

# Interim Forest Management Plan

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## Property Identifiers

Property Name and Designation: Statewide Wildlife Habitat Areas – Welder Property

County: Shawano

Property Acreage: 279

Forestry Property Code(s): 5904

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## Part 1: Property Assessment

### General Property Description

- **Landscape and regional context:**

The property is found in the Central Forest Transition Ecological Landscape. This ecological landscape has lost over half of its historic forests and overall, is one of the most deforested landscapes north of the Tension Zone. This Ecological Landscape is highly fragmented, limiting most forest and grassland habitats and large-scale management opportunities. The Welder property is found in the Wittenberg Township of western Shawano County. The property is located in Sections 2 and 3 of Wittenberg Township. The Township contains a mix of agricultural land and forested recreational lands. The geology of the township is a mix of fairly level to moderately steep topography with both well drained and poorly drained soil types. The overall land uses around the property are typical of the region, going from large scale farming to more recreational. The Welder property itself is a representation of recent historical actions of the regional landscape, that being of going from small scale farming operations to recreational uses or becoming part of a larger scale farming operation.

- **History of land use and past management:** The property has a history of over 100 years of functioning as a farm operation. Barb wire and stone fences are found throughout the property and are a good indication of past farming practices. The historical use of this property are typical of the region, land cleared of rocks was used for farm crops, while areas containing many rocks were left to pasture. These rocky areas contained forest cover types, but were never managed with sustainable intent, but rather used as a fuel wood source and a local supply of wood when lumber was needed for the farm. The property was donated to the Dept. of Natural Resources by the Ruben Welder estate on February 17, 2011. His wishes were that the fields be planted to trees and managed, as the agricultural leases expired.

### Site Specifics

**Current cover types include:** 53.4% agricultural fields, 9.3% low land non-productive forest cover types and 37.3% productive forest cover. Current non-productive forest cover types include: lowland brush willow 6.5%, muskeg-bog 1.4%, developed-parking area 1.4%. Productive forest cover types includes: 6.1% white cedar, 19% northern hardwoods, 2.5% tamarack, 6.1%

# Interim Forest Management Plan

red maple, 2.8% hemlock, and .8% red pine.

## Soil types and percentages of the property:

40.55%	Rosholt fine sandy loam soils - well drained.
13.14%	Scott lake loam - moderately well drained.
11.13%	Kennan boulder fine sandy loam soils - well drained.
8.70 %	Minocqua silt loam - poorly drained.
8.51%	Markey and Seelyeville muck - very poorly drained
4.15%	Loxley mucky peat – very poorly drained
3.55%	Mahtomedi-Menahga loamy sand – excessively drained
3.00%	Brill silt loam – moderately well drained
2.87%	Antigo silt loam – well drained
2.38%	Oesterle loam – somewhat poorly drained
1.10%	Cromwell sandy loam - excessively drained
0.83%	Organic deposits related to extinct lakes and recent fluvial action.

Section 2 of the property contains a class 1 trout stream labeled as creek 11-7 on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources trout stream map. It is 1.1 mile in length and is a tributary stream to the Middle Branch of the Embarrass River, a class 2 trout stream. Stream 11-7 is a naturally reproduction stream of brook trout and has several springs which provide cold water to the system.

## Cultural and Recreational Considerations

- Cultural and archeological sites: The DNR data base was checked and no Archeological, Cultural or Historic sites were found. Archaeological, Cultural or Historic sites may exist, but no comprehensive survey has been conducted. Access sites for the property have been established along the roads with 4 parking areas designated. All buildings have been removed. This property is highly used during the fall hunting seasons.

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## Part 2: IFMP Components

**Management Objectives:** The objective will be to provide wildlife habitat through sound forestry management, while providing recreation based opportunities for the public. Maintaining the integrity of the small trout stream and improve stream habitat when opportunities exists.

**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):

### Ag-land

Stands 1-15 & 19-31 - Agricultural fields (48.7%) 136 acres. These stands are numbered based on the USDA farm tract number sequence for each field. They are cleared of rocks and have a long history of being used for agricultural fields. The soil types found include: fine sandy loam and loam. All are well suited for growing trees. As the agricultural leases expire the stands will be reforested with hardwood species. These fields are currently under a sharecrop agreement and leased until December 31, 2014. As funding and crop rotation allow conversion to forest

# Interim Forest Management Plan

types, the remaining fields will be sharecropped until there is an opportunity.

## **Non-productive forest cover:**

Stand 32 - Lowland grass & willow (6.45%). This is lowland grass area with containing < 50% shrubby willow. The area is predominantly covered with reed canary grass and other grasses that grow in wet or periodically flooded conditions. The stand contains a silt loam soil type which is nearly level and poorly drained. This type may be impounded with ditch plugs or a small berm to create habitat for wildlife.

