

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Monitoring the Implementation of Property Master Plans

Property: Black River State Forest

Master Plan Year: 2015

Land Management Areas

Forest Production Area – Perry Creek Basin

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Perry Creek basin will provide a continuous supply of forest products. Aspen and oak will continue to be dominant cover types, with a potential increase in acreage and a wider diversity of age classes. Red pine plantations will be converted to native cover types with a preference for oak. Bottomland hardwood stands will continue to thrive and contribute to the aesthetic and ecological integrity of adjacent native community management areas. White pine acreage will increase slightly with more large, older trees present. The Perry Creek Basin will continue to be an attractive setting for people to recreate, especially along the Black River and Perry Creek corridors. Ample hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities will be available.</p> <p>Short-Term Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain the diversity of cover types, improve the diversity of age classes for aspen and oak, and maintain jack pine when opportunities exist. 2. Maintain aesthetic appeal (such as large trees), forest health, native community habitat (small pockets of barrens, white pine-red maple swamp), and wildlife habitat. 3. Maintain aspen as a significant component in mixed or pure stands, and spread harvests over a slightly larger range of rotation as described in the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook to diversify age classes. 4. Favor long-lived species where appropriate along interstate and state highways and the Black River corridor. 5. Manage bottomland hardwoods and pine stands in floodplain and lower terraces to compliment the native community qualities, such as large trees, found on Hawk Island and upstream at the confluence of Perry Creek with the Black River. 6. Plant open fields acquired through land acquisition with tree species suitable to the site
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	The entire area is managed using “active management” techniques and will be implemented following guidelines in the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook. The General Forest Management Prescriptions for each appropriate forest type apply to this management area.
Accomplishments 2015	No timber sales in 2015. Invasive species control occurred on 81.8 acres focused on seven different species including greater celandine, garlic mustard, spotted knapweed, buckthorn, honeysuckle, cypress spurge, and wild parsnip.

Land Management Areas

Forest Production Area – Morrison and Levis Creek Basin

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Morrison and Levis Creek Basin will provide a continuous supply of forest products. Jack pine will continue to be the most common cover type. Jack pine acreage will remain the same, but a wider diversity of age classes will be present. White pine acreage and age class diversity will increase. A greater number of large, old white pine trees will be present. Oak and aspen acreage will remain similar to current levels, but oak acreage may increase as red pine plantations are converted to native cover types. Red maple will become a more common component of oak and white pine stands. Ample hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities will be available.</p> <p>Short-Term Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain a diversity of ages and stand sizes for aspen and aspen-hardwood mix using General Forest Management Prescriptions. 2. Maintain age class distribution of jack pine through harvesting at economic rotations using General Forest Management Prescriptions, realizing that natural conversion to white pine and/or red maple on wet sites will be the tendency. 3. Manage, enhance, and maintain red pine plantations throughout the normal economic and/or biological rotation. Consider conversion to native cover types where appropriate. 4. Plant open fields acquired through land acquisition with tree species suitable to the site. 5. Manage and maintain oak and oak/pine mix through harvesting at economic and/or biological rotations and tend towards a more even age class distribution. 6. Harvest early successional species, using General Forest Management Prescriptions, to connect wetlands west and slightly south of the Dike 17 Wildlife Area with short-term open landscapes. 7. Maintain and enhance a variety of aesthetic and scenic qualities along State Highway 54, County Trunk K, North Settlement Road, and the Native American (Ho-Chunk) community
<p style="text-align: center;">Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<p>The entire area is managed using “active management” techniques and will be implemented following guidelines in the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook. The General Forest Management Prescriptions for each appropriate forest type apply to this management area.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>Three timber sales in 2015</p> <p>1188 – This sale includes two mixed pine stands, one of which types out to Jack pine and the other to White pine. Both stands are being clearcut with oak and red pine left as residual. The objective in both stands is to regenerate a mixed pine stand with an oak component, STO #2 and #5</p> <p>1189 – This is a 35 acre sale comprised of three small pine stands. One stand is a white pine thinning to improve health and vigor, the second stand is a red pine plantation that is being clearcut and converted to a natural white pine stand, and the third stand is a mixed Jack and white pine stand being regenerated through a clearcut. STO #2, and #3</p> <p>1191 – This sale consisted of two red pine plantations. The first is a second thinning red pine where the goal is to improve health and vigor. The second is a stand that has multiple red pine pocket decline areas. This stand will be clearcut and regenerated to a natural mixed stand. STO #3.</p>

	Two sites totalling 100 acres were seeded in 2015. Nine acres were treated for invasive species including buckthorn, cypress spurge, and garlic mustard.
--	--

Land Management Areas

Forest Production Area – Robinson Creek Basin

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Robinson Creek Basin will provide a continuous supply of forest products. White pine will continue to be the most common cover type, with an increase in acreage, age class diversity, and in the presence of large, older trees. Oak acreage will increase slightly and will have a wider diversity of age classes. Both the oak and white pine cover types will benefit from the conversion of red pine plantations to native cover types. Red maple will become a more common component of oak and white pine stands. Aspen, jack pine, and tamarack stands will be present, but in small numbers. Ample hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities will be available.</p> <p>Short-Term Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain a diversity of ages and stand sizes for aspen and aspen-hardwood mix using General Forest Management Prescriptions. 2. Maintain age class distribution of jack pine through harvesting at economic rotations using General Forest Management Prescriptions realizing that natural conversion to white pine and/or red maple on wet sites will be the tendency. 3. Manage, enhance, and maintain red pine plantations throughout the normal economic and/or biological rotation. Consider conversion to native cover types where appropriate. 4. Plant open fields acquired through acquisition with tree species suited for the site. 5. Manage and maintain oak and oak/pine mix through harvesting at economic and/or biological rotations and tend towards a more even age class distribution. 6. Manage red oak on dry mesic sites on an economic and/or biological rotation for maximum quality and quantity of timber. Regenerate stands with the highest red oak component possible given that red maple or white pine may out compete oak.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	The entire area is managed using “active management” techniques and will be implemented following guidelines in the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook. The General Forest Management Prescriptions for each appropriate forest type apply to this management area.
2015	<p>Seven timber sales in 2015</p> <p>1182 – This is a 68 acre red pine thinning. The objective is to improve the health and vigor of the stand. STO #3</p> <p>1183 – This is a 29 acre right of way thinning done as a part of a gas line construction project. The product was a mixture of white, red, and Jack pine along with oak, maple and aspen.</p>

