

AGENDA

County Of Eau Claire
Committee On Parks & Forest
Tuesday, February 14, 2012 – 5:00 p.m.
Agriculture & Resource Center (front meeting room)
227 1st Street West, Altoona WI

Members note: Please call either the committee chair or the director if you will not be able to attend the meeting.

1. Confirmation of meeting notice
2. Approval of minutes from January 24, 2012 meeting
3. Public Input
4. Correspondence
5. Staff and committee reports
6. Coon Fork Lake Campground Barrier-Free campsite policy change – Change policy to allow the sale of non-reserved barrier-free sites after the last electrical site is sold/Discussion-Action
7. Tree stand policy on the Eau Claire County Forest/Discussion-Action
8. Trail camera policy on the Eau Claire County Forest/Discussion-Action
9. Off-season camping on the county forest/Discussion-Action
10. Utilization of Highway Department engineers for Lake Altoona Boat Landing renovation/Discussion-Action
11. Committee education – Online campground reservation system demonstration/Discussion
12. Advisory Committee input and assignments/Discussion
13. Future and pending items: next meeting date February 28, 2012

PLEASE NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities through sign language, interpreters or other auxiliary aids. For additional information or to request the service, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 839-4710, (FAX) 839-1669 or 839-4735, tty: use Relay (711) or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703.

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
PARKS & FOREST COMMITTEE
Date and Time

Members note: Please call either the committee chair or the director if you will not be able to attend the meeting.

SYNOPSIS

1. Self-explanatory
2. Minutes from the January 24, 2012 meeting are enclosed for your review.
3. Self-explanatory
4. Self-explanatory
5. Nothing to report at this time.
6. Coon Fork Lake Campground Policy Review – Barrier-free campsite policy change – We would like to start selling the unreserved barrier-free sites when all of the electrical sites are sold, not when all of the sites are sold. The rest of the policy will not be changed.
7. Tree stand policy – Enclosed you will find the results of a survey done in December 2011 regarding what other counties are doing.
8. Trail camera policy – We currently do not have any restrictions on trail camera use on the county forest. They are not allowed on DNR property at this time.
9. Off-season camping on the county forest – Currently the public can camp on the county forest from September 16 to April 30 for 14 consecutive days without a fee.
10. Utilization of Highway Department engineers for Lake Altoona boat landing renovation – This item is from last meeting. Pat will bring in the results of a meeting with Mr. McCarty and the Highway Commission.
11. Committee Education – Demonstration of our new online camping reservation system by Bobbi Barone, Office Associate. The system is up and running.
12. Self-explanatory
13. Self-explanatory

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY
COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND FOREST

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012, 5:00 p.m.
Agriculture & Resource Center (front meeting room)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Patrick LaVelle, Paul Lokken, Tami Schraufnagel and Bruce Willett
MEMBERS ABSENT: Will Fantle
OTHERS PRESENT: Jed Kaurich, Augusta DNR Fire Warden, and Brooke Ludwig, WDNR Forester
STAFF PRESENT: Mike Torud

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patrick LaVelle at 5:02 p.m.

1. Confirmation of meeting notice – Confirmation notice was confirmed.
2. Approval of minutes from January 10, 2012 meeting – Motion by Bruce to approve the minutes as distributed; motion carried 3-0.
3. Public Input - None
4. Correspondence – Mike distributed a report on Sand Mining in Wisconsin from the DNR. Additional copies may be downloaded if needed.
5. Staff and committee reports – Mike told the committee that the Powder Keg Snowshoe and Snow Bike race will be held this Saturday, January 28, at Lowes Creek Park. He also informed the committee that the Free Ski Day at Tower Ridge will be January 29. Ski lessons will be 1:30-3:30 and not 6-7:30 p.m. as previously advertised. The camping reservation system is making slow progress but is not up and running as of today. Tami told the committee that the Land Conservation Division is working on a trout stream improvement project on Otter Creek and Lowes Creek. Paul inquired about upcoming Hunter Safety class.
6. Approval of Emergency Fire Wardens – Jed Kaurich, Forester-Ranger from the Augusta Ranger Station presented the list of emergency warden that he would like the committee to approve. He explained that the appointment will only be until June 30, 2012. After that date there will only be three locations where a fire permit can be picked up in person in Eau Claire County: Seymour Town Hall, Woodland Store, and Cooperative Store in Fairchild. Permits will be available online or by phone also. Motion by Paul to approve the list of Emergency Fire Wardens; motion carried 4-0.
7. 2011 Fire Season Report – Jed Kaurich gave a review of the 2011 State and Eau Claire County Fire Season. As in the past, debris burning continues to be the number one cause for wildfire in the county and the state.
8. Coon Fork Lake Campground Policy Review

