

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE AND USE PLAN  
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## **3000 OBJECTIVE AND POLICY**

### **3000.1 OBJECTIVE**

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

### **3000.2 POLICY**

Annual accomplishments will be recorded as a historical record, to assist in the 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.

## **3100 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 sales receipts and harvest goals achieved.
2. Timber stand improvements accomplishments.
3. Recreational development and maintenance accomplishments including recreational revenues and expenses.
4. Wildlife management accomplishments including revenues and expenses.
5. Other accomplishments identified as “needs” in Chapter 1000 (1100).

## **3200 PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

This summary of the Forest activities will provide a running history of the accomplishments by activity. It will provide a quick and accessible reference for accomplishments of the County Forest, including timber sales, reforestation, seeding, recreational developments, and wildlife habitat accomplishments.

## 3210 FOREST PRODUCTS

### 3210.1 TIMBER

Year	# of Sales Sold	# of Sales Completed	Pulpwood Cords	Acres Cut	Total Cords Equivalent	Total Value
1995	9	9	4947	272	550	93,059.08
1996	10	8	6711	509	839	120,890.30
1997	4	0	0	0	0	0
1998	6	20	10215	812	511	293,610.43
1999	10	5	5327	402	1025	112,953.72
2000	11	8	5716	384	715	220,502.75
2001	10	10	4880	308	488	174,242.95
2002	4	10	8988	443	899	24,896.94
2003	3	6	6324	358	1054	241,906.68
2004	11	4	3360	212	840	98,169.08
2005	8	8	6425	393	781	249,208.58
Totals	86	88	62,893	4,093		1,629,440.20

In 1997 Juneau County went to a 16 month contract which stopped the practice of buying county wood and leaving it standing for years before cutting it. This helped force cutting into manageable time periods and helped on budgeting. Currently extensions are given, but only if approved by the County Forestry and Parks Committee and the Administrator. Additional stumpage values can then be added to the original sale to compensate for volume growth. Also in 1997, no sales were closed by the DNR liaison forester. This is the reason for the large jump in closed sales in 1998.

### 3210.2 NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS

Juneau County has two items that are considered non-timber forest products, fuel wood permits and the moss contract. We average 40 fuel wood permits a year depending on snow depths and the number of oak based sales. Also, if immediate jack pine seeding occurs no fuel wood permits are issued for those areas to prevent seedling damage. Currently we have one moss contract that is renewed annually.

### 3220 REFORESTATION

Year	Planting New Acres	Direct Seeding Acres
1996		40
1997		60
1998		65
1999	88	170
2000		79
2001		92
2002		147
2003		90
2004		42
2005		56
Totals	88	841

Each year Juneau County in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources plants 40 pounds of donated jack pine seed. Seed is donated from the DNR wildlife division to help insure that jack pine is kept at acceptable levels in the county. It is an important wildlife tree and is easily replaced in management by red pine. Sometimes budgeting allows for more than 40 pounds to be planted in which the county purchases additional seed. Prior to 2000 machine planting of seedlings was the established route of reforestation, with the use of direct seeding and the donated seed source, red pine planting has slowed considerably. Seedlings were planted in 1996-1998, but no accurate numbers could be referenced so they are left blank.

**3230 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT**

Year	Release	Site Prep	Site Prep Aspen
1996		150	
1997			
1998		120	
1999			
2000			60
2001	200		
2002			
2003			
2004			
2005			
Totals	200	270	60

Earlier site preparation was for red pine plantings until the county went to v-plowing with a dozer. The dozer windrowed the slash and exposed a soil trench that was planted by the towed planter. This helped reduced acres prepped and overall planting costs. The aspen site prep consisted of a chopping attachment pulled by the dozer that broke the slash into smaller quickly decaying pieces and invigorated stump sprouting. The 2001 acreage consisted of red pine release by aerial spraying. This reduced brush and hardwood competition giving the five- to eight-year old saplings a chance at shading out their competition.

**3240 RECREATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS**

Year	# of campsites	# of bridge replacements	# of pit toilets	# of boat launches	# of parking spaces added	Showerhouse added	# of miles hiking trails
1996							
1997							
1998					36	1	
1999							
2000		4			72		
2001							
2002		4		1			
2003	33	1					
2004		1	1		36		1.5
2005		1	1				1

