



Interim Forest Management Plan

Property Identifiers	Pershing Wildlife Area
County:	Taylor
Property Acreage:	8653
Forestry Property Code:	6128
Master Plan Date:	(1979) Implementation Element (1981) Concept Element

Part 1: Property Assessment

The Pershing Wildlife Area is located in Taylor County

General Property Description

- Landscape and regional context
The Pershing Wildlife Area is within the North Central Forest Ecological Landscape and the Jump River Ground Moraine (212Xd05) Land Type Association.

The project landscape consists of approximately (36%) northern mesic or wet-mesic forest, (43%) upland and lowland brush, (12%) shallow marsh and sedge meadow and (7%) deep marsh and open water impoundments and (2%) other developed areas. Open brush-prairie habitats are managed primarily for sharp-tailed grouse and waterfowl. Forested portions are managed primarily for ruffed grouse and early successional species with smaller portions reserved and managed for later successional northern hardwood forest wildlife. The area is a regionally important nesting and staging area for resident and migratory waterfowl.

- History of land use and past management
The area has a history of marginal farm abandonment due to problems associated with the high water table, acidic peat soils and severe frosts.
Pershing was established in 1953 as a 2,520 acre public hunting ground. Acreage increased to 5,920 acres by 1960. The establishment of 12 shallow impoundments and over 100 potholes, combined with the implementation of prescribed fire management and a closed area refuge contributed to the establishment of the property as a recognized waterfowl production area and popular public hunting, trapping and wildlife observation location. Peak recreational use occurs during the spring and fall migration periods.

Site Specifics

- Current forest types, size classes and successional stages.

Aspen (58% of the forested acres) 1815 acres.
482 acres in the 1-10 year age class
480 in the 10-20 year age class
356 in the 20-30 year age class
56 in the 30-40 year age class
441 older than 40 years



Interim Forest Management Plan

Northern hardwoods (30% of the forested acres) 935 acres.

Black spruce (9% of the forested acres) 268 acres

Swamp hardwoods (2% of the forested acres) 59 acres

White birch (1% of the forested acres) 30 acres

- State Natural Area designations
There are no State Natural Areas on the property
- High Value Conservation Forests (HCVF) or other resources/natural community types limited in the landscape
Older age classes are currently underrepresented in the local landscape
- Biotic Inventory status
Biotic Inventory has not been completed on the property
- Deferral/consultation area designations
There are no Deferral or Consultation sites designated on the property
- **Rare species animals and plants**
Through the States Natural Heritage Inventory data base and Department employee observations it is known that one reptile, six birds and one plant that are listed as special concern or state threatened exist on the wildlife area.
- Invasive species
- Two species exist on the property. Buckthorn is present in one patch and has been treated to slow its spread. Purple Loosestrife is present on the Southern portion of the wildlife area and has been treated several times in recent years.
- Soils
The project consists primarily of level to gently sloping, poorly drained ground moraines and glacial till with soils of the Freeon-Almena-Auburndale (silt loams) and hydric, acidic, peat-type associations. Surface stones are common due to continuous frost heave.

Cultural and Recreational Considerations

Cultural and archeological sites (including tribal sites)

- Only one site is within the property boundary. This site is not on property owned by the State. No projects on the wildlife area would jeopardize this site.



Interim Forest Management Plan

Part 2: IFMP Components

Management Objectives

- Ruffed Grouse management area:

Aspen

The primary objective in the ruffed grouse area is to provide a diversity of age classes of aspen. Other than mast producing trees (oak) a minimum of green tree retention will be included in timber sales as the objective is to regenerate the aspen.

Northern hardwood

Regeneration of stands will be by single tree selection to create an uneven aged stand. Promotion of the regeneration of mast producing trees while maintaining a diversity of species is important. Snags, nesting and cavity trees will be afforded protection. Small pockets of aspen inclusions will be regenerated to aspen where possible.

- Remainder of the forested portions of the property:

Aspen

Aspen stands will be managed to regenerate aspen on a 50 year rotation while trying to create multiple age classes. Some stands of aspen have very limited access.

Northern hardwood

Regeneration of stands will be by single tree selection to create an uneven aged stand. Promotion of the regeneration of mast producing trees while maintaining a diversity of species is important. Snags, nesting and cavity trees will be afforded protection. Small pockets of aspen inclusions will be regenerated to aspen where possible.



Interim Forest Management Plan

Property Prescriptions

Timber management on the properties will be completed in consultation with forest management. Stands will generally follow the prescriptions below.

Aspen – Aspen regeneration is achieved through coppice harvesting (even-aged management). The rotation age for aspen varies based on site conditions, but is generally 45-50 years. Large aspen stands will be divided into smaller parcels and harvest spread out over time to increase age- class diversity. Snags, high quality cavity, mast and conifer trees along with green tree retention areas will be retained within harvest areas.

Northern Hardwoods – Uneven-aged management with selection harvests that will improve stand quality will be conducted as stocking warrants. Canopy gaps will be included as an attempt to increase the regeneration of species such as white ash, birch, oak and basswood. Hemlock and cedar will be favored as retention trees. Big tree silviculture and increasing old growth characteristics can be implemented within this type.

Swamp hardwood and white birch

Seed tree and shelterwood harvests will be utilized to regenerate these stands as appropriate.

Approvals:

Regional Ecologist Date

Forester Date

Property Manager Date



Interim Forest Management Plan

Area/Team Supervisor

Date