

# Hubbard County Tax-Forfeited Lands Forest Resources Management Plan

## *Executive Summary*





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**Amendments to the  
Hubbard County  
Forest Resources Management Plan**

**Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_ 2012**

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**Hubbard County Board**

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Gregory Larson ó District 3  
Lyle Robinson ó District 4  
Cal Johannsen ó District 5

**Natural Resource Management Staff**

Mark öChipö Lohmeier, Land Commissioner  
Mark Juberian, Natural Resource Manager  
Allen Lysdahl, Natural Resource Manager  
Aaron Funk, Natural Resource Manager  
Greg Hensel, P&R Supervisor/Ag. Inspector  
Donna Carter, Admin. Assistant

**Natural Resources Stakeholder Comm.**

Robin Walsh, Logging Contractor  
Dean White, Logging Contractor  
Brian Bignall, Forest Products Industry  
Jerry Richards, Forest Products Industry  
Dan Dyre, Tourism Based Business  
Richard Ohm, Outdoor Recreation  
Carter Hedeem, Outdoor Recreation  
Bill Steen, NIPF Landowner  
Melvin Hooker, NIPF Landowner  
Russell Johnsrud, Township Officer  
John Casson, Township Officer  
Mark Carlstrom, MN-DNR, Forestry  
Rusty Uscola, School/Environmental  
Educator  
Armin Hawkins, Hunting Sports  
Craig Rittgers, Hunting Sports  
Pam Heeren, County Auditor/Treasurer

**Cover Image**

The cover photo is an image of a 40-year old stand of Hubbard County aspen.

This executive summary provides a brief overview of the changes to the 2002 Forest Resources Management Plan, as recommended by the Natural Resource Management Department and the Natural Resources Stakeholders Committee. These recommendations were developed through a series of meetings with county forestland stakeholders including, loggers, outdoor recreationists, forest industry, tourism-based businesses, public land managers, township officials, private forest landowners, educators, and hunting sports enthusiasts.

### **Vision Statement**

The following vision statement was created to help guide management planning discussion and the eventual recommendations:

*“In the year 2112 Hubbard County’s forests are healthy, productive, sustainable, and a diverse mix of native species with balanced age classes. The forest supports strong forest products and recreation based economies, yet are managed to provide a visually aesthetic landscape. The private and public management of these forests are cooperatively focused on achieving overall landscape-level goals, while at the same time reaching individual benchmarks in timber production, wildlife habitat, preservation, water quality, and other resource management goals. Management allows for flexibility and adaptability in response to unforeseen circumstances affecting Hubbard County’s forests.”*

Below are the changes to the Strategic Management section from the 2002 Forest Resources Management Plan.

### **Strategic Management (page 40-76)**

- Department Administration (pages 46-49)
  - Clarified policy statements on departmental funding and direction to non-industrial private forest landowners regarding stewardship plans.
  - Strategic actions were modified regarding staffing levels, a Forest Advisory Committee, and forest inventory updates.
  - The strategic action statement regarding a procedure to contact adjacent landowners of pending management activities was deleted as this procedure has been put in place.
  - Also deleted the strategic action statement regarding third party certification as this action was previously reviewed and rejected.
- Land Administration ó General (pages 50-52)
  - Directed the department to develop special use permits to protect the county’s interest for formally organized events that use tax forfeited lands (i.e. rally car races, mass gatherings, etc.).

to annually develop a list of tax forfeited properties and to work with the survey department to efficiently

complete the work.

- Include a review of the state's *Natural Heritage Database* to help identify the presence of any threatened or endangered species before conducting any site alterations (timber harvest, road construction, etc.).
- Develop "typical" cross-sections for the various classes of forest roads and trails and utilize the MN-DNR's standards for signing of forest roads and trails.
- Land Administration ó Timber Sales, Leases, Easements (pages 53-57)
  - Eliminated a policy statement suggesting access to minnow and leech ponds may need a permit as it is unclear if the county has the authority to regulate this activity.
  - Increases the recreational cabin lease fee of \$250 annually by \$25 per year for the next ten years and recommends development of a comprehensive lease policy that defines the parameters and limitations of the cabin lease program and includes an eventual "sunset clause".
  - Eliminated a strategic action statement requiring the department to identify the amount of guiding services using county lands. This is beyond the scope of the department's job duties.
- Habitat (pages 58-61)
  - No changes were made.
- Riparian Zones and Fish Habitat (page 62)
  - Deleted three strategic action statements which are covered within the *Sustaining Minnesota Forest Resources: Voluntary Site-Level Forest Management Guidelines*.
- Wetlands (page 62)
  - Deleted four strategic action statements which are covered within the *Sustaining Minnesota Forest Resources: Voluntary Site-Level Forest Management Guidelines*.
- Upland Game Habitat (page 63)
  - Deleted ten strategic action statements which are covered by the *Sustaining Minnesota Forest Resources: Voluntary Site-Level Forest Management Guidelines*.
- Deer Wintering Complexes (page 64)
  - Deleted this section.
- Northern Hardwoods/Oak Forests (page 64)
  - Modified strategic action statements to document efforts to convert appropriate stands to northern hardwoods/oak and to report results.
  - Deleted a strategic action statement designed to enhance acorn production in burr and red oak.

cial Concern Species (page 65)

on statement to follow state guidelines when dealing with

eagle nests..

