

COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

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CHAPTER 100

BACKGROUND

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100	MISSION STATEMENT	

A primary mission of the Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Department is to sustainably manage, conserve and protect the natural resources of the Bayfield County Forest. Multiple-use management of these resources, with a primary emphasis on timber production, in conjunction with other core values like recreational opportunities, watershed and soil protection, biological and ecological diversity, and wildlife habitat, will be applied to ensure a wide variety of forest products and amenities are available to current and future generations.

Bayfield County Forest resources will also be managed to minimize impacts from potential natural catastrophes such as flooding, wildfire and insect and disease outbreaks, as well as from human threats, such as encroachment, fragmentation, over-utilization, environmental degradation, climate change and excessive development.

The sustainable production of timber products and multiple-use management of these renewable forest resources generate an important source of direct revenue to Bayfield County, as well as the Towns where county forests lie, while also providing a diversity of economic and social benefits to residents, local and regional businesses, and visitors that rely, at least in part, on the forest products, various recreational activities, tourism or other amenities derived from Bayfield County Forest lands.

**105 GOAL OF THE COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN
(Hereafter referred to as the “Plan”)**

To administer the County Forest program consistent with the mission statement and the purpose and direction of County Forest Law as stated in s. 28.11, Wis. Stats., while giving consideration to input from citizens and groups. The purpose of the County Forest Law being:

“ ... to provide the basis for a permanent program of county forests and to enable and encourage the planned development and management of the County Forests for optimum production of forest products together with recreational opportunities, wildlife, watershed protection and stabilization of stream flow, giving full recognition to the concept of multiple use to assure maximum public benefits; to protect the public rights, interests and investments in such lands; and to compensate

the counties for the public uses, benefits and privileges these lands provide; all in a manner which will provide a reasonable revenue to the towns in which such lands lie.”

110 COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN

The Bayfield County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan (hereafter, the “Plan”) shall incorporate or reference all official County Forest policies, pertinent county regulations, and associated planning documents and reports for the period 2021 through 2035.

This Plan is the authority for management on county forest lands enrolled under Wisconsin County Forest Law s.28.11. This Plan may also be encompassed within required local planning efforts.

110.1 MANAGEMENT PLANNING

OBJECTIVES

Management planning shall be used to establish objectives, policies, procedures, rules and regulations, and to promote an efficient and orderly program of development and management of the County Forest in the interest of:

1. Determining needs and priorities.
2. Achieving goals set forth in the mission statement of this Plan.
3. Satisfying the statutory requirements of s. 28.11, Wis. Stats.
4. Satisfying requirements for participation in various state and federal aid programs.
5. Providing broad long-term guidelines for actions.
 - a. The Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Department Annual Workplan (hereafter, the “Workplan”) will serve as the primary authority for detailed short-term goals, objectives and actions regarding the management of the County Forest or when describing and validating the need to deviate from the broader long term guidelines as outlined throughout this Plan. See the Appendix to review the Workplan.
 - b. The Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Department Annual Operating Budget and Narrative (hereafter, the “Budget”), will serve as the primary authority for accounts management, including identifying and summarizing funding and

revenue sources, as well as tracking and summarizing expenses, for all programs managed by, or otherwise the responsibility of, the Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Department (hereafter, the “Department”).

110.2 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAN

Section 28.11, Wis. Stats., places the responsibility for Plan development on the Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Committee (hereafter, the “Committee”) with technical assistance from the Department of Natural Resources (hereafter, the “DNR”) and other agencies. The Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Administrator (hereafter, the “Administrator”) will assume the lead role on Plan development.

During the development of the Plan, public comment and input will be solicited to ensure public participation is incorporated as part of the planning process. Public participation and inputs into the Plan should consider s. 28.11, Wis. Stats., which governs the County Forest program and provides the framework to which this Plan must adhere.

