

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.

**505 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 silvicultural 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.

**505.1 EVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT**

An even-aged forest stand is composed of trees having relatively small differences in age. Typical cutting practices include: clear cutting, shelterwood cutting and seed-tree cutting.

**505.2 UNEVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT**

An uneven-aged forest stand is composed of trees that differ markedly in age. The typical cutting practice is selection cutting, where individual trees are removed from the stand. Regeneration is continually occurring after the stand is cut.

### 505.3 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.

#### 505.3.1 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 field work on sales is accomplished.

#### 505.3.2 Advertising For Bids

After field work is completed and necessary reports prepared for DNR approval, the Administrator shall prepare a sale prospectus for Committee approval. Following Committee approval the sale prospectus shall be made available to interested loggers. 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). Ads shall be run once each week for two consecutive weeks, the last being at least one week prior to the bid opening. A longer advance time will be given when feasible. Sealed bid sales will generally be offered in spring and fall, or as needed.

#### 505.3.3 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

#### 505.3.4 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 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 total advertised sale minimum and the advertised minimum price per unit for each species.
- (2) A minimum of 10% of the bid value of each tract, or \$500 (whichever is greater) must accompany the bid as a bid bond, payable to Jackson County.

#### 505.3.5 Awarding Sales

- (1) 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:
  - (a) Non-compliance with County Forest contract requirements.
  - (b) Delinquent financial obligations.
  - (c) Unsatisfactory past performances.
  - (d) Inability to demonstrate financial or professional capability.

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. Jackson County requires 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.

- (2) In the event of tie bids, the bidders should be offered opportunity to withdraw. If none wish to do so, the person in charge of bid opening may request the bidders to: (1) submit another bid; (2) draw lots; (3) flip a coin; or if they decline, (4) re-advertise the sale at a later date.
- (3) 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).

#### 505.3.6 Sales Contracts

- (1) Contracts will be prepared with copies provided to the purchaser and the DNR with the original filed in the Administrator's office.
- (2) 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.

#### 505.3.7 Timber Sale Performance Bond

- (1) Surety bonds or irrevocable letter of credit issued by a bank which is a member of the Federal Reserve System or an 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 six (6) months more for sufficient time to allow for possible extension(s) and for closeout of the contract after cutting is completed.

- (2) The bid bond may be transferred to the performance bond. A bid bond may be replaced by a letter of credit for the performance bond at the request of the purchaser.

#### 505.3.8 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.

#### 505.3.8(a) Slash Disposal, Landings and Decking

The objective is to control conditions that affect the following:

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

- (a) All slash must be reduced to a maximum specified height: no trees, tops or limbs shall be leaning or hanging in standing timber.
- (b) No machinery may be operated in lakes or streams.
- (c) No slash may be deposited in lakes or streams pursuant to s. 26.12(6), Wis. Stats.
- (d) No slash, logging debris or machinery operation outside the sale boundary unless approved by the County.
- (e) Landings and decks are not allowed within 100 feet of any public road except by proper authorization from the County.
- (f) Landings are not allowed within 100 yards of known exotic species.
- (g) Any debris or material not natural to the land shall be properly disposed of as it is generated.
- (h) 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 (Jackson County Chapter 16, Shoreland Zoning Ordinance).

#### 505.3.8(b) Duration and Extension Of Contracts

- (a) All contracts will be issued for not less than six months nor more than 2 years, unless otherwise stated on advertisement and/or contracts. Contracts will be dated to expire on the anniversary of the sale. Exceptions may be made in cases of extenuating circumstances.
- (b) A one year extension, if deemed necessary by the seller, may be granted following expiration of the initial contract, however, the stumpage will be increased 5% over the original selling price. A second twelve month contract extension may be granted accompanied by an 10% increase in stumpage over the original selling price (for a total increase of 15% over the original selling price).
- (c) 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. The minimum increase beyond a 4-year contract shall be 25% over the original stumpage rate
- (d) If purchasers do not wish to have contracts renewed or extended, double stumpage may be charged for any uncut timber left on the sale area.
- (e) The purchaser may request a contract release due to severe physical or financial disability. The committee shall determine if a release shall be granted and may withhold all or a portion of the bond deposit for damages.

#### 505.3.8(c) Contract Violations

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

- (a) The Administrator, or designee, will attempt to resolve inadvertent or minor violations by verbal contact with the contractor.
- (b) The Administrator, or designee, has the authority to assess a fine for violations of timber sale contracts where issuance of a citation for

county ordinance or state law violations is not appropriate or is not possible. Fines assessed by the Administrator shall not be less than \$100 nor more than \$500. If a fine in excess of \$500 is appropriate, the matter shall be brought to the Committee for consideration. A purchaser has the right to appeal any fine to the Committee.

- (c) The Administrator, or designee, may immediately suspend all activity on a timber sale when it appears that a breach of contract, timber theft, or an emergency situation arises.
- (d) The suspension will be followed by written notice to the purchaser, stating the nature of the violation and informing them of Committee action taken or pending.
- (e) The Committee, in consultation with legal counsel, may consider, but is not limited to the following remedies:
  - (1) Charge double stumpage
  - (2) Charge for actual damages
  - (3) Suspend contract
  - (4) Retain all deposits
  - (5) Foreclose on cut forest products on sale
  - (6) Refer to District Attorney for prosecution
  - (7) Seek civil damages in addition to the performance bond.
- (f) Suspension of operation will remain in effect until receipt of written notice from the County.
- (g) Failure of the purchaser to comply with the Committee decision may result in the purchaser becoming a non-qualifying and ineligible bidder in the future. At the Committee's discretion, the purchaser may be banned from future purchase of County timber sales for a period of up to a maximum of ten years. All deposits may be retained and forest products on sale areas may be seized and sold by the county.

