

Resolution 116-07

Polk County Forest 2008 Annual Work Plan

WHEREAS, an annual work plan for the Polk County Forest must be prepared pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Section 28.11(5)(b); and

WHEREAS, the attached Polk County Forest 2008 annual work plan has been prepared based upon the County Forest Comprehensive Land-use Plan,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Polk County Board of Supervisors does hereby approve the Polk County Forest 2008 annual work plan.

Funding Amount NA Funding Source NA

Finance Committee Advised NA Effective Date upon approval

Approved as to form: Jeffrey B. Fuge  
Jeffrey B. Fuge, Corporation Counsel

Date Submitted to County Board 12/11/07 County Board Action Adopted.

SUBMITTED BY:

Michael Larsen  
Jay Peterson  
Russell E. Arund  
Marvin Carperen

# **POLK COUNTY FOREST**

## **ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2008**

### THE HONORABLE POLK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Following is the annual Polk County Forest work plan for the calendar year 2008. The plan gives direction and meaning to the proposed County Forest budget, and further defines and supplements the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan and emphasizes the current needs of the County Forest program. This plan is needed to comply with Wis. Statute 28.11(5) and Chapter NR47.75 of the Wisconsin Administrative Rules for the administration of the County Forest Administrator Grant program.

#### **REFERENCES**

1. Annual integrated Planning Meeting held on September 21, 2007.
2. Polk County Fifteen Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2006-2020)

#### **THE POLK COUNTY FOREST**

The Polk County Forest (PCF) is 17,144 acres in size.

The following list shows the acreage of forest land by its type classification:

<b>Forest Cover:</b>	Aspen	3,439
	White Birch	13
	Northern Hardwoods	675
	Oak	3,280
	Scrub Oak	3,611
	Jack Pine	3,288
	Red Pine	1,424
	White Pine	125
	Black Spruce	4
	Swamp Hardwoods	83
	White Spruce	9
	Tamarack	48
<b>Non-forest Cover</b>	Upland Grass	19
	Herbaceous Vegetation	16
	ROW/Roads	178
	Muskeg Bog	17
	Emergent Vegetation	306
	Lowland Grass	108
	Minor Lake/water	209
	Minor stream	11
Upland Brush	63	

## **ROADS**

PCF receives state aid money for the maintenance of 7.81 miles of primary roads. These roads are maintained on a regular basis.

The County Forest has many miles of secondary forest roads that have been built primarily by loggers in conjunction with timber sales. These roads are now serving a wide range of uses including the hauling of forest products, snowmobile trails, and hunting/walking trails. Many of the new logging roads are bermed or gated to restrict motorized use. These roads are either seeded or allowed to naturally re-vegetate

## **TIMBER SALE ADMINISTRATION**

Timber sale administration is an important part of forest management. The Forest administrator is responsible for the selling, contract compliance, and record keeping on all County Forest sales. Most PCF sales are sold as combination mill scale for pulp products and woods scaled for logs. The projected revenue from timber products for 2008 is \$310,000 compared to \$420,000 for 2007.

## **TIMBER SALE PLANNING AND ESTABLISHMENT**

Timber harvests that are properly designed and implemented are vital to maintaining a healthy and vigorous forest. There are many social, environmental, and economic benefits derived from a managed harvest program. Professional implementation of proper forest management and harvest techniques is essential. The timber harvest goal is to produce a sustained yield of forest products using harvest techniques that are suited to regeneration and the growth needs of each forest type.

The goal is to develop a regulated harvest in which the same number of acres or same volume of wood could be harvested each year for perpetuity. Compartment reconnaissance information will be used as a guide to determine stands where timber harvests are needed.

The goal for 2008 will be to setup and sell the following number of acres per timber type. These acreage goals are based on the long term average harvest and will vary from year to year. These acreage goals do not include salvage sales that may occur due to unforeseen circumstances.

