



MARATHON COUNTY FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, August 6, 2019 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.*

Agenda Items:

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Public Comment Period – Not to Exceed 15 Minutes**
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the July 2, 2019 Committee Meeting**
4. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
 - A. Federal Forests Good Neighbor Authority Program – Chad Keranen
 - B. County Forest Land Acquisition Updates – Kerswill, CERES, and Romatowski
 - C. Cross Country Skiing Survey Results
 - D. Report on July County Forest Storm Damage
5. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**
 - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
 1. Timber Sale Closeouts
 - a. Tigerton Lumber Company – Contract #662-17
 - b. Central Wisconsin Lumber – Contract #631-14
 - c. Country Forest Products – Contract #658-17
 - B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration
 1. Review and Consider Approving Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan Timeline and Public Participation Process 2021 - 2035
6. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee - None**
7. **Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Sept. 3, 2019, 12:30pm, Rm. 3, 212 River Dr., Wausau, WI 54403**
 - A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence
 - B. Future Agenda Items: 2019 Forest Certification Audit Preliminary Findings, Wisconsin County Forests Association Annual Meeting, Consider Approving Fall 2019 Timber Sale Package
8. **Adjournment**

SIGNED /s/ Tom 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: 848-9361 848-5887 715-387-4175
Daily Herald City Pages Marshfield News
Mid-west Radio Group – 848-3158
FAXED BY: Jodi Luebbe
FAX DATE/TIME: July 31, 2019 10:00 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, Jamie Polley-Director, John Beatty, Kathy Welter,
Nathan Welter-Boy Scout

Call meeting to order – Meeting called to order by Chairman Schlei at 12:30pm, Rm 3, 212 River Dr., Wausau.

Public Comment Period – Not to Exceed 15 Minutes – none brought forward

Approve Minutes – **Motion** / second by Bove / Seefeldt to approve the minutes from the June 4, 2019 regular Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Wisconsin Endurance Mountain Bike Race Participation and Revenue – Lovlien reported the event had 79 participants and the County received \$642.75 in revenues. The trails are not closed to the public during the event.

B. 2019 – 2021 Wisconsin State Budget Initiatives Affecting Forestry Programs – Lovlien explained that the State budget has been forwarded to the Governor to accept, veto in entirety, or line-item veto. Three things affecting county forestry programs are currently in the budget that Lovlien hopes remain. The first is local transportation aids which would increase the payment of County forest roads that are open to the public from \$336.00 to \$351.00 per mile. The second is for a two year-extension of the stewardship program. The Governor has suggested creating a blue ribbon coalition made up of interested groups to discuss over the next two years what the stewardship program might look like in the future and how it will be funded. The third is the recommendation for an additional \$165,000 in the Sustainable Forestry and County Forest Administrator grant program.

C. Forestry Division Timber Sale Revenue Through June 30, 2019 – Lovlien explained that after 20% payment to the State and 10% to the towns the Department has netted about \$ 378,000 in timber sale revenues already this year. The even flow amount is set at \$245,000 so it will be well over that by the end of the year. He cautioned that while we have two high revenue years that future years it will go down. They sell a sustainable amount of timber and the contracts are for two to three years so if they are all cut early the following years will be lighter in revenue. Lovlien noted that expenses were also up because there have been numerous washouts on the trails. More money has been put into County forest roads, ski trails, ATV trails which are getting damaged by erosion and culverts getting washed out. Staff continues to work on fixing those trails. Questions were answered.

Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

Forest Citizen Advisory Subcommittee Appointments – Lovlien reported that five members of the Subcommittee terms are expiring. They are all returning members who have an interest in staying on the Subcommittee. Lovlien said there are staggered terms and the next group will expire next September. Typically there is not a lot of outside interest so if the people on the Subcommittee are in good standing and want to remain on it, his recommendation is to reappoint. If any outside applications are received those will be brought forward for consideration. Lovlien gave information about each of the members whose terms are expiring. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Seefeldt to reappoint Klocko, Weiland, Wieloch, Heil, Schleifer to the Forest Citizen Advisory Subcommittee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

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

1. Resolution: Consider the Purchase of Kerswill Property for County Forest – Lovlien gave an update on the Kerswill property acquisition. He said the State had notified him that the purchase was a good candidate for grant funding. The idea was to use land donated by the Park Foundation as match lands to help qualify for additional funding to purchase this property. Currently the rules allow that if match lands are acquired by the County within one year of purchasing an additional property that is all going to be enrolled at once into the County forest law program, that a

separate appraisal can be done on that match parcel and the grant funding is supposed to give full value of that match parcel. The Park Foundation donated land that was appraised just short of \$170,000. This amount plus fifty percent of the purchase price for the Kerswill property would be a total state grant amount of \$347,000. The grant plus the forest segregated land purchase account would acquire the land at a cost to the County of about \$8,400.00. If an application for a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant is made for above \$250,000 it automatically triggers a State Joint Finance Committee passive review process. There has been an objection filed on this purchase so it's in a holding pattern until there is a meeting of the State Joint Finance Committee to discuss it. Lovlien is concerned about the time it's going to take because he has a September 15th deadline for closing on the Kerswill property. The County will be contacting Senators to try to have them lift the objection otherwise they have to wait until the objection hearing is scheduled. Lovlien is not sure if the objections will be lifted or if JFC will allow the match property to be pulled from the project and just move on with the fifty percent match, or if the County has to reapply altogether. Lovlien noted that the lower of the two amounts is still the same amount of money, a fifty percent grant the County has received for other land purchases. Lovlien speculated that the objection was raised because some Senators may not like the provision in the law that allows counties to use match lands plus fifty percent of the parcel that is being purchased if acquired within one year. The other is trying to explain the difference between having wetland soils and having forested soils where timber can be grown in perpetuity. Lovlien discussed the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program. **Motion** / second by Bove / Schlei to forward to Environmental Resource Committee that the County purchase the Kerswill property for County forest taking into consideration one of the two fiscal impact estimate scenarios. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

