

Master Plan for Governor Thompson State Park



**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Parks and Recreation**

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PR-690-2005



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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Year 2000 was celebrated as the 100th Anniversary of the creation of Wisconsin's State Park System. To commemorate this Centennial, the Department of Natural Resources acquired 1,987 acres of land comprising Paust's Woods Lake Resort, plus about 200 acres of adjacent land fronting on Caldron Falls Reservoir from Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPS). Together, these two properties formed the core of the new Governor Thompson State Park. Woods Lake Resort was a popular family-oriented establishment that had been operated by the Paust family for three generations. The estimated 200-acre Caldron Falls Reservoir property acquired from WPS was part of land holdings associated with hydroelectric power generation at the Caldron Falls Dam on the Peshtigo River. An existing WPS boat landing (#13) was included in this acquisition. Since the establishment of Governor Thompson State Park, three additional tracts of land have been purchased and added to the park. This brings the current park acreage to 2,415 acres.

Governor Thompson State Park (GTSP) is located in central Marinette County, west of the Village of Crivitz, Wisconsin and about 60 miles north of Green Bay. The property is partially located on the Caldron Falls Reservoir (with about 6 miles of shoreline) and is adjacent to the Peshtigo River State Forest. They share two sections of common boundary adjacent to Caldron Falls Reservoir—one area on the east and one on the west. See *Map A - Regional Location map* - for an overview.

Summary of Management, Development, and Use

The master plan sets the pattern for overall management and development of the park. It is the product of public participation, parks program input, site resource data and Basin Partner input.

Governor Thompson State Park will be developed to provide opportunities for public recreation and education in a rustic, forested setting. The park and its resources will be managed to provide a broad range of ecological, cultural, social, and economic benefits within its capabilities. The generally undeveloped and scenic character of the shorelines and forested uplands will provide the state park an atmosphere of solitude, reflection, and learning while promoting traditional state park recreational activities within the capabilities of the natural resources of the site. Both day-use activities and overnight camping will be provided.

Development includes a modern 100-site campground, rustic walk-in campsites along Caldron Falls Reservoir, an indoor group camp, and an outdoor group camp. Over 20 miles of trails will include hiking, cross-county skiing, bicycling and snowmobiling. In addition, the existing boat landing will be improved to provide better access to the reservoir, and the adjacent bays within the park will be designated as a slow-no-wake area to provide a quiet-water experience for non-motorized boaters and shoreline visitors.

Two day-use areas will be developed: one at Woods Lake and one at Huber Lake. Two small swimming areas will be provided: one at the Woods Lake Day Use Area and one on Caldron Falls Reservoir. The recreational facilities will include some modern conveniences, but the appearance of park structures and facilities will have an informal "Northwoods" style.

To provide for the long-term protection of key park resources and to allow for improved delivery of recreational opportunities, the park boundary will be expanded by about 1,720 acres of fee title land and/or easements. This will bring the proposed park boundary to 4,135 acres. Additionally, part of the Peshtigo River State Forest along the reservoir adjacent to the park will be included within the state park (see *Map B*).

The Peshtigo River State Forest shares a boundary and many management and use issues with GTSP. A master plan will be developed for the Peshtigo River State Forest after resource inventories and other data assessments are completed. The draft goals have been prepared for the state forest plan. They call for closely integrated management of both properties—especially recreational opportunities; as a result, the recreational options for park visitors will ultimately extend far beyond the park boundaries. For example, since the park does not have the space necessary to provide a high-quality horse trail network, the state forest will be the primary provider of horse riding opportunities, with some trails potentially extending into or through the park.

The park's vegetation will be managed to provide an appropriate balance among existing timber types, with some areas of pine barrens/oak barrens restored for educational purposes. Special emphasis will be placed on maximizing the health and vigor of the red oak stands growing on sandy soils to protect against pests like the gypsy moth and forest tent caterpillar. Long-lived trees, like white pine, will be encouraged as a forest component and, on good sites, managed for older, larger trees.

The planning of Governor Thompson State Park has generated much public interest, both local and statewide. Citizen participation is a strong component of state master planning as defined by administrative code NR 44. Numerous public meetings, open houses, newspaper articles, and mailings have enabled the public to participate in this planning process. Newsletters, meeting announcements, and progress reports were periodically sent to those on the over 1,300-entry mailing list as well as posted on the DNR's master planning web site. Chapter Six contains a more detailed summary and chronology of the public involvement component of the master planning effort.

In current dollars, it is estimated that development of the park will be \$4.9 million, with an additional \$3.04 million for added land acquisitions.

Park Resources

GTSP is approximately one-half uplands and one-half wetlands (See *Maps D and E*). The majority of the site is forested. The single most prevalent forest type (38%) is aspen, some of which is on lowland or wet sites and some on higher ground. The other major forest type is oak. Of the oaks, two-thirds is commonly known as scrub oak, and one third is red oak. Most of the oak occurs on sandy, dry sites. Swamp hardwoods, jack pine, swamp conifers cedar, and red pine make up the balance of the forest types. A significant amount of younger white pine exists on the site but as a minority component of other stands. A generalized vegetation map is attached to the master plan, showing the locations of the various timber stands.

Summary of EA

An Environmental Assessment has been prepared as a part of the draft master plan for Governor Thompson State Park. It addresses potential impacts of actions in the master plan, ranging from land acquisition and facility development to management and operation of the park. The Environmental Assessment concludes that the implementation of the master plan would provide positive recreational, ecological, social, and economic benefits to the region. It further concludes that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process is not required.

CHAPTER TWO

MANAGEMENT, DEVELOPMENT, AND USE

Designated property name: Governor Thompson State Park

Property designation: State Park

Statutory authority: Chapter 27, Wis. Stats.

Acreage goal: 4,135 acres

VISION

Governor Thompson State Park provides opportunities for public recreation and education in a rustic, forested setting. The park and its resources are managed for present and future generations to provide a broad range of ecological, cultural, social, and economic benefits within its capabilities. The generally undeveloped and scenic character of the shorelines and forested uplands provide the state park an atmosphere of solitude, reflection, and learning while promoting the continued tradition of a statewide system of parks and open spaces. The park provides the best possible service to park visitors and its partners.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

1. Provide and maintain a variety of high-quality native communities and habitats within the ecological capabilities of the site for public enjoyment, education, and ecological benefits.
2. Identify and protect rare, threatened, and endangered species and areas of geological, archaeological, and cultural significance.
3. Manage shoreline zones for a natural appearance and the protection and enhancement of aquatic resources.
4. Provide a variety of seasonal and year-round camping opportunities in partnership with nearby public and private campgrounds.

5. Provide a range of seasonal and year-round non-motorized recreational opportunities that preserve the atmosphere of solitude, reflection, and learning, in facilities ranging from primitive to comfortable, rustic-styled modern.
6. Establish compatible, mutually supportive programs and infrastructure with the Peshtigo River State Forest and other partners for resource protection, education, and recreation management.
7. Provide recreational access to Caldron Falls Reservoir, Woods Lake, and Huber Lake.
8. Prevent or minimize conflict among different types of recreational uses and among various types of park uses and park management activities.
9. Acquire additional land for reasons of resource protection, critical development needs, access, boundary protection, boundary continuity, or protection from non-compatible uses.
10. Limit overall park development to no more than 15% of the total area.
11. Manage the deer herd on the property when necessary by controlled hunting methods.

LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATIONS

The park is divided into designated management zones according to the primary management or use focus for the area. The management zones are shown on *Maps B and C*. Each zone is assigned a land management classification according to Chapter NR 44.06 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. Each zone’s classification is shown below in Table 2-1. The specific management and development for each zone are detailed in the following pages.

TABLE 2-1: NR 44 Land Management Classifications for Each Management Zone

Park Management Zone	Land Management Class	Recreational Use Setting Class
Camping Zone	Recreation Management Area	Type IV
Woods Lake Day Use Zone		
Huber Lake Day Use Zone	Recreation Management Area	Type III
Active Recreation Area Zone		
Caldron Falls Reservoir Shoreland Zone	Scenic Resources Management Area	Type III
Huber Lake/Woods Lake Scenic Zone		
Visitor Services Zone	Special Management Area - Service and Administration	NA
Operations Services Zone	Special Management Area - Service and Administration	NA
Native Community Management Zone	Native Community Management Area	NA

RECREATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND MANAGEMENT

Governor Thompson State Park will be developed to provide a wide variety of opportunities for public recreation and education in a rustic, forested setting. The recreational opportunities planned for the park include camping (primitive to modern), day-use activities like picnicking and fishing (easily accessible to remote), a variety of trails—including a network of paved bike paths—and a well-developed nature interpretation / education program. The recreation plan offers access to two small, non-motorized lakes in the park as well as access to the Caldron Falls Reservoir. While many recreational facilities will include some modern conveniences, park facilities will have an informal "Northwoods" style.

The majority of the park, at least 85 percent, will be maintained in a relatively natural, undeveloped condition, with only trails and other "dispersed," lower density types of recreational uses there. Campgrounds, picnic areas, playgrounds, and other intensive use areas are clustered into specific locations. The approximate future location of all recreational facilities is shown on *Map B*.

The recreational opportunities to be provided and facility developments are discussed below for each management zone.

Camping Zone

The camping zone is a primary intensive use and development area offering a variety of camping and associated facilities. Recreation Management – Type IV Setting is the zone's land management classification.

Zone Objectives

1. Provide up to 110 individual camping sites for both rustic and modern styles of family camping, and separate rustic-style indoor and outdoor camping experiences for organized camping groups.
2. Provide an active play area for children in a natural-appearing, safe setting in proximity to the family campground.
3. Provide a venue for interpretive programs along with regional entertainment acts for campers and other park visitors.

The primary facilities to be constructed within the camping zone are a modern family campground, a rustic outdoor group camp, a camp area for touring bicyclists and long-distance hikers, an indoor group camp, a playground, and an amphitheater. They are detailed below. The main emphasis is on providing a safe, harmonious camping environment that ranges from year-round rustic facilities to modern facilities. See *Map B* for locations of the campgrounds/campsites.

Oak View Modern Family Campground

A 100-unit modern campground will be built near the northern edge of the property. The NR 44 Development Class of this campground is Type IV-Modern.

The following developments are planned for this site:

- One flush toilet/shower building;
- Six vault toilets;
- RV dump station;
- Fish-cleaning station near the RV dump station;
- Thirty electrical sites would be grouped in a separate loop from non-electrified sites;
- Pressurized drinking water;
- Hand water pumps;
- ADA cabin for handicapped use, 1,000 GSF in size that has all doors, slopes, and furnishings designed to comply with ADA standards. Running water, electricity, heat and air conditioning are standard features.
- One open area that would provide camping opportunities for long-distance hikers and touring bicyclists.

Playground Area

One adventure playground 60' x 60' will be built next to the Oak View modern campground.

The following facilities are planned for this site:

- A 60' x 60' cleared area;
- Artificial, but natural-appearing, rock structures up to 7 feet tall with features for children to crawl and slide around on;
- Sandbox;
- Drinking water.

A portion of the play equipment and their base materials will accommodate children with disabilities in accordance with ADA requirements.

Outdoor Theater/Amphitheater

An outdoor theater/amphitheater will be built near the Oak View modern campground.

The following facilities are planned for this site:

- Wooden stages of various sizes connected to form a total platform size of 20' x 40';
- Seating for up to 75 people;
- Vault toilets 2'x2' design, one set;
- Lighting for night program entertainment;
- Parking lot - 30 spaces.

Northern Lights Outdoor Group Campground

An outdoor group camp area will be built where several separate organized camping groups can be accommodated. It will consist of up to 5 sites (Up to 150-person total capacity) and will be created to the south of the main road near the family modern campground. NR 44 Development Class for the group campground is Type IV - Modern.

The following facilities are planned:

- Drinking water;
- Three sets of combined (2M+2W) vault toilets;
- Two electrical sites with one outlet at each site;
- Fire rings;
- Picnic tables;
- One open-sided picnic shelter.

North Woods Lake Indoor Group Campground

Two indoor group camp buildings will be placed on the northwest edge of Woods Lake to provide indoor group camping. No electricity will be provided at either building.

The following facilities are planned:

- One building with a capacity of 12 persons;
- One building with a capacity of 16 persons;
- Drinking water;
- Vault toilets;
- Heat from a code-compliant heating device;
- A gravel parking area - 14 spaces;
- Lightly developed gravel access road;
- Fire rings;
- 12' x 20' open shelter with fireplace for cooking/group functions.

Woods Lake Day Use Zone

The Woods Lake Day Use Zone extends along the western shoreline of Woods Lake as shown in *Map B*. This area is classified as Recreation Management Area – Type IV Setting.

Zone Objectives

1. Within the Woods Lake Day Use Area, provide picnicking, general relaxation, non-motorized water access for fishing, sightseeing and nature study and similar day-use recreational opportunities for all park visitors.
2. Maintain and enhance a generally natural-appearing shoreline, particularly the horizon line view of the day use area as seen from the lake.
3. Manage the fishery of Woods Lake for largemouth bass, northern pike, and panfish. Monitor fish populations to determine if any regulations are warranted.

This will be a rustic day use area having a design capacity of 200 persons. The area will be ADA accessible. A natural-appearing shoreline will be promoted within the area through the design of the facilities and use of native vegetation for screening and visual enhancement. Most development will be sited 75 feet or more away from the shoreline of Woods Lake. A small low-key swimming beach will be reestablished in an area formerly used for this purpose. No motors of any type will be allowed on Woods Lake.

The following facilities are planned at this site:

- Access road – 1/8 mile;
- Parking – 75 spaces, with expansion for up to 75 additional spaces;
- Shelter with electricity – 24' x 54' low pitch laminated;
- Vault toilets 2' x 2' design, one set;
- Drinking water supply – accessible drinking fountains (3);
- Swimming Beach – 150';
- Non-motorized watercraft drop-in site;
- Interpretive kiosk / displays;
- Accessible fishing pier – 6' x 75'.

Huber Lake Day Use Zone

Zone Objectives

1. Provide opportunities for quiet, low-impact day-use recreational activities and solitude in a somewhat remote location with simple facilities.
2. Manage Huber Lake to provide a sustainable fishery. Investigate and monitor fish populations to determine if any special regulations are warranted.

Development within this area will be minimal to preserve the natural characteristics of Huber Lake. Access to the area and lake will be by foot or bicycle via a 1/2-mile path from a small trailhead parking lot. No motors of any type will be allowed on Huber Lake from the park. This zone is designated as a Recreation Management Area – Type III Setting.

The following facilities are planned for this site:

- Remote parking at the trailhead- 30 spaces;
- Lightly to moderately developed internal paths and walks - 3/4 mile;
- Picnic sites – 3 individual, dispersed sites with picnic tables;
- Interpretive displays;
- Vault toilets 2' x 2' design, one set;
- Accessible fishing facility (not necessarily a pier);
- Non-motorized watercraft drop-in site;
- Open shelter - 12' x 20'.

Caldron Falls Reservoir Shoreland Zone

The Caldron Falls Reservoir Shoreland Zone extends 200 feet inland, parallel to the shoreline of Caldron Falls as shown on *Map B*. The land management classification is Scenic Management Area – Type III Setting.

Zone Objectives

1. Provide access to Caldron Falls Reservoir for motorized and non-motorized boating, shore fishing, and viewing of the reservoir.
2. Provide a primitive, remote camping experience to enjoy the scenic vistas and undeveloped shorelines of Caldron Falls Reservoir.
3. Provide for a quiet water experience for boaters and visitors on or near the reservoir's bays within the park, and protect the park shoreline from erosion from boat wakes.

Reservoir Access

Improvements will be made to the existing gravel pad boat launch on Caldron Falls. The following facilities are planned for this site:

- Two 12' x 30' concrete boat launch lanes;
- Parking for up to 50 cars and trailers;
- 8' x 20' long wooden floating pier;
- 5' x 12' long wooden pier for accessible shore fishing and canoe/kayak launching;
- Vault toilets 2' x 2' design, one set;

A fish-cleaning station, while related to the boat landing, will be located adjacent to the travel trailer sanitary station to take advantage of available electricity, water supply, and wastewater disposal facilities necessary to support a fish-cleaning station.

