



Interim Forest Management Plan Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties

Property Identifiers

Property Name and Designation:

Beaver Creek Rearing Station (Northfield Lake)
Smith Pond (Lowe Creek) Wildlife Area
Trump Coulee Rearing Station

County(ies): **Jackson**

Property Acreage:

618 acres - Beaver Creek
95 acres - Smith Pond
427 acres - Trump Coulee
1140 Acres Total

Forestry Property Code(s):

2701 – Beaver Creek
2705 – Smith Pond
2706 – Trump Coulee

Property Manager: Dan Hatleli

Master Plan Date:
(if property has one)

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

General Property Description

Beaver Creek and Trump Coulee

The properties harbor mostly fee title lands with wooded hillsides and fallow agricultural fields characteristic of the driftless area of western Wisconsin and both properties lie within the Western Coulees and Ridges Ecological Landscape. Several small streams are present along the valley floors on each property and they are impounded to create fish rearing facilities. Beaver Creek has two impoundments and Trump Coulee has one. The facility at Trump Lake is currently drawn down and is not operational due to dam safety concerns.

Smith Pond

Smith Pond (Lowe Creek) Fishery Area is a state owned property with the primary objectives of providing fishing and hunting opportunities, and protecting water quality. It is located in western Jackson County, Hixton Township, northwest of the City of Black River Falls and south of the Village of Hixton. This Fishery Area lies within the Western Coulee and Ridges Ecological Landscape, and the Driftless Area of Wisconsin. Lowe Creek, a tributary to the Trempealeau River, bisects the property from southeast to northwest. Lowe Creek is classified trout water with the upper 3.08 miles Class III and the lower 1.09 miles Class II. The stream is also an Area of Special Natural Resources Interest (ANSRI).



Interim Forest Management Plan Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties

Smith Pond Fishery Area began in 1959 with the purchase of 95 acres from Harry T. Smith. Prior to state ownership, Smith dammed up Lowe Creek to create a pond within the property. A few years later, another pond was created on the property. Mr. Smith allowed the general public to access his ponds for fishing. Because public access was allowed, state-reared trout were stocked in the pond.

In the early 1990's, the DNR removed the dam on the property, draining the two ponds, in order to restore the trout stream. Local area residents were unhappy with the removal of the ponds and the fishing opportunity the ponds had provided. In 2008, a cooperative project began to build two new ponds on the property. Construction of the ponds was completed in late 2010.

One large wooden routed fishery area sign was installed on the property as well as two 0.15 acre parking lots. The northern parking lot, off Green Acres Road, is still open to the public. Due to vandalism and garbage dumping, the parking lot on the west side of the property, off Sechlerville Road, has been closed. All of the property boundaries are posted with "Public Fishing and Hunting" signs.

Site Specifics

PROPERTY CONTEXT/LANDSCAPE

Contextually, Beaver Creek and Smith Pond are situated in location that is heavily dissected and fragmented with agricultural fields and other open areas. Subsequently, opportunities for large block old forest development for area sensitive forest interior species are limited. However, the more fragmented setting offers great opportunities for "edge" game species and early successional "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" as identified within the state's Wildlife Action Plan. See below for species/opportunities.

Contextually, Trump Coulee is situated in a location that is moderately dissected and fragmented with agricultural fields and open areas. Because of this, some opportunity exists to maintain a component of older forest for wildlife species that utilize and/or require this type of older forest habitat.

WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN/SPECIES OF GREATEST CONSERVATION NEED

Species of Greatest Conservation Need associated with early successional forest, as well as the brushlands, shrub-car, and small openings of the property include; Blue-winged Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Brown Thrasher, Field Sparrow, American Woodcock, Blue-winged Teal, Whip-poor-will, Willow Flycatcher, and Pickerel Frog .

Species of Greatest Conservation Need associated with larger blocks of older forest at Trump Coulee include: Acadian Flycatcher , Cerulean Warbler , Hooded Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Veery, Wood Thrush, and Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY AREA

None of the properties fall within a "Conservation Opportunity Area" as identified within the Wildlife Action Plans implementation document.

Beaver Creek and Trump Coulee



Interim Forest Management Plan

Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties

The Beaver Creek Rearing Station's primary purpose is to raise largemouth bass. Adult broodstock largemouth bass from Bills Pond are removed in the spring of the year and stocked into Northfield Lake prior to spawning. Those broodstock bass then spawn in late spring in Northfield Lake and the offspring from that year's largemouth bass hatch. In late summer, those young bass are harvested and stocked into lakes throughout Wisconsin. All broodstock are removed from Northfield Lake in the fall and restocked into Bills Pond prior to winter.

Trump Lake is not operational at this time due to dam safety concerns.

Fishing is not allowed on the Beaver Creek or Trump Lake properties because they are classified as state fish rearing facilities. The adjoining uplands are open for public recreational use. Hunting for deer, turkey and small game is popular on the properties. Supplemental pheasant stocking also occurs at the Beaver Creek property throughout the fall hunting season. Non-consumptive outdoor use such as hiking and nature photography are also present on both properties.

Current forest types, size classes and successional stages

The Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties consist of 1140 acres of oak, red maple, red pine, white pine, aspen, and white birch stands, as well as grasses and lowland brush. The properties in total are about 58% forested land and 42% non-forested. The majority of the forested acres are oak and red maple stands, but aspen stands are scattered throughout, as well as red pine and white pine plantations. The majority of non-forested acres are true grasses or herbaceous vegetation and upland brush.

