

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

Property

Grouping: Columbia County Planning Group

Master Plan Year: 2013

General Wildlife Management Objectives

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create larger blocks of habitat within a mosaic of lowland to upland habitats. • Establish and maintain travel corridors for species movement between habitat blocks. • Enhance and expand native communities at a landscape scale, with an emphasis on Grasslands and Oak Savanna, to benefit both game and non-game species. • Improve the habitat value of surrogate grasslands, sedge meadow, shrub-carr and savanna habitats for area sensitive bird species. • Improve the quality of wetlands and grasslands classified as Habitat Management Areas for waterfowl nesting and brood rearing, pheasants and grassland birds. Increase their value as migratory stopover habitat for shorebirds. Maintain existing shrub-carr wetland in areas that do not have high potential for management as sedge meadow, wet prairie or wet mesic prairie. • Protect, and enhance as practicable, the quality and extent of the wetland communities classified as Native Community Management Areas. Communities of particular interest include wet and wet-mesic prairie, sedge meadow, calcareous fen, emergent marsh and southern tamarack swamp. • Protect and enhance habitats and populations of threatened and endangered species and species of greatest conservation need. • Reduce the threat of invasives species to protect the biodiversity of these properties. • Provide opportunities for habitat and species research and public education consistent with the approved management habitat and species objectives.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>27 acres of oak woodland was planted in fields near the Baraboo River at Pine Island Wildlife Area in order to create larger blocks of forested land along the river corridor. Prepped 27 acres for tree planting in 2014 at French Creek Wildlife Area which will create a larger block of woodlands.</i> - <i>Two 'tree lines' at Mud Lake Wildlife Area, a tree line at Peter Helland Wildlife Area, and two tree lines at Paradise Marsh Wildlife Area were removed to increase the size and quality of the adjacent grasslands.</i> - <i>About 910 acres of grasslands/wetlands were burned to maintain and improve the quality of the</i>

habitat for waterfowl nesting and brood rearing, pheasants and grassland birds, and also some of the endangered, threatened and species of greatest conservation need that are found in Columbia Co.

- *A project to remove honeysuckle, dogwood and other unwanted brush from a calcareous fen was begun. Approximately 14 acres of brush was removed and stump treated.*
- *Nesting platforms were erected at Grassy Lake Wildlife Area and approximately 5 were used by black terns with some success.*
- *Treated at least 13 different invasive species on 11 different wildlife areas and one fishery area/state natural area. Species that were targeted the most were spotted knapweed, crown vetch, leafy spurge, black locust, honeysuckle, and aspen in grasslands.*
- *Provided research opportunities at French Creek Wildlife Area (sandhill crane and turtle research projects) and Peter Helland Wildlife Area (wetland research).*

General Non-Forest Habitat Management Objectives

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Non-forested Wetland Management Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the extent and/or quality of the sedge meadow/wet prairie and wet-mesic prairie community types on all sites where they occur. <p>Calcareous Fen Habitat Management Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and restore the fen community type on all sites where it occurs. <p>Marshes and Submergent Aquatics Habitat Management Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the extent and protect or restore the quality and diversity of the marsh and submergent aquatic plant communities. • Manipulate water levels to enhance waterfowl use, to improve shorebird habitat, to benefit native wetland floral and faunal communities, and to facilitate vegetative management practices <p>Shrub Carr Habitat Management Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing shrub-carr wetland in areas that do not have high potential for management as Sedge Meadow, Wet Prairie, or Wet mesic Prairie. <p>Grasslands, Prairies and Oak Savanna Habitat Management Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and restore prairies and enhance grasslands wherever practicable with an emphasis on control of invasive and woody species. • Wherever practicable restore or enhance Oak Savanna including Oak Openings and Oak Barrens. <p>Upland Shrub Habitat Management Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain native shrub communities where desired to provide a range of habitats for game species, especially game birds such as pheasants. • Convert Upland Shrub communities dominated by invasive species to grassland, savanna or forest as practicable <p>Agriculture Crops, Farming Practices and Food Plots Habitat Management Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a food source for game and non-game wildlife species, especially pheasant and doves. • Provide brush and weed control prior to conversion to grasslands, prairies, savannas or woodlands or when compatible as an ongoing management activity.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Removed ~14 acres of brush from a known high quality calcareous fen</i> - <i>Manipulated water levels and herbicide treated ~ 52 acres of monotypic cattails to try to diversify the main flowage of the emergent marsh at French Creek Wildlife Area. A cattail root mulcher was used to attempt to flood some of the treated cattails in 2014.</i> - <i>About 865 of grasslands were maintained with prescribed burning and/or invasive species removal/treatment.</i> - <i>315 acres of oak savanna were maintained with a prescribed burn and invasive species treatment.</i> - <i>Seven fields were planted with food plots primarily aimed at attracting mourning doves.</i> - <i>Thirteen acres of cropland was cropped to prepare for 2014 conversion to grassland, and another 10 acres was brushed to prepare for a prairie planting.</i>

General Forest Habitat Management Objectives

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>General Management Objectives for all Forest Types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage oaks as a large-scale mosaic of patches along a successional gradient that includes Oak Forest, Oak Woodland, Oak Opening and Oak Savannas/Barrens. Enhance and expand mature oak forest patches as an element of the oak continuum. • Retain aspen where practicable and consistent with management objectives to benefit wildlife, especially for woodcock. • Maintain the extent and enhance the quality of Central Hardwoods, Bottomland Hardwoods, Swamp Hardwoods, and southern tamarack swamps with an emphasis on providing wildlife habitat and protecting aesthetic values unless there is a property specific objective/prescription. • Convert all Red and Scots pine and Norway spruce plantations to native grasslands, savannas or desired forest types to increase wildlife values and increase ecosystem diversity. • Retain patches of white pine and jack pine to provide cover and food for wildlife and aesthetic enjoyment of users. • Harvest timber using appropriate silvicultural systems including even aged, uneven-aged, selective harvests, shelterwood, improvement and thinning prescriptions, and salvage harvests to achieve the desired native community or species composition and structure.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p>- <i>Six timber sale units were cut with the intention of reproducing oak in the unit. One of these (Dekorra PHG, 45 acres) was cut with the intention of creating/restoring savanna to the site, while four (three at Mud Lake WA, 88 acres, one at French Creek WA, 60 acres) were shelterwood cuts meant to keep the woodland unit as an oak dominated stand. One 55 acre timber sale occurred at Pine Island WA with the intention of retaining aspen in the stand.</i></p>

