Clark County
Dickenson Creek Fisheries Area
Interim Forest Management Plan

Property Identifiers

Property Name and Designation: Dickenson Creek Fisheries Area.

DNR Property Code: 1001

Property Location: Clark County

Total Property Acreage: 80

Master Plan Date: No Master Plan on File

Property Manager: Dan Hatlili

Property Assessment

Dickenson Creek Fishery Area is a state owned property with the primary management objective of providing public fishing and hunting opportunities. Secondary objectives of this property include providing public lands for trapping, hiking, and other non-consumptive uses as well as for timber production. This property is located in west central Clark County, Butler Township. Dickenson Creek is a Class II trout water and ASNRI. There is an 80 acre remnant parcel which is hunting and fishing grounds. There is also approximately 1.3 miles of public fishing easement on a tributary to Dickenson Creek adjoining the 80 acre parcel from the north. This tributary is not classified trout water. There is another 2/3 of a mile of public fishing easement on Dickenson Creek east of the 80 acre parcel.

LANDSCAPE AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

This property lies in the Forest Transition Ecological Landscapes and is associated with the Eau Claire River watershed. The Dickenson Creek Fisheries area is located between a large block of publicly owned forest land (Clark County Forest), and private lands dominated by agricultural uses. Opportunities for management include regenerating and maintaining oak ecosystems, protecting floodplains, watersheds, and headwater areas, and increasing ecological connectivity. Invasive species are a large concern in the area. Early detection and control is a challenge on these lands because of adjacent development pressure.

Hydrology: This part of the state has a number of generally low-gradient warm water streams. Dickenson Creek is one of only two classified cold-water streams in the county capable of sustaining a cold-water fishery. Dickenson Creek drains into the Eau Claire River.

Current Land Cover: This eighty acre parcel is currently a mixture of upland oak forests, lowland hardwood forests, swamp, and water.

HISTORY OF LAND USE AND PAST MANAGEMENT

The western half of this property was in agricultural production through the first half of the 20th century. It appears that portions of the property were used for field crops and pasture. The eastern half of the property was historically forested. When purchased by the state this property was converted to a more native habitat to accommodate recreational land uses.

Clark County
Dickenson Creek Fisheries Area
Interim Forest Management Plan

WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN/SPECIES OF GREATEST CONSERVATION NEED

Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SCGN's) associated with these stream corridors are many, and in particular include aquatic species, reptiles, amphibians, migrant birds and insects. Small scale forestry practices that promote diversity of forested types will benefit a variety of the upland species, while riparian buffers, reserve areas and BMPs will protect the stream corridors. Riparian buffers and reserve areas will also provide ecological "legacies" such as large diameter trees, snags, and course woody debris within this property.

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY AREA

The property does not fall within a Conservation Opportunity Area as identified within the Wildlife Action Plan.

NATURAL HERITAGE INVENTORY - RARE SPECIES

Two rare species are listed for the general area in the Natural Heritage Inventory database at the time of this writing. They include a state threatened reptile and special concern terrestrial plant. . Forest management activities will maintain riparian buffers to avoid impacts to aquatic associates. In addition, forest management activities are usually limited to frozen ground or dry conditions to minimize impacts to other species. Raptor and turtle species are of primary concern on this property. At the time of establishing any forest management practice it will be important to observe any raptor nesting activity in the area and avoid impact by following rare species guideline documents. To help protect turtles, management activities should avoid growing season time periods when possible. A NHI screening will be conducted prior to all future management activities.

HIGH VALUE CONSERVATION FOREST (HCVF) or other resources/ natural community types limited in the landscape

There are no identified HVCF on this property. Emergent marsh and coldwater stream communities have been identified within the property.

Coldwater streams are best described as flowing waters with maximum summer water temperatures that are typically below 22 degrees Celsius. The watersheds of these streams are usually less than 100 square miles, and the streams exhibit mean annual flow rates of less than 50 cubic feet per second. Coldwater streams can be found statewide, but they are concentrated in southwestern and parts of central and northern Wisconsin. These communities contain relatively few fish species and are dominated by trout and sculpins.

