

Yellow Dog River Community Forest Plan Components

The Yellow Dog River Community Forest is a newly established 688 acre protected area in northern Marquette County. It was purchased in the fall of 2016 by the Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve because of its importance to the community for its potential environmental, recreational, education, and socio-economic benefits that it can provide.

Community Forests are unique in that the public is invited to provide input that can aid in the overall direction of management as well as the design of careful management strategies to ensure that all future uses are protective of the environment.

This document is meant to provide you with the components of the Yellow Dog River Community Forest Plan that can be used during the Final Public Comment Period. Please read through each section carefully and follow the directions on the back page to submit comments.

Purpose Statement

Purpose Statements should reflect the reasons why the Yellow Dog River Community Forest was acquired. The statement should use clear, concise wording which will lead to definition of management priorities. Below is the current Purpose Statement:

As local community members, we believe in creating a protected area that meets both human needs and environmental quality while maintaining our unique way of life. We seek a Community Forest;

-that balances conservation and preservation, ensuring that a variety of public uses can occur while maintaining or improving the integrity of high quality terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

-that inspires active participation and involvement by community members of all generations to further secure the ecological health of the landscape.

-that provides place-based opportunities for forward thinking recreational, educational, environmental, and socio-economic activities.

Priority Uses

Determining how the community wishes to use the area is an important step. It leads to goal setting based on the uses. Below are likely uses for the Community Forest, broken down into tables and then subsequently ranked into three categories: High Priority Use, Moderate Priority Use, and Low Priority Use. Please note the three uses that are proposed as prohibited; Motorized Recreational Vehicle Use, Horseback Riding, and Groomed Cross Country Skiing.

Environmental Uses	Priority
Water Quality Protection	High
Wildlife Habitat	High
Protect Coldwater Fisheries	High
Protect RTE Species	High
Maintain Biodiversity	High
Sustain Air Quality	High
Buffer Climate Change	High

Recreational Use	Priority
Photography	High
Hiking	High
Birding	High
Fishing	High
Backcountry skiing	High
Non-motorized boating	Moderate
Camping	Moderate
Hunting	Moderate
Trapping	Moderate
Mountain Biking	Low

Educational Use	Priority
Volunteer Monitoring	High
Youth/Service Corps	High
Interpretive Hikes	High
University Research	High
K-12 Outdoor Ed	High
Wilderness Skills	Moderate
Climate Demonstration Forest	Moderate

Economic Use	Priority
Guided Rec/Ecotourism	Moderate
Wild Food	Moderate
Forestry	Moderate
Native Seed	Moderate
Maple Syrup	Moderate
Firewood/Forest Products	Low
None	Low

Goals and Objectives

Goals and objectives are descriptions of how the Community Forest could be managed based on the resources present, land use conditions and priorities, and visitor experiences the forest could provide. The following goals and objectives were created for Environmental, Recreational, Educational, and Economic Uses and are listed below.

Environmental Goal

The Community Forest should be managed to provide all high priority ecological services and other uses should not impede these ecological services.

High Priority Environmental Objectives:

Advance activities that:

- Improve wildlife habitat
- Protect cold water fisheries
- Protect rare, threatened, endangered, species of concern
- Sustain the quality of the water
- Maintain species biodiversity
- Sustain the quality of the air
- Buffer for potential climate effects

Moderate Priority Environmental Objectives:

None

Low Priority Environmental Objectives:

None



Recreational Goal

The Community Forest should be managed to support diverse recreational activities, primarily low impact silent sports while striving to create a safe place for multiple uses.

