



Interim Forest Management Plan

Property Identifiers

Property Name and Designation: **Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area**

County(ies): **Burnett and Washburn**

Property Acreage: 6448

Forestry Property Code(s):781

Master Plan Date: **Management Plan was created 4/25/89**

Part 1: Property Assessment

General Property Description

- **Landscape and regional context**

The Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area property is found within the middle of the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape. The dominate Land Type Association (LTA) that makes up all but about 40 acres of what is referred to as the North Unit of the property is Bayfield Level Barrens (212Ka06). A small corner (approximately 40 acres) in the southeast part of the North Unit is LTA Gordon Rolling Barrens (212Ka11). The portion of the property that is referred to as the South Unit is LTA Lower Namekagon Rolling Barrens (212Ka15).

This property is found in a local landscape that is dominated by large forested tracts which are owned by both public agencies such as Burnett, Douglas and Washburn County Forests, as well as private forest industry. Numerous wetlands, shallow ponds and lakes are scattered across the area, and some of these lakes contain significant shoreline development. Large river systems, including the Namekagon and St Croix are found in close proximity to the Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area property.

- **History of land use and past management**

On May 14, 1953, The Wisconsin Prairie Grouse Management Policy was endorsed by the DNR agreeing to manage land for pine barren habitat protection. On April 1, 1956, DNR began leasing 5,686 acres for the Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area from Burnett County, which consisted of a North, Middle and South Units. Exact acreage and parcels have changed slightly over the years. Currently DNR is in the final stage of acquiring the most recently leased 5,048 acres from Burnett County. On January 8, 2014, The Conservation Fund, with grants from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, Wal-Mart's Acre for America via the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and several private and non-profit donations, donated 1,398 acres immediately north and east of the existing leased land and within project boundaries of the property. As of date, the Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area is 6,446 acres, consisting of 5,774 contiguous acres in the North Unit and 722 contiguous acres in the South Unit. The Units are separated by about 3 miles.



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Site Specifics

781 - NAMEKAGON BARRENS WLDLIFE AREA

Acreage

Recon Acres	6,441	
Forested Acres	1,587	Forested acres include acreage from stands that have a true forest type for their primary forest type.
Scheduled for Management	1,587	
Not Scheduled for Management	0	Acreage not scheduled for management includes acreage from stands with a prefix of: R - Designated Wild River Zone Y - Designated Wilderness Area Z - Other Stand Omitted from Management
Non-Forested Acres	4,854	

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Forest Type	Forest Type Description	Stands	Acres	Percent of Forested Acres	Percent of Recon Acres
OX	SCRUB OAK	2	70	4 %	1 %
PR	RED PINE	2	1,403	88 %	22 %
SH	SWAMP HARDWOODS	1	114	7 %	2 %
Total:		5	1,587	99 %	25 %

- State Natural Area designations**
 There are currently no SNA designations on any of these parcels.
- High Value Conservation Forests (HCVF) or other resources/natural community types limited in the landscape**
 The need for this property for the protection of this rare habitat and its related species is documented as high priority in many state management plans including the Wildlife Action Plan (identified as globally significant), Strategies for Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Needs, Managing Grasslands for Birds-A guide for Wisconsin and the Rapid Ecological Assessment for the Northwest Barrens Planning Group (Publication PUB-ER-816 2009).
- Biotic Inventory status and Rare Species**
 Numerous rare species and good-quality examples of native communities have been documented within the Rapid Ecological Assessment for the Northwest Barrens Planning Group (Publication PUB-ER-816 2009). NHI screening will be conducted prior to all future management activities.
- Deferral/consultation area designations**
 There is 1 Consultation site designated on these parcel. Refer to the Rapid Ecological Assessment for the Northwest Barrens Planning Group (Publication PUB-ER-816 2009).



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- **Invasive species**

Those invasive species that pose a serious threat to the ecological integrity of these properties include: spotted knapweed and leafy spurge, both of which are currently being control with proper management.

- **Soils**

Menahga Sand, Grayling Sand, Mahtomedi Loamy Sand, Seeleyville and Markey

Cultural and Recreational Considerations

- There are no historical or archeological sites listed for this property on the Archeological Sites Inventory.
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Part 2: IFMP Components

Management Objectives

- Maintain and/or create pine barren habitat by controlling woody encroachment with mowing, prescribed burning or other habitat maintenance means.
- Maximize pine/oak barren native wildlife species.
- Maintain the extent and quality of current wetland types.
- Use the Ecological Landscapes: Northwest Sands - to guide pine/oak barren management.
- The Rapid Ecological Assessment for the Northwest Barrens Planning Group, the Wildlife Action Plan and NHI will be used as references for management.

Property Prescriptions

- Convert all timber types to pine/oak barrens with timber sales and prescribed burning.
- Consider extended conversion age of jack pine stand.
- Apply prescribed burns and mechanical techniques to maintain pine/oak barrens.
- Consider extended rotation for the 5 acre parcel of scrub oak around the cabin.
- Retain reserve clumps and individual pine and oak for diversity, perch trees and future cavities.



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Approvals:

Ryan Magana 11-10-14

Regional Ecologist Date

Kyle Young 11-10-14

Forester Date

Nancy M. Christel 11-10-14

Property Manager Date

Pete Engman 11-10-14

Area/Team Supervisor Date