Emergent marshes are open, marsh, lake, riverine and estuarine communities with permanent standing water and are dominated by robust emergent macrophytes, in pure stands of single species or in various mixtures. Dominants include cattails, bulrushes (particularly Scirpus acutus, S. fluviatilis, and S. validus), bur-reeds, giant reed, pickerel-weed, water-plantains, arrowheads, the larger species of spikerush (such as Eleocharis smallii), and wild rice.

Aquatic plants, including both emergent and submergent aquatic vegetation, form the foundation of healthy and flourishing aquatic ecosystems - both within lakes and rivers and on the shores and wetlands around them. They not only protect water quality, but they also produce life-giving oxygen. Aquatic plants are a lake's own filtering system, helping to clarify the water by absorbing nutrients like phosphorus and nitrogen that could stimulate algal blooms. Plant beds stabilize soft lake and river bottoms and reduce shoreline erosion by reducing the effect of waves and current.

BIOTIC INVENTORY STATUS:

There are no known biotic inventories for this property.

CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES: (including tribal sites)

No archaeological or historical sites have been identified by the Wisconsin Historical Society this property.

RECREATIONAL USES

This property is open to foot use only (disabled access is provided by permit). Hunting and fishing are the primary recreation use of this property. Occasional use for hiking, geo-caching, wildlife viewing and other non-consumptive recreation is present.

INVASIVE SPECIES

An invasive species inventory has not been conducted. There is potential for invasive establishment due to access by recreationalists. There are no known infestations as of January 2015.

SOILS

The Dickenson Creek Fisheries Area loamy soils vary from moderately deep to very deep, nearly level to rolling topography, and poorly drained to moderately well drained. The parent material of these soils are glacial till deposits. Post-glacial erosion, stream cutting, and deposition formed floodplains, terraces, and swamps along streams.

CURRENT FOREST TYPES, SIZE CLASSES AND SUCCESSIONAL STAGES

FORESTED COMMUNITIES

The forested cover types are made up of a variety of size classes (regeneration, sapling-pole, and saw timber) and structure (canopy, layers, ground vegetation, dead and downed material, and inclusions). Forested communities within this property cover approximately 90% of the property, including mixed hardwoods (23%) and oak (66%).

Mixed Hardwoods:
There are currently 18 acres of the mixed hardwoods timber type. Primary tree species that make up these types include red maple, sugar maple, ash, basswood, elm, and white birch. They are often mixed with oak and aspen. The dominant habitat type present within the hardwood stands is PArVRh (White Pine, Red Maple, Blueberry, Swamp Dewberry): The landscape this habitat type is associated with is predominantly the rolling erosional surface of the Neillsville Sandstone Plateau. This type also occurs on sandy stream terraces and outwash. The soil type this habitat is associated with is primarily somewhat poorly drained loamy sands and sands. It also occurs on damp, shallow sandy loams over sandstone. The moisture regime is mesic to wet-mesic. The nutrient regime is poor. Aspen, white pine, and red maple are best suited for management on this habitat type. Wind throw is the current principal disturbance regime on this type, although historically fire was also important. Because of less firm rooting due to poorly drained soils, frequency of small scale disturbance is higher than on other habitat types in the same area. White pine is well adapted to this habitat type and was the dominant species in pre-settlement forests. White pine regeneration is now common in many stands.

Mixtures of hardwood tree species make for good riparian buffers because they can be managed using an all-age silvicultural system. Single tree or group selection harvesting can help develop a diverse, healthy stand that will protect stream corridors. Most of these stands however have very light stocking levels and harvests are scheduled many years out. Insect and disease concerns in these stands include Emerald Ash Borer, Dutch Elm Disease, Oak Wilt and Gypsy Moth. Elm continues to die out on a regular basis and ash may soon be affected. There is only one mixed hardwood harvest scheduled in the next 15-year period.

