

IRON COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN
TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 2000 – PLANNING, REPORTS, BUDGET

<u>Section</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page</u>
2000	NEEDS OBJECTIVE AND FORMAT	2000-2
2005	DETAILED ANNUAL NEEDS FOR TEN YEARS.....	2000-2
2010	SUMMARY OF FIFTEEN-YEAR NEEDS	2000-2
2015	WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE & POLICY.....	2000-12
2020	ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET.....	2000-12
2025	ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORTS OBJECTIVE & POLICY.....	2000-13
2030	ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORTS.....	2000-13
2035	PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS.....	2000-14
	2035.1 TIMBER SALES	2000-14
	2035.1.1 Timber	2000-14
	2035.1.2 Non-timber Forest products	2000-15
	2035.2 REFORESTATION	2000-16
	2035.3 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT	2000-16
	2035.4 RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS	2000-16
	2035.5 WILDLIFE PROJECTS	2000-17
2040	MONITORING.....	2000-18
	2040.1 FOREST TYPES.....	2000-18
	2040.2 HARVESTING.....	2000-21
	2040.3 FLORA / FAUNA.....	2000-24
	2040.4 RECREATION.....	2000-25
	2040.5 HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS.....	2000-25
	2040.6 ROADS AND ACCESS.....	2000-26
	2040.7 OTHER.....	2000-26

2000 NEEDS OBJECTIVE AND FORMAT

Objectives: To provide guidelines which define the optimum level of activities that should be undertaken to achieve full potential benefits from the forest.

Format and Policy: Needs for the county forest shall be listed without regard to budgetary constraints or other limitations. This list shall identify the forest potential in terms of public benefits, investments or opportunities, and financial returns. Silvicultural needs of the county forest are identified in the Forest Compartment Reconnaissance printout. The DNR Public Lands Handbook describes procedures for use of this information. Other needs shall be determined by the Committee and the forest administrator, with technical assistance from the DNR and other interested agencies or individuals qualified to provide such assistance.

2005 DETAILED ANNUAL NEEDS FOR FIFTEEN YEARS

Annual silvicultural needs are identified in the Forest Compartment Reconnaissance printout. The printout, referenced in the plan, is available in the County Forest administrator's office. Printout listings include timber harvests, tree planting, and other silvicultural activities. Other unanticipated needs will be addressed in accordance with procedures outlined in this plan. These items will be identified, and plans made for implementation, as part of the annual budget work plan prepared by the administrator and Committee. Annual work plans are approved by the County Board and forwarded to the DNR as required by statute (s. 28.11(5)(b) and s.28.11(5m)(b), Wis. Stats.

2010 SUMMARY OF NEEDS

A schedule giving a summary of silvicultural needs and other needs for the period covered by this plan, appear as an inclusion in this chapter.

IRON COUNTY FOREST SILVICULTURAL NEEDS

<u>Forest</u>			<u>Forest</u>			<u>Forest</u>		
<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>
2021	A	899	2022	A	881	2023	A	892
2021	BW	7	2022	FB	33	2023	C	44
2021	C	300	2022	FS	144	2023	FS	70
2021	FB	10	2022	MR	302	2023	MR	68
2021	FS	115	2022	NH	2,943	2023	NH	2,945
2021	MR	39	2022	PR	83	2023	SB	17
2021	NH	2,909	2022	PW	55	2023	SH	86
2021	PR	36	2022	SH	142	2023	SW	21
2021	PW	27	2022	SW	66	2023	T	66
2021	SH	74						
Total		4,416	Total		4,649	Total		4,209

<u>Forest</u>			<u>Forest</u>			<u>Forest</u>		
<u>Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>	
2024	A	966	2025	A	905	2026	A	891
2024	C	7	2025	C	20	2026	C	63
2024	FS	68	2025	MR	39	2026	FS	148
2024	MR	43	2025	NH	2,940	2026	H	2
2024	NH	2,942	2025	PR	127	2026	MR	38
2024	PR	131	2025	SB	74	2026	NH	2,907
2024	PW	36	2025	SC	25	2026	PR	158
2024	SH	61	2025	SH	98	2026	SB	154
2024	T	4	2025	SW	8	2026	SC	33
			2025	T	294	2026	SH	42
						2026	SW	12
Total		4,258	Total		4,530	Total		4,448

