Form 1100-1
Rev. 11-82

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM Item No. _____

SUBJECT: MASTER PLANNING - Approval of the master plan for the Coon Creek Fishery Area, La Crosse, Monroe and Vernon Counties.

FOR January (month) **BOARD MEETING**

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Jim Addis

SUMMARY:

At present, 651.71 remnant acres are owned on Timber Coulee, Rullands Coulee and Spring Coulee Creeks that combine with Bohemian Valley Creek to form Coon Creek. The Department proposes to combine the remnants with a boundary to form the Coon Creek Fishery Area with a recommended acreage goal of 1,300 acres.

Extensive stream habitat development is proposed using new techniques developed for flood-prone coulee streams of the system, which are capable of producing record harvests of trout. A total of 14 parking areas is proposed.

Hardwood stands on the fishery area will be managed for watershed protection, and timber and game production, while wildlife management will focus on maintaining cover and food production for a variety of species.

Three state natural areas are proposed, but most of the property is designated as a fish and wildlife area.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Coon Creek Fishery Area Master Plan be approved by the Board.

LIST OF ATTACHED REFERENCE MATERIAL:

No ☒ Fiscal Estimate Required	Yes ☐ Attached
No ☐ Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required	Yes ☒ Attached
No ☐ Background Memo	Yes ☒ Attached

APPROVED:

Bureau Director	James T. Addis	12/3/85 Date
Administrator	James R. Huntoon	12/11/85 Date
Secretary	C. D. Besadny	12-12-85 Date

cc: Judy Scullion - AD/5
Jim Lissack - Eau Claire
Jim Addis - FM/4
Carl Evert - OL/4
Ron Poff - FM/4
Vern Hacker - Oshkosh

(AD-75)

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Date: November 18, 1985 *File Ref:* 2100

To: C. D. Besadny

From: James T. Addis

Subject: Master Plan for the Proposed Coon Creek Fishery Area, La Crosse, Monroe and Vernon Counties

A network of very fine, high-production trout streams, namely Timber Coulee, Rullands Coulee, Spring Coulee and Bohemian Valley Creeks combine to form Coon Creek, a tributary of the Mississippi River. Currently, 651.71 acres of remnants are owned on those streams.

A Department task force, supplemented by representatives of 6 different major area conservation organizations has prepared a conceptual master plan and an environmental assessment for the properties. In the master plan, the task force recommends that the remnants be combined in an approved boundary with an acreage goal of 1,300 acres. The master plan and environmental assessment are attached for your review and approval.

A public meeting was held in the Village of Coon Valley on October 10, 1985 to discuss the master plan. Eight members of the Department representing various disciplines were present and 10 interested members of the public attended. Very few questions were asked following presentation of the master plan to the audience, and they related to streambank fencing, the durability of instream structures and future plans for the stream between Coon Valley and Chaseburg, downstream.

At the same time, the environmental assessment was made available for public review. Only one person, a county board member, had questions regarding acquisition, and in particular, condemnation. All of his questions were answered to his satisfaction. The Bureau of Environmental Analysis and Review has approved the assessment as being in conformance with WEPA.

During the period of 45-day review, comments were received from a number of persons or organizations outside of the Department. Their comments or questions, and DNR responses, where necessary, appear in the attached Appendix.

In the master plan, the Department recommends increasing the acreage goal by 648.29 acres above the 651.71 acres already owned, to 1,300 acres. Of the 648.29 acres, 44.75 acres would be transferred from the Sand Creek Fishery Area, Chippewa County, and 30.15 acres from Behning Creek Fishery Area, Polk County, with both reductions in previously approved master or management plans. The remaining 573.39 acres would be a direct increase. If approved, 50.13 percent of the acreage goal would be completed.

Three state natural areas are designated within the fishery area, Coon Valley Aconitum Cliff, Eureka Maple Woods and Bohemian Valley. The remainder of the fishery area is designated as a fish and wildlife development area - RD_2.

Intensive instream development is recommended for the fishery area using newly-developed, efficient techniques for allowing minimal destruction during episodes of floods. Creation of 14 parking areas is recommended.

Wildlife management will consist of maintaining herbaceous cover and food production and protection of large, mast-producing and den trees for use by wood ducks, squirrels, raccoons and other species.

Forest management practices for hardwoods will include watershed protection, timber and game production and aesthetics, while herbaceous cover or crops will be enhanced with selective tree planting.

Your approval is requested to present this master plan to the January Natural Resources Board meeting.

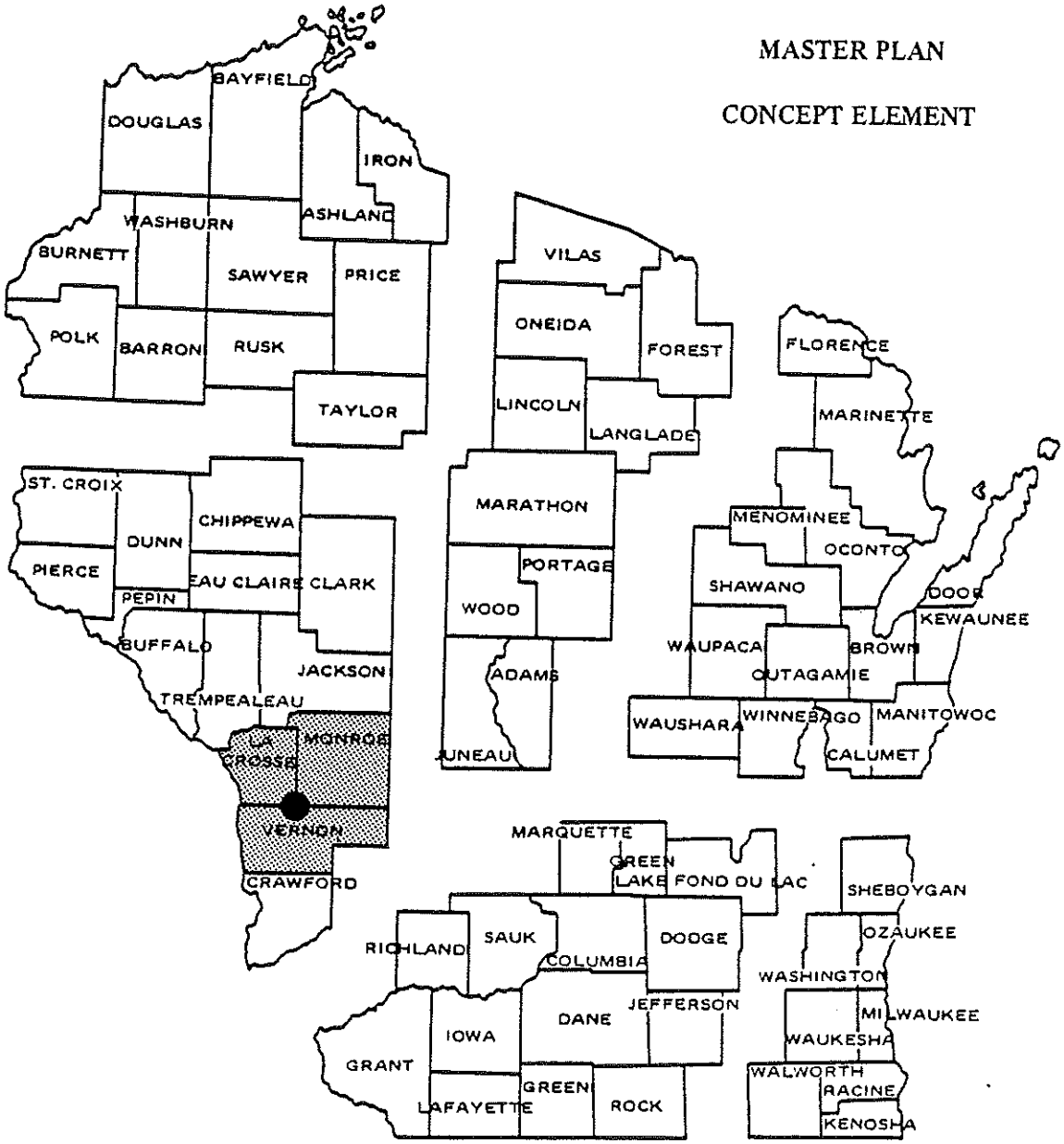
VH:mg

COON CREEK FISHERY AREA

LA CROSSE, MONROE AND VERNON COUNTIES

MASTER PLAN

CONCEPT ELEMENT



Property Task Force

Co-Leader – Kenneth Wright, Area Fish Manager
Co-Leader- Greg Mathson, Fishery Technician
Ronald Olson, Area Land Agent
Raymond Kyro, Area Wildlife Manager
John Bliss, Assistant Area Forester
Richard Wallin, Conservation Warden
Glen Barstad, Vernon Co. Conservation Alliance
Terry Larsen, Coulee Region Chapter Trout Unlimited
Paul Gilbertson, Jr., Chaseburg Sportsmen's Club

Approved by Natural Resources Board

_____
Date

Larry Leum, Coon Valley Sportsmen's Club
Bill Welk, Westby Rod and Gun Club
Curtis Horman, Bohemian Valley Rod and Gun Club

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
MADISON, WISCONSIN

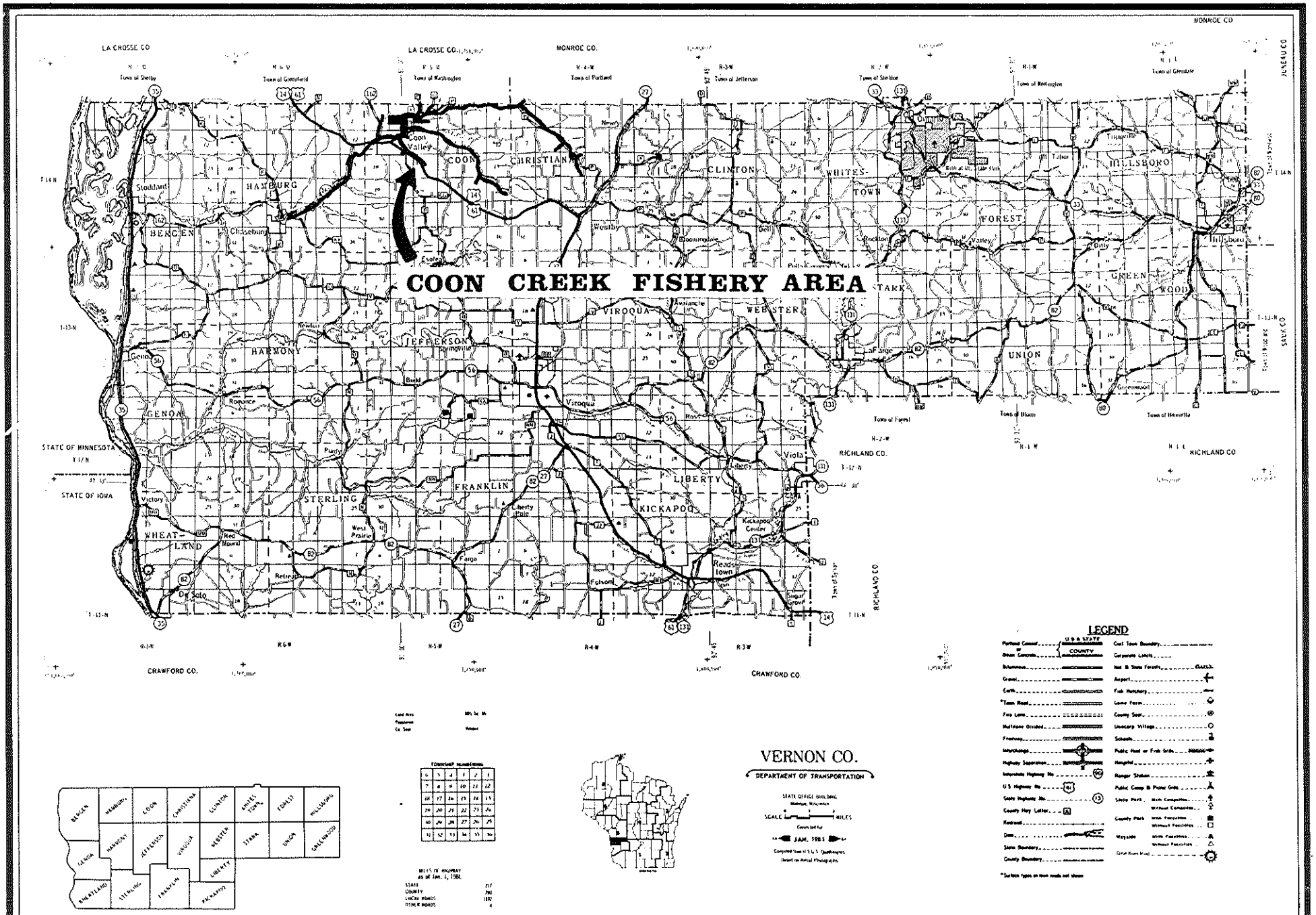


Figure 1a. Location—Coon Creek Fishery Area; Vernon, La Crosse and Monroe Counties.

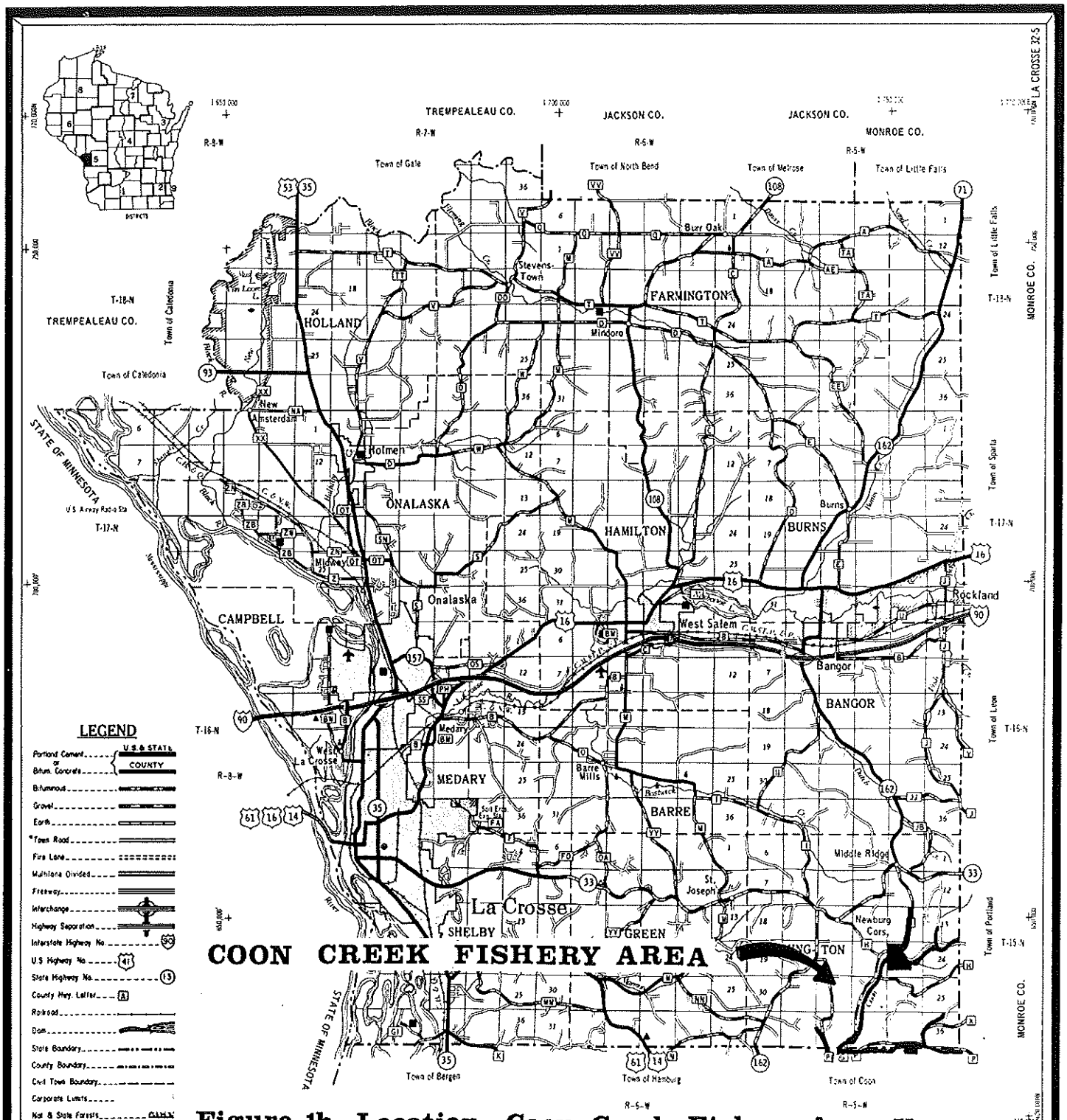


Figure 1b. Location—Coon Creek Fishery Area; Vernon, La Crosse and Monroe Counties.

