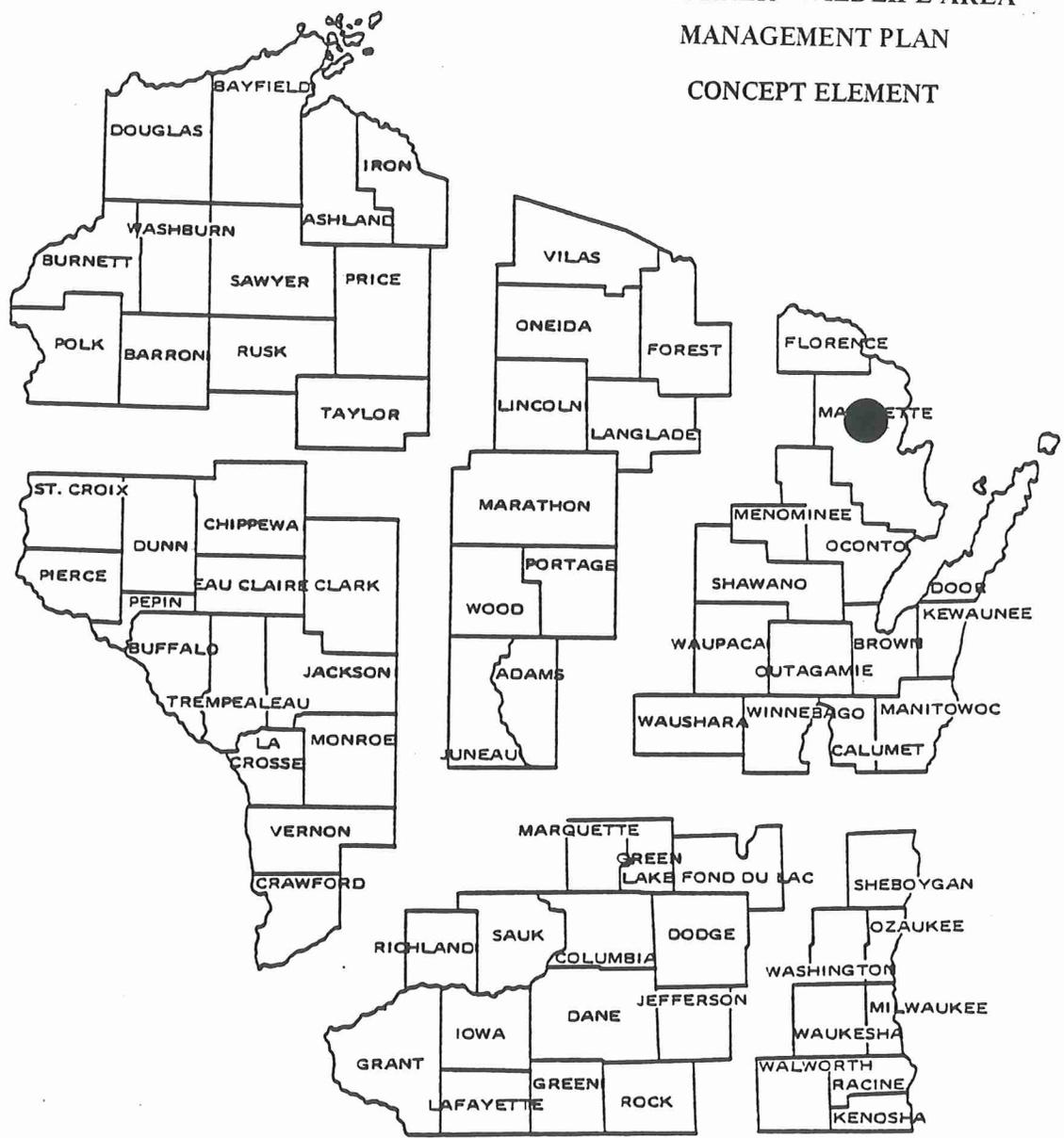


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TOWN CORNER WILDLIFE AREA  
MANAGEMENT PLAN  
CONCEPT ELEMENT



Property Task Force  
 Leader: LeRoy Lintereur, Wildlife Manager  
 Robert Cook, Forester  
 Milt Burdick, Fish Manager

Approved By: ORH  
 Date: DEC 16 1985





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## TOWN CORNER WILDLIFE AREA

### Section I - Actions

#### GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

To manage a state-owned wildlife area that will provide public hunting and compatible recreation.

