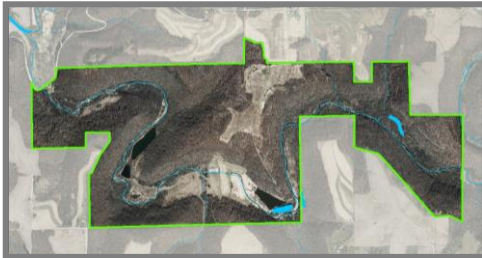


# Vernon County Forest 2019 Annual Work Plan

## Introduction:



### Duck Egg (Compartment 1)

696 acre tract in Jefferson Township. It is located 10 miles west of Viroqua south of Irish Ridge Road. This compartment is used for timber management, horse-riding, hiking, hunting, fishing, and trapping.

### Kooyumjian – Lost Creek (Compartment 2)

119 acre tract in Union Township. It is located off Pine Avenue, South of County Highway 82, between La Farge and Hillsboro. In the fall of 2002, Tom Kooyumjian Family donated 112 acres of their Certified Tree Farm to Vernon County for addition into the County Forest. This compartment is used for timber management, hiking, hunting, fishing and trapping.



Esofea – Rentz (Compartment 3) 144 acre tract in Jefferson Township, 9 miles northwest of Viroqua off of County Road B. This compartment is used for timber management, day-use recreation, camping, hiking, hunting and fishing.

### Sidie Hollow (Compartment 4)

512 acre tract in Jefferson & Franklin Townships, 3 miles southwest of Viroqua off County Road XX. This compartment is used for timber management, day-use recreation, camping, fishing, hiking, hunting and mountain biking.



### Jersey Valley (Compartment 5)

A 363 acre tract located in Christiana & Clinton Townships, 4 miles northeast of Westby on County Highway X. This compartment is used for timber management, day-use recreation, fishing, hiking, hunting and mountain biking.

**References:**

**15-year Comprehensive Land Use Plan:** Implement, amend, and update County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan to reflect ordinance, boundary, and policy changes as needed.

- Plan will need revising in 2019 to renew by end of 2020.

**Parks and Forest Ordinance:** Continue to update and administer ordinance including illegal tree stands, unauthorized ATV use, illegal dumping, and other applicable regulations related to the Vernon County Parks & Forest Ordinance.

**Timber Sale Administration:**

Timber sale administration consists of visits to the active timber sale site to scale cut products and assess harvest progress, constraints and damage. We currently have three established timber sales that will need site visits for log scaling, logger contacts, and other various activities in 2019, if sold in October of 2018.

**Established Timber Sales:**

The sales listed below are established timber sales. Timber sales usually have a two year contract period with revenue expected over the duration of the contract.

Comp.	Stand #	Tract #	Acres	Buyer	Contract Exp. Date
Duck Egg	25, 27, 8	3-18	37	-----	4-1-21
Jersey Valley	3,1,14	1-18	20	-----	4/1/21
Duck Egg	33	2-18	4	Christ Miller	4-1-19
Total			61		

**Timber Sale Planning & Establishment:**

Vernon County Forest has an allowed annual harvest of 40 acres. Our current situation allows us to exceed our goal and complete needed actions on many of our overdue stands. Page three contains a table which represents stands that have a potential for harvest in 2019.

**Potential Timber Sales for Establishment in 2019:**

Compartment Name	Stand(s) #:	Acres
Kooyumjian	1, 6, 9, 10, 11,12	58
Duck Egg	2	25
Esofea	9,11,12	23
Esofea	New Property	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>116</b>

**Other Revenue:**

**Firewood:** Firewood permits are issued when requested. The cost in 2019 will be \$15/cord. There will be a maximum limit of 2 cords per family for personal use.

**Donations:** Iron Ranger donation stations are located at the upper and lower entrances of Duck Egg County Forest & Jersey Valley Main Entrance. Donation money goes into making property improvements at both locations.

