



MARATHON COUNTY FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at 12:30pm

Meeting Location: Conference Room #3, 212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403

MEMBERS: Arnold Schlei (Chairman), Rick Seefeldt (Vice-Chairman), Jim Bove

Marathon County Mission Statement: *Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business.*

Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Mission Statement: *Adaptively manage our park and forest lands for natural resource sustainability while providing healthy recreational opportunities and unique experiences making Marathon County the preferred place to live, work, and play.*

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health directives, Marathon County encourages Committee members and the public to attend this meeting remotely. To this end, instead of attendance in person, Committee members and the public may attend this meeting by telephone conference. If Committee members or members of the public cannot attend remotely, Marathon County requests that appropriate safety measures, including adequate social distancing, be utilized by all in-person attendees.

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number: 1-408-418-9388.

Access Code: 624 967 714

If you are prompted to provide an "Attendee Identification Number," enter the "#" sign. No other number is required to participate in the telephone conference

When you enter the telephone conference, PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!

The Public Comment portion of the agenda has been temporarily suspended, pursuant to Marathon County Resolution # R-18-20, dated March 17, 2020, because the technology necessary to afford the public the opportunity to address the County Board, or its subgroups, during public Comment is difficult to guarantee, if a large number of individuals have elected to call in.

Agenda Items:

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Approval of the Minutes of the Tuesday, March 3, 2020 Committee Meeting**
3. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**
 - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
 1. Consider Approving the Spring 2020 Timber Sale Package
 2. Timber Sale Close Out – Rod Hix Forest Products Contract #676-18
 3. Consider Approving Direct Timber Sale to Twin Forest Products Contract #689-20
 - B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration
 1. Review of Proposed Policy Revisions to Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan Chapters 700-900.
4. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee – None**
5. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
 - A. Forestry Division Expense Revenue Report
 - B. Snowmobile Public Service Announcements

C. Central Wisconsin Off-Road Cycling Coalition Proposal for Maintenance and Improvements at Nine Mile Forest

- 6. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: May 5, 2020, 12:30pm, Rm. 3, 212 River Dr., Wausau, WI 54403**
A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence
B. Future Agenda Items: Spring Timber Sale Bid Results, Consider Timber Bids and Award Contracts, County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) Recommendations

7. Adjournment

**SIGNED /s/ Thomas Lovlien
PRESIDING OFFICER OR DESIGNEE**

ANY PERSON PLANNING TO ATTEND THIS MEETING WHO NEEDS SOME TYPE OF SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE SHOULD CALL THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE AT 261-1500 OR E-MAIL INFOMARATHON@MAIL.CO.MARATHON.WI.US ONE BUSINESS DAY BEFORE THE MEETING.

FAXED TO: Daily Herald and other News Media Groups
FAXED BY: Jodi Luebbe
FAX DATE/TIME: April 2, 2020 11:30 a.m.

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE:
By: _____
Date: _____
Time: _____ a.m/p.m.

Members present: Arnold Schlei (c), James Bove, Rick Seefeldt
Also present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Chad Keranen-DNR Liaison

1. Call meeting to order – Meeting called to order by Chairman Schlei at 12:30pm, Rm 3, 212 River Dr., Wausau.
2. Public Comment Period – None
3. Approve Minutes – **Motion** / second by Bove / Seefeldt to approve the minutes from the January 7, 2020 regular Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. **Motion carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

4. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Timber Sale Closeout – Bell Timber Contract #659-17 - A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 820 and 1034.58 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$26,122.19. Lovlien's recommendation is to close out Contract #659-17 and return their cash bond. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Schlei to close out Bell Timber Contract #659-17 and return their cash bond. **Motion carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Timber Sale Closeout – Country Forest Products #672-18 - A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 3500 and 3343.68 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$78,239.44. Lovlien's recommendation is to close out Contract #672-18 and return their Letter of Credit. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Bove to close out Country Forest Products #672-18 and return their Letter of Credit. **Motion carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

2. Revised Timeline for Completion of the Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land use Plan

Lovlien revised the timeline and moved Chapter 900 to be reviewed earlier along with Chapters 700 and 800 at the March 18th Citizen Advisory Subcommittee meeting. The Forestry Committee will review those three chapters at their April meeting and the Park Commission will review Chapter 900 because it deals with some recreation items they have purview over. The Environmental Resource Committee will be given a quarterly update in April. Lovlien asked that Committee review the chapters thoroughly especially Chapter 900 because it pertains to recreation regulations and policies that have been adopted. The time line is to ask the County Board for approval in November and then on to the DNR for approval in December.

B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration

1. 2019 County Forest Division Annual Report – Lovlien discussed some of the program highlights including revenue and expenses, certification, timber management, road and trail maintenance, wildlife management, recreation, public outreach and professional development. **Motion** / second by Bove / Seefeldt to approve the 2019 Forestry Division Annual Report and forward it to the Environmental Resources Committee for their approval. **Motion carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

2. Resolution: Consider the Purchase of the CERES Timber LLC Property for County Forest

Lovlien received a signed Agreement of Purchase and Sale that was reviewed by the County's Corporation Counsel. He discussed the funding sources for the purchase. Some of the land is ready for a timber harvest. Questions were answered. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Bove to forward the recommendation to purchase the property to the Environmental Resource Committee. **Motion carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

5. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee – none

6. Educational Presentations/Outcomes Monitoring Reports

A. Value of Public Land Timber Sales in Wisconsin – Lovlien reported that in 2019 the 29 county forests took in 44 million dollars in stumpage. He discussed the state lands stumpage. Lovlien noted that the timber industry relies on public land in county forests to provide this amount of wood every year. There is spinoff in the local economy. The county forests are an important contributor to the forest economy in Wisconsin.

B. Wisconsin County Forests Spring Administrators Meeting – March 19-20, 2020

Lovlien asked that any members that wish to attend let him know by this Friday, March 6th.

C. Wisconsin County Forests Summer Tour – June 25-26, 2020

The tour will be held in Vilas County in Eagle River this year. Lovlien does not have all of the details yet, he just wanted them to know what the dates were in case anyone was interested in attending.

D. Required Yearly Timber Stumpage Payments to Townships – Lovlien explained that fifteen towns have County forest land in Marathon County. It's important to note that the County shares some of the stumpage proceeds with the towns. The County is required to share ten percent and each of those fifteen towns receives an amount based on the amount of County forest acreage they have. Lovlien understands that some of the towns want more than the required ten percent. Lovlien explained that in addition, towns receive thirty cents an acre payment from the State in lieu of taxes. The Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) has been working on State legislation to increase the State payment from thirty cents to a dollar an acre. Only the State legislature can change the law to increase this amount but has not been supportive in the last 10 years. WCFA will work again to try to get the State to increase their payment but Lovlien said it is not something he thinks will be supported. The counties will continue to work on behalf of the towns because it's important that the town roads remain open to get timber products to the market.

E. Report on Winter Timber Sale Activity on County Forest Lands - Lovlien said a lot of companies cut timber the last two winters. This winter was a slow start and only a few companies moved in. Currently, there are four sales being cut. He doesn't believe it's going to be a large revenue year. However, there are some valuable timber sales in Nine Mile and if those get cut the division will make its revenue projection of \$245,000. Markets, weather, and having three year contracts all cause ebbs and flows in the revenue.

7. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – April 7, 2020 at 12:30pm, 212 River Dr., Rm. 3

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence - none

B. Future Agenda Items – Consider Approving the 2020 Spring Timber Sale Package, Forestry Division Expense/Revenue Report, Review of Proposed Policy Revisions to the Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan – Chapters 700 - 900

8. Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Bove to adjourn at 1:15 pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.



SPRING 2020 TIMBER SALE INVITATION FOR BID

Here is our spring timber sale prospectus.

Please submit bids after reviewing the prospectus, sale areas, and timber sale contract including:

- Purchasers are allowed to submit a personal or business check as a bid security in the amount of 10% of the total bid.
- All pulpwood will be bid by the ton to a top diameter of 4". There is also an option to bid on tops/biomass.
- Stick scaled cord volume will be converted to tons using published WDNR handbook weights. The Marathon County mixed hardwood pulp weight is 4800 pounds per cord. (See table on back of this sheet)
- **NEW - A secondary bid opening for any tracts not sold in the first bid opening shall be held at 1:30 pm Monday, June 1, 2020, Conference Room 3, 212 River Drive, Wausau, WI 54403.**
- **CONTRACT EXTENSIONS:**
Please read and understand contract extensions as we will be following our policy.

To submit a bid:

1. Use the enclosed bid form or a photocopy.
2. Bid a price per **ton** or **MBF** for each species, including tracts designated as lump sum.
3. Complete the Logger's Statement of Qualifications.
4. Sign your bid.
5. Enclose a bid bond, cashier's, personal or business check, letter of credit, or money order for 10% of the total bid.
6. Seal each signed bid in a separate envelope marked: "Timber Sale Bid - Tract No. _____".
7. **Submit your signed bid(s) by 1:30pm, Monday May 4, 2020**, to the Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department, 212 River Drive, Ste. 2, Wausau, WI 54403-5476. Actual receipt is required. Deposit in the mail, facsimile, or e-mail is not sufficient.

I invite you to attend the bid opening at 1:30pm, **Monday, May 4, 2020**, Conference Room 3, 212 River Drive, Wausau, Wisconsin, 54403.

Thomas G. Lovlien
Forest Administrator

c: Forestry/Recreation Committee
County Administrator
Corporation Counsel
Chad Keranen, DNR Liaison Forester

All pulpwood will now be bid and sold by the ton. State of Wisconsin weight conversion pounds per cord will be used (see chart below). Mixed hardwood will include all hardwood species unless listed separately on the sale map. The Marathon County mixed hardwood pulp weight is established at 4,800 pounds per cord.

**CORDWOOD WEIGHT CONVERSION FACTORS
POUNDS PER CORD**

Species	Weight
Hemlock	4800
Tamarack	4650
Red Pine	4500
Jack Pine	4250
Balsam	4250
White Pine	4200
Spruce	4000
Cedar	3150
White Oak	5850
Red Oak	5500
Hickory	5400
Yellow Birch	5350
Hard Maple	5100
Beech	5050
Elm	5000
Balsam Poplar	4900
White Birch	4800
Cottonwood	4650
Ash	4600
Soft Maple	4550
Aspen	4500
Basswood	3850
Mixed Hardwood	4800

Marathon County reserves the right to scale any wood products piled in the woods for longer than 30 days.

SPRING 2020 TIMBER SALE SUMMARY – MARATHON COUNTY FOREST

TRACT NO.	SPECIES	4" VOLUME	FOREST UNIT AND TRACT DESCRIPTION
1-20	Red Pine Tops/Biomass	1000 Tons Not Offered	<u>Nine Mile Forest Unit</u> – FLYING LEAD (42 Acres) Late Spring/Summer/Fall/Winter logging. Access to County Hwy KK. Ticket Sale. Contract must be completed by June 30, 2022.
2-20	Red Pine Tops/Biomass	825 Tons Not Offered	<u>Nine Mile Forest Unit</u> – BARELY MADE IT (42 Acres) Late Spring/Summer/ Early Fall logging. Access to County Forest Road 707. Ticket Sale. Contract must be completed by June 30, 2022.
3-20	Red Oak Mixed Hardwood Basswood Red Oak Logs Red Maple Logs Ash Logs Basswood Logs Hard Maple Logs Tops/Biomass	900 Tons 550 Tons 50 Tons 85.0 MBF 15.0 MBF 10.0 MBF 5.0 MBF 5.0 MBF 300 Tons	<u>Kronenwetter Forest Unit</u> – STINGER (48 Acres) Mid-Summer/Fall/Winter logging Access to Martin Rd./Pyke Rd./Hwy 153. Ticket Sale. Contract must be completed by June 30, 2023.
4-20	Red Oak Mixed Hardwood Basswood Red Oak Logs Red Maple Logs Basswood Logs Hard Maple Logs Ash Logs Tops/Biomass	1400 Tons 875 Tons 120 Tons 110.0 MBF 30.0 MBF 8.0 MBF 7.0 MBF 2.0 MBF 500 Tons	<u>Kronenwetter Forest Unit</u> – SLICE & DICE (58 Acres) Mid-Summer/Fall/Winter logging. Access to Martin Rd./Pyke Rd./Hwy 153. Ticket Sale. Contract must be completed by June 30, 2023.
5-20	Mixed Hardwood Red Oak Basswood Aspen Red Maple Logs Red Oak Logs Ash Logs Basswood Logs Tops/Biomass	1500 Tons 600 Tons 320 Tons 45 Tons 55.0 MBF 35.0 MBF 30.0 MBF 25.0 MBF 500 Tons	<u>Ringle Forest Unit</u> – GRIDLOCK (91 Acres) Winter logging. Access to Timber Ridge Rd./Dallman Rd. Ticket Sale. Contract must be completed by June 30, 2023.

INVITATION FOR BIDS MARATHON COUNTY FOREST TIMBER STUMPAGE

Marathon County is offering 281 acres of timber on Tracts 01-20, 02-20, 03-20, 04-20, and 05-20. These tracts have an estimated 9,485 tons and 422.0 thousand board feet of:

Mixed Hwd Pulp	2925 Tons	Red Oak Logs	230.0 MBF
Red Oak Pulp	2900 Tons	Red (Soft) Maple Logs	100.0 MBF
Red Pine Pulp	1825 Tons	Ash Logs	42.0 MBF
Basswood Pulp	490 Tons	Basswood Logs	38.0 MBF
Aspen Pulp	45 Tons	Hard Maple Logs	12.0 MBF
Biomass	1300 Tons		

Specific information is available from the Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department, 715/261-1550.

Submit bids by 1:30 PM, Monday, May 4, 2020, to the Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department, 212 River Drive, Suite 2, Wausau, WI, 54403-5476. Bids will be publicly read at that time in Conference Room 3. Actual receipt is required. Deposit in the mail, facsimile, or e-mail is not sufficient.

Bids may not be withdrawn for a period of 30 days.

Evaluation criteria will be price and documented ability to satisfactorily complete the contract including: proposed equipment and operation; references; proof of financial stability; past performance; FISTA training; and BMP training. Award of the contract to the successful bidder shall be based upon the bid determined most advantageous to the County or made to the highest responsible and responsive bidder.

The County reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any or all bids, to waive technical deficiencies in the bids, and to award a contract deemed in the best interests of the County. This solicitation may also be canceled if determined to be in the best interests of the County.

A secondary bid opening for any tracts not sold in the first bid opening shall be held at 1:30 PM, Monday, June 1, 2020. Conference Room 3, 212 River Drive, Wausau, WI 54403.

The General Code of the County of Marathon contains various procurement policies which are applicable to this proposed procurement. These include prohibitions against gratuities and kickbacks.

County of Marathon
By: Jamie Polley, Director
Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department



Wausau & Marathon County
**Parks, Recreation
& Forestry**

TIMBER SALE BID

I submit the following bid on Tract No. _____

All bids, including Lump Sum, must be itemized by species on a per ton or per Thousand Board Foot (MBF) basis.

SPECIES	ESTIMATED VOLUME	PRICE BID PER TON OR MBF	TOTAL
GRAND TOTAL			\$

Logger's Statement of Qualifications:

1. Logging firm's name, address, and phone:

2. How many years have you been engaged in the logging business under the present firm name?

3. List the major equipment that will be used to complete the work on this tract and describe your operation:

(Please fill out and sign reverse side)

4. List at least three references for past performance on logging contracts with the name and phone number of a contact person:

5. FISTA trained Yes No Date _____

Other safety training (please describe)

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

6. BMP training Yes No Date _____

The undersigned, having familiarized himself with the conditions affecting the cost of the work, having read completely the specifications, hereby proposes to perform everything required and to provide and furnish labor, materials, equipment, tools, and all other services and supplies necessary to complete in a workmanlike manner all of the work described in the specifications relating to this timber tract.

A bid security equal to at least ten percent (10%) of the total bid, in the form of a bond, money order, Letter of Credit, cashier's, personal or business check, has been submitted as part of this bid.

I have carefully examined the specifications, contract documents, and site where the work is to be done and have no agreements to prevent the completion of said work.

If this bid is the successful bid, I will finalize and execute a contract as set forth in the contract documents under all the terms, conditions, and requirements as set forth in the contract documents, and, unless this contract is executed within 15 days after the date of being notified that this bid is the successful bid, I will forfeit the 10% bid security in its entirety. Failure to forfeit the 10% penalty will result in being considered ineligible to bid on any County timbersales for a two-year duration. This bid proposal will become part of the contract upon the awarding of the contract.

Date

Name (Please Print)

Signature

MARATHON COUNTY TIMBER SALE CONTRACT

Contract No. _____ Scaled or Ticket System

Tract No. _____ Tree Measurement (Lump Sum)

AGREEMENT entered into between Marathon County, Wisconsin, a municipal body corporate, hereinafter referred to as "County" and _____, hereinafter referred to as "Purchaser". The term "Purchaser" shall include all workers, employees, agents, subcontractors, and independent contractors that may be employed by the "Purchaser". For purposes of implementing this contract, the "County Representative" shall be the County Forest Administrator or his designee. The term "County" shall include Marathon County, the Marathon County Board of Supervisors and any committee thereof, and all Marathon County officers, officials, employees, agents, and assigns. Further, this contract constitutes the entire agreement by and between the undersigned parties. No other terms or conditions may be implied or inferred. The County and Purchaser, in consideration of the covenants hereinafter set forth, mutually agree as follows:

Purchaser shall cut and remove all timber marked or designated by County agents on the following described lands hereinafter referred to as the "sale area": _____

Operating Specifications and a map outlining the boundaries of the sale area are attached and made a part of this contract as if fully stated herein.

Both parties agree that the estimates regarding the amount of timber included in any contract are estimates only and are offered as a guide to the proposed Purchaser for the purpose of bidding.

Purchaser shall be responsible for keeping within the boundaries of the sale area and shall be liable for all trespasses committed by Purchaser outside of such boundaries.

TIMBER TO BE REMOVED

Species/ Product	Estimated Volume	Bid Per Unit	Total Bid	Species/ Product	Estimated Volume	Bid Per Unit	Total Bid

TOTALS: _____

All volumes based on unpeeled measure. Unless otherwise specified, a cord is 4' x 4' x 100".

GENERAL TERMS

- 1. **CONTRACT PERIOD.** Purchaser will completely perform his obligations under this contract by the _____
- 2. **CONTRACT EXTENSIONS.** If extensions of this contract are deemed reasonable by the County, the stumpage price agreed upon herein shall be adjusted as follows:
 - A. First one-year extension
 - 1. 3 year contract.....25%
 - 2. 2.5 year contract.....20%
 - 3. 2 year contract.....15%
 - B. Additional one-year extensions.....10%
 - C. Other applicable charges or fees: NONE

The maximum time duration of a timber sale contract, including extensions, will be four years. Extension beyond this period of time will be considered by the County only in the event of special justification. Special stumpage rate adjustments may be made.

- 3. **CHANGE ORDERS.** The scope of the services to be performed under this contract may be amended or supplemented by mutual written agreement between the parties to the contract.
- 4. **PERFORMANCE; PERFORMANCE BOND; LIQUIDATED OR ACTUAL DAMAGES; FUTURE CONTRACTS.**
 - A. Notice to Begin. Purchaser shall contact the County representative in writing both prior to commencing logging operations from contract site and upon final completion of the Timber Sale Contract. The Purchaser must also contact the County representative in writing if work is to cease at the contract site for more than one month. At the end of this period of time, the Purchaser must then inform the County representative in writing that work is to begin again.
 - B. Contract Oversight. Cutting and removal of timber purchased under this contract shall be conducted in conformance with this contract and in a good and workmanlike manner with reasonable diligence to assure completion of all performance within the contract period specified in par. 1.
 - C. Performance Bond. A performance bond in Marathon County's favor in the amount of \$ _____ in cash, by surety bond, or in other form accepted by the County, shall be submitted by the Purchaser no later than _____ to be retained by the County to assure full and complete performance of the contract by the Purchaser to the County's satisfaction. Failure to submit the bond will be considered a breach of this contract and subject the Purchaser to liability for damages. The Purchaser agrees that the bond shall be forfeited to the County as liquidated damages upon the County's determination a condition or term of this contract has been breached by the Purchaser, unless the County chooses and can reasonably determine the actual damages suffered as a result of the breach of the contract. Damages assessed under this contract are the responsibility of the Purchaser and may be deducted from this performance bond and otherwise collected by the County.
 - D. The Purchaser agrees that the performance bond may be retained by the County until all performance under this contract has been completed to the County's satisfaction and the County determines the performance has been so completed. In the event the Purchaser provided written notice of sale completion to the County, the County shall have sixty (60) days to determine that performance has been completed as required under this contract.
 - E. If timber or other forest products not specifically described in this contract or designated by the County for cutting are cut, damaged or removed by the Purchaser, the County may pursue any and all remedies for the unlawful use of the County's property and the cutting, damage or removal of property without consent, including the seeking of criminal or civil charges for theft, timber theft or criminal damage to property in addition to its contract remedies for breach.

F. The County may, when it deems it reasonable and in the best interest of the County, allow the Purchaser to continue performance under the contract and the Purchaser shall pay as liquidated damages double the mill value as determined by the County for the timber or other forest products cut, removed or damaged without authorization under or in violation of this contract. The County's permission to continue cutting shall not be considered a waiver of breach nor prevent it from considering such breach for purposes of asserting any other remedies available to it. It is agreed that the double mill scale sum is a reasonable estimate of the probable damages suffered by the County and shall not be construed as or held to be in the nature of a penalty.

G. The Purchaser agrees that if the timber identified in this contract for cutting is to be resold due to a breach of this contract, as determined by the County, the County is not obligated to give oral or written notice to the Purchaser of the resale.

H. The County's damages upon the Purchaser's failure to perform this contract include, but are not limited to:

- (1) The Purchaser's bid value of timber not cut and removed under this contract.
- (2) Double the mill value, as determined by the County, for timber cut, removed or damaged without authorization under or in violation of this contract.
- (3) All costs of sale area cleanup, restoration or completion of performance not completed by the Purchaser.
- (4) All costs of resale of timber not cut and removed as required under this contract.
- (5) If the County seeks damages for breach of this contract through court proceedings, and if the County prevails in such proceedings, in whole or in part, then the Purchaser agrees to pay all of the County's actual and reasonable expenses, including attorney's and expert witness fees.

The County may agree to mitigate the damages for breach by offering the timber for resale on no more than two (2) occasions if it determines the timber is salable based upon its volume or quality.

- (6) A minimum of 10% of the original sale price to the County (same amount as the original bid bond) as an administrative fee for the costs of readvertising and reestablishing the sale or pay the difference between the new sale price and the original price, but not less than 10% if the new sale price is less than the original price.
 - (7) If the sale is not resold after two separate bid openings, the Purchaser is liable for liquidated damages including the total performance bond.
- I. A Purchaser deemed by the County to be in breach of this contract may also be considered an irresponsible bidder and be refused the opportunity to bid upon or obtain future timber sales of the County for a period not to exceed two (2) years from the date of determination of the breach.

5. NON-COMPLIANCE-WRITTEN NOTICE. A. Upon written notice by a County representative that Purchaser is not in compliance with one or more conditions of the contract, occupancy of and operations on the Contract Site shall be suspended. Any continued occupancy or use of the contract site shall be deemed a trespass. Said written notice shall be sent by Certified Mail to the mailing address listed on the first page of this document or may be personally served by a representative of the County.

B. If subsequent to receiving a written authorization from the County representative to recommence work, Purchaser fails to comply with the terms and conditions of this contract, a County representative shall again give written notice that work and occupancy at the site are to cease.

C. Occupancy and operations may be resumed only with written authorization of the County representative. Said authorization may contain special conditions to insure continued compliance with the terms of this contract.