2. Resolution: Approving an Application to Acquire Funding through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program – A landowner is interested in selling 40 acres that are adjacent to the Kronenwetter Forest Unit to the County. Lovlien will be attending the July 23rd Village of Kronenwetter meeting. Lovlien discussed the process of purchasing land. This resolution to the County Board is to apply for the grant, negotiate and secure an appraisal on the property. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Bove to forward the resolution to the Environmental Resource Committee that authorizes staff to apply for land acquisition grant funding, negotiate the purchase and complete an appraisal on the property Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – August 6, 2019 at 12:30pm, 212 River Dr., Rm. 3

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – none

B. Future Agenda Items – Timber Sale Closeouts, Good Neighborhood Authority Program, Consider Approving Public Comment Process for County Forest Plan Revision

Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Schlei to adjourn at 1:23 pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) in Wisconsin

The 2014 Farm Bill and the 2014 FY federal Appropriations Act authorizes the USDA Forest Service to enter into cooperative agreements with States to perform watershed restoration and forest management services on National Forest System lands without cumbersome contracting mechanisms and requirements to use federal processes and procedures.

GNA GOAL

The GNA provides an opportunity for the state and others in the forestry community to work with the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest (CNNF) to help increase the level of accomplishments on the national forest and see the benefits of increased forest management.

HOW DOES GNA WORK?

States and national forests sign Master Agreements and Supplemental Project Agreements that detail the work to be done. Wisconsin signed a Master Agreement and Supplemental Project Agreement in fall 2015. The plan for Wisconsin is to engage in this work long term and continue to renew master agreements every ten years. Annually, the WI DNR and States act as agents for the USDA Forest Service (FS). In Wisconsin, we do the work ourselves, sub-contract with consultants, and sub-award to counties. Timber sale revenue pays for the work we and our partners do. We've agreed to work on roughly 25 mmbf each year. All of the projects have gone through the federal NEPA process. Projects shift across the CNNF districts each year; sales include a variety of timber products.

A portion of the timber revenue generated must be returned to the FS to fund specific FS accounts (e.g. reforestation, local aids). Once sufficient timber revenue is generated (aka program income), this money will be spent back on the CNNF on a variety of projects. Projects could include those that fund restoration programs for streams, support the timber program to continue reaching goals such as cultural resource surveys and stand exams, or additional programs that add value to the forest and those that use it.

PARTNERSHIPS

The DNR prefers to work in partnership to accomplish GNA projects; we depend on counties and private consultants to share the workload. Seven counties (Sawyer, Bayfield, Forest, Oconto, Langlade, Taylor, and Florence) have signed agreements with the state and are contracting on timber sale establishment and administration. Private forestry consultants have contracted with us as well for timber marking, cruising, and establishment.

The GNA partnership is shedding light on how forest management is accomplished – partners see how each other practices forestry and this can inform new practices, techniques, or policies and procedures (e.g. scaled wood sale pilot being developed on CNNF due to GNA example).



(updated September 2018)

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) in Wisconsin

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Wisconsin is the first state in the country to have a GNA agreement, and the first state to have established and sold timber as part of the agreement.

GNA is getting wood to market faster, which supports the local and state economy. Harvested forest products go to area mills; harvesting employs loggers, truckers, suppliers and their families. CNNF was the number one timber producing national forest in the country in 2016 due to the assistance provided by GNA

GNA is getting forest management done on the CNNF, implementing their management plan, which results in improved wildlife habitat and watershed health.

Total of all Wisconsin GNA sales sold to date, in round numbers, is over 122,000 cords equivalents, includes sawlog and pulpwood products, an estimated market value of \$6.2 million. In addition to the \$6.2 million of stumpage revenues, there is an additional \$4.6 million dollars in revenue generated in other sectors of the Wisconsin economy.¹

GNA timber sales to date (September 2018):

Number of sales	65 sales
Total acreage sold	10,701 acres
Volume sold	134,000 cord equivalents
Bid value	\$7,285,780
Minimum advertised value	\$5,001,880
Average value sold/acre \$	\$680/acre

For more information:

USDA FS:

<https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/farm-bill/gna>

WI DNR:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/TimberSales/GNAGeneralInfo.html>



¹ The economic multipliers for the forest products industry include indirect and induced impacts and there are multipliers for employment and output. Output is the value of the industry in the local economy. In the forest products industry in Wisconsin, every dollar of output creates 73 cents in other sectors of the economy. The dollar of output is the direct impact of the forest products industry and the 73 cents generated in other sectors is a combination of the indirect and induced impacts. Indirect output is inter-industry spending (for example a logger purchasing fuel for his equipment or a paper mill purchasing chemicals to make paper) while induced output is household spending (for example a logger buying groceries for their family).
(updated September 2018)

