

UPPER WOLF RIVER STATE FISHERY AREA

*AMENDMENT
to the recreation portion of the
1979 MASTER PLAN*



Approved by the Natural Resources Board
September 26, 2018

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources



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AMENDMENT TO THE UPPER WOLF RIVER STATE FISHERY AREA MASTER PLAN

Property Name: Upper Wolf River State Fishery Area (UWRSFA)

Date Master Plan was approved: November 1979

A. OVERVIEW

The amendment to the master plan authorizes three items:

- Establish an approximately 0.25-mile ATV/UTV trail across the property near the Langlade Ranger Station and the STH 64 bridge. This trail will connect riding opportunities east and west of the property.
- Update the property's land management classifications and associated map to comply with the master planning administrative code (ch. NR 44, Wis. Admin. Code).
- Expand the Scenic Resources Management Area to include the entire Wolf River and Hunting River corridors in the property.

Aside from the portions addressed in this amendment, the components of the 1979 master plan related to recreation use and management remain unchanged. The department will continue to manage the property to provide high-quality experiences for the activities identified in the master plan, including fishing, hunting, canoeing, tubing and rafting, sightseeing, snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. Further, the department will look to enhance opportunities for these activities in ways that are consistent with the master plan and the resources present. Similarly, no changes to the existing habitat management objectives or strategies are made and the existing management techniques (e.g., timber harvest, prescribed fires and mowing) remain in effect.

The UWRSFA is within the ceded territory and this amendment recognizes the opportunity for tribes with off-reservation hunting, fishing and gathering rights to continue to exercise those rights. This amendment does not impair the tribes' ability to exercise their off-reservation rights.

B. UPDATES AND CHANGES TO THE 1979 MASTER PLAN

AUTHORIZE LIMITED MOTORIZED RECREATION TO PROVIDE A CONNECTION IN A REGIONAL TRAIL NETWORK

This amendment authorizes the construction and designation of a new, fully-developed, approximately 0.25-mile ATV/UTV trail across the UWRSFA near the Langlade Ranger Station. The trail will then cross the Wolf River on either a newly constructed bridge to serve multiple recreation users (ATV/UTV riders, snowmobilers and pedestrians) adjacent to the existing STH 64 bridge or on a reconstructed and expanded STH 64 bridge.¹

On the east side of the river, the trail is planned to be routed on private land or road right-of-way for approximately 500 feet until it connects to a local road that is an existing ATV/UTV route (Blue Goose Drive). The department owns a narrow strip of land between the river and the STH 55 right-of-way. This amendment

¹ The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is planning to reconstruct the STH 64 bridge over the Wolf River and is responsible for setting the timeline.

authorizes the trail connection between the bridge and Blue Goose Drive on the east side of the river to cross department land if necessary.

This amendment does not authorize other ATV/UTV trails on department-owned lands within the UWRSA. ATV/UTV use may not occur until the trail has been constructed and appropriately signed.

This location currently includes a popular public access site just south of STH 64 on the west side of the river. Many paddlers begin or end their trip here and use the ranger station parking lot for their vehicles. There are bathroom facilities here, but no drinking water. In addition, this access site has been used for many years by the Wolfman Triathlon, a very popular event that draws participants and visitors from throughout the region. The trail and bridge will be sited to minimize impacts to the put-in/take-out site and use of the trail may be restricted during special events, such as the Wolfman Triathlon, to minimize conflicts.

Two options exist for the trail to cross the Wolf River (either option is authorized by this amendment):

- (1) On a newly constructed bridge adjacent to the existing STH 64 bridge. This bridge would serve multiple recreation users (ATV/UTV riders, snowmobilers and pedestrians). The bridge would likely be located within or close to the existing STH 64 Department of Transportation right-of-way. Langlade County and the ATV/UTV club are moving forward with grant applications and other necessary documents for approval.
- (2) On a reconstructed and expanded STH 64 highway bridge over the river. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation anticipates reconstructing the bridge to address structural issues, but the timing and scope of this project are currently unknown. A newly reconstructed bridge could have a separate lane for recreational uses.

