

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Monitoring the Implementation of Property Master Plans

Property: Lower Chippewa River Properties

Master Plan Year: 2010

Land Management – general management objectives

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Where possible, manage for larger blocks of habitat and a continuum of habitats from lowland to upland. ▪ Establish and maintain linkages between habitat blocks to create travel corridors for the movement of species over time. ▪ Maintain, restore, and enhance grasslands and oak savannas at a landscape scale with an emphasis on native communities. ▪ Maintain and enhance the quality and extent of open wetlands, with particular emphasis placed on wet and wet-mesic prairie, sedge meadow, emergent marsh. ▪ Maintain existing shrub-carr wetland in areas that do not have high potential for management as sedge meadow, wet prairie, or wet mesic prairie. ▪ Maintain the extent and quality of bottomland hardwood, swamp hardwood stands, and southern tamarack swamp. ▪ Maintain the health, vigor and diversity of central hardwood stands to provide wildlife habitat and aesthetic values. ▪ For wildlife habitat value, maintain, enhance, and expand oak stands and retain aspen stands wherever practicable and consistent with management objectives for the management. ▪ Maintain the limited native jack and white pine cover type on these properties. ▪ Gradually phase out conifer plantations over time. ▪ Convert most cropped land to native cover types. ▪ Where feasible, identify and eradicate populations of invasive species by cutting, pulling, burning, herbicide treatment and/or bio-control.
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For detailed descriptions of accomplishments, see the property specific sections of this report. <p>General accomplishments across the range of properties include management of large blocks of habitat on the Tiffany and Dunnville Wildlife Areas as well as Nine Mile Island State Natural Area. Extensive timber harvests took place on the Tiffany and Dunnville Wildlife Areas to create travel corridors and open landscapes, promoting native community development. These harvests enhanced existing oak openings and savannas while also preserving and enhancing existing jack and white pine remnants. A total of 1,502</p>

	acres of prescribed burning occurred across the properties in 2015.
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Recreation Management – general use objectives

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Provide high quality hunting, trapping, and fishing opportunities.▪ Provide opportunities for non-hunting related recreational activities, such as hiking, un-tracked cross country skiing, wildlife viewing, nature study, berry picking, canoeing, and canoe/camping when compatible with the property's capabilities and the primary management objective.
Accomplishments 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For detailed descriptions of accomplishments, see the property specific sections of this report. <p>Generally, this assemblage of properties remains open to all types of public recreation as described in the Master Plan. The addition of allowed camping on the sand bars associated with State owned lands along the Chippewa River has been popular with canoeists, with numerous questions and requests responded to in the past year.</p>

Property: Tiffany Wildlife Area

Resource management, development and protection

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Manage and maintain aspen and native shrub species.▪ Regenerate oak (along with other mid-successional tree species) in order to maintain the species within oak-dominated or mixed cover types. Improve the oak age class distribution for long-term sustainability of the species.▪ Manage for a diversity of age class and forest structure.▪ Maintain aesthetic buffers along the river corridor.
Accomplishments 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 36 acre timber sale set up to regenerate oak.

Native Community Management Area – Five Mile Bluff Prairie/Wood

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Maintain and expand prairie and open oak woodland within the management area to provide habitat for native plant and animal species.▪ Begin to develop structural and functional attributes of old forests including biologically mature trees, large diameter trees and large snags and coarse woody debris.▪ Provide closed canopy or near closed canopy to benefit area sensitive species.▪ Develop aesthetic qualities of old forest habitat.▪ Protect scenic and aesthetic qualities of the Chippewa River.▪ Consider habitat requirements for bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need, which are found in these uplands, when conducting management prescriptions.
Accomplishments 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rx burn on 124 acre burn unit completed in spring 2015.• About 2 acres of unwanted brush/invasive tree species were removed from prairies via cut/treat herbicide application.

Native Community Management Areas – Floodplain Prairie and Savanna, and Floodplain Forests and Wetlands

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Floodplain Prairie and Savanna Management Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expand and maintain the floodplain savanna and prairie habitat for rare, special concern and common species. ▪ Maintain floodplain forest. ▪ Maintain a continuum of habitats from lowland to upland wherever possible. ▪ Maintain the river corridor as an important travel corridor for various species. ▪ Control invasive species. ▪ Provide opportunities for research, education, and ecological interpretation. ▪ Protect scenic and aesthetic qualities of the Chippewa River.
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two prescribed burns totaling 77 acres were completed in a prairie/savanna restoration unit and remnant prairie unit in 2015. • A new firebreak was constructed for a 142 acre savanna/prairie restoration to allow staff to more efficiently/safely burn this unit in the future. • About 20 acres of autumn olive and black locust were treated in a remnant sand prairie.

