

1 COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

2 TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 CHAPTER 3000

4 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

5

6 **3000 OBJECTIVE & POLICY** ..... 2

7 **3100 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORTS** ..... 2

8 **3200 PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS** .....3

9           3210 FOREST PRODUCTS.....3

10                 3210.1 Timber.....3

11                 3210.2 Non-timber Forest Products.....4

12

13           3220 REFORESTATION .....4

14           3230 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT .....4

15           3240 RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS .....4

16           3250 WILDLIFE PROJECTS .....5

17 **3300 MONITORING**.....6

18           3310 FOREST TYPES .....6

19           3320 HARVESTING .....8

20           3330 FLORA / FAUNA.....10

21           3340 RECREATIONAL USE.....11

22           3350 HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FOREST AREAS.....11

23           3360 ROADS AND ACCESS .....11

24           3370 OTHER .....11

31 **3000 OBJECTIVE AND POLICY**

32 OBJECTIVE

33 To provide a quantifiable means of evaluating progress on both short and long  
34 term goals on the Iron County Forest.

35

36 POLICY

37 Annual accomplishments will be recorded as a historical record, to assist in future  
38 planning, and to provide documentation for both the County, and the County  
39 Forest system. This information is invaluable in addressing public, County  
40 Board, and other legislative inquiries on the operation of the Forest as well as  
41 assessing progress on goals.

42

43 **3100 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORTS**

44 A copy of an annual accomplishment report shall be prepared and provided to  
45 members of the County Board and to official copyholders of this Plan for  
46 inclusion into this chapter.

47

48 This report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- 49 1. Timber sale accomplishments including gross and net sale receipts  
50 and harvest goals achieved.
- 51 2. Timber stand improvements accomplishments.
- 52 3. Recreation development and maintenance accomplishments  
53 including recreation revenues and expenses.
- 54 4. Wildlife management accomplishments including revenues and  
55 expenses.
- 56 5. Fisheries management accomplishments including revenues and  
57 expenses.
- 58 6. Other accomplishments identified as “needs” in Chapter 1000.

59

60

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62

63 **3200 PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

64 This summary of the Forest activities should provide a running history of  
 65 accomplishments by activity. It will provide a quick and accessible reference for  
 66 accomplishments on the County Forest. Examples of activities to track include  
 67 timber sales, reforestation, timber stand improvement, recreational developments  
 68 and wildlife habitat accomplishments.

70 **3210 FOREST PRODUCTS**

71 3210.1 Timber

72 Historical record of timber sale activity by year.

73 **Iron County Forest Timber Sales**

74

75

76

77

		<b>Saw</b>	<b>Pulp</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b># of Sales</b>	<b>MBF</b>	<b>Cords</b>	<b>Ac Cut</b>	<b>Tot Cd EQ.</b>	<b>Sales Value</b>	<b>\$/Ac cut</b>
1995	47	1773.78	43,312.66	3,446	47,224.63	\$620,668.53	\$170.23
1996	44	837.40	52,221.53	3,018	54,084.88	\$581,705.89	\$192.75
1997	70	1770.19	61,020.26	4,228	64,930.35	\$871,328.54	\$206.09
1998	38	919.74	41,696.70	2,593	43,752.55	\$757,829.33	\$327.77
1999	38	1110.55	28,259.56	2,274	30,706.92	\$767,103.61	\$337.34
2000	38	1038.73	22,429.21	3,016	24,719.55	\$620,841.24	\$205.85
2001	27	630.87	16,717.62	1,670	~18,105.53	\$447,100.68	\$267.72
2002	26	649.47	17,495.25	1,750	~18,924.08	\$451,527.42	\$258.02
2003	24	942.89	22,937.87	1,704	25,012.22	\$773,376.78	\$453.86
2004	28	1405.31	27,654.00	2,240	30,746.06	\$1,114,129.20	\$497.38
2005	25	711.07	16,582.35	1,585	18,147.19	\$603,513.48	\$380.77

78

79

80

81

82 3210.2 Non-timber forest products

83

84 Below is a historical record of non-timber products harvested by the number of  
85 permits granted (including Christmas trees, boughs, and firewood).

86

Year	Christmas Trees	Boughs	Firewood
1995	86	36	72
1996	108	29	69
1997	98	20	74
1998	91	39	74
1999	105	34	77
2000			
2001	68	60	107
2002	89	40	103
2003	78	39	97
2004	71	51	93
2005	48	42	115

87

88

89

90 3220 REFORESTATION

91

92 Under planting of White Pine (approximately 12 acres) south of Wilson Lake  
93 along Popko Circle East was done in 2002. Under planning of White Pine near  
94 Spring Camp Falls (approximately 20 acres) was done in 2004.

