**Week 13- Rollout of “Visit the Forest of Wisconsin” and “Drive the Forest of Wisconsin”**

**Project**

**Conservation Corner**

***Conservation Corner is a regular article produced by the Forest County Land &Water Conservation Department. For more information contact Al Murray, Land&Water Resources Technician at 715-478-1387 or by e-mail at*** ***lcc@co.forest.wi.us******.***

The Land Conservation Department has been working on some different projects to showcase our wonderful natural resources. Many of our residents take many things for granted, because we live here. We need to recognize that our forest is managed better than most forests in the world. Our water quality and wilderness areas that are unlike most of Wisconsin. Our hunting and fishing are unsurpassed. Our resources are a tribute to our past and present residents who actively managed our natural resources and do without many modern day luxuries to maintain our rural character and the beauty of our County.

Forest County is truly “The Forest of Wisconsin” with approximately 685,933 acres of forest lands, 850+ miles of streams, and 824 lakes for our enjoyment.  If you are interested in the outdoors, Forest County is the place to be. Our wonderful natural resources provide thousands of acres of opportunity for sightseeing, hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, ATVing, and snowmobiling. Much of our land area is accessible by roads and water routes. Many roads are unpaved and somewhat unmarked.

If you haven’t checked out the Forest County Website lately, we invite you to check out some of the changes. In particular click on the **“Visit the Forest of Wisconsin”** tab on the left side. This site was created to provide visitors maps and resources to help them enjoy what we have to offer. Within that tab there are currently two options which include “Drive the Forest of Wisconsin” and “Paddle the Forest of Wisconsin”. These two tabs include maps and google map links for people to utilize.

Just in time for the fall colors, within the **“Drive the Forest of Wisconsin”** tab there are 32 separate scenic drives with routes beginning at Crandon, Laona, Wabeno, Mole Lake, Argonne, Hiles, Armstrong Creek, Newald, Popple River, and Alvin. The tab includes Google Maps Links and also printable maps with directions that bring people in a loop back to the starting point.

Most drives were designed to be 25-45 miles with the longest drive taking just over an hour. Businesses should note that the drives were not designed to benefit individual businesses, they were designed to take visitors past businesses and through towns. The Land Conservation Department welcomes people and businesses to print these maps and utilize them for tours of our wonderful fall colors that are just beginning to appear. We also welcome visitors to stop at our local businesses and tell them that you are “Driving the Forest of Wisconsin”. If you have any comments or would like to contribute photos of your visit please e-mail to the above.

For more information, please type **“Visit the Forest of Wisconsin”** or **“Drive the Forest of Wisconsin”** into any web search engine or give us a call.