

2018 Brule River State Forest Integrated Property Management Meeting  
9:00 March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Afterhours Trail Chalet

**Attendees:**

Dave Kafura	Nolan Kriegel
Ryan Magana	Mark Braasch
Bob Hanson	Dale Rochon
Zak Neitzel	Phil Brown
Diane Gobin	Paul Piszczek
Rod Fouks	Kevin Feind
Dave Schulz	Kurt Janko
Adam Stennett	Greg Kessler
Matt Leischer	Bill Gobin
Dan Kephart	

**Alignment and Staff Changes**

Dan Kephart - BRSF Property Manager

Kevin Feind – Recreation Supervisor for Pattison/Amnicon Falls/BRSF

Matt Leischer - BRSF Ranger

Dave Schulz - Forester

Vacant – BRSF Ranger/Assistant Property Manager

Kurt Janko – Forestry Technician/Facilities Repair (LTE)

Diane Gobin – Visitor Services/Office Associate (LTE)

Danny Page – Facilities Repair (LTE)

**Master Plan**

In October of 2017, the 15 year master plan review for the Brule River State Forest was finalized.

**Plan Highlights**

- Some changes to land management classification areas, specifically the addition of more forest production acreage (+14,500 acres) from 24% to 55%
- New ski trail loop – wide enough for both skate and classic skiing
- New skijoring trail on the west side of Afterhours Rd
- Adding camper cabin(s) within the Afterhours Trail System
- Adding a mountain bike trail system in the area of Afterhours Trail
- Starting Winter Fat Tire trail grooming
- Adding a loop to the Bayfield Road Hiking Trail

- Adding an overlook, trail, and parking area at the Waino Rock on the west side of Cty Hwy H
- Addition of the Devil's Hole cross country trail system near Troy Pit Rd
- Addition of a Picnic Area at Lk. Superior at Bracket's Corner
- Addition of Electricity at up to 10 of the existing campsites at the Copper Range Campground
- Addition of 3-4 walk-in campsites at the Copper Range Campground
- Addition of a Group Camp at the Bois Brule Campground
- Developing 1-4 water access campsites on Lake Superior shoreline

## Recreation

**2017 Total Recreation Revenue --\$84,592.20**

- Record Number of Camping Nights, 3<sup>rd</sup> record year in a row (2000 in 2013, 2900 in 2017)

### Roads and Trails (Responsibilities post-alignment)

- Roads managed by Parks:
  - Mouth of the Brule boat landing
  - Mays Ledges
  - Copper Range campground loop
  - Black landing
  - Brady's landing
  - Bois Brule campground loop
  - Gaylord Nelson
  - Stone chimney canoe landing

### Law Enforcement Plan-Shift Plan for the Wardens

- Adam Stennett has Douglas County
- Phil Brown has Bayfield County
- Other wardens may be assigned shifts at BRSF as well
- When doing park shifts, the wardens will stay on the property the entire shift unless a specific issue arises elsewhere that they need to go to
- They would like to be informed ahead of time of any special events occurring at the parks/forest such as weddings, free park day etc.
- For park shifts, they will be getting magnetic signs for their vehicles that identify them as wardens

Special Events--Candlelight Ski, Brule River Loppett, NCT Race, Brule Lions Race. Family Fun Day at the Hatchery in June likely will not happen as there will be no fish at the hatchery for most of June.

### 2018 Projects:

- Hunter Walking Trail Improvement

- Parks will be responsible for mowing and maintenance, Forestry will be responsible for development of new trails
- \$30,000 project to convert old logging trails in Brule River Road area to Hunter Walking trails
- New Ski Trail Loop
- Plan/Design Mountain Bike Trails
- Finish Walk-In Sites at Copper Range – plan to have these completed by Memorial Day weekend
- Plan/Design 2 Water Access Sites on Superior Shoreline – one at Brackett’s corner, one near Beck’s Road

## Facilities

- New Fire Control Building – was supposed to be finished in November, but still not entirely completed
- New Afterhours Ski Chalet – ski club paid for all the interior finishing materials of the chalet
- Remodeled Carpentry Shop
- 3 New Pit Toilets at Copper Range, Bois Brule picnic area, Winneboujou canoe landing - a cost of \$80,000 each
- Repaving of Stones Bridge Parking Lot
- Mouth of Brule Boat Landing Project – the road to the boat ramp was destroyed by a storm last fall. There is a \$10,000 development project for engineering study for a new landing. The landing may be installed a mile upstream at the old weir site. However, this is in the Boreal Forest State Natural Area. The \$43,000 emergency project to build the new landing has not yet been funded.

