

## Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department Forestry Division 2021 Work Plan

<b>Personnel:</b>	Forest Administrator	1.00 FTE
	County Forester	0.80 FTE
	Director	0.06 FTE
	Department Clerical Support	0.50 FTE
	Maintenance Specialist (labor)	0.26 FTE
	Maintenance Technician (labor)	0.26 FTE
	Recreational Officer (Sheriff)	0.04 FTE
	DNR Cooperative Assistance (State Funded)	0.35 FTE
	 Total	 3.27 FTE

### A. Timber Management:

1. Evaluate a minimum of 5% of the forest (1550 acres) and update compartment reconnaissance.
2. Establish and advertise 625-675 acres of timber for sale. Timber sale acreage and locations are determined using the Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System (WisFIRS) and proposed long-term harvest goals chapter 2000 of the County Fifteen Year Comprehensive Plan. Specific locations and details about timber harvests scheduled for the coming year can be obtained by contacting the County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Office.
3. Administer the cutting and scaling of 30 timber sales on 2024 acres established on County Forest Land with an estimated stumpage value of \$1,288,537.69.
4. Administer the cutting and scaling of one timber sale on 23 acres at Mission Lake Park with an estimated stumpage value of \$7,381.96.
5. Allow forest succession to naturally convert some oak and aspen stands to hardwood.
6. Complete deer browse surveys at Big Eau Pleine Park and on County forest lands to determine to what extent tree regeneration is being affected.
7. Classify habitat types on a minimum of 1000 acres.
8. Calculate allowable harvest levels out 20 and 30 years to ensure sustainability.
9. Evaluate 35-40 year-old aspen stands to determine feasibility of harvesting stands early to improve age class distribution and stabilize harvest levels.
10. Issue approximately 25 firewood permits.
11. Release 2019 planting of white pine and white spruce at Kronenwetter Forest Unit.
12. Release 2020 plantings of red pine at the Miller and Nine Mile Forest Units.
13. Evaluate release needs for all acres of red pine planted since 2012. Release plantations by mechanical or herbicides as needed.

14. Continue to assist the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with an oak wilt study to confirm the frill-girdle-herbicide method to stop the disease from spreading through interconnected root systems.
15. Complete forest inventories and management recommendations on park properties.
16. Continue implementing the policy on annosum root rot disease requiring contractors to spray conifer stumps with fungicide to prevent infection according to DNR recommendations.
17. Establish a timber sale at Big Eau Pleine Park.
18. Monitor timber sales for unauthorized timber removal using the video detection system.
19. Monitor, evaluate, and treat oak wilt pockets in Nine Mile and other Forest Units.
20. Monitor, evaluate, and treat invasive species on the forest.
21. Apply techniques that reduce the ash component in forest stands on County forest and Park lands according to DNR recommendations due to Emerald Ash borer being found in the County for the first time in 2017.

**B. Road, Trail, and Facility Construction and Maintenance:**

1. Continue the contract with APHIS for beaver control.
2. Inspect county forest and park boundaries as needed to control encroaching uses from neighboring private land owners.
3. Contract with professional land surveyors to complete surveys where needed to facilitate administration between County Forest and private lands.
4. Mow 50 miles of hunter walking trails and associated wildlife openings.
5. Mow all forest road ditches in the County Forest.
6. Maintain pit toilets at Bitzke Nature Trail, Burma Road and Nine Mile Forest Units.
7. Continue to assist law enforcement for illegal tree stands, unauthorized motorized use, and dumping on County Forest property.
8. Continue to assist law enforcement to enforce seasonal closures and ordinance violations at Nine Mile and other Forest Units.
9. Resurface up to 2 miles of trails in Nine Mile and Burma Forest Units.
10. Maintain 6.48 miles of certified County Forest Roads.
11. Fabricate and install gates where needed.
12. Place granite on roads and trails in Forest Units to patch holes as needed.
13. Check the National Heritage Inventory Database (NHI) and the Wildlife Action Plan for endangered resources on any project that occurs on the County Forest.
14. Complete a County Conservation Aids project at Duane Corbin Shooting Range Park that replaces archery shooting platforms and targets.
15. Complete a County Conservation Aids Project at DC Everest County Park that replaces boat planks and asphalt near the landing.
16. Replace culverts in Leathercamp, Kronenwetter, Nine Mile and Burma Forest Units as needed.
17. Continue mitigation of the 2010 flood using a FEMA grant at the Bern Forest Unit.
18. Complete an Archeological search on any proposed project on County Forest lands.

**C. Land and Equipment:**

1. Negotiate the purchase of additional lands to enter as County Forest that will improve blocking, facilitate management and aligns with the Marathon County Strategic and County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plans.
2. Maintain all vehicles and equipment.