Initial Report

2018-2019 Nine Mile Winter Use Survey

July 5, 2019 2:30 PM CDT

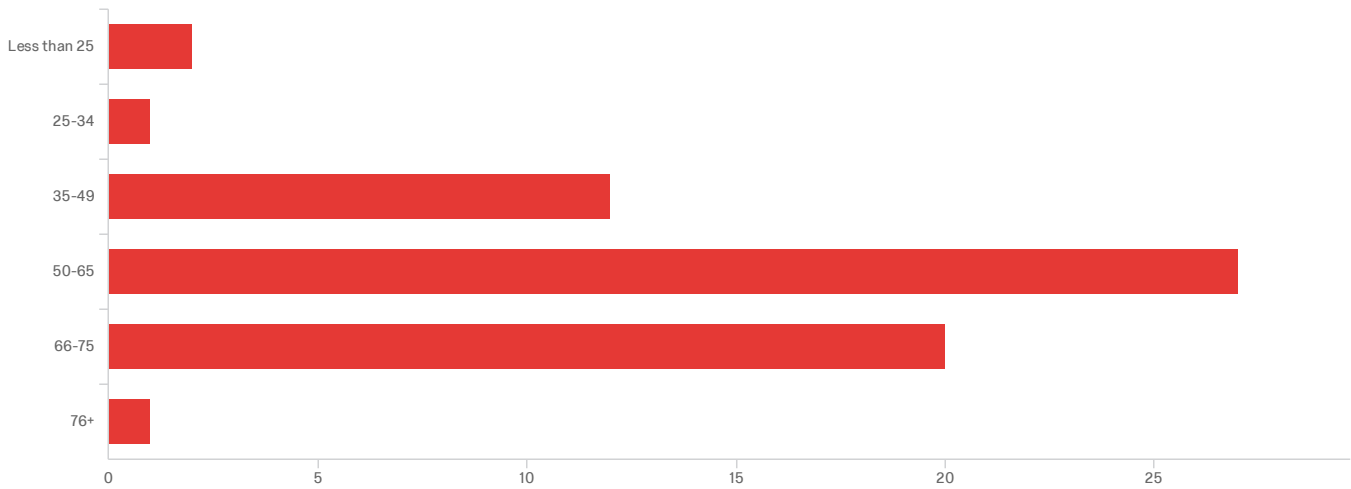
Q1 - How often do you ski/snowshoe at Nine Mile?

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Once a season	3
2	2 - 7 times per season	14
3	8 - 15 times per season	14
4	16+ times per season	31
		62

Showing rows 1 - 5 of 5

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How often do you ski/snowshoe at Nine Mile?	1.00	5.00	3.13	1.14	1.31	62

Q2 - What is your age category?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	What is your age category?	1.00	6.00	4.03	0.96	0.92	63

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Less than 25	3.17% 2
2	25-34	1.59% 1
3	35-49	19.05% 12
4	50-65	42.86% 27
5	66-75	31.75% 20
6	76+	1.59% 1

63

Showing rows 1 - 7 of 7

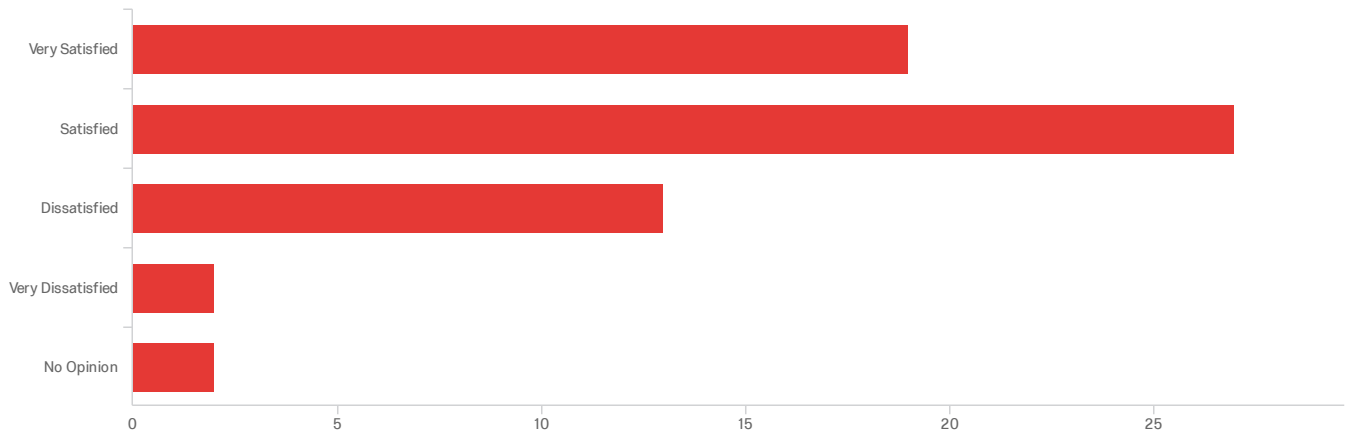
Q3 - Overall how satisfied were you with your skiing/snowshoeing experience?

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Very Satisfied	22
2	Satisfied	29
3	Dissatisfied	10
4	Very Dissatisfied	1
5	No Opinion	1
		63

Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Overall how satisfied were you with your skiing/snowshoeing experience?	1.00	5.00	1.89	0.84	0.70	63

Q4 - How would you rate the quality of trail grooming at Nine Mile?

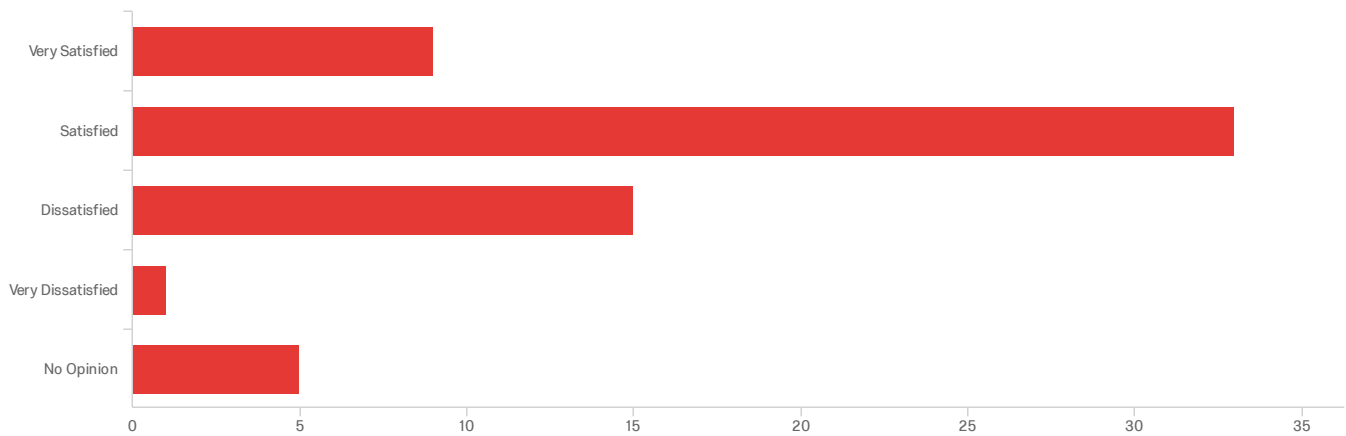


#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How would you rate the quality of trail grooming at Nine Mile?	1.00	5.00	2.06	0.96	0.92	63

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Very Satisfied	30.16% 19
2	Satisfied	42.86% 27
3	Dissatisfied	20.63% 13
4	Very Dissatisfied	3.17% 2
5	No Opinion	3.17% 2
		63

Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6

Q5 - How would you rate the amount and quality of communication on trail conditions?

