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

Property: **Flambeau River State Forest**

Master Plan Year: **Calendar Year 2010 - 2013**

Land Management

Forest Production Area 1 – Exeland Plains Hardwoods

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long Term Objectives** Northern hardwoods will remain the dominant cover type. Existing stands will be maintained and enhanced to increase age diversity while maintaining a diversity of forest cover types for forest health, aesthetic appeal, and wildlife habitat. White pine, hemlock, and cedar components will be maintained for large-diameter trees and older forests. Wind events may change the proportion of mid-late successional species to early successional species**.** **Short Term Management Objectives** • Maintain acreage of northern hardwoods and enhance quality of saw logs on appropriate sites. • Maintain high quality red maple in northern hardwood stands to increase species diversity. • Encourage and promote yellow birch, basswood, ash, and other mid-tolerant species where seed sources exist. • Maintain a diversity of forest cover types and age classes for overall health of the forest, aesthetic appeal, and to provide wildlife habitat. • Improve saw log quality in northern hardwood stands. • Improve the establishment of natural regeneration where possible. • Encourage understory development and diversity • Limit gap management on sites with poor regeneration. • Maintain aspen in mixed stands. • Maintain current levels of pine, tamarack, hemlock, cedar, balsam fir, and spruce. • Evaluate wind damaged stands for adequate crop tree stocking levels. • Provide research opportunities consistent with area management objectives
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions** • Apply uneven-aged management, such as crop tree release, thinning, and canopy gap formation techniques, to northern hardwoods where site and stand conditions allow. • Consider even-aged management on northern hardwood sites where crop trees are lacking to achieve long-term uneven-aged stand management. Even-aged management methods include overstory removal and shelterwood cuts. • Conduct mechanical site preparation as needed. Mowing, scarification, herbicide or other methods may be utilized to enhance regeneration. • Use standard single tree selection (and no gap management) when little northern hardwood regeneration is present and less desirable species can dominate.

	• Use gap management techniques when abundant northern hardwood regeneration is present. • Consider artificial regeneration of pine or spruce or other appropriate species where natural regeneration is absent or in canopy openings generally >5 acres. • Convert plantations with predominantly northern hardwood understories to more naturally appearing stands. Maintain other plantations. • For mid-tolerant species such as basswood, ash and birch, encourage natural regeneration through site preparation. • Continue to conduct silvicultural trials to improve the establishment of natural regeneration. **The General Forest Management Prescriptions by Primary Forest Type are authorized unless restricted by a prescription above or an overlay zone prescription.**
Accomplishments	***Management was adapted on timber sale to meet both short and long term objectives stated above. Copies of individual sales are maintained at the FRSF headquarters and can be reviewed on request.*** *2010* • *Established timber sales on 753 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 2-10, 10-10, 11-9, 8-8.* *2011* • *Established timber sales on 847 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 1-11, 3-11, 9-11, 10-11, 4-10, 5-10.* *2012* • *Established timber sales on 221 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 4-11, 104-10.* *2013* • *Established timber sales on 1886 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 6-14, 2-13, 3-13, 6-13, 8-13, 10-13, 6-12, 13-12, 14-12, 15-12, 16-12.* *2014* • *Established timber sales on 221 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 12-13, 6-12, 8-13,13-14, 9-14, 6-14, 12-14* *2015* • *Established timber sales on 440acres. This acreage is included in tracts 18-14, 19-14, 3-15, 13-13, 7-15, 11-*15 • *Conducted mechanical site preparation which included mowing, scarification, herbicide treatments to enhance mid tolerant regeneration. Five sites were treated involving 121 acres. This acreage was located within compartments 36, 28,27,60* ***Research Opportunities*** • *Long term Old Growth management research areas have been established involving 252 acres with a portion within Exeland Plains Hwds.. The project involves: Assessing the use of silvicultural techniques to create northern hardwood old-growth characteristics.* Principal Investigators: *Karl Martin, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Integrated Science Services, Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501; email: MartiK@dnr.state.wi.us* *Craig Lorimer, Department of Forest Ecology and Management, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1630 Linden Dr., Madison, WI 53706* *Brian Palik, USDA Forest Service, North Central Research Station, 1831 Hwy. 169 E, Grand Rapids, MN 55744* *Thomas W. Steele, Kemp Natural Resources Station and the Department of Forest Ecology & Management, UW-Madison, Woodruff, Wisconsin*

Land Management

Forest Production Area 2 – Wet-Mesic Hardwoods

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long Term Objectives** Maintain the extensive high quality complex of native wetland community types in this management area. Coniferous forest types will be maintained to provide valuable habitat for a wide variety of conifer-dependent wildlife species. Red maple and swamp hardwoods will decrease due to regeneration challenges while aspen acreages are expected to increase. Planting of white and black spruce along with other appropriate species may be needed to maintain a forested cover type. **Short Term Management Objectives** • Maintain the diversity of forest cover types and age classes for overall health of the forest, aesthetic appeal, and to provide wildlife habitat. • Increase aspen when mixed with red maple and lower quality hardwoods due to regeneration challenges for these species, especially in transition zones between uplands and wetlands. • Maintain acreage of northern hardwoods and enhance quality of sawlogs on appropriate sites. • Maintain aspen in mixed stands. • Openings generally less than 5 acres shall be allowed to naturally regenerate unless identified as a maintained wildlife opening. • Develop a diversity of ages and stand sizes for red maple, swamp hardwoods, aspen, and northern hardwoods. • Retain and encourage yellow birch, white pine, hemlock and northern hardwood components on red maple dominated sites. • Increase the presence of large, longer lived trees such as white pine on suitable sites. • Maintain red maple on sites with adequate natural regeneration or where appropriate. For areas with little or no regeneration, encourage and allow other tree species to predominate, including aspen, northern hardwoods, or other desirable species.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions** • Maintain yellow birch, white pine, hemlock and northern hardwood components on red maple dominated sites. Some harvesting of these species is permitted to meet stand goals and management objectives. • Even-aged management of northern hardwoods where crop trees are lacking shall consist of the following methods: overstory removal and shelterwood harvests. Site preparation may be required in some areas. • Harvest aspen surrounding non-forested areas ≤5 acres for natural regeneration to reduce edge effect. • Site preparation techniques such as mowing, scarification, herbicide application or other methods may be utilized if regeneration is lacking to meet management objectives in red maple and northern hardwood stands. Strip cuts may be used in swamp hardwoods and conifer wetlands. • Use coppice techniques to regenerate aspen in mixed stands as necessary to ensure regeneration after salvage operations. • Continue to conduct regeneration trials in conifer wetlands, red maple, and swamp hardwood types.
Accomplishments	***Management was adapted on timber sale to meet both short and long term objectives stated above. Copies of individual sales are maintained at the FRSF headquarters and can be reviewed on request.*** *2010* • *Established timber sales on 273 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 3-10, 7-10.* *2011*

	• *Established timber sales on 686 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 5-11, 11-10, 2-8, 4-8.* *2012* • *Established timber sales on 402 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 10-12, 21-12, 18-8.* *2013* • *Established timber sales on 335 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 9-13, 12-12, 17-12* *2014* • *Established timber sales on 189acres. This acreage is included in tracts 1-14, 10,14, 17-14* *2015* • *Established timber sales on 783 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 18-14, 14-14,5-15,4-15, 3-15, 8-15* • *Site preparation techniques where used involving 49 acres, which included mowing, brushing and scarification to encourage mid tolerant species. These treatments involved trials to determine the best alternative to use in the regeneration within these wetter habitats. Three sites were treated within compartments 36, 38, 35.*

Land Management

Forest Production Area 3 – River Sands Hardwoods

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long Term Objectives** Early successional forest types will be maintained as a strong component of the landscape. Mixed stands with aspen will see the proportion of aspen increased naturally. Across this management area, there will be an increase in the presence and age of red and white pine on suitable sites, with an emphasis on regenerating natural stands of red and white pine. Current levels of red pine plantation acreage will be maintained. The northern hardwood component will be maintained on appropriate sites and where possible, will be converted from even-aged to uneven-aged management. **Short Term Management Objectives** • Maintain the diversity of forest cover types and age classes for forest health, aesthetic appeal, and wildlife habitat. • Maintain or increase aspen in mixed stands • Maintain red and white pine, hemlock, and cedar for species diversity • Promote the growth and retention of large red and white pine in mixed and natural stands • Maintain the conifer component in mixed stands • Maintain high quality northern hardwoods • Retain oak on suitable sites • Promote regeneration of mid-tolerant species such as basswood, ash, and birch within northern hardwood stands • Maintain reserve trees and islands to promote travel corridors and age class diversity among managed even-aged aspen stands
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions** • Maintain or increase natural stands of red and white pine through shelterwood harvests and site preparation. Increase pine component on upland openings generally ≥5 acres. • Natural conversion techniques such as crop tree release through thinning and scarification around existing seed sources may be used to maintain and increase red and white pine. • For northern hardwoods where crop trees are lacking use: overstory removal and shelterwood harvests. Site preparation may be required in some areas.

	• Retain oak when possible for diversity. Oak regeneration will be promoted by releasing crop trees through single tree selection and scarification around existing seed sources. • Regenerate mid-tolerant species such as basswood, ash, and birch using gap management and scarification techniques where sites and stands are suitable. This area has the best opportunity to maintain mid-tolerant species, witch are lacking on more mesic sites in the forest.
Accomplishments	***Management was adapted on timber sale to meet both short and long term objectives stated above. Copies of individual sales are maintained at the FRSF headquarters and can be reviewed on request.*** *2010* • *Established timber sales on 568 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 1-10, 8-10, 12-10, 15-9.* *2011* • *Established timber sales on 397acres. This acreage is included in tracts 6-11, 9-11, 10-11, 11-11, 10-7.* *2012* • *Established timber sales on 205 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 4-12, 5-12.* *2013* • *Established timber sales on 506 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 1-13, 16-12.* *2014* • *Established timber sales on 100 acres. This acreage is included in tract 17-14* ***2015*** • *Established timber sales on 269 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 2-14, 5-15, 9-15, 11-14, 11-15* • *Carried out site prep activities promoting mid tolerant and early successional tree species on 2 sites involving 14 acres. These areas were within compartments 34 and 59.*

Land Management

Forest Production Area 4 – Back Country Hardwoods

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long Term Objectives** Motorized vehicle access will be restricted to only forest management and game improvement activity. This area will provide a public backcountry recreational experience and provide walk-in hunting opportunities. Northern hardwoods will remain the dominant cover type with scattered pockets of early to mid-successional species and older hemlock stands. White pine, hemlock, and cedar components will be maintained for large-diameter trees and older forests. **Short Term Management Objectives** • Restrict timing of harvest activities to winter only. • Maintain a diversity of forest cover types and age classes with northern hardwoods as the dominant cover type for forest health, aesthetic appeal, and wildlife habitat. • Maintain high quality red maple as a compositional component in northern hardwood stands. • Encourage yellow birch, basswood, and ash and other mid-tolerant species where seed sources exist. • Improve saw log quality in northern hardwood stands. • Improve regeneration of all cover types. • Limit gap management techniques on sites absent of northern hardwood regeneration.

	• Maintain aspen in mixed stands to biological rotation age. • Maintain pine, tamarack, hemlock, cedar, balsam fir, and spruce at current levels. • Maintain red and white pine, hemlock, and cedar.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions** • Maintain access for management purposes only. Gates will be maintained or placed to limit access on existing logging roads. • Develop uneven-aged management for northern hardwoods through gap management and thinnings. Site preparation may be required in some areas. • Conduct timber harvests from December 1st to March 31st. • Regenerate mid-tolerant species such as basswood, ash, and birch using gap management and scarification techniques where sites and stands are suitable. • Use mowing, scarification, herbicide application or other methods as appropriate. • Coppice aspen in mixed stands as necessary to ensure regeneration after salvage operations. • Evaluate crop tree stocking in wind damaged stands to determine appropriate future management. • Use standard single tree selection (and no gap management) when little northern hardwood regeneration is present and less desirable species can dominate. • Use gap management techniques when abundant northern hardwood regeneration is present. • Existing wildlife openings will be naturally re-vegetated and no new wildlife openings will be created in this area.
Accomplishments	***Management was adapted on timber sale to meet both short and long term objectives stated above. Copies of individual sales are maintained at the FRSF headquarters and can be reviewed on request.*** *2010* • *Established timber sales on 259 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 9-10, 17-9.* *2011* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres.* *2012* • *Established timber sales on 437 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 19-12, 20-12.* *2013* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres. Gates maintained and additional gate placed on south access road* *2014* • *Established timber sales on 240 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 5-14, 16-14* *2015* • *Established timber sales on 39 acres. This acreage is included in tract 1-15*

Land Management

Forest Production Area 5 – Jump River Hardwoods

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long Term Objectives** High quality northern hardwoods and aspen will predominate in this area. Hemlock/hardwood inclusions throughout the area will provide larger, older trees and structural attributes consistent with older forests. This area of the forest will increase in forest composition, age, and vertical structure. **Short Term Management Objectives** • Maintain acreage of northern hardwoods and enhance quality of sawlogs on appropriate sites. • Increase age and maintain a diversity of forest cover types and age classes for forest health, aesthetic appeal, and wildlife habitat. • Improve saw log quality of northern hardwood stands. • Maintain aspen in mixed stands. • Maintain and increase white pine. • Increase and maintain northern red oak, hickory, and butternut. • Provide opportunities for research consistent with area management objectives. • Increase mid-tolerant species such as basswood, ash, and birch within northern hardwood stands.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions** • Consider even-aged management on northern hardwood sites where crop trees are lacking to achieve long-term uneven-aged stand management. Even-aged management methods include overstory removal and shelterwood harvests. Conduct mechanical site preparation as needed. • Use mowing, scarification, herbicide application or other methods as necessary to meet management objectives. • Use coppice techniques to regenerate aspen in mixed stands as necessary to ensure regeneration after salvage operations. • Encourage mid-tolerant species through gap management and scarification around existing seed sources. • Increase white pine through active management on suitable soils including natural and artificial methods.
Accomplishments	***Management was adapted on timber sale to meet both short and long term objectives stated above. Copies of individual sales are maintained at the FRSF headquarters and can be reviewed on request.*** *2010* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres.* *2011* • *Established timber sales on 203 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 7-11,13-10.* *2012* • *Established timber sales on 506 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 3-12,-7-12,9-12.* *2013* • *Established timber sales on 109 acres. This acreage is included in tract 1-14.* *2014* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres.* *2015* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres.* ***Research Opportunities*** • *Long term Old Growth management research areas have been established involving 252 acres a portion being located in Jump River Hardwoods. The project involves: Assessing the use of silvicultural techniques to create northern hardwood old-growth characteristics.*

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Land Management

Forest Production Area 6 – Big Block

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long Term Objectives** Motorized vehicle access will be restricted to forest management and game improvement activities. This area will provide a public backcountry recreational experience and provide walk-in hunting opportunities. Northern hardwoods will be maintained and enhanced to improve age and species diversity and forest health. Aspen, where suitable, will also be maintained for species diversity. The conifer component may be increased through planting especially in the non-forested openings. **Short Term Management Objectives** • Provide public non-motor use area that emphasizes backcountry recreational opportunities and walk-in hunting access. • Increase and maintain existing stands of northern hardwoods • Increase and maintain yellow birch, basswood, ash, and other mid-tolerant species where seed sources exist • Increase the conifer component • Convert non-forested uplands generally >5 acres to suitable species such as white pine, spruce, and other appropriate species
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions** • Maintain access for management purposes only. Maintain or place gates where needed to limit public vehicular access. Allow motorized access for forest management and forest game habitat improvement activities. • Consider even-aged management on northern hardwood sites where crop trees are lacking. Even-aged management includes prescriptions for shelterwood harvest coupled with site preparation if needed. Future management on these sites could be converted to uneven-aged management as stand conditions warrant. • Use regeneration techniques such as scarification, gap management, or mowing as needed. • Use thinning and other silviculture techniques to release and favor red oak and yellow birch. • Intermediate treatments such as: tree release, thinning and improvement, salvage and sanitation and pruning may be used to enhance stand composition, structure, growth, health and quality. • Increase conifer component by appropriate artificial regeneration methods.
Accomplishments	***Management was adapted on timber sale to meet both short and long term objectives stated above. Copies of individual sales are maintained at the FRSF headquarters and can be reviewed on request.*** *2010* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres. Lack of activity due to young age structure due to the 1977 windstorm.*

	2011 • *Established timber sales on 0 acres. Lack of activity due to young age structure due to the 1977 windstorm.* *2012* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres. Lack of activity due to young age structure due to the 1977 windstorm.* *2013* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres. Lack of activity due to young age structure due to the 1977 windstorm.* *2014* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres.* *2015* • *Established timber sales on253 acres. This acreage is included in tract 11-15* ***Needs*** *No planting of non-forested uplands has taken place, initiate review of sites*

Native Community Management

Native Community Area 7 – Barnaby Rapids Forest and Wetlands

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long Term Objectives** Maintain a contiguous block of Northern Mesic Forest (northern hardwood and conifer) with old-growth characteristics, embedded wetlands and Ephemeral Ponds. Maintain and protect the integrity of the wetland features and their hydrological connections to the river. Provide habitat for forest interior wildlife species. Provide opportunities for research, education and interpretation. **Short Term Management Objectives** • Develop old-growth characteristics, including large trees, abundant coarse woody debris and standing dead snags through natural processes • Maintain the remote nature of this area
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions** • Passively manage the entire management area, except to control invasive species, allowing natural processes to occur with the eventual goal of developing an old-growth hardwood forest. • Periodically monitor all areas within the site for the presence of invasive species and develop a control strategy, including a funding source, if any species are found. • Pesticide use is permitted for invasive species management. • Monitor this area within the next 10 years for the presence of additional rare species, as resources allow. • New recreational features shall not be developed in this area • New roads or trails shall not be developed in this area • Harvest of fine woody material, as defined in the department's Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines, is not authorized in this area • Existing wildlife openings will be naturally re-vegetated and no new wildlife openings will be created in this area • Salvage of trees damaged by wind, ice, fire, and insects may occur after consultation shall managers from affected DNR programs to determine how salvage can be done to help meet the objectives of the area.