**Forest Reconnaissance (Recon):**

Data for each stand shall be updated every 20 years, accomplished by collecting data on a minimum of 95 acres (5% of total county forest acreage) per year. A goal has been set to conduct recon at least 10% of our total acreage every year in order to keep up with our 20 year minimum on individual stands.

**Stands for Recon Update in 2019 (20 year update requirement):**

Compartment	Stand	Last Exam Year	Acres
Duck Egg	1	2000	7
Duck Egg	10	2005	10
Duck Egg	17	2005	43
Duck Egg	22	2005	7
Esofea	4	2005	12
Duck Egg	19	2006	5
Duck Egg	21	2006	2
Duck Egg	23	2006	15
Kooyumjian	2	2006	11
Kooyumjian	3	2006	10
Kooyumjian	5	2006	3
Kooyumjian	7	2006	19
Kooyumjian	8	2006	3
Sidie Hollow	1	2006	53
<b>Total</b>			<b>200</b>
<b>Percentage of Total</b>			<b>10.09%</b>

**Timber Stand Improvement (TSI):**

Due to poor to lacking pulp markets and invasive species issues, timber stand improvement (TSI) is often necessary surrounding timber sales in Vernon County. TSI removes pre-commercial and less desirable trees & shrubs to create more growing space for desirable crop trees and regeneration.

- Post-Harvest TSI needed on Stands 28, 29, 30, 32 (39 acres) at Duck Egg.

**Pruning:** Pruning is needed in tree plantations to improve quality of future crop trees.

- 5 acres (stand 11) at Kooyumjian will be pruned in 2019.
- 5 acres (stand 39) at Duck Egg will be pruned in 2019.

**Prescribed Fire:** Vernon County Forest is equipped with basic prescribed burning equipment, necessary for implementation of grassland and woodland burns. Prescribed burning in grassland situations will be used to maintain and periodically refresh grassland habitat. In prescribed woodland burns, fire will fulfill several objectives, including but not limited to: seedbed preparation, invasive species control and controlling stand composition.

- DNR staff may be available to assist in conducting prescribed burns.
- Post-harvest potential for Rx burn on stand 1 in Jersey Valley for site preparation prior to establishment of supplemental planting.

**Reforestation / Afforestation:**

- Will plant a minimum of 1 acre with left-over seedlings from the county tree sale program.
- Develop afforestation plan for Stand 1 (4 acres) at Jersey Valley Harvest set to occur 2019-2020.
- Following the harvest of Stand 33 (4 acres) at Duck Egg, Walnut seed or seedlings will be planted into gaps between Walnut seed trees.

**Forest Protection:**

- Firebreaks will be maintained around all tree plantations and grasslands.
- Acquire signage for posting about firewood movement and the insect/disease spread risk.

**Maintenance of Equipment & Facilities:**

**County Forest Roads:** Maintain forest access roads as needed in 2019.

**Parking Lots:** Kooyumjian parking lot will need gravel added. Also, to reduce upkeep, eliminate destruction by users and to continue preventing vehicle access to trails the smooth wire fence may be removed and replaced with boulders that will restrict unauthorized access. This parking lot will be considered for these upgrades contingent on potential timber sale. All other parking lots will be monitored and maintained as needed.

**Timber Access Roads:** Development of logging roads will occur as needed in conjunction with timber sale establishment. Focus will be on limiting the amount needed and finding low-cost means of installation.

- Utilize DNR Conservation Aid Grant to develop new trail in Duck Egg County Park (stand 2) for potential Timber sale establishment in 2019

**Facilities:** County forest equipment is stored within the metal shed at Esofea County Park. Maintain facility as needed throughout 2019. Remove equipment no longer in use to provide larger work area.

- Beginning processes to produce a gravel bed for seedling retention will occur in 2019.

### **Wildlife Management Activities:**

**Nickel-an-acre fund:** This is a small fund in Vernon County, and use in 2019 will depend on needs surrounding other habitat projects. Funds must be utilized within three years of allocation.

