

County Forest Report 2015

TO: THE HONORABLE RUSK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

I. This is to convey to you a report of the operations and accomplishments of the Rusk County Forestry Department for the calendar year of 2015.

II. Parks and Recreation

1. Parks and boat landings were supervised and maintained by the Forestry Department staff.

2. Aerators at Audie Lake and Lea Lake were maintained by the Forestry Department Staff.

3. CAMPGROUND REVENUE

CAMPGROUND/PARK	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Non-Designated Camping Permits	\$ 336.49	\$ 483.48	\$ 668.93	\$ 670.11	\$ 546.21
Remote Sites	\$ 360.19	\$ 613.25	\$ 673.00	\$ 406.38	\$ 709.70
Audie Lake Campground	\$13,384.83	\$13,005.69	\$14,546.21	\$16,284.24	\$16,991.95
Josie Creek Park	\$11,163.98	\$13,631.37	\$15,704.31	\$15,880.73	\$15,123.60
Murphy Dam Campground	\$ 6,926.05	\$ 6,199.00	\$ 6,912.89	\$ 5,776.79	\$ 6,593.27
Perch Lake Campground	\$ 1,373.46	\$ 2,188.48	\$ 2,076.42	\$ 1,907.01	\$ 1,557.36
Murphy/Community Pavilion Rent	\$ 118.48	\$ 236.95	\$ 300.00	\$ 189.56	\$ 341.22
Dump Station		\$ 112.32	\$ 114.66	\$ 138.37	\$ 124.50
TOTAL REVENUES	\$33,663.48	\$36,470.50	\$40,993.42	\$41,253.19	\$41,987.81

4. Non-Designated Camping Permits Issued: (Regular Camping Season and Gun-Deer Season)

YEAR	2012		2013		2014		2015	
# OF PERMITS ISSUED	Regular	5	Regular	4	Regular	9	Regular	12
	Deer Season	32	Deer Season	32	Deer Season	28	Deer Season	18

5. The cross-country trail system in the Blue Hills was again maintained by the Rusk County Trails Association, mowing was done by the Forestry Department.

6. State Funded Rusk County ATV/UTV Trails.

*24 miles in the Blue Hills were maintained by the Rusk Riders ATV Club and the Rusk County Forestry Department.

2014-2015 Trail Maintenance Cost: \$17,666.00

Reimbursed by the State ATV Funds: \$17,666.00

*10 miles of State Funded ATV Trail Rehab was done on the Blue Hills Trail at a cost of \$115,000.00. This consisted of graveling the existing funded ATV Trail.

7. State Funded Rusk County Snowmobile Trails.

*331.92 miles of Rusk County Snowmobile Trails were maintained by Rusk County Snowmobile Clubs in the **2014-2015** Season.

THE BREAKDOWN IS AS FOLLOWS:

<u>SNOWMOBILE-CLUB NAME</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Maintenance Cost</u>
Bruce Trailblazers	98.2	\$ 24,550.00
Hawkins Sno-Hawks	55.0	13,750.00
Ladysmith Driftbusters	85.0	21,250.00
Sheldon Rough Riders	27.2	6,800.00
Weyerhaeuser	<u>63.8</u>	<u>16,630.00</u>
TOTAL	329.2	\$ 82,980.00

Supplemental Maintenance 100%

Bruce Trailblazers	\$ 0.00
Hawkins Sno-Hawks	5,314.30
Ladysmith Driftbusters	4,139.46
Sheldon Rough Riders	1,410.90
Weyerhaeuser	11,833.37
Salary/Benefits	1,703.25
Liability Insurance	<u>651.77</u>
TOTAL SUPPLEMENTAL	\$25,103.05

TOTAL PAYMENT FOR SNOWMOBILE 2014-2015 MAINTENANCE: \$108,083.05

III. Timber Sales

1. 28 timber sales were established in 2015 consisting of the following:

