

NOTE: This is a summary document developed by the University of Minnesota's Boreal Forest and Community Resilience Project to inform an update to the Minnesota Forest Resources Council's Northeast Landscape Plan.

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Document Title	Source	Date	URL or Address
Carlton County Tax Forfeited Land Management Plan	Carlton County Board	2004	http://www.co.carlton.mn.us/Departments/Land/

DEPARTMENT MISSION

The mission of the Carlton County Land Department is to *professionally manage the County's forest land base in accord with Minnesota Statutes 282 and to improve the quality and value of the County's forest land resources*. The plan supports this mission through issue identification, objectives, initiatives, strategic actions, and contextual information).

In general terms, this updated plan affirms the County's intent to retain and actively manage its tax-forfeited lands as a valuable, renewable resource meeting a variety of economic, social, and ecological values (pg i).

ISSUES (Principles)

1. Strategic Management
2. Department Administration
3. Land Administration
4. Habitat
5. Forest Roads
6. Recreation
7. Scientific, Educational and Cultural Resources
8. Peat & Non-Timber Resources
9. Timber Management

GOALS (Goals and Principles) (# links to issue)

1. Maintain a natural resource base which generates sustained timber yields as determined by the quality of the land, establishes a diversity of habitats and ecosystems appropriate to the region, and encourages multiple use within the framework of a forest ecosystem management approach that recognizes the potential and limitations of the County resource as one part of a larger resource and management perspective (1).
2. Possess a professional, competent and adequately funded department overseeing the administration and management of tax-forfeited and other designated lands under County jurisdiction (2).
3. Promote a greater sense of stewardship among the general public towards the natural resources within the county and to foster a sound understanding of the management goals and activities of the Land Department (2).

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4. Develop and maintain a comprehensive, appropriately organized, easily understood, and coordinated system for managing and administering tax-forfeited and other designated lands under County jurisdiction (3).
5. Recognize the responsibility to maintain a diversity of distinct ecosystems and habitats which are appropriate to the region and which are within the capability of the County resource to satisfactorily and viably sustain (4).
6. Provide access to County managed lands appropriately to protect, manage, and utilize forest resources for all programs and multiple uses (5).
7. Provide quality opportunities for dispersed recreation (e.g., trails, hunting, wildlife watching) (6).
8. Protect and preserve all features that have significant scientific, cultural, or educational value (7).
9. Understand the economic potential of its non-timber resources and, as ecological and market conditions allow, realize that potential (8).
10. Produce and make available a viable mix of merchantable timber species at sustainable levels within limits set by sound silvicultural and ecological practices (9).

STRATEGIES (Initiatives or Strategic Actions) (# links to goal)

1. Aspen: Manage this resource with three primary objectives in mind: retain amount of ac. on lands that can be managed and harvested; balance age class distrib. of the resource so as to ensure a relatively sustained, even yield over time; and maintain mix of tree species with the general aspen cover type (1).
2. Nemadji River Basin: Experiment with a variety of management approaches on these lands to determine which are best for securing quality stands and insuring vigorous regeneration of desired species (1).
3. Wildlife Management Areas: While most management will be determined by ecological potential of the landscape and cover type-specific silvicultural practices, on designated wildlife management areas habitat and wildlife values will take precedence (1).
4. Staff Transition: Knowledge of retiring long-term employees is captured, preferably directly as part of the inventory's electronic database, so it is readily accessible to future foresters (1).
5. Institute enhanced land administration techniques including the implementation of a Geographic Information System (GIS), updated aerial photography, and integrated resource maps and databases with other managing agencies (2,3).
6. Routinely update the resource inventory (2,3).
7. Create a digital database of forest plot information (previously produced by Natural Resource Services, Limited) and integrate it with GIS-based inventory (2,3).
8. Create a County Land Management Advisory Committee and provide staff and support services to operate the committee (2,3).
9. Undertake periodic audits as required by SFI (?). As part of this effort, the Department will work towards the goal of undergoing third-party audits and certification (probably by 2006) (2,3).

