

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE
FRSF *PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE*
JUNE 12-AUGUST 1, 2009**

Note: The following is simply a review of all topics supported, opposed, or suggested by the public. These are not quantified and no degree of support or opposition is assigned.

**LAND MANAGEMENT
SUPPORT / FAVOR**

- clearcutting
- limiting motorized recreation
- old growth management
- multiple use mgt.
- watershed protection
- sustainable forestry
- active timber mgt., forest production
- preferred alternative
- river overlay zone
- forest certification
- BMPs to allow summer harvest
- aspen management, early successional forest
- habitat diversity
- cooperative forest management (stakeholder groups)
- openings maintenance for wildlife habitat management
- scientific silviculture
- meeting allowable harvest
- biodiversity management

OPPOSE / CONCERN

- declining aspen and young forest habitats
- large canopy trees
- land set-aside for native community, research or special projects, or scenic area
- volume of restricted harvest proposed in preferred alternative
- privatization of local industrial lands and loss of recreation
- park management philosophy vs. forestry management

SUGGESTION / CHANGE

- upgrade Oxbo landing, add amenities
- add dumpsters at canoe landings
- more coordination of wildlife and forestry management
- less focus on hardwoods, more on aspen regeneration
- manage hardwoods along roads and waterways, and aspen regeneration in interior forest
- increase the sustainable harvest within research, scenic, native community, and natural areas, and in wilderness buffer zones

- promote scientifically-proven forest management techniques to meet allowable harvest goals
- regenerate young forest near riparian areas for wildlife
- note the importance of forest management to hunting in the master plan text

WATER / FISH

SUPPORT / FAVOR

- Flambeau is a well managed fishery and with good water quality
- preferred alternative
- protection of river corridor

OPPOSE / CONCERN

- increased weeds and sediment in South Fork, decline in crayfish, below-normal water levels intermittently

SUGGESTION / CHANGE

- maximize erosion control and clean water standards
- manage for sustainable fishery
- maintain water flow for recreation and ecological needs
- monitor water quality
- do fish surveys and studies on FRSF lakes
- address walleye decline in Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines
- post river sturgeon registration stations at landings
- maintain water levels on Connors, Lake of the Pines, and Little Papoose by building a retaining structure on outlet of Connors Creek
- selective management within 300' of waters edge, even-aged where visual impact is negligible

WILDLIFE

SUPPORT / FAVOR

- logging to increase grouse, deer, woodcock
- aspen management to improve grouse habitat
- maintaining Flambeau Hills Trail for multiple uses
- forest management to support all species
- more bear habitat
- promote early successional forest
- promote forest regeneration with a broad range of practices to obtain sufficient regeneration of a variety of tree species

OPPOSE / CONCERN

- wolves /deer regulations

SUGGEST / CHANGE

- use hunting and trapping to limit deer and beaver populations
- apply forestry that does not degrade endangered species
- use numerous small clear cuts to improve grouse habitat
- leave any remaining big timber for biodiversity
- allow elderly to remove game with ATV permit

- improve age class distribution of tree species, especially aspen, to benefit early successional wildlife species and upland game

ROADS AND ACCESS

SUPPORT / FAVOR

- limit roads, gate for foot traffic only
- hunter-walking trails
- logging roads closed when not needed for forestry
- roads are well-maintained and laid out
- fewer roads is better
- maintain access for hunting and fishing
- improve nature trails at Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines

OPPOSE / CONCERN

- building access roads in FRSF
- access road on north side of Deer Lake
- new parking lot on Highway 70
- Bass Lake wilderness area should remain wild
- Four wheelers are not allowed on state forest lands you say they kill plant life with two small wheel tracks (6" to 8") wide, think of the plant life you kill with a 36' wide road and gravel. You may need a few logging roads but not four season roads
- opening Johnson Road or Highway W to ATVs

SUGGESTION / CHANGE

- maintain some complete forest canopy for endangered species
- assign a number or name to access roads
- develop a new landing between Camp 41 and Beaver Dam
- provide drinking water at Beaver Dam landing
- allow hunter access to retrieve big game
- provide access for LUVs
- redevelop old trail between Skinner Creek Rd. and Hackett Farm landing
- have fewer bermed and gated roads to enable access for aging hunters
- provide a gap in berms or gates to enable wheel chair entry
- provide public access to Mason and Evergreen Lakes
- work with Town to open Johnson Rd. to ATV access

RECREATION - GENERAL

SUPPORT / FAVOR

- quiet recreation
- camping areas are ok
- keep permit system and access for sturgeon fishing and camping
- developing more river campsites
- improving boat launch, dock and ramp at Connors Lake
- adding an ATV connector trail to Price Co. and additional connectors and trail miles
- reroute snowmobile trail #82 off Price Lakes Road to connect to Sawyer County trail #36

OPPOSE / CONCERN

- motorized recreation
- closing Lake of the Pines campground
- ATV parking and trail connector north of HWY 70
- bear-dog training, dogs running into camps, baiting
- modernizing campgrounds
- interpretive trail to Bass Lake