Oak:

Oak stands make up a significant portion of the Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties. The Beaver Creek forested acres are approximately 31% oak, with the larger stands having 80 year old trees in the 11-15" and 15+" dbh size classes. Smith Pond's oak stand acreage is 19% of its forested area. The majority of this oak is 65 years old and in the 15+" dbh size class. Trump Coulee's oak acreage has a variety of oak stand ages and size classes. Some smaller stands are very young oak, but the larger stands are 80+ years old with stands 1, 7, 13, 17, 18, 19, and 22 having 146 acres total of 100+ year old oak. Overall, in the Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties, 333 acres of oak stands are present and make up 51% of the total 658 forested acres on the Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties.

Pine:

Pine plantations are a smaller portion of the Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties, but are valuable for forest management goals and grow quite well on the property. On the Beaver Creek property, only 9 acres of red pine, 3% of the forested acreage, are present. This pine is 20-40 years old. Smith Pond has 21 acres of red pine, which makes up 27% of its forested acreage. This pine is around 30 years in age and is in the 5-9" and 9-15" dbh size classes. Trump Coulee has 16 additional acres of red pine plantations that are about 40 years in age and in the 9-15" size class. A majority of the red pine acreage has been managed and thinned over the years. Red pine makes up 46 acres, or 7% of the total forested acreage on these properties.

Red Maple:

Red maple stands are another significant portion of the Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties. At Beaver Creek, 96 acres of red maple are present and make up 37% of its forested acreage. This red maple has two major age classes: some is 40-50 years old and in the 5-11" dbh size class, while the rest is 80-100 years old and in the 15+" dbh size class. Smith Pond has 21 acres of red maple, making 24% of its forested acreage. This red maple is young, <15 years



Interim Forest Management Plan

Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties

old, and in the 0-5" dbh size class. Trump Coulee has red maple, but does not have primary red maple stands. Overall, red maple stands make up 117 acres, or 18% of the total 658 forested acres on these properties.

Aspen:

Aspen stands are scattered throughout the Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties. Beaver Creek has 32 acres of aspen, making up 17% of its forested acres. Some of this aspen is younger, <15 years old, and is in the 0-5" dbh size class. The rest of this aspen is 70+ years old and in the 5-11" dbh size class. Trump Coulee has 54 acres of aspen stands as well, making up 18% of its forested acreage. This aspen is primarily 40 years old and in the 5-11" dbh size class. A small portion of the aspen at Trump Coulee is <10 years old and in the 0-5" dbh size class. Overall, aspen makes up 86 acres, or 13% of the total 658 forested acres on these properties.

Other:

As for other acreage on the Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties, a few other stands are present. Beaver Creek has a small portion of central hardwoods stands and miscellaneous deciduous stands. Smith Pond has 29 acres of white birch stands, making up 33% of its forested acreage. This white birch is 45 years of age and in the 5-11" dbh size class. Finally, Trump Coulee has a small portion of Bottomland Hardwood stands.

State Natural Area designations

none

High Value Conservation Forests (HVCF) or other resources/natural community types limited in the landscape:

There are 146 acres of oak over 100 years old at Trump Coulee.

Biotic Inventory status

None.

Deferral/consultation area designations:

none

Rare species

One state endangered, 3 state threatened, and 2 state special concern species are listed for the general area in the Natural Heritage Inventory database at the time of this writing.

Invasive species

The Beaver Creek Property only has reports of honeysuckle in stand 12. Most inventory data was taken either in 2007-2008 or 2014-2015. Another note is the stand 2 pine plantation has an infestation of tree of heaven (*ailanthus altissima*).

The Smith Pond Property does not have any reports of invasive species, but a few stands have not been evaluated.

The Trump Coulee Property does not have any reports of invasive species, but some stands have not been evaluated.



Interim Forest Management Plan

Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties

All invasive species found on the property should be properly treated in a way that reduces impact on the property. Invasive BMP's will be followed during timber sales and management of the properties will take into account the effects of these invasive species.

Soils

The Beaver Creek Property surrounding Northfield Lake contains a mixture of Seaton silt loam, Hixton silt loam, Boone sand, and Elvasil sandy loam. There are also Council and Seaton soil complexes. Relief is typically 6-20 percent slopes, but some slopes can be as steep as 50-60 percent.

The Smith Pond Property is made up of four main soil types. These include Tarr sand, Impact sand, Tint sand, and Newlang muck. The property is lowland for the most part and flat, with 0-15 percent slopes.

The Trump Coulee Property contains mostly Tarr sand 6-15 percent slopes and Boone-Elvasil complex 15-50 percent slopes. It also has a Council-Elvasil-Norden complex 30-60 percent slopes. The property varies between lowland stream bottoms and rolling hills.

Cultural and Recreational Considerations

Cultural and archeological sites (including tribal sites)

- The Smith Pond (Lowe Creek) Fishery Area has an Archeological site located within its boundaries. Contact with the State Historical Society is required prior to any activities near known sites.

RECREATIONAL USE

- For the Smith Pond (Lowe Creek) Fishery Area fishing, hunting, and trapping are the primary recreational uses of the property. Access is provided by a 0.15 acre parking lot at the northern end of the property off Green Acres Road and along Green Acres (north) road and Sechlerville Road (west). Lowe Creek is a Class II (1.09 miles) and Class III (3.08 miles) brook trout stream. There are two small ponds on the property. Hunting opportunities exist for whitetail deer, wild turkey, grouse, woodcock, squirrels, and black bear.

