

Conservation That Works!

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Lumberjack Area Plan

for the years

2020-2024

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Introduction

This document is the long-range plan for Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, Inc. The purpose of this plan is to provide a strategic direction for the organization. The council is financially sound, but continued effort is needed to ensure a strong sustainable organization that serves the communities in our area.

Lumberjack RC&D Council, Inc. is located in Northeastern Wisconsin and includes Florence, Forest, Langlade, Lincoln, Menominee, Oconto, Oneida, Shawano and Vilas counties. Lumberjack’s area also includes the Forest County Potawatomi Community; Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indian Reservation; Menominee Indian Reservation; Sokaogon Chippewa Community of Mole Lake and Stockbridge Indian Reservation.

Organizational Overview

MISSION

Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc., a multi-county, nonprofit in Northeastern WI, strives to enhance area natural resources, promote a higher standard of living and improve the quality of life for area citizens by fostering partnerships between public and private sectors and strategically investing in area natural resources.

VISION

Sustainable Resources for Vibrant Communities

TAGLINE

Conservation That Works!

BRAND PRINCIPLES

Ambition

People want a healthy environment and a healthy economy.

Mandate

Lumberjack RC&D helps create a better place to live and work through projects that are grounded in well-accepted principles of conservation while encouraging sustainable economic growth.

Promise

Bringing people together and helping individuals to achieve better living in a healthy environment.

Values

- **Knowledgeable resource.** We provide staff expertise and experience in applying science-based conservation practices.
- **Flexible partner.** We work effectively with others in both the public sector and in private enterprise.
- **Balanced solutions.** We promote solutions that balance the need for a healthy environment with development of a healthy economy.
- **Local answers.** We believe the economic and resource conservation challenges we face in Wisconsin can be best addressed by people here.
- **Non-partisan, nonpolitical.** We believe that solutions are better found through consensus and an understanding of science rather than through partisan or political ideology.

