

CORRESPONDENCE / MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Ed -> 7/10

DATE: February 8, 1984

In Reply Refer To: 2100

TO: James L. Lissack - WCD, Eau Claire

RECEIVED

FROM: James R. Huntoon *JRH*

FEB 1 1984

DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

SUBJECT: Approval of the Trempealeau Lakes Fishery Area, Trempealeau County
Master Plan

On December 14, 1983, the Natural Resources Board ratified the Trempealeau Lakes Fishery Area Master Plan, following approval of the plan by Secretary Besadny. The Master Plan Task Force, consisting of Chairman James G. Talley, Eugene Kohlmeier, Richard Mertig, Kermit Traska, Timothy Mulhern and John Sieger, recommended retaining the current acreage goal of 164.6 acres which is already acquired in fee title.

Attached are twenty copies of the approved master plan and the original maps for your District files, to answer inquiries by the public and for future use.

The Implementation Element of the master planning process should be completed next. We request that you supply this office with a copy on or about May 1, 1984. Please convey my appreciation to the Task Force for a job well done in the completion of this master plan.

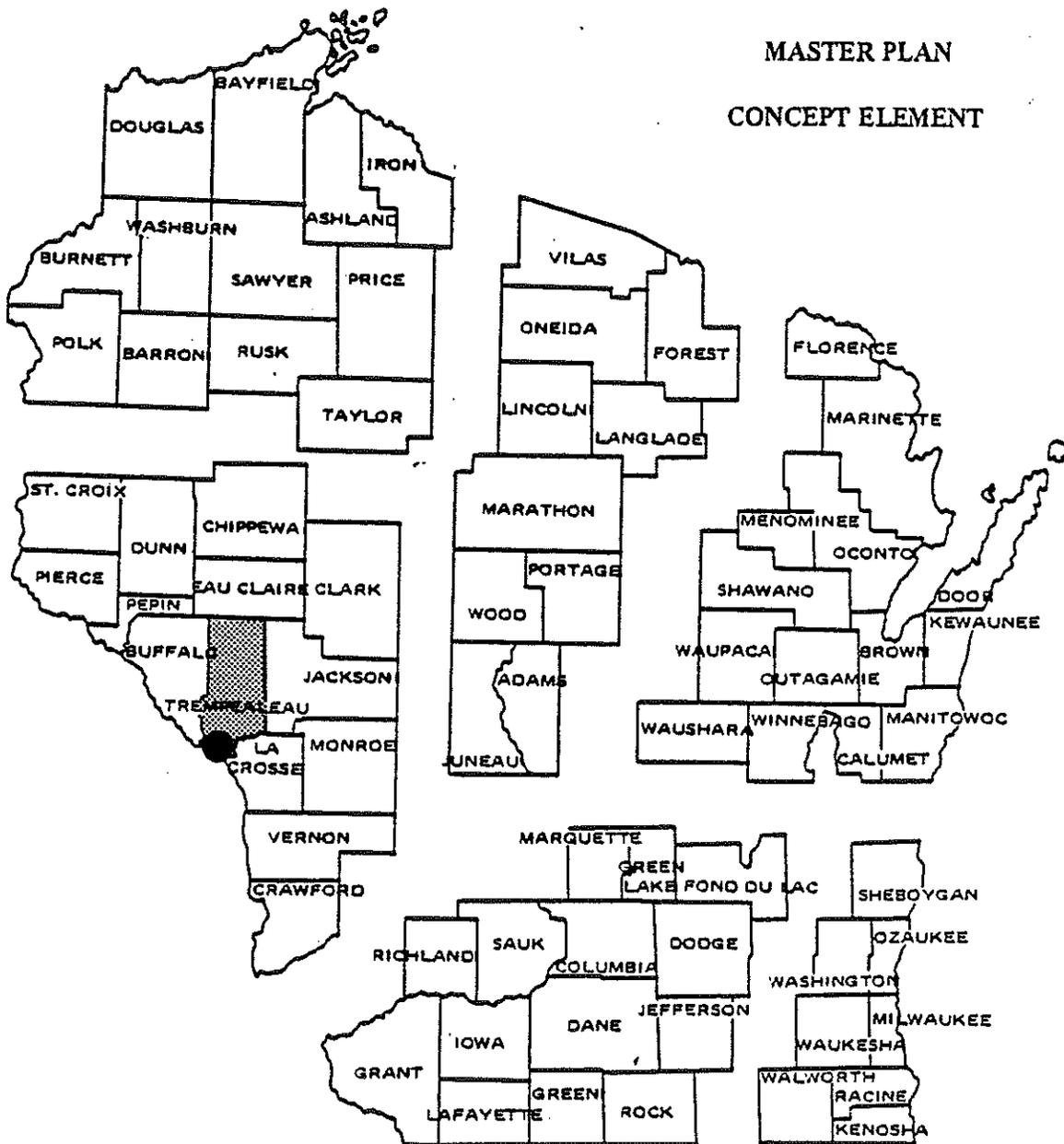
- cc: J. Addis - FM/4
- ✓ C. Evert - OL/4
- V. Hacker - Oshkosh

Attach.

2631L

TREMPEALEAU LAKES FISHERY AREA
TREMPEALEAU COUNTY

MASTER PLAN
CONCEPT ELEMENT



Property Task Force

Leader-James G. Talley, Area Fish Manager
Eugene M. Kohlmeier, Area Wildlife Manager
Richard A. Mertig, Area Land Agent
Kermit A. Traska, Parks and Recreation
Timothy J. Mulhern, Forest Management
John M. Sieger, Law Enforcement

Approved:

C.D. Besadny 10-26-83
C.D. Besadny - Secretary Date

LEGEND

- Political Boundaries..... U.S. & STATE
- County Boundaries..... COUNTY
- City.....
- Village.....
- Hamlet.....
- Unincorporated Place.....
- Post Office.....
- U.S. Highway No. (with shield).....
- State Highway No. (with shield).....
- County Highway No. (with shield).....
- Road.....
- Canal.....
- State Boundary.....
- County Boundary.....
- City Town Boundary.....
- Corporate Limits.....
- U.S. & State Forest.....
- Marsh.....
- Fish Hatchery.....
- Game Farm.....
- County Seat.....
- University, College.....
- School.....
- Public Hall or Post Office.....
- Hospital.....
- Ranger Station.....
- Game Camp & Police Station.....
- State Park.....
- County Park.....
- Reservoir.....
- Spring.....



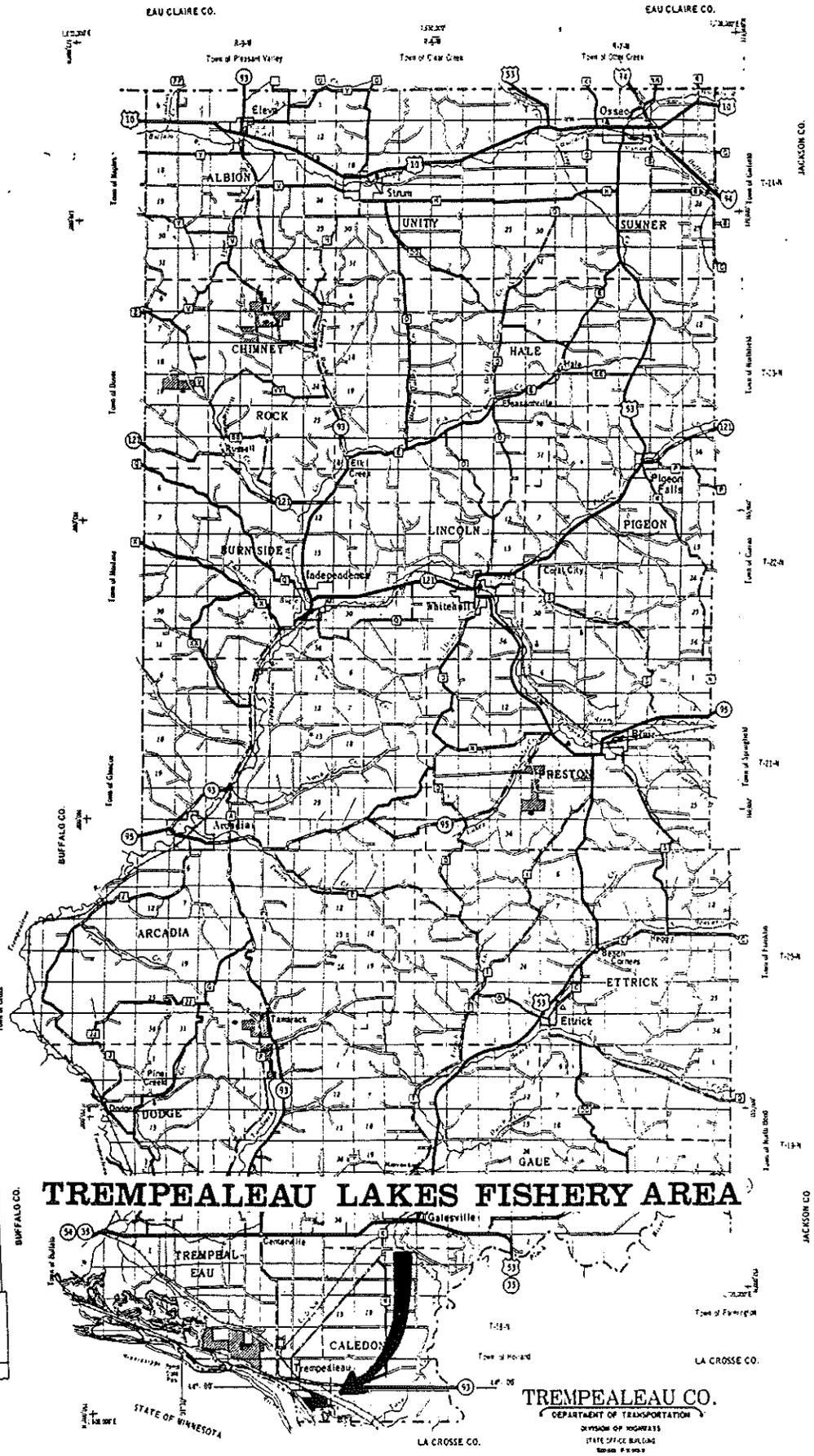
Township Population

4	2	4	3	2	7
7	8	16	11	17	
14	17	16	14	13	
19	29	21	22	26	
26	29	28	27	26	
32	32	33	34	33	34

MILES OF HIGHWAY
as of July 1, 1935

STATE.....	122
COUNTY.....	102
LOCAL ROADS.....	102
OTHER ROADS.....	102
TOTAL FOR COUNTY.....	102

CIVIL TOWNS



TREMPEALEAU LAKES FISHERY AREA

TREMPEALEAU CO.
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
STATE OFFICE BUILDING
TREMPEALEAU, WISCONSIN

SCALE..... MILES

Figure 1. Location Trempealeau Lakes Fishery Area, Trempealeau County.

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SECTION I - ACTIONS

GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND OTHER BENEFITS

Goal:

To manage the Trempealeau Lakes Fishery Area in Trempealeau County for the benefit of present and future generations in a manner that maintains and improves animal and plant resources and the aesthetics of the waterway, while providing an opportunity for quality public use.

Annual Objectives:

1. Maintain and manage access to the warmwater fishery and to allow for 3,000 participant days of fishing primarily for panfish, largemouth bass and northern pike.
2. Provide opportunities for 445 participant days of hunting for white-tailed deer, cottontails, ruffed grouse, squirrels, pheasants and waterfowl.
3. Provide opportunities for 200 participant days of trapping primarily for mink and muskrats.

Annual Additional Benefits:

1. Manage uplands and associated timber types to maintain aesthetic values and enhance the lake corridor and wildlife habitat, while allowing a maintenance removal of 5 cords of firewood.
2. Provide 1,900 participant days of other recreational and educational activities including berry picking, cross country skiing, nature hiking, bird watching, snow-shoeing, photography and picnicking.
3. Contribute to the protection and preservation of features of scientific and historic significance.
4. Provide for the annual harvest of commercial rough fish species.
5. Maintain a 27-acre prairie.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The nature of this fishery area does not lend itself to further significant upland habitat enhancement. Management will be aimed at maintaining present use levels. Maintenance of user facilities such as roads, parking lots, boat ramps, shelter house, toilets, property signs and posting will be of an ongoing nature.

