

MARATHON COUNTY FOREST TEN-YEAR COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN 2021-2035

Glossary

Abiotic Environment - The nonliving components of the environment, including landforms, soils, aspect, climate, and nutrients.

Best Management Practices (BMP's) for Water Quality - BMP's are practical and economically achievable practices for preventing or reducing nonpoint source pollution. (5)

Biodiversity - The variety and abundance of species, their genetic composition, and the natural communities, ecosystems, and landscapes in which they occur. Biodiversity encompasses the ecological structure, function, and processes that occur in ecosystems to sustain the system as viable entities. (2)

Bog - A poorly drained usually acid area rich in plant residues, frequently surrounding a body of open water, and having characteristic flora such as sedges and sphagnum.

Borrow Pit - An area of excavation from which material such as gravel, sand, clay, or stone is removed for uses including, but not limited to, road maintenance and/or road construction.

Clearcutting - A silvicultural system in which all merchantable trees are harvested within a specified area in one operation to create an even-aged stand. (5)

Committee - Refers to the Forestry/Recreation Committee of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors. The Committee is the supervising authority for the Marathon County Forest. (2)

Community - An assemblage of species living together in a particular area, time, and habitat.

Cover type - An area of land characterized by the predominance of one or more key species which make up a dominant percentage of the area. (2)

Cull - Any tree which has less than 50 percent merchantable volume.

Cultural activity - The manipulation of vegetation to meet objectives of controlling stand composition or structure, such as site improvement, forest tree improvement, increased regeneration, increased growth, or measures to control insects and disease. (3)

Den tree - A standing tree, live or dead, with one or more cavities suitable for use by wildlife for shelter, nesting, or the rearing of young.

DNR - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Drumlin - A low, smooth, elongated oval hill, mound, or ridge of compact glacial till. The longer axis is parallel to the path of the glacier and commonly has a blunt nose pointing in the direction from which the ice approached.

Ecological Capability - The potential of an area to support or develop one or more communities through management, dependent on the area's abiotic attributes, its flora and fauna, the area's ecological processes, and disturbances within and upon the area.

Ecosystem - A spatially explicit, relatively homogeneous unit of the earth that includes all interacting organisms and components of the abiotic environment within its boundaries - note: an ecosystem can be of any size, e.g. a log, pond, field, forest, or the earth's biosphere. (3)

Ecosystem management - Management guided by explicit goals, executed by policies, protocols, and practices, and made adaptable by monitoring and research based on the best understanding of ecological interactions and processes necessary to sustain ecosystem composition, structure, and function over the long term. (3)

Fen - A highly restricted type of wet prairie that supports an unusually specialized flora. It forms on wet to moist and often peaty, calcareous soils that have developed over a diffuse groundwater discharge area that is often under artesian pressure.

Forest compartment - A subdivision of a forest property with easily defined boundaries such as rivers, lakes, and roads. Compartments are established for forest management purposes, most notably forest reconnaissance. They may vary in size from a hundred acres to more than a thousand. (2)

Forest fragmentation - The process by which a landscape is broken into small islands of forest within a mosaic of other forms of land use or ownership.

Forest habitat classification system - The habitat type system is a natural classification system for forest communities and the sites on which they develop. It utilizes systematic interpretation of total flora of a site with emphasis on understory species. A habitat type, as a basic classification unit, is characterized by a distinct combination of species (association) that reflects the ecological sum of the environmental factors operating upon that site. All sites that support (or are capable of supporting) a particular plant association, regardless of how physically different they may appear, are considered to be equivalent and represent the same habitat type. (2)

Forest reconnaissance (Recon) - A tool where basic resource information is collected and stored, and systematically and continuously updated. The information is utilized as a tool in the assessment of geographical, structural, and compositional attributes of the land resource. The database is used to analyze existing resources, evaluate management alternatives, and assist in the development and implementation of the management plans. (2)

Forestry Division - Refers to the Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department - Forestry Division

Geographic information system (GIS) - An organized collection of computer hardware, software, geographic and descriptive data, personnel, knowledge, and procedures designed to efficiently capture, store, update, manipulate, analyze, report, and display the forms of geographically referenced information and descriptive information. (3)

Global Positioning System (GPS) - A system of electronic surveying technology utilizing satellites to determine location on the earth.

