



## MARATHON COUNTY FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

**Date and Time of Meeting:** Tuesday, October 1, 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 September 3, 2019 Committee Meeting**
4. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
  - A. County Forest Tour – October 10, 2019
  - B. Update on the 2020 Forestry Division Budget
  - C. 2019 Final Timber Bid Summary – Chad Keranen
  - D. Ragnar Trail Relay Race Summary
  - E. Article – How Long Will the Paper Industry Stay Healthy
5. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**
  - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
    1. Timber Sale Closeout – Bell Timber Inc. Contract #663-17
    2. Consider Alternate County Conservation Aids Project at Shooting Range Park
    3. Review Timber Bids and Award Contracts
    4. Consider Proposed Changes to the Nine Mile Event and Use Policy
    5. Consider Request by National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) to Allow Charging for Parking at Nine Mile Forest
  - B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration
    1. Review of Proposed Policy Revisions to the Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan Chapters 100 - 300
6. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee - None**
7. **Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Nov. 5, 2019, 12:30pm, Rm. 3, 212 River Dr., Wausau, WI 54403**
  - A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence
  - B. Future Agenda Items: Review Timber Bids and Award Contracts, Land Acquisition Updates, Wausau 24 Race Participation and Revenue
8. **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](mailto: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: September 24, 2019 11:00 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, Chad Keranen-DNR Liaison, Joe Tucker-County Forester

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 – John Beatty, 5901 Lakeshore Drive, Wausau WI 54401 commented on the upcoming fifteen year comprehensive plan and felt Nine Mile forest should be managed separately from the other forest units. He believed precedent has been set as this Committee has approved specific rules for forest use in the past and permits the shooting range at Nine Mile. He felt that Nine Mile is a place that meets both the County's stated goal of becoming healthier and its mission of providing recreational opportunities. Three examples where expanding opportunities exist are in the fall with the number of events such as high school cross country running meets, with extending the mountain-bike season past mid-October, and adjusting the rules so skiing can start as soon as the nine day deer hunt is over. All three examples promote healthy lifestyles, attract young people to the area and promote tourism here. Traditionally, all forests have been managed for timber and hunting and statistics say as population ages hunting is on the decline while other activities are increasing among younger people. The County has created a special use area for the shooting range so they could create a special use area around the ski chalet to accommodate greater trail use.

Approve Minutes – **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Bove to approve the minutes from the August 6, 2019 regular Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. County Forest Tour Discussion and Agenda – Lovlien said invitations have been sent out and the tour will take place on September 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 3:00pm. Items discussed include invasive species, road aids, wildlife, balancing the competing uses at Nine Mile, the Springbrook Road pine timber sale, rotating 80 year old red pine, the Nine Mile oak scarification site, and the Burma Forest Unit ATV trail. Lovlien will send out a reminder invitation this week Friday.

B. Wisconsin County Forests Association Fall Meeting – Lovlien said this meeting is being held in Rhinelander and will have some interesting topics. If any Committee members would like to attend the September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting they should let him know by next week.

C. 2019 Forest Certification Audit Preliminary Findings - Lovlien said a full recertification audit was completed this year which occurs every five years. This was the first year there were no Corrective Action Requests, no Opportunities for Improvement, and no Observations. This means that the County forest program according to third party auditors is doing a very good job in balancing the needs of a lot of different users on the county forests. It includes water quality, recreation, forest management, etc.

D. Update on the Potential Acquisition of CERES Property in the Town of Hewitt – Lovlien said that two appraisals had been done on the property. One of the values is under \$350,000 and one is over \$350,000. Because one of the values is over \$350,000 the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship guidelines require another appraisal that is paid for by the DNR. The DNR will then look at all three and certify one of them to be used for the grant match. Discussion followed.

E. Wisconsin County Forests Association Executive Director Hiring – Rebekah Luedtke has been selected as the Executive Director of WCFA following the retirement of Jane Severt. She most recently served as Center Manager for Minnesota Interagency Coordination Center. She will begin her new position on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

F. County Forest Partnership Meeting Report – Keranen reported that at the partnership meeting they discussed County forest time standards, County forest work plan, conservation aid projects, forest certification, land use issues, and forest health. It's a good partnership between the County and the DNR and he expects that to continue. This year DNR staff worked more hours than the required minimum of 644 which helped meet the goals identified in the forest plan.

Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Review and Consider Approving Fall 2019 Timber Sale Package - The fall timber sale package was distributed to Committee for review. The sale offers 327 acres of timber on six tracts with an estimated volume of 15,470 tons and 480.0 thousand board feet. Tucker discussed all of the sales. The sales will be advertised and the bid opening is September 30th. Questions were answered. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Bove to approve advertising the sales with a September 30 bid opening. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

2. Develop a List of Potential Issues to Address with County Forest Plan Revisions – Lovlien said currently staff is in the process of identifying issues to address with plan revisions. A citizen response sheet was sent to individuals, organizations and adjacent landowners with suggestions being taken until September 25<sup>th</sup>. The response sheet is also available on the County website. Staff is currently reviewing and revising chapters 100 to 300. They will go to the Citizen Advisory Subcommittee on September 18 and will make recommendation to this Committee at the October meeting on revisions.

3. Review and Consider Approving 2019 County Conservation Aids Project – Lovlien said this annual grant of \$4,314 can be matched with County funds to improve fish and wildlife habitat. Two suggestions from staff were for improvements at the Shooting Range. The first, is to do retaining wall restoration and the other is for paving the entrance to the Shooting Range. Paving would be a multi-year project with a few sections being done at a time because of the expense. Schlei didn't think they could get much done with that amount of money. He thought they might be able to save some money if they brought in road base, milled it and then blacktopped over the top. Bove questioned if it would be better using granite or gravel. Lovlien thought that there had been concern in the past over dust. Lovlien thought they could wait and find out what the total project cost is and ask CIP next year instead. **Motion** by Schlei, second by Bove that the 2019-2020 County Conservation Aids project is do the retaining wall restoration. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – October 1, 2019 at 12:30pm, 212 River Dr., Rm. 3

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – none

B. Future Agenda Items – Review Timber Bids and Award Contracts, 2020 Budget, Ragnar Trail Relay Race Summary, Nine Mile Event and Use Policy, Review of Revisions to Chapters 100-300 Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Wausau 24 Race Participation and Revenue, summary of the timber bids

Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Bove / Schlei to adjourn at 1:35pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

