

Wisconsin State Forests Monitoring the Implementation of State Forest Master Plans

Property: Peshtigo River State Forest

Master Plan Year: 2007 – Plan was approved September 26, 2007.

Land Management Areas

Forest Production Management Area 1, Peshtigo River Flowages

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES

Long Term Management Objectives (100 Years)

- Maintain a diversity of forest cover types and ages for overall health of the forest, aesthetic appeal, and to provide wildlife habitat.
- Protect and maintain the water quality and riparian habitat of the Peshtigo River and flowages.
- Continue to increase the abundance of white pine and larger, older trees in mixed stands.
- Maintain red pine and jack pine composition.
- Maintain the acreage of red oak and aspen.
- Maintain scrub oak and red maple except in areas suitable for conversion to white pine.
- Maintain the river corridor and flowages in an aesthetically pleasing condition.

Short Term Management Objectives (50 Years)

- Enhance the diversity of forest cover types and age classes for overall health of the forest, aesthetic appeal, and to provide wildlife habitat.
- Protect and enhance the water quality and riparian habitat of the Peshtigo River and flowages.
- Maintain the current red oak acreage.
- Decrease scrub oak and increase the acreage and presence of white pine, aspen, red maple, red pine, or jack pine.
- Increase the presence and age of red and white pine on suitable sites across the area. Specifically, increase the acreage of stands that are dominated by pine and, in mixed stands where red and white pine are not the dominate species, increase the average pine component.
- In the Shoreland Management Overlay Zone, allow the natural conversion of aspen to white pine and red maple. Outside of the Shoreland Management Area maintain aspen approximately at current levels.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the river corridor and flowages in an aesthetically pleasing condition.
<p>Resource Management Prescriptions</p>	<p>The General Forest Management Prescriptions by Primary Forest Type apply and all management activities are authorized, except as noted below for this management area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimize the visual impact of management along the river corridor and flowages using aesthetic management techniques for timber harvests such as restricting the size of cuts, conducting partial harvests, retaining large longer lived tree species, planting trees, managing for longer lived species, and harvesting during the winter. • On suitable sites, allow scrub oak to naturally convert to white pine, aspen, or red maple. Where natural conversion is not viable or where conversion to red pine or jack pine is desired, use planting and other active management techniques. • Where feasible, use natural conversion to increase the presence of white pine across the management area. In mixed stands, promote the growth and retention of large white pine trees. • Retain snags and coarse woody habitat whenever their retention does not conflict with other forest management objectives, including riparian areas.
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>In 2009, <u>The Bass Bay Timber Sale</u> was harvested. On this sale, 28 acres of scrub oak was clearcut in preparation for conversion to pine, 11 acres of scrub oak and jack pine was clearcut, and 56 acres of red pine plantation was thinned.</i></p> <p><i>This timber harvest helped to meet master plan objectives by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enhancing the diversity of forest cover types and age classes for overall health of the forest, aesthetic appeal, and to provide wildlife habitat.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ <i>Snags and coarse woody habitat was maintained where possible.</i> • <i>Decreasing scrub oak acreage and increasing white pine and red maple acreage.</i> <p><i>Because this sale was outside the Shoreland Overlay Zone the following objectives were accomplished within the overlay zone;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Maintaining the flowage in an aesthetically pleasing condition.</i> • <i>Protecting and enhancing the water quality and riparian habitat of the High Falls Flowage.</i> • <i>Allow the natural conversion of aspen to white pine and red maple.</i>

Forest Production Management Area 2, Fly Fishing Area

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Long term management objectives (100 Years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the high scenic qualities of the Peshtigo River and flowages. • Protect the water quality and riparian habitat of the Peshtigo River and flowages. • Maintain a diversity of forest cover types and age classes for overall health of the forest, aesthetic appeal, and to provide wildlife habitat. • Continue to increase the presence of large, longer-lived trees such as white pine on suitable sites. • Maintain scrub oak and red maple for habitat diversity. • Maintain red oak, aspen, jack pine, and red pine acreages. <p>Short term objectives (50 Years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance the scenic qualities of the Peshtigo River and flowages. • Enhance the diversity of forest cover types and age classes for overall health of the forest, aesthetic appeal, and to provide wildlife habitat. • Protect and enhance the water quality and riparian habitat of the Peshtigo River and flowages. • Decrease the acreage of scrub oak but maintain a component for habitat diversity. • Increase the presence of longer lived trees such as red and white pine. • Increase the total acreage of jack pine and red maple. • Maintain current levels of red oak and aspen.
<p>Resource Management Prescriptions</p>	<p>The General Forest Management Prescriptions by Primary Forest Type apply and all management activities are authorized, except as noted below for this management area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When conducting forest management activities, modify the standard management prescriptions to minimize as practicable, the visibility of activities from the river. Specific aesthetic management techniques that may be used are: restricting the size of cuts, conducting partial harvests, retaining single trees or groups of trees, creating irregular or feathered harvest boundaries, controlling logging slash, planting trees, managing for longer lived species, and harvesting during the winter. • Manage for longer-lived trees such as red and white pine across the management area on suitable sites. • Where feasible, allow scrub oak to naturally convert to white pine, aspen, or red maple. Where natural conversion is not viable or where conversion to red pine or jack pine is desired, use planting and other active management techniques. • On areas that are too steep for forest management use passive management, except for the control of invasive species. Determine steep slopes on a stand by stand basis whenever forest management activities are proposed. • Retain snags and coarse woody habitat across the area and downed trees in the river.

**Accomplishments
2009**

The High Line Timber Sale, was harvested. On this sale, 7 acres of red pine plantation was thinned, and 117 acres of scrub oak, red maple, and aspen was clearcut.