6. **FORESTRY COMMITTEE.** The Forestry/Recreation Committee (hereinafter called FR Committee) shall then make a determination of whether the Timber Sale Contract and/or Performance Bond described in Paragraph 4 shall be forfeited. Purchaser shall have notice of the FR Committee meeting and an opportunity to be heard. Notification of the FR Committee's decision shall be sent to the Purchaser by certified mail at the address specified on the first page of this contract. The decision of the FR Committee, acting on the advice of its agents as to whether Purchaser is in compliance with the terms of this contract, shall be final subject to Purchaser's rights to appeal pursuant to Chapter 24 of the General Code of Ordinances for Marathon County.
7. **FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH CONTRACT - FORFEITURE.** Should the Purchaser enter into more than one timber sale contract, all of the timber sale contracts entered into by and between the Purchaser and the County shall be considered as one general contract consisting of subunits relating to different sites. A notice of non-compliance with respect to any one site shall constitute notice as to all sites, and the Purchaser shall forthwith cease operations at all sites until Purchaser receives written authorization to resume operations in accordance with the procedures set forth herein.
8. **NON-DISCRIMINATION.** In connection with performance of work under this contract, the Purchaser agrees not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of sex, race, religion, color, national origin, or disabilities.
9. **TITLE TO PRODUCTS AND STUMPAGE.** Title to all cut forest products shall remain with the County until paid for by Purchaser. Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of all damage or loss of all forest products resulting from fire, flood, theft caused by his own fault during the contractual term. Forest products and stumpage remaining on the sale area at the expiration of the contract or upon breach, revert to the ownership of the County without any refund of monies paid.
10. **AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION.** Purchaser authorizes any individual, business, or mill receiving wood from this contract to release mill scale slips and any other information to the County regarding amount, date received, and other relevant information.
11. **RESIDENCE.** No residence shall be established on the contract area.
12. **TRAINING REQUIREMENT.** The Purchaser is responsible for ensuring that the actual logging contractor engaged in performance of this contract complies with the Wisconsin SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative) Training Standard as adopted by the Wisconsin SFI Implementation Committee (SIC). Criteria for the standard can be found at the website http://www.fistausa.org/sfi_standards.html or by contacting the Forest Industry Safety & Training Alliance (FISTA). Purchaser agrees to provide documentation to Seller that training has been attained prior to initiating sale.
13. **ASSIGNMENT.** The Purchaser is precluded from assigning payment and contract oversight, duties or other performance requirements of this contract to another. The Purchaser's direction to or contracting with another to complete performance required under this contract does not relieve the Purchaser from the responsibility for performance required under this contract or for liability for breach. **(Purchaser shall not subcontract any portion of this contract without prior written approval from the County, said approval will not be unreasonably withheld.)**
14. **INSPECTION.** The County retains for itself the right of ingress and egress to and on the sale area and may inspect the sale area and trucks hauling forest products from or traveling on the sale area at any time. If the inspection reveals any violations of this contract, the Purchaser shall promptly take measures to remedy the violation. The County may terminate the Purchaser's operations upon oral notice to the Purchaser. Upon receipt of the notice, the Purchaser shall cease operations until the County approves resumption of them.

15. **PAYMENT.** A. All payments will be in cash, cashiers check, personal or business check, or money order unless other arrangements are made in writing with the County.
- B. Scaled or ticket-system stumpage payments shall be made prior to wood being hauled. Purchasers in good standing with Marathon County will be allowed up to three business days to submit payment. Marathon County reserves the right to determine which purchasers are in good standing. Payments due and owing to the County will be based upon actual scaling.
- C. Lump sum sale contracts must be paid in full prior to beginning any operations. If cutting units are designated, the Purchaser must pay for and satisfactorily complete a unit as determined by a County representative prior to beginning operations in another unit.
16. **REMOVAL WITHOUT PAYMENT.** Timber or other forest products may not be removed from the sale area until paid for as provided in this contract or other guarantees for payment have been made with and to the satisfaction of the County. Upon removal of timber or other forest products in violation of this paragraph, the Purchaser agrees to pay as liquidated damages double the mill value of the timber removed, and in addition to pursuing its remedies for breach of contract, the County may seek charges against the Purchaser for Timber Theft under s. 26.05, Wis. Stats., or a violation of ch. NR 45, Wis. Adm. Code, consider it a breach of contract and pursue all remedies provided in this contract.
17. **ROADS, LANDINGS, MILL SITES, CAMPSITES, EROSION CONTROL, BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs).** A. When not otherwise designated by the County, the location of roads, landings, mill sites and campsites on County's property is subject to advance approval and under the conditions established by the County. All restoration, cleanup or repair of roads, landings, mill sites and campsites, or the cost of the cleanup, if not completed by the Purchaser to the satisfaction of the County, is the responsibility of the Purchaser.
- B. All logging debris accumulated at landing areas, including bark, tops and slash, shall be scattered within the sale area to the satisfaction of the County.
- C. Berms constructed on the County's property shall be leveled to restore the area to the County's satisfaction unless they are constructed at the direction of the County under par. d.
- D. Roads and landings shall be graded or closed upon the request of and to the County's satisfaction upon completion or termination of this contract.
- E. Other restoration requirements (e.g., seeding, gravel, rutting, culvert removal, etc.): NONE
- F. Erosion control and Best Management Practices (BMPs) requirements:
- (1) The Purchaser shall comply with all recommended BMP guidelines as described in "*Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality*" published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, publication Pub-FR-093, unless specifically provided otherwise below. A copy of this publication is available upon request to the County if not possessed by the Purchaser. Purchaser's certification in Wisconsin BMP training through a FISTA coordinated BMP workshop is also required.
- (2) The Purchaser shall make every attempt to comply with Forestry BMPs for Invasive Species as described in "Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Invasive Species" published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, publication Pub-FR-444-09 unless specifically provided otherwise below. In particular, the purchaser agrees to work cooperatively with the administering forester and any subcontractors to address the considerations in BMPs 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5 and 9.1. A copy of this publication is available upon request to the Seller if not possessed by the Purchaser. The publication can also be found at the Council on Forestry website at: <http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/forestry>.

(3) The Purchaser shall comply with all General Guidelines as described in “Wisconsin’s Forestland Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines” published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, publication Pub-FR-435-09, unless specifically provided otherwise below. A copy of this publication is available upon request to the County if not possessed by the Purchaser. The publication can also be found at the Council on Forestry website at: <http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/biomass/>

(4) Other: None.

18. SOIL DISTURBANCE AND RUTTING A. The Purchaser agrees to take all steps and precautions to avoid and minimize soil disturbances, such as soil compaction and rutting. If soil disturbances occur, the Purchaser agrees to work cooperatively to mitigate and repair any and all instances of soil disturbance.

B. Excessive soil disturbance (as defined in Table 1) shall not be permitted. Purchaser agrees to contact Seller in the event of an excessive soil disturbance.

Table 1. Thresholds for soil disturbances.

<u>Timber Sale Infrastructure</u>	<u>Soil disturbances are excessive if:</u>
<u>Roads, Landings, Skid Trails, and General Harvest Area</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>A gully or rut is 6 inches deep or more and is resulting in channelized flow to a wetland, stream, or lake.</u>
<u>Roads, Landings, and Primary Skid Trails</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>In a riparian management zone (RMZ) or wetland, a gully or rut is 6 inches deep or more and 100 feet long or more.</u> ▪ <u>In an upland area (outside of RMZ), a gully or rut is 10 inches deep or more and 66 feet long or more.</u>
<u>Secondary Skid Trails and General Harvest Area</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>A gully or rut is 6 inches deep or more and 100 feet long or more.</u>

Note: The depth is to be measured from the original soil surface to the bottom of the depression. If individual lug depressions are visible, the depth would be measured to the lesser of the two depths (the “top” of the lug). The length is measured from the start of the “too deep” section to the end of the “too deep” section. Measurements are not cumulative.

Note: In high use forest recreation areas such as the Nine Mile Unit and County park lands we will require the purchaser to follow a lower threshold for soil disturbance (than defined in Table 1). The lower threshold will be communicated to the Purchaser during the pre-logging meeting and documented on the pre-logging form.

C. The County may temporarily suspend operations under this contract due to excessive soil disturbances (as defined in Table 1).

D. Prior to sale completion the Purchaser shall mitigate and repair soil disturbances to the Seller’s satisfaction.

E. Other restoration requirements (e.g. repair of soil disturbance or rutting on recreational trails used for skidding):

(1) NONE

(2)

19. **DIGGERS HOTLINE.** The Purchaser is responsible to contact the Diggers Hotline, or other informational sources performing similar services, prior to digging or conducting other activities on the property which may result in contact with utility or service lines or facilities.
20. **OTHER APPROVALS.** Logging roads that intersect town, county or state roads or highways must have the intersections approved by the proper authorities prior to construction and cleared of all unsightly debris at the time of construction. The Purchaser agrees to apply for and obtain all approvals. The Purchaser also agrees to fully comply with all terms and conditions of intersection approvals.
21. **UNCUT TREES AND WASTED TIMBER.** Should marked or designated trees be left uncut or unremoved, the Purchaser shall be liable to the County for damages in the amount said wood would have been valued for payment at the mill site as of the date all work to be performed pursuant to this contract was to have been completed. Young growth trees bent or held down by felled trees must be properly released or Purchaser shall be liable for damages in the amount of replacement costs. The Purchaser shall be liable for damages at double the stumpage rate specified for timber wasted in tops and stumps.
22. **STUMP HEIGHT, TOPS.** The maximum stump height may not exceed the stump diameter; except for stumps of a diameter of less than 10 inches, the height of the stump may not exceed 10 inches. Additionally, clumps of stumps shall be treated as individual stumps and maximum height may not exceed each individual stump diameter. Title to tops shall remain in the owner and may not be utilized by the Purchaser, or at the Purchaser's direction, unless otherwise specified in this contract.
23. **ZONE COMPLETION.** The Purchaser agrees to complete all operations on each portion of the sale area or each zone as designated on the sale area map, or other attachments or in the cutting requirements before beginning cutting in the next portion or zone, unless agreed to otherwise by the County.
24. **SLASH.** Slash as defined in s. 26.12, Wis. Stats., shall be disposed of as follows: A. Slash falling in any lake or stream, in a right-of-way or on land of an adjoining landowner shall be immediately removed from the waters, right-of-way or adjoining land. Tops from felled trees may not be left hanging in standing trees. All trees shall be completely felled and not left leaning or hanging in other trees.
- B. Other: None.
25. **FOREST FIRE PREVENTION.** The Purchaser agrees to take reasonable precautions to prevent the starting and spreading of fires. Those precautions include, but are not limited to:
- A. A minimum of one fully charged 5 pound or larger ABC fire extinguisher with a flexible spout shall be carried on each off-road logging vehicle.
- B. All chainsaws and all non-turbocharged off-road logging equipment used in the operation shall be equipped with spark arrestors which have been approved by the U.S. Forest Service. Such arrestors may not be altered in any manner or removed and shall be properly maintained. (Information on approved arrestors may be obtained from the Seller.)
- C. If a fire occurs, the Purchaser agrees to promptly cooperate in the control and suppression of the fire.
- D. The Purchaser shall comply with requests regarding forest fire prevention and suppression made by the Seller and take all reasonable precautions to prevent, suppress and report forest fires. Those requests may include ceasing or modifying operations.
- E. The Purchaser shall be responsible for damage and forest fire suppression costs, including that provided in ss.26.14 and 26.21, Wis. Stats., caused by their operation under this Contract.
- F. Other: NONE

26. **SURVEY MONUMENTS.** The Purchaser agrees to pay for the cost of repair or replacement of any land survey monuments or accessories which are removed or destroyed or made inaccessible. In the event that the performance bond is insufficient to cover such cost, the provisions of Statute 59.74, Perpetuation of Landmarks, shall be enforced.
27. **CLEANUP AND USE OF SALE AREA.** A. The Purchaser shall remove, to the satisfaction of the seller, all equipment, tools, solid waste, oil filters, grease cartridges, trash and debris remaining on the sale area or Seller's property upon completion of performance under this Contract, termination of this Contract due to breach by the Purchaser or when requested by the County.
- B. No residence, dwelling, permanent structure, or improvement may be established or constructed on the sale area or other property of the County.
- C. The Purchaser agrees to properly use and dispose of all petroleum products, including but not limited to oil, hydraulic fuel and diesel fuel. Any on-site spillage must be properly removed and cleaned up by the Purchaser to the satisfaction of the County.
28. **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.** The Purchaser is an independent contractor for all purposes, including worker's compensation, and not an employee or agent of the County. The County agrees that the undersigned Purchaser shall have the sole control of the method, hours worked, time and manner of any timber cutting to be performed hereunder and takes no responsibility for supervision or direction of the performance of any of the harvesting to be performed by the undersigned Purchaser or of its employees. The County further agrees that it will exercise no control over the selection and dismissal of the Purchaser's employees.
29. **HOLD HARMLESS.** Purchaser hereby agrees to release, indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Marathon County, their officials, officers, employees and agents from and against all judgments, damages, penalties, losses, costs, claims, expenses, suits, demands, debts, actions and/or causes of action of any type or nature whatsoever, including actual and reasonable attorney's fees, which may be sustained or to which they may be exposed, directly or indirectly, by reason of personal injury, death, property damage, or other liability, alleged or proven, resulting from or arising out of the performance of contractor, its officers, officials, employees, agent or assigns. Marathon County does not waive, and specifically reserves, its right to assert any and all affirmative defenses and limitations of liability as specifically set forth in Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 893 and related statutes.
30. **FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL REGULATIONS COMPLIANCE.** Purchaser agrees to comply with all applicable OSHA or other federal, state, and local laws or regulations in connection with the performance of this contract.
- OSHA Compliance, Danger trees. The Purchaser is responsible to comply with, and assure compliance by all employees or subcontractors with, all Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) requirements for the health and safety of Purchaser's employees, including provisions relating to danger trees. In addition, the Purchaser agrees to notify, and obtain agreement from, the County if the Purchaser intends to modify performance required under this contract for the purpose of compliance with OSHA requirements.
31. **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE.** In connection with the performance of work under this contract, Purchaser agrees that no qualified individual with a disability, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, shall, by reason of such disability, be excluded from participation and the benefits of services, programs, or activities, including employment, or be subjected to discrimination. The Purchaser is specifically notified that it is subject to all employment requirements listed under Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act by virtue of its contract with Marathon County, a public entity. The Purchaser is specifically notified that it is subject to federal requirements to assure participation and access to public facilities, programs, and activities under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act by virtue of its contract with Marathon County, a public entity. These requirements mandate separate or special programs or reasonable modification of existing programs, services, and activities without surcharge to disabled individuals as long as safety is not compromised. The Purchaser shall provide a similar notice to all its subcontractors.

32. **FOREST CERTIFICATION.** The area encompassed by this timber sale is certified to the standards of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® NSF-SFI-FM-1Y943 SFI 100%. Forest products from this sale may be delivered to the mills “SFI 100%” so long as the contractor hauling the forest products is chain-of-custody (COC) certified or covered under a COC certificate from the destination mill. The purchaser is responsible for maintaining COC after leaving the sale area.

REQUIRED INSURANCE

The Purchaser shall not commence work under this contract until all insurance required under this paragraph is obtained, and such insurance has been approved by the County, nor shall the Purchaser allow any subcontractor to commence work on their subcontract until all similar insurance requirements have been obtained and approved.

33. **WORKERS COMPENSATION.** The Purchaser shall obtain and maintain throughout the duration of this contract statutory Workers' Compensation Insurance for all of its employees employed at the site or while working on this project. In case any work is sublet, the Purchaser shall require the subcontractor similarly to provide statutory Workers' Compensation Insurance for all of the latter's employees, unless such employees are covered by the protection afforded by the Purchaser. Purchaser's (Owners and Sole proprietors) electing exemption from coverage pursuant to WIS STAT 102.075 SHALL provide a signed copy of the endorsement showing non-election of coverage.
34. **GENERAL LIABILITY AND PROPERTY DAMAGE INSURANCE.** Purchaser shall secure and maintain in force throughout the duration of this contract such General Liability and Property Damage Insurance as shall protect him/her and any subcontractor performing work covered by this contract from claims for damages for personal injuries including accidental death, as well as from claims for property damage, which may arise from operations under this contract, whether such operations be by Purchaser, or by any subcontractor or by anyone directly or indirectly employed by either of them; and the amount of such insurance shall be as follows:
- Comprehensive General Liability \$1,000,000 per occurrence and in aggregate for bodily injury and property damage.
 - Automobile Liability \$1,000,000 per occurrence and in aggregate for bodily injury and property damage.
35. **PROOF OF INSURANCE.** The Purchaser shall furnish the County with a Certificate of Insurance countersigned by a Wisconsin Resident Agent or Authorized Representative of the insurer indicating that the Purchaser meets the insurance requirements identified above. The Certificates of Insurance shall include a provision prohibiting cancellation of said policies except upon 30 days prior written notice to the County and specify the name of the contract or project covered. A copy of the Certificate of Insurance shall be delivered to the Risk Management Division for approval prior to the execution of this contract. Upon renewal of the required insurance and annually thereafter, the County shall receive a new Certificate of Insurance for three years after completion of the project. The Certificates shall describe the contract by name and or identification number in the "Description of Operations" section of the form and list Marathon County as “additional insured in respect to this agreement”.
36. **DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** If a dispute related to this agreement arises, all parties shall attempt to resolve the dispute through direct discussions and negotiations. If the dispute cannot be resolved by the parties, and if all parties agree, it may be submitted to either mediation or arbitration. If the matter is arbitrated, the procedures of Chapter 788 of the Wisconsin Statutes or any successor statute shall be followed. If the parties cannot agree to either mediation or arbitration, any party may commence an action in any court of competent jurisdiction. If a lawsuit is commenced, the parties agree that the dispute shall be submitted to alternate dispute resolution pursuant to §802.12, Wis. Stats., or any successor statute.

Unless otherwise provided in this contract, the parties shall continue to perform according to the terms and conditions of the contract during the pendency of any litigation or other dispute resolution proceeding.

The parties further agree that all parties necessary to the resolution of a dispute (as the concept of necessary parties is contained in Chapter 803, Wisconsin Statutes, or its successor chapter) shall be joined in the same litigation or other dispute resolution proceeding. This language relating to dispute resolution shall be included in all contracts pertaining to this project so as to provide for expedient dispute resolution.

37. **NON-DEBARMENT CLAUSE.** Purchaser hereby certifies that neither it nor any of its principal officers or officials have ever been suspended or debarred, for any reason whatsoever, from doing business or entering into contractual relationships with any governmental entity. Purchaser further agrees and certifies that this clause shall be included in any subcontract of this contract.
38. **GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS.** It shall be unethical for any person to offer, give, or agree to give any elected official, employee or former employee, or for any elected official, employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer for employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation or any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the contents of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing, or in any other advisory capacity in any proceedings or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract, or to any solicitation or proposal therefore. It shall be unethical for any payment, gratuity, or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor or a higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith, an inducement for the award of a subcontract, or order.

SCALING REQUIREMENTS AND CONVERSION FACTORS

39. **PRODUCT REMOVAL.** No forest products shall be removed until scaled or marked by a County representative unless prior arrangements have been made with the County.
40. **SAWLOGS.** A. All sawlogs must be separated from pulpwood when piled.
- B. Purchaser will mark the length of all logs on the small end with a lumber crayon to facilitate scaling.
- C. Purchaser will pile all logs with the small end facing the road to facilitate scaling.
- D. All logs must be scaled with the Scribner Decimal C Log Rule.
41. **PULPWOOD.** All pulpwood must be piled for scaling. Piles must be level and square with at least five cords or 20 tons per pile.
42. **CONVERSION FACTORS.** Conversion of MBF (thousand board feet) to cords or cords to MBF will be 2.44 cords per MBF for softwoods and 2.20 cords per MBF for hardwoods.
43. **PEELED CORDWOOD.** When peeled cordwood is measured, it is stipulated that 12.5% will be added to hand-peeled or stroke delimeter processor peeled volume and 16% to ring debarked volume to compute equivalent unpeeled volume.
44. **WEIGHT CONVERSIONS.** County will accept mill weight conversion (Mill Scale) unless that conversion results in less volume than those conversions set forth in Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Handbook 2461.

PULPWOOD TICKET SYSTEM

45. **TICKET BOOKS.** A. Ticket books shall be purchased periodically as needed.
- B. Ticket books are issued for the contract specified on the cover of the ticket book and shall not be used for any other contract.

C. Purchaser must account for all tickets. Unused tickets shall be returned to the County representative upon completion or termination of the contract.

D. All lost or damaged tickets will have the value of \$1.00 per ticket number assessed against the performance bond.

46. TICKET USE. A. Tickets shall be used in sequence.

B. Copy one, the top (white) part of the ticket, shall be completely filled out and deposited in the lock box. Tickets must be completely inserted in the box. Hung tickets will be considered the same as failure to deposit tickets.

C. Copy two, the middle (yellow) part of the ticket, shall be in the possession of the person transporting timber from the sale area. County representatives may check scale and inspect haul permit tickets at any time.

D. Copy three, the bottom (hard) part of the ticket will remain in the ticket book for the Purchaser's records.

47. FAILURE TO DEPOSIT TICKETS. Failure by either the Purchaser or Purchaser's employee, officer, official, agent, or designee to deposit a ticket in the lock box each time a load of wood products leaves the sale area will be considered a violation of the State Statutes 26.05 on unauthorized timber removal.

48. LOCK BOXES. Lock boxes will be placed on the premises at points convenient to the Purchaser and County.

49. WOOD DESTINATIONS. The Purchaser shall provide the County representative with a list of all destinations of wood to be removed from the premises. Changes in wood destination shall be reported before hauling to the new destination.

50. FIREWOOD. When wood products such as firewood are delivered to buyers not providing a mill scale slip, the wood must be handscaled by a County representative and payment shall be made prior to wood being hauled.

TREE MEASUREMENT (LUMP SUM)

51. CONSIDERATION. Volume to be cut is estimated, not guaranteed. All timber designated for cutting must be cut and removed by the Purchaser even if volume of timber exceeds the estimate. If there is less timber than estimated, the County has no obligation to make-up the deficiency nor refund any or all monies paid.

52. CONFLICTING SALES. The Purchaser may not haul forest products on the same day from both this sale and a scaled or ticket system timber sale located on land owned by the County without authorization from the County.

53. ATTACHMENTS: Any and all attachments to this contract shall be made a part of this contract and be fully complied with, including: A. prospectus maps(s) or diagram(s) of sale area;

B. Other: NONE

54. OTHER CONDITIONS: The Purchaser shall enter this harvest with equipment clean of soil from the previous harvest. If previous job(s) included entering a stand that was confirmed with Heterobasidion Root Disease, make sure to clean logging equipment (tires, cutting head, etc.) with pressured water prior to entering this harvest.

Heterobasidion Root Disease (HRD) – Prevention Treatment

The Purchaser shall purchase and apply an approved fungicide (Rotstop C or Cellu-Treat) to all cut pine stumps and horizontal wound surfaces as follows:

1. Pesticide applicators must be certified/licensed by DATCP for this treatment.
2. All stumps shall be treated by the end of each day of cutting from April 1 – November 30. Treatment may be required from December 1 – March 31 if abnormally warm for an extended period of time to be determined by County Forest Representative.
3. All stumps shall be left clear of logging slash to allow for the application and inspection of the approved fungicide.

4. A marker dye shall be added to the solution to monitor application coverage.
5. Extra care must be done to minimize damage to residual trees.
6. If Heterobasidion Root Disease (HRD) is discovered prior to the completion of this harvest, a harvest protocol of infected area(s) shall be established and all harvesting equipment must be cleaned of soil prior to leaving this harvest.

Table 2. Approved Heterobasidion Root Disease Fungicides

Label Name	Active Ingredient	Distributor
Rotstop® C	Phlebiopsis gigantea (P.gigantea)	BioForest Technologies Inc. 59 Industrial Park Crescent Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6B 5P3 Phone: 1-888-236-7378 Order Desk: order@bioforest.ca Technical Support: support@bioforest.ca
Cellu-Treat	disodium octaborate tetrahydrate	Crop Production Services N5853 5 th Ave Plainfield, WI 54966 715-335-4900 Website: www.uap.com OR Nisus Corp. at 800-264-0870 Website: www.nisuscop.com

Dated this ____ day of _____, 2020

I acknowledge that I am not an employee of Marathon County, as to this contract or any action arising out of it.

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the provisions of this document.

PURCHASER'S FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.:

PURCHASER:

(Signature)

(Date)

WAUSAU AND MARATHON COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION, AND FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

By: _____
(Forest Administrator)

(Date)

MARATHON COUNTY TIMBER SALE
Nine Mile Forest Unit – March 2020

Tract # 01-20 FLYING LEAD SALE

Ticket Sale	<u>Estimated Volumes</u>	
	<u>Species</u>	<u>4" Top</u>
	Red Pine	1000 Tons (includes approx. 3 cords of oak, aspen, and mixed hardwood)
Option to Bid	Tops/Biomass	Not Offered

Location: Sections 5 and 6, T.27N.-R.07E. (Town of Mosinee) Size: 42 Acres

Seasonal Time Frame: June 1-March 30 (if ground is firm/dry, can start in May)

Cutting Regulations:

Area 1 – Red Pine Thinning (3 blocks: 21 acres of 2nd thinning & 19 acres of 4 thinning) - Cut all trees marked with orange paint.

