

Wisconsin County Forests Association

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July 8, 2013

Marty Lipske
Iron County District Attorney
300 Taconite St.
Hurley, WI 54534

Dear Mr. Lipske,

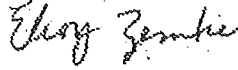
Wisconsin County Forests Association is supported by 29 counties with county forest lands established under state statutes §28.10 and §28.11. Collectively our member counties manage nearly 2.4 million acres of forests, the largest public ownership in the state.

It has come to our attention that a portion of the Iron County Forest is being occupied pursuant to an unapproved request from the Tribal Governing Board of the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Chippewa Indians, with the intent to continue and possibly expand the area of occupation for a minimum of one entire year. This occupation of public lands is in violation of Wisconsin's County Forest Program under state statutes §28.11. In addition, activities occurring are in violation of a host of Iron County Forest Ordinances. We are concerned about the implications for County Forest Law and public land management should these illegal activities continue without appropriate enforcement.

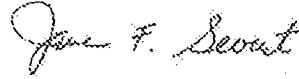
As natural resource professionals, county forest administrators are charged with protection of public resources and assuring those resources are available for appropriate use by the general public. It is clear activities currently occurring on the 5 acre parcel on the Iron County Forest commonly referred to as "Camp Plummer" are in conflict with County Forest Law by infringing on the general public's access and entitled multiple-use of that land for a minimum of an entire year without proper permits from Iron County. Activities occurring on said portion of the Iron County Forest are also in violation of County Forest Ordinances due to illegal creation of trails and structures along with vegetation removal. Please keep in mind, many County Forest Ordinances, in addition to protecting public access and natural resources, are designed to protect the health, safety, and welfare of forest users themselves.

We respectfully request Iron County Forest Ordinances be enforced and illegal activities cease. We are extremely concerned with possible future impacts to Wisconsin's 2.4 million acres of county forest lands if this type of activity is allowed to continue. If we can be of any further assistance on this matter please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,



Elroy Zemke, President
Wisconsin County Forests Association



Jane F. Severt, Executive Director
Wisconsin County Forests Association

Cc Honorable Governor Scott Walker

J. B Van Hollen, Wisconsin Attorney General

Joe Pinardi, Chair, Iron County Board of Supervisors

Michael K. Pope, Iron County Corporation Counsel

Tom Thompson, Jr., Chair, Iron County Forestry Committee

Cathy Stepp, Secretary, WDNR

Paul DeLong, Administrator, WDNR Division of Forestry

Joe Schwantes, WDNR County and Public Forest Specialist

Quinn Williams, Natural Resources Section Chief, Bureau of Legal Services, WDNR

Joe Vairus, Iron County Forest Administrator

Christopher Jaekels, Attorney at Law

Senator Bob Jauch, 25th Senate District

Senator Tom Tiffany, Chair, Senate Committee on Workforce Development, Forestry, Mining, and Revenue

Representative Janet Bewley, 74th Assembly District

Representative Jeff Mursau, Chair, Assembly Committee on Environment and Forestry