



**BURNETT COUNTY FOREST & PARKS  
2011  
ANNUAL REPORT**

This report shows our goals and accomplishments for year 2011. The work accomplished in 2011 is based on the current needs of the 106,556.86 acres of County Forest, the 17 day-use parks and boat landings, 3 swimming beaches, 50 miles of summer ATV trail, 100 miles of winter ATV trail, 237 miles of snowmobile trail, 20 miles of bike trail, and the 1 rustic youth camp that encompasses Burnett County.

**OUR MISSION:**

The mission of the Burnett County Forest and Parks Department is to provide part of the base for satisfying the ecological and socioeconomic needs of Burnett County. And to manage, conserve and protect our resources and facilities in a safe sustainable condition for present and future generations. All while balancing sociological and economic needs, recreational opportunities, and plant and animal diversity.

**2011 GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**Goal #1:** To establish timber sales to meet or exceed our allowable cut acres.

**Narrative:  
TIMBER HARVEST**

Timber harvests that are properly designed and completed are vital to maintaining a healthy and vigorous forest. Many social, environmental, and economic benefits are provided by a managed harvest program. Professional implementation of proper forest management and harvest techniques are essential. The timber harvest goal is to produce a sustained yield of forest products using harvest techniques that are suited to the regeneration and the growth needs of each forest type. The long-term goal is to develop a regulated harvest in which the same number of acres or same volume of wood could be harvested each year for perpetuity. This regulated harvest occurs when there is a proper balance in age class distribution and uniform growth rates for each forest type. Unfortunately on July 1, 2011 many acres of county forest land received severe wind damage from a storm. Due to this damage, our normal allowable cut acres were put on hold while we worked on storm damaged salvage sales.

**Burnett County Forest Harvest goals and established acres:**

	<u>2011 goal</u>	<u>2011 Acres Established</u>	<u>Sold</u>	
			<u>2011 Ac Regular</u>	<u>2011 Ac Storm</u>
<b>Acreage control:</b>				
Jack Pine-Harvest	550	912	332	740
Jack Pine-Thinning	100	0	0	0
Red Pine-Thinning	900	1665	634	1054
Aspen-Harvest	350	3754	228	2763
Scrub Oak-Harvest	200	992	365	561
Scrub Oak-Thinning	300	533	226	173
Northern Hardwoods-Thinning	100	199	32	318
Swamp Hardwoods	200	126	0	0
Misc. Other	75	103	17	91
<b>Total Acres:</b>	<b>2775</b>	<b>8528</b>	<b>1834</b>	<b>5700</b>

**Goal #2:** To offer and sell our allowable cut acres to buyers of raw forest products to the extent markets allow.

We conducted two timber sales prior to the July 1<sup>st</sup> storm. Twenty-two different tracts were sold with an estimated 27,257 cords and 90,000 board feet on 1834 acres totaling \$1,116,328.00 in estimated revenues. We issued contracts to 10 individual successful bidders and collected performance bonds for each contract. After the July storm we sold 49 different salvage sales with an estimated 98,932 cords and 1,050,500 board feet on 5700 acres totaling \$2,088,947.49 in estimated revenues. Salvage sale contracts were issued to 18 different individual contractors and we collected performance bonds for each contract.

**Goal #3:** To ensure that active timber sales are being harvested and paid for in accordance to our rules, regulations, and goals.

During 2011 there were 23 active timber sales cut and closed out on the Burnett County Forest. Each sale was visited weekly when actively being cut. Visits were documented on sale maps by the forester, and necessary action was taken to ensure contracts were followed.

Advanced payments for stumpage were received by contractors and haul tickets distributed accordingly. In 2011, Burnett County collected \$986,038.20 in stumpage payments from the county forest lands and \$167,392.12 in stumpage payments from non-county forest lands totaling \$1,153,430.32 in stumpage payments.

Ten percent of the timber sale revenues from the county forest lands, (\$98,603.82), went back to the local townships that include county forest lands. Payments were prorated by the % of county forest in each township. Towns also received \$31,928.82 in acreage payments from the state for the county forest lands within their townships.

We continued to have inquiries for firewood cutting from our local citizens and property owners. However; after the July storm the inquiries slowed down. In 2011 firewood permits generated \$2,448.00, while Christmas trees totaled \$215.00, and camping permits totaled \$885.00.

**Goal #4:** To regenerate our harvested areas back to fully stocked stands when needed.

Although in recent years Burnett County has strived to regenerate the majority of harvested stands by natural means, we are still considering some site's for planting. Forced regeneration is necessary to obtain a balance in timber species and to ensure that harvested areas are regenerating back to trees.

