

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Monitoring the Implementation of Property Master Plans**

**Property:** Chippewa Flowage Joint Agency Management Plan

**Master Plan Year:** 2000

**Flowage Area Development and Recreation Management**

<p><b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p><b>Recreational Use and Watercraft Management Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WDNR, LCO, and the FS will develop a comprehensive recreational use and watercraft management plan for the flowage. Key objectives of this plan are to protect the undeveloped character of the flowage, to protect the high quality of recreational experiences, to protect public safety, to ensure the exercise of treaty rights, to prevent wildlife harassment and destruction of their habitat, to prevent the impairment of water quality by accelerated bank erosion and the suspension of bottom sediments caused by watercraft and recreational use, and to prevent the exposure of pre-flowage era Chippewa grave sites on islands due to soil erosion by boat wakes and other causes. Prior to developing this plan recreational use surveys and other studies will be done to identify any existing and potential use problems, user conflicts, and preferred management strategies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Accomplishments 2012</b></p>	<p><i>There has been cooperation between the agencies to address watercraft use on the Flowage and encourage enforcement efforts related to watercraft use; however a comprehensive recreational use and watercraft plan has not been developed. In 2012 DNR wardens and Flowage personnel evaluated existing slow-no-wake areas of the Flowage and established 8 additional new SNW zones. Enforcement of the new slow-no-wake laws in effect within 100 ft. of the shoreline of lakes was increased in 2012 with conservation citations being issued to violators.</i></p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p><b>Development Guidelines</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Manage the islands, mainland shoreline and backlands in a manner that minimizes development and its intrusion on the natural, visual landscape. Structures, facilities and materials used should blend in with the surrounding environment and repeat form, line and color of the (non-winter) landscape as much as possible.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Accomplishments 2012</b></p>	<p><i>This objective is further addressed as covenants contained in the property deeds to Flowage lands held by DNR, LCO, USFS and some private landowners. This objective is accomplished by each respective agency adhering to the covenants on lands managed by them, and DNR Flowage Manager working closely with Sawyer County Zoning office to enforce covenant restrictions on private properties. Building permit applications numbers around the Flowage were down compared with previous years. Eight reviews were conducted on private properties in 2012 with all landowners maintaining compliance with the covenants.</i></p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p><b>Camping</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The WDNR, FS and LCO agree that no more than 18 campsites will be designated and maintained for public use on the flowage, not including those sites designated by LCO for use by tribal members. The campsites will be primitive; facilities will include only a fire ring, picnic table, and an open air pit toilet. One campsite will have a pier and other facilities to provide for access and use by persons with disabilities.</li> <li>▪ Make designated public campsites available on a first-come, first-served basis until such time as a camping permit system may be established. Provide signs and maps that designate the campsites open to public camping.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Accomplishments 2012</b></p>	<p><i>All objectives have been met. 18 total campsites are maintained for use by the public, including 11 DNR, 6 LCO, and 1 USFS campsite. DNR and Forest Service campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, except for one established accessible DNR campsite which is available by reservation for persons with disabilities. LCO campsites are all available by reservation. Maps, signs, brochures and websites all show locations of campsites and rules and instructions for occupying campsites.</i></p>

<p><b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p><b>Picnic and Beach Area Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No public picnic and beach facilities will be constructed on agency managed lands within the flowage management area, except that limited picnic facilities may be provided at selected boat landing sites.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Accomplishments 2012</b></p>	<p><i>Public boat landing sites often serve as locations for shore lunches by those recreating on the Flowage, however no picnic or beach facilities have been established on agency managed lands. Two DNR boat landings have permanent toilet facilities and, as a result of public complaints, portable toilets were placed at the other two DNR boat landings for the open-water season.</i></p>

<p><b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p><b>Water Access and Related Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No additional public boat access or new canoe access to the flowage (shown on Map 3) will be constructed within the flowage management area; however, existing facilities or sites may be relocated to better meet management objectives.</li> <li>▪ Improve one boat landing to provide access to all users. Provide for adequate access to all users at other landings if they are upgraded.</li> <li>▪ Provide a fishing pier or other suitable shore fishing facility to accommodate all users at a suitable location on the flowage.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Accomplishments 2012</b></p>	<p><i>No additional public boat or canoe landings have been constructed. All DNR boat landings have been improved in recent years to provide access to persons with disabilities. Discussions have been held with Town of Hayward, DNR and LCO personnel in addressing high public interest to establish a suitable public landing on the far western side of the Flowage. This issue should be addressed when the Joint Agency Management Plan undergoes the formal review process.</i></p>

