



Interim Forest Management Plan

Property Identifiers

Property Name and Designation (multiple small properties can be grouped):
Pine-Popple Wild Rivers (PPWR)

County(ies): **Florence**

Property Acreage: 11,335.21

Forestry Property Code(s): 1976

Master Plan Date: Master Plan approved January 29, 1981

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

The following items should be considered during the property assessment. Not all sections may be relevant for all properties.

General Property Description

The Pine – Popple Wild Rivers project is located in Florence County, extending for several miles along the Pine and Popple Rivers. The goal of the project is to restore and perpetuate, through special management, a wild and natural condition on the two rivers and their adjacent shorelands in Florence and Forest County for the benefit of present and future generations. Recreational activities include white-water rafting, canoeing, kayaking, sightseeing, fishing, hunting, camping and other forms of outdoor recreation activities.

- **Landscape and regional context**

The property is within the North Central Forest and Northeast Sands Ecological Landscapes, and are made up of these 6 LTA's: Spread Eagle Barrens (212Tc02), Fern Moraines (212Xg06), Popple River Knolls (212Xc05), Florence Moraines (212Xg05), Homestead Moraines (212Tc01), and Sand Lake Plains (212Tc17). Two terrestrial Conservation Opportunity Areas (COA) – Nicolet Hemlock-Hardwoods and Spread Eagle Barrens – are present on the property or directly adjacent. Spread Eagle Barrens is listed as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative. A portion of the PPWR property includes the Lauterman Lake Important Bird Area (IBA).

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

Historically, logging occurred in this area of the state in the late 1800's, with use of the rivers as transport corridors for the harvested timber. In 1916, the predecessors to Wisconsin Electric Power Company began acquiring land along the river for development of power generating plants. In 1927, the original forest tax and fire protection laws were established, transitioning the timber harvest in this area to a more selective cut.

In the 1930's, the Nicolet National Forest was established, including a large part of the river corridors in Forest County. The Wisconsin system of state wild rivers was established by the 1965 Legislature with enactment of Section 30.26 Wisconsin Statutes. The statement of legislative intent says in part: "In order to afford the people of this state an opportunity to enjoy natural streams, to attract out-of-state visitors and assure the well being of our tourist industry, it is in the interest of this state to preserve some rivers in a free flowing condition and to protect them from development." The legislation further



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states, "... the Pine River and its tributary Popple River in Florence and Forest counties are designated as wild rivers and shall receive special management to assure their preservation, protection and enhancement of their natural beauty, unique recreation and other inherent values..."

In October 1978, the DNR Natural Resources Board adopted Chapter NR 302, Wisconsin Administrative Code, which defined the intention of "free flowing condition" as indicated in the state law, as well as establishing a protection zone along the river corridor of either 400 feet from the river or to the visual horizon, whichever is greater. The administrative code also created within the protection zone, a 150-foot buffer zone along the river corridor where no vegetative management could occur, other than invasive species control.

Land beyond the 150-foot zone has been managed in accordance with the DNR's Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook (HB 2431.5), as "Class D scenic areas". Harvests have been completed with a minimal visual impact and ultimate succession to long rotation species through selective cutting.

Site Specifics

- **Current forest types, size classes and successional stages**
See the prescription section for current details.
- **State Natural Area designations**
The Goodman Lakes area is within the PPWR project boundary and is currently under consideration for State Natural Area Designation. The Spread Eagle Barrens property is directly adjacent to the PPWR and is a designated State Natural Area (SNA). Another SNA that is directly adjacent to the PPWR is Haley Creek Swamp SNA.
- **High Value Conservation Forests (HCVF) or other resources/natural community types limited in the landscape**
Pine Barrens and associated Bracken Grasslands,
- **Biotic Inventory status**
A Rapid Ecological Assessment was completed in June, 2011. This document is available on the Department's website <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/nhi/nhireports.asp> under DNR Publication PUB-ER-831-2011.
- **Deferral/consultation area designations.**
There is one Consultation site within the property grouping – 1) Goodman Wild Lakes and Pine River. There are no Deferral Sites within this property.
- **Rare species**
Rare species and high-quality examples of native communities have been documented within the PPWR. Refer to the Rapid Ecological Assessment for the project (DNR Publication PUB-ER-831-2011) on the Department's website <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/nhi/nhireports.asp> for more detailed information. NHI screening will be conducted prior to all future management activities.
- **Invasive species**
A report including an inventory of invasive species and recommendations for control was completed for PPWR in 2012. This document is available for review upon request.
- **Soils**
An excerpt from the Rapid Ecological Assessment for the PPWR and SEBSNA (PUB-ER-831-2011): The soils of the two projects are mostly the result of weathering of glacial deposits. A line runs roughly through the center of the two projects that divides the planning group, as well as the county, between grayish loams and sandy loams in the west and sands in the east (Carlson et al. 1971). The grayish loams of the west were formed from glacial deposits which were derived from bedrock. The sands of the east were formed from sandy parent materials which were derived from the Cambrian and Lake Superior sandstone formations.



