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# Crow Wing County HCVF Assessment & Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan

March 23, 2010

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3/24/10

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## Project Advisory Group Meeting March 23, 2010

### **Agenda**

6 pm Welcome and Introductions

6:20 Introduction to the project

6:35 Overview of the Advisory Group expectations, project steps and timeline

7 pm Introduction to the HCVF process

7:15 Overview of Crow Wing County Managed Lands

7:45 Q & A and time for Public Comment

8 pm Adjourn

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### Upcoming Events

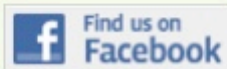


**Positioning for Green**  
*Webinar Series*  
Jan.- April, 2010

### News & Information

- 03/22/2010  
Green Building and Green Marketing Webinar on April 1st
- 03/16/2010  
March 23rd Webinar to Address Minnesotas Natural Resource Values
- 03/02/2010  
Forest Certification Webinar on March 11th

[more](#)



### Crow Wing County Recreation



The **Crow Wing County Land Services Department** has initiated a project to develop a comprehensive recreation trails plan for county-managed public lands. The plan will be informed by an evaluation of potential high conservation value forests under the county's management.

**[Click here to complete a questionnaire to provide input to the project!](#)**

The plan will address existing and proposed recreation trails that serve a full range of motorized and non-motorized uses, including ATV routes, equestrian trails, biking, hiking, dog-sledding, skiing, snowmobiling, and other trail based recreation types. The county had contracted with Dovetail Partners, a Minneapolis-based non-profit, to manage the plan development project. Dovetail will also oversee the evaluation process for identifying high conservation value forests.

The evaluation of **High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF)** is a component of the county's participation in forest certification. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification standard includes requirements for the protection, management and monitoring of special sites, such as old-growth forests, water source protection areas, cultural or historic sites and other unique resources.

### Top Dovetail Reports

- o Forest Certification: A Status Report
- o Recognition of Carbon Storage in Harvested Wood Products: A Post-Copenhagen Update
- o An Environmental Quiz that Can Open the Door to Inquiry and Learning about Forests and Forestry
- o Forest-Based Economic Clusters: Models for Sustainable Economic Development

[more](#)

### Dovetail Partners, Inc.

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Minneapolis, MN 55403  
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The full project is expected to take up to two years to complete, with the preliminary HCVF findings being shared with the public in about six months and the first draft of the recreation trail plan being released by the end of 2010.

*A first meeting of the project advisory group is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23rd at 6pm in Meeting Room 2 of the Land Services Building (322 Laurel Street, Brainerd, MN 56401).*

#### Meetings

Date/Time	Location	Agenda	Minutes
Tuesday, March 23rd, 6 pm	Meeting Room 2, Land Services Bldg (322 Laurel Street, Brainerd, MN 56401)	pdf	

####

More information is available at:

[http://www.co.crow-wing.mn.us/land\\_services/index.html](http://www.co.crow-wing.mn.us/land_services/index.html)

Links to news articles about the project:

- Crow Wing County Seeks Input on Trails Plan  
**Lake Country Echo and Pine River Journal** March 3, 2010
- Input Sought on County Trails Plan  
**Brainerd Dispatch** January 15, 2010
- Crow Wing County to Develop Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan  
**Lake Country Echo and Pine River Journal** October 21, 2009

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612-333-0430 (office)

Attachment	Size
Frequently Asked Questions	163.65 KB
Questionnaire for Providing Comments	39 KB
Map of Crow Wing County Managed Lands	2.57 MB

<http://dovetailinc.org/content/crow-wing-county-recreation>

[Email this page](#)

**Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan & HCVF Evaluation Advisory Group**

- Allan Stieff
- Bill Keefe
- Bob Manning
- Brett Hardy
- Gail Brecht
- Kathy Bernier
- Larry Moses
- Mary Claire Ryan
- Paul Thiede
- Rosemary Franzen
- Russell Heittola
- Shawn Roberts
- Tom Whitehead