	<p>1184 – This is a 18 acre right of way thinning done as part of a the gas line construction project. Same species mixture as sale # 1183.</p> <p>1185 – This is a 28 acre red pine clear cut/salvage. The sale was on a very nutrient poor site that was likely stripped of its topsoil when the interstate was constructed in the 1960's. The site had many stunted trees that were dead and dying. The site had chipped tree material from the gas line project hauled onto it and spread around to help improve the quality of the site/soil. STO #3</p> <p>1186 – This is a 92 acre red pine thinning. The objective is to improve the health and vigor of the stand. STO #3.</p> <p>1187 – This was a 41 acre red pine thinning partially in the Robinson Creek Forest Production area and partially in the Overmeyer Hills recreational area. The objective is to improve the health and vigor of the stand. STO #3</p> <p>1192 – This is a 115 acre combination white and red pine thinning and release. The objective is to remove and regenerate the shorter lived species such Jack pine, oak, aspen, and red maple and thin the longer lived species. STO #1, #2, and #5</p> <p>Invasive species control occurred on 39 acres and included buckthorn, spotted knapweed, garlic mustard, and cypress spurge.</p>
--	---

Land Management Areas

Habitat Management Area – Jack Pine Area

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Establish a relatively even distribution of age classes dominated by jack pine, with mixed areas of red pine and scrub oak. Maintain some areas primarily for their prairie/barrens associated plants and animals, while managing other areas for continuous mill products. Diversity in tree density and age class will provide continuous mill product and critical habitat for barrens associated plants and animals.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Convert red pine plantations to jack pine or a mix of jack pine, red pine, and scrub oak at rotation. 2. Maintain jack pine component on all sites except those designated and maintained in a treeless, grassy condition. 3. Protect, maintain, and increase barrens vegetation in designated areas with specific emphasis on rare plants. 4. Protect, maintain, and increase barrens habitat associated animals, with specific emphasis on rare birds, invertebrates, and reptiles. 5. Increase connection between patches of barrens vegetation.
--	---

<p style="text-align: center;">Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Actively manage red pine stands primarily through thinning. Prior to and/or at rotation, use herbicide and/or prescribed fire to reduce oak component where necessary for site preparation, and to stimulate and improve barrens vegetation near stand edges and within smaller stands. 2. Actively manage jack pine stands primarily through clearcutting, using a shifting mosaic methodology which distributes harvests throughout the area to provide a wide age class distribution. Use a variety of regeneration techniques such as natural, direct seeding, planting, seed trees, and prescribed fire. 3. Identify and designate high quality barrens vegetation sites to be maintained as permanent openings of variable size. Attempt to dovetail these sites with areas where dry soils make it difficult to grow/regenerate trees (lowest site index) and where rare species are concentrated. These sites may be incorporated into the Karner Blue Butterfly Management Plan. Periodically use prescribed fire, mechanical brushing, and selective use of herbicides using DNR guidelines to minimize impacts on sensitive species. 4. Identify high quality barrens vegetation sites to be maintained in conjunction with timber production. These sites may be incorporated into the Karner Blue Butterfly Management Plan. Use existing DNR screening guidance to minimize impacts on sensitive species. 5. Mechanical brushing, selective use of herbicide, and prescribed fire could be potentially useful management tools for improving understory species diversity as well as site preparation for regeneration at rotation. When planting, use variable densities and techniques to promote patchiness of variable sizes that will maintain some openings within some stands as they mature. 6. Use timber harvesting, brushing, and selected herbicides along roadsides and between stands to develop vegetative corridors and to maintain or increase width of open areas. Consider augmenting species diversity with seed collected from nearby areas that would provide host plants and nectar sources for rare species maintenance and dispersal.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>One timber sale in 2015</p> <p>1193 – This sale consists of three pine stands. The first is a red pine plantation receiving a first thinning to improve health and vigor. The second is a somewhat open jack pine site with scattered poor quality white pine that will be removed. The goal in this stand is to maintain it as an open jack pine site, as past history shows it is not capable of supporting a closed canopy forest. The third stand is a mature Jack pine stand that is beginning to decline. This stand will be clearcut and regenerated back to Jack pine. ASRMP #1,#2, and #4</p> <p>Two sites totaling 76 acres were planted to Jack pine in 2015.</p> <p>A 16 acre fire break was installed between County highway K and Palm road. This was 2 chains wide by 1 mile. This was completed as part of a hazard mitigation project, but also to provide for a burn break to assist with future prescribed burning.</p> <p>Invasive species control include a very small population of cypress spurge and one small patch of garlic mustard, Total acreage treated was .09 acres.</p>

