

WASHBURN COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN
CHAPTER 2000 – PLANNING, REPORTS, BUDGET, MONITORING

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2000	<u>NEEDS OBJECTIVE AND FORMAT</u>	2000-3
2005	<u>ANNUAL NEEDS FOR FIFTEEN YEARS</u>	2000-3
2010	<u>SUMMARY OF FIFTEEN-YEAR NEEDS</u>	2000-3
2010.1	<u>SILVICULTURE / PLANNED ALLOWABLE HARVESTS</u>	2000-3
2010.2	<u>OTHER SILVICULTURAL TREATMENTS</u>	2000-4
2010.3	<u>EQUIPMENT NEEDS</u>	2000-5
2010.4	<u>RECREATON PROGRAM NEEDS</u>	2000-6
2010.5	<u>OTHER PROGRAM NEEDS</u>	2000-6
2010.6	<u>FACILITIES</u>	2000-7
2015	<u>WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE & POLICY</u>	2000-7
2020	<u>ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET</u>	2000-8
2025	<u>ANNUAL REPORTS OBJECTIVE & POLICY</u>	2000-8
2030	<u>ANNUAL REPORTS</u>	2000-8
2035	<u>PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS</u>	2000-9
2035.1	<u>FOREST PRODUCTS</u>	2000-9
2035.1.1	<u>Timber Sales</u>	2000-10
2035.1.2	<u>Non-Timber Forest Products</u>	2000-11
2035.2	<u>REFORESTATION, TSI, CULTURAL RECORDS</u>	2000-12
2035.3	<u>RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS</u>	2000-13
2040	<u>MONITORING</u>	2000-14
2040.1	<u>FOREST TYPES CHANGES</u>	2000-14
2040.2	<u>HARVESTING</u>	2000-15
2040.3	<u>FLORA / FAUNA</u>	2000-18
2040.4	<u>RECREATIONAL USES</u>	2000-19
2040.5	<u>HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS AREAS</u>	2000-19
2040.6	<u>ROADS AND TRAILS</u>	2000-20

Approved by Washburn County Board of Supervisors October 19, 2021

No Revisions

2000 OBJECTIVE AND FORMAT

The objective of this chapter is to provide guidelines which define the optimum level of activities that should be undertaken to achieve full potential benefits from the forest

The format of this Chapter is to identify potential needs for the forest without regard to budgetary constraints or other limitations. The lists identify the forest potential in terms of public benefits, investments, opportunities and financial returns. Silvicultural needs are identified in previous chapters as well as forest reconnaissance information. Other needs shall be determined by the Committee and forest administrator.

2005 DETAILED ANNUAL NEEDS FOR FIFTEEN YEARS

Annual silvicultural needs are identified in the Forest Compartment Reconnaissance printout. This printout is available in the Forestry, Parks and Recreation Department Office. This printout includes listings for timber harvests, tree planting and other forestry activities. Planned annual needs, as well as unanticipated needs will be identified and plans will be made for implementation as part of an annual work plan and an annual budget. Both the work plan and budget are prepared by the Forest Administrator and Committee and approved by the County Board of Supervisors. Annual work plans are forwarded to the DNR, through the County Forest Liaison, as required by 28.11(5)(b) and 28.11(5m)(b) Wis. Stats.

The Outdoor Recreation Plan, Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), public input, and other local or regional planning documents will be used as resources in recreational planning and development efforts. The responsibility for recreational planning, development and maintenance on the County Forest will rest with the Committee.

2010 SUMMARY OF FIFTEEN-YEAR NEEDS

Projected needs for the Washburn County Forest and associated programs have been identified in numerous sections of this Plan. A summary of these needs is listed here.