<b>Cover type:</b>	<b>Harvest Goal:</b>
Jack Pine	104 acres
Red Pine	30 acres
Aspen	43 acres
Red Oak	182 acres
Northern Hardwoods	42 acres
Scrub oak	<u>104 acres</u>
Total	505 acres

Information about specific timber sale establishment plans may be obtained by contacting the Polk County Forestry Department, 100 Polk County Plaza suite 40, Balsam Lake, WI 54810 (715) 485-9265

## **FOREST RECONNAISSANCE**

The goal for the PCF is to have all recon less than 20 years old. Forest reconnaissance is done following the completion of a timber sale and when a stand is physically entered and subsequently re-scheduled for a later harvest date. In addition to these on-going up-dates, in 2008 we will work towards entirely updating two compartments.

## **TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT (TSI)**

TSI projects for 2008 have not yet been set up. TSI projects that are most likely to happen for 2008 include hand release of naturally regenerated and planted pine in the Town of Sterling. More surveys of potential project areas must be done before any projects will be established.

## **REFORESTATION**

In March, four sites comprising 110 acres will be aerially seeded with jack pine seed. These sites have been scarified to expose 50% of the ground to mineral soil to create a favorable seed bed.

In April, four sites will be planted for a total of 197 acres. We will be planting 148,000 red pine, 28,000 jack pine, and 9,000 white pine on these sites.

Several hundred acres of pre-sale site prep (ground scarification in jack pine stands) have been done over the course of the last 3 years. The dry weather conditions have resulted in poor regeneration results. Surveys will need to be done on existing sites before we proceed with new projects.

The young pine plantings have also suffered, both from the dry conditions and the heavy browse from the high deer population. More surveys of existing plantings and natural regeneration sites will be done before 2008 projects are set up.

## **FOREST PROTECTION**

We will continue to cooperate with the WI Dept. Of Natural Resources by:

1. Improving and maintaining fire lanes.
2. Continue annual meetings to evaluate Forest operations, facilitated by D.N.R.
3. Support fire suppression efforts when needed.
4. Monitor insect and disease issues with the aid of DNR, and take appropriate action when necessary.

## **LAND ACQUISITION**

Lands within the County Forest boundaries or areas of special or unique values shall be recommended to the County Board for acquisition as they become available and upon a determination by the Property, Forestry, and Recreational Committee that ownership of those lands is beneficial to the people of Polk County.

## **SURVEYING**

We will continue our property line maintenance and establishment with the aid of the County Surveyor. Surveys are generally needed to prevent trespass or to clarify boundaries in order to continue management.

## **WILDLIFE HABITAT PROJECTS**

Polk County will continue to develop and implement projects in cooperation with DNR wildlife personnel.

This year we will continue efforts to regenerate jack pine in the Town of Sterling, with the aid of dime an acre grants.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

- A. Issue firewood cutting permits, Issue cabin lease permits. Cabin leases will be eliminated by the year 2011.
- B. Respond to public inquiries and issues as they arise.
- C. Increase signage on the Forest to identify boundaries, roads, and natural features.
- D. Assist in timber sale establishment.
- E. Recreation: Most of the recreational development and maintenance of facilities is the responsibility of the Parks and recreation department. I assist where needed. Currently the Forest supports organized ATV, Horse, snowmobile, and Hiking trails.
- F. Attend 1-2 Wisconsin County Forest Association meetings and 1-2 training sessions.
- G. Forest Certification: Polk County will continue its commitment to be qualified for Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certification.

## **ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS AND ADMINISTRATORS SALARY**

-- REGENERATION: Jack pine seeding	\$ 2,700
Tree planting	\$16,000
Planting site prep	\$15,000
Pine release	\$ 2,000
-- ROAD MAINTENANCE	\$ 2,000
-- ADMINISTRATORS SALARY (no fringe benefits)	\$40,700
The current administrator is contracted for 1,248 hours	
Per year and uses his own vehicle without mileage stipend	

## **GRANTS AND FUNDING**

ADMINISTRATORS GRANT: pays 50% of administrators salary

DIME PER ACRE GRANT: \$.10 per County Forest acre used for wildlife habitat development.

COUNTY FOREST ROADS GRANT: \$360.00 per mile for road maintenance.

INTEREST FREE LOANS: \$.50 per acre variable acreage loan and project loans. These loans are paid back from annual stumpage revenues at 20% of annual revenues. These loans are used to aid in a wide variety of projects on the County Forest and for land purchases.

COUNTY FUNDS: County funds will pay for costs that cannot be paid for by grants and loans.  
The County's portion of costs for 2008 will be \$40,545