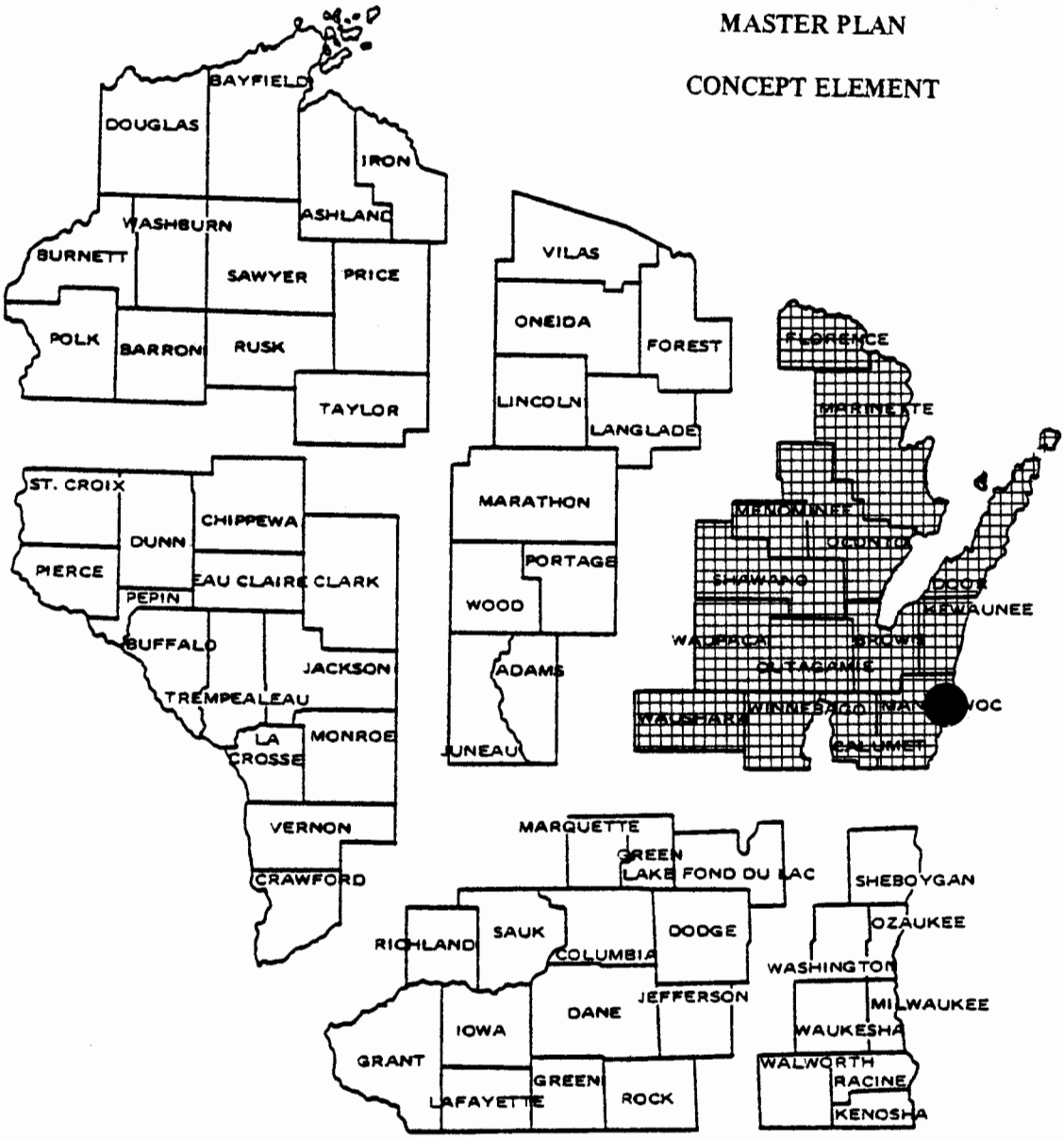
POINT BEACH STATE FOREST

MASTER PLAN

CONCEPT ELEMENT



Property Task Force

Leader: Dan Rogers - Park Planning
Larry Ketchbaw - Forest Supt.
Dan Olson - Area Wildlife Mgr.
Lee Kernen - Fish Mgr.
J. Korotev - Area Forester

Approved By: C.D. Besadny

Date: 11-9-81

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
MADISON, WISCONSIN

POINT BEACH STATE FOREST CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN

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POINT BEACH STATE FOREST CONCEPTUAL MASTER PLAN

Section I - Actions

A. Goal and Objectives

1. Goal: To protect the natural and scenic resources of Point Beach State Forest while providing compatible public recreation and education opportunities.

2. Objectives:

   a. Except in existing tree plantations, specially managed areas and for public safety, the forest resources of Point Beach should be managed so that natural forces prevail.

   b. Keep existing recreation and education facilities to provide 275,000 annual use-days, of which 50,000 are camper-days. A normal level of maintenance and replacement should be implemented.

   c. Continue to preserve and protect the two existing State Scientific Areas within the forest according to the management guidelines provided by the Scientific Areas Preservation Council.

B. Recommended Management and Development Program

This section describes the actions necessary for accomplishing the goal and objectives and implementing the recommended alternative.

1. Land Acquisition (see Figure 2)

As of July 1, 1981, state ownership at Point Beach State Forest was 2,838.01 acres. Within the proposed forest boundary about 230 acres of privately owned lands remain to be purchased at an estimated cost of $140,000 (1981 dollars). These private parcels will be acquired by patient negotiation from willing sellers in accordance with Department land acquisition procedures.

One of these parcels is Light Station Rawley Point, a 9.56 acre site owned by the U.S. Coast Guard. Such ownership is a satisfactory arrangement, however, if the station or its grounds are ever declared to be "surplus property" it would be in the state's best interest to acquire it.

It is proposed that 40 acres of state-owned land outside the boundary be sold or used for trading purposes. The elimination of this land will result in a final acreage goal of 3,028.01 acres.

2. Management

   a. Vegetation

The vegetation of the site - primarily forest should be managed in accord with objective "a." in the goal and objectives statement. Natural forces should be allowed to prevail. Pine plantations should be managed in a healthy vigorous condition with the ultimate goal to make them more natural appearing. This will be accomplished through proper cutting practices to eliminate the "block" effect.

In areas of Intensive Recreation Development the forest should be managed for esthetic quality and public safety. In other words, no trees should be removed unless they are dead, diseased or in the immediate path of development.

Vegetative management in the two established Scientific Areas will be in accord with recommendations of the Scientific Areas Preservation Council.

Two Resource Development areas are planned. One area is adjacent to Molash Creek and the other is in the extreme north part of the property. The areas are aspen monotypes which provide habitat for ruffed grouse and other wildlife. In order to perpetuate this condition a partial harvest on a rotation basis should be implemented. The county forester and game manager should coordinate this action in accordance with DNR timber and wildlife management guidelines.

   b. Game Management

The aspen regeneration described above should be implemented. While hunting of deer and small game is permitted in the forest, any management techniques for propagation of game species must be consistent with the guidelines for the uniform land use classes applied to Point Beach.

c. Fish Management

Lake Michigan is managed for the trout and salmon fishery that was successfully introduced in 1963. Fishing for these species is popular along the Lake Michigan shoreline and users of Point Beach can readily participate in this activity. There is also a commercial fishery on Lake Michigan centered around Manitowoc and Two Rivers.

There are no fish management proposals for Molash Creek. Any that are considered in the future must be consistent with the land use class of the area in which it is proposed.

3. Development

The following are projects that will implement the goal and objectives of the forest and also address the management problems and related concerns listed in Section II of this document.

a. Areas being damaged by off-road use of trail bikes and four wheel drive vehicles should be posted with the regulations and periodically patrolled to eliminate the problem. Other actions may also be required to limit access to these vehicles.

b. Develop, if possible, a bicycle trail linking the forest with the City of Two Rivers. The route should parallel Sandy Bay Road at the shoulder. A paved shoulder having a solid yellow separating stripe should be used. Development of this trail must be coordinated with plans for rebuilding the road, lowered speed limits and the designation of Sandy Bay Road as a part of Wisconsin's Rustic Road program. Signs designating the route would further add to safety. Funds are sometimes available to local units of government for bike trails but no funds are available to DNR at this time. Perhaps these funds could be used for bike trail development in conjunction with a road rebuilding project.

c. Because of the high percolation rate and shallow groundwater conditions in many locations it will be difficult to develop shower or flush toilet facilities in the forest. A search for acceptable conditions and locations will continue to be conducted.

d. Develop a holding tank with pumpout capacity if a safe disposal site cannot be found. Remote septic system sites will be explored. Sewage would be pumped to the remote septic system or flow to it by force of gravity.

e. Expansion of the tent/trailer campground will not be undertaken nor will the number of sites exceed the current level of 137. Emphasis will be placed on upgrading and enhancing the existing sites.

f. Beach and dune erosion by the lake need only be controlled where such erosion threatens a major developed facility such as the lodge and concession building. A rock riprap project designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was installed recently to protect the lodge building. It is not likely that other areas in the forest will need such protection. Dunes that are removed during high-water cycles of the lake will return naturally during the coming low water phase.

Areas where wind erosion and transport are a problem should be investigated for the potential of establishing vegetative windbreaks or shelterbelts.

g. The need for a new forest headquarters administrative building and sub-area office is described in the management problems and related concerns section. An example of such a building can be viewed at Hartman Creek State Park in Waupaca County. This 2,085 square foot structure serves as the primary control point and sales area for the park, park administrative office and office space for the area warden, forester, forest technician, game manager and game technician. A similar building should be designed and erected at Point Beach State Forest that will provide office space for the forest staff, area warden, fish manager and game manager. Development funding could come from engineering administrative facilities funds. Operations cost could be handled by a charge back based on work space requirements for each function using the building. Special consideration will be given to sewage disposal for this facility in view of the difficult soil conditions.

The old forest headquarters building will be retained for additional office space or for whatever uses as may be determined at a later date. The mobile home presently used as auxiliary office space would be removed from the site.

h. To complement such an installation the road network entering the forest should be redesigned for maximum efficiency of traffic flow.

i. Energy conservation will be more critical as the plan duration (10 years) progresses. No drastic changes in recreation facilities should be made unless a great energy related need can be documented. The best policy is one of observation over several years time.

All new structures should be heavily insulated and old structures re-insulated and sealed to assure thermal efficiency. Alternate energy applications should be explored in every conceivable situation. These include gasohol in forest vehicles, multi-fuel furnaces, solar and wind generation.

Wherever possible standard sized pickups and vans should be replaced by light-utility-vehicles and Cushman-type trucksters.

j. A boat access on Lake Michigan will be established for small hand-carried boats if feasible. Number of potential users, cost, safety will be addressed before undertaking. If user potential or demand is low for small car top boats or cost is high, the project may not occur.

l. Snowmobile access to Point Beach will be limited to a pass-through trail which may be provided by Manitowoc County or a snowmobile club. (See Appendix A)

Three miles of the abandoned seven mile loop snowmobile trail within the forest has been converted to a cross country ski trail.

l. The existing outdoor group camp should continue to operate, with the usual maintenance and repair necessary to keep it in good order.

m. The indoor group camp is in need of a general repair and maintenance effort. The facility will be upgraded, but not expanded.

4. Timetable

The land acquisition and land use classification changes described in the previous section will be implemented immediately upon approval of the master plan.

The development projects and actions listed are scheduled below. This is a guide for budget planning.

Phase I

Begin posting and extra patrol areas of being damaged by off-road use of trail bikes and four wheel drive vehicles.

Begin implementing energy conservation.

Perform small boat access feasibility study.

Construct bicycle trail.

Construct holding tank pumpout station contingent on safe-economical disposal.

Phase II

Review forest road network and make appropriate changes.

Establish wind erosion protection near the developed use areas.

Construct new office building/contact station/sub area office.

Continuously upgrade tent/trailer campsites.