To the degree that either of these river-crossing options need to use department land for siting the bridge and necessary entry ways for the trail, that use is approved in this amendment. If the alignment for the bridge and associated entry will affect the use of the existing put-in/take-out site for canoes, kayaks and rafts, the department may shift the location of the put-in/take-out site a short distance downstream to ensure that paddlers continue to have suitable and safe access to the river here.

Snowmobile riders currently cross the Wolf River on the STH 64 bridge, which has led to safety concerns. The snowmobile trail that passes through the UWRSA here will be re-routed to this new trail alignment, as well as the new bridge crossing.

The department will enter into a land use agreement with Langlade County for maintenance and management of the trail on department land. The department may restrict or temporarily prohibit ATV/UTV use on this trail if necessary to avoid conflicts with logging operations or other management activities or to address other public safety concerns.

Management of the ATV/UTV trail will involve two phases:

- (1) Initial preparation and construction. Construction of the trail will run from Bank Road to a bridge over the Wolf River. The trail will go west of the ranger station up to STH 64 and then generally parallel the highway to a crossing of the river. The existing snowmobile trail across the UWRSA here will be re-routed to the same alignment. The newly constructed trail will be up to 12 feet wide with vegetation cleared to a width up to 16 feet. The bridge (either a new bridge or a reconstructed STH 64 bridge) will accommodate ATVs, UTVs, snowmobiles, and pedestrians. The trail on the east side of the river will generally follow the existing snowmobile trail.

Construction will follow the department’s design standards for ATV construction.² In addition, appropriate signage will be required.

Map G shows a preliminary alignment for the trail; the actual alignment will be determined based on site conditions.

- (2) Ongoing monitoring and maintenance. As a designated use area, the department will inspect this alignment twice a year, once before July 1 and once after July 1. If use of this trail results in unacceptable impacts or issues, the department may close or reconfigure it as necessary to protect the property and its natural resources. In addition, the department may temporarily close the trail and bridge to ATV/UTV use during special events, such as the Wolfman Triathlon, to minimize conflicts.

UPDATE LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATIONS

This amendment updates the land management classifications to bring their nomenclature into alignment with sections NR 44.06 and 44.07, Wis. Admin. Code. Management of the property within the different management areas will be conducted as stated in the 1979 master plan and as described in the following updates and clarifications.

Over the last four decades since the master plan was approved, the department has managed the land it owns along the entire river corridor to maintain and improve the fishery and to protect the scenic values that draw visitors. To better reflect this historic and current management and the overall intent of the master plan, this amendment adjusts the land classification map as follows:

Land management classifications at the Upper Wolf River State Fishery Area: acres in the 1979 master plan and the 2018 changes

1979 master plan	2018 amendment
Scenic Areas 3,331 acres	Scenic Resource Management Areas 4,505 acres
Fish and Wildlife Management Areas 10,709 acres	Habitat Management Areas 9,535 acres
Intensive Recreation Area 37 acres	Recreation Management Area 37 acres
Total = 14,077 acres	Total = 14,077 acres

- Except for the Recreation Management Area at Langlade, lands within the UWRSFA project boundary that are within 300 feet of each bank of the Wolf and Hunting rivers are classified as Scenic Resources Management Areas. This increases the amount of land under the Scenic Management Area (Scenic Area) classification from 3,331 acres to 4,505 acres.

No changes are made to the department’s ability to conduct necessary in-stream and bank habitat work throughout the river corridor to maintain and improve the fishery and fishing access.

- Land within the UWRSFA project boundary outside of this river corridor, along with all lands along Ninemile Creek, are classified as Habitat Management Areas. This decreases the amount of land under the Habitat Management Area classification from 10,709 acres to 9,535 acres.

No changes are made to the department’s ability to manage a range of high-quality habitats to support game and non-game species and to provide opportunities for hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing and other recreation activities.