2010.1 SILVICULTURE / PLANNED ALLOWABLE HARVESTS

Aspen (*see Section 825.9.1 for more detailed information*)

900 acres per year 2021 – 2028

1000 acres per year 2029 – 2035

Jack Pine (see Section 825.9.2 for more detailed information)

150 to 300 acres per year 2021-2026 (as markets permit)

75 to 100 acres per year 2027-2035

Northern Red Oak (see Section 825.9.3 for more detailed information)

350 acres per year all-aged regeneration harvest

300 acres per year even-aged intermediate treatments

200 acres per year even-aged regeneration harvests

Northern Hardwood (see Section 825.9.4 for more detailed information)

500 acres per year all aged regeneration harvests and even-aged intermediate treatments

50 to 70 acres per year even aged rotation harvests

Red Pine (see Section 825.9.5 for more detailed information)

500 acres per year thinning

50 acres per year rotation harvest

Swamp Hardwood (see Section 825.9.6 for more detailed information)

Data indicates a 15 year need of 285 acres per year.

Given lack of markets and emerald ash borer concerns, this Plan recommends managing as much acreage as markets will allow over the next 15 year period.

Swamp Conifer see Section 825.9.7 for more detailed information)

Manage on an “as needed” basis provided markets and contractors are available.

White Birch/Other – manage on an “as needed” basis

2010.2 OTHER SILVICULTURAL TREATMENTS

Red oak scarification – 3000 Acres

Jack pine scarification – 2250 to 4500 acres

Northern hardwood scarification – 750 acres

Red pine chemical site preparation – 750 acres

Red pine mechanical site preparation – 750 acres

Red pine hand planting – 750 acres
 Red pine chemical release – 750 acres
 Red oak prescribed burning – 2000 acres

2010.3 EQUIPMENT NEEDS

INVENTORY	REPLACEMENT
Forest Administrator 4x4 ½ ton pickup	2023, 2031
Assistant Forest Administrator ½ ton 4x4 pickup	2029
Assistant Recreation Administrator ½ ton 4x4 pickup	2027, 2035
Forester 4x4 ½ ton pickup	2026, 2034
For. Tech 4x4 1 ton pickup	2024, 2032
For. Tech 4x4 1 ton pickup	2025, 2033
For. Tech 4x4 ½ ton pickup	2028
Recreation Officer 4 x 4	2030
Dozer	2030
Semi Tractor	2025
Equipment Trailer (semi trailer)	2035
5 th wheel trailer	2022
Tractor	2024
Skid-steer	2022
Snowmobile (trail)	2027
Snowmobile (utility)	2028
ATV	2023, 2029, 2035
ATV	2024, 2030
UTV (forestry)	2025, 2030
UTV (parks)	2026, 2031

2010.4 RECREATIONAL PROGRAM NEEDS

Non-motorized trail mowing	50 miles annually
Motorized recreational trail grading	140 miles annually
ATV trail rehabilitation	10 miles annually
Snowmobile trail relocations	5 miles annually
Trail inspections	100 miles annually
New trail developments	1 mile annually
Boat landing upgrades	1 landing annually

2010.5 OTHER PROGRAM NEEDS

Law enforcement	2500 hours per year
County Forest Road grading	100 miles per year
County Forest Road upgrades	5 miles per year
Gates, Berms, Barriers	10 per year
Signing	50 signs per year
Board meetings, committee	150 hours
Public Relations	100 hours
Committee/County Board	100 hours
Grants/Aids	200 hours
Training	100 hours
GIS/GPS	500 hours
Forest Certification	100 hours
Wildlife Management Projects	100 hours
Flowage Structures	40 hours

Road Construction	40 hours
Intergovernmental Relations	40 hours
Invasive Species	500 hours

2010.6 FACILITIES

FACILITY	NEED	YEAR
Forestry Office	None Ant.	
Forestry Shop	None Ant.	
Forestry Shop Storage	New	2023
Park Ranger Res.	None Ant.	
Park Registration Kiosk	New	2025
Parks Maintenance Building	New	2022
Trail Rest Areas (2)	New	2022, 2024
Youth Camp Lodge	Remodel	2022
Youth Camp Cabins	Remodel	2022-2024

2015 WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE AND POLICY

The objective is to create annual work plans that will satisfy the needs identified in this Plan to the greatest extent feasible, consistent with program priorities established in the Mission Statement. The Annual Work Plan shall also complement and also give meaning to departmental budgets and other directives.