High Priority Recreational Objectives:

Advance activities that would allow the public to use the property for these types of recreation:

- Hiking
- Photography
- Birding
- Fishing
- Backcountry skiing

Moderate Priority Recreational Objectives:

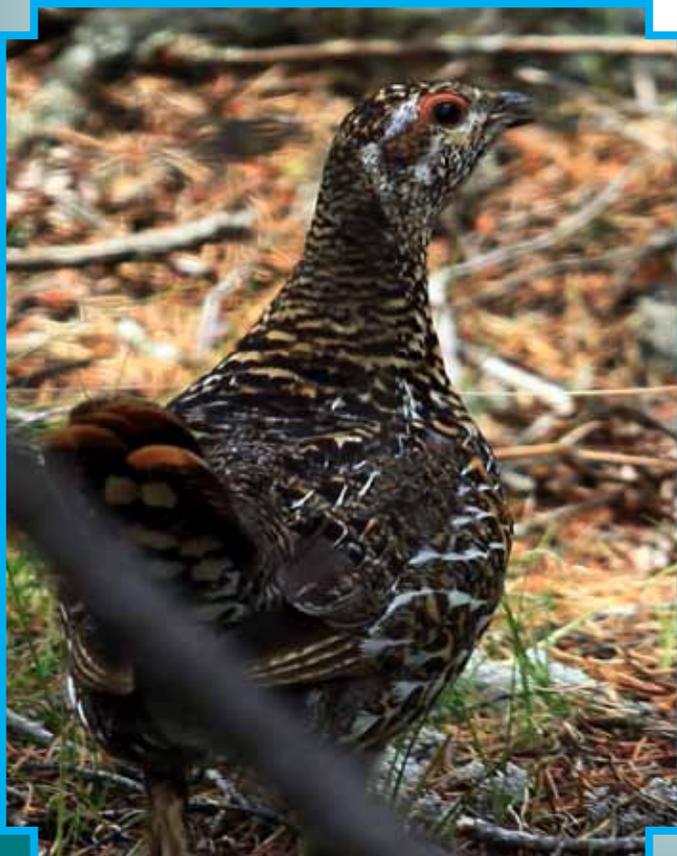
Maintain activities that would allow the public to use the property for these types of recreation:

- Camping
- Kayaking/canoeing
- Hunting
- Trapping

Low Priority Recreational Objectives:

Limit activities that would allow the public to use the property for these types of recreation:

- Mountain biking



Educational Goal

The Community Forest should be managed to stage low impact, place based learning for a broad public base in an effort to increase environmental stewardship and wise resource decision making.

High Priority Educational Objectives:

Advance activities that would support educational programs such as:

- Interpretive hikes and skis
- Volunteer monitoring programs
- Youth service corps programs
- University research
- K-12 outdoor education

Moderate Priority Educational Objectives:

Maintain activities that would support educational programs such as:

- Wilderness skills
- Climate demonstration forest

Low Priority Educational Objectives:

None

Economic Goal

The Community Forest will be managed for economic activities that will not degrade the land or water and will not impede other uses. Any economic income will be put towards the sustainability of the Community Forest.

High Priority Economic Objectives:

Advance activities that could create economic benefits such as:

- None

Moderate Priority Economic Objectives:

Maintain activities that could create economic benefits such as:

- Guided recreation/Ecotourism
- Wild food/Medicine gathering
- Sustainable forestry
- Maple syrup production
- Native seed production

Low Priority Economic Objectives:

Limit activities that could create economic benefits such as:

- Firewood or other forest products

MANAGEMENT USE ZONES

688 acres total

WILDERNESS ■

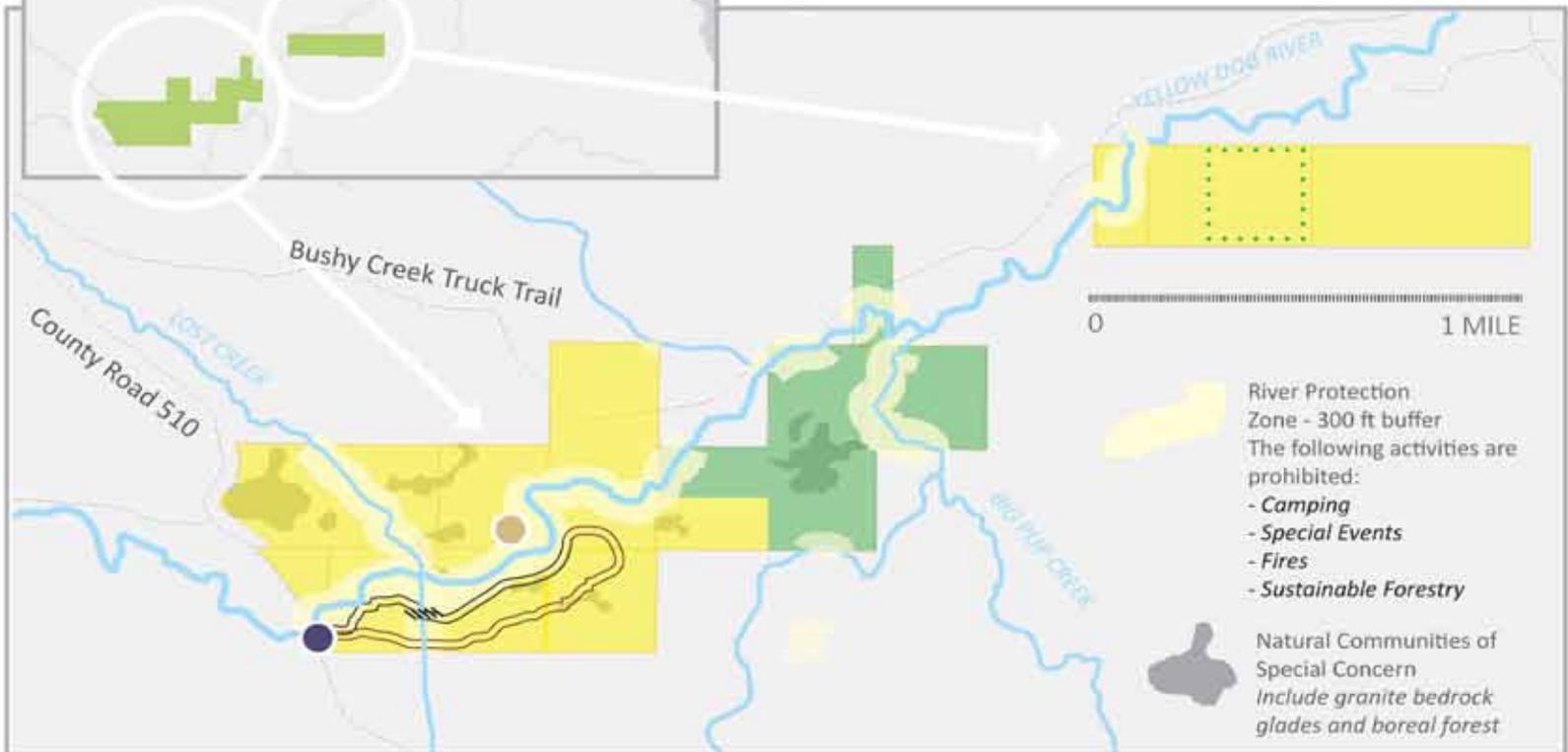
182 acres
Managed to sustain important ecological features and is characterized by an almost entirely unmodified natural environment of fairly large size that is isolated from multi-use areas.

MULTI-USE ■

506 acres
Area is characterized by a predominantly natural environment with moderate evidences of human impact. Managed to protect natural resources, and also offers opportunity for sustainable forestry where appropriate.

Any area shown in yellow will remain in the Commercial Forest Program. Any forestry activities will follow Best Management Practices which include:

- NO TIMBER HARVEST:**
- Within the 300ft River Protection Zone
 - Within wetland areas and a 75 ft buffer around all wetlands
 - On slope over 30-40%
 - Within Natural Communities of Special Concern
 - Within 100ft of the recreational trail



River Protection Zone - 300 ft buffer
The following activities are prohibited:
- **Camping**
- **Special Events**
- **Fires**
- **Sustainable Forestry**

Natural Communities of Special Concern
Include granite bedrock glades and boreal forest

LEGEND

- Existing Access Point
- Future Access Point
- ▨ New Foot Bridge
- ~ Existing Foot Trail
- ~ Future Trail Loop
- ▭ 40 Acre Climate Demonstration Forest

Zone Descriptions

After compiling information from the plan components previously described, the next step was to develop a management scenario which provides a realistic approach for dealing with existing and future constraints while achieving the goals and objectives. This can be accomplished by “zoning” which describes the type of user experience and the level of development necessary to support the priority uses. To address the input provided by the public during the planning process, two “zones” are proposed: Wilderness Zones and Multi-Use Zones. Each is described below.

