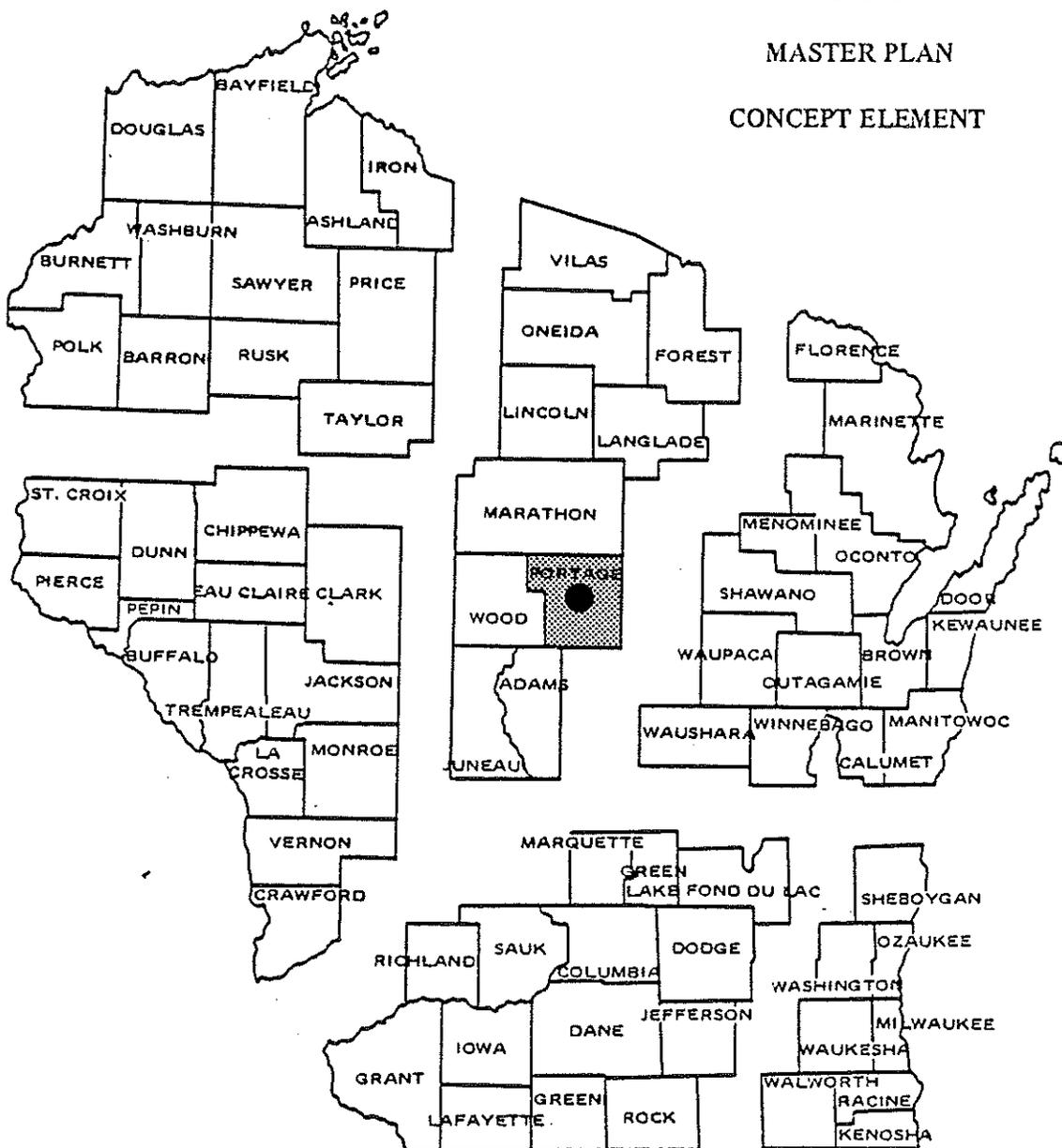


LITTLE PLOVER RIVER FISHERY AREA

PORTAGE COUNTY

MASTER PLAN

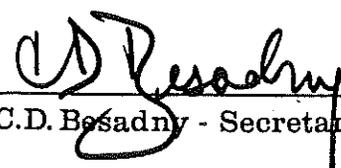
CONCEPT ELEMENT



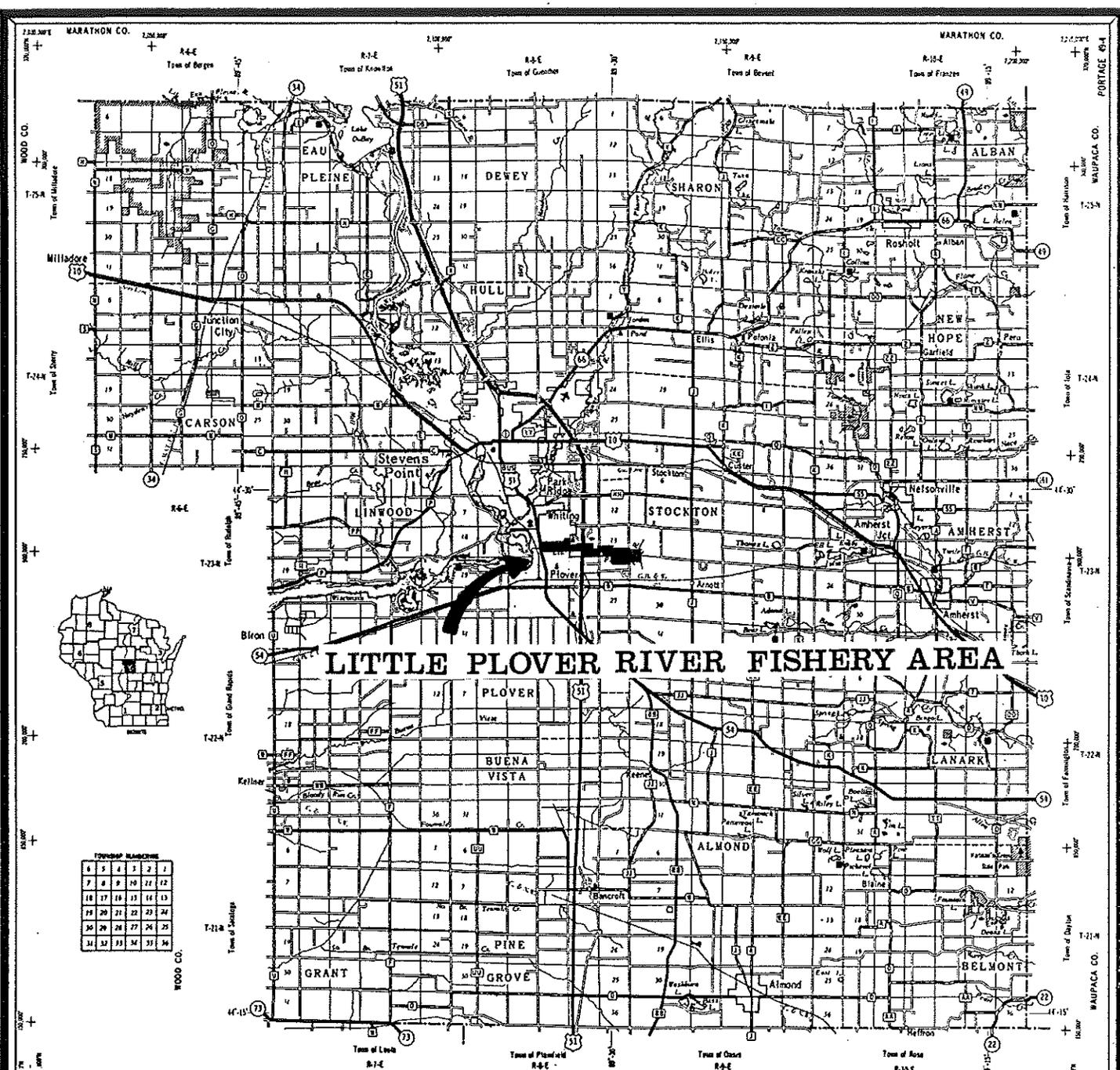
Property Task Force

Leader - Jack Zimmermann - Area Fish Manager
Paul Lochner - Asst. Area Forester
Joseph Haug - Area Wildlife Manager

Approved:


C.D. Besadny - Secretary

9/9/15
Date

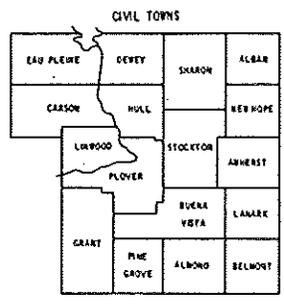


LITTLE PLOVER RIVER FISHERY AREA

Figure 1. Location—Little Plover River Fishery Area, Portage County.

LEGEND

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portland Canal..... U.S. & STATE State Canal..... COUNTY Shoalmark..... Gravel..... Earth..... *Trestle Road..... Fire Lane..... Whitening Dredge..... Freeway..... Interchange..... Highway Square..... Interstate Highway Sh..... U.S. Highway No..... State Highway No..... County Hwy. Letter..... Roadway..... Ditch..... State Boundary..... County Boundary..... *Surface type as seen with hot steam | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil Town Boundary..... Corporate Limit..... Hot & Cold Water..... Artery..... Fish Hatchery..... Coop Farm..... County Seat..... University, Village..... School..... Public Hall or Park, etc..... Hospital..... Camp Station..... Public Camp & Picnic Site..... State Park..... County Park..... Wayside..... Recreation Site Boundary..... |
|---|--|



MILES OF HIGHWAY AS OF JAN. 1, 1977

STATE.....	135
COUNTY.....	412
LOCAL ROADS.....	1135
OTHER ROADS.....	1
TOTAL FOR COUNTY.....	1723

PORTAGE CO.
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
 Madison, Wisconsin
 SCALE: 1" = 10 MILES
 Corrected for
 JAN. 1978
 Copy not for U.S.C.G. Distribution
 based on Jan. 1978 Photogram

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGES</u>
SECTION I - ACTIONS	
GOAL AND OBJECTIVES AND ADDITIONAL BENEFITS	1
RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM	1
SECTION II - SUPPORT DATA	
BACKGROUND INFORMATION	6
RESOURCE CAPABILITIES AND INVENTORY	7
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS	13
RECREATION NEEDS AND JUSTIFICATIONS	13
ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES	14
APPENDIX	

SECTION I - ACTIONS

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Goals

To manage the Little Plover River Fishery Area in Portage County, to enhance the habitat for fishing and other recreational and educational uses while perpetuating the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the land and water.

