

DRAFT**SAWYER COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN****TABLE OF CONTENTS****CHAPTER 4000****INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNITS (IRMU)**

At this point in time, Sawyer County has not developed Resource Management Units, but the Forestry Committee may direct the development of this Chapter during the period 2006-2015. The following information may serve as a template.

IRMU UNIT AND NUMBER Little Frog Unit 10
UNIT INVENTORY

1. **Compartments:** # 60, 89, 91
County Forest Acreage: 5,037

2. **Predominant Forest Cover Types**

TYPE	EXISTING ACRES	EXISTING %	FUTURE SCHEDULED ACRES	FUTURE %
Aspen	1929	38.3	1788	35.5
Hardwood, Northern	1521	30.2	1662	33.0
Brush, lowland	493	9.8	493	9.8
Hardwood, swamp	269	5.3	277	5.5
Non-commercial	261	5.2	261	5.2
Oak	254	5.0	254	5.0
Spruce, black	201	4.0	201	4.0
Conifer, swamp	41	.8	33	.6
Tamarack	13	.3	13	.3
Fir / spruce	9	.2	9	.2
Grass	7	.1	7	.1
Total	5037	100.0	5037	100.0

3. **Landforms, Geology, Soils**

The landform within this unit is primarily a disintegration moraine. Soils within this complex are made up of sandy and loamy till and loamy soils over outwash on a disintegration moraine. The primary habitat types are AVDe and AA.

4. Land Type Association (LTA)

This unit is associated with several LTA's. They are as follows:

Hayward Moraines (212Jc11): The characteristic landform pattern is rolling, collapsed moraine with swamps common. Soils are predominantly well-drained sandy loam over acid loamy sand till or outwash. Common habitat types include forested lowland, PMV/Pam, and ATM/AAt.

Frog Creek Moraines (212Jc12): The characteristic landform pattern is rolling collapsed moraine with loam over acid loamy sand till. Common habitat types include hydromesic, forested lowland, and AViO.

Smokey Hill Basalt Ridge (212Jc13): The characteristic landform pattern is hilly, bedrock-controlled moraine. Soils are predominantly well-drained sandy loam over acid loamy sand till or igneous/metamorphic bedrock. Common habitat types include ATM, forested lowland, AVVb, and hydromesic.

5. Surface Water Resources 49 acres lakes; 0 acre streams 49 acres; 1.0% of total unit

There are two named lakes within this unit called Rainy Lake and Fish Lake, along with four unnamed lakes.

Fish Lake is an acid bog lake with dark brown water. It's landlocked and is connected to a small, unnamed lake to the east. The fishery is made up of small northern pike and bluegills, with winterkill conditions occurring periodically. The wetlands near the lake provide nesting for puddle ducks. Furbearer use is insignificant due to the bog tamarack lakeshore association. Access is by an unimproved road and walking trail.

Rainy Lake is a softwater seepage lake. It is also landlocked and subject to winterkill conditions. Its present population is limited to panfish and minnows. Hilly uplands and hardwoods surround the lake, except for the fringe of grasses and bulrushes growing along the immediate shoreline. A few puddle ducks nest around the lake and furbearer use is minor.

Both of these lakes have no private ownership and lakeshore development is nonexistent.

Little Frog Creek is a small, low gradient, lightly-stained warm water drainage stream that heads at the outlet of Taylor Lake and flows northeasterly. Along its course, it picks up water from two unnamed tributary streams. Although the stream is not classed a trout water, occasional brook and brown trout may be found in it. Because of the streams small size, wildlife values are limited. However, as beaver activity increases, nesting activity increases with the associated beaver ponds.

Sink Creek is a small, darkly stained warm water drainage stream that flows mainly west in to Little Frog Creek. This stream flows through a number of hardwood swamps and open marshes. Bottom conditions are unstable, consisting of sand and silt mixed with a

little gravel. The only fish production within this stream is limited to minnows of relatively small size. Wildlife values are limited except where beaver activity creates small flowages.

6. *Recreational Uses*

This area is used primarily for hunting, trapping, and hiking, and provides for a backcountry-hunting atmosphere, as access is limited. (Blue zone)

There are two state-funded snowmobile trails that go through this unit, one that goes north to Douglas County, and another east which links Washburn with Sawyer County.