General Forest Habitat Management Objectives by Forest Type

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Central and Northern Hardwoods Habitat Management Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the health, vigor and diversity of central and northern hardwood stands to provide wildlife habitat and aesthetic value, and secondarily for forest products. <p>Oak Habitat Management Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance and expand oak stands as practicable <p>Aspen Habitat Management Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain aspen stands and aspen as a component of other forest habitat types where practicable, except where it negatively impacts sedge meadow, grassland, prairie and savanna habitats. <p>Conifer Habitat Management Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert conifer plantations and fencerows to another forest or other suitable habitat type. • Maintain white pine to biological maturity and retain as a component of future mixed hardwood and conifer stands. <p>Bottomland Hardwoods and Swamp Hardwoods Habitat Management Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the extent and quality of bottomland hardwood and swamp hardwood stands. <p>Southern Tamarack Swamp (Rich) Habitat Management Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively maintain the larger and more sustainable tamarack stands to the extent practicable. • Marginal tamarack stands may be managed to allow a change to other plant communities if the stands are small, low quality and/or on marginal sites where maintaining the stand conflicts with the objectives of a larger, associated wetland community.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p>- <i>27 acres of predominantly swamp white oak were planted to increase the wooded river corridor while expanding the oak component in the bottom land forest type.</i></p>

General Fisheries Management Objectives – Coldwater Streams

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage riparian vegetation along classified trout streams to enhance in-stream habitat quality and productivity of trout. • Maintain, and increase as practicable, the extent and quality of Class 1 and Class 2 trout streams for brown and brook trout populations. • Protect rare/endangered species and species of greatest conservation need in the streams and on fishery areas.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>Vegetation management (brushing) was conducted on Lodi Spring Creek Fishery Area by the Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited.</i></p>

General Recreation and Public Use Objectives

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Recreation and Public Use Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide high quality hunting, fishing and trapping opportunities consistent with the capacity and character of the natural resources at the respective properties. • Provide passive management opportunities for wildlife observation, hiking, non-groomed cross country skiing, snow shoeing, nature study, berry picking, canoeing, nature education and other outdoor activities as practicable given the physical characteristics and primary management objectives. • Promote safe and enjoyable compatible recreational opportunities with an emphasis on off trail, non-motorized activities in a non-congested and rustic setting. • Improve accessibility and recreational opportunities for mobility impaired individuals. <p>Provide opportunities for research and educational activities consistent with the primary management purposes and user safety.</p>
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>Firebreaks, pheasant stocking lanes, general access lanes mowed/maintained to facilitate hunter access and pheasant stocking</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Established 7 dove food plots for hunting recreation</i> - <i>6 boat access landings were maintained for recreational access to our properties</i> - <i>Established 2 new gravel parking lots and one new gravel access road; resurfaced 5 existing lots with gravel, and one access road with gravel to improve recreational access to the properties</i> - <i>Stocked pheasants on six of the properties</i> - <i>Oversaw trail management with volunteer group at Rowan Creek FA</i>

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Property: French Creek Wildlife Area

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<p>Wetlands, Woods, Grasslands and Agricultural Lands: Habitat Management (1,877 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the quality of the Oak Savanna and dry Prairie units for threatened and endangered species habitat. • Improve the habitat quality of the waterfowl refuge for dabbling ducks. • Improve navigation for hunters around the refuge. • Provide improved habitat for woodcock. • Increase the acreage of upland grass to improve cover and nesting success of grassland nesting ducks and provide habitat for pheasants and grassland birds.
Accomplishments 2013	<p><i>- Burned a 270 acre unit which includes dry prairie and calcareous fen components to improve habitat for nesting ducks, pheasants, and other grassland birds species, as well as threatened and endangered species found here. Part of this burn unit also lies within the French Creek Fen Natural Area (below).</i></p> <p><i>- Sprayed ~52 acres of cattails with herbicide, about 40 acres of which lies within the waterfowl refuge, to increase the amount of open water within the refuge for dabbling duck and other wetland wildlife use.</i></p> <p><i>- A cattail root mulcher was used to open a channel of water along part of the east edge of the refuge and east of the refuge (into one of the areas sprayed with herbicide to kill the cattails and promote open water) for increase and improve access/navigation for waterfowl hunters.</i></p> <p><i>17 acre timber harvest was conducted to regenerate oak reproduction, while another 43 acres were harvested to promote oak savanna habitat type.</i></p>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<p>French Creek Fen Natural Area: Native Community Management (240 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage this natural area as a Calcareous Fen preserve and as an ecological reference area.
Accomplishments 2013	<p><i>Conducted a prescribed fire which included ~100 acres of this natural area which was highly effective in top killing a large amount of brush present in the fen. Another 14 acres had brush (primarily honeysuckle and dogwood) cut and stump treated to open up the calcareous fen to sunlight and promote the growth of the</i></p>

