Master Plan Variance

Property Name: Governor Thompson State Park

Date the Current Master Plan was Approved: September 2004
(Changes to plans approved after 1996 must follow the requirements of NR 44.04)

Proposed Change to the Master Plan (The specific master plan language changes and any change in land use classification, with revised maps as appropriate):

The attached map will replace Map C of the 2004 Master Plan. The change will clarify the boundaries of the vegetative management areas described in Chapter 2, Vegetative Management section beginning on page 22 of the master plan.

The specific vegetative management activities described in the Aspen Maintenance Area, Oak Management Area, and Mixed Forest Enhancement Area section may be immediately carried out to implement the general forest management activities provided for in the master plan. The above management areas include all or parts of Compartment 1, Stands 11, 13, 14, 19, 23, 60, 68, 70, 72, 92, and 93. Note that several of these stands overlap both active and passive management areas. These stands are cover-typed as aspen, oak, and scrub oak. The acreage in active management areas within the above named stands is about 280 acres. Management of these acres, combined with that of the conifer plantations in the park, could average about 35-40 acres per year over 15 years, depending on when planned timber treatments are scheduled.

Additional forest management activities are to be considered when the master plan is reviewed or revised. The specific locations of the areas to be managed are shown on the attached maps.

Compartment 1
Stand Description, Objective, Management Prescription

Stand 11 is approximately 61 acres (including 30 acres in the Aspen Maintenance Area). This stand consists of pole sized (5-11 inches diameter at breast height) trees, the majority of which originated around 1994. This is a nearly pure stand of aspen. The primary management objective in this stand is natural regeneration of the current timber type. Prescribed forest management activities consist of a coppice regeneration harvest scheduled around the year 2038 relying on natural regeneration of aspen through stump sprouting to reestablish the site.

Stand 13 is approximately 83 acres (including approximately half of the stand within the Mixed Forest Enhancement Management area). This stand consists of small sawtimber (11-15 inches diameter at breast height) trees which originated around 1917. The majority of tree species present are northern pin oak, eastern white pine, red maple, and aspen. The understory is dominated by eastern white pine seedlings and saplings. The primary management objective in this stand is gradual conversion to a more diverse, mixed forest stand having a strong component of longer lived tree species, such as white pine, red oak, or red maple. Prescribed forest management activities consist of intermediate thinning by selective harvesting, as well as supplemental plantings to encourage faster or more thorough succession.

Stand 14 is approximately 119 acres (including 21 acres in the Mixed Forest Enhancement Management area). This stand consists of pole to small sawtimber sized (5-15 inches diameter at breast height) trees which originated around 1989. The majority of the stand is pole sized aspen but contains scattered small sawtimber sized eastern white pine, northern pin oak, and white oak. The understory is dominated by red maple seedlings and saplings. The primary management objective in this stand is gradual conversion to a more diverse, mixed forest stand having a strong component of longer-lived tree species, such as white pine, red oak, or red maple. Prescribed forest management activities consist of intermediate thinning by selective harvesting, as well as supplemental plantings to encourage faster or more thorough succession.

Stand 19 is approximately 106 acres (including 57 acres in the Oak Management area). This stand consists of small sawtimber sized (11-15 inches diameter at breast height) trees which originated around 1931. The majority of tree species present are northern red oak and red maple. The understory is dominated by northern red oak and red maple saplings and poles with a strong component of witch hazel. The primary management objective in this stand is gradual conversion to red maple or white pine with a component of oak. Prescribed forest management activities consist of selective intermediate thinning on a 15 to 20 year interval to encourage and maintain tree health and vigor.

Stand 23 is approximately 15 acres (including 5 acres in the Oak Management area). This stand consists of small sawlog sized (11-15 inches diameter at breast height) trees which originated around 1927. The majority of tree species present are northern red oak, red maple, white oak, and aspen. The understory is dominated by northern red oak seedlings and saplings. The primary management objective in this stand is gradual conversion to red maple or white pine with a component of oak. Prescribed forest management activities consist of selective intermediate thinning on a 15 to 20 year interval to encourage and maintain tree health and vigor.