5. Estimated Development, Management and Operations Costs (1981 Dollars)

a. Development

Posting against ORV abuse -	$ 200
Construct bicycle trail -	$ 7,500

New office/headquarters -	$140,000
Establish wind erosion controls -	$ 2,500
Total -	$150,200

Note: The cost established are estimates only and will be updated as necessary in the future.

b. Management and Operations

The 1980-81 fiscal year Point Beach State Forest budget is as follows:

Permanent Salaries	$ 49,877 (3.00 FTE)
LTE Salaries	23,800
Services and supplies (2000-3000 account)	37,300
Permanent property (4000 account)	3,000
	$113,977

C. MAPS

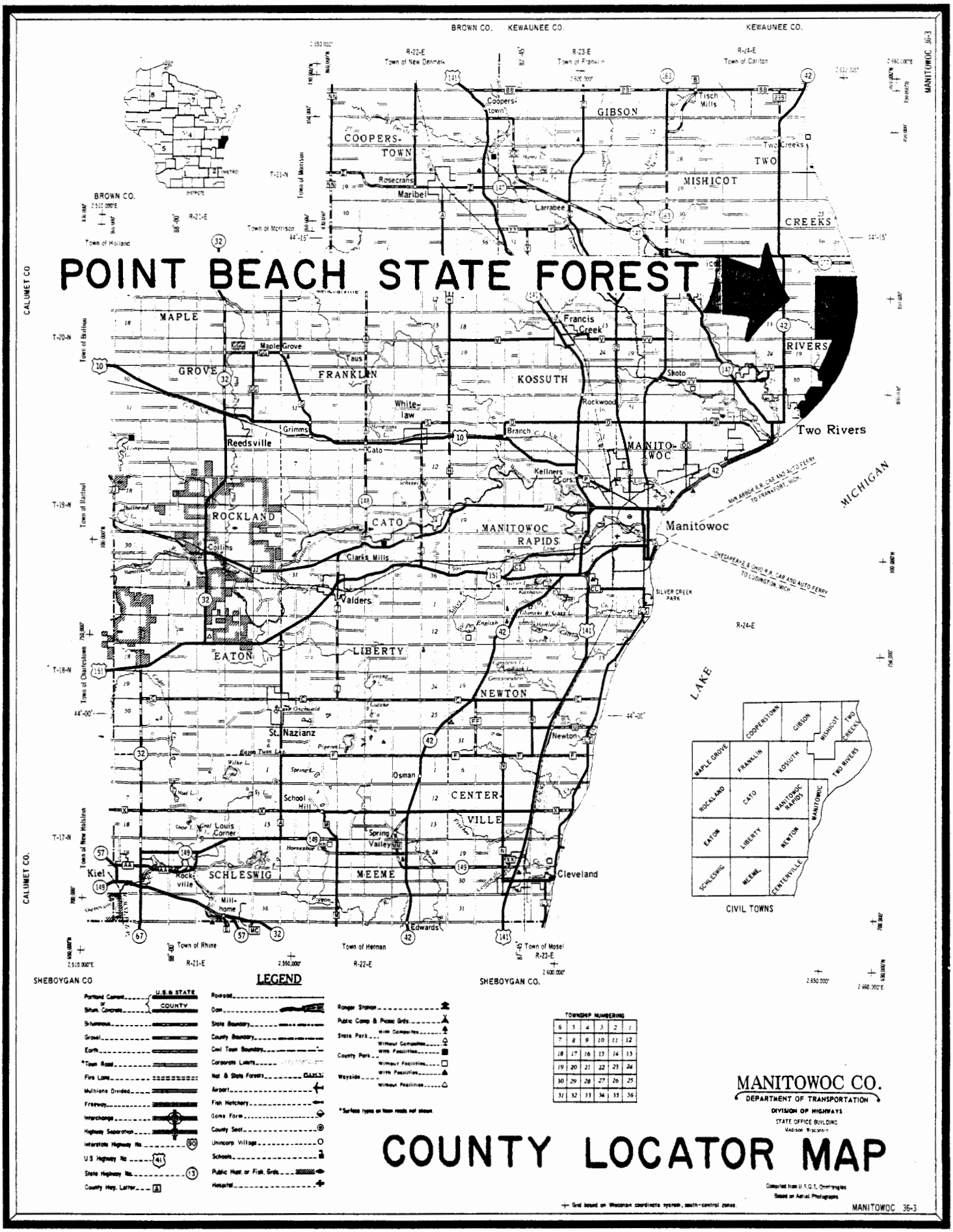
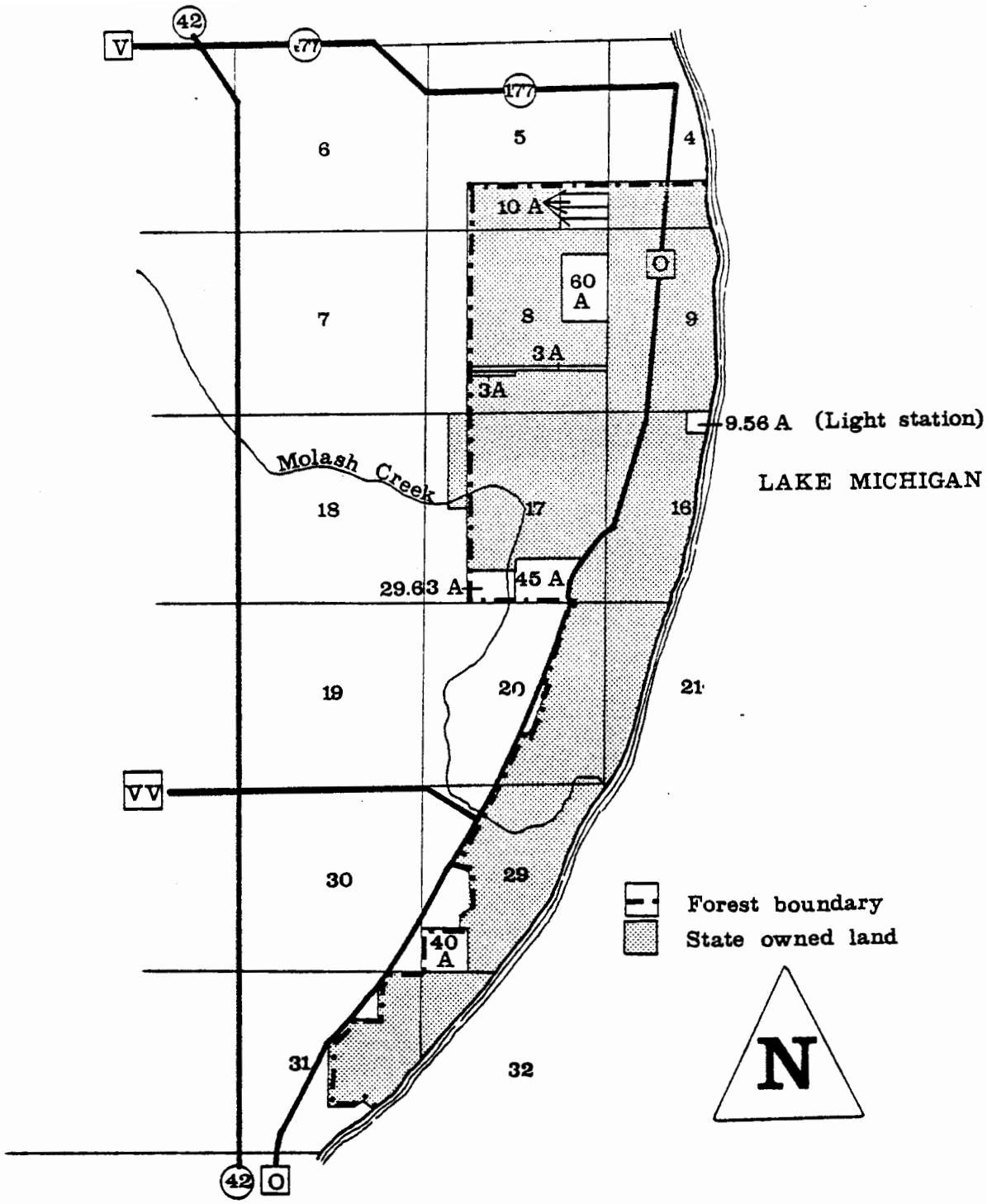

POINT BEACH STATE FOREST
BROWN CO.
KEWAUNEE CO.
CALUMET CO.
SHEBOYGAN CO.
MANITOWOC 36-3
COOPERSTOWN
GIBSON
MISHICOT
TWO CREEKS
MAPLE GROVE
FRANKLIN
KOSSUTH
RIVERS
Two Rivers
MANITOWOC
Manitowoc
ROCKLAND
CATO
MANITOWOC RAPIDS
EATON
LIBERTY
NEWTON
CENTERVILLE
SCHLESWIG
MEEME
Kiel
Cleveland
Edwards
Rockville
Millhome
Louis Corner
Spring Valley
School Hill
Osman
St. Nazianz
Valders
Collins
Clarks Mills
Reedsville
Grimms
Cato
Branch
Kellners Cors.
Rockwood
Shoto
Francis Creek
Maple Grove
Taus
Whitelaw
Rosecrans
Maribel
Larrabee
Coopers-town
Tisch Mills
Two Creeks
Town of New Denmark
Town of Franklin
Town of Carlton
Town of Morrison
Town of Holland
Town of Brillion
Town of Rantoul
Town of Charlestown
Town of New Holstein
Town of Rhine
Town of Herman
Town of Mosel
MICHIGAN
LAKE
SILVER CREEK PARK
CIVIL TOWNS
LEGEND
TOWNSHIP NUMBERING
MANITOWOC CO.
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
STATE OFFICE BUILDING
Madison Wisconsin
COUNTY LOCATOR MAP
MANITOWOC 36-3

