

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

Property: Dell Creek State Wildlife Area\*

Master Plan Year: 2003

\* A combined plan with Mirror Lake SP

**Land Management**

<p><b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p>Maintain approximately 1,500 acres of mixed upland forest of various tree sizes, age classes, and patch sizes with about half the stand composition being red/white pine and half aspen, oaks, and other early successional species.</p>
<p><b>Accomplishments 2010</b></p>	<p><i>91 acres of red pine plantation was commercially thinned for a total of 2,163 cords.</i></p> <p><i>40 -acres site preparation for oak regeneration and other early successional species is established and under contract in oak forest type, targeting fallow fields and areas with gypsy moth. Some of these acres will be planted to native trees in Spring of 2011.</i></p>

<b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b>	In the short-term, modify the existing red pine plantations – approximately 350 acres – to a more natural-appearing stand condition. Over the long-term, the plantation red pine may be regenerated or the site shifted to another more desirable habitat type.
<b>Accomplishments 2010</b>	<i>The 130-acres of established pine harvests are intended to reduce stocking and work toward eventual conversion to natural hardwood species with a component pine. The pine plantations are slowly being thinned and removed. More are marked for future sale.</i>

<b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b>	Protect and maintain the 20-acre relict hemlock stand in the northwestern part of the wildlife area.
<b>Accomplishments 2010</b>	<i>Relict hemlock stand in the northwestern part of the wildlife area was protected. Area inspected for future work, possibly old fence removal.</i>

<b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b>	Protect the water quality of the creek by restoring marginal, erodible cropland to permanent vegetation.
<b>Accomplishments 2010</b>	<i>No fields directly along stream edge are in cropland. New parcel along stream. Work in 2011 to remove non-native materials from site.</i>

<b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b>	Maintain/create approximately 1,600 acres of grassland, prairie, savanna, and sand barrens on appropriate sites. Prairie and savanna should be favored whenever possible. The continued restoration and maintenance of the approximately 200-acre town hall barrens site is a priority.
<b>Accomplishments 2010</b>	<i>Approximately 40 acres were managed for invasive species by spraying species such as spotted knapweed.</i>

<b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b>	Maintain a diversity of lowland vegetation, i.e. alder thicket, wet meadow, and forested wetland, as appropriate to the site conditions.
<b>Accomplishments 2010</b>	<i>No management was conducted on lowland vegetation.</i>

<b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b>	Provide important Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock nesting and brood rearing cover on 150 acres of alder by maintaining a diversity of age class (0-10 years) and stem size.
<b>Accomplishments 2010</b>	<i>A diversity of age classes exist, however no management was conducted on alder.</i>

<p><b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p>Establish a control site for alder where no active management will be conducted. This will allow long-term comparison of the ecological differences with alder sites that have been sheared for regeneration purposes. This site should be at least 10 acres located along the creek corridor in the middle portion of the property and not close to areas that are part o the shearing rotation.</p>
<p><b>Accomplishments 2010</b></p>	<p><i>No alder was managed in the area along the creek corridor in the middle portion of the property.</i></p>

## Fisheries Management

<p><b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p>Improve trout fishing opportunities and stream access. Increase trout populations through wild strain stocking and habitat improvement techniques.</p>
<p><b>Accomplishments 2010</b></p>	<p><i>No progress to report.</i></p>

## Public Access and Recreation

<p><b>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p>Provide opportunities for hunting, watching wildlife, trapping, fishing in a non-motorized setting. Secondly, provide opportunities for other compatible recreational uses, such as hiking, nature study, and berry picking. Actions to be taken to meet these objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit public motor vehicle access to designated parking lots and their access roads. ATV and horse use is prohibited on the property. Department managed roads may be gated or bermed at the discretion of the property manager.</li> <li>• Maintain twenty-one 6- to 10-car parking lots on the periphery of the property. These lightly developed access roads and parking lots may be either soil or gravel surfaced, depending upon the level of use and site conditions.</li> <li>• Develop and maintain up to four primitive loop-walking trails of 1-2 miles each. These designated trails will have informational signs at the trailhead parking lots and way-finding markers along the route.</li> <li>• Develop a segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail approximately 2.5 miles long through the southern half of the property. This trail will be a lightly developed trail with primarily a natural soil base.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Accomplishments 2010</b></p>	<p><i>Parking lots were resurfaced as needed. New gates and boulders were put in place to limit illegal off road vehicle access to limit negative impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat. This lot is larger and in a safer location compared to the old one. Litter was routinely picked up and parking lots were mowed.</i></p>