FOREST TYPE	# OF SALES	BID VALUE	ACRES	M.B.F.	HDWD	ASPEN	RED Pine/Spruce	BASSWOOD	WHITE BIRCH
MARKED HDWD	21	\$ 860,511.80	2,026	1,929.0	13,215	2,050	30	1,960	350
ASPEN	9	\$ 256,269.24	486	0	1,455	8,200	375	25	0
Conifer Swamp	1	\$ 12,750.00	60	0	0	0	850	0	0
Ash Swamp	2	\$ 26,154.96	55	10.0	780	0	0	0	0
Red Pine	2	\$ 29,800.00	88	0	0	100	850	0	0
SALVAGE	3	\$ 37,550.00	40	150.0	385	0	110	0	0
TOTALS	25	\$ 1,223,036.00	2,755	2,104.0	15,835	10,250	2,005	1,985	350

TOTAL = 30,475 Cords Established

2. 29 timber sales were sold in 2015 consisting of the following:

FOREST TYPE	# OF SALES	BID VALUE	ACRE S	M.B.F.	HDWD	ASPEN	RED Pine/ Spruce	BASSWOOD	WHITE BIRCH
MARKED HDWD	22	\$ 1,253,182.33	2,095	1,980.0	13,540	2,050	30	1,985	350
ASPEN	9	\$ 456,279.72	486	0	1,455	8,200	375	25	0
Conifer Swamp	1	\$ 18,350.00	60	0	0	0	850	0	0
Ash Swamp	2	\$ 47,811.00	55	10.0	780	0	0	0	0
Red Pine	2	\$ 47,333.50	88	0	0	100	800	0	0
SALVAGE	3	\$ 37,550.00	40	165.0	385	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	26	\$ 1,860,506.55	2,824	2,155.0	16,160	10,350	2,055	2,010	350

TOTAL = 30,970 Cords Sold

3. 25 Timber Sales Contracts were closed out in 2015 consisting of the following totals:

FOREST TYPE	# OF SALES	BID VALUE	ACRES	M.B.F.	HDWD	ASPEN	RED Pine/ Spruce	BASSWOOD	WHITE BIRCH
MARKED HDWD	19	\$ 893,705.99	1,900	1,232.4	15,722	2,137	68	1,457	249
ASPEN	6	\$ 300,751.74	304	10.02	1,492	5,081	308	0	63
Red Pine	0	\$ 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SALVAGE	3	\$ 53,607.50	46	210.86	769	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	25	\$ 1,248,065.23	2,250	1,453.3	17,9830	7,218	375	1,457	312

TOTAL = 27,345 Cords Closed Out

4. Timber products reported cut on 36 sales were:

	2012	2013	2014	2015
MBF OF LOGS	1,936	1,314.89	1,048.06	1,264.18
CORDS OF MISC. HDWD PULP	25,126	19,743	15,367	13,767
CORDS OF ASPEN	6,755	5,954	5,719	6,085
CORDS OF WHITE BIRCH	299	29	0	63
CORDS OF BASSWOOD	3,461	2199	1,294	1,291
CORDS OF RED PINE/Softwoods	873	550	382	649
TOTAL CORDS	36,514	28,475	22,762	21,855
NUMBER OF SALES	55	40	36	34

5. Timber products paid for

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Timber Products Paid for	\$ 1,574,078.35	\$ 1,329,557.71	\$ 1,046,469.89	\$ 1,193,085.44
Non Co. Forest Timber Sales Rev	00	00	\$ 14,504.28	00
Bonds Conf/Transferred for Stumpage	\$ 1,100.00	00	\$ 5,637.50	\$ 13,500.00
Bonds Conf. For Non-Performance	\$ 35,843.25	\$ 5,931.25	\$ 1,000.00	00
GROSS STUMPAGE REVENUE TOTALS	\$ 1,611,021.60	\$ 1,335,488.96	\$1,066,611.67	\$ 1,206,585.44
10% payment to Towns	-\$ 157,517.91	-\$ 132,955.82	-\$ 105,210.39	-\$ 120,658.59
20% payment to State	-\$ 44,401.31	-\$ 44,382.82	-\$ 44,382.81	-\$ 44,382.81
TOTALS AFTER PAYMENT TO TOWNS/STATE	\$ 1,409,102.37	\$ 1,158,150.33	\$ 917,018.47	\$ 1,041,544.05
1% Land Acquisition Account	-\$ 16,110.22	-\$ 13,355.00	-\$ 10,666.67	-\$ 12,066.00
Wood Permits Issued	\$ 970.00	\$ 910.00	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 965.28
Other County Forest Revenue	00	\$ 30,070.00	\$ 382.24	\$ 215.78
50% Admin Salary Grant	\$ 41,329.07	\$ 41,820.24	\$ 47,530.47	\$ 48,430.74
REVENUE TOTALS	\$ 1,435,291.22	\$ 1,217,595.96	\$ 955,284.51	\$ 1,079,089.85
Total County Forest Expenses	- \$ 395,417.13	-\$ 399,946.00	-\$ 423,125.89*	-\$ 449,000.52*
Levy Reduction (To General Fund)	\$ 1,039,874.09	\$ 825,408.67	\$ 532,158.62	\$ 630,089.33