Stand 60 is approximately 37 acres (most of which lies in the Oak Management area). This stand consists of large sawtimber sized (15+ inches diameter at breast height) trees which originated around 1926. The majority of tree species present are northern red oak and red maple. The understory is dominated by northern red oak poles. The primary management objective in this stand is gradual conversion to red maple or white pine with a component of oak. Prescribed forest management activities consist of selective intermediate thinning on a 15 to 20 year interval to encourage and maintain tree health and vigor.

Stand 68 is approximately 23 acres (all within the Oak Management area). This stand consists of small sawlog sized (11-15 inches diameter at breast height) trees which originated around 1926. The majority of tree species present are northern red oak and red maple. The understory is dominated by northern red oak and red maple poles. The primary management objective in this stand is gradual conversion to red maple or white pine with a component of oak. Prescribed forest management activities consist of selective intermediate thinning on a 15 to 20 year interval to encourage and maintain tree health and vigor.

Stand 70 is approximately 79 acres (including 10-15 acres in the Mixed Forest Enhancement Management area). This stand consists of small sawtimber sized (11-15 inches diameter at breast height) trees which originated around 1934. The majority of tree species present are

northern pin oak, red maple, white oak, and aspen. The understory is dominated by northern pin oak and red maple seedlings and saplings. The primary management objective in this stand is gradual conversion to a more diverse, mixed forest stand having a strong component of longer-lived tree species, such as white pine, red oak, or red maple. Prescribed forest management activities consist of intermediate thinning by selective harvesting, as well as supplemental plantings to encourage faster or more thorough succession.

Stand 72 is approximately 82 acres (including around 20 acres in the Mixed Forest Enhancement Management area). This stand consists of pole to small sawtimber sized (5-15 inches diameter at breast height) trees which originated around 1920. The majority of tree species present are northern pin oak, white oak, red maple, and eastern white pine. The understory is dominated by white pine seedlings and saplings. The primary management objective in this stand is gradual conversion to a more diverse, mixed forest stand having a strong component of longer-lived tree species, such as white pine, red oak, or red maple. Prescribed forest management activities consist of intermediate thinning by selective harvesting, as well as supplemental plantings to encourage faster or more thorough succession.

Stand 92 is approximately 108 acres (including about 12 acres in the Aspen Maintenance area). This stand consists of seedling to sapling sized (0-5 inches in diameter at breast height) trees that originated around 1977. This is a nearly pure stand of aspen. The primary management objective in this stand is natural regeneration of the current timber type. Prescribed forest management activities consist of a coppice regeneration harvest scheduled around the year 2022 relying on natural regeneration of aspen through stump sprouting to reestablish the site.

Stand 93 is about 25 acres (including roughly 7 acres in the Aspen Maintenance area). This stand consists of hardwood pole sized (5-11 inches in diameter at breast height) trees that originated around 1989. This is a nearly pure stand of aspen with a red maple understory. The primary management objective in this stand is natural regeneration of the current timber type. Prescribed forest management activities consist of a coppice regeneration harvest scheduled around the year 2022 relying on natural regeneration of aspen through stump sprouting to reestablish the site.

