

FOREST COUNTY  
15 YEAR COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN  
AMENDMENTS MAY 5, 2015

Page 300-7            Paragraph 330

The following ordinances will be considered in all planning. Refer to Chapter 900 – Appendix for full text of these ordinances.

1. Forestry ordinance
2. Park ordinance
3. Zoning ordinance
4. Floodplain-Shore land Zoning ordinance
5. Snowmobile ordinance
6. Non-metallic Mining ordinance
7. ATV ordinance
8. MRA Park ordinance

Page 500-18            Paragraph 510.2

1. Permits or use agreements for use of the County Forest may be issued by the Committee for recreational purposes.
2. No permits for sale of malt or intoxicating beverages will be issued on the County Forest.
3. Other types of special use permits are found in Section 515.
4. Permits will not be issued for cabin sites or permanent structures on the forest.
5. Organized events or special uses, other than informal recreation (see Sec. 510.4) require specific permission from the Committee in advance of the event including user fees and insurance coverage for the event.

Page 500-22            Paragraph 510.6.1

The Forest County Forest is a multiple use forest. Motorized travel on trails can be a legitimate use of this forest provided that these trails are designed and maintained in a manner that minimizes damage to the environment and reduces user conflict. Trail use and development must be compatible and sustainable with the characteristics of the landscape. Trail use must be consistent with

Statute 28.11, County policy as well as SFI and FSC Forest Certification. It shall be the policy of The Forestry Committee will consider opportunities for the following motorized trail use:

1. Snowmobiles
2. All-terrain vehicles (ATV's) (ATV's and UTV's)
3. MRA Park - A motorized recreation area is a tract of public or private land planned and managed for one or more recreational uses. OHV enthusiasts use a diverse range of vehicle types in search for a satisfying recreational experience including: motorcycle, ATV, UTV, four-wheel drive, buggy/sand rail and snowmobile.

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

Page 500-22          Paragraph 510.6.2

The Forest County Forest is a multiple-use forest. 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. It shall be the policy of the Committee to consider opportunities for the following non-motorized trail use:

1. Ski trails
2. Hiking trails
3. Horse trails
4. Biking trails
5. Canoe routes
6. Snowshoe trails
7. Hunter Walking trails
8. Other trails

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

Page 700-4 Paragraph 710

Forest County Forest staff will oversee the construction and maintenance of all roads within the County Forest. These roads may be constructed and maintained by the County/private contractors working under contract / the direction of the county / other public resources agencies / cooperative agreement with non-profit organizations. The specifications for road construction and maintenance will vary with the frequency, duration, and planned use of each road. Additional roads may be developed on newly acquired county forest land for possible use as an MRA Park. These roads must be developed in accordance with the Town Road Gas Tax Program and/or the County Forest Road Aid Program to ensure revenue is available for future road maintenance.

New road establishment should consider information identifying areas with sensitive soils or severe slopes that have the potential for adverse water quality impacts from land management practices. County staff can work with local DNR water resources staff to ensure compliance with water regulation laws, State law and SFI and FSC Certification.

Page 700-5 Paragraph 710.1

These roads are the primary roads accessing the County Forest. They are designed, constructed, and maintained for year-round use. These roads serve essential access corridors for multiple use management. Some of these roads are graveled and routinely graded. Vehicle use may be restricted at various times of the year to minimize physical damage to the road or to accommodate a groomed snowmobile trail. These permanent primary forest roads are town roads funded by State Gas Tax Revenue, maintained by the town and under the town's legal jurisdiction. These roads are located in the Towns of Lincoln, Crandon and Nashville.

Page 700-5 Paragraph 710.2

These roads often serve a variety of uses including forest management, fire protection, access and recreation. These roads are maintained as part of a permanent road system but are often narrower than permanent primary roads and are built and maintained to a lower standards or are not improved at all. Use of these roads are approved for all non-motorized public uses. Motorized use of these roads include forest management, fire protection and state funded

snowmobile and ATV trail use only. Some of these roads are designed for use only when the ground is frozen or firm.

Some roads in this category are located in areas on the Forest where motor vehicle use is limited or restricted. In these instances, the roads will be blocked, gated or bermed and/or signed as restricted to prevent environmental damage.

Page 700-6

Paragraph 720

This trail network provides access for many recreational opportunities on the Forest. An important role of the Forest is to provide sustainable recreational trails that do not cause long-term natural resource damage, and that are compatible with other uses. Management activities adjacent to recreational trails will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Where deemed necessary, management alterations will be made to accommodate the recreational use. The committee has the authority to open, close or relocate trails. Managing entity will have authority to open or close trails on a day-to-day basis if necessary and in compliance with a Park Plan and Department Policy. All recreational trails fall under the Permanent Secondary Road category.

All of the recreational uses of the Forest have corresponding maps in Chapter 900-Appendix.

Page 700-6

Paragraph 720.1

Requests for recreational trails will be reviewed by the Committee. Groups requesting specific trail development on newly acquired land must present a plan for the long term funding and maintenance of proposed trails. Organized trail users and group-sponsored activities must protect Forest County with a minimum of \$300,000 liability insurance coverage and provide a certificate of insurance as proof of coverage.

Construction of any recreational trail in which the activity would increase the erosion potential of one acre or more of land is subject to state and federal storm water runoff requirements (NR216, Wis. Adm. Code and S. 283.33, Wis. Stats). Construction or development for silvicultural purposes is presently exempt from these requirements. Recreational trail development in Forest County that meets these parameters will employ best management practices for water quality (PUB-

FR-093-95) to mitigate any adverse impacts. For projects requiring a storm water permit, an erosion control plan will be prepared for each project depicting the location of the project and surrounding wetlands and what erosion control measures will be employed. All permits and plans will be developed by and paid for by the group requesting development.

730            Page 9            Motorized Recreational Trails

The use of motorized vehicles on the Forest continues to increase. The design, maneuverability, and power of the vehicles have improved. This has led to greater use; increased trail use conflicts, unnecessary environmental damage, and increased expenses for trail maintenance. Additional regulation on these types of recreational vehicles is needed to protect the Forest and limit adverse impacts on non-motorized uses.

730.3            Page 11

MOTORIZED RECREATION AREA  
Plan Synopsis

Forest County government is proposing to acquire land for the development of a Motorized Recreation Area (MRA) in Forest County.

Site design is a critical element of the MRA. The MRA will be designed in a way that is user friendly for all visitors, while at the same time limiting environmental impact and providing for maximizing timber production. Site design will consider on-site facilities, engineering, environmental impacts and visitor safety. The site design will use established best management practices to make the MRA safe and enjoyable for visitors.

**Facilities**

The MRA will offer facilities that will enhance the visitor's trip. The facilities will be designed to focus on the visitor's convenience.

Trails and Other Riding Activities

The MRA will provide a wide variety of trails and riding activities that appeal to beginners, intermediate and expert OHV users. Trails and riding areas will be developed to provide maximum visitor enjoyment while allowing for timber growth, management and protecting the environment.

**Engineering**

To complete the site design for the MRA an experienced motorized recreation area engineer(s) will be contracted. The MRA will also consult with an environmental engineer to ensure that the site design protects the local environment. The MRA will abide by state and federal standards and be proactive in its environmental stewardship with all environmental impacts and matters involving noise and dust.

The facility will be compliant with all county, state and federal regulations.