



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Master Plan – Tier 3

Property Name: Chilsen Demonstration Forest

Property Designation or Type: Demonstration Forest

Property Code Number
Forestry Property Code: 3508

Property Location-County: Lincoln

Real Estate:

Fee acres owned: 44
Easement acres owned: 0
NRB approved acreage goal (land records): 44

Property Manager: Richard LaValley Merrill DNR Forester

Address 1: Merrill Ranger Station
Address 2: 101 Eagle Dr.
City, State, Zip: Merrill, WI 54452
Office Phone: (715) 536-4149
Email: Richard.LaValley@wisconsin.gov



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

A. Regional and Property Assessment

1.Landscape and Regional Context

The Chilsen Demonstration forest is located in the Forest Transition Ecological Landscape. These properties include the following Land type Associations:212Qc02 Medford-Hamburg Moraines and 212Qc03 Merrill Outwash Plain. There are no designated Conservation Opportunity Areas or Wisconsin Important Bird Areas associated with the property.

In the early 1900's, near the end of the pine era, the untapped potential of the vast stands of hardwoods and hemlock in Lincoln County was realized. These forested parcels were clearcut in 1920. Much of the suitable cut over land in the forest transition was cleared for agriculture leaving lands too wet or too rocky to grow back to forests. The result is a mosaic of woodlands and agricultural lands in this landscape.

2.Ownership and Adjacent Land Uses These parcels of land are surrounded by private ownership. Adjacent land uses include agriculture, single family housing and forest management and recreation.

3.General Property Description and Management History and Use

The land that comprises the Chilsen Demonstration Forest is a 44 acre property just south of the intersection of County Highways C and G in the Township of Schley. The 44 acre property was originally clearcut in 1920 and then purchased by the Chilsen family in 1925. In 1947 the land was leased to the

University of Wisconsin as an area used to demonstrate the following:

1. Continuous periodic harvests of timber crops
2. Compatible recreational uses
3. Wildlife management and habitat management.
4. Watershed protection and restoration
5. Logging techniques and safety.
6. Utilization and marketing practices
7. Growth projection methodology
8. Analysis of silvicultural strategies.

For 40 years the University of Wisconsin and the WI DNR managed the property and conducted field tours. The University of Wisconsin along with staff from the North Central Forest Experiment Station (Stoekeler and Arbogast) of the USFS maintained, re-measured and analyzed data on 20 continuous forest inventory (CFI) plots that monitored growth and yield, species composition, ingrowth and mortality, and harvest levels over time. By 1990 the University of Wisconsin lacked the staff and budget to continue their lease of the property. The Chilsen family donated the property to the WI DNR in 1991 who has continued management along with staff from the North Central Forest Experiment Station and re-measurement of the CFI plots. The property has become part of a system of demonstration forests across the state.

The property has been used as a demonstration area for landowners to see the effects of various management strategies. Many field days and tours have been held on the property for the public.

Soils: The southern 44 acre parcel is dominated by a Magnor Silt Loam soil in the upland portions of the property and Minocqua Muck in the Hemlock portions of the property. These soils are very wet which will limit harvesting to frozen ground conditions.

4.Land Management Cover Types

Northern Hardwoods - A total of 34 acres (77%) of the property is typed as northern hardwoods. The dominant size class is large saw timber 15+” in diameter (31 acres). Three acres were regenerated to demonstrate even-aged management in 1989 making saplings the second most prevalent size class.

Hemlock comprises the bulk of the remaining timber types. 10 acres are 9-15” in diameter. All of the hemlock has abundant natural regeneration of hemlock with over 3000 seedlings and saplings per acre.

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

Both properties contain northern mesic forest community. Within the Forest Transition Ecological Landscape, northern mesic forest is listed as a major ecological gap in the State Natural Area system.

6.Invasive species

A few buckthorns have been observed in the parking lot I the southern portion of the property. These will be controlled either chemically or mechanically when management takes place and after management takes place on the property.

7.Cultural and Archaeological Features

The Lincoln County Archaeological and Historical Sites map (WDNR, 2012) indicates no hits on any of the properties.

8.Public Uses and Infrastructure

This property provides opportunities for public recreation. Hunters use the property and the public uses the property for walking trails and bird watching. A portion of the main connecting corridor of a snowmobile trail crosses the eastern portion of the property.

9.Refuges and other Closed Areas

No portions of either property are designated as refuges or closed to the public.

10.Administrative Facilities

The property has a 120 foot long improved driveway entering the property off of County Highway G which provides access to a 50 foot by 50 foot improved gravel parking lot. These improvements were graveled in the fall of 2013. In addition to the gravel approximately 4150 feet of (access) walking trails were mowed and cleared in 2013. A snowmobile trail crosses the western side of the property and is approximately 1400 feet long on this land.