- Forest Roads (pages 66-67)
  - Modified policy statements to reflect Hubbard County’s “limited” forest classification.
  - Modified a policy statement to design and construct roads using guidelines found in *Sustaining Minnesota Forest Resources: Voluntary Site-Level Forest Management Guidelines*.
  - Deleted a strategic action statement to build 5-10 miles of forest road of varying classes.
- Recreation (pages 68-76)
  - Modified a policy statement regarding timber sale regulations on visually sensitive sites.
  - Modified policy statements on forest roads and trail to reflect Hubbard County’s “limited” classification.
  - Changed the rules for primitive camping on tax forfeited land to match the rules for camping on state administered lands.
  - Modified the policy prohibiting the construction or placement of permanent structures on tax forfeited lands to include permanent deer stands.
- Timber Management – General (pages 77-87)
  - Modified policies to manage forest lands consistent with natural forest processes and to require a permit for the commercial gathering of non-traditional forest products.
  - Modified strategic action statements to include an inventory of native plant communities as part of any forest inventory update and to prepare a three year tactical timber harvest plan.

The following tables attempt to show a comparison between the 2002 Forest Resources Management Plan and the updated 2012 Forest Resources Management Plan Amendment. Also included are some justifications for the changes and some ramifications or implications resulting from the changes.

**Timber Management: Aspen**

2002 Forest Resources Management Plan

<b>ASPEN Cover Type Strategic Management Summary</b>		
<b>Harvest Regime: 2002-2011:</b>	Acres managed (maximum per year):	1,500
	Acres regenerated as aspen cover type (per year):	1,200
	Acres converted to other cover types (per year):	300
<b>Notes:</b>		
During 2002-2011 an additional 100 acres per year of non-harvested stands (e.g., certain riparian		

ated to other cover types.  
ge 970 acres.

### 2012 Forest Resources Management Plan Amendment

<b>ASPEN Cover Type Strategic Management Summary</b>		
<b>Harvest Regime: 2013-2017:</b>	Acres managed (maximum per year):	2,005
<b>Harvest Regime: 2018-2022:</b>	Acres managed (maximum per year):	1,990
<b>Justification:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The age class distribution for aspen in Hubbard County, and Minnesota in general, has long been heavily weighted to the older age classes. This accelerated harvest level is designed to quickly reduce the backlog of Hubbard County's over-mature aspen.</li> </ul>		
<b>Ramifications:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased departmental revenue from sales of additional timber.</li> <li>Eventually shortens the aspen rotation age to a maximum of 50 on lower site index sites (poorer quality sites) and 40 on higher site index sites (higher quality sites).</li> <li>Increased conflict with adjoining landowners.</li> <li>Reduction in the number of truly "huntable" acres as a larger percentage of Hubbard County's aspen forests will be in various stages of immaturity.</li> <li>Increased costs due to the need for additional staff and services (i.e. wages/benefits, office space, vehicles, land surveying, materials, etc.).</li> </ul>		

### 2002 Forest Resources Management Plan

<b>JACK PINE Cover Type Strategic Management Summary</b>		
<b>Harvest Regime: 2002-2011:</b>	Acres harvested (maximum per year):	750
	Acres regenerated as JP cover type (per year):	530
	Acres converted to other cover types (per year):	220
<b>Notes:</b>		
During 2022-2051 small age classes require variable harvest levels as resource allows. Jack pine in essentially balanced age classes by 2101.		

### 2012 Forest Resources Management Plan Amendment

<b>JACK PINE Cover Type Strategic Management Summary</b>		
<b>Harvest Regime: 2013-2017:</b>	Acres harvested (maximum per year):	675
<b>Harvest Regime: 2018-2022:</b>	Acres harvested (maximum per year):	70
<b>Justification:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between 2013 and 2017 jack pine will be harvested at an extremely accelerated rate to eliminate the older, declining stands. Jack pine will be regenerated on appropriate ecological systems whenever possible, however many sites may be converted to red pine, white pine, or white spruce as the site conditions call for.</li> </ul>		
<b>Ramifications:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nearly a complete elimination of mature jack pine stands within the first five years of this plan.</li> <li>There will be a continued reduction in the number of acres regenerated to jack pine as stands will be regenerated to species, possibly other than jack pine, based on the site's</li> </ul>		

2002 Forest Resources Management Plan

<b>RED/WHITE PINE Cover Type Strategic Management Summary</b>		
<b>Harvest Regime 2002-2011</b>	Acres harvested (plantation thinning)	140
	Acres harvested (final harvest)	14
Red pine will be used to replace jack pine in areas where jack pine is prone to drought, deer browsing, and other factors.		
White pine will be planted in areas where deer browsing is low.		

2012 Forest Resources Management Plan Amendment

<b>RED PINE Cover Type Strategic Management Summary</b>		
<b>Harvest Regime: 2013-2017:</b>	Acres harvested (plantation thinning)	27
	Acres harvested (final harvest)	92
<b>Harvest Regime: 2018-2022:</b>	Acres harvested (plantation thinning)	164
	Acres harvested (final harvest)	64
<b>Justification:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extensive thinning of red pine plantations is delayed for five years to concentrate on harvesting the older aspen, birch, and jack pine.</li> </ul>		
<b>Ramifications:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduces the volume of small diameter red pine harvested for five years.</li> </ul>		