



Grant Report Form

Instructions: Please send this report (in .doc or .pdf format) and photographs (.jpg format) as attached files to Caitlin.Williamson@WisConservation.org. Your report is due within one year of receipt of the funds, or as specified in your award letter. Thank you for taking the time to share the impact of your project - we will use this information to share grant stories on our website, blog posts, social media, and other communications. By submitting this form, you confirm that the funds were used for charitable, educational, or scientific purposes as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and that you grant full permission to the Natural Resources Foundation to use this report, photographs, and supporting materials for communications purposes.

Project Title:	Cross-country Ski, Hike and Hunt Trail Signage	
Organization:	Rhineland Area Silent Trails Association (RASTA)	
NRF Grant Program:	<input type="checkbox"/> Bird Protection Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Rare Plant Fund <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C.D. Besadny Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Teachers Outdoor Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Go Outside Fund <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quiet Trails Fund	
Grant Amount:	\$990.00	
Date Submitted:	03/28/20	

1. Project Photos: Please include 2 high-quality photographs of the work (*please attach separately to the email*). Include a caption and photo credit. Sent separately to cell phone number 608-514-2692.

2. Describe the work that was completed thanks to a grant from the Natural Resources Foundation.
 RASTA worked with DNR Forester, Manny Oradei, and Oneida County Forest Director, Paul Fiene, to establish a long range forest management plan for The Nose Lake Ski, Hike and Hunt Trail. This 50-year plan divided large, single unity timber sales of 100-150 acres into smaller scattered sales of 30-50 acres with five year intervals between adjacent timber sales. This allows the same acres of sales/year, helps preserve trail aesthetics and also creates excellent ruffed grouse habitat.

Paul and Manny then developed a color coded site map delineating the proposed timber sales and the anticipated year of each sale based on timber type and management objective, the age of each stand and location relative to the trail. This represents a significant increased current and future effort compared to the normal method of setting up and managing county forest timber sales.

RASTA worked with Paul to identify a dozen locations along the trail that would be good places to demonstrate different forest management practices, past and/or anticipated harvest dates and resulting benefits to wildlife. Paul then wrote the appropriate language for the sign at each location. RASTA placed the resulting harvest maps and numbered information signs at each location. RASTA placed the resulting harvest maps and numbered information signs at the selected locations along the trail. A larger harvest map identifying the 12 'stops' on the trail and a large general timber management sign were placed at the trail head/parking lot.

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At the same time RASTA worked with our County Forest Director and Forestry Committee to allow biking on what is renamed the Nose Lake Non-motorized Trail. To encourage summer hiking and biking use on the west trail loop, we paid a local resident to mow it. As a separate project RASTA, with the help of the Oneida County Forestry staff, rerouted a mile of the east trail loop to create a more sustainable trail and allow all season use. Next summer we will also mow that loop and more than double the length of usable trail.

We have already seen increased all season trail use because of the trail availability and improvements. This means that even more trail users will see the forest management signs and, hopefully, understand and accept the modified forest management practices.

3. Describe how the project achieved or did not achieve your anticipated outcomes. What do you think was the most exciting or impactful outcome from this grant?

Completion of this project has achieved our anticipated outcomes as originally stated:

- Identify different forest types and related tree and wildlife species.
- Help trail users understand how county forest land is managed.
- Explain how trail use is considered when scheduling timber harvests.
- Demonstrate that silent trail users and thoughtful forest management can co-exist on public land.

The most impactful outcome may have been the actual creation of the 50-year management plan demonstrating how timber can be effectively managed in a recreation area.

Trail informational signs and timber harvest maps showing sign and map locations plus the trailhead sign and map are attached.

4. Describe how the grant funds were used (include specific line items and dollar amounts).

Use of the grant funds:

15 – 8' steel posts @ \$10.85 ea – Rent-A-Flash	\$162.75
14 – 12' x 12' aluminum forest harvest maps – Rent-A-Flash	230.30
1 – 18" x 18" aluminum forest harvest map – Rent-A-Flash	23.90
12 – 9" X 12" aluminum descriptive signs – Rent-A-Flash	162.60
1 – 18" x 24" aluminum timber management sign - Rent-A-Flash	31.95
4 – boxes stainless steel nuts, bolts and washers	37.96
13 hours trail mowing at \$25/hr	<u>325.00</u>
TOTAL	\$974.46

