

SUBJECT: Approval of the Master Plan for the Lower Chippewa River Properties

FOR: FEBRUARY 2010 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Craig Thompson

Draft Master Plan and Environmental Assessment are located on-line at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/lowerchipmp.htm>

SUMMARY:

The Lower Chippewa River property group includes three Wildlife Areas, three State Natural Areas, and two tracts of extensive wildlife habitat lands. This assemblage of properties has ecological significance at a continental scale. The property group includes: Tiffany, Dunnville, and Big Swamp Wildlife Areas; Lower Chippewa River, Nine Mile Island, and Caryville Savanna State Natural Areas; and the Rock Falls and Waterville Extensive Wildlife Habitat Lands.

These properties will continue to provide management and protection of habitat for a wide variety of game species and 125 known rare (endangered, threatened or special concern) species. Existing public uses - hunting, trapping, fishing, wildlife watching and other nature-based recreational activities - will continue. The overall direction of stewardship will remain largely unchanged, with master plan management objectives and strategies updated to be consistent with current tenets of wildlife management and conservation biology. Proposed changes to property boundaries and acquisition authority are as follows:

- Big Swamp WA - increase by 1,857 acres.
- Tiffany WA - increase by 305 acres.
- Transfer 188 acres from Nine Mile Island SNA to Dunnville WA and adjust acreages accordingly.
- Transfer the 470 acre Chippewa Island SNA to the LCRSNA and increase the acreage goal by 470 acres.
- Via redesignation, establish the Rock Falls WA with an acreage goal of 1,916 acres.

The boundary modifications will help to ensure long-term ecological function, connect existing publicly-owned lands and provide easily defined boundaries with road access.

RECOMMENDATION: Board approval of the master plan per NR 44.04(3), including approval of the boundary changes, increases in the acquisition authorities proposed, and establishment of the Rock Falls WA.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- No Fiscal Estimate Required
- No Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required
- No Background Memo

- Yes Attached
- Yes Attached
- Yes Attached

APPROVED:

Bureau Director,

Tom Hauge

Date

1/5/10

Administrator,

Janice Stunz

Date

1/5/10

Secretary, Matt Frank

Matt Frank

Date

2-5-10

cc: Laurie J. Ross - AD/8