

Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department



2018 Annual Report

To

Oneida County Board of Supervisors

By

Forestry, Land, and Recreation Committee

Committee

Jack Sorensen, Chair
Robert Almekinder
Bob Mott
Greg Pence
Alan Van Raalte

Oneida County Board of Supervisors: We submit, for your approval and adoption, a report of activities of the Oneida County Forestry, Land, & Recreation Department (FLRD), for the year 2018.

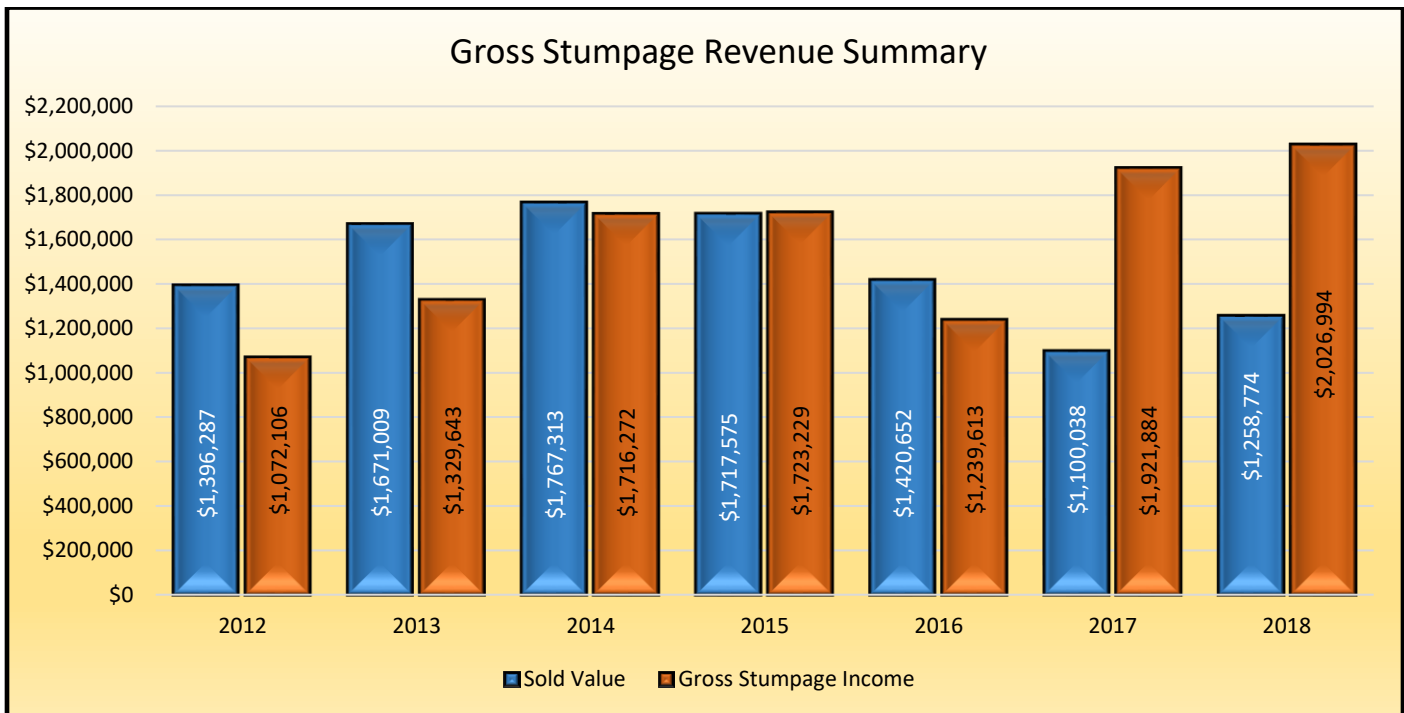
2018 Department Highlights:

- The Oneida County Forestry, Land, and Recreation Department (FLRD) sold an all-time record high of \$2.03 million dollars of timber stumpage in 2018.
- In 2018, Forestry Department actual net revenue exceeded actual expenses by \$1.278 million of which \$543,265 of unencumbered revenue was returned to the general fund.
- The Forestry Department had zero Worker's Compensation claims in 2018.
- In 2018, by establishing and offering for sale 1,835 acres of timber sale contracts, the FLRD met its allowable cut goal of 1,800 acres.
- A 6.7 mile addition to the Enterprise ATV/UTV trail system was developed, along with 5 miles of ATV/UTV trail rehabilitation.

FORESTRY

County Forest Account

Forest Management & Timber Sale Revenue: In 2018, the harvesting of timber on Oneida County Forest resulted in gross stumpage revenue to the County of \$2,026,994. The stumpage revenue achieved by the Oneida County Forestry Department in 2018 resulted from the harvest of approximately 40,800 cords of pulpwood and 775,000 board feet of saw logs. Approximately 2,200 acres were harvested. An additional \$78,356 in revenue from Non-county forest timber sales and miscellaneous programs such as firewood and balsam bough permits and cell tower payments was deposited in the Forestry account in 2018.



The following table summarizes the past three years of timber sale activity including a projection for activity in 2019.