Reservoir Swimming Area

A small swimming area with up to 200 feet of sandy beach will be established on Caldron Falls Reservoir. The location likely will be to the west of the boat landing at a distance of approximately ¼ mile. A slight variation in location may occur to achieve optimum conditions. This site will allow the additional access to the Reservoir beyond the boat access site.

- Clearing and site preparation – 2 acres maximum;
- Access road, about ¼ mile, lightly to moderately developed;
- Parking for 20 cars, plus future expansion for 20 more;
- Sand blanket;
- Swimming area markers and signage.

Vista Points

Two scenic vista sites are planned upon the shoreline of Caldron Falls Reservoir. These vistas will offer expansive views of the reservoir.

The following facilities are planned for each site:

- Wooden bench;
- Trail signage;
- Interpretive display.

Remote Camping

Three walk-in, primitive, well-dispersed campsites will be developed proximal to the water's edge on Caldrons Falls Reservoir. No drinking water or electricity will be available at these sites. Campsites will be accessed only on foot on a primitive-to-lightly-developed trail.

The following developments will be provided for each campsite:

- Tent pad;
- Box toilet;
- Fire ring;
- Picnic table;
- Animal-proof food box.

It is also recommended that the Peshtigo River State Forest master plan consider placing more walk-in camping sites along Caldron Falls Reservoir that would connect to the park via a network of trails.

No-Wake Area

A slow-no-wake area is planned in the park bays of Caldron Falls Reservoir (see *Map B*). This will enhance “quiet water” non-motor boating in the near-park bays and reduce shoreline erosion. The no-wake area will be entirely within the Governor Thompson State Park, with NR 45 authority to manage recreational boating within the designated area.

Active Recreation Zone

The Active Recreation Zone encompasses the majority of the park. It is primarily an area for dispersed recreation—activities such as hiking, biking, or bird watching—and does not have high-intensity facility development and use, like the camping zone. This zone is classified as Recreation Management Area – Type III Setting.

Zone Objectives

1. Provide for a variety of trail uses within the park, including biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, and nature interpretation/education, and provide for a connector snowmobile route for the Ranch Road trail.
2. Provide a rustic-style indoor camping experience for organized camping groups.

3. Provide an opportunity to experience a vista or other scenic features such as the Caldron Falls Reservoir from an elevated vantage point.

Trails

While trails pass through most management zones within the park, they are the primary recreational feature of the Active Recreation Area Zone. The planned trail network is shown on *Map B*.

Bike Trail

Objective: Provide opportunities for family biking on a non-road travel route that connects most developed facilities within the park.

Approximately 5 miles of fully developed bike trail will be created to act as a backbone to connect most facilities within the park. This bike trail will have a paved or crushed limestone surface and a minimum tread width of 8 feet. It will be separated from roads where possible. This bike trail will also provide entrance/exit points to Boat Landing 13 Road, Caldron Falls Road, and Ranch Road.

Nature Trail

Objective: Provide opportunities for nature interpretation/education programs with an ADA accessible trail.

Approximately a 1/2 mile of fully developed nature trail from the nature center will be created. This trail will go near Woods Lake in a looped fashion with interpretive displays and signage. This trail would be ADA accessible.

Hiking and Cross-Country Ski Trails

Objective: Provide opportunities for hiking and groomed cross-country ski recreation within a looped trail system.

Approximately 10.75 miles of hiking and cross-country ski trails will be created. These will be lightly developed trails. Winter use will consist of groomed cross-country ski trails on 8 miles of trail. Where feasible, connections will be made to the state forest that may increase the mileage of these trails. Two main trailheads will be established. The first will be at the Woods Lake parking area in which trail signs, maps, and parking will be available. The second will be within the park at the terminus of the main road. This trailhead will have parking for up to 50 vehicles, drinking water, and vault-type toilets. A kiosk will be placed near the trailhead junction that will provide trails information.

Pass-Through Snowmobile Trail

Objective: Provide non-road passage for snowmobiles within the park boundaries.

A one-way pass-through snowmobile route will be established along the south boundary of the park. This trail will be a connector from Parkway Road to Caldron Falls Road. This connector trail will be approximately 2.75 miles long. As lands are acquired along the south boundary of the park, this trail may move to the new southern boundary, if feasible. The trail will be developed and maintained as a lightly developed trail.

The specific alignment of such a trail will be determined on site by DNR staff and must be located to prevent conflicts with other winter uses. When a pass-through route is designated, a land use agreement will be negotiated between the DNR and the organization responsible for the trail. Upon relocation of the trail from Ranch Road, it is expected that use of the Ranch Road right-of-way as a snowmobile route will cease.

(Definition: A *pass-through snowmobile trail* provides passage through a property via a route that creates the least amount of disruption, environmental impact, and user conflict.)

No ATVs will be allowed upon this trail, and the remainder of the property will be closed to motorized trail uses.

Equestrian Use

Because of the extremely sandy soils and extensive network of wetlands covering almost half of the acreage (see *Map E*) in the park, the amount of sustainable horse trail that could be developed is severely limited. Depending upon the outcome of the state forest plan, there could be up to 4 miles of lightly developed trail and a horse campground (Type IV Rustic development level) within GTSP.

However, there is also a need to look at a regional equestrian trail network to see how the Peshtigo River State Forest, the park, and other properties can provide an integrated equestrian trail network. During master planning for the Peshtigo River State Forest, the department will examine the state park plan for possible connections to the larger equestrian trail network. Attempts will be made to integrate an equestrian connector trail in Governor Thompson State Park with the Peshtigo River State Forest equestrian trail system. This connector trail would not necessarily be a pass-through trail for the state park but could be a trailhead where, potentially, facilities could be developed for equestrian use. Alternatively, it could be a pass-through trail depending on the configuration of the state forest trail. Shared use of part of the snowmobile pass-through trail in the park will also be investigated as a partial solution.

A camping facility for horses and riders may also be a part of this system. It could be located either in Governor Thompson State Park or in the Peshtigo River State Forest. The exact location for these equestrian facilities would be determined at the same time as those in the Peshtigo River State Forest.

The desired objective is to provide the public with the best possible facility for horse-riding and camping. However, horse-riding opportunities are now, and will be, available immediately in the Peshtigo River State Forest.

Scenic Overlook Tower

One scenic overlook tower will be built on higher ground where a significant view will be possible. The following facilities are planned for this site:

- Wooden observation tower up to 80' tall;
- A short walking path from the trailhead parking lot;
- Interpretive displays/signs on top of the tower.

Interpretation and Education Program

Within the Park System, interpretation is the process of helping each park visitor find an opportunity to connect personally with a place. Each individual may connect to the place in a different way. The goal of all interpretive services is to increase each visitor's enjoyment and understanding of the parks, and to allow visitors to care about the parks on their own terms. Because state parks belong to all of us, the Park System has a responsibility to protect this park for future generations. Understanding the park's importance to our natural and cultural world is the first step toward this preservation.

The following facilities/displays will be developed:

- Nature trail (in Active Recreation Zone);
- Observation tower (in Active Recreation Zone);
- Display kiosks and signage at selected day use areas;
- Interpretive/education facility (described in the Visitor Service Zone section);
- Integration of the existing fire tower into the interpretive display that will allow a visitor to interact with the fire lookout "cab" in an accessible fashion.

All of these developments will be outlined further in a park interpretative plan that will be developed as part of the park operations. Recommended interpretive themes should include the social and ecological significance of the historical fires, the unique geological, topographic, and ecological features in and near the park, and the history and importance of the Peshtigo River dams to the park and region.

OTHER PARK FACILITIES

Visitor Service Zone

Zone Objectives

1. Provide park and forest administrative headquarters services, public contact point, and information facility.
2. Provide facilities to support the park interpretive program and serve park visitors participating in interpretive program activities.

The primary development within this zone will be a building housing the Park Entrance Visitor Station (PEVS) with administrative offices, and a public interpretation/education center. This zone is designated as a Special Management – Service and Administration Area. See *Map B* for locations of the planned facilities. Each is detailed below:

PEVS (Park Entrance Visitor Station)

A PEVS will be integrated with the Peshtigo River State Forest Headquarters to provide a unified office space with the Governor Thompson State Park staff. The following facilities are planned for the PEVS portion of this site:

- Up to 3,500-SF office/administrative space combining both state park and state forest staff;
- Visitor contact counters, displays, and exhibits;
- Drive-up window;
- Two modern public unisex restrooms;
- Paved parking - 12 40' pull-through spaces;
- Interpretive Center – 1,200 SF, office, workshop, classroom.

Interpretation Center

An interpretive/education facility will be incorporated into or attached to the PEVS building for easy visitor access and use. This facility will consist of 1,200 SF of building space that will contain an interpreter's office, small workshop, and a room for presentations.

Operations Services Zone

Zone Objectives

Provide facilities for maintenance and repair of equipment and storage of materials and equipment and office space for park and forest support staff.

The combined Park and Forest Shop/Storage Building will serve the maintenance and operation needs of both Governor Thompson State Park and Peshtigo River State Forest. This facility will not be open to the general public. The zone is classified as a Special Management – Service and Administration Area. This area will be closed to general public use.

The following facilities are planned for this site:

- 4,000 SF of indoor storage space;
- Office space;
- Break room;
- One set of modern restrooms.

SUMMARY OF RECREATION DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

Listed below in Tables 2-2, 2-3 and 2-4 are summaries of the major developments planned within the park. Overall, it is estimated that approximately 11% of the park will be developed for recreational uses.

TABLE 2-2: Summary of Planned Camping Facilities

Camping Facility	Non-electric	Electric	NR 44 Classification
North Woods Lake Indoor Group Campground – Two Buildings	2	0	Type III
Northern Lights Outdoor Group Campground	3	2	Type IV - Modern
Oak View Modern Family Campground	70	30	Type IV - Modern
Caldron Falls Reservoir Walk-in Campsites	3	0	Type III - Rustic
Total: 110 Sites	78 (72%)	32 (28%)	

TABLE 2-3: Summary of Planned Trail Mileages and Development Levels

Type	Miles	NR 44 Classification
Snowmobile	2.75	Lightly Developed
Nature	0.5	Fully Developed
Bike	5.0	Fully Developed
Hike/Ski	10.75	
Total	19.0	

TABLE 2-4: Summary of Other Recreational Development

Other Development
Woods Lake Day Use Area
Huber Lake Day Use Area
Caldron Falls Reservoir Vistas
Caldron Falls Reservoir Water/Boat Access
Outdoor Theater/Amphitheater
Scenic Overlook Tower
Park Entrance Visitor Station
Roads
Interpretation Center

VEGETATIVE MANAGEMENT

The vegetation on all land within the boundary of Governor Thompson State Park will be managed using prescriptions and techniques intended to produce specific results or conditions in fulfillment of the master plan Vision Statement and Goals. The main goal related to vegetative management is to “...provide and maintain a variety of high-quality native communities within the ecological capabilities of the site...” The key phrase “...within the ecological capabilities of the site...” is critical to understanding this proposed management strategy. The number and diversity of communities or forest types will be limited to those that have a likelihood of occurring naturally on this site, given the existing conditions. All areas of the park will be managed—some actively and some passively—with a general trend toward a more mature forest.

Several areas of forest within the park will be managed with specific objectives that will require active management. Other areas will be managed passively, using the process of natural succession to influence the structure and composition of vegetative communities. Special vegetation management, including site clearing and replanting, will be required in and around public use areas and facilities.

Visitor Services Zone

Zone Objective

Provide an attractive public use setting using native trees and selective ornamental plantings.

Plant materials native to the region and to local site conditions will be emphasized. However, plantings close to buildings or structures will be allowed more flexibility in their origins, and specialized nursery varieties of plant material may be used for specific effects.

Mature aspen exists within this zone, and some harvesting will take place with the construction of the new entrance ways. These harvesting zones will be defined once detailed site plans have been developed for this zone.

Operations Services Zone

The vegetation within the operations services zone will be managed as a utilitarian landscape with native trees and minimal ornamental plantings. Native and specialized nursery varieties of plants may be used.

Camping Zone and Woods Lake Day Use Zone

Zone Objective

Provide an attractive, safe, and generally natural-appearing vegetative environment for developed camping and day use activities.

Vegetative management in the Camping and Woods Lake day use zones will emphasize safety and the continuous monitoring and removal of hazardous trees. In general, the existing tree canopy in the immediate campground and day use area sites will remain as the dominant canopy type. No attempts will be made to establish or change the forest type in or around these facilities merely for the purpose of having different trees to look at. However, the density and composition of vegetation in a designated camp area may be changed for specific purposes, such as gaining better screening between campsites or increasing the presence of longer-lived tree species. Harvesting, planting, herbicide application, and fire are techniques that may be used. The area will be monitored for hazard trees, and such trees will be removed. All tree removal will be done in ways that minimize the visual and audible impacts to users of these areas.

An exception to the above is the area along the main park roadway. It is shown on *Map C*, the Mixed Forest Enhancement Area. The management of this area is described below in the Active Recreation Zone in the section titled Park Road/Huber Lake Trail Corridor Enhancement.

Active Recreation Zone

Zone Objective

Maintain the majority of the forest within this management zone in a natural-appearing condition, and in the long-term, establish a wide range of age classes and mature forest conditions.

Except for within the Aspen Maintenance Area and the Park Road/Huber Lake Trail Corridor Enhancement Area described below, natural process, including the natural succession of forest types to a climax forest, will be allowed to predominate within this area. Black oak, northern pin oak, and red oak dominate the dry to dry-mesic uplands in the park. The pre-settlement vegetation included oak savanna and pine-oak barrens communities that were maintained by frequent fire. In the absence of fire, these stands will naturally succeed to a mixture of oak, white pine, and red maple. Passive management will predominate here; active forest management, such as tree removal and brushing, will occur to establish and maintain roads, trails, and other facilities and, when appropriate, in response to major catastrophic disturbances. The decisions on how to respond after catastrophic events will be governed by the general policy for the park found in the Operations Policies section of this plan.

Aspen Maintenance Area

Within this area, the aspen timber type will be maintained in several age classes for forest habitat diversity. The size of the proposed aspen maintenance area will be about 50 acres. Its approximate shape and location are shown on *Map C*; however, the exact shape and location of the management area will be determined in the field. Small patch cutting (via clear-cutting multiple patches of 5 acres or fewer) will be done at intervals to regenerate and maintain aspen in several different age classes.

Maintaining an aspen component in the park will require periodic regeneration harvests at 55-year intervals to establish well-stocked new stands via coppice regeneration. If stands are allowed to grow past maturity, they will slowly convert to red maple, white pine, black cherry, and oak on these dry sites as the aspen falls out of the overstory due to old age.

Park Road/Huber Lake Trail Corridor Enhancement Area

To meet shorter-term visual quality objectives, several areas along the main park road and the Huber Lake trail corridor will have more active management. The primary forest stands along this corridor are oak and aspen, and the soils in these areas tend to be dry and nutrient poor.

Each of these special forest management areas is shown on *Map C*. Management for these sites is described below.

Oak Management: For aesthetic reasons, red oak in two high-visibility areas flanking the main park roadway and Huber Lake trail will receive special management attention to encourage and maintain the health and vigor of these oak stands. Selective intermediate thinning of the oak will be done at about 15-to-20 year intervals to encourage and maintain tree health and vigor. Gradually, over the long-term, these stands will be allowed to convert naturally to red maple or white pine, depending on site characteristics and understory tree species present. Harvesting activities will be done in ways and at times that minimize the visual and audible impacts to park visitors

The size of the two oak management areas will total about 61 acres. Their approximate shapes and locations are shown on *Map C*; however, the exact shapes and locations of the oak management zones will be determined in the field.