The Annual Work Plan shall also give direction to sustaining a level of operations that considers the needs of the forest and the public in accordance with this Plan.

2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

Each year, an Annual Work Plan and Budget shall be prepared by the Forest Administrator with assistance from the Committee and DNR Liaison Forester. This Plan shall include detailed annual needs identified within this Plan. Annual Work Plans are approved by the County Board of Supervisors and forwarded to the Department of Natural Resources through the DNR Liaison Forester. Following approval by County Board, a copy of the Annual Work Plan will be appended to the official copy of this Chapter and added to the Washburn County website.

Each year, an annual budget is required in accordance with county policy. The budget is reviewed by the Forestry, Parks and Recreation Committee, the Finance Committee and approved by the County Board of Supervisors. A summary of the annual budget will be appended to the official copy of this Chapter and added to the Washburn County website.

2025 ANNUAL REPORT OBJECTIVE AND POLICY

The objective of annual reporting is to evaluate the progress of both long and short term goals on the Washburn County Forest.

Annual accomplishments will be recorded as a historical record, to assist in future planning, and to provide documentation for both the County and the County Forest system. This information is invaluable in addressing public, County Board, and other inquiries on the operation of the Forest, as well as assessing progress on goals.

2030 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORTS

Annual Reports are to be drafted, presented to Committee and approved by the County Board of Supervisors annually. A copy of the Annual Report is to be appended to this Chapter in the official copy of this Plan and added to the Washburn County website,

The Annual Report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

1. Timber sale accomplishments
2. Silvicultural activities
3. Recreational program accomplishments
4. Wildlife and fisheries projects
5. Revenues and expenditures
6. Grants and other special programs.
7. Other accomplishments of note

2035 PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2035.1 FOREST PRODUCTS

2035.1.1

Timber Sales

WASHBURN COUNTY FOREST TIMBER SALES

Year	# of Sales	MBF Sawtimber	Cords Pulpwood	Acres Cut	Total Cord Equivalents	Sale Value
2020	31	1385	51718	1953	54766	\$2,848,068
2019	30	2267	53459	3249	58447	\$3,555,106
2018	27	2085	54880	1246	59571	\$3,172,079
2017	30	3325	53916	2288	57241	\$3,208,652
2016	40	2192	47138	3655	52070	\$2,887,244
2015	15	1879	42237	1529	46466	\$2,084,060
2014	34	789	31609	2477	33581	\$1,700,442
2013	34	1315	61038	2930	63997	\$1,941,527
2012	48	1120	64728	4110	67248	\$2,535,918
2011	44	1239	60135	3321	63231	\$2,551,163
2010	50	1172	65898	3146	68477	\$2,411,919
2009	63	1149	69232	3185	71763	\$2,424,401
2008	41	1105	64887	3185	67125	\$2,598,740
2007	56	1183	54797	2957	57107	\$2,205,578
2006	28	1056	48938	1918	51264	\$2,203,807
2005	44	1041	53315	2549	55614	\$1,954,620
2004	51	828	42076	3185	44063	\$1,213,423
2003	34	1312	57764	2057	61659	\$1,834,591
2002	36	335	35677	1983	36430	\$1,110,276
2001	26	301	30067	1454	30745	\$585,527
2000	40	265	28635	1794	29231	\$552,792
1999	47	183	27117	2334	27529	\$648,401
1998	40	276	37183	2123	37792	\$854,297
1997	65	257	34651	2642	35229	\$624,153
1996	50	414	40822	2790	41741	\$781,897
1995	40	475	41985	2260	43046	\$784,709
1994	39	936	47528	2016	48464	\$568,351
1993	53	461	47395	2981	48413	\$569,668
1992	38	616	46037	1768	47424	\$490,908
1991	69	545	35360	3357	36591	\$317,996
1990	63	562	38025	2816	39320	\$359,364
1989	66	439	33791	2786	33982	\$285,679
1988	64	692	40535	2709	40992	\$278,501
1987	64	187	16483	3291	16900	\$283,984
1986	56	135	9992	3131	10290	\$321,535
1985	78	476	87424	5005	88470	\$259,209
1984	60	242	36726	2539	37259	\$225,514
1983	87	307	31742	3016	32416	\$242,039
1982	75	234	59971	6614	60486	\$259,347
1981	66	306	25926	2403	26668	\$156,455
1980	73	548	23119	1207	24509	\$213,591
1979	50	331	22245	2138	22948	\$190,626
1978	47	149	17099	1959	17427	\$147,419
1977	46	157	23693	2231	24041	\$143,781
1976	37	126	17730	1259	18008	\$89,724
1975	41	27	18508	1898	18568	\$74,966
1974	32	68	13245	986	13395	\$71,800
1973	66	244	17275	1860	17811	\$675,521
1972	47	118	9165	1306	9425	\$39,537
1971	47	156	9089	918	9432	\$52,575
1970	54	122	10163	600	10432	\$76,479