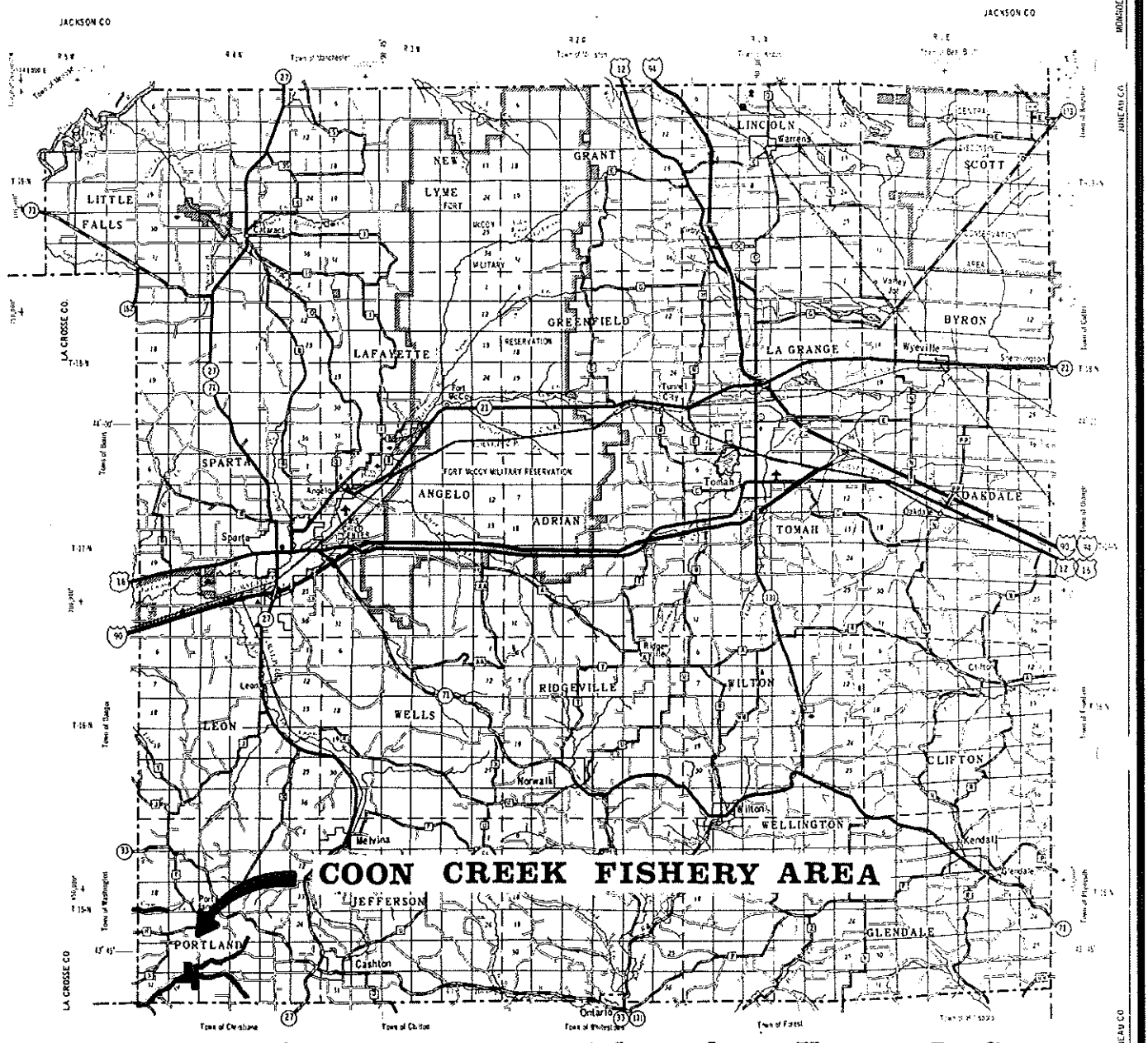
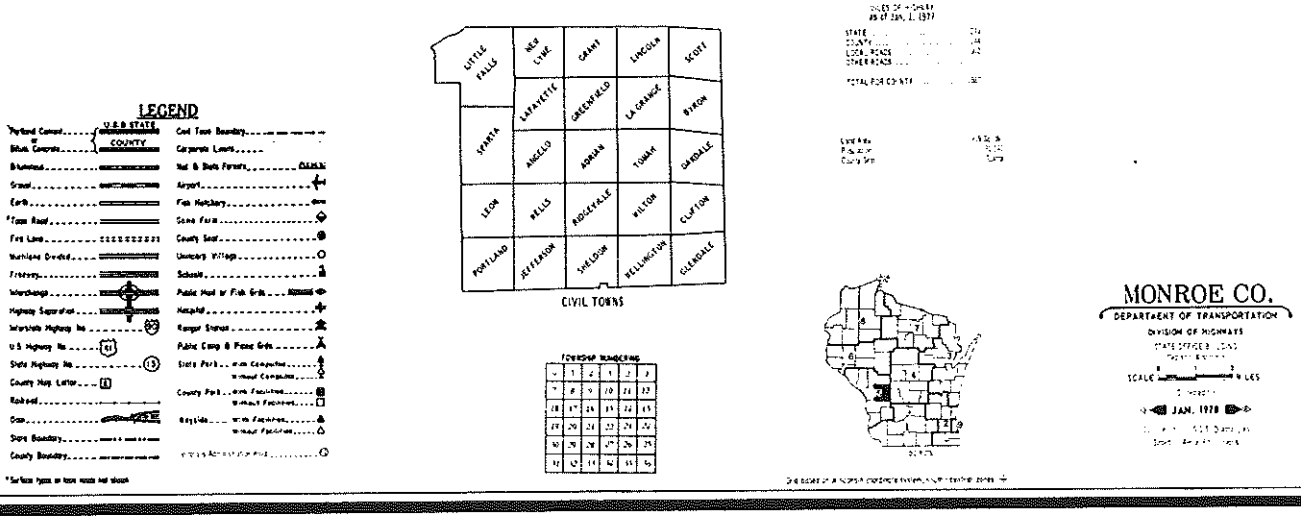


Figure 1c. Location—Coon Creek Fishery Area; Vernon, La Crosse and Monroe Counties.



SECTION I - ACTIONS

SECTION II - SUPPORT DATA

SECTION I - ACTIONS

GOALS, ANNUAL OBJECTIVES, AND ANNUAL ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Goals

To manage the proposed Coon Creek Fishery Area in La Crosse, Vernon, and Monroe Counties in order to maintain a high quality trout fishery which can sustain considerable fishing pressure, and to supply other outdoor recreational activities while improving the aesthetics of the waterway.

Annual Objectives

1. Provide intensive management of a quality trout fishery to allow 13,000 participant-days of fishing for brown and brook trout.

2. Maintain the trout population in order to produce 200 10-inch and above brown trout per mile.

3. Develop and manage the existing state-owned wildlife resources to accommodate 950 participant-days of hunting for white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, ruffed grouse, cottontails and squirrels, and trapping for mink, muskrats, beaver, raccoons, skunks, weasels, and grey and red foxes.

Annual Additional Benefits

1. Manage the vegetative cover on the state-owned lands compatibly with the goals of fish and wildlife management and with the aesthetic nature of the area.

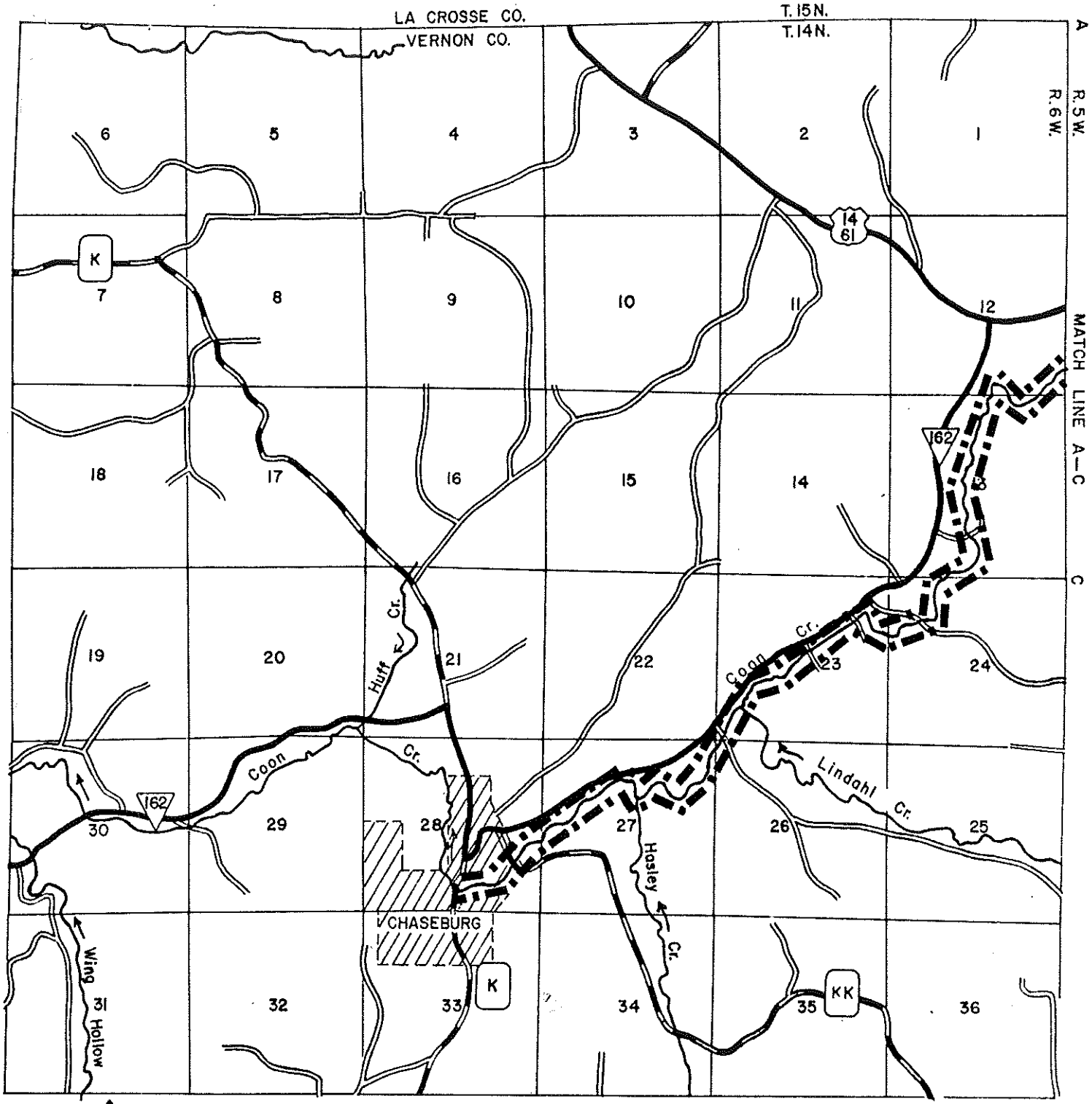
2. Accommodate 500 other recreational participant-days for mushroom and berry picking, cross-country skiing, nature hiking, bird watching and photography.

3. Promote the ultimate use of the lands by renting and sharecropping of cropland on specific parcels.

4. Contribute to the habitat of migratory, threatened, and endangered species on the property.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Currently, a total of 651.71 acres are state owned on a complex of trout streams including Timber Coulee, Rullands Coulee, and Spring Coulee Creeks that combine with Bohemian Valley Creek to form Coon Creek. The streams are located in La Crosse, Monroe and Vernon Counties. It is recommended that several remnants on those streams in the watershed be combined with a common boundary to form the Coon Creek System Fishery Area (Figures 2a, b, and c) for the long-range acquisition, development and maintenance of lands and public waters as outlined in this master plan.



(T. 14 N., R. 6 W.,
Stoddard U.S.G.S. Quad.)

COON CREEK FISHERY AREA

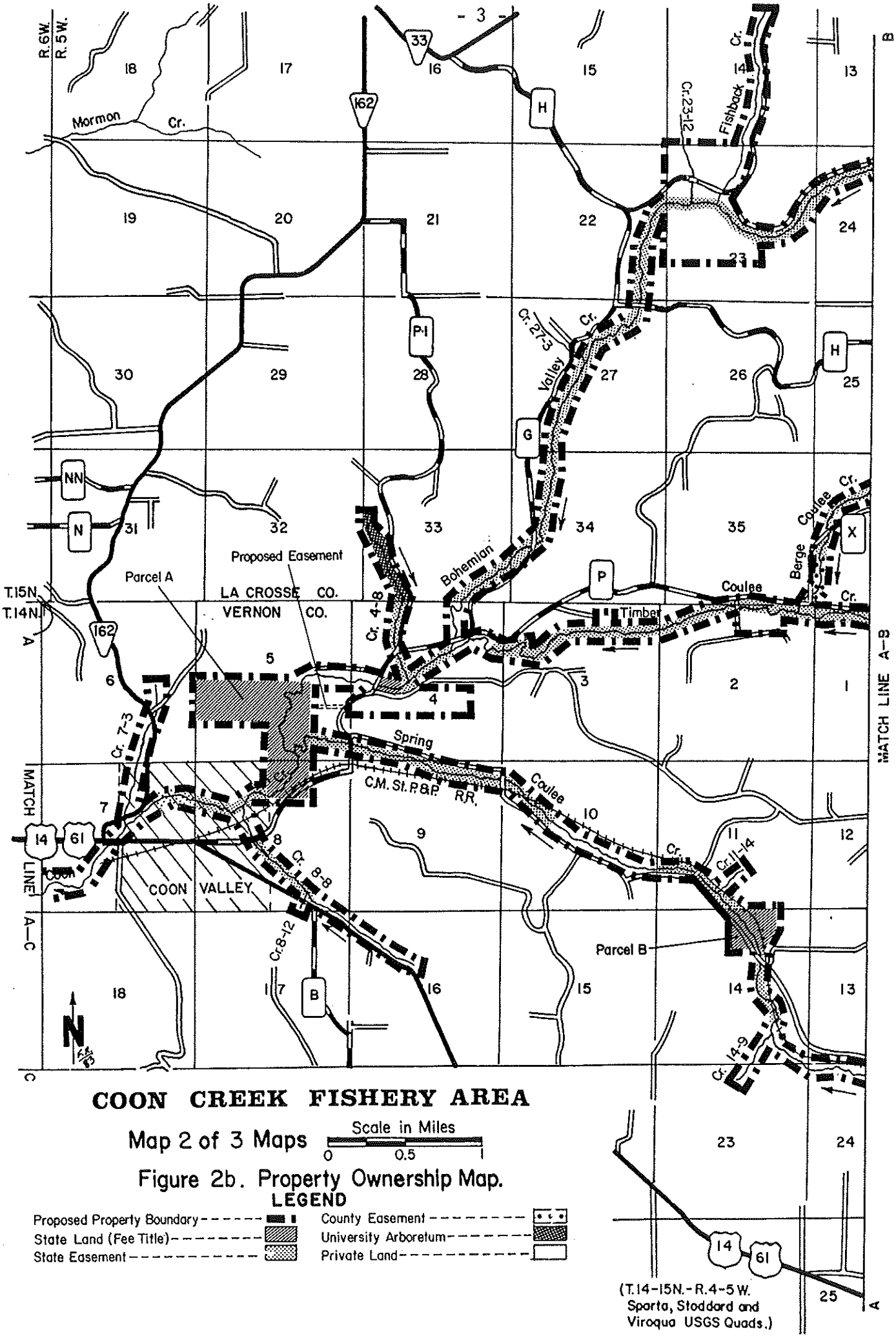
Figure 2a. Property Ownership Map.