Our recreational facilities are varied. They range from two high intense use campgrounds located on the Petenwell and Castle Rock Lakes to the Omaha Trail, a multi-use railroad grade used year around. On this trail we have the longest tunnel in the state. Other areas included mowed handicap accessible hunting trails in the Yellow River Management Area and Bass Hollow, a 3.2 mile loop trail of some of the areas remaining in old growth oak. Also, there are five boat launches and many miles of snowmobile trails. To help maintain these facilities, regular mowing and building repair are a must. Improvements to these established areas come as budgets allow. Juneau County has a very diverse landscape and even more diverse recreational opportunities. One thing that Juneau County has done that doesn't fall into any real category is shoreline stabilization at the Wilderness Park. Between the years of 1998-2000, almost 2640 feet of highly erodable sandy shoreline was rip-rapped to stop the erosion from the lake. In the process two concrete interlocking block areas were constructed in the park to allow safe and easy access to the lake for visitors. This project won the Wisconsin Association of Consulting Engineers Excellence award in 2001. The finishing touches of the improved boat launch and parking facilities were added later greatly increasing use of the park and of the lake. Also, three stream crossings were constructed on the Bass Hollow Trail system to allow for easier access and for a current timber sale.

### 3250 WILDLIFE PROJECTS

Year	Jack Pine Direct Seeding	Wood Duck Boxes
1996	40	
1997	40	
1998	40	
1999	40	30
2000	40	
2001	40	
2002	40	
2003	40	
2004	40	
2005	40	
Totals	400	30

As stated earlier most of our wildlife activities consist of jack pine seeding to maintain jack pine and black oak mixed stands. In 2002, we were awarded a wildlife project consisting of developing a migratory water bird waterhole/wetland complex on a harvested site. This has yet to be completed due to budgetary constraints.

**3300 MONITORING**  
**3310 FOREST TYPES**

FOREST COVER	COVER TYPE	1977 ACRES	1992 ACRES	2005 ACRES
	ASPEN	2069	2034	1241
	ASPEN-OFF SITE	291	291	249
	BOTTOMLAND HARDWOOD		88	118
	SWAMP HARDWOOD			114
	FIR-SPRUCE			9
	RED MAPLE			81
	OAK	2437	2874	3180
	JACK PINE	4348	5595	4933
	RED PINE	2396	2678	3416
	WHITE PINE		347	656
	TOTAL FOREST ACRES:	11541	13907	13997
NON-FOREST COVER				
	UPLAND GRASSES	1443	88	786
	LOW SHRUBS	3	35	46
	KEG- EMERGENT VEGETATION		356	152
	MUSKEG- BOG		53	42
	LOWLAND BRUSH- ALDER			13
	LOWLAND BRUSH WILLOW	127	157	84
	MINOR LAKE		12	12
	MINOR STREAM			5
	RIGHT-OF-WAY/PARKING AREA			28
	PICINIC AREA			7
	TOTAL NON-FOREST ACRES:	1578	701	1175
	TOTAL PROPERTY ACRES:	13119	14608	15172

Jack Pine/Oak mix is our dominant type combined and separated. Oak has continued to increase as jack pine decreased over the last ten years. Most of that resulted from the jack pine budworm that infested the county forest. Areas were replanted to red pine or came back as oak dominant stands. This is one of the reasons the jack pine seeding became such an important project for the county. This helps maintain the native cover type and important wildlife resource. Over the next 15 years, forecasting tells us that the jack pine will surpass oak because of this and oak's decline due to Oak Wilt. Aspen is at a noticeable decline, part of this is due to better classification of property and part of it is due to areas converting naturally to oak/maple stands. Areas have been harvested specifically to regenerate aspen, particularly in the Yellow River Compartment.

### 3320 HARVESTING

#### Actual Sales Activity in Acres Compared to Needs 1996-2005 Plan

Year	Regeneration Cuttings			Thinnings		
	Projected Needs	Actual Harvest		Projected Needs	Actual Harvest	
1996	310	216		255	34	
1997	240	128		170	195	
1998	240	338		170	296	
1999	240	232		170	21	
2000	240	47		170	245	
2001	240	455		170	94	
2002	240	93		170	63	
2003	240	181		170	0	
2004	240	682		170	90	
2005	240	227		170	148	
Totals	2470	2599	105%	1785	1186	66%

Currently there are nine open regeneration sales consisting of 763 acres, and two pine thinnings open consisting of 87 acres. Due to the spreading problem of oak wilt present on county property, efforts have gone into regeneration sales trying to salvage dying stands. Future focus is on pine thinnings due to gypsy moth and jack pine budworm which is now infesting younger red pine plantations.