The original acquisition of 164.6 acres of fee title land acquired for \$5,927.98 is adequate to meet the goals and objectives of this property. Further acquisition is not recommended. The existing ownership and property boundary are shown in Figure 2.

Annual maintenance costs are expected to be \$2,400. Major maintenance costs are for garbage pickup and toilet servicing, grass and roadside mowing along the entrance road and parking lots, road grading, snow plowing, trail barricade repairs, shelter house repairs and park enforcement. Additional major maintenance costs will be requested as the need occurs such as flood damage or other unusual events.

The fishery area lies within the Wisconsin - Minnesota boundary water region of the state. Most of the property is within the Mississippi River Floodplain and is subject to annual flooding. Stringent state and federal laws govern floodplain zoning and restrict development that can occur in this type of area. Partial dredging of the lakes within the state boundary has been supported by the property manager to maintain this fishery area, but any dredging will be subject to a variety of restrictions. The property has been included in the proposed Gunderson Bill HR 1254 as one of the properties recommended for this type of management practice through the implementation of the Upper Mississippi River System Master Plan. A project of this scope should be administered under the jurisdiction of the state and federal agencies responsible for the Mississippi River boundary waters.

All areas proposed for development will be examined for the presence of endangered and threatened wild animals and wild 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.

Forestry practices will be conducted on select areas of the property. Intensive forest management will be limited to the two white pine plantations designated as RD₃ on Figure 2. Limited timber harvest may occur on some of the bottomland hardwoods with emphasis placed on wildlife habitat enhancement. Firewood permits may be issued only as a maintenance function such as removal of hazardous dead trees adjacent to roads, trails, parking lots and boat landings.

The road running between Second and Third Lake and extending along the north side of Third Lake (Figure 3) will be gated as it has been in the past to prevent road damage during wet periods. That portion of the road extending from the west end of Third Lake and running east adjacent to the prairie will be maintained only as a service trail for the property as it has throughout the history of the property's existence.

The State Historical Society has documented 19 Indian mounds as being located within the fishery area. Known sites will be protected. No future development will be conducted until the Society has surveyed the development site.

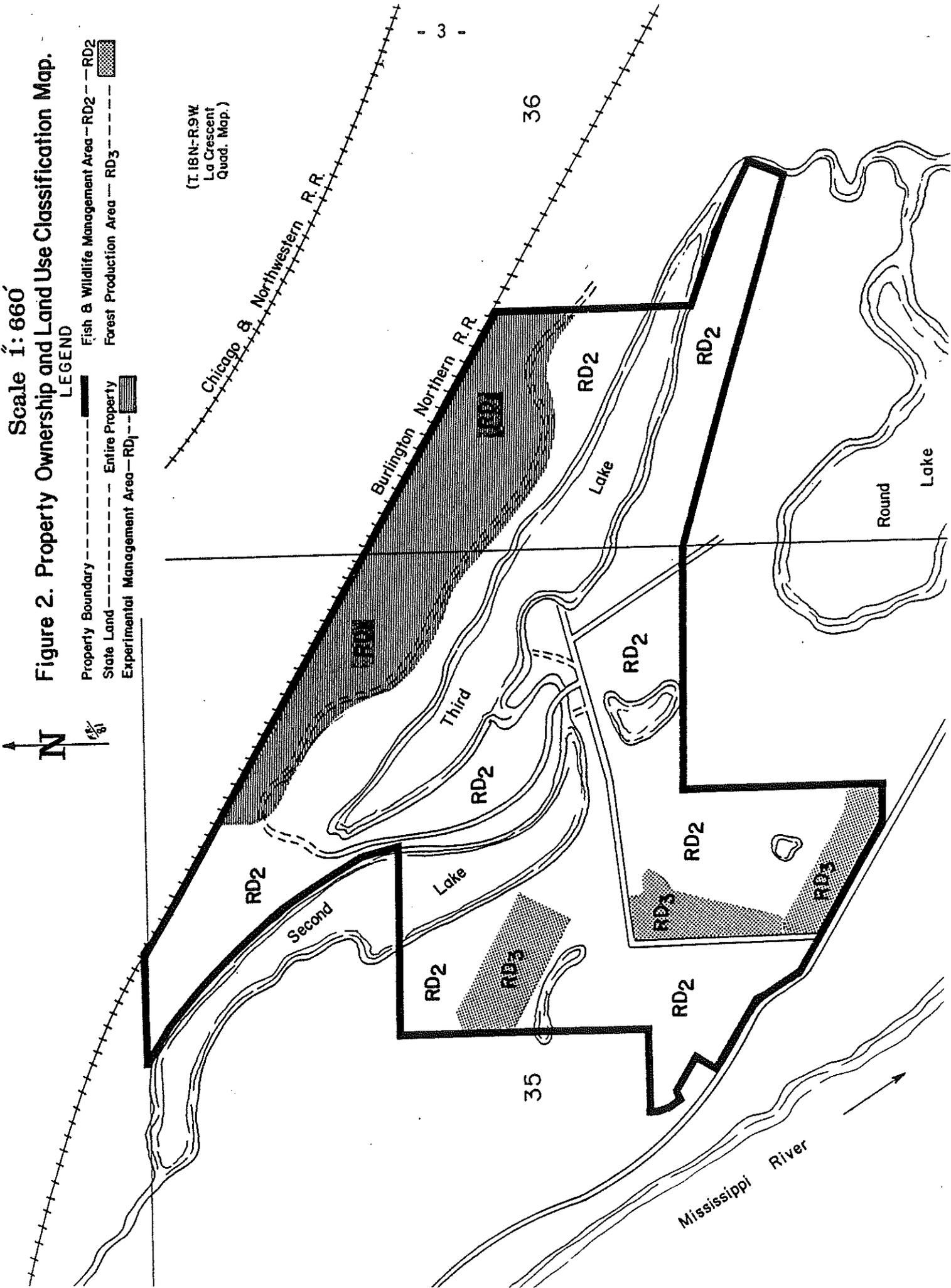
TREMPEALEAU LAKES FISHERY AREA

Scale 1:660

Figure 2. Property Ownership and Land Use Classification Map.