Oak:
There are currently 53 acres of oak timber type. The dominant habitat type present within the oak stands is AVb-V (Sugar Maple, Maple-leaved Viburnum – Blueberry Variant): This habitat type is associated predominantly with erosional surfaces and moraines. Occurs primarily on well to moderately well drained sandy loams and loamy sands over till and sandstone. The moisture regime is dry-mesic to dry. The nutrient regime is medium. This habitat type typically represents conditions where soils support the mesic species, but where historically fire also played an important role. White pine was a predominant species in pre-settlement forests. Current stands are dominated by red oak, white oak, and red maple, but white pine is becoming established where a seed source is present. In the absence of disturbance or management, shade tolerant mesic species will increasingly dominate future stands.

The value of the oak type to a large number of wildlife species has been well documented throughout its range. The importance of the mast crop that oaks produce to wildlife cannot be over stressed. Acorns are one of the most important food sources for a great number of forest species during the fall and winter months, including deer, bear, squirrels, turkeys, grouse, wood ducks, mice, rabbits and occasionally even beaver, who utilize oak leaves, twigs and bark as part of their diet. Mature oak trees provide valuable cover, den sites, hunting perches, and roosts for a variety of species. Oak communities are important not only for the trees themselves but also for the diverse forb and shrub layer found within the stands. Oak stands typically reach forest product maturity between 90 and 120 years old and then slowly decline in vigor. As mortality occurs, hard maple and other hardwoods become established in the understory. This invasion of maple is a wildlife habitat concern if it replaces oak regeneration in the future. Intensive oak management on this small property will be difficult to implement. Because cavity trees and snags are an important habitat component, some oak mortality is desired. Patch regeneration harvesting provides the best chance at maintaining a diverse hardwood stand that includes some oak. There is one 53 acre oak harvest scheduled in the next 15-year period.

NON-FORESTED COMMUNITIES

Non-forested communities within the property cover approximately 10% of the forest. In broad categories, they are: upland (5%), and wetland (5%).

Non-forested habitats are important components of management within the property. Upland and wetland non-forest types provide important habitat for distinct groups of species.

The following provides a general description of the non-forested communities:

Upland Non-Forest (5%)

Upland Non-Forest areas on the property include:

Grass openings – consists of upland grasses, such as brome, quack, bluegrass, timothy, big and little bluestem, and switchgrass.

Wetland Non-Forest (5%)

Wisconsin State Statutes define a wetland as "an area where water is at, near, or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophytic vegetation, and which has soils indicative of wet conditions." Wetland communities are recognized to be a complex association of plants and animals, soils and water levels having special natural values. They are fragile systems that undergo rapid degradation when affected by incompatible uses and unskilled management. Wetlands provide many functional values including shoreline and flood protection, water quality protection, groundwater recharge, and animal and plant habitat.

Wetlands are the transitional habitats between upland and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface, or where the land is covered by shallow water. Wetlands habitats found on the property include:

Alder thicket – wetlands dominated by speckled alder. It can also include other shrub species like high bush cranberry and sweet gale.

Seasonally flooded basin – wetlands in poorly drained, shallow depressions that may have standing water for several weeks of each year, but are usually dry for much of the growing season. Typical species include smartweeds, beggarsticks, and wild millet. These basins often support an abundance of plant seeds and invertebrates, which make them ideal feeding and resting areas for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds.

FUTURE MANAGEMENT

This property is managed primarily to protect and restore habitat conditions within the stream corridor and provide quality wildlife habitat. Future forest management will include small scale timber harvest that will avoid disturbance to the streams and increase diverse wildlife habitat. Because this is a small property the annual allowable figure is only a guide and actual forest management practices will be based on logical grouping of stands to harvest. Long term allowable harvest level averages around five acres per year. Sale size of at least 20 acres is desirable to attract buyers to these isolated parcels.

Scheduled harvests are as follows:

Dickenson Creek Fish Area (Property 1001)

2016: Red maple harvest on 18 acres (Stand #3).
2016: Oak thinning on 53 acres (Stand #4).