The Department’s public participation process, employed for the development of this Plan, included the following:

1. One primary goal of the public participation process was to take full advantage of current technologies and utilize the “notify me” function on Bayfield County’s website.
2. The Department created a Bayfield County Forest 15 year comprehensive land use plan update tab on the Department’s webpage that was dedicated to host all draft documents and associated materials.
3. A box ad was placed in the local paper notifying the public of the upcoming revision to the Plan, soliciting input from any interested party and directing them to the Department’s webpage to sign up for notifications.
 - a. The following box ad was placed in the local newspaper (the Ashland Daily Press) on December 14, 2019 and December 18, 2019.
 - i. The Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Department is about to begin revising the Bayfield County Forest 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The next plan will establish the framework for the

management and administration of Bayfield County Forest lands from CY 2021 through 2035. Public input is welcomed and encouraged. If you are interested in receiving more information regarding the revision process or would like to provide comments on future drafts, please visit the Bayfield County website at <https://www.bayfieldcounty.org/1164/County-Forest-Land-Use-Plan-2021-2035-Up> and sign up to receive notifications. When a draft chapter or portion of the plan is ready for public review/input, a notification will be sent via email and/or text to anyone signed up to receive them. More information regarding the plan revision process can be obtained from the Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Department, Courthouse, 117 E. 5th St., PO Box 445, Washburn, Wisconsin or by calling the office at (715) 373-6114.

4. A similar email was sent to a comprehensive list of stakeholders including, but not limited to: all Bayfield County Board Supervisors; Town, City and Village officials (the Chairperson and Clerk for each municipality); the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa; local school districts; representatives of the DNR, USFS and Parks Service; all local Chambers of Commerce; organized local friends groups; established non-motorized recreation organizations (i.e. CAMBA, Mt. Ashwabay, American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation, North Country Scenic Trail Association, etc.); established motorized groups and clubs (i.e. Bayfield County Snowmobile Alliance, Trails North ATV Club, etc); hunting and fishing groups, clubs and associations; logging contractors; and members of the general public that were known to have interest in the administration of the Bayfield County Forest. Each recipient was also asked to distribute the email to anyone they felt would have interest. The following email was sent to each identified stakeholder:

- a. The Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Department will soon begin the process of updating the county forest land use plan. The plan establishes the framework for the management and administration of the Bayfield County Forest. The current plan is effective through 2020. The new plan would be valid from 2021 through 2035. The Forestry and Parks

Committee will be addressing revisions to the plan throughout most of CY 2020.

You have been identified as a potential stakeholder or person who might be interested in the process. If you are interested in reviewing future drafts of the new plan, have general comments for staff and the Forestry and Parks Committee to consider when updating the plan, or would otherwise like to stay informed, please visit our website and sign up to receive notifications.

Once available for public review, all drafts of the plan, and associated documents, will be uploaded to the website. If signed up for notifications, you would receive an email and/or text message the moment a draft chapter is ready for review/comment.

Here is a link to the webpage where the draft documents will be posted, as well as information on how to sign up to receive notifications:

<https://www.bayfieldcounty.org/1164/County-Forest-Land-Use-Plan-2021-2035-Up>

All revisions to the plan will be reviewed by the Forestry and Parks Committee. In addition to the online comment forms, public input will also be accepted during a Committee meeting. When on the webpage to sign up for notifications (for the plan), you can also sign up to receive notifications of future Forestry and Parks Committee meetings. All draft chapters will be presented to and reviewed by the Committee during future meetings. By also signing up to receive agenda notifications, you would be able to see which chapters will be reviewed during each meeting.

Please send a copy of this email to anyone you think may also be interested.

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns, or would like to be removed from this list.

Thanks for your time.

5. Once on the Department's webpage, each interested party was asked to sign up to receive notifications of future Plan updates, as well as notifications of agendas (for the date and time of future Forestry and Parks Committee meetings where the Plan would be addressed). Once a chapter/section of the Plan was ready for public review and comment, it was be uploaded to the Department's webpage. Once uploaded, an email and/or text message was sent to each person signed up to receive notifications, informing them that new information was available for review. The following information was posted on the Department's webpage:
 - a. Instructions to Sign Up for Notifications

The Bayfield County Forestry and Parks Department is in the process of updating the Bayfield County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The plan establishes the framework for the management and administration of the roughly 176,000 acre county forest. The current plan is valid through CY 2020. The new plan would be effective from CY 2021 through 2035.

The plan will be revised throughout most of 2020, generally one chapter at a time. The Forestry and Parks Committee will review all drafts during their regularly scheduled monthly meetings. Once the Committee has preliminarily approved a draft chapter, it will be uploaded to the county website. Once on the website, each draft chapter will be available for public review and input. All public input, per draft chapter, will be shared with the Committee during their next regularly scheduled monthly meeting. After a review of all public comments, additional modifications to each draft chapter may be required.