<u>These Actions will be Taken to Inform Park Users and Minimize Visual and Biological Impacts</u>:

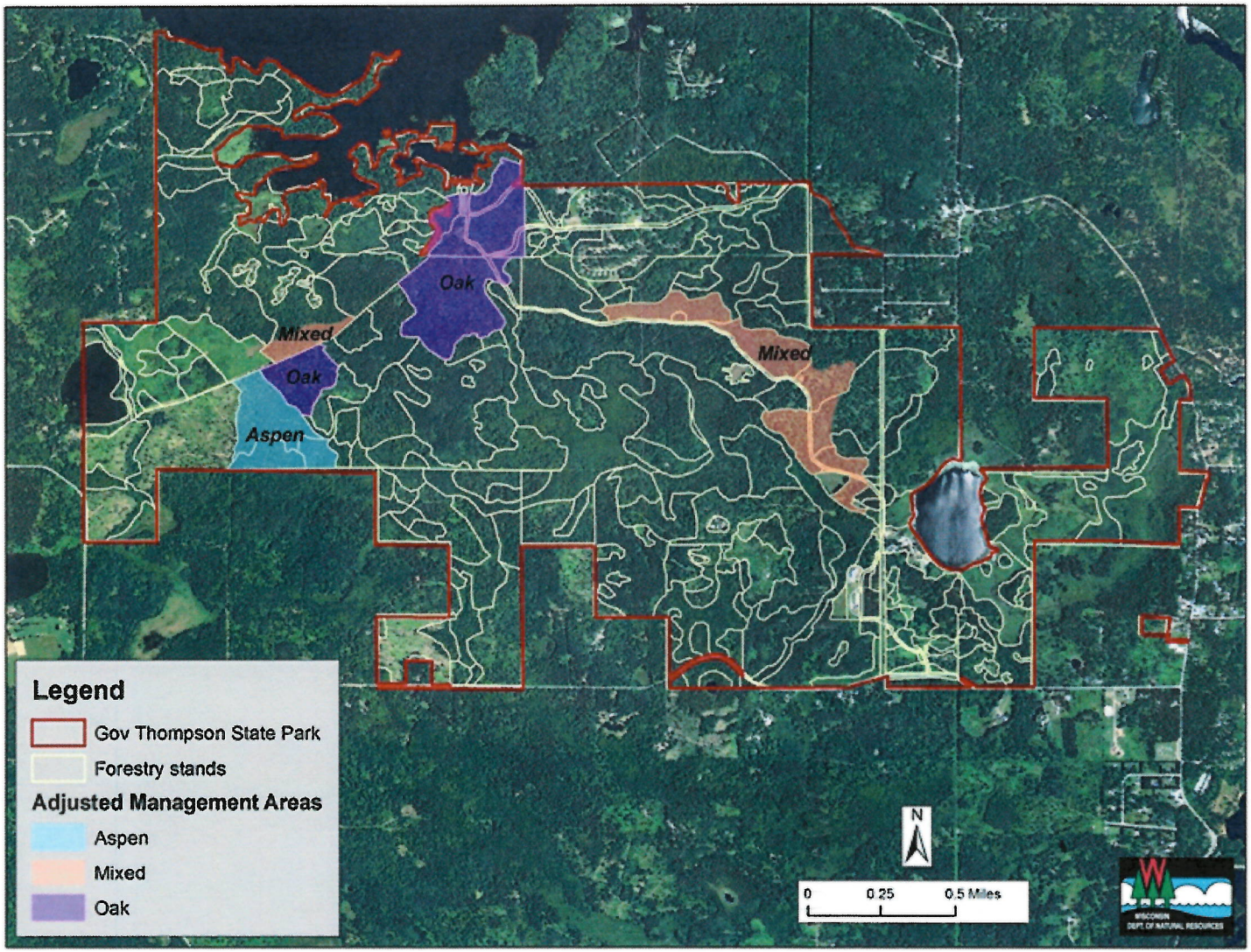
1. Provide signs, handouts, public meetings and posting to the Park web site to explain the what, where and why of these management activities.
2. Conduct harvesting in late summer through late winter when park usage is low and impacts to recreational use are minimal.
3. Timber selection and harvests shall be consistent with the "Guidance for Managing Forest Lands" for the Wisconsin State Park System (Attachment A).
4. Slash will be removed and stumps will be cut low in visually sensitive areas, such as along designated trails. In other areas slash will be flattened or laid flat to promote decomposition. Follow State Parks guidelines for slash and stump management and other aspects of timber management on state parks (Attachment B).

