

*Pl. file*

# CORRESPONDENCE / MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

DATE: January 28, 1986  
TO: Dave Jacobsen - NWD  
FROM: James R. Huntoon *JRH*

In Reply Refer To:

RECEIVED  
FEB - 4 1986

BUREAU OF  
REAL ESTATE

SUBJECT: Approval of the Beverly Lake, Sawyer County Fisher Area Management Plan

I have approved the Beverly Lake Fishery Area Management Plan. The present acreage goal of 264.2 acres is considered adequate to obtain the goals and objectives for this fishery area.

Attached are 20 copies of the approved Management Plan and original maps for your district files to answer inquiries from the public and for future use in developing the implementation element plan.

The implementation element of the management planning process should be completed next. You are requested to supply this office with a copy on or about April 15, 1986.

Please convey my appreciation to the task force for a job well done in the completion of this management plan.

JRH:jm  
4691L

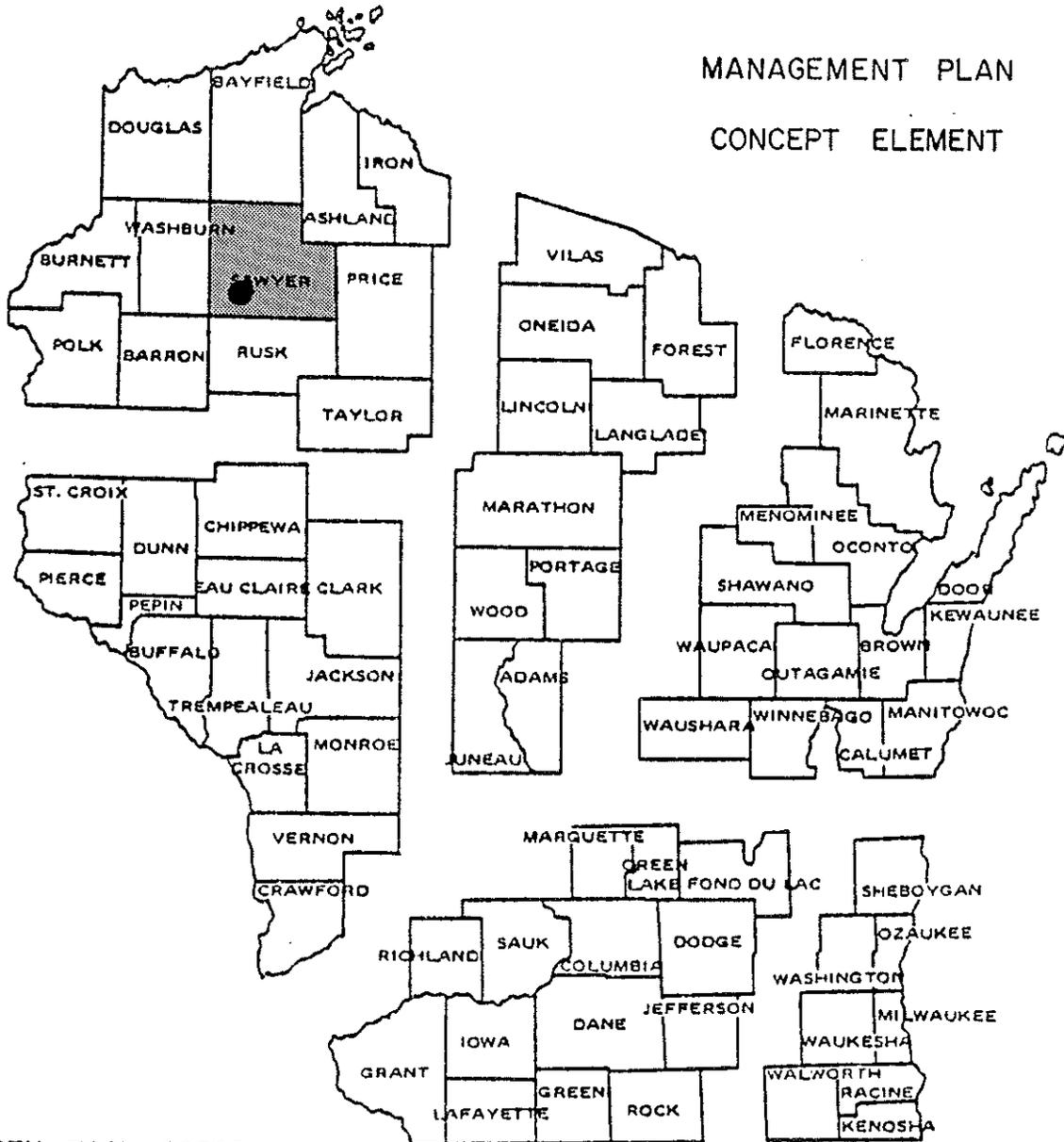
cc: James Addis - FM/4  
→ Carl Evert - OL/4  
Vern Hacker - Oshkosh

Attachments



# BEVERLY LAKE FISHERY AREA

SAWYER COUNTY

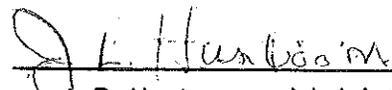


MANAGEMENT PLAN  
CONCEPT ELEMENT

PROPERTY TASK FORCE

LEADER - Frank Pratt, Fish Management  
Sam Moore, Wildlife Management  
Gordon Christians, Forestry  
Lynn Thompson, Law Enforcement

APPROVED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
J. R. Huntoon, Administrator,  
Resource Management

DATE:

