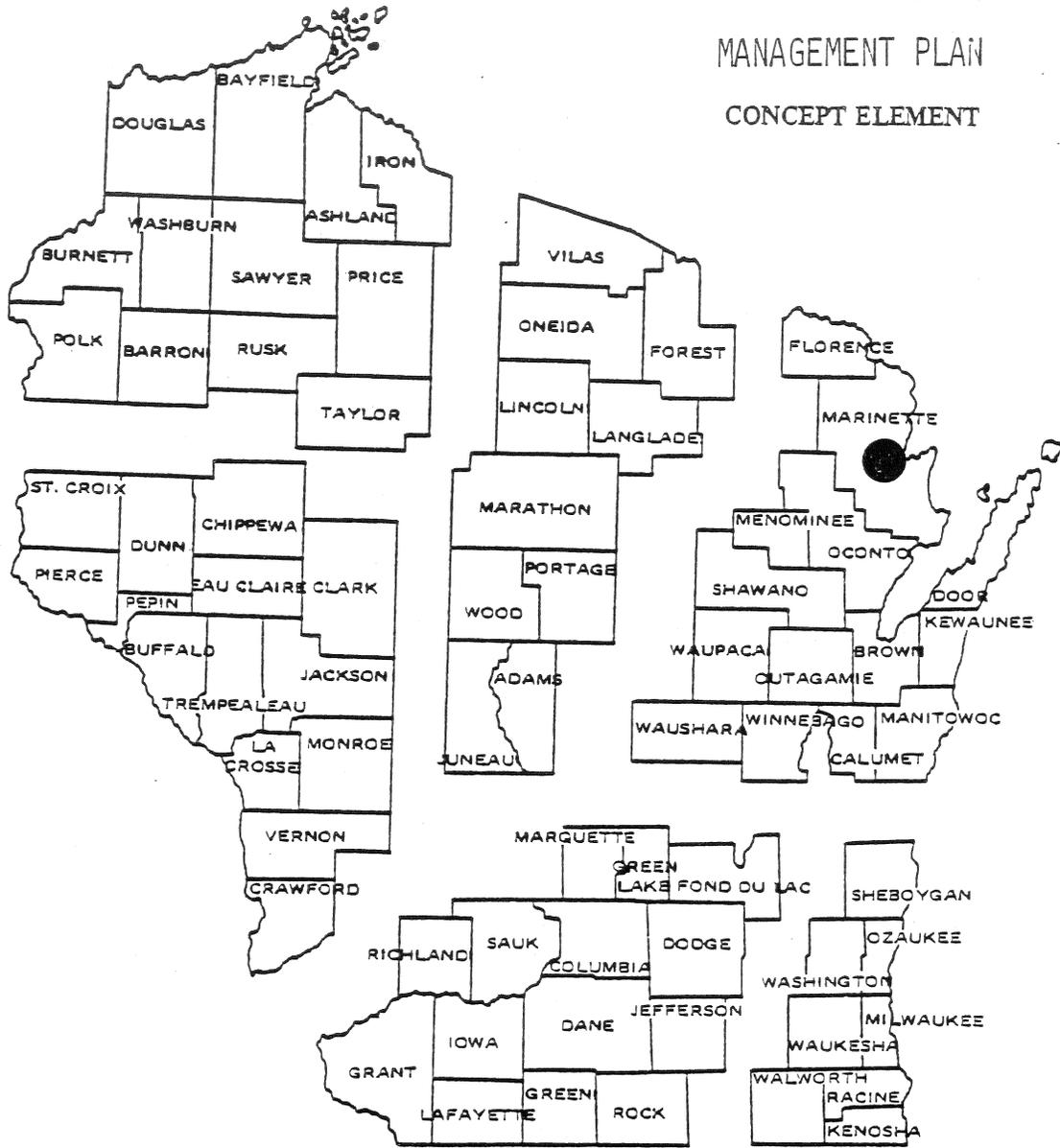


LAKE NOQUEBAY WILDLIFE AREA  
 MANAGEMENT PLAN  
 CONCEPT ELEMENT



Property Task Force

Leader - LEROY LINTEREUR - WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT  
 MILTON BURDICK - FISH MANAGEMENT  
 ROBERT COOK - FORESTRY

Approved by *James R. Huntington*

4-28-81  
 Date



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Lake Noquebay Wildlife Area is located on the eastern end of Lake Noquebay in the Town of Lake, Marinette County (Figure 1). It lies 23 miles northwest of the City of Marinette and 64 miles north of Green Bay. It is the easternmost segment of the lake and also encompasses a series of beaver meadows formed over millennia along the upper inlet. The upper inlet itself is an outlet for a series of lakes which lie to the northeast.