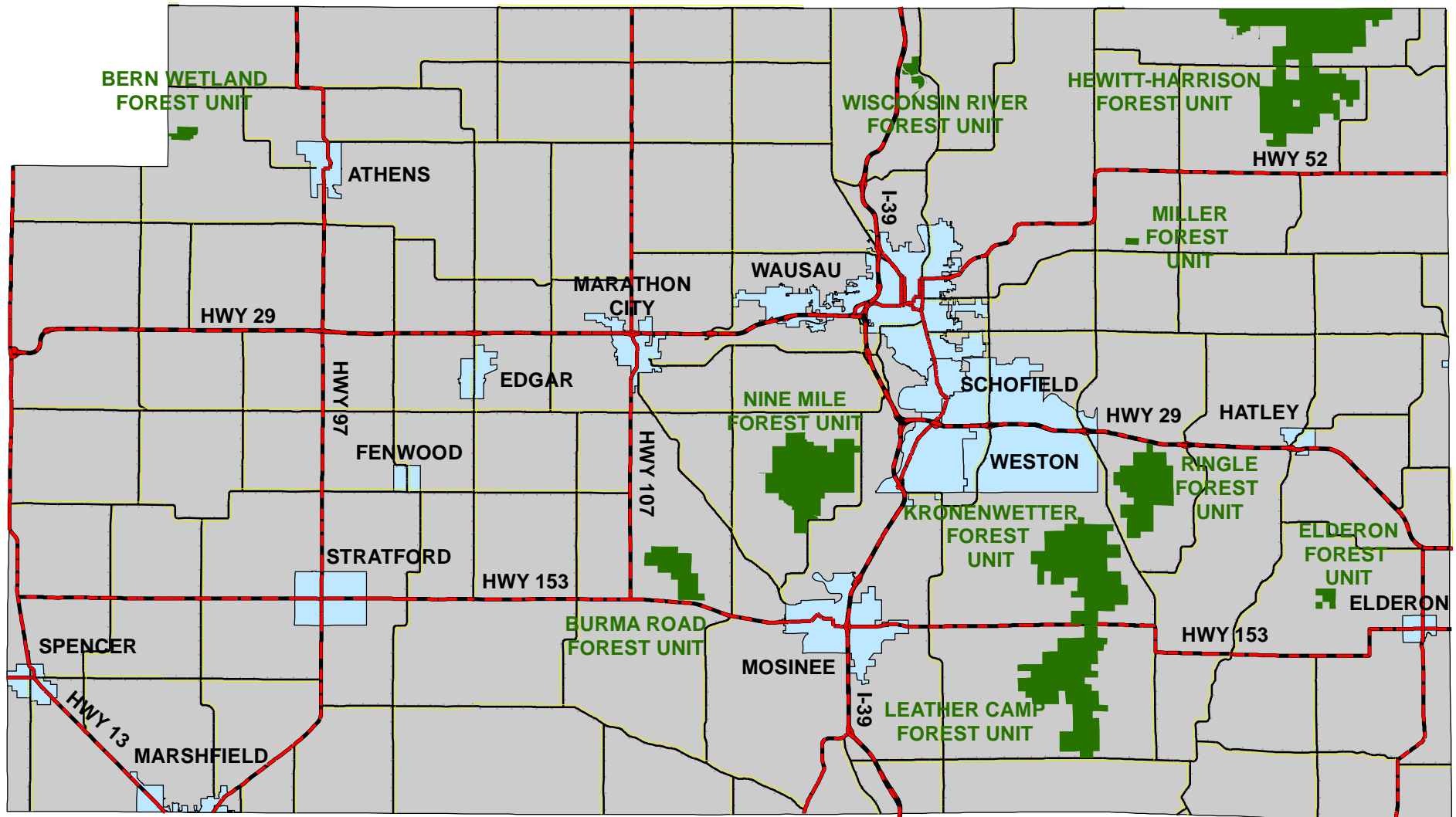
## COUNTY FOREST TOUR

October 10, 2019

9:30am – 3 pm

9:30 – 9:40 am	Welcome and Overview of County Forests – Tom
9:40 am	Depart 212 River Drive
10:10 – 10:30 am	Invasive Species Site -- Wisconsin River Forest Unit – Joe/Chad
10:30 – 10:45 am	Planned Park Development -- Wisconsin River Forest Unit -- Jamie
11:15 – 11:20 am	Red Bud Road – County Forest Road Aids – Tom
11:20 – 11:30 am	Wildlife Habitat and Projects on County Forests – DNR Brandon/Paul
11:30 – 11:45 pm	Balancing Competing Uses at Nine Mile and Other Forest Units – Tom/Dan
11:45 am – 12:15 pm	Lunch at Nine Mile Chalet
12:30 – 12:50 pm	Nine Mile Springbrook Road Pine Sale – Joe/Chad
1:10 – 1:40 pm	Nine Mile Oak Scarification – Joe/Chad
2:00 – 2:20 pm	Burma Road ATV Trail – Tom/Mitch
3:00 pm	Return to 212 River Drive

# MARATHON COUNTY FOREST UNITS



# How long will paper industry stay healthy?

**The wrapper** around a cough drop. Paper separating chocolates in a box of candy. Cardboard and brown packaging around that Amazon delivery. Apple gift cards produced by Domtar. Specialized paper products environmentalists want to replace plastics.

A new report cited these examples of how the pulp and paper industry that helped build Wisconsin—and became an issue in last year's elections for governor and the Legislature—has remade itself.

The analysis, prepared for the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp. by the Institute for Sustainable Technology, rated pulp and paper as an \$18-billion industry last year and the fifth largest manufacturing sector in the state. The 34-mill industry employed 30,262 workers in Wisconsin last year, far ahead of Pennsylvania's 22,973. The report's conclusion:

"Wisconsin's paper industry ... leads the nation by many metrics, including in value of products sold, number of employees and number of paper mill."

Add all the ways the industry anchors Wisconsin's economy, and it's a much bigger number. "Total economic contributions of the pulp, paper and converting industries, through direct, indirect and induced effect is estimated to support \$28.88 billion in economic output and 95,853 Wisconsin jobs."

That \$28.88 billion suggests the industry makes up almost 10% of Wisconsin's gross domestic product.

The news was not all good, however. The report warned that the industry also faces challenges that state political leaders must consider:

- Much of its machinery is aged, and expensive to replace. Competitors in China, Europe and South America have "new, faster and bigger paper machines"

- It can't train and attract enough young workers — especially skilled workers like electricians, pipefitters and millwrights — willing to work second and third shifts. They are needed to replace the industry's "silver tsunami" of retirees.

- A national shortage of truck drivers is squeezing the paper industry. And Michigan allows heavier trucks on its highways. All this means the industry will remain a power player in the Capitol, where tax breaks for Kimberly-Clark was a major issue in last year's elections. After the defeat of a proposed \$100-million incentive package for Kimberly-Clark, legislators and then-Gov. Scott Walker approved a scaled-back package giving the company a \$28 million tax credit to save its Fox Crossing plant, keep 388 employees

through 2023 and make at least \$200 million in capital investments.

Walker lost to Democratic Gov. Tony Evers, whose job now includes making sure the industry stays healthy. In a statement, Evers called the report a "prime example of how Wisconsin businesses are incorporating innovation and sustainability to maintain our role as a national — and global — leader."

The report documented how Wisconsin mills have had to move into specialty paper products and packaging, as America's reading habits went from print to digital. But a core part of the industry production — tissue, towels, feminine products — remains strong.

The study also found that 41 of the state's 72 counties are home to at least one paper manufacturing business, whether that's a

mill or a converter. In some counties, paper manufacturing represents more than 20% of local manufacturing.


Ten Wisconsin counties employed 80% of all paper manufacturing workers statewide last year: Brown (20%); Winnebago (17%); Outagamie (10%); Wood (9%); Milwaukee (7%); Marathon (5%); Sheboygan (4%); Waukesha and Washington counties (3% each), and Portage County (2%).

The industry's "direct output" in Marathon County's economy alone, for example, was \$1 billion, with 1,759 employees working for 10 businesses.

The report highlighted Domtar, which has plants in Rothschild and Nekoosa that produce high-quality printing and writing paper — Apple gift cards, for example, which are made out of paper. The Rothschild mill produces both pulp and paper.

"We're kind of a niche player," said Domtar official Mike Timmer, who added, "We make a wide base-weight range and we make some of highest premium grades within Domtar. If you combine the ability to make heavy-weight paper and high quality, what kind of opportunities does that give you out in the market?"

"Gift cards are one option. We've also done some examples of high-end packaging. When you sell a carton of golf balls, you want the packaging outside to be your advertising. We make a premium grade paper here, so how can we now change some of the characteristics of the sheet and get into packaging?"

The Rothschild mill employs 400, half of whom were hired in the past five years. "We're getting a lot younger," Timmer said. 

Steven Walters is a senior producer for the non-profit public affairs channel Wisconsin.org.

09/05/2019

# CLOSE OUT TIMBER SALES

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Closeout October 1, 2019

Sale 663-17

BELL TIMBER INC

	<b>Estimated</b>	<b>Cut</b>	
Red Pine Pulp	1350 Tons	1202.02 Tons	Red Pine Pulp
White Spruce Pulp	90 Tons	51.70 Tons	White Spruce Pulp
	<b>1440 Tons</b>	<b>1253.72 Total Tons Cut</b>	

Total Revenue for Sale: **\$32,272.84**

Balance: (\$4,588.46)

Bond Amount: \$9,215.33

Bond Type: Cash Bond

Recommendation: **Closeout sale and return cash bond**

1. Sustainable timber management (timber harvests) will continue following the approved County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan and the County Forest Law(28.11 Wis. Stats). Some trails may be periodically closed to allow harvesting due to the following:
  - It has become increasingly difficult to manage the timber resource with insect and disease restrictions that prohibit harvesting during specific time periods.
  - Cross country skiing has reduced harvesting in the winter within the core ski trail area.
  - In upland areas of Nine Mile harvesting may only occur between August 10 and November 15 in certain timber stands due to threatened and endangered species guidance. The Department of Natural Resources continues to draft new species guidance each year making timber harvesting from May 1-August 31 more challenging.
  - There are few areas that harvests may occur in year round.
  - Attempts will be made to minimize conflicts on recreational trail activities.
2. Dispersed recreation such as hunting, trapping, fishing, bird watching, hiking, backpacking and berry picking will continue to occur on all County Forest Lands according to the County Forest Law and Department of Natural Resources seasons and regulations.
3. Mountain biking and horseback riding season at Nine Mile County Forest begins May 1 to May 15, depending on trail conditions, to October 15 each year. If trail conditions allow opening during the first three weeks of May, mountain biking and horseback riding will be allowed after 12:00pm daily to accommodate spring turkey hunters.
4. County ordinance prohibits the use of bicycles or riding horses on any designated trail seasonally closed.
5. Snow biking is prohibited on cross country ski or snowshoe trails due to user conflicts and the biking season being closed. Exception: One winter triathlon event is approved utilizing fat tire bikes. (Approved by Forestry/Recreation Committee May 2019.)
6. Electric mountain bikes (eMTB) falls under the definition of a self-propelled motor bicycle and are prohibited by ordinance.
7. Cross country skiing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling are allowed on designated trails when there is sufficient snow cover as determined by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.
8. Cross country skiing and snowshoeing are allowed at any time off the designated trails according to County Forest Law.
9. Up to four high school cross country running races may be allowed at Nine Mile on or before October 15 each year.



10. Organizers may apply to hold a special event by completing a Facility Use Agreement form available at the Park office. All events or trail based activities will be considered if the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department receives an application no more than one year prior(365 days) to the year of the event and will receive priority. Any applications received less than six months prior to the event will be considered but may be rejected. If some events or trail based activities are not approved, Parks, Recreation and Forestry staff will assist in finding a different venue appropriate to be held if possible.