	<i>rare plants found there.</i>
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MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<p>French Creek North Natural Area: Native Community Management (1,389 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the quality of the diverse wetland communities including Southern Sedge Meadow, Calcareous Fen, Southern Tamarack Swamp (rich), Shrub-carr, Emergent Marsh and springs. • Increase the quality of the herptile habitat on 200 acres. • Protect the Southern Tamarack Swamp (rich) forest habitat. • Restore degraded Oak Openings and promote native understory species.
Accomplishments 2013	<p><i>A 40 acre grassland field was burned to rejuvenate the grasses and give the advantage to the warm season grasses and forbs that were planted there in 2011 over competing plants. This field was also chemically treated to kill spotted knapweed that was prominent on one end of the field.</i></p> <p><i>A five acre field was contracted for a hay cutting to remove large amounts of white sweet clover that had invaded the field.</i></p>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<p>Public Use Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for high quality hunting experiences. • Provide high quality experiences for non-consumptive users with an emphasis on bird observations, non-motorized boating and hiking. • Assess the feasibility of adding handicapped accessible fishing and boat access infrastructure. • Evaluate Ice Age National Scenic Trail route options on the property.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the feasibility of adding handicapped accessible fishing and boat access infrastructure. • Monitor and document unauthorized horseback riding and off-road vehicle use to assess impacts on habitat quality, trash, sanitary concerns or other management and law enforcement issues. Take action as needed. • Assess the feasibility of developing a mobility impaired accessible boat launch and fishing pier at the parking lot west of the County F bridge and a wildlife observation blind at a suitable site on the property. Develop recommendations by December 2015. Take action as appropriate. • Assess the feasibility of offering nature interpretation material at French Creek landings, parking lots or wildlife observation areas by 2015. Take action as appropriate.
Accomplishments 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mowed pheasant stocking trails and service trails, to provide easier hunter access. Stocked pheasants on this property.</i> - <i>Provided one sunflower food plot on this property.</i> - <i>Project money was secured to acquire and install a kiosk offering nature interpretation material</i>

	<i>located on at least one of the boat landings at French Creek. The kiosk will be purchased and installed in 2014.</i>
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MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Habitat Management Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the majority of the existing service roads, gates, building, dams, dikes and water control structures.
Accomplishments 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Repaired a large muskrat hole in what is referred to as the "Spring Creek Dike".</i> - <i>Mowed most of the existing service roads and secured funding to resurface most of the public access roads and parking lots in 2014.</i>

Property: Grassy Lake Wildlife Area

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Grassy Lake Natural Area: Native Community Management (292 acre)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passively manage the Marshes and Sedge Meadows as an ecological reference area. • Protect and promote the population of black tern nesting at Grassy Lake. • Add the 15 acre lake portion of the Briggs easement to the natural area.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p>- <i>Installed approximately 50 floating wooden nesting platforms for black tern use. About 5 of these showed some use by black terns, along with some nests found in native vegetation.</i></p>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Oak Savanna, Oak Woods and Grasslands: Habitat Management (487 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the Grasslands and Oak Savanna. • Improve the quality of the Oak Woodlands. • Improve the habitat quality for grassland nesting ducks, pheasants and grassland birds.
<p>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the nine (9) acre potential residential building site on the Briggs Conservation Easement as Surrogate Grassland.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>No management actions to report in 2013.</i></p>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Public Use Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote high quality opportunities for public hunting and wildlife viewing, except on the Briggs conservation easement. • Evaluate the feasibility of adding a handicapped accessible wildlife viewing platform.
<p>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add signage to the Briggs conservation easement to indicate this is a management easement and is not open to the public except as indicated in the easement. • Assess the feasibility of developing a wildlife viewing structure (e.g., platform, blind) with interpretive material. Develop recommendations by December 2015. Take action as appropriate.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mowed pheasant stocking trails to improve hunter accessibility on this property, as well as stock pheasants on this property.</i> - <i>Provided one sunflower food plot for dove hunting purposes.</i>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Habitat Management Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the current service roads and gates.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>Mowed most existing service roads and secured funding to resurface most of the public access roads and parking lots in 2014.</i></p>

Property: Hinkson Creek Fisheries Area

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Wetlands, Woods and Grasslands: Habitat Management (233 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage for pre-settlement cover types. • Improve habitat quality for game and non-game species.
<p>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct thinning and improvement cuts in red pine plantations with goal of removal and conversion to Oak Woodlands as practicable. • Manage Aspen stands for woodcock habitat.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>No management actions to report in 2013.</i></p>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>In-Stream and Riparian Zone Management: Habitat Management Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the Class 2 trout stream designation and the high quality brook trout fishery.
<p>Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance 1,500 feet of stream with standard riparian and in-stream habitat practices for trout.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>No active management practices occurred in 2013.</i></p>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Public Use Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a high-quality experience for trout anglers.
<p>Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance fishing opportunities by adding in-stream habitat, stocking fish and brushing banks to improve angler access.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>No in-stream management work occurred in 2013.</i></p>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Habitat Management Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing infrastructure needed for habitat management activities.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>Mowed and sprayed weeds in parking lots. New property identification signs were posted at Fishery Areas in 2013.</i></p>

Property: Jennings Creek Wildlife Area

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Woods and Wetlands: Habitat Management (530 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the quality of pre-settlement wetland and forest communities. Expand the extent of the Oak Savanna.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>No management actions to report in 2013.</i></p>
<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>In-Stream and Riparian Zone Management: Habitat Management Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the Class 2 trout stream designation and the native brook trout stream population. Enhance riparian zone vegetation to improve trout habitat and woodcock habitat with secondary benefits for furbearers.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p>- <i>Beaver dams were removed as necessary on Jennings Creek to protect trout from thermal stress caused by impounding the stream.</i></p>
<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Public Use Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide high quality deer and waterfowl hunting, and outdoor recreation opportunities.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>No management actions to report in 2013.</i></p>
<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Habitat Management Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the existing service/access roads.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>Secured funding to resurface the public access roads and parking lots in 2014.</i></p>