LEGEND

- Property Boundary ———
- State Land ———
- Experimental Management Area — RDj ———
- Entire Property ———
- Fish & Wildlife Management Area — RD2 ———
- Forest Production Area — RD3 ———



(T. 18N-R.9W
La Crescent
Quad. Map.)

3

36

35

Mississippi River

Round Lake

Lake

Third

Second

RD2

RD3

RD2

RD2

RD2

RD2

RD2

RD2

RD2

RD3

RD3

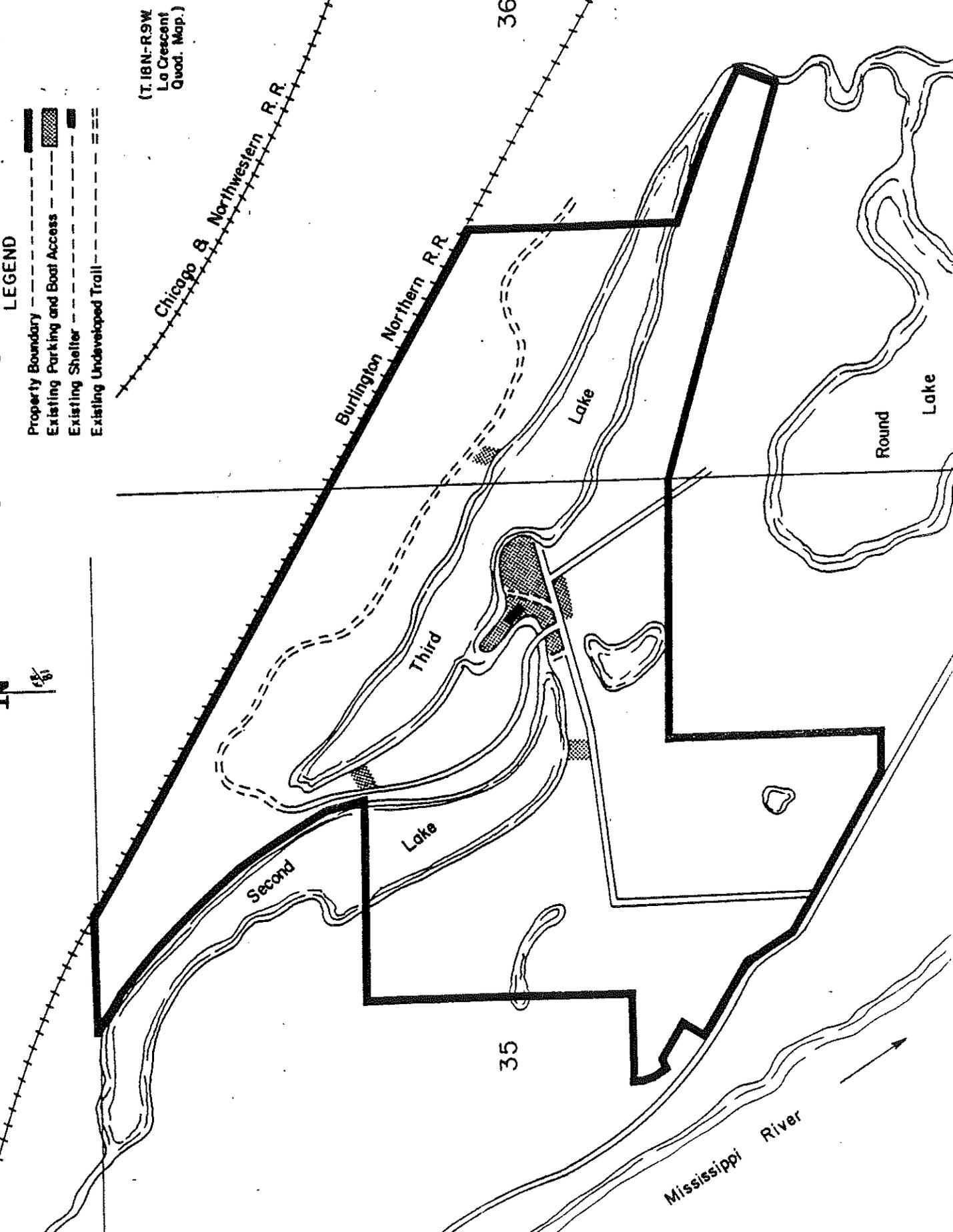
Burlington Northern R.R.

Chicago & Northwestern R.R.

TREMPEALEAU LAKES FISHERY AREA

Scale 1:660

Figure 3. Existing and Planned Development Map.



The 31-acre field lying north of Third Lake has been established as an experimental wildlife management area, including 27 acres that have been established as a prairie. Periodic seeding with prairie species and burning will be necessary to maintain this area and prevent encroaching upland hardwoods.

Commercial rough fish harvest by contract fishermen has occurred on Second and Third Lakes for many years. This practice will be continued provided it does not interfere with sport fishing.

Snowmobiling, camping and off-road vehicle use is prohibited on the property although the entire property is open to cross-country skiers who may wish to break their own trails.

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 Trempealeau Lakes Fishery Area was established by the Wisconsin Conservation Commission in 1954. The state purchased the property in 1955 with financial assistance from the Trempealeau County Associated Sportsmen Clubs. The Town of Trempealeau Board of Supervisors passed a resolution in favor of buying the land a year prior to its acquisition in 1954. The property was purchased to acquire permanent access to the Trempealeau Lakes area for hunting, fishing, and trapping and to assure preservation of wildlife habitat. The property at the time of the sale was transferred to the Division of Fish Management for administration. The acreage goal and boundary were not established at that time for the property, but were authorized on December 11, 1969 by the Natural Resources Board.