There is presently one cabin permit located within this unit located south of Fish Lake.

There is also a designated rifle range located in section 31.

Highway "77" is an "A" aesthetic zone and is the north boundary of this unit. It is often traveled in the fall to view the fall colors associated with the hardwood species.

7. *Historical, Cultural, Archeological Sites*

Presently, there are no known historical, cultural, or archeological sites located within this unit.

8. *Surrounding Land Use*

Surrounding land use is primarily county forest. Management objectives provide for multiple use concepts of the land, which include timber, recreation, wildlife, and water quality.

9. *Protection Needs*

Access is relatively limited within this unit and provides potential for wolf management.

Most timber harvesting in this unit should be restricted to winter harvest only, to reduce rutting of heavy soils.

10. *Special Use and Management Zones*

Highway "77" is categorized as an "A" aesthetic zone.

Fish and Rainy Lakes are categorized as "B" aesthetic zones.

Management has been tailored to provide for safety around the rifle range in section 31.

This area is designated a blue zone, which is moderately restrictive to motor vehicle traffic. This designation protects the resources, safety, investment, and the primitive nature of the forest.

11. Access, Roads, Firelanes, Trails

Two snowmobile trails traverse this unit. These are authorized trails and access is limited to snowmobiles and ATV's from December 1 to March 31.

12. Land Capabilities (Land Type Association Habitat Classification Types)

The habitat types associated with this unit are primarily AVDe and AA.

The AVDe habitat type is dominated by dry mesic sandy loams and loamy sands which have a medium nutrient status. This type is suitable for even-aged management for most early successional species, for fiber, wildlife, or other purposes. White pine potential is good along with red oak. Sugar maple also appears on these sites, in particular on the high AVDe, along with basswood and ironwood. However, they do not grow as well as on the AA habitats. This habitat offers excellent opportunities for enhancement of vegetation, structure, and diversity. Presumed climax within this habitat includes sugar maple with a component of red maple, red oak, basswood, and white ash. It is not certain whether this habitat type meets the site requirements for successful dominance of sugar maple. No stand has been located within the county that has been dominated by sugar maple within this habitat type. Its dominance is postulated only on the basis of its superior tolerance. Common forest types associated with this habitat include aspen or white birch, aspen-red oak, aspen-pines (red and white), red oak, red oak with white oak, red maple and basswood, white and red pine.

The AA habitat types are dominated by dry mesic to mesic silt loams, loams and sandy loams with a high to medium nutrient status. These sites have a high enough nutrient status that can provide for sugar maple dominance in most current stands. Along with sugar maple, red oak can be present and responds well where canopy opening occur. Presumed climax overstory is sugar maple, basswood, white oak, as, red maple, and red oak. Common forest types include aspen and white birch, aspen-red oak, red oak-white oak, red oak-basswood, sugar maple-red oak, sugar maple-red oak-basswood-ash, white pine.

13. Landscape Management Potential

This unit is a very diverse area in terms of landscape management potential. The types associated here support the highest number of tree species and therefore, the most diverse mixtures of forest types. Growth rates vary for hardwoods from fair to good on the AA sites to poor to medium on the AVDe sites.

It appears some of the best options for oak management are located on the high AVDe and low AA types.

Management associated with the AVDe sites should consider even-aged management versus all-aged management on AA habitats

Management decisions within this area will be heavily influenced by the composition and condition of present stands. The area may be best managed for timber production, along with considerations for wildlife and biodiversity concerns.

14. *Management opportunities*

Maintenance of oak could be a relatively high objective as most of the stands are shifting into the sugar maple seral stage.

Aspen management should also be considered a high priority. The aspen successional stage appears to be unstable with a lack of major disturbances and a species that can be lost relatively easily from these habitat types

White pine and butternut, where found, should be managed on a micro-site basis, maintained and encouraged.

Consider the establishment of osprey platforms associated with Rainy and Fish Lakes.

Presently, there are some relatively large aspen clearcut units that have been cut in the past within sections 27 and 28. Consider managing these units in a large acreage scale for biodiversity needs. Review the unit for potential extended rotation in the aspen type.

The area is heavily used by wood ducks. Consider the establishment of additional wood duck houses.

Potential timber wolf management.