



# Interim Forest Management Plan

Draft Revision Date: 03/21/13

## Property Identifiers

Property Name and Designation: **Miscellaneous Scattered State Lands**

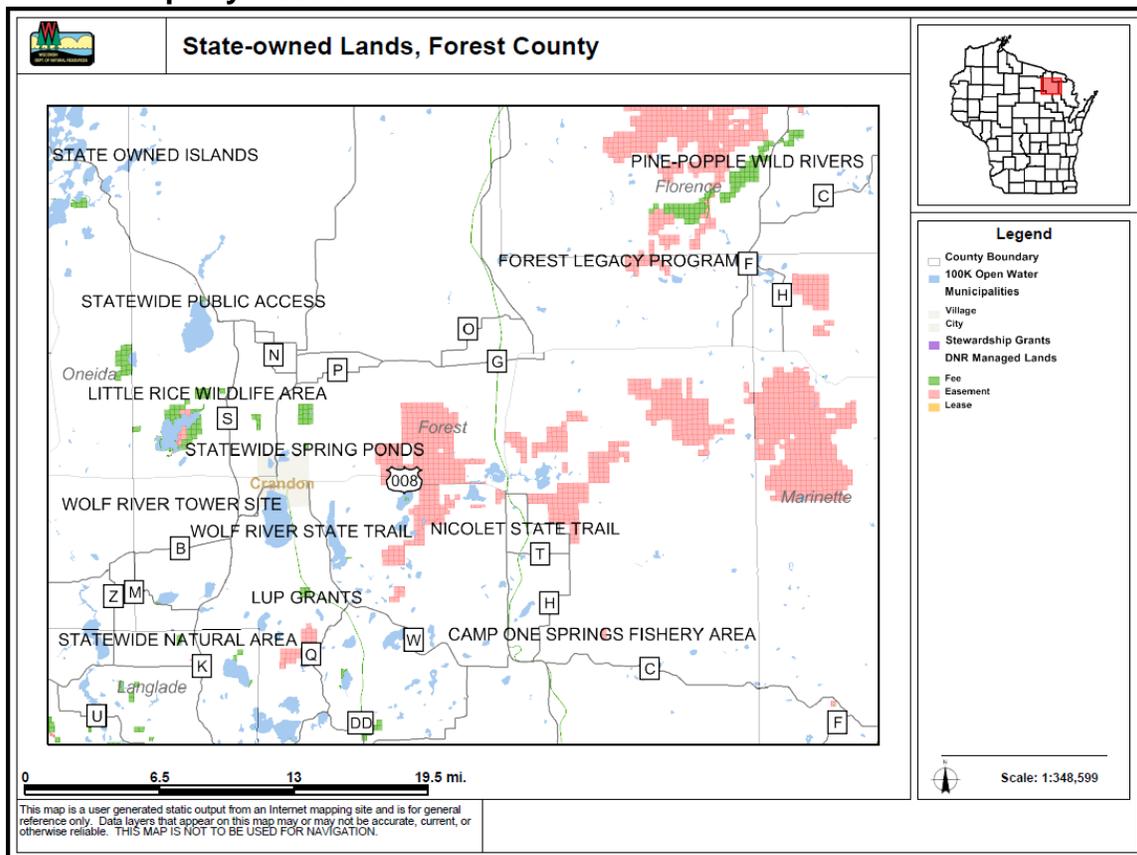
County: **Forest**

Property Acreage: **3,313**

Forestry Property Code: **2117, 2119, 2120, & 2199**

Master Plan Date: **None**

## Part 1: Property Assessment



\*Forest County parcels in green depict the properties covered by this interim forest plan with the exception of state trails and state natural areas which are covered in separate plans.

## General Property Description

Named properties were acquired by the state for values to the public for natural resource based recreation including hunting, fishing, trapping, and other related forms of recreation. The majority of scattered state lands included in this plan are comprised of stand-alone parcels that do not belong to any single property boundary. These properties have been acquired over time via land donations, to complement existing properties, and/or to protect/preserve unique ecologically



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important fish and wildlife values. State ownership of these lands allows forestry and wildlife habitat management as well as public hunting, fishing, water access, and wildlife viewing. A list of these properties follows in the embedded table.