## Timber Management

2017 Timber Sale Summary:

*818 acres completed sales in calendar year. Total value in FY17-\$1.2M (1,131 ac.)*

2018 Timber Sale Proposals (1424 Acres) were reviewed.

- BRSF doesn’t have 75% in forest production, the requirement is for the State Forests’ overall average to be at 75%. Some forests have more, some forests have less.
- Dave, Zak and Mark split up the work on these sales. They also will hire consultants to set up some of the sales (do the marking).

2018 Planting, Site Prep., Herbicide, and Recon Plans

- Several areas have been identified that can be used as dozer training sites.
- Colleen Matula contracts out for herbicide application. As timber sales are prepped, the need for herbicide should be identified and Colleen contacted to arrange for herbicide application.

## **2018 Species Management**

### Wildlife-Kessler

- Monitoring of wolves, swans and furbearers continues. Wolf and deer populations are strong.
- Two burns were done in 2017. In 2018, a burn in the barrens is the #1 priority.
- Maintenance on dikes is being done.
- Wood Turtle population is estimated at 200-270. Roughly half of the turtles have been tagged.
- Approximately 2 ounces of Roundup was used in 2017.

### Fisheries-Piszczek

- Fishway monitoring at the lamprey barrier continues. The fall 2017 report was published recently. Reports are issued twice per year.
- In June 2017, a project to improve fish habitat was done on the Little Bois Brule in conjunction with the Brule River Sportsmen's Club. 800 feet of tag alder was cleared along the Little Brule near the end of Dennis Road.
- Fish surveys are done north of Hwy 2 in the meadows area every year on the day after fishing season closes. Data analysis from this survey is still being done.
- Creel surveys continue
- Cameras at angler parking lots used to count cars and estimate fishing pressure – cameras will be installed in the next day or two

### Hatchery-Gobin

- 50,000 cohos will be stocked in Lake Michigan in April
- 170,000 brown trout will be stocked in Lake Superior in May/June
- Hatchery will be empty from mid-June through July, so no Family Fun Day if there are no fish to see
- Roof on the office needs to be replaced

## **2018 Other Resource Management**

- 2017 Prescribed Burns (Leppela-26 ac., Motts S.-60 ac., Cloverland Com. Center-50 ac.)
- 2018 Planed Prescribed Burns (Motts N.-65 ac., Goose Ref. N.-62 ac., Barrier Ponds-63 ac.)
- Invasives
- Herbicide Treatments – very small amounts of herbicide will be used in designated use areas to treat poison ivy
- Requests for Birch Pole Harvest – permits are now available. Each permit will be treated like a very small timber sale. Areas where birch pole harvest will be allowed are areas where the birch would need to be removed anyway to provide access for a timber sale etc.

- Hay cutting contracts (1 bid in 2017 for 2 out of 6 fields). This is very weather dependent and varies significantly from year to year.
- Forest Product Permits (High bough prices)
- Little Brule Habitat Project-Funding through EPA grant
- Barrens Management

## **2018 Real-Estate & Misc**

- Brule River Rd. survey needed near the old weir. There is possible encroachment by a shed/garage.
- Mork Property Survey?
- Purchase of a 40 acre Lake Superior parcel was pursued by BRSF several years ago but was not successful. West Wisconsin Land Trust is now purchasing this parcel near Beck's Rd.
- 4.8 ac. parcel on Lucius Lake
- Mott's at Cedar Island may need to be surveyed
- Suggestion made to trade/transfer an isolated 40 acre parcel in the Cedar Island area for a parcel that is more accessible.
- Dams and weirs need to be on the state inventory so they can be evaluated for upgrade or removal. Those without a dam permit need to check to make sure they are on the inventory. Hatchery is exempt from this.