\_\_\_\_\_  
11/11

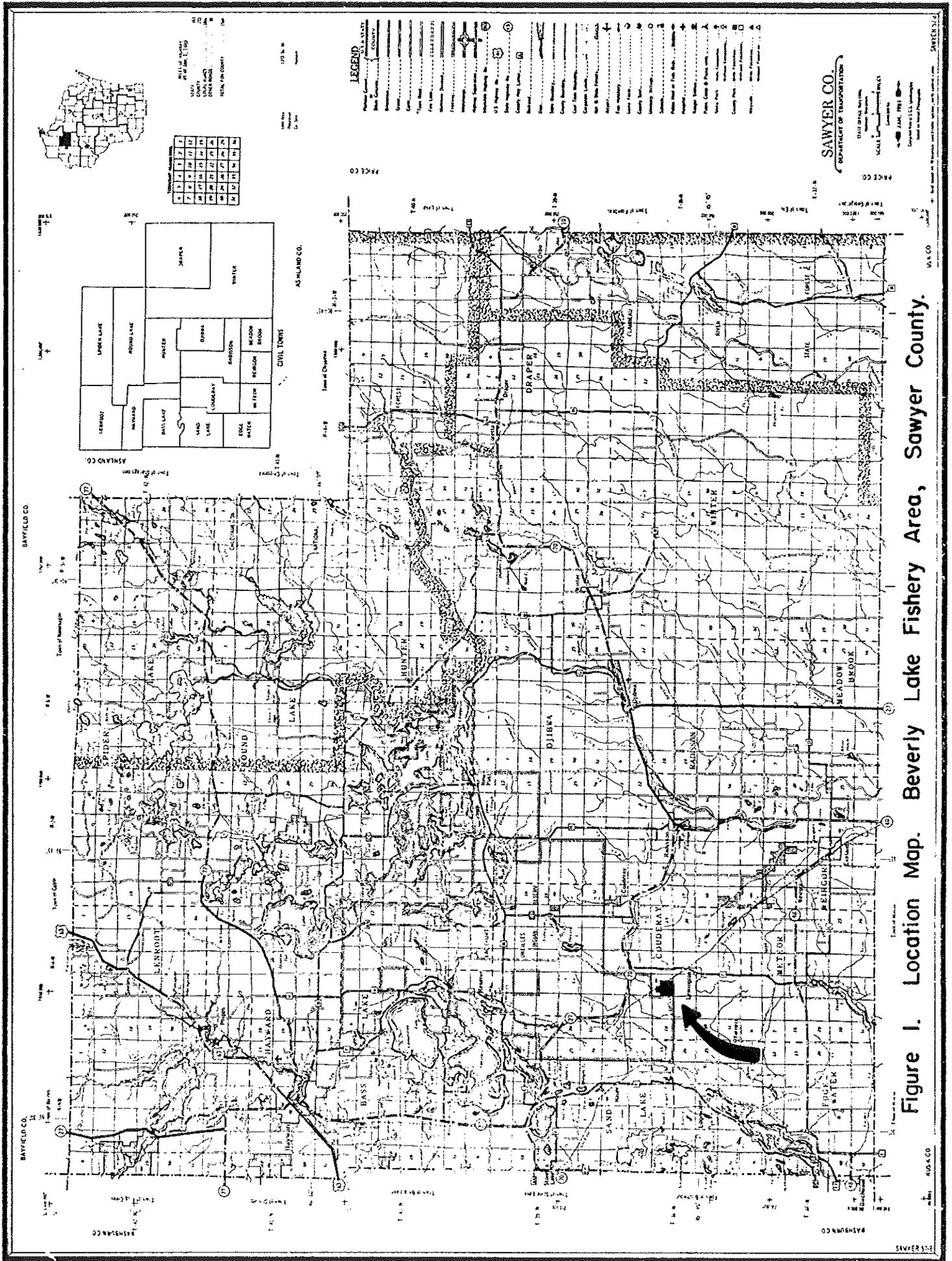


Figure 1. Location Map. Beverly Lake Fishery Area, Sawyer County.

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## SECTION I - ACTIONS

### GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

#### Goals:

To manage, preserve and protect the Beverly Lake Fishery Area to enhance fishing and other recreational activities.

#### Annual Objectives:

1. Provide opportunity for 100 participant-days of coldwater and 200 man-days of warmwater angling.
2. Maintain the brook trout population of Swift Creek at a level sufficient to sustain a catch rate of 0.5 brook trout 8" per trip.
3. Maintain a warmwater fish community in Beverly Lake at a level sufficient to sustain a catch rate of about 0.25 northern pike (24+" per trip and .04 muskellunge (32+" per trip.
4. Accommodate 50 participant-days of hunting for waterfowl and upland game and 50 participant-days for trapping.

#### Annual Additional Benefits:

1. Accommodate 200 participant-days annually of other recreational use including berry-picking, sight-seeing, bird-watching and photography.
2. Benefit nongame species including endangered and threatened.
3. Produce 3,600 cords equivalent of hardwood and softwood on an average 60-year rotational basis.

### RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Beverly Lake will be managed for optimum sustained yield of Esocids and Swift Creek for optimum sustained yield of brook trout. Stream trout management will consist of stocking an annual quota of 250 spring yearling brook trout; a limited habitat maintenance program consisting of zoned streambank brushing, brush bundles and debris removal on 50% of the stream thread (2 500' zones); periodic beaver control and beaver dam removal; vegetation management to select against aspen adjacent to Swift Creek; and periodic fishery evaluation surveys. Esocid management will consist of stocking an alternate year quota of 50 fall fingerling muskellunge, limiting lake access to walk-in status, periodic surveys to monitor the status of the fishery, and, if need arises, specific angling restrictions to optimize Beverly Lake's trophy Esocid potential.

The status of the threatened Longear Sunfish will be monitored. Appropriate measures will be taken to insure this species' continued presence in the Beverly Lake fish community. Potential Longear Sunfish management might include, but not necessarily be limited to, spawning area enhancement or mechanical/chemical removal of other competing Centrarchid panfish species (bluegill and pumpkinseed).

A comprehensive survey of the wildlife and surface plants will be conducted when funding and/or voluntary manpower become available. If additional rare, endangered or threatened plant and animal species are found, an appropriate plan for protection or management of these species will be formulated.

Forest game habitat management will emphasize vegetative diversity in the upland zone, utilizing commercial timber harvest. Scheduled timber management will include 104 acres of pine and hardwood thinnings, 32 acres of aspen clearcut, and 14 acres of shearing to maintain aspen in blowdown areas. A limited amount of big tree silviculture will be practiced within line of sight of the lakeshore in order to preserve and enhance Beverly Lake's unique aesthetics.

The diversity of stands and the "disturbed" habitat resulting from commercial timber management will provide a diversity of niches likely to benefit all species present, both game and nongame. Other specific wildlife management will include: 1) erection of 10 waterfowl nesting boxes, 2) erection of 10 nesting boxes for cavity dwelling birds, 3) erection of one osprey nesting platform, 4) maintenance of forest openings on 3% of the land area (7-8 acres) and, 5) preservation and protection of at least one den tree per acre.

