

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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**CHAPTER 500**

**LAND MANAGEMENT AND USE**

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**500 LAND USE**

500.1 OBJECTIVES

1. To identify policies and procedures employed to effectively manage, utilize and sustain the resources of the County Forest.

2. To identify regulated management activities, land uses, and special resource areas.
3. To apply the principles of integrated resource management to all activities planned on the Forest.

## **505 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONES**

Aesthetic forest management will be applied to the County Forest. The degree of application of special management will vary and will necessitate the evaluation of the forest according to the degree and type of public use. The Wisconsin DNR Silvicultural and Forest Aesthetics Handbook No. 2431.5, and the Natural Resources Board Policy on management of State and County Forests contained in Chapter NR 1.24 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code will be used for management prescription guidelines. Aesthetic Management Zones are listed and shown for each Landscape Management Unit in Chapter 800.

### **505.1 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE A**

Zone A includes areas where there is intensive public presence because of scenic attraction, frequent vehicle travel along major roads, high recreational use along rivers and lake shores, or frequent use of other designated areas.

#### **505.1.1 Examples of Zone A**

1. Park and recreation areas.
2. Lakes and rivers which support significant water based recreational activity.
3. State highways with medium to heavy use where the majority of the traffic is unrelated to the forest or is for the specific purpose of enjoying scenery.

#### **505.1.2 Zone A Boundaries**

1. Park, designated trails and recreation areas. Zone boundaries may include the area within the visible horizon as determined during the seasons of highest use. The width of this zone may vary depending on land features and forest vegetation but will not be less than 100' nor more than 300'.

2. Lakes and rivers. All named lakes and rivers that receive medium to heavy recreational use are included in this zone except the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers (Zone R). The width of this zone may vary depending on land features and forest vegetation but will not be less than 100' nor more than 300' when measured from the ordinary high water mark.
3. State Highways. Zone boundaries include the forested area within the highway right of way. The width of this zone may vary depending on land features and forest vegetation but will not be less than 100' nor more than 300'.

#### 505.1.3 Zone A Management

Management activities in Zone A will give highest consideration to modification of practices that will protect, enhance, or develop long term scenic values. This may include adaptations of normal forest management practices and may require additional expenditures. The intent of management activities within this zone will be to encourage long lived tree species, to sustain forest health by minimizing impacts caused by insects, disease, wild fire, exotic species or over-maturity, and to maintain forest communities native to the Burnett County Forest.

#### 505.1.4 Permitted Uses of Zone A

1. Forest stands in this zone will be managed to provide the greatest long-term scenic potential.
2. Timber harvesting, forest regeneration, and forest protection practices are allowed within this zone but will be modified to protect aesthetic values. Modifications for timber harvest may include seasonal restrictions during peak public use, adjusting rotation lengths, special treatment of logging debris, reduced size of regeneration harvest, retaining residual trees for silvicultural, wildlife, or aesthetic purposes, specifying the type of harvesting equipment, or promoting managed old growth stands. These practices will help reduce but may not eliminate all visible evidence of harvesting.
3. Practices to regenerate forest stands may include natural regeneration, planting randomly spaced seedlings, aligning the direction of mechanical planting parallel to travel corridors, and incorporating into the planting a mix of native species.

4. Other public uses in this zone must be compatible with the aesthetic emphasis and may require prior approval by the Natural Resources Committee.
5. County directional, informational, and recreational signs conforming to approved standards are permitted.
6. New access roads or recreational trails will be permitted if they intersect the main road at right angles. When possible, such roads or trails will be designed so that no clear line of sight will be created from the highway to the exterior boundary of the zone. New access roads or trails within this zone adjacent to lakes or rivers will be discouraged and permitted only for temporary use when no other route is reasonable.
7. Borrow pits may be permitted near a road during the time the road is under construction. When any borrow operation is completed the site will be restored and must aesthetically conform to general use of the area. Permanent pits will be screened from view.
8. Along lakes and rivers aesthetic zones, Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality guidelines will also be incorporated into management activities.

## 505.2 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE B

Zone B includes any area of the forest where the public use is such that no one value can at all times be considered as the most important, but where, because of the intensity and variety of use, scenic attractiveness is desirable.

### 505.2.1 Examples of Zone B

1. All blacktopped county trunk roads and designated town roads where the majority of the traffic is a result of some use of the forest other than for scenic beauty.
2. All navigable perennial streams and those named and unnamed lakes that do not have significant value for water-based recreation.

#### 505.2.2 Zone B Boundaries

1. Blacktopped county truck roads and designated town roads. Zone boundaries include the forested area within the road right of way. The width of this zone may vary depending on land features and forest vegetation but will not be more than 100'.
2. All navigable perennial streams and lakes. The width of this zone may vary depending on land features and forest vegetation but will not be more than 100' from the ordinary high water mark.

#### 505.2.3 Zone B Management

Management activities in Zone B will give moderate consideration to modifications that will protect, enhance, or develop long-term scenic values. All routine land management activities may occur in this zone.

#### 505.2.4 Permitted Uses of Zone B

All land management activities may occur in this zone after consideration is given to include seasonal restrictions during peak public use, to minimize new road or trail development, to require special treatment of logging debris, adjusting rotation lengths, road maintenance activities, or to add other requirements to the activity on a case by case basis.

### 505.3 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE C

Zone C includes all parts of the forest not contained in Zones A, B or R. Any significant public presence in this zone is likely to occur only as result of a specific use of the forest.

#### 505.3.1 Examples of Zone C

All areas not included in Zone A, B or R.

#### 505.3.2 Zone C Boundaries

All areas not included in Zone A, B or R.

#### 505.3.3 Zone C Management

Zone C management is normal resource management carried out by the most

practical method, with normal modifications for aesthetics.

#### 505.3.4 Permitted Uses of Zone C

All land management activities consistent with the goal of the Forest.

### 505.4 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE R

Zone R includes any area of the Forest that is adjacent to the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers, which have been listed under the Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542, October 2, 1968). Both sections of these rivers in Burnett County are free of impoundments, with shorelines mostly forested and undeveloped but accessible in places by roads. This zone holds outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, and other natural values. Zone R may include any other area of the Forest formally identified and designated as a special resource area.

#### 505.4.1 Examples of Zone R

1. National Scenic Riverways
  - a. St. Croix River
  - b. Namekagon River
2. State Natural Areas

#### 505.4.2 Zone R Boundaries

The boundary of the Scenic Riverway zone shall be no less than 412 feet back from the ordinary high water mark on each side of the river. The boundaries shall be determined by field examination by County Forest Staff and identified on compartment records as Scenic Riverway Zone as well as in specific Landscape Management Units in Chapter 800.

The Scenic Riverway Zone is further subdivided into two subzones as follows:

1. Primitive Riparian Management Sub-Zone, which extends 100' back

from the ordinary high water mark of the river.

2. Limited Management Sub-Zone which extends no less than 312' back from the exterior boundary of the Primitive Riparian Management Sub-Zone.

The boundary of the aesthetic zone on any designated State Natural Areas may coincide exactly with the formal boundary of each area and will be further defined in the Area Management Plan.

#### 505.4.3 Zone R Management

Management activities in Zone R will give high consideration to modifications of practices that will protect, enhance, or develop the long-term scenic values within the zone. The intent of management activities within the zone will be to encourage long-lived tree species, sustain forest health, and maintain forest communities native to the Burnett County Forest.

#### 505.4.4 Permitted Uses In Zone R

1. Within the Primitive Riparian Management Sub-Zone, no timber harvest will be planned or permitted. Recreational use such as hunting, fishing, trapping, and canoeing will be permitted as well as camping at approved and designated sites with a steel fire ring.
2. Within the Limited Management Sub-Zone, forest stands will be managed with the emphasis to protect the long-term scenic potential in this Sub-Zone for the leaf on season when public use is greatest. All permitted uses in Zone A (505.1.4) are also permitted in this Sub-Zone. In addition, the National Park Service-St. Croix Scenic Riverway will be given an opportunity to review and comment on forest management activities proposed in this Sub-Zone.
3. Wildfire suppression and controlled burns are permitted and the level of effort will be determined by County Forest Staff and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
4. Permitted uses in State Natural Areas will be outlined in each Area Management Plan.

#### 505.4.5 Conditional Use Permitted in Zone R

1. Power line and pipeline crossings may occur where no feasible alternative exists.

The location of any such crossing shall be subject to prior review by the National Park Service.

- a. Where feasible from an engineering standpoint such crossings shall be underground and in the vicinity of existing bridges.
- b. All easements or agreements for such crossings shall require selective vegetation management for the maintenance of the right-of-way.

2. Roads - Only roads required to provide necessary services or access for the public will be permitted. All roads will be obliterated and restored to a natural state when officially abandoned or not needed for necessary services. New roads will be constructed only if they are compatible with the master plan for the Scenic Riverway and are approved by the National Park Service. Permitted roads shall meet the following standards and conditions:

- a. Administrative roads - These roads shall be constructed to a standard required for one lane traffic by service vehicles only. They shall be gated and locked at their junction with a public road or at the Scenic Zone Boundary and opened for administrative use only.
- b. Public access roads shall be constructed to a standard that will permit safe and convenient use by the general public.
- c. Existing town roads and firebreak access roads. Where feasible special effort will be made to provide a vegetation screen so that these roads are not visible from the river.
- d. The National Park Service may, (with prior written approval of permitting authority) at its own expense, remove from the river zone any abandoned or unused roads, bridges, or structures they deem inconsistent with the Scenic Riverway objectives.

3. Trails - Single or multiple use trails, including snowmobile trails, either as

separate systems or in continuation of trails established on National Park Service Lands - all such trails shall be compatible with the master plan for the Scenic Riverway and located and constructed according to standards provided by the National Park Service.

4. Signs - Only as needed to direct or inform the public. All signs shall meet standards as adopted by the National Park Service for the Scenic Riverway System.
5. Primitive overnight canoe camps, launching sites, and picnic areas - At intervals appropriate to the Scenic Riverway objectives provided in the NPS St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Master Plan and only by written cooperative agreement with the National Park Service. These agreements will be appended to and made part of this plan.
6. If compatible with the master plan for the Scenic Riverway, variations from this plan will be permitted for development of areas with historic, scientific or other similar values, but only by written cooperative agreement with the National Park Service. Such agreements will be appended to and made part of this plan.

#### 505.5 PARK SERVICE AGREEMENT

In consideration for the concessions granted to the National Scenic Riverway in this section, the Park Service agrees to:

1. Provide maintenance and clean up service made necessary by users of the County Forest portions of the Riverway. Such service to be provided at no cost to the County.
2. Enter into cooperative law enforcement agreements involving possible deputization of Park Service personnel as deputy sheriffs to authorize Park Service enforcement of state and local laws on the County portions of the

Riverway to the extent that such agreements are consistent with the statutes and policies that govern the parties. The documents that may be enacted will be appended to and made part of this plan. The County may also consider entering into a lease agreement with the Park Service to allow uniform enforcement of Scenic Riverway regulations on portions or all of the Scenic Riverway Zone on the Forest.

