



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

Property Name: McGilvra Woods

Property Designation or Type: State Natural Area

SNA Designation Number: 206

Property Location: Sauk County

Real Estate:

Project boundary acreage: 72

Fee acres owned: 72

Dedicated acres: 72, DNR file #D33 (1987)

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**

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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):** McGilvra Woods is one of the richest southern mesic forests in southwestern Wisconsin and noted for its display of spring wildflowers. The forest is situated on a gentle to moderate northwest slope at the edge of the Baraboo Hills with a knob of exposed sandstone bedrock found near the southeast corner of the site. Sugar maple and basswood dominate the woods with black cherry, red oak, white ash, yellowbud hickory, bigtooth aspen, and white oak. The trees are medium-aged, but the site is intact and with protection could become an old mesic forest. The sparse shrub layer contains eastern prickly gooseberry, common elderberry, and alternate-leaved dogwood. The groundlayer flora is rich in spring ephemerals and contains more than 110 species including uncommon plants such as leatherwood. Showy species include spring-beauty, toothwort, woodland phlox, wild geranium, hepatica, May-apple, Virginia waterleaf, bellwort, nodding trillium, and several orchids.

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.

Forests can be managed and conserved here at virtually all scales, including areas up to hundreds, or even thousands, of acres. Oak forests are more abundant here than any other ecological landscape, mesic maple-basswood forests are also widespread, and some of the Upper Midwest's most extensive stands of Floodplain Forest occur here along major rivers. All of these forest types can provide critical breeding and/or migratory habitat for significant populations of native plants and animals. Maintaining large blocks of these forest types, including areas with combinations of these types, is a major opportunity. Since much of the forested acreage is privately owned, there are opportunities to work with private landowners, looking for places to combine efforts and plan on a much larger scale than an individual property.

3. **Ownership and Adjacent Land Uses:** County highway, public roads, agricultural and residential lands.

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

Invasive Species: garlic mustard, honeysuckle, buckthorn, barberry.

Invasive Species control history: An effort is made to control priority invasive species on an annual basis. Garlic mustard has been controlled annually since the late 1990's. This site is a very high priority for continued control of garlic mustard.

Forestry/Silviculture: Timber harvests are not compatible with the ecological 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:** One parking lot and sign off Farview Road
 - b. **Future:** Same

6. **Endangered, Threatened, Special Concern Species or Habitats, and wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need:** 2 state threatened species, 3 state special concern species, and 1 federal species of concern are known to occur here and/or in the general area. For detailed EO data, see Appendix A.

7. **Conservation Opportunity Area:** Baraboo Hills and North Range (11.09)

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 southern mesic forest reserve and an ecological reference area.

2. Management Objectives by Natural Community Type:

- a. Natural processes will determine the structure of the forest.
- b. Maintain 64 acres of Southern Mesic Forest.
- c. Restore 8 acres of Southern Mesic Forest.
- d. Allow forest structure and composition to respond to natural processes, and allow the development of old growth conditions on all 72 acres.
- e. Prevent introduction of new invasive species, and ensure long-term limitation of the spread, reproduction and impact of existing invasive species.
- f. Allow the development of old forest characteristics, including biologically mature trees, large diameter trees, structural diversity, standing and down coarse woody debris, and an uneven canopy.

