



Interim Forest Management Plan

Property Identifiers

Property Name: **MacKenzie Center and Poynette State Game Farm**

Property Location: Columbia County

Property Acreage: 619.25 acres

Forestry Property Code(s): 1139

Master Plan Date: None

Part 1: Property Assessment

General Property Description

This plan covers both the MacKenzie Center and the Poynette State Game Farm.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/education/mackenzie/>

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/gamefarm.html>

The MacKenzie Center, just 25 miles north of Madison, is one of the most diverse education centers in Wisconsin. With interpretive trails, exhibits, museums and programming available for school and youth groups, MacKenzie is a wonderful place to visit and learn about the natural world. The State Game Farm is connected to the MacKenzie Center and is adjacent to the arboretum on the western half of the property. The goals of the State Game Farm and the pheasant stocking program are to provide quality pheasant hunting opportunities on public and private lands, promote safe and ethical behavior in the field, and cooperate with conservation groups dedicated to promoting pheasant hunting in the state. There are a number of programs the WDNR uses to accomplish these goals. All ring-necked pheasants provided by the DNR for each of these programs are produced at the State Game Farm.

Landscape and Regional Context

This property occurs within the Central Sand Hills Ecological Landscape. Important concerns and considerations in the Central Sand Hills include the fragmentation and isolation of major habitats, groundwater withdrawals, ground and surface water contamination, hydrologic disruption due to ditching and diking, fire suppression and the loss of fire-dependent habitats and species, shoreline development, and the introduction and spread of invasive species. Fire suppression has altered successional pathways that maintained savannas, prairies and other fire-adapted or dependent vegetation.



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History of land use and past management:

The property was originally purchased as a fur and bird game farm. In the late sixties, the Mackenzie Center branched off, and the Mackenzie lodge was built in the seventies. Past management has included planting of former agricultural fields to prairie, some of which have been used as propagation beds to provide seed for other DNR prairie plantings. Adjacent lands include a subdivision of houses, rural homes, and agricultural lands. The topography is rolling hills with sandy soil.

Site Specifics

| Forest Type | Acres | % |
|--------------------|-------|-----|
| Central Hardwoods | 36 | 24 |
| Fir Spruce | 14 | 9 |
| Northern Hardwoods | 26 | 17 |
| Oak | 20 | 13 |
| Red Pine | 27 | 18 |
| White Pine | 28 | 19 |
| Total: | 151 | 100 |

| Cover type | Acres | % |
|--------------|-------|-----|
| Forested | 151 | 24 |
| Non-forested | 470 | 76 |
| Total: | 621 | 100 |

Invasive species known on the property include buckthorn, garlic mustard, spotted knapweed, thistles, bird's foot trefoil, honeysuckle, wild parsnip, and others.

Cultural and Recreational Considerations

Cultural and archeological sites: Many of the buildings are historic sites. The state archeologist will be consulted prior to any ground-disturbing activity.

Primary public uses (recreation): Education, hiking, hunting, and wildlife area.



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Part 2: IFMP Components

Management Objectives

This forest plan applies to all conifer stands and wind rows on the property. Forest management in other forest types on this property is being deferred until future management goals and directives are developed. This plan also applies to the existing prairie and savanna restoration areas on the property.

Objectives:

- Sustainably manage the conifer stands on the property for forest products, aesthetics, and education.
- Maintain wind rows as desired to protect pheasant rearing areas.
- Offer opportunities for outdoor education and recreation, including hunting and nature study.
- With the exception of the 2-acre white pine stand south of the Wildlife Exhibit, the forest stands immediately adjacent to and between the Wildlife Exhibit and the Conservation Museum shall not be scheduled for traditional timber harvests.
- Manage red pine on an even-aged basis with natural conversion to white pine, oak, or central hardwoods. Harvest and utilize red pine before it is lost due to mortality.
- Control invasive species across the property.
- Maintain prairie and savanna restoration areas.

Property Prescriptions:

- The WI DNR Silvicultural Handbook shall be utilized to manage conifer forest cover types.
- Commercially thin the red and white pine plantations to rotation age. Red pine that has stagnated due to being on the fringe of its native range will be salvaged with natural conversion to hardwoods or white pine. Such stands may also be under planted so as to expedite the conversion and prevent further establishment of invasive plants.
- Utilize BMP's for Invasive Species to help limit the introduction and spread of invasive species when conducting timber sales.
- Utilize opportunities to control invasive species and establish natural forest regeneration.
- Control invasive species using chemical, mechanical, and manual techniques.
- Conduct periodic prescribed burns to restore and maintain prairies and savannas.
- Plant trees as desired for education, aesthetics, future timber products, or for wildlife habitat.

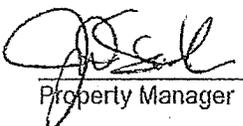


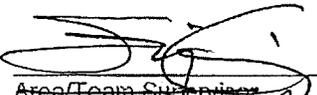
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Approvals:


Ecologist 8/4/15
Date


Forester 4 August '15
Date


Property Manager 8-11-15
Date


Area/Team Supervisor 8/11/15
Date
Deputy Dir. Admin