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

Forest Management Objectives:

These properties are managed primarily to restore habitat conditions within the stream corridor, protect water quality, and to provide quality wildlife habitat. Forest management objectives include maintaining existing forest types and developing a diversity of age classes focusing on young forest and maintaining small patches of old forest areas (especially at Trump Coulee) for both game and non-game species dependent on these types. This will largely be accomplished through sustainable silvicultural



Interim Forest Management Plan

Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties

systems that will increase the diversity and structural complexity of wildlife habitat while at the same time avoiding disturbance to riparian areas along the stream corridor.

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):

1. Maintain oak cover types where feasible.
 - a. Diversify age classes with emphasis on developing younger stands
 - b. Crop tree release oak in young stands.
 - c. Regenerate oak stands where feasible and promote oak in young mixed hardwood stands.
 - d. Promote/retain larger diameter trees where feasible especially at Trump Coulee.
 - e. Increase standing dead snags and course woody debris
2. Convert conifer cover types
 - a. Promote conversion of red pine plantations to hardwoods with emphasis on oak
3. Red Maple/Central and bottomland hardwoods
 - a. Promote species other than ash in the understory when conducting management
 - b. Promote some larger diameter trees where better soils exists
 - c. Increase standing dead snags and course woody debris
4. Aspen/Birch/other
 - a. Maintain aspen/birch and diversify age classes with emphasis on developing younger stands.

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):

OAK – Beaver Creek and Smith Pond: Smaller, even-age harvests, over the next 15 years will be used to diversify the oak age class. Maintain and promote oak through planting, timber stand improvement methods, thinning, coppice, overstory removal, shelterwood, and other techniques described in the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook. Promote the growth and retention of large oak through techniques such as thinning. Reserve/legacy trees should be retained as groups or individuals throughout the property within harvested stands to maintain a component of large mast trees and promote both snag trees and course woody debris for wildlife.

Trump Coulee: Extend even-aged rotation age constraints to 120+ years to lengthen oak harvest schedule. Maintain and promote old oak through thinning, group selection, extended rotation and managed old forest/old growth.

RED PINE – Thin red pine plantations every 8-10 years or when stocking warrants maintaining healthy, vigorous stands. When close to rotation, retain some scattered trees for wildlife values and leave dead and dying trees for wildlife habitat.

ASPEN/Birch/other – Maintain aspen cover type by regenerating the stand using a coppice system. Favor winter harvesting for more abundant regeneration as well as reduced soil impact. Rotation age is generally 50 years. Achieve age-class diversity by flexing rotation age within the property.

RED MAPLE/Central and bottomland hardwoods - Lower quality sites will be rotated and regenerated via coppice with fiber as the product objective. Higher quality sites will be managed with a sawlog objective by either shelterwood or group selection regeneration techniques. The



Interim Forest Management Plan

Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties

group selection technique can be used to maintain patches of red maple and other semi-tolerant species if management sees the site fit enough to support the type.

All STANDS –

- Follow proper BMP's to protect streams and ponds on the properties.
- Maintain a variety of forest stand types and promote oak and aspen regeneration on the properties.
- Identify invasive species and use proper BMP practices and treatment options to eradicate or minimize impact.
- Identify rare and endangered species and provide habitat and protect these species.
- Use thoughtful planning with forest management practices to enhance recreation opportunities on the properties.
- Retain reserve/legacy/green tree retention trees as groups or individuals throughout the property within harvested stands

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):

Beaver Creek:

2016: Compartment 1 Stands 2,14,15 have 6 acres of pine thinning and 40 acres of oak regeneration harvest.

2018: Compartment 1 Stands 11,18 have 86 acres of oak regeneration harvest.

2028: Compartment 1 Stand 4 has 15 acres of red maple regeneration harvest.

Smith Pond:

2016: Comp. 242 Stands 1,2,3 have 21 acres of red pine thinning.

2020: Comp. 242 Stand 6 has 17 acres of oak regeneration harvest.

Trump Coulee:

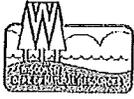
2016: Comp. 241 Stands 2,17,18 have 3 acres of red pine thinning, 17 acres of oak thinning from below (stand 17) and 24 acres of oak regeneration harvest (stand 18) .

2017: Comp. 241 Stands 1,9,14 have 28 acres of oak regeneration harvest, 29 acres of oak thinning, and 13 acres of red pine thinning.

2022: Comp. 241 Stands 8,13,19 have 10 acres of intermediate oak thinning and 51 acres of oak regeneration harvest.

2025: Comp. 241 Stands 15,16 have 29 acres of aspen coppice harvest.

Beaver Creek
Trump Creek



Interim Forest Management Plan Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties

Approvals:

Armond O Burtz 6/20/16
Regional Ecologist Date

Clint Hill 6/13/16
Forester Date

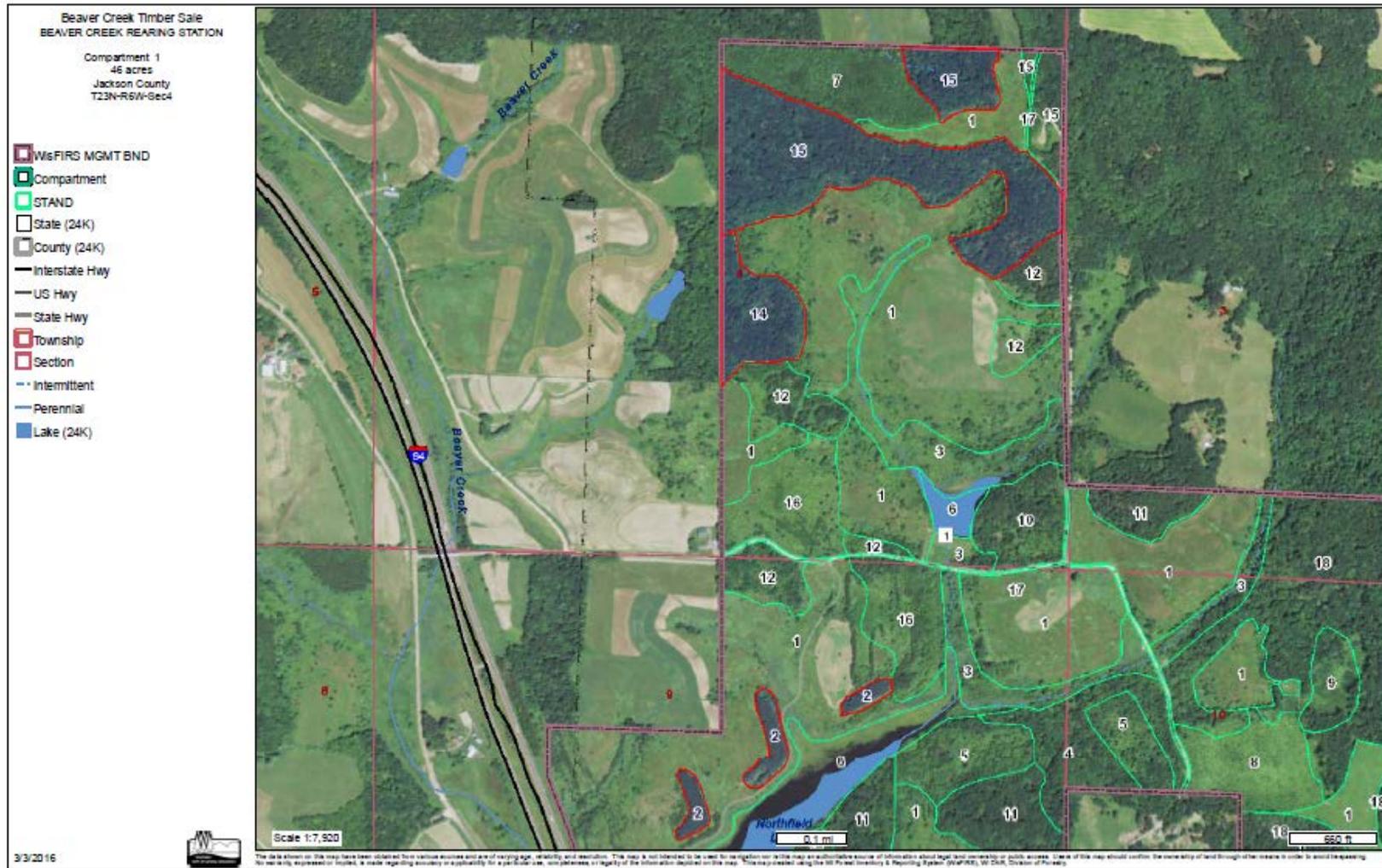
Don Berik 06/13/2016
Daniel C. Hart (Smithland) 06/13/2016
Property Manager Date

Robert H. H. 6-21-16
Area/Team Supervisor Date



Interim Forest Management Plan Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties

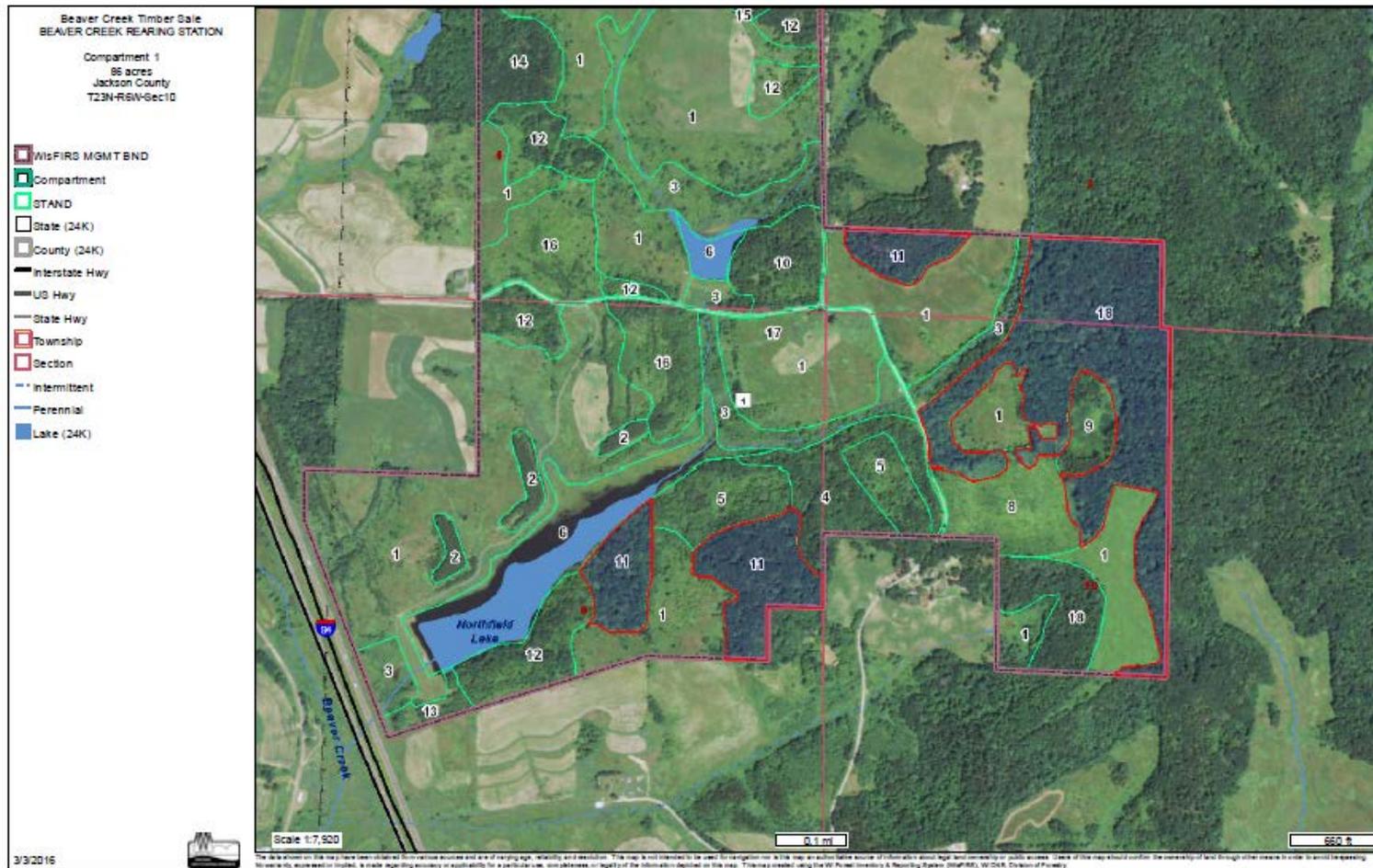
Beaver Creek 2016 Proposed Timber Sale Map - 46 acre
Oak regeneration harvest and Red pine thinning