3. Enter into long-term maintenance and use agreements for existing County facilities on the Riverway to the extent that such agreements are consistent with the statutes and policies that govern the parties.

## **510 SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES**

Silviculture is the practice of controlling forest composition, structure, and growth to maintain and enhance the forest's utility for any purpose. These practices are based on research and general silviculture knowledge of the species being managed. The goal is to encourage vigor within all developmental stages of forest stands, managed in an even aged or uneven aged system. The application of silviculture to a diverse forest needs a unified, systematic approach. The DNR Public Forest Lands Handbook (2460.5) and DNR Silvicultural and Forest Aesthetics Handbook (2431.5) will be used as guidelines for management practices used on the County Forest.

## **515 SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY**

Sustainable forestry practices will be applied when developing management plans for the Forest. Sustainable forestry is defined, as the management of the Forest to meet the environmental, social, and economic needs of the present without knowingly compromising the ability of the future generations to meet the same need. Sustainable forestry practices integrates the growing, nurturing, and harvesting of trees for useful products with the conservation of soil, air, water quality, species diversity, recreational values, and diverse wildlife and fish habitats.

## **520 TIMBER HARVESTS**

Timber harvests that are properly planned, designed and completed are vital to

maintaining a healthy, vigorous forest community. Many social, environmental, and economic benefits result from a managed timber harvest program.

Timber harvests will be planned on the Burnett County Forest using an annual harvest goal that is periodically reviewed and approved by the Natural Resources Committee. The intent of the harvest goal is to establish a level of harvest on the Forest that provides a sustainable yield of forest products as well as other social and environmental values over the long term using harvest techniques that are suited to the regeneration and 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 forever. The same goal would assure that the annual harvest does not exceed annual growth. This annual harvest goal will be used to control the acres or volume of timber offered for sale each year on the Forest. Chapter 900 Exhibit 11 lists the annual harvest goals by forest type for the period 2006-2020.

The most current Burnett County Forest Reconnaissance printout, as well as other forest planning guides from Section 310, will be used to establish and to refine these harvest goals. Program 12A of this printout may also be used to identify forest stands which should be examined when planning a harvest. The current annual harvest goal establishes the acreage totals for each forest type and harvest treatment. These harvest goals are listed in the Annual Work Plan (Chapter 2000). The Burnett County Natural Resources Committee may adjust these harvest goals when salvage of insect, disease, fire, or weather-damaged timber is needed.

#### 520.1 HARVEST TREATMENTS

The following narrative briefly summarizes in general terms the silvicultural treatments that will be applied when preparing harvests in the four major forest types on the Forest. Many other factors such as aesthetics, Best Management Practices for Water Quality, access control, wildlife habitat, and endangered species will be considered when developing the harvest prescriptions but these items are reviewed elsewhere in this plan.

### 520.1.1 Jack Pine

Jack Pine stands are those naturally seeded or planted stands where jack pine accounts for more than half of the live volume or stocking level. This species is relatively short-lived and a silvicultural rotation age of 50-55 years is standard. Two silvicultural treatments are routinely considered: intermediate harvest prior to reaching rotation age, final harvest at rotation age or regeneration harvest.

Intermediate harvests may be applied in natural or planted stands prior to the time when the stand reaches rotation age. This harvest may remove a portion (1/4-1/2) of the live standing volume, salvaging some of the volume that may have been lost to natural mortality late in the rotation period. This harvest also provides some seedbed disturbance and growing space for seedlings that originate from natural seed fall from residual trees. This allows advanced establishment of young jack pine in the stand before the harvest of remaining jack pine occurs at rotation age. Potential growth gains after intermediate harvests must be weighed against the post harvest mortality.

At rotation age or older, the final or intermediate harvest in natural or planted stands will remove all merchantable jack pine except those designated to be left as non-serotinous seed trees, for aesthetics, wildlife habitat, or other site specific purposes. Associated species such as aspen, birch, and soft maple may routinely be harvested at the same time. Longer lived species such as scrub oak, red pine, white pine, or other species may be selectively retained as determined by evaluation of the Forestry Staff.

If advanced jack pine reproduction is not present or adequate, additional practices may be used to regenerate the harvested areas. Best jack pine regeneration requires full sunlight, soil disturbance for seedbed preparation, and control of competing species.

### 520.1.2 Aspen

Generally, only one silvicultural treatment is applied to stands where aspen accounts for more than half of the live standing volume or stocking level and the objective is to regenerate aspen. Harvest of all aspen trees will normally be prescribed when the stand reaches 45-55 years old. Rotation lengths for bigtooth aspen may be extended 10-20 years longer than that for quaking aspen.

However; if the demand for aspen continues to improve and smaller diameter wood becomes merchantable, another possible harvest treatment is thinning these stands removing  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the volume 10-15 years before the final harvest.

Total harvest of all aspen helps regenerate aspen stands by stimulating parent roots to produce root sprouts. Additional sunlight, warming of the soil, and hormonal response to cutting of the parent stems triggers the root sprouting. Moderate to heavy shade as well as mid summer harvest diminishes the sprouting response and subsequent survival or growth.

Associated short-lived species such as jack pine, white birch, red maple, and balsam fir are also usually harvested at the same time. Longer-lived species such as white oak, red oak, scrub oak, basswood, white pine, or red pine may be selectively retained as determined by evaluation of the Forestry Staff. Harvest of some of the oak may help stimulate young oak to develop with the young aspen stand while larger oak are retained for acorn production and wildlife values, such as den trees and cavity trees.

### 520.1.3 Scrub Oak

Scrub oak stands are those stands where Northern Pin Oak and Burr Oak account for half or more of the standing live volume and stocking level. These stands occur principally on sandy soils either as pure oak stands or with a mixture of other associated species such as jack pine, aspen, white birch, soft maple, red pine, or white pine. Most of these stands originated from stump sprouting. Even

aged management will be applied with clear cutting in most prescriptions but all-aged techniques may also be tried.

Harvest prescriptions for scrub oak stands will vary as related to soils, topography, stand history, location on the Forest, and mix of associated species.

Recommended rotation length is 45 to 70 years but current emphasis has been to extend the rotation length longer, perhaps to 100 or more years on selected stands. Extended rotation periods will allow trees to grow larger diameters, retain acorn-producing trees for a longer proportion of the rotation period, and give consideration to other aesthetic or habitat needs. In these stands, two principal treatments may be used: intermediate harvests and final rotation harvests including shelterwood cuts.

Intermediate harvest will be used to reduce stocking levels by thinning oak clumps or removing associated species, to salvage trees that may be lost to mortality prior to final harvests, to favor development of large diameters and crowns, and to encourage advanced oak reproduction. Several intermediate thinnings may occur before rotation age is reached. Longer rotations offer some risk or natural conversion to other species by loss of stump sprouting response in older, large diameter oak and increased presence of shade tolerant tree species in the understory.

Rotation age harvests may include shelterwood cuts and final regeneration harvest. Shelterwood cuts reduce the stocking and encourages advanced oak reproduction to develop before final harvest removes the mature overstory.

Some of the white oak and larger Northern Pin Oak as well as other longer-lived pine species maybe retained as determined by evaluation of the Forestry Staff.

#### 520.1.4 Red Pine

Red pine silvicultural systems use even aged management with periodic thinnings based on age, average diameters and heights, and stand stocking levels.

Silvicultural rotation lengths vary from 90-130 years with biological maturity on some sites of 200 years or older.

Most of the red pine on the Forest occurs in plantations. Some natural stands exist and will receive similar treatments.

Well-stocked red pine stands are normally ready for first thinning when stand age reaches 25-30 years and diameter/height combinations produce merchantable volumes. First thinnings are prescribed to reduce stocking levels to a minimum recommended stocking level, often harvesting 1/3-1/2 of the standing live volume. Associated volumes of jack pine may also be removed at this time.

Subsequent thinnings occur every 7-15 years when desired stocking levels are reached. As the stand ages and diameters increase, minimum recommended stocking levels after the harvest also increase. Thinnings will occur periodically until the stand reaches 90-130 years or more.

At maturity, shelterwood harvests may be needed to produce conditions necessary to regenerate stands using natural seed fall or artificial practices. There is some expectation that older plantations and some natural stands will eventually develop a mixed age structure of red pine and other species under carefully applied silvicultural treatments.

Shelterwood cuts in conjunction with soil scarification and control of understory species are projected to be common treatments. White pine will likely become an important associated species in these stands in the future.

Natural red pine stands will be treated similarly with the exception that thinnings may be less frequent and a more diverse mix of associated species will be included. Both natural and planted stands hold the long term potential to develop large diameter, multi canopy stands with high aesthetic qualities.

#### 520.1.5 Other Forest Types

Prescriptions for other forest types will rely on evaluations by Forestry Staff and guidelines recommended in WDNR's Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook (2431.5).

## **525 TIMBER SALES**

Regulated cutting of timber is essential to the goals and objectives of this plan. Timber harvesting will be conducted on an annual basis in an effort to achieve a sustainable harvest level. Harvest areas will be distributed in the forest to accommodate such needs as biodiversity, wildlife, aesthetics, watershed protection and other biological needs. The DNR forest reconnaissance printout will be used as the basis for planning and scheduling harvests. All sales will be established, administered and reported in accordance with the DNR Timber Sale Handbook (2461). All sales on the forest are to be advertised for public bidding, with the exception of small sales with an estimated value of \$3000 or less, or sales that would qualify under a salvage provision (s.28.11 (6) (c), Wis.Stats). These sales may be sold direct without advertising.

### **525.1 FIELD PREPARATION OF TIMBER SALES**

The County and the DNR will cooperate to locate, designate and prepare harvest areas for sale. The Forest administrator and DNR liaison forester shall jointly be responsible to see that the fieldwork on sales is accomplished. The Forestry Staff will prepare a cutting notice, map, timber sale review worksheet, and submit it to WDNR for review and approval

### **525.2 ADVERTISING FOR BIDS**

After fieldwork is completed and necessary reports prepared for DNR approval, the administrator shall prepare a sale prospectus and make it available to interested bidders. Timber sale advertisements, at a minimum, will be by classified ad in a newspaper having general circulation in the county (s. 28.11(6)(b), Wis. Stats). Sealed bid sales will generally be offered two or three times a year, or when needed.

### **525.3 PROSPECTUS**

The following information will be made available to prospective bidders:

1. Species to be harvested and estimated volume
2. Minimum acceptable bid
3. Maps of sale areas
4. Special contract provisions
5. Procedures for bidding
6. Bid forms
7. Timber sales bond and advance stumpage schedule
  - a. Time, date, location, and procedures for bidding
  - b. Committee rights and reservations

#### 525.4 METHOD OF BIDDING

Bids will be reviewed at a meeting of the Committee. A sealed envelope showing tract number and marked "sealed bid" shall be submitted on County Forest bid forms by the bidder for each tract bid on, and shall contain:

1. The bid price per cord, per ton, or per thousand board feet for each species offered and the total for each species bid. The total value of the timber sale bid shall be indicated on both scaled and lump sum bids. The total bid value must meet or exceed the advertised sale minimum.
2. A \$200.00 bid deposit is required with each timber sale bids received.