2035.1.2 Non-Timber Forest Products

	Firewood Permits	Christmas Tree Permits	Bough Permits
2020	134	64	8
2019	100	27	5
2018	87	39	6
2017	85	57	11
2016	94	51	11
2015	82	21	4
2014	224	63	12
2013	253	63	20
2012	215	120	16
2011	251	27	17
2010	172	46	12
2009	247	45	20
2008	216	52	26
2007	145	40	31
2006	129	66	29
2005	158	50	20
2004	92	58	26
2003	92	71	22
2002	82	63	27
2001	66	81	26
2000	53	101	25
1999	47	141	25
1998	52	175	28
1997	55	80	60
1996	81	188	40
1995	98	220	35
1994	101	252	33
1993	122	256	24
1992	122	421	22
1991	164	309	33
1990	166	649	18
1989	134	649	32
1988	121	600	26
1987	138	540	321
1986	190	390	26
1985	204	290	16
1984	241	287	0
1983	249	288	0
1982	350	401	0
1981	434	283	0
1980	549	317	0

2035.2 REFORESTATION, TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT, CULTURAL RECORDS (*in acres*)

			Chemical	Mechanical		Aspen		Chemical	Mechanical	Prescribed
	Planting	Seeding	Release	Release	Pruning	Maintenance	Scarification	Prep	Prep	Burning
2020	0	0	0	0	0	0	276	213	213	0
2019	98	68	0	19	0	0	130	0	0	0
2018	0	0	0	74	0	0	84	99	99	0
2017	0	0	72	18	0	0	97	0	0	0
2016	0	0	0	51	0	0	125	0	0	22
2015	0	41	0	106	0	0	312	0	0	20
2014	350	19	0	34	0	0	208	0	6	0
2013	66	2	133	34	0	0	57	332	347	0
2012	236	0	72	0	0	0	217	0	0	0
2011	0	32	0	100	0	0	76	218	218	0
2010	7	0	0	37	0	0	36	0	0	0
2009	245	0	0	90	0	0	177	0	0	0
2008	0	0	14	100	0	0	278	177	220	44
2007	70	0	0	0	0	0	62	0	0	0
2006	270	110	0	219	0	0	281	0	0	0
2005	0	8	11	60	0	0	181	229	219	20
2004	256	2	0	120	0	0	299	0	75	26
2003	0	2	0	168	0	0	188	0	236	75
2002	130	0	109	285	0	0	167	0	221	9
2001	172	7	0	42	0	3	125	0	0	0
2000	0	0	114	512	0	0	58	0	172	37
1999	277	0	397	277	0	125	98	0	58	31
1998	311	0	0	270	0	138	124	0	56	0
1997	113	40	0	400	0	0	0	0	0	0
1996	21	30	313	380	0	99	166	313	0	0
1995	180	149	0	31	0	0	99	0	0	0
1994	240	229	0	366	0	85	238	0	0	0
1993	345	146	116	531	11	70	231	186	0	0
1992	97	104	122	502	0	58	206	0	0	0
1991	363	136	76	471	0	238	51	0	0	0
1990	558	93	399	69	0	219	26	0	0	0
1989	504	21	34	718	0	345	144	294	0	0
1988	341	0	247	687	0	1554	0	277	0	0
1987	301	18	0	759	0	1010	0	0	0	0
1986	69	22	327	700	14	1220	0	0	0	0
1985	630	55	630	352	7	665	0	0	0	0
1984	503	74	532	467	54	1193	0	0	0	0
1983	490	0	478	300	0	1387	0	0	0	0
1982	576	4	428	124	0	1098	0	578	0	0
1981	570	38	0	13	11	940	0	0	0	0
1980	312	130	410	10	55	811	0	0	0	0