- A. Minimum day reservation policy from 2 to 3 days – Mike explained that staff feel more comfortable changing the two day to three day minimum time period for making a camping reservation. This will mean that a reservation must be made by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday evening for a Friday arrival. Motion by Bruce to change the minimum time period from two days to three days; motion carried 4-0.
 - B. Ranger Residency requirements – Mike informed the committee that many area counties have stopped requiring park management staff to live in their campgrounds. Captain Bresina of the Eau Claire County Sheriff Department told Mike that they are not able to provide any additional assistance if our ranger is not living in the campground. Mike is concerned that our reputation at Coon Fork is based on customer service and supervision of campers. The consensus of the committee was to not make any changes to our current policy but allow the director to be as flexible as possible.
 - C. Barrier-free campsite policy change – Mike suggested that we keep our current policy regarding barrier-free sites but start selling them when our electric sites are all sold rather than waiting until ALL of the sites are sold. This item is to be brought back to the February 14 meeting for discussion/approval.
 - D. Creation of Coon Fork campground host policy – Mike pointed out the pros and cons for a campground host program. The committee felt that while the host program works well at Harstad Park campground we do not wish to proceed with a host program at Coon Fork Lake Park campground at this time.
9. Utilization of Highway Department engineers for Lake Altoona boat landing renovation – Pat told the committee the Mr. McCarty is going to schedule a meeting on this issue. This item will be discussed at the February 14 meeting.
10. Committee education – Deferred to the February 14 meeting.
11. Future and pending items – No action taken.

Motion by Tami to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0 and the meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

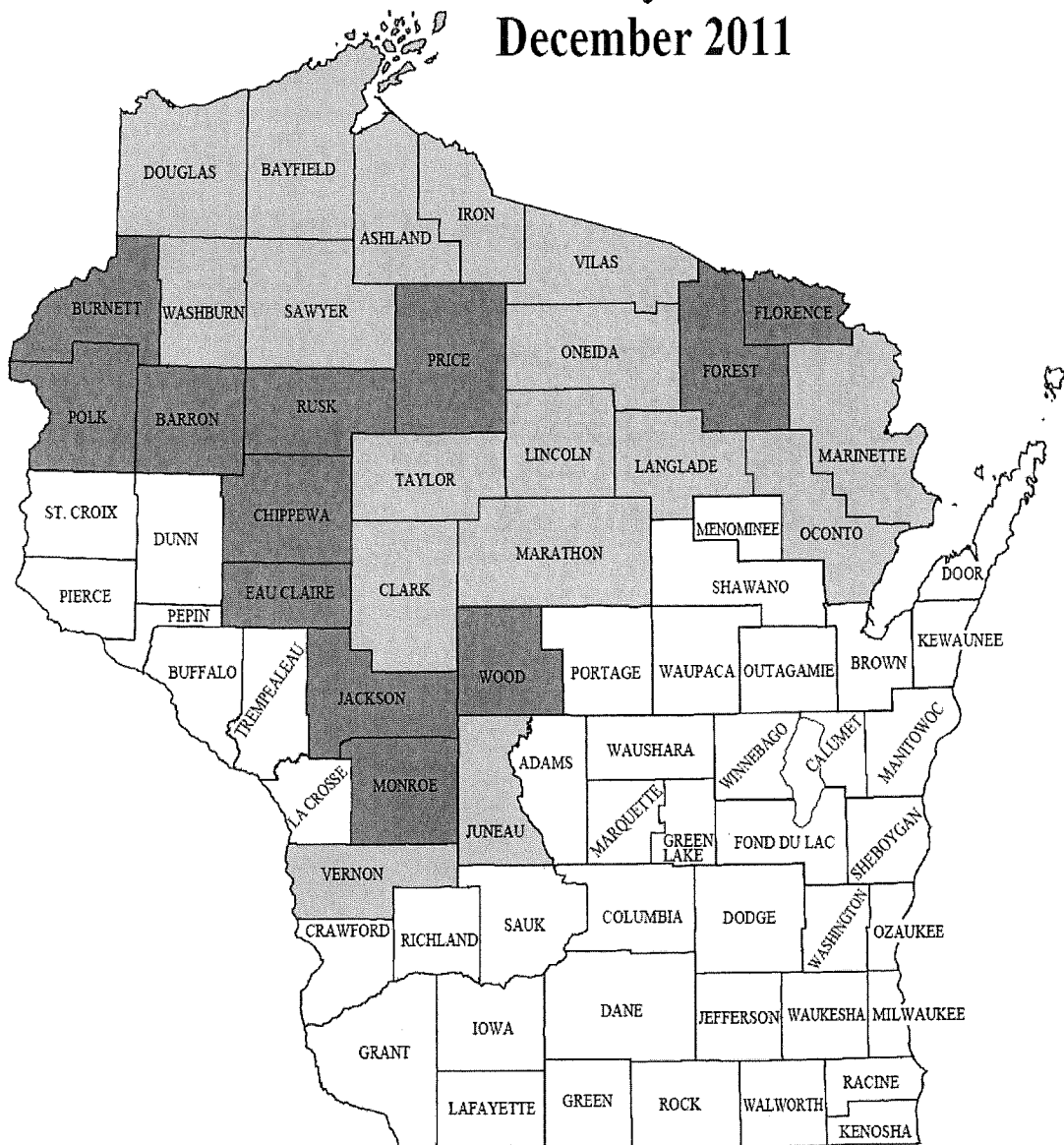
Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Torud
Committee Clerk

