

2017 WORK PLAN FOR THE ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

Account	Revenue			Expenses			Requested
	New	Appl. Cont. Appropriations	Total	Personnel	Other	Total	
56110 Co. Forest	1,349,769.00-	8,000.00-	1,357,769.00-	276,178.00	88,716.00	364,894.00	992,875.00-
56111 St. Aid Roads	11,750.00-	8,500.00-	20,250.00-	0	20,250.00	20,250.00	0
56116 St. Aid Wildlife	3,900.00-	0.00	3,900.00-	0	3,900.00	3,900.00	0
55210 Co. Parks	59,350.00-	8,000.00-	67,350.00-	184,498.00	63,420.00	247,918.00	180,568.00
55212 Campground	3,500.00 -	0	3,500.00-	0	2,090.00	2,090.00	1,410.00-
55410 St. Aid Snowmo	300,825.00-	0	300,825.00-	0	300,825.00	300,825.00	0
55412 St. Aid ATV	58,715.00-	0	58,715.00-	0	58,715.00	58,715.00	0
Total	1,787,809 .00-	24,500.00-	1,796,309. 00-	460,676 .00	537,916.00	998,592.00	797,717.00 -

In 2017 Oneida County Forestry Department management activities will be accomplished under the following accounts:

FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Annual County Forest Integrated Planning Meeting

The Annual County Forest Integrated Planning Meeting between the Oneida. County Forestry Department (OCFD) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) were held on August 18, 2016. 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 2016-17 County Forest Integrated Planning Meeting were DNR County Forest Liaison, Manny Oradei; DNR Northern Region Team Supervisor, John Gillen; DNR Northern Area Supervisor, Heather Berklund; DNR Forestry Specialist, Brian Spencer; Area Forestry Specialist, Ken Hayes; DNR Fisheries Biologist, John Kubisiak; DNR Wildlife Biologist, Michele Woodford; Oneida County Forest Director, John Bilogan; Oneida County Assistant Forest Director, Paul Fiene; and Oneida County Forester, Eric Rady. 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 Forest Certification issues.

Timber Sale Establishment

Approximately 2000 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 650 acres of Northern Hardwood thinning and 675 acres of Aspen harvest for regeneration. In addition, approximately 600 acres of miscellaneous timber types will also be harvested. The sale areas are distributed throughout the three County Forest Blocks (Enterprise, Cassian-Woodborp and Lynne-Little Rice). The allowable cut for 2017 is 1,967 acres. The estimated value of this 1,967 acres of timber sales is approximately \$1,480,000.

The labor required to establish the aforementioned timber sale acreage will be provided by the OCFD with assistance from DNR Forestry personnel. In addition, in 2017 the Oneida County Forestry Department will also be hiring a full time employee who will split time between timber sale establishment and recreational duties.

Acres by Forest Cover Type Scheduled for Harvest in 2017

Forest Cover Type	Total Acres on County Forest	Acres Scheduled for Harvest in 2017
Aspen	32,233	675
Cedar	2,591	52
Balsam Fir	61	0
Red Maple	1,435	61
Northern Hardwood	13,658	650
Red Oak	2,322	31
Red Pine	2,135	159
White Pine	357	0
Black Spruce/Tamarack	7,908	43
Swamp Hardwood	1,518	296
Total Acres Scheduled		1,967

The 1,967 acres scheduled for harvest in 2017 lie in all three blocks of the County Forest. Approximately 25 separate timber sales will be established to address the scheduled acres to be harvested.

A goal of establishing 2,000 acres is planned. Due to unforeseen factors such as wind storms, insect or disease outbreaks and other acts of nature, the above scheduled acres may change.

For more detailed information regarding the acres scheduled for harvest, such as which compartments/stands are scheduled, contact the Oneida County Forestry Office at (715) 369-6140.

Timber Sale Administration

It is anticipated that between 35 and 45 timber sale contracts will be active during 2017. This contract activity will be spread throughout the year with fall and winter being the most active times. 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 \$1,480,000 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 will be conducted by both County and DNR personnel when sales are active.

Forest Reconnaissance

Forest Reconnaissance (recon) work scheduled for 2017 includes the updating of recon information that is older than 15 years as time permits. A total of approximately 3000 acres of recon update is anticipated.