Area 2 – Red Pine Designate Cut (1 block of 2 acres) - Cut all merchantable Red Pine within Red Paint Line.

Roads/Trails/Decking Areas: Forestry Division must approve skid routes and decking areas. All cut pine must be hauled within 3 weeks from June 1-September 1.

Slash/Wildlife/Other: 16'8" maximum forest product length. All tops shall be lopped and scattered to lie within 24 inches of the ground. Maximum stump height shall not exceed the stump diameter, except for stumps less than 10," which shall not exceed 10." Annosum treatment required: If using Cellu-Treat, 100% of stump cross-section must be treated (NO EXCEPTIONS). If using Rot-Stop, at least 85% of stump cross-section must be treated. If snowmobile trail is "open," a 3 inch snow base shall be maintained. Corbin Shooting Range opens May 1 and closes on the Friday before the 9-day deer gun season. Contractor will work with county forester to complete harvesting within the shooting range around scheduled days open and special events.

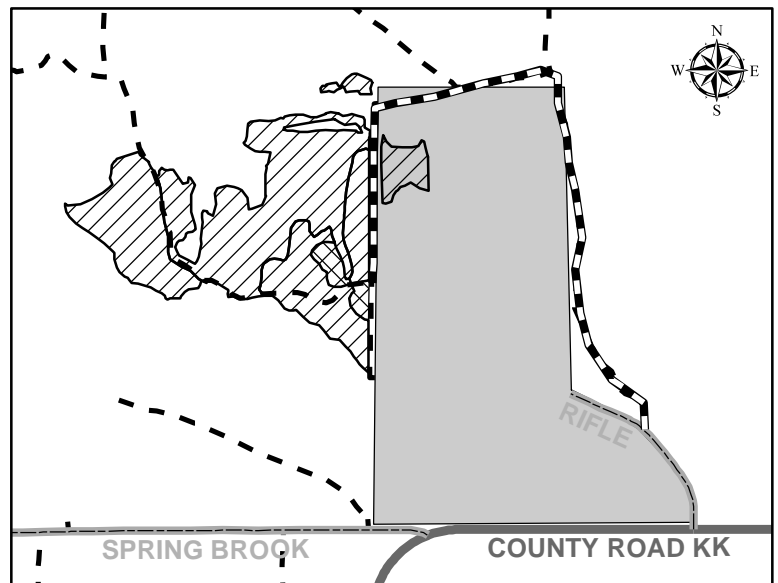
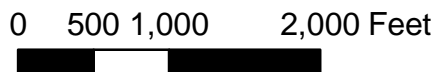
Utilization: Sawlogs - 10 inch or larger diameter inside bark (DIB) on the small end, at least 50% sound
Pulpwood - One or more sticks to a 4 inch diameter inside bark (DIB) on the small end

The bidder must sign and return our contract and a performance bond of at least 25% of the contract value within 15 days of being awarded the bid or the bidder will forfeit the bid bond in its entirety.

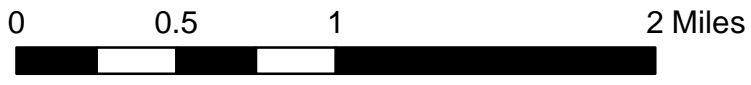
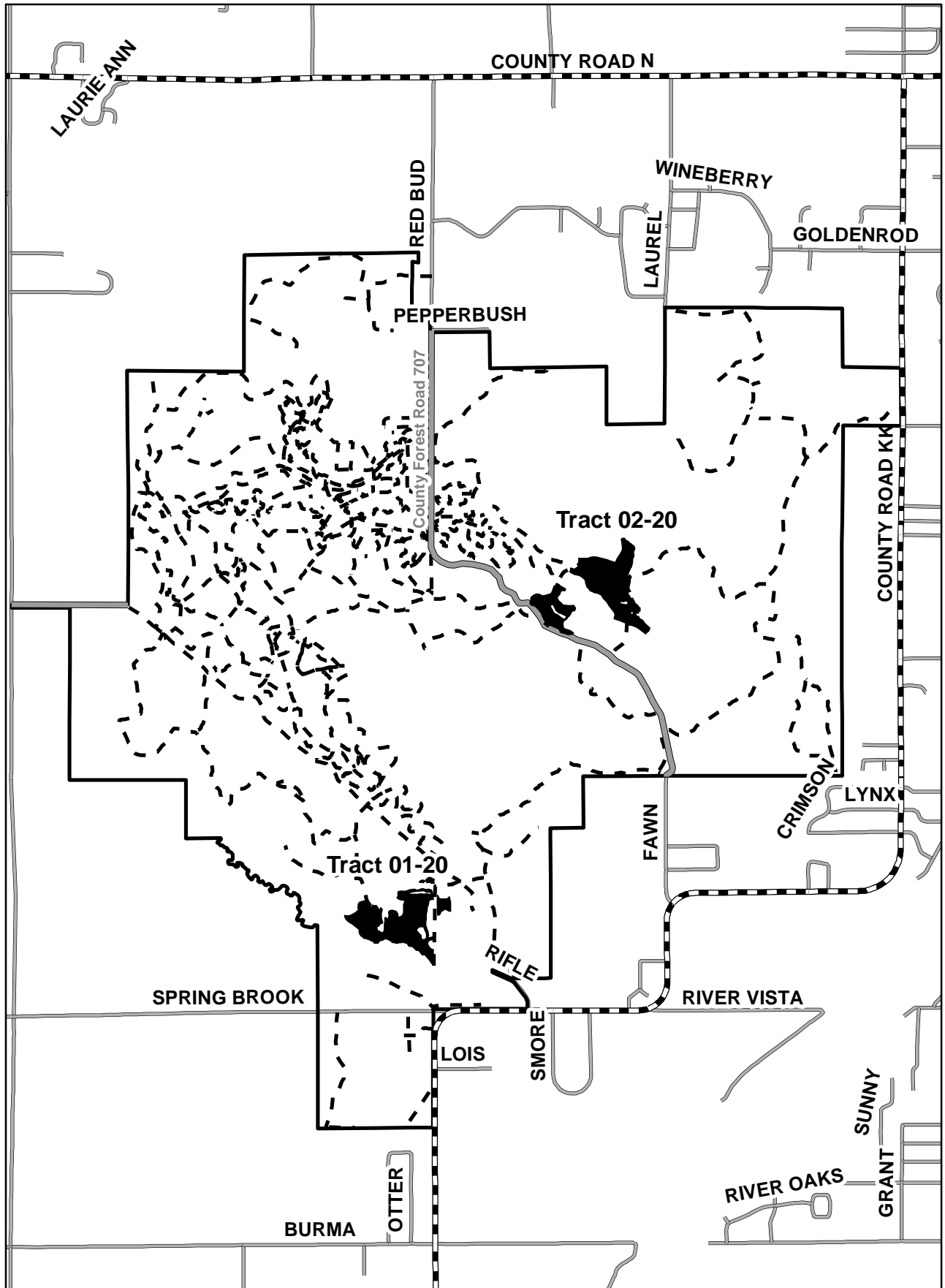
Contract Length: Contract must be completed by June 30, 2022.

Legend

-  Area 1: Red Pine Thinning
-  Area 2: Red Pine Designated Cut
-  Corbin Shooting Range
-  Forestry Trails
-  Required Access/Hauling Route



Nine Mile Forest Unit



MARATHON COUNTY TIMBER SALE
Nine Mile Forest Unit – March 2020

Tract # 02-20 BARELY MADE IT SALE

	<u>Species</u>	<u>Estimated Volumes</u>
Ticket Sale	Red Pine	4" Top 825 Tons (includes approx. 10 tons of Jack Pine)
Option to Bid	Tops/Biomass	Not Offered

Location: Section 32, T.28N.-R.07E. (Town of Rib Mt.) Size: 42 Acres

Seasonal Time Frame: June 1-November 15 (if ground is firm/dry, can start in May)

Cutting Regulations:

Area 1 – Red Pine Select Cut (4 blocks: 40 acres of 2nd thinning and 2 acres of 4th thinning) - Cut all trees marked with orange paint.

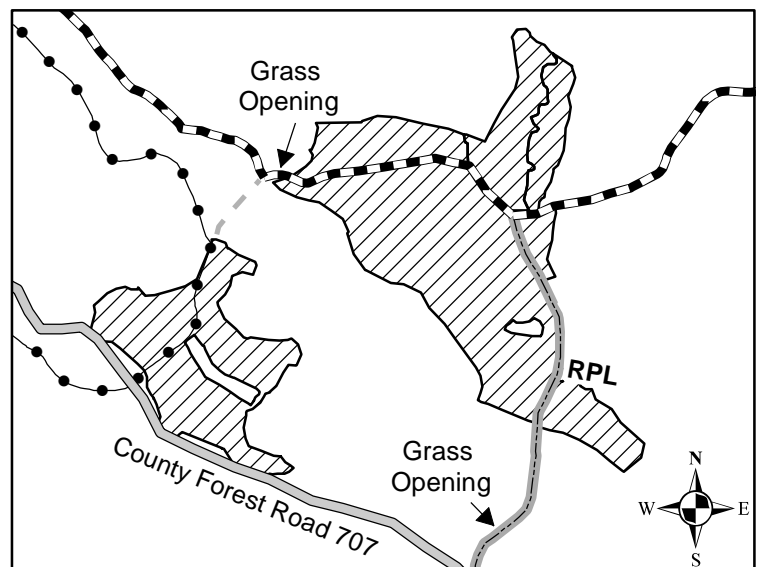
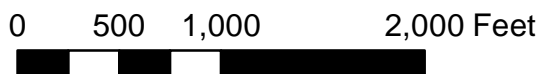
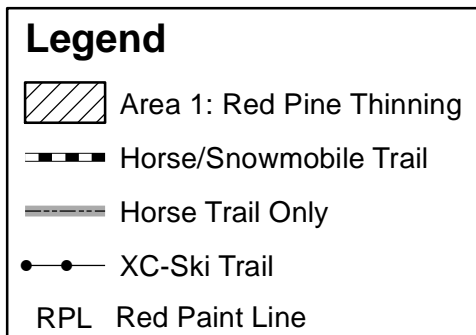
Roads/Trails/Decking Areas: Forestry Division must approve skid routes and decking areas. All cut pine must be hauled within 3 weeks from June 1-September 1.

Slash/Wildlife/Other: 16'8" maximum forest product length. All tops shall be lopped and scattered to lie within 24 inches of the ground. Maximum stump height shall not exceed the stump diameter, except for stumps less than 10," which shall not exceed 10." Annosum treatment required: If using Cellu-Treat, 100% of stump cross-section must be treated (NO EXCEPTIONS). If using Rot-Stop, at least 85% of stump cross-section must be treated. Use and repair of cross-country ski trails shall be completed by October 31 each year. No wood shall remain decked along xc-ski trail after October 31.

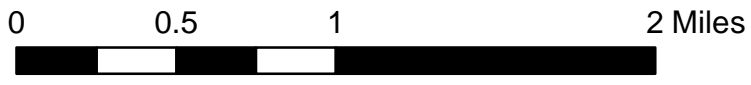
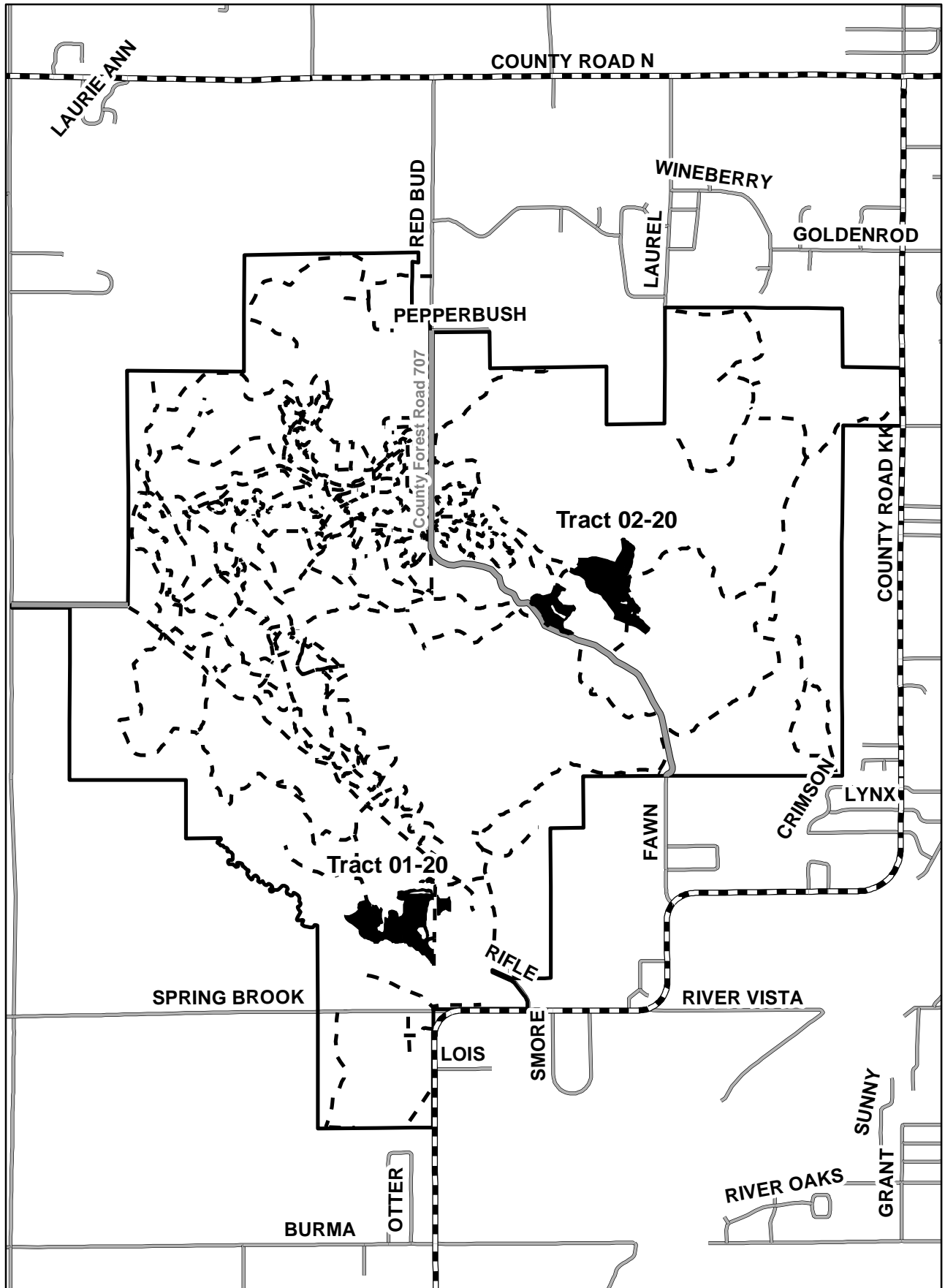
Utilization: Sawlogs - 10 inch or larger diameter inside bark (DIB) on the small end, at least 50% sound
Pulpwood - One or more sticks to a 4 inch diameter inside bark (DIB) on the small end

The bidder must sign and return our contract and a performance bond of at least 25% of the contract value within 15 days of being awarded the bid or the bidder will forfeit the bid bond in its entirety.

Contract Length: Contract must be completed by June 30, 2022.



Nine Mile Forest Unit



MARATHON COUNTY TIMBER SALE
Kronenwetter Forest Unit – March 2020

Tract # 03-20 STINGER SALE

Estimated Volumes

Ticket Sale	<u>Species</u>	<u>4" Top</u>		
	Red Oak	900 Tons	Red Maple Logs	15.0 MBF
	Mixed Hardwood	550 Tons (35% Hard Maple, 32% Red Maple, 31% Ash, 2% all other Hardwood)	Ash Logs	10.0 MBF
	Basswood	50 Tons	Basswood Logs	5.0 MBF (incl. < 1.0MBF all other hdwd)
	Red Oak Logs	85.0 MBF	Hard Maple Logs	5.0 MBF
Option to Bid	Tops/Biomass	300 tons		

Location: Section 24, T.27N.-R.8E. (Village of Kronenwetter)

Seasonal Time Frame: July 16-March 30

Size: 48 Acres A purple paint line separates cutting areas

Cutting Regulations:

Area 1 – Red Oak Shelterwood (28 acres in 2 blocks) - Cut all trees 1 inch and greater except those marked with green paint.

Area 2 – Northern Hardwood Thinning w/ gaps (19 acres in 1 block) – Cut all trees marked with orange paint. Cut all trees 1 inch and greater within green paint lines.

Area 3 – Red Maple Designated Cut (1 acre in 1 block) - Cut all merchantable trees. **Minimize damage to regeneration with minimal paths of travel. Trees shall be fallen, processed, and skidded within the path of travel.**

Roads/Trails/Decking Areas: Forestry Division must approve skid routes and decking areas.

Slash/Wildlife/Other: 16'8" maximum forest product length. All tops shall be lopped and scattered to lie within 24 inches of the ground. Maximum stump height shall not exceed the stump diameter, except for stumps less than 10," which shall not exceed 10." Do not cut snags, unless they pose a safety risk to harvesting operations or the public.

Trees marked with orange "W's" are wildlife trees ---DO NOT CUT.

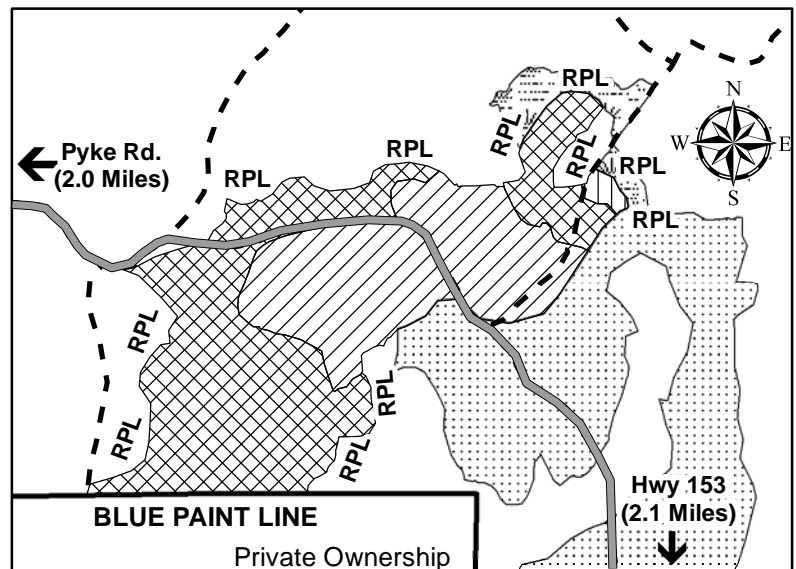
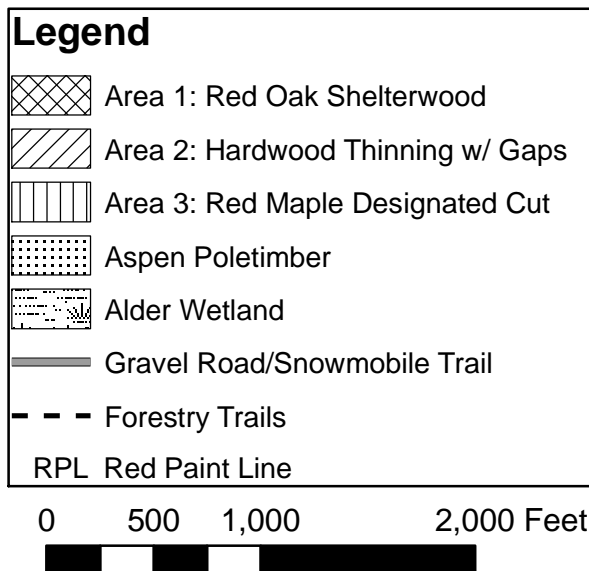
Utilization: Sawlogs - 10 inch or larger diameter inside bark (DIB) on the small end, at least 50% sound

Pulpwood - One or more sticks to a 4 inch diameter inside bark (DIB) on the small end

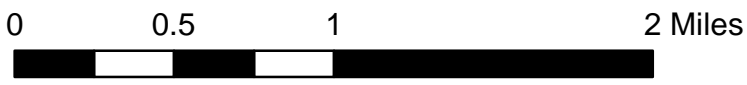
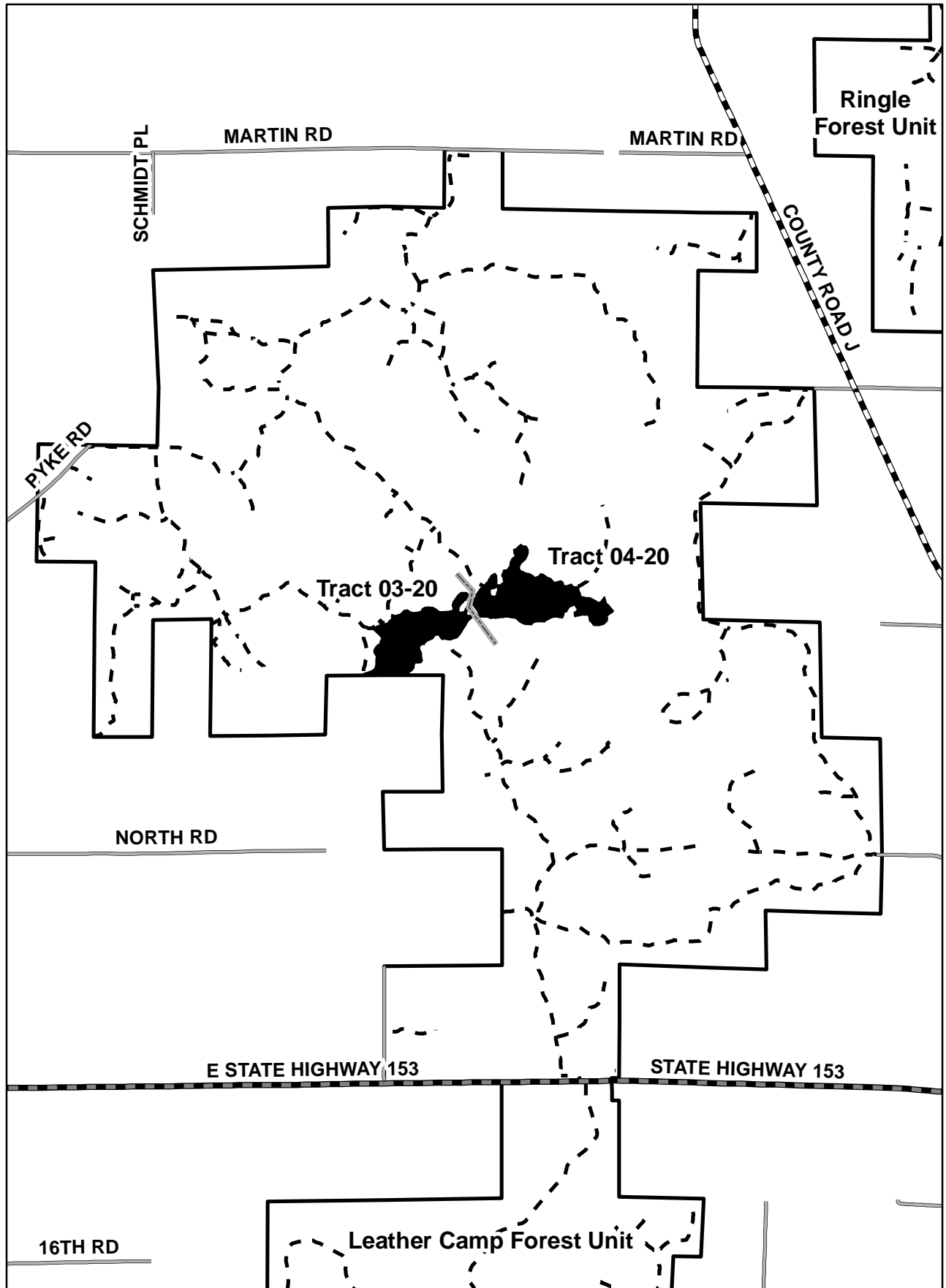
Tops/Biomass - Minimum utilization to a 2 inch diameter inside bark (DIB) on the small end

The bidder must sign and return our contract and a performance bond of at least 25% of the contract value within 15 days of being awarded the bid or the bidder will forfeit the bid bond in its entirety.

