lincoln County Forest included woodcock, ruffed grouse and turkey including spring breeding activity as well as later brood counts, bear bait survey, summer deer observations (fawn: doe ratio), furbearer, and waterfowl. A final survey in 2008 that included parts of the County Forest was disease surveillance of the northern deer herd. Priorities included testing for chronic wasting disease and tuberculosis. Results are expected in the spring of 2009.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES IN 2008: There were no equipment purchases made in 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Kleinschmidt
Forest Administrator

LINCOLN COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors
Lincoln County, Wisconsin

The following is a report of the various activities of the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

OUR 2009 COUNTY FOREST consists of 100,845.05 acres.

2009 TIMBER SALES REVENUE TOTALED \$1,240,127.94. This revenue is distributed as follows: \$124,012.79 (10%) to Towns with County Forest Lands; \$248,025.47 (20%) to the County General Fund; and \$868,089.68 (70%) to the County Forestry Fund.

DURING THE YEAR, 29 TIMBER SALES WERE SOLD with an estimated value of \$768,317.65.

TWENTY-FOUR BOUGH PERMITS WERE ISSUED @ \$100.00 per permit = \$2,400.00.

GRANT REVENUES administered by the Forestry, Land & Parks Department during 2009 totaled \$164,590.33. \$34,111.00 of this \$164,590.33 was provided by Lincoln County for those grants requiring 50/50 cost share.

REVENUE FROM WOOD SALES AND FIREWOOD PERMITS DURING 2009 TOTALED \$1,750.00. Four wood sales (\$300.00) and one hundred twenty-three 30-day permits (\$1,230.00) were issued. Twenty-two permits (\$220.00) were extended.

TREE PLANTING/SITE PREP/BIOMASS: The forestry field crew hand planted approximately 14,000 2-year old red pine seedlings on 15 acres along Forrester Road in the Town of Wilson. This site was a jack pine stand that had been clear-cut and site prepped last year.

The forestry field crew v-bladed and hand planted approximately 2,200 2-year old red pine seedlings in a 2 acre site west of the Somo River in section 13 of the Town of Somo. The aspen regeneration in this area had been destroyed by beavers.

The forestry field crew planted approximately 3,500 2-year old red pine seedlings to complete a site that had been started in 2008 along Honey Road in the Town of Wilson.

The forestry field crew hand planted approximately 1,500 2-year old red pine seedlings in a reclamation project in the county gravel pit south of Theis Road in the Town of Harrison.

Approximately 51 acres of swamp conifer were clear cut with slash bunched and compacted as a requirement of the timber sale contract, to prepare the site for natural seeding.

Approximately 14 acres of white birch seed tree harvesting was done with whole tree skidding during leaf off conditions, as a requirement of the timber sale contract, to prepare the site for natural seeding. Approximately 257.54 tons of biomass was harvested on a 17 acre timber sale in the town of Harrison which resulted in an extra \$515.09 in revenue to the county on this site.

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT (TSI): Approximately 13 acres of white spruce south of the Averill Creek Firelane in the Town of Harding were mechanically released by the county forest field crew.

Approximately 5 acres of white spruce were mechanically released by the county forest field crew east of Camp Avenue in the Town of Harding.

Approximately 731 acres of aspen release was completed in aspen regeneration areas by logging contractors as a requirement of timber sale contracts.

SURVEYING: The majority of surveying done in 2009 was in conjunction with the Lincoln County Surveyor.

In Section 4 of T35N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south line of the SE1/4 totaling approximately 1/2 mile of boundary.

In Section 14 of T35N R4E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the west line of the SW1/4 totaling approximately 1/2 mile of boundary.

In Section 30 of T33N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the east line totaling approximately 1 mile of boundary.

In Section 27 of T33N R7E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the west line of the NE1/4 totaling approximately 1/2 mile of boundary. A monument was set at the C1/4.

In Section 27 of T33N R7E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the north line of the NE1/4 SW1/4 totaling approximately 1/4 mile of boundary. A monument was set at the CW1/16.

In Section 20 of T33N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points between County Forest property boundary and a 3 acre cemetery within the SE1/4 SW1/4 totaling 1056 feet of boundary.

CONTINUED OUR COUNTY FOREST ROAD MAINTENANCE program including graveling, installing culverts, improving drainage, and regular grading and snowplowing of roads.

THE COUNTY FOREST ROAD AIDS PROGRAM: In 2009 we received \$336/mile for maintaining 27.25 miles of roads for a total of \$9,156.00.

COUNTY CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT FUNDS FOR 2009: We continued work on our County Conservation Aids grant for improving lake access by improving the Long Lake and Doering Lake boat landing as well as completing 5 acres of wildlife habitat improvement work in the Town of Harding. Wildlife Habitat funds were used for hunter/walking trail improvements and expansions, green cover release, hiring a summer intern to assist with wildlife opening maintenance and renovation and mowing of wildlife openings and trails.

THE UNDERDOWN RECREATION AREA is available for a variety of uses year round. Groomed and tracked X-C ski trails, snowshoe trails, horse trails, bike trails, hiking trails, and a snowmobile/winter ATV trail are all mapped and signed in the Underdown. Season trail passes were made available to the public to offset the cost of these trails. The final segment of single track bike trail was constructed utilizing club labor to completely remove these trails from the horse trail. A grant from the Wisconsin Horse Council was utilized to improve the well at the trail head and enhance the campsites.

ORGANIZED AND/OR COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED on the County Forest in the Underdown Recreation Area by the Underdown Horse Club and the Wisconsin Off Road Bike Association (WORBA) and in the Harrison Unit by the Harrison Hills ATV Club.

COUNTY PARKS ACTIVITIES: Regular maintenance of County parks and facilities was performed during 2009. A restroom was constructed at the multi-use building location in the Harrison South ATV parking lot using grant dollars.

INVASIVE SPECIES: In 2007, a significant garlic mustard infestation was discovered in the Underdown Block of the County Forest and on adjacent private land. Our department took immediate action to try to control the spread of this invasive plant by conducting a search to find new infestations and applying herbicide where the plant was known to occur. Several other small, satellite colonies of this invasive plant have been found in other locations of the Underdown and Harrison Blocks. In 2009, a two-year sustainable forestry grant from the state was utilized to cover the associated costs of fighting invasive species on the County Forest which included the hiring of a contract herbicide applicator to spray the identified garlic mustard sites. We continue to treat known locations with herbicide, monitor roads and trails for new sites, and educate adjacent property owners and user groups about invasive species in an attempt to control this problem on the County Forest.

LINCOLN COUNTY ACCESS PLAN: We completed road and landing improvements for access to Doering Lake and also completed final renovation work to the Long Lake Boatlanding. We continue to work on acquiring access permits for private individuals that access their lands through the County Forest. Issued temporary access permits for individuals hauling forest products from private lands across the County Forest. A Recreation Officer continued working on the County Forest and helped reduce vandalism and restore order to our public lands and recreational facilities.

LINCOLN COUNTY'S 2009-2010 SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MAINTENANCE PROJECT was approved for \$78,350.00 consisting of 313.4 miles of trail @ \$250/mile. Six clubs contracted to maintain 260.6 miles of trail and our department maintains 52.8 miles. Funding was applied for and received for a 2.4 mile mandatory re-route where a private landowner's easement was lost on Corridor 19.

ATV PROGRAM: We received trail maintenance aids of \$19,530.00 consisting of 195.3 miles of winter trails @ \$100/mile and \$20,015.00 consisting of 44.4 miles of summer trails at \$450/mile maintained by our department. Five clubs contracted to maintain 152.75 miles of winter trail and our department maintained 43.2 miles. The winter trails are part of our snowmobile trail system, while the summer mileage traverses through the Harrison Hills and links up with Langlade and Oneida County ATV Trails and the communities of Gleason, Harrison, and the Pine Lake area. We utilized a \$28,500.00 grant to construct a pit toilet building at the Harrison Hills ATV trailhead on County Hwy B. Parking lot improvements will also be made at this location in 2010. We completed renovation work at various locations on the funded summer trail. Worked with ATV clubs in the Somo, Wilson, and Spirit Falls areas to identify possible sites for an ATV trail/route link and supported the opening of a section of CTH T to ATV traffic. Explored development of a new trail north of Pine Lake in Harrison. Lincoln County also participated in the Light-Utility Vehicle pilot program which ended in September, 2009.

BEAVER PROGRAM: Continued to work with USDA APHIS regarding beaver problems on the Lincoln County Forest and on the county road system.

FOREST CERTIFICATION: The Lincoln County Forest became SFI certified in March, 2005 and FSC certified in July, 2007. We worked on implementing necessary changes on the County Forest required by SFI and FSC forest certification.

DEPARTMENT SAFETY PLAN: Continued development and implementation of our department safety plan. The Lincoln County Public Works Safety Group (Highway, Forestry, Solid Waste and Maintenance Departments) are under contract with Alpha Terra Science to implement this plan. Programs are in place for hazardous communication, control of hazardous energy, confined space entry and excavation safety, emergency action and fire prevention plan, personal protective equipment, occupational noise exposure and bloodborne pathogens. Alpha Terra has set up a webpage for the user groups above to manage and maintain safety records.

DNR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: 2009 Accomplishments on the Lincoln County Forest submitted by Rick Weide, DNR Wildlife Biologist:

Flowages

Water levels were monitored and managed as needed on Camp 26, Trapper Morrison, and Coffee Creek flowages. Rice production appeared to be about average this year. The growth and development of beds in the Harrison Flowage are showing promise and no supplemental seeding was conducted in 2009. As planned, a more thorough survey of flowages on the County Forest began in 2009. Morrison Flowage was first on the list and on June 22 a canoe was used to take a closer look. Plant communities were the primary focus. Sedge was the dominant emergent, with scattered cattail also present. Submerged aquatics were comprised of sparsely distributed water shield. This apparent lack of species diversity prompted a drawdown beginning in late June. By exposing bottom sediments, accumulated organic matter begins to break down, releasing nutrients and stimulating germination of wetland plants. The increased species diversity should provide important food and cover for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species as water levels are restored. As time permits, additional investigations will be conducted in 2010, and management potential/options will be evaluated.

Wildlife Openings

Openings maintenance focused on the New Wood block in 2009. Relatively dry conditions facilitated equipment access by early summer. A total of 72 openings comprising 75 acres were mowed to set back woody encroachment and restore herbaceous cover. Another 10 openings (9 acres) that had become degraded and lacked a significant grass component were rotavated and replanted with a mix of grass and clover. Most of the openings that become candidates for renovation were identified in a 2007 intern study. GPS and other data collected in 2007 have proved to be useful for planning and record-keeping related to the opening program.

Wildlife Surveys

Spring surveys in 2009 that included parts of the Lincoln County Forest included woodcock, ruffed grouse and turkey. Grouse and turkey surveys include spring breeding activity as well as later brood counts. Ruffed grouse appear to be at or near the peak of their 10-year cycle. In addition, the annual bear bait survey, summer deer survey (to obtain fawn: doe ratio), furbearer, and waterfowl surveys were completed according to schedule.

The results of disease surveillance of the northern deer herd became available in early 2009. This survey included parts of the County Forest and included testing for chronic wasting disease and tuberculosis. At least for now, test results did not reveal the presence of these diseases in Lincoln County.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES IN 2009: There were no equipment purchases made in 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Kleinschmidt
Forest Administrator

LINCOLN COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors
Lincoln County, Wisconsin

The following is a report of the various activities of the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010.

OUR 2010 COUNTY FOREST consists of 100,845.05 acres.

2010 TIMBER SALES REVENUE TOTALED \$1,358,953.84. This revenue is distributed as follows: \$135,895.22 (10%) to Towns with County Forest Lands; \$271,790.74 (20%) to the County General Fund; and \$951,267.88 (70%) to the County Forestry Fund. Unused budgeted funds and surplus revenues are transferred to the County CIP Program after the annual audit is completed.

DURING THE YEAR, 39 TIMBER SALES WERE SOLD with an estimated value of \$1,404,248.80. This includes a timber sale located on Lincoln County Highway Department property which has an estimated value of \$104,832.50. The Forestry Department established and will administer this sale and upon completion, turn the revenue over to the Highway Department for its winter contingency fund.

TWENTY-SIX BOUGH PERMITS WERE ISSUED @ \$100.00 per permit = \$2,600.00.

GRANT REVENUES administered by the Forestry, Land & Parks Department during 2010 totaled \$267,575.46. \$10,337.85 of this \$267,575.46 was provided by Lincoln County for those grants requiring 50/50 cost share.

REVENUE FROM FIREWOOD PERMITS DURING 2010 TOTALED \$900.00. Sixty-nine 30-day permits (\$690.00) were issued. Twenty-one permits (\$210.00) were extended.

TREE PLANTING/SITE PREP/BIOMASS: The forestry field crew hand planted approximately 11,000 2-year old red pine seedlings on 10 acres to reclaim a section of gravel pit in the Town of Harrison.

Approximately 4 acres of white birch seed tree harvesting was done with whole tree skidding during leaf off conditions, as a requirement of the timber sale contract, to prepare the site for natural seeding.

Approximately 4 acres of black ash were strip clear cut during frozen ground conditions to prepare the site for natural seeding.

Approximately 15 acres of red pine were clear cut with whole tree skidding as a requirement of the contract to prepare the site for planting.

Approximately 1461.23 tons of biomass was harvested from 5 timber sales which resulted in an extra \$2922.46 in revenue to the county.

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT (TSI): Approximately 8 acres of Jack Pine south of Forester Road in the Town of Wilson was mechanically released by the county forest field crew.

Approximately 806 acres of aspen release was completed in aspen regeneration areas by logging contractors as a requirement of timber sale contracts.

SURVEYING: The majority of surveying done in 2010 was in conjunction with the Lincoln County Surveyor.

In Section 3 of T35N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the west and south lines of the NW1/4 SE1/4 totaling approximately ½ mile of boundary. Monuments were set at the C1/4 and CS1/16.

In Section 14 of T33N R5E a monument was set at the C1/16SW.

In Section 11 of T33N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south and east lines of the NE1/4 SE1/4 totaling approximately ½ mile of boundary. A monument was set at the E1/16SE.

In Section 9 of T33N R8E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for a portion of the south line of the SE1/4 NE1/4 totaling approximately 800 feet of boundary.

In Section 10 of T33N R8E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for east line of the NW1/4 NW1/4 totally approximately ¼ mile of boundary. A monument was set at the N1/16NW.

