
Rusk County Forestry Department

311 Miner Ave. E. Suite 115

Ladysmith, WI 54848

Office: (715) 532-2113



RUSK COUNTY LAND AND FORESTRY COMMITTEE

DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2024

PLACE: RUSK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER MEETING ROOM

TIME: 3:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 19, 2024

PUBLIC COMMENT – limit of 3 minutes per person

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Parks and Recreation Report
2. Timber Sales Report
3. Administrator's Report
4. Public Trail Committee Report

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION

1. Trail Recommendations
2. **Closed Session** – Announced by Chair
Forestry Bond Revocation or Confiscation pursuant to WI Stats 19.85(1)(e). Chair announces a closed session for deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.
Open Session – Possible Motion on Topic of Closed Session.
3. Award Fall 2024 Timber Sale Bids
4. Wildlife Update
5. Access Permits
6. ATV Trail Request
7. Historic CC Camp Signage – ATV Trail
8. Out of County Travel
9. Review and Approve Bills
10. Set the Next Meeting Date
11. Adjourn

Requests from persons with disabilities who need assistance to participate in this meeting should be made to the County Clerk's Office at 715-532-2100 with as much advance notice as possible. At any time, a quorum of a County Committee or of the County Board may be present at the meeting to observe the proceedings, but no action will be taken except by those Committee Members for the stated Committee meeting and only on noticed agenda items.

This agenda was prepared by Jerrad Macholl under the Direction of Phil Unterschuetz, Chairman Land and Forestry Committee

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2024

Land and Forestry Committee Present: P. Schneider, P. Unterschuetz, J. Biller, K. Halbur, A. Hampton

Others Present: J. Macholl, H. Woldhuis, D. Jochimsen, B. Grunseth, G. Sihsmann, R. Ellwanger, D. Mansky, J. Waeltz, J. Waldron, S. O'Keef, D. Sprighton, B. Roach

CALL TO ORDER

The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19th, 2024.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Unterschuetz called for nominations for Land and Forestry Vice-Chairman.

Biller nominated Schneider for Land and Forestry Vice-Chairman.

Unterschuetz called for additional nominations three times.

Motion by Biller, second by Halbur to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot for Schneider as Vice-Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Biller, and second by Schneider to approve the October 15, 2024 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public spoke on Excelsior Road shared use. Access permit updates.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Parks and Recreation Report:

Jerrad reported on behalf of Mike: The docks have been pulled and water off at all campgrounds. Attended township meeting regarding Josie Creek campground bridge replacement – bypass to be installed for access. KBIS – bridge inspection on Weirgor Creek bridge, received 4 bids regarding the Weirgor ATV trail project.

Timber Sale Report:

Jerrad reported on behalf of Dane: Lots of wood hauled, sale closeouts completed. Klein, CFP, Hoyt, Wojcik, RM Bay, Kreier Forest Products, J&J Enterprises, and Strzok Logging are all working on current sales.

Administrator Report:

Jerrad reported: Carbon Credit reporting period 3 completed. Seven permanent plots were harvested in period 3. The forestry department will monitor. New Technician, Jon Smith starts December 2nd. Updated stickers for Off-Road vehicle signage received. Attended Josie Creek bridge meeting, asked to sit on the planning committee for Land Conservation, and participated in Mock Interviews at Ladysmith High School. Picked up the new trailer. Attended bridge inspection.

Ad-Hoc Public Trail Committee Report:

The trail committee reported: Discussed Excelsior Road access, Elk funding, new trails

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2024

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION

Trail Recommendations:

Reviewed trail inspection forms regarding designation changes: GL13 submitted by Ad-Hoc Trail Committee, BH1246 submitted by Ad-Hoc Trail Committee, BH1243 submitted by Forestry Department, BH1219 submitted by Ad-Hoc Trail Committee, BH309 submitted by Forestry Department, and BH302 submitted by Forestry Department.

BH440 was reviewed as submitted by the Forestry Department to remain closed as it is a wetland area.

Motion by Hampton, Second by Halbur to update GL-130 to ATV/UTV access. Motion Carried.

Motion by Biller, second by Schneider to update BH-1246 to Highway Use Vehicle. Motion Carried.

Motion by Biller, second by Hampton to update BH1243 to ATV/UTV access. Motion Carried.

Motion by Biller, second by Hampton to update BH 1219 to update to Highway Use Vehicle access. Motion Carried.

Motion by Hampton, second by Schneider to update BH-309 and BH-302 to AVT/UTV access. Motion Carried.