² Department Design Standards Handbook 8605.1

EXPAND SCENIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AREA

This amendment also **expands the Scenic Resources Management Area along the Wolf River and the Hunting River in the UWRSFA**. This expansion of the Scenic Resources Management Areas does not alter the current objectives but rather more accurately reflects the department’s historic and current management practices and formalizes a higher level of protection along the river corridor. The size of the Recreation Management Area (Type 4) at Langlade remains unchanged from the 1979 master plan. Maps F3-A to F3-D show the locations of the land management classifications.

C. HOW THE AMENDMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE 1979 MASTER PLAN AND ADMINISTRATIVE CODES

The amendment is consistent with the 1979 master plan as follows:

- 1) No changes to the UWRSFA property goals and objectives are made.
- 2) The amendment updates the land management classifications and associated map using the categories in sections NR 44.06 and NR 44.07 and maintains the management areas’ intent and objectives.
- 3) The amendment expands the Scenic Resources Management Area to the entire Wolf and Hunting river corridors to align the land management classifications with the department’s historic and current management objectives and actions.
- 4) The amendment ensures adequate protection of the rivers and provides visitors with high-quality, scenic experiences.
- 5) The amendment maintains the intent from the 1979 master plan of the intensive recreation area at Langlade and classifies the site as a Recreation Management Area (Type 4).
- 6) Management of existing recreational uses (e.g., fishing, paddling, hiking, cross-country skiing, hunting) remains unchanged.
- 7) The master plan and this amendment establish management, development and public use for the property.
- 8) The ATV/UTV trail provides a connection for existing regional ATV/UTV use and is consistent with a request from local governments to accommodate the use as part of a larger trail network.
- 9) The change furthers the benefits of the property by improving recreation accessibility for the general public.
- 10) The Recreation Management Area can support and sustain the additional recreational use.
- 11) The development of the ATV/UTV trail will not substantively affect the management and use of adjacent areas.
- 12) The UWRSFA is within the ceded territory and this amendment recognizes the opportunity for tribes with off-reservation hunting, fishing and gathering rights to continue to exercise those rights. This amendment does not impair the tribes’ ability to exercise their off-reservation rights. The department continues to work through our Tribal Liaison to engage and consult with the Tribes on a government to government basis.

D. HOW THE AMENDMENT CHANGES THE 1979 MASTER PLAN

WORDING CHANGES:

The following language is added to the end of the section of the 1979 master plan titled, Recommended Management Program (*page 18*):

A fully-developed ATV/UTV trail and bridge that connects regional riding opportunities is authorized in the Recreation Management Area at Langlade. The department’s Design Standards Handbook shall be followed in the design and construction of the trail and bridge. This trail will be sited to minimize impacts to the existing public carry-in boat access site here. If necessary, the carry-in access site may be moved a short distance downstream. Barrier fencing (constructed with natural materials) may be installed at key sections to ensure that riders stay on the trail. The existing snowmobile trail here will be re-routed to this new trail alignment.

The Recreation Management Area will not be used as a trailhead for ATV/UTV use and the parking area at the ranger station will not be used for ATV/UTV trailer parking. The department may temporarily close the trail and bridge to ATV/UTV use during authorized special events to minimize conflicts.

If a new bridge over the Wolf River is constructed here, all required permits must be received before construction is initiated. This new bridge shall be designed and constructed for use by ATVs, UTVs, and snowmobiles and to minimize visual impacts to river users.

If necessary to connect the trail to a local road designated as an ATV/UTV route, the trail is authorized to cross department land on the east side of the river using the most direct alignment possible.

WORDING CHANGES:

The following material replaces the section titled, Land Use Potential (*page 12*):

Land Management Classification

All lands that will potentially be managed by the department in the UWRSFA are classified following sections 44.06 and NR 44.07, Wis. Admin. Code. The purpose of this classification system is to describe the primary management focus for various areas within the UWRSFA. See Map F for the locations of these areas.

Scenic Resources Management Areas (4,505 acres total)

The intent of this classification is to provide and maintain an aesthetic corridor along the Wolf River that enables visitors to experience the solitude and enjoyment of a natural, wild, remote river setting. The department’s management of the river corridor is focused on facilitating old growth forest characteristics and protecting water quality.