Land Management Areas

Habitat Management Area – Dike 17 Wildlife Habitat Management Area

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Short- and Long-Term Management Objectives (50-100 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide approximately 5,000 acres of high quality, ecologically functional grass, shrub, barrens and wetland habitats for waterfowl, Sharp-tailed Grouse, and a variety of endangered, threatened, special concern, and rare species, such as the Karner blue butterfly, Northern Harrier, Whooping Crane, American Bittern, Black Meadow Hawk, Blandings turtle, and frosted elfin. 2. Provide a protected resting, loafing, and nesting area for waterfowl, including the federally endangered Whooping Crane, in balance with providing public use opportunities. 3. Provide opportunities for hunting big game, waterfowl, small game, and upland game birds. 4. Provide trapping opportunities. 5. Provide opportunities for viewing birds and other wildlife, for nature study, and for hiking. 6. Provide opportunities for non-motorized boating and paddling on flowages and ponds.
<p style="text-align: center;">Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain established open brush/grass cover type at a maximum height of approximately five feet. 2. Convert and maintain up to 10% of forested sites to open brush/grass cover type. Use aggressive management techniques such as cutting/shearing, timber harvesting, prescribed burning, herbicides, and planting native prairie plants. 3. Retain and maintain all flowages within the management area, unless abandonment, on a case-by-case basis, is deemed appropriate by a multi-resource team. Dike maintenance includes cutting, shearing, mowing, and similar mechanical treatments, repair of rodent or other damage, and repair or replacement of water control structures. 4. Manipulate water levels to provide optimum waterfowl habitat by maintaining pools with a water depth from three to six feet, and performing periodic full drawdowns of each pool to promote plant growth approximately every four years. 5. Attempt to establish wild rice in flowages for a renewable food resource for waterfowl and for recreational and cultural gathering. 6. Plant up to 128 acres of food plots that are consistent with forest certification requirements. 7. Maintain a network of primitive or lightly developed roads for management access. 8. Recommend an increase in the acreage open for hunting and other public uses by decreasing the acreage of the wildlife refuge. This is based on a lower number of birds currently migrating compared to when the refuge was first established. Wildlife refuge sizes and boundaries are outside of the scope of this master plan and are designated in Administrative Code. This change is a recommendation only. 9. Maintain at least one parking lot for public access to the area. 10. Maintain public access into the management area by foot travel only. 11. Provide interpretive signs and materials for public information about the management area. 12. Promote wildlife watching and nature study. 13. Evaluate the use of the Dike 17 Wildlife Area observation tower and determine the need for renovation, replacement, or removal.

<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>Drawdowns were conducted on four flowages: Wilson, Partridge Crop, Big Bear, and Tanner flowages. West 17 flowage was drawn down to repair a leaking water control structure. Approximately 10 miles of dike was mowed and inspected for damage. Approximately 40 acres of fields were also mowed to remove brush and maintain in grassland cover. Significant holes were patched on the dikes and the water control structures were maintained. Beaver continue to present water management challenges on several flowages. All parking lots were mowed and maintained and property signs were replaced as needed. Access roads were also mowed and maintained leading into the fields at Battle Point, Wilson Flowage, Whitetail Flowage, Big and Little Bear Flowages, Tanner and Partridge Crop Flowage. Four burn units totaling 40 acres were burned during the spring of 2015. Additional burn units were prepped to be burned in 2016. Up to 25 acres of fields were prepared to be replanted with a grass/clover mix during the spring of 2016. As part of the elk reintroduction efforts, a 7.5 acre acclimation pen was constructed. Road improvements were made leading into to the acclimation pen area.</p> <p>Invasvie species treatment include a small .03 acre patch of cypress spurge.</p>
--	--

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Upper Black River

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Provide a large area of structurally and functionally diverse, older, intact, connected forest comprised of old growth mixed hardwood and conifer species. Preserve coarse woody debris and standing dead snags for old growth habitat and structural diversity. Protect, manage, and enhance natural communities for ecological values and rare species habitat needs.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an older, closed • canopy forest of longer-lived species such as white pine in the uplands and maple, yellow birch, oak, and white pine in the lowlands. 2. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 3. Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of riparian habitat and seeps consistent with the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. 4. Protect multiple scenic and aesthetic qualities of the Black River and its major tributaries.
<p style="text-align: center;">Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management (455 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease short-lived tree species, such as aspen, and increase longer-lived species, such as white pine, primarily through thinning and natural conversion. 2. Promote the growth and retention of large white pine, oak, and other hardwood species through techniques such as thinning, extended rotation, and managed old growth. Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook management guidelines, particularly related to “Managed Old-Forests. Monitor composition and structure changes to aid future management decisions. 3. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics when retention does not conflict with other forest management activities or present hazards. 4. For the riparian lands along the Black River, follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook guidelines for Class A Scenic Management Zones. <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (1,454 acres)</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Control of invasive species, non-commercial forest practices, and prescribed fire may occur. 2. Designate the 1,454 acre Upper Black River State Natural Area
Accomplishments 2015	No timber sales in 2015. State Natural Area was designated in 2010. Invasive species control included 4.2 acres of common toadflax.

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Arbutus Oaks

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Provide a large area of structurally and functionally diverse, older, intact, connected forest comprised of old growth mixed hardwood and conifer species. Preserve coarse woody debris and standing dead snags for old growth habitat and structural diversity.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site, including the shoreline of Lake Arbutus. 2. Develop and maintain an older, closed canopy forest of longer-lived species such as oak and white pine. 3. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, Standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 4. Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of riparian habitat and seeps consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management There are no acres in this designation.</p> <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (215 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow old growth and old forest characteristics to develop, using the guidelines in the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook. 2. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics when retention does not present hazards. 3. For the shoreline along Lake Arbutus, follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook guidelines for Class A Scenic Management Zones. 4. Control of invasive species, non-commercial forest practices, and prescribed fire may occur. 5. Designate the 215 acre Arbutus Oaks State Natural Area.
Accomplishments 2015	No timber sales in 2015. State Natural Area was designated in 2010.

