

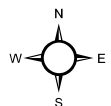
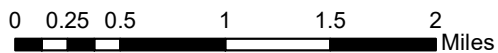
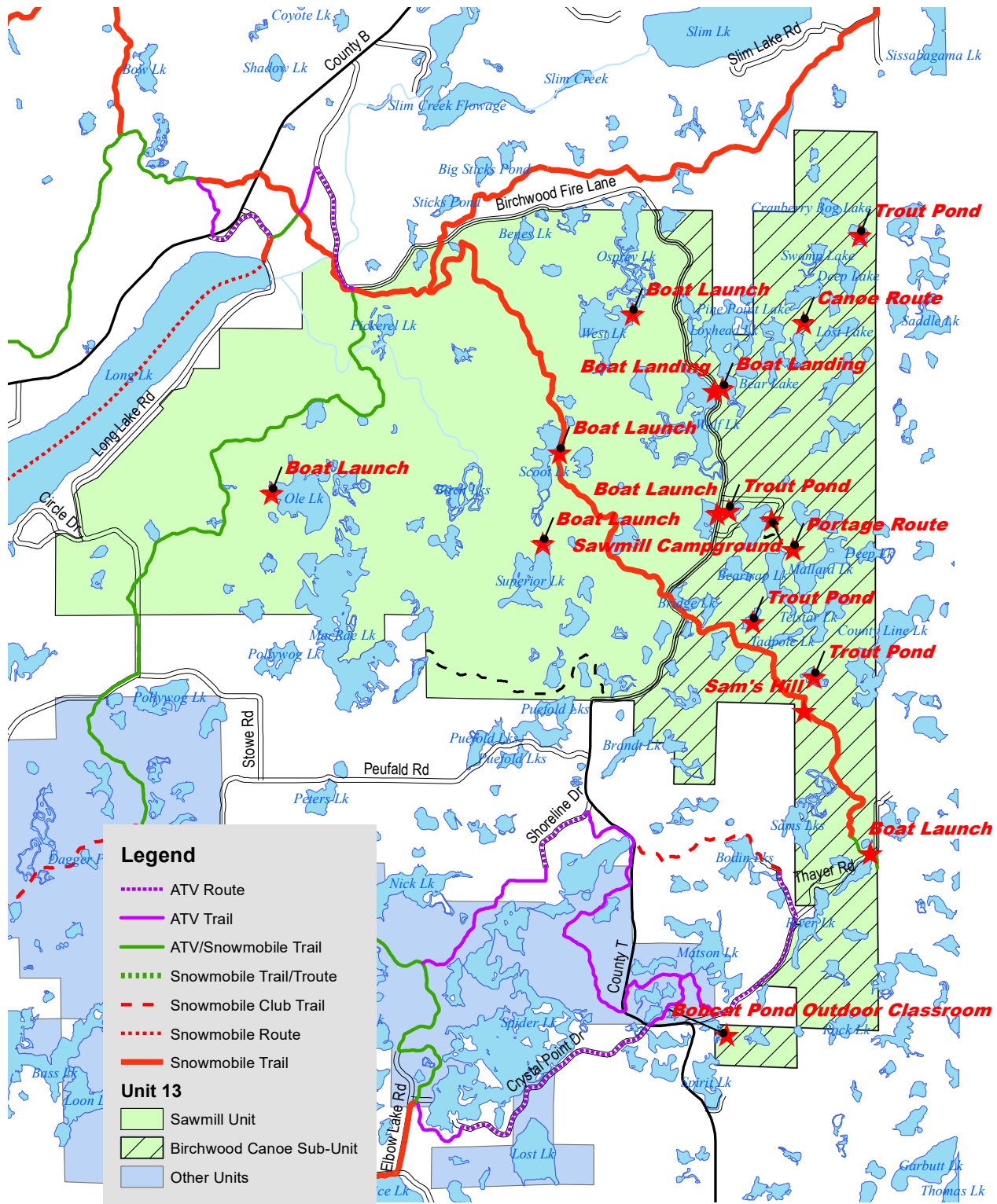
WASHBURN COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN
INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNITS
CHAPTER 3000.13 – SAWMILL UNIT

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*Approved by Washburn County Board of Supervisors October 19, 2021
No Revisions*