Scale in Miles
0 0.5 1

LEGEND

Map 1 of 3 Maps

Proposed Property Boundary
Private Land



COON CREEK FISHERY AREA

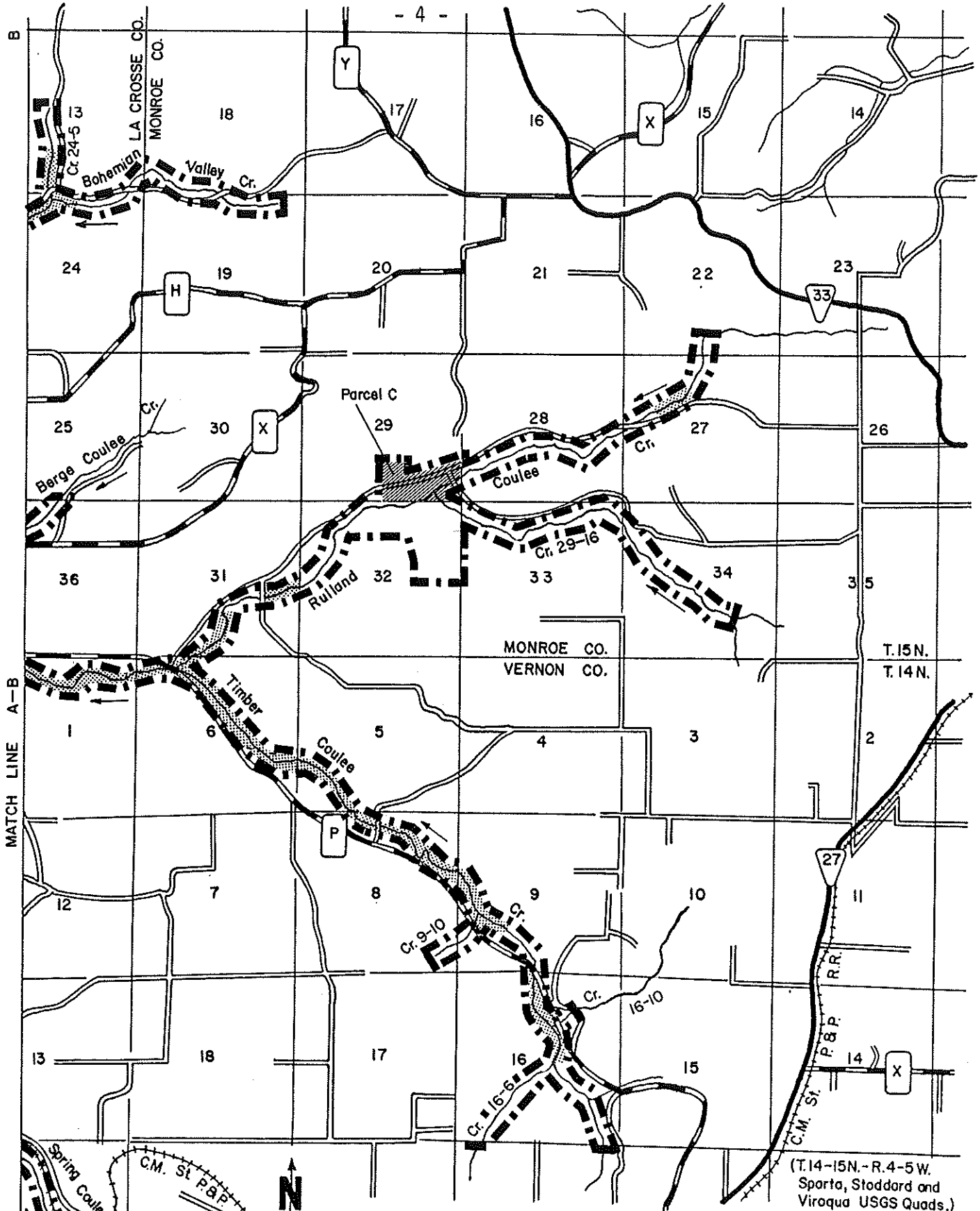
Map 2 of 3 Maps

Figure 2b. Property Ownership Map.

LEGEND

- Proposed Property Boundary
- State Land (Fee Title)
- State Easement
- County Easement
- University Arboretum
- Private Land

(T.14-15N.-R.4-5W. Sparta, Stoddard and Viroqua USGS Quads.)



COON CREEK FISHERY AREA

Map 3 of 3 Maps

Scale in Miles 0 0.5 1

Figure 2c. Property Ownership Map.

LEGEND

- Proposed Property Boundary
- State Land (Fee Title)
- State Easement
- County Easement
- University Arboretum
- Private Land

Approval is also requested to establish an acreage goal of 1,300 acres within the proposed property boundary.

If the proposal to create the fishery area is approved by the Natural Resources Board, the following actions will be necessary:

1. Establishment of the Coon Creek Fishery Area with an acreage goal of 1,300 acres.

2. Transfer of 466.95 acres from Vernon County remnant areas to the Coon Creek Fishery Area for properties already acquired.

3. Transfer of 105.80 acres from La Crosse County remnant areas to the Coon Creek Fishery Area for properties already acquired.

4. Transfer of 78.96 acres from Monroe County remnant areas to the Coon Creek Fishery Area for properties already acquired.

5. Reduction of the acreage goal of Vernon County remnant areas by 466.95 acres.

6. Reduction of the acreage goal of La Crosse County remnant areas by 105.8 acres.

7. Reduction of the acreage goal of Monroe County remnant areas by 78.96 acres.

8. Transfer the acreages listed below to the Coon Creek System Fishery Area and reduce each of the accounts by the exact same number of acres:

Account	Acres
Sand Creek FA, Chippewa County	44.75
Behning Creek FA, Polk County	30.15
Total	74.90

9. Approval of an increase of 573.39 acres to raise the acreage goal.

Perpetual easement will be the preferred method for meeting property goals, with acquisition in fee title as the alternative method to acquire a parcel. Fencing rights should be included in future easements, where feasible. Acquiring fencing rights on existing easements should also be pursued.

Acquisition should take place as soon as the present landowners are willing to sell, and funds are available. All land acquisition has been, and will continue, to be, from willing sellers.

At several locations listed as Parcels A, B, and C on Figures 2b and 2c, upland acreage is owned which is of little value to the fishery but which contain high wildlife values. If land becomes available along the stream, upland parcels suitable as crop lands may be exchanged if this is the only method by which we can gain ownership of the streamlands.

The recommended management and development program for the Coon Creek Fishery Area will be the implementation of intensive habitat management. Such management of the stream and state-owned parcels of land is necessary to increase the biomass of the fishery and to increase fishing and hunting opportunities.

Extensive stream habitat work (Figures 3a, b, and c) is planned in conjunction with previously completed projects on Timber Coulee, Bohemian Valley, Rullands Coulee and Spring Coulee Creeks. A 2-year habitat development project on the lower reaches of Timber Coulee is now in the planning stages and is expected to be implemented in the spring of 1986. Approximately 7,920 feet of stream will be improved with 1,900 feet of structure in the form of instream habitat and riprap. Cost will be approximately $60,000.

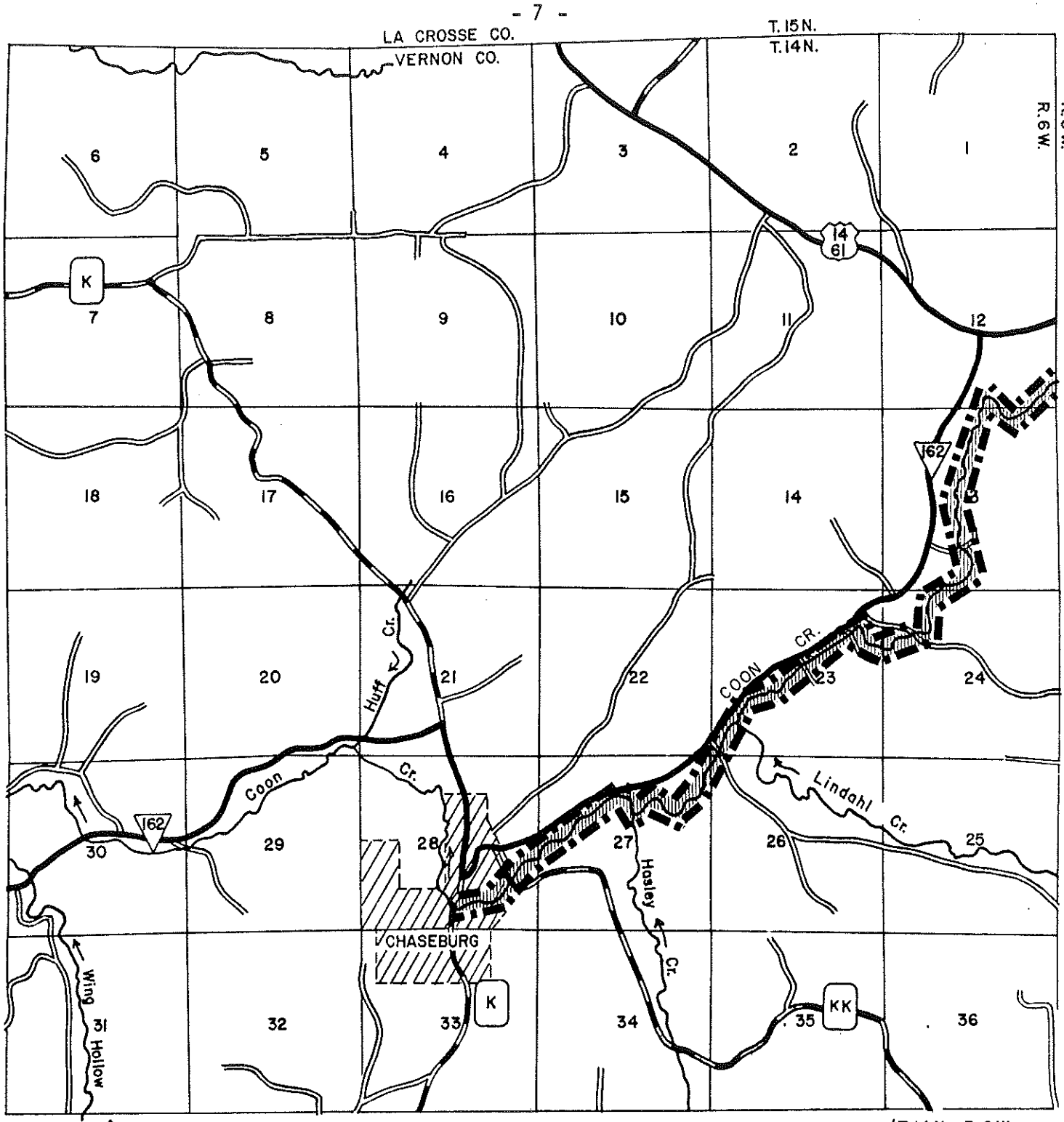
A 2-year habitat development project will be completed in 1985 on the lower reaches of Spring Coulee Creek. Approximately 3,700 feet of stream will be improved with instream habitat structures and bank riprap at an approximate cost of $15,305 (Figures 3a and 3b).

A 2-year maintenance project was started in 1985 on previously completed structures in Bohemian Valley and Timber Coulee Creeks. On structures needing repair, rock will be replaced, banks will be sloped and seeded, and raw banks riprapped. Cost of this project is estimated at $15,000. County Aid Funds, with 50-50 cost sharing will be used for habitat improvement on small feeder streams including Creeks 8-8, 7-3, 4-8 and 29-16.

The fish management program is aimed at producing numerous trout 10 inches and larger. Research in the form of creel census is being planned on all of the streams in the fishery area. An experimental slot size season on a one-mile section of stream has been approved at a hearing for the lower reaches of Timber Coulee Creek, and is proposed to be implemented in May, 1986. Anglers will be able to keep brown trout in the slot size of 14-17 inches, using artificial lures only. If successful, and accepted by fishermen, more trophy-sized trout will be produced in the fishery area, while providing increased fishing opportunities.

A total of 14 parking areas are being planned in addition to the 5 present along the streams in the fishery area. Most access to the streams is from town and county roads, and bridge crossings. At certain times of the year congestion occurs at these access points. Where space permits and when land is acquired, parking areas for 3-4 cars will be constructed (Figures 3a and 3b).

The Coon Creek Fishery Area includes about 200 acres of woodland. The proper management of this resource will greatly enhance the value of the property at that location. The natural hardwood stands in the fishery area will be managed for watershed protection, timber and game production and aesthetics. These stands have been extensively harvested in the past 30 years, and no major harvests are anticipated within the 10-year planning period. Cultural work where needed will improve the growing conditions in these stands.



(T. 14 N., R. 6 W., Stoddard U.S.G.S. Quad.)

COON CREEK FISHERY AREA

Figure 3a. Existing and Planned Development Map.

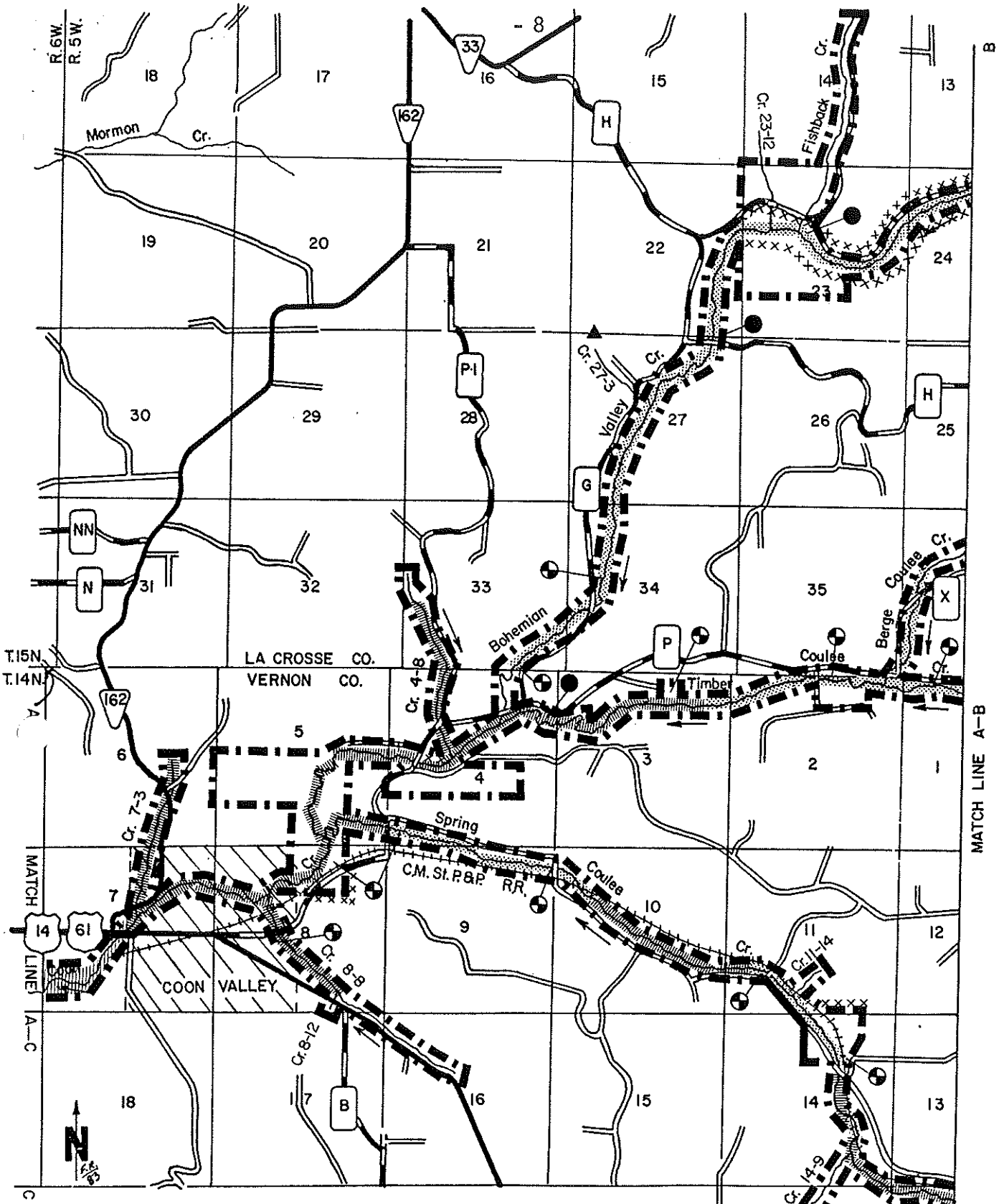
Scale in Miles
0 0.5 1

LEGEND

Map 1 of 3 Maps

Proposed Property Boundary

Proposed Stream Habitat Improvement



COON CREEK FISHERY AREA

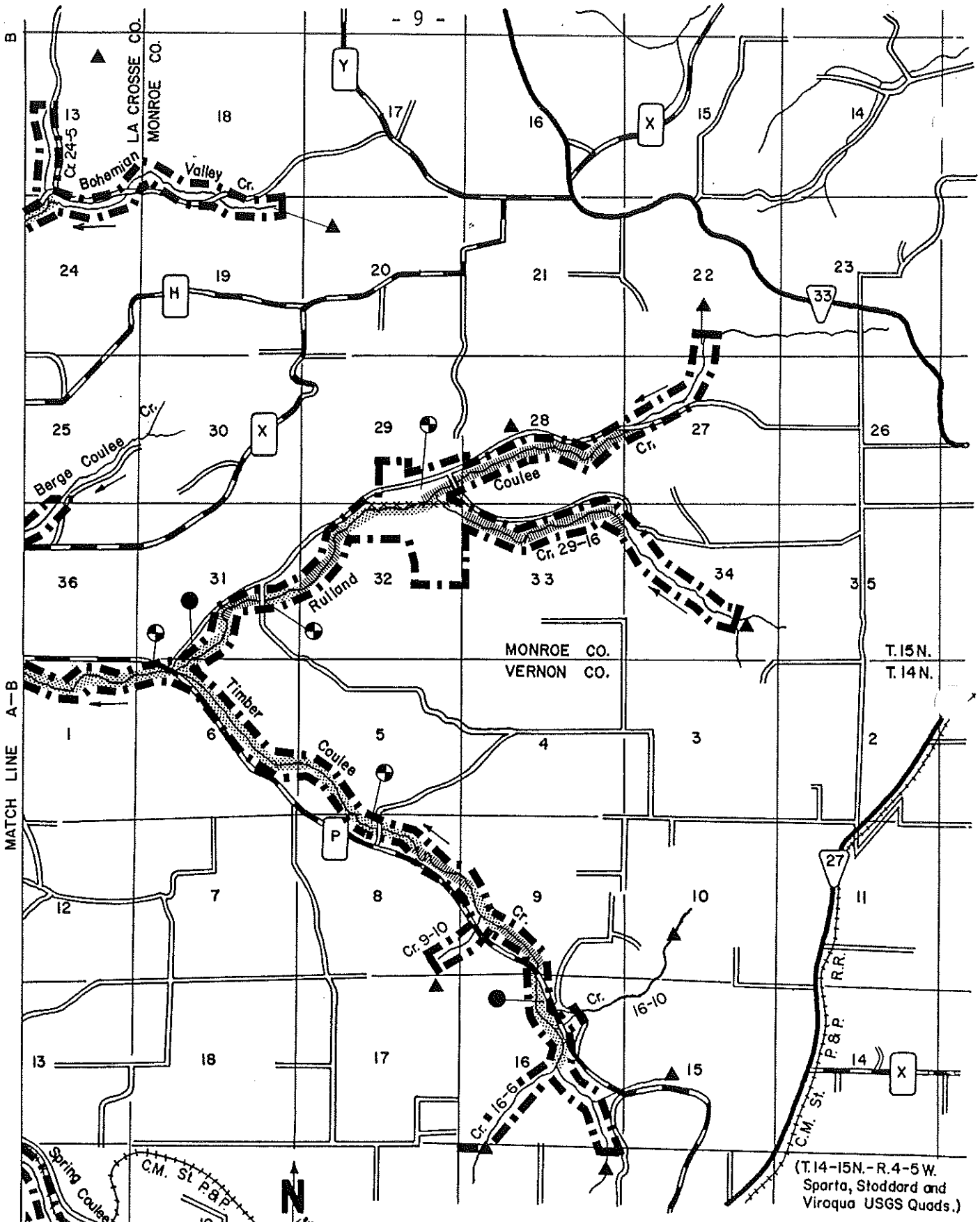
Map 2 of 3 Maps

Scale in Miles 0 0.5 1

Figure 3b. Existing and Planned Development Map.