Anyone interested in receiving notification of when a draft chapter is ready for public review and comment can sign up through the county

website. Notifications can be received via email and/or text messages. To sign up, visit Bayfield County's "Notify Me" page at:
<https://www.bayfieldcounty.org/list.aspx>

Enter your email address and click sign in. Check how you wish to be notified, via email and/or text message (if you choose text messages you will also be asked to provide your cell phone number).

Under the Notify me section, click the envelope and/or the cell phone next to the County Forest Land Use Plan 2021-2035 Updates. You will be sent a confirmation email and/or text verifying that you want to receive notifications, click the link to verify.

You are now signed up to receive notifications whenever there is new content to review.

You can also sign up to receive notification of when the plan will be addressed during a Forestry and Parks Committee meeting. While on the Notify Me webpage, sign up to receive Forestry and Parks Committee meeting agenda information by scrolling down to the Agenda Center.

To submit general comments on the current management and/or administration of the Bayfield County Forest, for the staff and Committee members to consider when updating the Plan, please follow this link: [Input Form](#). Public input can also be presented directly to the Forestry and Parks Committee during a Committee meeting.

6. Each chapter of the Plan was reviewed, individually, during Forestry and Parks Committee meetings throughout most of CY 2020. During the review of each draft chapter, public comment was solicited (either actively as part of each meeting or via written input submitted through the process outlined above). Some Committee meetings addressed multiple chapters at a time, while others reviewed

only a portion of one chapter.

7. During the Committee review process, each new draft chapter was addressed during the meeting. When a draft chapter was approved by the Committee, it was uploaded to the Department's webpage during the next business day and made available for public comment. The public was given approximately 30 days to provide comment/input on each previously approved chapter (the amount of time between each regularly scheduled monthly Committee meeting). Comments could be submitted via the online form (as described above) or the public also had the option of providing comment, in person, during the next regularly scheduled Committee meeting.
8. During the next regularly scheduled Committee meeting, all comments received, per chapter, were shared with the Committee. Afterwards, once all comments and/or public comment were reviewed, if necessary, the Committee had the option to openly engage with members of the public who were present during the meeting. Effectively, each regularly scheduled Committee meeting was treated as a potential "open house", where the Committee could engage directly with interested members of the public, one draft chapter at a time.
9. Once all comments, per chapter, had been reviewed by the Committee, the draft chapter was either formally approved or the Administrator was directed to perform additional edits. If additional edits were directed by the Committee, that draft chapter was still considered open for review and was addressed again during the next scheduled Committee meeting. Once the Committee formally approved each chapter, including all additional edits, that chapter was considered finished. Once finished, that chapter would no longer be addressed during future Committee meetings, unless directed by the Committee.
10. In summary, below was the general step by step process employed by the Committee to review each chapter of the Plan:
 - a. The Administrator prepared each draft chapter of the Plan.
 - b. Each chapter was presented by the Administrator to the Committee, during a monthly Committee meeting, for review.
 - c. After Committee review, when a draft chapter was approved by the Committee, it was uploaded to the Department's webpage.

- d. On the next business day, an email and/or text message was sent to each member of the public, signed up to receive notifications, indicating that a draft chapter of the Plan was ready for public review and comment.
- e. The public had approximately 30 days to provide comments to the Department, for each previously approved draft chapter, either in writing or in person during a future Committee meeting.
- f. All public comments were shared by the Administrator with the Committee and addressed during the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- g. Once the Committee evaluated all public comments and additional edits to the draft were completed, if necessary, to the satisfaction of the Committee, the chapter was considered finished.
- h. Once a chapter was considered finished, it was uploaded to the Department's website as complete and no longer addressed during future meetings (unless otherwise directed by the Committee).
- i. When all chapters of the Plan were finished, the final completed Plan was reviewed one last time by the Committee during a regularly scheduled meeting. The general public also had an opportunity to provide comments on the final completed plan.
- j. The final completed draft Plan was then submitted to the DNR for review.
- k. Comments received by the DNR were presented by the Administrator to the Committee for final review. If necessary, as directed by the Committee, the Administrator performed final edits to the Plan.
- l. The final completed Plan was approved by the Committee on XXXX and forwarded to the Board for review and action.
- m. The Board approved the Plan on XXXX.

