Sparta Area School District

Article 620 – School Forest

The district maintains a school forest to provide environmental education and hands-on learning experiences in a natural setting.

School forest land will be maintained in such a way as to demonstrate good forest and land management. A forest management plan, developed in cooperation with the DNR, will be kept current.

Funds generated by the sale of timber harvested from the school forest will be deposited into the general fund. All sales must be on the basis of scale, measure or product count as confirmed by the DNR forester. The forester will mark and designate the trees to be cut and removed by a contractor. Products from the forest may also be used for the improvement of public lands or other public use.

The district will also maintain an education plan for the school forest. School groups planning to utilize the school forest should fill out a facility use form for scheduling and maintenance purposes.

Community use of the school forest will be encouraged as long as it does not interfere with school-related functions or the use of the forest for school purposes. Community members wanting to use any of the school forest shelters should submit a facility use form. Youth using the school forest must be supervised by an adult.

Smoking is prohibited on school forest land. Building of fires without permission of the district is also not allowed. When approved, fires at the school forest must be built in the fire ring on the gravel area, designated for that purpose.

Beginning January 1, 2009, public hunting on school forest land will be prohibited. Restricted hunting privileges may be granted to licensed groups for special events.

Legal Reference: Wisconsin Statutes 120.13, 118.01(2)(a)3

Cross Reference:

Approved: December 18, 2008

Revised: