

Date: December 27, 1982

File Ref: 2100

To: John G. Brasch - NCD

From: James R. Huntoon

JRH

Subject: Approval of the Evergreen Creek, Langlade County, Fishery Area Master Plan

On December 15, 1982, the Natural Resources Board ratified the Evergreen River, Langlade County, Fishery Area Master Plan, following approval of the plan by Secretary Besadny. The Master Plan Task Force consisting of Chairman Max Johnson, Carl McIlquaham, Gene Francisco, and James Blankenheim recommended retaining the previous acreage goal of 1,140.75 acres. There are 985.1 acres permanently controlled by the State, leaving 155.65 acres yet to be acquired from eleven owners. Two properties acquired in fee title totalling 110 acres are located outside the present boundary. The Task Force recommends that the boundary not be expanded to include these properties, but that they be retained for trading purposes for land within the boundary of the Evergreen Fishery Area. If they are exchanged for other important nearby fishery area lands within the Antigo area, the acreage to be acquired on the Evergreen Fishery Area would increase from 155.65 to 265.65 acres.

Attached are twenty copies of the approved Master Plan and the original maps for your district files, to answer inquiries by the public, and for future use.

The implementation element of the master planning process should be completed next. You are requested to supply this office with a copy on or about April 1, 1983.

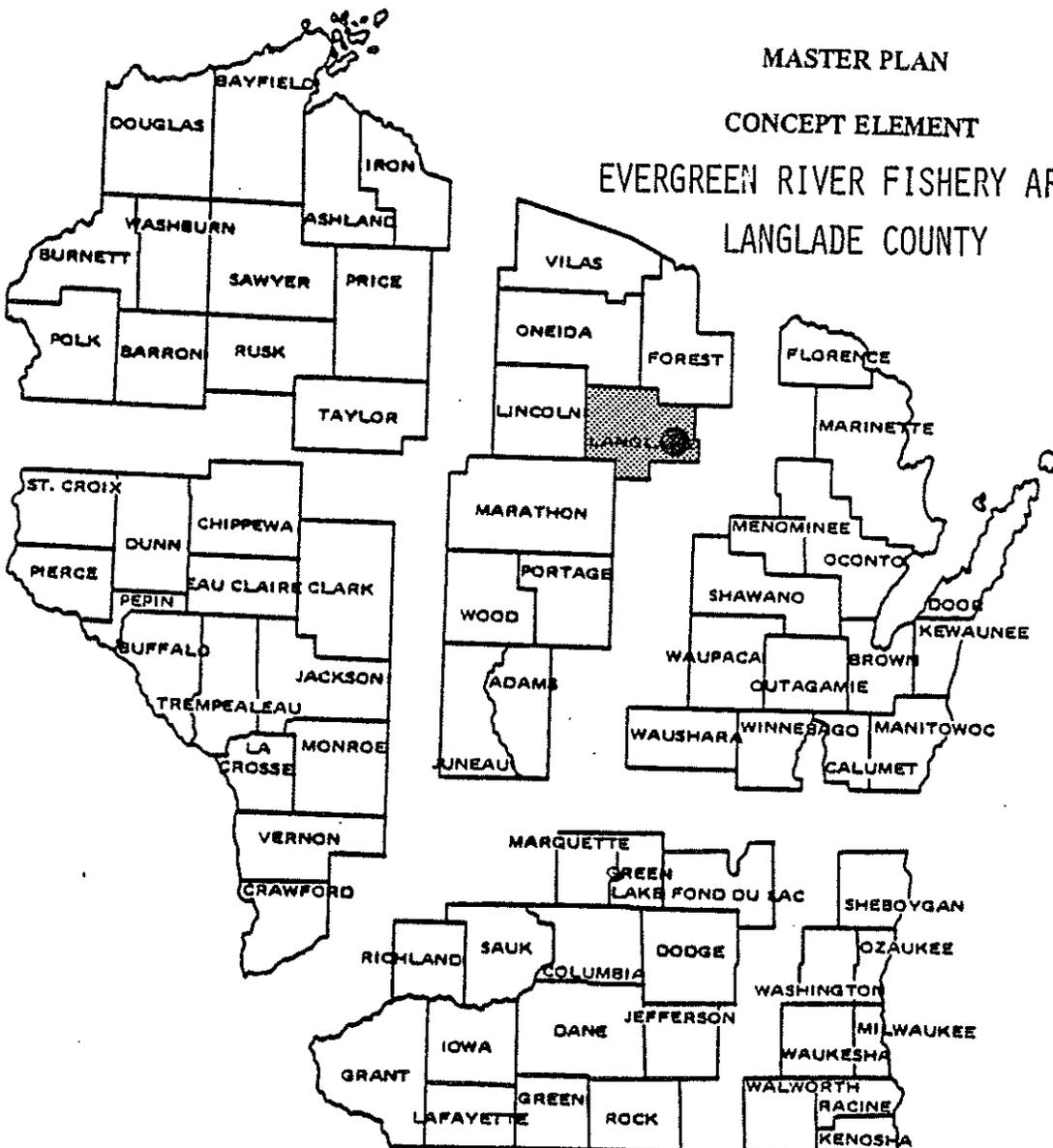
Please convey my appreciation to the Task Force for a job well done and the completion of this Master Plan.

cc: J. Addis - FM/4
C. Evert - OL/4
V. Hacker - Oshkosh

Attach.

1676L

MASTER PLAN
 CONCEPT ELEMENT
 EVERGREEN RIVER FISHERY AREA
 LANGLADE COUNTY



Property Task Force

Leader- Max Johnson, Area Fish Manager
 Carl McIlquham, Area Wildlife Manager
 Gene Francisco, Forester
 James Blankenheim, Area Warden

Approved:

C.D. Besadny

C.D. Besadny - Secretary

Date

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SECTION I - ACTIONS

GOALS, ANNUAL OBJECTIVES AND ANNUAL ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Goals

To manage the Evergreen River Fishery Area in Langlade County for the benefit of present and future generations in a manner that maintains and improves animal and plant resources as well as the aesthetics of the waterway, while providing an opportunity for quality public use.

Annual Objectives

1. Maintain and manage the trout fishery to allow for 3,500 participant days of fishing for brook and brown trout resulting in an average harvest of 1.0 fish per fishing hour.
2. Provide opportunities for 700 participant days of hunting for white-tailed deer, bear, cottontail, snowshoe hare, ruffed grouse, woodcock and waterfowl.
3. Provide opportunities for 300 participant days of trapping for beaver, mink, otter, raccoon, muskrat, fox and coyote.

