

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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Revised 12/10/21

CHAPTER 4000

PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS OF 15 YEAR PLAN/FUTURE AMENDMENT LIST

- Once completed the Plan and any Amendments will be published on the Forestry Website for a 30- day for public input period.
- Amendments to the Plan must be approved by the Property Committee and the County Board.
- The following comment was received.

- I took some time to examine the plan and it looks pretty good. Here are a few comments for consideration as a hunter, recreational user, and biologist.

There are some pretty good boundaries set for the forest blocks and I would like to see more effort put into trying to fill in the boundaries. It will make management easier in the future and will benefit the resource and the public if these areas are “blocked in”. Owning the land is not a money losing proposition as the forest will continue to generate revenue and I believe the county is seeing these lands are a good investment. In addition, there is not a lot of public land in the county and hunting opportunity is becoming less and less as more land becomes posted. Being well managed these areas are good for deer, grouse, turkey hunting, etc. and it is a good attraction for those who live in the county or travel to the county to recreate. I know a lot people come to the county to deer hunt. I understand the committee is conservative in regard to land acquisition but the fact there is Stewardship money available that helps reduce the cost and there is the revolving loan program I believe it is well worth pursuing more land acquisition to fill in the boundaries. It benefits everyone and is a great boost to the economy and natural resources of the county.

The increasing development of ATV trails on the county forest I believe can detract from the overall purpose of the forest. Those that would like to pursue silent sports as well as the effect of more disturbance on the forests I believe merits scaling back further development. I understand there is a lot of money for trails but would prefer development not occur on the county forest blocks in the increasing manner that seems to be occurring.

The county forest flowages are well maintained and are in pretty good shape for the most part. There is some work that needs to be done to renovate a few of the dikes and it would be nice to perform this work to keep the flowages in a reasonable condition to continue to accomplish the goal for which they were developed.

Concerning exotic species, especially buckthorn, it is nice to see the county putting forth time and money to try to control this. Continue to do this and keep up the good work!

Managing oak is always a challenge and there is going to be a gradual loss in acreage due to succession and conversion to other forest types. I know the county is working on this

and I would like to support this continued effort to maintain oak on the landscape for its economic and wildlife values.

Turkey Stamp has been used in the past to fund various management activities and I would like to encourage the county to continue to apply for funding through this program. There is a good amount of money in that fund and good projects are generally almost always funded. Some of the oak management and other projects would easily qualify and would be a great use of that fund.

Overall, the plan is well written and comprehensive. I believe it is a great document to guide the forest through the next 15 years.

Kevin Morgan
Retired DNR Wildlife Specialist