Property Identifiers

Property Name and Designation: Trempealeau Lakes Fishery Area
County: Trempealeau
Property Acreage: 170
Forestry Property Code(s): 6201
Master Plan Date: Concept Element Document – 1983.

Part 1: Property Assessment (1-2 pages maximum)

The following items should be considered during the property assessment. Not all sections may be relevant for all properties.

General Property Description
- Landscape and regional context
- History of land use and past management

The Trempealeau Lakes Fishery Area (TLFA) is a state-owned property with the primary objectives of providing fishing, hunting and trapping opportunities. TLFA is located in southern Trempealeau County near the Village of Trempealeau. The FA provides public access to Second and Third Lakes and ultimately to Round Lake and other backwaters and main channel of the Mississippi River. These are warm-water fisheries featuring a variety of fish species. However, panfish, bass, and pike are the main species sought by recreational anglers. The entire TLFA lies within the Western Coulee and Ridges Ecological Landscape and Second and Third Lakes are considered an “Area of Special Natural Resource Interest” (ASNRI).

In 1954, the TLFA was established by the Wisconsin Conservation Commission. The State of Wisconsin purchased the property in 1955 with financial assistance from the Trempealeau County Associated Sportsmen Clubs. The Town of Trempealeau board of Supervisors passed a resolution in favor of buying the land a year prior to its acquisition. The property was purchased to acquire permanent access to the Trempealeau Lakes area for hunting, fishing, trapping, and to assure preservation of wildlife habitat. At the time of sale, the property was transferred to the Division of Fish Management for administration. The acreage goal and boundary was not established at that time for the property, but were authorized on December 11, 1969, by the Natural Resources Board. The entire FA is fee-title land and total acreage is 176.

Several management practices have been completed on the acquired lands. The entrance road extended to Second and Third Lake were blacktopped and the remaining roads, excluding the trail on the north side of Third Lake, were developed with crushed rock. Due to periodic flooding, plans are in place to blacktop more road surface area. Trempealeau County Associated Clubs financed and built a 28’ x 16’ enclosed shelter house near the upper boat landing on Third Lake. Two boat landings were built on Third Lake and one on Second Lake. Both have associated developed parking lots. There is also a handicap accessible fishing pier in Second Lake. Portable toilets are placed annually on the property. Portions of the 3.1 mile boundary have been fenced and the entire boundary posted with public hunting and fishing signage. A large, wooden fishery area sign is placed at the entrance to the property. Portions of the 45 acres of open fields...
were periodically sharecropped until 1976. Two small fields were converted to intensive forest management areas in 1979 and planted to white pine. These areas received their first thinning in 2009. Every third row of trees was harvested. The large field north of Third Lake was seeded to prairie species in 1977 to produce dense wildlife nesting cover. Controlled burns are conducted periodically to manage the prairie.

Beaver activity is common throughout the Fishery Area. Periodic removal of beaver dams and trapping are necessary to prevent damage.

PROPERTY CONTEXT/LANDSCAPE

Trempealeau Lakes is located in the Western Coulee and Ridges Ecological Landscape which is typified by highly eroded, unglaciated topography with steep sided valleys and ridges and high gradient streams with dendritic drainage patterns.

The Western Coulee and Ridges Ecological Landscape is a mosaic of forest, cropland, and grassland with wetlands mostly in the river valleys. Primary forest cover is oak and hickory. Maple and basswood forests, dominated by sugar maple, basswood, and red maple, are common in areas that were not burned frequently. Bottomland hardwoods, dominated by silver maple, swamp white oak, river birch, ashes, elms and cottonwood, are common within the floodplains of the larger rivers. Dry rocky bluffs may support xeric stands of native white pine, sometimes mixed with red or even jack pine.

Prairies are now restricted to steep south or west facing bluffs, unplowed outwash terraces along the large rivers, and a few other sites. They occupy far less than 1% of the current landscape. Mesic tallgrass prairies are now virtually nonexistent except as very small remnants along rights-of-way or in cemeteries.