Annual Additional Benefits

1. Provide an average harvest of 160 cords of pulpwood and 1000 board feet of sawlogs.
2. Manage uplands and associated timber types to maintain aesthetic values while allowing for the removal of 15 cords of firewood.
3. Provide 700 participant days of other recreational and educational uses including such activities as berry and mushroom picking, nature hiking, bird watching, photography, and cross country skiing.
4. Contribute to available habitat for endangered and threatened species.
5. Benefit non-game species native or transient to the area.
6. Prevent habitat destruction by providing a buffer zone between the river and man's activities.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

It is recommended that land acquisition efforts continue to complete acquisition of all private holdings from willing sellers within the existing property boundary. This would mean acquiring 155.65 additional acres (Figure 2) within the boundary. It is also recommended that 110 acres in two parcels of state-owned land outside of the boundary be traded, if possible for

lands inside of the boundary. The lands proposed for trade are shown as Parcels A and B on Figure 2. The property is presently 86.4% complete including the 110 acres outside of the boundary. Future acquisition will be slow and difficult as the remaining eleven private landowners are not interested in selling at the present time.

It is recommended that management include an intensive effort to keep the Evergreen River and its tributaries in a free flowing state, and free of beaver dams. This effort will involve extensive trapping, including private, state and contract, if necessary, and associated dam removal. Beaver have degraded thousands of feet of stream and are threatening to destroy 50% or more of this high quality stream.

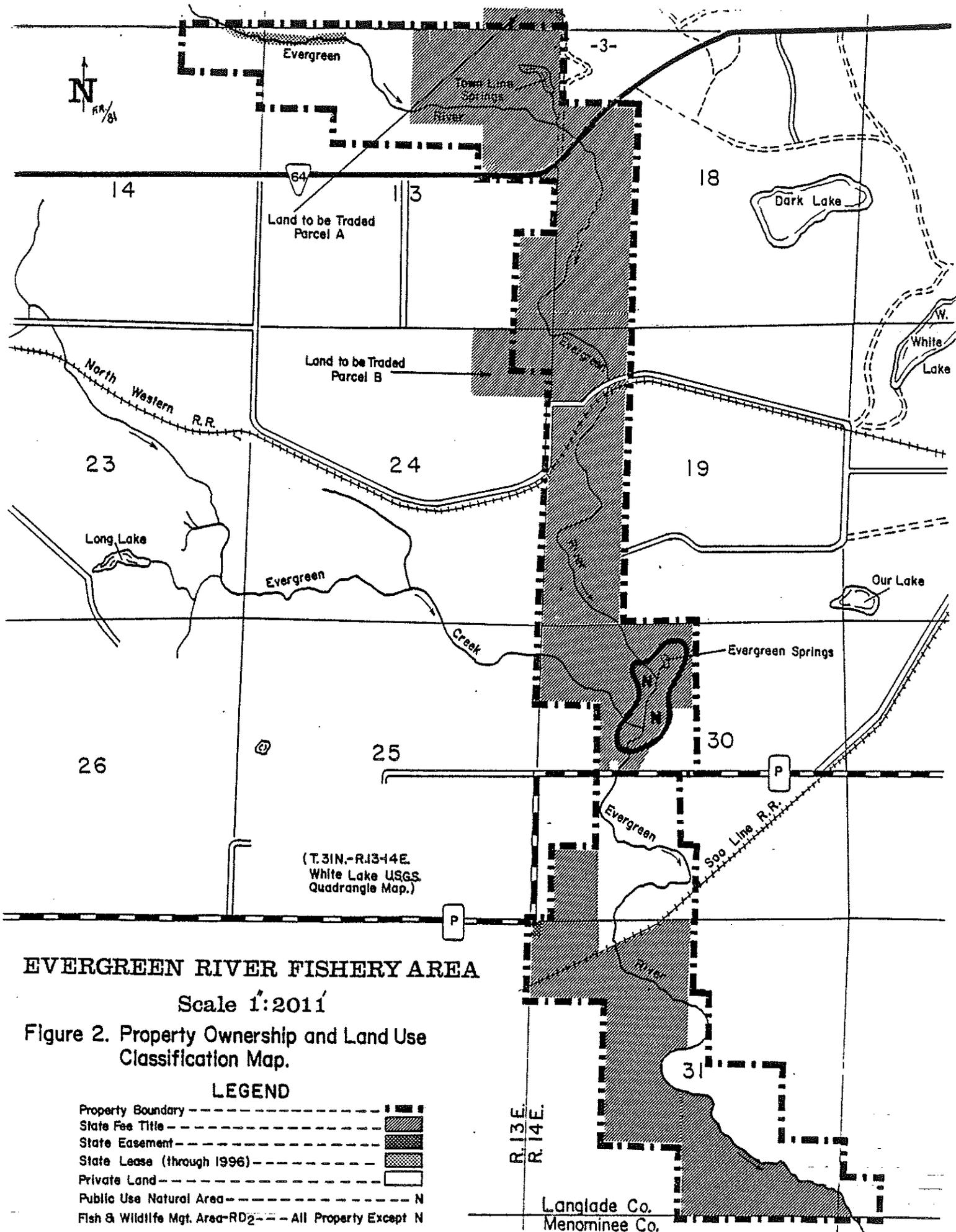
In all future management involving manipulation of vegetation within 300 feet of the river an effort should be made to maintain and encourage plant species not preferred by beaver. Timber sales which would promote this objective should be encouraged.