Accomplishments	*2010* • *Passive Management* *2011* • *Passive Management* *2012* • *Passive Management* *2013* • *Passive Management* *2014* • *Passive Management* *2015* • *Passive management*

Native Community Management

Native Community Area 8 – North Fork Pines

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long Term Objectives** Maintain a block of contiguous old forest dominated by pines and northern hardwoods. Allow the forest to develop structural, compositional and functional characteristics associated with old-growth forest. Assess opportunities to develop regeneration and maintenance of white pine in the future, using tools from the department's Old Growth Handbook (WDNR 2006c). Protect ecological site values including water quality, hydrology, native flora, high-quality natural communities, and potential and known rare species habitats. **Short Term Management Objectives** • Develop old-growth characteristics, including large trees, abundant coarse woody debris and standing dead snags through natural processes • Provide opportunities for comparison with actively managed areas found elsewhere on the property. • Maintain potential rare species habitats and high-quality natural communities
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions** • Active management is limited to clearing existing trails (material shall be left on site) and to maintain limited low impact public access providing opportunities for education, research and interpretation of the natural community. Salvage operations due to catastrophic wind, fire, disease or insects may take place. Prior to salvage an interdisciplinary team will be consulted to determine if salvage operations or additional management could be considered with due deliberation regarding the original objectives of the area. • Monitor this area within the next 10 years for the presence of additional rare or endangered species, as resources allow. • Periodically monitor all areas within the site for the presence of invasive species and develop a control strategy including a funding source if any species are found. • Pesticide use shall be permitted for invasive species management. • Harvest of fine woody material, as defined in the department's Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines, is not

	authorized in this area. • Wildlife openings shall not be created or maintained within this management area.
Accomplishments	*2010* • *Passive Management* *2011* • *Passive Management* *2012* • *Passive Management* *2013* • *Passive Management* *2014* • *Passive Management* *2015* • *Passive management*

Native Community Management

Native Community Area 9 – Oxbo Pines

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long Term Objectives** Allow portions of the area to develop in structural, compositional and functional characteristics associated with old-growth forest, while providing opportunities to actively regenerate pine in other areas. Provide demonstration areas for using alternative techniques to regenerate white and red pine. Protect ecological site values including water quality, hydrology, native flora, high-quality natural communities, and potential and known rare species habitats. Protect and maintain the many wetland communities in this area such as Alder Thicket, and Black Spruce Swamp / Northern Wet Forest that are interspersed throughout the forest matrix. **Short Term Management Objectives** • Increase tree age throughout the area by passively managing two ecological reference areas of approximately 123 acres (and 4 acres of water) and using old forest-extended rotation techniques in some of the actively managed portions. • Evaluate and attempt regeneration strategies for white pine in parts of the management area. • Provide for education/demonstration of silviculture trials. • Maintain potential rare species habitats and high-quality natural communities. • Maintain existing red and white pine, cedar, and hemlock whenever possible.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions: Entire Management Area (283 acres)** • Periodically monitor all areas within the site for the presence of invasive species and develop a control strategy, including a funding source, if any species are found. • Pesticide use is permitted throughout the management area for invasive species management.

	• Monitor this area within the next 10 years for the presence of additional or endangered species, as resources allow. • Wildlife openings shall not be created or maintained within this management area. • Salvage of trees damaged by wind, ice, fire, and insects may occur after consultation with managers from affected DNR programs to determine how salvage can be done to help meet the objectives of the area. • Harvest of fine woody material, as defined in the department's Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines, will not occur in this area. **Management Prescriptions: Ecological Reference Areas (123 acres)** • Passively manage the ecological reference areas except for invasive species management, allowing the stands to develop old growth characteristics such as large trees, standing snags, and abundant coarse woody debris. • Monitor these sites; as this is an uncommon cover type on the forest, they provide opportunities for comparison with actively managed sites found elsewhere on the property. **Management Prescriptions: Areas Outside of the Ecological Reference Areas (160-acres)** • Property staff and department biologists / ecologists, including staff from the State Natural Areas program will work together to plan and implement management • Manage smaller patches of white/red pine using techniques for regeneration harvest to achieve ecological objectives. Techniques include patch clear cuts, mechanical scarification, prescribed burning, or any combination of these treatments. Emphasis will be given to maintaining large-diameter pines wherever possible. • Maintain a mix of deciduous and conifer forest types on appropriate sites, favoring pine but maintaining other species such as white birch for diversity. Consider underplanting white pine in portions of the white birch stands. • Regenerate white pine through prescribed burning and/or mechanical techniques on smaller patches of white pine and compare to the passively managed ecological reference areas.
Accomplishments	*2010* • *No Activity* *2011* • *No Activity* *2012* • *Access hunter/walking trail mowed on west border* *2013* • *Access hunter/walking trail mowed on west border* *2014* • *Access hunter/walking trail mowed on west border* *2015* • *Access hunter/walking trail mowed on west border* ***NEEDS*** • *Initiate Management within 160 ac area outside of ecological reference area for encouragement of white pine*

Native Community Management

Native Community Area 10 – Hanson Lake Complex

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long Term Objectives** Protect and maintain the hydrology, water quality and scenic value of Hanson Lake and other aquatic features. Maintain a diverse mosaic of high-quality natural communities, including potential and known rare species habitats. Maintain contiguous forest cover comprised mainly of longer-lived species connecting the diverse wetland and aquatic communities, unless precluded by natural disturbances and site limitations. The site will have structural attributes associated with old-growth forest such as large trees, standing snags, and abundant coarse woody debris. **Short Term Management Objectives** • Maintain the hydrology, aesthetic values, and water quality of the lakes, ponds, and wetlands. • Establish and maintain ecological reference areas totaling 211 acres around the area's wetlands • Use extended rotation management to maintain an older forest of longer-lived species on the uplands, including conifer types where possible.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions: Entire Management Area (336 acres)** • Periodically monitor all areas within the site for the presence of invasive species and develop a control strategy, including a funding source, if any species are found. • Pesticide use is permitted throughout the management area for invasive species management. • Monitor this area within the next 10 years for the presence of additional or endangered species, as resources allow • Harvest of fine woody material, as defined in the department's Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines, is not authorized in this area. • Wildlife openings shall not be created or maintained within this management area. • Intensive use is not encouraged, although currently established, non-motorized trails may be maintained. **Management Prescriptions: Ecological Reference Areas (211 acres)** • Active management is limited to clearing existing trails (material shall be left on site) and to maintain limited low impact public access providing opportunities for education, research and interpretation of this natural community. Salvage operations due to catastrophic wind, fire, disease or insects may take place. Prior to salvage an interdisciplinary team will be constructed to determine if salvage operations or additional management could be considered with due deliberation regarding the original objectives of the area. **Management Prescriptions: Outside of Ecological Reference Areas (125 acres)** • Retain red and white pine, cedar, and hemlock whenever possible. • Retain numerous standing dead snags and coarse woody habitat in both the uplands and forested wetlands. • Manage stands isolated by wetlands only under frozen conditions. • Use old forest-extended rotation management wherever possible, with special emphasis on safeguarding the area's wetland characteristics and water quality. • Salvage of trees damaged by wind, ice, fire, and insects may occur after consultation with managers from affected DNR programs to determine how salvage can be done to help meet the objectives of the area. • Maintain access for management purposes only. Gates will be maintained or placed to limit access on existing logging roads.
Accomplishments	*2010* • *Access road maintained. Gate placed on south access to limit to hunter/walking access only* *2011* • *No Activity*

	2012 • *Access hunter/walking trail mowed* *2013* • *Access hunter/walking trail mowed* *2014* • *Access hunter/walking trail mowed* *2015* • *Access hunter/walking trail mowed*

Native Community Management

Native Community Area 11 – Swamp Lake Forest

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long Term Objectives** Maintain a contiguous block of mature and old-growth Northern Mesic Forest that includes a matrix of upland and wetland types, including conifers. Maintain forest structural diversity, increasing the dominance of longer-lived trees, and develop characteristics associated with old growth including large trees grown to biological maturity and abundant snags and downed coarse woody debris. Protect ecological site values including water quality, hydrology, native flora, high-quality natural communities, and rare species habitats. Provide opportunities for research, education, and interpretation, as well as opportunities for visitors to experience an old-growth forest. **Short Term Management Objectives** • Establish and maintain a 582 acre (and 5 acres of water) ecological reference area. • Passively manage the Ecological Reference Area comprising the large stand of hemlock-hardwood forest east of Swamp Lake. • Develop old-growth attributes on the uplands outside of the ecological reference area using old forest - extended rotation techniques emphasizing the retention of large trees, coarse woody debris and standing dead snags. Encourage hemlock, yellow birch and white pine where possible. • Monitor hemlock stands for growth and regeneration levels. • Maintain a mosaic of high-quality wetland communities and forested uplands considering ecological connections to both Area 20 and Area 12.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions: Entire Management Area (752 acres)** • Periodically monitor all areas within the site for the presence of invasive species and develop a control strategy, including a funding source, if any species are found. • Pesticide is permitted throughout the management area for invasive species management. • Monitor this area within the next 10 years for the presence of additional or endangered species, as resources allow. • Harvest of fine woody material, as defined in the department's Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines, is not authorized in this area. • Wildlife openings shall not be created or maintained within this management area. • New recreational features shall not be developed in this management area. **Management Prescriptions: Ecological Reference Area (582 acres)** • Active management is limited to clearing existing trails (material shall be left on site) and to maintain limited low impact public access providing opportunities for education, research and interpretation of this natural community. Salvage operations due to catastrophic wind, fire, disease or insects may take place. Prior to salvage an

	interdisciplinary team will be constructed to determine if salvage operations or additional management could be considered with due deliberation regarding the original objectives of the area. **Management Prescriptions: Outside of Ecological Reference Area (170 acres)** • Use old forest-extended rotation management wherever possible, with special emphasis on safeguarding the area's wetland characteristics and water quality. • Protect natural white pine, red pine, cedar, and hemlock regeneration. • Encourage development of conifer tree species in upland forest outside of the ecological reference area where advantageous and consistent with area objectives. • If hemlock regeneration trials are attempted, conduct them outside of the ecological reference area to the south (e.g., stands 12 and 17 Compartment 101). • Retain numerous standing dead snags and coarse woody habitat in both the uplands and forested wetlands. • Salvage of trees damaged by wind, ice, fire, and insects may occur after consultation with managers from affected DNR programs to determine how salvage can be done to help meet the objectives of the area.
Accomplishments	*2010* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres.* *2011* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres.* *2012* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres.* *2013* • *Established timber sales on 20 acres. This acreage is included in tract 3-13.* *2014* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres.* *2015* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres.*

Native Community Management

Native Community Area 12 – Bass Lake Forest and Muskeg

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long Term Objectives** Maintain a high quality complex of native peatland communities. Protect ecological site values including water quality, hydrology, native flora, high-quality natural communities, and potential and known rare species habitats. Hydrologic function is critical in regulating these communities, so hydrology should be protected and restored where possible. Provide opportunities for research, education and ecological interpretation and low-impact uses such as hiking, bird-watching, photography, and nature study. The uplands are part of a more extensive forest in Area 20; in these portions of the area, maintain a contiguous block of mature forest and develop characteristics associated with old growth including large trees grown to biological maturity with abundant snags and downed coarse woody debris. **Short Term Management Objectives**

	• Protect and maintain rare species habitats and high quality natural communities. • Passively manage this area, allowing natural development of old-growth characteristics, including large trees, abundant coarse woody debris and standing dead snags in the uplands
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions: Entire Management Area (1,485 acres)** • Passively manage this site. Active management is limited to clearing existing trails (material shall be left on site), and to maintain limited low impact public access providing opportunities for education, research and interpretation of this natural community. Salvage operations due to catastrophic wind, fire, disease or insects may take place. Prior to salvage an interdisciplinary team will be constructed to determine if salvage operations or additional management could be considered with due deliberation regarding the original objectives of the area. • Periodically monitor all areas within the site for the presence of invasive species and develop a control strategy, including a funding source, if any species are found. • Pesticide use is permitted throughout the management area for invasive species management. • Monitor this area within the next 10 years for the presence of additional or endangered species, as resources allow. • Harvest of fine woody material, as defined in the department's Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines, is not allowed in this area. • Wildlife openings shall not be created or maintained within this management area. • Existing recreational trails shall be allowed. • Maintain limited low Impact Management Prescriptions: Entire Management Area (1,485 acres) • Passively manage this site. Active management is limited to clearing existing trails (material shall be left on site) and to maintain limited low impact public access providing opportunities for education, research and interpretation of this natural community. Salvage operations due to catastrophic wind, fire, disease or insects may take place. Prior to salvage an interdisciplinary team will be constructed to determine if salvage operations or additional management could be considered with due deliberation regarding the original objectives of the area. • Periodically monitor all areas within the site for the presence of invasive species and develop a control strategy, including a funding source, if any species are found. • Pesticide use is permitted throughout the management area for invasive species management. • Monitor this area within the next 10 years for the presence of additional or endangered species, as resources allow. • Harvest of fine woody material, as defined in the department's Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines, is not allowed within this area. • Wildlife openings shall not be created or maintained within this management area. • Existing recreational trails shall be allowed. • Maintain limited low Impact public access to Bass Lake and provide opportunities for education and Interpretation of the native community.
Accomplishments	*2010* • *No Activity Passive Management* *2011* • *No Activity Passive Management* *2012* • *No Activity Passive Management* *2013* • *Re-route of Price Lake Snowmobile trail through swamp corridor, development project #13K2U, Construction planned for 2014*

	2014 • *Re-route of Price Lake Snowmobile trail through swamp corridor, development project #13K2U, Construction completed.* *2015* • *No Activity Passive Management*