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Castle Mound Pine Forest

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Provide a structurally and functionally diverse, older, intact, connected forest on an upland site comprised of old growth mixed hardwood and conifer species. Preserve coarse woody debris and standing dead snags for old growth habitat and structural diversity. Protect, manage, and enhance the natural community for ecological values and rare species habitat needs.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an older, closed canopy forest of longer-lived species such as white pine and red pine. 2. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 3. Protect multiple scenic, aesthetic, and recreational qualities of the site.
<p style="text-align: center;">Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management (53 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease short-lived species, such as aspen, and increase longer-lived species, such as white pine, red pine, and oak, primarily through natural conversion and thinning. 2. Promote the growth and retention of large white pine, red pine, and oak through techniques such as thinning, extended rotation, and managed old growth. Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook management guidelines, particularly related to Managed Old Growth forests. Monitor composition and structure changes to aid future management decisions. 3. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics whenever their retention does not present hazards or conflict with other forest management activities. 4. Follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook guidelines to manage the scenic, aesthetic, and recreational qualities of the site. 5. Control buckthorn and other invasive plant infestations. <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (118 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Control of invasive species, non-commercial forest practices, and prescribed fire may occur. 2. Designate the 118 acre Castle Mound State Natural Area (91 acres of existing SNA, 27 acres of new SNA).
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>No timber sales in 2015. State natural area was expanded in 2010.</p>

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – East Fork of the Black River

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Provide a large area of structurally and functionally diverse, older, intact, connected forest comprised of old growth pine, mixed hardwoods, and mixed conifer species. Preserve coarse woody debris and standing dead snags for old growth habitat and structural diversity. Protect, manage, and enhance natural communities for ecological values and rare species habitat needs.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an older, closed • canopy forest of longer-lived species such as white pine and oak. 2. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 3. Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of riparian habitat and seeps consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. 4. Protect multiple scenic, aesthetic, and recreational qualities of the East Fork of the Black River.
<p style="text-align: center;">Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management (575 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease short-lived species, such as aspen, and increase longer-lived species, such as white pine, primarily through thinning and natural conversion. 2. Promote the growth and retention of large white pine, oak, and other hardwood species through techniques such as thinning, extended rotation, and managed old growth. Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook management guidelines, particularly related to Managed Old Growth forests. 3. Thin specific stands in a way that maintains closed canopy conditions within one third of the actively managed area. 4. Actively manage red pine plantations primarily through thinning and natural regeneration techniques to create stands with a natural appearance and large diameter trees. 5. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics when retention does not conflict with other forest management activities or present hazards. 6. For the riparian lands along the East Fork of the Black River, follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook guidelines for Class A Scenic Management Zones. <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (508 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Designate the 471 acre East Fork of the Black River State Natural Area.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>No timber sales in 2015. State natural area was designated in 2010.</p>

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Ketchum Creek Headwaters

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Maintain and enhance a large area of structurally and functionally diverse, older, intact, connected forest comprised of old growth mixed hardwood and conifer species. Preserve coarse woody debris and standing dead snags to promote old growth habitat and structural diversity. Protect, manage, and enhance natural communities for ecological values and rare species habitat needs.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an older, closed canopy forest of longer-lived species such as white pine and oak. 2. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 3. Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of wetland habitat and seeps consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. 4. Protect multiple scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site.
<p style="text-align: center;">Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management (284 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease short-lived species, such as aspen, and increase longer-lived species, such as white pine and oak, primarily through thinning and natural conversion. 2. Promote the growth and retention of large white pine and oak through techniques such as thinning, extended rotation, and managed old growth. Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook management guidelines, particularly related to Managed Old Growth forests. Monitor composition and structure changes to aid future management decisions. 3. Thin specific stands in a way that maintains closed canopy conditions within a majority of the native community management area. 4. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics whenever their retention does not conflict with other forest management activities or present hazards. 5. Follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook to manage the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site. 6. Designate 127 acres of the 424 acre Ketchum Creek Pines State Natural Area. <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (297 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Non-commercial forest practices, prescribed fire, and control of invasive species may occur. 2. Designate 297 acres of the 424 acre Ketchum Creek Pines State Natural Area (140 acres of existing SNA).
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>No timber sales in 2015. State natural area was designated in 2010.</p>

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Paradise Valley Pines

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Provide a large area of structurally and functionally diverse, older, intact, connected forest comprised of old growth mixed hardwood and conifer species. Preserve coarse woody debris and standing dead snags for old growth habitat and structural diversity. Protect, manage, and enhance natural communities for ecological values and rare species habitat needs.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an older, closed canopy forest of white pine. 2. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 3. Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of wetland habitats and seeps consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. 4. Protect multiple scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site.
<p style="text-align: center;">Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management (595 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease short-lived species, such as aspen, and increase longer-lived species, such as white pine, primarily through thinning and natural conversion. 2. Promote the growth and retention of large white pine through techniques such as thinning, extended rotation, and managed old growth. Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook management guidelines, particularly related to Managed Old Growth forests. Monitor composition and structural changes to aid future management decisions. 3. Thin specific stands in a way that maintains closed canopy conditions within a majority of the actively managed area. 4. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics whenever their retention does not conflict with other forest management activities or present hazards. 5. Follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook to manage the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site. <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (74 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Control of invasive species, non-commercial forest practices, and prescribed fire may occur.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>No timber sales in 2015</p>

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Peatlands

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Maintain lands that are structurally and functionally diverse, and that collectively feature a spectrum of wetland types and sizes and relatively unaltered hydrology. Protect, manage, and enhance natural communities for ecological values and rare species habitat needs.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protect hydrology of sites. 2. Protect hydrology of connected wetland basins, headwater streams, seeps, and other associated hydrologic features. 3. Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of wetland habitat and seeps consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. 4. Maintain current open landscape condition of the sites. 5. Protect multiple scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site.
<p style="text-align: center;">Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management There are no acres in this designation.</p> <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (1,203 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Non-commercial harvest, prescribed fire, and control of invasive species may occur. 2. Prohibit moss harvesting to protect peatland habitat and maintain site hydrology. 3. Follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook to manage the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site. 4. Designate the 565 acre Washburn Marsh State Natural Area (298 acres of existing SNA, plus 267 acres of new SNA). 5. Designate a 233 acre portion of the 1,065 acre Starlight Wetlands State Natural Area. This SNA also extends into the Starlight Wetlands Native Community Management Area.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>No activity in 2015. State natural areas were designated in 2010.</p>