Property: Lodi Marsh Wildlife Area

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Lodi Marsh Natural Area: Native Community Management (655 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the Southern Sedge Meadow, Emergent Marsh, Wet to Wet-mesic Prairie, Shrub Carr, springs, and Fen communities as a diverse wetland mosaic and as an ecological reference area. • Increase the extent and quality of the Oak Savannas and Dry Prairie ecological reference areas.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>SNA crew and volunteers worked on oak savanna and dry prairie restoration by clearing cedars, as well as honeysuckle and other invasive trees and brush. Volunteers controlled invasive species including garlic mustard, Japanese hedge parsley, and wild parsnip. A 109 acre prescribed burn was conducted by SNA staff and volunteers to restore oak savanna and dry prairie on Center Bluff. Wildlife management staff conducted mechanical brush removal in this area as well where the fire did not carry through.</i></p>
<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Woods, Grasslands and Wetlands: Habitat Management (531 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the Oak Savanna and decrease Upland Shrub and Oak Woodlands. • Provide habitat for woodcock. • Increase the acreage and amount of permanent upland grass to improve cover and nesting success for grassland birds and pheasants.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>Mechanical brush removal occurred on 10 acres to prepare for prairie planting in this management area. An additional 6 acres of brush removal occurred by both chemical and mechanical means. IAT volunteers constructed additional breaks and tree removal to continue expanding oak savanna on eastern unit (~10 acres). Two grassland fields were (Dave's Field – 48 acres; ATC units – 23 acres) were burned to improve the cover and allow for better nesting success for grassland birds.</i></p>
<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Public Use Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide high quality recreational experience for hunters, anglers, hikers and other users. • Maintain the existing public access parking lots and trails. • Involve community partners in ecological restoration and IAT management activities.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>Volunteers held ecological restoration workdays on their own, as well as with staff from the SNA crew. DNR staff from Wildlife Management and Natural Areas met volunteers on site to discuss and plan work for the upcoming year. Pheasant stocking continued to occur (and expanded) on this property. Maintained parking lots; improved one parking lot from a grass surfaced parking lot to gravel surfaced.</i></p>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Habitat Management Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the existing service road and gates.
Accomplishments 2013	<i>Mowed burn breaks and maintained stocking lanes Inspected gates</i>

Property: Lodi Spring Creek Fishery Area

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Wetlands and Woods: Habitat Management Area (53 acres) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage for pre-settlement plant communities.
Accomplishments 2013	<i>No management actions to report for 2013.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	In-Stream and Riparian Zone: Habitat Management Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and maintain the Class 2 trout stream designation and native brook trout populations. • Enhance riparian zone vegetation to improve trout habitat.
Accomplishments 2013	<i>Riparian zone habitat management (tree and brush removal by hand) was done on Lodi Spring Creek Fishery Area in 2013. Trout surveys were conducted by Fisheries Management (Poynette) in 2013 to assess the trout population of Lodi Creek. Feral brown trout and domestic rainbow trout were stocked to enhance the fishery for anglers.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Public Use Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a high-quality experience for trout anglers. • Improve public access to the scattered units of this property, particularly for trout fishing. • Assess the potential for a mobility impaired trout fishing site on the fishery area.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add a small parking lot at Hwy 60 access road for public access to Bohlmann Branch. • Collaborate with community partners and City of Lodi to assess the feasibility of siting mobility impaired fishing access infrastructure along the stream. Potential sites include Goeres Park or at the parking area off County J. Initiate a master plan variance if a handicap accessible fishing structure is proposed on Department managed land.
Accomplishments 2013	<i>Tree and brush removal occurred on Lodi Spring Creek Fishery Area to help make the stream more accessible for anglers. This consisted of one day of brushing by a hand crew from Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Habitat Management Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain existing infrastructure for trout stocking and habitat management activities.
Accomplishments 2013	<i>Mowed and sprayed weeds in parking lots. New property identification signs were posted at Fishery Areas in 2013.</i>

Property: Mud Lake Wildlife Area – Columbia County

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Wetlands, Woods, Grasslands, Shrub and Ag. Lands: Habitat Management (1,650 acres) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage for pre-settlement plant communities to enhance habitat value for game and native non-game species. Improve the productivity of grassland nesting waterfowl.
Accomplishments 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Conducted three timber harvests that were aimed at reproducing oak as the main tree species present in the stand due to the value of acorns and cover to wildlife, as well as oak being the predominant tree type in the area pre-European settlement. Shelterwood harvest techniques were used in these timber harvests (~50% of the canopy removed) to promote sunlight penetration in the units to encourage oak growth.</i> <i>Treated 91 acres of brush, woody and herbaceous invasive species present in grasslands on the entire Mud Lake property to increase the quality of the grasslands for nesting waterfowl. 75 acres of grasslands were burned in this management unit to help remove unwanted brush and increase the robustness of the grasslands and encourage “warm season” grassland plant species.</i> <i>Removed tree lines intersecting grassland fields that were potentially acting as waterfowl predator corridors from two field complexes.</i> <i>One sunflower food plot was planted on this property for dove management purposes.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Mud Lake Forest & Ponds Natural Area: Native Community Management (130 acres) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage as a closed canopy oak woodland and as an ecological reference area. Maintain ephemeral ponds and protect their habitat value for herptiles.
Accomplishments 2013	<i>No management actions to report in 2013.</i>