It was surely the locus of Indian activity. The name itself is probably a transliteration of Baye des Noques, a body of water on the northern end of Green Bay which in turn received its name from a tribe of Indians, Les Noquettes, a subtribe of Menominee.

The property is surrounded by Marinette County forest cropland and past management has been aimed at forest wildlife species on the uplands (white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, and snowshoe hare), and wetland species in the lowlands (ducks, geese and muskrats).

On April 1, 1960, the 1,300 acre Lake Noquebay Wildlife Area was received from Marinette County in a land exchange. No further land acquisition has occurred and the acreage ownership within the approved boundary is considered complete (Figure 2).

The first management was initiated on this area in 1963 when a flowage of 500 acres was constructed (Figure 3). By agreement with the county, about half of the flowage area inundates county lands adjoining the wildlife area. The following year, a smaller flowage of 60 acres was constructed on a feeder to the upper inlet. In 1967, a system of trails with lateral openings was established. Major developments ended with these improvements and, since then, management has consisted of maintenance and minor modification.

Several attempts were made to develop small potholes with the use of ammonium nitrate fertilizer. In general, the attempts failed because of the nature of the substrate and no further attempts were made; waterfowl management is limited. Impounded water originates from a series of acid lakes and conifer swamps upstream. The water is stained and not considered very productive for aquatic emergents or submergent vegetation.

Prior to the installation of the main dike and water control structure at Lake Noquebay Wildlife Area, fish (primarily northern pike) moved from Lake Noquebay upstream to the upper lakes to spawn. Other species, such as suckers, may also have moved upstream but no verification exists. The installation of the dam precluded upstream movement but surveys conducted from 1975 through 1979 indicate natural northern pike reproduction continues and provides sufficient fish to meet angling needs.

A snowmobile trail maintained by the county transverses the west segment of the wildlife area. It has been compatible with winter wildlife use and its presence and use is widely approved and accepted by the public. A system of monitoring has been established to insure compliance to land use agreement rules and cooperation obtained from local clubs has been excellent.

Cross-country skiing, a growing activity in this region, is allowed on the wildlife area and has been compatible with other use activities occurring throughout the property. However, because of state liability concerns and because budget constraints have precluded frequent supervision, no trail designation is given to cross-country skiing.

### GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND OTHER BENEFITS

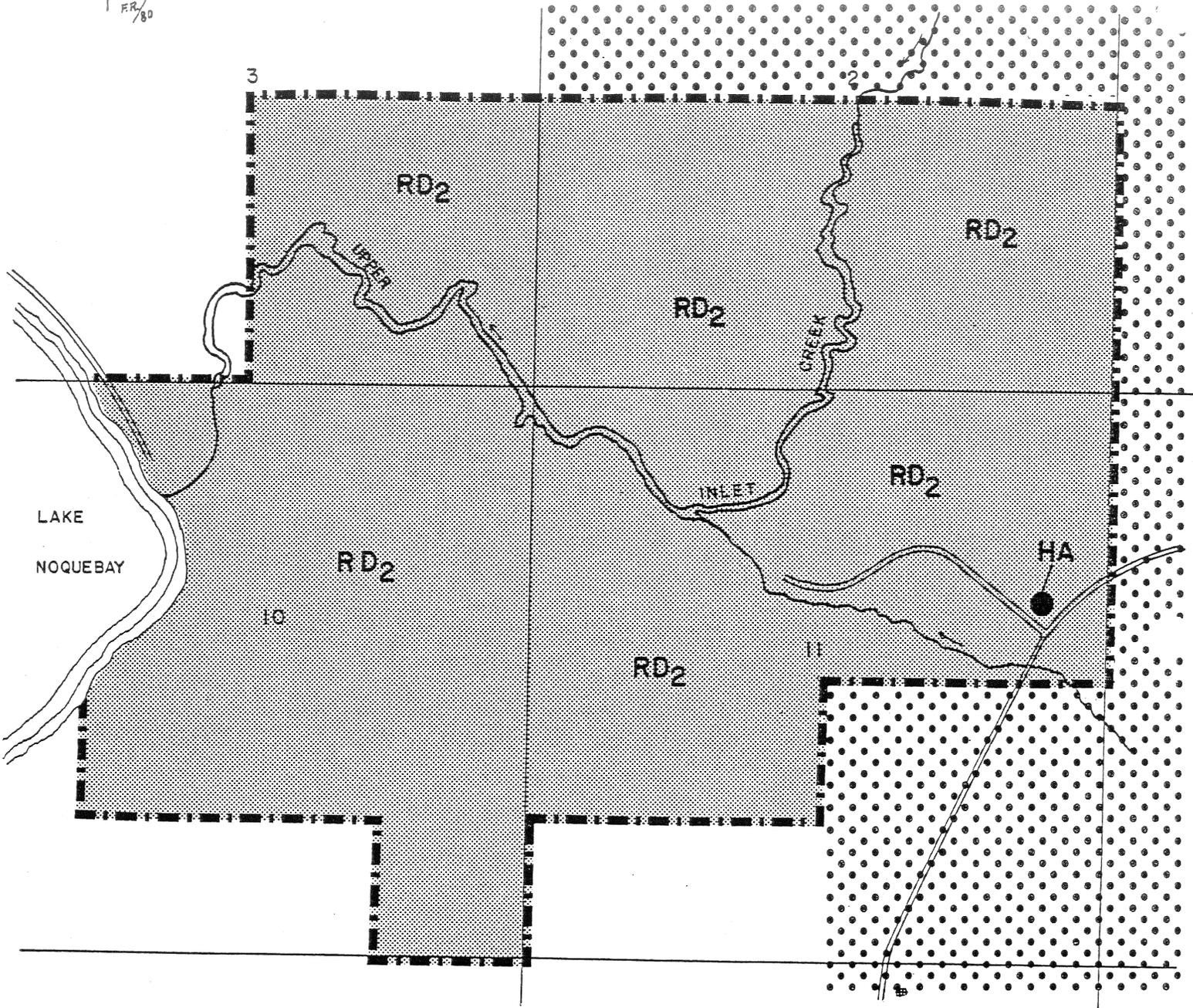
GOAL: To manage a state-owned Wildlife area for the benefit of wildlife and compatible recreation.

ANNUAL OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide 600 participant days of hunting and trapping activity including:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Participant Days</u>
a. Waterfowl	150
b. Deer (gun and bow)	225
c. Ruffed Grouse	100
d. Furbearers	75
e. Other Game	50

2. Protect a 2-acre archaeological site for aesthetic, scientific and education purposes.
3. Provide opportunities for 500 participant days of snowmobiling recreation associated with the county trail system.



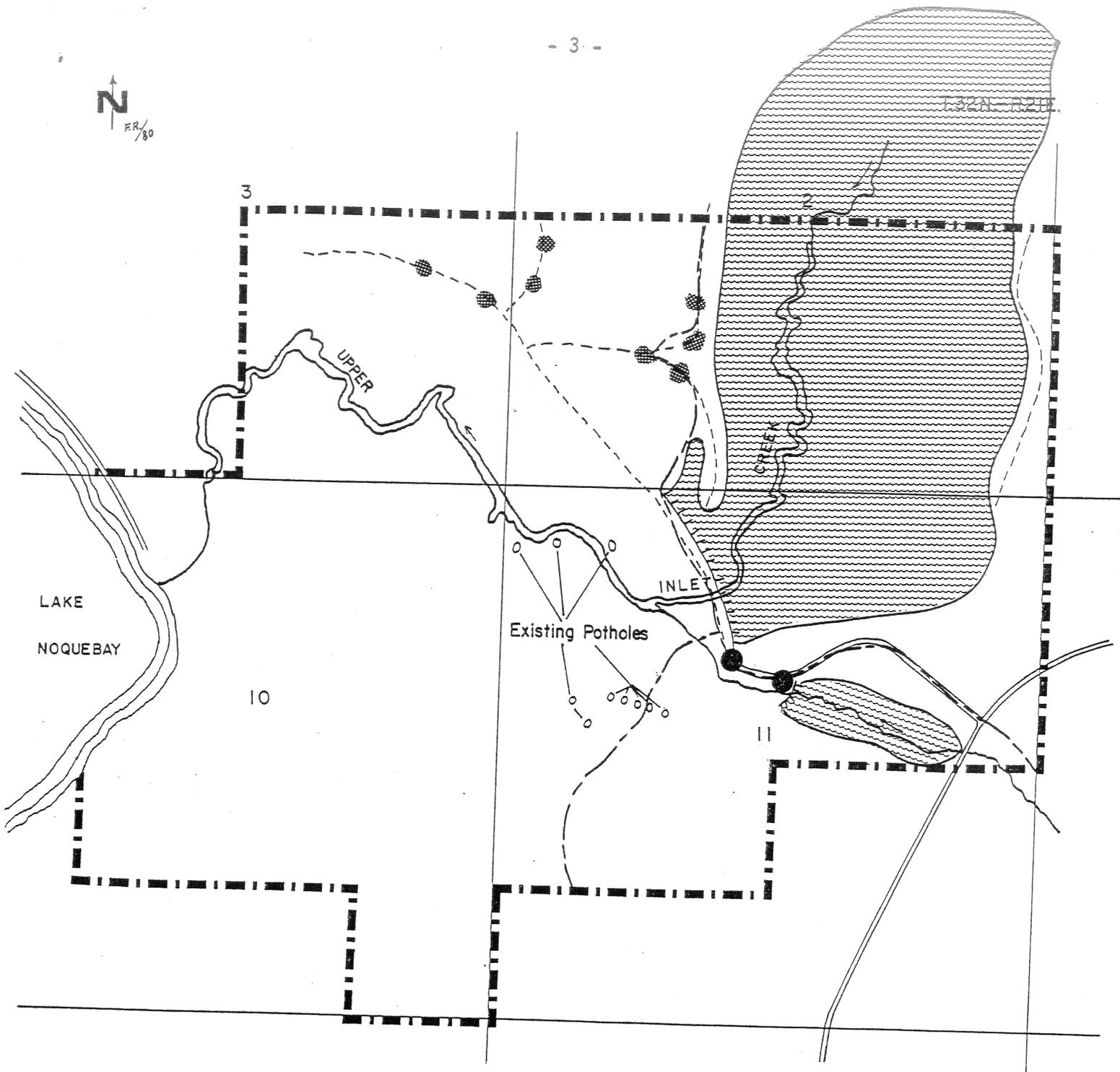
# LAKE NOQUEBAY WILDLIFE AREA

Scale 1"=1320'

Figure 2. Property Ownership and Land Use Classification Map.

### LEGEND

- Property Boundary - - - - -
- State Land - - - - -
- County Land - - - - -
- Private Land - - - - -
- Potential Historical & Archaeological Area - - - - - HA
- Fish & Wildlife Management Area - - - - - RD<sub>2</sub>



