

AMSTERDAM SLOUGHS WILDLIFE AREA

IMPLEMENTATION ELEMENT

Approved by James R. Huntton

Date 7/8/87

ACQUISITION (Figure 1)

The acquisition goal is 7,233 acres, following a boundary revision in 1980 which eliminated high value lands along the eastern edge of the property. Currently, 6,063 acres are in state ownership. Thirty one private tracts totalling 1,455 acres lie within the project boundaries. Listed below are tracts that must be acquired for development purposes; these will be acquired in fee. Tracts not listed below may be important for access or blocking purposes and should be acquired in fee or by easement as the opportunity arises. Tracts are not listed in order of priority.

TRACT 1 (40 acres) - Required for flowage development, improved water level management of Black Brook Flowage, and firebreak development.

TRACT 2 (240 acres) - Required for flowage development, dense nest cover establishment, pothole construction, and parking lot construction.

TRACT 3 (40 acres) - Required for flowage development.

TRACT 4 (40 acres) - East half of 40 is part of the Blomberg Lake Tamarack Bog, a designated Natural Area. The west half of the 40 is a proposed flowage site.

TRACT 5 (40 acres) - Required for parking lot construction and for access to the southwest portion of the property. Hunter access trail will be developed.

TRACT 6 (40 acres) - A key parcel - required for refuge establishment, firebreak construction, dense nest cover, agricultural crops, pothole construction, and for blocking. Presently under option.

TRACT 7 (40 acres) - Required for flowage development.

TRACT 8 (120 acres) - Required for flowage development.

TRACT 9 (10 acres) - Required for flowage development.

TRACT 10 (24.5 acres) - Required for flowage development, pothole construction, and parking lot construction.

TRACT 11 (5.5 acres) - Required for flowage development.

TRACT 12 (80 acres) - Required for pothole construction and dense nest cover establishment.

TRACT 13 (80 acres) - Required for flowage development, pothole construction, nest cover establishment, and parking lot and boat landing construction.

TRACT 14 (110 acres) - Required for flowage development, nest cover establishment, and pothole construction.

TRACT 15 (25 acres) - Required for flowage development, nest cover establishment, and pothole construction.

TRACT 16 (56 acres) - Required for flowage development and pothole construction.

TRACT 20 (40.6 acres) - Required for dense nest cover establishment and pothole construction. This is a high priority parcel because it has over $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of frontage on Fish Lake and contains a 5 acre pond.

TRACT 21 (160 acres) - Required for flowage and runoff pond development, firebreak construction, pothole construction and nest cover establishment.

TRACT 28 (73 acres) - A key parcel required for firebreak construction, pothole construction, dense nest cover establishment, parking lot construction, and for blocking.

DEVELOPMENT (Figure 2)

A. Flowage Construction (Objectives 2, 3, 4)

Construct 15 flowages totalling 400 acres, numbered in order of priority as follows:

1. 42 acres: scheduled for 1986
2. 19 acres: scheduled for 1986 or 1987
3. 24 acres
4. 31 acres
5. 48 acres*
6. 18 acres
7. 72 acres*
8. 13 acres*
9. 10 acres*
10. 27 acres
11. 35 acres
12. 7 acres*
13. 17 acres*
14. 51 acres*
15. 20 acres*

* Additional land control needed

B. Pothole Construction (Objectives 2, 3)

Construct or restore 100 potholes (.05 - .10 acres) within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of waterfowl brood habitat.

C. Firebreak Construction (Objectives 1, 2, 3)

Construct 20.1 additional miles of 50' to 100' wide firebreak on the uplands to facilitate prescribed burning. In addition, construct 1.7 miles of 20' wide level ditch which will connect upland segments of the firebreak system and will themselves function as firebreaks in and around the large marsh. Ditches will also improve waterfowl and furbearer habitat.

D. Public Use Facilities (Objective 3)

Construct 6 miles of combination cross county ski/hiking trail. The trail will be constructed in cooperation with the Burnett County Forestry Department and local ski clubs, who will be responsible for maintenance of the trail. The trail will be located east of Blomberg Lake.

E. Nesting Structures (Objective 4)

Install 6 osprey platforms, 2 eagle platforms, 60 great blue heron platforms, and 100 cormorant platforms. Most of these will be placed on or near Black Brook Flowage.

F. Waterfowl Closed Area (Objective 2, 3)

Establish a 560 acre closed area to provide sanctuary for waterfowl during the hunting season.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Planned maintenance activities as described are at full development.