Mixed Forest Enhancement: The two aspen-dominated sites along the corridor will be managed to gradually convert the aspen to more diverse, mixed forest stand having a strong component of longer-lived tree species, such as white pine, red oak, or red maple. Measures to achieve this goal may include intermediate thinning by selective harvesting, as well as supplemental plantings. Supplemental planting may be employed to encourage faster or more thorough succession. Harvesting activities will be done in ways and at times that minimize the visual and audible impacts to park visitors.

The size of these two management areas will be about 120 acres. Their approximate shapes and locations are shown on *Map C*; however, the exact shapes and locations will be determined in the field.

Caldron Falls Reservoir Shoreland Zone and Huber Lake/Woods Lake Scenic Zone

Zone Objective

Maintain the forests within the Caldron Falls Reservoir Shoreland Zone and Huber Lake/Woods Lake Scenic Zone in a natural-appearing condition, and, in the long-term, establish a wide range of age classes and areas with older forest habitat conditions, including den trees and dead and down coarse woody debris.

Natural process, including the natural succession of forest types to a climax forest, will be allowed to predominate within this area. Passive management will predominate here; active forest management, such as tree removal and brushing, will occur to develop and maintain roads, trails, swimming areas, and other public use facilities or to remove hazard trees near them and, where appropriate, in response to major catastrophic disturbances. The decisions on how to respond after catastrophic events will be governed by the general policy for the park found in the *Operations Policies* section of this plan. Invasive exotic plants may be removed, and appropriate native trees or shrubs may be planted for landscaping and ecosystem enhancement purposes.

Native Community Management Zones

There are two opportunities to manage for unique native communities within the park. These areas are shown on *Map C*. One is the fire-maintained pine-barrens community, which is now rare but historically was abundant in this area of the state. The other native community type is wild rice, which is uncommon in the area.

Barrens Management Area

Objective: Restore and maintain two sites as pine barrens communities, one of 20 acres and the other of 16 acres, to provide biological diversity to the park landscape and to provide educational opportunities for park visitors.

Prescribed burning is the primary means of establishing and perpetuating the barrens type. Selective cutting, herbicide application, and planting will also be permitted management activities. Initially, the 16-acre barrens site will be burned repeatedly— about every two-to-four years—to fully establish the desired mix of species. After the barrens is established, only a “maintenance” burn every seven-to-ten years will be done. The 20-acre site east of Woods Lake is already fairly typical barrens. One prescribed burn is planned now to rejuvenate the barrens. Then, fire will be used at intervals of seven-to-ten years for maintenance. Field inspection will determine the actual fire frequency in both barrens sites.

Wild Rice Management Area

Objective: Protect and maintain wild rice beds (*Zizania palustris*) on the eastern shore area of Woods Lake.

The location of the wild rice bed is shown on *Map C*. This area will be protected from physical disturbance or damage, and environmental conditions that favor wild rice growth are to be preserved. Interpretive and restrictive signs may be posted in the area. Rice harvesting will not be allowed, except as part of an interpretive program.

General Vegetation Management Policies

Forest Pest and Disease Control

The gypsy moth, forest tent caterpillar, and other forest infestations are a serious threat to forest resources in Marinette County and throughout Wisconsin. Continuous monitoring and appropriate treatment measures will take place as needed and feasible to protect the forest resources of the park. Oak wilt, two-lined chestnut borer, and gypsy moth are common stresses on these dry sites. The optimum strategy for controlling the spread of these outbreaks is to keep the forest growing in a thrifty condition through periodic improvement thinnings, sanitation harvests, and trenching and herbicide applications.

Non-native Plants

Vast expanses of bluegrass turf will be avoided. Open space grasslands, construction-disturbed sites, and road construction margins will be planted with prairie grass species or other native site-appropriate grasses and forbs. Grass mowing, if done at all, will be confined to road margins and immediate areas around facilities. An exception to this is mowing in designated use areas where a shorter turf grass is more appropriate.

Trees and shrubs may be planted for specific reasons in the park. This will be primarily for ornamental or practical reasons. Planting may be done to provide screening of an unwanted view or for increasing user privacy. Plantings may be done to provide a windbreak or for shade. This will happen primarily in designated use areas and adjacent to public facilities. Use of native plant materials endemic to the region of northeastern Wisconsin is planned. Example: black walnut and sycamore will not be planted in the park, even though specimens can be found in northeast Wisconsin. Open fields will be kept in an open condition unless specifically described otherwise in the master plan.

Pine Plantations

Three red pine plantations exist within the park, covering about 24 acres. They are embedded within several different management zones. The pine plantations will be managed as outlined below.

Short-term objective: Manage for large-diameter pines and a more natural stand appearance. Encourage or introduce other tree species as a component of the stand.

Long-term objective: Over a 50+ year period, this stand will naturally convert to more shade-tolerant species such as red maple, white pine, oak, and ash, with each successive harvest that allows more light to reach the forest floor.

Due to the nutrient-poor, xeric nature of the soils, supplemental planting may also be used to enhance conversion to other species. Improvement thinnings will be made in these plantations every seven-to-ten years, removing small-diameter and high-risk trees and promoting the development of large-diameter trees.

PARK BOUNDARY EXPANSION

Governor Thompson State Park has a current approved acreage of about 2,415 acres. The park boundary will be expanded by about 1,720 acres. This will bring the park acreage goal to about 4,135 acres. Included within this expansion are about 200 acres within the Peshtigo River State Forest boundary. The 200 acres lie to the northwest of the current park boundary on the Caldron Falls shoreline. This expansion will also increase the shoreline mileage from 3.5 to 6 miles

The expanded park boundary is shown on *Map B*. If these additional lands are acquired, they will provide permanent protection to important park resources, buffer from incompatible uses, provide access control or clearer boundary lines, and provide space for future recreational facility development. All land will be acquired only from willing sellers at fair market value.

There are six areas of planned acquisition shown on the master plan map. Each is described below according to its location and main features for easy reference. Each area has a specific purpose for its inclusion in the state park boundary. These additions total 1,720 acres.

1. Huber Lake Addition
Size: About 280 acres
Purpose: Acquire balance of shoreline frontage on Huber Lake. Also buffer Huber Lake from encroachment by development or other non-compatible use.
2. Handsaw Creek Addition
Size: About 840 acres
Purpose: Protect headwater and watershed areas of Handsaw Creek, a Class I Trout Stream. All land in this addition drains into Handsaw Creek. Also provide expanded trail development opportunities.
3. Woods Lake Outlet Addition (Includes lots on Parkway Rd.)
Size: About 246 acres

Purpose: Acquire frontage on Woods Lake and protect the outlet stream of Woods Lake. Protect areas of native wild rice beds on Woods Lake. Provide additional upland for potential future trail development linked with Peshtigo River State Forest.

4. The “L” Addition

Size: About 120 acres

Purpose: Acquire frontage on Woods Lake. Acquire wetland and bogs areas associated with Woods Lake. Protect areas of native wild rice beds on Woods Lake. Provide additional upland for potential future trail development linked with Peshtigo River State Forest.

5. Fabian Lane Addition

Size: 33.7 acres

Purpose: Protect a wetland feeder to Spring Creek, a stream that flows into Woods Lake. Acquisition will also prevent development along the borders of the wetland on the south side of Fabian Lane. Acquisition will also provide buffering for the modern campground planned for a nearby site.

6. Boundary Adjustment between the Park and State Forest

Approximately 200 acres of land designated as Peshtigo River State Forest lying to the northwest of the current park boundary on the Caldron Falls shoreline are to be included within the park. This area is shown on *Map B*. This land redesignation will provide sites for the development of walk-in camp areas and vistas as described in the Recreation Management section. This will also simplify the park boundary and eliminate potential public uncertainty about hunting regulations.

Land Acquisition Policies

All property purchases are on a willing seller basis. The Department is required by state law and federal laws to pay “just compensation,” which is the estimated market value based on an appraisal by a certified licensed appraiser. At times, it is in the interest of the Department and the landowner for the Department to acquire partial rights to a property: an easement. The Department has a number of easement alternatives available to address these situations.

Landowners within the state park boundary will be contacted periodically by Department staff to explain the Department’s land acquisition program and to see if they have an interest in selling their property.

Aid in Lieu of Taxes

For all new properties purchased, the Department makes an annual payment in lieu of real estate taxes to replace property taxes that would have been paid if the property had

remained in private ownership. The payment is made to the local taxing authority where the property is located. More detailed information on how the Department pays property taxes may be found in a publication titled *Public Land Property Taxes*, PUB-LF-001.

Operations and Administration

Existing Facilities

All existing facilities used for operations and administration are located in the Operations and Visitor Services Zone.

Existing Other Non-Public Buildings

When these buildings are no longer needed for Department use, they will be removed by public sale or by contractor, and the site will be reclaimed. Reclamation will include the following:

If present, the septic tank and absorption field and all related materials and equipment will be removed. All concrete and demolition debris will be removed and the excavation backfilled with appropriate material. The ground will be graded to a natural-appearing contour and topsoil and seed applied. The park manager will establish a timetable for these activities.

Temporary Residential Rental Building (The Duplex – Nighthawk and Whippoorwill) DNR # 6717: This building is temporarily being used as an employee-housing rental. Upon completion of the Woods Lake Day Use Area, it will be removed.

Residential Rental Building (Forest View) DNR # 6718: This building is presently unused. Upon completion of the Woods Lake Day Use Area, it will be removed.

Residential Rental Building (Ma's House) DNR # 6705: This building is presently being utilized as an employee-housing rental, to provide on-site presence of a park manager. The building has been used for this purpose since the park was established. The use of this structure for employee housing will be continued with rental and responsibility agreements until the major park development is completed and the Woods Lake Day Use Area is completed. Then it will be removed.

Temporary Park Office – DNR # 6694J: This building—the former dining hall and Woods Lake Resort office—is presently being utilized as a temporary Governor Thompson State Park manager's office. It also serves as the temporary headquarters for the Peshtigo River State Forest management staff. The use of this building will continue until the permanent Park Entrance Visitor Station is constructed. Then it will be removed.

Temporary Workshop DNR # 6706: This 24' x 40' steel building has been repaired and made usable as a temporary workshop for minor carpentry projects and brush painting. It

will continue to be utilized for this purpose until the permanent Shop/Storage building is constructed. Then it will be removed.

Temporary Vehicle Storage Building DNR # 6708: This wooden frame construction building is currently utilized as a storage garage for park and forest vehicles and other state-owned equipment. It will continue to be utilized for this purpose until the permanent Shop/Storage Building is constructed. Then it will be removed.

Miscellaneous Small Buildings DNR # 6719 – Open Storage Shed, DNR # 6723 – Woodshed, DNR # 6724 – Garden Shed, DNR # 6851 – Garden Shed: These buildings will be retained and used for park purposes, primarily storage of materials or small equipment. Some are small enough to be moved to different locations on the property, if necessary.

Road Development and Management

The main public entrance road and main internal park roads will be permanent two-way, all-season roads designated as NR 44 moderately developed. Design speeds will be 25 mph or less on these three miles of road.

Other use area roads and access drives will be permanent seasonal or permanent year-round single- and occasionally two-lane roads. Examples are internal campground roads and access drives from the main park road. These roads are classified as NR 44 lightly developed with design speeds of 15 mph or less on about 3.25 miles of these road types.

See *Map B* for locations of the proposed roads.

Entrance Road: Governor Thompson State Park will have a single entrance from the south off of Ranch Road. The new entrance road alignment will be changed from an existing road (Paust Lane) to avoid paralleling the nearby high-voltage line and provide more visual interest. The entrance road will be a two-lane, all-season road.

Abandonment of Town Road (Paust Lane): When permanent park development takes place, Paust Lane will no longer be needed as a park road. The Department will petition the Stephenson Town Board for abandonment of the right-of-way. Road materials will be removed and the roadbed rehabilitated to a natural condition with topsoil and seed.

Partial Abandonment of Boat Landing 13 Road: When the boat landing along Caldron Falls is upgraded or when development of the Oak View Family campground has started, the Department shall petition the Stephenson Town of Board for abandonment of the right of way within the park boundary. Road materials will be removed and the roadbed rehabilitated to a natural condition with topsoil and seed. Access to the boat landing will be available only through the internal park road system.

Old Unimproved Roadways and Trails: There are many miles of old roadways and trails throughout the park. Some sections will be converted to new designated trails or become part of the new park road system. The remaining road and trail sections will be

abandoned. At the discretion of the park superintendent, these old roads and trails may be actively abandoned or allowed to naturally revert to shrubs and trees.

Operations Policies

Accessibility: All developments will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) for programs and facilities. The Department recognizes a need to provide reasonable access to Department lands for persons with disabilities, which includes permitting persons with disabilities to use vehicles on Department lands.

Protection of Historic and Archaeological Features: All new facility development sites (boat landings, parking lots, buildings) will be inspected prior to construction to locate and evaluate any evidence of significant archaeological or historic material. These cultural resource surveys will be conducted in compliance with federal laws and state guidelines on historic preservation. Appropriate steps will be taken to protect and preserve all significant sites found. Any existing sites that have been identified will receive special protection and management.

Natural Heritage Inventory Screening: During the pre-planning and master planning phases for Governor Thompson State Park, Natural Heritage Inventory investigations were conducted. Results of these investigations are given in Chapter Three of this document. Prior to specific construction or management activities, the individual sites will be screened and the Natural Heritage Inventory again consulted to locate and evaluate any evidence of the presence of threatened or endangered plant or animal species. Federal and state guidelines will be followed, and appropriate steps will be taken to protect and preserve all known threatened or endangered species.

Facility Development Standards: All facilities, roads, and structures either providing public recreation or supporting public recreation activities or other administrative services must be designed and constructed in compliance with state building codes and DNR design standards. All facilities and buildings, whether for use by the public or by employees, will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Landscape Plan: All new site and facility development plans will include a landscaping plan emphasizing native plant site restoration and encouraging appropriate levels of ecological diversity.

Refuse Management: Visitors to Governor Thompson State Park may be required to carry out whatever they bring in. Refuse receptacles or collection at the campsites, day use sites, or Department-managed access points (e.g., parking lots) will not be provided. However, solid waste and recycling containers will be provided for visitors to deposit their refuse at the entrance/exit drive to the modern campground area.

Deer Hunting: Overbrowsing by deer has a significant impact upon vegetation and can also severely limit reproduction of some desirable species. If closed to deer hunting, parks become island refuges with significantly higher deer numbers than surrounding hunted

areas. Experience with other parks shows that some type of deer hunting is an important tool to help manage deer numbers. The size of the deer herd must be reduced to protect the diversity of vegetation in the park. Managing the size of the deer herd in Governor Thompson State Park will be done, using hunting as a tool.

The property will be open for the traditional 9-day deer gun-hunting season. The park will be managed as an integral part of the deer management unit in which it is currently located - Unit 49A. A two-year trial period will be implemented, after which DNR staff will evaluate the effectiveness of the effort. Changes in policies on hunting within the park will be made with guidance from the wildlife biologist and the State Parks program. Additional control measures may be used if hunting alone does not sufficiently control deer numbers. For public safety, some areas of the park will be closed to hunting. The establishment and design of the areas closed to hunting will be at the discretion of the park manager.

Bears in the Park: Black bear are present and plentiful on the property. The local wildlife biologist recommends that GTSP follow policy currently used by other state parks with bear populations: educate park users and strictly enforce their responsibility to make food inaccessible to bears (and other wildlife) and exclude bear access to garbage. Bears that become a nuisance or a threat to people or property will be dealt with by USDA-WS, the agency contracted to handle all nuisance bear complaints. USDA-WS will evaluate each bear complaint and take appropriate action such as technical advice, trapping, and euthanizing. While no state park currently has a bear-hunting season, if the local manager and biologist feel it is necessary to mitigate the effects of the park's bear population, it is a tool that is available for use.