FIGURE 1



Point Beach State Forest
Land Ownership

FIGURE 2

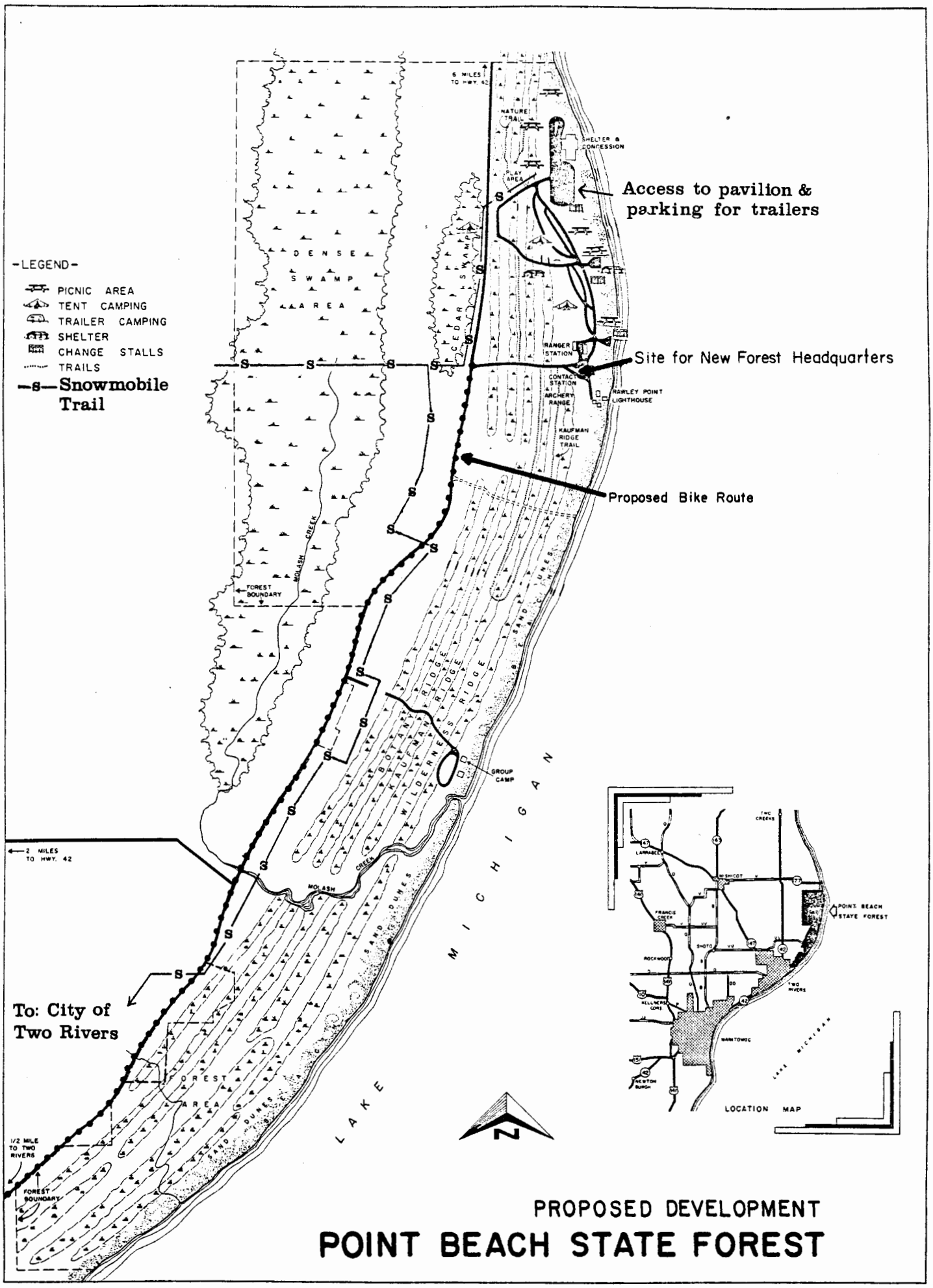

-LEGEND-
PICNIC AREA
TENT CAMPING
TRAILER CAMPING
SHELTER
CHANGE STALLS
TRAILS
Snowmobile Trail
Access to pavilion & parking for trailers
Site for New Forest Headquarters
Proposed Bike Route
To: City of Two Rivers
DENSE SWAMP AREA
CEDAR SWAMP
NATURE TRAIL
SHELTER & CONCESSION
PLAY AREA
RANGER STATION
CONTACT STATION
ARCHERY RANGE
RAWLEY POINT LIGHTHOUSE
KAUFMAN RIDGE TRAIL
GROUP CAMP
MOLASH CREEK
FOREST BOUNDARY
5 MILES TO HWY. 42
2 MILES TO HWY. 42
1/2 MILE TO TWO RIVERS
FOREST AREA
SAND DUNES
LAKE MICHIGAN
LOCATION MAP
POINT BEACH STATE FOREST
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
POINT BEACH STATE FOREST

FIGURE 3

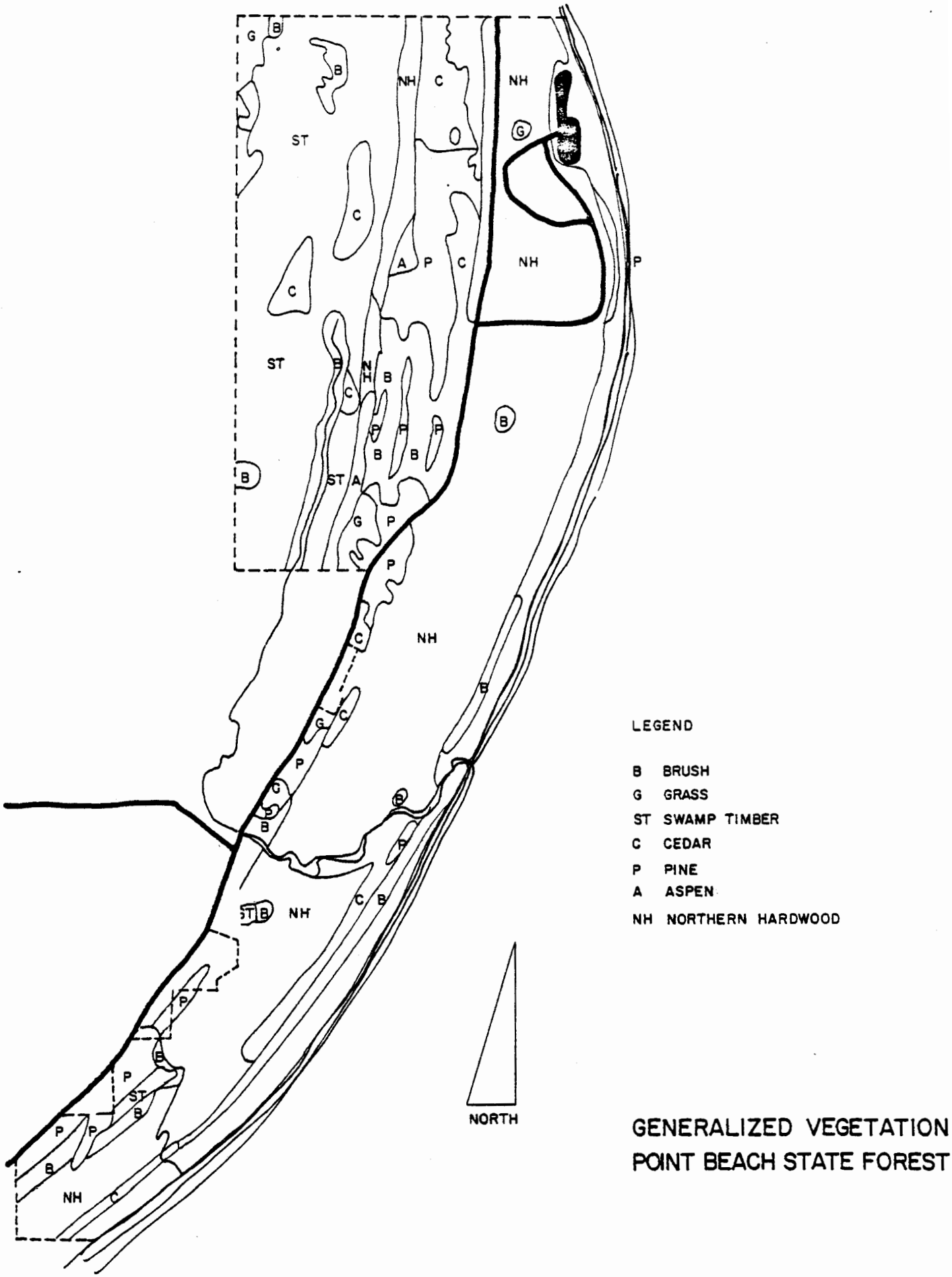

LEGEND
B BRUSH
G GRASS
ST SWAMP TIMBER
C CEDAR
P PINE
A ASPEN
NH NORTHERN HARDWOOD
NORTH
GENERALIZED VEGETATION
POINT BEACH STATE FOREST

FIGURE 4

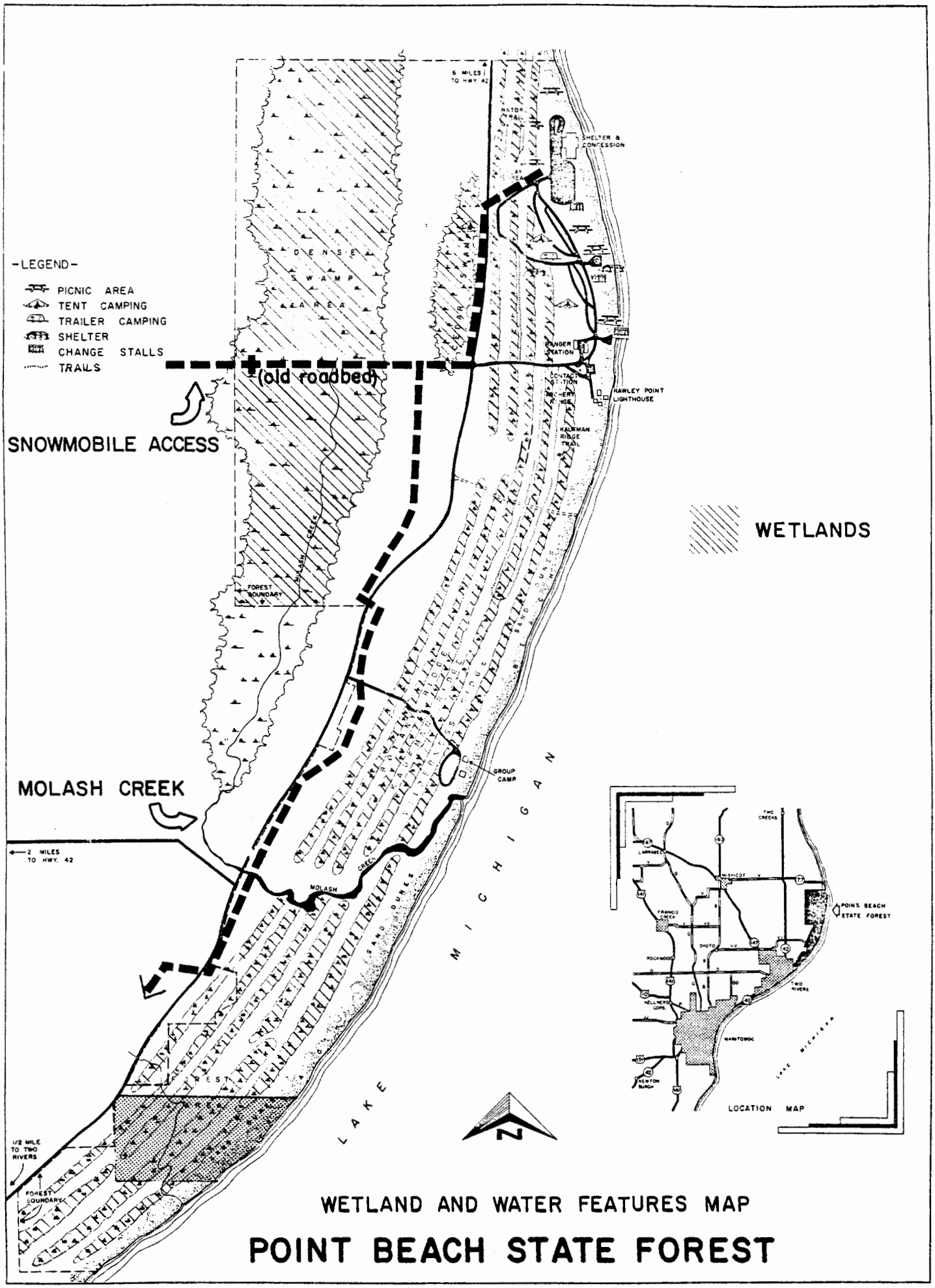
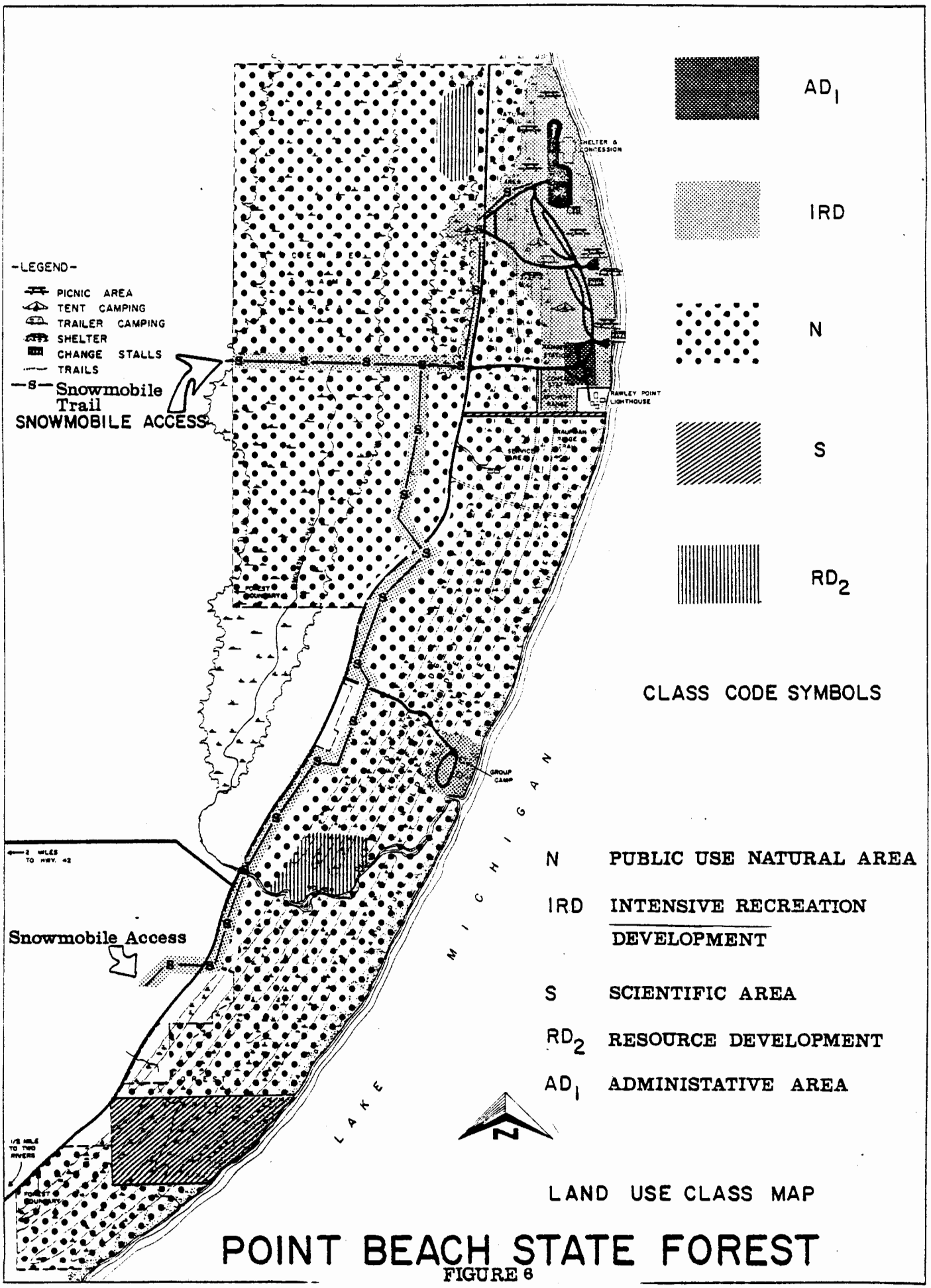

