

2020 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 2020.

Account	Revenue			Expenses			Requested
	New	Appl. Cont. Appropriations	Total	Personnel	Other	Total	
51570							
Land Purchase	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
55210 Co. Parks	58,210.00-	10,000.00-	68,210.00-	231,907.00	62,900.00	294,807.00	226,597.00
55212 Campground	7,500.00-	0.00	7,500.00-	0.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	5,700.00-
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	31,500.00-	0.00	31,500.00-	0.00	31,500.00	31,500.00	0.00
56110 Co. Forest	1,348,093.00-	0.00	1,348,093.00-	284,043.00	81,200.00	365,243.00	982,850.00-
56111 St. Aid Roads	13,550.00-	0.00	13,550.00-	0.00	13,550.00	13,550.00	0.00
56116							
St. Aid Wildlife	3,885.00-	0.00	3,885.00-	0.00	3,885.00	3,885.00	0.00
56210							
Mining Impact	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
56920							
Maps	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Total	1,825,888.00-	10,000.00-	1,835,888.00-	515,950.00	560,985.00	1,076,935.00	758,953.00-

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 11, 2019. 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 2019-20 Oneida County Forest Integrated Planning Meeting were: Oneida County Director, Paul Fiene; Oneida County Foresters, Eric Rady and Joe Renik; DNR Area Forestry Staff Specialist, Hillary Keller; DNR Northern Region Team Supervisor, John Gillen; DNR Wildlife Biologist, Jeremy Holtz; 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 1,500 acres of timber to be established for sale in 2020. However, only 1,252 acres of timber are scheduled for harvest in Sec. 202 of WISFIRS. In addition to the 1,252 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 (two stands that were recon'd in summer of 2019 and determined to be ready for harvest) along with the 1,252 acres scheduled should approximately equal the target establishment goal of 1,500 acres. The sale areas will be distributed throughout the three County Forest Blocks (Enterprise, Cassian-Woodborp and Lynne-Little Rice). The estimated value of the 1,500 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 2020			
Forest Cover Type	Total Acres on County Forest	Acres Scheduled for Harvest in 2020	Non-Scheduled Acres Proposed For Harvest in 2020
Aspen	32,865	702	52^A
Hemlock	1,351	73	
White Spruce/Fir-Spruce	468	32	
Red Maple	1,032	97	
Northern Hardwood	13,280	0	196^B
Red Oak	2,495	22	
Red Pine	2,116	123	
White Pine	371	0	
Black Spruce-Tamarack-Swamp Conifer	8,333	114	
Swamp Hardwood	1,542	89	
Total Acres Scheduled		1,252	
Total Non-Scheduled Acres			248
Total Acres proposed for harvest in 2020		1,500	

^A – Large Aspen stand breakup. ^B – Hardwood stands determined to be ready for harvest and marked during fall marking camp.

The 1,252 acres scheduled for harvest in 2020 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 30 and 40 timber sale contracts will be active during 2020. 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 30,000 cord equivalents with an equivalent value of approximately \$1,288,000 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 2020 includes the updating of recon information that is older than 15 years as time permits. A total of approximately 3,000 acres of recon update is anticipated. In addition, the acres recon'd during timber sale establishment will be counted toward recon updates.

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 the 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 2020.

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

and prevent additional spread. The OCFD will continue to apply restrictions to all timber sales that fall within the Oak Wilt guidelines (e.g. no harvesting until after July 15th).

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. To date, no signs of EAB have been found within any of the forest blocks.

Reforestation and Plantation Release

Small, irregular-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 order to expose mineral soil and prepare a seed bed for Oak, Maple, Pine, and Birch trees.

No additional conifer planting is anticipated for 2020.

Efforts to regenerate Red Oak will be undertaken in 2020. 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 certified forests.

Oneida County joined the FSC Certification Program in late 2016. In order to be compliant 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 2019, four counties in the north central part of the state were audited by both SFI and FSC. No Corrective Action Requests (CAR) Opportunities for Improvement (OFI) or Observations were identified by Wisconsin County Forest programs certified under SFI or FSC.

SFI/FSC Corrective Action Requests (CARs): NONE

SFI Opportunity for Improvement (OFI): NONE

FSC Observations: NONE

All CAR's, OFI's and Observations identified in previous audits were addressed and/or corrected by OCFD.

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 2020 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) Seed logging roads and landings with a mixture of grass/forbe seed.
- 3) Control beaver damage to forest roads by contracting with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for removal of undesirable beaver colonies.

- 4) Promote the establishment and growth of mast producing tree species with scarification techniques that optimize soil conditions for natural seed germination.

- 5) Purchase and install interpretive/educational signs that describe various forest management techniques; where, when, and why different forest management techniques are used, and how the different techniques benefit a wide range of wildlife species.

- 6) Rehabilitate existing woods and hunter hiking trails within the newly designated Bowman Road Grouse Management Area.

County Forest Roads

2020 County Forest Roads, Capital Improvement Schedule:

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

Spot gravel and grade ~5.0 miles of County Forest Road located in the Enterprise block of the Oneida County Forest (Shingle Mill Road).

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. Rehabilitation of this road began in 2019 in order to allow gravel trucks to travel on the road for an ATV/UTV trail surface project. The road had previously been in such a condition that operation of heavy trucks during non-frozen conditions would have been difficult or impossible.

Explore the possibility of opening a gravel pit along Cruiser’s Road in the Town of Nokomis. This pit would be used for maintenance on Cruiser’s Road and may be used for supplying material for a new ATV/UTV trail running from Co. Hwy N to Oscar Jenne Rd. The towns of Nokomis and Woodboro have expressed interest in using a pit in this location if it is ever developed. If it is determined that opening a gravel pit in this area is feasible and needed, the process of developing the pit would begin in 2020.

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 2020.

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 were used to replace an existing 19-year old, 2-wheel drive, park maintenance truck. There are no plans to purchase equipment in 2020.

PARKS

In addition to the timber and wildlife management programs mentioned above, the Oneida County Forestry Department will administer and maintain two day-use parks and one campground in 2020.

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

2019 Park Capital Improvement Project Accomplishments:

- No new Park Capital Improvement projects were undertaken in 2019. All park work activities were focused strictly on maintaining existing park facilities.

2020 Park Capital Improvement Project Schedule:

- Replace two small shelters located on and 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 2020 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, 414 miles of state funded snowmobile trail, and 40 miles of off road ATV/UTV trail and 33 miles of ATV/UTV road routes. 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.

2019 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.

- Re-routed ~1/2 mile of ATV/UTV trail to eliminate road route on Bowman Rd.
- Re-surfaced and corrected erosion issues on ~5 miles of ATV/UTV trail in the Enterprise trail system.

2020 Capital Improvement Project Schedule:

- Begin process of developing the “Forest County Connector” ATV/UTV trail, which will run from Monico to the Forest County line adjacent to US Hwy 8.
- Begin process of replacing the Gilmore Creek snowmobile bridge in the town of Woodruff. Design specification to be drawn up and application for grant funding to be made. Construction to likely take place in 2021.

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.

2019 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 2018/19 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 51 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.

2020 Proposed Land Acquisitions:

- No new acquisitions are currently planned for 2020. Rather, the Oneida County Forestry committee and staff will prepare a plan for the future management of the 230-acre parcel acquired in 2019.