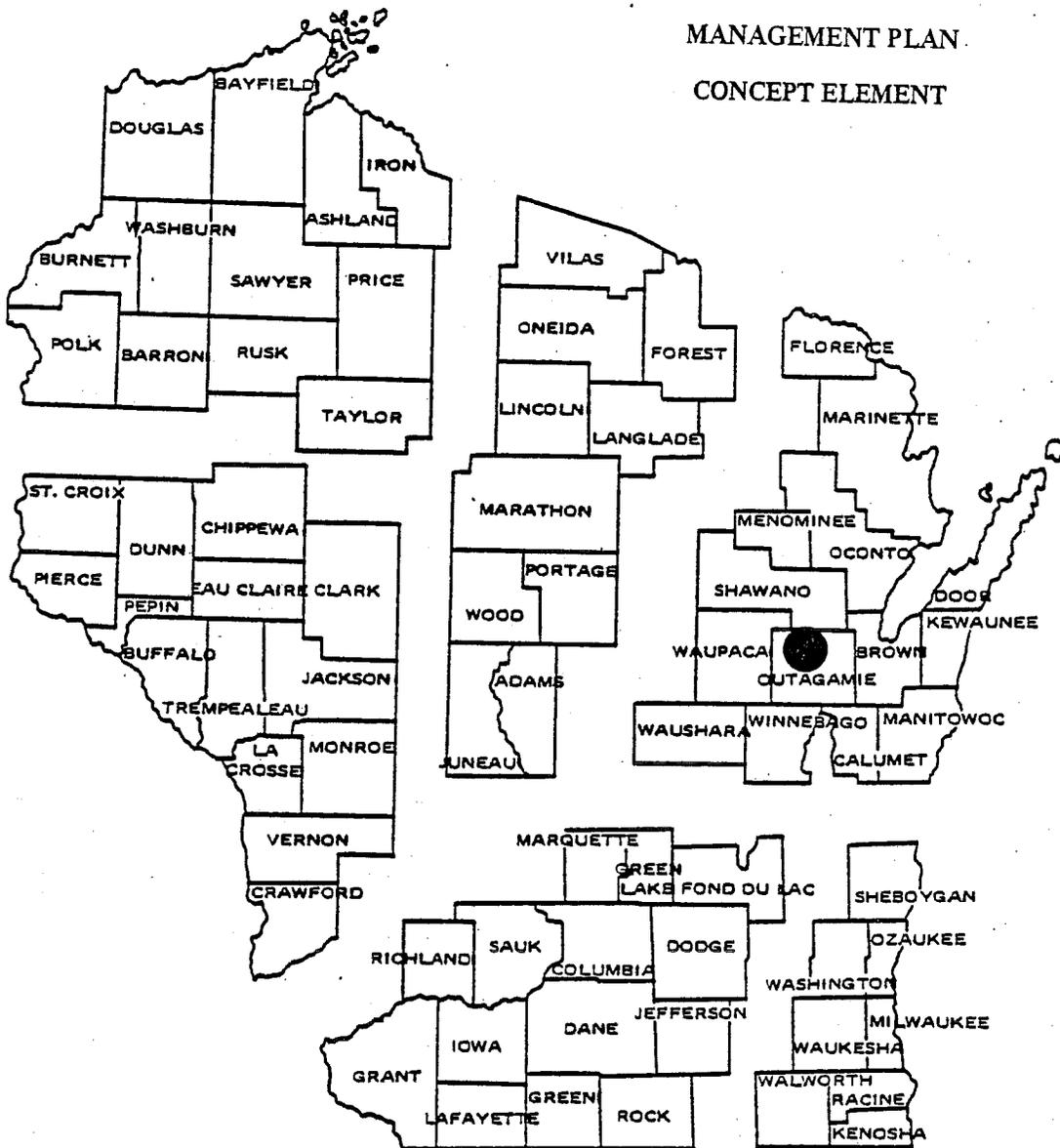


MAINE WILDLIFE AREA  
MANAGEMENT PLAN  
CONCEPT ELEMENT



Property Task Force

Leader: Dave Evenson, Wildlife Manager  
Ron Jones, Forester

Approved By: *James R. Huntington*  
Date: 11-15-83



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## MAINE WILDLIFE AREA

### SECTION I - ACTIONS GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND OTHER BENEFITS

#### Goal:

To manage a state-owned wildlife area for forest wildlife, provide public hunting and trapping as well as to accommodate other compatible recreation.