2035.3 RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

The chart below illustrates recreational trail and facility development from 1980 to current. Projects not listed originated prior to 1980 and the County does not have sufficient records to illustrate year of origin.

Year	Project	Description
2020	Totogatic Park Expansion	32 additional campsites
2019	Casey Loop ATV Trail	20 ATV miles
2013	Madge Snowmobile Trail	12 miles
2013	Totogatic Park Playground	
2013	CN Bridge Overpass at 77	
2012	Campground Reservation System	
2010	ATV Trail 39 North	22 miles
2009	Stonybrook ATV Trail Rest Area	
2009	Berry Road ATV Trailhead	
2008	Harmon Lake ATV Trail	6 miles
2008	Shell Lake Grade ATV Trails	4.5 miles
2008	Harmon Lake Horse Trailhead	
2008	Dugan Run Horse Trails	30 miles
2008	Wildcat Mountain Bike Trails	12 miles
2007	Stonybrook ATV Trail	12 miles
2006	Thayer Road ATV Trail	1 mile
2005	Park Model Trail - Totogatic	
2005	Beaverbrook ATV Trail	6.5 miles
2004	Minong Rifle Range Improvements	
2002	Totogatic Park Shower Building	
2002	Birchwood Snowmobile Trails	21 miles
2000	Spider Lake Loop ATV Trails	12 miles
1999	Chippanazie Flowage Reconstruction	
1999	Wild River Trail - Sarona Bathrooms	
1999	Wild River Trail - Trego Bathrooms	
1998	Wild River Multi-use Trail	40 miles
1994	Totogatic Park Fishing Pier	
1993	Snowmobile Trail 8 West	8 miles
1993	Totogatic Park Pavilion	
1992	Birchwood Snowmobile Trails	12 miles
1992	Welsh Lake Hunter Walking Trails	
1989	Harmon Lake Snowmobile Loop	10 Miles
1988	Sawmill and Loyhead Canoe Trails	
1987	Snowmobile Trails	11 Miles

2040 MONITORING

2040.1 FOREST TYPE CHANGES

	estimated	estimated	estimated	1995 - 2020				
	1995 acres	2005 acres	2020 acres	change in acres	comments			
aspen	56990	56467	57109	119	Increase likely due to land acquisition			
bottomland hardwood	0	0	738	738	increase due to reconnaissance changes			
white birch	828	698	1119	291	increase due to site preparation efforts			
northern white cedar	667	852	1577	910	increase due to better reconnaissance			
campground	0	0	28	28	increase due to reconnaissance changes			
fir/spruce	1773	1641	1041	-732	increase due to better reconnaissance			
grass	442	590	432	-10				
hemlock	29	32	32	3				
lowland brush	9589	10158	10382	793	increase due to better reconnaissance			
non-forested wetland	7776	6894	8227	451	increase due to better reconnaissance			
northern hardwood	16486	16262	14374	-2112	increase due to better reconnaissance			
northern red oak	16216	16587	16444	228	increase due to better reconnaissance			
northern pin oak	413	486	1066	653	increase due to better reconnaissance			
jack pine	10705	9044	7437	-3268	decrease due to reconnaissance and loss			
red pine	8502	9154	10301	1799	increase due to reconnaissance and gain			
white pine	460	498	694	234	increase due to better reconnaissance			
right-of-way	4	99	537	533	increase due to better reconnaissance			
swamp conifer	4445	5888	3774	-671	increase due to better reconnaissance			
swamp hardwood	6615	7109	6556	-59	increase due to better reconnaissance			
tamarack	1685	1660	3405	1720	increase due to better reconnaissance			
upland brush	489	297	138	-351	increase due to better reconnaissance			
water	3813	4098	3836	23				
rock outcrop	0	14	30	30	increase due to reconnaissance changes			
	147927	148528	149277					