-LEGEND-
PICNIC AREA
TENT CAMPING
TRAILER CAMPING
SHELTER
CHANGE STALLS
TRAILS
SNOWMOBILE ACCESS
(old roadbed)
MOLASH CREEK
DENSE SWAMP AREA
6 MILES TO HWY 42
SHELTER & CONCESSION
RANGER STATION
CONTACT STATION
RAWLEY POINT LIGHTHOUSE
KAUFMAN RIDGE TRAIL
WETLANDS
FOREST BOUNDARY
GROUP CAMP
LAKE MICHIGAN
2 MILES TO HWY. 42
1/2 MILE TO TWO RIVERS
POINT BEACH STATE FOREST
LOCATION MAP
WETLAND AND WATER FEATURES MAP
POINT BEACH STATE FOREST

FIGURE 5



POINT BEACH STATE FOREST

FIGURE 6

FORM 2800-8 Scientific Area No. 87

Wisconsin Scientific Areas Preservation Council
Scientific or Natural Area Report

Name of Area Point Beach Ridges Inspection Date August, 1969

Quarter NE County Manitowoc Twsp. 20N Range 25E Sections 31, 32

Boundaries and acreage of proposed or established area and buffer: Part of the NW 1/4, Section 32 and E 1/2 NE 1/4 31 east of the road. Total size 175 acres.

Access to area: From the town road 1 mile northeast of Two Rivers walk east into area, which lies 3/4 mile south of Molash Creek.

Description of area: Outstanding features, primary and secondary biotic communities, dominants, understory and rare species, topography, soils, geology and archeology.

Point Beach Ridges features a topography of 11 alternating ridges and swales paralleling the present Lake Michigan beach. Except for a strip of dunes and beach along the lake, the area is forested with a variety of conifers and hardwoods. A range of successional stages is exhibited, varying from shifting sand to open swales and wooded ridges. The ninth ridge from Lake Michigan has white pine, hemlock, white cedar and yellow birch, while ridges 8 to 5 have more red maple and white birch. Hemlock reproduction is common on ridge 5. The transition continues eastward to a sandier, drier and sunnier environment to the east of ridge 2, stabilized by junipers, bearberry and a host of sand plants. Ridge 1 and the sand beach east of it are vegetated with the unique and specialized flora of coastal beaches, undisturbed examples of which are scarce.

History of land use and limiting factors: This proposal is designed to supplement the existing eight-acre scientific area which sustains heavy trail use, cutting adjacent to it and an archery range alongside it.

Administrative information: Landowner and administrator, existing and proposed management, degree of scientific, educational and recreational use of area, adjacent lands and compatibility. Area within Point Beach State Forest, Bureau of Parks and Recreation. Surrounding park lands sustain public use from campers, picnickers and hikers. A group camping area is located to the north. More than 1/4 mile separates area from Two Rivers to the south.

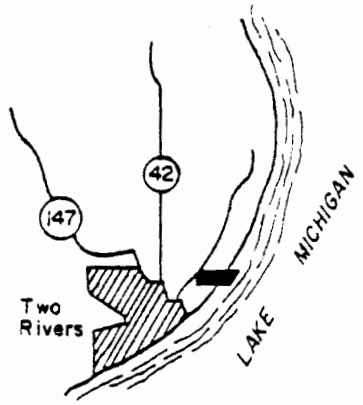
Reference information: person recommending area, references, quadrangle and other publications and date of action taken toward designation of area. Recommended by Bill Tans and Bob Peet. See State Forest folder and Manitowoc 15' Quadrangle. Accepted as the 87th scientific area on February 25, 1971.

Report by: Bill Tans Date: March, 1971

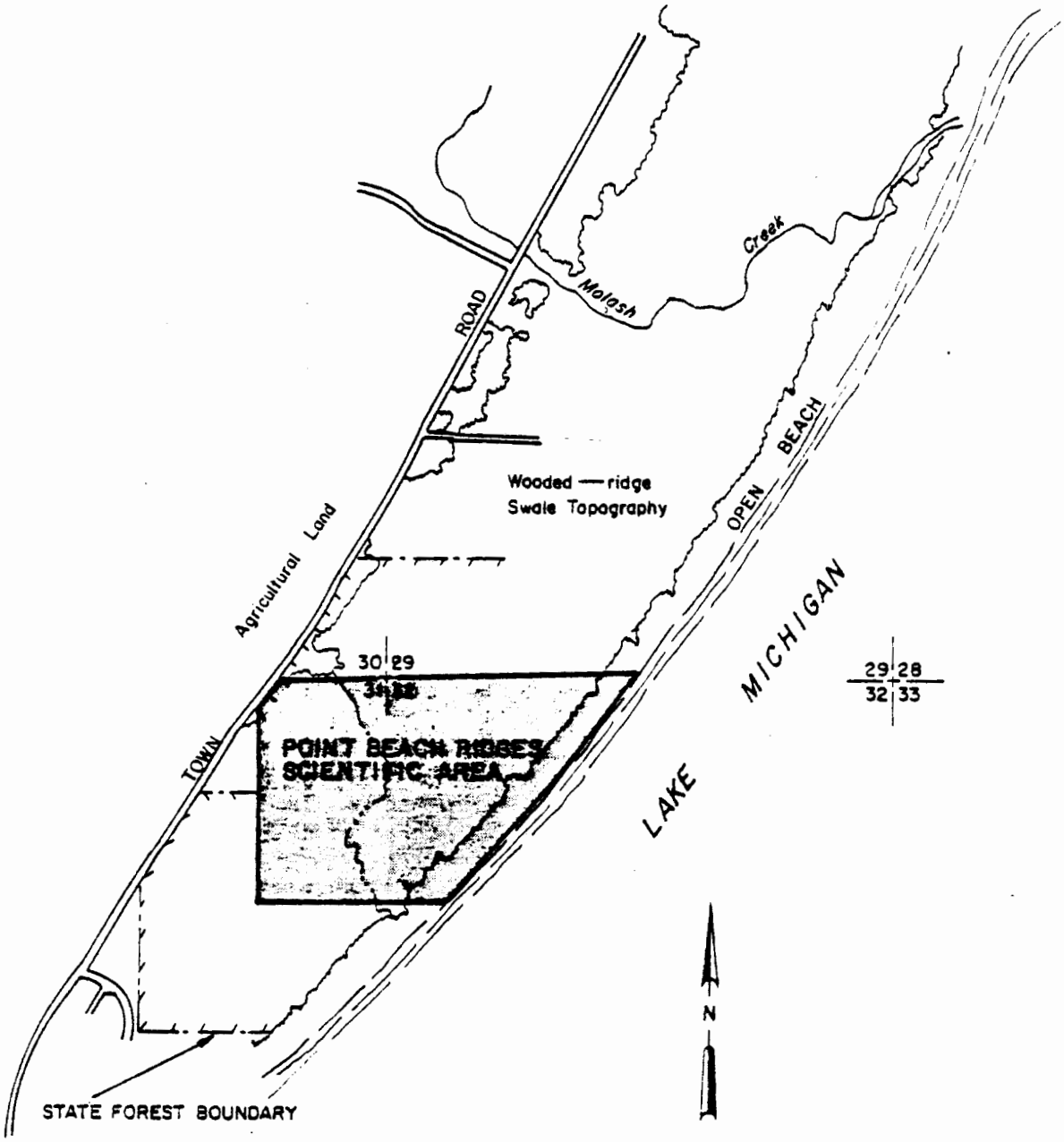
mr
2/27/74

FIGURE 7

POINT BEACH RIDGES
SCIENTIFIC AREA



LOCATION MAP, *MANITOWOC CO.*



SCALE IN MILES

0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1

REV. MAR., 1971 rb

Scientific Area No. 24

Wisconsin Scientific Areas Preservation Council
Scientific or Natural Area Report

Name of Area Wilderness Ridge Inspection Date

Quarter NE County Manitowoc Twsp. 20N Range 25E Sections 16

Boundaries and acreage of proposed or established area and buffer. Scientific area of approximately 8 acres consisting of two perpendicular 66-foot wide transects, the north-south arm in NE¼ NW¼ 16, and the east-west transect runs between the park road and the beach across the center N½ section 16.

Access to area Between Lake Michigan on the east and Sandy Bay Road on the west. Wilderness Ridge is one of several parallel ridges and is located south of east-west park road in NE¼ NW¼ Section 16.

Description of area: Outstanding features, primary and secondary biotic communities, dominants, understory, and rare species. Topography, soils, geology and archeology. The scientific area is located on the abandoned beach line of Lake Michigan and consists of a transect along Wilderness Ridge and a transect across the ridge-swale topography. The ridge has white pine and mixed hardwoods with areas of hemlock.

Center line of transect is marked with blue posts, exterior line by white posts. North end of N-S transect is 526 feet east of monument.

References: (1) Hanson, Lowell "The Origin of the Point Beach Ridges" Wisconsin Conservation Bulletin, Sept. 1949. (2) Sister Julia Marie Van Denock "An Ecological Analysis of the Sand Dune Complex in Point Beach State Forest, Two Rivers, Wisconsin." PhD Thesis, 1961.

History of land use and limiting factors: Because of area's small size, heavy trail use on Wilderness Ridge, archery range and firewood cutting in adjacent wooded tracts, a supplementary area of 175 acres in sections 31 & 32 was established in 1971.

