

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Madison, Wisconsin

Approved

ITEM RECOMMENDED FOR NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA

TO THE SECRETARY: C. D. Besadny

Date December 21, 1981

FROM: James T. Addis

SUBJECT: Master Planning - Approval of the Conceptual Master Plan for the Proposed Rowan Creek Fishery Area, Columbia County.

1. To be presented at January, 1982 Board meeting by Vern Hacker.

2. Appearances requested by the public:

Name

Representing whom?

3. Reference materials to be used:

Memorandum dated December 21, 1981, from James T. Addis to C. D. Besadny, Proposed Rowan Creek Fishery Area, Columbia County Master Plan.

4. Summary: The final draft of the conceptual master plan for this property has been prepared and is presented for review and approval. All past acquisition, currently totalling 150.17 acres, has been under the Columbia County Remnant Fish Habitat Program. The master plan task force recommends conversion of the Rowan Creek Remnant Area to a full-fledged fishery area with an acreage goal of 756 acres, and with an established boundary.

If the proposal for establishment of the fishery area from the remnant property is approved by the Natural Resources Board, an additional 605.83 acres must be added to the acreage goal. That acreage will be subtracted from: (continued on reverse side)

5. Recommendation:

That the proposal to convert the Rowan Creek Remnant Area to the Rowan Creek Fishery Area, and the master plan, be approved.

APPROVED:

James R. Huntoon 1/6/82
James R. Huntoon, Administrator Date

A. C. Damon
A. C. Damon, Deputy Secretary Date

C. D. Besadny
Secretary C. D. Besadny Date

Signed:

James T. Addis per LH
James T. Addis, Director
Bureau of Fish Management

- cc - Judy Scullion - ADM/5
- Douglas Morrissette - SD
- Ron Nicotera - ADM/5
- Carl Evert - OL/4
- C. W. Threinen - FM/4
- Vern Hacker - Oshkosh

<u>Property</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Wisconsin Dells Station	15.00
Columbia County Remnant acreage goal	414.93✓
Dodge County Remnant acreage goal	17.40✓
Green County Remnant acreage goal	40.00
Green Lake County Remnant acreage goal	32.00
Jefferson County Remnant acreage goal	86.50
Total	605.83
	<u>158.17</u>

414 93
 150

 564 93

 414.93
 158.17

 573.10

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Central Offices - Madison

Date: December 21, 1981

File Ref: 2100

To: C. D. Besadny

From: James T. Addis *JTA*

Subject: Proposed Rowan Creek Fishery Area, Columbia, Master Plan

Attached are the conceptual master plan and the Environmental Assessment Screening worksheet for the proposed Rowan Creek Fishery Area, Columbia County. A public meeting regarding the master plan was held during the 30-day review period, on November 17, 1981, at the Village Hall in Poynette. Present from the DNR were the master plan task force of Messrs Larson, Kaiser and Mahy, Area Supervisor Joe Frank, Area Land Agent Paul Scott, and Area Fish Manager Jim Congdon. Mr. Collins Ferris of the Natural Resources Board was also present and 26 interested members of the public. No significant changes of the master plan were made resulting from comments made at the meeting.

Prior to the meeting, a news release was sent to local and Madison newspapers and radio stations, Township and County Board officials, officers of sportsman clubs and the Conservation Congress, informing them that the preliminary plan was available for review. Nine persons requested copies prior to the meeting.

The master plan was supplied to the various internal bureaus and other interested parties for comment during the 30-day review period. Comments from internal bureaus were considered, and revisions made where appropriate. Comments from outside reviewing agencies and DNR responses, where appropriate are shown in the appendix attached to the master plan.

The task force recommends that the lands acquired on Rowan Creek under the Columbia County remnant program (150.17 acres) be made part of a new Rowan Creek Fishery Area, with an acreage goal of 756 acres. ~~The additional 605.83 acres required for the proposed acreage goal would be subtracted from six other locations detailed on the green sheet attached to the master plan.~~ *What?*

The task force also recommends that access and parking areas be provided at 5 new sites, particularly downstream from Poynette where they are badly needed. Fences and signs will be erected to designate property lines.

Instream trout improvement will be more intense on the upper four miles of stream than on the lower section, to create additional hiding cover and to stabilize banks, which will be tapered and seeded. The lower eight miles of stream which lack natural reproduction but has excellent water quality, will be the subject of some experimental work including an artificial spawning area. Brush bundles and half-log devices will be installed where effective. Experimental methods on the portion of the stream which suffers from excessive rooted aquatic vegetation will be tried, including bank shading and sediment removal.

Wildlife management will be focused on the establishment of nesting cover and the location of wood duck nesting boxes. Forestry practices would be limited at present, with only one 20-acre pine plantation within the proposed boundary.

A 40-acre, undisturbed area of bottomland hardwoods on the lower region of stream valley will be managed to perpetuate it as a Natural Area. A wildflower trail and looped nature trail are recommended to be developed, some in cooperation with the Poynette School District.

