

Resolution No. 42-19

RESOLUTION to Adopt 2020 Polk County Forest Annual Work Plan

TO THE HONORABLE SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF THE COUNTY OF POLK:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

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

WHEREAS, on October 9<sup>th</sup> the Environmental Services Committee reviewed the 2020 County Forest Work Plan and adopted a recommendation that the County Board adopt said plan as and presented by the Forest Administrator at its October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, notwithstanding Article 3.1. a. of the Polk County Board of Supervisors Rules of Order Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant Section 28.11 (5) (b), the Polk County Board of Supervisors authorizes the approval of the ~~2019~~ <sup>2020</sup> Polk County Forest Annual Work Plan as hereby attached

Offered on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2019

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brad Olson, Supervisor, District #1  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Route, Supervisor, District #2  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dean Johansen, Chair,  
Supervisor, District #3,  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Nelson, Supervisor, District #4  
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Tracy LaBlanc, Supervisor, District #5  
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Brian Masters, Supervisor, District #6  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Prichard, Supervisor, District #7

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James Edgell, Supervisor, District #8  
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Kim O'Connell, Supervisor, District #9  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Jepsen, Supervisor, District #10  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jay Luke, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair,  
Supervisor, District #11  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Larsen, Supervisor, District #12  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Russell Arcand, Supervisor, District #13  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Bonneprise, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair,  
Supervisor, District #14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Demulling, Supervisor, District #15

County Administrator's Note:

Recommended



Nick Osborne  
County Administrator

Fiscal Impact Note:

There is no fiscal impact.



Maggie Wickre, Finance Director

Approved as to Form and Execution:



Malia T. Malone, Corporation Counsel

Legal Impact Note:

This Resolution has no legal impact other than compliance with statutory requirements for the adoption of annual County Forest Plans.

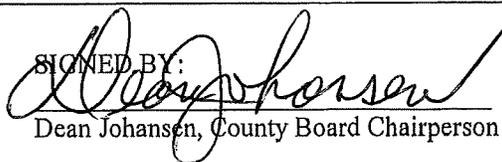
Excerpt of Minutes

26 At its regular business meeting on the 15th of October 2019, the Polk County  
27 Board of Supervisors acted upon Resolution No. 42-19: Resolution To Adopt  
28 2020 POLK COUNTY FOREST ANNUAL  
29 WORK PLAN

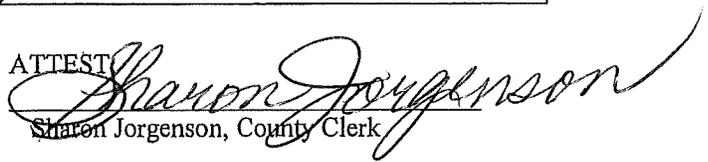
- Adopted by a majority of the members present by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ in favor and \_\_\_\_\_ against.
- Adopted by unanimous voice vote.
- Adopted as amended. See Below.
- Defeated
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Insert amendment to resolution according to minutes:

SIGNED BY:

  
Dean Johansen, County Board Chairperson

ATTEST:

  
Sharon Jorgenson, County Clerk

## Executive Summary

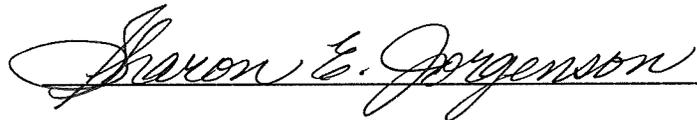
The Polk County work Plan was prepared in accordance with the Polk County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2006-2020. In addition, DNR input was gathered on September 17<sup>th</sup> 2019. The work plan serves to justify the annual forestry budget as well as serving as one of many mechanism to make Polk County Eligible for the annual Forest Administrator Grant.

**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. 42-19: Resolution to Adopt 2020 County Forest Annual Work Plan adopted by the Polk County Board of Supervisors at its regular business meeting held on October 15, 2019.