**D. Developed Recreation (Non-Motorized):**

1. Participate in the planning, administration and approval of all trail construction, expansions, relocations, and maintenance on County Forest Lands.
2. Monitor reconstruction of 2 km of the Nine Mile ski trail to improve trail profile and surface characteristics.
3. Assist park facilities division in administering intensive recreation at Nine Mile.
4. Utilize volunteers to brush up to 20 km of ski trail.
5. Monitor the non-motorized recreation on County Forest Land.

**E. Developed Recreation (Motorized):**

1. Participate in the planning, administration, and approval of all trail construction, expansions, relocations, and maintenance on County Forest Lands.
2. Monitor and approve reconstruction of the Burma Road Forest ATV/UTV trails.
3. The Central Wisconsin Trailblazers ATV/UTV club will maintain 11 miles of ATV/UTV trail in the Burma Road Forest to include brushing, grading, signing, and mowing.
4. Assess all trails and land in the Burma Road Forest to protect the resource from excessive soil erosion and to prevent illegal off-trail use.
5. Volunteers will brush up to 42 miles of snowmobile trail on County Forest Land.
6. Monitor the snowmobile program on County Forest Land.
7. Monitor and enforce ordinances pertaining to the unauthorized motorized use (ATV/UTV) on all County Forest Units.

**F. Wildlife Management (Partially Grant funded):**

1. Complete work identified in the DNR annual wildlife work plan. (See attached plan).
2. Mow flowage dikes, forest trails and select openings for brush control.
3. Seed select forest trails following timber sales to enhance wildlife habitat.
4. Improve forest opening condition through mechanical and chemical applications.
5. Cooperate with the DNR on identifying tag alder to shear in the Harrison-Hewitt and Leathercamp Forest Units.
6. Cooperate with the Ruffed Grouse Society and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on tag alder shearing in Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit.

## **G. Administration and GIS:**

1. Implement the 2021-2035 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
2. Develop and improve the Forestry Division portion on the Department's web page.
3. Continue to work with the Forest Citizen's Advisory Subcommittee for county forests to address issues of concern including use conflicts at Nine Mile during the fall season, the sustainability of mountain biking, equestrian user needs, and the impact of forest management on hunting.
4. Amend the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan to reflect ordinance, boundary, and policy changes.
5. Continue implementing marking guidelines, Best Management Practices for Invasive Species and Biomass Harvesting guidelines on the County Forest.
6. Attend the Annual DNR integrated planning meeting to evaluate, maintain, and improve the County/DNR partnership.
7. Develop interpretive displays explaining the benefits of sustainable forest management for display at recreation areas.
8. Monitor and administer all road use, land use, and other agreements/leases currently on County Forest Lands. Develop new agreements or leases when appropriate.
9. Implement and monitor third party Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) forest certification on the Marathon County Forest.
10. Coordinate integration of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan with the Marathon County Comprehensive and Strategic Plans.
11. Continue to implement the DNR Wisconsin Forest Inventory Reporting System (WisFIRS).
12. Follow the Bern Flowage emergency action plan, if required, due to flooding.
13. Review county zoning to ensure alignment with the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
14. Apply for grants and permits that accomplish County Forest and Park land improvements.
15. Supervise the County Forester and other seasonal employees.
16. Continue to be part of the senior administration team working on strategic planning and other initiatives to meet Department and County goals.
17. Work with next County Forest Liaison Forester to ensure a smooth transition following the transfer of the current liaison to another DNR position.

## **H. Public Outreach/Professional Development (Public Outreach dependent on Covid)**

1. Participate in school career programs and make at least two classroom presentations on forestry and natural resource management.
2. Attend County sponsored training including IDEAS, inclusivity and other management as required.
3. Participate in job shadows introducing students into the forestry profession.
4. Continue to assist the public with insect, disease, and timber management information.

5. Give tours on the County Forest including UW-Stevens Point and the Forestry/Recreation Committee as time allows.
6. Attend appropriate professional development training.
7. Maintain membership in the Society of American Foresters.
8. Attend Forest Certification training as required.
9. Continue to work with the Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) by serving as a member of the Legislative/Forest Certification Committee on issues affecting County Forests.
10. Continue involvement on numerous WCFA committee's advancing the practice of forestry.
11. Participate in the revision of the WCFA strategic plan 2022-2027.
12. Continue updating maps to be included in new Forest Unit brochures and website for the public.
13. Revise and develop recreational maps for the public including cross country skiing, snowmobiling, equestrian and single track mountain biking for County Park and Forest lands.