

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

Property: Lower Chippewa River Properties

Master Plan Year: 2010

Land Management – general management objectives

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Where possible, manage for larger blocks of habitat and a continuum of habitats from lowland to upland. ▪ Establish and maintain linkages between habitat blocks to create travel corridors for the movement of species over time. ▪ Maintain, restore, and enhance grasslands and oak savannas at a landscape scale with an emphasis on native communities. ▪ Maintain and enhance the quality and extent of open wetlands, with particular emphasis placed on wet and wet-mesic prairie, sedge meadow, emergent marsh. ▪ Maintain existing shrub-carr wetland in areas that do not have high potential for management as sedge meadow, wet prairie, or wet mesic prairie. ▪ Maintain the extent and quality of bottomland hardwood, swamp hardwood stands, and southern tamarack swamp. ▪ Maintain the health, vigor and diversity of central hardwood stands to provide wildlife habitat and aesthetic values. ▪ For wildlife habitat value, maintain, enhance, and expand oak stands and retain aspen stands wherever practicable and consistent with management objectives for the management. ▪ Maintain the limited native jack and white pine cover type on these properties. ▪ Gradually phase out conifer plantations over time. ▪ Convert most cropped land to native cover types. ▪ Where feasible, identify and eradicate populations of invasive species by cutting, pulling, burning, herbicide treatment and/or bio-control.
<p>Accomplishments 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For detailed descriptions of accomplishments, see the property specific sections of this report. <p>General accomplishments across the range of properties include management of large blocks of habitat on the Tiffany and Dunnville Wildlife Areas as well as Nine Mile Island State Natural Area. Extensive timber harvests took place on the Tiffany and Dunnville Wildlife Areas to create travel corridors and open landscapes, promoting native community development. These harvests enhanced existing oak openings and savannas while also preserving and enhancing existing jack and white pine remnants.</p>

Recreation Management – general use objectives

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide high quality hunting, trapping, and fishing opportunities. ▪ Provide opportunities for non-hunting related recreational activities, such as hiking, un-tracked cross country skiing, wildlife viewing, nature study, berry picking, canoeing, and canoe/camping when compatible with the property's capabilities and the primary management objective.
<p>Accomplishments 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For detailed descriptions of accomplishments, see the property specific sections of this report. <p>Generally, this assemblage of properties remains open to all types of public recreation as described in the Master Plan. The addition of allowed camping on the sand bars associated with State owned lands along the Chippewa River has been popular with canoeists, with numerous questions and requests responded to in the past year.</p>

Property: Lower Chippewa River State Natural Area (Dunn, Eau Claire, and Pepin counties)

Resource management, development and protection

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain the floodplain forest, floodplain savanna and prairie habitat for rare and special concern species and to provide opportunities for research, education, and ecological interpretation. Keep block size as large as possible. ▪ Restore agricultural lands to floodplain forest, savanna, prairie, or wetlands as soil type, elevation, surrounding cover-type, current conditions and historical records indicate. ▪ Protect the Chippewa and Red Cedar Rivers. ▪ Maintain a continuum of habitats from lowland to upland wherever possible. ▪ Maintain the river corridor as an important travel corridor for various species. ▪ Control invasive species. ▪ Continue to acquire lands to reach the acreage goal.
<p>Accomplishments 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active management on the scattered Lower Chip SNA parcels was limited to primarily prescribed burning in 2014, with 63 acres (located in Dunn County) of restored prairie burned. - Invasive plants (primarily buckthorn) were spot treated throughout the property as well. - The savanna restoration timber sale near Round Hill on in Pepin County was not sold and will be re-advertised in 2015. - Facilitate negotiation with landowner and DNR real estate staff to acquire a 299-acre parcel in Fuller Road and Powell Lake area that contains highly restorable late-successional barrens, shoreline adjacent to Powell Lake, and multiple ponds. - Removal of encroaching eastern red cedar from the newly acquired Huntsinger-Powell Lake property to maintain and enhance conditions on a high-quality remnant dry prairie. - Invasive species management: Follow-up herbicide treatment of resprouting black locust on the Huntsinger-Silvermine parcel to prevent further invasion. Initial attack of herbicide treatment of spotted knapweed and garlic mustard throughout multiple LCRSNA parcels in Eau Claire County. - Continue planning stages of Powell Lake restoration. Discussion with Ducks Unlimited staff to identify feasible and cost-effective designs for implementation of wetland restoration. - Surveillance of parcels to identify on-the-ground ecological conditions and habitat management opportunities.