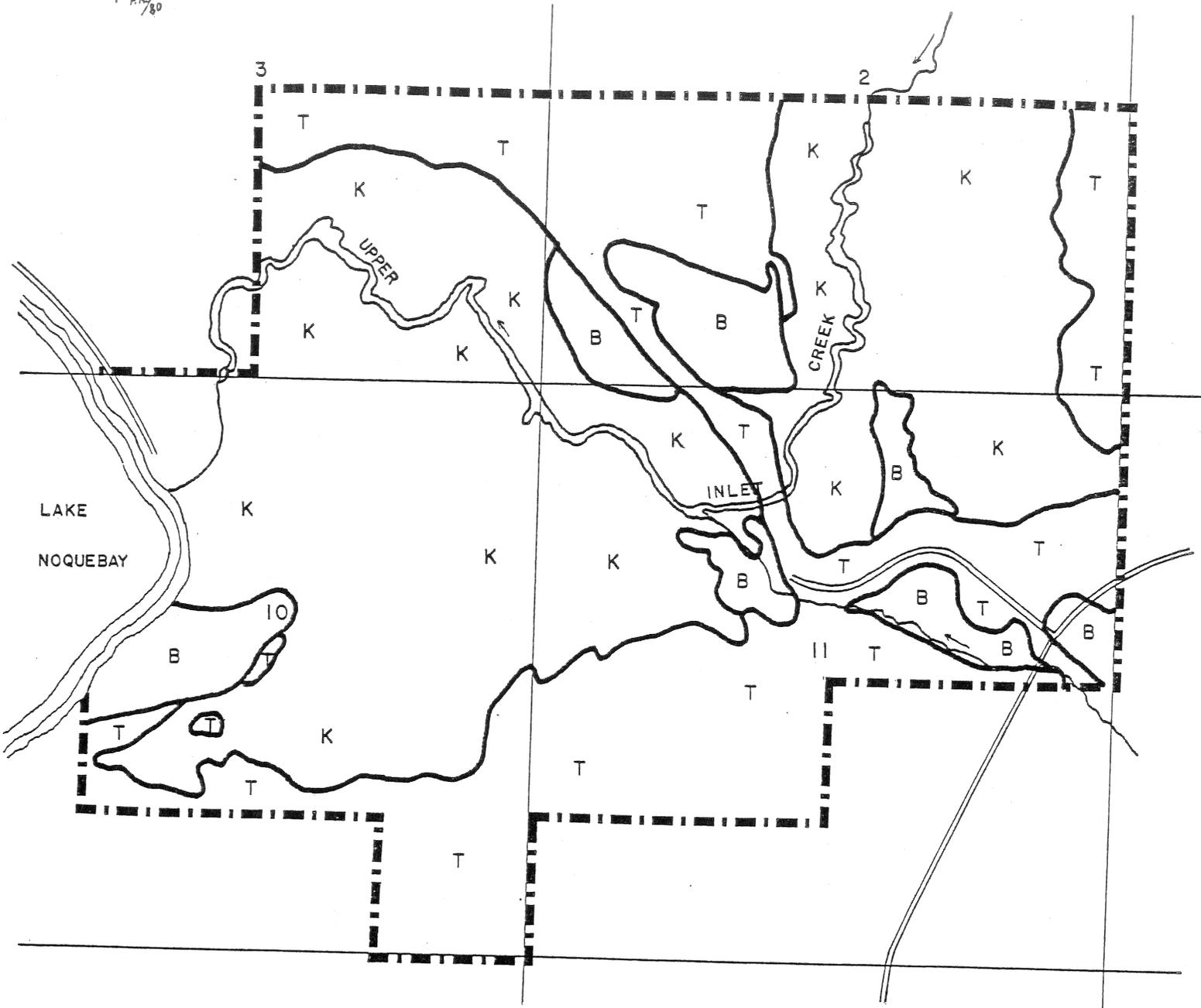
# LAKE NOQUEBAY WILDLIFE AREA

Scale 1" : 1320'

Figure 3. Existing and Planned Development Map.

### LEGEND

- Property Boundary ———— 
- Existing Parking & Access Area ———— 
- Existing Hunter Walking Trails ———— 
- Existing Dike ———— 
- Existing Grass-Covered Openings ———— 
- Existing Flowage ———— 
- Existing Snowmobile Trail ———— 



# LAKE NOQUEBAY WILDLIFE AREA

Scale 1" : 1320'

Figure 4. General Cover Map.

### LEGEND

- Property Boundary - - - - -
- Timber - - - - - T
- Brush - - - - - B
- Marsh - - - - - K

ANNUAL ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:

1. Accommodate 250 participant days of compatible recreation and education including hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, nature observation and photography.
2. Contribute to the habitat of migratory, endangered and threatened species as well as migratory and resident nongame species.
3. Harvest available forest products consistent with property objectives.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Development management has been carried to the maximum on Lake Noquebay Wildlife Area. As it exists today, it is a productive wildlife property. Except for a potential 2-acre archaeological site, the entire property should be designated as a Fish and Wildlife Management Area - RD<sub>2</sub>. No further development will be needed in the foreseeable future.

Existing facilities are illustrated in Figure 3. Management should be focused on maintaining the participant day use stated in the goal and objectives. Maintenance of user facilities (parking lot, property sign and trail mowing) will be ongoing activities.

The property boundary, delineating 1,300 acres in the Lake Noquebay Wildlife Area, should remain unchanged and acquisition should be considered completed.