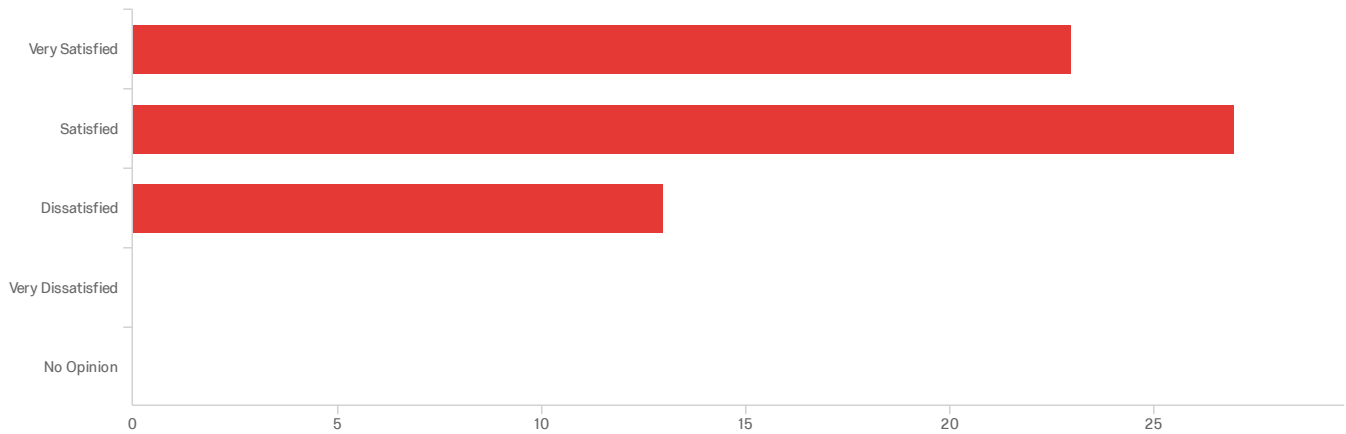


#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How would you rate the amount and quality of communication on trail conditions?	1.00	5.00	2.37	1.01	1.03	63

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Very Satisfied	14.29% 9
2	Satisfied	52.38% 33
3	Dissatisfied	23.81% 15
4	Very Dissatisfied	1.59% 1
5	No Opinion	7.94% 5
		63

Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6

Q6 - How would you rate the quality of the trail maps and signage?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How would you rate the quality of the trail maps and signage?	1.00	3.00	1.84	0.74	0.55	63

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Very Satisfied	36.51% 23
2	Satisfied	42.86% 27
3	Dissatisfied	20.63% 13
4	Very Dissatisfied	0.00% 0
5	No Opinion	0.00% 0
		63

Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6

Q7 - How satisfied were you with your interactions with the Chalet Staff?

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Very Satisfied	36
2	Satisfied	22
3	Dissatisfied	2
4	Very Dissatisfied	0
5	No Opinion	2
		62

Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How satisfied were you with your interactions with the Chalet Staff?	1.00	5.00	1.55	0.84	0.70	62

Q8 - How satisfied were you with the conditions of the Chalet and Restrooms?

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Very Satisfied	32
2	Satisfied	24
3	Dissatisfied	5
4	Very Dissatisfied	0
5	No Opinion	1
		62

Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	How satisfied were you with the conditions of the Chalet and Restrooms?	1.00	5.00	1.61	0.77	0.59	62

Q9 - Do you feel that the fees charged for skiing/snowshoeing are appropriate?

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Too High	9
2	About Right	51
3	Too Low	2
4	No Opinion	1
		63

Showing rows 1 - 5 of 5

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Do you feel that the fees charged for skiing/snowshoeing are appropriate?	1.00	4.00	2.70	0.73	0.53	63

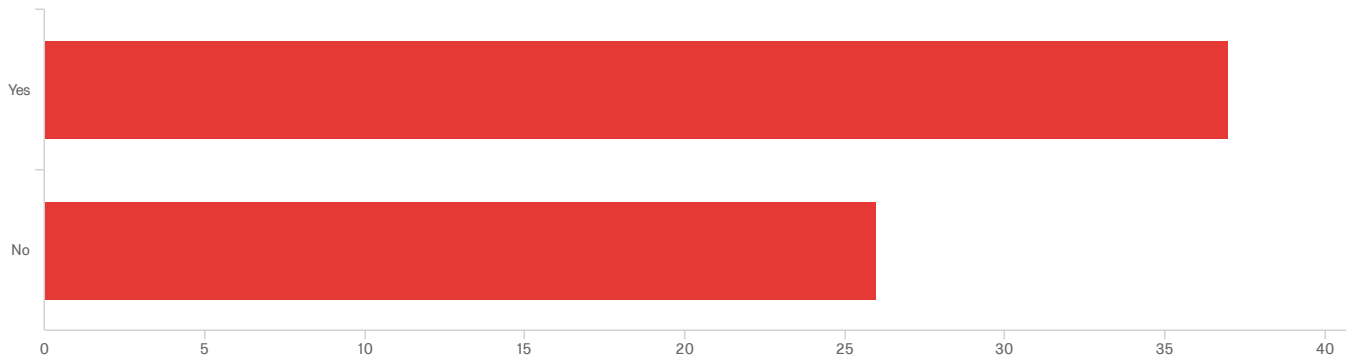
Q10 - Would you recommend Nine Mile Winter Recreation Area to a friend or relative?

