

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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CHAPTER 200

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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200 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Objectives

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

205 ROLES

The County and the Department of Natural Resources have a mutual interest in administration of the Barron County Forest. It shall be the policy of the Barron County Board through the Property Committee to cooperate to the fullest extent with county and state personnel in carrying out programs on the county forest and to perpetuate the State/County partnership throughout the administration of the county forest. The County/State roles are further defined in the Public Forest Lands handbook, 2460.5.

205.1 COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Powers of the Barron County Board, relative to the management of county forest lands are defined in s.28.11(3) and additional authority may include:

- Annual Budget and Work Plan
- Grants/Loans
- Land acquisitions

205.1.1 Property Committee

The Board of Supervisors assigns the administration of the County Forest to the Property Committee as detailed below.

1. Review of an annual work plan and budget for the ensuing calendar year to be presented to the County Administrator for approval.
2. To facilitate Forest Administrator's negotiations for and acquisition of lands necessary to further the objectives of the county forest plan and recommend such acquisitions to the Board of Supervisors for their approval.
3. Develop policy for the implementation of proposed recreation projects on the county forest lands.
4. Encourage cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources on all matters pertaining to natural resource management on the county forest.
5. Development of policy as needed for the execution and administration of the county forest program.
6. Recommend personnel to County Administrator as needed for the administration and implementation of the county forest program.
7. Hold committee meetings as necessary to develop and review policy decisions.

205.2 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The role of the Department in the County Forest program is to:

1. Encourage technically sound management of the County Forest resources.
2. Protect the public rights, benefits and investments in County Forest lands.
3. Administer state compensation to the county for the public rights, benefits and privileges the county forest lands provide as required by s. 28.11-(8) Wis. Stats.
4. Provide County Forest assistance consistent with those identified per the [Public Forest Lands Handbook](#).

205.2.1 Division of Forestry

It is the function of this Division to:

1. Certify and make forest aid payments (variable acreage and project loans) to the county and audit county expenditures of the forestry fund account pursuant to s. 28.11(8)(b), Wis. Stats.

2. Certify and make acreage payments to towns pursuant to s. 28.11(8)(a), Wis. Stats.
3. Maintain and certify County Forest acreage by township, and audit distribution of severance share payments (s. 28.11(9) Wis. Stats.) made annually by the counties.
4. Collect severance share payments of not less than twenty percent of actual stumpage sales value on timber cut from the County Forest pursuant to s. 28.11(9)(a), Wis. Stats.
5. Administer various aids and grants pertaining, but not limited to, the County Forest program.
6. Assist with development and implementation of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
7. Interpret and administer the laws and regulations set forth by the Legislature and the Natural Resources Board.
8. Review and approve or deny applications for withdrawal and entry of lands into the County Forest Law program.
9. 5-year Audit Programmatic and Financials

205.2.2 Local Office

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

205.2.2.1 Forest Management

The forester designated by the Department to serve as Liaison to the Committee will provide technical assistance in managing the resources of the county forest. The forester's duties include the following, but not limited to:

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 Forest Administrator in preparing the annual work plan.
7. Assist in County Forest timber theft and larceny investigations.
8. Organize and prepare minutes of annual partnership meeting as required in the [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 fire related laws.
2. Forest Pest Control - Provide technical services for prevention, detection and suppression of forest pests in the district.
3. Wildlife Management - Conduct surveys of wildlife populations, habitat, and public use. Wildlife personnel use this information when providing technical assistance on long term ecosystem planning as well as wildlife habitat management, habitat improvement and wildlife health. Attend committee meetings as requested.
4. Fisheries Management - Maintain the quality of the fishery resource in the waters of the Forest to produce a balanced return to the angler, consistent with sound management principles.
5. Law Enforcement - Enforce state natural resource laws and regulations and assist in the enforcement of county and federal natural resource laws and ordinances.
6. Environmental Protection - Enforce and provide technical assistance in matters related to water and shore land management, pollution detection and waste disposal.
7. Endangered Resources - Provide technical expertise on rare, threatened or endangered species and natural community surveys, identification and management. Assist other DNR functions and the county in identifying local

and landscape level issues.

210 COOPERATION

To meet the obligation of the county to the public in accordance with s.28.11, it is in the best interest of Barron County to cooperate with public agencies, non-profit organizations, tribal nations, and others.

215 FINANCIAL SUPPORT

An annual budget shall be prepared by the Forest Administrator. This budget shall contain county funds needed to carry out the forestry program on the forest.

215.1 REVENUE FROM OPERATIONS

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

215.1.1 Timber Sale Revenue

The County General fund shall receive a deposit of 50 percent of all revenue received from the sale of timber stumpage or cut forest products. All severance taxes incurred as a result of such sales shall be segregated into separate accounts from timber sales income and paid as required by statute. Severance accounts are divided as follows: 30 percent of total revenue into an account for severance to townships and 20 percent of total revenue into an account for severance to the state of Wisconsin.

215.1.3 Other County Forest Revenue

Revenue from firewood permits will be deposited in the County General Fund.

215.2 OUTSIDE SOURCES OF REVENUE

215.2.1 State Funds

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

1. Variable Acreage Share Loan (s. 28.11(8)(b)1., Wis. Stats.). The county may apply for variable acreage share loans in the amount of up to fifty cents per acre of regular entry County Forest land by December 31. Payment is made to the

county on or before March 31st of each year and deposited in the State Forest Aid fund. Application is made by County Board Resolution.

2. Project loans (s. 28.11(8)(b)2., Wis. Stats.) are available to undertake acquisition and development projects of an "economically productive nature". Fish and game projects or recreation projects do not qualify. Application is made by County Board Resolution.
3. County Forest Administration Grant Program (s. 28.11-(5m) Wis. Stats). Annual grants are available to fund up to 50% of the salary and fringe benefits of a professional forester in the position of county forest administrator or assistant county forest administrator. Benefits may not exceed 40% of salary. Application is submitted along with an approved annual work plan by January 31, with payment by April 15th of each year.
4. Sustainable County Forest Grants. Annual grants made for short-term unanticipated projects that promote sustainable forestry. Details are contained in s. NR 47.75, Wisconsin Administrative Code.
5. County Fish And Game Projects s. 23.09(12), Wis. Stats.).
6. Wildlife Habitat Development Grant (s. 23.09(17m), Wis.Stats).
7. County Forest Road Aids funds are available for each designated mile of County Forest road. The certification is done on a biannual basis.
8. Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program: Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program (s. 23.0953, Wis. Stats.) allowing counties with lands entered under the County Forest Program ([s. 28.11, Wis. Stats. \[exit DNR\]](#)) to compete for land acquisition funding under Stewardship.

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. 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 Natural Heritage Conservation for information.

215.2.3 Other Funds

Other potential funding sources are groups such as Ducks Unlimited, Ruffed Grouse Society, Trout Unlimited, Whitetails Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, local sportsman's clubs, service organizations, etc.

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

215.3 COUNTY EXPENDITURES

All purchases and expenditures shall comply with County purchasing policy, and state statutes.

220 COUNTY RECORDS

The County Forest administrator in cooperation with the financial department will keep concise and orderly records and accounts of all revenue received, expenditures incurred and accomplishments resulting from the operations of the forestry department. A job description, time and expense report, and training record will be kept on each employee.

220.1 ACCOUNTS

All accounts and bookkeeping procedures will be handled by the Forest Administrator and finance department or as otherwise directed by the County Administrator.

220.1.1 State Aid Forestry Account

Variable acreage share loans (s. 28.11(8)(b)1., Wis. Stats.), project loan funds (s. 28.11(8)(b)(2.)Wis. Stats.), and sustainable forestry grants (s. 28.11(5r), Wis. Stats., and s. NR 47.75, Wis. Adm. Code) that are distributed by the DNR are deposited in this account. Expenditures of variable acreage share funds from this account are restricted to the purchase, development, preservation and maintenance of the county forest. Expenditure of project loan funds are governed by the conditions of project approval. Sustainable Forestry grants from this account must be spent specific to the approved project. Revenue received from the sale of equipment purchased with State Aid Account money must be redeposited in the State Aid Account.