#### 525.5 AWARDING SALES

The high bidder is normally awarded the sale contract; however, the Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and accept the bid offer most advantageous to the county. Grounds for rejecting bids may include without limit:

1. Non-compliance with County Forest contract requirements.
2. Delinquent financial obligations.
3. Unsatisfactory past performances.
4. Inability to demonstrate financial or professional capability.
  5. Bids below minimum advertised value, insufficient bid bond, incomplete, or mathematically incorrect.

Evaluation criteria on timber sales will be price and documented ability to satisfactorily

complete the contract. Factors to be assessed may include proposed equipment and operation, references, proof of financial stability, past performance and documented training completed. Burnett County encourages appropriate training of logging contractors. The award of contract to the successful bidder shall be based upon the bid determined most advantageous to the County.

Tie bids may be settled by toss of a coin if both parties are agreeable; otherwise the bids on that tract will be rejected and the sale readvertised.

Sales remaining unsold after being advertised for two bid openings may be sold direct at not less than the appraised value even though their estimated value exceeds \$3,000. (See DNR Timber Sales Handbook No. 2461 - Chapter 52).

## 525.6 SALES CONTRACTS

Contracts will be prepared with copies provided to the successful bidder and the DNR with the original filed in the Forest Administrator's office. Contracts are to be signed by the successful bidder within 30 days of the sale or before cutting begins, whichever occurs first, with payment being made according to the County Timber Sale Bond and Advance Stumpage Payment Schedule. Failure to sign the contract within 30 days may result in forfeiture of bid bond. Chapter 900 Exhibit 12 provides a copy of the Timber Sale Contract.

### 525.6.1 Timber Sale Contract Default Policy

A timber sale contract will be considered in default when the purchaser refuses to renew, extend, cut or finish cutting an active contract in good standing. Any contractor defaulting on a timber sale contract will be subject to the following penalties:

1. The county will retain all performance bond money from the timber sale contract in default or may re-advertise the sale and keep that portion of the bond for the difference between the two bids, as well as assess re-advertising and re-establishment costs.
2. Purchaser will be refused the opportunity to bid upon or obtain future timber sales of the county for a period of 2 years from the date of default. This will include bid sales, direct sales and firewood sales.

3. All other current contracts shall be analyzed for cancellation. At the discretion of the Committee, these contracts may be canceled with all or portions of the performance bonds returned.
4. In the event of default of more than one contract by a purchaser, the County will require purchaser to provide an accountability statement regarding all remaining contracts held. Such statement shall include a listing of each contract and planned date of completion. Upon review of purchaser's accountability statement the Committee may at its discretion cancel all contracts held by the purchaser and retain all or portions of the performance bonds for loss of volume, re-advertising, re-establishment and the difference between the two bids.

#### 525.6.2 Timber Sale Logger Training Requirements

As of January 1, 2006 with all new contracts, the purchaser is required to provide Burnett County with a certificate from Wisconsin SFI Training Standards. For further definition of these training standards, reference the Burnett County Timber Sale Contract. Chapter 900 Exhibit #12.

#### 525.7 TIMBER SALE PERFORMANCE BOND

Surety bonds or an Irrevocable letter of Credit issued by a bank which is a member of the Federal Reserve System or insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation may be used in lieu of cash as a performance bond on sales.

The letter of credit or surety bond must be in effect for a period of time equal to the term of the contract, plus a sufficient time to allow for possible extension(s) and for closeout of the contract after cutting is completed. The bid bond may be transferred to the performance bond.

#### 525.8 CONTRACT PROVISIONS

All timber sale contracts will be on the form approved by the Committee and all provisions therein shall apply. A copy of the timber sale map will be attached and become a part of the contract.

##### 525.8.1 Slash Disposal, Landings and Decking

The objective is to control conditions that affect the following:

Fire, insects, disease, aesthetics, regeneration, wetlands, exotic and invasive species, wildlife and public interest. Each timber sale contract will have specific slash disposal instructions and aesthetic safeguards and will include without limit the following:

1. All slash must be reduced to a maximum specified height: no trees, tops or limbs shall be leaning or hanging in standing timber. No machinery operation in lakes or streams.
2. No slash may be deposited in lakes or streams pursuant to s. 26.12(6), Wis. Stats.
3. No slash, logging debris or machinery operation outside the sale boundary unless approved by the County.
4. Landings and decks are not allowed within 100 feet of any public road except by proper authorization from the County.
5. Any debris or material not natural to the land shall be properly disposed of as it is generated.
6. All slash disposal, road or landing areas, and other woods operations shall be conducted in compliance with state regulations and local shoreland and wetland zoning restrictions.

#### 525.8.2 Duration and Extension of Contracts

All contracts will be issued for not less than six months nor more than 2 years, unless otherwise stated on advertisement and/or contracts. Contract expiration dates will be stated in the prospectus. Exceptions may be made in cases of extenuating circumstances.

A six-month extension if deemed necessary by the seller may be granted. Terms of contract extensions will be outlined in the timber sale contract, Exhibit 900-12. The maximum time duration of a timber sale contract, including extensions, shall be 4 years. Extension beyond this period of time shall be considered by the Committee only in the event of special justification. Special stumpage rate adjustments may be made.

If purchasers do not wish to have contracts renewed or extended appropriate penalties may be assessed in accordance with the contract.

The contractor may request a contract release due to severe physical or financial disability. The Committee shall determine whether or not a release shall be granted and may withhold all or a portion of the bond deposit for damages.

### 525.8.3 Contract Violations

Field enforcement of timber sale contracts will be the responsibility of the administrator employing the following procedure:

1. The administrator, or designee, will attempt to resolve inadvertent or minor violations by verbal contact with the contractor.
2. The administrator, or designee, may immediately suspend logging operations when a serious or emergency situation arises.
3. The suspension will be followed by written notice to the contractor, stating the nature of the violation and informing them of committee action taken or pending.
4. The Committee, in consultation with legal counsel, may consider, but is not limited to the following remedies:
  - (a) Charge up to double mill delivered value
  - (b) Charge for actual damages
  - (c) Suspend contract
  - (d) Retain performance bond and/or deposits
  - (e) Foreclose on cut forest products on sale
  - (f) Refer to District Attorney for prosecution
  - (g) Seek civil damages in addition to the performance bond.
5. Suspension of operation will remain in effect until receipt of written notice from the County.
6. Failure of the contractor to comply with the Committee decision may result in the contractor becoming a non-qualifying and ineligible bidder in the future. At the Committee's discretion, the contractor may be banned from future purchase of county timber sales. Performance

bond may be retained and forest products on sale areas may be seized and sold by the county.

## 525.9 TIMBER SALE RESTRICTIONS

To minimize resource damage, the types of logging equipment, methods, location of roads or landings, harvest sequences, and times of operation used on sale areas may be restricted by the County. Special restrictions may be required in accordance with the aesthetic policy set forth in section 505 of this chapter. Seasonal restrictions may be applied to protect roads, minimize recreation use conflicts, benefit wildlife management, avoid endangered resources concerns, minimize insect and disease problems, minimize the spread of exotic or invasive species or to assist in fire protection.

### 525.9.1 Rutting Standards

Soil compaction and rutting can reduce the productivity of a site, disrupt surface drainage and infiltration, and contribute to erosion and sedimentation.

Compaction occurs over broad areas, but does not necessarily result in visible depressions. Ruts are depressions, such as furrows or trenches, created by breaking through the forest floor.

#### 525.9.1.1 Guidelines

- Existing roads systems will be utilized when environmentally appropriate
- The Forest Administrator will have final approval in designating the location of roads, landings, and skid trails, and may consult with other County and DNR staff.
- Wisconsin Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality (BMPs) and this Plan will be followed during all phases of the timber sale to prevent or reduce erosion and sedimentation to surface waters and wetlands.
- Expanding the footprint of roads, landings, and skid trails to maneuver around wet or muddy areas that develop during use is prohibited unless authorized by the Forest Administrator

- It is expected that appropriate measures will be taken to prevent excessive rutting. If excessive rutting occurs, forestry operations will be suspended.
- The Forest Administrator may modify standards in this policy if modifications provide equal or greater soil and water protection. Depending on site conditions, rutting standards may need to be more restrictive or flexible. Details of and justifications for modifications must be documented in the timber sale narrative and timber sale field notes.
- This policy applies to forestry operations. Problems occurring from recreational use or operations shall be handled as prescribed in appropriate handbooks or guidance.

#### 525.9.1.2 Standards

##### **Forest Roads**

- Rutting is prohibited on forest roads within a riparian management zone (RMZ). New forest roads are to be located outside of RMZs, except at stream crossings.
- In wetlands, a rut on a forest road may not exceed 50 feet in length with depths of 6 inches or greater.
- In uplands, a rut on a forest road may not result in channelized flow into a wetland or waterbody.
- Other ruts are acceptable provided it is shown that they can and will be repaired prior to final sale close out.

##### **Landings**

- Landings are prohibited in wetlands unless the timber sale is located in a large wetland complex without suitable upland landing sites. Wetland landings may only be used during frozen ground conditions. Details of and justifications for modifications must be documented.
- In uplands, a rut on a landing may not result in channelized flow into a

wetland or waterbody.

- Other ruts are acceptable provided it is shown that they can and will be repaired prior to final sale closeout.

#### **Skid Trails**

- Ruts with depths of 6 inches or greater may not exceed a total of 25 feet in any 100 feet
- Total rut length on skid trails may not exceed 10% of the total length of skid trails.

#### **General Harvest Area**

- The rutted area for an acre of general harvest area may not exceed 5% (six inches or deeper).
- The average rutted area per acre may not exceed 2% of the total harvest area.

#### 525.9.1.3 Measurements

**Forest Road Rut Length** is determined by measuring the length of ruts with depths 6 inches or greater.

**Skid Trail Rut Length** is determined by measuring the total length of ruts and dividing by the total length of skid trails. The length of rut made by each wheel or track is measured separately.

**General Harvest Area Rutted Area** is determined by measuring the length and width, in feet, of ruts, greater than 6 inches in depth, in an acre of harvest to determine square feet of rutted area. This total is divided by 43560.

### 525.10 SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCT CONTRACTS

Stumpage of fuelwood, Christmas trees, boughs, posts and poles and other special forest products for resale will be handled as a regular timber sale.

#### 525.11 TIMBER SALE ROADS

The contractor will be responsible for securing legal access to sale areas across private or other non-county ownership.

The contractor will be responsible for securing permission to conduct logging activities within town, county or state road rights-of-way (e.g. decking, skidding).

Forestry personnel will approve the layout of all roads and make other necessary special provisions within the sale contract.

Skidding, decking, or other logging activity is not allowed on County Forest roads or ditches unless approved by the County Forest Administrator. These areas will be kept free from logging debris. County forest access roads will be maintained by the logger and be left in good as original condition at the close of the sale. Roads will be inspected by county personnel to insure minimal resource damage.