As money and time become available, endangered and threatened species inventories should be conducted on Lake Noquebay Wildlife Area. In addition, because of the presence of artifacts, it is very likely a Native American archaeological site exists on the property. The Department of Natural Resources will work in concert with the State Historical Society in an attempt to evaluate the potential of this site. The location shown in Figure 2 is approximate.

Only 30% of the 1,300 acre property area is commercial forest, most of which is located along the perimeters of the wildlife area.

<u>Cover Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Cedar	151
Northern Hardwoods	87
Aspen	147
Alder	97
Water	35
Emergent Vegetation	786
Rock Outcrop/Sand Dune	1
Total:	<u>1,304</u>

Management of the 385 acres of forest lands will be in accordance with standard forestry guidelines and based on the Forest Reconnaissance completed in 1978. Timber sales will be designed to maximize wildlife benefits.

Current angling exists along the main dam, both in the flowage (bullheads) and in the river channel below the dam (northern pike and bullheads). No management work is recommended for fishing except for minor maintenance of erosion occurring in the vicinity of the dam.

No general timetable is necessary for this property. Management will consist of maintenance type activities and should be continued as long as user activities remain relatively high.

APPENDIX

Master Plan Comments

Wild Resources Advisory Council (WRAC)  
Henry Kolka  
August 11, 1980

General Review Summary

The WRAC was not supportive of an abbreviated format for Master Plans. The limited information provided by the Management Plan document leaves too many questions unanswered.

