



Interim Forest Management Plan

Property Identifiers

Property Name and Designation (multiple small properties can be grouped):
Benson Creek, Beverly Lake, and Hauer Springs Fishery Areas.

County:

Sawyer

Property Acreage: **Benson Creek – 311. Beverly Lake – 284. Hauer Springs - 130:**

Forestry Property Code(s): **Benson Creek – 5801. Beverly Lake – 5804. Hauer Springs - 5809**

Part 1: Property Assessment (1-2 pages maximum)

The following items should be considered during the property assessment. Not all sections may be relevant for all properties.

General Property Description

- **Landscape and regional context**

The properties are within the North Central Forest Ecological Landscape and are part of these LTA's: Meteor Hills (212Xe01), Lac Court Oreilles Plains (212Xf03), Birchwood Lakes (212Xf07), Pipestone Hills (212Xd01). Common habitat types include AVVb/AVDe, ACaCi, forested lowland, PMV/PAm, and ATM/AAt.

A portion of Beverly Lake FA is within the Blue Hills Terrestrial Conservation Opportunity Area (COA).

None of the properties are within Important Bird Areas.

These properties are within a local landscape that is dominated by forest cover, with only scattered agriculture present. Northern hardwood forest is dominant, made up of sugar maple, basswood, and red maple, with some stands containing scattered hemlock, yellow birch, and/or white pine pockets. The aspen-birch forest type is also abundant, and oak stands are fairly common. Forested and non-forested wetland communities are found throughout the area, with swamp conifer stands of tamarack and black spruce the most common. These properties are adjacent to several large land ownerships, including Sawyer County Forest, the Lac Courte Oreilles Band and private forest industry.

Riverine resources are abundant in the local region, with classified trout streams present on all three properties, including Class I stream segments on both Hauer and Benson Creeks. The Hauer Springs and Beverly Lake properties are both part of the Couderay River watershed, which is tributary to the Chippewa Basin. Benson Creek is part of the Red Cedar Lake watershed, which also drains into the Chippewa River.



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History of land use and past management

Benson Creek:

Benson Creek has its headwaters in a spring seepage in T38N, R9W, Section 23 and flows about 2 miles to Lake Chetac in the town of Edgewater in southwest Sawyer County. All of the stream is Class I trout water. There are numerous small springs and spring ponds along and adjacent to the stream so water quality is excellent for a coldwater fish community. Stream bank vegetation is about equally divided between open sedge meadow and tag alder.

Since 1960 the state has acquired a 21.5 acre parcel encompassing Benson Springs and a 160-acre block surrounding 0.7 miles of stream and numerous spring ponds. The current property boundary was approved by the Natural Resources Board in 1971 with a 202 acre goal. Past management has consisted of trout stocking, stream surveys, beaver control and rudimentary lands maintenance such as signing. There has been no major habitat manipulation.

Trout fishing is the major recreational use. Currently, fishing pressure is estimated to be about 50 trips per annum. Other uses include hunting, trapping, berry picking and hiking.

Beverly Lake:

The Beverly Lake Fishery Area is a 264.2 acre parcel encompassing a small (16 acres) natural drainage lake and a trout stream (Swift Creek). It is located in the southwest part of Sawyer County near the village of Lemington in Section 16, T.38N, R.8W. The area was purchased in 1963 and the acquisition is complete. The management plan was approved in 1987 and lists as a goal "To manage, preserve and protect the Beverly Lake Fishery Area in order to enhance fishing and other recreational activities" Access to the property is via town road and an improved logging trail. Fishing is the major public use of the Beverly Lake Fishery Area, but the area does provide a diversity of other recreational opportunities including hunting, trapping, berry picking, sightseeing, etc.

Past management activities have included fish stocking (muskellunge, largemouth bass, brook and brown trout) periodic fish surveys, beaver control, harvest of blown-down trees for firewood, access trail improvement and signing.

Hauer Springs:

Hauer Springs Fishery Area is a 138 acre parcel in Southwest Sawyer County in the township of Sand Lake encompassing a small spring pond and trout stream (Hauer Creek). Initial property acquisition was in 1967 and several parcels have been added since to bring it to the current acreage total. Access to the property is via Sawyer County Hwy F and a mowed walking trail leading from a small (3 car) parking lot adjacent to Hwy F. Primary use of the property is for fishing, but the area also provides recreational opportunities for hunting, trapping, berry picking, sightseeing, etc.

Past management activities have included fish stocking, periodic fish surveys, access trail maintenance and signing. A eight acre field in the northwest corner of the property is currently maintained as a seed production orchard by the Hayward State DNR Nursery.



