

BARRON COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 500

LAND MANAGEMENT AND USE

500 LAND USE 4

505 SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES 4

505.1 EVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT..... 4

505.2 UNEVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT..... 4

505.3 TIMBER SALES..... 4

 505.3.1 Field Preparation of Timber Sales..... 4

 505.3.2 Advertising for Bids 4

 505.3.3 Prospectus..... 5

 505.3.4 Method of Bidding 5

 505.3.5 Awarding Sales..... 5

 505.3.6 Sales Contracts 6

 505.3.7 Timber Sale Performance Bond..... 6

 505.3.8 Contract Provisions 7

 505.3.8(a) Slash Disposal, Landings, and Decking 7

 505.3.8(b) Duration and Extension of Contracts 7

 505.3.8(c) Contract Violations..... 9

 505.3.9 Timber Sale Restrictions 9

 505.3.10 Special Forest Product Contracts 9

 505.3.11 Timber Sale Roads 10

 505.3.12 Supervising Sales..... 10

 505.3.13 Forest Products Accountability 10

 505.3.13(a) Scaling Merchantability..... 10

 505.3.13(b) Utilization Standards 11

 505.3.13(c) Methods of Accountability 11

 505.3.14 Special Forest Products Permits..... 11

505.4 NATURAL REGENERATION..... 11

 505.4.1 Removal of Non-Merchantable Residual Trees 11

 505.4.2 Prescribed Burning for Natural Regeneration..... 12

 505.4.3 Other 12

505.5 ARTIFICIAL REGENERATION..... 12

 505.5.1 Mechanical Site Preparation..... 12

 505.5.2 Chemical Site Preparation..... 12

 505.5.3 Prescribed Burning 12

 505.5.4 Tree Planting and Seeding..... 13

505.6 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT..... 13

 505.6.1 Release 13

 505.6.2 Non-Commercial Thinning..... 13

 505.6.3 Pruning..... 13

| | | |
|------------|--|----|
| 510 | RECREATION | 13 |
| | 510.1 RECREATIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS | 14 |
| | 510.2 RECREATION USE PERMITS | 14 |
| | 510.3 EXTENSIVE RECREATIONAL USE OF THE FOREST | 14 |
| | 510.3.1 Hunting..... | 14 |
| | 510.3.2 Fishing..... | 15 |
| | 510.3.3 Picnicking..... | 15 |
| | 510.3.4 Camping..... | 15 |
| | 510.4 INTENSIVE RECREATION AREAS | 15 |
| | 510.4.1 Boat Landings | 15 |
| | 510.4.2 Waysides | 15 |
| | 510.4.3 Shooting Ranges | 16 |
| | 510.5 MANAGED TRAIL AREAS..... | 16 |
| | 510.5.1 Motorized Trail Opportunities..... | 16 |
| | 510.5.2 Non-Motorized Trail Opportunities..... | 16 |
| | 510.6 RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES..... | 17 |
| | | |
| 515 | SPECIAL USES | 17 |
| | 515.1 SAND and GRAVEL | 17 |
| | 515.2 EXPLORATION, PROSPECTING, AND MINING | 17 |
| | 515.3 SANITARY LANDFILLS | 17 |
| | 515.4 MILITARY MANEUVERS..... | 17 |
| | 515.5 PUBLIC UTILITIES..... | 17 |
| | 515.6 PRIVATE UTILITY SERVICE LINES | 18 |
| | 515.7 CELLULAR COMMUNICATION TOWERS | 18 |
| | 515.8 OTHER | 19 |
| | | |
| 520 | AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONES | 19 |
| | 520.1 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE A | 19 |
| | 520.1.1 Examples..... | 19 |
| | 520.1.2 Boundaries..... | 19 |
| | 520.1.3 Management..... | 20 |
| | 520.1.4 Permitted Uses | 20 |
| | 520.2 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE B | 20 |
| | 520.2.1 Examples..... | 20 |
| | 520.2.2 Boundaries..... | 20 |
| | 520.2.3 Management..... | 20 |
| | 520.2.4 Permitted Uses | 21 |
| | 520.3 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE C | 21 |
| | 520.3.1 Examples..... | 21 |
| | 520.3.2 Boundaries | 21 |
| | 520.3.3 Management..... | 21 |
| | 520.3.4 Permitted Uses | 21 |
| | 520.4 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE D | 21 |
| | 520.4.1 Examples..... | 21 |
| | 520.4.2 Management..... | 21 |

| | | |
|------------|---|-----------|
| 525 | TREATY RIGHTS: GATHERING MISCELLANEOUS FOREST PRODUCTS | 21 |
| 530 | HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FOREST AREAS AND EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCES | 22 |
| 530.1 | AREAS HIGH IN LOCALLY, REGIONALLY, OR NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT | |
| | BIODIVERSITY VALUE..... | 22 |
| 530.1.1 | Wisconsin State Natural Areas..... | 22 |
| 530.1.2 | Species Concentration Areas..... | 23 |
| 530.2 | RARE, THREATENED, AND ENDANGERED ECOSYSTEMS | 23 |
| 530.3 | CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES..... | 23 |
| 530.4 | LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES..... | 23 |

500 LAND USE

Objectives

- (1) To identify policies and procedures employed to effectively manage, to utilize and to sustain the resources of the County Forest.
- (2) To 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 cutting 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 trees are removed from the stand. Regeneration is continually occurring after the stand is cut.

