

1 COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

2 TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 CHAPTER 500

4
5 LAND MANAGEMENT AND USE

6	Section or			
7	<u>Subsection</u>	<u>Subject</u>		<u>Page</u>
8				
9	500	LAND USE	.....	5
10	500.1	OBJECTIVES	.....	5
11	505	SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES	.....	5
12	505.1	EVENAGED MANAGEMENT	.....	5
13	505.2	UNEVENAGED MANAGEMENT	.....	5
14	505.3	TIMBER SALES	.....	5
15		505.3.1 Field Preparation of Timber Sales	.....	6
16		505.3.2 Advertising for Bids	.....	6
17		505.3.3 Prospectus	.....	6
18		505.3.4 Method of Bidding	.....	7
19		505.3.5 Awarding Sales	.....	7
20		505.3.6 Sales Contracts	.....	8
21		505.3.7 Timber Sale Performance Bond	.....	8
22		505.3.8 Contract Provisions	.....	8
23		505.3.8(a) Slash Disposal, Landings and Decking	.....	9
24		505.3.8(b) Duration and Extension of Contracts	.....	9
25		505.3.8(c) Contract Violations	.....	10
26		505.3.9 Timber Sale Restrictions	.....	11
27		505.3.10 Special Forest Product Contracts	.....	11
28		505.3.11 Timber Sale Roads	.....	11
29		505.3.12 Supervising Sale	.....	12
30		505.3.13 Forest Products Accountability	.....	12
31		505.3.13(a) Scaling Merchantability	.....	12

32	505.3.13(b) Utilization Standards	13
33	505.3.13(c) Methods Of Accountability	13
34	505.3.14 Special Forest Product Permits	13
35	505.4 NATURAL REGENERATION.....	14
36	505.4.1 Removal Of Non-Merchantable Residual Trees	14
37	505.4.2 Prescribe Burning For Natural Regeneration.....	14
38	505.4.3 Other	14
39	505.5 ARTIFICIAL REGENERATION	15
40	505.5.1 Mechanical Site Preparation	15
41	505.5.2 Chemical Site Preparation.....	15
42	505.5.3 Prescribed Burning.....	16
43	505.5.4 Tree Planting And Seeding.....	16
44	505.6 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT	16
45	505.6.1 Release	16
46	505.6.2 Non-Commercial Thinning	17
47	505.6.3 Pruning.....	17
48	510 RECREATION	17
49	510.1 RECREATIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS.....	17
50	510.2 RECREATION USE PERMITS	18
51	510.3 ENTRANCE AND USER FEES	18
52	510.4 EXTENSIVE RECREATION USE OF THE FOREST	18
53	510.4.1 Hunting and Trapping	18
54	510.4.2 Fishing	19
55	510.4.3 Picnicking	19
56	510.4.4 Camping.....	19
57	510.5 INTENSIVE RECREATION AREAS	19
58	510.5.1 Campgrounds	20
59	510.5.2 Picnic Areas	20
60	510.5.3 Swimming Area	20
61	510.5.4 Boat Landings	20
62	510.5.5 Waysides	21
63	510.5.6 Shooting Ranges	21

64 510.6 MANAGED TRAIL AREAS 21

65 510.6.1 Motorized Trail Opportunities.....21

66 510.6.2 Nonmotorized Trail Opportunities.....22

67 510.7 RECREATIONAL OPPROTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES....22

68 515 SPECIAL USES 22

69 515.1 SAND AND GRAVEL.....23

70 515.2 EXPLORATION, PROSPECTING AND MINING.....24

71 515.3 SANITARY LANDFILLS 24

72 515.4 MILITARY MANEUVERS 24

73 515.5 PUBLIC UTILITIES24

74 515.6 PRIVATE UTILITY SERVICE LINES25

75 515.7 CELLULAR COMMUNICATION TOWERS.....26

76 515.8 OTHER26

77 520 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONES 27

78 520.1 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE A..... 27

79 520.1.1 Examples 27

80 520.1.2 Boundaries27

81 520.1.3 Management.....28

82 520.1.4 Permitted Uses 28

83 520.2 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE B..... 28

84 520.2.1 Example 29

85 520.2.2 Boundaries 29

86 520.2.3 Management..... 29

87 520.2.4 Permitted Uses 29

88 520.3 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE C.....29

89 520.3.1 Example 29

90 520.3.2 Boundaries 30

91 520.3.3 Management.....30

92 520.3.4 Permitted Uses30

93 520.4 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE D.....30

94 520.4.1 Examples 30

95 520.4.2 Management.....31

96	525	TREATY RIGHTS:GATHERING MISCELLANEOUS FOREST PRODUCTS	31
97	530	HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS AREAS (HCVF) AND EXCEPTIONAL	
98		RESOURCES	32
99	530.1.	AREAS HIGH IN LOCALLY, REGIONALLY OR NATIONALLY	
100		SIGNIFICANT BIODIVERSITY VALUES	32
101		530.1.1 Penokee Range Biological Reserve Area.....	33
102		530.1.2 Carpenter Creek Hemlocks.....	34
103		530.1.3 Potato River Falls.....	34
104		530.1.4 Potato River Water Gap/Upson Lake	34
105		530.1.5 Species Concentration Areas.....	35
106	530.2	RARE, THREATENED, OR ENDANGERED ECOSYSTEMS	35
107		530.2.1 Relic Old Growth Stands.....	35
108		530.2.2 Old Growth.....	35
109		530.2.3 Savannas (including oak openings and oak barrens).....	35
110		530.2.4 Natural Origin Pine Relics.....	36
111		530.2.5 Pine Barrens.....	36
112		530.2.6 Geological Features of significance.....	36
113		530.2.7 Eastern Hemlock Stands.....	36
114		530.2.8 Habitat for Species Identified as Rare, Threatened, Endangered.....	36
115		530.2.9 Rare and Geographically Restricted Natural Communities.....	36
116	530.3	CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES	36
117		530.3.1 Burial Mounds / Cemeteries.....	36
118		530.3.2 Logging Camps.....	37
119		530.3.3 Landmarks.....	37
120	530.4	LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES	37
121		530.4.1 Tyler’s Fork Muskeg.....	37
122		530.4.2 Swamp Creek Cedars.....	38
123		530.4.3 Glacial Lake Duluth Sand Dunes.....	38
124		530.4.4 Remote Water Falls.....	38
125			

126 **500 LAND USE**

127 **500.1 OBJECTIVES**

128 (1) To identify policies and procedures employed to effectively manage, utilize and
129 sustain the resources of the County Forest.