Forest Protection

Cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be sought to protect the forest from insects, disease, and forest fires. Cooperation from the DNR will also be sought to assist in the eradication of Glossy Buckthorn and Garlic Mustard. These two non-native invasive plant species were found in the Enterprise Block of the County Forest in 2013. A combination of chemical and mechanical treatment was performed on these non-native invasive species in 2014. An LTE was hired in 2016 to do a more intensive survey of the County Forest for invasives, and to begin eradication measures on populations. This survey located numerous populations of invasive species. A management plan was developed by this LTE and OCFD personnel to monitor and conduct control measures on those populations deemed most threatening. The LTE continued with established control measures on the Garlic Mustard population, along with initiating control on newly located populations of Garlic Mustard, Glossy Buckthorn, Canada Thistle and Wild Parsnip. This included application of herbicides and hand pulling of plants.

With the recent discovery of Oak Wilt in the Woodruff area, Lake Nokomis area, and in the Town of Lake Tomahawk, the OCFD will continue to monitor oak stands for any signs of Oak Wilt. If it is found, all attempts will be made to isolate the infection and prevent additional spread.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), will be contracted 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 already in our area, and/or projected to emerge or migrate into our area were discussed. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was found in Oneida County in October of 2014. The result of this discovery is that Oneida County is now quarantined against the movement of ash log/pulp products and all firewood out of the county without the proper documentation. Two additional locations of infestation by EAB have been located within the City of Rhinelander and approximately ¼ mile west of the city. This shows that EAB is spreading regardless of the quarantine. The OCFD will continue to work with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the DNR to devise a strategy to minimize the environmental and economic impact this discovery may have on the County. The OCFD will focus more on harvesting White and Black Ash during normal timber sale establishment especially within a 15 mile radius of the EAB discoveries.

Reforestation and Plantation Release

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 by providing a natural visual screen surrounding the Washburn Recreational Trail. Time permitting, several recently thinned hardwood stands will be chain scarified in by order to expose mineral soil and prepare a seed bed for Oak, Maple, Pine, and Birch trees.

No additional conifer planting is anticipated for 2017.

Efforts to regenerate Red Oak will be undertaken in 2017. This will include application of herbicides, soil scarification and possibly the planting of acorns. Part of the cost for this regeneration effort will be paid for using Wild Turkey Stamp Grant funds and the DNR Wildlife \$0.05/Acre grant fund.

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 2016 one Minor Corrective Action Request (CAR) was identified 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)

SFI Minor CAR 2016-1: Use of SFI Logos does not fully conform to Section 5 - Rules for Use of SFI On-Product Labels and Off-Product Marks.

Some counties have been using outdated logos or logos with an incorrect certification number. The WDNR will be forwarding the current approved logo with the correct certification number to be incorporated into county documents where required. Also, some Counties have been using the logos for uses not permitted by SFI. A list of approved uses of the logos will be sent to the Counties. Oneida County will ensure that all of the uses of the logo are permissible.

One opportunity for improvement (OFI) was issued. This is:

SFI OFI 2016-1 There is an Opportunity for Improvement in the criteria and implementation of stand level retention within larger Aspen clear-cut blocks.

Oneida County has followed previously established guidelines regarding retention of areas within Aspen clear-cuts. If these guidelines change due to this OFI, the County will comply with newly established guidelines.

In 2016, at the request of several wood-using industry representatives, Oneida County voted to enter into the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification system. In 2017, the application to enter into FSC certification will be submitted to the WDNR for consideration. It is also anticipated that due to this entry into FSC, the Oneida County Forest program will likely be audited by both SFI and FSC in the summer of 2017. This audit will entail the scrutinizing of all aspects of the Oneida County Forest management. The audit will require several weeks of preparation and several days of onsite and phone meetings with the auditors. Following the audit, Oneida County will take the necessary actions to comply with any CAR's or OFI's identified.

Wildlife Management

In cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources, wildlife management activity on the County Forest will center on forest openings maintenance, habitat trail mowing, control of terrestrial invasive species through chemical application, hand-pulling, and burning, designing timber sales that incorporate wildlife habitat needs of both game and non-game wildlife species.

In addition to those projects listed above, State Aid Wildlife funds have also been budgeted in 2017 for the following wildlife habitat projects:

- 1) Control encroachment of undesirable vegetation into wildlife openings and hunter hiking trails with a combination of prescribed burns and mowing.
- 2) Control beaver damage to forest roads by contracting with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for removal of undesirable beaver colonies.
- 3) Promote the establishment and growth of mast producing tree species with scarification techniques that optimize soil conditions for natural seed germination.

