



Interim Forest Management Plan

Property Identifiers

Property Names and Designation: *Waupaca Scattered Fisheries Group (WSFG)*

Rem – Peterson and Sannes Creek
Trout-Nace Creek Fishery Area
Rem – Leer and Griffen Creek
Rem – Whitcomb Creek (Keller Whitcomb Creek Woods SNA)
Rem – S Br Pigeon River
Rem – Doty Creek
Gift Lands – Waupaca County

Counties

Waupaca and Portage (portions of Rem – Peterson and Sannes Creek)

Property Acreage:

Rem – Peterson and Sannes Creek: 431 acres
Trout-Nace Creek Fishery Area: 46 acres
Rem – Leer and Griffen Creek: 258 acres
Rem – Whitcomb Creek (Keller Whitcomb Creek Woods SNA): 518 acres
Rem – S Br Pigeon River: 81 acres
Rem – Doty Creek: 91 acres
Gift Lands – Waupaca County: 89 acres

Forestry Property Code(s):

Rem – Peterson and Sannes Creek: 6910, 5001 (Portage County)
Trout-Nace Creek Fishery Area: 6902
Rem – Leer and Griffen Creek: 6904
Rem – Whitcomb Creek (Keller Whitcomb Creek Woods SNA): 6901
Rem – S Br Pigeon River: 6911
Rem – Doty Creek: 6914
Gift Lands – Waupaca County: 6905

Master Plan Date: N/A

Part 1: Property Assessment

General Property Description

- ***Landscape and regional context:*** This assemblage of properties is located in the Forest Transition Ecological Landscape situated along the northern border of Wisconsin's Tension Zone and supports both northern forests and agricultural areas. These properties at the eastern edge of this Landscape 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. Soils are diverse, ranging from sandy loam to loam or shallow silt loam, and from poorly drained to well drained.



Interim Forest Management Plan

- History of land use and past management:** 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.

Acquisition began on the WSFG projects in the middle part of the 1960's with the primary objectives of protecting water quality by reducing erosion and run-off, and to improve stream habitat and provide public fishing opportunities. Past management on these properties has been primarily aimed at providing and improving opportunities for public fishing. These projects generally have consisted of development of public parking areas and in-stream habitat improvement. These lands also receive heavy hunting pressure, particularly during the gun deer season. Snowmobile trails exist on portions of these properties and are maintained by county snowmobile associations as part of a regional network of trails.

Timber harvests have occurred on many of these properties since the Department acquired the lands. Sharecropping also occurs on several non-forested upland sites and is used primarily as a habitat maintenance tool.

Site Specifics

- Current forest types, size classes and successional stages**

Forested Vs. Non-Forested Acres Per Property

Property Name	Forested		Non-forested		Total
	Acres	%	Acres	%	Acres
Rem-Peterson & Sannes Creek	179	42%	243	58%	422
Trout-Nace Creek F.A	29	67%	14	33%	43
Rem-Leer & Griffen Creek	216	87%	33	13%	249
Whitcomb Creek F.A.	414	80%	101	20%	515
Rem-S Br Pigeon River	71	89%	9	11%	80
Rem-Doty Creek	29	32%	63	68%	92
Gift Lands – Waupaca Co.	88	100%	0	0%	88
Total	1026	69%	463	31%	1,489



Interim Forest Management Plan

Acres By Forest Type Per Property

	<u>Rem-Peterson & Sannes Creek</u>		<u>Trout-Nace Creek F.A.</u>		<u>Rem - Leer & Griffin Creek</u>		<u>Whitcomb Creek F.A.</u>		<u>Rem - S. Br. Pigeon River</u>		<u>Rem Doty Creek</u>		<u>Gift Lands</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	Ac.	%	Ac.	%	Ac.	%	Ac.	%	Ac.	%	Ac.	%	Ac.	%	Ac.	%
Sw. Hwd	69	39%	12	41%	0	0%	116	28%	38	54%	0	0%	35	40%	270	26%
Oak	28	16%	0	0%	11	5%	121	29%	10	14%	0	0%	0	0%	170	17%
Wh. pine	10	6%	10	35%	47	22%	83	20%	1	1%	1	3%	0	0%	152	15%
Wh. cedar	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	41	10%	22	31%	28	97%	26	30%	117	11%
Aspen	22	12%	0	0%	61	28%	21	5%	0	0%	0	0%	3	3%	107	10%
Red maple	0	0%	0	0%	61	28%	16	4%	0	0%	0	0%	7	8%	84	8%
Tamarack	18	10%	7	24%	18	8%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	43	4%
Other	32	18%	0	0%	18	8%	16	4%	0	0%	0	0%	17	19%	83	8%
Total	179		29		216		414		71		29		88		992	

- **State Natural Area designations:** There is one designated State Natural Area included with the WSFG. The Keller Whitcomb Creek Woods State Natural Area is located within the boundary of the Rem-Whitcomb Creek.
- **High Value Conservation Forests (HCVF) or other resources/natural community types limited in the landscape:** The SNA
- **Biotic Inventory status:** No
- **Deferral/consultation area designations:** No
- **Rare species:** One birds species
- **Invasive species:** The following species of invasive plants may be present on the properties: common and glossy buckthorn, garlic mustard, non-native honeysuckle, black locust, and spotted knapweed.
- **Soils:** This group of properties is located in the Green Bay Lobe Stagnation Moraine (Subsection 212Ta) of the Forest Transition EL. Most soils formed in non-calcareous sandy loam and loamy sand till and in outwash. The dominant soil in this Subsection is well drained and loamy with a sandy loam surface, moderate permeability, and moderate available water capacity. Overall, the upland soils formed in loamy alluvium over acid outwash sand and gravel on moraines or outwash plains, in brown non-calcareous sandy loam and loamy sand till or mudflow sediments on moraines and drumlins, or entirely in outwash sand on outwash plains. They range from excessively drained to somewhat



Interim Forest Management Plan

poorly drained and generally have sandy loam to loamy sand surface textures (loamy sand being more typical in the southern part of the Subsection), moderate to very rapid permeability, and moderate to low available water capacity. Some soils have carbonates within a 6 foot depth, but in most soils the carbonates have leached to a level below that. Most lowland soils are very poorly drained non-acid mucks or poorly drained outwash.