Annual Objectives

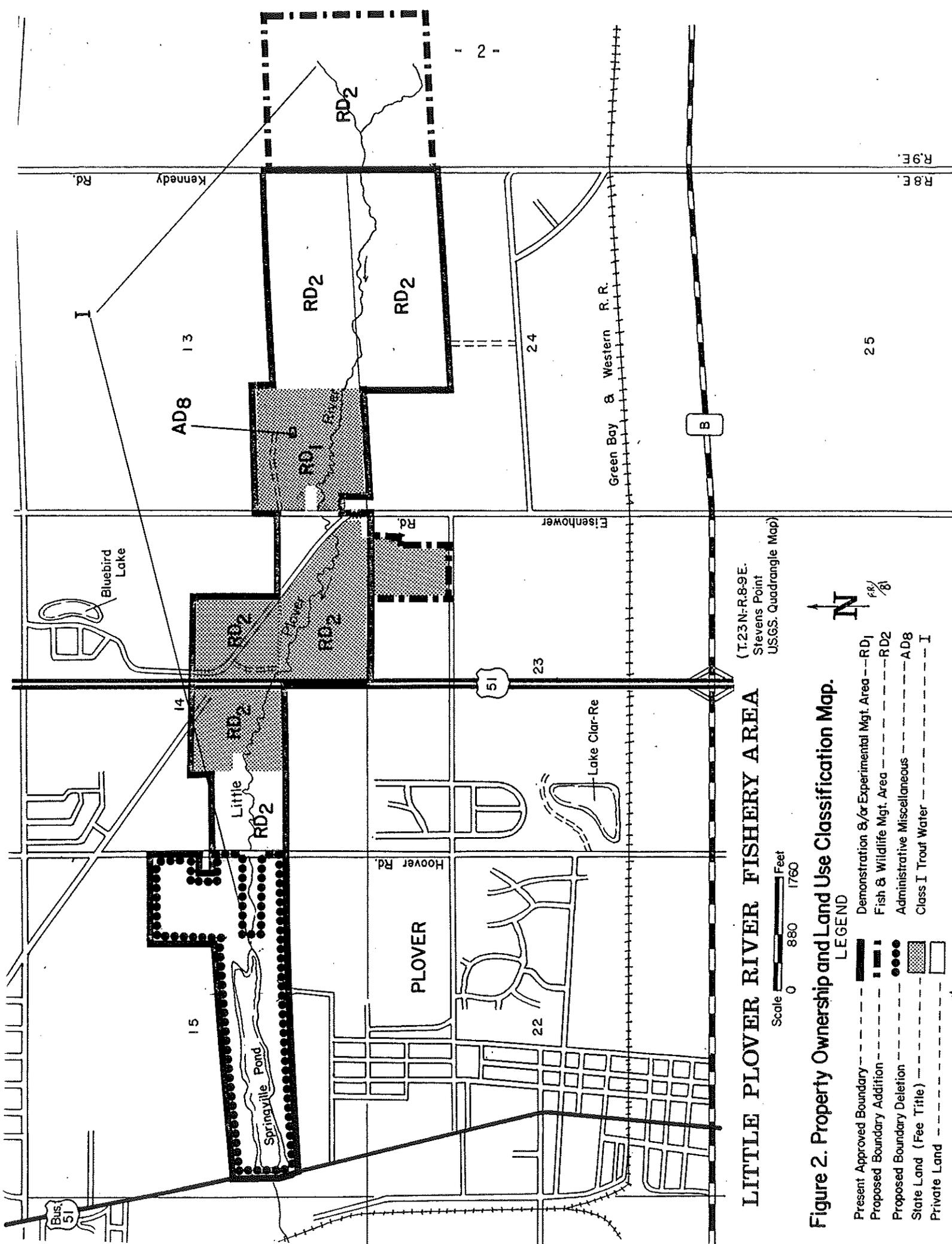
1. Provide opportunity for 800 participant-days of fishing for brook trout.
2. Management of the stream to allow a sustained harvest of not less than 15 pounds of trout per acre.
3. Provide the opportunity for 1,000 participant-days of hunting for white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, cottontail rabbits, squirrels and woodcock and 120 participant-days of trapping for muskrats.

Annual Additional Benefits

1. Provide the opportunity for 7,000 participant days of cross-country skiing, hiking, snowshoeing, photography, bird-watching, nature study and other educational and recreational uses.
2. Manage forestlands to enhance their quality and potential productivity.
3. Provide habitat benefits to nongame species of fish, wildlife, and plants including migratory endangered and threatened species.
4. Enhance water quality through streambank protection and erosion control on adjacent lands.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The recommended management program (Figures 2 and 3) for the Little Plover River Fishery Area in Portage County includes instream habitat improvement practices for trout, the posting of state-owned land boundaries for the purpose of identification, the development and improvement of parking areas for the public, the preservation of historical sites if any are discovered, the acquisition of additional lands from willing sellers within acquisition boundaries for stream preservation and public use, the implementation of forestry practices designed to establish and maintain healthy forest stands, and the management of vegetation to sustain habitat conditions for game and nongame species.



(T.23N-R.89E.
Stevens Point
USGS. Quadrangle Map)

LITTLE PLOVER RIVER FISHERY AREA

Scale 0 880 1760 Feet

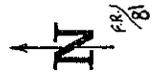


Figure 2. Property Ownership and Land Use Classification Map.

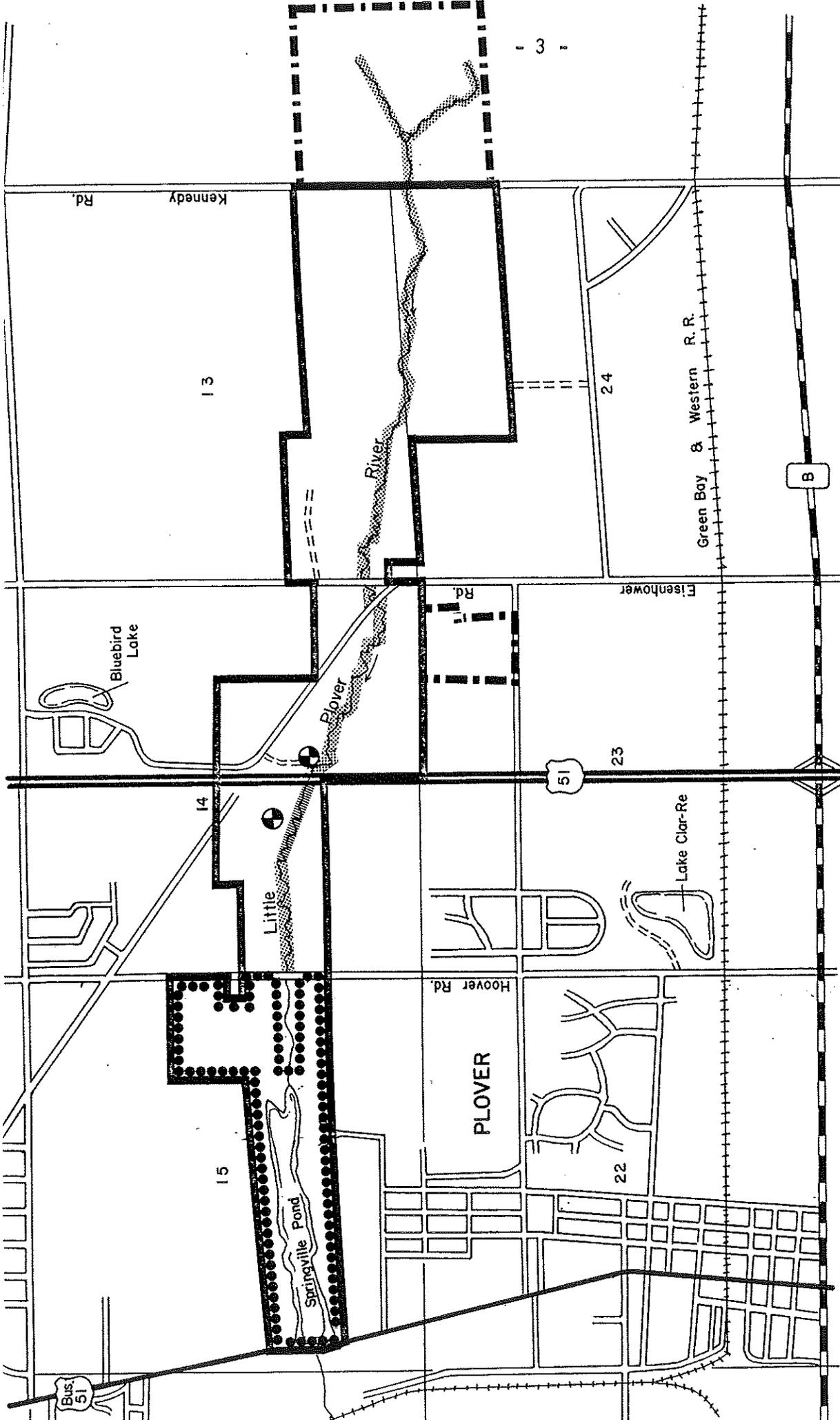
LEGEND

- Present Approved Boundary - - - - -
- Proposed Boundary Addition - - - - -
- Proposed Boundary Deletion - - - - -
- State Land (Fee Title) - - - - -
- Private Land - - - - -
- Demonstration &/or Experimental Mgt. Area - RD1
- Fish & Wildlife Mgt. Area - RD2
- Administrative Miscellaneous - AD8
- Class I Trout Water - - - - - I

R8E.
R9E.

25

- 2 -



(T.23N-R.8-9E.
Stevens Point
U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Map)

LITTLE PLOVER RIVER FISHERY AREA

Scale 0 880 1760 Feet



Figure 3. Existing and Planned Development Map.

LEGEND

- Present Approved Boundary - - - - -
- Proposed Boundary Addition - - - - -
- Existing Stream Habitat Improvement - [stippled pattern]
- Proposed Stream Habitat Improvement - [stippled pattern]
- Proposed Parking Area - [dotted pattern]
- Proposed Boundary Deletion - - - - -

R.8 E.
R.9 E.

25

3

13

24

14

23

15

22

Kennedy Rd.

Eisenhower Rd.

Green Bay & Western R. R.

Bluebird Lake

Plover River

Springville Pond

Lake Clar-Re

PLOVER

Hoover Rd.

Bus. 51

51

B

The Department proposes several changes to the existing boundary. One eliminates all but 2,000 feet of stream and an average of 4 rods on each bank of the lands surrounded by the property boundary west of Hoover Road. That portion of new boundary would encompass approximately 6.0 acres. Increasing home development on this land surrounding Springville Pond has made acquisition for fishery purposes out of the question.

An addition to the boundary is recommended east of Kennedy Road, to include important headwaters stream frontage that is heavily overgrazed and abused by cattle.

It is also recommended that the 28.29-acre parcel owned in fee title outside of the currently approved boundary in the NE 1/4 of Section 23 be included within the boundary. These lands were acquired in a transaction where most of the acreage attached was within the boundary. The lands are one of the few wooded areas nearby. Both boundary additions are shown on Figure 2.

Habitat improvement for trout is proposed for about 1.5 mile of the Little Plover. Improvement techniques would include streamside brushing, bank covers and deflectors. Improvements will vary in 1985 costs from \$70 an acre for brushing to \$10 per foot for intensive streambank cover work. Most work will be carried out from Hoover Road to just above Eisenhower Road. If additional land will be acquired, habitat improvement will take place above Kennedy Road. Habitat development proposals would be submitted under the Trout Stamp program or under a cooperative agreement with the UW-Stevens Point and Portage County.

Property boundaries will be located and posted with appropriate DNR signs. This will provide the public with a way to identify lands open to recreation and minimize the chance of trespass on private lands bordering state property. Ultimately, 5.3 miles of property boundary would need posting.

In the future, two parking lots are proposed for state-owned lands on the fishery area. Both lots would be in Section 14, with one on the west and the other on the east side of Highway "51". Each lot would hold 5 to 10 cars and permit access to the area for fishing and recreation. Cost of parking lot development would vary from \$500 to \$1,000 each. When other lands are acquired, consideration will be given to additional parking facilities.

A proposed state significant natural area estimated at 100 acres is found in Township 23 North, Range 8 East, Section 13, S 1/2, SW 1/4. It contains habitat for wood turtles and Cooper's Hawks, both threatened in Wisconsin, plus the aquatic features associated with the Little Plover River. It will be designated officially at a later date.

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

A complete biological inventory of the property will be conducted as funds permit. Additional property objectives may be developed following completion of such an inventory.

Forestry practices will be recommended by the Assistant Area Forester with approval by the property manager and in consultation with the Area Wildlife Manager. Vegetative cover types will be managed consistent with the best silvicultural and aesthetics techniques. Management of the present timber stands will include maintaining the species composition and, where necessary, to increase the ability of the stand to protect the watershed.

Jack pine and oak are the major species present. The jack pine stands will convert to a scrub oak, red maple type unless work is done to control the oak advance reproduction and promote jack pine seedling establishment. Where open-grown "orchard" jack pines are mixed with smaller trees in 2 stands, the larger trees could be cut to allow the smaller pines to grow.

