



Interim Forest Management Plan

Property Identifiers

Property Name and Designation:	REM-WAUPACA RIVER (RWR), WAUPACA RIVER FISHERY AREA (WRFA)
County:	WAUPACA
Property Acreage:	69.9 – REM-WAUPACA RIVER 87.3 – WAUPACA RIVER FISHERY AREA
Forestry Property Code(s):	6907 – REM-WAUPACA RIVER 6903 – WAUPACA RIVER FISHERY AREA
Master Plan Date:	Unknown/not available

Part 1: Property Assessment

General Property Description

- **Landscape and regional context:** The Waupaca River Fishery Area and the Waupaca River REM are located in the Forest Transition Ecological Landscape situated along the northern border of Wisconsin's Tension Zone, through the central and western part of the state, and supports both northern forests and agricultural areas. The central portion of the Forest Transition lies primarily on a glacial till plain deposited by glaciation between 25,000 and 790,000 years ago. The eastern and western portions are on moraines 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.
- **History of land use and past management:** Prior to settlement, the dominant cover type on the uplands of RWR/WRFA was likely oak woodlands, composed primarily of Bur, White, and Black Oak. Lowland habitat types were likely dominated by swamp conifers; white cedar, black spruce, tamarack, hemlock. Fire was likely a moderate influence on the landscape and fire return intervals exceeded 15 years. Waupaca County was settled in the mid to late 19th century, and much of the region was subjected to timber harvests. Upland sites cleared of timber were generally converted to agricultural uses. Lands not suitable for agricultural crops were often used as pasture land for livestock. The Department began acquiring lands on these two projects in the late 1960's and the most recent acquisition occurred in 2006.

The Department initiated this project along the banks of the Waupaca River with the primary purpose of protecting water quality by reducing erosion and run-off, and to improve habitat and provide public fishing opportunities. Past management includes in-stream trout habitat improvement projects. Active forest management has not occurred on any part of RWR/WRFA since the Department has owned the land. Other upland management has been limited to a grassland restoration planting on the WRFA adjacent to Jaquith Lake.



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Site Specifics

- **Current forest types, size classes and successional stages:**
 - Oak (58 Acres) – Stands originated between 1920 and 1945. Stands mainly consist of black oak, but white and bur oak are also present. Generally accepted rotation age for oak on these sites is 80 to 100 years old. The majority of oak is 15+ inches in diameter. Understory components consist white pine, red maple, and/or buckthorn.
 - Swamp Hardwoods (46 Acres) – Stands originated between 1920 and 1968. Stands mainly consist of black ash, with lesser components of red maple, elm, and birch. Generally accepted rotation age for swamp hardwoods on these sites is between 90 and 120 years old. The majority of swamp hardwood species are between 5 and 11 inches in diameter with lesser amounts in larger size classes. Understory components consist of swamp hardwoods, honey suckle, buckthorn, and reed canary grass.
 - Bottomland Hardwoods (4 Acres) – Stand approximately originated 1978. Stand mainly consists of ash and basswood. Generally accepted rotation age is 90-110 years old. The majority of trees are between 5 and 11 inches. Understory components consists of honey suckle, buckthorn, and reed canary grass.
 - Upland Grass (30 Acres) – Currently in early successional stages.
 - Remaining acreage (24 Acres) – Consisting of lowland grass, keg, and minor lake.
- **State Natural Area designations:** No
- **High Value Conservation Forests (HCVF) or other resources/natural community types limited in the landscape:** No
- **Biotic Inventory status:** None
- **Deferral/consultation area designations:** No
- **Rare species:** There are two state threatened animals are known to occur on the properties
- **Invasive species:** A formal presence absence survey of invasive species has not been done on the RWR/WRFA. Invasive species known to be present include: common and glossy buckthorn, non-native honeysuckles, Dame's rocket, garlic mustard, reed canary grass, and black locust.
- **Soils:** Well drained, poorly drained, and somewhat poorly drained loamy soils with a sandy loam, loamy fine sand, or muck surface over non-calcareous gravelly sand outwash or loamy sand till or drift.

Cultural and Recreational Considerations

- **Cultural and archeological sites:** Archeological sites have been identified by the Wisconsin Historical Society on several parcels on both RWR and WRFA. Prior to any management activity at these locations, consultation shall occur between property management and/or forestry staff and the Department Archaeologist.
- **Recreational Uses:** Fishing, hunting, trapping are the primary recreational uses of these properties. A segment of the Ice Age Trail is located on the RWR on the west side of Foley Rd. The WRFA has a developed shore fishing site located off of CTH Q; this site was developed in conjunction with Waupaca County during the re-routing of CTH Q bridge over the Waupaca River.



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Part 2: IFMP Components

Management Objectives:

- Maintain and enhance, as practicable, oak cover type
- Maintain the extent and quality of swamp hardwood and bottomland hardwood stands
- Manage upland grass areas for such where practical. Allow other grass areas to convert to forest.
- Identify invasive species and implement practices to eliminate/minimize impact to property.
- Protect undeveloped lake and river frontage.
- Identify threatened and endangered species and protect/provide habitat for a variety of game and non-game wildlife species, including aquatic species
- Offer opportunities for outdoor recreation to include hunting, fishing, trapping and nature study

Property Prescriptions:

- Maintain oak stands through management techniques appropriate for the stand and site conditions. Use natural regeneration systems and even age management techniques such as clearcutting and shelterwood harvests. Artificial regeneration from seed or seedlings may be used to establish oak reproduction prior to or after timber harvests when natural regeneration is not adequate. Other management techniques that may be used to help regenerate oak stands include soil scarification or herbicide treatments. Use intermediate treatments such as release or crown thinning to develop young stands and improve composition and timber quality.
- Selection of the most appropriate silvicultural system for managing swamp hardwood and bottomland hardwood stands will be site specific. Based on the proximity of these stands to waterways and wetlands, silvicultural management requires consultation between the wildlife/fishery manager and the forester. Riparian zone management will incorporate relevant BMP's and shall implement measures appropriate to protect the scenic and aesthetic qualities of woodlands bordering waterways. Special management considerations include avoiding the introduction of reed canary grass into these stands and management to minimize the potential impacts associated with Emerald Ash Borer.
- Apply periodic prescribed burns to upland grass areas. Some upland grass areas will be allowed to convert to forests either through natural succession or by artificial planting.
- Utilize BMP's for Invasive Species to help limit the introduction and spread of invasive species when conducting timber sales
- Utilize BMP's for water quality when conducting timber sales.
- Endangered Resources Species Guidance documents will be consulted (ERCOMMON\Species_Guidance\Species_Docs) and the management guidance and avoidance sections will be used to determine how and if timber management can occur.



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Approvals:

Regional Ecologist Date

Forester Date

Property Manager Date

Area/Team Supervisor Date