Native Community Management

Native Community Area 13 – Hackett Creek Watershed

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long Term Objectives** Maintain a high quality complex of native wetland communities including areas that support older white cedar, black spruce, tamarack and swamp hardwoods. Protect ecological site values including water quality, hydrology, native flora, high-quality natural communities, and potential and known rare species habitats. Limit development in area and along water bodies to existing roads**.** Maintain the uplands in longer-lived species, unless precluded by natural disturbances and limitations**.** Hydrologic function is critical in regulating these communities, so hydrology should be protected and restored where possible. Provide opportunities for research, education and ecological interpretation and low-impact uses such as hiking, bird watching, photography, and nature study. **Short Term Management Objectives** • Increase age structure through old forest-extended rotation management in the forested uplands, favoring longer lived species. • Maintain potential and known rare species habitats and high-quality natural communities.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions** • Actively manage the upland forests using old forest-extended rotation. Attempt to convert aspen stands to longer lived species. Passively manage all other areas. • Protect natural white pine, cedar, and hemlock regeneration. • Encourage development of conifer tree species where advantageous and consistent with area objectives. • Protect significant areas from hydrological changes from road construction and development. • Periodically monitor all areas within the site for the presence of invasive species and develop a control strategy, including a funding source, if any species are found. • Pesticide use is permitted for invasive species management. • Harvest of fine woody material, as defined in the department's Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines, is not allowed in this area. • Monitor this area within the next 10 years for the presence of additional rare species, as resources allow. • Wildlife openings shall not be created or maintained within this management area. • Salvage of trees damaged by wind, ice, fire, and insects within wetlands may occur after consultation with managers from affected DNR programs to determine how salvage can be done to meet the objectives of the area.
Accomplishments	***Management was adapted on timber sale to meet both short and long term objectives stated above. Copies of individual sales are maintained at the FRSF headquarters and can be reviewed on request.*** *2010*

	• *No Activity* *2011* • *No Activity* *2012* • *No Activity* *2013* • *Timber sale in planning stage and consultation with NHI.* *2014* • *No Activity* *2015* • *Established timber sales on 18 acres. This acreage is included in tract 4-15*

Native Community Management

Native Community Area 14 – Flambeau Forks Interior Forest

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long Term Objectives** Maintain a contiguous block of mature and old-growth Northern Mesic Forest that includes a matrix of Ephemeral Ponds, Forested Seeps, and riparian corridors. Protect ecological site values including water quality, hydrology, native flora, high quality natural communities, and rare species habitats. Provide opportunities for long-term scientific research, including comparisons of different management strategies on the development of old-growth characteristics. Develop characteristics associated with old growth, including large trees grown to biological maturity and abundant snags and downed coarse woody debris. Provide opportunities for visitors to experience an old-growth forest in a remote setting. This area is expected to remain a rich maple-basswood forest, as site and stand conditions allow, within all three of the area's management zones. Red and white pine, cedar, and hemlock will also be retained in the extended rotation area, wherever possible. **Short Term Management Objectives** • Maintain three distinct management zones within the area: a 514-acre research zone, two ecological reference areas totaling 228 acres, and the remaining acreage (616 acres) in an old forest - extended rotation zone. • In the old forest-extended rotation zone use silvicultural techniques to increase the age structure and maintain a diverse species composition, where possible. Management here will strive to convert existing even-aged northern hardwood forests to uneven-aged, encourage long-lived species, and retain a significant component of old, large diameter trees and allow for the development of coarse woody debris. • Passively manage the ecological reference areas, allowing natural processes to occur with the eventual goal of developing an old-growth hardwood forest. • Provide research opportunities in all three zones consistent with area management objectives • Provide for education/demonstration of old forest and extended rotation management.

Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions: Entire Management Area (1,358 acres)** • Intensive use will not be permitted, except for the existing gravel pit, established trails, and future recreation/logging trails. • Monitor this area within the next 10 years for the presence of additional rare or endangered species, as resources allow. • Periodically monitor all areas within the site for the presence of invasive species and develop a control strategy including a funding source if any species are found. • Pesticide use will be permitted for invasive species management. • Harvest of fine woody material, as defined in the department's Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines, will not occur in this management area. **Management Prescriptions: Research Zone (514 acres)** • Continue ongoing research studying the effects of various treatments on accelerating the development of oldgrowth structure and composition over a fifty year period. Research methods were described in a proposal submitted to the department, and manipulation treatments have been completed. See Long-term Research Overlay for more information. • Passively manage these zones. Perform no active management, including any salvage operations, except to clear existing roads where material would be left on site. Exceptions to salvage restrictions to meet statutory responsibilities for fire protection or forest pest control would be developed by an interdisciplinary team. **Management Prescriptions: Ecological Reference Areas (228 acres)** • Passively manage this site. Active management is limited to clearing existing trails where material will be left on site and to maintain limited low impact public access providing opportunities for education, research and interpretation of this natural community. Salvage operations due to catastrophic wind, fire, disease or insects may take place. Prior to salvage an interdisciplinary team will be constructed to determine if salvage operations or additional management could be considered with due deliberation regarding the original objectives of the area. **Management Prescriptions: Old Forest-Extended Rotation Zone (616 acres)** • Use old forest extended rotation silvicultural techniques on appropriate sites. While timber production is an objective, increased emphasis should be on aesthetics, wildlife habitat, and biodiversity. Appropriate stocking guides may utilize a 24-plus to 30-plus inch maximum tree size class. Longer cutting cycles will generally be used. Additional ecological forestry techniques, such as the retention of reserve trees, management of coarse woody debris (abundant large snags and downed rotting logs), and the encouragement of coniferous associates (especially white pine and hemlock) will be applied. Retain cover for ephemeral ponds and avoid negatively impacting their hydrology. Maintain standards of red and white pine, cedar, and hemlock. • Salvage of trees damaged by wind, ice, fire, and insects may occur after consultation with managers from affected DNR programs to determine how salvage can be done to meet the objectives of the area recognizing that increasing coarse woody debris and snag components are a management goal for this management area.
Accomplishments	***Management was adapted on timber sale to meet both short and long term objectives stated above. Copies of individual sales are maintained at the FRSF headquarters and can be reviewed on request.*** *2010* • *Established timber sales on 0acres.* *2011* • *Established timber sales on 44 acres. This acreage is included in tract 14-10.* *2012*

	• *Established timber sales on 81 acres. This acreage is included in tract 4-11.* *2013* • *Established timber sales on 213 acres. This acreage is included in tract 4-14.* *2014* • *Established timber sales on 268 acres. This acreage is included in tract 4-14, 5-13.* *2015* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres.* • ***Ongoing Research*** A 514acre area in Sections 5, 6, 7, and 8, T36N R3W will be designated an Old-Growth Research Area. The area will be used for a long-term cooperative study, entitled "Phase II of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Wisconsin DNR Old-growth Project: An investigation of the functional role of coarse woody debris in northern hardwood ecosystems". The area will be utilized for research and demonstration of a new selection harvesting system in northern hardwood forests for 50 years. A 125 acre buffer around the research area will not be clearcut, but may be selectively harvested. Access trails to the research area will be closed to prevent illegal off-road vehicle travel. Foot travel to access the area will be permitted.

Native Community Management

Native Community Area 15 - Lake of the Pines Conifer Hardwoods

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long Term Objectives** Develop and maintain a contiguous block of Northern Mesic Forest, allowing old-growth characteristics to develop where conditions allow. Maintain and protect the integrity of the forested wetland features and their hydrological connections to the lake. Provide opportunities to conduct research examining the recovery of old-growth following catastrophic windstorm events. Provide opportunities for education and interpretation. **Short Term Management Objectives** • Allow natural processes to develop old-growth characteristics, including large trees, abundant coarse woody debris and standing dead snags where possible • Maintain the remote nature of this site
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions** • Passively manage this site. Active management is limited to clearing existing trails where material will be left on site and to maintain limited low impact public access providing opportunities for education, research and interpretation of this natural community. Salvage operations due to catastrophic wind, fire, disease or insects may take place. Prior to salvage an interdisciplinary team will be constructed to determine if salvage operations or additional management could be considered with due deliberation regarding the original objectives of the area. • Periodically monitor all areas within the site for the presence of invasive species and develop a control strategy if Invasive species are found. • Pesticide use is permitted for invasive species management. • Monitor this area within the next 10 years for the presence of additional rare species, as resources allow. • New recreational features shall not be developed on this site • New roads or trails shall not be developed on this site

	• Harvest of fine woody material, as defined in the department's Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines, will not occur within this area. • Wildlife openings shall not be created or maintained within this management area.
Accomplishments	*2010* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres. Passive Management* *2011* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres. Passive Management* *2012* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres. Passive Management* *2013* • *Established timber sales on 0acres. Passive Management* *2014* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres. Passive Management* *2015* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres. Passive Management*

Native Community Management

Native Community Area 16 – Flambeau River Hardwood Forest

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long Term Objectives** Allow forest to naturally age and gradually develop characteristics associated with older forest including large trees, abundant coarse woody debris and standing dead snags, as conditions allow. Provide opportunities to conduct research examining the recovery of old-growth following catastrophic windstorm events. Provide opportunities for education and interpretation. **Short Term Management Objectives** • Allow natural processes to develop old-growth characteristics, including large trees, abundant coarse woody debris and standing dead snags where possible • Provide opportunities for research consistent with area's management objectives. • Maintain the remote nature of this site
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions** • Passively manage this site. Active management is limited to clearing existing trails where material will be left on site and to maintain limited low impact public access providing opportunities for education, research and interpretation of this natural community. Salvage operations due to catastrophic wind, fire, disease or insects may take place. Prior to salvage an interdisciplinary team will be constructed to determine if salvage operations or additional management could be considered with due deliberation regarding the original objectives of the area. • Periodically monitor all areas within the site for the presence of invasive species and develop a control strategy if any species are found.

	• Pesticide use will be permitted for invasive species management. • Monitor this area within the next 10 years for the presence of additional rare species, as resources allow. • New recreational features will not be developed on this site • New roads or trails will not be developed on this site • Harvest of fine woody material, as defined in the department's Woody Biomass Harvesting Guidelines, will not occur in this area. • Wildlife openings shall not be created or maintained within this management area.
Accomplishments	*2010* • *Invasive monitoring and control (garlic mustard)with herbicide* *2011* • *Invasive monitoring and control (garlic mustard)with herbicide* *2012* • *Invasive monitoring and control (garlic mustard)with herbicide* *2013* • *Invasive monitoring and control (garlic mustard)with herbicide* *2014* • *Invasive monitoring and control (garlic mustard, honeysuckle)with herbicide* *2015* • *Invasive monitoring and control (garlic mustard, honysuckle)with herbicide*

Habit Management

Habitat Area 17 – Ruffed Grouse

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long Term Objectives** Management of this area is to provide high quality ruffed grouse habitat. The current aspen acreage will remain the dominant cover type within a mixed forest in a variety of age classes and patch sizes. Other associated species would be managed along with the aspen, to the extent that they do not interfere with adequate aspen regeneration. Current levels of red pine and spruce plantation acreage will be maintained to retain forest cover in existing plantations where regeneration is lacking. Sobieski Flowage will be maintained for water quality with emphasis toward wildlife, riparian habitat, and scenic qualities. **Short Term Management Objectives** • Increase aspen and encourage age class diversity. • Maintain current acreages of all other forest cover types. The age structure of the cover types, especially aspen, will change over time. • Maintain natural and artificial grass openings for wildlife. • Maintain access routes (e.g. hunter-walking trails) identified in the Road Management section. • Convert Scotch pine to native pine species. • Manage for ruffed grouse, furbearers and waterfowl. • Improve waterfowl habitat on Sobieski Flowage.

	• Promote reintroduction of wild rice.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions** Please see the General Management Prescriptions at the end of this section for general management by forest type. The General Management Prescriptions apply and all management activities are authorized, except as noted below for this management area. • Consider even-aged management on northern hardwood sites where crop trees are lacking to achieve long-term uneven-aged stand management. Even-aged management includes overstory removal and shelterwood harvests. • Conduct mechanical site preparation as needed. Mowing, scarification, herbicide or other methods may be utilized for regeneration. • Use coppice techniques to regenerate aspen in mixed stands as necessary to ensure regeneration after salvage operations. • Monitor Sobieski flowage for maintenance needs and regulating flowage depths to benefit waterfowl feeding periods. • Broadcast wild rice seed in cooperation with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC). • Attempt to retain, through coppice techniques, the existing aspen acreage within the unit. Aspen management should continue with smaller harvest areas creating a mosaic of age classes. Aspen management should be considered on a wide range of species within the stands. Some of the more mottled or mixed stands with aspen should be considered for aspen conversion. • Adapt the General Forest Management Prescriptions for each stand to create, enhance and maintain game bird habitat characteristics, including a diversity of tree ages and stand sizes, providing nesting, forage and brooding environments. Age structure for the species would fall into the economic life expectancy consistent with the local site quality. • Timber harvest to achieve area goals would use various patch sizes and techniques for regeneration harvests. Techniques may include the use of large and small patch clear cuts or group selection, shelterwood harvest, seed tree retention, ground disturbance, seeding or prescribed burning either alone or in combination with the above treatments. • Improve wood duck nesting habitat associated with scattered ponds to improve waterfowl habitat on Sobieski flowage. • Apply herbicides and/or mechanical treatments to maintain natural and artificial grass openings. • Mow and brush hunter-walking trails on a rotating schedule of periodic maintenance.
Accomplishments	***Management was adapted on timber sale to meet both short and long term objectives stated above. Copies of individual sales are maintained at the FRSF headquarters and can be reviewed on request.*** *2010* • *Established timber sales on 383 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 4-9, 14-9. Scotch Pine eliminated and sites will be converted to native pine species. Dike maintained.* *2011* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres. Dike maintained.* *2012* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres. Interior Hunter/Walking trails mowed. Dike maintained.* *2013* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres. Interior Hunter/Walking trails mowed. Dike maintained.*

	2014 • *Established timber sales on 0 acres. Interior Hunter/Walking trails mowed. Dike maintained.* *2015* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres. Interior Hunter/Walking trails mowed. Dike maintained.*

Scenic Resources Management

Scenic Resources Area 18 – Flambeau River Scenic Area

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long Term Objectives** Provide a wild-appearing, remote, undeveloped, scenic setting along the North Fork and South Fork of the Flambeau River offering solitude and high quality back-country recreation within a quarter mile of the Flambeau River. Non-motorized recreation is emphasized, particularly paddling and camping. Forest management will maintain a structurally and functionally diverse forest of mixed hardwoods and conifer species that provide aesthetic and ecological values. Riparian habitats will be maintained and coarse woody habitat will be encouraged. **Short Term Management Objectives** • Maintain a somewhat remote and undeveloped, natural appearing setting within ¼ mile along both banks of the North and South Forks of the Flambeau River with special emphasis on the 400 foot riparian zone along each river bank. • Develop and enhance a closed canopy older-growth forest of pine, hemlock, and northern hardwood species on appropriate sites. Retain and promote Eagle and Osprey nesting habitat. • Protect and enhance riparian habitats. • Provide and enhance opportunities for solitude and primitive types of non-motorized recreation, particularly canoeing/ kayaking and low density primitive and semi-primitive river camping and hiking.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions (these apply to the entire management area, except as overridden by the special prescriptions for the 400 foot river edge zone)** • Follow the DNR Old Growth and Old Forest Handbook management guidelines, particularly related to "Managed Old-Forests" on appropriate sites. Monitor composition and structure changes to aid future management decisions. • On appropriate sites, promote the growth and retention of large trees, favoring white pine, red pine, hemlock, yellow birch and cedar for their high aesthetic value. Under-planting may be used to increase stocking levels of key species. • Retain and promote coarse woody habitat (snags and dead downed trees) to promote old growth characteristics and for riparian habitat along and in the river, except for within designated public use sites where hazard trees shall be removed. • In areas with predominantly shorter-lived species, convert to longer-lived species where possible while retaining a high visual quality of the area (i.e. to the degree practicable, maintain low level of visibility of management activity). Under-plant if necessary if natural regeneration of desired species is not likely or to speed conversion. • Passively manage bottomland hardwoods and other wetlands. • Actively manage pine plantations through thinning and appropriate regeneration techniques to create stands with a natural appearance and larger diameter trees. • Limit the extent and frequency of forest management activities necessary to achieve the desired silvicultural response with the least visible sign of management activity. Except within 400 feet river zone, reduce entry periods by managing for larger sized stands.