Chapter 2000

<u>Year</u>	<u>Forest Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Forest Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Forest Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>
2027	A	990	2028	A	948	2029	A	912
2027	C	69	2028	C	30	2029	MR	83
2027	FS	38	2028	FB	129	2029	NH	2,941
2027	MR	59	2028	MR	156	2029	PR	97
2027	NH	2,959	2028	NH	2,923	2029	SB	7
2027	PR	186	2028	PR	148	2029	SC	7
2027	PW	52	2028	PW	4	2029	SH	114
2027	SC	85	2028	SB	79	2029	T	124
2027	SH	108	2028	SC	123			
			2028	SH	101			
			2028	SW	19			
			2028	T	77			
Total		4,546	Total		4,737	Total		4,285

<u>Year</u>	<u>Forest Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Forest Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Forest Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>
2030	A	932	2031	A	914	2032	A	878
2030	C	34	2031	C	44	2032	H	42
2030	FS	202	2031	FB	33	2032	MR	81
2030	MR	39	2031	MR	68	2032	NH	2,885
2030	NH	3,041	2031	NH	2,901	2032	PR	20
2030	O	87	2031	PW	117	2032	SB	35
2030	PR	248	2031	SB	27	2032	SC	44
2030	SB	81	2031	SC	26	2032	SH	36
2030	SC	105	2031	SH	72	2032	T	49
2030	SH	61						
2030	SW	32						
Total		4,862	Total		4,202	Total		4,070

<u>Forest</u>			<u>Forest</u>			<u>Forest</u>		
<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>
2033	A	887	2033	A	890	2034	A	887
2033	MR	54	2033	FB	43	2034	FS	31
2033	NH	2,838	2033	MR	57	2034	MR	46
2033	O	32	2033	NH	2899	2034	NH	2867
2033	PW	38	2033	O	44	2034	PR	42
2033	SB	12	2033	PR	57	2034	SB	14
2033	SH	30	2033	SB	27	2034	SH	26
2033	T	16	2033	SH	51			
			2033	T	11			
Total		3,907	Total		4,079	Total		3,913

<u>Forest</u>		
<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>
2035	A	895
2035	FS	26
2035	MR	48
2035	NH	2899
2035	PR	36
2035	SB	12
2035	SH	30
Total		3,946

Red pine stands that will be reaching rotation age will need to be replanted using primarily artificial regeneration. This work includes site prep, planting, and monitoring establishment. There will be 689 acres of red pine reaching 90 years or older during this planning period. Plantings will need to be scheduled the most economically way possible to minimize planting costs. Average planting acres should be approximately 45 acres per year.

40

EQUIPMENT NEEDS**2021 - 2025**

5 - 1/2 Ton Pickups	ATV
3/4 Ton Pickup	Brush Mower
4 - Laptop Computers	Fecon Mower / Skidsteer
Excavator	7K# Equipment Trailer
10' Snow Drag	Utility Trailer
Dumptruck (Used)	GPS Equipment
Office management Software	

2026 - 2030

3/4 Ton Pickup	UTV / Gator
1 Ton Pickup	ATV
4 - 1/2 Ton Pickups	Snowmobile
4 - Ipad / Tablets	Grader (Used)
4 - Laptop Computers	Office Flooring
Copy Machine	Ski Trail Groomer
End Loader	Bulldozer

2031 - 2035

5 - 1/2 Ton Pickups	Dumptruck (New)
4 - Laptop Computers	2 - ATV's
Back Hoe	Tractor

41

42

43

ROAD CONSTRUCTION / MAINTANENCE NEEDS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Project</u>
2021	General Road Maintenance
	Complete Crawford & Crawford Pit Road Rehab
	Crush 5000 yards gravel

Chapter 2000

2022	General Road Maintenance
	Rehab Norman Creek Road
	Crush 5000 yards gravel
2023	General Road Maintenance
	Crush 5000 yards gravel
	Rehab Apple Creek Road
	Gravel Wren Falls Road
2024	General Road Maintenance
	Crush 5000 yards gravel
	Rehab Obadash Lake Road
2025	General Road Maintenance
	Crush 5000 yards gravel
	Rehab Nasi Camp & Shirley Lake Road
2026	General Road Maintenance
	Crush 5000 yards gravel
	Redeck Bull Gus Creek bridge
	Rehab Bull Gus Road
2027	General Road Maintenance
	Crush 5000 yards gravel
	Redeck Montreal River south bridge
	Rehab Hogsback Road - South
2028	General Road Maintenance
	Crush 5000 yards gravel
	Redeck Montreal River north bridge
	Rehab Hogsback Road - North
2029	General Road Maintenance
	Crush 5000 yards gravel
	Redeck Turntable Creek bridge
	Rehab Snake Track Road
2030	General Road Maintenance