Recreation Management – general use objectives

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide high quality hunting, trapping, and fishing opportunities. ▪ Provide opportunities for non-hunting related recreational activities, such as hiking, un-tracked cross country skiing, wildlife viewing, nature study, berry picking, canoeing, and canoe/camping when compatible with the property's capabilities and the primary management objective.
<p>Accomplishments 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Negotiation to acquire a 299-acre parcel with nearly a mile of frontage on Fuller Road that will greatly simplify and improve public access to additional existing LCRSNA parcels. ▪ Maintain parking lot at Bryce East parcel to support access into the project. ▪ Post signage to help users identify property boundaries. ▪ Cooperate with disabled users to provide drive-in access to shoreline for fishing opportunities.

Public use management and development

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain 6 parking areas. ▪ Develop parking areas on new acquisitions as needed. ▪ Maintain primitive service roads. ▪ Consider partial closure of Fuller road (1010th street) as lands are acquired.
<p>Accomplishments 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Six parking lots have been maintained through a combination of mowing, grading, fence maintenance, and posting. - One new sign kiosk was erected on the corner of State Hwy 85 and County Hwy H

Property: Tiffany Wildlife Area

Resource management, development and protection

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Manage and maintain aspen and native shrub species.▪ Regenerate oak (along with other mid-successional tree species) in order to maintain the species within oak-dominated or mixed cover types. Improve the oak age class distribution for long-term sustainability of the species.▪ Manage for a diversity of age class and forest structure.▪ Maintain aesthetic buffers along the river corridor.
Accomplishments 2014	- A 129 acre timber sale was set up to encourage and regenerate oak.

Native Community Management Area – Five Mile Bluff Prairie/Wood

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Maintain and expand prairie and open oak woodland within the management area to provide habitat for native plant and animal species.▪ Begin to develop structural and functional attributes of old forests including biologically mature trees, large diameter trees and large snags and coarse woody debris.▪ Provide closed canopy or near closed canopy to benefit area sensitive species.▪ Develop aesthetic qualities of old forest habitat.▪ Protect scenic and aesthetic qualities of the Chippewa River.▪ Consider habitat requirements for bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need, which are found in these uplands, when conducting management prescriptions.
Accomplishments 2014	- Firebreaks were put in place on a 124 acre burn unit for a planned spring 2015 prescribed fire in the bluff prairies and adjacent woodlands. - About 15 acres of buckthorn/honeysuckle were treated with basal bark herbicide application. - 1 acre of woody species were cut/treated on the middle bluff prairie.

Native Community Management Areas – Floodplain Prairie and Savanna, and Floodplain Forests and Wetlands

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Floodplain Prairie and Savanna Management Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expand and maintain the floodplain savanna and prairie habitat for rare, special concern and common species. ▪ Maintain floodplain forest. ▪ Maintain a continuum of habitats from lowland to upland wherever possible. ▪ Maintain the river corridor as an important travel corridor for various species. ▪ Control invasive species. ▪ Provide opportunities for research, education, and ecological interpretation. ▪ Protect scenic and aesthetic qualities of the Chippewa River.
<p>Accomplishments 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 20 acres of brush was mowed in the northern massasauga rattlesnake opening. - 5 rattlesnake basking/hunting structures were built in same area. - A 48 acre prescribed fire was completed in a prairie/oak savanna restoration. 12 acres of brush were controlled with herbicide following the prescribed fire. - 40 acres of brush were mowed in a 142 acre prairie/oak savanna restoration. - 35 acres of honeysuckle/buckthorn were treated with herbicide. - 3 acres of garlic mustard were treated with herbicide. - A work day was held with the Lower Chippewa River Alliance at Round Hill. 10 volunteers cut and treated autumn olive, red cedar and black locust invading a restored/remnant prairie.

