

VILAS COUNTY FORESTRY PLAN, PURSUANT TO §28.11, WIS. STATS.

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100 **MISSION STATEMENT**

Natural resources, such as those provided by the County Forest, are the base for addressing the ecological and socioeconomic needs of society. The mission of the County Forest is to manage, conserve, and protect these resources on a sustainable basis for present and future generations.

County Forest resources should be protected from natural catastrophes such as fire, insect and disease outbreaks, and from human threats such as encroachment, over-utilization, environmental degradation and excessive development. While managed for environmental needs including watershed protection, protection of rare plant and animal communities, and maintenance of plant and animal diversity, these same resources must also be managed and provide for sociological needs, including provisions for recreational opportunities and the production of raw materials for wood-using industries.

Management must balance local needs with broader state, national and global concerns through integration of sound forestry, wildlife, fisheries, endangered resources, water quality, soil, and recreational practices. Management will provide this variety of products and amenities for the future through the use of sustainable forest management practices.

105 **GOAL OF THE VILAS COUNTY FORESTRY PLAN PURSUANT TO §28.11, WIS. STATS.** (Hereinafter referred to as the ‘Plan’)

In this ‘Plan’ the term ‘Vilas County Forestry Plan’ refers exclusively to §28.11, Wis. Stats. and specifically how it is defined therein.

To administer the County Forest program in a manner consistent with the Mission Statement, with consideration to recommendations from interested citizens’ groups and consistent with the purpose of the County Forest Law stated in Chapter 28.11, Wisconsin Statutes, as follows ‘...To provide the basis for a permanent program of county forests and to enable and encourage the planned development and management of the county

94 forests for optimum production of forest products, together with recreational
95 opportunities, wildlife, watershed protection, and stabilization of stream flow, giving full
96 recognition to the concept of multiple use to assure maximum public benefits; to protect
97 the public rights, interests, and investments in such lands; to compensate the counties for
98 the public uses, benefits, and privileges these lands provide; all in a manner which will
99 provide a reasonable revenue to the towns in which such lands lie.’

100

101 **110 CHAPTER 100 OBJECTIVE**

102 1. To recognize the authority of the County and State in the administration and
103 development of operating policies on the Vilas County Forest.

104 2. To provide the reader of the plan with background information regarding the
105 county forest.

106

107 **115 STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

108 Wisconsin Statutes Chapters 28.10 and 28.11 set up three levels of government as being
109 administratively and financially involved with this program: state, counties, and towns.

110 Essentially, state participation is in contributions to financing and managing. Counties
111 provide the land, determine local policy, provide financing and management, and govern
112 all fiscal affairs through the Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee of the County
113 Board of Supervisors and the County Forest Administrator. Towns having county forest
114 lands receive an annual payment from the county totaling 10% of gross timber sales
115 revenue based on the acreage of each town. At present, the same towns receive from the
116 state 30 cents per acre per year in lieu of taxes.

117

118 **120 COUNTY AUTHORITY**

119 The Vilas County Forestry Plan pursuant to §28.11, Wis.Stats. and the current Forestry
120 Ordinance adopted by the Vilas County Board on January 29, 2002 gives authorization to
121 the Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee and other proper authorities of the Vilas
122 County Board to enforce the regulations governing the use of the Vilas County Forest.

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120.1 ORDINANCES

The county ordinances that apply to the administration and management of Vilas County Forest can be found in Chapter 900-8.

125 HISTORY

125.1 STATEWIDE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

In 1927, the State Legislature passed the Forest Crop Law, authorizing counties to create county forests. An opinion of the Attorney General with reference to the Forest Crop Law stated that the counties would be exempt from the owner's share of annual tax. The Legislature of 1929 specifically provided that counties were exempt from paying the 'acreage share' required of private landowners. The Legislature of 1931 amended the County Forest Reserve Law of 1929. It provided for the payment of County Forest aid of ten cents per acre annually on all land within county forests entered under the Forest Crop Law. Counties were required to spend this money solely for the development of the county forest. In return for this aid, the state originally collected a seventy-five percent severance tax on the products cut on county forests. This was reduced to fifty percent in 1937 and then to twenty percent of gross sales in 1963.

In 1963, several major revisions were made to the County Forest Law. The most notable change was the creation of a permanent program of forests that would be managed in accordance with a 10 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan developed by the county, with the assistance of the Department of Natural Resources. The severance tax on harvested forest products still remains at 20% of the stumpage value, although no severance tax is collected if counties do not have a loan balance. A number of grants, loans and shared revenue payments are currently available to counties to help offset any losses in taxes due to public ownership. The acreage share payment to towns is currently 30¢/acre. In addition, towns with county forest land receive a minimum of 10% of the stumpage revenue from their respective County Forest each year. Stumpage revenues exceed \$18,000,000 annually.

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Twenty-nine counties in Wisconsin now own approximately two and one-third million acres entered under the County Forest Law.

125.2 VILAS COUNTY FOREST PROGRAM HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

At one time, much of Wisconsin was covered with magnificent stands of pine, hemlock, and hardwoods on the highlands, and cedar, spruce, and balsam on its lowlands. From 1860 to about 1910, these forests provided raw material for a thriving lumber industry. The need to supply lumber for a growing nation, and the lack of sound forest management, resulted in over harvest of the forests and degradation of the landscape. Immigrants rushed to these newly cleared lands, hungry for a place to farm and build their lives. But in just a few years, the soils gave out, catastrophic fires occurred, and many people were forced to seek their fortunes elsewhere. The land was left exhausted and tax delinquent. The Wisconsin County Forest program originated with the taking of these tax delinquent lands.

Vilas County officially entered lands under the County Forest Reserve Law on March 18, 1933 with the first aid payment being received in January 1935. The first Vilas County Forestry Ordinance was adopted on August 26, 1936. Starting in 1940, county appropriations to the forestry accounts from the general fund were started on an irregular basis, depending on needs. From 1950 on, monies were appropriated each year. Vilas County operated from 1936 until 1952 with no administrator. Management of the county land was handled through the Extension Department in cooperation with the Agriculture and Forestry Committee. In 1952, a full-time administrator was hired, A. Richard Guth. By this time, the committee name was changed to Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee, and the Agriculture Committee was separated. A. Richard Guth was Forest Administrator until 1957 and was followed by Anthony Mutter who was Administrator until 1965. Walter Mayo was Forest Administrator from 1965 through 1979. From 1979 through 1993 Thomas Fegers, Jr. acted as Forest Administrator and was followed by Lawrence L. Stevens. The Forest Administrator is directly responsible to the Forestry,

184 Recreation, & Land Committee. His responsibilities and duties are covered in Section
185 205.1.2.

186
187 Vilas County's early history is little known. The first trading post was established in
188 1818. At this time, there were a few settlements of Chippewa Indians. In 1856 land was
189 acquired from the General Land Offices for the harvest of timber, but it was 25 years
190 later when harvesting of the pinery began. The exploitation of the forests started in the
191 1880's when railroads entered the area. Large sawmills were built at Arbor Vitae,
192 Winegar (Presque Isle), Eagle River, Conover, Phelps, and Winchester. Some of these
193 mills and harvesting operations employed over 100 men each. By 1920, most of the
194 choice timber was cut and the mills closed.

195
196 After the land was cut, it was cleared and converted to farm land, and an auxiliary
197 summer resort industry was established. Farms grew rapidly after the timber was gone,
198 with dairying becoming the most important; but farming never became extensive, due to
199 the short growing season. By 1935, there were 673 farms and 52,279 acres in farmland.
200 Since 1935, farms have steadily declined to 7,500 acres in 1982 with the last dairy farm
201 going out of business in 1978. Major crops were hay, oats, potatoes, and corn. Today,
202 farming is less important in Vilas County than in any other county in the state with 70%
203 of the land in forest cover.

204 205 125.3 WISCONSIN COUNTY FORESTS ASSOCIATION

206 Vilas County is a member of the Wisconsin County Forests Association, Inc. (WCFA).
207 This Association was incorporated on May 15, 1968 under Chapter 181 of the Wisconsin
208 Statutes, without stock and not for profit. The WCFA Board of Directors is composed of
209 ten delegates elected from the County Forestry Committees who are members of the
210 Association. This corporation provides a forum for consideration of issues and policy
211 that are common to all of the County committees responsible for their respective County
212 Forest programs, including those programs encompassed under §28.11 and Chapter 77,
213 Wis. Stats. WCFA also provides leadership and counsel to County Forest administrators

214 and forestry committees through regular meetings and active committees on legislative
215 and recreational issues.

216

217 **130 DESCRIPTION OF THE FOREST**

218 130.1 NATURAL FEATURES

219 130.1.1 Topography and Climate

220 Vilas County lies in the Northern Highland physiographic region of Wisconsin. The
221 topography of the county is a result of glacial activity. The part of the glacier that
222 covered Vilas County included the Langlade Lobe in the northeast part of the County, the
223 Ontonagon Lobe in the north and northeast, and the Wisconsin Valley Lobe in the central
224 and west part of the County. When the glaciers retreated for the last time, the formerly
225 uneven rocky terrain was transformed into a diverse landscape. Vilas County's diverse
226 landscape ranges from a broad, nearly level glacial outwash plain to rough, broken
227 glacial moraines and areas of pitted outwash. Vilas County has three distinct
228 physiographic areas: the drumlins and ground moraines in the eastern part of the county,
229 the Winegar Moraine region which extends across the northwest, and the third region is
230 that part which lies outside the two moraine areas, and is an outwash plain. The drumlins
231 and ground moraines are characterized by low, smoothly rounded, elongated, and oval
232 ridges nearly level to moderately steep and are interspersed with long, narrow
233 drainageways. The Winegar moraine is mostly undulating to steep. It is characterized by
234 short steep slopes and ridges. There are numerous wet depressions with no outlets. The
235 outwash plain is pitted, resulting in rolling hills with many enclosed basins and
236 depressions. There are large sand flats scattered throughout Eagle River, Conover, St.
237 Germain, Manitowish Waters, and Boulder Junction. Some of these flats are
238 characterized by low relief, and some are pitted. The outwash also has some end
239 moraines and drumlins scattered throughout. Vilas County was a calving ground for
240 icebergs breaking off the retreating edge of the glacier. The ice blocks became buried in
241 the drift and upon melting, formed deep pits or kettles. Although relief is low, Vilas
242 County has some of the highest elevations in the state, ranging from 1,560 feet above sea
243 level to 1,845 feet above sea level. Vilas County is the source of several major river

244 systems. The Wisconsin River and its tributaries originate in Vilas County, and drain
245 40% of the county. The Bear, Manitowish, and Turtle Rivers, along with Squaw Creek,
246 also draining about 40% of Vilas County, drain into and form the Flambeau River, which
247 subsequently drains into the Mississippi River. The Presque Isle River and Tenderfoot
248 Creek drain into Lake Superior. The Brule, Elvoy, and Kentuck Rivers drain into the
249 Brule and Menomonee Rivers, and finally into Lake Michigan. The county has an
250 abundance of lakes (1,321 natural lakes) of glacial origin. Many of these lakes have no
251 outlets. Swamps and marshes are equally abundant. Some are filled lakes, while others
252 are the result of poor drainage. Powell Marsh is one of these; it is 18 square miles near
253 Manitowish Waters, and serves as a Wisconsin DNR waterfowl refuge, and also supports
254 a cranberry industry. These swamps and marshes are natural reservoirs which regulate
255 water levels and control spring flooding.

256
257 Vilas County experiences very cold winters and short and fairly warm summers. The
258 average winter temperature is 13 degrees F., with an average daily minimum temperature
259 of 3 degrees F. The average summer temperature is 64 degrees F. with an average daily
260 maximum temperature of 75 degrees F. Annual precipitation is 34". The month of
261 February has the lowest rainfall of .97". August has the highest average rainfall of 5.21".
262 About 25" or 70% of the yearly rainfall comes between the months of April to
263 September. The yearly average snowfall is 85". There is yearly an average of 87 days
264 with at least 1" of snow cover. The sun shines 60% of the time in summer and 80% of
265 the time in winter. The prevailing wind is from the west or northwest with spring having
266 the highest average wind speed of 13 mph. Relative humidity averages 60% in mid-
267 afternoon and higher during the night. There is usually a short freeze period in summer
268 which is a limiting factor in raising crops.

269 270 130.1.2 Geology and Soils

271 Most of the soils in Vilas County formed in glacial material. Some formed in organic
272 material. Soils associated with the end moraine in the northwestern part of the county
273 formed in fine sandy loam and sandy loam glacial drift. Topography is undulating to

274 steep. Nearly level to moderately steep silt loam and fine sandy loam soils are associated
275 with the drumlin and ground moraine area in the eastern part of the county. The Gogebic
276 soils occur in the Winegar Moraines. The Champion Soil Series are associated with the
277 drumlins. These two areas respectively are characterized as having a dense, firm layer in
278 the subsoil called a fragipan. This fragipan causes trees to be shallow rooted, and
279 windthrow of trees is a hazard on these soils. Soils in the central part of the county
280 formed mostly in sand or stratified sand and gravel glacial outwash. Some of these soils
281 have a 10" to 40" loamy layer overlying the sand or gravel. These soils, the Padus and
282 Pence series, support some of the better stands of hardwoods in this area. The sandy and
283 loamy sand soils, mostly the Rubicon and Sayner series, characterize the conditions that
284 exist on much of the county forest. Slopes on these soils range from nearly level to very
285 steep. These soils are too droughty for general agriculture use, but support stands of Pine
286 and Aspen. Organic soils are extensive in the county, but the percentage is relatively low
287 in the area of the county forest. Because of their sandy and droughty nature, most of the
288 soils on the county forest are of relatively low agricultural value. However, they will
289 respond well to liberal applications of lime, commercial fertilizers, and irrigation, as
290 evidenced by high yields of some specialty crops, such as potatoes. A generalized soil
291 map is found in Chapter 900. Detailed soil information is found in Soil Survey For Vilas
292 County, Wisconsin produced by the USDA Soil Conservation Service.

293

294 130.1.3 Geography

295 Vilas County is approximately 652,067 acres in size with 555,374 acres of land and
296 96,693 acres of water in lakes and streams. The Vilas County Forest contains 40,860.39
297 acres, 6% of the area of the county.

298

299 130.1.4 Biological Communities

300 Wisconsin's county forests are part of a larger landscape and are managed not as sole
301 entities but as part of a larger ecoregion. The National Hierarchical Framework of
302 Ecological Units (NHFEU) categorizes Wisconsin into two provinces, the Laurentian
303 Mixed Forest (212) forming the northern half of the State and the Eastern Broadleaf

304 Forest (222). Within each province are sections, subsections and landtype associations
305 that further group land into areas with similar geology, soil types, surface water features,
306 wetlands and historic and potential plant communities. The Vilas County Forest is
307 encompassed within the Laurentian Mixed Forest province and the Northern Highland
308 Pitted Outwash Subsection. On the Vilas County Forest Landtype Associations (LTA's)
309 within the subsections include: Vilas-Oneida Sandy Hills, Vilas-Oneida Outwash Plains,
310 and Vilas-Oneida Loamy Hills. LTA's, having common ecological characteristics, allow
311 land managers to better plan for future vegetative communities, wildlife species to
312 feature, and compatible recreation uses.

313
314 A biological community is an assemblage of different plant and animal species, living
315 together in a particular area, at a particular time in specific habitats. Communities are
316 named for their dominant plant species. The following biological communities are found
317 on the Vilas County Forest:

318 *Northern Forest: Contains mixed deciduous and coniferous forests found in a distinct*
319 *climatic zone that occurs north of the tension zone.*

320 *Grasslands: Characterized by the absence of trees and large shrubs and the dominance*
321 *of grass and forb species.*

322 *Wetlands: Characterized by soils or substrate which are periodically saturated or*
323 *covered by water.*

324 *Aquatic Communities: Includes springs, ponds, lakes, streams, and rivers.*

325

326 130.1.5 Vegetative Cover Types

327 Approximately 89% of the Vilas County Forest land base is forested. Approximately
328 55% of the commercial forestland is comprised of deciduous tree species with coniferous
329 species occupying about 41%. The remainder is primarily an open landscape comprised
330 of wetland, lowland shrubs, upland shrubs, bogs, lakes, streams, grassy openings, roads,
331 rock outcroppings, and utility right-of-ways. The forest, which may include endangered
332 and threatened plants, is 40,860.39 acres in size, with 14 forest cover types comprising
333 the commercial forest. The Aspen type presently comprises approximately 43% of the

334 total commercial forest acreage. Chapter 900 contains details of the present forest cover
335 type acreage. The great majority of the forest is located in the eastern 1/2 of the county.
336 The forest is comprised of scattered tracts and blocks which are located west and north of
337 Eagle River to just south of Land O'Lakes. Chapter 900 contains a map showing the
338 location of the county forest.

339
340 The long-term management goal for the Vilas County Forest is ecosystem conservation
341 to supply sustainable forest resources. This is accomplished by working within the
342 biological potential of forest communities by enhancing the dynamics of the forest
343 through management activities. This will ultimately result in a representation of diverse
344 forest communities across the landscape. The acreage of communities will change over
345 time, reflecting their biological potential. Theoretically, for example, bringing the Aspen
346 community type to a regulated age-class distribution would result in a harvest of
347 approximately 300 acres per year. However, it must be recognized that opportunities will
348 arise within a forest community that will allow managed change from one community
349 type to another, primarily influenced by the biologic potential of the site.

350
351 **130.1.6 Wildlife**

352 The Vilas County Forest is habitat for wildlife common to northern Wisconsin. No
353 formal survey has been conducted to identify or inventory the fauna occurring on the
354 forest.

355
356 Numerous species of songbirds, waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, reptiles, amphibians, fish
357 and mammals frequent the forest. Each species, or interacting group of species, do best
358 under different conditions, ranging from recently disturbed ground to old growth. A
359 diversity of plant communities is key to providing a niche for a variety of wildlife
360 species. For example, two very popular wildlife species in the county are white-tailed
361 deer and the ruffed grouse. The Aspen forest type is recognized as key habitat for these
362 species and is important in maintaining biological diversity across North America.

363

364 Permanently sodded, grassy openings within the forest, many originating from old log
365 landings, camps, old farms, or frost pockets are vital components of forest wildlife
366 habitat. An effort is being made to maintain and improve the quality and, in some cases,
367 the quantity of openings.

368

369 130.1.7 Rare and Endangered Resources

370 A review of the National Heritage Inventory (NHI) indicates the presence of a number of
371 rare species, natural communities, and unique natural features on the Vilas County
372 Forest. See Chapter 800 for a listing of threatened and endangered species in the Forest.
373 To protect their continued existence, the County Forestry Department will restrict
374 vehicular access and modify or protect habitat through Forest Management Practices with
375 assistance from DNR Wildlife Managers and the Bureau of Endangered Resources.

376 130.1.8 Water

377 Vilas County has 96,693 acres of water comprised of 1,321 lakes and flowages and 402
378 miles of streams. Some of these are classified as trout streams. Within the County Forest
379 boundaries there is a variety of fishery resources. Approximately 45 named and 28
380 unnamed lakes have all or portions of their shorelines under county ownership. In
381 addition, the county owns frontage on over 11 named trout streams. An inventory of the
382 surface water resources in the Vilas County Forest can be found in Chapter 900,
383 Appendix. Vilas County has 18 streams totaling 59.2 miles, which are classified as
384 Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters. Note: An entire listing of the
385 Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters can be found in Chapter 900 and
386 Wisconsin Admin. Code NR102.10 and 102.11.

387

388 130.2 CULTURAL FACTORS

389 130.2.1 Recreation

390 Forest-based recreation has expanded rapidly in recent years in Vilas County.
391 Recreational opportunities with developed facilities include parks, beaches,
392 campgrounds, boat landings, panfishing piers, picnic areas, canoe campsites, and
393 snowmobile, hunter/hiking, mountain biking, and cross-country ski trails, and a shooting

394 range. The county forest also provides tremendous opportunities for informal
395 recreational pursuits not requiring developments. These include hunting, fishing, berry
396 and mushroom picking, bird watching, hiking, mountain biking, and sight-seeing.

397

398 130.2.2 Economy

399 The county forest plays a major role in the economy of Vilas County, providing
400 employment in the production and manufacture of forest products and spin-off industries
401 in tourism derived from recreational opportunities on the Forest.

402

403 130.2.3 Roads & Access

404 All Vilas County Forest lands are open for public use and for foot travel. In addition, the
405 county forest is served by a network of town, county, state, and federal highways. There
406 is also a system of forest roads and trails which provide at least seasonal access to almost
407 every section of land in the forest. Most of the roads are quite serviceable except for
408 short periods during spring breakup. The County Forest Map found in Chapter 900
409 displays the network of roads and major trails within the County Forest. 47.7 miles of
410 County Forest Roads are maintained by the Forestry, Recreation, & Land Department.

411

412

413 130.2.4 Education and Research

414 Education and research continue to be critical components in making decisions that affect
415 our natural resources. As public needs and demands of our forest and its products
416 increase, we must be prepared to assure that sound decisions result. To this end, Vilas
417 County encourages and supports research efforts that have an impact on the forest.
418 Utilizing its staff, the Forestry Department will continue its education efforts and
419 maintain its working relationship with other agencies such as Trees For Tomorrow to
420 support and provide education opportunities that promote a better understanding of forest
421 communities and management.

422

423 130.2.5 Trends

424 The values and uses of the Vilas County Forest contribute significantly to fulfilling many
425 of society's ecological and socioeconomic needs now and in the future. Changing trends
426 will impact the values and uses of the forest in coming years.

- 427 1. Greater demands are being placed on the forest by people using it to fulfill their
428 recreational pursuits. Because of the special appeal of the northwoods and its
429 lakes, these demands will likely increase.
- 430 2. Demands for timber products are predicted to increase. At the same time, more
431 timberland is being lost to residential development, and forest landowners are
432 decreasingly interested in managing land primarily for timber values. The
433 amount of timber harvested annually from the Vilas County Forest will not
434 increase with the demand, as the forest is managed under the concept of sustained
435 yield forestry.
- 436 3. Wisconsin's forests are naturally changing due to forest succession. Most of the
437 county forest acreage statewide is a result of regeneration or planting from the
438 early to mid 1900's. Mid to late successional northern hardwood forests are
439 replacing the early successional Aspen-Birch, Oak, and Jack Pine forests of the
440 1940's through the 1970's. The Aspen cover type is key habitat for many of the
441 state's premier game species including deer, ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare, and
442 woodcock. A declining harvest and a movement away from even-aged species on
443 Wisconsin's National and State Forests may place the responsibility of
444 maintaining Aspen, Birch, and Jack Pine types on the county forests. The county
445 forest system currently has 51% of the state's public land base and 24% of the
446 Aspen resource.
- 447 4. Conflict over timber management practices will likely continue to increase as
448 more individuals and groups demand greater involvement in forestry decisions.
449 Practices such as clearcutting and even-aged management will continue to be
450 controversial. Efforts to educate the public on the merits of these sound forest
451 management techniques will continue.
- 452 5. Vilas County may experience funding problems as municipalities are being
453 required to provide more services with less money. Potential losses of revenue

454 from decreased shared revenues and resistance to tax increases may make county
455 timber revenues increasingly important to the finances of county governments.
456 This is complicated by increasing public pressure to reduce timber harvests on
457 county forests.

- 458 6. Increasing knowledge about the wider variety of species and their habitat needs is
459 leading to a growing list of threatened and endangered species. This could lead to
460 improvements in managing the forest and mitigating impacts to these species.
461 Mitigating measures have the potential to impede recreational and forest
462 management activities. Refer to Chapter 800 (840) for specifics on this subject.
- 463 7. Invasive exotic species pose an ever-increasing threat to the county forest. Gypsy
464 moth, Asian long-horned beetle, garlic mustard, buckthorn, and honeysuckle have
465 all gained a foothold in Wisconsin's forests. Refer to Chapter 800 (830.4) for
466 specifics on this subject.
- 467 8. The forest is considered to be an outdoor classroom serving all age groups. It
468 consists of diverse communities with a large variety of plant and animal life,
469 giving ample opportunity for study and observation.

470

471

472 130.3 COUNTY FOREST OWNERSHIP

473 The County Forest is divided into 40 management compartments ranging in size from
474 308 acres to 1,725 acres. Compartments are further divided into forest stands of trees of
475 similar species and habitat types to aid in making management decisions. Within the
476 county forest boundary (approximately 132 square miles) about 35% of the land is county
477 owned with most of the remaining 65% in small private holdings. A map of these
478 compartments can be found in Chapter 900.

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VILAS COUNTY FORESTRY PLAN, PURSUANT TO §28.11, WIS. STATS.

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61	200	GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	
62		<u>Objectives</u>	

- 63 1. To comply with and implement the provisions of the County Forestry Ordinance.
- 64 2. To administer and manage the County Forest in accordance with §28.11, Wis. Stats.
- 65 3. To cooperate with the Department of Natural Resources and other agencies and
66 organizations in the interest of furthering the optimum management of the forest on a
67 sustainable basis.
- 68 4. To provide adequate financial support for the program by using county designated
69 revenues and appropriations, along with funds available from federal and state
70 sources.
- 71 5. To maintain an adequate system of accounts, records and reports for the orderly
72 administration of the forest and to provide the basis of evaluation of program needs
73 and implementation.
- 74 6. To facilitate the administration of the forest by authorizing personnel, equipment and
75 facilities necessary to assist the Committee and the Administrator in carrying out
76 their duties.

77

78 **205 ROLES**

79 The County and the Department of Natural Resources have a mutual interest in
80 administration of the County Forest. It shall be the policy of the County Board through the
81 Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee to cooperate to the fullest extent with county and
82 state personnel in carrying out the program on the county forest and to perpetuate the
83 State/County partnership through the administration of the county forest. The County/State
84 roles are further defined in the Public Forest Lands handbook, 2460.5.

85

86 **205.1 COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

87 The Vilas County Forestry Ordinance adopted 29 January 2002 prescribes rules and
88 regulations for the administration of county powers and duties as provided in Chapter 26, 27,
89 28, 29 and 59 of the Wisconsin Statutes, under which the Vilas County Board of Supervisors
90 is granted specific powers relative to the establishment, development, management and
91 protection of the county forest to provide for the sustained yield of forest products for
92 commercial use and the associated benefits of soil and water conservation, scenic and
93 recreational values, and fish and wildlife resources; all in cooperation with the Wisconsin

94 Department of Natural Resources.

95

96 205.1.1 Forestry Committee

97 The Board of Supervisors assigns the administration of the County Forest to the Forestry,
98 Recreation, & Land Committee as detailed below and under ‘The Duties of Vilas County
99 Committees’ in the Vilas County Official Directory.

100

- 101 1. Preparation of an annual work plan and budget for the ensuing calendar year to
102 be presented for the Board's approval.
- 103 2. Establishment and maintenance of the facilities necessary to conduct forest
104 operations.
- 105 3. Negotiations for and acquisition of lands necessary to further the objectives of
106 the county forest.
- 107 4. Review and approval of all proposed recreation projects on the county forest
108 lands.
- 109 5. Cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources on all matters pertaining
110 to natural resource management on the county forest.
- 111 6. Participation in all other activities involved in the execution and administration
112 of forestry operations in the county forest program.
- 113 7. Employ personnel, per County Board approval, to administer and implement the
114 county forest program
- 115 8. Hold committee meetings as necessary to carry out the above duties.

116

117 205.1.2 Forest Administrator

- 118 1. The Forest Administrator will act as the agent of the committee and will carry
119 out its orders, as well as execute assignments outlined in the Vilas County
120 Forestry Plan, pursuant to §28.11, Wis. Stats. and annual plan, all within the
121 framework outlined in §28.11, Wis. Stats.
- 122 2. The Forest Administrator will prepare an agenda for and will be present at all
123 Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee meetings.
- 124 3. The Forest Administrator will record minutes of each meeting and distribute

- 125 as appropriate, as well as maintain a permanent minutes record.
- 126 4. The Forest Administrator will serve as the Director of the Forestry Department in
- 127 coordinating the programs of work of staff members and other matters as
- 128 directed by the Committee.
- 129 5. The Forest Administrator will supervise the timber sale program, tree planting,
- 130 site preparation, timber stand improvement, road and firebreak construction and
- 131 maintenance, land acquisition, entry and withdrawal of county forest lands,
- 132 trespass investigations, and long and short term planning, all within the
- 133 restrictions of §28.11 Wis. Stats.
- 134 6. To accomplish these tasks the Forest Administrator shall be a professional
- 135 forester, a graduate of a college or university accredited by the Society of
- 136 American Foresters, and shall have obtained or be able to obtain accreditation as
- 137 a Certified Forester through the Society of American Foresters.

138

139 205.2 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

140 The role of the Department of Natural Resources in the County

141 Forest program is to:

- 142 (1) Encourage technically sound management of the County Forest resources.
- 143 (2) Protect the public rights, benefits and investments in County Forest lands.
- 144 (3) Administer State compensation to the County for the public rights, benefits and
- 145 privileges the county forest lands provide as required by §28.11 (a), (b), Wis. Stats.
- 146 (4) Provide County Forest assistance consistent with those identified in Chapter 200 of
- 147 the Public Forest Lands handbook and as referenced in Chapter 900 of this plan.

148

149 205.2.1 Central Office - Madison

150 It is the function of this office to:

- 151 1. Certify and make forest aid payments (variable acreage and project loans) to
- 152 the county and audit county expenditures of the Forestry Fund account
- 153 pursuant to §28.11 (8) (b) Wis. Stats.
- 154 2. Certify and make acreage payments to towns pursuant to s. 28.11 (8) (a) Wis.
- 155 Stats.

- 156 3. Maintain and certify County Forest acreage by township, and audit
157 distribution of severance share payments (§28.11(9)(2d) Wis. Stats.) made
158 annually by the counties.
- 159 4. Collect severance share payments of not less than twenty percent of actual
160 stumpage sales value on timber cut from the County Forest pursuant to
161 §28.11 (9) (a) Wis. Stats.
- 162 5. Administer various aids and grants pertaining, but not limited to, the County
163 Forest program.
- 164 6. Assist with development and implementation of the Vilas County Forestry
165 Plan, pursuant to §28.11, Wis. Stats.
- 166 7. Interpret and administer the laws and regulations set forth by the Legislature
167 and the Natural Resources Board.
- 168 8. Review and approve or deny applications for withdrawal and entry of lands
169 into the County Forest Law program.
- 170 9. Act as Forest Certification Group Administrator. As the certification group
171 manager, the Division of Forestry Central Office will be responsible for
172 overall administration of the certification effort in both the Sustainable
173 Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification
174 groups. The DNR County Forest Specialist will work in close cooperation
175 with the Wisconsin County Forests Association in coordinating this effort.
176 Further information contained in Section 235 of this chapter.

177

178 205.2.2 Local Office

179 Field representatives of the Department of Natural Resources are available to provide
180 technical advice and assistance to the county in natural resources management. This
181 assistance includes, but is not limited to the following:

182

183 205.2.2.1 Forest Management

184 The forester designated by the Department of Natural Resources to serve as liaison to the
185 Committee will provide technical assistance in managing the resources of the county forest.
186 The forester's duties include the following:

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1. Attend all Committee meetings and any county board meetings as requested.
2. Assist in establishing, inspecting, and administering timber sales in cooperation with county forest personnel.
3. Process timber sale approvals, cutting notices and reports.
4. Maintain for the Department a record of forest management accomplishments, forms and maps.
5. Assist in preparation of projects, plans, and estimates.
6. Provide assistance to the Committee in the preparation of the annual budget, annual work plan and the Vilas County Forestry Plan, pursuant to §28.11, Wis. Stats.
7. Assist in County Forest timber theft, trespass, and larceny investigations.
8. Participate in resource planning affecting the County Forest including, but not limited to preparation of maps from aerial photos and completion and maintenance of compartment reconnaissance.
9. Facilitate the application of the state recon system with county geographic information systems (GIS).
10. Coordinate with the Forest administrator all DNR activities that occur on or affect the county forest to promote integrated management. Organize and prepare minutes of annual partnership meeting as required in Chapter 210-65, Public Forest Lands handbook.

205.2.2.2 Other DNR Program Functions

1. Fire Management - Maintain a system of communications, equipment, and trained personnel to prevent and suppress forest fires, assist with prescribed burns and enforce forest related laws.
2. Forest Pest Control - Provide technical services for prevention, detection and suppression of forest pests in the region.
3. Wildlife Management - Conduct surveys of wildlife populations, habitat, and public use. Wildlife personnel use this information when providing technical assistance in long-term ecosystem planning as well as wildlife habitat

- 218 management, habitat improvement and wildlife health. Attend committee
219 meetings as requested.
- 220 4. Fisheries Management - Maintain the quality of the fishery resource in the
221 waters of the Forest to produce a balanced return to the angler, consistent
222 with sound management principles.
- 223 5. Law Enforcement - Enforce state natural resource laws and regulations and
224 assist in the enforcement of county and federal natural resource laws and
225 ordinances.
- 226 6. Environmental Protection - Enforce and provide technical assistance in
227 matters related to water and shore land management, pollution detection and
228 waste disposal.
- 229 7. Endangered Resources - Provide technical expertise on rare, threatened or
230 endangered species and natural community surveys, identification and
231 management. Assist other DNR functions and the county in identifying local
232 and landscape level issues.

233

234 **210 COOPERATION**

235 The policy in dealing with other public agencies, non-profit organizations, private
236 individuals and public utilities is to meet the obligations of the County to the public in
237 accordance with s. 28.11 Wis. Stats. while maintaining the best interests of Vilas County.
238 Unless otherwise delegated to the forest administrator, all considerations for special
239 cooperation will be brought before the Committee.

240

241 **210.1 PUBLIC AGENCIES**

242 The county will cooperate with public agencies, such as the University of Wisconsin
243 Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Land Conservation Committee and
244 others to provide consultation services within their respective fields. In turn, the Committee
245 will cooperate with agencies and municipalities in the best interests of the public.

246

247

248

249 210.1.1 Research Agencies
250 As stated in §16.04(18) of the County Forestry Ordinance, the Committee may enter into
251 agreements with the North Central Forest Experiment Station of the United States
252 Department of Agriculture, the University of Wisconsin and other research agencies for the
253 purpose of conducting forest research. This may involve the use of county forestlands,
254 labor, materials and equipment.

255
256 210.1.2 State Historical Society
257 The county will collaborate with the State Historical Society on projects bearing historical
258 significance and will comply with §44.30 Wis. Stats. DNR Manual Code 1810.1 exempts
259 many projects from historical / cultural review however, forest certification standards
260 require a review on all land disturbing projects. The DNR liaison will check the historic
261 properties map set on the DNR intranet
262 (http://intranet.dnr.state.wi.us/int/land/facilities/facilities_management/arch/) for all timber
263 sales and other potentially ground disturbing projects. A contact should be made with the
264 DNR's Cultural Resource specialist if a cultural or archeological site is identified on the
265 map set. Information on the presence or absence of archeological / cultural resources will
266 be included in the timber sale narratives.

267
268 210.2 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
269 Cooperation with non-profit organizations will be considered on an individual project basis.
270 Local organizations and those involved with education will have priority.

271
272 210.3 PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS OR INDUSTRY
273 Unless specifically provided for in the Vilas County Forestry Plan, pursuant to §28.11, Wis.
274 Stats. any business proposals or requests by private individuals or industry concerning the
275 County Forest will be brought before the Committee.

276
277
278 210.4 TRIBAL NATIONS
279 The County will collaborate with Tribal representatives on projects that could potentially

280 impact Native American archeological or cultural resources. Native American tribes are
281 encouraged to contribute to the Vilas County Forestry Plan, pursuant to §28.11, Wis. Stats.
282 planning process. Gathering rights for Tribal members on County Forest land is provided
283 and detailed in Chapter 525 of this Plan.

284

285 **215 FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

286 An annual budget shall be prepared by the Committee. This budget shall contain county,
287 state, private, non-profit and federal funds needed to carry out the forestry, park and
288 recreation program on the forest.

289

290 **215.1 REVENUE FROM OPERATIONS**

291 The following procedure will apply in crediting income from the forest:

292 **215.1.1 Timber Sale Revenue**

293 All revenue received from the sale of timber stumpage or cut forest products, except income
294 specified in §16.05 of the County Forestry Ordinance, shall be deposited in the Vilas County
295 General Fund. All severance taxes incurred as result of such sales shall be segregated into a
296 separate account from timber sales income and paid as required by statute.

297

298 **215.1.2 Parks and Recreation Revenue**

299 All revenue including, but not limited to, camping fees, rental fees, day use and trail use fees
300 shall be deposited in the General Fund. Donations received at any recreation facility shall be
301 deposited as revenue under the appropriate account and expended to maintain or improve
302 that facility.

303

304 **215.1.3 Other County Forest Revenue**

305 All revenue collected from fees and use permits, sale of building materials, sale of surplus
306 materials and equipment, fire or other damage collections, or other revenue received by the
307 committee shall be deposited in the General Fund.

308

309 **215.1.4 County Land Fund**

310 County Board Resolutions 82-61 and 98-49 established a non-lapsing account wherein all

311 proceeds from the sale or trade of County owned lands shall be deposited in the County Land
312 Fund (Segregated Land Account). The purpose of this Fund is to purchase lands to improve
313 the blocking and administration of the County Forest. Per the above Resolutions, the County
314 Land Fund is capped at \$200,000.00. Proceeds that exceed the cap shall be deposited in the
315 General Fund.

316

317 215.2 OUTSIDE SOURCES OF REVENUE

318 State, Federal and other funds will be sought and utilized by the Committee to extend local
319 funds as much as possible. After feasibility is determined, the Committee will prepare the
320 necessary resolutions for County Board approval and will develop the necessary
321 applications.

322

323 215.2.1 State Funds

324 In addition to other state funds that may subsequently become available for county use, the
325 following state funding sources will be used where appropriate in administration of the
326 Forest:

327 1. Variable Acreage Share Loan (§28.11 (8)(b)(1) Wis. Stats.). The County may
328 apply for variable acreage share loans from zero to fifty cents per acre of
329 regular entry County Forest land by December 31. Payment is made to the
330 county on or before March 31st of each year and deposited in the State Forest
331 Aid fund. Application is made by County Board resolution.

