



**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Tier 3 Management Plan**

Property Name: Wausaukee Stewardship Demonstration Forest

Property Designation or Type: Stewardship Demonstration Forest

DNR Property Code Number: 6975

Forestry Property Code: 3820

Property Location-County: NW1/4 SW1/4 Section 22, T34N-R21E, Town of Wausaukee,
Marinette County

Real Estate:

Fee acres owned: **38.00**

Easement acres owned: **None**

NRB approved acreage goal (land records): **NRB has not approved any additional
acreage.**

Map: See Page 6.

Property Manager: Dan Mertz

Address 1: **P.O. Box 199**

Address 2: **1025 Co. Hwy. C**

City, State, Zip: **Wausaukee, WI 54177**

Office Phone: **(715) 856-9153**

Approved by Natural Resources Board: Date: Oct. 29, 2014

A. Regional and Property Assessment

1.Landscape and Regional Context

The Wausaukee Stewardship Demonstration Forest is located in the Northeast Sands Ecological Landscape. The Land Type Association is 212Tc10 (Wausaukee Outwash Plains). There are no designated Conservation Opportunity Areas or Wisconsin Important Bird Areas associated with the property.

2.Ownership and Adjacent Land Uses

The property is surrounded on three sides by a large block of privately owned recreational land. The fourth side is bounded by a town road and smaller private tracts of generally 10 acres or less. The adjacent lands are a mixture of sandy, abandoned farm fields and upland forests.

3.General Property Description and Management History and Use

The property is a 38 acre tract of land which is primarily growing large, old white and red pine trees with an understory of white pine poles, saplings and seedlings in most areas. There is also a few acres of red pine which was planted in 1948 and has now grown into small sawtimber. The topography of the property is flat to gently rolling. The soils are sandy and there are no water resources. A woods road loops through the property and is connected to a town road which runs the entire length of the west side.

The State of Wisconsin acquired this tract from the federal government in November 1908. When acquired most of the tract was a pole sized stand of mixed pine, predominantly white pine, which probably originated around the time of the Peshtigo Fire. Historical records and ring counts on dominant trees following the 1984 harvest indicate a stand origin of approximately 1875.

From the time of acquisition (1908) until 1945, there are no records of any management activities being conducted on the property.

On March 16, 1945, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Wisconsin Conservation Department and the University of Wisconsin Extension Service. District Forester H.J. Hovind selected this tract as a Timber Harvest Forest for demonstration of potential farm forest production. The purpose of the Timber Harvest Forests, as stated in the 1945 MOU, was to provide publicly owned forest tracts on which "annual or at least biennial timber harvest field days will be the principal medium for demonstrating timber cropping, the maintenance of adequate growing stock and most profitable markets". The first field day was held in 1946, and field days continued to be held periodically until the 1960's.

The U.S. Forest Service became involved in the Timber Harvest Forest program in 1946 with the responsibility of silvicultural management and inventory of volume, growth and yield. The first Cooperative Agreement between all three partner agencies was signed in 1951 and this document reflected the initial focus on research. In the summer of 1948 Carl Arbogast Jr., from the Lake States Forest Experiment Station, established 20 permanent 1/5 acre growth plots.

A revised Memorandum of Understanding was developed in 1969 between the Department of Natural Resources, the University of Wisconsin Extension Service and the U.S. Forest Service. The new objective was to "demonstrate management practices and principles as they can be applied to privately owned forest lands in the state", including timber harvests, recreation, wildlife management, watershed protection, logging techniques, utilization, and marketing.

