

2019 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 funds described below and approved for use by the Oneida County Forestry Department in 2019.

Account	Revenue			Expenses			Requested
	New	Appl. Cont. Appropriations	Total	Personnel	Other	Total	
51570							
Land Purchase	0.00	3,000.00-	3,000.00-	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00-
55210 Co. Parks	64,972.00-	10,000.00-	74,972.00-	223,517.00	62,900.00	286,417.00	211,445.00
55212 Campground	5,750.00-	0.00	5,750.00-	0.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	3,950.00-
55410 St. Aid Snowmobile	363,150.00-	0.00	363,150.00-	0.00	363,150.00	363,150.00	0.00
55412 St. Aid ATV	134,855.00-	0.00	134,855.00-	0.00	134,855.00	134,855.00	0.00
56110 Co. Forest	1,537,267.00-	0.00	1,537,267.00-	290,268.00	81,220.00	371,488.00	1,165,779.00-
56111 St. Aid Roads	12,232.00-	0.00	12,232.00-	0.00	12,232.00	12,232.00	0.00
56116 St. Aid Wildlife	3,860.00-	0.00	3,860.00-	0.00	3,860.00	3,860.00	0.00
56210 Mining Impact	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
56920 Maps	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Total	2,122,086.00-	13,000.00-	2,135,086.00-	513,785.00	668,017.00	1,181,802.00	953,284.00-

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 September 7, 2018. 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 2018-19 Oneida County Forest Integrated Planning Meeting were: Oneida County Forest Director, John Bilogan; Oneida County Assistant Forest Director, Paul Fiene; and Oneida County Foresters, Eric Rady and Joe Renik; DNR Area Forestry Staff Specialist, Ken Hayes; DNR Northern Region Team Supervisor, John Gillen; DNR Wildlife Biologist, Michele Woodford; DNR Wildlife Technician, Eric Kroening; and DNR County Forest

Liaison, Manny Oradei. The main items discussed at the meeting 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, forest certification, and Park/Recreation matters.

FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Timber Sale Establishment

The Oneida County Forestry Department has established a target goal of approximately 1700 acres of timber to be established for sale in 2019. However, only 1,061 acres of timber are scheduled for harvest in Sec. 202 of WISFIRS. This consists of 156 acres of Red Pine thinning's and 655 acres of Aspen regeneration harvests. In addition, approximately 250 acres of miscellaneous timber types are scheduled for harvest. In addition to the 1,061 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 along with the Bowman Road Ruffed Grouse Management area where approximately 100 acres of aspen will be harvested. These early entries along with several unscheduled hardwood thinning's (Twin Lakes Property, Lake Julia Rd 40) on land owned by the County but which is not in the County Forest program coupled with the 1,061 acres scheduled should approximately equal the target establishment goal of 1700 acres. The sale areas will be distributed throughout the three County Forest Blocks (Enterprise, Cassian-Woodboro and Lynne-Little Rice). The estimated value of this 1700 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 Proposed for Harvest in 2019			
Forest Cover Type	Total Acres on County Forest	Acres Scheduled for Harvest in 2019	Non-Scheduled Acres Proposed For Harvest in 2019
Aspen	32,412	655	20^B 100^C 410^D
Cedar	2,603	68	
White Spruce	187	0	
Red Maple	1,435	0	
Northern Hardwood	13,287	8	100^A 10^B
Red Oak	2,322	37	
Red Pine	2,135	156	
White Pine	357	0	
Black Spruce/Tamarack	7,908	44	
Swamp Hardwood	1,518	84	
Total Acres Scheduled		1,061	
Total Non-Scheduled Acres			640
Total Acres proposed for harvest in 2019		1,700	

^A - Recently acquired Twin Lakes parcel, ^B – Non county Forest land owned by Oneida County, ^C - Bowman Road Ruffed Grouse Management Area, ^D – Carry forward aspen acres and large stand breakup.

The 1,061 acres scheduled for harvest in 2019 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.

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 2019. 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 \$1,537,267 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 2019 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 2014-2018. 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 2019.

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 was quarantined against the movement of ash log/pulp products and all firewood out of the county without the proper documentation, however, in 2018 this quarantine was expanded to the entire state so the above mentioned forest products may be moved year round within the state. Numerous

areas within the city are now infested with EAB. 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 2018. 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 2019.

Efforts to regenerate Red Oak will be undertaken in 2019. 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.