DNR RESPONSE: The wildlife area is categorized as a "maintenance" type property requiring very little management. The limited output objectives provided by the wildlife area does not warrant detailed planning information.

Specific Modifications

The WRAC recommended several text changes including education and photography additional benefits, archaeological site identification, species listing, flowage classification and figure entries.

DNR RESPONSE: The text has been modified to satisfy most comments. Species listings were avoided for the reasons cited above.

The State Historical Society  
Historic Preservation Division  
Richard W. Dexter  
April 21, 1980

General Review Summary

The Compliance Coordinator found no objection to the proposed management strategy and recommended site examination by a qualified archaeologist.

DNR RESPONSE: Concur; coordination will occur during annual work planning.

# Master Plan Variance Approval

(for master plans approved prior to 1997)

**Property Name:** Lake Noquebay Wildlife Area

**Date Master Plan was Approved:** 1981

**Variance to the Master Plan** (The specific language addition or change in the master plan is to be written below, include appropriate maps):

Page 1

Add to Annual Objectives

*4. Establish a 662-acre northern sedge meadow as a State Natural Area to focus education and research opportunities.*

Page 5

Under Recommended Management and Development Program

Delete the third sentence and replace with: Except for the potential 2-acre archeological site and the state natural area, the remainder of the property is designated fish and wildlife management area – RD2.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

*Laurie J. Stenderop*

Administrator, Division of Land

Date: *3/18/08*

Variance Initiator/Author;

Randy Hoffman - SNA Program

Supporting Approvals

Thomas J. Watts

Date; 9-21-07

Department Master Planning Manager, LF

John Huff

Date; 07 MAR 07

Property Manager

Jean-Louise B. Bels

Date; 12.21.07

Land Leader or Area Leader

Program Bureau Director,

Matthew [Signature] for Tom Hause

Date; 12/12/07

Program Bureau Director,

Others with a special interest;

Signe L. Holtz

12/10/07

Date;

\_\_\_\_\_

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

**Purpose and Need for the Proposed Variance** (include background and history as appropriate): A statewide GAP analysis of the State Natural Areas Program indicated the need to establish northern sedge meadows in the Northern Lake Michigan ecological landscape as sites. The northern sedge meadow contains a diverse composition that meets the criteria for establishment as a State Natural Area. The designation would focus research and educational activities on the site without compromising the traditional hunting, fishing and trapping uses. In addition, the designation would more easily accommodate joint management (Wildlife Management and Natural Areas Management) to maintain the natural communities and remove invasive exotic species.

**Anticipated Primary Benefits of the Proposed Variance:** The designation gives the site statewide recognition of its natural features. State Natural Areas are unique in that they can exist as stand alone properties or be designated within the boundaries of another property type. The designation helps the State Natural Areas Program achieve statewide representation of northern sedge meadow without expending acquisition dollars. A management plan focused on the ecological requirements of the State Natural Area would provide guidance for work planning and grant writing.

**Additional Anticipated Benefits:** Cooperative management of invasive species eases the burden on any one program. The State Natural Areas Program would coordinate educational, research, and monitoring activities.

**Unavoidable Adverse Impacts:** None known. All uses presently permitted on the property would continue.

**Compatibility with Statutes, Codes and Department Policies:** State Natural Areas can be designated on any state property without changing the primary purposes of the property.

**Federal Aid Limitations** (cite if any federal aid moneys are involved with either acquisition or management of the property and whether the proposed plan variance is compatible with the aid requirements):

Land purchase through Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson, LAWCON, ORAP, or any other known federal, and federal management grants are compatible with State Natural Areas designation.

**How the Master Plan Supports the Proposed Variance** (cite how the proposed variance is consistent with the provisions of the master plan): The Master Plan recognized the need for managing the property for educational opportunities. This variance would recognize additional research and educational benefits without compromising traditional uses.

**The Public Review Process Used** (summary of who was notified about the proposal or otherwise reviewed the proposal and the meetings, mailings and other techniques used): A statewide Class 3 press release was issued that described the overall variance process. Twenty-eight attachments of each variance packet were added for the local press to use. Each attachment contained a description of the site, its natural values and proposed use. The public was asked to comment on the proposals to the local property manager or to a central statewide number.

**Description of the Support and/or Opposition to the Proposed Variance (including reasons for the various positions taken) and Any Unresolved Issues or Concerns:**

No comments received.