LEGEND

- Proposed Property Boundary
- Existing Stream Habitat Improve.
- Proposed Stream Habitat Improve.
- Existing Parking Area
- Proposed Parking Area
- Existing Fencing
- Existing PL 566 Structure (Dry)



COON CREEK FISHERY AREA

Map 3 of 3 Maps

Scale in Miles: 0 — 0.5 — 1

Figure 3c. Existing and Planned Development Map.

LEGEND

- Proposed Property Boundary
- Existing Stream Habitat Improve.
- Proposed Stream Habitat Improve.
- Existing Parking Area
- Proposed Parking Area
- Existing Fencing
- Existing PL.566 Structure (Dry)

Several areas within the fishery area have been planted with pine, spruce and hardwoods. These plantations will require maintenance activities including grass control, thinning and pruning. Of particular interest is the mixed hardwood plantation on Parcel A in Section 5, Town of Coon which has good research and demonstration potential. Other areas presently in herbaceous cover or crops may be enhanced with selective tree plantings.

Wildlife management will focus primarily on maintaining herbaceous cover and food production. Share-cropping, food patch development and mowing trail areas and pine plantation edge will be the methods incorporated on the lands owned in fee. Protection of large, mast producing trees and den trees for use by wood ducks, squirrels, raccoons, and other wildlife species will be encouraged through maintenance forestry practices.

All areas proposed for development will be examined for the presence of endangered and threatened wild animals and plants. If listed species are found, development will be suspended until the District Endangered and Nongame Species Coordinator is consulted, the site evaluated, and appropriate protective measures taken.

A complete biological inventory of the property will be conducted as funds permit. Additional property objectives may be developed following completion of such an inventory.

SECTION II - SUPPORT DATA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The proposed Coon Creek Fishery Area is located in the unglaciated "coulee region" of Wisconsin. Unlike other glaciated parts of the state, this area is characterized by short, steep slopes and ridges with clear, spring-fed, gravel and rubble-bottomed streams meandering through deep, narrow valleys. Originating in La Crosse, Vernon, and Monroe Counties and flowing in a southwesterly direction to the Mississippi River are the four headwater streams of Bohemian Valley, Timber Coulee, Spring Coulee, and Rullands Coulee Creeks which combine to form Coon Creek.

Numerous spring tributaries, extensive instream habitat development, excellent water quality, and abundant spawning sites are combined to form one of the best self-sustaining brown trout populations in the western part of the state. With a semi-meadow pasture setting, and excellent access, trout fishing on these streams provides young and old alike a rewarding experience. Several of the streams of the fishery area have received national recognition through outdoor publications.

The Coon Creek watershed was the pioneer Public Law 566 project of the nation where flood control and watershed conservation measures were undertaken. Early attempts at flood protection were completed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's, through bank riprapping, willow planting, fencing, and instream habitat structure installation.

In the late 1950's, flood retention dams were constructed in the upper reaches of Bohemian Valley, Timber Coulee and Rullands Coulee Creeks through the P.L. 566 Program.

Land acquisition has been carried out through the remnant areas program for each county. Because this property was never designated as a fishery area, no acreage goal or boundary was ever established. The first state easements taken in the mid-1950's were for 20 years with the option of another 20 years. When the first easements expired, perpetual easements were purchased. In most cases, they have been purchased on a strip of land 66 feet wide, on each bank of the stream.

Easement rights acquired include the right of the public to walk along the stream for the purposes of fishing, and the right to do instream habitat work and streambank stabilization by the Department of Natural Resources. When negotiable, the right to fence out cattle from the easement area was acquired. Currently, 335.84 acres have been acquired in perpetual easements on the proposed fishery area.

In some cases, landowners were unwilling to sell an easement but were willing to sell the land and 315.87 acres of land have been purchased to date in fee title. Fee acquisition is a more costly way to acquire land necessary to meet the goals and objectives of the property. When the land is zoned in fee, the Department makes a payment directly to the township where the land is located, to compensate for the loss of property tax. Such a payment is called an "in-lieu-tax" payment and is based on a formula established by the state legislature. As examples, on April 26, 1985, the Town of Portland, Monroe County, received a payment of $92.98 for 66.26 acres while the Town of Coon, Vernon County, received a payment of $2,325.10 for 253.18 acres.

Several marginal farms that had stream frontage were bought in fee title, and several acres of agricultural land were traded to local farmers for more stream frontage. Good agricultural land acquired that was not traded is being leased to several local farmers. The buildings were sold on bids and the abandoned building sites were filled, leveled, seeded, and left idle to return to a natural condition, or were planted with trees and shrubs.

The major objective on the Coon Creek Fishery Area has been to improve the instream habitat of the streams with the property. The first projects initiated were funded through county aid monies. Timber Coulee and Bohemian Valley were the first streams to have instream habitat work initiated. In the late 1950's, a demonstration project was initiated on the upper reaches of Bohemian Valley. The area included the stream in Sections 23 and 24, T15N, R5W. Concepts of stream fencing, instream habitat development, and willow planting were tried.

In 1955 and 1956, habitat development in the form of instream habitat structures was completed on several sections of Timber Coulee as a cooperative project between the Westby Rod and Gun Club, landowners, and the Wisconsin Conservation Department.

From 1973 to 1977, instream structures were installed on Bohemian Valley Creek from the La Crosse-Vernon County line upstream to the C.T.H. "H" bridge crossing, using county aid and ORAP monies.

With the creation of the Trout Stamp, instream habitat development projects were initiated on Timber Coulee, Bohemian Valley and Rullands Coulee. This work started in 1977 and continued into 1978. A cooperative project between Trout Unlimited and the D.N.R. was completed on Berge Coulee Creek in 1977.

With nearly all the habitat projects complete, the disastrous July, 1978, flood destroyed or damaged nearly every habitat structure installed in the Coon Creek Fishery Area. Disaster relief money was applied for from the Federal government. A total of $235,636.20 was received and Bohemian Valley, Timber Coulee, Rullands Coulee, and Berge Coulee Creeks were repaired equal to, or better than, their pre-flood condition due to advancements in instream device technology and lessons learned from the flood.

Some new ideas were incorporated into the instream habitat structures following the July, 1978, flood. Rock riprapping was used more extensively than in earlier projects, especially where water depth exceeded 3 feet. It was also used on the upstream and downstream sides of the structures.

The type of materials now used for the structures also varies with planking instead of logs being used. This allows for more cover under the structures, and more rock on top, without the rock being out of the water for long periods.

Since the 1978 flood, Trout Stamp projects have been completed on Timber Coulee and Spring Coulee Creeks at a total cost of $81,421.37.

The new methods of stream improvement were tested in the spring of 1985, when serious floods hit Upper Spring Coulee and Timber Coulee Creeks. Only 4% of the new structures were destroyed.

Current management emphasis within the Coon Creek Fishery Area is on fish habitat protection and improvement of the property. Habitat protection includes such activities as land acquisition, water law investigations and enforcement, and cooperation with land and water management agencies and programs.

Current improvement activities include construction of property signs and boundary posting, planting of some of the abandoned farm fields with tree species to provide wildlife habitat, construction of angler fence cross-overs and removal of abandoned farm buildings and the restoration of the sites to their natural status. Other improvements are the filling and covering of several wells and basements to remove liability problems, periodic fence repair and sign replacement and the drawdown of several ponds which were causing siltation and water temperature problems.

The right-of-way of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, also known as the Milwaukee Road was sold to private owners about 10 years ago between Westby and Coon Valley. The portion from Westby to Sparta is in the

hands of the Department of Transportation and will be turned over to the Highway Division. Portions of the abandoned right-of-way are being used a a county snowmobile trail. The bridges, ties and rails have all been removed; the only remnant is the bed.

In addition to habitat protection and improvement activities, surveys of the fish population and trout stocking are also important periodic fish management activities within the fishery area.

RESOURCE CAPABILITIES AND INVENTORY

Soils, Geology, and Hydrology

Lack of glaciation and rocks and minerals have greatly influenced the soils and topography of this area. Dolomitic limestone and sandstone are the two basic bedrocks. The oldest underlying rock formation is Upper Cambrian sandstone. Above this sandstone is the Prairie du Chien dolomite (Lower Magnesian limestone). It underlies the ridges throughout the area and is the most common outcrop.

Soils in the Coon Creek watershed are derived from the underlying bedrock, loess, and stream-transported materials. The loessial Fayette silt loam is the dominant soil type and covers 22 percent of the area. Mixed loess and residual soils cover 28 percent of the watershed. These include Boone, Dubuque, and Hixton silt loams, loams, and sandy loams. About 22 percent of the watershed is rough broken land, composed of bedrock, and Fayette and Dubuque soils of variable depth. Terrace soils occupy 18 percent of the watershed and are mainly Bertrand sandy loam, Sparta fine sand, and Dakota loam and silt loam. The remaining soils are first bottom undifferentiated alluvium, stony colluvium, and Genesee and Arenzville sandy loam and silt loam.

The area receives an average of about 32 inches of precipitation per year. The heaviest precipitation usually occurs in early summer. Violent thunderstorms with high intensity rainfall occur during the summer months.

The Coon Creek watershed covers 144.7 square miles. Approximately three-fourths of the watershed area is in Vernon County, the remaining being equally divided between La Crosse and Monroe Counties. Coon Creek has four main headwaters branches: Bohemian Valley, Rullands Coulee, Timber Coulee and Spring Coulee Creeks.

Fish and Wildlife

The major game fish species in the Coon Creek Fishery Area are brown trout, with lesser numbers of brook trout and an occasional rainbow trout. Sometimes, walleyes, saugers or northern pike are found in the lower, warmer reaches of the stream.

Other species present in the various streams of the system include white suckers, shorthead and golden redhorse, pirate perch, northern hogsuckers, carp, green sunfish, bigmouth, spotfin and sand shiners, creek chubs, logperch and blacknose and longnose dace. Also found are johnny and fantail darters,

bluntnose and fathead minnows, brook sticklebacks, central stonerollers and slimy sculpins.

Preliminary results of a 9-month creel census on Timber Coulee Creek, a tributary, showed very heavy angler use in the study area, estimated at 1,063 hours per acre. This is the highest intensity of use of any Wisconsin stream measured by this method. The fact that Vernon and La Crosse County streams, including Timber Coulee Creek were part of the early season for trout fishing, and as a result had a 9-month fishing season, must be considered.

Angler harvest of brown trout, estimated at 1,162 trout per mile or 196 pounds per acre in the study zone could have exceeded replacement abilities of the stream by natural reproduction. Minimum exploitation was possibly as much as 50% of the population present before the season opened, and 70% of the trout over 6 inches that were in the stream before the season opening.

In 1986, Timber Coulee Creek, and the other streams in the system in Vernon and La Crosse Counties will revert back to a normal opening, near May 1st of each year. This should diminish pressure and harvest to more normal figures.

In 1981-1985, trout population estimates were conducted on Timber Coulee, Bohemian Valley, Spring Coulee, Rullands Coulee, and Berge Coulee Creeks. A total of 4,176 brown trout, 10 inches or larger, were captured in these streams while 14,885 trout smaller than 10 inches were taken. In the spring of 1983, Timber Coulee had a standing crop of 1,292 fish per mile; Bohemian Valley, 1,723; Berge Coulee, 733 fish per mile; and Rullands Coulee had a standing crop of 2,054 fish per mile. As a result of the studies most of the streams in the system will be upgraded in the next official Trout Streams publication.

Natural reproduction of brown trout occurs within the fishery area in large numbers. Several streams have the highest number of trout per mile in the state. Natural reproduction of brook trout occurs in several small tributaries including Creeks 8-8 and 7-3.

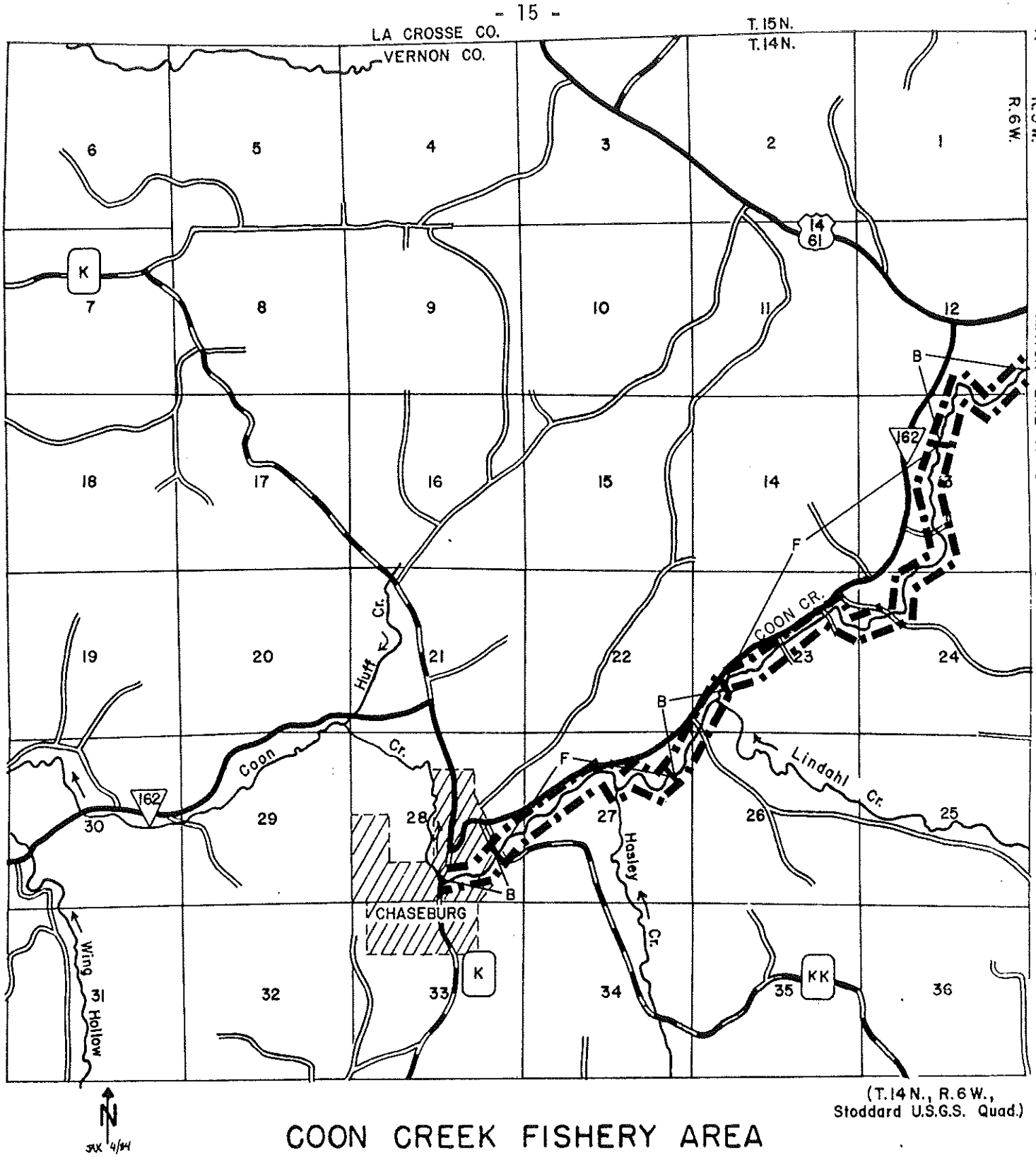
Common water snakes, painted and snapping turtles and leopard and green frogs are also known to be present on the system.