Year	Acres Sold	Sold Value	Acres Cut	Cords Cut	Board Feet Cut	Gross Stumpage Income
2016	2,027	\$1,420,662	2,000	28,000	727,000	\$1,239,613
2017	1,498	\$1,100,038	2,000	36,000	814,000	\$1,921,884
2018	1,492	\$1,258,773	2,200	40,800	775,000	\$2,026,994
2019*	1,600	\$1,400,000	1,800	28,000	400,000	\$1,315,000

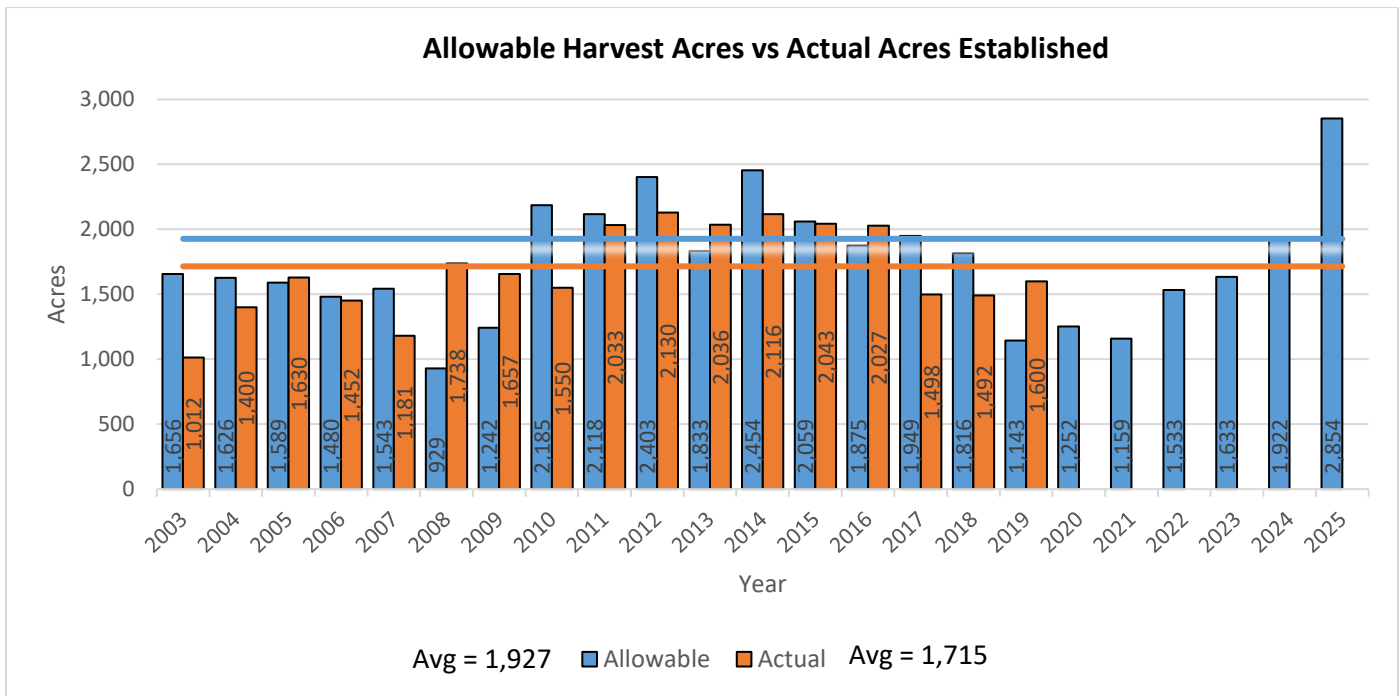
*The 2019 value is an estimate based on projected harvest activity and timber sale acreage to be sold.

GROSS STUMPAGE REVENUE



Allowable Timber Harvest Projections

Beginning in 2010, the allowable harvest for the Oneida County Forest increased by approximately 33%, and remained at such levels through 2016. The allowable harvest spike has now begun to come back down and in response, the projected actual acres established for 2019 will be set at approximately 1,600 acres.



Severance Payments

Each year the County returns 10% of the gross stumpage revenue to the towns in which the County Forest lies. The state requires these severance payments and they are calculated on the total stumpage revenue received in the calendar year (January 1 – December 31). In 2015, the County Board approved an additional 2% of the gross stumpage revenue be distributed to Towns in which the County Forest lies to assist the Towns in maintaining roads that are vital to the transport of the timber products harvested from the Oneida County Forest.

2018 TOTAL STUMPAGE REVENUE	\$2,026,994
LESS 10% TOWN SEVERANCE PAYMENTS	\$202,582
LESS 2% ROAD SEVERANCE	\$40,542
STUMPAGE REVENUE RETAINED BY OC	\$1,783,870

Forest Certification

In 2004, the Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) began to explore the possibility of entering into a third party certification system. The purpose of this certification was to ensure the forests were being managed in a sound, sustainable manner. In 2005, the WCFA entered third party certification through two certification programs: The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Oneida County elected to become certified under the SFI program at that time. The Oneida County Forest has since had two full, on-site audits done by the SFI auditors. The results of these audits concluded the Oneida County Forest is indeed being managed on a sound, sustainable basis. In 2016, with the urging of the wood using industry and logging contractors, Oneida County elected to become certified under the FSC program as well as the SFI program.

The benefits of certification by a third party are many. A financial benefit is the wood products produced by the Oneida County Forest is able to be sold as “certified wood products”. Certified wood products command a higher price in the open market and provides logging contractors preference for selling wood products harvested from Oneida County timber sales to mills requiring a certain percentage of wood purchases be certified. Additional benefits include: reassuring the general public that Oneida County does take into consideration other forest values such as wildlife habitat, watershed protection, cultural resource protection and recreational pursuits during the management of the forest.

