

Oneida County Forest 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan Updates: August 2017

Additions are underlined

Deletions are ~~struck through~~

325 FOREST CERTIFICATION (Page 300-5)

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

505 SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES (Page 500-5)

Silviculture is the practice of controlling forest composition, structure, and growth to maintain and enhance the forest's utility for any purpose. Silvicultural practices are based on research and general silvical knowledge of the species being managed. The goal is to encourage vigor within all developmental stages of forest stands, managed in an even aged or uneven aged system. The application of silviculture to a diverse forest needs a unified, systematic approach. The DNR Public Forest Lands Handbook (2460.5) and DNR Silvicultural and Forest Aesthetics Handbook (2431.5) will be used as guidelines for management practices used on the County Forest. Tree retention guidelines contained in chapter 24 of the WDNR Silviculture and Aesthetics Handbook (HB24315.24) will be used when establishing timber sales and applying silvicultural treatments.

505.5.2 Chemical Site Preparation (Page 500-16)

Herbicide application can be an effective means of controlling unwanted

vegetation in order to establish seedlings or plantations. It should be used sparingly, in situations where mechanical treatment is not expected to provide the level of vegetative control needed. Chemicals will be selected and applied in strict accordance with label recommendations and requirements. Chemicals that are listed on the FSC and SFI banned “Highly Hazardous Pesticide” lists will not be used without proper derogation from both FSC and SFI. Whenever possible, non-chemical (mechanical) control will be used. The objective of herbicide use is not to kill all competing vegetation, but rather to kill or set back competing vegetation only enough to establish a reasonably stocked stand of desirable trees. Proximity to private lands, residences, highways and other public use areas must be considered in selecting both the herbicide and the means of application. Herbicides can be applied with hand-held equipment, by motorized ground based equipment or aircraft. Chemicals will only be applied under supervision of a Certified Pesticide Applicator. A written prescription for each herbicide application will be prepared, kept on file, and be made available to the primary applicator.

510.5.2 Designated Picnic Areas (Page 500-21)

Picnic areas open to the public include:

- a. Almon Park
- b. Bass Lake Picnic Area
- c. Perch Lake Picnic Area
- ~~d. Townline Lake Park~~
- d. Willow Rapids Picnic Area

510.5.3 Designated Swimming Areas (Page 500-21)

Designated swimming areas include:

- a. Almon Park Beach
- b. ~~Townline Lake Beach~~

510.7 RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (Page 500-23)

Oneida County will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act regulations. In addition, it is the policy of the Committee to provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities wherever possible. Disabled Access Trails designated for persons with disabilities have been established in each block of the County Forest. These trails are gated and persons with a class A disability card may obtain a key from the Forestry Office to access these trails via motor vehicle. All other persons are limited to foot travel only on these trails. See Chapter 14 of the Oneida County General Code for more specific information.

530.1 Wisconsin State Natural Areas (Page 500-32)

Oneida County manages a variety of property designations including Wisconsin State Natural Areas (SNA). The SNA system represents the wealth and variety of Wisconsin's native landscape. They contain outstanding examples of native biotic communities and are often the last refuges in the state for rare and endangered plant and animal species. The Wisconsin SNA program works with counties to further recognize outstanding native biotic communities that Oneida County is presently managing as exceptional areas. SNA's are unique in that they can exist as stand alone properties or be designated within the boundaries of another property type. Oneida County maintains its land ownership, management and decision-making authority, but with cooperative recognition of these sites the county can enhance its ability to provide a broader range of opportunities for the citizens.

DNR State Natural Areas staff will work cooperatively with the County Forest by coordinating educational, monitoring, and research activities. Assistance on management projects can provide the county with more resources to accomplish necessary management. Management will protect the unique character of the area. The importance of the Wisconsin State Natural Areas has been recognized on the County Forest through cooperation with the Department staff in designating and managing 700 acres of the County Forest for one SNA.

Gobler Lake (FSC Category 3 HCV): This 400 700-acre site is found in sections 5 & 6 T35N R5E. This designated State Natural Area was set up in 1974 to recognize the significant biological features and promote research activities. Gobler Lake contains a large open muskeg and a soft water bog lake. With road access along the esker on the south boundary, this is an outstanding location for interpretation of glacial impacts and muskeg formation. The site is ideal for research on large bog (muskeg) functions and for understanding boreal birds such as Canada and Connecticut Warblers and Lincoln's Sparrow here near their southern range limit

530.2 High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) (Page 500-33 through 34)

Noisy Creek Cedars (FSC Category 3 HCV). This approximately 500 acre high conservation value forest lies in sections 21 and 22 of T35N R9E. This site was designated by WDNR experts following site surveys and consultation with the County. The site consists primarily of white cedar, tamarack and alder. The waters of Noisy Creek and the several spring sources are mineral rich with an alkaline quality. These types of forested wetlands have more diverse species composition especially sedges and orchids and such is the case with Noisy Creek. With only one preliminary survey in 2005, over 120 wet forest plant species were identified including 11 orchid species. The site also had an abundance of nesting bird species with excellent populations of Canada Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler and Northern Waterthrush found at the site. Additional inventory is needed to more fully assess the site's biological values. Due to the site's diverse plant and bird communities, exceptionally wet soils and concerns regarding regeneration of white cedar, Oneida County will continue to manage the area in such a way as to not adversely affect the unique values of this area. The county recognizes the site's biological values and may collaborate with the Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program in the future.