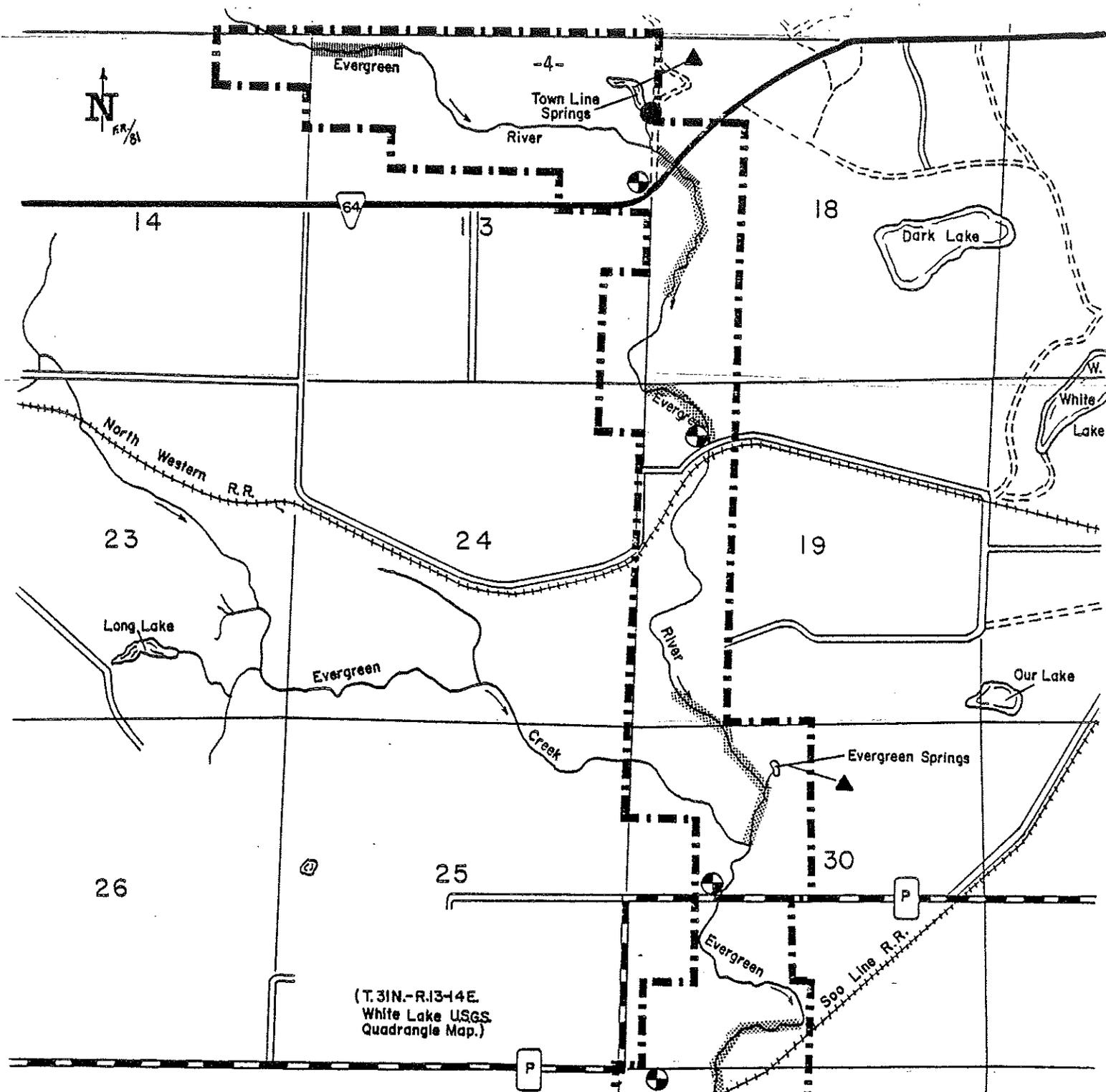
Figure 3 illustrates proposed habitat improvement which will include installation of wing deflectors, boom covers, half logs and brushing. A little over 10,000 feet or 1.89 miles of improvement will eventually be required. With present limitations of manpower and equipment, and the necessity for improvement on other area streams, approximately 1,320 feet of improvements will be completed every four years at an estimated cost of \$5,500, using trout stamp funds. Improvement areas will be selected to obtain maximum benefits for the monies spent. Figure 3 shows areas proposed for habitat improvement. Those portions of private lands will be improved only if the parcels are acquired in state ownership.

Figure 3 shows that four small 3-5 car graveled parking areas are proposed to be constructed. At present there is only one site where good off-road parking is available. That site is immediately adjacent to Townline Springs. When the proposed parking area in the SE, NW 1/4, Sec. 13, T31N, R13E is completed, the site on Townline Springs will be eliminated. This change is needed to promote quality level use and prevent overharvest of brook trout in Townline Springs. Access to Townline Springs will then be by a walk-in trail. It is estimated that each parking lot would cost \$2,500. Ideally, all four lots will be constructed at one time when funding is available.

Operation costs on the fishery area would be approximately \$2,000 annually, involving signing, fencing, litter control, timber sales, beaver control, and general maintenance. Money would come from the general operations fisheries budget. No personnel would be assigned permanently to the fishery area, although during proposed habitat development and other major projects, one and one half man-years will be needed annually. During development, permanent personnel from the area will be assigned to supervisory duties.

All areas proposed for development will be examined for the presence of endangered and threatened wild animals and wild plants. If listed species are found, development will be suspended until the District Endangered and Nongame Species Coordinator is consulted, the site evaluated, and appropriate protective measures taken.





EVERGREEN RIVER FISHERY AREA

Scale 1"=2011'

Figure 3. Existing and Planned Development Map.

LEGEND

- Property Boundary -----
- Existing Parking Area (to be eliminated) -----
- Proposed Parking Area -----
- Existing Stream Habitat Improvement [hatched box]
- Proposed Stream Habitat Improvement [cross-hatched box]
- Existing Dredged Spring Pond [triangle]

R.13E.
R.14E.

Langlade Co.
Menominee Co.

At present, surveys of fish and wildlife have been accomplished, but populations of plants, amphibians and reptiles have not been studied, and surveys for them will be conducted as funds permit, or if a willing, qualified group agrees to donate time toward the study.

SECTION II - SUPPORT DATA BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Evergreen River originates from Flora Lake Springs (a State Scientific Area) and flows through approximately two miles of Langlade County Forest land before entering the fishery area boundary. The property boundary encompasses 6.7 miles of streams between Langlade County forest land and the Menominee Reservation. (Fig. 2). The two streams within the boundary are Class I trout water for their entire length. The Evergreen River contains both brook and brown trout, with brook trout being dominant. The trout population ranges from 35 to 155 pounds per acre, and the water quality is excellent. The Evergreen is a tributary to the Wolf River, entering that major stream of the Lake Michigan watershed in the Menominee Reservation.