The above review process was considered a more effective way to solicit for and accommodate public review and input. This setting allowed each chapter/section to be addressed individually, during numerous regularly scheduled Committee meetings, thus providing interested members of the public with multiple opportunities and methods to contribute. As a result, the public could focus review and comments on a portion of the Plan per month, rather than the entire draft document all at once. Which, again, was

considered easier to digest, provided a greater level of transparency and afforded interested members of the public more time and methods to generate and share comments.

110.3 APPROVAL OF THE PLAN

Comments received throughout the revision process will be given consideration during Plan development. Once a final draft of the Plan is completed, the Administrator, as directed by the Committee, will present it to the Bayfield County Board of Supervisors (hereafter, the “Board”) for their approval. Following Board approval, the Plan will then be forwarded to the DNR. Approval of the Plan, by the DNR, is required as per s. 28.11(5)(a), Wis. Stats.

110.4 DISTRIBUTION OF THE PLAN

Each member of the Board will have access to a copy of the Plan at the time of initial review and approval. The Plan will also be available for public review from the Department’s webpage. Official copies of the Plan will be maintained by the Administrator via the webpage and available electronically, upon request. A hardcopy of the Plan will also be available in the Department’s office.

The Plan, and future amendments to the Plan, will be distributed as follows: electronic versions of the approved Plan, all future Plan amendments and/or electronic links to all associated Plan documents will be distributed to the following:

1. DNR - Liaison and County Forest Specialist.
2. Executive Director- Wisconsin County Forest Association.

110.5 UPDATING THE PLAN

Necessary changes in policy and procedure will be incorporated into the Plan by amendment, as required. Amendments to the plan will require approval by both the Committee and the DNR as stated in s. 28.11(5)(a), Wis. Stats. The Workplan, Budget, and modifications to the official County Forest Blocking map will require Board approval (see Chapter 400 for more information on County Forest Blocking).

The Workplan and Budget, both of which are approved by the Board, as mentioned above,

as well as the annual accomplishment report, will be appended to the Plan but do not require official DNR approval. These documents will be updated and maintained on the Department's webpage. Official copies of these documents will be maintained by the Administrator via the Department's webpage and available electronically, upon request. A hardcopy of these documents will also be available in the Department's office.

In addition, modifications to the Appendix, including Chapters 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000, and 5000 do not require a Plan amendment or official DNR approval, again, with the exception of the official County Forest Blocking map. However, modifications to the Appendix and Chapters 1000 through 5000 will require Committee review and approval prior to amending to the Plan.

110.6 COORDINATION WITH OTHER PLANNING

The development of this Plan and any future amendments to this Plan will include considerations, and if warranted, participation in other local and regional planning efforts

115 FOREST RESOURCE PLANNING

Whenever practical and feasible, the Department will reference and utilize procedures as set forth in the DNR Public Forest Lands Handbook no. 2460.5.

Silviculture guidance, supported by Wisconsin's forestry community and the DNR Silvicultural Guidance Team may be referenced in various forest management activities. The Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System (WisFIRS), as developed and maintained by the DNR, will be utilized as one of the primary tools to assist in the forest management planning process (more information on WisFIRS can be found in the DNR Public Forest Lands Handbook).

Department level database management and analysis, in addition to internal knowledge and experience, will also be a primary driver in the forest management planning process, both short and long term.

Additional resources, including, but not limited to, forest habitat type classification, soil

surveys, DNR’s Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) and DNR’s Best Management Practices for Water Quality guidelines may also be utilized in management decisions.

115.1 FOREST CERTIFICATION GROUP ADMINISTRATION

As the forest certification group manager, the DNR will be responsible for overall administration of third-party forest certification efforts. The DNR County Forest Specialist will work in close cooperation with the Wisconsin County Forests Association (hereafter, the “WCFA”) in coordinating this effort. The DNR group manager’s responsibilities will include, but are not limited to:

- Record keeping of forest certification.
- Coordinating communication with the certification auditing firms.
- Reporting and payment of fees.
- Processing new entries and departures from the groups.
- Internal compliance monitoring.
- Dispute resolution.

Detail on forest certification group administration is maintained in the DNR Public Forest Lands Handbook (see the Appendix for a link to the Handbook).

115.2 FOREST CERTIFICATION

Bayfield County’s Commitment to Sustainable Forestry

County forests provide a vital contribution to the State, nation and world by providing economic, environmental and social benefits important to our overall quality of life. Bayfield County believes that accomplishing such sustainable forestry requires a commitment and partnership from all the groups and individuals that benefit from these public lands.