95

96 3230 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

97

98 During the past planning cycle, very little, if any acres were treated for timber  
99 stand improvement. Budget constraints and loss of conservation work project  
crews limited timber stand improvement work.

100

101 3240 RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

102

103

104

105

106

107

Iron County Forest maintains 45 developed campsites in three campground locations (Saxon Harbor, Weber Lake, and Lake of the Falls). There are seven rustic campsites distributed throughout the county, one new rustic site was developed on Spider Lake in 2005. Iron County manages 43 seasonal moorings and five itinerant moorings on Lake Superior at Saxon Harbor. In fall of 2005, the Saxon Harbor Expansion project was started. This project, sponsored by US

108 Army Corps of Engineers (Sec.154), the State of Wisconsin (Coastal Management  
109 and Recreational Boating) and Iron County will improve shoreline protection,  
110 infrastructure and add 41 seasonal and three itinerant moorings to the harbor. Iron  
111 County coordinates approximately 300 miles of snowmobile trails/routes and 200  
112 miles of ATV trails/routes annually. Six miles of the North Country National  
113 Scenic Trail have been dedicated on the Iron County Forest. Sixteen kilometers  
114 of Nordic ski trails (MECCA in Mercer and Uller in Pence) are maintained on an  
115 annual basis on Iron County Forest land. Seventeen boat landings are managed  
116 by Iron County Forest. They range from rustic carry-ins to facilities designed for  
117 the largest trailer-able boats. Swimming beaches are offered at Weber Lake and  
118 Saxon Harbor.

119

120 3250 WILDLIFE PROJECTS

121 *Wildlife Activities on the Iron County Forest, 2001 – 2005*

122

123 ANNUAL OR ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

124

- 125 1) Recreation Map that highlights hunting and trapping and identifies public  
126 lands.
- 127 2) 2) Seeding Timber Sale roads and landings with grasses and clover after  
128 T.S. closes.
- 129 3) Two ruffed grouse drumming (transects) surveys.
- 130 4) 25 mile long bear bait survey.
- 131 5) Two woodcock peenting surveys (for US Fish & Wildlife Service).
- 132 6) Two winter furbearer track (routes) surveys.
- 133 7) Summer deer observation survey by DNR field personnel.
- 134 8) Winter Deer Yard surveys when necessary.
- 135 9) High School fisher telemetry project (Wood & Waters Program) with  
136 Mercer and Hurley H.S.'s.
- 137 10) Mowing forest openings and trails on a 4 to 5 year rotation. 2001; 2002;  
138 2005.

139

140 2001: Intern Jessica Duda “Summary of all wildlife surveys on the ICF”.

141 She did some bird surveys, small mammal surveys, herp. surveys.

142 2002: Intern Alison Falldin “Scent Station Predator Survey on ICF (duplicating  
143 survey run in the 1980’s).

144 Erect osprey nest platform on LTFWA.

145 Prescribe Burn 51 acres; maintain 3 miles firebreak.

146 Mow 34 openings (62 acres).

147 Underplant 12 acres white pine.

148 2003: Intern Eric Kroening “Wildlife and Plant Survey of the Penokee Biological  
 149 Reserve area within ICF.  
 150 ICF Plant and wildlife data added to the WDNR’s Natural Heritage  
 151 Inventory.  
 152 Intern Jennifer Malarchik “Small Mammal Inventory of ICF”.  
 153 LTFWA Water Control Structure replaced (joint ICF, ICHighway,  
 154 WDNR, and Duck Stamp project).  
 155 2004: Intern Kyle Skildum “NH Post-Timber Sale Wildlife Evaluation”  
 156 2005: No Intern. LTE mowing of openings and trails.  
 157 Refurbish Birch Hill Prairie fire breaks.  
 158 Mow and hand cut Birch Hill Prairie.  
 159

160 3300 **MONITORING**

161 *(\*This section is a work in progress and will not be fully completed in time for  
 162 the Plan development process. Amendments will be needed after Plan approval  
 163 to complete this section)*

164 *This section is recommended for all counties as a means of comparing the needs  
 165 and goals from the last Plan with the actual results experienced over the last  
 166 planning period. This section is required for those counties included in the FSC  
 167 Certification group. Was your plan effective in meeting your objectives and  
 168 providing sustainable forestry? How do the changes experienced over the last  
 169 planning period impact changes you’ve made in management in this County  
 170 Forest Plan?*