Stand 33 - Muskeg-bog (1.4%) 4 acres. This muskeg-bog area is on a lowland site and is predominantly covered with sphagnum moss, cotton grass, leatherleaf, cranberry, Labrador tea and other wetland plants. Muskegs support scattered trees, including black spruce, tamarack, and jack pine. Muskegs and bogs generally grow in muck soils that are saturated with water year round. This soil type cannot sustainably grow timber products and will remain in this habitat type.

Stand 34 – Parking area (1.4%) 4 acres. This area was originally were the farm buildings and houses were located. The areas have been cleared and are developed into parking areas for the public utilizing the property, along with two other parking areas that were created.

## **Productive Forest cover type:**

All of the current productive forest cover types (37.3%) are currently scheduled for management. The primary forest cover types include northern hardwood, red maple/aspen, white cedar/ black ash, hemlock, tamarack and scattered forest stands of red pine. To ensure no adverse impacts to creek 11-7, a riparian management zone of 100 foot will be maintained. A high density of deer on adjacent private lands will be of a concern for regeneration following harvest operations.

Stand 41 – Tamarack (1.07%) 3 acres. This area of land is a Tamarack Forest. Tamarack Forests are composed of more than 50% tamarack and associated with spruce, balsam fir, hemlock, black ash, birch, white pine as well as other native trees. These trees that make up this even-age stand originated about 1960. The current basal area is 75 square feet per acre. The stand is scheduled for an even-aged regeneration harvest in 2037. This stand will be managed under even-aged management

Stand 42 - Northern hardwoods (6.09%) 17 acres. The northern hardwood type comprises the largest forest cover type found on the property. Tree species found in this stand include: sugar maple, white ash, black cherry, red oak, basswood, red maple and bitternut hickory. The average stand density is 73 square feet of basal area per acre. Currently this is an even-aged 2 story stand. The management objective will be to convert this to an uneven-aged stand. This stand is scheduled for a harvest in 2014. This stand will be managed for uneven-aged management, and trees with cavities will be retained.

Stand 46 - Northern hardwoods (13%) 36 acres. The northern hardwood type represents the largest forest cover type found on the property. Tree species found in this stand include: sugar maple, white ash, black cherry, red oak, basswood, red maple and bitternut hickory. The average stand density is 135 square feet of basal area per acre. This stand is schedule for a single-tree selection harvest in 2014. This stand will be managed for extended rotation under uneven-aged management, and trees with cavities will be retained.

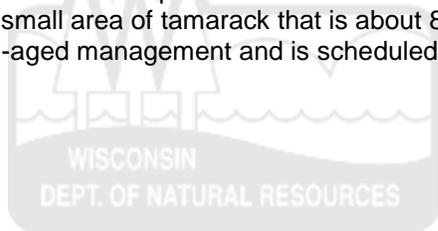
Stand 47 - Red Maple (soft maple) / Hemlock (3.9%) 11 acres. Tree species found in this stand include: red maple, hemlock, red oak, white pine, black cherry, basswood and yellow birch. The average stand density is 174 square feet of basal area per acre. This stand is scheduled for a

# Interim Forest Management Plan

selection harvest in 2014. A wet area runs through the middle of the north portion of this stand and a small creek that is just across the property line to the south. Best Management practice for water quality need to be applied to protect these sensitive areas during the selection harvests. This stand will be managed under uneven-aged management, and trees with cavities will be retained.

Stand 48 – Red Maple (soft maple) / Aspen (2.1%) 6 acres This is a red maple and aspen stand. Tree species found in this stand include: red maple, aspen, balsam fir and white pine. The age of the aspen in this stand is 59 years old, which is at rotation age for this site. In 2014 a coppice regeneration harvest will be conducted. This stand will be managed under even-aged management.

Stand 49 – Hemlock (2.86%) 8 acres. This is a Hemlock Forest and the objective is to retain hemlock. Hemlock Forests are composed of more than 50% hemlock. Trees species in this stand include: yellow birch, white pine, red maple, balsam fir and tamarack. Hemlock historically was a dominant tree species in northern Wisconsin, but is presently much less common. These trees make up an even-age stand that originated about 1926. The most abundant tree species in this stand include hemlock (61%), white pine (24%), yellow birch (7%), red maple (5%) and a scattering of red oak trees. This stand is primarily an even-aged stand, but will be managed in the long run as uneven-aged. The average stand density is 205 square feet of basal area per acre. This stand is scheduled for a selection harvest in 2014. This stand will be converted to uneven-aged management. There is a 3 acre portion of the stand along the south central property line that also includes a small area of tamarack that is about 80 years old. This 3 acre area will be managed using even-aged management and is scheduled for a regeneration harvest in 2014.



Approvals:

Joe Henry 10/16/2014  
District Ecologist Date

Scott Fischer 06/28/13  
Forester Date

Kay Brockman-Mederas 06/28/13  
Property Manager Date

John Huff 05/15/14  
Area/Team Supervisor Date