Award Fall 2024 Timber Sale Bids:

Reviewed 2024 Fall Timber Sale Final Bid Results

Motion by Biller, second by Schneider to award bid to highest bidders as long as there are no issues. Motion Carried.

Motion by Biller, second by Hampton to re-advertise unsold sales for bid with updated language to Timber Sale Prospectus as approved.

Bid opening December 17th at 11 am

Award Weirgor ATV Trail Bids – Winter Hauling and Spreading:

The committee reviewed as presented.

Motion by Biller, second by Hampton to award bid to lowest bidder - HAAS. Motion Carried.

Access Permit:

Kurt Brown Property north of Meadow Dam Road. Access along funded ATV Trail.

Motion by Biller, second by Hampton to approve ATV/UTV access as presented. Motion Carried.

The committee may consider vehicle use pending approval or advice from ORV council.

Campground Budget Update:

Presented a six-year history of parks budget.

Historic CC Camp Signage:

Request to install sign with photo near the memorial bench or the pavilion along the look-out on the ATV trail.

Motion by Halbur, second by Schneider, to approve use of 146 language with QR code for 36x48 sign. Motion Carried.

Forestry will mock up the sign and bring quotes to the committee for approval.

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2024

Excelsior Road Winter Use:

The committee discussed potential re-routes for Blue Hills Ski Trail with input from the public. The committee recommends a plan developed by Spring for improvements to Excelsior Road access. The current status of Excelsior Road remains as per the decision by the committee in December 2019 to “allow Snowmobiles/ATVs/UTVs on ½ of Excelsior Road and groom the other ½ for skiing during snow-covered times. Trucks will not be allowed. “

Forestry Truck Radio Request:

Presented quote from Mike’s Repair & 2-Way Services and Rassbach Communications. The committee requests additional information to review in December.

Accept the 2025 Work Plan:

Reviewed the 2025 Annual Work Plan

Motion by Schneider, second by Biller, to forward th 2025 Annual Work Plan to County Board. Motion Carried.

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Grant Approval:

Update from the October discussion regarding access and restrictions. DNR requests non-motorized access within wildlife areas.

Timber Sale Prospectus Review:

Review of IX Access and Roads regarding the use of funded ATV trails during summer months. Request to lift the restriction and allow summer use of ATV trails for Timber Sale Access.

Motion by Halbur, second by Hampton to add “Degradation to the gravel surface of funded ATV trail may result in shutdown of timber sale at the discretion of the Forest Administrator” to the Timber Sale Prospectus. Motion Carried.

Habitat non-lapsing account request:

nickel per acre grant. Requesting creation of non-lapsing account as required by the State to receive funding.

Motion by Schneider, second by Biller to forward to the finance committee to create a non-lapsing account. Motion Carried.

Motion by Biller to enter into a closed session at 4:55 PM. All responded Yes.

Closed Session – Announced by Chair

Timber Sale Contract Extensions pursuant to WI Stats 19.85(1)(e). Chair announces closed session for deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session.

Open Session at 5:05 PM.

Motion by Biller, second by Hampton, to award a 1 year, 40% increase to sales 2595, 2596, 2604, 2620, 2621, 2625, 2626, and 2628, and provide cash bond to replace Letter of Credit. Award a 1-year, 0% increase to sales 2623, 2629, and 2632, and provide a cash bond to replace Letter of Credit. Close out and collect bond on sale 2602. Motion Carried.

Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2024

Out-of-County Travel:

N/A

Review and Approve Bills:

Motion by Schneider, second by Biller, to approve the October AP report as presented. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WCFA – March 26, 27, 28 meeting in Marshfield

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

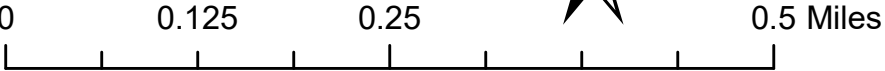
The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. in the County Board Room.