#### 505.3.9 Timber Sale Restrictions

- (1) To minimize resource damage, the types of logging equipment, methods,

and times of operation used on sale areas will be restricted by the County.

- (2) Special restrictions may be required in accordance with the aesthetic policy set forth in Section 520.
- (3) Seasonal restrictions may be applied to protect roads, minimize recreation use conflicts, benefit wildlife management, avoid endangered resources concerns, minimize insect and disease problems, achieve management goals or to assist in fire protection.

#### 505.3.10 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.

#### 505.3.11 Timber Sale Roads

- (1) The purchaser will be responsible for securing legal access to sale areas across private or other non-county ownership.
- (2) The purchaser will be responsible for securing permission to conduct logging activities within town, county or state road rights-of-way (e.g. decking, skidding)
- (3) Forestry personnel will approve the lay-out of all roads and make other necessary special provisions within the sale contract.
- (4) 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.
- (5) 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.

#### 505.3.12 Supervising Sales

Sale inspections will be performed periodically by County and / or state personnel with corresponding notations in the sales record.

### 505.3.13 Forest Products Accountability

#### 505.3.13(a) Scaling Merchantability

(1) Sawlogs will be scaled by the Scribner Decimal C. log rule. A log is defined as:

- 9” diameter or larger inside bark (d.i.b.) at 8' in length (plus trim) for softwood
- 11” diameter or larger inside bark (d.i.b.) small end at 8' in length (plus trim) for hardwood
- Minimum net scale of 50% of the gross scale of the log

(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 wood to the gross volume measured. Other peeling methods that remove excess fiber along with the bark will be converted to the standard cord by adding 25% to the gross volume measured. A pulpwood tree contains at least one (1) 100” stick, to a minimum top diameter of 4 inches for softwoods and 5 inches for hardwoods.

(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.

#### 505.3.13(b) 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).

#### 505.3.13(c) 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 utilizes serialized three-part tickets that must be 50% paid for in advance, based on the approximate stumpage value of the wood to be hauled. The balance of each ticket will be due within 15 days of issuance of invoice. One ticket must accompany each load of wood to the mill. Mill scale will be accepted for volume determination.
- (2) All saw logs produced by the purchaser shall be scaled by County personnel. Pulpwood may also be scaled on the landing. Payment for wood products scaled is normally due within 15 days of billing.
- (3) A purchaser will be allowed one late payment violation per year without penalty. If a purchaser has more than one violation in a year period they will be placed on a list and required to prepay 100% for all tickets and scaled wood for a period of two years.
- (4) Lump sum sales may be utilized when practical. Under this sale system the accepted or negotiated bid is based on pre-sale volume estimate. No scale of cut products is involved. No refunds are made for volume adjustment claims. Per unit stumpage rates by species must be itemized, both in the bid and the sale contract. Under this sale system the purchaser may not haul from two types of sales on the County Forest (i.e. from the lump sum sale and from another sale on the woods scale or ticket system) at the same time without specific permission. Total payment may be divided into a maximum of four payments. The sale must then be divided into cutting units. Payment for a cutting unit must be received in full before any cutting begins in that unit. Order of cutting units will be specified in the contract, or may be negotiated with the Administrator. Normally, one cutting unit must be completed before another is begun.

#### 505.3.14 Special Forest Product Permits

- (1) A written firewood permit (for personal use) must be purchased for a designated permit area.

- (2) A written bough cutting permit will be issued for a designated permit area. Bough payment rates will be set by the Forestry and Parks Committee.
- (3) Written permits may be issued for special forest products for community or personal use, with fees established by the Forestry and Parks Committee.
- (4) An annual summary report of cut products sold by permit will be filed with the DNR using Timber Sale Notice and Cutting Report (Form 2460 – 1).

#### 505.4 NATURAL REGENERATION

Where feasible, natural regeneration will be encouraged through the use of silvicultural methods or cultural activities including, but not limited to, clearcuts, shelterwood cuts, strip cuts, scarification, prescribed burning, select cuts and seed tree cuts. These practices can be enhanced by additional treatments, including the cutting of non-merchantable trees following harvest, scarification before or after cutting for natural seeding, prescribed burning, and chemical treatment. These treatments can be used alone or in combination. 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.

##### 505.4.1 Cutting Of Non-Merchantable Residual Trees

To meet certain silvicultural objectives, non-merchantable residual tree cutting may be required concurrent with harvesting the salable timber. This requirement will normally be included in the contract when the density of non-merchantable trees following harvest is likely to inhibit the desirable growth of regeneration. If funding is available and the work cannot be completed by the logger, non-merchantable residual tree cutting may be done by County or contracted crews.

##### 505.4.2 Prescribed Burning For Natural Regeneration

Jack pine, oak and aspen forest types are early successional tree species; these trees rely on forest floor disturbances and full sunlight for optimum regeneration and early growth. Fire is a natural means available to provide disturbances and full sunlight to stimulate the regrowth of early successional species. When possible and practical, it may be employed as a management tool. For jack pine regeneration, fire can open serotinous (closed) cones to release seeds, reduce slash, set back competing vegetation, and release nutrients. Fire can be used to stimulate the regeneration and growth of shade intolerant hardwood tree species and other desired vegetation depending on management objectives for a particular site. When conditions allow, prescribed burning may be used for site preparation, slash removal, or replacement of natural fire ecology. DNR Fire Control will be the major source of guidance and direction. See DNR Fire Presuppression handbook (4360.5).

#### 505.4.3 Other

Site preparation by other means may be considered where natural regeneration will be aided by treatment methods.

### 505.5 ARTIFICIAL REGENERATION

When natural tree regeneration fails, or when existing tree species do not coincide with site management objectives, artificial means may be used. Artificial forest stand establishment usually requires site preparation followed by seeding or planting.

#### 505.5.1 Mechanical Site Preparation

Mechanical site preparation includes the use of soil disturbance equipment such as a disc, roller chopper, patch scarifier, disk trencher or V-plow. This equipment is used to reduce logging debris, incorporate debris into the soil, clear brush and debris and reduce competition.

#### 505.5.2 Chemical (herbicide) Site Preparation

In order to establish tree seedlings, herbicides can be effective for controlling unwanted vegetation. Herbicides may be used as an alternative to, or in conjunction with, mechanical site preparation to provide vegetative control. Herbicides will be selected and applied according to label guidelines. The objective of herbicide use is not to kill all competing vegetation, but to reduce competing vegetation to allow for the growth of desirable species. Proximity to private lands, residences, highways and public use areas must be considered when selecting both the herbicide and its application. Herbicides can be applied by hand, motorized ground equipment or aircraft. A written prescription for each herbicide application will be prepared, kept on file, and be made available to the primary applicator.

#### 505.5.3 Prescribed Burning

Prescribed burning can be used to reduce logging debris, clear the site, reduce competing vegetation, and release soil nutrients. DNR Fire Control staff will be the major source of guidance and direction for prescribed burning. See DNR Fire Presuppression Handbook (4360.5).

#### 505.5.4 Tree Planting / Seeding

Machine planting, hand planting, or direct seeding (or a combination thereof) will be used for artificial stocking to ensure adequate regeneration. Tree species selection will be determined based upon the site capability and management objectives. The Forestry and Parks Committee policy is to maintain sufficient forest openings and manage them for wildlife habitat, where practical. The majority of planting/seeding sites will be in harvested areas where natural regeneration is inadequate. Planting/seeding may also be employed to maintain a desirable species distribution on the Forest for purposes such as aesthetics, biodiversity and wildlife.

### 505.6 TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT.

Timber stand improvement will involve release, thinning and pruning as the primary practices. Timber stand improvement includes any practices that improve the health, growth and quality of existing forest stands. It can include activities such as release of desirable trees from vegetative competition, non-commercial thinnings of dense stands and pruning of lower tree branches. Practices can be done by hand, mechanically or chemically.

#### 505.6.1 Release

If release work cannot be completed by commercial timber harvest, it will be conducted by mechanical or chemical means as site or environmental conditions warrant. Release is defined as the removal of competing vegetation to promote the growth of desirable species.

#### 505.6.2 Non-Commercial Thinning

Non-commercial thinning is used when stand density is so great that tree growth is reduced, and the commercial removal of trees is not economically feasible. If individual site requirements, funding and/or labor are present, non-commercial thinning will be considered.

#### 505.6.3 Pruning

Pruning is intended to improve sawlog quality by reducing the knot size in the tree trunk. If it is economically feasible, pruning will be considered mainly for conifer species.

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## **RECREATION**

The County Forest Ordinance and s. 28.11, Wis.Stats. authorize the Jackson County Forest and Parks Committee to provide public recreational opportunities. The Jackson County Forest mission statement in Chapter 100 identifies outdoor recreation opportunities. The mission statement charges the Committee to conduct recreation activities that prevent or minimize natural resource degradation.

- (1) The Committee may establish and maintain recreation areas and facilities within the County Forest. The Committee is empowered

to establish and enforce rules, regulations and fees for use of recreational areas and trails.

- (2) The County Outdoor Recreation Plan, updated every five years, reflects the planning and public use of the County's recreational trails and facilities.
- (3) The Jackson County code of ordinances govern parks, trails and recreational lands designated by the County.
- (4) The County Recreation Map and applicable ordinances are appended in Chapter 900.

#### 510.1 RECREATIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENTS

The Committee is allowed to contract with clubs or individuals to provide public recreational services. For example, the County may contract with a local snowmobile club to groom and maintain county snowmobile trails.

#### 510.2 RECREATIONAL USE PERMITS.

- (1) Recreational permits or use agreements for use of the County Forest and parks may be issued by the Committee.
- (2) Malt or intoxicating beverage permits will not be issued on County Forest properties.
- (3) Other special use permits are found in Section 515.
- (4) Cabin site permits will not be issued for cabin sites on the forest.
- (5) Organized events or special uses, other than informal recreation (see Sec. 510.4 for informal uses) require Committee approval.

#### 510.3 ENTRANCE AND USER FEES

- (1) Fees for camping and admission should be in accord with fees charged by similar private facilities so as not to provide undue competition. Fees may be periodically changed at the discretion of the Committee.
- (2) Park and recreation area use regulations can be found in Chapter 13 of

the Jackson County Outdoor Recreation Ordinance.

510.4 EXTENSIVE RECREATIONAL USE OF THE FOREST

Informal County Forest uses shall include, but are not limited to: hunting, fishing, trapping, picnicking, snowshoeing, biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, berry and mushroom picking, photography, canoeing and nature study. Informal uses do not require a permit, but must be conducted according to the provisions of County Ordinances.

510.4.1 Hunting

The entire County Forest is open for regulated hunting with the exception of designated areas that are developed for high public use, such as East Arbutus and Wazee County Parks, however special hunts maybe permitted on a case to case bases. Temporary hunting stands and elevated stands are allowed but must be removed at end of the hunting day, with the following exceptions:

Nails, lag screws, screw steps, or other damaging devices are not allowed. Permanent (non removable) structures are not allowed. The ordinance regulating tree stand use is contained in Chapter 900.

510.4.2 Fishing

All waterways within the County Forest are available for regulated fishing unless otherwise listed in state and county regulations.

510.4.3 Picnicking

Picnicking is allowed on the County Forest unless posted as closed. Failure to remove garbage or debris will result in a littering citation and fine.