### **Land Purchase/Sales/Exchanges:**

As property within the established blocking boundaries or other areas possessing special and/or unique values are offered for donation or sale, the DNR Forest Liaison, County Forest Administrator and Land Conservation Committee will assess the merit of county ownership.

- KN Stewardship grant applied for in July of 2018 will potentially be finalized in 2019. This will provide Esofea Park with a larger (54.46 ac) land base.
- A 1.6 acre parcel of land adjacent to Sidie Hollow has been considered for donation which will improve access from Co. Hwy. X. This acquisition will be finalized in 2019.

**County Forest Boundaries:** Complete re-survey of Sidie Hollow & Jersey Valley properties boundaries completed in 2017 showed many discrepancies with the assumed boundary line.

- Legal work to correct discrepancies began in 2018 but will be an ongoing process in 2019.

**Withdrawal:** No current withdrawals have been discussed at this time.

**Entry:** The current prospective purchase at Esofea Park and the parcel at Sidie Hollow will be entered as county forest lands in 2019.

### **Recreation:**

**Trail Mapping:** Duck Egg trails totaling 12 miles are to be re-signed in 2019. Efforts will be made to GPS and map trails on all compartments.

**Trail Maintenance:** All multi-use trails receive regular maintenance of mowing at least twice per year, removing hazard trees, and removing encroaching brush as needed. Certain trails segments have deteriorated with use or due to original design have a high potential for deterioration/erosion and will need improvements or re-routing.

- Will seek help of volunteer/partner organizations and funding to complete as needed.

**Campsite Improvement:** Sidie Hollow upper campground will continue to be monitored for campsite improvement. Along with regular pruning in all of our campsite areas.

- Biological control for invasive species will continue to occur on all of our parks compartments in 2019.

### **Miscellaneous County Forest Activities:**

**Professional Development:** Attend all Wisconsin County Forest Association (WCFA) meetings to stay up to date with issues facing the County Forest Program. Attend DNR sponsored and other trainings where applicable.

**Public Outreach:** Participation and assistance with local landowner groups and provide forestry instruction to school groups when requested.

### **Grants and Funding:**

**County Forest Project Loan:** Vernon County received a \$730,000 Project Loan from DNR in 2014 to conduct land acquisitions. It has been discussed that \$182,500 remains in our open account and a portion of this will be utilized in our prospective acquisitions. The funds remaining after these acquisitions will have to be returned to the state by June of 2019.

### **County Forest Sustainable Forestry Grant:**

- Vernon County received a \$20,000 grant in 2017 to conduct inventory/analysis and write a management plan for terrestrial invasive species. A management plan will discuss approaches to reasonably provide for invasive species control. This will help to identify high priority projects in 2019.

**County Forest Road Aids:** Will investigate acquiring County Forest Road designation where appropriate to obtain County Forest Road Aids.

**Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant:** Vernon County has applied for 50% of the acquisition costs associated with the 44.46 acre purchase at Esofea. This same application will fund 100% of the approved value of the 10 acre addition also at Esofea Park.

**National Wild Turkey Federation – Superfund Grant:** Will apply in 2019 to create/improve turkey habitat on the County Forest.

**Ruffed Grouse Society – Drummer Fund:** Will apply in 2019 to receive funding for creating/improve ruffed grouse habitat on the County Forest.

# Vernon County Forest 2019 Annual Work Plan

## Signatures for Approval

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nick Gilman, Vernon County Forest Administrator  
Land & Water Conservation Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christine Walroth, Vernon County Liaison Forester  
Wisconsin DNR Forestry Division

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Finlay, Richland Center Forestry Team Leader  
Wisconsin DNR Forestry Division

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Aaron Young, Dodgeville Area Forestry Leader  
Wisconsin DNR Forestry Division

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Ann Buenzow, Southwest District Forestry Leader  
Wisconsin DNR Forestry Division

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date