The Evergreen River has long been recognized as a quality trout stream. An Evergreen River Fishery Area was proposed to the Wisconsin Conservation Commission in November of 1961, and which was approved in January of 1962. The property boundary and acreage goal of 1,140.75 acres have remained essentially unchanged since that time.

To date, 984.20 acres have been purchased in fee title, and 0.9 acre is owned in perpetual easement. An additional 2.9 acres are under lease through 1996. The cost of fee title purchases to date is \$118,994.53, while the permanent easement cost \$1.00.

Accordingly, 985.1 acres are permanently controlled by the state, with 155.65 acres yet to be acquired from eleven owners, at an estimated 1982 cost of \$98,060.

Two properties acquired in fee title totalling 110 acres are located outside of the present boundary. One parcel totalling 80 acres, not shown in its entirety on Figure 2 and identified as Parcel A is directly above Town Line Springs in Section 12, Township 31 North, Range 13 East. The other 30 acre parcel identified as Parcel B outside of the boundary is in the NE1/4, NE1/4, Section 24, Township 31 North, Range 13 East. The task force recommends that the boundary not be expanded to include these properties, but that they be retained for trading purposes for lands within the boundary of the Evergreen River Fishery Area. If they are exchanged for other important nearby fishery area lands within the Antigo area, the acreage to be acquired on the Evergreen Fishery Area would increase from 155.65 to 265.65 acres.

Current management activities include beaver control, trout populations studies, trout habitat development, timber sales with wildlife considerations, spring pond dredging, litter control and erecting signs on the property.

RESOURCE CAPABILITIES AND INVENTORY

Soils, and Glacial Geology

The fishery area is located mostly in an outwash plain formed by deposition of soil material from glacial melt waters. However, a few prominent hills of stony glacial till are also present.

About 70% of the soils within the boundary occupy upland positions. These include the well-drained Antigo, Kennan, Keweenaw, Padus, Pence, and Rosholt series and the excessively drained Rubicon and Sayner series. Most of these soils are formed of loamy or sandy material overlying stratified sand and gravel outwash (64% of the fishery area). Some of these soils formed in loamy material cover sandy glacial till (5% of the land area) and some (1%) of these soils are sandy throughout.

About 27% of the soils occupy bottomland positions adjacent to the stream. These include the very poorly drained Lupton, Cathro, and Markey soils formed in organic material (24% of the area) and the poorly drained and very poorly drained Mukwa soils formed in stream sediments (3% of lands in the area). All of these soils are subject to flooding.

About 3% of the soils occupy footslope positions between the bottomland and upland. These include the somewhat poorly drained Poskin and Worcester soils formed in loamy material overlying stratified sand and gravel outwash.

Land capability classes show the suitability of soils for most kinds of field crops. Within the area, 29% of the soils are in Class II, 23% are in Class V, 24% are in Class VI, and 16% are in Class VII. The Class II soils are prime farmland and encompass the loamy upland soils with slopes of less than 6%. These soils have the soil quality and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields of crops.

Woodland groups show the potential productivity of soils for important trees. Within the boundary 48% are in Group II, 25% are in Group III, and 3% are in Group IV. The Group I soils are prime woodland and encompass the loamy upland soils with slope of less than 15%. These soils have very high productivity, commonly producing sugar maples over 65 feet within 50 years.

Fish and Wildlife

The fish community of the Evergreen River is rather simple. The only significant game fish are brook and brown trout. Creek chub, longnose dace, mudminnow, brook stickleback, white sucker, mottled sculpin and northern redbelly dace are the only forage species which have been collected.

In the latest electro-fishing survey during the summer of 1978, brook trout were the dominant game fish species, and young-of-the-year were found at all stations. In comparison, brown trout were found at all sections, but at generally low levels.

Population and standing crop estimates of the trout population were made at three stations during the 1978 survey. Two were unimproved portions and the other (Station 14) was intensively improved. The results observed were:

- Station 6: An unimproved section covering 1,110 feet of stream. An estimated population of 1,191 brook and 96 brown trout per mile of stream was present which ranged from 4.0 to 12.9 inches. The standing crop was estimated at 100.8 pounds of brook trout and 23.9 pounds of brown trout per mile.
- Station 13: An unimproved section covering 3,430 feet of stream. The population was estimated at 1,416 brook and 92 brown trout per mile of stream ranging from 4.0 to 9.8 inches. The standing crop was computed to be 100.3 pounds of brook and 11.2 pounds of brown trout per mile.
- Station 14: An improved section with wing deflectors created in 1952-1953 which covers 1,440 feet of stream. The population was estimated at 2,254 brook and 455 brown trout per mile ranging from 4.0 to 10.9 inches. It was estimated that this portion of stream had 170.0 pounds of brook trout and 57.1 pounds of brown trout per mile, almost double that found in the two unimproved sections.

