

2018 WORK PLAN FOR THE ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

Forest and recreational management activities scheduled for the Oneida County Forest will be accomplished with the aid of the funds, described below and approved for use in 2018, by the Oneida County Forestry Department in 2018.

Account	Revenue			Expenses			Requested
	New	Appl. Cont.	Total	Personnel	Other	Total	
		Appropriations					
56110 Co. Forest	1,341,221.00-	0.00	1,341,221.00-	260,588.00	82,850.00	343,438.00	997,783.00-
56111 St. Aid Roads	12,600.00-	0.00	12,600.00-	0.00	6,600.00	6,600.00	6,000.00-
56116 St. Aid Wildlife	3,860.00-	2,040.00-	5,900.00-	0.00	5,900.00	5,900.00	0.00
55210 Co. Parks	74,856.00-	10,000.00-	84,856.00-	234,076.00	81,650.00	315,726.00	230,870.00
55212 Campground	5,650.00-	0.00	5,650.00-	0.00	1,930.00	1,930.00	3,720.00-
56920 Maps	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
55410 St. Aid Snowmobile	322,300.00-	0.00	322,300.00-	0.00	322,300.00	322,300.00	0.00
55412 St. Aid ATV	259,891.00-	0.00	259,891.00-	0.00	259,891.00	259,891.00	0.00
Total	2,020,378.00-	12,040.00-	2,032,418.00-	494,664.00	764,121.00	1,258,785.00	773,633.00-

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) was held on October 5, 2017. 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 2017-18 Oneida County Forest Integrated Planning Meeting were DNR County Forest Liaison, Manny Oradei; DNR Northern Region Team Supervisor, John Gillen; DNR Wildlife Biologist, Michele Woodford; DNR Wildlife Technician, Eric Kroening; Oneida County Forest Director, John Bilogan; Oneida County Assistant Forest Director, Paul Fiene; and Oneida County Foresters, Eric Rady and Joe Renik. 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

The Oneida County Forestry Department has established a target goal of approximately 1800 acres of timber to be established for sale in 2018. However, only 1,472 acres of timber are scheduled for harvest in Sec. 202 of WISFIRS. This consists of 116 acres of Northern Hardwood thinning's and 646 acres of Aspen regeneration harvests. In addition, approximately 710 acres of miscellaneous timber types are scheduled for harvest. In addition to the 1,472 acres scheduled for harvest, we have also identified several large aspen stands (200 acres and larger) that will be entered earlier than the scheduled date in order to start breaking up the stands. These early entries along with several unscheduled hardwood thinning's (stands that have been determined to be ready for harvest through routine reconnaissance) coupled with the 1,472 acres scheduled should approximately equal the target establishment goal of 1,800 acres. The sale areas will be distributed throughout the three County Forest Blocks (Enterprise, Cassian-Woodborp and Lynne-Little Rice). The estimated value of this 1,800 acres of timber sales is approximately \$1,100,000.

The labor required to establish the aforementioned timber sale acreage will be provided by the OCFD with assistance from DNR Forestry personnel.

Acres by Forest Cover Type Scheduled for Harvest in 2018		
Forest Cover Type	Total Acres on County Forest	Acres Scheduled for Harvest in 2018
Aspen	32,412	646
Cedar	2,603	66
White Spruce	187	17
Red Maple	1,435	0
Northern Hardwood	13,287	116
Red Oak	2,322	48
Red Pine	2,135	131
White Pine	357	47
Black Spruce/Tamarack	7,908	74
Swamp Hardwood	1,518	327
Total Acres Scheduled		1,472

The 1,472 acres scheduled for harvest in 2018 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 1,800 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 2018. 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 2018 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. These efforts, along with additional monitoring of invasive species populations, will continue in 2018.

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. EAB traps were placed around the Enterprise block of the county forest in 2017. No EAB were captured in these traps. The County will continue to monitor the forest for signs of EAB.

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 2018.

Efforts to regenerate Red Oak will be undertaken in 2018. 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, the DNR Wildlife \$0.05/Acre grant fund and County Conservation Aids grants.

Forest Certification

The Oneida County Forest is certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) programs. These certifications require periodic random audits of forests that are certified under these programs.

Wildlife Management

In cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources, wildlife management activity on the County Forest will center on forest openings maintenance and rehabilitation, 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 2018 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.
- 4) Purchase and installation of interpretive/educational signs that describe various forest management techniques, where, when, and why different forest management techniques are used, and how the different techniques used benefit a wide range of wildlife species.

County Forest Roads

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 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 late 2016, a new gravel pit was established adjacent to Shingle Mill Road where 5,000 cubic yards of class III road gravel was crushed and stockpiled for future use on the county forest road system.

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, (12-24 inch diameter). Because small diameter culverts are relatively easy to handle and only require basic excavating equipment to install, accordingly, most of the culverts used on the county forest road system are installed and/or replaced with Forestry Department equipment and personnel. Two small culverts have been scheduled for replacement in 2018.

Oneida County joined the FSC Certification Program in late 2016. In order to come into compliance with this program, several amendments to the 15-Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan (15-Year Plan) had to be made. These changes dealt with stating Oneida County's commitment to the FSC program along with numerous small changes dealing with High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) nomenclature, acreage of the HCVF's, along with the deletion of previously maintained day use areas that are no longer maintained. No significant change to the management of the forest is anticipated due to these 15-Year Plan amendments.