Oneida County was part of both the SFI and FSC certification audits on August 8th – 10th, 2018. The results of these audits once again show that the Oneida County Forest is managed on a sound, sustainable basis that considers the multiple use benefits of the forest. Areas of interest during the audit included active timber harvesting areas, natural areas, areas with cultural significance (McCord Indian Village), parks/silent sports trails and a regeneration site. Three counties were included in this audit: Oneida, Lincoln and Taylor. No Corrective Action Requests (CAR’s) or Opportunities for Improvement (OFI’s) were issued for any of the counties. Three observations were made: 1. Oneida County: Timeliness of renewing herbicide applicators permit. 2. Lincoln County: Inspecting forest roads for rutting. 3. Taylor County: Improper installation of a water bar. The Oneida County OFI was corrected in October 2018 when the applicator’s certification was

renewed. Areas of commendation for Oneida County included: 1. Providing extensive recreation opportunities, both motorized and non-motorized. 2. Providing educational opportunities. 3. Excellent interaction with recreational clubs. 4. Protection of culturally sensitive sites. 5. Protection of unique natural plant communities.

Any CAR's and OFI's issued during the 2017 audit were addressed by all counties, including Oneida. All CAR's and OFI's from the previous audit were closed as satisfactorily corrected as part of the 2018 audit.

Future Desired Conditions of the Forest: The Oneida County Forest is made up of a diverse array of plant communities. It is the intention of the FLRD to maintain the acreages of the existing plant communities at or near their current acreage. Due to the recent discovery of Emerald Ash Borer (see Forest Health Issues), it is anticipated that in the future, the White Ash and Black Ash components of the forest will decline and possibly disappear. These species will be replaced naturally or through planting/seeding with other suitable native species.

Forest Reconnaissance (Recon.): Forest Recon activities in 2018 were performed by Oneida County staff, and DNR foresters. A total of 4,755 acres of the Oneida County forest were examined and the recon data updated.

Forest Health Issues: In 2018 no new significant insect or disease problems arose in Oneida County. However, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) continues to spread. EAB has not been detected on County Forest lands to date. The EAB quarantine that had been imposed on Oneida County when the first instance of EAB was found in the county has been expanded to the entire state. This allows Oneida County to ship hardwood from our timber sales to mills anywhere in the state year round. The FLRD is working with the DNR and WI Dept of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection on this matter. The FLRD will begin to target more ash stands for harvest (primarily Black Ash) in anticipation of the spread of EAB. As the infestation progresses and becomes more defined, an action plan will be developed. Garlic Mustard patches were again monitored and sprayed to control the spread. Late season checks of the areas showed no new plants.



Forestry Automotive Equipment:

Each year \$20,000 is budgeted into the County Forest Account within the automotive equipment line item. The funds within the line item are used to purchase new and replacement equipment. The size and specialized nature of some of the equipment and/or vehicles used by the Forestry Department can be rather expensive to purchase. Accordingly, the automotive equipment line item is non-lapsing. This allows the Forestry

Department to build up sufficient funds within the line item over a period of years, so when an expensive piece of equipment requires replacing, the necessary funds are available. In 2018, \$25,000 of new revenue was budgeted for forestry equipment purchases. The following equipment purchases occurred in 2018:

Purchased Equipment	Trade in / Value	Net Cost
Polaris UTV		\$14,292
UTV Trailer		\$ 4,048
Forks for JD Tractor		\$ 975
Equipment Total		\$19,315

At the end of 2018, the non-lapsing equipment fund had \$2,836 remaining.

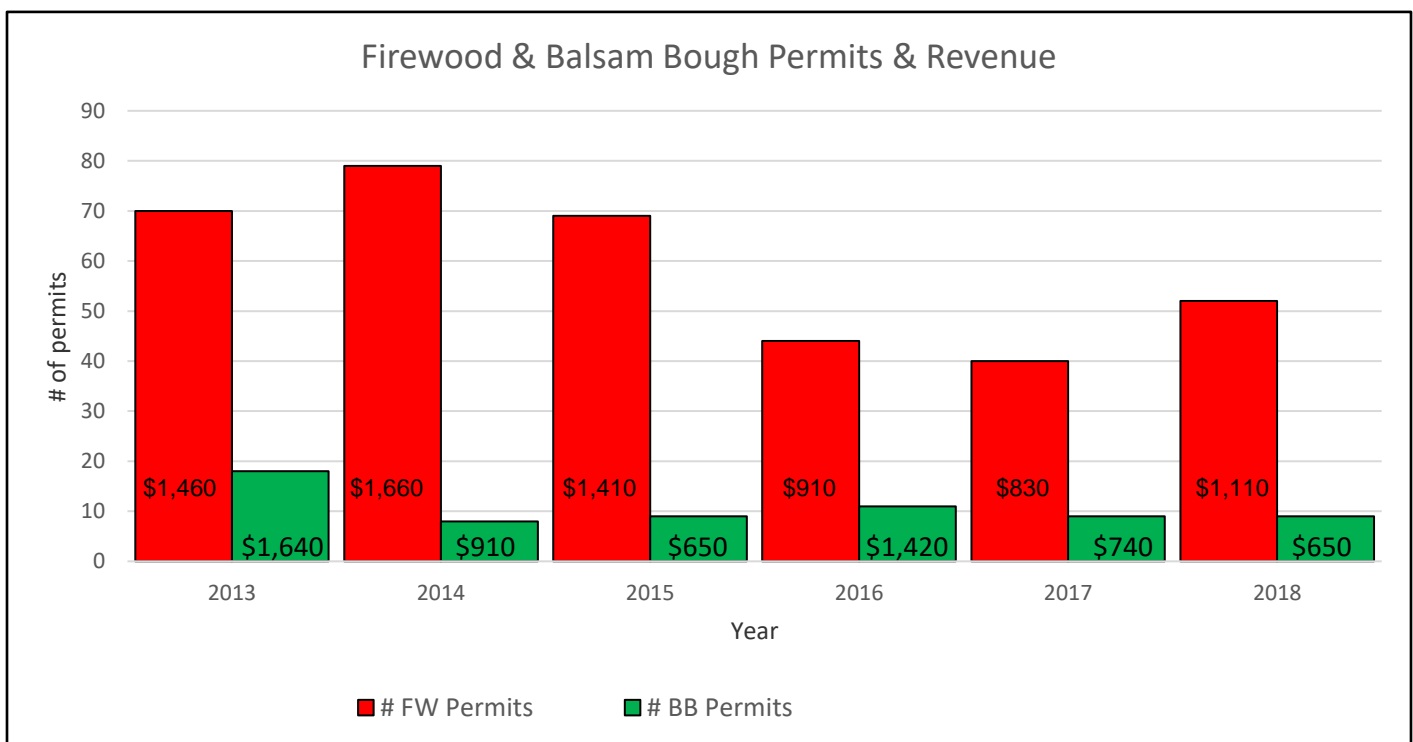
Miscellaneous Forest Products Permits:

Balsam Bough Permits:

The Balsam Bough Permit system is a fee-based program whereby private citizens can harvest balsam boughs from the County Forest. There are three categories of permits. In 2018, the FLRD issued five Home Use Permits, two Resident Commercial Permits, and two Non-Resident Commercial Permits. In total, the 2018 Balsam Bough Program generated \$650 of revenue for Oneida County.

Firewood Gathering Permits:

The Firewood Gathering Permit system allows private citizens to gather up to 10 cords of firewood for personal home use from designated areas on the County Forest. Firewood Gathering permits are generally issued on closed out timber sales so as to allow for the collection of any tops and limbs remaining after logging activities have been completed. The permit fee for Oneida County Residents and/or Oneida County landowners is \$20. The permit fee for non-resident individuals who do not own land in Oneida County is \$30. In 2018, the FLRD issued 52 Firewood Gathering Permits, which generated \$1,110 of revenue.



FOREST ACCESS

County Forest Roads Account: The FLRD maintains 37.46 miles of road located in isolated areas of the county forest. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT) formally classifies these roads as "County Forest Roads". By definition County Forest Roads must be a minimum of 16-ft. wide, have an improved gravel surface, and must be seasonally maintained (i.e., the WDOT does not require this type of road to be plowed in winter). The primary purpose for maintaining these roads is to aid in the removal of timber products from the County Forest. Secondly, these roads provide the public with vehicular access routes into otherwise isolated areas of the County Forest.

The funds needed for maintaining the County Forest Road system are primarily obtained through the WDOT. Each year the WDOT pays County Forest Programs \$336 for each mile of County Forest Road maintained. In 2018, the WDOT prorated their county forest road aid payments due to insufficient funds. As a result the Oneida County Forestry Department road aid payment was $(37.46 \text{ miles} \times \$336 \times 92.88\%) = \$11,690$.

In addition to the County Forest Road Aids received from the WDOT in 2018, \$542 of Trout revenue was received from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The term TROUT is defined by the WDNR as a hybrid between a (tr)ail and a road r(oute) that is opened for use by both off-road vehicles (i.e. registered ATV's and UTV's) and motor vehicles (i.e. registered cars and trucks) for the purpose of connecting two trail segments. All of the above described road aid received by the Oneida County Forestry Department in 2018 was deposited into the County Forest Roads Account.

The County Forest Roads Account is non-lapsing, meaning the funds deposited into the account remain in place until they are spent. Accordingly, the non-lapsing account mechanism allows deposited revenues to accumulate over time, thus allowing for large-scale expensive road projects to be addressed. With the exception of a \$500 expense for gravel pit permit fees, most of the revenue deposited into the County Forest Roads Account in 2018 was intended to remain in place and/or saved for a future road gravel crushing contract.

In 2018 the Forestry Department conducted general road maintenance work throughout the 37.46 mile road system. Some of the road maintenance activities routinely conducted by the FLRD include grading, signing, wash-out repair, spot graveling, brushing, shoulder mowing, small culvert installation, storm damage clean-up, vandalism repairs, and garbage collection. Due to numerous heavy rain events, more time was spent on washout and culvert repairs than normal.

LAND

Land Purchase Account: The vast majority of accounts used to make up the annual Oneida County budget must be fully reconciled and/or zeroed out at the end of each fiscal year. With that said, Oneida County also recognizes that under certain circumstances some accounts must be non-lapsing. This means any funds deposited into such an account remain in place and intact, year after year, until the funds are spent and/or utilized for their intended purpose. The Forestry Department's Land Purchase Account is designated as a non-lapsing account. As the account name infers, the funds within this account are intended to be used on expenses related to the acquisition of new or replacement County Forest land.

The land purchase account had a zero balance available at the beginning of 2018. Revenue of \$543,227 was received from the Knowles-Nelson grant for the Gillette/Wickham Lake acquisition.

Purchase of Gillette/Wickham Lakes Property

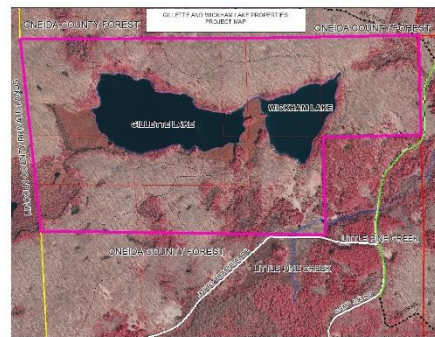
In May of 2016 the FLRD was approached by one of the owners of a 130 acre parcel of land encompassing Wickham lake in the Town of Enterprise, asking if we would be interested in purchasing their property. In May of 2017 the FLRD was also contacted about purchasing the adjacent 101 acres which encompasses Gillette Lake. Combined, the two parcels contained 231 acres, including a 17 acre and 34 acre lake, and a small cabin. The parcel is surrounded on three sides by Oneida County Forest. After 18 months of negotiations, appraisals and grant research, a purchase price was agreed to by both parties.