Interim Forest Management Plan Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties

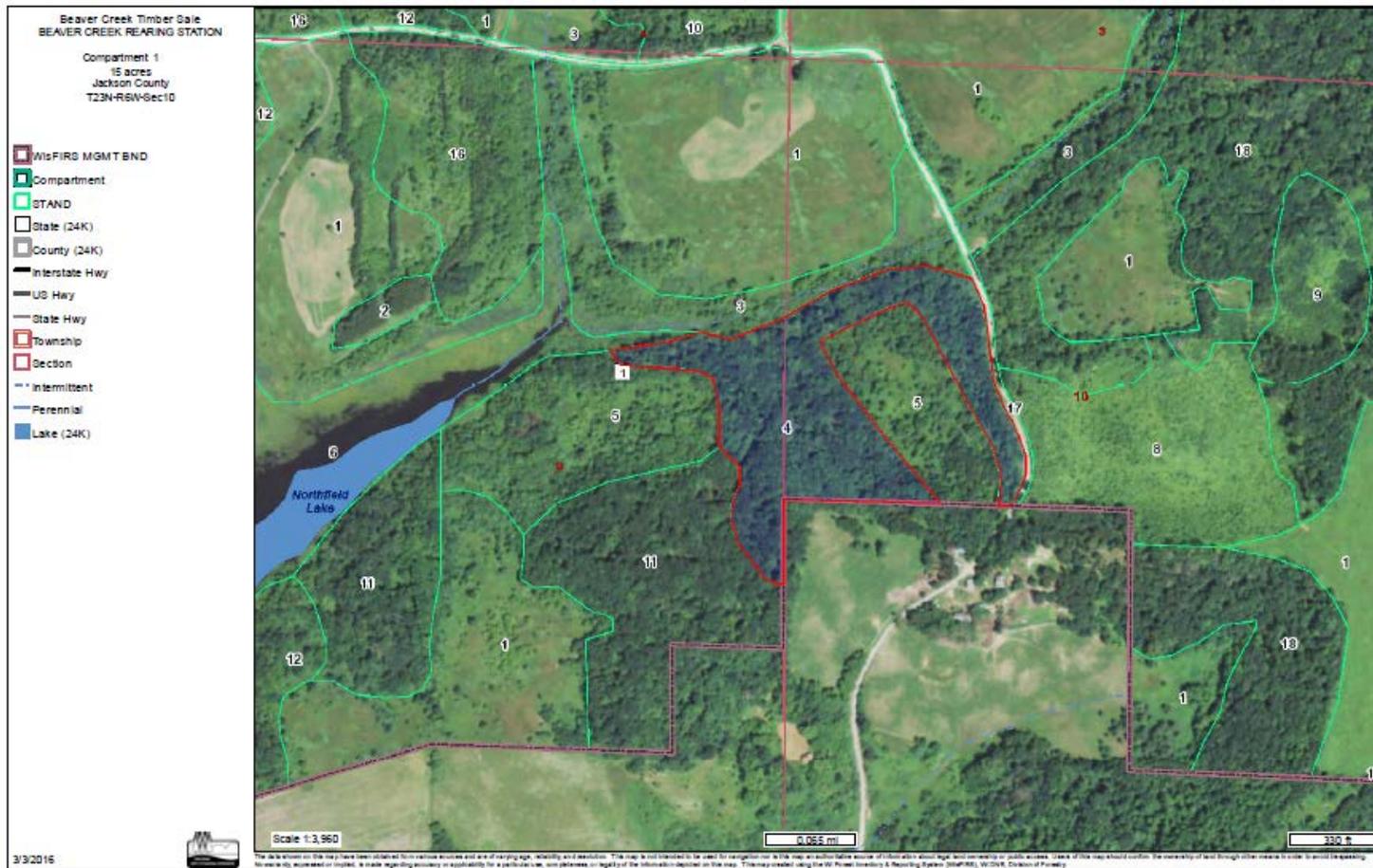
Beaver Creek 2018 Proposed Timber Sale – 86 acres
Oak and red maple regeneration harvest





