



Interim Forest Management Plan

Property Identifiers

Culbertson Springs FA, LUP Grants (Goose Lake WA), Spring Creek FA, Clam River FA, Clam Lake WA & Rem-Clam Lk & SWPA, Rem – Clam River, Rem – Round Lake, Rem – Sand Lake, Scattered Forest Lands (Twin Lakes WA), St. Croix River Public Access (Swiss W. Twp), Statewide HA (Bass Lake, Yellow Lake), Statewide Public Access, Sand Creek FA

County(ies): Burnett, Polk (Sand Creek FA)

Property Acreage: Total 5062

Culbertson Springs FA: 40, LUP Grants (Goose Lake WA): 134, Spring Creek FA: 73, Clam River FA: 2542, Clam Lake WA & Rem-Clam Lk & SWPA: 292, Rem – Clam River: 8, Rem – Round Lake: 24, Rem – Sand Lake: 41, Scattered Forest Lands (Twin Lakes WA): 75, St. Croix River Public Access (Swiss W. Twp): 15, Statewide HA (Bass Lake, Yellow Lake): 325, Statewide Public Access: 8, Sand Creek FA: 1485

Forestry Property Code(s):

Culbertson Springs FA: 701, LUP Grants (Goose Lake WA): 702, Spring Creek FA: 703, Clam River FA: 706, Clam Lake WA & Rem-Clam Lk & SWPA: 715 (comp. 11), Rem – Clam River: 799 (comp. 5), Rem – Round Lake: 799 (comp. 2), Rem – Sand Lake: 799 (comp. 7), Scattered Forest Lands (Twin Lakes WA): 799 (comp. 4), St. Croix River Public Access (Swiss W. Twp): 799 (comp. 9), Statewide HA (Bass Lake, Yellow Lake): 799 (comp. 6,8), Statewide Public Access: 799 (comp. 11), Sand Creek FA: 4981

Master Plan Date:

Clam River FA: 1979, Sand Creek FA: 1980

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

General Property Description

The Eastern Burnett County Wildlife and Fishery Areas are located within two Ecological Landscapes: The Northwest Sands and Forest Transition.

The NW Sands are characterized by dry, sandy upland forests with numerous lakes, ponds and both forested and unforested wetlands intermixed. There is also a significant component of agricultural lands in some parts of the local landscape. Land Type Associations (LTA) here include both the Siren Plains (212Ka09) and Webb Lake Collapsed Barrens (212Ka05). Several river systems flow through this part of Burnett County, including the Yellow, Clam and Namekagon, all of which are tributary to the St Croix.

In Southeastern Burnett County, the Forest Transition is predominately forested with scattered ponds, wetlands and a few named lakes. Agricultural lands are generally fewer here than in many areas of the Forest Transition to the south. The LTA for these properties is the Late St. Croix Moraines (212Qa01). The Clam River is the only watershed found in this part of the county. Class I trout stream segments are found at both the Sand Creek and Clam River Fishery Areas.



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The river segment adjacent to the Yellow River Habitat Area is part of the Yellow River Conservation Opportunity Area. These properties are not part of any Important Bird Areas.

History of land use and past management

Clam Lake Wildlife Area is a 285 acre parcel, most of which was purchased in 2004. The Clam Lake Wildlife area is located in southern Burnett County in sections 10, 11, 13, and 14 of T38N- R16W. The property is open to public use for activities including: canoeing, fishing, hiking, hunting, trapping, etc.

Past management activities have included waterfowl nesting habitat improvement, protection of the rice bed at the mouth of the Clam River for both human and wildlife uses and invasive species control.

Goose Lake Wildlife Area is a 134 acre property located in Scott Township in the east central part of Burnett County, approximately three miles northeast of A and H on Kessler Road. It lies on the north side of Goose Lake - a 62 acre landlocked, seepage lake containing three state owned islands. The property is open to public use for activities including: canoeing, fishing, hiking, hunting, trapping, etc.

Past management activities have included burning an 11 acre field to maintain the warm season grass and prairie forb plant communities, timber sales for wildlife habitat management, and invasive species control.