Administrative information: Landowner, administrator, existing and proposed management. Degree of scientific, educational and recreational use of the area, adjacent lands, and compatibility. Owned by Department of Natural Resources - within Point Beach State Forest, managed by Bureau Parks & Recreation.

See scientific area No. 71 - Point Beach Ridges - for additional information.

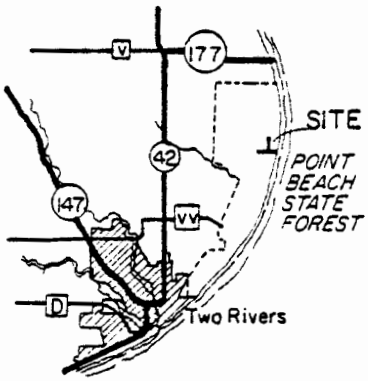
Person recommending area; supporting information and references, including quadrangle, other maps and publications. Also, dates of action taken toward designation of area. Recommended by John T. Curtis. Established as 24th scientific area November 7, 1953. See Manitowoc Quadrangle, State Park Map and brochure, PEL plant list.

Report by: Bill Tans Date: March 1971

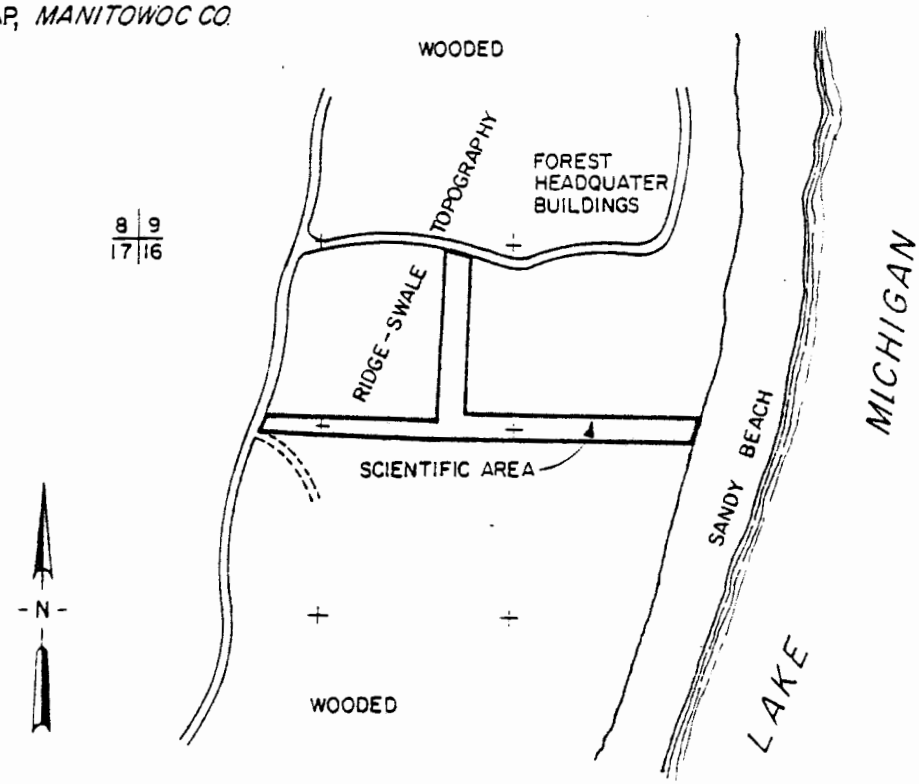
Rev. 7/70

FIGURE 7

WILDERNESS RIDGE SCIENTIFIC AREA



LOCATION MAP, *MANITOWOC CO.*



SCALE IN MILES

0 1/4 1/2

Rev. 1/5/73 [illegible]

Section II - Support Data

A. Background Information

1. Regional Context

Point Beach State Forest is located in east central Wisconsin on the shores of Lake Michigan. It is immediately north of the City of Two Rivers, Manitowoc County. The 2,838 acre forest is about 6.5 miles long and 1.5 miles wide, lying parallel to the lakeshore. The site is almost entirely wooded, while the surrounding countryside is devoted to agriculture. The property is situated on a prominent point of land known as Rawley Point, jutting out into Lake Michigan.

Point Beach is directly accessible from both the north and south via County Trunk Highway (CTH) "O". CTH "O" intersects in the south with State Trunk Highway (STH) 42 in Two Rivers and to the north with STH 177. The principal routes into the area from other regions are: USH 151 serving the Madison area and the southwestern part of the state, USH 10 serving the Fox River Valley and central Wisconsin, I-43 serves the Green Bay area as well as Milwaukee and the other large population centers of the southern Lake Michigan shoreline, and STH 42 serves the cities of Manitowoc and Two Rivers and the northern Lake Michigan shoreline.

A car-ferry serves as a link across Lake Michigan completing the U.S. 10 route between Manitowoc, Wisconsin and Ludington, Michigan. The nearest air terminal is at Manitowoc and rail sidings are available at Two Rivers. Both Manitowoc and Two Rivers have harbors capable of handling Lake Michigan shipping trade.

Major population centers having reasonable surface travel access to Point Beach are:

Name	Population	Distance
Appleton	57,000	51 Miles
Fond du Lac	36,000	60 Miles
Green Bay	90,000	44 Miles
Madison	170,000	125 Miles
Manitowoc	34,000	6 Miles
Milwaukee (County)	1,054,000	85 Miles
Oshkosh	53,000	65 Miles
Sheboygan	49,000	31 Miles
Two Rivers	14,000	.5 Miles

Other nearby public recreation areas include parks of the Manitowoc County Park System. These consist of three major parks, Lower Cato Falls, Cherney Maribel Caves, Walla Hi and five special purpose parks, Horseshoe Lake, Silver Lake, Hika, Two Creeks and Long Lake. Manitowoc County also provides thirteen lake accesses. A major Public Hunting Ground - Collins Marsh is located 11 miles east of Manitowoc. Three others - Killsnake, New Holstein and Brillion Marsh are located in nearby Calumet County. John M. Kohler-Terry Andrae State Parks are located about 30 miles south, near Sheboygan on Lake Michigan. Two other state facilities - Kettle Moraine Northern Unit State Forest and Old Wade House historic site are both about 30 miles southwest.

One unit of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve is planned for a site 7 miles north of Point Beach. The site is designated as the "Two Creeks Buried Forest" because it is an excellent example of an ancient forest that became embedded in glacial silts and clays about 11,850 years ago. Bank erosion has exposed some of the buried trees.

Two other nearby Ice Age units, the Campbellsport Drumlins and the Sheboygan Marsh, are also planned.

2. History of the Area

The earliest archaelogical evidence of prehistoric occupation in Manitowoc County dates to the Old Copper culture (3000-1000 B.C.). Indians during this period made tools, weapons and ornaments of copper imported from the copper fields near Lake Superior.

From about 800-1600 A.D. Indian culture was widespread in the area. The woodland culture prevailed, with dwellings made of skins or bark over sapling poles. Hunting, fishing and some agriculture provided a subsistence living. Many historic Indian tribes are known to have resided in the area, including the Potowatomi, Menominee, Ottawa, Chippewa, Miami, Huron and Winnebago. Life for the tribes centered around rivers and marshes as food resources. This is known because of the recovery of numerous artifacts and campsite remains near these areas.

When fur traders arrived in the region in 1760 the Indians immediately became dependent on them. In the 1790's, a Frenchman named Jacques Vieau came to the area and set up a series of trading posts. He made his residence northwest of Point Beach in what is now the Town of Gibson.

The market for beaver pelts was dwindling about the time permanent white settlers began arriving. By 1836 the lumber industry and commercial fishing began to provide an economic base. Tanneries flourished because of a ready supply of hemlock trees for making tanbark. When Two Rivers was founded business activity centered around these activities and the shipbuilding trade.

The point of land occupied now by the State Forest was originally owned by Peter Rowley who built a home and trading post there when he arrived about 1835. When the Rowley family moved from the site some years later, a government lighthouse was erected on their land. This was done because of industrial development and a subsequent increase in Great Lakes shipping. Rowley Point was known as a treacherous area for shipwrecks, having claimed 26 vessels until the lighthouse was built.

The original structure was a masonry tower attached to a lightkeeper's dwelling. The steel tower that now houses the light was erected in 1894 after being shipped from the Columbian Exposition in Chicago, where it had been on display. This light (now electrically powered) remains in service, operated by the U.S. Coast Guard. The name of the site has been slurred by time and casual usage so that the official geographic name is now Rawley Point. The Coast Guard installation is known as: Light Station Rawley Point.

3. History of the State Forest

Acquisition of land began in 1937 with a tract of land from the U.S. Government and has continued until the present time. A great deal of interest has been taken in the project by local conservation and environmental groups ever since the beginning. Hallmarks in the development of the forest include the construction of the lodge/concession building and ranger station.

Originally the forest was managed primarily for silvicultural purposes, but as recreational demands were placed on the property, recreation and education became the main function.

4. Existing Land Use Precedents and Designations

Point Beach has several officially recognized land use designations, and several that exist primarily because of changing conditions over the years. Formally, the property is a State Forest, but it also functions as a recreation area. The forestry designation affects the preservation of a unique ecological situation (the forested ridges and swales) rather than wood production.

Other special botanical conditions are protected by two parts of the property designated as State Scientific Areas (Figure 7). Wilderness Ridge (site #24) is 8 acres in size, consists of two 66' wide transects crossing a ridge wooded with white pine, hemlock and hardwoods, and a pronounced example of the ridge-and-swale topography typical to the area. "Point Beach Ridges" (site #87) is 175 acres in size and preserves a large tract of prime ridge-and-swale topography plus a beach and dunes with specialized flora characteristic of undisturbed coastal beaches.

Within the forest immediately south of the superintendent's office is the federally-owned land on which Light Station Rawley Point is located. The lighthouse and other buildings occupy the 9.56 acre site. Although the property is not state-owned it is quasi-public and attracts many tourists each year.

It is a generally accepted concept that intensive recreational development be limited to the area north of the lighthouse, and that south of the lighthouse the land will be left undisturbed. This has been expressed in writing several times in correspondence between the Conservation Department (DNR) and various local conservation groups in Manitowoc County. Intensive recreation areas include three picnic areas, the lodge/concession building, swimming beach and the campground. The ranger station and service area, and the group camp are two other recognized areas of special use.

An area 1,700 acres in size encompassing all of the forest east of Sandy Bay Road has been recommended as the "Point Beach Archaeological District" by the State Historical Society. The proposed "District" contains twelve specific documented archaeological sites ranging from ancient burial sites to campsites and villages. Under this designation the area will receive limited protection from encroachment by federal and state development projects. The State Historical Society has determined that the area is also eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

5. Existing Management and Development

Currently Point Beach is providing multi-season day use and overnight facilities. The biggest attraction is the Lake Michigan shoreline with its sand beaches. Many people come to picnic and swim particularly when the inland air temperatures are high. Developed camping and picnic areas are provided as well as group camping for organized groups. A combination shelter building, concession stand and bathhouse overlooks the lake. A detailed list of facilities includes:

Picnic Areas -	6	Acres
Picnic Tables -	86	
Grills -	39	
Shelters -	1	
Beach -	5,050	Linear Feet
Parking Stalls -	247	
Nature Trail -	1	Mile
Hiking Trail -	7	Miles
Snowmobile Trail -	2 3/4	Miles
Ski Trail -	10	Miles
Campsites -	137	
Indoor Group Camp Capacity -	18	
Outdoor Group Camp Capacity -	50	
Miles of Road -	12	Miles

B. Resource Capabilities and Inventory

1. Landscape Configuration

The naming of Point Beach originates from the manner in which the land juts out into Lake Michigan. The coastal shape is not particularly evident to the person standing on the beach, however, when viewed from the air or from farther out at sea the point is very prominent.