Non-consumptive use will not be discouraged, but there will be no intense development of any recreational facilities other than the aforementioned fish-forest-game maintenance and development activities. There will be no further land acquisition.

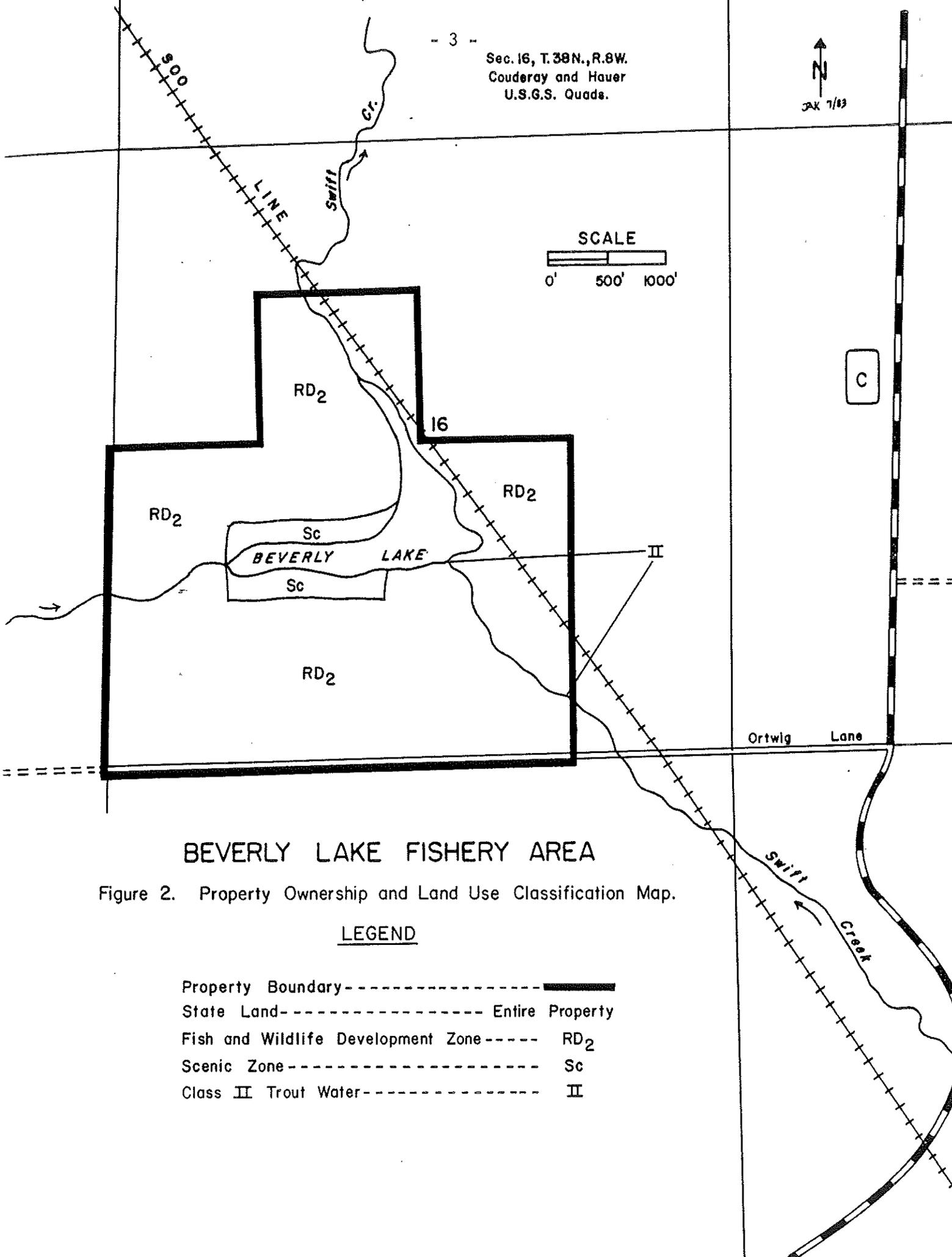
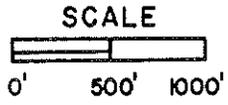
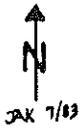
## SECTION II - SUPPORT DATA

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Beverly Lake Fishery Area is a 264.2-acre parcel encompassing a small natural drainage lake and a trout stream (Figure 2). It is located in southwest Sawyer County near the Village of Lemington. The area was purchased in 1963 for \$14,000 under the ORAP program, and acquisition is complete. Access to the property is via a town road and an improved logging trail.

Past property management (Figure 3) has included fish stocking (muskellunge, largemouth bass, brook and brown trout), periodic fishery surveys, beaver control, harvest of blown-down timber via firewood salvage permit, access trail improvement, and signing. There has been no major terrestrial or aquatic habitat manipulation.

Sec. 16, T. 39N., R. 9W.  
Coudery and Hauer  
U.S.G.S. Quads.