The Block House Timber Sale, was harvested. On this sale, 18 acres of red pine plantation was thinned, 4 acres of scrub oak and red maple were thinned, 107 acres of scrub oak and red maple were clearcut, and 19 acres of scrub oak was clearcut in preparation for conversion to pine.

These 2 timber harvests helped to meet master plan objectives by:

- Decreasing the acreage of scrub oak but maintain a component for habitat diversity.
- Enhancing the diversity of forest cover types and age classes for overall health of the forest, aesthetic appeal, and to provide wildlife habitat
 - Snags, live large white oaks and pine trees and coarse woody habitat was maintained where possible in the sale areas.
- Increasing the total acreage of red maple through natural conversion of portions of the sale areas.

Because these sales were outside the Shoreland Overlay Zone the following objectives were accomplished within the overlay zone;

- Maintaining and enhancing the scenic qualities of the Peshtigo River and flowages.
- Protecting and enhancing the water quality and riparian habitat of the Peshtigo River and flowages.

Forest Production Management Area 3, Potato Rapids Flowage

**MASTER PLAN
OBJECTIVES**

Long Term Management Objectives (100 Years)

- Maintain the scenic qualities of the Peshtigo River and flowage.
- Protect and maintain the water quality and riparian habitat of the Peshtigo River and flowage.
- Maintain diversity of forest cover types and age classes for overall health of the forest, aesthetic appeal, and to provide wildlife habitat.
- Continue to increase the level of white pine and maintain the abundance of red pine. Promote larger diameter trees for both species.
- Maintain scrub oak, aspen, and red maple.

Short Term Management Objectives (50 Years)

- Maintain and enhance the scenic qualities of the Peshtigo River and flowage.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance the water quality and riparian habitat of the Peshtigo River and flowages. • Reduce the acreage of aspen and scrub oak and increase the presence of white pine, red maple, and other species and maintain the current acreage of red pine.
<p>Resource Management Prescriptions</p>	<p>The General Forest Management Prescriptions by Primary Forest Type apply and all management activities are authorized, except as noted below for this management area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow the natural conversion of aspen and scrub oak to white pine, red maple, and other species within the Shoreland Management Overlay Zone. • Use natural conversion to increase the presence of red maple and white pine in mixed stands across the management area. Actively convert some deciduous forest types to white pine on appropriate sites. Manage white pine towards larger diameter older trees. • Retain snags and coarse woody habitat whenever their retention does not conflict with other forest management objectives, including riparian areas. • Minimize the visual impact of timber harvests using aesthetic management techniques such as restricting the size of cuts, conducting partial harvests, retaining single trees or groups of trees, creating irregular or feathered harvest boundaries, controlling logging slash, planting trees, managing for longer lived species, and harvesting during the winter.
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><u>The River Drive Timber Sale was harvested.</u> On this sale, 16 acres of red pine plantation was thinned, and 16 acres of aspen was clearcut.</p> <p><i>This timber harvest helped to meet master plan objectives by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Maintaining the current acreage of red pine.</i> • <i>Increase the presence of white pine, red maple through natural seeding and conversion from advanced red maple regeneration.</i> <p><i>Because this sale was outside the Shoreland Overlay Zone the following objectives were accomplished within the overlay zone;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Protecting and enhancing the water quality and riparian habitat of the Peshtigo River and flowages.</i> • <i>Maintaining and enhancing the scenic qualities of the Peshtigo River and flowage.</i>

Native Community Management Area 4, Lake Lackawanna and Cedars

**MASTER PLAN
OBJECTIVES**

Short and Long Term Management Objectives (50 &100 Years)

- Protect the hydrology and water quality of Lake Lackawanna and associated streams.
- Maintain a diverse mosaic of native community types.
- Develop and maintain the uplands in older closed canopy forest that: 1) have large diameter trees, 2) are structurally diverse, 3) have a mixed species composition with an increased dominance by longer lived species such as white pine, and 4) contain old growth characteristics such as the development of abundant coarse woody debris and standing dead snags.
- Convert red pine plantations to a diverse forest that includes white pine as a major associate.
- Maintain the existing native wetland community types such as Sedge Meadow and Alder Thicket. The forested wetlands will be dominated by Northern wet-mesic Forest (Northern White Cedar swamp), but are expected to have inclusions of other types such as Tamarack Swamp and Northern Hardwood Swamp.
- Protect and enhance rare species habitats (two rare plants at the time of this writing) and high quality natural communities.
- Provide opportunities for scientific research.
- Provide recreation opportunities that generally focus on activities such as hiking, bird-watching, photography, and nature study.

**Resource Management
Prescriptions**

The General Forest Management Prescriptions by Primary Forest Type apply and all of their associated management activities apply, except as limited by the prescriptions below:

- Maintain the hydrology, aesthetic values, and water quality of the lake, wetlands, and associated streams by using Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- Actively manage the uplands to favor increased dominance by longer-lived trees such as white pine, primarily through thinning and natural conversion, while maintaining and enhancing forest structure and tree species diversity. Coordinate with the State Natural Areas program to plan active management techniques and strategies.
- Retain numerous standing dead snags and coarse woody habitat in both upland and riparian areas.
- Use monitoring information on changes in composition and structure to aid in future management decisions.
- Actively manage red pine plantations primarily through thinning and natural regeneration techniques to create stands with a natural appearance and large diameter trees grown to biological maturity.
- Passively manage all of the wetland communities, including the forested lowlands.
- Actively control beaver populations and mitigate the impacts of beaver damage if they threaten to negatively affect the cedar swamp(s) for the purpose of protecting rare species habitats and maintaining high-quality natural communities.
- Salvage generally will not occur in passive areas unless necessary to meet statutory responsibilities for fire protection or pest control. In actively managed areas, salvage of trees damaged by wind, ice fire, and insects, may occur after consultation with managers from affected DNR programs to determine how salvage can be done to help meet the objectives of the area.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control of invasive plants may also occur in passively managed areas.
Accomplishments 2009	<i>No accomplishments to report for 2009</i>

