

## **Exhibit # 1**

### **2012 WORK PLAN FOR THE ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT**

**In 2012 Oneida County Forest management activities will be accomplished under the following accounts:**

<u>Account</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Budget Amount</u>
County Forest Account	56110	\$ 944,000.00
Forest Road Account	56111	\$ 142,100.00
State Aid Wildlife Habitat Account	56116	\$ 16,500.00

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**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 August 2, 2011. 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 2011 County Forest Cooperative Planning Meeting were: DNR County Forest Liaison, Manny Oradei; DNR Wildlife Manager, Michele Woodford; DNR Team Leader, Tim Friedrich; DNR Forestry Specialist, Brian Spencer; Oneida County Forest Director, John Bilogan; and Oneida County Assistant Forest Director Paul Fiene. Items discussed were County Forest Time Standards, Wildlife Habitat funds, proposed timber sales and harvest acreage goals, reforestation, County Forest Roads, forest health and protection issues, forest reconnaissance, forest blocking, and SFI Forest Certification issues.

#### **Timber Sale Establishment**

Approximately 2400 acres of mature timber will be harvested in 25 areas as specified in Section 202 of the WisFirs forest reconnaissance computer printout. This will entail approximately 825 acres of Northern Hardwood thinning and 650 acres of Aspen harvest for regeneration. In addition, approximately 925 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). The allowable cut for 2012 is 2476

acres. The estimated value of this 2400 acres of timber sales is approximately \$1,300,000. The labor required to establish the aforementioned timber sale acreage will be provided by the OCFD with assistance from DNR Forestry personnel. In addition, the County has secured a Sustainable Forestry Initiative Grant for 500 hours of LTE Forester labor. A portion of this 500 hours will be spent on timber sale establishment. The County has also budgeted \$20,000 for additional LTE Forester labor to be used in the establishment of timber sales.

### **Timber Sale Administration**

It is anticipated that between 35 and 45 timber sale contracts will be active in the year 2012. Department involvement will include contract administration, sale inspection, and fiscal record keeping. A harvest of 35,000 cord equivalents with an equivalent value of approximately \$1,300,000 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 2012 includes the complete revision of approximately 4,000 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. Forest insects and diseases in our area, and/or projected to emerge or migrate into our area where discuss.

### **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. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) has notified the Oneida County Forestry Department that segments of our County Forest road system require widening to remain eligible for DOT maintenance funds. Accordingly, a plan is currently being developed to systematically widen those segments of existing Oneida County Forest road system that have been identified by the DOT as being too narrow. Normal road maintenance is scheduled to take place on the balance of County Forest Road System

including grading, signing, wash out repair, spot graveling, brushing, mowing, and beaver flood control. The culvert replacement plan is scheduled to continue in 2012. 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 mentioned above, the installation of one larger 48-inch diameter culvert will be contracted out for replacement 2012. In total, \$142,100.00 has been budgeted in the County Forest Roads Account to fund the above-described projects.

### **Reforestation and Plantation Release**

Establishment of small irregularly shaped clear cuts ranging in size from 3-10 acres will be established in scattered areas adjacent to the Washburn Recreational Trail System. Upon completion of the aforementioned harvest, the harvested 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. Time permitting, several recently thinned hardwood stands will be chain scarified in order to expose mineral soil and prepare a seed bed for Oak, Maple, Pine, and Birch trees. Approximately 24 acres will be planted to Jack Pine seedlings. This plantation is in an area where aspen was recently harvested and the aspen stocking was so low that natural aspen regeneration likely will not occur. Site preparation consisting of an herbicide application and disc trenching was completed in Fall 2011 on this area. Planting will occur in Spring 2012.

### **Forest Certification**

The Oneida County Forest is certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) program. The SFI certification requires periodic random audits of forests that are certified under this program. In 2011 no significant issues were identified as needing attention by Wisconsin County Forest programs certified under SFI. The following is a list of minor items identified by SFI as needing attention, and the action plan developed by the DNR and adopted by the Oneida County Forestry Department to address the areas of concerns.

### **SFI Corrective Action Requests (CARs)**

No new CARs were issued following the 2011 SFI Audit. However, two opportunities for improvement (OFIs) were issued. These are:

1. There is an opportunity to improve the use of a system to document road and trail conditions, including planning to address maintenance needs. The County will address this through the development of a road inspection form that will be filled out by field personnel each time they inspect a county forest road. Also, the SFI Grant LTE Forester will be doing assessments on recreational trails and logging roads.

2. There is an opportunity to improve the pace at which new information about regeneration is made available to field personnel. The DNR has recently begun revising sections of the Silvicultural Manual to address this item. The SFI LTE Grant Forester will also be doing regeneration assessments in hardwood stands recently harvested.

### **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 funds have been budgeted for reforestation projects, which includes site preparation, seedling purchase, and planting. Anchor chain scarification may be used to promote regeneration of species beneficial to wildlife. A small allotment of State Aid Wildlife money has also been set aside to establish quality waterfowl nesting cover immediately adjacent to the Spruce Lake Flowage located within the Spruce Lake Waterfowl Management Area.

### **Equipment and Facilities**

Funds have been budgeted to replace the following equipment in 2012: 1) a Skandic wide track snowmobile, which will be used for grooming cross-country ski trails, 2) an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) which will be used for a variety of work ranging from forest management to ATV Trail inspections, and 3) a heavy equipment trailer, which will be used for transporting heavy equipment to various work sites through out the County Forest.

### **ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND, & OUTDOOR RECREATION COMMITTEE**

*December 7, 2011*

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Gary Baier, Chairman

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Denny Thompson, Vice Chairman

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Thomas Rudolph, Member

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Jack Martinson, Member

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Greg Berard, Member