CONTINUED OUR COUNTY FOREST ROAD MAINTENANCE program including graveling, installing culverts, improving drainage, and regular grading and snowplowing of roads.

THE COUNTY FOREST ROAD AIDS PROGRAM: In 2010 we received approximately \$315.60/mile for maintaining 27.25 miles of roads for a total of \$8,600.02. A GIS layer was developed showing the locations of culverts on our gas tax roads and these structures were identified by diameter and length, prioritized based on condition and placed on a replacement schedule.

COUNTY CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT FUNDS FOR 2010: We continued work on our County Conservation Aids grant for improving lake access by improving the High Lake boat landing as well as completing 8 acres of wildlife habitat improvement work in the Town of Wilson. Wildlife Habitat funds were used for hunter/walking trail improvements and expansions, green cover release and renovation and mowing of wildlife openings and trails.

THE UNDERDOWN RECREATION AREA is available for a variety of uses year round. Groomed and tracked X-C ski trails, snowshoe trails, horse trails, bike trails, hiking trails, and a snowmobile/winter ATV trail are all mapped and signed in the Underdown. Season trail passes were made available to the public to offset the cost of these trails. Several small bridges were constructed by the bike club on the single track bike trail where wet areas are crossed. A grant from the Wisconsin Horse Council was utilized to replace berms with gates on blocked roads, improve fencing at the trailhead and enhance the secondary loop road for future campground expansion. Signing improvements were also completed on several trail segments.

ORGANIZED AND/OR COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED on the County Forest in the Underdown Recreation Area by the Underdown Horse Club and the Wisconsin Off Road Bike Association (WORBA). The hiking and biking portion of the Stubborn Mule Adventure Race, sponsored by 180 Adventure was also held in the Underdown on July 17-18. This team sport combining various endurance events was held in the Merrill/Wausau area in 2010 and will help showcase and promote the recreational opportunities that the Underdown has to offer to silent sport users from outside the area. The Harrison Hills ATV Club held several club events in the Harrison Unit as well.

COUNTY PARKS ACTIVITIES: Regular maintenance of County parks and facilities was performed during 2010. Landscaping and the restroom facility were completed at the multi-use building located in the Harrison South ATV parking lot using grant dollars. Upgrades were made to the Otter Lake Nature Trail Boardwalk as part of an Eagle Scout project.

INVASIVE SPECIES: In 2007, a significant garlic mustard infestation was discovered in the Underdown Block of the County Forest and on adjacent private land. Our department took immediate action to try to control the spread of this invasive plant by conducting a search to find new infestations and applying herbicide where the plant was known to occur. Several other small, satellite colonies of this invasive plant have been found in other locations of the Underdown, Harrison and Wildwood Blocks. In 2010, a sustainable forestry grant which had been awarded by the state in 2008 was completed, and a new-two year grant was secured to cover the associated costs of fighting invasive species on the County Forest. Costs covered by this grant include the hiring of a contract herbicide applicator to spray the identified garlic mustard sites, mapping and monitoring known infested sites and educating users of the County Forest on invasive plant identification and control. We continue to use every avenue available to manage this problem on the County Forest.

LINCOLN COUNTY ACCESS PLAN: Final restoration work to the High Lake boat landing was completed, improvements to our primary gas tax roads and to the Underdown trailhead were made and renovations to the summer ATV trail began in 2010. A grant to improve Krueger Firelane was applied for but not secured due to lack of available funds. We will reapply for funding of this project in 2011. Continued work on acquiring access permits for private individuals that access their lands through the County Forest. Issued temporary access permits for individuals hauling forest products from private lands across the County Forest. A Recreation Officer continued working on the County Forest and helped reduce vandalism and restore order to our public lands and recreational facilities.

LINCOLN COUNTY'S 2010-2011 SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MAINTENANCE PROJECT was approved for \$78,350.00 consisting of 313.4 miles of trail @ \$250/mile. Six clubs contracted to maintain 260.6 miles of trail and our department maintains 52.8 miles. Snowmobile trail rehabilitation funding was acquired to improve 3.9 miles of state-funded trail in the New Wood Block of the County Forest. This work will be completed in 2011.

ATV PROGRAM: We received trail maintenance aids of \$19,684.00 consisting of 195.3 miles of winter trails @ \$100/mile and \$20,015.00 consisting of 44.4 miles of summer trails at \$450/mile maintained by our department. Five clubs contracted to maintain 152.05 miles of winter trail and our department maintained 43.25 miles. The winter trails are part of our snowmobile trail system, while the summer mileage traverses through the Harrison Hills and links up with Langlade and Oneida County Trails as well as the communities of Gleason, Harrison, and the Pine Lake area. We completed a pit toilet building, landscaping and parking lot improvements at the Harrison Hills ATV trailhead on County Hwy B utilizing a \$28,500.00 grant. We began renovation work on 5.5 miles of trail North of Cinder Road on the funded summer trail using awarded grant money. Funding was also acquired to renovate 3.25 miles of trail south of Cinder Road. The work on both of these segments will be completed in 2011. Developed an emergency signing system for the summer trail network which will be compatible with the County's 911 system. Worked with ATV clubs in the Somo, Wilson, and Spirit Falls areas to identify possible sites for an ATV trail/route link. Explored development of a new trail north of Pine Lake in Harrison. Lincoln County participated in the second Utility Terrain Vehicle pilot program which began in May, 2010.

ICE AGE TRAIL: Several sections of the Ice Age Trail were relocated and/or reconstructed with the majority of the work being done in the New Wood area. Plans for trail improvements in the New Wood Park area were also developed and these trail enhancements will take place in 2011.

HARRISON FLOWAGE DAM: A hydraulic study was conducted to develop the estimated flood plain, profile, and table for the dam nonexistent, dam in place and dam failure scenarios during the 100-year flood. This information will be adopted as an amendment to the County Floodplain Zoning Ordinance as regulatory flood levels in order to keep new developments from occurring in areas lower than these estimated elevations and to secure a hazard rating for the Harrison Dam.

LAND SOLD, RATIFIED, CONFIRMED AND APPROVED by the Lincoln County Board in 2010 included 2 tax deed parcels that were sold for a total of \$19,465.86.

BEAVER PROGRAM: Continued to work with USDA APHIS and the Lincoln County Highway Department regarding beaver problems on the Lincoln County Forest and on the County road system.

FOREST CERTIFICATION: The Lincoln County Forest became SFI certified in March, 2005 and FSC certified in July, 2007. We worked on implementing necessary changes on the County Forest required by SFI and FSC forest certification.

DEPARTMENT SAFETY PLAN: Continued development and implementation of our department safety plan. The Lincoln County Public Works Safety Group (Highway, Forestry, Solid Waste and Maintenance Departments) are under contract with Alpha Terra Science to implement this plan. Programs are in place for hazardous communication, control of hazardous energy, confined space entry and excavation safety, emergency action and fire prevention plan, personal protective equipment, occupational noise exposure and bloodborne pathogens. Alpha Terra has set up a webpage for the user groups above to manage and maintain safety records.

DNR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: 2010 Accomplishments on the Lincoln County Forest
submitted by Rick Weide, DNR Wildlife Biologist:

Flowages

Water levels, vegetation, and wildlife were again monitored on Camp 26, Trapper Morrison, and Coffee Creek flowages. Rice production was adversely affected by brown spot disease in 2010. Brown spot is a fungus that can stunt or kill infected seedlings. Abundant moisture during the growing season may have promoted the growth and development of brown spot. In some cases entire flowages were impacted, leading to severely limited rice production in 2010. The status of this disease will be closely watched in 2011.

Wildlife Openings

Openings maintenance focused on the Harrison Hills block in 2010. The rolling upland dominated landscape with few wetland barriers, facilitated equipment access by mid-summer. A total of 80 openings comprising 61 acres were inspected and mowed as needed to set back woody encroachment and restore herbaceous cover.

Wildlife Surveys

Spring surveys in 2010 that included parts of the Lincoln County Forest included woodcock, ruffed grouse and turkey. Grouse and turkey surveys include spring breeding activity as well as later brood counts. Ruffed grouse may be trending downward slightly from the peak of their 10-year cycle. In addition, the annual bear bait survey indicated another year of consistently high bear numbers in Lincoln County. Summer deer observations (to obtain fawn: doe ratio), revealed increasing productivity in 2010. Furbearer and waterfowl surveys were also completed according to schedule.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES IN 2010: 2009 Ski-Doo Skandic Utility Snowmobile and 2010 John-Deere Lawn & Garden Tractor/Mower.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Kleinschmidt
Forest Administrator

LINCOLN COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors
Lincoln County, Wisconsin

The following is a report of the various activities of the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.

OUR 2011 COUNTY FOREST consists of 100,845.05 acres.

2011 TIMBER SALES REVENUE TOTALED \$1,589,571.46. This revenue is distributed as follows: \$157,578.12 (10%) to Towns with County Forest Lands; \$315,155.79 (20%) to the County General Fund; and \$1,116,837.55 (70%) to the County Forestry Fund. The revenue distributed to the County Forestry Fund includes \$7,328.04, from a sale administered on Highway Department property which will be transferred over to that Department. Any unused budgeted funds and surplus revenues are transferred to the County CIP Program after the annual audit is completed.

DURING THE YEAR, 31 TIMBER SALES WERE SOLD with an estimated value of \$1,554,804.95. This includes a timber sale with an estimated value of \$121,295.00 located on Lincoln County Solid Waste Department property where the Landfill expansion project will take place. The Forestry Department established and will administer this sale and upon completion, turn the revenue over to the Solid Waste Department. Two direct sales were also sold on non-forest crop county property with an estimated value of \$16,264.08.

TWENTY-TWO BOUGH PERMITS WERE ISSUED @ \$100.00 per permit = \$2,200.00.

GRANT REVENUES administered by the Forestry, Land & Parks Department during 2011 totaled \$281,872.48. Of this amount, \$15,896.13 was provided by Lincoln County for those grants requiring 50/50 cost share.

REVENUE FROM WOOD SALES AND FIREWOOD PERMITS DURING 2011 TOTALED \$1,340.00. One wood sale (\$20.00) and one hundred 30-day permits (\$1,000.00) were issued. Thirty-two permits (\$320.00) were extended.

TREE PLANTING/SITE PREP/BIOMASS:

The forestry field crew hand planted approximately 3,000 2-year tamarack and 2,800 3-year old white spruce seedlings on 6 acres to reclaim an area of beaver meadow where the trees had been killed west of highway T in the Town of Somo.

Approximately 44 acres of white birch seed tree harvesting was done with whole tree skidding during leaf off conditions, as a requirement of the timber sale contract, to prepare the site for natural seeding.

Approximately 7 acres of black ash were strip clear cut during frozen ground conditions to prepare the site for natural seeding.

Approximately 15 acres of v-blade work were done by the county crew to prepare the site for planting in spring 2012.

Approximately 1535.11 tons of biomass was harvested from 3 timber sales which resulted in an extra \$3,070.22 in revenue to the county.

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT (TSI):

Approximately 1187 acres of aspen release was completed in aspen regeneration areas by logging contractors as a requirement of their timber sale contract.

SURVEYING: The majority of surveying done in 2011 was in conjunction with the Lincoln County Surveyor.

In Section 24 of T35N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the north line of the NW1/4 NW1/4 totaling approximately 1/4 mile of boundary. A monument was set at the N1/16NW.

In Section 24 of T35N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary bordering the Town of Wilson Town Hall property located in the NW1/4 NW1/4 totaling approximately 1/8 mile of boundary. 1 inch rebar were set at the east corners of the Wilson Town Hall property.

In Section 30 of T35N R5E a monument was reset at the NW1/4.

In Section 14 of T33N R7E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the north and east line of the SE1/4 SE1/4 and for the north and east line of the NW1/4 SE1/4 totaling approximately 1 mile of boundary. Monuments were set at the E1/16SE, C1/16SE, CE1/16, and C1/4.

In Section 14 of T35N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the east and north line of the SW1/4 totaling approximately 1 mile of boundary. A monument was set at the C1/4.

In Section 18 of T35N R4E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the north line of the SE1/4 and the north line of the NE1/4 SW1/4 totally approximately 3/4 mile of boundary. A monument was set at the CW1/16.

In Section 24 of T34N R4E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the east line of the NE1/4 totally approximately 1/2 mile of boundary.

In Section 13 of T35N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south line of the NW1/4 NW1/4, the south line of the NE1/4 NW1/4, the west line of the SW1/4 NE1/4, and the north line of the NE1/4 SW1/4 totally approximately 1 mile of boundary. Monuments were set at the CW1/16, C1/4, CN1/16, and W1/16NW.

In Section 24 of T33N R7E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the east line of the W1/2 totally approximately 1 mile of boundary.

In Section 9 of T33N R7E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south and west line of the E1/2 NE1/4 totally approximately 3/4 mile of boundary.

CONTINUED OUR COUNTY FOREST ROAD MAINTENANCE program including graveling, installing culverts, improving drainage, and regular grading and snowplowing of roads.

THE COUNTY FOREST ROAD AIDS PROGRAM: In 2011 we received approximately \$314.41/mile for maintaining 27.25 miles of roads for a total of \$8,567.73. A GIS layer was developed showing the locations of culverts on our gas tax roads and these structures were identified by diameter and length, prioritized and placed on a replacement schedule.

COUNTY CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT FUNDS FOR 2011: We continued work on our County Conservation Aids grant for improving lake access by improving the Bruce Lake boat landing as well as completing 9 acres of wildlife habitat improvement work in the Town of Harding. Wildlife Habitat funds were used for hunter/walking trail improvements and expansions, green cover release and renovation and mowing of wildlife openings and trails.

THE UNDERDOWN RECREATION AREA is available for a variety of uses year round. Groomed and tracked X-C ski trails, snowshoe trails, horse trails, bike trails, hiking trails, and a snowmobile/winter ATV trail are all mapped and signed in the Underdown. Season trail passes were made available to the public to offset the cost of these trails. Several small bridges were constructed by the bike club on the single track bike trail where wet areas are crossed. Signing and trail improvements were also completed on several trail segments. Drainage improvement work was completed on two campsites. Application was made for state Recreational Trails Act grant dollars to perform trail maintenance projects in the Underdown. Grant dollars were awarded in the amount of \$7,295.10. Lincoln County must match these dollars for a total project cost of \$14,590.20.

ORGANIZED AND/OR COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED on the County Forest in the Underdown Recreation Area by the Underdown Horse Club and the Wisconsin Off Road Bike Association (WORBA) and in the Harrison Unit by the Harrison Hills ATV Club.

