



**SITE-SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT SHEET
TIER-3 RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROPERTY**

Property Name: Cady's Marsh

Property Designation or Type: State Natural Area

SNA Designation Number: 72

Property Location: Sauk County

Real Estate:

Project boundary acreage: 80

Fee acres owned: 80

Dedicated acres: None

DNR Easement acres: None

Federal aid interest: None

Land use agreements: None

Maps:

A. Project Boundary

B. Existing Roads and Infrastructure

Property Manager: **Nate Fayram, Southwest Ecologist**
3911 Fish Hatchery Rd
Fitchburg, WI 53711
608-273-5943

Prepared By (District Ecologist):

Name: Nate Fayram

Title: Conservation Biologist

Date: 4/10/2017

Reviewed/Approved By: (Bureau)

Name: Drew Feldkirchner

Title: Bureau Director, Natural Heritage Conservation Date: 4/10/2017

Approved by Natural Resources Board: Date: 6/28/2017

A. Regional and Property Assessment

1. **General Property Description (topography, soils, vegetation, water resources):** Cady's Marsh contains dry sandy prairie grading into loamy mesic and wet-mesic prairie with sedge meadow and shallow emergent aquatic marsh also present. Deep-soil loamy prairies are one of the rarest natural plant communities in Wisconsin with nearly all having fallen to the plow. The site contains an interesting assemblage of plant species. Characteristic plants include blue-joint grass, big blue-stem, mountain mint, prairie blazing-star, and culver's-root. Uncommon species are lesser purple fringed orchid, Michigan lily, glaucous white lettuce, Riddell's goldenrod, Kalm's St. John's-wort, and Clinton's bulrush. Cady's Marsh is of historic interest in that it served as one of the last strongholds of prairie chickens (*Tympanuchus cupido*) in Sauk County.

2. **Ecological Landscape:** [Western Coulee and Ridges EL](#) is characterized by its highly eroded, unglaciated topography with steep sided valleys and ridges, high gradient headwaters streams, and large rivers with extensive, complex floodplains and terraces. It offers the best opportunities in the state to maintain many of southern Wisconsin's natural communities. Many rare species have been documented here due to the diversity, scale, types, condition and context of the natural communities present.

Less common natural communities provide excellent management opportunities here. Conifer relicts, by definition, are almost entirely restricted to the Western Coulees and Ridges, with lesser management opportunities present in the Southwest Savanna. Fire-dependent oak ecosystems are well-represented here include Oak Openings, Oak Barrens, Oak Woodland and dry to mesic oak forests. Bluff prairies and sand prairies are better represented in this Ecological Landscape than anywhere else in Wisconsin and probably better than anywhere else in the Upper Midwest. These fire-dependent communities could be managed in a continuum with savanna and forest communities, wherever possible.

3. **Ownership and Adjacent Land Uses:** Agricultural and residential lands, and public road.

4. **Property Management Issues, Trends and Needs:**

Invasive Species: Buckthorn, black locust, exotic bush honeysuckle, Japanese barberry, multiflora rose, garlic mustard, plus general woody encroachment on prairie and sedge meadow. Limited invasive species

control has occurred in the past.

Forestry/Silviculture: A commercial timber harvest is currently under contract on site. Opportunities exist to use commercial timber harvests to help reach ecological goals for the property.

Prescribed Burning: Prescribed fire can be used as a management practice on this property.

5. **Facility/Amenity development:**
 - a. **Existing:** None.
 - b. **Future:** No change.

6. **Endangered, Threatened, Special Concern Species or Habitats, and wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need:** No listed species or habitats are known to occur here and/or in the general area. For detailed EO data, see Appendix A.

7. **Conservation Opportunity Area:** None

8. **Easements:**
 - a. None

9. **Land use Agreements:** None

10. **Significant Cultural and Archaeological Features:** State Natural Areas (SNAs) may contain historic Native American or Euro-American sites. Activities with potential to disturb archaeological sites will only be undertaken after consultation with the DNR Archaeologist. Any sites with cultural or historical value will be managed in accordance with guidance and statutory requirements (see ss. 44.40 and DNR Manual Code 1810.10). More details can be found in Appendix B.

11. **Refuges and other Closed Areas:** None

12. **Primary Public Use:** Recreational uses such as hiking, fishing, cross country skiing, hunting, trapping, scientific research, wild edibles collection, , and wildlife viewing are allowed. Reference the State Natural Areas [Visitation Guidelines](#) and the [property's specific webpage](#) for more information.

13. **Biotic Inventory needs:** Currently, no plant or vertebrate inventory

needs have been identified beyond normal monitoring through established SNA Site Inspection protocol.