5. Avoid bedrock glades, ephemeral ponds, and other sensitive biological features for log yards, skid trails, and other associated harvest activities. Harvesting activity in this area will follow Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality Field Manual. Reference to the specifics can be viewed in Chapter 8-Wetlands, pages 100-102 (General Wetland BMP's and Wetland Filter Strip BMP's).
6. Special Concern, Threatened, or Endangered Plants and Animals:
   Four rare species are known to occur at or in the vicinity of Governor Thompson Sate Park. There are three plant species (one Threatened, two Special Concern) and one Special Concern animal. Consult individual species guidance that is available on the Natural Heritage Inventory website for specific actions, which may include seasonal restrictions, to protect the Special Concern and Threatened plants and animal for which potential habitat exists in the harvest area.

Archaeological, Historical, and Cultural Resources

No archaeological, historical, or cultural resources have been identified within the active management areas delineated on the attached map.

Figure 1. Governor Thompson State Park Forestry Stands and Adjusted Management Areas



Variance/Amendment Initiator or Author: Maggie Kailhofer
Job Title: Property Manager-Governor Thompson State Park

Supporting Approvals

_____ Date: 3/29/16
Bureau Master Planning Manager

_____ Date: 03-24-16
Property Manager

_____ Date: 03-09-16
Park District Manager

_____ Date: 3/29/2016
Program Ecologist

_____ Date: 3/31/16
Program Bureau Director

_____ Date: 4/7/16
Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Division Administrator

Supporting Information

Purpose and need for the plan change (include background and history as appropriate):
The 2004 Master Plan describes the vegetative management that can be conducted within specific management areas. Generalized management areas were outlined on Map C of the master plan. This proposed master plan variance uses forestry stand boundaries to clarify the vegetative management areas described in Chapter 2 of the master plan.

How the proposed plan change is supported by or is inconsistent with the property vision, goals, and objectives or other plan provisions:

Chapter 2, The Vegetative Management section has specific management area objectives and prescriptions for the different types of management areas described: Aspen Maintenance Area, Oak Management Area, and Mixed Forest Enhancement Area. The objective for the Aspen Maintenance area is to maintain aspen as a component of the park through coppice regeneration. The objective for the Oak Management areas is to allow the natural conversion of the designated stand to red maple or white pine. The health and vigor of the oaks will be maintained through selective intermediate thinning. Finally, the objective of the Mixed Forest Enhancement is to gradually convert to a mixed, diverse forest with a strong component of longer-lived trees through selective, intermediate thinning and supplemental tree planting. The master plan acknowledges that the size and location of the vegetative management areas are approximate. This proposed variance will use specific, standardized boundaries to support the management areas and attendant management that is allowed in the master plan.

Anticipated primary benefits of the proposed plan change (include only information not presented in the purpose and need section above):
The primary benefit is to implement forest management to maintain and promote desired cover types, desirable trees, and will keep the desired visual aesthetics.

Additional anticipated benefits:

Unavoidable adverse impacts (attach an Environmental Analysis if one was prepared):
There may be some short term land scarring from harvesting. Negative aesthetic impacts will be minimized and mitigated by closely following aesthetic management guidelines.

Summary of any alternatives considered:
No action will allow the forest to age with the unavoidable consequences of slowed growth and tree losses with little new regeneration of desirable species occurring. This may allow the more invasive species to increase in population and spread. This may also increase the susceptibility of the stand to insect and disease concerns.

Compatibility with statutes, codes, and department policies:
Forestry management is supported by the Bureau of Parks and other department policies. The limiting factor at this time is the approximation of the three management areas in the Master Plan for Governor Thompson State Park. The proposed management will not set a new precedent, as similar forest management activities have occurred and are occurring on other state parks. The prescribed forest management practices are designed to meet the management objectives

established in the master plan and will not preclude other management options that may be considered for these areas in the upcoming Master Planning review process.