The fishery area is presently occupied by species of wildlife common to hardwood forests, agricultural land, and streams. Common mammal species which can be managed include white-tailed deer, gray and fox squirrels, and cottontail rabbits. Animals that are trapped for their fur or pelts include mink, muskrats, beaver, raccoons, skunks, weasels, and gray and red foxes.

Many birds inhabit the property including permanent and seasonal species. Game birds that would respond to management include ruffed grouse, woodcock, and wild turkeys. Many species of songbirds inhabit the property.

Vegetative Cover

The Coon Creek Fishery Area is characterized by lowland brush and swamp hardwoods and extensive pasture and cropland. The basic cover types and acreages of the lands owned in fee have been described and are presented in Table 1 and are shown in general on Figures 4a, b and c.



(T. 14 N., R. 6 W., Stoddard U.S.G.S. Quad.)

COON CREEK FISHERY AREA

Figure 4a. General Cover Map.

Scale in Miles
0 0.5 1

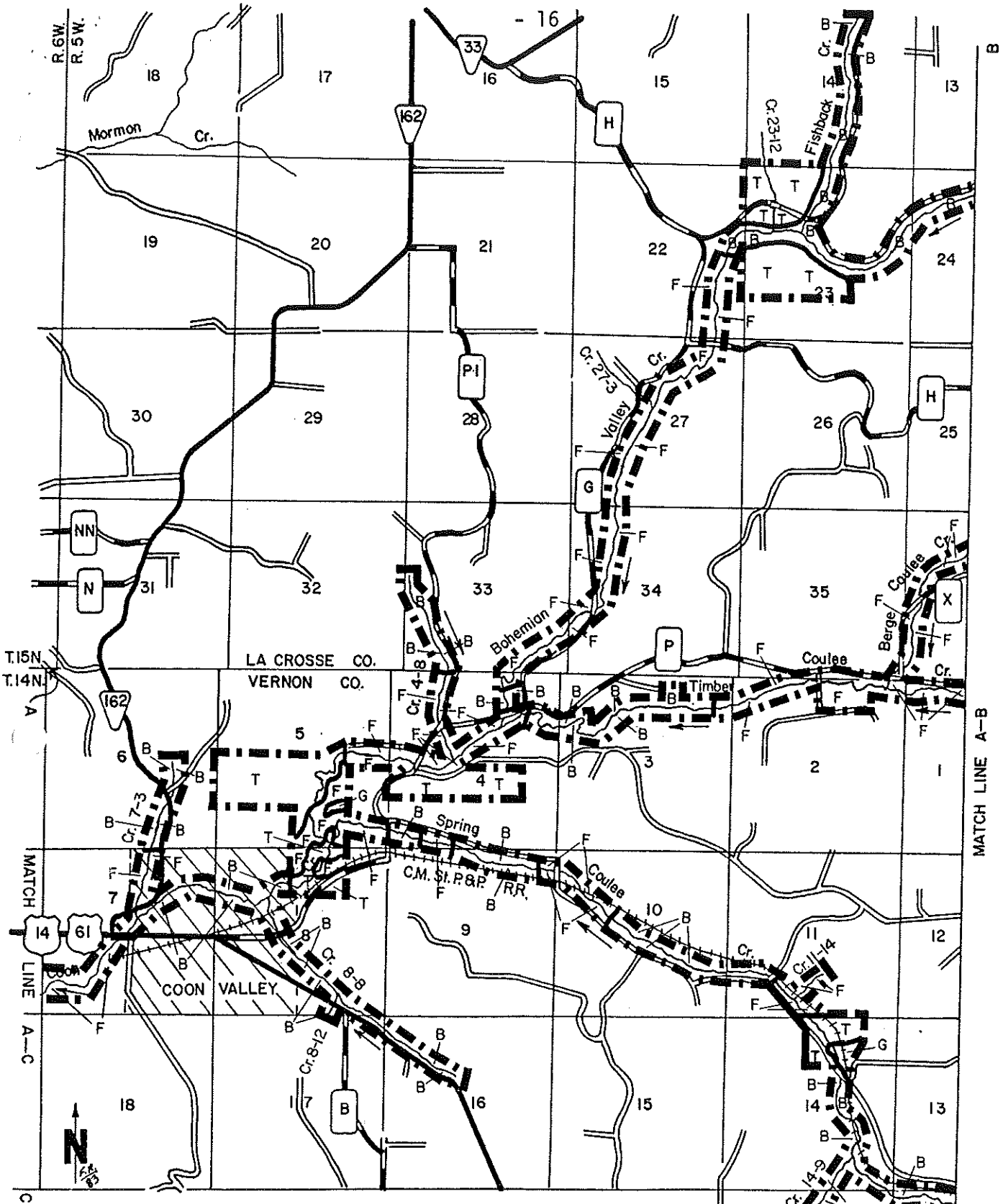
LEGEND

Map 1 of 3 Maps

Proposed Property Boundary ——— ■ ■

Farmland (With Pasture) ——— F

Brush ——— B



COON CREEK FISHERY AREA

Map 2 of 3 Maps

Scale in Miles 0 0.5 1

Figure 4b. General Cover Map.

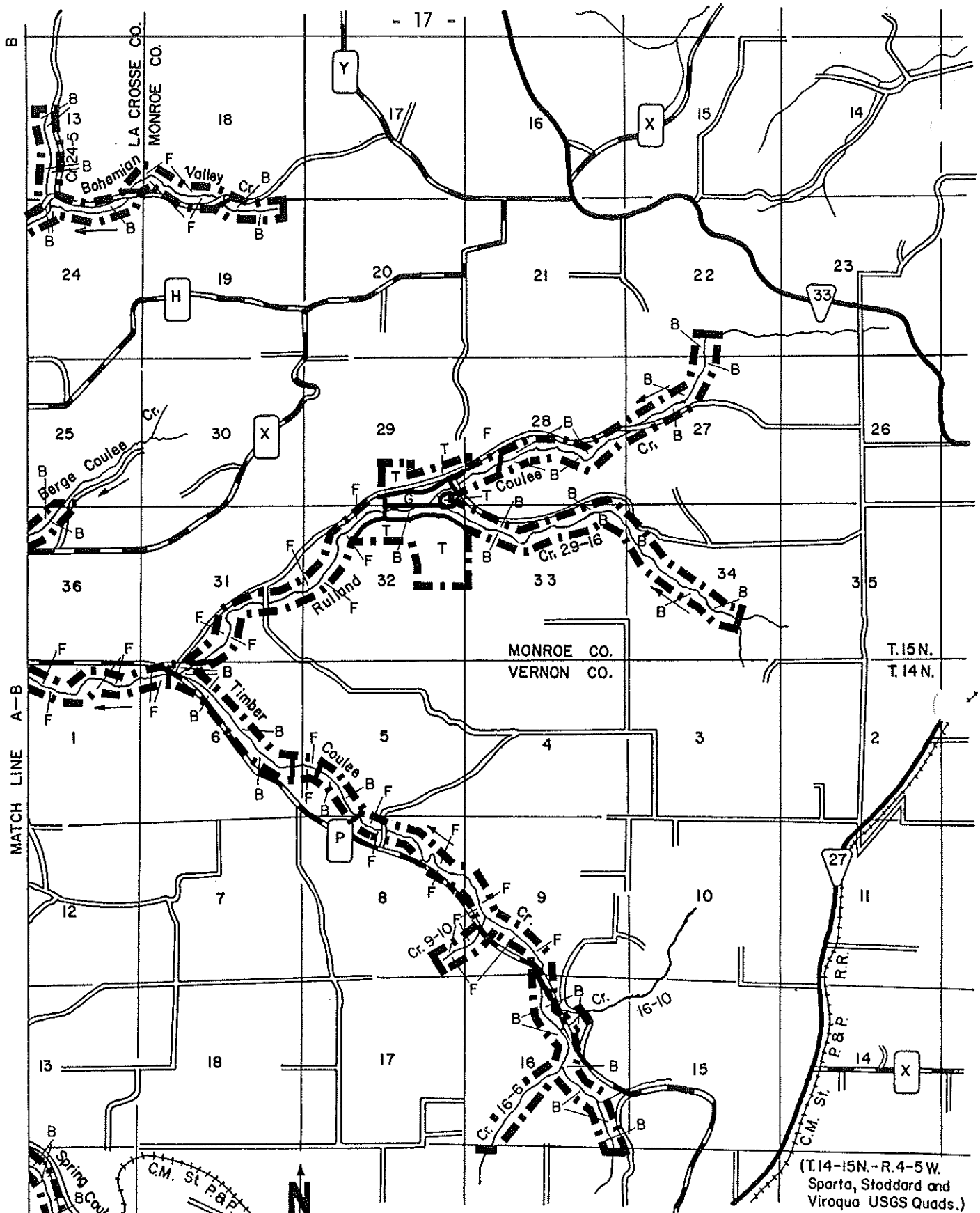
LEGEND

Proposed Property Boundary ---- ■ ▮ Grassland — (Also Herbaceous) ---- G

Timber ---------- T Farmland — (With Pasture) ------ F

Brush ---------- B

(T.14-15N.-R.4-5W. Sparta, Stoddard and Viroqua USGS Quads.)



COON CREEK FISHERY AREA

Map 3 of 3 Maps

Scale in Miles: 0 — 0.5 — 1

Figure 4c. General Cover Map.

LEGEND

Proposed Property Boundary ---- ■ ■

Timber ---------- T

Brush ---------- B

Grassland — (Also Herbaceous) ---- G

Farmland — (With Pasture) ------ F

TABLE 1. Vegetation types and acreage of state-owned lands on the proposed Coon Creek Fishery Area, Vernon, La Crosse and Monroe Counties.

Vegetation Types	Acreage	Percentage
Cropland	68	10.5
Oak	62	9.5
Northern Hardwoods	57	8.8
Central Hardwoods	52	8.0
Herbaceous Vegetation	40	6.1
Pine Plantation	21	3.2
Pasture	15	2.3
Lowland Brush and Stream	336	51.6
Totals	651	100.0

Present wildlife habitat conditions are favorable for the upland game species found in the property area.

Endangered and Threatened Species

Currently, red-shouldered hawks, on the Wisconsin threatened list and northern monkshood, Aconitum noveboracense, a Federally listed threatened species, and the state endangered muskroot, Adoxa mochatellina are found on or near the property. Areas where these species are found are of interest to the Bureau of Endangered Resources personnel and are included within the property acquisition boundaries. An Endangered Resources staff botanist will be asked to meet with Fish Management personnel prior to stream improvement to establish the need for adoxa relocation.

No other endangered or threatened species of fish, amphibians, molluscs, mammals, birds, reptiles or wild plants are known to be on the property.

Water Resources

The proposed fishery area boundary includes all major streams, most tributaries, and important springs that flow into Coon Creek. The streams found within the property boundary are Coon, Bohemian Valley, Berge Coulee, Fishback, Rullands Coulee, Spring Coulee, and Timber Coulee Creeks, and numbered Creeks 8-8, 7-3, 4-8 and 29-16.

Most of the streams in the fishery area are fortunate to have an abundance of springs, which flow from the ground at a constant 48°F winter or summer. The waters are also usually, clear, hard and alkaline. In summer, spring flow keeps the streams cool, and being cold, capable of storing an abundance of dissolved oxygen. In winter, and in particular during the critical period when trout embryos develop in eggs buried in stream bottom gravels, the spring water provides a warm blanket when air temperatures reach 20°F below zero or more.

As a result of recent surveys of the streams in the system, many of the stream classifications listed below will be up-graded in the next revision of the publication "Wisconsin Trout Streams".

Coon Creek is classified as a Class II and III brown trout stream. Habitat is the limiting factor. Coon Creek from Stoddard (below the fishery area) upstream offers a trophy brown trout fishery. Its classification will be upgraded to Class II in the future.

Bohemian Valley Creek is classified as Class I and II brown trout stream. There are two sources of pollution on it. Two major feedlots are located in the headwaters have been adding sediments and extreme fertility to the system. Both lots were issued discharge orders in November, 1985. One Public Law 566 flood control structure was dewatered, removing a third source of pollution.

Berge Coulee Creek is a Class I brown trout stream. This stream has a very high population of small brown trout and is a tributary to Timber Coulee Creek.

Fishback Creek is a Class II and III brown trout stream. The water is turbid at times, but is generally clear, hard, and slightly alkaline. Severe erosion is occurring in the upper reaches due to the steep gradient and over-pasturing which is greatly affecting the streambed. This stream is tributary to Bohemian Valley Creek.

Rullands Coulee Creek is a Class I brown trout stream. This stream has one of the highest brown trout populations in the state. It is tributary to Timber Coulee Creek.

Spring Coulee Creek is a Class I brown trout stream. This is the only major stream tributary in the Coon Creek system which does not have flood protection structures on it.

Timber Coulee Creek is a Class I and II brown trout stream. Of all the streams in the Coon Creek system, Timber Coulee has had the most research, habitat improvement, and recognition as a good trout stream. Until the mid 1970's, a sawmill pond called Timber Coulee Pond was located on the stream. The 1978 flood destroyed the water inlet structure. To date, the pond has not been rebuilt. Due to the pond removal with resulting stabilization of water temperatures downstream, and increased habitat development, natural reproduction is occurring within the whole stream system, and improving yearly.

Creek 8-8 (Rundahl Coulee), is a Class II brook and brown trout stream. The Coon Valley Rod and Gun Club cooperative trout pond is located on a spring tributary of this stream. An experimental stocking of brook trout in the late 1970's produced a self-sustaining population.

Creek 7-3 is a Class II brook trout stream. This stream also received an experimental stocking of brook trout which developed into a self-sustaining population.

Creek 4-8 is a Class I and II brown trout stream. The lower reaches are heavily pastured. The upper reaches are a part of the University Arboretum.

Creek 29-16 is a Class I brown trout stream. This stream is a tributary to Rullands Coulee Creek. A PL 566 flood control structure on the upper end is a source of warmwater. It needs modification to be a dry structure.

Table 2 shows that a total of 51.4 miles of streams exist within the property boundary, of which 24.5 miles are Class I, 14.6 miles are Class II and 12.3 miles are Class III, and that they total 93.6 acres.

Table 2. Streams located within the proposed Coon Creek Fishery Area, Vernon, La Crosse and Monroe Counties.

Stream	Length in Miles			Surface Acres
	Class I	Class II	Class III	
Berge Coulee Cr.	1.4			1.5
Bohemian Valley Cr.	3.0	3.3	1.5	11.9
Coon Cr.		3.2	9.8*	40.5
Fishback Cr.		0.5	1.0	1.2
Rullands Coulee Cr.	4.6			6.5
Spring Coulee Cr.	6.0			8.5
Timber Coulee Cr.	5.8	3.8		18.2
Cr. 4-8 (Popular Cr.)	0.9	0.6		1.3
Cr. 8-8 (Rundahl Cr.)		1.6		1.2
Cr. 29-16	2.8			2.0
Cr. 7-3		0.6		0.4
TOTAL	24.5	14.6	12.3	93.6

*Expected to be reclassified as Class II by 1-1-86.

Not included in the table are numerous springs which are found on all these streams.

Historical, Architectural and Archaeological Features

Five archaeological sites are currently known to exist in the fishery area. They consist of a prehistoric village and 4 campsites. The exact locations are recorded in the files of the State Historical Society and the La Crosse Area headquarters of the Department of Natural Resources. No architectural or historical sites are known to be present at this time, as surveys have never been made.

But, considering the types of habitat in the fishery area, the State Historical Society believes there is a very high probability there are other historical or archaeological sites along Coon Creek and its tributaries. Therefore, prior to any movement of soils or structures in the fishery area, clearance will be obtained from the State Historical Society.

Ownership

Within the property boundary, 335.84 acres are under perpetual easement and 315.87 acres were purchased in fee title. The total cost for easements and fee purchases was $417,030. The proposed acreage goal for the property is 1,300 acres. A total of 648.29 acres are needed to reach the acquisition goal.

The Coon Creek Fishery Area is dominated by cultivated and pastured lands. Fee acquisition is hard to justify when agricultural land is involved, but conceivable when pasture dominates the parcel. THe present policy of purchasing easements along the stream for the purpose of fishing and habitat protection and development is adequate in most cases.

Current Use

The Coon Creek Fishery Area is primarily used by fishermen now. Due to intensive agricultural programs, expanding development, and a densely populated area, good trout fishing areas are scarce in the La Crosse vicinity. The Coon Creek Fishery Area is a very short drive from La Crosse and provides a rewarding recreational experience.

Approximately 10,000 participant-days are expended for fishing each year. Hunting and trapping opportunities are low on this area because of the small amount of land owned in fee. Approximately 350 participant-days of hunting and trapping occur each year. Other recreational activities such as berry and mushroom picking, hiking, nature study, and photography contribute about 300 participant-days.