505.3 TIMBER SALES

Regulated cutting of timber is essential to the goals and objectives of this plan. Timber harvesting will be conducted on an annual basis in an effort to achieve a sustainable harvest level. Harvest areas will be distributed throughout the forest to better accommodate such needs as biodiversity, wildlife, aesthetics, watershed protection and other biological needs. The DNR forest reconnaissance printout will be used as the basis for planning and scheduling harvests. All sales will be established, administered and reported in accordance with the DNR Timber Sale Handbook (2461). All sales on the forest are to be advertised for public bidding, with the exception of small sales with an estimated value of \$3,000 or less, or sales that would qualify under salvage provisions of current state statutes. These sales may be sold directly without advertising.

505.3.1 Field Preparation of Timber Sales

The County and the DNR will cooperate to locate, designate and prepare harvest areas for sale. The Forest Administrator and DNR Liaison Forester shall jointly be responsible to see that the field work on sales is accomplished.

505.3.2 Advertising for Bids

After field work is completed and necessary reports prepared for DNR approval, the

administrator shall prepare a sale prospectus and make it available to interested timber buyers. Timber sale advertisements, at a minimum, will be by classified ad in a newspaper having general circulation in the county (s. 28.11(6)(b), Wis. Stats). Ads shall be run once each week for two consecutive weeks, the last being at least one week prior to the bid opening. A longer advance time will be given when feasible. Barron County's sealed bid sales will generally be offered late summer, or as needed.

505.3.3 Prospectus

The following information will be made available to prospective bidders:

- (1) Species to be harvested and estimated volume
- (2) Minimum acceptable bid (not published by Barron County)
- (3) Maps of sale areas
- (4) Special contract provisions
- (5) Procedures for bidding
- (6) Bid forms
- (7) Timber sales bond and advance stumpage schedule
- (8) Schedules for potential extension and penalties

505.3.4 Method of Bidding

Bids will be reviewed by the Forest Administrator, successful bidders will be determined by the Forest Administrator, and timber sale bid results will be reported to the committee. A sealed envelope showing tract number and marked "sealed bid" shall be submitted on County Forest bid forms by the bidder for each tract bid on, and shall contain:

- (1) The bid price per cord or per thousand board feet for each species offered and the total for each species bid. The total value of the timber sale bid shall be indicated on both scaled and lump sum bids. The total bid value must meet or exceed the advertised sale minimum.
- (2) A minimum of 20 percent of the bid value of each tract must accompany the bid as a bid bond, payable to Barron County.

505.3.5 Awarding Sales

- (1) The high bidder is normally awarded the sale contract; however, the County reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and accept the bid offer that is found to be most advantageous to the County. Grounds for rejecting bids may include without limit:
 - (a) Non-compliance in the past with any Barron County Forest contract.
 - (b) Delinquent financial obligations with Barron County.
 - (c) Unsatisfactory past performances with Barron County or as reported by other counties.
 - (d) Inability to demonstrate financial or professional capability.
 - (e) Inability to document the meeting of SFI and FSC training standards as required.

Evaluation criteria on timber sales will be price and documented ability to perform satisfactorily the contract provision. Factors to be assessed may include proposed equipment and their operation, references, proof of

financial stability, past performance and documented training completed. Barron County requires appropriate training of contractors, to include one “in the woods” person actively responsible for each logging site. The award of contract to the successful bidder shall be based upon the bid determined most advantageous to the County.

- (2) Tie bids may be settled by asking tied bidders to resubmit bid within 24 hours; otherwise the County reserves the right to determine final selection process.
- (3) 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 \$3,000. (See DNR Timber Sales Handbook No. 2461 - Chapter 52).

505.3.6 Sales Contracts

- (1) Contracts will be prepared with copies provided to the logger and the DNR with the original filed in the administrator's office.
- (2) Contracts are to be signed by the successful bidder within 10 days of the bid opening. With all payments being made in accordance to the County's published Timber Sale Bond and Advance Stumpage Payment Schedule. Failure to sign the contract within 10 days may result in forfeiture of bid bond.

505.3.7 Timber Sale Performance Bond

1. Surety bonds or an irrevocable letter of credit issued by a bank which is a member of the Federal Reserve System or insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation may be used in lieu of cash as a performance bond on sales. The letter of credit or surety bond must be in effect for a period of time equal to the term of the contract, plus a sufficient time to allow for possible extension(s) and for closeout of the contract after cutting is completed.
2. The bid bond may be transferred to the sale performance bond if the bid bond is not replaced by some other acceptable product such as an Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Surety Bond.
3. Refund of Sale Performance Bond
 - a. Refund is approved by County Forest Administrator when:
 1. All sale contract provisions are fulfilled.
 2. All scale volumes are accounted for.
 3. The timber sale account is paid in full.
 4. All required road work and BMPs are finished.
 5. A settlement is reached, on an unfinished sale, between contractor and County, with approval of County's Corporate Council and Administrator.
4. The Committee and the Board as a whole is kept informed of sale status by Administrator's monthly written report to County Board.