Clark County
Dickenson Creek Fisheries Area
Interim Forest Management Plan

Forest Management Objectives:

1. Protect the stream corridor by maintaining proper BMP buffers.
2. Maintain a variety of timber types through forest management practices with the primary focus on oak and hardwoods.
3. Conduct small scale timber sales to provide a variety of successional habitat stages to benefit wildlife.
4. Identify invasive species and implement practices to eliminate/minimize the impact to the property.
5. Identify rare/endangered species and protect/provide habitat for those species.

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.)

Actual sale establishment will vary slightly to spread out the work load and is outlined here:

2016: Dickenson Creek oak and maple harvest on 71 acres (Stand #3 and #4). A selective harvest will reduce stocking to recommended silvicultural levels following the standard order of removal. This harvest will remove poorly formed and high risk trees, releasing quality oak and hardwood stems from crown competition. A patch regeneration tecnhique may be employed to promote oak and hardwood seedling establishment and development. Patch regeneration harvesting provides the best chance at maintaining a diverse hardwood stand that includes some oak.

Approximately 10% of the property acreage will be managed passively.

All stands:

- Utilize BMP's for Water Quality to protect streams and wetlands when conducting timber sales.
- Identify invasive plant species and implement control practices such as prescribed fire, hand pulling, chemical and mechanical control to eliminate or reduce negative impacts.
- Utilize BMP's for Invasive Species to help limit the introduction and spread of invasive species when conducting timber sales
- Retain reserve/legacy trees as groups or individuals throughout the property within harvested stands
- Follow DNR's Species Guidance Documents: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/guidance.asp. to protect rare species. In cases where species guidance documents haven't yet been developed, avoidance to rare species will occur via practices such as time of year restrictions, modified harvest boundaries, and/or consultation with rare species experts.
- Identify and protect any Archeological or Historical sites prior to management activities and plan.

Clark County
Dickenson Creek Fisheries Area
Interim Forest Management Plan

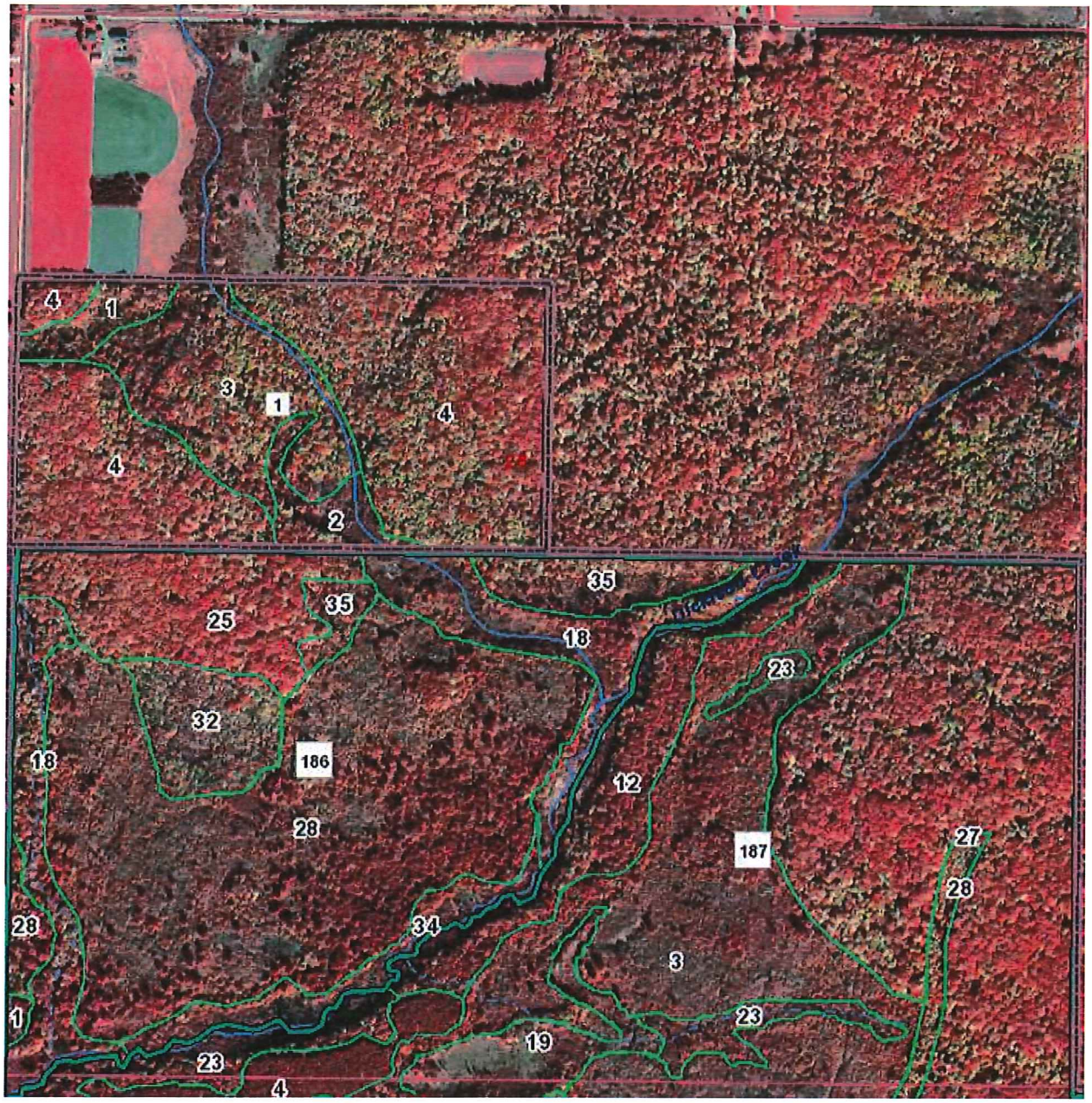
Approvals:

[signature]	5-13-15
Regional Ecologist	Date
[signature]	April 2, 2015
Forester	Date
[signature]	4/20/15
Property Manager	Date
[signature] - Forestry Team Leader	4-16-15
Area/Team Supervisor	Date

Clark County
Dickenson Creek Fisheries Area
Interim Forest Management Plan

Dickenson Creek Fisheries Area

Compartment 1
S1/2NW¼, Section 26
T27N R4W



Stand Information by Compartment

Print Date: 2/5/2015

Report 110

Treatment Description

TN - Thinning, non-commercial HM - Habitat maintenance, non-commercial T - Thinning, commercial
PR - Pruning SP - Site Prep RE - Regeneration even-aged harvest
RL - Release PL - Planting RA - Regeneration all-aged harvest

Harvest Status

A -Active
X - Tract # assigned, contract not signed

Property : 1001 - REM-DICKENSON CREEK

.....Stand.....		Exam	.....Primary.....			...Secondary...			..Understory..					Origin			Site Index					Inv.		Mgt.	....Forester Pres....			Harvest
Pre	#	Year	T	S	D	T	S	D	T	S	D	Habitat	Acres	Yr.	Ht.	MSD	Spp.	SI #	BA	CD	BDFT	Lvl	Soil	Obj	Treat	Codes	Year	Status
Compartment No : 1																												
	1	2007	UB			G			MR	0005			4								0		B	A				
MR, A, BW, PW SEEDING IN (05/07)																												
	2	2007	LBA			KG							4								0		J	A				
DICKENSON CR RUNS THRU STAND (05/07)																												
	3	2007	MR	0511	4	O	1500	2	MR	0005	2		18	1933	76	11	MR	57	110	24	2,550	0	B	A	SP	3,5,	2009	
																									RE	8,,	2008	
MAINTAIN BUFFERS ALONG CREEK (05/07)																												
	4	2007	O	1500	3	MR	0511	3	NH	0005	2		53	1932	79	17	OR	60	125	18	6,146	0	B	F	RA	7,,	2008	
CONVERTING TO NH (05/07)																												
												SubTotal :	**79**															
												Total : 79																