Contextually, this property is located in an area fragmented by wetlands and water bodies, as well as agriculture, and is adjacent to the Mississippi River.

WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN/SPECIES OF GREATEST CONSERVATION NEED

At least 2 priority natural community types are listed in the document that the property contains; Floodplain Forest and Warmwater River.

Priority Species of Greatest Conservation Need for the WCREL associated with Floodplain Forest and Warmwater River include; Blanding’s Turtle, Cerulean, Red-shouldered Hawk, Wood Thrush, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Northern Long-eared Bat, Blue-winged Warbler, Black Buffalo, Blue Sucker, Bluntnose Darter, Crystal Darter, Gilt Darter, Goldeye, Greater Redhorse, Lake Chubsucker, Lake Sturgeon, Paddlefish, Pallid Shiner, Pugnose Shiner, River Redhorse, Shoal Chub, Starhead Topminnow, Western Sand Darter, and Midland Smooth Softshell Turtle.

CONSERVATION OPPORTUNITY AREA
The property is located within the “Mississippi River Bluffs and Floodplain” Conservation Opportunity Area and is of continental significance for its Driftless area features.  

NATURAL HERITAGE INVENTORY (NHI)/RARE SPECIES

- Natural Heritage Inventory screenings will be conducted prior to all management for both rare species and natural community types. Currently there are a number of rare species known from the general area. Negative impacts to these species will be avoided by following DNR’s Species Guidance Documents: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/guidance.asp.

In cases where species guidance documents haven't yet been developed, avoidance to rare species will occur via practices such as time of year restrictions, modified harvest boundaries, and/or consultation with rare species experts.

HIGHVALUE CONSERVATION FORESTS (HVCF) OR OTHER RESOURCES/NATURAL COMMUNITY TYPES LIMITED IN THE LANDSCAPE

None

BIOTIC INVENTORY STATUS

NR 44 compliant Biotic Inventory is complete: 
http://intranet.dnr.state.wi.us/int/land/er/nhi/reports/DAStreams_Report_FINAL_int.pdf

CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES (INCLUDING TRIBAL SITES)

The Fishery Area has Archeological sites located within its boundaries. Contact with the State Historical Society is required prior to any activities near known sites.

RECREATIONAL USE

Fishing, hunting, and trapping are the primary recreational uses of the property. Access is provided by a system of roads and trails with associated boat landings and parking lots.

Angling opportunities exist for a variety of warm-water species with panfish, bass, and northern pike the most sought after.
Hunting opportunities exist for whitetail deer, wild turkey, grouse, woodcock, squirrels, and waterfowl. Trapping opportunities exist for beaver and muskrats.
Other recreational uses:
INVASIVE SPECIES

Common Buckthorn, Bush Honeysuckle, and Moneywort are common throughout the property, along with lesser amounts of Garlic Mustard. Pre-harvest treatment of these invasive species will be critical in achieving viable natural regeneration in these stands.

SOILS

TLFA is located in the Driftless Area of Wisconsin and almost entirely within the nearly level alluvial plain of the Mississippi River. Predominant soil associations on the property are the wet alluvial land – marsh association and the Dickinson – Gotham – Sparta association. The wet alluvial land – marsh association consists of nearly level, poorly drained alluvial sediment and areas of shallow water on bottom lands. The majority of the property lies within this association. Flooding occurs in wet seasons. The Dickinson – Gotham – Sparta association is found in the nearly level river terrace and encompasses the area of the property lying east and north of Third Lake. This association is excessively drained and sandy.

Current Forest Types, Size Classes, and Successional Stages

Trempealeau Lakes Fishery Area has 142 forested acres (2019 reconnaissance) that are comprised of:

Bottomland Hardwoods, 121 acres (88%) - 100% is 83 years of age in the 15”+ size class.
White Pine, 16 acres (12%) -100% is 40 years old and are in 9-15” size class.

Trempealeau Lakes Fishery Area has 34 non-forested acres that are comprised of:

True Grass, 32 acres (94%).
Parking Area, 2 acres (6%).