332 2. Project loans (s. 28.11 (8)(b)(2) Wis. Stats.) are available to undertake
333 acquisition and development projects of an "economically productive
334 nature". Fish and Game projects or recreation projects do not qualify.
335 Application is made by County Board resolution.

336 3. County Forest Administrator Grant Program (s. 28.11(5)(5m) Wis. Stats.).
337 Annual grants are available to fund up to 50% of the salary and benefits of a
338 professional forester in the position of county forest administrator or assistant
339 county forest administrator. Benefits may not exceed 40% of salary.
340 Application is made by County Board resolution with payment by April 15th
341 of each year.

- 342 4. Sustainable County Forest Grants. Annual grants made for short-term
343 projects that promote sustainable forestry. Details are contained in NR47.75
344 of Wisconsin Administrative Code.
- 345 5. County Conservation Aids (§23.09 (12) Wis. Stats.). These funds are a 50%
346 cost sharing aid and are to be used for projects that improve fish and wildlife
347 resources of Vilas County. See DNR Manual Code No. 8718 for detail.
- 348 6. Wildlife Habitat Development Grant (§23.09 (17m) Wis. Stats.). This grant,
349 funded through the forestry mil tax, provides ten cents per acre per year for
350 wildlife habitat management. Advance funds shall be deposited in the County
351 Wildlife Management fund account. Projects must be consistent with the
352 scope of this plan. See Public Forest Lands handbook 2460.5, Chapter 220 or
353 Wildlife Management Operations handbook, Chapter 20 for complete details.
- 354 7. Snowmobile Aids(§23.09 (26)(25) Wis. Stats.) These are grants for
355 approved snowmobile projects, not restricted to county forestlands. See the
356 DNR Manual Code No. 8719.51 and Snowmobile Aids Program Guide
357 publication for details; also Chapter NR 50 of Wisconsin Administrative
358 Code.
- 359 8. Motorcycle Outdoor Recreation Program (MORP) per §23.09 (25). Consult
360 DNR publication guidelines for Motorcycle Recreation Program and Chapter
361 NR 65 of Wisconsin Administrative Codes for details.
- 362 9. All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Aids Program. Provides grants for the
363 maintenance, acquisition, development and rehabilitation of trails and
364 intensive use areas. See Chapter NR 64 of the Wisconsin Administrative
365 Code for details.
- 366 10. Acquisition and Development of Local Parks. Provides up to 50% matching
367 grants for acquisition, development and renovation of local parks, trails and
368 recreation areas.
- 369 11. County Forest Road Aids funds are available for each designated mile of
370 County Forest road. The certification is done on a biannual basis. The funds
371 are deposited in the County Forest Road Aid Account, which is a non-lapsing
372 account.

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215.2.2 Federal funds and programs

In addition to others that may be available, the following funds and programs will be used where practical:

1. Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LAWCON) This fund provides up to 50% matching grants for the acquisition, development and renovation of local parks.
2. Resource Conservation and Development (Technical Services).
3. Pittman-Robertson fund. This fund provides for wildlife management and habitat improvement.
4. Sport Fish Restoration (Dingell-Johnson) fund. This fund provides financing for fish management projects administered by DNR.
5. Small Business Administration (SBA) Tree Planting Grant Program. The SBA Grant provides 50% cost sharing for approved tree planting projects. This is administered by the DNR.
6. National Recreational Trails Act (NRTA). This legislation provides grants to develop, maintain, renovate and acquire trails for motorized, non-motorized, or combined use.
7. Federal Endangered Species fund. This fund provides cost sharing and grants for surveys, monitoring and management programs that conserve a threatened or endangered species. Contact the DNR Bureau of Endangered Resources for information.
8. Other State, federal and local grants periodically come available. Consult the Directory of State and Federal Financial Assistance Programs available from DNR Community Services specialist or visit the website www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa for an up-to-date list.

215.2.3 Other Funds

Other potential funding sources are groups such as Muskies, Inc., Ducks Unlimited, Ruffed Grouse Society, Trout Unlimited, Whitetails Unlimited, local sportsman's clubs, service

404 organizations, garden clubs, youth groups, etc.

405

406 The Committee will consider donations, endowments and other gifts, whether real estate,
407 equipment or cash. The county corporation counsel may be consulted to ascertain whether
408 such gifts benefit the county.

409

410 **220 COUNTY RECORDS**

411 The County Forest Administrator will keep concise and orderly records and accounts of all
412 revenue received, expenditures incurred and accomplishments resulting from the operations
413 of the forestry department. A job description, time and expense report, and training record
414 will be kept on each employee. All salaries, authorized employee expenses, bills for supplies
415 and equipment, bills for other expenditures, and all credits and income are submitted to the
416 Committee on invoices.

417

418 **220.1 ACCOUNTS**

419 All accounts and bookkeeping procedures will be handled by the Forest Administrator and
420 Administrative Secretary or as otherwise directed by the Committee.

421

422 **220.1.1 State Aid Forestry Account**

423 Variable acreage share loans (§28.11 (8)(b)(1) Wis. Stats), project loan funds (§28.11
424 (8)(b)(2) Wis. Stats.), and sustainable forestry grants (NR47.75 Wis. Adm. Code) that are
425 distributed by the DNR are deposited in this account. Expenditures of variable acreage share
426 funds from this account are restricted to the purchase, development, preservation and
427 maintenance of the county forest. Expenditure of project loan funds are governed by the
428 conditions of project approval. Sustainable Forestry grants from this account must be spent
429 specific to the approved project. Revenue received from the sale of equipment purchased
430 with State Aid Account money must be deposited in the State Aid Account.

431

432 **220.1.2 Other County Forest Accounts**

433 The County Forestry, County Parks, and County Conservation Accounts are
434 budgeted annually. Unused funds in these accounts lapse to the General Fund on 1

435 January unless authorized to be carried over by County Board action.

436 220.1.3 Account Numbers

437	<u>Name</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Revenue</u>
438	COUNTY FUNDS		
439	Parks	55200	
440	Forestry	56103	
441	Conservation	56104	
442	Co. Snowmobile Trail Prog. Maintenance	55441	
443	Outside Revenue	56130	46822
444	Land Fund:		
445	Land Account	51560	
446	Land Sales Income		48322
447	Tax Certificates Payment	18121	
448	Timber Sales & Forest Revenue:		
449	Timber Sale Deposit	25201	25201
450	Forest Crop Revenue (70%)		46810
451	State Severance (20%)		24260
452	Town Severance (10%)		24460
453	County Forest Miscellaneous Revenue		46821
454			
455	STATE FUNDS		
456	State Forest Aid	56102	43581
457	County Forest Road Aid	56106	43587
458	Fish & Game Fund (50-50 Share)	56105	43584
459	Wildlife Habitat Grant (10 cents/acre)	56113	43583
460	Snowmobile Trail Program Maintenance	55441	43571
461	Snowmobile Trail Program Development	55442	43572
462			

463 220.2 TIMBER SALES

464 220.2.1 Active Timber Sale Files

465 Active timber sale files shall contain the following items:

- 466 1. Timber sale cutting notice and report (Form 2460-1)
- 467 2. Timber sale narrative (Form 2460-1A)
- 468 3. Contract and all addendums
- 469 4. Timber sale map
- 470 5. Ledger account of scale
- 471 6. Timber sale inspection journal / notes
- 472 7. Pertinent correspondence

473

474 220.2.2 Closed Timber Sale Files

475 Once sales have been completed and audited by DNR only the following items need to be
476 maintained in the file as a permanent record:

- 477 1. Timber sale notice and cutting report
- 478 2. Contract and addendums
- 479 3. Timber sale map
- 480 4. Pertinent correspondence

481

482 **225 PERSONNEL**

483 Under direction of the Committee, the Forest administrator shall have authorization to
484 organize the workload of the forestry department employees and arrange for additional
485 services from the county Social Services Department. Personnel of the forestry department
486 will be governed by the work policies as set forth by the County, their respective work
487 policies, and collective bargaining agreements.

488

489 225.1 Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Staff

490 The permanent employees of the County Forest at this time are the Forest Administrator,
491 Assistant Forest Administrator, Forest Technician, Snowmobile Program/Parks Technician,
492 and Administrative Secretary A. Other labor is hired on a Limited Term Employee (LTE)
493 basis or for training positions as needed.

494

495 225.2 HIRING PERSONNEL

496 All hiring of permanent personnel will be recommended by the Forestry, Recreation, & Land

497 Committee and the Personnel Committee, having been accounted for in the annual work plan
498 and budget. The County Board will give final approval of the hiring of new personnel. The
499 County rules for the hiring of seasonal and short-term labor will be adhered to. Individuals
500 from Vilas County who are enrolled in courses of natural resources in colleges, universities,
501 or vocational training programs shall be given preference for LTE positions.

502

503 **225.3 OTHER SOURCES OF LABOR**

504 Federal and state manpower programs such as Economic Opportunity Act Programs and
505 Community Work Experience may be utilized on a project basis. The Forest Administrator
506 will recommend programs that can be utilized on the forest to the Committee for their
507 approval.

508

509 **225.4 SPECIALIZED PERSONNEL**

510 Projects requiring expenditures for specialized skills and/or operation of specialized
511 equipment are handled on a contract basis by the Committee if such skills and equipment are
512 not available from the county.

513

514 **225.5 TRAINING**

515 The Forester Administrator will be responsible for scheduling and providing appropriate
516 training to keep staff current with safety requirements, BMP's, silviculture, pesticides, new
517 technologies, and other training appropriate to manage the Vilas County Forest. A training
518 record will be retained for each employee identifying the course name, content and date of
519 attendance.

520

521 **230 EQUIPMENT**

522 All equipment and supplies will be coordinated by the Forest Administrator, subject to
523 Committee approval. The Administrator will be responsible for locating equipment,
524 considering the most economical alternatives of buying, borrowing, renting or construction.
525 The Forest Administrator will also be responsible for maintaining an inventory, to be
526 updated annually, of equipment under his/her jurisdiction. Any Forestry Department
527 employee may purchase equipment and supplies when he/she has prior approval from the

528 Forest Administrator. Items exceeding \$500.00 must have Committee approval prior to
529 purchasing. Items exceeding \$5,000.00 shall be purchased by competitive bidding unless
530 legally permissible otherwise as per §59.08, Wis. Stats. The Committee is responsible for
531 approval of all bills before payment. Bills over \$15,000.00 require County Board approval.

532

533 230.1 FACILITIES

534 Maintenance of the facilities is assigned to the forest administrator and includes the
535 following:

- 536 1. Office space is provided in the office building located at 1881 Highway 45 North,
537 Eagle River. The office is attached to a shop and garage. An adjacent storage
538 Building is used to store materials and equipment used in the operation of the Forest
539 and Parks Programs. The shop and garage are also used for construction,
540 maintenance, and repair of equipment and facilities.
- 541 2. Public Shooting Range is located in the Town of Conover.
- 542 3. Parking and snowmobile trail facilities are scattered throughout the County and
543 include such facilities as the toilet/change rooms at Eagle Lake Park in the Town of
544 Washington. There are numerous shelters, tables, and grills at other day-use areas
545 and on the snowmobile trails.
- 546 4. Other recreational sites such as boat landings, fishing piers, picnic sites, and a
547 campground are maintained on County Land as well as under agreements with other
548 units of government and private organizations such as the Wisconsin Valley
549 Improvement Company (Chapter 900 includes an inventory of facilities).
- 550 5. The Forestry Department is working toward complying with the Americans with
551 Disabilities Act. When funding is available and where it is possible, the Department
552 will continue to improve access to recreation facilities. Currently the Forestry
553 Headquarters, a portion of Langley Lake Hunter/Hiking Trail, Deep Lake, Cooks
554 Lake and Lake of the Hills Fishing Piers, Muskellunge Lake Landing, Dr. Oldfield
555 Memorial Park & Landing, Eagle Lake Park & Landing, and the Vilas County
556 Shooting Range have been improved for accessibility.

557

558 230.2 EQUIPMENT OPERATION – DNR

559 Pursuant to §28.11, Wis. Stats, the County and Department of Natural Resources are
560 authorized to actively cooperate. Fire control equipment, i.e., trucks, John Deere 450
561 tractors, and trailers are available to the County at DNR equipment rates to conduct the
562 following activities:

- 563 1. Forest Production
 - 564 a. Regeneration projects
 - 565 b. Thinning projects
 - 566 c. Release projects
 - 567 d. Pruning projects
 - 568 e. Create/improve access roads
- 569 2. Forest Aesthetics
 - 570 a. Improve roads
 - 571 b. Create openings
- 572 3. Wildlife Projects
 - 573 a. Improve roads on closed timber sales
 - 574 b. Create openings
- 575 4. Recreation Projects
 - 576 a. Trail construction
 - 577 b. Trail maintenance
- 578 5. Fire Protection
 - 579 a. Construct plantation firebreaks
 - 580 b. Firebreaks around recreation sites

581

582 **235 FOREST CERTIFICATION GROUP ADMINISTRATION**

583 As the certification group manager, the Department of Natural Resources will be responsible
584 for overall administration of the certification effort in both the Sustainable Forestry Initiative
585 (SFI) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification groups. The DNR County Forest
586 Specialist will work in close cooperation with the Wisconsin County Forests Association in
587 coordinating this effort. The group manager's responsibilities will include:

- 588 ♦ Record keeping for both the SFI and FSC groups
- 589 ♦ Coordinating communication with the certification auditing firms

- 590 ◆ Reporting and payment of fees
- 591 ◆ Processing new entries and departures from the groups
- 592 ◆ Internal compliance monitoring
- 593 ◆ Dispute resolution
- 594 *Detail on the certification group administration is maintained in the Public Forest Lands*
- 595 *Handbook.*

VILAS COUNTY FORESTRY PLAN, PURSUANT TO §28.11, WIS. STATS.

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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:

- (1) Determining needs and priorities.
- (2) Achieving goals set forth in the mission statement of this plan.
- (3) Satisfying the statutory requirements of §28.11, Wis. Stats.
- (4) Satisfying requirements for participation in various state and federal aid programs.
- (5) Providing broad long-term and detailed short-term guidelines for actions.

305 VILAS COUNTY FORESTRY PLAN, PURSUANT TO §28.11, WIS. STATS.

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 2020.

305.1 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN

§28.11, Wis. Stats., places the responsibility for the plan development on the Committee with technical assistance from the Department and other agencies. The County Forest Administrator will take the lead at the Committee's request. The Department, 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 preliminary draft of the plan and the environmental assessment, public input will be sought. The Committee, upon completion of the preliminary draft, will hold a public information meeting to receive comment. Such meeting shall be properly noticed via appropriate local news media with a minimum of two weeks provided between the time of notice and the time the meeting is held. Interested citizens will be given the opportunity to review the plan in the Administrator's office or such other places as may be designated by the Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee. Comments received by the Committee shall be given consideration in

61 developing the final plan draft.

62

63 305.2 APPROVAL OF THE PLAN

64 Following the public comment period and certification by the Department, the County will
65 consider the comments received on the plan and assessment and will finalize the plan. The
66 Committee will then present the plan to the County Board for their approval. Following
67 County Board approval, the plan will then be forwarded to the DNR's Central office in
68 Madison through the local DNR liaison forester. Approval of the plan by the DNR is
69 required by §28.11 (5)(a), Wis. Stats.

70

71 305.3 DISTRIBUTION OF THE PLAN

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

75 Official copies and amendments will be held by the following:

76 (1) Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee Chair and members.

77 (2) Forest Administrator.

78 (3) Dept. of Natural Resources: Liaison and Division of Forestry (5 copies).

79 (4) Executive Secretary - Wisconsin County Forests Association.

80 Additional copies will be provided to DNR Regional Forestry Supervisor, Area Forestry
81 Supervisor, and local Wildlife Biologist.

82

83 305.4 UPDATING THE PLAN

84 Necessary changes in policy and procedure will be incorporated into the plan by amendment
85 as required. Amendments to the plan will require approval by both the County Board and
86 the Dept. of Natural Resources as stated in §28.11 (5)(a), Wis. Stats. The annual work plan
87 and budget (Chapter 2000) and the annual accomplishment report (Chapter 3000) are
88 appended to the plan and do not require official DNR approval.

89

90 305.4.1 Schedule for Updating

91 By June 30th of each year the Forest Administrator will develop and distribute copies of the

92 following to each official copyholder:

- 93 (1) Approved amendments.
- 94 (2) Annual Accomplishment Report.
- 95 (3) Current annual work plan and budget.

96

97 **305.5 COORDINATION WITH OTHER PLANNING**

98 The development and any future amendments to this plan will include considerations, and if
99 warranted, participation in other planning efforts. It is expected that these other plans will
100 also, in turn, consider and mesh their efforts with the County Forest Plan. Coordination
101 between Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORP), State Land Master
102 Plans, the Chequamegon-Nicolet N.F. Plan, Land & Water Resource Plans, Forest Legacy,
103 and others is essential for effective land management.

104

105 **310 FOREST RESOURCE PLANNING**

106 The Committee will support and utilize the procedures as set forth in the Dept. of Natural
107 Resources Public Forest Lands Handbook No. 2460.5 and Forest Aesthetic and Silviculture
108 Handbook No. 2431.5. The DNR forester and Forest Administrator will be responsible for
109 the completion and maintenance of the compartment reconnaissance system and will assist
110 in interpretation of the data to be used in planning and scheduling purposes.

111 Forest management plans are made by qualified, professional staff employed by the County
112 or the DNR who are trained in silvicultural principles and apply economic, biological, and
113 environmental considerations in the planning process. Forest management decisions are
114 made utilizing the most recent resource materials including the forest habitat type
115 classification, soil surveys, and Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water
116 Quality guidelines.

117

118 **315 OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING**

119 The Outdoor Recreation Plan, Snowmobile Trail Plan, and other recreation surveys, plans,
120 and reports will be used as available in planning efforts. Additional assistance will be sought
121 from the DNR park planners. The responsibility for all recreation planning on the County

122 Forest will rest with the Committee.

123

124 **320 OTHER RESOURCE PLANNING**

125 Additional data necessary to make management decisions on the County Forest will be
126 sought from agencies or individuals best equipped to provide that service. Refer to Chapter
127 800 for information on integrating outside expertise into management planning.

128

129 **325 FOREST CERTIFICATION**

130 The forest products industry is increasingly requiring their suppliers to verify that the raw
131 materials being supplied have originated from well-managed forestlands. Third-party
132 certification of forestlands is becoming the norm for objectively evaluating the sustainable
133 management of forestlands. To that end, Vilas County will commit to the Sustainable
134 Forestry Initiative (SFI) in the management of the Vilas County Forest. These certification
135 standards fit within the framework of the County Forest Law program (§28.11, Wis. Stats.).

136 **Vilas County's Commitment to Sustainable Forestry**

137 Our county forests provide a vital contribution to the State and the world by providing
138 economic, environmental and social benefits important to our quality of life. Vilas County
139 believes that accomplishing such sustainable forestry requires a commitment and partnership
140 from all the groups and individuals that benefit from these public lands.

141

142 **Vilas County's Commitment**

143 Within the scope of the Wisconsin County Forest Law and the Vilas County Forestry Plan,
144 pursuant to §28.11, Wis. Stats, Vilas County will implement forestry practices that promote
145 forest sustainability and multiple use of the forest. In the management of the Forest that will
146 include the sustainable harvest of forest products, the protection of special sites, wildlife,
147 plants, water quality and aesthetics.

148

149 All forestland owners have a responsibility to provide sound forest stewardship. Vilas
150 County will work in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other
151 natural resources groups/agencies in providing sustainable forestry information to those
152 landowners and individuals impacting forest sustainability in Wisconsin. We will support

153 research efforts to improve the health, productivity, and management of forestlands both
154 internally and through cooperative efforts. In managing the Vilas County Forest a spectrum
155 of forestry practices will be employed to achieve our sustainable forestry objective. Both
156 intensive and more extensive forest management techniques will be used to provide for
157 wildlife, forest products, recreation, aesthetics, water quality, and ecosystem maintenance.
158 In keeping with this responsibility Vilas County is committed to the following:

- 159 1. **Sustainable Forestry Principles** – To practice sustainable forestry to meet the
160 present needs of society without sacrificing the ability of future generations to meet
161 their anticipated needs. In doing so, Vilas County will integrate the reforestation,
162 managing, growing and harvesting of trees for forest products with the conservation
163 of air and water quality, soil, ecosystem diversity, wildlife, recreation and aesthetics.
- 164 2. **Responsible Practices** – To employ practices that are economically,
165 environmentally and socially responsible in the management of the Vilas County
166 Forest and to also encourage other forest owners to do the same.
- 167 3. **Forest Health & Productivity** – To work cooperatively with the DNR and other
168 agencies in protecting our forests from pests, diseases, wildfire and other damaging
169 agents in order to improve long-term productivity and forest health.
- 170 4. **Unique Sites** – To manage areas of special biological, geographical, cultural or
171 historical significance in such a way as to preserve their unique qualities.
- 172 5. **Legal Compliance** – To comply with applicable local, state and federal laws and
173 regulations in the management of the Vilas County Forest.
- 174 6. **Monitoring and Continuous Improvement** – To continually seek improvement in
175 the management of the Vilas County Forest and to monitor, assess and report
176 performance towards the objective of sustainable forestry.

177

178 **330 ORDINANCES**

179 The following ordinances will be considered in all planning. Refer to Chapter 900 -
180 Appendix for full text of these ordinances:

- 181 1. Forestry Ordinance.
- 182 2. Parks Ordinance.
- 183 3. General Zoning and Shoreland Ordinance, which includes metallic and non-

184 metallic mining.

185

186 **335 TECHNOLOGY**

187 Use of present day technology has become an important facet of county forest management.
188 Computers and operating systems have increased the ability to analyze and store data. The
189 increased ability to analyze and evaluate the Forest has improved planning and management
190 of the Forest. Electronic communication is now essential. Following are technologies
191 available, and in use, on the Vilas County Forest.

192

193 **335.1 GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEMS**

194 A global positioning system (GPS) is a system of electronic surveying technology utilizing
195 satellites to determine location. GPS is based on satellite ranging. That means that a
196 position on earth is calculated by measuring the distance from a group of satellites to that
197 position. The basic components needed for this system are a transmitter (located in the
198 satellites), a receiver (at the point to be identified), and a computer and software to do the
199 actual calculations. This technology is invaluable for mapping, acreage determination, and
200 land control efforts. Sub-meter accuracy is available with some of the survey grade units.
201 Hand held units costing only \$200-\$300 have also proven beneficial for sale mapping and
202 road layouts.

203

204 **335.2 DATA RECORDERS**

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

209

210 **335.3 COMPUTERS**

211 Computers are a common fixture in all offices. The different types of software currently
212 being used include: word processing, databases, spreadsheets, and mapping and geographic
213 information systems (GIS).

214

215 335.4 GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

216 Geographic Information Systems are particularly well suited for natural resources
217 management. A GIS interrelates spatial information, e.g. maps with tabular data,
218 reconnaissance information, ownership, name and address. By using such a system,
219 managers can look at the timing and spacing of timber sales, lay out aesthetic zones, buffer
220 strips, calculate acreage, and update reconnaissance files in an efficient manner.
221 Interrelating recon data with the GIS through a Recon ArcView Editor (RAVE) program has
222 provided state-of-the-art mapping and data analysis in many counties. A GIS can do in a few
223 hours what often was impossible or took months to complete.

224

225 335.5 COMPARTMENT RECONNAISSANCE (RECON)

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

236

237 335.6 RAVE/RAVEN (Recon ArcView Editor)

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

VILAS COUNTY FORESTRY PLAN, PURSUANT TO §28.11, WIS. STATS.

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400 COUNTY FOREST BLOCKING

OBJECTIVES

- (1) To provide for the most efficient administration of the Forest by consolidating and blocking lands within established County Forest boundaries through purchase or trade as provided in §28.11 (3) (c), Wis. Stats. (for full text see Chapter 900.1), and to enter lands so acquired as County Forest, pursuant to §28.11 (4) (b), Wis. Stats.
- (2) To provide additional public benefits through the acquisition of unique or special areas that will be entered under §28.11 (4)(c) Wis. Stats. special use classification.
- (3) To facilitate adequate land control on the County Forest by undertaking establishment and perpetuation of survey corners and boundary lines.

405 FOREST BLOCKING BOUNDARIES

The County Forest blocking boundaries are established by the Committee and by subsequent approval of the Vilas County Board and the DNR. A map of the official boundaries is found in Chapter 900, exhibit 32.

410 LAND ACQUISITION

Lands within the County Forest blocking boundaries or areas of special or unique values shall be recommended to the County Board for acquisition as they become available and upon a determination by the Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee that ownership of those lands is beneficial to the people of Vilas County and the State of Wisconsin.

410.1 METHODS OF ACQUISITION

Acquisition may be by outright purchase or trade based on competent appraisal of the value or values involved, or by gift, bequest or action to foreclose tax liens. The Administrator will be the agent of the Committee in making first contact with potential sellers and in carrying on acquisition activities. However, options for purchase must have the approval of the ~~—Committee~~ Committee and the Vilas County Board of Supervisors.

60 410.2 FINANCING

61 Financing of land acquisition either within the Forest boundaries or Special Use Lands
62 outside will come from the County Segregated Land Account established by Resolution 82-
63 61 and Resolution 98-49. If funds are not available in the land acquisition account, advanced
64 budgeting will be sought. State Forestry Aid Loans described in Chapter 215.2.1(1) may
65 also be used for acquisition of lands to be entered as County Forest. [County Forest project](#)
66 [loans described in Chapter 215.2.1\(2\) may also be used for acquisition of lands to be entered](#)
67 [as County Forest. Application for project loans will comply with NR.47.60](#), Wis. Adm.
68 Code.

69
70
71
72 **415 ENTRY OF LANDS**

73 Lands to be entered under the regular classification of the County Forest Law must be
74 suitable for forestry purposes and be within the County Forest boundary. Lands designated
75 for ~~classification~~[classification](#) as County Forest - Special Use need not be contained within
76 the County Forest Boundary nor suitable or utilized for forestry purposes but they must be
77 suitable for scenic, outdoor recreation, public hunting and fishing, water conservation or
78 other multiple-use purposes.

79
80 415.1 TIME OF ENTRY

81 Application for entry of newly acquired lands under the County Forest Law will be made as
82 soon as possible. Applications for entry will be prepared with the assistance of the DNR
83 liaison. The Administrator will secure the signatures of the proper County officials, and the
84 County Clerk will then verify County ownership and transmit the application to the
85 Department of Natural Resources, Box 7921, Madison, WI., 53707-7921, marked attention,
86 "County Forest Specialist."

87
88 **420 WITHDRAWAL OF LANDS FROM COUNTY FOREST LAW**

89 Lands within the County Forest Boundary will not normally be considered for withdrawal
90 from the County Forest Law. Applications for the purchase of these lands by the private
91 sector will be discouraged by the Committee. If, in the opinion of the Committee and

92 County Board, the land will be put to better and higher use and will benefit people of the
93 County and State to a greater extent, the withdrawal procedure outlined in section 420.2 will
94 be employed. The Public Lands Handbook also contains details on the application
95 procedures for withdrawal. The legal means by which counties may apply for withdrawal of
96 lands from County Forest status is provided by §28.11, Wis. Stats. Initially the County
97 Forest Administrator notifies the DNR Liaison Forester of the County Forestry Committee
98 Meeting at which the proposed withdrawal will be considered. At that meeting DNR
99 personnel and the County discuss the proposed withdrawal and, if approved by the County
100 Forestry Committee, the withdrawal will be recommended by the Committee by resolution
101 to the County Board. If approved by the Board by the necessary 2/3 majority, the
102 application is prepared by the County and submitted to the appropriate DNR regional
103 forester or designee. The DNR may ask for additional information from the County and will
104 then coordinate the public notice and proceed with needed environmental studies. Pending
105 the results of the environmental studies and any investigatory hearings deemed necessary,
106 the DNR will act on the withdrawal application. If the application is denied, the County may
107 appeal as stipulated in §28.11 (11)(a), Wis. Stats.

108 109 420.1 COUNTY OWNED LANDS OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARY

110 County owned lands outside the Boundary may eventually be sold or exchanged as part of
111 the effort to consolidate the ownership within the Boundary. The County may retain certain
112 rights to these lands in accordance with County policy upon transfer of ownership, such as
113 mineral rights, timber rights, public access rights, and/or hunting and fishing rights.
114 Proceeds from such a land sale will be deposited in the County Segregated Land Account for
115 the purpose of funding future County Forest Land purchases.

116 117 420.2 WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE ~~Withdrawal procedure will comply with Section~~ 118 ~~28.11(11) Wisconsin Statutes, Public lands handbook. In general, the procedure is as~~ 119 ~~follows:~~

120 ~~(1) The _____ Committee receives the request and/or application for withdrawal. The County~~
121 ~~Forest Administrator notifies the Committee Chairman who schedules a~~
122 ~~meeting for consideration of the withdrawal. (2) The County Forest~~
123 ~~Administrator gives notice to the Liaison Forester and Area Forester of the~~

~~committee meeting at which the withdrawal will be discussed. The next meeting shall be noticed. The notice shall include legal description of property and proposed use of land.~~

~~(11) If a withdrawal is denied, the county board, by resolution of two thirds of its membership, may appeal to the review committee appointed, as provided by s. 28.11(11) Wisconsin Statutes.~~

The purpose of this procedure is to provide general information in formulating and processing applications for withdrawal of County Forest lands under §28.11 Wis. Stats. and ch. NR 48, Wis. Adm. Code. ——— The legal means by which counties may apply for withdrawal of lands from County Forests is provided by §28.11(11)(a) Wis. Stats.. This section states in part: “The County Board shall first refer the resolution to the County Forestry Committee which shall consult with an authorized representative of the Department in formulating its withdrawal proposal.” §28.11(11)(a) Wis.Stats. also states: “The County Board shall not take final action thereon until 90 days after such referral or until the report thereon of the Forestry Committee has been filed with the Board.”

Consequently, if the County Board takes final action on a withdrawal application without referring it to the County Forestry committee, the application is not valid. On the other hand, if the County Forestry Committee does not report to the County Board within 90 days after receipt of the referral, the Board may act upon the application without the Committee recommendation.

The Regional Forestry Leader is designated as the authorized representative of the DNR who shall consult with the Forestry Committee in formulating withdrawal proposals. The Regional Forestry Leader may appoint designees to represent him/her if circumstances warrant. All DNR communications concerning withdrawal of County Forest Lands shall be coordinated through the Regional Forestry Leader. The final decision for requests for withdrawal presently rests with the DNR’s Division of Forestry.

County Forest Administrator

1. Notifies DNR Liaison Forester to the County Forest of the date and place of the

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156 County Forestry Committee meeting, at which time the proposed withdrawal will be
157 considered for formulation of a withdrawal application. Such notice shall include
158 pertinent details of the withdrawal proposal including legal description of the lands
159 involved and purpose of the withdrawal. The Liaison Forester shall review ch.NR 48
160 with the County Forest Administrator to ensure all the required information is
161 identified for the application. NOTE: In the event a withdrawal exchange is involved,
162 it is very important that the County postpones final financial negotiations with the
163 owner of the land involved in the exchange until the Department has established the
164 minimum values of the land as required in §28.11(11)(a) Wis. Stats. To protect the
165 County interest, the necessary preliminary negotiations should also be made
166 conditional upon approval of the withdrawal by both the County Board and DNR as
167 provided by statutes.

168 DNR Liaison Forester

- 169 1. Advises their supervisor and Regional Forestry Leader immediately of the proposed
170 withdrawal and Committee meeting date.
- 171 2. Takes action necessary to be acquainted with the proposal.
- 172 3. Consults with the Public Lands/County Forest Specialist, Bureau of Forest Management
173 concerning the proposed withdrawal.
- 174 4. Attends County Forestry Committee meeting and consults with the Committee on
175 proposed withdrawal.

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176
177 County Forestry Committee

- 178 1. A Committee meeting is held to evaluate the proposal and to consult with DNR
179 Regional Forestry Leader or designee and either:
 - 180 a. Undertakes further study of the proposal; or
 - 181 b. Rejects applicants request for withdrawal, or
 - 182 c. Prepares resolution for County Board action recommending approval or
183 disapproval of application.

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184 County Board of Supervisors

- 185 1. Upon receipt of the recommendation of the County Forestry Committee, or 90 days
186 after referral to the Committee, whichever is first, acts on resolution to approve,
187 disapprove or modify the withdrawal application, or refer it back to the County

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188 Forestry Committee for further study.

- 189 2. If approval for withdrawal is given by two-thirds vote of membership, the County
190 Board authorizes and directs the County Clerk and the County Forest Administrator to
191 prepare and submit the County Forest Withdrawal Application (Form 2453-3), for
192 withdrawal to appropriate Department Regional Forestry Leader.

193
194 Regional Forestry Leader (or designee)

- 195 1. Upon receipt of County Forest Withdrawal Application (Form 2453-3), acknowledges
196 receipt of the application to the County Clerk with copies to the Department Liaison
197 Forester to County Forestry Committee, County Forest Administrator, the Liaison
198 Forester's supervisor and Bureau of Forest Management in Central Office. Requests
199 additional information from the County as necessary to provide adequate detail for
200 Department processing of the application. This request must be sent to the County
201 within 60 days as identified in .NR 48.03(2), Wis. Adm. Code.
- 202 2. Consults with Public Lands/County Forest Specialist regarding specifics of the
203 proposal.
- 204 3. Directs DNR Liaison Forester to contact the Regional Environmental Impact
205 Coordinator to determine if an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental
206 Impact Statement (EIS) is required under M.C. 1606.1 or if an Environmental Impact
207 Report should be requested from the County. If required, prepares environmental
208 documents. If an EIS is required, notifies the Bureau of Integrated Science Services to
209 proceed in accordance with M.C. 1610.1
- 210 4. Coordinates public notice and certifies environmental proposal is in compliance with
211 Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA)
- 212 5. Transmits one copy of County application, approved EA/EIS, if required, and the
213 regional recommendation to the County Forest Specialist in the Bureau of Forest
214 Management, Division of Forestry.

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215
216 Division of Forestry

217 Public Hearings

- 218 1. Coordinates with Bureau of Legal Services for scheduling of public hearing(s) if
219 requested in writing by the county OR if determined by the Department to be

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220 necessary or if required as part of the WEPA procedure. Hearings are not a
221 requirement for all withdrawals.

222 ~~4.2.~~ Coordinates with the Bureau of Integrated Science Services the preparation of an EIS
223 if required.

224 ~~2.3.~~ The format of the Public Hearing is quite different depending on which agency
225 requests the Hearing.

226 • If the *County* requests the Hearing (must be a written request), the Hearing is
227 considered a ‘Contested Case’ Hearing as defined in §227.01(3), Wis. Stats. The
228 Hearing procedures and format are as directed by subchapter III, chapter 227, Wis.
229 Stats., and chapter NR 2, Wis. Adm. Code. An Administrative Law Judge will be
230 appointed, and upon completion of the hearing, the Administrative Law Judge
231 normally makes and issues a decision approving or rejecting the withdrawal
232 application.

233 • If the *Department of Natural Resources* decides to conduct an ‘Investigatory ‘
234 Hearing, the format of the Hearing is less formal and is normally facilitated by a
235 DNR employee. Following an Investigatory Hearing (or if neither agency requests a
236 hearing), the following procedure applies.

237
238 Regional Forestry Leader (or designee)

239 1. Prepares a “DRAFT” decision including Findings of Fact,
240 Conclusions of Law and Order and Notification of Appeal Rights and sends draft to the
241 Public Lands/County Forest Specialist. The draft shall, at the minimum cover the items
242 identified in NR 48.04, Wis. Adm. Code. *Note: This draft is NOT a public record. It*
243 *may not be released to the public upon request.*

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244
245 Division of Forestry

246 1. Reviews and modifies draft documents as necessary. Upon completion of Department
247 investigation of the withdrawal application, prepares a final draft decision including
248 Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order and Notification of Appeal Rights, for
249 the Administrator, Division of Forestry. *Note: This draft is NOT a public record. It*
250 *may not be released to the public upon request.*

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Administrator, Division of Forestry

1. Issues the final decision on the withdrawal application.

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§28.11(11)2, Wis. Stats. Provides the county the right to appeal withdrawal applications that are denied either by the DNR or an Administrative Law Judge. The appeal process is pursuant to §28.11(11)(a), Wis. Stats.

If a withdrawal decision is appealed to the review committee by a county pursuant to §28.11(11)(a), Wis. Stats:

Division of Forestry

1. Keeps the Division Administrator's and Secretary's Office informed of all developments in the appeal process.

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425 LAND SURVEYING

The importance of survey corner monumentation and the establishment and maintenance of survey lines is recognized in the interest of avoiding the problems of trespass both by and against the County, facilitating the settlement of those cases which would occur, and aiding in the proper transfer of property.

425.1 LEGAL SURVEYING

Of prime importance are the forest boundaries and property lines in common with other owners. All such surveying shall be under the supervision of a registered surveyor. When the Office of the County Surveyor is not staffed, the Committee will comply with the provisions of Chapter 59, Wisconsin Statutes by hiring registered surveyors to perform the necessary running of property lines. Section corners, one-quarter corners, sixteenth corners, their associated witnesses, and survey lines will be established or re-established where needed. Certified Land Corner Restoration forms and the drawing of the Certified Survey shall be submitted by a registered land surveyor to the Vilas County Surveyor and the Forestry Department. Adjacent landowners who benefit from a certified survey of the County Forest Boundary shall be contacted and given the opportunity to share in the cost of the survey. There is currently 252.93 miles of boundary lines on County Lands under the jurisdiction of the Forestry Department. Of this total, 172.97 miles have been established by certified survey or by agreement and are maintained.

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425.2 LOCATION OF LINES BY OTHER THAN LEGAL SURVEY

Lines abutting other ownerships may be established by mutual agreement to avert trespass claims. Forestry personnel who are not registered surveyors may, with all possible prudence, establish for forest management purposes, including those necessary for ordinary management activities such as timber sales and road and trail location using available equipment including, but not limited to, air photos, quadrangles, County Surveyor’s records, and known corners. The agreement with adjacent landowner(s) shall be documented and recorded in the Forestry Department.