3000.13.1 RESOURCE MAP



3000.13.2 COMPARTMENTS 12, 13, 14, 15

3000.13.3 ACRES 8,268 (former unit 26 and part of unit 25)

3000.13.4 FOREST TYPES

FOREST TYPE	1995 ACRES	1995 PERCENT	2005 ACRES	2005 PERCENT	2020 ACRES	2020 PERCENT
RED OAK	2366	28.7%	2462	29.8%	2585	31.2%
ASPEN	2912	35.3%	2731	33.0%	2584	31.2%
WATER	908	11.0%	933	11.3%	997	12.0%
NORTHERN HARDWOOD	983	11.9%	985	11.9%	807	9.7%
NON FORESTED WETLAND	572	6.9%	663	8.0%	663	8.0%
WHITE BIRCH	88	1.1%	89	1.1%	145	1.8%
FIR / SPRUCE	84	1.0%	66	0.8%	97	1.2%
SWAMP HARDWOOD	62	0.7%	90	1.1%	88	1.1%
SWAMP CONIFER	102	1.2%	96	1.2%	88	1.1%
LOWLAND BRUSH	62	0.7%	71	0.9%	80	1.0%
TAMARACK	33	0.4%	33	0.4%	72	0.9%
WHITE PINE	0	0.0%	4	0.0%	49	0.6%
GRASS	4	0.0%	8	0.1%	13	0.2%
RED PINE	42	0.5%	37	0.4%	0	0.0%
UPLAND BRUSH	6	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
JACK PINE	44	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
TOTAL	8268	100.00%	8268	100.00%	8268	100.00%

**changes from 1995 to 2005 are to be used for general comparison. Certain data sets are calculated due to restructuring of IRMU units in 2020. Other changes may reflect changes in mapping accuracy or changes in forest type definitions. 1995 and 2005 data is an estimate based on prior reported percentages applied to current acreage.*

3000.13.5 ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES

This unit lies completely within the North Central Forest Ecological Landscape. This landscape provides opportunities for mesic forests such as northern hardwood, oak, aspen/birch on the uplands as well as swamp conifer and swamp hardwood in the lowlands. There may be some opportunities to promote hemlock hardwood, yellow birch, and natural white pine.

3000.13.6 LANDFORMS

Landforms within this unit are primarily hilly collapsed moraine with ice walled lake plains (*Birchwood Lakes Land Type Association*).

3000.13.7 SOILS

The upland soils are primarily sandy loams (*Keweenaw, Stony-Pence, Stony-Greenwood complex; Haugen, very stony-Greenwood complex; Amery Sandy Loam and others*) and pockets of silt loam scattered across the eastern half of the unit (*Crystal Lake Silt Loam, Antigo Silt Loam and others*). Hydric soils are scattered throughout and consist of peats (*Loxley, Beseman and Dawson soils*), and mucks (*Seelyeville and Markey soils; Lupton, Cathro and Tawas soils, and others*).

3000.13.8 FOREST HABITAT TYPES

By a slight margin, AVDe comprises a majority of the upland forest habitat types in the unit. There are significant areas of AAt and scattered components of ACaCi.

AVDe provides opportunities for early successional management of primarily aspen, as well as opportunity for red oak management, although on a shorter rotation basis and generally lower quality and less vigorous growth. Pine management, both natural and plantation are also options on a limited basis.

AAt is the principal habitat for hardwood management in the area. The potential for oak management is high and aspen and birch show excellent growth. Northern hardwood, while not optimal for the sites, can show good growth.

ACaCi is locally assumed to be best suited for management of northern hardwood. Sugar maple is generally a large component on these sites, other species show stronger representation here than they do on other northern hardwood habitats in Wisconsin.

See Section 810.1.3 for more information on forest habitat types.

3000.13.9 WATER RESOURCES

The water resources in the northern 2/3 of this unit are part of the Brill River-Red Cedar River watershed and they flow generally west to Long Lake or northwest to Slim Creek. The watershed then leads southerly to the Brill River, Red Cedar River and ultimately the Chippewa River. The southern 1/3 of the unit is part of the Red Cedar Lake watershed and flows generally south and east towards Lake Chetac, Birch Lake and Balsam Lake; then southerly into Red Cedar Lake, Red Cedar River and ultimately the Chippewa River.