510.4.4 Camping

A permit is required to camp outside of developed campgrounds on the County Forest. The following regulations apply, but are not limited to:

- (1) Littering or site destruction is not allowed. The individual to whom the permit is issued will be responsible for all activity on the site.
- (2) The Jackson County Forestry and Parks Committee determines the permit fee.
- (3) The maximum permit length is 14 days.
- (4) Except for the construction of a fire ring, vegetation and terrain may not be damaged or altered. Fasteners, such as nails, screws or bolts, may not be attached to trees.
- (5) Manufactured materials (lumber, concrete, plastics, etc.) can not remain after the site has been vacated. Trees or other vegetation, either native or exotic, cannot be planted on the site.

## 510.5 INTENSIVE RECREATION AREAS.

The Jackson County Forest has sites developed to accommodate concentrated public use. The Forestry and Parks Committee may prohibit recreation activities that are incompatible with developed facilities.

### 510.5.1 Campgrounds

Designated camping areas are provided on the County Forest. These facilities include:

1. East Arbutus County Park
2. West Arbutus County Park
3. Wazee Lake Recreation Area
4. Crawford Hills County Park
5. Merlin Lambert County Park
6. Spaulding Pond County Park

### 510.5.2 Picnic Areas

Jackson County currently has no designated picnic areas. The County Park system provides picnicking opportunities at all of its facilities.

### 510.5.3 Swimming Areas

Designated swimming areas include:

1. Wazee Lake Beach Area
2. East Arbutus Beach Area
3. West Arbutus Beach Area

Lifeguards are not provided at these areas.

### 510.5.4 Boat Landings

At several locations in the County, on and off the County Forest, areas have been developed for public water access. They generally include a parking lot, surfaced approach to the water (boat landing), and appropriate signing. Public access areas are shown on the Chapter 900 recreation map. Water access is also addressed in Chapter 700. Unless separate facilities are provided, these landings are not considered boat-mooring sites.

### 510.5.5 Shooting Ranges

Public ranges that allow for use of rifle, bow, pistol, etc. are permitted on County Forest lands. A range that is operated by an organization other than the County requires a written land use agreement, including proof of insurance. A public use provision will be included in the agreement.

## 510.6 MANAGED TRAIL AREAS

Multiple uses of the various trail systems are encouraged and are subject to Committee review. Whenever possible, user conflicts should be avoided. However, recreational users will frequently encounter forest management activities instrumental to the existence and future of the Jackson County Forest.

The trail systems are identified on the Chapter 900 recreation map and referenced in Chapter 700.

### 510.6.1 Motorized Trail Opportunities

The Jackson County Forest is a multiple use forest. If trails are designed and maintained to limit environmental damage and user conflict, motorized trail travel can be an accepted forest recreation use. Trail use and development must be compatible and sustainable with landscape and forest characteristics. The Jackson County Forestry and Parks Committee will consider the following designated motorized trail use opportunities:

- 1) Snowmobile trails
- 2) All terrain vehicle (ATV's) trails
- 3) Motorcycle trails

For additional information regarding motorized recreation opportunities on the Jackson County Forest, refer to Chapter 700.

#### 510.6.2 Non-Motorized Trail Opportunities

Non-motorized travel on trails is a legitimate use of this forest. Design and maintenance of these trails may highlight natural features present on the Forest, should minimize damage to the environment and reduce user conflict. Trail use and development must be compatible and sustainable with the characteristics of the landscape. The Jackson County Forestry and Parks Committee will consider the following non-motorized trail use opportunities:

- 1) Hiking trails
- 2) Ski trails
- 3) Biking trails
- 4) Other trails

Refer to Chapter 700 for further discussion on non-motorized recreation opportunities on the Jackson County Forest.

## 510.7

## RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

Jackson County will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act regulations. In addition, the Committee may provide disabled people with additional recreational opportunities where economically feasible. Refer to Chapter 700 for further discussion of recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.

515 **SPECIAL USES**

(1) Recognizing the potential for a variety of special uses of the County Forest by governmental units, businesses, organizations or individuals, the Committee may designate special use areas. Uses must be consistent with the intent of the County Forest Law.

(2) All requests for specialized uses of any County Forest lands will require a Committee authorized permit.

(3) A list of existing special use areas is appended in Chapter 915.

515.1 **SAND AND GRAVEL**

Sand and gravel pits located on the 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 and Parks Department will require a permit approved by the Committee. The permit conditions may include, but are not limited to:

- 1) requiring the pit and its access road to be screened from view from any public highway where possible,
- 2) severing trees from the stump,
- 3) disposing of brush and dirt by leveling or hauling away spoils,
- 4) sloping to prevent steep banks
- 5) 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. The Committee may set material removal fees. Other non-metallic

mineral uses will be dealt with on an individual basis.

All active, non-metallic sites greater than one acre in size are subject to provisions of the Non-metallic Mining Reclamation Program, Chapter NR 135, Wis. Adm. Code. The contractor shall work with the local permit coordinator to obtain the necessary non-metallic mining permits prior to any removal of materials.

Sand and gravel mining sites may be leased for private use. In these situations the land must be withdrawn from the County Forest Law prior to sand and gravel removal. Upon completion of reclamation to the satisfaction of the County and the State, the lands may be reapplied for County Forest Law entry.

#### 515.2 EXPLORATION, PROSPECTING AND MINING

(1) The Committee may investigate mineral exploration, prospecting and mining requests. After investigating and considering a proposal, a public meeting shall be conducted prior to taking Committee action. The affected Township(s) shall be consulted. Following the public meeting and Township(s) consultation, the Committee shall make a recommendation to the County Board for further action. The Committee's recommendation shall consider socioeconomic and environmental implications of the proposal. Along with potential revenues, the Committee shall consider its public land ownership commitment and the County Forest mission and objectives. Short and long term perspectives of the proposal must be considered to protect the public interest.

(2) The DNR shall be notified of all requests in accordance with Manual Code 2712.1. (Mineral exploration on County Forests per SS. 28.11 (3)(i) Wis. Stats.). The Public Forest Lands Handbook shall be referenced for additional guidance.