In 2011, Burnett County pre-sale scarified 270 acres of Jack Pine for natural regeneration. We planted 183,000 trees on 186 acres. Due to the storm, our planting plans for 2012 were put on hold until we can better review which sites will need planting in the years to come. It is expected that some planting will take place in 2012, however, site-prep work will be done in the spring of 2012.

**Goal #5: To provide for protection of the Burnett County Forest Lands.**

During 2011, one wild land fire totaling 0.2 acre burned on the Burnett County Forest. Since 1990, 254.2 acres of Burnett County Forest Lands have burned by wild land fires. Continued cooperation with the WI DNR in prevention and suppression efforts is needed.

No new diseases or major pest outbreaks were found in 2011 on the Burnett County Forest. Unfortunately, with the damage from the July storm, it is expected that some disease/insect issues will increase and the potential for new issues to surface will be greater in the years to come. Examples of these are Oak Wilt, Chestnut Borer, and Bark Beetle to name a few. We will continue to monitor for diseases, insects and invasive species when working on the County Forest. (Examples: Oak Wilt, Gypsy Moth, Spotted Knapweed, Leafy Spurge, Buckthorn, Emerald Ash Borer, Red Pine Pocket Decline.)

We applied various management guidelines and techniques where applicable to Burnett County to prevent or slow the spread of these diseases and invasive species. Examples of these include: time restrictions for entering the woods; requiring wood to go to mills rather than private lands to prevent the spread; and spraying small areas of invasive's where we have the opportunity to kill certain plants.

**Goal #6: To ensure that Burnett County is represented at the Wisconsin County Forest Association meetings.**

It is imperative that Burnett County stays involved with the WCFA activities in order to stay up-to-date with legislative, certification, and rulemaking decisions that will affect Burnett County. As Forest Administrator, I continue to serve as one of the WCFA Legislative Committee Members and attend as many of the meetings as possible to make sure that the decisions being made are in the best interest of Burnett County and all Wisconsin County Forests. Many of the issues at hand today are dealing with 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Forest Certification and the WI DNR Strategic Plan. Many of the new guidelines being developed to appease Certification have a direct impact on our forest and recreation management. Examples of current issues pertaining to our management are the Green Tree Retention and Bio-Mass Harvesting Guidelines, as well as road and trail maintenance issues.

Unfortunately, after the July storm and due to a family issue I was not able to make as many of the meetings as I would have liked. In the spring of 2012 I will be taking over as the president of the WCFA for a 1-year term.

**Goal #7: To ensure that the County Forest Roads are maintained in a safe and useable condition.**

Routine grading, mowing, and signing of our 35.16 miles of county forest roads was completed. The highway department was used to grade our major forest roads in the spring and fall of the year. All of our county forest roads were checked for signing and safety issues. All safety issues were addressed immediately. No major issues were discovered.

**Goal #8: To ensure that the County's Parks, Boat Landings, and Youth Camp are maintained in a safe, clean, and useable condition.**

Weekly inspections and cleaning of our parks, boat landings, and the youth camp were conducted by staff during the high-use season of May 15<sup>th</sup> to September 15<sup>th</sup>. Much time was spent clearing trees and piling brush in many of our parks due to the July storm. There is still some minor building damage that needs to be taken care of, as well as many stumps that need to be taken out. However, all of our parks were able to be opened within a few weeks of the storm.

A contract was issued to a private contractor for the mowing of the majority of our parks. The contractor did a great job for Burnett County.

We continued to fix and level boat landings when needed, as well as provide docks at our major landings to aid in landing watercraft.

**Goal #9: To ensure that Burnett County's portion of the Gandy Dancer Trail is managed and maintained in a safe, clean, and useable condition.**

Routine checks of the trail signing, culverts, and surface were completed. The trail was mowed twice in 2011 to maintain trail width and brush control. We also sprayed it with Round-Up to control weeds that destroy the limestone surface. The trail was graded twice, once in the spring and another time after the July storm.

A contractor was hired to clear all the down trees from the July storm so that we could get the trail opened back up for the users. Many hours were spent by our staff clearing the trail as well. During the fall the WI DNR was able to get a logging contractor to harvest as many of the damaged trees as possible along the trail. This will be a big help in the future years with tree clean up along the trail.

The state bike trail pass program for Burnett County was once again administered through the Forest and Parks Department. Passes were distributed to eight different vendors in Siren, Webster, and Danbury for the general public to purchase. Burnett County generated \$1,296.00 in revenue by retaining 60% of each pass sold in the county.

