



Interim Forest Management Plan

Property Identifiers

Property Name & Designation: **New Auburn Wildlife Area (NAWA), Grassy Lake Wildlife Area (GLWA), Galbraith Wildlife Area (GWA), Almena Wildlife Area (AWA), Barker Creek Wildlife Area (BCWA), Sweeney Pond Wildlife Area (SPWA), Brown Creek Wildlife Area (BRCWA).**

County: **Barron**

Property Acreage: **NAWA – 1180 acres, GLWA – 380 ac, GWA – 138 ac, AWA – 92 ac, BCWA – 114 ac, SPWA – 54 ac, BRCWA – 80 ac ac.**

Forestry Property Code(s): **NAWA – 0385, GLWA – 0301, GWA – 0314, AWA – 0315 (Compartment 160), BCWA – 0315 (Comp. 130), SPWA – 0315 (Comp. 170), BRCWA – 0315 (Comp. 140).**

Master Plan Date: **NAWA - 1985**

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

General Property Description

- **Landscape and regional context.** Most of Barron County, including these properties, lies 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 forest cover on these scattered wildlife properties consists of a variety of aspen, red & white oak, and northern hardwoods in the well-drained uplands, with some swamp hardwoods and tamarack lowlands. Abandoned and active agricultural fields surround the forested portions, as well as substantial wetland acreages. Use of the adjacent private lands is mostly agricultural.

- **History of land use and past management**
The NAWA was originally purchased in the 1960's for wetland & waterfowl flowage development, and as a refuge area for giant Canada geese. GLWA is mostly forested and contains several kettle lakes, and is managed for upland game, ruffed grouse, and waterfowl. The other scattered properties were originally purchased to protect or enhance water features, wetlands or upland grass habitat. The open fields in the uplands are maintained as prairie habitat. The forested portions of all wildlife properties have generally been sustainably managed as much as practical. Access limitations (terrain and private property) have limited sustainable management in several areas.

Site Specifics

Acreage

Recon Acres	2038
Forested Acres	592
Non Forested Acres	1455



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Forest Acreage Type

	Stands	Acres
Aspen (A)	24	331
Spruce (S)	2	8
Northern Hwd (NH)	4	60
Oak (O)	13	96
White birch	1	22
Red Pine (PR)	2	10
White pine (PW)	1	3
Swamp Hwd (SH)	2	22
Tamarack (T)	2	40

Non Forest Type Acreage

	Stands	Acres
Grasses (GG)	6	306
Lowland Grass (KG)	4	995
Lowland Brush (LB)	3	54
Minor Stream (LMS)	4	174
Upland Brush (UB)	2	10

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.**
These properties contain a variety of community associations that serve as habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals.
- **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: none**
- **Rare species** The NHI database lists a few elements as occurring within these properties. 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 and honeysuckle are present in a few areas.
- **Soils:** Upland soils are predominantly silt loams, with some sandy loams, having good permeability. Slopes are variable, ranging from flat to gently rolling to rolling. The lowlands are mainly peat and muck. The soils near streams are subject to periodic flooding and are poorly drained.

Cultural and Recreational Considerations

- **Cultural and archeological sites (including tribal sites)**
No known sites. Projects will follow manual code procedures to avoid impacts to cultural and archeological sites.



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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.
 - 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.



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- 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.



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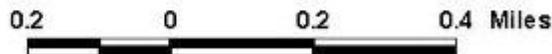
 New Auburn WA Map.pdf

 Grass Lake WA Map.pdf

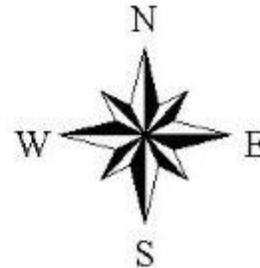
 Sweeney Ponds WA Map.pdf

 Almena (Lightning Creek) WA Map.pdf

GAILBRAITH WILDLIFE AREA



 PROPERTY BOUNDARY



Barron County, T.35N. - R.13W., Sec22, part of the SE1/4



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BARKER CREEK AND SAMPSON WILDLIFE AREAS



 Property Boundary
 Roads



Barron County, T.34N.-R.12W., Sec 1, S1/2SW1/4 and T.34N.-R.11W., Sec 6, SWSW.



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Approvals:

Regional Ecologist Date

Forester Date

Property Manager Date

Area/Team Supervisor Date