

**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 2013</p>	<p><i>Working on marking approximately 60 acres for a timber sale for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Favor conditions to release and advance existing oak, jack pine, white pine seedlings and saplings.</i> • <i>Favor conditions to establish oak regeneration.</i> • <i>Favor conditions to maintain health and vigor of oak sawtimber/poletimber with an emphasis on white oak.</i> • <i>Enhance age class diversity.</i> • <i>Maintain aspen.</i> • <i>Discourage locust.</i> <p><i>Worked on some pre-timber sale work on areas for oak regeneration by cutting and treating the stumps of small red maple trees.</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 2013	<i>no management actions to report in 2013</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Protect and maintain the 20-acre relict hemlock stand in the northwestern part of the wildlife area.
Accomplishments 2013	<i>no management actions to report in 2013</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Protect the water quality of the creek by restoring marginal, erodible cropland to permanent vegetation.
Accomplishments 2013	<i>no management actions to report in 2013</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 2013	<i>Prescribed burn on 40 acres. On same 40 acres, sprayed spotted knapweed in portions of the prairie. Prepared firebreaks for prescribed burns for 2014 spring season.</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 2013	<i>no management actions to report in 2013</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 2013	<i>no management actions to report in 2013</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	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.
Accomplishments 2013	<i>no management actions to report in 2013</i>

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 2013</p>	<p><i>no management actions to report in 2013</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 2013</p>	<p><i>Resurfaced parking lots and DNR Rd.</i></p>