

The School District of Phillips owns several school forest properties. The primary use of the forests is to provide educational opportunities that are not available in a classroom setting, including environmental education, field studies, forestry, and recreation for students, staff, and community. Recreational use by the public is encouraged if it does not disrupt the environment and is not in conflict with school use. All recommended educational and recreational uses of the school forest properties will be reviewed and approved by the School Forest Coordinator and/or the Phillips School Forest Advisory Committee (PSFAC).

All school forest properties will have a Forest Management Plan developed by a DNR forester and shall be guided by the principles of conservation and utilization of natural resources, with some land designated for natural succession and a significant area designated as managed forests that are reviewed and approved by the PSFAC. Timber harvests, as per forest management plans, will follow prescribed forest management practices. Bids for timber harvests will be brought to the Phillips School Board of Education for approval. When possible, harvesting operations will be planned to maximize their educational value for students.

Income received from sales of forest products, sales of any school forest properties, money received for rental of school forest, and other revenues shall be placed in a segregated account. This income will be used to support school forest development expenses directly related to environmental education and conservation for use by students and staff, curriculum, and staff development, unless otherwise designated by the Board of Education. Teachers are encouraged to incorporate related activities into their lesson planning to ensure effective use of these outstanding resources and the outdoor learning environment provided. The development and management of the school forest educational and physical aspect shall be under the direction of the Board of Education with input from PSFAC, students, staff, community, and expertise from local and state personnel.

**Hunting/Fishing on School Forest Properties**

- **Hunting and the possession of weapons are not permitted in the Worcester School Forest.** Possession of weapons in the Worcester School Forest is subject to board policy 443.6 and 832. The Harmony Forest is accessible only by restricted easement of neighboring landowners; and therefore, not accessible to the public for hunting (except for neighboring landowners). The Catawba School Forest is not available for hunting because of its proximity to the school buildings and village.

Hunting and recreational access to Lugerville and Oxbow Road Forests shall be by public roadway.

- School forests that are open to hunting shall be available for hunting, only when school activities are not taking place.
- Permanent tree stands, elevated devices, and ground blinds are prohibited. No person shall construct, occupy, or use any elevated scaffold or other elevated device. Portable tree stands and ground blinds may be used, provided they are completely removed each day at the close of hunting hours. No person shall cause damage to trees by the placement or erection of portable tree stands or by any other manner of gaining access to trees. No shooting lanes may be constructed.
- Baiting and feeding is prohibited.
- Community members will be allowed to fish on the newly acquired Elk River portion of the Worcester school forest.

**Rules of the school forest:**

- Rules and regulations of the Phillips School District apply to all school forests.
- No smoking, use of drugs or alcoholic beverages, vandalism, weapons, or disorderly conduct will be permitted.
- Please respect the rights of neighbors by not trespassing on private property.
- No horses are allowed on school forest properties.
- Use of the school forest roads by the public is not permitted unless authorized by school personnel.
- The use of motorized recreational vehicles on the school forest properties is prohibited except by easement. Motorized recreational vehicles include three-wheelers, four-wheelers, motorcycles, snowmobiles and mopeds. Bicycles are allowed on designated trails only. Any exceptions must be authorized in writing by the School Forest Coordinator and/or PSFAC.
- Users shall take all garbage with them.
- Wildflowers, plants, mushrooms, trees or specimens of any type shall not be picked or harvested without written permission from the School Forest Coordinator and/or PSFAC.

- Campfires are restricted to school functions unless prior arrangements are approved by the School Forest Coordinator and/or PSFAC, and are restricted to the fire pit area only. During DNR specified or school authorized fire bans, no burning will be allowed.
- Any trail clearing and/or modifications are to be approved by the School Forest Coordinator and/or the PSFAC.
- The PSFAC and Phillips School District have the right to terminate any activity, program, or behavior, and dismiss any person from the facility that is deemed potentially harmful to the participants, facilities or image of the school forest.

### **Worcester School Forest Gate Policy**

As per easement agreement with Cranberry Lake Corporation, the Worcester School Forest will be gated with a lock.

- From December to March the gate will be open from dawn to dusk for general public use.
- From April to November the school district will maintain a locked gate. The public may park near the locked gate and walk, ski, snowshoe or bike in to access recreational trails. Please allow enough room for school bus access and for the gate to be opened.

### **School Forest Facility Guidelines for Non-School Organizations/Groups:**

- The School Forest facilities will be available for public use. School classes and groups shall have first priority. Completion of the Application for Use of Facilities form is required to use the school forest property. Approved request of any school forest facility may not be transferred. A key for the entrance gate must be obtained from the School Forest Coordinator, building principals or District Office prior to the organization's use.
- District officials will at all times have full authority to enforce proper and safe conduct of all persons and activities on school property. District personnel shall have full and free access to the premises at all times.
- All waste produced, while at the school forest, must be removed immediately following the event.
- The organization/group must identify the person(s) in charge of, and responsible for, the event/use.

- The organization/group shall be responsible for leaving the facility in the condition it was found.
- The organization/group shall agree to pay for any damage resulting from use of the facility.
- When any organization/group is granted use of the School Forest facility, and when publicity of that use is disseminated by the news media or other means, the organization/group must agree to fully identify itself and the name of the individual who is the official representative of that organization/group.
- If there is a need for firewood, the organization/group must gather dead and downed wood on site. Hauling or bringing in firewood is prohibited without prior approval by the School Forest Coordinator and/or PFSAC. Unauthorized woodcutting in the school forest is prohibited.
- The possession of a working weather alert radio is the responsibility of the organization/group using the facility.
- A Certificate of Insurance is required and should be provided with the Application for Use of Facilities form.

Questions or concerns regarding use shall be directed to the School Forest Coordinator and/or PSFAC. Please report any unsafe conditions or suspicious activity immediately to the Price County Sheriff's Office.

*Approved: 03/16/09*

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