130 (2) To identify regulated management activities, land uses and special resource areas.
131

132 **505 SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES**

133 Silviculture is the practice of controlling forest composition, structure, and growth
134 to maintain and enhance the forest's utility for any purpose. These practices are
135 based on research and general silviculture knowledge of the species being managed.
136 The goal is to encourage vigor within all developmental stages of forest stands,
137 managed in an even aged or uneven aged system. The application of silviculture to a
138 diverse forest needs a unified, systematic approach. The DNR Public Forest Lands
139 Handbook (2460.5) and DNR Silvicultural and Forest Aesthetics Handbook
140 (2431.5) will be used as guidelines for management practices used on the County
141 Forest.
142

143 **505.1 EVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT**

144 A forest stand composed of trees having relatively small differences in age. Typical
145 cutting practices include: clear cutting, shelterwood cutting and seed-tree cutting.
146

147 **505.2 UNEVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT**

148 A forest stand composed of trees that differ markedly in age. The typical cutting
149 practice is selection cutting, where individual trees are removed from the stand.
150 Regeneration is continually occurring after the stand is cut.
151

152 **505.3 TIMBER SALES**

153 Regulated cutting of timber is essential to the goals and objectives of this plan.
154 Timber harvesting will be conducted on an annual basis in an effort to achieve a
155 sustainable harvest level. Harvest areas will be distributed in the forest to
156 accommodate such needs as biodiversity, wildlife, aesthetics, watershed protection
157 and other biological needs. The DNR forest reconnaissance printout will be used as

158 the basis for planning and scheduling harvests (refer to Chapter 340.5). All sales
159 will be established, administered and reported in accordance with the DNR Timber
160 Sale Handbook 2461 (Chapter 28.11(5)(b), Wis.Stats). All sales on the forest are to
161 be advertised for public bidding, with the exception of small sales with an estimated
162 value of \$3000 or less, or sales that would qualify under a salvage provision (s.
163 28.11(6)(c), Wis.Stats). These sales may be sold direct without advertising.

164 165 505.3.1 Field Preparation of Timber Sales

166 The County and the DNR will cooperate to locate, designate and prepare harvest
167 areas for sale. The Forest administrator and DNR liaison forester shall jointly be
168 responsible to see that the field work on sales is accomplished.

169 170 505.3.2 Advertising for Bids

171 After field work is completed and necessary reports prepared for DNR approval, the
172 administrator shall prepare a sale prospectus and make it available to interested
173 loggers. Timber sale advertisements, at a minimum, will be by classified ad in a
174 newspaper having general circulation in the county (s. 28.11(6)(b), Wis. Stats). Ads
175 shall be run once each week for two consecutive weeks, the last being at least one
176 week prior to the bid opening. A longer advance time will be given when feasible.
177 Sealed bid sales will generally be offered in early spring and fall, or as needed.

178 179 505.3.3 Prospectus

180 The following information will be made available to prospective bidders:

- 181 (1) Species to be harvested and estimated volume
- 182 (2) Minimum acceptable bid
- 183 (3) Maps of sale areas
- 184 (4) Special contract provisions
- 185 (5) Procedures for bidding
- 186 (6) Bid forms
- 187 (7) Timber sales bond and advance stumpage schedule

189 505.3.4 Method of Bidding

190 Bids will be reviewed at a meeting of the committee. Bids shall be submitted on
191 Iron County Forest bid forms for each tract bid on. They shall be submitted in a
192 sealed envelope showing the tract number, bidder name, and marked "sealed bid".

193 The bid shall contain:

- 194 (1) The bid price per cord or per thousand board feet for each species offered
195 and the total for each species bid. The total value of the timber sale bid
196 shall be indicated on both scaled and lump sum bids. The total bid value
197 must meet or exceed the advertised sale minimum.
- 198 (2) A minimum of 10% of the bid value of each tract must accompany the
199 bid as a bid bond, payable to Iron County.

200

201 505.3.5 Awarding Sales

202 (1) The high bidder is normally awarded the sale contract; however, the
203 committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and accept the bid
204 offer most advantageous to the county. Grounds for rejecting bids may
205 include without limit:

- 206 (a) Non-compliance with County Forest contract requirements.
207 (b) Delinquent financial obligations.
208 (c) Unsatisfactory past performances.
209 (d) Inability to demonstrate financial or professional capability.

210 Evaluation criteria on timber sales will be price and documented ability to
211 satisfactorily complete the contract. Factors to be assessed may include
212 proposed equipment and operation, references, proof of financial stability,
213 past performance and documented training completed. Iron County
214 requires appropriate training of logging contractors. The award of
215 contract to the successful bidder shall be based upon the bid determined
216 most advantageous to the County.

217 (2) Tie bids may be settled by toss of a coin if both parties are agreeable;
218 otherwise the bids on that tract will be rejected and the sale re-
219 advertised.

220 (3) Sales remaining unsold after being advertised for two bid openings may
221 be sold direct at not less than the appraised value even though their
222 estimated value exceeds \$3,000. (See DNR Timber Sales Handbook No.
223 2461 - Chapter 52).

224 225 505.3.6 Sales Contracts

- 226 (1) Contracts will be prepared with copies provided to the logger and the
227 DNR with the original filed in the administrator's office.
- 228 (2) Contracts are to be signed by the successful bidder within 10 days of the
229 sale or before cutting begins, whichever occurs first, with payment being
230 made according to the County Timber Sale Bond and Advance Stumpage
231 Payment Schedule. Failure to sign the contract within 10 days may result
232 in forfeiture of bid bond.

233 234 505.3.7 Timber Sale Performance Bond

- 235 (1) Surety bonds or an irrevocable letter of credit issued by a bank which is a
236 member of the Federal Reserve System or insured by the Federal Deposit
237 Insurance Corporation may be used in lieu of cash as a performance bond
238 on sales. The letter of credit or surety bond must be in effect for a period
239 of time equal to the term of the contract, plus a sufficient time to allow
240 for possible extension(s) and for closeout of the contract after cutting is
241 completed.
- 242 (2) The bid bond may be transferred to the performance bond.

243 244 505.3.8 Contract Provisions

245 All timber sale contracts will be on the form approved by the committee and all
246 provisions therein shall apply. A copy of the timber sale map will be attached and
247 become a part of the contract.

251 505.3.8(a) Slash Disposal, Landings and Decking

252 The objective is to control conditions that affect the following: fire, insects,
253 disease, aesthetics, regeneration, wetlands, wildlife and public interest. Each
254 timber sale contract will have specific slash disposal instructions and
255 aesthetic safeguards and will include without limit the following:

- 256 (a) All slash must be reduced to a maximum specified height: no trees, tops
257 or limbs shall be leaning or hanging in standing timber.
- 258 (b) No machinery may be operated in lakes or streams.
- 259 (c) No slash may be deposited in lakes or streams pursuant to s. 26.12(6),
260 Wis. Stats.
- 261 (d) No slash, logging debris or machinery operation outside the sale
262 boundary unless approved by the County.
- 263 (e) Landings and decks are not allowed within 100 feet of any public road
264 except by proper authorization from the County.
- 265 (f) Any debris or material not natural to the land shall be properly disposed
266 of as it is generated.
- 267 (g) All slash disposal, road or landing areas, and other woods operations
268 shall be conducted in compliance with state regulations and local
269 shoreland and wetland zoning restrictions.

270 505.3.8(b) Duration and Extension Of Contracts

- 271 (a) All contracts will be issued for not less than six months or more than 2
272 years, unless otherwise stated on advertisement and/or contracts.
273 Contracts will be dated to expire on the anniversary of the sale.
274 Exceptions may be made in cases of extenuating circumstances.
- 275 (b) A one year extension, if deemed necessary by the seller, may be granted
276 at the same stumpage rate as the original contract. Each successive
277 extension will have a progressive 10% increase in stumpage rates.
- 278 (c) The maximum time duration of a timber sale contract, including
279 extensions, shall be 4 years. Extension beyond this period of time shall
280 be considered by the committee only in the event of special justification.
281 Special stumpage rate adjustments may be made.