COUNTY PARKS ACTIVITIES: Regular maintenance of County parks and facilities was performed during 2011. Rehabilitation work was conducted on the Harrison Hills ATV trail using grant dollars. Two informational signs were constructed and erected on the Harrison Hills ATV Trail as part of an Eagle Scout project.

INVASIVE SPECIES: In 2007, a significant garlic mustard infestation was discovered in the Underdown Block of the County Forest and on adjacent private land. Our department took immediate action to try to control the spread of this invasive plant by conducting a search to find new infestations and applying herbicide where the plant was known to occur. Several other small, satellite colonies of this invasive plant have been found in other locations of the Underdown, Harrison and Wildwood Blocks. In 2010, a two-year sustainable forestry grant which had been awarded by the state in 2008 was completed, and a new two year grant was secured to cover the associated costs of fighting invasive species on the County Forest. Costs covered by this grant include the hiring of a contract herbicide applicator to spray the identified garlic mustard sites, mapping and monitoring known infested sites and educating users of the County Forest on invasive plant identification. We continue to use every avenue available to control this problem on the County Forest.

LINCOLN COUNTY ACCESS PLAN: Restoration work to the Bruce Lake Boatlanding was conducted, improvements to our primary gas tax roads and to the Underdown trailhead and campsites were made and renovations to the summer ATV trail continued in 2011. A grant to improve Krueger Firelane was applied for but not secured due to lack of available funds. We will reapply for funding of this project in 2012. Continued work on acquiring access permits for private individuals that access their lands through the County Forest. Issued temporary access permits for individuals hauling forest products from private lands across the County Forest. A Recreation Officer continued working on the County Forest and helped reduce vandalism and restore order to our public lands and recreational facilities.

LINCOLN COUNTY 5-YEAR OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN was developed in conjunction with North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning, the City of Tomahawk, The City of Merrill, local townships and special interest groups. The Plan was approved by the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors on January 17, 2012 and is effective January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2016.

LINCOLN COUNTY'S 2011-2012 SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MAINTENANCE PROJECT was approved for \$78,350.00 consisting of 313.4 miles of trail @ \$250/mile. Lincoln County turned over the 52.8 miles of trail that the Forestry Dept. had been maintaining over to two clubs. As a result, the six clubs in the county contracted to maintain the total number of funded miles in Lincoln County. We were also awarded rehabilitation funding of \$2,633 for improvement work to be done on a bridge crossing the Somo River in the Town of Somo.

ATV PROGRAM: We received trail maintenance aids of \$20,004.00 consisting of 195.3 miles of winter trails @ \$100/mile and \$20,015.00 consisting of 44.4 miles of summer trails at \$450/mile maintained by our department. Lincoln County turned over the 43.25 miles of winter ATV trail that the Forestry Dept. had been maintaining over to two clubs. As a result, five clubs in the county contracted to maintain the total number of funded miles of winter ATV trail in the county. We received approval for 3.2 miles of additional winter ATV maintenance funding on two previously non-funded segments of trail. The winter trails are part of our snowmobile trail system, while the summer mileage traverses through the Harrison Hills and links up with Langlade and Oneida County Trails as well as the communities of Gleason, Harrison, and the Pine Lake area. We completed renovation work North of Cinder Road and began rehabilitation work on the Otter Run portion of the funded summer trail. Developed and implemented an emergency signing system for the summer trail network which is compatible with the County's 911 system. Worked with ATV clubs in the Somo, Wilson, and Spirit Falls areas to identify possible sites for an ATV trail/route link. Explored development of a new trail north of Pine Lake in Harrison. Lincoln County participated in the second Utility Terrain Vehicle pilot program which began in May, 2010 and will end June 30, 2012.

ICE AGE TRAIL: Several sections of the Ice Age Trail were relocated and/or reconstructed with the majority of the work being done in the New Wood area. Trail improvements in the vicinity of New Wood Park were also developed and these trail enhancements were completed by the Mobile Skills Crew of the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Our department constructed a set of steps to improve the trail between New Wood Park and Campground in an area where a hillside had eroded and was becoming a safety hazard for people who use the trail or park.

HARRISON FLOWAGE DAM: A hydraulic study was conducted to develop the estimated flood plain, profile, and table for the dam nonexistent, dam in place and dam failure scenarios during a 100-year flood. This information was adopted as an amendment to the County Floodplain Zoning Ordinance as regulatory flood levels in order to keep new developments from occurring in areas lower than these estimated elevations. As a result, the hazard rating for the Harrison Dam was re-assigned from high to low.

LAND SOLD, RATIFIED, CONFIRMED AND APPROVED by the Lincoln County Board in 2011 included 1 tax deed parcel that was sold for \$4,003.25.

BEAVER PROGRAM: Continued to work with USDA APHIS and the Lincoln County Highway Department regarding beaver problems on the Lincoln County Forest and on the County road system.

FOREST CERTIFICATION: The Lincoln County Forest became SFI certified in March, 2005 and FSC certified in July, 2007. We worked on implementing necessary changes on the County Forest required by SFI and FSC forest certification.

DEPARTMENT SAFETY PLAN: Continued development and implementation of our department safety plan. The Lincoln County Public Works Safety Group (Highway, Forestry, Solid Waste and Maintenance Departments) are under contract with Alpha Terra Science to implement this plan. Programs are in place for hazardous communication, control of hazardous energy, confined space entry and excavation safety, emergency action and fire prevention plan, personal protective equipment, occupational noise exposure and bloodborne pathogens. Alpha Terra has set up a webpage for the user groups above to manage and maintain safety records.

DNR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: 2011 Accomplishments on the Lincoln County Forest submitted by Rick Weide, DNR Wildlife Biologist:

Flowages

Water levels, vegetation, and wildlife were again monitored on Camp 26, Trapper Morrison, and Coffee Creek flowages. Rice production was again limited in 2011. After being devastated by brown spot disease in 2010, it appears that recovery may take several years. The value of these northern rice beds to wildlife cannot be overstated, and we will be monitoring flowages closely in 2012. Meanwhile, beavers discovered DNR flowages again after a 2 year absence. Water control structures and spillways at Camp 26 and Coffee Creek were plugged several times in 2011. DNR personnel eventually shot 6 beavers, and no further problems were observed as the year drew to a close

Wildlife Openings

Openings maintenance focused on the northwest units of the Lincoln County Forest in 2011. At times during the summer wet conditions made access to many openings nearly impossible. The Highway T block was especially difficult due to wet ground. In addition, equipment breakdowns hampered progress. Drier weather in September allowed access to remaining openings. With no further breakdowns the 2011 openings project was completed only slightly behind schedule. The total number of openings inspected came to 92. Eighty-nine openings comprising 100 acres were eventually mowed to set back woody encroachment and restore a grass/forb community.

Wildlife Surveys

Wildlife surveys in 2011 that were conducted on the Lincoln County Forest included woodcock, ruffed grouse, turkey, bear, deer, and furbearer. Grouse and turkey surveys include spring breeding activity as well as later brood counts. Ruffed grouse numbers were in line with 2010, indicated by spring drumming activity and later confirmed by fall hunter success. Summer deer observations revealed a slight upward trend in the number of fawns seen. In contrast, the annual bear bait survey indicated a significant drop in visits to bait stations compared to prior years. Furbearer and waterfowl surveys were also completed according to schedule

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES IN 2011: 2011 Ford F-150 Pickup.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Kleinschmidt
Forest Administrator

LINCOLN COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors
Lincoln County, Wisconsin

The following is a report of the various activities of the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012.

OUR 2012 COUNTY FOREST consists of 100,845.05 acres.

2012 TIMBER SALES REVENUE TOTALED \$1,676,040.53. This revenue is distributed as follows: \$140,954.94 (10%) to Towns with County Forest Lands; \$281,909.89 (20%) to the County General Fund; and \$991,170.82 (70%) to the County Forestry Fund. From the County Forestry Fund, \$134,718.65 was distributed to the Highway Department, and \$127,286.23 was distributed to the Landfill Department for sales administered on those properties. Any unused budgeted funds and surplus revenues are transferred to the County CIP Program after the annual audit is completed.

DURING THE YEAR, 28 TIMBER SALES WERE SOLD with an estimated value of \$1,583,170.74.

TWENTY-TWO BOUGH PERMITS WERE ISSUED @ \$100.00 per permit = \$2,200.00.

GRANT REVENUES administered by the Forestry, Land & Parks Department during 2012 totaled \$371,014.70. Of this amount, \$20,115.13 was provided by Lincoln County for those grants requiring cost sharing.

REVENUE FROM WOOD SALES AND FIREWOOD PERMITS DURING 2013 TOTALED \$1,260.00. One wood sale (\$200.00) and seventy-seven 30-day permits (\$770.00) were issued. Twenty-nine permits (\$290.00) were extended.

TREE PLANTING/SITE PREP/BIOMASS:

The forestry field crew hand planted approximately 15,000 2-year red pine seedlings on 15 acres where the mature red pine plantation had been clear cut in fall 2010.

Approximately 955.55 tons of biomass was harvested from 2 timber sales which resulted in an extra \$1,911.10 in revenue to the county.

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT (TSI):

Approximately 743 acres of aspen release was completed in aspen regeneration areas by logging contractors as a requirement of their timber sale contract.

Approximately 5 acres of red pine south of Pine Tree Lane in the Town of Wilson was mechanically released by DNR staff.

SURVEYING: The majority of surveying done in 2012 was in conjunction with the Lincoln County Surveyor.

In Section 30 of T35N R5E a monument was set at the E1/16NE.

In Section 35 of T33N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south line of the NE1/4 NE1/4 totaling approximately 1/4 mile of boundary. Monuments were set at the C1/16NE and E1/16NE.

In Section 36 of T33N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south line of the NW1/4 NW1/4 totaling approximately 1/4 mile of boundary.

In Section 3 of T35N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south line of the NE1/4 totaling approximately 1/2 mile of boundary.

In Section 5 of T34N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south and east lines of the W1/2 NW1/4 totally approximately 3/4 mile of boundary. Monuments were set at the CW1/16 and N1/16NW.

In Section 23 of T34N R8E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south line of the S1/2 NW1/4 totally approximately 5/16 mile of boundary.

In Section 4 of T33N R8E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south and west lines of the SW1/4 NW1/4 totally approximately 1/2 mile of boundary. A monument was set at the CW1/16.

In Section 4 of T32N R7E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south and east lines of the W1/2 SE1/4 totally approximately 3/4 mile of boundary. Monuments were set at the S1/16SE and CE1/16.

CONTINUED OUR COUNTY FOREST ROAD MAINTENANCE program including graveling, installing culverts, improving drainage, and regular grading and snowplowing of roads.

THE COUNTY FOREST ROAD AIDS PROGRAM: In 2012 we received approximately \$313.93/mile for maintaining 27.25 miles of roads for a total of \$8,554.59. A GIS layer was developed showing the locations of culverts on our gas tax roads and these structures were identified by diameter and length, prioritized and placed on a replacement schedule. Six culverts were replaced and several portions of road were re-ditched to improve drainage issues that were developing.

COUNTY CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT FUNDS FOR 2012: We continued work on our County Conservation Aids grant for improving lake access by completing the Bruce Lake boat landing as well as working on the Kordick and Ament Lake landings. Wildlife Habitat funds were used for hunter/walking trail improvements along with renovation and mowing of wildlife openings and trails.

THE UNDERDOWN RECREATION AREA is available for a variety of uses year round. Groomed and tracked X-C ski trails, snowshoe trails, horse trails, bike trails, fat bike trails, hiking trails,

and a snowmobile/winter ATV trail are all mapped and signed in the Underdown. Season trail passes were made available to the public to offset the cost of these trails. Several small bridges were constructed by the bike club on the single track bike trail where wet areas are crossed. Signing and trail improvements were also completed on several trail segments. Drainage improvement work including the placement of a culvert was completed on a segment of trail and several other trail segments had additional improvement work conducted with the assistance of last year's RTA grant. A new State Recreational Trails Act grant was received to help perform trail maintenance projects in the Underdown in the upcoming year. The amount awarded to Lincoln County under this grant was \$6,972.73 and we must match these dollars for a total project cost of \$13,945.46.

ORGANIZED AND/OR COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED on the County Forest in the Underdown Recreation Area by the Underdown Horse Club and the Wisconsin Off Road Bike Association (WORBA) and in the Harrison Unit by the Harrison Hills ATV Club.

COUNTY PARKS ACTIVITIES: Regular maintenance of County parks and facilities was performed during 2012. Rehabilitation work was conducted on the Harrison Hills ATV trail using grant dollars. We have been using non-lethal means in an integrated approach to control geese population issues at Tug Lake County Park. Additional control measures will be researched in the upcoming years.

INVASIVE SPECIES: In 2007, a significant garlic mustard infestation was discovered in the Underdown Block of the County Forest and on adjacent private land. Our department took immediate action to try to control the spread of this invasive plant by conducting a search to find new infestations and applying herbicide where the plant was known to occur. Several other small, satellite colonies of this invasive plant have been found in other locations of the Underdown, Harrison and Wildwood Blocks. In 2012, a two-year sustainable forestry grant which had been awarded by the state was completed which helped cover the associated costs of fighting invasive species on the County Forest. Costs covered by this grant include the hiring of a contract herbicide applicator to spray the identified garlic mustard sites, mapping and monitoring known infested sites and educating users of the County Forest on invasive plant identification. We continue to use every avenue available to control this problem on the County Forest.

LINCOLN COUNTY ACCESS PLAN: Restoration work to the Bruce Lake, Kordick Lake and Ament Lake Boatlandings was conducted, improvements to our primary gas tax roads and to the Underdown trailhead and recreational trails were made and renovations to the summer ATV trail continued in 2012. A grant to improve the Krueger Firelane was secured and will be completed in 2013. Continued work on acquiring access permits for private individuals that access their lands through the County Forest. Issued temporary access permits for individuals hauling forest products from private lands across the County Forest. A Recreation Officer continued working on the County Forest and helped reduce vandalism and restore order to our public lands and recreational facilities.

LINCOLN COUNTY 5-YEAR OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN was developed in conjunction with North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning, the City of Tomahawk, The City of Merrill, local townships and special interest groups. The Plan was approved by the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors on January 17, 2012 and is effective January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2016. We continue to implement our current plan.

LINCOLN COUNTY'S 2012-2013 SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MAINTENANCE PROJECT was approved for \$78,437.50 consisting of 313.75 miles of trail @ \$250/mile. Seven clubs in the county

were contracted to maintain the total number of funded miles in Lincoln County. We were also awarded funding for two reroute projects, one for \$7625 in the Town of Russell and one for \$3741 in the Town of Scott. Both reroutes were the result of lost easements on the original trail.

