

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

Property: Dell Creek State Wildlife Area*

Master Plan Year: 2003

* A combined plan with Mirror Lake SP

Land Management

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Maintain approximately 1,500 acres of mixed upland forest of various tree sizes, age classes, and patch sizes with about half the stand composition being red/white pine and half aspen, oaks, and other early successional species.</p>
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>Currently 91 acres of red pine plantation are contracted for commercial thinning and for control/slow the spread of pine pocket mortality. Contract expiration is November 1, 2010. An additional 39 acres of red pine are marked for commercial thinning and for control/slow the spread of pine pocket mortality and will be contracted for harvest in 2010.</i></p> <p><i>33-acres non-native invasive species and grapevine control is established and under contract in central hardwood forest type.</i></p> <p><i>7-acres site preparation for oak regeneration (mainly elimination of red maple and grapevines) is established and under contract in oak forest type.</i></p>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	In the short-term, modify the existing red pine plantations – approximately 350 acres – to a more natural-appearing stand condition. Over the long-term, the plantation red pine may be regenerated or the site shifted to another more desirable habitat type.
Accomplishments 2009	<i>The 130-acres of established pine harvests are intended to reduce stocking and work toward eventual conversion to natural hardwood species with a component pine.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Protect and maintain the 20-acre relict hemlock stand in the northwestern part of the wildlife area.
Accomplishments 2009	<i>Relict hemlock stand in the northwestern part of the wildlife area was protected. Area inspected for future work, possibly old fence removal.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Protect the water quality of the creek by restoring marginal, erodible cropland to permanent vegetation.
Accomplishments 2009	<i>38 acres of cropland was converted to native, permanent vegetation in Spring 2009. No fields directly along stream edge are in cropland.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Maintain/create approximately 1,600 acres of grassland, prairie, savanna, and sand barrens on appropriate sites. Prairie and savanna should be favored whenever possible. The continued restoration and maintenance of the approximately 200-acre town hall barrens site is a priority.
Accomplishments 2009	<i>Approximately 75 acres were maintained through prescribed burning. Approximately 100 acres were managed for invasive species by spraying species such as spotted knapweed and by removing woody vegetation like red cedars.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Maintain a diversity of lowland vegetation, i.e. alder thicket, wet meadow, and forested wetland, as appropriate to the site conditions.
Accomplishments 2009	<i>No management was conducted on lowland vegetation.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Provide important Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock nesting and brood rearing cover on 150 acres of alder by maintaining a diversity of age class (0-10 years) and stem size.
Accomplishments 2009	<i>A diversity of age classes exist, however no management was conducted on alder.</i>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Establish a control site for alder where no active management will be conducted. This will allow long-term comparison of the ecological differences with alder sites that have been sheared for regeneration purposes. This site should be at least 10 acres located along the creek corridor in the middle portion of the property and not close to areas that are part o the shearing rotation.</p>
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>No alder was managed in the area along the creek corridor in the middle portion of the property.</i></p>

Fisheries Management

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Improve trout fishing opportunities and stream access. Increase trout populations through wild strain stocking and habitat improvement techniques.</p>
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>No fisheries report sent.</i></p>

Public Access and Recreation

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Provide opportunities for hunting, watching wildlife, trapping, fishing in a non-motorized setting. Secondly, provide opportunities for other compatible recreational uses, such as hiking, nature study, and berry picking. Actions to be taken to meet these objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit public motor vehicle access to designated parking lots and their access roads. ATV and horse use is prohibited on the property. Department managed roads may be gated or bermed at the discretion of the property manager. • Maintain twenty-one 6- to 10-car parking lots on the periphery of the property. These lightly developed access roads and parking lots may be either soil or gravel surfaced, depending upon the level of use and site conditions. • Develop and maintain up to four primitive loop-walking trails of 1-2 miles each. These designated trails will have informational signs at the trailhead parking lots and way-finding markers along the route. • Develop a segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail approximately 2.5 miles long through the southern half of the property. This trail will be a lightly developed trail with primarily a natural soil base.
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>Parking lots were resurfaced. New gates and boulders were put in place to limit public off road vehicle access at unwanted points to limit negative impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat. One parking lot was abandoned because of excessive damage during the 2008 floods. A new parking lot was constructed down the road of the abandoned one. This lot is larger and in a safer location compared to the old one.</i></p>