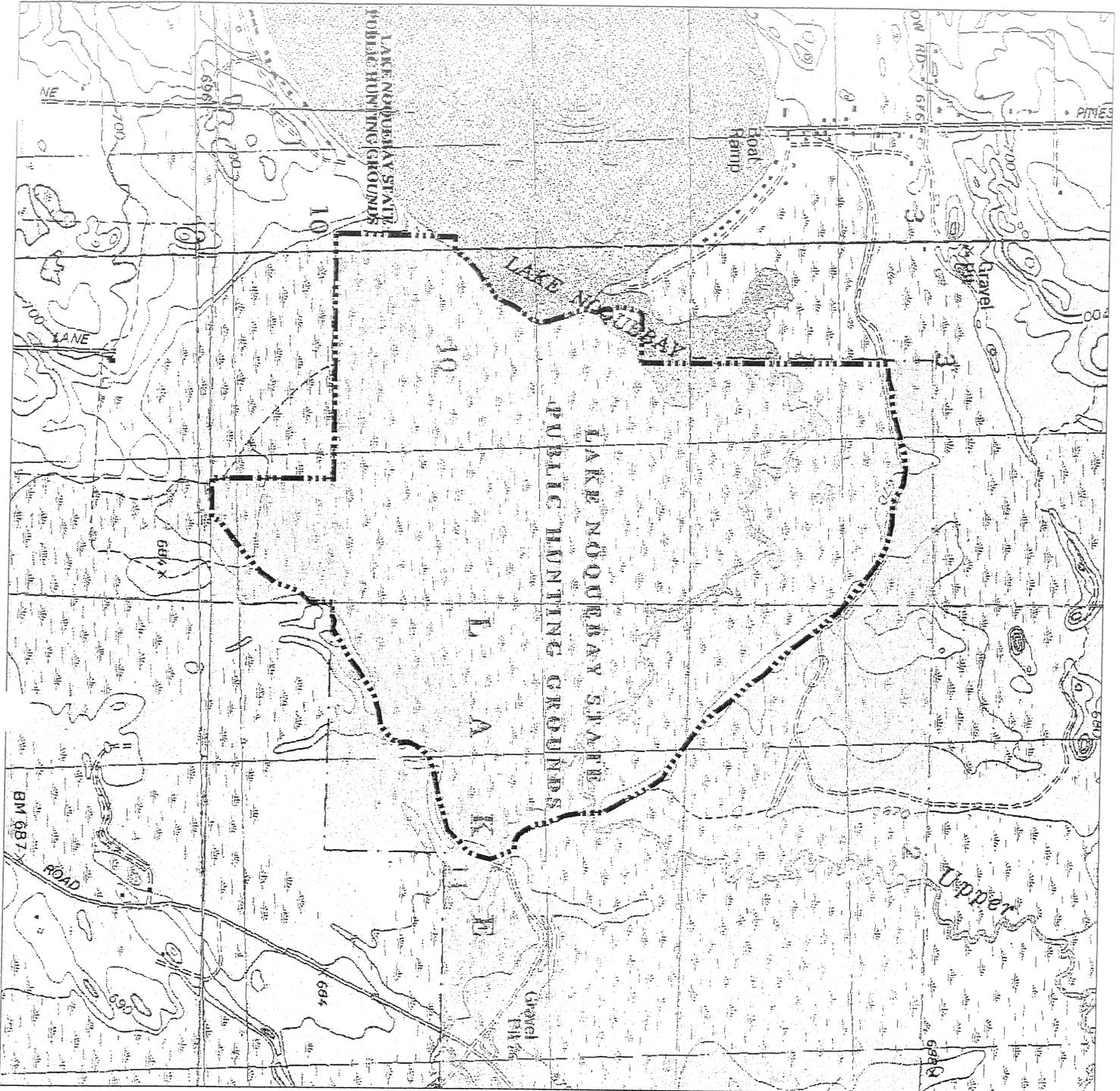
## Lake Noquebay Sedge Meadow

Long-term Goal: Have a functioning, species diverse, sedge meadow with northern wet forest. Manage the site as a sedge meadow - wet forest maintenance site using the natural disturbance patterns as key for decision-making, and an ecological reference area. The primary natural disturbance is fire. Invasive species will be mostly controlled utilizing herbicides and occasional prescribed fire. The wetlands will have ditches filled and normal hydrology restored. Augmentation of sedge meadow and wet prairie species may proceed after appropriate scientific consultation.

Permitted management activities: Removal of invasive exotic plant species, non-manipulative research, educational activities, low-impact recreation ( such as hunting, fishing, and trapping), and maintenance of any existing facilities.

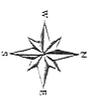
Prohibited activities: motorized vehicles (except boats), mountain bikes, horse-based recreation.