	Crush 5000 yards gravel
	Redeck Boomer Creek bridge
	Rehab Boomer Creek Road
2031	General Road Maintenance
	Crush 5000 yards gravel
	Rehab Lake One Road
2032	General Road Maintenance
	Crush 5000 yards gravel
	Rehab Game Management & Roddis Road
2033	General Road Maintenance
	Crush 5000 yards gravel
	Rehab Crawford & Crawford Pit Road
2034	General Road Maintenance
	Crush 5000 yards gravel
	Redeck Augustine Creek bridge
	Rehab Augustine Creek Road
2035	General Road Maintenance
	Crush 5000 yards gravel

44

45

46

RECREATION NEEDS

2021	Seasonal management and maintenance - ICF Campgrounds/Parks Routine maintenance on ICF motorized & non-motorized trails Grant funded motorized trail or bridge rehab project Reconstruct pavilion at Weber Lake
2022	Seasonal management and maintenance - ICF Campgrounds/Parks Routine maintenance on ICF motorized & non-motorized trails Evaluate possibility of concessionaire for Saxon Harbor Marina & Campground

	Grant funded motorized trail or bridge rehab project
	Reconstruct pavilion at Lake of the Falls Park
	Locate new motorized trail route west of Hwy 51 north of County G
2023	Seasonal management and maintenance - ICF Campgrounds/Parks
	Routine maintenance on ICF motorized & non-motorized trails
	Grant funded motorized trail or bridge rehab project
	Expand Lake of the Falls Campground
	Construct bridges on Schomberg Snowshoe trails
2024	Seasonal management and maintenance - ICF Campgrounds/Parks
	Routine maintenance on ICF motorized & non-motorized trails
	Grant funded motorized trail or bridge rehab project
	Evaluate Gile Flowage Campground options
	Evaluate Upson Lake Camping options
	Reconstruct pavilion and stairways at Potato River Falls
2025	Seasonal management and maintenance - ICF Campgrounds/Parks
	Routine maintenance on ICF motorized & non-motorized trails
	Update/Rewrite ICF Recreation Plan 2025 - 2030
	Grant funded motorized trail or bridge rehab project
	Develop snowmobile trail to Mellen along new pipeline route
	Work with North Country Trail Association to bridge Parker Creek at Saxon Harbor
2026	Seasonal management and maintenance - ICF Campgrounds/Parks
	Routine maintenance on ICF motorized & non-motorized trails
	Grant funded motorized trail or bridge rehab project
	Expand motorized trail options to Ashland County
	Construct new north loop at Uller trail.
2027	Seasonal management and maintenance - ICF Campgrounds/Parks

	Routine maintenance on ICF motorized & non-motorized trails
	Grant funded motorized trail or bridge rehab project
	Replace Fisher Lake boat launch
2028	Seasonal management and maintenance - ICF Campgrounds/Parks
	Routine maintenance on ICF motorized & non-motorized trails
	Grant funded motorized trail or bridge rehab project
	Expand rustic camping east of Saxon Harbor
2029	Seasonal management and maintenance - ICF Campgrounds/Parks
	Routine maintenance on ICF motorized & non-motorized trails
	Grant funded motorized trail or bridge rehab project
	Expand camping options at Potato River Falls
2030	Seasonal management and maintenance - ICF Campgrounds/Parks
	Routine maintenance on ICF motorized & non-motorized trails
	Update/Rewrite ICF Recreation Plan 2030 - 2035
	Grant funded motorized trail or bridge rehab project
	Replace Silver Street bridge
2031	Seasonal management and maintenance - ICF Campgrounds/Parks
	Routine maintenance on ICF motorized & non-motorized trails
	Grant funded motorized trail or bridge rehab project
	Expand camping options at Upson Lake
2032	Seasonal management and maintenance - ICF Campgrounds/Parks
	Routine maintenance on ICF motorized & non-motorized trails
	Grant funded motorized trail or bridge rehab project
2033	Seasonal management and maintenance - ICF Campgrounds/Parks
	Routine maintenance on ICF motorized & non-motorized trails
	Grant funded motorized trail or bridge rehab project

2034	Seasonal management and maintenance - ICF Campgrounds/Parks
	Routine maintenance on ICF motorized & non-motorized trails
	Grant funded motorized trail or bridge rehab project
2035	Seasonal management and maintenance - ICF Campgrounds/Parks
	Routine maintenance on ICF motorized & non-motorized trails
	Grant funded motorized trail or bridge rehab project

LAND ACQUISITION NEEDS

Iron County is not actively pursuing the addition of new lands to the County Forest. However, the acquisition of the property around the Gile Flowage, owned by Xcel Energy would be a priority acquisition if available. Other acquisitions would be strategic to providing access to large blocks of County Forest, would provide blocking of ownership, or would allow for continued use for recreation programs.