In 2017 one Major and one Minor Corrective Action Request (CAR) was identified by Wisconsin County Forest programs certified under SFI and one Minor CAR along with two Observations were identified by FSC. The following is a list of items identified by SFI and FSC 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)

Major Non-conformance – SFI Proper Logo Use *This is a Minor Non-Conformance from 2016 that was not resolved and was moved to a Major Non-Conformance. All appropriate changes to comply with the logo use were made by all counties affected, including Oneida County. This information had not been submitted to SFI by the DNR at the time of the audit. Upon submission of the information by the DNR, this item will be closed.*

Minor Non-conformance – SFI Indicator 3.1.1 – Water Quality *This relates to the discharging of water/soil off recreational trails. Oneida County is currently rehabbing many areas of the Enterprise ATV trail system to minimize discharge of soil into wetlands due to erosion. Continued monitoring and repair of problem areas will occur in 2018.*

FSC Corrective Action Requests (CARs)

Minor CAR 2017.1 – FSC Indicator 6.5.d. – Erosion Control *Application of Best Management Practices on Recreation Trails – While identifying a situation on one trail where there was soil discharge from an ATV/UTV trail directly into ash swales, the team was concerned that BMP's for water quality in place for other transportation systems were not fully being applied on all recreation trails. Despite other entities possibly maintaining these systems, County Forestry is the responsible party on county forest lands. The deadline for addressing this situation is by next year's audit. Oneida County is currently rehabbing many areas of the Enterprise ATV trail system to minimize discharge of soil into wetlands due to erosion. Continued monitoring and repair of problem areas will occur in 2018.*

Observation 2017.2 – FSC Indicator 7.3.a – Workers Supervision *Evidence was obtained of poor communications and supervision of contractors on a timber sale. Oneida County will continue to monitor timber sales on a weekly basis. Issues found during site visits will be immediately addressed with the contractors.*

Observation 2017.3 – FSC Indicator 6.5.d. – Erosion Control *Erosion control (water bars) on a timber sale unit with steep slopes following BMP guidelines was not applied. This was a unique situation that was discussed at length at the closeout meeting. No soil movement was evident at the site. Oneida County will continue to monitor timber sales on a weekly basis and to do a final closeout assessment of the sale where items such as this will be addressed with the contractor.*

2018 County Forest Road, Capital Improvements Schedule:

Widen and resurface 5.0 miles of County Forest Road, located in the Enterprise block of the Oneida County Forest.

In addition to the specialized projects mentioned above, annual road maintenance projects, including but not limited to: grading, signing, wash-out repair, spot graveling, brushing, mowing, and beaver flood control, will take place throughout the 37.5-mile county forest road system in 2018.

Equipment and Facilities

Each year an amortized allotment of funds is budgeted in a non-lapsing automotive equipment line item. The funds within this line item are used to purchase and replace new and existing equipment. In 2018, funds budgeted within the automotive equipment account will be used to purchase a utility terrain vehicle (UTV), and trailer.

PARKS

In addition to the timber and wildlife management programs mentioned above, the Oneida County Forestry Department also plans to administer and maintain two day-use parks and one campground in 2018.

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 is open year round and offers a heated shelter building, lakeshore picnic facilities, an ADA compliant fishing pier, and serves as the main trail head for the Washburn Silent 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.

2018 Park, Capital Improvement Project Schedule:

- Replace 2 small shelters located on & adjacent to the Almon Park swimming beach.
- Repair retaining wall ice damage, Almon Park swimming beach.
- Repair buckled ceiling in the Judy Swank warming shelter at Perch Lake Park.

Recreational Trails

Miscellaneous recreational opportunities provided by the Oneida County Forestry Department in 2018 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.

2018 Capital Improvement Project Schedule:

- Construct 8 miles of new ATV/UTV Trail in the Enterprise block of the OC Forest. Work will include the installation of two large, 5-ft diameter culverts and 3 bridges totaling 220 linear feet in length.
- Reconstruct four failing multi-use (i.e. ATV/UTV/Snowmobile) bridges, located in the Lynne/Little Rice block of the Oneida County Forest, that total 330 linear feet in length.

2017 Capital Improvement Project Accomplishments:

- Rehabilitate 8 miles of existing ATV/UTV trail located in the Town of Enterprise. Work included, grading, ditching, crowning, and resurfacing the trail with 4 inches of crushed gravel.
- Clear, grub, and grade a two mile corridor that will serve as part of a larger ATV/UTV Trail expansion project scheduled for completion in 2018.

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 2017 the Oneida County Forestry Committee was approached by a private land owner that expressed an interest in selling a 3.5 acre-parcel of land, located in the Town of Woodboro, adjacent to the Oneida County Forest. The subject parcel was immediately identified as one that would provide a new point of ingress and egress into the Woodboro Block of the Oneida County Forest. More specifically, the development of a new access road through the subject parcel would likely increase the value of future timber sold in the area, and decrease the impact of hauling timber on existing recreational trails located in the area. Ultimately, the 3.5 acre parcel was purchased by Oneida County for its appraised value in early 2017.

2017 Land Acquisition Accomplishments:

- 3.5-acre acquisition; located in the Cassian/Woodboro Block of the Oneida County Forest.

The Forestry committee and department staff have also been working towards a larger acquisition of two privately owned parcels located within the Town of Enterprise. The two Enterprise parcels are surrounded by existing county forest land, are stocked with mature hardwood, and contain two small lakes that total approximately 50 acres in size. An appraisal has been obtained on each parcel, and the Oneida County Board approved the submittal of an offer to purchase to each of the land owners, with the contingency that a Knowles Nelson Stewardship Grant must be obtained by the Forestry Department to offset the purchase price. At the time the report was drafted, the above described acquisitions had not reached a conclusion.

2018 Proposed Land Acquisitions:

- 230 Acres, Located in the Enterprise Block of the Oneida County Forest.