425.3 PRESERVATION OF LANDMARKS, MONUMENTS, AND DESTRUCTION OF MONUMENTS

~~In the course of regular duties, forestry personnel will perpetuate corners and witness monuments now existing. Should a corner be in need of replacement, the procedure indicated in paragraph 425.1 of this section will be followed. When monuments are found, brush and debris will be cleared from the monument where necessary. Monuments, bearing trees, and other identification markers will be pointed out to loggers and other contractors to avoid their accidental destruction~~ §59.74, Wis. Stats., provides:

1. ~~Penalties for destruction of landmarks, monuments and corner posts established by Government Survey, the County Surveyor or a surveyor or public record.~~
2. ~~A procedure for notification of intent to destroy such surveying evidence and referencing prior to destruction.~~
3. ~~The assignment of enforcement responsibility to the Department of Natural Resources.~~

All personnel with land management responsibilities are directed to:

1. Make a reasonable search for the above mentioned surveying evidence prior to implementing any soil moving or cover type manipulation projects, including timber sales, that could result in covering, destruction or removal of such evidence.
2. In the event such evidence is found:
 - a. If practical, redesign the project so that the evidence will not be disturbed or
 - a.b. If destruction is unavoidable, notify the County Surveyor at least 30 days prior to

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316 destruction giving the legal description of the monument and the reason for
317 destruction or other obliteration. If the County Surveyor does not re-reference the
318 evidence within 30 days notice, the project supervisor will determine if the
319 evidence has future value to the State and, if it does, will arrange for a re-
320 reference by a registered surveyor or engineer.

- 321 3. If reasonable search fails to uncover survey evidence in the suspected vicinity,
322 conduct an additional search if he/she sees fit.
- 323 4. In order to further reduce the possibility of inadvertent destruction of invaluable
324 survey evidence:
- 325 a. Each Forester with County Forest responsibilities should discuss with County
326 Forest Administrators the need for including adequate protective clauses in
327 easements, rights-of-way, timber sale contracts, and other agreements that might
328 result in destruction of monuments.
- 329 b. Personnel advising landowners regarding forestry or other land management
330 practices should alert such owners to possible monument destruction that may be
331 caused by them.
- 332 c. Any instances of potential or accomplished obliteration of survey monumentation
333 discovered in the course of field operations should be brought to the County
334 Surveyor's attention.

335
336 Responsibilities of the Forestry, Recreation, & Land Department:

337 The Forestry Department in the course of its duties shall perpetuate all survey evidence
338 established by certified survey or mutual agreement on the County Forest.

- 339 1. Evidence including corners, witnesses to corners, and boundary lines shall be
340 painted with blue paint periodically. Blazes marking survey lines and witnesses
341 to corners shall be refreshed periodically. This work shall be done to maintain
342 the survey evidence and make it apparent to others.
- 343 2. The Department's Geographic Information System includes layers of survey
344 corners and lines with their associated reference tables. These records shall be
345 updated as the County Forest Boundary is established.
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~~425.4 DESTRUCTION OF MONUMENTS~~

~~When destruction occurs the administrator will be notified. In accordance with Section 59.635, Wisconsin Statutes, corners and witness monuments will not be covered, removed or destroyed unless the county surveyor is notified in advance in writing. In the absence of a county surveyor, and when destruction occurs on county lands, the administrator will be so notified. The County Legal Counsel will be notified in cases where a violation occurs in order to effect prosecution pursuant to Section 59.635 Wisconsin Statutes~~

1
2 WILAS COUNTY FORESTRY PLAN PURSUANT TO §28.11, W.S. STATS.

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500 LAND USE

500.1 OBJECTIVES

- (1) To identify policies and procedures employed to effectively manage, utilize and sustain the resources of the County Forest.
- (2) Identify regulated management activities, land uses and special resource areas.

505 SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES

Silviculture is the practice of controlling forest composition, structure, and growth to maintain and enhance the forest's utility for any purpose. These practices are based on research and general silviculture knowledge of the species being managed. The goal is to encourage vigor within all developmental stages of forest stands, managed in an even aged or uneven aged system. The application of silviculture to a diverse forest needs a unified, systematic approach. The DNR Public Forest Lands Handbook (2460.5) and DNR Silvicultural and Forest Aesthetics Handbook (2431.5) will be used as guidelines for management practices used on the County Forest.

505.1 ~~EVEN AGED MANAGEMENT~~

A forest stand composed of trees having relatively small differences in age. Typical regeneration practices include: clear cutting, shelterwood cutting and seed-tree cutting.

505.2 ~~UNEVEN AGED MANAGEMENT~~

A forest stand composed of trees that differ markedly in age. The typical cutting practice is selection cutting, where individual

156 trees are removed from the stand. Regeneration is continually
157 occurring after the stand is cut.

158

159 505.3 TIMBER SALES

160 Regulated cutting of timber is essential to the goals and
161 objectives of this plan.

162 Timber harvesting will be conducted on an annual basis in an effort
163 to achieve a sustainable harvest level. Harvest areas will be
164 distributed in the forest to accommodate such needs as
165 biodiversity, wildlife, aesthetics, watershed protection and other
166 biological needs. The DNR forest reconnaissance printout will be
167 used as the basis for planning and scheduling harvests. All sales
168 will be established, administered and reported in accordance with
169 the DNR Timber Sale Handbook (2461). All sales on the forest are to
170 be advertised for public bidding, with the exception of small sales
171 with an estimated value of \$3000 or less, or sales that would
172 qualify under a salvage provision (§28.11(6)(c), Ws. Stats.) These
173 sales may be sold direct without advertising.

174

175 505.3.1 Field Preparation of Timber Sales

176 The County and the DNR will cooperate to locate, designate and
177 prepare harvest areas for sale. The Forest administrator and DNR
178 liaison forester shall jointly be responsible to see that the field
179 work on sales is accomplished.

180

181 505.3.2 Advertising For Bids

182 After field work is completed and necessary reports prepared for
183 DNR approval, the administrator shall prepare a sale prospectus and
184 make it available to interested loggers. Timber sale
185 advertisements, at a minimum will be by classified ad in the Vilas
186 County News-Review and Lakeland Times newspapers, having general

187 circulation in the county (§28.11(6)(b), Ws. Stats). Ads shall be
188 run once each week for two consecutive weeks, the last being at
189 least one week prior to the bid opening. A longer advance time
190 will be given when feasible. Sealed bid sales will generally be
191 offered in early spring and fall, or as needed.

192 193 505.3.3 Prospectus

194 The following information will be made available to prospective
195 bidders:

- 196 (1) Species to be harvested and estimated volume
- 197 (2) Maps of sale areas
- 198 (3) Special contract provisions
- 199 (4) Procedures for bidding
- 200 (5) Bid forms
- 201 (6) Timber sales bond and advance stumpage schedule

202 203 505.3.4 Method Of Bidding

204 Bids will be reviewed at a meeting of the committee. A sealed
205 envelope showing tract number and marked "sealed bid" shall be
206 submitted on County Forest bid forms by the bidder for each tract
207 bid on, and shall contain:

- 208 (1) The bid price per cord or per thousand board feet
209 for each species offered and the total for each species
210 bid. The total value of the timber sale bid shall be
211 indicated on both scaled and lump sum bids. The total bid
212 value must meet or exceed the advertised sale minimum
- 213 (2) A bid bond must be submitted with the bid for each
214 tract of timber. The bid bond may be in the form of a
215 check, money order, or bank draft and made payable to
216 Vilas County. The amount of the bid bond is equal to the
217 performance deposit for each tract of timber as specified

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in the Prospectus.

505.3.5 Awarding Sales

(1) The high bidder is normally awarded the sale contract; however, the committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and accept the bid offer most advantageous to the county. Grounds for rejecting bids may include without limit:

- (a) Non-compliance with County Forest contract requirements.
- (b) Delinquent financial obligations.
- (c) Unsatisfactory past performances.
- (d) Inability to demonstrate financial or professional capability.

Evaluation criteria on timber sales will be price and documented ability to satisfactorily complete the contract.

Factors to be assessed may include proposed equipment and operation, references, proof of financial stability, past performance and documented training completed. Vilas County requires logging contractors to be certified under the Wisconsin Sustainable Initiative Training Standard.

- (2) The bids may be settled by toss of a coin if both parties are agreeable; otherwise the bids on the particular tract will be rejected and the sale re-advertised.
- (3) A contractor may withdraw his/her bid on a particular tract prior to the opening of bids on that tract without penalty.
- (4) Sales remaining unsold after being advertised for two bid openings may be sold direct at not less than the appraised value even though their estimated value exceeds

249 \$3,000. (See DNR Timber Sales Handbook No. 2461 - Chapter
250 52).

251

252 505. 3. 6 Sales Contracts

253 (1) Contracts will be prepared with copies provided to
254 the logger and the DNR with the original filed in the
255 administrator's office.

256 (2) Contracts are to be signed by the successful
257 bidder within 15 days of the sale or before cutting begins,
258 whichever occurs first, with payment being made according
259 to the County Timber Sale Bond and Advance Stumpage Payment
260 Schedule. Failure to sign the contract within 15 days may
261 result in the retention of all or part of the bid bond up
262 to the difference in the stumpage value bid by the next
263 highest bidder who is awarded the contract and not less
264 than \$250.00.

265

266 505. 3. 7 Timber Sale Performance Bond

267 (1) An irrevocable letter of credit issued by a bank
268 which is a member of the Federal Reserve System or insured
269 by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation may be used in
270 lieu of cash as a performance bond on sales. The letter of
271 credit must be in effect for a period of time equal to the
272 term of the contract, plus a sufficient time to allow for
273 possible extension(s) and for closeout of the contract
274 after cutting is completed.

275 (2) The bid bond may be transferred to the performance bond.

276 (3) Performance bonds are calculated to be 25% of the appraised
277 value of the timber sale, rounded to the nearest \$10.00.
278 For timber sales with performance bonds calculated to be
279 less than \$500.00, the performance bond shall be \$500.00.

280 (4) An advance stumpage payment of \$500.00 will be made prior
281 to any cutting. For contracts with an estimated value of
282 less than \$500.00, the purchaser shall pay the amount of
283 the estimated sale value. The advance stumpage will be
284 applied to the first scaling invoice(s).

285
286 505. 3. 8 Contract Provisions

287 All timber sale contracts will be on the form approved by the
288 committee and all provisions therein shall apply. A copy of the
289 timber sale map will be attached and become a part of the
290 contract. The timber sale contract and 'Harvest Regulations' will
291 comply with Wisconsin BMP's For Water Quality (WNR, Bureau of
292 Forestry, Pub. FR093).

293
294 505. 3. 8(a) Slash Disposal, Landings and Decking

295 The objective is to control conditions that affect the
296 following:

297 fire, insects, disease, aesthetics,
298 regeneration, wetlands, wildlife and public interest. Each
299 timber sale contract will have specific slash disposal
300 instructions and aesthetic safeguards and will include
301 without limit the following:

302 (a) All slash must be reduced to a maximum specified
303 height: no trees, tops or limbs shall be leaning or
304 hanging in standing timber.

305 (b) No machinery may be operated in lakes or streams.

306 (c) No slash may be deposited in lakes or streams pursuant to
307 s. 26.12(6), Wis. Stats.

308 (d) No slash, logging debris or machinery operation outside
309 the sale boundary unless approved by the County.

310 (e) Landings and decks are not allowed within 100 feet of any

311 public road except by proper authorization from the
312 County.

313 (f) Any debris or material not natural to the land
314 shall be properly disposed of as it is generated.

315 (g) All slash disposal, road or landing areas, and other
316 woods operations shall be conducted in compliance with
317 state regulations, the Vilas County General Zoning
318 Ordinance, and the Vilas County Shoreland Zoning
319 Ordinance.

320

321 505.3.8(b) Duration and Extension Of Contracts

322 (a) All contracts will be issued for not less than six
323 months nor more than 4 years. Contracts will be dated to
324 expire on the anniversary of the sale. Exceptions may be
325 made in cases of extenuating circumstances.

326 (b) An extension of time may be granted by the committee, with
327 an appropriate adjustment in stumpage rates, at the request
328 of the purchaser. The adjustment in stumpage rates is
329 determined by the following rate increase schedule. No
330 extensions will be given beyond 4 years.

331 One year contracts: 5% 1st extension

332 10% 2nd extension

333 15% 3rd extension

334 Two year contracts: 10% 1st extension

335 15% 2nd extension

336 Three year contracts: 15% 1st extension

337 Four year contracts: No extension

338 (c) The maximum time duration of a timber sale contract,
339 including extensions, shall be 4 years. Extension beyond
340 this period of time shall be considered by the Committee
341 only in the event of special justification. Special

342 stumpage rate adjustments may be made.

343 (d) If purchasers request to be released from contracts or do
344 not wish to have contracts renewed or extended, the
345 Committee may retain that part of the performance deposit
346 equal to the difference of the stumpage values after the
347 tract is resold plus the cost of re-establishment of the
348 timber sale.

349 (e) The contractor may request a contract release due to
350 severe physical disability. The committee shall
351 determine whether or not a release shall be granted and
352 may withhold all or a portion of the bond deposit for
353 damages.

354
355 505. 3. 8(c) Contract Violations

356 Field enforcement of timber sale contracts will be the
357 responsibility of the administrator employing the following
358 procedure:

359 (a) The administrator, or designee, will attempt to resolve
360 inadvertent or minor violations by verbal contact with the
361 contractor.

362 (b) The administrator, or designee, may immediately
363 suspend logging operations when a serious or
364 emergency situation arises.

365 (c) The suspension will be followed by written notice
366 to the contractor, stating the nature of the
367 violation and informing them of committee action
368 taken or pending.

369 (d) The Committee, in consultation with legal
370 counsel, may consider, but is not limited to the
371 following remedies:

372 (1) Charge up to double the average mill price

- 373 (2) Charge for actual damages
374 (3) Suspend contract
375 (4) Retain all deposits
376 (5) Foreclose on cut forest products on sale
377 (6) Refer to District Attorney for prosecution
378 (7) Seek civil damages in addition to the performance bond.
379 (e) Suspension of operation will remain in effect
380 until receipt of written notice from the county.
381 (f) Failure of the contractor to comply with the committee
382 decision may result in cancellation of timber contracts
383 with the county. All deposits may be retained, and forest
384 products on sale areas may be seized and sold by the
385 county. At the Committee's discretion, the contractor may
386 be banned from future purchase of county timber sales.

387
388
389 505. 3. 9 Timber Sale Restrictions

- 390 (1) To minimize resource damage, the types of logging
391 equipment, methods, and times of operation used on sale
392 areas will be restricted by the county.
393 (2) Special restrictions may be required in accordance
394 with the aesthetic policy set forth in Section 520.
395 (3) Seasonal restrictions may be applied to protect
396 roads, minimize recreation use conflicts, benefit wildlife
397 management, avoid endangered resources concerns, minimize
398 insect and disease problems, or to assist in fire
399 protection.

400
401 505. 3. 10 Special Forest Product Contracts

- 402 (1) Stumpage of fuelwood, Christmas trees, boughs, posts
403 and poles and other special forest products for resale will

404 be handled as a regular timber sale.
405 (2) Permits for commercial cutting of boughs will be issued on
406 a first come-first serve basis.

407
408 505. 3. 11 Timber Sale Roads

409 (1) The County will assist the contractor in securing
410 legal access to sale areas across private or other non-
411 county ownership.

412 (2) The contractor will be responsible for securing
413 permission to conduct logging activities within town,
414 county or state road rights-of-way (e.g. decking, skidding)

415 (3) Forestry personnel will approve the lay-out of all
416 roads and make other necessary special provisions within
417 the sale contract.

418 (4) Skidding, decking, or other logging activity is not allowed
419 on County Forest roads or ditches unless approved by the
420 County Forest administrator. These areas will be kept free
421 from logging debris. County forest access roads will be
422 maintained by the logger and be left in good as original
423 condition at the close of the sale. Roads will be
424 inspected by county personnel to insure minimal resource
425 damage and compliance with Wisconsin BMP's For Water
426 Quality.

427 (5) A timber sale purchaser may request permission to gate a
428 timber sale access road. The administrator may grant a
429 gate permit to prohibit only motorized traffic.

430
431 505. 3. 12 Supervising Sales

432 Sale inspections will be performed periodically by county and / or
433 state personnel with corresponding notations in the sales record.

434

435 505. 3. 13 Forest Products Accountability

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437 505. 3. 13(a) Scaling Merchantability

438 (1) Logs and poles will be scaled by the Scribner Decimal C
439 log rule. A log is defined as 10" diameter inside bark
440 (d.i.b.) at least 8' in length for softwood, and 10"
441 (d.i.b.) small end at least 8' in length for hardwood.
442 However, products utilized as sawlogs having a small end
443 diameter smaller than the above shall be scaled as sawlogs.

444 (2) The standard unit of measure for cordwood is measuring 4'
445 x 4' x 8' to 100" of unpeeled wood. Hand peeled wood or
446 ring debarked wood will be converted to the standard cord
447 by adding 12.5% and other machine peeled by adding 25% to
448 the peeled volume measured. A pulpwood tree contains at
449 least one 1- 100" stick, to a minimum top diameter as
450 defined in the contract.

451 (3) DNR Timber Sale handbook #2461 will be used as a
452 guide in determining the conversion rates for posts,
453 poles, bolts, chips, weight-scaled wood or other types of
454 forest products.

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458 505. 3. 13(b)

459 Utilization Standards

460 Utilization standards will be specified on individual contracts to
461 provide maximum utilization of all merchantable timber and will be
462 based on the scaling standards in 505. 3. 13(a).

463
464 505. 3. 13(c)

465 Methods of Accountability

466 Wood harvested from the sale area must be accounted for, and
467 payment made in accordance with existing policy and procedure.
468 All wood products are scaled on the timber sale landings by Vilas
469 County Forest or DNR personnel. The Forestry, Recreation, & Land
470 Committee allows for chipping operations which are scaled using
471 the Haul Permit System

472
473 505. 3. 14 Special Forest Product Permits

474 (1) Special products for personal or community use,
475 such as Christmas trees, boughs, fence posts, and firewood
476 will be awarded directly by issuance of permit by the
477 administrator or staff. This permit must be carried on the
478 person of the permittee when in the process of cutting and
479 transporting these products from the forest. Examples of
480 Firewood Gathering, Christmas Tree Cutting, and Bough
481 Cutting Permits are found in Chapter 900.

482 (2) Permits for firewood and individual trees for
483 removal from the right-of-way or other areas designated by
484 the Committee may be granted with or without cost.

485 (3) Permit fees for harvest of Christmas trees will be
486 determined by the Committee. Currently the fee is
487 \$5.00/tree.

488 (4) An annual summary report of cut products sold by permit
489 will be filed with the DNR using Timber Sale Notice and
490 Cutting Report (Form 2460-1).

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494 505. 4 NATURAL REGENERATION

495 Where feasible, natural regeneration will be encouraged through
496 the use of silvicultural methods or cultural activities including,
497 but not limited to, clearcuts, shelterwood cuts, strip cuts,

498 scarification, prescribed burning, select cuts and seed tree cuts.
499 These practices can be enhanced by additional treatments,
500 including the cutting of non-merchantable trees following harvest,
501 by scarification before or after cutting for natural seeding, by
502 prescribed burning, and by chemical treatment. These treatments
503 can be used alone or in combination, depending on the needs of the
504 site. The Silvicultural & Aesthetics Hbk. (DNR Hbk. #2431.5) shall
505 be used as a reference in determining timing, techniques and
506 adequacy of both natural and artificial regeneration.

507 508 505.4.1 Removal Of Non-Merchantable Residual Trees

509 To meet certain silvicultural objectives, the cutting of non-
510 merchantable residual trees may be required as part of a timber
511 sale contract. This requirement will normally be included in the
512 contract when stand evaluation indicates that the density of non-
513 merchantable trees following harvest is likely to inhibit the
514 growth of desirable shade intolerant tree species. Non-
515 merchantable residual tree removal may be also done by post-sale
516 contractor or by County crews if it cannot be done as part of the
517 timber sale contract, and if funding and a labor source is
518 available.

519 520 505.4.2 Prescribed Burning For Natural Regeneration

521 Fire is one of the most natural means available to stimulate
522 the regrowth of early successional species. It should be employed
523 as a management tool when possible and practical. Prescribed
524 burning for purposes such as site preparation, slash removal, or
525 replacement of natural fire ecology will be conducted when
526 conditions allow. DNR Fire Control will be the major source of
527 guidance and direction. See DNR Prescribed Burn Handbook (4360.5).

528

529 505. 4. 3 Other
530 Site preparation by other means may be considered where natural
531 regeneration will be aided by treatment methods.

532
533 505. 5 ARTIFICIAL REGENERATION
534 When natural tree regeneration fails, or when tree species present
535 do not coincide with management objectives for the site, then
536 artificial means shall be employed to establish a more appropriate
537 stand of trees. The establishment of a forest stand through
538 artificial means usually requires some sort of preparation of the
539 site, followed by seeding or planting.

540
541 505. 5. 1 Mechanical Site Preparation
542 Mechanical site preparation includes the use of soil disturbance
543 equipment such as a brush rake, disc, roller chopper, Bracke
544 Scarifier, disk trencher and V-plow prior to tree planting or
545 seeding. This type of equipment is used to reduce logging debris
546 to a smaller size, to incorporate debris into the soil, to clear
547 brush and debris from the site to facilitate planting or seeding,
548 and to reduce competition from other vegetation.

549
550 505. 5. 2 Chemical Site Preparation
551
552 Herbicide application can be an effective means of controlling
553 unwanted vegetation in order to establish seedlings or
554 plantations. It should be used sparingly, in situations where
555 mechanical treatment is not expected to provide the level of
556 vegetative control needed. Chemicals will be selected and applied
557 in strict accordance with label recommendations and requirements.
558 The objective of herbicide use is not to kill all competing
559 vegetation, but rather to kill or set back competing vegetation

560 only enough to establish a reasonable stocked stand of desirable
561 trees. Proximity to private lands, residences, highways and other
562 public use areas must be considered in selecting both the
563 herbicide and the means of application. Herbicides can be applied
564 with hand-held equipment, by motorized ground based equipment or
565 aircraft. A written record for each herbicide application will be
566 prepared, kept on file, and be made available to the primary
567 applicator.

570 5.5.3 Prescribed Burning

571 Prescribed burning for site preparation can be used to reduce
572 logging debris, clear the site, kill set back unwanted vegetation,
573 and to release nutrients into the soil. DNR Fire Control staff
574 will be the major source of guidance and direction for the use of
575 fire as a tool. See DNR Prescribed Burn Handbook (4360.5).

577 505.5.4 Tree Planting / Seeding

578 Both machine and/or hand planting/seeding will be utilized to
579 insure adequate regeneration. The selection of species will be
580 determined according to the specific management objectives and
581 capabilities of each site. It shall be the policy of the committee
582 to maintain existing constructed forest openings and those natural
583 openings greater than 1 acre and manage them for wildlife habitat
584 rather than to plant trees in them. The majority of
585 planting/seeding will be in harvested areas where natural
586 regeneration is inadequate. Planting/seeding may also be employed
587 to maintain a desirable species distribution on the forest for
588 purposes such as aesthetics, biodiversity, and wildlife.

590 505.6 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT.

591 Timber stand improvement will involve release, thinning, and
592 pruning as the primary practices during this plan period. Timber
593 stand improvement includes any practices that increase the health,
594 growth and quality of existing stands of trees. It can include
595 activities such as release of desirable trees from vegetative
596 competition, non-commercial thinnings of dense tree stands and
597 pruning of lower tree branches. Some practices can be done either
598 by hand, mechanically, or chemically. All practices and
599 applications may be employed during this plan period.

600

601 505. 6. 1 Release

602 Release work, if it cannot be done by commercial timber harvest,
603 will be conducted by either mechanical or chemical means as site
604 or environmental conditions warrant. Release is defined as the
605 removal of competing vegetation from the desired tree species.

606

607 505. 6. 2 Non-Commercial Thinning

608 Most thinning can be accomplished through commercial harvest
609 operations. Non-commercial thinning will be considered if the
610 individual site requirements, funding and/or available labor make
611 it desirable.

612

613 505. 6. 3 Pruning

614 Pruning will be considered mainly for conifer species and carried
615 out when deemed economically feasible.

616

617 510 RECREATION

618 The County Forest Ordinance and §28.11, Ws. Stats. authorize the
619 Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee to provide recreational
620 opportunities for the public. This authority is further recognized
621 in the mission statement for the Washtenaw County Forest (Chapter 100)

622 which specifically identifies outdoor recreation opportunities.
623 The mission statement also charges the Committee to conduct
624 activities in a manner that prevents or minimizes the degradation
625 of natural resources.

626 (1) The Committee may establish and maintain recreation
627 areas and facilities within and outside of the County
628 Forest. The Committee has been empowered to establish
629 and enforce rules and regulations for the use of such
630 developments and to establish fees for their use.

631 (2) The County Outdoor Recreation Plan, updated
632 approximately every five years, will reflect the
633 public use and interest in the county's recreation
634 facilities and how the county plans to accommodate
635 those uses and interests.

636 (3) The Vilas County General Code and ordinances shall
637 govern the lands designated by the county for park and
638 recreational purposes.

639 (4) The county recreation map and the ordinances are
640 appended in Chapter 900.

641
642 510.1 RECREATIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS

643 It is permissible for the Committee to contract with clubs or
644 individuals to provide recreational services for the public. An
645 agreement with a local snowmobile club to assist in grooming and
646 maintaining county snowmobile trail facilities is an example.

647
648 510.2 RECREATIONAL USE PERMITS.

649 (1) Permits or use agreements for use of the County Forest may
650 be issued by the Committee for recreational purposes.

651 (2) No permits for sale of malt or intoxicating beverages will
652 be issued on the County Forest.

653 (3) Other types of special use permits are found in Section
654 515.

655 (4) Permits will not be issued for cabin sites on the forest.

656 (5) Organized events or special uses, other than informal
657 recreation (see Sec. 510.4) require
658 specific permission from the Committee.

659

660 510.3 ENTRANCE AND USER FEES

661 (1) Fees for camping shall be in accord with fees charged by
662 similar private facilities so as not to provide undue
663 competition. Fees shall be subject to change periodically
664 at the discretion of the Committee.

665 (2) Detailed information on park or recreation area use regulations
666 can be found in the Vilas County Outdoor Recreation Ordinance.

667 (3)

668 510.4 EXTENSIVE RECREATIONAL USE OF THE FOREST

669 Extensive (informal) County Forest uses shall include, but not
670 necessarily be limited to, hunting, fishing, picnicking,
671 snowshoeing, biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, photography and
672 nature study. Such uses do not require a permit but must be
673 conducted according to the provisions of County Ordinances.

674

675 510.4.1 Hunting

676 The entire county forest is open for regulated hunting with the
677 exception of designated areas that are developed for high public
678 use, such as Torch Lake Park. Temporary hunting stands are
679 permissible but must be removed from the forest after use. The
680 use of nails, lag screws, screw steps, or other damaging devices
681 is not permitted. No permanent type structures shall be
682 permitted. Refer to Chapter 900 for the ordinance pertaining to
683 tree stands.

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510.4.2 Fishing

All lakes and streams within the forest are available for regulated fishing, unless otherwise listed in state and county regulations.

510.4.3

Picnicking

Picnicking is allowed throughout the County Forest; however, the user must remove any garbage or debris generated. Violators will be subject to fines for littering.

510.4.4 Camping

A permit is required to camp in designated recreation areas, such as the Wisconsin River Canoe Campsites and Tamarack Springs Campground. Camping on the Vilas County Forest in areas other than the developed campsites is permitted for the traditional Wisconsin Gun Deer Season.

- (1) No littering or site destruction will be tolerated.
- (2) The Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee will set the permit fee.
- (3) Maximum permit period is 10 days.
- (4) Natural vegetation and terrain may not be damaged or altered in any way, except for the construction of an adequate fire ring. Fasteners such as nails, screws or bolts may not be attached to trees.
- (5) Manufactured materials (lumber, concrete, plastics, etc.) may not be left on the site when it is vacated. No trees or other vegetation, either native or exotic, may be planted on the site.

715 510. 5 INTENSIVE RECREATION AREAS.

716 The Vilas County Forest has sites developed to accommodate a high
717 degree of public use. The Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee
718 may prohibit other recreation activities that are not compatible
719 with the intent of the developed facilities.

720

721 510. 5. 1 Campgrounds

722 Designated camping areas are provided on the County Forest. These
723 facilities

724 include:

- 725 1. Tamarack Springs Campground
- 726 2. Wisconsin River Canoe Campsites (3)
- 727 3. White Spruce Lake Primitive Campsite

728

729 510. 5. 2 Picnic Areas

730 Picnic areas open to the public include:

- 731 1. Torch Lake
- 732 2. Hunter Lake
- 733 3. Eagle Lake
- 734 4. McLeod Lake
- 735 5. Snipe Lake
- 736 6. Snyder Lake
- 737 7. Rummels Road
- 738 8. River Road
- 739 9. Buckatagon Trail

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741 510. 5. 3

742 Swimming Areas

743 Designated swimming areas include:

- 744 1. Torch Lake
- 745 2. Hunter Lake

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3. Eagle Lake

Lifeguards are not provided at these areas.

510. 5. 4 Boat Landings

At several locations in the county, on and off the County Forest, areas have been developed for water access. These generally include a parking lot, surfaced approach to the water (boat landing), and appropriate signing. These are provided for public access to waters for recreational purposes and are shown on the recreation map in Chapter 900. Water access is also addressed in Chapter 700. These landings are not to be considered boat-mooring sites.

510. 5. 5 Waysides

Waysides are day use areas and are located at various points throughout the County. Currently there are no waysides maintained by the Vlas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Department.

510. 5. 6 Shooting Ranges

There is one gun range on the County Forest designated as a Special Use Area. Maintenance and repair of this facility is done by Department staff.

510. 6 MANAGED TRAIL AREAS

Whenever possible, multiple uses of the various trail systems are encouraged and are subject to policy review of the Committee. Whenever possible, user conflicts are avoided. However, recreational users will frequently encounter forest management activities instrumental to the existence and future of the Vlas County Forest. The trail systems are identified in the Recreation map appended in Chapter 900 and referenced in Chapter 700.

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510. 6. 1 Snowmobile Trails

It is the policy of the Committee to provide adequate public trails on the forest for snowmobiling. The use of these trails by ATVs is prohibited by Vilas County Ordinance, Chapter 16.06(8)(d). The Forestry Department will coordinate and administer the county-wide snowmobile trail program under §23.09(11) & (29), and §350.12(4), Wis. Stats., and NR §50.09, Natural Resources Code, and the Vilas County Outdoor Recreation Ordinance. A maintenance program will occur, utilizing as much cost-sharing as possible from the DNR. Refer to Chapter 700 for further discussion on motorized recreation opportunities on the Vilas County Forest.

510. 6. 2 Non-Motorized Trail Opportunities

The Vilas County Forest is a multiple-use forest. Non-motorized travel on trails is a legitimate use of this forest. Design and maintenance of these trails may highlight natural features present on the Forest, should minimize damage to the environment and reduce user conflict. Trail use and development must be compatible and sustainable with the characteristics of the landscape.

510. 7 FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Vilas County will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act regulations. In addition, it is the policy of the Committee to provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities. A disabled hunter access trail has been developed which provides 1.5 miles of vehicle access and 4 miles of seeded habitat trails.

515 SPECIAL USES

808 (1) Recognizing the vast potential for a variety of special uses
809 of the County Forest by governmental units, businesses,
810 organizations or individuals, the committee may designate
811 specified areas for special uses. Specific management methods are
812 to be considered on these areas. Uses must be consistent with the
813 intent of the County Forest Law

814 (2) All requests for specialized uses of any County Forest lands
815 will require a permit authorized by the Committee.

816 (3) An agreement has been entered into with the Federal Aviation
817 Agency for the placement and maintenance of a radar tower
818 located in the SESW Sec. 2, T41N - R9E.

819

820 515.1 SAND AND GRAVEL

821 Wisconsin Act 464 sets forth the regulations that affect
822 gravel/borrow pits on all lands within the State. Sand and gravel
823 pits located on the County Forest may be used only by units of
824 government or contractors performing public works. Use of
825 existing pits and the opening of new pits by other than the County
826 Forestry Department will require Committee approval and be
827 authorized by permit only. The condition of such permits may
828 include but not be limited to:

- 829 1) requiring the pit and its access road to be screened from
830 view from any public highway,
- 831 2) severing trees from the stump,
- 832 3) disposition of brush and dirt spoil by leveling or hauling
833 away,
- 834 4) sloping to prevent steep banks, and
- 835 5) filing with the forestry office an annual written report
836 of gravel and sand removed.

837 Other conditions may be set at the discretion of the Committee.
838 The Committee may set fees for materials removed. Other non-

839 metalliferous materials will be dealt with on an individual basis.

840

841 All active, nonmetallic sites greater than one acre in size,
842 including those on the County Forest, are also subject to the
843 provisions of the Nonmetallic Mining Reclamation Program Chapter
844 NR 135, Wis. Adm Code. The County Forestry Department shall work
845 with the local permit coordinator (often county or local zoning
846 office) in obtaining the necessary permits for nonmetallic mining
847 operations.

848 Sand and gravel may, under some circumstances, be leased to
849 private contractors for private use. In these situations the land
850 must be withdrawn from the County Forest Law until sand/gravel
851 removal and reclamation of the site is completed. Upon completion
852 of reclamation to the satisfaction of the county and the state,
853 the lands shall be reapplied for entry under the County Forest
854 Law. Currently there are 3 gravel pits operated under an
855 agreement with the County Highway Department and 1 gravel pit
856 operated by the Forestry Department.

857

858 515.2 EXPLORATION, PROSPECTING AND MINING

859 (1) The committee may investigate all mineral exploration,
860 prospecting and mining requests as they are received.

861 (2) The DNR shall be notified of all requests as they become known
862 in accord with Manual Code 2712.1. (Mineral exploration on County
863 Forests per §28.11 (3)(i) Wis. Stats.) or other codes which may be
864 subsequently adopted.

865 Public Forest Lands Handbook should be referenced for more
866 detailed procedure.

867

868 515.3 SANITARY LANDFILLS.

869 The use of County Forest lands for sanitary landfills will not be

870 allowed unless the lands involved are withdrawn from the County
871 Forest Law. In February, 2000 an area of 93.53 acres was
872 withdrawn from the County Forest Law to support the Vilas County
873 Landfill. As a condition of the withdrawal, Vilas County shall
874 apply for entry of this same area when the useful life of the
875 Landfill is terminated and the area has been reclaimed.

876

877 515.4 MILITARY MANEUVERS

878 Military maneuvers on County Forest lands will be considered under
879 a lease or written land use agreement. Upon receipt of a written
880 request from the military the Committee, other necessary County
881 staff, Military, and DNR representatives will discuss the issue
882 at a public Committee meeting. After the needs have been
883 outlined, the site shall be field checked, DNR input and
884 consistency with the County Forest Law sought, and town officials
885 advised. Depending on the scope of the project, a public hearing
886 may be appropriate. If all aspects and concerns are addressed and
887 agreed to, a legal instrument will be drafted. The matter will
888 then be brought back to a Committee meeting for final input and
889 approval. The Public Forest Lands Handbook #2460.5, Chapter 270
890 will be used for further direction in this matter.

891

892 515.5 PUBLIC UTILITIES.

893 Easements for public utilities will be considered by the
894 Committee. Underground installations will be encouraged. The
895 following main provisions shall be included in any County Board
896 resolution granting permission for construction of any utility
897 transmission line:

- 898 1. Utility may be billed for merchantable forest products and
899 existing timber reproduction.
- 900 2. Utility may be billed for land removed from production due

901 to right-of-way clearing for losses of future income and
902 multiple use benefits.

903 3. Land removed for utility operations that is no longer suited
904 'primarily for timber production or that is no longer
905 suitable for scenic, outdoor recreation, public hunting &
906 fishing, water conservation or multiple use purposes'
907 (§28.11(4)(c), Ws. Stats.) may need to be withdrawn for
908 county forest law designation. The utility shall replace
909 any lands requiring withdrawal from county forest with other
910 lands suitable for county forest entry that are in the
911 forest blocking of the County Forest.

912 4. Utility companies will be encouraged to use existing
913 corridors and underground lines to minimize disturbance to
914 the county forest and native plants and animals.

915 5. Merchantable timber will be removed in a manner approved by
916 the Committee. Timber cut must be reported to the DNR on
917 form 2460-1.

918 6. Utility must provide notice of proposed route, including a
919 map of not less than 1 inch/mile scale, 90 days in advance
920 of proposed construction.

921 7. Special maintenance, controlled access and signage concerns
922 shall be addressed in any proposal.

923 8. An appropriate fee shall be charged for easements.

924 9. The Vilas County Corporation Counsel shall review all
925 easements.

926

927 515.6 PRIVATE UTILITY SERVICE LINES

928 If a landowner cannot gain utility access across other lands, the
929 committee may consider a land use agreement for access across
930 County Forest. Requests will be considered on a case by case
931 basis. These agreements should consider the inclusions mentioned

932 in Section 515 for easements as well as:

- 933 1. The permit is non-transferrable
- 934 2. The County retains full ownership of the utility corridor,
935 however it shall
936 not be liable for maintenance, upkeep, or other damages
937 associated with the utility service.
- 938 3. The permittee waives any rights to any declaration of ownership
939 or interest in the utility corridor on County land for
940 administrative costs as a result of this Land Use Agreement –
941 Utility permit. This agreement is granted upon the signature
942 and any fees being received by Vilas County.
- 943 4. The fee for such a land use agreement is set at \$1.00 per
944 lineal foot for each utility with a minimum fee of
945 \$250.00.
- 946 5. Burial of utility lines is preferred. Above ground
947 structures will be responsibility of permittee, including
948 maintenance, disassembly, and removal.
- 949 6. The standard land use agreement for utility access is
950 included as an exhibit in Chapter 900.

951
952 515.7 CELLULAR COMMUNICATION TOWERS

953 The placement of cellular communication towers on the Vilas County
954 Forest will be considered by the Committee on a limited basis.
955 Requests will be considered on a case by case basis subject to the
956 following conditions:

- 957 1. It must be demonstrated the site is the most practical
958 location for the tower
- 959 2. Land selected for such a tower is no longer suitable for
960 continued entry in the County Forest program In addition,
961 any accompanying lands needed for tower support wires that
962 inhibit the practice of forestry and are no longer suitable

963 for scenic, outdoor recreation, hunting & fishing, water
964 conservation or multiple use purposes (§28.11(4), Ws. Stats)
965 may also need to be withdrawn from county forest law
966 Withdrawal is subject to approval by both County Board and
967 DNR. The cellular communication company shall replace any
968 lands requiring withdrawal from county forest with other
969 lands suitable for county forest entry that are in the
970 forest block.