Lakes with County Forest Frontage

Name	Acres	Frontage	Fishery	Designations
MacRae Lake	159.9	3.6 miles	Yes	None
County Line Lake	63.8	1.2 miles	Yes	None
Puefold Lakes	58.8	0.2 miles	Yes	None
Osprey Lake	36.0	2.4 miles	Yes	None
Sam's Lake	28.0	1.9 miles	Yes	None
Brandt Lake	19.6	0.4 miles	Yes	None
Rock Lake	14.7	0.5 miles	Yes	None
Watson Lake	33.9	0.1 miles	No	None

Lakes within County Forest

Name	Acres	Fishery	Designations
Ole Lake	53.8	Yes	None
Wolf Lake	56.0	Yes	None
West Lake	41.2	Yes	None
Superior Lake	38.3	Yes	None
Mallard Lake	29.3	Yes	None
Bear Lake	28.7	Yes	None
Scoot Lake	26.5	Yes	None
Beartrap Lake	21.2	Yes	None
River Lake	19.1	Yes	None
Telstar Lake	17.6	Yes	None
Otter Lake	16.4	Yes	None
Sawmill Lake	16.3	Yes	None
Birch Lake	14.8	No	None
Pine Island Lake	13.0	Yes	None
Pine Point Lake	12.7	Yes	None
Benes Lake	12.3	Yes	None
Camp Lake	11.2	Yes	None
Deep Lake	10.8	Yes	None
Lost Lake	10.8	Yes	None
Pickerel Lake	10.3	No	None

Fawn Lake	10.1	Stocked Trout	None
Ham Lake	6.5	Stocked Trout	None
Cranberry Bog Lake	6.2	Yes	None
L. Telstar Lake	5.9	Stocked Trout	None
Swamp Lake	5.9	Yes	None
Aurora Lake	5.1	Stocked Trout	None
Tadpole Lake	4.9	No	None
Bluebill Lake	4.3	Yes	None
Fontinalis Lake	3.9	Stocked Trout	None
66 unnamed ponds	298.0	No	None

Rivers and Stream within County Forest

Name	Miles	Type	Fishery	Designations
Pickereel Creek	2.3	Warm Water	No	None
4 unnamed	1.1	Warm Water	No	None

3000.13.10 RECREATION

- Sawmill Campground lies east of the Birchwood Firelane in Section 24 T38N-R10W. The facility has 25 campsites, well, bathrooms, pavilion, nature trail and boat landing.
- There are 2 canoe portage routes within the unit. The Loyhead and Sawmill Lake Canoe Trails lie entirely within the County Forest.
- There are 40 named lakes within the unit, many of which provide fishing opportunities.
- Boat landings/launches are available on Loyhead, West, Wolf, Sawmill, Scoot, Superior, Pine Island, and Ole Lakes.
- There are stocked trout fishing opportunities in Ham, Camp, Fontinalis, Aurora and Little Telstar Lakes.
- ATV/Snowmobile Trail 25 bisects the western edge of this unit, running from Long Lake Road to the Birchwood Firelane.
- Snowmobile Trail 23 runs from the Birchwood Firelane, southeast to Thayer Road.
- The Birchwood Canoe Sub-Unit, which lies on the east side of the Birchwood Firelane, is designated as a primitive unit with limited public motorized access. This provides for a quiet-sport experience on the forest.

3000.13.11 HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, ECOLOGICAL

- There are abandoned homesteads scattered throughout the unit.
- Native American artifacts have been discovered within the unit, but no other cultural evidence has been located.
- Old sleigh roads are scattered throughout the area, indicating transport of pine during the late 1800's, likely west to the Long Lake area and south to Rice Lake.
- There is some evidence of log drives and logging activity associated with Slim Creek.

3000.13.12 PROTECTION NEEDS

- Fire danger is low due to the primarily mesic nature of the forests in the unit.
- High concentrations of oak in the area warrant intensive monitoring and aggressive treatment of oak wilt.
- Aesthetic management should be a concern adjacent to the many lakes in the unit that have recreational uses.
- The unique kettle lakes within this unit warrant protection and road restrictions should continue, especially given the primitive area designation in the Birchwood Canoe Sub-Unit and the managed access west of the Birchwood Firelane. This protects the unique water resources as well as public recreational pursuits.

3000.13.13 AESTHETICS

- All named lakes within this unit are considered aesthetic zones. Forest management practices will provide for visual buffers from the water as well as promotion of forest types to longer lived tree species.

3000.13.14 LAND CONTROL

Easements Granted to County

- NWSW 27 T38N-R10W. Easement for forestry purposes granted from Marvin Anderson to Washburn County in 1985. Easement for access to County lands on west. Recorded 193289.

Utility Easements/Agreements

- NENW, SENW 13 T38N-R10W. Easement for underground electrical granted to Barron Electric in 1997. No evidence of recorded document.