**Goal #10: To see to that Burnett County's Snowmobile and ATV trails are managed in accordance to state guidelines, to ensure reimbursement of grants to the fullest extent, and provide safe recreational trail riding opportunities.**

In 2011, 11 grants were submitted to the Snowmobile and ATV programs for the 2011-2012 season. Of the 11 grants, 7 were funded, with a total of \$368,598.00 going towards Burnett County's trail systems. Projects included the regular snowmobile and ATV maintenance grants, (\$91,495.00); two grants to cover clean up costs from the July 1<sup>st</sup> storm, (\$189,245.00); two ATV graveling grants, (\$82,061.00); and an ATV parking lot improvement grant, (\$5,797.00).

Two trail rehabilitation projects were completed in 2011. The first was the repair of a 300-foot stretch of Trail 45 in Danbury where washouts were occurring. Hopkins Sand & Gravel leveled the trail and spread rock and recycled concrete over it to improve the trail base. The total project cost was \$2,750.00. We received a grant in 2010 in the amount of \$1,750.00 for the project. Turf & Tundra ATV Club and Burnett County Snowtrails split the remainder of the cost. The second project consisted of graveling approximately eight miles of ATV Trail 41 in the Towns of Swiss and Jackson. The total cost for this project was \$121,279.00, and it was funded through an ATV grant and a Recreational Trail Aids grant. The work was completed by the Highway Department.

In 2011, we were given an extension for the grant we received in 2010 to re-deck the Gandy Dancer Bridge over the St. Croix River. The bridge has problems with two of the piers and with the anchor bolts on the bridge beams. Because the severity of the damage is still uncertain, the bridge remains posted with a maximum load of 1,000 pounds. The Minnesota DNR and Wisconsin DNR will further investigate the problem and determine a course of action in 2012.

Routine trail maintenance was contracted for with local ATV clubs and the Burnett County Snowtrails Association. As trail work was completed by the clubs on our funded trails, they submitted maintenance and grooming forms to our office documenting all the work completed. These forms were reviewed by staff and the clubs were reimbursed for their work on the funded trail up to the grant amounts.

Trails were inspected by Burnett County Forest and Parks staff for signing, grooming, and other maintenance needs and issues. Contact was made with clubs with issues that needed attention in a timely manner due to safety concerns. A representative from the Forest and Parks Department attended the Burnett County Snowtrails Association monthly meetings.

Due to storms producing high winds and heavy snowfalls, a large number of hours were spent on the trails by the Forest & Parks staff, as well as the snowmobile and ATV club members, clearing downed trees.

**Goal #11: To maintain our facilities and equipment.**

Routine maintenance of all equipment was conducted during 2011. Daily logbooks were used to track fuel, oil changes, mileage, and other normal maintenance work that was completed on our trucks. Non-routine maintenance work was conducted by the Burnett County Highway Department when we had sufficient time to get the work done. At times private businesses were used for reasons of convenience and productivity. All heavy machinery and vehicles received annual maintenance which was documented, (ex. oil changes, greasing, tire rotations etc.). This was documented on maintenance logbooks for each piece of equipment.

Routine mowing, graveling, and maintenance of the shop building and surrounding area were completed during 2011. We replaced our shop roof in May but had to replace the west half once again after the July storms. We continue to wait to get our garage door replaced due to storm damage. We have been working with a local company to get this accomplished.

We also purchased two attachments for our skid steer to aid in the storm clean up, a grapple bucket and a set of forks.

**Goal #13: To provide a financial contribution to Fort Folle Avoine Historical Park for operational and maintenance expenses to enhance and promote the educational and tourism based opportunities in Burnett County.**

A financial contribution to Fort Folle Avoine Historical Park was budgeted for and made in 2011. This contribution totaled \$53,960.00. Fort Folle Avoine is seen as an excellent education tool as well as a tourist attraction for Burnett County.