Lands within the Scenic Resources Management Area will have a Type 3 sub-classification.

The Type 3 sub-classification seeks to provide readily accessible areas with modest recreational facilities offering opportunities at different times and places for a variety of dispersed recreational uses and experiences. Due to the relatively high social contact along the river during elevated use periods (particularly stretches used by commercial rafting companies), the river corridor does not fully meet the standards for the Type 2 setting. However, in all other respects, most sections of the river do meet the standards for the Type 2 use setting.

Given the property’s narrow orientation, level of use and its objective of providing a scenic corridor for visitors, the Type 3 recreational use setting is appropriate. However, it is the department’s intent to **manage**

the river corridor to meet the more restrictive Type 2 setting standards (section NR 44.07(5)) to the degree possible.

The Scenic Resources Management Areas will be managed as described in the 1979 master plan. The following language retains the intent and purposes of management in the master plan while clarifying and providing more details regarding how the department will manage the Scenic Resources Management Areas.

MANAGEMENT AREA SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES:

- Manage the river corridor to meet the Type 2 recreational use setting standards (ch. NR 44.07(5)) to the degree possible.
- Provide opportunities for river users to experience the solitude and enjoyment of a natural, wild-appearing, remote setting, by maintaining the Upper Wolf River in its natural, free-flowing, and unaltered condition.
- Except as needed to address blowdowns, other hazard conditions, and ecological restoration needs, restrict timber harvest within 300 feet on each side of the banks. These buffers may be increased or decreased to address resource concerns on a case-by-case basis (e.g., including lands more than 300 feet that are visible from the water, restoring pine plantations to more natural settings, or addressing ecological concerns).
- Protect the wild nature of the Upper Wolf River through bank protection and sound property and watershed management practices. Work with partners and the public to promote sustainable use and “leave no trace” river recreation.
- Manage in ways that contribute to the protection and preservation of the groundwater and surface water quality and quantity for current and future uses.
- Protect and enhance the Wolf River and Wolf River Scenic Areas primary sites (i.e., highly significant ecological sites) identified in the Rapid Ecological Assessment.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS:

- Passively manage the area and restrict commercial timber harvests.
- Limited timber salvage may be done following natural disturbances if necessary to significantly improve the visual quality of the area. If timber salvage operations are necessary, conduct them with an emphasis on the maintenance and improvement of the long-term visual quality of the corridor. Re-planting areas following salvage may be done if desired forest composition will not naturally regenerate. Minimize the visual and audible impacts of forest management activities by harvesting during leaf-off periods, unless a faster response is necessary to address public health and safety concerns (e.g., removing hazard trees from designated public use sites). Locate all temporary logging roads, skid trails and decking sites outside of the Scenic Resources Management Area whenever possible.
- Control invasive species as necessary to maintain aesthetic and ecological integrity; use methods that are consistent with the intent of this management area and apply invasive species control measures at the most advantageous time for successful control.
- As needed, carry out restoration activities necessary to restore the natural appearance of the river corridors or areas previously modified or developed.
- As needed, carry out erosion control measures necessary to protect the land from erosion caused by human disturbance using natural materials consistent with the immediate surroundings.

- Limit the extent and frequency of all management activities to that which will achieve the desired response with the least visible sign of management activity.
- Maintenance of primitive river access trails and sites is allowed. To the degree feasible, locate parking areas outside of the Wolf and Hunting rivers' viewshed.
- Do not conduct forest management activities that encourage beaver use of the streams. Regularly monitor for beaver activity. Conduct beaver control and management within the fishery area to maintain free flowing conditions.
- Meet the standards of ch. NR 44.07(5) (Recreational Use Setting 2) except for ch. NR 44.07(5)(c), which may not be possible during heavy river use periods when social contact levels may be higher than the Type 2 Recreational Use Setting Standard.

Habitat Management Areas (9,535 acres total)

The intent of this classification is to manage and preserve a variety of aquatic and terrestrial habitat types to support fish and wildlife. The department's management of these lands is focused on providing high-quality wildlife habitat and provide opportunities for hunting, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing and other similar activities.