The area's soils constitute poor sites for oak growth. Consequently, production of wood and mast will be poor. Where it is necessary to maintain the oak type, thinning will to be performed approximately 20 years before harvest of the older trees. Where white pine is present with, or underneath, the oaks, efforts may be made to release the pine when necessary or to promote their reestablishment when cutting.

Planting of seedlings and shrubs will be done in one old field and wherever it is deemed necessary to augment natural regeneration efforts.

Wildlife management practices recommended include concern for the gross land-use changes occurring in close proximity to the projected human population.

Extensive acreages of forested lands adjacent to the project have been, or presently are being, converted to irrigated agriculture. This change of land use is anticipated to continue for some time into the future. In addition, numerous private residences have been constructed adjacent to the fishery area in recent years and it appears this type of development will also continue. Both of these land uses will have negative impacts on the resident wildlife species and on the types of management actions which can be planned for the area.

Due to past problems with deer damage to crops and ornamentals on private lands adjacent to the project, a wide-scale management program for deer is not recommended. Clear cutting of the forest type and enhancement of conifer cover should be minimized to discourage over-wintering by deer in the area.

The existing oak-jack pine type should be maintained to encourage use by small game and nongame species. Sufficient older "wolf" or cull oak trees should be left to provide mast and cavities for furbearers and birds on the area. Small selective cuts of oak and jack pine stands should be made as trees reach rotation age to provide maximum age class diversity. Cutting practices should be implemented to discourage establishment of red maple while maintaining the mature oak type to provide maximum mast production.

A small open field on the north side of the property will be converted to conifers to enhance forest productivity. However, conversion of existing timber types to conifers should be discouraged due to the large acreages of conifers on surrounding lands.

Lowland brush adjacent to the stream should be manipulated by a series of small clear-cuts as the stands mature. This will provide age class diversity necessary to benefit cottontail rabbits and woodcock.

Due to the fishery area's urban location, it is anticipated that wildlife recreational demands will increase steadily during the next decade. Thus, it is essential to provide and maintain a maximum diversity of wildlife species on the property. This can only be accomplished by managing for a diversity of interspersed habitat types.

No development other than parking and habitat improvement is planned for future acquisition of lands on this property. The natural quality of this land will be increasingly important in years to come as urbanization and increasing agricultural expansion create a scarcity of wild, natural lands.

The Village of Plover is in the process of developing a 50-acre park on the north side of the Little Plover River just west of Hoover Road. The Department will cooperate with them in improving the stream for the benefit of trout and in any efforts to benefit fish and wildlife.

SECTION II - SUPPORT DATA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Little Plover Fishery Area is located near the center of Portage County in the Village of Plover. It originates in agricultural croplands in the Town of Stockton and flows west for approximately six miles to the Wisconsin River. It is impounded at Business Highway 51 by a dam forming 18-acre Springville Pond. The approximately 3.5 miles from the headwaters to the upper end of Springville Pond are Class I brook trout waters.

In 1957, under authority of the Wisconsin Conservation Department and Chapter 23.09 of the Wisconsin Statutes, and with federal aid from the Fish and Wildlife Restoration Acts, the state initiated its land acquisition program on Little Plover Creek. The primary purpose was to ensure public access and use of waterways and provide land for outdoor recreation.

The approved acreage goal for the Little Plover River was set at 381.5 acres and an approved boundary was established by the Wisconsin Conservation Commission in 1959. The state currently owns 254.39 acres in fee title with no easements or leases. The total cost of the land acquired was \$201,157.97.

The Department will continue to acquire lands from willing sellers as they become available. Acquisition to date has been slow due to a low turnover in ownerships. Several key parcels are within large private land holdings.

There is a Land Use Agreement with the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, for use of lands for conservation and demonstration purposes on state land in the SW SW of Section 13, T23N, R8E. Several small buildings have been constructed here by the University for resource studies. Very little use has been made of these facilities since the buildings were constructed (Figure 2).

State coldwater research personnel have conducted habitat research with regard to brushing practices on sections of the upper stream in past years.

Approximately 500 feet of stream west of Highway 51 have been developed using bank structures installed under a cooperative agreement between the Area Fish Manager, the county, and students from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The College of Natural Resources uses the stream to train students in management techniques as well as for conducting studies by graduate students.

The Little Plover is located right in the backyard of a population of nearly 40,000 people. Hunting with firearms is limited due to the closeness of homes, but the land is used rather extensively for other forms of recreation including hiking, skiing and berry picking. Fishing pressure is moderate on state lands and light to moderate on adjacent lands owned privately by others.

RESOURCE CAPABILITIES AND INVENTORY

Soils, geology and hydrology

Soils along the Little Plover River are mostly sandy being derived largely from glacial sediments. They are only moderately productive in terms of agriculture but recent irrigation farming practices have put large blocks of this soil type into intensive agricultural use. Pockets of peat are found randomly along the streambanks.

Lighter soils found along the Little Plover more readily allow water from heavy rainfall over a short period of time, or thawing to infiltrate into the ground rather than to run off directly into surface waters. This leads to better recharge of groundwater supplies and is reflected in the relatively stable stream flows of this region.

Lands surrounding the Little Plover River have gone through a modest amount of glacial activity in the past. They are characterized by undifferentiated moraine and outwash consisting mostly of sand and gravel washed down from retreating glaciers. The Little Plover originates very near the outer terminal moraine which stretches north-south through the country and divides the Wisconsin River drainage system from the Wolf River system.

Precipitation averages 31.4 inches annually but is supplemented heavily in the Plover River vicinity by irrigation for cash crops. Average annual winter snowfall is 48 inches. Most of the Little Plover does not freeze and remains free-running year-round.

The upper groundwater level varies greatly throughout the county, ranging from within a few feet of the surface to more than 200 feet in the moraine region. Abundant springs and diffuse groundwater furnish the clear, cold water necessary to maintain the county's many trout streams.

During extended dry periods, as in 1959 and 1976, groundwater levels may be depressed causing natural lake levels to drop. Streams sustained by groundwater seeps and springs reach low flow levels. Small lakes, ponds and marshes may dry up completely. In the central sands region of Portage County (including along the Little Plover), groundwater levels may be lowered further by the growing number of high capacity wells used for irrigation.

Pumping from wells located too near a lake or stream may create a cone of depression causing a drop in water level or a decrease in stream flow. During a period of extended drought, up to 90% of a stream's natural flow could be depleted through irrigation and the increase in evapotranspiration which accompanies this practice.

Contamination of groundwater has also become a serious problem to the area in recent years with high nitrate and pesticide levels being found in waters of private wells in communities surrounding this irrigated farming region. If this trend continues, water quality and the aquatic community of the Little Plover could be seriously adversely affected.

Precipitation, the major source of water, is absorbed by the soil where it is utilized by plants or evaporated into the air. It infiltrates the soil to recharge groundwater supplies and about 10.6 inches annually runs off into surface waters. A total of 20.8 inches of the average rainfall is lost to evapotranspiration.

Fish and Wildlife

Fish species present in the Little Plover River are characteristic of a coldwater fishery. Management is directed at maintaining the Class I brook trout population and its associated aquatic community. Naturally reproducing brook trout are found from the headwater downstream to an area just above Springville Pond.

Under normal conditions, water flows, temperature and quality are sufficient to maintain an adequate native trout population without the need for stocked trout. Aquatic invertebrates are normally abundant enough to maintain the food supply and there are enough spawning areas to provide for reproduction. Instream habitat is only fair, and may be one of the limiting factors keeping the stream from producing more trout.

Management will be directed toward habitat improvement which will improve this situation and greatly increase bank stability and resistance to erosion. A stream survey, completed in 1982 shows brook trout to be the dominant species present. Also found in the stream are white suckers, mottled sculpins and mudminnows. The survey report is on file at the Wisconsin Rapids Area Headquarters.

The survey showed only 106 trout per acre as compared to surveys conducted 15-20 years ago when trout ranged from 1,800 to 2,900 trout per acre. It is believed that chemical contamination from agricultural sources may have seriously reduced the trout population of the Little Plover.

In early 1984, a committee consisting of DNR fisheries and water resources personnel met with University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point personnel to discuss the serious decline of trout in the Little Plover River. In March of that year, the committee recommended, and requested funding for a graduate student to study the stream for a 2-year period. It was felt that a well-founded study could carry a high degree of credibility. This would be important if it was learned that agricultural chemicals were the cause of the problem.

It was further recommended that cold water research and Wisconsin Rapids Area fish management personnel cooperate in the study. The Bureau of Research advised the committee that the earliest possible date for assistance would be fiscal year 1985-1986, and then only if their budget request for a bioavailability of toxicants program was funded. A study of the Little Plover will be implemented if funding and personnel can be appropriated.

The fishery area contains a small variety of wild birds and animals. Some are seasonal residents while others are found year-round. Encroaching agricultural and residential growth are gradually isolating the fishery area making it an island of natural habitat. Wildlife management will be directed toward the creation of a diversity of habitat types. White-tailed deer, cottontails, squirrels, ruffed grouse and woodcocks will benefit from this type of management as well as nongame species.

Residential development and local laws minimize most hunting opportunities with firearms. In future years, as human populations increase and wild land is harder to find, residents will treasure the naturalness of this area and look forward to enjoying the recreational and educational use of the wildlife it will harbor.

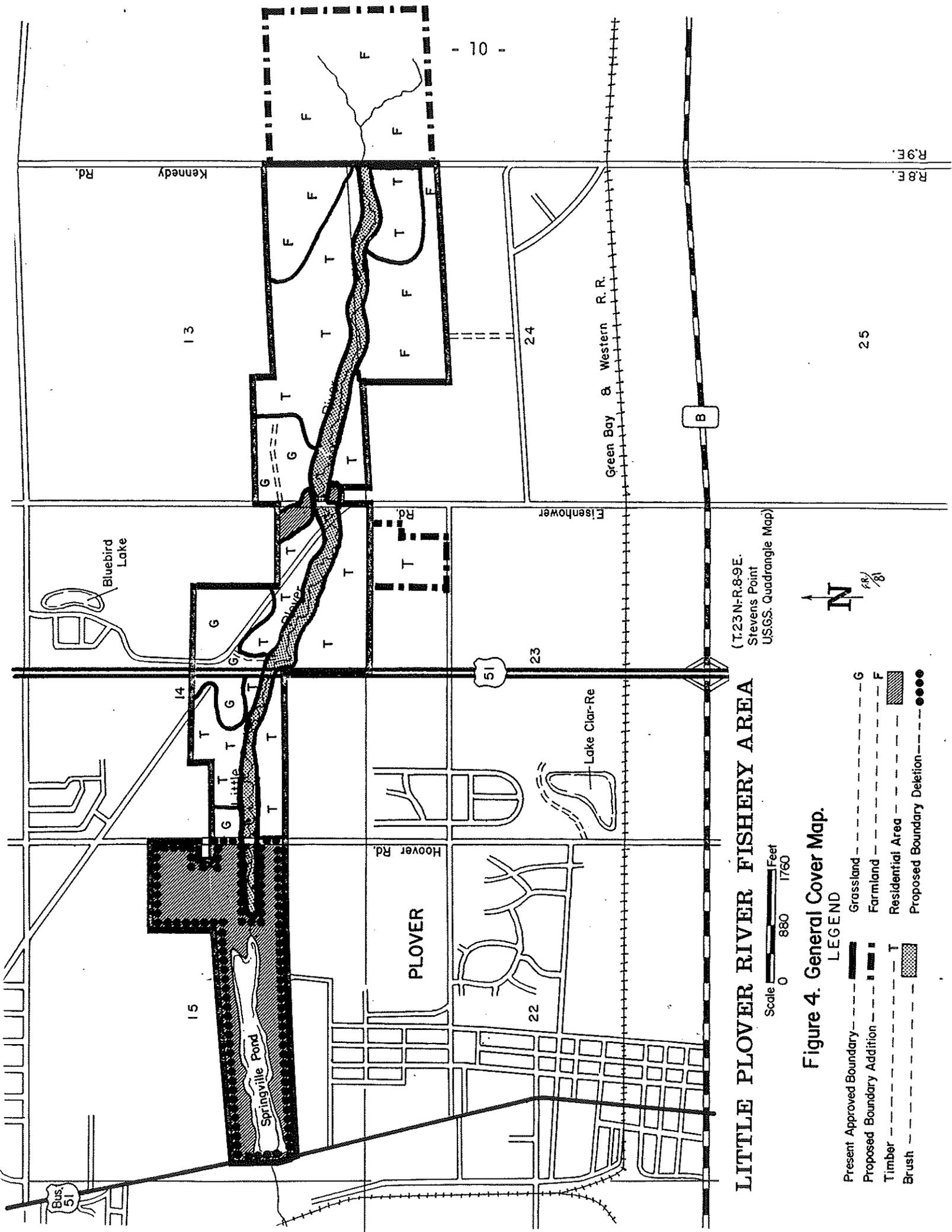
As acquisition and habitat development occur, the Department will watch for the presence of endangered or threatened species of fish and wildlife. Appropriate measures would be taken to preserve them and their habitat.