## Crow Wing County Comprehensive Recreation Trails Plan and HCVF Assessment

### Project Timeline

October 2009 – October 2011

	2009		2010			2011		
	Months 1-3	Months 4 – 6	Months 7- 9	Months 10- 12	Months 13-15	Months 16-19	Months 20 -22	Months 23- 24
<b>Awareness Building</b>	News release; FAQs, website launch	News release about opportunity for public input via questionnaire		News release about HCVF results; post draft at website	News release about draft plan; post draft at the website	News release about public meeting(s)	News release about revised plan and post revised plan, including a response to public comments.	News release about finalized plan; post finalized plan.
<b>Stakeholder Engagement</b>	Stakeholder Interviews; Development of project contact list	Questionnaire tool for collecting stakeholder comments	Committee meeting notices, agendas and minutes maintained at project website			Public meeting(s) to collect comments on draft plan		
<b>Staff Leadership</b>	Project development	HCVF – internal analysis	Communication of HCVF results to the committee and the public		Communication about draft plan to the committee and the public			
<b>Committee Engagement</b>	Committee formation	Committee confirmation	Field tour with committee members		Committee review of draft plan		Committee review of revised plan and response to comments	
<b>Public Review</b>		Public participation at committee meetings				Public meetings		
<b>Plan Development</b>		Evaluation of strengths and weaknesses	Development of plan outline	Draft plan prepared			Plan revision and response to comments	Final plan
<b>HCVF Assessment</b>		Internal staff analysis	Committee review of staff analysis	Public review and comment on HCVF analysis	Finalized HCVF analysis			

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The Crow Wing County Comprehensive Trails Plan and High-Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) Assessment Project aims to:

- Develop a comprehensive trails plan that will support the planning, development, monitoring and maintenance of recreation trails on county lands for the next ten years,
- Plan for recreation trail opportunities that serve a full range of motorized and non-motorized uses,
- Plan for recreation trails that are environmentally-responsible, economically-beneficially and community-supported,
- Complete an assessment that meets the requirements of FSC forest certification for identifying potential High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) areas,
- Provide the public with opportunities to participate in the project and contribute to the development of the plan and identification of potential HCVF areas.

As a member of the Crow Wing County Comprehensive Trails Plan and HCVF Assessment Advisory Group I understand these project goals and am dedicated, to the best of my ability, to achieving them within the proposed timeframe.

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# Forest Stewardship Council

[www.dovetailinc.org](http://www.dovetailinc.org)

## Overview

- ❖ *1993, International, 1995 in US, 700+ members*
- ❖ *304 million acres in 82 countries*
- ❖ *16,000+ CoC certificates issued*
- ❖ *31.5 million acres in US; 3,252 CoCs in US (7 million acres in Minnesota – more than any other state)*
- ❖ *[www.fscus.org](http://www.fscus.org)*

## FSC Forest Mgmt Principles

1. *Compliance with laws*
2. *Tenure and use rights and responsibilities*
3. *Indigenous Peoples' rights*
4. *Community relations & worker's rights*
5. *Benefits from the forest*
6. *Environmental Impact*
7. *Management Plan*
8. *Monitoring and Assessment*
9. *Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests*
10. *Plantations*

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## Box 1 The six High Conservation Values (HCVs)

<b>HCV 1</b>	Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia)
<b>HCV 2</b>	Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance
<b>HCV 3</b>	Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems
<b>HCV 4</b>	Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control)
<b>HCV 5</b>	Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health)
<b>HCV 6</b>	Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (e.g. areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities)