PERSONNEL NEEDS

Currently, the Iron County Forestry & Parks Department is fully staffed. 3 full-time Foresters, 3 Recreation / Road Maintenance staff (2 full-time, 1 60% time), an Office Manager / Trail Coordinator, and the Forest Administrator complete the staffing. Limited Term Employees (LTE's) account for campground caretaking, marina attendants, and general laborer. With the continued increase in recreation use of the County Forest additional LTE's will need to be hired to cover increasing recreation demands, especially during the summer months.

An evaluation of the operation of the Saxon Harbor Marina & Campground will need to be completed after the 2022 season. This evaluation will help determine if the County's interest is best served by having a concessionaire operate the marina and campground facility. This decision will help better define the number of LTE's that are required. Currently, the facility operates with 3 LTE's with an additional 1 expected to be added in 2021.

If the Saxon Harbor facility operation remains with Iron County Forestry & Parks after the evaluation in 2022, consideration should be given to the creation of a Recreation Coordinator position. This

position could oversee the day-to-day operation of the recreation program, act as trail coordinator, and assist in grant writing for the recreation programs. A new position would help alleviate the duties required of the Forest Administrator and allow more time to be spent on forest management duties, forest certification, and Best Management Practices needed on the County Forest.

Current staff members are all expected to remain in their positions for most of this planning period, barring departure. However, the years 2032 – 2034 of this plan could see the retirements of a Forester, a Recreation Tech, Office Manager / Trail Coordinator, and Forest Administrator. These positions would all need to be replaced to maintain necessary levels of workforce.

Note: The “Needs” schedule is put together for planning purposes. The best available information has been used in developing the schedule. It is not intended to be followed without modification. Forests are dynamic and managers must be adaptive to change. Funding and staffing shortfalls may also impact the ability of the Iron County Forestry Department to fulfill identified needs. Refer to Chapter 2020 – Annual Work Plan and Budget, for reference on progress towards the identified needs in this chapter.

2015 WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE AND POLICY

OBJECTIVE

To develop an annual work plan and budget that will satisfy the needs specified in Chapter 2010 to the greatest extent feasible, consistent with program priorities established in the Mission Statement.

POLICY

The County Forest program will sustain a level of operation that considers the needs of the forest and the public in accordance with the goals identified in Chapter 100.

2020 ANNUAL WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

Each year an Annual Work Plan and Budget shall be prepared by the forest administrator with assistance from the Committee and the DNR liaison forester. This plan shall be based upon the detailed annual needs contained in Section 1100 of the Plan. Annual work plans are

approved by the County Board and forwarded to the DNR as required by Wisconsin statutes s. 28.11(5)(b) and s.28.11(5m)(b). Following County Board approval, a copy is provided to official plan-holders of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan for inclusion as an amendment in this chapter.

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORTS OBJECTIVE AND POLICY

OBJECTIVE

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

POLICY

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

2030 ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORTS

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

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

1. Timber sale accomplishments including gross and net sale receipts and harvest goals achieved.
2. Timber stand improvements accomplishments.
3. Recreation development and maintenance accomplishments including recreation revenues and expenses.
4. Wildlife management accomplishments including revenues and expenses.
5. Fisheries management accomplishments including revenues and expenses.
6. Other accomplishments identified as “needs” in Chapter 1000.

2035 PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**2035.1 TIMBER SALES****2035.1.1 Timber****IRON COUNTY FOREST TIMBER MANAGEMENT**

