Form 1100-001
(R 6/06)

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. 3.B.5

SUBJECT: Approval of the Buckhorn State Park, Buckhorn State Wildlife Area and Yellow River State Wildlife Area Master Plan

FOR: FEBRUARY, 2007 **BOARD MEETING**

The Master Plan can be found at
http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/master_planning/buckhorn/

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Jeff Prey / Peter Biermeier

SUMMARY:

This Master Plan encompasses three separate but adjoining properties: Buckhorn State Park, Buckhorn Wildlife Area A, and Buckhorn Wildlife Area B. Together, the properties total 7,101 acres. In addition, two State Natural Areas are designated on these properties. The plan proposes to retain existing recreational opportunities within the park while also adding new facilities to enhance the visitor's experience within this unique setting. Major additions proposed in the plan are: an 80 unit family campground with 40 electric sites, four yurts, two shower buildings, picnic area upgrades, and seven additional miles of trails. Minimal developments are proposed for the wildlife areas. To reduce confusion, it is proposed that the wildlife areas will be renamed with more distinctive names. These name changes will address hunter questions relating to hunting opportunities, seasons, and regulations as they apply to each property. Buckhorn Wildlife Area A will simply be called the Buckhorn Wildlife Area. Buckhorn Wildlife Area B will become the Yellow River Wildlife Area.

Several boundary adjustments are proposed between the park and wildlife areas that would make the respective property boundaries more easily understood by the public and to incorporate all existing intensive recreational facility developments, such as campsites, within the park. In addition, an expansion of 1,377 acres is proposed for the park and wildlife area boundaries. If acquired, these new lands would provide areas for expansion of recreational trails and would provide buffers from residential developments.

The public involvement process consisted of two open houses with no major objections expressed about this plan. These open houses were supplemented with two mailings to approximately 240 stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION: Board Approval per NR 44.04(3) Master plan development, adoption and public involvement. Plan Approval

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

No	☑	Fiscal Estimate Required	Yes	☐	Attached
No	☐	Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required	Yes	☑	Attached
No	☑	Background Memo	Yes	☐	Attached

APPROVED:

/s/	1/18/07
Bureau Director,	Date
/s/	1/18/07
Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf	Date
/s/	1/22/07
Secretary, Scott Hassett	Date

cc: Amy J. Arthur - AD/5
Jeff Prey - PR/6