Federal aid limitations (cite if any federal aid moneys are involved with either acquisition or management of the property and whether the proposed plan change is compatible with the aid requirements or if a federal review of the proposal is required)**:**
The proposed action is fully compatible.

Public review process used (summary of who was notified about the proposal or otherwise reviewed the proposal and the meetings, mailings and other techniques used)**:**
There will be public review, involving a letter to park neighbors, presentation to the park's Friend's group, a notice in the local paper and a posting on the following websites:
Governor Thompson State Park: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/govthompson/
Friends of Governor Thompson State Park: http://www.fogtsp.com/

Description of the support and/or opposition to the proposal (include reasons for the various positions taken and any unresolved issues or concerns)**:**
The draft variance was posted to the Governor Thompson State Park home page at http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/parks/name/govthompson/ from February 5th through the 15th, 2016. The Friends of Governor Thompson were made aware of the variance. News releases were sent to media in Marinette, Florence, and Oconto counties and to the Green Bay Press Gazette. No written comments were received about the variance.

Attachment A

Wisconsin State Park System
Guidance for Managing Forest Lands

Background
Wisconsin's forested lands are some of our state's most valuable resources, prized by visitors and citizens alike. People come to these special places for moments of quiet reflection or simply to be in the great outdoors. They pursue recreational opportunities ranging from biking and hiking to camping, wildlife watching, and cross country skiing.

Scenic beauty — or "visual quality" — is one of the primary reasons people choose to spend their recreation and vacation time in or near forested areas and within Wisconsin State Park System (WSPS) properties. They are also attracted by the serenity and solitude of the outdoors. Forested landscapes inspire spiritual and emotional connections resulting in deeply personal experiences for many people.

Protecting and enhancing this sensory experience is a priority for those entrusted with managing WSPS properties. In addition, management must work to sustain healthy communities that provide economic, social, and ecological benefits, now and for future generations. This careful oversight of our natural resources is a cornerstone of the WSPS mission.

This document provides guidance related to the management of WSPS forested lands, including desired outcomes that will preserve the value of these resources for millions of WSPS visitors, into the future.

Opportunities for Management
Forested lands on WSPS properties include a wide variety of natural community types, as well as altered landscapes. These various types of forests allow for different types of management activities that should be determined through careful planning (including property master plans and resource management plans) and consultation with foresters, wildlife managers, and other resource experts. All management actions must be consistent with the ecological capability of the landscape, optimize forest health and maintain or enhance the recreational, aesthetic, and other social aspects of the property.

Forest management activities may be undertaken to accomplish a variety of objectives on a property. Forests altered by human activities like fire suppression, development, or removal of hazard trees may be managed to restore the lands to a natural condition. Landscapes disturbed by natural phenomena such as tornadoes, fires, pests, or disease may be managed by allowing recovery to occur naturally. In cases where visitor safety or park developments are threatened, more active management efforts may be necessary. And, forests affected by exotic species or nuisance wildlife may be restored through more intensive management activities.

Just as forested lands reflect a diversity of habitats, so, too, forest management encompasses many different approaches. In some cases, management activities are virtually undetectable to property visitors. In others, timber sales are obvious, at least in the short-term. Over time, as these landscapes regenerate, the scenic beauty is restored and the benefits of management become much more apparent. In all cases, management must be conducted with both the forest resource and the visitors in mind.

Visual Quality Management

Property visitors place an extremely high value on the aesthetics and scenic beauty of forested lands. Thus, visual quality is one important aspect of integrated forest management. Visual quality management can:

- Enhance the aesthetic value of forested lands for recreational users, contributing to a healthy tourism economy.
- Encourage public acceptance of forest management and timber harvesting, thereby building support for Wisconsin's forest industries.
- Minimize visual and audible impacts of forest management activities including perceived size of harvest areas, presence of logging slash, timber harvest landing operations, road building, site preparation, and herbicide treatment.
- Promote more natural-appearing forest stands.
- Provide opportunities to educate property visitors about forest management practices, benefits of sustainable forestry, and other related concepts.