Management Activities: Management activities to date have been extensive and are as follows: The entrance road extending to Third Lake has been blacktopped. The remainder of the roads excluding the trail on the north side of Third Lake have been developed with crushed rock. A 28' X 16' enclosed shelter house was constructed along the upper boat landing on Third Lake by Trempealeau County Associated Clubs. Two boat landings were constructed on Third Lake and one on Second Lake, all with developed parking lots. Small, undeveloped parking areas are located on both Second and Third Lakes. Two portable sealed pit toilets have replaced the old pit toilets built in 1965. Portions of the 3.1-mile boundary have been fenced and the entire boundary posted with public "hunting and fishing" signs. A routed, wood fishery area sign is located at the entrance to the property. Portions of the 45 acres of open fields were periodically sharecropped until 1976. The 2 small fields were converted to intensive forest management areas in 1979 and planted to white pine. The large field north of Third Lake was seeded with prairie species in 1977 to produce dense wildlife nesting cover. The prairie was burned in 1980. Woods trails and those created by ORV's have been barricaded to prevent littering and to protect archaeological sites. Garbage cans have

been installed by Perrot Park personnel and they annually provide toilet and garbage maintenance, roadside mowing and some enforcement in addition to warden enforcement patrols.

Nine firewood permits were issued during the period of 1978-1980. Currently, no permits are in effect.

Pheasants were periodically stocked on the property but this practice has not continued in recent years.

Current ownership is 164.6 acres in fee title. No further acquisition is anticipated and the property is considered to be complete. The property cost \$5,927.98. All land within the boundary is state-owned.

RESOURCE CAPABILITIES AND INVENTORY

Geology, Soils and Hydrology: Trempealeau County lies entirely within the Western upland geographical province and the Driftless Area of Wisconsin. Streams tributary to the Mississippi River have dissected the upland resulting in a system of ridges and valleys (coulees) that occupy most of the county. The Trempealeau Lakes area is located mostly within the nearly level alluvial plain of the Mississippi River and is a part of the level to gently undulating plain lying east and north of Trempealeau known locally as the "Prairie". This area contrasts greatly with the rugged and steep area located just west of Trempealeau that rises about 500 feet above the Mississippi River.

The Trempealeau Lakes Fishery Area is comprised of 2 soil associations, the wet alluvial land - Marsh association and the Dickinson - Gotham - Sparta association. The wet alluvial land - marsh association consists of nearly level, poorly drained alluvial sediment and areas of shallow water on bottom lands. The majority of the property lies within this association. Flooding occurs in wet seasons. Sandy alluvial land and loamy alluvial land are the primary soils within the property. Natural fertility and the response of crops are low. Most of the soils in this association are in brush, lowland hardwoods and marsh vegetation. The Dickinson - Gotham - Sparta association is found in the nearly level river terrace and encompasses the area of the property lying east and north of Third Lake. The soils are excessively drained and sandy. Natural fertility is low as is available water capacity. The hazard of soil blowing is severe. The soil types combined with the geology have an influence on the surface and groundwater conditions.

In Trempealeau County there are 2 groundwater provinces. These are the western area of rocks of Paleozoic age and the valley alluvium. The valley alluvium is found along stream valleys containing sand and gravel aquifers and is of considerable importance along the Mississippi River because of its large size. The valleys containing sand and gravel, in a mixed stratum as much as 200 feet thick, are considered among the best aquifers in the state.

Fish and Wildlife:

Comprehensive lake surveys were last conducted on Second and Third Lakes in 1967 and both lakes support a diverse warmwater fishery. Winterkills and summerkills have not been documented for these waters. Low dissolved oxygen levels during severe winters may limit harvest and fish production.

Twenty-seven warmwater species are known to be present. Bluegills, black and white crappies, northern pike, largemouth bass and yellow perch are the game fish most frequently caught. Other species present include panfishes such as rock bass, pumpkinseeds, warmouth, yellow bass and black, brown and yellow bullheads and commercial rough species including carp, bigmouth buffalofish, longnose garfish, freshwater drum, bowfin and gizzard shad. Forage species found are white and spotted suckers, golden redhorse, common, golden, emerald and spottail shiners, and brook silversides.

Fishing occurs throughout the year and probably is the heaviest during late spring and early winter. Area Sportsmen's Club hold ice fishing contest annually on Third Lake which attract several hundred anglers. Dense beds of aquatic plants restrict summer fishing on a large portion of Third Lake but provides excellent nursery areas for a variety of fish species.

Game and furbearer species common to the area include white-tailed deer, cottontails, gray and fox squirrels, beaver, mink, otter, raccoons, muskrats, foxes, skunks, and weasels. Ruffed grouse are the primary upland game birds. Major waterfowl species include mallards, blue-winged teal, wood ducks, coots and pied-billed grebes. Meadow voles and other small mammals are also found on the property. Ring-neck pheasant, bobwhite quail, great blue herons, green herons, great horned owl and various song birds also frequent the area.

The property offers hunting opportunities but it is used primarily as an access to other river backwaters. The property is trapped annually.

Potential for improved waterfowl and pheasant nesting rests with the creation and maintenance of dense nesting cover and nest houses for wood ducks. Conifers serve as winter ruffed grouse and other wildlife cover. Potential for improving nongame species habitat exists through selective timber management and installation of bluebird houses.

Vegetative Cover:

The forest reconnaissance study of this property shows 6 major cover types. They are: bottomland hardwoods comprised of river birch, soft maple, elm, cottonwood and black ash; conifers consisting of planted white pine; oak comprised of poor quality oak with regeneration of black cherry and blackberry; prairie grasses consisting mainly of switch grass, Indian grass, cord grass and bluestem species; water areas and road and parking. These cover types and their relative abundance area are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 - Terrestrial Vegetative Cover Types within the Trempealeau Lakes Fishery Area, Trempealeau County.

<u>Cover Type</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Estimated Percentage of Area</u>
Bottomland Hardwoods	63.6	38.6
Prairie	27	16.4
Pine	14	8.5
Oak	13	7.9
Water	40	24.4
Parking and road	<u>7</u>	<u>4.2</u>
Total	164.6	100.0

General cover types are shown on Figure 4. Plant species have not been inventoried other than these general types.

Endangered and Threatened Species:

While found in the near vicinity, endangered species such as the bald eagle, double-crested cormorant, massasauga rattlesnake and wood turtle, and threatened species including the Blanding's turtle, pickere1 frog, great egret, Cooper's hawk and red-shouldered hawk have not been documented on the fishery area to date. No endangered or threatened species of fish, molluscs or wild plants are known to be present on this property.