505.3.8 Contract Provisions

All timber sale contracts will be written on forms approved by the County Administrator and County Corporate Council. All provisions therein shall apply. A copy of the timber sale map will be attached and become a part of the contract.

505.3.8 (a) Slash Disposal, Landings, and Decking

The objective is to control conditions that affect the following: Fire, insects, disease, aesthetics, regeneration, wetlands, wildlife, and public interest.

Each timber sale contract will have specific slash disposal instructions and aesthetic safeguards and will include without limit the following:

- (a) All slash must be reduced to a maximum specified height: no trees, tops or limbs shall be leaning or hanging in standing timber.
- (b) No machinery may be operated in lakes or streams.
- (c) No slash may be deposited in lakes or streams pursuant to s. 26.12(6), Wis. Stats.
- (d) No slash, logging debris or machinery operation outside the sale boundary unless approved by the County.
- (e) Landings and decks are not allowed within 100 feet of any public road except by proper authorization from the County.
- (f) Any debris or material not natural to the land shall be properly disposed of as it is generated.
- (g) All slash disposal, road or landing areas, and other woods operations shall be conducted in compliance with state regulations and local shore land and wetland zoning restrictions.

505.3.8(b) Duration and Extension Of Contracts

- (a) All contracts will be issued for not less than six months and for not more than 2 years, unless otherwise stated on prospectus. Contracts will be dated to expire on June 30 of the year. Exceptions may be made on contract duration in cases of extenuating circumstances.
- (b) A one year extension, if deemed necessary by the seller, may be granted. Each extension will have a progressive increase in stumpage rates based on County's appraisal of growth and stumpage values. Often this will be 5 percent for the first extension and 10 percent for each succeeding extension. In the case of lump sum sales, extensions may be made contingent upon payment of a "growth" penalty to cover the increased value of designated timber.
- (c) The maximum time duration of a timber sale contract, including extensions, shall be 4 years. Extension beyond this period of time shall be considered by the Forest Administrator only in the event of special justification. Special stumpage rate adjustments may then be made.
- (d) If purchasers do not wish to have contracts renewed or extended appropriate penalties may be assessed. Factors to be considered in the determination of this penalty shall include but not be limited to reappraisal of the timber, amount of products harvested, assessment of any sale activity versus contractual obligations, costs of timber sale reestablishment, and other costs to County.

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

(f) Stumpage increases

Stumpage increases levied with any extensions will be in general based on the following table:

| CONTRACT | LOGGING RESTRICT | SALE SIZE | CONTRACT LENGTH | STUMPAGE INCREASE | EXPIRATION | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------|------|
| | | | | | 9/15 | 3/15 |
| Original | Yes | 1-99 cords | 6 months | -- | | * |
| | No | " " | 6 months | -- | * | * |
| Original | Yes | 100-1999 | 1 year | -- | | * |
| | No | cords " " | 1 year | -- | * | * |
| Original | Yes | 2000+ cords | 2 years | -- | | * |
| | No | " " | 2 years | -- | * | * |
| First Extension | Yes | All Sales | 1 year | 5% | | * |
| | No | " " | 6 months | 5% | * | * |
| Second Extension | Yes | All Sales | 1 year | 10% | | * |
| | No | " " | 6 months | 10% | * | * |

Note – Extensions on “Lump Sum” sales will also increase as per the above listed rates. The increase shall apply to the volume remaining to be cut, based on estimates as determined by the Foresters.

The County, at its discretion, may assess an increase in stumpage rates different from the increases listed in the above table, to reflect major market changes in both stumpage and/or mill prices.

Contractors must request a contract extension in writing. Such request must include reasons for the extension request and time line for contract completion. All such requests must be made within 30 days of the contract cutting expiration date. No more than 2 extensions, without special justification, will be granted. The maximum time duration of any timber sale contract, including extensions, shall not exceed 4 years.

(g) Contract Closeout

The Forester Administrator shall consider all of the following before the closing of a timber sale contract:

1. Verification of volume of stumpage harvested.
2. Collection of all payments due County.
3. Condition of access roads.
4. Status of Forestry BMPs.
5. Condition of residual stand after harvest or thinning.
6. Fulfillment of any other contract provision.

Administrator shall then send a letter to contractor releasing contractor of further obligations and returning sale bond and make report of the contract close-out to the County Board and Committee in his monthly report. At the next Committee meeting, a detailed sale report shall be part of the Administrator’s written report on the status of timber sales.

505.3.8(c) Contract Violations

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

- (a) The administrator, or designee, will attempt to resolve inadvertent or minor violations by verbal contact with the contractor.
- (b) The administrator, or designee, may immediately suspend logging operations when a serious or emergency situation arises.
- (c) The suspension will be followed by written notice to the contractor, stating the nature of the violation and informing them of committee action taken or pending.
- (d) The County, in consultation with legal counsel, may consider, but is not limited to the following remedies:
 - (1) Charge double stumpage
 - (2) Charge for actual damages
 - (3) Suspend contract
 - (4) Retain all deposits
 - (5) Foreclose on cut forest products on sale
 - (6) Refer to District Attorney for prosecution
 - (7) Seek civil damages in addition to the performance bond.
- (e) Suspension of operation will remain in effect until receipt of written notice from the county.
- (f) Failure of the contractor to comply with the County's decision may result in the contractor becoming a non-qualifying contractor and be an ineligible bidder in the future. All deposits may be retained and forest products on sale areas may be seized and sold by the county.