Part 2: IFMP Components (1-2 pages maximum)

Forest Management Objectives:

This property is managed primarily for public recreation (public access to the Trempealeau Lakes) and wildlife habitat. Forest management objectives include maintaining existing forest types and developing a diversity of age classes both young and old for the benefit of game and non-game species. This will largely be accomplished through sustainable silvicultural systems that will increase the diversity and the structural complexity of wildlife habitat while at the same time avoiding disturbance to riparian areas. Regeneration harvests should focus on providing new age classes of oak and bottomland hardwoods. Pine plantings provide cover for wildlife and offer some aesthetic relief to the hardwood cover types. The pines will be thinned periodically to maintain optimal growth rates and vigor. When the pines become mature they will be harvested and re-planted.
1. Maintain bottomland hardwood cover types where feasible.
   a. Diversify age classes with an emphasis on developing younger cohorts.
   b. Promote oak in bottomland hardwood stands.

   a. Promote large crowned trees for wildlife and aesthetics.

3. Maintain grass cover type

4. All stands
   a. Consider treatment options to control invasive species and ensure natural regeneration.

**BOTTOMLAND HARDWOODS** – Uneven-aged management via the group selection method would be most appropriate in these stands. Canopy openings will be created through group removals with the balance of the area being thinned from below following the standard order of removal. River birch accounts for a significant portion of the basal area in these stands. Water quality BMP’s and access constraints are also a factor given braided channels, sloughs and ox-bows within the bottoms and floodplain. Any harvesting that does take place will strictly be frozen ground only. Pre-sale invasive species treatment will be necessary in order to successfully recruit natural regeneration.

**CONIFERS** – Thin plantations every 8 to 10 years (beginning in 2020) or when stocking warrants to maintain healthy, vigorous stands. Leave dead and dying pines for cavity and nesting birds and for coarse woody debris. The understory in these plantings is currently dominated by common buckthorn. Pre-sale herbicide application will be necessary to reduce/eliminate buckthorn and prevent any further spread into adjacent bottomland hardwoods.

**ALL STANDS:**
- Utilize BMP’s for Water Quality to protect streams and wetlands when conducting timber sales.
- Identify invasive plant species and implement control practices such as prescribed fire, hand pulling, chemical and mechanical control to eliminate or reduce negative impacts.
- Utilize BMP’s for Invasive Species to help limit the introduction and spread of invasive species when conducting timber sales.
- Retain reserve/legacy trees as groups or individuals throughout the property within harvested stands.
- Follow DNR's Species Guidance Documents: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/EndangeredResources/guidance.asp. to protect rare species. In cases where species guidance documents haven't yet been developed,
avoidance to rare species will occur via practices such as time of year restrictions, modified harvest boundaries, and/or consultation with rare species experts.

- Identify and protect any Archeological or Historical sites prior to management activities and plan.

Prescriptions shown for the properties below reflect planning through WisFIRS. These prescriptions may not all be completed, depending on if the stand develops slower than expected or if the maximum allowable cut for the Jackson and Trempealeau ‘Other State Lands’ properties is already exceeded.

**Trempealeau Lakes Fisheries Area – Property # 6201:**

2019: Comp. 1 Stand 1—60 acres of invasive plant control
    Comp. 1 Stand 2—16 acres of invasive plant control

2020: Comp. 1 Stand 1—60 acres of group selection harvesting
    Comp. 1 Stand 2—16 acres of white pine thinning

2024: Comp. 1 Stand 1—60 acres of invasive plant control

2025: Comp. 1 Stand 1—60 acres of group selection harvesting

**Summary of Public Involvement and Comments Received**

The public had the opportunity to review and comment on the IFMP from April 30 to May 13, 2019. No public comments were received.

**Approvals:**

[Signatures and dates]

Regional Ecologist

Forester

Property Manager

Area/Team Supervisor
Legend

- Stand/Property Boundaries
- Gate

Scale 1:10,000
Date: 3/28/2019

This map is not a survey or the actual property boundary of any property this map depicts.