A timber sale purchaser may request permission to gate a timber sale access road. The administrator may grant a gate permit to prohibit only motorized traffic.

#### 525.12 SUPERVISING SALES

Sale inspections will be performed periodically by county and / or state personnel with corresponding notations in the sales record. These comments can also be used to evaluate the area for post harvest treatments and recon updates.

#### 525.13 FOREST PRODUCTS ACCOUNTABILITY

##### 525.13.1 Scaling Merchantability

1. Sawlogs will be scaled by the Scribner Decimal C. log rule. A log is defined as a minimum 9" diameter inside bark (d.i.b.) small end and 8' in length for

softwood and a minimum 10" (d.i.b.) small end and 8' in length for hardwood.

2. The standard unit of measure for cordwood is measuring 4' x 4' x 8' of unpeeled wood. Peeled wood will be converted to the standard cord by adding 12.5% for sap-peeled and adding 25% for machine-peeled wood to the gross volume measured. A pulpwood tree contains at least one (1) 8' stick, to a minimum top diameter as defined in the contract. Burnett County will use the following weight conversion rates for green, recently cut cordwood:

Aspen, spruce, tamarack, cedar	4500 lbs/cd
White pine	4200 lbs/cd
Jack pine	4250 lbs/cd
Red pine	4500 lbs/cd
Balsam fir	4250 lbs/cd
Ash	5100 lbs/cd
Basswood	3850 lbs/cd
White birch,	4800 lbs/cd
Mixed hardwoods	5200 lbs/cd
Elm	5000 lbs/cd
Hard maple	5100 lbs/cd
Yellow birch	5350 lbs/cd
White oak	5850 lbs/cd
Red oak, scrub oak	5500 lbs/cd

3. DNR Timber Sale handbook #2461 will be used as a guide in determining the conversion rates for posts, poles, bolts, chips, weight-scaled wood or other types of forest products.

### 525.13.2 Utilization Standards

Utilization standards will be specified on individual contracts to provide maximum utilization of all merchantable timber and will be based on the scaling standards in 505.3.13(a).

### 525.13.3 Methods of Accountability

Wood harvested from the sale area must be accounted for and payment made in accordance with existing policy and procedure. One or more of the following may be used on an individual sale:

1. The ticket system allows contractors to haul wood from the sale after reporting information on the date, time, volume, species, trucker, and destination using serialized three part hauling tickets. Mill delivered scale with the attached county ticket will be used to determine final sale volumes. The County has established a bidding and reporting process that allows the contractor to haul mixed species loads of cordwood using the ticket system as specified in the timber sale contract.
2. Wood may also be scaled on the landing by Forestry staff. This method is generally used for all sawlogs and occasional volumes of cordwood.
3. Lump sum sales may also be sold.

## 525.14 SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCT PERMITS/TREATY RIGHTS

The Burnett County Natural Resources Committee may grant county residents, tribal members or landowners permission to gather small quantities of firewood, Christmas trees, or other miscellaneous forest products for personal use only. A permit system has been established to regulate this harvest. The following types of permits can be issued:

1. Firewood Permit. Allows the harvest and gathering of firewood for personal use only and from designated areas on the Forest. County will designate the areas and limit the volumes to 4-10 cords per household per year. Separate fees may be assessed for harvesting green standing hardwoods or for gathering dead and down wood that remains after completion of a timber sale. Fees will be set by the Committee.
2. Christmas Tree and Bough Permits. Allows the harvest of no more than two

conifers per household for personal use for holiday decorations. Bough gathering permits may also be issued and limited to no more than one pickup load (1000 lbs) per household. Areas and cutting regulations will be designated by County staff. Fees will be set by the Committee.

3. Post, Poles, and Other Miscellaneous Forest Product Permits. Allows the harvest of small quantities of raw forest products for personal use. Appraised value of stumpage may not exceed \$200.00 per year per household. Gathering of sap, bark, or other products that will leave damaged trees is not allowed. Areas and harvest regulations will be determined by County staff.

4. Chippewa Gathering Rights Permit. As a result of the 1990-1991 trial in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, Judge Barbara Crab issued the final judgment 74-C-313-C. In this judgment, the Wisconsin Bands of the Lake Superior Chippewa's retained their treaty rights to gather firewood, poles, bark, and other miscellaneous forest products from the Forest. To meet the conditions of this judgment, Burnett County has adopted Ordinance 91-3, which regulates the gathering rights on the Burnett County Forest. Gathering Permits must be issued before gathering may occur. No permit fee is assessed but the County may regulate the gathering as follows:

- a. Any treaty rights participant interested in gathering firewood, tree bark, maple sap, lodge poles, boughs, marsh hay or other miscellaneous forest products, (except fruits, seeds, or berries not enumerated in County ordinances), from County Land shall obtain a County Gathering Permit from the County Forestry office.

The County shall respond to the gathering permit request no later than 14 days after receipt of the request. The gathering permit shall indicate the location of the material to be gathered, the volume of material to be gathered, and conditions of the gathering of the material necessary for conservation of the timber and miscellaneous forest products on the County land, or for public health or safety.

- b. The County may not deny a request to gather miscellaneous forest products on County property under this section unless:

1. The gathering is inconsistent with the management plan for the property.
2. The gathering will conflict with the pre-existing rights of a permittee or other person possessing an approval to conduct an activity on the property, including a contractor of the county or, is otherwise inconsistent with conservation or public health or safety.
3. An annual summary report of cut products sold by permit will be filed with the DNR using CUTTING REPORT FORM 2460 - 1.
4. The commercial harvest for resale of any part or entire live plants, mosses, ferns, flora and fauna (except cones or seeds) found on the Forest but not regulated by other County or WDNR regulations will not be permitted until:
  - a. The Committee reviews a written request for commercial harvest and receives sufficient information to assess the environmental, social, and economic impacts.
  - b. The County reviews a species inventory or population estimate for the identified species on the Forest.
  - c. The County determines the appropriate techniques for gathering and establishes the sustainable level of harvest.
  - d. The County establishes a competitive bidding process, insurance requirements, and other harvest regulations.
  - e. The Committee approves and issues a permit.

### **530 FOREST REGENERATION AND IMPROVEMENT PRACTICES**

The Committee will make sound investments to sustain and to improve the Forest for the production of timber and other important benefits. Biological, chemical and mechanical methods will be used to carry out these activities in the most efficient, effective, and environmentally sound manner.

## 530.1 REGENERATION

Natural regeneration that relies on natural seed fall or root and stump sprouting will be the preferred method to reestablish the next forest stand. Forestry personnel will examine each stand before and after harvest to assess the potential that adequate natural regeneration will occur. When natural regeneration occurs, stands will be monitored for up to five years after harvest to assure that adequate regeneration has become established on the site.

Regeneration needs of each forest type will help determine which silvicultural harvest method to use. Regeneration of shade tolerant forest types such as sugar maple, basswood, white ash, or white pine will use patch or selective harvest practices. In these stands, a wide range of tree diameters and ages will occur. Often no additional treatment is needed to promote adequate regeneration.

Regeneration of shade intolerant forest types such as aspen, jack pine, northern pin oak, white birch, red pine, northern red oak, and other types relies on harvest practices that include clearcuts, strip cuts, seed tree, and shelterwood harvests. If natural regeneration is not expected to be adequate, harvest practices may be enhanced by residual tree removal, seed bed scarification, prescribed burning, or chemical treatment. Shade intolerant forest types grow best in full sunlight and often will have a very narrow range of tree ages within the stand.

When natural regeneration is not adequate or when the harvested site will be converted to another forest type, a variety of mechanical, manual, chemical, or other treatments may be used to insure adequate regeneration. These treatments may also be used to help maintain a desirable species distribution on the Forest to meet aesthetic, wildlife habitat, economic, and biodiversity needs.

The Silvicultural & Aesthetics Hbk. (DNR Hbk. #2431.5) shall be used as a reference in determining timing, techniques and adequacy of both natural and artificial regeneration.

## 530.2 SITE PREPARATION AND REGENERATION TREATMENTS

Site preparation and regeneration treatments on the Forest may include the following:

#### 530.2.1 Residual Tree Removal

Residual tree removal to promote regeneration may be included as a condition of timber sale contracts. This practice may be used when a significant number of non-merchantable trees will remain after harvest and will likely restrict the growth of aspen or other shade intolerant tree species. Post timber sale residual tree removal may be considered by means other than through the contract if the need exists and funding and/or man power is available.

#### 530.2.2 Mechanical Seedbed Preparation

Mechanical treatment such as discing, roller chopping, blade scarification, and others may be used to prepare the soil as a seedbed to receive natural seedfall. These treatments may be used before or after harvest occurs to help regenerate both tolerant and intolerant forest types. This work may be completed by the County, by WDNR, or by private contractors.

#### 530.2.3 Prescribed Burning

Prescribed burning may be considered for site preparation, slash removal, or replacement of natural fire occurrence when conditions allow. This treatment may be a method for forest regeneration but will be used to maintain the fuel breaks and other special management areas. WDNR Fire Control will provide guidance and direction.

#### 530.2.4 Preparation for Hand Planting or Direct Seeding

Patch scarification, disk trenching, furrowing, or other mechanical methods may be used to prepare a competition free spot to hand plant seedlings or to place seeds. This mechanical site preparation is usually completed during the fall prior to spring planting. This work may be completed by the County, by WDNR, or by private contractors.

#### 530.2.5 Chemical Site Preparation

Herbicides registered for forest site preparation may be used when other regeneration treatments are not effective or economic. Aerial or ground applied herbicides may be used to help assure the regeneration of preferred forest species. Herbicide use will be assessed on a site-by-site basis and receive Committee approval prior to application. Certified Forestry staff or certified private contractors may apply the herbicide. A written prescription for each herbicide application will be prepared, kept on file, and be made available to the primary applicator.

#### 530.2.6 Tree Planting and Direct Seeding

Machine or hand planting of nursery grown stock or nursery extracted seed may be used to assure adequate regeneration. A mix of compatible species will be considered by the Forestry staff when developing the planting/seeding prescriptions. Only species native to Burnett County and available from the WDNR tree nurseries will be used. Trees will be planted at a rate of 500-1000 trees per acre using the spots provided by the site preparation treatment. Because of the effort, and expense, the Forest Administrator will control and closely monitor all stages of planting. Planting may be done by temporary crews or by contract planting crews.

### 530.3 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

Timber Stand Improvement will involve release, thinning, and pruning as the primary practices during this plan period.

#### 530.3.1 Release

Manual, or chemical treatments may be used to control or to eliminate competing vegetation from specific stands after considering social, environmental, and economic impacts. Manual and mechanical release may be completed by County or State sponsored conservation crews, private contractors or other temporary work crews. Herbicides registered for forest release projects may be used after review and approval by the Committee. Certified Forestry staff or certified private contractors may apply the herbicide.