3. Management Prescriptions by Natural Community Type:

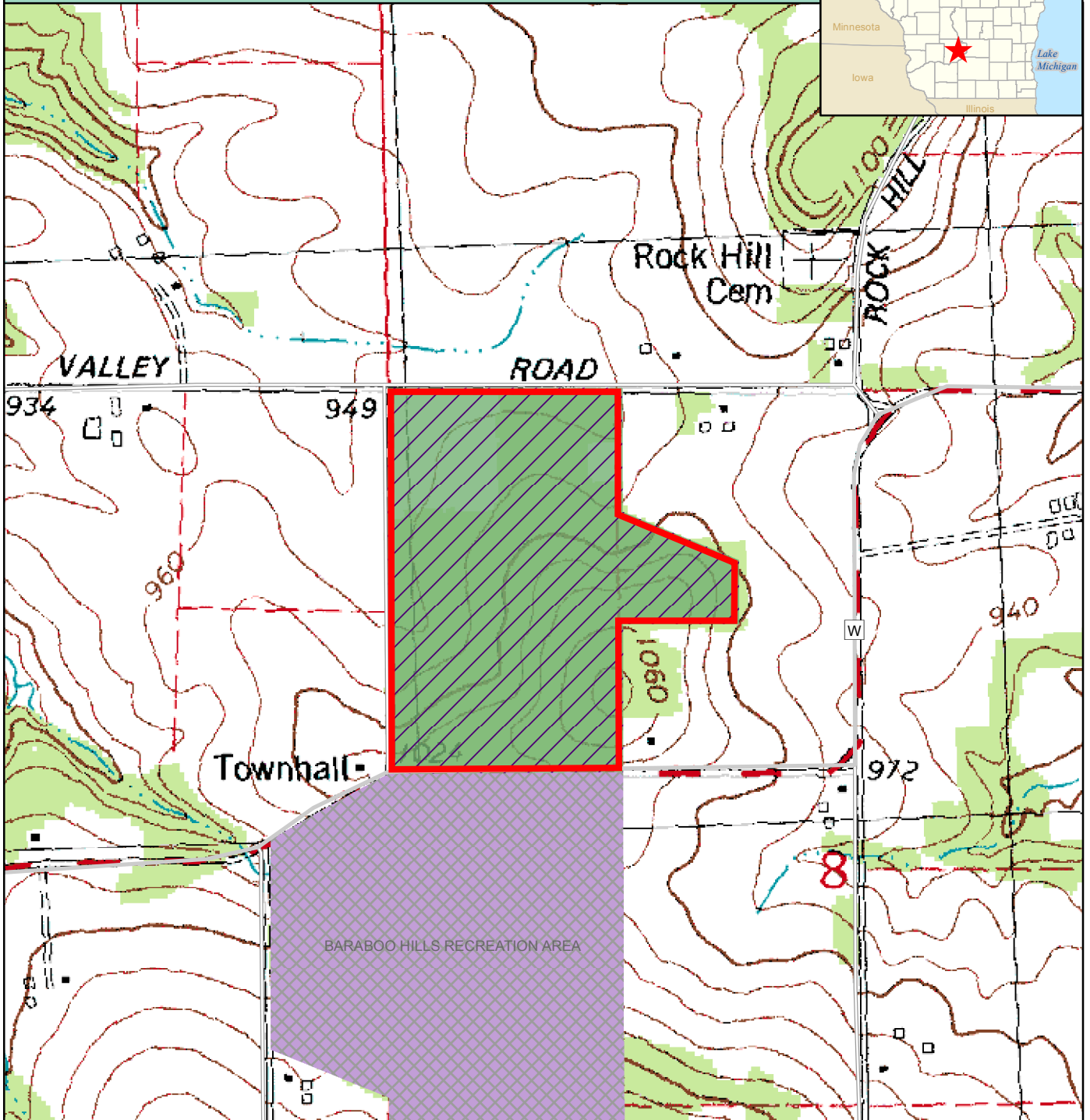
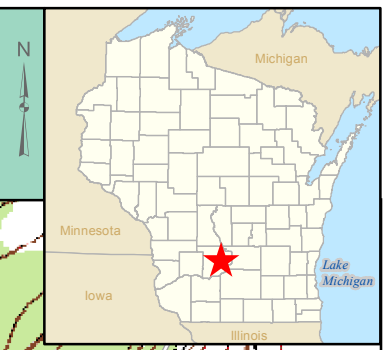
- a. Passively manage native species.
- b. Retain snags and coarse woody debris to promote old growth characteristics and as important habitat features, unless they conflict with other objectives (such as hazard trees near roads).





- c. Supplemental planting of Southern Mesic hardwood tree species into the 8 acre forest restoration is allowed if needed to fill canopy gaps.
 - d. Contain or eradicate invasive species through the use of department approved manual, chemical, biological, and mechanical practices.
 - e. Provide opportunities for research and education on the highest quality native Southern Forests.
- 4. Special Management Issues and/or constraints:**
- a. Salvage of trees after a major wind event is not considered compatible with management objectives.
 - b. Other allowable activities throughout the site include control of invasive plants and animals, maintenance of existing facilities, and access to suppress wildfires.
 - c. For additional guidance see the WI DNR Old-growth and Old Forests Handbook for Northern Hardwood Old Forest – Reserved.