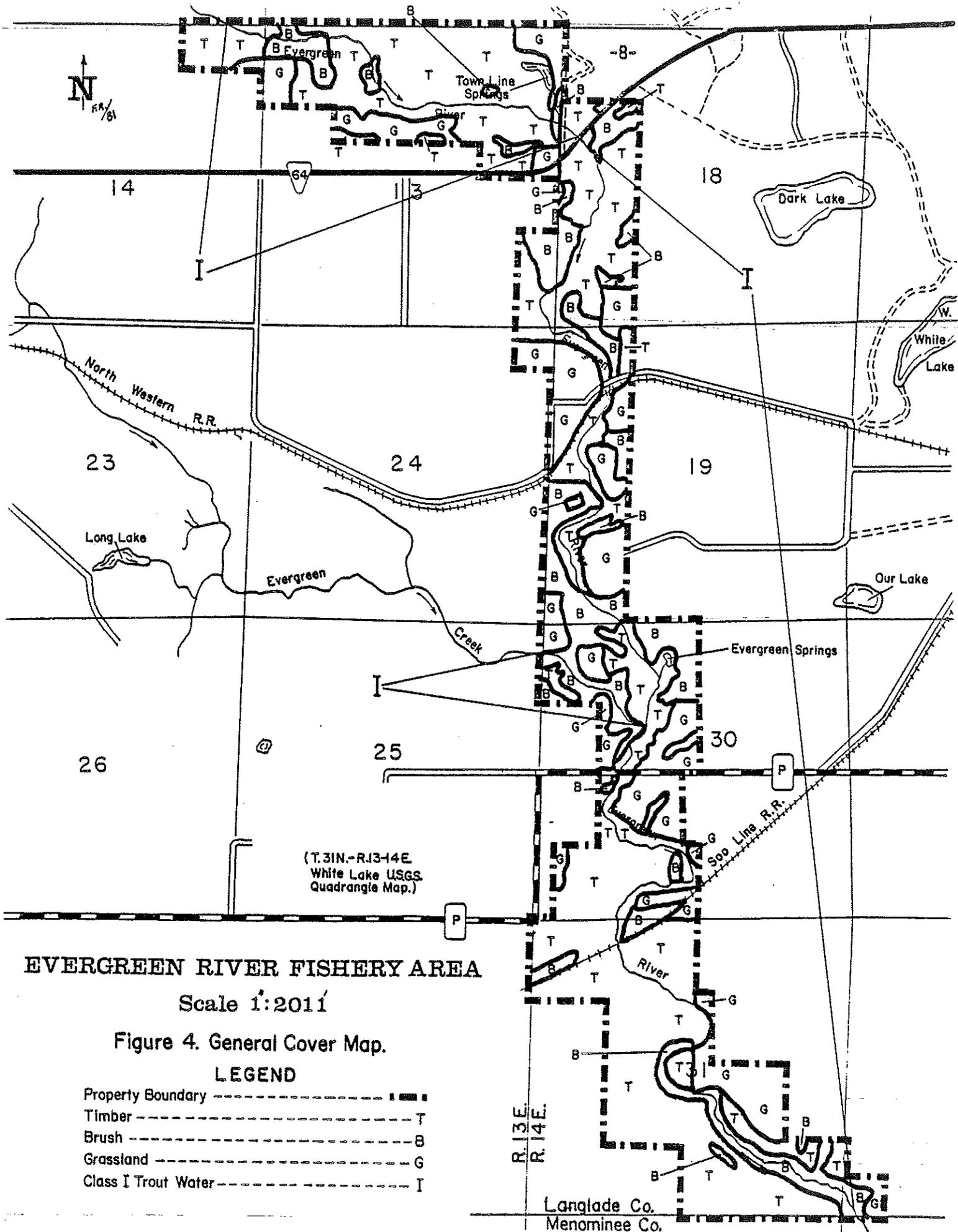
The Evergreen River could potentially support an increased harvest of small 6 to 7" trout, but populations of trout over 7 inches are relatively low. The growth rate in the Evergreen is slow resulting from cold water temperatures (summer maximum 66°F) and a shifting, relatively sterile sand substrate. Stream habitat improvement will increase survival, provide better substrates for food production, and higher quality fishing.

Wildlife species known to inhabit the fishery area are those commonly found in the northern forest biome of north central Wisconsin and include white-tailed deer, gray squirrels, cottontail rabbits, snowshoe hares, black bears, beavers, otter, muskrat, raccoon, mink, coyote, red fox, bobcat, ruffed grouse, woodcock, waterfowl (wood duck, mallard, blue-winged teal, hooded merganser), great blue heron, raptors and songbirds.

Vegetative Cover

A variety of timber types are found scattered throughout the fishery area and are shown in Table 1. Broad cover types are shown on Figure 4 with approximately 43% of the area containing highland species such as aspen and northern hardwoods and 26% of the area consisting of lowland cedar, fir, tamarack, and spruce. The remaining 31% contains both upland and lowland brush with over 125 acres of open grassland capable of growing red pine or white spruce.

Many of the timber stands are adjacent to the Evergreen River and therefore, affect the type of timber harvest operations that can be conducted. In these river zone areas, intensive aesthetic management should be considered with emphasis on retaining lowland conifer species or converting to longer lived even aged tree species. In stands not adjacent to the river zone, normal timber harvesting techniques should be carried out with retention of mast species for wildlife production.



EVERGREEN RIVER FISHERY AREA

Scale 1:2011

Figure 4. General Cover Map.

LEGEND

- Property Boundary -----
- Timber ----- T
- Brush ----- B
- Grassland ----- G
- Class I Trout Water ----- I

Langlade Co.
Menominee Co.

TABLE I - Vegetative Cover Types Within the Boundary (*) of the Evergreen River, Langlade County Fishery Area.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Northern hardwood pole timber	157
Aspen pole timber	160
Aspen saplings	56
Spruce-fir pole timber	96
White cedar pole timber	67
White cedar saplings	59
Tamarack	8
Lowland brush	31
Upland brush	53
Open upland	125
Right-of-way	18
Water	44
TOTAL	<u>874</u>

*From 1978 Forest Reconnaissance data. Does not include the 110 acres outside of the boundary.

Endangered and Threatened Species

Currently, with surveys of fish and wildlife accomplished, eagles and ospreys that exist only infrequently on the fishery area are the only endangered or threatened species documented. Surveys for amphibians, molluscs, reptiles and wild plants should be completed as soon as expert volunteer help or funds for hired specialists becomes available. If a listed species is found, the District Endangered and Nongame Species Coordinator will be contacted for advise and the important sites protected.

Water Resources

The Evergreen River has its origin in Flora Lake Springs located on Langlade County forest lands. The stream has excellent water quality with significant groundwater inflow throughout its entire length. It is considered to be Class I trout water through the fishery area and beyond. The water in the stream is clear, slightly alkaline (pH 7.7), and medium-hard with a methyl purple alkalinity reading of 130 parts per million.

Townline and Evergreen Springs flow almost directly into the Evergreen River in the fishery area, (Table #2) as well as the major tributary and Evergreen Creek. Evergreen Creek is a Class I brook trout stream having excellent water quality. The Department of Natural Resources owns the lower half-mile of Evergreen Creek in the fishery area.

Both spring ponds were dredged; Townline in 1975, and Evergreen in 1978. They are providing good fishing opportunities, although the easy access to Townline Springs may be leading to overuse and over-harvest, and it may be necessary to restrict access in the future.

TABLE 2 Waters Within the Evergreen River Fishery Area, Langlade County

<u>Name of Water</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Length in Miles</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Maximum Depth</u>
Little Evergreen Creek	Langlade	0.5		I	-
Evergreen River	Langlade	6.2		I	-
Evergreen Springs*	Langlade		1.0	I	11 feet
Townline Springs*	Langlade		2.5	I	11 feet
TOTALS		6.7	3.5		

*Dredged ponds

Historical and Archaeological Features

The State Historical Society was contacted and indicates that no historical, architectural or archaeological sites are known to exist within the acquisition area because no survey of any type has been undertaken in this part of Langlade County. Prior to any future development on the fishery area involving the movement of soils or structures the State Historical Preservation officer will be consulted for advice. Any features identified will be preserved and protected.