The Habitat Management Areas will be managed as described in the 1979 master plan. The following language retains the intent and purposes of management in the master plan while clarifying and providing more details regarding how the department will manage the Habitat Management Areas.

MANAGEMENT AREA SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES:

- Manage for quality trout habitat and provide opportunities for fishing.
- Passively manage areas within 300 feet of Ninemile Creek and other streams, creeks, springs, seeps and open water to provide a buffer area to protect water quality and prevent soil compaction. These buffers may be increased or decreased to address resource concerns on a case-by-case basis (e.g., avoiding areas subject to erosion, restoring pine plantations to more natural settings, addressing ecological concerns or timber sale aesthetics and logistics). Locate all temporary logging roads, skid trails and decking sites outside of the 300-foot buffer area whenever possible.
- Provide opportunities for hunting, trapping and other wildlife and nature-based recreational activities such as hiking, cross-country skiing, and wildlife watching.
- Maintain, restore and enhance wildlife habitat.
- Manage in ways that contribute to the protection and preservation of the groundwater and surface water quality and quantity for current and future uses.
- Minimize impacts to the viewshed from the Wolf River, Hunting River and Ninemile Creek that may be seen from these waters; limit forestry activities as necessary to minimize visual impacts.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS:

- Passively manage lowland cover types where appropriate to maintain and protect hydrology and stream water quality; except appropriate management action may be taken in lowland hardwood stands impacted or projected to be impacted by the emerald ash borer to prevent conversion to an undesirable cover type.

- In areas outside of the stream buffer, follow the department’s standard management prescriptions for each habitat and forest type. Over time, property managers may modify the extent and/or distribution of the various habitats to respond to changing conditions, opportunities and needs.
- Use standard department practices to manage invasive plants and animals.
- Provide an appropriate level of public access to support public use. As needed, maintain, improve, or move visitor access parking areas. Locate new parking areas 150 feet or more from streams.
- Limit the extent and frequency of all management activities that are visible from the Wolf River, Hunting River, and Ninemile Creek to that which will achieve the desired response with the least visible sign of management activity.

Recreation Management Area (37 acres total)

The intent of this classification is to provide developed recreational use, such as parking lots and river access sites, where active and intensive recreation developments are needed. The department’s focus at this site is to provide adequate access to the river and the property.

The ATV/UTV trail is authorized to pass through the Recreation Management Area, which includes a ranger station, snowmobile trail, public toilet facility, parking and a carry-in boat access site.

Recreation Management Areas must have a recreation use setting “sub-classification.” Lands within the Recreation Management Area at Langlade have a Type 4 sub-classification. Type 4 areas provide a relatively high level of user comfort and the sights and sounds of human activity are typically common.

The Recreation Management Area will be managed as described in the 1979 master plan with the addition of an approximately 0.25-mile, fully-developed ATV/UTV trail. The following language retains the intent and purposes of management in the master plan while clarifying and providing more details regarding how the department will manage the Recreation Management Area, including the new trail.

MANAGEMENT AREA SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES:

- Provide a public carry-in boat access site to the river to accommodate rafters, canoers and kayakers. Provide adequate parking and toilets.
- Provide a “pass-through” motorized trail for snowmobile and ATV/UTV use that links broader trail networks in the region. Given the current use level of the parking lot at the ranger station, no ATV/UTV trailer parking is allowed here. Parking for ATV/UTV trailers is currently available nearby in White Lake and near Hwy 64 along Wallrich Road.
- Support special events that use the Wolf River corridor, including the ability to temporarily close the motorized connecting trail as needed to reduce conflicts and address public safety needs.
- Provide shore fishing opportunities.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS:

- Maintain a carry-in boat access site.
- Following the department’s Design Standards Handbook, establish a fully-developed ATV/UTV and snowmobile trail and associated crossing of the Wolf River that connects the regional trail systems east and west of the UWRSFA. The trail will have a tread width up to 12 feet and a cleared width not exceeding 16 feet. The surface will be crushed gravel. Where the trail nears the ranger station and parking lot, adequate barriers will be developed to ensure riders stay on the trail and avoid the parking lot and utility

box. Appropriate signage, including stop signs where the trail will cross the entrance road to the ranger station, will be installed.