			Harvested	Harvested	Total Cord	
	# of Sales	Sold	Sawtimber	Pulpwood	Equivalents	Harvested
Year	Sold	Acres	MBF	Cords	Harvested	Sales Value
1995	47	3,446	1,773.78	43,312.66	47,214.98	\$620,668.53
1996	44	3,018	837.40	52,221.53	54,063.81	\$581,705.89
1997	70	4,228	1,770.19	61,020.26	64,914.68	\$871,328.54
1998	38	2,593	919.74	41,696.70	43,720.13	\$757,829.33
1999	38	2,274	1,110.55	28,259.56	30,702.77	\$767,103.61
2000	38	3,016	1,038.73	22,429.21	24,714.42	\$620,841.24
2001	27	1,670	630.87	16,717.62	18,105.53	\$447,100.68
2002	26	1,750	649.47	17,495.25	18,924.08	\$451,527.42
2003	24	1,704	942.89	22,937.87	25,012.23	\$773,376.78
2004	28	2,240	1,405.31	27,654.00	30,745.68	\$1,114,129.20
2005	25	1,585	711.07	16,582.35	18,146.70	\$603,513.48
2006	30	1,817	798.90	25,885.08	27,642.66	\$1,175,165.69
2007	49	3,585	572.31	32,810.86	34,069.94	\$1,191,697.97
2008	43	3,767	685.29	46,198.45	47,706.09	\$1,612,175.92
2009	40	4,035	535.25	48,446.92	49,624.47	\$1,574,449.92
2010	33	3,575	834.58	68,888.28	70,724.36	\$2,434,671.62
2011	39	4,165	532.75	53,358.29	54,530.34	\$1,962,372.25
2012	51	4,764	743.43	44,980.78	46,616.33	\$1,795,830.10
2013	44	4,314	983.87	58,684.22	60,848.73	\$2,285,995.86
2014	45	4,320	998.78	70,651.22	72,848.54	\$2,671,538.84
2015	41	4,201	976.06	67,764.79	69,912.12	\$3,025,069.18

Chapter 2000

2016	31	2,903	1,275.93	69,064.17	71,871.22	\$3,392,844.13
2017	27	3,093	1,171.33	56,207.14	58,784.07	\$2,573,935.49
2018	27	2,859	1,416.11	49,834.61	52,950.05	\$2,181,401.20
2019	34	3,057	1,338.53	50,049.43	52,994.20	\$2,124,936.32
2020	25	2,712	xxxx	xxxx	Xxxx	\$1,984,786.01

138

139

140

2035.1.2 Non-timber forest products

Christmas

Year	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
2006	75	41	103
2007	65	39	111
2008	78	42	147
2009	68	34	174
2010	55	49	129
2011	50	38	138
2012	53	35	114
2013	44	33	130
2014	25	32	141
2015	31	32	116
2016	35	36	77
2017	33	38	77

2000-15

2018	28	43	64
2019	32	30	58
2020	Xx	Xx	xx

2035.2 REFORESTATION

There has been no artificial reforestation completed during the previous planning cycle. In 2002 (12ac.) and 2004 (20 ac.) there were white pine under-plantings. These were largely unsuccessful due to competition from existing species such as aspen and northern hardwood species. During this planning cycle artificial plantings will need to be completed as red pine stands, planted during the 1940's and 1950's reach rotation age.

2035.3 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

During the last planning cycle very little, if any, acres were treated for timber stand improvement. Timber stand improvements are typically a treatment option in even age timber types such as oaks or pines. With the large percentage of County Forest acres being northern hardwoods or aspen Iron County typically does not have timber stand improvement treatments.

2035.4 RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

During the previous planning cycle there were a number of recreational developments that occurred on the Iron County Forest. The Saxon Harbor Expansion was completed in 2006, Schomberg Park Campground was constructed in 2010, a shower / bathroom facility was added to Lake of the Falls Park in 2015, Saxon Harbor Marina and Campground were rebuilt after the flood in 2016, and a bathroom / shower building was built at Weber Lake Park in 2020.

ATV trails were improved significantly over the previous planning period. Many sections were reconstructed, graveled, and additional segments added to the trail

system. The snowmobile trail system also benefitted from many of these projects as they are dual use trails.

The Uller cross country ski trails were expanded in 2017 & 2018 with the addition of 3 new loops originating at Weber Lake and a new warming cabin was constructed in 2020.

2035.5 WILDLIFE PROJECTS

Annual and ongoing activities are described in Chapter 825.3. In addition, the Woods & Waters Program operated by the Iron County Land & Water Conservation Department has been ongoing for more than 20 years. The Woods & Waters Program is ran with the cooperation of the local Iron County school districts and typically has around 20 – 25 students annually. This project tracks American Marten, along with their associated prey species and predators, throughout the County Forest.

As part of continued wildlife management there are over 500 game openings that are mowed and maintained on a 4 – 5-year rotation in coordination with the local WDNR Wildlife Biologist. These openings also are incorporated into our Potato River Grouse Management Area which was constructed in 2011. This management area has hunter walking trails that are mowed annually, and the game openings mowed more frequently to support grouse hunting and management.

In 2019 & 2020 Iron County received grant funding to support an LTE for inventorying and performing needed maintenance on the game openings across the County Forest.