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Yes	58
2	No	2
3	No Opinion	2
		62

Showing rows 1 - 4 of 4

#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Would you recommend Nine Mile Winter Recreation Area to a friend or relative?	1.00	3.00	1.10	0.39	0.15	62

Q11 - Are you a member of the Wausau Nordic Ski Club?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Are you a member of the Wausau Nordic Ski Club?	1.00	2.00	1.41	0.49	0.24	63

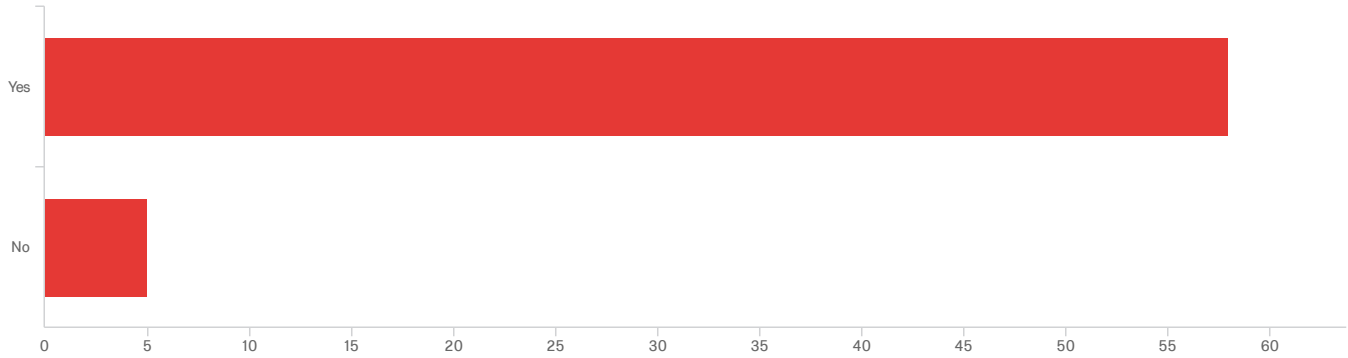
#	Field	Choice Count
1	Yes	58.73% 37
2	No	41.27% 26

63

Showing rows 1 - 3 of 3

Q12 - Are you aware of all the Nordic Ski development programs that the Wausau Nordic

Ski Club runs?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	Are you aware of all the Nordic Ski development programs that the Wausau Nordic Ski Club runs?	1.00	2.00	1.08	0.27	0.07	63

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Yes	92.06% 58
2	No	7.94% 5

63

Showing rows 1 - 3 of 3

Q13 - Comments

Comments

Love to ski at 9-mile, but it is hard to get a season's pass worth if skiing when snow comes so late in the season. Maybe next year.

Although you can't control for weather (ie. lack of snow), 9 Mile Recreation Area is great with good seasonal snow. Pre-paying for a season pass is becoming questionable. The date should be extended for the season pass option when the weather is objectionable for skiing (ie. late snow fall/pack for skiing). Thanks!

Our family really enjoys the kids nordic ski lessons provided by the ski club

Some trails did not open in a timely fashion after the snow fell and was deep enough to ski on because grooming happened days later- that was a little disappointing. Also, while all the trails are well marked, the names of letters are not memorable, and I found it easy to get lost or not follow directions on which trail to go to. That was a bigger problem when I was with a group meeting up somewhere.

Really liked the in the chalet white board on trail conditions, but wish I could get the same information on line before coming out to gauge which style of skiing Classical vs. Skate would be best with that days grooming.

Relative to privately owned nordic ski areas the amount of grooming done is definitely less per day after a snowfall and comes later in the day leaving less trail available to ski on. The county could do a lot better job posting current trail conditions on the county website.

While the grooming was better after there was plenty of snow, the groomers continue to struggle to adapt their approach when snow is limited. It is clear that they are focused on the skate lanes and frequently appear to spend their entire day on the skate lanes, leaving the classic tracks icy and unskiable for anyone who is not an expert waxer. Leaves in the tracks are not addressed by regrooming, and the groomers use the PB way more often than appropriate. Most of the chalet attendants are friendly and welcoming, but at least one is generally gruff and disinterested in working with novice skiers to help them have a good experience. Overall, the reputation of Nine Mile has gone down hill significantly in the last few years, and the decreasing numbers when we finally got snow shows that both local and out of town skiers are either not skiing or finding alternatives. There is a lot of work to do regain the trust of these lost patrons.

No complaints Time has come to comprehensively redesign the wayfinding system for the forest. Uniform symbols, color coding and numbering. Uniform and consistent signing at trail heads and intersections. Maps: for all applications, paper, electronic, signs: On Trails: larger, print on weatherproof sign board, no you-are-here markers that block the trail lines detail at intersections On Maps: add the length numbers of every segment on the trail system - both for an entire lettered trail (total) and for each and every segment in between each intersection for the entire system (so a user can plan/customize their outing by distance and time available) Explore funding for this effort with the community foundation, parks foundation, county board and donations from friends/users of 9 Mile Thank you

How about adding signs that point to "the quickest way to chalet" at intersections for those of us who get confused or tired especially in the dark?

