



Evergreen River Fishery Area Interim Forest Management Plan

Property Identifiers

Property Name and Designation: Evergreen River Fishery Area

County: Langlade

Property Acreage: 1,424

Forestry Property Code(s): 3403

Master Plan Date: Master Plan Concept Element, 11/15/1982

Property Assessment

LANDSCAPE AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Evergreen River originates from Flora Lake (Flora Spring Pond – a State Natural Area) and flows through approximately two miles of Langlade County Forest land before entering the Fishery Area project boundary. The Fishery Area project boundary encompasses approximately 6.5 miles of the Evergreen River between Langlade County forest land and the Menominee Reservation (see attached map). In addition to the Evergreen River, a portion of Evergreen Creek, along with a few unnamed streams and unnamed ponds are within the boundary. Both the Evergreen River and Evergreen Creek are Class I trout water and listed as Outstanding Resource Waters for their entire length. Two unnamed tributary streams to the Evergreen River that are within the boundary are listed as Exception Resource Waters.

The Evergreen River has long been recognized as a quality trout stream, containing both brook and brown trout, with brook trout being dominant, along with several species of forage fish including: creek chub, longnose dace, mud minnow, brook stickleback, white sucker, mottled sculpin and northern redbelly dace. The Evergreen is a tributary to the Wolf River, entering that major stream of the Lake Michigan watershed in Menominee County.

The property lays in the Forest Transition Ecological Landscape which lies along the northern border of Wisconsin's Tension Zone and supports both northern forests and agricultural areas. The growing season in this part of the state is long enough that agriculture is viable, although climatic conditions are not as favorable as in southern Wisconsin. Soils are diverse and are described in more detail in this document.

Wildlife species known to inhabit the fishery area are those commonly found in the northern forest biome of north central Wisconsin and include white-tailed deer, gray squirrels, cottontail rabbits, snowshoe hares, black bears, beavers, otter, muskrat, raccoon, mink, coyote, red fox, bobcat, ruffed grouse, woodcock, waterfowl (wood duck, mallard, blue-winged teal, hooded merganser), great blue heron, raptors and many songbirds.

Historical Vegetation:

The historic vegetation of the Forest Transition was primarily northern hardwood forest dominated by sugar maple and hemlock, and contained some yellow birch, red pine and white pine.

Current Land Cover:

The current land cover consists of scattered forest lands primarily of northern hardwoods and aspen, along with varying amounts of oak, hemlock and swamp hardwoods. Smaller portions of the land cover include agricultural land or open grass areas and a few residential developments.



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HISTORY OF LAND USE AND PAST MANAGEMENT

State owned land in the Evergreen River Fishery Area is used primarily for recreation and protection of the Evergreen River water quality and aesthetics. Land within view of the river provides a natural atmosphere for fishermen, hikers, and others enjoying the out-of-doors. Past management of the property included beaver control, trout population studies, trout habitat improvement projects, forest management, spring pond dredging, litter control, law enforcement patrols, parking area and access trail development and improvements and posting property identification and use signs on the public lands. Non-Forested area management included wildlife plantings, prairie plantings and grassland maintenance through mowing and prescribed burning. Forest management activities were limited when within 300 feet of the river and were restricted within the Natural Area designated within the project boundary.

CURRENT FOREST TYPES, SIZE CLASSES AND SUCCESSIONAL STAGES

Forest Type Acreage	Forest Type	Forest Type Description	Stands	Acres	Percent of Forested Acres	Percent of Recon Acres
	A	ASPEN	24	422	46 %	36 %
	C	WHITE CEDAR	7	178	19 %	15 %
	FB	BALSAM FIR	6	33	4 %	3 %
	FS	FIR SPRUCE-OLD CODE, RECODE	1	20	2 %	2 %
	NH	NORTHERN HARDWOODS	6	210	23 %	18 %
	FR	RED PINE	4	27	3 %	2 %
	SH	SWAMP HARDWOODS	2	22	2 %	2 %
	T	TAMARACK	1	2	0 %	0 %
Total:			51	914	99 %	78 %

Non-Forest Type Acreage	Forest Type	Forest Type Description	Stands	Acres	Percent of Non-Forested Acres	Percent of Recon Acres
	GG	TRUE GRASSES	7	193	79 %	17 %
	LBA	LOWLAND BRUSH - ALDER	3	40	16 %	3 %
	LM	MINOR LAKE	1	3	1 %	0 %
	LMS	MINOR STREAM	1	1	0 %	0 %
	ROW	RIGHT OF WAY	2	5	2 %	0 %
	UB	UPLAND BRUSH	1	1	0 %	0 %
Total:			15	243	98 %	20 %

*Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding

RARE SPECIES

Currently, eagles and ospreys that exist only infrequently on the Fishery Area are the only endangered or threatened species documented, however rare species and/or communities are identified as occurring within 1-2 miles of the project boundary. NHI screenings and reviews will be conducted prior to any future management activities.

HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS (HCVF) OR OTHER RESOURCES/ NATURAL COMMUNITY TYPES LIMITED IN THE LANDSCAPE

Within the project boundary, a 37 acre public use natural area is established that shows a relatively good example of a northern wet-mesic forest (swamp conifer type) associated with the Evergreen River and Evergreen Springs. The southern portion of the project boundary is also within the area identified as the Menominee Forest, Terrestrial Opportunity Area of Upper Midwest Significance.



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BIOTIC INVENTORY STATUS:

A Rapid Ecological Assessment focusing on rare plants, selected rare animals, and high-quality natural communities has not been completed for the Fishery Area.

DEFERRAL/CONSULTATION AREA DESIGNATIONS

There are no Deferral or Consultation sites present on either property.

CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES (INCLUDING TRIBAL SITES)

County Archeological and other Cultural Resources maps do not identify any cultural or archeological sites within the property boundaries. Projects located within the Fishery Area will follow manual code procedures to avoid impacts to cultural and archeological sites if found.

RECREATIONAL USES

The Fishery Area is used primarily for fishing for brook trout. Hunting for deer and bear takes place during the open seasons, as well as for cottontails, snowshoe hare, ruffed grouse, woodcock and waterfowl. Trapping levels vary dependent on demand and prices. Other recreational and educational uses include berry and mushroom picking, hiking, bird watching, photography, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

INVASIVE SPECIES

A number of invasive plants (both terrestrial and aquatic) are present in and around the properties with honeysuckle and buckthorn being the most common. Exotic earthworms infest most upland stands on the properties. Emerald ash borer will kill most of the ash at some point but is not yet known to occur on the property.

SOILS

The Fishery Area is located mostly in an outwash plain formed by deposition of soil material from glacial melt waters making the soils suitable for agriculture and forestry. However, a few prominent hills of stony glacial till are also present.

About 70% of the soils within the boundary are upland soils. These include the well-drained Antigo, Kennan, Keweenaw, Padus, Pence and Rosholt series and the excessively drained Rubicon and Sayner series. Most of these soils are formed of loamy or sandy material overlying stratified sand and gravel outwash. Some of these soils formed in loamy material cover sandy glacial till and some are sandy throughout.

27% of the soils occupy bottomland positions adjacent to the streams. These include the very poorly drained Lupton, Cathro and Markey soils formed in organic material and the poorly drained and very poorly drained Mukwa soils formed in stream sediments. All of these soils are subject to flooding.

The remaining 3% of the soils occupy slopes located between the bottomland and the upland. These include the somewhat poorly drained Poskin and Worcester soils formed in loamy material overlying stratified sand and gravel outwash.



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FUTURE MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The overall management objective is protection of the aquatic resource. Forest management activities will be conducted in a manner so as not to jeopardize this aquatic resource and will be completed following the guidance outlined in the Silvicultural Handbook, unless this plan makes an exception, and after consulting with an integrated team, including staff from Forestry, Fisheries Management, Facilities and Lands, Wildlife Management and Endangered Resources and after considering comments from the public and other interest groups. Priority conservation actions will be implemented as identified in Wisconsin's Wildlife Action Plan where the opportunity exists within the property.

Forest management activities are restricted in any designated scenic or natural areas. A 300-foot minimum timber harvest buffer will be observed along all waterways, including creeks, springs, seeps, ponds, and lakes. Buffers may be increased or decreased to address resource concerns on a case-by-case basis. All timber harvests will follow the guidelines established in the Best Management Practices for Water Quality Manual at a minimum to generally address invasive species, erosion, water quality, and fish and wildlife resource concerns. Recreational land uses will also be considered when applying specific management prescriptions.

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)

Aspen – The primary objective is promoting the conversion of this timber type where practical to longer lived species. This will be accomplished by retaining longer lived tree species after harvest to create conditions that are more conducive to the regeneration of more shade tolerant species. It is recognized that several aspen stands will not have sufficient quantities of longer lived species to promote conversion and it may take several rotations of aspen harvesting to accumulate enough shade tolerant trees to convert the stand. Additional objectives include increasing age class diversity while facilitating the conversion process where opportunities exist.

Northern Hardwoods – The primary objective for this type is to maintain and /or regenerate stands to enhance aesthetic values and wildlife habitat with timber production as a secondary objective. Depending on quality and species composition, objectives may include uneven-aged management with selection harvests that will improve stand quality by removing poor quality trees and releasing crop trees. Canopy gaps will be included to attempt to increase the regeneration of species such as birch, oak and basswood. Big tree silviculture and increasing some old growth characteristics can be implemented throughout this type. All of these stands will be managed to promote hardwood growth to a large diameter for the production of various wood products and to promote wildlife habitat diversity when applicable.

Bottom Land Hardwood or Wetland Forests – These types are not currently scheduled for harvesting. Many of these sites are associated with sensitive areas such as springs, ponds and streams, and thus should be considered as non-harvest locations. When necessary for management of aesthetic or wildlife values, "old growth" potential, salvage & sanitation or improvement cuttings, selection of the most appropriate silvicultural method for management of this forest type will be site specific and will follow the general management objectives identified above.

Pine – The primary objective is to maintain and enhance the growth and quality of natural stands. On plantations: even-aged management with periodic thinnings and an extended rotation age with an ultimate goal to 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 property ecological landscape.



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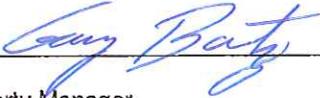
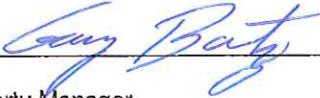
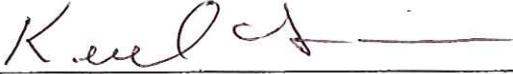
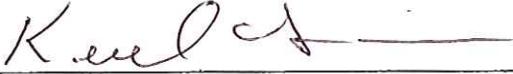
Hemlock – These types are not currently scheduled for harvesting. Many of these sites are associated with sensitive areas such as springs, ponds and streams, and thus should be considered as non-harvest locations. When necessary for management of aesthetic or wildlife values, "old growth" potential, salvage & sanitation or improvement cuttings, selection of the most appropriate silvicultural method for management of this forest type will be site specific and will follow the general management objectives identified above.

Maintain and/or create open fields and grasslands by controlling woody encroachment with mowing, prescribed burning or other control methods.



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Approvals:

 _____	 _____
Property Manager	Date
 _____	 _____
Regional Ecologist	Date
 _____	 _____
Forester	Date
 _____	 _____
Area/Team Supervisor	Date