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Catfish Eddy Terraces

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Provide a large area of structurally and functionally diverse, older, intact, connected forest comprised of large diameter maple, white pine, and mixed hardwood species. Preserve coarse woody debris and standing dead snags for old growth habitat and structural diversity. Protect, manage, and enhance natural communities for ecological values and rare species habitat needs.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an older, closed canopy forest of longer-lived species, such as white pine in the uplands and bottomland hardwoods in the lowlands. 2. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 3. Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of riparian habitat and seeps consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. 4. Protect multiple scenic and aesthetic qualities of the Black River and Perry Creek.
<p style="text-align: center;">Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management (445 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote the growth and retention of large white pine and other species through techniques such as thinning, extended rotation, and managed old growth. Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook, particularly related to Managed Old Growth forests. Monitor composition and structure changes to aid future management decisions. 2. Thin specific stands in a way that maintains closed canopy conditions within a majority of the actively managed area. 3. Actively manage red pine plantations primarily through thinning and natural regeneration techniques to create stands with a natural appearance and large diameter trees. 4. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics whenever their retention does not present hazards or conflict with other forest management activities. 5. For the riparian lands along the Black River and Perry Creek, follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook guidelines for Class A Scenic Management Zones. <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (300 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Control of invasive species, non-commercial forest practices, and prescribed fire may occur. 2. Designate the 75 acre Catfish Eddy Terraces State Natural Area.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>No timber sales in 2015. State natural area was designated in 2010. Invasive species control included 144.6 acres focused primarily on garlic mustard but also including small populations of greater celandine, buckthorn, honeysuckle, and dames rocket.</p>

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Robinson/Millston Pines

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Provide a large area of structurally and functionally diverse, older, intact, connected forest comprised of old growth pine, mixed hardwood, and mixed conifer species. Preserve coarse woody debris and standing dead snags for old growth habitat and structural diversity. Protect, manage, and enhance natural communities for ecological values and rare species habitat needs.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an older, closed • canopy forest of white pine. 2. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 3. Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of riparian and wetland habitats and seeps consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. 4. Protect the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site, including riparian areas.
<p style="text-align: center;">Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management (500 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease short-lived species, such as aspen, and increase longer-lived species, such as white pine, primarily through thinning and natural conversion. 2. Promote the growth and retention of large white pine through techniques such as thinning, extended rotation, and managed old growth. Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook, particularly related to Managed Old Growth forests. Monitor composition and structure changes to aid future management decisions. 3. Thin specific stands in a way that maintains closed canopy conditions within one third of the actively managed area. 4. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics whenever their retention does not conflict with other forest management activities or present hazards. <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (126 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Control of invasive species, non-commercial forest practices, and prescribed fire may occur. 2. Follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook to manage the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site, including the guidelines for Class A Scenic Management Zones along stream shorelines. 3. Designate the 126 acre Robinson Creek Pines State Natural Area (85 acres of existing SNA, 41 acres of new SNA).
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>One timber sale in 2015. SNA expanded/designated in 2010.</p> <p>1190 – This is a red pine plantation that has a mix of white pine, jack pine and oak throughout it. The objective is to thin the stand using primarily marked rows. ASRMP #2 and #3</p> <p>Invasive species control included a small .03 acre population of wild parsnip.</p>

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Settlement Road Pine Swamp

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Provide a small representative example of a structurally and functionally diverse, older forest in both upland and lowland areas that is comprised of old growth pine, oak, and mixed hardwood species. Preserve coarse woody debris and standing dead snags for old growth habitat and structural diversity. Protect, manage, and enhance natural community for ecological values and rare species habitat needs.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an older, closed • canopy forest of longer-lived species such as white and red pine, and white oak. 2. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 3. Protect multiple scenic and aesthetic qualities, as well as the water resources of the site.
<p style="text-align: center;">Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management (43 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease short-lived species, such as aspen, and maintain longer-lived species, such as oak (especially white oak), primarily through thinning. 2. Promote the growth and retention of large oak (especially white oak) and pines through techniques such as thinning, extended rotation, and managed old growth. Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook, particularly related to Managed Old Growth forests. Monitor composition and structure changes to aid future management decisions. 3. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics whenever their retention does not present hazards or conflict with other forest management activities. 4. Follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook to manage the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site. <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (113 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Control of invasive species, non-commercial forest practices, and prescribed fire may occur.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>No timber sales in 2015.</p>

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Stanton Pines

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Maintain and enhance a large, old white pine forest that is nearing biological rotation and features some characteristics of old growth, including increased structural diversity and coarse woody debris. Harvest selected stands that have reached biological rotation. Protect, manage, and enhance natural communities for ecological values and rare species habitat needs.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an older forest of white pine, including some areas with closed canopy conditions. 2. Improve forest structural diversity with large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 3. Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of wetland habitats and seeps consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. 4. Protect multiple scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site, including riparian areas along stream shorelines.
<p style="text-align: center;">Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<p>Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management (971 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase white pine primarily through thinning and natural conversion. 2. Manage stands using biological rotation for white pine as described in the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook. Monitor composition and structure changes to aid future management decisions. 3. Promote the growth and retention of large white pine through techniques such as thinning and extended rotation. 4. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics whenever their retention does not conflict with other forest management activities or present hazards. 5. Follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook to manage the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site, including guidelines for Class A Scenic Management Zones along stream shorelines. <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management There are no acres in this designation.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>No timber sales in 2015. Invasive species control included 3.3 acres of buckthorn.</p>

