FOREST COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2012

The following is the complete Forest County Forestry Department Annual Work Plan for 2012. The plan functions as a planning and guidance tool to identify proposed projects, allocate workloads, prepare annual budgets and fulfill the County Forest Administrator Grant requirement for the Department of Natural Resources. Information has been obtained utilizing information provided in the current Fifteen Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the County's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and Annual County/DNR Partnership Meeting while taking into consideration current management needs of the County Forest and various recreation programs. The Forest County Forest is the 3rd smallest County Forest in the state comprising 11,615.41 acres.

TIMBER HARVEST

We propose to continue our existing timber management program with our goal of producing sustained yield of forest products to achieve our annual allowable cut while taking into consideration various aspects which may impact or alter management such as wildlife needs, water shed protection, air quality, recreation, aesthetics and well as many other non-commercial values. We will continue management of contracted timber sales in all phases from establishment, administration through sale closure. These sales comprise approximately 373 acres.

In 2012 Forest County plans to offer for sale 6 timber sales totaling approximately 373 acres comprised of the following timber types:

Northern Hardwood	301 Acres
Aspen	69 Acres
Red Pine	3

All timber sales will be administered and field scaled by Forestry Department staff. Timber sales will be inspected after scaling and/or weekly while sales are active and documented on sale inspection forms. All final timber sale inspections will be performed jointly with DNR staff with appropriate reconnaissance updates. Forest County will cooperate and provide assistance, personal and equipment when possible for DNR fire prevention and suppression efforts.

Specific information regarding the current status of the timber sale activities may be obtained by contacting the Forest County Forestry Department, Courthouse, Crandon, WI. 54520, Phone (715) 478-3475.

OTHER FOREST USES

The Forestry Department will issue on an ongoing basis bough cutting permits to accommodate utilization of Balsam Fir boughs (@ $20/Ton). Firewood permits will also be issued @ $10/permit) on an ongoing basis to utilize dead and fallen trees for firewood. Fees will be charged for both permits and areas will be established in advance for usage.

The Forestry Department will issue permits on an ongoing basis to eligible Chippewa Tribal members to exercise their legal gathering rights to harvest lodge poles, bark, firewood, sap and boughs on County Forest lands. Forest County has received several inquiries in the past years to exercise gathering rights, but to date, have had no formal requests to issue permits.

The Forestry Department in conjunction with the Crandon DNR Ranger Station will coordinate, schedule and provide a rental service of a county owned tree planter for use by area residents. The planter must be scheduled in advance and a rental fee of $10.00/1000 trees is charged for usage, minimum charge $20.00.

The Forestry Department issues access permits, upon committee approval, to provide access across county property to private landowners.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

The Forestry Department maintains over 40 miles of roads on the County Forest for forestry access as well as wildlife habitat and food.

Forest County has seven areas throughout the county forest with hunter-walking trails (maps available in the Forestry office). These roads are seeded with Dutch White Clover and mowed annually. The roads provide access for timber sales, fire control and serve as habitat for Ruffed Grouse, Deer and many non-game species.

One seasonal employee is hired annually to mow and maintain the trails from approximately August 1st through September 15th. County Fish and Game monies are used to offset costs of mowing (app. $2,500/year). The County Fish and Game Program is a 50% cost sharing program with the Department of Natural Resources.

The Forestry Department owns a New Holland tractor with a Bush Hog mower to perform the work. The purpose of mowing is to reduce unwanted competition from undesirable weed and shrub species that would quickly invade and take over these sites in a few years.

These roads and trails are also gated and bermed with earth berms to prevent motor vehicle traffic that would destroy the road system and clover in wet weather.

These trails provide a variety of recreational opportunities including hunting, sight seeing, hiking, biking, horse backing riding, berry picking etc.

RECREATION

The Forestry Department will operate and maintain one County Park, Veteran's Memorial Park on Lake Metonga. The park has 65 campsites available May 1 - September 30 annually with an operating budget of approximately $70,000.00 with expected revenues of $89,000.00 annually.

Forest County administers 405.79 miles of snowmobile trails Countywide. The Forestry

Department will apply for funding, administer and disperse a minimum of $101,447.50 of funding for snowmobile trail maintenance. Supplemental snowmobile trail funding is also applied for up to a maximum of $202,895.00 per year depending on the length of the snowmobile season and amount of work completed by the snowmobile clubs. All trail maintenance will be contracted to six snowmobile clubs.

Forest County maintains fifty-four miles of Public ATV Trails. The ATV trails include the Nicolet State Trail, 32 miles, located in eastern Forest County, and an 8-mile loop that is located on County Forest Land off of County Highway W and 14.4 miles of the Wolf River State Trail located between the City of Crandon and the Forest/Langlade County line. Forest County receives $29,920.00 annually to maintain signs, remove brush, mow and groom the trail as necessary to maintain a safe enjoyable trail system.

The Forestry Department also maintains one boat landing on Lake Metonga at Veteran's Memorial Park.

Forest County maintains two cross-country ski trails. Otter Springs Trail is located 3 miles East of Crandon on U.S. Highway 8 and Otter Creek Road. This trail is eight miles in length winding through a northern hardwood forest and includes a parking area, shelter and signed trail. The Hemlock Lake Trail is located 5 miles South of Crandon on County Highway "W" and Hemlock Lake Road. This trail is 3 miles in length winding through a northern hardwood forest and red pine plantation and includes a parking area.

The Forestry Department will begin to contract survey work to perpetuate monuments and establish boundary lines on the county forest utilizing funding from project loan money and State Forestry Aid account.

The Forest County Forestry Department Annual Work Plan 2012 was prepared by David Ziolkowski, County Forest Administrator and was approved and adopted at the December 13, 2011 Forestry Committee meeting.

_____

Don LeMaster
Forestry Committee Chairman