Vegetative Cover

General vegetative cover on the fishery area is shown on Figure 4. The dominant cover type is jack pine (Table 1). The stands are either very young or near maturity. The remaining upland types are old fields with poor grass cover or scrub oak. The stream valley is covered with lowland grasses or swamp hardwoods.

No management practices have been performed for a long time. Most areas are not producing forest products to their full potential so even the management outlined after adjustments for wildlife and aesthetics will promote healthy stands. The jack pine stands are producing half a cord/acre/year and the hardwood stands less than half of that. Timely management will increase production and the red pine should produce 1.5 cords/acre/year.

Management will be geared to maintaining a type and age diversity in small stands. This should encourage use by a variety of game and nongame species. Management in the stream valley will involve mostly salvage. Upland work will maintain a filtration strip between surrounding property uses and the stream.



(T.23N-R.89E.
Stevens Point
USGS. Quadrangle Map)

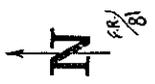
LITTLE PLOVER RIVER FISHERY AREA

Scale 0 880 1760 Feet

Figure 4. General Cover Map.

LEGEND

- Present Approved Boundary - - - - -
- Proposed Boundary Addition - - - - -
- Timber - - - - -
- Brush - - - - -
- Grassland - - - - -
- Farmland - - - - -
- Residential Area - - - - -
- Proposed Boundary Deletion - - - - -



R.8E.
R.9E.

25

- 10 -

13

24

23

22

15

14

PLOVER

Bluebird Lake

Springville Pond

Lake Clar-Re

Kennedy Rd.

Hoover Rd.

Eisenhower Rd.

Green Bay & Western R.R.

B

Bus. 51

Table 1 - Vegetation types of the Little Plover Fishery Area, Portage County on those lands that have had a forest reconnaissance survey.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Jack Pine	118.0
Swamp Hardwoods	7.0
Upland Grass	21.0
Lowland Grass	9.0
Scrub Oak	63.0
Red Pine	14.0
White Pine	11.0
Upland Brush	2.0
Stream	1.0
Buildings	3.0
Right-of-way	<u>4.0</u>
Total	253.0

Surface Water Resources

The Little Plover River originates a few miles east of the Stevens Point area and flows due west for 3.5 miles before passing into Springville Pond, and then the Wisconsin River. The Little Plover averages about 30 feet wide and 18 inches deep. The water is white and clear with a pH of 8.1 and an alkalinity of 135 mg/l.

Sand is the primary bottom material along with patches of gravel and peat. Instream cover comes from scattered pools, undercut banks, debris and fallen trees. Vegetation is scarce but food organisms are normally abundant enough to keep the brook trout population in excellent condition.

A recent survey has shown a drastic decline in trout numbers. The Area Fish Manager has recommended a joint DNR and University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point study to determine if groundwater contamination or agricultural chemical surface runoff has affected the aquatic environment.

Table 2 - Water Resources, Streams, Little Plover River Fishery Area, Portage County.

<u>Stream</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Length in Miles</u>		<u>Surface Acres</u>
		<u>Class I</u>	<u>Class II</u>	
Little Plover	Portage	3.5	---	6.0

Historical, Architectural and Archaeological Features

Historical, architectural and archaeological studies are lacking in this area, thus limiting present-day knowledge of cultural history. There are no known sites within the present boundaries. Should any significant development of soils or structures be required in the future, we would work with the State Historical Society to insure avoiding any adverse affects on any historical sites uncovered.

Endangered and Threatened Species

There are no known endangered and threatened species of fish, amphibians, molluscs, mammals, birds, reptiles or plants known to be present on the property except threatened wood turtles and probable breeding Cooper's Hawks that have been found in the S 1/2, SW 1/4 of Section 13, Township 23 North, Range 8 East.

Land Use Classification

Using the uniform classification system of land uses on DNR properties, most lands on the Little Plover fall into the Resource Development category of Fish and Game Management (RD₂). These are lands and waters containing less than ideal natural conditions for fish and wildlife but which can be developed for higher production through management.

The only other land use class is Administrative (AD₈). The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has a land use agreement on lands east of Eisenhower Road where several small buildings for water resource management have been constructed. This area is used for research, training and graduate studies. Figure 2 shows land use designation.

Ownership

Currently, 254.39 acres are in state ownership at a cost of \$201,158 on this fishery area. A total of 127.11 acres remain to be purchased before the acreage goal of 381.5 acres is complete. There are no leases or easements on the Little Plover Fishery Area.

The cost of purchasing the 127.11 acres remaining is estimated to be about \$127,000 based on 1985 land prices.

Current Use

The Little Plover experiences trout fishing on the order of 400 participant-days per season. It is located closely to a population of over 40,000 people. Recreational use of all kinds is expected to increase steadily in the future. Hunting for white-tailed deer, grouse, rabbits, and squirrels is on the order of 500 participant-days a year. Estimated trapping use is very low with a level of not more than 50 participant-days at present.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

Difficulties in Acquisition

This fishery area lies within a mile of the Villages of Whiting and Plover and the City of Stevens Point. Suburban housing development is rapidly encroaching on the area's boundaries. Land acquisition will become more difficult in future years due to competition with land developers. Public overuse of this fishery area can be expected in the future as recreational land becomes more in demand by an increasing population.

Potential Groundwater Problems

Groundwater contamination could affect fish and wildlife populations in coming years if the situation continues to worsen. Undesirable levels of both nitrates and pesticides have been found within a few miles of the Plover River in private residential wells. A study has been recommended to determine if chemical contamination is responsible for the drastic decline noted in the trout population of the Little Plover.

RECREATIONAL NEEDS AND JUSTIFICATIONS

The State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) published in 1981 puts the need for outdoor recreation in perspective. Wisconsin state goals for recreation which include protection, development and utilization of our resources are a reflection of those of the Master Plan for the Little Plover River Fishery Area. The plan points out the rapidly growing needs of a "recreation hungry" population. With a limited amount of public land available for expanding recreational interests, the importance of fishery areas like this one becomes apparent.

Portage County is included in Region 3 of the SCORP plan. Hiking, pleasure walking and cross-country skiing are some of the more popular uses of the Little Plover Fishery Area. SCORP predicts that the need for these activities, along with hunting and fishing, will continue to rise. In 1981, state lands in Region 3 accounted for only 11 of the 815 miles of hiking trails in Wisconsin. It contained 74 of the 1,561 miles available for pleasure walking and 76 of the 2,395 miles available for cross-country skiing.

Portage County's population (over 57,000 in 1980) is growing, particularly in the Stevens Point vicinity around the Plover River Fishery Area. The cities of Stevens Point and Wisconsin Rapids are within a 20-minute drive of the fishery area. Fishing and recreational pressure from a rapidly increasing population will dictate more intensive acquisition and management of public lands by 1990 and into the future. The need for recreational lands will increase as availability of lands suitable for public use decreases. City and county parks will help to buffer this recreational demand but they will not be able to provide the "natural" experience that people currently feel when visiting fishery areas like the Little Plover.

The Little Plover River receives moderate fishing pressure throughout the season. By 1990, we can expect an increase of 10% in angler effort. Acquisition of the remaining stream frontage and development of habitat must remain a high priority if the resource is to be maintained and/or improved.

ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

Do Nothing

If all management practices on the fishery area were to stop, deterioration of fish and game habitat would occur in future years. Brush and trees would encroach on the stream channel causing flow restriction and difficult fishing conditions. Streambank deterioration and erosion would go uncorrected. Deposition from sand and silt would fill in pools and cover spawning areas. The trout fishery would decline along with fishing success.

Upland vegetative cover would eventually reach the climax stage causing habitat for both game and some nongame species to deteriorate. Annual populations would decline along with recreational use by the public.

Present ownership would soon result in overuse by the public and a swift decline in recreational quality.

Reduce the Fishery Area

This alternative would accelerate the danger of public overuse and make it impossible to attain project goals and objectives. A growing population would find less natural land available for fishing and recreational experiences.

Enlarge the Fishery Area Boundary (Recommended Alternative)

Enlarging the fishery area acreage goal is not necessary, but several boundary adjustments are recommended that will result in small increases in acres within the boundary.

Appendix - Comments of Outside Reviewers to the Little Plover Fishery Area, Portage County, Master Plan

A number of comments were received from reviewers of the Little Plover Fishery Area Master Plan from outside of the Department of Natural Resources. Their comments, and responses from DNR members of the Task Force follow:

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

Overall view of Master Plan - Good.

Page 2, par. 2, typo error in line 1.

DNR Response: Corrected. Thank you.

Page 7, par. 4. - Textures should be used to designate soil. Sand is "heavier" than silt-loam.

DNR Response: This is an attempt only to give the reader a basic overview of the makeup of the fishery area. Detailed information is available on the soils of Portage County if more detail is required.

Page 7 - What is excess precipitation?

DNR Response: Reference is to heavy rainfalls over a short period of time which result in runoff to surface waters. An average rainfall in central Wisconsin with its sandy soils have little or no surface runoff.

Page 7, par. 5 - The irrigation water is still originally precipitation.

DNR Response: Providing background information on the area's moisture availability is the intent here. There is no need to get into semantics.

Page 7, par. 6 - add "and diffuse groundwater seepage" after abundant springs.

DNR Response: OK. Changed to read: "Abundant springs and diffuse groundwater seepage furnish the clean, cold water necessary to maintain the county's many trout streams."

Page 8, general - Irrigated agricultural land in Portage county is not growing rapidly. Most of the available land is already being irrigated.

DNR Response: When this plan was written about 3 years ago irrigation wells were still growing in number. Even now, old, outdated systems are being replaced by high capacity wells which may someday have an effect on the groundwater table.

Page 8, par. 1, Water level record data do not show any regional or permanent lowering.

DNR Response: The potential for this to happen is very strong and has been predicted by several studies and reports. "Water on the land" 1970, Wisconsin DNR" and "Irrigation in the central sands of Wisconsin, potentials and impacts", University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1978 point out the potential effects of irrigation on streams. The summer of 1976 brought a drought which caused considerable damage to local trout streams. Irrigation systems are run night and day in times of drought and add to the problem of stream depletion.

Page 8. - What is the source of the information stated in the last half of the paragraph.

DNR Response: Which paragraph? If it's the first one the source is the same as referred to in the last question.

Page 8, Par. 3 - About 90% of base flow comes from groundwater and 10% by overland runoff to streams.

DNR Response: This is a statement not a question. It is not necessary to add it to our text.

Page 8 - change "lost" to "utilized".

DNR Response: Not necessary - the term "lost" satisfies the intent of the paragraph.

Page 8, par. - Is there any information about trout other than size; information such as biomass change.