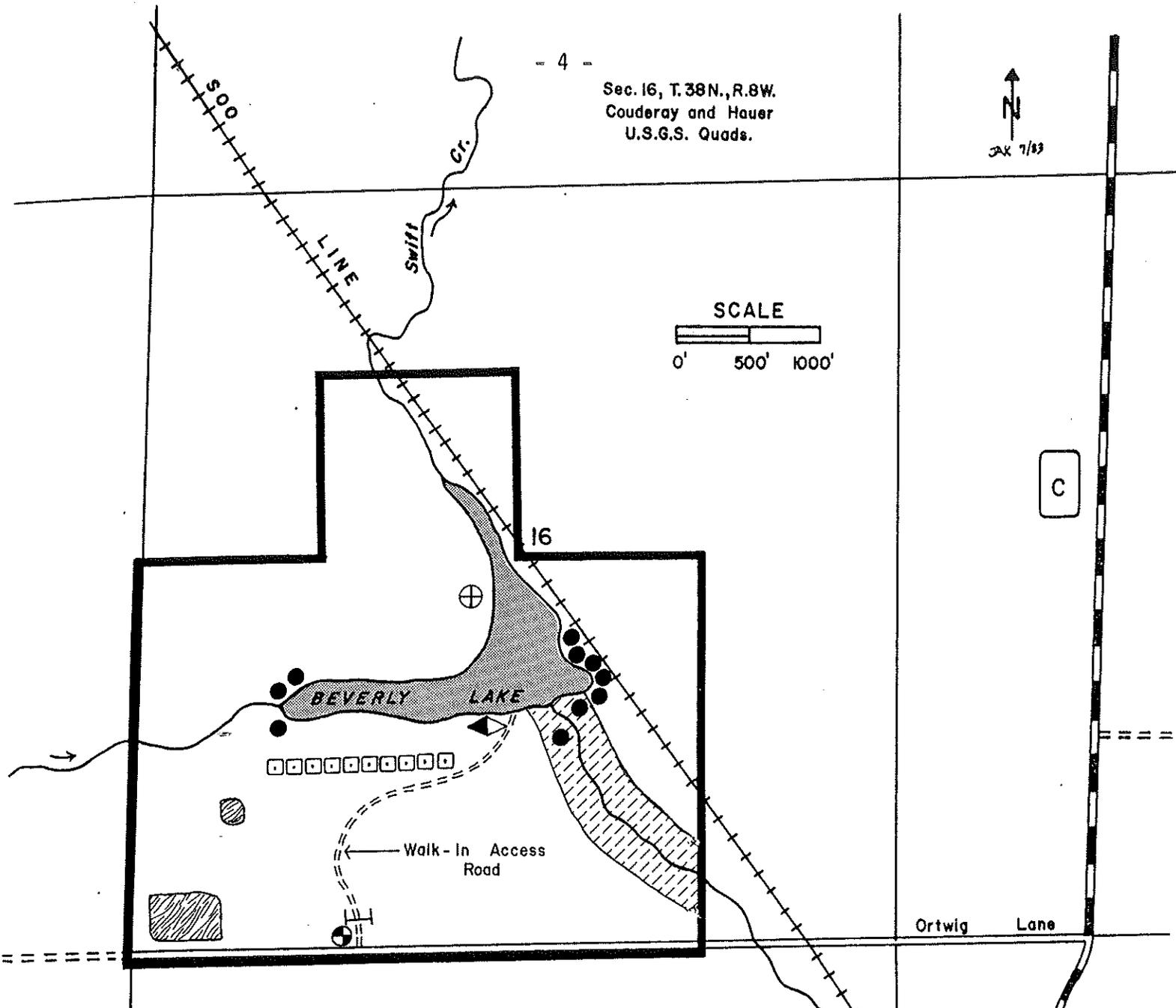
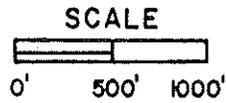
### BEVERLY LAKE FISHERY AREA

Figure 2. Property Ownership and Land Use Classification Map.

#### LEGEND

- Property Boundary-----
- State Land----- Entire Property
- Fish and Wildlife Development Zone----- RD<sub>2</sub>
- Scenic Zone----- Sc
- Class II Trout Water----- II

Sec. 16, T. 38N., R. 8W.  
Coudery and Hauer  
U.S.G.S. Quads.



### BEVERLY LAKE FISHERY AREA

Figure 3. Existing and Planned Development Map.

#### LEGEND

- Property Boundary -----
- Parking Area -----
- Gated Entrance to Access Road -----
- Public Access -----
- Waterfowl Nesting Boxes (10) -----
- Cavity Nesting Boxes (10) -----
- Osprey Nesting Platform (1) -----
- Trout Stream Management Zone -----
- Warm Water Fish Management Zone -----
- Wildlife Openings -----

## RESOURCE CAPABILITIES AND INVENTORY

### Soils and Geology

The watershed lies in the Northern Highlands geologic region. Repeated glaciation has been an important factor in the formation and modification of soils and topography.

A site-specific soil map is not available, but the generalized soil map for Sawyer County shows two major soil associations within the fishery area. The Antigo-Brill-Stambaugh association predominates east of Swift Creek and the Santiago-Freeon-Milaca does so to the west. The latter consists of strongly sloping, moderately well drained soils consisting of 10-30" of silt over sandy loam glacial till. The former consists of nearly level to gently sloping, well drained soils formed by 20-30" of silt over loosely stratified sands and gravel outwash.

A unique geological feature of the fishery area is the presence of an exposed quartzite ridge, 15-25' high along part of the south shoreline of Beverly Lake.

### Fisheries

Brook trout are present in Swift Creek upstream from Beverly Lake. The stream in the vicinity of the lake is Class II and requires stocking of an annual quota of 250 spring yearling brook trout. Beverly Lake supports an Esocid-panfish community, with a small population of largemouth bass. Swift Creek downstream from Beverly Lake is warmwater habitat and supports a large minnow community and a sparse population of warmwater gamefish (similar to that of the Couderay River into which it flows).

Fishery surveys were conducted on Beverly Lake in 1964, 69, 79 and 80 and on Swift Creek in 1979. Beverly Lake lies in the native range of the muskellunge and still supports a remnant population of that species. Northern pike have invaded the entire Couderay drainage and are now the major predator and gamefish species in Beverly Lake. In addition, Beverly Lake supports a sparse population of largemouth bass, an abundant population of small yellow perch, black bullheads, a variety of common minnow species including golden shiners, hornyhead chub, white sucker and shorthead redhorse, and a number of Centrarchid panfish. The Centrarchid panfish community includes large rock bass, pumpkinseed, sunfish, bluegill, longear sunfish and hybrid sunfish.

The longear sunfish is currently listed as threatened in Wisconsin (especially so in northern Wisconsin which is the extreme edge of its native range). However, recent fish management surveys have documented its general presence in the upper Couderay watershed, including Lac Courte Oreilles, Little Courte Oreilles, Whitefish and Grindstone Lakes. The high degree of hybridization amongst Beverly Lake sunfish may indicate a relative lack of Centrarchid spawning sites or spawning site segregation.

In recent years, Beverly Lake has been stocked with small largemouth bass fingerling (500-3" in 1974 and 1000-1" in 1976). It was stocked with muskellunge in the early 60's and was scheduled for reinitiation of muskellunge stocking in 1982.

There is a tremendous local demand for a trout lake fishery in the Couderay region. In response to this demand, brown trout were stocked in Beverly Lake in 1979-80 in order to field assess the water's apparent two-story potential. Beverly Lake does have marginal potential in terms of its thermo-chemical parameters. However, the trout failed to survive and the two-story program has been abandoned.