Twin Lakes Wildlife Area is a 75 acre property located in Scott Township in east central Burnett County, approximately 3 miles southwest of A&H on Thompson Rd. The property is in two parcels – one landlocked parcel on Upper Twin Lake and the other bisected by Thompson Rd. The property is open to public use for activities including: fishing, hiking, hunting, trapping, etc.

Past management activities have included timber sales for wildlife habitat management and invasive species control.

Clam River Fishery Area is a 2,542 acre parcel that was approved as a Fish Management Project in 1958 by the Wisconsin Conservation Commission. The purpose of the project is to protect the habitat and manage the North and South forks of the Clam River and its springs. Clam River is located in the Southeast section of Burnett County in sections 3, 4, 10, 11, 12 and 15 of T. 37N, R. 14W and sections 29, 30, 32 and 33 of T. 38N, R. 14W. The master plan was approved in 1979 with the following goal: "To protect and preserve the present habitat for trout, to improve habitat with proper management techniques where possible and to manage the North and South Forks of the Clam River and their springs for optimum trout production while providing access for fishing, hunting, forest management and other outdoor pursuits compatible with the primary goal." There are 12 off road parking areas which allow access for the public to use Clam River Fishery Area for its multiple public use activities. Past management activities have included beaver control, stream bank improvement, in stream improvement, spring pond dredging, fish surveys and stocking and the signing of the boundary of the property.

Sand Creek Fishery Area is a 1,485 acre parcel that is located on the borders of Polk and Burnett counties in sections 12, 13 and 24 of T. 37N, R. 15W of Polk county and sections 7, 18 and 19 of T. 37N, R. 14W of Burnett county. Sand Creek contains two trout streams (Sand Creek and Ore Creek) that are inhabited mainly by brown trout. The master plan was approved in 1980 with the goal of "To obtain land control and to manage, preserve and protect all property within the boundary of the Sand Creek Fishery Area in Polk and Burnett counties while enhancing fishing and other recreational activities." There are four off road parking areas that allow the public access to Sand Creek for hunting, fishing, hiking and other approved recreational activities.

Past management activities for Sand Creek have included stream habitat improvement including stream bank brushing and the installation of half-logs into the stream to improve trout habitat. Other management activities included beaver control, timber harvest and signing of the boundary and the parking areas.



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Site Specifics

Acreage

Recon Acres	5042
Forested Acres	3633
Scheduled for Management	3487
Not Scheduled for Management	146
Non Forested Acres	1409

Forest Type Acreage

Forest Type	Stands	Acres	%of Forested Acres	%of Recon Acres
Aspen (A)	46	1664	46	33
Bottom Hwd (BH)	2	52	1	1
Fir Spruce (FS)	3	18	0	0
Northern Hwd (NH)	18	404	11	8
Oak (O)	16	647	18	13
Scrub Oak (OX)	2	31	1	1
Jack Pine (PJ)	2	26	1	1
Red Pine (PR)	5	42	1	1
White pine (PW)	10	242	7	5
Black Spruce (SB)	3	6	0	0
Swamp Hwd (SH)	10	459	13	9
Tamarack	3	42	1	1

Non Forest Type Acreage

	Stands	Acres	% of Non- Forested Acres	% of Recon Acres
Upland Grass (UG)	3	190	13	4
True Grasses (GG)	2	49	3	1
Developed Use (I)	9	30	2	1
Marsh (K)	5	162	11	3
Emergent Veg (KEV)	3	69	5	1
Lowland Grass (KG)	8	331	23	7
Water (L)	7	145	10	3
Lowland Brush (LB)	9	383	27	8
Minor Lake (LM)	2	23	2	0
Minor Stream (LMS)	1	13	1	0
Right of Way (ROW)	2	6	0	0
Upland Brush (UB)	1	8	1	0

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

Older age classes are currently underrepresented in these landscapes

No Biotic Inventory has taken place on these properties.



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There are no Deferral or Consultation Sites on any of these properties.

Several of these properties are found within the Karner Blue Butterfly High Probability Range. Bald eagle nests are found within and near one of the properties.