Native Community Management Area 5, Caldron Falls

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<p>Short and Long Term Management Objectives (50 & 100 Years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and maintain an older, closed canopy forest of longer lived species such as white pine on the uplands and both white pine and back spruce on the lowlands Enhance forest structural diversity, tree species diversity, and development of old growth characteristics such as the presence of coarse woody debris and standing dead snags on the uplands. Convert red pine plantations to a diverse forest that includes white pine as a major associate. Protect and maintain Black Spruce Swamps and Ephemeral Ponds in a natural, unmanaged condition, except for invasive species control. Protect, maintain and enhance the water quality, riparian habitat, and scenic qualities of the Caldron Falls Flowage. Provide opportunities for scientific research. Provide recreation opportunities that generally focus on activities such as hiking, bird-watching, photography, and nature study.
Resource Management Prescriptions	<p>The General Forest Management Prescriptions by Primary Forest Type apply and all of their associated management activities apply, except as limited by the prescriptions below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use thinning and other harvest techniques to release and favor white pine, where possible. Maintain a component of scrub oak for diversity and wildlife benefits. Actively manage red pine plantations primarily through thinning and natural regeneration techniques to create stand with a natural appearance, large diameter trees grown to biological maturity, an increased dominance by longer-lived species such as white pine. Retain standing dead snags and coarse woody habitat whenever their retention does not conflict

	<p>with other forest management objectives, including riparian areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to the DNR Old-Growth Handbook to guide management decisions, particularly information related to “Managed Old-growth” forests. Use monitoring information on changes in composition and structure to aid in future management decisions. • Passively manage the Black Spruce Swamps, Ephemeral Pond(s), and immediately surrounding areas. • Salvage generally will not occur in passive areas unless necessary to meet statutory responsibilities for fire protections or pest control. In actively managed areas, salvage of trees damaged by wind, ice, fire, and insects, may occur after consultation with managers from affected DNR programs to determine how salvage can be done to help meet the objectives of the area. • Maintain the Caldron Falls Flowage in a natural appearing condition (see Shoreland Management Overlay Zone Prescriptions).
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>No accomplishments to report for 2009</i></p>

Native Community Management Area 6, High Falls North

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Short and Long Term Management Objectives (50 & 100 Years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance the Bedrock Glades and all other rare species habitats and high-quality natural communities that are present. • Enhance forest structural diversity and mixed species composition, increase the dominance of longer-lived trees, particularly white pine, and develop of old growth characteristics such as the presence of large diameter trees, coarse woody debris, and standing dead snags. • Red maple should increase and aspen and oak will decrease, but a component of each should be maintained in the overstory where possible to contribute to diversity. • Increase the dominance of longer-lived trees, particularly white pine. • Provide opportunities for scientific research. • Provide recreation opportunities that generally focus on activities such as hiking, bird-watching, photography, and nature study.
<p>Resource Management Prescriptions</p>	<p>The General Forest Management Prescriptions by Primary Forest Type apply and all of their associated management activities apply, except as limited by the prescriptions below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain portions of the glades in a mostly open condition, where possible, with scattered large trees to favor light-demanding and intermediate glade and dry-forest/wood-land associated plants. • Decrease the amount of aspen and scrub oak and increase white pine primarily through thinning

	<p>and natural conversion and promote the growth and retention of red maple and large white pine trees. Use techniques such as partial cutting, thinning, and group selection when necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain snags and coarse woody habitat whenever their retention does not conflict with other forest management activities or present hazards. • Prescribed fire could be a potentially useful management tool for improving understory species diversity and enhancing the native communities. • Refer to the DNR Old-Growth Handbook to guide management decisions, particularly information related to “Managed Old-growth” forests. Use monitoring information on changes in composition and structure to aid in future management decisions. • Minimize the visual impact of forest management activities in areas near Old Veterans Lake Campground. • Salvage of trees damaged by wind, ice, fire, and insects, may occur after consultation with managers from affected DNR programs to determine how salvage can be done to help meet the objectives of the area.
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>No accomplishments to report for 2009</i></p>

Native Community Management Area 7, Johnson Falls

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Short and Long Term Management objectives (50 & 100 Years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain a diverse mosaic of high-quality native communities, including forested areas with old-growth attributes, Bedrock Glades, Forested Seeps, and springs in a natural, unmanaged state. • Allow cover types to convert naturally to favor longer-lived species. • Protect rare species habitats. • Protect, maintain, and enhance the water quality, riparian habitat, and scenic qualities of a stretch of the Peshtigo River. • Convert red pine plantations to a diverse forest that includes white pine as a major associate. • Provide opportunities for scientific research. • Provide recreation opportunities that focus generally on activities such as hiking, bird-watching, photography, and nature study.
<p>Resource Management Prescriptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passively manage all areas that are not red pine plantations to allow for the development of white pine and other long-lived species, as well as increased coarse woody debris, standing snags, and tree age diversity.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively manage red pine plantations primarily through thinning and natural regeneration techniques to create stands with a natural appearance and large diameter trees grown to biological maturity. Retain snags and coarse woody habitat whenever their retention does not conflict with other forest management activities or present hazards. • Salvage generally will not occur in passive areas unless necessary to meet statutory responsibilities for fire protection or pest control. In actively managed areas, salvage of trees damaged by wind, ice, fire, and insects, may occur after consultation with managers from affected DNR programs to determine how salvage can be done to help meet the objectives of the area. • Control of invasive plants may occur throughout the management area.
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>No accomplishments to report for 2009.</i></p>