Land Management Areas

Native Community Area – Starlight Wetlands

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Provide a relatively extensive area of structurally and functionally diverse, older, intact, connected forest comprised of old growth pine, mixed hardwood, and mixed conifer species. Preserve coarse woody debris and standing dead snags for old growth habitat and structural diversity. Protect, manage, and enhance natural communities for ecological values and rare species habitat needs</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and maintain an older, closed canopy forest of longer-lived species such as white pine and oak. 2. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. 3. Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of wetland habitat and seeps consistent with Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality. 4. Protect multiple scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site, including riparian areas along stream shorelines.
<p style="text-align: center;">Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Active Management (818 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decrease short-lived species, such as aspen, and increase longer-lived species, such as white pine and oak, primarily through thinning and natural conversion. 2. Promote the growth and retention of large white pine and oak through techniques such as thinning, extended rotation, and managed old growth. Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook, particularly related to Managed Old Growth forests. Monitor composition and structure changes to aid future management decisions. 3. Thin specific stands in a way that maintains closed canopy conditions within a majority of the actively managed area. 4. Actively manage red pine plantations primarily through thinning and natural regeneration techniques to create stands with a natural appearance and large diameter trees. 5. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics whenever their retention does not conflict with other forest management activities or present hazards. <p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions - Passive Management (832 acres)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Control of invasive species, non-commercial forest practices, and prescribed fire may occur. 2. Follow the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook to manage the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site, including guidelines for Class A Scenic Management Zones along stream shorelines. 3. Designate an 832 acre portion of the 1,065 acre Starlight Wetlands State Natural Area. This SNA also extends into the Peatlands Native Community Management Area.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>No timber sales in 2015. State natural area was designated in 2010.</p>

Land Management Areas

Recreation Management Area – Overmeyer Hills

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Maintain and enhance silent sports recreation opportunities within a relatively extensive acreage of older, intact, connected forest that provides aesthetic appeal. Maintain an old forest of red maple, pine, mixed hardwood, and oak species that is structurally and functionally diverse and includes areas of coarse woody debris and standing dead snags.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide a system of aesthetically pleasing, sustainable trails for hiking, cross-country skiing and mountain biking that offer opportunities for quiet enjoyment of the forest. 2. Develop and maintain an older, closed canopy, un-fragmented forest of longer-lived species such as red maple, red and white pine, and oak on north and east slopes. 3. Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old forest characteristics, such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris where appropriate. 4. Protect, manage, and enhance the natural communities for ecological values and rare species habitat needs identified in the Biotic Inventory.
<p style="text-align: center;">Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain oak through commercial thinning, timber stand improvement practices, prescribed fire, and other techniques described in the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook. 2. Promote the growth and retention of large oak and pines through techniques such as thinning, extended rotation, and managed old forest. Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook, particularly related to Managed Old-Forest. 3. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics whenever their retention does not present hazards or conflict with other forest management activities. 4. Conduct forest management activities in ways that minimize visual, noise, and access impacts to recreational users. 5. Implement aesthetic management prescriptions along trails consistent with the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook guidelines for the Class A Aesthetic Zone. 6. Designate the 379 acre Wildcat Ridge State Natural Area. 7. Control of invasive species may occur. 8. Remove hazard trees to provide a safe setting for recreational users.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>One timber sales in 2015. State natural area was designated in 2010.</p> <p>1187 – This was a 41 acre red pine thinning partially in the Robinson Creek Forest Production area and partially in the Overmeyer Hills recreational area. The objective is to improve the health and vigor of the stand. ASRMP #2</p>

Land Management Areas

Recreation Management Area – Campgrounds and Day Use Areas

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long-Term Management Objectives (100 years) Maintain the area as an attractive and safe setting for intensive types of recreational use, such as camping, picnicking, water sports, trail activities, and nature interpretation. In forested areas, maintain a mixed forest dominated by older, larger trees.</p> <p>Short-Term Management Objectives (50 years)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide opportunities for safe, high quality, modern, intensive recreational uses featuring modern camping, primitive camping, day uses, nature interpretation/education, and a variety of trail uses during different seasons. 2. Favor longer-lived, larger tree species such as white and red pine and oak species
<p style="text-align: center;">Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<p>Area Specific Resource Management Prescriptions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct forest management activities at times and in ways that will minimize visual, noise, and access impacts to recreational users. 2. Implement aesthetic management prescriptions along trails consistent with the DNR Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook guidelines for the Class A Aesthetic Zone. 3. Control invasive species at campgrounds and day use areas. 4. Provide and maintain screening between campsites using native vegetation. 5. Remove hazard trees to provide a safe setting for recreational users.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>Hazard trees removed from all three traditional campgrounds ASRMP #5. Garlic mustard was treated in two of the campgrounds (East Fork and Pigeon) ASRMP #3</p>

Recreation Management - Campgrounds and Day use areas

Recreation management accomplishments from previous years shown in italics and information pertinent to this year is in bold

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide modern, rustic, primitive, and equestrian camping opportunities. 2. Provide high quality opportunities for day uses such as picnicking, swimming, hiking, and biking. 3. Provide opportunities for boating and paddling on the Black River and its tributaries, and non-motorized boating on flowages and ponds within Dike 17. 4. Provide opportunities for visitors to gain a better understanding of the natural resources, scenic amenities, and native communities found in the forest.
<p>Management Activities, Prescriptions, and Accomplishments</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the number of electric campsites at the Castle Mound Campground, up to a maximum of 28 sites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>All six sites were upgraded from 30 amp to 50 amp in 2011.</i> • <i>Eight additional sites were upgraded with electricity in 2013</i> 2. Construct a new office and a new shop building at the Castle Mound Campground. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The shop project was completed in 2012.</i> • <i>The office was completed in 2013.</i> 3. Evaluate the opportunity to convert the existing office building into an ADA accessible cabin for the Castle Mound Campground. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>We were unable to secure funding for the project and the building was auctioned off and moved in 2013.</i> 4. Eliminate vault toilets at the Castle Mound Campground and replace with a modern shower and restroom facility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>This project has been approved by the building commission. An architectural firm has been selected and two planning meetings took place. This project will be bid out in winter of 2016 with work expected to be completed that year</i> 5. Install an ADA accessible parking area and walkway at the Pigeon Creek Campground. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Completed in 2011</i> 6. Upgrade nature trail and interpretive signage and add an informational kiosk at the East Fork Campground. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No progress on this objective 7. Install a manure storage facility and a woodshed, and improve directional and information signage at the Equestrian Campground. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The master plan was amended in 2013 to convert the horse camp into a group camp. The conversion occurred in June of 2013.</i> 8. Replace or remove the vault toilets at the Group Camp (a restroom will still be available in the indoor group facility). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A project has been submitted to replace both vault toilets with a single vault toilet building.</i> 9. Evaluate the need for an expanded parking area at Pigeon Creek after Robinson Beach is closed to public vehicle access. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use levels have not created a need to increase parking