2040 MONITORING**2040.1 FOREST TYPES**

The information provided in the table below shows the Forest cover type composition from the original County Forest designation (estimated), 2005, 2020, and projected acreage change for this planning period.

Iron County Forest Composition

Forest Type	Original Acres	Original %		2005 Acres	2005%		2020 Acres	2020%		Proposed Acres	Proposed %
Aspen	38,354	41.70%		40,053	50.60%		41,885	27.79%		42,205	28.00%
Red Maple	0	0.00%		956	0.00%		3365	2.23%		3865	2.56%
W. Birch	1198	2.10%		614	1.60%		222	0.15%		192	0.13%
Balsam*	0			0			652	0.43%		2880	1.91%
Cedar*	4091	0.30%		6909	0.90%		9993	6.63%		12768	8.47%
Fir-Spruce	17253	3.50%		6248	1.60%		3201	2.12%		0	0.00%
Hemlock	0			0			746	0.49%		830	0.55%
N. Hdwd.	60485	9.30%		64339	10.10%		62961	41.77%		62399	41.40%
Oak	711	5.60%		717	6.20%		732	0.49%		740	0.49%
Hemlock / Hardwoods**	726	7.90%		1043	4.70%		0	0.00%		0	0.00%
Jack pine	865	7.40%		227	4.90%		168	0.11%		150	0.10%
Red pine	1216	4.30%		1700	4.60%		1786	1.18%		1800	1.19%
White pine	0	0.00%		370	0.70%		678	0.45%		675	0.45%
B. Spruce*	3367	2.50%		3544	2.10%		6324	4.20%		8924	5.92%
Sw.. Conifer	13076	2.80%		14448	2.30%		7346	4.87%		0	0.00%
Sw. Hdwd.	7647	0.60%		8318	0.60%		8029	5.33%		7800	5.17%
White Spruce*	0			0			440	0.29%		700	0.46%
Tamarack*	1154	0.10%		1233	0.10%		2210	1.47%		4810	3.19%
Total Forested	150,143	88.10%		150,719	91.00%		150,738	100.00%		150,738	100.00%
Forest Type	Original Acres	Original %		2005 Acres	2005%		2020 Acres	2020%		Proposed Acres	Proposed %
Upl. Grass	185	4.30%		211	2.50%		25	0.12%		345	1.60%
Bracken Grasslands							16	0.07%		256	1.19%
Cool Season Grass							298	1.38%		1283	5.95%

Chapter 2000

Developed Use							32	0.15%		41	0.19%
Emergent Wetlands							467	2.17%		2067	9.58%
Wet Prairie							19	0.09%		50	0.23%
Sedge Meadow							8	0.04%		50	0.23%
Campground							116	0.54%		116	0.54%
Herb. Veg.	202	0.70%		347	0.50%		137	0.64%		0	0.00%
Low shrub	77	0.10%		56	0.10%		0	0.00%		0	0.00%
Marsh	5380	2.60%		2039	0.90%		568	2.63%		568	2.63%
Muskeg - Bog							2537	11.76%		2537	11.76%
Snowmobile & or Horse Trail							9	0.04%		0	0.00%
Emergent Vegetation							1102	5.11%		3102	14.38%
Nonc..Grass	0	0.00%		805	0.20%		3676	17.05%		0	0.00%
Nonc. Veg.	0	0.00%		529	0.10%		0	0.00%		0	0.00%
Low. brush	1398	3.40%		1171	2.90%		1404	6.51%		0	0.00%
Alder	10463	0.50%		11645	0.50%		7892	36.60%		8089	37.51%
Willow	0	0.00%		192	0.00%		0	0.00%		0	0.00%
Minor Lake	0	0.00%		652	0.50%		454	2.11%		454	2.11%
Minor stream	0	0.00%		6	0.00%		200	0.93%		200	0.93%
Water							80	0.37%		80	0.37%
R-O-W	0	0.00%		2139	0.70%		2044	9.48%		2044	9.48%
Upland brush	608	0.20%		546	0.20%		197	0.91%		0	0.00%
Recreational							1	0.00%		0	0.00%
Rock outcrop	0	0.00%		1282	0.00%		283	1.31%		283	1.31%
Total non-forest	18403	11.90%		21620	9.00%		21565	100.00%		21565	100.00%
Total Property	168,546	100.00%		172,339	100.00%		172,303	100.00%		172,303	100.00%

The table above shows no **significant** change in Iron County Forest timber types over the past 30 years. The primary changes over the current planning period are to the Swamp Conifer and Fir-Spruce forested types. The generalization of these cover types was considered insufficient data during the previous planning period by WDNR guidance. Efforts have been made to re-type these stands with true species data to allow for better management decision-making. The Swamp Conifer and Fir-Spruce types are typically

being divided between balsam, black spruce, cedar, tamarack, and white spruce cover types. Thus, the increase in acreages of these types.