Native Community Management Area 8, Kirby Lake Hardwoods

<p style="text-align: center;">MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Short Term and Long Term Management Objectives (50 & 100 Years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain a forested natural community mosaic that includes a variety of forest types and old growth characteristics including enhanced forest structural diversity, a mixed species composition, and development of coarse woody debris and standing dead snags. The maple and white pine components are expected to increase, whereas the red oak and aspen will be reduced, but not eliminated from the site. • Provide opportunities to compare active versus passive management techniques with regard to their effects on forest structure, composition, and other attributes within this management area. • Protect and maintain examples of rich Northern Mesic Forest, a community type that is rare throughout this landscape. • Protect and maintain the unique hydrology of the site, including the many seeps and springs. • Protect native communities and other rare species habitats and high-quality examples of natural communities in a natural, unmanaged state. • Provide opportunities for scientific research. • Provide recreation opportunities that generally focus on activities such as hiking, bird-watching, photography, and nature study.
<p>Resource Management Prescriptions</p>	<p>The General Management Prescriptions by Primary forest Type apply and all of their associated management activities apply, except as limited by the prescriptions below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use single tree selection or group harvest to promote tree species diversity and hasten development of larger diameter trees for the portion of the native community which is outside of the

	<p>State Natural Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passively manage the State Natural Area to prevent soil disturbance and allow natural conversion to a forest with old growth characteristics. Passive management will also apply to the portion of the State Natural Area within the Shoreland Management Overlay Zone. • Manage the river corridor outside of the State Natural Area using the prescriptions described in “Shoreland Management Overlay Zone” section of the plan. • Salvage generally will not occur in passive areas unless necessary to meet statutory responsibilities for fire protection or pest control. In actively managed areas, salvage of trees damaged by wind, ice, fire, and insects, may occur after consultation with managers from affected DNR programs to determine how salvage can be done to help meet the objectives of the area. • Control of invasive plants may occur throughout the management area.
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>No accomplishments to report for 2009</i></p>

Overlay Zone

Shoreland Management Overlay Zone

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Short and Long Term Objectives (50 & 100 Years) Maintain and enhance the highly scenic, natural appearing shoreline of the Peshtigo River and flowages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance soils, water quality, and riparian habitats. • Provide public access to the river and flowages as established by the FERC license agreement.
<p>Management Prescriptions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage to favor large, longer-lived trees such as white pine and red maple on suitable sites. If desirable, under-plant pine or other native species to increase stocking levels or for restoration following a disturbance. • Thin red pine plantations to create a natural appearance and large diameter trees. Over the long term, convert plantations to a diverse forest with white pine as a major associate. • Harvest dead, diseased and dying trees in order to attain a healthier forest, but retain abundant snags and dead-downed trees, including downed trees in the water. • Remove and/or control invasive species, and control the spread and impact of disease and insect damage. When doing so, use the most practicable methods with the least negative visual impact on

	<p>the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside of designated public use areas, modify the standard management practices to minimize, to the degree practicable, the visibility of management activities from the water. • Maintain and enhance or develop recreational facilities related to use and enjoyment of the flowages and river, such as boat access sites, swimming areas, fishing pears, hiking and portage trails, and primitive campsites, as prescribed in the recreation section of this plan. • Trees and shrubs may be removed as needed for the development or redevelopment of designated public use areas or sites. Planting and maintenance of native trees, shrubs and turf may be done on these sites for screening, scenic enhancement, or to enhance recreational use of the site. • Removal of hazardous trees from designated public use sites is authorized.
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>The master plan objective of providing public access to the river and flowages was accomplished by properly maintaining all boat landings throughout the boating season, and maintaining all canoe campsites, canoe portage trails, and cross country ski/hiking trails which occur in the Shoreland Management Zone. In addition to providing public access to the waters, the scenic, natural appearing shoreline was protected along with the soils, water quality, and riparian habitats. All master plan objectives were met.</i></p>

Wildlife Management

<p>MASTER PLAN DESCRIPTION</p>	<p>Diverse and healthy wildlife populations will be maintained by managing the composition and structure of forest habitats integrated with the management objectives and activities outlined for each land management area in the Land Management Section of this plan.</p> <p>Wildlife habitat values are further assured by the wildlife biologists working with foresters on timber sales in order to maximize tree species diversity and improve vegetative structure consistent with the management objectives for the area.</p> <p>This wildlife management plan has been integrated into the management prescriptions for the individual management areas.</p>
<p>Management Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife biologists review all timber sales and provide recommendations to maintain and improve wildlife habitat. • Long-lived trees such as red oak, white pine, and red pine will be maintained in clearcuts to provide for species and stand composition diversity. • Small clumps of aspen-birch may be reserved in clearcuts for ruffed grouse budding and cavity trees. • Large, full-crowned trees with dens and cavities as well as dead trees (snags) will be maintained on