Water Resources:

The property boundary encompasses most of Third Lake and the lower one-half of Second Lake for a total of 38 acres of water. They are part of a 3 lake chain of backwaters to the Mississippi River. First Lake, the uppermost lake in the chain, is seepage and spring fed and lies outside of the Mississippi River boundary as delineated by the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks. The outlet from this lake runs into Second and Third Lakes. These waters then connect to other Mississippi River backwaters. Water levels are subject to some fluctuations and are dependent on pool levels created by navigation dams on the Mississippi River. Second and Third Lakes are subject to periodic flooding as are portions of the roads and other facilities within the property. Second and Third Lakes have a combined watershed area of 1.3 square miles. Both lakes are relatively shallow with Second Lake having a maximum depth of 7.0 feet and Third Lake 8.0 feet. The waters are hard, clear, basic and fertile. Sedimentation occurs primarily from runoff, decaying vegetation, and flooding. The Soil Conservation Service has been contacted to investigate erosion problems in the watershed.

Historical and Archaeological Features:

The State Historical Society has stated there are no buildings or other structures of historical or architectural interest on the property. Excavations by the Milwaukee Public Museum in 1928 and 1930, and by the State

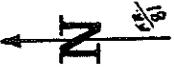
TREMPEALEAU LAKES FISHERY AREA

Scale 1:660'

Figure 4. General Cover Map.

LEGEND

- Property Boundary - - - - -
- Timber - Bottomland Hardwood - - - - -
- Timber - Conifer - - - - -
- Grassland - - - - -
- Recreation - Parking & Access - - - - -



(T.18N-R.9W
La Crescent
Quad. Map.)

Chicago & Northwestern R.R.

Burlington Northern R.R.

36

35

Lake

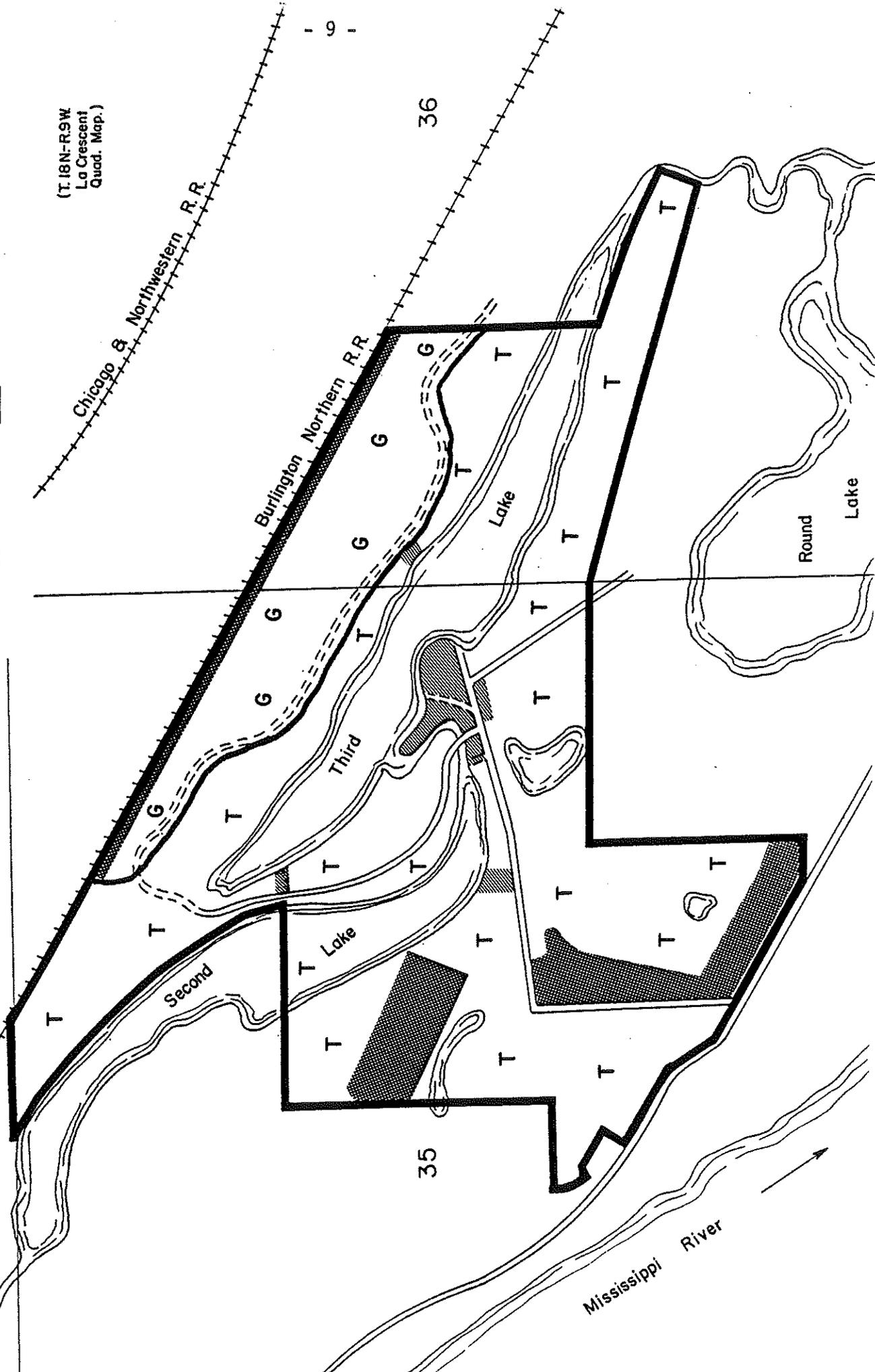
Third

Second

T Lake

Mississippi River

Round
Lake



Historical Society of Wisconsin in 1966 produced a large amount of information of the archaeological treasures of the area. As a result of this work, a 140-acre area known as the Trempealeau Lakes Mound Group and Second Lake Village have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Nineteen mounds of the 26 belonging to the Trempealeau Lakes Mound Group exist within the fishery area. The Second Lake Village, also located within the property boundary, is an undisturbed site. The exact locations are recorded in area office and State Historical Society records, and will not be publicized to prevent unauthorized disturbance.

Land Use Potential:

The uniform classification system of land uses has been used to designate the land use potential of the property and is shown on Figure 2. A fish and wildlife management area (RD₂) has been designated for the majority of the property (120 acres). This classification is consistent with the goals and objectives for which the property was purchased and with its current use.

