

**SUBJECT:** Approval of the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resources Area Master Plan

**FOR:** SEPTEMBER 2012 BOARD MEETING

**TO BE PRESENTED BY / TITLE:** Tom Hauge, Wildlife Bureau Director & Yoyi Steele, Wildlife Planner

**SUMMARY:**

The Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resources Area (LWRBNRA) Master Plan covers a 100-mile corridor of the Wolf River between the Shawano Dam and Lake Poygan in Shawano, Outagamie, Waupaca, and Winnebago counties. It contains 14 Department properties and other scattered parcels. The plan area contains an assemblage of extensive and high-quality natural communities associated with the floodplain of a large, free-flowing river. The Lower Wolf floodplain is the largest and most intact of any river in eastern Wisconsin. Bottomland forests, emergent wetlands, shrub swamps, and warm-water rivers and streams host a rich diversity of birds, mammals, herptiles, fish, and invertebrates, including many rare species. Recreationally, the plan area's proximity to large population centers in the Fox Valley and Green Bay areas makes it very popular for a variety of outdoor recreational pursuits, especially hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, and wildlife viewing.

The Master Plan calls for continued management and protection of existing habitats, aquatic resources, and rare communities and species; continued emphasis on traditional outdoor recreational activities; continuation of wildlife and environmental education in partnership with the Navarino Nature Center; and continued collaboration with external partners and private landowners on shared stewardship goals. New proposed facilities include two designated dispersed camping areas to serve paddlers making multiple-day trips down the Wolf River and a new dog training area. The LWRBNRA Master Plan does not propose any boundary modifications.

Plan documents may be viewed online at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/wolf/>

**RECOMMENDATION:** Board approval of the Master Plan per NR 44.04(3).

**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:**

- |    |                                     |   |     |                                     |          |
|----|-------------------------------------|---|-----|-------------------------------------|----------|
| No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required                              | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Attached |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement Required | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Background Memo                                       | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

**APPROVED:**

Tom Hauge  
Bureau Director,

[Signature]  
Administrator,

[Signature]  
Secretary, Cathy Stepp

cc: NRB Liaison  
DNR Rules Coordinator

Scott Loomans, WM/6

8/9/12  
Date

8/15/12  
Date

8/23/12  
Date

- Tom Hauge, WM/6
- Yoyi Steele, WM/6
- Kurt Thiede, A0/8