Approximately 15 timber harvests have occurred during the period of 1945 to 2014. Initially, the harvests consisted of a small volume of pine pulpwood due to the fact that the trees were small and immature. The harvests occurred in conjunction with field days to demonstrate to private landowners that forests could produce periodic harvests and provide income if properly managed. Due to various factors, field days did not occur through the 1970's and by 1980 it was decided that the pine sawtimber growing on the demonstration forest was not typical of the type of timber that most private landowners had on their properties, and therefore field days focusing on this type of timber were of limited value to private landowners. Field days were discontinued. Harvests occurring after 1980 were intended to properly manage the forest resource without including an active educational component. In 1990, the forest was redesignated as a "Stewardship Demonstration Forest" and new signage on the property promoted this concept. The public could tour the forest on their own and observe sustainable forestry taking place, but no formal field days were conducted, and this has been the case until the present (2014).

4.Land Management Cover Types

Most of the property contains white pine and red pine sawtimber with an understory of white pine seedlings and saplings. Three acres of red pine sawtimber was planted, and six acres has a secondary component of aspen. The climax tree species is white pine for the entire property, and most of the property is at this successional stage.

5.Endangered, Threatened, Special Concern Species or Habitats, and Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need

There are no listed or concern species on this property or any unique habitat types. This is a common forest community in this area.

6. Invasive Species

There are no known invasive species.

7. Cultural and Archaeological Features

There are no known cultural or archaeological features.

8. Public Uses and Infrastructure

The public uses this property for hunting, hiking, and sightseeing. The only infrastructure is a gated horseshoe shaped logging road made of native soil.

9. Refuges and other Closed Areas

There are no refuges or closed areas.

10. Administrative Facilities

There are no administrative facilities.

Significant Property Management Issues, Trends and Needs:

There are no apparent issues, trends, or needs.

B. Property Purpose and Goals **Management Objectives and Prescriptions**

1. Property Purpose and Goals

The primary purpose of this property is to demonstrate sustainable forest management and responsible stewardship while also using this land as an educational tool for students, professional foresters and non-industrial private forest landowners. A secondary purpose and goal for this property is to maintain the present public recreational uses of this property which includes, but is not limited to hunting, hiking, and sightseeing.

2. Current and Planned Land Management Objectives and Prescriptions

Since the entire 38 acre property is growing white pine sawtimber or is succeeding to white pine, the entire property will be managed for natural maintenance of white pine on an evenaged basis. The goal is to grow high quality white pine sawlogs, following principles of

sustainable forestry. Aesthetics management techniques will be practiced along the town road to reduce the visual impact of harvesting and to maintain some white pine legacy trees. The habitat type indicates a rotation age of 110-180 years on this site. Stands will be rotated using shelterwood harvests. Immature stands of white pine will receive intermediate thins until they reach rotation age.

Current and Planned Facilities or Infrastructure

The only facilities on the property now are a native soil logging trail which is about 1/2 mile long, a small parking area, and an iron gate at each end of the logging trail where it meets the town road. It is the intention to maintain these facilities. There are no new facilities planned.

Other On-going Management Activities

There are no plans to increase the project boundary. The presence of invasive species will be monitored on an ongoing basis, and control measures undertaken if appropriate. Endangered resources, if discovered on or near the property will be taken into consideration during land management activities. The same applies to cultural or archaeological resources.

Additional Comments: None.

Changes or Additions to Current Management and Development: None.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR THIS PLAN AND COMMENTS RECEIVED

On May 20, 2014, a 21-day public review period for revision of Stewardship Demonstration Forest property management plans was publicly noticed statewide. Publics and partners were informed by way of a statewide press release and an email distribution to subscribers of 'eGov', a statewide government delivery system.

A comprehensive DNR web page was developed for Stewardship Demonstration Forests to describe their history and purpose, and to identify individual properties and locations. Draft management plans were posted on the website for public viewing.

