



Interim Forest Management Plan

Property Identifiers

Property Name and Designation: Kinnickinnic River Streambank Protection Area, South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River (Fee Authority).

Property Manager: Marty Engel

County: Pierce

Property Acreage: 259

Forestry Property Code(s): 4810

Master Plan Date: None

Part 1: Property Assessment

General Property Description

- Landscape and regional context

The South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River Streambank Protection Area lies in the Western Prairie Ecological Landscape and has the following land type association – 222Md110 River Falls Eroded Moraines. The property consists of floodplain, upland, and upland ridge, bordering the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River, a Class I brook trout stream which lies east of River Falls, Wisconsin.

Ecological management opportunities on this property include restoration and management of the cold water fishery protection, restoration and management of wetland/grassland communities, and management/protection of wildlife, fish, herptiles, and invertebrates associated with these habitats.

- History of land use and past management - This property has approximately 2 miles of frontage along both sides of the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River. The property has a long history of agricultural use with all of the property being cropped or grazed. In later years the 6 acre wooded ridge was protected from grazing. Timber was harvested from the woodland prior to state ownership. Forty five acres of former cropland was planted with red pine under the Conservation Reserve Program prior to DNR ownership. DNR Fisheries staff completed extensive stream habitat restoration work since DNR acquisition of this property. DNR Wildlife staff planted much of the former cropland with native prairie grasses and forbs. The grasslands are managed with prescribed fire and some mowing is done to control woody vegetation along the river banks. Wildlife staff conduct invasive plant control as needed throughout the property. The University of Wisconsin River Falls has been conducting stream research on the property.

Site Specifics

- Current forest types, size classes and successional stages:
 - Red Pine 45 Acres (17%)
 - Central Hardwoods 6 Acres (2%)

Bottomland Hardwoods 36 Acres (14%)
KG – cool season grasses/sedges 88 Acres (34%)



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GG – native grasses 82 Acres (32%)

F – crop fields and food plots 2 Acres (1%)

- State Natural Area designations – Non applicable
- High Value Conservation Forests (HCVF) or other resources/natural community types limited in the landscape- NA
- Biotic Inventory status: not conducted
- Deferral/consultation area designations (refer to the following website): Non applicable
- Rare species – The NHI data base lists 1 state endangered plant, 2 state threatened plants, and 1 special concern plant within the property or surrounding buffer. Likely habitat is present on this property for 2, perhaps 3 of these species. Prescribe burning and maintenance of open conditions is beneficial for the 2 most likely to occur on this property.
- Invasive species – Reed canary grass, sweet clover, buckthorn, honeysuckle, wild parsnip, Siberian elm, and Amur maple are known to occur on this property.
- Soils - The soils are predominantly Lawler Silt Loam, Marshan silt loam, Finchford Loamy Sand and Komro Sandy Loam, occurring on outwash terraces on till plains, and valley trains along the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River. These soils vary from hydric to excessively drained.

Cultural and Recreational Considerations

- Cultural and archeological sites (including tribal sites)
No archeological or historic sites are known to exist on this property.
- Recreational

This property receives significant fishing and hunting use. Other recreational uses include hiking, trapping and other forms of nature-based recreation.

Part 2: IFMP Components

Management Objectives:

1) Sustain healthy forests with high scenic quality.

- Habitat: Protect and enhance the cold water fishery of the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River and its associated resources. Provide habitat for a variety of wildlife and plants, especially grassland species. This will benefit both common and rare species.
- Aesthetics: Encourage the growth of large diameter long lived tree species.
- Forest Health:
 - 1) Regenerate the forest and seek opportunities that enhance or maintain the overall health and vigor of the riparian forest ecosystem where consistent with this property's emphasis on the cold water fishery and grasslands.
 - 2) Apply Forestry Best Management Practices for Invasive Species to manage invasive plant and animal species.
- Water quality: Apply Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality to sustain the water resources.
- Recreation: Maintain quality grassland and riparian habitat that sustains and enhances hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, etc.
- Education and research: Provide opportunities for interpretation, education, and scientific research.