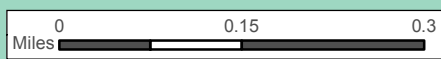
Table 1: Current Facilities or Infrastructure

Type of Facility	Total (number/length)	Management Activities	Management Issues and Constraints
Roads – public	None		
Roads – maintenance/service	None		
Roads – access easement	None		
Parking lots	1		
Boat landings	None		
Designated trails	None		
Dikes, ditches	None		
Dams	None		
Other			

McGilvra Woods State Natural Area PROJECT BOUNDARY



-  Project Boundary
-  DNR Owned
-  State Natural Area
-  DNR Easement (Closed to public access)



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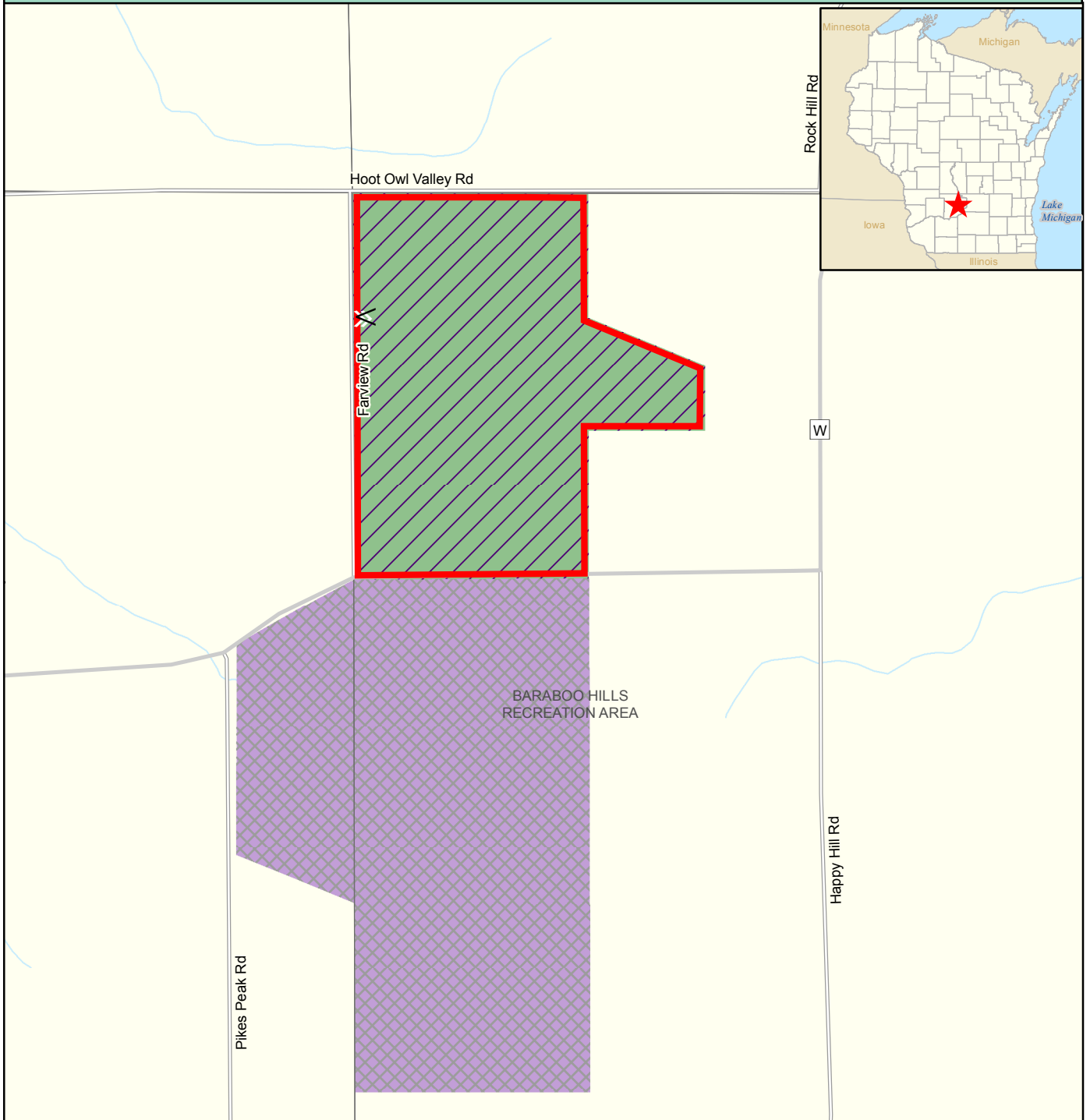
SNA Tier 3 dmh

MAP A


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McGilvra Woods State Natural Area


EXISTING ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE




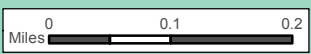
 Project Boundary

 State Natural Area

 DNR Owned


 DNR Easement (Closed to public access)

 Parking Lot

Miles 

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MAP B

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