



# Interim Forest Management Plan

---

## Property Identifiers

Property Name & Designation: **Yellow River Fishery Area (YRFA), Turtle Creek Fishery Area (TCFA), Little Dummy Lake Public Access (LDLPA), Engle Springs Creek Fishery Area (ESCFA), Hickey Creek Fishery Area (HCFA), Prairie Lake Public Access (PLPA).**

County: **Barron**

Property Acreage: **YRFA - 657 acres, TCFA - 40 ac, LDLPA - 16 ac, ESPFA - 184 ac, HCFA - 80 ac, PLPA - 47 ac.**

Forestry Property Code(s): **YRFA - 0382, TCFA - 0303, LDLPA - 0302, ESPFA - 0311, PLPA - 0315 (Compartment 180).**

Master Plan Date: **YRFA - 04/23/1980, ESCFA - 08/02/1985.**

---

## Part 1: Property Assessment (1-2 pages maximum)

### General Property Description

- **Landscape and regional context.** Most of Barron County, including these properties, lie within the **Forest Transition** ecological landscape. The LTA is the Late St. Croix Moraines (212Qa01). Nearly the entire county is drained by the Red Cedar River and its tributaries, as part of the Chippewa River watershed. The Yellow River, Engle Springs Creek, Little Dummy Lake, and Hickey Creek Fishery Areas are located in north-central Barron County. Turtle Creek and Prairie Lake are in the south part of Barron County. The area vegetative cover consists of swamp hardwoods and tamarack and tag alder lowlands, with a variety of aspen, white pine, red pine, red & white oak, and northern hardwoods in the well-drained uplands. Abandoned and active agricultural fields surround the forested portions. Use of the adjacent lands is agricultural.
- **History of land use and past management**  
The Yellow River has long been recognized as a popular and one of the most valued trout fishing streams in Barron County. Management activities have focused primarily on in-stream improvements. The open, once tilled, fields in the uplands are maintained as prairie habitat. The forested portions of all fisheries properties have generally been sustainably managed as much as practical. An access limitation (terrain and private property) has limited sustainable management in several areas.

### Site Specifics

#### Acreage

<b>Recon Acres</b>	<b>1040</b>
<b>Forested Acres</b>	<b>479</b>
<b>Non Forested Acres</b>	<b>561</b>



# Interim Forest Management Plan

## Forest Acreage Type

	Stands	Acres
Aspen (A)	21	144
Spruce (S)	1	6
Northern Hwd (NH)	3	28
Oak (O)	10	75
Red Pine (PR)	5	37
White pine (PW)	13	87
Swamp Hwd (SH)	8	81
Tamarack (T)	2	21

## Non Forest Type Acreage

	Stands	Acres
Grasses (GG)	10	164
Developed Use (I)	4	10
Lowland Grass (KG)	2	113
Lowland Brush (LB)	3	218
Minor Stream (LMS)	4	19
Upland Brush (UB)	3	38

### **There are no State Natural Area designations on any of these properties.**

- High Value Conservation Forests (HCVF) or other resources/natural community types limited in the landscape
- **High Value Conservation Forests (HCVF) or other resources/natural community types limited in the landscape**  
The Yellow River Hardwood Swamp was designated as an HCVF due to the corridor of swamp hardwoods and older stands of upland forest. Older age classes are currently underrepresented in this landscape.
- **Biotic Inventory status**  
Completed: July, 2011. This document is available on the Departments website <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/nhi/nhireports.asp> under DNR publication PUB-ER-842-2011.
- **Deferral/consultation area designations (refer to the following website):**  
The Yellow River Hardwood swamp is designated as a Consultation site. More details are available on the Departments website <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/nhi/nhireports.asp> under DNR publication PUB-ER-842-2011.
- **Rare species** The NHI database lists a few elements as occurring within this property. A NHI screening will be conducted prior to all future management activities.
- **Invasive species** Reed Canary Grass is common in some of the wetland areas of the site. Eurasian buckthorn, honeysuckle, black locust, and common tansy are present in a few areas.
- **Soils:** Upland soils are predominantly silt loams, with some hillsides primarily sandy loams, having a rapid permeability. Slopes are variable, ranging from flat to gently rolling to strongly sloped to steep. The lowlands are mainly peat and muck. The soils near streams are subject to frequent flooding and are poorly drained.

