

2009 ANNUAL WORK PLAN

I. MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES - 2009

A. The Barron County Forest is comprised of 14 compartments with a total of 15,864.66 acres. The 1999 recon printout shows the following acres:

Forest Cover:

1. Aspen	4,385 acres
2. White Birch	15 acres
3. Fir/Spruce	23 acres
4. Northern Hardwoods	3,228 acres
5. Oak	3,213 acres
6. Red Pine	353 acres
7. White Pine	238 acres
8. Black Spruce	30 acres
9. Swamp Conifers	123 acres
10. Swamp Hardwoods	297 acres
11. Tamarack	112 acres

Non-forest cover:

1. Upland grass	202 acres
2. True grasses	54 acres
3. Parking acres	7 acres
4. Marsh	1,456 acres
5. Water	42 acres
6. Lowland brush	973 acres
7. Minor lakes	488 acres
8. Minor streams	23 acres
9. Right-of-way	82 acres
10. Upland brush	68 acres
11. Rock outcrops	54 acres

B. The Forest access road system consists of 70 miles of trails and access roads classified under primary and secondary access roads. Details of classification system can be found in Chapter 700 and a map in Chapter 900 of the 2006-2020 Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

II. TIMBER SALE ADMINISTRATION

Timber Sale Status - there are 19 timber sales on the county books at this time:

- A. Seven (7) sales were closed-out in 2008.
- B. Eleven (11) timber sales are expected to be closed out in 2009.
- C. Timber sale #308 will expire on June 30, 2009 and will be re-let for bids fall, 2009.
- D. Two (2) timber sales from 2006 have had no activity to date. Sale #312 expires on June 30, 2009, sale #325 expires on June 30, 2010. Five (5) timber sales established in 2008 have had no activity.

A majority of the backlog in sale administration is caused by inaccessible software. A timber sale ledger was developed and is being used to track current sale activity. A new software program may be purchased or developed in 2009 and the backlog will be resolved. The Timber Sale Contract will be reviewed and modified to address issues and recommendation outlined in the Barron County Forestry Audit.

III. TIMBER SALE PLANNING AND ESTABLISHMENT

- A. Acres and type/species - For 2009 approximately 408 acres of timber sale establishment will be completed. The acreage being marked is mostly oak thinning. Sales that have variable quality and/or are difficult to estimate volumes are sold mill scale - log scale. Sales with good and consistent quality are sold lump sum (saw logs).
- B. 2008 - Six (6) timber sales were offered in September, 2008 - five (5) of those sales were sold. Volumes of the sales that were sold totaled 280.19 MBF (thousand board feet) of sawtimber and 2.972 cords of pulpwood and boltwood.

Plans are to keep the appraisals at last year's level but will be reviewed based on market and economic conditions.

IV. FOREST RECONNAISSANCE

Forest reconnaissance is completed following completion of timber sale or when stand is physically entered and then rescheduled. The entire forest has been re-reconned in the past 20 years and recon has been kept up to date in order to assure the most useful information possible from the reconnaissance printout.

As a result of our digitizing the County Forest stand maps and the computer's ability to compile large number of small (1/2 to 2 acre) wetland complexes into stands. When the GIS project is in place a one time correction of stand acreage and forest cover type summaries will be done in 2009 - 2010.

Barron County will fully implement the new Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System. One advantage of implementing this new system is that it will allow us to update the cultural needs segment of the reconnaissance information. Many of the needs that were in the old system are no longer being done or needed.

Compatibility issues remain between the County's GIS project and WisFIRS. County staff will continue to review and attempt to resolve the compatibility issue.

V. TIMBERSTAND IMPROVEMENT

No TSI outside of timber sale contracts is scheduled in hardwood stands. Several recently regenerated oak stands may need TSI in the near future. Labor to conduct these TSI projects will be negotiated at that time.

VI. REFORESTATION

2009 will have no reforestation planting projects. The County implemented natural reseeding actions in 2008.

A replanting project in non-County Forest will take place in 2010 at the Barron County Museum property.

VII. FOREST PROTECTION

- A. A majority of the Barron County Forest is in the DNR intensive fire protection zones. The Silver Creek and Hay River Compartments are in non-protective zones. Agreements are in place with the appropriate fire departments.

Fire is not normally a problem except during extreme

conditions. Barron County has very little conifer type to worry about.

- B. There have been no major outbreaks of insects or diseases on the County Forest in the recent past and none are anticipated. Specialists are called in whenever something of interest or an unusual nature is detected. Larch beetle is causing some mortality. EAB (emerald ash borer) and Gypsy Moth are anticipated future problems.