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10. Consider one of several options to "capture" extensive knowledge and historical understanding of events, activities, and issues held by current Land Commissioner and County Forester. This also includes need for smooth transition in staff. Optional approaches include hiring replacement forester 1-2 years before their planned retirement; embedding their observations and insights into the inventory database; retain one or both as consultants for 1-2 year period after their retirement (2,3).
11. Under 6.2 Policies: Classify all parcels of tax-forfeited property under County administration within one year of forfeiture. All lands should have their classifications reviewed at least once every five years (4).
12. Under 6.2 Policies: As lands become tax-forfeit within the corporate limits of a city and after determination of any value to an existing or proposed management unit, the parcel may be sold to abutting landowners (per State Law) or to the municipality (4).
13. Under 6.2 Policies: Additional leases for hunting cabin sites will not be likely. Current leases and any new ones are to adhere to guidelines (4).
14. Under 6.2 Policies: Leases for peat extraction are to be coordinated with the Minnesota Department of Natural resources who will generally be the lead party (4).
15. Under 6.2 Policies: Negotiate exchanges or land with Federal, State, Reservation, municipal or private landowners as appropriate to acquire a better inventory of land resources to meet County management objectives (4).
16. Under 6.2 Policies: Examine each new property on the tax-forfeiture roles for improperly abandoned wells and sources of point and nonpoint contamination including underground storage tanks and wildcat landfills (4).
17. Under 6.2 Policies: Coordinate resource planning and implementation, as will be appropriate, with other management agencies specifically including the Minnesota DNR (all divisions), University of Minnesota Forestry Center, Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee, adjacent county land departments, and private land owners (4).
18. Contact Carlton County Historical Society and the Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee regarding potential cultural and historical sites on lands prior to management activities, especially harvesting, site preparation and road construction. As appropriate identify, protect, remove or otherwise address any significant features contained on the site (4).
19. Raise annual cabin lease fee by \$25 every three years (4).
20. Consider land exchanges to consolidate ownership, provide access, or otherwise enhance management objectives (4).
21. Under 7.2 Policies: Adopt an ecosystem approach to understanding and managing its tax-forfeited land base (5).
22. Under 7.2 Policies: Utilize a variety of management techniques and apply them as best suited to maintain the desired ecosystem and resource values on a given parcel (5).
23. Under 7.2 Policies: Recognize the unique qualities and management limitations of the extensive red clay areas of Carlton County especially the ravine terrain of the Nemadji River watershed (5).
24. Under 7.2 Policies: Work closely with the Minnesota DNR to promote game and non-game wildlife (5).

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25. Under 7.2 Policies: Support research into ways of enhancing and maintaining desired water quality through appropriate forest land management (5).
26. Support water quality research through in-kind participation, endorsement of projects, and the like (5).
27. Support additional training for foresters, loggers, and landowners regarding habitat, water quality, and related issues (5).
28. Cooperate with the Minnesota DNR, Fond du Lac Reservation and others concerning habitat research, management, and conservation of biological diversity (5).
29. Under 8.2. Policies: Establish three classes of roads (6).
30. Under 8.2 Policies: Forest roads are to be built primarily for specified silvicultural purposes and, if appropriate, secondarily for recreational purposes (6).
31. Under 8.2 Policies: Restrict vehicular access through gates or other means to any forest road in order to protect [health of lands and people] (6).
32. Under 8.2 Policies: Seek assistance and services from other Federal and State agencies in road location and design (6).
33. Under 8.2 Policies: Coordinate new road location, construction, and maintenance with other public and private forest land managers (6).
34. Under 8.2 Policies: Priority for use of forest roads lies with forest management activities, however, good faith efforts will be made to adjust schedules and procedures so as to avoid or minimize conflicts with recreational uses (6).
35. Under 8.2 Policies: Where appropriate sustain County management objectives including access to landlocked parcels, assume the responsibility for the maintenance and liability of former Town roads where the affected Township agrees not to vacate the roadway (6).
36. Maintain and improve current roads as needed (6).
37. Under 9.2 Policies: Provide dispersed recreational opportunities on most County managed lands (7).
38. Under 9.2 Policies: Undertake efforts to encourage and support additional recreational trail routes including those for snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles, horseback riding, skiing, hiking, and hunting and walking (7).
39. Under 9.2 Policies: Manage trails, forest roads and lands according to guidelines (7).
40. Under 9.2 Policies: Inventory and map roads and trails (7).
41. Under 9.2 Policies: Revisit policies regarding motorized recreational vehicle use on County managed lands in conjunction with reviews of those uses by the Minnesota DNR on state forests within the county or within 10 years whichever comes first (7).
42. Under 9.2 Policies: Encourage the use of specific areas for traditional, non-commercial gathering activities including berry picking, nut gathering, and maple syrup tapping (7).
43. Under 9.2 Policies: Issue permits for maple syrup tapping operations so as to prevent conflict over use of sugar bushes (7).
44. Under 9.2 Policies: Follow policies that govern hunting stands on County tax-forfeited lands (7).