Applications will be evaluated using the criteria below:

- Resource Protection
- Safety
- Potential for User Conflicts
- Number of Events Already Scheduled (cap on events)
- Benefits to the Community
- Revenue Generation
- Date of Requested Event
- Community Support
- Evaluation of Event Plan
- Necessity to close down portions of the facility to the public
- Previously held Events

A maximum of six(6) weekend trail based special events can be held from May through October 15<sup>th</sup>. And of those six(6), only two(2) will be allowed between September 1<sup>st</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> to accommodate fall hunting seasons. Exception: An Ironbull bike gravel race is approved located on the Snowmobile trail only may occur the Saturday following October 15 each year. (Approved by Forestry/Recreation Committee May 2019.)

11. The Park Commission has jurisdiction over the event or program if there is a conflict of use or multiple applications for events on the same date.
12. The Forestry/Recreation Committee has jurisdiction over all land use on the County forest. Any future changes or additions to these regulations will be presented to the Forest Citizen's Advisory Subcommittee for a recommendation to the Forestry/Recreation Committee. The decision of the Forestry/Recreation Committee will be final.

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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**CHAPTER 100**

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**100 MISSION STATEMENT**

The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department mission is to adaptively manage our park and forest lands for natural resource sustainability while providing healthy recreational opportunities and unique experiences making Marathon County the perfect place to live, work and play. The mission of the Marathon County Forest is to manage, conserve and protect natural resources on a sustainable basis for present and future generations. These resources, such as those provided by the County Forest, are the base for addressing the ecological and socioeconomic needs of society.

County Forest resources should be protected from natural catastrophes such as fire, insect and disease outbreaks, and from human threats such as encroachment, over-utilization, environmental degradation and excessive development. While managed for environmental needs including watershed protection, protection and maintenance of biotic diversity, these same resources must also be managed and provide for sociological needs, including the production of raw materials for wood-using industries that provide a wide variety of products fulfilling consumer demands, and provisions for recreational opportunities.

**105 GOAL OF THE COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN (Hereafter referred to as the “Plan”)**

To administer the County Forest program consistent with the mission statement and the purpose and direction of the County Forest Law as stated in s. 28.11, Wis. Stats., giving consideration to input from citizens and groups. The purpose of the County Forest Law being:

“ ... to provide the basis for a permanent program of county forests and to enable and encourage the planned development and management of the County Forests for optimum production of forest products together with recreational opportunities, wildlife, watershed protection and stabilization of stream flow, giving full recognition to the concept of multiple use to assure maximum public benefits; to protect the public rights, interests and investments in such lands; and to compensate the counties for the public uses, benefits and privileges these lands provide; all in a manner which will provide a reasonable revenue to the towns in which such lands lie.”

**110 COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN**

**MARATHON COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN POLICY**

This plan shall incorporate or reference all official County Forest policies, pertinent county regulations, planning documents and the needs and actions for the period 2021 through 2035.

This plan is the authority for management on county forest lands enrolled under Wisconsin County Forest Law s. 28.11. This plan may be encompassed within required local planning efforts.

110.1 MANAGEMENT PLANNING OBJECTIVES

Management planning shall be used to establish objectives, policies, procedures, rules and regulations, and to promote an efficient and orderly program of development and management of the County Forest in the interest of:

1. Determining needs and priorities.
2. Achieving goals set forth in the mission statement of this plan.
3. Satisfying the statutory requirements of s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.
4. Satisfying requirements for participation in various state and federal aid programs.
5. Providing broad long-term and detailed short-term guidelines for actions.

110.2 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN

Section 28.11, Wis. Stats., places the responsibility for the plan development on the Committee with technical assistance from the Department and other agencies. The County Forest Administrator will take the lead at the committee’s request. During development of the plan public participation should be utilized to provide for public participation throughout the planning process. Public participation and inputs into the plan should consider s. 28.11, Wis. Stats., which governs the County Forest program and provides the sideboards to which this plan must adhere.

Marathon County’s public participation process includes the following:

**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

### 110.3 APPROVAL OF THE PLAN

Comments received should be given consideration during plan development. The Committee will then present the plan to the County Board for their approval. Following County Board approval, the plan will then be forwarded to the Department for approval of the plan by the DNR required by s. 28.11(5)(a), Wis. Stats.

### 110.4 DISTRIBUTION OF THE PLAN

Each member of the County Board will have access to a copy of the plan at the time of initial review and approval. Updated official copies will be maintained by the Forest Administrator and available electronically.

Plan and future amendments will be: Electronic versions of the plan or plan amendments or electronic links to the documents will be distributed to the following:

1. Department of Natural Resources - Liaison and County Forest Specialist.
2. Executive Director- Wisconsin County Forests Association.

### 110.5 UPDATING THE PLAN

Necessary changes in policy and procedure will be incorporated into the plan by amendment as required. Amendments to the plan will require approval by both the County Board and the Department of Natural Resources as stated in s. 28.11(5)(a), Wis. Stats. Changes to official County Forest Blocking map require County Board approval. The annual county board approved work plan, budget, and annual accomplishment report are appended to the plan and do not require official DNR approval. In addition, changes to Chapters 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000 do not require a plan amendment or official DNR approval, with the exception of the official County Forest Blocking map.

### 110.6 COORDINATION WITH OTHER PLANNING

The development of this plan and any future amendments to this plan will include considerations, and if warranted, participation in other local and regional planning efforts. It is expected these other plans will also consider and mesh their efforts with the County forest plan. Coordination between the County Strategic, Comprehensive and County Outdoor Recreation (CORP) and other is essential for effective land management.

## **115 FOREST RESOURCE PLANNING**

The Committee will utilize procedure as set forth in the Department of Natural Resources Public

Forest Lands Handbook no. 2460.5. Silviculture Guidance, supported by Wisconsin's forestry community and Silvicultural Guidance Team may be referenced in forest management activities. WisFIRS will be utilized as the primary tool for forest management planning decisions. Additional resources such as forest habitat type classification, soil surveys, and DNR's Best Management Practices for Water Quality guidelines may be utilized in management decisions.

#### 115.1 FOREST CERTIFICATION GROUP ADMINISTRATION

As the certification group manager, the Department of Natural Resources will be responsible for overall administration of third-party certification efforts. The DNR County Forest Specialist will work in close cooperation with the Wisconsin County Forests Association in coordinating this effort. The group manager's responsibilities will include:

- Record keeping of certification
- Coordinating communication with the certification auditing firms
- Reporting and payment of fees
- Processing new entries and departures from the groups
- Internal compliance monitoring
- Dispute resolution

Detail on the certification group administration is maintained in the Public Forest Lands Handbook.

#### 115.2 FOREST CERTIFICATION COMMITMENT

##### **Marathon County's Commitment to Sustainable Forestry**

Our county forests provide a vital contribution to the State and the world by providing economic, environmental and social benefits important to our quality of life. Marathon County believes that accomplishing such sustainable forestry requires a commitment and partnership from all the groups and individuals that benefit from these public lands.

##### **Marathon County's Commitment**

Within the scope of the Wisconsin County Forest Law and the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Marathon County will implement forestry practices that promote forest sustainability and multiple use of the forest. In the management of the Forest that will include the sustainable harvest of forest products, the protection of special sites, wildlife, plants, water quality and aesthetics.

All forestland owners have a responsibility to provide sound forest stewardship. Marathon County will work in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other

natural resources groups / agencies in providing sustainable forestry information to those landowners and individuals impacting forest sustainability in Wisconsin. We will support research efforts to improve the health, productivity, and management of forestlands both internally and through cooperative efforts. In managing the Marathon County Forest a spectrum of forestry practices will be employed to achieve our sustainable forestry objective. Both intensive and more extensive forest management techniques will be used to provide for wildlife, forest products, recreation, aesthetics, water quality, aesthetics and ecosystem maintenance. In keeping with this responsibility Marathon County is committed to the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program.

## **120 COUNTY AUTHORITY**

The County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan is the official County Forest authority. The Forestry/Recreation Committee of the County Board enforces the regulations governing the use of the County Forest.

### **120.1 ORDINANCES**

The county ordinances that apply to the administration and management of the Marathon County Forest can be found in Chapter 1005.1. In addition, the following will be considered in planning process.

- County Forestry ordinance (General Code Chapter 16)
- Park and Recreation ordinance (General Code Chapter 19)
- Shoreland, Shoreland wetland and floodplain (General Code Chapter 22)
- All Terrain Vehicles (General Code Chapter 7)
- Non-Metallic Mining ordinance (General Code, Chapter 21)
- Snowmobile ordinance (General Code Chapter 7)
- Marathon County Comprehensive Plan (General Code Chapter 26)
- Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee (General Code Chapter 16)

## **125 HISTORY**

### **125.1 STATEWIDE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT**

In 1927, the State Legislature passed the Forest Crop Law, authorizing counties to create county forests. An opinion of the Attorney General with reference to the Forest Crop Law stated that the counties would be exempt from the owner's share of annual tax. In 1929 the law was amended to create the County Forest Reserve Law. In 1963, several major revisions were made, creating the

County Forest Law s. 28.11. The most notable change was the creation of a permanent program of forests that would be managed in accordance with a 10 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan developed by the county, with the assistance of the Department of Natural Resources. Several grants and loans were created and remain available to counties to compensate for public uses of these county forest lands as stipulated in s. 28.11. To fulfill additional statutory obligations acreage share payments to towns are currently \$.30/acre, and towns with county forest land receive a minimum of 10% of the stumpage revenue from their respective County Forest each year.

