



# Interim Forest Management Plan

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## Property Identifiers

Property Name and Designation: Lakewood Rearing Station FM

County(ies): Oconto

Property Acreage: 193

Forestry Property Code(s): 1360

Master Plan Date:  
(if property has one) N/A

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

### General Property Description

- Landscape and regional context  
The Lakewood Rearing Station is situated within the eastern portion of the Forest Transition Ecological Landscape along the northern border of Wisconsin's Tension Zone. The eastern portion is on a moraine of the Wisconsin glaciation from 14,000 to 18,000 years ago. The growing season in this part of the state is long enough that agriculture is viable, although climatic conditions are not as favorable as in southern Wisconsin. Soils are diverse, ranging from sandy loam to loam or shallow silt loam, and from poorly drained to well drained.  
  
The historic vegetation of the Forest Transition was primarily northern hardwood and hemlock hardwood forests. These mesic forests were dominated by sugar maple and hemlock, and contained some yellow birch, red pine and white pine. Currently, 44% of this ecological landscape is forested compared to 86% forested before Euro-American settlement. Forested areas now consist primarily of northern hardwoods and aspen, with smaller amounts of oak and lowland hardwoods. Conifer and deciduous swamps are scattered throughout the ecological landscape and are often found near the headwaters of streams, and associated with lakes in kettle depressions on moraines. The eastern portion of the ecological landscape differs from the remainder being primarily forested and including numerous ecologically significant areas, some of which are extensive. The ecological landscape's flora shows characteristics of both northern and southern Wisconsin, corresponding to its position along the north side of the Tension Zone (Curtis 1959).
- History of land use and past management: This station was built in 1923 under the WPA program. It has 26 tanks, 7 raceways and 3 ponds in which fish are reared. The water supply is a series of open spring ponds which produce about 800-1,500 gallons per minute which are located west of the station. Fish production primarily consisted of brook, brown and rainbow trout stocked throughout 19 counties in Wisconsin. Lakewood rearing station has 6 buildings, including a residence. The station is also responsible for the boat landing, which creates access to John Lake.

### Site Specifics

- Current forest types, size classes and successional stages:  
The Lakewood Rearing Station property is approximately 92% forested. Current forest types include:

Aspen	44%
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Northern Hardwoods	3%
Red Pine	11%
Swamp Hardwoods	42%

A large portion of the property (47%) is in young forest types in the seedling to sapling size classes. The majority of the young forest is the aspen type that originated from commercial regeneration harvests in 1998 and 2000.

Poletimber represents 42% of the forest and is comprised of a swamp hardwood stand that originated in about 1951. Forest productivity of this stand is limited due to high water table and is significantly influenced by drainage patterns. This stand is currently scheduled for management, but the expected production is low. Water quality and soil damage concerns may limit management of this stand.

Small sawtimber comprises 11% of the forest and consists of a red pine plantation originating in 1946 from planting. The red pine has been commercially thinned in the past.

Overall, the property is dominated by relatively young types in early successional stages.

- State Natural Area designations: None
- High Value Conservation Forests (HCVF) or other resources/natural community types limited in the landscape: None
- Biotic Inventory status: None
- Deferral/consultation area designations (refer to the following website): None
- Rare species: None
- Invasive species: Reed Canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and Eurasian Milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)
- Soils: Padus fine sandy loam ranging from 1-6% and 6-15%, Minocqua mucky fine sand loam 0-2%, Seelyeville and Markey mucks 0-1% and Pence Sandy loam 6-15%.

## Cultural and Recreational Considerations

- Cultural and archeological sites (including tribal sites) There are no listed historical sites on the property, just the historical structures (buildings and fire place) associated with the hatchery. Some access sites for the property are located along roadways but most access to the property is by foot.

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## Part 2: IFMP Components (1-2 pages maximum)

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

For hatchery purposes, the water shed (spring ponds and stream) must be protected by a buffer to prevent soil compaction and to ensure that water quality is maintained for rearing fish. Forest management which would encourage beaver activity would be discouraged from taking place above (or West) of the hatchery.

All forested types are scheduled for management. The objective for the aspen type will be to maintain aspen on an even aged basis through coppice regeneration harvests. These harvests will set back forest succession and maintain a portion of the property in relatively young forest. There may be opportunities to diversify the age structure of the young forest by staggering harvest dates. Secondly, to discourage beaver activity, buffer zones will be established in areas near or around the stream and spring pond areas to encourage non-aspen dominated cover types.



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The swamp hardwood type objective is to maintain swamp hardwood through even or uneven aged methods. The next harvest in the slow growing swamp hardwood stand is scheduled for 2071 and the silvicultural system would need to be evaluated at the time of harvest.

The red pine objective is to maintain the type through even aged thinning until a final rotation age of 130 years old (2076). The red pine plantation contains the largest and oldest trees on the property and an extended rotation may be desirable. Prior to rotation age, natural conversion to another forest type or forced maintenance of the red pine type will be assessed.

**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):

Aspen will be managed through coppice methods. Any harvest close to the spring ponds and stream will include buffer areas to discourage beaver activity. Encouragement of species other than aspen will be the focus in these buffer areas. Green tree retention guidelines retaining 5-15% crown cover will be implemented. Harvest timing may be staggered to diversify age classes and maintain young forest types.

Swamp hardwood may be managed through a variety of even or uneven aged methods. The appropriate method shall be assessed when the scheduled harvest is due (2071). Swamp hardwood silviculture is developing and will likely be updated prior to the next harvest.

Red Pine will be managed through even aged thinning conducted about once every ten to fifteen years until rotation age is achieved. Rotation is currently scheduled for 2076 at age 130.

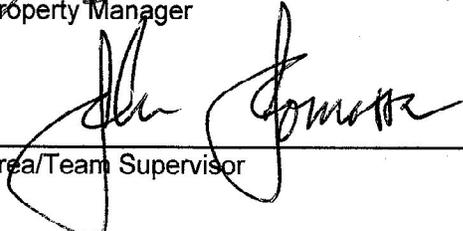
Best Management Practices for water quality and invasives shall be followed for all harvest activities. Steep slopes are present on the property that will affect harvest methods in some areas. NHI, Historical, and Archeological databases will be reviewed prior to timber harvest activities and appropriate mitigation will be applied as needed.

Approvals:

  
Regional Ecologist 5/27/14  
Date

  
Forester 6/03/2014  
Date

  
Property Manager 5/22/14  
Date

  
Area/Team Supervisor 5/29/2014  
Date