Other activities may occur pending discussion and consultation with partners, NAPC and science experts.



Lake Noyahay Sedge Meadow  
Marinette County

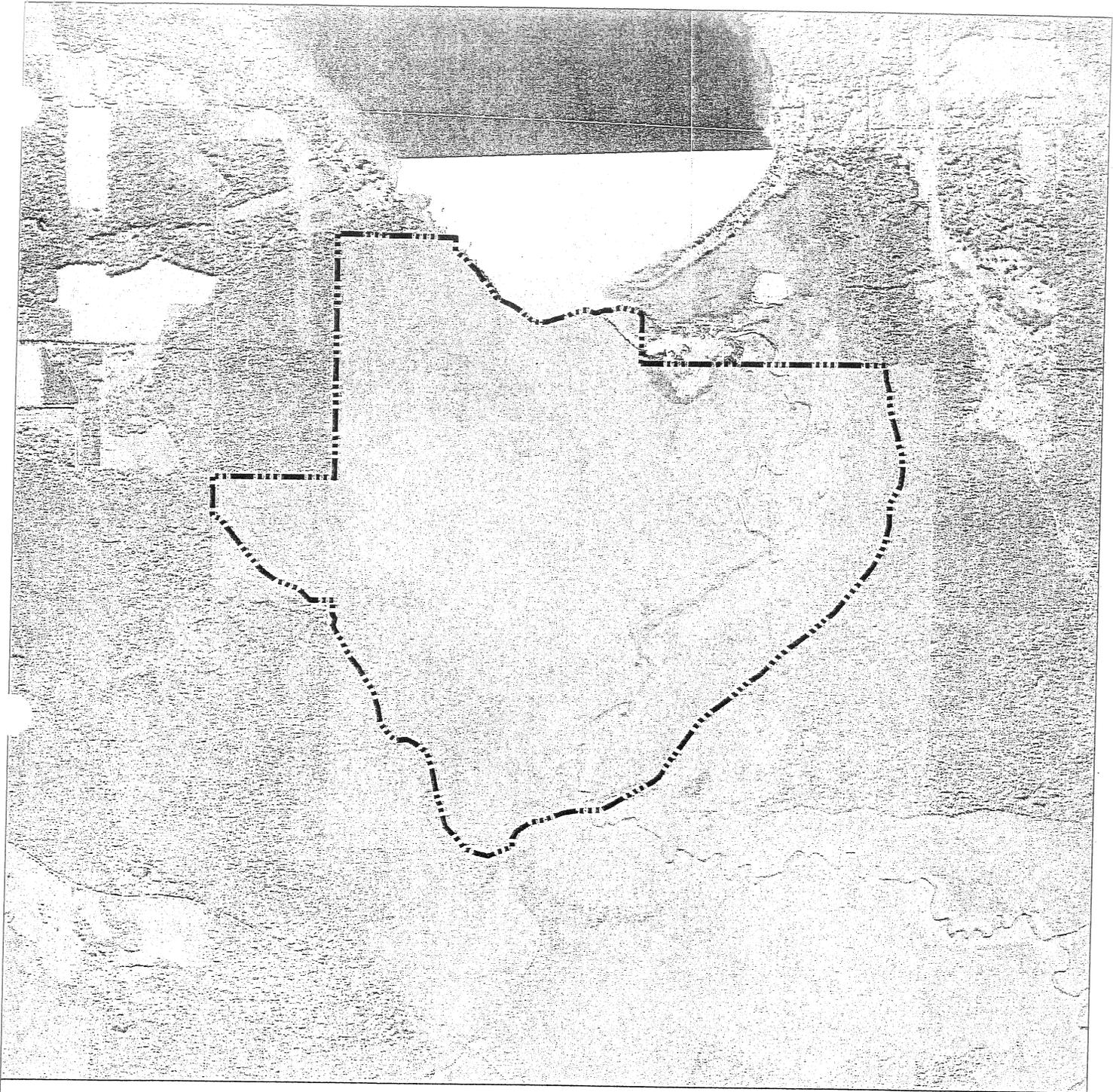
Proposed  
State Natural Area  
T32N-R21E, Sec. 2, 3, 10, 11  
662 acres



 State Natural Area  
Boundary

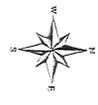
 DNR Lands





Lake Noquebay Sedge Meadow  
 Marinette County

Proposed  
 State Natural Area  
 T32N-R21E, Sec. 2, 3, 10, 11  
 662 acres



 State Natural Area  
 Boundary

 DNR Lands