<b>Location (T-R-S)</b>	<b>acres</b>	<b>recorded name (or local)</b>
36N-13E-9	520	(South Branch Peshtigo WMA)
36N-13E-21	40	(Hobbs or Gilbert Springs FA)
35N-13E-28	160	(Gumms Springs WMA)
34N-13E-25, 36	309	Bog Brook WMA
37N-13E-30	46	(Campbell Springs FA)
36N-12E-18	42	(unnamed)
36N-12E-2-4, 8-10, 15, 16, 21	1,200	Little Rice WMA
34-13E-14, 15	42	Lily Lake
34-13E-27	1	Arbutus Lake
35-12E-29	24	Bishop Lake
35-13E-14	9.5	Lake Lucerne
37-12E-10	22	Pine Lake

- Landscape and regional context:** The scattered state owned lands in Forest County are within the North Central Forest Ecological Landscape and may occur on the following Land Type Associations (LTA): Iron River/Argonne Drumlins (212Xc01), Argonne Outwash Plains (212Xc02), and Pickerel Plains (212Xc04).

- History of land use and past management**

These properties are scattered among large tracts of land owned by various public and private entities and generally open to public access. Management on the majority of the scattered parcels has been limited to reconnaissance and forest management. The wildlife areas and fish areas have had boundaries posted and some basic property maintenance by DNR wildlife staff as funds and workload allow. Boat access sites are well-used during the ice-free season, and are maintained and inspected by Facilities and Lands. Little Rice WMA sees extensive use of water resource for wild rice collection, waterfowl hunting, and fishing. Upland on this property and most other state lands in Forest County is used for upland game hunting and big game hunting.

- Current Forest Types, Size Classes and Successional Stages**

These properties are a total of 3313 acres, with 1393 acres (42%) forested and 1920 acres (58%) nonforested.

Aspen – A total of 353 acres (11% of total acres) is currently typed as aspen. There are 166 acres in the 0-20 age class, 150 acres in the 21-40 age class, 0 acres in the 41 -60 year age class and 33 acres 61 years old and older.

Northern Hardwoods – There are approximately 200 acres (6%) typed as northern hardwoods. The northern hardwood type is a mix of white ash, birch, red maple, basswood and oak where sugar maple is the dominant species.

Black Spruce-442 acres (13%) All of the black spruce on the property is between 75 and 100 years old.



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Wetland Forests – There are approximately 250 acres (8%) of wetland forest types. These types are white cedar, black spruce, tamarack and black ash. Most of these stands are mixed with a variety of other tree species like white pine, hemlock, birch, red maple and balsam fir.

Red and white Pine – These pine types combined total 54 acres (1%) with a majority of the stands white pine with aspen in the understory. Most of these stands are a result of natural regeneration and are considered under stocked.

- **State Natural Areas:** There are no State Natural Area designations on these scattered properties.
- **High Value Conservation Forests (HCVF) or other resources/natural community types limited in the landscape:** No drafts or final designations.
- **Biotic Inventory status:** None
- **Deferral/consultation area designations (refer to the following website):** None
- **Rare species:** Rare species and high-quality examples of native communities have been documented on a few of the parcels contained within this plan. NHI screening will be conducted prior to all future management activities.
- **Invasive species:** little documented; some parcels may have been treated for honeysuckle and buckthorn
- **Soils:** Due to the scattered nature of these properties, soil types are quite variable. Soil types are determined by site at the time the timber sale narrative is developed.

## Cultural and Recreational Considerations

- **Cultural and archeological sites (including tribal sites):** All known sites are identified prior to timber sale establishment and protected during forest management operations.
- **Recreational Considerations:** Hunting and fishing and other recreation are allowed on these properties but not all parcels have public access. Some of these parcels have parking lots and boat landings; many of which are managed by Facilities and Lands. Emphasis on recreational and aesthetic buffers around these lots and landings will be considered during timber sales.