Interim Forest Management Plan Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties

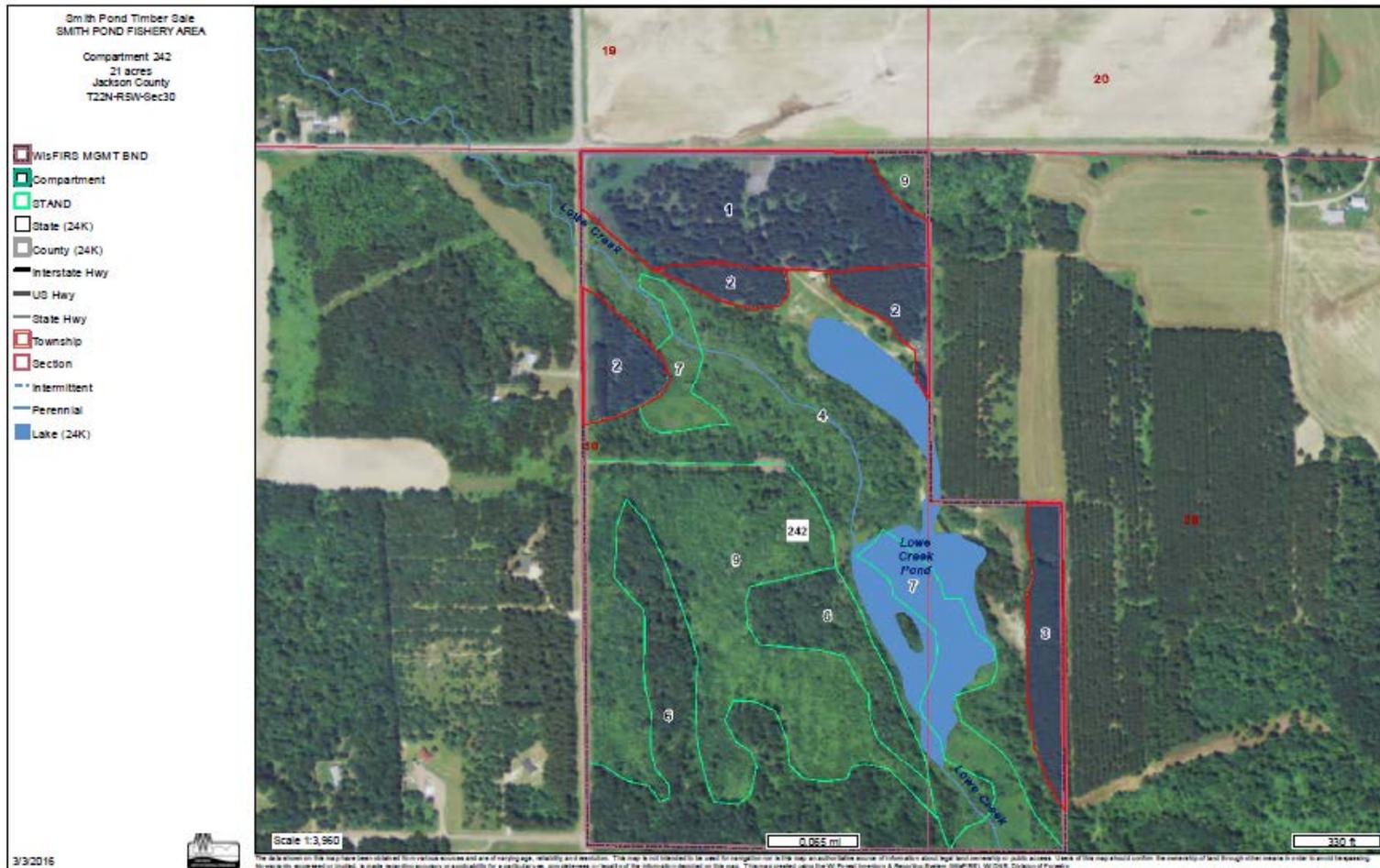
Beaver Creek 2028 Proposed Timber Sale – 15 acres
Red maple regeneration harvest





Interim Forest Management Plan Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties

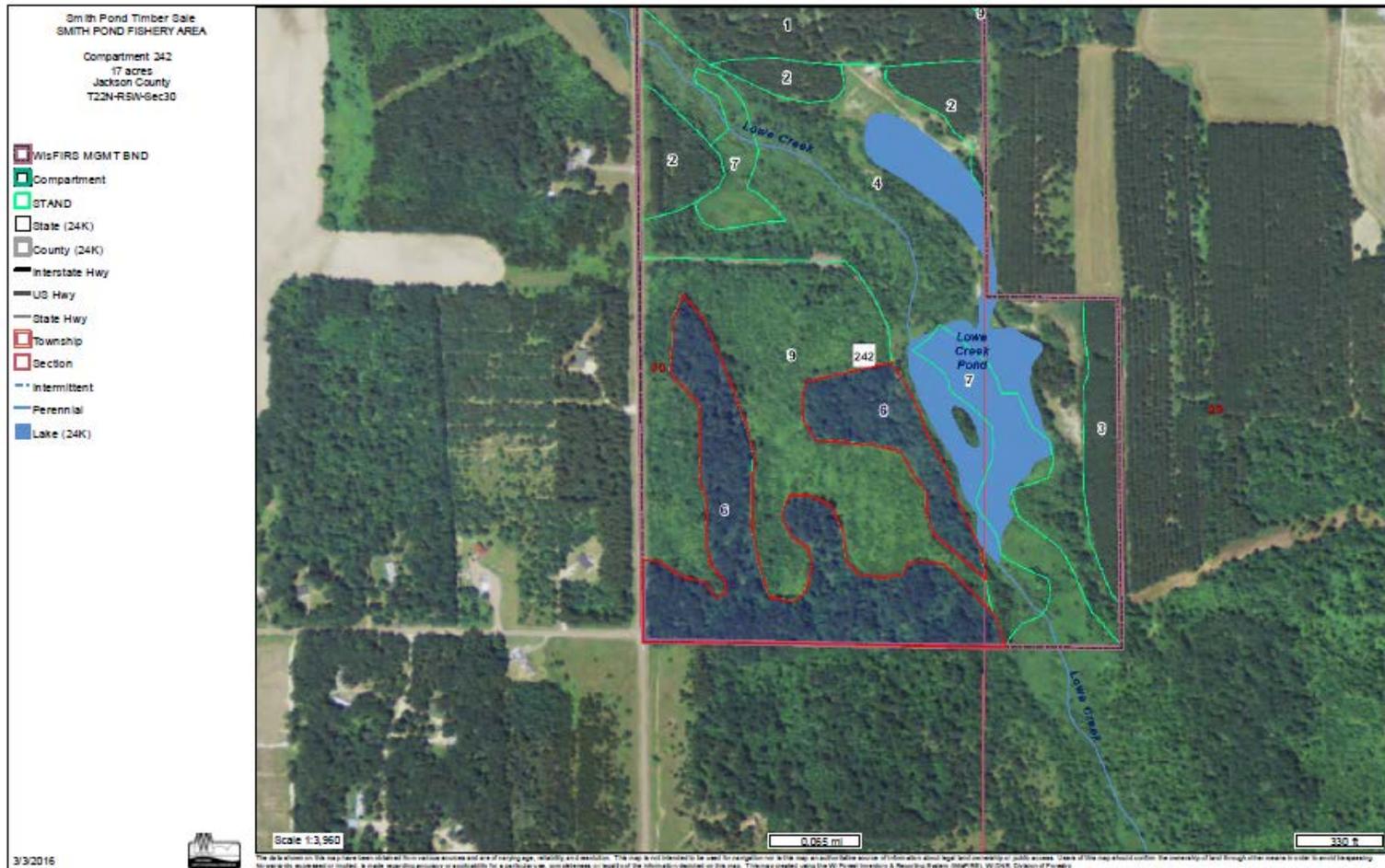
Smith Pond 2016 Proposed Timber Sale Map – 21 acres
Red pine thinning





Interim Forest Management Plan Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties

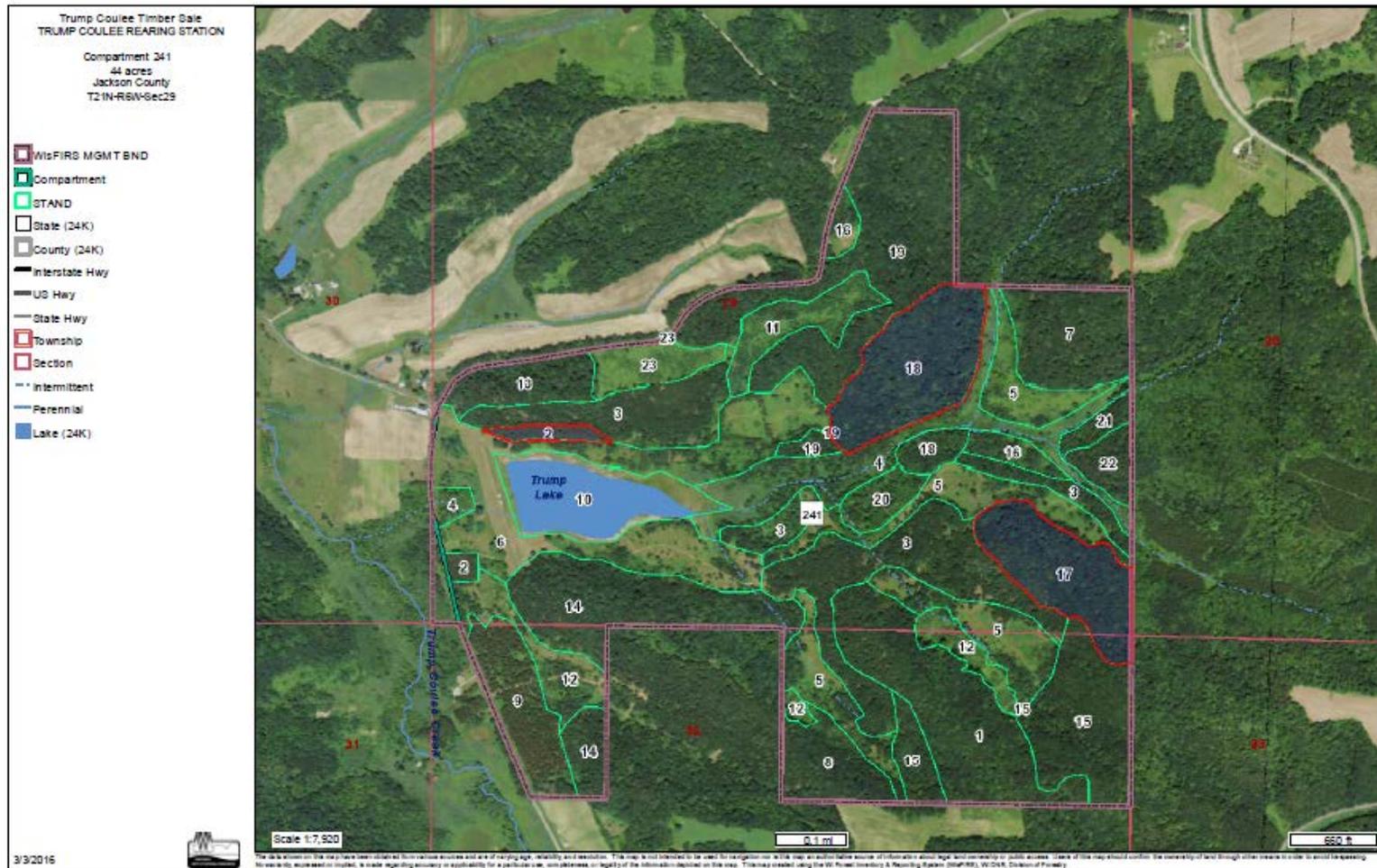
Smith Pond 2020 Proposed Timber Sale Map – 17 Acres
Oak regeneration harvest