DNR Response: We have only basic survey information. No weights or exploitation figures.

Mitchell G. Bent, Chairman, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, DePere, Wisconsin

Enclosed with this cover letter are the comments from Wisconsin Trout Unlimited regarding the Master Plan Review for the Little Plover River Fishery Area in Portage County, Wisconsin. I believe the comments on the attached sheet will suffice for our organization's input into this planning process. Thank you for the opportunity to be involved in this process.

Overall view of Master Plan - Fair.

In general, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited supports the Little Plover River Fishery Area Master Plan. Our organization believes in the expansion of public trout fishing areas in the state, and this program meets that concept. We are concerned, of course, with the potential problems from agricultural runoff and groundwater contamination. Any success that this Master Plan will have in meeting the increasing angling desires of the fishing public will be dependent

upon the ability of the DNR and other agencies to arrest the spread of contaminants and fertilizers into the surface and groundwaters. The drastic decline in trout populations in the stream over the years should be cause for alarm.

DNR Response: We are attempting to learn the reason for the decline in trout numbers. Coldwater research and the U.W.-Stevens Point have been involved in some basic sampling. Data is not yet available. Funding has been requested for research into the problem but to date, no funds have been secured from the state.

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

We have reviewed the Master Plan for the Little Plover River Fishery Area in Portage County and determined that the Recommended Management and Development Program would not have a significant adverse impact upon our transportation facilities, interests or concerns. We have noted that figures 2, 3, and 4 have minor errors that could be changed. 1) The township road near the center of the map (Section 23) does not cross U.S. Highway 51. 2) The township road at the top of the map (Section 14) crosses over U.S.H. 51 on a grade separation structure.

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

DNR Response: These are minor map oversights that do not warrant map changes.

Marion Beyer, Portage County Conservation Congress, Almond, Wisconsin

Overall view of Master Plan - Excellent.

Page 4 - Glad to see you don't want to include the developed property on Springville Pond.

DNR Response: No chance, or need for acquisition on Springville Pond. Original acquisition boundaries were drawn up before the area around the pond became developed with homes.

Charles P. Kell, Planning Director, Portage County Planning Department, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Attached please find our department's comments on the DNR Master Plan prepared for the Little Plover River Fishery Area.

As I indicated to you previously in my transmittal letter on the Little Wolf River Master Plan, it would be extremely helpful if your Master Plan document and correspondence included a list of people and agencies who receive your plans. I did contact the Village of Plover regarding the Little Plover River Master Plan and apparently they were not aware of your Plan, except for a recent newspaper article which discussed the plan.

I would strongly encourage your agency to contact the Village of Plover regarding this Master Plan document. Your contact should be George Bauman, Village Administrator. Mr. Bauman's telephone number is (715)345-5250.

Thank you for giving our department an opportunity to comment on this Plan. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please call.

DNR Response: The Village was sent a copy of the plan (or at least they were on the mailing list). After reading this comment another copy was sent to the Village President and the plan was discussed with him by phone. They had no concerns at that time.

Overall view of Master Plan - Excellent.

1. The proposed additions to the boundaries of the Little Plover River Fishery Area east of Kennedy Road in the Town of Stockton include lands which have been identified for agricultural preservation in the Portage County Farmland Preservation Plan (see attached map). Lands so identified by the County may be placed under long-term farmland preservation agreements at the request of the landowner. Such agreements would limit the use of these lands to agricultural activities for periods from 10-25 years. The DNR should consider the potential impact of the Farmland Preservation Program on their acquisition goals for these areas.

The proposed addition of certain croplands to the fishery area boundary would be in conflict with the objectives of the County's Farmland Preservation Plan should this ultimately result in the removal of these croplands from productive status. An alternative may be to undertake an educational program on proper agricultural management practices near rivers and streams for those farmers who own productive croplands in areas that could negatively affect the Little Plover River Fishery, rather than adopting a policy of land acquisition.

DNR Response: The Task Force is more concerned about the impact of agricultural practices on a Class I brook trout stream, than the effect of DNR acquisition on the Farmland Preservation Plan. It's not our job to educate people working the farms, but to protect irreplaceable trout streams. Chances are that we would acquire 150-foot easement strips of stream frontage in agricultural areas. This would not effect agricultural production. A naturally vegetated "buffer zone" adjacent to streams would help to protect them from aerial spraying, ground spraying and runoff from crop fields. Perhaps the county planner could recommend these environmental protective corridors for Portage County streams.

2. The Property Ownership and Land Use Classification Map (Figure 2) should reflect the Village of Plover's Little Plover River Park located immediately west of Hoover Road on the north side of the Little Plover River. This 49.82 acre park is currently being developed to provide an active, passive and natural park environment (see attached Certified Survey Map).

In light of the fact that the Village park ownership extends to the Little Plover River and includes lands on the south side of the river as well, it may be appropriate to eliminate the proposed property acquisition for this area. It is recommended that the DNR discuss this particular facet of the management plan with Village of Plover officials and work out a mutual agreement regarding the fishery area located west of Hoover Road.

DNR Response: It is suggested we add a paragraph: "The Village of Plover is in the process of developing a 50-acre park on the north side of the Little Plover River just west of Hoover Road. The Department will cooperate with them in improving the stream for the benefit of trout and in any efforts to benefit fish and wildlife."

Forest Stearns, Chairman, Scientific Areas Preservation Council

We have reviewed the Little Plover River Fishery Area Master Plan and generally support the goals, objectives and management proposed.

We note that a natural area of state significance was identified by scientific and natural area program staff and request that a scientific area or public use natural area be established in the project area upstream from Highway 51 following resolution of acceptable boundaries by the property manager and Bureau of Endangered Resources staff.

DNR Response: Discussed with Cliff Germain and agreed that a small natural area might be found upstream from Highway 51. Most of the river would not qualify. We will designate this natural area at a later date.

Dick Lindberg, Liaison to the Wild Resources Advisory Council

The Wild Resources Advisory Council recognizes the absence of wild resource opportunities on this property and concurs with the plan's general directions. Reviewers of the plan wish to congratulate the authors for a job well done.

DNR Response: Thank you.

3204M

(For All DNR Type II Actions, Except Regulatory)

FORM 1600-2
REV. 1-78

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DISTRICT OR BUREAU NCD
DNR NUMBER

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING WORKSHEET
(Attach additional sheets if necessary)

Title of Proposal: Little Plover River Fishery Area

Location: County Portage
Township 23N North, Range 8-9 East, ~~West~~
Section(s) 13-14-15 and 18-19
Political Town Plover-Stockton

Project:

1) General Description (overview)

A 161.3 acre area of DNR ownership containing a Class I brook trout stream plus valuable upland habitat for wildlife. The area is managed for fish, wildlife and forestry and provides recreational opportunities.

2) Purpose and Need (include history and background as appropriate)

State control and management are required to protect this valuable and delicate trout stream and its surrounding watershed. State management ensures the resources will not be degraded by agricultural practices, urban development or harmful land use practices. The fishery area is surrounded by a population of an estimated 40,000 people.

Authorities and Approvals:

- 1) Statutory Authority to Initiate Wis. Statutes 23.09 and 30.12; Chapter NR 80 Wis. Admin. Code
- 2) Permits or Approvals Required Stream improvements by District Director. Project boundaries by Natural Resources Board.
- 3) Participants notified of above requirements? Yes No
- 4) Does this proposal comply with floodplain and local zoning requirements? Yes No

Estimated Cost and Funding Source:

Land acquisition to complete property goals is estimated at \$220,000. Acquisition costs are covered by state and federal programs. Habitat work would be covered under the trout stamp.

Time Schedule: Continue land acquisition and habitat improvement based upon availability of lands and funds.

EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

1) Physical (Topography-soils-water-air-wetland types)

The Little Plover River originates in Portage County and flows west about 7 miles into the Wisconsin River. Topography is flat to gently rolling with sandy, moderately productive soils. Lighter soils along the Plover River readily allow water from precipitation to infiltrate into the ground and quickly recharge groundwater supplies. Stream flows remain stable except in drought years. Air quality is high but water quality in the vicinity has been effected by herbicides and pesticides used agriculturally. Very little wetland is associated with this watershed.

2) Biological

a) Flora

Present vegetation is composed of stands of jack pine, white pine and scrub oak. Interspersed among forest stands are grassland openings, upland and lowland brush and agricultural fields. Rare or endangered species are known to inhabit this area. The sand bottom stream contains significant aquatic vegetation.

b) Fauna

The stream contains brook trout as well as aquatic invertebrates characteristic of a cold water environment. Adjacent lands contain white-tailed deer, fox, raccoon, squirrel, ruffed grouse, woodcock and a wide variety of nongame birds and animals. There are no known rare or endangered species present. As acquisition and habitat development occur, we will watch for the presence of endangered or threatened species of fish and wildlife. Appropriate measures will be taken to preserve them and their habitat should they be discovered. Wood turtles (endangered) and Coopers Hawks (threatened) are believed to reside along the Little Plover.

3) Social

SEE ATTACHED ADDENDUM #1

4) Economic

The economy of the area is based around agriculture, primarily cash crops like corn, potatoes and beans. The fishery area is within 4 miles of the City of Stevens Point and its industries and retail stores.

5) Other (include archaeological, historical, etc.)

The State Historical Society reports four possible archaeological sites within the fishery boundary and has requested notification in the event that any development takes place. There are no other known scientific or historical features.

PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

1) Manipulation of Terrestrial Resources (include quantities – sq. ft., cu. yds., etc.)

SEE ATTACHED ADDENDUM # 2

2) Manipulation of Aquatic Resources (include quantities – cfs, acre feet, MGD, etc.)

Proposed stream habitat spot development will involve the installation of half logs and bank structures within two miles of stream. Approximately 50 bank structures and 50 half logs are proposed for future installation. Diagrams showing the construction of habitat devices are attached.

3) Structures

Habitat improvements, as described above, will be recommended for the Little Plover in future years. Projects are expected to be small in terms of numbers of structures developed. Much of the work will be on a cooperative basis with the UW-Stevens Point.

4) Other

Two small parking lots each with a 5-10 car capacity are proposed. Lots would have crushed rock surfaces and be located adjacent to existing roads to minimize impacts upon vegetation and aesthetics. Property boundaries will be located and posted with appropriate DNR signs. This will provide the public with a way to identify state land open to recreation and minimize the chance of trespass on surrounding private lands.

5) Attach maps, plans and other descriptive material as appropriate (list)

Location map Little Plover River fishery area.
Diagrams of half logs and bank structures.

PROBABLE ADVERSE AND BENEFICIAL IMPACTS (Include Indirect and Secondary Impacts)

1) Physical Impacts

SEE ATTACHED ADDENDUM #3

2) Biological Impacts

Beneficial biological impacts of habitat work will strongly outweigh any adverse impacts. Stream side brush removal could have a minor effect on grouse and woodcock. This removal is very small, however, in relation to similar habitat available elsewhere on the property. Brush will be replaced by reed canary grass and other native grasses which will provide escape cover for wildlife while stabilizing stream banks. Brush removal allows more sunlight to reach the stream thus increasing plant growth which provides cover and food for invertebrates.

Rocks and lumber used in the construction of deflectors and structures will provide a permanent substrate for invertebrates as well as providing cover for trout. The narrowed stream channel with increased flow will expose new gravel spawning areas and keep others free of silt and sediment. Adverse biological impacts will come from the temporary disruption of the stream bottom during construction. This will have no serious effect on the aquatic community.