MT: rb

Tree Stands On County Forest Land

December 2011



- Tree stands may be left overnight on County Forest Land (17 counties)
- Tree stands may not be left overnight on County Forest Land (12 counties)
- No County Forest Land

Tree Stand Use on County Forest Land
December, 2011 survey of Wisconsin County Forest Association

County	Tree stands allowed overnight?	Regulations
29 County Forests	Yes/No 17/12	
Ashland	Yes	Allowed Labor Day wk. through the last weekend of bow season. Must have a name and phone number, no damage to vegetation or ATV use is allowed.
Barron	No	510.3.1 Temporary hunting stands are permissible but must be removed from the forest when not in use. In addition, all elevated stands must be removed at days end. The use of nails, lag screws, screw steps, or other damaging devices is not permitted.
Bayfield	Yes	Can remain in place from Sept 1 –Dec 31.
Burnett	No	No permanent stands, portable stands need to be taken down nightly.
Chippewa	No	Consistent w/DNR lands, revisions are being considered.
Clark	Yes	Allowed beginning September 1 st and must be completely removed by January 7 th of the following year. No permanent stands are allowed, although we do allow commercially manufactured screw in tree steps. We will be revising our tree stand ordinance in the near future. At that time I expect tree steps will no longer be allowed.
Douglas	Yes	No permanent stands permitted. No damage to the tree permitted (no screw in type devices). Stands with excessive cut shooting lanes are not permitted. Must have owner's name or WDNR Customer ID Number displayed. Allowed from April 1st to May 31st (apparently some folks like to turkey hunt from tree stands?) and September 1st to January 31st (to span all bear and deer seasons).
Eau Claire	No	Stands must be removed at the end of each day.
Florence	No	Portable stands only and have to be removed each night. No damage to trees.
Forest	No	Portable stands may not damage trees
Iron	Yes	SECTION 12-1-5 (e) – Recreational Use; must display name and address, no objects screwed into tree, during the time period of September 1 through December 31 tree stands may be left in place without daily removal.
Jackson	No	Hunters are reminded that tree stands are legal provided that they are not damaging to the tree (tree stand steps are prohibited) and that the stands are completely removed from the forest at the close of hunting hours each day.
Juneau	Yes	When big game season is open and no tree damage allowed.
Langlade	Yes	Allowed on Sept 1 and must be removed no later than one week following the close of the late archery deer season. The stands used can not damage the tree in any manner. We do not allow screw in steps.
Lincoln	Yes	Portable stands allowed from Sept. 1 to Jan 7 of the following year. Stands must have the owners name, address and phone number on it and they cannot damage trees. No screws, nails, screw steps, etc.