A. Annually maintain 3.4 miles of dike and 20 water control structures.

B. Conduct water level control activities on 20 flowages impounding 900 acres of water.

C. Maintain 23 miles of firebreak by mowing and herbicides.

D. Maintain 11 parking lots, 5 boat landings, and 2.3 miles of public access roads.

E. Conduct annual maintenance of boundary, informational and closed area signs.

F. Establish and maintain boundary fences as required.

- G. Burnett County will annually maintain the existing 6 miles of snowmobile trail and the planned 6 miles of ski trail.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

- A. Prescribed Burning (Objectives 1, 2, 3)

At full development, burn 3,000 acres of brush prairie, field and marsh on a 3 to 5 year rotation. An average of 750 acres will be burned annually.

- B. Brush-Prairie Restoration (Objectives 1, 2, 3)

Clear 1,150 acres of forested upland using timber sales, firewood permits and non-commercial methods. Restoration efforts will concentrate on the original pine barrens, which today are characterized by well drained sands with scrub oak or jack pine forest types. Since brush-prairie benefits both sharp-tailed grouse and waterfowl, initial clearing efforts will be directed at forest stands adjacent to flowages or open fields. Brush-prairie restoration will be limited in many areas due to the difficulty of constructing firebreaks in and around the large central marsh. As a result, the acreage to be cleared (1,150 acres) and to be annually burned (750 acres) has been reduced from the Concept Element Plan (2,000 acres and 1,500 acres respectively). Figure 3 shows present vegetative types and forest compartment boundaries.

Clearing will be completed over a 10 year period (1996) as land control allows.

Forest reconnaissance on ASWA is currently being updated. At completion, each stand will be entered into the 10 year clearing schedule and a detailed map showing stands to be cleared will be prepared. In general, the clearing schedule will be based on compartment priorities as follows:

<u>PRIORITY</u>	<u>COMPARTMENT</u>	<u>ACRES TO BE CLEARED</u>
1	3	180
2	7	120
3	4	120
4	5	120
5	6	80
6	8	140
7	1	100
8	9	60
9	11	120
10	10	40
11	2	80
		<u>1160</u>

In the meantime, a 2 year cutting plan has been developed and is shown in Section C, Forest Habitat Management.

C. Forest Habitat Management (Objective 3)

Currently 3,100 acres of commercial timber types are in state ownership (Figure 3). Upon completion of brush-prairie restoration, approximately 1,950 wooded acres will remain and will be managed for forest wildlife habitat, aesthetics and timber production, as follows:

1. Aspen will generally be rotated based on site index with sale layout designed to maximize age class diversity.
2. Jack pine will normally be managed on a 50 year rotation.
3. Scrub oak will be managed on a 50 year rotation for fuelwood production with the rotation age being extended to 65 years or older in some cases. Objectives are to maximize mast production while at the same time ensuring regeneration of the oak stands.
4. Red and white pine will be managed for sawlog production and aesthetics and will be carried to maximum rotation age.
5. Northern hardwood stands (red oak, hard maple, basswood) will be managed through a series of marked selective cuts to obtain better size class distribution and improve growth rates. The initial cut will selectively remove low quality/high risk trees from the stand.

Forest reconnaissance data on ASWA are currently being updated. Upon completion, Program 14 will be appended to this plan and a 6 year timber sale schedule will be developed. In the meantime, a 2 year cutting plan for both potential brush prairie sites and for forest wildlife habitat stands has been developed as follows:

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>COMPARTMENT</u>	<u>STAND</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>ACRES</u>	<u>ACTIVITY & OBJECTIVE</u>
1987	3	18	A 5-11"	21	Harvest-Burn
	5	18	A 5-11"	20	Harvest-Regeneration
	7	1	A 5-11"		Harvest-Burn
1988	3	7	PJ 5-9"/ 0 5-11"	35	Harvest-Burn
	7	1	A 5-11"	30	Harvest-Regeneration
	8	1	A 5-11"	12	Harvest-Regeneration

D. Agricultural Crops (Objectives 1, 2, 3)

At full development sharecrop 187 acres. Currently 122 acres are being sharecropped annually. The additional 65 acres to be farmed are located in and around the proposed waterfowl closed area.

E. Nesting Cover (Objectives 1,2)

Establish 270 acres of permanent nesting cover for waterfowl. Old farm fields adjacent to flowages will be seeded to a mixture of warm season grasses.

20
FIG. 3

21
COVER

22
TYPES - 1980

23

24
R-47-W
R-16-W

19

20

35

29
LINCOLN

29
SIREN

32

33

T-39-N
T-38-N

70

5
DANIELS

AMSTERDAM SLOUGHS
WILDLIFE AREA

KEY

-  Open water
-  Cattail, sedge, alder, willow, tamarack
-  Aspen
-  Oak, hardwoods
-  Jack pine
-  Red pine
-  Grass, agricultural crops

1

Forest Compartments