Native Community Management Areas – Floodplain Prairie and Savanna, and Floodplain Forests and Wetlands

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Floodplain Forest and Wetlands Management Area (passive)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain and develop structural and functional attributes of old forests including biologically mature trees, large diameter trees, large snags and coarse woody debris. ▪ Provide closed canopy or near closed canopy to benefit area sensitive species. ▪ Develop aesthetic qualities of old forest habitat. ▪ Protect scenic and aesthetic qualities of the Chippewa River.
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passive management was utilized in this area of Tiffany WA in 2015.

Native Community Management Areas – Floodplain Prairie and Savanna, and Floodplain Forests and Wetlands

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Floodplain Forest and Wetlands Management Area (active)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain at least 50 % in mature forest with closed canopy or near closed canopy in large blocks to minimize habitat fragmentation. ▪ Maintain floodplain forest to improve the age class distribution for long term sustainability of floodplain forest species. ▪ Develop old forest attributes through natural processes and active management that mimics natural disturbance. ▪ Silvicultural and other management activities must attempt to avoid the introduction and/or spread of invasives (especially reed canary grass) in the understory of this community.
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 and 90 acre timber sales were set up in this area. Harvest is designed to maintain and enhance floodplain forest tree species.

Public use management and development

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain 12 existing parking areas and 4 boat landing/parking areas on the property's periphery. ▪ Maintain a gated primitive service road from the Hwy 35 Landing to Thibodeau Road parking lot. ▪ Maintain the gated primitive service roads within the Pepin County portion of the Tiffany WA. ▪ Develop a 1.5 mile gated primitive service road entering the property near Misha Mokwa. ▪ Maintain an existing scenic overlook along County Road N near Dead Lake. ▪ Continue inland camping using the permit system.
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 12 parking areas and 4 boat landings were maintained through regular check-ups and garbage removal. • The emergency capital development trail repair project from flooding in 2014 was completed. • All primitive service roads in Pepin Co. were maintained. • Numerous camping permits were issued in 2015. • Scenic overlook was maintained through check-ups and garbage removal

Property: Dunnville Wildlife Area

Resource management, development and protection

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Maintain and enhance grasslands/savanna and increase block size to benefit grassland dependent species.▪ Convert agricultural lands to appropriate natural cover types.▪ Wild Rice management may occur in some wetlands including the planting of harvested seed.▪ Maintain floodplain forest to improve the age class distribution for long term sustainability of floodplain forest species.
Accomplishments 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Maintaining and enhancing grasslands and savannas with a focus on increasing block size continued to be the primary management activity that took place on Dunnville in 2015. Maintenance continued in areas where whole-tree chipping timber management previously took place to connect areas of similar habitat while converting the affected areas to oak savanna. Mowing and herbicide treatment to stump sprouts occurred throughout the impacted area.- Prescribed burning took place on 8 units totaling 1006 acres. These burns successfully invigorated prairie stands while also stunting brush growth. Prescribed fire will continue to be a primary management tool in managing existing prairies and savannas as well as in the conversion of the aforementioned savanna restoration areas.- Mowing took place on roughly 40 acres of savanna restoration to combat succession from stump sprouting, etc.- A great deal of spot chemical treatment was completed on the areas which had previously been involved in timber sales in an attempt to minimize regrowth of woody species. Treatment of various invasive plants, including buckthorn, garlic mustard, and crown vetch, took place at various locations throughout the property.- A 27 acre site was planted to warm season grasses and forbs to expand upon the grassland habitat matrix present at Dunnville.- Sharecropping took place on 220 acres in 2015; site conversion will take place on 65 acres in 2016, as warm season prairie grasses and forbs will be planted.- A 7 acre timber sale was completed with an objective of regenerating flood plain forest.- A 9 acre timber sale was completed with an objective of regenerating aspen.- A 30 acre timber sale was sold, with an objective of regenerating oak and white pine- Scarification took place in a 30 acre timber harvest that was completed in 2014 in an effort to regenerate oak and white pine.- 3 Forest Products Permits were issued for fire wood cutting in 2015. These permits were issued in areas where timber sales had occurred or where excessive dead/down wood was present near roadways.