The topography of the site is characterized by a series of parallel sand ridges. Between these ridges are intermittently wet swales. Their general arrangement is parallel to the lakeshore in a band about 1/4 mile wide. These ridges run the length of the forest property. Theories attempting to explain the origin of the ridges range from post-glacial elastic rebound to falling lake levels. Whatever their origin, the significance is in the wide range of plant species present.

Along the present-day beach there exists a band of wind-created sand dunes. There are also some dunes west of the ridges. Two large areas of cedar swamp are located in the north half of the forest.

2. Soils

The soil of Point Beach is predominently sand. Beach sand makes up most of the site with finer sands (light enough to be wind-transported) making up the dunes that are present. Where there is forest cover, the ground layer is covered with decomposing leaf litter forming a thin layer of loamy sand. Below is pure sand. In the swales an accumulation of organic matter has formed a layer of muck of substantial depth. The same applies to the cedar swamp areas.

3. Geology and Minerals

Beneath the layer of sand at Point Beach lies the Niagara limestone layer. This bedrock is the same one whose exposed western edge forms the Niagara Escarpment in Wisconsin. The limestone layer tilts to the east under Lake Michigan and rises again in the eastern U.S.. The entire formation is generally shaped like a shallow bowl.

Mineral resources associated with this layer are not common except that the rock itself is widely used as a construction material. Some grades are quarried and crushed for roadbed gravel. Others are quarried in large blocks for use in riprapping and breakwater construction. Some limestone is also processed in kilns for use in mortar and for agricultural fertilizers. There are numerous quarries in the region.

4. Surface Waters

The major surface water feature of the site is Lake Michigan. It is a medium-hard water lake with a maximum depth in Manitowoc County waters of 714 feet. Beyond the immediate beach, clay, sand, gravel and rock are the littoral materials. The average elevation of the water surface is 580 feet above sea level.

Molash Creek (historically known as Molasses Creek) is a small tributary to Lake Michigan originating in the southwest corner of the Town of Two Creeks as a series of intermittent surface drainage feeders. Adjoining wetlands of over 565 acres feed the system. The Creek's total length is 3.5 miles and surface area is 3.5 acres giving an average width of 8.25 feet.

5. Vegetation

The forest cover of Point Beach consists of northern hardwood species, white pine, red pine, hemlock, white cedar, yellow birch and white birch. Hemlock, birch and red maple are the more common trees occurring there. Red oak and black cherry are also present.

Most of the trees at Point Beach are second-growth since the entire area was heavily logged beginning in 1836. There are several red pine plantations that were planted in the 1930's and 40's. These were intended to stabilize some of the blowing and drifting sand that plagued visitors and road maintenance crews. Except for thinning of these plantations there has been no silviculture practiced on the site.

A wide variety of other plant species exists at Point Beach due to the diversity of habitat on the site. Each micro-environment such as sand beach, dunes, forest, abandoned field, open wetland or forested ridge has a different plant community associated with it. The ridge-and-swale area has a particularly rich diversity of plant life and contains many of the less-common wildflowers including trailing arbutus and native orchids.

The Lake Michigan beach and low dunes within Point Beach State Forest has the distinction of being one of the three major dune complexes in the state. Due to a particularly harsh environment plants of the beach and dunes communities have some very specific adaptations. Those plant communities next to the beach are especially fragile and highly subject to trampling damage.

Because the total habitat of this relatively unique flora is small and many areas have been altered by development, two plant species restricted to the beaches and dunes have been recognized as threatened or endangered in Wisconsin. These species are Sand Dune Willow (Salix cordata) (endangered) and Dune Thistle (Cirsium pitcheri) (threatened). Thick Spike Wheat Grass (Agropyron dasystachum) and Clustered Broom-rape (Orobanche fasiculata) are both recommended for threatened status.

Other species found in the dune habitat are Sand Reed (Calamovilfa longifolia var. magna), Beach Pea (Lathyrus japonicus) and Beach Grass (Ammophila breviligulata).

To maintain these unique beach and dune plants in their natural condition within the forest, all potential management and development impacts will be carefully examined.

6. Wildlife

Whitetail deer are plentiful within the forest and can frequently be seen in the morning and evening hours along the hiking trails and roads. Many small mammals inhabit the area including red fox, gray squirrel, cottontail rabbit, raccoon, skunk, porcupine and chipmunk.

No endangered or threatened species are known to exist at Point Beach State Forest, however, endangered/threatened migrant species such as osprey, peregrine, common tern, Cooper's hawk and red-shouldered hawk are possible visitors. The Cooper's hawk and red-shouldered hawk could be present as nesters. Of the reptiles and amphibians, spotted salamanders (threatened) and wood turtles (endangered) may exist in the forest. Intensive surveys (not planned at this time) would be necessary to determine presence and significance.

There are many varieties of resident and transient birds that inhabit the forest and the shoreline. Occasionally great blue herons can be seen along Molash Creek. Game bird species that inhabit the site include waterfowl (mallards, wood duck and teal), woodcock, pheasant, ruffed grouse and Hungarian partridge.

Because of the wetland environment there is an abundance of mosquitoes at Point Beach. This long-known fact prompted the writing of University of Wisconsin Research Report #33 entitled "Mosquitoes of Point Beach State Forest." There are 27 species of mosquito found in the forest. Their presence has an obvious impact on recreation. As the research report states: "By mid-June the adult mosquito population is so great that hiking on trails throughout the forest becomes nearly intolerable unless a repellent is used."

7. Fishery

Fishes associated with Point Beach occur in two different areas. Molash Creek has a fishery consisting ordinarily of northern pike and forage minnows. On a seasonal basis smelt and suckers use the creek as a spawning site. Trout and salmon also run the stream during spring and fall.

The Lake Michigan fishery in the vicinity of Point Beach has changed dramatically in the last few years. Prior to the successful introduction of brook, brown and rainbow trout and coho and king salmon, the yellow perch was the main sport fish. Since the 1963 introduction of trout and salmon, fishing has created a tourism boom all along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Point Beach is a popular location for fishing and some people coming to fish stay in the campground. People visiting the forest generally participate by wading from shore and casting although motor trolling for trout and salmon is very productive and popular. There is also a commercial fishery centered around Manitowoc and Two Rivers with lake whitefish, smelt, chub and alewife the main species harvested.

It is not known if endangered or threatened fish species are present. As funds permit, a complete biological inventory should be conducted to gain information about the fishery and all other wild plant and animal populations in the forest.

8. Historical and Archaeological Features

Light Station Rawley Point, as described earlier, is the most visible historic feature of the forest.

Much less visible, but more significant probably, is the wealth of archaeological materials associated with the site. The recommendation for the Point Beach Archaeological District was made because of this factor. The District is significant because it contains valuable information on three research topics that are vital to understanding the archaeological history of Manitowoc County. The three topics, excerpted from the state nomination documents, are as follows:

a. The nature of coastal settlement patterns during the Late Archaic and Woodland periods. Investigations which would define the ways in which the lakeshore and beach ridge complex were utilized in prehistory could provide the first good insight into prehistoric economic patterns in this area. Direct comparisons could be made to better known areas to the west (Fox Valley) and north (Door Peninsula and Green Bay islands) in order to better understand the particular effects that the lakeshore and beach ridge environment had on human ecology during various periods.

b. The existence of horizontally stratified occupation sequences on the beach ridges. Although documented for such coastal areas as western Alaska, this phenomenon is not known to exist in the Lake Michigan area. As very few undisturbed beach ridge complexes remain, this district gains significance as an area in which the existence of horizontal beach ridge stratigraphy could be investigated. The Archaic remains at the Molash Creek site have already gained importance because of their relation to former lake levels (Quimby 1960). The possibility also exists for geomorphological study of the later Woodland occupations, as suggested by a preliminary report on a beach ridge complex to the south (Freeman 1974).

c. Historic archaeology and trading patterns. The historic period in eastern Wisconsin is poorly known archaeologically, and indications are that sites within this district can add information on the nature and distribution of historic settlements on the lakeshore. Patterns of trade could be examined in particular detail, in light of the reported abundance of trade goods. The Silver Creek Campsite (Mn-265) would be especially well suited to this sort of study.

9. Land Use Classification

In accordance with the Department's Land Use Classification System, lands within the forest are classified as: Public Use Natural Area (N), Intensive Recreation Development (IRD), Scientific Area (S), Resource Development (RD_2) and Administrative Area (AD_1). The location of these areas is shown on the map in Figure 6.

Public Use Natural Area accounts for about 2,290 acres of forest lands. These are relatively undisturbed natural areas that can be enjoyed by the public for general nature study, education and aesthetic appreciation, under certain restrictions, without threat of destruction. Timber harvest or manipulation is prohibited except salvage may be carried out in case of a natural disaster such as a tornado or ice storm.

Two hundred ninety acres devoted to campgrounds, picnic areas, beach, indoor group camp and outdoor group camp are designated as Intensive Recreation Development. A 100 foot wide snowmobile trail corridor is also classified as IRD. Figure 6 shows the trail location.

Two areas totaling 183 acres are classified as Scientific Area. Wilderness Ridge (site #24) is 8 acres in size. It consists of two 66' wide transects crossing a ridge wooded with white pine, hemlock and hardwoods, and a pronounced example of the ridge-and-swale topography typical to the area. "Point Beach Ridges" (site #87) is 175 acres in size and preserves a large tract of prime ridge-and-swale topography plus a beach and dunes with specialized flora characteristics of undisturbed coastal beaches.

Two Resource Development areas totaling approximately 65 acres are planned. One area is adjacent to Molash Creek and the other is in the extreme north part of the forest. The areas are aspen monotypes which provide habitat for ruffed grouse and other wildlife. To perpetuate this monotype, a partial harvest of the aspen on a rotation basis will be implemented.

An area about ten acres in size immediately surrounding the ranger station, shop-storage building and entrance road complex is designated as Administrative Area.

C. Management Problems and Related Concerns

A list of management problems and concerns with a short explanation of each follows. Items listed are those which can be addressed mainly by physical changes dictated in the master plan. Other problems can best be solved through operational changes.

1. Preservation of Unique Site Resources

Several areas of concern need attention, including vegetative management, archaeological artifacts and landform features. Threats to these resources come in the form of unwise or non-existent timber management, relic hunters, firewood scavengers and the potential of intensive development in sensitive areas.

2. Unauthorized Off-Road-Vehicle Use

Some of the sand areas of the forest present a temptation to 4-WD and trailbike users. Damage is resulting from this type of abuse.

3. Bicycle Trail Between Point Beach and Two Rivers

There is an increasing need for a bicycle trail connecting the forest with the community of Two Rivers.

4. Sewage Disposal Problems

The soils of Point Beach are primarily sand which ordinarily would be well suited to percolation for soil absorbtion disposal systems. However, the high water table in the area makes this a difficult problem for proper disposal. Thus far an area for sanitary disposal has not been found. Holding tank storage has been considered and rejected temporarily due to cost of maintenance.

5. Suggestions of Campground Expansion

Occasionally requests are made for expansion of the tent/trailer campground.

6. Sand Erosion

Lake Michigan sometimes causes massive erosion of the lakeshore dunes. This occurs primarily during times of high lake levels or as a result of severe storms. This natural action has to be seriously considered in the study of boat landings in the future.

7. Forest Office Building

Forest personnel (superintendent, secretary, and rangers) are currently located in the crew room in the shop/storage building, removing it from use as a field crew room. Visitors to the property must obtain stickers and information by finding this building. The shop/storage building is served by a holding tank for sewage disposal which requires monthly pumping since it was not intended to be so heavily used.

8. Traffic Circulation

The forest office is part of the ranger station/service area complex. Presently anyone needed to the see the forest superintendent must drive to the ranger station from the admission booth. It is not convenient to route traffic through the service area. Parking for the public is also very limited.

9. Energy Conservation and Appropriate Technology

Fuel supplies for recreational facilities may become scarce and probably will become expensive in the near future. There will be a need to conserve all fuel resources and employ alternate means of providing essential services.