ATV PROGRAM: We received trail maintenance aids of \$20,004.00 consisting of 198.5 miles of winter trails @ \$100/mile and \$26,675.00 consisting of 44.4 miles of summer trails at \$600/mile. Five snowmobile clubs contracted to maintain the funded miles of winter ATV trail in the county. These trails are part of the county's snowmobile trail system. The summer ATV mileage traverses through the Harrison Hills and links up with Langlade and Oneida County Trails as well as the communities of Gleason, Harrison, and the Pine Lake area. Lincoln County maintains the summer ATV trail system, and this year, the County contracted with the Harrison Hills ATV Club to assist with brushing and signing. We completed renovation work on the Otter Run Trail and began rehabilitation work on the Parish Road portion of the funded summer trail. We continued to implement an emergency signing system for the summer trail network which is compatible with the County's 911 system. Armstrong Creek Road and a portion of Camp Ave. were opened to ATV use year-round and Horn Lake Road was opened to ATV use from May 1 to Dec. 1. Worked with ATV clubs in the Somo, Wilson, and Spirit Falls areas to identify possible sites for an ATV trail/route link. Explored development of a new trail north of Pine Lake in Harrison. Lincoln County is now participating in the permanent Utility Terrain Vehicle pilot program which began on July 1, 2012.

ICE AGE TRAIL: Several sections of the Ice Age Trail were relocated and/or reconstructed with the majority of the work being done in the New Wood area. Our department constructed a set of steps to improve the trail between New Wood Park and Campground in an area where a hillside had eroded and was becoming a safety hazard for people who use the trail or park.

HARRISON FLOWAGE DAM: A hydraulic study was conducted to develop the estimated flood plain, profile, and table for the dam nonexistent, dam in place and dam failure scenarios during a 100-year flood. This information was adopted as an amendment to the County Floodplain Zoning Ordinance as regulatory flood levels in order to keep new developments from occurring in areas lower than these estimated elevations. As a result, the hazard rating for the Harrison Dam was re-assigned from high to low.

LAND SOLD, RATIFIED, CONFIRMED AND APPROVED by the Lincoln County Board in 2012 included 4 tax deed parcels that were sold for \$22,921.42.

BEAVER PROGRAM: The Lincoln County Forestry and Highway Departments continued to work with USDA APHIS regarding beaver problems on the Lincoln County Forest and on the County road system.

FOREST CERTIFICATION: The Lincoln County Forest became SFI certified in March, 2005 and FSC certified in July, 2007. We worked on implementing necessary changes on the County Forest required by SFI and FSC forest certification. Lincoln County took part in the 2012 County Forest audit for both the FSC and SFI certification program.

DEPARTMENT SAFETY PLAN: Continued development and implementation of our department safety plan. The Lincoln County Public Works Safety Group (Highway, Forestry, Solid Waste and Maintenance Departments) are under contract with Alpha Terra Science to implement this plan. Programs are in place for hazardous communication, control of hazardous energy, confined space

entry and excavation safety, emergency action and fire prevention plan, personal protective equipment, occupational noise exposure and bloodborne pathogens. Alpha Terra has set up a webpage for the user groups above to manage and maintain safety records.

DNR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: 2012 Accomplishments on the Lincoln County Forest
submitted by Rick Weide, DNR Wildlife Biologist:

Flowages

Water levels, vegetation, and wildlife were again monitored on Camp 26, Trapper Morrison, and Coffee Creek flowages. Rice production was virtually non-existent in 2012. After being devastated by brown spot disease in 2010, we were hoping for some sign of recovery by 2012. In light of the value of these northern rice beds to wildlife, DNR wildlife staff may intervene in 2013 and attempt to jump-start rice recovery with direct seeding in New Wood and Camp 26 flowages. Despite the flurry of activity in 2011, beaver problems were relatively few in 2012. Only one new dam was discovered, this time on the upstream end of the New Wood flowage. Wildlife Services was called in and the problem was quickly resolved.

Wildlife Openings

Openings maintenance focused on the New Wood block of the Lincoln County Forest in 2012. Dry conditions facilitated access and allowed for an earlier start. Also, very few equipment problems hampered progress in 2012. The only incident that shut down mowing was a flat tire caused by a deer antler. A total of 96 openings comprising 103 acres were mowed in 2012. The objective is to set back woody encroachment and restore a grass/forb community. All Lincoln County openings are on a 4 year rotation.

Wildlife Surveys

Wildlife surveys that were conducted on the Lincoln County Forest in 2012 included woodcock, ruffed grouse, waterfowl, turkey, bear, deer, and furbearer. Grouse and turkey surveys include spring breeding activity as well as later brood counts. Based on a drumming count in the New Wood area ruffed grouse numbers continued to approach the long-term average near the peak of the cycle. Most biologists anticipate a decline in 2013, but that remains to be seen. Spring and summer survey results were later confirmed by favorable fall hunter success. Summer deer observations are showing that fawn numbers are trending downward compared to the 10-year average. Ongoing research may reveal more insight into causes of fawn mortality and lead to management implications. The annual bear bait survey for Lincoln County indicated a continuation of lower visitation rates compared to the long-term average.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES IN 2012: John Deere 5100M Tractor and H260 Loader.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Kleinschmidt
Forest Administrator

LINCOLN COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors
Lincoln County, Wisconsin

The following is a report of the various activities of the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

OUR 2013 COUNTY FOREST consists of 100,845.05 acres.

2013 TIMBER SALES REVENUE TOTALED \$1,289,049.48. This revenue is distributed as follows: \$128,675.37 (10%) to Towns with County Forest Lands; \$257,350.69 (20%) to the County General Fund; and \$903,023.42 (70%) to the County Forestry Fund. Any unused budgeted funds and surplus revenues are transferred to the County CIP Program after the annual audit is completed.

DURING THE YEAR, 26 TIMBER SALES WERE SOLD with an estimated value of \$1,193,704.25.

TWENTY-THREE BOUGH PERMITS WERE ISSUED @ \$100.00 per permit = \$2,300.00.

GRANT REVENUES administered by the Forestry, Land & Parks Department during 2013 totaled \$303,414.41. Of this amount, \$17,516 was provided by Lincoln County for those grants requiring cost sharing.

REVENUE FROM WOOD SALES AND FIREWOOD PERMITS DURING 2013 TOTALED \$1,285.00. One wood sale (\$40.00) and fifty-seven 30-day permits (\$855.00) were issued. Twenty-six permits (\$390.00) were extended.

TREE PLANTING/SITE PREP/BIOMASS:

The forestry field crew filled in approximately 4,000 2-year red pine seedlings on a 15 acre site planted in 2012 in Wilson and approximately 4,000 2 year old red pine seedlings on a gravel pit reclamation site in Harrison.

A 40 acre site was site prepped for planting in 2014 with the use of a Bracke Scarifier and skidder rented from the DNR in Tomahawk.

Approximately 10 acres of white birch, 38 acres of swamp conifer and 10 acres of black ash site prep was completed by logging contractors as a requirement of their timber sale contract.

No biomass was harvested from Lincoln County Forest in 2013.

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT (TSI):

Approximately 638 acres of aspen release was completed in aspen regeneration areas by logging contractors as a requirement of their timber sale contract.

Approximately 5 acres of Jack Pine south of Forrester Rd in the Town of Wilson was mechanically released by DNR staff.

SURVEYING: The majority of surveying done in 2013 was in conjunction with the Lincoln County Surveyor.

In Section 23 of T34N R4E a monument was set at the CW1/16.

In Section 27 of T34N R5E monuments were set at the N1/16NE, C1/16NE, and CN1/16.

In Section 32 of T35N R5E monuments were set at the CW1/16, C1/16SW, and W1/16SW.

In Section 31 of T35N R5E a monument was set at the C1/16SE and two witness monuments were set at the CE1/16.

In Section 30 of T35N R5E monuments were set at the CW1/16, C1/16NW, and W1/16NW.

In Section 18 of T35N R6E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south line of the SE1/4 SE1/4 totaling approximately 1/4 mile of boundary. Monuments were set at the S1/16SE and C1/16NE.

In Section 33 of T35N R4E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the east line of the SW1/4 SE1/4 totaling approximately 1/4 mile of boundary. Monuments were set at the E1/16SE, C1/16SE and S1/16SE.

In Section 7 of T33N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the north, east, and west lines of the SW1/4 NE1/4 totaling approximately 3/4 mile of boundary. Monuments were set at the C1/16NE and CN1/16.

CONTINUED OUR COUNTY FOREST ROAD MAINTENANCE program including graveling, installing culverts, improving drainage, and regular grading and snowplowing of roads.

THE COUNTY FOREST ROAD AIDS PROGRAM: In 2013 we received approximately \$313.30/mile for maintaining 27.25 miles of roads for a total of \$8,537.55. A GIS layer was developed showing the locations of culverts on our gas tax roads and these structures were identified by diameter and length, prioritized and placed on a replacement schedule. Six culverts were replaced and several portions of road were re-ditched to improve drainage issues that were developing.

COUNTY CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT FUNDS FOR 2013: We continued work on our County Conservation Aids grant for improving lake access by completing the Bus Lake boat landing as well as working on the Kordick and Ament Lake landings. Wildlife Habitat funds were used for the development of parking lots for hunters in the Newwood Block along with renovation and mowing of wildlife openings and trails.

THE UNDERDOWN RECREATION AREA is available for a variety of uses year round. Groomed and tracked X-C ski trails, snowshoe trails, horse trails, bike trails, fat bike trails, hiking trails, and a snowmobile/winter ATV trail are all mapped and signed in the Underdown. Season trail passes

were made available to the public to offset the cost of these trails. Several small bridges were constructed by the bike club on the single track bike trail where wet areas are crossed. Signing and trail improvements were also completed on several trail segments by this club. A new groomer for the ski trail was purchased using donated funds. Several segments of Cross-County ski trail had additional improvement work conducted with the assistance of last year's RTA grant. A new State Recreational Trails Act grant was received to help perform trail maintenance projects in the Underdown in the upcoming year. The amount awarded to Lincoln County under this grant was \$7,282.41 and we must match these dollars for a total project cost of \$14,564.82.

ORGANIZED AND/OR COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED on the County Forest in the Underdown Recreation Area by the Underdown Horse Club and the Wisconsin Off Road Bike Association (WORBA) and in the Harrison Unit by the Harrison Hills ATV Club.

COUNTY PARKS ACTIVITIES: Regular maintenance of County parks and facilities was performed during 2013. Rehabilitation work was conducted on the Harrison Hills ATV trail using grant dollars. We have been using non-lethal means in an integrated approach to control geese population issues at Tug Lake County Park. Additional control measures will be researched in the upcoming years.

INVASIVE SPECIES: In 2007, a significant garlic mustard infestation was discovered in the Underdown Block of the County Forest and on adjacent private land. Our department took immediate action to try to control the spread of this invasive plant by conducting a search to find new infestations and applying herbicide where the plant was known to occur. Several other small, satellite colonies of this invasive plant have been found in other locations of the Underdown, Harrison and Wildwood Blocks.

In addition to Garlic Mustard, other invasive species have been discovered on County Forest property. Glossy Buckthorn, Japanese Barberry, Crown Vetch, Leafy Spurge and Japanese Knotweed have been found in areas of Underdown and Harrison. Steps are taken to control or eradicate these species when they are found. A GIS Layer is maintained to identify every known location of invasive plant species on the county forest. We will continue to monitor and treat know infestations while being observant for new species and infestations on the County Forest.

LINCOLN COUNTY ACCESS PLAN: Restoration work to the Bus Lake, Tahoe Lake and Ament Lake Boatlandings was conducted, improvements to our primary gas tax roads and to the Underdown trailhead and recreational trails were made and renovations to the summer ATV trail continued in 2013. A grant to improve the Krueger Firelane was secured and utilized for this purpose. Several parking lots were constructed in Newwood for recreationalists to use. Continued work on acquiring access permits for private individuals that access their lands through the County Forest. Issued temporary access permits for individuals hauling forest products from private lands across the County Forest. A Recreation Officer continued working on the County Forest and helped reduce vandalism and restore order to our public lands and recreational facilities.

LINCOLN COUNTY 5-YEAR OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN was developed in conjunction with North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning, the City of Tomahawk, The City of Merrill, local townships and special interest groups. The Plan was approved by the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors on January 17, 2012 and is effective January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2016. We continue to implement our current plan.

LINCOLN COUNTY'S 2012-2013 SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MAINTENANCE PROJECT was approved for \$78,437.50 consisting of 313.75 miles of trail @ \$250/mile. Seven clubs in the county were contracted to maintain the total number of funded miles in Lincoln County. We were also awarded funding for two reroute projects, one for \$7625 in the Town of Russell and one for \$3741 in the Town of Scott. Both reroutes were the result of lost easements on the original trail.

ATV PROGRAM: We received trail maintenance aids of \$20,004.00 consisting of 198.5 miles of winter trails @ \$100/mile and \$26,675.00 consisting of 44.4 miles of summer trails at \$600/mile. Five snowmobile clubs contracted to maintain the funded miles of winter ATV trail in the county. These trails are part of the county's snowmobile trail system. The summer ATV mileage traverses through the Harrison Hills and links up with Langlade and Oneida County Trails as well as the communities of Gleason, Harrison, and the Pine Lake area. Lincoln County maintains the summer ATV trail system, and contracts with the Harrison Hills ATV Club to assist with brushing and signing. We completed renovation work on the Parish Road portion of the funded summer trail. We continued to implement an emergency signing system for the summer trail network which is compatible with the County's 911 system. Worked with ATV clubs in the Somo, Wilson, and Spirit Falls areas to identify possible sites for an ATV trail/route link. Participated in the development of the Northern Wisconsin ATV/UTV Council to assist organizations in enhancing ATV/UTV and other recreational opportunities. We applied for funding for the development of a new trail north of Pine Lake in Harrison. Lincoln County continues to participate in the permanent Utility Terrain Vehicle program which began on July 1, 2012.

ICE AGE TRAIL: Several sections of the Ice Age Trail were relocated and/or reconstructed with the majority of the work being done in the New Wood area. We continue to work with our local chapter to provide quality facilities and address issues as they arise.

BEAVER PROGRAM: The Lincoln County Forestry and Highway Departments continued to work with USDA APHIS regarding beaver problems on the Lincoln County Forest and on the County road system.