In 2020, twenty-nine counties in Wisconsin owned approximately 2.4 million acres entered under the County Forest Law.

## 125.2 MARATHON COUNTY FOREST PROGRAM HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

At one time, Marathon County was covered with magnificent stands of pine, hemlock, and hardwoods on the highlands, and cedar, spruce, and balsam on its lowlands. These forests provided raw material for a thriving lumbering industry from 1860 to about 1910. As a result of the clamor to conquer the wilderness, supply lumber for housing and factories, and without proper forest management, the forests were nearly completely destroyed. The logging slash was ideal for wildfires which essentially culminated with the Peshtigo fire in 1871, but fires continued into the 1930's. Immigrants rushed to these newly cleared lands hungry for a place to farm and build their lives. But in just a few years, the soils gave out and these people left to seek their fortunes elsewhere, leaving the land increasingly barren and tax delinquent. The Marathon County Forest originated with the taking of these tax delinquent lands.

Marathon County hired a Forest Ranger, Ralph Gunzel, to begin a management program with 160 acres of County Forest Land and nearly 20,000 acres of tax delinquent lands in 1946. Ranger Gunzel established a tree nursery, planted trees on County lands, gave conservation programs in the schools and communities countywide, organized fire crews and fought wild fires, expanded the amount of County Forest Lands, appraised and sold tax delinquent land, developed food patches for game animals, developed forest trails, encouraged responsible public use, checked hunting and fishing licenses, established commercial timber sales, and advocated sound management on County Forest Lands for sustainable production of forest crops including recreation, game, and timber.

By 1956, there were 24,477 acres of County Forests under management. During the first 10 years, 800,000 trees were planted on County lands, and 17 miles of fire lanes were built to protect these plantings from fire.



In 1956 alone, 280 acres were added to the County's forest program. Also in 1956, 2,100 acres of tax delinquent land were sold leaving 6,329 acres of delinquent lands on the tax rolls. By 1961, the last spruce and pine from the County nursery were planted on County Forest Land.

The Marathon County Board approved entry of County Forest Lands under the Forest Crop Law in 1967 and made an initial entry of 21,840 acres. As of June 30, 2020 there are 30,195 acres in the County Forest. Marathon County's Forest was the twenty-eighth County Forest to be entered under the County Forest Crop Law. Today there are 29 County Forests. Previous to entry, County Forest Lands had no comprehensive forest plan.

### 125.3 WISCONSIN COUNTY FORESTS ASSOCIATION

Marathon County is a member of the Wisconsin County Forests Association, Inc. (WCFA). This Association was incorporated on May 15, 1968 under Chapter 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes, without stock and not for profit. The WCFA Board of Directors is composed of fifteen delegates elected from County Forestry Committees who are members of the Association and two members at large.

WCFA provides a forum for consideration of issues and policy that are common to all of the county committees responsible for their respective County Forest programs, including those programs encompassed under s. 28.11 and chapter 77, Wis. Stats. WCFA also provides leadership and counsel to County Forest administrators and forestry committees through regular meetings and active committees on legislative and recreational issues. WCFA develops and implements a strategic plan. The organization's mission statement is as follows:

*Wisconsin County Forests Association provides leadership uniting the interests of the world's largest county forest program while ensuring long term forest health and sustainability.*

### 125.4 TRENDS

The values and uses of the Marathon County Forest contribute significantly to fulfilling many of society's ecological and socioeconomic needs now and in the future. Changing trends will impact the values and uses of the Forest in coming years.

- Wisconsin's forests are naturally changing due to forest succession. Most of the County Forest acreage statewide is a result of regeneration or planting from the early to mid 1900's. Mid to late successional northern hardwood forests are replacing the early successional

aspen-birch, oak and jack pine forests of the 1940's through the 1970's. The aspen cover type is key habitat for many of the state's premier game species including deer, ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare and woodcock. The county forest system currently has 15% of the State's public land base and 24% of the aspen resource.

- Conflict over timber management practices will likely continue to increase as more individuals and groups demand greater involvement in forestry decisions. Practices such as clearcutting and even-aged management will continue to be controversial. Efforts to educate the public on the merits of these sound forest management techniques will continue.
- Marathon County may experience funding problems as municipalities are being required to provide more services with less money. Potential losses of revenue from decreased shared revenues and resistance to tax increases may make county timber revenues increasingly important to the finances of county governments. This is complicated by increasing public pressure to reduce timber harvests on county forests.
- Increasing knowledge about a wider variety of species and their habitat needs is leading to a growing list of threatened and endangered species. This could lead to improvements in managing the forest and mitigating impacts to these species. Mitigating measures have the potential to impede recreational and forest management activities. Refer to Chapter 800 (840) for specifics on this subject.
- Invasive exotic species pose an ever-increasing threat to the County Forest. Gypsy moth, Asian long-horned beetle, garlic mustard, buckthorn, honeysuckle have all gained a foothold in Wisconsin's forests. Refer to Chapter 600 (610) for specifics on this subject.
- The Forest is considered to be an outdoor classroom serving all age groups. It consists of diverse communities with a large variety of plant and animal life giving ample opportunity for study and observation.
- Greater demands are being placed on the County Forest by people using it to fulfill their recreational pursuits. The popularity of trails for various uses has lead to competition for available resources especially at Nine Mile Forest. Balancing competing uses will require the user groups to compromise and share trails to prevent conflicts.
- Lands open to public use continue to decline in Marathon County. Industrial Forest Crop Law Lands once open to public hunting are slowly being sold and subdivided, most often no longer available to the public. When considering the Managed Forest Law, most private landowners elect to enter their lands as "closed to the public" which does not provide for public recreational use. Acquisition of lands to increase County Forest ownership will be important to replace these lands that were once open to the public.

#### 125.4 PROTECTING THE PUBLIC RESOURCE

As stated in State Statute 28.11(1), the county forest program enables and encourages “the planned development and management of the county forests for optimum production of forest products together with recreational opportunities, wildlife, watershed protection and stabilization of stream flow, giving full recognition to the concept of multiple-use to assure maximum public benefits to protect the public rights, interests and investments in such lands; and to compensate the counties for the public uses, benefits and privileges these lands provide; all in a manner which will provide a reasonable revenue to the towns in which such lands lie.”

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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## **200 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

### Objectives

1. To comply with and implement the provisions of the County Forestry Ordinance.
2. To administer and manage the County Forest in accordance with s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.
3. To cooperate with the Department of Natural Resources and other agencies and organizations in the interest of furthering the optimum management of the forest on a sustainable basis.
4. To provide adequate financial support for the program by using county designated revenues and appropriations, along with funds available from federal and state sources.
5. To maintain an adequate system of accounts, records and reports for the orderly administration of the forest and evaluation of program needs and implementation.
6. To facilitate the administration of the forest by authorizing personnel, equipment and facilities necessary to assist the Committee and the administrator in carrying out their duties.

## **205 ROLES**

Marathon County's administrative structure was established in 1980. The County Administrator serves as an agent of the County Board. The Administrator establishes goals and time tables consistent with the objectives and directives of the County Board. The Administrator maintains close working relationships with all department heads to ensure that County goals and department objectives are met consistent with those of other departments and the County's Strategic Plan.

The County and the Department have a mutual interest in administration of the County Forest. It shall be the policy of the County Board through the Forestry/Recreation Committee to cooperate with county and Department personnel in carrying out the program on the county forest. The County/Department roles are further defined in the Public Forest Lands Handbook, 2460.5.

### **205.1 COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Powers of the Marathon County Board, relative to the management of county forest lands are defined in s. 28.11(3) and additional authority may include:

- Annual Budget and Work Plan
- Grants/Loans
- Land acquisitions

The Marathon County Forestry Ordinance, adopted in 1968, prescribes rules and regulations for the administration of County powers and duties as provided in Chapter 26, 27, 28, 29, and 59 of the Wisconsin Statutes, under which the Marathon County Board of Supervisors is granted specific

powers relative to the establishment, development, management, and protection of the County Forest to provide sustained yield of forest products for commercial use and the associated benefits of soil and water conservation, scenic and recreational values, and fish and wildlife resources; all in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

#### 205.1.1 Environmental Resources Committee (ERC)

The Environmental Resources Committee shall have the responsibility for outcome monitoring and annual reporting, as well as overseeing the implementation of all policies related to the environmental resources of the County. The Environmental Resources Committee shall have the primary responsibility for conferring with and providing policy guidance to the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

Duties of the Environmental Resources Committee include:

1. Promote the implementation of the County's Comprehensive and Strategic Plans relative to environmental protection, waste management, public recreation, forestry and land use.
2. Identify and recommend to the County Board, policies and long-range plans related to environmental and community resources of the County including land use, forests, soil and water, and outdoor recreation.
3. Review new programs and associated budget requirements, prior to their being considered for inclusion in the County's budget.
4. Facilitate broad based discussion of issues and policies by encouraging involvement and communications with the public and with other standing Committees.
5. Serve as the initial contact point for individuals and/or organizations who wish to influence County Board policy regarding County environmental and community resources.
6. Delegate operational procedures and practices to appropriate program committees, boards and commissions which include Forestry and Recreation, Solid Waste, and Park Commission. Provide policy guidance and oversight to the Conservation, Planning and Zoning; Parks, and Recreation and Forestry Departments.
7. Encourage soil and water conservation research and educational information and public service programs.
8. Assist in development and administration of the annual and long-range plans and annual reports for the following program activities:

- a. Land and Water Resource Management.
  - b. Lake Management.
  - c. Parks and Recreation.
  - d. County Forestry.
  - e. Public Transportation.
  - f. Farmland Preservation.
  - g. Solid Waste Management and Recycling.
9. Administer the wildlife damage and abatement program including approving the annual budget, claims, and fence contracts.
  10. Distribute and allocate federal, state, and county funds made available to the committee for cost-sharing programs and other incentive programs for improvements and practices relating to soil and water conservation on private or public lands, and within the limits permitted under these programs, and determine the methods of allocating these funds.
  11. Additional duties as assigned by the County Board Chairperson.