B. Property Purpose and Goals/ Management Objectives and Prescriptions

1. Property Purpose and Goals

- a. Purpose:** The purpose of the SNA Program is to protect outstanding examples of Wisconsin's native landscape of natural communities, significant geological formations and archeological sites. Natural areas are valuable for research and educational use, the preservation of genetic and biological diversity, and for providing ecological benchmarks for determining the impact of use on managed lands. They also provide habitat for numerous rare plants and animals.
- b. Goal:** Manage the site as a wet-mesic prairie and oak opening restoration project.

2. Management Objectives by Natural Community Type:

- a.** Restore and expand wet-mesic prairie and associated grassland and wetland communities (54 acres).
- b.** Restore an oak opening transition to the wetland portion of the property (6 acres).
- c.** In the northern portion, pine plantation and oak forest will be managed for sustainable timber products, with long-term oak maintenance as a buffer for the prairie restoration (20 acres).
- d.** Manage and maintain oak communities where feasible. Maintain mature oak as much as possible. Improve conditions for, and extend the life of, mature oak trees.
- e.** Develop and maintain natural transitions between different plant communities. Reduce hard edges between different cover types.
- f.** Extensive cutting and prescribed fire will determine the structure of the prairie.
- g.** Provide early successional forest/shrub habitat in places where oak savanna or prairie opportunities do not exist. Provide habitat for wildlife that requires early successional shrubby habitat such as Brown Thrasher.
- h.** Restore and maintain oak opening to provide long term hard mast food sources and habitat structure for wildlife, and game species such as turkeys, deer, and squirrels.
- i.** Provide opportunities for research and education on prairie restoration techniques and results.

- j. Long term, convert pine, red maple, and central hardwoods to oak or other more desirable cover type.
- k. Red maple/central hardwoods - Where feasible, try to slow the progression of natural succession to this cover type, especially the red maple cover type. Where it is appropriate, try to convert these cover types to oak or grassland communities.
- l. Regenerate aspen using even-age management methods to the extent possible to benefit game and non-game wildlife. Retain oak wherever possible to meet native community objectives and to provide habitat and mast production for wildlife. After even aged aspen harvest, prescribed fire and other techniques will be used to decrease the aspen cover type within the prairie and wetland, and maintain aspen in an early successional state within a complex of oak savanna and grassland communities.
- m. Prevent introduction of new invasive species, and ensure long-term limitation of the spread, reproduction and impact of existing invasive species.

3. Management Prescriptions by Natural Community Type:

- a. Small patches of native prairie are managed and expanded through tree/shrub control using tree harvest, brushing, mowing, and especially fire to mimic natural disturbance patterns.
- b. Use combinations of timber harvests, cutting, brushing, mowing, interseeding, chemical application, and fire to restore oak opening and wet-mesic prairie.
- c. Remove shade tolerant tree competition from around and under mature oaks.
- d. Following timber harvests, use frequent prescribed fire in combination with cutting, brushing, mowing, interseeding, and chemical application to restore the ground layer, control brush, and restore desired composition, structure, and function; and to control invasive species at a large scale.
- e. Girdle aspen that are on, and adjacent to, prairie openings.
- f. Oak: Conduct intermediate thinnings when needed to maintain stand health and vigor. Use even-aged management to regenerate oak stands through coppice, overstory removal or shelterwood harvesting; or uneven-aged management through patch selection harvest. Leave legacy oak trees to meet native community and wildlife habitat objectives.
- g. Pine: Manage white pine on an even-aged basis. Harvest and utilize white pine before it is lost due to mortality. Maintain pine

stand through rotation with intermediate thinnings. At the end of the pine plantation's life span convert plantation to oak.

- h.** Aspen: Where regeneration is desired, harvest through even-aged coppice harvests when silviculturally appropriate, or as desired for prairie or oak savanna native community management. Green tree retention will be practiced in aspen stands while focusing on snag and den/cavity tree retention. Special focus will be given to retaining oak wherever possible to improve stand diversity, cover, and mast production for wildlife. Aspen outside of harvested stands, or within wet-mesic prairie restoration areas, may be girdled or treated by mechanical or chemical means to reduce overall aspen cover and expand desirable prairie acreage. Experimental harvests and treatments of aspen are allowed to meet native community objectives.
- i.** Contain or eradicate invasive species through the use of department approved manual, chemical, biological, and mechanical practices, as well as prescribed fire.
- j.** Other allowable activities include control of invasive plants and animals, augmentation of native prairie species after careful review, maintenance of existing facilities, and access to suppress wildfires.