I likes the buttons better than the cards for the annual passes. My pass this year broke right away. I would recommend going back to the buttons or even better get ones like they have for the birkie trail annual pass

I think the public/private relationship between Wausau Nordic Ski Club and Marathon County is excellent and mutually beneficial. I'd like to see Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry remain vigilant in keeping the 9 mile & all other county forest units open for all the public to recreate. Specifically hunters and trappers. Sometimes the financial benefit Marathon County receives from private/public relationships could have influence in creation county ordinances that are lobbied by the private entity. On the surface these ordinances may seem to have very limited restrictions on the hunters and trappers but they can be cumulative and a slippery slope. The lobbying affects are one sided because the private groups are organized clubs that present issues with non-club county forest users and want it solved with county ordinances. The non-club county forest users are large number of non-organized users that don't have the lobby strength/voice of the private clubs. I feel Marathon County does a good job with this public/private relationship. I write specifically about 9 mile because of it s proximity to Wausau & Rib Mt, the primary population base of Marathon County. It gets a tremendous amount of use by non-hunters and trappers & I don't want to see pressure from that demographic to get priority on public land use.

The adult free lessons and the children's programs are excellent.

Comments

I really like skiing at 9 Mile, trails are great but I don't think Marathon County supports new skiers enough. Learning to ski programs should be less expensive because the beginner skier can only ski an hour or 2, not the whole day or 20km. Encourage schools to have school related ski programs. More publicity would be good.

Good question about mapping. I do think that it could be better - I've only been skiing out there for about five seasons, but I still can't read those little maps! They don't make much sense to me! Also, I do wish that the chalet was bigger, especially considering Sneekveik and Badger State. A bigger wax shack would be more than appreciated, especially for as many kids/families out there who need wax training.

Need to have more reliable grooming done mid morning and especially on weekends in order for out of towners. To many time this season once the snow came that trail conditions were not at all like other ski centers.

The grooming of the trails over the past 2 winters has been poor. The grooming has not been timely. Certain trails go ungroomed for several days. Some trails are not groomed as wide as they could be. Classic tracks are not being set; I skied in classic tracks that had not been re-set in 8 days. I overheard and talked with several (more than 10) out of towners that complained about the very poor trail conditions and terrible grooming. Many of these people stated they would not return. I try to be an Ambassador for Nine Mile helping new people with directions, trail recommendations, and giving impromptu ski lessons. Not only did the poor grooming hurt my ski training, forcing me to drive more than one hour to other ski trails, it is embarrassing to hear out of towners trash talk Nine Mile.

I would like to have the option of family passes rates for snowshoeing only. Would like to increase number of trails mapped for snowshoeing. Yin, Yang, and Stone Soup come to mind. Most of the single track that are not used for skiing could also be mapped for snowshoe. Overall the 9-mile area is one of our go-to spots for snowshoeing and summer trail running.

A staff member should take on the responsibility to post snow conditions on Skinnyski more regularly. Otherwise, 9-Mile is a great place to ski.

Grooming is a skill and requires input from experienced skiers. Grooming needs to be done between snowfalls as well as following snowfalls. Our ski area is a highly appreciated resource locally and draws many skiers from outside the area. It is important to maintain our reputation.

Need to have a vending machine and hot food available. Chalet needs to be jazzed up.

Enjoyed the opportunity to cross country ski, overall nice experience, chalet staff are not always friendly.

I never skied this season because of snow conditions. Didn't know if Nine Mile was open.

Don't make snow if you are going to charge more for season tickets.

I ski there often and the trails are always in the best condition the weather allows. We always buy annual passes even in bad snow years because the facility still needs to be maintained. Nine Mile is a fantastic resource for the area. Keep up the good work and the close relationship with the ski club.

Would appreciate if the signage on the newest/North trail were improved. Extra "trails" were confusing as someone had run a snowmobile around so that the intended snowshoe trail could not be distinguished.

The unpredictable natural snow conditions have limited my skiing opportunities the last two years along with my wife's and my snowbird vacation plans. It seems whenever we leave, the heavy snow falls. Not much you can do about that other than pursuing the snowmaking capability currently underway. When cold temperatures arrive in November the machines could be setting a base to lengthen the cross country skiing season. Hunting in the immediate area would need to be restrained during this time period, however there are more areas to hunt than ski.

Very poor classic tracks. With the amount snow we had, the tracks could have been changed/regroomed more often. Grooming is a process, not a race - seems like they just want to get done & don't care about the quality of their work.

Grooming was inconsistent. While we realize that the snow conditions were challenging due to amounts, seemed as if the equipment wasn't ready or was not operational when it was really needed. While it was good that more loops were groomed this year, it would have been nice to have the order of the loops varied so it wasn't always first lighted loop, then 6 K etc. It seemed to take forever to get R and other sections that are further out groomed this year. We are not sure there is a good solution to this, but due to timing of grooming, the skate deck in particular had no chance to set-up before skiing and was often very soft. It would be helpful to have trail condition information on a website so skiers can check what may or may not be groomed before heading out to 9 Mile.

My only comment concerns the setting of tracks. At intersections and on some hills the groomer lifts the track setters. It's ok to set the track through intersections and up all hills. We understand the tracks will be somewhat erased at intersections by skaters and erased on hills by wishbone technique that ok as enough track will be left for classic skiers use. It was a tough winter due to the lack of snow followed by an abundance of snow and in all other regards I felt the grooming was terrific. See ya in December, I hope.

Please use the Piston Bully as much as possible when grooming; please groom as frequently as possible to cover up the high amount of oak leaves that fall on the ski trails. Please have grooming done as early as possible in the morning even before the chalet opens if possible for skiers who want to ski early in the morning. Thank you to the grooming staff for the job they do. But grooming is the number one critical aspect of either being satisfied or not satisfied with a ski venue and a skiing experience.