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45. Under 9.2 Policies: Integrate considerations for aesthetics, site design, and visual impact into the management of every unit and stand (7).
46. Under 9.2 Policies: Primitive camping on County-administered tax forfeit land is permitted under stated guidelines (7).
47. Under 9.2 Policies: Inform the public about recreational opportunities on County managed lands. This can include publication of brochures and maps indicating locations, signs, identifying trails, and other activities (7).
48. Map roads and trails and integrate into GIS inventory (7).
49. Designate allowable uses for all roads and trails and sign appropriately (7).
50. Review trail use designations within 10 years (7).
51. Apply site-level guidelines regarding visual quality management of cuts, road design, and trail layout where appropriate. Further, specify in stand prescriptions any such considerations and recommended actions (7).
52. Under 10.2 Policies: Cooperate with the Minnesota Historical Society, Carlton County Historical Society, and the Fond du Lac Reservation regarding the location, identification, and protection of cultural sites (8).
53. Under 10.2 Policies: Request regular updates from the Minnesota DNR regarding endangered, threatened, or special interest plant and animal species or ecosystems located in Carlton County (8).
54. Under 10.2 Policies: Cooperate with the University of Minnesota Forestry Center, Jay Cooke and Moose Lake State Parks, local schools, and forestry industry regarding the identification of sites suitable for educating people about forests and the environment (8).
55. Contact appropriate resource agencies as part of the timber sale stand appraisal process. Modifications in sale design will reflect comments received (8).
56. Under 11.2 Policies: Support research into the location, amount, and characteristics of marketable peat and peat moss on County managed lands (9).
57. Under 11.2 Policies: Support research into alternative methods of peat extraction including renewable peat cropping (9).
58. Under 11.2 Policies: Evaluate gravel resources on County managed lands for retention for use by the County (9).
59. Under 11.2 Policies: Consider seasonal leases for hay harvesting (9).
60. Under 11.2 Policies: Consider annual leases for commercial clay mining (9).
61. Under 11.2 Policies: Support by not necessarily with funding, the preparation of enhanced soil surveys and similar resource data for all land within Carlton County (9).
62. Respond to requests for information on peat, gravel, and other non-timber resources (9).
63. Under 12.2 Policies: Adopt the "Managers Handbook" series prepared by the North Central Experiment Station of the US Forest Service as the basic management guidelines for tree species and type (10).
64. Under 12.2 Policies: Prepare on-going five-year tactical management plans (10).
65. Under 12.2 Policies: Provide one or more accessible sites for individual and commercial fuelwood harvesting (10).

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66. Under 12.2 Policies: Sell timber through auctions and over-the-counter sales in conformance with state law and market demand (10).
67. Under 12.2 Policies: Seek the efficient use of harvested trees and resources (10).
68. Under 12.2 Policies: Diversify the size of timber sales to better accommodate varying capacity of area logging operators (10).
69. Continue use of a mix of auction and informal sales as means of providing opportunities to a mix of logging operators and meeting needs of specific sales (10).
70. Support forest research intended to improve the health, productivity, and management of all forests within or affecting the County. This support may be through funding or in-kind assistance (10).
71. Generally manage the timber resource according to the specified table (Table 13: Projected Harvest Schedule by Decade) (10).