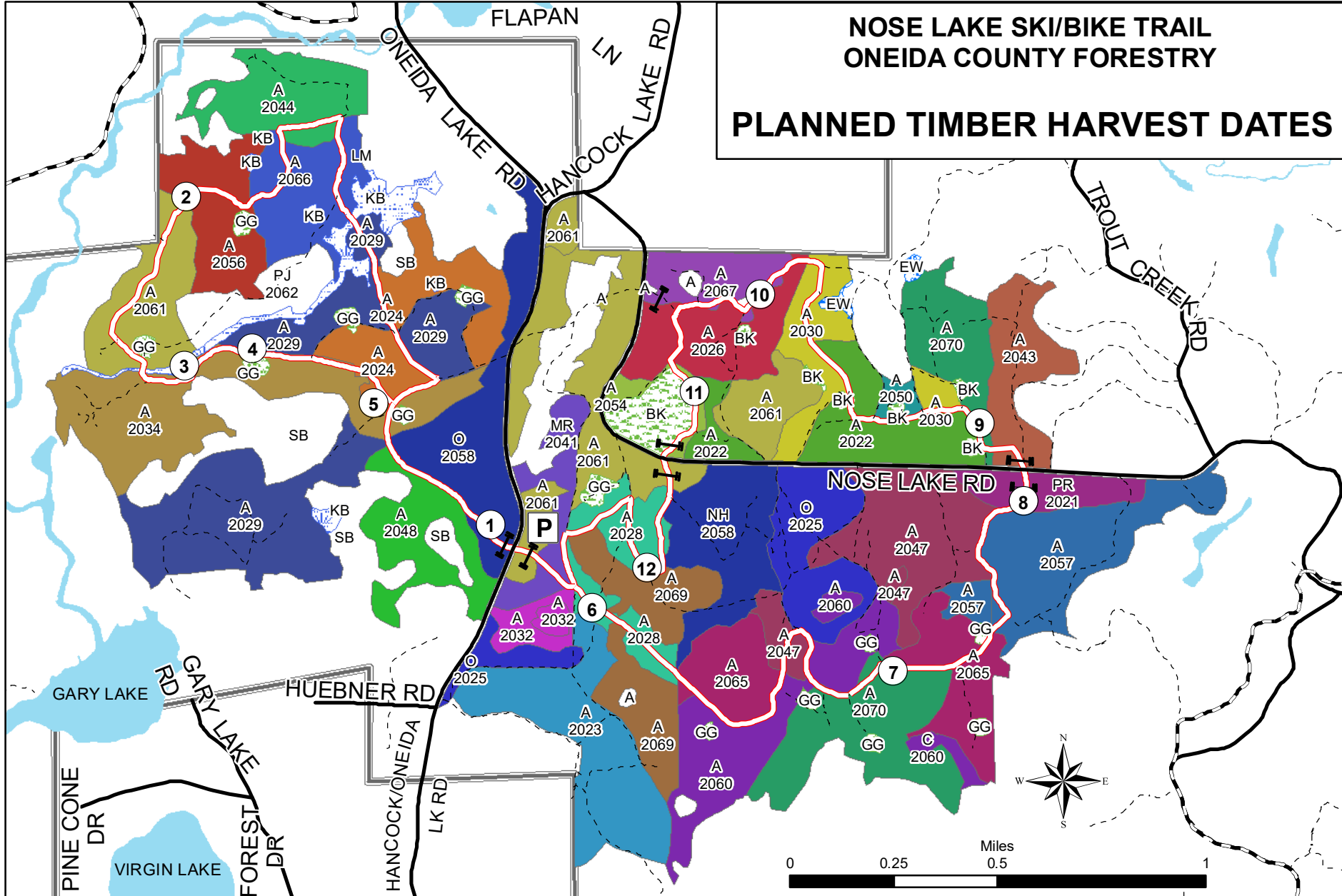
5. If applicable to your project, please report on the following outcome measures:

Outcome Measure	Result
# of people who participated in the project (specify # youth and # adults who participated, if known).	7 – all adults
% of those who participated from under-served and underrepresented populations	0
# of people who benefited from the project	Dozens – potentially all trail users for years to come.
# FTE's hired for the project	0
# of citizen scientists engaged in the project	0
# volunteers engaged in the project	5

# volunteer hours on the project	Well over 60 hours.
# of acres of land restored	0
# of miles of trail built or maintained	3 ½ miles maintained on the west trail loop. 1 mile built (rerouted) on the east trail loop – a separate but related project.
Other measurable impacts	

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NOSE LAKE SKI/BIKE TRAIL ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY PLANNED TIMBER HARVEST DATES



