

# Wisconsin Natural Areas Preservation Council

## GUIDELINES

### State Natural Area Designation Process

[Refer to §23.28 Wis. Stats. and DNR Manual Code 1750.1 for more information.]

1. Needs Identification (Priorities): A list of community types and features not represented or inadequately represented in the State Natural Areas system should be compiled for future use in considering sites for designation. Although this has been done and a list of desirable sites generated in the past (e.g. the Scientific Areas Long-Range Plan of 1985), it is time for the council to analyze the State Natural Areas system as it stands today and review and revise its recommendations on system needs. It can then measure its actions and make decisions based on these needs.
2. State Natural Area Project Recommendation: Projects come before the council either through Department of Natural Resources recommendation, through private individuals or organizations, or through the Natural Heritage Inventory Scorecard method. In each case, the council wants to receive a package (ahead of the meeting date) containing the following:
  - a. Rationale. How does the project meet the needs identified in Part 1? What communities, species, or other features will be protected by this project? Where does the project fit into the system? What state natural areas contain the communities or species or other features that this site will protect? Where are these areas in relation to the proposed project? It is recommended that a map be included showing the project area and its location in relation to existing similar state natural areas.
  - b. Problems. What problems are inherent to the project (e.g. management, present use, adjacent land uses, etc.)? How can these be solved?
  - c. Management and Use. What general type of management is being considered for this project? What uses should be allowed?
  - d. Protection. How will the site be protected (e.g. fee simple acquisition, easement, memorandum of understanding, or other method)?

If the council agrees with the proposal, the council will recommend that protection should proceed, with designation anticipated. This action will be recorded in the minutes. The department uses the council's recommendation, and in accord with established department procedure, moves forward with protection. With the first protection action (e.g. acquisition, easement, memorandum of understanding, etc.) the department will formally designate the site as a state natural area and staff will inform the council at its next meeting.

The council will periodically review the existing list of target projects and cull those in which the council and staff are no longer interested.

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