



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

Property Name: Coffey Swamp

Property Designation or Type: State Natural Area

SNA Designation Number: 276

Property Location: Door County

Real Estate:

Project boundary acreage: 705

Fee acres owned: 189

Dedicated acres: 80, DNR file #D142

DNR Easement acres: 0.7

Federal aid interest: USFWS grant C-13-L-1, federal cost-share for acquisition,
file #NA 901

Land use agreements: None

Maps:

A. Project Boundary

Property Manager: **Joe Henry, Upper Lake Michigan Ecologist**
2894 Shawano Avenue
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920-662-5194

Prepared By (District Ecologist):

Name: Joe Henry

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):** Coffey Swamp occupies a former embayment of Lake Michigan along the northern coast of Washington Island. The natural area features a shallow, hard water seepage pond with a substrate of pure marl that nearly dries up in late summer and during years when the water level of Lake Michigan is low. Surrounding the pond is an open, treeless, boreal-rich fen dominated by wire-leaved sedges, sweet gale, and hoary willow. Boreal-rich fens are similar to their southern Wisconsin counterparts in having alkaline, saturated, peaty soils. They differ compositionally by having species more typical of nutrient poor northern wetlands such as round-leaved sundew, pitcher plant, cotton-grass, bog-rosemary, Labrador-tea, and bogbean. Adjoining the fen is a northern wet-mesic forest dominated by white cedar situated on peat over gravel and sand ridges. Deer browse is heavy and some areas are lacking in cedar reproduction.
- 2. Ecological Landscape:** The [Northern Lake Michigan Coastal Ecological Landscape](#) borders Lake Michigan and Green Bay, encompassing over 200 miles of Great Lakes coast. The shorelines and related habitats, some of them unique to the Great Lakes, are used during the spring and fall by large numbers of migratory birds. In recent years, tens of thousands of diving ducks have been recorded wintering in offshore Lake Michigan habitats. Both Lake Michigan and Green Bay are highly significant for fish.

The northern Door Peninsula and associated Grand Traverse Islands present conservation opportunities offered nowhere else in Wisconsin. Unusual physiographic features such as ridge and swale complexes, embayment lakes and freshwater estuaries are rich in rare natural communities, including beach, dune, bedrock shore, coastal fen and boreal forest. These, in turn, support one of Wisconsin's greatest concentrations of rare species, some of them endemic to Great Lakes shoreline environments.

The dolomite Niagara Escarpment is a dominant geological feature of this landscape. On the west side of the Door Peninsula the Escarpment is exposed as cliffs, ledges and talus slopes. Springs and seeps are present, and some of Wisconsin's oldest trees grow on the Escarpment. To the east, along Lake Michigan, the same bedrock forms extensive horizontal rock "beaches."

Management opportunities vary greatly in different parts of the Northern

Lake Michigan Coastal Ecological Landscape because of its variability. The factors responsible for this include the past and present influence of Lake Michigan and Green Bay, the dolomite bedrock, the composition of the glacial till and the highly variable landforms and their effects on land use.

3. **Ownership and Adjacent Land Uses:** Northern forest, wetlands, county road, residential and agricultural lands. Land owned by Door County Land Trust to the south.

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

[Note: Some of the lands in this natural area were purchased with federal grant funds that require they be managed in perpetuity for the protection of coastal wetland ecosystems and associated rare species of plants and animals.]

Invasives: European marsh thistle, Glossy buckthorn, Hound's tongue, *Phragmites*, Reed canary grass.

Invasives control history: Initial control work (contract) is slated to begin during the winter of 2016-2017 on buckthorn. *Phragmites* treatments will be done in the summer of 2017.

Forestry/Silviculture: Opportunities exist to use commercial timber harvests to help reach ecological restoration goals for the property.

Prescribed burning: Prescribed fire will not be used as a management practice to maintain this property.

5. **Facility/Amenity development:**

- a. **Existing:** Nothing
- b. **Future:** Construct a parking lot if additional land is acquired to connect the two currently disjunct parcels of land.

6. **Endangered, Threatened, Special Concern Species or Habitats, and wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need:** 2 state endangered species, 4 state threatened species, 6 state special concern species, and 1 state special concern habitat are known to occur here and/or in the general area. For detailed EO data, see Appendix A.

7. **Conservation Opportunity Area:** Coffey Swamp (14.04)

8. **Easements:**
 - a. 0.7 acres, management access easement, DNR file #NA 901E, Grantor: Christopher West
9. **Land use Agreements:** None, but we do pay an annual maintenance fee for the upkeep of Green Tree Road.
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 reserve for northern wet-mesic forest and boreal rich fen, as a rare animal protection area, as an aquatic and wetland reserve, and as an ecological reference area. Natural processes will determine the structure of the wet-mesic forest and

wetlands. Provide opportunities for research and education on the highest quality native northern wet-mesic forests and boreal rich fens.

- 2. Management Objectives by Natural Community Type:**
 - a. Restore approximately 10 acres of boreal rich fen, 56 acres of northern hardwoods, and 71 acres of cedar swamp.
 - b. Reforest pastures and old fields to northern hardwoods
 - c. Maintain northern hardwoods stands via managed old-growth or extended rotation.
 - d. Maintain pine plantations through even aged management with the long-term objective of converting to northern hardwoods.
 - e. Retain snags and important habitat features, unless they conflict with other objectives (such as hazard trees near roads)
 - f. Retain or increase existing populations of Species of Greatest Conservation Need.
 - g. Prevent the introduction of new invasive species, and ensure long-term limitation of the spread, reproduction and impact of existing invasive species.