Invasive Species Control: A program of regular monitoring and inspection for other invasive exotic species will be implemented in the park. There are both aquatic and terrestrial species of concern. Some common invasive exotics are purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, spotted knapweed, tatarian honeysuckle, buckthorn, black locust, zebra mussel, and Eurasian water milfoil. Control measures appropriate to the specific species will be used. These may include manual harvesting, extermination, use of herbicides or poisonous agents, fire, natural predators, and magnetic pulses.

Management of Nuisance Wildlife: Wildlife species such as skunk, raccoon, and beaver periodically have extremely high populations, resulting in significant nuisance problems and, in some cases, possible health hazards for park visitors. When necessary, management of these species will include the controlled removal of these animals during high population periods or when excessive human exposure and/or danger exists.

Response to Catastrophic Events: Catastrophic events, such as fire, disease, insect infestation, or timber blowdown, will be managed on a case-by-case basis. Particular management options will be chosen after considering multiple factors including life/safety, improvements impacted and threatened, resources impacted and threatened, goals and objectives of the property and the management area, and costs and benefits of managing or not managing the event. The normal response to wildfire on the property will be to protect life, property, and the resource by putting out the fire with immediate initial attack.

Watershed protection after extinguishing the fire will be accomplished using Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Land rehabilitation will be done where needed to prevent non-point source pollution of Woods Lake and its tributaries and wetlands; Huber Lake and its tributaries and wetlands; and Caldron Falls Reservoir of the Peshtigo River and its tributaries and wetlands on the property. All forestry activities will follow the requirements prescribed in the Forestry Best Management Practices Handbook for non-point source pollution.

Public Communication Plan: The Governor Thompson State Park Superintendent is the public contact official for this property. Mailings, news releases, and other means may be used to notify the public of significant issues or events that occur on the property. The superintendent or property manager will maintain a mailing list of persons or groups interested in the park or park issues. As feasible, the property manager may publish an annual newsletter or mailing.

Yearly Management Assessment: The property manager will coordinate, schedule, and lead a yearly meeting to document and assess progress on the management actions accomplished during the previous year and plan management activities for the upcoming year. A file will be kept with these yearly assessments in preparation for implementation of the Manual Code 9314.1(C), which calls for formal plans to determine progress on implementation and whether the plan accomplished the intended results.

CHAPTER THREE

SUPPORTING OR BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Governor Thompson State Park (GTSP) is designated as a state park under Chapter 27, Wis. Stats. and is located in central Marinette County west of the Village of Crivitz, Wisconsin and about 60 miles north of Green Bay. The property is partially located on the Caldron Falls Reservoir and is adjacent to the Peshtigo River State Forest. The park currently has 2,415 acres and approximately 3.5 miles of shoreline along Caldron Falls Reservoir.

The Year 2000 was celebrated as the 100th Anniversary of the creation of Wisconsin's State Park System. To commemorate this Centennial, the Department of Natural Resources acquired 1,987 acres of land comprising Paust's Woods Lake Resort, plus about 200 acres of adjacent land fronting on Caldron Falls Reservoir from Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPS). Together, these two properties formed the 2,187-acre core of the new state park. Woods Lake Resort was a popular family-oriented establishment that had been operated by the Paust family for three generations. The estimated 200-acre Caldron Falls Reservoir property acquired from WPS was part of land holdings associated with hydroelectric power generation at the Caldron Falls Dam on the Peshtigo River. An existing WPS boat landing (#13) was included in this acquisition.

In December of 2000, the Natural Resources Board, acting on the recommendation of a DNR Feasibility Report, officially established the project as "Caldron Falls Centennial State Park" with an approved acreage goal of 2,187 acres. This acreage goal comprised the two properties: the former Woods Lake Resort and the 200 acres from Wisconsin Public Service Corporation. In January 2001, the Natural Resources Board changed the official property name to "Governor Tommy G. Thompson Centennial State Park" to honor the Governor's active role in promoting Wisconsin's natural resources and its state park system. The project is referred to in this master plan as "Governor Thompson State Park."

SUMMARY OF ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Topography, Geology, and Soils

The site lies in the southern end of the Northeast Sands Ecological Unit of the National Hierarchical Framework. The Northeast Sands unit is characterized by glacial topography with sandy soils and extensive oak and pine barrens forest. Vegetation of the region consists predominantly of aspen and paper birch on sites that were once dominated by red pine and white pine. Jack pine remains dominant on the outwash plains with the presence of northern pin oak, as well.

The surface features of Marinette County and the proposed project site are the result of glacial activity. The ice that covered the area during the most recent ice age was part of the Labrador Ice Sheet, which was located east of Hudson Bay, Ontario. The Green Bay lobe of this glacier covered what is now Marinette County. The Peshtigo River now flows through glacial deposits that would be characterized as pitted outwash. A moraine traverses the park site from southwest to northeast and comprises the highest elevations in the park. The primary soils are sands that were laid down as sediments remaining from the melting glacier.

Bedrock underlying the area is primarily granite and sandstone. Granite bedrock is evident at the surface in many areas of the proposed project site. This is a factor to consider when developing facilities that would require digging foundations, drilling wells, laying cable or pipeline, or installing wastewater treatment systems. Granite outcrops also provide some of the more interesting topographic features both on land and as islands in the Peshtigo River reservoirs.

Development and Use Capabilities

The landscape of the park is about half wetland and half upland (see *Maps D and E*), with sandy soils predominating on the higher ground. The combination of abundant wetlands and sandy upland soils with moderate slopes creates some limitations for park uses and development.

More than adequate upland is available to make conventional campgrounds and other facilities feasible. Some of the existing trails and service roads could be adapted to use as internal park roads and trails for recreation areas. However, sustainability of high-impact trails, such as mountain bike or horse trails, would be reliant on careful siting, specialized construction techniques and materials, and an intensive maintenance and repair program. If this is not feasible within the scope of the park operating budget, other alternatives should be considered.

The rolling terrain of the former resort site makes it an ideal place for cross-country skiing. For several seasons, a local ski race called the “Thunder Mountain Classic” was hosted by Paust’s Woods Lake Resort, with trails provided by the resort owners.

The size and remote character of the site would accommodate primitive-style outdoor recreation, such as hiking and backpack camping. The area around Huber Lake would be ideal, as would some areas adjacent to Caldron Falls Reservoir. The convoluted shape of the Caldron Falls Reservoir shoreline within and near the park provides miles of water frontage in a relatively small area. Water depths nearby range from very shallow in some areas to 20-to-30 feet. Potential activities are trail use, walk-in camping, nature study, and sunset viewing.

Natural Communities

When looking at the park forests as a natural community type, the leading upland dominant is the Northern Dry-Mesic Forest community, except in those areas that were previously managed for aspen. The Dry-Mesic forest stands occur on sandy loams or sandy soil where organic matter has built up, or on rocky glacial river terraces. A great deal of tree diversity from stand to stand is found within the study area. Some stands are dominated by white and red pine—others by mature scrub oak mixed with red, bur, and white oak, and red and sugar maple. Other trees present include paper birch, trembling and big-toothed aspen, and basswood, hemlock, and balsam fir. Historically, scrub oak, also called northern pin oak or Hill’s oak, probably occurred primarily as a shrub in jack pine barrens. This trend of an increase in mature scrub oak following fire suppression is duplicated in northwest Wisconsin in the large former jack pine barrens in Burnett, Washburn, and Douglas counties (Radeloff *et al.*, 1998). Young white pine, black cherry, red maple, red oak, and balsam fir are often found thriving in the stand, having moved in from an adjacent seed source. Stands located by the banks of the Peshtigo River will often include mesic or wet mesic elements within a few feet of more xeric species.

Table 3-1 and *Map D* summarizes vegetative cover types of the park from a recent timber survey. When interpreting the timber data, it’s important to bear in mind that most forest cover types contain a mix of tree species; the table shows the dominant species present.

TABLE 3-1: Vegetative Cover Type - Acres

Plant Cover Type	Acres	Plant Cover Type	Acres
Aspen	872	Shrubs	44
White Pine	262	Red Maple	21
Oak	225	Red / Scotch Pine	19
Scrub Oak	206	Grass	18
Swamp Hardwood	142	Upland Brush	16
Jack Pine	88	Tamarack	14
Spruce	69	Hardwood	10
Brush / Tag Elder	47	Cedar	5
Swamp Conf	31	Rock Outcrop	5
Hemlock	29	Keg	2
Emg Veg	22	Keg	2
(developed lands are excluded) Total 2,161 acres			

Dominant Tree Species of the Park

Aspen

Aspen grows across the property on a wide variety of sites. Having been specifically managed for by the previous owners, it is the dominant timber type, covering about 40

percent of the property. In some cases it is in nearly pure stands; in others it is present with a mix of other tree species.

Pine

White pine makes up the second most abundant timber type of the park at 12 percent, being a common component of the Northern Dry-Mesic and the Northern Mesic Forest community types. Red and Scotch pine are present in a few acres of plantation plantings.

Oak

Oak grows throughout the park on a variety of sites. Scrub oak (*Quercus ellipsoidalis*) is dominant or co-dominant with jack pine on sandy soils. Timber quality in these stands is generally poor and limited to fuel-wood, pulpwood, or, at best, tie-logs.

Water/Fisheries Assessment

Water resources on the property consist of two inland lakes: Woods Lake (45.5 acres) and Huber Lake (29.1 acres). The park encompasses about half or more of the shoreline on each of these lakes. Other private parties own the balance of the lake frontage.

Woods and Huber Lakes are both recommended for phosphorus monitoring due to the lack of available data. In addition, fish mercury monitoring is recommended for Woods Lake through the Upper Green Bay Basin Integrated Management Plan. Active and productive fisheries do exist upon the inland lakes. Large mouth bass, northern pike, and panfish are abundant.

Woods Lake is a maximum of 27 feet deep and has a fishery composed primarily of northern pike, largemouth bass, and panfish. There is currently no public access to Woods Lake.

Huber Lake, also known as Deer Lake, is only a maximum of 8 feet deep, with a fishery believed to include bass, panfish, and forage species. There is no public access to Huber Lake.

Handsaw Creek, which starts at Handsaw Lake, is a named trout stream and flows through parts of the park. It has cold, light-brown-stained clear water with a total length of about six miles and an average width of eight feet. Handsaw Creek has a population of brook trout and is a tributary to the south fork of the Thunder River.

Two small, unnamed streams, known locally as Lost Creek and Spring Creek, flow into Woods Lake. No inventory data is available for either of these streams. Lost Creek originates in what may be a spring pond or seepage known locally as "Lost Lake." This pond is not officially named and is located just south of Ranch Road in T33N R18E Section 22. (There are three other named "Lost Lakes" in Marinette County.)

Woods Lake Outlet is a 1.4-mile-long stream with an average width of six feet that flows from Woods Lake to High Falls Reservoir. The fishery of Woods Lake Outlet is limited primarily to forage species.

Fisheries Resources

Various species of warmwater fish populate the reservoirs, rivers, and streams of the Governor Thompson state park area, including northern pike, walleye pike, yellow perch, bluegill, crappie, pumpkinseed, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, white sucker, and forage species. Brook, brown and rainbow trout inhabit most of the smaller streams in the area as well as portions of the Peshtigo River. The Peshtigo River between Johnson Falls and Sandstone Falls is managed as special regulation category 5 trout waters.

Wildlife Resources/Deer/Bear

All of the wildlife types common to northern Wisconsin can be found here: white tailed deer, red fox, gray squirrel, fox squirrel, cottontail rabbit, ruffed grouse, woodcock, ring-necked pheasant, bobwhite quail, raccoon, muskrat, mink, otter, beaver, Canada goose, and many species of puddle and diving duck. Sandhill cranes are also present. A healthy population of black bear is present in Marinette County and the park area, and it is not unusual to see bald eagles and osprey soaring above the reservoirs.

Since the property was acquired by the state in 2000, it has been closed to hunting. Wildlife biologists have noted that the deer population meets or exceeds the goals for the deer management unit in which it is located. The park is located in Deer Management Unit 49A. As long as the park remains closed to deer hunting, it will essentially be a refuge. It is not unusual for a refuge to harbor a higher number of animals than the rest of the Deer Management Unit. A disadvantage to this is that after the hunting season, the deer tend to stay in the refuge, browsing heavily on the understory vegetation. This can have serious long-term negative effects on the health and composition of forest stands.

Rare and Endangered Species

An initial, broad assessment of the park area was done to identify sites with threatened, endangered, and special concern species, or sites of potentially high-quality natural communities. Based on the Department's Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory database, there are no known threatened, endangered, or special concern species on the park property. There are two records for animals tracked by the NHI Program immediately adjacent to the park. Both of these are for the Cyrano darter (*Nasiaeschna pentacantha*), a state special concern dragonfly. These records were not found as part of a systematic search; rather, they were randomly located during a visit to the area by staff biologists. A

more comprehensive inventory would be needed to better assess the presence of rare species in the park and adjacent area. Bald eagle (state special concern and federally listed) and osprey (state threatened) are found in along the Peshtigo River corridor.

A “coarse filter” screening analysis was done on the park and the adjacent state forest to identify potential sites that may contain threatened, endangered, and special concern species, or sites of potentially high-quality natural communities. This analysis revealed three high-quality or potentially high-quality natural community sites on the park. These sites warrant a detailed field survey. Each is described below:

Woods Lake: Wetlands and Barrens Complex

This is a 580-acre area that is mostly rolling upland. The uplands communities include Hill's oak woods, aspen thickets, good quality Hill's oak barrens, and clearings. The wetlands include tamarack-black spruce swamp, alder thicket, the shallow, 40-acre, partially developed Woods Lake, and its outlet stream. This site has good potential to hold rare barrens and wetland species. Rare species that should be searched for here include: crinkled hairgrass, dwarf bilberry, hairy beardtongue, Richardson sedge, white flowered ground cherry, dwarf milkweed, Canada yew, Hudson Bay currant, northern bog sedge, small headed sedge, small yellow lady's-slipper, showy lady's-slipper, native wild rice, and cuckoo flower.

Scrub Oak

This is a 150-acre area on a low, sandy, narrow ridge with logged Hills oak woods with openings with young aspen and some barrens. There are also small clearings dominated by bluegrass. Blueberry is common, along with hazelnut, sweet fern, and bracken fern. Other herb plants present, varying across the site, include Penn sedge, little and big bluestem, poverty sedge, oatgrass, and rice grass. This site contains the potential habitat for the rare plants dwarf milkweed, Richardson sedge, crinkled hairgrass, white flowered ground cherry, hairy beardtongue, and dwarf bilberry.

Huber Lake: Wetlands and Uplands Complex

This 513-acre site is mostly within the state park. The upland habitat is mature scrub oak and some jack pine with a modified understory, and dry mesic forest and barrens. There are wetlands along the shore of the nearly undeveloped Huber Lake. These open bog wetlands are rich and diverse, with leatherleaf, pitcher plants, wiregrass sedge, and a variety of willow species. Other wetlands are found in the southern part of this site and are primarily open sedge meadows around large open pools of water.

The upland sites here are potential habitat for the rare plants crinkled hairgrass, white flowered ground cherry, dwarf milkweed, and Richardson sedge. The conifer swamp sites may hold the rare Hudson Bay currant, Northern bog sedge, small headed sedge, and Canada yew. The open wet meadows, adjacent to the lake, are potential habitat for the rare plants dragons mouth, slim stemmed reed grass, cuckoo flower, marsh willow herb, downy willow herb, and common bog arrow-grass.

Findings

In terms of vegetative/timber management, there are several small sites that may have the potential for restoration of the regionally rare pine/scrub oak barrens natural community. Barrens are an ecological opportunity on the park. But, at this time, aspen is the predominate forest coverage. Additional field survey work is required to assess the potential for barrens restoration. There is an overabundant deer population, and control in the park will be essential to avoid a long-term threat to forest reproduction and to the quality of the understory habitat.

Most lakes in the state are well developed. The undeveloped shorelines in the park are an attraction that draws visitors and are an outstanding feature worthy of continued protection.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Available records show that no known archaeological sites have been documented within the former Woods Lake Resort property. This does not preclude the possibility of future discoveries, however. One of the remaining structures on the property, a 100-foot former DNR Fire Tower, obtained by the property owners as surplus, is over 50 years old. It is listed on the Registry of Historic Fire Towers, a private national list created by fire tower enthusiasts. All other buildings on the property have been evaluated for historic value.