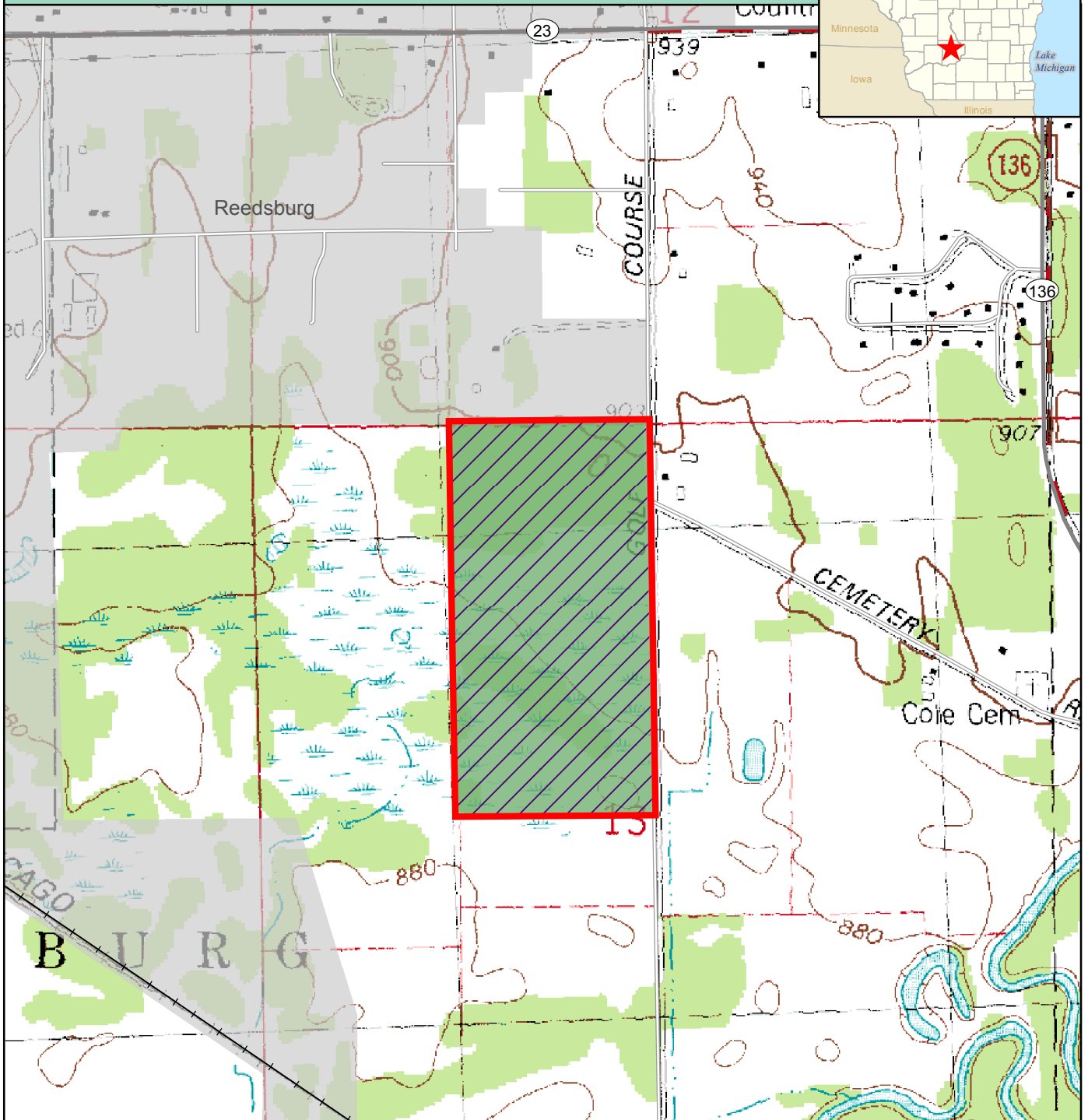
4. Special Management Issues and/or constraints:

- a.** Although removal of hazardous trees from over and near trails is an allowed activity, manipulation/removal of vegetation and soil disturbance should be minimized to the extent possible.
- b.** Continue to allow snowmobile use, maintained by the local snowmobile club, at its current location within the property. If another suitable trail route becomes available nearby, attempt to move current snowmobile use off state property. If current snowmobile trail is relocated or abandoned, snowmobile use will no longer be considered for this property.
- c.** Salvage of trees after a major wind event can occur if consistent with management objectives.