- 282 (d) If purchasers do not wish to have contracts renewed or extended
283 appropriate penalties may be assessed. As stated in the ICF Timber Sale
284 Contract, “If Purchaser has not fulfilled its obligations and has not been
285 granted an extension, all or a portion of Purchaser’s bond may be
286 forfeited to Seller. Any such forfeiture resulting from a failure of
287 completion or compliance with the terms of this contract shall not
288 preclude legal action by the Seller for damages, specific performance, or
289 other appropriate remedy.”
- 290 (e) The contractor may request a contract release due to severe physical or
291 financial disability. The committee shall determine whether or not a
292 release shall be granted and may withhold all or a portion of the bond
293 deposit for damages.

294
295 505.3.8(c) Contract Violations

296 Field enforcement of timber sale contracts will be the responsibility of the
297 administrator employing the following procedure:

- 298 (a) The administrator, or designee, will attempt to resolve inadvertent or
299 minor violations by verbal contact with the contractor.
- 300 (b) The administrator, or designee, may immediately suspend logging
301 operations when a serious or emergency situation arises.
- 302 (c) The suspension will be followed by written notice to the contractor,
303 stating the nature of the violation and informing them of committee
304 action taken or pending.
- 305 (d) The Committee, in consultation with legal counsel, may consider, but is
306 not limited to the following remedies:
- 307 (1) Charge double stumpage
308 (2) Charge for actual damages
309 (3) Suspend contract
310 (4) Retain all deposits
311 (5) Foreclose on cut forest products on sale
312 (6) Refer to District Attorney for prosecution

- 313 (7) Seek civil damages in addition to the performance bond.
- 314 (e) Suspension of operation will remain in effect until receipt of written
- 315 notice from the county.
- 316 (f) Failure of the contractor to comply with the committee decision may
- 317 result in the contractor becoming a non-qualifying and ineligible bidder in
- 318 the future. At the committee's discretion, the contractor may be banned
- 319 from future purchase of county timber sales for a period of two years. All
- 320 deposits may be retained and forest products on sale areas may be seized
- 321 and sold by the county.
- 322

323 505.3.9 Timber Sale Restrictions

- 324 (1) To minimize resource damage, the types of logging equipment, methods,
- 325 and times of operation used on sale areas will be restricted by the county.
- 326 (2) Special restrictions may be required in accordance with the aesthetic
- 327 policy set forth in Section 520.
- 328 (3) Seasonal and equipment restrictions may be applied to protect roads,
- 329 minimize recreation use conflicts, benefit wildlife management, avoid
- 330 endangered resources concerns, minimize insect and disease problems, or
- 331 to assist in fire protection.
- 332

333 505.3.10 Special Forest Product Contracts

334 Stumpage of fuelwood, Christmas trees, boughs, posts and poles and other special

335 forest products for resale will be handled as a regular timber sale.

336

337 505.3.11 Timber Sale Roads

- 338 (1) The contractor will be responsible for securing legal access to sale areas
- 339 across private or other non-county ownership.
- 340 (2) The contractor will be responsible for securing permission to conduct
- 341 logging activities within town, county or state road rights-of-way (e.g.
- 342 decking, skidding)
- 343 (3) Forestry personnel will approve the lay-out of all roads and make other

344 necessary special provisions within the sale contract.

345 (4) Skidding, decking, or other logging activity is not allowed on County
346 Forest roads, ditches, or streams unless approved by the County Forest
347 administrator. These areas will be kept free from logging debris. County
348 forest access roads will be maintained by the logger and be left in good as
349 original condition at the close of the sale. Roads will be inspected by
350 county personnel to insure minimal resource damage.

351 (5) A timber sale purchaser may request permission to gate a timber sale
352 access road. The administrator may grant a gate permit to prohibit only
353 motorized traffic.

354

355 505.3.12 Supervising Sales

356 Sale inspections will be performed periodically by county and / or state personnel
357 with corresponding notations in the sales record. See Iron County Timber Sale
358 Administration Policy in Chapter 900 (900.x).

359

360 505.3.13 Forest Products Accountability

361 505.3.13(a) Scaling Merchantability

362 (1) Sawlogs will be scaled by the Scribner Decimal C. log rule. A log is
363 defined as:

- 364 • 10” diameter or larger inside bark (d.i.b.) at 8' in length (plus
365 trim) for softwood
- 366 • 10” diameter or larger inside bark (d.i.b.) small end at 8' in
367 length for hardwood
- 368 • Minimum net scale of 50% of the gross scale of the log

369 (2) The standard unit of measure for cordwood is measuring 4' x 4' x 8' of
370 unpeeled wood. Peeled wood will be converted to the standard cord by
371 adding 12.5% for sap-peeled and adding 25% for machine-peeled wood
372 to the gross volume measured. A pulpwood tree contains at least one (1)
373 8' stick, to a minimum top diameter as defined in the contract.

374 (3) DNR Timber Sale Handbook #2461 will be used as a guide in determining

375 the conversion rates for posts, poles, bolts, chips, weight-scaled wood or
376 other types of forest products.

377 505.3.13(b) Utilization Standards

378 Utilization standards will be specified on individual contracts to provide maximum
379 utilization of all merchantable timber and will be based on the scaling standards in
380 505.3.13(a).

381

382 505.3.13(c) Methods of Accountability

383 Wood harvested from the sale area must be accounted for and payment made in
384 accordance with existing policy and procedure. One or more of the following may
385 be used on an individual sale:

386 (1) The ticket system utilizes serialized three-part tickets. One ticket must
387 accompany each load of wood to the mill. Mill scale will be accepted for
388 volume determination. See ICF Timber Sale Contract in Chapter 900 for
389 details.

390 (2) Wood may also be scaled on the landing. This method is generally used for
391 sawlogs. Payment for wood products scaled is normally due within 14 days of
392 billing.

393 (3) Lump sum sales may be utilized and divided into cutting units when
394 practical. Payment for a cutting unit must be received in full before any
395 cutting begins in that unit.

396

397 505.3.14 Special Forest Product Permits

398 (1) A written permit for making fuelwood for personal use must be purchased
399 from the Iron County Forestry Department.

400 (2) A written permit for cutting boughs for personal use will be issued by the
401 Iron County Forestry Department. Bough permit rates will be reviewed and
402 or set by the Forestry Committee on an annual basis.

403 (3) Written permits may be issued for special forest products for community or
404 personal use, with fees established by the Forestry Committee.

405 (4) An annual summary report of cut products sold by permit will be filed with

406 the DNR using Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report (Form 2460–1)

407

408 505.4 NATURAL REGENERATION

409 Where feasible, natural regeneration will be encouraged through the use of silvicultural
410 methods or cultural activities including, but not limited to, clearcuts, shelterwood cuts, strip
411 cuts, scarification, prescribed burning, select cuts and seed tree cuts. These practices can be
412 enhanced by additional treatments, including the cutting of non-merchantable trees following
413 harvest, by scarification before or after cutting for natural seeding, by prescribed burning,
414 and by chemical treatment. These treatments can be used alone or in combination, depending
415 on the needs of the site. The Silvicultural & Aesthetics Hbk. (DNR Hbk. #2431.5) shall be
416 used as a reference in determining timing, techniques and adequacy of both natural and
417 artificial regeneration.

418

419 505.4.1 Removal of Non-Merchantable Residual Trees

420 To meet certain silvicultural objectives, the cutting of non-merchantable residual trees may
421 be required as part of a timber sale contract. This requirement will normally be included in
422 the contract when stand evaluation indicates that the density of non-merchantable trees
423 following harvest is likely to inhibit the growth of desirable shade intolerant tree species.
424 Non-merchantable residual tree removal may be also done by post-sale contractor by County
425 crews if it cannot be done as part of the timber sale contract, and if funding and a labor
426 source are available.