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## Part 2: IFMP Components

**Management Objectives** (Outline primary forest management objectives):

- Sustainably manage these scattered areas
- Manage each stand after consultation with the property manager to determine specific objectives for the particular area
- Aspen – The primary objective is to regenerate this type to the extent possible for the benefit of a variety of wildlife species. Additional objectives include increasing age class diversity and leaving selected reserve trees as appropriate.
- Northern Hardwoods – The primary objective for northern hardwoods is to regenerate and maintain this type while enhancing wildlife habitat.
- Wetland Forests – Forested wetlands comprise a significant acreage on these properties. These stands will be managed on a case-by-case basis.
- Pine – Natural pine stands will be managed on extended rotations. Increasing the number of acres of red and white pine where natural regeneration is occurring will be encouraged.
- Hemlock – To maintain and increase this forest type where opportunities exist.
- Incorporate landscape scale opportunities into management decisions to include:
  - protecting kettle lakes and spring ponds



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- restoring red and white pine types
- restoring hemlock-hardwood forests
- improving forest composition and structure
- protecting rare and endangered species and habitats
- providing older age classes where doing so will meet site-specific objectives
- Naturally regenerate stands whenever possible
- Passively manage wet and remote stands as deemed necessary

**Property Prescriptions** (*Identify specific and pertinent prescriptions by area or forest type, including passive management areas, extended rotation, and other information that will help achieve the objectives*):

Stand specific objectives and prescriptions will be discussed and determined at the Annual Integrated Property Management meetings. Resource professionals associated with the property including the forester, district ecologist, fish manager, wildlife biologist/property manager, and law enforcement staff will be in attendance. All timber harvests will follow BMP's for invasive species, Wetlands and the DNR's Silviculture and Aesthetic Handbook. Properties that have streams where USDA-Wildlife Services is currently performing beaver control work under contract will have management prescriptions that follow established guidelines and do not further encourage beaver presence. A current list of these streams is available from DNR Fisheries Biologist upon request.

❖ Silvicultural systems to be applied include:

- Manage aspen regeneration through coppice harvesting (even-aged management). The rotation age for aspen varies based on site conditions, but it is generally 50 to 60 years. On some of the mesic sites an extended rotation of up to 80 years could be implemented. Large aspen stands should be divided and harvested years apart to increase age-class diversity. As appropriate, snags, high quality cavity, mast and conifer trees along with green tree retention areas will not be harvested. This management approach will improve age and structural diversity for wildlife such as grouse, deer, and turkey as well as many non-game species.
- Manage black spruce and tamarack on both even-aged and all-aged silvicultural systems depending on site conditions and objectives. Even-aged systems will utilize a strip clear cut method in large stands and a seed tree system in small stands. All-aged systems will utilize group selection or single tree selection with canopy gaps.
- Manage hemlock with an extended rotation and implement regeneration harvests where opportunities exist. In addition, hemlock will be favored as retention trees in mixed stands wherever possible.
- Manage red and white pine stands using even-aged management with periodic thinning on an extended rotation favoring old growth characteristics in natural stands. Regenerating by group selection and shelterwood cut. Retention of large pines during any thinning or regeneration stages will improve structural and age diversity for wildlife within the stand. Conversion to other species mixed with pine in the pure plantation type stands.
- Manage Northern Hardwoods using uneven-aged management with selection harvests that will improve stand quality by removing poor quality trees and releasing crop trees. Canopy gaps will be included to attempt to increase the regeneration of species such as white ash, birch, oak and basswood. Big tree silviculture and increasing some old growth characteristics can be implemented throughout this type.
- Will consider salvage sales for stands subjected to storm or disease events on a case by case basis as approved by Resource Managers.



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Approvals:

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Regional Ecologist Date

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Forester Date

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Property Manager Date

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Area/Team Supervisor Date