	• Control invasive species as necessary to maintain aesthetic and ecological integrity; use methods that are consistent with the intent of this management area, and apply invasive species control measures at the most advantageous time for successful control. • Consistent with the management objectives and prescriptions for this area, conduct salvage operations, emphasizing maintenance and improvement of the long-term visual quality of the area. Plant following salvage if desired forest composition will not naturally regenerate. • Minimize the visual and audible impacts of forest management activities by harvesting during leaf-off periods, unless a faster response is necessary to address public health and safety concerns, such as removing hazard trees from designated public use sites. • Locate logging roads and decking sites outside of this management area whenever possible. • For development of management roads and other structures follow the requirements of NR44.07(5) for a Type-2 recreational use setting, except for included public use sites that are designated as a Type-3 recreational use setting where NR44.07(6) shall apply as prescribed by the recreational use section of this plan.
Accomplishments	***Management was adapted on timber sale to meet both short and long term objectives stated above. Copies of individual sales are maintained at the FRSF headquarters and can be reviewed on request.*** *2010* • *Established timber sales on 0 acres.* *2011* • *Established timber sales on 235 acres. This acreage is included in tracts.* *2012* • *Established timber sales on 873 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 4-12, 9-12, 10-12, 11-12, 18-12, 22-12, 23-12, 24-12.Invasive control* *2013* • *Established timber sales on 905 acres. This acreage is included in tracts3-14, 5-14, 7-13, 11-13, 12-13, 13-12, 17-12. Invasive control* *2014* • *Established timber sales on 843 acres. This acreage is included in tracts 3-14, 12-13, 5-13, 5-14, 17-14, 15-14* *2015* • *Established timber sales on 593acres. This acreage is included in tracts 2-14, 8-14, 1-15, 7-15, 20-14, 9-15, 11-14* • *Invasive control was carried out to maintain aesthetic and ecological integrity. Two areas were treated involving 101 acres. Compartments involved included 32 and 23.*

Scenic Resources Management

Scenic Resources Area 19 – Upper North Fork Flambeau River Scenic Area

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long Term Objectives** Provide a wild appearing, remote, undeveloped setting along the North Fork of the Flambeau River offering solitude and a natural appearing landscape. Protect and enhance the natural appearing and wild qualities of the river corridor by promoting an older forest, and of long-lived tree species including pine, hemlock, and northern hardwood with a closed canopy with highly visible large live and dead legacy trees. Protect and enhance the riparian habitat. Provide and enhance non-motorized recreation opportunities for solitude by providing a limited number of primitive water access sites, particularly for canoes and kayaks. Encourage day trips by not allowing camping. **Short Term Management Objectives** • Maintain a somewhat remote and undeveloped, natural appearing setting with special emphasis on the 300-400 foot riparian zone along each river bank. • Protect and enhance riparian habitats. • Provide and enhance opportunities for solitude and primitive types of non-motorized recreation, particularly canoeing/ kayaking • Develop and enhance a closed canopy older-growth forest of pine, hemlock, and northern hardwood species on appropriate sites. Retain and promote Eagle and Osprey nesting habitat.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Land Management Prescriptions** • Passively manage the 300' to 400' were ownership allows on each side of the Upper North Fork Flambeau River; except for control of invasive species, for salvage or restoration activities, and for management of public use facilities as provided for in this section. Promote the growth and retention of large trees, favoring white pine, red pine, hemlock, and cedar for their high aesthetic value. Under-planting may be used to increase stocking levels of key species. • Allow downed trees on the shore and non-hazardous trees in the water for riparian and fish habitat through natural processes or by controlled tree drops if necessary. • Actively manage the pine plantations through thinning to promote larger diameter trees and develop stands with a natural appearance. • Generally do not salvage following natural disturbances. Limited salvage and restoration actions may be done when necessary to significantly improve the visual quality of the area. Leave abundant coarse woody debris. Plant if natural regeneration to desired species would not occur or if the regeneration would be unusually slow. • Control invasive species as necessary to maintain aesthetic and ecological integrity; use appropriate methods that are consistent with the intent of this management area. **Land Management Prescriptions Outside the 300 feet Passive Management Zone.** • Promote the growth and retention of large trees, favoring white pine, red pine, hemlock, and cedar for their high aesthetic value. Under-planting may be used to increase stocking levels of key species. • Minimize the visual impact of forest management using aesthetic management techniques such as: restricting the size of cuts, conducting partial harvests, conducing small regeneration cuts with irregular boundaries. • Salvage of trees damaged by wind, ice, fire, and insects may occur after consultation with managers from affected DNR programs and emphasize the improvement of the long-term visual quality of the area. Plant long-lived species following salvage if desired forest composition will not regenerate naturally. • Actively manage the existing pine plantation through thinning and appropriate regeneration techniques to create stands with a natural appearance and larger diameter trees. • Mechanical site preparation will be done as needed. Mowing, scarification, herbicide or other methods may be utilized to enhance regeneration. • Use standard single tree selection (and no gap management) when little northern hardwood regeneration is present and less desirable species can dominate. • Convert northern hardwoods to uneven-aged management where site and stand conditions allow. • Even-aged management may be considered on northern hardwood sites where crop trees are lacking to achieve long-term uneven aged stand management. Even-aged management methods include overstory removal and

	shelterwood cuts. • Use gap management techniques when abundant northern hardwood regeneration is present. Encourage natural regeneration through site preparation for mid-tolerant species such as basswood, ash, and birch. • Retain Eagle and Osprey nesting trees. **Recreation Management** • Follow the requirements for a Type 2 Setting per NR44.07(5) for facility management, redevelopment, or renovation. • Maintain Department managed water access landings in a wooded condition with healthy, vigorous trees. Plant native trees and shrubs as needed. Remove hazard trees as necessary. • Reclaim to a stable, natural appearing condition: old campsites, acquired developments, or other sites that have been highly disturbed by human use. • Future expansion of river recreational facilities (new access sites or adding primitive campsites) may be done through the master plan variance process. The recommendation shall be based upon two years of river use survey data and information collected from stakeholders and the public. • Work in cooperation with the Upper Flambeau River Advisory Council, local citizens and townships with annual meetings during the implementation of the master plan for this area • Future administrative oversight for the management of this area may be conducted by the Division of Forestry, Flambeau River State Forest or the Division of Lands, Turtle Flambeau Flowage administrative unit. Until, and if formal management responsibilities are transferred, the FRSF will manage the area. Independent of administrative responsibility the objectives and prescriptions as outlined in this master plan will guide the future use, development, and management of this area.
Accomplishments	*2010* • *Landings maintained, no timber sale activity* *2011* • *Landings maintained, no timber sale activity* *2012* • *Landings maintained, no timber sale activity* *2013* • *Landings maintained, no timber sale activity* *2014* • *Landings maintained, no timber sale activity* *2015* • *Landings maintained, no timber sale activity* • *Carried out mechanical site preparation and herbicide treatment to address regeneration issues within 2 sites involving 14 acres. Sites treated within compartments 54 and 59.*

Wild Resources Management

Wild Resources Area 20 – Wild and Wilderness Lakes

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Short and Long Term Objectives** • Preserve the remote and wild nature of Bass Lake while protecting the water quality, hydrology and aesthetic qualities of Bass Lake and its associated wetlands. • Allow the forest surrounding the lake to develop old-growth characteristics through natural processes. Maintain high-quality examples of native communities such as Northern Mesic Forest, Black Spruce Swamp, Muskeg, Open Bog and Poor Fen. • Maintain Bass Lake in a natural, undeveloped condition with minimal signs of human influence for fishing, nature study, and aesthetic appreciation. • Provide remote, non-motorized, low-impact recreation (on water and land) in a wilderness setting with walk-in only access.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions: All Wild Lake Areas** • Largely passively manage these areas, allowing natural processes to predominate. Active management is limited to the following: - Maintaining designated access roads, trails, and campsites at the prescribed level of development for each lake. - Conducting forest and habitat restoration (i.e. thin pine plantations to restore them to a more natural appearing condition) when and as prescribed for the individual lakes in this plan (below). - Implementing limited shoreline tree-drops when needed to add coarse woody debris for restoration and enhancement of aquatic habitat. This shall be done in a manner that maintains a generally natural appearance along the shoreline, as required for a Wild Resources Management Area (NR 44.06 (10)) and Type 2 Recreational Use Setting. - Abandoning and restoring non-designated roads and trails to a natural condition. - Actively suppressing forest fires using the minimum actions required. Restore any soil disturbed to its original topography. - Monitoring for insect, disease, and invasive outbreaks and taking action only when there is a strong threat to forests outside of the management area. - Controlling invasive species as necessary; pesticide use is permitted. - Conducting timber salvage in limited circumstances. Due to the area's wild resources classification, timber will generally not be salvaged after a natural disturbance (i.e. catastrophic wind, fire, disease, or insect damage). However, salvage may occur after a major disturbance if an interdisciplinary team determines salvage is advisable, considering the area's management objectives and wild resources classification. - Public use of motor boats on wild lakes is not authorized. Public motor vehicle use on wild lake areas are authorized only on access roads designated in the master plan. Motorized vehicles and watercraft are not allowed for routine management activities except for responding to health and safety or other emergencies, or to conduct restoration and collection activities; such as fishery habitat restoration and monitoring. **Additional Management Prescriptions for Individual Lakes** *Swamp Lake* • Maintain the existing parking area (located approximately 1/2 mile from Swamp Lake) at the gated end of Tower Hill Road, a moderately developed forest road that is open to the public. • Utilize the existing woods road and the trail that extends beyond the gated parking area as a lightly developed trail route to provide public walking access to Swamp Lake. *Hanson Lake* • Maintain Hanson Lake South Road, an existing road that parallels Hanson Lake and enters and traverses the wild lake zone for about 500 feet, as a moderately developed forest road open to the public. • Provide minimal roadside parking for up to two vehicles beyond the view of the lake. • Establish a lightly developed trail to provide public walking access to the lake from the vehicle parking area. *Champagne Lake*

	• Restrict all public motor vehicle use. No road, trail, or parking developments are planned. *Little Pelican Lake* • Retain the existing Pelican Road, a public town road that crosses the wild lake area. • Provide minimal roadside parking for up to two vehicles beyond the view of the lake. • Maintain the existing lightly developed walking trail to the lake from the vehicle parking area.
Accomplishments	*2010* • *Walk in access maintained* *2011* • *Walk in access maintained* *2012* • *Walk in access maintained* *2013* • *Walk in access maintained* *2014* • *Walk in access maintained* *2015* • *Walk in access maintained* ***NEEDS*** • *Develop walk in access to Swamp Lake, project not yet developed*

Recreation Management

Recreation Area 21 – Flambeau River Recreation Area and Forest Headquarters

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long and Short Term Objectives** • Provide facilities for state forest administrative and operations; including but not limited to office and meeting space, storage, and maintenance facilities. • Serve as the central location for customer services; including general visitor information, education and interpretation. Additionally, provide centralized shower facilities that are accessible to river users and other forest visitors alike. • Provide a convenient river access for groups and individuals with canoes, kayaks and small boats while maintaining a rustic and lightly developed appearance of the river shoreline. The level development here may be at a higher level then at the other river access points. • Provide rustic, near-river vehicle accessible camping, and group camping opportunities. • Provide and maintain a largely natural appearing, aesthetic setting.
Appropriate Management Activities	**Management Prescriptions** *Vegetation Management* • Promote the growth and retention of large white pine, yellow birch, cedar, and other northern hardwood species where appropriate. Remove diseased and defective trees that are hazardous to staff or the public. Provide maintained

or Prescriptions	grass areas as appropriate. • Conduct additional management activities as needed to support the use and purpose of the area, such as mowing, brushing, cutting, and controlling invasives. *Administration and Operations* • Build a new forest headquarters building and visitor station with space administration functions as well the delivery of general visitor information services. • Maintain and adjust and necessary storage and maintenance facilities to support Department operations. Note: This master plan does not control the specific operations or development of facilities within this area. Administrative and operational facilities are managed under separate state administrative processes. Historic buildings are managed according to the requirements of DNR manual code 1810.1. *HQ Visitor Services Area* The new visitor services area adjacent to the HQ building will be a focal point offering expanded information/education facilities, picnicking, toilet/shower building, and will be fully accessible by river or vehicle. • On the west side of the river in the vicinity of the new Headquarters building, develop a small picnic area (up to five tables) and a restroom/shower building. The shower building will be available for all forest visitors. • Convert the existing forest headquarters building (cabin) to a visitor center providing self-guided exhibits and interactive learning experiences. Develop a moderately developed(barrier-free) nature trail on a suitable site in the area. • Provide parking for up to 40 vehicles (including ATVs and Snowmobiles) for day-use area and new headquarters building visitors. • Develop a barrier-free watercraft landing on the west bank of the river to provide access to the Headquarters Building and the public use facilities on the site. *East-bank Hwy W Landing* The existing Hwy W landing across the river from the forest headquarters will be redesigned and improved to provide more space for launching or landing canoes and kayaks and to make it barrier free. • Redevelop the landing to provide barrier-free watercraft access, restrooms and parking; a lightly developed ramp (improved approach and sloped) for launching small, trailered boats, additional landing space for multiple canoes or kayaks, drinking water (hand pump or pressurized), and an informational kiosk. • Provide parking for 10 vehicles plus 4 vehicles with trailers. A loading area may be provided near the river's edge but parking will be located so as to not be readily visible from the river. *River's-edge Campground* A new small, rustic family campground will be developed on the east side of the river across from the forest headquarters. This campground will accommodate river users arriving late in the day and provide a convenient day-trip opportunity and disperse river users. • Construct a minimally developed, 5-10 campsite rustic family campground for use by up to six persons per site. Some campsites may be walk-in only accessible. There will be 100 to 200 feet of separation distance between campsites. Connect the lightly developed campground access road to the east Highway W river landing. • If a need is determined, one to two vehicle accessible group campsites (maximum capacity 15 persons) may be developed in the campground or on another location within this management area on a site with sufficient separation distance to minimize conflicts between the group and other campers or visitors. • Provide a hand pump or pressurized water source, trash receptacles, vault type rest rooms. • If a need is determined, construct a small, minimally developed carry-in canoe/kayak landing for campground users. • Maintain RV dumping station within this management area (Area 21). • Add an overflow parking area as needed. *Semi-primitive group Campsite* • Provide two semi-primitive, riverside group campsites for use by river travelers. Follow the design management criteria for the semi-primitive group campsites located in the Scenic River Management Area (Area 18).

Accomplishments	• *<u>Vegetation Management:</u> In Progress. As we move forward with the new office project we are removing hazard trees and worked to keep the larger established trees on the landscape.* • *<u>Administration and Operations:</u> Tracking Number 10676. Project is approved and is moving forward currently in an active status.* • *<u>HQ Visitor Services Area:</u> Project number 11H2M. Project is approved and is moving forward currently in an active status. The parking, picnic and water craft landing areas are also included in project 11H2M.* • *The existing headquarters building plan has been submitted with project number 12257. It is currently in a 6year plan.* • *<u>East-bank Hwy W Landing:</u> Project number 12256 Redevelop HWY W east bank landing initiated 0/31/2012 and is waiting bureau rep.* • *<u>River's-edge Campground:</u> Development project has not yet been submitted* • *<u>Semi-primitive group Campsite:</u> Project number 12952 initiated on 10/30/2013 and is awaiting bureau rep.*

State Natural Areas

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**State Natural Area Program Objectives** Locate, establish, and preserve a system of SNAs that as nearly as possible represents the wealth and variety of Wisconsin's native landscape for education, research, and long-term protection of Wisconsin's biological diversity for future generations.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**The State Natural Area designation does not change the underlying management objectives, prescriptions, or authorized recreation and management activities outlined in this master plan for each land management area. There are no additional management prescriptions associated with these State Natural Areas. See the specific Management Areas for detailed maps showing the location of SNA overlay zones.** • North Fork Pines (87 acres) • Hanson Lake Wetlands (302 acres, includes a 47-acre lake and other aquatic features) • Swamp Lake (1,042 acres, includes a 250-acre lake) • Bass Lake Peatlands (742 acres, includes a 95-acre lake) • Skinner Creek Hardwoods (228 acres) • Lake of the Pines Conifer - Hardwoods (53 acres) • Flambeau River Hardwood Forest (266 acres)
Accomplishments	*Go to specific Management Area for management activities*