### 530.3.2 Thinning

Most thinning can be accomplished through commercial harvest operations. Non-commercial thinning will be considered if the individual site requirements, funding, and/or available labor make it desirable.

### 530.3.3 Pruning

Pruning will be considered mainly for conifer species and prescribed when it is feasible for economic or wildfire control reasons.

## **535 EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCES**

Exceptional Resources include such things as wild rivers and lakes, natural areas, ruffed grouse management areas, areas of unique geological features, historical, temporary barons habitat and archeological sites. It is the policy of Burnett County to manage these types of resources to enhance and protect their individual exceptional features. During the next fifteen years, the Natural Resources Committee and Forestry Staff will consider opportunities to include these management categories on the Forest.

### **535.1 AREAS HIGH IN LOCALLY, REGIONALLY OR NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT BIODIVERSITY VALUES**

#### **535.1.1 Wisconsin State Natural Areas**

The Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program which is located with the Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Endangered Resources and advised by the Natural Areas Preservation Council is a program that helps protect outstanding examples of native natural communities, significant geological formations and archaeological sites. These natural communities, (SNA's), with the assistance from the DNR will be identified and considered for entry into the SNA program. At the current time the Burnett County Forest has no designated SNA's. Upon review of information obtained from the DNR, the Natural Resources Committee will consider designating some SNA sites on the County Forest with acceptable management agreements.

### 535.1.2 High Conservation Value Forests

While the Burnett County Forest has few passively managed forests within our boundaries, there are areas along the Scenic and Wild River ways and a few individual stands that present a unique opportunity for the opportunity to have High Conservation Valued Forests. Many of these areas are passively managed and are left in their natural state. This may be due to terrain, proximity to the river way, aesthetic importance, or a native tree species that is uncommon to the area. A list of the Burnett County Forest HCVF can be found in Chapter 900-24.

## 535.2 RARE, THREATENED, OR ENDANGERED ECOSYSTEMS

### 535.2.1 Old Growth Forests

In the past, old growth forests were an important component of the native forest community. Their role on the Burnett County Forest will continue but at a much smaller scale. The early successional composition of the Forest may not allow large areas of old growth to develop for many years.

Any old growth stands on the Forest must be dominated by relatively old trees. (These biologically mature stands must be older than the traditional rotation age and near or beyond the age where the mean annual increment (MAI) of volume growth is at a maximum.) The actual qualifying stand age, (and tree size), will be quite variable depending on species, forest type, and forest habitat type. Some other important attributes include: stands dominated by native forest plants; any successional stage may be represented; type of stand origin, (stand history), is irrelevant; and these stands will not be intensively managed for commodity production. It may prove useful to classify old growth stands by origin, (catastrophic or non-catastrophic disturbance), and successional stage, (early, middle, or late), of present dominant vegetation.

### 535.2.2 Old Growth Reserves

No active management will be allowed in the future, except to simulate natural fire regimes or control potentially catastrophic fire. Over the long term, the net annual growth, (volume), will equal or be close to zero. Annual mortality approximately equals annual growth. Woody debris will accumulate and the ratio

of dead to live volume will be higher than in other stands. Old Growth Reserves are present along the St. Croix and Namekagon Scenic Riverways and also the Wild River Zone of the Totagatic River.

#### 535.2.3 Managed Old Growth Stands

Some management practices and timber harvest will be allowed, but old growth structural attributes, (age distribution, dead woody material, irregular canopy), will be encouraged through deliberate silvicultural prescriptions where appropriate. The following are examples of allowable management practices:

1. Protection (fire, insects, disease, recreational developments)
2. Simulate natural processes
3. Accelerate development of compositional structural or functional attributes
4. Manipulate reproduction
5. Moderate salvage operations
6. Light thinnings and timber harvest
7. Stocking level manipulation to favor large diameters and representative stocking of mature trees.
8. Recreational activities may occur as determined for each stand.

#### 535.2.4 Extended Rotation Forest Stands

This category represents mature forests managed for both commodity harvest and the development of some ecological and social benefits associated with older forests. These stands are or will be allowed to mature until they are dominated by trees older than their traditional rotation age and beyond the age where mean annual increment, (MAI), of volume growth is at a maximum but younger than their pathological rotation age, (average life expectancy). Actual stand age and tree size will be quite variable depending on species, (forest type), and forest habitat type. Native forest plants must dominate. Successional stage, disturbance history, or stand origin are irrelevant. The development of a variety of structural, compositional, aesthetic, and functional attributes common in older forests with extended rotations is encouraged. The following are some examples of allowable

management practices:

1. Protection (fire, insects, disease, exotic species)
2. Moderate salvage operations
3. Thinnings and timber harvests
4. Treatments to promote development of advanced reproduction
5. Rotation lengths may extend 25-50% beyond normal prescribed harvest ages.
6. Ordinary recreational uses may occur.

In cases where Burnett County has had large blocks of the same age timber, we have extended the rotation of stands to create age and structure diversity within our forest. We have also extended the rotation of one stand to allow for the management of others, example: Leaving our oak stands in order to clear cut our aspen and jack pine stands so that they can be regenerated. With the plan of going back to the oak stands once the aspen and jack pine has been regenerated to acceptable stocking and tree heights.

#### 535.2.5 Habitat for Species Identified as Rare, Threatened, Endangered, or Greatest Conservation Need

Though the Burnett County Forest has no one area designated to one particular habitat type for one particular species, it is important to note that with the management of the forest many habitat types are created for many different species to use. The Karner Blue Butterfly is one example of an Endangered Species that our management routinely promotes habitat for.

#### 535.2.6 Savanna and Pine Barrens

The WI DNR now owns three large properties that are managed for savanna and barrens habitat: Fish Lake; Crex; and the newly acquired Namekagon Barrens. Many acres of County Forest are adjacent to these properties. The County Forest manages its property adjacent to these areas to promote a shifting barrens habitat when possible or desired. We also manage in cooperation with the DNR two fuel breaks on the County Forest, (Deer Lake and Clam). These areas are managed as a savanna/barrens community type habitat for the purpose of fire control strategy.

However, there is a great benefit to the Savanna and Pine Barrens ecosystems from these fuel breaks.

### 535.3 CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES

#### 535.3.1 Burial Mounds / Cemeteries

Only a few burial and cemetery sites are known to exist on the County Forest. The local Historical Society has been working on documenting all known cemetery sites. When we come across a known burial or cemetery site, management will be altered to protect the historic site.

#### 535.3.2 Logging camp

No known or documented logging camps exist on the County Forest. If any sites are discovered management will be altered to protect and preserve the site.

#### 535.3.3 CCC Camps

One known Conservation Camp exists on the County Forest. This area has been signed and any management will be altered to preserve and protect this historic site.

## **540 FOREST SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN**

### 540.1 NATIVE FOREST SPECIES

Several forest tree species appear to be declining as a component of native stands on the Forest. Animal browsing, human activities, introduced biological agents, weather changes, natural successional processes, or other causes have reduced the frequency and distribution of certain native tree species.

It is not known if these species are returning to a level of natural occurrence that existed 100 years ago or earlier in Burnett County, if they are truly in decline and being replaced by more aggressive or better adapted species, or if they are being affected by land management, use activities, or biological agents. The Forestry Staff will monitor the status and incorporate management practices that will maintain these species as a

component of the Forest as long as feasible. The following tree species are included in this category:

#### 540.1.1 Butternut

This species occurs infrequently on the Forest in association with red oak, basswood, ash, maple, and aspen on better soils. Most butternuts are observed to be pole or sawtimber size trees with few seedlings or saplings found. The species appears to be shade intolerant. Seeds are vulnerable to high losses to squirrels and other rodents. A recently discovered fungus of unknown origin causes branch and stem cankers which eventually coalesce and kill severely infected trees. This disease is contributing to the decline of butternut throughout Wisconsin. A recent survey determined that more than 90% of all live butternuts in Wisconsin were diseased. All healthy, non-cankered butternuts on the Forest will not be harvested and the County will comply with the guidelines of the butternut harvest moratorium as developed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

#### 540.1.2 American Elm

This species has experienced large losses to Dutch Elm disease over the last 25 years. Several species of beetles transmit the fungus, causing this disease to spread throughout Wisconsin and Burnett County.

A few isolated elms remain on the Forest. This species was commonly associated with loamy, silt or seasonally wet soils mixed in with other hardwoods. It is not likely the elm will ever recover to the distribution or frequency that occurred 50-100 year ago. No harvest of the remaining elms on the Forest will be planned which will protect any surviving individuals with natural genetic resistance to this disease.

#### 540.1.3 White Cedar

This swamp conifer species is difficult to regenerate with consistency. Preferential browsing by whitetail deer on white cedar seedlings and saplings

causes almost complete loss of young cedar regeneration. Mechanical measures to exclude deer while seedlings grow above browse level are needed but are cost prohibitive at this time. Harvest of white cedar will not occur until regeneration techniques are developed and proven successful.

#### 540.1.4 Bitternut Hickory

This species occurs rarely on loamy, silt soils in mixture with other hardwoods on the Burnett County Forest in the Town of Roosevelt. Burnett County lies just within the extreme northern fringe of bitternut hickory's known range. This species appears to be shade intolerant and few seedlings are observed. Shade tolerant hardwoods and rodents have discouraged successful establishment of young seedlings. No harvest of bitternut hickories will be planned on the Forest.

#### 540.1.5 White Birch

Although white birch is still common, it appears that their frequency has diminished during the last ten years. Many mature birch were moisture stressed during the hot, dry summers several years ago, declined in vigor, and eventually died. Birch presence in oak and maple-basswood stands will continue to decline. Exposed mineral soil seedbeds within stands with partial to full sunlight are an important element for successful birch regeneration. Birch seedlings are not shade tolerant. Sprouting from live parent stumps is fairly dependable. White birch presence may become limited to stands treated with even aged management harvests, especially in association with aspen.

#### 540.1.6 Northern Red Oak

Northern red oak is still fairly common in Wisconsin and Burnett County but the long-term outlook suggests that the frequency and distribution of red oak will decline. Red oak is a relatively long-lived tree but reproduces poorly in shade and can easily be replaced by maple or other hardwoods. Extensive field trials to test methods to consistently regenerate red oak through shelterwood cuts and/or planting are underway. It appears that the silvicultural prescription to regenerate

northern red oak must be carefully planned and may be expensive but over the long term will be a wise investment for both commodity and wildlife values. A second threat to northern red oak as well as scrub oak is Oak Wilt, a fungus disease transmitted by insects to bark wounds on live trees or by root grafts from diseased to uninfected trees. Oak Wilt is steadily advancing northward in Wisconsin and has reached Burnett County. Sanitation and salvage harvests may be conducted on the Forest to control Oak Wilt. A third threat to red oak is the gypsy moth, which has several small populations in eastern Wisconsin. Severe winter temperatures and several biological controls may be important elements in controlling this insect on the Forest.