- 971 3. Vilas County shall consider free use of such tower.
- 972 4. Any agreement should also consider the inclusions listed
973 under 515.5 (Items 1-7).
- 974 5. The County Corporation Counsel shall review any agreements,
975 leases, or easements for communication facilities.

976
977 515.8 **OTHER**
978 Other types of special uses of the county forest may be considered
979 by the committee. These may include, but are not limited to:
980 research, independent study and scientific areas. Regulations
981 governing these uses will be developed on an individual basis.

982
983 520 **AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONES**
984 Aesthetic forest management will be applied to the County Forest.
985 The degree of application of special management will vary and
986 will require the classification of the forest according to the
987 degree and type of public use. The Wisconsin DNR Silvicultural
988 and Forest Aesthetics Handbook No. 2431.5, and the Natural
989 Resources Board Policy on management of State and County Forests
990 contained in Chapter NR 1.24 of the Ws. Administrative Code (as
991 adopted in June of 1989) will be used for management prescription
992 guidelines. Subsequent versions of NR 1.24 are subject to the
993 approval of the County. Scenic Management Zones are shown on the

994 land use map appended to in Chapter 900.14.

995

996 520.1 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE A

997 Zone A includes areas where there is intensive public presence
998 because of scenic attraction, or some use of the area that would
999 be enhanced by special timber management practices.

1000

1001 520.1.1 Examples – Zone A

1002 (1) Park and recreation areas, including access routes.

1003 (2) Lakes and rivers that support significant water based
1004 recreational activity.

1005 (3) Roads with medium to heavy use where the majority of the
1006 traffic is unrelated to the forest or is for the specific
1007 purpose of enjoying scenery.

1008

1009 520.1.2 Boundaries – Zone A

1010 1. Park or recreation areas. Zone boundaries may include the
1011 area within the reasonable visible horizon as determined
1012 from any location within the recreation area. It may also
1013 include adjacent areas that receive a considerable amount
1014 of use as a result of the recreation area.

1015 2. Travel corridors. The boundaries will be a reasonable
1016 distance from the traveled part of the zone.

1017

1018 520.1.3 Management – Zone A

1019 Zone A management is primarily for scenic values. This will mainly
1020 involve adaptations of normal timber cutting practices and may
1021 require additional expenditures.

1022

1023 520.1.4 Permitted Uses – Zone A

1024 1. Timber harvesting and thinning operations may be prohibited

- 1025 during periods of peak public use. All slash may be
1026 lopped and/or removed from view.
- 1027 2. Timber stands in this zone will be managed to afford the
1028 greatest scenic potential for public enjoyment.
- 1029 3. Borrow pits may be permitted near a road during the time
1030 the road is under construction. When any borrow operation
1031 is completed the site will be restored pursuant to Chapter
1032 NR 135, Wis. Adm Code and must aesthetically conform to
1033 general use of the area. Permanent pits should be
1034 screened from view. Gravel/borrow pits located on the
1035 county forest may only be used by units of government or
1036 contractors performing public works.
- 1037 4. County directional, informational and recreational signs
1038 conforming to approved standards are permitted.
- 1039 5. All tree and shrub planting will be spaced at random to
1040 prevent an artificial appearance.
- 1041 6. New access roads will be permitted if they join the main
1042 road at right angles... All such access roads will be,
1043 when possible, curved so that no cleared line of sight
1044 will be created from the main road to the exterior
1045 boundary of the zone.

1046

1047 520. 2 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE B

1048 Zone B includes any area of the forest where the public use is
1049 such that no one value can at all times be considered as the most
1050 important, but where, because of the intensity and variety of use,
1051 scenic attractiveness is desirable.

1052

1053 520. 2. 1 Examples – Zone B

- 1054 1. Roads with light to medium use where the majority of the
1055 traffic is a result of some other use of the forest other

1056 than for scenic beauty.

1057 2. Lakes or streams that do not have significant value for
1058 water-based recreation.

1059
1060 520. 2. 2 Boundaries – Zone B

1061 The zone boundaries will have a reasonable visual horizon
1062 determined at periods of heavy use, from the part of the zone
1063 where the use occurs.

1064
1065 520. 2. 3 Management – Zone B

1066 Zone B Management is for normal multiple use, but applies strict
1067 slash disposal requirements for any management operations. With
1068 the use of informational signs, management practices may be
1069 interpreted to the public.

1070
1071 520. 2. 4 Permitted Uses – Zone B

1072 All land management activities are permissible but should be
1073 exercised with sensitivity to aesthetics. Examples: Timber sales
1074 may employ lopping and scattering of slash, rehabilitation of
1075 roads and landings, erosion control and prevention, and irregular
1076 harvest lines to mitigate aesthetic impact.

1077
1078 520. 3 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE C

1079 Zone C includes all parts of the forest not contained in Zones A,
1080 B or D. Any significant public presence in this zone is likely to
1081 occur only as result of a specific use of the forest.

1082
1083 520. 3. 1 Examples – Zone C

1084 All areas not included in Zone A, B or D. The majority of the
1085 forest is normally classified as Zone C.

1086

1087 520. 3. 2 Boundaries – Zone C
1088 All areas not included in Zone A, B or D

1089
1090 520. 3. 3 Management – Zone C
1091 Zone C management is to optimize timber production using sound
1092 resource management concepts. Natural opportunities to maintain
1093 or enhance diversity or scenic quality should be considered.

1094
1095 520. 3. 4 Permitted Uses – Zone C
1096 All land management activities consistent with the goals of the
1097 forest.

1098
1099 520. 4 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE D
1100 Areas designated as special resources.

1101
1102 520. 4. 1 Examples – Zone D
1103 (1) Spruce Grouse Management Area
1104 (2) Mickey's Mid Lake

1105
1106 520. 4. 2 Management – Zone D
1107 Manage these areas as outlined in Chapter 800 or the individual
1108 management
1109 Plan.

1110
1111 525 **TREATY RIGHTS: GATHERING MISCELLANEOUS FOREST PRODUCTS**
1112 Ordinance No. 16.09, adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of the
1113 County of Vilas on 8 January, 1992, authorizes Vilas County to require
1114 permits for gathering miscellaneous forest products on County land by
1115 Native American treaty rights participants. The ordinance, Section
1116 16.09 of the General Code of Vilas County, adopts language of, and
1117 complies with, the Federal District Court decision and states as

1118 follows: 16.09(1) Permit Required – Any treaty rights participant as
1119 covered in the decision dated 19 March 1991, in case number 74-C-313-C,
1120 the Honorable Barbara B. Grabb, District Judge for the Federal District
1121 Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, interested in gathering
1122 other miscellaneous forest products (except fruits, seeds, or berries
1123 not enumerated in County Ordinances), from county owned land shall
1124 obtain a County Gathering Permit from the County Forestry Office prior
1125 to the exercise of said gathering rights.

1126 16.09(2) Application and Processing – The County
1127 Forest Administrator shall prepare an appropriate application requesting
1128 pertinent information from all treaty rights participants who seek to
1129 gather miscellaneous forest products on county forest lands. Said
1130 application shall be available upon request. Those treaty rights
1131 participants who seek to gather miscellaneous forest products shall
1132 provide proper identification, and present a valid tribal membership
1133 card upon submitting an application with the county. Upon receipt of an
1134 application, the county shall respond to the gathering permit request no
1135 later than 14 days after receipt of said application. Said response
1136 shall either grant or deny the request. Should the request be denied,
1137 the reasons for said denial shall be set forth in the response from the
1138 county, including basis for said denial with specific reference to the
1139 limitations set forth in Section 16.09(4). Any application which is
1140 incompletely or incorrectly prepared shall be returned within said 14
1141 days to the applicant with specific directions as to which portion(s) of
1142 said application is/are defective.

1143 16.09(3) Rights Granted By Said Permit – The
1144 gathering permit shall indicate the location of the material to be
1145 gathered, the volume of the material to be gathered, and any additional
1146 conditions on the gathering of the material necessary for conservation
1147 of timber or miscellaneous forest products on county land, or for public
1148 health and safety. A sample Application & Permit for the gathering of

1149 miscellaneous forest products under treaty rights may be found in
1150 Chapter 900.

1151 16.09(4) Denial of Gathering Permit – The county may not deny a request
1152 to gather miscellaneous forest products on county property under the
1153 terms of this ordinance unless: 16.09(4)(a) The gathering is
1154 inconsistent with the forest management for said property; 16.09(4)(b)
1155 The gathering will conflict with pre-existing rights of a permittee or
1156 other person possessing an approval to conduct an activity on the
1157 property, including a contractor of the county; 16.09(4)(c) Is otherwise
1158 inconsistent with conservation or public health or safety.

1159

1160 530 **EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCES**

1161 Exceptional resources include natural communities, areas, or sites
1162 that possess unique qualities locally, regionally, or nationally.

1163 Also included are species that are rare, threatened, endangered,
1164 or identified as species of greatest conservation need. It is the
1165 policy of Vilas County to manage these resources to sustain and
1166 enhance their exceptional features or populations.

1167

1168 530.1 **COMMUNITIES OF SIGNIFICANT VALUE TO BIODIVERSITY**

1169 Although communities are not legally protected, they are critical
1170 components of Wisconsin's biodiversity and may provide habitat for
1171 rare, threatened, and endangered species. A list of natural
1172 community types found in the Northern Highland Ecological
1173 Landscape and in Vilas County is appended in Chapter 900.
1174 Additionally, a list of these communities occurring on the Vilas
1175 County Forest is also included in Chapter 800. The presence of
1176 these communities provide opportunity for examples to be
1177 maintained.

1178

1179 530.1.1 **Haymeadow Creek Swamp**

1180 An area identified as an exceptional and unique resource is the
1181 Haymeadow Creek Swamp. This site is found primarily in Sections
1182 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, and 26 of Land O'Lakes Township. The
1183 biological site is partially on county land, and partially on
1184 state, federal, and Board of Commissioners of Public Lands
1185 property. Several natural communities of high conservation value
1186 are found in this native community complex—northern dry forest,
1187 Tamarack swamp, northern wet forest, northern sedge meadow, Alder
1188 thicket, and slow, hard, cold streams. Eight endangered,
1189 threatened, and special concern species have been identified from
1190 the site. In addition, the site has been nominated as an
1191 important bird area for its abundance of boreal birds, especially
1192 Spruce Grouse.

1193
1194 530. 1. 2 Northern White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)
1195 The Vilas County Forest has 55 acres typed as stands of Northern
1196 White Cedar. The age of these stands range from 103 to 150 years.
1197 With regard to the difficulties in regenerating Cedar, due mostly
1198 to high deer populations, these stands are currently not being
1199 harvested, with the exception of salvage harvests of dead or dying
1200 trees. However, silvicultural techniques used in conjunction with
1201 repellents, fencing, and/or bud-capping may prove useful in
1202 regenerating Cedar and enhancing its presence on the County
1203 Forest.

1204
1205 530. 1. 3 Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga Canadensis*)
1206 On the Vilas County Forest, Eastern Hemlock occurs incidentally in
1207 northern hardwood stands as individual trees and small islands of
1208 trees. There are no stands of Eastern Hemlock on the County
1209 Forest. Hemlock is important to the diversity of our northern
1210 hardwood stands and provides needed habitat for many species

1211 including migratory songbirds and a seed source for regeneration.
1212 Management is currently keyed to maintaining Hemlock as a
1213 component of northern hardwood stands and improving the health and
1214 vigor of individual trees and islands of trees through thinning.
1215 Regeneration is dependent on overcoming high deer populations by
1216 use of the same techniques as previously discussed with Cedar.

1217
1218 530. 1. 4 Natural Origin Red & White Pine Stands (Pinus resinosa)
1219 (Pinus strobus)

1220 Unique to the Vilas County Forest are Red and White Pine stands of
1221 natural origin. These stands occupy 2,911 acres on the County
1222 Forest and range in age from 90 – 108 years. Age and size class
1223 diversity on the County Forest are provided by these stands as
1224 their understories have developed through periodic thinning.
1225 Management activities in these stands are determined on an
1226 individual stand basis as scheduled activities come due. Stand
1227 characteristics are considered so that when it is prudent, stands
1228 are managed to the biological maturity for that particular site.

1229
1230 530. 1. 5 Wild Rice & Wild Celery Lakes & Streams
1231 Appended in Chapter 900 is a list of Vilas County lakes and
1232 streams known to contain wild rice and wild celery. The
1233 management goal for those waters within the County Forest is to
1234 protect and sustain these resources. The Forestry Department in
1235 cooperation with WNR has, and will continue, to enhance these
1236 communities through planting and beaver control as funding and
1237 labor sources permit.

1238
1239 530. 2 RARE, THREATENED, OR ENDANGERED SPECIES & ECOSYSTEMS
1240 The Natural Heritage Inventory is a database of rare, threatened,
1241 and endangered species and natural communities throughout

1242 Wsconsin. Chapter 800 provides a list of species and
1243 communities occurring in Vilas County and on the Vilas County
1244 Forest. Management of the County Forest will consider these
1245 species and habitats, as well as those identified as Species of
1246 Greatest Conservation Need (listed in Chapter 800), and alter
1247 management practices to mitigate impacts. Forestry Department
1248 staff will work with DNR Endangered Resources staff to coordinate
1249 monitoring, research, and educational activities.

1250
1251 530.2.1 Spruce Grouse Management Area

1252 The Vilas County Forestry Department, in cooperation with the
1253 Eagle River Ranger District of the Nicolet National Forest and
1254 the Wsconsin DNR, supports a Spruce Grouse Management Area. The
1255 Spruce Grouse (*Dendragapus Canadensis*) is considered a rule
1256 protected rare species in Wsconsin. The goal of this
1257 cooperative management area is to maintain and promote the
1258 existing Spruce Grouse populations in the area. Also, part of
1259 the area contains a small, patterned peatland community,
1260 comprised of wetlands with scattered islands of mixed conifers
1261 throughout.

1262
1263 The management area location lies between County Highway E and
1264 Highway K including lands in the drainages of the Wsconsin
1265 River, Haymeadow Creek, and Miskrat Creek. More specifically,
1266 Vilas County Lands in Forest Compartments 35 & 36 in Sections 13,
1267 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27, T42N – R10E.

1268 Spruce Grouse habitat will be enhanced by promoting the
1269 maintenance of Jack Pine and Black Spruce cover types and
1270 emphasizing age class diversity. Signs explaining the
1271 identification of Spruce Grouse and their management have been
1272 erected to inform the public.

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530.3 CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES

The State Historical Society provides information on documented sites of cultural significance. There are known sites significant to the history and culture of Native Americans. This area is protected by eliminating activity that would disturb the soil or vegetation.

VILAS COUNTY FORESTRY PLAN, PURSUANT TO §28.11, WIS. STATS.

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39			

40 **600 PROTECTION**

41 OBJECTIVE

42 To protect and manage the resources of the forest from preventable losses resulting from fire,
43 insects, diseases and other destructive elements including those caused by people man.
44 Protective methods shall include proper silvicultural methods.
45

46 **605 FIRE CONTROL**

47 Damage to the forest caused by uncontrolled fire can create an important challenge in the
48 management of the forest. Loss of resource values caused by fire will be minimized through
49 organized prevention, detection and suppression methods. Maintaining a healthy forest is
50 key to the management of wildfires. The DNR is responsible for all matters relating to the
51 prevention, detection and suppression of forest fires outside the limits of incorporated
52 villages and cities. (§26.11(1), Wis.Stats). The DNR works cooperatively with local fire
53 departments in all fire control efforts. The Vilas County Forest is part of the intensive Forest
54 Fire protection area. The Fire Prevention Handbook No. 4310.5, Prescribed Burn Handbook
55 No. 4360.5, the Fire Management Handbook No. 4325.1 and the Area Fire Plan shall serve
56 as the guidelines for fire control activities.
57

58 605.1 COOPERATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

59 Pursuant to §26.11(4) and §28.11(4)(f), Wis. Stats., ~~and of~~ and of the Vilas County Forest
60 Ordinance, the county may cooperate with the DNR in the interest of fire prevention,
61 detection and suppression on the County Forest. This is accomplished through agreements
62 authorizing the DNR to use County Forest ~~land or~~ land or to utilize county personnel and
63 equipment for fire protection activities.
64

65 605.1.1 Personnel

66 County Forest personnel, upon request from the DNR, may be made available for forest fire
67 control efforts within the county. The DNR is responsible for training and directing the
68 activities of county personnel in accordance with the rules identified in the Area Fire Action
69 Plan.
70
71

72 605.1.2 Equipment

73 County Forest equipment may be available for forest fire control suppression. During
74 periods of high fire hazard, all County Forest vehicles and/or crews ~~should be~~ should be
75 equipped with one or more back pack cans, axes or shovels, appropriate personal protective
76 equipment, mobile communication and any other equipment deemed essential. All hand
77 tools shall be maintained and provided by the DNR.

78
79 605.1.3 Fire Detection

80 Fire detection is the responsibility of the DNR. County Forestry personnel shall assist and
81 report any wild fires to ~~the DNR~~ ~~the DNR,~~ local local Fire Department or 911 Dispatch.
82 The Monahan Fire Tower is located on private land within the County Forest Boundary.

83
84 605.1.4 Forest Fire Prevention

85 DNR fire control personnel are authorized by the county to place fire prevention signs at
86 recreational areas and other strategic locations within the forest. The County conducts and
87 controls all operations (including harvesting) on the forest in a manner designed to prevent
88 forest fires. The use of the county forest during high fire danger periods may be restricted.
89 These restrictions will include, but not be limited to, recreation and logging.

90
91 605.2 SLASH DISPOSAL

92 Timber sale contracts will be designed to meet or exceed the requirements of the Slash
93 Disposal Law, §26.12, Wis. Stats. Additional requirements may be imposed as necessary.

94
95 605.3 DEBRIS BURNING

96 Unauthorized burning of debris will not be permitted on County Forest Lands pursuant to
97 §26.12(5), Wis. Stats.

98
99 605.4 CAMP FIRES

100 Adequate fireplaces will be provided at designated recreation sites. During periods of high
101 fire danger, use of ~~camp fires~~ campfires may be restricted.

104 605.5 PRESCRIBED BURNING

105 | All prescribed burning on County F~~orest—lands~~orest lands will follow the DNR
106 | recommendations. See Prescribed Burn Handbook No. 4360.5 for details. Prescribed fire
107 | may be an effective management tool on the County Forest.

108
109 605.6 COUNTY FOREST FIRE HAZARD AREAS

110 | Primary emphasis will be placed on fire control efforts in pine areas. Maps of these areas are
111 | available at the local DNR field office_(Fire Management Handbook. #4325.1, Section
112 | 3030). The County will cooperate with DNR Fire Control in providing for firebreaks or
113 | access ways.~~in—new~~ Existing access roads, firebreaks and water access points will be
114 | maintained as deemed necessary. Secondary emphasis will be placed on hardwood areas
115 | with no firebreaks developed or maintained. However, access roads will be maintained as
116 | defined in Chapter 700 of this plan.

117
118 605.7 UNCONTROLLED FIRE

119 | Any uncontrolled or non-prescribed fires on the County Forest will be suppressed as soon as
120 | possible.

121
122 **610 CONTROL OF FOREST PEST & PATHOGEN**

123
124 610.1 DETECTION

125 | Damage to the forest caused by insects, other pests and diseases can adversely affect
126 | management of the forest resources. Losses to resource values impacted by forest pests will
127 | be minimized through integrated pest management methods, with emphasis on silvicultural
128 | prescriptions (timber sales). The detection and ~~control—of~~control of pest problems will be
129 | accomplished by County and DNR personnel in cooperation with other agencies.

130
131 610.2 PEST SURVEYS

132 | Pest surveys are conducted under the direction of the DNR’s regional entomologist. The
133 | DNR works in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture Trade and
134 | Consumer Protection (DATCP) in monitoring the spread of gypsy moths. The County may
135 | cooperate by providing personnel and equipment ~~to—assist~~to assist in these operations.

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610.3 INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

Integrated pest management for the purpose of this Plan, is defined as follows:

“The maintenance of destructive agents, including insects, at tolerable levels, by the planned use of a variety of preventive, suppressive, or regulatory tactics and strategies that are ecologically and economically efficient and socially acceptable.”

The integrated pest management control and ~~methodology~~methodology shall be determined jointly by the county forest administrator, and DNR liaison forester in consultation with the DNR regional entomologist and regional forester. Suppression of forest pests may ~~include the~~include the following:

- 1) Silvicultural prescriptions, including timber sales.
- 2) Biological control.
- 3) Chemical control.

610.3.1 Specific Pests and Pathogens of Interest.

610.3.1.1 Gypsy Moth Strategy

This introduced pest has progressed westward from the northeastern United States since the early 1900’s. It reached eastern Wisconsin and has been widespread in some counties since 1988. Despite efforts to slow-the-spread and suppress outbreaks, it is progressing westerly through Wisconsin. The Vilas County Forest’s strategy to combat this defoliating insect will focus on using silvicultural techniques to maintain and improve forest vigor, so as to decrease the likelihood and severity of defoliation. In addition, suppression spraying with approved insecticides may be considered in high use recreation areas and stands containing a high percentage of susceptible, high valued timber. Biological controls may also be available for introduction to help reduce outbreak frequency.

The presence or discovery of threatened or endangered species in these areas may impact both the type of treatment and the decision to apply suppression tactics. Current insecticides for gypsy moth control include a bacterial insecticide (Btk) and a commercial

168 formulation of a naturally-occurring virus (Gypchek). The Gypchek virus, specific to
169 gypsy moth larvae, is only available through the federal suppression program
170 administered by the DNR. The intent in combating this insect is not to eradicate, but
171 rather to reduce populations so that tree mortality is maintained at tolerable levels. The
172 DNR's local gypsy moth coordinator and entomologist will be available for consultation
173 on control tactics and possible quarantine procedures. DATCP is the agency responsible
174 for quarantine procedures for wood products from infested counties.

175 Vilas County Forest's threshold levels for suppression will be as follows:

- 176
- 177 • 10 acres in size and of a compact and regular shape (minimum eligible size for aerial
178 spraying through the state suppression program) OR high use, developed recreation
179 areas
- 180 • 500 egg masses per acre based on 1/40th acre (18.6 ft. radius) plots

181

182 610.3.1.2 Jack Pine Budworm

183 Jack pine budworm, *Choristoneura pinus pinus Freeman*, is a native needle-feeding
184 caterpillar that is generally considered the most significant pest of jack pine. Vigorous young
185 jack pine stands are rarely damaged during outbreaks. The most vigorous stands are well
186 stocked, evenly spaced, fairly uniform in height, and less than 45 years old. Stands older than
187 45 years that are growing on very sandy sites and suffering from drought or other stresses are
188 very vulnerable to damage. Tree mortality and top-kill are more likely to occur in these
189 stands. This mortality and top-kill create fuel for intense wildfires. It will be Vilas County's
190 strategy to harvest at the appropriate rotation age, maintain high stand densities (without
191 overcrowding), and use good site selection for jack pine. This will be an effort to help avoid
192 budworm-caused tree mortality and reduce the threat of damaging wildfires while still
193 providing suitable conditions for jack pine regeneration. Prompt salvage following an
194 outbreak will also help reduce the possibility of wildfire. Use of insecticides is not
195 warranted in combating this forest pest on the County Forest.

196

197 610.3.1.3 Oak Wilt

198 Oak wilt, *Ceratocystis fagacearum (Bretz) Hunt*, is a destructive disease of oak trees. It
199 is responsible for the death of thousands of oak trees in forests, woodlots, and home

200 landscapes each year. Oak wilt is caused by a fungus that invades and impairs the tree's
201 water conducting system, resulting in branch wilting and tree death. Trees in both the red
202 oak group and white oak group are affected. There is no known cure once a tree has oak
203 wilt. Prevention of new oak wilt infection centers is the best management option and
204 involves avoiding injury to healthy trees and removing dead or diseased trees. Healthy
205 trees should not be pruned during the growing season as this attracts beetles that may
206 carry the oak wilt fungus. If pruning is necessary or damage is incurred during the
207 growing season, e.g. through construction activities or storms, the wounds should be
208 painted immediately with a wound paint.

209
210 It will be Vilas County's policy to remove infected trees and debark or chip them when
211 located in a high intensive use area. Once chipped or debarked, the materials shall be
212 covered with plastic for a period of six months to kill the fungus and any insects in the
213 material. A vibratory plow, or similar implement, will also be used to sever root grafts
214 on isolated pockets where feasible. Timber harvest of Red Oak will be restricted
215 between April 15 and August 1.

216
217 610.3.1.4 Forest Tent Caterpillar
218 Forest tent caterpillar, *Malacosoma disstria* Hubner, can be found throughout the United
219 States and Canada wherever hardwoods grow. The favored hosts in Wisconsin are aspen
220 and oak. This native insect causes region-wide outbreaks at intervals from 10 to 15
221 years; outbreaks usually last 2 - 5 years in the Lake States. Severe and repeated
222 defoliation can lead to dieback and/or reduced growth of affected trees, which in some
223 instances may be significant. Populations are often controlled by natural enemies,
224 helping the population crash. Aerial spraying of insecticides can be an option for control
225 as well. It will be Vilas County's strategy to employ sound silvicultural practices to
226 combat this cyclic pest.

227
228 610.3.1.5 Two-lined Chestnut Borer
229 The twolined chestnut borer, *Agrilus bilineatus* (Weber), is a common secondary pest in
230 trees which have been severely defoliated several years in a row. Oaks that have been
231 defoliated by insects such as gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*), fall cankerworm (*Alsophila*

232 *pometaria*), and forest tent caterpillar (*Malacosoma disstria*) can be attacked and killed
233 by the two-lined chestnut borer. Prevention of two-lined chestnut borer is the best
234 management option. Vilas County will strive to maintain healthy trees through sound
235 silvicultural practices to discourage infestation. Infestations will be salvaged promptly.
236

237 610.3.1.6 Emerald Ash Borer

238 The emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis*, was introduced from Asia and has taken hold
239 in lower Michigan. In Michigan it has resulted in widespread mortality specific to ash
240 including green, white, black and several horticultural varieties. Although not currently
241 present in Wisconsin, it is a severe threat to ash in the State. Ash comprises a significant
242 component in the northern hardwood timber type and can be found in nearly pure stands
243 in some lowland areas. Adult beetles feed on foliage however, it is the larvae that cause
244 mortality by feeding on the phloem and outer sapwood of the ash trees. Vilas County
245 will cooperate with ongoing trapping and survey efforts. Sound silvicultural practices
246 will continue to be used to maintain forest health. Should an infestation occur Vilas
247 County will work with DNR Forest Health staff in applying measures to minimize
248 spread, including aggressive salvage trees.
249

250 610.3.2 Funding

251 Desired control activities on the County Forest will be funded through the county forestry
252 budget if other sources of funding are not available. In the event costs require additional
253 funding, ~~special, special~~ appropriations from the Vilas County Contingency Fund will be
254 sought. In addition, state legislation may provide monetary assistance in direct crisis
255 situations where major control operations are undertaken. In case of gypsy moth outbreaks,
256 the county may seek funding from the State of Wisconsin Gypsy Moth Suppression
257 Program.
258

259 610.3.3 Legal Obligations

260 All control operations will comply with regulations as set forth in existing state and federal
261 legislation. Refer to Wisconsin Administrative Code NR80, AG-29, and the Environmental
262 Pesticide Control Act.
263

264 610.3.4 Special Projects

265 The County may cooperate with other agencies in forest pest research. See Chapter 200.

266

267 **615 TIMBER THEFT**

268 All cases of alleged timber theft on the county forest shall be investigated and resolved
269 promptly. An allegation of theft by cutting and /or removing timber from the county forest
270 does not alleviate the county from payment under §28.11 (9) Wis.Stats. The county will
271 collect damages pursuant to §26.05 Wis. Stats. and may also pursue criminal charges under
272 §943.20 Wis. Stats. and /or seek civil damages.

273

274 615.1 TIMBER THEFT INVESTIGATION

275 The following procedure should be used in all cases of alleged timber theft:

276 (1) Determination of Theft

277 (a) Gathering facts - The county, through its sheriff's department and along with
278 assistance of the DNR liaison, rangers and wardens, will ascertain the facts pertinent
279 to the alleged theft, including determination of the damages to the county. Legal
280 counsel representing the county should be involved in all aspects of investigation.
281 Property involved in the alleged theft may be seized pursuant to §26.04 ~~Wis.~~
282 Stats. for use as evidence.

283 (b) Boundary determination - If property boundaries are involved, ~~they should be~~
284 ~~established by the county~~ the county shall conduct a legal survey of the boundary in
285 question.

286

287 **620 ENCROACHMENTS**

288 The county will actively investigate all suspected cases of encroachments on the County
289 Forest. To insure the integrity and continuity of the County ~~Fforest lands~~ forest land, all cases
290 will be dealt with promptly and in a consistent manner. The following procedures will be
291 used in all cases of suspected encroachments:

292 (1) ~~Property lines will be established by the county~~ The county will establish
293 property boundaries; if necessary, a legal survey will be conducted.

294 (2) The county will gather all facts.

295 (3) The Committee, in consultation with the forest administrator, county legal

- 296 counsel, and the DNR, will make a decision as to the disposition of the case.
- 297 (a) All above ground encroachments that are movable will be removed
- 298 from county property.
- 299 (b) Permanent type facilities, such as homes, garages, and septic systems
- 300 shall be addressed individually and may be removed or handled by a
- 301 land use agreement. Sale or transfer of the encroachment should
- 302 remain an option depending on the circumstances involved and the
- 303 viability of an adverse possession claim (§893.29 Wis. Stats.).
- 304 (c) ~~A "Land Use Agreement " will be used in all cases. Provisions~~
- 305 Provisions in the land use agreement, if that option is pursued, may
- 306 include granting the encroacher permission to encroach on the
- 307 County Forest lands with the following stipulations: no other
- 308 encroachments will be allowed; the permit is non-transferable; the
- 309 county must be notified once encroachment is terminated; county
- 310 continues full ownership and control of property; permittee agrees to
- 311 waive any rights to any future declaration of ownership or interest in
- 312 the encroached county property; county reserves the right to cancel
- 313 the permit and the permit is to be filed in the office of the Vilas
- 314 County Forestry Department~~Register of Deeds~~ and all fees related to
- 315 the land use permit shall be paid by the permittee.
- 316 (d) Land Use Agreements shall be developed on a case-by-case basis
- 317 using the above guidelines.

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700 ACCESS CONTROL AND HISTORY

Resource management and protection activities, recreational uses, and other public uses on the Vilas County Forest require several different types of access. Since the Forest is large and diverse, a broad network of access routes have developed. A combination of geography, soils, vegetation, surface waters, seasons of the year, presence/absence of roads or trails, ownership of adjoining lands, and public regulations interact to control access to any part of the Forest.

Many of the existing roads and trails were originally developed as railroad grades, logging roads, forest fire protection lanes, or trails used to reach popular hunting and fishing areas. The locations and standards for these earlier roads were not routinely established by county personnel and many are located on soils and terrain not conducive for permanent, year-round access.

Over the years, the road density and frequency of vehicle use on the Forest has increased in response to an expanding number of motorized recreational vehicles and to an active timber harvest program. Often times, different uses have occurred on the same trails with minimal conflicts. But the diverse demands for, and uses of, the County Forest have reached the point where an integrated access management plan is needed.

Historically, on the Vilas County Forest, widespread access availability, combined with minimal vehicle regulations, have generated problems which County resource managers must address. Among these problems and issues are:

User conflict between groups: e.g., snowmobiling versus cross-country skiing; hunting on foot versus use of vehicles for access to game populations.

Safety: e.g., pleasure riding of horses on the same trail with vehicle traffic, or hiking.

Erosion: soils eroding due to use, or over-use by vehicles, esp. wetlands and steep slopes.

82 Damage to access: rutted or impassable roads requiring costly repair by the county or
83 other specific user groups (e.g., snowmobile club).

84 Litter: depositing garbage, tires, appliances, and hazardous waste on the Forest.

85 Over-utilization of a resource; e.g. excessive unrestricted vehicle access to the Forest
86 affecting game and non-game species requiring solitude as part of their life cycle,
87 excessive harvest of game and fish, reducing populations and availability of the trophy
88 size class.

89 Crowding: e.g. complaints from hunters about intensified competition for traditional
90 hunting areas as a result of better access.

91 Fires: e.g. increased exposure of the resource to forest fire occurrence.

92 Endangered species management: e.g. high road densities conflict with timber wolf
93 recovery, eagle and osprey nest disturbance.

94 Invasive species: e.g. introduction of invasive exotic species along travel routes.

95 Developmental trends: e.g. preservation of the County Forest solitude by limiting access
96 versus development of high intensity use by additional roads and unlimited access.

97 Road placement: e.g. some roads should be closed for improper location and evaluated
98 for replacement.

99 Clear and concise policy for the public.

100

101 **705 CHAPTER OBJECTIVES: ACCESS MANAGEMENT POLICY**

102

103 1. Provide direction to the Committee and resource managers in order to maintain a
104 network of roads and trails on the County Forest. This will meet the needs for
105 resource management and protection activities, as well as provide public access for
106 recreation opportunities.

107 2. Identify the distribution, density, and types of roads and uses of roads and trails
108 needed to establish a safe and efficient transportation and recreation system that
109 complements the economic, environmental, and social interest in the County Forest.

110 3. Identify the existing and future County Forest roads eligible for transportation aids
111 under §86.315(1), Wis. Stats.

- 112 4. Identify areas on the County Forest where the access is limited or restricted.
113 5. Identify the provisions and criteria that will be policy when addressing management
114 issues on the County Forest.

115

116 **710 ROADS**

117 Vilas County Forest staff will oversee the construction and maintenance of all roads within
118 the County Forest. These roads may be constructed and maintained by the County, private
119 contractors, or other agencies. The specifications for road construction and maintenance will
120 vary with the frequency, duration, and planned use of each road. Three major types of roads
121 occur on the Forest: permanent primary roads; permanent secondary roads, and temporary
122 roads.

123

124 New road establishment should consider information identifying areas with sensitive soils or
125 severe slopes that have the potential for adverse water quality impacts from land
126 management practices. County staff can work with local DNR water resources staff to
127 develop site-specific measures where appropriate.

128

129 **710.1 PERMANENT PRIMARY FOREST ROADS**

130 These roads are the primary roads providing access to the County Forest. They include
131 County Forest Roads, Town Roads, County Highways, Wisconsin State Roads and
132 Highways, and Federal Highways. These primary roads are designed, constructed, and
133 maintained for year-round use, except that County Forest Roads are not routinely plowed
134 during the snow season. Vehicle use may be restricted at various times of the year to
135 minimize damage to the road or to accommodate a groomed snowmobile trail.

136

137 County Forest Roads certified under §86.31(1), Wis. Stats. must meet design standards of a
138 16-foot surface width and a 20-foot roadway width. A yearly aid payment is used to
139 maintain and improve these certified public roads. The following table lists the roads
140 currently certified under §86.31(1), Wis. Stats. Also included are roads proposed for addition
141 once improvements meet statute requirements.

142
 143
 144

VILAS COUNTY CURRENT AND FUTURE WDOT CERTIFIED

TOWNSHIP	SECTION	LENGTH (MI)	ROAD NAME/COMMENTS
Cloverland	11	.7	Boot Lake Landing Road
Cloverland	1	.3	Cooks Lake Landing Road
Cloverland	17,20	1.1	Ewald Lake Road
Cloverland	20	.35	Ewald Landing Road
Cloverland	11,13,14, 15	4.65	Katie Lake Firelane
Cloverland	3	.2	McLeod Lake Road
Cloverland	8,9,17	1.75	Mud Minnow Lake Road
Cloverland	9	.4	Musky Landing Road
Cloverland	4	.3	Pickeral Landing Road
Cloverland	6,7,17,18	3.6	Pincherry Lake Road
Cloverland	19,20,28, 29	3.51	Snipe Lake Firelane
Cloverland	8	.82	Sunken Lake Road
Cloverland	19,20,28, 29,30	4.3	Wood Duck Lake Road
Conover	18,19,24	1.72	Buckatabon Creek Trail
Conover	22	1.1	Clair Firelane
Conover	31,32	2.1	Heart Lake Road

Conover	22,27,28	.82	Marshall Lake Road
Conover	19,30	1.07	Mathwig Road
Conover	27,34,35	1.8	McLeod Lake Road
Conover	32,33	.79	NEPCO Landing Road
Conover	9,10,11,14, 15	4.1	Pioneer Creek Trail
Conover	27,33,34	2.15	Ski Hill Trail
Conover	36	.24	Tellefson Lake Road
Conover	20	.47	Torch Lake Road
Conover	14,15,22	2.0	Walt's Firelane
Land O'Lakes	15	.35	Claire Firelane
Land O'Lakes	17,18	1.89	White Spruce Firelane
Lincoln	6	.93	Deep Lake Road
Plum Lake	9,16,17,20	2.65	Decker Lake Road
Plum Lake	5,8	1.1	Langley Lake Road
Plum Lake	28	.44	Marshall Lake Road
Total		47.7	
*Cloverland	1	.75	Rangeline Lake Road

145

146

* Indicates the mileage of existing roads that will be improved and certified during the next ten years.

147

148

149

These permanent primary roads will be maintained and remain open to public use.

150

151 710.2 PERMANENT SECONDARY ROADS

152 These roads often serve a variety of uses including forest management, fire protection, and
153 recreation. Roads in this category include such roads as the Hunter/Hiking Trails, the
154 disabled hunter access trail, and snowmobile trails. These roads are maintained as part of a
155 permanent road system but are often narrower than permanent primary roads and are built
156 and maintained to lower standards. Maintenance of these roads may be annual, regular
157 periodic, or irregular. Roads such as snowmobile trails, which are annually brushed out and
158 cleared of hazards, receive routine annual maintenance. Roads such as Hunter/Hiking Trails,
159 which are mowed and cleared of hazards on a 3 year rotational basis, receive periodic
160 maintenance. Other roads in this category receive irregular maintenance, clearing, brushing,
161 and removing of hazards, or erosion control measures to prevent soil movement on an as
162 needed basis. Some of these roads are designed for use only when the ground is frozen or
163 firm.