- Provide toilet facilities and parking for river users.
- Follow the standards in section NR 44.07(7).

E. CONSISTENCY IN OPERATIONS

This amendment does not make any changes to the structure or process in the department's interactions with partner groups and local governments. The department may continue to engage in collaborative projects with various partners and to enter into agreements as necessary to seek mutually beneficial outcomes.

The department will continue to use and require best management practices (BMP) for erosion, noise and dust control for all construction activities, including proper erosion/siltation control during construction of the recreation facilities. All facilities will continue to be constructed according to department facilities design standards and subject to necessary permits.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Wolf River has long been recognized as one of the state’s premier fishing designations and has drawn anglers in search of a wide variety of game fish since the earliest days of settlement. The upper quarter is warmwater and the fishery is mainly walleye, pike, muskellunge, bass, and panfish. The lower roughly three-quarters is cool and cold water and the fishery is mainly trout and smallmouth bass. The river is wide and strewn with boulders in many sections; rapid gradients and whitewater are common. The Wolf River in Langlade County is classified as an Outstanding Resource Water.

The department began purchasing land along the river in 1967 to protect habitat and provide public fishing opportunities. Today, the Upper Wolf River State Fishery Area is comprised of 9,482 acres in a long, narrow corridor running from near Post Lake to the Menominee County border (Maps B-1 to B-4). About 85% of the river in this stretch is in state ownership.

In addition to the river’s popularity for fishing, this reach of the river has become a major Midwest destination for whitewater sports. Several commercial outfitters and guide companies offer whitewater rafting and kayaking on the river. A popular put-in/take-out for canoes, kayaks and rafts is on department land along the west bank of the river, just south of the STH 64 bridge.

The Wolf River is annually the site of privately sponsored events for rafts, canoes, and kayaks. Most notably is the very popular Wolfman Triathlon, which uses the STH 64 put-in/take-out site as part of the race.

The UWRSFA is located in Langlade County (Map A). Although a variety of recreation opportunities exist, only a limited number of facilities are currently provided (Maps C-1A to C-4A). A small number of department-managed roads exist, most of which are closed to public vehicle use (Maps C-1B to C-4B). The property is a mix of woodlands, grasslands and wetlands (Maps D-1 to D-4).

In addition to the material presented in Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 of the 1979 master plan and the Rapid Ecological Assessment (2012)³, the following background information provides context for this amendment.

A. ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE THE MASTER PLAN WAS APPROVED IN 1979

Given the long linear nature of the UWRSFA, the following list of recreation-related projects is presented by the different river reaches.

Markton to Lily

- Langlade Ranger Station was identified as an existing access in the plan and is a maintained access site with parking and a restroom, but no drinking water.
- STH 55 wayside at Markton was identified in the master plan as an existing access site but also as an undesirable one. It was closed, and a new site was developed on the west side of the river (across from the wayside site) located off CTH M on Sunny Waters Lane. This site is a maintained access site with parking and access trails to the river.
- Rocky Ripps (east side of river) was identified as an existing access in the plan. This site is state-owned and parking is available on the town road. However, the access site is no longer maintained as an improved or developed designated use area. A small parking area farther south on Rocky Ripps Road does provide parking and an access trail to the river.

³ See https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/er/ER0835_ext.pdf

- Irrigation Hole Access was identified as an existing access in the plan and is a maintained access site with parking.
- Hollister Road Access was identified in the original master plan as a proposed access site. This site is maintained as an access site, but parking is only provided along the Town Road. No designated parking lot or parking area exists.
- Lily site was identified in the plan as an existing access site but no longer exists as a designated use area or access site. This site was replaced by a site on the west side of the river off STH 52.