<p><b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p><b>Non-motorized Trail Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Pedestrian</b> – cross-country skiing and hiking are allowed. If a need is shown, primarily develop trails on the backland areas.</li> <li>▪ <b>Horse/Mountain bike trails</b> –horse and mountain bike trails will not be proposed by the managing partners in order to protect aesthetic, cultural, and ecological resources.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Accomplishments</b></p> <p><b>2012</b></p>	<p><i>No new trails were established in 2012. Several hiking and skiing trails have been developed in recent years on backland areas of the Chippewa Flowage. These have been established primarily on logging trails after timber sales have been conducted. All trails have been seeded with grass and clover to stabilize the surface and provide food for animals.</i></p>

<p><b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p><b>Snowmobile Trails and Use</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The marked snowmobile trail system will be restricted to the existing system, except as otherwise provided herein. Relocation of existing snowmobile trails may occur to correct safety hazards, protect resource values, or reduce user conflicts. All appropriate measures will be taken to protect sensitive flowage resources that may be harmed by the operation of snowmobiles.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Accomplishments</b></p> <p><b>2012</b></p>	<p><i>No new snowmobile trails have been established on Flowage lands in recent years. A local snowmobile club has requested that an additional 300 yds. of trail be added in a location that would provide access to the lake from a town road that is currently a snowmobile route. This issue should be addressed when the Joint Agency Management Plan undergoes the formal review process.</i></p>

<p><b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p><b>All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Use</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Subject to existing laws and regulations, ATV use should be limited to marked trails. Off-trail ATV use will not be encouraged.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Accomplishments</b></p> <p><b>2012</b></p>	<p><i>No ATV trails exist on WDNR Chippewa Flowage property.</i></p>

<p><b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p><b>Visitor Information Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The WDNR, FS and LCO will coordinate the design, construction and maintenance of informational bulletin boards at the primary access points. These bulletin boards may contain maps, brochures, interpretation and education materials and other visitor information.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Accomplishments 2012</b></p>	<p><i>Bulletin boards are in place at all public landings on the Flowage. Brochures and maps are available at kiosks and area commercial establishments and are updated each year. Maps and a variety of information are available on WDNR, Chippewa Flowage Resort Association and Chippewa Flowage Lake Association internet websites. DNR updated the Chippewa Flowage maps and brochure in the spring of 2012 with input from the FS and LCO. Regular contacts between the agencies ensure that the information remains current.</i></p>

## Water Resource Management

<p><b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p><b>Water Quality Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The WDNR, FS and LCO will work together to establish baseline water quality information, to monitor water quality in the flowage and its watershed and to identify causes of water quality problems.</li> <li>▪ The WDNR, FS and LCO will urge and cooperate with local governments and organizations to monitor point discharges on a regular basis; the parties agree to coordinate the exercise of their respective jurisdictions over water quality issues.</li> <li>▪ The agencies will cooperate on studies of the long-term water quality impacts of motor boat use on the flowage, specifically on bank erosion, sediment re-suspension, and their potential as a non-point source of pollution that may adversely affect the flowage; the agencies will take appropriate corrective actions as needed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Accomplishments 2012</b></p>	<p><i>A comprehensive study of water quality and invasive species was completed in 2009 by a graduate student working for the LCO Tribe, with input from WDNR, LCO and USFS. Erosion monitoring and mapping was completed by the three agencies in 2012. Results are being compared with the archaeological study recently completed by LCO, and a plan for erosion control/remediation will prioritize those areas of greatest cultural and historical significance that are susceptible to erosion. Enforcement of the new slow-no-wake laws in effect within 100 ft. of the shoreline of lakes was increased in 2012 with conservation citations being issued to violators.</i></p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p><b>Aquatic Plant Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Manage native plant species to best maintain natural plant diversity to protect against the invasion of non-native species and to maintain high quality fish, wildlife and aesthetic values. Develop an aquatic plant management plan that 1) preserves and enhances wild plant species traditionally used by the Chippewa (especially the re-establishment, preservation and enhancement of wild rice beds); 2) prevents new exotic plant species introduction; and 3) controls and, where feasible, eradicates already present exotic plant species.</li> <li>▪ The WDNR, FS and LCO flowage managers will monitor and map aquatic vegetation for changes over time and will initiate control efforts only to achieve localized and specific resource management objectives.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Accomplishments 2012</b></p>	<p><i>In 2009 a comprehensive plant management plan was developed by a student intern working for LCO with input from WDNR, USFS, and Property Owners and Resort Association members. A monitoring program was initiated by the Chippewa Flowage Area Property Owners Association through cooperation with LCO, WDNR and USFS. Signage providing educational and regulatory information concerning aquatic invasive species was placed at all public boat landings. Working through the DNR grants program the CFAPOA has placed invasive species monitors at public landings during the high use periods. CFAPOA has continued efforts to remove active purple loosestrife plants through physical and biological (beetle) control methods.</i></p>