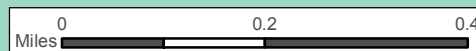
Table 1: Current Facilities or Infrastructure

Type of Facility	Total (number/length)	Management Activities	Management Issues and Constraints
Roads – public	None		
Roads – maintenance/service	.3 miles	Logging road	Used as a snowmobile trail
Roads – access easement	None		
Parking lots	None		
Boat landings	None		
Designated trails	None		
Dikes, ditches	None		
Dams	None		
Other			

Cady's Marsh State Natural Area PROJECT BOUNDARY



-  Project Boundary
-  DNR Owned
-  State Natural Area



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Bureau of Natural
Heritage Conservation

Jul 06, 2017

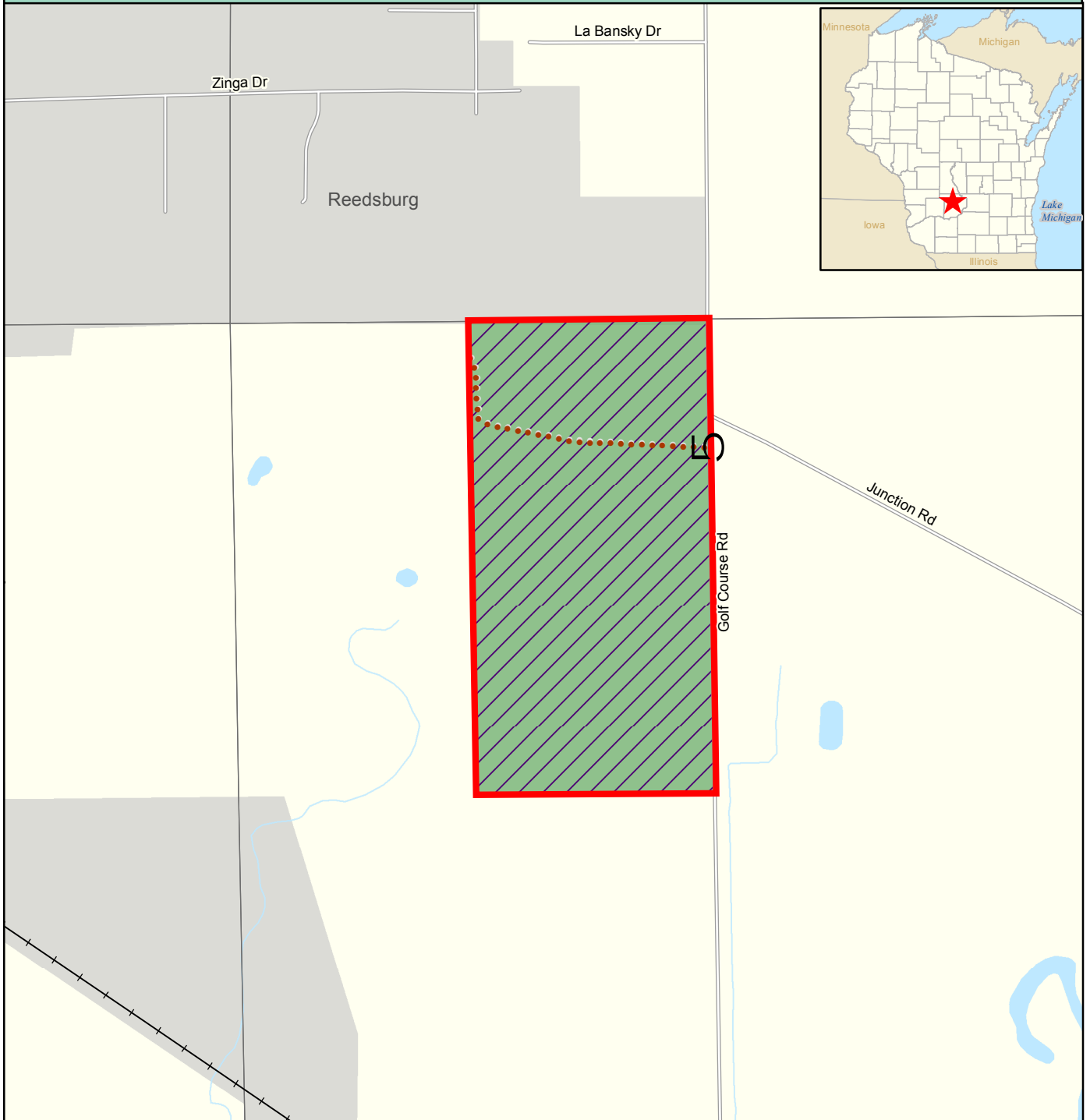
SNA Tier 3 dmh






MAP A

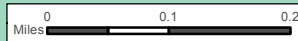
The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. This map is not intended to be used for navigation, nor is this map an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access. Users of this map should confirm the ownership of land through other means in order to avoid trespassing. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, applicability for a particular use, completeness, or legality of the information depicted on this map.

Cady's Marsh State Natural Area

EXISTING ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE



-  Project Boundary
-  State Natural Area
-  DNR Owned
-  Primitive Road: Closed
-  Gate



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Bureau of Natural
Heritage Conservation
Jul 06, 2017

SNA Tier 3 dmh

MAP B

The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. This map is not intended to be used for navigation, nor is this map an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access. Users of this map should confirm the ownership of land through other means in order to avoid trespassing. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, applicability for a particular use, completeness, or legality of the information depicted on this map.