##### Annual Objective

Provide 1,000 days hunting and trapping activity including:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Participant-Days</u>
Deer	700
Ruffed grouse/Woodcock	140
Furbearers	100

##### Annual Additional Benefits

1. Contribute to the habitat of other game and nongame wildlife.
2. Harvest 135 cords of merchantable timber through 1991.
3. Accommodate other compatible recreation including cross-country skiing, hiking and bird watching.

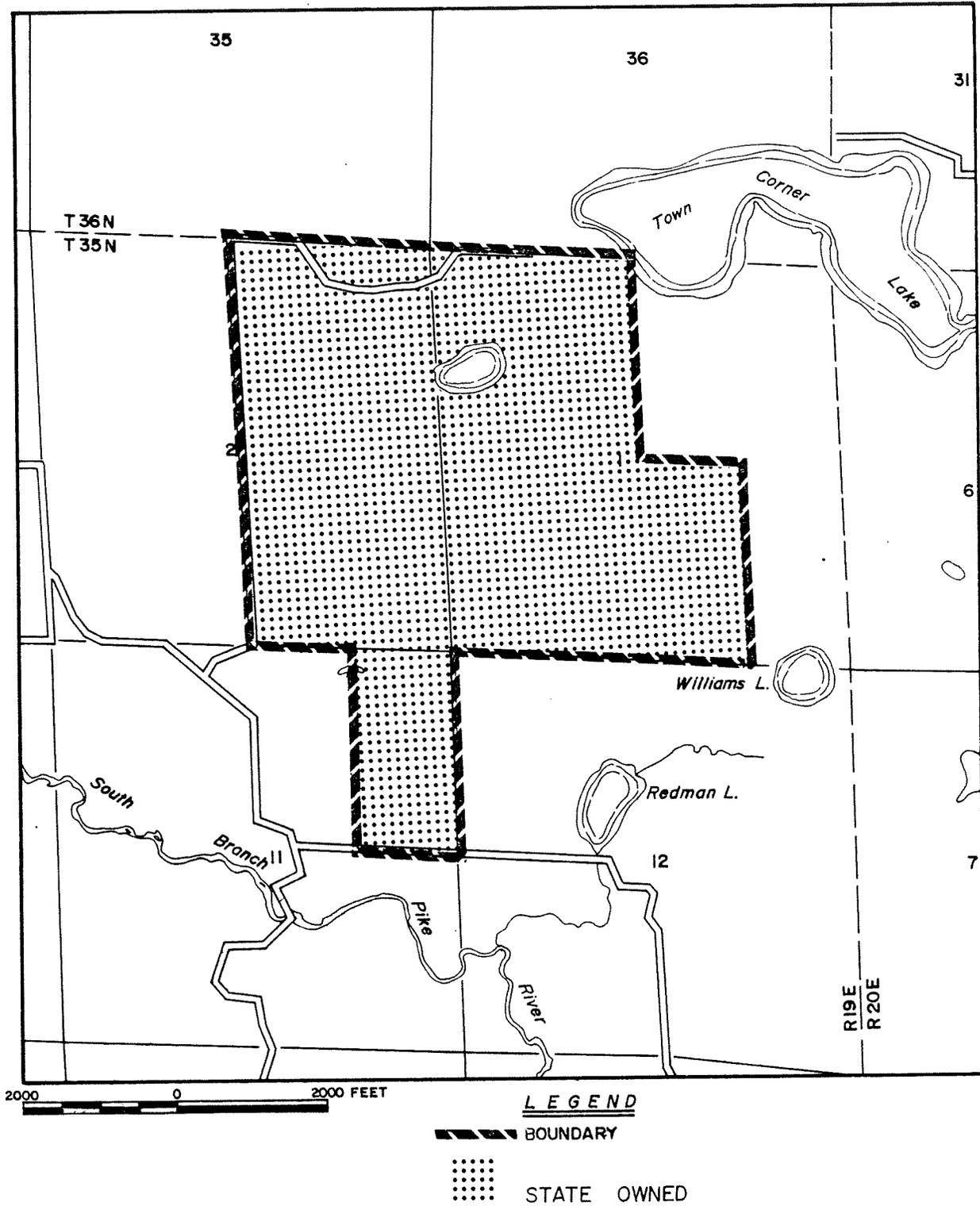
#### RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT

The wildlife area comprises 800.84 acres (Figure 2). The initial purchase was made in 1947 and minor tracts were added until 1951, when acquisition within the property boundary was completed.

The swamp conifer type in the north central part of the property has recently been identified by the Marinette County Natural Area Inventory as having regional significance. For this reason it and the small lake (3 ft. deep) it encompasses will be protected by classification as a public use natural area.

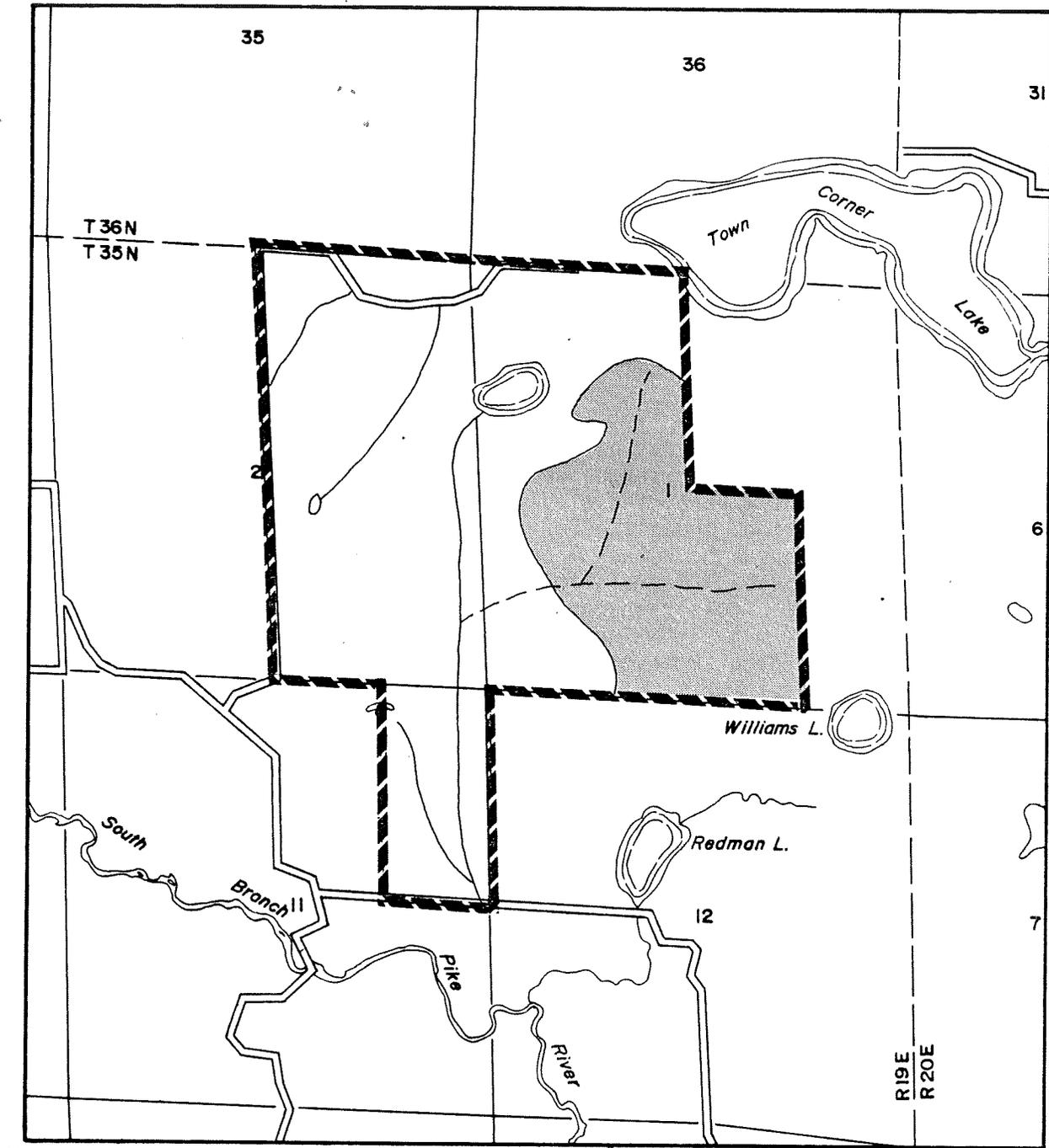
Current management includes timber sales on a large forested section of the property (Figure 3). Timber will be harvested according to accepted silvicultural guidelines, but in small, 10-acre patches to maximize the benefits to wildlife. Logging roads constructed for these harvests will be maintained as hunter walking trails. Where soil are adequate, clover will be planted to enhance wildlife habitat.