164
165 A number of roads in this category are located in areas on the Forest where motor vehicle
166 use is limited or restricted. In these instances, the roads will be blocked and/or signed as
167 restricted.

168
169 In instances where motorized traffic is restricted, vehicle access will only be authorized for
170 planned management activities or fire protection. Foot traffic is allowed on all roads.

171
172 **710.3 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT/ACCESS ROADS**

173 Many of the roads on the Forest fall into this classification. Roads in this category are
174 permanent roads, but are mainly used on a recurring or periodic basis, oftentimes for a short
175 duration of time. These roads were primarily designed for forest management and timber
176 sale access and receive limited maintenance. Maintenance of these roads is generally during
177 and after a specific activity. When the activity is completed these roads are allowed to
178 revegetate as some are closed by use of earthen berms/bunker or gates. Roads in this
179 category that may remain open permanently or temporarily for recreational access or
180 firewood cutting, receive maintenance as needed to protect resources from erosion and
181 environmental degradation. Due to the high density of roads on the Vilas County Forest,

182 roads in this category will be evaluated during the plan period as to their need and value.
183 Roads that are deemed unnecessary or serve little value in providing access will be closed
184 and allowed to revegetate naturally or may be seeded. Roads that are scheduled to be closed
185 after management activity will remain open for two years in areas that provide a firewood
186 gathering opportunity for the public.

187

188 **720 RECREATIONAL TRAIL ACCESS**

189 This trail network provides access for many recreational opportunities on the Forest. An
190 important role of the Forest is to provide sustainable recreational trails that do not cause
191 long-term natural resource damage, and that are compatible with other uses. Management
192 activities adjacent to recreational trails will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Where
193 deemed necessary, alterations will be made to accommodate the recreational use. The
194 Committee has the authority to open, close or relocate trails.

195

196 720.1 TRAIL CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

197 Requests for recreational trails will be reviewed by the Committee. Groups requesting
198 permission to develop a recreational trail must do so in accordance with the Trail Planning
199 and Permitting process as described in Vilas County Resolution 2004-129, which is
200 appended in Chapter 900.

201

202 Construction or maintenance of any recreational trail in which the activity would increase
203 the erosion potential of one acre or more of land is subject to state and federal storm water
204 runoff requirements (NR216, Wis. Adm. Code and s. 283.33, Wis. Stats). Construction or
205 development for silvicultural purposes is presently exempt from these requirements.
206 Recreational trail development in Vilas County will employ best management practices for
207 water quality (PUB-FR-093-95) to mitigate any adverse impacts. For projects requiring a
208 Storm Water Permit, an erosion control plan will be prepared for each project depicting the
209 location of the project and surrounding wetlands and what erosion control measures will be
210 employed.

211

212 **725 NON-MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL TRAILS**

213 725.1 HIKING

214 725.1.1 Undesignated Hiking Trails

215 All portions of the County Forest are open to hiking or foot travel unless marked with signs
216 closing an area.

217 725.1.2 Designated Hunter/Hiking Trails

218 The following trail systems are open for foot travel for multiple uses. During the snow
219 season, portions of these trail systems serve to support the Vilas County State Funded
220 Snowmobile Trail System.

221 Langley Lake

222 Decker Lake

223 Indian Lake

224 Disabled Hunter Area

225 Heart Lake

226 Muskrat Creek

227 Pioneer Creek

228 Torch Lake

229 Ski Hill

230 Snipe Lake

231 Mud Minnow Lake

232 Deep Lake

233

234 715.2 BICYCLING

235 725.2.1 Undesignated Bicycle Trails

236 All trails, roads, and fire lanes are open for recreational bicycle use. Off-trail mountain
237 bike use may be restricted in specific areas if use causes erosion or other environmental
238 damages.

239

240 725.3 HORSEBACK RIDING

241 725.3.1 Undesignated Horseback Riding Trails

242 All trails, roads, and fire lanes are open for horseback trail riding. Off-trail riding within 50
243 feet of rivers, streams, or lakes is not permitted except when watering horses. Trails/areas
244 may be designated open or closed to horseback riding as conditions warrant.

245 725.4 CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

246 725.4.1 Undesignated Cross-Country Ski Trails

247 All trails, roads, and fire lanes are open for cross-country skiing. Cross-country skiing on
248 groomed snowmobile trails is not permitted due to serious safety concerns.

249 725.4.2 Designated Cross-Country Ski Trails

250 One regularly groomed cross-country ski trail is available for public use on the Forest. The
251 Langley Lake X-C Ski Trail provides 5.3 miles of groomed trail divided into 3 loops, the
252 longest of which is 4.62 miles.

253

254 725.5 OTHER NON-MOTORIZED USE

255 Other non-motorized recreational trail uses including, but not limited to, snowshoeing, dog
256 sledding, and hunting on foot are permitted on all trails except where otherwise posted as
257 closed.

258

259 730 MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL TRAILS

260 The use of motorized vehicles on the Forest continues to increase. The design,
261 maneuverability, and power of the vehicles have improved. This has led to greater use;
262 increased trail use conflicts, unnecessary environmental damage, and increased expenses
263 necessary for trail maintenance. Additional regulation on these types of recreational vehicles
264 is needed to protect the Forest and limit adverse impacts on non-motorized uses.

265

266 730.1 SNOWMOBILING

267 730.1.1 Undesignated Snowmobile Trails

268 No cross-country use is permitted; however, snowmobile use is permitted on all logging
269 roads, and fire lanes when the ground is snow-covered. Use on the Forest during other times
270 of the year is not allowed.

271 730.1.2 Designated Snowmobile Trails

272 Two types of groomed snowmobile trails are authorized on the Forest: state-funded trails and
273 local club trails. Annual agreements outline the operation, maintenance, and insurance
274 obligations between Vilas County and local snowmobile clubs.

275
276 State trails: A system of state approved and funded snowmobile trails is authorized
277 on designated trails, logging roads, and fire lanes. This system is part of the
278 statewide network of snowmobile trails which links Vilas County with adjoining
279 counties as well as the rest of the state and the State of Michigan. Snowmobile
280 registration and out-of-state user fees are used to support trail development, signing,
281 maintenance, grooming and bridge construction.

282
283 Local trails: A smaller network of local club-sponsored snowmobile trails is also
284 permitted on designated trails, logging roads, and fire lanes. Maintenance of these
285 trails is supported by club membership fees and fund raising activities. These trails
286 are held to the same standards as the State Trails.

287
288 All groomed snowmobile trails are closed to all cars and trucks from December 1st through
289 March 31st unless vehicle use is authorized by Vilas County. When vehicle use is
290 authorized, contractors must maintain the trail in a safe condition, free from debris.

291
292 DNR's Trail Signing Handbook will be used as the guide for posting standardized signs and
293 will assist in promoting uniformity for trail signing throughout the county. Only trail signs
294 that provide information for safety, regulations, or trail directions will be permitted. Private
295 and business signs are not authorized on the Forest except at trail intersections as signs
296 authorized by the Committee and the Vilas County Snowmobile Alliance. All trail signs
297 must be mounted on posts.

298 730.2 ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATV)

299 730.2.1

300 ATV's, 3, 4, and 6 wheelers, motorcross bikes, and other vehicles not registered and licensed
301 for use on public roadways are prohibited on the Vilas County Forest as per Vilas County

302 General Code Chapter 16.08(10) and County Board Resolution 2004-25 which resulted from
303 a non-binding advisory referendum vote. However, the Department may use ATV's in the
304 course of management or may grant temporary permission to contractors performing
305 management on the Forest for a specific period of time.

306 730.2.2 Department Involvement in ATV Trails

307 The Department, per County Board Resolution 2004-101, is authorized to act as Sponsor to
308 apply for funding through Wisconsin DNR for ATV trails in Vilas County on lands other
309 than Vilas County owned lands and to contract for the maintenance of approved trails.

310
311 730.3 OTHER MOTORIZED RECREATIONAL VEHICLE TRAILS

312 730.3.1 Undesignated Motorized Recreation Trails

313 Currently there are 236.17 miles of roads and trails open to motorized public access on the
314 Vilas County Forest. This constitutes 51% of the total miles (461.9) of roads and trails on
315 the County Forest. Of these miles of open roads, 85.51 miles do not have a reliable, periodic
316 source of funding for maintenance. In the interest of resource protection and considering
317 funding, all new timber access roads which do not meet a positive need evaluation shall be
318 planted or allowed to regenerate naturally to trees. There are currently 7.26 miles of roads
319 and trails per square mile of County Forest.

320
321
322 Motorized recreation use of the County Forest is only allowed where it does not conflict with
323 trails designated for other recreation uses or where trails are blocked by use of gates or
324 berms. Vehicles must be legally registered and licensed to operate on public roads and
325 highways.

326 730.3.2 Designated Motorized Recreation Trails

327 Included in the Langley Lake Hunter/Hiking Trail area is the Vilas County Disabled Hunter
328 Access Trail. This trail (1.5 miles) has been improved for driving access for Class A and
329 Class B disabled hunter permit holders. Permits issued for vehicle use of this trail are valid
330 only for the Permittee. One additional person, to assist the Permittee, must be negotiated
331 with the Forestry Department as a special condition.

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735 RESTRICTED ACCESS AREAS

In addition to providing trails for motorized vehicle use, the Forest may also provide and designate areas where motorized equipment is not permitted unless authorized by the Committee. The principal intent of these areas is to prevent environmental damage to sensitive areas, protect historical or archeological sites, protect endangered and threatened species, provide for human safety and provide areas for quiet, secluded recreation. Such areas are posted, restricting the use of motorized vehicles. The Vilas County Forest contains Native American village sites in the northwest part of the Forest and the White Spruce Lake wilderness campsite which are restricted access areas.

740 WATER ACCESS

As a result of the wide distribution of lakes, streams, rivers, and other surface waters on the Forest, water access may be planned, developed, or restricted as a component of the overall Forest access management plan. Several boat landings, canoe landings, and adjacent roads currently provide water access on the Forest primarily for recreational activities. In addition, these water access points also provide water supply points for fire apparatus working to suppress forest fires or nearby structural fires.

The existing water access points will be maintained to provide a place to launch a small fishing boat or canoe. Not all watercraft will be able to use these access points. These landings are built for public use and not for private boat mooring sites. Mooring or storing boats for longer than 24 hours is prohibited.

740.1 PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS SITES MAINTAINED BY VILAS COUNTY FOREST

The Vilas County Forest maintains 11 improved landing sites. A listing of these sites and their associated facilities is referenced in Chapter 900.

740.2 PUBLIC BOAT ACCESS SITES MAINTAINED BY TOWNS WITHIN THE COUNTY FOREST BOUNDARY

- 362 1. Indian Lake
- 363 2. Joyce Lake
- 364 3. Claire Lake
- 365 4. Portage Lake
- 366 5. Stormy Lake
- 367 6. Wisconsin River –Highway K

368

369 **740.3 UNDEVELOPED WATER ACCESS POINTS**

370 These sites provide access to the following waters. The sites require canoes, kayaks, or
371 small boats to be carried in varying distances from the nearest parking place:

- 372 1. Camp 12 Lake
- 373 2. Deep Lake
- 374 3. McLeod Lake
- 375 4. Wood Duck Lake
- 376 5. White Spruce Lake
- 377 6. Lake of the Woods
- 378 7. Tellefson Lake
- 379 8. Ewald Lake
- 380 9. Rice Lake
- 381 10. Mud Lake
- 382 11. Cook’s Lake
- 383 12. Wisconsin River – Rummels Road
- 384 13. Wisconsin River – River Road

385

386 **745 WETLANDS**

387 In addition to surface waters, all wetlands on the Forest are closed to motorized recreational
388 vehicle use when soils are not frozen. Vehicle use during non-frozen seasons causes soil
389 rutting, compaction and damage to vegetation. The wetlands are not listed individually here
390 but include all areas where soils, groundwater or surface waters support the growth of
391 vegetation commonly associated with wetland plant communities.

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755 ACCESS TO PRIVATE LANDS

Applications by private parties to build or improve access roads through County Forest land will be considered by the Committee on a case-by-case basis. The following stipulations will be adhered to before an "Access Permit" is granted.

1. Access across County Forest lands must be demonstrated by the applicant as the route of last resort. Proposed uses must be documented by the applicant.
2. No legal easement will be granted, just permission to cross county lands.
3. The permit is non-transferable. New landowners must apply to continue the land use agreement.
4. Road improvements and upgrading must be approved and will be supervised by the Forestry Department staff. Prior notification of three (3) days is required before work starts.
5. All wood cut is the property of Vilas County.
6. Roadway must be opened to the public through County Forest Land. No gate may be erected on County Forest Land.
7. The County continues full ownership of the improved roadway; however, it shall not be liable for maintenance or upkeep of the road.
8. Permittee waives any rights to any declaration of ownership or interest in the road on County Forest Land for administrative costs as a result of this "Access Permit". The access permit is granted upon the signature and any fees being received by the Vilas County Forestry Department.
9. The fee schedule for a one time payment is set at \$50.00 for a 5 year period. The fee for construction of a new road to provide access to private lands is the acreage of the new road, using 20 feet as the road width, multiplied by the average assessed acreage value in the town the new road is located in and not less than \$500.00.
10. The standard Land Use Agreement Access permit is included as an exhibit in Chapter 900-17.

755.1 ACCESS FOR PRIVATE TIMBER MANAGEMENT

422 To encourage timber management on private lands, Vilas County allows for the access
423 across County Forest Land on existing roads free of charge. However, to secure the
424 condition of access roads a \$500.00 Performance Deposit is required as part of the Logging
425 Access Permit. The Logging Access Permit is appended in Chapter 900.

426

427 **760 PUBLIC UTILITY ACCESS**

428 Access of the County Forest for utility reasons is covered under Chapter 500, Special Uses.

429

430 **765 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

431 The layout and construction of any new road or trail situated on the County Forest shall
432 adhere to *Wisconsin's Best Management Practices for Water Quality* (PUB-FR-093-95).
433 This access management plan addresses the need and diversity level of forest roads and trails
434 within the County Forest. Chapter 6 of the BMP Manual provides guidelines for road
435 construction. Soil disturbance activities in areas of highly erodable soils, or in close
436 proximity to lakes and streams may require mitigating measures in excess of those currently
437 listed in the Best Management Practices manual PUB-FR-093-95. Wider buffers, sediment
438 control structures and water diversion techniques will be used as appropriate in these
439 sensitive areas.

440

441

442 **770 SIGNS**

443 Signs on the County Forest will be used discreetly to perform and function with minimal
444 disruption to the multiple uses of the Forest. Private signs promoting personal,
445 commercial or political objectives will not be permitted without authorization from
446 Vilas County. Signs erected by the county for management purposes or by non-profit
447 recreational trail groups will be as follows:

448

1. Informational Type Signs

449

A. Interpretive Signs - to educate the general public about forest
management practices.

450

451

B. Public Land Signs - to identify the land as Vilas County Forest

- 452 property.
- 453 C. Trail Markers - to provide direction and safety to trail users.
- 454 D. Scientific, Historical or Geological Markers - to identify points of
- 455 interest.
- 456 E. Recreational Facility Markers - to identify park entrances, etc.
- 457 F. Directional Markers.

- 458 2. Regulatory Type Signs - to regulate the use of the Forest in specific areas.
- 459 A. Regulatory and information signs at Boat Landings shall be posted on a
- 460 signboard such as that erected at Muskellunge Lake Landing by the
- 461 Lake Association. An example is given in Chapter 900.

462

463 **770.1 SIGNING STANDARDS**

464 To assure that signs will serve a purpose without damaging aesthetics, the following

465 standards will be maintained:

- 466 1. All signs will be mounted on posts. Signs will not be mounted on trees.
- 467 2. Routed wood signs will be used wherever practical. Fiberboard or painted
- 468 metal signs, when used, will be of neat appearance.
- 469 3. Signs placed on snowmobile trails must conform to state standards and be
- 470 approved by the committee.
- 471 4. All authorized signs shall be protected by ordinance from being damaged,
- 472 defaced, obstructed, removed, or possessed by unauthorized persons.
- 473 5. All unauthorized signs will be removed by the Forestry staff. No
- 474 compensation will be afforded for loss or damage to signs during removal.
- 475 Individuals erecting unauthorized signs may be prosecuted under §943.13(3),
- 476 Wis. Stats.

477

1 VILAS COUNTY FORESTRY PLAN, PURSUANT TO §28.11, WIS. STATS.

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3 CHAPTER 800

4 INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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95 **800 CHAPTER OBJECTIVES**

96 To introduce and communicate to the public, the County Board of Supervisors,
97 and to the Wisconsin DNR, the integrated resource approach that forestry,
98 wildlife and other natural resource staff will use on the Vilas County Forest
99 during this planning period.

100

101 **805 INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT APPROACH**

102 Integrated Resource Management is defined as: "the simultaneous consideration
103 of ecological, physical, economic, and social aspects of lands, waters and
104 resources in developing and implementing multiple-use, sustained yield
105 management" (Helms, 1998)

106

107 This balance of ecological, economic, and social factors is the framework within
108 which the Vilas County Forest is managed. This broad definition describes the
109 content of everything within this Vilas County Forestry Plan. Previous chapters
110 have discussed in depth many of the social and economic issues.

111

112 For the purpose of this chapter, the scope of Integrated Resource Management
113 includes:

114 Forests, habitats, biological communities

115 Wetlands and waters

116 Wildlife and endangered resources

117 Soils and minerals

118 Cultural and historical resources

119 Management of one resource affects the management or use of other resources in
120 an area. Managing each use or resource by itself is less effective than managing
121 all of them in an integrated way. This is a field level approach to integrated
122 resource management. Management decisions are made while considering that
123 each site is part of a larger ecosystem. Similarly, the development and
124 implementation of this plan also considers other planning efforts in order to
125 provide for broader scale management.

126

127 The working definition of Integrated Resource Management means, in large part,
128 keeping natural communities of plants and animals and their environments
129 healthy and productive so people can enjoy and benefit from them now and in the
130 future.

131

132 The remainder of this chapter is written to help communicate how the Forest is
133 managed on an integrated resource approach.

134

135 **810 SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY**

136 The definition of sustainable forestry in the Wisconsin Administrative Code and
137 the Wisconsin Statutes is as follows:

138 "the practice of managing dynamic forest ecosystems to provide
139 ecological, economic, social and cultural benefits for present and future
140 generations" NR 44.03(12) Wis. Adm. Code and §28.04(1)e, Wis. Stats.

141

142 For the purpose of this chapter, 'sustainable forestry' will be interpreted as the
143 management of the Forest to meet the needs of the present without knowingly
144 compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
145 (economic, social, and ecological) by practicing a land stewardship ethic which
146 integrates the growing, nurturing, and harvesting of trees for useful products with
147 the conservation of soil, air and water quality, and wildlife and fish habitat. This
148 process is dynamic, and changes as we learn from past management.

149

150 **810.1 TOOLS IN INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

151

152 **810.1.1 Compartment Recon**

153 The County will support and utilize the compartment reconnaissance procedures
154 as set forth by the DNR Public Forest Lands Handbook 2460.5. The Vilas County
155 Forestry Department in cooperation with the DNR will be responsible for the
156 completion and maintenance of the recon system. Currently the recon data is

157 updated on a 20 year interval, approximately 2,000 acres/year. The data will be
158 utilized in planning and scheduling resource management.

159

160 810.1.2 Forest Habitat Classification System

161 The Forest Habitat Classification System (*A Guide to Forest Communities and*
162 *Habitat Types of Northern Wisconsin Second Edition; Kotar, et al*) is a natural
163 classification system for forest communities and the sites on which they develop.
164 It utilizes systematic interpretation of natural vegetation with emphasis on
165 understory species.

166

167 The Forest Habitat Classification System is an ecological tool that promotes a
168 common language for interpreting site capability based on potential natural
169 vegetation. Its primary use is the assessment of biological potential of upland
170 forest sites. Through the application of Forest Habitat Classification, land
171 managers are better able to assess site potential of current stands, identify
172 ecological and silvicultural alternatives, predict the effectiveness of possible
173 silvicultural treatments, assess feasible management alternatives, and choose
174 appropriate management objectives.

175

176 Data will be collected in order to classify the entire forest. This information
177 should be collected along with, and made part of, the compartment
178 reconnaissance system during regular field inspections. This data should also be
179 compared to soil survey information in order to associate the relationships
180 between forest habitat types and soil types.

181

182 **Vilas County Forest Habitat Types**

183

184 Vilas County Forest supports a great diversity of forest types. Nineteen relatively
185 common tree species make up a wide range of upland forest types. In broadest
186 terms we can group forest types into those of dry to dry-mesic, mesic and wet-
187 mesic habitat types. Wet and lowland sites have not been classified into habitat
188 types for Vilas County. Vilas County forest has eight predominant habitat types

189 throughout the forest. These habitat types encompass over 31,450 acres or nearly
190 78% of the forest; the remaining acres are mainly on the wet and lowland habitat
191 types. The dry to dry-mesic types are characterized by mixtures of pine, oaks,
192 aspen, white birch, and red maple on the dry to dry mesic habitat types. The dry to
193 dry mesic habitat types on Vilas County forest are **PQE** (very dry to dry moisture
194 regime and very poor to poor nutrient regime), **PArV** (dry moisture regime and
195 poor nutrient regime), **PArVAa** (dry to dry-mesic moisture regime and poor to
196 medium nutrient regime) and **AVVb** (dry-mesic moisture regime and medium
197 nutrient regime). The stands of mesic sites are typically dominated by sugar
198 maple and basswood and occasionally by aspen. White ash, ironwood, red maple,
199 yellow birch and hemlock are often associated with these stands. The mesic
200 habitat types on Vilas County forest are **ATM** (mesic to dry-mesic moisture
201 regime and medium nutrient regime) and **ATD** (mesic moisture regime and
202 medium to rich nutrient regime). The wet-mesic habitat types are characterized by
203 red maple, balsam fir, white spruce, aspen and white birch. Basswood, ashes and
204 sugar maple are well represented on richer sites. Hemlock and yellow birch are
205 also associated with these richer sites. The wet-mesic habitat types on Vilas
206 County forest are **TMC** (mesic to wet-mesic moisture regime and medium
207 nutrient regime) and **ArAbVC** (mesic to wet-mesic moisture regime and poor
208 nutrient regime).¹ The following paragraphs briefly describe each of the common
209 habitat types on the Vilas County Forest.

210
211 The **PQE**, *Pinus strobus-Quercus rubra/Epigaea repens* (White Pine-Red
212 Oak/Trailing Arbutus) habitat type is the driest and most nutrient poor habitat
213 occurring on the Vilas County Forest. The **PQE** habitat type encompasses over
214 3500 acres of the Vilas County Forest or approximately 8.8% of the forest. Of the
215 3500 acres, Jack Pine is the dominant cover type on over 2500 acres or 72% of
216 this habitat type. This habitat type occurs on deep, excessively drained outwash
217 sands. Bracken fern typically is the most dominant ground flora. Grasses, sedges
218 and wintergreen are commonly found on this habitat type. Generally this habitat

¹Referenced: *A Guide to Forest Communities and Habitat Types of Northern Wisconsin – Second Edition – 2002, Department of Forest Ecology and Management University of Wisconsin-Madison, by John Kotar, Joseph A*

219 type lacks a shrub component; particularly *Corylus* spp. Blueberries and
220 sweetfern are best represented shrubs. Jack Pine is the predominant forest cover
221 type occurring on this habitat type. Other forest cover types found on this type
222 include Red Pine, Aspen, Red Oak-Red Maple, and mixtures of Jack Pine - Red
223 Pine and to a lesser degree White Pine. Red Oak and Red Maple saplings are
224 often present, but neither species grows well on this habitat type. All tree species
225 occurring on this habitat type are adapted to disturbance. White pine easily
226 succeeds other species when seed source is available although it may suffer
227 mortality in years of extreme drought. The PQE habitat type is most suitable for
228 Jack Pine management. Red Pine plantations are possible, but productivity is only
229 moderate and survival may be a problem during drier years or drought. If Red
230 Pine is established, shorter rotations are recommended with fiber production
231 being the objective as opposed to sawtimber production. Aspen and Red Oak are
232 not recommended except for wildlife considerations. This type has poor vertical
233 structure of stands with very little potential for improvement.

234
235 The **PArV** habitat type is characterized by *Pinus strobus*-*Acer rubrum*/*Vaccinium*
236 *angustifolium* (White Pine-Red Maple/Low-sweet-blueberry). The PArV habitat
237 type is the most common habitat type on the Vilas County Forest it encompasses
238 nearly 15,400 acres or approximately 38% of the Vilas County Forest. Of these
239 approximately 15,400 acres, Aspen is the dominant cover type on over 9174 acres
240 or 60% of this habitat type. The Red Pine and Jack Pine forest cover types also
241 have significant acreages on this habitat type (2473-acres for red pine and 2100-
242 acres for jack pine). This habitat type is associated predominantly with outwash
243 sands, and usually occurs on excessively to somewhat excessively drained sands
244 and loamy sands. The presumed climax overstory is White Pine in the main
245 canopy layer and Red Maple and Red Oak constituting a second canopy layer.
246 Common forest cover types include the following: Aspen and/or White Birch,
247 Aspen-Red Oak, Aspen-Pines, Jack Pine, Red Pine, White Pine, Red Oak-Red
248 Maple, Red Oak, and Balsam Fir-White Spruce. PArV is the most common
249 habitat type on sandy soils within the Vilas County Forest. This habitat type has

250 been successfully managed for Jack Pine, Red Pine, and Aspen. Unmanaged
251 stands of Red Oak and Red Maple are also common; however, quality sawlog Red
252 Oak management is more effective on more nutrient rich and slightly more mesic
253 sites. White Pine management is also possible on this habitat type; however, this
254 type is also at the lower end of its suitable habitat type.

255
256 The **PArVAa** habitat type is found on over 8200-acres or 20% of the Vilas
257 County Forest. The PArVAa habitat type is characterized by Pinus strobus – Acer
258 rubrum/Vaccinium angustifolium – Aralia nudicaulis (White Pine – Red
259 maple/Low Sweet Blueberry-Wild Sarsaparilla) habitat classification. This habitat
260 type is associated primarily with outwash, but also occurs on moraines and lake
261 plains and is somewhat excessively to excessively drained loamy sands. The
262 presumed climax overstory is White Pine however Red Maple and Red Oak
263 constitute a second canopy layer. Common forest cover types include the
264 following: White Pine, Red Pine, Red Oak, Red Oak/Red Maple, Aspen or
265 Aspen-White Birch and White Spruce-Balsam Fir. Sugar Maple and Red Maple
266 seedlings and saplings may be present but do not appear to be capable of
267 dominating this habitat type. This habitat type supports a well developed shrub
268 layer dominated by beaked hazel. Other common shrubs and small trees include
269 blackberries, juneberries and blueberries. Dominant ground flora found on this
270 type includes bracken fern and large-leaved aster. Wintergreen, wild lily-of-the-
271 valley, and star flower are also well represented. This type is particularly suited to
272 the management of Red Pine, White Pine, or Jack Pine. Growth potential for
273 these species is high, and understory competition can be low. Aspen should also
274 be considered as an alternative for wildlife purposes as well as for forestry. On the
275 Vilas County Forest aspen is the dominant forest cover type represented on this
276 habitat type with nearly 4800-acres. Red Oak grows moderately well in this type
277 and is a good choice for wildlife and fiber production. Over half of Vilas
278 County's Oak stands are growing on this habitat type. Potential for management
279 of hardwoods other than Red Oak and Red Maple is very low.

280

281 There are 460-acres of **AVVb** habitat type on the Vilas County Forest and of
282 these 342-acres (74%) are dominated by red oak. The AVVb habitat type is
283 characterized by *Acer saccharum/Vaccinium angustifolium-Viburnum*
284 *acerifolium* (Sugar Maple/Low Sweet Blueberry - Mapleleaf Viburnum). The
285 presumed climax overstory for this habitat type is Sugar Maple - Red Maple - Red
286 Oak. Sugar Maple reproduces in many stands on this habitat type; however, it
287 grows slowly and probably will not completely displace Red Oak and Red Maple.
288 Other common forest cover types include the following: Aspen and/or White
289 Birch, Aspen-Red Oak, Red Oak, Red Oak-Red Maple, Sugar Maple, White Pine,
290 and Red Pine. White Pine and Red Pine dominated this type in the pre-logging era
291 as evidenced by large charred stumps. Today many stands on this type contain a
292 large component of Red Oak and Red Maple. Red Oak and Red Maple appear to
293 be well suited to this type. Red Oak reproduction is usually present and it
294 responds well to release. It has been demonstrated in shelterwood cuts in Vilas
295 County that Oak can more than keep pace with the height growth of maples and
296 other hardwoods on this type. Some stands on this type are developing a natural
297 understory of White Pine, which provide further management options. Hazel and
298 Maple-leaved Viburnum are the best represented shrub and small trees on this
299 habitat type. Other common shrubs and small trees that make up this layer are
300 juneberry, blackberries and bush honeysuckle. The ground flora is characterized
301 by bracken fern and large-leaved aster typically being dominant. Other ground
302 flora frequently found include; wintergreen, starflower, wood anemone, wild
303 sarsaparilla, wild lily-of-the-valley and rosey twisted stalk. This habitat type has a
304 high potential for a well-developed and diverse shrub layer and low potential for
305 ground vegetation. These important characteristics have wildlife management
306 implications.

307
308 Approximately 40% or nearly 890-acres of Vilas County Forest Northern
309 Hardwood forests are found on the **ATM** habitat type. The ATM habitat type is
310 characterized by *Acer saccharum-Tsuga canadensis / Maianthemum canadense*
311 (Sugar Maple-Hemlock/Wild-Lily-of-the-Valley). The presumed climax overstory
312 for ATM is Sugar Maple-Hemlock-Yellow Birch. Common forest cover types

313 include the following: Sugar Maple, Sugar Maple-Basswood-Ash or Yellow
314 Birch, Sugar Maple with Red Maple or Red Oak, Red Oak, Red Oak with
315 Basswood and/or Red Maple, Aspen and/or White Birch, and Balsam Fir-White
316 Spruce. The shrub layer is moderately well developed only in younger and early
317 succession stands. The most common shrubs found on this type include; hazel,
318 alternate-leaved dogwood, fly honeysuckle and bush honeysuckle. Ground flora
319 species typical of dry mesic to mesic sites dominant this habitat type; they include
320 large-leaved aster, wild sarsaparilla, wild lily-of-the-valley, and bracken fern.
321 Other species of ground flora commonly found are club mosses, shield fern, lady
322 fern, starflower, and yellow beadlily and wood anemone. ATM is perhaps the
323 most diverse type in terms of management options. This habitat type supports the
324 highest number of tree species and therefore the most diverse mixtures of forest
325 cover types. Growth rates are high for both conifers and hardwoods.

326
327 Vilas County Forest has 878-acres of the **ATD** habitat type. Northern hardwood
328 forests are the dominant forest cover type on all the acres of the ATD habitat type.
329 The ATD habitat type is characterized by *Acer saccharum*-*Tsuga canadensis* /
330 *Dryopteris spinulosa* (Sugar Maple-Hemlock/ Spinulose Shield Fern). The
331 presumed climax overstory is Sugar Maple-Hemlock-Yellow Birch. Other
332 common forest cover types include the following: Sugar Maple, Sugar Maple-
333 Basswood-Ash-Yellow Birch), Hemlock-Sugar Maple-Yellow Birch, Sugar
334 Maple-Red Maple, and Aspen and/or White Birch. The shrub layer on this habitat
335 type is typically not well developed. Gooseberries, leatherwood, alternate-leaved
336 dogwood, red-berried elder and fly honeysuckle are species commonly found on
337 this habitat type but their occurrence frequency is generally low. Most species of
338 ground flora coverage is also typically low except for shield fern and lady fern.
339 Other common species found include; wild lily-of-the-valley, starflower, large-
340 leaved aster, wild sarsaparilla, rosey twisted stalk, and hairy Solomon's seal.
341 Management options are relatively limited on this habitat type. Sugar Maple
342 seedlings heavily dominate this habitat type at all stages of succession. Many
343 present stands on this type are in poor condition due to past cutting practices.
344 Many other stands are overstocked with small diameter trees. Hardwood

345 productivity on this type is very high when properly managed. This type is also
346 well suited to Hemlock management. Wildlife values on this type are generally
347 low unless browse production is maintained by frequent thinning.

348
349 Nearly 800-acres or 2% of the Vilas County Forest is classified as the **TMC**
350 habitat type. The TMC habitat type is characterized as *Tsuga canadensis* /
351 *Maianthemum canadense* - *Coptis groenlandica* (Hemlock/Wild-lily-of-the-Valley
352 - Goldthread). The moisture regime ranges from mesic to wet-mesic and nutrient
353 status is medium. Common forest cover types are typically dominated by the
354 following species: aspen, red maple, balsam fir and sugar maple. White Birch,
355 Yellow Birch, White Spruce, and Hemlock are often associated with this habitat
356 classification. The presumed climax overstory is Hemlock, Red Maple, Sugar
357 Maple and Yellow Birch. The shrub layer on this habitat classification is not well
358 developed. The most common shrubs species present are hazel, fly honeysuckle
359 and bush honeysuckle. Blackberries and dwarf raspberries are occasionally
360 abundant. The herb layer is characteristic of northern (near-boreal) forests with
361 raw humus substrate and primarily composed of wild lily-of-the-valley,
362 starflower, bunchberry, club mosses, yellow beadlily, large-leaved aster, wild
363 sarsaparilla, bracken fern and shield fern. This type occurs most commonly in
364 low-lying areas within many of the other habitat types. This habitat type is
365 commonly found on moraines and typically occurs on low-lying areas, along
366 slope bottoms and drainageways. It also is a transition type from lakeshores and
367 swamps to uplands. The conifers that are usually associated with this type (balsam
368 fir, white cedar, white spruce, and hemlock) contribute greatly to local community
369 diversity. Hardwoods do grow on this type but because of their poor growth and
370 vigor are probably best suited to wildlife habitat and pulpwood. Young stands are
371 capable of producing good mixtures of browse. When this type occurs on better-
372 drained upland positions, it is well suited to white pine management. There are
373 harvesting and equipment limitations on this type because of seasonal poor
374 drainage and shallow soils. Seasonally high water tables may cause swamping on
375 heavily disturbed sites where there is a decrease in transpiration. The shallow

376 soils also contribute to windthrow. Succession on these sites is heavily influenced
377 by frequent small-scale disturbance caused primarily by windthrow.

378
379 The habitat classification **ArAbVC** - *Acer rubrum*/*Vaccinium-Coptis* (*Acer*
380 *Rubrum*-*Abies balsamea*/ *Vaccinium angustifolium*- *Coptis groenlandica*)
381 commonly known as Red Maple-Balsam Fir/Blueberry-Goldthread is found on
382 over 560-acres (less than 2%) of the Vilas County Forest. This habitat type is
383 associated primarily with pitted outwash, but also occurs on moraines and lake
384 plains where water worked sands have accumulated. This habitat type typically
385 occurs in scattered low-lying areas, along drainageways and lake or swamp
386 borders. It is most commonly associated with somewhat poorly drained,
387 podzolized loamy sands and sands. The moisture regime is mesic to wet mesic
388 and the nutrient regime is poor. The presumed climax overstory is, Red Maple
389 and balsam fir however, White Pine appears to be capable of maintaining itself in
390 small numbers through regeneration gaps. Stands are dominated by Aspen, Pine
391 (white, red), red maple and balsam fir. White birch and White Spruce are common
392 associates. The shrub layer is only moderately developed. Species most
393 commonly represented are blueberries, hazel, blackberries, juneberry, and bush
394 honeysuckle. The herb layer is generally well developed but is low in species
395 diversity. Bracken fern, large leaved-aster, and wild sarsaparilla are dominant.
396 Goldthread, Club mosses and bunchberry are common. This type is suited to the
397 management of Red Maple, Aspen, Balsam Fir, White Birch, and White Spruce.
398 This habitat type also offers good potential for management of conifers for
399 wildlife benefits and for enhancing landscape diversity. Harvesting and equipment
400 is limited because of seasonal poor drainage and shallow soils. Heavy cutting on
401 wet soils may cause a rise in water table due to decreased transpiration and
402 leading to swamping of the site. Windthrow is always a potential hazard on this
403 habitat type.

404

405 810.1.3 Soil Surveys

406 Forestry staff's knowledge of forest ecology and their experience across the
407 landscape can assist in associating forest habitat types and site indices with soil

408 type information. These associations can be beneficial in determining
409 management prescriptions for specific sites. Detailed soil surveys of Vilas
410 County have been made a part of the compartment reconnaissance system and
411 continue to be correlated to the Forest Habitat Classification system.

412
413 Several copies of The Soil Survey of Vilas County, Wisconsin, produced by the
414 U.S. Department of Agriculture, are on file at the Forestry Department
415 Headquarters.

416
417 810.1.4 National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units/Ecological
418 Landscapes of Wisconsin

419 Integrated resource management recognizes that an individual forest site is part of
420 a larger landscape, and management activities can have an impact beyond a
421 specific site. The National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units
422 (NHFEU) is a useful tool in understanding natural landscapes.

423
424 The Wisconsin DNR uses Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin (WDNR
425 Handbook 1805.1) which is an ecological land classification system based on the
426 National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units (NHFEU). Ecological
427 landscapes distinguish land areas different from one another in ecological
428 characteristics. A combination of physical and biological factors including
429 climate, geology, topography, soils, water, and vegetation are used. They provide
430 a useful tool and insight into ecosystem management. Land areas identified and
431 mapped in this manner are known as ecological units.

432
433 Landtype Associations (LTA's) are considered landscape-scale ecological units,
434 and are identified by surficial geology, patterns of vegetation, soil parent
435 materials, and water tables. Most LTA's are between 10,000 and 300,000 acres in
436 size.

437

438 Each landtype association contains a general description of characters such as
439 landform, historic vegetation, current vegetation, water resources, land area,
440 socioeconomic data, agriculture, population, and ecological opportunities.