Contract Length: Contract must be completed by June 30, 2023.



Kronenwetter Forest Unit



MARATHON COUNTY TIMBER SALE
Kronenwetter Forest Unit – March 2020

Tract # 04-20 SLICE & DICE SALE

Ticket Sale	<u>Estimated Volumes</u>			
	<u>Species</u>	<u>4" Top</u>		
	Red Oak	1400 Tons		
	Mixed Hardwood	875 Tons (approx. 56% Red Maple, 22% Hard Maple, 20% Ash, 2% all other hardwood—includes approx. 12 tons Aspen)		
	Basswood	120 Tons		
	Red Oak Logs	110.0 MBF		
	Red Maple Logs	30.0 MBF	Hard Maple Logs	7.0 MBF
	Basswood Logs	8.0 MBF	Ash Logs	2.0 MBF (Incl. all other hardwood)
Option to Bid	Tops/Biomass	500 Tons		

Location: Section 24, T.27N.-R.8E. (Village of Kronenwetter)

Size: 58 Acres

Seasonal Time Frame: July 16-March 30 (need very dry or frozen ground conditions for Area 4: Swamp Hardwood)

Cutting Regulations:

Purple Paint Line separates cutting areas

Area 1 – Red Oak Shelterwood Cut (27 acres in 2 Blocks) – Cut all trees 1 inch and greater, except those marked with green paint.

Area 2 – Red Maple Designated Cut (11 acres in 3 Blocks) – Cut all merchantable trees, except those marked with green paint. **Minimize damage to regeneration with minimal paths of travel. Trees shall be fallen, processed, and skidded within the path of travel.**

Area 3 – Hardwood Select Cut (16 acres in 2 Blocks) – Cut all merchantable and non-merchantable trees marked with orange paint.

Area 4 – Swamp Hardwoods Designated Cut B (4 acres in 1 Block) – Cut all merchantable trees, except those marked with green paint. **Minimize damage to regeneration.**

Roads/Trails/Decking Areas: Forestry Division must approve skid routes and decking areas. If hauling on the snowmobile trail when “open,” a 3 inch snowbase shall be left.

Slash/Wildlife/Other: 16’8” maximum forest product length. All tops shall be lopped and scattered to lie within 24 inches of the ground. Maximum stump height shall not exceed the stump diameter, except for stumps less than 10,” which shall not exceed 10.” Do not cut snags, unless they pose a safety risk to harvesting operations or are within 100’ of gravel trail. Do not cut trees marked with orange “W’s.” Pull all merchantable and unmerchantable Ironwood out of ground or cause root damage. Wet/Soft area on grass trail (see map) is from surface water flow. Breaker rock may be needed to make this passable during summer/fall and placement shall not block surface water flow.

Utilization: Sawlogs - 10 inch or larger diameter inside bark (DIB) on the small end, at least 50% sound
Pulpwood - One or more sticks to a 4 inch diameter inside bark (DIB) on the small end
Tops/Biomass - Minimum utilization to a 2 inch diameter inside bark (DIB) on the small end

The bidder must sign and return our contract and a performance bond of at least 25% of the contract value within 15 days of being awarded the bid or the bidder will forfeit the bid bond in its entirety.

Contract Length: Contract must be completed by June 30, 2023.

Tract 04-20

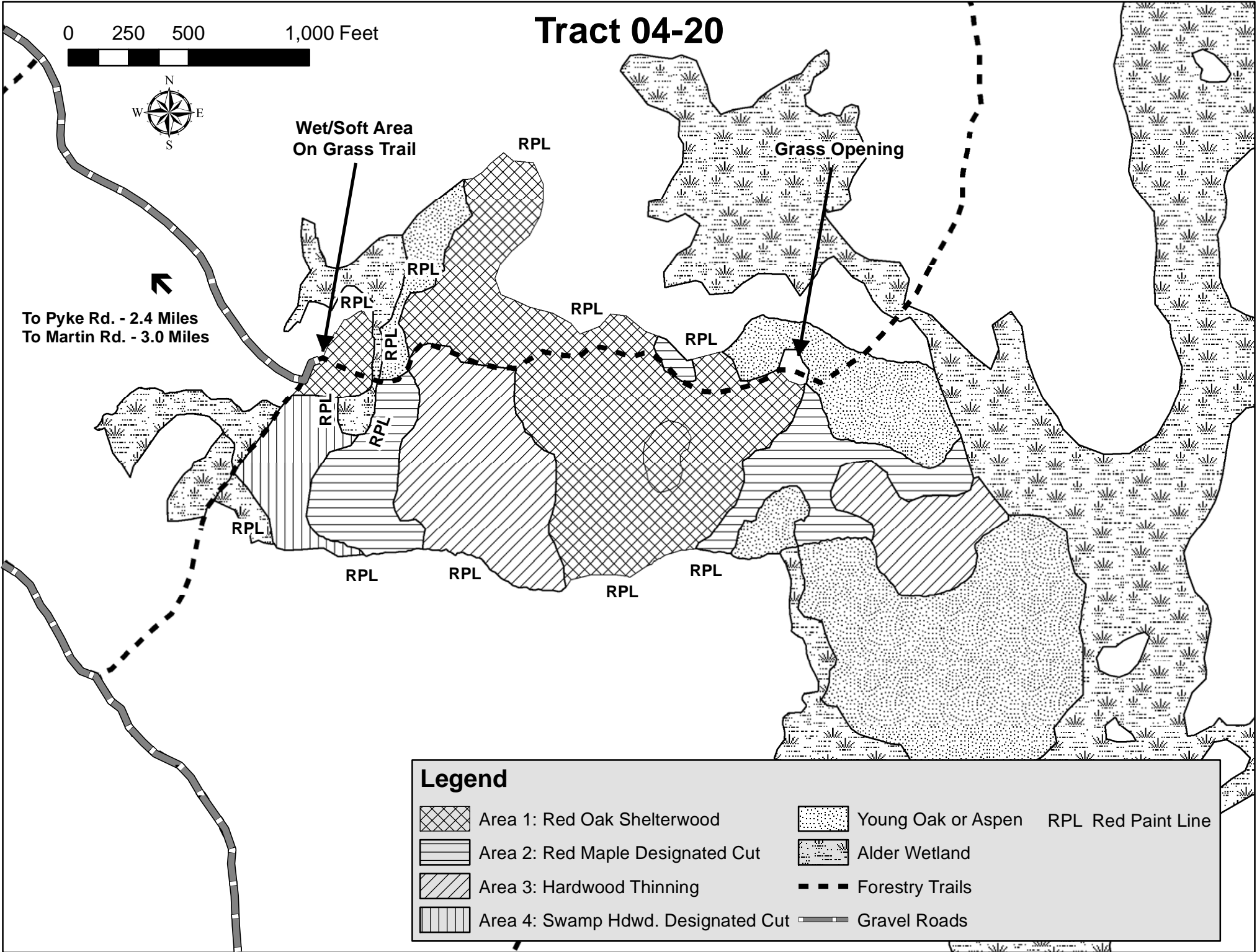
0 250 500 1,000 Feet



Wet/Soft Area
On Grass Trail

Grass Opening

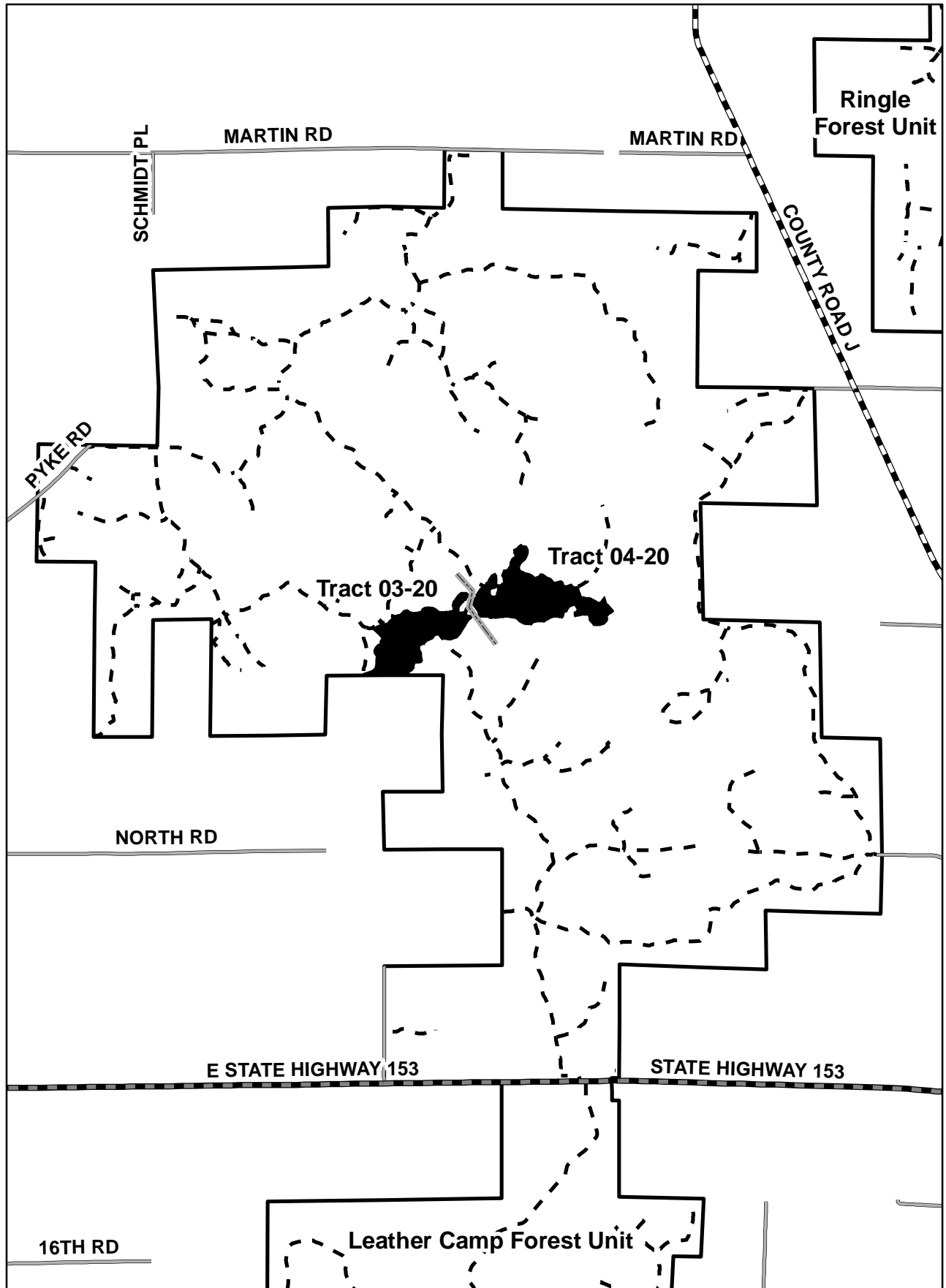
↖
To Pyke Rd. - 2.4 Miles
To Martin Rd. - 3.0 Miles



Legend

Area 1: Red Oak Shelterwood	Young Oak or Aspen	RPL Red Paint Line
Area 2: Red Maple Designated Cut	Alder Wetland	
Area 3: Hardwood Thinning	Forestry Trails	
Area 4: Swamp Hdwd. Designated Cut	Gravel Roads	

Kronenwetter Forest Unit



0 0.5 1 2 Miles



MARATHON COUNTY TIMBER SALE
Ringle Forest Unit – March 2020

Tract # 05-20 GRIDLOCK SALE

Ticket Sale	<u>Estimated Volumes</u>			
	<u>Species</u>	<u>4" Top</u>		
	Mixed Hardwood	1500 Tons	(approx. 88% Red Maple, 10% Ash, 1% Hard Maple, and 1% all other hardwood)	
	Red Oak	600 Tons		
	Basswood	320 Tons	Red Oak Logs	35.0 MBF (Incl. < 1.0 MBF Hard Maple)
	Aspen	45 Tons	Ash Logs	30.0 MBF
	Red Maple Logs	55.0 MBF	Basswood Logs	25.0 MBF (Incl. < 1.0 MBF all other hdwd)
Option to Bid	Tops/Biomass	500 Tons		

Location: Section 6, T.27N.-R.9E. (Town of Reid)

Size: 91 Acres

Seasonal Time Frame: Frozen Ground Only

Cutting Regulations:

Area 1 – Hardwood Thinning w/ Gaps (63 acres in 3 Blocks) – Cut all merchantable and non-merchantable trees marked with orange paint. Minimize damage to seedlings/saplings where groups of trees are marked with orange paint.

Area 2 – Aspen Clear-Cut (2 acres in 1 Block) – Cut all trees 1 inch and greater, except conifer.

Area 3 – Red Maple Clear-Cut (26 acres in 1 Block) – Cut all trees 1 inch and greater, except oak (unless marked with orange paint) and conifer. Do not cut non-merchantable Aspen/Birch saplings.

Roads/Trails/Decking Areas: Forestry Division must approve skid routes and decking areas. If hauling on the snowmobile trail when “open,” a 3 inch snowbase shall be left.

Slash/Wildlife/Other: 16’8” maximum forest product length. All tops shall be lopped and scattered to lie within 24 inches of the ground. Maximum stump height shall not exceed the stump diameter, except for stumps less than 10,” which shall not exceed 10.” Do not cut snags, unless they pose a safety risk to harvesting operations. **Do not cut trees marked with orange “W’s.** Pull all merchantable and unmerchantable Ironwood out of ground or cause root damage.

Utilization: Sawlogs - 10 inch or larger diameter inside bark (DIB) on the small end, at least 50% sound

Pulpwood - One or more sticks to a 4 inch diameter inside bark (DIB) on the small end

Tops/Biomass - Minimum utilization to a 2 inch diameter inside bark (DIB) on the small end

The bidder must sign and return our contract and a performance bond of at least 25% of the contract value within 15 days of being awarded the bid or the bidder will forfeit the bid bond in its entirety.

Contract Length: Contract must be completed by June 30, 2023.

Tract 05-20

← To Timber Ridge Rd.
- 0.25 Miles

County Forest Road 303

Snowmobile Trail

BLUE PAINT LINE

BLUE PAINT LINE

Snowmobile Trail

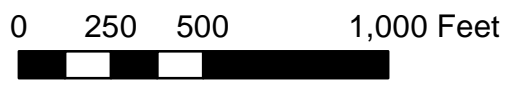
BLUE PAINT LINE

BLUE PAINT LINE

RPL
RPL
RPL
RPL

Snowmobile Trail

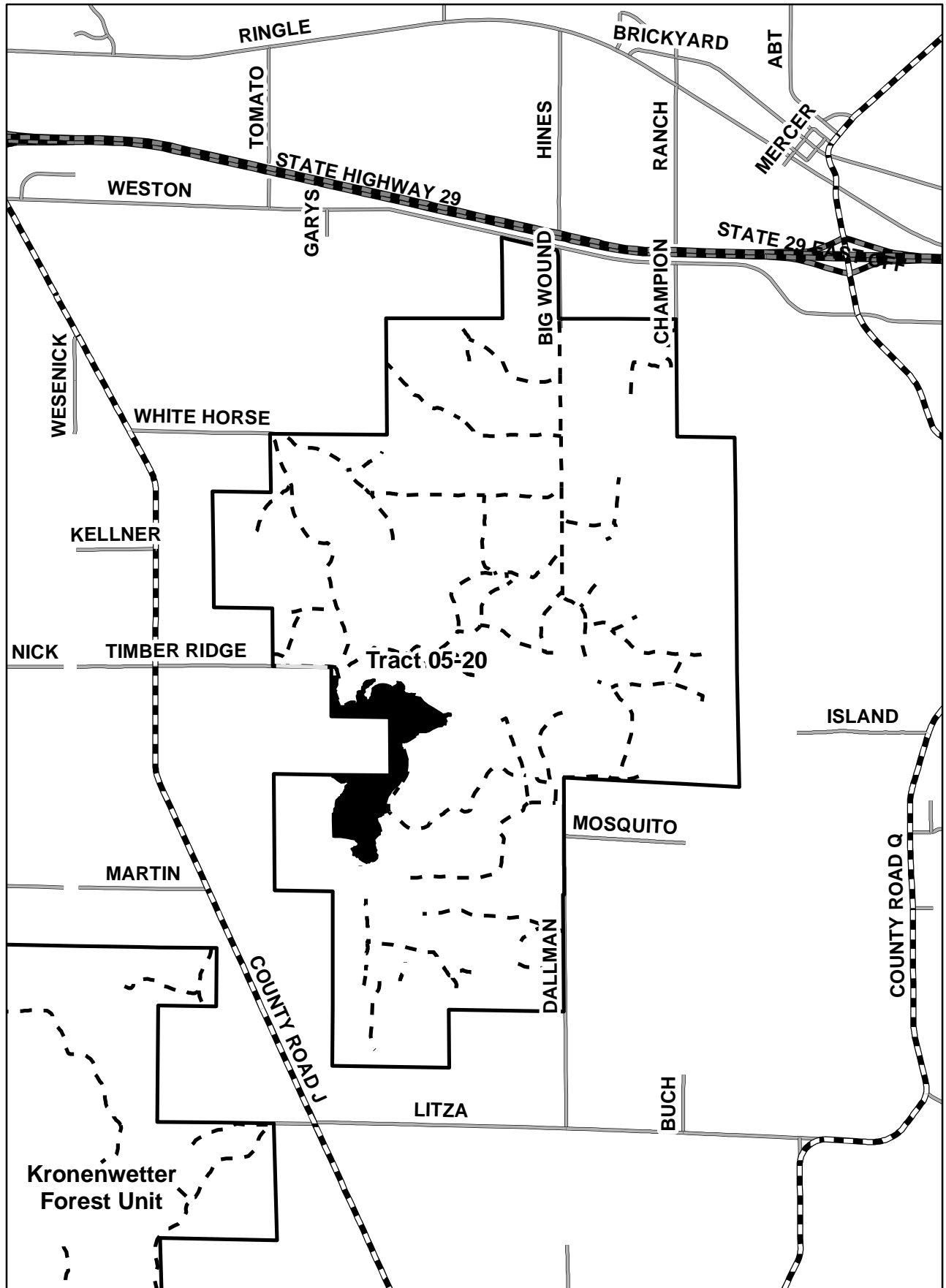
→ To Dallman Rd.
1.0 Miles



Legend

- Area 1: Hardwood Thinning
- Area 2: Aspen Clear-Cut
- Area 3: Red Maple Clear-Cut
- Sold Timber Sale
- Young Aspen
- Alder or Grass Wetland
- Forestry Trails
- Parking Lots
- RPL Red Paint Line

Ringle Forest Unit



CLOSE OUT TIMBER SALES

Close out April 7, 2020

Sale 676-18

RODNEY HIX FOREST PRODUCTS

	Estimated	Cut	
Aspen Pulp	2550 Tons	3459.38 Tons	Aspen Pulp
Mixed Hardwood Pulp	170 Tons	198.81 Tons	Mixed Hardwood Pulp
	2720 Tons	3658.19 Total Tons Cut	

Total Revenue for Sale: **\$49,743.42**

Balance: \$0.00

Bond Amount: \$9,256.50

Bond Type: Letter of Credit

Recommendation: **Close out and return Letter of Credit**

**MARATHON COUNTY TIMBER SALES
DIRECT SALE
April 7, 2020**

TRACT		BIDDER	BIDDER	BIDDER	BIDDER	BIDDER
10-19		<u>Twin Forest Products</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
Mixed Hardwood 4"	820 Tons	<u>\$8.30</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
Aspen 4"	120 Tons	<u>\$7.40</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
Red Maple Logs	40 MBF	<u>\$173.00</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
White Ash Logs	4 MBF	<u>\$112.00</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>	<u>_____</u>
		<u>TOTAL \$ 15,062.00</u>	<u>TOTAL \$ _____</u>	<u>TOTAL \$ _____</u>	<u>TOTAL \$ _____</u>	<u>TOTAL \$ _____</u>

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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CHAPTER 700

ROADS AND ACCESS

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700 ACCESS CONTROL AND HISTORY

Resource management, protection activities, recreational uses, and other public uses on the Marathon County Forest require several different types of access. Since the Forest is large and diverse, a broad network of access opportunities have developed. A combination of geography, soils, vegetation, surface waters, seasons of the year, presence/absence of roads or trails, ownership of adjoining lands, and public regulations interact to control access to any part of the Forest.

During the 1970's, Marathon County created a policy to gate or berm most roads and trails intersecting with Town, County or State roads. The policy was to prohibit vehicular traffic except on designated trails and to prevent resource damage. About the same time, the County designated snowmobile trails using existing logging roads and opened gates in the winter for this recreational pursuit. In the late 1980's, the County also designated 14 miles of ATV trails in the Burma Forest Unit. Some of the trails were closed to ATV's because they were located in lowland areas to prevent resource damage. Currently, about 11 miles of trails are designated for ATV use. During the last three planning processes, 1986-1995, 1996-2005, and 2006-2020 there was overwhelming support by County residents to continue this gating and designated trail policy.

Many of the existing roads and trails were originally developed as logging roads, forest fire protection lanes, or trails used to reach popular hunting and fishing areas. The locations and standards for these earlier roads were not routinely established by County personnel.

Over the years, the road density and use of Forest roads and trails on the Forest has increased in response to an expanding number of recreational activities and to an active timber harvest program. Often times, different uses have occurred on the same trails with minimal conflicts. But the diverse demands for, and uses of, the County Forest have reached the point where an integrated access management plan is needed.

LIST OF PROBLEM AREAS AND REASONS FOR ACCESS PLANNING

User conflict between groups: Example, hunting on foot versus use of ATV's for disabled hunting.

Safety: Example, pleasure riding of horses on the same trail with ATV vehicle traffic or hiking.

Erosion: Soils eroding due to use or over-use by vehicles.

Litter: Depositing garbage and waste on the Forest.

Over-utilization of a resource: Example, reduced availability of trophy-sized deer, excessive harvest of ruffed grouse along trails, etc.

Crowding: Example, complaints from hunters about intensified competition for traditional hunting areas as a result of better access.

Fires: Example, increased exposure of the resource to forest fire occurrence.

Endangered species management: Example, high road densities conflict with eagle and osprey nest disturbance.

Invasive species: Example, introduction of invasive exotic species along travel routes.

Developmental trends: Example, preservation of the County Forest solitude by limiting access versus development of high intensity use by additional roads and unlimited access.

Road placement: Example, some roads should be closed for improper location and evaluated for replacement.

Clear and concise policy for the public.

705 CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

1. Provide direction to the committee and resource managers in order to maintain a network of roads and trails on the County Forest. This will meet the needs for resource management and protection activities, as well as provide public access for recreation opportunities.
2. Identify the distribution, density, and types of roads and uses of roads and trails needed to establish a safe and efficient transportation and recreation system that complements the economic, environmental, and social interest in the County Forest.
3. Identify the existing and future County Forest roads eligible for transportation aids under s. 86.315(1), Wis. Stats.
4. Identify areas on the County Forest where the access is limited or restricted.
5. Identify the provisions and criteria that will be policy when addressing management issues on the County Forest.

710 ROADS

Marathon County Parks and Forest staff will oversee the construction and maintenance of all roads within the County Forest. These roads may be constructed and maintained by the County or private contractors working under contract. The specifications for road construction and maintenance will vary with the frequency, duration, and planned use of each road. Three major types of roads occur on the Forest: permanent primary roads, permanent secondary roads, and temporary roads.

New road establishment should consider information identifying areas with sensitive soils or severe slopes that have the potential for adverse water quality impacts from land management practices. County staff can work with local DNR forest hydrologists to develop site-specific measures where appropriate and to follow all required permitting processes when applicable.

The forest should have enough roads to provide sufficient access, without degrading water resources, while still maintaining recreational experiences. Program evaluation of road infrastructure will continuously occur.

710.1 PERMANENT PRIMARY FOREST ROADS (County Forest Roads)

These roads are the primary roads accessing the County Forest. They are designed, constructed, and maintained for year-round use. These roads serve as essential access corridors for multiple use management. These roads are graveled and routinely graded. Vehicle use may be restricted at various times of the year to minimize physical damage to the road, safety reasons, to accommodate a groomed snowmobile trail or recreational events. Closing of these roads will be for the shortest possible time due to the law requiring that they be open to the public.