Minutes prepared by:

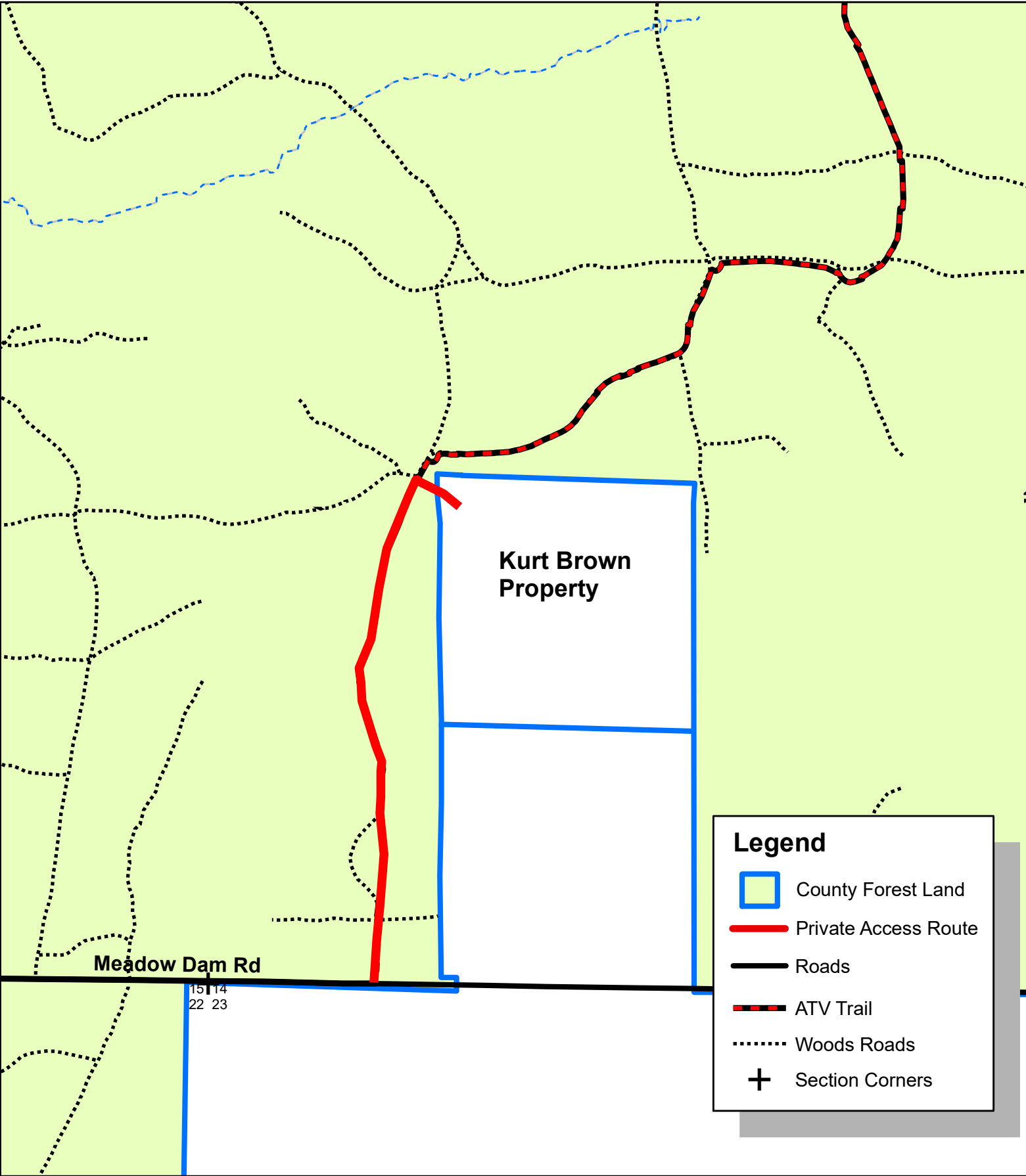
Heidi Woldhuis, Forestry Department Office Manager

Private Access Permit
Kurt Brown
NE, SW, S14, T36N, R8W







Rusk County Forestry Department



*This map is not a survey of the actual boundary of any property this map depicts.