County Forest Roads

In 2012 the Oneida County Forestry Department identified 29.7 miles of existing County Forest Road that required widening and/or resurfacing to remain compliant with Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT) specification standards for County Forest Roads. To address these road deficiencies, the Oneida County Forestry Department developed a Road Widening and Resurfacing Plan. 2016 marked the fourth year of county forest road rehabilitation under the widening and resurfacing plan. In 2016, a new gravel pit was established adjacent to Shingle Mill Road where 10,000 cubic yards of class III road gravel was crushed and stockpiled for future use on the county forest road system. In 2017, Zimmer Road, which measures 7.09 miles in length, is scheduled for widening and resurfacing.

Periodically aging and/or otherwise failing culverts require replacement because most of the culverts used on the county forest road system are relatively small in size, (18-24 inch diameter); they can be installed and/or replaced with Forestry Department equipment and personnel.

In addition to the specialized projects mentioned above, normal road maintenance, including but not limited to: grading, signing, wash-out repair, spot graveling, brushing, mowing, and beaver flood control, took place throughout the county's 37 mile forest road network.

Equipment and Facilities

Each year an amortized allotment of funds is budgeted in a non-lapsing account for the replacement of existing department equipment. In 2017, the Forestry Department scheduled and budgeted for the replacement of an existing 1/2 ton, 4-wheel drive pickup truck.

PARKS

In addition to the timber and wildlife management programs mentioned above, the Oneida County Forestry Department will also administer and maintain a campground and two day-use parks in 2017.

At 160 acres in size, Almon Park is the largest and most popular day use park maintained by the Forestry Department. Some of the more popular features offered at Almon Park include a large swimming beach, 18-hole disc golf course, picnic shelters and several miles of picturesque hiking trails.

Perch Lake Park offers a heated shelter building, lakeshore picnic facilities, an ADA compliant fishing pier, and serves as the main trail head for the Washburn Silent Sports trail system.

The Enterprise Forest campground features 11 oversized campsites, 2 toilet buildings, onsite firewood, potable water, and is directly connected to the Oneida County ATV/UTV Trail System.

2017 Park Capital Improvement Projects:

- Replace 2 small swimming beach shelter buildings.
- Repair swimming beach retaining wall (as needed).
- Tree pruning.

Recreational Trails

Miscellaneous recreational opportunities provided by the Oneida County Forestry Department in 2017 will include: 35 miles of cross country ski trail, 25 miles of hiking trail, 12 miles of mountain bike trail, 10 miles of snowshoe trail, 6 miles of Fat tire bike trail, 395 miles of snowmobile trail, and 35 miles of ATV/UTV trail. In addition to those trail systems mentioned above, the Oneida County Forest offers hundreds of miles of unimproved woodland trails open and available to the public for recreational use.

2017 Recreational Trail Capital Improvement Projects:

- Resurface 8 miles of ATV/UTV trails.
- Install two 5-ft diameter culverts, and 3-bridges and as part of the Enterprise ATV/UTV trail expansion project.

Land Acquisition

It is a policy of Oneida County to consider the acquisition of parcels of land, located within the formal boundaries of our existing county forest blocks, as said parcels become available for purchase. The rationale for this policy is largely rooted in the concept that land management becomes more efficient with the elimination or reduction of privately owned inholdings.

In 2016 the Oneida County Forestry Committee was approached by two different private property owners, who owned land that met Oneida Counties guidelines for acquisition consideration, that were interested in selling their property. After an extensive evaluation of these parcels, and obtaining approval from the county board, the forestry department purchased the two parcels described above which totaled 120-acres in size (i.e. one 81.64-ac parcel, & one 39-ac parcel).

One hundred percent of funding for the 80-acre parcel described above came from a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Land Acquisition Grant packaged together with an 80-acre land match from Oneida County. The net result of this transaction was 160 acres of productive forest land being added to the county forest land base (i.e. the

80-acre parcel purchased + the existing county owned 80-acre parcel) without requiring any county money.

The second parcel purchased in 2016, 39 acres located in the Town of Lynne, was initially purchased with Oneida County funds. However, the Forestry Department is currently preparing an after-the-fact Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Land Acquisition Grant request that in theory, will provide a 100% reimbursement to Oneida County for the initial funds used to purchase the 39-acre parcel. Ultimately, this transaction will result in an additional increase to the County Forest land base of approximately 80 acres.

Currently the Oneida County Forestry Committee is evaluating a 108.4-acre parcel located in the Town of Enterprise, and a 3.5-acre parcel located in the Town of Woodboro for possible purchase in 2017. If either of the above described parcels is brought to the Oneida County Board for purchase in 2017, the purchase proposal will likely include 50% or more of the final purchase price being provide by the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Land Acquisition program.

ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY LAND & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Jack Sorensen, Chair

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December 7, 2016