

TAYLOR COUNTY FOREST ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2008

TO: The Honorable Taylor County Board of Supervisors

Following is the proposed Taylor County Forest work plan for the year of 2008. The plan gives direction and meaning to the proposed County Forest budget. The plan further defines and supplements the Comprehensive Fifteen Year Plan and emphasizes the current needs of the County Forest and Recreational System.

COUNTY FOREST 15 YEAR PLAN (2006 - 2020)

The Plan will need to be amended periodically to incorporate policy changes. Forest certification will also dictate changes be made in the plan to conform with various issues.

COUNTY FOREST CERTIFICATION

The Taylor County Forest has been certified by both the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). The process of maintaining certification is ongoing. Monitoring and auditing will be conducted by both FSC and SFI on an annual basis. It is expected that audit findings and new criteria will require operational and planning changes. This process will be long term and will require routine vigilance.

TIMBER HARVEST

Timber harvests are not only important for the economic well-being of Taylor County, but for the health and vigor of the forest. This includes all aspects of the forest including wildlife, aesthetics, watershed protection, air quality, recreation, and many other intrinsic values. Professional implementation of proper forest management and harvest techniques is essential. The timber management goal is to produce a sustained yield of forest products by scheduling timber sales to achieve a sustainable annual harvest. We would expect to offer timber sales on 450-500 acres of forest land. Most of this acreage will be the northern hardwood type.

TIMBER SALE ADMINISTRATION

The Forestry Department routinely has from 20-25 timber sale contracts in effect. Sales generally range in size from 20-160 acres, with from 8-10 sales being offered each year. Sale administration is a very important component of the timber sale program. Contract compliance, regulation enforcement, volume accountability, stumpage payment, public safety and environmental protection are some of the elements involved with sale administration.

WISCONSIN COUNTY FORESTS ASSOCIATION (WCFA)

Association membership is important to the overall operation of the County Forest. This organization presents a unified front and represents a vehicle to pool resources and stand together as the owners of 2.3 million acres of public land. The WCFA is politically active on issues involving the forestry program. Forestry Department personnel and Forestry Committee members contribute time and effort to the WCFA by serving on its Board and Committees.

REFORESTATION

Forest regeneration is achieved by regeneration cutting under timber sale contract. No active planting program is in effect, as natural regeneration is utilized. Some underplanting of spruce, white pine and red oak will be considered.

FOREST RECONNAISSANCE

The forest is comprised of 27 compartments, which are further broken down into individual timber stands. Accurate and up-to-date forest recon data is essential in making proper land management decisions. The DNR WisFIRS Program has scheduled prescribed management activities by calendar year. This schedule is the basis for assuring proper management being conducted on a timely basis. Each county is now responsible for its own reconnaissance information. Data is updated and tabulated at the county level.

FOREST GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM

A forest GIS is used to store, update and analyze information about the location of geographic features in the County Forest. GIS will utilize different layers such as soil types, rivers, wetlands, trails, forest stands and inactive timber sales. All County Forest compartments and stands have been digitized. The WisFIRS Program will allow us to enter, update and view tabular reconnaissance data.

COUNTY FOREST ROADS

There are 17.36 miles of County Forest Road certified to receive Department of Transportation road aids. Another 10 miles of road is maintained by the Forestry Department. Road graveling projects are planned for 2008 on Trout Avenue, Fawn Avenue and Camp 8 Road.

SECONDARY ROADS

There will be a number of new secondary roads constructed and old roads reopened, as new timber sales are started. The contractor must receive location and construction approval from the Forestry Department prior to development. As sales are closed-out, their access roads are leveled, seeded and gated to restrict vehicular traffic. These roads are then mowed and maintained as walking trails and will be available for future forest management.

LAND ACQUISITION

Purchase of inland holdings would be pursued if the present owners would be willing to sell. Occasionally, unique properties become available and are handled on a case by case basis by the Forestry and Recreation Committee.

SURVEYING

The Forestry Department is working to develop and implement a five year boundary survey program. Forest boundary areas where survey corner work is needed will be prioritized for completion.

FOREST PROTECTION

Fire control for the forest is provided by the Department of Natural Resources out of the Prentice and Medford stations. Law enforcement is conducted by the Taylor County Sheriff's Department, DNR Conservation Warden, and DNR Forest Ranger.

WILDLIFE PROJECTS

Projects are planned for the development, shaping, seeding and gating of logging access roads. Wildlife funding is available to the forest to conduct these projects. Projects are developed in cooperation with both our DNR Liaison Forester and Wildlife Manager.

RECREATION AREAS

A) Recreation Trails

The Ice Age Trail is in the process of being mapped and cataloged. A management plan has been developed and sensitive areas will be identified. Some trail relocations may be required to reduce conflicts with forest management.

B) Cross-Country Ski Trails

A network of ski trails have been developed and are maintained by a local ski club. The network is located Northwest of Rib Lake. Taylor County Tourism may be contacted for maps and information.

C) Camp-8 ATV Area

A 15 mile summer trail system has been developed. The maintenance of the trail has been contracted to the Taylor Made ATV Club. The area provides camping and trail riding opportunities. Funding is provided from ATV registration fees. Expansions may be considered.

D) Parks, Campgrounds and Boat Landings

The Wood Lake Recreation Area and the Camp-8 Recreation Area will continue to be maintained by the Buildings, Grounds and Parks Department.

E) Equestrian Area & Trail System

The Taylor County Horse Association is working with the Forestry Department and Committee to develop an area for trucks and trailers to park and a signed trail system. An abandoned gravel pit located in the SW ¼ of Section 2, T33N-R3E has been designated as the area to be developed by the Association to provide services associated with a trail head facility. Trails will be developed to provide public riding enjoyment. All development will need to be pre-approved by the Forestry Department. This is expected to be an ongoing process covered by a written agreement between the Committee and the Association.

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

The Forestry Department will utilize a garage located at the fairgrounds for storage and equipment repairs.

The Forestry Department equipment consists of the following:

- a) 4x4 pickup truck (2)
- b) 4x4 ATV (2)
- c) Digital camera (2)
- d) Trailer
- e) Chainsaw
- f) Cellular phone (2)
- g) Backpack sprayer
- h) Gas operated gate opener (Miller Dam)
- l) Assorted hand tools
- j) GPS equipment
- k) Computer equipment
- l) Trail seeder for ATV

Heavy equipment needs are met by contracted services.

TAYLOR COUNTY FORESTRY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE:

Chuck Zenner, Chairman

Dave Bizer

Mike Roiger

Scott Mildbrand

DATE: _____