Maintenance of the property involves posting boundaries, and adequately designating parking areas and points of access to the property (Parking areas and access points are distributed along the north, west and south boundaries). Walking trails will be maintained and litter picked up as necessary.



TOWN CORNER WILDLIFE AREA

FIGURE 2 OWNERSHIP

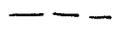


LEGEND

 BOUNDARY

 ACTIVE TIMBER SALES

 HUNTER WALKING TRAIL (GATED)

 PLANNED HUNTER WALKING TRAIL (GATED)

TOWN CORNER WILDLIFE AREA

FIGURE 3 DEVELOPMENTS

## Section II - Support Data

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Town Corner Lake Wildlife Area is a small state property in the Town of Athelstance, in north central Marinette County. The closest town is Amberg, 4 miles southeast. It can be reached via Highway 41 and County Highway Z. Green Bay is some 77 miles to the south. Access is not direct and can be a problem.

Initially, the wildlife area was purchased as a deer yard under the assumption that "deer yard" and "conifer swamp" were synonymous terms. While a small number of deer do winter here, the wildlife area contains nothing resembling a major winter aggregation, and all efforts centered around deer-yard management were dropped many years ago. Since then, it has been managed as a forest-game hunting and trapping area. Mammals found on the property include mink, muskrat, otter, beaver, fox, raccoon, bear, deer and weasel.

The first management program involved an intensive tree planting program, and it was said that one of the finest red pine plantations was on wildlife lands in the town of Athelstance. Some timber sales have been held over the past 10 years.