	<p>appropriate sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All non-forested wetlands, including Northern Sedge Meadows, Shrub-carr, Boreal Rich Fen, and Open Bogs will be protected. • Ephemeral Ponds and permanent small ponds will be protected. • Individuals of all endangered, threatened, and special concern wildlife species will be protected. • The Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) will be checked prior to all timber sales, ground- breaking projects, and recreational and trail development.
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>The timber harvests (Bass Bay, High Line, Block House, and River Drive) which were completed in 2009, were the primary land management activity which had the most impact on wildlife populations. These harvests were established in consultation with a wildlife biologist. The specific master plan management activities which occurred were:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Large, full crowned trees with dens and cavities as well as dead trees (snags) were maintained.</i> • <i>Individuals of all endangered, threatened, and special concern wildlife species were protected.</i> • <i>The NHI was consulted prior to timber harvest establishment.</i> • <i>Long-lived trees such as red oak, white pine, and red pine were maintained in clearcuts to provide for species and stand composition diversity.</i> • <i>All non-forested wetlands, including Northern Sedge Meadows, Shrub-Carr, Boreal Rich Fen, and Open Bogs were protected.</i>

Fisheries Management

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES</p>	<p>Cool Water Lakes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a quality harvest as well as trophy opportunities. • Regularly assess the health of these waters and their fisheries. <p>Warm Water Lakes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a quality harvest. • Provide catch and release fishing opportunities. • Regularly assess the health of these waters and their fishery. <p>Cold Water Streams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance a self-sustaining trout fishery. Improve the food supply, provide cover, and improve spawning substrates. • Provide a quality harvest as well as trophy opportunities. • Regularly assess the health of these waters and their fishery. <p>Warm Water Streams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodically assess the health of these waters and their fishery.
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<p>Management Activities</p>	<p>Cool Water Lakes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to conduct creel, electrofishing, and netting surveys to statewide monitoring guidelines. Make the results available to the public. • Set fishing regulations to provide a quality harvest as well as trophy opportunities. Evaluate the regulations to ensure the desired response is occurring in the fishery • .Stock muskellunge, walleye and trout species on suitable waters that have recruitment problems. <p>Warm Water Lakes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to conduct creel, electrofishing, and netting surveys to statewide monitoring guidelines. Make the results available to the public. • Set fishing regulations to provide a quality harvest as well as trophy opportunities. Evaluate the regulations to ensure the desired response is occurring in the fishery. <p>Cold Water Streams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to conduct creel, electrofishing, and netting surveys to statewide monitoring guidelines. Make the results available to the public. • Continue stocking the Peshtigo River fly fish area (five mile stretch below Johnson Falls Dam site) with trout species. • Maintain existing trout habitat structures, and perform new traditional in-stream trout habitat improvements as staff and money allow. • Maintain the special regulation category 5 trout waters between Johnson Falls and Sandstone Flowage. • Set fishing regulations to provide a quality harvest as well as trophy opportunities. Evaluate the regulations to ensure the desired response is occurring in the fishery. • Conduct beaver control as necessary (limit dams that slow water flow and increase water temperatures). <p>Warm Water Streams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to conduct creel, electrofishing, and netting surveys to statewide monitoring guidelines. Make the results available to the public.
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>Some of the fisheries master plan objectives were attained by <u>informing</u> the public of the fishing regulations and by <u>enforcing</u> the regulations. Fishing regulations, along with special walleye and musky regulations were posted at boat landings. Special regulations were posted in the Fly Fishing Area. Law enforcement personnel did patrol to enforce fishing regulations. Other than education and enforcement, the following fish stocking did occur: 500 walleye into Bagley Flowage, 2500 walleye into High Falls Flowage, and 1000 musky into Caldron Falls Flowage. The following master plan objectives were met:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provide a quality harvest with trophy opportunities</i> • <i>Provide catch and release opportunities.</i>

Recreation Management

<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVE</p>	<p>Provide a range of camping opportunities by maintaining and upgrading existing camping facilities and by establishing new or enhanced facilities including primitive canoe camping, primitive water camping, rustic family camping, indoor group camping, and equestrian camping.</p>
<p>Management Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add 15 non-electric campsites at Old Veteran's Lake. • Develop one indoor group camp for Seymour Rapid's area. • Renovate remote, non-electric primitive canoe campsites. • Build 9 new non-electric primitive water campsites on Johnson Falls Flowage and the river. • Develop a non-electric equestrian campground west of High Falls Reservoir and east of Parkway Road.
<p>Accomplishments 2007-2009</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Caldron Falls Campsites development project request was submitted on 9/28/07 to establish 3 sites on Caldron Falls Reservoir that will be open to campers by foot or by motor boat. In 2008, this project has not been funded. It is scheduled to receive funding in the 2011/2013 biennium. 2. The Johnson Falls Canoe Sites and Water Site development project request was submitted on 10-/03/07 to create 1 new primitive water campsite along the north shore of Johnson Falls Flowage that will be open to campers by foot or boat. This project will also relocate the existing 3 canoe campsites along Johnson Falls Flowage which are accessible by watercraft. In 2008, this project has not been funded. It is scheduled to receive funding in the 2011/2013 biennium. 3. The High Falls Water Campsites development project request was submitted on 9/28/07 to develop 5 sites on High Falls Reservoir. Four of the five sites will be located on islands in the southern portion of High Falls, and the 5th one will be located along the north shore of High Falls. In 2008, this project has not been funded. It is scheduled to receive funding in the 2011/2013 biennium. 4. The Indoor Group Camp development project request was submitted on 03/18/08. This is not scheduled to receive funding until the 2013/2015 biennium. This project will include a modern, yet rustic, indoor group camp available to rent by a variety of different groups of campers: skiers, anglers, hunters, church groups, Boy / Girl Scout groups, and families. 5. <i>Minor renovations were performed to the existing canoe campsites. The renovations include the addition of more toilets, the addition of privacy walls on the toilets, better signage, and brush clearing.</i>
<p>MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVE</p>	<p>Provide areas for day uses such as picnicking, boating, swimming as well as passive recreational activities by maintaining and upgrading existing facilities and by establishing two new day use areas—one on High Falls Reservoir and one on Caldron Falls Reservoir.</p>
<p>Management Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop East Bay day use area on High Falls Flowage. • Develop Musky Point Day use area on Caldron Falls Flowage.