3) Socioeconomic Impacts

a) Social

There will be an increase in land available for outdoor recreation as acquisition continues. The increased recreational opportunity will attract more outdoor recreationalists to the area. The modifications to the stream and vegetative cover along the bank will improve navigability by creating easier wading and improved fishability. Restricting off-road vehicular access will reduce illegal litter and overnight camping problems. The reduction of 129 acres on the western end of the acquisition boundary and the inclusion of 129 acres on the eastern end will have no significant impact. It eliminates lands we have no use for and includes lands that will help protect the water resource.

b) Economic

The affect of this property on the local economy should not be significant. Slightly increased expenditures for gas, food, bait and lodging might be expected. Property taxes will no longer be collected after state ownership. However, there will not be any adverse economic impacts upon the community. The state will continue to make payments in lieu of taxes at a rate declining 10% each year. In no year shall the payment fall below \$.50 per acre, or 10 percent of the present tax, whichever is greater.

4) Other (include archaeological, historical, etc.; if none, so indicate.)

Surveys coordinated with the State Historical Society will be conducted at each site prior to development. If development threatens any significant historical or archaeological sites, appropriate protective measures will be taken. A Naturalist will be consulted before significant alteration of any habitat type takes place where rare or endangered species may be involved.

PROBABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED

Habitat development projects will temporarily increase turbidity and disturb the stream bottom and banks. If heavy equipment is used for instream structures, it would disturb stream side vegetation for the length of one growing season. Improvements to the area may result in increased public use but this should cause only minor adverse impacts such as littering and vandalism. The proposed parking lots will cause soil compaction and destruction of vegetation at the parking site. Removal from the tax role will cause a loss of revenue, but the financial loss will be absorbed by the entire state not just the local community. The alteration in vegetation for Fish, Wildlife, and Forestry Management is not considered adverse impacts.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

Fish management projects are short-term in nature but will increase and maintain long-term productivity. Brushing and structure placement will have positive effects on trout and invertebrate populations. Once completed, projects will require only minor maintenance. Management surveys will enhance long-range productivity by providing information required to sustain population numbers. Wildlife management practices that will benefit upland game and will maintain and enhance long-term productivity are: shrub plantings and tree plantings in open and edge areas for food and cover. Selective cuttings for forestry and/or wildlife purposes will be of short-term duration. New growth will be stimulated which will effect various bird and animal species positively regarding long-term productivity.

IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES IF ACTION IS IMPLEMENTED

1) Energy

Fuel for vehicles and machinery used in habitat work is irretrievable.

2) Archaeological and historic features or sites

The State Historical Society reports several possible archaeological sites. Any plans which might include disruption of these sites would be coordinated with the Society.

3) Other

The planting of shrubs and trees could be considered irretrievable. No irreversible management activities are planned for the project area. Structures for fish habitat and plantings for forestry on wildlife can all be removed or replaced, if necessary.

ALTERNATIVES (No Action-Enlarge-Reduce-Modify-Other Locations and/or Methods. Discuss and describe fully with particular attention to alternatives which might avoid some or all adverse environmental effects.)

1. No Action
-Fish and game populations would remain at current levels for awhile, then drop slowly. This would vary with hunting and fishing pressure, weather and natural disasters.

Lands not purchased by the state will be sold for subdivision, irrigated farming, campgrounds or some similar use. Habitat would slowly deteriorate due to natural succession, beaver dams, forest diseases, etc.
2. Enlarge
-Project goals as outlined in the master plan are adequate at the present level.
3. Decrease project size
-Any decrease in size would be detrimental to the purpose of preserving and providing lands and water for public benefit. Public recreational lands will become more and more important in future years.
4. Modify
-Management practices and principals have been proven to be effective and economical. Modification would not be necessary unless research develops new practices which offer more benefits.
5. Other locations
-Does not apply.

EVALUATION (Discuss each category. Attach additional sheets and other pertinent information if necessary.)

- 1) As a result of this action, is it likely that other events or actions will happen that may significantly affect the environment? If so, list and discuss. (Secondary effects)

Habitat management will improve environmental conditions for fish and wildlife and populations will benefit. Removal from the tax role will cause a loss of revenue, but the financial loss will be absorbed by the entire state, not just the local community.

- 2) Does the action alter the environment so a new physical, biological or socio-economic environment would exist? (New environmental effect)

No.

- 3) Are the existing environmental features that would be affected by the proposed action scarce, either locally or statewide? If so, list and describe. (Geographically scarce)

Good trout waters are not common statewide. Protection and preservation for the future by state purchase or easement is desirable.

- 4) Does the action and its effect(s) require a decision which would result in influencing future decisions? Describe. (Precedent setting)

No. These programs have been in effect in Wisconsin for many years.

- 5) Discuss and describe concerns which indicate a serious controversy? (Highly controversial)

None are known.

- 6) Does the action conflict with official agency plans or with any local, state or national policy? If so, how? (Inconsistent with long-range plans or policies)

No. It is consistent with the master plan for this property and with state and national concerns for the protection and enhancement of our natural resources.

7) While the action by itself may be limited in scope, would repeated actions of this type result in major or significant impacts to the environment? (Cumulative impacts)

Yes. This is an excellent program and project. It should be encouraged and expanded statewide and nationwide. Trout stream environments and adjoining wildlife lands would definitely be benefited.

8) Will the action modify or destroy any historical, scientific or archaeological site?

Any historical or archaeological sites located on land owned by the Department will be protected.

9) Is the action irreversible? Will it commit a resource for the foreseeable future? (Foreclose future options)
Nothing has been done or will be done which cannot be changed. All changes are very slight and only for environmental improvements. The loss of fossil fuels through vehicles and machinery is irreversible.

10) Will action result in direct or indirect impacts on ethnic or cultural groups or alter social patterns?
(Socio-cultural impacts)

No.

11) Other

None.

1960

J. Paul Hunt Fishery Area

5/1/82

LIST OF AGENCIES, GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROJECT
Include DNR Personnel and Title

Date	Contact	Comments
1981	Bruce Gruthoff Paul Lochner	Area Wildlife Manager - In agreement Asst. Area Forester - In agreement
	County and Village of Plover Planners	In agreement
	Bob Hunt	DNR Cold Water Research - In agreement

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.

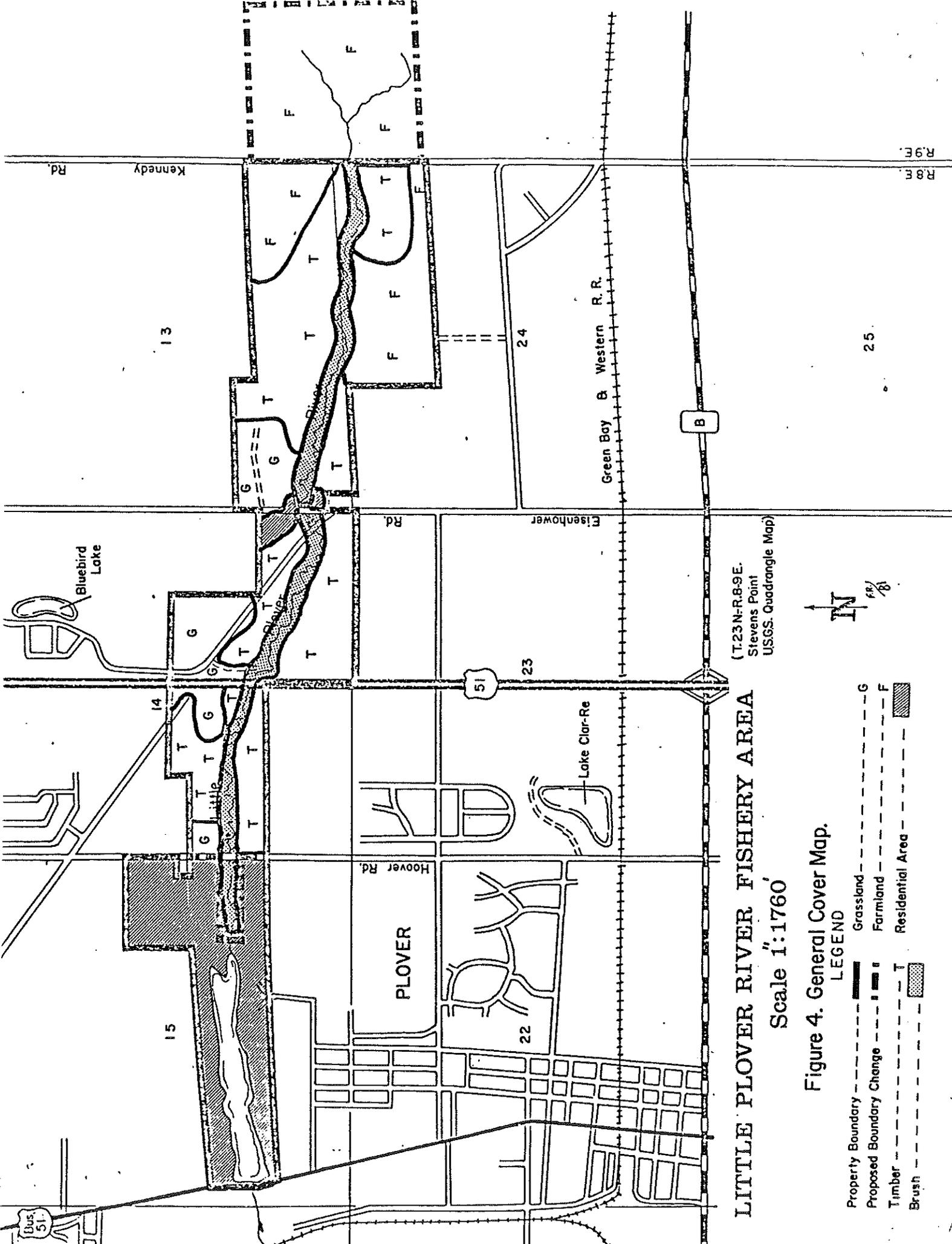
Refer to Office of the Secretary

Major and Significant Action: Prepare EIS

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

SIGNATURE OF EVALUATOR		DATE
<i>JF</i> Jack F. Zimmermann		12/2/81 2/8/82
CERTIFIED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH WEPA		
DISTRICT OR BUREAU DIRECTOR (OR DESIGNEE)	DATE	
<i>Sal A. Smith</i>	<i>July 26, 1985</i>	
APPROVED (if required by Manual Code)		
DIRECTOR, BEI	DATE	

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



(T.23N.-R.8.9E.
Stevens Point
U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Map)

LITTLE PLOVER RIVER FISHERY AREA

Scale 1"=1760'

Figure 4. General Cover Map.

- LEGEND
- Property Boundary - - - - -
 - Proposed Boundary Change - - - - -
 - Timber - - - - -
 - Brush - - - - -
 - Grassland - - - - -
 - Farmland - - - - -
 - Residential Area - - - - -

R.8E.
R.9E.

25

24

23

51

22

13

14

15

PLOVER

Bluebird Lake

Lake Clar-Re

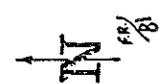
Green Bay & Western R. R.