The red maple cover type is also increasing for similar reasoning. Northern hardwood stands that have a large red maple component are being recoded as cruise data is updated.

In the non-forested cover types, there is a similar better defining of cover types. Generic codes such as lowland brush and grass are being better defined to be more representative of actual species present. Cover types showing zero acres over this planning period are not disappearing, they are being recoded with more detailed information. This recoding of forested and non-forested stands should be completed during this planning period.

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

Iron County continues with the plan to maintain the aspen timber type on the forest. The above table indicates accomplishment of the aspen maintenance goal over the past 30 years. Poor quality hardwood stands have been converted to aspen when feasible, causing the slight increase in aspen acreages over time. During the life of this plan Iron County will continue to work to spread the aspen rotation by harvesting some stands earlier and other stands later than scheduled. The intent is to spread the distribution of age classes more evenly, resulting in more consistent volume and income from aspen harvests in the future.

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

2040.2 HARVESTING

The tables below depict forest management goals from the 2006 – 2020 forest plan compared to actual established acres. Northern Hardwoods, Aspen, and Pines are shown in addition to total Iron County Forest goals and accomplishments.

IRON COUNTY FOREST
NORTHERN HARDWOODS (Acres)

YEAR	PROJECTED NEED	ESTABLISHED
2006	2,700	1,255
2007	2,700	2,308
2008	2,700	2,694
2009	2,700	2,145
2010	2,700	2,674
2011	2,600	2,737
2012	2,600	2,995
2013	2,500	1,475
2014	2,500	2,324
2015	2,400	4,804
2016	2,400	2,128
2017	2,100	946
2018	2,100	1,785
2019	1,900	3,016
2020	1,900	1,740
Total	36,500	35,026
Annual Avg	2,433	2,335

257

ASPEN (Acres)

YEAR	PROJECTED NEED	ESTABLISHED
2006	100	634
2007	100	521
2008	100	690
2009	200	730
2010	200	751
2011	300	854
2012	300	861
2013	400	428
2014	400	1,397
2015	500	927
2016	500	639
2017	800	429
2018	800	945
2019	1,000	882
2020	1000	543
Total	6,700	11,231
Annual Avg	446	749

258

259

PINES – Red, Jack, & White (acres)

YEAR	PROJECTED NEED	ESTABLISHED
2006	200	172
2007	200	124
2008	200	0
2009	100	113
2010	100	59
2011	100	38
2012	100	161

Chapter 2000

2013	100	39
2014	100	79
2015	100	85
2016	100	31
2017	100	94
2018	100	273
2019	100	248
2020	100	270
Total	1,800	1,786
Annual Avg	120	119

260

261

262

IRON COUNTY FOREST

ALL SALES (acres)

YEAR	PROJECTED NEED	ESTABLISHED	SOLD	CLOSED
2006	3,000	2,075	1,817	3,145
2007	3,000	3,610	3,632	2,199
2008	3,000	3,818	3,767	2,596
2009	3,000	3,655	4,035	2,350
2010	3,000	4,041	3,678	4,607
2011	3,000	4,073	4,165	2,955
2012	3,000	4,756	4,764	2,969
2013	3,000	2,051	4,314	3,792
2014	3,000	4,224	4,320	3,739
2015	3,000	6,524	4,201	3,283
2016	3,000	2,882	2,903	3,949
2017	3,000	1,626	3,093	4,335
2018	3,000	3,459	2,859	6,404
2019	3,000	4,612	3,057	1,357
2020	3,000	3,155	2,712	3,540
Total	45,000	54,561	53,317	51,220

Annual Avg	3,000	3,637	3,554	3,414
-----------------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

Over the previous planning period Aspen established acres were 87% higher than anticipated need. Primarily, this is a factor of trying to even out aspen harvest levels for long-term stability. In the mid-2000's many of the aspen stands were approximately 30 years old and it was not immediately clear when harvesting could occur. Aspen aged 40 now has been shown to have grown to harvestable levels and 45 years is the target average age now for management of aspen stands.