**Accomplishments
2007-2009**

No accomplishments to report for 2007.
1. The **Musky Point Day Use Area** development project request was submitted on 02/12/08. This project will include a renovated boat landing, a day use area complete with drinking water, vault toilets, a picnic shelter, a beach and picnic area. This project is scheduled to receive funding in the 2009/2011 biennium.

**MASTER PLAN
OBJECTIVE**

Provide access to the waters of the Peshtigo River and its reservoirs by maintaining and upgrading the existing boat landings and canoe access points.

Management Activities

BOAT LANDING	PARKING CHANGE	FACILITIES**	LAUNCH APPROACH	DOCK
Landing 1	Reconfigure existing lot	Vault Toilet, fishing pier	Paved Approach	Yes
Landing 2	Reconfigure existing lot	N/A	No change	No
Landing 3	Reconfigure existing lot, Add 30 spaces	Water, Vault toilets	Paved approach	Yes
Landing 4	Reconfigure existing lot	N/A	Paved Approach	Yes
Landing 5	Reconfigure existing lot; add 20 space lot	Vault toilet, water	Paved Approach	Yes
Landing 6	No change to existing lot	N/A	Paved Approach	Yes
Landing 7	Reconfigure existing lot; add new 20 space lot	Vault toilet, water, fishing pier	Paved Approach	Yes
Landing 8	Reconfigure existing lot	Vault toilet, water	Renovate ramp, pave approach & launch	Yes
***Landing 9	Reconfigure current parking to the west	Vault toilet, water, fishing pier	Reposition to the west and pave	Yes
Landing 10	Reconfigure existing lot	N/A	Paved approach	Yes
Landing 11	Reconfigure existing lot	Vault toilet, water	Renovate and pave approach & launch ramp	Yes
Landing 12	No changes to existing lot	Vault toilet, changing rooms, water	Renovate and pave launch ramp	No
Landing 14	Reconfigure existing lot	Fishing pier	Renovate and pave approach & launch ramp	Yes
Peshtigo	Reconfigure existing lot	N/A	Renovate and pave approach & launch ramp	Yes
Potato Rapids	Reconfigure existing lot; add 10 new spaces	Fishing pier	Renovate and pave approach & launch ramp	Yes
Medicine Brook	Reconfigure existing lot	N/A	Add canoe slide	No
Seymour Rapids	Reconfigure existing lot	N/A	Renovate existing canoe take out and put in	No
Spring Rapids	Reconfigure existing lot; add 5 new spaces	N/A	Renovate existing canoe take out	No

** N/A = none available

*** Included as part of day use area

**Accomplishments
2007-2009**

All water access sites were maintained in 2007, but no upgrades have yet occurred.
1. In 2008, all water access sites continued to receive annual maintenance and minor repairs as needed.
2. The **Musky Point Day Use Area** development project request was submitted on 02/12/08. This includes renovation to the boat landing consisting of a new boat launch, boat boarding dock, 30 car / trailer parking lot, vault toilets and drinking water. This project is scheduled to receive funding in the 2009/2011

	<p>biennium.</p> <p>3. In 2009, all water access sites continued to receive annual maintenance and minor repairs as needed.</p> <p>4. A capital development project was submitted in May 2009 to renovate boat landing #5. Renovation includes a dual-lane boat launch, boarding dock 30 car/trailer parking lot, vault toilets and drinking water. This project is scheduled to receive funding in the 13/15 biennium.</p> <p>5. The Potato Rapids boat landing was renovated in the fall of 2009. Renovation included new launch planks, concrete approaches and sides, a picnic table and fire ring. Renovation continued into 2010.</p>
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MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVE	Provide a system of non-motorized recreational trails by maintaining, and in some cases enhancing, existing trails and by the establishment of new trails and trail segments
Management Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing hiking trails and portages. • Add new primitive hiking trails around Caldron Falls, High Falls and Potato Rapids Flowages. • Add a self guided, accessible interpretive trail at Old Veterans Lake Campground. • Provide up to 25 miles of designated equestrian trails and trailhead with vault toilet. • Adjust the Spring Rapids cross country ski trail to avoid creek crossing conflicts, and add up to 5 miles of trail to connect the Spring Rapids and Seymour Rapids ski trails. • Cross Country ski trailheads will be upgraded and added to both trail systems.
Accomplishments 2007-2009	<p>1. All existing non-motorized recreational trails were maintained, including XC ski trails, hiking trails, and portages.</p> <p>2. No accomplishments to report on new non-motorized trails for 2007.</p> <p>3. In 2008, all existing non-motorized recreational trails were maintained, including cross-country ski trails, hiking trails and canoe portages.</p> <p>4. The Seymour Rapids Trailhead development project was submitted on 03/28/2008. This project includes a designated parking lot, drinking water and vault toilets. This project is scheduled to receive funding in the 2013/2015 biennium.</p> <p>5. In 2009, all existing non-motorized recreational trails were maintained, including cross-country ski trails, hiking trails and canoe portages.</p> <p>6. New trail signage and a bench were added to the Spring Rapids Trail System, In addition the ski trail brochure was updated in 2009.</p> <p>7. A capital development project was submitted in 02/09 for an accessible interpretive trail at Old Veteran's Lake Campground. This project will feature a 1 mile accessible trail with interpretive signage. This project is scheduled to receive funding in the 13/15 biennium.</p> <p>8. The Sweet Fern Trail at Old Veteran's Lake Campground was developed. This will be the future accessible trail, it is not accessible at this time, but is open for hikers. Trail signage and a bench were added.</p>