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Site Specifics

- **Current (2012) forest type acreage and percentage**
Benson Creek: 311 acres, 216 acres forested
 - *Aspen (85%) – 183 acres
 - *Fir-Spruce (5%) – 10 acres
 - *Oak (9%) – 20 acres
 - *White Pine (1%) – 3 acres
 - *Non Forested – 95 acres, Includes lowland brush, grasses, rock outcrops, minor lake, and developed use**Beverly Lake: 284 acres**
 - *Aspen (33%) – 74 acres
 - *Fir-Spruce (3%) – 3%
 - *Northern Hardwood (25%) – 56 acres
 - *Oak (5%) – 12 acres
 - *Red Pine (20%) – 45 acres
 - *White Pine (4%) – 10 acres
 - *Swamp Hardwoods (11%) – 24 acres
 - *Non Forested – 57 acres, Includes grasses, lowland brush, and R.O.W.**Hauer Springs: 130 acres, 68 acres forested**
 - *Aspen (53%) – 36 acres
 - *White Birch (7%) – 5 acres
 - *Oak (13%) – 9 acres
 - *Tamarack (26%) – 18 acres
 - *Non Forested – 62 acres, Includes farm land, lowland brush, and minor lake
- **State Natural Area designations**
No SNA designations are found within these properties.
- **High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) or other resources/natural community types limited in the landscape**
No HCVF examples are found on these properties.
- **Biotic Inventory status**
Not yet completed or scheduled.
- **Deferral/consultation area designations.**
No D/C sites are designated within the properties.
- **Rare species**
A state-threatened species of fish occurs within Beverly Lake.
- **Invasive species**
No infestations of invasive species are known from these properties, but they have not been comprehensively surveyed.
- **Soils (From LTA descriptions)**
The characteristic landforms patterns are nearly level pitted outwash plain in the western part of the local area, and hilly collapsed moraines in the east. Soils are predominantly well drained sandy loam over outwash and dense, acid sandy loam till.

Cultural and Recreational Considerations

- **Cultural and archeological sites (including tribal sites)**

There are no historical or archeological sites listed for these properties on the Archeological Sites Inventory.

These properties are adjacent or near Lac Courte Oreilles lands, and gathering of non-forest products by tribal members may be an important cultural use.



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Part 2: IFMP Components

Management Objectives

Promote white pine, red pine, oak, yellow birch and hemlock wherever possible along with species and age diversity.

Aspen

The primary objective is to regenerate this type using even-age management methods to the extent possible for the benefit of game and non-game wildlife. Age class diversity will be maintained, and green tree retention practices will be observed as appropriate. Efforts will be made to allow succession to northern hardwoods within a 150' riparian management zone adjacent to streams.

Northern Hardwoods

Regenerate stands utilizing uneven-aged or even-aged management techniques to increase wildlife values, nesting and cavity trees, and species diversity. Timber production will be a secondary value.

Oak

Efforts will be made to encourage long term maintenance oak regeneration for mast production as well as nesting and cavity trees utilizing even-aged management techniques.

Red Pine

These stands will be managed for timber production and eventually be converted through natural succession or seeding to other timber types.

White Pine

Efforts will be made to encourage sustainability of this forest type through natural and artificial regeneration practices. These stands will be managed for timber production.

Property Prescriptions

The DNR Silvicultural Handbook and this IFMP will be the primary guiding documents resource managers will utilize to determine objectives and prescriptions for individual stands within the property. A wide host of additional resources including, but not limited to, the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan, Wisconsin Best Management Practices for Water Quality, and the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory, Historical and Archeological Inventory will be utilized on a regular basis to plan for the management of individual stands, as well as the property as a whole. The prescriptions listed below are guidance for future management, but will not preclude utilization of other appropriate commonly accepted forestry management prescriptions that will enhance the goals and objectives for this property.

Aspen

Aspen will be harvested through even-aged coppice regeneration cuts. Large stands will be divided to increase age class diversity and edge cover. Green tree retention will be practiced in these stands while also focusing on snag and den/cavity tree retention. Routinely, all non-merchantable trees less than 1" will be felled to encourage aspen regeneration. A 150' riparian management zone will be created along streams and ponds with the objective to succeed stands to northern hardwoods in an effort to discourage beaver activity in designated trout water.

Northern Hardwoods

Uneven-aged management methods will be used where possible to encourage long term multi aged diversity. Gaps will be created to encourage age class diversity and edge cover. Snags, cavity trees, and other trees that have special value to wildlife will be retained.



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Oak

Even-aged management methods will be used to thin oak stands on Weirgor with focus on high quality tree retention, cavity/den tree retention, and coarse woody debris for wildlife benefit. Shelterwood harvests or other even-aged harvest methods will likely be utilized to regenerate oak stands as stands near biological rotation ages.

Red Pine

These stands will be managed as even aged stands by periodic thinning every 10 – 15 years as required. Eventually these stands will succeed to other species naturally or will be direct seeded. Super canopy trees will be retained long term for diversity and aesthetic value.

White Pine

These stands will be managed as even aged stands and will be periodically thinned as required. Eventually these stands will need a regeneration cut. A shelterwood or seed tree harvest with an attempt to expose mineral soil for a seed bed for natural regeneration may be needed. Where natural regeneration is not feasible artificial regeneration by planting may be needed.

Swamp Hardwoods

Management of swamp hardwood stands will be implemented according to a variety of methods as described in the DNR Silvicultural Handbook, with the primary goal being to enhance wildlife habitat. Focus will be given to retaining den/cavity trees and other individual trees of high value to wildlife.

Fir/Spruce/Tamarack/Black Spruce

Even-aged management techniques will be used to manage these stands under frozen ground conditions only. These stands are extremely valuable to the property due to increased diversity and cover for wildlife, and the wide range of understory shrubs and plants found here.

Approvals:

Regional Ecologist Date

Forester Date

Property Manager Date

Area/Team Supervisor Date