- NENW 4 T38N-R10W. Easement for underground electrical on east side of Dubois Road granted to Barron Electric in 1997. No evidence of recorded document.
- SWSW 20 T38N-R10W. Easement for underground telephone cable granted to GTE. Unknown date. No evidence of recorded document.

Encroachments

- NENE Section 14. Possible encroachment of air strip
- Potential encroachments along east side of lots in Section 11 T38N-R10W

Other

- NENW 13 T38N-R10W. Prescriptive easement ordered by court from Washburn County to Gillette in 1999. Recorded 326573
- NENE 14 T38N-R10W. A private airstrip abuts the northeast corner. The owner has expressed a concern multiple times regarding a need to expand the length and has requested to cut trees on County Forest. Continue to monitor for trespass.
- Part Gov. Lots 8 & 9 Section 28 T38N-R10W. Lands deeded to satisfy building encroachments/adverse possession. 0.42 acres on west side of McRae Lake deeded in 1995. CSM recorded 242089

3000.13.15 FOREST MANAGEMENT GOALS AND GUIDELINES

1. The priority management goal within this unit is the retention and promotion of northern hardwood types under uneven-aged management. The soils and habitats here should be conducive to un-even aged management, which lends itself to providing aesthetic values adjacent to the numerous lakes in the unit.
2. While retention of red oak is a priority goal in other forest units, opportunities to convert even aged red oak stands to un-even aged hardwood should be taken advantage of wherever feasible. Oak will likely remain a strong component of these stands over time regardless of the conversion to northern hardwood.
3. Red oak stands should be retained/regenerated on those drier and less nutrient rich sites that have not developed sugar maple, basswood, ash, or other shade tolerant to mid-tolerant species in the understory. Stands on the drier, less nutrient rich range of AAt (as described in Section 825.9.3.2), as well as oak stands on AVDe (as described in Section 825.9.3.3) should be evaluated for even aged management and rotated under shelterwood harvest at the prescribed rotation age. A general rule of thumb on these sites is if prior management has occurred and regeneration is dominated by red maple and/or poor quality northern hardwood,

consider for even aged. If regeneration is dominated by quality northern hardwood, consider for un-even aged management.