Current Use

At the present time, the fishery area is used primarily for fishing for brook trout, with an estimated 2,500 participant days annually. Hunting for deer and bear takes place during the open seasons, as well as for cottontails, snowshoe hare, ruffed grouse, woodcock, and waterfowl at a level estimated at 600 participant days. Trapping levels vary dependent on demand and prices, but usually averages 300 participant days. Other recreational and educational uses including berry and mushroom picking, nature hiking, bird watching, photography and cross-country skiing are expanding, and presently stand at an estimated 500 participant days annually on the fishery area.

Land Use Potential

Most of the land and water in the fishery area is placed in the classification of Fish and Wildlife Development Area - RD₂. Although the entire area is in one classification, other compatible management is permitted. However, a 37 acre public use natural area - (N) is established (Figure 2) that shows a relatively good example of northern wet-mesic forest (swamp conifer type) associated with the stream and Evergreen Springs in the NW 1/4, Section 30, Township 31 North, Range 14 East. Both the Master Plan Task Force and Scientific Areas Preservation Council agree that the management guideline that precludes maintenance of the stream or pond should be modified to allow any maintenance of the spring pond by dredging or streambank protection as required.

MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

Beaver

Beaver have degraded nearly 50% of the stream length and threaten to destroy even more. In spite of extensive efforts using conventional methods, year round trapping and dam removal, the stream is still losing ground and is being seriously harmed. Alternative methods such as more liberal trapping regulations, fur price support, the use of explosives to remove beaver houses, contract trapping, winter dam removal, the use of steroids, or other chemicals may be necessary if the stream is to be preserved. Statutory changes would be needed for some of the methods suggested such as using explosives on beaver houses.

Beaver are seriously damaging to Class I trout streams such as the Evergreen particularly by altering stream and spring water temperature regimes. For example, spring water issues from the ground at a constant temperature, winter or summer. In the case of the Evergreen, that temperature is 46°F. The eggs of trout are extremely sensitive to temperature change during four stages of embryonic development while they are buried in the bottom materials. Because spring water temperatures do not fluctuate far from the optimum 50°F hatching temperature trout eggs deposited in springs have a high incidence of hatching success.

In contrast, when beavers place a barrier across a stream, the pond in back of the dam invariably freezes over in winter. Thus, the water flowing from the beaver impoundment is very near 32°F, a temperature lethal to all trout eggs deposited in the stream unless additional concentrated spring water flows into the stream below the dam. The dam forming the impoundment also prevents adult native trout from migrating upstream to where they can deposit their eggs in spring waters flowing out and downstream from the dam during the summer months.

Habitat loss - often for extended periods - results when a beaver flowage is created. Gravelled spawning areas and undercut banks become silted and the entire flooded area undergoes traumatic ecological long-term changes.

Private Inholdings

The fishery area is approximately 86% complete and only 155.65 acres remain to be acquired. The remaining landowners have been contacted and they have no interest in the sale of their land. The two largest landowners may never sell to the Department of Natural Resources. Further acquisition progress will be very slow.

RECREATION NEEDS AND JUSTIFICATION

Population

The Evergreen River Fishery Area is in Langlade County, located in northeastern Wisconsin. Antigo, the principal urban area for the county, is in the southern part of the county. It is 180 miles north of Milwaukee; 80 miles northwest of Green Bay; 90 miles north of the Fox River Valley; and 35

miles northeast of Wausau. Major metropolitan areas outside of Wisconsin with transportation linkages to Antigo are: Chicago, 270 miles south; Minneapolis-St. Paul, 210 miles west; and Duluth, 235 miles northwest of Antigo. Over 500,000 people live within an hour's drive of the Evergreen River and the 1980 Wisconsin Bluebook shows that 266,067 people live either in Langlade County or the seven adjoining counties.

Fishing

In Outdoor Recreation Planning Region 10 which includes Vilas, Oneida, Forest, Florence, Lincoln, and Langlade Counties, fishing was the second most popular recreational activity in 1977. In 1975, 77,400 fishing occasions were estimated to occur during an average seasonal weekend day. By 1995, a 28% increase in fishing activities is anticipated for these counties. The 1977 Outdoor Recreation Plan states that in this region "Government agencies must be committed to securing lake and river frontage wherever it is available".

Langlade County has 387 miles of trout stream. Problems of over-harvest and overuse have developed on some of the more accessible streams. Streams containing good populations of quality size trout (9 inches and up) are few and far between. Basic surveys on most streams reveal this condition. With an anticipated increase in fishing pressure, the existing problem will only become worse while similar problems will develop in new areas.

To improve the quality of the fishing experience, additional acquisition and habitat improvement are clearly needed. Authority to control numbers of fishermen and establish special regulations on all or part of the area is also desired.

Hunting

Langlade County has a large acreage available for hunting. Between Federal, County, State and forest crop lands, 286,996 acres are open to hunting. Because of this, there is no lack of areas to hunt at present. However, habitat conditions have declined in many areas and decreased populations of some game animals have resulted. Lands which can be managed to benefit wildlife are needed to replace these losses and those being lost due to increased posting of private land.

Camping

The Langlade County 1979 Outdoor Recreation Plan lists 423 campsites in the county. It is believed that this number may be inadequate to meet demand if anticipated tourism pattern shifts develop as a result of increasing transportation and energy costs.

No camping will be allowed on the Evergreen River Fishery Area. Required sanitary facilities and operations monies are not available. In addition, it is believed that the USFS, Langlade County, and the private sector are better prepared to meet additional camping demands as they are already in the business of supplying camping facilities.

Canoeing and Other Water Crafts

Several major streams in the vicinity are large enough to provide float trips including the Wolf, Oconto, Peshtigo, Hunting, Eau Claire and Prairie Rivers. Nevertheless, demands for this type of activity cannot be met. Because the Evergreen River is quite small, it does not lend itself to this type of activity and offers little relief for this problem.

Cross-Country Skiing and Hiking

The demand for cross-country skiing and hiking areas is presently increasing. Several private, County and Federal trails are located in the vicinity. At the present, 19 miles of ski trails and 40 miles of hiking trails are maintained in the county and more are planned.