10. Lack of Boat Launching Facilities or Fishing Access in the Forest

The lack of any type of lake access (other than pedestrian) has often been expressed. Many fishermen desire to motor troll the area directly out from Rawley Point and areas to the north. A launching ramp is available three miles to the south at Two Rivers. There are no ramps to the north until one reaches Kewaunee 20 miles away. Since the state owns such a long expanse of coastline opinions have been expressed that an access or launching ramp should be provided. The answers to these questions as well as demand for boats will be included in the feasibility study for a boat landing in the forest.

D. Recreation Needs and Justification

Since Point Beach State Forest has many established recreation facilities and several other existing functions, the following organizational method will be followed: Existing recreation modes and developments will be discussed first, then proposed items resulting from the list of management problems and related concerns will be analyzed.

1. Existing Recreational Uses

a. Camping. The 137 tent/trailer campsites of Point Beach sustained 41,868 camper-days in 1980 (most recent data available). This type of camping has been relatively stable for the past five years ranging from 36,000 to 49,000. The general trend is a gradual increase in camping use. Increases in camping capacity have been requested by a local Chamber of Commerce. No doubt this would benefit the business community. However, the State Outdoor Recreation Plan indicates an ample supply of developed campsites in Planning Region 8. While this is not enough to prevent campground expansion, there are other factors that do. The main factor against developing any new campground loops is the nature and significance of the landform. The parallel beach ridges in one area were all but obliterated in order to construct the existing units of the campground. Modern day environmental awareness cannot allow this to be done again.

b. Picnicking. Point Beach has six acres of developed picnic area distributed among three designated areas. There are many areas where people set up picnics such as along the beach and on the sand dunes. The State Recreation Plan indicates a need for more picnic sites in the region and it also notes that a high level of maintenance for these heavily used sites will be necessary.

c. Swimming. Although Point Beach is richly supplied with shoreline - 5 miles of it - swimming opportunities are limited to either very hardy persons or to days when the wind and currents bring warm water onshore. On a regional basis there is an adequate and well distributed supply of inland beaches and artificial pools capable of meeting projected demands through 1995.

d. Ski Touring. There has been a rapid increase in the popularity of ski touring or cross country skiing in the past 5 years. To meet demands for ski-trails ten miles of trail were established. There are about 114 kilometers of ski trail in Planning Region 8 now with a projected need for additional trail. The exact amount is not predicted but increase in ski touring popularity is expected to "level off." Increases are anticipated to be about 2% per year.

e. Snowmobiling. This wintertime activity became popular in the late 1960's. Participation differs from most other trail activities in that rural resicents are more likely to own and use snowmobiles than urban. This is known from analyzing snowmobile registrations. More than ten years later the sport is still popular although growth has leveled-off.

Planning Region 8 has 377.3 K of public trail in 1975. By 1990 the projected need is about 1,900 K of trail. Manitowoc County has a County Snowmobile Plan. It calls for 150 miles (240 K) of trail by 1990 for Manitowoc County.

The sport has developed preferences for much more extensive trails. This is discussed in detail in the Public Input Summary in the appendix.

f. Hiking and Nature Study. The type of hiking provided by most state parks and forests consists of trails providing opportunities for short hikes of from one or two hours to a days worth. There is always a demand for this type of facility and it often exists with or functions as a nature study trail. Different people view the same scenery in varying ways. Point Beach currently has 7 miles of hiking trail and a one mile nature trail. No indicators of over-use are present, so the system is judged to be adequate for future needs.

g. Hunting. Most of Point Beach is open and will remain open to small and big game hunting just as it has been in the past.

h. Fishing. The major needs in Region 8, as presented in the State Outdoor Recreation Plan, center around habitat improvement and pollution abatement. SCORP indicates boating occasions have risen since the last state-wide recreation plan from 15,400 to 18,000 occasions.

i. Group Camping. Point Beach has camping facilities designated especially for use by organized groups such as scouts, church groups and other organized groups. The outdoor group camp can accommodate up to 50 people and the indoor facility has sleeping space for 18. This type of activity has proven quite popular statewide and at Point Beach. The outdoor group camp has proven to be well utilized and is deemed adequate for the future. The indoor group camp is in need of repair and will be upgraded but not expanded. The facility was used by 1,730 campers in 1980. Use has been increasing.

j. Sight Seeing. Sight seeing by automobile is undoubtedly a popular recreation activity that takes place on the 12 miles of forest roads. Since SCORP does not address sight seeing supply, need and demand data is not available for Planning Region 8.

2. <u>Other Recreation Activities</u>

a. Scuba-Diving and Snorkeling. This activity is popular near every Great Lakes port. The abundance of shipwrecks along the Lake Michigan coast make it particularly attractive. Point Beach has several interesting old shipwrecks located in relatively shallow water. The major obstacle is that there is no practical way to launch a boat at Point Beach. Since divers ordinarily do not care to swim more than 100 yards to a dive site a boat is often necessary. There may be potential for enhancing the diving quality at Point Beach. These potentials should be explored further.

b. Pleasure Boating (Powered and Sail). Boating of all types on Lake Michigan is oriented by necessity to larger craft. There are small fishing boats that operate near shore during calm weather. Launching, mooring and storage facilities are available at Two Rivers immediately to the south of Point Beach. It has been suggested many times that since the DNR owns 5 miles of lake frontage it should be willing to provide a launching facility. The demands for both larger boats and small craft will be a part of a future boat landing study.

c. Off-Road-Vehicle (ORV) Recreation. This use includes 4-wheel drive jeeps and trucks, trail bikes, mini-bikes and all-terrain vehicles. A quantitative analysis of ORV needs and demands was not conducted as a part of the State Recreation Plan, so no numerical indicators are available for relating to Point Beach. In almost every community there are people who participate in one form or another in ORV use. This type of use is currently prohibited at Point Beach for a number of reasons relating to resource protection.

d. Horseback Riding. There are 33 K of existing publicly-owned horseback riding trails in Planning Region 8. By 1990 it is projected that 70 K of trail will be needed. The needs should be met by a combination of public and private facilities. In the case of Point Beach - horseback riding is prohibited for reasons of resource protection.

e. Bicycling. While there is no existing bike trail within the forest, biking between the entrance and the City of Two Rivers is popular. The need for a regional bike trail system relates to Point Beach in that the forest would probably be a major destination.

E. Alternatives and Analyses

This section of the Point Beach Master Plan is intended to present major concept alternatives which could be applied to the management and development of the property. Point Beach has well established recreation and affords a good measure of resource protection. This has been incorporated into the discussion of alternatives which follows.

1. No Change - Status Quo

This alternative would provide that the property continue operating as it is now. No organized attempt would be made to overcome the listed management problems and there would be little change in the degree of resource protection. Any development would be done as it became necessary or desirable, if and when funds became available.

Operation of any facility under this concept usually results in adequate performance for awhile. This leaves the door open to the slow development of problems that may be difficult to solve later. It also does not allow for adjustments in the management to reflect changing trends in recreation or resource protection.

2. Modification to the Present Use and Management

This alternative recognizes the long-standing precedents that have been developed over the long run. It embodies the basic concepts of resource protection and recreation that have proven to be compatible, and it seeks to address the management problems and concerns, recreation and education needs, and public interests that have been uncovered in the planning process. For the most part no major new developments would be undertaken under this concept, however improvements to or replacements for developments may take place.

The major emphasis on resource protection with a secondary, but significant emphasis on recreation and education would be continued without interruption.

3. Intense Develoment

An alternative involving additional development to the forest could include a wide variety of recreational pursuits. A reasonable statement of such an alternative would probably include such items as an expanded family campground with electrical hook-ups, flush toilets and showers. Existing campsites would be upgraded with electricity, a pressurized water system and flush toilets. Such uses as trail-bike riding and 4-wheel drive mud running could be instituted in the cedar swamp areas. The inviting sand ridges could be utilized for bicycle or snowmobile trails. Day use areas for picnicking could be expanded to the north of the existing shelter building.

These additions to Point Beach would probably be met with favor by many persons. The popularity of the forest might increase significantly. The cost in terms of impact on the resource would be heavy. Such an alternative demands that environmental standards and awareness be compromised to an irresponsible degree. Recreation would become the main concern and resource protection would take a secondary and expendable position.

F. Recommended Alternative

Alternative 2, a modified approach to the existing use and management is recommended as the most reasonable concept to employ at Point Beach. The successes of the past and the needs of the present and future are considered wherever possible. It is unlikely that Point Beach has the capacity to support all known recreation modes without sustaining resource degradation. Whenever a choice has to be made between the natural environment and recreation, the natural environment will have the benefit of higher priority.

Appendix A

Public Input Summary

On November 1, 1979 a meeting to discuss the Goal and Objectives for Point Beach State Forest was held at the Two Rivers City Hall. Those in attendance were representatives of various snowmobile clubs, several rod and gun clubs, Conservation Education, Inc., Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission, Manitowoc County Planning and Park Commission, Lakeshore Nordic Ski Club, Soil Conservation Service, Chamber of Commerce, and others. Department representatives were Les Neustadter, Larry Ketchbaw, Dick Johnson, Bob Hummel, Jeff Pagels and Dan Rogers.

The meeting was convened and the purpose explained by Les Neustadter. A short history of the forest was given by Larry Ketchbaw and the Goal and Objectives statement was presented by Dan Rogers. There was very little actual discussion or disagreement on any of the points until the issue of snowmobiles was raised. It was obvious that this was the topic everyone wanted to expend their energy on: a proposal to allow a snowmobile trail within the forest connecting the county-sanctioned trail terminating in the northern area with the City of Two Rivers to the south.

Most of the discussion followed the classic lines of debate between snowmobile enthusiasts and anti-snowmobilers.

The anti-snowmobilers - consisting mainly of cross country skiers and conservation club representatives - presented the usual arguments against snowmobiles. These included noise, air pollution, disturbance of animals in the forest, trespassing, deviation from trails and unnecessary gasoline consumption. Potential conflicts between snowmobilers and skiers were also mentioned as a hazard.

The snowmobile enthusiasts were more objective in their arguments. They cited several factors supporting their request including:

1. The need for a safe passage without travelling on the town road (Sandy Bay Road).

2. The fact that such a trail could form an important link in the county system.

3. The trends toward trail systems that allow longer travel routes, rather than the small loops provided by the state.

4. An inability to secure any satisfactory alternate routes due to new subdivisions and certain unwilling landowners.

5. A willingness to compromise by going on forest property only as far as Molash Creek - thereby eliminating any contact or threat to the State Scientific Area.

6. A willingness to see the existing loop trails eliminated or converted to ski-trail use.

7. The willingness and ability to establish and groom such a trail (eliminates a budget problem for us).

Subsequently, a one-year land-use agreement allowing the development of a snowmobile trail in the forest was arranged between the Two River Sno-Gulls, Inc. snowmobile club. This agreement has been extended through the 1981-82 winter season with a compromise reached on crossing Molash Creek and exiting the forest about one-half mile further south.

Extension of the trail involves construction of a snowmobile trail bridge across molash Creek. Permits needed for constructing the bridge have been applied for by the snowmobile club.

Consideration will be given toward establishing a more permanent trail under a long term agreement with either a snowmobile club or the county.

0048M

The State of Wisconsin

SCIENTIFIC AREAS PRESERVATION COUNCIL

Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

May 26, 1981

IN REPLY REFER TO: 2300

Mr. Dave Weizenicker
Bureau of Parks and Recreation
Dept. of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Dave:

We have reviewed the conceptual master plan for Point Beach State Forest and find that the plan is well conceived and gives proper recognition to the preservation of this important geological and botanical site.

The landuse classification identifies the two scientific areas already in existence. In addition, the classification of most of the remaining undeveloped portions of the forest as "public use natural area" is an appropriate classification for the Point Beach "ridges" National Natural Landmark.