220.1.2 Other County Forest Accounts

1. Advance Stumpage – for deposit of advance stumpage payments.
2. Performance Bond – for deposit of timber sale bonds.
3. Land Acquisition – for deposit of 20 percent of sale revenues when no severance is due the state.
4. Fish and Game Resources – for deposit of and disposition of County Conservation Aids.
5. Wildlife Habitat – for deposit of and disposition of Wildlife Habitat Development Grant.
6. County Forest and Parks Contracts – for deposit of funds received by contract from state i.e. reimbursement for secretarial services.
7. Severance Due Districts – 30 percent of revenues to be held for annual payment to Townships with County Forest within their boundaries.
8. Severance Due State – 20 percent of revenues to be held for making payments to state to pay back project loans.

220.1.3 Account Numbers

220.1.3 Account Numbers

1. Advance Stumpage – 100 00 23160 000 000
2. Performance Bonds – 816 00 23170 000 000
3. Severance Due Districts – 100 00 24460 000 000
4. Revenue – 100 15 46810 000 000
5. Land Acquisition – 243 15 46810 000 000
6. Severance Due State – 100 00 24465 000 000
7. Forest Habitat – 100 15 43581 000 000
8. Fish and Game Resources – 100 15 56120 000 000
9. State Aid Forestry – 241 15 43581 000 000
10. County Forest and Parks Contracts – 100 15 46721 000 000

Wildlife Habitat Fund 240

241-15-43582-000-000 State Aid Forestry - Wildlife Habitat Revenue

241-15-56130-xxx-xxx Expenditures (various accounts for contractual services, materials, equipment, etc)

State Aid Forestry Fund 241

241-15-43582-000-000 State Aid Forestry - Revenue

Several Expenditure Accounts setup for various forestry projects

State Aid Land Acquisition Fund 243

243-15-43582-000-000 Acquisition Revenue

243-15-56160-xxx-xxx Various Acquisition Expenditure Accounts

220.2 TIMBER SALES

220.2.1 Active Files

Active timber sale files (hardcopy or e-copy), at a minimum, should contain or reference the following items:

1. Timber sale cutting notice and report (Form 2460-1)
2. Timber sale narrative (Form 2460-1A)
3. Contract and all addendums
4. Timber sale map
5. Ledger account of scale
6. Timber sale inspection journal / notes
7. Pertinent correspondence
8. Liability insurance
9. FISTA training
10. Financial assurance (performance bonds, ILC, etc.)
11. Field scale sheets
12. Lock box tickets (if applicable)

220.2.2 Closed Files

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

1. Timber sale notice and cutting report
2. Contract and addendums
3. Timber sale map
4. Pertinent correspondence
5. Financial ledger/summary

225 PERSONNEL

The Forest Administrator shall have authorization to organize the workload of the forestry department employees and contractors. Personnel of the forestry department will be governed by the work policies as set forth by the county, and their respective work policies.

225.1 COUNTY FOREST STAFF

County Forest staff at this time include;

1. County Forest Administrator, whose position is on a contract basis not to exceed 1000 hours annually.
2. Parks and Maintenance position who works approximately 10 percent of his time on the forest.

225.2 HIRING PERSONNEL

All hiring of permanent personnel is approved by the County Administrator after having been accounted for in the annual work plan and budget. The actual hiring of permanent personnel will be by the Forest Administrator in cooperation with the Human Resources Coordinator and final approval of the County Administrator. Seasonal help and short-term labor for special projects will be recruited and hired by the Forest Administrator.

225.3 OTHER SOURCES OF LABOR

The Forest Administrator will consider supplemental resources that can be utilized on the forest, following county procurement policy.

225.5 TRAINING

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

230 EQUIPMENT

All equipment and supplies will be coordinated by the Forest Administrator and Maintenance Supervisor. The Forest Administrator and Maintenance Supervisor will be responsible for locating equipment, considering the most economical alternatives of buying, borrowing, renting or constructing. The Forest Administrator and Maintenance Supervisor will also be

responsible for maintaining an inventory, to be updated annually, of equipment under his/her jurisdiction. Any forestry department employee may purchase equipment and supplies when he / she has prior approval from the Forest Administrator or the department foreman. Equipment shall be purchased by competitive bidding as per county policy.

230.1 FACILITIES

Maintenance of the facilities is assigned to the Forest Administrator and Maintenance Supervisor and includes the following:

1. Office space – Located in the Administration offices in the Barron Co. Gov't Center.
2. A Conservation Shop – Located at the intersections of 17th Street and 13 ½ Avenue.
3. Waysides and Parking lots scattered throughout the forest.