172 3310 **FOREST TYPES**

**Iron County Forest  
 Composition**

Forest Type	Original Acres	Original %	1995 Acres	1995%	2005 Acres	2005%	Proposed Acres	Proposed %
Aspen	38,354	22.8%		%	40,053	23.2%	38,139	22.1%
Red Maple	0	0.0%		%	956	0.6%	920	0.5%
W. Birch	1,198	0.7%		%	614	0.4%	517	0.3%
Cedar	4,091	2.4%		%	6,909	4.0%	5,213	3.0%
Fir-Spruce	17,253	10.2%		%	6,248	3.6%	10,452	6.1%
N. Hdwd.	60,485	35.9%		%	64,339	37.3%	65,400	37.9%
Oak	711	0.4%		%	717	0.4%	717	0.4%
Hmlk-Hdwd	726	0.4%		%	1,043	0.6%	1,004	0.6%
Jack pine	865	0.5%		%	227	0.1%	205	0.1%
Red pine	1,216	0.7%		%	1,700	1.0%	1,965	1.1%

White pine	0	0.0%		%	370	0.2%	427	0.2%
B. Spruce	3,367	2.0%		%	3,544	2.1%	3,438	2.0%
Sw.. Conifer	13,076	7.8%		%	14,448	8.4%	13,138	7.6%
Sw. Hdwd.	7,647	4.5%		%	8,318	4.8%	8,207	4.8%
Tamarack	1,154	0.7%		%	1,233	0.7%	1,233	0.7%
Total Forested	150,143	89.1%		%	150,719	87.4%	150,975	87.6%
Industrial	0	0.0%		%	55	0.0%	55	0.0%
Upl. Grass	185	0.1%		%	211	0.1%	211	0.1%
Herb. Veg.	292	0.2%		%	347	0.2%	347	0.2%
Low shrub	77	0.0%		%	56	0.0%	9	0.0%
Marsh	5,380	3.2%		%	2039	1.2%	2039	1.2%
Nonc..Grass	0	0.0%		%	805	0.5%	805	0.5%
Nonc. Veg.	0	0.0%		%	529	0.3%	529	0.3%
Low. brush	1,398	0.8%		%	1,171	0.7%	1,171	2.80.7%
Alder	10,463	6.2%		%	11,645	6.8%	11,645	6.8%
Water	0	0.0%		%	192	0.1%	192	0.1%
Minor Lake	0	0.0%		%	652	0.4%	652	0.4%
Minor stream	0	0.0%		%	6	0.0%	6	0.0%
R-O-W	0	0.0%		%	2,139	1.2%	2,139	1.2%
Upland brush	608	0.4%		%	546	0.3%	360	0.2%
Rock outcrop	0	0.0%		%	1,282	0.7%	1,259	0.7%
Total non-forest	18,403	10.9%		%	21,686	12.6%	21,430	12.4%
<b>Total Property</b>	168,546	100.0%		%	172,405	100.0%	172,405	100.0%

173

174 The above table shows no **significant** change in Iron County Forest timber types over the  
175 past 30 years.

176

177 Although the Northern Hardwood timber type acreage remains relatively constant, these  
178 stands are losing mid tolerant species (such as yellow birch, white ash, and black cherry)  
179 and succeeding towards a climax forest dominated by sugar maple. As stands of  
180 Northern Hardwood are entered for a second or third thinning, the volume of sawtimber  
181 harvested should increase, thus producing a greater economic return for the county.

182

183 Iron County continues with their plan to maintain the aspen timber type on the forest.

184 The above table indicates accomplishment of the aspen maintenance goal over the past 30

185 years. During the life of this plan Iron County will work to spread the aspen rotation by  
 186 harvesting some stands earlier and other stands later than scheduled. The intent is to  
 187 spread the distribution of age classes more evenly, resulting in more consistent income  
 188 from aspen harvests in the future.

189

190 Jack pine acreage is considered minimal and future acreage will decrease overtime due to  
 191 the difficulty in maintaining this species through natural regeneration.

192

193 As a result of budworm outbreaks, the fir-spruce timber type decreased. As fir and  
 194 spruce recapture the sites, acreage will increase in the future.