Cordially,

Forest Stearns

Forest Stearns
Chairman

State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Carroll D. Besadny
Secretary

BOX 7921
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53707

May 26, 1981

Mr. D. Weizenicker
Bureau of Parks & Recreation
Box 7421, DNR
Madison, WI 53707

MAY 27 1981

Dear Mr. Weizenicker:

The Wild Resources Advisory Council wishes to congratulate the Point Beach State Forest Master Plan Concept Element Task Force of Dan Rogers, Larry Ketchbaw, Dan Olson, Lee Kernen, and J. Korotev for producing and submitting a very credible document. WRAC commends the Task Force for expressing constant concern for the protection and maintenance of the environmental quality.

Sincerely,

Henry Kolka

Henry W. Kolka, Chairperson
Wild Resources Advisory Council

General Review, Comments, and Recommendations
for the Point Beach State Forest Master Plan Concept Element
by the Wild Resources Advisory Council

General Review

The Wild Resources Advisory Council wishes to congratulate the Point Beach State Forest Master Plan Concept Element Staff Force of Dan Rogers, Larry Ketchbaw, Dan Olson, Lee Kernen, and J. Korotev for preparing a very credible document considering the number of tensions and pressures exerted on the property. Basically, this property is an incredibly rare and most unique piece of real estate; ecologically, geologically, and historically. It is extremely sensitive to human overuse in some sections of the property. The Task Force shows wisdom in delaying judgement on some proposed uses and denying expansion of existing uses.

The WRAC is critical of the Task Force for the low emphasis made of educational values and educational uses of the property. With so many urban areas located near Point Beach State Forest, the numbers of people interested in its natural assets is bound to be big and growing. The educational investigation might range from insects to mammals in the animal categories and cover plants and in the plant communities in the vegetation categories.

To meet this need the project area must have much more sophisticated lists of its wildlife and plants.

Comments and Recommendations

1. Page 6: Goal

   WRAC recommends that and education be inserted between the words recreation and opportunities

2. Page 6: Objective (a) last line

   WRAC considers the statement of "gradual conversion to natural vegetation" as meaningless. The pine plantations were planted for a purpose. Why not reveal this purpose and live with it? The plantations may not be indigenous but they are part of Wisconsin's forest management practice. The Council suggests something of this nature: "Pine plantations should be managed in a healthy vigorous condition with the ultimate end being their gradual blending with the indigenous vegetation. (The underlined segment is the Council's suggested revision.)

3. Page 6: Objective b

   Since the figures used involves people engaged in either or both recreation and education, the WRAC suggests the insertion of and education between recreation and facilities.

4. Page 7: Third paragraph under land acquisition

Considering the escalating land costs and the present state of the economy, WRAC does not support the sale of the 40 acres outside of property borders. It could become another "no trespass" private block. The Council would endorse trade.

5. Pages 7, 8, and top of 9: Land use classifications

From the point of view of the WRAC, we consider it an excellent pattern. With the type of management suggested this unique environment has an opportunity of maintaining its quality.

6. Page 9: Vegetation. First paragraph

Comment has already been made on the last sentence of this paragraph. Refer to item 2 under Comments and Recommendations.

7. Page 10: paragraph (a) under Development

The containment of ORV's is of extra importance on this property mainly because of terrain challenges and accessibility. Since the choice of the area of abuse is generally the most fragile, strong enforcement becomes very necessary. WRAC supports the staff's resolve.

8. Page 14: Item (k) of Development

WRAC wishes to cast its vote with the opposition on this issue. Publically owned wild beaches along Lake Michigan are rare and limited and should not be encroached upon by sport fishing interests. The Council would encourage expansion of this service in the private sector.

9. Page 14: Item (l) of Development

This recreational component of Point Beach State Forest has been well handled by the Task Force. It is definitely a favorable compromise between County and State interests.

10. Page 15: Item (o) of Development

Considering the size of the property (about 4 1/2 square miles) and its physiography of negative features, the WRAC discourages the development of this service. It may be feasible on trial basis in some "mini" situation. The Council does not think so.

11. Page 16: Phase II

WRAC has question on all three proposals.

1. The Council prefers no changes in the present forest road network.
2. The Council questions the establishment of wind erosion protection in all areas outside of IRD sites.
3. The Council is sympathetic toward the proposed new construction. The need is well outlined.

12. Pages 21 and 22: History of the Area

The history of the area is well researched and excellently presented. The Council's compliments.

13. Page 23: Second paragraph from top of page

WRAC recommends the insertion of and education between recreation and became. In the Council's estimation the sentence would be closer to truth if it ended "became the main function".

14. Pages 23 and 24: Existing Land Use Precedents and Designations

Beautifully handled. Council's compliments.

15. Pages 28, 29, and 30: Vegetation and Wildlife

These categories are adequately to excellently handled in part. However, in other parts, they are woefully weak and even absent. To fully realize a comfortable educational potential, WRAC recommends that all groups of wildlife and plants be inventories as soon as possible.

16. Pages 31 and 32: Historical and Archaelogical Features

WRAC commends the Task Force in the treatment of this section.

17 Page 36: Lack of Boat Launching Facilities and Fishing Access in the Forest

WRAC looks with disfavor on establishing a boat landing on the forest property. In our opinion, this contemplated activity is not compatable with the established goals and objectives of the property.

18. Pages 41, 42, 43, and 44: Alternatives and Analysis

WRAC endorses the alternative number 2 and recommends that the NRB adopt it with these proposed minor modifications.

a. First paragraph. Insertion of and education between recreation and needs.

b. Second paragraph. Insertion of and education between recreation and would.

19. The accompanying charts enclosed with the text are very well chosen and presented and coordinate successfully with the text.

Respectfully Submitted,

Henry Kolka

Henry W. Kolka, Chairperson
Wild Resources Advisory Council

HWK:RL:ud

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Date: July 7, 1981 *File Ref:* 2510

To: Richard Lindberg - PLN/6

From: D. L. Weizenicker

Subject: WRAC Comments on Point Beach State Forest Master Plan

Our Bureau's response to the Wild Resources Advisory Council comments and recommendations on the Point Beach State Park Master Plan are as follows:

1. Page 6: Goal

   WRAC recommends that and education be inserted between the words recreation and opportunities.

   Department Response:

   The goal statement for Point Beach was revised per the Council's recommendation.

2. Page 6: Objective (a) last line

   WRAC considers the statement of "gradual conversion to natural vegetation" as meaningless. The pine plantations were planted for a purpose. Why not reveal this purpose and live with it? The plantations may not be indigenous but they are part of Wisconsin's forest management practice. The Council suggests something of this nature: "Pine plantations should be managed in a healthy vigorous condition with the ultimate end being their gradual blending with the indigenous vegetation. (The underlined segment is the Council's suggested revision.)

   Department Response:

   The statement on managing the existing pine plantations was reworded and moved to the vegetation management section on page 9. As suggested, the management objective will be primarily aimed toward eliminating the "block" effect through proper cutting practices to make the plantations more natural appearing.

3. Page 6: Objective b

   Since the figures used involves people engaged in either or both recreation and education, the WRAC suggests the insertion of and education between recreation and facilities.

Appendix B

Department Response:

"and education" was inserted as suggested.

4. Page 7: Third paragraph under land acquisition

Considering the escalating land costs and the present state of the economy, WRAC does not support the sale of the 40 acres outside of property borders. It could become another "no trespass" private block. The Council would endorse trade.

Department Response:

Trading the 40-acre parcel for private inholdings inside the forest boundary would be our primary goal. However, if this opportunity does not present itself, the parcel will be sold to simplify the boundary and make the forest a more manageable unit.

5. Pages 7, 8, and top of 9: Land use classifications

From the point of view of the WRAC, we consider it an excellent pattern. With the type of management suggested, this unique environment has an opportunity of maintaining its quality.

Department Response:

We thank the Council's endorsement of the task force's choice of land use classifications.

6. Page 9: Vegetation. First paragraph

Comment has already been made on the last sentence of this paragraph. Refer to item 2 under Comments and Recommendations.

Department Response:

Please refer to our response to item 2.

7. Page 10: paragraph (a) under Development

The containment of ORV's is of extra importance on this property mainly because of terrain challenges and accessibility. Since the choice of the area of abuse is generally the most fragile, strong enforcement becomes very necessary. WRAC supports the staff's resolve.

Department Response:

So noted.

8. Page 14: Item (k) of Development

WRAC wishes to cast its vote with the opposition on this issue. Publically owned wild beaches along Lake Michigan are rare and limited and

should not be encroached upon by sport fishing interests. The Council would encourage expansion of this service in the private sector.

Department Response:

If considered feasible, the proposed boat access will be located near an established use area in the forest and will be for small hand carried boats only. A concrete plank ramp will not be necessary nor will dredging be required. The overall impact on the shoreline should be very slight.

9. Page 14: Item (l) of Development

This recreational component of Point Beach State Forest has been well handled by the Task Force. It is definitely a favorable compromise between County and State interests.

Department Response:

We agree.

10. Page 15: Item (o) of Development

Considering the size of the property (about 4 1/2 square miles) and its physiography of negative features, the WRAC discourages the development of this service. It may be feasible on trial basis in some "mini" situation. The Council does not think so.

Department Response:

According to the master plan, primitive camping will be allowed only if a significant number of sites can be found that will cause little impact on the environment and be far enough apart to provide a primitive camping experience.

11. Page 16: Phase II

WRAC has question on all three proposals.

1. The Council prefers no changes in the present forest road network.
2. The Council questions the establishment of wind erosion protection in all areas outside of IRD sites.
3. The Council is sympathetic toward the proposed new construction. The need is well outlined.

Department Response:

1. Except for the entrance road revisions required for the proposed office building/contact station, the only changes that may occur through a review of the forest road network will be minor. They may include safety improvements at intersections, and means to simplify and improve traffic circulation patterns.

2. Vegetative windbreaks will be established only in areas where wind erosion may be a problem near buildings, roads, or walkways, etc. It is expected that this would be a very small scale project as the cost is estimated at $2,500.

3. We appreciate the support of the Council for this new office/contact station facility.

12. Pages 21 and 22: History of the Area

The history of the area is well researched and excellently presented. The Council's compliments.

Department Response:

We thank the Council for the compliment.

13. Page 23: Second paragraph from top of page

WRAC recommends the insertion of and education between recreation and became. In the Council's estimation, the sentence would be closer to truth if it ended "became the main function."

Department Response:

This sentence was revised per the Council's recommendation.

14. Pages 23 and 24: Existing Land Use Precedents and Designations

Beautifully handled. Council's compliments.

Department Response:

We thank the Council for the compliment.

15. Pages 28, 29, and 30: Vegetation and Wildlife

These categories are adequately to excellently handled in part. However, in other parts, they are woefully weak and even absent. To fully realize a comfortable educational potential, WRAC recommends that all groups of wildlife and plants be inventoried as soon as possible.

Department Response:

A paragraph will be added on page 31 (referring also to the fishery) stating that "as funds permit a complete biological inventory should be conducted to gain information about the fishery and all other wild plant and animal populations in the forest."

16. Pages 31 and 32: Historical and Archaeological Features

WRAC commends the Task Force in the treatment of this section.

Department Response:

We agree that this section was excellently done.

17. Page 36: Lack of Boat Launching Facilities and Fishing Access in the Forest

WRAC looks with disfavor on establishing a boat landing on the forest property. In our opinion, this contemplated activity is not compatible with the established goals and objectives of the property.

Department Response:

Please refer to our response to item 8.

18. Pages 41, 42, 43, and 44: Alternatives and Analysis

WRAC endorses the alternative number 2 and recommends that the Natural Resources Board adopt it with these proposed minor modifications.

a. First paragraph. Insertion of and education between recreation and needs.

b. Second paragraph. Insertion of and education between recreation and would.

Department Response:

"and education" was inserted as recommended.

19. The accompanying charts enclosed with the text are very well chosen and presented and coordinate successfully with the text.

Department Response:

So noted.

Thank you for the Council's thorough review and helpful comments on the Point Beach Master Plan.

cc: J. L. Treichel - P&R/4
→D. J. Kulhanek - P&R/4
C. Higgs - Green Bay