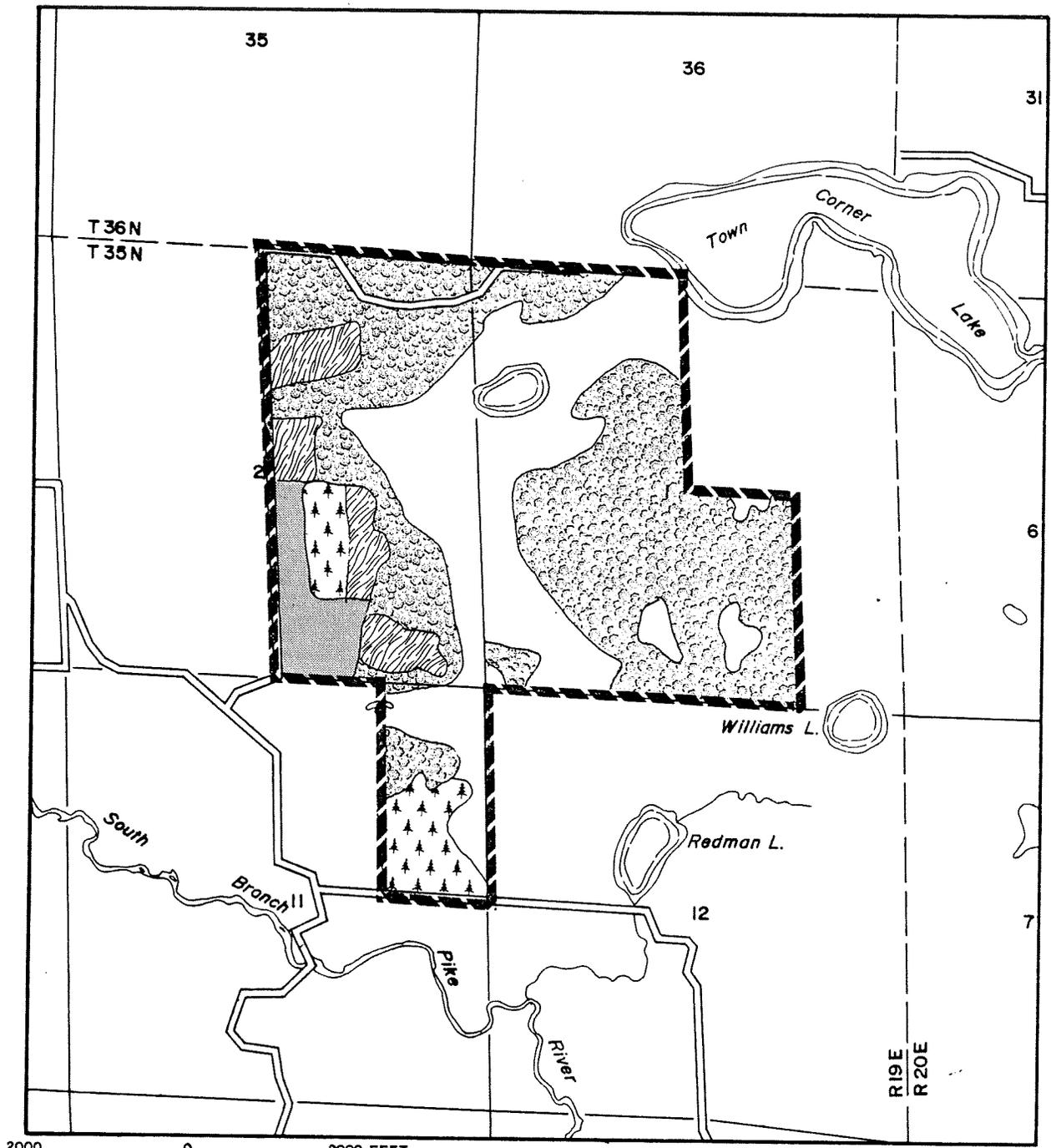
The vegetative cover (Figure 4) on the wildlife area can be classified into 3 distinct types. Most of the property contains timber and about 30% of the property is lowland conifer composed of northern white cedar, spruce and balsam in that order of abundance. The eastern boundary is a series of ground moraines covered with birch, aspen and soft maple. The balance of the property is "old field," much of which was planted to red and jack pine about 35 years ago. This is an excellent plantation close to harvest stage. The remaining "old field" type contains a complex of grasses and various plants typical of disturbed sites.

One plant community located in the northeast warrants mention. This is a bog dominated by leatherleaf with a border encroached by tamarack and containing a small pond. The Department has not conducted extensive searches for uncommon plants on this property, but should there be any on the wildlife area, they probably would be in this tamarack/bog area.