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Native Community Management Area – Floodplain Terrace Prairies and Wetlands

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor for oak wilt and promote conversion to oak barrens in affected areas. ▪ Maintain and increase jack pine/barrens for native plants and animals where soil conditions and cover type deem appropriate. ▪ Phase out red pine plantations. ▪ Maintain the mosaic of prairie, seepage lakes, floodplain forest and oak savanna for habitat for rare and special concern species such to provide opportunities for research, education, and ecological interpretation. ▪ Maintain and expand prairie and open oak woodland within the management area to provide habitat for native plant and animal species. ▪ Designate and restore a prairie and barrens State Natural Area
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>- Little management occurred on this portion of Dunnville Wildlife Area in 2015.</p>

Native Community Management Area – Red Cedar River Cliffs and Forest

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop and maintain an older, closed canopy forest with emphasis on long lived tree species where those species comprise the primary cover type. ▪ Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. ▪ Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of wetland habitats and seeps. ▪ Protect the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site. ▪ Support scientific research that is compatible with the ecological and aesthetic attributes of the site. ▪ Protect the archeological features from further disturbance and degradation.
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>- A 110 acre timber sale was sold, with an objective of regenerating oak and white pine</p>

Public use management and development

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stock pheasants on sites with suitable cover to provide increased opportunity for harvest during the pheasant hunting season. ▪ Maintain 20 existing parking areas throughout the property. ▪ Maintain primitive roads to provide foot access throughout the property. ▪ Monitor the erosive actions of the Chippewa River at the end of Dunnville Road and consider closing/abandoning the parking area at the end of the road. ▪ Establish a primitive road to provide access to Nine Mile Island.
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<p>- 1200 pheasants were stocked throughout the Dunnville Wildlife Area; 860 from the State Game Farm in Poynette and 240 from the Dunn County Fish and Game Association Day-old-chick program. The pheasant stocking program continues to provide a great deal of hunting opportunity on the Dunnville Wildlife Area.</p> <p>- 20 parking areas were maintained through a variety of methods, including mowing, grading, adding fill, maintaining existing fence, and replacing dilapidated fence with boulders.</p> <p>- A primitive road system was again maintained throughout the Dunnville Wildlife Area. The primary objective for this activity is to facilitate pheasant stocking and, in some cases, help establish fire breaks. The road system is also used extensively by recreationalists to access various parts of the property.</p> <p>- The establishment of a primitive road to provide access to Nine Mile Island has been explored. New information regarding riparian ownership has shown that State lands DO cross a slough channel on the north side of the island, which will facilitate public access to the island.</p>

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Property: Big Swamp Wildlife Area

Resource management, development and protection

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restore the hydrological function and ecological integrity of a larger block.
Accomplishments 2015	

Native Community Management Area – Bear Creek Tamarack Relict

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain tamarack swamp and bog relict habitat following the general prescriptions found later in this section.
Accomplishments 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passive management was practiced in this area.

Public use management and development

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop public parking areas when suitable lands are acquired.
Accomplishments 2015	

Property: Nine Mile Island State Natural Area

Resource management, development and protection

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain the bottomland hardwoods, prairies, and oak savanna/woodland to provide habitat for rare and special concern species. ▪ Provide opportunities for research, education, and ecological interpretation. ▪ Maintain and develop structural and functional attributes of old forests including biologically mature trees, large diameter trees, large snags and coarse woody debris. ▪ Provide closed canopy or near closed canopy to benefit area sensitive species. ▪ Develop aesthetic qualities of old forest habitat. ▪ Protect scenic and aesthetic qualities of the Chippewa River.
Accomplishments 2015	<p>- A timber sale has been established on the mainland portion of the property to eliminate small woodlots that disrupt the openness of the property. Multiple efforts to sell these sites have been unsuccessful and will likely be sold directly in 2016.</p> <p>- A land trade was completed between the Department and Mike Hurlburt, transferring lands on the west end of the mainland portion of the property to Mr. Hurlburt in exchange for a 125 acre parcel on the Lower Chippewa River SNA. The Department retained a conservation easement on the property transferred to Mr. Hurlburt.</p>

Public use management and development

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish a primitive access road for SNA management purposes across Dunnville WA. ▪ Maintain 3 parking lots. ▪ Maintain a carry-in boat access site.
Accomplishments 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The opportunity to establish and access from Dunnville to Nine Mile Island was explored in 2012. At that point there was not enough clarity of riparian ownership and associated rights to move forward with the access. In light of new information on this subject, it has been verified that DNR ownership crosses the slough channel on the north end of the island, effectively securing public walking access to the island. - Maintenance has occurred on 5 parking areas, primarily through mowing and grading as well as occasional trash cleanup. - A carry-in boat located on County Hwy M has been maintained through signage and occasional trash cleanup.

Property: Caryville Savanna State Natural Area

Resource management, development and protection

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain the savanna to provide habitat for rare and special concern species and to provide opportunities for research, education, and ecological interpretation.
Accomplishments 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A prescribed burn encompassing 290 acres took place on the island in an effort to invigorate the remnant prairie and savanna present on the island and also to set back brush encroachment and invasive species including buckthorn and garlic mustard.