(3) In accordance with Resolution 36-6-96, adopted by the Jackson County Board of Supervisors on June 25, 1996 Jackson County will not consider any mineral exploration, prospecting or mining proposals which involve volcanic massive sulfide deposits for a period of ten years from the date of passage.

515.3 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.

515.4 MILITARY MANEUVERS

Military maneuvers on County Forest lands will be considered with a lease or land use agreement. Upon a written request from the military, the Committee and other necessary County, Military, and DNR staff will discuss the request at a Committee meeting. After the needs have been outlined, the site shall be field checked, D.N.R. 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. For further direction, refer to the Public Forest Lands Handbook #2460.5, Chapter 270.

515.5 PUBLIC UTILITIES.

Public utility easements will be considered by the Committee and will follow 196.491(3e), Wis. Stats. Examples of public utilities are power lines and pipelines that serve large numbers of people over long distances. Power, telephone, and cable lines to single or small numbers of grouped permanent or non-permanent dwellings are considered private utility service lines and not public utilities. The following provisions shall be in any County Board resolution granting permission for public utility line construction:

1. Utility may be billed for merchantable forest products and existing timber reproduction.
2. Utility may be billed for land removed from timber production due to right-of-way clearing.
3. Land removed from the County Forest Law because of the utility line will

follow the withdrawal procedures in Chapter 400.

4. Utility companies will be encouraged to use existing corridors and underground installation of lines to minimize native plant and animal disturbances.
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 a proposed route, including a map of not less than 4 inch/mile scale, 90 days prior to the proposed construction.
7. Maintenance, County liability, access and utility signs shall be addressed.
8. An appropriate fee shall be charged for the easements
9. New roads and road maintenance will require Committee approval.

#### 515.6 PRIVATE UTILITY SERVICE LINES

If a landowner cannot gain utility access across other lands, the Committee may consider a land use agreement and not an easement for access across the County Forest. Requests will be individually considered and will follow the same procedure as Public Utilities in 515.5.

#### 515.7 CELLULAR COMMUNICATION TOWERS

The siting of cellular communication towers on the Jackson County Forest will be individually considered by the Committee. Requests will be 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 (SS 28.11(4)) may also need to be withdrawn from county forest law. Withdrawal is subject to approval by both County Board and DNR. The County shall follow the

withdrawal procedures in chapter 400.

3. An appropriate fee shall be determined by the Committee for the land use agreement.
4. Any agreement will consider items listed in 515.5

#### 515.8 WATER USE AND REMOVALS

Water located on or under the County Forest may be used by government units in emergency fire fighting situations and contractors performing public works. The removal of water by private individuals will require Committee approval and will be authorized by a permit. The County will consult with appropriate DNR personnel regarding water use and removals.

#### 515.9 COMMERCIAL MOSSING

There are approximately 20,000 acres of non-forest spruce/tamarack bog wetlands county owned lands within the county forest boundaries. Approximately 2000 acres of these wetlands are managed as commercial marshes for the removal of Sphagnum moss. Another 2000 acres are flooded under easements to cranberry growers as water impoundments for their commercial operations.

Jackson County Forestry annually sets up four to five commercial moss sales averaging (10) ten to (15) fifteen acres in size. The sales have a two year contract with penalties attached if they are extended past the contract term. The mossing revenue is a small portion of the budget, but is a unique industry to Jackson County. Moss has a limited market and is very labor intensive to produce. After an area is harvested it will take seven to ten years to regenerate before it can be harvested again. Burning the marsh lifts the moss making it easier to harvest and kills the brush that creeps in from the edges.

#### 515.10 OTHER

Other 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 individually developed.

## 520 **AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONES**

Aesthetic forest management will be applied on the County Forest. Aesthetic applications will vary and require classification of the forest according to the degree and type of public use. The DNR Silvicultural and Forest Aesthetics Handbook and Chapter NR 1.24 of the Wis. Admin.Code., will be used for management prescription guidelines. Scenic Management Zones are shown in Chapter 900.9A through 900.9C. The zones and associated management guidelines apply to County owned lands within the County Forest boundaries.

### 520.1 **AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE A**

Zone A includes areas where there is intensive public presence because of scenic attraction or some use of the area that would be enhanced by special timber management practices.

#### 520.1.1 Examples – Zone A

- (1) Park and recreation areas, including access routes.
- (2) Lakes and rivers that support significant water based recreational activity.
- (3) Roads 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.
- (4) Recreational trails including both motorized and non-motorized uses.

#### 520.1.2 Boundaries – Zone A

1. Park and recreation areas. Zone boundaries may include the area within the reasonable visible horizon as determined from any location within the recreation area. The boundary may also include adjacent areas that receive high recreation use a considerable amount of use as a result of the recreation area.
2. Lake and river areas. Zone boundaries shall incorporate the DNR Best

Management Guidelines handbook and significantly reduce visual impact.

3. Road corridors. Zone boundaries will be a reasonable distance from the traveled part of the zone.
4. Recreation trails – see chapter 915.9.2 – Field Timber Sale Establishment Guidelines.

#### 520.1.3 Management – Zone A

Zone A management is influenced by scenic values. This will mainly involve adaptations of normal timber harvesting practices and may require additional expenditures.

#### 520.1.4 Permitted Uses – Zone A

1. Timber harvesting and thinning operations may be prohibited during periods of peak public use. All slash may be lopped and/or removed from view.
2. Timber stands will be managed to afford the greater greatest public scenic potential for public enjoyment.
3. Borrow pits may be allowed during road construction. When any borrow operation is completed, the site will be restored pursuant to Chapter NR 135, Wis. Adm. Code and must aesthetically conform to general use of the area use. Permanent borrow pits should be screened from view. Gravel / borrow pits located on the County Forest may only be used by units of government or contractors performing public works.
4. County directional, informational and recreational signs conforming to approved standards are permitted.
5. New access roads may be allowed if they join the main road at right

angles. All access roads will be, when possible, curved so that no cleared line of sight will be created from the main road to the exterior boundary of the zone.

