

2008 WORK PLAN FOR THE ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

In 2008 Oneida County Forest management activities will be accomplished under the following accounts:

<u>Account</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Amount Budget</u>
County Forest Account	56110	\$ 629,780.00
State Aid Forestry Account	56112	\$ 51,000.00
Forest Road Account	56111	\$ 19,505.00
State Aid Wildlife Habitat Account	56116	\$ 19,000.00

Forest management activities will be as follows:

County Forest Cooperative Planning

The annual County Forest Cooperative Planning Meeting between the Oneida County Forestry Department (OCFD) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was held on July 24, 2007. The purpose of the planning meeting is to provide a forum where both departments can jointly establish and agree upon County Forest Management Goals for the upcoming year. Individuals present at the 2008 County Forest Cooperative Planning Meeting were: DNR County Forest Liaison, Manny Oradei; DNR Wildlife Manager, Ron Eckstein; DNR Team Leader, Tim Friedrich; DNR Forestry Specialist, Brian Spencer, Oneida County Forest Director, John Bilogan; Oneida County Assistant Forest Director, Paul Fiene; and Oneida County Forester, Eric Rady. Items discussed were County Conservation Funds, Wildlife Habitat Funds (10 cents per acre funds), proposed timber sales and harvest acreage goals, reforestation, forest reconnaissance, forest blocking, time standards, fish and wildlife projects and forest protection.

Timber Sale Establishment

Approximately 1400 acres of mature timber will be harvested in 20 areas as specified in Section 12 B of the forest reconnaissance computer printout. This will entail approximately 500 acres of Northern Hardwood thinning and 600 acres of Aspen harvest for regeneration. In addition, approximately 300 acres of miscellaneous timber types will also be harvested. The sale areas are distributed throughout the three County Forest Blocks (Enterprise, Cassian-Woodboro, and Lynne-Little Rice). A total sale value of \$600,000 is anticipated. The labor required to establish the aforementioned timber sale acreage will be provided by the OCFD in conjunction with planned assistance from DNR Forestry personnel.

Timber Sale Administration

It is anticipated that between 30 and 40 timber sale contracts will be active in the year 2008. Department involvement will include contract administration, sale inspection, and fiscal record keeping. A harvest of 20,000 cords with an equivalent value of \$800,000.00 is anticipated. The haul permit system will continue to be used for pulpwood and wood scaling will be utilized for saw logs. Weekly timber sale inspections by both County and DNR personnel will be conducted on all active sales.

Forest Reconnaissance

Forest Reconnaissance work scheduled for 2008 includes the complete revision of approximately 5,000 acres of outdated forest reconnaissance information that was collected in the 1970's, and 80's. In addition, approximately 2,000 acres of forest reconnaissance data (collected in the 1990's) will be updated to reflect recent forest management activities. A combination of DNR and OCFD employees will be utilized to perform the above-described work.

Forest Protection

Cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources will be sought in protecting the forest from insects, disease, and forest fires. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), will be contracted with to help control nuisance beaver damage. Isolated Beaver colonies that have been identified as posing a threat to timber productivity, or causing damage to County Forest Roads, and Trout Streams will be targeted for capture and removal.

County Forest Roads

Additional gravel has been identified as a key priority for maintaining the high quality of our existing County Forest Road system. Consequently, locating a suitable site for future gravel crushing with low visible impact near the northern edge of the Enterprise County Forest Block will be a priority. Our culvert replacement plan is scheduled to continue in 2008. Each year approximately five to ten culverts that have reached the end of their life expectancy are scheduled for replacement. Because the majority of culverts used on the County Forest Road System are smaller in size (18-24 inch diameter), they can be installed with Forestry Department personnel and equipment. In addition to the 18-24 inch culverts scheduled for replacement in 2008 by OCFD Personnel, one larger 48-inch diameter culvert is also scheduled for installation. Due to its size, the 48-inch diameter culvert will require the installation services of a contractor with larger equipment than that available to the OCFD. Normal maintenance of the other County Forest Roads will include grading, sign replacement, culvert and wash out repair, spot graveling, brushing, mowing, and beaver flood control. Access to the remainder of the forest will be determined by implementation of the access management provisions of the current Fifteen-Year Plan.

Reforestation and Plantation Release

Approximately 40 acres of established timber harvest areas may be chain scarified in order to expose mineral soil and prepare a seed bed for Oak, Maple, Pine, and Birch trees. Small irregularly shaped clear-cuts ranging in size from 5-10 acres are planned for scattered areas adjacent to the Washburn Recreational Trail System. Upon completion of the aforementioned harvest, the small clear-cut areas will be planted with fast growing coniferous species to provide evergreen cover along the trail. The reforestation efforts described above will greatly reduce the visual impact of subsequent timber harvests planned for the area surrounding the Washburn Recreational Trail by providing a natural visual screen of cover.

Wildlife Management

In cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources, wildlife management activity on the County Forest will center around forest openings maintenance, habitat trail mowing, seeding hunter hiking trails, and special timber sale designs to promote both game and non-game wildlife habitat. State Aid Wildlife money was budgeted for hiring a Wildlife LTE. Work performed by the wildlife LTE will include maintenance of openings and trails by mowing and brushing, seeding,

prescribed burns, forest road maintenance and assistance with timber sale establishment. A small allotment of State Aid Wildlife money has also been set aside to pay for landfill tipping fees generated from the disposal of trash collected from County Forest land by organized Sporting Club clean-up events.

Equipment and Facilities

In 2008, money has been budgeted to replace an existing 36-year old, 50-hp utility tractor. The tractor is primarily used for mowing forest access trails, and woodland recreational trails, and to a lesser extent, maintenance of County Parks and wildlife game openings. Upon purchasing the utility tractor, the remaining balance in the equipment purchase account will be re-evaluated to determine if sufficient funds are available to purchase one or more of the following pieces of equipment: a heavy duty snowmobile, and an all-terrain vehicle (ATV). The heavy-duty snowmobile will be used to groom approximately 45-miles of ski trail maintained by the OCFD, and will replace an existing 7-year old Skandic Snowmobile. The ATV will be used to inspect recreational trails, and to access remote areas of the Oneida County Forest. The new ATV will replace an existing 19-year old Honda Foreman ATV.

ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND, & OUTDOOR RECREATION COMMITTEE

November 7, 2007

Thomas Rudolph, Chairman

Wilbur Petroskey, Vice Chairman

Charles Wickman, Member

Gary Baier, Member

Guy Hansen, Member