MASTER PLAN	Empire Prairie Natural Area – Hagen Prairie Unit: Native Community Management (80 ac.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect existing Dry-mesic Prairie remnant and convert current row crop land to dry-Mesic Prairie.
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OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage Hagen Prairie as an ecological reference area.
Accomplishments 2013	<p><i>Removed yellow sweet clover from the site and sprayed spotted knapweed. Burned 26 acres of the unit to generate high quality seed for collection later in the year. Seeds were collected from multiple species and will be broadcast seeded in winter of 2013-14 to convert another 13 acres of row crop land into dry-mesic prairie in this unit of the SNA.</i></p>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<p>Empire Prairie Natural Area – Mud Lake Prairie Unit: Native Community Management (13 ac.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the Mesic Prairie and manage as an ecological reference area. • Manage oaks along the western periphery of the prairie to develop an oak savanna.
Accomplishments 2013	<p><i>Burned just the hilltop knob of this unit to generate high quality seed for collection later in the year. Seeds were collected from multiple species and will be broadcast seeded in the Hagen Prairie unit in winter of 2013-14 to convert another 13 acres of row crop land into dry-mesic prairie. Leafy spurge was treated adjacent to this SNA to keep it from invading the natural area.</i></p>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<p>Mud Lake Woods: Habitat Management (70 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and expand the semi-open canopy of mature Southern Dry-mesic Forest.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regenerate white oak and retain mast producing species (e.g., hickory and black cherry). • Remove maple and other undesirable woody species.
Accomplishments 2013	<p><i>One of the three timber harvests occurring at Mud Lake WA occurred in the northern unit of the Mud Lake Woods off Drake Rd. Part of this unit was high quality oak and that area was marked and cut to promote the regeneration of oak species. Other areas had less desirable tree species. In those areas of the unit, aspen was selected for where possible, as well as hickory and black cherry. In some areas of the unit only ash was present, so for canopy purposes, ash was thinned.</i></p>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<p>Field Areas 5a, 6a and 8c: Habitat Management (180 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve habitat quality and natural regeneration of the Oak Woodlands.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use approved habitat management techniques to encourage oak regeneration. • Use prescribed fire and brushing to maintain a mosaic of smaller grass and brush openings within the Oak Woodlands.

<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>One of the three timber harvests occurring at Mud Lake WA occurred in this woodland. This was marked and cut to promote the regeneration of oak and hickory. Assessments of the species regeneration in this woodland unit from summer of 2013 are not favorable for oak or hickory – maple, box elder, cherry, and aspen are showing a much more robust response in regenerating. Mechanical and chemical treatments are likely to be necessary and have more impact to the site rather than fire at this point, and will be planned for in 2014.</i></p> <p><i>The southern five fields had a prescribed burn conducted on them in the spring of 2013. The response from the warm season grasses was excellent in these fields, and much of the invading brush was topkilled.</i></p>
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<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Field Areas 2 and 8: Habitat Management (160 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a large contiguous block of Surrogate Grassland.
<p>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut and prevent regeneration of all Bottomland Hardwood species. • Sow area with native and introduced forbs and grasses to develop a Surrogate Grassland.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>The grassland fields on the north end of this unit (north of King Rd) were burned in the spring of 2013. Most invading brush was killed and the warm season grasses responded well to the burns. Leafy spurge was chemically treated in the southern fields (south of King Rd) to prevent the spread of this invasive species to more of the property and the adjacent SNA.</i></p>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Public Use Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the current complement of public access roads, parking lots and boat launches. • Improve recreational opportunities for mobility impaired individuals.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the feasibility of adding an accessible hunting/observation blind and infrastructure. Report on the feasibility of an accessible site by December, 2015. Take action as appropriate.
Accomplishments 2013	<p><i>Two parking lots were resurfaced with gravel while two new gravel parking lots and one public access road (leading to one of the new lots) were created in 2013. The old canoe launch site was closed and a new canoe launch was created near one of these new parking lots. All other parking lots and public access roads were retained. Pheasant stocking trails were mowed and pheasants were stocked on this property.</i></p>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Habitat Management Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the existing service roads, gates, dikes and water control structures.
Management Activities or Prescriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace the water control structure and/or lower the dike at the Mud Lake Flowage to allow greater range of water level fluctuations to improve waterfowl habitat management activities.
Accomplishments 2013	<p><i>All service roads, gates, dikes and water control structures were retained. All service roads and dikes were mowed for DNR access and to improve foot traffic accessibility for hunters, trappers and other property users.</i></p>

Property: Paradise Marsh Wildlife Area

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Grasslands, Woods, Wetlands and Agricultural Lands: Habitat Management (1,588 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality of the existing Oak Woodlands. • Expand Oak Savanna and Central Hardwood by reducing Upland Shrub cover type. • Expand food plots for doves and birds. • Improve the productivity of habitat for grassland nesting waterfowl. • Improve the quality of the shrub wetlands and emergent wetlands. • Increase open water acreage in the wetlands.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>Conducted one prescribed burn of 94 acres to improve grassland quality and kill encroaching brush. Box elder was chemically treated in another warm season grass field on the property, as well as spotted knapweed. Keeping these species out of the grassland improves the quality for grassland nesting waterfowl and other grassland nesting species. Two tree lines were removed thus allowing a continuous habitat type (grassland) rather than having fragmented grass fields. This should reduce predation on nesting birds in these fields.</i></p>
<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Public Use Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide access to high quality big game, waterfowl and dove hunting opportunities and wildlife observation. • Maintain current public access infrastructure.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>Provided one sunflower food plot for dove management purposes. Planted apple trees for future bow hunting opportunities on the property. All parking lots were maintained.</i></p>
<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Habitat Management Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the existing service roads, gates, dike and water control structure.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>All existing infrastructure was retained.</i></p>