Within any property, different forested landscapes have varying levels of visual sensitivity that are determined by factors including:

- Perceived degree of sensitivity to landscape aesthetics of users of that travel route,
- Volume and type of use the travel route or recreation area receives, and
- Speed of travel within the route or area.
- Terrain/topography

Based on these factors, the WSPS identifies three levels of visual sensitivity to be applied to forested lands. The definitions of these various levels of sensitivity will assist the property manager and forester in development of prescriptions specific to each site being managed. Language insuring proper completion and compliance with aesthetics practices should be included in timber sale and silvicultural activities contracts.

□ **Most Sensitive**

Applies to travel routes and use areas where **significant public use occurs** and where **visual quality is of high concern** to typical users.

Examples of such areas may include picnic areas, campgrounds, nature study areas, local roads, recreational lakes and rivers, designated trails and surrounding viewshed and other areas that provide a high level of scenic quality.

□ **Moderately Sensitive**

Applies to travel routes or recreation areas, not identified as "most sensitive," **where visual quality is of moderate concern** to typical users. These types of areas provide **moderate to high scenic quality but less significant public use.**

Examples of these areas may include public highways and local roads, recreational lakes and rivers, and areas receiving a moderate amount of public use outside designated use areas.

□ **Less Sensitive**

Applies to travel routes, recreation areas or all other lands, not identified as "most sensitive" or "moderately sensitive," **where visual quality is of less concern to typical users.**

Examples of these areas may include remote local roads and low-volume local forest roads, areas removed from designated use areas with limited access, and remote areas receiving minimal public use.

By attempting to manage visual quality of forested lands based on these categories and following the Forest Management Guidelines, Timber Sale Handbook and Aesthetic chapter of the Silviculture Handbook, property managers can minimize visitor disruption and maintain or enhance scenic resources.

Overall Management Priorities

Sustaining healthy forests is a vital role of WSPS properties, and the key to sustaining healthy forests is pro-active management. To ensure that management practices are consistent with the goals and objectives of the WSPS, several management priorities have been established but may vary depending on site characteristics:

- Aesthetics: Protect scenic views and allow forest cover to provide settings for solitude and privacy.
- Recreation: Sustain large canopy cover and shade in picnic areas, campgrounds, along nature trails and high use areas.
- Habitat: Provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife and plants, including endangered and threatened species.
- Forest Health: Allow for regeneration of the forest through quality forest management and seek opportunities that enhance or maintain the overall health and vigor of the forest ecosystem.

- Pest management: Manage invasive plant and animal species, pests, diseases, and nuisance wildlife through prevention, control, and eradication activities.

- Education and research: Provide opportunities for interpretation, education, and scientific research.

- Water quality: Sustain and enhance local watersheds and water resources including erosion control along waterways, trails, and other property features.

The Wisconsin State Park System has created these priorities for forest management experts to utilize when preparing forest management plans for WSPS properties. These priorities take into consideration both visitor demands and the need for sustaining high quality, healthy forests. Of course, site capabilities help define sustainable forestry practices. Each particular growing space has its own set of environmental conditions affecting tree growth. To achieve long-term health and vitality of forests, factors like soil type, aspect, and climate that influence moisture and nutrient supplies must be considered. The art and science of sustainable forestry blends program priorities with site capabilities to adapt high quality forest management systems.

Desired Outcomes

By considering these overall priorities and managing for visual quality, property managers and resource professionals can prepare property and/or site specific forest management prescriptions that will create desirable outcomes for the WSPS. These desired outcomes include:

- Maintenance and/or enhancement of visually acceptable and functional forest cover for areas within easy view of WSPS users, particularly in picnic areas and campgrounds, along waterways and trails, and next to park roads and scenic outlooks.