Land Use Classification

The Coon Creek Fishery Area is a narrow strip of land along the stream thread located in an agricultural area. The size and location limit the land use potential for the property. The fishery area itself, with its features can only be designated as a Fish and Wildlife Development Area - RD_2. Approximately 400 acres of land are included within the proposed boundary for future acquisition by the Natural Areas Section. When acquired, these lands will be classed as State Natural Areas - N and are shown on Figures 5a, b, and c. Sites affected by this classification would include:

1. Coon Valley Aconitum Cliff - T14N, R5W, Section 14.

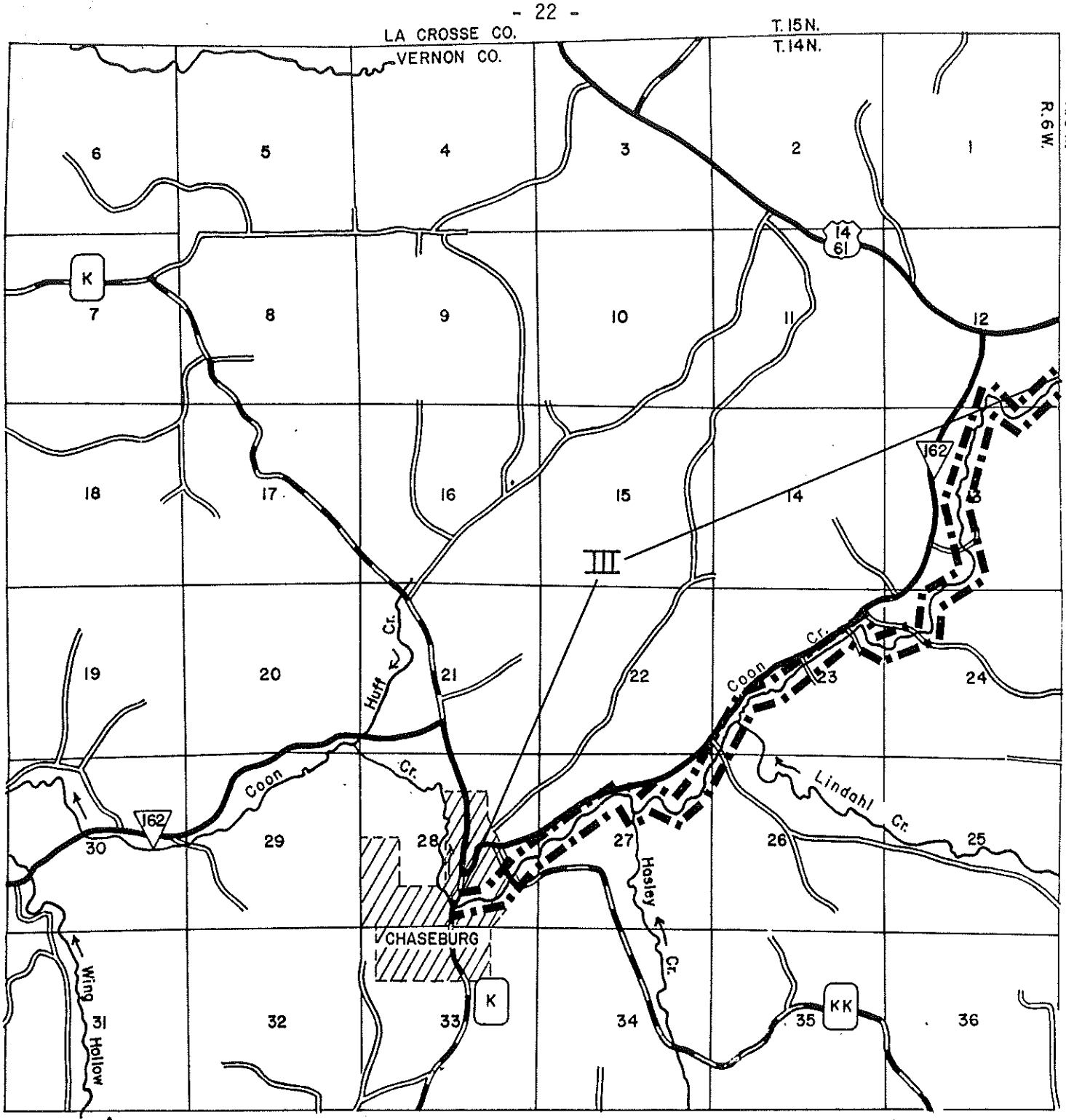
2. Eureka Maple Woods - T15N, R4W, Section 32. The boundary delineated on Rullands Coulee Creek in Figure 5C includes the floristically rich mesic forest on the steep, north-facing slope as well as some ridgetop buffer.

3. Bohemian Valley - T15N, R5W, Section 23. The proposed boundary encompasses much of the high quality mesic forest on the north and northeast-facing slopes south of Coon Creek and C.T.H. "G". Adjacent land to the east of the proposed boundary is also worthy of protection, but acquisition there is not a high priority, as the present owners are preservation minded.

MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

Poor Water Quality

P.L. 566 flood control structures located under the control of the Soil Conservation Service are on the upper reaches of Timber Coulee, Rullands Coulee, and Bohemian Valley and were designed and constructed to be dry flood control structures. Due to a lack of maintenance, repeated flooding and



(T. 14 N., R. 6 W., Stoddard U.S.G.S. Quad.)

COON CREEK FISHERY AREA

Figure 5a. Land Use Classification Map.

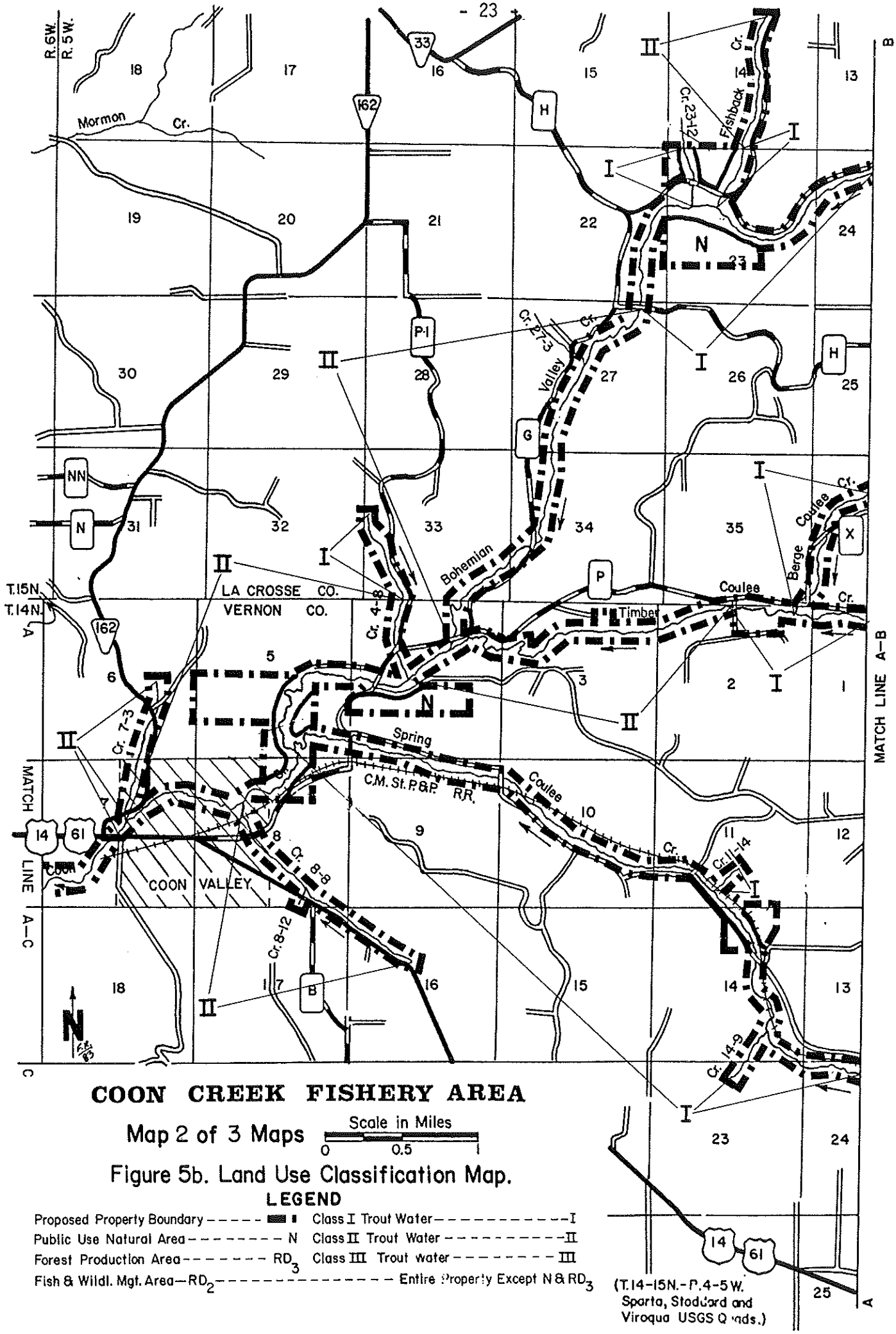
LEGEND

Map 1 of 3 Maps

Proposed Property Boundary ———— ■■

Fish and Wildlife Management Area—RD_2— Entire Property

Class III Trout Water ———— III



COON CREEK FISHERY AREA

Map 2 of 3 Maps

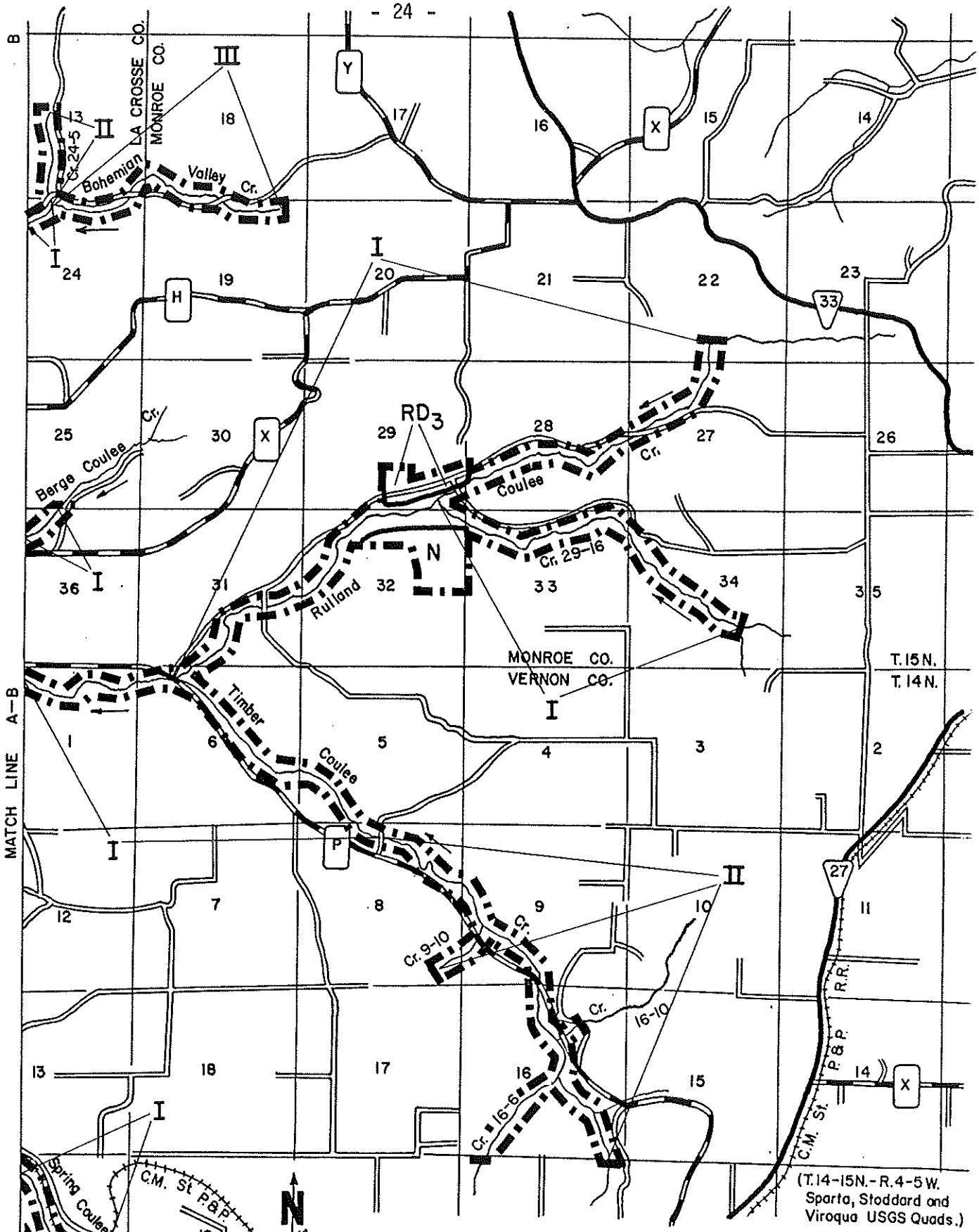
Scale in Miles 0 0.5 1

Figure 5b. Land Use Classification Map.

LEGEND

Proposed Property Boundary ----- ■ I
Public Use Natural Area ---------- N
Forest Production Area ---------- RD_3
Fish & Wildl. Mgt. Area—RD_2 ----------

Class I Trout Water ----------I
Class II Trout Water ----------II
Class III Trout water ----------III
Entire Property Except N & RD_3



COON CREEK FISHERY AREA

Map 3 of 3 Maps

Scale in Miles: 0 — 0.5

Figure 5c. Land Use Classification Map.

LEGEND

Proposed Property Boundary ----- ■ ▮ Class I Trout Water ---------- I

Public Use Natural Area ---------- N Class II Trout Water ---------- II

Forest Production Area ---------- RD_3 Class III Trout Water ---------- III

Fish & Wildl. Mgt. Area—RD_2 ---------- Entire Property Except N & RD_3

siltation is occurring. Some of the structures are now holding water, which in turn, release excessively warm water in summer and cold water in winter into the stream. These drastic changes in water temperature seriously affect water quality, the trout occupying the stream, and in particular, during the critical winter stages of trout egg development when embryos require constant temperature warm spring waters. With cooperation between the SCS and DNR, these problem structures are being modified or corrected.

Water Regulatory Problems

The large number of springs located within the fishery area are of interest to landowners for trout pond development. There are numerous inquiries about constructing trout ponds on headwater springs. An old mill pond which was destroyed during the 1978 flood, known as Timber Coulee pond, may be reconstructed. Since this structure has become inoperable, natural reproduction of trout has increased substantially in Timber Coulee Creek.

Public Overuse

At the present time, public overuse is a highly debated subject. The early trout season, with a January 1 opening each year, is in effect on most of the Coon Creek system. During warmer days in early spring, many people take advantage of the nice weather and go trout fishing. Many of the local people believe the streams are being "fished out" because of this 9-month season. Biologically this fact is hard to substantiate. Because of this conflict, Area DNR personnel lose credibility with local residents. A change in regulations may be necessary to alleviate social pressures rather than to resolve a biological problem.

Private Land

The public ownership of the fishery area follows the stream thread on a majority of the property. A large percent of the land between the stream and the public roads are in private ownership. Access may become a problem on some of the streams.

Lack of Access With Parking

A majority of the streams run parallel to, or flow under, road crossings. Major access points to the streams are at the bridge crossings and where the roads and streams come close together. At certain times, traffic congestion occurs at these access points and becomes a hazard.

Tree Diseases

Dutch elm disease has destroyed most of the elms along the streams in the fishery area.

Socio-economic

The existence of the fishery area results in numerous impacts on the economy of the region. Goods and services are purchased from local businesses by fishermen and by the Department of Natural Resources when doing work on the stream.

When land is purchased in fee by the Department, it is removed from the tax roll. Payments in lieu of taxes are made to the townships to compensate for the loss of taxes based on a formula established by the legislature. Numerous studies concerning the impact have been conducted by the Department of Revenue, University Extension, Department of Agriculture and Department of Natural Resources. All the studies indicate that the purchase of lands in fee does not increase the taxes of other landowners in the township.

In the case of easement acquisition, the landowner retains ownership of the land and continues to pay taxes on the property. Easement acquisition has been a favorable alternative to fee purchase of lands in the project.

Beaver Damage

Within the last few years, beaver have become a problem on several of the streams in the fishery area. Bohemian Valley Creek and Spring Coulee Creek have recurring problems. Beaver dams located on private land sections of the stream are causing serious trout movement, spawning and water quality problems.

Unauthorized Activities

The department owns three parcels in fee (Figures 2a and 2b). On Parcel A the department owned a tobacco shed which was being leased to local tobacco growers. This building was burned to the ground by vandals. Other than occasional beer parties, no other problems are occurring. Nearly all the land along the streams is under DNR permanent easements. The landowners watch what is happening on their land very closely. Fishing violations seem to be the major occurrences on the easement land.

Difficulties in Law Enforcement

Due to the heavy fishing pressure found in the Coon Creek system, there is currently a high level of enforcement effort. Routinely, wardens from the Viroqua, Stoddard, La Crosse, and Sparta stations patrol and check the area.

It has been proposed for special regulations which include, but are not limited to: slot size limits, catch and release areas, and fly-or artificial-fishing only areas. If any, or all, of the proposed regulation changes are enacted, additional enforcement efforts may be required.

RECREATION NEEDS AND JUSTIFICATION

The Coon Creek Fishery Area was established in an effort to maintain the stream for trout habitat and to protect the streambanks.

