

1 Resolution No. 97-18
2 Resolution to Adopt 2019 Polk County Forest Annual Work Plan

3 TO THE HONORABLE CHAIRPERSON AND SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF
4 THE COUNTY OF POLK:

5 Ladies and Gentlemen:

6 WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Public Forest Law requires Counties to adopt each year an annual work
7 plan and budget detailing the anticipated projects and expenditures for managing the county forest
8 for the subsequent fiscal year.

9
10 WHEREAS, on November 14, 2018, the Environmental Services Committee reviewed the 2019 Polk
11 County Forest Annual Work Plan and adopted a recommendation that the County Board adopt said
12 plan as prepared and presented by the Forest Administrator at its December 18, 2018 meeting,
13 notwithstanding Article 3. 1. a. of the Polk County Board of Supervisors Rules of Order Ordinance.

14
15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to Section 28.11(5)(b), the Polk County
16 Board of Supervisors authorizes the approval of the 2019 Polk County Forest Annual Work Plan a,
17 hereby attached.

18 Offered on the 18th day of December, 2018.

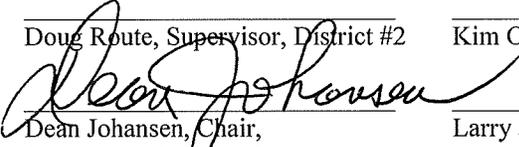
BY:

Brad Olson, Supervisor, District #1

James Edgell, Supervisor, District #8

Doug Route, Supervisor, District #2

Kim O'Connell, Supervisor, District #9


Dean Johansen, Chair,
Supervisor, District #3,

Larry Jepsen, Supervisor, District #10

Chris Nelson, Supervisor, District #4

Jay Luke, 1st Vice Chair,
Supervisor, District #11

Tracy LaBlanc, Supervisor, District #5

Michael Larsen, Supervisor, District #12

Brian Masters, Supervisor, District #6

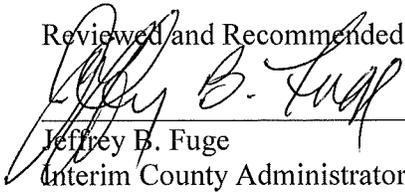
Russell Arcand, Supervisor, District #13

Michael Prichard, Supervisor,
District #7

John Bonneprise, 2nd Vice Chair,
Supervisor, District #14

Joe DeMulling, Supervisor, District #15

Reviewed and Recommended:


Jeffrey B. Fuge
Interim County Administrator

Fiscal Impact: The resolution has no fiscal impact. The resolution adopts the 2019 County Forest Work Plan to describe the projects and related expenditures anticipated for 2019. The appropriations and expenditures related to the plan were adopted and authorized in the 2019 budget resolution.

Approved as to Form and Execution:


Malia T. Malone, Corporation Counsel

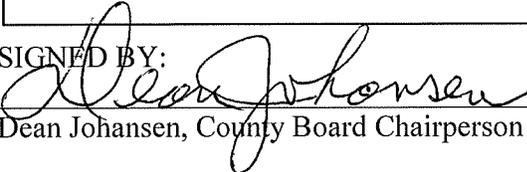
Legal Impact Note: The resolution satisfied a mandated regulation, Section 28.11(5), to prepare and adopt a work plan for the management of the County Forest during the 2019 fiscal year.

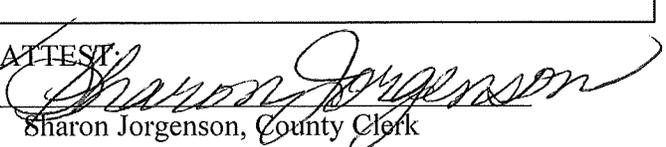
Excerpt of Minutes

19 At its regular business meeting on the 18th day of December 2018, the Polk County Board of
20 Supervisors acted upon Resolution No. 91-18: Resolution to Adopt 2019 Polk County Forest
21 Annual Work Plan as follows:

- Adopted by a majority of the members present by a vote of _____ in favor and _____ against.
- Adopted by voice vote. *unanimous voice vote*
- Adopted as amended. See Below.
- Defeated
- Other: _____