FOREST CERTIFICATION: The Lincoln County Forest became SFI certified in March, 2005 and FSC certified in July, 2007. We worked on implementing necessary changes on the County Forest required by SFI and FSC forest certification.

COMPUTER SOFTWARE: Our Timberbase software was upgraded to the Timberbase 2013 program and was also migrated from the Access server to the SQL server which will allow this program to work within Lincoln County's system much more efficiently.

LAND SOLD, RATIFIED, CONFIRMED AND APPROVED by the Lincoln County Board in 2013 included 2 tax deed parcels that were sold for \$9,715.00.

DEPARTMENT SAFETY PLAN: Continued development and implementation of our department safety plan. The Lincoln County Public Works Safety Group (Highway, Forestry, Solid Waste and Maintenance Departments) are under contract with Alpha Terra Science to implement this plan. Programs are in place for hazardous communication, control of hazardous energy, confined space entry and excavation safety, emergency action and fire prevention plan, personal protective equipment, occupational noise exposure and bloodborne pathogens. Alpha Terra has set up a webpage for the user groups above to manage and maintain safety records.

DNR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: 2013 Accomplishments on the Lincoln County Forest
submitted by Shelby Hiestand, DNR Wildlife Biologist:

Unfortunately, there was no Wildlife Management staff in Lincoln County during much of 2013, including key wildlife survey windows. I contacted my predecessor Rick Weide to compile the majority of this information.

Flowages

Water levels, vegetation, and wildlife were again monitored on Camp 26, Trapper Morrison, and Coffee Creek flowages. Rice production is unknown for 2013. Beaver problems were relatively few in 2013. Only one new dam was discovered, this time on the Coffee Creek flowage. Wildlife Services was called in and the problem was quickly resolved.

Wildlife Openings

Openings maintenance focused on the Harrison Hills block of the Lincoln County Forest in 2013. A total of 82 openings comprising 86 acres were mowed in 2013. There were very few maintenance issues in 2013. The objective is to set back woody encroachment and restore a grass/forb community. All Lincoln County openings are on a 4 year rotation.

Wildlife Surveys

Wildlife surveys were completed in late winter or spring for grouse, woodcock, and bear. Grouse survey included spring breeding activity. Based on a drumming count in the New Wood area ruffed grouse numbers were on a downward trend, however later flush rate surveys were consistent with previous years. The annual bear bait survey for Lincoln County indicated a continuation of average visitation rates compared to the long-term average, and the highest rate since 2010. Continuation of all wildlife surveys will occur in 2014.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES IN 2013: Ford F-750 truck with heavy duty platform and John Deere 595 backhoe implement for our tractor.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Kleinschmidt
Forest Administrator

LINCOLN COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors
Lincoln County, Wisconsin

The following is a report of the various activities of the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

OUR 2014 COUNTY FOREST consists of 100,843.05 acres.

2014 TIMBER SALES REVENUE TOTALED \$1,657,234.69. This revenue is distributed as follows: \$164,180.54 (10%) to Towns with County Forest Lands; \$328,361.31 (20%) to the County General Fund; and \$1,164,692.84 (70%) to the County Forestry Fund. Any unused budgeted funds and surplus revenues are transferred to the County CIP Program after the annual audit is completed.

DURING THE YEAR, 33 TIMBER SALES WERE SOLD with an estimated value of \$2,045,739.54.

SIXTEEN BOUGH PERMITS WERE ISSUED @ \$100.00 per permit = \$1,600.00.

GRANT REVENUES administered by the Forestry, Land & Parks Department during 2014 totaled \$308,895.58. Of this amount, \$13,858.41 was provided by Lincoln County for those grants requiring cost sharing.

REVENUE FROM WOOD SALES AND FIREWOOD PERMITS DURING 2014 TOTALED \$2,370.40. Three wood sales (\$270.40) and one hundred 30-day permits (\$1,500.00) were issued. Forty permits (\$600.00) were extended.

TREE PLANTING/SITE PREP/BIOMASS:

The planting of approximately 35,000 2-year old red pine seedlings on a 40 acre site in the Town of Wilson was done by Superior Forestry Services out of Arizona for \$68.80/acre.

Approximately 18 acres of black ash site prep and 4 acres of swamp conifer site prep was completed by logging contractors as a requirement of their timber sale contract.

Approximately 28 acres of seed bed site prep was done in Harrison with a bulldozer by the DNR using turkey stamp money.

Biomass was removed from approximately 200 acres of timber sale area, totaling \$ 10,106.36.

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT (TSI):

Approximately 321 acres of aspen release was completed in aspen regeneration areas by logging contractors as a requirement of their timber sale contract.

SURVEYING: The majority of surveying done in 2014 was in conjunction with the Lincoln County Surveyor.

In Section 11 of T33N R5E monuments were set at the CE1/16 and C1/16SE.

In Section 31 of T35N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south and west lines of the NE1/4 SE1/4 totaling approximately 1/2 mile of boundary.

In Section 30 of T35N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the north line of the SW1/4 NW1/4 totaling approximately 1/4 mile of boundary.

In Section 3 of T33N R8E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south and east lines of the SE1/4 SW1/4 totaling approximately 1/2 mile of boundary. Monuments were set at the CS1/16 and at 4 lot corners.

In Section 3 of T33N R8E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south and east lines of the NW1/4 SE1/4 totaling approximately 1/2 mile of boundary. Monuments were set at the CE1/16 and C1/16SE.

In Section 4 of T32N R7E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the north and east lines of the SW1/4 NE1/4 totaling approximately 1/2 mile of boundary. Monuments were set at the CN1/16 and C1/16NE.

In Section 4 of T32N R7E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south and west lines of the N1/2 NW1/4 totaling approximately 3/4 mile of boundary. A monument was set at the W1/16NW.

In Section 8 of T35N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the east line of the SW1/4 SE1/4 totaling approximately 1/4 mile of boundary.

In Section 17 of T35N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the a portion of the east line of the NW1/4 NE1/4 totaling approximately 1/20 mile of boundary.

CONTINUED OUR COUNTY FOREST ROAD MAINTENANCE program including graveling, installing culverts, improving drainage, and regular grading and snowplowing of roads.

THE COUNTY FOREST ROAD AIDS PROGRAM: In 2014 we received approximately \$313.85/mile for maintaining 27.25 miles of roads for a total of \$8,552.61. A GIS layer was developed several years ago showing the locations of culverts on our gas tax roads and these structures were identified by diameter and length, prioritized and placed on a replacement schedule. All high priority culverts have been replaced and we are now focusing our efforts on roadside brushing and ditching.

COUNTY CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT FUNDS FOR 2014: We continued work on our County Conservation Aids grant for improving lake access by improving the Horn Lake boat landing. With the early snow this fall, we were not able to accomplish all of the work planned for 2014, so we will complete work on access to Bus and Tahoe Lake in 2015. Wildlife Habitat funds were used for the mowing of wildlife openings and trails. The development of parking lots for hunters in the Newwood Block will continue in 2015.

THE UNDERDOWN RECREATION AREA is available for a variety of uses year round. Groomed and tracked X-C ski trails, snowshoe trails, horse trails, single track bike trails, fat bike trails, hiking trails, and a snowmobile/winter ATV trail are all mapped and signed in the Underdown. Season trail passes were made available to the public to offset the cost of these trails. Several small bridges were constructed by the bike club on the single track bike trail where wet areas are crossed. Signing and trail improvements were also completed on several trail segments by this club. New gates were installed in various locations to accommodate horse drawn wagon events for the Underdown Horse Club. A new groomer for the ski trail that was purchased using donated funds continued to be utilized. Several segments of Cross-County ski trail had additional improvement work conducted with the assistance of this year's RTA grant. The amount awarded to Lincoln County under this grant was \$7,282.41 and we must match these dollars for a total project cost of \$14,564.82.

ORGANIZED AND/OR COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED on the County Forest in the Underdown Recreation Area by the Underdown Horse Club and the Wisconsin Off Road Bike Association (WORBA) and in the Harrison Unit by the Harrison Hills ATV Club.

COUNTY PARKS ACTIVITIES: Regular maintenance of County parks and facilities was performed during 2014. Rehabilitation work was conducted on the Harrison Hills ATV trail using grant dollars. We have been using non-lethal means in an integrated approach to control geese population issues at Tug Lake County Park. Improvements were made to the trusses and roof of Shelterhouse A at Newwood Park and several new campfire rings were installed within our campground system

INVASIVE SPECIES: In 2007, a significant garlic mustard infestation was discovered in the Underdown Block of the County Forest and on adjacent private land. Our department took immediate action to try to control the spread of this invasive plant by conducting a search to find new infestations and applying herbicide where the plant was known to occur. Several other small, satellite colonies of this invasive plant have been found in other locations of the Underdown, Harrison and Wildwood Blocks.

In addition to Garlic Mustard, other invasive species have been discovered on County Forest property. Glossy Buckthorn, Japanese Barberry, Crown Vetch, Leafy Spurge and Japanese Knotweed have been found in areas of Underdown and Harrison. Steps are taken to control or eradicate these species when they are found. A GIS Layer is maintained to identify every known location of invasive plant species on the county forest. We will continue to monitor and treat known infestations while being observant for new species and infestations on the County Forest. The Forestry Department has provided training and publications to user groups of the County Forest and to townships within the county on how to identify invasive plant species so that they can assist our department with early detection.

LINCOLN COUNTY ACCESS PLAN: Restoration work to the Horn Lake Boatlanding was conducted, improvements to our primary gas tax roads and to the Underdown trailhead and recreational trails were made and renovations to the summer ATV trail continued in 2014. A second grant to apply crushed gravel to the Krueger Firelane was secured and will be utilized for this purpose in 2015. Continued work on acquiring access permits for private individuals that access their lands through the County Forest. Issued temporary access permits for individuals hauling forest products from private lands across the County Forest. A Recreation Officer continued working on the County Forest and helped reduce vandalism and restore order to our public lands and recreational facilities.

LINCOLN COUNTY 5-YEAR OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN was developed in conjunction with North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning, the City of Tomahawk, The City of Merrill, local townships and special interest groups. The Plan was approved by the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors on January 17, 2012 and is effective January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2016. We continue to implement our current plan.

LINCOLN COUNTY'S 2013-2014 SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MAINTENANCE PROJECT was approved for \$78,437.50 consisting of 313.75 miles of trail @ \$250/mile. Seven clubs in the county were contracted to maintain the total number of funded miles in Lincoln County. In addition, supplemental maintenance funding was approved at 67.2% statewide making the portion paid out to Lincoln County's clubs \$49,445.65.

ATV PROGRAM: We received trail maintenance aids of \$20,004.00 consisting of 198.5 miles of winter trails @ \$100/mile and \$26,675.00 consisting of 44.4 miles of summer trails at \$600/mile. Five snowmobile clubs contracted to maintain the funded miles of winter ATV trail in the county. These trails are part of the county's snowmobile trail system. Winter ATV maintenance funding was acquired for 5.6 miles of additional trail which will be applied towards our 2015 funded mileage. Our summer ATV mileage traverses through the Harrison Hills and links up with Langlade and Oneida County Trails as well as the communities of Gleason, Harrison, and the Pine Lake area. Lincoln County maintains the summer ATV trail system, and contracts with the Harrison Hills ATV Club to assist with brushing and signing. We completed renovation work on the Beaver Trail portion of the funded summer trail. We continued to implement an emergency signing system for the summer trail network which is compatible with the County's 911 system. Worked with ATV clubs in the Somo, Wilson, and Spirit Falls areas to identify possible sites for an ATV trail/route link. Participated in the development of the Northern Wisconsin ATV/UTV Council to assist organizations in enhancing ATV/UTV and other recreational opportunities in our area. Our department acquired funding for the development of a new summer ATV trail north of Pine Lake in Harrison. Construction of this trail began in fall 2014 and our plan is to have it completed in 2015. Lincoln County continues to participate in the permanent Utility Terrain Vehicle program which began on July 1, 2012.

ICE AGE TRAIL: Several sections of the Ice Age Trail were relocated and/or reconstructed with the majority of the work being done in the Harrison area. We continue to work with our local chapter to provide quality facilities and address issues as they arise.

HARRISON FLOWAGE DAM: An owner-responsible inspection of the Harrison Dam is required every 10 years in order to keep the dam in conformance with state law. The dam was scheduled for its routine inspection in 2014, and we hired Becher-Hoppe Associates to complete this report. The results of the inspection were submitted to the DNR as required and we worked towards correcting the deficiencies identified to bring the dam in compliance with state code.

BEAVER PROGRAM: The Lincoln County Forestry and Highway Departments continued to work with USDA APHIS regarding beaver problems on the Lincoln County Forest and on the County road system.

FOREST CERTIFICATION: The Lincoln County Forest became SFI certified in March, 2005 and FSC certified in July, 2007. We worked on implementing necessary changes on the County Forest required by SFI and FSC forest certification.

COMPUTER SOFTWARE: Our Timberbase software was upgraded to the Timberbase 2013 program and was also migrated from the Access server to the SQL server which will allow this program to work within Lincoln County's system much more efficiently.

LAND SOLD, RATIFIED, CONFIRMED AND APPROVED by the Lincoln County Board in 2014 included 4 tax deed parcels that were sold for \$10,428.50, two county owned parcels sold for \$56,358.00 and two parcels sold for Social Services for \$12,060.00.

DEPARTMENT SAFETY PLAN: Continued development and implementation of our department safety plan. The Lincoln County Public Works Safety Group (Highway, Forestry, Solid Waste and Maintenance Departments) are under contract with Alpha Terra Science to implement this plan. Programs are in place for hazardous communication, control of hazardous energy, confined space entry and excavation safety, emergency action and fire prevention plan, personal protective equipment, occupational noise exposure and bloodborne pathogens. Alpha Terra has set up a webpage for the user groups above to manage and maintain safety records. As part of our county safety plan, the county implemented a group made up of employees as a first response team. This team is trained in CPR and first aid and will respond to any medical emergency to make the work place safer for employees and the public.

DNR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: 2014 Accomplishments on the Lincoln County Forest submitted by Shelby Hiestand, DNR Wildlife Biologist:

Flowages

Water levels and wildlife were actively monitored on Camp 26, Trapper Morrison, and Coffee Creek Flowages in 2014. There were no active issues involving beavers, but there were issues with muskrats burrowing into dikes at all three flowages and clogging the Trapper Morrison control structure. Work will need to be performed in 2015 on all dikes to patch muskrat holes to prevent potential breach of the dikes.