Forest roads in this category qualify for the County Forest Road Aids program. Qualifying roads in this program must meet minimum design standards set by WI Statute Section 86.315 (4) (a) and 86.315 (3) and administered by WI DOT. A yearly aid payment is used to maintain and improve these certified public roads. The following table lists the roads currently certified under s. 86.31(1), Wis. Stats.

MARATHON COUNTY CURRENT AND FUTURE WDOT CERTIFIED

TOWNSHIP	SECTION	LENGTH (MI)	ROAD NAME/COMMENTS
Guenther	Sec. 11, T26N-R8E	.77	County Forest 505 Road
Guenther	Sec. 12, 13, T26N-R8E	.18	County Forest 510 Road
Harrison	Sec. 4, T30N-R10E	.81	County Forest 112 Road
Harrison	Sec. 7, T30N-R10E	.13	County Forest 105 Road
Harrison	Sec. 31, T30N-R10E	.30	County Forest 202 Road
Hewitt	Sec. 1, 2, T30N-R10E	.50	County Forest 101 Road
Hewitt	Sec. 12, T30N-R9E	.13	County Forest 105 Road
Hewitt	Sec. 36, T30N-R9E	.30	County Forest 202 Road
Marathon	Sec. 36, T28N-R6E	.51	County Forest 702 Road
Reid	Sec. 6, T27N-R9E	.13	County Forest 303 Road
Rib Mountain	Sec. 29, 30, 32, 33, T28N-R7E	2.60	County Forest 707 Road
Ringle	Sec. 31, T28N-R9E	.12	County Forest 303 Road
TOTALS		6.48	

These permanent primary roads will be maintained and open to the public.

Maintenance on primary forest roads receiving County Forest road aid payments will include a monitoring program, which will ensure that Best Management Practices for Water Quality (BMPs) are providing adequate environmental protection, and drainage structures are in proper working condition. Such monitoring will be ongoing, at regular intervals as needed. Road segments with more intensive use will be identified and examined more frequently to verify that water quality protection structures have not been degraded. Monitoring results will be documented and will be used to assist with locating portions of road that have more recurrent repair needs. Restoration of failing structures will be done in a timely manner to assure that BMP standards are being upheld.

The Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) will continue to pursue additional funding for maintenance on primary forest roads receiving road aid payments. County forest management is met with the current primary forest road system. No additional permanent primary roads are needed at this time.

During certain times, primarily spring break up, the Parks and Forestry Department may post roads as Class B to limit damage. County Forest 707 Road in the Town of Rib Mountain will be the only permanent primary road snowplowed. All other permanent primary roads lead in to forest parking areas and will not be snowplowed by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department. The map of the permanent primary forest roads is located in the appendix.

710.2 PERMANENT SECONDARY FOREST ROADS

Secondary roads are maintained for three season access (summer, fall, winter) to accomplish forest management, wildlife management, fire protection, and provide recreation. These roads are maintained as part of a permanent road system but are often narrower than permanent primary roads and are built and maintained to lower standards. Some of these roads are designed for use only when the ground is frozen or firm. The roads will be blocked, gated, and/or signed. All secondary roads are closed to public motorized use except by permit or as otherwise designated by the Committee. The map of the permanent secondary roads is in the appendix.

In instances where motorized traffic is restricted, vehicle access will only be authorized for planned management activities or fire protection. Foot traffic is allowed on all roads.

710.2.1 Permanent Secondary Forest Road Additions

New access roads will be evaluated by the Forest Administrator before being classified as a permanent secondary road. Consideration will be given to distribution by geographic unit, road density, and need as it relates to potential use, and available funding for long-term road maintenance. In the interest of resource protection, all access roads which are not needed may be bermed or blocked to restrict all but non-motorized traffic.

710.3 TEMPORARY ROADS

Many of the roads on the Forest fall into this classification. These roads are designed and constructed for short-term use for a specific project; often for timber harvest access. These roads are used only for a short

duration and when the activity is done, the temporary road is closed. These roads are naturally or artificially revegetated and closed by use of earthen berms/bunkers or other physical barriers. In some cases, roads are completely closed with slash and debris to prevent future use and to encourage natural regeneration of trees.

Temporary roads on existing and past sales will be considered for closure. Reasons will include protection of perpetually wet soils, human safety, and prevention of illegal dumping.

The need for new temporary roads will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Road locations will be included in designing timber harvests. Consideration will be given to the objectives within each County Forest unit, existing road density, potential use, and soil type.

710.4 STATE, COUNTY, TOWN DRIVEWAY PERMITS

710.4.1 State Highways

Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) requires permits for permanent and temporary driveways on State highways. The County will track and retain permit records and work with local DOT officials for access.

710.4.2 County Highways

Driveway permits are issued by officials of the Marathon County Highway Department and are required for all access onto a County highway. New roads that intersect County highways must have the intersections approved by the Highway Department prior to construction and cleared of all unsightly debris at the time of construction. The contractor is responsible to apply, pay all fees and obtain all approvals. The contractor also agrees to fully comply with all terms and conditions of intersection approvals.

710.4.3 Town Roads

Driveway permits are issued by officials of the Towns and may be required for access onto a Town road. New roads that intersect Town roads must have the intersections approved by the Town prior to construction and cleared of all unsightly debris at the time of construction. The contractor is responsible to apply, pay all fees and obtain all approvals. The Contractor also agrees to fully comply with all terms and conditions of intersection approvals.

710.5 UTILITIES

In 2004 Marathon County and Wisconsin Public Service Corporation entered into a utility construction and maintenance agreement for the Arrowhead to Weston Transmission Line Project. As part of this agreement a perpetual easement and Right-Of-Way for the erection, maintenance and operation of a high voltage powerline was also modified to allow electric utility operations across Nine Mile County Forest. Additionally, there are numerous other transmission line easements that allow for high voltage transmission lines to cross County Forest lands. An easement in Nine Mile Forest for an underground pipeline that allows the transportation of liquids, gasses and/or solids was signed with Williams Pipe Line Company in 1967. See Chapter 500, Section 520.5 for policy on public utilities.

710.6 CULVERTS

In many cases culverts are needed in all three classifications of roads that are on the County Forest when dealing with drainages, wetlands and stream crossings. Some of these are temporarily placed culverts that are used during a specific project then removed, while others are permanent structures.

In all instances, culverts should be placed according to required DNR permitting procedures and will follow BMP's for culverts that can be found in chapters 4 and 5 of the WI BMP's for Water Quality PUB FR-093 2010.

Routine maintenance of these structures should also be completed to make sure structures are adequately working. The County may want to consider documenting the location of culverts on the forest and provide a list of the culverts that should be routinely checked.

715 RESTRICTED ACCESS AREAS

In addition to providing trails for motorized vehicle use, the Forest may also provide and designate areas where motorized equipment is not permitted unless authorized by the Committee. The principal intent of these areas is to prevent environmental damage to sensitive areas, protect historical or archeological sites, protect endangered and threatened species, provide for human safety and provide areas for quiet, secluded recreation. There are currently no restricted access areas on the Marathon County Forest.

720 WILD LAKES

There are no wild lakes on the Marathon County Forest.

725 ROAD CONSTRUCTION BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR WATER QUALITY

The layout and construction of any new road or trail situated on the County Forest shall adhere to *Wisconsin's Best Management Practices for Water Quality* (PUB-FR-093 2010). This access management plan addresses the need and diversity level of forest roads and trails within the County Forest. The BMP Manual provides guidelines for road construction. Soil disturbance activities in highly erodible soil areas may require mitigating measures in excess of those currently listed in the Best Management Practices manual PUB-FR-093 2010. Wider buffers, sediment control structures and water diversion techniques will be used as appropriate in these sensitive areas. Best Management Practices will be followed on all projects or activities that occur on County Forest lands.

730 SIGNS

Signs on the County Forest will be used discreetly to perform and function with minimal disruption to the multiple uses of the Forest. Private signs promoting personal, commercial or political objectives will not be permitted without authorization from Marathon County. Signs erected by the County for management purposes or by non-profit recreational trail groups will be as follows:

1. Informational Type Signs
 - a. Interpretive Signs - to educate the general public about forest management practices.
 - b. Public Land Signs - to identify the land as Marathon County Forest property.
 - c. Trail Markers - to provide direction and safety to trail users.
 - d. Scientific, Historical or Geological Markers - to identify points of interest.
 - e. Recreational Facility Markers - to identify park entrances, etc.
 - f. Directional Markers.
2. Regulatory Type Signs - to regulate the use of the Forest in specific areas.

730.1 SIGNING STANDARDS

To assure that signs will serve a purpose without damaging aesthetics, the following standards will be maintained:

1. All signs will be mounted on treated wood posts, carbide posts, or steel backed wooden posts. NO signs will be nailed or fixed in any other way to living trees.
2. Routed wood signs will be used wherever practical. Fiberboard or painted metal signs, when used,

will be of neat appearance.

3. Signs placed on snowmobile/ATV/UTV trails must conform to State standards and be approved by the Committee.
4. All authorized signs shall be protected by ordinance from being damaged, defaced, obstructed, removed, or possessed by unauthorized persons.
5. All unauthorized signs will be removed by the Parks and Forestry staff. No compensation will be afforded for loss or damage to signs during removal. Individuals erecting unauthorized signs may be prosecuted under s. 943.13(3), Wis. Stats.

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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800 CHAPTER OBJECTIVES

1. To introduce and communicate to the public, the County Board of Supervisors, and to the Wisconsin DNR, the integrated resource approach that forestry, wildlife and other natural resource staff will use on the Marathon County Forest during this planning period.
2. Counties may wish to consider "Integrated Resource Management Units" (IRMU) approach, that will identify and summarize the natural resources, social and physical management potential and opportunities for each unit.

805 INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT APPROACH

Integrated Resource Management is defined as: "the simultaneous consideration of ecological, physical, economic, and social aspects of lands, waters and resources in developing and implementing multiple-use, sustained yield management" (Helms, 1998).

This balance of ecological, economic, and social factors is the framework within which the Marathon County Forest is managed. This broad definition describes the content of everything within this comprehensive land use plan. Previous chapters have discussed in depth many of the social and economic issues.

For the purpose of this chapter, the scope of Integrated Resource Management includes:

1. Forests, habitats, biological communities
2. Wetlands and waters
3. Wildlife and endangered resources
4. Soils and minerals
5. Cultural and historical resources

Management of one resource affects the management or use of other resources in an area. Managing each use or resource by itself is less effective than managing all of them in an integrated way. This is a field level approach to integrated resource management. Management decisions are made while considering that each site is part of a larger ecosystem. Similarly, the development and implementation of this plan also considers other planning efforts in order to provide for broader scale management.

The working definition of integrated resource management means, in large part, keeping natural communities of plants and animals and their environments healthy and productive so people can enjoy and benefit from them now and in the future.

The remainder of this chapter is written to help communicate how the Forest is managed on an integrated resource approach.

810 SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

"the practice of managing dynamic forest ecosystems to provide ecological, economic, social and cultural benefits for present and future generations" NR 44.03(12) Wis. Adm. Code and s. 28.04(1)(e), Wis. Stats.

For the purpose of this chapter, sustainable forestry will be interpreted as the management of the Forest to meet the needs of the present without knowingly compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (economic, social, and ecological) by practicing a land stewardship ethic which integrates the growing, nurturing, and harvesting of trees for useful products with the conservation of soil, air and water quality, and wildlife and fish habitat. This process is dynamic, and changes as we learn from past management.

810.1 TOOLS IN INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

810.1.1 Compartment Recon

The County will support and utilize the compartment reconnaissance procedures as set forth by the DNR Public Forest Lands Handbook 2460.5. WisFIRS serves as the database for housing recon information.

810.1.2 Forest Habitat Classification System

The Forest Habitat Classification System (*A Guide to Forest Communities and Habitat Types of Northern Wisconsin Second Edition; Kotar, et al.*) is a natural classification system for forest communities and the sites on which they develop. It utilizes systematic interpretation of natural vegetation with emphasis on understory species.

The Forest Habitat Classification System is an ecological tool promoting a common language for interpreting site capability based on potential natural vegetation. Its primary use is the assessment of biological potential of upland forest sites. Through the application of Forest Habitat

Classification, land managers are better able to assess site potential of current stands, identify ecological and silvicultural alternatives, predict the effectiveness of possible silvicultural treatments, assess feasible management alternatives, and choose appropriate management objectives.

Data will be collected in order to classify the entire forest. This information should be included in the compartment reconnaissance system during regular field inspections. This data should also be compared to soil survey information in order to associate the relationships between forest habitat types and soil types.

810.1.3 Soil Surveys

Forestry staff's knowledge of forest ecology and their experience across the landscape can assist in associating forest habitat types and site indices with soil type information. These associations can be beneficial in determining management prescriptions for specific sites. WisFIRS contains soil survey data, and this information can also be found on the NRCS website-based soil survey.

810.1.4 Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin

The Wisconsin DNR uses Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin (WDNR Handbook 1805.1) which is an ecological land classification system based on the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units (NHFEU). Ecological landscapes distinguish land areas different from one another in ecological characteristics. A combination of physical and biological factors including climate, geology, topography, soils, water, and vegetation are used. They provide a useful tool and insight into ecosystem management. Land areas identified and mapped in this manner are known as ecological units.

Generally accepted silvicultural systems are prescribed on a stand level scale, in recognition of the position within an ecological landscape.

810.1.5 Integrated Pest Management

“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”.

The Committee has the authority to approve and direct the use of pesticides and other reasonable alternatives in an integrated pest management program on the Forest. Refer to Chapter 600 (610.3) for more detailed discussion and integrated pest management strategies.

810.1.6 Best Management Practices for Water Quality

The most practical and cost-effective method to assure that forestry operations do not adversely affect water quality on the County Forest is to utilize "best management practices" (BMP's) as described in *Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality. Publication number FR-093 2010.*

Consistent with the aforementioned manual (page 6), Marathon County will use BMP's on the Forest with the understanding that the application of BMP's may be modified for specific site conditions with guidance from a forester or other natural resource professional. Modifications will provide equal or greater water quality protection or have no impact on water quality. Areas with highly erodible soil types, close proximity to streams or lakes, or steep slopes may require mitigating measures in excess of those outlined in the manual. All Marathon County employees practicing forestry will receive BMP training. Additionally, Marathon County will encourage BMP training of all logging contractors that operate on County timber sales.

810.1.7 Fire Management

810.1.7.1 Uncontrolled Fire: Refer to Chapter 600.

810.1.7.2 Prescribed Fire

Prescribed burning on the County Forest may play an important role in management. Many of the plant communities present today are the result of wild fires.

As the needs are presented to regenerate or maintain timber types or other plant communities, the Committee will examine the costs and benefits of each opportunity. Increased regulations, the county's cost of completing the burn, and the risk of breakouts and uncontrolled fires will have to be considered with any benefits of vegetation management through prescribed burning.

All prescribed burning will be done in accordance with Wisconsin State Statutes 26.12, 26.14, and the DNR Prescribed Burn Handbook 4360.5 and in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources per section 605.5 of this plan.

810.1.8 Outside Expertise, Studies and Survey

Additional data necessary to make management decisions on the County Forest will be sought from agencies or individuals, who have the best capability and technical expertise, including, but not limited to:

1. Water Resources: WDNR
2. Wildlife Resources: WDNR
3. Soil Resources: NRCS
4. Mineral Resources: WDNR
5. Wetland Resources: WDNR, Army Corps of Engineers, County Zoning
6. Navigable Streams: WDNR, Army Corps of Engineers, County Zoning
7. Floodplains: County Zoning
8. Cultural Resources: WDNR, State Historical Society
9. Entomology / Pathology: WDNR
10. Endangered Resources: WDNR
11. Forestry: Cooperative Field Trials, see WDNR website
12. Local Citizen Involvement: Public and Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee
13. Other subjects as needed

810.1.9 Local Silvicultural Field Trials

To date, numerous field trials have been completed or are ongoing on the Marathon County Forest. These trials include:

1. Red Oak growth study completed by UWSP Professor Mike Demcheck in Ringle and Elderon Forest Units.
2. Seeded tamarack in strip clearcuts at Nine Mile Forest after Black Ash was removed.
3. Completed CFI plots in Ringle Forest Unit to determine Red Oak regeneration.

815 MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS TO REDUCE LOSS

815.1 RISK FACTORS

815.1.1 Wind

The first order of business after a wind event is to clear and open roads, trails and recreational sites. As those tasks are completed, efforts are then turned to cleaning up and salvaging damage done to the forest.

Storm-damaged pine stands should be top priority when deciding where to start. Salvaging pine is much more urgent than oak or other hardwood stands because damaged pines will quickly begin to stain, and insects and disease will rapidly infest the damaged trees. As areas with pine are salvaged, the focus can turn to hardwoods and other types of timber. Stands with a high percentage of oak should follow oak harvesting guidelines if possible.

Uprooted trees and those with completely broken tops, will die and should be salvaged. Standing trees with some broken branches are judgment calls. A general rule is to salvage the tree if more than 50% of the crown or top is broken, but there may be situations when these damaged trees could be left to help the forest recover. Trees that are leaning may have broken roots or broken stem fibers and should be considered for salvage. Hail damage associated with wind storms may not be apparent until the following spring. Dieback, and mortality associated with storms could continue for 2-3 years after the event. As a result, stands will continue to be monitored for several years, especially if additional stresses occur in the year or years after the storm damage occurred.

815.1.2 Flooding

Flooding and high water can cause mortality by reducing the amount of oxygen in the soil, depriving trees with submerged roots of the oxygen needed for growth and respiration. Along with submerged roots, trees can also die from uprooting and from subsequent insect and disease attack following flooding stress. DNR Forest Health Specialist's may be consulted in flood-damaged stands and it may become necessary to conduct salvage harvests in flooded stands where appropriate. Access to wet or flooded sites can be difficult and may require frozen ground conditions. This is of greatest concern in stands where salvage harvests are needed to capture value, such as stands impacted by insects like emerald ash borer.

815.1.3 Fire

See Chapter 600, Section 605.

815.1.4 Climate Change

Northern forests may be affected by climate change during the next century. Marathon County recognizes that these potential changes to our climate can impact our forest and the various programs that we manage. A proactive approach will be followed with consideration being given to how changing conditions could impact forest composition, management of roads and recreational trails, wildlife habitat, watersheds, invasive species and forest pests/diseases. Timber management may include goals such as encouraging ecosystems with a variety of species on the landscape whenever possible, and giving consideration to forest types that will be less impacted by changing climate patterns.

815.1.5 Timber markets

Generally, the number of mills utilizing raw forest products in Wisconsin has declined significantly over the last 20 years. However, this decline has been somewhat offset by an increased demand for export logs and lumber. As transportation costs continue to rise, short distance hauls to a mill become more desirable for timber producers. With a pulp/paper mill (hardwood) and an OSB mill located in Tomahawk; a pulp/paper mill (hardwood) in Rothschild and a pulp/paper mill (softwood) in Mosinee, the Marathon County Forest is situated well for small diameter lower quality raw material markets. The Marathon County Forest also has several markets for hardwood saw logs and saw bolts and softwood saw logs within close proximity. Considering the location of the Marathon County Forest, demand for its forest products should remain strong into the future.

820 PLANT COMMUNITIES MANAGEMENT

Marathon County recognizes the importance of maintaining the diversity of the forest under an ecosystem approach. The process involved in making management decisions to encourage or not encourage specific species or communities is complex. It includes an understanding of:

1. Objectives of the County
2. Integration of landforms, soils, climate, and vegetative factors
3. Habitat classification
4. Past, present and future desired condition
5. Surrounding ownership patterns and general objectives

6. Wildlife habitat and other values
7. Social needs

820.1 SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES/TREATMENTS

Silviculture is the art and science of controlling forest composition, structure, and growth to maintain and enhance the forest's utility for any purpose. These practices are based on research and general silviculture knowledge of the species being managed. The goal is to encourage vigor within all developmental stages of forest stands, managed in an even aged or uneven aged system. The application of silviculture to a diverse forest needs a unified, systematic approach. The DNR Public Forest Lands Handbook (2460.5) and DNR Silvicultural Guidance will be used as guidelines for management practices used on the County Forest.

820.1.1 Natural Regeneration

Where feasible, natural regeneration will be encouraged through the use of silvicultural methods that promote regrowth and recruitment of the forest. Examples include: clearcuts, shelterwood cuts, strip cuts, scarification, prescribed burning, select cuts, and seed tree cuts. These practices can be enhanced by additional treatments, including the cutting of non-merchantable trees following harvest, by scarification before or after cutting for natural seeding, by prescribed burning, and by chemical treatment. These treatments can be used alone or in combination, depending on the needs of the site. In general, the particular silvicultural method chosen will depend on the biological functions of the target species or forest type.

820.1.1.1 Clearcutting/Coppice

Clearcutting is a silvicultural method used to regenerate shade intolerant species. Complete, or nearly complete removal of the forest canopy will stimulate the regeneration and growth of species such as aspen, jack pine and white birch. This method is also used as a final rotation removal in species such as red oak, red pine and others. Tree retention guidelines are followed when prescribing clearcut or coppice cuts.

820.1.1.2 Shelterwood / Seed Tree

Shelterwood harvest is a method used to regenerate mid-shade tolerant and shade tolerant species. Partial canopies stimulate regeneration, enhance growth and can provide seed source. Canopies are eventually removed. This method is used for white birch, white pine, red oak, and northern hardwood (when managing even aged).

820.1.1.3 All Aged Regeneration Harvests

All aged regeneration harvests are used in shade tolerant species. Gaps in the forest canopy allow regeneration to occur throughout the stand. Over time, multiple entries into the stand will create multiple age class structure with the intent of creating a fully regulated stand. All aged regeneration harvests may be prescribed in the form of single tree selection, group selection or patch selection. This method is used in northern hardwood and occasionally in swamp hardwoods (when managing for all aged).

820.1.1.4 Prescribed Burning

Prescribed burning may be utilized as a tool to promote regeneration. A number of forest types in Marathon County are ecologically tied to fire. Burning may create seeding conditions or release regeneration from competing vegetation. Prescribed fire may be used for regeneration of red oak, jack pine or white pine. See Chapter 600, Section 605.4.

820.1.1.5 Soil Scarification

Scarification is a technique used to prepare a seedbed beneath forest stands scheduled for harvest and regeneration. This mechanical disturbance that exposes bare mineral seedbeds and creates conditions necessary for regeneration of pine species. Disturbance that mixes seed into duff and soil layers creates optimal conditions for regeneration of oak, white birch, fir and others. Marathon County utilizes salmon blades, root rakes, straight blade, anchor chain or any others to accomplish soil scarification.

820.1.1.6 Other

Other natural regeneration techniques may be considered where necessary and appropriate. New methods for natural regeneration are continually tested for effectiveness.

820.1.2 Artificial Regeneration

When natural regeneration fails, or when tree species present do not coincide with management objectives for the site, artificial means will be employed to establish a desirable stand of trees. Artificial regeneration on a site usually requires some form of site preparation followed by seeding or planting. Cost effectiveness of any method of site preparation will be considered when deciding the appropriate method to use.

820.1.2.1 Mechanical Site Preparation

Mechanical site preparation includes the use of soil disturbance equipment such as a disc, roller chopper, patch scarifier, disk trencher or V-plow prior to tree planting or seeding. These types of equipment are used to reduce logging debris to a smaller size, incorporate debris into the soil, clear brush and debris from the site to facilitate planting or seeding, and to reduce competition from other vegetation.

820.1.2.2 Chemical Site Preparation

Herbicide application can be an effective means of controlling unwanted vegetation in order to establish seedlings or plantations. It should be used sparingly, in situations where mechanical treatment is not expected to provide the level of vegetative control needed. Chemicals will be selected and applied in strict accordance with label recommendations, requirements, and under the oversight of a certified applicator. The objective of herbicide use is not to kill all competing vegetation, but rather to kill or set back competing vegetation only enough to establish a reasonable stocked stand of desirable trees. Proximity to private lands, residences, highways, and other public use areas must be considered in selecting both the herbicide and the means of application. Herbicides can be applied with hand-held equipment, by motorized ground based equipment, or aircraft. A written prescription for each herbicide application will be prepared, kept on file, and be made available to the primary applicator.