Kennedy Rd

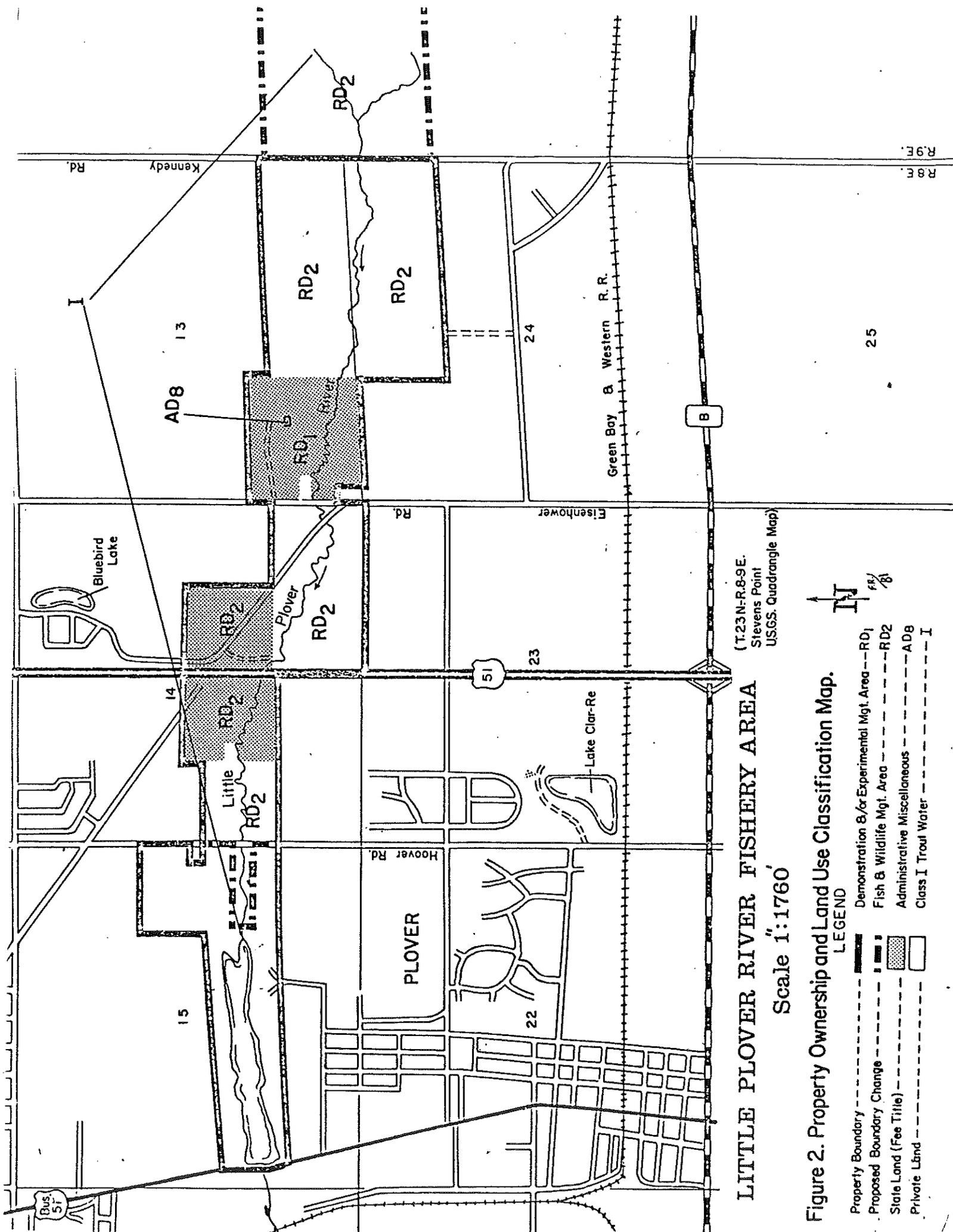
Hoover Rd

Eisenhower Rd

B



51

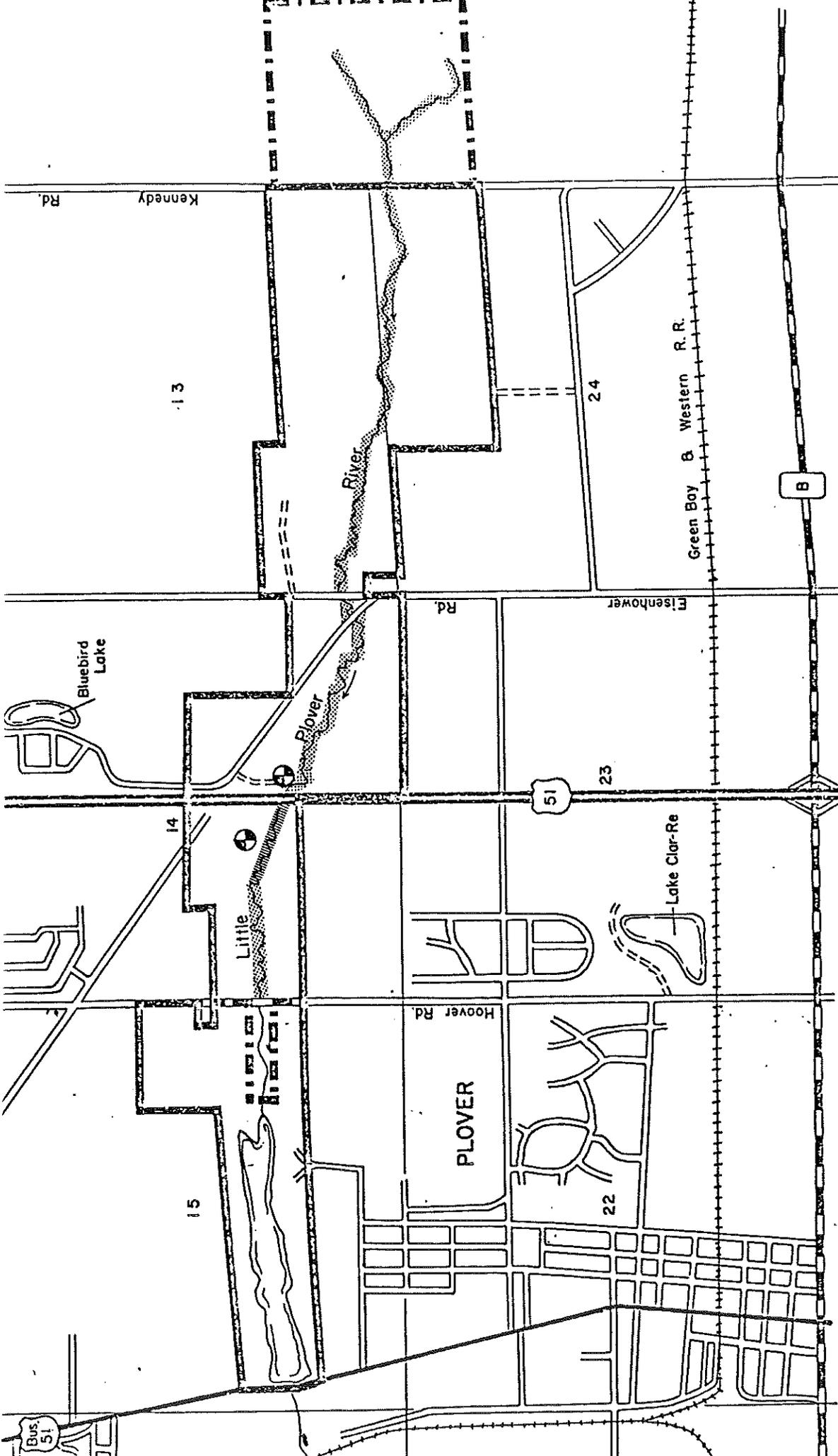


LITTLE PLOVER RIVER FISHERY AREA

Scale 1":1760'

Figure 2. Property Ownership and Land Use Classification Map.

- LEGEND**
- Property Boundary - - - - -
 - Proposed Boundary Change - - - - -
 - State Land (Fee Title) - - - - -
 - Private Land - - - - -
 - Demonstration &/or Experimental Mgt. Area - RD1
 - Fish & Wildlife Mgt. Area - RD2
 - Administrative Miscellaneous - AD8
 - Class I Trout Water - I



(T.23N-R.8-9E.
Stevens Point
USGS. Quadrangle Map)

LITTLE PLOVER RIVER FISHERY AREA

Scale 1"=1760'



Figure 3. Existing and Planned Development Map.

LEGEND

- Property Boundary - - - - -
- Proposed Boundary Change - - - - -
- Existing Stream Habitat Improvement - [hatched box]
- Proposed Stream Habitat Improvement - [dotted box]
- Proposed Parking Area - - - - -
- Existing Stream Habitat Improvement - [hatched box]

BANK COVER IMPROVEMENT DEVICE

CONSTRUCTION PROCEDURE

5

FILL AND COVER WITH SOD

4

PLACE ROCK OVER 4" PLANKING

NOTE.

OAK LOG OR HALF LOG MAY BE USED FOR DEVICE MATERIAL DEPENDING ON DEPTH OF STREAM AND VOLUME OF FLOW.