Insert amendment to resolution according to minutes:

SIGNED BY:

Dean Johansen, County Board Chairperson

ATTEST:

Sharon Jorgenson, County Clerk

2019 ANNUAL WORK PLAN



POLK COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

GOVERNING COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Kim O'Connell – Chairperson

Brad Olson – Vice Chair

Tracy LaBlanc

Doug Route

Jim Edgell

Lyle Doolittle- FSA Representative

FOREST ADMINISTRATOR

Mark Gossman

WI-DNR LIAISON FORESTER

Paul Heimstead

Following is the annual Polk County Forest work plan for the calendar year 2019. 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 20, 2018
2. Polk County Fifteen Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2006-2020)

THE POLK COUNTY FOREST MISSION STATEMENT

Natural resources, such as those provided by the Polk County Forest (PCF), are the base for addressing the ecological and socioeconomic needs of society. The mission of the Polk County Forest is to manage, conserve and protect these resources on a sustainable basis for present and future generations.

PCF resources should be protected from natural catastrophes such as fire, insect and disease outbreaks, and from human threats such as encroachment, over-utilization, environmental degradation, and excessive development. While managed for environmental needs including watershed protection, protection of rare plant and animal communities, and maintenance of plant and animal diversity, these same resources must also be managed and provide for sociological needs, including provisions for recreational opportunities and the production of raw materials for wood-using industries.

Management must balance local needs with broader state, national and global concerns through integration of sound forestry, wildlife, fisheries, endangered resources, water quality, soil, and recreational practices. Management will provide a variety of products and amenities for the future through the use of sustainable forest management practices.

POLK COUNTY FOREST

The Polk County Forest is 17,166.10 acres in size and includes acreage in seven townships throughout Polk County.

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

Forest Type Acreage	Forest Type	Forest Type Description	Stands	Acres	Percent of Forested Acres	Percent of Recon Acres
	A	ASPEN	122	3,732	23 %	22 %
	BW	WHITE BIRCH	2	15	0 %	0 %
	MR	RED MAPLE	2	23	0 %	0 %
	NH	NORTHERN HARDWOODS	21	541	3 %	3 %
	O	OAK	54	3,539	22 %	21 %
	OX	SCRUB OAK	143	4,125	26 %	24 %
	PJ	JACK PINE	76	2,341	15 %	14 %
	PR	RED PINE	53	1,444	9 %	8 %
	PW	WHITE PINE	6	134	1 %	1 %
	SB	BLACK SPRUCE	1	4	0 %	0 %
	SH	SWAMP HARDWOODS	2	57	0 %	0 %
	SW	WHITE SPRUCE	2	27	0 %	0 %
	T	TAMARACK	4	67	0 %	0 %
Total:			488	16,049	99 %	93 %

Non-Forest Type Acreage	Forest Type	Forest Type Description	Stands	Acres	Percent of Non-Forested Acres	Percent of Recon Acres
	G	UPLAND GRASS	11	57	6 %	0 %
	GH	HERBACEOUS VEGETATION	4	15	2 %	0 %
	ICG	CAMPGROUND	1	19	2 %	0 %
	ITS	SNOWMOBILE AND/OR HORSE TRAIL	1	21	2 %	0 %
	K	MARSH	2	51	5 %	0 %
	KB	MUSKEG BOG	3	46	5 %	0 %
	KEV	EMERGENT VEGETATION	5	179	18 %	1 %
	KG	LOWLAND GRASS	2	19	2 %	0 %
	KH	LOWLAND HERBACEOUS VEGETATION	1	100	10 %	1 %
	L	WATER	3	74	7 %	0 %
	LB	LOWLAND BRUSH	3	64	6 %	0 %
	LBA	LOWLAND BRUSH - ALDER	7	105	11 %	1 %
	LM	MINOR LAKE	6	126	13 %	1 %
	LMS	MINOR STREAM	2	57	6 %	0 %
	ROW	RIGHT OF WAY	8	37	4 %	0 %
	UB	UPLAND BRUSH	3	29	3 %	0 %
Total:			62	999	102 %	4 %

*Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding

The following list shows current and future anticipated forest stand conditions:

Timber Text	Acres Past (1977)	Acres Present (2016)	Acres Future
ASPEN	1,896	3,732	3,607
BLACK SPRUCE	0	4	4
JACK PINE	6,260	2,341	2,644
NORTHERN HARDWOODS	2,941	541	3,442
OAK	1,887	3,539	734
RED MAPLE	0	23	74
RED PINE	324	1,444	1,452
SCRUB OAK	877	4,125	3,752
SWAMP HARDWOODS	24	57	57
TAMARACK	97	67	67
WHITE BIRCH	0	15	6
WHITE PINE	0	134	219
WHITE SPRUCE	0	27	27
Total :	14,306	16,049	16,085

TIMBER SALE ADMINISTRATION

Timber sale administration is an extremely important part of forest management. The Forest Administrator is responsible for the set-up, sale, 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 although we are now trying to sell more lump sum sales to help ease the burden of administration.

ANNUAL DNR TIME STANDARDS

Each year, the DNR provides Polk County a certain number of technical assistance hours to use on the County Forest. Every five years, these 'time standards' are set and then become the minimum hours the DNR will provide the county during each DNR fiscal year (July 1-June 30). The Forest Administrator meets with various DNR staff during the Annual Integrated Planning Meeting and part of the discussion revolves around the availability of DNR staff for the upcoming year. Currently the DNR provides a minimum of 446 hours down from 536 hours per year of assistance on the PCF. Historically, the DNR has met or exceeded the 'time standards' each year. These hours are needed by Polk County to address the ever increasing workload on the County Forest.

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 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 in perpetuity. Compartment reconnaissance information will be used as a guide to determine stands where timber harvests are needed.

The goal for 2019 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.

15 Year Average (acres)	Forest Type Description
16	ASPEN
1	WHITE BIRCH
25	NORTHERN HARDWOODS
181	OAK
78	SCRUB OAK
87	JACK PINE
54	RED PINE
9	WHITE PINE
451	

Information about specific timber sale establishment plans may be obtained by contacting the Polk County Forestry Department directly at the following:

Polk County Forestry Department
 100 Polk County Plaza, Suite 40
 Balsam Lake, WI 54810
 (715) 485-9265
Mark.Gossman@co.polk.wi.us

FOREST RECONNAISSANCE

The goal for the PCF is to have all recon less than 20 years old. Currently, all forest reconnaissance is less than 20 years old on the County Forest. 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 updates, in 2017 we will work towards entirely updating at least one compartment.

Polk County Forest											
Total	Forested	< 5 years		5-10 years		11-15 years		16-20 years		21-30 years	
Acres	Acres	(acres)	(%)	(acres)	(%)	(acres)	(%)	(acres)	(%)	(acres)	(%)
17,078	16,110	5,353	31.34	6,386	37.39	3,411	19.97	1,909	11.18	0	0.00
Total:	17,078	5,353	31.34	6,386	37.39	3,411	19.97	1,909	11.18	0	0

*Acreage for stands with no stand exam date are not included

Next three years recon that will be due.

Exam year 1999, 70acres
 2000, 167 acres
 2001, 1006 acres

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

Timber stand improvement (TSI) projects that are most likely to happen for 2019 include hand release of naturally regenerated and planted Red Pine on PCF located in the Town of Sterling. More surveys of potential project areas must be done before any projects will be established. Decisions on TSI are typically made in the spring of the year.

REFORESTATION

In 2019, we will be planting approximately 100 acres over 2 different sites in Sterling Township. We will be using approximately 100,000 Jack Pine seedlings.

Currently, we collect our own Jack Pine seed and use the seed for growing seedlings which then get planted back into Polk County Forest. We will continue to collect Jack Pine seed each year and continue to have that seed grown into seedlings for planting. All future Jack Pine plantings will be stock from our own seed source.