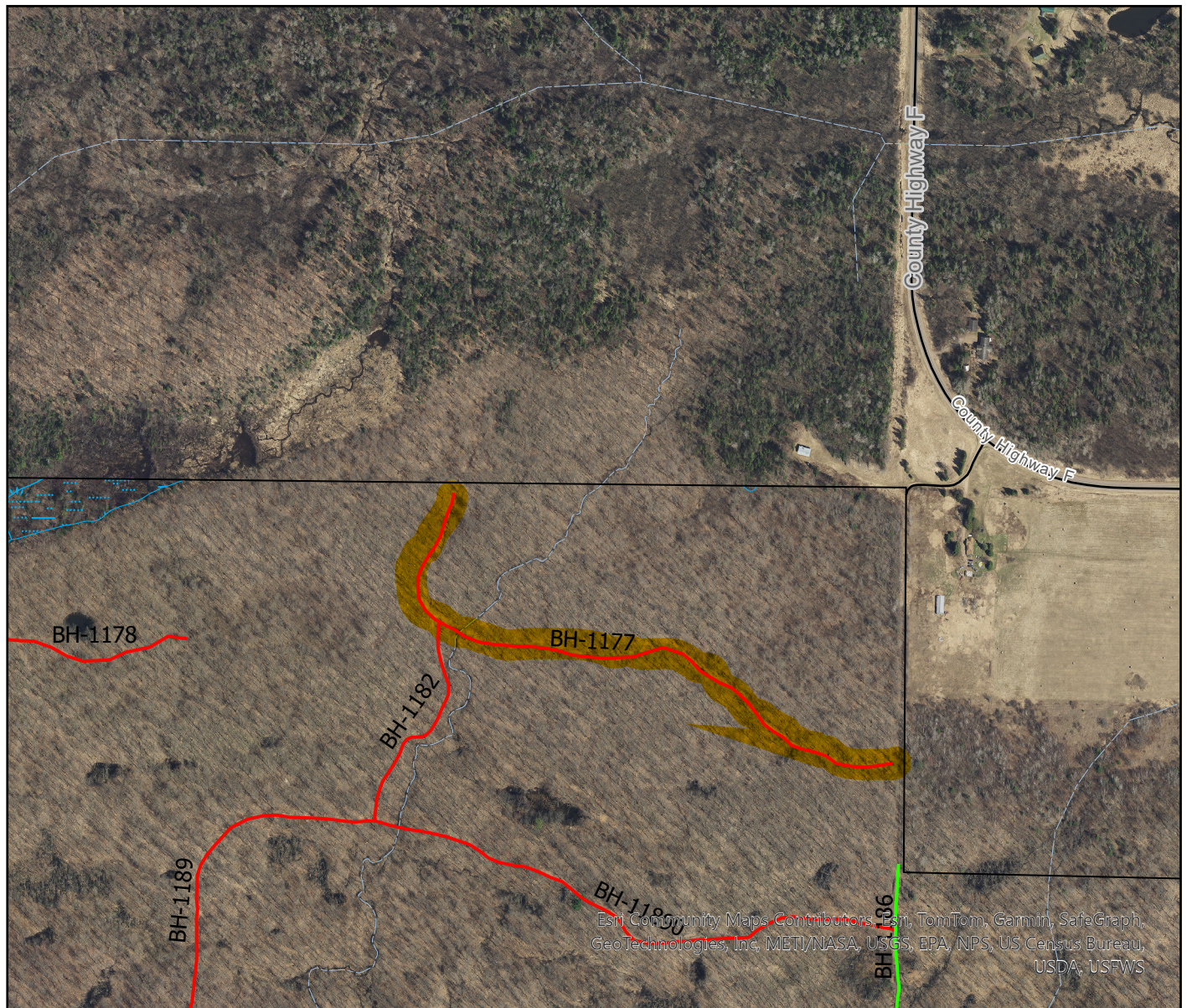
Legend

-  County Forest Land
-  Private Access Route
-  Roads
-  ATV Trail
-  Woods Roads
-  Section Corners

Kreier Forest Products Temporary Access Permit

Trail BH-1177

T35N R9W Sec 22



0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Legend

- countyforestland 2024
- Rusk_County_Roads
- Rivers_and_Streams
- RuskForested2

Rusk_Co_2020.sid

RGB

Red: Band_1

- Green: Band_2
- Blue: Band_3

Off Road Use Trail Designations Rusk County

- Recreation Trail - Motorized Use
- Recreation Trail - Non-Motorized Use Only
- Recreation Trail - Highway Licensed Vehicles
- Other



TO: Rusk County Forestry Committee

12-17-2024

FROM: Rusk Riders ATV Club

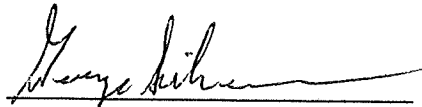
Request for ATV-UTV Trail Development funded by State ORV Council

