

DRAFT

SAWYER COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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300 MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Objectives

Management planning shall be used to establish objectives, policies, procedures, rules and regulations, and to promote an efficient and orderly program of development and management of the County Forest in the interest of:

- Determining needs and priorities.
- Achieving goals set forth in the Mission Statement of this Plan.
- Satisfying the statutory requirements of s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.
- Satisfying requirements for participation in various State and Federal aid programs.
- Providing broad long-term and detailed short-term guidelines for actions.

305 COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN (PLAN)

Policy

This Plan shall incorporate or reference all official County Forest policies, pertinent County regulations, planning documents and the needs and actions for the period 2006 through 2015. This Plan complements and should be encompassed within local planning efforts required under s. 66.1001, Wis. Stats.

305.1 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN

S. 28.11, Wis. Stats. places the responsibility for the Plan development on the Forestry Committee with technical assistance from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other agencies. The County Forest Administrator will take the lead at the Forestry Committee's request. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), with the assistance of the County, will prepare the Environmental Assessment as required by Chapter 150 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. During the development of the Plan and Environmental Assessment, public participation procedures should be developed and adopted to provide for broad public participation throughout the planning process. Public participation

and inputs into the Plan should consider s. 28.11, Wis. Stats. that governs the County Forest Program and provides the sideboards to which this Plan must adhere.

Sawyer County's public participation process includes the following:

Approved 12/2/04

TIMELINE
SAWYER COUNTY FOREST - TEN YEAR PLAN

DATE	ACTION
October 2004	Chapters 100, 200 and 300 - review completed
November 2004	Chapters 400 and 500 - review completed
December 2004	Chapters 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 2000, 3000 to be reviewed
January 2005	Forestry Committee reviews first complete draft of 10 Year Plan - makes additional revisions
February 2005	Send first draft of 10 Year Plan to County Board for review and comment
March/April 2005	Prepare second draft version incorporating comments from County Board review
May 2005	Full County Board approves second draft version
June/July 2005	DNR reviews second draft version; makes recommendations to County Board
August 2005	Public information meetings held; incorporate appropriate revisions to 10 Year Plan draft version
September 2005	Prepare final plan version for County Board review
October 2005	County Board and DNR reviews final plan version and approves
November/December 2005	Forestry Committee begins publication and implementation process
January 1, 2006	2006-2015 Comprehensive Land Use Plan implementation

305.2 APPROVAL OF THE PLAN

Public comments received by the Forestry Committee shall be given consideration in developing the final Plan draft. Following the public comment period and assessment by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the County will consider inclusion of comments received on the Plan and Assessment. A final version of the Plan will be prepared. The Forestry Committee will then present the Plan to the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors for their review and approval. Following County Board approval, the Plan will then be forwarded to the State of Wisconsin DNR Division of Forestry Field Office DNR Liaison Forester. Approval of the Plan by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is required by s. 28.11(5)(a), Wis. Stats.

305.3 DISTRIBUTION OF THE PLAN

Each member of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors will receive a copy of the Plan at the time of initial review and approval. Subsequently, updated official copies will be maintained for those regularly involved in the County Forest Program.

Official copies and amendments will be held by the following:

- Sawyer County Forest Administrator
- Department of Natural Resources - Liaison and Division of Forestry (5 copies)
- Executive Secretary - Wisconsin County Forests Association.

Additional copies of the Plan will be provided to the DNR Regional Forestry Supervisor, Area Forestry Supervisor and local Wildlife Biologist. The Plan is also available for reference, review and comments on the Sawyer County Forestry website: sawycountygov.org, go to County Departments, Forestry and you will find the link.

305.4 UPDATING THE PLAN

Necessary changes in policy and procedure will be incorporated into the Plan by amendment as required. Amendments to the Plan will require approval by both the County Board of Supervisors and the Department of Natural Resources as stated in s. 28.11(5)(a), Wis. Stats. The Annual Work Plan and Budget (Chapter 2000) and the Annual Accomplishment Report (Chapter 3000) are appended to the Plan and do not require Department of Natural Resource (DNR) approval.

305.4.1 Schedule for Updating

By June 30th of each year, the Forest Administrator will develop and distribute copies of the following to each official copyholder of the County Forest Plan:

- Approved amendments
- Annual Accomplishment Report
- Current Annual Work Plan and budget

305.5 COORDINATION WITH OTHER PLANNING EFFORTS

The development and any future amendments to this Plan will include considerations, and if warranted, participation in other planning efforts. It is expected that these other plans will also, in turn, consider and mesh their efforts with the County Forest Plan.

310 FOREST RESOURCE PLANNING

The Forestry Committee will support and utilize the procedures as set forth in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Public Forest Lands Handbook No. 2460.5 and Forest Aesthetic and Silviculture Handbook No. 2431.5. The Department of Natural Resource (DNR) Forester and the Forest Administrator will be responsible for the completion and maintenance of the Compartment

Reconnaissance System and will assist in interpretation of the data to be used in planning and scheduling purposes.

Forest management plans are made by qualified, professional staff employed by Sawyer County or the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) who are trained in silvicultural principles and apply economic, biological, and environmental considerations in the planning process. Forest management decisions are made utilizing the most recent resource materials including the Forest habitat type classification, soil surveys, and Forestry's Best Management Practices for water quality guidelines.

315 OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING

The responsibility for all County Forest recreation planning on the County Forest will rest with the Forestry Committee.

320 OTHER RESOURCE PLANNING

Additional data necessary to make management decisions on the County Forest will be sought from agencies or individuals best equipped to provide that service. Refer to Chapter 800 for information on integrating outside expertise into management planning.