**Fishery Management**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p>Emphasize the maintenance and protection of native species, genetic strains, and their spawning habitat, plus fairly balanced harvest opportunities for tribal and sport fishing needs. The following management actions are to be taken to support this objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue surveys to annually assess the year class strength of walleye, muskellunge, and northern pike in standard index stations.</li> <li>▪ Strive to estimate the adult walleye population and angler harvest rate at least once every 7-8 years.</li> <li>▪ Develop indices for determining trends for other key fish species.</li> <li>▪ Continue to stock muskellunge annually.</li> <li>▪ Spawning areas for both musky and walleye should be mapped with the quantity and quality of habitat described every 7-8 years.</li> <li>▪ Enforce state-licensed ice fishing for panfish.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Accomplishments 2012</b></p>	<p><i>In 2009 a comprehensive fisheries management plan was developed with input from DNR, LCO, USFS, US Fish and Wildlife Service and numerous local fish clubs and individuals. Electrofishing surveys are conducted annually by WDNR, LCO and GLIFWC personnel to assess the health of the fish populations.</i></p>

	<p><i>Concern continues over the lack of natural walleye reproduction in the Flowage and the increase of the largemouth bass population. With input from the Chippewa Flowage Partners (DNR, LCO, USFS, CFAPOA, CFLA) DNR changed fishing regulations to remove the size limit for largemouth bass and will seek changes to the fishing season structure for LMB for an earlier season opener. The Big Chip Fish Fest and private fund raising efforts allowed CFAPOA to purchase and stock 31,000 extended growth walleye fingerlings, and LCO stocked 89,000 EG walleye. DNR recently announced plans to increase stocking of muskellunge in the Chippewa Flowage.</i></p>
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**Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat Management**

<p><b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p><b>Management on Islands and the Mainland Shoreline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Manage to maintain or enhance a naturally appearing landscape with emphasis on promoting long-lived tree species, big tree character and mature vegetative communities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Accomplishments 2012</b></p>	<p><i>This has been accomplished through protection required in the deed covenant restrictions for WDNR, LCO and USFS properties. No cutting has taken place in 2012 on Islands or mainland shoreline, consistent with this objective.</i></p>

<p><b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p><b>Management on Backlands Visible from the Flowage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Manage to maintain or enhance the naturally appearing landscape with an emphasis on promoting long-lived tree species, big tree character, structurally diverse communities, mature communities, and encouraging a sustainable, resilient, and functioning ecosystem.</li> <li>▪ Unique and sensitive plants, such as cedar, hemlock and other species negatively impacted by herbivores, will be favored and perpetuated; understory plants gathered by the Chippewa will be given special consideration.</li> <li>▪ Provide nesting and brood rearing habitat for endangered, threatened, and sensitive wildlife species, including eagles and osprey.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Accomplishments 2012</b></p>	<p><i>Efforts to protect the naturally appearing landscape are undertaken by adherence to the deed restrictions and close monitoring by LCO, WDNR and USFS foresters. Thriving populations of both eagle and osprey species are being maintained through close monitoring by WDNR and LCO wildlife personnel and enforcement efforts by each agencies' officers.</i></p>

<p><b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p><b>Management on Backlands Not Visible from the Flowage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide habitat for a variety of native wildlife and plant species, with particular regard to understory plants gathered by the Chippewa, and to encourage a healthy, functioning ecosystem. In particular, provide timber of all age classes, provide or perpetuate cedar and hemlock as practicable, and provide nesting and brood rearing habitat for endangered, threatened, sensitive and other species, including eagles, osprey, fisher, bobcat and marten.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Accomplishments 2012</b></p>	<p><i>Management for diverse communities on Flowage backlands has been conducted on WDNR, USFS, and LCO lands through select harvest timber sales and adherence to best management practices. Thriving populations of both eagle and osprey species are being maintained through close monitoring by WDNR and LCO wildlife personnel and enforcement efforts by each agencies' officers. Planting of trails with a mix of grasses and clover has been accomplished and mowing of existing trails and openings is completed several times/year to encourage wildlife habitat.</i></p>