- Use of appropriate forest management techniques to prevent or minimize damage from pests, disease, and nuisance wildlife.

- Planning of approved timber harvests to maintain visual quality in high and moderate use areas; require buffers between harvest areas and designated use areas, roads, and trails; and require immediate attention to negligent harvest practices. Consider contract language that includes specifications for waste, stump heights, forest fire prevention, slash management, sale area use and cleanup, and best management practices.

- Restoration of natural forest communities where practical.

- Development of areas for education and interpretation on topics such as forest protection and management.

Attachment B

WSPS Timber Harvest Prescription, Prospectus, and Contract Considerations and Standard Language

Revised: July 19, 2012

For timber management that is allowed under the existing master plan, the property manager and local forester will develop a timber sale proposal. The state parks ecologist will help the property manager evaluate the proposal. After making any needed modification, the proposal will be sent to the appropriate Parks district manager for final approval. This process is meant to help park managers and provide consistency throughout the State Parks system.

Note: For State Ice Age Trail Areas (SIATAs), consult Ice Age and North Country Trails, NR 1.29 (7)(c) and (d) (http://docs.legis.wi.gov/code/admin_code/nr/1/29) for allowable pre-master plan vegetation (including forest) management.

While guidelines and best management practices for timber management are found in Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines (WFMG, PUB-FR-226 2011, http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/publications/guidelines/), Silviculture Handbook (HB24315, http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/publications/handbooks/24315/24315.pdf), and best management practices for water quality and invasive species handbooks, forest management on WSPS properties may require special considerations. The following are points of emphasis for Parks properties including references to Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines and other materials where appropriate.

A. Timber sale planning

1. The following reviews must be completed and documented before the sale is approved: NHI (http://intranet.dnr.state.wi.us/int/land/er/nhi_portal/) and archaeological (http://intranet.dnr.state.wi.us/int/mb/codes/MC181010.pdf). The sale may need to be modified based on the results of the reviews.
2. Harvest activities on properties that have federal funding involvement (for example, Land and Water Conservation Fund, a.k.a. LWCF) must be NEPA compliant (http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/toolkitfiles/nepa-g2s.pdf). Contact the WDNR compliance officer if you have questions.
3. Determine how the timber sale will be monitored for contract compliance by the property manager and local forester.

B. Harvest goals

1. How does the sale fit with the master plan, NR 44 classifications, and with landscape considerations (WFMG Chapters 2, 3, and 10)? The latter consideration is important for forest certification among other reasons.
2. What is the purpose of the sale: perpetuation of type, conversion to a different type, or other?

3. How does the sale and sale prescription fit into aesthetic, recreational, and natural resource considerations outlined in "Managing Forests on State Parks Lands" (http://intranet.dnr.state.wi.us/int/land/parks/ResourceManagement/Forests.html) and Chapters 3, 4, and 18 of WFMG?

C. Timing and layout (skid roads, landings)

1. Timing restrictions will be used to lessen ground disturbance, to minimize spread of invasive species, to reduce conflicts with recreation, etc. Do not harvest during weekends (WFMG Chapter 11).
2. Establish landings to minimize disruption of recreational activities and lessen aesthetic impacts as well as BMPs for water quality and invasive species (WFMG Chapters 5, 8, 12, 13, and 18).
3. Use or crossing of recreational trails should be avoided or, at the very least, minimized.
4. Access roads and skid roads should be established to minimize damage to recreational trails. *Linear Use of State Trail Corridors for Logging policy 62-15 in HB2205 (Land Acquisition and Sales) must be followed when trails may be impacted by timber harvest.*
5. Harvest activities adjacent to trails, even if the trail itself is avoided, can have a major impact on recreational use. For example, changes to local hydrology due to harvest activities can flood what was previously a trail that shed water. The topography of not only the immediate harvest area but the larger watershed and other facilities and resources within that area should be taken into consideration.
6. The park manager and local forester will identify and designate landings and access and skid roads.
7. The designated landings and access and skid roads will be shown, on the ground, to the logging contractor prior to any timber harvest (WFMG Chapter 13).

