

Bayfield County Forest

Forest Update

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Bayfield County Forest is a 167,000-acre public forest in northern Wisconsin -- one of 29 county forests in the state which total 2.4 million acres. The topography of the forest and surrounding area has glacial origin. Elevations range from 602 feet above sea level at Lake Superior to 1,610 feet on the western ridges of the Penokee Range in southeastern Bayfield County.

Bayfield County Forest's 2011 planting effort is enhancing tree biodiversity across several different northern Wisconsin forest areas. Five different species of trees are creating connectivity with adjacent forest areas, re-establishing native forests lost over the last 100 years to insect problems and clear-cutting, and creating new habitat for bird species such as the Sharp Tailed Grouse and federally endangered Kirtland's Warbler. Another goal of the project is to restore the boreal forest on the south shore of Lake Superior.

Typically the weather breaks in late April in northern Wisconsin and the County Forestry Department can begin coordinating tree planting. History shows that the typical 3 feet of snow and ground frost is gone by the third week in April; this year the snow lingered and planting was moved to mid May. Once weather cleared and planting crews were able to make their way from southern Wisconsin projects, more than 400,000 white pine, red pine, jack pine, white spruce, and tamarack trees were placed in the ground. Thanks to Arbor Day Foundation partners and members, this large-scale planting will benefit the upper Midwest for generations.



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