Property: Peter Helland Wildlife Area

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Wetlands, Grasslands and Woods: Habitat Management (3,272 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand food plots for doves and bird species. • Restore Oak Savanna. • Improve the productivity of grassland nesting waterfowl. • Improve the quality of the existing forest habitats and wetlands. • Restore and maintain open wetlands.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>One 62 acre grassland field was burned in the spring of 2013 to maintain grasses and top kill encroaching brush. Spotted knapweed and crown vetch were chemically treated on this property to improve the overall quality of the grasslands. One tree line was removed to increase grassland area and reduce predation on nesting grassland birds.</i></p>
<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Springvale Wet Prairie Natural Area: Native Community Management (271 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain as a open (treeless) Wet-Prairie and Calcareous Fen reserve and manage as an ecological reference area.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>No management actions were conducted in 2013 Wetland research was permitted in 2013 in this SNA.</i></p>
<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Warmwater Aquatic Habitats: Habitat Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the Duck Creek watershed and manage as a warmwater creek. • Maintain the panfish fishery at Crystal Lake.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>No management actions were conducted in 2013.</i></p>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Public Use Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide high quality hunting opportunities for deer, turkey, waterfowl, pheasant, dove and other small game and trapping opportunities. • Continue to provide a rustic fishing and non-motorized recreational experience on Crystal Lake. • Provide opportunities for bird watching and other non-consumptive uses. • Retain existing and add additional public access and accessible wildlife viewing infrastructure.
<p>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add two small parking lots off Highway P on the northwest and north central portions of the wildlife area. • Assess the feasibility of adding a mobility impaired wildlife viewing area and parking lot on the south side of Hwy P overlooking the Springvale State Natural Area. Present findings and recommendations of this assessment by December 2015. Take action as appropriate.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>Planted apple trees for future bow hunting opportunities on the property. Stocked pheasants on this property. Secured funding to gravel four ungravelled parking lots in 2014. Provided one sunflower food plot for dove management purposes.</i></p>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Habitat Management Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the existing service roads, gates, culverts, dikes and water control structure.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>All infrastructure was retained on this property.</i></p>

Property: Public Hunting Grounds - Columbus, Dekorra, Duck Creek, Hampden and Lewiston

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Woods, Grasslands & Wetlands: Habitat Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage for pre-settlement plant communities. • Improve habitat for pheasant and waterfowl – Columbus. • Improve habitat quality for turkey and other game species - Dekorra • Increase Oak Savanna - Dekorra • Improve habitat for woodcock, pheasants and doves. – Duck Creek • improve habitat quality for game species especially pheasant – Hampden • Improve habitat for woodcock – Lewiston and Duck Creek
<p>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the potential for creating an emergent marsh by building a dike to create a small impoundment. If pursued obtain a plan variance and take action as necessary - Lewiston
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>A habitat improvement project to remove brush from a warm season grass field at Columbus PHG was begun in 2013 and will be completed in 2014.</i></p> <p><i>Honeysuckle, black locust, and aspen resprouts were treated in the timber harvested area at Dekorra PHG. Timber was harvested from 45 acres to create an oak savanna canopy, and intense management will need to occur in this site to continue converting this site into savanna habitat type.</i></p> <p><i>Spotted knapweed, crown vetch, and encroaching brush and trees were chemically treated in the 52 acres of warm season grassland at Duck Creek WA. This will improve the quality of the grassland for bird nesting.</i></p>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Public Use Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide hunting options and outdoor recreation opportunities. • Maintain the existing parking lots for public access • Establish a Class II dog training area of approximately 50 acre – Duck Creek
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>Planted apple trees for future bow hunting opportunities on Duck Creek and Hampden Marsh PHGs.</i></p> <p><i>Provided one sunflower food plot for dove management purposes at Duck Creek PHG.</i></p> <p><i>Established a Class II dog training area (~55 acres) at Duck Creek PHG and posted the area.</i></p> <p><i>Maintained parking lots at each property.</i></p> <p><i>The entire boundary of the Hampden Marsh property was reposted with property boundary signs in 2013.</i></p> <p><i>Also a memorial plaque was reattached to the boulder at the parking lot at Hamden Marsh.</i></p>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Habitat Management Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the existing service road and gates. • Allow continued access along the conveyed easement roadway to the wastewater treatment plant to the Town of Dekorra and DOT – Dekorra.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>Retained all existing service roads and gates Working on a mutual easement for DNR and Town of Dekorra vehicle use on both DNR and Dekorra Wastewater treatment plant property. Working with the DOT to allow access to south fields at Dekorra PHG through a gate on south side of the rest stop to be installed by DOT.</i></p>