#### Annual Objectives:

Provide 550 participant-days of hunting and trapping recreation as follows:

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Participant-Days</u>
Deer (bow and gun)	300
Ruffed grouse/woodcock	100
Furbearers	50
Other game	100

#### Annual Additional Benefits:

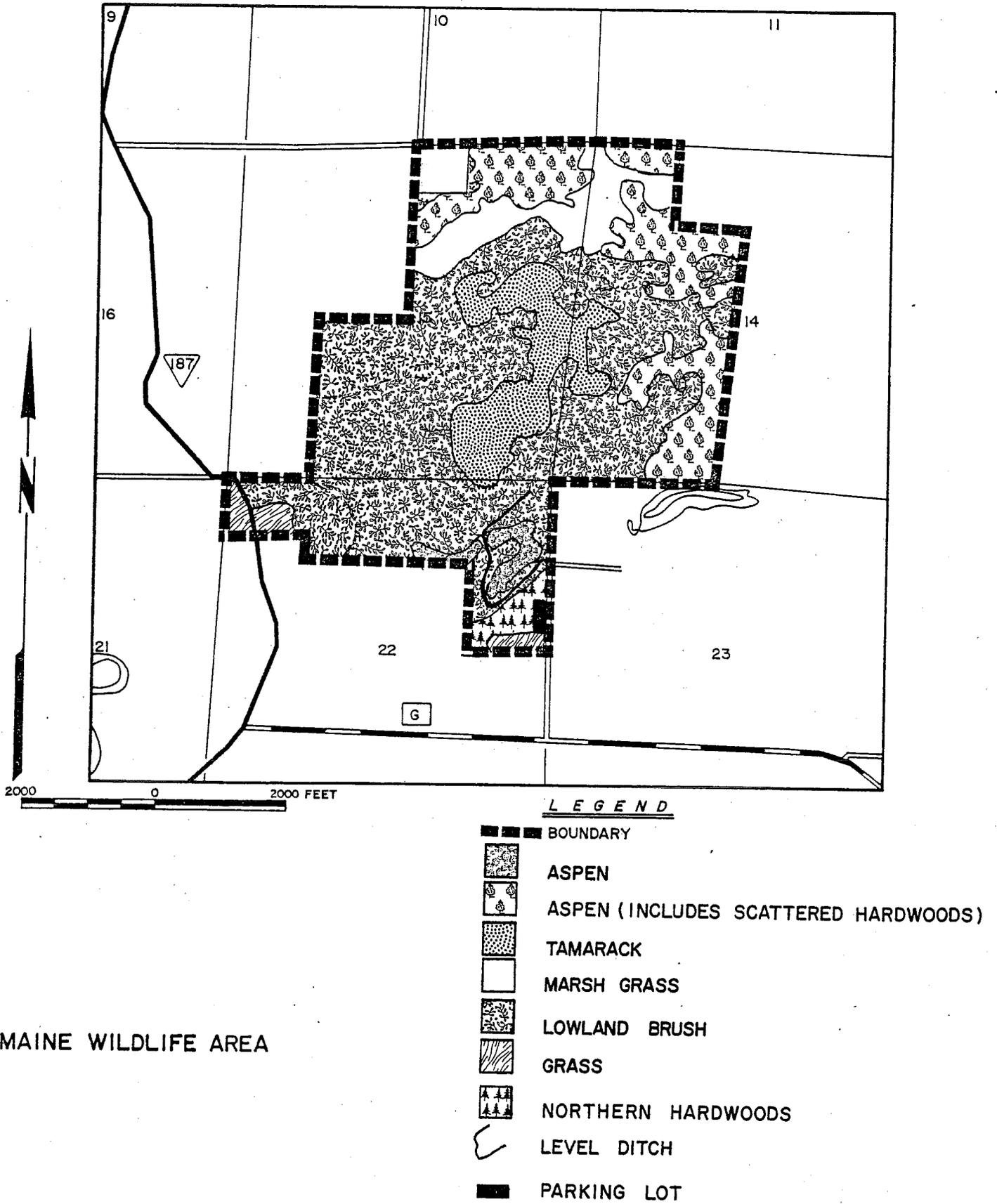
1. Accommodate about 100 participant-days of compatible recreation including cross-country skiing, hiking, berry picking, snowshoeing and nature observation.
2. Contribute to the habitat of other wildlife including migratory endangered and threatened species.

### RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT

Wildlife production will remain as the primary management objective with forest wildlife receiving emphasis. Hunting will be emphasized as the principle use, and wildlife centered non-hunting use will be encouraged. Silvicultural techniques will be used as the major tool to achieve forest wildlife management objectives, and commercial sales will be designed to maximize wildlife benefits.

Maine Wildlife Area is relatively undeveloped, and will remain so. The property will be classified as "Fish and Wildlife Management Area" (RD<sub>2</sub>) in its entirety. Future management will consist mainly of administering timber sales, posting and picking up litter in parking lots (Figure 2).

Clear cuts should be designed not to exceed 20 acres to maximize the interspersions of forest age classes. Management of the forest lands will be in accordance with the guidelines in the Silvicultural and Aesthetics Management Handbook and based on the Forest Reconnaissance completed in 1979. Emphasis should be placed on maintaining the aspen and red oak types.



MAINE WILDLIFE AREA

FIGURE 2 DEVELOPMENT AND VEGETATION

While land acquisition is considered complete because the purchase goal of 720 acres has been acquired, additional public access is needed on the northwest and southwest boundaries. As a result, an increase of 40 acres is recommended for the purchase goal and the balance of private lands removed from the purchase boundary (Figure 3).

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.

No endangered or threatened plant or animal species are known to occur on the property. 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.

All areas of future development will also be investigated for the presence or absence of historical or archaeological sites and appropriate protective measures taken to protect significant sites. Should any sites be found during development, construction will be suspended until the State Historical Preservation Office is consulted.