195

196 3320 HARVESTING

197 *Compare harvest goals from the 1996-2005 Plan with the established, sold and*  
 198 *closed data for major forest types and for all sales. \*Use 9 yr. average since*  
 199 *accomplishments for calendar year 2005 will not be available in time for plan*  
 200 *completion.*

201

***IRON COUNTY FOREST***

202

***Northern Hardwood (Acres)***

<b><i>YEAR</i></b>	<b><i>NEED (from 96-05 Plan)</i></b>	<b><i>Established</i></b>	<b><i>Sold</i></b>	<b><i>Closed</i></b>
<i>1996</i>		<i>1,311</i>	<i>1,274</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>1997</i>		<i>1,359</i>	<i>1,463</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>1998</i>		<i>2,201</i>	<i>1,439</i>	<i>1,481</i>
<i>1999</i>		<i>2,660</i>	<i>2,161</i>	<i>1,933</i>
<i>2000</i>		<i>1,678</i>	<i>2,390</i>	<i>1,874</i>
<i>2001</i>		<i>844</i>	<i>2,212</i>	<i>1,859</i>
<i>2002</i>		<i>2,576</i>	<i>1,768</i>	<i>824</i>
<i>2003</i>		<i>1,500</i>	<i>1,693</i>	<i>3,326</i>
<i>2004</i>		<i>1,716</i>	<i>2,253</i>	<i>1,285</i>
<i>2005</i>		<i>1,043</i>	<i>1,406</i>	<i>1,610</i>
<i>Annual Average</i>		<i>1,689</i>	<i>1,806</i>	<i>1,419</i>

203



204

205

**Aspen (Acres)**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NEED (from 96-05 Plan)</b>	<b>Established</b>	<b>Sold</b>	<b>Closed</b>
1996		457	281	0
1997		253	464	0
1998		46	69	755
1999		50	60	740
2000		151	126	222
2001		58	20	33
2002		289	89	164
2003		187	289	201
2004		134	196	102
2005		212	337	117
<i>Annual Average</i>		184	193	233

206

**Pine (Acres)**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>NEED (from 96-05 Plan)</b>	<b>Established</b>	<b>Sold</b>	<b>Closed</b>
1996		23	60	0
1997		41	41	0
1998		0	23	23
1999		39	1	0
2000		27	38	1
2001		93	27	0
2002		1	94	21
2003		4	0	65
2004		207	4	33
2005		3	210	39
<i>Annual Average</i>		44	50	18

**ALL SALES (acres)**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Need (from 96- 05 Plan)</b>	<b>Established</b>	<b>Recon in lieu of Sale</b>	<b>Total Sale activity</b>	<b>Sold</b>	<b>Closed</b>
1996		1,821	?	1,821	1,615	0
1997		1,653	?	1,653	1,968	0
1998		2,359	?	2,359	1,623	2,533
1999		2,756	?	2,756	2,279	2,735
2000		1,856	1,792	3,648	2,554	2,262
2001		1,107	450	1,557	2,270	1,892
2002		2,919	550	3,469	2,045	1,009
2003		1,755	396	2,151	2,032	3,721
2004		2,057	0	2,057	2,524	1,427
2005		1,258	1078	2,336	1,953	1,792
<b>Annual Average</b>		1,954	711	2,381	2,086	1,737

208

209

210 *Summarize findings of tables as to how the timber sale establishment, sold and*  
 211 *closed figures relate to the “Needs” identified from the last plan and explain*  
 212 *discrepancies.*

213

## 214 3330 FLORA / FAUNA

215 *This section is still in development but it would be appropriate to include any*  
 216 *local observations (although they may not be quantifiable) from the last planning*  
 217 *period (e.g. % of sugar maple in NH stands, influx of invasive species, etc.).*  
 218 *Wildlife surveys (bear transects, grouse drumming surveys, track surveys, deer*  
 219 *registration, etc.) are well documented however would likely not impact the*  
 220 *management of habitat on a specific county forest. These surveys, available from*  
 221 *your local DNR Wildlife Biologist, could be included here although they would be*  
 222 *optional.*

223 3340 RECREATIONAL USE

224 *This section is still in development but it would be appropriate to include any*  
225 *local observations (although they may not be quantifiable) from the last planning*  
226 *period (e.g. Demand for motorized recreation, increased interest in Ice Age trail,*  
227 *evolution of mountain biking, water access points, etc.). The local comprehensive*  
228 *outdoor recreation plan would be a good source of information on recreational*  
229 *changes.*

230

231 3350 HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FOREST AREAS

232 *This section is still in development but it would be appropriate to include any*  
233 *changes, or determine baseline data for, any areas identified as HCVF on your*  
234 *County Forest (identified in Chapter 850). Assess changes due to natural*  
235 *succession or because of any management practices that these areas have*  
236 *experienced.*

237

238 3360 ROADS & ACCESS

239 *This section is still in development. Compare the access and road needs*  
240 *identified in the last Plan with what was actually accomplished over the last 10*  
241 *year period.*

242

243 3370 OTHER

244 *Include any other items that you may be currently monitoring that may be of value*  
245 *to track (e.g. dam inspections, etc.)*

246

247

248

249

250