SUGGESTION / CHANGE

- focus on hunting and fishing in master plan
- connect ATV trail to Sawyer Co. via Georgetown Trail
- set river group limits carefully – 16 is smallest group limit should be, annually permit qualified groups, numerous groups camps are needed especially near Cedar Rapids
- allow sturgeon permit access and camping at Hervas and Camp 41 landings, and access to County line road and restrooms
- provide new well /water source at Connors [picnic area]
- shorten ATV use of trail system to enable more grouse hunting access
- allow ATV access to Flambeau Inn
- provide ATV campground – convert Lake of the Pines?
- consider camper registration at headquarters, and rate increases to keep campgrounds open

RIVER RECREATION

SUPPORT / FAVOR

- an accessible river campsite
- separating river campsites, not catering to big groups
- proposed alternative river campsites
- improved and expanded river camping
- some selective logging near river
- designated primitive river campsites
- new campsites south of Cedar Rapids
- semi-primitive and primitive camping opportunities
- canoe campsites are clean, accessible, well maintained, and no fee

OPPOSE / CONCERN

- low river levels
- Dix Dox to Hwy W, proposed campsite near private lands and residences across river
- access trails to primitive campsites
- any additional development on Upper Flambeau

SUGGESTION / CHANGE

- provide an accessible cabin at the handicapped river campsite
- restore embankments with natural vegetation, rustic stair steps
- allow only limited, primitive-trail access to primitive campsites
- set higher standards to reduce littering

- expand river access for duck hunting, canoeing, and camping
- improve canoe landings
- move campsite location proposed near private residences farther south [to Stone Gate or former Colonel Ben lands]
- improve Holtz landing and address erosion problems

LAND BOUNDARIES AND CONNECTORS

SUPPORT / FAVOR

- expand the forest as much as possible
- large block of forest to benefit wildlife
- good idea
- support proposed expansion, especially expand on the North Fork toward Smith Lake Co. Park
- support proposed expansion, expand to east and north along the North Fork

OPPOSE / CONCERN

- none

SUGGESTION / CHANGE

- expand farther west to middle of T38NR4W – supported by WI County Forests Association, River Alliance, Town of Winter, Town of Draper, and Sawyer County for the following reasons: maintain wilderness image for the region, recreational opportunities, supports local economy, prevents future forest fragmentation, provides connectivity to Sawyer Co. Forest, provides additional large-block forest with public access, includes Thornapple River
- expand farther west to include the Thornapple River to preserve additional river recreation
- open equivalent amount of land to active management to offset special management areas

GENERAL COMMENTS

SUPPORT / FAVOR

- open house style meeting format
- well-managed forest, friendly supportive staff-rangers
- candle-light ski event
- timber management
- thorough, well thought out Plan
- commendable job addressing ecological, economic, social values
- well-written, well-organized document
- proposed vision and recreation management is admirable
- appreciate use of familiar management terminology in preferred alternatives
- preferred alternative is OK

OPPOSE / CONCERN

- None

SUGGESTION / CHANGE

- Collaborate with other managers of large public lands – commonalities provide opportunity to collaborate for mutual benefit, e.g. sustainable management practices, control of invasive species, elk and pine marten populations and ranges, increasing demand for off-highway motorized recreation.

Fact Sheet

Public Meeting Attendance & Participation

Meeting location(s) & date:	
Public attendance - Park Falls, WI, June 26, 2009	11
Public attendance Winter, WI, June 27, 2009	32
Total attendance	57

Distribution of the Preferred Alternatives & Options

Preferred Alternatives and/ or announcements distributed to mailing list recipients and requests including area libraries, media outlets, and government locations. Documents were also posted on-line at: http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/stateforests/SF-Flambeau/	
Cover letter announcement and executive summary of Preferred Alts. mailed	573
Copies of complete Preferred Alternatives direct-mailed for public review	128
Preferred Alternatives available for distribution at public meetings and DNR offices	58
Email announcements and web link sent (access to documents on-line)	113

Public Comments Received

Type of correspondence	
Written comment forms	17
On-line comment forms & email comments	22
Cards & letters	11
Personal contacts, notes from public meeting	14
Total public comments received during the comment period to date	64

Public Contacts Represented on FRSF Mailing List

Contacts and activities	
Organizational contacts (conservation, civic, sportsman, and recreational groups)	110
Local media contacts	5
Public libraries	7
Government and tribal contacts	69
Individuals, business	510
Total direct mail contacts	701
E-mail distribution	113
Total mail and e-mail contacts	814
Number of Zip code locations represented in public contacts database	237
Other states represented in database	13

Some Participating Organizations

Activity this period		
Town of Flambeau, Price Co.	Univ. of Wisconsin Extension	Price Co. Forests & Parks
Louisiana-Pacific Corporation	Price Co. Tavern League	Wis. County Forests Assoc.
Connors / Lk. of the Pines Assoc.	Ice Age Trail Alliance	Fred Flasher guide/outfitting
Price Co. Snowmo. Trails Assoc.	Wisconsin State Trails Council	Wis. Paper Council
Town of Draper, Town Board	Big Bear Lodge	Packaging Corp. of America
Camp Forest Springs	AMC	Great Lks. Timber Prof. Assoc.
Town of Winter, Town Board	Birch Island Resort	River Alliance of Wisconsin
Price County ATV Assoc.	Upper North Fork River Advisory	Sawyer County
Pine Island Co., Inc.	WI All-Terrain Vehicle Assoc.	Camp Rush
The Ruffed Grouse Society	Chequamegon-Nicolet Natl' Forest	Flambeau Forest Inn