Coffee Creek and Trapper Morrison both have old beaver debris in the spillways that will need to be removed in 2015.

The dikes were mowed on Camp 26 and Coffee Creek Flowages.

Rice production was good on Camp 26 Flowage this year with plenty of wildlife and waterfowl use.

Wildlife Openings

Openings maintenance was performed on the Under-Down unit in 2014. A total of 78 openings were inspected totaling approximately 60 acres. 69 openings were mowed, 3 were abandoned due to access

issues and poor quality, we were unable to access 3 openings due to wet trail conditions and 3 openings will need to be reseeded in 2015.

Hunter walking trail mowing was mostly limited to trails leading to wildlife openings. Wet conditions were present throughout most of the area.

Mowing is performed with the objective of setting back woody encroachment and promoting herbaceous (grass/forb) cover to benefit deer, woodcock, ruffed grouse, turkeys and many other wildlife species.

Openings are mowed on a 4 year rotation.

Wildlife Surveys

Wildlife surveys in 2014 that were conducted on the Lincoln County Forest included woodcock, ruffed grouse, turkey, bear, deer, and furbearer. Grouse and turkey surveys include spring breeding activity as well as later brood counts. Ruffed grouse numbers were in line with 2013, indicated by spring drumming activity and later confirmed by fall hunter success. Summer deer observations revealed a slight downward trend in the number of fawns seen. Bear bait visitation numbers were consistent with previous years. Furbearer and waterfowl surveys were also completed according to schedule.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES IN 2014: Ford F-150 Supercab 4x4 pickup truck and a Honda TRX500 4x4 ATV.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Kleinschmidt
Forest Administrator

LINCOLN COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors
Lincoln County, Wisconsin

The following is a report of the various activities of the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

OUR 2015 COUNTY FOREST consists of 100,843.05 acres.

2015 TIMBER SALES REVENUE TOTALED \$1,973,804.17. This revenue is distributed as follows: \$195,862.51 (10%) to Towns with County Forest Lands; \$391,725.04 (20%) to the County General Fund; and \$1,386,216.62 (70%) to the County Forestry Fund. Any unused budgeted funds and surplus revenues are transferred to the County CIP Program after the annual audit is completed.

DURING THE YEAR, 31 TIMBER SALES WERE SOLD with an estimated value of \$1,657,823.04.

SEVENTEEN BOUGH PERMITS WERE ISSUED @ \$100.00 per permit = \$1,700.00.

GRANT REVENUES administered by the Forestry, Land & Parks Department during 2015 totaled \$523,234.47. Of this amount, \$13,899 was provided by Lincoln County for those grants requiring cost sharing.

REVENUE FROM WOOD SALES AND FIREWOOD PERMITS DURING 2015 TOTALED \$1,450.00. Two wood sales (\$40.00) and seventy-two 30-day permits (\$1,080.00) were issued. Twenty-two permits (\$330.00) were extended.

TREE PLANTING/SITE PREP/BIOMASS:

Fill-in planting of approximately 6,000 2-year old red pine seedlings on the south half of a 40 acre site planted in 2014 in the Town of Wilson was done by the Lincoln County Crew.

Approximately 31 acres site prep was conducted on an area to be replanted with red pine and 14 acres of swamp conifer site prep was completed to prepare the site for natural conifer regeneration by logging contractors as a requirement of their timber sale contract.

Biomass was utilized from approximately 2 timber sales, totaling \$ 1090.44.

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT (TSI):

Approximately 798 acres of aspen release was completed in aspen regeneration areas by logging contractors as a requirement of their timber sale contract.

Approximately 7 acres of red pine seedlings were released with brush saws by the Lincoln County Crew.

SURVEYING: All of surveying done in 2015 was in conjunction with the Lincoln County Surveyor.

In Section 17 of T34N R4E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the north and west lines of the W1/2 NW1/4 totaling approximately 3/4 mile of boundary.

In Section 19 of T34N R4E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the north line of the NE1/4 NE1/4 totaling approximately 1/4 mile of boundary. A Monument was set at the N1/16NE.

In Section 21 of T34N R8E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the north line of the SE1/4 SE1/4 totaling approximately 1/4 mile of boundary. A monument was set at the C1/16SE.

In Section 3 of T33N R7E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south and west lines of the NE1/4 NE1/4 totaling approximately 1/2 mile of boundary. Monuments were set at the C1/16NE and E1/16NE.

In Section 7 of T35N R6E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the east line of the E1/2 NE1/4 totaling approximately 1/2 mile of boundary.

COUNTY FOREST ROAD AIDS PROGRAM: We continued our County Forest road maintenance program including graveling, installing culverts, improving drainage, right-of-way brushing and regular grading and snowplowing of roads. In 2015 we received approximately \$313.87/mile for maintaining 27.25 miles of roads for a total of \$8,553.08. A GIS layer was developed several years ago showing the locations of culverts on our gas tax roads and these structures were identified by diameter and length, prioritized and placed on a replacement schedule. All high priority culverts have been replaced and we are now focusing our efforts on roadside brushing and ditching. Roadside brushing was conducted on the entire 4.55 mile section of Wildwood Ave and on 2.35 miles of Camp Avenue.

COUNTY CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT FUNDS FOR 2015: We continued work on our County Conservation Aids grant for improving lake access by completing the improvement work on the Horn, Bus and Tahoe Lake boat landings. Work on the Lost Lake access and boatlanding is scheduled for 2016. Wildlife Habitat funds were used for the mowing of wildlife openings and trails. The development of parking lots for hunters in the Newwood Block will continue in 2016.

PRAIRIE DELLS SCENIC AREA: The Forestry, Land and Parks Committee accepted the donation of a 5-acre parcel bordering the Prairie Dells Scenic Area. This donation will allow our department to enhance the recreational opportunities in this location and will also prevent future developments from occurring adjacent to this scenic area.

ORGANIZED AND/OR COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED on the County Forest in the Underdown Recreation Area by the Underdown Horse Club and the Wisconsin Off Road Bike Association (WORBA) and in the Harrison Unit by the Harrison Hills ATV Club.

THE UNDERDOWN RECREATION AREA is available for a variety of uses year round.

Groomed and tracked X-C ski trails, snowshoe trails, horse trails, single track bike trails, fat bike trails, hiking trails, and a snowmobile/winter ATV trail are all mapped and signed in the Underdown. Season trail passes were made available to the public to offset the cost of these trails. Several small bridges were constructed by the bike club on the single track bike trail where wet areas are crossed. Signing and trail improvements were also completed on several trail segments by this club. New gates were installed in various locations to accommodate horse drawn wagon events for the Underdown Horse Club. The site prep work was done and a concrete slab poured for a new shelterhouse south of the parking lot at the trail head. Construction of this facility will take place in 2016. A new groomer for the ski trail that was purchased using donated funds continued to be utilized. Several segments of Cross-County ski trail had trail signing improvements completed. An RTA grant was obtained and utilized for improvement work and maintenance of non-motorized trails in the Underdown. The amount awarded to Lincoln County under this grant was \$7,322.41 and we must match these dollars for a total project cost of \$14,644.82.

COUNTY PARKS ACTIVITIES: Regular maintenance of County parks and facilities was performed during 2015. We have been using non-lethal means in an integrated approach to control geese population issues at Tug Lake County Park. Improvements were made to the fascia of Shelterhouse A at Newwood Park and several new campfire rings were installed within our campground system

INVASIVE SPECIES: In 2007, a significant garlic mustard infestation was discovered in the Underdown Block of the County Forest and on adjacent private land. Our department took immediate action to try to control the spread of this invasive plant by conducting a search to find new infestations and applying herbicide where the plant was known to occur. Several other small, satellite colonies of this invasive plant have been found in other locations of the Underdown, Harrison and Wildwood Blocks.

In addition to Garlic Mustard, other invasive species have been discovered on County Forest property. Glossy Buckthorn, Japanese Barberry, Crown Vetch, Leafy Spurge and Japanese Knotweed have been found in areas of Underdown and Harrison. Steps are taken to control or eradicate these species when they are found. A GIS Layer is maintained to identify every known location of invasive plant species on the county forest. We will continue to monitor and treat known infestations while being observant for new species and infestations on the County Forest. The Forestry Department has provided training and publications to user groups of the County Forest and to townships within the county on how to identify invasive plant species so that they can assist our department with early detection and treatment.

LINCOLN COUNTY ACCESS PLAN: Restoration work to the Horn, Bus and Tahoe Lake boat landings was completed, improvements to our primary gas tax roads and to the Underdown trailhead and recreational trails were made and construction of a shelterhouse on the Ice Age Trail by Dog Lake was completed. In addition, development work for 3.7 miles of new summer ATV/UTV trail was conducted in 2015. A grant to complete the restoration of the Krueger Firelane was secured and utilized. Continued work on acquiring access permits for private individuals that access their lands through the County Forest. Issued temporary access permits for individuals hauling forest products from private lands across the County Forest. A Recreation Officer continued working on the County Forest and helped reduce vandalism and restore order to our public lands and recreational facilities.

LINCOLN COUNTY 5-YEAR OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN was developed in conjunction with North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning, the City of Tomahawk, The City of Merrill, local townships and special interest groups. The Plan was approved by the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors on January 17, 2012 and is effective January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2016. We continue to implement our current plan. Work will take place in 2016 to update the current plan for the next 5-year period.

LINCOLN COUNTY'S 2014-2015 SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MAINTENANCE PROJECT was approved for \$78,437.50 consisting of 313.75 miles of trail @ \$250/mile. Seven clubs in the county were contracted to maintain the total number of funded miles in Lincoln County. In addition, supplemental maintenance funding was approved at 100% statewide making the portion paid out to Lincoln County's clubs an additional \$56,572.92.

ATV PROGRAM: We received trail maintenance aids of \$20,564.00 consisting of 204.1 miles of winter trails @ \$100/mile and \$26,675.00 consisting of 44.4 miles of summer trails at \$600/mile as well as maintenance aids of \$4,440.00 consisting of 44.4 miles of summer UTV trail. Five snowmobile clubs contracted to maintain the funded miles of winter ATV trail in the county. These trails are part of the county's snowmobile trail system. Our summer ATV mileage traverses through the Harrison Hills and links up with Langlade and Oneida County Trails as well as the communities of Gleason, Harrison, and the Pine Lake area. Lincoln County maintains the summer ATV trail system, and contracts with the Harrison Hills ATV Club to assist with brushing and signing. We continued to implement an emergency signing system for the summer trail network which is compatible with the County's 911 system. Worked with ATV clubs in the Somo, Wilson, and Spirit Falls areas to identify possible sites for an ATV trail/route link. Participated in the development of the Northern Wisconsin ATV/UTV Council to assist organizations in enhancing ATV/UTV and other recreational opportunities in our area. Our department acquired funding for and worked on the development of 3.7 miles of new summer ATV trail north of Pine Lake in Harrison. Lincoln County continues to participate in the permanent Utility Terrain Vehicle program which began on July 1, 2012.

ICE AGE TRAIL: Several sections of the Ice Age Trail were relocated and/or reconstructed with the majority of the work being done in the Harrison area. A small Adirondack shelter was constructed along the trail by Dog Lake using donated funds. We continue to work with our local chapter to provide quality facilities and address issues as they arise.

HARRISON FLOWAGE DAM: An owner-responsible inspection of the Harrison Dam is required every 10 years in order to keep the dam in conformance with state law. The dam was inspected in 2014 by Becher-Hoppe Associates and several deficiencies were identified to bring the dam in compliance with state code. These deficiencies were all completed in 2015 to include replacing the stoplogs in the spillway; brushing the toeslope of the dike; performing concrete repair work on the catwalk and erecting a dam warning sign.

KRUEGER FIRELANE: In 2015, the final phase of improvement work was completed to the Krueger Firelane. A \$34,000 was obtained in 2013, to ditch and crown and apply pit run gravel to the firelane base. In 2015, an additional \$35,000 grant was utilized to place a 6 inch lift of granite onto the road surface to complete the improvement project.

BEAVER PROGRAM: The Lincoln County Forestry and Highway Departments continued to work with USDA APHIS regarding beaver problems on the Lincoln County Forest and on the County road system.

FOREST CERTIFICATION: The Lincoln County Forest became SFI certified in March, 2005 and FSC certified in July, 2007. We worked on implementing necessary changes on the County Forest required by SFI and FSC forest certification.

LAND SOLD, RATIFIED, CONFIRMED AND APPROVED by the Lincoln County Board in 2015 included 9 tax deed parcels that were sold for \$68,291.94 and 1 county owned parcel sold for \$51,510.00.

DEPARTMENT SAFETY PLAN: Continued development and implementation of our department safety plan. The Lincoln County Public Works Safety Group (Highway, Forestry, Solid Waste and Maintenance Departments) are under contract with Alpha Terra Science to implement this plan. Programs are in place for hazardous communication, control of hazardous energy, confined space entry and excavation safety, emergency action and fire prevention plan, personal protective equipment, occupational noise exposure and bloodborne pathogens. Alpha Terra has set up a webpage for the user groups above to manage and maintain safety records. As part of our county safety plan, the county implemented a group made up of employees as a first response team. This team is trained in CPR and first aid and will respond to any medical emergency to make the work place safer for employees and the public.

DNR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: 2015 Accomplishments on the Lincoln County Forest submitted by Thomas Carlson, DNR Wildlife Technician.

Flowages:

Water levels and wildlife were actively monitored on Camp 26, Trapper Morrison, and Coffee Creek Flowages in 2015. Repairs were made to the earthen dams on Camp 26, Trapper Morrison and Coffee Creek flowages to address damage caused by muskrats and to remove old beaver debris for past activity. Beaver have recently moved back into the Trapper Morrison flowage and have been clogging the water control structure. Wildlife Management has been working to recruit local trappers to help address the beaver issue.

Coffee Creek Flowage had beaver issues this past summer but the issue was resolved.

Camp 26 Flowage has continued to see an abundance of wild rice with a slight increase over last year's crop.

Wildlife Openings:

Maintenance was performed on openings in the Towns of Somo, Wilson and Tomahawk. A total of 92 openings were inspected totaling approximately 100 acres. 86 opening were mowed, 6 were left untreated due to equipment breakdowns. The remaining six openings will be mowed next year (2016) and included in the next rotation in 2019. All trails leading into the openings were mowed. Mowing is performed with the objective of setting back woody encroachment and promoting herbaceous (grass/forb) cover to benefit deer, woodcock, ruffed grouse, turkeys and many other wildlife species. Openings are mowed on a 4 year rotation.