505.3.9 Timber Sale Restrictions

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

505.3.10 Special Forest Product Contracts

Stumpage of fuelwood, Christmas trees, boughs, posts and poles and other special forest products for resale can be handled as a regular timber sale or as individual permits for home use.

- (1) Priority for such permits shall be given to:
 - a. First to Barron County residents and tribal members.
 - b. Second to Barron County Landowners.
 - c. Third all others.

505.3.11 Timber Sale Roads

- (1) The contractor will be responsible for securing legal access to sale areas across private or other non-county ownership.
- (2) The contractor will be responsible for securing permission to conduct logging activities within town, county or state road rights-of-way (e.g. decking, skidding).
- (3) County Forestry personnel will approve the lay-out of all roads and make other necessary special provisions within the sale contract.
- (4) Skidding, decking, or other logging activity is not allowed on County Forest roads or ditches unless approved by the County Forest Administrator. These areas will be kept free from logging debris. County forest access roads will be maintained by the logger and be left in good as original condition at the close of the sale. Roads will be inspected by county personnel to insure minimal resource damage.
- (5) A timber sale purchaser may request permission to gate a timber sale access road. The administrator will grant a gate permit to prohibit only motorized traffic.
- (6) Contractor will follow Wisconsin's BMP's for Water Quality at all times

505.3.12 Supervising Sales

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

505.3.13 Forest Products Accountability

505.3.13(a) Scaling Merchantability

- (1) Sawlogs will be scaled using the Scribner Decimal C. log rule. A log is defined as:
 - * **HARDWOOD LOGS** - Any piece of a tree having a 10 inch diameter or larger inside bark (d.i.b.) small end and 8 feet or longer in length (may be shorter if cut for a special product).
 - * **SOFTWOOD LOGS** - Any piece of a tree having a 8 inch diameter or larger inside bark (d.i.b.) at the small end and 8 feet or longer in length.
 - * Minimum net scale of 50 percent of the gross scale of the log
 - * Special products cut shorter than 8 feet will have their scale prorated based on percentage of 8 foot length.
 - * All products meeting these minimum specifications will be decked with small ends facing the road and either sorted by length or with lengths clearly marked on the small end.
- (2) The standard unit of measure for cordwood is measuring 4' x 4' x 8' of unpeeled wood. Peeled wood will be converted to the standard cord by adding 12.5 percent for sap-peeled and adding 25 percent for machine-peeled wood to the gross volume measured. A pulpwood tree contains at least one 8' stick, to a minimum top diameter as defined in the contract.
- (3) DNR Timber Sale handbook #2461 will be used as a guide in determining the conversion rates for posts, poles, bolts, chips, weight-scaled wood or other types of forest products.

505.3.13(b) Utilization Standards

Utilization standards will be specified on individual contracts to provide maximum utilization of all merchantable timber and will be based on the scaling standards in 505.3.13(a).

505.3.13(c) Methods of Accountability

Wood harvested from the sale area must be accounted for and payment made in accordance with existing policy and procedure. One or more of the following may be used on an individual sale:

- (1) The ticket system utilizes serialized three-part tickets. One ticket must accompany each load of wood to the mill. Mill scale will be accepted for volume determination.
- (2) Wood may also be scaled on the landing. This method is generally used for sawlogs. Payment for wood products scaled is normally due in advance. Exceptions are made when weight per cord of a product is specified in the prospectus and contract.
- (3) Lump sum sales will be utilized and divided into cutting units when practical. Payment for a cutting unit must be received in full before any cutting begins in that unit.
- (4) A combination of Mill Scale (cord wood) and Lump Sum (saw logs).

505.3.14 Special Forest Product Permits

- (1) A written permit for making fuelwood for personal use must be purchased for a specific area as designated on the permit map.
- (2) Written permits may be issued for any special forest products for community or personal use, with fees established by the County.
- (3) An annual summary report of cut products sold by permit will be filed with the DNR using Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report.

505.4 NATURAL REGENERATION

Where feasible, natural regeneration will be encouraged through the use of silvicultural methods or cultural activities including, but not limited to, clearcuts, shelterwood cuts, strip cuts, scarification, prescribed burning, select cuts and seed tree cuts. These practices can be enhanced by additional treatments, including the cutting of non-merchantable trees following harvest, by scarification before or after cutting for natural seeding, by prescribed burning, and by chemical treatment. These treatments can be used alone or in combination, depending on the needs of the site. The Silvicultural and Aesthetics Handbook (DNR Hbk. #2431.5) shall be used as a reference in determining timing, techniques and adequacy of both natural and artificial regeneration.