Lily to Pearson

- Turtle Lake – shown as an existing site in the plan. This is a Town property and they maintain the access. Parking, picnic site, boat landing and a restroom are available.
- River Road – shown as an existing access site in the plan. Access to the river from the ROW of River Road exists, but the site is not a designated use area. Parking is allowed on the road shoulder.
- CTH A Park – shown as an existing site in the plan. County owned and maintained. Parking and picnic area are available.
- Military Park is along this stretch and was mentioned in the plan. This is a Town park with parking, shelter, picnic tables, restroom, and water (hand pump).

In addition to the sites identified above, other sites that were constructed or maintained since the plan was created include:

- Boy Scout Access off CTH M (Former Buettner site) – includes a parking area and trail to river.
- Conn’s Lane parking area.
- Wolf Road and Wolf River Landing Road parking areas.
- STH 55 Access across from Sylvan Acres West Road – includes parking areas and trails to river.
- CTH A access located just east of CTH T – includes parking area and trail to river.
- Goose Island parking area and access.
- CTH T parking areas and access points.
- Pearson, old bridge site off CTH T – includes limited parking area and access trail to the river.
- Whitetail Lane – includes parking area and access.

In addition, the following habitat-related work has been accomplished:

- Spring Pond dredging: Weix, Willow, Polar, and Blue (Hunting River part of the UWRSFA).
- Intensive Stream habitat work on the Wolf River:
 - Downstream from Wolf Landing Road
 - At the end of South Wolf Road
 - Upstream from East Wolf Road
 - Upstream from Schnecks Landing
- Stream habitat work on Spring Creek.
- Stream habitat work on Ninemile Creek:
 - Downstream from STH 55
 - Upstream from STH 55
 - Upstream from East Hollister Road
- Maintenance brushing on habitat projects.
- Beaver dam removals for trout habitat throughout the UWRSFA.

B. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT

Since the adoption of the 1979 master plan, changing recreation demands and opportunities at the property and in the region necessitated the department evaluate changes to the master plan. One trend has been the number of local governments that now allow motorized recreational vehicles, such as ATVs and UTVs, on local roads. The Town of Wolf River, in which this portion of the UWRSFA is located, has designated all but one Town road as ATV/UTV routes.

The White Lake ATV/UTV trail network exists in the Langlade County Forest to the west of the UWRSFA and in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest to the east. The ATV/UTV riding community has worked with the department for several years to assess options to connect these two trail networks. This has been a challenging task given the limited number of existing crossings over the Wolf River (which to potentially use or to parallel the crossing) and the natural resources in the river corridor. Since the existing master plan does not address ATV or UTV use on the property, a modification is needed to allow this use.

The department routinely adjusts snowmobile routes and trails on department properties to respond to changing needs, opportunities and conditions. Adjusting or realigning snowmobile routes typically does not require an amendment to a master plan. However, this amendment describes the change to the snowmobile trail since it will be the same alignment as the ATV/UTV trail.

The amendment process provides the opportunity to update the land management classification map and nomenclature. Further, the plan amendment process enables the department to expand the Scenic Resources Management Area, and thus the protection zone, along the river to be consistent with the department's current and historical management approach for the Upper Wolf River.

C. COMPATIBILITY WITH STATUTES, CODES AND DEPARTMENT POLICIES

The amendment to the 1979 master plan complies with ch. NR 44, Wis. Admin. Code and other applicable department policies. The construction of an ATV/UTV trail is allowable in the Recreation Management Area.

D. FEDERAL INTERESTS AND LIMITATIONS

The department has acquired about 9,500 acres within the boundary of the UWRSFA. Just over 8,200 acres have federal interest due to federal aid money being used, in part, for acquisition (Map E). Federal interest requires that the department obtain federal approval prior to granting any permanent real estate interests or building permanent structures that impact public outdoor recreation opportunities.

MAPS

- Map A: Regional locator
- Map B1-4: DNR and other lands
- Map C1-4 A: Existing recreation infrastructure
- Map C1-4 B: Road infrastructure
- Map D1-4: Existing land cover
- Map E1-4: Federal interest
- Map F1-4: Land management classifications
- Map G: ATV/UTV and snowmobile trail at Langlade