

2018 Work Plan

Brule River State Forest

As a requirement of forest certification state forests annually provide an opportunity for the public to provide input on property activities. The Brule River State Forest utilizes an online format including a synopsis of the property's major work plan goals. Annual work goals and actions are directly tied to the property's master plan, which was approved by the Natural Resources Board in October 2017. The master plan can be accessed online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/fr/FR0225.pdf>. The work plan is divided into sections on forest management, recreation management, facilities management, wildlife/fisheries habitat management, and real estate management.

Forest Management:

The Brule River State forest meets the highest standards for environmental quality in its forest practices being dually certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Forest Stewardship Council. Timber management is guided by best management practices and aided by an information system called WISFIRS that helps foresters schedule management activities.

Generally, timber sales on the Brule River State Forest are conducted through a competitive bidding process. During the 2017 fiscal year, timber revenue on the Brule totaled \$1.2 million from 21 completed sales. Timber sale revenues are deposited into the state forestry account. State forest timber sales are generally conducted either through thinning harvests or regeneration harvests. A thinning is an intermediate treatment where trees of poorer growth and quality are removed to favor higher quality future crop trees. A stand may be thinned once to several times before the final cut when it is regenerated. A regeneration cut removes the majority of the mature trees at one time and generally allows for natural regeneration. If adequate natural regeneration is not present, then sites are planted or seeded to promote and enhance regrowth.

The following forest management activities are planned for 2018:

1. Timber sales--These areas are shown in the proposed timber sale map provided with this document. If you wish to comment on any stand please include the stand numbers indicated on the map.
 - Review/prepare 14 potential sales comprising 1,424 acres.
 - Continue administering active sales and close out completed sales
 - Implement a new process for birch pole and forest products permitting
 - Administer forest product permits including Christmas tree permits, firewood permits, bough permits
2. Forest Regeneration--Planting, Seeding, Site Preparation, Herbicide Treatments
These areas are shown in the proposed regeneration maps provided with this document. If you wish to comment on any of these areas please reference the name of the project given.

- Motts Ravine--25 acre disk trenching/possible herbicide application to prepare for planting jack pine
- Turkey Farm--20 acres disk trenching/possible herbicide application to prepare for planting jack pine in low areas and red pine in higher areas
- Miller Road Spruce Regen--35 acre broadcast spray to prepare site for planting jack pine. Site has buckthorn present.
- Jersett Road--40 acre blade scarification of scrub oak to prepare for aerial seeding of jack pine.

Recreation Management

The BRSF's recreational facilities and management will continue to focus on the primary recreational activities on the property, including; fishing, paddling and hunting, as well as, hiking, camping, wildlife viewing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, etc. The management of recreation will continue to emphasize silent sports and limited, rustic development.

The following recreation management activities are planned for 2018:

- Hunter walking trail improvement project/addition of Brule River Rd. trails
This project involves construction of up to 0.8 miles of new trail to connect 4 miles of existing logging roads. The project also involves seeding the 4.8 miles of new trail. Costs for the trail improvement project will be covered by a combination of state forest base operations and wildlife habitat PR funds.
- Afterhours Ski Trail addition-3 mile loop
- Initiation of a mountain bike trail system at the Afterhours Trail
- Addition of 3 new walk-in sites at the Copper Range Campground
- Initiate design and construction of 2 water-access campsites on Lake Superior shoreline
- Routine maintenance of designated use areas
- Continuation of the grooming contract with Brule River Riders for snowmobile trail grooming on the BRSF

Facility Management

- Reconstruction of the Mouth of the Brule Boat Landing.
Following severe damage to the boat landing from high water levels and storms on Lake Superior, the road to the boat landing has been destroyed. A new boat access will be planned for and designed during 2018. Construction timeline is yet to be determined.

Wildlife, Fisheries, and Habitat Management

- Conduct prescribed burns at Mott's Ravine North (65 acres), Goose Refuge North (62 acres), and Barrier Ponds (63 acres). The purpose of these prescribed burns is to maintain and promote open barrens habitat as well as grassland/wetland wildlife habitat.

- Administer hay cutting contracts
- Manage invasive species according to Best Management Practices. Herbicide treatments may be utilized for poison ivy and buckthorn in designated use areas such as Bois and Copper Range campgrounds, May's Ledges, Rush Lake Beach, Hwy 13 Canoe Landing, Hwy 2 Canoe Landing, and Pine Tree Canoe Landing. Monitor and control invasive species in high quality native community management areas and state natural areas. Invasive species management will be focused on forest roads and trails, as they are the most likely vector for introduction.
- Biocontrol techniques and herbicide treatments may be implemented for purple loosestrife, spotted knapweed, and leafy spurge
- Continue to maintain state forest dikes, impoundments, and water control structures
- Seeding of the Brule River Rd. hunter walking trails for wildlife and hunter access
- Administer scientific collector permits

Real Estate Management

Any potential real estate transactions that may occur during 2018 will be strictly conducted under the guidance and direction of the property master plan. Staff may periodically contact landowners within the project boundary to explain the department's land acquisition program and to see if they have an interest in selling their property. Acquisition priorities for the properties vary from year to year and are based on a number of factors, such as resource management or recreation needs and available funding, which may be from a variety of sources.

- Continue to administer easements, land use agreements and access permits.
- Monitor and pursue potential land acquisitions within the forest boundary

Comments:

Comments on the 2018 Brule River State Forest Work Plan should be directed to

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Comments must be received by April 13, 2018.