#### 205.1.2 Forestry/Recreation Committee

The Board of Supervisors assigns the administration of the County Forest to the Forestry/Recreation Committee as detailed in Chapter 16 of the Marathon County Code of Ordinances including:

1. Oversee the County forests program according to Chapters 26, 28, 29, 59 and 77, Wis. Stats.
2. Implement the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, prepare amendments and update as required.
3. Implement the forestry sections contained within the County Comprehensive Plan.
4. Recommend policy for the management of the County forests.
5. Negotiate and recommend the acquisition of land within County forests acquisition zones by purchase, gift or bequest or by exchange of County owned lands outside such areas.
6. Review and recommend for approval to County Board the annual forestry division work plan and budget for the ensuing calendar year.
7. Review, approve, and close timber sales of the County forests.
8. Review and/or recommend to the Environmental Resources Standing Committee of the County Board all proposed CIP projects of the County forests.
9. Make rules and recommend ordinances for the regulation and use of County forests.



10. Direct the monitoring and protection of the County forests from fire, insects, disease, trespass, invasive species, or from damage by animals or persons, or from other causes, in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources.
11. Support the creation and maintenance of valuable habitat types to sustain a variety of wildlife species.
12. Cooperate with the Department of Natural Resources on all matters pertaining to natural resource management of the County forests.
13. Direct the preparation and present an annual report of activities to the Environmental Resources Standing committee and the County Board.
14. Additional duties as assigned by the Environmental Resources Committee.

#### 205.1.3 Marathon County Park Commission

The Board of Supervisors assigns the administration of developed recreation (snowmobiling, ATVing, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, snowshoeing, and horseback riding, Shooting Range, and other developed recreation facilities and activities) within the County Forests to the Marathon County Park Commission, hereinafter referred to as Commission, subject to review and approval by the Committee in meeting overall forest management goals and objectives.

#### 205.1.4 Forest Citizens Advisory Subcommittee

The purpose of the subcommittee is to assist the Committee in formulating long-range plans for the County Forest and advising the Committee regarding conflicting recreational use issues, the budget for Forestry and the annual work plans. The subcommittee will also advise the Park Commission on developed recreation in County Forests. Duties of the subcommittee include:

1. To give advice and counsel the Committee regarding long-range forest and outdoor recreation plans for the County Forest.
2. To provide recommendations to the Committee on priorities for development of the Forestry Division annual budget and work plan.
3. To operate as a focus group on specific problems or questions posed by the Committee or Commission.
4. To attend tours of County Forest recreation, forestry, and wildlife projects.
5. To prepare an annual report for the Committee of activities and issues the subcommittee addressed the prior year and goals and activities anticipated in the current year.

Chapter 900 contains the ordinance creating the County Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee.

#### 205.1.5 Director

1. The Director reports to the County Administrator.
2. The Director will serve as the Director of the Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department with the primary role of providing leadership and vision and working with the County Board, committees, and commissions to develop and implement policies for the overall management of County Forests.
3. The Director will provide general administrative direction to the Forest Division primarily reviewing work in terms of program results and review of reports.
4. The Director will be present at all Forestry/Recreation Committee meetings.
5. The Director will act as an advisory member of the Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee.

#### 205.1.6 Forest Administrator

1. The Forest Administrator will act as the agent of the committee and will carry out its orders as well as execute assignments outlined in the comprehensive plan and annual plan, all within the framework outlined in s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.
2. The Forest Administrator will prepare an agenda for and will be present at all Committee and Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee meetings.
3. The Forest Administrator or designee will record minutes of each meeting and distribute as appropriate, as well as maintain a permanent minutes record.
4. The Forest Administrator will serve as the division head in coordinating the Forest Division programs, staff, and other matters as directed by the Director and the Committee.
5. The Forest Administrator will supervise the timber sale program, tree planting, site preparation, timber stand improvement, road and firebreak construction and maintenance, land acquisition, entry and withdrawal of County Forest Lands, trespass investigations, and long- and short-term planning, all within the restrictions of s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.
6. The Forest Administrator will promote and support research and educational opportunities.

7. The Forest Administrator will be responsible for maintaining and protecting the integrity of the County Forest.

## 205.2 DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The role of the Department in the County Forest program is to:

1. Encourage technically sound management of the County Forest resources.
2. Protect the public rights, benefits and investments in County Forest lands.
3. Administer state compensation to the county for the public rights, benefits and privileges the county forest lands provide as required by s. 28.11(8) Wis. Stats.
4. Provide County Forest assistance consistent with those identified per the Public Forest Lands Handbook.

### 205.2.1 Central Office – Madison/Rhinelanders

It is the function of this Division to:

1. Certify and make forest aid payments (variable acreage and project loans) to the county and audit county expenditures of the forestry fund account pursuant to s. 28.11(8)(b), Wis. Stats.
2. Certify and make acreage payments to towns pursuant to s. 28.11(8)(a), Wis. Stats.
3. Maintain and certify County Forest acreage by township, and audit distribution of severance share payments (s. 28.11(9) Wis. Stats.) made annually by the counties.
4. Collect severance share payments of not less than twenty percent of actual stumpage sales value on timber cut from the County Forest pursuant to s. 28.11(9)(a), Wis. Stats.
5. Administer various aids and grants pertaining, but not limited to, the County Forest program.
6. Assist with development and implementation of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
7. Interpret and administer the laws and regulations set forth by the Legislature and the Natural Resources Board.
8. Review and approve or deny applications for withdrawal and entry of lands into the County Forest Law program.
9. 3-year Audit Programmatic and Financials.

### 205.2.2 Local Office

Field representatives of the Department are available to provide technical advice and assistance to

the county in natural resources management. This assistance includes, but is not limited to the following:

#### 205.2.2.1 Forest Management

The forester designated by the Department to serve as liaison to the Committee will provide technical assistance in managing the resources of the county forest. The forester's duties include the following, but not limited to:

1. Attend all Committee, Forest Citizen's Advisory Subcommittee and any county board meetings as requested.
2. Assist in establishing, inspecting, and administering timber sales in cooperation with county forest personnel.
3. Process timber sale approvals, cutting notices and reports.
4. Maintain for the Department a record of forest management accomplishments, forms and maps.
5. Assist in preparation of projects, plans and estimates.
6. Provide assistance to the Committee in the preparation of the annual budget, annual work plan and the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
7. Assist in County Forest timber theft and larceny investigations.
8. Organize and prepare minutes of annual partnership meeting as required in the Public Forest Lands Handbook.

#### 205.2.2.2 Other DNR Program Functions

1. Fire Management - Maintain a system of communications, equipment, and trained personnel to prevent and suppress forest fires, assist with prescribed burns: and enforce forest fire related laws.
2. Forest Pest Control - Provide technical services for prevention, detection and suppression of forest pests in the district.
3. Wildlife Management - Conduct surveys of wildlife populations, habitat, and public use. Wildlife personnel use this information when providing technical assistance on long term ecosystem planning as well as wildlife habitat management, habitat improvement and wildlife health. Attend committee meetings as requested.
4. Fisheries Management - Maintain the quality of the fishery resource in the waters of the Forest to produce a balanced return to the angler, consistent with sound management principles.

5. Law Enforcement - Enforce state natural resource laws and regulations and assist in the enforcement of county and federal natural resource laws and ordinances.
6. Environmental Protection - Enforce and provide technical assistance in matters related to water and shore land management, pollution detection and waste disposal.
7. Endangered Resources - Provide technical expertise on rare, threatened or endangered species and natural community surveys, identification and management. Assist other DNR functions and the county in identifying local and landscape level issues.

## **210 COOPERATION**

To meet the obligation of the county to the public in accordance with s. 28.11, it is in the best interest of Marathon County to cooperate with public agencies, non-profit organizations, tribal nations, and others.

## **215 FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

An annual budget shall be prepared by the Committee. This budget shall contain county, state, private, non-profit and federal funds needed to carry out the forestry, park and recreation program on the forest.