Recreation Management Overmeyer Hills

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Provide a system of aesthetically pleasing, sustainable trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and Horse back riding that offer opportunities for quiet enjoyment of the forest.</p>
<p>Management Activities, Prescriptions, and Accomplishments</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Install electrical service at the warming shelter located at the Smrekar Trail parking lot. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Completed in 2010</i> 2. Abandon the existing well along the Central Loop trail system and install a new well and accessible hand pump at the trailhead located at the Smrekar Trail parking lot. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Completed in 2010</i> 3. Construct a new storage facility at the Smrekar Trail parking lot and abandon the storage facility at the Wildcat Trail parking lot. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Completed in 2013</i>

Recreation Management Motorized Trails

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Provide opportunities to ride snowmobiles, ATVs, and motorcycles as part of a regional trail network. Trails will be sustainable, well-maintained, and will maximize safety and minimize the impact on sensitive areas, water resources, and other recreational uses.</p>
<p>Management Activities, Prescriptions, and Accomplishments</p>	<p>Property-Wide</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upgrade the majority of the motorized trail surface by crowning, installing culverts to divert water, and hauling in aggregate rock materials where needed. Work will be pursued as state and federal waterway/wetland permits are approved and funding is secured; all wetland protection requirements will be met. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>All state and federal wetland permits have been secured</i> • All wetland crossings have been upgraded with the final crossings being completed in 2015. • Several sections of base between wetland areas have been upgraded with the wildcat loop being the primary area worked on in 2015. <p>Northern Trails</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eliminate horse access on the motorized trail system, except for 1,500 feet between Seils Road and Cemetery Road, to improve trail safety and minimize user conflicts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Completed 2010</i> <p>Castle Mound Trails</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a use designation on the Castle Mound trail consistent with the adjoining Jackson County motorized trail. Currently ATV use is allowed during summer months only. Use designation may be re-evaluated and changed in the future. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Use designation is consistent with Jackson County's trail system</i>

**Management Activities,
Prescriptions, and
Accomplishments -
continued**

2. Currently, a snowmobile only trail travels along Highway 12 on private land, enters the state forest just north of Castle Mound Road, and travels directly to the 7th Street parking lot. If this private trail should become designated for ATV use in the future, the state forest's adjacent 0.1 mile section would also be designated for ATV use.
 - *No action necessary at this time*

Wildcat Trails

General

1. Close a 1.8 mile loop of snowmobile only trail to all public motorized access to eliminate conflict between users in the Overmeyer Hills Recreation Area.
 - *Completed in 2010*
2. Re-route a short section of trail just south of Stanton Creek Road to address erosion issues. The re-routed trail will be located either on state forest land, or, if the opportunity exists in the future, routed onto Cut-Across Road. Moving the trail to Cut-Across Road requires either acquisition of the town road or having the Town of Millston officially designate the road as a route.
 - *Rerouted on state land in 2011*
3. Increase the parking area along North Settlement Road by up to 25%.
 - **Not completed**

Long-term Management Prescriptions for the Wildcat Loop

When the Millston Loop is authorized for use, the following management prescriptions will be followed:

- *Millston loop option was soundly rejected by the town of Millston residents in an August 2010 town meeting.*
 - *This option is no longer being considered and therefore Wildcat loop will remain open*
1. Close a 5.4 mile section of motorized trail, west of Shale Road and south of Kling Road, to all public motorized access.
 2. Close a 2.5 mile section of trail south of the snowmobile only trail to ATV use, but retain the trail as a designated snowmobile trail.
 3. Restore significant wetland crossings by removing fill, removing culverts, and allowing natural water flow to occur.
 4. Retain access for state forest operations on sections of the trail closed to public motorized use.
 5. If three years after the approval of the master plan by the Natural Resources Board lapse before the Millston Loop is authorized, and trail conditions on the Wildcat Loop degrade significantly, then the appropriate trail improvements, including wetland crossing upgrades and trail base improvements, will be implemented. If major improvements are implemented on the Wildcat Loop, the Millston Loop will no longer be considered, although a legal connector to the Jackson County ATV trails will still be an objective

Millston Loop

1. Participate in and coordinate the cooperative effort to identify and authorize an ATV trail that connects the Town of Millston to the existing Jackson County ATV trails leading to Black River Falls.
2. Authorize approximately 1.1 miles of existing snowmobile trail south of Millston for ATV use. This section of trail will only be improved and opened for ATV use after all of the various landowners, potentially including the Town of Millston, Jackson County, Union Pacific Railroad, and the Department of Transportation (DOT), identify and authorize segments contributing to the new trail connector. Trail improvements will be coordinated in cooperation with the landowners identified above.