SUMMARY OF RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

The park property is located in a popular recreation area in Northeastern Wisconsin. Recreational activities that occur on or near the park include fishing, boating, canoeing, river rafting, tubing, swimming, water skiing, hiking, picnicking, camping, golf, hunting, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing.

The area in and around the park offers a variety of scenic water feature views. Most of these are "wilderness-like" due to the undeveloped shoreline. The two large reservoirs provide grand views of open water flanked in places with striking granite rock outcroppings. The lower sections of the project area provide more intimate views of the free flowing river.

Land-based Recreation

Nonmotorized Recreation

Camping: Camping is a popular recreational activity within the region. Within a 50-mile radius of the property, over 2,400 campsites are available. The majority of these sites have electricity. Upon High Falls Reservoir, 62 campsites are located within the county-operated Twin Bridges Park. Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPS) designated 10 canoe sites on Johnson Falls, Seymour Rapids, and Spring Rapids that are now maintained by the Peshtigo River State Forest (PRSF).

Hunting: Hunting occurs near the property. The WPS allowed hunting on these forestlands. The types of hunting included deer, turkey, bear, fox, coyote, and small game. There is some waterfowl hunting on the Caldron Falls Reservoir. Limited hunting also took place within the park boundaries under the former owner. Regionally, hunting opportunities are abundant on federal, state, and county lands.

Hiking: Within the park property, there are over 22 miles of trails constructed by the former owner. Most of these trails are 16 feet or wider and are usually a 1/2 mile or less in length. Some trails intersect with geological features around the property and also offer vistas of the lakes. The best way to describe this trail system would be a semi-stacked loop bisected by roads throughout the property.

Regionally, over 70 km of designated hiking trails exist in the surrounding counties. All of these trails are located on public lands.

On-road Biking: Locally, the roads in and around the properties are mostly paved and in good condition for road biking. There is an established 24-mile loop from Crivitz that uses Parkway, Ranch and Caldron Falls roads, and Highway W. The Wisconsin State Bicycle map of this region shows County Highways A, C, X, and W as good roads for bicycle riding.

Off-road Biking: The GTSP property had off-road biking established under the former owner. There was a fee charged for this activity. There appeared to be no restrictions on where off-road bikes could go, though the sandy soil did make for challenging conditions. Off-road biking is allowed on logging roads on the adjacent PRSF. Regionally, a number of off-road trails exist both on federal and county forestlands along with Michigan and Wisconsin State Parks.

Skiing: Cross-county ski loops exist within the PRSF. The PRSF maintains these loops. There is an approximately 5-km connector trail on private lands that connects the Seymour Rapids system to the Spring Rapids system. Together, these systems account for over 24 km of groomed trails. The park property was also groomed under the previous owner for both skate and classical skiing. A series of races were held on the property over the years. Regionally, over 70 km of groomed trails exist in the surrounding counties. These trails are all located on public lands.

Horseback Riding: There are a number of horse stables located within the general area of the park. Regionally, there are 34 miles of trails located on the National Forest. While the park has been closed to all uses since purchase, the PRSF logging roads are open to equestrian uses.

Motorized Recreation

Snowmobile: Table 3-2 lists the regional snowmobile trail mileage totals by county. Marinette County has the largest total mileage within the region. There is also a vast network of trails within the Upper Peninsula.

TABLE 3-2: Regional Snowmobile Mileages

County	Mileage
Oconto County	431 miles
Florence County	130 miles
Forest County	375 miles
Marinette County	446 miles
Total	1,382 miles

ATV: The former owner of the GTSP property did not promote ATV use on the property. Regionally, over 400 miles of ATV trails exist, with some of these trails on roads.

Water-based Recreation

Nonmotorized

Swimming: Clean water and numerous access points encourage swimming as a recreational activity on the reservoirs, lakes and rivers. Swimming is the second most popular activity within this setting. The sand beaches and granite rock structures allow for varied swimming experiences. However, there are very few established beaches within these waters. Most swimming occurs at the boat landings or the county parks.

Fishing: Excellent fishing occurs in and around the properties. Huber Lake and Woods Lakes, located on the property, support a large mouth bass, northern pike, and pan fish fishery.

Caldron Falls Reservoir supports a high-quality muskellunge fishery and is the only Class A muskellunge waters in the Marinette County. Currently 1,000 muskellunge fingerlings are stocked annually in the Caldron Falls Reservoir. Other fishing opportunities in the Caldron Falls Reservoir include largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, brown trout, bluegill, rock bass, yellow perch, black crappie and pumpkinseed. High Falls Reservoir also supports an excellent fishery of walleye, largemouth bass and smallmouth bass. Major

panfish species include bluegill, rock bass, yellow perch, black crappie, and pumpkinseed.

Regionally, this area offers some of the best trout fishing within the state. There are numerous Class I Trout Fisheries within a 50-mile radius of the project area.

Canoeing/Kayaking/Rafting: Abundant whitewater/quietwater paddling opportunities exist on both the Peshtigo River and other surrounding rivers and streams. There are two whitewater segments near the property. The Roaring Rapids section just north of the property offers the Midwest's longest continuous whitewater that is runnable most of the summer. This section offers class III-IV whitewater. Commercial rafting outfitters provide easy public access to this section with the take-out for these trips at boat landing 12--at the northern end of the PRSF property. The other whitewater section is located from Johnson Falls Rd. to Kirby Lake Lane or Shaffer Rd. This section offers six miles of class I-III whitewater but is seldom run compared to other segments of the Peshtigo River.

The reservoirs and the lakes offer excellent quietwater paddling opportunities. Canoe travel time from boat landing 12 (the upper reach) to the Johnson Falls dam is approximately 11 hours. Marked portage routes exist around the dams.

Motorized

Power Boating: Power boating is a popular activity on both Caldron and High Falls Reservoirs. Many larger watercraft are attracted to these large-size reservoirs and adequately large launching facilities. There are 14 rustic to semi-improved boat landings on Caldron and High Falls.

Personal Watercraft: Personal watercraft usage occurs on the reservoirs. The existing launch sites allow for easy access for these watercraft. While not as popular as typical motor boating, there has been an increase in this use.

RECREATIONAL TRENDS

Overall, recreational demand within the area is expected to increase 6.8% between 1990 and 2020 (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Peshtigo River Multiple Project, Final Environmental Impact Statement, March 1997).

Within this region, supplies of recreational resources usually outweigh the recreational demand. This is in part due to the low population densities and abundant public lands. Nevertheless, there are still a few areas of concern that will warrant special attention in the future.

Statewide, and within this region, land-based motorized recreation continues to increase in demand. Due to the aging population and aggressive marketing campaigns, ATV and snowmobile usage continues to gain in participation. In addition, nonmotorized activities such as mountain biking and camping are on the increase. Regionally, because of the large tracts of public lands, most of these land-based activities can coexist, but this must be looked at from both an ecological and demand perspective.

Another area that will warrant special attention is water-based recreation. With limited large bodies of water within the region, there is a pressing demand for more motorized water-based recreation. Since motorboat and personal watercraft sales and usage continue to increase, there will continue to be increased demands on the property and the region now and into the future. This increasing demand will continue to pose challenges and threats to nonmotorized recreation.

Other recreational activities projected to increase within the region include camping, bicycling, canoeing/kayaking, golf, wildlife viewing, and, to a lesser extent, fishing.

Findings

Two of the three largest water bodies within the watershed are Caldron and High Falls with a number of private and public recreational facilities that promote the use of these waters. WPS surveys indicate that water-based recreation is a popular activity. Since the water is a natural attraction, this result is not surprising. This becomes evident on the weekends with overcrowding at the PRSF boat landings. Swimming, while a popular activity, has limited access points within the area. The County has built one beach at Twin Bridges Park, but not all other water access points have formal beaches, though swimming does occur there.

Motorized recreation is also popular with large trail networks. There are over 1,700 miles of snowmobile and ATV trails within a four-county area, and these recreational uses are important to the region. But there is a lack of onroad bike trails, ATV trails, horse trails, and interpretive trails within the area.

In addition, there are a number of public and private camping facilities available within the region. There are, however, very few year-round camping facilities along the reservoir.

CHAPTER FOUR

ASSESSMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED MASTER PLAN

The purpose of this chapter is to explain the potential environmental effects of the proposed management plan. An analysis of the environmental effects or impacts is an important element of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the master plan. The intent of the EA is to disclose the environmental effects of an action (the master plan) to decision-makers and the public. Chapter 2 of this document describes the proposed action or preferred management alternative. The EA in the master plan has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA) and Chapter NR 150 of Wisconsin Administrative Code.

IMPACTS ON AIR QUALITY

During construction periods, dust may be present in the air surrounding project areas. Application of water from tank trucks is a common dust suppression practice that is used during highway construction. This technique may be appropriate for projects within the park. Impacts on air quality, whether from fugitive dust particles or from exhaust emissions from construction equipment engines, would be finite and transitory in nature. When construction is complete, no residual impacts to air quality would be detectable.

The impacts to air quality from motor vehicles drawn to the park by the establishment of 100 modern campsites, Day Use Facilities at Woods Lake and Huber Lake, or other park facilities would be negligible. The current indirect source air permit thresholds are sources with 1,500 or more parking spaces, or highway projects with peak vehicle traffic volume greater than 1,800 vehicles per hour. The traffic due to projected development in this plan is well below these levels.

IMPACTS ON GROUNDWATER RESOURCES

Wells, Use of Groundwater

A number of new potable water wells (about six) would be drilled to serve the proposed park facilities. None of the wells would individually qualify as high-capacity wells; however, taken in aggregate, Governor Thompson State Park may be classified as a “high-

capacity property.” Because of the dispersed nature of these wells around the 2,415-acre site, the effect on the local water table is expected to be minimal.

Abandonment of Old Wells

Further, all unused wells associated with former uses of the site have been or will be appropriately abandoned when no longer needed. Sealing the groundwater from surface contamination would be the effect.

Modern Septic Systems and Vault Toilets

Modern septic systems developed to service proposed park facilities will be constructed to applicable local and state Department of Commerce standards, effectively safeguarding the groundwater from contamination. A number of vault-style toilets would also be developed to serve more remote areas of the park. These are sealed from the groundwater and pumped regularly or as needed during the use season.

Removal of Old Septic Systems

Several old septic systems of undetermined design have already been appropriately abandoned. Remaining functioning systems would also be appropriately abandoned when no longer needed. This would take place after new state park facilities are constructed and are operational. These measures will have the effect of further safeguarding the groundwater resource from contamination.

IMPACTS ON SURFACE WATER RESOURCES

An increase in impervious surface area from infrastructure improvements will occur. Rooftops and hard-surfaced roads would be the main sources of sheet runoff. Road and path construction will avoid changing watercourse direction and flow, volume, and velocity. Culverts will be sized accordingly. Pervious road and pathway surfaces would be used where impervious surfaces are not needed. Runoff from roadways and other impervious surfaces would be directed away from draining directly into nearby streams and lakes, thus minimizing any risks of water pollution from spilled or water-transported materials.

Land acquisition for boundary expansion and management under the state park master plan are measures that are anticipated to have a long-term beneficial effect on the surface water resources of the site and those receiving waters downstream. The main effects would accrue to Spring Creek within the park and Handsaw Creek, which flows out of the park and is a tributary to Thunder River. Preservation of watershed resources would also affect Woods Lake and Huber Lake.

IMPACTS ON GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

New drilled potable water wells would penetrate the underlying granite bedrock in some places, but all wells would be drilled and installed according to state well drilling code, effectively minimizing any risk. Some rock excavation may be necessary for development of roads, parking lots, and facility foundations. Surface mining of rock is not anticipated.

IMPACTS ON VISUAL/SCENIC RESOURCES

New structures and facilities would be evident internally. The appearance of new structures such as buildings, roads and use areas would be a definite change from what currently exists. However, recreational structures were commonplace during the site's history as a resort. New recreational structures such as shelters and buildings will be designed to harmonize with the natural surroundings of the park.

Vegetative management will assure that all shoreline zones in the park would remain natural or be restored to more natural appearance in use areas of the park. The 200' shoreline buffer zone on the Caldron Falls Reservoir will essentially be a no-cut zone, with certain exceptions for work necessary to development and response to catastrophic events. The same would be true for the 100' buffer zones recommended for Huber Lake and Woods Lake.

Change in the visual qualities of the active vegetative management areas would be noticeable over time as areas of oak and aspen are managed for certain objectives. For example, aspen regeneration areas that are clear-cut in small patches could have six or eight smaller areas of even-aged trees in a 40-acre stand, with aspen predominating. Red oak stands that are being managed for improved health and vigor would eventually have an obvious predominance of red oak trees that are straight, tall, and relatively even-aged. Visitors using the park road system or the adjacent bicycle trail would primarily notice these effects because the active vegetative management areas are purposely situated for visibility.

Temporary visual and audible effects would also be a by-product of the active management of forest vegetation. Audible effects from chainsaws and logging trucks would immediately cease when the work is finished. Visual effects of cutting would be mitigated by measures such as low stump cutting and slash chipping or reduction. These measures would be included as conditions of any timber sale contracts used to achieve vegetative management goals. The temporary visual and audible effects are anticipated to be more readily noticeable than the more subtle changes in stand age or composition.

The newly constructed park entry road and a major property identification sign would be the only outward signs of park existence evident on Ranch Road. Directional signs placed on nearby public roads directing visitors to the park would also present a new visual

element. Most other park features would be internal to the property and therefore obscured from the outside view.

The removal of the lodge and cabins of the former resort complex would bring a more natural appearance, a positive change in visual character of the western side of Woods Lake. The relocation and lowering of the existing fire tower would noticeably change the skyline viewshed of Woods Lake.

IMPACTS ON LAND USE

The land use of the original 1,987 acres of land purchased for this project would not change from recreational. Further, lands purchased including Boat Landing #13 were formerly dedicated to recreational lake access and would continue as such under this master plan. The main impact would be an anticipated increase in the level of active recreation on the state park site.

Most neighboring land use in the vicinity of Governor Thompson State Park is residential, recreational, or commercial forest. Some areas of commercial business development also exist. It is not unlikely that some increase in service sector business could occur as spin-off of state park uses. It is anticipated that some growth in recreation-oriented business development would take place in the vicinity the park. Local planning and zoning codes would regulate such development.

IMPACTS ON INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION

Increase in local traffic may require local road maintenance increase. Traffic through Crivitz may increase, especially during June, July and August. Traffic counts on US 141 in the Crivitz area will probably increase due to park visitation. It is anticipated that US 141 will be the route of choice for people entering and departing Governor Thompson State Park. From US 141 there are three principal routes of travel to the park. Each is a County Trunk Highway. The two that pass through Crivitz (CTH 'W' and CTH 'A') are expected to receive the most use. The third (CTH 'X') passes through the unincorporated village of Middle Inlet and will likely receive less use by park visitors.

Local increases in traffic will be noted primarily in the months June, July and August when the majority of recreation takes place. Most vehicles visiting the park would be automobiles or light trucks, vans, or SUVs. Some would be vehicles towing camp trailers, small boats, or self-contained campers. It is anticipated that these vehicles may have an effect of increased wear and tear on roadways in the vicinity of the park, as well as increased traffic congestion at peak times.

Governor Thompson State Park will be a generator of solid waste. Wisconsin State Parks promote and participate in recycling programs to mitigate generation of non-recyclable

material that must be disposed of in sanitary landfills. A licensed sanitary waste contractor will be hired to pick up recyclable waste and non-recyclable materials. Campers using remote walk-in campsites and day use areas will be required to observe a carry-in, carry-out policy.

Governor Thompson State Park will also be a customer of Wisconsin Public Service Corp. for electric service. The primary uses of electricity at the park will be for powering the buildings and pumping water. Moderate use of electricity will occur at the 30 electrified campsites in the modern campground.