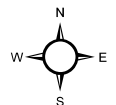
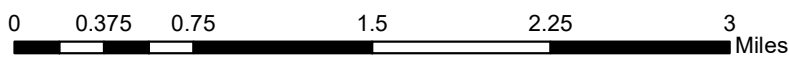
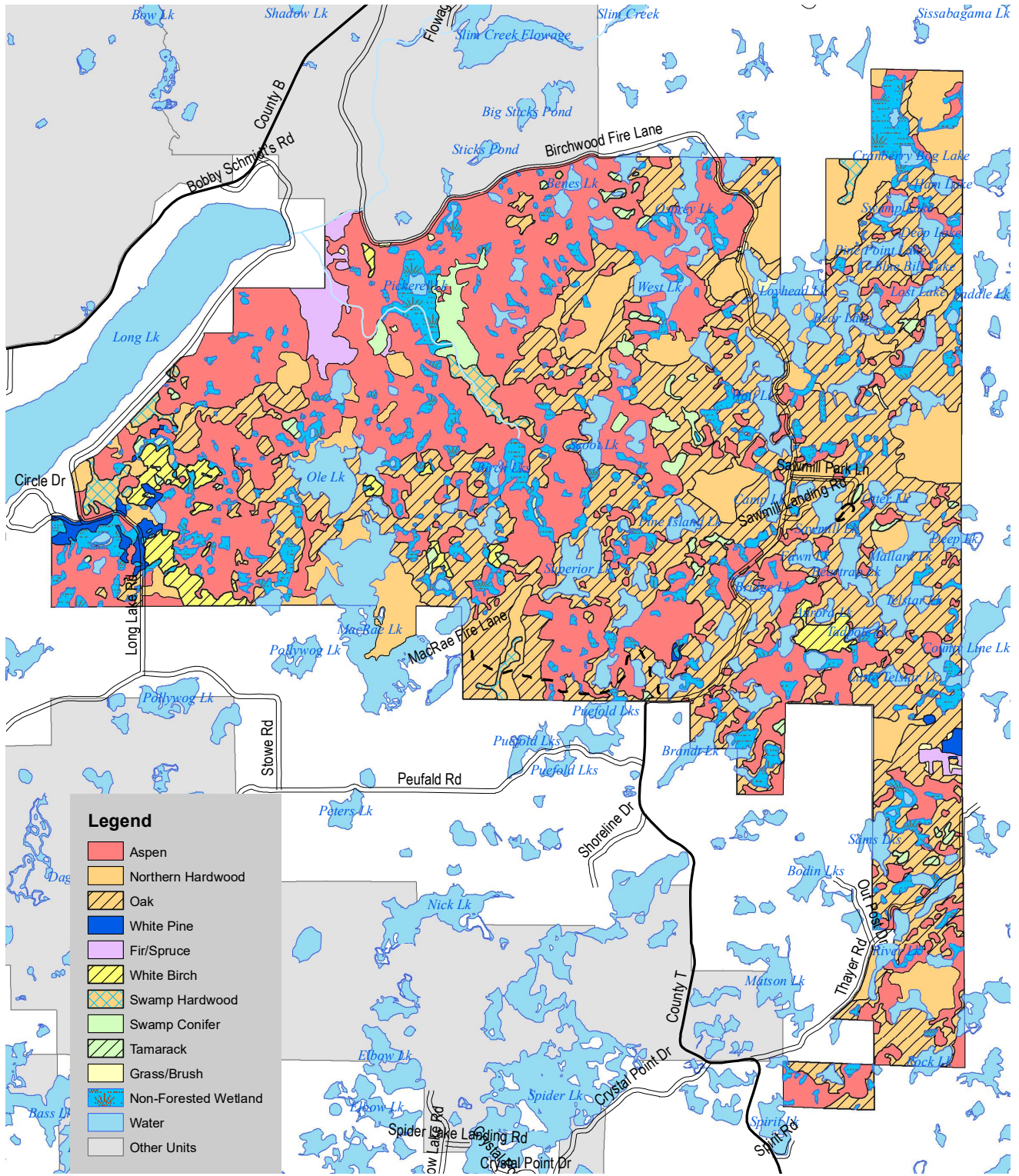
4. Aspen remains a major component of the forest types here. While retaining aspen is an important goal, make efforts to not increase acreage. Look for opportunities to convert to longer lived species adjacent to the Birchwood Firelane and adjacent to the named lakes within the unit.
5. Retain and promote white birch where opportunities arise.
6. Promote natural white pine, either as stands or lone individuals.

3000.13.16 SITE SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

1. The County, as a priority, should pursue the following parcels for acquisition if they come available:
 - Any undeveloped lots lying east of Long Lake Road in Section 20 T38N-R10W
 - SWNE Section 35 T38N-R10W
 - W1/2 Section 36 T38N-R10W
 - Government Lot 2 Section 16 T38N-R10W
 - That part of Section 11 T38N-R10W lying south of the Birchwood Firelane.
2. There may be opportunities for extended rotation age management of some forest types adjacent to lakes within the unit.
3. Forest management prescriptions are to include provisions to protect water quality and aesthetics around lakes.
4. Public motorized use restrictions are to continue in the unit, with the east side of the Birchwood Firelane managed as a primitive unit and the west side intermediate. Roads in the intermediate designation that are open to public motorized use are limited to access points to Scoot, Superior, West, Ole, and Pine Island Lakes. More specific information is available in Chapter 4000.
5. The existing ATV trail connections, on the far south end of the unit and the west side, are considered critical trail links and should remain in place. Snowmobile Trail 23 runs through the eastern side of the unit (winter snowmobile only). No other motorized trail connections should be considered within the unit.
5. Maintain and improve roads designated open that provide access the various lakes within the unit. Monitor boat launch points for erosion or other resource damage.
6. Operate and maintain Sawmill Park and consider improvements/projects as identified in Chapter 900.

7. Maintain the primitive Sawmill Park camping experience, including complete restriction on ATV use in the campground.
8. Work with the Town of Birchwood to prevent Sawmill Park Lane from designation as an ATV route.
9. Support the trout stocking programs on various lakes within the unit.
10. Continue to maintain the canoe trails/portage routes and consider designating official camping locations to alleviate any potential damage from “free-range” camping that occurs.
11. Increase maintenance levels on the official boat landings.
12. Attempt to increase interest in resuming educational programs for the Birchwood School at the Bobcat Pond Outdoor Classroom in Section 12 T37N-R10W.
13. Establish a survey line along the east side of private lots abutting County Forest in Section 20 T38N-R10W.

3000.13.17 GENERAL FOREST TYPES MAP



3000.13.18 GENERAL SOILS MAP