### **215.1 REVENUE FROM OPERATIONS**

#### **215.1.1 General Fund**

The following procedure will apply in crediting income from the County Forest:

All monies received from the sale of timber stumpage, cut forest products, fees and use permits, sale of surplus materials and equipment, and fire or other damage collections shall be deposited in the Marathon County General Fund except that revenue specified in Sections 3.24 or 16.04 of the County General Code or income generated from trail and trail facilities use and fees or other aid, such as public grants or private donations, shall be deposited into the appropriate account. All severance taxes incurred as a result of timber sales shall be segregated into a separate account from timber sales income and paid as required by statute.

#### **215.1.2 County Park and Forest Fund**

Funds based on the annual work plan are budgeted and deposited in the County Park and Forest budget accounts by the County Board annually.

## 215.2 OUTSIDE SOURCES OF REVENUE

### 215.2.1 State Funds

In addition to other state funds that may subsequently become available for county use, the following state funding sources will be used where appropriate in administration of the Forest:

1. Variable Acreage Share Loan (s. 28.11(8)(b)1., Wis. Stats.). The county may apply for variable acreage share loans in the amount of up to fifty cents per acre of regular entry County Forest land by December 31. Payment is made to the county on or before March 31st of each year and deposited in the State Forest Aid fund. Application is made by County Board Resolution.
2. Project loans (s. 28.11(8)(b)2., Wis. Stats.) are available to undertake acquisition and development projects of an "economically productive nature". Fish and game projects or recreation projects do not qualify. Application is made by County Board Resolution.
3. County Forest Administration Grant Program (s. 28.11(5m) Wis. Stats). Annual grants are available to fund up to 50% of the salary and fringe benefits of a professional forester in the position of county forest administrator or assistant county forest administrator. Benefits may not exceed 40% of salary. Application is made by County Board resolution with payment by April 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.
4. Sustainable County Forest Grants Annual grants made for short-term unanticipated projects that promote sustainable forestry. Details are contained in NR 47.75, Wisconsin Administrative Code.
5. County Fish And Game Projects (s. 23.09(12), Wis. Stats.).
6. Wildlife Habitat Development Grant (s. 23.09(17m), Wis.Stats).
7. County Forest Road Aids funds are available for each designated mile of County Forest road. The certification is done on an annual basis.
8. Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Grants available to assist County's in purchasing additional lands to add to the County Forest land base usually 50% of the purchase price.

### 215.2.2 Federal funds and programs

In addition to others that may be available, the following funds and programs will be used where practical:

1. Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LAWCON). This fund provides up to 50% matching grants for the acquisition, development and renovation of local parks.

2. Resource Conservation and Development (Technical Services).
3. Pittman-Robertson fund. This fund provides for wildlife management and habitat improvement.
4. Sport Fish Restoration (Dingell-Johnson) fund. This fund provides financing for fish management projects administered by DNR.
5. Federal Endangered Species fund. This fund provides cost sharing and grants for surveys, monitoring and management programs that conserve a threatened or endangered species. Contact the DNR Natural Heritage Conservation for information.

### 215.2.3 Other Funds

Other potential funding sources are groups such as Ducks Unlimited, Ruffed Grouse Society, Trout Unlimited, Whitetails Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Wausau Nordic Ski Club, Central Wisconsin Off Road Cycling Coalition, local sportsman's clubs, service organizations, youth groups, etc.

The Committee will consider donations, endowments and other gifts, whether real estate, equipment or cash. The county corporation counsel may be consulted to ascertain whether such gifts benefit the county.

## 215.3 COUNTY EXPENDITURES

All purchases and expenditures shall comply with County purchasing policy, Marathon County Code of Ordinances Chapter 3 and state statutes.

## 220 COUNTY RECORDS

The County Forest administrator will keep concise and orderly records and accounts of all revenue received, expenditures incurred and accomplishments resulting from the operations of the Forestry Division. A job description, time and expense report, and training record will be kept on each employee.

### 220.1 ACCOUNTS, SEGREGATED – NON-LAPSING

#### 220.1.1 State Aid Forestry Account

Variable acreage share loans (s. 28.11(8)(b)1., Wis. Stats.), project loan funds (s. 28.11(8)(b)(2.)Wis. Stats.), and sustainable forestry grants (s. 28.11(5r), Wis. Stats., and NR 47.75, Wis. Adm. Code) that are distributed by the DNR are deposited in this account. Expenditures of variable acreage share

funds from this account are restricted to the purchase, development, preservation and maintenance of the county forest. Expenditure of project loan funds are governed by the conditions of project approval. Sustainable Forestry grants from this account must be spent specific to the approved project. Revenue received from the sale of equipment purchased with State Aid Account money must be redeposited in the State Aid Account.

#### 220.1.2 Segregated Land Purchase

An appropriation of the available funds for the appraisal, purchase, and closing costs of County Forest land acquisitions approved by the Committee and the County Board. Revenue from the sale of excess identified Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department land holdings, land rent, part of the annual Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources aid payment, and accrued interest are credited to this account.

#### 220.1.3 Cross Country Ski/Bike/Snowshoe Trails

An appropriation of the available funds for the development and maintenance of County Forest ski, bike and snowshoe trails, and Nine Mile Forest based recreation. Revenue from trail fees, vendors, rental of Nine Mile Forest facilities, donations, and accrued interest are credited to this account.

#### 220.1.4 Debt Service – State Severance

An appropriation of 20 percent of gross timber sale receipts payable to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources upon reporting timber volume and value removed.

#### 220.1.5 Debt Service – Town Severance

An appropriation of 10 percent of gross timber sale receipts. The Finance Department pays a prorated share to the towns based on the number of County Forest acres in the town.

### 220.2 ACCOUNTS, GENERAL FUND - LAPSING

#### 220.2.1 County Forest Program

The County Board approves an annual appropriation for salaries, supplies, maintenance, and capital expenditures for the implementation of the Forestry Division's annual plan of work. Budgeted funds unexpended on December 31 lapse to the general fund. Revenues from the sale of forest products and use other than recreation trails are credited to this account.



#### 220.2.2 Motorized Recreational Coordinator

This annual appropriation supports the coordinator position and pays for snowmobile and ATV trail program administration. Eligible expenses are reimbursed through the State snowmobile or ATV trail grant program.

### 220.3 ACCOUNTS, GRANT FUNDS – NON-LAPSING

#### 220.3.1 County Forest Road Aids

An annual appropriation of projected State aid payments for the maintenance of certified County Forest roads. Revenues and interest from annual aid payments by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and reimbursement for other road related expenses such as flood damage aid are credited to this account.

#### 220.3.2 County Conservation Program

The County Board approves an annual appropriation to match available grant monies 1:1 on a project basis. Reimbursement by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is made for 50 percent of approved project expenditures. Project advances, reimbursements, and interest are credited to this account.

#### 220.3.3 Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program

An annual appropriation of 5¢ per acre from the Department of Natural Resources to implement wildlife related projects identified in the County's Annual Plan of Work. The primary emphasis is on forest wildlife habitat improvement, inventories, and wildlife education. Additional revenue to this account may come from organizations such as Wisconsin Waterfowlers Association, Ruffed Grouse Society, or other wildlife habitat funding sources.

#### 220.3.4 Snowmobile and All-Terrain-Vehicle (ATV) and Utility Vehicle (UTV) Trail Aids

An annual appropriation for the projected aid available to maintain funded snowmobile, ATV, and UTV trails in Marathon County. Advances, reimbursements, supplemental funding, and interest are credited to this account.

#### 220.3.5 National Recreation Trails Act

An annual appropriation for approved projects to develop and maintain motorized and non-motorized trails in Marathon County. Reimbursement (up to 100 percent) for approved project expenditures and interest is credited to this account.

#### 220.3.6 Sustainable Forestry Grant

An annual appropriation for approved projects that promote sustainable forestry on the County Forest that is consistent with the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Reimbursement (up to 100 percent) for approved project expenditures and interest are credited to this account (NR 47.75 Wis. Admin. Code).

#### 220.3.7 County Forest Administrator Grant Program

An annual appropriation that funds 50 percent of the actual salary and up to 50 percent of the fringe benefit costs of County employed professional forester in the position of County Forest Administrator or Assistant County Forest Administrator. Fringe benefit costs shall not exceed 40 percent of the annual salary. To be eligible, the County must submit an annual Committee and County Board approved County Forest Work Plan. Advance and reimbursements must be deposited in the State Aid Forestry Account (s. 28.11(5)(m), Wis. Stats).

#### 220.4 ACCOUNT NUMBERS

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Revenues</u>
101-692	Snowmobile/ATV Coordinator	91110-95140	82463-88110
	General Fund		
101-710	County Forest General Fund	91110-98290	85192-89900
153-778	Segregated Land	92190-98210	86212-89900
154-690	Nine Mile Trails	91110-95930	85862-88420
171-758	Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant	98210	82466
174-759	FEMA Cattail Removal	92190	82457-89900
254-751	County Conservation Aids	92990	81110-89900
255-752	County Forest Road Aids	92360	82433-89900
257-755	Forestry State Aid	92190-98210	88110-89900
258-756	Wildlife Habitat Management	92190	82473-89900
404-760	Sustainable Forestry Grant	92190	82462
441-731	Pittman-Robertson Grant	92190	82474
482-757	County Forest Administrator Grant	91110	82467

## 220.5 TIMBER SALES

### 220.5.1 Active Files

Active timber sale files (hardcopy or e-copy), at a minimum, should contain or reference the following items:

1. Timber sale cutting notice and report (Form 2460-1)
2. Timber sale narrative (Form 2460-1A)
3. Contract and all addendums
4. Timber sale map
5. Ledger account of scale
6. Timber sale inspection journal / notes
7. Pertinent correspondence
8. Liability insurance
9. FISTA training
10. Financial assurance (performance bonds, ILC, etc...)
11. Field scale sheets
12. Lock box tickets (if applicable)

### 220.5.2 Closed Files

Once sales have been completed and audited by DNR only the following items need to be maintained in the file as a permanent record:

1. Timber sale notice and cutting report
2. Contract and addendums
3. Timber sale map
4. Pertinent correspondence
5. Financial ledger/summary

## 225 PERSONNEL

Under direction of the Committee, the Director shall have authorization to organize the workload of the Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department employees and arrange for additional services as needed. Personnel of the Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department will be governed by the work policies of Marathon County.