Question 1) Poor Condition/Late Arriving Winter - Typically visit ski 16+ times/winter Question 3) See Question #4 Question 4) When snow finally did arrive in Feb., skiing was fantastic - Your investment in the Piston Bully/Ginzu equipment elevates the level to a first-rate ski area. However in March, when nighttime freezing allows for grooming that significantly increases the quality and season length, little attention seemed to be given. March can be the best skiing of the season for enthusiasts and families. I understand that the PB was being repaired but also understand it was quick. This just happens to be one recent incident but is consistent through recent seasons where timing/frequency of grooming is lacking in attention. This ski area has the makings of and growing reputation to be the benchmark of Midwestern Nordic skiing and grooming plays a primary role, especially when nature doesn't cooperate. Question 5) SkinnySki.com is the place for the most up-to-date condition reporting within the Nordic community. Co. Website is secondary, but has a poor user-interface and experience. Question 6) Nordic trail signage pales in comparison to the CWOCC signage. That's the area benchmark and user expectation. Many winter users are confused between the two. Perhaps a unified effort to combine may eventually be necessary. I do not use any signage personally. Question 7) Chalet Staff has always been friendly and helpful - the new location of the desk works/flows well. Kids love the Cookie Trail reward. Question 8) I know it's tough. Bathrooms (mens) typically seem humid and smell not-so-fresh. Question 10) This is a great place to introduce newcomers to the sport. Nordic Ski Club does a fantastic job with kids programs as well as adult learning opportunities.

Snow conditions and short duration ski season make me second guess the value of a season pass. I train for the Birke and have to go elsewhere, (Minocqua, Rib Lake, Timms Hill, Hurley and Underdown) for snow from December to February just to ski.

I always love Nine Mile and the experience out there. I am dissatisfied with the grooming quality this year. I recognize that we had snow late in the season and can appreciate that. However, when we did have snow, the grooming was rushed, sloppy, and it took over a month once we had adequate snow for all of the trails to see some grooming. I am specifically referencing the 20k loop and a section known as the alps which is very important to area skiers to have the chance to train on those because they prepare the racing population for races around the state. They are the only big hills really at Nine Mile. I appreciate the space to give input. I have heard a number of skiers note that they would be willing to run the groomer if that were an option in order to get a higher quality grooming experience. Thank you.

Of course, this was a horrible year for conditions and a very short XC season. Toward the end of the season - mid-march - there was A LOT of debris on the trail. Usually I skate so this isn't a problem but I had out-of-town friends and we did classic - I am seriously looking at 'skins' so as to not repeat the nasty fall when a leaf tripped me up on my waxed skis. The daily pass in my opinion is a bit high, and it would be nice to have a discount for a 2-day pass. The trail grooming / conditions on the white board is a good idea. The new season passes are crap - bring back the buttons - I really don't need a piece of cardboard flapping on my chest. I enthusiastically recommend 9-Mile to everyone; the terrain & grooming can't be beat. Kris Ullmer, Merrill

There is too much logging and it ruins the trails, especially when snowfall is minimal. Don't do any logging within 50 yards of any of the trails and everything will be fine. This could be the 3rd best trail system in Wisconsin. Logging should be done some place else in Marathon County, not on the 3rd. most important trail system in the whole State. There are a lot of trails that are much more scenic because you don't have to look at the war zone left by the loggers. When you can look straight through the woods and see 50 yards away you then know that they took too many trees. Grooming was very spotty this year. It took many days for the groomer to get around to the Alps when we finally did get snow.

Trails are not groomed at the standard of other trails such as Iola or Minocqua Trails often not groomed early enough in the day Trails not groomed at cut-off/alternate course areas Trails often not groomed for weekend guests Information board not filled out accurately Chalet not open for marginal skiing when other chalet are (Iola or Minocqua) much lost revenue

Comments

Nine Mile is awesome.

The classic ski trails are not groomed often enough. While the skate ski trails are groomed almost daily. In the years past after a new snow fall, almost all the trails were groomed at one time. Whereas this past year only several trails were groomed at a time.

Please give a nudge to the snowmaking project. It is really needed in seasons like 2018/19 demonstrated. That is why I only used Nine Mile one time this past winter ... I was in Florida during all the snow in February and early March.

The county needs groomers who ski.....not heavy equipment operators who don't have a clue.

I enjoyed having an annual pass this year, but was only able to get out on the trails once due to my schedule. Of course I had hoped for more snow earlier in the season. Better luck for us next year, I hope!

1) The present 2 County groomers just don't seem to put their hearts into the job. It seems like this is what they do and go home when the shift is over, whether done with the trail system or not. There is definite room for improvement. Maybe this is just something that practice will cure. Or maybe not. Both of them collectively couldn't hold a candle to Andy Hoppe, who could easily groom a heavy frost. 2) There needs to be direct, up to date verbal communication daily, heck, hourly, between the groomers and the counter staff at the Chalet. One of the most common questions asked of the counter staff is how are conditions. The most overwhelming common response was a shrug and an answer of, well, they're grooming right now. Not good enough since a lot of skiers will plan the routes according to grooming conditions. I couldn't count the number of times I took off only to find myself on some pristine, un-groomed trail way back in the park. Sure, the whiteboard is nice, but it isn't current enough. Constant communication between counter staff and grooming will take care of this issue.

Very good facilityalways very clean in the chalet, helpful staff, great trail groomers !! The trail grooming is excellent throughout the season..
Wonderful ski trails and shoe shoe trails

End of Report

CLOSE OUT TIMBER SALES

Closeout August 6, 2019

Sale 662-17

TIGERTON LUMBER CO

	Estimated	Cut	
Basswood Pulp	50 Tons	13.67 Tons	Basswood Pulp
Mixed Hardwood Pulp	1600 Tons	2640.32 Tons	Mixed Hardwood Pulp
Oak Pulp	1250 Tons	1404.79 Tons	Oak Pulp
Mixed Hardwood Tops <	550 Tons		
	3450 Tons	4058.78 Total Tons Cut	
Red Maple Sawlogs	55 MBF	69.64 MBF	Red Maple Sawlogs
Mixed Hardwood Sawlog	10 MBF	11.60 MBF	Mixed Hardwood Sawlog
Red Oak Sawlogs	100 MBF	140.48 MBF	Red Oak Sawlogs
	165 MBF	221.72 Total MBF Cut	