#### Recreational Needs

Town Corners is an area managed primarily for hunting forest game and accommodates local interest as well as the statewide demand for recreational hunting. The importance of the property lies in the varied vegetation types and the management activities currently underway; a statewide need for preservation and development of wildlife habitat is met by this wildlife area.

In the northern part of the state, the maturation of forest lands has meant a decline in the quality of deer habitat. The practice of harvesting timber in small patches within the property provides improved deer habitat. The woodland margins and patches of old field within invading samplings provide habitat for ruffed grouse. Both of these species are very popular game, not only in the Marinette County area where per capita hunting participation is twice the state average, but throughout the state as well.



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LEGEND

-  BOUNDARY
-  TIMBER
-  GRASS
-  JACK PINE
-  RED PINE
-  SWAMP CONIFER

TOWN CORNER WILDLIFE AREA

FIGURE 4 VEGETATION

The area around Marinette County supports the hunting activity of residents from outside the area, and promises to handle more of this activity as demand for hunting increases over the next 10 years.

#### ALTERNATIVES

This property is a manageable entity as it now exists. No new management opportunities could be gained by increasing the acreage goal. At the same time, no part of the project stands out as being surplus to the public need.

This area provides primarily public hunting and trapping opportunities. It is forested with good type and age interspersion. It has the same management potential as other forested public lands in this area.

State ownership gives the Department complete control over all management activities. If situations develop where management decisions might favor either wildlife or fiber production, wildlife production will be emphasized.

Selling this property to the county may be a viable alternative. Undoubtedly, the county would continue to manage the property much as the Department of Natural Resources has, equally serving the public interest.

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APPENDIX  
Review Comments

By: Forest Stearns  
Representing: SAPC  
Date: August 9, 1983

The Marinette County Natural Area Inventory located a northern west-mesic (cedar) forest type of county or regional significance.

Though not undisturbed the 300 acre cedar type and a 10 acre shallow, soft water, seepage lake of high quality should be given protection from development through an appropriate land use classification - we suggest public use natural area.

DNR RESPONSE:

Appropriate text has been added to protect the northern west-mesic cedar forest and the small lake it encompasses by classification as a public use natural area.

By: Frederick M. Schneider, Chairman  
Representing: Town of Athelstance  
Date: July, 25, 1983

I would like to see the DNR plant turkeys and pheasants in the wildlife area if possible.

DNR RESPONSE:

The wildlife area is located beyond the range line for both species. Because agency funding constraints are expected to continue beyond 1990, it's unlikely this are of the state will receive stocking. It should be noted the wild turkey restoration efforts are focused on southwest and southeast Wisconsin.

By: Dick Lindberg  
Representing: Wild Resources Council  
Date: July 25, 1983

The Council has no comments to make in regard to the plans for the Town Corner Wildlife Area.

By: Robert H. Fancher  
Representing: Marinette County Conservation Congress  
Date: July 25, 1983

We fully agree with the practice of timber being harvested in small ten acre patches, to maximize benefits to wildlife. We appreciate the logging roads being kept open to hunter walking trails only, and hope adequate parking areas will be provided. We are strongly in favor of maintaining this area for the wildlife production and an area that will be kept open to public hunting and compatible recreation opportunities. More information to location of this area should be given to the public, as only local residents seem to be aware that this area exists for public use.

DNR RESPONSE:

The DNR appreciates the comments and support of the Conservation Congress. County locator maps will be published in addition to the listing in Public Lands Open to Hunting.

By: Cynthia A. Morehouse, Director  
Representing: Department of Transportation  
Date: July 8, 1983

We have determined from our review of the Management Plan for the Town Corner Wildlife Area that transportation interest and concerns would not be affected by the recommended management proposal.

By: Robert M. Harbick, County Clerk  
Representing: Marinette County  
Date: June 28, 1983

No comment.

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