820.1.2.3 Prescribed Burning

Prescribed burning for site preparation can be used to reduce logging debris, clear the site, reduce competing vegetation, and to release nutrients into the soil. DNR fire control staff will be the major source of guidance and direction for use of fire as a tool.

820.1.2.4 Tree Planting / Seeding

Both machine and/or hand planting/seeding will be utilized to insure adequate regeneration. The selection of species will be determined according to the specific management objectives and capabilities of each site. Planting or seeding will primarily occur in areas where natural regeneration is inadequate or conflicts with the management goals of the site. County will make all reasonable efforts to source seeds/seedlings from local genetics.

820.1.3 Intermediate Treatments

Intermediate treatments are those practices used to enhance the health and vigor of a forest stand.

In general, intermediate treatments are applied to forest stands managed as even aged.

820.1.3.1 Mechanical Release

Mechanical release is the removal of competing vegetation by means other than herbicide or fire. Mechanical may include releasing young pine plantations from competing vegetation using chain saws or other hand-held equipment; or mowing to release regeneration.

820.1.3.2 Chemical Release

Chemical Release is the removal of competing vegetation from desirable trees through the use of herbicides. It should be used sparingly and in situations where mechanical treatment is not expected to provide the level of vegetative control needed. Chemicals will be applied in strict accordance with label recommendations, requirements and under the oversight of a certified applicator. A written prescription for each herbicide application will be prepared and kept on file.

820.1.3.3 Non-Commercial Thinning (TSI)

In general, most thinning needs are accomplished through commercial harvest operations. Non-commercial thinning may be considered if the individual site requirements, funding and/or available labor make it desirable.

820.1.3.4 Thinning / Intermediate Cuts

Management of some even aged forest types necessitates the use of commercial thinning, also known as intermediate harvests, to maintain forest health and vigor. Thinning is generally prescribed in forest types such as red pine, red oak, and in cases of even aged hardwood management. Thinning may be prescribed on other even aged types as appropriate and where feasible. Intermediate harvests include prescriptions for residual densities, marking priorities, spacing, crown closure, diameter distribution, or other measurements.

820.1.3.5 Pruning

Pruning is the removal of limbs from lower sections of trees to increase log quality. Major pruning efforts were conducted in the past but it is not generally recognized as economically viable on the forest.

820.2 SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTIONS

820.2.1 Even-Aged Management

A forest stand composed of trees having relatively small differences in age. Typical cutting practices include: clear cutting, shelterwood cutting and seed-tree cutting. Even aged management is generally required to manage shade intolerant, early successional forest types.

820.2.1.1 Aspen

These are types where aspen trees comprise of more than 50% of the stems. On the forest, aspen types may be dominated by quaking or big tooth aspen or a combination of both. Aspen stands contain a wide variety of associated hardwood and conifer species.

<u>Shade tolerance:</u>	Intolerant
<u>Habitats:</u>	AVb, ATM
<u>Intermediate treatments:</u>	None
<u>Median rotation age:</u>	45
<u>Primary regeneration method:</u>	Natural
<u>Harvest method:</u>	Clearcutting with coppice
<u>Habitat value:</u>	Early successional related species
<u>Economic value:</u>	Fiber production / bolts
<u>Insect disease considerations:</u>	Hypoxylon and other cankers
<u>Trends:</u>	General declines on statewide acreage, increasing slightly on Marathon County Forest
<u>Landscape considerations:</u>	Retain and/or convert acreages to hardwoods where possible

820.2.1.2 Red Pine

These are types where red pine comprises 50% or more of the basal area in saw timber and pole timber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in sapling or seedling stands.

<u>Shade tolerance:</u>	Intolerant
<u>Habitats:</u>	AVb-V, PArVAa
<u>Intermediate treatments:</u>	Yes, thinnings
<u>Median rotation age:</u>	80
<u>Primary regeneration method:</u>	Artificial
<u>Harvest method:</u>	Clearcutting then planting
<u>Habitat value:</u>	Thermal cover for wildlife species
<u>Economic value:</u>	Fiber production/bolts/sawlogs/utility and cabin poles

<u>Insect disease considerations:</u>	Heterobasidion, Leptographium
<u>Trends:</u>	General increase on statewide acreage, increasing slightly on Marathon County Forest
<u>Landscape considerations:</u>	Retain acreages where possible

820.2.1.3 Red Oak

These are types where Red Oak trees comprise 50% or more of the basal area in pole timber and saw timber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in seedling and sapling stands.

<u>Shade tolerance:</u>	Intolerant
<u>Habitats:</u>	AVb
<u>Intermediate treatments:</u>	Yes, thinnings
<u>Median rotation age:</u>	100
<u>Primary regeneration method:</u>	Natural
<u>Harvest method:</u>	Shelterwood
<u>Habitat value:</u>	Mast Acorns
<u>Economic value:</u>	Fiber production/bolts/sawlogs
<u>Insect disease considerations:</u>	Oak Wilt
<u>Trends:</u>	General declines on Statewide acreage and on Marathon County Forest
<u>Landscape considerations:</u>	Retain and increase acreages to Red Oak

820.2.1.4 Red Maple

These are types where Red Maple trees comprise 50% or more of the basal area in pole timber and saw timber stands, or 50% or more of the stems in seedling and sapling stands.

<u>Shade tolerance:</u>	Mid-tolerant
<u>Habitats:</u>	ATM
<u>Intermediate treatments:</u>	Yes, thinnings
<u>Median rotation age:</u>	75-80
<u>Primary regeneration method:</u>	Natural
<u>Harvest method:</u>	Coppice
<u>Habitat value:</u>	Structural support for nesting, seeds for songbirds
<u>Economic value:</u>	Fiber production/bolts/sawlogs
<u>Insect disease considerations:</u>	Long Horned Beetle
<u>Trends:</u>	General increase on Statewide acreage and on Marathon County Forest
<u>Landscape considerations:</u>	Retain acreages of Red Maple

820.2.2 Uneven-Aged Management

A forest stand composed of trees in various age and size classes. The typical cutting practice is selection cutting, where individual trees are removed from the stand. Regeneration is continually

occurring after the stand is cut. Uneven-aged management is generally used to manage shade tolerant forest types.

820.2.2.1 Northern Hardwood

These are stands dominated by shade tolerant and mid-shade tolerant species. In Marathon County, northern hardwood stands are typically dominated by sugar maple, ash, and basswood.

<u>Shade tolerance</u>	Tolerant to mid-tolerant
<u>Habitats:</u>	ATM, AH
<u>Intermediate treatments:</u>	None
<u>Median rotation age:</u>	N/A
<u>Primary regeneration method:</u>	Natural – all aged regeneration
<u>Harvest method:</u>	Single tree, gaps, group selection
<u>Habitat value:</u>	Variety of breeding birds, mammals, etc.
<u>Economic value:</u>	High, bolts/sawlogs
<u>Insect disease considerations:</u>	Emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, many others
<u>Trends:</u>	General decrease in Statewide acreages and on Marathon County Forest
<u>Landscape considerations:</u>	Retain or increase acreages if possible on fair to good quality sites

820.3 LOCALLY UNCOMMON TREES / FOREST TYPES

The presence or lack of a particular tree species is dependent on land capability, climate, natural range, natural or human disturbance and many other factors. The following trees and types are considered uncommon on the Marathon County Forest and likely across the general region. These trees may be left as reserves in even aged management prescriptions, or in thinnings and all aged regeneration harvests.

820.3.1 American Elm (*Ulmus americana*.) is scarce primarily due to Dutch elm disease. Healthy looking elm may be left uncut in hope that they may continue on the landscape as potential resistant seed sources.

820.3.2 Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) primarily occurs on the Burma County Forest and is declining due to butternut canker. Healthy individuals that appear to be canker free will be reserved in the forest as potential resistant seed sources.

820.3.3 Eastern Hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) is a highly preferred deer and small mammal browse species. Regeneration is difficult and remnant stands will be retained to provide seed sources for future management activities.

820.4 FOREST TYPES REQUIRING INTENSIVE EFFORT TO REGENERATE

There are certain forest types within the County Forest that are difficult to regenerate. In many cases, this difficulty may be related to the exclusion of fire from the landscape, deer browsing or other factors. The following list itemizes forest types with difficult regeneration and County management goals:

820.4.1 White birch

White birch (paper birch) is shade intolerant species generally found in stands of timber of similar age. A mineral seedbed appears necessary to regenerate white birch and it is assumed most white birch present on the forest is of fire origin. Drought conditions of 1989 and 1990, coupled with unseasonably warm temperatures and secondary pathogens, resulted in significant mortality of the white birch on the Forest. Existing stands of white birch should be considered for scarification coupled with shelterwood harvests.

820.4.2 Northern red oak

Northern red oak is a shade intolerant to mid tolerant species found in primarily even aged stands. Northern red oak appears to require disturbance to regenerate and deer browsing appears to be a limiting factor on regeneration success. The County is committed to retain as much of the existing acreage of northern red oak as possible. Regeneration efforts will focus on timing soil scarification with good acorn crops and shelterwood harvests. Regeneration may require prescribed burning to release seedlings from competing vegetation.

820.5 INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES OF CONCERN

Invasive plants can cause significant damage to the forest. Invasive species can displace native plants and hinder the forest regeneration efforts. Preventing them from dominating forest understories is critical to the long-term health of the forest. There are a number of invasive plant species in varying densities on the County Forest. Some warrant immediate and continual treatment efforts while others may be allowed to remain due to extent and financial ability to control them. The County will continue to train staff in invasive species identification as well as attempt to secure funding sources to control them as much as is practical. A current list of the

common invasive species found on the Marathon County Forest can be found in Chapter 600, Section 610.5.

820.6 LEGALLY PROTECTED AND SPECIAL CONCERN PLANT SPECIES

There are plants in Wisconsin that are protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act, the State Endangered Species Law, or both. On County Forest, no one may cut, root up, sever, injure, destroy, remove, transport or carry away a listed plant without a valid endangered or threatened species permit. There is an exemption on public lands for forestry, agriculture and utility activities under state law. The County will, however, make reasonable efforts to minimize impacts to endangered or threatened plants during the course of forestry/silviculture activities (typically identified in the timber sale narrative).

The Wisconsin Department Natural Resources Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation tracks information on legally protected plants with the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) program. The NHI program also tracks Special Concern Species, which are those for which some problem of abundance or distribution is suspected, but not yet proven. The main purpose of this category is to focus attention on certain species before they become threatened or endangered.

The County has access to this data under a license agreement and is committed to reviewing this database for endangered resources that may occur within proposed land disturbing project areas.

820.7 TREE RETENTION GUIDELINES

Silvicultural practices are designed to manipulate vegetation to achieve management objectives. Retention of some trees, both alive and dead, has associated ecological benefits. Marathon County will implement tree retention guidelines consistent with the DNR Silvicultural Handbook (#2431.5)(Chapter 24 – Marking Guidelines) with the following variances:

1. Green tree retention on even-aged harvests varying from 3% - 15% of crown cover or stand area.
2. Retention will occur at the “Harvest Unit” level. Harvest Unit is defined as the stands within a timber sale. Riparian management zones (RMZ) and stands excluded from harvesting (Z prefix stands) occurring within or adjacent to the Harvest Unit can provide retention opportunities.
3. Retention will be encouraged in stands 10 acres in size or less managed as even-aged, but will not be required.

820.8 BIOMASS HARVESTING GUIDELINES

The Purchaser shall comply with all General Guidelines as described in “Wisconsin’s Forestland Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines” published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, publication Pub-FR-435-09, unless specifically provided otherwise below. The publication can be found on the Council on Forestry website at <http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/biomass/>

825 ANIMAL SPECIES MANAGEMENT

For the purpose of this plan, wildlife will include all native birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and insects with a strong focus on the natural communities in which they live. Wildlife biologists will emphasize habitat management that interrelates and benefits wildlife, and complements sound forestry practices. Concerns about biological diversity on the County Forest and how it fits in the regional, continental, and global perspective may cause wildlife management to place increased emphasis on segments of the forest community. Practices such as old-growth, snag and den tree management, access management, forest openings maintenance, oak management, and aspen maintenance, can be priorities in the dynamics of forest management. A primary goal of wildlife management on the Marathon County Forest is to provide a diversity of healthy ecosystems necessary to sustain native populations for their biological, recreational, cultural and economic values. The Forest will be managed primarily to provide habitats for a suite of species rather than focusing on a specific species, with exceptions made for Federal or State listed endangered or threatened species.

825.1 TECHNICAL PLANNING

Management of wildlife populations on the Marathon County Forest falls under the jurisdiction of the DNR. Planning will be a cooperative effort of the County Forest staff, DNR liaison forester and wildlife manager in formulating management plans and utilizing forest and wildlife management techniques to accomplish desired forest and wildlife management goals.

The wildlife manager will submit an annual wildlife work plan to the Committee for approval by December 1 for each calendar year. The plan will contain specific management practices and locations for proposed projects affecting County Forest. The DNR wildlife work plan will also indicate new policy directions or policy changes which may affect County Forest (i.e. deer

management unit population goals, trail mowing and opening maintenance, wood duck house maintenance) during the plan period.

The Forest Administrator may coordinate other wildlife management projects with the wildlife manager through the Forestry Division annual work plan or individual project requests or proposals approved by the Committee.

825.2 GUIDELINES

DNR operational handbooks including the Public Forest Lands Handbook (2460.5), manual codes and guidance documents are important references and guidelines to utilize in fish and wildlife planning efforts.

825.3 INVENTORY

Habitat needs will be determined by analysis of forest reconnaissance information. Population estimates will be conducted periodically by DNR wildlife, endangered resources personnel, and other trained cooperators. Currently, Department Wildlife staff conduct the following surveys on or adjacent to the Marathon County Forest:

1. Biotic Inventories
2. Summer deer observations
3. Brood surveys
4. Furbearer tracking
5. Bear genetic population
6. Snapshot Wisconsin

825.4 PROJECTS FUNDING

All approved wildlife management projects will be eligible for funding through Wildlife Habitat Grants (5¢ per acre), County Fish and Game, their successor programs or other applicable federal, state, or private funding sources. These projects may include: access control or development; cooperative projects on lands adjacent to County Forest which benefit County Forest wildlife populations; inventory, geographic information systems (GIS) and geographic positioning systems (GPS); flowage development; habitat development, maintenance, protection, or restoration; endangered and threatened species management; land acquisition; bow and gun ranges; nature trails; wetland mitigation; or any other wildlife management project approved by

the Wildlife Biologist, Forest Administrator, and Committee.

825.5 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS FOR WILDLIFE

The following areas of focus are identified for achieving plan objectives and for benefit of wildlife.

825.5.1 General Management Policies

Forest management practices may be modified to benefit wildlife and diversity. The following will be considered when planning for management activities:

1. Even-aged regeneration harvests (clearcuts) should vary in size and shape and include retention considerations.
2. A diversity of stand age, size and species.
3. Mast-bearing trees and shrubs, cavity trees, and an adequate number and variety of snags.
4. Cull trees (future snag or den trees) not interfering with specific high value trees.
5. Timber types, habitat conditions and impacts on affected wildlife.
6. Access management.
7. Best management practices for water quality (BMP's).
8. Opportunities to develop and maintain vertical structure and coarse woody debris.
9. Technical advice for endangered, threatened, and non-game species management.

825.6 IMPORTANCE OF HABITATS

Important habitat types are those cover types known to be of importance to certain native wildlife and whose absence would make that wildlife significantly less abundant. These shortages may be on a local or broader scale. Early, mid, and late successional stages of all forest cover types are important to sustain wildlife populations. The following habitat types can be considered important:

825.6.1 Non-forested wetlands

The Marathon County Forest contains a minimal amount of non-forested wetland types. However they provide a variety of habitats for common, rare and endangered species. Emergent wetland, sedge meadow, muskeg bog and deep marsh provide habitat for species such as wood turtle, black tern, American bittern, and numerous other species.

825.6.2 Aquatic habitats

The Marathon County Forest includes 437 acres of lakes, rivers, streams, ponds and other aquatic habitats. Open water provides habitat for species such as wood duck, boreal chorus frog, water shrew and many other species reliant on water related resources.

825.6.3 Riparian and other non-managed areas

Undisturbed shoreline and riparian areas present on the forest and provide habitat for species such as red shouldered hawk, green frog, and woodland jumping mouse.

825.6.4 Early successional forests

Management of aspen, white birch, jack pine and other shade intolerant species creates habitat for a large suite of wildlife species that benefit from early successional forests. On the Marathon County Forest there are currently 14,925 acres of these forest types present. This is a key habitat used for recreational hunting activities providing conditions favorable for American woodcock, ruffed grouse, white-tailed deer and non-game species such as golden-winged warbler, Kirkland's warbler and black-billed cuckoo.

825.6.5 Conifers

Conifers, whether jack pine, white pine, spruce, fir or other types appear to be an important habitat for a number of wildlife species. The Marathon County Forest currently has 1464 acres of coniferous habitat. Connecticut warbler, red crossbill, northern flying squirrel, and many others utilize conifer types. Jack pine areas can be managed to provide temporary barrens habitat providing habitat for Kirtland's warbler and other barren related species.

825.6.6 Oak management

Oak is an important mast producing food source on the forest, providing acorns for a wide variety of game and non-game species. The Marathon County Forest has 2606 acres of oak habitat. It is considered a critical resource to retain on the landscape for both its timber and wildlife value, providing habitat for species such as scarlet tanager, wood thrush, red headed woodpecker, and black bear.

825.6.7 Uneven/all aged management

Management of uneven aged stands provides for multi-storied canopies, diverse age structure and potentially older forest characters. The Marathon County Forest has 1774 acres being managed under an all aged management system. Species such as Canada warbler, little brown bat, black throated blue warbler and many others benefit from these forest type, In addition, numerous amphibian and reptiles utilize these forest types.

825.6.8 Large forest blocks

Large blocks of County Forest provide habitat for numerous interior species. Gray wolf, black throated blue warbler, Canada warbler and least flycatcher are a few examples of animals that rely on these large blocks.

825.6.9 Grasslands, openings, upland brush

Wildlife openings, grass rights-of-way, natural openings, upland brush and other upland open habitats provide for diversity and unique habitats benefitting pollinators, numerous species including upland plover and whip-poor-will. Marathon County Forest currently has 567 acres identified as open grassland or upland brush habitat.

825.6.10 Lowland Brush/Alder

The Marathon County Forest contains 5540 acres of lowland brush/alder stands. Alder benefits many game and non-game species including grouse, American woodcock and others. Shearing tag alder has been an emphasis on the forest to improve habitat for woodcock.

825.6.11 Forest Game Species

The management of forest game (white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, black bear, turkey, snowshoe hare, and furbearers) is centered on maintaining early successional species such as aspen, jack pine, white birch, and oak; with aspen and oak being the primary species of importance.

Foresters, in concert with wildlife biologists will continue to monitor forest game species and adjust land management prescriptions where appropriate.

825.6.11.1 Beaver Management

The Committee supports allowing beaver and their dams in an amount and in locations where damage to forest productivity, roads, or trout fishery values are not extensive. Where applicable, natural succession to forest types other than aspen will be encouraged next to trout streams.

825.6.11.2 Waterfowl Management

The Committee supports DNR's program to provide and maintain waterfowl flowages on the Nine Mile, Harrison-Hewitt, and Bern Wetland Forest Units for wetland enhancement, waterfowl production, hunting, trapping, and wildlife viewing opportunities they provide. Grasslands next to flowages will be maintained to provide nesting habitat for mallards, blue-wing teal, and grassland birds. Local wildlife managers will work with liaison forester and Forest Administrator in identifying, recommending, and planning projects.

825.7 INTENSIVE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

825.7.1 Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan / Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

In addition to species listed as endangered, threatened or special concern within the NHI database, the Department also maintains a statewide list of species of greatest conservation need.

This list includes species that have low or declining populations and may be in need of conservation action. The list includes birds, fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and insects that are:

1. Already listed as threatened or endangered
2. At risk due to threats
3. Rare due to small or declining populations
4. Showing declining trends in habitat or populations

The WWAP working list can provide information on how management activities may impact, or in many cases benefit species of greatest conservation need. More information is available on the WWAP website: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wildlifehabitat/actionplan.html>.

825.7.2 Bern Wetland Management

Marathon County purchased the 269-acre Bern Wetland to develop a waterfowl flowage (impoundment). The DNR is responsible for managing the flowage and maintaining the dam. Forest stands next to the flowage will be managed for a natural appearance. Forest stands will

also be managed to develop old trees and especially maintain trees with cavities for birds and mammals.

825.7.3 Bitzke Waterfowl Management

The Bitzke Refuge is an area of about 300 acres with flowages (impoundments) developed for waterfowl production and protection as a cooperative project between Marathon County and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with funding from Ducks Unlimited, Wisconsin Waterfowl Association, Marathon County, and DNR. The Wisconsin Conservation Corps assisted with nature trail development.

The refuge will be maintained in a condition which will promote the development of a complete wetland ecosystem featuring waterfowl. Interpretive signs, boardwalks, benches, an observation tower, and flowage structures were developed to enhance the use of the area by the public. The DNR will determine refuge status and closed dates.

The visual horizon (from the top of the observation tower) will be maintained in as naturally appearing conditions as possible. The DNR may use artificial nesting platforms and boxes or other wildlife management techniques within the refuge.

825.7.4 Ruffed Grouse Area Management

Marathon County in cooperation with the Ruffed Grouse Society and the Department of Natural Resources has developed a special ruffed grouse management area in the Leather Camp Forest Unit north of the Little Eau Claire River (approximately 3,163 acres). The primary intent of this project is to maintain intolerant forest types primarily aspen, in stand sizes less than 20 acres when feasible, with a variety of size and age classes to promote ruffed grouse, American woodcock, and other species associated with the aspen forest.

Marathon County has developed and will maintain a trail system to allow the harvest of small areas. These trails will remain closed to motorized use except for approved snowmobile or ATV trails in winter and by permit for persons with disabilities, or other contract or permit (timber management, beaver control, etc.).

Although aspen management will dominate this area, appropriate aesthetic management practices will be used to reduce negative visual impacts from aspen regeneration harvests if possible.

825.8 FISH AND WATERS MANAGEMENT

Public waters will be managed to provide for optimum natural fish production, opportunities for quality recreation, and healthy balanced aquatic ecosystems. Emphasis will also be placed on land-use practices that benefit the aquatic community. Management of County Forest lands will attempt to preserve and/or improve fish habitat and water quality.

825.8.1 Technical Planning and Surveys

Management of all waters within the County Forest is the responsibility of the DNR. Technical assistance will be provided by the local fisheries biologist. Studies and management will be conducted in the manner described in DNR Fish Management Handbook 3605.9. Water and Population Surveys fall under the jurisdiction of the Department and will be conducted as needed by fisheries biologists.

825.8.2 Special Projects

There have been no special fisheries related projects due to limited water resources on County Forest lands.

825.8.3 Shoreland Zoning

The Marathon County Shoreland zoning ordinance will be followed on all management activities on the County Forest. The ordinance can be found in the appendix.

825.8.4 Access and development

Access and development of County Forest waters will be limited to those activities consistent with the above water management policies.

825.8.5 Important Water Resources

Management activities adjacent to these water resources, or in areas with sensitive soils or severe slopes, should consider measures above and beyond the customary BMP practices. A “soil erosion rates by watershed map” identifying these more sensitive areas of the Forest can be found in the appendix. County staff may work with their liaison forester in cooperation with the local DNR water resources staff to develop site-specific measures where appropriate. An inventory of water resources can be obtained from DNR Water staff for the County.