#### 540.1.7 Balsam Poplar

This species occurs rarely, often in mixture with quaking aspen and usually adjacent to wetlands or seasonally wet soils. It is a short-lived tree. In Burnett County, it occurs north and east of the St. Croix River, which appears to coincide with the extreme southern limits of its natural range. Since its reproduction characteristics are very similar to that of quaking aspen, the two species will be managed with the same techniques when they occur together.

#### 540.1.8 Black Cherry

Although black cherry is still present on the Forest, their frequency and distribution is declining. It is found on most upland forest soils, occasionally reaching sawtimber size on loamy, moist soils. Black cherry occurs only as scattered individuals or clumps, and rarely as pure stands. The species is shade intolerant and does not appear to be reproducing naturally in fully stocked hardwood stands with shaded understories

Harvest of black cherry may occur when it can be treated with even aged management harvests, since sprouting from live parent stumps is successful in full sunlight. This will occur most typically when associated with aspen or white birch harvests.

#### 540.1.9 Large Diameter Red Pine, White Pine and White Spruce

These species are found on the Forest and may be considered very common.

These species hold the potential to be long lived and large diameter trees and have an important role on the landscape. Often these large diameter trees occur as scattered trees or groups of trees mixed in with other forest types. Many of these trees are approaching 100 years old. These large trees are visually pleasing to the public, provide a seed source to naturally regenerating young stands, provide structural diversity to native stands at the canopy level, and are important habitat features for black bear, bald eagles, and other wildlife species.

In the future, large diameter supercanopy white pine, red pine, and white spruce will be left as scattered individuals for wildlife and groves unless evidence indicates that insects or disease will kill the tree, if the tree will not survive until the next harvest occurs, if its removal will improve reproduction of the species, or if harvest will improve resource management of the stand.

#### 540.2 NON -NATIVE SPECIES

Several non-indigenous or exotic species occur on the Forest and many more threaten the forest. These species may have been intentionally introduced or have escaped from human cultivation adjacent to the Forest. These species hold the potential to cause serious ecological, social, and economic consequences. Preventing these species from becoming established on the forest is the best control.

##### 540.2.1 Non-Native Tree Species

A handful of non-native tree species, such as Scotch pine, European larch, Norway spruce, black locust, eastern cottonwood, box elder, willow, and eastern red cedar occur in small scattered populations on the Forest. In the past, several of these species were planted to test their suitability as a commercially productive tree species in Burnett County. Others were planted as yard trees and remain as living monuments on abandoned farmsteads or have escaped from domestic cultivation. These species will be informally monitored to determine their status

but no control practices are planned at this time. Only tree species native to Burnett County will be considered when planning forest stand regeneration on the Forest.

#### 540.2.2 Non Native Plants

Several other non-native plant species have invaded, are threatening to invade, or already occur on uplands, wetlands, and surface waters of the Forest. Spotted knapweed is the exotic plant with the most widespread distribution on the Forest, primarily occupying trails, fuelbreaks, and right-of-ways along town, county, or state roadways.

This plant is a perennial and appears to be displacing some native plant species where frequent soil disturbance occurs. No feasible control practice is available at this date.

Purple loosestrife, which is native to Europe and Asia, has escaped cultivation in Wisconsin. This plant is a serious threat to wetlands, rivers, streams, lake shores, and other aquatic habitats since it is a prolific seed producer which out competes native plant species. Native wildlife species may also lose natural plant habitats. Surveys to determine the extent of this species are needed. Control practices are not planned at this time due to lack of funding. Control methods include hand pulling, digging, herbicide applications, or use of natural biological controls.

Eurasian milfoil is not known to be present anywhere on the Forest but clearly poses a great threat to surface waters in Burnett County since it has already invaded some waters in both Wisconsin and Minnesota. This is an aquatic plant native to Europe, Asia, and northern Africa. The plant has spaghetti-like stems with feathery leaves that grow underwater. The prolific plant spreads by shoots and runners along the lake or riverbed. New populations can be established from small plant fragments transported to uninfected waters by boats and trailers. Eurasian water milfoil replaces native aquatic plant communities and forms thick underwater beds of tangled stems and vast mats of floating vegetation. These dense beds cause loss of plant diversity, degrade water quality, reduce habitat for

aquatic wildlife, and hinder water recreational activities.

#### 540.2.3 Non Native Shrubs

In Wisconsin, other non-native species have escaped cultivation and have altered the composition of native plant communities. Shrub species such as common buckthorns, bush honeysuckles, common lilacs, multiflora rose, and non-woody plants like wild parsnip, exotic thistles, leafy spurge, reed canary grass, or garlic mustard could become threats to the Forest in the future. Preventing these species from becoming established on the Forest is the best control.

The Forestry Staff will assist other agencies in monitoring for their presence and with educating the public about these exotic species at boat landings, parks, and other recreational areas.

When non native species are found on the Forest, an assessment will be made by the Forestry Staff and cooperating agencies to assess the potential threat to native plant communities. If control measures are recommended, a control plan will be reviewed and approved by the Natural Resources Committee.

### **545 RECREATION**

The Natural Resources Committee will provide and maintain recreation opportunities on the Forest. In general, the Committee will oversee all informal recreational activities that occur across the Forest. Such activities include hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, nature study, berry picking, or vehicle use of non-funded trails.

The Natural Resources Committee will also oversee the establishment and maintenance of specific recreation areas, parks, and facilities within and outside of the Forest. Such areas include Camp Burnett, County owned boat landings, two designated ski trails, and state-funded snowmobile and ATV trails.

The County Outdoor Recreation Plan, will assess the public use and interest in the County's recreation facilities and will guide how the County plans to accommodate those uses and interests.

The Burnett County Codes and Ordinances shall govern the use of lands designated by the County for park or recreational purposes. Refer to Chapter 900 Exhibit 2 for a listing of applicable ordinances.

#### 545.1 RECREATIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS

It is permissible for the Committee to contract with clubs or individuals to provide recreational services for the public. An agreement with a local snowmobile club to assist in grooming and maintaining county snowmobile trail facilities is an example.

#### 545.2 RECREATIONAL USE PERMITS.

1. Permits for recreational use of the County Forest may be issued by the Committee. Formal requests must be submitted to the Committee for review of environmental, social, and economic impacts.
2. No permits for sale of malt or intoxicating beverage will be issued on the County Forest.
3. No permit is needed for recreational gathering of berries, cones, fruits, leaves, mushrooms, and other plant products done in a manner that is non-destructive to the parent plant or conflicts with state regulations on endangered, threatened, or rare species.
4. Organized events or special uses, other than informal recreation (see Sec. 520.4) requires specific review and approval from the Committee (see Sec. 525 Item #2).

#### 545.3 CAMP BURNETT

Camp Burnett provides a rustic summer camp facility for use by non-profit youth groups. The Natural Resources Committee has established a policy regulating the uses and fees for Camp Burnett.

#### 545.4 EXTENSIVE RECREATIONAL USE OF THE FOREST

Extensive, (informal), County Forest uses shall include, but not necessarily be limited to: hunting, fishing, picnicking, snowshoeing, biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, photography, gathering and nature study. Such uses do not require a permit but must be

conducted according to the provisions of County Ordinances. The Burnett County Forest is within the Credited Territories.

#### 545.4.1 Hunting

The entire County Forest is open for hunting to hunters during the legally established seasons with the exception of designated areas, which are developed, for high public use, such as Camp Burnett. Portable, temporary hunting stands or elevated platforms are permissible but must be removed completely each day at the close of hunting hours. These may not be attached in a way that damages the tree or uses nails, lag screws, screw steps, or other metal fasteners.

Ground blinds are permitted if constructed entirely with natural, dead, non-manufactured forest materials.

#### 545.4.2 Fishing

All lakes and streams within the Forest are available for fishing, unless otherwise listed in State and County regulations. Use of motorized equipment on some of the lakes is restricted (section 750.1).

#### 545.4.3 Picnicking

Picnicking is allowed throughout the County Forest. However, the user must remove garbage or debris, which s/he creates or be subject to fines for littering.

#### 545.4.4 Camping

Camping is allowed throughout the County Forest. The following regulations have been developed to protect the camper and the forest resource:

1. Within 412 feet of the Namekagon or the St. Croix Rivers, camping is permitted only at campsites with steel fire rings jointly designated by Burnett County and the National Park Service. All camping regulations of the St. Croix Scenic Riverway will apply within this zone.
2. Camping with a tent, camper trailer, mobile camper less than 25' long, or other lesser camping shelters is allowed under the following conditions:

- a. A valid permit must be issued by Burnett County for each camping shelter for a location designated by the permittee and acceptable to the County. Permits must be displayed on the outside of the shelter and readily visible.
- b. No littering or site destruction to natural resources is allowed.
- c. Maximum permit period is ten (10) consecutive days. The camping shelter must be occupied daily and may not be vacated or stored on the site.
- d. No campfires are permitted during April 1 through May 31. From June 1 through March 31, a three (3) foot mineral soil break must surround an open fire when the ground is not snow covered. Camping and fires are not allowed when County or state emergency fire regulations are in effect.
- e. No camping within 200' of a state, county or town road. No camping may occur within 200' of another campsite without authorization from the County.
- f. No camping is allowed at designated parks, boat landings, within the boundaries of an active timber sale or other areas designated by Forest Administrator or staff.
- g. The Natural Resources Committee may establish the permit fee and other camping regulations.

#### 545.5 INTENSIVE RECREATION AREAS.

Parts of the County Forest have been developed to accommodate a high degree of public use. In these areas, the Committee will prohibit extensive recreation activities, which are not a compatible use at the developed facilities.

##### 545.5.1 Picnic Areas

Picnic areas open to the public are:

1. Charles Tollander Memorial Park
2. Clam Dam
3. Deer Lake
4. Devils Lake Beach

5. Godfrey Lake Access
5. Jeffries Landing
6. Lake 26 Park
7. Mel Daniels Park
8. Milton E. Stellrecht Memorial Park
9. Ralph Larrabee Park
10. Thoreson American Legion Park
11. Yellow Lake Narrows

#### 545.5.2 Swimming Areas

A small swimming beach without a lifeguard is open to the public at:

1. Devils Lake Beach
2. Ralph Larrabee Park
3. Twenty-Six Lake Park

#### 545.5.3 Boat Landings

At several locations on the Forest, areas have been developed for recreational water access. Section 740 reviews the uses and locations of these sites.

### 545.6 MANAGED RECREATIONAL TRAILS

Whenever possible, multiple uses of the various trail systems are encouraged and subject to policy review of the Committee. Section 720 provides guidance on recreational trail development.

#### 545.6.1 Snowmobile Trails

The Committee will provide adequate public trails on the Forest for snowmobile use. The Forestry and Parks Department will coordinate and administer the County wide snowmobile and trail program under ss 23.09 (11) and (26), and 350.12 (4) Wis. Stats., Natural Resources Code NR 50.09. Section 726 provides guidance on the snowmobile trail network on the Forest.