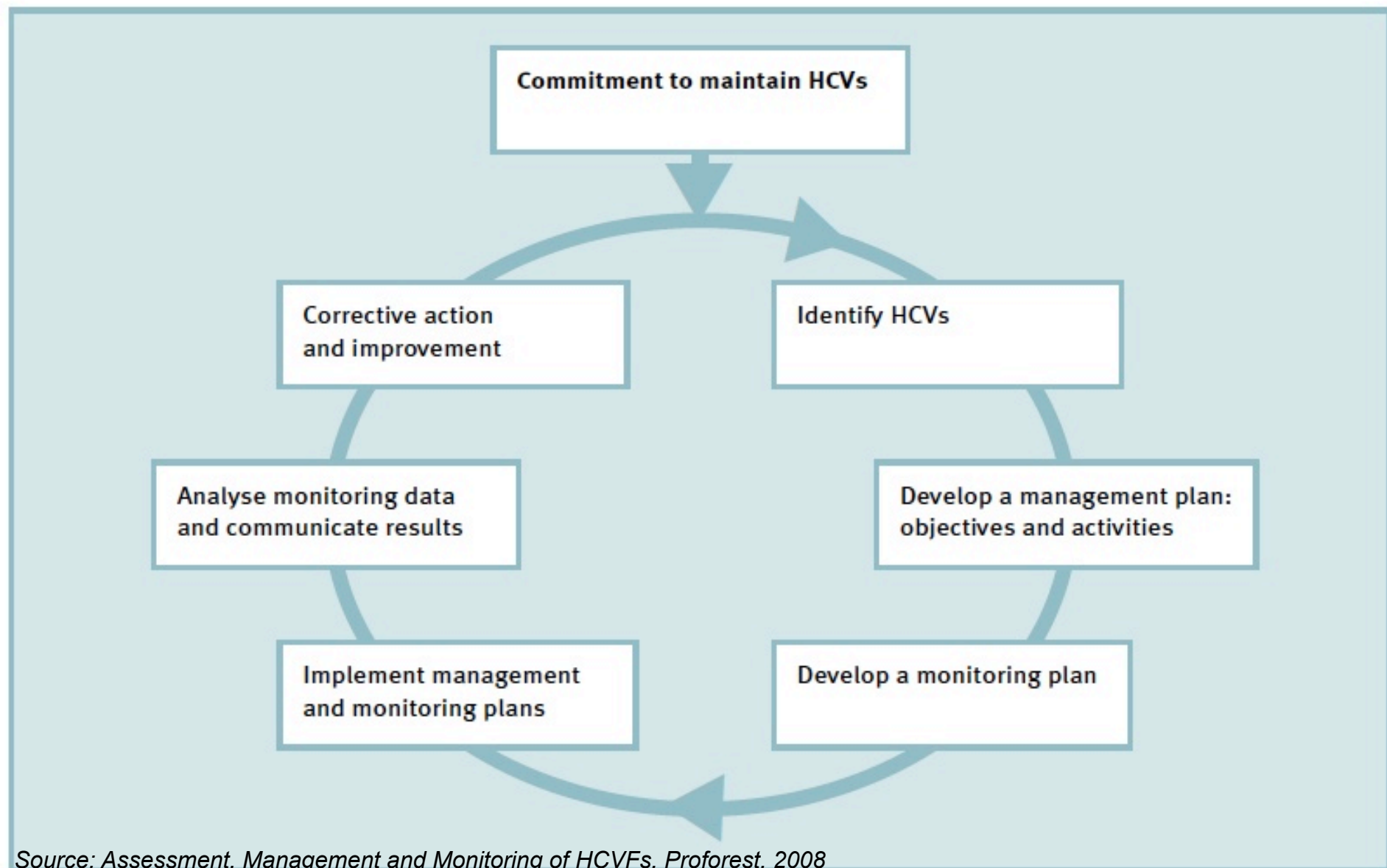
Source: *Assessment, Management and Monitoring of HCVFs*, Proforest, 2008  
<http://www.proforest.net/objects/publications/HCVF%20for%20Forest%20Managers.pdf>

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Figure 7 The adaptive management cycle



Source: *Assessment, Management and Monitoring of HCVFs*, Proforest, 2008

<http://www.proforest.net/objects/publications/HCVF%20for%20Forest%20Managers.pdf>

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# High Conservation Value Forests

## Steps to HCVF Process

- **Internal review by land manager**
- Stakeholder Consultation (public input)
- Management
- Monitoring