427

428 505.4.2 Prescribed Burning For Natural Regeneration

429 Fire is one of the most natural means available to stimulate the regrowth of early
430 successional species. It should be employed as a management tool when possible and
431 practical. Prescribed burning for purposes such as site preparation, slash removal, or
432 replacement of natural fire ecology will be conducted when conditions allow. DNR Fire
433 Control will be the major source of guidance and direction. See DNR Fire Presuppression
434 Handbook (4320.5).

435

436 505.4.3 Other

437 Site preparation by other means may be considered where natural regeneration will
438 be aided by treatment methods.

439

440 505.5 ARTIFICIAL REGENERATION

441 When natural tree regeneration fails, or when tree species present do not coincide
442 with management objectives for the site, then artificial means shall be employed to
443 establish a more appropriate stand of trees. The establishment of a forest stand
444 through artificial means usually requires some sort of preparation of the site,
445 followed by seeding or planting.

446

447 505.5.1 Mechanical Site Preparation

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

453

454 505.5.2 Chemical Site Preparation

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

467

468
469 505.5.3 Prescribed Burning
470 Prescribed burning for site preparation can be used to reduce logging debris, clear the
471 site, kill or set back unwanted vegetation, and to release nutrients into the soil. DNR
472 Fire Control staff will be the major source of guidance and direction for the use of
473 fire as a tool. See DNR Fire Presuppression Handbook (4320.5).

474
475 505.5.4 Tree Planting / Seeding
476 Both machine and/or hand planting/seeding will be utilized to insure adequate
477 regeneration. The selection of species will be determined according to the specific
478 management objectives and capabilities of each site. It shall be the policy of the
479 committee to maintain existing forest openings and manage them for wildlife habitat
480 rather than to plant trees in them. The majority of planting/seeding will be in
481 harvested areas where natural regeneration is inadequate. Planting/seeding may also
482 be employed to maintain a desirable species distribution on the forest for purposes
483 such as aesthetics, biodiversity, and wildlife.

484
485 505.6 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT.
486 Timber stand improvement will involve release, thinning, and pruning as the primary
487 practices during this plan period. Timber stand improvement includes any practices
488 that increase the health, growth and quality of existing stands of trees. It can include
489 activities such as release of desirable trees from vegetative competition, non-
490 commercial thinnings of dense tree stands and pruning of lower tree branches. Some
491 practices can be done either by hand, mechanically, or chemically. All practices and
492 applications may be employed during this plan period.

493
494 505.6.1 Release
495 Release work, if it cannot be done by commercial timber harvest, will be conducted
496 by either mechanical or chemical means as site or environmental conditions warrant.
497 Release is defined as the removal of competing vegetation from the desire tree
498 species.

499
500
501
502
503
504
505
506
507
508
509
510
511
512
513
514
515
516
517
518
519
520
521
522
523
524
525
526
527
528
529

505.6.2 Non-Commercial Thinning

Most thinning can be accomplished through commercial harvest operations. Non-commercial thinning will be considered if the individual site requirements, funding and/or available labor make it desirable.

505.6.3 Pruning

Pruning will be considered mainly for conifer species and carried out when deemed economically feasible.

510 RECREATION

The County Forest Ordinance and s. 28.11, Wis.Stats. authorize the Iron County Forestry Committee to provide recreational opportunities for the public. This authority is further recognized in the mission statement for the Iron County Forest (Chapter100) which specifically identifies outdoor recreation opportunities. The mission statement also charges the Committee to conduct activities in a manner that prevents or minimizes the degradation of natural resources.

- (1) The Committee may establish and maintain recreation areas and facilities within the County Forest. The Committee has been empowered to establish and enforce rules and regulations for the use of such developments and to establish fees for their use.
- (2) The County Outdoor Recreation Plan, updated approximately every five years, will reflect the public use and interest in the county's recreation facilities and how the county plans to accommodate those uses and interests.
- (3) The Iron County codes and ordinances shall govern the lands designated by the county for park or recreational purposes.
- (4) The county recreation map and the ordinances are appended in Ch. 900.

510.1 RECREATIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS

It is permissible for the Committee to contract with clubs or individuals to provide

530 recreational services for the public. An agreement with a local snowmobile club to
531 assist in grooming and maintaining county snowmobile trail facilities is an example.

532

533 510.2 RECREATIONAL USE PERMITS.

534 (1) Permits or use agreements for use of the County Forest may be issued by the
535 Committee for recreational purposes.

536 (2) No permits for sale of malt or intoxicating beverages will be issued on the
537 County Forest.

538 (3) Other types of special use permits are found in Section 515.

539 (4) Permits will not be issued for cabin sites on the forest.

540 (5) Organized events or special uses, other than informal recreation (see Sec.
541 515) require specific permission from the Committee.

542

543 510.3 ENTRANCE AND USER FEES

544 (1) Fees for camping shall be in accord with fees charged by similar private
545 facilities. Fees shall be subject to change periodically at the discretion of the
546 Committee.

547 (2) Detailed information on park or recreation area use regulations can be found
548 in the Iron County Outdoor Recreation Ordinance (See Chapter 900).

549

550 510.4 EXTENSIVE RECREATIONAL USE OF THE FOREST

551 Extensive (informal) County Forest uses shall include, but not necessarily be limited
552 to, hunting, fishing, trapping, picnicking, berry picking, snowshoeing, biking, hiking,
553 cross-country skiing, photography and nature study. Such uses do not require a
554 permit but must be conducted according to the provisions of County Ordinances.

555

556 510.4.1 Hunting and Trapping

557 The entire county forest is open for regulated hunting and trapping with the exception
558 of designated areas that are developed for high public use, such as Lake of the Falls,
559 Saxon Harbor, Schomberg, and Weber Lake Parks. Temporary hunting stands are
560 permissible but must be removed from the forest by 31 December each year. The use

561 of nails, lag screws, screw steps, or other damaging devices is not permitted. Blinds
562 constructed of natural material are permitted on a seasonal basis. No permanent type
563 structures shall be permitted. Refer to Chapter 900 for the ordinance pertaining to
564 tree stands.

565
566 **510.4.2 Fishing**

567 All lakes and streams within the forest are available for regulated fishing, unless
568 otherwise listed in state and county regulations.

569
570 **510.4.3 Picnicking**

571 Picnicking is allowed throughout the County Forest; however, the user must remove
572 any garbage or debris generated. Violators will be subject to fines for littering.

573
574 **510.4.4 Camping**

575 No permit is required to camp outside of developed campgrounds on the Iron
576 County Forest.

- 577 (1) No littering or site destruction will be tolerated.
578 (2) The Forestry Committee will set all rules.
579 (3) Maximum length of stay is 14 days.
580 (4) Natural vegetation and terrain may not be damaged or altered in any
581 way, except for the construction of an adequate fire ring. Fasteners
582 such as nails, screws or bolts may not be attached to trees.
583 (5) Manufactured materials (lumber, concrete, plastics, etc.) may not be left
584 on the site when it is vacated. No trees or other vegetation, either native
585 or exotic, may be planted on the site.
586 (6) No camping is allowed on boat landings or commonly used areas such
587 as public access points to waterfalls, or rock vistas where it may restrict
588 or obstruct the use of the area by others.

589
590 **510.5 INTENSIVE RECREATION AREAS.**

591 Iron County Forest has sites developed to accommodate a high degree of public use.

592 The Forestry Committee may prohibit other recreation activities that are not
593 compatible with the intent of the developed facilities.