Wildlife Surveys:

Wildlife surveys in 2015 that were conducted on the Lincoln County Forest included woodcock, ruffed grouse, turkey, bear, deer, and furbearer. Grouse and turkey surveys include spring breeding activity as well as brood counts. Ruffed grouse numbers were slightly up from 2014, indicated by spring drumming activity and later confirmed by fall hunter success. Brood Surveys and observations throughout the summer indicated that there was a very successful recruitment to the local turkey population. Summer deer observations revealed an increase in the number of fawns probably due to the mild winter and early spring green up. Bear bait visitation numbers were consistent with previous years. Furbearer and waterfowl surveys were also completed according to schedule.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES IN 2015: 2015 John Deere X530 Lawn Tractor.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Kleinschmidt
Forest Administrator

LINCOLN COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors
Lincoln County, Wisconsin

The following is a report of the various activities of the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

OUR 2016 COUNTY FOREST consists of 100,843.05 acres.

2016 TIMBER SALES REVENUE TOTALED \$2,058,842.92. This revenue is distributed as follows: \$205,862.25 (10%) to Towns with County Forest Lands; \$411,724.41 (20%) to the County General Fund; and \$1,441,256.26 (70%) to the County Forestry Fund. Any unused budgeted funds and surplus revenues are transferred to the County CIP Program after the annual audit is completed.

DURING THE YEAR, 30 TIMBER SALES WERE SOLD with an estimated value of \$2,007,892.25.

SEVENTEEN BOUGH PERMITS WERE ISSUED @ \$100.00 per permit = \$1,700.00.

GRANT REVENUES administered by the Forestry, Land & Parks Department during 2016 totaled \$449,546.29. Of this amount, \$12,156.08 was provided by Lincoln County for those grants requiring cost sharing.

REVENUE FROM WOOD SALES AND FIREWOOD PERMITS DURING 2016 TOTALED \$1,255.00. Two wood sales (\$220.00) and forty-nine 30-day permits (\$735.00) were issued. Twenty permits (\$300.00) were extended.

TREE PLANTING/SITE PREP/BIOMASS:

Fill-in planting of approximately 6,000 2-year old red pine seedlings on the north half of a 40 acre site planted in 2014 in the Town of Wilson was done by the Lincoln County Forestry Crew.

Approximately 16 acres of planting site prep with bulldozer and v-blade along with herbicide treatment was completed in the Town of Harrison by the Lincoln County Forestry Crew on a site that will be replanted in 2017.

Approximately 23 acres of swamp conifer and 8 acres of black ash site prep were completed by logging contractors as a requirement of the timber sale contract.

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT (TSI):

Approximately 869 acres of aspen release was completed in aspen regeneration areas by logging contractors as a requirement of their timber sale contract.

Approximately 22 acres of red pine seedlings were released with brush saws in the Town of Wilson by the Lincoln County Forestry Crew.

SURVEYING: All of the surveying done in 2016 was in conjunction with the Lincoln County Surveyor.

In Section 17 of T35N R4E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south and east lines of the E1/2 NW1/4 totaling approximately 3/4 mile of boundary. Monuments were set at the C1/4 and the CW1/16.

In Section 17 of T35N R4E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the east line of the W1/2 SW1/4 totaling approximately 1/2 mile of boundary. A monument was set at the S1/16SW.

In Section 22 of T34N R4E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the east and south lines of the NE1/4 NE1/4 totaling approximately 1/2 mile of boundary. Monuments were set at the E1/16NE and the C1/16NE. A witness monument was set near the NE1/4.

In Section 22 of T34N R4E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along Lincoln County property boundary for west line of the NE1/4 NE1/4 totaling approximately 1/4 mile of boundary. A witness monument was set near the N1/16NE.

In Section 16 of T34N R4E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south line of the S1/2 SE1/4 totaling approximately 1/2 mile of boundary.

In Section 36 of T34N R4E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south lines of the NE1/4 and the SE1/4 NW1/4 totaling approximately 3/4 mile of boundary. A monument was set at the CW1/16.

In Section 17 of T35N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the north line of the NE1/4 SE1/4 totaling approximately 1/4 mile of boundary. A monument was set at the CE1/16.

In Section 29 of T35N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south line of the N1/2 NW1/4 totaling approximately 1/2 mile of boundary.

In Section 36 of T34N R4E a monument was set at the C1/16SW.

COUNTY FOREST ROAD AIDS PROGRAM: We continued our County Forest road maintenance program including graveling, installing culverts, improving drainage, right-of-way brushing and regular grading and snowplowing of roads. In 2016 we received approximately \$314.50/mile for maintaining 27.25 miles of roads for a total of \$8,570.19. A GIS layer was developed several years ago showing the locations of culverts on our gas tax roads and these structures were identified by diameter and length, prioritized and placed on a replacement schedule. All high priority culverts have been replaced and we are now focusing our efforts on roadside brushing, ditching and moderate risk culverts. Six culverts were replaced on the northern portion of Camp Ave in 2016.

COUNTY CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT FUNDS FOR 2016: We continued work on our County Conservation Aids grant for improving lake access by completing the improvement work on the Lost Lake boat landing. Wildlife Habitat funds were used for the mowing of wildlife openings and trails and the development of parking lots for hunters in the Newwood Block.

PRAIRIE DELLS SCENIC AREA: The Forestry, Land and Parks Committee accepted the donation of a 5-acre parcel bordering the Prairie Dells Scenic Area in 2015. This donation will allow our department to enhance the recreational opportunities in this location and will also prevent future developments from occurring adjacent to this scenic area. A three acre timber sale was established on county land on the west side of the river. This sale will be harvested in conjunction with a harvest that will occur on the Merrill Memorial Forest.

ORGANIZED AND/OR COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED on the County Forest in the Underdown Recreation Area by the Underdown Horse Club and the Rhinelander Area Silent Trails Association (RASTA) and in the Harrison Unit by the Harrison Hills ATV Club.

THE UNDERDOWN RECREATION AREA is available for a variety of uses year round. Groomed and tracked X-C ski trails, snowshoe trails, horse trails, single track bike trails, fat bike trails, hiking trails, and a snowmobile/winter ATV trail are all mapped and signed in the Underdown. Season trail passes were made available to the public to offset the cost of these trails. Several small bridges were constructed by the bike club on the single track bike trail where wet areas are crossed. Signing and trail improvements were also completed on several trail segments by this club. A connector trail was constructed on the County Forest from the Underdown trails to the newly developed bike trails on the Merrill Memorial Forest. New gates were installed in various locations to accommodate horse drawn wagon events for the Underdown Horse Club. The construction of a new shelterhouse was completed south of the parking lot and improvements were made to the hand pump at the trail head. A new groomer for the ski trail that was purchased using donated funds continued to be utilized. Several segments of Cross-County ski trail had trail signing improvements completed. An RTA grant was obtained for improvement work and maintenance of non-motorized trails in the Underdown. The amount awarded to Lincoln County under this grant was \$6,710.08 and we must match these dollars for a total project cost of \$13,420.16.

COUNTY PARKS ACTIVITIES: Regular maintenance of County parks and facilities was performed during 2016. We have been using non-lethal means in an integrated approach to control geese population issues at Tug Lake County Park. A new steel roof was constructed on Shelterhouse A at Newwood Park and several new campfire rings were installed within our campground system

INVASIVE SPECIES: In 2007, a significant garlic mustard infestation was discovered in the Underdown Block of the County Forest and on adjacent private land. Our department took immediate action to try to control the spread of this invasive plant by conducting a search to find new infestations and applying herbicide where the plant was known to occur. Several other small, satellite colonies of this invasive plant have been found in other locations of the Underdown, Harrison and Wildwood Blocks.

In addition to Garlic Mustard, other invasive species have been discovered on County Forest property. Glossy Buckthorn, Japanese Barberry, Crown Vetch, Leafy Spurge and Japanese Knotweed have been found in areas of Underdown and Harrison. Steps are taken to control or eradicate these species when they are found. A GIS Layer is maintained to identify every known location of invasive plant species on the county forest. We will continue to monitor and treat known infestations while being observant for

new species and infestations on the County Forest. The Forestry Department has provided training and publications to user groups of the County Forest and to townships within the county on how to identify invasive plant species so that they can assist our department with early detection and treatment.

LINCOLN COUNTY ACCESS PLAN: Restoration work to Lost Lake boat landing was completed, improvements to our primary gas tax roads and to the Underdown trailhead and recreational trails were made and construction of an Adirondack style shelter on the Ice Age Trail by Dog Lake was completed. In addition, development work for 3.7 miles of new summer ATV/UTV trail was completed in 2016 in the Town of Harrison. Continued work on acquiring access permits for private individuals that access their lands through the County Forest. Issued temporary access permits for individuals hauling forest products from private lands across the County Forest. A Recreation Officer continued working on the County Forest and helped reduce vandalism and restore order to our public lands and recreational facilities.

LINCOLN COUNTY 5-YEAR OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN was updated in conjunction with North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning, the City of Tomahawk, The City of Merrill, local townships and special interest groups. The Plan was approved by the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors on October 18, 2016 and is effective January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2021.

LINCOLN COUNTY'S 2015-2016 SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MAINTENANCE PROJECT was approved for \$78,437.50 consisting of 313.75 miles of trail @ \$250/mile. Seven clubs in the county were contracted to maintain the total number of funded miles in Lincoln County. In addition, supplemental maintenance funding was approved at 100% statewide making the portion paid out to Lincoln County's clubs an additional \$16,877.61. We acquired grant funding in the amount of \$73,000 to place a 12' x 35' steel clear span bridge on the 39 trail between North Star Road and Lincoln Drive.

ATV PROGRAM: We received trail maintenance aids of \$20,564.00 consisting of 204.1 miles of winter trails @ \$100/mile and \$26,675.00 consisting of 44.4 miles of summer trails at \$600/mile as well as maintenance aids of \$4,780.00 consisting of 44.4 miles of summer UTV trail and \$286.13 for maintenance of 1 mile of TROUTE. Five snowmobile clubs contracted to maintain the funded miles of winter ATV trail in the county. These trails are part of the county's snowmobile trail system. Our summer ATV mileage traverses through the Harrison Hills and links up with Langlade and Oneida County Trails as well as the communities of Gleason, Harrison, and the Pine Lake area. Lincoln County maintains the summer ATV trail system, and contracts with the Harrison Hills ATV Club to assist with brushing and signing. We continued to implement an emergency signing system for the summer trail network which is compatible with the County's 911 system. Worked with ATV clubs in the Somo, Wilson, and Spirit Falls areas to identify possible sites for an ATV trail/route link. Participated in the development of the Northern Wisconsin ATV/UTV Council to assist organizations in enhancing ATV/UTV and other recreational opportunities in our area. Our department acquired funding for and completed the development of 3.7 miles of new summer ATV trail north of Pine Lake in Harrison. Lincoln County continues to participate in the permanent Utility Terrain Vehicle program which began on July 1, 2012.

ICE AGE TRAIL: Several sections of the Ice Age Trail were relocated and/or reconstructed with the majority of the work being done in the Harrison area. A small Adirondack shelter was constructed along the trail by Dog Lake using donated funds. We continue to work with our local chapter to provide quality facilities and address issues as they arise.

HARRISON FLOWAGE DAM: An owner-responsible inspection of the Harrison Dam is required every 10 years in order to keep the dam in conformance with state law. The dam was inspected in 2014 by Becher-Hoppe Associates and several deficiencies were identified to bring the dam in compliance with state code. These deficiencies were all completed in 2015 to include replacing the stoplogs in the spillway; brushing the toeslope of the dike; performing concrete repair work on the catwalk and erecting a dam warning sign. We continue to do maintenance and monthly county inspections of the dam on a routine basis

BEAVER PROGRAM: The Lincoln County Forestry and Highway Departments continued to work with USDA APHIS regarding beaver problems on the Lincoln County Forest and on the County road system.

FOREST CERTIFICATION: The Lincoln County Forest became SFI certified in March, 2005 and FSC certified in July, 2007. We worked on implementing necessary changes on the County Forest required by SFI and FSC forest certification.

LAND SOLD, RATIFIED, CONFIRMED AND APPROVED by the Lincoln County Board in 2016 included 4 tax deed parcels that were sold for \$110,004.89 and 1 county owned parcel sold for \$4,705.00.

DEPARTMENT SAFETY PLAN: Continued development and implementation of our department safety plan. The Lincoln County Public Works Safety Group (Highway, Forestry, Solid Waste and Maintenance Departments) are under contract with Alpha Terra Science to implement this plan. Programs are in place for hazardous communication, control of hazardous energy, confined space entry and excavation safety, emergency action and fire prevention plan, personal protective equipment, occupational noise exposure and bloodborne pathogens. Alpha Terra has set up a webpage for the user groups above to manage and maintain safety records. As part of our county safety plan, the county implemented a group made up of employees as a first response team. This team is trained in CPR and first aid and will respond to any medical emergency to make the work place safer for employees and the public.

DNR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: 2016 Accomplishments on the Lincoln County Forest submitted by Thomas Carlson, DNR Wildlife Technician.

Flowages:

Water levels and wildlife were actively monitored on Camp 26, Trapper Morrison, and Coffee Creek Flowages in 2016. Heavy springs rains prior to ice out caused damage to the Trapper Morrison Flowage spillway. Repairs will be made during the summer of 2017.

Trees and brush were removed from the dikes and spillways on Camp 26 and Coffee Creek to bring them into compliance with dam safety regulations.

The wild rice crop was poor this year on Camp 26 flowage.

Wildlife Openings:

Maintenance was performed on the New Wood Block of openings stretching from Highway 86 south to Conservation Ave. 96 openings totaling approximately 103 acres were inspected. We mowed 94 openings and 2.25 miles of hunter walking trails were also mowed.

Mowing is performed with the objective of setting back woody encroachment and promoting herbaceous (grass/forb) cover to benefit deer, woodcock, ruffed grouse, turkeys and many other wildlife species. Openings are mowed on a 4 year rotation.

Wildlife Surveys:

Wildlife surveys in 2016 that were conducted on the Lincoln County Forest included woodcock, ruffed grouse, turkey, bear, deer, waterfowl and furbearer. Grouse and turkey surveys include spring breeding activity as well as brood counts.

In the Northern Forest, drumming male ruffed grouse counts increased 4%. Wisconsin is in the trough of the grouse cycle and may be on the increase; it is likely that declines in breeding grouse numbers may have ended till the next decline in 2021 or 2022. Good nesting and brood rearing conditions this summer should set the stage for the cyclic increase in the next 4-5 years.