3

SECURE 4" PLANKING TO SUPPORTING MEMBERS

2

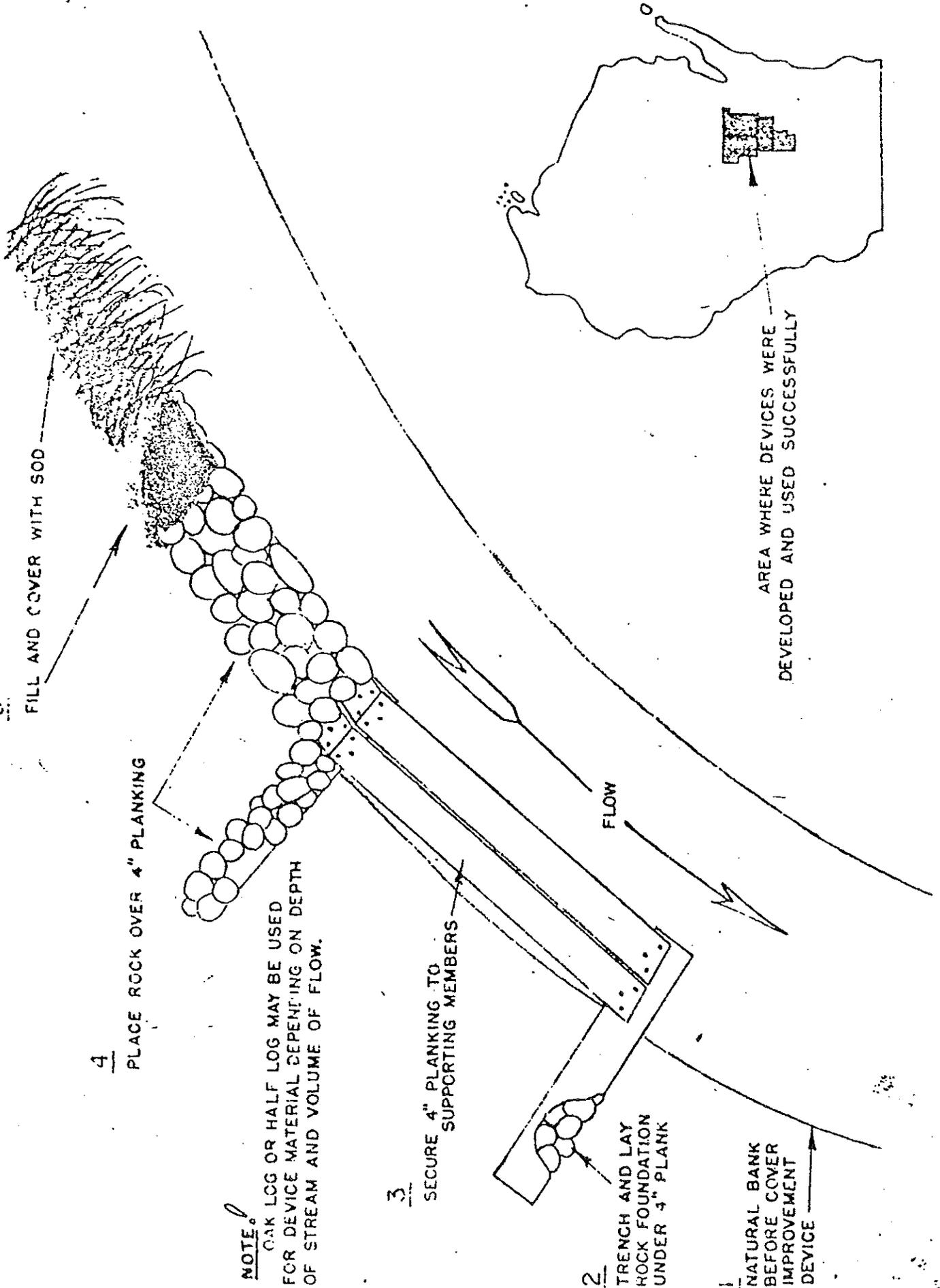
TRENCH AND LAY ROCK FOUNDATION UNDER 4" PLANK

1

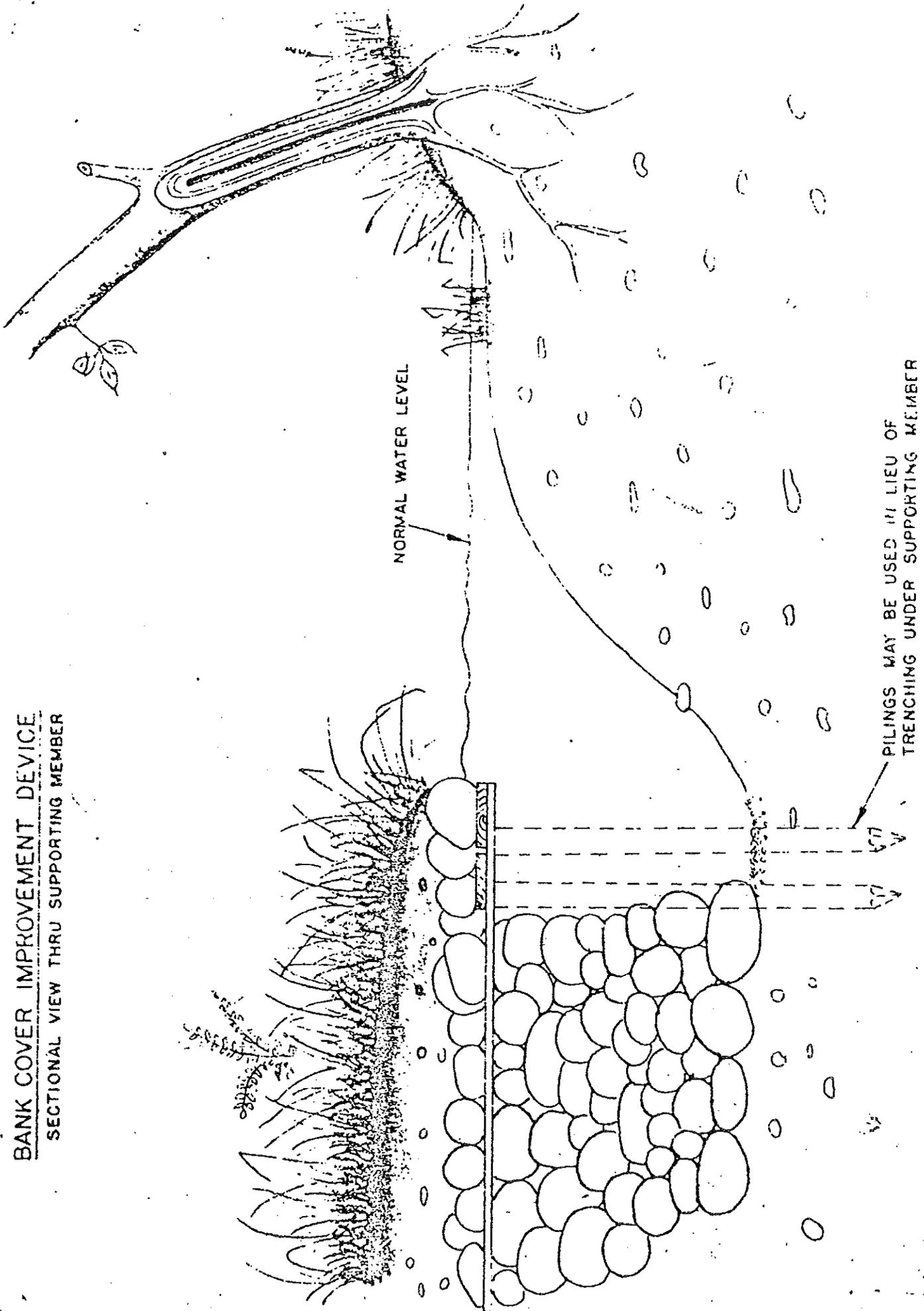
NATURAL BANK BEFORE COVER IMPROVEMENT DEVICE

FLOW

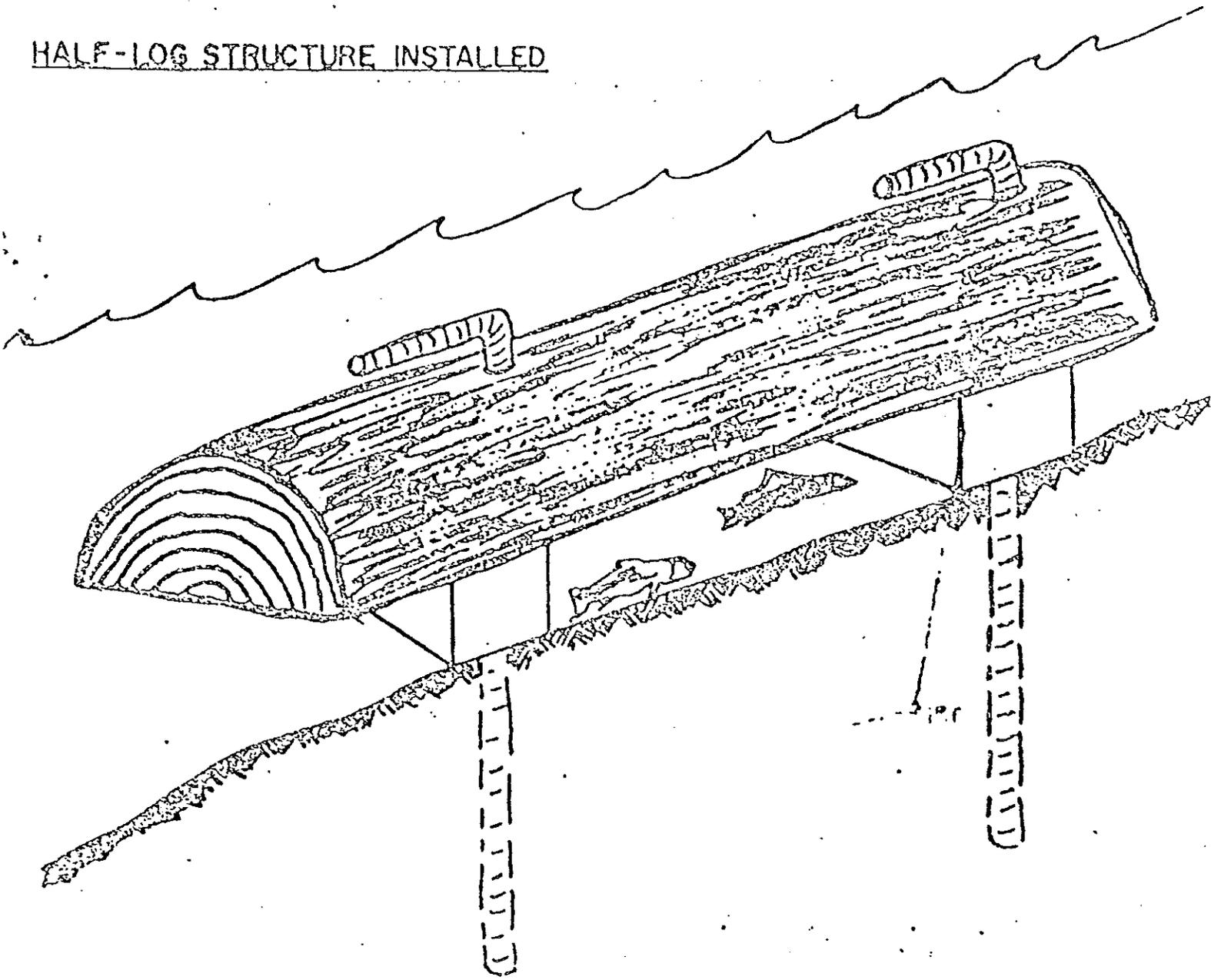
AREA WHERE DEVICES WERE DEVELOPED AND USED SUCCESSFULLY



BANK COVER IMPROVEMENT DEVICE
SECTIONAL VIEW THRU SUPPORTING MEMBER



HALF-LOG STRUCTURE INSTALLED



ADDENDUM #1

The fishery is popular with local fishermen. It attracts the most fishing activity early in the season with fishing activity gradually decreasing during the year. The surrounding area is developing rapidly as subdivisions steadily increase. Activity in the form of nonconsumptive recreational uses is rapidly increasing. Currently, 161.3 acres are in state ownership. A total of 220.2 acres remain to be purchased before acquisition goals of 381.5 acres are complete. There is a Land Use Agreement with the UW-Stevens Point for the use of lands for conservation and demonstration purposes on lands in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 13. Several small buildings were constructed by the College of Natural Resources for continuing studies. DNR Cold Water Research personnel have conducted habitat improvement techniques on the Little Plover in past years. Various zones of study were established for stream bank brushing by Robert Hunt of the DNR. Brushed versus "unbrushed" sections of stream were compared and research results were published. Students from the University have conducted studies on the Plover that have led to earning their masters degrees. The fishery area lies within one mile of the Village of Whiting and Plover and is just a few miles from the City of Stevens Point. Suburban housing development is rapidly encroaching on the fishery area's boundaries. Land acquisition will become more difficult in the future due to competition with land developers. Public overuse of the fishery area can be expected as the demand for recreational land increases. Limited hunting with firearms takes place due to the close proximity of homes in some areas. The existing state land receives most use in the non-consumptive form with hiking, cross-country skiing, etc. Fishing pressure is moderate on state lands and light to moderate on private lands. Pressure can be expected to increase significantly in the future.

ADDENDUM #2

Management of the area will result in slight manipulation of vegetation. Activities will be conducted on acreage already under state ownership and will expand to the acreage within the proposed boundary as additional lands are acquired. Timber management will result in low volume harvest in accordance with forest reconnaissance plans and will be consistent with wildlife management objectives. Wildlife management will be directed towards creating a diversity of habitat types. Woody vegetation like tag alder will be removed in selected sections along stream banks and sprayed with Ammate to prevent regeneration. Off-road vehicles will not be permitted to destroy vegetation and no overnight camping will be allowed. The spraying of Ammate will be done with small small backpack hand held sprayers to keep the spray controlled at all times. Brush that is removed will be placed in piles for use by wild animals and birds. It is proposed that the Natural Resource Board approve the recommended elimination of 129 acres at the west end of the project boundary and the addition of 129 acres at the east end of the boundary. Lands along the lower boundary are of no use to the fishery area. Subdivision has reached a level where DNR acquisition efforts could never obtain enough land to benefit the public or meet the goals of the Master Plan. Springville Pond should also be excluded from acquisition goals since it is surrounded by private homes. The pond contains a semi-warm water environment which has no value to the Little Plover River. Approximately six acres of land along the Plover River below Hoover Road should remain within the boundary. This stream frontage has value to the fishery area. The addition of 129 acres to the upper end of the fishery area will provide protection of the headwaters to help maintain stream flows and temperatures. A total of 220.2 acres of land remain to be purchased within acquisition boundaries.

ADDENDUM #3

The installation of instream structures will result in temporary turbidity and disturbance to the streambed and banks. Permanent physical impacts to the stream will include increased water velocities, scouring, narrowing and deepening. Removal of woody vegetation and application of herbicide will result in grasses becoming established along the stream bank. Development of two small parking lots will cause the loss of a small amount of vegetation at each site. Wildlife management may involve some cutting or thinning to promote edge and species variety. Timber management may include the harvest or thinning of stands as recommended by the Forester's recon plan. Parking lot construction would involve a minimum of clearing and grading for sites large enough to park 8 to 10 cars. Surfaces may be covered with crushed rock or left in a natural condition. Lots will be located on level ground to minimize erosion and maintenance. Impacts from the physical removal of timber will be reduced by careful planning and layout of access roads. Contractors will be required to take precaution against erosion and property damage. No sales or thinning will take place in environmentally sensitive areas.