#### 545.6.2 Ski Trails

Cross-country skiing is permitted on the County Forest, taking into account, however, that forest management activities may dictate a specific trail facility be temporarily closed or relocated. It will be the goal to offer both ski-skating and diagonal skiing facilities. All trails, roads, and fire lanes are open for cross country skiing, as well as two designated ski trails. Section 724 provides additional information on these ski trails.

#### 545.6.3 Non-motorized Access Trails

Trails developed primarily as hunter walking trails may be constructed utilizing existing logging roads. Gates and/or barriers may be constructed and strategically located to allow optimum maintenance while restricting vehicular travel. Section 750 provides additional information.

#### 545.6.4 ATV/UTV Trails

All Terrain Vehicle & Utility Terrain Vehicle Trails may be developed using Special County or State funds. Where possible these trails will use existing motorized trails, avoiding multiple networks. Section 727 provides additional information on these trails.

#### 545.6.5 Nature and Hiking Trails

Hiking and travel by foot may occur anywhere on the Forest. Section 721 provides additional information on designated hiking and nature trails on the Forest.

#### 545.6.6 Horse Trails

All trails, roads, and fire lanes are open for horseback riding. Section 723 provides additional information.

#### 545.6.7 Other Trails

Other types of trails and their policy may come under consideration by the Committee. Chapter 700 and Sections 722 and 725 may provide additional information.

#### 545.7 FACILITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Committee intends to provide people with disabilities equal user opportunities. All new recreational developments will include handicap accessible accommodations.

#### 545.8 OTHER

Other types of special uses of the county forest may be considered by the Committee. These may include, but are not limited to: research, independent study and scientific areas. Regulations governing these uses will be developed on an individual basis.

### **550 WETLANDS**

The wetland community is recognized to be a complex association of plants and animals, soils and water levels having special natural values. Wetlands are fragile systems and undergo rapid degradation when affected by incompatible uses and unskilled management. However, when properly managed and protected they offer a sustaining source of natural products and ecological values useful to man and respond beneficially to enhancement practices. Therefore, it is the policy of Burnett County to preserve, protect and manage the wetlands under its jurisdiction in a manner that recognizes the natural values of wetlands and their importance in the environment.

#### 550.1 WETLANDS MANAGEMENT

To this end Burnett County will:

1. Recognize wetland values, obvious and subtle, in management plans taking reasonable steps to minimize harmful effects.
2. Cooperate with the DNR in wetland inventories and in preparation of essential wetland information.
3. Maintain control of vital wetlands under its jurisdiction when to relinquish such control would risk substantial site alteration and subsequent degradation of wetlands values vital to the area and to the state.
4. Minimize adverse changes in the quality or quantity of the flow of waters that nourish wetlands.
5. Cooperate with local, state and national agencies and citizens to increase

understanding of the importance of wetlands and the need for land and water stewardship in guiding development decisions.

6. Cooperate with DNR in wetland management activities that would enhance the quality and diversity of wetlands in the County and the region.

## **555 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

A primary focus of wildlife management is to provide the diversity of habitats needed to sustain wildlife populations native to Burnett County. Wildlife includes all native birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and insects. Wildlife biologists will emphasize habitat management that compliments sound forestry and benefits wildlife.

### **555.1 TECHNICAL PLANNING**

Wildlife management planning will be a cooperative effort of the Administrator, DNR Forester and Wildlife Manager(s) in formulating management plans and utilizing wildlife management techniques for the overall protection and enhancement of native forest habitats and natural wildlife populations. An annual meeting between Forestry Staff and Wildlife Managers will be held to review wildlife management issues on the Forest. Routine and frequent contact is expected and encouraged, including participation at the monthly Committee meetings.

#### **555.1.1 Guidelines**

DNR Manual Codes on Endangered and Threatened Species Permits Issue (1724.5), Feasibility Studies and WEPA Analyses for Establishing or Modifying Property Project Boundaries (2105.1), Guidelines for Defining Forest-Wildlife Habitat Management (2112), Forest Opening Maintenance and Construction (2112.1), and the Public Lands Handbook, will be referred to as guidelines in wildlife planning efforts.

#### **555.1.2 Wildlife Habitat Units**

Habitat Inventory Units (HIU), described in M.C. 2112, are groups of adjoining forest compartments combined into geographic blocks of land for habitat analysis and management planning. These HIUs are arranged to use the same boundaries

as the 27 Landscape Management Units identified in Chapter 800.

Habitat analysis and planning needs for each unit will be evaluated by using the Forest reconnaissance records, habitat data files, WDNR manual code guidelines, wildlife population estimates, as well as the experience of wildlife managers and County Forest Staff.

### 555.1.3 Wildlife Inventories

1. Population estimates and wildlife health for various wildlife species are conducted regularly by DNR wildlife management personnel and others:
  - a. Deer: registration, sex-age kill computations, summer doe/fawn surveys and winter deer yard surveys.
  - b. Bear: registration, aging and bait survey.
  - c. Ruffed grouse: spring drumming count and summer brood observations.
  - d. Woodcock: spring singing ground survey.
  - e. Furbearers and snowshoe hares: winter track count index.
  - f. Eagle and osprey: breeding activity (spring) and aerial production survey (summer).
  - g. Ducks and geese: spring breeding pairs, summer brood and winter density counts.
  - h. Endangered, threatened, and uncommon species: Timber Wolf, Karner Blue Butterfly, Trumpeter Swan and other species population monitoring.
  - i. Wild turkey: spring surveys and summer brood observations.
  - j. Documentation of plant and animal occurrence.
  - k. Bobcat, otter & fisher: harvest registration and sex, age and reproduction survey.
  - l. Frog & toad: spring surveys.
  - m. Sharp-tailed grouse: spring dancing ground survey and hunter bag check.
2. Surveys conducted by other agencies, private individuals and non-profit

wildlife organizations. Examples are the Christmas bird count, the spring road counts, natural area inventories and federal waterfowl surveys.

## 555.2 FOREST WILDLIFE HABITAT-MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Forest management will continue to be the most important tool for influencing wildlife habitat on the Forest. The value of timber harvest in relation to wildlife habitats is a function of size, vertical structure, species diversity, shape, location, cutting requirements, extent of harvest, timing, and regeneration practices. Forest management prescriptions may require modifications to conserve or enhance wildlife habitats in specific situations. The following general concepts should be considered in forest management planning.

1. The natural mix of native forest types, age classes, sizes, and species should be promoted.
2. Mast bearing trees and shrubs, den and cavity trees, and an adequate number and variety of snags should be maintained throughout the Forest.
3. Future snag or cavity trees will be considered when prescribing forest management practices.
4. Timber types, habitat conditions, and impacts on wildlife should be considered when making access decisions.
5. Even-aged regeneration harvests, (clearcuts), should continue to be used to provide the early successional stages of key plant communities important for both game and non-game species. Leaving scattered trees or groves of trees within clearcuts can add to the species and structural diversity of the clearcut.
6. Habitat needs of game and non-game species native to Burnett County will be considered. Management activities will be modified to conserve known populations of threatened or endangered species. The Committee will review on a case-by-case basis the need to apply for the necessary permits to continue management activities that may affect threatened or endangered species. For the Karner Blue Butterfly, Burnett County will consider participating in a statewide application for an Incidental Take Permit and other commitments.
7. Forest management planning will include consideration for extending the rotation length for selected forest stands. Representative acres of mid to late

successional forest stages can provide important habitats for wildlife and other biological processes. Managed old growth practices may be considered in specially designated areas.

### 555.3 SPECIFIC HABITAT, SPECIES, AND FOREST TYPE CONSIDERATIONS

Forest management planning will consider modifications that may maintain or enhance the future habitats, species abundance, or recreational hunting values on the Forest.

1. Aspen forest type. Aspen forests provide more wildlife habitat values than any other native forest type. This type should continue to be regenerated by clearcutting while reserving scattered den trees or acorn producing trees.
2. Jack pine forest type. Jack pine forests and associated understory species provide an important mix of habitat and winter green cover for many wildlife species. In the future, this type will become increasingly important as jack pine on private lands converts to other forest types. Harvesting, regeneration practices, and investments to maintain jack pine should be given high consideration.
3. Scrub oak forest type. This forest type is an important component of native wildlife populations not only for the value of acorn production but also for the diverse shrub and forb community. Management practices to maintain and regenerate mixed or pure stands of scrub oak should be considered as well as extending the rotation lengths on selected stands.
4. Upland brush, grass, and sodded openings. Management planning should consider maintaining grasslands and upland brush plant communities on the large fuel breaks, designated grassland areas, and small wildlife openings. When possible, prescribed fire, registered chemicals, or mowing will be used to maintain these areas. An active program of timber harvest throughout the Forest and in nearly all of the major forest types will assure that a continuous rotation of temporary but important upland brush habitat type will be provided on Forest.
5. Deer yard management. New information and experience in deer yard management may vary from past emphasis placed on maintaining conifer cover and winter only harvest restrictions.

Current emphasis relies on managing the overall deer habitat, principally through forest practices promoting early successional forest types as well as timber harvest geographically distributed to provide sustained levels of browse and maintenance of conifer forest cover. No harvesting in cedar swamps will be planned except for salvage.

6. Neotropical migrant birds. This broad category of birds requires a wide variety of forest, shrub, and grassland habitats in Wisconsin during the summer but migrate to Central and South America for the winter. Managing the Forest to provide an array of native forest communities in a variety of stand sizes and ages will continue to provide breeding habitat for species within this category of birds.
7. Timber wolf, bald eagle, osprey, Blanding's Turtle, and Karner Blue Butterfly. These threatened or endangered species exist on the Forest as a result of the protection and management activities that occur here. Modification of forest and wildlife management practices will be considered to conserve or enhance these species while allowing compatible land management to occur.
8. Forest game species. Management of forest game species, (white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, black bear, snowshoe hare, wood ducks, and numerous furbearers), will continue to be important. These species rely heavily on habitat provided by shade intolerant, early successional forest types such as aspen, jack pine, scrub oak, and other native species.
9. Beaver management. Beaver and their dams will be allowed to exist where damage to forest timber production, forest roads, recreational trails, or trout streams are not extensive. Where beaver cause unacceptable damages, natural succession should be encouraged in adjacent forest stand to deter long-term problems. Short-term solutions may require direct control methods such as removal of beaver and their dams or installation of beaver control baffles.
10. Waterfowl management. There are no dedicated waterfowl flowages on the Forest. But waterfowl production does occur on the wetlands, scattered potholes and lakes, and rivers and streams on the Forest. Practices to maintain

or enhance waterfowl habitat will be considered.

## **560 WILDLIFE HABITAT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources offers financial support to Burnett County for the planning, development, or maintenance of projects that will improve wildlife habitat on the Forest. Wildlife Habitat Development grants, as authorized by s23.09 (17m) Stats, are available annually for qualified projects that will benefit wildlife, its habitat, and the overall health and diversity of native forest community. Application for these grants shall be through approval of this plan.

The following projects have been identified and may be considered for funding under this grant program. No attempt has been made to list these projects by priority. Other projects may be applied for consideration that are not listed here but are subject to Natural Resources Committee and WDNR approval.