IMPACTS OF NOISE

Construction noise resulting from capital improvements such as road building, vegetation management, building construction, and the like could have a moderate, temporary impact on the park's neighbors and wildlife. All of these groups could be sensitive to this disruption, especially during warm weather when windows may be open. This noise would be peak (high level, short duration) during construction periods, rather than continuous.

The presence and activities of park visitors and campers may present a potential for reaction from neighbors or other park visitors and thus an impact. Regulations on the use of amplified sound devices (radios, stereos, etc) and loud conduct exist for the purpose of minimizing the imposition of unwanted noise on neighbors of the park as well as neighbors inside the park, especially in camping situations. The 30 electric service campsites in the modern campground will be grouped together to minimize potential user conflicts between those who use electrically powered conveniences and those who do not.

Seasonal noise generated on the rerouted pass-through snowmobile trail may have a negative impact on neighboring properties. Where potential impacts are greatest, attempts to mitigate the effects will be made by locating the trail alignment farther from private property.

IMPACTS ON RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

The establishment of a 100-unit modern campground will increase camping opportunities in the Marinette County area. Thirty of the campsites would be electric sites, and the remainder would be conventional. A further anticipated impact is the creation of additional demand for campsites at local private and public campgrounds. This effect is well known in other parts of the state. It is the policy of Wisconsin State Parks to work closely with other campground operators to assure that when the state park campground is filled to capacity, any prospective campers seeking a campsite are referred to neighboring facilities that have vacancies.

The establishment of non-road paved bicycle trails in the park will add significantly to the supply of trails in the region. The master plan Regional Analysis information shows an overall deficit in recreational bicycle trails.

The State Parks Program has begun providing ADA-compliant indoor camping facilities in select parks called the “Cabin-in-the-Woods” program. The construction of a fully handicapped-accessible indoor camping facility at Governor Thompson State Park will provide a new resource for handicapped campers. Opportunities for fully handicapped-accessible indoor camping experiences are currently rare to non-existent in Northeast Wisconsin State Parks. Two such facilities now exist: one at Potawatomi State Park in Door County and one at High Cliff State Park in Calumet County. Another such facility is planned for Hartman Creek State Park near Waupaca. These existing and planned handicapped-accessible indoor camping facilities are all over 100 miles from Governor Thompson State Park. This new and unique recreational resource would have a positive social impact and be an expansion of the recreation supply in the region.

The routing of a pass-through snowmobile trail inside Governor Thompson State Park will decrease the risk level of the trail by removing it from the roadway where it is routed parallel to Ranch Road. The new trail route will be located near the southern boundary of the park property to mitigate potential conflicts with other non-motorized winter park uses and impacts on biotic resources.

The swimming beach proposed for Caldron Falls Reservoir would be intended for use by state park patrons who have paid a fee for the use of state park facilities. However, access to the beach by watercraft on the reservoir is possible without the payment of a fee and without restriction. An influx of “outsiders” could occupy the use area and cause conflict or at least reduce the enjoyment of park-originated beach users. One factor that could slightly mitigate the situation would be that the proposed beach would lie within the proposed no-wake zone.

IMPACTS ON BIOTIC RESOURCES

Forest Communities

Vegetative management prescriptions proposed for the two red oak stands and three aspen stands would have the effect of changing the structure and composition of the selected forest stands. Two of the aspen stands would slowly be influenced to succeed to white pine or red maple types. The third aspen stand would be managed to perpetuate aspen. The use of clear-cutting in small patches of five acres or fewer would be the main management technique to perpetuate aspen. The oak stands would be selectively cut or intermediately cut to encourage health and vigor of the oak type existing on poor soils. The long-term succession of the oak may be to white pine or red maple as a climax species.

Management of the three pine plantations would have the short-term effect of producing large healthy trees as well as reducing the evidence of row planting. The long-term effect

would be the elimination of the plantations as a type and eventual succession to oak or white pine. Harvest would be the main tool used to achieve this effect. Supplemental planting may also be used.

Management of the vegetation in the buffer zones on the shorelines of Woods Lake, Huber Lake, and Caldron Falls Reservoir would be managed as a scenic management area. The exception would be in case of a natural disaster or the need to remove a hazardous tree from a designated use area or trail. The long-range effect of this management would be the development of an old-growth character, with coarse woody debris evident on the ground and a broad age profile of climax forest.

Vegetative management in designated use areas would include removal of trees for construction, supplemental planting of new vegetation for landscape purposes, and the removal of hazardous trees when the need arises. The effect of this management would be a gradual reduction in understory density and a more open appearance in designated use areas.

Vegetative management in the balance of the park, characterized as forested upland and forested lowland, would be passive. Dead and downed trees that have fallen through natural causes would be left for interrelated insect and mammal habitat. These will not be removed unless they are determined to be a hazard. The anticipated effect of this management would be a slow succession to climax species and old growth conditions over a period of several hundred years.

In the short –term, little, if any, change would be noticed. Some of the natural processes occurring may be considered “unsightly,” though these will be in the more remote and inaccessible parts of the property. They would, at times, be visible from trails. The forest floor would become littered with coarse woody debris.

In the longer term, there would be dead and downed trees in various stages of decomposition, serving as hosts for a multitude of creatures. The forest canopy would take on a dense character, and gaps in the canopy from fallen trees would eventually be filled by the growth of other trees of the same community. Trees in every stage of life, from seedling to maturity, would be growing together.

While the passive or natural succession method of vegetative management would not necessarily have the direct effect of exacerbating forest pest outbreaks, such as gypsy moth, oak wilt, or forest tent caterpillar, the overall impact might be greater due to relatively weaker health of individual trees. Reactive measures, such as sanitation, root pruning, or pesticide or herbicide application could still be taken if an acute infestation were discovered. Proactive measures, such as a wholesale conversion to less appetizing tree species, in the passive management areas are not proposed in the master plan.

Shrub Communities

The plan would restore and maintain examples of the pine barrens native community type. Two barrens restoration areas—one of about 16 acres and the other of about 40 acres—are proposed. This relatively rare ecological community was historically abundant in this part of the state. It will be used as part of the park's nature interpretation program. Ground layer vegetation of blueberry, wild bergamot, little bluestem grass, and bracken fern are good barrens species representatives and were found at both sites.

Lakes

Anticipated impacts on Huber Lake and Woods Lake would be beneficial, arising from natural shoreline management and the buffer zones established on the perimeters. Development of day use areas would be done so as to prevent negative impacts, primarily by limiting tree cutting and keeping structural development out of the buffer zone except where prescribed in the master plan. A small (150 linear feet) beach area would be maintained. This area was used previously by resort patrons. Also, a small (up to 200 linear feet) beach would be established on the shores of Caldron Falls Reservoir. Some clearing of vegetation and grading of the shoreline zone would be necessary.

The unique wild rice beds located on Woods Lake would be protected from disturbance by Native Community Management designation. Laws restricting the harvest of wild rice also provide some protection. The overall effect would be one of preservation.

Springs and Spring Runs

State park ownership and management would have the effect of safeguarding the water quality and biological diversity of the water systems associated with the park. Some additional land acquisition to increase the scope of control over these systems is proposed in the master plan. Land management classifications have been chosen for these areas that would have the effect of preventing degradation of these resources by development or conflicting use.

Exotic Plants

A program of regular monitoring and inspection for other invasive exotic species should also be implemented. Both aquatic and terrestrial species are included. Some common invasive exotics that would be monitored are purple loosestrife, garlic mustard, spotted knapweed, tatarian honeysuckle, buckthorn, black locust, and Eurasian water millfoil. Department policies in place that address these threats to the resource base will be followed. Control measures appropriate to the species of invasive would be used. These may include manual harvesting, plowing, use of herbicides or poisonous agents, fire,

natural predators, and magnetic pulses. The effect would be a purifying of the biotic community and a protection from future invasions.

IMPACTS ON ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES

At this time, no state or federally listed endangered species are recorded for Governor Thompson State Park. One state threatened species, the Blanding's turtle, has recently been sighted within the park. The Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) record shows that one state-listed "special concern" species of vascular plant, *Malaxis brachypoda* (White Adder's Mouth, a small orchid) and one species of "special concern" insect, *Nasiaeschna pentacantha* (Cyrano Darner, a dragonfly), have been observed on or near the specific property. No other species of listed plant or animal were indicated in the records. Others may exist in the vicinity, however. Bald eagles and osprey are commonly observed nesting and soaring over the waters of the Peshtigo River; however none are directly associated with the state park property. Prior to construction of facilities, the potential for negative impact on any of these species would be reviewed and appropriate actions taken to protect these species and their habitat.

As a result of this plan, federal and state endangered, threatened, or special-concern species that may be discovered or occur in the future will receive long-term protection and enhancement through the property's management.

IMPACTS ON HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGIC FEATURES

Available records show that no archaeological sites have been documented within the Governor Thompson State Park property. This does not preclude the possibility of future discoveries, however. One of the 22 structures on the property, a 100-foot former DNR Fire Tower, obtained by the property owners as surplus, is over 50 years old. The master plan proposes to preserve this structure through adaptive reuse as an interpretive device.

ECONOMIC EFFECTS AND THEIR SIGNIFICANCE

The anticipated increase in tourist numbers will increase utilization of local business establishments. Economic benefits are anticipated to result from the influx of visitors to Governor Thompson State Park. Recent data indicate that, in the Northeast Region of Wisconsin, local resident park visitors contribute an average of \$19.12 per day to the economy, while non-local park visitors contribute an average of \$57.46 per day. Anticipated annual visitation to Governor Thompson State Park when fully developed would be from 200,000 to 250,000 people per year with a resulting economic impact of approximately \$6.5 million a year.

Benefits during construction of the park and its components would accrue to building trade members and laborers and suppliers, some of which may be local. Competitive bidding procedures will be followed. Total development cost for the park is expected to amount to several million dollars at completion, though the actual work may be spread over a considerable span of time. No estimate of dollar amounts to the local area is available, as extent of local contractor involvement is not yet known.

Employees working at Governor Thompson State Park would probably live in the vicinity of the park. Those employees would participate in the local economy and expend a significant amount on their daily needs as members of the community.

FISCAL EFFECTS – STATE GOVERNMENT

Lands purchased for addition to the park would likely be acquired using State Stewardship funds or a similar bonding fund. Similarly, bonding programs fund the development of much of Wisconsin's State Park System. The cost to the state of bonding for land acquisition and project development occurs when the interest or dividends must be paid on the bonds. Several methods of making these payments could be used, the main one being General Fund Support. Conversely, a benefit would accrue to the holders of the same bonds.

The Wisconsin State Park program budgets for its capital development needs on a biennial basis, as do all state agencies. Because of the significant cost of developing Governor Thompson State Park, funding priorities within the capital budget would necessarily be adjusted to accommodate building the park. Without an increase in capital spending authority, construction of Governor Thompson State Park could cause temporary delay or deferral of implementation of other state park projects.

Recurring expenses for park operation and staffing would be an unavoidable effect of park operation. It is anticipated that if full development were already achieved, including about 100 family-style campsites, the annual operating budget would be in the range of \$95,000 to \$150,000. This compares with similar-sized properties with similar-sized campgrounds in the DNR's Northeast Region. Specifically, Hartman Creek State Park, High Cliff State Park, Potawatomi State Park, and Point Beach State Forest were considered in this comparison.

Estimated Costs of Development

Note: Costs for development of Governor Thompson State Park are based on 2004 dollar-values and assume full completion of all proposed construction. In actuality, work may be phased over several state capital biennial budget cycles.

Park Roads and Parking Lots	\$628,800
Trail Systems	\$41,800
Park Entrance Visitor Station	\$566,100
Shop/Storage Building	\$626,100
Woods Lake Day Use Area (with beach)	\$366,900
Huber Lake Day Use Area	\$161,650
Caldron Falls Reservoir Swimming Beach	\$110,000
Campground, 100-Unit Class 'A'	\$1,044,100
Roads and Campsites	\$256,500
Shelter Building	\$26,000
Toilet/Shower Building (1)	\$342,800
Vault Toilets, (6 sets 2x2)	\$189,900
Utilities, well, septic, elec.	\$168,400
Firewood Shelter	\$5,500
Gates, signs, picnic tables, fire rings	\$55,000
Outdoor Group Camp	\$188,600
Access & Parking	\$33,400
Campsites 30 (5 sites 6 pads) @ \$750 ea	\$22,500
Well and Hand Pump	\$14,700
Vault Toilets (3)	\$95,100
Picnic Shelter	\$22,900
Indoor Group Camp	\$262,700
Access & Parking	\$33,400
Bunk Houses (2) @ 800 sf ea.	\$160,000
Well and Hand Pump	\$14,700
Vault Toilets	\$31,700
Picnic Shelter	\$22,900
Hike-in Campsites	\$13,200
Handicap Accessible Cabin (Full Service)	\$150,000
Travel Trailer Sanitary Station	\$101,300
Nature Interpretive Center	\$150,000
Amphitheater, covered	\$125,000
Playground Equipment	\$52,000
Bicycle Campground one acre	\$9,500
Observation Tower	\$165,000
Adaptation of Historic Fire Tower	\$55,000
Boat Landing Upgrade	\$125,000
Fish Cleaning Station	\$50,000
Trail System PRSF Connector	\$50,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED COST	\$5,042,750

Estimated Costs of Land Acquisition

DNR policy is to purchase land only from willing sellers. The purchase price is set by an appraisal prepared in compliance with state and national guidelines, unless the seller chooses to make a gift or partial donation of land.

The master plan recommends that about 1,720 acres of additional land be acquired for addition to Governor Thompson State Park. The approximately 1,720 acres of land that would be added to the park boundary would be valued at an average of \$3.04 million if acquired all at once, using present day values. Individual parcel values would vary depending on whether any improvements or buildings existed on the site as well as the individual qualities of the site. It is unlikely that all tracts within the proposed boundary would be available for acquisition simultaneously, so expenditures would be spread over a considerable span of time, perhaps many years. The 200 acres of land to be added from Peshtigo River State Forest is already owned by the state; therefore, there would be no additional acquisition cost.

Projected Staffing Needs and Estimated Annual Operations Cost

An analysis by the Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau was done in December of 2000, prior to acquiring the Woods Lake Resort and WPS Land, for the Joint Committee on Finance. A preliminary 2001-03 operating budget projected a \$540,000 budget in 2001-02 and \$494,000 in 2002-03 as well as 6.0 positions. These include a park superintendent, operations ranger, facility repair worker, program assistant, naturalist, and law enforcement (park ranger). Longer-range predictions estimate that the request may increase to eight staff members, with an annual operations budget ranging from \$350,000 to \$450,000. These figures project far into the future and assume complete park development. Also, there is no guarantee that the staffing level originally anticipated will be implemented.

Revenue Projections

Park admissions sales and camper fees will be the two main revenue sources of the new state park. Three other recreation facilities in the Northeast Region are of similar size and have similar campgrounds as Governor Thompson State Park. They are: Hartman Creek State Park in Waupaca County, Potawatomi State Park in Door County, and Point Beach State Forest in Manitowoc County. With a campground average occupancy rate of 68.3%, 2003 revenue generated by these three properties averaged \$197,300. It is reasonable to anticipate that Governor Thompson State Park would perform similarly when fully established and developed.

Some additional revenue may accrue over time to the Parks Account as a direct result of timber sales conducted to achieve vegetative management objectives recommended by the master plan. Active vegetative management would take place on 204 acres of park land as specified in the Draft Master Plan/EA. Thirty-six acres of barrens restoration area would be managed using fire as a tool, therefore not providing any timber revenue. Logging would be the main management technique used on the remaining areas, totaling about 168 acres. Periodic timber sales over the next 40-year period are estimated to total \$302,000. The breakdown by timber type is aspen - \$112,000, red oak and scrub oak - \$102,000, red pine - \$88,000.