Significant Property Management Issues, Trends and Needs:

The issues and trends with this property include:

1. Impeded drainage makes the walking trails very wet during a significant portion of the growing season. This limits the time of the year in which to schedule field tours.
2. There have been in the past some encroachments along the property line to the south that included mowing, locating improvements and cutting of trees on state land. Enforcement has reduced this in recent years.
3. Land industrial landowners own land to the east and south of this property. These properties were also high quality northern hardwood stands and all have been high graded or clearcut in the last 3 years.

Management needs include:

1. The property sign naming the property was removed several years ago due to poor condition. This sign has not been replaced due to lack of funds.
2. Walking trail improvements including gravel would make this property more accessible to field tours.

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

1. Property Purpose and Goals :

Demonstrate forest management practices associated with timber types associated with the property. Demonstrate land management practices associated with soils and conditions found in north central Wisconsin. Illustrate economic, social, and environmental benefits of forest management.

2. Current and Planned Land Management Objectives and Prescriptions

Northern Hardwoods:

The primary objective for this timber type is to maintain and regenerate these stands while demonstrating the range of management options for the sustainable management of northern hardwoods both uneven-aged and even-aged. The primary values for management are demonstrating methods of timber production while maintaining or enhancing wildlife values, watershed protection and aesthetics.

Hemlock/Tamarack:

The management objective for the hemlock is to demonstrate methods to maintain and regenerate hemlock outside riparian zones.

Property Prescriptions:

Northern Hardwoods:

Stand 1 of Compartment 1 is a 31 acre stand that has been managed uneven- aged for several harvests over a number of decades and has now begun to develop a regulated age and size class distribution. This management regime will continue by implementing harvests designed to improve stand quality by removing poor quality trees and releasing crop trees. Canopy gaps will

be included to enhance regeneration of species such as yellow birch, basswood and white ash and to enhance shrub and ground layer communities to benefit wildlife. Treatment blocks managing to a maximum diameter of 18”, 24” and 30” have been established and will be continued so as to demonstrate the pros and cons of each management goal.

Stand 2 in Compartment 1 is sapling-sized even-aged northern hardwoods and will be managed even-aged through periodic thinning to release the best quality trees and red oak.

Hemlock/Tamarack:

Stand 3 in Compartment 1 (the southern parcel) will be managed by individual tree selection harvests under uneven-aged management designed to discriminate against all hardwood species except yellow birch and create a mixture of canopy gaps or group selection harvests to release the abundant hemlock seedlings and saplings. Maximum stand diameter will be extended retaining trees that approach biological maturity.

Current and Planned Facilities or Infrastructure

Type of Facility	Total (number/length)	Management Activities	Management Issues and Constraints
Roads - public	0		
Roads – non-public	1/120’	The Non-public improved road was graveled in 2013	
Parking lots	1	Parking lot was graveled in 2013	
Boat landings	0		
Designated trails	1/1400’	Facilities and Lands and Forestry staff cut trees and mowed trail in 2013	In past have had problems with unauthorized motor vehicle access and cutting trees over the property line by adjacent landowners.
Managed, non-designated trails	5/4150’	Facilities and Lands and Forestry cut trees and mowed trail in 2013	Lack of funds to improve walking trails
Dikes, ditches	0		
Dams	0		
Other		Old sign with the property name was removed from property due to poor condition. New sign placed May of 2014	

		The property line re-established and marked in blue paint and public land signage in 2012.	
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Other On-going Management Activities (add additional items as necessary)

	Current Management Actions	Management Issues and Constraints
Project Boundary Modification	44	
Invasive exotic species	Buckthorn	
Endangered, Threatened, Special Concern Species or Habitats, and Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need	No biotic inventory has been completed on property,	
Cultural and Archeological Resources	None	

Additional Comments: None.

Changes or Additions to Current Management and Development:

MAP ATTACHMENTS:

1. Ownership, State Locator, Facilities (including a state locator map) (Page 8)
2. Property Boundary and Habitat (cover types) (Page 9)

