

**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>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</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>Accomplishments 2011</p>	<p><i>Chemical/mechanical site prep for tree planting on 20-acres. High density machine planted 52,000 hardwood tree seedlings on 20 acres and 1 acre wildlife shrub block planting (Funding via Hardwood Forestry Fund and Turkey Stamp).</i></p> <p><i>Sold 6-cords of firewood (2 separate permits/buyers).</i></p> <p><i>Marked 1-2 acres along snowmobile trail to improve access.</i></p>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	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.
Accomplishments 2011	<i>Red pine plantations continue to be managed. 2012 includes a thinning.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Protect and maintain the 20-acre relict hemlock stand in the northwestern part of the wildlife area.
Accomplishments 2011	<i>Relict hemlock stand in the northwestern part of the wildlife area was protected. Area inspected for future work, possibly old fence removal.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Protect the water quality of the creek by restoring marginal, erodible cropland to permanent vegetation.
Accomplishments 2011	<i>No fields directly along stream edge are in cropland. .</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	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.
Accomplishments 2011	<i>Approximately 20 acres were managed for invasive species by spraying species such as spotted knapweed. 39 acres were managed using prescribed fire.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Maintain a diversity of lowland vegetation, i.e. alder thicket, wet meadow, and forested wetland, as appropriate to the site conditions.
Accomplishments 2011	<i>The Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited had a volunteer work day on Dell Creek in 2011. They cut all the resprouts of tag alder and black willow about 50-60' back from both stream banks from South Avenue downstream about a half mile on an area that the DNR had brushed a few years earlier.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	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.
Accomplishments 2011	<i>Alder was managed in one area by Trout Unlimited. More alder management is being planned for winter of 2012-2013 with funding assistance from the Ruffed Grouse Society.</i>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</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>Accomplishments 2011</p>	<p><i>A diversity of age classes exists. No management areas have been identified as well.</i></p>

Fisheries Management

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Improve trout fishing opportunities and stream access. Increase trout populations through wild strain stocking and habitat improvement techniques.</p>
<p>Accomplishments 2011</p>	<p><i>Fisheries management stocked Brook, Rainbow and Brown trout in Dell Creek in 2011. They also worked with Trout Unlimited to remove resprouts from previous fisheries management.</i></p>

Public Access and Recreation

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</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"> • 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. • 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. • 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. • 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.
<p>Accomplishments 2011</p>	<p><i>Access roads and 17 parking lots were maintained through litter pick up and mowing. Posting of property has begun to provide better identification of boundaries.</i></p>