NHI screening will be conducted prior to all future management activities.

- Invasive species that have been identified on the properties within the plan include; Eurasian Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, Black Locust, Spotted Knapweed, Canada Thistle, Leafy Spurge, Cypress Spurge, Purple Loosestrife and Common Tansy. Continued monitoring will be used to observe existing populations and identify new populations of invasive species. Management of invasive species will focus on the use of prescribed fire, chemical application, biological control and mechanical means as methods to control the spread and establishment of invasive species.
- **Soils:** Culbertson Springs FA: Seelyeville and Markey Soils, Goose Lake WA, Clam River Rem. and Twin Lakes: Graycalm-Menahga Soils, Spring Creek FA and St. Croix River Public Access: Menahga and Mahtomedi Soils, Clam River FA, Sand Lake Rem. and Sand Creek FA: Sandy Loam, Clam River WA and Clam River Rem.: Sandy Loam/Newson Muck, Round Lake Rem.: Silt Loam/Bowstring Muck

Cultural and Recreational Considerations

- Known archaeological sites have been identified on the Clam River Fishery Area in T38N-R14W-S29/30, T38N-R15W-S26 and T38N-R16W-S11. Property managers will refer to Manual Code 1810.1 for guidance upon proposal of timber sales within the borders of all properties contained within the plan.

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

Management Objectives (Outline primary forest management objectives):

Sustainably manage the forest resource to:

- Manage forest resources to maximize native wildlife species habitat by promoting aspen, white oak, northern pin oak, red oak, jack pine and other northern hardwood and coniferous species.
- Use the Ecological Landscapes: Northwest Sands and Forest Transition as well as the Wildlife Action Plan to guide habitat management in the associated portions of the county.
- Take advantage of forest stands that would allow for maintaining and prolonging the oak forest timber to survive to 81-100 years and 101 years plus.
- Maintain the extent and quality of swamp hardwood, alder, bottomland hardwood stands and other wetland types.
- Maintain and/or create open fields and grasslands by controlling woody encroachment with mowing, prescribed burning or other habitat maintenance means.
- Convert coniferous plantations to native forest types or non-forest types. Forest restoration will be done with native species and mimic natural structure associated with the proper ecological landscape.



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- 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 (Identify specific and pertinent prescriptions by area or forest type, including passive management areas, extended rotation, and other information that will help achieve the objectives):

Forest Type	15 Year Total (acres)	15 Year Average (acres)	Forest Type Description
A	267	18	Aspen
FS	18	1	Fir Spruce
NH	361	24	Northern Hardwoods
O	615	41	Oak
PJ	12	1	Jack Pine
PR	45	3	Red Pine
PW	208	14	White pine
SH	213	14	Swamp Hardwoods
T	12	1	Tamarack

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. On some of the mesic sites an extended rotation of up to 70 years could be implemented. Large aspen stands should be divided and harvested years apart to increase age-class diversity. As appropriate, snags, high quality cavity, mast and conifer trees along with green tree retention areas will not be harvested. Green tree retention should be concentrated around and between ephemeral ponds, wherever possible.
- 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.
 - Typically black oak and northern pin oak will undergo no intermediate thinning operations during the rotation length however red oak may 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, however where feasible 20% of the oak cover type will be managed into extended rotation in order to establish snags and den trees for critical wildlife habitat .
- Jack Pine: 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.



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- Artificial regeneration from seed or seedlings may be necessary to establish reproduction prior to or after timber harvests when natural regeneration is not adequate.
- Red and White pine will be managed using intermediate selection thinning until rotation age or extended rotation age. Plantations may be allowed to convert to other species and/or cover type. Shelterwood harvests will be prescribed to maintain the red and white pine type. Where opportunities exist, manage for extended rotation of natural-origin white and red pine stands.
- Northern Hardwoods – Maintain large blocks of northern hardwoods where they exist. Thin stands periodically to improve overall stand health, species composition, and density. Generally, thin 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 bottomland hardwood 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, pine/oak barrens and to oak or jack pine 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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Approvals:

Regional Ecologist Date

Forester Date

Property Manager Date

Area/Team Supervisor Date