

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 300

MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Page

300 MANAGEMENT PLANNING..... 2

305 COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN 2

305.1 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN 2

305.2 APPROVAL OF THE PLAN 3

305.3 DISTRIBUTION OF THE PLAN..... 3

305.4 UPDATING THE PLAN 4

305.4.1 Schedule For Updating..... 4

310 FOREST RESOURCE PLANNING 4

315 OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING 5

320 OTHER RESOURCE PLANNING..... 5

325 FOREST CERTIFICATION 5

330 ORDINANCES 7

340 TECHNOLOGY 7

340.1 GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEMS 8

340.2 DATA RECORDERS 8

340.3 COMPUTERS 8

340.4 GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS..... 9

340.5 COMPARTMENT RECONNAISSANCE..... 10

340.6 RAVE / RAVEN 10

33 IRON COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

34
35 **300 MANAGEMENT PLANNING**

36 OBJECTIVES

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

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

46
47 **305 COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN**

48 POLICY

49 This plan shall incorporate or reference all official County Forest policies, pertinent county
50 regulations, ordinances, State Statutes, planning documents and the needs and actions for
51 the period 2006 through 2020.

52 This plan complements and should be encompassed within local planning efforts required
53 under s. 66.1001, Wis. Stats. There are similarities between the plans, however, the County
54 Forest plan is smaller in scale and focused by s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.

55
56 **305.1 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN**

57 S. 28.11, Wis.Stats. places the responsibility for the plan development on the Committee
58 with technical assistance from the Department and other agencies. The County Forest
59 administrator will take the lead at the committee's request. The Department, with the
60 assistance of the County, will prepare the environmental assessment as required by
61 Chapter 150 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. During development of the plan and
62 the environmental assessment, public participation procedures should be developed and
63 adopted to provide for broad public participation throughout the planning process. Public
64 participation and inputs into the plan should consider s. 28.11, Wis.Stats. that governs the

65 County Forest program and provides the sideboards to which this plan must adhere.

66
67 Iron County’s public participation process includes the following:

- 68 • A general survey in progress since August 2003.
- 69 • An Open House scheduled upon completion of the preliminary draft.
- 70 • Draft Plan available for review to interest groups, at Iron County libraries,
- 71 all Town Halls and at Iron County Forestry offices.
- 72 • A two-month Public Comment Opportunity on the preliminary draft.
- 73 • Informational meetings with interested parties/groups during the Public
- 74 Comment Opportunity.
- 75 • Comprehensive Plan information updated and available on ICF website.
- 76 • Open House upon completion of Final Draft.
- 77 • One month Public Comment Opportunity on Final Draft

78
79 305.2 APPROVAL OF THE PLAN

80 Comments received by the committee shall be given consideration in developing the final
81 plan draft. Following the public comment period and certification by the Department, the
82 county will consider the comments received on the plan and assessment and will finalize the
83 plan. The Committee will then present the plan to the County Board for their approval.
84 Following County Board approval, the plan will then be forwarded to the DNR Central
85 Office in Madison through the local DNR liaison forester. Approval of the plan by the
86 DNR is required by s. 28.11 (5) (a) Wis. Stats.

87
88 305.3 DISTRIBUTION OF THE PLAN

89 Each member of the County Board will receive a copy of the plan at the time of initial
90 review and approval. Subsequently, -updated -official copies will be maintained for those
91 regularly involved in the County Forest Program.

92
93 Official copies and amendments will be held by the following:

- 94 (1) Forest administrator
- 95 (2) Department of Natural Resources - Liaison and Division of Forestry (5
- 96 copies).

97 (3) Executive Secretary - Wisconsin County Forest Association.

98

99 Additional copies of the plan will be provided to DNR Regional Forestry Supervisor, Area
100 Forestry Supervisor, and local Wildlife Biologist.

101

102 305.4 UPDATING THE PLAN

103 Necessary changes in policy and procedure will be incorporated into the plan by
104 amendment as required. Amendments to the plan will require approval by both the
105 County Board and the Department of Natural Resources as stated in ss. 28.11(5)(a),
106 Wis.Stats. The annual work plan and budget (Chapter 2000) and the annual
107 accomplishment report (Chapter 3000) are appended to the plan and do not require
108 official DNR approval.

109

110 305.4.1 Schedule for Updating

111 By June 30th of each year the Forest administrator will develop and distribute copies of the
112 following to each official copy-holder of the County Forest Plan

- 113 (1) Approved amendments.
- 114 (2) Annual Accomplishment report
- 115 (3) Current annual work plan and budget

116

117 310 FOREST RESOURCE PLANNING

118 The Committee will support and utilize the procedures as set forth in the Department of
119 Natural Resources Public Forest Lands Handbook No. 2460.5 and Forest Aesthetic and
120 Silviculture Handbook No. 2431.5. Iron County may utilize other sources of information
121 or research and consider flexibility and creative sustainable forest management
122 alternatives. The DNR forester and the Forest administrator will be responsible for the
123 completion and maintenance of the compartment reconnaissance system and will assist in
124 interpretation of the data to be used in planning and scheduling purposes.