Property: Pine Island Wildlife Area

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Grasslands, Woods, Wetlands & Agricultural Lands: Habitat Management (3,327 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the extent and the quality of the pre-settlement cover types. • Increase the amount of open Grassland for grassland birds. • Protect the habitat and scenic character of the Baraboo and Wisconsin River corridors. • Phase out red pine plantings and reduce acreage of shrub wetland. Convert to oak savanna, grassland or adjacent cover types.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>Conducted a prescribed burn on 94 acres of oak savanna. This burn was successful at top killing unwanted brush and trees in the unit that was burned.</i></p> <p><i>Chemically treated unwanted tree species and brush in ~180 acres of oak savanna.</i></p> <p><i>Planted 27 acres of oak species mix along the Baraboo River corridor to benefit wildlife and make a more contiguous wooded corridor along the river.</i></p> <p><i>A 55 acre aspen clearcut occurred. The aspen clearcut will perpetuate the aspen cover type achieving the objective of maintaining the area in early successional forest types that benefit wildlife and maintaining current aspen dominance for ruffed grouse and woodcock habitat. An additional short-term objective was achieved as the forest roads used for the sale will be used as a trail for the dog trial grounds.</i></p> <p><i>Chemically treated ~18 acres young red maple beginning to outcompete young oaks in an oak stand. This will benefit this stand in the near future when the oak will be cut to promote oaks to regenerate in the oak stand.</i></p>
<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Oak Savanna Natural Area: Native Community Management (798 acre)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the Pine Island swamp white oak savanna communities including remnant Pine Barrens and Sand Prairie. • Manage this site as an ecological reference area.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>Girdled river birch, ash, and maple species in the Sauk Co portion of this SNA to promote more desirable species to grow in these areas. Also chemically treated all small resprouts of aspen in the grassy area that aspen was previously mowed in the Sauk unit.</i></p>
<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Floodplain Forest: Native Community Management (159 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the diversity and ecological quality of the Floodplain Forest.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>No management actions taken in 2013.</i></p>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Grasslands and Field Trial Area: Habitat Management (1,190 acres)</p> <p>The Pine Island Field Trial Agreement (<i>PIFTA, 2010</i>) controls the habitat management objectives and prescriptions for the 1,190 acre dog trial area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the acreage and improve the quality of the Grasslands to enhance habitat for game and non-game grassland birds. • Increase the acreage and quality of the oak savanna.
<p>Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pine Island Field Trial Agreement plan shall be the controlling agreement in regards to the management of the field trial activities, schedules and infrastructure use.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>Approximately 10 acres of spotted knapweed and crown vetch were chemically treated to improve the quality of the grasslands to enhance habitat for prairie species.</i></p> <p><i>Encroaching aspen were mowed in various areas of this management area to keep the habitat in grassland rather than young forest habitat type.</i></p> <p><i>Chemically treated aspen and other unwanted tree and brush species in the 125 acres of oak savanna to allow for grass, forb and oak growth.</i></p> <p><i>Chemically treated ~45 acres of patches of aspen and sumac in the grasslands of the dog trial area to promote grassland habitat.</i></p>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Pine Island HQ and Field Trial facilities: Special Use Area (5 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the current complement of buildings and roadways. • Continue to host dog trial activities (including self-contained camping units), Learn to Hunt and other educational activities.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>All buildings and roadways were retained. Potholes were repaired and filled, and a layer of gravel was overlain on Statz Rd (driveway).</i></p> <p><i>Approximately 20 dog trials were hosted and one pheasant LTH was hosted at the grounds.</i></p>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Public Use Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote quality hunting and traditional outdoor recreational activities and experiences. • Provide high quality dog trial and training opportunities. • Support Learn to Hunt programs and other educational efforts as practicable. • Evaluate Ice Age National Scenic Trail route options on the property.
<p>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the current complement of access roads and 24 native surface or gravel parking lots. • Improve the boat ramp and expand the parking area at the Wisconsin River access site along Levee Road. • Retain existing dog trial infrastructure and manage dog trial activities under the Pine Island Field Trial Agreement. Update and renew the habitat and recreation elements of the Field Trial Agreement plan in 2016 as needed. • Add a carry-in canoe launch and 3-5 car parking lot off Tritz Road at the Baraboo River. As practicable, install handicapped accessible shore fishing infrastructure on the Baraboo River in coordination with the Fish Management program. • Maintain and improve the existing nature interpretation kiosks at the grasslands as practicable. • Monitor sand bar and island camping to assess impacts on habitat quality, trash, sanitary concerns or other management and law enforcement issues. Take action as needed. • Collaborate with DNR Parks and Recreation, National Park Service and Ice Age Trail Alliance staff to assess trail route options at the property. Take follow-up action as appropriate. • Collaborate with relevant state, federal and county recreational experts to assess the potential impacts of changes in flooding and levee management on recreation and habitat opportunities. • Consult with local officials on maintenance needs of the town roads, including Levee Road. • Add a 5-10 car parking lot to improve public access if the parcel along Highway 33 on the southeast corner of the property is acquired. • Coordinate habitat and recreation management as well as land purchases with the US FWS Baraboo River property as appropriate.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>Planted apple trees for future bow hunting opportunities on the property. Provided on sunflower food plot for dove management puposes. Pheasant stocking trails were mowed for stocking purposes and to increase accessibility for hunters foot travel. Pheasants were stocked on this property. Provided a road aids grant to the township of Caledonia to help fund the road resurfacing project of approximately 2.5 miles of Levee Road. Parking lots were mowed prior to hunting seasons.</i></p>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Habitat Management Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Retain the existing buildings, service roads, gates, culverts, water control structure and dikes.
Accomplishments 2013	<i>All infrastructure on the property was retained.</i>

Property: Rocky Run Fisheries Area

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Oak Woodlands, Grasslands and Wetlands: Habitat Management (276 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote pre-settlement plant communities to improve the habitat value of Grasslands, Oak Woodlands, Oak Savannas and wetlands.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>No management actions taken in 2013.</i></p>
<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Rocky Run West Oak Savanna and Wetlands: Native Community Management (160 ac.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve habitat quality and extent of the Oak Savanna and Grasslands to provide high quality habitat for herptiles. Improve the quality and character of the Oak Woodlands. Protect the mosaic of Southern Sedge Meadow, Shrub Carr and Calcareous Fen.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>No management actions taken in 2013.</i></p>
<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>In-Stream and Riparian Zone Management: Habitat Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect and expand the quality and extent of the Class 2 and Class 3 trout waters.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>The only active trout management in 2013 consisted of stocking of feral brown trout and domestic rainbow trout to maintain and enhance opportunities for anglers.</i></p>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Public Use Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote high quality trout fishing, hunting and traditional outdoor recreational experiences. • Improve access to the property.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the existing parking lots • Allow continued use of the existing snowmobile trail segment. • Add additional parking if property acquisition occurs.
Accomplishments 2013	<i>Mowed and sprayed weeds in parking lots. Service roads were mowed to allow for trout stocking and improve hunter and fisher access. New property identification signs were posted at Fishery Areas in 2013.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Habitat Management Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the existing habitat management infrastructure.
Accomplishments 2013	<i>Existing infrastructure was retained.</i>

Property: Rocky Run Savanna SNA

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Oak Savanna Natural Area: Native Community Management (465 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the site as an Oak Savanna reserve and as an ecological reference area. • Protect and expand habitat for herptile species on remnant Dry and Sand Prairies, and Oak Savannas and Woods.
<p>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage dry, sandy habitats to support endangered and threatened herptile populations. • Remove the 20 acres of red pine plantations and 10 acres of Central Hardwoods and convert to Oak Savanna and Grasslands to create larger habitat blocks.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>SNA staff and volunteers restored oak savanna and dry prairie by controlling invasive species including black locust, Japanese hedge parsley, garlic mustard, sweet clover, and spotted knapweed. Fire breaks were prepared for burns planned for spring 2014.</i></p>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Public Use Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a high-quality experience for property users.
<p>Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the existing snowmobile alignment unless biotic surveys indicate realignment is warranted.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>Snowmobile trail was retained in the current alignment. Trails were cleared of downed trees as required.</i></p>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Habitat Management Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing infrastructure needed for habitat management activities.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>Retained all existing infrastructure.</i></p>

