



# Interim Forest Management Plan

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## Property Identifiers

Property Name and Designation (multiple small properties can be grouped): **Spring Creek Wildlife Area**

County: **Price**

Property Acreage: 923

Forestry Property Code(s): 5131

Master Plan Date: 1983

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## Part 1: Property Assessment

### General Property Description

The property is located in central Price County, 8 miles southwest of the city of Phillips. It lies within the North Central Forest Ecological Landscape and in the Jump River Ground Moraine land type association. The main features of the property include 4 waterfowl flowages totally 220 acres. There are 344 forested acres of which aspen is the dominant forest type. Hunting and wild rice gathering are the main recreational activities.

The entire property was purchased in 1962 with a goal to manage for public hunting, trapping and other compatible recreation. Waterfowl hunting, trapping and wild rice gathering are the primary activities associated with this property.

### Site Specifics

- 1) Current forest types, size classes and successional stages (344 acres)
  - Aspen (72%) 247 acres
    - Age class 1-10 (9%)
    - Age class 11-20 (41%)
    - Age class 21-30 (6%)
    - Age class 31-40 (6%)
    - Age class 41-50 (0%)
    - Age class >50 (38%)
  - White cedar (16%) 54 acres
  - Swamp hardwoods (6%) 20 acres
  - Northern hardwoods (3%) 9 acres
  - Tamarack (2%) 8 acres
  - Balsam fir (2%) 6 acres



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- 2) Non-Forest types (576 acres)
  - Lowland brush/alder (32%) 184 acres
  - Water (28%) 161 acres
  - Upland brush (27%) 156 acres
  - Muskeg Bog (10%) 56 acres
  - True grasses (3%) 15 acres
  - Right of way (1%) 4 acres
- 3) State Natural Area designations- No areas designated.
- 4) High Conservation Value Forests- No areas designated
- 5) Biotic inventory status- Not yet completed or scheduled.
- 6) Deferral/consultation area designations. No D/C sites.
- 7) Rare species- The bald eagle was the only occurrence identified. However a NHI screening will be conducted prior to all future management activities.
- 8) Invasive species- Roadside spotted knapweed is treated with herbicides annually.
- 9) Soil associations- Magnor-Freeon-Almena-Lupton-Auburndale, Sconsin-Padus

Somewhat poorly drained, moderately well drained, and poorly drained loamy and silty soils with a silt loam surface over non-calcareous sandy loam dense till, along with very poorly drained nonacid organic soils.

## Cultural and Recreational Considerations

- Cultural and archeological sites

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

## Part 2: IFMP Components

### Management Objectives

The primary goal is to manage Spring Creek Wildlife Area 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.



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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.

## 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.



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**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.

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