Habitat - The place, natural or otherwise, (including climate, food, cover, and water) where an animal, plant, or population naturally or normally lives and develops. (3)

Hydrophydic - Plants that grow partially or wholly in water or in soils too waterlogged for other plants to survive.

Integrated pest management (IPM) - The maintenance of destructive agents, including insects at tolerable levels, by the planned use of a variety of preventive, suppressive, or regulatory tactics and strategies that are ecologically and economically efficient and socially acceptable. (3)

Integrated resource management - The simultaneous consideration of ecological, physical, economic, and social impacts of lands, waters, and resources in developing and implementing multiple-use, sustained-yield management. (3)

Irrevocable Letter of Credit - An irrevocable engagement by a bank, at the request of a customer, that the issuer will honor drafts or other demands for payment.

Management - The process of implementing goals and objectives using active and passive techniques.

Marsh - A wetland usually characterized by grasses or cattails.

Moraine (geology) - An accumulation of earth, stones, and other debris deposited by a glacier. Some types are terminal, lateral, medial, and ground.

National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units - The National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units (NHFEU) is a hierarchical ecological land classification system. Ecological units are identified and differentiated based on unique combinations of physical and biological characteristics, which may include climate, geology, geomorphology, soils, hydrology, or potential natural vegetation. (6)

Native - Indigenous to the area or region.

Old growth - The (usually) late successional stage of forest development.

Optimum timber production - A sustainable level of production which provides ecological, economic, social, and cultural benefits for present and future generations; not necessarily the maximum level.

Outwash plain - A landform of mainly sandy or coarse textured material of glaciofluvial origin. An outwash plain is commonly smooth; where pitted, it is generally low in relief.

Prescribed burn - To deliberately burn wildland fuels in either their natural or their modified state and under specific environmental conditions, which allows the fire to be confined to a predetermined area and produces the fireline intensity and rate of spread required to attain planned resource management objectives. (3)

Regeneration cutting - The removal of all trees at one time to create the conditions necessary for seedling establishment or sprouting (also referred to in the past as clear cutting).

Selection harvest - A cutting procedure in which individual trees of all size classes are removed more or less uniformly throughout the stand, to promote growth of remaining trees and to provide space for regeneration. (3)

Shelterwood harvest - A cutting procedure by which a new age class is created. The cutting of most trees, leaving those needed to produce sufficient shade to produce a new age class in a moderated microenvironment. (3)

Silvics - The study of the life history and general characteristics of forest trees and stands, with particular reference to environmental factors, as a basis for the practice of silviculture. (3)

Silviculture - The art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests and woodlands to meet the diverse needs and values of landowners and society on a sustainable basis. (3)

Slash - The residue, e.g. treetops and branches, left on the ground after logging or accumulating as a result of storm, fire girdling, or delimiting. (3)

Snag - Any standing dead tree or portion thereof.

Sustainable - The yield of natural resource that can be produced continually at a given intensity of management is said to be sustainable. (4)

Sustainable Forest Management - The practice of meeting the forest resource needs and values of the present without compromising the similar capability of future generations. (3)

Terrace (geology) - An old alluvial plain, ordinarily flat or undulating, bordering a river, a lake, or the sea.

Wetland - An area where water is at, near, or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophytic vegetation and which has soils indicative of wet conditions.

Wildlife habitat inventory Unit (HIU) - A HIU is a group of adjacent forest compartments totaling approximately 6,000 acres. A HIU is used to study the present and future composition of the forest, determine wildlife habitat quality, and develop habitat improvement plans.

GLOSSARY REFERENCES

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