441
442 Goals can be developed for an LTA based in part on its capability, productivity,
443 unique character, and the scarcity or abundance of similar LTA's in the state,
444 region or beyond. Objectives for vegetation management, wildlife habitat,
445 ecological restoration, and recreation use can be tailored to the characteristics and
446 potentials of the ecosystem.

447
448 810.1.5 Integrated Pest Management

449 Integrated Pest Management for the purpose of this Plan, is defined as follows:

450 "the maintenance of destructive agents, including insects, at
451 tolerable levels, by the planned use of a variety of
452 preventive, suppressive, or regulatory tactics and strategies
453 that are ecologically and economically efficient and
454 socially acceptable."
455

456 The Committee has the authority to approve and direct the use of pesticides and
457 other reasonable alternatives in an integrated pest management program on the
458 Forest.

459
460 Refer to Chapter 600 (610.3) for more detailed discussion and integrated pest
461 management strategies.

462
463 810.1.6 Best Management Practices for Water Quality

464 Often the most practical and cost-effective method to assure that forestry
465 operations do not adversely affect water quality on the County Forest is to utilize
466 "best management practices" (BMP's) as described in *Wisconsin's Forestry Best
467 Management Practices for Water Quality (Publication NumberFR093)*.
468

469 Consistent with the aforementioned manual (page 6),
470 Vilas County will use BMP's on the Forest with the understanding that the
471 application of BMP's may be modified for specific site conditions with guidance
472 from a forester or other natural resource professional. Modifications will provide
473 equal or greater water quality protection, or have no impact on water quality.
474 Areas with highly erodable soil types, close proximity to streams or lakes, or
475 steep slopes may require mitigating measures in excess of those outlined in the
476 manual. All Vilas County employees practicing forestry will receive BMP
477 training. Additionally, Vilas County will encourage BMP training of all logging
478 contractors that operate on County timber sales.

479

480 810.1.6a Vilas County Zoning Ordinances

481 Further protection of the waters and shorelands of Vilas County lakes and streams
482 is provided under the Vilas County General Zoning Ordinance and the Vilas
483 County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. Land management activities addressed
484 under these ordinances are applied to the area within 1,000 feet of the ordinary
485 high water mark of navigable lakes, ponds, and flowages and within 300 feet of
486 the ordinary high water mark of navigable rivers and streams.

487

488 810.1.7 Forest Fire Management

489

490 810.1.7.1 Uncontrolled Fire Refer to Chapter 600

491

492 810.1.7.2 Prescribed Fire

493 Prescribed burning on the County Forest may play an important role in
494 management. Many of the plant communities present today are the result of wild
495 fires.

496

497 As the needs are presented to regenerate or maintain timber types or other plant
498 communities, the Committee will examine the costs and benefits of each
499 opportunity. Increased regulations, the county's cost of completing the burn, and

500 the risk of breakouts and uncontrolled fires will have to be considered with any
501 benefits of vegetation management through prescribed burning.

502
503 All prescribed burning will be done in accordance with Wisconsin State Statutes
504 26.12, 26.14, and the DNR Prescribed Burn Handbook 4360.5 and in cooperation
505 with the Department of Natural Resources per section 605.5 of this plan.

506
507 810.1.8 Outside Expertise, Studies and Survey
508 Additional data necessary to make management decisions on the County Forest
509 will be sought from agencies or individuals, who in the Committee's opinion, are
510 best equipped to provide that service. This data will be used as appropriate for
511 management planning.

512
513 810.1.8.1 Water Resources
514 The DNR fisheries biologist and the water management specialist will provide
515 surveys, studies, and technical advice as necessary to prepare and carry out
516 recreational planning affecting waters on the County Forest. (Also see Chapter
517 840.6).

518
519 810.1.8.2 Wildlife Resources
520 DNR wildlife biologists will implement population and habitat surveys, provide
521 technical advice, and direct assistance needed for wildlife management planning
522 and implementation on County Forest lands. (Also see Chapter 840). Wildlife
523 projects are identified and implemented in collaboration with the County Forest
524 administrator, DNR liaison forester, and the Committee.

525
526 810.1.8.3 Soil Resources
527 Soil maps and surveys prepared by the Natural Resource Conservation Service
528 (NRCS) will be used in various phases of planning.

529
530

531 810.1.8.4 Mineral Resources
532 The DNR may provide information valuable for management of gravel and other
533 mineral resources (Also see Chapter 515.2).
534

535 810.1.8.5 Wetland Resources
536 Maps prepared by the DNR's Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat
537 Protection, may be utilized for identifying wetlands. Although not
538 comprehensive, particularly in forested areas, these maps are a good initial tool
539 for identifying wetlands on County Forest lands. Assistance and technical advice
540 will be requested from the DNR water management specialist when wetlands may
541 be affected by management practices. The Army Corps of Engineers will also be
542 consulted as appropriate. In addition, Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management
543 Practices for protecting water quality will be used. (Also 820.2.2 for further
544 details).
545

546 810.1.8.6 Navigable Streams
547 The DNR's water regulations specialist will be consulted when navigable stream
548 crossings or navigable stream management projects are being planned. (Also see
549 Chapter 840.6.5). Best Management Practices for protecting water quality will be
550 used.
551

552 810.1.8.7 Floodplains
553 Maps prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be
554 used to identify floodplains. The County zoning staff may be consulted regarding
555 management activities in the floodplain.
556

557 810.1.8.8 Cultural Resources
558 Management planning will take into consideration historical and archaeological
559 sites. More information may be obtained from the State Historical Society or the
560 DNR's archeologist.
561

562 | 810.1.8.9 Entomology / Pathology
563 | Wisconsin DNR forest pest staff will provide information and consultation as
564 | requested by the County. (Also see Chapter 610 for more information on forest
565 | pest control.
566 |

567 | 810.1.8.10 Endangered Resources
568 | DNR endangered resource staff will provide Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI)
569 | information and are available for consultation on endangered resources issues.
570 |

571 | 810.1.9 Local Silvicultural Field Trials

572 | To date, numerous field trials have been completed or are ongoing on the County
573 | Forest. These trials include:

- 574 | 1. Tree shelters applied to protect Red Oak seedlings from deer damage.
575 | This trial established in cooperation with the USDA Northcentral Forest
576 | Experiment Station.
- 577 | 2. Liquid deer repellent application to White Birch seedlings.
- 578 | 3. Budcapping of Jack Pine, White Pine, Red Pine, and Red Oak seedlings
579 | for browse protection by deer.
- 580 | 4. Outplanting of Jack Pine seedlings grown in a deer repellent medium.
581 | This trial is established in cooperation with Wisconsin DNR Hayward
582 | Nursery.

583 | A compilation of silvicultural trials on State and County lands is available at
584 | <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/forestry/sciences/silviculture/index.html>.
585 |

586 | 810.1.10 Local Citizen Involvement

587 | The Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, and Land Committee is an open forum to
588 | listen, evaluate and incorporate, where appropriate, the public's input into
589 | management of the County Forest.
590 |

591 |
592 |
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594 **820 BIOLOGICAL COMMUNITY TYPES**

595 A community is an assemblage of different plant and animal species, living
596 together in a particular area, at a particular time in specific habitats. Communities
597 are complex and dynamic systems named for their dominant plant species.
598

599
600 Species/community information has been condensed to familiarize the reader with
601 the make-up of the Forest. Refer to Chapter 130.1.4 for more information.
602

603 **820.1 FORESTED COMMUNITIES**

604
605 The forested cover types are made up of a variety of size classes (regeneration,
606 sapling-pole, and saw timber) and structure (canopy, layers, ground vegetation,
607 dead and downed material, and inclusions). Forested communities within the
608 Vilas County Forest cover approximately 88% of the Forest.
609

610 Forest cover types associated with the County Forest are:

611 Aspen – 37%. Consisting of primarily aspen species often found in combination
612 with paper birch and red maple

613 Northern Hardwoods – 5.5%. Consisting of a mixture of upland hardwood
614 species including sugar maple, yellow birch, basswood, ash and red maple.

615 Oak – 5.5%. Dominated by red oak, white oak, black oak and associated with
616 other hardwoods.

617 Swamp Hardwoods - .02%. More than 50% swamp hardwood species including
618 black ash, red maple, and elm.

619 Red Maple - .13%. More than 50% red maple. Often associated with aspen and
620 white birch.

621 White Pine – 3.6%. More than 50% white pine.

622 Red Pine – 9.7%. More than 50% red pine.

623 Jack Pine – 13.6%. More than 50% jack pine.

624 Fir-Spruce - .64%. Consisting of swamp border or upland types with mixed
625 species, predominately balsam fir and spruce associated with white pine, cedar,
626 red maple, aspen, and birch
627 Swamp Conifer - .42%. Lowland type typified by balsam fir, cedar, and spruce in
628 combination with red maple and other lowland hardwoods.
629 Black spruce – 6.9%. More than 50% swamp conifer species with black spruce
630 predominating.
631 Tamarack - 1%. More than 50% swamp conifer species with tamarack
632 predominating.
633 White cedar - .14%. More than 50% swamp conifer species with white cedar
634 predominating.
635 White birch - .34%. Consisting of a majority of white birch. Often found in
636 combination with aspen and red maple.

637

638 820.2 NON-FORESTED COMMUNITIES

639 Non-forested communities within the Vilas County Forest cover approximately
640 12% of the forest. In broad categories, they are: upland (2.3%), wetland (8%)
641 and water (1.7%).

642

643 Non-forested habitats are important components of management within the
644 County Forest. Upland and wetland non-forest types provide important habitat
645 for distinct groups of species.

646

647 The following provides a general description of the non-forested communities:

648

649 820.2.1 Upland Non-Forest (2.3%)

650 Upland Non-Forest areas of the County Forest include:

651 Grass openings – consists of upland grasses, such as brome, quack, bluegrass,
652 timothy, and sedges.

653

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654 Herbaceous vegetation - ground cover predominated by herbaceous species with
655 bracken fern, upland aster, goldenrod, barren ground strawberry, hawkweed, lily
656 of the valley, yarrow, and sarsaparilla.

657
658 Shrub openings - primarily upland sites less than 10% stocked with tree species
659 but having 50% or more of the area stocked with taller growing, persistent shrubs.
660 This includes, but is not limited to, shrubs such as hazel, blueberry, juneberry,
661 chokecherry, pincherry and willow.

662
663 820.2.2 Wetlands (20%)

664 Wisconsin State Statutes define a wetland as “an area where water is at, near, or
665 above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or
666 hydrophytic vegetation, and which has soils indicative of wet conditions.”

667 Wetland communities are recognized to be a complex association of plants and
668 animals, soils and water levels having special natural values. They are fragile
669 systems that undergo rapid degradation when affected by incompatible uses and
670 unskilled management. Wetlands provide many functional values including
671 shoreline and flood protection, water quality protection, groundwater recharge,
672 and animal and plant habitat. Therefore, it is the policy of Vilas County to
673 preserve, protect and manage the wetlands under its jurisdiction in a manner that
674 recognizes the natural values of wetlands and their importance in the
675 environment. To this end the County will:

- 676
- 677 1) Recognize wetland values in management plans, taking reasonable steps to
678 minimize harmful effects.
 - 679 2) Cooperate with the DNR in wetland inventories and in preparation of essential
680 wetland information.
 - 681 3) Maintain control of vital wetlands under its jurisdiction when to relinquish
682 such control would risk substantial site alteration and subsequent degradation
683 of wetland values vital to the area and the state.

- 684 4) Minimize adverse changes in the quality or quantity of the flow of waters that
685 nourish wetlands.
- 686 5) Cooperate with local, state and national agencies and citizens to increase
687 understanding of the importance of wetlands and the need for land and water
688 stewardship in guiding development decisions.
- 689 6) Cooperate with the DNR in wetland management activities that would enhance
690 the quality and diversity of wetlands in the county and the region.

691

692 Wetlands are the transitional habitats between upland and aquatic systems where
693 the water table is usually at or near the surface, or where the land is covered by
694 shallow water. They presently make up a total of 20% of the County Forest.
695 Wetlands are made up of 15 descriptive types (adapted from PUBL-WZ-029-94).
696 They include:

697

698 Shallow, open water – wetlands characterized by submergent, floating and
699 floating-leaved aquatic vegetation such as pondweed, water lilies, water milfoil,
700 and duckweed. Water depths are generally less than 6.6 feet.

701

702 Deep marshes - wetlands characterized by emergent vegetations such as cattails
703 and pickerel weed and floating leaved plants such as white and yellow water lily
704 and watershield. Water depths of 6 feet are typically found on deep marshes.

705

706 Shallow marshes - wetlands characterized by persistent emergent vegetation such
707 as cattails and pickerelweed, etc., and water depths to 1.5 feet.

708

709 Sedge meadow - wetlands characterized by sedges and cattails. Surface water
710 depths to 6 inches in winter and early spring, and exposed saturated soil surface in
711 summer.

712

713 Open bog – wetlands that are composed of living sphagnum moss growing over a
714 layer of acid peat. Herbs and low shrubs colonize the mat and immature or
715 stunted trees of black spruce and/or tamarack may be scattered through the area.
716

717 Coniferous bog – wetlands similar to open bogs, except that mature black spruce
718 and/or tamarack trees are the dominant species growing on the sphagnum moss
719 mat. Black spruce and heath family shrubs are characteristics only of acid peats,
720 whereas tamarack can grow in calcareous peats, such as those of northern white
721 cedar swamps.
722

723 Shrub-Carrs – wetlands composed of tall deciduous shrubs growing on
724 saturated to seasonally flooded soils. They are usually dominated by willow or
725 red-osier dogwood. Non-native shrub species invade shrub-carrs, especially
726 where drainage and pasturing have disturbed the area. In particular, honeysuckle
727 and buckthorn can invade quickly.
728

729 Alder thicket – wetlands similar to shrub-carrs, but dominated by speckled alder.
730 It can also include other shrub species like high bush cranberry and sweet gale.
731

732 Lowland hardwood swamp – wetlands dominated by deciduous hardwood trees.
733 Soils are saturated during much of the growing season, and may be
734 inundated by as much as a foot off standing water. Species include black ash, red
735 maple, yellow birch, and northern white cedar.
736

737 Coniferous Swamp – wetlands dominated by lowland conifers, primarily black
738 spruce, northern white cedar and tamarack. Soils are saturated during much of the
739 growing season and may be inundated by as much as a foot of standing water.
740 Soils are usually organic. A sphagnum moss mat is not present.
741

742 Floodplain forest – wetlands dominated by mature, deciduous hardwood trees
743 growing on alluvial soils associated with riverine systems. These wetlands often

744 occur in the backwaters and depressions of rivers, which retain water for a long
745 period into the growing season. Typically they include northern and southern
746 wet-mesic hardwood forest associations. Floodplain forests support diverse plant
747 and animal species because they serve as migration corridors.

748

749 820.2.3 Open Water Habitats (1.7%)

750 Open water habitats are permanently flooded lands below the deep-water
751 boundary of wetlands. Water is generally too deep to support emergent
752 vegetation. Presence of these aquatic habitats within a forest landscape greatly
753 increases the number of wildlife species that can potentially occur. They include
754 rivers, lakes, and streams and occur on 1.7% of the forest landscape. They are
755 broken down into:

756

757 Lakes - lakes, ponds, and flowages in excess of 40 acres in an area; or rivers in
758 excess of 1/8 of a mile in width.

759

760 Streams - intermittent or permanent watercourses with slow water velocities and
761 are usually defined as being less than 1/8 mile in width.

762

763 Rivers - wetlands and deep-water habitats contained in a channel through which
764 the water flows and associated with forested riparian zones.

765

766 **830 PLANT COMMUNITIES MANAGEMENT**

767

768 Vilas County recognizes the importance of maintaining the diversity of the Forest
769 under an ecosystem approach. The process involved in making management
770 decisions to encourage, or not to encourage, specific species or communities is
771 complex. It includes an understanding of:

772

- 773
- Objectives of the County Forest.

- 774 • Integration of the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units
775 (NHFEU - landforms, soils, climate, vegetation classification at multiple
776 scales).
- 777 • Application of habitat type classification to identify ecological potentials
778 and silvicultural alternatives.
- 779 • Past, present, and future desired condition.
- 780 • Surrounding ownership patterns and their generalized objectives.
- 781 • Socio-economic needs.
- 782

783 830.1 SILVICULTURE

784 Plant communities are normally managed within the guidelines found in the
785 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics
786 Handbook 2431.5. Silviculture is the practice of controlling forest composition,
787 structure, and growth to maintain and enhance the forest's utility for any purpose.
788 Typically, silvicultural guidelines are written to encourage a stand to contain the
789 greatest quality and/or quantity of timber under either an even-, or uneven-aged
790 system.

791 A summary of management on the Vilas County Forest is described as follows:

792

793 830.1.1 Aspen Management

794 Aspen is the most abundant timber type on the Vilas County Forest, occupying
795 14,941 acres. The Aspen stands managed today originated after the logging and
796 wildfires of the late 1800's through the early 1900's. The generation of Aspen
797 established at that time matured and was harvested by the mid to late 1990's.
798 Aspen management for the period of this Plan considers the beginning of the
799 harvest of the second generation of established Aspen stands.

800

801 Although the Aspen resource in the Northern Great Lakes Region has been
802 steadily declining since the 1960's, it is the only region in the United States where
803 there is a significant amount of this timber type. This reduction of Aspen is due

804 to the lack of harvests and selection harvests that discriminate against Aspen, both
805 leading to the natural succession to more shade tolerant species.

806
807 Because Aspen provides habitat values to a wide variety of wildlife and is an
808 important species for the wood products industry, the Vilas County Forest is
809 committed to maintaining its Aspen acreage. Silviculture of Aspen is
810 characterized by regenerating mature stands by use of the clearcut method with
811 consideration given to aesthetics, wildlife habitat, and a goal of moving toward
812 regulation of the harvest by attaining equal acreages in each stage of growth. It is
813 recognized that as the second generation of Aspen matures there will be
814 opportunities, at the time of harvest, to naturally convert a portion of some stands
815 to White Pine. Conversion opportunities will be considered on a case by case
816 basis and are not anticipated to have an appreciable effect on maintaining the
817 current Aspen timber type of 14,941 acres.

818
819 830.1.2 Jack Pine Management

820 Jack Pine occurs throughout the Vilas County Forest on sandy soils. The
821 establishment of Jack Pine on these soils naturally followed the severe fires of the
822 late 1800's and early 1900's. During the late 1930's and early 1940's plantations
823 of Jack Pine were established by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the aftermath
824 of wildfires and failed farms.

825
826 Due to the characteristics of being shade intolerant and short lived there is a
827 decline of the presence of Jack Pine in the region of the Northern Great Lakes as
828 stands are converting to other species. Because of the regional decline of this
829 timber type and the characteristics of Jack Pine to withstand frost and droughty
830 soils, it is the goal of the Vilas County Forest to maintain the acres of Jack Pine
831 type with minimal conversion to other species. There are 5,491 acres of Jack Pine
832 timber type currently within the Forest.

833

834 Silviculture of Jack Pine on the Vilas County Forest is even-aged, characterized
835 by clearcutting to provide the exposure to sunlight needed for regeneration and
836 growth and planting combined with natural seeding to regenerate the stands. The
837 use of herbicide is, at times, necessary to reduce competition, ensure seedling
838 survival, and eliminate the conversion of stands to other species.

839

840 810.1.3 Red Pine – White Pine Management

841 The Vilas County Forest is unique among public forests of Wisconsin, having
842 2,902 acres of natural stands of Red and White Pine. These natural stands
843 primarily originated from 1896-1920 after the indiscriminate logging and
844 wildfires of that era. Additionally the Civilian Conservation Corps established
845 plantations in the late 1930's on lands where wildfires and failed farms once were.
846 From 1940-1980 the establishment of Red Pine plantations continued in non-
847 forested areas; however, planting was infrequent. Beginning in 1980 an annual
848 effort was made to establish trees in the remaining non-forested areas as well as
849 convert some harvested stands of Jack Pine and White Birch to Red Pine.
850 Plantation establishment continued through the 1990's to 2000 with an emphasis
851 on diversity, mixing Red Pine, White Pine, White Spruce, and Tamarack. After
852 2000, opportunities for the establishment of new stands of Red and White Pine
853 have declined with the planting of open areas of upland accomplished and the
854 completion, for all practical purposes, of the harvest of the White Birch timber
855 type. Future additions to the Red and White Pine timber type will be the natural
856 conversion of portions of Aspen stands and possible conversion opportunities in
857 the Red Maple timber type. There are currently 5,336 acres of Red and White
858 Pine timber type.

859

860 Silviculture of Red and White Pine stands is conducted as typical even-aged
861 management, where trees are selected to remain in the stand or be harvested
862 according to their risk, their place in the canopy, and spacing of the crowns of the
863 residual trees. During the period of this Plan as improvement thinnings are
864 conducted in natural stands with a White Pine component, the decision will be

865 made to initiate White Pine regeneration and move toward a two-aged stand. This
866 may include post-sale treatments to encourage natural reproduction and/or prepare
867 the site for planting. Herbicide treatment may be necessary to reduce competition
868 prior to scarification. This same management outline will be considered for some
869 Red Pine plantations after a third thinning is conducted. Current thought is to
870 harvest crop trees at 130 years of age. However, aesthetics and age class
871 distribution of the resource may influence retention beyond 130 years for some
872 stands, if possible.

873

874 830.1.4 Oak Forest Cover Types

875 A main goal of Vilas County's Landscape objective is to maintain and improve
876 species diversity across the County Forest. In regard to this objective, Vilas
877 County intends to maintain the current acres of Oak type on the County Forest.
878 Currently only 5% of the forest acreage is Oak type. The Oak Forest Cover types
879 are primarily made up of one of two oak types on the Vilas County Forest,
880 Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*) on higher quality sites and habitat types and
881 the scrub oak type on sandy soils and poorer habitat types. The scrub oak type on
882 the Vilas County Forest generally consists of Northern Pin Oak (*Q. ellipsoidalis*),
883 and Northern Red Oak hybrids; a cross between Northern Red Oak and Northern
884 Pin Oak. Oak is a moderately shade tolerant species scattered throughout the
885 county forest. Oak forests generally require a significant disturbance event such as
886 fire or blow-down and fire to regenerate and develop. In the absence of
887 management or disturbance, red oak stands tend to convert to other, more shade
888 tolerant hardwood species or white pine. Much of the current oak developed
889 during the large scale cutover and wildfire era in the early 1900's. This forest type
890 has high value to a wide number of game and non-game wildlife species.

891

892 General Management Prescriptions

893

894 The general management objective within the oak types is to maintain oak to
895 produce the maximum quantity and quality of sawtimber and veneer within
896 ecological and economic limitations and maintain its wildlife and mast producing

897 benefits. Long-term management objectives are to maintain the Oak timber type
898 based on site quality and to use silvicultural treatments that will take advantage of
899 current stand opportunities to facilitate regeneration or conversion to other types
900 while maintaining a prominent component of oak. Intermediate thinnings will be
901 used to develop oak stands and to maximize the quantity and quality of a stand's
902 oak component. Shelterwood cuts will be used to regenerate oak stands as they
903 near either economic or ecological limitations, depending on site characteristics
904 and individual stand needs. Oak is typically regenerated through the shelterwood
905 method and will generally take place at 90-150+ years of age. In a shelterwood
906 harvest, about 30-40% of the mature trees are harvested, depending on site
907 characteristics, to allow for sunlight and the regeneration of young oak trees.
908 After the young oak trees have regenerated, about 10 to 15 years later, the majority
909 of the mature trees are harvested, while maintaining 5 to 10 old trees per acre for
910 age and structural diversity and wildlife. Other management techniques that may
911 be applied when needed include single-tree selection, clear-cuts with reserves,
912 scarification, hand-release and herbicide treatments to promote regeneration.
913 Planting oak with herbicide treatments and browse deterrent methods may also be
914 employed. In mixed stands of red oak with white pine, northern hardwoods or
915 other species manage to promote components of older long-lived trees and natural
916 regeneration of these species and other secondary species. On nutrient poor
917 droughty soils with scrub oak stands, use clearcutting to regenerate a component
918 of oak along with aspen/white birch/jack pine.

919

920 830.1.5 Northern Hardwoods

921 Northern Hardwood Forests on the Vilas County Forest generally consist of
922 hardwood species that are moderately to highly shade tolerant. Predominant
923 species include sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), basswood (*Tilia americana*), red
924 maple (*Acer rubrum*), white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), and yellow birch (*Betula*
925 *allegheniensis*), with sugar maple being the dominant tree species in all stands.
926 Associated species may include the following: black cherry (*Prunus serotina*),
927 white pine (*Pinus strobus*), balsam fir (*Abies balsamea*), hemlock (*Tsuga*

928 *canadensis*), white spruce (*Picea glauca*), northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*), and
929 white birch (*Betula papyrifera*). Much of the current northern hardwoods
930 developed during the large scale cutover and wildfire era in the early 1900's,
931 creating the mostly even-aged northern hardwoods that we have on the forest
932 today. The majority of Vilas County's northern hardwood stands are located in
933 the northwest portion of the County Forest. Most northern hardwood species are
934 light seeded and range from shade tolerant (sugar maple) to intermediate shade
935 tolerant (white ash). Red maple and basswood are capable of proliferating from
936 stump sprouts. This forest type is generally managed as an all-aged forest stand.
937 Most of the hardwoods will be managed with the goal of maximum production of
938 high quality hardwood sawtimber; all-age management is the preferred method to
939 diversify tree ages, sizes and types of tree species within each stand.

940
941 General Management Prescriptions

942 Once stands reach an all-aged structure, Vilas County will use selection harvest
943 (uneven aged management) as the primary management tool, and vary harvest
944 intensity according to site-specific conditions and needs. Vilas County will plan
945 harvests to maintain or increase species diversity in these stands. Stands will be
946 evaluated for silvicultural needs, regeneration, spacing, density and other stands
947 conditions every 12-20 years or when basal area reaches 120 square feet per acre.
948 Uneven aged management guidelines call for thinning to a residual basal area of
949 approximately 80 square feet per acre, removing high risk, cull, and over-mature
950 trees. Thinning guidelines also target spacing and removing trees in overstocked
951 diameter classes.

952
953 Depending on the site conditions and objectives of a particular stand, more
954 intensive silviculture systems such as shelterwood harvest, group selection, or gap
955 creation may be used. These techniques may be applied to an entire stand or to
956 parts of a stand in conjunction with a selection harvest.

957
958 Stands without sufficient crop trees may be considered for even aged
959 management. The latest research in northern hardwood management encourages

960 the use of even-age management when appropriate. Since the term even-age
961 management may be somewhat confusing to hardwood managers, some
962 explanation is necessary. Even-age management, as used in northern hardwoods,
963 refers to a system of management in which the entire stand is regenerated at one
964 time as a result of a regeneration harvest, whether it is a shelterwood or group
965 selection harvest operation. In this context even-age management may lead to an
966 eventual "clearcut" but not as traditionally practiced. Situations most likely to call
967 for even-age management are encountered when dealing with stands without
968 sufficient crop trees, stands on the dry-mesic habitat types, or when attempting to
969 regenerate intermediate shade tolerant species like white ash and black cherry or
970 relatively light-seeded species such as yellow birch, ash and red maple.

971 In addition, an intermediate even-age management practice will often be used for
972 initial thinnings in pole stands even though the long-term objective is all-age
973 management. A northern hardwood stand is defined as currently being even-aged
974 when the average DBH is less than 9.0 inches and when basal area in sawtimber
975 trees, 11 inches DBH and up, is less than 50 sq. ft. per acre. Stands regarded as
976 even-aged by this definition may be thinned to lower basal area levels. Vilas
977 county forest managers have the option of switching from even-age to all-age
978 management at any subsequent thinning. Northern hardwood stands are
979 considered to be an important cover type on the Vilas County Forest and efforts
980 should be made to assure it is retained on the landscape.

982
983 830.1.6 Black Spruce and Tamarack – Forest Types

984 Black spruce and tamarack forest cover types make up 8% of the Vilas County
985 Forest. These forest types are typically on wetland areas and are sometimes
986 referred to as swamp conifers. They can be pure stands of individual species or
987 combinations of two or more tree species, mainly black spruce and tamarack but
988 stands may contain white cedar, balsam fir, jack pine and other associated tree
989 species. A main goal of Vilas County's Landscape Objective is to maintain and
990 improve species diversity across the County Forest while at the same time
991 maintaining black spruce and tamarack forest cover types on sites where they

992 currently exist. Vilas County will emphasize age class diversity and promote
993 improved species composition through regeneration of tamarack and black spruce
994 thereby improving spruce grouse (*Dedragapus canadensis*) habitat. Black spruce
995 and tamarack will be managed for production of the maximum quantity of
996 pulpwood and sawtimber where possible and permissible under wetlands
997 protection restrictions. Management concerns of special importance for lowland
998 forest types include Best Management Practices (BMP's) for water quality,
999 endangered resources, biodiversity, wildlife, and aesthetics. Management
1000 activities will be limited within commercially unproductive wetlands with small
1001 sized slow growing trees, or areas of open bog and marsh. Access across these
1002 stands on a frozen ground temporary road may be required. Regeneration of
1003 productive stands of tamarack and black spruce may be by even-aged
1004 management techniques (clear-cut) following the guidelines in the DNR
1005 Silvicultural and Forest Aesthetics. In sensitive areas with deep organic soils and
1006 reduced risk of windthrow, uneven-aged management through selective
1007 harvesting may provide an alternative. Timber harvests on forested wetlands will
1008 be conducted only on frozen ground conditions or when there is sufficient snow
1009 cover to prevent rutting and potential damage to organic soils. Vilas County will
1010 retain all white cedar in timber harvests of forested wetlands.

1011
1012

830.2 LOCALLY UNCOMMON TREES

1013 The presence or lack of a particular plant species is dependent on the land's
1014 capabilities, climate, and natural (e.g. fire, browsing) and/or man-caused (e.g.
1015 logging, farming) disturbances. The present scarcity of the listed species makes
1016 them a source of concern.

1017 The following are considered uncommon on the Forest and perhaps to some
1018 extent across the regional landscape:

1019

1020 830.2.1 American Elm (*Ulmus americana*) is scarce primarily
1021 due to mortality caused by the introduction of Dutch elm disease. [Existing elm
1022 will normally be left uncut in hopes that they may continue in the landscape as

1023 potential resistant seed source individuals. Where possible during silvicultural
1024 operations, efforts will be made to encourage regeneration of American elm.]

1025

1026 830.3 Trees Locally Difficult to Regenerate

1027 There are certain tree species whose home ranges are within the County Forest
1028 that are difficult to regenerate. In many cases this difficulty is related to the
1029 exclusion of fire from the environment. In other cases this may be due to
1030 browsing by deer. The following species, normally found within the county, are
1031 found to be difficult to regenerate:

1032

1033 830.3.1 White birch (*Betula papyrifera*)

1034 The White birch, a symbol of our northern forest, is a shade intolerant species
1035 found in even-aged stands. The White Birch stands on the Vilas County Forest
1036 were established in the early 1900's after the logging and fires of that era. The
1037 stands matured and, for all practical purposes, were harvested by the mid 1990's.
1038 These stands were converted primarily to Aspen and Pine. Approximately 212
1039 acres of White Birch stands remain today in aesthetic and riparian management
1040 zones.

1041

1042 Silvicultural systems of the seed tree or shelterwood method coupled with site
1043 preparation or planting have been successful for seedling production. However,
1044 high deer populations have prevented stand establishment. Currently, trials with
1045 deer repellent and budcaps have been initiated on the County Forest to prevent
1046 deer browsing. White Birch management opportunities today are confined to
1047 aesthetic zones, along the County Forest roadsides, and in mixing seedlings with
1048 other species in plantations to provide diversity and mimic natural stands of
1049 associated trees.

1050

1051

1052

1053

1054 830.3.2 Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga Canadensis*) and Yellow Birch (*Betula*
1055 *alleghaniensis*)
1056 Eastern Hemlock and Yellow Birch exist on the Vilas County Forest primarily as
1057 a component of Northern Hardwood timber types. Regeneration of both species
1058 is practically non-existent and difficult to achieve due to high deer populations.
1059 Fencing for deer exclusion has been successful to protect plantings or natural
1060 regeneration; however, fencing is costly and impractical on a large scale. For
1061 these reasons, the current management objective for these species is passive,
1062 retaining the trees to provide a seed source as well as maintain diversity in the
1063 Northern Hardwoods timber type that is dominated by Sugar Maple.

1064
1065 830.3.3 White Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*)

1066 There are 48 acres of the Cedar timber type on the Vilas County Forest. Cedar is
1067 also found as a component in the Swamp Hardwood and Swamp Conifer timber
1068 types. Most stands of Cedar are small (less than 20 acres) in size and have origins
1069 dated to around 1900. However, a Cedar stand in Sec. 15, T40N – R9E is dated at
1070 150 years old. Regeneration is non-existent and difficult to achieve without
1071 controlling browsing by deer. Experiments incorporating deer fence have shown
1072 Cedar can be successfully regenerated. However, the investment is excessive for
1073 the Vilas County Forest to undertake on a meaningful scale. Cedar, therefore, is
1074 not harvested on the County Forest except where trees are dying; for example,
1075 where beaver activity has caused flooding that in turn kills the trees.

1076

1077 830.4 EXOTIC PLANT SPECIES OF CONCERN

1078 Exotic or non-indigenous invasive plant species can cause significant ecological
1079 and economic damage to the Forest. Some invasive species, such as common and
1080 glossy buckthorn, eliminate not only wildflowers but also limit the regeneration of
1081 tree species. Keeping them from dominating the understory is critical to the long-
1082 term health and economic viability of the forest. Currently, Vilas County Forest
1083 has few significant infestations of invasive plants. With training, vigilance, and
1084 control efforts, new infestations can be managed or eliminated. There are many
1085 highly invasive plants that are threatening to invade much of the northern forests
1086 in Wisconsin. The following is a list of non-native invasive species that pose a
1087 threat to Vilas County:

- 1088 Aquatic: 1. Eurasian water milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*
1089 2. Curly-leaved pondweed *Potamogeton crispus*
1090 Upland: 1. Common buckthorn *Thamnus cathartica*
1091 2. Asiatic bush honeysuckles *Lonicera* spp
1092 3. Garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata*
1093 Wetland: 1. Phragmites or Common reed grass *Phragmites australis*
1094 2. Reed canary grass *Phalaris arundinacea*
1095 3. Glossy buckthorn (also grading into upland forests)
1096 *Rhamnus frangula*
1097 4. Purple loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria*
1098

1099 830.5 LEGALLY PROTECTED PLANT SPECIES

1100 There are some plants in Wisconsin that are afforded protection under the Federal
1101 Endangered Species Law, the State Endangered and Threatened Species Law (s. 29.604
1102 Wis. Stats. and NR 27 Wis. Adm. Code), or both. Under Wisconsin State Law, no one
1103 may possess or sell any wild plant that is listed without a valid endangered or threatened
1104 (ET) species permit. On public lands or lands one does not own, lease or have
1105 permission of the landowner, one may not cut, root up, sever, injure, destroy, remove,
1106 transport, or carry away a listed plant without an ET species permit. There is an
1107 exemption on public lands for forestry, agriculture and utility activity under the state law.

1108

1109 In the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) program the DNR tracks information on
1110 these species in the State. Below is a list of legally protected plants known to
1111 occur in Vilas County (on or near the County Forest).

1112	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
1113	Fairy Slipper	Calypso bulbosa	THR
1114	Shore Sedge	Carex lentifularis	THR
1115	Small Yellow Water Crowfoot	Ranunculus gmelinii	END

1116 Key: THR=Threatened; END=Endangered

1117

1118 830.6 OTHER PLANT SPECIES AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES OF CONCERN
1119 – NHI

1120 The NHI program at the DNR also tracks information on rare species and natural
1121 communities, in addition to legally protected species.

1122

1123 830.6.1 Special Concern Plants

1124 Special Concern Species are those species in which some problem of abundance
1125 or distribution is suspected, but not yet proven. The main purpose of this category
1126 is to focus attention on certain species before they become threatened or
1127 endangered. Below is a list of Special Concern plant species known to occur in
1128 Vilas County (on or near the county forest).

1129	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
1130	Sparse-flowered Sedge	Carex tenuflora
1131	Robbins' Spikerush	Eleocharis robbinsii
1132	Canada Mountain-ricegrass	Oryzopsis candensis
1133	Leafy White Orchis	Platanthera dilatata
1134	Large Roundleaf Orchid	Platanthera orbiculata
1135	Water-thread Pondweed	Potamegeton diversifolius
1136	Common Bog Arrow-grass	Triglochin maritime
1137	Hidden-fruited Bladderwort	Utricularia geminiscapa
1138	Purple Bladderwort	Utricularia purpurea

1139 Northeastern Bladderwort Utricularia resupinata

1140

1141 830.6.2 Natural Communities

1142 Similarly, specific records of natural communities are also tracked. The
1143 following natural communities have been recorded in Vilas County (on or near
1144 the County Forest).

1145 Common Name

1146 Alder thicket

1147 Black Spruce swamp

1148 Lake – deep, soft, seepage

1149 Lake – shallow, soft, seepage

1150 Northern dry – mesic

1151 Northern sedge meadow

1152 Northern wet forest

1153 Open Bog

1154 Spring Pond

1155 Stream – fast, hard, cold

1156 Stream – slow, soft, cold

1157

1158 **840 WILDLIFE SPECIES MANAGEMENT**

1159

1160 840.1 BACKGROUND

1161 For the purpose of this plan, wildlife will include all native birds, mammals, fish,
1162 amphibians, reptiles, and insects with a strong focus on the natural communities
1163 in which they live. Wildlife biologists will emphasize habitat management that
1164 interrelates and benefits wildlife, and complements sound forestry practices.

1165 Concerns about the biological diversity of the County Forest and how it fits into
1166 the regional, continental and global perspective, may cause wildlife management
1167 to place increased emphasis on segments of the forest community. Practices such
1168 as old growth, snag and den tree management, access management, forest
1169 openings maintenance, oak management, and aspen maintenance, can be priorities

1170 in the dynamics of forest management. A primary goal of wildlife management
1171 on the Vilas County Forest is to provide a diversity of healthy ecosystems
1172 necessary to sustain native populations for their biological, recreational, cultural
1173 and economic values.