The type changes listed in the table above do not necessarily represent a direct correlation to changes in habitat types on the landscape. There have been numerous efforts from 1995 to current that have increased the accuracy of forest reconnaissance. Better aerial photography, LIDAR data, state of the art GIS systems, and others have all contributed to better data.

Changes to types such as swamp conifer, cedar, tamarack and others are a direct result of better mapping. Changes to jack pine are a combination of forest type loss as well as better mapping. There are also general increases that are due to land acquisition projects.

2040.2 HARVESTING

<i>Aspen Acres - Washburn County Forest</i>				
	Work Plan			
Year	Goal	Established	Sold	Closed
2020	900	675	730	833
2019	900	546	893	1166
2018	900	1320	905	732
2017	900	806	1153	784
2016	900	723	905	1051
2015	900	684	445	367
2014	900	1041	1228	559
2013	546	713	640	1408
2012	307	704	332	1575
2011	900	1671	1982	530
Annual Average	805.3	888.3	921.3	900.5

<i>Jack Pine Acres - Washburn County Forest</i>				
	Work Plan			
Year	Goal	Established	Sold	Closed
2020	50	112	112	91
2019	50	5	5	0
2018	50	23	23	2
2017	50	68	70	8
2016	50	0	32	32
2015	50	34	8	0
2014	50	38	82	169
2013	50	91	39	19
2012	0	7	7	220
2011	75	203	276	223
Annual Average	47.5	58.1	65.4	76.4

Red Pine Acres - Washburn County Forest				
	Work Plan			
Year	Goal	Established	Sold	Closed
2020	450	544	440	449
2019	400	762	568	410
2018	400	364	364	191
2017	500	407	488	593
2016	600	307	441	746
2015	600	686	615	222
2014	600	135	581	749
2013	600	852	453	333
2012	565	539	412	766
2011	600	676	909	223
Annual Average	531.5	527.2	527.1	468.2

Northern Hardwood Acres - Washburn County Forest				
	Work Plan			
Year	Goal	Established	Sold	Closed
2020	500	341	488	614
2019	500	451	358	587
2018	500	782	755	507
2017	550	538	789	497
2016	600	382	393	1004
2015	600	665	407	411
2014	600	1105	1258	440
2013	600	701	778	344
2012	815	304	432	676
2011	600	583	333	191
Annual Average	586.5	585.2	599.1	527.1

Red Oak Acres - Washburn County Forest				
	Work Plan			
Year	Goal	Established	Sold	Closed
2020	650			
2019	650	759	662	1002
2018	650	502	601	939
2017	650	701	844	511
2016	650	635	757	640
2015	650	516	440	468
2014	650	621	934	400
2013	650	681	742	906
2012	736	1100	489	1697
2011	650	862	962	831
Annual Average	658.6	637.7	643.1	739.4

Swamp Hardwood Acres - Washburn County Forest				
	Work Plan			
Year	Goal	Established	Sold	Closed
2020	100	0	0	1
2019	100	0	0	2
2018	100	11	45	3
2017	100	96	100	10
2016	150	205	40	68
2015	50	0	0	20
2014	50	0	44	60
2013	50	27	45	102
2012	50	121	59	8
2011	50	0	29	34
Annual Average	80	46	36.2	30.8

Other Acres - Washburn County Forest				
	Work Plan			
Year	Goal	Established	Sold	Closed
2020	180	46	26	60
2019	180	74	74	74
2018	180	42	31	78
2017	180	61	78	61
2016	180	110	144	110
2015	180	42	15	29
2014	180	84	119	84
2013	180	133	123	60
2012	180	68	19	68
2011	180	57	80	57
Annual Average	180	71.7	70.9	68.1

2040.3 FLORA / FAUNA

In general, monitoring of wildlife on the Forest falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources. Numerous wildlife surveys are conducted and document, although these generally will not impact the management of the Forest.