The prairie area consisting of 31 acres has been classified as RD₇ Demonstration and/or Experimental Management Area. This classification was selected to delineate 27 acres of the area to be managed for prairie restoration in combination with the development of dense nesting cover for waterfowl and pheasant. The remaining 3 acres are in roads and wooded border areas.

The 2 pine plantations totaling 14 acres are classified as RD₃ Forest Production Area. They are well suited to white pine production and will allow benefits to wildlife and for forest product production. Some forest management will be conducted on the RD₂ lands but the sites are of poor quality for forest production and will be managed in conjunction with wildlife habitat.

Historical and Archeological Areas Classification (HA) was considered for the mound sites. Adequate protection of these sites can be accomplished under the previously mentioned selected classifications. Current management practices on the property were selected to accomplish this. Special emphasis of restricting access to most of the mound sites, particularly the Second Lake group, has been completed. No development activities are scheduled under the other land use classifications which would endanger the archaeological sites.

MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

Property vandalism is a costly and recurring problem on this heavily used property. The shelter house, toilets and trail barricades have been damaged repeatedly. Off-road vehicle use has frequently occurred on the prairie side of Third Lake. The nature and use of the area requires enforcement patrols similar to that of parks enforcement. Additional law enforcement efforts will be pursued through funding requests.

Property management is vested under Fish Management but maintenance has been shared by both Fish Management and Perrot Park. Neither is adequately budgeted to maintain the area properly. Road maintenance has been occasionally donated by Trempealeau township.

The road extending from Second Lake to private lands east of the property has been used primarily for property service and for access to the field north of Third Lake. It is frequently used under wet conditions when it could be gated to prevent damage. Frequent gating will restrict private access.

Eutrophication resulting in heavy aquatic plant growths and siltation restricts boating and hinders fishability for part of the year, particularly on Third Lake. Dredging has been proposed by some local residents and groups. An Inland Lake Renewal District was formed and a preliminary feasibility study was conducted. The Inland Lake Renewal District included Second, Third, and Round Lakes. Local interest remains high to complete the proposed lake restoration. The achievement of lake restoration will depend upon the close cooperation of various local groups and federal, state, county, and township governments.

The Trempealeau Lakes Lake Renewal District involves a much more extensive area than just the lakes considered in this master plan. Thus, any substantial actions proposed by the Lake District will require a separate and distinct environmental assessment.

Waterfowl nesting development has not been fully achieved. Prairie development and a few more nest boxes are needed.

Recreation Needs and Justifications

According to the 1977 Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Plan, surface water resources in Wisconsin's Region 12, which includes Buffalo, Trempealeau and Jackson Counties, contains less than 1% of the state's total surface water area. Ninety-five percent of the region's surface waters are contained in the Mississippi River of which the Trempealeau Lakes are a part. The plan states that access to waters is needed and the need to accommodate increased fishing participation in the region is apparent. The Trempealeau Lakes property is helping to serve both needs. The property is located less than 20 miles upriver from LaCrosse and Onalaska, 2 major population centers in west central Wisconsin. Perrot Park and at least 2 resorts catering mainly to fishermen are located within 1 mile of the property. Annual recreation user days have not been documented for the property but frequent observations indicate it receives between 3,600 and 7,300 user days annually.

An Analysis of Alternatives

Status Quo: This alternative would require that no future significant upland development or habitat manipulation be accomplished on the property. Partial lake dredging would be considered as a maintenance function. Primary activities would include maintenance of parking facilities, winter removal of poor quality but mature bottomland hardwoods, litter pick up, road, boat ramp, toilet and shelter maintenance, mowing and posting. Firewood permits would be issued as a maintenance aid in removing hazardous dead trees when needed. This alternative would result in maintenance of current user levels or maintain facilities for slightly higher use. The archaeological sites would remain intact. The prairie would be maintained with periodic burning. Approximately 25 wood duck houses could be constructed to supplement natural nesting areas, possibly with the assistance of local sportsmen's clubs.

Expand Property or Further Development: Additional acquisition is possible but not recommended for the following reasons:

1. The current property owned is serving the purposes for which it was acquired.
2. Lands acquired along the Mississippi would involve developed frontage.
3. Most of the lands lying downstream from the property are in the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and already open to the public.
4. Additional boat access sites are located on Round Lake and Long Lake, also within one mile of the property.
5. Expansion downstream to Mud Lake would involve acquisition of developed upland adjacent to federally owned lands.
6. Acquisition to the north and east would involve cropland or bottomlands which are not essential for water access, fishing or boating.

Further development of the existing property is not feasible. Loss of prairie and timber plantations would be required to again attempt sharecropping or develop other use areas.

Development within the floodplain and bottomland hardwoods is not feasible due to strict floodplain regulations.

Sell or Transfer Property Ownership:

Proposals to convey the property to Trempealeau County or transfer jurisdiction to Parks and Recreation have been considered in the past. County ownership would relieve the Department of development and maintenance costs and with certain stipulations, the property would remain public.

Transferring management to Parks would create a possible expansion area for Perrot Park, thus relieving Fish Management of development and maintenance costs. Expansion of camping facilities would be limited by natural features to the prairie area of the property and the archaeological sites.

Portions of the property could be sold, such as the terrace area adjacent to Third Lake. This option would result in private development within the existing ownership boundary and would cause a loss of the prairie, duck nesting habitat, and portions of the archaeology sites.

The entrance road and trail system could be taken over by the town of Trempealeau and developed as a town road. This would eliminate the Department's maintenance costs and would provide year-round access to cottage owners on Mud Lake. This option would not seriously detract from the property's management but is dependent on the Township's willingness to invest in the development of maintenance of approximately 1.6 miles of road.

Reduce Management:

The Trempealeau Lakes Fishery Area has been developed to a relatively high level and annual maintenance is now necessary to achieve the desired results. Curtailment of maintenance activities would save money at least temporarily and would reduce use of the area. Public criticism and complaints could be expected.

Recommended Alternative Action:

The Trempealeau Lakes Fishery Area is unique as a fish and wildlife property in that it closely resembles many developed park areas. Future development options are limited by property size, location, topography of the area, and water level fluctuations of the Mississippi River. Alternative number one (Status Quo) is the most feasible management alternative at this time. Increased maintenance funds will be necessary to continue the cooperative management responsibilities of Fish Management and Parks. Current development activities, if maintained, will assure long-range public benefits and continue to meet the goals and objectives of this property.