FISCAL EFFECTS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Acquisition of land for Governor Thompson State Park is anticipated to result in an increase in property tax revenues to local governments. The Department began paying local government aids-in-lieu-of-taxes of \$51,600 per year on the two properties first acquired for the park. Under a statute enacted on January 1, 1992, each time a new property is acquired, the purchase price is set as an equivalent of an assessment, and aids-in-lieu-of-taxes are paid on that basis. Therefore, one of the impacts of acquisition of additional land for Governor Thompson State Park would be an increase in these payments. Because the purchase price is often higher than the equalized assessed value of the property, the DNR's payment is often greater. As additional properties are acquired for Governor Thompson State Park, the effect would continue.

On lands purchased by the DNR since January 1992, the "property value base," used to calculate payment in lieu of taxes (PILT), must be equal to or greater than estimated fair market value on a parcel for the year of purchase (s.s. 70.114). The purchase price is determined by an appraisal, which is completed by a certified general private or DNR staff appraiser. The year after the initial PILT payment year, and in all future tax years in which the DNR owns the parcel, its "property value base" is adjusted based on the change in land values in the municipality where the property is located. If the value in the municipality goes up 10%, the value of DNR land is adjusted upward 10%. For example, if the DNR purchased 1,000 acres located in a the Town of Stephenson in January 1992 for \$1,000/acre, the DNR would assume the normal tax bill for tax year 1992, and then, in 1993, the 1,000 acres would be listed as tax exempt status and receive a PILT. If the 1993 assessment level on land in the Town of Stephenson increased and land were now at \$1,500/acre, an increase of 50% (or 1.5 multiplied times the original "property value base"), the Department would adjust its "property value base" and make the PILT payments based on that figure to the taxing jurisdictions in the Town of Stephenson—thus realizing the same assessment level adjustment as that of other private landowners in the town. Likewise, if the assessment in the Township went up in the following year, the Department would adjust the PILT payment accordingly (Source: Legislative Fiscal Bureau report).

Existing improvements on properties acquired for the park would be auctioned or sold for reuse elsewhere or salvaged for materials. Therefore, slightly fewer residences and cottages

would exist within the project area; thus a reduction in demand for public services such as police and fire protection would occur. If the former owners relocated or built within the same municipal jurisdiction, the net effect would be zero.

The anticipated increase in traffic on local roadways near the park may slightly increase road maintenance costs.

BOUNDARY EXPANSION & ACQUISITION IMPACTS

Increase Park Size

Boundary expansion would increase the size of the park by 1,720 acres to about 4,135 acres. State funds would be expended to purchase these additional lands unless donations or partial donations of land occur. No additional state funds would be expended for the redesignation of 200 acres of land from the Forestry Division to the State Parks Bureau.

Protect Resources

It is anticipated that the acquisition of the recommended additional lands would provide protection of surface water systems feeding Woods Lake, Spring Creek, Huber Lake, and Handsaw Creek. Additionally, eventual acquisition of the remaining shoreline of Huber Lake and Woods Lake would provide added resource protection by internal controls. It would also provide the park with full control to enforce the no-motors rule on these two lakes.

Change Boundary Configuration

The configuration of the property boundary would be impacted. It would eventually be modified to coincide with Parkway Road on the east, Ranch Road on the south, and Caldron Falls Road on the west of the park. This is a generally desirable configuration that would be easily understood by the public.

SIGNIFICANCE OF CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

The cumulative effects from the preferred alternatives for Governor Thompson State Park would have a long-term positive effect on the quality of the human environment. In particular, the public has recognized the need to preserve land-and water-based public land

for the benefit of future generations to benefit. They have demonstrated this support verbally and in writing. The boundary expansion recommended by the master plan would further create opportunities for ecosystem-based vegetation management and surface water system and wetland protection.

While repetition of this overall action--constructing a new state park in a region where none has ever existed-is unlikely to occur, it should be noted that the state is also acquiring lands from Wisconsin Public Service Corporation on the Peshtigo River. Approximately 9,200 acres of land, largely forested, are involved. While vegetative management will likely be a major component of the Peshtigo River State Forest, there will also be recreational components.

The acquisition and management of public land on the region is not unique. Other major public holdings exist nearby, including approximately 250,000 acres of Marinette County Forest, and about 661,000 acres of Nicolet National Forest.

SIGNIFICANCE OF RISK

Management and development of Governor Thompson State Park pose a low overall potential for risk to the environment. A land area development maximum of 15% has been made a part of the management prescription for the park. Current plan recommendations, even when fully implemented, fall far short of the maximum.

The presence of motor vehicles and other equipment during the construction phase may pose an increased risk from spills and erosion. These risks would be mitigated by plans and procedures put in place in the bid documents and at the preconstruction meeting with contractors.

Risk to the resources of the site resulting from human activity during normal operation of Governor Thompson State Park is mitigated by emergency action plans put in place by park management staff. These plans are reviewed annually and updated as needed or when circumstances change.

Risk of introduction of invasive exotic species may increase due to public entry and use of the property. Plans and strategies, as described in the master plan Park Operation section, are in place to prevent and control outbreaks and infestations.

Fire has been identified as a possible vegetative management tool, especially for the barrens restoration sites recommended by the master plan. Necessary precautions are always followed during prescribed burns, including having fire-fighting equipment and personnel present on site. During periods of high fire danger, restrictions are put into effect. During exceptionally dry weather, a complete fire ban may be implemented. The Town of Stephenson Fire Department provides fire protection at a distance of about four miles. Additional protection during high fire danger periods is available from a DNR fire control unit stationed in the vicinity.

SIGNIFICANCE OF PRECEDENT

Approval of this management plan would not significantly influence future decisions on other Department property master plans. One development issue that is contingent upon the master planning of the Peshtigo River State Forest is that of providing opportunities for horseback riding at Governor Thompson State Park. Because the adjacent state forest contains a number of public roads that are by law now open to horseback use, and potential for miles of additional designated horse trails exists, the development of such trails at Governor Thompson State Park is being deliberately delayed. This decision is intended to provide the optimum trail system for horseback riding and camping in the future.

SIGNIFICANCE OF CONTROVERSY OVER ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Boundary Expansion from Original, Property Taxes

To date, no strong opinion either for or against boundary expansion has been registered. This does not guarantee that some opposition to the idea will not come up, since land acquisition by the state is a topic of concern to many people. One facet of opposition to expansion could be the perception that state acquisition of more land would erode the property tax base, causing property taxes to increase for other property owners. An explanation of DNR land buying procedures and aids-in-lieu-of-tax payments can dispel this misunderstanding.

Disagreement over Recreational Style, Uses Allowed or not Allowed

Some individuals have advocated extreme primitive management, and others have advocated for mechanized recreation modes. The Vision Statement and Goals suggest the preferred alternative management measures for the property. The horse riding community has strongly advocated for the establishment of horse trails and horse & rider camping in the park. DNR acknowledges this as a legitimate use of the park but has delayed the establishment of these trails to allow a better coordination of planning with the adjacent Peshtigo River State Forest. The forest does have a number of public roads, which are legally open to horseback riding. This fact provides immediate opportunities for horse use in Marinette County while decisions are being made about establishing more horse trails.

Late in the planning process, a number of requests for single-track mountain bike trail were received. Evaluation of the soil, slope, and wetland situation of the park, and standards for construction and maintenance of this type of trail influenced the decision not to pursue this activity.

Local officials have raised the issue of traffic impact on local roads. This refers primarily to physical impacts anticipated on the road surface of Township and County highways. It also involves concern over added congestion during the tourist season. Average daily traffic counts will increase slowly as the park development and public use increase.

Road access to the existing Boat Landing #13 (now called South Bay Landing) will be changed. The intention is to provide boat access to Caldron Falls Reservoir primarily for park visitors. Individuals wishing to use the boat landing from outside the park will enter through the park entrance and then proceed to the landing. A park admission fee is required to use the boat landing. This is in conformance with statewide policy. Some individuals living near the park have expressed displeasure at this change because it affects their customary travel pattern and use of the landing. Mitigating factors are:

- In fact, Boat Landing #13 is still available for their use.
- Boat Landing #13 will be much improved under park development.
- Nearby Boat Landing #8 is also available for public use and is free of charge.
- Boat Landing #8 also provides ready access to virtually the same part of the reservoir as Boat Landing #13.
- Individuals have raised concerns about the alignment of the proposed pass-through snowmobile trail. Some are concerned that the snowmobile trail would be too close to their cabin on private property in the northern part of Section 21 and would cause conflict. This anticipated impact would be mitigated by choosing a trail alignment that would keep a reasonable distance between the pass-through snowmobile trail and the structure in question.

CONCLUSIONS

Implementation of master plan recommendations for management and development of Governor Thompson State Park would provide positive recreational, ecological, social, and economic benefits to the region by maintaining a predominantly undeveloped natural property, but with facilities adequate to meet recreational needs expressed in the Regional Analysis. These facilities would provide opportunities for a variety of structured and unstructured recreation activities.

The natural shoreline management and shoreline buffer zones will preserve--and restore in some cases the "just-like-Canada" look and feel of Caldron Falls Reservoir, Huber Lake, and Woods Lake.

CHAPTER FIVE

ALTERNATIVES AND THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A master plan alternative is a grouping of a number of compatible options for resource management, recreational development, and public use of a Department property. The content of an alternative should be compatible with the property designation, the draft vision and goals, the property capabilities, and the regional analysis. The alternatives summarized below are the most recent set of alternatives that were considered as part of the planning effort.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Alternative One: Do not re-route any snowmobile trail through the park

This alternative would not make any accommodation for rerouting a snowmobile trail from the adjacent public road. The impact would be the status quo of continued operation of snowmobiles on a less-than-optimum trail.

Alternative Two: Route snowmobile trail aligned with southern park boundary only where the park abuts Ranch Road

The proposal would have routed a trail on the far edge of the state park property. No trail would be routed through the park. This alternative solution would only remove a short segment of trail from the Ranch Road right-of-way. The impact to the park would be minimal, but it was decided that this alternative would not provide enough effective relief for the situation.

Alternative Three: Locate modern campground in section 16 on hill

This alternative would provide a location for the proposed 100-unit modern campground. A significant amount of earth moving and site grading would have been necessary to achieve development of the campground and its associated facilities. During planning, an additional parcel of land was acquired that provided a much better overall aspect as well as a more convenient location for other park functions.

Alternative Four: Develop extensive horse trails and camping facilities in Governor Thompson State Park

This alternative and the topic of horse use in the new state park have been involved in virtually every public discussion of the master plan. It was also the topic of numerous planning team and internal administrative discussions. It is well documented that numerous requests for horse trails and horse camping were received during master planning.

This alternative would have attempted to create a horse trail in the park that would provide horse riders with a satisfactory riding experience worth driving a couple hours both ways and spending the day in the area. Four miles of trail could probably be built in the park, but with difficulty because of limitations of size and barriers in the form of extensive wetlands and sandy soils on steep slopes. Four miles of trail would not provide a ride of much duration, unfortunately. Development of a horse & rider camp would pose less of a challenge.

Several factors have caused this alternative to be considered but not chosen. During the master planning for Governor Thompson State Park, it became known that a large amount of adjacent land with water frontage on the Peshtigo River and its hydropower reservoirs was to be acquired by the State of Wisconsin. This involved about 9,200 acres of land that has a linear character because of its relationship to the river. The land was acquired by the DNR with the designation "Peshtigo River State Forest." Wisconsin State law permits horseback riding on roads within state forest boundaries; therefore, a large amount of horse riding opportunity was very quickly created. This opportunity is open to public use now, even though the master plan for the state forest has not been completed.

Both the State Parks Bureau and the Division of Forestry recognize the need and intend to provide the best possible system of horse trails and camping. It is obvious that the Peshtigo River State Forest would be in a position to provide a much more comprehensive horse trail system because of its size and linear quality. A combination of existing roads and new horse trails could be the result of the forest master plan. It is also likely that the state park could provide some needed support to this system, especially in the camping aspect, and perhaps with some connector or short special-purpose horse trails.

The desired objective is to provide the public with the best possible facility for horse riding and camping. The design of the system will not be known until both master plans are finished and approved. However, horse riding opportunities are, and will be, available immediately in the Peshtigo River State Forest.

The anticipated impacts of developing the facilities at Governor Thompson State Park immediately are that the optimum system may not be developed in coordination and connection with Peshtigo River State Forest. And it may prove difficult and expensive to make changes necessary to make connections between the two systems.

Alternative Five: Do not provide any opportunities for horse use in Governor Thompson State Park

This alternative is included as the “do nothing” alternative. It is a counterpoint to alternative four. There has been little or no support for this alternative. The impact of this alternative would be a loss of horse riding opportunity at Governor Thompson State Park and a loss of potential for meaningful recreational connection to the Peshtigo River State Forest. A social impact would be that the many participants in the master planning process who have worked for the good of the state park would become disenfranchised and probably cease to support the project.

Alternative Six: Do not provide a swimming beach at the Woods Lake Day Use Area or on Caldron Falls Reservoir

Not providing a swimming beach at the Woods Lake Day Use Area would reduce the park development cost slightly and may reduce the overall use of the Woods Lake Day Use Area slightly. Not providing a swimming beach on Caldron Falls Reservoir would reduce park development cost by about \$150,000. Access to a state park swimming beach would not be available to casual boaters or personal watercraft users navigating on Caldron Falls Reservoir. Overall, recreation opportunities available to park users would be reduced slightly.

A mitigating factor to the lack of swimming beaches at Governor Thompson State Park would be the nearby access to Twin Bridges County Park operated by Marinette County on High Falls Reservoir. Twin Bridges Park does have a sand beach open to the public. It is also readily accessible by watercraft on High Falls Reservoir. Future plans for Governor Thompson State Park incorporate a bicycle trail link between the two properties.

HUNTING ALTERNATIVES

Alternative One: No Hunting Allowed

In general, hunting is not allowed in state parks by regulation. It was recognized during early planning stages that the size of the deer herd within the park boundary was above the over-winter goal for the deer management unit in which the park is located, Unit 49-A. Signs of overbrowsing were evident to DNR wildlife biologists. The impact of a ban on deer hunting in the park would be an eventual elimination of understory plants, especially young red maple and white pine, and possibly permanent damage to the forest cover of the park.

Alternative Two: Manage deer hunt as a “special” hunt instead of regular deer-gun season

This alternative would establish special deer hunting seasons and zones to harvest deer and thereby reduce the size of the deer herd within the park. The impact of this type of hunt could be to achieve a deer herd reduction. However, the same effect could be realized without the large amount of administrative time and delay in establishing and running such hunts. Since the object is to reduce the number of deer in the park, the most efficient and cost-effective method is the regular deer-gun hunting season. The park’s deer-gun season would be managed in the same way as the rest of Unit 49-A.

Alternative Three: Allow other types of small game hunting in the park

This alternative would allow hunting for species (such as turkey) other than deer in the state park. The potential impact of this is unknown at this time, though safety and user conflict issues may be a concern. Generally, other types of hunting are prohibited in the park by statute. However a pilot program is being implemented in other parks in Wisconsin to test the concept. While this alternative could not be chosen for Governor Thompson State Park now, it may be reconsidered in the future, depending on the results in the trial program.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Alternative One: No cutting management except for safety

This alternative means that with the exception of clearing for development needs or for removal of hazardous trees from designated use areas or trails, that no tree harvesting would be done. This is sometimes termed to be “preserving what is there now.” The impact of this alternative would actually be a slow natural succession of tree species with an eventual transition to climax forest. In some cases and in some stands, this could take many generations. In addition, a no-management alternative may increase the impact of forest agents such as Gypsy Moth and Forest Tent Caterpillar due to the decreased health and vigor of the existing trees.