Marathon	Yes (but must be removed from tree)	Portable stands allowed from the start of bow season through the last day of hunting in January. The stands must not cause any permanent damage and must be completely removed from the tree each day. They may be chained or locked to the base of the tree. The stands must have the name, address and phone number of the owner affixed to the stand.
Marinette	Yes	Ordinance 16.09(2)(e) No person shall construct, occupy or use any elevated scaffold or other elevated device on County lands; except portable tree stands may be used, if no damage results to trees in which they are placed and any portable tree stand is not in place for more than three consecutive weeks. All portable tree stands must have the owner's name and address attached in such manner as to be easily read. Department staff may seize portable stands in violation of this ordinance.
Monroe	No	Construction of tree stands and other devices. It shall be unlawful for any person to erect or cause to be erected any permanent devices or platforms in or on any tree or trees, living or dead, or on the ground or to drive any nails, bolts, or rods into any tree, living or dead, on land owned by the county. These devices are commonly known as tree stands. (b)The use of removable devices that cause no damage to the tree may be used provided that such devices are removed at the end of each day of use.
Oconto	Yes	New this year, August 24, 2011 - Trial Elevated Tree Stand Policy Oconto County will allow elevated tree stands on the Oconto County Forest to remain up (overnight and/or unoccupied) from September 1, 2011 to January 1, 2012. Stands must have owner's name and owner's Wisconsin DNR customer ID number attached in a manner that is visible and legible to a person on the ground. All other parts of Oconto County Code of Ordinance 9.712 Hunting Scaffolds, Ground Blinds, and Cutting Lanes will be enforced.
Oneida	Yes	ELEVATED PLATFORMS AND PORTABLE TREE STANDS. (Am. #65-2003; #107-2005) Portable tree stands may be used on Oneida County Forest land providing that they do not damage trees, and they have the owner's name, address, and telephone number clearly printed on or attached to the stand. Portable tree stands can be placed on Oneida County Forest land not more than 1 week prior to the opening day of Wisconsin's first big game hunting season, and must be completely removed no later than 1 week after the closing date of Wisconsin's last deer season the following year.
Polk	No	Excerpt from Polk County Board Resolution 88-91: "The construction, occupation or use of any elevated device is prohibited on any county owned land except that portable tree stands may be used provided they are completely removed each day at the close of hunting hours and provided such devices do no damage to trees in which they are placed."
Price	No	Must be removed daily
Rusk	No	No tree stands overnite and no damage to trees in the Rusk County Forest.

Sawyer	Yes	Can be placed September 1 and left up until the end of bow season in January provided they cause no damage to trees, no tree steps etc.
Taylor	Yes	Taylor County allows stands to remain up through the season. Can't do damage to the tree, no screw ins or nails.
Vernon	Yes	46.32 TREE STANDS - No person shall construct, cause to be constructed, use or occupy any permanent elevated scaffold or other permanent elevated device, commonly referred to as a tree stand, on any lands owned or under the control of the County. Portable tree stands may be used, provided that they are erected after September 1 and completely removed no later than January 1 of the following year, such portable tree stands are not in any manner bolted, nailed or screwed to the tree and such portable tree stands cause no permanent damage to the trees in which they are placed. The use of nails, screws, spikes or other devices to aid in climbing a tree is prohibited. The cutting of shooting lanes is prohibited.
Vilas	Yes	Tree stands for hunting are permitted; however, stands must be commercially available, factory manufactured portable stands or elevated platform for hunting purposes and may only be erected during the period from start of deer archery season through December 31st and for no more than eleven (11) consecutive days. Climbing devices to access the portable stand or elevated platform shall be of the ladder type or steps which are attached to the tree with binding straps or chains. Penetration of any part of the tree is strictly prohibited. Each licensed hunter shall be limited to one portable tree stand or platform. Portable tree stands and elevated platforms shall have the owner=s name, address, and phone number permanently attached to the climbing device at four feet above ground level. No screws, nails, spikes, or anything that pierces the tree may be used. Ground blinds may be constructed out of natural materials only.
Washburn	Yes	Washburn County revised the ordinance about 4 years ago. It used to require that stands be removed at the end of hunting hours each day (stand could not damage tree). Our new ordinance allows 1 stand per person to be allowed overnight for no more than 9 consecutive days. Any stand left overnight must be tagged with their name and address, or DNR customer ID number. Stands must be either a ladder type, self climbing, or lock on. Revising the ordinance has resulted in less illegal ATV activity since they no longer have to transport their stands each day.
Wood	No	No damage to trees, no cutting of shooting lanes, no screw in steps