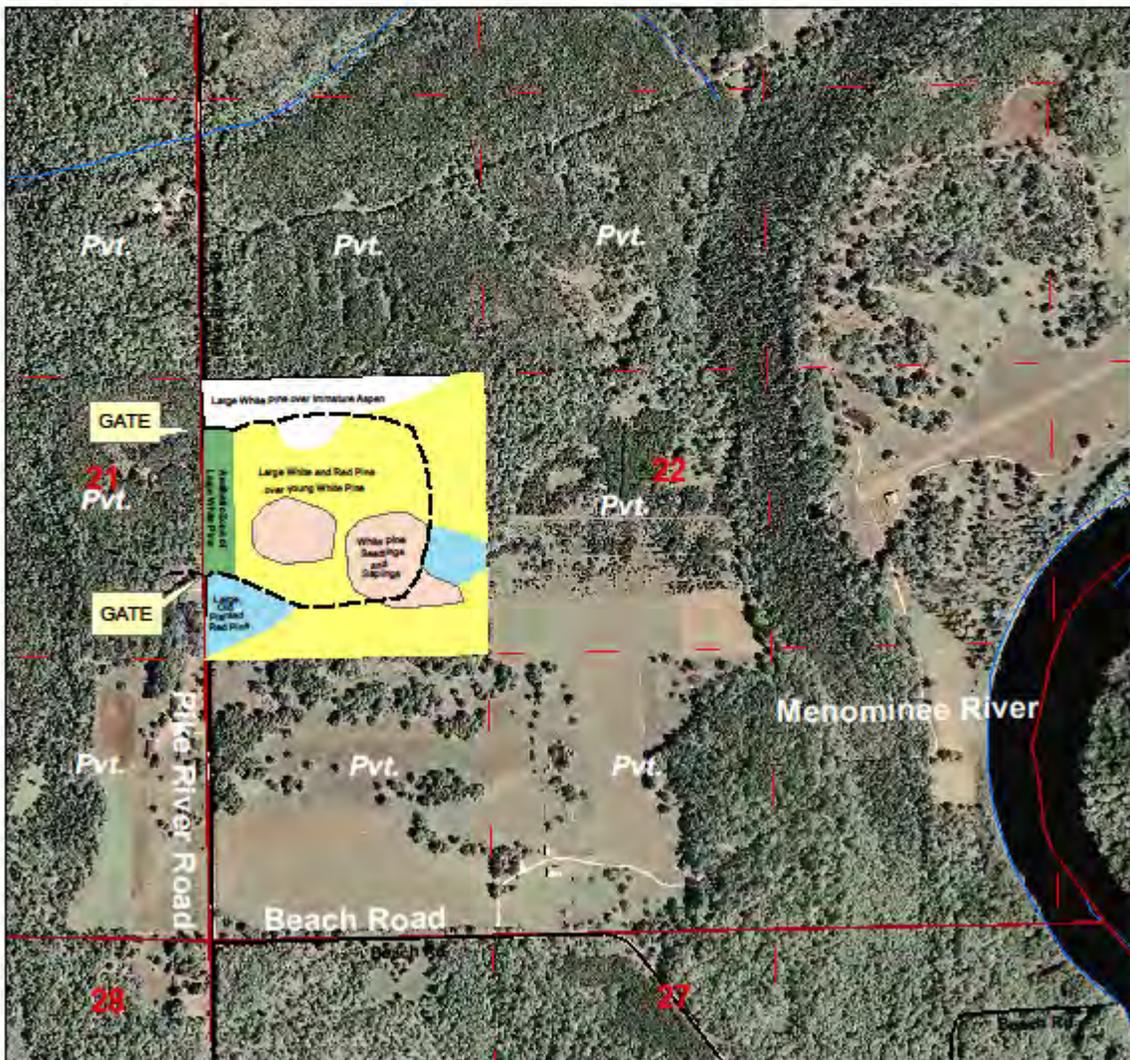
The public was invited to respond by on-line electronic comment form, paper comment forms and email. Consultation occurred for Stewardship Demonstration Forests located within the tribal ceded territory.

No comments were received by the public.

Wausaukee Stewardship Demonstration Forest

NW1/4SW1/4 Section 22, T34N-R21E
Town of Wausaukee
Marinette County

38.00 Acres



March 2014

Scale: 8" = 1 Mile

Mapped by: Dan Mertz