Management Overlay Zones

Scenic Lake Management Overlay

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long and Short Term Objectives** **(100 and 50 years)** • Maintain and enhance the natural appearing and generally undeveloped landscape of each lake. • Maintain the existing level and type of public access and use of the lake and adjacent shoreline.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Resource Management Prescriptions** • Manage the forest within the scenic management zone (that area within 400 feet of the lake shore) to favor a mixed composition of species with emphasis on larger, longer-lived trees. Maintain an abundant amount of snags and coarse woody debris. Underplant to speed the conversion to longer-lived species. • Locate and design development to be harmonious with the landscape. • The development of new primitive campsites is authorized. • Non-motorized trails are allowed within the Scenic Lake Management Zone. • Generally, leave natural disturbances to naturally regenerate. Consider salvage when the visual qualities along the lake shore can be enhanced and erosion potential can be mitigated. Plant following salvage if the desired natural regeneration would not occur. • When harvesting timber or performing other management activities within this zone, modify the standard prescriptions to minimize the visibility of management activities as viewed from the water and access roads using aesthetic management techniques such as: restricting the size of cuts, conducting partial harvests, conducting small regenerational cuts with irregular boundaries. • The use of motorized vehicles, watercraft, or other equipment for management activities is not limited. Other management activities that may be conducted include herbicide application, burning, installation of fish habitat improvement devices- including tree-drops along the shoreline, trail or road construction, erosion control, and removal of hazard trees in public use areas.
Accomplishments	*2010* *No Activity* *2011* *No Activity* *2012* *Acquisition of Hines property in June 2012.* *2013* *Landing into Mason/evergreen lake improved. Parking lot set back from lake, erosion control addressed and eroded landing renovated and seeded. Recon has been completed on the newly acquired Hines property surrounding Mason/Evergreen Lakes* *2014* *No Activity* *2015* *No Activity* ***NEEDS*** *Examine and prepare development project for new primitive campsite*

Management Overlay Zones

Long Term Research Overlay – Managed Old-Growth Silvicultural Study (MOSS)

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long and Short Term Objectives** • Enhance or accelerate the development of old-growth characteristics through active management except for control stands. • Establish canopy gaps in sizes deemed to meet research objectives • Maintain control stands as baseline comparison • Promote adaptive research and provide research opportunities for the biological sciences and natural resource management communities consistent with the underlying area land management objectives.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions** • Using standard silvicultural methods such as shelterwood cuts, thinnings or group selection and installation of canopy gaps to enhance or accelerate old-growth characteristics. • Favor hemlock, yellow birch, ash, basswood, red oak, black cherry, and other uncommon tree species when possible on appropriate sites for compositional diversity. • Reserve tree and snag retention for coarse woody debris. • Evaluate stands in (2018-2023) with the potential application of more gaps and stand-wide thinning. • Passively manage control stands • In the event of a windstorm or fire, salvage logging at this site requires written approval by the division administrator for the Division of Forestry and the Bureau of Enforcement and Science • New or additional research in these areas must be agreed upon by the Division of Forestry • Use of BMPs for water quality to protect aquatic features. • Protection of ephemeral ponds.
Accomplishments	*Timber sales were established and cut in 2007. Since that time no additional cutting has taken place. Activities involved since cutting have been limited to monitoring.*

Management Overlay Zones

Long Term research Overlay - University of Wisconsin Old Growth Research Project

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Long and Short Term Objectives** • Provide research plots, control areas, and buffer areas for old-growth forest research. • Provide demonstration areas and educational opportunities. • Promote adaptive research and provide research opportunities for the biological sciences and natural resource management communities.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions** • Apply single tree selection in northern hardwood stands. • Use adaptive research techniques, such as creating canopy gaps and movement of coarse woody debris. • Use single tree selection and old forest-extended rotation harvesting in the 125 acre buffer zone. • Passively manage control stands. • All actions shall be consistent with the objectives identified in Area 14: Flambeau Forks Native Community Management Area. • New or additional research in these areas must be agreed upon by the division administrator for the Division of Forestry and the Bureau of Enforcement and Science

Accomplishments	• ***Ongoing Research*** A 514acre area in Sections 5, 6, 7, and 8, T36N R3W will be designated an Old-Growth Research Area. The area will be used for a long-term cooperative study, entitled "Phase II of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Wisconsin DNR Old-growth Project: An investigation of the functional role of coarse woody debris in northern hardwood ecosystems". The area will be utilized for research and demonstration of a new selection harvesting system in northern hardwood forests for 50 years. A 125 acre buffer around the research area will not be clearcut, but may be selectively harvested. Access trails to the research area will be closed to prevent illegal off-road vehicle travel. Foot travel to access the area will be permitted

Wildlife Management

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	The wildlife management program on the Flambeau River State Forest focuses on maintaining and enhancing habitat and assessing the population status of important game, non-game, and listed species. The abundant wildlife on the Flambeau River State Forest requires diverse forest habitats in all successional stages from young to old growth forests. Diverse and healthy wildlife populations will be maintained by managing the composition and structure of forest habitats integrated with the management objectives and activities outlined for each land management area in the Land Management Section of this plan. Wildlife habitat values are further assured by the wildlife biologists working with foresters on timber sales in order to maximize tree species diversity and improve vegetative structure consistent with the management objectives for the area.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**The plan will address:** • Non-Forested Wetlands • Aquatic Habitats • Endangered, Threatened and Special Species of Concern • Integrated Management • Wildlife Population Monitoring • Wildlife Population Management • Wildlife Research • Wildlife Reintroduction (Elk, American Marten) • Timber Sales
Accomplishments	**Non – Forested Wetlands** • Wetland BMP's as described in Cpt. 8 of the Best Management Practices for Water Quality Field Manual are incorporated in all management activities on the FRSF. **Aquatic Habitats** • Riparian Management zones (RMZ's) are established when associated with timber harvesting and as recommended in Cpt. 7 of the Best Management Practices for Water Quality Field Manual. • Maintained and operated the wildlife flowage (Sobieski Flowage). **Endangered Threatened and Special Species of Concern** • All bald eagle, osprey, and Great blue heron nest sites were flown and activity recorded. • Aerial checks of radio-collared wolves and wolf track counts were conducted by Endangered Resources Staff • and DNR pilots. • Jim Woodford advised staff on management recommendations for northern goshawk nest territories. Wildlife Population Management

	NHAL forestry staff conducted Natural Heritage Inventory reviews of all timber sales and, in consultation with Endangered Resource and Wildlife Staff, set up timber sales to benefit listed species. **Integrated Management** • Each year an integrated management meeting is held. It is represented by wildlife managers responsible for the wildlife program within the FRSF. At this time forest management discussion is held along with review of other management activities on the forest. **Wildlife Population Monitoring** • The annual ruffed grouse census was completed on the forest. • All routine wildlife surveys in FRSF were completed including: ruffed grouse drumming, woodcock peening, frog survey routes, bear bait stations, furbearer track counts, winter deer distribution, whip-poor-will surveys, American marten surveys, waterfowl surveys, and trumpeter swan survey's. **Wildlife Population Management** • Hunting season dates, quotas, and bag limits were set for the major forest game and waterfowl seasons. • Public information meetings were held. • In cooperation with USDA Wildlife Services damage and nuisances causes by wildlife were addressed. **Wildlife Research** • Jim Woodford advised staff on management recommendations for northern goshawk nest territories. Wildlife Population Management. Active tracking of the nesting habits and impacts of timber harvest is being assessed for recommending future management activities. • Amphibian study is presently going into its third year in relation to timber harvesting in relation to impacts to ephemeral ponds **Wildlife Reintroduction (Elk, American Marten)** • Elk re-introduction is being reviewed and recommended for 2015 • Marten surveys (track survey) continue on the forest. At this time there has been no effort from wildlife to reintroduce martin. Special management however has been adopted on timber harvest to minimize impacts to scattered hemlock inclusions through-out the forest. **Wildlife Openings** Maintenance 15openneings occurred 2013 **Timber Sales** • Reviewed all NHAL timber sale proposals and field checked most sales. • Major Concerns per Master Plan: Regeneration of red oak and maintenance of mature stands Snag and den tree management. Maintaining tree species diversity. Managing for old growth characteristics in Managed Old Growth Areas.

Fisheries Habitat Management

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Management Objective** Restore or enhance shoreline fish habitat that could benefit the fishery without negatively impacting the natural scenic quality of the area.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions** • Work with fish management staff to identify suitable sites for habitat improvement and conduct the following management activities as appropriate for the site and in ways that are compatible with the land use classification of the management area. • Interpolating of desirable native tree and shrub species where these species are absent. • Leave downed and fallen trees in the river and lakes to provide important fish habitat where not deemed a significant safety hazards to navigation. • Conduct mechanical or chemical control of woody vegetation that impacts important fish habitat structures. • Stabilize stream banks in critical areas to minimize erosion or slumping banks and improve in-stream conditions. • Control beaver populations on the tributaries to protect fish habitat and movement.
Accomplishments	• Fisheries have conducted a "Vision for fisheries of the Flambeau River State Forest" implementation of additional survey work has been completed during 2012, 2013 and 2014 • Incidental tree drops occurring from natural conditions are left in the lakes and river to provide fish habitat. • We cooperate with fisheries and Aphis in beaver control as when impacting our trout streams. • No habitat improvement projects have been recommended by fisheries for the FRSF.

Recreation Management

Flambeau River Water Trail

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Management Objectives:** • Maintain and promote opportunities on the North and South Forks of the Flambeau River for extended non-motorized river travel and recreation in a natural appearing, somewhat remote setting.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions:** *Watercraft access* • Maintain or redevelop as needed watercraft access sites as described on Table 2.34 of the master plan. *River related day-use sites* • Provide day-use facilities appropriate to the site's recreational setting classification to support river recreation as described below: - Provide barrier-free river accessible services at the new forest headquarters visitor services area (Hwy W). The site offers information/education, picnicking, water, restrooms and shower facilities for river and non- river users. See Management Area 21 for a detailed description of this area. - Redevelop the Hervas Landing campsite as a picnic area for use by paddlers and fishermen. Capacity will be up to 15 people. Provide vault toilets, a canoe landing, and parking shared with the boat landing. This site is designated as a Type-3 Recreational Use Setting.

	- Enhance year-round access and viewing opportunities at Slough Gundy, a scenic site on the South Fork Flambeau River. Improve vehicle access and parking site. Construct moderately developed trail to provide ADA accessibility to Little Falls and add an interpretive kiosk. Provide for winter use by establishing a snowshoe trail. This site is designated as a Type-3 Recreational Use Setting. *Information services* • Install and maintain information facilities appropriate for the recreational use setting at river access parking lots and the Headquarters Day-use Area to provide pertinent river use information, such as maps, river use rules and recreational safety information, literature highlighting river history and resources and management to enhance the Flambeau River canoe trail experience. • Provide additional access to information about river recreation, maps, rules, and river conditions on the forest through maintaining cross links on the forest's web page to local chambers of commerce and the Department of Tourism to provide additional access to information about river recreation, maps, and rules. • Monitor river levels, weather and paddling conditions to respond to river users' phone and email inquiries about current conditions. Consider reporting updates on the forest's web page, and providing links and contacts to other river reporting sources.
Accomplishments	• *Watercraft access: Project numbers 13050 Robinson landing,13049 Holtz landing, initiated on 10/30/2013.12858 Fisherman's landing and nine mile landing initiated on 10/18/2013. 12289 Beaver Dam and Camp 41 landings initiated 12/9/2013. Project 1348 Hervas landing project not yet initiated.* • *Beaver Dam and Camp 41: These projects were started in fall of 2014 and were completed in the summer of 2015* • *Fishermans landing and 9 mile landing: Project approved in January of 2016 and projected construction will start summer 2016* • *-Project number 11H2M will cover to new forest headquarters and visitor service area accessible services.* • *Project #11H2M were completed in winter of 2015 and we are now operating out of new facilities.* • *-Project 13048 has been submitted and requested to be put on the 6 year plan, this project is to convert Hervas landing to a day use area.* • *-Project 12250 has been initiated on 01/27/2012 and is awaiting a bureau rep. This project is to renovate the -trails at Slough Gundy and to construct a bridge for access.* • *-Project number* 10854 Landing improvement has been completed and is closed out. • *Information services: Project 12290 Fabricate and install map kiosks at landing sites, initiated 12/09/2013 awaiting DOA approval.* • *Project #12290 Fabricate and install Kiosk Maps: Project has been approved and materials have been purchased, will construct and place in summer 2016* • *-We currently have a link to our forest from Sawyer County Tourism but have not from any other entity.* • *-We are currently are on Reserve America and have promotional videos on You Tube* • *-We have made contact with USGS and EXCEL energy requesting our location be a site for a river monitoring system but were denied on both accounts. This is in progress.*

Recreation Management

River Camping

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Management Objectives:** • Provide opportunities for small and larger groups of paddlers to camp on the river at minimally to lightly developed dispersed and water only accessible campsites where they may enjoy nature, a sense of solitude, and camaraderie with family and friends.

	• Provide river camping opportunities for persons with disabilities. • Provide and maintain campsites that are sustainable over the long-term and meet NR 44 campsite design standards.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions:** *Group Campsites* • On the North Fork of the Flambeau River, re-develop and convert 7 existing semi-primitive camp areas (currently each contains a cluster of 2 or 3 campsites) into 7 group campsites. Develop 3 additional new group campsites with the same capacity and design as the redeveloped sites. (Additionally, two existing semi-primitive camp areas located near the Headquarters in Area 21 will be re-developed and converted to two river accessible group campsites, making a total of 12 group campsites on the river.) Designated use: Water access only. Each group campsite will be limited to a maximum of 15 campers. Campsites are only for a one-night-stay. If determined to be desirable and feasible, some group campsites may become reservable. Design of camp area: Follow the standards in NR 44.07(6)(e)(2); locate campsites 150' or more from any road, and have 400 or more foot separation distance between group campsites and out of sight and sound of non-group campsites (well over 400 foot separation) to minimize conflicts with other campers. Amenities: three picnic tables and a fire ring for cooking, a 2nd fire ring with benches, vault toilet, and gated service road for management access. *Semi-primitive Campsites* • On the North Fork of the Flambeau River, re-develop 3 existing semi-primitive camp areas into 3 improved semi-primitive camp areas, each containing two campsites. Develop 2 new semi-primitive camp areas in new locations, each containing two campsites. Designated use: Each campsite is for use by families or groups of six persons or less. Campsites are only for a one-night-stay by river travelers. Design of camp area: Follow the standards of NR 44.07(6); 400' or more of separation between campsites, out of sight and sound of group sites, and at least 150' from roads and designated trails (except the management service road). Camper access is by watercraft only. Amenities: leveled and firm tent pads, one picnic table and fire ring per campsite, vault toilet shared between the two campsites, and gated service road for management access. *Primitive Campsites* • On the North Fork of the Flambeau River, develop 15 new primitive, single unit campsites in new locations to diversify camping opportunities and river trip options. Campsites will be interspersed with others along the river. • On the South Fork of the Flambeau River; develop 2 new primitive, single unit campsites on the South Fork east (upstream) of Highway M and 2 new primitive, single unit campsites on the South Fork west (downstream) of Highway M. Designated use: Each campsite is for use by a family or group of six persons or less. Campsites are for a one-night-stay by river travelers. Design of campsite: Follow the standards of NR 44.07(5); campsites are widely dispersed (cannot see or hear other campers), with water access only. Sites are minimally cleared, with primitive surface material, and with limited development. Primitive campsites are remote locations with a high expectation of privacy and solitude and a low expectation for services and trail access. Amenities: Each campsite will have a fire ring, and a box latrine. It may or may not have a picnic table. *Headquarters River Campground* A new vehicle accessible, small, rustic campground will be developed near the river from the Forest Headquarters (Area 21). It will accommodate both river users and other campers. Its location will provide a convenient

	base for day-trips on the river. See Management Area 21 for development details. *ADA Accessible Camping* • Riverside cabin: Construct a fully accessible ADA cabin on the North Fork of the Flambeau River upstream from the forest headquarters between Highway 70 and the Highway W bridge. Locate the cabin on a site with road access and suitability for a barrier free watercraft landing. This reach of the river is served on both ends by barrier-free watercraft landings. Designated use: The cabin will be reservable for limited multi-day use to accommodate campers with special needs and their family or group. Capacity will be six persons. Design: The cabin will be fully developed with all utilities, accessible furnishings and appliances, and full wheel chair accessibility. Access will be available for overnight campers arriving by vehicle, or by water access to provide opportunity for overnight river trips. Amenities: barrier-free river access, table, raised fire ring, accessible picnic table, vehicle access roadway and parking. • *Barrier-free campsites:* Wherever practicable, design campsites, particularly the group and semi-primitive sites, to be barrier-free. *Actions to alleviate over-use problems and enable site restoration* • Close the Cedar Rapids camp area and restore the site to a natural condition. Camping will be relocated to more sustainable locations upstream and downstream. • Where opportunity allows, based on patterns of use, topography and ecological conditions, develop alternate-use campsites to allow campsites to be rested and restored. Alternate-use sites would be developed only as needed, and as budget and staffing allows. • Stabilize eroded riverbanks at campsites and other sites degraded by human use using native, natural materials as prescribed by NR 44 for a Type-2 Recreational Use Setting. *General River Camping Management Prescriptions:* • Manage staffing levels to accommodate new or expanded developments. • River camping will only be permitted at designated sites. Sites are designed for a one-night-only stay by persons traveling exclusively by watercraft. All people and supplies must be transported by watercraft to the campsite. Winter-only access will be allowed for backpack camping by special permit. • Restrict camping at group campsites to a maximum of 15 persons. Inform organizations and recreation providers that they be expected to limit the size of river groups, or to split large groups into smaller units to meet the group campsite capacity limit. • The forest maintains a strict "carry-in, carry-out" policy for all disposable items, refuse and recyclables. Future management may include expanding container regulations on the river, or establishing alcohol-free zone for some locations. • The forest superintendent has authority to temporarily close or relocate campsites.
Accomplishments	• *Group Campsites: Project numbers 12951 Babb's group,12952 headquarters group, 12953 Boy Scout group, and 12947 bear run group were initiated on 10/30/2013. Project number 12948 camp 41 group, was initiated on 10/21/2013. Georges, Wannigan, and Cedar Rapids projects are being developed.* • *-Cedar Rapids campsite has been approved and will be constructed in summer 2016* • *Semi-primitive Campsites: Project number 12921 new semi-primitive at Oxbo was initiated on 10/29/2013. Number 12999 George's semi-primitive initiated on 10/21/2013. Project numbers 13001 mason creek, and 12918 forks have been submitted, and cedar rapids is being developed.* • *-Cedar Rapids semi-primitive site is approved and will be constructed in summer2016* • *Primitive Campsites: Project numbers 13063, 13062,13061,13058,13057,13060 are the 15 primitive campsite projects that are developed but need maps and NHI completed and are awaiting initiation. The south fork site projects have not been developed.*