Alternative Two: More active forest management

This alternative would make forestry prescriptions to actively manage more stands of timber on the property than the master plan recommends. Objectives would include converting oak stands throughout the park to other species, instead of the few areas recommended by the master plan. The impact of this alternative could be a change in visual appearance. Various silvicultural practices including clearcutting would be used. Impacts could include reestablishment of logging roads on the property, clearing and use of landing

sites, significantly more logging activity, and logging truck traffic in the park and on local roads. Evidence of timber harvesting could include the presence of slash on the ground, even though it may be reduced in height, and visible changes in the tree canopy. An additional effect would be an increase in timber harvest revenues remitted to the Parks account. Long-term impacts could also be a better distribution and location of oak stands in the park.

A general decrease in aspen acreage would also be a part of this alternative, instead of the few acres of aspen conversion proposed in the master plan. The long term effect of this alternative could also be an increase in red oak, red maple balsam fir, and white pine. Techniques and tools used to implement this alternative would include herbicides, insecticides, thinning, planting, and clear cutting.

Alternative Three: Restore forest to Finley’s model or other “original” model

This alternative was proposed, but not favored, in a master plan opinion survey during public meetings. It would attempt to return the forest resources of the site to a model of climax forest that existing 150 to 200 years ago. The Finley model shows two generalized plant community types to have existed over the site. They are the Swamp Conifer group of Cedar, Spruce, Tamarack and Hemlock; and the Jack Pine, Scrub Oak, Barrens, Oak Forest type.

The feasibility and advisability of this alternative are questionable due to cost and degree of difficulty, and may not be desirable for park purposes. A large amount of silvicultural manipulation and many years would be required to achieve this effect. Selective cutting, clear cutting, thinning, herbicide application, scarifying, planting, and fire would all be used. In the meantime many perfectly good trees would be cut or removed because they didn’t exactly fit the model for pre-settlement vegetation. The short term impact would be widespread sensory disruption while the long term impact would be a drastic change in forest cover. Further, all of the trees in these types now exist in good numbers on the property but not necessarily in the same locations as shown on the Findlay map.

REAL ESTATE AND BOUNDARY ALTERNATIVES

Alternative One: No additional land acquisition

This alternative would allow no land acquisition beyond what is already owned and designated as Governor Thompson State Park. The impact of this alternative would be a cessation of land acquisition. Lands recommended in the master plan for acquisition would not be acquired. This would have the secondary impact of preventing any extra measure of

protection of the water resources of the site. A further impact would be the inability to enforce the “no motors” prescription recommended in the master plan.

Alternative Two: Acquire more land as per Core Team submittal

This alternative included boundary expansion as shown in the master plan, plus an additional 300 acres located on Parkway Road and Boat Landing #13 Road. The master plan Core Team recommended that the 300 acres be deleted from the proposal as unnecessary. The impact of including this extra land would have been the extra protection of a large non-system connected wetland and significantly higher acquisition cost to the state.

Alternative Three: Do not redesignate any PRSF land on both sides of Boat Landing #13 for park use

This alternative would leave adjacent Peshtigo River State Forest land to the east and west of Boat Landing #13 under State Forest control. Some confusion could occur during hunting seasons because of the proximity of a narrow strip of state forest land west of the park boundary. The public has an expectation that deer hunting and small game hunting are permitted on state forests. The impact of this action would be to allow no creation of state park walk-in campsites along the Caldron Falls shoreline. Cooperative management of this area might still allow opportunity for such development, however.

OTHER MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternative One: Operate the former resort cabins as a public lodging facility

This alternative was suggested by a number of persons during the early phases of master planning. Many of the former clients of Paust’s Woods Lake Resort wrote letters encouraging the Department to offer the cabins for rent to the public. However, the DNR is prohibited from such activity by Administrative Code. NR 1.30(2) states “*No overnight lodging facilities other than designated campgrounds, group camps and staff residences may be constructed in state parks, except: (2a) Those constructed for use exclusively by people with physical disabilities, with their family or attendant or both, and (2b) Overnight lodging in the Seth Peterson cottage at Mirror Lake state park.*”

Because this alternative is prohibited by Code, no assessment of potential impacts is attempted.

Alternative Two: Locate park entrance on Boat Landing # 13 Road

This alternative would have created the entrance to the park utilizing Boat Landing #13 Road. This idea was tested at public meetings and in correspondence with the public. There was strong negative public opinion expressed against this idea. Reasons cited included poor road bed quality and poor road routing from the main public thoroughfare, Parkway Road. The impact of selecting this alternative could be the creation of a sub-standard and difficult park entrance.

Alternative Three: Enter the park from Caldron Falls Road

Access to the park would be from Caldron Falls Road, at the extreme western edge of the park. The majority of traffic approaching the park is anticipated to arrive from the Crivitz area because of the proximity of US 141, the main north-south traffic artery in the region. This alternative was considered briefly and discarded because of the anticipated impacts of difficult accessibility and creation of a potentially dangerous intersection.

Alternative Four: Establish a single-track mountain bike course

Mountain biking is growing in popularity around the state, and the Department has provided a number of popular, sustainable mountain bike trails on DNR properties. Because of the extremely sandy soils of the park and the extensive system of wetlands covering half of the site, the establishment of any significant amount of sustainable single-track mountain bike trail is infeasible. Sustainability requires that the trail not be damaging to the environment and that normal wear and tear can be managed and repaired without an unreasonable amount of time, expense, or engineering measures. Materials do exist for repairing or reinforcing trails where they may pass through a sandy area. However, building miles of mountain bike trail using these techniques would be intrusive to the environment and would likely produce a sub-par riding experience. Therefore, based on these factors, this alternative was not chosen.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE WISCONSIN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

Project Name: Governor Thompson State Park

County: Marinette

DECISION (This decision is not final until certified by the appropriate authority)

In accordance with s. 1.11, Stats., and Ch. NR 150, Adm. Code, the Department is authorized and required to determine whether it has complied with s.1.11, Stats., and Ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code.

Complete either A or B below:

A. EIS Process Not Required



The attached analysis of the expected impacts of this proposal is of sufficient scope and detail to conclude that this is not a major action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. In my opinion, therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required prior to final action by the Department.

B. Major Action Requiring the Full EIS Process



The proposal is of such magnitude and complexity with such considerable and important impacts on the quality of the human environment that it constitutes a major action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Signature of Evaluator <i>David C. Ryan</i>	Date Signed <i>Aug 5, 2004</i>
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Number of responses to news release or other notice.

Forty-one. See attached.

Certified to be in compliance with WEPA	
Environmental Analysis and Liaison Program Staff <i>Allan Stang</i>	Date Signed <i>8-6-04</i>

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

If you believe that you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that Wisconsin statutes establish time periods within which requests to review Department decisions must be filed.

For judicial review of a decision pursuant to sections 227.52 and 227.53, Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to file your petition with the appropriate circuit court and serve the petition on the Department. Such a petition for judicial review shall name the Department of Natural Resources as the respondent.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 227.48(2), Stats

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Prior to the beginning of the Governor Thompson State Park master planning process, the Department drafted a citizen involvement plan for the planning process. When the start of the planning process was announced, copies of the citizen involvement plan were provided to the public and comments were solicited.

In an effort to involve all parties affected by or interested in the future of the Governor Thompson State Park, the Department incorporated a variety of public involvement techniques. Throughout the master planning process, the Department used direct mailings, workshops, issue forums, and news releases to keep people informed and involved. All meeting announcements and information materials were sent to the Governor Thompson State Park mailing list, which currently totals over 1,400 individuals.

CHRONOLOGY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

The following is a listing of public involvement activities the Department master planning team members conducted or attended during the master planning process that was begun in August, 2001. Public meetings listed here were all announced in advance by a press release sent to local and statewide newspapers. Press releases were also distributed at key points in the planning process. In addition, there has been good press coverage by the local newspapers of events and issues throughout the planning process. An expanded mailing list was established following the initial public open house meeting. Each public open house or informational meeting was also announced through mailings to landowners and other interested citizens.

Mailings were also conducted early in the planning process to receive public input on the actual public involvement plan and the goals and objectives for the project.

August 2001. A special briefing was conducted at the Wausaukee Ranger Station for members of the State Tourism Committee.

November 2001. Invitations mailed to local government officials and initial public participation database members, announcing the first public master plan meetings.

November 2001. Produced and distributed the first edition of the trifold master planning brochure.

December 2001. Public meetings began the week of December 5, 2001. Three evening meetings were held.

March 2002. Postcards were mailed to all participants of record explaining the decision to create the initial stages of master plans for both the Peshtigo River State Forest and Governor Thompson State Park concurrently.

March 2002. Gave a master planning presentation, by request, to members of an equestrian club in Green Bay. Interest in horseback riding and horse camping has been strong since the initiation of the master plan.

May 2002. Published the first edition of the Master Planning News.

June 2002. Gave master planning presentation, by request, to a New London area equestrian group. Strong interest in riding horses and horse camping in Governor Thompson State Park was expressed.

August 2002. Public Meetings held (Crivitz and Green Bay) to discuss Vision Statement and Goals for Governor Thompson State Park and Peshtigo River State Forest.

October 2002. Published Newsletter covering planning on Peshtigo River State Forest and Governor Thompson State Park. Concept of "Visioning" introduced.

November 2002. Newsletter published containing suggested draft vision and goal statements for both Peshtigo River State Forest and Governor Thompson State Park.

January 2003. Met with Basin Partners to discuss and compare their views of the proposed management alternatives with views expressed by the DNR Core Team and Guidance Team.

February 2003. Newsletter published giving results of the vision and goals exercise.

February 2003. Master planning presentation, by request, to Green Bay Chapter of Audubon Society.

April 2003. Public Notice of meeting to discuss Management Alternatives for the master plan. Planning for Governor Thompson State Park advances independently of Peshtigo River State Forest.

April 2003. Newsletter announces the April public meetings and describes the management alternatives that would be discussed at the public meetings.

April 2003. Public meetings (Crivitz and Green Bay) to discuss proposed management alternatives for Governor Thompson State Park.

May 2003. Met with Basin Partners to discuss the status and content of the preferred management alternatives.

May 2003. Met with Marinette County Tourism Alliance. Presented a master planning update and discussed status and content of the preferred management alternative.

May 2003. Presented a master planning update to the Marinette County Board of Supervisors, concentrating on the status and content of the preferred management alternatives.

June 2003. Newsletter published reporting on the results of the April public meeting and presenting the subsequent Revised Preferred Management Alternative information.

February 2004. Progress report on status of the Master Plan mailed to over 1,300 recipients.

February 2004. Master Planning update presentation given to Marinette County Tourism Alliance.

March 2004. Master Planning update presentation given to Marinette County Board of Supervisors.

July 7, 2004. Newsletter published with Summary of Master Plan content, Development Map, and announcement of review period for Master Plan/Environmental Assessment. Sent to over 1,300 mailing list recipients and posted on DNR Website.

July 20 & 21, 2004. Public meetings held in Crivitz and Green Bay to discuss the draft Master Plan/EA for Governor Thompson State Park. Public comment period held open until July 31, 2004.

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DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

DEFINITIONS

Biological diversity. The variety and abundance of species, their genetic composition, and the communities, ecosystems, and landscapes in which they occur. It also refers to the variety of ecological structures, functions, and processes at any of these levels.

Board. The Natural Resources Board.

Climax forest. A forest stand in which the long-term species composition is relatively stable.

Campground, Modern (NR 44.07(7)(e)5b). These may be comprised of a single campground or a large campground complex, and typically have 75 or more campsites. The separation distance between campsites may vary, although 100 feet shall be used as a guideline. The facility development options are not limited; however, the following facilities usually are provided: electric hook-ups for recreational vehicles, hand pump or pressurized water supply, vault or flush toilets, a recreational vehicle dumping station on-site or nearby, asphalt roadways, open play areas, paved paths and trails, lighting on buildings and public telephones. Examples of other facilities that may be present include playground equipment, full-service concessions, showers and laundry facilities.

Community. An assemblage of species living together in a particular area, time and habitat.

Cultural resources. Any archeological, architectural or historical artifact, site or structure that reflects on the human-made environment.

Department or DNR. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Ecological capability. The potential of an area to support or develop one or more communities, with the potential being dependent on the area's flora and fauna, its non-biotic attributes, its ecological processes and disturbances within and upon the area.

Facility development. The construction of infrastructure, including buildings, roads and trails for resource management, public use or other purposes.

Forbs. Non-woody flowering plants, most likely native to the region.

Group campsite. Any campsite authorized for use by groups other than those meeting the definition of a camping party in a family campground as defined by ch. NR 45.

Invasive. Both native and exotic species (not native to WI) that have a tendency to take over a site in the absence of period fires or other natural processes that would have historically kept the plant species in check; typically the overabundance of invasive species causes a dramatic decrease in a system's diversity.

Master plan or plan. A Department plan that describes the authorized land management, resource protection, facility development and management of recreational use on a department property, but does not include a study prepared for the purpose of considering the feasibility of land acquisition respecting a new or existing project.

Native. Indigenous to the area or region.

Native Surface Material. Unprocessed indigenous road and trail surfacing material.

Natural Succession. The predictable tendency of certain longer-lived tree species to replace shorter-lived ones over a period of time, if left undisturbed.

Natural-appearing. That which is visually perceived as minimally altered by human actions.

Slow-No-Wake Zone. A designated area of a water body where operation of watercraft must not result in a visible wake reaching the shore. This is intended to protect shorelines from wave-induced erosion and to protect other water users from undue disturbance.

Sustainable Trail. A trail that can tolerate continuous moderate use without causing environmental damage or requiring an unreasonable amount of maintenance and repair.

Passive Management. Management where objectives are achieved without direct action.

Presettlement. The time prior to a significant presence of American/European settlers.

Property or properties. Areas of land approved for acquisition by the governor under sec.23.14, State Stats., or otherwise established by the board.

Rare Species. Endangered, threatened, or plants and animals of special concern.

Silviculture. A phase of forestry dealing with the development and care of forest communities.

Single Unit Campsite. A campsite designated for use by families or groups of six persons or fewer.

Trail. A way or path designated on department maps or by signs or both as open for public travel by foot, horseback, bicycle, snowmobile, ATV or highway/off-highway vehicles.

Trail, Fully Developed. Shall be a trail with a smoothly graded base and a stable, hard surface composed of materials such as asphalt, aggregate or frozen earth. The trail's

cleared width, tread width and cuts and fills are not limited, but shall be appropriate for the trail's intended use. To the degree practicable and feasible, fully developed pedestrian trails shall be fully accessible by persons with physical disabilities.

Trail, Lightly Developed. Shall be a trail with a maximum sustained, cleared width normally not exceeding 16 feet, a moderately wide tread width for the designated uses, a rough-graded base to remove stumps and large rocks, and a surface of primitive or native materials, except where other materials are required due to environmental conditions or where the trail also serves as a lightly developed road where other types of surfacing materials are used.

Trail, Moderately Developed. Shall be a trail with a maximum sustained, cleared width normally not exceeding 8 feet, a minimal tread width for the intended use, a relatively smooth graded base with a compacted surface composed of stable materials such as aggregate. Where practical and feasible, a moderately developed trail shall, at a minimum, meet the standards for recreational trails accessible to persons with a disability.

Trail, Primitive. A trail that shall be minimally developed as single-file with a maximum sustained, cleared width normally not exceeding 8 feet and a minimal tread width for the intended use, with a rough, ungraded bed where large rocks, stumps and downed logs may be present. It primarily follows the natural topography, has no or few distances where environmental conditions require the use of other material. Modifications to the natural trail surface are limited to that which is minimally necessary to provide essential environmental protection.

ABBREVIATIONS

BMP's	Best Management Practices
CPP	Citizen Participation Plan
DMU	Deer Management Unit
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
GLARC	Great Lakes Area Research Center
GTSP	Governor Thompson State Park
LTE	Limited Term Employee
MCF	Marinette County Forest
NHEU	National Hierarchy of Ecological Units

Definitions and Abbreviations

NHI	Natural Heritage Inventory
NRB	Natural Resources Board
PRSF	Peshtigo River State Forest
SHSW	State Historical Society of Wisconsin
UGBB	Upper Green Bay Basin
UWEX	University of Wisconsin Extension
WDNR	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
WPS	Wisconsin Public Service Corporation