

TEMPLATE FOR A MASTER PLAN VARIANCE OR AMENDMENT

Variance Amendment

Property Name: Tiffany Wildlife Area

Date the Current Master Plan Approved: February 2010

(Changes to plans approved after 1996 must follow the requirements of ch. NR 44.04, Wis. Adm. Code.)

Proposed Change to the Master Plan (The specific master plan language changes and any change in landuse classification, with revised maps as appropriate):

Add this to "Public Use Management and Development" section of Master Plan (pg. 26) under "Management Prescriptions" heading:

- Provide a paddling trail on south end of property, with put-in at Hwy. 35 landing and take-out at Tim's Slough landing. Trail will be on both DNR and USFWS property, and will be maintained by USFWS staff and volunteers.

Approved: 
Administrator, Division of Lands or Division of Forestry

Date: 5/16/16

(Note: a plan amendment must also be approved by the Natural Resources Board.)

See following pages for additional approvals and supporting information

Variance/Amendment Initiator or Author; Mark Rasmussen

Job Title: Wildlife Biologist

Supporting Approvals

Diane M. Fyssa Date; 5/6/16

Department Master Planning Manager, LF

Allen [Signature] Date; 4/6/16

Property Manager

Tim Babuse Date; 4/12/16

Area Supervisor

Tim Babu (Acting) Date; 4/12/16

District Supervisor

Tom Hauze Date; 5/6/16

Program Bureau Director

Others with a special interest;

Signature: _____ Date; _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date; _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date; _____

Title: _____

Supporting Information

Purpose and need for the plan change (include background and history as appropriate):

Applying for a variance to allow for a designated paddling trail running from Hwy. 35 boat landing, down Chippewa River, up through Trevino Bottoms, pull out point at Tim's Slough boat landing. Cooperative project being led by USFWS.

How the proposed plan change is supported by or is inconsistent with the property vision, goals and objectives or other plan provisions:

Canoeing/paddling is already allowed in this area, and is one of the most popular recreational uses on Tiffany WA (master plan, pg. 7). No new DNR infrastructure will be established for this trail, it uses existing boat landings on Tiffany WA (master plan, pg. 26). All signs designating trail are being purchased, placed, and maintained by USFWS staff and volunteers.

Anticipated primary benefits of the proposed plan change (include only information not presented in the purpose and need section above):

Expected benefits of this trail being established are increased use of this unique property by more members of the public. Possible source for volunteer labor to conduct property maintenance/mgmt. activities, including parking lot cleanup.

Additional anticipated benefits: N/A

Unavoidable adverse impacts (attach an Environmental Analysis if one was prepared):

No unavoidable adverse impacts are expected.

Summary of any alternatives considered:

See USFWS EA for consideration of alternatives.

Compatibility with statutes, codes, and department policies:

Paddling trail consistent with current state statute, code and dept. policies.

Federal aid limitations (cite if any federal aid moneys are involved with either acquisition or management of the property and whether the proposed plan change is compatible with the aid requirements or if a federal review of the proposal is required):

No federal aid money being used in project. Federal gov't (USFWS) is lead on project, and will be conducting/coordinating all work associated with set up and maintenance of trail.

Public review process used (summary of who was notified about the proposal or otherwise reviewed the proposal and the meetings, mailings and other techniques used):

Federal EA process will cover public comment requirement. Comment period was April 1-30, 2016.

During the 30-day public comment period, two comments were received. Neither fully supported or opposed the trail, but rather offered suggestions for signage and route options.

Description of the support and/or opposition to the proposal (include reasons for the various positions taken and any unresolved issues or concerns):

Project was proposed by local paddling club, and is supported by them. No known opposition to project at this time.