594

595 510.5.1 Campgrounds

596 Designated camping areas are provided on the County Forest. These facilities
597 include:

- 598 1. Lake of the Falls Campground
- 599 2. Weber Lake Campground
- 600 3. Saxon Harbor Campground
- 601 4. Spider Lake (rustic)
- 602 5. Foster Falls (rustic)
- 603 6. Wren Falls (rustic)
- 604 7. Potato Falls (rustic)

605

606 510.5.2 Picnic Areas

607 Picnic areas open to the public include:

- 608 1. Shay's Dam
- 609 2. Lake of the Falls
- 610 3. Schomberg Park
- 611 4. Weber Lake
- 612 5. Saxon Harbor

613

614 510.5.3 Swimming Areas

615 Designated swimming areas include:

- 616 1. Weber Lake
- 617 2. Saxon Harbor

618 NOTE: Lifeguards are not provided at these areas.

619

620 510.5.4 Boat Landings

621 At several locations in the county, on and off the County Forest, areas have been
622 developed for water access. These generally include a parking lot, surfaced approach

623 to the water (boat landing), and appropriate signing. These are provided for public
624 access to waters for recreational purposes. Water access is also addressed in Chapter
625 700 where the landings are listed. These landings are not to be considered boat-
626 mooring sites.

627 628 510.5.5 Waysides

629 Waysides are day use areas and are located at various points throughout the County.
630

631 510.5.6 Shooting Ranges

632 Ranges that allow for public use of rifle, bow, pistol, etc. are permitted on County
633 Forest lands. If the range is operated by an organization other than the county, a
634 written land use agreement, including proof of insurance, will be required. A
635 provision for use by the public will be included in the agreement.
636

637 510.6 MANAGED TRAIL AREAS

638 Whenever possible, multiple uses of the various trail systems are encouraged and are
639 subject to policy review of the Committee. Whenever possible, user conflicts are
640 avoided. However, recreational users will frequently encounter forest management
641 activities instrumental to the existence and future of the Iron County Forest. The trail
642 systems are identified in the Recreation map appended in Chapter 900 and referenced
643 in Chapter 700.

644 645 510.6.1 Motorized Trail Opportunities

646 The Iron County Forest is a multiple use forest. Motorized travel on trails can be a
647 legitimate use of this forest provided that these trails are designed and maintained in
648 a manner that minimizes damage to the environment and reduces user conflict. Trail
649 use and development must be compatible and sustainable with the characteristics of
650 the landscape. It shall be the policy of the Forestry Committee to consider
651 opportunities for the following motorized trail use:

- 652 1) Snowmobiles
- 653 2) All terrain vehicles (ATV's)

- 654 3) Motorcycles
- 655 4) Four wheel drive vehicles

656 Refer to Chapter 700 for further discussion on motorized recreation opportunities on
657 the Iron County Forest.

658
659 **510.6.2 Non-Motorized Trail Opportunities**

660 The Iron County Forest is a multiple-use forest. Non-motorized travel on trails is a
661 legitimate use of this forest. Design and maintenance of these trails may highlight
662 natural features present on the Forest, should minimize damage to the environment
663 and reduce user conflict. Trail use and development must be compatible and
664 sustainable with the characteristics of the landscape. It shall be the policy of the
665 Committee to consider opportunities for the following non-motorized trail use:

- 666 1) Ski trails
- 667 2) Hiking trails
- 668 3) Horse trails
- 669 4) Biking trails
- 670 5) Hunter walking trails
- 671 6) Other trails

672 Refer to Chapter 700 for further discussion on non-motorized recreation
673 opportunities on the Iron County Forest.

674
675 **510.7 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

676 Iron County will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act regulations. In
677 addition, it is the policy of the Committee to provide recreational opportunities for
678 people with disabilities.

679
680 **515 SPECIAL USES**

681 (1) Recognizing the vast potential for a variety of special uses of the County Forest
682 by governmental units, businesses, organizations or individuals, the committee may
683 designate specified areas for special uses. Specific management methods are to be
684 considered on these areas. Uses must be consistent with the intent of the County

685 Forest Law.

686 (2) All requests for specialized uses of any County Forest lands will require a permit
687 authorized by the Committee.

688 (3) A list of existing special use areas is appended in Chapter 900.

689

690 515.1 SAND AND GRAVEL

691 Sand and gravel pits located on the County Forest may be used only by units of
692 government or contractors performing public works. Use of existing pits and the
693 opening of new pits by other than the County Forestry Department will require
694 Committee approval and be authorized by permit only. The condition of such permits
695 may include but not be limited to:

- 696 1) requiring the pit and its access road to be screened from view from any
697 public highway,
- 698 2) severing trees from the stump,
- 699 3) disposition of brush and dirt spoil by leveling or hauling away,
- 700 4) sloping to prevent steep banks, and
- 701 5) filing with the forestry office an annual written report of gravel and sand
702 removed.

703 Other conditions may be set at the discretion of the Committee or County Forest
704 Administrator. The Committee may set fees for materials removed. Other non-
705 metalliferous materials will be dealt with on an individual basis.

706 All active, nonmetallic sites greater than one acre in size, including those on the
707 County Forest, are also subject to the provisions of the Nonmetallic Mining
708 Reclamation Program, Chapter NR 135, Wis. Adm. Code. The County Forestry
709 Department shall work with the local permit coordinator (often county or local
710 zoning office) in obtaining the necessary permits for nonmetallic mining operations.

711

712 Sand and gravel may, under some circumstances, be leased to private contractors for
713 private use. In these situations the land must be withdrawn from the County Forest
714 Law until sand/gravel removal and reclamation of the site is completed. Upon
715 completion of reclamation to the satisfaction of the county and the state, the lands

716 may be reapplied for entry under the County Forest Law.

717

718 **515.2 EXPLORATION, PROSPECTING AND MINING**

719 (1) The committee may investigate all mineral exploration, prospecting and mining
720 requests as they are received.

721 (2) The DNR shall be notified of all requests as they become known in accord with
722 Manual Code 2712.1. (Mineral exploration on County Forests per s.s. 28.11 (3)(i)
723 Wis. Stats.) or other codes which may be subsequently adopted.

724 Public Forest Lands Handbook should be referenced for more detailed procedure.

725

726 **515.3 SANITARY LANDFILLS.**

727 The use of County Forest lands for sanitary landfills will not be allowed unless the
728 lands involved are withdrawn from the County Forest Law.

729

730 **515.4 MILITARY MANEUVERS**

731 Military maneuvers on County Forest lands will be considered under a lease or
732 written land use agreement. Upon receipt of a written request from the military the
733 Committee, other necessary County staff, Military, and D.N.R. representatives will
734 discuss the issue at a public Committee meeting. After the needs have been outlined,
735 the site shall be field checked, D.N.R. input and consistency with the County Forest
736 Law sought, and town officials advised. Depending on the scope of the project, a
737 public hearing may be appropriate. If all aspects and concerns are addressed and
738 agreed to, a legal instrument will be drafted. The matter will then be brought back to
739 a Committee meeting for final input and approval. The Public Forest Lands
740 Handbook #2460.5, Chapter 270 will be used for further direction in this matter.

