

# Preliminary Goal Statements

## Ecological Management

Provide extensive areas of grassland and oak savanna habitats to support the significant grassland and shrubland bird populations. Restore and enhance the ecological transition zone between the Baraboo Hills and the Wisconsin River to promote quality habitat for desirable game and non-game species, including rare and special concern species.

## Suggestions

Please provide suggestions on how you think we can better address this use and other recommendations related to this issue.

Ensure that the property is managed with the intent to create and sustain a truly native grassland. Including properly using management techniques such as burning to promote diversity and quantity within the vegetation, along with managing for wildlife (game and non-game).

## Recreation

Provide for public recreation that complements and fulfills regional needs while providing opportunities that draw users past significant cultural and natural points of interest as well as aesthetic vistas.

## Suggestions

Please provide suggestions on how you think we can better address this use and other recommendations related to this issue.

Fulfilling regional needs is a broad and overarching goal. It seems that the land cultural and natural attributes may be its most significant. An honest analysis of region opportunities may result in a realization that additions such as a trail and a gun range may not truly be an immediate need of the people. It may show that what has been and should be a beautiful natural area may provide many of the desired recreational opportunities while maintaining the integrity of a grassland.

### Cultural Resource Preservation

Identify and preserve significant sites that contribute to the property's storyline from geological history, Native American life, Euro-American settlement, and the design, operation and decommissioning of the Badger Army Ammunitions Plant.

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#### Suggestions

Please provide suggestions on how you think we can better address this use and other recommendations related to this issue.

Cultural history is significant in both education and tourism. Allowing for these opportunities while still striving for the goals stated in the vision statement is of utmost importance.

### Education and Interpretation

Provide interpretive and educational opportunities focusing upon natural history, restoration efforts, and the impacts of human uses. Integrate education and research related to restoration and conservation land use activities.

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#### Suggestions

Please provide suggestions on how you think we can better address this use and other recommendations related to this issue.

Joining this piece of property with Devil's Lake provides one of the most diverse ecological and geological places in the area. ~~The~~ The education opportunities it presents are endless.

# Please provide your thoughts on the following:

You may also submit your answers to these questions through our website at - <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/saukprairie/>

## What do you like about each alternative?

### No Action Alternative:

Limited human impact

### Ecological Restoration Emphasis:

The chance to experiment, learn, and restore a natural grassland while still providing recreation through NBA's. This draft to me provides fun and meets the most residential need.

### Outdoor Recreation Emphasis:

The opportunities for education along with low impact activities  
(Not the Spectator use zone)

Are there elements of the alternatives that concern you? Please explain.

### No Action Alternative:

All ~~prairie~~ properties need management, if this land is allowed to grow as it is now a great chance for large scale restoration is lost.

### Ecological Restoration Emphasis:

**Outdoor Recreation Emphasis:**

The Special Use Zone, this property doesn't need a gun range. Also Devils Lake has all the amenities listed in the draft within a few miles of protected site.

**Do you think the range of alternatives is complete? Are there things we have missed or overlooked?**

A combination of both the outdoor recreation and Ecological Restoration draft may provide the most logical management opportunity. IF and only if the Special use zone is eliminated

**Do you have any other comments or concerns you would like the planning team to take into consideration?**

# Preliminary Vision

The vision is a concise, broad statement describing the general desired future state and function of a property. It is not quantified and is timeless. The vision must be consistent with the property's statutory direction, NRB policies, division and program strategic plans and other appropriate guidance regarding the property's purpose.

## **Preliminary Vision Statement:**

The Sauk Prairie Recreation Area contributes important areas of grassland habitat needed to reconstruct and experience a natural mosaic of prairie-savanna-woodland at a landscape scale. Directly adjacent to Devils Lake State Park, it serves as an ecological transition from the Baraboo Hills to the Wisconsin River, and creates a recreational corridor that enhances and complements regional recreation opportunities. The site's significant history is incorporated into the management and interpretation of the natural, agricultural, historical and cultural resources.

## **Suggestions**

Please provide suggestions on how you think we can better address the property vision and other recommendations related to this issue.