Presently there are no plans to develop trails on the fishery area. However, if demand becomes great enough, this activity appears compatible with the fishery area goals.

Snowmobiling

The 1979 Outdoor Recreation Plan indicates that the supply of groomed trails is more than adequate to meet demand. There are 520 miles of trail maintained in Langlade County. Trails for snowmobiles will not be considered for the fishery area.

In general, all forecasts call for increased demand for outdoor activities and use patterns will shift closer to population centers. Increasing the available public lands on areas such as the Evergreen River Fishery Area will help to meet this increased demand.

ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

Maintain Status Quo

Leaving the fishery area as it presently exists would result in some high quality trout water being unprotected and below its potential. The remainder of the area would not be acquired or developed. Private development (agriculture, housing, etc.) will continue to decrease aesthetics, restrict public access and adversely affect habitat.

With fishing pressure and public use expected to increase, future generations will find small public fishing areas overcrowded. With the present limited resource capabilities of the area, the quality of the user experience will be further reduced if all stream frontage is not acquired.

Reduce the Size of the Fishery Area

Reducing the fishery area would be counter-productive to the original goal, especially since 86% of the fishery area has been acquired. Additionally, decreasing the size of the area during a period when fishing pressure is increasing would result in overcrowding and overuse. This would adversely affect the resource and reduce the quality of the user experience.

Manage for Timber Production

An alternative would be to manage the uplands for timber production, but this would not be practical because of the nature of the property. The timber is located in a long, narrow band adjacent to the stream and would not allow for a practical method of setting up timber sales and harvesting the timber. Timber types similar to those adjacent to the Evergreen River are common in Langlade County.

Manage for Wildlife Production

Management for game production was considered, but is recognized as not being too practical because of the long and narrow nature of the property. Fortunately, thousands of acres of similar habitat conditions are available in Langlade County. Wildlife management is recognized as a compatible use on many fishery areas but, because of the nature of this property and the river flowing through, this is not a practical primary use. However, all possibilities will be considered to assist game and non-game species on the fishery area.

Enlarge the Fishery Area Boundary

The opportunity for enlargement of the area does exist and is shown in Figure 2. Inclusion of the entire length of Evergreen Creek into the property boundary would be desirable. Evergreen Creek is Class I brook trout water containing a good, self-sustaining population. However, the anticipated benefits of such an expansion are limited by the small size of the stream (3-5cfs.) Considering the current land acquisition financing prospects and that other higher priority streams need protection, this enlargement probably could not be justified. This possibility should not be forgotten and should be considered again at some time in the future.

A second feasible expansion of the boundary would be to include all land between the present upstream boundary and Flora Springs (not shown). This alternative would include approximately two miles of stream and a state scientific area springpond. At present all land in this segment is owned by Langlade County. Langlade County has maintained a firm policy and an ordinance which states that: "The County will retain all land containing lakes or streams". The Department of Natural Resources has a good working relationship with Langlade County and the task force believes that resource interests are being adequately protected under County ownership. If Langlade County should ever change their "Land-Water" policy, expansion of the boundary should be reconsidered.

Development

The Evergreen River is a relatively small fishery area and could not support extensive use. Therefore minimum development (small parking lots) is being proposed. Intensive development is not recommended for several reasons. One is that alternatives for activities such as camping, trails, canoeing, etc. are provided on nearby County and National forests. Second, personnel and money to operate and maintain intensive development are not available, and third, the overall project is small, and extensive use would lead to conflicts and degraded quality.

Appendix - Master Plan comments by outside reviewing agencies of the Evergreen Fishery Area Master Plan

Comments were received of reviewers from a number of outside agencies. Their comments and DNR responses, where applicable, are included below:

T. J. Hart, Director, Bureau of Environmental Analysis and Review, Department of Transportation, Madison.

We have reviewed the above-noted document and offer the following comments:

1. Access to State Trunk Highway 64 from the proposed parking area should be coordinated with:

Transportation District #7
R. O. Schindelholz, Director
Hanson Lake Road
Rhinelander, WI 54501
Telephone (715) 362-3490

2. Parking areas accessing onto township or county highways should be coordinated with the officials within each respective level of government.
3. Coordination with county highway officials should also address potential future complications if County Trunk Highway "P" should require improvement within the boundaries of the fishing area.

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

DNR response: All recommendations made by Mr. Hart will be followed.

Stanley A. Nichols, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, Madison.

Page 2. Is \$2,500 a little high for a 3-5 car gravel parking lot?

DNR response: Probably not with inflation by the time the parking lot is installed.

Page 2. Is timber sale activity charged against fishery management?

DNR response: No. No income is received by fish management either.

Page 6. Can the county forest land be incorporated into this plan?

DNR response: Yes

Page 6. Would fishery activities on this approximately 2 miles of stream benefit fish populations?

DNR response: Yes, they would.

Page 9. Line 15 from bottom. Should read "No known species..."

DNR response: The paragraph was re-written prior to receipt of your comment. It now approximates your comment and your intent.

Bruce Beiersdorf, Chairman, Langlade County Conservation Congress, Antigo.

A major question is the proposal for elimination of the existing parking lot.

DNR response: When a proposed parking area in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 13, Township 31 north, Range 13 east is completed, the site on Townline Springs will be eliminated, reducing access to a walk-in trail. This change is needed to promote quality-level use and to prevent overharvest of trout.

Beaver dams seem to be the major problem on this portion of stream. A check was made of part of the plan, but mosquitos made it impossible to cover the entire project at this time of year. A few questions remain, but I am sure they can be cleared up by the District Fish Manager, Max Johnson. If major changes take place, I will notify you of such.

We are hoping the local chapter of Trout Unlimited can also assist in this project as it develops.

Forest Stearns, Chairman, Scientific Areas Preservation Council.

We have recommended a public use natural area classification for an approximately 40 -acre tract on the Evergreen River Fishery Area in recent correspondence. We understand that the spring pond and stream within this area have previously been managed and agree that the normal management guidelines for public use natural areas might preclude maintenance of the stream and pond. We agree that the management guideline for this particular public use natural area at Evergreen Springs should be modified to allow any maintenance of the spring pond by dredging or streambank protection as required.