	• *Headquarters River Campground: Project has not yet been developed.* • *ADA Accessible Camping: Project site has been chosen and purchased with an existing building on it. Need to visit site with ADA expert to move forward with the project13054.* • *Barrier-free campsites: All new and renovated sites will be done using NR 44.07(6) standards. All sites will have a 400' separation between them and a 150' separation from any road or developed trail.*

Recreation Management

Off-River Recreation - Camping

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Management Objectives:** • Provide a range of high quality, barrier-free family camping opportunities in an attractive natural setting at small modern and rustic campgrounds. • Provide opportunities for large group camping in a rustic outdoor setting. • Provide opportunities for hike-in, remote, primitive backcountry camping at designated sites, and for hunting, fishing Camp's and other special purpose camping at undeveloped sites. • Provide opportunities for disabled persons to enjoy the forest and Flambeau River at an ADA accessible cabin.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions:** *Connors Lake Campground* • Add electric service to 50 % of campsites and provide accommodations for larger camper units. • Place 50 % of campsites on the statewide campsite reservation system. • Develop two or three new reservable, walk-in-only campsites with lake access as topography and features site features allow. • Bring campgrounds up to current NR 44 standards for site spacing, a minimum of 100 feet or as site space and topography allows. Attempt to maintain the existing number of campsites although though some may be lost to limitations of space and topography. • Develop a small, open "free-play" area as site features and topography allow. • Develop overflow parking for up to ten vehicles, trailers, and boats. • Evaluate opportunities for providing overnight boat mooring facilities and develop them if deemed appropriate. • Provide electricity at the campground host campsite. • Install or upgrade nature trails and information facilities (see Nature Trails and Education for more details). Develop and maintain the nature trails at the moderately developed trail standard. *Lake of the Pines Campground* • Adjust campsite spacing, as space and topography allow, to bring campgrounds into compliance with current NR 44 codes. Maintain the existing number of campsites as practicable, although some loss may occur as a result of limited site opportunity /or sustainability. • Place half of all campsites on the statewide campsite reservation system. • Replace restroom facilities. • Construct and maintain a small, open "free-play" area near the campground. • Install or upgrade nature trails and information facilities (see Nature Trails and Education for more information) Develop and maintain the nature trail at the moderately developed trail standard. • Develop overflow parking for up to ten vehicles, trailers, and boats. • Provide electricity at the campground host campsite. • Evaluate opportunities for providing overnight boat mooring facilities and develop them if deemed appropriate. • Relocate and redevelop the boat landing outside of Lake of the Pines campground. Provide a barrier-free dock /ramp, parking and vault toilets

	Headquarters River Campground A new rustic campground with 5-10 campsites will be developed across the river from the Forest Headquarters. (See Area 21 for details). *Outdoor Group Campground* • Develop a rustic outdoor group campground to accommodate up to 50 campers, to be occupied for up to seven nights on a reservable, fee basis. The group campground should be located near a water resource in a semi-remote location of the forest. The site's amenities will include a picnic shelter, tables, group fire ring, drinking water, vault toilets, parking, and gated access. All facilities will be barrier-free. See design diagram Appendix E. • Allow restricted vehicular access to the camp. *ADA Accessible Cabin* A vehicle-accessible ADA cabin will be constructed near the Flambeau River for use by disabled persons and their *Hike-in Backcountry Camping*: • Develop four reservable, primitive, hike-in campsites at remote locations on Hackett Creek, Butternut Creek, Mason Creek, and Bull Creek (Shown on Map 2.23, Current and Planned Recreation). These designated sites will be widely dispersed and offer the following amenities: a tent pad, fire ring, and box latrine at each campsite. As needed, develop and maintain a 1-3 mile, primitive hiking access trail to each site. • Offer special permits for dispersed backpack camping along a new linear hiking trail, the Wild River Trail. No designated facilities or amenities will be provided and there is no camping fee. • Offer special permits for winter camping at canoe campsites from December-March. Permits will be available on a no-fee basis. *General Permit Camping* • Maintain a permit system to administer camping opportunities for deer hunting,
Accomplishments	• *Connors Lake Campground: A project has been developed and is in the 6 year plan to renovate Connors Lake Campground (12862). This renovation would include adding electric to sites, introducing the Reserve America system, adding a play area, creating new sites, looking at a mooring opportunity for boats, and creating and maintaining proper spacing between campsites.* • *We have implemented Reserve America in Connors Campground in summer 2015 and plan to add electric to four sites with special funding in 2016* • *Lake of the Pines Campground: Project #12269 has been added to the six year plan. This project would include providing proper spacing between existing sites, introducing the Reserve America system, replace vault toilet, provide overflow parking, and develop a small free play area.* • *Headquarters River Campground: Project not yet developed.* • *Outdoor Group Campground: Project not yet developed* • *ADA Accessible Cabin: Project site has been chosen and purchased with an existing building on it. Need to visit site with ADA expert to move forward with the project #13054.* • *Hike-in Backcountry Camping: Project number 13069 is currently in the six year plan. This project encumbers a plan to develop 4 hike in back country campsites.* • *General Permit Camping: We currently keep track of location and people that utilize permit camping for deer hunting. We are in the process of developing better maps and GPS coordinates to closer identify each site.* • *Sites have been identified and GPS'ed*

Recreation Management

Day Use Areas

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Management Objectives:** • Provide areas for a variety of developed day-use activities on the FRSF; such as picnicking, boating, swimming, fishing, outdoor play, as well as more passive recreational activities, such as interpretation and education.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions:** • Maintain and improve the Connors Lake Day Use Area following the NR 44 standards for a modern day use area. Upgrade the existing picnic area with playground equipment and fishing piers. Provide informational facilities to interpret the site and to provide visitor education.
Accomplishments	• *Project number 13l1c is approved and moving forward to renovate Connors Lake Day Use Area. This will include filing in depressions in the recreation area, replacing the mulch in the play area, add sand to the volleyball court, develop an ADA walkway to the beach area, and planting trees.* • *-Project was approved and construction started July 2015 and will be completed in summer2016*

Recreation Management

Lake and Flowage Watercraft Access

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Management Objectives:** • Provide water body-appropriate watercraft access to the FRSF lakes and flowages for fishing and boating.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions:** • Develop and maintain barrier-free dock /ramp at Connors Lake. • Relocate and redevelop the landing at Lake of the Pines. Provide a barrier-free dock /ramp. • Install a boat /trailer washing and collection station for milfoil at Connors Lake (currently no milfoil on Lake of the Pines.) • Renovate landings and put-ins/take-outs as necessary to protect shoreline or to improve access. • Install and upgrade as needed information facilities at landings to provide maps and details to educate visitors about water-related conservation issues, rules or recreational opportunities.
Accomplishments	*• Develop and maintain barrier-free dock /ramp at Connors Lake.: Project Number 12863 encumbers reconstructing the existing concrete boat ramp, construct an accessible route to the launch, and construct a boat washing station to help prevent transportation of invasive aquatic species.* • Relocate and redevelop the landing at Lake of the Pines. Provide a barrier-free dock /ramp: Project Number 12304 will encumber clearing and grading of the existing site to create a single lane boat launch ramp and an approximately 7 vehicle-trailer paved parking lot. The site will comply with applicable ADA design standards inclusive of ADA parking stalls and accessible route to the boarding dock. An informational kiosk will be provided and installed. **Project on hold and being reviewed for need. Project denied 2015** • Access improvement which included parking lot, road repair and lake access to Mason/Evergreen lake has been completed in 2013, (new acquired purchase)

Recreation Management

Education and Interpretation

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Management Objectives:** • Provide coordinated and enhanced educational opportunities, facilities and services at appropriate sites throughout the forest following a variety of property-appropriate themes, such as natural resource management, environmental issues, nature interpretation, and outdoor recreation. • Utilize educational programs, exhibits and messages to enhance and protect forest resources.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions:** • Develop a comprehensive forest-wide information/interpretation/education plan to design the content and coordinate the delivery of education and public communications services on the Forest. Integrate implementation of the plan with other aspects of this master plan. Revise the plan and the delivery of information services as needed to include new topics of public interest or to address emerging conservation issues, or to improve delivery of the program to the public. At a minimum, the plan should specifically address the following: -The design and content of self-guided interpretation exhibits and interactive learning experiences. Interpretive themes to consider for the exhibits include, but are not limited to: 1) the Flambeau "a historic river highway" - travels on the river 2) Flambeau Forest's rich historical roots – Native American history, logging camps and river drives, CCC camps, historic hunting camps and partnerships. 3) people of the forest - from Native American, to loggers /settlers , historic figures (Leopold), and recreators 4) the "living forest" – natural dynamics (including wind effects and historic wind events); unique natural communities and resources 5) today's working forest - sustainable forest management -Promotion of the FRSF as a destination location for birding and wildlife viewing (the FRSF is stop #71 on the Great Wisconsin Birding and Nature Trail, and is near stop #64, the Kimberly Clark Wildlife Area). -Layout and content of a self-guided auto tour route to interpret forest resources and management, and to educate visitors about public benefits and opportunities that the forest offers. (See "Motorized Recreation" for more information.) River Education – 1) delivery of information on recreation rules and etiquette for camping and water recreation at landings, headquarters, campsites and campgrounds, and educational programs; and 2) development of materials to promote canoe safety and skills, paddling and camp etiquette, and low-impact camping. Delivery might include such techniques as: safety, skills & etiquette cards; brochures; web pages, educational presentations or video. -Use of the forest's DNR web site to provide material such as: current maps, forest attractions, camping opportunities, and other user information. -Identify opportunities for forest related educational outreach with area schools and communities. • Take the following actions to support the delivery of information/interpretation/education services. (These are in addition to other related actions contained in the master plan.) -Convert the former forest headquarters building for education and interpretative use. Remodel building interior to provide open space for exhibits. Provide interior /exterior interpretive exhibits as directed by the interpretive plan. -Develop the fire tower as a forest landmark /historical interpretive stop. Consider the location as a site for supervised interpretive programs. Research the potential of providing a viewing tower. Construct parking area for 3 cars and 1 car trailer stalls. -Maintain a system of self-guided nature trails at campgrounds and other key locations on the forest. -Install/upgrade information facilities at landings, trail heads, campgrounds, river campsites, and day-use areas as

	appropriate, e.g. educational kiosks, rules and policy signs, maps, designated use or capacity. -Consider staffing needs appropriate to development of educational facilities and services. Seek to provide professional staff, naturalist services and programming for forest visitors and recreation enthusiasts at boat landings, campgrounds, and headquarters. -Maintain a law enforcement presence in concert with educational efforts to promote safe and sustainable river recreation. -Seek opportunities to partner with other agencies on education projects and initiatives.
Accomplishments	• *Project numbers 12290 (fabricate and install map kiosks at approximately 14 watercraft landings), 12257 (renovate the old Flambeau River State Forest Headquarters building (historic building) and convert it to a seasonal interpretive/education center) and 12262 a property-wide interpretive study, will cover the interpretation and information standards for this management prescription. Project 12257 is going to be on hold until we get a state-wide standard for interpretive information which is part of project 12262.* • *-Project 12290 Fabricate and Install Kiosks is approved and materials are purchased, they will be constructed and installed in 2016* • *-information and interpretation standards are being developed and rolled out at a test property, standards will be set by 2017* • *The FRSF web site is continually being reviewed and updated* • *We currently staff two full-time and one LTE state forest ranger to maintain a Law Enforcement presents.* • *We currently partner with Sawyer county search and rescue and with Women of the Outdoors groups for summer programs.*

Recreation Management

Trails – Non-motorized

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Management Objectives:** • Provide opportunities for backcountry trail hiking and backpacking on primitive trails. • Provide opportunities for casual hiking, mountain biking, skiing, snowshoeing, and ski-joring, and nature appreciation on improved trails. • Provide family biking and hiking opportunities, particularly on routes that provide access to many of the primary recreational facilities on the Forest. • Provide barrier-free trail opportunities.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions:** *Wild River Hiking Trail* • Lay out and construct a minimally developed, primitive trail, approximately 35 miles in length that roughly parallels the Flambeau River. • Establish trail heads in conjunction with river landings or as needed to provide appropriate trail access points. Provide in formational kiosk and trail maps. Trail markings should be appropriate to the recreational use classification of the area. • Allow dispersed trailside backpack camping by special permit. No designated facilities or amenities will be provided and there is no associated fee. • Develop trail spurs or connectors to scenic locations, day-use areas, campgrounds, and primitive camping facilities as opportunity allows. • Seek opportunities to work with external partners to connect to trail systems on other public lands such as the North