#### Actual Sales Activity in Cords in 1996-2005 Plan

Year	Sales	Sawlog				MIXED SPECIES	Total Cords	Total Sales Value
		MBF	ASPEN	PINE	OAK			
1996	8	56.19	579.05	4051.51	1403.84	547.7	6582.1	120,890.30
1997	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1998	20	22.36	255.88	6928.07	2921.34	58.41	10,163.70	293,610.43
1999	5	28.84	694.39	2788.72	1576.37	5059.48	5127.36	112,953.72
2000	8	0	105.35	4128.48	1354.63	127.96	5716.42	220,502.75
2001	10	0	63.44	2911.25	1889.73	15.74	4880.16	174,242.95
2002	10	0	844.06	2092.09	5312.51	739.59	8988.25	248,969.37
2003	6	0	651.19	3658.42	1734.74	280.12	6324.47	241,906.68
2004	4	0	630.12	757.21	1588.67	384.43	3360.43	98,169.08
2005	8	111.36	629.29	2841.92	2260.28	250.95	5982.44	249,208.58
Totals	88	256.95	4932.6	34,482.56	21,854.52	7710.24	61,988.27	1,853,512.60

Pine consists of jack, red and white pine. Oak covers all oak species.

**Projected Timber Sales for 2006-2015**

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	TOTAL	Ave/Yr.
<b>Timber Harvests</b>												
<b>Acres- Totals</b>												
Regen Cuts- Acres-Total		256	336	27	110	123	146	137	119	119	1555	156
Aspen	40	52	8	0	0	3	0	76	22	0	201	20
Oak	38	22	229	10	57	115	90	47	0	15	623	62
Jack Pine	104	182	99	17	0	5	24	14	97	81	623	62
Bottomland Hardwoods	0	0	0	0	53	0	0	0	0	0	53	5
White Pine	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	23	55	6
<b>Intermediate Cuts-Acres-</b>												
Total	74	203	785	226	631	228	422	63	0	265	2897	290
Oak	16	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	3
Jack Pine	0	0	17	17	21	0	0	0	0	0	55	6
Red Pine	40	185	724	192	568	136	364	63	0	219	2491	249
White Pine	18	18	34	17	42	92	58	0	0	46	325	33

**3330 FLORA/FAUNA**

Since the last planning period, oak wilt has spread substantially throughout Juneau County and Juneau County Forest. Since it is an airborne fungus and can also spread through shared root systems, it is very hard to control on our property due to the property's scattered character. To address this, Juneau County has focused on oak regeneration cuts combined with jack pine seeding to help curb its spread on the larger blocks. Spot mortality has also been seen in county pine plantations. Thinnings and cuts have been developed on a stand by stand basis to stop the spread of the decline. Jack pine budworm and the gypsy moth are also present. The jack pine budworm is now beginning to infest younger red pine plantations, and gypsy moth is attacking oak stands. These are all major concerns facing the future management of the forest.

Currently four documented wolf packs are located in Juneau County. Some are in the Necedah National Refuge and adjoining Meadow Valley Recreational Area, and some are located in the Yellow River Drainage. Juneau County has substantial acreage in the Yellow River area and wolves have been spotted at Wilderness Park during the winter.

The Karner Blue Butterfly plays an important role in our county. It is listed on the Federal Endangered Species list and has a core habitat in northern Juneau County. Since it is tied strictly to native lupine, lupine are another management concern that Juneau County addresses. Blocks are managed for lupine establishment and residual communities. Areas are managed for the plants survival and propagation through mowing, controlled harvest times, and brush encroachment removal. Annual surveys are conducted to track the butterflies. These are monitored by the state and federal agencies.

Invasives are not yet a major concern on county property. Most waterways have purple loosestrife present, and spotted knapweed is present in roadside and in disturbed areas. Garlic mustard is found south of Highway 21 in heavier clay soils, but sparsely in the sandy northern soils. Glossy buckthorn falls into this category as well. Efforts are being taken to become more educated on invasives so that managers can identify and control these future threats to the forest.

### **3340 RECREATIONAL USE**

The pressure for developed recreational trails continues to increase, more now for motorized than for non-motorized activities. Over the last planning period we have seen the decrease of snowmobile use and a marked jump in ATV use, mainly due to the milder winters and lack of snow. Also subdivision of Wisconsin Power & Light property into private holdings has greatly increased the number of small acre landowners adjacent to and near county forests. This new group of users is looking for organized and maintained recreational facilities and opportunities. Their voice and use of the county forests will dictate the future trends that will have to be managed for.

During the next planning period we expect to develop new and expand existing recreational facilities. These will be evaluated by staff, the Forest Citizen Advisory Committee, and the County Board to determine compatibility with current and traditional forest use. Any amendments to the plan are approved by the County Board and the DNR.

### **3350 ROADS AND ACCESS**

Primary roads for access to the County Forest Units were constructed prior to 1995. No new primary roads were planned or built during the last ten years. No additional primary roads are planned to be constructed unless significant purchases are made that require access. Recreational access remained the same and this conforms to the last plan.

County Forest gates will be inspected annually and repairs and or improvements will be completed as needed.

Primary forest roads will be graded annually or after heavy use due to timber sales. Repairs and improvements will be completed as needed. Secondary roads and trails that are currently gated or burmed will remained closed to motorized vehicles.