Cultural and Recreational Considerations

- **Cultural and archeological sites (including tribal sites):** Archeological sites have been identified by the Wisconsin Historical Society within these properties. 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 and trapping are the primary recreational uses of these properties. Snowmobile use occurs on portions of Rem-Whitcomb Creek on trails that are a part of a regional trail network. Other forms of nature based outdoor recreation such as hiking, berry picking, and cross country skiing also occur on the properties.

Part 2: IFMP Components

Management Objectives:

- Maintain and enhance, as practicable, oak cover type
- Even age management of red pine with natural conversion to white pine and/or oak
- Promote the expansion of aspen through even age management.
- Manage upland grass areas for such where practical. Where opportunities exist to create larger blocks of forest habitat, actively convert grasslands to forested lands or allow natural processes of succession to occur.
- Identify invasive species and implement practices to eliminate/minimize impact to property.
- Protect undeveloped lake and river frontage.
- Protect, maintain, and enhance water quality of lakes, wetlands, and streams.
- Identify threatened and endangered species and protect/provide habitat for a variety of game and non-game wildlife species, including aquatic species
- Provide opportunities for outdoor recreation to include hunting, fishing, trapping and nature study
- **Keller Whitcomb Creek Woods State Natural Area:**
 - Manage the site's uplands as northern dry-mesic, mesic and wet-mesic forest reserve and ecological reference area.
 - Allow natural processes to determine the structure of the forest.
 - Manage the stream as an aquatic reserve and an ecological reference area.



Interim Forest Management Plan

Property Prescriptions:

- **Oak** - Maintain oak stands through management techniques appropriate for the stand and site conditions. Use even age management techniques such as clearcutting and shelterwood harvests to promote natural regeneration. Artificial regeneration from seed or seedlings may be used to establish oak regeneration 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, prescribed burning, mowing, or herbicide treatments. Use intermediate treatments such as release or crown thinning to develop young stands and improve composition and timber quality.
- **Swamp Hardwoods/Red Maple** - Selection of the most appropriate silvicultural system for these cover types will be based off of site specific conditions and generally accepted silvicultural practices outlined in the DNR silvicultural handbook. 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.
- **Aspen** – Maintain aspen cover type by regenerating the stand using a simple coppice system. Rotation age is generally 40 - 45 years. Achieve age-class diversity by flexing rotation age within the compartment as well as across the landscape. Aspen will generally be managed using even-aged silvicultural systems to promote opportunities for early-successional wildlife species and to maintain the aspen type on the landscape.
- **Red and White pine** – Thin plantations through normal silvicultural order of removal to attain a more natural appearing forest of old pines. Thin white pine stands to promote development of old-growth white pine characteristics. Rotation age range can vary from 65 – 120 years for red pine and 80 – 180 years for white pine depending on soil type. Most red pine stands will naturally convert to oak or white pine through continuous silvicultural thinnings. Eventually the pine will be a component of the newly established stand and may serve as big tree silviculture and or old growth characteristics. With this in mind, the pine stand may never be completely rotated.
- **Tamarack** – Manage according to generally accepted practices outlined in DNR's silvicultural handbook. Generally speaking, tamarack will be managed by strip or patch clear cutting.
- **White Cedar** - Manage according to generally accepted practices outlined in DNR's silvicultural handbook. Generally speaking, white cedar is a long lived species and regeneration of this cover type should not be necessary. However, if regeneration is necessary it will be managed by strip or patch clear cutting. Maintaining the health and vigor of this cover type can be accomplished with intermediate thinnings with a residual basal area higher than an upland species thinning. This is due to the soil permeability in lowlands, shallower rooting and to maintain the stand density to better weather the elements.
- **Black Spruce** - Manage according to generally accepted practices outlined in DNR's silvicultural handbook. Generally speaking, black spruce will be managed by strip or patch clear cutting.
- **All stands** - Retain reserve/legacy trees as groups or individuals throughout the property within harvested stands.
- Utilize artificial forest regeneration methods to create larger blocks of forested habitat.
- Utilize BMP's for Invasive Species to help limit the introduction and spread of invasive species when conducting timber sales. Utilize mechanical and/or chemical control where necessary to prevent expansion of invasive species.
- Utilize BMP's for water quality when conducting timber sales.



Interim Forest Management Plan

- 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.
- **Keller Whitcomb Creek Woods State Natural Area:**
 - Passively manage native species and communities.
 - Actively control invasive species of plants and animals.
 - Maintain existing facilities and allow access to suppress fire.
 - Salvage of trees after a major wind event is not compatible with management objectives.

Approvals:

_____ Joe Henry Regional Ecologist	12/9/2013 Date
_____ Michael Schuessler Forester	12/09/13 Date
_____ Ben Baumgart Forester	12/9/13 Date
_____ Lyle Eiden Forester	3/13/2013 Date
_____ Jacob Fries Property Manager	03.15.2013 Date
_____ Ellen Barth Area/Team Supervisor	March 15, 2013 Date



Interim Forest Management Plan

Interim Forest Management Plan Scattered Waupaca County Fisheries Properties

Legend

- IFMP-Waupaca Scattered FM Lands
- Other DNR Managed Lands

