



Interim Forest Management Plan

Property Identifiers

Kimberly Clark Wildlife Area

County: **Price**

Property Acreage: **8,722 ac**

Forestry Property Code(s): **5123**

Master Plan Date: **1981**

Part 1: Property Assessment

General Property Description

The Kimberly Clark Wildlife Area (KCWA) is located 12 miles west of the city of Phillips. The property is bracketed by two primary access roads: State Highway 70 four miles to the north and County Highway W immediately along the south boundary. The past history and land use is closely linked with the logging and fire era of northern Wisconsin. The wildlife area origin dates to 1945 with the purchase of 1,600 acres under the deer yard program. In 1963 the Kimberly Clark Corporation offered the DNR a gift of 5,240 acres of land in the Price Creek area. With supplemental purchases the wildlife area has grown to 8,722 acres or 99% of the goal of 8,834.5 acres.

The KCWA lies within the North Central Forest Ecological Landscape and the Exeland Plains Land Type Association. Characteristic landform pattern is undulating outwash plain. The property takes on three distinct characteristics: 1) the southwest corner contains winter deer yarding capabilities in the Price Creek bottoms 2) Upland aspen type is significant. 3) Black spruce-tamarack-leatherleaf bog interspersed throughout the upland aspen.

Site Specifics

- 1) Current forest types.
 - Black Spruce (44%) 2,584 acres
 - Aspen (37%) 2,122 acres
 - Age class 1-10 (6%)
 - Age class 11-20 (5%)
 - Age class 21-30 (33%)
 - Age class 31-40 (32%)
 - Age class 40-50 (20%)
 - Age class > 50 (4%)



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- Northern Hardwoods (5%) 306 acres
- Swamp Hardwoods (5%) 263 acres
- Tamarack (3%) 182 acres
- Hemlock (3%) 168 acres
- Other (3%) 183 acres

2) Current Non-Forest Types

- Lowland Brush-Alder (41%) 1,193 acres
- Herbaceous Veg. (32%) 931 acres
- Upland Brush (19%) 559 acres
- Muskeg Bog (8%) 223 acres
- Other (<0%) 8 acres

3) State Natural Area designations- No areas designated.

4) High Conservation Value Forests- Element Occurrences of Muskeg and Black Spruce Swamp are considered HCVF.

5) Biotic Inventory Status- Not yet completed

6) Deferral/consultation area designations- No D/C sites

7) Rare species- A NHI review shows 11 hits within the project boundary including: 2 endangered species, 3 threatened species and 4 species of special concern. Additional hits were found within a one mile buffer of the property. NHI screenings will continue to be conducted prior to all future management activities.

8) Invasive species- Roadside spotted knapweed and scattered honeysuckle. Knapweed is chemically treated annually.

9) Soils- Silt loams and peat soils make up the major soil groups found on the property. The Stambaugh-Fifield Association, Iron River-Pence Association and the Fence-Plover Association comprise the silt loam soils. These soils vary from poor to well drained and are underlain with sand, gravel, till or silt material. The peat association and the Peat Warman Association comprise the peat soils. These soils are poorly drained and acidic.

Cultural and Recreational Consideration

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



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Part 2: IFMP Components

Management Objectives

Forested stands within the KCWA will be managed for its optimum forest wildlife habitat. General management objectives are listed below.

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. Conversion of other types to aspen is desirable.

Northern Hardwoods- Stands will be regenerated utilizing uneven aged management techniques, however where an increase in the aspen component is desired, even aged management prescriptions may be used.

Swamp hardwoods- Stands will be regenerated using even-aged methods. Isolated stands may be passively managed. Regeneration is important as these stands are an important seed source for migrating birds and small mammals. These areas are also used heavily by black bears during spring.

Hemlock/cedar- Passive management will be practiced.

Lowland conifers- Stands will be maintained to provide winter thermal cover for wildlife as well as nesting and foraging sites for forest dwelling birds. Some areas will be harvested to promote regeneration while other, more inaccessible areas, will be managed passively.

Upland balsam fir/white Spruce- 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. These areas are used as winter thermal cover and provide an important seed source for many birds and small mammals.

Non-Forested Lands

Since the late 1970's approximately 4,000 acres within the KCWA have been managed for sharptail grouse. We now recognize the importance of this management to other species including the golden winged warbler, American woodcock, turkey and many other species associated with open bracken/grasslands and brush habitat. Management activities will continue to focus on maintenance and/or creation of these habitats.



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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, the Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory, and the 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 stands will primarily be harvested through even-aged coppice regeneration cuts. Larger 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. Retention will be concentrated near and between ephemeral ponds. All pine, hemlock, cedar and oak will be retained, and areas of advanced regeneration of these species will be protected. Routinely, all non-merchantable trees greater than 2" will be felled to encourage aspen regeneration.

Hemlock/cedar

Passive management will be practiced and hemlock will be favored as retention trees in mixed stands. Aesthetic value will be considered with a focus on old growth individuals.

Northern Hardwoods

Northern hardwood stands will generally be managed by uneven-aged selection (single tree or group selection) harvests to encourage long term multi-aged diversity. Gaps will be created to encourage age class diversity and edge cover. Promote oak, yellow birch and hemlock where opportunities exist. Snags, cavity trees, and other trees that have special value to wildlife will be retained.

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. Harvest will take place under frozen ground conditions only.

Tamarack/Black Spruce/Swamp conifer-balsam fir

Even-aged management techniques will be used to manage these stands under frozen ground conditions only. All pine, hemlock, cedar and oak will be retained. 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.

Upland balsam fir/white Spruce

Even-aged management techniques will be used to manage these stands. All pine, hemlock, cedar and oak will be retained.



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Bracken/grasslands/brushlands

Grassland/brushland areas are managed using prescribed fire, herbicide treatment and increased rotational harvests. Timber sales adjacent to these areas may be established to provide maximum "open space". Management prescriptions will be established to control woody encroachment.

Approvals:

Regional Ecologist Date

Forester Date

Property Manager Date

Area/Team Supervisor Date