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 2018 Oneida County was audited by both SFI and FSC. No Corrective Action Requests (CAR) were identified by Wisconsin County Forest programs certified under SFI or FSC. The following is a list of Opportunities for Improvement (OFI) 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/FSC Corrective Action Requests (CARs): **NONE**

SFI Opportunity for Improvement (OFI)

OFI 2018-01: There is an opportunity to improve road maintenance to comply with Wisconsin BMPs. SFI Indicator 3.1.1: Program to implement federal, state or provincial water quality best management practices during all phases of management activities. Oneida County will continue to maintain roads to the standards required by the DOT and to adhere to BMP's. Regular inspections of the County Road System will be made by staff throughout the year. As issues arise, staff will take actions necessary to comply with BMP's.

OFI 2018-02: There is an opportunity to improve in the timeliness of training for forest chemical applications regarding state-certified applicators. SFI Indicator 2.2.7: Supervision of forest chemical applications by state- or provincial-trained or certified applicators. The department has an employee who is certified to apply pesticides. Certification will be kept up to date.

FSC Observations

Obs 2018-1: *FSC – Us Forest Management Standard 6.5.b: Forest operations meet or exceed Best Management Practices (BMP's) that address components of the Criterion where the operation takes place.* An improperly installed water bar and minor "rutting" (1-2" deep tire marks with no movement of sediment) were observed during the audit. Oneida County will continue to maintain roads to the standards required by the DOT and to adhere to BMP's. Regular inspections of the County Road System will be made by staff throughout the year. As issues arise, staff will take actions necessary to comply with BMP's. When water bars are needed, staff will work with contractors to ensure they are properly installed.

Obs 2018-2 *FSC-US Forest Management Standard 6.6.d: Whenever chemicals are used, a written prescription is prepared that describes the site specific hazards and environmental risks, and the precautions workers will employ to avoid or minimize those hazards and risks, and includes a map of the treatment area. Chemicals are only applied by workers who have received proper training in application methods and safety. They are made aware of the risks, wear proper safety equipment and are trained to minimize environmental impacts on non-target species and sites.* The Department has an employee who is trained and certified to apply pesticides on the County Forest.

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, and designing timber sales that incorporate wildlife habitat needs for both game and non-game wildlife species.

In addition to those projects listed above, State Aid Wildlife funds have also been budgeted in 2019 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.
- 5) Rehabilitate existing woods, wildlife openings, and hunter hiking trails within the newly designated Bowman Road Grouse Management Area.

County Forest Roads

2019 County Forest Roads, Capital Improvement Schedule:

Replace two small (12-24 inch diameter) culverts.

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

Add a 1.0-mile segment of John's Memorial Drive into the County Forest Road network. Develop a road improvement plan for the newly added segment of County Forest Road.

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 County Forest Road system in 2019.

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 2019, funds budgeted within the automotive

equipment account will be used to replace an existing 19-year old, 2-wheel drive, park maintenance truck.

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 2019.

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 bathroom buildings, onsite firewood, potable water, and is directly connected to the Oneida County ATV/UTV Trail System.

2018 Park Capital Improvement Project Accomplishments:

- No new Park capital Improvement projects were undertaken in 2018. All park work activities were strictly focused on maintaining existing park facilities.

2019 Park Capital Improvement Project Schedule:

- Replace two small shelters located on & adjacent to the Almon Park swimming beach.
- Repair retaining wall (ice damage) at Almon Park swimming beach.
- Repair and lengthen an existing wetland boardwalk located at Almon Park.
- Develop primitive campsites along the Washburn Silent Sport Trail System.

Recreational Trails

Miscellaneous recreational opportunities provided by the Oneida County Forestry Department in 2019 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 Accomplishments:

- Clear, grub, grade and surface 5-miles of new ATV Trail. Trail development work on the newly developed segment of trail also included the installation of three new bridges.
- 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.

2019 Capital Improvement Project Schedule:

- Re-route a small segment of existing ATV road route off Bowman Road and onto existing County Forest Land located on both the north and south side of said road.
- Rehabilitate two miles of existing ATV trail by grading, crowning, and resurfacing the trail segment with gravel.

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.

2018 Land Acquisition Accomplishments:

- 230-acre acquisition surrounding Gillette and Wickham Lakes located in the Town of Enterprise.

The Forestry committee and department staff worked throughout 2018 on the acquisition of two privately owned parcels of land totaling approximately 230 acres that are located within the Town of Enterprise. The two parcels are surrounded by existing county forest land and contain two small lakes that total approximately 70 acres in size. The majority of the funds required for the acquisition of said parcels were obtained through a Knowles Nelson Stewardship land acquisition grant with the balance obtained from the Oneida County general fund.

2019 Proposed Land Acquisitions:

- No new acquisitions are currently planned for 2019. Rather, the Oneida County Forestry committee and staff will prepare a plan for the future management of the 230-acre parcel acquired in 2018.