DNR response: The task force has no objection to the public use natural area classification for Evergreen Springs, if the management guideline that states: "Habitat manipulations designed to benefit particular species of plants, fish or wildlife are generally prohibited" is modified as indicated in Mr. Stearns' comments. Figure 2 shows the location delineated as a public use natural area.

Henry W. Kolka, Chairperson, Wild Resources Advisory Council.

General Review

The Wild Resources Advisory Council has enjoyed reviewing the Evergreen River Fishery Area Master Plan Concept Element. It is a masterful document in all respects. Most of the basic information is well documented and is valuable for current quality management and it will provide historical background for top level continuity of present effort. The Council salutes and congratulates the Task Force of Max Johnson, Carl McIlquham, Gene Francisco and James Blankenheim

for their individual inputs.

To add further credibility to the document, the WRAC suggests the following: (A) Complete inventories of all wildlife species. A majority of the trout fishermen or women are better than average naturalists. They, with the non-consumptive users, can more than double their enjoyment quotient by having access to fuller specie listings. (B) The Council urges special manipulation of the stream corridor. Stream corridor aesthetics and quality instream fishing compliment each other and further enhance the users' pleasure.

DNR response: Inventories of all wildlife species will be completed as time and money become available. The stream corridor will be manipulated as outlined in the master plan.

Comments and Recommendations

1. Page 1 - Goals, Annual Objectives and Additional Benefits.

They are well designed and excellently stated, though Item 1 of Annual Additional Benefits seems a little overly ambitious and Item 6 initiates the germ of corridor concept. Exceptionally well handled segment.

DNR response: Item 1 of Annual Additional Benefits relates to a large blown-down area being salvaged which temporarily increases the annual average. That amount will be reduced in the next evaluation of the master plan.

2. Pages 1, 2, 3 and 6. Recommended Management and Development Program.

This is the heart of the Master Plan Concept Element and it is exceptionally well handled by the Task Force. WRAC has two comments. (A) Paragraph 3, page 2. While encouraging plant species not preferred by beaver in the stream corridor, how about considering species beneficial to other forms of faunal wildlife. (B) First paragraph, page 6. Since you already have a fairly decent wildlife inventory, the WRAC recommends that you don't wait for additional funding to complete the listing. Why not tap the specialists within the department, expertise in the private sector or professionals at the nearby colleges and universities.

DNR response: A - Consideration will be given to plant species not preferred by beaver that are beneficial to other forms of wildlife if they are compatible to the goals and objectives of the fishery area. B - If qualified persons volunteer their services, they will be accepted to complete the inventories as soon as possible.

3. Pages 3, 4 and 5. Charts labeled figures 2, 3 and 4.

Very good maps. They correlate very well with the text. WRAC has question as to figure 3. Some of the Proposed Stream Habitat Improvement are shown on private lands. Do you have special agreements with these owners?

DNR response: DNR sponsored habitat improvement will take place only if properties are acquired.

4. Page 6 - Background Information.

Another impressively handled heading.

5. Pages 6, 7, 8, 8, 10 and 11. Resource Capabilities and Inventory.

Another superbly handled heading by the Task Force. Every aspect of this heading is impressive. The WRAC again recommends, as it did under 2 of its review, for paragraphs 2 and 3 on page 8 that inventories be completed in the near future for raptors and songbirds and amphibians and reptiles. To wait for appropriate manpower and funds may mean forever, particularly in face of present economics.

Page 9, last paragraph under Vegetative Cover.

WRAC maintains the same position as above for "vegetative species."

6. Page 11 - Management Problems.

WRAC endorses the aggressive proposals of the Task Force to control the beaver problem. There is no future for quality trout stream where beavers are permitted to rule the stream.

7. Pages 13, 14 and 15 - Analysis of Alternatives.

The WRAC encourages the Task Force to pursue the options listed in the alternative, Enlarge the Fishery Area Boundary. Wisconsin is fighting a losing battle in maintaining quality brook trout streams. By adding the Evergreen Creek, a class 1 brook trout stream and about 2 miles of the Evergreen River, above the fishery boundary, to the present project would insure the future of one of the most threatened wild resources of this state. The Council recommends that NRB strongly consider the merits of our endorsement.

Evergreen River and Langlade

OF AGENCIES, GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROJECT *A119*
 include DNR Personnel and Title

Date	Contact	Comments
1/2/81	Evergreen River Master Plan Task Force	Compiled Master Plan.
12/15/80	Rich Dexter	No known archaeological or historical sites.
12/80	Antigo/White Lake Chapter Trout Unlimited	Support project - offered help.
12/80	Langlade Co. Zoning	No permits required.
12/80	Public Notice of Habitat project	No public participation comments received.

RECOMMENDATION

EIS Not Required

Analysis of the expected impacts of this proposal is of sufficient scope and detail to conclude that this is not a major action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. In my opinion therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required before the Department undertakes this action.

Refer to Office of the Secretary

Major and Significant Action: Prepare EIS

Additional factors, if any, affecting the evaluator's recommendation:

Use of private land is becoming more and more restricted. Urban and rural sprawl and other activities are degrading more and more fish and wildlife habitat. Outdoor enthusiasts support more public use areas and the land will never be less expensive.

Trout stream improvement is a proven accepted method of increasing numbers, survival and growth of trout where existing natural conditions are not optimum. Expected adverse effects should be of a temporary, minor nature compared to the long term, possibly permanent benefits. Any of the proposed work could be removed and stream channel characteristics restored to present conditions if, by some unforeseen chance, it were required. The State DNR has acquired over 800 acres on the Evergreen River primarily for preservation and improvement of fishing.

Work of this nature has been carried out on the Plover, Prairie, and Hunting Rivers. Trout have responded positively and no significant negative impacts have resulted. The analysis of expected impacts of the proposal for habitat improvement in the Evergreen River is of sufficient detail to conclude that the project is not a major state action and does not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an EIS is not required.

SIGNATURE OF EVALUATOR <i>Max Johnson</i>	DATE <i>2-11-81</i>
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CERTIFIED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH WEPA	
DISTRICT OR BUREAU DIRECTOR (OR DESIGNEE) <i>Balter</i>	DATE <i>2-18-81</i>

*No other address
No comments
received*

APPROVED (if required by Manual Code)	
DIRECTOR, BEI <i>Lewis</i>	DATE <i>11/15/82</i>

This decision is not final until approved by the appropriate Director and/or Director, BEI.