The only way that a viable trout fishery could be supplied would be via complete chemical treatment of the Swift Creek drainage to remove warmwater predators and competitors coupled with installation of a warmwater fish barrier. Trout-only management is not considered a viable option due to physical characteristics of the drainage system and the lake's unique, quality warmwater fish community.

### Wildlife

The terrestrial wildlife community consists of animals common to upland, wetlands and streamedge habitats in northwestern Wisconsin. No comprehensive wildlife survey has ever been conducted on the Beverly Lake Fishery Area.

A partial list of animals likely to be found here would include mammals such as beaver, otter, muskrat, raccoon, gray and red squirrels, chipmunk, cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare and white-tailed deer. Birds would include such game species as ruffed grouse and woodcock and an assortment of waterfowl, raptors and songbirds. Osprey have been observed near the property and a nesting platform will be erected in an attempt to establish a nesting territory.

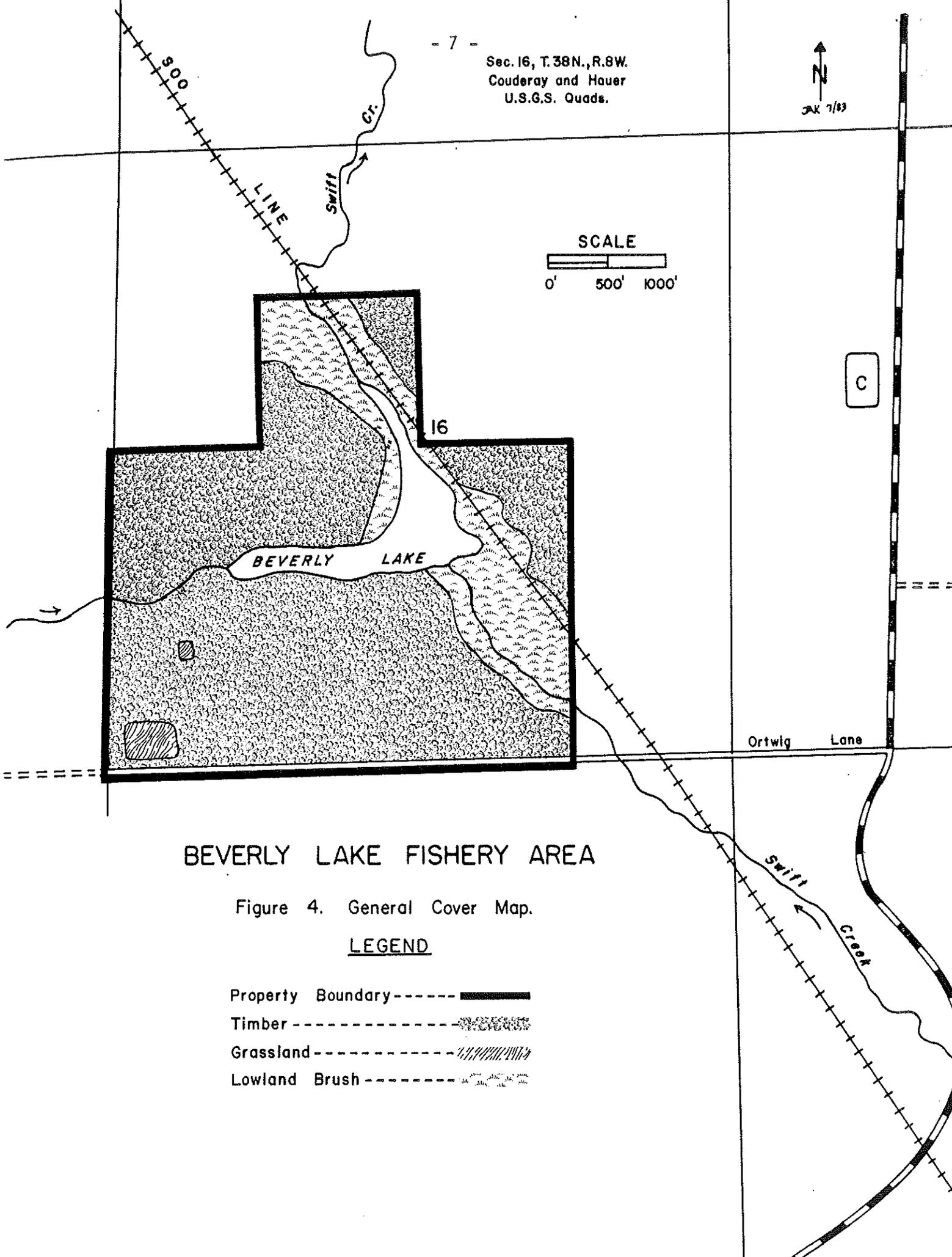
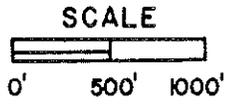
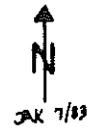
Reptiles and amphibians common to northwest Wisconsin probably can be found here. Fish management personnel have observed painted turtles, snapping turtles, green frogs and bullfrogs on the property. All wildlife, especially the common game species, can and will be managed by appropriate manipulation of vegetative cover.

### Vegetation

The terrestrial plant community is summarized by forestry reconnaissance in Table 1.

The original forest cover for this tract consisted of red and white pine north of the lake and predominantly northern hardwood south of the lake. Pockets of balsam and spruce are present along the creek bottom west of the lake, and swamp hardwoods along Swift Creek (Figure 4). A downburst storm in July, 1977 blew down large quantities of aspen throughout the fishery area.

Sec. 16, T. 38N., R. 8W.  
Coudery and Hauer  
U.S.G.S. Quads.



### BEVERLY LAKE FISHERY AREA

Figure 4. General Cover Map.

#### LEGEND

- Property Boundary -----
- Timber -----
- Grassland -----
- Lowland Brush -----

Timber management opportunities for this property will provide a variety of timber types and ages beneficial to game habitat and aesthetics. These opportunities include 104 acres of thinning of pine and hardwood stands, 32 acres of aspen clearcut and 14 acres of shearing to maintain aspen in blowdown areas. All the work should be done within the next five years to maintain vigorous stands. Access, especially north of the lake, will limit management work on that part of the property. (More detailed forest management activity can be found in the reconnaissance summary.)