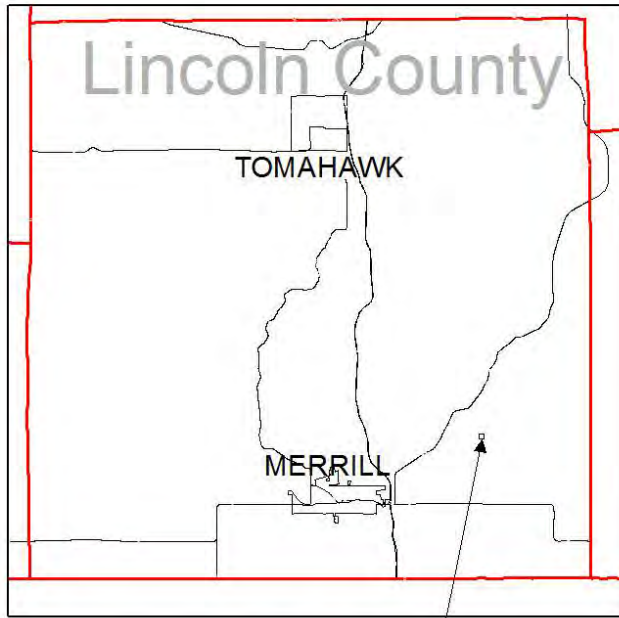
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR THIS PLAN AND COMMENTS RECEIVED

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.

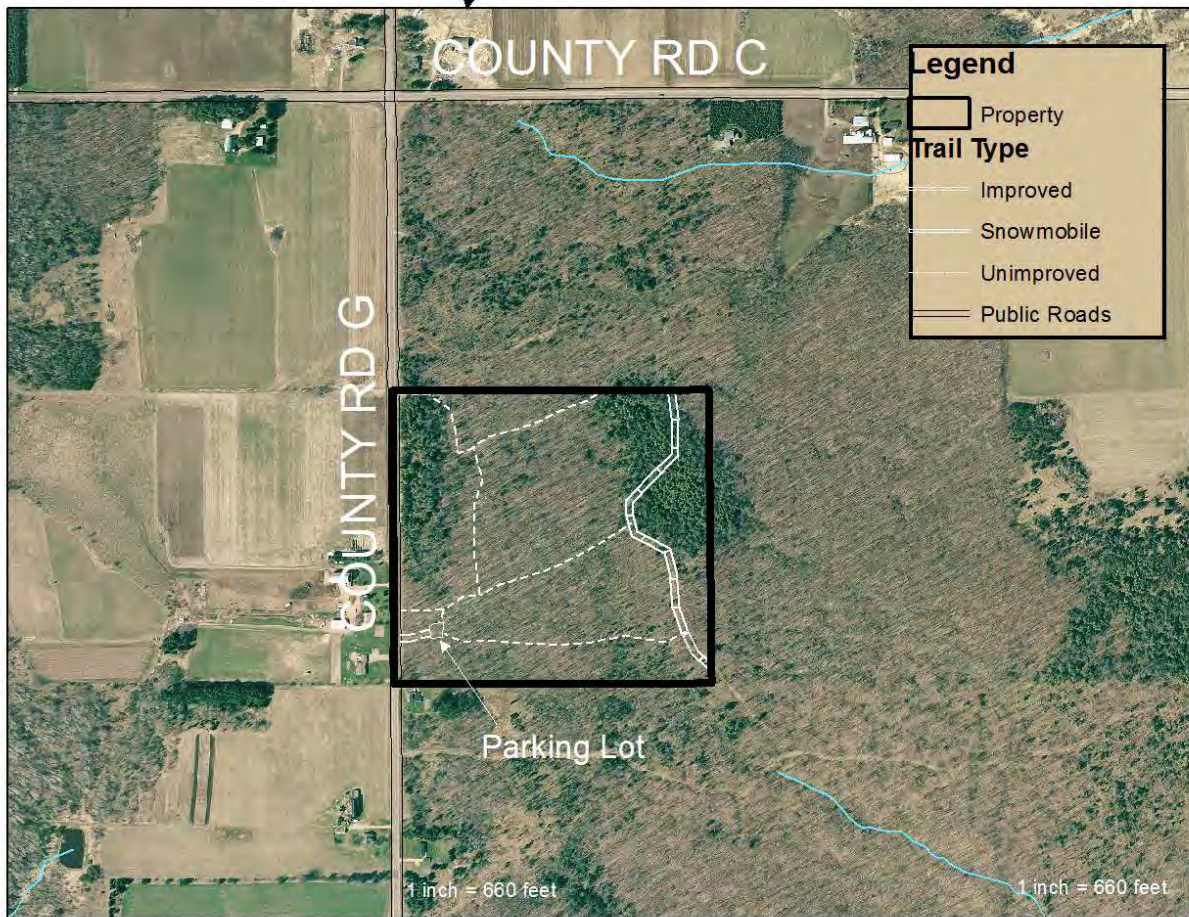
A comprehensive DNR web page was developed for Stewardship Demonstration Forests to describe their history and purpose, and to identify individual properties and locations. Draft management plans were posted on the website for public viewing.

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.



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Covertypemap