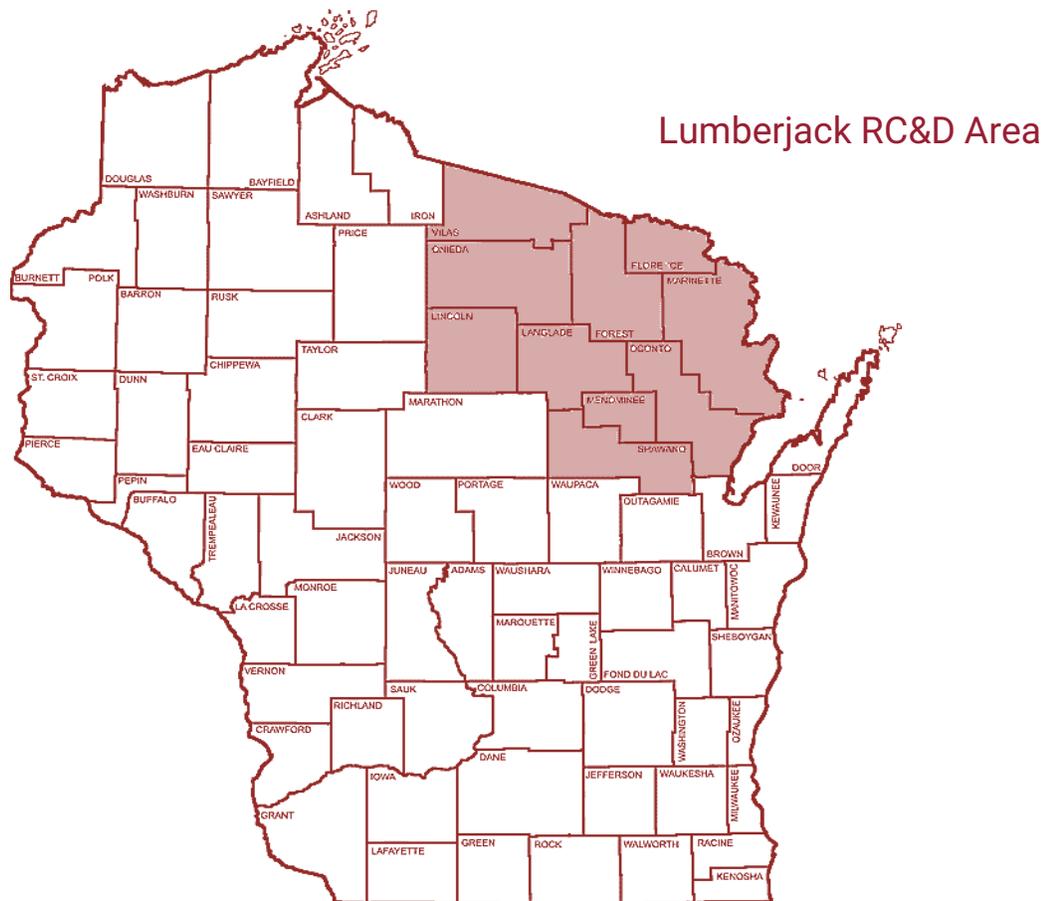
Council Background and Structure

Lumberjack Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, Inc. is a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with State of Wisconsin charitable status that was established in 1968 under the authority of the Federal Agriculture Act of 1962. The Council operates under the premise that local citizens, with coordinated assistance provided by cooperating local, state and federal entities, can plan and carry out activities to address area resource conservation and development issues they have identified.

County Boards of Supervisors and county Land Conservation Committees sponsor the Lumberjack RC&D Council by providing one representative to the Council Board of Directors and one alternate as well as seven at-large members. Lumberjack is organized under the standing committee structure including the Executive/Personnel, Ag/Energy, Finance/Contracting, Forestry, Special Events and Recreation-Tourism/Rural Development Committees. The Council meets quarterly to conduct its full council business meetings. In addition, the Executive/Personnel Committee meets quarterly before Council Meetings.

Area boundaries for projects approved by the Council are determined by the extent of the resource concern or opportunity, not by the administrative boundary of the Council.

Overview of the Area



The region is glaciated with numerous lakes and wetlands. Topography is nearly level to gently undulating in areas of glacial lake deposits; gently undulating to rolling on outwash plains, till plains and ground moraines; and steep on end moraines, drumlins and valley sidewalls as well as on escarpments along the margins of lakes.

Average annual air temperature ranges from 39 to 45 degrees. Average annual frost-free period ranges from 60 days in the northwestern part of Lumberjack's area to 180 days along Lake Michigan. Winters are cold and significant amounts of snow can accumulate. Average annual precipitation ranges from 28 to 36 inches with most of the precipitation falling during the spring and summer months.

Total surface area within Lumberjack's area boundary is approximately 5,960,900 acres of which about 73 percent is forest land; 15 percent cropland and pasture land; 5 percent inland lakes and streams and 4 percent is developed.

Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) & Wisconsin Continuous Forest Inventory (WiCFI)

Lumberjack has two projects which historically have provided the main means of sustainability. The Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) and the Wisconsin Continuous Forest Inventory (WiCFI).

Lumberjack's forestry programs began in 1994 when they started on the United States Forest Service (USFS) Forest Health Monitoring program (FHM) in Wisconsin. At that time this work was awarded in the form of a grant. In 2000, the FHM (now called P3) project was incorporated into the Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) program at the same time that FIA went from a periodic to an annual inventory. Previously FIA had been accomplished by permanent DNR employees. With the change to annual inventory; 20% of the total plots in Wisconsin are inventoried every year, with each plot revisited every five years. With this change the DNR also made the decision to have these projects sent out for bids. Lumberjack was the successful bidder in 2000 and each contract period since.

Since 2000, Lumberjack's inventory crews have worked on a variety of projects under the FIA/WiCFI (Wisconsin Continuous Forest Inventory) project umbrella, including: Wisconsin FIA, Michigan FIA, WiCFI, WiCFI Habitat Typing, Wisconsin Urban FIA and USFS Wisconsin Ozone. Lumberjack continues to have an excellent work relationship with the USFS on both a supervisory and field level.