505.4.1 Removal of Non-Merchantable Residual Trees

To meet certain silvicultural objectives, the cutting of non-merchantable residual trees may be required as part of a timber sale contract. This requirement will be included in the contract when stand evaluation indicates that the density of non-merchantable trees following harvest is likely to inhibit the growth of desirable shade intolerant tree species.

505.4.2 Prescribed Burning For Natural Regeneration

Fire is one of the natural means available to stimulate the regrowth of early successional species. It may be employed as a management tool when practical. Prescribed burning for purposes such as site preparation, slash removal, or replacement of natural fire ecology will be conducted when conditions allow. DNR Fire Control will be the major source of guidance and direction. See DNR Fire Presuppression handbook (4320.5).

505.4.3 Other

Site preparation by other means may be considered where natural regeneration will be aided by such treatment methods.

505.5 ARTIFICIAL REGENERATION

When natural forest regeneration fails, or when tree species present do not coincide with management objectives for the site, then artificial means shall be employed to establish a more appropriate stand of trees. The establishment of a forest stand through artificial means usually requires some sort of preparation of the site, followed by seeding or planting.

505.5.1 Mechanical Site Preparation

Mechanical site preparation includes the use of soil disturbance equipment such as a disc, roller chopper, patch scarifier, disk trencher and V-plowing prior to tree planting or seeding. This type of equipment is used to reduce logging debris to a smaller size, to incorporate debris into the soil, to clear brush and debris from the site to facilitate planting or seeding, and to reduce competition from other vegetation.

505.5.2 Chemical Site Preparation

Herbicide application can be an effective means of controlling unwanted vegetation in order to establish seedlings or plantations. It should be used sparingly, in situations where mechanical treatment is not expected to provide the level of vegetative control needed. Chemicals will be selected and applied in strict accordance with label recommendations and requirements. The objective of herbicide use is not to kill all competing vegetation, but rather to kill or set back competing vegetation only enough to establish a reasonably stocked stand of desirable trees. Proximity to private lands, residences, highways and other public use areas must be considered in selecting both the herbicide and the means of application. Herbicides can be applied with hand-held equipment, by motorized ground-based equipment or aircraft. A written prescription for each herbicide application will be prepared, made available to primary applicator, and made a permanent part stand file.

505.5.3 Prescribed Burning

Prescribed burning for site preparation can be used to reduce logging debris, clear the site, kill set back unwanted vegetation, and to release nutrients into the soil. DNR Fire Control staff will be the major source of guidance and direction for the use of fire as a tool. See DNR Fire Presuppression Handbook (4320.5).

505.5.4 Tree Planting and Seeding

Both machine planting, hand planting, or direct seeding may be utilized to insure adequate regeneration. The selection of species will be determined according to the specific management objectives and capabilities determined for each site. It shall be the policy of the County Forest to maintain existing forest openings and manage them for wildlife habitat. The majority of county's planting/seeding will be in newly acquired lands, which often contain significant acres of crop/pasture lands. Planting/seeding may also be employed to maintain a desirable species distribution on the forest for purposes such as aesthetics, biodiversity, and wildlife.

505.6 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

Timber stand improvement will involve release, thinning, and pruning as the primary practices during this plan period. Timber stand improvement includes any practices that can increase the health, growth, and quality of existing stands of trees. It can include activities such as release of desirable trees from vegetative competition, non-commercial thinning of dense pole timber stands and pruning of lower tree branches on some conifer species. Some practices can be done either by hand, mechanically, or chemically. All such practices and applications may be employed during this plan period.

505.6.1 Release

Release work, if it cannot be done by commercial timber harvest, will be conducted by either mechanical or chemical means as site or environmental conditions warrant. Release is defined as the removal of competing vegetation from around a desired tree or tree species. This may well be required to maintain crop trees on most Oak regeneration sites.

505.6.2 Non-Commercial Thinning

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

505.6.3 Pruning

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

510 RECREATION

Both the County Forest Ordinance and s. 28.11, Wis. Statutes authorize the County to provide recreational opportunities for the public. This authority is further recognized in the mission statement for the Barron County Forest (Chapter 100) which specifically identifies outdoor recreation opportunities. The mission statement also charges the Forest Administrator to conduct activities in a manner that prevents or minimizes the degradation of natural resources.

- (1) The County may establish and maintain recreation areas and facilities within the County Forest. The Forest Administrator has been empowered to establish and enforce rules and regulations for the use

- of such developments and to establish fees for their use.
- (2) The Barron County General Codes and ordinances shall govern the lands designated by the County for parks or recreational purposes.
 - (3) The County ordinances are appended in Chapter 900.

510.1 RECREATIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS

- a. It is permissible for the County to contract with clubs or individuals to provide recreational services for the public. An agreement with a local snowmobile club to assist in grooming and maintaining county snowmobile trail facilities is an example.
- b. Water Fowl Production Impoundments
In compartment 7 there are five such impoundments with low head water control structures. These were all built by the Department. The following agreement has been worked out for general and long term maintenance.
 - (1) The county budgets for and completes annual mowing of dikes.
 - (2) The county uses some of the annual appropriation for maintenance of forest roads to keep up access roads to structures.
 - (3) Department uses their contract with APHIS to control beaver populations.
 - (4) Any time a county or DNR employee is in the area a visual check is made of structures. We also have an agreement with the Boy Scout camp that they report any plugged structures, as they make weekly hiking trips across several of them.
 - (5) The DNR has taken the lead in design and man power needs when replacement of structures has been needed. The County has used Conservation aids and county appropriations to fund these projects.