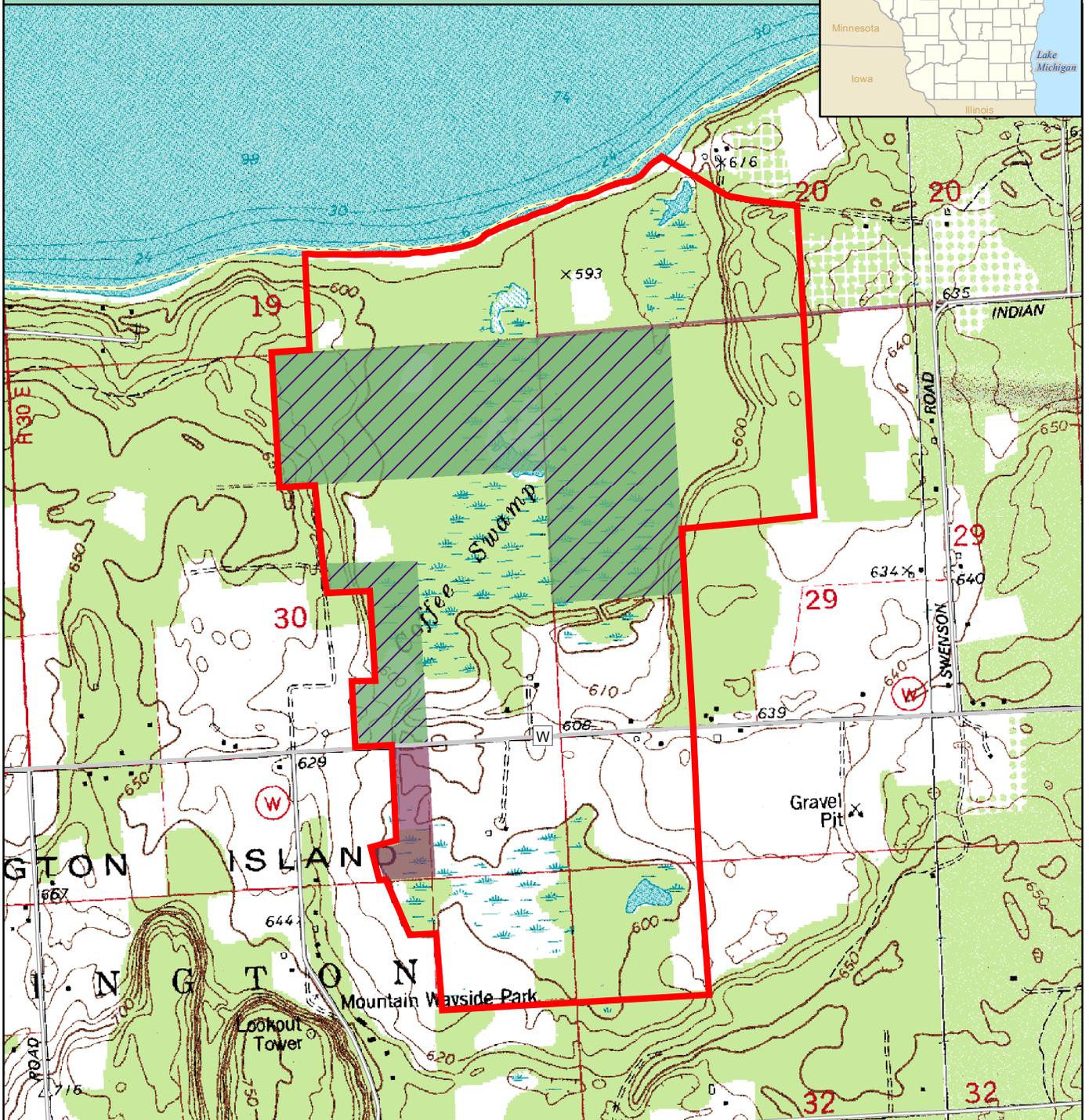
- 3. Management Prescriptions by Natural Community Type:**
 - a. Contain or eradicate invasive species through the use of department approved manual, chemical, biological, and mechanical practices.
 - b. Continue outreach to secure volunteer site stewards to help reach management objective and strengthen the joint public/private partnership.
 - c. In northern hardwood stands use uneven-aged selection (single tree or group) harvests to encourage long-term multi-aged diversity. Canopy gaps will be created to encourage age class diversity and edge cover.
 - d. Use even aged management in pine plantations following the normal silvicultural order of removal. Retain legacy white pine and mixed hardwoods to achieve the long term goal.
 - e. Apply for a forestry afforestation grant to machine plant and fence new northern hardwood tree plantations.

- 4. Special Management Issues and/or constraints:**
 - a. Access to suppress wildfires is allowed.
 - b. Salvage of trees in northern hardwoods stands after a major wind even may be allowed if the volume of trees is merchantable.

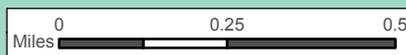
Table 1: Current Facilities or Infrastructure

| Type of Facility | Total (number/length) | Management Activities | Management Issues and Constraints |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Roads – public | None | | |
| Roads – maintenance/service | 1/0.5 mi | Pay annual maintenance fee for the upkeep of Green Tree Road. | |
| Roads – access easement | | | |
| Parking lots | None | | |
| Boat landings | None | | |
| Designated trails | None | | |
| Dikes, ditches | None | | |
| Dams | None | | |
| Other | | | |

Coffey Swamp State Natural Area PROJECT BOUNDARY



-  Project Boundary
-  DNR Owned
-  State Natural Area
-  Stewardship Grant Land



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Bureau of Natural
Heritage Conservation

Jul 07, 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.