125

126 _____ Forest management plans are made by qualified, professional staff
127 employed by the County or the DNR who are trained in silvicultural principles and apply
128 economic, biological, social and environmental considerations in the planning process.

129 Forest management decisions are made utilizing the most recent resource materials
130 including the forest habitat type classification, soil surveys, and forestry’s best management
131 practices for water quality guidelines.

132

133

134 **315 OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNING**

135

136 The Outdoor Recreation plan, Snowmobile Trail plan, ATV Trail plan, Access
137 Management plan and other recreation surveys, plans and reports will be used as available
138 in planning efforts. Additional assistance and input will be sought from DNR park
139 planners, and local recreational clubs or organizations. The responsibility for all recreation
140 planning on the County Forest will rest with the Committee.

141

142 **320 OTHER RESOURCE PLANNING**

143 Additional data necessary to make management decisions on the County Forest will be
144 sought from agencies or individuals best equipped to provide that service. These agencies
145 may include UWEX, NRCS, NWRPC and NPS/NCTA. Refer to Chapter 800 for
146 information on integrating outside expertise into management planning.

147

148 **325 FOREST CERTIFICATION**

149 The forest products industry is increasingly requiring their suppliers to verify that the raw
150 materials being supplied have originated from well-managed forestlands. Third-party
151 certification of forestlands is becoming the norm for objectively evaluating the sustainable
152 management of forest lands. To that end, Iron County will commit to the Sustainable
153 Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in the management of the
154 Iron County Forest. These certification standards fit within the framework of the County
155 Forest Law program (s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.).

156

157 **Iron County’s Commitment to Sustainable Forestry**

158 Our county forests provide a vital contribution to the State and the world by providing
159 economic, environmental and social benefits important to our quality of life. Iron County

160 believes that accomplishing such sustainable forestry requires a commitment and
161 partnership from all the groups and individuals that benefit from these public lands.

162
163 **Iron County's Commitment**

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

169
170 All forestland owners have a responsibility to provide sound forest stewardship. Iron
171 County will work in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and
172 other natural resources groups / agencies in providing sustainable forestry information to
173 those landowners and individuals impacting forest sustainability in Wisconsin. We will
174 support research efforts to improve the health, productivity, and management of
175 forestlands both internally and through cooperative efforts. In managing the Iron County
176 Forest a spectrum of forestry practices will be employed to achieve our sustainable
177 forestry objective. Both intensive and more extensive forest management techniques will
178 be used to provide for wildlife, forest products, recreation, aesthetics, water quality,
179 aesthetics and ecosystem maintenance. In keeping with this responsibility Iron County is
180 committed to the following:

- 181
- 182 1. **Sustainable Forestry Principles** – To practice sustainable forestry to meet the
183 present needs of society without sacrificing the ability of future generations to
184 meet their anticipated needs. In doing so, Iron County will integrate the
185 reforestation, managing, growing and harvesting of trees for forest products with
186 the conservation of air and water quality, soil, ecosystem diversity, wildlife,
187 recreation and aesthetics.
 - 188 2. **Responsible Practices** – To employ practices that are economically,
189 environmentally and socially responsible in the management of the Iron County
190 Forest and to also encourage other forest owners to do the same.
 - 191 3. **Forest Health & Productivity** – To work cooperatively with the DNR and other

192 agencies in protecting our forests from pests, diseases, wildfire and other
193 damaging agents in order to improve long-term productivity and forest health.

194 4. **Unique Sites** – To manage areas of special biological, geographical, cultural or
195 historical significance in such a way as to preserve their unique qualities.

196 5. **Legal Compliance** – To comply with applicable local, state and federal laws and
197 regulations in the management of the Iron County Forest.

198 6. **Monitoring and Continuous Improvement** – To continually seek improvement in the
199 management of the Iron County Forest and to monitor, assess and report performance
200 towards the objective of sustainable forestry.

201
202 **330. ORDINANCES**

203 The following ordinances will be considered in all planning. Refer to Chapter 900 –
204 Appendix for full text of these ordinances.

- 205 (1) Forestry ordinance
- 206 (2) Park ordinance
- 207 (3) Zoning ordinance
- 208 (4) Floodplain - Shoreland Zoning ordinance
- 209 (5) ORV ordinance
- 210 (6) Non-Metallic Mining ordinance

211
212 **340. TECHNOLOGY**

213 Use of present day technology has become an important facet of county forest management.
214 Computers and operating systems have increased the ability to analyze and store data. The
215 increased ability to analyze and evaluate the Forest has improved planning and
216 management of the Forest. Electronic communication is now essential. Following are
217 technologies available, and in use, on the Iron County Forest:

- 218 ▪ Desk top computers
- 219 ▪ Lap top computers (with remote capabilities)
- 220 ▪ GPS/GIS and inter communication software
- 221 ▪ Topographical map software (with GPS compatibility)
- 222 ▪ Hand held computer-data managers.
- 223 ▪ E-mail and World Wide Web software.