This area is a terrific addition to Devil's Lake and the River Conservancy. Let's commit to restoring and healing the land. A great expanse of prairie and woods will be a wonderful resource for the whole Midwest. We need to think long range here, creating a resource for many generations

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### Suggestions

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We could engage with community groups like Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H, church youth groups to help with prairie restoration. Or have local groups and individuals adopt specific areas for maintenance and restoration. Maybe organize a "Friends of SPRA" group. Or join with The Leopold Foundation as an outdoor classroom.

## Recreation

Provide for public recreation that complements and fulfills regional needs while providing opportunities that draw users past significant cultural and natural points of interest as well as aesthetic vistas.

### Suggestions

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Make hiking and cycling trails, maybe horse trails. Maybe primitive camping + some picnic areas. A visitor center would be nice, telling geology, human history, ecology, etc. Like it is at Devils Lake

**Cultural Resource Preservation**

Identify and preserve significant sites that contribute to the property's storyline from geological history, Native American life, Euro-American settlement, and the design, operation and decommissioning of the Badger Army Ammunitions Plant.

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**Suggestions**

Please provide suggestions on how you think we can better address this use and other recommendations related to this issue.

Could the HoChunk Nation create a museum to show their history, up to the present? Label significant trees + plants + tell the story of the cemeteries.

The Badger History Group has some great exhibits.

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**Education and Interpretation**

Provide interpretive and educational opportunities focusing upon natural history, restoration efforts, and the impacts of human uses. Integrate education and research related to restoration and conservation land use activities.

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**Suggestions**

Please provide suggestions on how you think we can better address this use and other recommendations related to this issue.

Encourage school trips, have teacher materials sent out to surrounding school districts. Maybe recruit volunteer tour guides for school groups. Put on classes in prairie restoration and management of invasive species. Run some programs with The Leopold Foundation.

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What do you like about each alternative?

**No Action Alternative:** Not much to like here, the whole place would be wild parsnips and burdock without some maintenance.

**Ecological Restoration Emphasis:** This would help heal the land and it would benefit birds + wildlife, but it misses the opportunity to introduce the public to the prairie + its beauty.

**Outdoor Recreation Emphasis:**

Keep it quiet and make the uses compatible with each other + with nesting birds. Keep the restoration + conservation parts, and education, too. This option gets more people out on the prairie

Are there elements of the alternatives that concern you? Please explain.

**No Action Alternative:** Not enough opportunity for the public to enjoy the property. Wastes a great opportunity for education.

**Ecological Restoration Emphasis:**

Again, not enough public involvement. People need peaceful open spaces to re-create themselves.

**Outdoor Recreation Emphasis:**

This is fine if we leave out the special interest groups & their high-impact sports. They would be disruptive to all the other uses.

**Do you think the range of alternatives is complete? Are there things we have missed or overlooked?**

You have covered it if you will tweak the plans, keep all the restoration, conservation and education options and then include lots of quiet, low-impact uses for people like hiking, bird watching, picnicking, cycling, etc.

**Do you have any other comments or concerns you would like the planning team to take into consideration?**

We have an amazing opportunity here to make a great gift to the future, to our grandchildren and to the prairie ecosystem. Let's not cave in to destructive uses of this magnificent property. Thank you.

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## **Suggestions**

*Please provide suggestions on how you think we can better address the property vision and other recommendations related to this issue.*

ADOPT ALTERNATIVE #4.

Outdoor Recreation Emphasis: OF CONCERN:  
ATV'S / UTV'S / CROSS COUNTRY MOTORCYCLES  
SHOOTING RANGE

Do you think the range of alternatives is complete? Are there things we have missed or overlooked?

ADOPT ALTERNATIVE # 4

Do you have any other comments or concerns you would like the planning team to take into consideration?

NO ATV'S / UTV'S / CC MOTORCYCLES  
SHOOTING RANGES  
NOT TO BE ALLOWED ON FORMER  
BADGER PROPERTY

CONSIDER & ADOPT ALTERNATIVE # 4