The Wilderness Zone is characterized by essentially unmodified natural environment of fairly large size. Concentration of users is fairly low and evidence of other area users is minimal. The area is managed to be essentially free from evidence of man-induced restrictions and controls. Only essential facilities for resource protection are used and are constructed of on-site materials. No facilities for comfort or convenience of the user are provided. Spacing of groups is informal and dispersed to minimize contacts with other groups or individuals.

The Wilderness Zone will be managed to meet all priority environmental objectives, high priority educational objectives, high to moderate priority recreational objectives, and no economic objectives. Special events will not be permitted.

The Multi-Use Zone is characterized by predominantly natural environment with moderate evidences of the sights and sounds of others. Such evidences usually harmonize with the natural environment. Concentration of users may be low to moderate. Evidence of other users is prevalent. Rustic infrastructure is provided for convenience of the user as well as for safety and resource protection. A moderate density of groups is provided for in developed sites and on roads and trails. Low to moderate densities prevail away from developed sites and facilities. Renewable resource modification and utilization practices are evident, but harmonize with the natural environment. There will be opportunity to have a high degree of interaction with the natural environment, as well as social interaction. Challenge and risk opportunities are not very important.

The Multi-Use Zone will be managed to meet all priority environmental, educational, recreational, and moderate priority economic uses. Special events are possible with permission.

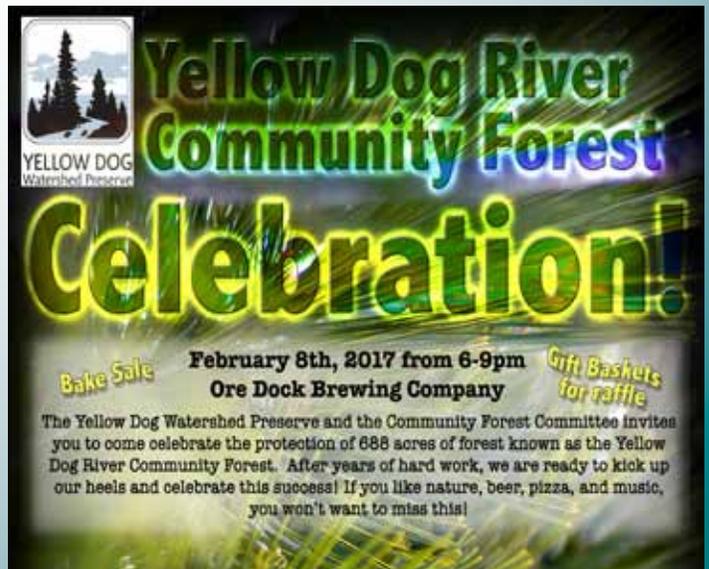
More information on the Natural Resources of the Community Forest and the Public Participation Process can be found on our website at www.yellowdogwatershed.org. After reviewing the information provided here, you are invited to provide your comments, concerns, or kudos via an online survey here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BNMJYCL>.

Deadline for submitting comments is **February 6th**. Contact us if you have any questions at (906)345-9223 or emily@yellowdogwatershed.org.

org.

THANK YOU!!



Yellow Dog River Community Forest Celebration!

Bake Sale February 8th, 2017 from 6-9pm **Gift Baskets for raffle**
Ore Dock Brewing Company

The Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve and the Community Forest Committee invites you to come celebrate the protection of 688 acres of forest known as the Yellow Dog River Community Forest. After years of hard work, we are ready to kick up our heels and celebrate this success! If you like nature, beer, pizza, and music, you won't want to miss this!