## 520.2 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.

### 520.2.1 Examples – Zone B

1. Roads with light to medium use where the majority of the traffic is a result of some other use of the forest other than scenic beauty.
2. Lakes or streams that do not have significant value for water-based recreation.

### 520.2.2 Boundaries – Zone B

The zone boundaries will have a reasonable visual horizon determined at periods of heavy use, from the part of the zone where the use occurs.

### 520.2.3 Management – Zone B

Zone B Management is for normal multiple use, but applies slash disposal requirements for any management operations. With the use of informational signs, management practices may be interpreted to the public.

### 520.2.4 Permitted Uses – Zone B

All land management activities are permissible but should be exercised with sensitivity to aesthetics. Examples: Timber sales may employ lopping and scattering of slash, rehabilitation of roads and landings, and irregular harvest lines to mitigate aesthetic impact.

520.3 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE C

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

520.3.1 Examples – Zone C

All areas not included in Zone A, B or D. The majority of the Forest is normally classified as Zone C.

520.3.2 Boundaries – Zone C

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

520.3.3 Management – Zone C

Zone C management is to optimize timber production using sound resource management concepts. Natural opportunities to maintain or enhance diversity or scenic quality should be considered.

520.3.4 Permitted Uses – Zone C

All land management activities consistent with the County Forest goals.

520.4 AESTHETIC MANAGEMENT ZONE D

Areas designated as special resources.

520.4.1 Examples – Zone D

Bauer Brockway Barrens Natural Area

520.4.2 Management – Zone D

Manage this area as outlined in Chapter 530 and any additional sight specific plans.

525 **TREATY RIGHTS: GATHERING MISCELLANEOUS FOREST PRODUCTS**

Native American treaties are not known to exist on the Jackson County Forest.

530 **HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS (HCVF) and EXCEPTIONAL**

## RESOURCES

High conservation Value Forests (HCVF) is a term that identifies those areas possessing unique qualities locally, regionally or nationally. Jackson County's focus in managing these areas will be to maintain or enhance the qualities that make these areas special. In some instances, this may involve altering management practices to mitigate impacts and in others, it may entail no active management.

Exceptional Resources contain such things as high conservation value forests, wild rivers and lakes, significant geological features, natural areas, ruffed grouse management areas, historical and archeological sites. HCVF contain such communities as relict old-growth forest; habitat for endangered, threatened, and species of greatest conservation need; oak and pine barrens, natural origin pine stands; rare natural communities, such as central poor fen, forested seeps, white pine swamps, bedrock glades, large muskegs, shorelines of wild rivers and lakes, and animal concentration spots. It is the policy of Jackson County to manage these types of resources and protect their individual exceptional features.

### 530.1 AREAS HIGH IN LOCALLY, REGIONALLY, OR NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

530.1.1 WISCONSIN STATE NATURAL AREAS: Jackson County manages a variety of property designations including Wisconsin State Natural Areas (SNA). The SNA system represents the wealth and variety of Wisconsin's native landscape. They contain outstanding examples of native biotic communities and are often the last refuges in the state for rare and endangered plant and animal species. The Wisconsin SNA program works with counties to further recognize outstanding native biotic communities that Jackson County is presently managing as exceptional areas. SNA's are unique in that they can exist as stand alone properties or be designated within the boundaries of another property type. Jackson County maintains its land ownership, management and decision-making authority, but with cooperative recognition of these sites the county can enhance its ability to provide a broader range of opportunities for the citizens.

DNR State Natural Areas staff will work cooperatively with the County Forest by

coordinating educational, monitoring, and research activities. Assistance on management projects can provide the county with more resources to accomplish necessary management. Management will protect the unique character of the area. The importance of the Wisconsin State Natural Areas has been recognized on the County Forest by cooperating with the Department staff in designating and managing 3,850 acres of the County forest for 7 SNA sites.

530.1.2 BAUER-BROCKWAY BARRENS (170acres): This site is a blend of sand prairie and barrens on nearly level terrain and sandy soils characteristic of Glacial Lake Wisconsin. Excellent plant species composition and exceptional insect diversity led to recognition of this site. The site is also an important location for the recovery of the Karner Blue butterfly. This location has received much management attention in the past ten years and will continue to receive management in the future. Many agencies and volunteers have worked at the site. Bring together multiple partners has allowed the county to manage more effectively with better financial efficiency than it would have been able to achieve alone. The site will continue to be given special recognition as a Wisconsin State Natural Area. Specific management practices and commitments by Jackson County are detailed in the Species and Habitat Conservation Plan (SHCP) and Wildlife Management Agreement found in Chapter 901.1.

350.1.3 DEER ISLAND/NORTH FLOATER: Three units covering approximately 2,000 acres is best opportunity for recognizing a large block of wet forest at the core of the Central Sand Plains. White pine and red maple dominate narrow bands at the wetlands upland interface. This community is only found in the Central Sand Plains and harbors several rare plant species. Up slope, the forest become oak dominated and will be managed as forest production. The wetter portion has tamarack, black spruce and white pine, which eventually thins to the point of becoming a bog birch and open poor fen. These forests provide habitat for many boreal species well south of their normal range including Hermit Thrush, Blue-headed Vireo, and Golden-crowned Kinglet. Rare Wisconsin species – Golden-winged Warbler, Canada Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, and

Jutta Arctic Butterfly seem to thrive at this site. These types of natural communities have received little recognition for their ecological reference attributes in the past. These three units would be mostly managed passively except to control insect pest, invasive species, or fire. A map of the site is found in Chapter 901.2.