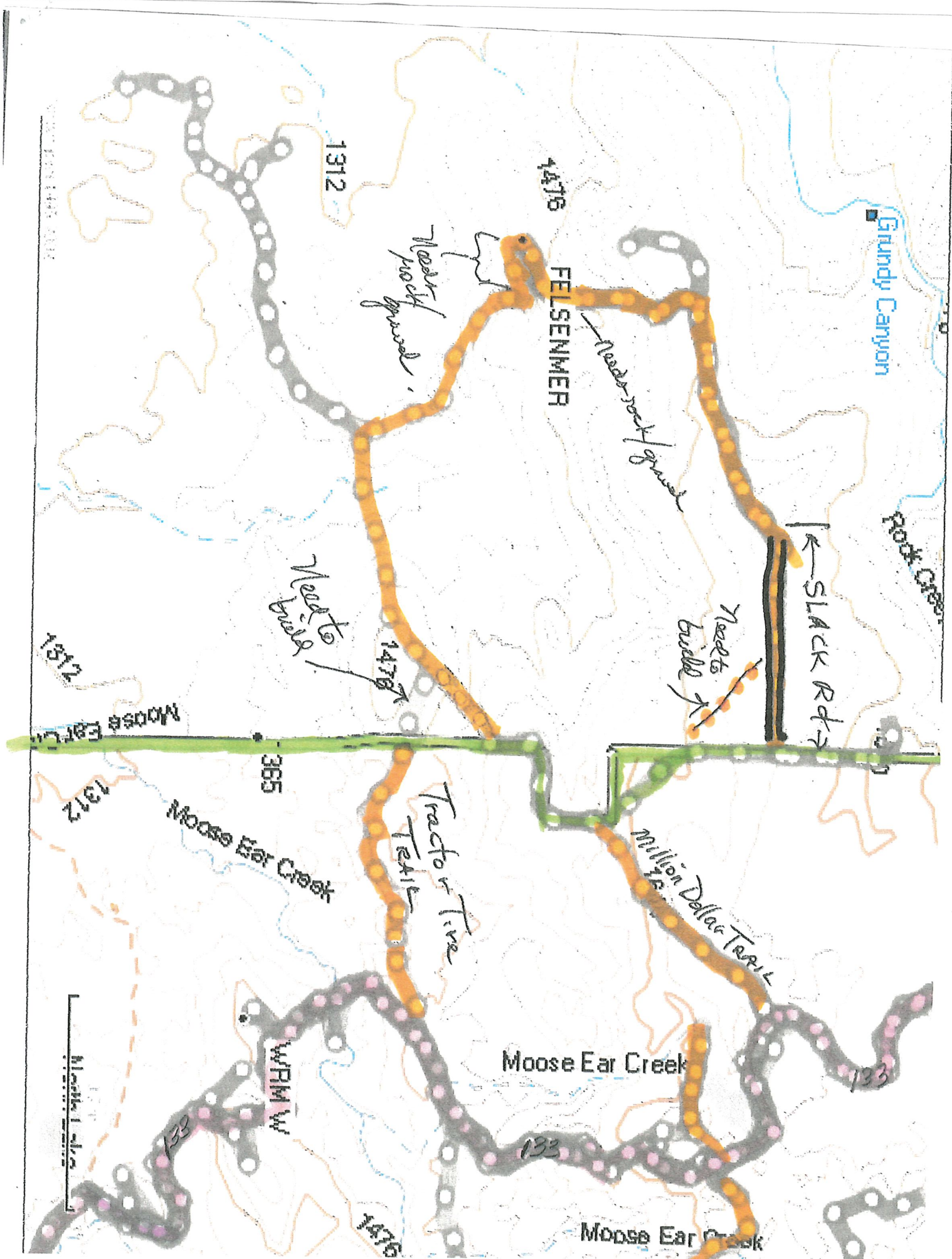
The Rusk Riders ATV Club is requesting the development of a funded trail to access the Felsenmeer area with a loop from Trail 133 on the "million dollar trail" to Slack Road and onto existing logging roads going by the Felsenmeer area and returning to Trail 133 via existing logging roads and the Tractor Tire Trail. This development would add about 5 miles to our funded trail system and bring our total to about 50 miles. We would prefer to have the trail graveled, but it would not be absolutely necessary; depending on the feeling of the ORV Council as to "gravel" on newly built trails. Years ago the Tractor Tire Trail became a "funded" trail with the idea that it would eventually become a part of a "Felsenmeer loop". Our club is willing to support this proposal with a pledge to "GUARD" the Felsenmeer area from ATV traffic along the "protected area" by funding some sort of barrier along the trail; such as boulders to bar motorized vehicles from driving too close. Specific costs for this will be determined when the trail is laid out and we all know what needs to be done. We hope this proposal will be accepted and we look forward to continuing working closely with Forestry in order to enhance tourism in our county. Another bonus for building this trail is enhancing access to the Felsenmeer in case of an emergency, because the area gets a lot of hikers and in case of an emergency medical response would be quicker. Attached map explains the layout of the area.

THANK YOU!!

RUSK RIDERS ATV CLUB

George Sihsmann, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Sihsmann", written over a horizontal line.