Interim Forest Management Plan Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties

Trump Coulee 2016 Proposed Timber Sale Map – 44 acres
Oak regeneration harvest and red pine thinning





Interim Forest Management Plan Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties

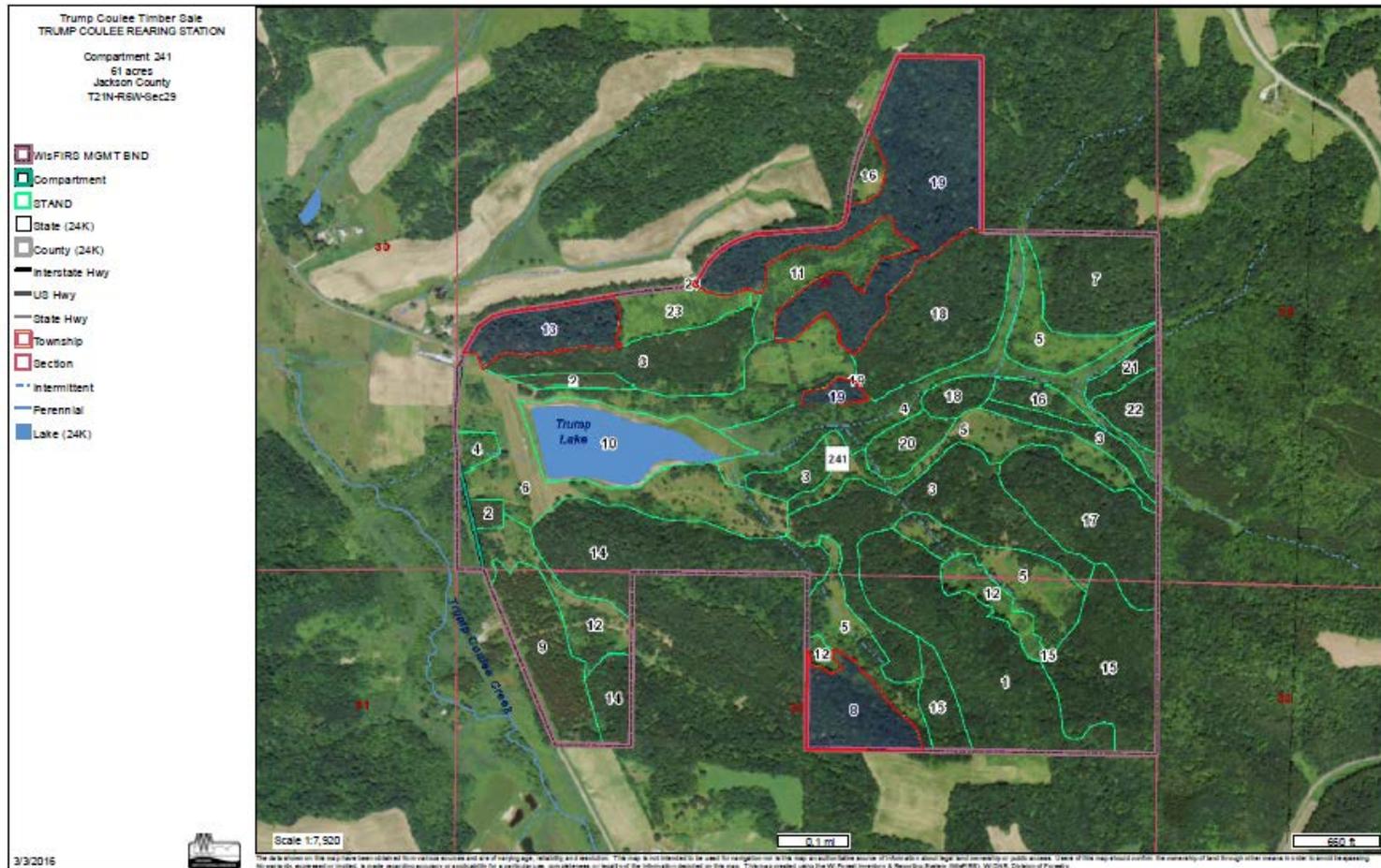
Trump Coulee 2017 Proposed Timber Sale – 70 acres
Oak regeneration harvest and red pine thinning





Interim Forest Management Plan Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties

Trump Coulee 2022 Proposed Timber Sale – 61 acres
Intermediate oak thinning and oak regeneration harvest





Interim Forest Management Plan Jackson County Pond and Lake Properties

Trump Coulee 2025 Proposed Timber Sale Map – 29 acres
Aspen coppice harvest