INTERPRETIVE SIGN KEY

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ① Oak Management | ⑦ Large Aspen Harvest |
| ② Young Aspen Stand | ⑧ Red Pine Plantation |
| ③ Wetlands | ⑨ Recent Aspen Harvest |
| ④ Constructed Opening | ⑩ Mature Aspen Stand |
| ⑤ Natural Pine Stand | ⑪ Natural Opening |
| ⑥ Strip Harvest along Trail | ⑫ Residual Trees in Aspen Harvest |

The Oneida County Forest is managed to provide forest products, recreation, wildlife habitat, watershed protection and ecosystem diversity. In order to achieve these goals, timber is harvested in a sustainable manner. These timber harvest maintain a healthy, diverse forest and provide the forest products we all use. They also provide the County with significant revenue. Forest management is a dynamic and constantly changing process. The stand boundaries and planned harvest dates depicted on this map are estimates only. As timber harvests are established and natural events such as wind storms and insect and disease infestations occur, stand boundaries and dates of harvest are subject to change. Contact the Oneida County Forestry Department for up to date information.



ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY
PO Box 400 - Courthouse Rm B206 Rhinelander WI 54501
(715)369-6140
November 2020

Legend

	Ski-Bike Trail		Snowmobile Trail
	Public Road		Water Body
	Parking		Gate
	Logging Roads		

Timber Type Key

A	Aspen	PJ	Jack Pine	Labels:	Timber Type
MR	Red Maple	SB	Black Spruce		Schedule Harvest Year
NH	N. Hardwood	C	Cedar		
O	Oak	KB	Bog		
PR	Red Pine	EW	Wetland		
		LM	Open Water		
		GG/BK	Grass/Brush		

Stop #1: Red Oak Management

This stand is dominated by Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*). It also contains Maple (*Acer* spp), Birch (*Betula* spp), Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and Pine (*Pinus* spp). This stand, last harvested in 1992, is beginning to regenerate as is shown by the abundance of young oak seedlings and saplings. This regeneration will be allowed to grow until it is well established at which point much of the mature over-story oak trees will be removed to release the young trees to grow. This harvest is planned for 2058.

Oak is a very valuable tree species for wildlife and timber products. The acorns, called mast, provide food for many species of wildlife and the large crowned trees provide excellent nesting and denning sites for birds and squirrels. Wildlife species that benefit from Red Oak management include: Deer, Bear, Gray Wolf, Northern Flying Squirrel, Eastern Red Bat, Least Flycatcher, Northern Goshawk, and Whip-poor-will.

Stop #2: Young Aspen Stand

This Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) stand was harvested in 2011 when all trees were harvested except some of the oak, pine and spruce. Pockets of aspen were left uncut to reduce impacts on the recreational trail.

The young aspen can grow up to 5 feet in the first year after harvesting and can reach 15 feet or taller in the first 5 years. Following the harvest, as many as 10,000 young aspen trees per acre begin to regenerate the stand. This regeneration originates from the root system of the harvested trees.

Young aspen stands provide food, cover and nesting for a variety of wildlife species including: Deer, Bear, Grouse, Gray Wolf, American Woodcock, Golden-winged Warbler, Canada Warbler, Veery, Least Flycatcher, Brown Thrasher, Whip-poor-will, and Northern Flying Squirrel.

Stop #3: Wetlands

Both forested and open wetlands occur throughout the northern Wisconsin landscape. Forested wetlands containing Cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), Black Spruce (*Picea mariana*) Tamarack (*Larix laricina*) and Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra*) are found in this area. In addition to these forested wetlands, non-forested wetlands with species such as sphagnum moss, leatherleaf, tag alder and marsh grasses can be found in this area. These wetlands not only provide numerous benefits to wildlife, they also act as a sponge and filter to help keep our water resources clean and healthy.

Stop #4: Constructed Openings

This part of northern Wisconsin is primarily forested land. Open grassy, brushy areas are not common so, to provide the benefits of non-forested areas, grass openings such as this are constructed.

The openings are maintained by periodically mowing them to reduce the woody tree and brush competition.

These openings provide habitat for numerous wildlife species including Deer, Grouse, Woodcock and song birds. Animals use these for nesting, feeding and to escape insects during the summer.

Stop #5: Natural Pine Stand

This is a natural stand containing White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), Red Pine (*Pinus Resinosa*), Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) and various hardwood species. Naturally occurring pine stands provide numerous benefits including nesting, denning, thermal cover and a food source for a variety of wildlife species. The pine also produces valuable timber products. In conjunction with the harvest of the aspen in this stand in 2024, some of this pine may be removed to improve the health and vigor of the pine.