825.8.6 COUNTY FOREST STREAMS

MARATHON COUNTY FOREST STREAMS				
FOREST UNIT	STREAM NAME	LEGAL	LENGTH *	DESCRIPTION
Bern Wetland	Trib. To Black Creek	Sec. 29,30 T30N-R3E	.94 mi.	Warm - flowage
Harrison-Hewitt	Skulen Pond Creek	Sec.7,17,20,30,T30N-R9E	3.60 mi.	Warm - flowages
Harrison-Hewitt	Trappe River	Sec. 3, T30N-R9E	.77 mi.	Warm
Kronenwetter	Johnson Creek	Sec. 24, T27N-R8E	2.66 mi.	Warm
Kronenwetter	Johnson Creek	Sec. 18, 19, T27N-R9E		
Kronenwetter	Sampson Creek	Sec. 11, 12, T27N-R8E	2.06 mi.	Warm
Leather Camp	LittleEauClaire River	Sec. 12, T26N-R8E	1.00 mi.	Warm
Miller	Big Sandy Creek	Sec. 18, T29N-R9E	.28 mi.	Warm
Nine Mile	Four Mile Creek	Sec. 36, T28N-R6E	.39 mi.	Cold, Class 2
Nine Mile	Four Mile Creek	Sec. 1, T27N-R6E	.18 mi.	Cold, Class 2
Nine Mile	Four Mile Creek	Sec. 5,6, T27N-R7E	1.24 mi.	Cold, Class 2
Nine Mile	Black Creek	Sec. 28,33, T28N-R7E	2.17 mi.	Cold, Class 2
WI River Unit	WI River	Sec. 13,14,24, T30N-R7E	1.16 mi.	Warm
TOTAL			16.45 mi.	
*Length estimated from Marathon County GIS Basemap				

830 EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCES, UNIQUE AREAS

Exceptional resources include such things as wild rivers and lakes, natural areas, ruffed grouse management areas, Karner blue butterfly recovery areas, areas of unique geological features, historical, and archeological sites. It is the policy of Marathon County to manage these type resources to enhance and protect their individual exceptional features.

See 300.2.6 Fish and Wildlife on descriptions of the ruffed grouse management area in Leather Camp and the Bern Wetland and Bitzke Waterfowl Refuge.

830.1 AREAS RECOGNIZED BY STATE OR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The areas that have been recognized by State or Federal Government are listed below with management prescriptions if applicable.

830.1.1 Wisconsin State Natural Areas

The County Forest manages a variety of property designations. The State Natural Area (SNA) system represents the wealth and variety of Wisconsin's biological diversity. SNA's are unique in that they can exist as stand alone properties or be designated within the boundaries of another property type. DNR Endangered Resources staff will work cooperatively with the County Forest by coordinating educational, monitoring, and research activities. Management will protect the unique character of the area. Presently, there are no State Natural Areas on the County Forest. However, the importance of State Natural Areas has been recognized on County Park property by cooperating with department staff in designating and managing 105 acres at Big Eau Pleine Park and 40 acres at Eau Claire Dells Park for SNA sites.

830.1.2 Species Concentration Areas

In cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources a series of flowages were developed primarily to benefit waterfowl. In 1985 the DNR designated the Bitzke Flowages as a waterfowl refuge to provide resting areas for migrating birds.

830.1.3 Endangered Species Habitats

Marathon County will take steps necessary to protect habitat for species that are identified as rare, threatened, endangered or greatest conservation need.

830.1.4 Rare communities

Nine Mile Forest contains a large wetland and shrub carr complex. Characteristics include an A rank reach of fast, soft, cold water stream and large areas of B ranked northern sedge meadow and shrub carr. It is unlikely that any active forest management will occur in this area and Best Management Practices for water quality will be applied when conducting management around the wetland.

830.2 AREAS RECOGNIZED BY COUNTY OR LOCALLY

Marathon County may contain areas that are locally considered exceptional or unique. Some are recognized by other agencies, while others are designated only within this Plan. These resources may include wild rivers, lakes, natural areas, geological features or historical/archeological sites.

830.2.1 Forests with Old Growth Characteristics

Presently, there are no known old growth stands on the County Forest.

830.2.2 Wildlife Sites (Hibernacula, Rookeries, Special Habitats)

Presently, there are no known wildlife sites as referenced above known on the County Forest.

830.2.3 Savannas, Barrens, etc.

Presently, there are no savannas or barrens on the County Forest.

830.2.4 Geological Features of Significance

Presently, there are no known geological features of significance on the County Forest.

830.2.5 Waterfalls, Wild Rivers, Wild Lakes

Presently, there are no known water falls, wild rivers or wild lakes on the County Forest.

830.2.6 Unique Forest Types

There are numerous scattered eastern hemlock stands on the County Forest ranging from less than one to more than ten acres. These stands will be managed to protect and regenerate this species if possible.

The County Forest may contain some individual white pine relics that will not be harvested unless are diseased or pose a significant hazard to forest users.

Nine Mile Forest contains approximately 48 acres of natural origin red pine that will continue to be actively managed.

830.2.7 Locally Significant Sites

Presently, there are no known locally significant sites known on the County Forest.

It is the policy of Marathon County to manage these type resources to enhance and protect their individual exceptional features. A review of the State Historical Society databases will be conducted on all timber sales.

830.3 CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES

830.3.1 Burial mounds, cemeteries

Presently, there are no known burial mounds or cemeteries on the County Forest.

830.3.2 Logging Camps, Dams

Presently, there are no documented logging camps on the County Forest. One low hazard dam at Bern Forest Unit is owned by Marathon County and cooperatively managed with DNR as a waterfowl flowage. A Memorandum of Agreement between the County and DNR is in place.

830.3.3 Landmarks

Presently, there are no special landmarks on the County Forest.

852.3.4 Other

A review of the DNR intranet site that houses archeological and historical data was conducted for any significant sites on the County Forest. No “hits” on County Forest were found. Additional specific information will be gathered during the implementation of individual projects.

835 AESTHETICS

Public perception of forestry has changed over the last planning period and in general it appears that the public is much more accepting of the visual impact of sound forestry. In response to this, aesthetic management planning is intended to be much more simplified in this Plan.

835.1 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT

Aesthetic management techniques may be applied in areas of high visibility or high public use. Altered management, visual screens, slash disposal, conversion to other species, no cut zones or other methods may be employed, depending on the circumstances of the specific site.

835.2 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONES

Aesthetic Management Zones include areas where there may be high levels of public presence because of scenic attraction, or some use of the area that would be enhanced by special timber management practices.

835.2.1 Aesthetic Management Zone Examples

1. Park and recreation areas, including access routes
2. Lakes and rivers with significant recreational use
3. Roads with heavy traffic or scenic drive.

835.2.2 Aesthetic Management Prescriptions/Options

1. Adjustment timing of timber harvesting
2. Slash restrictions/requirements
3. Staggered Harvests / Visual Screens
4. Forced conversion to longer lived species
5. Irregular harvest lines, interrupted sight distances
6. Tree plantings randomly placed

840 LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

The County will make efforts to evaluate surrounding landscapes while managing the County Forest. The County will strive to provide management that compliments the landscapes, but also try to provide for resources or forest types that are lacking or declining within surrounding landscapes.

840.1 CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

For the purposes of this plan, biological diversity will be interpreted to reference the variety and abundance of species, their genetic composition, and the communities, ecosystems, and landscapes in which they occur. Forest management activities on the Marathon County Forest enhance biological diversity by managing for a wide variety of habitat types, age structures and by attempting to perpetuate and protect declining forest types.

840.2 HABITAT FRAGMENTATION

For the purposes of this plan, habitat fragmentation is interpreted as conversion of forests to land uses other than forestry. Lands enrolled in the County Forest Law help protect against habitat fragmentation. A continued program of encouraging land acquisition within the forest blocking boundary is intended to decrease the conversion of forest land to other uses. The adoption of management plans and strategies developed cooperatively with neighboring forest owners and managers will help to consider fragmentation on a landscape level.

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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CHAPTER 900

RECREATION

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900 RECREATION

Recreation is an integral part of the management of the Marathon County Forest and recreation uses are referenced in most of the previous chapters. Due to the tremendous growth in recreational demands over the duration of the last several planning periods, this Plan recognizes the importance of more intensive recreational planning and emphasizes its importance with a separate chapter.

905 PLANNING

In addition to this Plan, the Marathon County Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) also guides the recreation program. This plan is revised every five years and is made part of this Plan. The Marathon County Outdoor Recreation Plan includes, but is not limited to, activities on the County Forest. It incorporates campgrounds, parks and boat landings, recreational maintenance and development plans and other recreation surveys and reports. 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.

910 AUTHORITY

The Marathon County Code of Ordinances and s. 28.11 Wis. Stats, authorize the Committee to provide recreational opportunities for the public. This authority is further recognized in the mission statement for the County Forest Plan (Chapter 100), which specifically identifies outdoor recreational opportunities. This mission statement also charges the Committee to conduct activities in a manner that prevents or minimizes environmental damage and degradation of natural resources.

Maps of the recreational facilities managed through the Marathon County Forest program are appended or referenced in Chapter 1000.

915 ENTRANCE AND USER FEES

The Committee is empowered and shall have responsibility for establishing entrance, camping and other user fees on recreational facilities maintained by the County Forest. Camping, entrance or other fees shall be comparable to fees charged by (similar private facilities, other adjacent counties) and are subject to periodic change by the Committee or Commission. Fees, where appropriate, will be utilized to assist in the maintenance of recreational facilities.

920 RECREATIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS

It is permissible for the Committee to contract with clubs or individuals to provide for recreational maintenance or services to the public. As part of the Plan, the County contracts for the following services:

1. Snowmobile trail grooming and maintenance.
2. ATV trail grading and maintenance.
3. Mountain bike trail grooming and maintenance.
4. Nordic ski trail grooming and maintenance.

925 RECREATIONAL USE PERMITS FOR ORGANIZED EVENTS

Any event on the Forest which is advertised to the public, for which a fee is charged, or is otherwise organized as an event, requires a permit or authorization by the Committee. Permits may be issued by the Committee provided the use is consistent with management activities and will not cause resource damage. Appropriate levels of event liability insurance is required.

930 EXTENSIVE RECREATIONAL USE OF THE FOREST

Extensive recreation includes those informal activities for which the County generally does not provide a facility or service. These uses include activities such as hunting, fishing, picnicking, horseback riding, photography, nature study, hiking and others. These uses do not require a permit but must be conducted in compliance with ordinance. The Forest Administrator and the Committee shall periodically review such uses and enact ordinances as necessary to protect from resource damage.

930.1 HUNTING AND TRAPPING

The entire County Forest is open to hunting and trapping with the exception of areas which are developed for high public use, such as Shooting Range Park, within 300 feet of the Nine Mile trailhead, chalet and maintenance garage or other areas designated by the Committee. In addition, Bitzke Waterfowl Refuge is closed to hunting and trapping from September 1 through November 15. From November 16 through August 31 the refuge is open to all hunting and trapping seasons designated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with the exception of waterfowl hunting which is closed year round.

The Marathon County Code of Ordinances regulates activities relating to hunting. Refer to Chapter 1000 for a full text of the Ordinance or it may be found here: <http://www.co.marathon.wi.us/departments/countyclerk/codeofordinances>. In general the following activities are regulated:

1. Tree Stands
2. Ground Blinds
3. Elevated Platforms (Freestanding)
4. Access Trail Identification
5. Shooting Lanes
6. Target Shooting
7. Trail Cameras
8. Waterfowl Blinds
9. Watercraft
10. Motorized Use

930.2 FISHING

All lakes and streams within the forest are available for fishing unless otherwise listed in state regulations.

930.3 PICNICKING / DAY USE

Picnicking and other day uses, outside of established facilities is allowed. The Marathon County Code of Ordinances also regulates day use. In general, the following activities are regulated:

1. All litter, trash or rubbish must be removed.
2. Cutting or harvesting vegetation is not permitted.
3. Fires may not be left unattended unless the ground is 100% snow covered.

930.4 CAMPING

A permit is required to camp on the County Forest. Permits are available from the County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Office and on the County website. In general, the following activities are regulated:

1. Littering or site destruction is not allowed.
2. The Committee will set the permit fee.
3. The maximum permitted time period is 14 days for any location.

930.5 MOTORIZED TRAVEL

The Marathon County Code of Ordinances regulates motorized uses on the County Forest. In general the following regulations apply to motorized travel outside of a developed recreational trail system.

1. It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle on a trail designated closed with a gate, earthen berm, sign, or other closure.
2. Two-wheeled motorized travel (motorcycles, mini bikes, dirt bikes) is not permitted anywhere on the County Forest unless the machine is street legal and operating on a County Forest Road (gas tax).

930.6 OTHER USES

Other uses of the County Forest are permitted provided they are not specifically addressed with the County Code of Ordinances. The County Board may, at any time, enact ordinances to protect the forest should damage begin to occur.

935 INTENSIVE RECREATION AREAS/USES

Intensive recreation includes those uses for which the County provides a trail or facility. The Marathon County Forest has developed sites and areas to accommodate a fairly high degree of public use. The Committee may prohibit other recreation activities that are not compatible with the intent of the developed facilities.

The Committee and the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department has noted a marked increase in demand for recreation facilities. Marathon County may attempt to develop additional facilities and will maintain its currently developed facilities.

935.1 CAMPGROUNDS

There are no designated camping areas on County Forest.

935.2 YOUTH CAMP

There are no youth camps on County Forest.

935.3 PICNIC / DAY USE AREAS

There are no designated picnic or day use areas on County Forest.

935.4 SWIMMING AREAS / BEACHES

There are no designated formal swimming areas on County Forest.

935.5 BOAT LANDINGS

There are no boat landings on County Forest.

935.5.1 Undeveloped Water Access Points

One undeveloped water access point for canoes and boats currently exists at the Wisconsin River Forest Unit. This is used routinely to hand launch boats or canoes but has not been developed for boat trailer launching. This site is not routinely maintained and may be closed if erosion damage becomes severe. All new sites for developed water access must be reviewed and approved by the Committee.

935.6 SKI/TUBING HILLS

There are no ski or tubing hills on County Forest.

935.7 SHOOTING RANGE PARK

The archery and gun range was developed and is maintained and administered by the Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department on the south end of the Nine Mile Forest Unit. The Committee will cooperate with the Commission to assist to the extent possible in the maintenance of the land and facilities within the park boundaries.

940 RECREATION TRAIL ACCESS

This trail network provides access for many recreational opportunities in the Forest. An important role of the Forest is to provide sustainable recreational trails that do not cause long-term natural resource damage and that are compatible with other uses. The Committee has the authority to open, close, or relocate trails. Non-motorized use of groomed snowmobile trails is not recommended due to serious safety concerns. Trail systems are identified in Chapter 1000.

945 DEMAND DEVELOPMENT/EXCLUSION

If a deficiency exists in trail mileage for a given user group, the Committee will receive recommendations and evaluate new trail proposals, with full consideration for resource protection, safety and potential for user conflicts due to County Forests being multiple use areas. An existing trail may be reclassified to satisfy demand consistent with the Fifteen-Year Plan or Comprehensive

Outdoor Recreation Plan. Trails may be closed or their use designation changed if they fail to satisfy the intended purpose or are found to be contributors to resource degradation.

950 TRAIL CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

Requests for recreational trails will be reviewed by the Committee. Groups requesting specific trail development or use must present a plan for the long-term funding and maintenance of proposed trails.

Beginning in 2002 the Committee adopted a policy to restrict new trail expansion for all user groups at Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area due to the density and trail mileages that currently exist. Improvements and reconstruction of trails within the same footprint will be considered by the Committee. Relocation of some trails for resource protection will also be considered. In this case the rerouted sections will be permanently closed and allowed to revegetate naturally. Total trail mileage will remain the same following the rerouted sections. Trail connections to Rib Mountain State Park will be considered to allow new trail development for connection to the State Park.

Construction or maintenance of any recreational trail in which the activity would increase the erosion potential of one acre or more of land is subject to state and federal stormwater runoff requirements (NR216, Wis. Adm. Code and s. 283.33, Wis. Stats.). Construction or development for silvicultural purposes is presently exempt from these requirements. Recreational trail development in Marathon County meeting these parameters will employ best management practices for water quality (PUB-FR-093-2010) to mitigate any adverse impacts. In addition, an erosion control plan will be prepared for each project depicting the location of the project and surrounding wetlands and what erosion control measures will be employed.

955 ORGANIZED TRAIL USE/SPECIAL EVENTS

The Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department reserves the right to impose a bond for damage to the forest. Organized trail uses and group-sponsored activities must protect Marathon County with \$1,000,000 liability insurance coverage and provide a certificate of insurance as proof of coverage. Organizers may apply to hold special events by completing a Facility Use Agreement form. Special events will be considered by the Committee based upon the Nine Mile County Forest Event and Use Policy. Both the Facility Use Agreement Form and Event and Use Policy can be found in Chapter 1000.

960 DESIGNATED RECREATION TRAILS

Designated recreation trails are those for which the County provides a designated trail and/or facility. The County currently provides trail systems that accommodate a high degree of public use. The Committee may prohibit other activities on these trails that are not compatible with the intent of the development.

Whenever possible, multiple uses of various trail systems are encouraged and are subject to policy review of the Committee. The Committee will consider the primary purpose for which trails were developed and regulate use for the safety and enjoyment of the public and maintenance and protection of the Forest, including temporary or permanent trail closures. Wherever possible, attempts will be made to avoid user conflicts. Recreational users, however, will frequently encounter forest management activities instrumental to the existence and future of the County Forest. Management activities adjacent to designated recreation trails will be evaluated on a case by case basis. Where deemed necessary, alterations may be made to accommodate the recreational use. Trail systems are identified in Chapter 1000.

960.1 NON-MOTORIZED RECREATION TRAILS

The Marathon County Forest is a multiple use forest. Non-motorized recreation trails are a legitimate use of the forest. Design and maintenance of these trails may highlight natural features present on the Forest, should minimize damage, and reduce user conflict. Trail use and development must be compatible and sustainable with the characteristics of the landscape. It is the policy of the Committee to manage non-motorized recreation trails on the County Forest.

960.1.1 Hiking Trails

960.1.1.1 Undesignated Hiking Trails

All portions of the County Forest are open to hiking or foot travel unless marked with signs closing an area.

960.1.1.2 Designated Hiking Trails

Bitzke Bird Walk

This 1.9-mile walking trail in the Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit meanders through a series of wetlands and flowages created for wetland animals. Designated as a waterfowl refuge by the Department of Natural Resources in 1985, the area has a history which includes logging, fire,

draining, and agriculture. As farming failed, nature began to reclaim the wetland. Aspen trees grew up on surrounding uplands which provided food for beaver. This trail is open to the public year round, but because of the refuge status, the public is required to stay on the marked trail from September 1 through November 15 and to abide by posted regulations. Maintenance of the walking trail is shared between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the County.

Boy Scout Hiking Trail

This 10.2-mile trail, of which 7.5 miles are designated, in the Nine Mile Forest Unit primarily follows an existing snowmobile and cross-country ski trails. The nature trail was built by the Boy Scouts to fulfill a need for a sanctioned metered course in the North Central Wisconsin area. Merit badge requirements make it compulsory that a scout travel a pretabulated course in compiling part of the mileage necessary for the award. A map of the Boy Scout hiking trail can be found in Chapter 1000.

960.1.2 Mountain Bike Trails

960.1.2.1 Undesignated Mountain Bike Trails

All trails, roads, and fire lanes are open for recreational bicycle use. Off-trail mountain bike use is prohibited to minimize the potential for erosion or other environmental damages.

960.1.2.2 Designated Mountain Bike Trails

Nine Mile Forest Bike Trail

It is the policy of the Committee to provide public designated mountain biking opportunities at Nine Mile County Forest. There are approximately 33.45 miles of trails, including over 13.45 miles of single track and 20 miles of cross-country ski trails designated open for bicycling. The trails open May 1 – May 15 to October 15 each year depending on trail conditions. During the first three weeks of May, trails open at Noon to allow safe and quality spring turkey hunting opportunities. Biking at Nine Mile requires the user to purchase a trail pass. A map of the designated bike trails can be found in Chapter 1000. Maintenance of the single track trails is primarily completed by volunteers of the Central Wisconsin Off Road Cycling Coalition (CWOCC) with approval by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department. Maintenance of the cross country ski trails is primarily completed by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

960.1.3 Equestrian Trails

960.1.3.1 Undesignated Equestrian Trails

All trails, roads, and fire lanes are open for recreational horseback trail riding except in the Harrison-Hewitt, and Bern Forest Units along with the Nine Mile cross-country and bike trails where horseback riding is prohibited. Off-trail horseback riding is also prohibited to minimize the potential for erosion, introduction of exotic species, and other environmental damage.

960.1.3.2 Designated Equestrian Trails

It is the policy of the Committee to provide public designated horseback riding trails at Nine Mile, Kronenwetter, and Leather Camp Forest Units. The snowmobile trail, approximately 10 miles at Nine Mile Forest, is signed and designated as a horseback riding trail. Additionally, both the Kronenwetter and Leather Camp Forest Units have approximately 18 miles designated for horseback riding although these trails are not signed. Maintenance of the equestrian trails is completed by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department. A map of the designated equestrian trails can be found in Chapter 1000.

960.1.4 Ski Trails

960.1.4.1 Undesignated Cross Country Ski Trails

All trails, roads, and fire lanes are open for cross-country skiing. Undesignated cross-country ski trails are not signed or maintained. Off trail cross-country skiing is permitted on the County Forest.

960.1.4.2 Designated Cross Country Ski Trails

It is the policy of the Committee to provide designated cross-country skiing opportunities in the County Forest. Nine Mile Forest offers 19.5 miles of regularly groomed ski trails that offer both skate skiing and diagonal skiing and facilities which provide a variety of terrain and scenery. Additionally, Marathon County also maintains ski trails at Sylvan Hill. Cross-country skiing on Nine Mile designated trails requires the user to purchase a trail pass. Donations are accepted at Sylvan Hill. Dog use on groomed cross-country ski trails is prohibited when such trails are open for skiing except while hunting in accordance with Department of Natural Resources regulations.

Maintenance of the cross country ski trails is primarily completed by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department. Volunteers from the Wausau Nordic Ski Club also provide assistance preparing the trails for the cross country ski season with approval by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department. A map of the designated cross country ski trails can be found in Chapter 1000.

960.1.5 Snowshoe Trails

960.1.5.1 Undesignated Snowshoe Trails

All trails, roads, and fire lanes are open for snowshoeing except on the Nine Mile cross-country ski trails. Undesignated snowshoe trails are not signed or maintained. Off-trail snowshoeing is also permitted on the County Forest.

960.1.5.2 Designated Snowshoe Trails

It is the policy of the Committee to provide public designated snowshoeing opportunities on the County Forest. Nine Mile Forest offers approximately 6.7 miles of signed snowshoe trails which include a variety of terrain and scenery. Snowshoeing on designated trails requires the user to purchase a trail pass. Generally, no maintenance is required on snowshoe trails. If required, it would be completed by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department. A map of the designated snowshoe trails can be found in Chapter 1000.

960.1.6 Other Non-Motorized Use

All County Forest trails are designated for non-motorized use except by permit, posted as closed, or as otherwise designated by the Committee. Gates and/or barriers will be constructed and strategically located to allow optimum maintenance while restricting motorized vehicular travel. Trail maintenance may be conducted in cooperation with the DNR Wildlife Manager.

960.1.7 Future Non-Motorized Trail Systems

The development of additional non-motorized trail systems will include careful consideration of public demand, analysis of user conflicts and potential damage to the natural resource. New trail proposals will be evaluated as indicated in Section 945.

Non-motorized trail systems generally are not supported by statewide grant programs. The County will require proof of an organized club, or user group, with the ability to assist with maintenance

and support of the trail and associated facilities. Appropriate trail passes, or other user fees, may be implemented as indicated in Section 915.

960.2 MOTORIZED RECREATION TRAILS

Motorized travel on trails can be legitimate use of the forest if these trails are designed and maintained in a manner to minimize damage to the environment and reduce user conflict. Trail use and development must be compatible and sustainable with the characteristics of the landscape. It shall be the policy of the Committee to consider opportunities for the following motorized trail use:

1. Snowmobiles.
2. All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's).
3. Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTV's)

960.2.1 Designated Snowmobile Trails

Designated snowmobile trails are those recognized by the Committee as the official trails within the County. The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department manages the snowmobile trail system in Marathon County. Annual agreements outline the operation, maintenance and insurance obligations between the County and local clubs. The County contracts with the following snowmobile/ATV clubs for trail maintenance:

1. A & H Sno-Mobilers
2. Athens Sno-Pak
3. Birnamwood Trail Riders
4. Eau Pleine Riders Inc.
5. Elderon Sno-Angels
6. Emmet Sno-Drifters
7. Frankfort Freedom Riders
8. Glandon Snow Barons
9. Green Valley Stump Jumpers
10. Hamburg Rainbow Riders
11. Hatley Snowmobile Club
12. KK Riders
13. Kelly Snowshoes
14. Krecji City Cruisers
15. Little Rose Riders
16. Midnight Riders

17. Nutterville Sno-Nuts
18. Peplin Unlimited
19. Pike Lake Wilderness Unlimited
20. Poniatoski Dare Devils
21. Rib Knights
22. Rib Riders
23. Rothschild Urbanaires
24. Rozellville Wilderness Riders
25. Shantytown Snowmobile Club
26. Spencer Swamp Stompers
27. Stratford Sno-Runners
28. Trailmates Snowmobile Club
29. WI Valley Sno-Jets

The Marathon County Code 7.09 regulates snowmobile trails. A summary of rules and regulations relating to snowmobile trails is as follows:

1. All groomed snowmobile trails are closed to cars and trucks unless vehicle use is approved by Marathon County.
2. The Motorized Recreation Coordinator will make determinations to officially open and close snowmobile trails based on snow, trail maintenance conditions, and information provided by the clubs.
3. Snowmobile trails used for logging access during snowmobile season will be posted with signs warning users of activity and every attempt will be made to leave at least 3 inches of snow pack on the trail. However, they may be plowed down to the trail base in certain circumstances.
4. Trail width shall not exceed 16 feet.