Property: Roelke Creek Fisheries Area

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Wetlands and Woods: Habitat Management (40 acres) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote pre-settlement plant communities and improved habitat quality for wildlife.
Accomplishments 2013	<i>No management actions to report for 2013</i>
MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	In-Stream and Riparian Zone Management: Habitat Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the Class 1 (Roelke Creek) and Class 3 (Duck Creek) trout stream designations
Accomplishments 2013	<i>Feral brown trout and domestic rainbow trout were stocked into Duck Creek in 2013 to maintain and enhance opportunities for anglers. Fish surveys were conducted on Duck Creek to assess the trout population.</i>
MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Public Use Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain current uses and access to the property.
Accomplishments 2013	<i>No management actions to report for 2013</i>
MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Habitat Management Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No infrastructure to maintain
Accomplishments 2013	<i>No management actions to report for 2013</i>

Property: Rowan Creek Fisheries Area

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Wetlands, Woods and Grasslands: Habitat Management (651 acres) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the extent and quality of Oak Savanna. Improve the quality of the Oak Woodlands.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain the aesthetic of a mature white pine canopy along the Pine Island loop trail.
Accomplishments 2013	<i>Garlic mustard was hand pulled from the trail leading back to the oak savanna restoration area in the spring of 2013.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	In-Stream and Riparian Zone Management: Habitat Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the Class 1 and Class 2 trout stream designation for Rowan Creek.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance and improve 2,000 linear feet of stream with standard riparian and in-stream habitat development practices.
Accomplishments 2013	<i>Feral brown trout were stocked in 2013 to enhance the brown trout fishery in the Class II portion of the stream. Domestic rainbow trout were stocked to provide a put-and-take opportunity for anglers. Fishery surveys were conducted at six (6) sites on Rowan Creek in 2013 to assess the trout population.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Public Use Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain current service roads, trails and public access points. Improve handicap accessible fishing opportunities.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with community partners and the Village of Poynette to assess the feasibility of adding mobility impaired fishing access infrastructure for trout fishing. Initiate a master plan variance if a handicap accessible fishing structure is proposed for Department land.
Accomplishments 2013	<i>New signs were posted at Fishery Areas in 2013. A trail at Rowan Creek Fishery Area was cleared of downed trees in the spring of 2013 to improve access for anglers. Part of the boundary on the north side of the fishery area was re-posted following a survey of the neighboring property.</i>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Habitat Management Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing infrastructure for trout stocking, habitat and fire management activities.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>Mowed and sprayed weeds in parking lots. Service roads were mowed to allow for trout stocking and better accessibility by hunters and fishermen. New property identification signs were posted at Fishery Areas in 2013.</i></p>

Property: Swan Lake Wildlife Area

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Grasslands, Oak Woods & Wetlands: Habitat Management (1,419 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the quality and expand the extent of pre-settlement grasslands, savannas and sedge meadows. • Improve nesting success of grassland nesting ducks. • Provide improved grassland habitat for grassland birds. • Improve the open water to vegetation ratio to improve habitat quality for waterfowl.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>No management actions to report in 2013.</i></p>
<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Sedge Meadow and Oak Barrens Natural Area: Native Community Management (702 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore and expand the Oak Barrens and the Southern Sedge Meadow with Calcareous Fen. • Manage as an ecological reference area.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>Chemically treated resprouting black locust and spotted knapweed in a grassland field in this management area. This will improve the quality of the grassland for any grassland nesting birds, particularly aimed at grassland nesting ducks. The total area treated was about 3 acres of a 50 acre field.</i></p>
<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Tamaracks Natural Area: Native Community Management (205 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the quality and expand the extent of the Tamarack Swamp and Southern Sedge Meadow. • Manage as an ecological reference area.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>No management actions to report in 2013.</i></p>
<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Wet-mesic Prairie Natural Area: Native Community Management (46 acres)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the quality and expand the extent of the Wet-mesic Prairie and Southern Sedge Meadow. • Manage as an ecological reference area.
<p>Accomplishments 2013</p>	<p><i>No management actions to report in 2013.</i></p>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Southern Sedge Meadow Wetlands: Habitat Management (94 acres) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the quality and expand the extent of the Southern Sedge Meadow.
Accomplishments 2013	<i>No management actions to report in 2013.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Public Use Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote high quality hunting and traditional outdoor recreational activities and experiences. • Reduce or eliminate littering and other activities that are generating complaints or affect user/neighbor safety and enjoyment.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add one small parking lot off County G. • Monitor the abandoned gravel pit at the County Highway P parking area and the parking lot off Ontario Street for littering and other activities. Assess potential management options to reduce or eliminate the target shooting littering, noise and user/neighbor conflict issues and report findings and recommendations by December 2013. Take action as appropriate.
Accomplishments 2013	<p><i>Mowed service roads for easier hunter foot traffic accessibility. Had all three gravel parking lots graveled and graded. The DNR portion of Ontario St was regravelled, along with the township portion. The portion owned by the city of Portage will be completed soon.</i></p> <p><i>Monitored parking lot off Cty P that generates many complaints. Littering has not decreased, though some users are volunteering to help clean it up and will pile garbage for DNR pick up. Signs warning shooters of houses nearby have been shot so that they are no longer legible. Meetings have begun with interested parties to site a public shooting range on a wildlife area somewhere in the county – if issues are still occurring at this parking lot after a public shooting range site is selected/built, further options will be pursued as to what to do with this lot.</i></p>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Habitat Management Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain the existing service roads and gates.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess moving the gate at Ontario Street closer to the property boundary to deter littering. Take action as necessary.
Accomplishments 2013	<i>With the new regravelling of Ontario St, no gate will be put up in the near future. Littering will continue to be monitored, and if need be, moving the gate will be assessed again at that point.</i>

