

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51

RESOLUTION #60-2013

Resolution offered by the Supervisors of the Forestry, Land and Recreation Committee:

Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Oneida County, Wisconsin:

WHEREAS, Oneida County recognizes the tremendous importance of the lands contained within the 1.6 million acres of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF) as an exceptional natural resource capable of producing a sustainable supply of timber products on an annual basis to provide forest health, economic, social, and biological benefits to Oneida County, the State of Wisconsin, as well as the Nation; and

WHEREAS, the health of the forest across the landscape has a direct effect on the sustainability of the communities in our County and across the Nation. The declining harvest on our National Forest lands has led to an array of forest health concerns. Forest health issues on National Forests often spread to adjacent lands including tribal forests, state forests, county forests and privately owned forestlands. Fire, forest pests and diseases do not adhere to ownership boundaries so reduced management on our National Forests increases forest health issues on adjacent forestland and endangers people who may live there; and

WHEREAS, declining forest health has resulted in huge costs associated with wildfire response as well as loss of value from degradation of timber quality and mortality of timber assets across our Nation; and

WHEREAS, , the science of silviculture, through proven studies, has developed management strategies which provide for maintenance of forest health, forest value and forest quality through active forest health management (including timber programs); and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service has forest data available to utilize the science of silviculture to determine the amount of timber that can be harvested from a forest on an annual and sustainable basis. This amount is known as the annual allowable harvest; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service currently utilizes the term Annual Sale Quantity(ASQ) which defines harvesting levels as determined by funding and staffing availability rather than utilization of scientific forest data; and

WHEREAS, since there has been a Forest Plan on the CNNF the Forest has never sold the ASQ in the Forest Plan because of the complex analysis process the Forest Service must go through; and

WHEREAS, the CNNF has significantly reduced forest health treatments (including timber harvesting) over the past 10 years. Last year the CNNF harvested less than one half of the timber required to maintain forest health. Harvesting levels on the National Forest lands in both Softwood and Hardwood stands has been reduced significantly nationwide. For example, on the CNNF in Wisconsin with an ASQ of 131 million board feet per year, they have only averaged harvesting 58% of the ASQ. This translates to a long term impact on forest health and wildlife, reduced revenue to local communities from direct Forest Service payments and a significant reduction in raw materials needed to sustain our forest industry and local economy; and

WHEREAS, every 20,000 board feet of timber harvested provides enough raw material to sustain 1 job in our forest industry. Last year the CNNF failed to harvest 88 million board feet of timber available for harvest which could sustain 4,400 Wisconsin jobs; and

WHEREAS, Federal appropriations are a funding source that is utilized to meet forest health goals as well as other forest plan goals; and

WHEREAS, , the percent of Federal appropriations utilized for active forest health management (including timber program) utilized on the CNNF is less than 30% of the total appropriations budget; and

52 **WHEREAS**, Stewardship contracting authority, as authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill is an
53 additional funding source that can be utilized to meet forest health goals as well as other forest
54 plan goals; and

55 **WHEREAS**, Stewardship contracting authority is due to expire in 2013; and

56 **WHEREAS**, to formally research these issues, the Oneida County Board of Supervisors
57 facilitated the development of an AD Hoc research committee formally known as the Federal
58 Sustainable Forest Committee (FSFC) to make recommendations as well as develop solutions.
59 This committee is comprised of members with a unique, diverse, experienced background
60 including forest professionals from local, county and tribal governments as well as economic,
61 industry, trade and environmental groups; and

62 **WHEREAS**, the FSFC Committee has proposed some initial solutions to improve forest
63 health and benefit local economies which are hereby supported by this resolution, as follows
64

65 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that by County Board Action, Oneida County,
66 Wisconsin request the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to:
67

- 68 1. Change United States Forest Service (USFS) policy to maximize the health of forest at
69 the landscape level by requiring USFS harvesting levels at the annual allowable harvest
70 as determined through silvicultural prescriptions that can be supported by scientific
71 means; and
- 72 2. Require forest health management (including timber programs) to be the highest priority
73 in all management areas and change USFS policy to require forest units to provide
74 detailed plans on how forest health management (including timber programs) will be
75 funded through appropriations and the use of Stewardship Contracting receipts. This
76 funding plan shall prioritize spending; and
- 77 3. Change USFS appropriation percentages earmarked for forest health management
78 (including timber programs) to be at least 60% of the budget by 2015 with the
79 requirement to harvest at least 80% of the annual allowable harvest in each forest; and
- 80 4. Take action to extend or make permanent Stewardship Contracting Authority; and
- 81 5. Change USFS policy to shift funding for non-forest health management programs
82 (recreation, fire, wildlife, etc.) to Stewardship Contracting receipts or user fees by 2015;
83 and
- 84 6. Require Forest Plan revisions to meet the directives listed above

85
86 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, copies of this Resolution be presented to President
87 Barack Obama, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Chief of the Forest
88 Service Thomas Tidwell, U.S. Regional Forester Kathleen Atkinson, Wisconsin Senator Tammy
89 Baldwin and Senator Ronald Johnson, Congressman Sean Duffy, Congressman Reid Ribble,
90 Representative Dan Benishek, Senator Tom Casperson, Governor Scott Walker, each legislator
91 in the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly who represents constituents from Oneida County, all
92 towns in Oneida County, Wisconsin Towns Association, City of Rhinelander, Wisconsin
93 Counties Association, Wisconsin County Forests Association, Great Lakes Timber
94 Professionals Association, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and Nicolet College.
95 We respectfully request that all entities that rely on the National Forest for recreation,
96 commerce, employment, and energy production, approve and forward the same or similar
97 resolution to your representatives, to safeguard the health and productivity of the natural
98 resources and land that we all utilize.
99

100
101 Vote Required: Majority = _____ 2/3 Majority = _____ 3/4 Majority = _____
102

103 The County Board has the legal authority to adopt: Yes _____ No _____ as reviewed
104 by the Corporation Counsel, _____, Date: _____

105
106 Approved by the _____ Committee this _____ day of _____, 2013.

107
108 Consent Agenda Item: YES NO

109
110
111 Offered and passage moved by: _____
112 Supervisor

113
114 _____
115 Supervisor

116
117 _____
118 Supervisor

119
120 _____
121 Supervisor

122
123 _____
124 Supervisor

125
126 _____
127 Supervisor

128
129 _____
130 Supervisor

131
132 _____
133 Supervisor

134
135 _____
136 Supervisor

137
138 _____
139 Supervisor

140
141 _____
142 Supervisor

143
144 _____
145 Supervisor

146
147 _____
148 Supervisor

149
150 _____
151 Supervisor

152
153 _____
154 Supervisor

155
156 _____
157 Supervisor

158
159 _____
160 Supervisor

161
162 _____
163 Supervisor

164
165 _____
166 Supervisor

167
168 _____
169 Supervisor

170
171 _____
172 Supervisor

173
174 _____
175 Supervisor

176
177 _____
178 Supervisor

179
180 _____
181 Supervisor