Northern Hardwood established acres exceeded planned goals as well. This was done because there is a backlog of harvestable northern hardwood acres. While a backlog still exists, the number of acres available for harvest is closer to target levels.

Overall, established timber sale acres were 22% above planned goals over the previous planning period. Timber sales established across all forest types averaged 3,672 acres annually versus a plan goal of 3,000 acres.

2040.3 FLORA / FAUNA

During the previous planning cycle, the introduction of invasive plant species has been noted. While not wide-spread, current known locations of garlic mustard, giant hogweed, and buckthorn have been treated. It is anticipated that the presence of invasive plants will only continue to increase as spread from recreation use becomes more common. Spread of invasive species can also occur during timber management activities, however, the utilization of Best Management Practices can minimize, if not prevent, introduction and spread of these forest invaders.

There has also been a shift in insect invasive species. During the last planning period Gypsy Moth was the species at the forefront of concern. Currently, Gypsy Moth is commonly found in oak stands and treatment options are not economically feasible.

Emerald Ash Borer has not been identified in Iron County but is most-likely here. The mass loss of ash trees to EAB is a concern and will continue to be a management issue during this planning period. Iron County continues to manage ash as a component of our forest, but we are taking the opportunity to capture sawtimber volume when harvests occur to prevent loss to EAB.

White-tailed Deer numbers continue to be low in Iron County. These lower numbers allow for significant natural regeneration of all species. Many other counties are fighting high deer numbers and the subsequent loss of regeneration to over-browsing. Iron County has not seen that issue.

2040.4 RECREATION

There has been a definite increase in motorized recreation in Iron County over the previous planning period. The introduction of UTV's has brought many more users to the trail system and the County Forest. Snowmobile use has remained strong, and with a large trail system and significant annual snowfalls, that trend should continue.

Non-motorized recreation is on the rise. The development of more miles of the North Country Trail, biking trails, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing opportunities have also led to increased use.

Additional information can be found in the current [Iron County Recreation Plan](#).

2040.5 HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FOREST AREAS

There have been changes in the designated High Conservation Value Forest Areas from the previous plan. While on the ground management of these areas has not changed, designation for this planning cycle has utilized Forest Certification definitions (Chapter 830). The use of these criteria dropped the designations from HCVF's into areas that are recognized locally as exceptional or unique. Management of these areas will continue to protect these important resources.

322 2040.6 ROADS & ACCESS

323 No major roadway additions have been completed during the previous planning cycle.
324 Bull Gus Road was upgraded with widening and better water crossings installed. A new
325 bridge was installed on Apple Creek Road over the Potato River in 2018.
326
327 New access roads for timber management are approved by staff prior to construction.
328 Older, existing roads are the preferred access unless water quality issues or summer
329 operability warrant a location change.

330

331 2040.7 OTHER

332 Lake of the Falls Dam is inspected annually, and the maintenance plan must be re-
333 evaluated every five years. A professional engineer is required during the re-
334 certification process and department staff handle more frequent inspections and
335 maintenance.

336

IRON COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN
TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 3000 – INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNITS

Iron County does not currently manage its County Forest utilizing Integrated Resource Management Units.

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 4000

**PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS OF 15 YEAR PLAN/FUTURE
AMENDMENT LIST**



IRON COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

607-3RD AVENUE NORTH - SUITE 2 • HURLEY, WISCONSIN 54534
PHONE: (715) 561-2697 • FAX: (715) 561-4801

15-Year Plan Revision – Public Involvement Process

1. Before DRAFT 15-Year plan is written

- Form a Stakeholder Group including County Forest user groups.
 - Towns, loggers, snowmobile, ATV, non-motorized sports, hunting, fishing, hiking, boating club, Chambers of Commerce.
 - Minimum of 2 meetings with stakeholders to discuss existing plan and potential revisions.

2. Develop DRAFT 15-year plan

- Meet again with stakeholder group to review DRAFT.
- Make amendments based on group feedback.

3. Public Hearing on DRAFT 15-Year Plan

4. 30-day Public Comment period

5. Address comments and amend plan as needed.

6. Bring DRAFT 15-year plan to Forestry Committee for approval.

7. Send DRAFT to DNR for review.

8. Return to Forestry Committee for changes/amendments if necessary.

9. DRAFT 15-year plan to full County Board for approval.

10. Return to DNR for FINAL Approval.

DRAFT 15-year plan **MUST** be to DNR by September 2020 (Step 7). Final DNR approval expected to be completed by December 2020.

Submitted By:

Eric J. Peterson, Forest Administrator

Date: October 15, 2019