The FLRD applied for a Knowles/Nelson Stewardship (KN) Grant through the WDNR to cover 50% of the purchase price. In addition, the value of 308 acres of land the county owned but had not been entered into the County Forest Law Program were used as match funding to cover part of the County's 50% of the grant. In total, the purchase price of the land was \$910,000. The KN Grant reimbursed the county \$455,000 as the 50% match along with \$88,227 for the match parcels.

The final out of pocket expense to the county was \$366,773. To help offset the expense to the county, the Forestry Committee agreed that Townline Park will be withdrawn from the County Forest Law Program and sold (approximate value of \$143,000) and stumpage of approximately \$90,000 for the first timber harvest would be realized in the first few years of ownership. Recreational encumbrances associated to Townline Park will be transferred to the new Gillette/Wickham property. Future plans for the new property include removing the cabin, planting pine trees, constructing a small parking lot and installing a small pier.



View of Gillette Lake



Gillette Wickham Property

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Wildlife Habitat Management Account: The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides county forest programs with an annual allotment of funds that are to be used for wildlife habitat improvement projects on county forest land. The formula used to calculate payment for each eligible county is as follows: Number of County Forest Acres x \$0.05 = Payment. Due to a budget shortfall in 2018, the state prorated their wildlife habitat payments to all county forest programs. The state mandated prorate resulted in Oneida County receiving a \$3,862 payment in 2018 for expenses attributed to wildlife habitat. All state funds received by Oneida County through the above-described program are deposited into a non-lapsing, State Aid Wildlife Habitat Management Improvement Account. The non-lapsing mechanism of this account provides the Forestry Department with the flexibility to build up state funding over a period of several years to pay for larger, more expensive projects, use the entire allotment of funds annually or a combination of the above-described methods.

In 2018 the FLRD used \$2,435 of the budgeted State Aid Wildlife Habitat funds received on the following projects, services, equipment, and supplies: 1) Cooperative Service Agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), to provide technical and operational

assistance in identifying and controlling nuisance beaver on the Oneida County Forest, \$650; 2) mowing maintenance of existing wildlife openings, \$1,754; and 3) gate hardware and materials, \$32.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Parks Account: In 2018 the FLRD maintained two day-use parks for picnicking, swimming, family gatherings, and general recreation.



Undisturbed portion of Perch Lake shoreline, & the Perch Lake Park ADA accessible fishing pier.

Perch Lake Park: Perch Lake Park is located five miles west of Rhinelander on the north shore of Perch Lake. The diversity of recreational opportunities available in the Perch Lake area make this park a popular year-round destination. During winter months, the facility serves as a trail head for a large network of winter silent sport trails. During spring, summer, and fall, Perch Lake Park is popular for picnicking, fishing, hiking, and biking. Some noteworthy attributes of Perch Lake include its largely undeveloped scenic shoreline, and the depth, clarity, and temperature of the lake, which makes it one of the few lakes in Oneida County capable of supporting trout.

Almon Park: Almon Park is the largest and most popular day use recreation area managed by the Oneida County FLRD. Located just five miles south of Rhinelander, Almon Park offers a combination of highly developed recreational facilities and undeveloped natural areas. This area is primarily utilized in the summer months for swimming, picnicking, family gatherings and general recreation. A nine-hole disc golf course is also located on the property.



Photo of Buck Lake swimming beach located at Almon Park, in the Town of Pelican.

Park Shelter Rental Program: The FLRD allows residents to reserve the Rudolph Shelter at Almon Park and the Swank Shelter at Perch Lake Park for private gatherings such as family reunions, graduation parties, weddings, and the like.



Photo of the Rudolph Shelter located at Almon Park, in the Town of Pelican.

Each shelter can be reserved for a fee of \$125/day, which includes a refundable security deposit of \$50 if the facility is left clean and undamaged. In 2018, the Swank Shelter was rented 10 times resulting in \$750 of revenue, and the Rudolph Shelter was rented 13 times resulting in \$975 of revenue. The total Park Shelter Rental Program generated \$1,725 of revenue in 2018. All revenue generated from the Park Shelter Rental Program is deposited into the Forestry Department Parks Account.

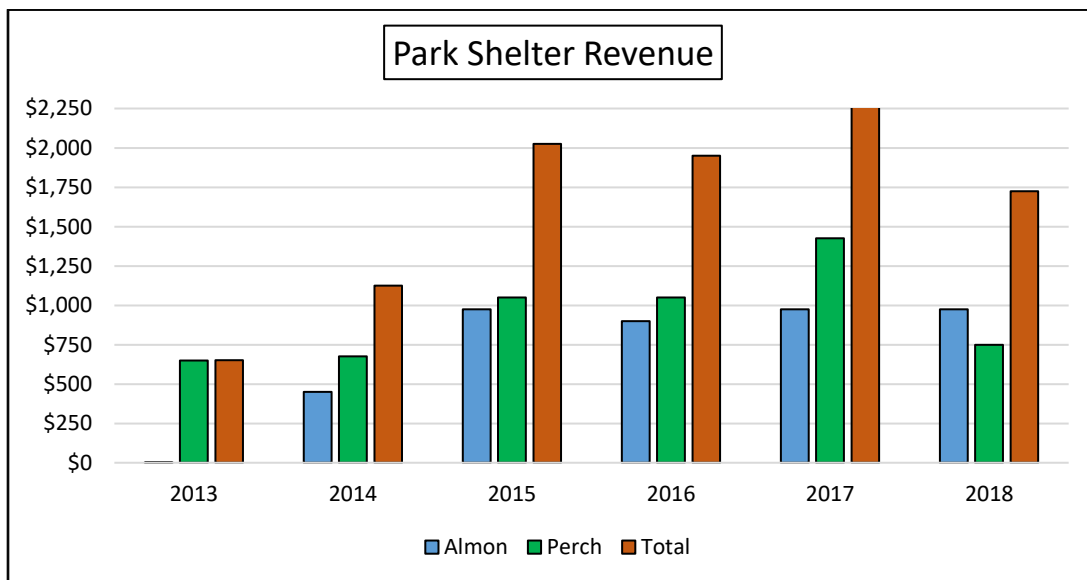




Photo of the Judy Swank Shelter Building located at Perch Lake Park, Town of Woodboro.