 Sharon E. Jorgenson 10/15/19

Sharon E. Jorgenson, Polk County Clerk

Date

# 2020 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 2020. 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 17, 2019.
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:

**Table 1.** Forested Acres

Forest Type	Forest Type Description	Stands	Acres	% of Forested Acres	% of Recon Acres
A	ASPEN	126	3,745	23%	22%
BW	WHITE BIRCH	1	9	0%	0%
MR	RED MAPLE	4	51	0%	0%
NH	NORTHERN HARDWOODS	22	591	4%	3%
O	OAK	56	3,501	22%	21%
OX	SCRUB OAK	151	4,103	25%	24%
PJ	JACK PINE	78	2,384	15%	14%
PR	RED PINE	51	1,409	9%	8%
PW	WHITE PINE	6	134	1%	1%
SB	BLACK SPRUCE	1	2	0%	0%
SH	SWAMP HARDWOODS	4	86	1%	1%
SW	WHITE SPRUCE	2	27	0%	0%
T	TAMARACK	4	67	0%	0%
<b>Total:</b>		<b>506</b>	<b>16,109</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>94%</b>

**Table 2.** Non-Forested Acres.

Type	Cover Type Description	Stands	Acres	% of Non-Forested Acres	% of Recon Acres
G	UPLAND GRASS	9	47	5	0
GH	HERBACEOUS VEGETATION	4	15	2	0
ICG	CAMPGROUND	1	19	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	8	0
LB	LOWLAND BRUSH	3	64	7	0
LBA	LOWLAND BRUSH	7	105	11	1
LM	MINOR LAKE	6	126	13	1
LMS	MINOR STREAM	2	56	6	0
ROW	RIGHT OF WAY	8	38	4	0
UB	UPLAND BRUSH	3	29	3	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>59</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4%</b>

**Table 3.** Current and future anticipated forest stand conditions:

Timber Text	Acres Past	Acres Present	Acres Future
	(1977)	(2016)	
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
<b>Total :</b>	<b>14,306</b>	<b>16,049</b>	<b>16,085</b>

### 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.

## 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.

- ▶ ***Goal #1. Establish Timber sales for Auction according to the 15 year average as well as recently blown down timber.***

## 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 2020 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.

**Table 4.** 15 year average of allowable cut.

15 Year Average (acres)	Forest Type Description
24	ASPEN
1	WHITE BIRCH
29	NORTHERN HARDWOODS
167	OAK
70	SCRUB OAK
65	JACK PINE
61	RED PINE
6	WHITE PINE
<b>423</b>	

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](mailto:Mark.Gossman@co.polk.wi.us)

- ▶ **Goal #2. Administer all sold timber sales.**

### 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. Eight timber sales are currently active.

- ▶ **Goal #3. Keep all Inventory information less than 20 years old.**

### 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 2018 we will work towards entirely updating at least one compartment.

**Table 5. Age of inventory data by five year increments.**

Total Acres	Forested Acres	< 5 years		5-10 years		11-15 years		16-20 years		21-30 years		>30 years	
		(acres)	(%)	(acres)	(%)	(acres)	(%)	(acres)	(%)	(acres)	(%)	(acres)	(%)
17,077	16,109	6,020	35.25	3,675	21.5	4,959	29.04	2,411	14.12	0	0	0	0
17,077	16,109	6,020	35.25	3,675	21.5	4,959	29.04	2,411	14.12	0	0	0	0

Recon acres scheduled for completion:

- 2019 - 167 acres
- 2020 - 911 acres
- 2021 - 657 acres

### TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

Timber stand improvement (TSI) projects that are most likely to happen for 2020 include hand release of naturally regenerated and planted Jack 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.

- ▶ **Goal #4. Prepare 100 acres for planting in 2021 and scarify approximately 30 acres for natural jack pine regeneration.**

### **REFORESTATION**

In 2020, we will be preparing approximately 100 acres over 3 different sites in Sterling Township.

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.

- ▶ **Goal #5. Grade and mow Beartrack forest road late 2019 or in 2020.**

### **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. PCF currently does not receive any budget dollars to maintain non-gas tax forest roads.

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.

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).

- ▶ **Goal #6. Treat a three acre patch of buckthorn recently discover in the town of Clam Falls.**
  
- ▶ **Goal #7. Complete the 2021-2035 Polk County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan no later than October 2020.**
  
- ▶ **Goal #8. Complete miscellaneous tasks as outlined below.**

### **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.
  - 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.
- 
- ▶ **Goal #9. Apply and administer the grants listed below.**

### **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

Polk County receives this grant annually. 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.