Total Revenue for Sale: **\$132,361.17**

Balance: \$0.00

Bond Amount: \$23,443.75

Bond Type: Cash Bond

Recommendation: **Close Sale and Return Cash Bond**

CLOSE OUT TIMBER SALES

Closeout August 6, 2019

Sale 631-14

CENTRAL WI LUMBER

	Estimated	Cut	
Aspen Pulp	150 Tons	230.82 Tons	Aspen Pulp
Basswood Pulp	60 Tons	95.80 Tons	Basswood Pulp
Mixed Hardwood Pulp	1400 Tons	1614.74 Tons	Mixed Hardwood Pulp
Oak Pulp	925 Tons	810.03 Tons	Oak Pulp
	2535 Tons	2751.38 Total Tons Cut	
Ash Sawlogs	28 MBF	25.29 MBF	Ash Sawlogs
Red Maple Sawlogs	13 MBF	14.96 MBF	Red Maple Sawlogs
Red Oak Sawlogs	78 MBF	87.88 MBF	Red Oak Sawlogs
	119 MBF	128.13 Total MBF Cut	

Total Revenue for Sale: **\$133,902.21**

Balance: \$0.00

Bond Amount: \$29,647.00

Bond Type: Cash Bond

Recommendation: **Close Sale and Return Cash Bond**

CLOSE OUT TIMBER SALES

Closeout August 6, 2019

Sale 658-17

COUNTRY FOREST PROD

	Estimated	Cut	
Aspen Pulp	925 Tons	1185.46 Tons	Aspen Pulp
Basswood Pulp	40 Tons	19.91 Tons	Basswood Pulp
Mixed Hardwood Pulp	675 Tons	2037.98 Tons	Mixed Hardwood Pulp
Oak Pulp	60 Tons	144.89 Tons	Oak Pulp
Mixed Hardwood Tops <	420 Tons		
Mixed Hardwood Tops <	420 Tons		
	2540 Tons	3388.24 Total Tons Cut	
Ash Sawlogs	10 MBF	25.94 MBF	Ash Sawlogs
Basswood Sawlogs	8 MBF	9.24 MBF	Basswood Sawlogs
Hard Maple Sawlogs	8 MBF	2.02 MBF	Hard Maple Sawlogs
Red Maple Sawlogs	60 MBF	64.80 MBF	Red Maple Sawlogs
Red Oak Sawlogs	25 MBF	26.88 MBF	Red Oak Sawlogs
	111 MBF	128.88 Total MBF Cut	

Total Revenue for Sale: **\$98,279.89**

Balance: (\$9,100.11)

Bond Amount: \$16,292.50

Bond Type: Letter of Credit

Recommendation: **Closeout Sale Return Letter of Credit
and Balance of \$9,100.11**

Project Schedule:

The Following is a Draft Timeline for Completion of the Plan and Approval Process. This Schedule is Subject to Change.

<u>MARATHON COUNTY FOREST PLANNING TIME LINE → 2021 - 2035</u>	
August 1, 2019	1. Environmental Resources Committee Reviews and Considers Approving Draft Public Participation Process and Timeline.
August 6, 2019	2. Marathon County Forestry/Recreation Committee Review and Considers Approving Public Participation Process and Timeline
August/September 2019 August 19 – Sept. 25, 2019 August 28, 2019 September 3, 2019 September 3, 2019 September 5, 2019 *September 18, 2019 CAC Committee Meeting	3. Identify Issues to Address With Plan Revisions a. List Potential Issues (E-Mail/Mail Letter to Public/Local Organizations With Response Sheet) b. List Potential Issues (Staff) c. List Potential Issues (Forestry/Recreation Committee) d. List Potential Issues (Park Commission) e. List Potential Issues (Environmental Resources Committee) f. List Potential Issues (Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee) g. Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee and Staff Review Current Plan and Recommends Revisions on Chapters 100 – 300.
October 2019	4. Forestry/Recreation Committee Review Recommendations to Chapters 100 – 300 a. Changes Back to Staff 5. Environmental Resources Committee Quarterly Update
October – December 2019 *December 18 CAC Committee Meeting	6. Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee and Staff Review Current Plan and Recommends Revisions on Chapters 400 – 600.
January 2020	7. Forestry/Recreation Committee Review Recommendations to Chapters 400 – 600 a. Changes Back to Staff 8. Environmental Resources Committee Quarterly Update

January 2020 – March 2020 *March 18, CAC Committee Meeting	9. Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee and Staff Review Current Plan and Recommends Revisions on Chapters 700 – 800.
April 7, 2020	10. Forestry/Recreation Committee Review Recommendations to Chapters 700 – 800. a. Changes Back to Staff 11. Environmental Resources Committee Quarterly Update
April 2020 – June 2020 *June 24 CAC Committee Meeting	12. Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee, Park Commission, and Staff Review Current Plan and Recommends Revisions to Chapter 900.
July 2020	13. Forestry/Recreation Committee Review Recommendations to Chapter 900. a. Changes Back to Staff 14. Environmental Resources Committee Quarterly Update
July 14, 2020	15. Open House/Public Meeting (30 Day Comment Period) July 14 – August 17
September 2020	16. Forestry/Recreation Committee and Environmental Resources Committee Approves Revised Plan and Sends to DNR for 30 Day Review. (September 15 – October 15, 2020)
November 12, 2020	17. Marathon County Board Adopts Revised 15 Year Plan and Submits to DNR for Final Approval
December 2020	18. DNR Approves Marathon County Forest 15 Year Plan

MARATHON COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN 2021 - 2035

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

<u>STAGE OF PROCESS</u>	<u>OBJECTIVE</u>	<u>TOOLS/TECHNIQUES</u>
Identification of Issues	Consult	On-Line/Mailed General Survey
Draft Development	Inform	Website
All Draft Chapters	Involve/ Collaborate	Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee Forestry/Recreation Committee Environmental Resources Committee Park Commission (Chapter 900 only)
Preliminary Draft Completion	Inform/Consult	Open House – Public Meeting
Final Draft	Inform	Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee Website/E-Mail to Plan Holders