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Cultural and Recreational Considerations

- Cultural and archeological sites (including tribal sites)
The Archeological and other Cultural Resources map for Florence County (WI DNR, May 2012) identifies several historical and archeological sites within the PPWR. This map is compiled from data provided by the Division of Historic Preservation, Wisconsin Historical Society. Projects located within the PPWR will follow manual code procedures to avoid impacts to cultural and archeological sites.

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

Management Objectives (Outline primary forest management objectives):

1. Within the Goodman Wild Lakes and Pine River Consultation site, provide older age classes (managed old growth) of hardwoods and hemlock-hardwoods, where possible.
2. In all other areas of the property, forest management will be guided by Ecological Landscape.
 - a. Northeast Sands: The lower one half of the project. Even aged management emphasis including forest openings, roads and trails.
 - b. North Central Forest: The upper one half of the project. All-aged management emphasis including very little or no forest openings work and a reduction in road density.
3. Harvests shall be completed with a minimal visual impact.

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):

General Property Prescriptions:

1. Per Wild Rivers law (SS. Ch. 30) and Administrative Code (NR 302), no vegetative management will occur within a 150-foot buffer zone along the river corridors, other than invasive species control or restoration activities. Further, land beyond the 150-foot zone shall be managed in accordance with the DNR's Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook (HB 2431.5), as "Class D scenic areas".
2. Using the Departments Old Growth Handbook for guidance, develop hardwood stands with old-growth conditions within the Goodman Wild Lakes and Pine River Consultation Site.
3. Consult with Endangered Resources District Ecologist when planning harvest activities within 900 ft of the Pine or Popple Rivers. (Wood turtle considerations).

Type Specific Prescriptions: (beyond the 150-foot buffer zone)

1. Northern Hardwood: 4,937 acres (46%). All-Aged Management
 - a. Goodman Wild Lakes Unit-2560 acres (52%)



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- i. Harvests will be developed in accordance with DNR Old Growth Handbook (HB 2480.5).
 - ii. Implement selective harvest promoting structural, compositional and functional diversity. This Managed Old Growth area is in need of 3-4 restoration harvest treatments over the next 60 years with re-entry at a 15-20 year interval
 - iii. All Hemlock and Cedar stands, pods or individuals will be retained
 - iv. Restoration treatments can include scarification, direct seeding and hand planting of appropriate hardwood and conifer species
 - b. River corridor Unit: 2,377 acres (48%)
 - i. Implement all selective harvest at 15 year interval to include components of restoration techniques listed for the Goodman Wild Lakes Unit where stand level attributes demonstrate old growth characteristics.
 - ii. Balance of acreage to have standard Northern Hardwood Silviculture applied, with emphasis on minimizing visual impact.
- 2. Aspen: 3,687 acres (34%) Even-Aged Management
 - a. Extended Rotation Even-Aged Management with site based BTS (Big Tree Silviculture) application where appropriate. (BTS to include Reserve, Legacy, GTR and Snag Tree definitions).
- 3. All other Forest Types Combined: 2,151 acres (20%)
 - a. White Cedar-478 acres. Reserve Designation. No management
 - b. Hemlock-218 acres. Reserve designation. No management
 - c. Swamp hardwoods-394 acres. Reserve Designation. No management
 - d. Swamp Conifer-457 acres. Reserve Designation. No management adjacent to Rivers, Streams and Springs. (50% of acres). Remaining Non Reserve acres managed per Extended Rotation even-aged guidelines.
 - e. White Birch, Jack Pine, Red Pine, Black Spruce, White Spruce and Tamarack-266 acres. Management incidental to larger prescription per Extended Rotation Even-Aged guidelines.

Approvals:

Regional Ecologist Date

Forester Date

Property Manager Date

Area/Team Supervisor Date