530.1.4 BEAR BLUFF WETLANDS: Five units covering approximately 300 acres have native communities similar to Deer Island/North Floater. These five blocks of county forest land are imbedded in a much larger forest of tamarack, black spruce and white near Bear Bluff Station. The remaining part of the forest is in private ownership. Although the composition and rare species component is similar to Deer Island/North Floater, the native communities are so rare in the central part of the state that two reference areas are justified. These types of natural communities have received little recognition for their ecological reference attributes in the past. Management would be mostly passively except to control insect pest, invasive species, or fire. A map of the site is found in Chapter 901.3.

530.1.5 GLENN CREEK BARRENS: Two units covering approximately 140 acres constitute this site. The level sandy uplands along Glenn Creek just east of the confluence with Robinson Creek are superb pine barrens. The jack pine was thinned via budworm outbreak and the ground layer responded to have vigorous growth of barrens ground layer species. Karner Blue Butterfly is common as well as a state-threatened plant species. This type of natural community has received recognition at Bauer-Brockway Barrens for its ecological reference attributes in the past. This natural community is so rare nation wide that another recognition is justified. Management would include regeneration harvests and small scale spots applications of fire to rejuvenate the ground layer species. A map of the site is found in Chapter 901.4.

530.1.6 BROCKWAY PONDS: Five ponds encompassing the wetlands below the high water mark and covering approximately 50 acres constitute this site. These ponds have dramatically fluctuating water levels and thus shoreline vegetation. Full to the high water one year can change to nearly dry the next. The lakes have no fishery, but due to the

water fluctuation, they harbor several plants that can compete only under these conditions. Many of these species have their main range along the Atlantic Ocean and are referred to as Coastal disjuncts. These coastal plain marshes are found primarily in Marquette and Waushara counties, making this outlier in Jackson County especially significant. This natural community is so rare nation wide that additional recognition is justified. Management would be passive with special emphasis in keeping motorized vehicles off the pond shores during low water cycles. A map of the site is found in Chapter 901.5.

530.1.7 SPAULDING FEN: Sedge fens are common in the central sand plains, however, nearly every one has been ecologically modified through ditching, roading, mowing, or direct conversion to agricultural beds. Spaulding Fen is one of the least modified of the large fens, although much mowing has occurred. Patches with the fen have maintained their ecological integrity. Rare species such as Henslow's Sparrow, LeConte's Sparrow, American Bittern, and Sharp-tailed Grouse have nested on the fen. In addition to the ecological values, the site has exceptional values as a geological interpretation site, because the outlet for Glacial Lake Wisconsin flowed west through Spaulding Fen to the Black River. This natural community is the best remaining sedge fen in the Jackson County Forest and is recognized for its ecological and geological values. Management would be mostly passively except to control insect pest, invasive species, or fire. A map of the site is found in Chapter 901.6.

530.1.8 MILLSTON SAND BARRENS: An area of approximately 400 acres near the interstate highway with an extensive trail system encompasses this site. An abundant population of Karner Blue Butterfly is found at the site. The area was burned in a wildfire in 1977 and the resulting oak barrens have become more shaded with time. The ground layer is very diverse and is still thriving in the steep slopes of the mounds. After more than 25 years, many oak are less than 30 feet high and on the steep slopes most of the trees are less than 10 feet high. Many sand barrens plants and insect occur on the site. Management will consist of thinning the multi-trunked oaks, occasional fire management after the thinning has occurred and removal of invasive species. Oak Barrens are one of

the rarest natural communities in the nation and the county recognizes this site for ecological values and rare species habitat. A map of the site is found in Chapter 901.7.

## 530.2 EXCEPTIONAL RESOURCES

### 530.2.1 East Fork Ruffed Grouse/Woodcock Management Area

County Forest management compartments 3, 24, 25 and 26 are designated as a ruffed grouse and woodcock management area. The area covers 2,809 acres and lies in City Point Township along the Clark County line, east of Pray Road and north of Knutes Road. The area was established in cooperation with the Ruffed Grouse Society. Chapter 901.8 shows the location of this area.

Management of the vegetation in this unit will promote aspen and oak forest types. The objectives are as follows.

1. Maintain and expand the aspen and oak acreage.
2. Establish timber harvest areas of relatively small size (20 to 40 acres), and with irregular boundaries to maximize the creation of forest edge.
3. Discourage encroachment of conifer species into aspen and oak types.
4. Create and maintain structural and age class diversity in the aspen and oak types.

Special funding for developing access roads and for establishing timber sales will be sought through grants from the DNR, Ruffed Grouse Society and other special interest groups.

Roads will be seeded to appropriate wildlife food and will be gated to discourage entry by private vehicles. This will protect the access roads for management purposes and will provide a quality hunting experience without vehicular disturbances.

### 530.2.2 Forest Wetlands

The sedge meadow wetlands of Central Wisconsin are a dwindling resource, primarily because of drainage, flooding, and agricultural development. These

wetlands serve an extremely valuable function as natural “sponges” for collection and storage of water. The wetlands also contain an immense variety of unique fauna and flora, some of which are threatened or endangered. Many of these wetlands also serve as important water reserves for the cranberry industry. This industry is a major part of the County’s economy.

The County owns 20,000 acres of non-forest and spruce/tamarack bog wetlands within the County Forest boundaries. Approximately 2,000 acres of these wetlands are managed as commercial sphagnum moss marshes. Another 2,000 acres are flooded under easements to cranberry growers as water impoundments for their commercial operations.

On the remaining undeveloped wetlands, Jackson County will apply the following policy.

1. New impoundments or flooding of wetlands, open marshes, or alder, spruce or tamarack swamps, will be discouraged.
2. The County will avoid road construction or other activities on or across open marshes whenever possible. When those activities are necessary, they will be installed or conducted in a manner which minimizes impact on the wetland complex.
3. The County may periodically burn wetlands to simulate natural processes which have maintained these ecosystems in the past.

530.2.3 Additional sites are known that contain rare species habitat or native communities that the county may consider for special management.