### 225.1 PARKS, RECREATION, AND FORESTRY STAFF

The budgeted positions of the Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry

Department at this time are: Director, Senior Park and Recreation Manager, County Forest Administrator, Park and Recreation Manager, Maintenance Manager, Administrative Manager, Assistant Park and Recreation Manager (4), Park Forester, County Forester, Administrative Coordinator, Accounting Specialist, Administrative Specialist, Purchasing Specialist, Urban Forestry Specialist (6), Senior Maintenance Specialist (2), Maintenance Specialist (7), Maintenance Technician (13)

There are numerous seasonal employees utilized by the department. Other labor is hired on a part-time basis or for training positions as needed.

#### 225.2 HIRING PERSONNEL

All hiring of permanent personnel will be approved by the Committee and Commission, having been accounted for in the annual work plan and budget. The actual hiring of permanent personnel will follow County personnel policy. Seasonal and short-term labor for special projects will be recruited and hired by the Forest Administrator. Preference for seasonal help will be given to individuals from Marathon County who are enrolled in courses of natural resources in colleges, universities, or vocational training programs.

#### 225.3 OTHER SOURCES OF LABOR

The Forest Administrator will consider supplemental resources that can be utilized on the forest, following county procurement policy.

#### 225.4 SPECIALIZED PERSONNEL

Projects requiring expenditures for specialized skills and/or operation of specialized equipment are handled on a contract basis by the Committee if such skills and equipment are not available from the County.

#### 225.5 TRAINING

The Forest Administrator will be responsible for scheduling and providing appropriate training to keep staff current with safety requirements, BMP's, silviculture, pesticides, new technologies, and other training appropriate to manage the Marathon County Forest. A training record will be retained for each employee identifying the course name, content and date of attendance.

## 230 EQUIPMENT

The Forest Administrator is the designated purchasing agent for the Forestry Division. The Forest Administrator will follow Marathon County's procurement ordinance (General Code Chapter 3) for the procurement of supplies, services, and construction as well as the disposal of supplies, materials, and equipment. The Forest Administrator or designee is responsible for maintaining an inventory of Forest Division fixed assets to be updated annually. Forest Division employees may purchase equipment and supplies when they have prior approval of the Forest Administrator. Items exceeding \$30,000 shall be purchased by competitive bidding (General Code 3.05). Professional services will be procured using the request for proposals (RFP) process.

### 230.1 FACILITIES

Maintenance of the facilities is assigned to the Director and includes the following:

1. Office space – Provided at 212 River Drive, Suite 2, Wausau, WI 54403.
2. Parks and Forestry shop building – Located at the Nine Mile Forest trailhead on Red Bud Road in the Town of Rib Mountain. A storage garage is used to store vehicles and equipment used in operation of the park and forest program.
3. Nine Mile Chalet – A year-round recreational building for trail based recreation and rentals.
4. Trailheads – Facilities such as the Burma Road ATV/UTV trailhead and snowmobile trailheads some of which have toilets.
5. Bitzke Birdwalk – Facilities at the Birdwalk trailhead include pit toilets and gravel parking area.
6. Operations Shop – Located at 900 Pardee Street, Wausau, WI 54401. The shop is used for construction, maintenance, and repair of County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry equipment and facilities.

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN  
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**CHAPTER 300**

**DESCRIPTION OF FOREST AND MANAGEMENT PLANNING**

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## **300 DESCRIPTION OF FOREST**

### **300.1 COUNTY FOREST OWNERSHIP**

The County Forest is composed of 10 management compartments ranging in size from 80 acres to nearly 9,434 acres. Within the county forest boundaries approximately 65 percent of the land is county owned with most of the remaining 35 percent in small private holdings. A map of these compartments can be found in the Appendix.

### **300.2 NATURAL FEATURES**

#### **300.2.1 Topography**

Within Marathon County there are four major areas with distinct physiographic characteristics resulting primarily from glaciation and the influence of underlying bedrock. The far northern and western parts of the county are broad, nearly level to sloping ground moraines. Harrison-Hewitt, Wisconsin River, and Bern Forest Units have these characteristics. The central part, except for the Wisconsin River Valley, is a mixed area of ground moraines and uplands underlain by bedrock at a depth of two to twenty feet. This area is nearly level to steep. The steeper areas generally are next to major drainage ways. Burma Road and Nine Mile Forest Units fall within this category. The Wisconsin River Valley is composed of nearly level to very steep outwash terraces and nearly level and gently sloping floodplains. The southeastern part of the county consists mainly of nearly level to steep outwash plains and stream terraces and undulating to very hilly moraines and drumlins. Leather Camp, Kronenwetter, and Elderon Forest Units have these characteristics.

The topography of Marathon County is largely controlled by the glacial features and the bedrock. The highest elevation in the county, on top of Rib Mountain, is 1,941 feet. The lowest elevation, at the point where the Wisconsin River flows out of the county, is about 1,100 feet. Most of the elevations in the county range from 1,200 to 1,450 feet. Local elevation differences are generally less than 100 feet. The greatest local elevation difference, about 750 feet, is between the top of Rib Mountain and a nearby terrace in the Wisconsin River Valley.

Most of Marathon County is within the Wisconsin River drainage basin. The western part of the county is drained mainly by the Little Rib, Big Rib, Black, Big Eau Pleine, and Little Eau Pleine Rivers and their tributaries.

The Trappe, Big Sandy, Eau Claire, Bull Junior, Little Eau Claire, and Plover Rivers and their tributaries drain the eastern part of Marathon County. The southeastern part of the county is

within the Wolf River drainage basin.

### 300.2.2 Geography

Marathon County, the largest county in the state, is located in the north-central portion of Wisconsin and almost entirely in the watershed of the Wisconsin River. There are 1,008,921 acres in the county of which 32,055 acres is made up of water. Approximately 37 percent of the land is classified as forest land. The County Forest, which contains approximately 30,195 acres is the 22<sup>nd</sup> largest County Forest in the state. A note of interest is that the geographic center of the western half of the northern hemisphere (i.e. the intersection of the 90<sup>th</sup> longitude and the 45<sup>th</sup> latitude) lies in the northwest portion of the county. At this point, the county is halfway between the equator and the North Pole and halfway between the prime meridian (Greenwich, England) and the 180<sup>th</sup> meridian, which makes up most of the International Date Line. Appendix 1000 contains maps showing the location of the forest.

### 300.2.3 Geology and Soils

The bedrock geology of the county is quite uniform and consists of granite and undifferentiated igneous and metamorphic rocks with scattered quartzite, slate, and iron formations. “Rotten granite” is quite prevalent in the western half of the county. It is used for road topping, base course, and shoulder material for highways. Southward from Wausau lies a 20- to 30-mile wide band along the Wisconsin River which is unglaciated. Its sandy soils were formed by material washed away from the glaciers’ edge. West of this so-called driftless area lays a region covered by earlier ice advances where the glacial ridges and hills have been worn down to gentle slopes. Heavy silt loams cover nearly all of this western part of the county. Lakes and swamps have disappeared. Adjoining the outwash plain on the east is the Wisconsin Terminal Moraine. Silt loam and sandy loam soils predominate in this youthful, hilly sector. Peat and water-filled, kettle-like depressions are scattered between hills. Drainage patterns are poorly defined. A generalized soil map is found in the appendix. Detailed soil information is available from the USDA Web Soil Survey. ([websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov](http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov)).

### 300.2.4 Biological Communities

Ecological Landscapes are regions in Wisconsin containing similar ecology and management opportunities. Each landscape can present unique management opportunities and challenges. These landscapes are essentially based on the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units (NHFUE) (Cleland et al. 1997). More information on the 16 Ecological Landscapes defined within Wisconsin is available at: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/landscapes/index.asp?mode=Choose>



The Marathon County Forest lies within the Forest Transition Ecological Landscape.

Forest Transition Landscape – The soils are moderately well drained sandy loams derived from glacial till, but there is considerable diversity in the range of soil attributes including sandy, organic and loam and silt loam soils. Land cover is highly variable with aspen, birch, hardwoods and pine along with many areas cleared dominated by agriculture.

