**Week 24- Land Information**

**Conservation Corner**

***Conservation Corner is a weekly article produced by the Forest County Land Conservation-Land Information Department. For more information contact Al Murray, County Conservationist-Land Information/GIS Director at 715-478-1387 or by e-mail at*** ***lcc@co.forest.wi.us******.***

Hello to our readers again, I must apologize for the lack of an article in the last two weeks! It has been very busy in this office with deadlines that must be met.

Some of the primary items that have deadlines include drafting of a response letter to the USFS regarding comments on proposed actions for recreational sites in the National Forest. **Comments are due to the USFS by December 15th.** This office has been working with the County Intergovernmental Relations Committee to provide an official response from the County pertaining to changes proposed. Don’t forget to go on the USFS website and make your voice heard also!

Also keeping us busy is the relatively new expansion of this office to include the Land Information Department.

I bet you are asking, what is the “Land Information Department”?

Land information comes in many forms and from many sources. Data such as property ownership, property boundaries, road locations, voting districts, alderman districts, lake districts, public service areas, rescue response areas, police response areas, fire response areas, natural resources such as lakes, forests, and wildlife habitat are all forms of land information.

Land information is central to county operations, as many essential services rely on accurate and up-to-date geospatial data and land records. A countywide land information system supports economic development, emergency planning and response, and a host of other citizen services. The Forest County land information system integrates and enables efficient access to information that describes the physical characteristics of land, as well as the property boundaries and rights attributable to landowners. Land information is maintained in county files and now in the Geographic Information System (GIS). GIS allows maps to be made and for data to be drawn from the database to allow that information to be used in decision making. This is the basic description of land information and the duties of the land information department.

Thank you to the readers who provide me feedback on these articles. Time willing, they will continue. Merry Christmas to you and your family.