D. Post-harvest treatment

1. Develop and implement remediation requirements for any harvest-associated rutting or other ground disturbances.
2. Determine post-harvest treatments, e.g., plantings, need and type of scarification, prescribed burning (WFMG Chapters 13, 15, and 17).
3. It is critical that funding is incorporated into the harvest proposal for post-harvest activities (plantings, fencing, invasive species control, signage, etc.).
4. The planting plan should be developed by property manager and local forester, reviewed by property manager and parks ecologist, and approved by district park supervisor. It should include post-planting mileposts and treatments. Depending on deer and other herbivore densities, fencing or tree tubes may need to be included in the plan (WFMG Chapters 13 and 15).
5. Species selected for plantings should be native and appropriate to habitat type. Plantings should not be done in rows; grouping or single plantings should be used for a more natural appearance.

E. Post-harvest standards

1. Stump height: use standard DNR contract language.
2. Feather or scallop edges of timber sale to soften the visual effects of harvest (WFMG Chapters 4 and 13).

3. Unmanaged slash can be aesthetically unappealing. It can also significantly increase the cost of future trail construction. All slash should be removed entirely or hauled a minimum of 50 feet from trail/road edges and flattened so that it is no taller than 18 inches above the ground. If appropriate to the site, prescribed burns could be used to reduce slash within a sale boundary. See Chapters 13 and 17 in WFMG.
4. Skid roads, log landings, and interior of harvest stands will be free of forest products and ruts and slash and will meet the aesthetic standards in the Silvicultural Handbook (2431.5) and Chapter 13 in WFMG at the end of the timber sale. In other words, recreational trails and log landings will be restored to pre-harvest conditions and slash reduced for aesthetics.
5. Harvest activities that alter water flow and run-off (e.g., ruts from equipment, re-grading for access) can affect trails, even those that are some distance from the harvest area. Any such alterations resulting from timber harvest must be restored to pre-harvest conditions.

F. Invasive species

1. Assess invasive species when proposing a timber sale. What pre- and post-harvest treatments are necessary (e.g., herbicide application, introduction or re-establishment of native herbs and shrubs)? How will those treatments be accomplished, including funding? What measures are there to avoid or minimize exposure to invasive species?
2. Order of harvest can be useful in lowering risk and transporting invasive species. (e.g., harvest in areas with lesser amounts of invasive species first, then areas with heavier infestations). Invasive species concerns and BMPs are embedded throughout WFMG chapters and specifically in Chapter 8. Also, some Parks properties have a current invasive species management plan which should also be consulted when planning and implementing a timber sale. Disease control is also referenced in Chapter 8 of WFMG.
3. Follow equipment BMPs (http://council.wisconsinforestry.org/invasives/forestry.php, http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives/pdfs/EquipOper.pdf).
4. Consider how skid roads and log landings should be laid out with regard to invasive species (WFMG Chapter 8 and elsewhere).

G. Public notice and adjacent landowner contacts

1. Public notification materials should be posted at the park office and at sale site. Include a map that shows sale boundaries in relation to trails and other recreational facilities, anticipated window of harvest activities, type of treatment, justification for harvest, long-term goals of the harvest, paint colors that specify what trees are being left or harvested, access routes and log landings, and contacts for additional information or comment.
2. Discuss proposed timber management with Friends group and any other regular volunteer groups for the property and obtain concurrence.
3. Notify local media; provide them all of the material that is posted at the park.
4. The property manager and local forester are responsible for verifying property boundaries and notifying private landowners if a sale abuts private land.