741

742 **515.5 PUBLIC UTILITIES.**

743 Easements for public utilities will be considered by the Committee. Underground
744 installations will be encouraged. The following main provisions shall be included in
745 any County Board resolution granting permission for construction of any utility
746 transmission line:

- 747 1. Utility may be billed for merchantable forest products and existing timber
748 reproduction.
- 749 2. Utility may be billed for land removed from production due to right-of-way
750 clearing for losses of future income and multiple use benefits.
- 751 3. Land removed for utility operations that is no longer suited “primarily for
752 timber production or, that is no longer suitable for scenic, outdoor recreation,
753 public hunting & fishing, water conservation or multiple use purposes” (s.
754 28.11(4)(c) Wi.Stats) may need to be withdrawn from county forest law
755 designation. The utility shall replace any lands requiring withdrawal from
756 county forest with other lands suitable for county forest entry that are in the
757 forest blocking of the County Forest.
- 758 4. Utility companies will be encouraged to use existing corridors and underground
759 lines to minimize disturbance to the county forest and native plants and
760 animals.
- 761 5. Merchantable timber will be removed in a manner approved by the Committee.
762 Timber cut must be reported to the D.N.R on form 2460-1.
- 763 6. Utility must provide notice of proposed route, including a map of not less
764 than 1 inch /mile scale, 90 days in advance of proposed construction.
- 765 7. Special maintenance, controlled access and signage concerns shall be
766 addressed in any proposal.
- 767 8. An appropriate fee shall be charged for easements.

768
769 **515.6 PRIVATE UTILITY SERVICE LINES**

770 If a landowner cannot gain utility access across other lands, the committee may
771 consider a land use agreement for access across County Forest. Requests will be
772 considered on a case by case basis. These agreements should consider the inclusions
773 mentioned in Section 515 for easements as well as:

- 774 1. The permit is non-transferable
- 775 2. The County retains full ownership of the utility corridor; however it shall
776 not be liable for maintenance, upkeep, or other damages associated with the
777 utility service.

- 778 3. The permittee waives any rights to any declaration of ownership or interest
779 in the utility corridor on County land for administrative costs as a result of
780 this Land Use Agreement – Utility permit. This agreement is granted upon
781 the signature and any fees being received by Iron County.
- 782 4. The fee for such a land use agreement is set at \$0.25 per lineal foot for each
783 utility with a minimum fee of \$25.00.
- 784 5. The standard land use agreement for utility access is included as an exhibit
785 in Chapter 900.
- 786

787 **515.7 CELLULAR COMMUNICATION TOWERS**

788 The siting of cellular communication towers on the Iron County Forest will be
789 considered by the Committee on a limited basis. Requests will be considered on a
790 case by case basis subject to the following conditions:

- 791 1. It must be demonstrated that the site is the most practical location for such a
792 tower.
- 793 2. Land selected for such a tower is no longer suitable for continued entry in the
794 County Forest program. In addition, any accompanying lands needed for
795 tower support wires that inhibit the practice of forestry and are no longer
796 suitable for scenic, outdoor recreation, public hunting & fishing, water
797 conservation or multiple use purposes (s. 28.11(4), Wis.Stats) may also need
798 to be withdrawn from county forest law. Withdrawal is subject to approval
799 by both County Board and DNR. The cellular communication company shall
800 replace any lands requiring withdrawal from county forest with other lands
801 suitable for county forest entry that are in the forest blocking.
- 802 3. Iron County shall be provided use of such tower for an annual fee negotiated
803 between the utility and the county.
- 804 4. Any agreement should also consider the inclusions listed under 515.5 (Items
805 1-7).
- 806

807 **515.8 OTHER**

808 Other types of special uses of the county forest may be considered by the committee.

809 These may include, but are not limited to: research, independent study and scientific
810 areas. Regulations governing these uses will be developed on an individual basis.
811 Examples of these type areas are: the Penokee Range Biological Reserve Area.

812

813 **520 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONES**

814 Aesthetic forest management will be applied to the County Forest. The degree of
815 application of special management will vary and will require the classification of the
816 forest according to the degree and type of public use. The Wisconsin DNR
817 Silvicultural and Forest Aesthetics Handbook No. 2431.5, and the Natural Resources
818 Board Policy on management of State and County Forests contained in Chapter NR
819 1.24 of the Wis. Administrative Code (as adopted in June of 1989) will be used for
820 management prescription guidelines. Subsequent versions of NR1.24 are subject to
821 the approval of the County. Scenic Management Zones are shown on the land use
822 map appended to in Chapter 900.9.

823

824

825 **520.1 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE A**

826 Zone A includes areas where there is intensive public presence because of scenic
827 attraction, or some use of the area that would be enhanced by special timber
828 management practices.

829

830 **520.1.1 Examples – Zone A**

- 831 (1) Park and recreation areas, including access routes.
832 (2) Lakes and rivers that support significant water based recreational activity.
833 (3) Roads with medium to heavy use where the majority of the traffic is
834 unrelated to the forest or is for the specific purpose of enjoying scenery.

835

836 **520.1.2 Boundaries – Zone A**

- 837 1. Park or recreation areas. Zone boundaries may include the area within
838 the reasonable visible horizon as determined from any location within
839 the recreation area. It may also include adjacent areas that receive a

840 considerable amount of use as a result of the recreation area.
841 2. Travel corridors. The boundaries will be a reasonable distance from the
842 traveled part of the zone.

843
844 520.1.3 Management – Zone A
845 Zone A management is primarily for scenic values. This will mainly involve
846 adaptations of normal timber cutting practices and may require additional
847 expenditures.

848
849 520.1.4 Permitted Uses – Zone A
850 1. Timber harvesting and thinning operations may be prohibited during
851 periods of peak public use. All slash may be lopped and/or removed
852 from view.
853 2. Timber stands in this zone will be managed to afford the greatest scenic
854 potential for public enjoyment.
855 3. Borrow pits may be permitted near a road during the time the road is
856 under construction. When any borrow operation is completed the site
857 will be restored pursuant to Chapter NR 135, Wis. Adm. Code and must
858 aesthetically conform to general use of the area. Permanent pits should
859 be screened from view. Gravel / borrow pits located on the county forest
860 may only be used by units of government or contractors performing
861 public works.
862 4. County directional, informational and recreational signs conforming to
863 approved standards are permitted.
864 5. All tree and shrub planting will be spaced at random to prevent an
865 artificial appearance.
866 6. New access roads will be permitted if they join the main road at right
867 angles... All such access roads will be, when possible, curved so that no
868 cleared line of sight will be created from the main road to the exterior
869 boundary of the zone.

870

871 520.2 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE B

872 Zone B includes any area of the forest where the public use is such that no one
873 value can at all times be considered as the most important, but where, because of
874 the intensity and variety of use, aesthetic attractiveness is desirable.

875

876 520.2.1 Examples – Zone B

877 1. Roads with light to medium use where the majority of the traffic is a
878 result of some other use of the forest other than for scenic beauty.

879 2. Lakes or streams that do not have significant value for water-based
880 recreation.

881

882 520.2.2 Boundaries – Zone B

883 The zone boundaries will have a reasonable visual horizon determined at periods
884 of heavy use, from the part of the zone where the use occurs.

885

886 520.2.3 Management – Zone B

887 Zone B Management is for normal multiple use, but applies strict slash disposal
888 requirements for any management operations. With the use of informational
889 signs, management practices may be interpreted to the public.

890

891 520.2.4 Permitted Uses – Zone B

892 All land management activities are permissible but should be exercised with
893 sensitivity to aesthetics. Examples: Timber sales may employ logging and
894 scattering of slash, rehabilitation of roads and landings, erosion control and
895 prevention, and irregular harvest lines to mitigate aesthetic impact.