Native Community Management Areas – Floodplain Prairie and Savanna, and Floodplain Forests and Wetlands

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Floodplain Forest and Wetlands Management Area (passive)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain and develop structural and functional attributes of old forests including biologically mature trees, large diameter trees, large snags and coarse woody debris. ▪ Provide closed canopy or near closed canopy to benefit area sensitive species. ▪ Develop aesthetic qualities of old forest habitat. ▪ Protect scenic and aesthetic qualities of the Chippewa River.
<p>Accomplishments 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Passive management was utilized in this area of Tiffany WA in 2014.

Native Community Management Areas – Floodplain Prairie and Savanna, and Floodplain Forests and Wetlands

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Floodplain Forest and Wetlands Management Area (active)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain at least 50 % in mature forest with closed canopy or near closed canopy in large blocks to minimize habitat fragmentation. ▪ Maintain floodplain forest to improve the age class distribution for long term sustainability of floodplain forest species. ▪ Develop old forest attributes through natural processes and active management that mimics natural disturbance. ▪ Silvicultural and other management activities must attempt to avoid the introduction and/or spread of invasives (especially reed canary grass) in the understory of this community.
<p>Accomplishments 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A 129 acre timber sale was set up to improve age class distribution in floodplain forest. Access issues may limit the feasibility of completing this timber sale. This sale was set up in a manner to maintain mature forest and near closed canopy. This area is also being monitored and treated for invasive species.

Public use management and development

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain 12 existing parking areas and 4 boat landing/parking areas on the property's periphery. ▪ Maintain a gated primitive service road from the Hwy 35 Landing to Thibodeau Road parking lot. ▪ Maintain the gated primitive service roads within the Pepin County portion of the Tiffany WA. ▪ Develop a 1.5 mile gated primitive service road entering the property near Misha Mokwa. ▪ Maintain an existing scenic overlook along County Road N near Dead Lake. ▪ Continue inland camping using the permit system.
<p>Accomplishments 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All 12 parking areas and 4 boat landings were maintained through regular check-ups and garbage removal. - Significant flooding that occurred in the spring/summer of 2014 severely limited the maintenance conducted on the trail system in Buffalo county. An emergency capital development project was written and approved to repair this damage. Several repairs were made, with more planned in 2015. The northern half of the trail from Thibodeau Rd. to the Beef slough was mowed. The southern half was not mowed due to trail damage. - The primitive service roads in Pepin county were maintained. - The scenic overlook was maintained through regular check-ups and garbage removal. - Numerous camping permits were issued throughout 2014. - No service road from Misha Mokwa was created. It has been determined at this point that this project

	may not be feasible due to the periodic and seasonal flooding in the area.
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Property: Dunnville Wildlife Area

Resource management, development and protection

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Maintain and enhance grasslands/savanna and increase block size to benefit grassland dependent species.▪ Convert agricultural lands to appropriate natural cover types.▪ Wild Rice management may occur in some wetlands including the planting of harvested seed.▪ Maintain floodplain forest to improve the age class distribution for long term sustainability of floodplain forest species.
Accomplishments 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Maintaining and enhancing grasslands and savannas with a focus on increasing block size continued to be the primary management activity that took place on Dunnville in 2014. Whole-tree chipping timber management cleared approximately 200 acres of woods to connect areas of similar habitat while converting the affected areas to oak savanna. This management technique will require extensive follow-up maintenance to minimize brushy regrowth, but with diligent maintenance, the area will be successfully converted. This process began in December, 2013, and was not completed until early 2014.- Prescribed burning took place on 6 units totaling 1243 acres. These burns successfully invigorated prairie stands while also stunting brush growth. Prescribed fire will continue to be a primary management tool in managing existing prairies and savannas as well as in the conversion of the aforementioned savanna restoration areas.- Mowing took place on roughly 40 acres of savanna restoration to combat succession from stump sprouting, etc.- A great deal of spot chemical treatment was completed on the areas which had previously been involved in timber sales in an attempt to minimize regrowth of woody species. Treatment of various invasive plants, including buckthorn, garlic mustard, and crown vetch, took place at various locations throughout the property.- 5 separate timber sales are established on the property. Some are awaiting harvest while others are awaiting the bid/sale process. These sales will be highlighted in subsequent reports post-harvest.