510.2 RECREATIONAL USE PERMITS

- (1) Permits or use agreements for use of the County Forest may be issued by the Forest Administrator for recreational purposes.
- (2) No permits for sale of malt or intoxicating beverages will be issued on the County Forest.
- (3) Other types of special use permits are found in Section 515.
- (4) Permits will not be issued for cabin sites on the forest.
- (5) Organized events or special uses, other than informal recreation require specific written permission from the Forest Administrator.

510.3 EXTENSIVE RECREATIONAL USE OF THE FOREST

Extensive (informal) County Forest uses shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, hunting, fishing, trapping, picnicking, snowshoeing, biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, gathering of mushrooms, photography and nature study. Such uses do not require a permit but must be conducted according to the provisions of County Ordinances and applicable state laws.

510.3.1 Hunting and Trapping

The entire county forest is open for Wisconsin DNR regulated hunting and trapping. Temporary hunting stands are permissible but must be removed from the

forest when not in use. In addition, all elevated stands must be removed at days end. The use of nails, lag screws, screw steps, or other damaging devices is not permitted. No permanent type structures shall be permitted. Refer to Chapter 900 for the ordinance pertaining to tree stands.

510.3.2 Fishing

All lakes and streams within the forest are available for Wisconsin DNR regulated fishing.

510.3.3 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.

510.3.4 Camping

510.3.4A Wilderness Camping

Wilderness style camping with “carry it carry it out” policy is allowed at all times. No permit is required. Maximum stay is two nights per site.

510.3.4B Parking area Camping

Deer Camps are allowed in any designated parking area on the forest. These camps are allowed for all designated gun deer seasons, ie. Rifle season, mussels loader seasons, and Herd Control Hunts,

- (1) No littering or site destruction will be tolerated.
- (2) Maximum period of stay is the identified deer season.
- (3) 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.
- (4) Manufactured materials (lumber, concrete, plastics, etc.) may not be left on the site when it is vacated.

510.4 INTENSIVE RECREATION AREAS

Barron County Forest has few sites on the forest developed to accommodate a high degree of public use.

510.4.1 Boat Landings

At many locations in the county, on and off the County Forest, areas have been developed for water access. These generally include a parking lot, an 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 Waters Access map in Chapter 900. Water access is also addressed in Chapter 700. These landings are not boat-mooring sites.

510.4.2 Waysides

Waysides are day use areas and are located at various points throughout the County.

510.4.3

Shooting Ranges

Ranges that allow for public use of rifle, bow, pistol, etc. are permitted on County Forest lands. Barron County operates and maintains a range with rifle, pistol, and .22 ranges that is open to the public every day except for the nine day rifle deer season.

510.5

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 County Forest. The trail systems are identified in the Recreation map appended in Chapter 900 and referenced in Chapter 700.

510.5.1 Motorized Trail Opportunities

The Barron County Forest is a multiple use forest. Motorized travel on trails can be a legitimate use of this forest, provided that these trails are designed and maintained in a manner that minimizes damage to the environment and reduces user conflict. Trail use and development must be compatible and sustainable with the characteristics of the landscape. The Committee has designated the Doyle Compartment (#1) and the Bear Lake Compartment (#8) as being non-motorized units. This policy was, however, modified when the DNR funded Snowmobile trail was relocated in compartment #8. It shall be the policy of the Committee to consider further opportunities for the following motorized trail use:

- 1) Snowmobiles
- 2) All terrain vehicles (ATV's)

Refer to Chapter 700 for further discussion on motorized recreation opportunities on the Barron County Forest.

510.5.2 Non-Motorized Trail Opportunities

The Barron 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. It shall be the policy of the Committee to consider opportunities for the following non-motorized trail use:

- 1) Cross Country Ski trails
- 2) Hiking trails
- 3) Horse trails
- 4) Biking trails
- 5) Snowshoe trails
- 6) Others

Refer to Chapter 700 for further discussion on non-motorized recreation opportunities on the Forest.

510.6 RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Barron County will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act regulations. In addition, it is the policy of the County to provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.

515 SPECIAL USES

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

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

515.1 SAND AND GRAVEL

Barron County does not allow the development of sand and gravel pits on the forest. However timber sale contractors are allowed to use local materials to maintain forest access trails. All such activities must conform to Wisconsin Forestry BMPs.

515.2 EXPLORATION, PROSPECTING AND MINING

No future exploration for or siting of mines is allowed on the forest.

515.3 SANITARY LANDFILLS

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

515.4 MILITARY MANEUVERS

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

515.5 PUBLIC UTILITIES

Easements for public utilities will be considered by the County. Underground installations will be encouraged. The following main provisions shall be included in any County Board resolution granting permission for construction of any utility Right of Way:

- 1) Utility may be billed for merchantable forest products, existing timber reproduction and the future value of forest products from the site.
- 2) Utility may be billed for land removed from production due to right-of-way clearing for losses of future income and multiple-use benefits.