896

897 520.3 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE C

898 Zone C includes all parts of the forest not contained in Zones A, B or D. Any
899 significant public presence in this zone is likely to occur only as result of a
900 specific use of the forest.

901

902 520.3.1 Examples – Zone C
903 All areas not included in Zone A, B or D. The majority of the forest is normally
904 classified as Zone C.

905
906 520.3.2 Boundaries – Zone C
907 All areas not included in Zone A, B or D.

908
909 520.3.3 Management – Zone C
910 Zone C management is to optimize timber production using sound resource
911 management concepts. Natural opportunities to maintain or enhance diversity or
912 scenic quality should be considered.

913
914 520.3.4 Permitted Uses – Zone C
915 All land management activities consistent with the goals of the forest.

916
917 520.4 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE D
918 Areas designated as special resources.

- 919
920 520.4.1 Examples – Zone D
- 921 (1) Penokee Range Important Bird Area (IBA)
 - 922 (2) Protected Class I and II Rivers
 - 923 (a) Bear River (all)
 - 924 (b) Boomer Creek (all)
 - 925 (c) Flambeau River (segment)
 - 926 (d) Flood Creek (segment)
 - 927 (e) Layman’s Creek (all)
 - 928 (f) Montreal River (segments)
 - 929 (g) Potato River (all)
 - 930 (h) Turtle River (all)
 - 931 (i) Tyler Forks (all in Iron County)

932

933
934
935
936
937
938
939
940
941
942
943
944
945
946
947
948
949
950
951
952
953
954
955
956
957
958
959
960
961
962
963

520.4.2 Management – Zone D

Manage these areas as outlined in Chapter 800 or the individual management Plan.

525 TREATY RIGHTS: GATHERING MISCELLANEOUS FOREST PRODUCTS

Ordinance No. 12-1-6, adopted by the County Board of Supervisors of the County of Iron on July 31, 2006, authorizes Iron County to require permits for gathering miscellaneous forest products on County land by Native American treaty rights participants. The ordinance, Section 12-1-6 of the General Code of Iron County, adopts language of, and complies with, the Federal District Court decision and states as follows:

- (1) Any treaty rights participant interested in gathering firewood, tree bark, maple sap, lodge poles, boughs, marsh hay or other miscellaneous forest products (except fruits, seeds, or berries not enumerated in County ordinances) from County land shall obtain a County gathering permit from the County forestry office. The County shall respond to the gathering permit request no later than 14 days after receipt of the request. The gathering permit shall indicate the location of the material to be gathered, the volume of material to be gathered, and conditions of the gathering of the material necessary for conservation of the timber and miscellaneous forest products on the County land, or for public health or safety.
- (2) The County may not deny a request to gather miscellaneous forest products on county property under this section unless: (a) the gathering is inconsistent with the management plan for the property, (b) the gathering will conflict with the pre-existing rights of a permittee or other person possessing an approval to conduct an activity on the property, including a contractor of the county or, (c) is otherwise inconsistent with conservation or public health or safety. Subchapter IV, Ch.NR13, WI. Adm.Code detail the regulations. Found in Chapter 900 (905.2).

964
965
966
967
968
969
970
971
972
973
974
975
976
977
978
979
980
981
982
983
984
985
986
987
988
989
990
991
992
993
994

530 HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS / AREAS (HCVF) and EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCES

High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) is a term that identifies those areas possessing unique qualities locally, regionally, or nationally. Iron County’s focus in managing these areas will be to maintain or enhance the qualities that make these areas special. In some instances this may involve altering management practices to mitigate impacts and in others it may entail no active management. Management implications associated with these designations are included in section 850 of this Plan. HCVF’s on the Iron County Forest are indentified in the following sections.

530.1 AREAS HIGH IN LOCALLY, REGIONALLY OR NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT BIODIVERSITY VALUES

Iron County manages a variety of property designations including Wisconsin State Natural Area(s) (SNA). The SNA system represents the wealth and variety of Wisconsin’s biological diversity. SNA’s are unique in that they can exist as stand alone properties or be designated within the boundaries of another property type. DNR Endangered Resources staff will work cooperatively with the County Forest by coordinating educational, monitoring, and research activities. Management will protect the unique character of the area.

A gap analysis of the natural community protection by ecological landscape indicates that Iron County has the opportunity to recognize four sites. Four areas are identified as “exceptional” or “unique” resources that will be considered for statewide recognition. Two of these areas have received special ecological or recreational recognition in past county forest 10-year plans. These specially recognized areas are Potato River Falls and the Penokee Range “No Harvest” Zone. The other two areas, Potato River Water Gap/Upson Lake, and Carpenter Creek Hemlocks have their ecological values described below.

995 DNR State Natural Areas staff will work cooperatively with the County Forest by
996 coordinating educational, monitoring, and research activities. Assistance on
997 management projects can provide the county with more resources to accomplish
998 necessary management. Management will protect the unique character of the area.
999 The importance of the Wisconsin State Natural Areas has been recognized on the
1000 County Forest by cooperating with the Department through designating and
1001 managing 1800 acres of the Iron County Forest for four SNA sites.

1002 1003 530.1.1 Penokee Range Biological Reserve Area

1004 This high conservation value forest contains a northern mesic forest of sugar
1005 maple, basswood, yellow birch and occasional hemlock. Patches have old-growth
1006 characteristics, and other places mature hardwoods persist. Numerous forested
1007 seeps occur throughout the site adding diversity. Abundant bedrock features are
1008 prominent throughout the area. With various slopes, from bare exposed rock to
1009 permanently shaded and wet cliffs, rock features abound in the area. Thin soil
1010 bedrock areas have drier soils promoting establishment of pines, oaks, and white
1011 birch. Bare dry and moist cliff faces have plants and animals specialized for living
1012 on the harsh environment. Rare plants, such as Braun's holly fern, white
1013 mandarin, Mingan's moonwort, and long sedge (found 200 miles north of its
1014 known range in the central sands) are present. The site has huge populations of
1015 Black-throated Blue Warbler (highest concentration known in the state), Golden-
1016 winged Warbler, Swainson's Thrush, and is utilized by hawks migrating in the
1017 fall. The core of the area is the no cut zone (see map in Chapter 900). The
1018 remainder of the area is managed primarily for uneven-aged hardwoods, but also
1019 includes the wetlands along Alder Creek. The entire area has been designated an
1020 Important Bird Area (IBA) to recognize the exceptionally high concentrations of
1021 Black-throated Blue Warblers and Golden-winged Warblers. Timber management
1022 will continue outside the core area. A map of the site is found in Chapter 900.

1026 530.1.2 Carpenter Creek Hemlocks

1027 This high conservation value forest features upland mesic cedar forest,
1028 hemlock/hardwoods and a boreal forest ground layer on the steep clay seep banks
1029 of Carpenter Creek. The site has hemlock, white cedar, white spruce, white pine,
1030 balsam fir, and hardwoods as its dominant trees. The ground layer is rich and
1031 diverse with four rare plant species. Especially noteworthy are pockets of
1032 ephemeral ponds in the flat terrace areas and seeps along the steep banks. Bird life
1033 is equally diverse with 17 species of warbler known from the site during the
1034 breeding season with many being most commonly found in boreal Canada.
1035 Management in the hemlock and white cedar areas as well as on the erosion prone
1036 steep clay bank of Carpenter Creek would be passive. The exceptional bird
1037 diversity at this site is promoted in the Great Northern Wisconsin Birding Trail. A
1038 map of the site is found in Chapter 900 (900.12).