325 FOREST CERTIFICATION

The Forest Products industry is increasingly requiring their suppliers to verify that the raw materials being supplied have originated from well-managed Forest lands. Third-party certification of Forest lands is becoming the norm for objectively evaluating the sustainable management of Forest lands. To that end, Sawyer County will commit to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and/or Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in the management of the Sawyer County Forest. These certification standards fit within the framework of the County Forest Law program (s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.).

325.1 SAWYER COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

Our County Forests provide a vital contribution to the State and the world by providing economic, environmental and social benefits important to our quality of life. Sawyer County believes that accomplishing such sustainable Forestry requires a commitment and partnership from all the groups and individuals that benefit from these public lands.

Within the scope of the Wisconsin County Forest Law and the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Sawyer County will implement Forestry practices that promote Forest sustainability and multiple use of the Forest. In the management of the Forest included will be the sustainable harvest of Forest products, the protection of special sites, wildlife, plants, water quality and aesthetics.

All Forestland owners have a responsibility to provide sound Forest stewardship. Sawyer County will work in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other natural resources groups/agencies in providing sustainable Forestry information to those landowners and individuals impacting Forest sustainability in Wisconsin. We will support research efforts to improve the health, productivity, and management of Forestlands both internally and through cooperative efforts. In managing the Sawyer County Forest, a spectrum of Forestry practices will be employed to achieve our sustainable Forestry objective. Both intensive and more extensive Forest management techniques will be used to provide for wildlife, Forest products, recreation, aesthetics, water quality, aesthetics and ecosystem maintenance. In keeping with this responsibility, Sawyer County is committed to the following:

325.1.1 Sustainable Forestry Principles

To practice sustainable Forestry to meet the present needs of society without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet their anticipated needs. In doing so, Sawyer County will integrate the reforestation, managing, growing and harvesting of trees for Forest products with the conservation of air and water quality, soil, ecosystem diversity, wildlife, recreation and aesthetics.

325.1.2 Responsible Practices

To employ practices that are economically, environmentally and socially responsible in the management of the Sawyer County Forest and to also encourage other Forest owners to do the same.

325.1.3 Forest Health and Productivity

To work cooperatively with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other agencies in protecting our Forests from pests, diseases, wildfire and other damaging agents in order to improve long-term productivity and Forest health.

325.1.4 Unique Sites

To manage areas of special biological, geographical, cultural or historical significance in such a way as to preserve their unique qualities.

325.1.5 Legal Compliance

To comply with applicable local, State and Federal Laws and Regulations in the management of the Sawyer County Forest.

325.1.6 Monitoring and Continuous Improvement

To continually seek improvement in the management of the Sawyer County Forest and to monitor, assess and report performance towards the

objective of Sustainable Forestry.

330 ORDINANCES

The following ordinances will be considered in all planning. Refer to Chapter 900 for full text of these ordinances or the designated department for full text:

- Forestry ordinance
- Zoning ordinance - see Zoning Department
- Floodplain - Shoreland Zoning ordinance
- Non-Metallic Mining ordinance - see Zoning Department
- Land ordinance
- ATV ordinance
- Sign ordinance

335 TECHNOLOGY

Use of present day technology has become an important facet of County Forest management. Computers and operating systems have increased the ability to analyze and store data. The increased ability to analyze and evaluate the Forest has improved planning and management of the Forest. Electronic communication is now essential. The following are technologies available, and in use, on the Sawyer County Forest:

335.1 GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEMS (GPS)

A global positioning system (GPS) is a system of electronic surveying technology utilizing satellites to determine location. GPS is based on satellite ranging. That means that a position on earth is calculated by measuring the distance from a group of satellites to that position. The basic components needed for this system are a transmitter (located in the satellites), a receiver (at the point to be identified) and a computer and software to do the actual calculations. This technology

is invaluable for mapping, acreage determination and land control efforts. Sub-meter accuracy is available with some of the survey grade units. Hand-held units have also proven beneficial for sale mapping and road layouts.

335.2 DATA RECORDERS

The traditional data recording method is the paper and pencil system. But there are other tools that have been proven useful. Tape recorders and hand-held computers are becoming commonplace. Sawyer County will continue to test new types of data recorders for usability in the field and the office.

335.3 COMPUTERS

Computers are a common fixture in nearly all offices. The different types of software currently being used include: word processing, databases, spread sheets, mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

335.4 GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are particularly well-suited for Natural Resources Management. A GIS interrelates spatial information, e.g. maps with tabular data, reconnaissance information, ownership, name and address. It is a system through which managers can ask "what if?" and have the computer system represent the answer in the form of the best organized spatial output, a map. By using such a system, managers can look at the timing and spacing of timber sales, layout aesthetic zones, buffer strips, calculate acreage and update reconnaissance files in an efficient manner. Interrelating recon data with the GIS through a Recon ArcView Editor (RAVE) program has provided State-of-the-art mapping and data analysis in many Counties. A GIS can do in a few hours what often was impossible or took months to complete.

335.5 COMPARTMENT RECONNAISSANCE (RECON)

Recon is another tool in the assessment of geographical, structural and compositional attributes of the Forest resources. This information is collected and computerized in tabular format through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The recon system has historically been the backbone of land management activities. The tabular information is linked to spatial information on hand drawn maps or computerized maps found in the GIS. Basic resource information is collected, stored and updated systematically and continuously. The database is used to analyze existing resources, evaluate management alternatives and assist in this development and implementation of management plans. Recon is one tool used to assess Forest resource information at the property level. This information will provide a data layer that can be used for regional analysis.

335.6 RAVE/RAVEN (Recon ArcView Editor)

RAVE and RAVEN are computer programs that link the tabular data in the Recon system with the spatial data available through a GIS system. They are ArcView (GIS software) custom extensions that allow the user to easily edit Forest timber type and stand-level features (polygons), while at the same time updating tabular records.