	Country Trail, and trails extending northward to Lake Superior. *Oxbo Trail System* • Maintain an eight mile system of lightly to fully developed trails for year-round recreational activities. Manage to provide high quality trail experiences with a minimum of conflicts between different user groups. The trail will meet design standards for ski trails, unless another activity is designated as the primary use. • Install trail signage confidence markers and maps, and develop an accompanying map brochure for various trail uses. • Upgrade parking area to include a vault toilet and informational kiosk. *Flambeau Hills Ski Trail System* • Maintain the 14 mile Flambeau Hills ski trail as a system of lightly to fully developed trails. • Construct a ski-trail warming house and equipment shelter at the trailhead. *Nature Trails* • As part of the Forest's Education and Interpretation program, redevelop nature trails and interpretive signage at Lake of the Pines and Connors Lake campgrounds. Develop and maintain these as moderately developed trails. *ADA Accessible – Barrier-free Trails* • Install a moderately developed, barrier-free nature trail on the property in the new forest headquarters visitor services area. See Management Area 21. • Seek opportunities to make suitable trails or portions of trails barrier free. *Backcountry Hiking Trails* • Develop primitive hiking trails to provide access to four new backcountry campsites (See Primitive Backcountry Camping). *Family Bike/Hike Trail* • Construct a family bike and hike trail that connects the Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines campgrounds with the Connor's Lake Picnic Area and the FRSF Headquarters Area. Also, extend a link to the Flambeau Hills trail system. Total trail distance will be about 7 miles. • Construct the trail as a fully developed trail (with a crushed gravel surface) following existing trail corridors and road right-of-ways as much as possible. For safety, design the trail route to avoid conflict with highway and recreational vehicles by minimizing road crossings and travel along highway shoulders and motorized recreation trails.
Accomplishments	• *Wild River Hiking Trail: Project has not yet been written.* • *Oxbo Trail System: Project 13055 will renovate approximately 8 miles of existing trail system for summer and winter non-motorized recreation - hike, bike, snowshoe, skijor - along with installing a trailhead kiosk/map station. This project is in the 6 year plan. We currently mow and maintain the trail as a hunter walking trail.* • *We plan to purchase signage and place in summer 2016 and will continue to mow and maintain trail.* • *Flambeau Hills Ski Trail System: Project 12336 will repair 14 mile of cross country ski trails, including widening, leveling, culvert placement and shelter repair. Project is currently in the six year plan.* • *Nature Trails: Project number 13052 resurface approximately .5 mile of interpretive nature trail at Connors Lake Campground with 2" crushed stone, install 1 new entrance kiosk, and approximately 6 interpretive panels 6 sq. ft. each, and project number 13053 resurface approximately 1.7 mile of interpretive nature trail at Lake of the Pines Campground with 2" crushed stone, install 1 new entrance kiosk, and approximately 6 interpretive panels - 6 sq.ft. each. Both projects are in the six year plan.* • *ADA Accessible – Barrier-free Trails: Project has not yet been developed. Will be addressed once new Headquarters is built* • *Backcountry Hiking Trails: Project number 13069 Develop primitive hike-in campsites with trails encumbering building 10.5 miles of primitive trails. This project is currently in the six year plan.* • *Family Bike/Hike Trail: Project not yet developed.* • *In addition approximately 60 miles of hunter/walking trails have been established through-out the forest with*

	parking available

Recreation Management

Trails - Motorized

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Management Objectives:** • Provide sustainable, designated snowmobile and ATV trail riding opportunities as part of regional trial networks; and, as is feasible and compatible with other Forest objectives, support the expansion of the regional trail networks.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions:** *All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)* • Develop or maintain sustainable ATV trails on the Forest. Follow the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources *Guidance for All-Terrain Vehicle Use on Department Lands* (WDNR 2005) • Using existing snowmobile routes, construct about three miles of new ATV trail to connect the existing Flambeau River State Forest ATV trail to the Price County Trail system to the southeast. Trail designation and implementation is dependent on establishing a suitable trail corridor, and on the future extension of Price County trail systems. • Using existing snowmobile routes, construct about three miles of new ATV trail to connect the existing Flambeau River State Forest ATV trail to the Rusk County Trail system to the south. Trail designation and implementation is dependent on establishing a suitable trail corridor, and on the future extension of Price County trail systems. • Over time, allow partial canopy closure of ATV trails after initial construction to provide a more intimate riding experience. •Do not allow too much closure as the vegetation prevents the trail from drying out, increasing impacts and maintenance. • Construct a ramp at trail head(s) for loading/unloading ATVs. • Establish interpretive stops at appropriate locations along trails as provided for in the Forest interpretive plan. • Adjust timing of trail use (open/closed dates) for seasonal trail conditions. • Consider law enforcement needs appropriate to increased trail mileage. *Snowmobiles* • Support and work in cooperation with partners to maintain a safe system of snowmobile trails throughout the forest. • Develop a trail reroute from Price Lakes Road to trail #36 (approx. 2 miles). This will increase safety by removing travel from the town road Snowmobile/ATV trail facilities will be upgraded to accommodate users' needs and enhance sustainability.
Accomplishments	*All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs):* • *We now provide and maintain 38Miles of ATV Trail.* • *Project Numbers 12291 (phase 1) and 12364 (phase 2) are projects to connect our current ATV trail to price county in the southeast portion of the forest. Bothe phases are in the 6 year plan.* • *Project Numbers 12292 (phase 1) and 12365 (phase 2) are projects to connect our current ATV trail to rusk county using snowmobile corridors. Both of these projects are in the 6 year plan. An ATV route has been developed and approved for the connector with Rusk County completed 2015.* • *We are currently managing our ATV trails to have some canopy closure. We manage large trees along the ditch line of the trail.* • *To reduce vegetation encroachment we actively mow the ditches and edges of the trail to keep natural*

	vegetation at bay. • *Project number F01AV Construct an ATV/snowmobile loading ramp at the Flambeau Trailhead is active and will be constructed in the 2013-2015 biennium. -Project F01AV was completed in summer2015* • *Project number 12290 Build Signs and Kiosks will aid in adding interpretive stops. The project will be on hold until we have a standard state interpretive plan.* • *To maintain trail conditions ATV trails are open May15th-Nov15th and are not allowed the rest of the season.* • *We currently staff 2 full time and 1 LTE LE Officers to meet the enforcement needs on the forest.* • *Project Numbers 12310 Renovate trail from Snuss to Lincoln, 12276 Renovate trail from North Fork to Flambeau Trail Head, and 10283 Renovate trail from Snuss to Snuss, have been completed and are closed.* *Snowmobiles:* • *We currently work with the local snowmobile club to maintain the trails.* • *Project Number 13K2U reroute approximately 1.6 miles of 16' wide snowmobile trail between Price Lakes Road and trail #36 is currently active and hope to have it completed by winter 2015. Trail was completed in 2015*

Recreation Management

Hunting

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Management Objectives:** • Maintain and support traditional outdoor sporting activities such as hunting and trapping and fishing by maintaining trails and enhancing or upgrading existing boat landings, access points, and other facilities.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions:** • Increase the current level of hunter-walking access routes consistent with the Forest's road access plan (See Road Management section of this plan, and Map 2.25 in appendix). • Provide maps of hunter- walking access routes, brochures and information on the FRSF web site. • Consider the "adopt-a-hunting trail" concept. Explore additional funding sources and opportunities to work with private groups for partner projects.
Accomplishments	• *Project Number 12484 is an Active CI project which will be used to create parking areas for the hunter walking trails and to revamp or mow current trails.* • *We have created and updated 16 parking areas and mow approximately 60miles of Hunter trails* • *We currently provide maps of the hunter walking trails to the public. We are working on updating the maps and making them clearer for the public.* • *We currently have no private groups or partners to help with the trails but will continue to work towards a "adopt-a-hunting trail" concept.*

Recreation Management

Fishing

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Management Objectives:** • Support and provide opportunities for fishing.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions:** • Maintain reasonable access to traditional fishing areas on the north and south forks of the Flambeau River and forest lakes. • Develop fishing piers at Connor's Lake Campground, Connors Lake Day-use Area, and at Lake of the Pines Campground. • Maintain primitive walking access trails to Hackett and Price Creeks. • Provide information about fishing rules and opportunities at information facilities, in publications or online, taking care not to over-promote specific locations. • Continue to work in cooperation with the fisheries division on trout stream improvement.
Accomplishments	• *Project numbers 13050 (Renovate Robinsons Landing), 13049 (Renovate Holtz Landing), 12863 (Revamp Connors Lake Landing), 12256 (Renovate HWY W East landing), 12304 (Relocate LOP landing), are all projects to increase accessibility to traditional fishing areas and area all in the 6 year plan.* • *Project numbers 12908 (Construct Fishing Pier at Connors Lake Campground), 12860 (Construct Fishing Pier at Connors Lake Day Use Area), 12861 (Construct Fishing Pier at Lake of Pines campground), all projects currently in the 6 year plan.* • *Walking access trail project not yet developed.* • *Project number 12290 (Building Maps and Kiosks) will help provide information about fishing rules and opportunities at all of the boat landings. We currently have publications about the State Forest fishing opportunities and we also have links to the State Forest website from local county websites.* **Attached report shows the outcome long term vision and direction fisheries will be going within the FRSF. On-going surveys are being completed to determine existing populations and take.** **A Vision for the Fisheries of Flambeau River State Forest Lakes** On December 6, 2008, DNR representatives Jeff Scheirer and Dave Neuswanger met with 15 local stakeholders who were willing to volunteer their time to help develop a long-term vision for the fisheries of the most important lakes on the Flambeau River State Forest. Objectives of the meeting were to prioritize species of interest, and then to identify for those species the relative importance of numbers versus size and catch versus harvest. Attention was then focused on identifying the desired conditions for species of greatest concern. Jeff Scheirer served as technical advisor to the group on what was possible. Little attention was given to methods for achieving goals and objectives (management strategies such as harvest regulations, fish stockings, and habitat preservation or enhancement). It was understood and generally agreed that professional fishery managers would select the most appropriate strategies once goals and objectives had been developed with help from local stakeholders and adjusted to incorporate what is known about statewide angler preference and the capacity of area lakes to produce what is desired. Detailed results of the visioning session appear in the Appendix. Participants were familiar with and comfortable discussing only Connors, Pines, Mason and Evergreen lakes, so we did not attempt to discern preferences or develop specific objectives for less-familiar lakes like Bass and Pelican at the visioning session. We shall rely upon DNR area management personnel to provide the perspectives needed to develop realistic objectives for those waters. Among the four main lakes, local stakeholders generally felt that Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines were similar enough in character and connected to a great enough extent that they could be managed as a unit with minor differences in goals, objectives, and strategies for the species of primary interest. They believed similarly that Mason and Evergreen lakes could be managed as a unit; so fish species

preferences were determined for each pair of lakes (Tables A1 and A2). By the end of the session, a common set of goals and objectives was considered applicable to all four lakes for several important fish species – walleye, bluegill, muskellunge, and smallmouth bass. (We ran out of time before participants could have direct input into smallmouth bass objectives, but we believe those chosen reflect the preferences expressed in Tables A1 and A2.)

Combining preference rankings for all four lakes, walleye were the most important species to local stakeholders (Tables A1-A2), matching the top priority of statewide anglers as well. And as we typically find in the Upper Chippewa Basin, participants preferred a state of balance between walleye numbers and walleye size, and catching (to release) walleyes versus harvesting them (Table A3). Based upon habitat characteristics, historical population estimates, and recent documentation of good natural reproduction, we agreed it should be possible to maintain walleye populations of moderate density and size structure in all four lakes. Participants were concerned about walleye size structure in Connors Lake and were a little disappointed that we could not estimate walleye density again until 2013, but they listened kindly to our explanation of schedules and workload in a large basin with hundreds of important waters.

As with anglers statewide, pan fish rivaled walleye as the species of greatest interest in the four lakes. In order of priority, local stakeholders were interested in bluegill, yellow perch, and black crappie (Tables A1-A2); and they preferred balance between numbers and size, with only a slight bias toward maximizing harvest at the potential expense of size structure (Table A3). By the time we selected size structure objectives, participants were enthused about increasing the relative proportion of preferred-size bluegill, perch, and crappie; and they seemed willing to accept new regulatory strategies that may be needed to improve pan fish size structure. Local stakeholders were particularly valuable in helping us to understand that only Connors Lake had a history of producing preferred-size yellow perch, and black crappies have been rare in Connors Lake but provide an excellent fishery in Lake of the Pines. Our panfish objectives reflect this knowledge. Two ice-fisherman at the session described a frequent phenomenon at Lake of the Pines that we diagnosed as the diurnal vertical migration of ghostworm larvae (also called phantom midges) – a daily phenomenon that turned off the crappie bite at dusk but probably ensured high survival and good growth of the crappies that prey upon these abundant food organisms.

Muskellunge were fairly popular with local stakeholders (Tables A1-A2), who exhibited a bias for size over number and strong preference to release most muskellunge caught (Table A3). These preferences are similar to those of musky anglers throughout the Upper Chippewa Basin and the State. Objectives were chosen for all four lakes that could result in slightly lower adult density but slightly improved size structure in some of the lakes, if achieved.

Visioning session participants were far more interested in smallmouth bass in Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines than in Mason or Evergreen Lakes (Tables A1-A2), probably because most attendees lived on either Connors or Pines and felt little need to pursue smallmouth bass elsewhere. We believe smallmouth bass are popular with non-local anglers in all waters on the State Forest, so we developed similar objectives for all waters that reflect the local (and basin-wide) bias for size over number and the strong local (and basin-wide) preference for releasing most smallmouth bass caught (Table A3).

We had a long and interesting conversation about trout. Local stakeholders expressed a long-held interest in stocking lake trout in the clear, deep waters of Connors Lake (Table A1). They were curious to learn if such a strategy would create a desirable bonus fishery. We had considered this question in advance and studied recent dissolved oxygen and water temperature profiles for Connors Lake. With support from Dr. Ed Peters (retired fisheries professor from the University of Nebraska in attendance), we expressed the opinion that lake trout would perform very poorly in Connors Lake because the depth zone of acceptable temperature and dissolved oxygen was highly restricted in mid- summer; and Connors Lake lacked the types of prey (e.g., ciscoes) preferred by lake trout. We explained, however, that the thermal tolerances and dietary habits of rainbow and brown trout were much broader than those of lake trout; and those species might actually survive and thrive in limited numbers in Connors Lake. We explained that budgetary constraints and strict policies regarding new introductions would pose significant challenges to any plan for DNR to stock trout in Connors Lake; but we did not indicate it was out of the question to create a put-grow-and-take fishery for rainbow and/or brown trout if the local lake association or other group is

willing to purchase the fish and we are able to permit the stocking after evaluating potential environmental impacts. A goal and objective are included herein that acknowledge this possibility, with the full realization by participants that trout caught in the summertime in Connors Lake would not likely survive the struggle through warm surface waters, making it unwise to establish quality size objectives that could necessitate minimum size limits.

Overall, this was a very positive session in which everyone, including DNR representatives, learned a great deal. We are confident that we can develop strategies that reflect the preferences and desires of local stakeholders and other anglers who visit the area.

THE PLAN (CONNORS, PINES, MASON, EVERGREEN)

The following goals and objectives were developed with significant input from stakeholders and are presented in order of priority based upon a composite of local stakeholder preferences on these four lakes. Unless otherwise noted, goals and objectives apply to all four lakes – Connors, Lake of the Pines, Mason and Evergreen. We agree these goals and objectives are desirable and achievable. Stakeholders were not consulted about management strategies. Recommended strategies represent a consensus agreement between Plan authors regarding actions needed to achieve goals and objectives.

GOAL 1: **WALLEYE:** A population of moderate density with a moderate proportion of quality-size fish.

Objective 1.1: 3 to 5 adult walleye per acre in spring population estimates, or early spring fyke-netting capture rates that we someday determine to be statistically associated with the desired density. (Adult walleye are defined by DNR as all fish over 15 inches long and all smaller fish for which gender can be determined in early spring.)

Objective 1.2: Of all walleye 10 inches and longer captured by fyke netting in early spring, 25-35% should be 15 inches or longer (PSD = 25-35%).

Walleye Status and Management Strategies (Local DNR Recommendations):

GOAL 2: **BLUEGILL:** A population of moderate density with a moderate proportion of preferred-size fish.

Objective 2.1: Currently we lack an agency-accepted standard method to assess the relative abundance of bluegill. We will initiate a new baseline monitoring protocol in 2013 by establishing late-spring electrofishing index stations in and around spawning areas in order to begin tracking the relative abundance of bluegill. Until we have reliable data upon which to base an objective, we will consider a late spring electrofishing capture rate of 50-100 bluegill 3 inches and longer per hour to be somewhat indicative of the desired moderate density.

Objective 2.2: Of all bluegill 3 inches and longer (stock size) captured by electrofishing in late spring, 5-10% should be 8 inches or longer (RSD_8 = 5-10%).

Bluegill Status and Management Strategies (Local DNR Recommendations):

GOAL 3: **YELLOW PERCH (Connors Lake only):** A population of moderate density with a low proportion of

preferred-size fish.

Objective 3.1: Currently we lack an agency-accepted standard method to assess the relative abundance of yellow perch. Until such a method is developed, we will consider an early spring fykenet capture rate of 20-40 yellow perch 5 inches and longer per net-night to be indicative of the desired moderate density.

Objective 3.2: Of all yellow perch 5 inches and longer captured by fyke netting in early spring, 5-10% should be 10 inches or longer (RSD_{10} = 5-10%).

GOAL 4: **BLACK CRAPPIE (all <u>except</u> Connors Lake):** A population of moderate density with a moderate proportion of preferred-size fish.

Objective 4.1: Currently we lack an agency-accepted standard method to assess the relative abundance of black crappie. Until such a method is developed, we will consider a late spring or mid fall fykenet capture rate of 10-20 black crappie 5 inches and longer per net-night to be indicative of the desired moderate density.