1174

1175 840.1.1 Technical Planning

1176 Planning will be a cooperative effort of the administrator, DNR liaison forester
1177 and wildlife biologist in formulating management plans and utilizing wildlife
1178 management techniques for the overall protection and enhancement of the forest
1179 community, of which wildlife is a key component.

1180

1181 840.1.2 Guidelines

1182 DNR manual codes on Endangered and Threatened Species Permits Issue
1183 (1724.5), Feasibility Studies and WEPA Analyses for Establishing or Modifying
1184 Property Project Boundaries (2105.1), Guidelines for Defining Forest-Wildlife
1185 Habitat Management (2112), Forest Opening Maintenance and Construction
1186 (2112.1), and the Public Forest Lands Handbook (2460.5), are important
1187 references and guidelines in wildlife planning efforts.

1188

1189 840.1.3 Inventory

1190 Habitat needs will be determined by analysis of forest reconnaissance
1191 information. Population estimates will be conducted periodically by DNR
1192 wildlife, endangered resources personnel, and other trained cooperators.

1193

1194 840.2 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND AREAS OF FOCUS

1195 In applying this Plan to the forest, the following areas of focus were identified in
1196 achieving Plan objectives:

1197

1198

1199

1200

1201 840.2.1 General Management Policies

1202 Forest management practices may require modification to benefit wildlife and
1203 biodiversity in certain situations. The following will be considered in forest
1204 management planning:

- 1205 1) Even-aged regeneration harvests (clearcuts) should vary in size and shape.
- 1206 2) A diversity of stand age, size and species.
- 1207 3) Mast-bearing trees and shrubs, den trees, and an adequate number and
1208 variety of snags.
- 1209 4) Cull trees (future snag or den trees) not interfering with specific high value
1210 trees.
- 1211 5) Timber types, habitat conditions and impacts on affected wildlife.
- 1212 6) Access management.
- 1213 7) Best management practices for water quality (BMP's).

1214

1215 840.3 HABITATS OF IMPORTANCE

1216 Important habitat types are those cover types known to be of importance to certain
1217 native wildlife and whose absence would make that wildlife significantly less
1218 abundant. These shortages may be on a local or broader scale. The following
1219 habitat types can be considered important:

1220

1221 840.3.1 Aspen

1222 The aspen type is recognized as providing habitat values to a wide variety of
1223 wildlife species. This type will continue to be regenerated, with consideration
1224 given to reserving scattered den and mast-producing trees in the process.

1225

1226 840.3.2 Jack pine

1227 Jack pine and its associated plant understory provide a vital mix of breeding and
1228 winter habitat for many wildlife species. This type will become increasingly
1229 important on the Forest as conversion to other tree species occurs on private
1230 lands. Jack pine habitat maintenance will be a high priority.

1231

1232 840.3.3 Forest openings
1233 Permanent grass openings are essential to well-balanced wildlife habitat.
1234 Openings will be maintained where they exist or be developed where needed.
1235
1236 840.3.4 Lowland conifer
1237 Cedar, hemlock, and balsam fir types are important for winter cover for many
1238 wildlife species. These forest types will be maintained where practical.
1239
1240 840.3.5 Oak
1241 The oak type is important to wildlife because of its cavity-forming potential and
1242 mast production. Future management will focus on protecting and regenerating
1243 this type.
1244
1245 840.3.6 Forest Game Species
1246 The management of forest game (white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, black bear,
1247 turkey, snowshoe hare, and numerous furbearers) is centered on maintaining early
1248 successional species such as aspen, jack pine, white birch, and scrub oak; with
1249 aspen and oak being the primary species of importance.
1250
1251 Manual Code 2112 is a Wisconsin DNR document that establishes guidelines for
1252 measuring forest game habitat. It has been used like a barometer to measure
1253 changes in forest wildlife habitat. While the scope of Manual Code 2112 can be
1254 narrow (deer habitat units compared with landscapes and ecoregions) by today's
1255 management standards, the impacts are broad.
1256
1257 Foresters, in concert with wildlife biologists, will continue to monitor forest game
1258 species and adjust land management prescriptions where appropriate.
1259
1260 840.3.7 Forest Non-Game Species
1261 Efforts will be made with the DNR to inventory existing populations, identify
1262 needs, and maintain valuable habitat types. Consideration will be given to

1263 maintain large dead and dying trees within timber management areas to provide
1264 habitat for cavity-dwelling wildlife and provide a source of large woody debris for
1265 amphibians.

1266

1267 840.3.7.1 Neotropical Migrant Birds

1268 Neotropical migrant birds (NTMB) are songbirds that breed in North America and
1269 winter in Central and South America. There are over 120 species of NTMBs that
1270 spend a portion of each year in Wisconsin. Different NTMBs utilize a wide
1271 variety of habitats including forests, shrubs, and grasslands. Warblers, tanagers,
1272 vireos, thrushes, swallows, blue-winged teal and hummingbirds are just some
1273 examples of NTMBs. In addition, these species play an important role in forest
1274 health by consuming large amounts of insects, including forest pest species such
1275 as gypsy moths and forest tent caterpillars.

1276

1277 In recent years, several neotropical species have experienced significant declines
1278 in population. These declines likely reflect a reduction in suitability, or a loss of
1279 habitat where these species breed, overwinter and/or migrate. Grassland birds
1280 seem to be experiencing the most precipitous declines range wide, due to a loss of
1281 habitat both in North America and on the wintering grounds in South America.
1282 However, species that nest in forests or shrublands, such as the cerulean warbler,
1283 golden-winged warbler, and veery are also declining nationwide.

1284

1285 In some cases these declines may be tied to forest fragmentation. Forest
1286 Fragmentation occurs when portions of a forest are converted into non-forest
1287 cover types (urbanization and agricultural). This is permanent fragmentation and
1288 poses the greatest threat to all forest wildlife. Forest Fragmentation has impacts
1289 on neotropical birds including changes in competition for resources, predation
1290 rates, and perceived quality of habitat. Each species of NTMB respond to forest
1291 disturbance differently. Since there are so many neotropical migrants that utilize
1292 a wide variety of habitats and successional stages it's difficult to make
1293 generalizations as to the impacts of forest management on the health of certain

1294 bird populations. However, the County Forest provides habitat for NTMB's
1295 while being actively managed for 75 years. Species such as chestnut-sided
1296 warblers and mourning warblers benefit from early successional species produced
1297 by clearcutting. Species that rely on more mature forests or interior forests, such
1298 as ovenbirds or black-throated blue warblers, will benefit from thinnings and all
1299 age management. To assure a rich diversity of NTMBs in Wisconsin's forests,
1300 emphasis should be placed on forest management guidelines that promote habitat
1301 for NTMBs with the most specialized habitat needs.

1302
1303 Forests and associated wetlands of the western Great Lakes, including Wisconsin,
1304 support some of North America's highest densities and most diverse assemblages
1305 of breeding birds (Howe et al. 1996). While some forest/shrub species mentioned
1306 above are decreasing, according to the Federal Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), the
1307 majority of forest/shrub species that breed in Wisconsin are increasing.

1308 Wisconsin's private, County, State, and National Forests are still relatively intact
1309 and have regained much of their structural and compositional diversity that was
1310 once reduced in the big "Cutover" in the early 1900's.

1311
1312 As habitat is lost and fragmented by development on private lands, Wisconsin's
1313 County Forests continue to provide increasingly important habitat to numerous
1314 NTMB species that occur in a wide variety of forest types and age classes.

1315

1316 840.4 LEGALLY PROTECTED ANIMAL SPECIES

1317 The Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 and the Lacey Act together provide
1318 for the protection of wild animals threatened with extinction. The State
1319 Endangered and Threatened Species Law also requires that the State assume
1320 responsibility for conserving wild animals by restricting and regulating the taking,
1321 possession, transportation, processing, or sale of endangered or threatened wild
1322 animals within its jurisdiction. Further, the Federal Migratory Bird Act and the
1323 Eagle Protection Act provide additional protection for certain species of birds.
1324 Because animals usually travel freely from one property to another, they belong to

1325 everyone. Therefore, if a species is legally protected, it is protected anywhere it
1326 occurs in Vilas County.

1327

1328	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
1329	Wood Turtle	Clemmys insculpta	THR
1330	Cerulean Warbler	Dendroica cerulean	THR
1331	Spruce Goose	Falciennis canadensis	THR
1332	Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	SC
1333	Greater Redhorse	Moxostoma valenciennesi	THR
1334	American Burying Beetle	Nicrophorous americanus	END
1335	Osprey	Pandion haliaetus	THR

1336

1337 Key – Status Status: END-endangered, THR-threatened, SC-special concern

1338

1339 840.5 OTHER ANIMALS OF SPECIAL CONERN – NHI

1340 Just as with plants, the DNR tracks information on rare animal species when some
1341 problem of abundance or disturbance is suspected but not yet proven. The main
1342 purpose of this category is to focus attention on certain species before they
1343 become threatened or endangered. Below is a list of Special Concern animal
1344 species known to occur in Vilas County (on or near the County Forest).

1345

1346	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
1347	Elktoe	Alasmidontya marginata
1348	Freija Fritillary	Boloria freija
1349	Frigga Fritillary	Boloria frigga
1350	Swainson’s Thrush	Catharus ustulatus
1351	Lake Herring	Coregonus artedi
1352	Black-throated Blue Warbler	Dendroica caerulescens
1353	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Empidonax flaviventris
1354	Red-disked Alpine	Erebia discordatis
1355	Splendid Clubtail	Gompurus lineatifrons

1356	Skillet Clubtail	<i>Gompurus ventricosus</i>
1357	Connecticut Warbler	<i>Oporornis agilis</i>
1358	Gray Jay	<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>
1359	Black-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides arcticus</i>
1360	Round Pigtoe	<i>Peurobema sintoxia</i>
1361	Boreal Chickadee	<i>Poecile hudsonica</i>
1362	Bullfrog	<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>
1363	Lake Emerald	<i>Somatochlora cingulata</i>
1364	Ski-tailed Emerald	<i>Somatochlora elongate</i>
1365	Arctic Shrew	<i>Sorex arcticus</i>
1366	Zebra Clubtail	<i>Stylurus scudderri</i>

1367

1368 840.6 FISH AND WATERS MANAGEMENT

1369 Public waters shall be managed to provide for optimum natural fish production,
 1370 an opportunity for quality recreation, and a healthy balanced aquatic ecosystem.
 1371 Emphasis will also be placed on land-use practices that benefit the aquatic
 1372 community. Management of County Forest lands will attempt to preserve and/or
 1373 improve fish habitat and water quality.

1374

1375 840.6.1 Technical Planning

1376 Management of all waters within the County Forest is the responsibility of the
 1377 DNR. Technical assistance will be provided by the local fisheries biologist.
 1378 Studies and management will be conducted in the manner described in DNR Fish
 1379 Management Handbook 3605.9.

1380

1381 840.6.2 Water Surveys

1382 Comprehensive lake and stream surveys on the County forest will be conducted
 1383 by the DNR fisheries biologist as required. The publication, "Surface Water
 1384 Resources of Vilas County", contains additional information relative to these
 1385 waters.

1386

1387 840.6.3 Population Surveys
1388 Surveys of fish populations in waters within the County Forest will be conducted
1389 by the DNR as required and will generally run concurrently with water surveys.
1390 Fish management programs will be guided by these surveys.

1391
1392 840.6.4 Lake Management
1393 Management of lakes within the County Forest will be consistent with the
1394 capability of the resource and any unique aspects associated with that resource.

1395
1396 840.6.5 Stream Management
1397 Trout streams on the County Forest will be managed to protect and enhance their
1398 quality. Streams containing warm water or cool water species will be managed to
1399 perpetuate their inherent qualities. Corresponding land and water use practices
1400 will be consistent with this policy. Maps inventorying water resources can be
1401 found in the appendix to this plan (Chapter 900).

1402
1403 840.6.6 Best Management Practices for Water Quality
1404 Protection of water resources in the county will be consistent with the “Wisconsin
1405 Forestry Best Management Practices (B.M.P.s) for Water Quality”. Examples of
1406 these protective measures are:

- 1407 1. Uncut riparian zones
- 1408 2. Erosion control measures
- 1409 3. Stream bank protection

1410
1411 840.6.7 Shoreland Zoning
1412 A copy of the Vilas County Shoreland Zoning Ordinance is filed at the
1413 Department Headquarters. Vilas County’s Shoreland Zoning Ordinance provides
1414 for more restrictive management than Wisconsin’s BMP’s in riparian zones. For
1415 example, the ‘No Cut’ zone along lakes and streams is 75 feet under the Vilas
1416 County Ordinance.

1417

1418 840.6.8 Access and development
1419 Access and development of County Forest waters will be limited to those
1420 activities consistent with the above water management policies. See Chapter 740
1421 also for further information on water access.
1422

1423 840.6.9 Important Water Resources

1424 Management activities adjacent to these water resources, or in areas with sensitive
1425 soils or severe slopes, should consider measures above and beyond the customary
1426 BMP practices. County staff may work with their liaison forester in cooperation
1427 with the local DNR water resources staff to develop site-specific measures where
1428 appropriate. An inventory of water resources can be obtained from DNR Water
1429 staff for the County. Important water resources on the Vilas County Forest
1430 include:

1431

1432 Lakes totally within or having frontage in the County Forest Boundary:

1433	<u>Name</u>	<u>Legal Description</u>
1434	2 Unnamed lakes (in)	T42N – R9E – Sec. 7
1435	White Spruce Lake (in)	
1436	Lake of the Woods (frontage)	T42N – R9E – Sec. 8
1437	Unnamed lake (in)	T42N – R9E – Sec. 17
1438	Unnamed lake (frontage)	
1439		
1440	White Squaw Lake (frontage)	T42N – R9E – Sec. 20
1441	Unnamed lake (in)	T42N – R9E – Sec. 22
1442	Marshall Lake (frontage)	T42N – R9E – Sec. 27
1443	Spring Lake (frontage)	
1444	Little Tamarack Flowage (frontage)	
1445	Unnamed lake (in)	
1446		
1447	Unnamed lake (in)	T42N – R9E – Sec. 29
1448	Unnamed lake (frontage)	T42N – R10E – Sec. 20
1449	Reiter Lake (frontage)	T42N – R10E – Sec. 30
1450	Unnamed lake (in)	T42N – R10E – Sec. 33
1451	Unnamed lake (frontage)	
1452		

1453	Unnamed lake (frontage)	T42N – R10E – Sec. 34
1454		
1455	Unnamed lake (in)	T42N – R10E – Sec. 35
1456	Cigar Lake (frontage)	
1457		
1458	Jim’s Lake (frontage)	T41N – R9E – Sec. 5
1459		
1460	Langley Lake (in)	T41N – R9E – Sec. 8
1461	Oscar’s Lake (in)	
1462	Carl’s Lake (in)	
1463	Gene’s Lake (in)	
1464	Unnamed lake (in)	
1465		
1466	Unnamed lake (in)	T41N – R9E – Sec. 10
1467		
1468	Unnamed lake (frontage)	T41N – R9E – Sec. 11
1469		
1470	Snyder Lake (frontage)	T41N – R9E – Sec. 17
1471		
1472	Pollack Lake (in)	T41N – 9E – Sec. 24
1473		
1474	Hunter Lake (frontage)	T41N – R9E – Sec. 25
1475		
1476	Upper Buckatabon (frontage)	T41N – R9E – Sec. 27
1477	Unnamed lake (frontage)	
1478		
1479	McLeod Lake (in)	T41N – R9E – Sec. 34
1480	Unnamed lake (frontage)	
1481		
1482	Mud Lake (in)	T41N – R9E – Sec. 35
1483	Forester Lake (in)	
1484	West Lake (in)	
1485		
1486	Tellefson Lake (frontage)	T41N – R9E – Sec. 36
1487	Deep Lake (in)	
1488	Karen’s Lake (in)	
1489	Brazell Lake (frontage)	
1490		
1491	Rangeline Lake (frontage)	T40N – R10E – Sec. 6
1492		
1493	Unnamed lake (frontage)	T40N – R10E – Sec. 9
1494	Scat Lake (frontage)	
1495		
1496	Torch Lake (frontage)	T40N – R10E – Sec. 20
1497		
1498	Hunter Lake (frontage)	T40N – R10E – Sec. 25
1499		

1500	Lake of the Hills (frontage)	T40N – R10E – Sec. 33
1501		
1502	Wood Duck Lake (in)	T40N – R9E – Sec. 30
1503		
1504	3 Unnamed lakes (in)	T40N – R9E – Sec. 28
1505	2 Unnamed lakes (frontage)	
1506		
1507	Snipe Lake (frontage)	T40N – R9E – Sec. 21
1508		
1509	Ewald Lake (in)	T40N – R9E – Sec. 20
1510		
1511	Unnamed lake (in)	T40N – R9E – Sec. 18
1512		
1513	Unnamed lake (frontage)	T40N – R9E – Sec. 16
1514		
1515	Jeb Lake (in)	T40N – R9E – Sec. 15
1516		
1517	Rice Lake (frontage)	T40N – R9E – Sec. 14
1518		
1519	Teepee Lake (frontage)	T40N – R9E – Sec. 12
1520		
1521	Frost Lake (access)	T40N – R9E – Sec. 11
1522		
1523	Honeysuckle Lake (frontage)	T40N – R9E – Sec. 10
1524	Katie Lake (in)	
1525	Unnamed lake (frontage)	
1526		
1527	Aspen Lake (frontage)	T40N – R9E – Sec. 9
1528	Mud Minnow Lake (in)	
1529	Muskellunge Lake (frontage)	
1530		
1531	Sunken Lake	T40N – R9E – Sec. 8
1532		
1533	Unnamed lake (in)	T40N – R9E – Sec. 7
1534	Pincherry Lake (frontage)	
1535		
1536	Cook's Lake (in)	T40N – R9E – Sec. 1
1537	Unnamed Lake (in)	
1538		
1539		<u>Streams and Rivers</u>
1540		
1541	Wisconsin River	Muskellunge Creek
1542	Boot Creek	Pickeral Creek
1543	Sucker Creek	Buckatabon Creek
1544	Pioneer Creek	Muskrat Creek
1545	Haymeadow Creek	Tamarack Creek
1546	Unnamed Creek T.41N.-R.10E.-Sec. 27 & 28	

1547

1548 **850 LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT**

1549

1550 **850.1 BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

1551 For the purposes of this plan, biological diversity will be interpreted to reference
1552 the variety and abundance of species, their genetic composition, and the
1553 communities, ecosystems, and landscapes in which they occur. It also refers to
1554 ecological structures, functions, and processes that occur in ecosystems to sustain
1555 the system as viable entities. The forest landscape, a mosaic of plants and animals
1556 of various sizes and ages, are in constant flux due to succession from both natural
1557 and planned events.

1558

1559 Opportunities to manage Vilas County Forest lands toward these ends will be
1560 continued and improved, provided they are deemed to be in the public's best
1561 interest by the Committee and within the framework of the County Forest Law
1562 (s.28.11 Wis. Stats.).

1563

1564 **850.2 HABITAT FRAGMENTATION**

1565 The adoption of management plans and strategies developed cooperatively with
1566 neighboring forest owners and managers will help to consider fragmentation on a
1567 landscape level. A continued program of encouraging land acquisition within the
1568 forest blocking will decrease negative impact of forest fragmentation by land uses
1569 other than forestry.

1570

1 VILAS COUNTY FORESTRY PLAN, PURSUANT TO §28.11, WIS. STATS.

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1 VILAS COUNTY FORESTRY PLAN, PURSUANT TO §28.11, WIS. STATS.

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3 CHAPTER 1000

4 NEEDS

5

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17 **1000 OBJECTIVE AND FORMAT**

18

19 Objectives:

20 To provide guidelines which define the optimum level of activities that should be undertaken to
21 achieve full potential benefits from the forest.

22

23 Format and Policy:

24 Needs for the county forest shall be listed without regard to budgetary constraints or other
25 limitations. This list shall identify the forest potential in terms of public benefits, investments or
26 opportunities, and financial returns. Silvicultural needs of the county forest are identified in the
27 Forest Compartment Reconnaissance printout. The DNR Public Lands Handbook describes
28 procedures for use of this information. Other needs shall be determined by the Committee and the
29 forest administrator, with technical assistance from the DNR and other interested agencies or
30 individuals qualified to provide such assistance.

31

32 **1100 DETAILED ANNUAL NEEDS FOR FIFTEEN YEARS**

33

34 Annual silvicultural needs are identified in the Forest Compartment Reconnaissance printout.
35 The printout, referenced in the plan, is available in the County Forest administrator's office.
36 Printout listings include timber harvests, tree planting, and other silvicultural activities. Other
37 unanticipated needs will be addressed in accordance with procedures outlined in this plan. These
38 items will be identified and plans made for implementation, as part of the annual budget work
39 plan prepared by the administrator and Committee. Annual work plans are approved by the
40 County Board and forwarded to the DNR as required by statute (§28.11(5)(b) and
41 §28.11(5m)(b), Wis. Stats.

42

43

44 **1110 TIMBER MANAGEMENT**

45

46

47 Timber management activities on the Vilas County Forest are accomplished by Vilas County
48 foresters, WDNR foresters, and through contacting private forest management companies. The
49 objectives of management activities include:

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- maintaining and improving forest health
- increasing forest productivity
- providing a sustained, even even flow of forest products
- improving and maintaining wildlife habitat
- promoting biological diversity
- improving & maintaining aesthetic conditions.

The Vilas County Forest Reconnaissance, available at the Department Headquarters, provides detailed information on individual forest stands and is the source for identifying and scheduling management activities. Adjustments to the schedule of activities are made annually to reflect current forest conditions and address multiple use concerns. Just prior to the adoption of this plan the statutory planning period requirement was changed from ten to fifteen years. Consequently, harvest projections for the period 2016 – 2020 will be added to this Plan when upgrades to existing technology are provided.

The following is a compilation of the allowable annual harvest for the major timber types on the Forest in regard to the ecology of the species and the characteristics of the soils and sites. Harvest activity from 2016 – 2020 is not expected to change significantly. The location by harvest type is referenced in Chapter 900-78.

<u>Timber Type</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Avg. Rotation</u> <u>Age</u>	<u>Annual Allowable</u> <u>Regeneration</u> <u>Harvest Acres</u>	<u>Annual Thinning All-</u> <u>Age Management 15</u> <u>Yr Thinning Interval</u>
Aspen	14,969	55	272	0
White Birch	157	74	1	0
Fir Spruce	259	50	5	17
Red Maple	52	0	0	3
Northern Hdwd	2,212	0	147	145
Oak	2,220	100	21	45
Jack Pine	5,491	50	110	0
Red Pine	3,914	130	30	312
White Pine	1,480	130	11	112
Black Spruce	2,777	100	28	0
Swamp Conifer	16950		2	0
Swamp Hardwood	8110		0	0
Tamarack	452	100	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals			632	634

It is the goal of the Vilas County Forest to maintain the Jack Pine acreage (5,491 acres) and maintain

90 or slightly increase the Red & White Pine component (5,336 acres) of the Forest. Artificial
91 regeneration (planting & seeding) will vary yearly. Most of the Jack Pine harvest acres will receive
92 site preparation for planting 700 trees per acre, plus natural regeneration. As the natural Red &
93 White Pine stands mature and are harvested, planting, preceded by site preparation, will be the most
94 common regeneration technique used to renew these stands. Planting of Red & White Pine stands
95 will have a stocking goal of 1,200 trees per acre due to the droughtiness of our soils and the
96 subsequent loss of seedlings. Mixed specie stands will be promoted with consideration given to
97 White Spruce, Tamarack, and White Birch where site conditions are conducive. Seeding White Pine
98 to supplement natural seeding will be considered in some harvests of White Pine stands such as
99 shelterwood harvests. It is anticipated 75-150 acres per year for this plan period will be planted
100 and/or seeded. To insure the survival of regenerated stands, site preparation and release techniques
101 using hand tools, machinery, and pesticides will be employed. Plantation survival surveys are
102 conducted each year to determine the need for release or replanting until a plantation is established,
103 usually 3 – 5 years after planting. Survival surveys are currently conducted on 1000 – 1200 acres
104 per year and are expected to reduce to approximately 800 acres per year by 2007.

105
106 Beginning in 1980 and continuing through the year 2000 an aggressive effort was made on the
107 County Forest to plant inadequately stocked upland acres left from wildfires and failed farms of the
108 early 1900's and to convert harvested stands of White Birch to conifers, primarily Red Pine, White
109 Pine, and White Spruce. To improve the quality and value of sawlogs produced on the County
110 Forest, pruning is planned for these plantations at the time the first thinning is completed at age 28 –
111 35 years. Trees to be pruned will be marked or designated. Pruning will be to a height of 17 feet
112 with the date and average stand diameter recorded to provide future buyers a means to estimate the
113 amount of clear wood in the trees at the time they are harvested. Beginning in the year 2008,
114 approximately 150 – 200 acres per year will be evaluated for pruning depending on the completion
115 of thinning and budget constraints.

116
117 **1200 SUMMARY OF FIFTEEN YEAR NEEDS**

118 A schedule giving a summary of silvicultural needs and other needs for the period covered
119 by this plan, appear as an inclusion in this chapter.

120 Note: The “Needs” schedule is put together for planning purposes. The best available information
121 has been used in developing the schedule. It is not intended to be followed without modification.

122 Forests are dynamic and managers must be adaptive to change. Funding and staffing shortfalls may
123 also impact the ability of Vilas County Forestry, Recreation, & Land Department to fulfill identified
124 needs. Refer to Chapter 2000 – Annual Work Planning, for reference on progress towards the
125 identified needs in this chapter.

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2007 MAJOR NEEDS

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Equipment

Trucks: 1992 ½ ton 4 wd replace
Computers/Software: technology upgrades: Arc GIS software;
Wide carriage printer; GPS software;
GPS receiver/recorder

Roads Maintenance

47.7 miles

Land Acquisition

Pickeral Creek omitted lands (BLM)
Pincherry Lake mismeander

Land Entry

Lands acquired listed above
NESE, Sec. 4, T40N – R9E (trade from State)
NESE, Sec. 32, T41N – R10E (trade from State)

Surveys

Forest Boundary Establishment: 2 – 3 miles

Recreation:

Picnic Areas 15
Campsite Areas 5
Swimming Beaches 3
Shooting Range 1
Trails: State Funded Snowmobile Trails – 437.6 miles
X-C Ski Trails – 5.3 miles groomed

Wildlife/Fish Management

Habitat Trails – 32.64 miles
Improved Wildlife Openings – 22
Boat Landings – 11
Improved Fishing Sites – 5

2008 MAJOR NEEDS

170			
171			
172	<u>Equipment</u>		
173			
174	Trucks:	1992 F-350 Landscape, dump, plow	Replace
175		1998 ¾ ton 4wd	Replace
176			
177	Snowmobiles:	2003 Polaris Touring	Replace
178			
179	Trailers:	2002 snowmobile trailer SS	Replace
180			
181	Air Photos:		New Flight
182			
183	<u>Roads Maintenance</u>	47.7 miles	
184			
185	<u>Land Acquisition</u>	Scat Lake mismeander	
186			
187	<u>Land Entry</u>	Lands listed above	
188			
189	<u>Surveys</u>	Forest Boundary Establishment: 2 – 3 miles	
190			
191	<u>Recreation:</u>		
192			
193	Picnic Areas	15	
194	Campsite Areas	5	
195	Swimming Beaches	3	
196	Shooting Range	1	
197	Trails: State Funded Snowmobile Trails	– 437.6 miles	
198		X-C Ski Trails – 5.3 miles groomed	
199			
200	<u>Wildlife/Fish Management</u>		
201			
202	Habitat Trails	– 33.22 miles	
203	Improved Wildlife Openings	– 22	
204	Boat Landings	– 11	
205	Improved Fishing Sites	– 5	
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2009 MAJOR NEEDS

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Roads Maintenance

47.7 miles

Land Acquisition

Land Entry

Surveys

Forest Boundary Establishment: 2 – 3 miles

Recreation:

Picnic Areas 15

Campsite Areas 5

Swimming Beaches 3

Shooting Range 1

Trails: State Funded Snowmobile Trails – 437.6 miles

X-C Ski Trails – 5.3 miles groomed

Wildlife/Fish Management

Habitat Trails – 33.91 miles

Improved Wildlife Openings – 22

Boat Landings – 11

Improved Fishing Sites – 5

2010 MAJOR NEEDS

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Equipment

Snowmobile:	1995 Polaris Widetrack LS	Replace
Mowers:	2004 Kubota 60"	Replace
Picnic Areas:	Camp 12 Lake	Public access by 2010

Roads Maintenance 47.7 miles

Land Acquisition

Land Entry

Surveys Forest Boundary Establishment: 2 – 3 miles

Recreation:

Picnic Areas	15
Campsite Areas	5
Swimming Beaches	3
Shooting Range	1
Trails: State Funded Snowmobile Trails	– 437.6 miles
X-C Ski Trails	– 5.3 miles groomed

Wildlife/Fish Management

Habitat Trails	– 32.64 miles
Improved Wildlife Openings	– 22
Boat Landings	– 11
Improved Fishing Sites	– 5

2011 MAJOR NEEDS

272		
273		
274	<u>Equipment</u>	
275		
276	Trucks: 2002 ¾ ton 4 wd	Replace
277		
278	Air compressor/generator:	Replace
279		
280	<u>Roads Maintenance</u>	47.7 miles
281		
282	<u>Land Acquisition</u>	
283		
284	<u>Land Entry</u>	
285		
286	<u>Surveys</u>	Forest Boundary Establishment: 2 – 3 miles
287		
288	<u>Recreation:</u>	
289		
290	Picnic Areas 15	
291	Campsite Areas 5	
292	Swimming Beaches 3	
293	Shooting Range 1	
294	Trails: State Funded Snowmobile Trails – 437.6 miles	
295	X-C Ski Trails – 5.3 miles groomed	
296		
297	<u>Wildlife/Fish Management</u>	
298		
299	Habitat Trails – 33.22 miles	
300	Improved Wildlife Openings – 22	
301	Boat Landings – 11	
302	Improved Fishing Sites – 5	
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2012 MAJOR NEEDS

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Roads Maintenance

47.7 miles

Land Acquisition

Land Entry

Surveys

Forest Boundary Establishment: 2 – 3 miles

Recreation:

Establish Campground at Eagle Lake

Picnic Areas 15

Campsite Areas 5

Swimming Beaches 3

Shooting Range 1

Trails: State Funded Snowmobile Trails – 437.6 miles

X-C Ski Trails – 5.3 miles groomed

Wildlife/Fish Management

Habitat Trails – 33.91 miles

Improved Wildlife Openings – 22

Boat Landings – 11

Improved Fishing Sites – 5

332 **2013 MAJOR NEEDS**

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Roads Maintenance

47.7 miles

Land Acquisition

Land Entry

Surveys

Forest Boundary Establishment: 2 – 3 miles

Recreation:

- Picnic Areas 15
- Campsite Areas 5
- Swimming Beaches 3
- Shooting Range 1
- Trails: State Funded Snowmobile Trails – 437.6 miles
- X-C Ski Trails – 5.3 miles groomed

Wildlife/Fish Management

- Habitat Trails – 32.64 miles
- Improved Wildlife Openings – 22
- Boat Landings – 11
- Improved Fishing Sites – 5

2014 MAJOR NEEDS

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Equipment

Trucks: 2005 ¾ ton 4 wd with service body Replace
Snowmobiles: 2008 (touring, trail inspections) Replace
Trailers: 2008 snowmobile trailer Replace

Roads Maintenance 47.7 miles

Land Acquisition

Land Entry

Surveys Forest Boundary Establishment: 2 – 3 miles

Recreation:

Picnic Areas 15
Campsite Areas 5
Swimming Beaches 3
Shooting Range 1
Trails: State Funded Snowmobile Trails – 437.6 miles
X-C Ski Trails – 5.3 miles groomed

Wildlife/Fish Management

Habitat Trails – 33.22 miles
Improved Wildlife Openings – 22
Boat Landings – 11
Improved Fishing Sites – 5

2015 MAJOR NEEDS

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Equipment

Trucks:	2005 ¾ ton 4 wd	Replace
Trailers:	1995 10 ton	Replace
Mowers:	1990 Simplicity 42"	Maintenance
	1992 Markmaster Push 20"	Maintenance

Roads Maintenance

47.7 miles

Land Acquisition

Land Entry

Surveys

Forest Boundary Establishment: 2 – 3 miles

Recreation:

Picnic Areas	15
Campsite Areas	5
Swimming Beaches	3
Shooting Range	1
Trails: State Funded Snowmobile Trails	– 437.6 miles
X-C Ski Trails	– 5.3 miles groomed

Wildlife/Fish Management

Habitat Trails	– 33.91 miles
Improved Wildlife Openings	– 22
Boat Landings	– 11
Improved Fishing Sites	– 5

2016 MAJOR NEEDS

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Equipment

Tractor: 2001 Case C460 4 wd with loader 50 pto hp Review

Roads Maintenance 47.7 miles

Land Acquisition

Land Entry

Surveys Forest Boundary Establishment: 2 – 3 miles

Recreation:

Picnic Areas 15
Campsite Areas 5
Swimming Beaches 3
Shooting Range 1
Trails: State Funded Snowmobile Trails – 437.6 miles
X-C Ski Trails – 5.3 miles groomed

Wildlife/Fish Management

Habitat Trails – 32.64 miles
Improved Wildlife Openings – 22
Boat Landings – 11
Improved Fishing Sites – 5

2017 MAJOR NEEDS

457
458
459 **Equipment**
460
461 Trucks: 2007 ½ ton 4 wd Replace
462
463 Mowers: 2010 60” Replace
464
465 **Roads Maintenance** 47.7 miles
466
467 **Land Acquisition**
468
469 **Land Entry**
470
471 **Surveys** Forest Boundary Establishment: 2 – 3 miles
472
473 **Recreation:**
474
475 Picnic Areas 15
476 Campsite Areas 5
477 Swimming Beaches 3
478 Shooting Range 1
479 Trails: State Funded Snowmobile Trails – 437.6 miles
480 X-C Ski Trails – 5.3 miles groomed
481
482 **Wildlife/Fish Management**
483
484 Habitat Trails – 33.22 miles
485 Improved Wildlife Openings – 22
486 Boat Landings – 11
487 Improved Fishing Sites – 5
488

2018 MAJOR NEEDS

489
490
491 **Equipment**
492
493 Trucks: 2008 ¾ ton 4 wd Replace
494
495 **Roads Maintenance** 47.7 miles
496
497 **Land Acquisition**
498
499 **Land Entry**
500
501 **Surveys** Forest Boundary Establishment: 2 – 3 miles
502
503 **Recreation:**
504
505 Picnic Areas 15
506 Campsite Areas 5
507 Swimming Beaches 3
508 Shooting Range 1
509 Trails: State Funded Snowmobile Trails – 437.6 miles
510 X-C Ski Trails – 5.3 miles groomed
511
512 **Wildlife/Fish Management**
513
514 Habitat Trails – 33.91 miles
515 Improved Wildlife Openings – 22
516 Boat Landings – 11
517 Improved Fishing Sites – 5
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2019 MAJOR NEEDS

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Roads Maintenance

47.7 miles

Land Acquisition

Land Entry

Surveys

Forest Boundary Establishment: 2 – 3 miles

Recreation:

Picnic Areas 15

Campsite Areas 5

Swimming Beaches 3

Shooting Range 1

Trails: State Funded Snowmobile Trails – 437.6 miles

X-C Ski Trails – 5.3 miles groomed

Wildlife/Fish Management

Habitat Trails – 32.64 miles

Improved Wildlife Openings – 22

Boat Landings – 11

Improved Fishing Sites – 5

2020 MAJOR NEEDS

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Equipment

Trucks: 2011 ¾ ton 4wd Replace

Roads Maintenance 47.7 miles

Land Acquisition

Land Entry

Surveys Forest Boundary Establishment: 2 – 3 miles

Recreation:

Picnic Areas 15
Campsite Areas 5
Swimming Beaches 3
Shooting Range 1
Trails: State Funded Snowmobile Trails – 437.6 miles
X-C Ski Trails – 5.3 miles groomed

Wildlife/Fish Management

Habitat Trails – 33.22 miles
Improved Wildlife Openings – 22
Boat Landings – 11
Improved Fishing Sites – 5

VILAS COUNTY FORESTRY PLAN, PURSUANT TO §28.11, WIS. STATS.

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13			

14 **2000 OBJECTIVE & POLICY**

15
16 OBJECTIVE

17
18 To develop an annual work plan and budget that will satisfy the needs specified in
19 Chapter 1000 to the greatest extent feasible, consistent with program priorities
20 established in the Mission Statement.

21
22 POLICY

23 The County Forest Program will sustain a level of operation that considers the
24 needs of the forest and the public in accordance with the goals identified in
25 Chapter 100.

26
27 **2100 ANNUAL WORK PLAN & BUDGET**

28
29 Each year an Annual Work Plan & Budget shall be prepared by the forest
30 administrator with assistance from the Committee and the DNR liaison forester.
31 This plan shall be based upon the detailed annual needs contained in Section 1100
32 of the Plan. Annual work plans are approved by the County Board and forwarded
33 to the DNR as required by Wisconsin Statutes §28.11(5)(b) and §28.11(5m)(b).
34 Following County Board approval, a copy is provided to official copy-holders of
35 the Vilas County Forestry Plan for inclusion as an amendment in this chapter.

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2006 Work Plan
Vilas County Forest Administrators Grant
Forest Acres: 40,860.48

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TIMBER MANAGEMENT

- Conduct spring 2006 timber sale from establishment schedule of 925 acres.
- Continue annual goal of updating the Forest Reconnaissance of 2,000 acres per year.
- Prepare for 2007 timber sales scheduled harvest of 535 acres (does not include Cedar).
- Contract for hand planting 76 acres.
- Contract for chemical release and chemical site preparation of approximately 136 acres.
- Supervise County site preparation by bracke scarifier 180 acres for 2007 planting.
- Contract for mechanical release of 60 acres.
- Contract for pruning approximately 30 acres of White Pine pole stands.
- Contract for bud capping 235 acres (second year).
- Gain efficiency in use of County Forest GIS, RAVE, & GPS Unit.
- Timber Sale Contract Administration of 20 contracts including the scaling and billing of all wood products and documentation of all contract activity.
- Supervise and assist in the surveys of plantation survival; approximately 600 acres.
- Coordinate with DNR Liaison for assistance and specialist assistance; i.e., insect and disease, timber sale establishment, etc.
- Supervise the documentation, sales, and permitting for fuelwood, boughs, birch tops, camping, maps, air photos, and Christmas trees.
- Administrate the issuing and documenting of access permits to private lands over County Forest Lands.
- Determine the requirements and arrange for the twice a year grading and patch gravel needs through the Vilas County Highway Department over the 47.45 mile County Forest Road System. Apply approximately 2,500 cubic yards of gravel to County Forest Roads.
- Begin development of new County Forest Road - >Rangeline Lake=, approximately .7 miles.
- Continue the scheduled maintenance of CFL Boundary established by Certified Survey and contract for Certified Survey of boundary lines necessary for timber sale establishment.
- Administer the Certification of the Forest under the standards of SFI.