Native Community Management Area – Floodplain Terrace Prairies and Wetlands

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor for oak wilt and promote conversion to oak barrens in affected areas. ▪ Maintain and increase jack pine/barrens for native plants and animals where soil conditions and cover type deem appropriate. ▪ Phase out red pine plantations. ▪ Maintain the mosaic of prairie, seepage lakes, floodplain forest and oak savanna for habitat for rare and special concern species such to provide opportunities for research, education, and ecological interpretation. ▪ Maintain and expand prairie and open oak woodland within the management area to provide habitat for native plant and animal species. ▪ Designate and restore a prairie and barrens State Natural Area
<p>Accomplishments 2014</p>	<p>- Little management occurred on this portion of Dunnville Wildlife Area in 2014.</p>

Native Community Management Area – Red Cedar River Cliffs and Forest

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop and maintain an older, closed canopy forest with emphasis on long lived tree species where those species comprise the primary cover type. ▪ Enhance forest structural diversity and development of old growth characteristics such as large diameter trees, standing dead snags, and coarse woody debris. ▪ Protect water quality through protection and maintenance of wetland habitats and seeps. ▪ Protect the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the site. ▪ Support scientific research that is compatible with the ecological and aesthetic attributes of the site. ▪ Protect the archeological features from further disturbance and degradation.
<p>Accomplishments 2014</p>	<p>- Little management occurred on this portion of the Dunnville Wildlife Area in 2014</p>

Public use management and development

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stock pheasants on sites with suitable cover to provide increased opportunity for harvest during the pheasant hunting season. ▪ Maintain 20 existing parking areas throughout the property. ▪ Maintain primitive roads to provide foot access throughout the property. ▪ Monitor the erosive actions of the Chippewa River at the end of Dunnville Road and consider closing/abandoning the parking area at the end of the road. ▪ Establish a primitive road to provide access to Nine Mile Island.
<p>Accomplishments 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1200 pheasants were stocked throughout the Dunnville Wildlife Area; 860 from the State Game Farm in Poynette and 240 from the Dunn County Fish and Game Association Day-old-chick program. The pheasant stocking program continues to provide a great deal of hunting opportunity on the Dunnville Wildlife Area. - 20 parking areas were maintained through a variety of methods, including mowing, grading, adding fill, maintaining existing fence, and replacing dilapidated fence with boulders. - A primitive road system was again maintained throughout the Dunnville Wildlife Area. The primary objective for this activity is to facilitate pheasant stocking and, in some cases, help establish fire breaks. The road system is also used extensively by recreationalists to access various parts of the property. - A roughly 1000 foot long span on the north side of Dunnville Road has been lined with boulders to prevent off-road vehicle access. This type of use/miss-use of the property continues to be problematic. - The establishment of a primitive road to provide access to Nine Mile Island has been explored. New information regarding riparian ownership may once again make this opportunity feasible.

Property: Big Swamp Wildlife Area

Resource management, development and protection

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restore the hydrological function and ecological integrity of a larger block.
<p>Accomplishments 2014</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No management occurred on Big Swamp in 2014.

Native Community Management Area – Bear Creek Tamarack Relict

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain tamarack swamp and bog relict habitat following the general prescriptions found later in this section.
Accomplishments 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Passive management was practiced in this area.

Public use management and development

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop public parking areas when suitable lands are acquired.
Accomplishments 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No land was acquired to create a parking area.