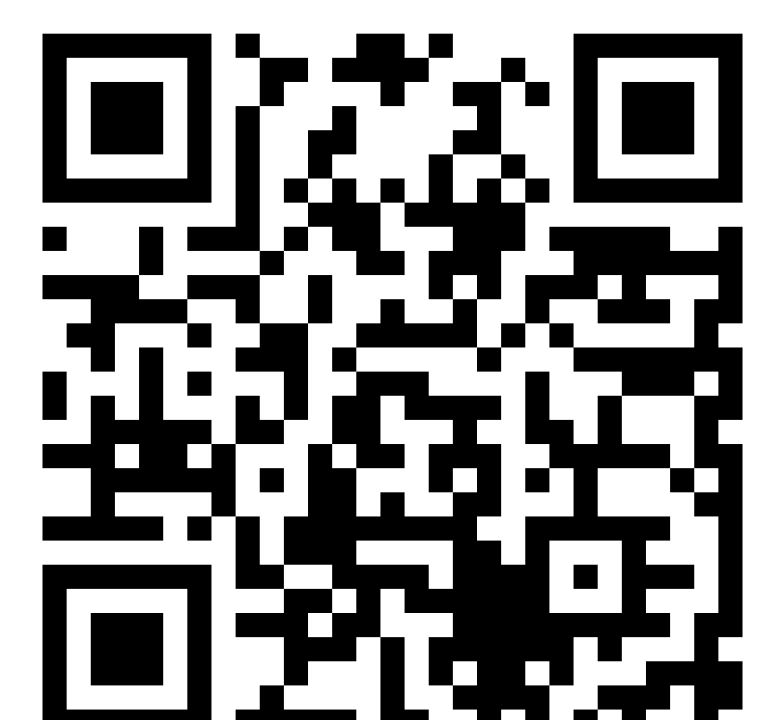




The **Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)** was a U.S. public works program established in 1933 to combat high unemployment during the Great Depression. Its primary goal was to provide jobs and foster self-reliance among unemployed young men by involving them in various conservation and infrastructure projects. CCC workers participated in tasks like digging ditches, building roads and bridges, and planting trees on deforested land, which contributed to environmental restoration and infrastructure development. The CCC also played a key role in improving fire protection by constructing fire towers and communication lines for better forest fire detection and response.

Camp Rusk, which housed CCC recruits, was initially located in Murry but was later relocated to a site near Glen Flora along the Flambeau River. The camp operated from 1933 until 1942, when the need for CCC work declined as the economy improved and the U.S. entered World War II.

For more information visit the Rusk County Historical Society

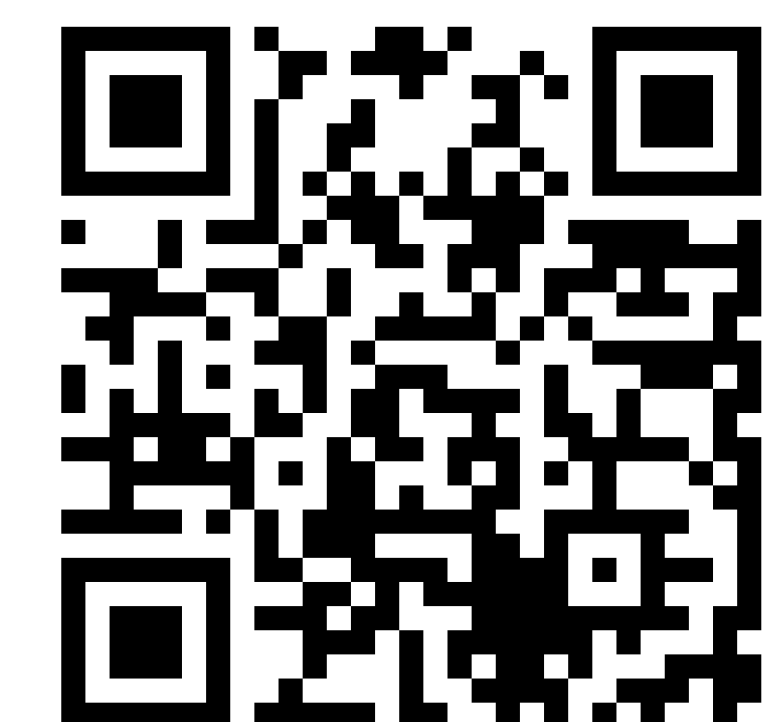


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Report Criteria:

Detail report.

Invoices with totals above \$0 included.

Paid and unpaid invoices included.

Invoice Detail.GL account = "10052"-"10054","10060"-"10062","204"-"206","10024450","1008056114000"-"1008056114999","1005955201000"-"1005955201999","10081"-"10083","10085"-"10089"

Invoice Detail.Created date = 11/12/2024-12/09/2024

Vendor Name	Invoice Number	Description	Invoice Date	Net Invoice Amount	GL Account and Title
AMAZON.COM	111-2731312-5	(12) CASE PAPER TOWEL	11/13/2024	551.40	100-52-55201-249 PARKS & REC-MAINTENANC
AMAZON.COM	111-2745980-3	(12) CASE TOILET PAPER	11/13/2024	539.04	100-52-55201-249 PARKS & REC-MAINTENANC
AMAZON.COM	111-5201493-1	(4) URINAL BLOCKS	11/13/2024	88.44	100-52-55201-249 PARKS & REC-MAINTENANC
AMAZON.COM	111-7300680-6	(2) BATHROOM TISSUE	12/03/2024	89.64	100-52-55201-249 PARKS & REC-MAINTENANC
COUNTRY FOREST PRODUCTS	11222024	TIMBER SALE 2615 STUMPAGE REIMBURSEMENT	11/22/2024	546.49	100-61-46811-000 FORESTRY-STUMPAGE REV
COUNTRY FOREST PRODUCTS	11222024	TIMBER SALE 2615 STUMPAGE REIMBURSEMENT	11/22/2024	60.73	100-24450 SEVERANCE TAX DUE DISTRICT 10
FORESTRY SUPPLIERS INC	619386	COMPASS	11/05/2024	53.50	100-61-56111-349 FORESTRY-WORKING SUPP
FORESTRY SUPPLIERS INC	619386	(2) SAUNDERS A-HOLDER	11/05/2024	49.50	100-61-56111-349 FORESTRY-WORKING SUPP
FORESTRY SUPPLIERS INC	619386	SHIPPING	11/05/2024	18.05	100-61-56111-349 FORESTRY-WORKING SUPP
FORESTRY SUPPLIERS INC	619386	(2) SPENCER LOGGER TAPE	11/05/2024	130.50	100-61-56111-349 FORESTRY-WORKING SUPP
GUDIS SAND AND GRAVEL LLC	112	(2) LOADS GRAVEL-JOHN CREEK	11/01/2024	450.00	100-52-55201-249 PARKS & REC-MAINTENANC
GUDIS SAND AND GRAVEL LLC	112	1 HR MOVE-JOHN CREEK	11/01/2024	75.00	100-52-55201-249 PARKS & REC-MAINTENANC
GUDIS SAND AND GRAVEL LLC	112	1 HR SKID LOADER-JOHN CREEK	11/01/2024	120.00	100-52-55201-249 PARKS & REC-MAINTENANC
GUDIS SAND AND GRAVEL LLC	113	GRANT ATV 4320 TRAIL ACCESS WORK	12/02/2024	570.00	204-62-56122-817 ATV-4320 WEIRGOR TRAIL
GUDIS SAND AND GRAVEL LLC	113	GRAVEL BETTY LAKE ROAD	12/02/2024	225.00	100-82-56113-366 FOREST RD AID- MAINTENA
JUMP RIVER ELEC COOP INC	17501001 1029	10/01/24-10/29/24 ACCT 17501001 MTHLY CHG	11/05/2024	135.97	100-52-55201-229 PARKS & REC - UTILITIES
JUMP RIVER ELEC COOP INC	17501005 1101	10/01/24-11/01/24 ACCT 17501005 MTHLY CHG	11/05/2024	55.88	100-52-55201-229 PARKS & REC - UTILITIES
JUMP RIVER ELEC COOP INC	17501006 1101	10/01/24-11/01/24 ACCT 17501006 MTHLY CHG	11/05/2024	68.98	100-52-55201-229 PARKS & REC - UTILITIES
JUMP RIVER ELEC COOP INC	17501008 1029	10/01/24-10/29/24 ACCT 17501008 MTHLY CHG	11/05/2024	161.66	100-52-55201-229 PARKS & REC - UTILITIES
JUMP RIVER ELEC COOP INC	17501009 1029	10/01/24-10/29/24 ACCT 17501009 MTHLY CHG	11/05/2024	126.25	100-52-55201-229 PARKS & REC - UTILITIES
JUMP RIVER ELEC COOP INC	17501010 1101	10/01/24-11/01/24 ACCT 17501010 MTHLY CHG	11/05/2024	58.78	100-52-55201-229 PARKS & REC - UTILITIES
LADYSMITH ACE HARDWARE	J70386/1	(2) MOUSE TRAPS	11/12/2024	4.48	100-61-56111-349 FORESTRY-WORKING SUPP
LADYSMITH NEWS	19143	TIMBER SALE INVITATION TO BID	11/07/2024	118.00	204-61-56121-348 SAFOREST-TIMBER SALE E
NELSON PAINT CO	100018779	(10) NOZZLE	11/06/2024	110.80	100-61-56111-349 FORESTRY-WORKING SUPP
NELSON PAINT CO	100018779	(3) MARKING GUN	11/06/2024	400.32	100-61-56111-349 FORESTRY-WORKING SUPP
NELSON PAINT CO	100018779	(10) WRENCH CRUISER	11/06/2024	51.90	100-61-56111-349 FORESTRY-WORKING SUPP
NELSON PAINT CO	100018779	FREIGHT	11/06/2024	25.00	100-61-56111-217 FORESTRY-TIMBER SALES E
NELSON PAINT CO	100018779	(10) CAP ASSEMBLY	11/06/2024	142.40	100-61-56111-349 FORESTRY-WORKING SUPP
NW REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSI	320020	2024 NORTAC FUNDING	03/04/2024	500.00	100-61-56111-339 FORESTRY-CONVENTIONS/
POINT & PAY LLC	9669 11112024	SEPTEMBER 2024 69 CAMPSITE CHARGES	11/11/2024	195.00	100-52-55201-290 PARKS & REC-POINT & PAY
QUINN, JERRY	111924	2019 HONDA 420 AXLE REPAIRS	11/19/2024	287.70	100-61-56111-249 FORESTRY - REPAIRS
RASSBACH COMMUNICATIONS	9260	CALLBOX DISPATCH RADIO	11/01/2024	35.84	100-52-55201-225 PARKS - COMMUNICATIONS
RASSBACH COMMUNICATIONS	9260	MONTHLY NETWORK REPEATER NOVEMBER 2024	11/01/2024	125.44	100-61-56111-225 FORESTRY-COMMUNICATIO
RASSBACH COMMUNICATIONS	9405	MONTHLY NETWORK REPEATER DECEMBER 2024	12/04/2024	125.44	100-61-56111-225 FORESTRY-COMMUNICATIO

