

16.30.520 County forest use regulations.

A. Recreational Use.

1. Overnight camping may be permitted in the county forest for a charge of \$40 for a period not to exceed 14 nights in succession, or a nightly rate of \$5 per night for shorter term stays. Between September 15 and December 15, after camping 14 nights in succession, the camper may renew the camping permit for one additional 14-night period for an additional fee of \$40. Thereafter, the camping unit must be removed from the county forest for at least three nights before the camping party is eligible to return. Camping units and/or vehicle must have a valid registration. Dispersed camping is closed May 1st through September 15th. Any camper or campers who violate the rules and regulations of this chapter or of good conduct, including cutting or defacing timber, carelessness with fire, violation of game, fish and litter regulations shall be subject to ejection from the county forest and subject to the penalties provided by ordinances and state law.

2. The dumping of rubbish, debris, dirt, stone, or any other materials shall be prohibited on all county forest lands. Visitors, including berry pickers, hunters, fishermen and tourists are forbidden to leave litter anywhere in the forest or in its lakes or streams. It shall be unlawful to dispose of any personal household garbage in any department refuse receptacle on county forest land.

3. It is unlawful for any person to have in his or her possession or under his or her control in any county forest any firearm or airgun as defined in Wis. Stat. § 939.22(2), or any bow, crossbow or slingshot in contravention of state law.

4. It is unlawful to construct, occupy or use any elevated scaffold or other elevated device on county forest lands other than portable tree stands or to cause damage to trees on county forest lands by the placement, erection or removal of tree stands or other means of gaining access to trees. Portable tree stands shall be removed at the end of each day's hunting hours. Any structure found to be in violation of this section shall be subject to confiscation and disposal by the county.

5. It is unlawful to operate a vehicle for recreational use or other purposes in such a manner as to cause soil erosion, or other damage to county forest.

6. It is unlawful to operate any unauthorized motor vehicle or bicycle on roads or trails which are gated, beamed, or posted to prohibit travel.

7. It is unlawful for any person to abandon or leave any fires unattended, to discard any matches, cigarettes, cigars, pipe ashes, or any embers without first extinguishing them.

8. It is unlawful for any person to start or to possess any fires on a DNR designated red flag day including, but not limited to, campfires, use of cooking grills, smoking or cigarettes or pipe in the open. This prohibition includes all county owned land.

9. It is unlawful to cross-country ski or operate sled dogs on any authorized snowmobile trail on county land.

10. It is unlawful to operate any motorcycle, all-terrain vehicle, utility-terrain vehicle, or any unlicensed motor vehicle on county forest land, except upon areas so designated by the county.

11. It is unlawful for any person to disturb, vandalize, damage, deface, remove, cut, or destroy any trees, shrubs, plants, rock, gravel, sand, dirt, or other natural material, to carve, paint or mark on any rocks, archeological or geological features, signs, walls, or structures, to drive nails into trees, or to move, injure, or deface in any manner any structures including buildings, signs, fences, tables, or other county property except with the approval of the committee or designee. This prohibition shall not include the picking of edible fruits, nuts, and fungi.

12. The department may authorize by permit persons with physical disabilities to use a motorized vehicle as a mode of personal conveyance. A permit is not required for disabled persons using a motorized wheel chair.

13. On joint use trails where both all terrain vehicle (ATV) use and snowmobile use are allowed simultaneously, whenever the trails are closed to snowmobile use due to insufficient snow depth, the same trails shall also be closed to all terrain vehicle (ATV) use.

14. It is unlawful to discharge a firearm at any time in the sand and gravel pit areas (approximately six acres of county forest land) referenced in the Order for Judgement in Case No. 07CV550, in the SW ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 19, T27N, R7W (near the Big Falls South Forest Road entrance), and along both sides of the Big Falls South Forest Road from CTH K to the Big Falls south park boundary within a distance of 50 (fifty) feet either side of the centerline of the road, and that said areas shall be signed accordingly per the Order for Judgement.

B. Timber Cutting.

1. Cultural cuttings shall include thinnings, release cuttings, sanitation cuttings and improvement cuttings to remove trees of inferior species, form, or condition for the purpose of stand improvement. All cultural cuttings in the county forest shall be approved by the committee, in accordance with the county forest management plan, and in cooperation with the staff of the DNR. Materials cut in such operations by county crews may be used by parks and forest department or given to other county agencies for their use, or sold, as the committee shall determine. When given, or sold, to other public agencies, the latter shall pay the county a sum not less than prevailing average stumpage rates.

2. Salvage cuttings shall include the cutting of timber damaged by fire, storm, insect or disease. Salvage cutting shall be done under the procedure specified for cultural cutting or for commercial cutting, as the committee may decide.

3. Commercial cuttings shall include all cuttings where stumpage is sold under contract in which the primary objective of the cutting is the marketing of the timber products, including logs, ties, poles, posts, pulpwood, piling, Christmas trees and boughs, or other forest products.

a. Timber sales shall be managed in accord with 2.04.475 B. 3.

b. Contract specifications for each cutting operation pertaining to payment and financial responsibility of the bidder shall be determined by the committee in consultation with the parks and forest director and the DNR forester.

c. After approval of any sales by the committee, a notice of intention to cut shall be prepared under Wis. Stat. § 28.11(6)(b)(3), and DNR rules. Cutting operations shall not be started until cutting notice approval is received by the DNR.

d. All timber sales shall conform with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 28.11, and shall follow the procedure as provided for in the DNR Timber Sales Handbook 2461.

e. Payment for forest products shall be made promptly after billing. Prepayment and other payment arrangements may be arranged with the approval of the committee.

C. Access to landlocked private land. It is unlawful for any person to cross county forest land on a motorized vehicle to access landlocked private land without a county forest access permit. The permit fee is \$500 for 10 years. (Ord. 168-37, Sec. 1, 2025; Ord. 168-34, Sec. 14, 2024; Ord.165-22, Sec. 3 & 4, 2021; Ord.161-30, Sec. 6, 2017; Ord. 160-006, Sec. 1, 2016; Ord. 158-3, Sec. 2, 2014; Ord. 157-48, Sec. 4, 2014; Ord. 152-4, Sec. 38 & 39, 2010; Ord. 153-33, Sec. 1, 2010; Ord. 153-32, Sec. 1, 2010; Ord. 152-30, Sec. 15, 2008; Ord.142-84 Sec.9, 1999; Ord.141-38, Sec.6, 1997; Ord.140-34, Sec.12-15, 1996; Ord. 136-111, Sec. 23-26, 1993; Ord. 133-35, Sec.2, 1989; Ord. 131-16 Sec.13, 1987; Ord. 128-26 Sec.17, 18, 1984.