- 3) Land removed for utility operations that is no longer suited “primarily for timber production or, that is no longer suitable for scenic, outdoor recreation, public hunting & fishing, water conservation or multiple use purposes” (s. 28.11(4)(c) WI. Stats) may need to be withdrawn from county forest law designation. The utility shall replace any lands requiring withdrawal from County Forest with other lands suitable for County Forest entry that are in the forest blocking of the County Forest.
- 4) Utility companies will be encouraged to use existing corridors and underground lines to minimize disturbance to the County Forest and native plants and animals.
- 5) Merchantable timber will be removed in a manner approved by the Forest Administrator. Timber cut must be reported to the DNR on form 2460-1.
- 6) Utility must provide notice of proposed route, including a map to be of a scale of not less than 1 inch /mile scale, 90 days in advance of proposal being brought to Committee for their consideration.
- 7) Special maintenance, controlled access and signage concerns shall be addressed in any proposal.
- 8) An appropriate fee shall be charged for easements.

515.6 PRIVATE UTILITY SERVICE LINES

If a landowner cannot gain utility access across other lands, the County may consider a land use agreement for access across County Forest. Requests will be considered on a case by case basis. These agreements should consider the inclusions mentioned in Section 515 for easements as well as:

- 1) The permit is non-transferable
- 2) The County retains full ownership of the utility corridor, however it shall not be liable for maintenance, upkeep, or other damages associated with the utility service.
- 3) The permittee waives any rights to any declaration of ownership or interest in the utility corridor on County land for administrative costs as a result of this Land Use Agreement – Utility permit. This agreement is granted upon the signature and any fees being received by Barron County.
- 4) The fee for such a land use agreement is set at a price per lineal foot for each utility with a minimum fee of to be established by a certified land appraisal.
- 5) There is no standard land use agreement for utility access as each request will be considered on its own merits and for what benefits Barron County the most.

515.7 CELLULAR COMMUNICATION TOWERS

The siting of cellular communication towers on the Forest will be considered by the County on a limited basis. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis subject to the following conditions:

- 1) It must be demonstrated that the site is the most practical location for such a tower.
- 2) There must be a demonstrated need for siting the tower on the forest.

- 3) Land selected for such a tower is no longer suitable for continued entry in the County Forest program. In addition, any accompanying lands needed for tower support wires that inhibit the practice of forestry and are no longer suitable for scenic, outdoor recreation, public hunting & fishing, water conservation or multiple use purposes (s. 28.11(4), Wis. Stats) may also need to be withdrawn from county forest law. Withdrawal is subject to approval by both County Board and DNR. The cellular communication company shall replace any lands requiring withdrawal from County Forest with other lands suitable for County Forest entry that are in the forest blocking.
- 4) Barron County shall provide use of such tower for a fee derived from a certified land appraisal.
- 5) Any agreement should also consider the inclusions listed under 515.5 (Items 1-8).

515.8

OTHER

Other types of special uses of the county forest may be considered by the County. These may include, but are not limited to: research, independent study and scientific areas. Regulations governing these uses will be developed on an individual basis. Examples of these type areas are: The Wajiwani Mashkode Archaeological District and the Rock Creek Felsenmeer State Natural Area.

520

AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONES

Aesthetic forest management will be applied to the County Forest. The degree of application of special management will vary and will require the classification of the forest according to the degree and type of public use. The Wisconsin DNR Silvicultural and Forest Aesthetics Handbook No. 2431.5, and the Natural Resources Board Policy on management of State and County Forests contained in Chapter NR 1.24 of the Wis. Administrative Code (as adopted in June of 1989) will be used for management prescription guidelines. Subsequent versions of NR1.24 are subject to the approval of the County. Scenic Management Zones are shown on the land use map appended to in Chapter 900.14.

520.1

AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE A

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

520.1.1 Examples – Zone A

- (1) Park and recreation areas, including access routes.
- (2) Lakes and rivers that support significant water based recreational activity.
- (3) Roads with medium to heavy use where the majority of the traffic is unrelated to the forest or is for the specific purpose of enjoying scenery.

520.1.2 Boundaries – Zone A

1. Parks and/or recreation areas. Zone A boundaries may include the area within the reasonable visible horizon as determined from any location

within the recreation area. It may also include adjacent areas that receive a considerable amount of use as a result of the recreation area.

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

520.1.3 Management – Zone A

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

520.1.4 Permitted Uses – Zone A

1. Timber harvesting and thinning operations may be prohibited during periods of peak public use. All slash may be lopped and/or removed from view.
2. Timber stands in this zone will be managed to afford the greatest scenic potential for public enjoyment.
3. County directional, informational and recreational signs conforming to approved standards are permitted.
4. All tree and shrub planting will be spaced at random to prevent an artificial appearance.
5. New access roads will be permitted if they join the main road at right angles... All such access roads will be, when possible, curved so that no cleared line of sight will be created from the main road to the exterior boundary of the zone.