Staff observations, however, show the following changes in wildlife:

- A general increase in species diversity of non-game species
- Increasing predator populations (bear, wolf)
- A more inconsistent population distribution of deer
- Increasing prevalence of endangered resources, either from population increases or increased study/observations

With the exception of regeneration monitoring, Washburn County does not have any biotic inventory to document floral changes on the forest. Staff observations, however, show the following changes in plant compositions:

- Decreasing diversity of native plant populations, likely due to herbivory
- Decreasing percentage of sugar maple regeneration and increasing percentage of oak and ash
- Increasing incidents of invasive species, especially buckthorn and honeysuckle.

2040.4 RECREATIONAL USES

Throughout the last Plan period, sharp increases in recreational demands on the Forest were noted. Numerous existing programs were expanded as were several new recreational programs and facilities. Staff faced major pressure to develop motorized recreational trails during the duration of the last Plan and during the later years of the last Plan, significant pressures for non-motorized trails began to build.

It is expected that recreational uses and demands will continue to increase through the duration of this Plan. Recreational program recommendations are included in Chapter 900 and within the Integrated Resource Management Units of Chapter 3000. Along with these recommendations for future projects, monitoring of impacts will be needed to try and address and mitigate the following:

- Resource damage to trails and facilities
- Introduction of invasive species
- User conflicts
- User safety

2040.5 HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FOREST AREAS

As identified in Chapter 800, this Plan does not recognize the presence of forests meeting the definition of High Conservation Value. This is based on consultation with regional DNR ecologists, examination of Natural Heritage Inventory data, and review of numerous documents referenced by the FSC program. This Plan does recognize that continued research is needed and there may be opportunities to identify certain areas as HCV in the future.

During the prior planning period, several Exceptional Resource Areas were submitted to the Department of Natural Resources as potential HCV candidates and as a result of that submission, there are likely records that list HCV's on the Washburn County Forest. As the HCV concept developed and more firm definitions were established, it became evident that our Exceptional Resource Areas, while unique, do not meet the threshold of HCV status. In addition, no adoption of HCV's were ever formalized by the Forestry, Parks and Recreation Committee, or by the Washburn County Board of Supervisors. Both approvals would have been necessary as an amendment to the 2006-2020 Plan.

This Plan continues to recognize the presence of “Exceptional Resource Areas”, as identified in Section 835. These areas are generally passively managed and these areas will be monitored with the goal of assuring that natural and artificial influences are not harming the unique characters of these sites and areas. While this Plan does not recognize the need for any extensive biotic inventory of these sites, monitoring will be done to assure that trespass encroachments, weather damage, invasive species or other impacts are not occurring. The following practices will be conducted on Exceptional Resource Areas:

- Periodic site visits/walk through
- Evaluation of any newly acquired aerial photography or other remote sensing products
- Aerial inspection whenever staff are in aircraft surveying for other needs
- Inspection of boundaries whenever staff is working in parcels directly adjacent
- Collaboration with DNR, or other agency staff, that can provide monitoring and evaluation assistance.

2040.6 ROADS AND TRAILS

Roads and recreation trails shall be monitored to assure that negative impacts are not occurring. At a minimum, the following monitoring/evaluations will be conducted and documented:

- Inspection of all County Forest Roads (gas tax) annually as part of grading and patrol
- Inspection of all motorized recreation trails at least annually
- Inspection of all non-motorized trails at least every other year

This Plan does recognize that additional road monitoring is needed for those forest roads that are not in the gas tax program or designated with a recreational use. It is a recommendation that road inventory and classification continue and that some program of monitoring be developed.