Natural pine stands provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species including: Deer, Gray Wolf, Northern Flying Squirrel, Northern Goshawk, and Red Crossbill.

Stop #6: Cut Strips on Edge of Trail

Narrow strips were harvested along this section of trail in conjunction with a larger harvest that occurred in 2015. The purpose of these harvest strips is to establish regeneration along the trail so that when the rest of this stand is harvested, the regeneration will help screen the harvest from the trail. These narrow harvest strips result in less impact to the trail aesthetics during that harvest and in future harvests.

The remainder of this stand will be harvested in 2028 and these strips will be harvested again in 2065.

Stop #7: Large Aspen Harvest

This area was part of a large, 180 acre aspen harvest in 2015. Following this harvest, the large area has been divided into smaller harvest units that will be harvested over a period of 10 to 15 years. Three to five different harvests will be conducted from 2060 through 2070. Harvests will be staggered to prevent adjacent stands from being harvested at the same time.

Stop #8: Red Pine Plantation

This Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*) Plantation was established in 1994. At that time, the County hand planted 1000 – 2 year old seedling per acre

This stand was row thinned in 2020 where one row was harvested and two rows were left uncut.

Subsequent thinnings by removing individual trees will be conducted approximately every 10 years.

Plantations are used for thermal cover by a variety of wildlife species. Seeds are a food source for many birds and rodents. Pine pulpwood and logs are a valuable timber resource.

Stop #9: Newly Harvested Aspen Stand

This Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) stand was harvested in 2020. The typical life span of aspen trees is approximately 50 to 70 years. This stand was approximately 53 years old when harvested. All trees except pine, spruce and select quality oak, were harvested. This type of harvest is the best way to regenerate aspen stands to produce a healthy, vibrant aspen stand.

The new Aspen regeneration can grow as much as 5 feet in the first year following harvest and up to 30 feet in ten years. The roots of the aspen trees that were harvested on this site may produce up to 10,000 aspen seedlings per acre.

Aspen stands provide a variety of wildlife species with food and shelter while providing valuable timber products. The next harvest planned in this stand is in 2070.

Stop #10: Mature Aspen Stand

This is a mature Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) stand that has an origin of 1967. This stand was part of a much larger stand of Aspen that has been broken into smaller harvest units to reduce the impacts the harvests have on the recreation trail. Aspen is a relatively short-lived species and becomes mature at approximately 50 years of age at which time it will often begin to decline in health, vigor and value.

Mature aspen stands provide nesting cover and food for a variety of mammals, birds and rodents and provides a valuable timber resource.

This stand will be harvested in 2026.

Stop #11: Natural Opening

This is a naturally occurring grass/brush opening. As natural succession occurs, the opening must be maintained through a variety of methods. These include prescribed fire and hand cutting of woody competition. This opening has been burned twice in the past and another prescribed burn is planned in 2021.

Natural openings are used by a variety of wildlife species for nesting, feeding and escaping insects.

Stop #12: Residual Trees in Aspen Regeneration Harvests

When Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) regeneration harvests are conducted, species such as Oak (*Quercus* spp), Pine (*Pinus* spp) and Spruce (*Picea* spp) are often left unharvested. Pine, oak and aspen require near full sunlight to regenerate. These residual trees serve several purposes.

These include:

- providing tree species diversity
- providing a continued food source
- providing denning and nesting sites
- when they die they may provide cavity trees and large woody debris
- improve the aesthetics of the harvest

When this stand is next harvested in 2069, many of these residual trees may still be standing and will likely be left uncut.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT ON THE SILENT SPORTS TRAILS

This quiet trail is on Oneida County Managed Forest land. Timber is harvested according to a schedule as it matures. Timber harvests change the nature of the trail but provide revenue for the county, as well as important wildlife benefits including:

- Improved cover and browse for deer.
- Various age aspen stands that provide grouse habitat needed for raising broods, over-wintering and food reserves.
- Dense young forest with grassy and brushy openings for woodcock breeding, feeding and roosting.
- Young aspen forest stands preferred by threatened species like the golden-winged warbler.

RASTA and The Oneida Country Forestry, Land and Recreation Department cooperate to plan harvests that are sized, spaced and scheduled to help reduce aesthetic impacts along the trails while still effectively managing the forest.

Signs are located along the trail describing forest type, management objectives, previous harvest date, next planned harvest and notes to help describe how this public land is managed for multiple use.