

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

Governor Knowles State Forest

Property: _____

Master Plan Year: 1988

Land Management Areas

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	1) Maintain a 7,348 acre Wilderness Area and 1,706 acres of Natural Areas, which compliment the 2,984 acre Maximum Preservation Zone of the St Croix National Scenic Riverway.
Management Activities	
Accomplishments 2009	<i>Existing trails within the above mentioned areas, were maintained by pruning, removing underbrush encroaching on trail tread, removing dead and downed trees on the trail to make it safer for trail users. Work on the Benson Brook hiking trail extension development project has continued, with most of the trail construction south of the Wood River being about 80% completed. The project, including the bridge across the Wood River, should be nearly completed in 2010. Most of the new trail construction is on property of the St Croix National Scenic Riverway and done with their oversight. This project is consistent with the Scenic Riverway objectives and guidance to provide additional recreational opportunities adjacent to and within the Riverway.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	3) Manage the land and associated wildlife to achieve varied habitat types and produce wildlife to provide 18,000 participant days of wildlife related activities annually.
Management Activities	See Forest management
Accomplishments 2009	<i>Maintenance was done on 2 small wildlife openings to enhance the opportunities for wildlife watching near the St Croix campground.</i>

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>5) Manage the forest resource, consistent with the multiple use concept, providing a sustained yield flow of forest products by harvesting 4,000 to 5,000 cords equivalent annually.</p>
<p>Management Activities</p>	<p>Reconnaissance Timber Sale establishment Timber sale Administration and harvesting completed Fuelwood permits Site preparation Planting Natural seeding Research SNA and Endangered Resources Invasive Species Insects and disease</p>
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p>Recon - Completed 2,324 acres of recon updates Timber Sale Est., Admin, & Harvesting - 3 sales were established and sold totalling 382 acres, 8,125 cords, and \$208,090.00. According to Timber Sale Report 36A: 12 sales were completed, 754 acres were cut, 19,145 cords were harvested, for a total value of \$326,534.62. Site Prep - 94 acres of plow furrows Planting - 224 acres of hand planting Seeding (artificial regen) - 0 acres Research - 1 project being conducted on the effects of biomass harvesting on the nutrient budget. This is being conducted by the UW Madison Soils Department. SNA and ER - We continue to review the NHI Data Portal prior to all forest management activities. When necessary, consultations are scheduled with the appropriate species experts. We continue to cooperate with ER on the deferral/consultation sites. Regional Ecologist assisted in marking leave areas and leave trees on a timber sale being established adjacent to and near a State Natural Area on the GKSF. Invasive Species - Identifying invasives is part of the recon data collection process. If invasives are identified during the growing season the stand data is updated to reflect that. I & D - An oak wilt flight was scheduled in 2009. Suspicious areas were then ground truthed for the presence of oak wilt. We continue to receive the quarterly I&D newsletter from the regional pest specialist. Staff continues to try various techniques for natural regeneration to promote jack pine.</p>

Fisheries Management

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	4) Manage the fishery resource to provide opportunities for 2,700 participant days of fishing annually.
Management Activities	
Accomplishments 2009	<i>Worked with North American Hydro and Fisheries biologists with work upgrades to the Clam Flowage Dam, by providing access for trucks and equipment through GKSF property. Part of the Clam River Flowage is one of the main fisheries on GKSF.</i>

Recreation Management

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>2) Make available the recreational resources of the forest(in addition to fish and wildlife) for public use and enjoyment for approximately 50,000 participant days per year</p>
<p>Management Activities</p>	<p>Trails Campgrounds Day use Areas</p>
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>The new Trade River Equestrian Campground went through its first full year of operation. Changes and adjustments were made to address issues with operations and accesses. Efforts to have a seasonal volunteer campground host for more than a week or two, have not worked out. Summer camper numbers dipped substantially primarily being the new campground is not along the Trade River.</i></p> <p><i>The previous campground was restricted to day use only and almost exclusively used by equestrians. The St Croix Family Campground used a part time host only on weekends rather than a fulltime host as has been the past situation since the campgrounds opening in 1999. Seems to have worked out well. A major snowmobile trail reroute, due to safety concerns for young children in a rental property adjacent to the existing trail, was needed and accomplished with great help and assistance from a local club and county snowmobile association.</i></p> <p><i>The Benson Brook Hiking Trail Extension, mentioned earlier in cooperation with the St Croix National Scenic Riverway, is a project which when completed will connect the southern hiking trails (16 miles) to the Wood River interpretive Trail and the St Croix campground. This is a major connecting sector of hiking trail, which will establish continuous hiking trail from Evergreen Avenue in NW Polk County to the Sand Rock Cliffs Camp area on the Scenic Riverway, 2 miles north of State Road 70. This would be approximately 23 miles of continuous hiking trail.</i></p>

Road Management

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	
Management Activities	
Accomplishments 2009	<i>The funding for the LTE Forester that was working on the GKSF Road and Trail Identification project was eliminated thus no further action in 2009.</i>

Real Estate Management

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	6) Acquire approximately 300 acres of private land per year until the acquisition goal of 26,513 acres is reached.
Management Activities	Acquisition Trespasses and encroachments Surveys
Accomplishments 2009	<i>Acquired 1 – 20 acre parcel Work continues on resolving an encroachment issue through a possible land trade. Resolved new landowner encroachment who was putting a fence up on State land. Contact was made, with the landowner and GKSF Forester flagged line so landowner removed portion of fence already in and moved it to the identified line. 2 other known encroachments have not been worked on to resolve in 2009 Wolf Creek Survey was done in 2009 which identified another encroachment on State land and was also used to identify property lines involving 5 adjoining property owners. Letters were sent to all adjoining landowners regarding the survey.</i>