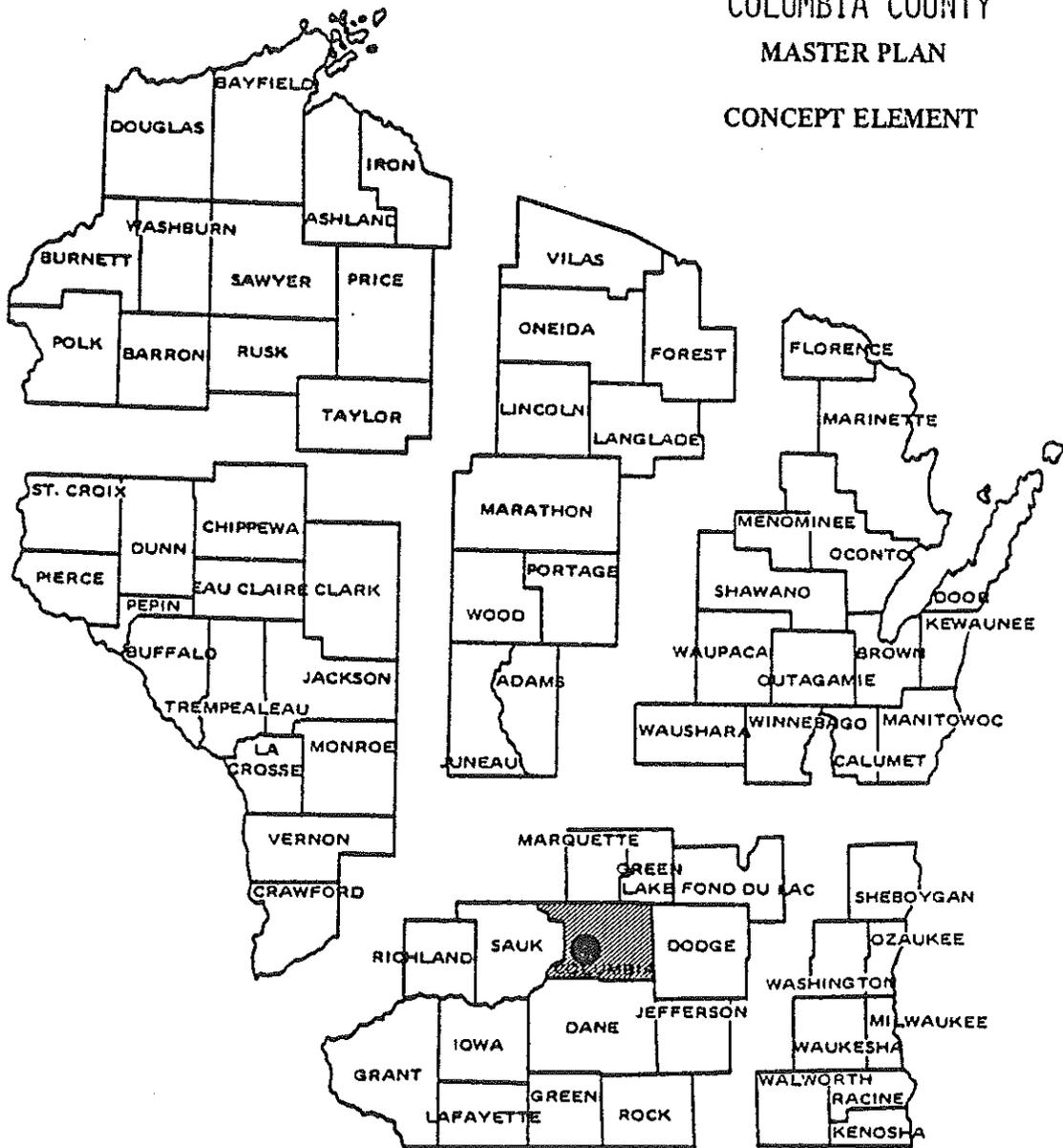
A complete biological inventory is recommended as soon as funds permit, and endangered or threatened species identified if present.

Your approval of this proposal to covert the Rowan Creek Remnant Area to a fishery area is requested.

VAH:aep

cc - Judy Scullion - ADM/5
Douglas Morrissette - SD
Ron Nicotera - ADM/5
Carl Evert - OL/4
C. W. Threinen - FM/4
Vern Hacker - Oshkosh

PROPOSED ROWAN CREEK FISHERY AREA
 COLUMBIA COUNTY
 MASTER PLAN
 CONCEPT ELEMENT



Property Task Force

Leader -TIM LARSON, FISH MANAGER
 PATRICK KAISER, WILDLIFE MANAGER
 DENNIS MAHY, FORESTER

Approved by Natural Resources Board

 Date

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SECTION I - ACTIONS

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals

To provide a public use area along Rowan Creek, emphasizing preservation, aesthetics and intensive management of its trout fishery, with compatible management of wildlife and forest resources and development of such other outdoor recreational and educational pursuits as the space, characteristics and other constraints of the area allow.

Annual Objectives

1. Manage 12 miles of coldwater stream to provide 3,000 angler days of quality fishing for brown trout.
2. Provide 2,000 hunter and trapper days for white-tailed deer, fox and gray squirrels, cottontail rabbit, ring-necked pheasant, woodcock, ruffed grouse, muskrat, raccoon, red fox, and mink via management techniques compatible with preservation of the trout stream resource.
3. Manage the forestry resource to harvest 5,000 board feet of lumber and permit firewood cutting with consideration given to its impact upon wildlife and the integrity of the landscape.
4. Reserve 40 acres of bottomland hardwoods as a natural area for educational and scenic qualities.

Annual Additional Benefits

1. Allow for 2,500 user days of other recreational and educational opportunities including hiking, nature study, photography, berry, mushroom, and nut gathering, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling.
2. Preserve the habitats of non-game species of wildlife including that of resident and migratory endangered and threatened species.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The recommended Management and Development Program for the Rowan Creek Fishery Area, Columbia County (Figure 1), is designed to improve angler opportunities for a quality trout fishing experience. Because the property boundary was established under a restricted acreage quota, it was primarily designed as a buffer zone to provide a natural setting along the stream corridor. Proposed property boundaries with management and development activities are illustrated in Figures 2 and 3.