1. Land Management Practices
  - a. Jack pine regeneration
  - b. Northern red oak regeneration
  - c. Wildlife openings maintenance
  - d. Grassland, prairie, and pine barrens management
  - e. Forest access management and control
  - f. Hunter walking trail development and maintenance
  - g. Endangered Threatened and Special Concern species survey, conservation, management practices, and planning
  - h. Wild turkey habitat development
  - i. Installing baffles to control water levels on beaver flowages
  - j. Waterfowl habitat development and management
  - k. Raptor surveys and management
  - l. Wild rice bed development and maintenance
  - m. Maintain native forest habitat types and landscape communities.
  - n. Exotic Species control
2. Planning and Administration
  - a. Acquisition of critical properties

- b. GIS development, mapping, and capital investments
- c. Forest habitat classification and mapping
- d. Soils mapping
- e. Public education and signs
- f. Timber sale planning, design and field establishment
- g. Aerial photographs/satellite imagery

## **565 NAMEKAGON BARRENS WILDLIFE AREA**

The Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area, (NBWA), is located in the northeast corner of Burnett County and includes two separate units totaling 5,048 acres. Burnett County traded these lands to the WI DNR for the continued maintenance and development of the brush prairie habitat. Prescribed fire is used to maintain the vegetation in the early successional stages of brush prairie habitat.

This trade shows that Burnett County is committed to the continued management of the barrens habitat in the county and the important role that this habitat plays in providing a wide range of multiple uses in the county.

## **570 FISH MANAGEMENT**

Public waters shall be managed to provide optimum natural fish production, an opportunity for quality recreation, and a healthy, balanced aquatic ecosystem. Designated lakes and streams may manage to provide special recreational fishing opportunities. Emphasis will also be placed on land-use practices, which benefit the aquatic community. Management of County Forest lands will attempt to preserve and/or improve fish habitat.

### **570.1 TECHNICAL PLANNING**

Management of all waters within the County Forest is the responsibility of the DNR. Technical assistance will be provided by the local fisheries biologist. Studies and management will be conducted in the manner described in DNR Fish Management Handbook 3605.9.

#### **570.1.1 Water Surveys**

Comprehensive lake and stream surveys on the County Forest will be conducted by the DNR fisheries biologist as required. The publication "Surface Water

Resources of Burnett County" contains additional information relative to these waters.

#### 570.1.2 Population Surveys

Surveys of fish populations in waters within the County Forest will be conducted by the DNR as required and generally will run concurrently with water surveys. Fish Management programs will be determined by these surveys.

### 570.2 WATER MANAGEMENT

#### 570.2.1 Lake Management

Management of lakes within the County Forest will be consistent with the capability of the resource and any unique aspects associated with that resource.

#### 570.2.2 Stream Management

Trout streams on the County Forest will be managed to protect and enhance their quality. Streams containing warm water or cool water species will be managed to perpetuate their inherent qualities. Corresponding land and water use practices will be consistent with this policy. Maps inventorying water resources can be found in Chapter 900 Exhibit 7.

### 570.3 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR WATER QUALITY

Protection of water sources by the County will be consistent with the "Wisconsin Forestry Best Management Practices, (BMPs), for Water Quality", (PUB FR-093 2010).

A BMP manual has been developed and provides a guide for recommended forest management practices that will protect surface water quality. Use of these guides can help protect waters from non-point pollution caused by sediments, organic debris, nutrients, temperature, or chemicals. The BMP manual includes information on permits, planning, fuels, lubricants, waste & spills, riparian management zones, forest roads, timber harvesting, site preparation, prescribed burning & wildfires, chemicals, wetlands, and other references.

The use of BMPs in Wisconsin is voluntary and not legally mandated. However, Burnett County will use the WI BMP manual as a routine guide when planning management activities on the Burnett County Forest. <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/Usesof/bmp/bmptoc.htm>

Sites on the Forest may randomly be selected for review by a State assigned BMP monitoring team.

Refer to the WISCONSIN'S FORESTRY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR WATER QUALITY: A FIELD MANUAL FOR LOGGERS, LANDOWNERS, AND LAND MANAGERS for additional information, (PUB FR-093-2010).

#### 570.3.1 Access and Development

Access and development of County Forest waters will be limited to those activities consistent with the above water management policies. Refer to Section 730 for more information on water access on the Forest.

## **575 SPECIAL USES**

Recognizing the vast potential for a variety of special uses of the County Forest by governmental units, industries or businesses, or organizations or individuals, the Committee, upon request or on its own action, may designate specified areas for special uses. Specific management methods are to be considered on these areas. Uses must be consistent with the intent of the County Forest Law. All requests for specialized uses of any County Forest Lands will be reviewed by the Committee and may require a permit or use agreement to be authorized by the Committee. The NHI and Arc-view information will be consulted for historical information before issuing any use.

### 575.1 SAND AND GRAVEL

Sand and gravel pits located on County Forest may be used only by units of government or contractors performing public works. Use of existing pits and the opening of new pits by other than the County Forestry Department will require Committee approval and be authorized by permit only. The condition of such permits may include but not be limited to requiring the pit and its access road to be screened from view from any public highway, severing trees from the stump, disposition of brush, disposing of dirt spoil by

leveling or hauling away, sloping to prevent steep banks, a site reclamation plan, and filing with the Forestry office an annual written report of gravel and sand removed. Other conditions may be set at the discretion of the Committee or County Forest Administrator. Committee may set royalty fees and payment schedules for materials removed. Other non-metalliferous materials will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. All pits must also comply with pertinent County and State regulations.

#### 575.2 EXPLORATION, PROSPECTING AND MINING

The Committee may investigate all mineral exploration, prospecting, and mining requests as they are received. The DNR shall be notified of all requests as they become known in accord with Manual Code 2712.1. (Mineral exploration on County Forests per s.s. 28.11 (3)(i) Wis. Stats.) or other codes which may be subsequently adopted. Public Forest Lands Handbook should be referenced for more detailed procedure.

#### 575.3 SANITARY LANDFILLS.

The use of County Forest Lands for sanitary landfills will not be allowed unless the lands involved are withdrawn from the County Forest Law. No active landfills occur on the Forest now, but two townships are operating residential waste transfer stations at the closed landfill sites. These operations are covered by terms of separate Land Use Agreements between the County and Townships.

These waste transfer sites are located at:

SWNW Sec. 17 T42N R14W operated by the Town of Blaine

SESW Sec. 15 T41N R14W operated by the Town of Webb Lake

In addition, the following sanitary landfill sites have been closed and inspected by WDNR and will be maintained indefinitely with a grass cover by the responsible township:

SWNW Sec. 17 T42N R14W Town of Blaine

SESW Sec. 15 T41N R14W Town of Webb Lake

SWSW Sec. 22 T41N R15W Town of Swiss

SWNW Sec. 33 T40N R15W Town of Jackson

#### 575.4 MILITARY MANEUVERS

Military maneuvers on County Forest Lands will be considered under a lease or written land use agreement. Upon receipt of a written request from the military the Committee, other necessary County staff, Military, and DNR representatives will discuss the issue at a public Committee meeting. After the needs have been outlined, the site shall be field checked, DNR input and consistency with the County Forest Law sought, and town officials advised. Depending on the scope of the project, a public hearing may be appropriate. If all aspects and concerns are addressed and agreed to, a legal instrument will be drafted. The matter will then be brought back to a Committee meeting for final input and approval. The Public Forest Lands Handbook #2460.5, Chapter 270 will be used for further direction in this matter.

#### 575.5 PUBLIC UTILITIES

Easements for public utilities will be considered by the Committee. Underground installations will be encouraged. Wis. Stats. 196.491 (3e) requires a County, City, Village, Town, Public Board, or Commission to convey lands to an electrical utility for the purpose of constructing electrical transmission lines. The following main provisions shall be included in any County Board resolution granting permission for construction of any utility transmission line:

1. Utility may be billed for merchantable forest products and existing timber reproduction.
2. Utility may be billed for land removed from production due to right-of-way clearing for losses of future income and multiple use benefits.
3. Land removed for utility operations that is no longer suited “primarily for timber production or, that is no longer suitable for scenic, outdoor recreation, public hunting & fishing, water conservation or multiple use purposes” (s. 28.11(4)(c) WI.Stats) may need to be withdrawn from county forest law designation. The utility shall replace any lands requiring withdrawal from County Forest with other lands suitable for county forest entry that are in the forest blocking of the County Forest.

4. Utility companies will be encouraged to use existing corridors and underground lines to minimize disturbance to the County Forest and native plants and animals.
5. Merchantable timber will be removed in a manner approved by the Committee. Timber cut must be reported to the DNR on form 2460-1.
6. Utility must provide notice of proposed route, including a map of not less than 1 inch/mile scale, 90 days in advance of proposed construction.
7. Special maintenance, controlled access and signage concerns shall be addressed in any proposal.
8. An appropriate fee shall be charged for easements.
9. The standard land use agreement for utility access in Chapter 900 Exhibit 14.

#### 575.6 PRIVATE UTILITY SERVICE LINES

If a landowner cannot gain utility access across other lands, the Committee may consider a land use agreement for access across County Forest. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. These agreements should consider the inclusions mentioned in Section 585.5 (1-8) for easements as well as:

1. The permit is non-transferable
2. The County retains full ownership of the utility corridor, however it shall not be liable for maintenance, upkeep, or other damages associated with the utility service.
3. The permittee waives any rights to any declaration of ownership or interest in the utility corridor on County land for administrative costs as a result of this Land Use Agreement – Utility permit. This agreement is granted upon the signature and any fees being received by Burnett County.
4. The fee schedule for a one-time payment is set at \$.50 per lineal foot and a minimum fee of \$200.00. Effective January 1, 2010, the fee will increase to \$.75/ft and a minimum of \$250.00.
5. The standard land use agreement for utility access in Chapter 900 Exhibit 15.

#### 575.7 CELLULAR COMMUNICATION TOWERS

The setting of cellular communication towers on the Burnett County Forest will be

considered by the Committee on a limited basis. Requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis subject to the following conditions:

1. It must be demonstrated that the site is the most practical location for such a tower.
2. Land selected for such a tower is no longer suitable for continued entry in the County Forest program. In addition, any accompanying lands needed for tower support wires that inhibit the practice of forestry and are no longer suitable for scenic, outdoor recreation, public hunting & fishing, water conservation or multiple use purposes (s. 28.11(4), Wis.Stats) may also need to be withdrawn from county forest law. Withdrawal is subject to approval by both County Board and DNR. The cellular communication company shall replace any lands requiring withdrawal from county forest with other lands suitable for County Forest entry that are in the forest blocking.
3. Burnett County will charge a fee for cellular towers, fee amount to be set by the Natural Resources Committee.
4. Any agreement should also consider the inclusions listed under 580.5 (Items 1-8).

#### 575.8 CABIN PERMITS

Cabin permits will not be permitted on Burnett County Forest Lands. In year 2000 cabin permits were phased out and no longer exist in the County Forest.