**SKINK HILL:** This 160-acre site contains central pine-oak forest and a good population of the five-lined skink. Management would keep the trees thinned to maintain habitat. A map of this site is found in Chapter 901.9.

**BIG CUT PINES:** this site contains approximately 30 acres of natural origin pine. Management would regenerate these pines when they are biologically mature and attempt regeneration of the stand without planting. A map of this site is found in

Chapter 902.1.

### 530.3 RARE, THREATENED, OR ENDANGERED ECOSYSTEMS

#### 530.3.1 Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery Areas

In cooperation with the State of Wisconsin and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson County will maintain approximately 170 acres of barrens habitat in Section 16, Township 21 North, Range 3 West in Brockway Township. The state natural area is referred to as the Bauer Brockway Barrens. Refer to Chapter 530.1.2

#### 530.3.2 Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species

As part of, and in addition to, the unique natural communities listed in Chapter 530.3, rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species exist in the Jackson County Forest. A complete species list and their Wisconsin status can be found in Chapter 900.7

### 530.4 CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES

#### McKenna Logging Town Site:

In 1888, the Williams and Salsich logging company established a sawmill in section 21, Knapp Township. According to Logging Dilemma in the Big Swamp (Eswein, 1995), the town was built to house workers and provide services for the local logging community. It was named McKenna in honor of W.C. McKenna, superintendent of the Wisconsin Valley Division of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company. The town of about 400 people existed for six years. In 1894, after lands belonging to the company were logged off, the mill was dismantled and moved to Star Lake in Vilas County. The town withered and disappeared shortly thereafter. Today, the McKenna site is one of the best-preserved logging towns in the County. Foundations of all major mill buildings, railroad grades, businesses and homes and even the main street of the town are still identifiable. Because of McKenna's historic significance forest management activities will be altered to preserve these foundations. The site lies in the

S1/2SE1/4, Section 21 the N1/2NE1/4 Section 28, Township 21 North, Range 1 West, Knapp Township. These lands will not be considered for sale, trade, easement, access or flowage permits.

#### 530.5 IMPORTANT BIRD AREA

The Important Bird Areas (IBA) program is a global initiative that links local and state conservation efforts to national and international efforts to protect essential habitat for all birds. The IBA program is a voluntary, cooperative initiative that aims to identify and protect those sites that are most important to birds in any stage of their life cycle. These sites are considered to be exceptionally significant for bird conservation.

Jackson County Forest contains one IBA. The Bear Bluff Peatlands site has many species that are at the southernmost part of their range. Boreal species such as Canada Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, LeConte's Sparrow, and Northern Saw-whet Owl thrive in these peatlands. Other species that require more open space such as Sharp-tailed Grouse, Northern Harrier, Short-eared Owl, and Golden Eagle are hanging on in this habitat. Two species (Whooping Crane and Trumpeter Swan) that have ongoing intensive restoration efforts are found in this area. Furthermore, some species that are of exceptional conservation concern, such as Golden-winged Warbler and Henslow's Sparrow are found in high numbers. The combined natural values of these species makes the habitat that this site provides one of the most important bird areas in the state.

The IBA encompasses Jackson County land from Martins Marsh just south of Hwy 54 to City Point, then south along the county line. The southern boundary is County Highway HH to Ball Bluff, then north to McKenna Creek to Potters Flowage. Jackson County voluntarily recognizes this IBA. Timber management and recreation opportunities will continue, although some activities may be voluntarily modified to accommodate nesting birds or enhance bird habitat. Any changes in management direction would be approved by the Jackson County Forestry Department with concurrence by the Forestry Committee. An example may be a change in the maximum size of clear cuts to provide for better Sharp-

tailed Grouse habitat. Jackson County may seek advice from bird habitat experts. This recognition does not affect any private land, although private landowners may choose to voluntarily participate in the IBA program. A map of the area is found in Chapter 902.2.

#### 530.6 LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT SITES

Natural Promontories:

The County Forest landscape is dominated by several natural sandstone mounds and ridges. These promontories are Saddle Mound and Sugar Loaf Mound in City Point Township, Oak Ridge in Manchester Township, Knapp Mound, Ball Mound and the Winkler Hills in Knapp Township, and Bear Bluff in Bear Bluff Township. The County owns parts or all of these natural features.

Each one of these is a well known landmark. Saddle Mound has historical significance as a unique sandstone quarry that operated on the peak of the mound in the early 1900's. The steep slopes of these mounds and ridges support micro-climates and small plant communities that are not found on the adjacent flat lands, suggesting an ecosystem "island" effect dating back to the cooler climates of the immediate post-glacial period.

Saddle Mound, Oak Ridge, and Knapp Mound are DNR forest protection fire tower-sites. Access roads and trails have been developed and are maintained by the DNR for their towers.

To preserve and protect the ridges and mounds listed above Jackson County will implement the following policy.

1. Additional access roads will not be developed to these sites.
2. Appropriate measures will be taken to repair and control erosion on existing roads and trails.
3. Existing vehicular roads will be gated and posted to reduce erosion.
4. Timber harvesting activities will not be conducted on slopes above the following contour lines delineated on United States Geological Service

quadrangle maps. Exceptions would include wildfire, diseases, insect infestation or reestablishment of habitat such as goat prairie or savanna. Such activities will be implemented with minimum ecological disturbance.

<b>Name of Feature</b>	<b>Contour Line</b>	<b>Approximate Acres</b>
Saddle Mound	1125'	200
Sugar Loaf Mound	1100'	40
Oak Ridge	1050'	200
Knapp Mound	1150'	160
Winkler Hills	1125'	200
Ball Mound	1075'	80
Bear Bluff	1025'	80
Hoodoo Rocks	900'	10

5. The County will not consider these areas for trade or sale.

A map showing the location of the mounds and ridges is included in Chapter 902.3.