VIII. MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Barron County has no buildings and/or campgrounds on the County Forest. As budgeting allows we are replacing old cable gates with either pipe or farm type gates. Annually, money is budgeted for maintenance and development of forest access roads. Gates are constructed and maintained with time and monies budgeted in the County Forest budget. Gates are maintained and replaced on a rotating basis throughout the forest and as they are damaged. In 2009 the County Forester will begin planning for the development of a uniform signing and gate plan.

IX. FISH & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Wildlife Habitat funds (10 cents/acre) are used for a variety of habitat projects on the Barron County Forest. Oak regeneration is Barron County's number one priority and takes precedence over all other habitat projects.

Habitat funds will be used for trail mowing and a handicapped fishing project on Silver Creek.

X. GIS - BARRON COUNTY FOREST

Efforts to resolve the GIS - WisFIRS compatibility issue will continue and GIS data will be updated in 2009. Plans are being discussed to build a forest road information layer.

XI. LAND PURCHASES, SALES, EXCHANGES WITHIN COUNTY FOREST

One - eighty (80) acre land acquisition was made in 2008 of property that surrounded County Forest. The Barron County Property Committee continues to review land purchase options and potential sources for funding.

XII. INTERACTION WITH OTHER GROUPS

- A. Snowmobile Clubs - Whenever possible, segments of the Barron County snowmobile trail system are placed within the Barron County Forest. To the greatest extent possible, trails are placed on existing forest access roads. Such placement often eliminates need for brushing on such segments. Disruption of snowmobile trails for logging is usually minimal. The newly created Conservation Deputy works closely with all snowmobile and ATV clubs in the County.
- B. Skiing - The Barron County Forest has a ½ mile lighted cross-country ski trail in the Waterman Lake block. Site includes a parking lot and warming house. All are maintained by the Cumberland Area Ski Touring Association (CASTA). The County provides annual funding to assist in the maintenance of this resource.
- C. In July of 2005 Forest and Recreation Committee supported inclusion of parts of the County Forest for Nomination in the IBA (Interesting Bird Areas) program sponsored by the Audubon Society. The Bear Lake Sedge Meadow was nominated and accepted in 2007, a formal announcement is anticipated in 2009.

- D. Ice Age Trail - Segments of Ice Age Trail from Rusk County line through Cedar Lake compartment was offered for National Certification and has been so certified.

The Conservation Deputy position in the Barron County Sheriff Department will take responsibility of co-coordinating activities on the County trail system.

XIII. RECREATION

- A. Parks and Campgrounds - No parks or campgrounds are located on the Barron County Forest.
- B. Boat Landings - Boat landings on the Forest are mostly undeveloped with carry-in access only. The Little Sand Lake acquisition added two developed lake accesses to the forest.
- C. All Terrain Vehicles - Most of the Barron County Forest is closed to ATV use. The 15-year Forest Plan allows use of ATV's in County Forest after case-by-case review by the Property Committee. Such use is limited to ungated roads that are not signed to restrict ATV use. No off-road ATV use is permitted on the forest. Discussion is underway to develop a trail segment in Compartment 5 near Silver Creek.
- D. Snowmobile Trails - Approximately 9 miles of funded snowmobile trails are located in the forest.
- E. Snowshoeing - A 2 ½ mile snowshoe trail was completed in 2001 with an additional 2 mile loop in 2002. Total of 4 ½ miles of three connecting loops have been signed, brushed, and ready for snow since early in 2002.
- F. Rifle Range - A rifle range is located in the Hay River block of the County Forest. It consists of a shelter, a .22 range; two big bore ranges and a pistol range.
- G. The National Ice Age Trail - traverses several compartments of the forest. Portions of the trail are found in the following compartments: Cedar Lake, Bear Lake and Waterman Lake.

Parts of the above mentioned snowshoe trail uses a portion of the Ice Age Trail in the Waterman Lake block. The Ice Age Trail is always protected by timber sale contract provisions, when a timber sale comes in contact with the trail.

XIV. GRANTS AND FUNDING

- A. County Conservation Funds.
 - 1. 2008 - 2009 - Funds committed, along with carry-over funds, to the development of a handicapped trout fishing trail and deck in the Silver Creek unit and Bear Lake Flowage dike repair.
 - 2. 2008-2009 fund phase II of (I) including paving of the access trail.
- B. Snowmobile and ATV trail funds are used to maintain and develop such trails, where appropriate. The vast majority of these trails are located on private lands.
- C. At this time 1.75 miles of ATV trails are located within the County Forest.

XV. OTHER TOPICS