**2011 BURNETT COUNTY FOREST FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**REVENUE**

	<u>Amended Budget</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
TIMBER SALES	\$885,000.00	\$986,038.20	\$1,855,455.96
<u>STATE AID &amp; LOANS</u>		<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Revenues</u>
State Aid Forestry (WDNR)	\$53,214.00	\$53,277.37	\$53,278.43
County Forest Roads (WDOT)	0.00	11,054.72	11,813.76
County Conservation (WDRN)	2,372.00	2,348.00	6,250.00
Wildlife Habitat Aids (WDNR)	.00	5,327.74	10,655.69
Administrator Grant	32,915.00	32,923.68	37,535.50

**EXPENSES**

	<u>Amended Budget</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Salaries (Permanent)	\$137,543.54	\$135,757.41	\$1,786.13
Salaries (Temporary)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fringes	83,821.46	82,993.68	827.78
Heating Fuel	850.00	872.10	-22.10
Electricity	500.00	342.04	157.96
Telephone	400.00	378.62	21.38
Cell Phone	800.00	153.67	646.33
Other Utility Services	200.00	144.61	55.39
Repair & Maintenance	250.00	0.00	250.00
Site Prep & Seeding	3560.00	0.00	3560.00
Tree Planting	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00
Release Work	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
Trash Removal	1,500.00	21.00	1,479.00
Payments of Towns/Villages	90,000.00	98,603.82	-8,603.82
Postage	450.00	441.54	8.46
Small Items of Equip/Office	150.00	0.00	150.00
Copier Expenses	600.00	525.48	74.52
Copier/Riso Paper	210.00	203.54	6.46
Office Supplies	750.00	708.61	41.39
Public Notices/Ads	350.00	94.70	255.30
Dues, Publication, Registration	5000.00	3,396.73	1,603.27
Meals	250.00	52.68	197.32
Lodging	750.00	350.00	400.00
Mileage	250.00	244.80	5.20
Fuel	2,500.00	597.80	1,902.20
Other Repair & Maint. Suppl.	2,000.00	1,301.61	698.39
Sign Parts & Supplies	750.00	0.00	750.00
Misc. Expenses	300,000.00	0.00	300,000.00
State Severance Payment	53,300.00	53,277.37	22.63
Small Items of Equipment	100.00	99.63	.37
Capital Equipment IT Purchaes	1,400.00	1,257.92	142.08
Capital Improvements	3,000.00	2,819.66	180.34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$699,235.00</b>	<b>\$388,639.02</b>	<b>\$310,595.98</b>

**STATE AID LOAN REPAYMENT**

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
(20% severance)	53,277.37	\$53,276.83
Unpaid balance	0.00	0.00
Payment to Townships (10%)	98,603.82	\$185,544.60

# 2011 COUNTY PARKS BUDGET

Summary as of 12/31/11

EXPENSES	Amended Budget	Expenditures	Balance
Salaries Permanent	\$43,796.15	\$43,347.77	\$448.38
Salaries-Temporary	3,600.00	2,560.00	1,040.00
Fringes	32,407.85	31,897.93	509.92
Accounting and Auditing	100.00	0.00	\$100.00
Heating Fuel	880.00	872.10	7.90
Electricity	900.00	882.30	17.70
Telephone	450.00	325.98	124.02
Cell Phone	200.00	153.66	46.34
Other Utility Services	175.00	144.60	30.40
Grounds & Grounds Impr.	5,325.00	5,325.00	0.00
Repair & Maintenance Svc	1,000.00	4,502.05	-3,502.05
Other Contractual Services	400.00	314.00	86.00
Trash Removal	850.00	836.43	13.57
Postage	100.00	55.56	44.44
Small Items of Equipment/Office	90.00	0.00	90.00
Copier Expenses	350.00	347.46	2.54
Copier/Riso Paper	40.00	30.76	9.24
Office Supplies	250.00	230.45	19.55
Public Notices/Ads	100.00	100.00	0.00
Dues, Publications, Registration	1,080.00	550.00	530.00
Meals	50.00	55.22	-5.22
Lodging	120.00	0.00	120.00
Other Operating Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fuel	4,260.00	3,807.23	452.77
Other Repair & Main.	2,550.00	2,135.08	414.92
Sign Parts & Supplies	500.00	250.13	249.87
Miscellaneous Expenses	100.00	86.00	14.00
Other Rents & Leases	0.00	0.00	\$0.00
Gandy Dancer Trail	800.00	588.13	211.87
Small Items of Equipment	525.00	523.99	\$1.01
Capital Equipment (\$500-5000)	0.00	450.00	-450.00
Capital Improvements	5,500.00	8,219.66	-2,719.66
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$106,499.00</b>	<b>\$108,591.49</b>	<b>-2,092.49</b>

## 2011 Snowmobile & ATV Grants:

	<u>Total of 2011 Active Grants</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Revenues</u>
Snowmobile:	\$162,453.26	\$162,453.26	\$162,453.26
ATV:	\$258,308.50	\$258,308.50	\$258,308.50

## COUNTY PARKS REVENUE

Camp Burnett	\$3,643.00
GDT Net Revenue	<u>1,296.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,939.00</b>