Bayfield County’s Commitment:

Within the scope of Wisconsin County Forest Law, as well as this Plan, Bayfield County will develop, apply and maintain forest management practices and principles that promote forest sustainability and multiple use of the County Forest. Bayfield County is

committed to the following:

1. Sustainable Forest Management Practices and Principles: to develop, apply, maintain and promote sustainable forest management strategies that address the present demands of society without sacrificing the needs of future generations. In doing so, Bayfield County will integrate the primary emphasis of growing and harvesting trees for a variety of forest products together with: ensuring adequate and acceptable regeneration/reforestation of all managed stands (both natural and artificial); the creation and maintenance of diverse and rich wildlife habitat; the conservation and protection of water, soil and air quality; the development and maintenance of ecosystem and biological diversity; the development and maintenance of a variety of public recreational opportunities (both motorized and non-motorized); and aesthetics; all while recognizing the need to modify and adapt sustainable forest management strategies to address a progressively changing climate.
2. Responsible Approaches to Forest Management: to implement practices that are economically, environmentally and socially responsible in the management of the Bayfield County Forest. In addition, whenever possible and/or practical, working with other forest landowners, both public and private, to encourage and/or accomplish larger, landscape level, forest management objectives.
3. Forest Health and Productivity: to work cooperatively with the DNR and other agencies, in protecting our forests from pests, disease, wildfire and other similar damaging agents, to ensure and improve long-term productivity and forest health. Including the need to recognize, establish and implement short and/or long term forest management strategies that anticipate and/or directly address the potential impacts of a changing climate.
4. Special and Unique Sites: to recognize and manage sites that contain special and/or unique biological, ecological, geological, cultural and/or historical significance in a manner that will preserve, develop, enhance and/or promote their distinguishing qualities. This could include passive management (as in the Glacial Kettles Special Management Area, see Chapter 800) or active management (as in the Barnes Barrens Management Area, see Chapter 800).

5. Legal Compliance: to recognize and comply with all local, state and federal laws, rules and regulations as they apply towards the management of the Bayfield County Forest.
6. Monitoring and Continuous Improvement: to continuously and routinely monitor and assess the growth, development and health of the Bayfield County Forest and develop sustainable management strategies that address the findings. This will be accomplished through compartment and stand level forest reconnaissance, as well as through the establishment and maintenance of permanent Continuous Forest Inventory (CFI) plots. See Chapter 800 for more information on forest inventory and monitoring.
7. Economic Development: one of the primary objectives of County Forest lands, as defined in the Department's mission, as well as the purpose of County Forest Law, is sustainable timber production. Multiple-use management of these renewable forest resources also generates numerous additional economic and social benefits including, but not limited to, recreational opportunities, tourism, improved quality of life and other similar amenities. The raw forest products generated from the management of the County Forest provide a direct and important source of revenue to the County, as well as the Towns which contain these lands within their jurisdictions; while timber products, recreation and tourism related activities fosters local and regional economic development and supports job growth. Bayfield County will continue to incorporate the various Commitments listed in Items 1 through 6 above, as well as throughout this Plan, in the sustainable yield, multiple-use management of the County Forest, while also developing and implementing complementary ways to maximize the various revenue potentials contained therein.

Bayfield County will work in cooperation with the DNR and other natural resources groups/agencies in providing sustainable and responsible management of the Bayfield County Forest. Bayfield County will continue to support, both internally and cooperatively, research efforts to improve the health, productivity, and management of forestlands, both locally and regionally.

In keeping with this responsibility, Bayfield County is committed to two major, independent, third party forest certification agencies/organizations:

- a. Sustainable Forestry Initiative® SFI-01617 SFI 100%.
- b. Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC® C006090) FSC 100%.

120 COUNTY AUTHORITY

The Plan is the official Bayfield County Forest authority, which incorporates the various documents appended to the Plan, including, but not limited to, the annual Workplan and Budget, as described throughout the Plan. The Committee enforces the regulations governing the use of the County Forest.

120.1 ORDINANCES

The County ordinances that apply to the administration and management of the Bayfield County Forest can be found in the Appendix.

125 COUNTY FOREST HISTORY

125.1 STATEWIDE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

In 1927, the State Legislature passed the Forest Crop Law, authorizing counties to create county forests. An opinion of the Attorney General with reference to the Forest Crop Law stated that the counties would be exempt from the owner's share of annual tax. In 1929 the law was amended to create the County Forest Reserve Law.