#### 300.2.4.1 Land Type Associations

Land type associations are units of the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units (NHFEU) classification system. They are much smaller than Ecological Landscapes and are generally based on glacial features. They can be useful for planning at finer scales within a landscape. The following Land Type Associations are present within the Ecological Landscapes of the Marathon County Forest. More information is available at: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/landscapes/index.asp?mode=detail&Landscape=11>

Landtype Associations (LTA's) within the subsections include: 212 Qc 01 Abbotsford Moraines, 212 Qd 01 Ackley Plains, 212 Qd 02 Marathon Uplands, 212 Qd 04 Rib Mountain, 212 Qd 05 Dubay Plains, 212 Qd 07 Peplin Uplands, 212 TA 03 Hatley Moraines, and 212 TA 04 Upper Plover River Moraines. LTA's having common ecological characteristics allow land managers to better plan for future vegetative communities, wildlife species to feature, and compatible recreation uses.

#### 300.2.5 Vegetative Cover Types

Approximately 76 percent of the Marathon County Forest Land base is forested. Forested uplands are comprised of primarily aspen, northern hardwoods, red pine, oak, white birch, balsam fir, spruce, and jack pine, while bottomland hardwoods, tamarack, black spruce, and cedar occupy the forested lowlands. The remainder is classified as non-forested; including types such as wetlands, lowland shrubs, upland shrubs, bogs, minor lakes, streams, grassy openings, trails, roads, rock outcroppings, utility rights-of-way, and developed recreation facilities. The County Forest is composed of nearly 30,195 acres, with 22,665 acres classified as commercial forest. The aspen type alone composes approximately 66 percent of the total commercial forest acreage. The different cover types present on the Marathon County Forest are detailed in the appendix.

The great majority of the forest (78%) is located in the eastern one-half of the county. The remaining blocks, Nine Mile, Burma Road, and Bern Forest Units (22%) are located in the western half of the

county. Maps showing the location of the County Forest are in the appendix.

#### FORESTED COMMUNITIES

The forested cover types are made up of a variety of size classes (regeneration, sapling-pole, and saw timber) and structure (canopy, layers, ground vegetation, dead and downed material and inclusions).

Forest cover types associated with the County Forest are:

<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
Aspen	14,892
Northern Hardwood	1,616
Red Maple	1,889
Red Pine	911
Oak	2,606
White Birch	19
Fir – Spruce	227
Swamp Hardwoods	172
Jack Pine	14
White Pine	153
Swamp Conifer	<u>166</u>
Total Commercial	22,665

#### NON-FORESTED COMMUNITIES

Non-forested habitats are important components of management within the County Forest.

Upland and wetland non-forest types provide important habitat for distinct groups of species.

Non-Forest Cover Types

<u>Non-Commercial</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
Alder	5,547
Willows	69
Minor lakes, streams & flowages	384
Lowland grass	353
Upland grass	351
Upland brush	58
Rock outcrop	1
Farm land	56
Marsh or muskeg	53
Right of Ways	102

Parking Areas	31
Nature or Hiking Trails	68
Motorized Vehicle Trails	<u>127</u>
Total Non-Commercial	7,200

#### Upland Non-Forest

Upland non-forest areas of the County Forest include:

Grass openings - consist of upland grasses such as brome, quack, bluegrass, timothy, big and little bluestem, and Indian grass.

Herbaceous vegetation - ground cover predominated by herbaceous species with bracken fern, sweet clover, giant ragweed, sting nettle, upland aster, goldenrod, and prairie dock being common.

Shrub opening - primarily upland site less than 10% stocked with tree species but having 50% or more of the area stocked with taller growing, persistent shrubs. This includes hazel, dogwood, juneberry, sumac, alder, willow, and prickly ash.

Rock outcrops - include rocky talus and bedrock.

See Chapter 830 for detailed discussion on Biological Community Types.

#### Wetlands

Wisconsin State Statutes define a wetland as “an area where water is at, near, or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophytic vegetation, and which has soil indicative of wet conditions.” Wetland communities are recognized to be a complex association of plants and animals, soils and water levels having special natural values. They provide many functional values including shoreline and flood protection, water quality protection, groundwater recharge, and animal and plant habitat. Therefore, it is the policy of Marathon County to preserve, protect, and manage wetlands under its jurisdiction in manner that recognizes the natural values of wetland and their importance on the environment. Scientists distinguish dozens of wetland types, characterized by vegetation, soil type and degree of saturation or water cover. Some of the more prominent types found on the County Forest include:

Aquatic bed - plants growing entirely on or in a water body no deeper than 6 feet. Plants may include pondweed, duckweed, lotus and water-lilies.

Marshes - characterized by standing water and dominated by cattails, bulrushes, pickerelweed, lake sedges and/or giant bur-reed.

Sedge or “wet” meadows - these wetlands more often than not have saturated soils rather than standing water. Sedges, grasses and reeds dominant, but may also have blue flag iris, marsh milkweed, sneezeweed, mint and several species of goldenrod and aster.

Scrub/shrub - these areas, which include bogs and alder thickets, are characterized by woody shrubs and small trees such as tag alder, bog birch, willow and dogwood.

Forested - these areas, include bogs and forested floodplain complexes, are characterized by trees 20 feet or more in height such as tamarack, white cedar, black spruce, elm, black ash, green ash and silver maple.

Forest management is conducted on many of the forested wetlands with activities occurring primarily during frozen conditions. See Chapter 830 for detailed discussion on Biological Community Types.

### 300.2.6 Fish and Wildlife

Wisconsin supports over 650 different types of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish as well as millions of invertebrates. Management of county forest lands and the biotic communities they support provide a mix of habitat types and ages for a wide range of wildlife species. Each species, or interacting group of species, do best under different conditions. County forest lands provide a full range of habitats from open grasslands/barrens to mature forests, from bogs to forested wetlands, from spring ponds to lake shorelines. County forest staffs work closely with WDNR fish and wildlife managers and conservation organizations to identify and manage critical habitat for breeding, migrating and wintering fish and wildlife.

While the Marathon County Forest provides for a wide range of fish and wildlife species, current management strategies or programs have emphasized the following species and/or communities:

#### 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.

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

#### 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.

### 300.2.7 Rare and Endangered Resources

A review of the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) indicates the presence of a number of rare species, natural communities and unique natural features on the Marathon County Forest. All land disturbing projects will include an evaluation phase, to determine whether an NHI screening is required.

The Natural Heritage Inventory Database is the most comprehensive source of rare species data for Wisconsin. These data are used for a variety of purposes including research, land management, state land master planning, community planning, conservation planning and review of public and private activities across the state. The NHI Portal is currently available to DNR staff and County Forest staff who hold a data sharing license.

The Wisconsin Historical Preservation Database is the most comprehensive source of cultural resources for Wisconsin. These data are used for a variety of purposes including research, land management, state land master planning, community planning, conservation planning and review of public and private activities across the state. The Wisconsin Historical Preservation Database is currently available to DNR staff and County Forest staff.

### 300.2.8 Water

Marathon County also has no streams which are classified as Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters.

Marathon County has 32,055 acres of water, involving 18 lakes, 6 major flowages, and 643 miles of streams. Within the boundaries of the Forest, there are few fishery resources.

There are 18 small wildlife flowages within the County Forest boundaries which are managed for waterfowl. In addition, the County owns frontage on the Wisconsin River, and Four Mile Creek and Black Creek, which are named trout streams, and several unnamed feeder streams. A complete inventory of the surface water resources in Marathon County can be found in the appendix.

Marathon County has no streams which are classified as Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters. Note: An entire listing of the outstanding and exceptional resource waters can be found in Wisconsin Admin. Code NR102.10 and 102.11.

## 300.3 CULTURAL FACTORS

### 300.3.1 Economy

The importance of the County Forests to Wisconsin's economic health continues to rise. County

Forests sustain over 60,000 full-time jobs derived from logging, trucking, paper production, manufactured building materials, and lumber. Many other jobs are created in such businesses as the expanding printing industry and are located far from the forested northland. County Forests contribute to the 24 billion dollar forest industry in Wisconsin.

In addition, the lands managed by these 29 counties provide an important recreation resource to complement our state's valuable tourism industry. Tourists spend valuable money at local businesses. By providing 2.4 million acres of public recreation land, we bring tourists to our state. As population increases and public access to privately owned forestland decreases, the need for accessible lands unquestionably will assume an ever more important role. More information on the economic impact of the County Forest program can be found at

<https://www.wisconsincountyforests.com/>

Production of forest products and spin-off industries derived from the recreational opportunities on the Forest and the forest products it produces are vitally important to Marathon County's economic well-being. Forest industry is the #2 ranked employer in the County. Recreation is ranked # \_\_\_\_\_.

This information can be found at the following link:

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/forestbusinesses/factsheets.html>.

### 300.3.2 Education and Research

Education and research continue to be critical components in making decisions that affect our natural resources. As public needs and demands on our forest and its products increase, we must be prepared to assure that sound decisions result. To this end, Marathon County encourages and supports research efforts that relate to the forest, and educational opportunities that will promote a better understanding of forest communities and management.

### 300.4 OTHER PUBLIC LANDS OWNERSHIP

Marathon County Forest doesn't share any common boundaries with other public lands within the County. The Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit abuts the Langlade County Forest Ackley Wildlife area. Some trails are connected providing users to move from one forest to another. Marathon County will continue to seek additional opportunities with Langlade County in the best interests of the public.