Campground Account:

This year marks the 9th full year that the Oneida County Forest Enterprise Campground was open for public use. The Enterprise Forest Campground is officially open for camping from May 22nd to December 1st. Although the campground was designed to accommodate ATV's, the campground is open to all members of the general public, with or without an ATV.

Oneida County Enterprise Campground

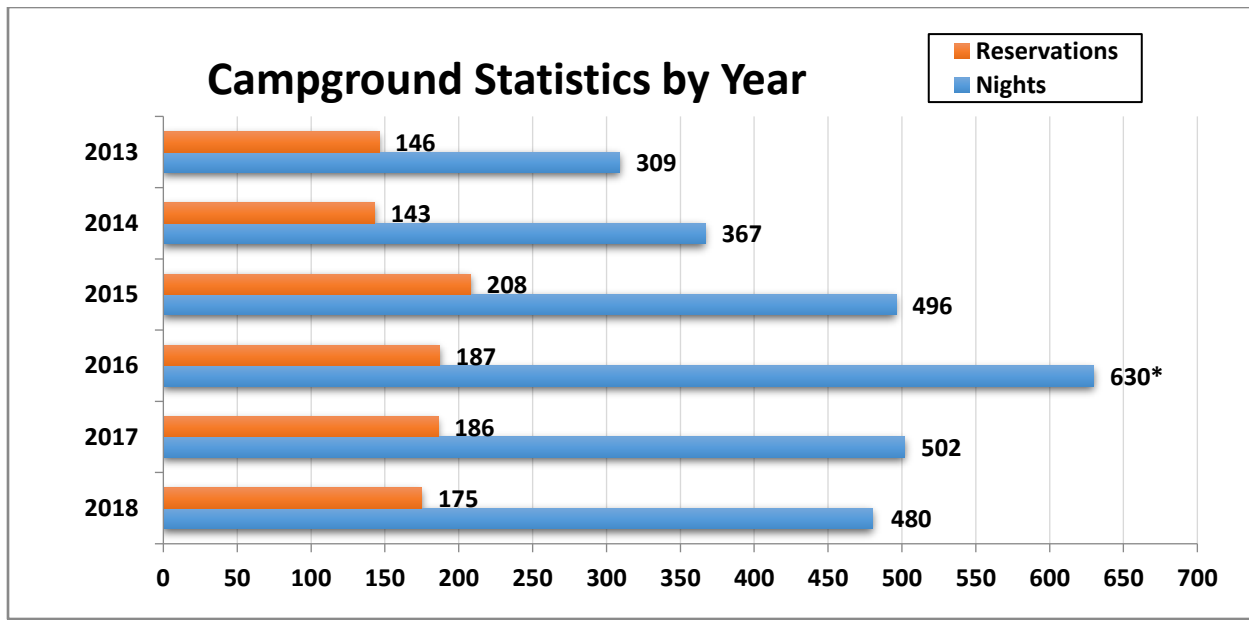


An occupied campsite



Firewood for Campers' Use

When comparing campground use data to 2017, the number of reservations and total number of nights that individual campsites were occupied decreased about 5%. This decrease is presumably due to the late spring/summer weather. Not surprisingly, the campground's highest occupancy occurred on Friday and Saturday nights. However, stays are becoming longer (average 2.7 nights) with many campers spending more than three nights and returning frequently.



*one individual spent 89 nights at the campground

In 2018, the fee to reserve a campsite at the Enterprise Campground remained unchanged at \$10/night. Camping registration fees and campground firewood donations resulted in \$5,060 of campground revenue. Conversely, the cost attributed to maintaining the campground in 2018 was \$2,410, which resulted in a net campground profit of \$2,645 in 2018.

Motorized Sport Trails

Snowmobile Account: The Oneida County Forestry Department is also responsible for the administration and supervision of the county’s state-funded snowmobile trail network. Similar to the ATV/UTV program described above, the Forestry Department contracts out the maintenance of this trail system to snowmobile clubs scattered throughout the County. In 2018, the Forestry Department distributed \$241,736 to the ten snowmobile clubs that are under contract with the Forestry Department to maintain the 403.5 mile state-funded snowmobile trail system located in Oneida County.

Additionally, the Oneida County Forestry Department partnered with snowmobile clubs and landowners to implement four minor trail re-routes.

The Forestry Department also took the lead in reconciling the mileage of all the trails in the funded trail system. Upon completion of this project, the Forestry Department was able to redistribute approximately 14 miles of funded trail amongst the contracted maintenance clubs, and allowed several new trail segments to become eligible for state maintenance funds. GIS mapping was used to complete this project.