Enterprise Wetland Forest Hemlocks (FSC Category 3 HCV). This approximately 720 acre site (of which approximately 500 acres is County owned and 220 acres is State owned) lies in sections 11, 14, and 15 in T35N R9E and contains a large forested wetland that abuts several ~~Board of Commissioners of Public Land (BCPL)~~ WDNR parcels. This site was designated by WDNR experts following site surveys and consultation with the County. This intact mosaic of wetland forest types affords a rare opportunity for Oneida County to work collaboratively with ~~BCPL~~ WDNR to maintain relative extensive example of representative northern Wisconsin wetland forest communities. The site contains upland hemlock, white cedar swamp, black ash swamp, tamarack, black spruce and open bog communities. Several rare plants (sparse-flowered sedge, showy lady's slipper, small yellow lady's slipper and common bog arrow grass) are found at this site. WDNR experts have assessed this site in the past. It was determined that hemlock trees as old as 200 years exist on the site and may have been passed over during the late 1800-early 1900 logging era. Oneida County will continue to manage the area in such a way as to not adversely affect the unique values of this area.

610.3.1.5 Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) (Page 600-8)

The emerald ash borer was introduced from Asia and has taken hold in lower Michigan. In Michigan it has resulted in widespread mortality specific to ash including green, white, black and several horticultural varieties. ~~Although not currently present in Wisconsin, it is a severe threat to ash in the State.~~ EAB has been found in 41 of Wisconsin's 72 counties, including Oneida County. EAB was first detected in Oneida County in Rhinelander in 2014. Since that time, additional infestation have been found within the City of Rhinelander and two sites on the outskirts of the City. Ash comprises a significant component in the northern hardwood timber type and can be found in nearly pure stands in some lowland areas. Adult beetles feed on foliage, however, it is the larvae that cause mortality by feeding on the phloem and outer sapwood of the ash trees. Oneida County will cooperate with ongoing trapping and survey efforts. Sound silvicultural practices

will continue to be used to maintain forest health. ~~Should an infestation occur,~~ Oneida County will continue to work with DNR Forest Health staff in applying measures to minimize spread, including aggressive salvaging of trees. Both White Ash and Black Ash occur on the County Forest. These species will be targeted for removal during normal timber sale establishment. In the event EAB is found within one of the blocks of the County Forest, more aggressive removal of Ash trees will be implemented.

610.3.1.6 Oak Wilt (Page 600-9)

Oak wilt is a destructive disease of oak trees. It is responsible for the death of thousands of oak trees in forests, woodlots, and home landscapes each year. Oak wilt is caused by a fungus that invades and impairs the tree's water conducting system resulting in branch wilting and tree death. Trees in both the red oak group and white oak group are affected. There is no known cure once a tree has oak wilt. Prevention of new oak wilt infection centers is the best management option and involves avoiding injury to healthy trees and removing dead or diseased trees. Healthy trees should not be pruned during the growing season (April 15 – August 1) as this attracts beetles that may carry the oak wilt fungus. If pruning is necessary or damage is incurred during the growing season, e.g. through construction activities or storms, the wounds should be painted immediately with a wound paint. It will be Oneida County's policy to remove infected trees and debark or chip them when located in a high intensive use area. Once chipped or debarked, the materials shall be covered with plastic for a period of six months to kill the fungus and any insects in the material. A vibratory plow, or similar implement, will also be used to sever root grafts on isolated pockets where feasible. ~~Timber harvest of red oak will be restricted between April 15 and August 1.~~ The WDNR Oak Wilt Guidelines will be followed by Oneida County when managing stands where oak is present.

850.3 HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS / AREAS (HCVF) & EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCES (Page 800-37)

850.3.1 Areas High in Locally, Regionally or Nationally Significant Biodiversity Values

The Oneida County Forest contains several areas considered to be HCVF's or areas of significant biodiversity value.

1. State Natural Areas (SNA): Gobler Lake SNA (FSC HCVF Category 3)
2. High Conservation Value Forests
 - a. Noisy Creek Cedars (FSC HCVF Category 3)
 - b. Enterprise ~~Wetland Forest~~ Hemlocks (FSC HCVF Category 3)
3. Other Exceptional Resources
 - a. Scott Creek
 - b. Willow Rapids Bog
 - c. Little Rice River