Marathon County recognizes the following categories of snowmobile trail:

960.2.1.1 Trail Types

The County recognizes several different classifications of snowmobile trail:

State Funded Trails – these are State approved and funded trail miles on designated trails that are part of a Statewide network of trail systems. Snowmobile registration fees, trail pass sticker

fees and gas tax allotments fund grants that support maintenance, rehabilitation and development of these trails. There are approximately 791 miles of funded trails in Marathon County, with approximately 42.28 miles on County Forest Lands.

Unfunded Club Trails – these are segments of trail that are maintained to the same standards as a funded trail but do not meet the State’s eligibility requirements for a funded trail system. There are approximately 67 miles of unfunded trails in Marathon County, with approximately .11 miles on County Forest lands in the Leathercamp Forest Unit. It is recommended that the County continues to apply for grants to include these in the funded system.

960.2.1.2 Trail Maintenance

Marathon County contracts with Marathon County snowmobile clubs to groom the funded snowmobile trails. The County will maintain State trails in cooperation with the Marathon County Snowmobile Council and snowmobile clubs with funds provided by the DNR. The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department will coordinate and administer the County-wide snowmobile trail program under s. 23.09(11) and (26) and 350.12(4), Wis. Stat., Natural Resources Code NR 50.09, and County General Code 7.09.

The County shall inspect and monitor bridges and other infrastructure on the trail system and attempt to secure funding from grants, or other sources, to periodically replace or rehabilitate as needed.

DNR’s Trail Signing Handbook will be used as the guide for posting standardized signs and will assist in promoting uniformity for trail signing throughout the County. Only trail signs that provide information for safety, regulations, or trail directions will be permitted. Private and business signs are not authorized on the Forest. All trail signs must be mounted on wooden or metal posts.

960.2.1.3 Future Snowmobile Trails

The Committee shall have jurisdiction over any trail development proposals. It is recommended that future trails be considered only after careful consideration of costs, benefits and impacts and as part of a larger planning effort.

Marathon County deems that the existing number of snowmobile trail miles is sufficient to satisfy public demand.

Proposals to relocate trails or to make adjustments to the existing trail system will be encouraged where there are concerns of public safety or environmental damage. Unfunded and club trails may be evaluated for maintenance funding application.

960.2.2 Undesignated Snowmobile Trails

There are no undesignated snowmobile trails on County Forest. Snowmobile use is permitted on designated trails only.

960.2.3 Designated ATV Trails

Designated ATV Trails are those recognized by the Committee as official trails within the County. These may lie on County, private, or other agency lands. Annual agreements outline the operation, maintenance and insurance obligations between the County and local clubs. The County contracts with the following snowmobile/ATV clubs for trail maintenance:

1. Mid-Wisconsin Trail Blazers Club

There are numerous types of designated ATV trails managed by Marathon County.

960.2.3.1 Trail Types

The County recognizes several different classifications of ATV trail. Maps are appended in Chapter 1000 for reference.

1. Funded Winter ATV Trails – State funded snowmobile trails on the County Forest are also designated and funded as winter use ATV trails. There are approximately 699.5 miles of winter funded ATV trail managed by Marathon County, with 42.28 miles on County Forest lands.

Designated snowmobile trails are open for winter ATV use during the snowmobile season if the air temperature is 28°F or colder. ATV's are permitted on designated snowmobile trails on County Forest 10 days following the opening of the trails. The trails remain open until the snowmobile trails are closed or if the trail base can no longer support ATV use.

2. Funded Summer ATV Trails – these are trail systems funded for only summer use. These trails are open from May 1 – September 30. There are approximately 20.75 miles of summer use ATV trails managed by the County with 11 miles on the County Forest.
3. Funded Year Round ATV Trails - these are trail systems funded for both winter and summer use. There are approximately 699.5 miles of year round funded ATV trails managed by Marathon County with 11 miles on the County Forest.
 - a. The Burma Road Forest Unit trails are designated for year-round use. Summer trails are open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. May 1 through September 30 and winter trails are open from December 1 through March 15. Burma Forest ATV/UTV trails are open Dec. 1 – March 15 regardless of air temperature.
4. Funded UTV Trails – UTV’s, or side by sides, are not allowed on snowmobile/winter ATV trail systems. Marathon County allows for UTV’s on 20.75 miles of the trail system within the County with 11 miles on the County Forest. (Burma County Forest Unit and Edgar to Fenwood Trail.)
5. Funded Troute/Hybrid Trails – The ATV/UTV program does not allow for full maintenance funding on ATV/UTV trails that are open to highway traffic (cars, trucks, etc.) ATV trails with this dual use that were maintained and funded prior to August 1, 2012 are still funded at 100% of the annual per mile maintenance rate. Trails funded after August 1, 2012 allow for partial funding under the following categories:
 - a. County Forest Gas Tax Roads – these are gas tax roads used as a connector to trails or services and are funded at a rate determined by the full per mile funding rate, less gas tax funding rate, not to exceed 50% of the full maintenance funding rate. Marathon County maintains 0 miles of County Forest Road Troutes.
 - b. Hybrid Trails – these are trails designated as ATV trails, opened after August 1, 2012, that also permit highway vehicle traffic. These are funded at 50% of the annual maintenance funding rate. Marathon County maintains 0 miles of Hybrid/Troute trails.

c. Club Trails – These trails are not funded under the State ATV program. In some cases these are trails that are maintained and may be added as a funded trail at a future date. Marathon County recognizes 0 miles of club trails.

d. State Trails – There are no State trails either funded or unfunded in Marathon County.

6. Undesignated ATV/UTV Trails

There are no undesignated ATV or UTV trails on County Forest. ATV and UTV use is permitted on designated trails only.

960.2.3.2 ATV Trail Maintenance

For the purpose of ATV trails, the term sustainability is intended to mean the development of a trail surface that is maintainable. It appears evident there are no circumstances where an ATV trail can be considered sustainable without intensive maintenance. Of primary importance, trail surfaces need to be conducive to periodic grading or restoration that promotes water runoff from the trail surface and eliminates the opportunity for water flow to gain velocity, causing erosion.

The County has contracts with local clubs and organizations for the grooming, brushing, signing, and maintenance of these trails. Funding for maintenance is provided by the State ATV program.

The County shall inspect and monitor trails, bridges and other infrastructure and attempt to secure funding from grants, or other sources, to periodically replace improvements or rehabilitate trail surfaces or bridges as needed.

960.2.3.3 Future ATV Trails

The use and popularity of ATV's and UTV's increased dramatically over the period of the 2006-2020 County Forest Plan. Increased usage of trail systems proved a tremendous need for much higher levels of trail maintenance in order to manage environmental damages.

The Marathon County Forest has ten different Forest Units with Burma Forest being the only one with summer ATV/UTV trails. During the last planning process 2006 – 2020 it was determined that no new summer ATV trails would be considered due to the reasons below:

1. Unsuitable soil types
2. User conflicts
3. Small forest units without capability to connect trail systems to other counties/trail systems.
4. Only looped trail opportunities
5. Maintenance issues
6. Impacts on natural resources
7. Impacts on other users/user groups

It shall be the policy of the Committee to continue to allow summer ATV/UTV use at Burma Road. No other summer ATV/UTV use shall be approved.

It is critical that trail layout and design is done in such a way as to prevent erosion and soil loss. Trails must be developed sustainably. For the purpose of this plan, sustainability is defined as follows:

Sustainability – For the purpose of ATV trails, the term sustainability is intended to mean the development of a trail surface that is maintainable. It appears evident there are no circumstances where an ATV trail can be considered sustainable without intensive maintenance. Of primary importance, trail surfaces need to be conducive to periodic grading or restoration that promotes water runoff from the trail surface and eliminates the opportunity for water flow to gain velocity, causing erosion. Trails will be built with a slight crown and appropriate ditching to allow for adequate and proper water dispersal. To this end, the construction/development and maintenance of ATV trails are to comply with the **WCFA ATV/ORV Trail Standards**, which is appended in Chapter 1000 to this Plan.

960.2.4 Designated Motorcycle Trails

There are no designated motorcycle trails on County Forest.

960.2.5 Other Motorized Recreational Vehicle Trails

1. Designated

There are no designated other motorized recreational vehicle trails on County Forest.

Other motorized recreational use on the County Forest is prohibited.

2. Undesignated

There are no other undesignated motorized recreational vehicle trails on County Forest. Other motorized recreational use on the County Forest is prohibited.

960.2.6 Recreational Access with Persons with Disabilities

The Committee supports recreational access for persons with permanent disabilities. Federal and State disabled access guidelines will be met when required.

Requests for access in non-motorized areas will be considered on a case-by-case basis and be limited to ATV's/UTV's or snowmobiles. No other motorized access will be allowed. Permits may be granted if:

1. The Permittee provides proof as disabled under DOT or DNR guidelines. Requires Class A, B or C disabled hunter permit or disabled DOT license plate.
2. The requested use will not damage soil or vegetation in the area of use.
3. The requested use will not endanger other users.
4. The requested use will not significantly impact other users of the Forest.

Additionally, if a permit is granted, the ATV/UTV or snowmobile must be clearly marked with a sign provided by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department that reads "Disabled" or "Disabled Hunter". The permit shall be limited to a specific entry point and area. The permit shall not exceed two weeks.

Permits are granted by the Committee under County General Code 16.08(9)(c). A copy of the permit can be found in Chapter 1000.

960.3 RECREATION TRAIL PERMITS

960.3.1 Storm Water Discharge

In general, any trail construction or rehabilitation activities that disturb one acre or more of land will require a Storm Water Discharge Permit. There have been instances of inconsistent application of permit requirements Statewide. In order to further define the County's understanding and implementation of permit requirements, the following current acceptable process will be used for determining when a permit is needed.

1. The 1 acre threshold will be determined by measuring/estimated new disturbance or disturbance of previously grassed surfaces.

2. Periodic grading of impervious or non-grassed trail surfaces is not considered disturbance.
3. Restoration of water filtration/diversion devices, such as sediment traps or catch basins is considered maintenance and not disturbance.
4. Reconstruction of previously grassed ditch lines as part of trail rehabilitation is considered disturbance.

960.3.2 Chapter 30

Permits are required for new bridges or culvert crossings of navigable waterways. These permits will either be classified as general or individual depending on specific site conditions. These permits are not required for culvert or bridge crossings of non-navigable or intermittent streams, nor or they required to install a clear span bridge over wetlands.

960.3.3 Wetland Fill

Permits are required at any time that fill is placed in a wetland. Permits are available to fill small wetlands for recreation trail purposes. Wetland fill must be less than 10,000 square feet and the permit does not require wetland mitigation. Clear span bridge and boardwalks placed on pilings generally do not require a wetland fill permit. Puncheon style bridges do require a permit.

965 RECREATION PROGRAM FUNDING AND GRANTS

965.1 RECREATION AREA FUNDING

Funding for recreation areas is generally fee based. Aid for Development of Local Parks (ADLP) funding is available for facility development or enhancement but there is normally a very high level of competition for these funds.

965.2 RECREATION TRAIL FUNDING

965.2.1 Non-motorized trail systems

At this time, there is very limited access to any grant funds that will assist with non-motorized recreational trail maintenance. The County relies on user fees and/or funds maintenance out of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry operating budgets.

965.2.2 Motorized trail systems

There are numerous grant programs available to offset motorized trail system costs. Marathon County utilizes the following funding sources:

1. Snowmobile Maintenance - \$300/mile
2. ATV Summer Maintenance - \$600/mile
3. ATV Winter Maintenance - \$100/mile
4. UTV Maintenance - \$100/mile
5. ATV Rehabilitation - 100% grants
6. ATV Development - 100% grants

2010-2019 FORESTRY DIVISION EXPENSE/REVENUE REPORT

Year	Gross Timber Sold Amount	Net Timber Sold Amount	Acres	Timber Revenue Even-Flow Budget	Net Timber Revenue Actual ¹	Other Revenue ²	Total Revenue	Expenses ³	Program Net
2010	\$411,312	\$287,918	622	\$213,000	\$368,270	\$56,986	\$425,256	\$344,442	\$80,814
2011	\$374,005	\$261,804	551	\$213,000	\$293,943	\$60,870	\$354,813	\$357,721	(\$2,908)
2012	\$356,678	\$249,675	548	\$213,000	\$226,203	\$57,170	\$283,373	\$346,272	(\$62,899)
2013	\$298,173	\$208,721	543	\$213,000	\$333,986	\$53,239	\$387,225	\$308,336	\$78,889
2014	\$716,996	\$501,897	578	\$213,000	\$170,006	\$98,093	\$268,099	\$342,956	(\$74,857)
2015	\$531,420	\$371,994	596	\$245,000	\$46,457	\$57,908	\$104,365	\$345,387	(\$241,022)
2016	\$488,343	\$341,840	666	\$245,000	\$371,716	\$58,385	\$430,101	\$341,930	\$88,171
2017	\$436,687	\$305,681	520	\$245,000	\$243,092	\$60,606	\$303,698	\$343,106	(\$39,408)
2018	\$393,387	\$275,371	709	\$245,000	\$500,427	\$58,068	\$558,495	\$359,452	\$199,043
2019	\$735,080	\$514,556	644	\$245,000	\$591,768	\$59,779	\$651,547	\$354,742	\$296,805
TOTALS	\$4,742,081	\$3,319,457	5977	\$2,290,000	\$3,145,868	\$621,104	\$3,766,972	\$3,444,344	\$322,628

¹ Revenue to Marathon County after 20% payment to State for loans and 10% payment to townships

² Includes County Forest Administrator grant, firewood permits, bond recovery and misc. revenues

³ Includes all personnel and operating expenses

Subject: new snowmobile PSA links

Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020

Good afternoon all. Below are the updated links for the PSA. I just double checked them again and they are working. In addition, attached is request letter you may forward on to your committee or whomever regarding the ask for additional financial support if it would help.

60 sec : <https://vimeo.com/395540448/201045ac32>

30 sec : <https://vimeo.com/395540240/cfaa920b4a>

Any questions, please let me know.

Have a great weekend,

Rebekah



Rebekah Luedtke
Executive Director
Wisconsin County Forests Association
3243 Golf Course Rd / PO Box 70
Rhineland, WI 54501
W: 715-282-5951
C: 218-410-0268
wafa@frontier.com

Wisconsin County Forests Association

Norman Bickford
President
Burnett County

Joe Waichulis
Vice President
Clark County

Greg Sekela
Treasurer
Oconto County

Al Mans
Director
Marinette County

Myron Brooks
Director
Taylor County

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Phil Schneider
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Washburn County

William Bialecki
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Lincoln County

Arnold Schlei
Director
Marathon County

Ed Wafle
Director
Juneau County

Alan VanRaalte
Director
Oneida County

Michael Luedeke
Director-at-Large
Spooner, WI

Henry Schienebeck
Director-at-Large
Rhineland, WI

Rebekah Luedtke
Executive Director

Gary Zimmer
Asst. Executive Director

DATE: March 1, 2020

SUBJECT: Request for funding for Snowmobile/ Logging Truck
Public Service Announcement

Discover Mediaworks has partnered with the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA), the Forest Industry Safety & Training Alliance (FISTA), the Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs (AWSC), and the Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) to develop a public service announcement (PSA) promoting the importance of safe practices as snowmobilers, and other forest trail users, meet and interact with logging trucks. Every year, there are multiple accidents between trail users and logging trucks which could be prevented if a few key steps were implemented. The PSA provides critical information to user groups which sometimes conflict with timber projects on various land ownerships. The goal of the PSA is to increase the safety of trail users and truckers alike as we share the beautiful forests and trails of Wisconsin.

The total cost for the project is \$46,500. This cost covers the development of the PSA, as well as the presentation and promotion of the message by various sources. Discover Mediaworks, producer of the PSA, donated \$16,500 to the project. FISTA, through the St. John Education fund, has contributed \$3,500, with the AWSC contributing \$1,000. The WCFA will be contributing towards the project as well.

The PSA has been distributed by Discover Mediaworks and is currently being aired on television and other digital platforms with potential to reach over 1.5 million viewers. Other organizations, clubs, local units of government are free to use the PSA at their discretion – websites, social media, local TV.

In return, the project is seeking additional financial support and any contributions would be greatly appreciated. If any county, local unit of government, recreational club or business would be willing to donate to the project, they should contact Kim Perigo at FISTA for help or more information. FISTA is a 501c3 organizations so donations would be tax deductible. Kim can also provide the links to view the PSA.

Kim Perigo
Office Coordinator
Forest Industry Safety & Training Alliance
kperigo@fistausa.org
715-282-4979
PO Box 714
Rhineland, WI 54501

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Rebekah Luedtke



CENTRAL WISCONSIN OFFROAD CYCLING COALITION

Nine Mile County Forest Mountain Bike Trail Maintenance and Improvements

Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area serves as the area's legacy trail system, highlighting historic, timeless singletrack in the deep woods for over 25 years. In 2014, CWOCC coordinated a significant improvement project to the Nine Mile mountain bike trails that included trail reroutes, new trail additions, new signage, and trail maps. The Nine Mile trails have primarily been maintained by CWOCC volunteers with some assistance of Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry. As a result, Nine Mile's season pass and daily pass sales increased nearly 30% each year, making it one of the top destination trail systems in the upper Midwest. With CWOCC's addition of other mountain bike trail systems like the Sylvan Hill Mountain Bike Park, The Underdown and Ringle Trails, the time has come to revisit Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area to ensure its quality and longevity as a top tier mountain bike trail system.

Not only is Nine Mile a favorite for local riders, it continues to be the host venue for events like the Wisconsin Endurance Mountain Bike Series (WEMS), Wausau 24, Ragnar Trail Relay, youth mountain bike NICA races and the newly formed Ironbull organization. Demand has never been higher on the Nine Mile mountain bike trail system and we need to continue to invest and improve Nine Mile so that it remains a marquee trail system that attracts new local riders as well as visitors from around the upper Midwest.

CWOCC looks forward to the continued partnership with the Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department. Outlined below is CWOCC's master proposal for trail maintenance and improvements for the next phase of growth at Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area.

Since the 2014 improvement project Nine Mile has seen an uptick in rider visits as well as a significant increase in new local ridership. Trails created during the 2014 improvement project have significantly better drainage qualities and manage higher volumes of traffic better than the legacy trail sections. Much work has been done by volunteers since 2014 to maintain the older sections of trail during some often wet seasons. Manual labor used to create proper drainage held up admirably but more significant work needs to be done with machinery to properly manage water flow. Additionally, with higher traffic flow some trails have experience braiding and corridor widening in specific areas that can be repaired/closed with machine work.

In addition to needed maintenance, the addition of newer progressive built trails features similar to those found at Sylvan Hill and Ringle could be added. Mountain biking has evolved over the last 10 years and riders now seek more feature filled riding experiences. Features include jumps, drops and skill areas, all of which Nine Mile lacks. During maintenance work CWOCC would like to add many similar features to the existing trail corridors at Nine Mile.



Nine Mile County Forest Mountain Bike Trail Maintenance and Improvements

Various features can be added alongside existing trail corridor utilizing natural materials found onsite. All features are built to be **optional** and can be ridden around. Placement of features are designed that the natural flow of the trail will not force a rider into the feature but rather the main trail corridor. Examples of trailside features are shown below:

Jumps or Drops: Can be made from wood or natural material (rocks, soil) Nine Mile has more than enough rock onsite to build jump or drop features with. Jumps or drops are optional features with choice to ride around the feature



Skinny's: Narrow elevated tracks built from fallen trees or some other form of lumber construction. Can also be built from narrow rocks. Height from the ground can vary depending on level of difficulty desired. Offered as optional challenge and can be avoided by main trail corridor.



Skill & Jump Zones

In addition to trailside features CWOCC would like to construct two specific skill areas. Skill zones provide a dense offering of various skill challenges that allow riders to session repeatedly. This allows riders to prepare for features they may encounter out on the trails. Challenges are progressive in difficulty allowing riders to advance their skills. Examples of skill zones and jump parks are shown below:

Jump/Skill Zone (#29): Located at an old gravel pit area tucked between Nordic ski trails and Red Bud Road. Currently a single track connector trail runs across/through this area. The shapes available in this area would allow for a condensed jump zone similar to beginner/intermediate jumps offered at Sylvan Hill. Also include additional intermediate skill features (ramps, drop-ins, etc.)

Skill Area (#30): Skill zones offer balance skills and exposure to obstacles normally found while trail riding but in a lower consequence environment. Located at west end of north parking lot would provide a condensed skill zone with beginner/intermediate skill features. These features could be progressive difficulty ramps to simulate drop offs, skinny's built of wood, rock or combinations of both and rock gardens.





CENTRAL WISCONSIN OFFROAD CYCLING COALITION

Stone Soup

1. Drain improvement/rock armoring after tech rock descent, add alternate rock tech line on descent
2. Re-route south/west leg of loop for erosion control. Rock armoring. Add jumps/drops where possible.

Yang

3. Corner corrections
4. Re-route old two track straight section

Yin

5. Add b-line around 1st rock garden
6. Add b-line around 2nd rock garden. Make 2nd rock garden more challenging
7. Turn correction on north section of trail
8. Reroute east intersection w/ Yang. Short up/downhill eroded

Root Canal

9. Raise tread and rock armor, control drainage. Rock armored drains similar to those found at Sylvan Hill
10. Turn correction & drainage control through west end of trail.

Chain Smoker

11. Turn adjustment, oldest section of trail.
12. Re-route crossing w/ ski trail D. Currently in low spot water runs from north down xc-ski trail and pools at the single track crossing. Re-route further south (w/ boardwalk) cross ski trail at higher ground.

Rebound/Outbound

13. Replace bridge, raise tread on south side of bridge
14. Split segments of trail for safety. Lengthen downhill leg of flow section built in 2013/2014 and make downhill only directional. Repair old uphill leg for drainage and make directional uphill. Add jumps/drops on downhill leg. Directional corridors will be approximately 50' to 50 yards apart.
15. Add downhill only section of western flow piece for safety. Jumps/drops
16. Add downhill specific leg parallel to current corridor for safety. Jumps/drops. Fix drainage on existing corridor

Up Nort

17. Repair downhill into sand pit. Correct drainage uphill from turns, berm corners for flow
18. Section in pines, fix corners, drainage, berm old corners, update existing berms. Add jumps/drops where possible.

Icky Thump

19. Re-route rooty sections in pines (beginner friendly). Re-route fall line segment add turns small jumps/drops. Close old corridor.

Flower trail

20. Drainage repair

Super G

21. Reroute off of logging road corridor, create true singletrack. Scarify/revegetate and close old logging road corridor. Add jumps/drops

Ho Chi Minh

22. Erosion control. Grade reversals, slight turns before rocky section
23. Add jumps/drops multiple locations
24. Reroute steep eroded uphill into switchback flow section.
25. Close bail out

K-Bypass/Bear bones

26. Reroute east half into pure singletrack to connection with K-bypass. Turn correction in east leg of k-bypass
27. Close west half of Bear bones (old logging road, approx 1000'), scarify and revegetate.

White Knuckle

28. Drainage work. Add jump/drop

Skill area (north lot)

29. Near west end of north parking lot (page 3 description)

Skill/jump park

30. Old pit area near Red Bud road crossing. Jumps, drops, technical features (page 3 description)

Snowshoe Corridor

31. Reroute snowshoe corridor to reduce ski trail crossings. Provide direct link back to chalet without using XC-ski trail for all seasons. Open to MTB summer use will provide another kid/beginner friendly loop. Abandon old corridor