Vendor Name	Invoice Number	Description	Invoice Date	Net Invoice Amount	GL Account and Title
RASSBACH COMMUNICATIONS	9405	CALLBOX DISPATCH RADIO	12/04/2024	35.84	100-52-55201-225 PARKS - COMMUNICATIONS
REPUBLIC SERVICES #930	930-00139386	NOVEMBER 2024 FUEL RECOVERY FEE	10/25/2024	93.41	100-52-55201-216 PARKS & REC-CONTRACTE
REPUBLIC SERVICES #930	930-00139386	NOVEMBER 2024 CAMPGROUNDS	10/25/2024	466.67	100-52-55201-216 PARKS & REC-CONTRACTE
REPUBLIC SERVICES #930	930-00139386	NOVEMBER 2024 FORESTRY SHOP	10/25/2024	33.00	100-61-56111-216 FORESTRY- CONTRACT SER
ROONEY PRINTING	145759	2500 LOG SCALE PRINTING	11/19/2024	402.28	100-61-56111-217 FORESTRY-TIMBER SALES E
SIGN STUDIO & PRINT SHOP LLC	SS23177	60" BHTA WELCOME SIGN HEADER	11/14/2024	45.00	100-52-55201-249 PARKS & REC-MAINTENANC
SIGN STUDIO & PRINT SHOP LLC	SS23177	48" BHTA WELCOME SIGN	11/14/2024	160.00	100-52-55201-249 PARKS & REC-MAINTENANC
VERIZON WIRELESS	9977980670	11/5/2024-12/4/2024 ACCT 983216421-00001 MTHLY CHRGS 997	11/04/2024	45.56	100-61-56111-225 FORESTRY-COMMUNICATIO
XCEL ENERGY	898600807	09/02/24-10/01/24 ACCT 52-6703448-6 MTHLY CHRGS 113829155	10/15/2024	46.36	100-61-56111-229 FORESTRY- SHOP/ UTILITIE
XCEL ENERGY	899792245	9/22/24-10/20/24 ACCT 52-6357804-3 MTHLY CHG	10/23/2024	127.93	100-52-55201-229 PARKS & REC - UTILITIES
Grand Totals:				7,753.18	