PCF has issued Deer Damage Tags from the WI-DNR to use on 4 regeneration sites. These sites have been heavily browsed by deer in recent years and this has not allowed for adequate regeneration of the hand planted stock. The tags were valid from January thru March and the program was administered by the Forest Administrator's office. Fall regeneration surveys have shown promising numbers after the first 2 years of the program. Once the seedlings establish themselves above the browse line, the program can be discontinued. This program is under evaluation and most likely will not be utilized.

FOREST PROTECTION

We will continue to cooperate with the WI-Department of Natural Resources by:

1. Improving and maintaining fire lanes
2. Continue annual meetings to evaluate County Forest operations
3. Support fire suppression efforts when needed
4. Monitor insect and disease issues and take appropriate action when necessary

COUNTY FOREST ROADS

PCF receives state aid money for the maintenance of 7.61 miles of primary roads. These roads are maintained as needed. Plans for 2019 include improving road crossings in Sterling Township and adding additional gravel to sustain current traffic levels.

The County Forest has many miles of secondary forest roads that have been built primarily by logging contractors in conjunction with timber sales. These roads are now serving a wide range of uses including the hauling of forest products, snowmobile trails, horse trails, and hunter/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.

LAND ACQUISITION

Lands within the County Forest boundaries or areas of special or unique values may be recommended to the County Board for acquisition as they become available and upon a determination by the County Administrator and the Conservation, Development, Recreation and Education 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 naturally regenerate Jack Pine in the Sterling Township, with the aid of “nickel per acre” wildlife grants.

MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Issue firewood cutting permits.
- B. Respond to public inquiries and issues as they arise.
- C. Increase signage on the Forest to identify boundaries, roads, and natural features.
- D. Work with other departments (i.e. Land & Water) for education classes for students and adults.
- E. Recreation: The Forest Administrator is also the Parks Assistant. Work includes assisting with the oversight and management of the maintenance and operation of the county’s park and recreation areas, public lake accesses, ski areas, and system of snowmobile, ATV, hiking and biking trails. Accomplishing this broad range of activities requires: attending meetings, clearing trails, writing permits, writing grants, and increasing overall county recreational opportunity awareness. Currently the Polk County Forest supports organized ATV/UTV, horse, snowmobile, and hiking trails (including the Ice Age Trail).
- F. Attend all Wisconsin County Forest Association meetings and continue technical training sessions to aid in the management of the County Forest.
- G. Forest Certification: Polk County will continue its commitment to be qualified for Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) certification and make changes as necessary to comply with corrective actions.
- H. Investigate and address easement, land trade requests and encroachments as they arise.

GRANTS AND FUNDING

County Forest Administration Grant

Polk County receives this grant annually. The grant pays 50% of administrator's salary and up to 50% of benefits so long as benefits don't exceed 40% of salary. In addition, covers a portion of Polk County's WCFA membership dues each year.

Wildlife Habitat Grant

Polk County receives this grant annually. The grant pays \$0.05 per County Forest acre to be used for wildlife habitat development on the County Forest.

County Forest Road Aid

Pays \$360.00 per mile of County Forest road for maintenance and improvement projects.

Interest Free Loans (2)

Variable Acreage Share Loan and Project Loans

These loans are interest free and are paid back at 20% of annual stumpage revenues. These loans are used to aid in a wide variety of projects on the County Forest and for land purchases.

County Forest Sustainable Forestry Grant

Funds short term, unanticipated sustainable forestry projects. Funding awarded on a competitive basis.

Polk County Funds

The Forestry Department begins each year with a *negative* levy amount. The department typically covers all of its expenses and most (if not all) of the negative levy amount through timber sales, grant funding and miscellaneous revenues.

CERTIFIED COPY OF POLK COUNTY RESOLUTION

STATE OF WISCONSIN

COUNTY OF POLK

I Sharon E. Jorgenson, Polk County Clerk do hereby certify that the attached hereto and incorporated herein is a full, true and correct copy of Resolution No. 91-18: Resolution to Adopt 2019 Polk County Forest Annual Work Plan adopted by the Polk County Board of Supervisors at its regular business meeting held on December 18, 2018


Sharon E. Jorgenson 12/18/18

Sharon E. Jorgenson, Polk County Clerk

Date