RECORDS

- Maintain operations records for: Forestry, Recreation, Budget, Lands, Access, Snowmobile Trail Program, & Fish & Wildlife Conservation Projects.

FORESTRY, RECREATION, & LAND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- 95
- 96 Create the agenda for monthly meetings.
- 97 Inform the Committee on Department activities, distribute information &
- 98 correspondence, prepare resolutions.
- 99 Record and maintain minutes.
- 100
- 101 RECREATION
- 102
- 103 Supervise and assist in the improvement and maintenance of:
- 104 17 picnic areas with 4 beaches.
- 105 18 boat landings.
- 106 14 piers.
- 107 1 shooting range.
- 108 6 camping sites.
- 109 Cranberry Island Recreation Site.
- 110 Access road improvement & hunting sites at VCF Disabled Hunter Area.
- 111 Eagle Lake and Tamarack Flowage boat landings improvement projects.
- 112 Eagle Lake Park: Beach retaining wall replacement (by contract).
- 113 ATV trails: Apply for funding and contract for maintenance of ATV trails per
- 114 County Board Resolution 2004-101.
- 115 Coordinate & assist bicycle clubs and Townships for the creation of bike trails
- 116 throughout Vilas County.
- 117
- 118 SNOWMOBILE TRAIL PROGRAM
- 119
- 120 Supervise and assist the Snowmobile Trail Program Coordinator with:
- 121 Contracts for Funded Trail Maintenance - 445.7 miles.
- 122 Contract administration and inspection.
- 123 Records and disbursements.
- 124 Trail re-routes and rehabilitation projects: Walt=S Fire Lane culvert; Mud Creek
- 125 Bridge & Arbor Vitae re-route & bridge.
- 126
- 127 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
- 128
- 129 Supervise and plan the maintenance and improvements of:
- 130 1/3 of the Habitat/Hiking Trail System, approximately 30 miles of mowing with
- 131 discing and seeding as needed. Signs & parking lots of complete trail system.
- 132 37 Constructed Wildlife Openings will receive mowing with 4 of the openings to
- 133 receive discing of sludge and re-seeding
- 134 Continue partnership with City of Eagle River for the application of treated sludge
- 135 to 28 openings.
- 136 Gate and berm maintenance.
- 137 Contract the maintenance of 25 - 33% of the identified natural openings greater
- 138 than 1 acre.
- 139 Establish/enhance wild rice in Mickey=s Mud Lake by planting 200 lbs. of wild

- 140 rice.
141 Contract for shearing of alder for woodcock/grouse habitat.
142 Coordinate effort to renovate road crossing culvert on Tamarack Road to improve
143 trout habitat.
144

145 TAX DEED PARCELS

- 146
147 Administrate the disposition of lands acquired by Vilas County through tax
148 delinquency.
149 Locate parcels and mark boundaries for public to be able to locate.
150 Contract for environmental assessments.
151 Contract for formal appraisals.
152 Prepare for public sale by sealed bids.
153 Maintain records and transfer of ownership.
154

155 LAND

- 156
157 Administrate access requests, access permits, resolve boundary disputes, and
158 encroachments.
159 Survey of Forest Boundary per budget/timber sales needs.
160 Continue with the maintenance of boundary lines established by certified survey.
161 The third round of line maintenance will be accomplished. Current need is to re-
162 establish portions of line that has been destroyed and locate/perpetuate corners
163 and BT=s.
164 Continue the process of acquiring BLM land at Pickeral Creek to be added to
165 Vilas County Forest.
166 Acquisition of 40-80 acres in Township of Conover to block County Forest
167 (pending land trade).
168 Acquisition of 40 acres from WDNR at Baker Lake.
169

170 CONTINUING EDUCATION/WISCONSIN COUNTY FORESTS ASSOCIATION

- 171
172 Maintain involvement and support of WCFA.
173 Continue participation on the WCFA Legislative & Forest Certification
174 Committees.
175 Continue involvement with Trees For Tomorrow.
176 Attend seminars on current knowledge and application of forest science through
177 Society of American Foresters, WDNR, etc.
178 Attend safety and personnel workshops by Vilas County.
179 Continue membership in the Society of American Foresters and the Certified
180 Forester Program.
181

182 STAFF

- 183
184 Supervise staff of:

- 185 # Assistant Forest Administrator.
- 186 # Administrative Secretary A.
- 187 # Forest Technician.
- 188 # Parks/Snowmobile Trail Program Technician.
- 189 Process the hiring of 2 Parks/Conservation Interns and 1 Forestry Intern and
- 190 oversee their itinerary.
- 191 Arrange with the Sheriff=s Department for part-time deputy to enforce the Forest
- 192 and Parks Ordinances - 25 man days.
- 193
- 194 PREPARE and SUMMARIZE DEPARTMENT BUDGET MONTHLY AND
- 195 THE 2007 BUDGET
- 196
- 197 PREPARE THE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT OF OPERATIONS
- 198
- 199 CONDUCT ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING WITH DNR LIASON
- 200 FORESTER, WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST, & SUB-TEAM LEADER
- 201
- 202 MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS, EQUIPMENT, & FACILITIES
- 203 # Prepare annual inventory.
- 204 # Cleaning and maintenance of Department Headquarters.
- 205 # Determine needs for maintenance of equipment, tools, etc.
- 206 # Initiate major needs to be budgeted with Forestry and Public Property
- 207 Committees.

208 Submitted by:

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Steve Doyen, Chair
Vilas Co. Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee

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2007 Work Plan
Vilas County Forest Administrators Grant
Forest Acres: 40,845.48

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

- Complete the 15 Year Forest Management Plan
- Conduct spring 2007 timber sale from establishment schedule of 894 acres.
- Continue the updating the Forest Reconnaissance, 5,000 acres per year for the next 3 years.
- Prepare for 2008 timber sales from the scheduled harvest of 784 acres. (Does not include Cedar).
- Contract for hand planting 153 acres.
- Contract for chemical release and chemical site preparation of approximately 105 acres.
- Supervise County site preparation by bracke scarifier 180 acres for 2008 planting.
- Contract for mechanical release of 60 acres.
- Contract for pruning approximately 15 acres of White Pine pole stands.
- Contract for bud capping 75 acres.
- Update the software of the County Forest Geographical Information System, including a mini-server.
- Oversee and participate in Timber Sale Contract Administration of 20 contracts including the scaling and billing of all wood products and documentation of all contract activity.
- Supervise and assist in the surveys of plantation survival; approximately 600 acres.
- Coordinate with DNR Liaison for assistance and specialist assistance; i.e., insect and disease surveys, timber sale establishment, etc.
- Supervise the documentation, sales, and permitting for fuelwood, boughs, camping, maps, air photos, and Christmas trees.
- Administrate the issuing and documenting of access permits to private lands over County Forest Lands.
- Determine the requirements and arrange for grading (2X/year) and patch gravel needs through the Vilas County Highway Department (or by contract) for the 47.7 mile County Forest Road System. Coordinate with the County Highway Dept. for the crushing of gravel.
- Begin development of new County Forest Road - >Rangeline Lake=, approximately .7 miles. Apply for assistance from the Wisc. National Guard.
- Continue the scheduled maintenance of County Forest boundary established by Certified Survey and contract for Certified Survey of boundary lines necessary for timber sale establishment.

276 Administer the Certification of the Forest under the standards of SFI.

277

278 RECORDS

279

280 Maintain operations records for: Forestry, Recreation, Budget, Lands, Access,
281 Snowmobile Trail Program, ATV Trails Program, & Fish & Wildlife
282 Conservation Projects.

283

284 FORESTRY, RECREATION, & LAND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

285

286 Create the agenda for monthly meetings.

287 Inform the Committee on Department activities, distribute information &
288 correspondence, and prepare resolutions.

289 Record and maintain minutes.

290

291 RECREATION

292

293 Supervise and assist in the improvement and maintenance of:

294 15 picnic areas with 3 beaches.

295 11 boat landings.

296 13 piers.

297 1 shooting range.

298 8 camping sites.

299 Cranberry Island Recreation Site.

300 Access road improvement & hunting sites at VCF Disabled Hunter Area.

301 Baker L. or Pickerel Creek boat landings improvement projects.

302 ATV trails: Apply for funding and contract for maintenance and development of
303 ATV trails per County Board Resolution 2004-101.

304 Coordinate & assist bicycle clubs and Townships for the creation of bike trails
305 throughout Vilas County.

306

307 SNOWMOBILE TRAIL PROGRAM

308

309 Supervise and assist the Snowmobile Trail Program Coordinator with:

310 # Contracts for Funded Trail Maintenance - 445.7 miles.

311 # Contract administration and inspection.

312 # Records and disbursements.

313 # Trail re-routes and rehabilitation projects: Otter Rapids Dam/Bridge

314 Pincherry Road Culvert.

315

316 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

317

318 Supervise and plan the maintenance and improvements of:

319 1/3 of the Habitat/Hiking Trail System, approximately 30 miles of mowing with
320 disking and seeding as needed. Signs & parking lots of complete trail system.

- 321 19 Constructed Wildlife Openings will receive mowing with 4 of the openings to
- 322 receive disking of sludge and re-seeding
- 323 Continue partnership with City of Eagle River for the application of treated sludge
- 324 to 28 openings.
- 325 Gate and berm maintenance.
- 326 Contract the maintenance of 25 - 33% of the identified natural openings greater
- 327 than 1 acre.
- 328 Establish/enhance wild rice in Mickey=s Mud Lake or another suitable site as
- 329 identified by Wildlife Biologists, by planting 200 lbs. of wild rice.
- 330 Identify areas suitable for shearing of alder for woodcock/grouse habitat and
- 331 contract for the work to be accomplished.
- 332 Coordinate with WDNR Fisheries for the removal of the logging dam sill at the
- 333 Tamarack Creek Campground and Picnic Area to improve trout habitat on
- 334 Tamarack Creek.

335

336 TAX DEED PARCELS

337

- 338 Administrate the disposition of lands acquired by Vilas County through tax
- 339 delinquency.
- 340 # Locate parcels and mark for the public to be able to locate.
- 341 # Contract for environmental assessments.
- 342 # Contract for formal appraisals.
- 343 # Prepare for public sale by sealed bids.
- 344 # Maintain records and transfer of ownership.

345

346 LAND

347

- 348 Administrate access requests, access permits, resolve boundary disputes, and
- 349 encroachments.
- 350 Coordinate with WDNR and private landowners the resolution of the mismeander of
- 351 of Pincherry L.
- 352 Survey of Forest Boundary per budget/timber sales needs.
- 353 Continue with the maintenance of boundary lines established by certified survey.
- 354 The third round of line maintenance will be accomplished. Current need is to re-
- 355 establish portions of line that has been destroyed and locate/perpetuate corners
- 356 and bearing trees.
- 357 Continue the process of acquiring BLM land originating from the mismeander of
- 358 Pickerel Lake and enter in the County Forest Law.
- 359 Acquisition of 40 acres in Township of Conover to block County Forest (pending
- 360 land trade).
- 361 Acquisition of 40 acres from WDNR at Baker Lake.

362

363 CONTINUING EDUCATION/WISCONSIN COUNTY FORESTS ASSOCIATION

364

- 365 Maintain involvement and support of WCFA.

- 366 Serve as Chair of County Foresters' Association representing WCFA in
- 367 legislative initiatives, partner organizations, and serving on WCFA Committees as
- 368 needed.
- 369 Continue participation on the WCFA Legislative & Forest Certification
- 370 Committees.
- 371 Continue involvement with Trees For Tomorrow.
- 372 Attend seminars on current knowledge and application of forest science through
- 373 Society of American Foresters, WDNR, etc.
- 374 Attend safety and personnel workshops offered by Vilas County.
- 375 Continue membership in the Society of American Foresters and the Certified
- 376 Forester Program.

377

378 STAFF

379

- 380 Supervise staff of:
- 381 # Assistant Forest Administrator.
- 382 # Administrative Secretary A.
- 383 # Forest Technician.
- 384 # Parks/Snowmobile Trail Program Technician.
- 385 Process the hiring of 2 Parks/Conservation Interns and 1 Forestry Intern and
- 386 oversee their itinerary.
- 387 Arrange with the Sheriff=s Department for a deputy to enforce the Forest and
- 388 Parks Ordinances - 6 man days.

389

390 PREPARE THE DEPARTMENT MONTHLY BUDGET SUMMARY.

391

392 PREPARE THE 2008 BUDGET

393

394 PREPARE THE DEPARTMENT "ANNUAL REPORT OF OPERATIONS".

395

396 CONDUCT ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING WITH DNR LIASON FORESTER,

397 WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST, & SUB-TEAM LEADER

398

399 MAINTENANCE OF BUILDINGS, EQUIPMENT, & FACILITIES

- 400 # Prepare annual inventory.
- 401 # Cleaning and maintenance of Department Headquarters.
- 402 # Determine needs for maintenance of equipment, tools, etc.
- 403 # Initiate major needs to be budgeted with Forestry and Public Property
- 404 Committees.

405

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407 Submitted by:

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411 _____
 412 Steve Doyen, Chair
 413 Vilas Co. Forestry, Recreation, & Land Committee
 414
 415
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 417

FORESTRY, RECREATION & LAND BUDGET SUMMARY

418
 419

Parks: 100.55200	2006 Budget	2007 Budget
.135 Summer Help	8,240.00	8,490.00
.221 Telephone	400.00	400.00
.239 Refuse Removal	580.00	580.00
.242 Rec. Site Maintenance	8,500.00	8,500.00
.243 Boat Landings	3,000.00	3,000.00
.302 Equipment Acquisition & Maintenance	5,200.00	5,200.00
.330 Travel Expense	250.00	250.00
.810 Capital Equipment	-0-	-0-
.820 Capital Improvements	14,000.00	5,000.00
Forestry: 100.56103	2006 Budget	2007 Budget
.131 Summer Intern	3,399.00	3,510.00
.221 Telephone	1,700.00	1,600.00
.239 Refuse Removal	570.00	570.00
.296 Timber Stand Improvement	20,000.00	20,000.00
.297 Surveys	5,000.00	5,000.00
.302 Equipment Acquisition & Maintenance	9,400.00	9,400.00
.310 Supplies	3,700.00	3,700.00
.311 Postage	850.00	800.00
.312 Photocopier	550.00	550.00

.323 Publishing Fees	800.00	800.00
.330 Meetings & Seminars	1,000.00	1,000.00
. 799 County Forest Roads	8,000.00	8,000.00
.810 Capital Equipment	-0-	24,000.00
Conservation: 100.56104	2006 Budget	2007 Budget
.131 Summer Help	2,652.25	2,740.00
.137 Conservation Congress	1,200.00	1,200.00
.138 County Forest Patrol	2,600.00	1,500.00
.247 Game Trail Maintenance	3,000.00	2,000.00
.248 Panfishing Piers	1,500.00	1,500.00
.302 Equip Acquisition & Maintenance	2,500.00	2,500.00
.310 Supplies	500.00	500.00
.312 Photocopier	50.00	50.00
.588 Beaver Control	200.00	200.00
Snowmobile Program: 210.55441	2006 Budget	2007 Budget
.221 Telephone	150.00	200.00
.228 Trail Signs/Posts	11,000.00	11,000.00
.302 Equip Acquisition Maintenance	1,500.00	1,500.00
.310 Supplies	700.00	700.00
.311 Postage	50.00	75.00
.312 Photocopier	50.00	50.00
.405 Trail Maintenance	100,425.00	100,600.00
.406 Supplemental Maintenance	222,850.00	223,200.00
.810 Capital Equipment	-0-	-0-
.820 Snowmobile Trail Development	146,200.00	220,000.00
Non-Lapsing Accounts	1st of Year 2006	1st of Year 2007
State Forest Aid 220.56102	39,034.87	39,414.08

Fish & Game 100.56105	5,917.09	5,917.09
Co. Road State Aid 100.56106	3,315.64	5,593.87
Wildlife Habitat 100.56113	4,929.46	4,729.55
Outside Revenue 100.56130	8,402.91	8,364.05
Segregated Land 250.51560	190,381.81	187,638.25

420

VILAS COUNTY FORESTRY PLAN

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CHAPTER 3000

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33 **3000 OBJECTIVE AND POLICY**

34 OBJECTIVE

35 To provide a quantifiable means of evaluating progress on both short and long
36 term goals on the Vilas County Forest.

37

38 POLICY

39 Annual accomplishments will be recorded as a historical record, to assist in future
40 planning, and to provide documentation for both the County, and the County
41 Forest system. This information is invaluable in addressing public, County
42 Board, and other legislative inquiries on the operation of the Forest as well as
43 assessing progress on goals.

44

45 **3100 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORTS**

46 A copy of an annual accomplishment report shall be prepared and provided to
47 members of the County Board and to official copyholders of this Plan for
48 inclusion into this chapter.

49

50 This report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- 51 1. Timber sale accomplishments including gross and net sale receipts
52 and harvest goals achieved.
- 53 2. Timber stand improvements accomplishments.
- 54 3. Recreation development and maintenance accomplishments
55 including recreation revenues and expenses.
- 56 4. Wildlife management accomplishments including revenues and
57 expenses.
- 58 5. Fisheries management accomplishments including revenues and
59 expenses.
- 60 6. Other accomplishments identified as “needs” in Chapter 1000.

61

62

63

64

65

66 **3200 PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

67 This summary of the Forest activities should provide a running history of
68 accomplishments by activity. It will provide a quick and accessible reference for
69 accomplishments on the County Forest.

70 Examples of activities to track include timber sales, reforestation, timber stand
71 improvement, recreational developments and wildlife habitat accomplishments.

72

73 **3210 TIMBER SALES**

Year	# of Sales	Sawtimber MBF	Pulpwood Cords	Acres Cut	Total Cord Equivalents	Sales Value
2005	15	346	9,646	464	10,482	\$319,369.94
2004	10	327	5,500	376	6,287	\$278,389.62
2003	19	512	8,597	626	9,831	\$463,002.63
2002	8	81	3,658	349	3,847	\$ 98,357.94
2001	11	422	10,628	743	11,629	\$410,151.18
2000	13	500	13,145	591	14,352	\$348,471.55
1999	15	288	13,830	787	14,442	\$581,652.09
1998	13	84	7,630	729	7,829	\$163,637.47
1997	33	106	44,687	1,907	44,932	\$1,550,060.87
1996	10	35	7,959	281	8,040	\$238,848.02
1995	15	137	13,412	724	13,733	\$257,896.67
1994	25	369	23,622	1,235	24,511	\$446,845.14
1993	21	418	19,700	1,091	20,706	\$335,136.09
1992	19	634	17,305	869	18,848	\$217,930.44
1991	23	472	12,474	717	13,626	\$170,442.47
1990	26	530	14,429	829	14,647	\$163,974.58
1989	22	488	12,653	696	13,844	\$160,704.16
1988	21	701	14,370	962	16,077	\$190,825.08
1987	19	890	21,637	973	23,711	\$236,717.22
1986	14	510	13,160	758	14,404	\$137,676.03
1985	21	589	15,349	941	16,713	\$171,508.72
1984	20	708	20,622	1,344	22,350	\$203,878.00
1983	22	548	25,265	1,412	26,602	\$267,139.00
1982	20	794	27,759	1,533	29,693	\$290,372.00
1981	19	502	10,789	955	12,014	\$104,306.13
1980	28	411	23,664	1,722	24,665	\$159,730.63

74

75 **3220 REFORESTATION**

76 The Vilas County Forest was established in 1933 with the entry of lands under the
77 County Forest Law. In the early years the establishment of forest stands by
78 planting and direct seeding was done on lands understocked or devoid of trees due
79 to severe wildfires and failed farms. Beginning in the 1970's to the present day,
80 planting and seeding have taken place to insure the regeneration of fully stocked

81 stands after harvest and to convert harvested stands of White Birch, Red Maple,
 82 and Scrub Oak to more productive Pine, Spruce, and Tamarack.

83
 84 Since the inception of the County Forest in 1933, 8,666 acres of forest stands have
 85 been established with the cooperation of the Wisconsin State Nurseries supplying
 86 seeds and seedlings. Seedlings have been planted on 8,409 acres and 257 acres
 87 have been direct seeded.

88
 89 The following tables are an overview of the 73 year planting and seeding effort,
 90 illustrating the endeavor to create more natural appearing stands of mixed species
 91 in more recent years. The species symbols in the table are as follows: Pj = Jack
 92 Pine; Pr = Red Pine; Pw = White Pine; Sb = Black Spruce; Sw = White Spruce; T
 93 = Tamarack; H = Hemlock; Bw = White Birch; Or = Red Oak.

94
 95 Reforestation – Planting

96

Year	Acres	Trees Planted (in thousands)	Total Trees Planted (in thousands)
2006	78	Pj 51; Pr 3; Pw 3; Sw 2; T 2	61
2005	208	Pj 111; Pr 37; Pw 17; Sb 1; Sw 9; T 9; Bw 2	186
2004	304	Pj 221; Pr 4; Sw 4; T 2	231
2003	265	Pj 182	182
2002	237	Pj 146; Pr 5; Pw 24; Sb 2; Sw 25; T 8; Or 5	215
2001	221	Pj 125; Pr 4; Pw 4; Sw 4; T 4; H 4	145
2000	214	Pj 118; Sw 2; T 4	124
1999	145	Pj 3; Pr 23; Pw 31; Sb 8; Sw 62	127
1998	212	Pj 4; Pw 97; Sb 20; Sw 70; T 43; H 1; Bw 5	240
1997	307	Pj 72; Pr 23; Pw 47; Sb 47; Sw 55; T 10; Bw 1	255
1996	182	Pj 11; Pr 34; Pw 52; Sw 20; T 7; H3	127
1995	230	Pj 97; Pr 38; Pw 38; Sw 12; T10	195

1994	173	Pj 96; Pr 41; Pw 1; Sw 13	151
1993	152	Pj 20; Pr 95; Pw 10; Sw 16	141
1992	265	Pj 106; Pr 113; Sw 14	233
1991	145	Pj 36; Pr 91	127
1990	242	Pj 111; Pr 80	191
1989	179	Pj 110; Pr 34	144
1988	160	Pj 30; Pr 103; Or 12	145
1987	152	Pj 9; Pr 135	144
1986	224	Pj 168; A 4; Or 3	175
1985	232	Pj 219; A 9; Or 6	234
1984	304	Pj 34; Pr 231	265
1983	148	Pr 126	126
1982	143	Pr 113	113
1981	116	Pr 77; Sw 10	87
1980	66	Pj 13; Pr 46	59
Totals	5,304		4,423

97

1933 – 1979 3,105 acres were planted.

98

99

Reforestation – Direct Seeding

100

Year	Acres	Species
2005	5	Bw
2004	27	Pr; Pw; Sw; T
1986	81	Pj
1985	51	Pj
1984	9	Pj
1982	7	Pj
Totals	180	

101

1933 – 1979 77 acres were seeded.

102

103 3230 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

Year	Release & Pre-Commercial Thinning (Acres)		Pruning (Acres)	Deer Damage Control (Acres)	
	Mechanical	Chemical		Budcap	Repellant
2005	111			239	7
2004	67		132	214	
2003					
2002		29	35		
2001	220	33	158		
2000	513	187			
1999	149	195			
1998	155				
1997	158	89			
1996		90	6		
1995		62			
1994	45	86			
1993	34	213			
1992	45	114	6		
1991	101	144	19		
1990		43			
1989	56	327	7		
1988	137		29		
1987	19		19		
1986	56		42		
1985	58	58	41		
1984	21	200	45		
1983	67	145	34		
1982	125	106	46		
1981	682		131		
1980	1,238		36		

105 Note:

- 106 • All figures are in acres.
- 107 • Since 1982 the release of Aspen sprouts from overtopping vegetation has been
- 108 made a part of the timber sale contracts.
- 109 • Prior to 1980:
 - 110 ○ Release & Pre-Commercial Thinning totaled 413 acres.
 - 111 ○ Pruning totaled 95 acres.
 - 112 ○ Insect Protection totaled 6,087 acres.

113

114 3240 RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

115

Year	Site Name/Type	Maintain	Develop	Improve
2005	All sites	X		
	Shooting Range	X	ADA shooting tables 50', 100' Topsoil, seeding: rifle & pistol ranges, clay bird range table	X
	ATV trail		Land O'Lakes Trail (.4 mile; not County-owned lands)	
	Lake of the Hills, Eagle Lake, Boot Lake Boat Landings	X		X
2004	All sites	X		
	Shooting Range	X	Relocate trap shooting area constructing 3 berms & 1 backstop, improve backstops at 25, 50, & 100 yd. Ranges, relocate pistol range, install 2 new shooting benches	
	ATV trails		County Board Resolution passed (2004-25) prohibiting ATV trails on County Lands. Department authorized to sponsor ATV trails on non- County owned lands.	
2003	All sites	X		
	Haymeadow Creek Snowmobile bridge		Replacement	
	Manitowish River – Boulder Junction		New bridge structure	

	Snowmobile bridge			
2002	All sites	X		
	River Road canoe landing, McLeod Lake, Dr. Oldfield Memorial Park, Snipe Lake, Lake of the Hills Boat Landings	X	Boat launch pads	X
	Lost Creek (St. Germain) & unnamed creek (Conover) Snowmobile Bridge		New bridges	
2001	All sites	X		
	Buckatabon Lake Boat Landing	X	Resurface landing & make parking & picnic areas ADA, replace privy, replace boat ramps	X
	Dr. Oldfield Memorial Park	X	Resurface parking lot, make picnic area & new privy ADA.	X
	Tamarack Creek & Chewelah Creek Snowmobile Bridges		New bridges	
2000	All sites	X		
	Lac Vieux Desert Park	X	Replace and make ADA pedestrian bridge	
	Boot Creek, Plum Creek, Eagle River Snowmobile Bridges		Replace bridges	
	Mud Minnow fishing pier		Renovation	X
1999	All sites	X		
	Papoose Creek Snowmobile Trail Culvert		New	
1998	All sites	X		
	Dr. Oldfield Memorial Park	X	Tree removal, memorial stonework repair, lawn improvement, install guard rail	X
	Shooting Range	X		X
	Mill Creek & Wisconsin River & Spider Lake Snowmobile Bridges; Snowmobile Trail Culverts at Illa Creek &		New bridges	

	Unnamed Stream (Presque Isle) Culverts			
1997	All sites	X		
	Wood Duck Lake fishing pier		Replaced pier	X
	Lac Vieux Desert Park	X	ADA crushed granite walkway	X
	Deep Lake/Buckatabon Shelter off-road bike trail		Used existing forest roads & trails	
1996	All sites	X		
	South Branch Presque Isle River & Wisconsin River Snowmobile Bridges		New bridges	
	Cook's :Lake fishing pier		Replacement/ADA	
	Tamarack Springs Campground	X	Install self-pay registration station; steps & improved canoe landing	X
	Langley Lake Ski Trail	X	New signs installed	X
	Shooting Range	X	ADA pathway installed; berms improved	X
	Eagle Lake Park	X	Hazard trees & stumps removed; topsoil & grass seed.	X
1995	All sites	X		
	Wisconsin River (Rummels Rd.) & Stella Creek Snowmobile Bridges		New	
	Mishonagon Creek & Sugarbush Creek Snowmobile Bridges		Re-deck	X
1994	All sites	X		
	Crystal Creek Snowmobile Bridge		New	
	4 fishing piers		Renovations	X
	Cross-Country Ski System		Groomer fabricated	
	Phase I Eagle River Railroad Snowmobile Bridge		Phase I completed	X
1993	All sites	X		
	Trout River Snowmobile Bridge		Replacement	

	Tamarack Springs Campground	X	Brushing	X
1992	All sites	X		
	Lost Creek & Manitowish River Snowmobile Bridges		New	
1991	All sites	X		
1990	All sites	X		
1989	All sites	X		
1988	All sites	X		
	Verna Creek & Buckatabon Creek Snowmobile Bridges		New	
1987	All sites	X		
	Lac Vieux Park	X	Wood chip walkway installed	X
	Hunter Lake Park	X	Beach retaining wall	X
1986	All sites	X		
	Snipe Lake & Hunter Lake Parks	X	Shelters constructed	X
1985	All sites	X		
	Hunter/Hiking Trails	X	10.85 new miles constructed	
	Conover Self-Guided Auto Tour		New	
	Panfishing Piers	X	New construction	
	Buckatabon Creek Snowmobile Bridge		New	
	Tamarack Springs Campground/Picnic Area	X	Connecting foot bridge	X
	Pioneer Creek Canoe Landing		New	
	Cranberry Island Day Use Area	X	Renovation	
	McLeod Lake, Deep Lake, & Snyder Lake Parks	X	Reconditioned	X
1984	All sites	X		
	Hunter/Hiking Trails	X	Construct 9.95 new miles	
	Hunter Lake & Snipe Lake Day Use Parks		New	

	Torch Lake Park Tamarack Springs	X	Renovation & expansion	X
	Wood Duck & Ewald Lake fishing piers		New, with walkways	
	Shooting Range	X	Renovation	
1983	All sites	X		
	Hunter/Hiking Trails	X	Construct 14.2 new miles	
1982	All sites	X		
	Hunter/Hiking Trails	X	Develop 14.1 new miles	
	Fishing Piers	X	Construct 2 new piers	
	Torch Lake Park	X		X
1981	All Sites	X		X
	Multiple-Use Trail		New – 5.5 miles	
	Fishing Piers	X	Construct 2 new piers	
	Wisconsin River Canoe Campsites		4 sites	
1980	All sites	X		
	Multiple-Use Trail		Construct 4.5 miles	
	Fishing Piers		Construct 10 new piers/3 walkways	
	W. Buckatabon Creek & Military Creek Snowmobile Trail Culverts		New	

116

117 3250 WILDLIFE PROJECTS

118

2005	Wildlife Openings	X	Apply treated sludge, disk, seed annually since 1993	X
2004	Wildlife Openings	X		X
2003	Wildlife Openings	X		X
	Habitat Trails		Purchase brush mower & 6 gates for trails & openings.	
	Wild Rice		Planted 200 lbs – Muskrat Cr.	
2002	Wildlife Openings	X		X
2001	Wildlife Openings	X		X

2000	Wildlife Openings	X		X
1999	Wildlife Openings	X		X
1998	Wildlife Openings	X		X
1997	Citizen deer-feeding program		Assistance	
1996	Wildlife Openings	X	1,000 food/cover shrubs planted.	X
	Helicopter Landing		Expand, level, seed	X
	Citizen deer-feeding program		Assistance	
1995	Wildlife Openings	X		
1994	Wildlife Openings	X	Begin program of applying treated sludge, disking, seeding annually	
1993	Wildlife Openings	X		
1992	Wildlife Openings	X		
1991	Wildlife Openings	X		
1990	Wildlife Openings	X		
1989	Wildlife Openings	X		
1988	Wildlife Openings	X		
1987	Wildlife Openings	X		
1986	Wildlife Openings	X		
1985	Wildlife Openings	X		
1984	Wildlife Openings	X		
1983	Wildlife Openings	X		
1982	Wildlife Openings	X		
	Wild Rice planted			
1981	Wildlife Openings		10 Openings constructed	
1980	Wildlife Openings		23 Openings constructed	

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123

124 3300 **MONITORING**

125 3310 **FOREST TYPES**

126 The following table illustrates the composition of timber types and non-forest
 127 acreages on the Vilas County Forest at the time of the original reconnaissance in
 128 1977, at the beginning of the 1995 Plan Period, the 2006 Present Composition, and
 129 the Projected Future Composition.

130

Forest Cover Type	1977 Acres	1995 Acres	2006 Acres	2015 Projected Acres
Aspen	13548	15308	14934	14869
Jack Pine	5847	6126	5485	5499
Red Pine	3213	3960	3965	3762
White Pine	-	878	1508	1925
Black Spruce	3475	2641	2785	2735
Oak	1202	2026	2220	1812
Northern Hardwoods	1625	1634	2235	2495
White Birch	2314	997	153	99
Tamarack	241	374	436	436
Swamp Conifer	330	183	173	173
Fir – Spruce	701	160	251	377
Cedar	35	40	60	60
Swamp Hardwoods	-	6	8	8
Hemlock–Hardwoods	10	-	7	7
Red Maple	-	-	52	15
Total Commercial Forested Land	32541	34333	34272	34272

Alder	1372	1421	1454	1454
Black Spruce	-	1053	1115	1115
Tamarack	-	284	312	312
Low Shrubs	452	310	302	302
Lowland Brush	-	227	187	187
Herbaceous Vegetation	116	125	164	164
Upland Brush	48	110	59	59
Upland Grass	-	12	-	-
Muskeg	-		1089	1089
Marsh	1652	-	13	13
Emergent Vegetation	-	-	67	67
Minor Lake	-	-	447	447
Minor Stream	-	-	228	228
Picnic Area	-	-	34	34
Right of Way			735	735
Snowmobile Trail			1	1
Industrial Area			7	7
Total Non-Commercial Forest	5026	3665	6214	6214
TOTAL COUNTY FOREST PROPERTY	37567	37998	40486	40486

131

132 During the current Plan Period, through 2020, no significant changes in the acreage of
133 the major timber types are anticipated. However, a few of the changes are worthy of
134 comment.

135

136 Red Oak is expected to decrease by about 400 acres. This decrease is due primarily
137 to natural succession to Northern Hardwoods on the better sites and secondarily to
138 White Pine by both natural succession and planting.

139

140 White Birch acreage decreased significantly during the period from 1995 through
141 2000 and is projected to decrease by 65% in the next 10-15 years. The White Birch

142 Timber Type on the Vilas County Forest became established in the early 1900's after
143 the logging of the northern forests and the ensuing fires. Thus, the White Birch
144 became mature and began to decline in the 1980's. The decline was exacerbated by
145 the drought of the mid 1980's and an outbreak of the Birch Leafminer followed by
146 the Bronze Birchborer. As the White Birch was harvested most of the timber type
147 was converted either naturally to Aspen and Oak-Red Maple or was planted to Red
148 Pine, Jack Pine, or a mixture of Red Pine, White Pine, and White Spruce.
149 Regeneration of White Birch was (and is still) hindered severely by deer. Also,
150 stumpage prices for White Birch in the 1980's and 1990's did not warrant the expense
151 of site preparation, planting, and fencing.

152
153 The remaining acres of White Birch will succeed to Fir-Spruce and/or Northern
154 Hardwoods. With the WDNR Nurseries producing White Birch seedlings,
155 consideration will be given to mix White Birch, in a small amount, in conifer
156 plantings.

157
158 Updating of the Forest Reconnaissance will help identify more accurately the
159 changing composition of the Forest and will result in some acreage changes over the
160 years.

161
162 **3320 HARVESTING**

163
164 The table found in Chapter 1000 Section 1110 provides the annual harvest by timber
165 type through the year 2016. The location by treatment type (e.g. thinning,
166 regeneration, etc.) is provided in Chapter 900 page 900-78 on the map titled 'Vilas
167 County Forest – 15 Year Plan – Harvest Treatments. It is important to note the
168 scheduled acres for harvest may not necessarily result in a timber sale of a particular
169 stand. If a scheduled stand is not ready for harvest or thinning it would be re-
170 scheduled. Also, salvage due to insects, disease, or weather may result in substituting
171 and re-adjusting harvest acreage.

172

173

174 **3330 FLORA/FAUNA**

175 Insect and disease problem arising during the previous planning period included
176 forest tent caterpillar, two-lined chestnut borer, and spotty cases of sawfly damage.
177 Mortality has occurred in both Aspen and Oak due to the forest tent caterpillar and
178 the two-lined chestnut borer. Salvage sales have been established where feasible.

179

180 Occurrences of non-native invasive plant species have not been observed in
181 significant numbers on the Forest. Staff will continue to monitor the situation of
182 invasive species and make efforts to reduce their impacts should they be found. Since
183 the re-introduction of the Timber Wolf in northern Wisconsin, the population has
184 grown to approximately 400 animals. At least 2 packs have territories that lie
185 partially on the Vilas County Forest.

186

187 High deer populations over the past several decades have caused difficulty in
188 regenerating some forest tree species, namely Northern Hardwoods, White Birch,
189 Hemlock, Pine, and Cedar. Since the 1960's when deer populations were estimated
190 to be 400,000 animals statewide, the population has continued to increase. In 2004
191 the statewide deer population estimate was approximately 1.3 million animals.
192 Despite these high deer populations, efforts to regenerate these tree species will
193 continue.

194

195 **3340 RECREATIONAL USE**

196 The demand for recreational use of the forest has grown significantly over the past ten
197 years. Growth in sports such as mountain biking, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and
198 cross-country skiing has resulted in the development of additional trail systems and
199 mileage. Continued growth of these and other sports will result in the addition of
200 more miles of trails and more facilities to accommodate the growth.

201

202 Other recreational uses of the forest including hunting, hiking, and fishing have
203 remained fairly consistent over the past ten years. Growth in these types of uses of
204 the County Forest may occur as large parcels of industrial forest are sold off. If this

205 land is taken out of the Managed Forest Law, or switched to ‘closed MFL’, public use
206 may be shifted from these lands to the County Forest.

207

208 **3350 HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FOREST AREAS**

209 Any new High Conservation Value Forest Areas will be added to the Plan as they are
210 identified.

211

212 **3360 ROADS AND ACCESS**

213 One new County Forest Road was added in the past ten years. One new County
214 Forest Road will be added during this Plan period, access to Rangeline Lake.

215

216 Access to the County Forest is addressed in detail in Chapter 700.

217

218

219

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