1039
1040 530.1.3 Potato River Falls and Potato River Water Gap

1041 This 10 to 20-acre site is an exceptional resource. The 90-foot waterfall is one of
1042 the premier scenic attractions in Wisconsin. Although separated into upper and
1043 lower sections with cascades in between, the falls multiple aspects give it
1044 characteristics not found in singular plunge waterfalls. The site is significant from
1045 geological interpretation standpoint with opportunities to view the red clay till and
1046 Glacial Lake Duluth sediments from the “Ice Age” to viewing Keweenaw
1047 conglomerate, shale and sandstone of the late Precambrian age. Also included in
1048 the features are plants that thrive on wet exposed rocks, such as lichens,
1049 liverworts, and especially ferns. Management considerations are to promote
1050 longer-lived tree species, minimize erosion from volunteer trails by providing
1051 informational signs and focusing activity on developed trails. A map of the site is
1052 found in Chapter 900 (900.12).

1053
1054 530.1.4 Potato River Water Gap/Upson Lake

1055 This area has three units (Upson Lake, the gorge along Potato Creek and
1056 Corrigan’s look-out) when combined recognizes a significant geological feature.

1057 The high conservation value site provides for the interpretation of the Penokee
1058 Range glacial geology (mountain formation, erosion, scouring of cirque lakes by
1059 ice sheets, and the erosion forces of a river in creating watergaps) through the
1060 range. The timber management would not change except that clearcuts to
1061 regenerate aspen would be small. Most of the timber management would be
1062 uneven aged and would be very complementary of the interpretive geological
1063 values. Access to Upson Lane and fishing opportunities will remain the same with
1064 future development limited to existing facilities. Development at Corrigan’s look-
1065 out will be limited to foot travel on a primitive trail. The Potato River in its gorge
1066 with a 75-foot area on both sides could interpret the watergap close up. This site
1067 is primarily a geology interpretation site, although rare plants occur in the river
1068 gorge and on the bare rock outcrop. A map of the site is found in Chapter 900
1069 (900.12).

1070

1071 530.1.5 Species Concentration Areas

1072 There are no specific examples of Species Concentration Area located within the
1073 Iron County Forest at this time; although the Potato River may qualify for Wood
1074 Turtles.

1075

1076 530.2 RARE, THREATENED, OR ENDANGERED ECOSYSTEMS

1077 As these ecosystems are recognized on the ground, they will be documented by
1078 including them into the Iron County Forest GIS data base.

1079

1080 530.2.1 Relic Old Growth Stands

1081 Due to timber harvesting in the early 1900’s and the establishment of mining in
1082 the Penokee Range, relic old growth stands would be rare or non-existent on the
1083 Iron County Forest.

1084

1085 530.2.2 Old Growth

1086 As a result of limited accessibility and protection of rare, threatened, and
1087 endangered plant and animal species, the Penokee Range Biological Reserve Area

1088 will continue to succeed towards the characteristics of old growth.

1089

1090 530.2.3 Savannas (including oak openings & oak barrens)

1091 Potential exists in the northwest area of the Iron County Forest.

1092

1093 530.2.4 Natural Origin Pine Relics

1094 Some large white pine may be scattered across the Iron County Forest.

1095

1096 530.2.5 Pine Barrens

1097 Potential exists in the northwest area of the Iron County Forest.

1098

1099 530.2.6 Geological Features of Significance

1100 Examples found on the Iron County Forest include: gorges, dells, drumlins,
1101 boulder trains, waterfalls, and windgaps.

1102

1103 530.2.7 Eastern Hemlock Stands

1104 These stands are scattered across the Iron County Forest from North to South and
1105 East to West and documented as a timber type in the RAVEN program.

1106

1107 530.2.8 Habitat for Species Identified as Rare, Threatened, Endangered, or
1108 Greatest Conservation Need

1109 Other important bird areas may be found on the Iron County Forest as more
1110 surveys are completed.

1111

1112 530.2.9 Rare & Geographically Restricted Natural Communities

1113 May include mesic cedar forest, boreal rich fen, shore fen, coastal plain marsh,
1114 forested seeps, bedrock glade, clay seepage bluff.

1115

1116 530.3 CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES

1117 It is the policy of Iron County to manage culturally significant sites to enhance and
1118 protect their individual exceptional features. A review of the State Historical

1119 Society database will be conducted for all proposed timber sale areas.

1120

1121 530.3.1 Burial Mounds / Cemeteries

1122 No known sites in Iron County. If potential sites are discovered, Iron County
1123 Forest will consult with the DNR and/or the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

1124

1125 530.3.2 Logging camps

1126 Numerous abandoned logging camps exist on the Iron County Forest. For
1127 information of the sites may be obtained from the Iron County Historical Society.

1128

1129 530.3.3 Landmarks

1130 No monumented landmarks exist on the Iron County Forest. Locations of locally
1131 known areas such as scenic vistas, the Continental Divide, Wisconsin/Michigan
1132 stateline intersection, Radar Hill, B-47 crash sites, may be obtained from the Iron
1133 County Historical Society or the Hurley and Mercer Chambers of Commerce.

1134

1135 530.4 LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES

1136 In addition to the regionally important areas listed above, Iron County harbors
1137 many other important area for maintain locally important locations for biological
1138 diversity. It is the policy of Iron County to manage these type resources to enhance
1139 and protect their individual exceptional features. A review of the State Historical
1140 Society database will be conducted on all timber sales.

1141

1142 530.4.1 Tyler's Fork Muskeg

1143 This high conservation value forest contains a large acidic muskeg of mature
1144 black spruce forest progressing as the soil becomes more wet to a scattered black
1145 spruce/wire grass sedge muskeg. Eventually a sphagnum lawn community
1146 emerges around a bog lake at the center. Species of conservation concern are the
1147 freija fritillary, bog copper, and round-leaved orchid. Management will be limited
1148 to the periphery and any management will employ BMP's for water quality.

1149

1150
1151
1152
1153
1154
1155
1156
1157
1158
1159
1160
1161
1162
1163
1164
1165
1166
1167
1168
1169
1170
1171
1172
1173
1174
1175

530.4.2 Swamp Creek Cedars

This small high conservation value forest contains a relatively undisturbed cedar swamp with some old-growth present. Open sphagnum understory was noted. A potential exists for calypso orchid. Future investigations should look for this plant. Management would be minimal until future inventory would provide better data for management recommendations.

530.4.3 Glacial Lake Duluth Sand Dunes

In the western part of the county forest lying north of Hwy 2 is a significant geological feature. A series of sand dunes formed when the waters of Glacial Lake Duluth were at an elevation of 1,100 feet. The former beach and sand dune landscape is still evident northwest of Cedar. Recognition of the sand dune does not change any timber management activities. Restrictions may be placed on new road construction and removal of dune sand.

530.4.4 Remote Waterfalls

Iron County has numerous waterfalls. Most are promoted as tourist stops. The county has a unique blend of amenities that go along with the experience of waterfall viewing with some areas developed, some areas easily accessible, and some areas remote with a wild area experience associated with the waterfalls. Five waterfalls on Iron County Forest (Wren, Foster, Rouse, Little Balsam, and Spring Camp) promote the wild area experience. Access is via primitive roads or hiking overland. Timber management would focus on maintaining the aesthetic qualities of a wild area experience near the waterfalls. Primitive and rustic access will be maintained.