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MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVE	Maintain designated motorized recreation trails, All-Terrain, and snowmobile trails at existing levels. Establish new connector routes and re-routes of existing trails as needed to more efficiently connect to regional trail networks.
Management Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-route a minor portion of the snowmobile trail system in the SE corner of the Fly Fishing Area. • Maintain the existing 20 miles of winter only ATV use on snowmobile trails designated for ATV use. • Maintain the existing 1 mile of spring, summer and fall ATV trail. • Cooperate with federal and local governments, private landowners and other interested parties in a public planning process to evaluate potential future ATV trail connector(s) that support a regional trail network.
Accomplishments 2008-2009	<p><i>In 2008, existing snowmobile and ATV trails were maintained by the clubs using funds designated for that purpose. Also, in 2008, the initial meeting was held to address the master plan objective of cooperating with federal and local governments, private landowners and other interested parties in a public planning process to evaluate potential future ATV trail connectors that support a regional trail network. This initial meeting included large landowners, such as the US Forest Service, Peshtigo River State Forest, Marinette County Forest, Oconto County Forest, and the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. The intent was to begin discussions with these large landowners to see what the possibility was of using newly designated ATV trails on USFS land to connect the trails south of the state forest with those to the north. The outcome of this initial meeting was that USFS land could be utilized and state forest land could be utilized if it was needed to complete a functioning regional connector trail, and the Natural Resources Board would approve it. However, other lands are needed beyond the federal and state lands to complete the connector trail. Meetings will be continued into 2009 to engage officials of the Towns of Lakewood, Silver Cliff, and Stephenson to determine if town roads and county roads can be used to help complete the connection.</i></p> <p><i>In 2009, existing snowmobile and ATV trails were maintained by the clubs using funds designated for that purpose. Also, in 2009, meetings continued to discuss and evaluate the proposed ATV connector trail in the NW part of the state forest. The final meeting that occurred in 2009, included ATV club representatives who were given a report of the findings of the large landowners. The basic findings included the following:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. The USFS has approved a trail which can be used for ATV's and terminates at state forest land in the NW part of the forest.</i> <i>2 State forest land could be used to help complete the trail connection if all the proper DNR approvals are obtained, however the DNR will not seek approvals until each segment of the trail is approved by the entity that controls it.</i> <i>3. In order to complete the connection, town roads, County Highway C, and possibly private lands are needed. It is not the DNR's role to seek these approvals.</i>

	<p><i>At the close of 2009, discussions were on hold for this particular connector trail. Discussions could resume at any time if stakeholders have an interest and are able to complete connections on privately owned non-DNR land. The DNR will also consider other options where a short segment of state forest land provides a critical connection for regional trails.</i></p>
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MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Maintain and support traditional outdoor sporting activities such as hunting, trapping and fishing, and enhance existing boat landings, access points, and other facilities.
Accomplishments 2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Traditional outdoor sporting activities such as hunting, trapping, and fishing were maintained, enforced and supported, although no specific enhancements can be reported.</i> <i>2. Enhancements to existing boat landings, access points, and other facilities are reported elsewhere in this report.</i>

Road Management

MASTER PLAN DESCRIPTION	The Department managed roadways within the Peshtigo River State Forest will be maintained in part according to requirements from the Best Management Practices for Water Quality:
Management Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly inspect active roads (especially after heavy rainfall). Clear debris from culverts, ditches, dips and other drainage structures to decrease clogging that can lead to washouts. • Keep traffic to a minimum during wet periods and spring breakup to reduce maintenance needs. • Shape road surfaces periodically to maintain proper surface drainage and remove berms on the edge of the road that trap water. • When dust control agents are used, apply them in a way that will keep them from entering lakes, streams and groundwater.
Accomplishments 2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Roads were inspected and maintained following BMP's for Water Quality.</i> <i>2. A private contractor was hired to make repairs to the Medicine Brook and Seymour Rapids Road in 2009. Those two roads, in addition to Spring Rapids Road were closed during the spring breakup season to protect them from vehicle damage.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<p>All management activities on Class A, B, and C roads will follow the guidelines established in the Silviculture and Forest Aesthetics Handbook (WDNR 1995).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aesthetic management considerations predominate along Class A roads. These areas should be
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	<p>developed and maintained in the forest environment to the greatest scenic potential for public enjoyment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain scenic attractiveness in balance with other management objectives for adjacent lands. • The appropriate scenic management treatments for each Class B roadway will be determined by the Peshtigo River State Forest Superintendent on a case-by-case basis as management activities are scheduled. • The specific aesthetic management objective and the appropriate scenic management treatments for each Class C roadway will be determined by the Peshtigo River State Forest Superintendent on a case-by-case basis as management activities are scheduled.
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>The Bass Bay Timber Sale was harvested. Parkway Road, Boat Landing 2 Road, and Boat Landing 1 Road were involved. Much of the harvest area was a thinning of red pine plantations which look aesthetically pleasing because 2/3 of the trees still remain after thinning. A different part of the harvest area was a scrub oak clearcut, which may be less pleasing to the public in the short term, but will look nicer in the long term because long lived pines will be planted to replace the dying scrub oak which was there. Also, an island of natural red pine was left along Parkway Road to add visual appeal.</i></p> <p><i>The High Line Timber Sale was harvested. Newton Lake Road and the Medicine Brook Public Access Road were involved. Since the actual oak clearcut was ¼ mile from Newton Lake Road, most of the public do not see it across a cornfield, however, for those who do see it, it looks aesthetically pleasing because towering oak reserve trees were left scattered across the cut. Along the Medicine Brook Public Access Road, much dead and dying scrub oak was clearcut, and very little could be done here to mitigate the visual impact. In the long run, the young oak and maple which grow back will look better than the dead and dying oak.</i></p> <p><i>The Block House Timber Sale was harvested. County Forest Road 1634 and the Seymour Rapids Public Access Road were involved. The harvest area next to these roads was total tree harvested for tree planting purposes, however, removing all the slash does make it more aesthetically pleasing than if it had not been removed. In the long run, the planted pine will look nice to the public eye.</i></p> <p><i>River Drive Timber Sale was harvested. Only River Drive was involved in this sale, and since the timber along it was a red pine thinning, the forest still looks aesthetically pleasing since 2/3 of the trees still remain.</i></p>