Table 1: Vegetative Cover - Beverly Lake Fishery Area

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Aspen             | 78 acres |
| Fir-Spruce        | 7 acres  |
| Field             | 3 acres  |
| Alder             | 28 acres |
| Oak               | 17 acres |
| Northern Hardwood | 60 acres |
| Swamp Hardwood    | 13 acres |
| White Pine        | 14 acres |
| Red Pine          | 27 acres |

Aquatic vegetation is abundant in the shallow eastern end of Beverly Lake and is sparse and limited to shoreline edges of the deeper and steeply sloping western basin. The lake's dark water tends to inhibit light penetration, so the photic zone is restricted to 6 feet or less. The lake's aquatic plant community has been catalogued by Scientific and Natural Area personnel as follows:

Callitriche palustris - rare  
Ceratophyllum demersum - common  
Elodea canadensis - rare  
Glyceria striata - occasional  
Lemna minor - common  
Nuphar advena - common  
Potamogeton amplifolius - common  
Potamogeton nataus - common  
Potamogeton zosteriformis - rare  
Sagittaria latifolia - common  
Spirodela polyrhiza - common  
Vallisneria americana - occasional

With the exception of longear sunfish, no other rare, endangered or threatened species is known to occur on the property. Osprey have been observed in the general vicinity and a nesting platform will be erected in an effort to provide a nesting territory. A detailed survey of wildlife and terrestrial plants has yet to be conducted and it is possible that the list will be expanded in the future.

## Water Resources

The area receives an annual average of 30.1" of precipitation of which 65% occurs in the open-water season. Peak run-off generally corresponds to snow melt in March and April. The Sawyer County Surface Water Resources publication lists Swift Creek as having a normal flow of 7.0 cfs. During July of 1978 (a low water period), the flow of Swift Creek was measured at 2.9 cfs above Beverly Lake and 2.8 cfs below. The other unnamed tributary to Beverly Lake contributes 0.9 cfs so there is a considerable net loss of flow, presumably due to evaporation off the surface of Beverly Lake. Similarly, beaver dams have been shown to cause severe flow variations and flow reductions on this watershed.

Swift Creek water has an average retention time in Beverly Lake of about 11 days. The base flow in Swift Creek appears to be about evenly divided between surface run-off, swamp drainage and groundwater input.

Swift Creek and Beverly Lake are the main water resources on the property. Additionally, there is one small unnamed tributary that flows into the west end of Beverly Lake. (It contains a sparse population of warmwater minnow species.) The water resources have the following specific physical-chemical characteristics (including part of those waters outside the fishery area).

### Beverly Lake

surface acreage - 16.2 acres

maximum depth - 28 ft.

mean depth - 9 ft.

≤3 ft. - 37%

≥20 ft. - 15%

volume - 150 acre ft.

shoreline - 1.6 mi.

MPA - 32 ppm

pH - 7.2

Secchi - 4 ft.

color - medium brown stained (see Figure 4 - Lake Survey Map)

### Swift Creek

length - 8.2 mi. total

trout water - 4.4 mi. Class I, 1.7 mi. Class II

surface acreage - 7.0 acres

mean width - 7 ft.

mean depth - 0.6 ft.

normal flow - 7 cfs

MPA - 51 ppm

pH - 6.9

color - medium brown

gradient - 26 ft/mi.

drainage basin - 7.2 mi<sup>2</sup>

Unnamed Tributary

length - 0.8 mi.  
mean width - 2.0 ft.  
mean depth - 0.1 ft.  
normal flow - 0.9 cfs  
MPA - 45 ppm  
pH - 7.2  
gradient - 109 ft/mi.  
color - clear

The specific attributes of these waters within the property are as follows in Table 2.

Table 2: Water Areas Within Beverly Lake Fishery Area

| <u>Water</u>  | <u>Length (mi)</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Trout Water (mi.)</u> |           |            |
|---|--------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------|------------|
|   |                    |              | <u>I</u>                 | <u>II</u> | <u>III</u> |
| Beverly Lake  |                    | 16.2         |                          |           |            |
| Swift Creek   | 0.9                | 1.2          |                          | 0.5       |            |
| Unnamed Tributary to Beverly Lake (T38N,R8W,Sec. 19, SE NW) | 0.2                | 0.1          |                          |           |            |

Historical, Archaeological or Architectural Data

The Beverly Lake Fishery Area has been surveyed by the State Historical Society and no historical or archaeologically significant sites were found nor is it felt that any will be found. The society will be informed of any project likely to disrupt the soils on undrained uplands or if any site of apparent historical or archaeological significance is discovered.

Ownership

The state currently controls 264.2 acres, purchased in fee title in 1963. Current ownership is sufficient to accomplish the goals and objectives of the fishery area and no further acquisition is recommended.

Fishing is the major public use on the Beverly Lake Fishery Area. The area provides a diversity of other recreational opportunities including hunting, trapping, berry picking, sightseeing, etc.

Most of the fishery area is recommended for designation as a fish and wildlife development zone, RD<sub>2</sub> (Figure 2). The exposed quartzite cliffs along the south shoreline of Beverly Lake are unique geological features and provide pleasing aesthetics when viewed from the lake. No major development, other than limited big tree silviculture, is planned within line of sight of the lakeshore in order to preserve and protect the wild and scenic characteristics. A line of sight scenic zone is recommended for the cliffs area of the lakeshore (Figure 2).

## MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

The current access road was improved in 1980, mainly to upgrade it to minimum standards for management (drive-in access for hatchery trucks, boom shocker, DNR vehicles and gear). It provides drive-in public access as well during dry periods. During wet weather, the road is not passable to any type of vehicle except 4-wheel drive. It is the opinion of the committee that an all-weather drive-in access would not be in the best interest of goals and objectives of the area. Furthermore, we recommend gating off the access near Ortwig Road and encouraging walk-in access. Drive-in access would still be available for state management activities and emergencies.

The 1977 downburst storm blew down or otherwise damaged thousands of trees in the upland zone. This impedes access for recreation and timber management and is aesthetically displeasing to many. Firewood salvage has done little to alleviate the problem. Blowdown trees and associated debris have damaged the trout habitat and fishability of Swift Creek. Tag alder encroachment also limits fishability and primary productivity on Swift Creek.