520.2

AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE B

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

520.2.1 Examples – Zone B

1. Roads with light to medium use where the majority of the traffic is a result of some other use of the forest other than for scenic beauty.
2. Lakes or streams that do not have significant value for water-based recreation.

520.2.2 Boundaries – Zone B

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

520.2.3 Management – Zone B

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

520.2.4 Permitted Uses – Zone B

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

520.3 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE C

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

520.3.1 Examples – Zone C

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

520.3.2 Boundaries – Zone C

All areas not included in Zone A, B or D.

520.3.3 Management – Zone C

Zone C management is to optimize timber production using sound resource management concepts. Natural opportunities to maintain or enhance diversity or scenic quality should be considered.

520.3.4 Permitted Uses – Zone C

All land management activities consistent with the goals of the forest.

520.4 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE D

Areas designated as special resources

520.4.1 Examples – Zone D

(1) Rock Creek Felsenmeer State Natural Area

520.4.2 Management – Zone D

Manage these areas as outlined in Chapter 800 or by the individual management plan written for this special resource.

525 TREATY RIGHTS: GATHERING MISCELLANEOUS FOREST PRODUCTS

- (1) Any treaty rights participant interested in gathering firewood, tree bark, maple sap, lodge poles, boughs, marsh hay or other miscellaneous forest products (except fruits, seeds, or berries not enumerated in County ordinances) from County land shall obtain a County gathering permit from the County forestry office. The County shall respond to the gathering permit request no later than 14 days after receipt of the request. The gathering permit shall indicate the location of the material to be gathered, the volume of material to be gathered, and conditions of the gathering of the material necessary for conservation of the timber and miscellaneous forest products on the County land, or for public health or safety.

- (2) The County may not deny a request to gather miscellaneous forest products on county property under this section unless:
 - a. the gathering is inconsistent with the management plan for the property.
 - b. the gathering will conflict with the pre-existing rights of a permittee or other person possessing an approval to conduct an activity on the property, including a contractor of the county.
 - c. is otherwise inconsistent with conservation or public health or safety. Subchapter IV, Ch.NR13, WI. Adm. Code details the regulations.

530

HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS / AREAS (HCVF) AND EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCES

High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) is a term that identifies those areas possessing unique qualities either locally, regionally, or nationally. Barron County's focus in managing these areas will be to maintain or enhance the qualities that make these areas special. In some instances this may involve altering management practices to mitigate impacts and in others it may entail no active management. HCVF's on the Barron County Forest include the following management implications associated with these designations are included in this section of this plan and sec. 850 pages 35 &36. The policy of Barron County will be to enhance and protect their individual exceptional features.

530.1 AREAS HIGH IN LOCALLY, REGIONALLY AND NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT BIODIVERSITY VALUES

1. Rock Creek Felsenmeer
Contains an exceptional Felsenmeer community and unique geological features.
2. Pigeon Creek Peatlands - Contains several natural communities
 - a) Central Poor Fen
 - b) Northern Wet Forest
 - c) Northern Sedge meadow
 - d) Floodplain Forest
 - e) White Pine /Red Maple Swamp
 - f) Pine Barrens
3. Land Legacy Areas
 - a) Blue Hills
 - b) Hay River
 - c) Upper Red Cedar River
 - d) Silver Creek Woods

530.1.1 Wisconsin State Natural Areas

Barron County manages a variety of property designations including a Wisconsin State Natural area (SNA). The SNA system represents the wealth and variety of Wisconsin's biological diversity. SNAs are unique in that they can exist as stand alone properties or be designated within the boundaries of another property type. DNR endangered resource staff will work cooperatively with the County forest by coordinating educational, monitoring, and research activities. Management will protect the unique character of the area. The importance of the Wisconsin SNAs

has been recognized by the County in cooperating with Department staff in designating and managing 49 acres of the County Forest for a SNA site (Rock Creek Felsenmeer).

530.1.2 Species Concentration Areas

1. Heron Rookeries

Rookeries are present in two compartments of the forest:

The forest contains two long term sites:

- a. Compartment 11 section 14
 - b. Compartment 3 section 1
2. Bald Eagle nesting sites are scattered through out the forest
 3. Osprey Nesting sites are found in several compartments

530.2 Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Ecosystems

530.2.1 Natural origin Pine Relics

The Pigeon Creek Peatland Complex contains relic White Spruce and White Pine Stands

530.2.2 Pine Barrens

The Pigeon Creek Peatland Complex also contains a relic Pine Barren

530.2.3 Geological Features

The Rock Creek Felsenmeer, Protected as a SNA
Recessional Moraine

530.2.4 Rare and Geographically Restricted Natural Communities

See 530.1(2) Pigeon Creek Peatlands

530.3 Culturally Significant Sites

Compartment 1 (Doyle unit) contains five sites listed on the National and State Register of Historic Places as the Wajiwani Mashkode Archaeological District:

1. Mason-Anderson Site (BN-18)
2. Renowned Quarry Site (BN-75)
3. Johnson Pipestone Quarry (BN-77)
4. Barta Quarry Site (BN-253)
5. Newell Creek Quarry (BN-283)

530.4 Locally Significant Sites

Scattered throughout the Forest but especially prevalent in unit 1 are deserted cabin (homestead) sites