0485D

Appendix - Comments by outside reviewing agencies

Comments were received from several outside reviewing agencies and persons. Their comments, and DNR responses where necessary are included in this appendix to the master plan.

Wild Resources Advisory Council and Scientific Areas Preservation Council had no comments on this master plan.

Robert G. Fisher, Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission,
La Crosse, WI 54601.

We have reviewed the Master Plan for the Trempealeau Lakes Fishery Area, We support the continued maintenance of water access sites in Second and Third Lakes, and elsewhere along the river where it is compatible with total resource management needs. The Regional Planning Commission recognizes the importance of water-based recreation and its relation to general tourism promotion as an aid to economic development.

The Commission has recently completed an inventory of public recreational, cultural, and scientific amenities along the Great River Road. This inventory pulls together pieces of information and, hopefully, portrays in one document major public recreation facilities along the road. the Trempealeau Lakes Fishery Area is one of these.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment upon this Master Plan.

George Walski, Chairman, Town of Trempealeau, Rt. 1, Galesville, WI 54630.

Page 12. The Town of Trempealeau would be against the sale or transfer of property ownership. The Town is unwilling to invest in additional road maintenance.

DNR Response: Thank you for your comments. The proposal to sell or transfer was one of four possible management alternatives considered. The recommended action proposed in the plan does not recommend this alternative.

Page 10. Management Problems: A more efficient procedure for paying the town for road work must be accomplished. At present, the information and substantiation of work done requires more time and effort than is reasonably required. The Town has no secretarial or other full time help. Generally, this area is extensively used by the public and should be given preference over the Tamarack area.

DNR Response: Work done on the property must be mutually agreed upon in advance between the Township and the manager. Payment of less than \$100.00 simply required a bill from the Township to the manager. Projects over \$100.00 require the manager to obtain a field order to cover the expenses prior to the work being done. Again, the bill is submitted to the manager. Every attempt will be made by the Department to reimburse the Township as soon as possible. The Department agrees the property receives heavy recreation use and should be given a high priority for maintenance and development funding.

Additionally, the manager has several of these properties and is very short-handed as relates to manpower and budget.

Frank Grupa, President, Trempealeau Sportsmans Club, Rt. 1, Trempealeau, WI 54661.

Page 2. Sounds like a good idea to dredge section of the lakes. Also, the use of a weed cutter and aquacides to get rid of the weeds in the lakes.

DNR Response: Thank you for your interest and support. Agree

Section 1: It's necessary to keep up the maintenance of the roads and facilities, otherwise they will deteriorate to the point of no return.

DNR Response: Agree. Additional requested funding will be necessary to maintain this high use area.

Leonard Ambrose, Property Owner, Mud Lake, 829 S. 19th Street, La Crosse, WI 54601.

Renovation of Second and Third Lakes for better fishing should be a number one concern. There are very few places in the State of Wisconsin where a person can fish off the bank and not need a boat to catch fish. This can be done on Second and Third Lakes. A canal should be cut through on the upper end of Third Lake over to Second Lake, a bridge placed over it and the canal rip-rapped (no culvert). This would improve fishing on Second Lake.

DNR Response: The two bodies of water are connected now. It is doubtful if another connection will improve the fishing in Second Lake. This proposal is not considered a feasible alternative at this time.

As a property owner on Mud Lake by doing nothing you insure my privacy which is one reason I bought the property in the first place, so go ahead and do nothing.

DNR Response: The "do nothing" proposal was one of four management alternatives considered. It was not selected as the recommended management action.

William F. Cornell, Trempealeau Sportsman Club, Mount Trempealeau Corporation, 432 S. 21st. Street, La Crosse, WI 54601.

Goal, Pg. 1 - Restoration of these fresh water lakes should be primary goal since man's poor stewardship of the area has led to this present condition.

Since this property is controlled by fishery personnel, it would seem to me that the improvement of fishery habitat would be foremost in this plan.

DNR Response: During the second public meeting at Trempealeau, this proposal was thoroughly discussed and the citizens informed that the dredging proposal is a number three priority as proposed by Wisconsin's GREAT plan for all of Wisconsin's proposed Mississippi River projects.

Page 2. While these lakes do bound on the Mississippi backwaters, they are unique in the fact that they are fresh water with a flow toward the Mississippi. Their value was recognized hundreds of years ago, as attested to by the known Indian cultures that used the area as a permanent camp area.

DNR Response: Agree. Again, this statement was discussed in detail with the group at the second meeting at Trempealeau. A portion of the plan was re-written to reflect the local citizen's input.

Page 5. It is somewhat disturbing to me that production of white pine is set forth as a good management practice. In my opinion, the only thing that lives in a pine plantation is red squirrels and blue jays. It is interesting to note there was no mention of the failure to establish wild plants and other tree species on this same plot several years ago. Recent conversations also shows that the white pine are not doing that well either. I am cognizant of the fact that pine plantings offer a renewable resource, however, it is not without some loss to the area's natural habitat.

DNR Response: The plan is an attempt to have a balance of management actions for fish, wildlife and forestry. The two sites selected were recommended by Department foresters as having a unusually high site index potential for white pine. The remainder of the property will be managed predominantly for fish and wildlife. The white pines are expected to provide wildlife cover for approximately 15 to 20 years before the trade-off from wildlife to forest products occurs. Trade offs frequently must occur on Department properties in order to have a balanced management program.

The lakes within your plan are part of the Trempealeau Lakes, Lake District and there has been extensive work done on the preliminary planning and studies of this area. Your office of Inland Lake Renewal has been involved on the start- why is this work not part of your master plan?

DNR Response: The Lake District included an area much more extensive than the Trempealeau Lakes property. The preliminary feasibility study is not required in the Department's Master Plan format. This information will surely be used when a detailed plan is formulated by GREAT for the proposed dredging.

I feel recent meetings with Jim Talley and Geoff Emerson have given local groups a chance for input into the plan. I hope that continued cooperation will prevail and that we will see the long overdue restoration of these beautiful lakes come to pass.

DNR Response: Thank you. Agree.