224
225
226
227
228
229
230
231
232
233
234
235
236
237
238
239
240
241
242
243
244
245
246
247
248
249
250
251
252
253
254
255

340.1 GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEMS

Global Positioning Systems have been utilized on the Iron County Forest for the past ten years. Applications include:

- Location of county forest boundaries
- Section, quarter-section pipe location
- Timber Sale boundary and cruising point location
- Fire suppression status mapping
- Recreational Trail/Field infrastructure location and mapping.
- Questionable hunting stand locations.
- Search and Rescue (SAR).
- Storm/Flood damage recon
- Culvert and Bridge inventory

Iron County Forestry will continue to utilize state of the art GPS units for the efficient management of the Forest. New GPS technological developments will be tested and applied if they are proven to be more effective than those currently in use. Replacement of existing GPS units as they become unserviceable or in need of up-grading shall be a part of the County Forest budgeting process.

340.2 DATA RECORDERS

The traditional data recording method is the paper and pencil system. But there are other tools that have proven useful. Tape recorders and hand held computers are becoming commonplace. Iron County will continue to test new types of data recorders for usability in the field and the office.

340.3 COMPUTERS

Computers have had an important place in the Iron County Forestry office, the Upson Forestry Station, and in the field for over a decade. The different types of software currently being used include: the internet, e-mail, word processing, data-bases, spread sheets, mapping and geographic information systems (GIS).

256 Iron County Forest hardware and software technology have allowed the Forest to begin to
257 provide public information by means of the World Wide Web. A basic web-page has been
258 on line since fall of 2003. A web map server is in the process of being developed. These
259 web-based services will allow the Forest to provide up to date information for people who
260 plan to utilize the Iron County Forest resources. With these capabilities, the Forest will be
261 able to provide GIS information to the public and share geo-spatial data with other
262 organizations and agencies. When funds, time and man-power allow, Iron County Forest
263 will continue to develop its web-based information systems.

264

265 340.4 GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

266 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are particularly well suited for natural resources
267 management. A GIS interrelates spatial information (e.g. maps) with tabular data, (e.g.
268 reconnaissance information, ownership, name and address). It is a system through which
269 managers can ask "what if?" and have the computer represent the answer in the form of the
270 best organized spatial output, a map. By using such a system, managers can look at the
271 timing and spacing of timber sales, layout aesthetic zones, buffer strips, calculate acreage
272 and update reconnaissance files in an efficient manner. Interrelating recon data with the
273 GIS through a Recon ArcView Editor (RAVEN) program has provided state-of-the-art
274 mapping and data analysis in many counties. A GIS can do in a few hours what often was
275 impossible or took months to complete.

276 Iron County Forestry's GIS has been operational since May, 2003. Applications include:

- 277 • Timber Stand Reconnaissance and updating
- 278 • Forest Resource queries and surveys
- 279 • Section Corner location and mapping
- 280 • Property Line location
- 281 • Facility and infrastructure mapping
- 282 • Trail mapping and updating
- 283 • Display, project, and public use mapping

284 Iron County Forestry will continue to utilize the GIS for forest and recreation management.
285 The Forest will continue to keep pace with new developments in GIS technologies and applications,
286 and utilize those tools that prove effective and efficient for the management of local forest

287 resources.

288

289 **340.5 COMPARTMENT RECONNAISSANCE (RECON)**

290 Recon is another tool in the assessment of geographical, structural and compositional
291 attributes of the forest resources. This information is considered critical for resource and
292 recreation management and is collected and computerized in tabular format through the
293 DNR. The recon system has historically been the backbone of land management activities.
294 The tabular information is linked to spatial information on hand drawn maps or
295 computerized maps found in the GIS. Basic resource information is collected, stored and
296 updated systematically and continuously. The database is used to analyze existing
297 resources, evaluate management alternatives and assist in the development and
298 implementation of management plans. Recon is one tool used to assess forest resource
299 information at the property level. This information will provide a data layer that can be
300 used for regional analysis. During the life of this Comprehensive Land Use Management
301 Plan, Iron County will increase emphasis on the importance of collecting and documenting
302 Recon Information. Data collection goals will include updating of all merchantable forest
303 stands every ten years.

304

305 **340.6 RAVE / RAVEN (Recon ArcView Editor/Recon ArcView Editing, Mapping and**
306 **Reporting Navigator)**

307 RAVE and RAVEN are computer programs that link the tabular data in the Recon system
308 with the spatial data available through a GIS system. They are ArcView (GIS software)
309 custom extensions that allow the user to easily edit forest timber type and stand-level
310 features (polygons), while at the same time updating tabular records. Iron County will
311 continue to work with DNR on the development and application of RAVE and RAVEN.