## SECTION - II - SUPPORT DATA

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### Physical Setting

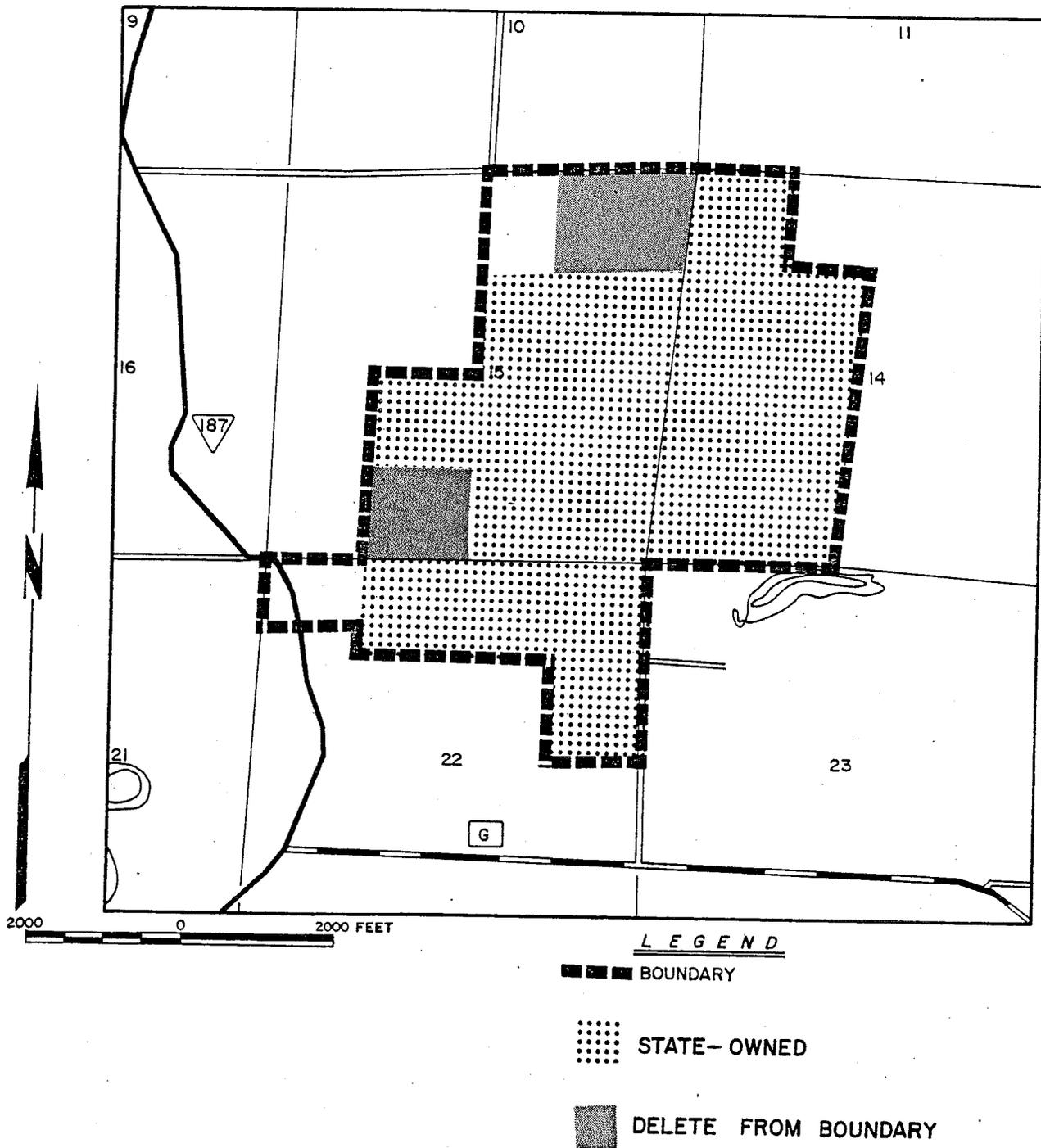
Maine Wildlife Area is located in North Central Outagamie County in the Town of Maine. The property lies 7 miles north of Shiocton and 22 miles north of Appleton (Figure 1).

The wildlife area is surrounded by privately owned farms. It lies about 2 miles east of the Wolf River to which it drains. The topography of the property is dish-shaped with a low flat center containing peat soils. Around this area are gently rolling ridges of uplands of very fine and fine sands. Lowland portions have very high water table and are nearly always wet and drainage from the area is imperfect.

Other state-owned wildlife areas offering public hunting opportunities in the county include Deer Creek (1,490 acres), Mack (1,358 acres), and Outagamie (1,000 acres).

#### Vegetation (Figure 2)

A tamarack swamp is located in the center of the lowland area. Other common lowland species include tag alder, willow, sedges, leather leaf, and poison sumac. Some cattails are found in the wettest areas. Upland acreage is primarily forested, although there are a few acres of light grassy cover.



MAINE WILDLIFE AREA

FIGURE 3 OWNERSHIP

Tree species include red oak, white birch, aspen, white ash, and white pine. These have a sparse understory of reproduction of the tree species as well as gray and red osier dogwoods, Juneberry, hazel, and willow along the wetter edges.

<u>Vegetation</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Lowland brush	452
Aspen (with scattered hardwood)	214
Tamarack	106
Grass	<u>108</u>
Total	880

### History

Acquisition in this area began in 1942 when the Conservation Commission established the property and authorized the purchase of some tax delinquent lands for public hunting and wetland protection purposes. Currently, the Department owns the entire purchase goal of 720 acres.