Real Estate Management

Forest Boundary Expansion

<p>MASTER PLAN DESCRIPTION</p>	<p>Expanding into the area immediately adjacent to the current boundary provides additional protection to lands flanking the Peshtigo River and the waterway itself. New public access points and regional trail linkages could be established.</p>
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>No new lands were acquired in this acquisition area, therefore no master plan objectives were met.</i></p>

<p>MASTER PLAN DESCRIPTION</p>	<p>Acquiring land along the river corridor to the northwest of the current boundary completes the protection of more than 50 miles of the upper Peshtigo River corridor, as well as protects a unique and highly prized section of fast-moving water, Roaring Rapids. This creates a large continuous block of state, county and National Forest land along the river.</p>
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>No new lands were acquired in this acquisition area, therefore no master plan objectives were met, however, negotiations continued for the purchase of a 485 acre tract of land, which was appraised for purchase in 2008. No other landowners were contacted because funds were being directed to the potential 485 acre purchase.</i></p>

<p>MASTER PLAN DESCRIPTION</p>	<p>Expanding the boundary to the north maintains a large block of continuous forest land. It also blocks state-owned forest land with county owned forest land to create a larger, continuous block of public ownership. Additionally this provides increased protection of the Eagle Creek watershed flowing into the Peshtigo River.</p>
<p>Accomplishments 2009</p>	<p><i>No new lands were acquired in this acquisition area, therefore no master plan objectives were met. Landowners were not contacted because funds were being directed to the potential purchase of a large 485 acre tract in the NW area.</i></p>

MASTER PLAN DESCRIPTION	Obtaining additional land to the west of the current boundary increases protection of the Thunder River—a major tributary of the Peshtigo River—and provides an important buffer around Governor Thompson State Park. Additionally, acquisition of this area connects state and federal forest land in Oconto County.
Accomplishments 2009	<i>No new lands were acquired in this acquisition area, therefore no master plan objectives were met. Landowners were not contacted because funds were being directed to the potential purchase of a large 485 acre tract in the NW area.</i>

MASTER PLAN DESCRIPTION	Acquiring supplemental land in the Potato Rapids area maintains a larger block of continuous forest land and establishes an easily recognizable boundary, Highway E. It also provides additional watershed protection and improved public access to the existing Potato Rapids portion of the forest.
Accomplishments 2009	<i>No new lands were acquired in this acquisition area, therefore no master plan objectives were met. Landowners were not contacted because funds were being directed to the potential purchase of a large 485 acre tract in the NW area.</i>

Administration and Operations

MASTER PLAN DESCRIPTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or renovated recreational facilities will be designed according to state building codes, Department design standards and codes and the Americans with Disabilities Act. • The Forest Superintendent may close and relocate campsites, renovate facilities, and relocate trail segments as deemed necessary. • The Forest Superintendent may maintain and construct storage buildings, employee housing, and/or other similar facilities to support the management of the state forest. • The Forest Superintendent may close a road to public use if it becomes degraded, causing unsafe conditions for public vehicles. • All facilities will comply with federal, state, and local health and sanitation codes; such as well testing, campground licensing and wastewater treatment. • The Forest Superintendent may close campsites or campgrounds, trails, and other facilities on the forest when necessary due to health, safety, or environmental damage concerns. • Within designated public use areas trees or other natural elements that are deemed public hazards will be removed. Safety inspections are done at least twice per year. • Wildfires, timber diseases and insect infestations shall be controlled to the degree appropriate to protect the values of each management area. • The WDNR and WPSC have individual roles and responsibilities for managing the Peshtigo River
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	Flowages and will continue to consult regularly to maintain clear understanding of their management roles and objectives.
Accomplishments 2009	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Well water and beach water were tested per manual code. 2. Vault toilets were pumped as needed. 3. Designated use areas were inspected for safety and hazardous trees removed 4. WDNR attended the annual meeting with WPSC to discuss FERC related management issues.

Public Communications Plan

MASTER PLAN DESCRIPTION	The public and other governments will be provided opportunities to have an on-going involvement in the application of this master plan.
Management Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annually the Forest Superintendent will issue a report that summarizes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For the past year, the primary management and development activities that were completed and other significant issues that were addressed. ○ For the following year, outline any proposed management and development activities and any changing management actions or approaches. • The Peshtigo River State Forest Superintendent will consult at least annually with the Mole Lake Band as well as the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission on state forest management issues related to their treaty rights. • Internal partner and external stakeholder meetings will be held annually to discuss past and future management activities.
Accomplishments 2009	<i>The annual stakeholders report was produced and distributed, and the annual stakeholders meeting was held. Reports were sent to the Mole Lake Band and GLIFWC and they were also invited to the annual meeting.</i>