Lumberjack has successfully rebid these projects in 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019. Successful bids are because Lumberjack has a highly-trained crew with a history of passing check cruises with an average percentage score in the high nineties. Check cruises are periodically done by USFS personnel to assure the data collected is accurate. Lumberjack's FIA Supervisor has a BS and MS degree in Forestry. He has managed the crew since 2001. He supervises a crew of five or six employees with a variety of educational experience. The FIA/WiCFI personnel have a collective experience of over 60 years in FIA data collection. Lumberjack's experience is widely-known.

FIA (Forest inventory and Analysis) is a nation-wide forest inventory carried out by the USFS. The Forest Service is responsible for measuring a given number of base level plots in each state. In Wisconsin, this is around 700 plots. Each state has the opportunity to increase the number of plots measured, thereby increasing the accuracy of the data on a local level.

Each FIA plot covers 1/6 acre and data collected includes tree species, diameters, heights, damages, log grades, forest type, etc. Lumberjack turns the raw field data in to the USFS; the data is used by several entities. It is often FIA data that is used as the source for news reports on the state of Wisconsin's forests.

The current contract ends September 30, 2024. This plan will run mostly concurrent with the FIA/CFI contract however will be approved on the calendar year.

Sustainability

The FIA/CFI contract provides the main source of sustainability for Lumberjack and has allowed the Council to maintain a healthy amount of retained earnings; enough to fund Lumberjack's Community Grant Program. The grant policy is such that long-term funding for the program is only available if Lumberjack makes a profit. A calculation determines the amount of funds available for projects. Lumberjack will continue to hold a dedicated project fund based on the policy and calculation. The project fund is currently \$86,845

Based on past situations in which Lumberjack was forced to replace two, sometimes three vehicles in one year, Lumberjack has planned for future liabilities by funding a reserve account. The reserve account takes into consideration the liabilities created by earned vacation, sick and compensatory time, vehicle replacement and a lump sum for unforeseen situations. The inventory supervisor has put a plan in place to rotate the vehicles so that we're not again faced with buying two or three in one year. Of the current fleet of six vehicles, four are scheduled to be replaced within the next five-year contract at a cost of approximately \$80,000. The reserve fund is currently \$86,250.

Lumberjack continues to be the fiscal agent for TIP, WHIP & WYFP and administers between 15-20 grants at any given time for which Lumberjack receives, on average a 15% administrative fee. This fee offsets the time it takes to administer the grants and does not add significantly to Lumberjack's bottom line.

Lumberjack's investment plan includes two annuity funds, two certificates of deposit and interest-bearing checking and savings accounts. Liquid assets in checking and savings total approximately \$150,000 while time-assets total \$451,575.78.

Even with these policies in place, Lumberjack still has 'too many eggs in one basket' and has taken up the task of researching other income sources. As a result, we've

- contracted with two Wisconsin counties to provide inventory work on their county forests
- begun the final stages of becoming a certified WDNR MFL Plan-Writer
- become licensed and insured as a pesticide applicator to provide a fee for service
- become an NRCS TSP certified forest management plan writer and have already contracted two management plans, completed one and are awaiting final reimbursement
- begun initial conversations with other RC&Ds and the State Association to partner on a cooperative, multi-state conservation grant
- invested in a subscription to a grant-search engine
- become the fiscal agent for WYFP which expands our partnerships
- looked at budgets and have forecasted ways to save money
- put policy in place to protect the organization

Over the next five years, we hope to do even more.

Future Plans 2020 to 2024

- Fulfill FIA/CFI Contract
- Continue to administer grants for our fiscally-sponsored organizations
- Look for new grant opportunities that involve multiple partners to expand our conservation footprint
- Continue a targeted marketing plan that gets our name out in the realm of services we're providing
- Research investment opportunities
- Continue to look for ways to save, such as research the possibility of office space purchase instead of renting
- Research the possibility of holding workshops/conferences for various topics that meet our mission
- Continue to develop policy that protects Lumberjack against fraud, liability or conflicts of interest.