Long-term beaver activity has had a detrimental effect on the coldwater fishery in Swift Creek and Beverly Lake, both within the fishery area and on the upstream and downstream part of Swift Creek. Beaver dams on the trout stream elevate stream temperatures and reduce flow due to evapo-transpiration. Beaver dams on the warmwater portion of Swift Creek prevent free movement of warmwater species between Beverly Lake and the Couderay River. (There is reason to believe that emigration from the Couderay is important to recruitment to Beverly Lake's warmwater fishery.)

Muskellunge reproduction is too low to support a viable fishery in Beverly Lake without stocking, and the presence of competing northern pike compounds the problem. Brook trout reproduction in Swift Creek is too low to support a viable fishery without stocking. Although there is a high demand for a trout lake fishery in the Couderay area, and although Beverly Lake does have trout habitat, the presence of warmwater species precludes such management without chemical treatment and a fish barrier.

Centrarchid reproduction and/or spawning here must be limited, as evidenced by the high degree of hybridization among sunfish. There is the danger that such hybridization could overwhelm the integrity of the longear sunfish gene pool. Longear sunfish are threatened in Wisconsin. Little is known about the specific habitat requirements of the longear sunfish or its relationship to other Centrarchids such as the bluegill and the pumpkinseed.

Due to the relatively small size of Beverly Lake and the relatively small size of its gamefish population, trophy Esocids may be vulnerable to overharvest. If overharvest occurs, special regulations will be imposed to re-optimize the quality of the Esocid fishery. For now muskellunge stocking and access limitations should prevent overharvest.

## RECREATIONAL NEEDS AND JUSTIFICATION

The Beverly Lake Fishery Area is in Planning Region 14 which encompasses Burnett, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor and Washburn Counties. The 1980 population of the region was 88,551 or 1.8 percent of the state's population. However, population growth by region in 1970-80 averaged only 6.5% statewide, compared to 19.8% for Region 14. The Wisconsin Outdoor Recreational Plan (1977) points out that the region is well endowed with a variety of natural resources and attracts increasing numbers of users from other regions and states.

The Beverly Lake Fishery Area is within one hour's drive of Hayward (pop. 1,698), Winter (pop. 317), Park Falls (pop. 2,953), Ladysmith (pop. 3,826), Rice Lake (pop. 7,691), Spooner (pop. 2,365) and a number of smaller towns. Sawyer County has a population of about 12,000 permanent residents, but the transient population often reaches in excess of 30,000 in mid-summer. The fishery area is within a 2 hours' drive of major population centers like Eau Claire-Chippewa Falls (pop. 63,779), Wausau (pop. 32,426), Duluth-Superior (pop. 132,382) and Minneapolis-St. Paul (pop. 641,181).

The Sawyer County recreational plan has estimated summer weekend fishing pressure at 896,000 trips/year in 1980, expanding 12% to 1,003,520 by 1990. Assuming that 2/3 of the total pressure occurs on weekends and 3/4 of the pressure occurs in May-October (valid assumptions based on recent creel census) gives an estimate of 1.7 million annual fishing trips in 1980, projected to 2.0 million for 1990. About 75% of that pressure would be attributable to visitors from outside Sawyer County and 25% to residents.

Muskellunge-northern pike angling demand countywide is projected at about 250,000 trips for 1980, and 300,000 for 1990. (About 15% of the anglers specifically target these species.) The best available estimate at a countywide average of fishing pressure for the two species would be in the order of 15-20 hours/acre.

There are 56 Sawyer County lakes with 42,838 acres that harbor muskellunge and 44 with 37,064 acres that support northern pike. Of these, only 10 lakes (9,800 acres) provide a sustained fishery for trophy (24+" ) northern pike. Only 4 (9,093 acres) provide a quality mixed Esocid fishery (both muskellunge and large northern pike). Beverly Lake is the only such lake that offers such fishing in a semi-wild setting or where the shoreline (thus the access and the resource) is under total public control.

Region 14 has 782 miles of trout stream of which 310 are Class I, 296 Class II and 176 Class III. Sawyer County has 64 trout streams and 208 miles of coldwater resource. The breakdown by stream class is 115 miles Class I, 71 miles Class II, and 22 miles Class III. There are 49 miles of Class II brook trout water and 29 are under public control. Thus Swift Creek accounts for about 1% of the publicly controlled Class II brook trout water in the county.

The best available estimates for county trout fishing would be about 6,000 trips in 1981 increasing to 6,700 by 1990. This translates to 37 hrs/acre in 1980 and 42 hrs/acre by 1990, low by statewide standards.

The unique fishery and aesthetic features of Beverly Lake constitute a unique resource and recreational opportunity worthy of public ownership, management and protection.

## ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

### Do Nothing

Without some management, trout habitat and fishery in Swift Creek will deteriorate, the muskellunge fishery in Beverly Lake will decline due to lack of natural recruitment, the quality of the northern pike could decline due to overharvest, and the population of endangered longear sunfish could decline.

Vegetative cover on the upland would reach climax succession causing an overall deterioration in game and nongame habitat. Animal populations and habitat diversity would decline, thereby reducing recreational opportunity for consumptive and nonconsumptive use.

### Enlarge Project

Enlargement of the project over and above recommended levels would not be necessary to meet property goals and objectives and would not be cost-effective. No further land acquisition will be necessary to preserve the integrity of the property or watershed commensurate with property goals. The proposed habitat development is considered by the Department to be as about as intense as is necessary to maintain the goals and objectives. More intense forest game management could endanger the unique scenic qualities of the lakeshore.

Development of better access is not seen as in the best interest of either the fishery or the area's aesthetics. Both Swift Creek and Beverly Lake are being stocked with fish at levels at or close to the maximum recommended density (Fish Management Handbook). Intense habitat (boom covers, deflectors) development on the stream would be very costly and would not be likely to significantly increase the supply of catchable-size brook trout.

### Reduce Project

There are few opportunities for reducing the project. All the land is acquired and it would not be in the public interest to liquidate any of the present holdings. Any reduction in management activities such as fish stocking, stream habitat maintenance or forest game management would decrease the likelihood of meeting the goals and objectives set for this fishery area and result in a gradual deterioration of habitat and resource base.