ATV/UTV Account: The Forestry Department was responsible for the administration of 32.2 miles of ATV/UTV trails in 2018. Most of the trails are located on county forest land in the south-central and western portions of the county. The Forestry Department contracts out the maintenance of these trails to ATV/UTV clubs. In turn, these clubs receive reimbursement for their work based upon the actual accountable costs they incur, up to a maximum of \$700 per mile, if the trail is open to both ATV’s and UTV’s. All Oneida County off-road vehicle trails are open to both ATV’s and UTV’s. In 2018, Oneida County distributed \$22,540 to the two ATV/UTV clubs under contract for services rendered.

In 2016, the Forestry Department secured a \$515,000 grant to expand the existing Enterprise ATV trail system by constructing a new 6.7 mile long trail segment and 2.2 miles of connecting County forest road routes. The new east/west oriented trail segment includes three bridges, ten culverts, and many miles of trail grading, erosion control and resurfacing. The new trail segment will serve as an off road vehicle connection to the original Enterprise ATV trail system on the west side and the Pelican Lake area to the east by linking to a series of town and county road routes that are open to ATV/UTV use. Much of the above-described trail development began in 2017 and continued throughout 2018 with final completion in 2019. Once complete, the Enterprise ATV/UTV trail system will total 18.8 miles in length.



Photo of the new ATV/UTV and Snowmobile Bridge over Noisy Creek in the Town of Enterprise.

Silent Sports Trails

Cross-Country Ski Trails: Starting in the mid-1970's the FLRD began a program where by cross-country ski trails were developed and maintained (signed, groomed, and brushed) by the department. Over the years these ski trails grew in popularity. Due to public demand, additional ski trail miles were developed by the FLRD. The Oneida County Forest ski trail network evolved into three signed and groomed ski trail systems that total 27.4 miles.

The Washburn Trail, which is the largest and most popular of the three ski trails, is located adjacent to Perch Lake Park in the Town of Woodboro. The Washburn Ski Trail is 12.0 miles long, offering 4.0 miles of trail groomed for tracked skiing, and 8.0 miles of trail groomed for ski skating. Due to the hilly topography found throughout the Washburn Lake Area, these trails are best suited for skiers possessing an intermediate to advanced skill set.

The Nose Lake Trail is also located in the Town of Woodboro and offers 7.9 miles of trail groomed for traditional tracked skiing. The gentle topography upon which the Nose Lake Trail is located makes this system

very popular with skiers possessing either a beginner or intermediate skill set. Another popular feature of the Nose Lake Trail is that dogs are permitted.

The Cassian Two-Way Ski Trail measures 15 miles, round trip. As its name implies, the trail is located in the Town of Cassian. The Cassian Trail is also located on gently rolling terrain, and is designed to accommodate users with a wide range of skills. The Cassian Trail is groomed for traditional tracked skiing.



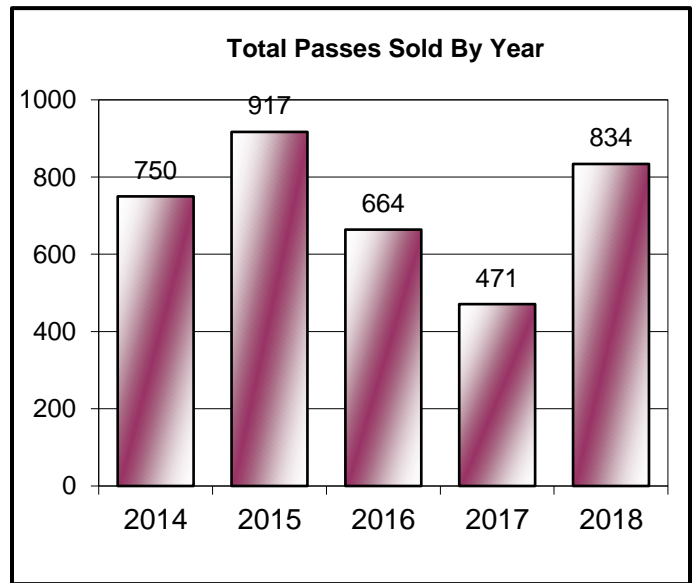
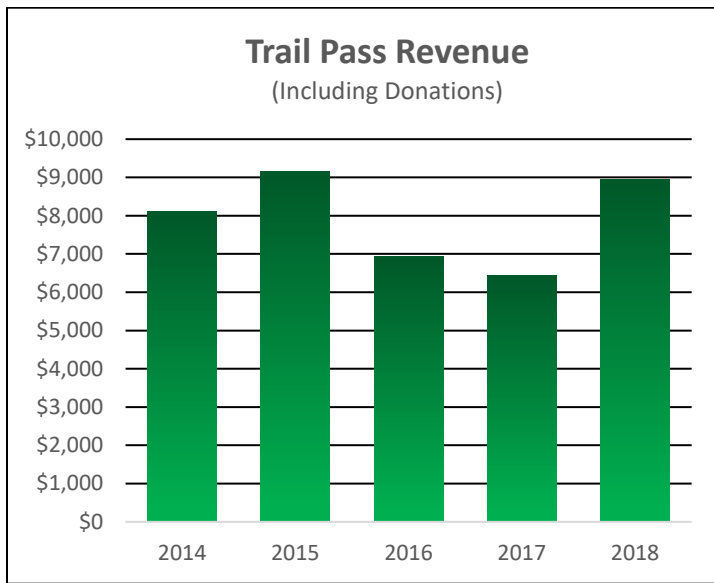
The increased popularity of these trails required the Forestry Department to groom the trail network more frequently. Unlike motorized recreational trails, which generate revenue to fund trail maintenance activities from the state's gas tax formula and the registration of ATV's, UTV's, and snowmobiles, no such mechanism exists for ski and other silent sport trails. Consequently, all of the costs associated with the development and maintenance of the county's silent sports trail network were paid for with tax levied funds budgeted into the County Forest Parks Account.