*INDICATES 2015 YEAR EXPENSES ARE AN ESTIMATE

	2012	2013	2014	2015
Timber Stumpage due Rusk County @ 12/31	\$ 50,895.74	\$ 13,192.93	\$ 12,139.13	\$ 15,305.85
Timber Sales cash bonds on hand @ 12/31	\$ 152,0101.82	\$ 230,068.76	\$ 299,000.13	\$ 283,450.06
Irrevocable Letters of Credit on Hand at 12/31	\$ 578,085.14	\$ 677,807.23	\$ 635,565.83	\$ 825,214.30
Finance Charges for 2015	0	0	\$ 1,008.94	\$ 579.99
Land Acquisition Fund Bal 12/31	\$ 16,033.28	\$ 17,465.00	\$ 24,181.11	\$ 13,114.49
Est. Timber Value Under Cont @ 12/31	\$ 1,700,000.00	\$ 2,000,000.00	\$ 2,700,000.00	\$ 3,200,000.00
Timber Value scaled by Co Forestry Staff	\$ 1,365,126.43	\$ 968,437.62	\$ 919,601.03	\$ 899,824.05
50¢/Acre Loan Acct Balance Balance as of 12/31	00	00	00	00

2015 Annual Payments to Townships with County Forest Lands for 10% Severance on timber stumpage revenue.

<u>TOWNSHIP</u>	<u>TOWN ACREAGE</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>	<u>2015 PAYMENT</u>
Atlanta	4,922.84	5.5309	\$ 6,673.51
Big Bend	1,320.00	1.4831	\$ 1,789.49
Cedar Rapids	9,998.65	11.2337	\$ 13,554.42
Dewey	240.00	0.2696	\$ 325.30
Hubbard	8,545.16	9.6007	\$ 11,584.07
Murry	18,969.59	21.3128	\$ 25,715.84
South Fork	6,715.73	7.5453	\$ 9,104.05
Strickland	3,859.23	4.3359	\$ 5,231.64
True	669.14	0.7518	\$ 907.11
Wilkinson	17,731.53	19.9218	\$ 24,037.36
Wilson	16,033.75	18.0143	\$ 21,735.80
TOTALS	89,005.62	100.00	\$ 120,658.59

Timber Sales Under Contract:	<u>Number</u>	<u>Acres</u>
- Marked Hardwood	60	5,795
- Aspen	16	1,034
- Pine/Spruce	3	104
- Swamp Hardwood	3	90
- Swamp Conifer	2	97
- Salvage Sales	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	64	7,120

IV. County Forest Land Acquisition

1. County Land Acquisition Account # 100-61-48306
12-31-15 Account Balance **\$ 13,114.49**

2. Rusk County purchased 521.68 acres of new County Forest land. This included the following.

	<u>Acres</u>
Township of South Fork	80.00
Township of Thornapple	<u>441.68</u>
	521.68

In this transaction Rusk County traded 200 acres of existing County Forest Land located outside of the Forest block boundary.

	<u>Funds</u>
State Stewardship Grant	\$528,950.00
Power line Funds	100,000.00
Sale of C.F. lands	624,000.00
Land Acquisition acct.	<u>23,132.01</u>
TOTAL	\$1,276,082.01

Rusk County entered the 521.68 acres into the County Forest Law and established a new County Forest Block with this Town of Thornapple Chippewa River Land.

V. County Forest Roads and Trails Gravel Crushing Account \$ 15,655.18

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Teska
County Forest Administrator