Project As Proposed

The optimum management of the area includes the recommendations to keep all land parcels under public ownership without acquiring new parcels and a relatively low key program of fish stocking, access limitation, streambank maintenance, shoreline preservation and upland timber management to enhance game diversity. This program will insure that the goals and objectives of the property will be met in a cost-effective manner. Total cost is projected at \$9,000 per decade, partially reimbursed by a \$7,000 net to the state from timber harvest.

Modify the Project - (Manage Beverly Lake as a two-story trout fishery.)

Beverly Lake does have marginal coldwater potential but that potential cannot be realized without removal of all warmwater predators and competitors. There is a very high local demand for a trout lake fishery in southern Sawyer County.

Complete and permanent eradication of the present fish community would require treatment of the entire Swift Creek watershed and construction of a warmwater fish barrier on the outlet. Still, periodic retreatment would probably be necessary. Minimum cost is projected at \$4,000-\$5,000 per decade. This alternative would eliminate all warmwater fish values including Esocids and a threatened species (longear sunfish).

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APPENDIX - Comments from outside reviewing agencies and Department responses to the 45-day review copy.

A number of the comments to the 45-day review copy of the Beverly Lake Fishery Area Management Plan were received from reviewers outside the DNR. Their comments and the Department's responses where necessary are included in this appendix.

Dick Lindberg, Wild Resources Advisory Council

Aside for a hearty approval of the nongame management proposals from Beverly Lake, the Wild Resources Advisory Council will abstain from commenting on these plans. The Council acknowledges the lack of wild resource opportunities for these properties.

DNR Response: Thank you for acknowledging our nongame proposals.

Cynthia A. Morehouse, Director, Bureau of Environmental and Data Analysis, Department of Transportation, Madison, WI

We have reviewed the Management Plan for the Beverly Lake Fishery Area in Sawyer County. We request that you expand your discussion of "periodic beaver control and beaver dam removal" to address solutions which would not result in a transfer of impacts from the fishery area to the area's transportation facilities. That is, the displacement of beaver from the fishery area may encourage them to resettle near highways or rail lines where they may construct dams which cause the flooding of these transportation facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this Management Plan.

DNR Response: We do not feel that our beaver control program transfers problems to transportation facilities. Many of our trout streams are crossed by roadways and railroads. Swift Creek, for example, is crossed by roadway four times, by railroad three times, and by the Tuscobia Snowmobile Trail once. Any control program on trout water would, if anything, serve to alleviate road flooding.

Right now we have special trapping seasons and a subsidy program to encourage private trapping on trout watersheds and adjacent areas. Bridge sites and culverts are trapped heavily because of easy access.

In five years, Department personnel have trapped and removed over 50 beaver from trout waters in Sawyer and Rusk Counties. Only five were live-trapped and relocated. They were all transported to landlocked lakes or wildlife management areas, well away from roads and trout waters.

Local units of government can remove beaver, at any time, from roadways. A nuisance beaver removal permit is all that is needed. These are issued by the DNR Wildlife Manager.

Stanley A. Nichols, Wisconsin Geological Survey, Madison, WI

Overall view of the Management Plan - Good.

Page 8. Good to see aquatic plants listed. However, there are many spelling or type errors.

| <u>Change</u>        | <u>To</u>              |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Lemna minios         | Lemna minor            |
| Potamogeton natalis  | (?) Potamogeton nataus |
| Spirodela polyrhinza | Spirodela polyrhiza    |
| Valisneria americana | Vallisneria americana  |

There is a possibility of an unconformity uranium occurrence under the area.

There is nothing said about adjacent land ownership to see how area fits into larger land use picture.

The possibility of an unconformity uranium, occurrence should be noted.

Route ledge and others: U.S. DOE - open file report GJQ-006(81).

DNR Response: Thank you for the spelling corrections. Changes have been incorporated into final draft.

Adjacent land ownership is mostly Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Land and Wisconsin Timber Association. In other words, commercial timber harvest is expected to be the main land use. (Similar to upland portions of the Fishery Area.)

The possibility of uranium occurrence is heretofore acknowledged. The Department holds mineral rights to the property. The committee strongly recommends against any mining or mine exploration activity. It would be counter to goals and objectives of the property.

Herschel Van Gilder, Chairman, et al, Town of Couderay, Exeland, WI

Overall view of the Management Plan - Poor.

We are in favor of improvements to the road to Beverly Lake.

We do not want any changes in the lake regarding types of fish. It should be left as it is.

We are concerned that poisoning the fish in the lake will result in poisoning fish down stream.

We would be interested in meeting with a representative of the DNR possibly at our next regular Board meeting, November 12, 1985.

DNR Response: Beverly Lake is too small a lake and too fragile an ecosystem to allow continued drive-in access. Walk-in access is in best keeping with the unique aspects of the area.

The plan does not propose changes in the fish community or chemical treatment. Those alternatives were merely considered as a necessary part of the plan format; then discounted for the reasons noted in the text.

Frank Pratt will contact Mr. Van Gilder and arrange attendance at a town board meeting in early 1986. It was not possible to attend November 12 because the review process had not yet been completed. (Mr. Pratt received review comments on November 22.)

Hubert Coleman (Chuck), Rice Lake, WI

Overall view of the Management Plan - Very Poor.

I think I know more about Beverly Lake than anybody in the Commission. I owned it for many years. Hunted it. Fished it. Trapped it. I fished it when it was good fishing. If I knew the department was going to do what they did I never would have sold it. They broke their promise. They agreed that they would leave it just like I had it - then stock bass and muskys in it. They didn't have it any length of time before they planted big northerns in it and they didn't come up the creek (Swift) from the Couderay River because there is a big sluice way and falls.

DNR Response: We are sorry to see that Mr. Coleman holds such a low opinion of the Department's management of Beverly Lake. We have had repeated correspondence with Mr. Coleman and the committee strongly considered some of his wishes. We implemented his suggestion to limit access and stock muskellunge.

The fact remains: The State did not stock northern pike in a native muskellunge water. The northern pike either entered via Swift Creek and the Couderay River or were introduced by private individuals. Many native muskellunge waters are now inhabited by northern pike because of illegal, private, stocking. The best management strategy to sustain a muskellunge fishery in the face of northern pike invasion is to stock muskellunge fingerlings. (As recommended in the Management Plan.)