The only major management action which has been taken is the digging of a level ditch which connects several dug out ponds. This area is used by muskrat, mink and beaver and occasionally by waterfowl. Other management efforts have included administering timber sales and improving a parking area.

Public use of this area consists primarily of hunting and trapping. Deer hunting is the most popular sport, although the limited public access makes it a challenge. Ruffed grouse, squirrels and rabbits are also hunted and furbearers are hunted (in the case of red fox and raccoon) or trapped. No fishery is present.

### ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

1. Manage for public hunting opportunities for deer and small game. This is the recommended alternative and includes purchase of additional lands for access. Major management efforts will consist of maintaining aspen and oak types through small clear cuts. Management efforts would be aimed at ruffed grouse with additional benefits for deer.
2. Manage more intensively for waterfowl. A few dug ponds and level ditches have been created, and much of the property has a high water table suitable to this type of development. However, the water quality is poor and soils are sands or peats. It is doubtful if much waterfowl use would take place on the property even if this activity were done, and the expense would be very high. Flowages do not appear to be feasible.
3. Increase property size. The state ownership is 720 acres. Access to the property is limited to one corner at present. It would be desirable, from a public use standpoint, to purchase another parcel giving access within

the property boundary and acquisition goal. The wildlife area is bounded by private lands which are primarily agricultural and are not essential for public use or management.

4. Decrease property size, sell or trade. The property is not highly productive of wildlife and the habitat quality does not lend itself for improvement for recreational use. Therefore, it could be considered available for trade for some higher value property elsewhere in the state. Nevertheless, it does serve as public hunting area in a county which is relatively public land-poor. Other avenues of acquiring other lands should be exhausted before considering use of the wildlife area for trade.

MASTER PLAN COMMENTS

By: Forest Stearns, Chairperson  
Representing: Scientific Areas Preservation Council  
Date: August 9, 1983

We have reviewed the Maine Wildlife Area Management Plan and determined that the proposed management will not affect our program interests. We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

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

We have reviewed the Management Plan for the Maine Wildlife Area and request that you coordinate land acquisition abutting State Trunk Highway (STH) 187 with:

C. R. Ryan, Director  
Division of Transportation Districts  
944 Scenic Way  
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54304  
Telephone: (414) 497-4242

The existing right of way STH 187 is 66 feet and additional right of way may be needed at some future date to produce a total width of 100 or 120 feet when improvements become necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this Management Plan.

DNR RESPONSE: Noted.

By: Norbert Vanevenhoven  
Representing: East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission  
Date: July 7, 1983

Page 5: The statement that "Outagamie County is relatively land poor" and the fact that wetlands are disappearing leads one to the conclusion that this area should be preserved and expanded.

DNR RESPONSE: Refer to the ALTERNATIVE SECTION, page 5. The lands will be preserved and additional access will be purchased. The agricultural nature of surrounding lands precludes expansion of purchase boundaries in light of low use levels and other Department priorities.

By: Stanley A. Nichols  
Representing: U.S. Geological and Natural History Survey  
Date: August 8, 1983

This report is very brief and doesn't discuss why the area was acquired, its use (i.e., numbers of users), its relationship to other areas, etc. Therefore, it is difficult to evaluate the alternatives, especially number 4.

Also limited access points are not necessarily bad. It can be a means of limiting overuse.

DNR RESPONSE: Purpose statement added to page 5. Other state-owned wildlife areas added to text and Figure 1.

By: Henry R. Liebzeit  
Representing: Conservation Congress  
Date: August 7, 1983

The sale or trade of properties in Outagamie County is not correct (page 6). We need more lands. Access is a major problem with this property. This is the least usable property because of access both on the west and north.

DNR RESPONSE: Sale or trade of this property is a legitimate alternative if the Department had to reduce their statewide ownership to justify purchase of lands in a higher priority area while significant expansion is not possible.

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