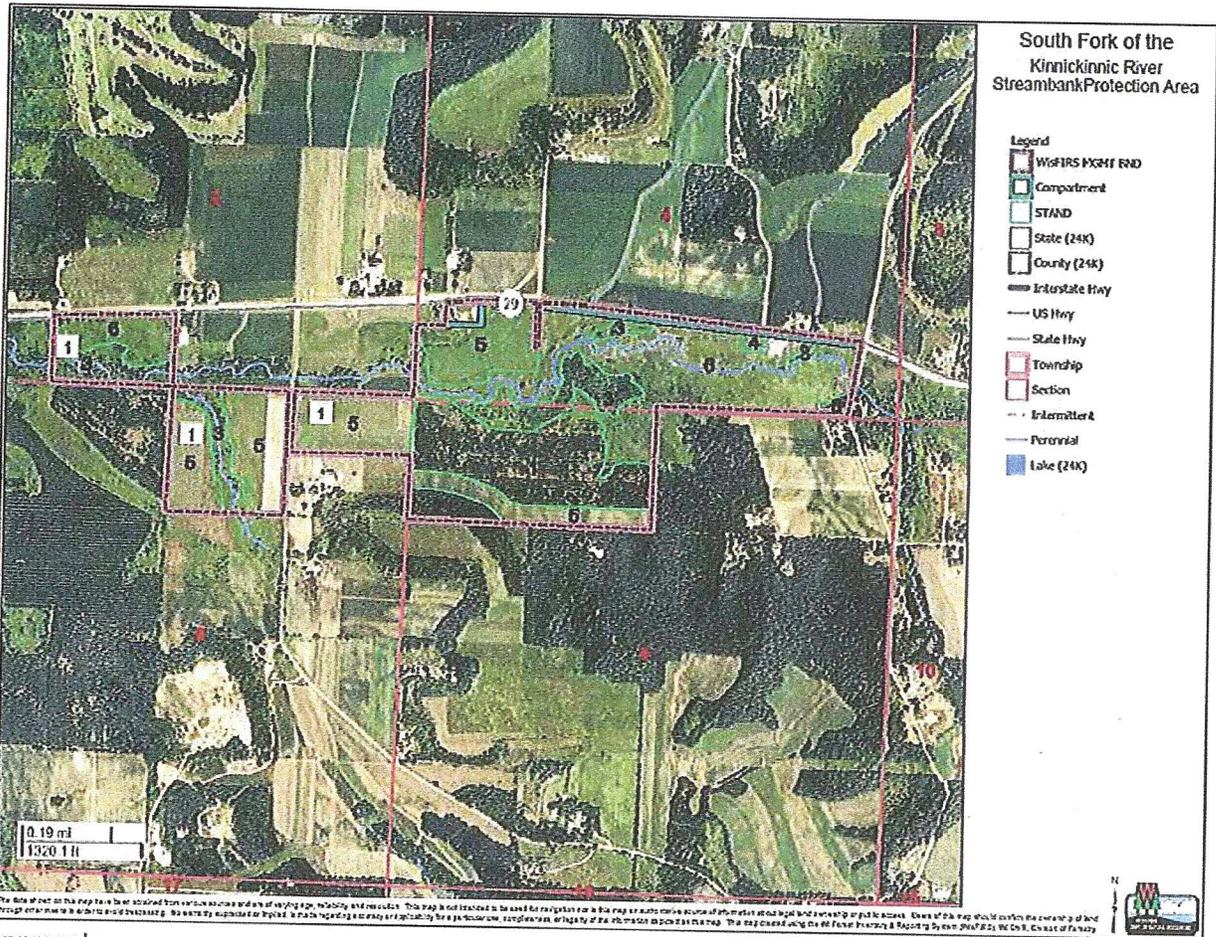
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Property Prescriptions (Identify specific and pertinent prescriptions by area or forest type, including passive management areas, extended rotation, and other information that will help achieve the objectives):

- 1) Floodplain Forest – The bottomland hardwood type is comprised of generally low density stands of young saplings and poles. This forest type will not be encouraged on this property since it can be invasive in grasslands. Grassland is the preferred streamside vegetation. In areas dense willow thickets are developing along the stream. Much of this type will be mowed, chemically treated and/or prescribe burned to control the woody vegetation and expand the grasslands.
- 2) Central Hardwoods – This stand has a modest bur oak component but may provide opportunity for savanna restoration through prescribe burning with adjacent grasslands. Management could also encourage the growth of large diameter trees with high scenic quality (especially bur oak).
- 3) Red Pine – The red pine stand is scheduled for thinning in 2014. Thinning will encourage the development of an understory of herbaceous plants and shrubs, as well as central hardwood tree seedlings/saplings including oak. Supplemental underplanting of bur oak may be done with the long term goal of conversion to oak savanna. In the shorter term the conifer cover provides winter cover for a variety of birds and mammals.
- 4) Grasslands will be maintained by periodic prescribe burning.
- 5) Property is continually monitored for invasive plant species and control practices such as prescribed fire, hand pulling, chemical and mechanical control will be implemented to eliminate or reduce negative impacts.



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Approvals:

Armand D. Bortz 9/15/14
Regional Ecologist Date

Gary Zielke 9-10-2014
Forester Date

Marty Engel 4.01.2014
Property Manager Date

M. Margera 9/15/2014
Area/Team Supervisor Date