## Cultural and Recreational Considerations



# Interim Forest Management Plan

- **Cultural and archeological sites (including tribal sites)**  
Site contains reported prehistoric cemetery located on the north bank of the Yellow River (SW1/4,SW1/4,SW1/4, Sec.7, T35N, R12W). Projects located in the Fishery Area will follow manual code procedures to avoid impacts to cultural and archeological sites.
- 

## Part 2: IFMP Components (1-2 pages maximum)

### Management Objectives

Sustainably manage the forest resource to:

- Manage forest resources to maximize native wildlife species habitat by promoting aspen, white oak, red oak, white pine and other northern hardwood and coniferous species.
- Use the Ecological Landscapes: Forest Transition as well as the Wildlife Action Plan to guide habitat management in the associated portions of the county.
- Use Rapid Ecological Assessment for the Fishery Areas within the Southern Washburn, Polk, and Barron County Planning Group as a guide to manage for wildlife.
- Maintain the extent and quality of swamp hardwood, alder, and other wetland types.
- Maintain open fields and grasslands by controlling woody encroachment with mowing, prescribed burning or other habitat maintenance means.
- Control exotic species and prevent and/or reduce spread of exotics.
- Protect water quality, air quality, and undeveloped lake and river frontage.
- Manage to protect special concern, threatened and endangered species and protect/provide habitat for a variety of game and non-game wildlife species, including aquatic species. The Wildlife Action Plan and NHI will be used as references for management.

### Property Prescriptions

The WI DNR Silvicultural Handbook shall be utilized to manage all forest cover types.

- Aspen: Regenerate by clear-cutting (even-aged management). The rotation age for aspen varies based on site conditions, but it is generally 50-60 years. As appropriate, snags, high quality cavity, mast and conifer trees along with green tree retention areas will not be harvested.
- Oak: Maintain stands through even age management techniques and natural regeneration harvest systems appropriate for the stand and site conditions.
  - Site preparation to include soil scarification, herbicide treatments and prescribed burns may be necessary to establish regeneration.
  - Artificial regeneration from seed or seedlings may be necessary to establish reproduction prior to or after timber harvests when natural regeneration is not adequate.
  - Northern red oak and white oak stands will be thinned on a periodic basis to increase volume and value.



# Interim Forest Management Plan

- The Oak Chapter of the WI DNR Silviculture Handbook indicates the anticipated rotation lengths for oak. Site specifics will dictate the actual rotation length for individual stands.
- Some oak stands may be allowed to convert to white pine or northern hardwoods.
- Red and White pine will be managed using intermediate selection thinning until rotation age or extended rotation age. Some stands may be allowed to convert to other species and/or cover type. Shelter wood harvests will be prescribed to maintain the red and white pine type where deemed desirable.
- Northern Hardwoods – Maintain large blocks of northern hardwoods where they exist. Thin stands periodically to improve overall stand health, species composition, and density. Generally, thinned when stand basal area reaches 125-130 sq. ft., and thinning the stand down to 70-90 sq. ft. A great deal of fine-tuning can go into management prescriptions for each specific hardwood site to customize the management for a wide variety of silvicultural, ecological, and wildlife objectives.
- Selection of the most appropriate silvicultural system for managing swamp hardwood and conifer stands will be site specific. Based on the proximity of these stands to waterways and wetlands, silvicultural management requires consultation between the wildlife/fishery manager and the forester. Riparian zone management will incorporate relevant BMP's and shall implement measures appropriate to protect the scenic and aesthetic qualities of woodlands bordering waterways. Special management considerations include avoiding the introduction of reed canary grass into these stands and management to minimize the potential impacts associated with Emerald Ash Borer.
- Apply prescribed burns to grasslands and to oak stands to select against fire intolerant forest species. Some upland grass areas may be allowed to convert to forests either through natural succession or by artificial planting.
- Use BMP's for Invasive Species to help limit the introduction and spread of invasive species when conducting timber sales.
- Use BMP's for water quality when conducting timber sales.
- Endangered Resources Species Guidance documents will be consulted (ERCOMMON\Species\_Guidance\Species\_Docs) and the management guidance and avoidance sections will be used to determine how and if timber management can occur.

Approvals:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Regional Ecologist Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Forester Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Property Manager Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Area/Team Supervisor Date