The brood surveys and observations throughout the summer indicated that there was a very successful recruitment to the local turkey population.

Summer deer observations revealed an increase in the number of fawns per doe probably due to the mild winter and early spring green up.

Bear bait visitation numbers were consistent with previous years.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES IN 2016: 2017 Ski Doo Skandic Wide Track 900 Snowmobile.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Kleinschmidt
Forest Administrator

LINCOLN COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

To the Honorable Board of Supervisors
Lincoln County, Wisconsin

The following is a report of the various activities of the Lincoln County Forestry, Land and Parks Department from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

OUR 2017 COUNTY FOREST consists of 100,843.05 acres.

2017 TIMBER SALES REVENUE TOTALED \$1,922,395.38. This revenue is distributed as follows: \$192,227.67 (10%) to Towns with County Forest Lands; \$384,454.97 (20%) to the County General Fund; and \$1,345,712.74 (70%) to the County Forestry Fund. Any unused budgeted funds and surplus revenues are transferred to the County CIP Program after the annual audit is completed.

DURING THE YEAR, 37 TIMBER SALES WERE SOLD with an estimated value of \$1,900,610.90.

SIXTEEN BOUGH PERMITS WERE ISSUED @ \$100.00 per permit = \$1,600.00.

GRANT REVENUES administered by the Forestry, Land & Parks Department during 2017 totaled \$502,336.43. Of this amount, \$9,217.77 was provided by Lincoln County for those grants requiring cost sharing.

REVENUE FROM WOOD SALES AND FIREWOOD PERMITS DURING 2017 TOTALED \$870.00. One wood sale (\$120.00) and forty-five 30-day firewood permits (\$675.00) were issued. Five firewood permits (\$75.00) were extended.

TREE PLANTING/SITE PREP/BIOMASS:

Fill-in planting of approximately 3500 2-year old red pine seedlings on the south half of a 40 acre site planted in 2014 in the Town of Wilson was done by the Lincoln County Forestry Crew.

Approximately 16,800 2 year old red pines were planted on 16 acres in the Town of Harrison by the Lincoln County Forestry Crew in 2017.

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT (TSI):

Approximately 850 acres of aspen release was completed in aspen regeneration areas by logging contractors as a requirement of their timber sale contract.

Approximately 7 acres of swamp conifer site prep was completed by logging contractors as a requirement of their timber sale contract.

Approximately 18 acres of red pine seedlings were released with brush saws in the Town of Wilson by the Lincoln County Forestry Crew.

SURVEYING: All of the surveying done in 2017 was in conjunction with the Lincoln County Surveyor.

In Section 35 of T33N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south line of the NW1/4 NE1/4 totaling approximately 1/4 mile of boundary.

In Section 21 of T35N R5E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the north and east lines of the NW1/4 totaling approximately 1 mile of boundary.

In Section 5 of T33N R8E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south line of the NE1/4 NW1/4 totaling approximately 1/4 mile of boundary. A monument was set at the CN1/16.

In Section 5 of T33N R8E, T-style fence posts were placed at various points along County Forest property boundary for the south line of the N1/2 NE1/4 totaling approximately 1/2 mile of boundary.

In Section 16 of T35N R4E a witness monument was set at the N1/16NW.

COUNTY FOREST ROAD AIDS PROGRAM: We continued our County Forest road maintenance program including graveling, installing culverts, improving drainage, right-of-way brushing and regular grading and snowplowing of roads. In 2017 we received approximately \$314.81/mile for maintaining 27.25 miles of roads for a total of \$8,578.62. A GIS layer was developed several years ago showing the locations of culverts on our gas tax roads and these structures were identified by diameter and length, prioritized and placed on a replacement schedule. All high priority culverts have been replaced and we are now focusing our efforts on roadside brushing, ditching and moderate risk culverts. Six culverts were replaced on Cinder Road, Camp Ave, Swamp Road and Armstrong Creek Road in 2017 as well as 3.54 miles of roadside brushing being conducted on Armstrong Creek Road.

COUNTY CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT FUNDS FOR 2017: We continued work on our County Conservation Aids grant for improving lake access by repairing the access road and expanding the boat landing at Underdown Lake. Wildlife Habitat funds were used for alder shearing, mowing of wildlife openings and trails and roadside brushing on the Averill Creek Firelane.

PRAIRIE DELLS SCENIC AREA: The Forestry, Land and Parks Committee accepted the donation of a 5-acre parcel bordering the Prairie Dells Scenic Area in 2015. This donation will allow our department to enhance the recreational opportunities in this location and will also prevent future developments from occurring adjacent to this scenic area. A three acre timber sale was established on county land on the west side of the river on the Prairie Dells property. This sale will be harvested in conjunction with a harvest that will occur on the Merrill Memorial Forest.

ORGANIZED AND/OR COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES WERE CONDUCTED on the County Forest in the Underdown Recreation Area by the Underdown Horse Club and the Rhinelander Area Silent Trails Association (RASTA) and in the Harrison Unit by the Harrison Hills ATV Club.

THE UNDERDOWN RECREATION AREA is available for a variety of uses year round. Groomed and tracked X-C ski trails, snowshoe trails, horse trails, single track bike trails, fat bike trails, hiking trails, and a snowmobile/winter ATV trail are all mapped and signed in the Underdown. Season

trail passes were made available to the public to offset the cost of these trails. A culvert was installed by the Forestry Dept. using grant funding where the trail crosses a wet, muddy area. Signing and trail improvements were also completed on several trail segments by the bike club. A connecting return trail was constructed on the County Forest from the Underdown trails to the newly developed bike trails on the Merrill Memorial Forest. New gates were installed in various locations to accommodate horse drawn wagon events for the Underdown Horse Club. Electrical service was installed underground from the storage building to the new shelterhouse providing this facility with generator powered lights and electrical power. A new groomer for the ski trail that was purchased using donated funds continued to be utilized. Several segments of Cross-County ski trail had dozer work and trail signing improvements completed. An RTA grant was obtained for improvement work and maintenance of non-motorized trails in the Underdown. The amount awarded to Lincoln County under this grant was \$6,771.77 and we must match these dollars for a total project cost of \$13,543.54.

COUNTY PARKS ACTIVITIES: Regular maintenance of County parks and facilities was performed during 2017. We have been using non-lethal means in an integrated approach to control geese population issues at Tug Lake County Park. A new steel roof was constructed on Shelterhouse B at Newwood Park and several new campfire rings were installed within our campground system. Drainage improvement work was done to several campsites located at Otter Lake.

INVASIVE SPECIES: In 2007, a significant garlic mustard infestation was discovered in the Underdown Block of the County Forest and on adjacent private land. Our department took immediate action to try to control the spread of this invasive plant by conducting a search to find new infestations and applying herbicide where the plant was known to occur. Several other small, satellite colonies of this invasive plant have been found in other locations of the Underdown, Harrison and Wildwood Blocks. In addition to Garlic Mustard, other invasive species have been discovered on County Forest property. Glossy Buckthorn, Japanese Barberry, Crown Vetch, Leafy Spurge and Japanese Knotweed have been found in areas of Underdown and Harrison. Steps are taken to control or eradicate these species when they are found. A GIS Layer is maintained to identify every known location of invasive plant species on the county forest. We will continue to monitor and treat known infestations while being observant for new species and infestations on the County Forest. The Forestry Department has provided training and publications to user groups of the County Forest and to townships within the county on how to identify invasive plant species so that they can assist our department with early detection and treatment.

LINCOLN COUNTY ACCESS PLAN: Restoration work to Underdown Lake boat landing was completed and improvements to our primary gas tax roads and to the Averill Creek Firelane were completed with grant funding. The Underdown shelter house was completed and generator powered underground electrical service was run to this facility. A return loop was constructed to connect the newly developed single track bike trails in the Merrill Memorial Forest to the Underdown trails. Development work for 3.7 miles of new summer ATV/UTV trail was finalized in 2017 in the Town of Harrison. Continued work on acquiring access permits for private individuals that access their lands through the County Forest. Issued temporary access permits for individuals hauling forest products from private lands across the County Forest. A Recreation Officer continued working on the County Forest and helped reduce vandalism and restore order to our public lands and recreational facilities.

LINCOLN COUNTY 5-YEAR OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN was updated in conjunction with North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning, the City of Tomahawk, The City of Merrill, local townships and special interest groups. The Plan was approved by the Lincoln County Board of

Supervisors on October 18, 2016 and is effective January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2021. We continue to implement this plan.

LINCOLN COUNTY'S 2016-2017 SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MAINTENANCE PROJECT was approved for \$78,250.00 consisting of 313 miles of trail @ \$250/mile. Seven clubs in the county were contracted to maintain the total number of funded miles in Lincoln County. In addition, supplemental maintenance funding was approved at 100% statewide making the portion paid out to Lincoln County's clubs an additional \$11,467.12. We acquired grant funding in the amount of \$81,200 to place a 12' x 35' steel clear span bridge and 12' x 20' steel clear span access ramp on the 39 trail between North Star Road and Lincoln Drive.

ATV PROGRAM: We received trail maintenance aids of \$20,374.00 consisting of 202.2 miles of winter trails @ \$100/mile and \$31,115.00 consisting of 44.4 miles of summer ATV and UTV trail at \$700/mile as well as \$285.50 for maintenance of 1 mile of TROUTE. Five snowmobile clubs contracted to maintain the funded miles of winter ATV trail in the county. These trails are part of the county's snowmobile trail system. Our summer ATV mileage traverses through the Harrison Hills and links up with Langlade and Oneida County Trails as well as the communities of Gleason, Harrison, and the Pine Lake area. Lincoln County maintains the summer ATV trail system, and contracts with the Harrison Hills ATV Club to assist with brushing and signing. We continued to implement an emergency signing system for the summer trail network which is compatible with the County's 911 system. Worked with ATV clubs in the Somo, Wilson, and Spirit Falls areas to identify possible sites for an ATV trail/route link. Participated in the development of the Northern Wisconsin ATV/UTV Council to assist organizations in enhancing ATV/UTV and other recreational opportunities in our area. Our department acquired funding for and completed the development of 3.7 miles of new summer ATV trail north of Pine Lake in Harrison. Maintenance funding for these additional miles of trail will be obtained for the 2017-18 season. Lincoln County continues to participate in the permanent Utility Terrain Vehicle program which began on July 1, 2012.

ICE AGE TRAIL: Several sections of the Ice Age Trail were relocated and/or reconstructed as needed with the majority of the work being done in the Harrison area. We continue to work with our local chapter to provide quality facilities and address issues as they arise.

HARRISON FLOWAGE DAM: An owner-responsible inspection of the Harrison Dam is required every 10 years in order to keep the dam in conformance with state law. The dam was inspected in 2014 by Becher-Hoppe Associates and several deficiencies were identified to bring the dam in compliance with state code. These deficiencies were all completed in 2015 to include replacing the stoplogs in the spillway; brushing the toeslope of the dike; performing concrete repair work on the catwalk and erecting a dam warning sign. Pieces of keg were removed from the area surrounding the dam's spillway several times in 2017 due to high water from excessive rain events. We continue to do maintenance and monthly county inspections of the dam on a routine basis.

BEAVER PROGRAM: The Lincoln County Forestry Department continued to work with USDA WS APHIS regarding beaver problems on the Lincoln County Forest and on the County Forest road system.

FOREST CERTIFICATION: The Lincoln County Forest became SFI certified in March, 2005 and FSC certified in July, 2007. We worked on implementing necessary changes on the County Forest required by SFI and FSC forest certification.

LAND SOLD, RATIFIED, CONFIRMED AND APPROVED by the Lincoln County Board in 2017 included 1 county owned highway reservation sold for \$100.00 and 12 tax delinquent properties sold to the City of Merrill for \$42,711.20.

DEPARTMENT SAFETY PLAN: Continued development and implementation of our department safety plan. The Lincoln County Public Works Safety Group (Highway, Forestry, Solid Waste and Maintenance Departments) are under contract with Alpha Terra Science to implement this plan. Programs are in place for hazardous communication, control of hazardous energy, confined space entry and excavation safety, emergency action and fire prevention plan, personal protective equipment, occupational noise exposure and bloodborne pathogens. Alpha Terra has set up a webpage for the user groups above to manage and maintain safety records. As part of our county safety plan, the county implemented a group made up of employees as a first response team. This team is trained in CPR and first aid and will respond to any medical emergency to make the work place safer for employees and the public.

DNR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT: 2017 Accomplishments on the Lincoln County Forest submitted by Thomas Carlson, DNR Wildlife Technician.

Flowages:

Water levels and wildlife were actively monitored on Camp 26, Trapper Morrison, and Coffee Creek Flowages in 2017. Repairs were made to the earthen dam and spillway of Trapper Morrison Pond. Water levels were held down in preparation of this work, but were brought up slowly throughout the summer and are now at full pool. The spillway was damaged due to heavy spring runoff and muskrats have been burrowing into the flowage side of the dike.

The wild rice crop of Camp 26 flowage was down this year from the two previous years.

Wildlife Openings:

Maintenance was performed on openings in the Towns of Harrison North & South and Skanawan. A total of 88 openings were inspected totaling approximately 62 acres. 86 openings were mowed. 23 miles of trails leading into the openings were mowed.

Mowing is performed with the objective of setting back woody encroachment and promoting herbaceous (grass/forb) cover to benefit deer, woodcock, ruffed grouse, turkeys and many other forest wildlife species. This cover type is an important habitat component for many of our game species as well as numerous other non-game species. Openings are mowed on a 4 year rotation.

Wildlife Surveys:

Wildlife surveys in 2017 that were conducted on the Lincoln County Forest included woodcock, ruffed grouse, turkey, bear, deer, carnivore and furbearer. Grouse and turkey surveys include spring breeding activity as well as brood counts.

Ruffed Grouse drumming counts increased 30% from 2016 to 2017 in the north. Statewide, Ruffed Grouse brood observations increased 16.5% from 2016, but are still 44% below the long-term average. Brood rearing conditions have been less than ideal the last two years given the substantial summer rains we saw in both 2016 and 2017. Wisconsin is through the trough of the grouse cycle and is likely to be on the increase until the next decline in 2021 or 2022.

Bear bait visitation numbers were consistent with previous years. Furbearer and waterfowl surveys were also completed.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES IN 2017: 2017 SURE -TRAC 7' x 12' Utility Trailer and a 2017 Ford F-150 Pick-up Truck.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Kleinschmidt
Forest Administrator