In 1963, several major revisions were made, creating the County Forest Law s28.11. The most notable change was the creation of a permanent program of forests that would be managed in accordance with a 10 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan developed by the county, with the assistance of the Department of Natural Resources. Several grants and loans were created and remain available to counties to compensate for public uses of these county forest lands as stipulated in s28.11. To fulfill additional statutory obligations acreage share payments to towns are currently \$.30/acre, and towns with county forest land receive a minimum of 10% of the stumpage revenue from their respective County Forest each year.

In 2020, thirty (30) counties in Wisconsin owned approximately 2.4 million acres entered under the County Forest Law (see the WCFA website for more information on county forests; a link to the website is provided in the Appendix).

125.2 WISCONSIN COUNTY FORESTS ASSOCIATION

Bayfield County is a member of the Wisconsin County Forests Association (hereafter, the “WCFA”). The WCFA was incorporated on May 15, 1968 under Chapter 181 of the Wisconsin Statutes, without stock and not for profit. The WCFA Board of Directors is composed of fifteen delegates elected from County Forestry Committees who are members of the Association and two members at large.

WCFA provides a forum for consideration of issues and policy that are common to all of the county committees responsible for their respective County Forest programs, including those programs encompassed under s. 28.11 and chapter 77, Wis. Stats. WCFA also provides leadership and counsel to County Forest administrators and forestry committees through regular meetings and active committees on legislative and recreational issues. WCFA develops and implements a strategic plan. The organization’s mission statement is as follows:

Wisconsin County Forests Association provides leadership uniting the interests of the world’s largest county forest program while ensuring long term forest health and sustainability.

125.3 TRENDS

The values and uses of the Bayfield County Forest contribute significantly to fulfilling many of society's ecological and socioeconomic needs, now and in the future. Changing trends will impact the values and uses of the Forest in coming years.

- Wisconsin’s forests are naturally changing due to forest succession. Most of the County Forest acreage statewide originated after the big cutover period. As a result, most of the subsequent reforestation efforts were accomplished in the early to mid 1900’s and employed a combination of natural and artificial (i.e. planting) regeneration. Over time, mid to late successional timber types, like northern

hardwood forests, have begun to replace the early successional aspen-birch, oak and jack pine forests of the 1940's through the 1970's.

- The aspen cover type is a key habitat for many of the state's premier game species including deer, ruffed grouse, snowshoe hare and woodcock. The county forest system, collectively, currently has 15% of the State's public land base and 24% of the aspen resource.
- Potential conflict, or differing points of view, regarding timber management practices will likely continue to increase, as more individuals and groups demand greater involvement in forestry decisions. Management practices that utilize more intensive even-aged treatments, like clearcutting, will continue to evoke criticism. Developing and/or expanding efforts to educate the public on the merits of these, and other, sound and sustainable forest management practices will be extremely important.
- Bayfield County may experience funding problems as municipalities are being required to provide more services with less money. Potential losses of revenue from decreased shared funding sources and resistance to tax increases may make County Forest timber sale revenues increasingly important to the overall finances of county governments. This can potentially be further complicated by growing public pressures to reduce the level and/or amount of timber harvests on county forest lands.
- Increasing knowledge about a wider variety of species and their habitat needs is leading to a growing list of threatened and endangered species. This could lead to improvements in managing the forest and mitigating impacts to these species. Mitigating measures have the potential to impede recreational use and/or forest management activities.
- Invasive exotic species pose an ever-increasing threat to the County Forest. Gypsy moth, Asian long-horned beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, garlic mustard, buckthorn, honeysuckle have all gained a foothold in Wisconsin's forests. Refer to Chapter 600 for more information on insects and disease.
- The County Forest is generally considered to be an outdoor observatory, serving and available to all age groups. It consists of diverse communities with a large variety of

plant and animal life, providing a plethora of opportunities for study, observation and reflection.

125.4 PROTECTING THE PUBLIC RESOURCE

As stated in State Statute 28.11 (1), the county forest program enables and encourages “the planned development and management of the county forests for optimum production of forest products together with recreational opportunities, wildlife, watershed protection and stabilization of stream flow, giving full recognition to the concept of multiple-use to assure maximum public benefits to protect the public rights, interests and investments in such lands; and to compensate the counties for the public uses, benefits and privileges these lands provide; all in a manner which will provide a reasonable revenue to the towns in which such lands lie.”