Property: Rock Falls Wildlife Area

Resource management, development and protection

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create and maintain a large block of grassland to support grassland SCGN species and protect associated ecological values. ▪ Protect the water quality of Rock Creek. ▪ Manage for mature oaks and white pines where each is the primary cover type. ▪ Manage water levels in the impoundments for waterfowl, marshbirds and shorebirds. ▪ Provide winter food plots for wildlife.
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For management purposes, the property is divided into east and west halves, with Rock Creek being the dividing line. - Brush mowing occurred on roughly 20 acres on the west side of this property to eliminate stumps and brushy growth in an area formerly occupied by mature red pines, as well as isolated patches of brush throughout the west side of the property. - A timber sale has been established on this property to address an area impacted by oak wilt on the property's east side, and also to increase the size of the open field on the property's west side. Attempts to bid this sale have been unsuccessful; it will be sold as a direct sale in 2016.

Public use management and development

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain 2 parking areas on the periphery of the property. ▪ Primitive trails provide foot access throughout the property. ▪ Develop new parking areas as public lands are acquired.
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two parking areas were maintained, one at each end of the property, primarily through mowing and grading.

Property: Waterville Extensive Wildlife Habitat Area

Resource management, development and protection

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Prevent woody succession in the grasslands.▪ Prevent reed canary grass encroachment.
Accomplishments 2015	- A 24 acre timber sale focusing on regeneration of bottomland species, including swamp white oak, has been completed.

Public use management and development

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Maintain 1 parking area on the periphery of the property.▪ Primitive trails provide foot access on the property.
Accomplishments 2015	- One parking area was maintained on this site, providing a public access point on this isolated property.

Property: Lower Chippewa River State Natural Area (Dunn, Eau Claire, and Pepin Counties)

Land Management – general management objectives

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Where possible, manage for larger blocks of habitat and a continuum of habitats from lowland to upland. ▪ Establish and maintain linkages between habitat blocks to create travel corridors for the movement of species over time. ▪ Maintain, restore, and enhance grasslands and oak savannas at a landscape scale with an emphasis on native communities. ▪ Maintain and enhance the quality and extent of open wetlands, with particular emphasis placed on wet and wet-mesic prairie, sedge meadow, emergent marsh. ▪ Maintain existing shrub-carr wetland in areas that do not have high potential for management as sedge meadow, wet prairie, or wet mesic prairie. ▪ Maintain the extent and quality of bottomland hardwood, swamp hardwood stands, and southern tamarack swamp. ▪ Maintain the health, vigor and diversity of central hardwood stands to provide wildlife habitat and aesthetic values. ▪ For wildlife habitat value, maintain, enhance, and expand oak stands and retain aspen stands wherever practicable and consistent with management objectives for the management. ▪ Maintain the limited native jack and white pine cover type on these properties. ▪ Gradually phase out conifer plantations over time. ▪ Convert most cropped land to native cover types. ▪ Where feasible, identify and eradicate populations of invasive species by cutting, pulling, burning, herbicide treatment and/or bio-control.
<p style="text-align: center;">Accomplishments 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Removal of encroaching eastern red cedar from the Kopp property to maintain and enhance conditions on a high-quality remnant dry prairie. ▪ Cut and herbicide treatment of black locust on the Huntsinger-Silvermine parcel to prevent further invasion. ▪ Herbicide treatment of spotted knapweed on the Huntsinger-Silvermine parcel to prevent further invasion. ▪ Ladder fuel reduction on Huntsinger Island Tract in preparation for a prescribed burn in 2016. ▪ Continued planning stages of Powell Lake restoration. Discussion with DNR water permitting staff, floodplain engineers, and wetland engineers, as well as working with Eau Claire County floodplain zoning staff. ▪ A savanna conversion timber sale was established on the LCRSNA tract near Round Hill. No bids were received on this sale and it will be advertised again in 2016. ▪ Recon and mapping of Amur Cork Tree occurred on the Birch Creek Tract. ▪ A 5 acre bluff prairie prescribed burn occurred on the Twin Bluffs tract.

Recreation Management – general use objectives

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide high quality hunting, trapping, and fishing opportunities. ▪ Provide opportunities for non-hunting related recreational activities, such as hiking, un-tracked cross country skiing, wildlife viewing, nature study, berry picking, canoeing, and canoe/camping when compatible with the property's capabilities and the primary management objective.
<p>Accomplishments 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain parking lot at Bryce East parcel to support access into the project. ▪ Removal of barbed-wire fence along Fuller Road on the Kopp property. ▪ Post signage to help users identify property boundaries. ▪ A new large sign/kiosk was installed at the Wilcox Lake tract. ▪ Cooperate with disabled users to provide drive-in access to shoreline for fishing opportunities. ▪ Removal of junk and tire piles from Kopp property.