The Coon Creek Fishery Area is located in Vernon, La Crosse and Monroe Counties which are a part of Region 7 as defined in the 1981 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The region is almost evenly divided between urban and rural residents. Major cities include: La Crosse (48,347), Onalaska (9,249), Sparta (6,934), and the rural communities of Westby, Viroqua, Coon Valley, Cashton, and Chaseburg (combined population of 7,377). The total population for the three counties the fishery area is located in is 151,772.

A total of 538.0 miles of trout streams are found in Vernon, Monroe and La Crosse Counties. Coon Creek and its tributaries cover 51.4 miles, or 9.6% of the 3-county total.

As a region, this portion of Wisconsin attracts 2 nonresidents for every local angler. Much of the outdoor appeal for this region of the state is the Mississippi River and the coulee topography, with coldwater streams flowing through the valleys. Wisconsin's projected demand for outdoor recreation needs for the year 2000 in this region are in the areas of fishing and hunting. The contribution this property can make towards meeting these demands must be recognized.

Land acquisition, habitat improvement and protection, and access development should rank as high priorities in the Coon Creek Fishery Area.

ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

Do Nothing

To remain at status quo would result in deterioration of fish habitat in future years. Any existing or future erosion would increase filling-in pools, and covering and eliminating the now abundant spawning areas. The fishery area as a whole would show a diminished fishery resource.

Enlarge Property (Recommended Alternative)

The proposed boundary, and acreage goal which calls for an additional 648 acres will enhance the available resources. If the acreage goal is completed, all property goals and objectives will be achieved. The proposed boundary encompasses headwaters springs, spring-fed tributaries, and 3 high quality state natural areas. If designated, it would protect the 2 best natural areas within the Coon Creek Fishery Area (Eureka Maples, Bohemian Valley) as well as a shaded, damp sandstone cliff with a significant aconitum population. This proposal assures that the numerous streams in the system would be managed as one property.

Reduce the Property Size

The main objectives of the fishery area are to provide protection of the aquatic resource, improve habitat and provide access to the waterway. The fishery area consists mainly of a small thread of land following the waterways to provide access for fishing and instream habitat improvement. Because the property is located in an intensive agricultural area and the minimum amount of land needed to meet these objectives was indicated in the acreage goal, any reduction would seriously effect the fishery, the now present endangered species, and the recreational experience the property offers.

Intensively Manage The Area

The property meets the criteria of a fish and wildlife area. The majority of the stream frontage owned by the state is through perpetual easement which gives the Department and the public the right only to engage in fishery related activities. Hunting rights were not granted in the easements.

Several parcels of upland are owned in fee title, but do not meet the criteria for intensive development.

The upland areas within the proposed boundary are where endangered or threatened plant and animal species are found. No development will be allowed there.

The forest land present has recently been logged, thus, no immediate forestry operations are planned.

Continue Remnant Acquisition Program

To continue acquiring remnant parcels would be detrimental to the present and future welfare of the system of streams. No boundary delimiting future acquisition would be available or an acreage goal to focus priority purchases and easements. Numerous small, scattered areas of stream frontage would result with very little continuity between them.

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APPENDIX - Comments of Outside Reviewing Agencies to the Coon Creek Master Plan

A number of persons or agencies outside of the Department of Natural Resources commented on the Coon Creek Fishery Area Master Plan. Their questions or comments, and DNR responses where necessary, follow:

Robert Fisher, Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission, La Crosse, WI

Comments on Pages i, 3, 4, 8, 9, 16, 17, 23 and 24

Milwaukee Road Railroad right-of-way (ROW) no longer exists - Westby to Coon Valley ROW sold about 10 years ago to private owners. Sparta-Westby segment still in Department of Transportation ownership and will be turned over to Highway Division. The map pages referenced above give the implication that (1) an active RR ROW runs through the Spring Coulee portion of the project, or (2) an abandoned rail ROW is available for adding to the state ownership. Neither of these is true, unless negotiations with owners of ROW can produce access easements.

Department Response: Agree with comments. Portions of the abandoned right-of-way are being used as a county snowmobile trail. The only remaining remnants of the railroad is the bed. The bridges, ties, and rails have all been removed.

Stanley A. Nichols, Wisconsin Geological Survey, Madison, WI

Overall view of master plan: Excellent

No significant comment. It sounds like a real good project.

DNR Response: Thank you.

Mitchell G. Bent, Chairman, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, DePere, WI

Overall view of master plan: Excellent

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is pleased to participate in the public comment process for the Coon Creek Fishery Area Master Plan review. Trout Unlimited has a long record of concern for these Master Plans, and it is our hope that these comments will be used by DNR in a constructive manner in the overall planning process.

Our comments on certain aspects of this Master Plan are listed below:

1) Page 1: Annual Objectives - point 2, which states a goal of maintaining the trout population in order to produce 200 ten-inch brown trout per mile. Trout Unlimited finds this goal unclear. Is this a goal for 200 brown trout of only ten inches, or 200 brown trout ten inches or bigger? Is this a goal for 200 ten-inch trout at the end of the fishing season (carryover population), or is this a goal for a starting population at the beginning of the season?

DNR Response: The goal is to maintain a trout population of at least 200 brown trout, 10 inches and above, year-round. Extensive instream habitat development will provide the cover necessary to accomplish this goal.

2) Page 5: second last paragraph - "...Fencing rights should be included in future easements, where feasible." Trout Unlimited STRONGLY endorses this concept and applauds DNR for this, as fencing of livestock away from the streambanks is always an important management practice, but particularly so in the coulee region where there are steep slopes and heavy erosion.

DNR Response: The department is pursuing fencing rights. One problem that arises when the streams are fenced in the coulee region is a rapid growth of willow. Limited grazing agreements are being incorporated with fencing to keep the willow growth under control. With the absence of willow beaver problems should be kept to a minimum.

3) Page 6: Top paragraph - states that upland acreage now in DNR control may be exchanged for streamside acreage if this is the only method by which DNR can gain ownership of the streamlands. Trout Unlimited would urge EXTREME CAUTION in exchanging any lands, i.e., giving up one parcel to get another. Public lands in the coulee region of Wisconsin are few and far between. Lands that are available for hunting should not necessarily be exchanged for fishing lands. We urge DNR to work hard at getting the properties they want without sacrificing what they already own.

DNR Response: The only acreage that will likely be traded for streamside acreage will be land that can be used as crop land. Wooded upland acreage will be used as hunting areas.

4) Page 6: Second paragraph. Trout Unlimited heartily endorses the concept of intensive habitat management as the recommended management and development program for the Coon Creek Fishery Area. We oppose any idea that trout stocking is a suitable method of stream management, unless it is to introduce trout into areas where they did not exist prior to habitat improvement.

DNR Response: Trout stocking has decreased substantially over the past years. Only after the severe floods of 1978 and 1984 were stocking quotas increased to provide a fishable population and allow the native population to make a comeback.

5) Page 6: Second LAST paragraph - discussion of creel censuses and special regulations. Trout Unlimited endorses plans by DNR to implement special regulations on these streams in order to bring about enhanced trout populations and increased numbers of larger-sized, more desirable fish. PLEASE NOTE: Trout Unlimited has $2000.00 set aside in its retained earnings for donation to DNR for the creel census on Timber Coulee Creek. This is the $2000.00 that was sent to DNR last year for said project, only to have it returned to our organization because the DNR was not going to implement the census and special regulations on Timber Coulee Creek due to opposition from attendees at the 1984 Wisconsin Conservation Congress hearings in Vernon and La Crosse Counties. We will be contacting DNR soon about the donation for this project, and we sincerely hope that the Department will accept the funding this time. In the future, we also hope that DNR will not be spooked by irascible elements at once-a-year Conservation Congress hearings regarding trout management. The Congress is but one segment of the outdoor community concerned (allegedly) with coldwater resource conservation. Trout Unlimited, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and the Izaak Walton League are also voices for the sportspersons of this state, and their concerns should carry as much, if not more, weight in the decision-making process as does those of the Congress.

DNR Response: The proposed implementation of special regulations on Timber Coulee is scheduled for May of 1986.

6) Page 14: 1st and 3rd paragraphs - discussion of cessation of the early trout season in La Crosse and Vernon Counties. While there is still debate between professionals and certain elements of the lay community regarding the effect of the early trout season on trout populations in these two counties, one thing that IS needed immediately is commencement of plans for creel censuses and stream shocking surveys to establish what is occurring to the trout populations in these streams now that the early season fishing has been abolished. It is important for DNR to do this. If the survey DOES show that the early season had a negative impact on the resource, DNR should admit so; Trout Unlimtied will toss no brickbats at DNR if such is the

case, as we are well aware that all research attempts, such as the early trout opener, do not achieve desired results. If the survey would show no effect on trout populations, Trout Unlimited will accept that, too. BUT...this survey MUST be done.

DNR Response: It will be hard to determine the affect of the early season on the Coon Creek system. Since the early season was initiated in 1975, two severe floods have occurred, a mill dam was eliminated, and extensive instream habitat development has been completed. A survey has been initiated on Tainter Creek located both in Vernon and Crawford Counties. Vernon will have the regular season and Crawford will have the early season. This study should bring out some answers to the early season question.

7) Page 14: 5th paragraph. The first sentence states that natural reproduction of brown trout is quite high in the fishery area. If so, does DNR plan to continue heavy stocking of hatchery-reared trout? If so, why? In economic and ecological terms, it is much more preferable to manage for self-sustaining populations rather than opt for hatchery truck management. If restrictive regulations are required to keep these trout populations self-sustaining, Trout Unlimited will endorse such proposals.

DNR Response: The DNR does not plan to continue heavy stocking of hatchery-reared trout. Several severe floods, 1978 and 1984, drastically dropped the trout populations in several streams. Hatchery trout were stocked to provide a fishable population, so the natural population could re-establish itself. The native trout populations have recovered to healthy numbers once again. The day-to-day operating policy of the DNR is to not stock trout in any Class I trout streams, unless extenuating circumstances exist and stocking is approved by the fish manager.

8) Page 19. first paragraph - states that two major feedlots are adding sediments and "extreme fertility" (more commonly known as cowshit!)(our words) to the headwaters of Bohemian Valley Creek. Trout Unlimited asks whether these feedlots are subject to regulation under the rules governing farm feedlot runoff that were hotly debated in the Legislature last session. If so, there should be IMMEDIATE correction of the problem including penalties and forfeitures if necessary. There should be no tolerance of this activity; it is criminal.

DNR Response: The two feedlots were not considered large enough to be subject to regulations governing feedlots. These two feedlots have been monitored by the DNR to determine their impact. Discharge orders were to be issued the week of November 4-8, 1985 to both sites because of their obvious impact, regardless of their small size.

9) Page 19: last paragraph - discussion of PL 566 structure causing warmwater conditions on Creek 29-16 tributary to Rullands Coulee Creek. Trout Unlimited agrees with the assertion that the structure needs modification to be a dry structure. It is important that this warmwater condition be corrected so that enhancement of the Creek 29-16 and Rullands Coulee Creek may be attained.

DNR Response: DNR agrees. The control of the PL 566 structures is under the control of the SCS of the county they are located in. With cooperation of the DNR and these agencies problem structures are being modified or corrected. Funding is the major obstacle. When these structures were constructed, very little thought was given to maintenance.

10) Page 21: MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS: Poor Water Quality. This paragraph lists problems of water quality in Timber Coulee, Rullands Coulee, and Bohemian Valley Creeks due to PL 566 dry flood control structures that have, due to lack of maintenance, been causing flooding and siltation and warmwater releases. Trout Unlimited strongly suggests that these structures be cleaned out and maintained in order to prevent further deterioration of these creeks from the problems listed above. Correction

of these problems of particularly important to continued and increased trout reproduction in the streams.

DNR Response: DNR agrees.

11) Page 21 (bottom) and page 25 (top): Water Regulatory Problems. This discussion deals with an old mill pond on Timber Coulee Creek that was washed out when the 1978 flood destroyed it. There is a statement that there may be plans to rebuild the dam creating the millpond. DNR should vehemently oppose such reconstruction inasmuch as trout reproduction has increased greatly in Timber Coulee since the millpond was washed out.

DNR Response: The DNR has no control over the construction of a new dam according to the law governing mill ponds. The DNR does have control of the discharge coming from the dam. By this control the department will be able to dictate when the pond can flow into Timber Coulee Creek, if at all.

12) Page 25 (Public Overuse) and page 26 (Difficulties in Law Enforcement): discussion of potential creel and size limit changes. Trout Unlimited supports attempts to enhance trout populations and numbers of larger fish through implementation of special restrictive regulations. One area, though, that Trout Unlimited will be highly unlikely to support, though, is any suggestion for "Fly Fishing Only" regulations. Trout Unlimited believes that such restrictions do not produce any more significant results than do "Artificials Only" regulations (meaning, use of flies and spinning lures only) insofar as enhanced trout populations are concerned, and that they discriminate against at least 85% of the trout angling public. Use of "Artificials Only" is acceptable, because data show that the difference in trout mortality between fish caught and released using flies as opposed to spinners is small; also, bait anglers can easily switch to spinning lures to abide by regulations without having to purchase different equipment.

DNR Response: The special study section on Timber Coulee Creek will be regarding artificial baits only with size limit regulations. This study should provide guidance for future management concerning size limits and special regulations such as artificials only.

13) Page 27: ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES - Trout Unlimited supports the DNR recommended alternative, i.e., enlarge the property area. This alternative will facilitate acquisition through fee title or easement headwater springs and spring-fed tributaries, which are important to the fishery.

This will conclude Trout Unlimited's comments on the Coon Creek Fishery Area Master Plan review. We trust our comments will be useful in completing the planning and implementation process.

DNR Response: Thank you for your comments.

Curtis Horman, Bohemian Valley Watershed Club, Coon Valley, WI

Overall view of plan: Good

I live a short distance from the stream in Bohemian Valley. The work done on the streambanks sure saves a lot on erosion.

I went to the La Crosse County Alliance meeting on October the 7th and heard Ken Wright discuss their plans on future work on the different streams. And I agree it sounds like a good idea.

DNR Response: Thank you.

Forest Stearns, Chairman, Natural Areas Preservation Council

The Natural (Scientific) Areas Preservation Council recommends that the Coon Creek Fishery Area Task Force establish dedicated state natural areas at the Coon Valley Aconitum Cliff and Eureka Maple Woods, and a designated state natural area at Bohemian Valley. Boundaries of these sites have been transmitted to the property manager.

Specifically, the Coon Valley Aconitum Cliff site harbors a population of the Federally Threatened/State Endangered Aconitum noveboracense.

Located in Section 4, T14N, R5W, this site provides the opportunity to protect one of only twelve sites where A. noveboracense is known to occur.

Eureka Maple Woods, located in Section 32, T15N, R4W, consists of a floristically rich mesic forest largely on a steep north-facing slope.

Bohemian Valley, located in Section 23, T15N, R5W, includes an area encompassing much of the high quality mesic forest on the north and northeast facing slopes south of Coon Creek and Hwy. "G".

NAPC is also concerned that the Task Force recognize within the plan, a procedure to ensure protection of the State Threatened Muskroot, Adoxa mochatellina. We recommend that a Bureau of Endangered Resources Staff Botanist relocate the plants and map them precisely before stream habitat improvements are implemented.

DNR Response: The Task Force has recognized the three natural areas and included them within the property boundary. Monies to purchase these areas will be from NAPC funds.

At the present time the Coon Valley Aconitum Cliff site has been purchased and Eureka Maple Woods is being looked at.

The Muskroot, Adoxa mochatellina, is located on a hillside adjacent to the stream. They are thought to be in no danger of being disturbed when stream habitat improvements are implemented. However, to insure protection of the population, an endangered resources staff botanist will be asked to meet with fish management personnel to learn where proposed stream improvements will take place and determine if any Adoxa plants should be relocated.

Richard Lindberg, Staff Liaison, Wild Resources Advisory Council

The Wild Resources Advisory Council was pleased to see the inclusion of proposals for natural and scientific area designations in this plan. On a more negative note, however, the Council would like to see a greater emphasis on land acquisition.

Thank you for the review opportunity.

DNR Response: Agricultural lands surrounding the fishery area prohibit expanded acquisition using only fishery funding. Perhaps through the NAPC more upland areas can be purchased.

Cynthia A. Morehouse, Director, Bureau of Environmental and Data Analysis, Department of Transportation

We have reviewed the Master Plan for the Coon Creek Fishery Area. We support the proposed increased number of parking areas. As you noted in the Master Plan, cars parked on highways present safety problems. This is made more acute by the many narrow roads lacking adequate shoulders serving the Fishery Areas. We recommend that you carefully assess the potential use of each proposed parking area and, if significant, the parking area should be built early in the development of the Fishery Area.

DNR Response: DNR agrees.

We recommend that when acquiring interests (fee simple or easement) in lands which abut the right of way of State Trunk Highways you coordinate with:

T. F. Kinsey, Director
Transportation District 5
3550 Mormon Coulee Road
La Crosse, WI 54601
(608)785-9022

We recommend that when acquiring interests in lands abutting the right of way of county or township roads that you coordinate with the appropriate highway officials in those levels of government. The list of Vernon County bridges shown below are currently being developed as bridge replacement projects.