Objective 4.2: Of all black crappie 5 inches and longer captured by fyke netting in late spring or mid fall, 10-20% should be 10 inches or longer (RSD_{10} = 10-20%).

Black Crappie Status and Management Strategies (Local DNR Recommendations):

GOAL 5: **MUSKELLUNGE:** A muskellunge population of low to moderate density with a moderate proportion of memorable-size fish.

Objective 5.1: 0.1 to 0.2 <u>adult</u> muskellunge per acre in population estimates, or early spring fyke-netting capture rates that we someday determine to be statistically associated with the desired density. (Adult muskellunge are defined by DNR as all fish over 30 inches long and all smaller fish whose gender can be determined, either by expressing gametes or by examining dimorphic characteristics of the vent.)

Objective 5.2: Of all muskellunge 20 inches and longer captured by fyke netting in early spring, 10-20% should be 42 inches or longer (RSD_{42} = 10-20%).

Muskellunge Status and Management Strategies (Local DNR Recommendations):

GOAL 6: **SMALLMOUTH BASS (developed by DNR after visioning session by using Table A3 preferences as a guide):** A population of moderate density with a high proportion of preferred-size fish and a moderate proportion of memorable-size fish.

Objective 6.1: Late spring electrofishing capture rates for 7-inch and longer smallmouth bass of 25-50 per hour during the bass spawning season.

Objective 6.2: Of all smallmouth bass 7 inches and longer captured by electrofishing during the bass spawning season, 50-70% should be 14 inches or longer (RSD_{14} = 50-70%) and 10-20% should be 17 inches or longer (RSD_{17} = 10-20%).

Smallmouth Bass Status and Management Strategies (Local DNR Recommendations):

GOAL 7: **TROUT (Connors Lake only; developed by DNR after visioning session by using Table A3 preferences as a guide):** A "put-grow-and-take trout fishery" comprised of low but catchable numbers of rainbow and brown trout that can survive summer water quality conditions and grow to acceptable sizes before being harvested.

Objective 7.1: We have no effective yet acceptable way to monitor the relative abundance and size distribution of trout in lakes (assuming gillnets to be unacceptable) other than to document their harvest in occasional creel surveys (next scheduled in 2013). A voluntary angler diary program might help us to evaluate the return on investment of any trout stocked into Connors Lake.

GOAL 8: **BIODIVERSITY (developed by DNR on behalf of the entire aquatic community):** A diverse native fish community that fluctuates in species composition but generally experiences no net loss of native fish species and provides adequate forage for sport fish populations.

Objective 8.1: No net loss of native fish or other native aquatic species in the lakes or their connecting channels; and no catastrophic losses to disease or poor water quality that could lead to fish community imbalance and failure to achieve important sport fishing objectives.

Objective 8.2: Adequate forage, as reflected by satisfactory growth rates and condition factors of sport fish populations managed under Goals 1-5.

General Ecosystem Management Strategies (Local DNR Recommendations):

THE PLAN (BASS, PELICAN, OTHERS?)

The following goals and objectives were developed without input from stakeholders due to visioning session time constraints and the low familiarity of these lakes among participants. Goals and objectives are based upon our knowledge of existing fish communities and local area personnel knowledge of public use by anglers.

GOAL 9: **BASS LAKE:**

GOAL 10: **PELICAN LAKE:**

APPENDIX

Results of Visioning Session for Local Stakeholders in Lake Fisheries on the Flambeau River State Forest

Date: December 6, 2008
Time: 11:10 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.
Place: Big Bear Lodge on County Highway W west of Phillips, Wisconsin
Facilitator: Dave Neuswanger, Fisheries Supervisor, Upper Chippewa Basin, WDNR
Technical Advisor: Jeff Scheirer, Senior Fisheries Biologist, Price/Rusk/Taylor counties, WDNR
Profile of 15 Participants (more than one affiliation possible per person):

Connors Lake Landowners – 7
Lake of the Pines Landowners - 2
Area Anglers – 5
Business Owners – 1
Lake Association Board or Fish Committee Members – 7

Table A1. Levels of sport fishing interest, by species, among 15 visioning session participants for species of interest in Connors Lake and Lake of the Pines

Fish Species Nominated	Level of Participant Fishing Interest				
	High	Medium	Low	None	Relative Importance (%)
Bluegill	10	4	1	0	87
Walleye	10	3	2	0	84
Yellow Perch	7	7	1	0	80
Smallmouth Bass	7	4	3	1	71
Trout (not present)	6	6	1	2	69
Black Crappie	5	5	5	0	67
Muskellunge	5	5	5	0	67
Largemouth Bass	2	8	4	1	58
Northern Pike	4	4	5	2	56

Table A2. Levels of sport fishing interest, by species, among 15 visioning session participants for species of interest in Mason and Evergreen Lakes

Fish Species Nominated	Level of Participant Fishing Interest				
	High	Medium	Low	None	Relative Importance (%)
Walleye	7	1	3	4	58
Bluegill	3	6	1	5	49
Yellow Perch	4	3	3	5	47
Black Crappie	2	6	2	5	44

Muskellunge	4	2	4	5	44
Smallmouth Bass	1	5	3	6	36

Table A3. Preferences for numbers versus size and catch versus harvest among visioning session participants for fish species perceived as important in lakes on the Flambeau River State Forest. Species are listed in rank order of importance to participants for the four main lakes combined (Connors, Lake of Pines, Mason, Evergreen); and preferences were believed constant among lakes. (Participants were not required to respond to every question, so totals are not consistent.)

Important Fish Species	Preference for Numbers versus Size			Preference for Catch-and-Release versus Harvest		
	Emphasis on Number over Size	Prefer Balance	Emphasis on Size over Number	Emphasis on Catch and Release	Prefer Balance	Emphas Maxim Sustair Harv
Walleye	0	12	3	1	12	0
Bluegill	0	14	0	1	11	2
Yellow Perch	0	14	0	1	10	3
Black Crappie	0	15	0	0	8	6
Muskellunge	0	4	9	11	3	1
Smallmouth Bass	0	8	5	9	5	0
Trout (Connors)	1	7	3	0	0	10
N. Pike (Connors)	0	6	5	3	9	1

Recreation Management

Public Motor Vehicle Access

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Management Objectives:** • Provide public access opportunities according to the forest's road access plan.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions:** • Maintain the level of forest roads and trails accessible to the public according to the current access plan. • Maintain roads and trails according to prescribed road or trail classifications. • Maintain a current map of roads and trails as part of the road management plan. • Cooperate with county forests in providing future road access to county forest lands through state property if needed for management purposes or public licensed vehicle access.

Accomplishments	• *Project tracking numbers: 10940,10941,10943,10945,10946,12880,11291,10955,11344,10950,10951,10954,10952,10948,10947,10861, 11534, 11535 Are all road projects involving creating and maintaining roads. Projects included Log creek unit, bear creek unit, west lane access rd., County W, Carlson road, skinner creek road, Payne farm road, flambeau south roads, price creek road, Long creek, Tower Hill road, and Hackett Creek Bridge. All have been completed* • *We currently have road maintenance projects out until 2021. These projects go towards maintenance such as mowing, grading, re-graveling, and other annual maintenance needs.* • *We currently monitor and maintain all of our trails and roads up to or exceeding their expectations.* • *We currently have a forest map with the forest roads on them. We also have maps of or forest trails that are available to the public. We are continuing to update and make for better understood maps.* *We have completed our access road planning with Sawyer County through the Master Planning Process.*

Real Estate Management

Forest Boundary Expansion

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Management Objectives:** Six boundary expansion areas are planned for the Flambeau River State Forest as part of the master, totaling approximately 49,000-acres adjacent to the existing property boundary plan (See Appendix Map 2.24: Planned Boundary Expansion). These areas were selected for their ability to provide important additional ecological, economic, and social values to the property and region (Table 2.37: Boundary Expansion Acres). The boundary expansion aims to protect additional undeveloped shoreline along the Flambeau River and its flowages, wilderness lakes, high conservation value forests and unique wildlife habitats. Large tracts of undeveloped industrial forestland adjacent to the property provide opportunities to connect public lands, expand recreation opportunities, and create large blocks of high quality forest resources, while also contributing to the local economies of Price, Sawyer and Rusk Counties through forest production and increased tourism. These opportunities are discussed in greater detail in the area descriptions below.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**EXPANSION AREAS** **Price Lakes Complex** Acres: 18,539 Expansion Area Opportunities: • Protect an important complex of undeveloped lakes, wetlands, and natural communities • Create a large block of continuous forest land to maintain and enhance existing public uses • Provide important habitat connectivity with Kimberly Clark State Wildlife Area to the east and Price County Forest to the south. • Identified as a Conservation Area Opportunity for Species of Greatest Conservation Needs **North Fork Watershed** Acres: 10,512 Expansion Area Opportunities: • Protect an important portion of the North Fork of the Flambeau River corridor • Create a large block of continuous forest land to maintain and enhance existing public uses • Provide linkages between blocks of existing public lands to provide important habitat connectivity, connect regional recreation trails and protect tributaries • Protect important habitat areas for unique species (this area is adjacent to a native community management area) • Opportunity for elk and marten introduction due to the remoteness and undeveloped landscape

	• High conservation value forests have been identified in this area, with scattered pockets of old-growth hemlocks **Western Boundary** Acres: 8,265 Expansion Area Opportunities: • Create a large block of continuous forest land, most of which is presently under a single ownership • Connect state and Sawyer County forest land to create a large, continuous block of public ownership and connect important regional recreation trails • Continue sustainable forestry practices on forested lands • Existing County Highways (M and W) provide access to the area for management and recreation **Big Falls Flowage** Acres: 9,954 *Expansion Area Opportunities:* • Protect an important portion of the Flambeau River corridor and Big Falls Flowage • Connect state and county owned forest land to create a large, continuous block of public ownership and connect important regional recreation trails • Create a large block of continuous forest land, most of which is presently under a single ownership and could be secured to maintain and enhance existing public uses • This area includes a portion of the Thornapple River, which has been identified as a state Conservation Opportunity Area. **South Fork Buffer** Acres: 990 Expansion Area Opportunities: • Buffer and protect river corridor to preserve the scenic qualities of the undeveloped river way • Provide a buffer against incompatible land uses that would diminish visitor experience in the river corridor • Protect critical portions of rivers or streams and ensuring the quality of the larger watershed **Upper North Fork River Buffer** Acres: 924 Expansion Area Opportunities: • Buffer and protect the river corridor to preserve the scenic qualities of the undeveloped river- way • Provide a buffer against incompatible land uses that would diminish visitor experience along the river corridor • Protect critical portions of rivers or streams and ensure the quality of the larger watershed • Establish new and/or enhance existing accesses to the river and adjacent lands to promote public access and establish a “river trail” **Other Conservation Opportunities** Just west of the Western Boundary, is a large block of privately-owned industrial forestland that has been recognized as an important area for resource protection and recreational opportunities. While the area is not included in the property boundary because of its large size, it has been identified as having considerable ecological, economic and social attributes under its current ownership, including sustainably managed forests, recreation trails and available public access. The land is located west of CTY Hwy M to the Thornapple River and south of CTY Hwy W to the Sawyer County Forest and is approximately 28,000-acres in size. The area provides key amenities including terrestrial and aquatic system Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs) for species of greatest conservation need, including the Thornapple River, and recreational access points, including regional motorized trail opportunities. The Department would work with local governments to evaluate options for preserving this land, including conservation easements.
Accomplishments	• *Mason/Evergreen lake (Hines) purchase of 563 acres completed* • *Krohn purchase of 89 acres completed* • *Iverson (Georges island) 9.5 acres completed* • *Munkelwitz .7 acres offer pending (Mason lake) - Offer Refused*

	• *Fucik property listed 199 acres, pending funding (Big Falls Flowage unit)* • *Richter property listed 18 acres, pending funding (LOP lakeshore)* • *Western Boundary unit (negotiating with Forest Land Group)* • *Georges Island purchase Gov Lot 1 Sec 3 T38N-R3W - Completed* • *Frokjer purchase completed 7.7 ac SWSW Sec 6, T37N-R2 W- Completed* • *Steenberg purchase 3 ac Gov. Lot 1 Sec 11, T39N-R3W- Completed*

Road Management

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Management Objectives:** • Provide a network of roads on the FRSF that meet land management and recreation objectives, while minimizing environmental impacts. • Maintain state forest roads to the designated road standards and in a sustainable condition. • Protect scenic values along road corridors in balance with management area objectives. • Manage the spread of invasive plant species along road corridors.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	**Management Prescriptions:** • The Department managed roadways within the Flambeau River State Forest will be maintained in part according to the following requirements from the Best Management Practices for water quality: - Clear debris from culverts, ditches, dips and other drainage structures to decrease clogging that can lead to washouts. - Keep traffic to a minimum during wet periods and spring breakup to reduce maintenance needs. - Shape road surfaces periodically to maintain proper surface drainage. • Monitor and manage the spread of invasive plant species along roads using Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Invasive Species. Control invasive species uses appropriate management techniques including but not limited to, herbicides, burning, cutting and mowing. • Maintain visibility and clearance along roads that is adequate for the road classification and use. • Restore roads used in timber harvest operations to non-erosive conditions after harvesting is completed • Inspect permanent roads throughout the year and develop a maintenance schedule • Annually review the roads open for public use and make adjustments as needed to enhance access for recreational users as allowed by the management area's land use classification. • Inspect and maintain designated lightly developed roads every three years to provide a system of roads for hunter walkers. Review, on an annual basis, the roads designated in this classification and make changes based on opportunities to expand or enhance the road network for recreational access as allowed by the area's land management classification. • All non-state forest road right-of-ways (66 feet) will continue to be controlled and maintained by their current operator (state, county, or town).
Accomplishments	• *We currently have road maintenance projects out until 2021. These projects go towards maintenance such as mowing, grading, re-graveling, and other annual maintenance needs.* • *We currently monitor and maintain all of our trails and roads up to or exceeding their expectations. Following wind events roads are cleared of debris and culverts checked.* • *Barricades limiting access are in place during spring break-up*

	• *Primary access roads are graded 3 time per year* • *All access roads reviewed for invasive plants every 5 years, last inspection was 2008, inspection planned for 2014.* • *Comments encouraged on access plan during public open house annually. Minor adjustments made.* • *Hunter/walking trails (60 mi) have been mowed in 2012 and 2013* • *We currently have a forest map with the forest roads on them. We also have maps of or forest trails that are available to the public. We are continuing to update and make for better understood maps.* • *We have completed our access road planning with Sawyer County through the Master Planning Process*

Cultural Resources Management

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	**Management Objectives:** • The protection and preservation of areas, objects, and records of cultural importance will be coordinated with the Department Archaeologist in consultation with interested tribal communities, institutions, and/or other interested parties. This consultation will include (but is not necessarily limited to) notification to interested parties of activities and potential impacts in areas of known concerns. Opportunities for involvement in research of sites of known cultural importance will be made. • Protection of cultural resources will be coordinated with the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) as required by applicable state and federal historic preservation laws and regulations. • Protection of burial sites will follow Section 157.70 of Wisconsin Statutes, and the Department's "*Burials, Earthworks, and Mounds Preservation Policy & Plan*" (WDNR 2008). • The Flambeau River State Forest Superintendent will consult with Tribal and GLIFWC (Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission) representatives regarding state forest management issues on a government-to-government basis as required under Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 44.04 (7)(c). • As needed, approved future facility development sites (parking lots, buildings, etc.) will be inspected prior to construction to locate and evaluate any evidence of significant archaeological or historic material in compliance with Section 44.40 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, and Manual Code 1810.1. • All accommodations necessary will be made to avoid adverse impacts on cultural sites that maybe affected by management activities. • Cultural resources may be developed for scientific and educational purposes to the extent that the integrity of the resource is maintained.
Appropriate Management Activities or Prescriptions	• *Management activities involving forest management or development projects be reviewed for archeological/historical sites prior to implementation.* • *Superintendent will consult with tribal and GLIFWC representative regarding forest activities as it relates to* • developement, review, revision, amendment or variance of a master plan.
Accomplishments	• Timber sales and development projects are reviewed for archeological and cultural issues prior to implementation. If an issue is addressed avoidance of adverse impacts will be addressed. • To date there has been no revisions, amendments or variances made to require consultation with the Tribes or GLIFWC. • Consultation with tribes has taken place from a state wide perspective improving gathering rights and night hunting opportunities for tribal members.