Property: Nine Mile Island State Natural Area

Resource management, development and protection

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain the bottomland hardwoods, prairies, and oak savanna/woodland to provide habitat for rare and special concern species. ▪ Provide opportunities for research, education, and ecological interpretation. ▪ Maintain and develop structural and functional attributes of old forests including biologically mature trees, large diameter trees, large snags and coarse woody debris. ▪ Provide closed canopy or near closed canopy to benefit area sensitive species. ▪ Develop aesthetic qualities of old forest habitat. ▪ Protect scenic and aesthetic qualities of the Chippewa River.
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Accomplishments 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On the mainland portion of the SNA, some brush cutting occurred along the Chippewa River trail in an area which has open prairie on each side of the trail. This brush removal will open this area up creating a more open landscape between County Hwy M and the escarpment overlooking the Chippewa River. - A timber sale has been established on the mainland portion of the property to eliminate small woodlots that disrupt the openness of the property. Efforts to sell these sites have been unsuccessful and may be sold as a direct sale in 2015. - A timber theft situation on the island was resolved in 2014. Follow-up treatment will be necessary in 2015.
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Public use management and development

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish a primitive access road for SNA management purposes across Dunnville WA. ▪ Maintain 3 parking lots. ▪ Maintain a carry-in boat access site.
Accomplishments 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The opportunity to establish and access from Dunnville to Nine Mile Island was explored in 2012. At that point there was not enough clarity of riparian ownership and associated rights to move forward with the access. In light of new information on this subject, the opportunity may once again exist to move forward with this access - Maintenance has occurred on 5 parking areas, primarily through mowing and grading as well as occasional trash cleanup. - One new sign kiosk was erected on a new parking lot which was constructed in 2013. - A carry-in boat located on County Hwy M has been maintained through signage and occasional trash cleanup.

Property: Caryville Savanna State Natural Area

Resource management, development and protection

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Maintain the savanna to provide habitat for rare and special concern species and to provide opportunities for research, education, and ecological interpretation.
Accomplishments 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Passage of motorized equipment onto Brush Island is not possible. Management has consisted of prescribed burning on a 2-year rotation and occasional work days by volunteer groups to cut and treat invasive species such as buckthorn.- Very little management occurred on this site in 2014. Though scheduled for a prescribed burn, high water conditions on the Chippewa River prevented access. One additional site visit was conducted in June, 2014. This site will be on the burn list again in 2015.

Property: Rock Falls Wildlife Area

Resource management, development and protection

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Create and maintain a large block of grassland to support grassland SCGN species and protect associated ecological values.▪ Protect the water quality of Rock Creek.▪ Manage for mature oaks and white pines where each is the primary cover type.▪ Manage water levels in the impoundments for waterfowl, marshbirds and shorebirds.▪ Provide winter food plots for wildlife.
Accomplishments 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- For management purposes, the property is divided into east and west halves, with Rock Creek being the dividing line. In 2014, a roughly 2 acre pollinator plot was established on the east side of the property.- A timber sale has been established on this property to address an area impacted by oak wilt on the property's east side, and also to increase the size of the open field on the property's west side. Attempts to bid this sale have been unsuccessful; it may be sold as a direct sale in 2015.

Public use management and development

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Maintain 2 parking areas on the periphery of the property.▪ Primitive trails provide foot access throughout the property.▪ Develop new parking areas as public lands are acquired.
Accomplishments 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Two parking areas were maintained, one at each end of the property, primarily through mowing and grading.

Property: Waterville Extensive Wildlife Habitat Area

Resource management, development and protection

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Prevent woody succession in the grasslands.▪ Prevent reed canary grass encroachment.
Accomplishments 2014	- A timber sale was established on this property in 2013 focusing on regeneration of bottomland species, including swamp white oak. The cutting deadline for this project is Feb., 2016.

Public use management and development

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Maintain 1 parking area on the periphery of the property.▪ Primitive trails provide foot access on the property.
Accomplishments 2014	- One parking area was maintained on this site, providing a public access point on this isolated property.