Bridge No.	Municipality	Location	Road	Stream
P-62-0175	Coon TWP	Section 10	Spring Coulee Rd.	Spring Coulee Cr.
P-62-0176	Coon TWP	Section 9	Spring Coulee Rd.	Spring Coulee Cr.
P-62-0700	Vlg. of Chaseburg	Main St.	CTH "K"	Coon Cr.
P-62-0962	Coon TWP	Section 4	CTH "P"	Coon Cr.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on these Master Plans.

DNR Response: Thank you for your information and comments.

Marc A. Schultz, Secretary, La Crosse County Conservation Alliance, Onalaska, WI

Overall view of plan: Excellent

A plan for the remaining trout streams in La Crosse County should be actively pursued by the DNR.

DNR Response: The DNR is presently formulating such a plan in the La Crosse Area.

The Alliance feels the approach, objectives and methods of the plan are consistent with long term natural resource management goals of the Alliance. The relationship between the hunter and a particular landowner should be clarified in the document so the impression of "no hunting" on the eased lands is clearly understood. That is, if a hunter obtains permission to hunt from the landowner, then hunting is permissible on the eased lands.

DNR Response: The DNR easements on the Coon Creek system only provides access for fishing and instream habitat development. The landowner still has control of the land.

For All DNR Type II Actions, Except Adm. Rules
FORM 1600-1 REV. 10-83

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DISTRICT OR BUREAU WCD
DOCKET NUMBER
TYPE LIST DESIGNATION(S) NR 150.03(2)(d)(4)

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

(ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY)
(REFERENCE INFORMATION SOURCES UTILIZED)

Applicant: Kenneth J. Wright, La Crosse Area Fish Manager

Title of Proposal: Coon Creek Fishery Area Master Plan

Location:
County La Crosse, Vernon, Monroe
Township 14 & 15 North, Range 4,5,6 ~~East~~, West
Section(s) Map attached. Too many sections to list.
Political Town Hamburg, Coon, Christiana, Washington, ~~Portland~~

PROJECT SUMMARY

1. **General Description (brief overview)**

It is proposed to acquire 650 additional acres of land to reach a goal of 1,300 acres providing a public use area along Coon Creek and its stream tributaries, emphasizing preservation, aesthetics and intensive management of its trout fishery, compatible management of wildlife and forest resources and development of such other outdoor recreational and educational pursuits as the space, characteristics and other factors of the area will allow. An additional 400 acres will be sought in fee by the Scientific Area Council.

2. **Purpose and Need (include history and background as appropriate)**

To provide a recreation area where fish and wildlife, forest products, and public use is managed to the ultimate of the availability of the resource.

To improve and enhance the environment so future generations have a place to enjoy the resources.

3. **Authorities and Approvals (list statutory authority and other relevant local, state and federal permits or approvals required)**

Statutory Authority to Initiate - Chapter 23.09.
Authorization from the Bureau of Water Regulation and Zoning - Chapter 30.

4. **Estimated Cost and Funding Source**

Acquisition costs will be based on the fair market value of the lands acquired. The cost of easements are only a percent of the fee simple value depending on rights acquired. Typically, an easement is valued from 60% to 90% of the fee simple value of the strip taking. Prices paid for lands in the area in past 2 to 3 years range from $500.00 to $700.00 per acre. Funding source will be Dingell-Johnson funds and General Purpose Revenue.

5. **Manipulation of Terrestrial Resources (include relevant quantities - sq. ft., cu. yds., etc.)**

15 parking areas (2-3 cars) are planned along the streams in the fishery area.

There are about 200 acres of woodland which have been extensively harvested in the past 30 years. Cultural work where needed will improve the growing conditions of these stands.

Wildlife management will maintain edge cover and food production through mowing along pine plantations and grass and trail areas on parcels A, B and C (Figures 2b and 2c).

6. **Manipulation of Aquatic Resources (include relevant quantities - cfs., acre feet, MGD, etc.)**

Approximately 7,920 feet of Timber Coulee Creek will be improved with 1,900 feet of structure in the form of instream habitat and riprap. Approximately 3,700 feet of Spring Coulee Creek will have similar work done on it. A maintenance project is planned on Bohemian Valley Creek and Timber Coulee Creek to repair previously completed structures. An experimental trout season is planned for a 1-mile section of stream in the lower reaches of Timber Coulee Creek.

Several PL 566 structures will be dewatered or cleaned out so that water is not held behind them which, in turn, releases warm water into the stream system.

7. **Buildings, Treatment Units, Roads and Other Structures**

When a parcel is acquired in fee, the existing buildings are sold on bids removed and the area is left to return to a natural state. There may be 2-3 buildings involved in future transactions.

8. **Emissions and Discharges**

There will be some gas and diesel exhaust emissions when instream habitat development is underway.

9. **Other Changes**

400 acres of woodland and bluffs, presently in private ownership but located within the property acquisition boundary, are of interest to the Scientific Areas Council for purchasing these lands and preserving them as natural areas.

10. **Attach Maps, Plans and Other Descriptive Material as Appropriate (list)**

1. Boundaries of property and proposed facilities attached.
2. Existing development - attached.
3. Public ownership - attached.
4. Urban patterns - attached.
5. Surface waters - attached.

Information Based On (check all that apply):

- ☐ Literature/correspondence
- ☒ Personal Contacts (list in item 31)
  Field Analysis By: ☐ Author, ☐ Other (list in item 31)
  Past Experience With Site By: ☒ Author ☐ Other (list in item 31)

11. Physical (topography - soils - water - air - wetland amounts and types)

The Coon Creek Fishery Area is located in the "coulee region." This type of topography is characterized by short, steep slopes with narrow ridges and valleys. Rocks and minerals have greatly influenced the soils and topography of this area. Soils in the Coon Creek Watershed are derived from the underlying bedrock, loess, and stream-transported materials. Loessial Fayette silt loam is the dominant soil type. Other soils include silt loams, loams, sandy loams, fine sand and alluvium. Eleven trout streams are found within the property boundary. All the streams are highly productive, hard, and have moderately steep gradients. Agricultural land is the dominant land type of the fishery area.

12. Biological

a. Flora

Terrestrial - Cropland, oak, northern hardwoods, central hardwoods, herbaceous vegetation, pines and pasture.

Aquatic - Watercress, water buttercup, spike rush, Veronica sp., bulrushes, sedges, cattail

b. Fauna

Terrestrial-Species which can be managed include white-tail deer, gray and fox squirrels, cottontail rabbits, mink, muskrat, beaver, raccoon, skunk, weasel, gray and red fox, ruffed grouse, woodcock, ducks, turkey and several species of songbirds.

Aquatic-Brown trout, brook trout, rainbow trout, white sucker, creek chub, blacknose dace and darter, common water snake, painted turtle, snapping turtle, leopard and green frogs.

13. Social/Economic (include ethnic and cultural groups, and zoning if applicable)

The Coon Creek Fishery Area lies within a rural but well populated area. Outdoor recreation activities, predominantly fishing, occurs throughout the property area. Several trap ranges are located within the property area along with several ski-jumping facilities. A snowmobile trail crosses and follows much of the property.

The various recreational opportunities provided by the property contribute to the economy of the area.

14. Other Special Resources (e.g., archaeological, historical, endangered/threatened species, scientific areas, natural areas)

Currently, red-shouldered hawks, on the Wisconsin threatened list; northern monkshood, a federally listed species; and Adova mochatellium, state endangered species; are found on or near the property.

Five archeological sites are currently known to exist in the fishery area. These prehistoric village and campsites are located in:

SE¼, Sec. 35, T15N, R5W
SW¼, Sec. 36, T15N, R5W
NE¼, Sec. 1, T14N, R5W
NW¼, Sec. 6, T14N, R5W
S½, Sec. 22, T15N, R4W

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES (probable adverse and beneficial impacts including indirect and secondary impacts)

15. Physical (include visual if applicable)

Short-term adverse impacts will result from the disturbance of the streambanks and stre flow manipulation. The topography may be temporarily damaged during the hauling of roc riprap to the stream. The stream will be narrowed and deepened, thus allowing for lower water temperatures and higher velocities. Certain forest areas will be disturbed for a short period of time during harvest and pruning activities.

16. Biological

Water quality should improve both in terms of lower suspended silt load and smaller temperature fluctuations. Streambanks will be stabilized by riprap or instream habitat structures, which will narrow the stream and deepen it.

Carrying capacities of the streams should be reached and maintained with the placement of instream habitat structures and special regulations on several streams.

17. Social/Economic (include ethnic and cultural groups and zoning if applicable)

Proposed management of the property will increase public use opportunities. Outdoor recreation and education activities will continue throughout the project area. Acquisition of private lands will occur but on a willing seller basis.

With an increase in hunting and fishing potential, the property will help to stimulate the economy.

When the land is purchased in fee by the Department, payments in lieu of taxes is paid to the township to make up for the loss of tax base.

18. Other Special Resources (e.g., archaeological, historical, endangered/threatened species, scientific areas, natural areas)

Significant archaelogical and historical landmarks, endangered and threatened species, scientific area, and natural areas will be protected, preserved and administered with guidance from the appropriate state agencies.

19. Probable Adverse Impacts That Cannot Be Avoided

Public use of private lands within the proposed property boundary will occur.

ALTERNATIVES (no action - enlarge - reduce - modify - other locations and/or methods)

20. Identify, describe and discuss feasible alternatives to the proposed action and their impacts. Give particular attention to alternatives which might avoid some or all adverse environmental effects.

No Action - If all management practices were suspended, deterioration of fish habitat would occur in future years. Any existing and future erosion problems would go uncorrected. Siltation would increase, thus filling in holes and covering spawning areas. The fishery area, as a whole, would show a diminished fishery resource.

Enlarge Property - The present property boundary is adequate. If all the land is acquired within the present proposed boundary, all property goals and objectives will be achieved.

Reduce the Property - A majority of the land necessary to achieve the proposed property goals is already in state ownership. Several parcels owned in fee have acreage which could be traded for land with stream frontage already in the property boundary. If a trade does occur, the property acreage will be reduced. The 400 acres proposed for acquisition by the Scientific Areas Council is not contributing significantly to the fishery resource. If a reduction in property acreage is needed, this acreage could be reduced.

Limited Management - Limited management of the fish and wildlife resource would result in at least a status quo and is necessary to maintain the present resource and prevent deterioration, particularly of the trout population. Habitat structures have to be maintained, fences and access areas require repair, and the carrying capacity of fish and wildlife would not be increased.

Intensive Habitat Management - The property meets the criteria of a fish and wildlife management area. Intensive management of the property will be necessary to increase the fish and wildlife carrying capacity, therefore, expanding fishing and hunting opportunities.

Extensive stream improvements have been completed on many of the streams in the Coon Creek system. Additional improvements are planned based on the success of previous projects. Stream riprapping and instream structures are recommended projects. Maintenance of the existing structures will occur on an annual basis.

The forest land which is present has recently been logged so upland wildlife habitat is excellent. Protection of nesting trees and mowing will increase nesting areas for wood ducks, raccoon and other wildlife species.

The proposed planting of small clusters of pine and shrubs will provide cover and food for wildlife species and provide a barrier from the roads and stream.

EVALUATION (Discuss each category. Attach additional sheets and other pertinent information if necessary.)

21. Secondary Effects: As a result of this action, is it likely that other events or actions will happen that may significantly affect the environment? If so, list here and reference their discussion in items 15-18 as appropriate.

A majority of the land under public ownership is with permanent easement. The landowner still retains ownership of the land. If the land is purchased by fee title, the Department has complete ownership of the land. The land is allowed to return to a natural state and all buildings are removed from the property. Either through easement or fee purchase, the stream will be repaired or improved through habitat work.

22. New Environmental Effect: Does the action alter the environment so a new physical, biological or socio-economic environment would exist? If so, list here and reference their discussion in items 5-10 or 15-18 as appropriate.

The master plan, itself, does not affect the environment but the implementation of the goals and objectives will produce a narrow and deeper stream, increase fish and wildlife carrying capacity, and the area will be allowed to revert back to a more natural state.

23. Geographically Scarce: Are the existing environmental features that would be affected by the proposed action scarce, either locally or statewide? If so, list here and reference their discussion in items 15-18 as appropriate.

The existing environmental features that would be affected are common locally and statewide.

24. Precedent: Does the action and its effect(s) require a decision which would influence future decisions? Describe.

The master plan of this property outlines the future actions that are going to occur.

25. Controversy: Discuss and describe concerns which indicate a serious controversy or unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

None known.

26. Consistency With Plans: Does the action conflict with local or agency zoning or with official agency plans or policy of local, state or federal government (e.g., NR 1.95)? If so, how? Refer to applicable comments in item 31.

The action does not conflict with land or agency zoning or with agency plans or policy of local, state or federal government.

27. Cumulative Impacts: While the action by itself may be limited in scope, would repeated actions of this type result in additional or more severe impacts? Are there other activities occurring locally that would compound the impacts?

More properties of this type would enhance and preserve the fishery resource of the area.

28. Foreclose Future Options: Is the action irreversible? Will it commit a resource (e.g., energy, habitat, historical features) for the foreseeable future?

No. The object of this plan is to preserve and enhance the existing natural resource.

29. Socio-cultural Impacts: Will action result in direct or indirect impacts on ethnic or cultural groups or alter social patterns?

☒ No

☐ Yes, refer to item 17.

30. Other:

LIST OF AGENCIES, GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROJECT (Include DNR personnel and Title)

31.

Date	Contact	Comment Summary
	Larry Leum, Coon Valley Sportsmen Club	- Good project.
	Bill Welk, West Rod & Gun Club	- Good project.
	Curtis Horman, Bohemian Valley Rod & Gun Club	- Good project.
	Terry Larsen, Coulee Region Trout Unlimited	- Good project.
	Glen Barstad, Vernon Co. Conservation Alliance	- Good project.

Project Name: Coon Creek Fishery Area Master Plan

County: Vernon
La Crosse
Monroe

RECOMMENDATION

EIS Not Required..... ☒

Analysis of the expected impacts of this proposal is of sufficient scope and detail to conclude that this is not a major action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. In my opinion therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required prior to final action by the Department on this project.

Refer to Office of the Secretary..... ☐

Major and Significant Action: Prepare EIS..... ☐

Request EIR..... ☐

Additional factors, if any, affecting the evaluator's recommendation:

	SIGNATURE OF EVALUATOR	DATE
	NOTED: AREA DIRECTOR OR BUREAU DIRECTOR	DATE

Number of responses to public notice _____

Public response log attached?..... _____

CERTIFIED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH WEPA

DISTRICT DIRECTOR OR DIRECTOR OF BEI (OR DESIGNEE)	DATE

This decision is not final until certified by the appropriate District Director or the Director of BEI. If you believe you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Codes establish time periods within which requests to review Department decisions must be filed. For judicial review of a decision pursuant to ss. 227.15 and 227.16, Stats., you have 30 days after service of the decision to file your petition for review. The respondent in an action for judicial review is the Department of Natural Resources. You may wish to seek legal counsel to determine your specific legal rights to challenge a decision. This notice is provided pursuant to s. 227.11(2), Stats.

SEP 10 1985

Project Name: Coon Creek Fishery Area Master Plan

County: Vernon
La Crosse
Monroe

#2041

RECOMMENDATION

EIS Not Required..... ☒

Analysis of the expected impacts of this proposal is of sufficient scope and detail to conclude that this is not a major action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. In my opinion therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required prior to final action by the Department on this project.

Refer to Office of the Secretary..... ☐

Major and Significant Action: Prepare EIS..... ☐

Request EIR..... ☐

Additional factors, if any, affecting the evaluator's recommendation:

ok! mw 9/5/85

SIGNATURE OF EVALUATOR	DATE
Greg Matthews	9-9-85
NOTED: AREA DIRECTOR OR BUREAU DIRECTOR	DATE

Number of responses to public notice 1 County board member
1 T.V. station; 2 Radio stations

Public response log attached?..... yes

CERTIFIED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH WEPA

DISTRICT DIRECTOR OR DIRECTOR OF BEI (OR DESIGNEE)	DATE
Gary A. Bicht	Oct 9, 1985

This decision is not final until certified by the appropriate District Director or the Director of BEI. If you believe you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Codes establish time periods within which requests to review Department decisions must be filed. For judicial review of a decision pursuant to ss. 227.15 and 227.16, Stats., you have 30 days after service of the decision to file your petition for review. The respondent in an action for judicial review is the Department of Natural Resources. You may wish to seek legal counsel to determine your specific legal rights to challenge a decision. This notice is provided pursuant to s. 227.11(2), Stats.

OCT 1985

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Date: October 2, 1985 *File Ref:* 3600

To: Gary Birch - EA/6

From: Kenneth J. Wright KJW

Subject: Coon Creek Fishery Area Master Plan EIA Review

Listed below are the contacts made on the EIA.

Several radio stations and one television station had coverage.

- Channel 8 T.V. - La Crosse
- WIZM Radio - La Crosse
- WKTY Radio - La Crosse

One county board member, Louis Schlaver, had questions on acquisition, especially on condemnation. All his questions were answered.

No other comments, calls or letters were received.

KJW:cs