	<p>Short-term Management Prescriptions for the Wildcat Loop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Due to inability to reach long term goals, the short term prescriptions are only in place until the wetland crossings at the Wildcat loop are improved. All wetland crossings were upgraded in 2015. The only work left to complete is to place finished gravel over the crossing areas and areas of upgraded base.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain 7.9 miles open to motorized access for ATVs and snowmobiles. 2. Open the trail from the Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day for the summer ATV season. The trail will be open for the full winter season. 3. Install gates at access points to enforce seasonal and temporary closures. 4. Trail conditions will be monitored more frequently, especially following precipitation events, with temporary trail closures implemented as needed. 5. Trail maintenance (i.e. grooming) will occur at current levels. 6. No significant trail improvement projects will be initiated except for safety reasons or if the trail becomes impassable. 7. The Wildcat Loop (7.9 miles) will be managed with the prescriptions above until the Millston Loop is authorized for use. After the Millston Loop is authorized, the Wildcat Loop will be closed to ATV use and managed according to the long-term management prescriptions below (2.5 miles will be retained as a designated snowmobile trail).
--	--

Real Estate Management

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>The master plan describes goals, polices and actions for the following real estate activities in Chapter 2, pages 114 and 115:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Boundary Expansion • Real Estate Acquisition Policies • Aides in Lieu of Taxes • Acquisition Near Municipal Areas • Additional Inclusion of State Lands in Manitowish Waters • Future Boundary Adjustment Process • Easements, Access Permits and Land Use Agreements
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three new parcels were added to the state forest in 2015. The first parcel (Ohm property) was a 1 acre inholding in Township 22N R3W Sec. 29 SE SW Government lot #8. The second purchase (Gebhardt property) was an 80 acre parcel in Township 21N R4W Sec 26 W ½ of NW ¼. The third purchase (Rogan property) was 62 acres scattered in Township 20N R4W in sections 5 and 8.

Wildlife Management Plan

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>The wildlife management program on the Black River State Forest focuses on maintaining and enhancing habitat and assessing the population status of the important game, nongame, and listed species.</p>
<p>Appropriate Management Activities and Prescriptions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All non-forested wetlands, including various poor fens, sedge meadows, shrub-carr, rich fen, and open bogs will be protected. 2. Sharp-tailed Grouse areas will be maintained and created in a shifting mosaic through the use of normal forest management practices. Dike 17 Wildlife Area will act as a core site, with larger clearcuts acting as corridors and temporary habitat areas, until these cut units regenerate. In certain situations, burning, scarification, and delayed planting may be incorporated into these cuts to delay regeneration and offer a few extra years of Sharp-tailed Grouse habitat 3. Twenty flowages, specifically managed for wildlife habitat, exist on the Black River State Forest. These will be maintained; however, there may be situations, on a case-by-case basis, that warrant abandonment of an individual flowage. The determination for abandonment will be a joint decision between wildlife, fisheries, engineers, and forestry staff. No new flowage construction is planned 4. Wild rice bed establishment will be attempted on four flowages within the Dike 17 Wildlife Area on the Black River State Forest. 5. Populations of important game species will be monitored through annual surveys at the local or regional level.
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>The following wildlife surveys were completed: sharp-tailed grouse lek surveys, black bear bait transect surveys, wolf monitoring, carnivore track surveys, and amphibian surveys. Drawdowns were conducted on four flowages: Wilson, Partridge Crop, Big Bear, and Tanner flowages. Approximately 10 miles of dike was mowed and inspected for damage. Significant holes were patched on the dikes and the water control structures were kept clean of debris. A native seed mixture was planted on approximately 2 acres of log landings and trails post-timber harvest. The first year of an elk reintroduction effort was completed with the release site being within the Black River State Forest.</p>

Fisheries Management Plan

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Water resources in the Black River State Forest provide habitat for a range of fish communities. Management goals and activities for these waters vary by type of water and angling potential. The three main water resources within the forest are warm water streams, warm water lakes, and cold water streams. Management for each type of water resource is described below:</p> <p>Warm Water Streams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the health of waters on the • Black River State Forest and their fishery potential. • Provide quality harvest as well as trophy opportunities (where applicable). <p>Warm Water Lakes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the health of warm water lakes and their fishery potential. • Provide a quality harvest when and where applicable.
--------------------------------------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access, especially for those with physical disabilities. • Improve habitat conditions for those lakes with fishery potential. <p>Cold Water Streams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain self-sustaining trout fisheries. • Maintain the health of these waters and their fishery potential.
<p>Management Activities, Prescriptions, and Accomplishments</p>	<p>Warm Water Streams</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to conduct electro-fishing and netting surveys according to statewide monitoring protocols and provide results to the public. 2. Continue muskellunge stocking in the Black River. 3. Conduct beaver control as necessary by limiting dams that slow water flow, impede fish migration, and increase water temperatures and sedimentation. <p>Warm Water Lakes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to conduct electro-fishing and netting surveys according to statewide monitoring protocols and provide results to the public. 2. Monitor winter water chemistry for those lakes with a fishery to determine when winterkill occurs. 3. Continue trout stocking in the Oxbow Ponds. <p>Cold Water Streams</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to conduct electro-fishing surveys according to statewide monitoring protocols and make results available to the public. 2. Conduct beaver control as necessary by limiting dams that slow water flow, impede fish migration, and increase water temperatures and sedimentation.
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>STOCKING Oxbow Ponds – 1450 adult rainbow trout, 1110 adult brook trout Robinson Beach Pond – 484 adult rainbow trout, 555 adult brook trout</p> <p>NONWADABLE STREAMS (RIVER) Surveys 25 miles lower Black River and 1.6 miles upper Black River (upper Black includes segments of river between the Hatfield and Black River Falls dams).</p> <p>LAKE SURVEYS Townline flowage – 2015 spring fyke netting survey conducted</p> <p>WADABLE STREAM SURVEYS Levis Creek</p>

Road Management

<i>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</i>	<p>There are several types of road classifications outlined in NR 44.07(3). The classifications reflect a range of development and maintenance standards. Road classifications include primitive, lightly-developed, moderately developed, and fully developed. Each Department managed road is assigned a development classification as part of the road inventory project described above. Management of lands along the roads within the Black River State Forest will reflect the management objectives for the specified area classifications. All road right-of-ways (66 feet) will continue to be controlled and maintained by their current operator (state, county, or town). The Department managed roadways within the Black River State Forest will be maintained in part according to the following requirements from the Best Management Practices for water quality:</p>
<i>Accomplishments 2015</i>	<p>The Weber Thicket road project was completed in 2015.</p> <p>The road inventory was updated in 2015 in preparation for the road access project which is slated to begin in 2016.</p>