At its peak, the Forestry Department spent approximately \$50,000/year on the equipment, labor, and supplies needed to maintain the county forest network of cross-country ski trails. In an effort to reduce the expense attributed to maintaining the county's ski trail network the Forestry Department reinvented the trail maintenance process.

Ski Trail Maintenance Agreement: Beginning in 2012, the Forestry Department entered into a ski trail maintenance agreement with the Rhinelander Area Silent Trails Association (RASTA). Under the terms of the trail maintenance agreement, RASTA is reimbursed by the FLRD for brushing, signing, and grooming the county's 26.5 mile ski trail network. By contracting out these services, the Forestry Department was able to reduce the ski trail budget from \$50,000/year to approximately \$30,000/year.

Recreational Trail Aid Grants: To further reduce the expense attributed to providing the county's ski trail network, the Forestry Department utilized the Recreational Trail Aid (RTA) program provided by the WDNR. The RTA program was designed to reimburse municipalities for up to 50% of the cost attributed to the development and/or maintenance of recreational trails. Each year RTA grants are awarded by the WDNR by applying a ranking formula to the applications received. In 2018, the Oneida County Forestry Department received three RTA Grants for ski trail maintenance providing \$16,417 in reimbursement funds to the Forestry Department for expenses related to the county's silent sport trail network.

Trail Pass Program: The final measure taken by the Forestry Department to reduce the expense attributed to the Forestry Departments ski trail program was the implementation of a trail pass system. The trail pass system requires individuals over the age of 18 to purchase either a daily or an annual trail pass in order to use any designated and maintained silent sport trail located on the Oneida County Forest. In 2018, the annual trail pass fee was \$20. The sale of silent sport trail passes for 2018, together with user donations, generated \$8,942.



Note: In 2016, the number of annual passes sold increased and daily passes sold decreased; therefore, the revenue reduction was not as significant.

Mountain Bike Trails: In 2018, the Oneida County Forestry Department worked in conjunction with the Rhinelander Area Silent Trails Association (RASTA) to maintain 13 miles of mountain bike trail located at the Washburn Lake Silent Sport Trail facility.



Photo of the Washburn Lake Silent Sports Trail, located in the town of Woodboro

Fat Tire Bike Trail: 2018 marked the fifth year that a formally designated and maintained fat tire bike trail was provided on the Oneida County Forest. The trail is located within the Enterprise block of the Oneida County Forest and measures approximately 8 miles in length. In addition to fat tire biking, the Enterprise Forest Winter Recreational Trail is also open for cross-country skiing and snow shoeing.



Enterprise Forest Winter Recreation Trail, located in the Town of Enterprise

Hiking & Snowshoe Trails: In 2018, the FLRD maintained two hiking/snowshoe trails at Almon Park that total 2.25 miles in length. These trails travel through a variety of habitats, some of which require the use of wetland boardwalks to traverse. For those snowshoe enthusiasts looking for a more isolated experience, the FLRD also provides 8.0 miles of trail located in the Enterprise Block of the Oneida County Forest. Finally, for individuals seeking a more challenging hiking and/or snowshoe experience the FLRD provides 5.0 miles of snowshoe trail and 11.0 miles of hiking trail at the Washburn Lake Silent Sport Trails facility.



Photo of Almon Park wetland board & hiking/snowshoe trail, located in the Town of Pelican

Disabled Access Trails: In 2018, the FLRD maintained three trail systems specifically developed to provide disabled residents reasonable access to the County Forest. These trails are distributed throughout the Oneida County Forest with one trail located in each of the three County Forest Blocks (i.e. Enterprise, Cassian/Woodboro and Lynne/Little Rice). Uses of these areas include, but are not limited to, hunting, berry picking, bird watching and sightseeing. In order to qualify for a Disable Access Trail Permit, a person must hold a valid WDNR Class A or B disability identification card as defined by WI state statutes. County Forest Disabled Access Trail Permits are valid for one year and are free, with a \$50 refundable key deposit.

Miscellaneous Forest Access: In addition to the trail opportunities and County Forest Roads described in this report, the Oneida County Forest has hundreds of miles of woodland trails and old logging roads that have not formally been designated with recreational purpose, yet remain open year-round for general public use. The primary function of these woodland trails and old logging roads is to provide public access deep into the County Forest. Computerized forest-mapping projects have enabled the FLRD to determine that approximately 80% of Oneida County Forest Land is located within one-quarter mile of a woodland trail or old logging road allowing access to the general public.

MINING

Mining Impact Account: Funds of \$5,000 were budgeted into the Mining Impact Account in 2018 for educational purposes. As the majority of residents voted against mining exploration, accordingly, there were no expenses attributed to the Mining Impact Account in 2018.

HEALTH & SAFETY

The Forestry Department had zero Worker’s Compensation claims in 2018.

In 2018, permanent field employees of the FLRD were provided the opportunity to participate in the County steel-toe work shoe program. In addition, the following personal protective gear was available to all FLRD field staff (i.e. temporary & permanent employees): hard hats, helmets, safety glasses, ear protection, chainsaw chaps, rubber gloves, and respirators.

2018 Expenses Related to Employee Safety		
Expense Item	Total Expenditure	# of Staff Benefiting from expense
Chemical Storage Cabinet	\$960.00	7
Steel Toe Shoes	\$400.00	4
Tick Repellent	\$ 90.00	6
High Visibility Mesh Vest	\$ 65.00	1
Safety Glasses	\$ 35.00	7

Name of Training Class/Course	Forest Director	Asst. Forest Director	Forester/ Recreation	Forester 1
Wildland Fire Safety		X	X	X

