



Interim Forest Management Plan

Draft Revision Date: 1/31/13

Property Identifiers

Property Name and Designation: **Miscellaneous Scattered State Lands – Oneida & Vilas**

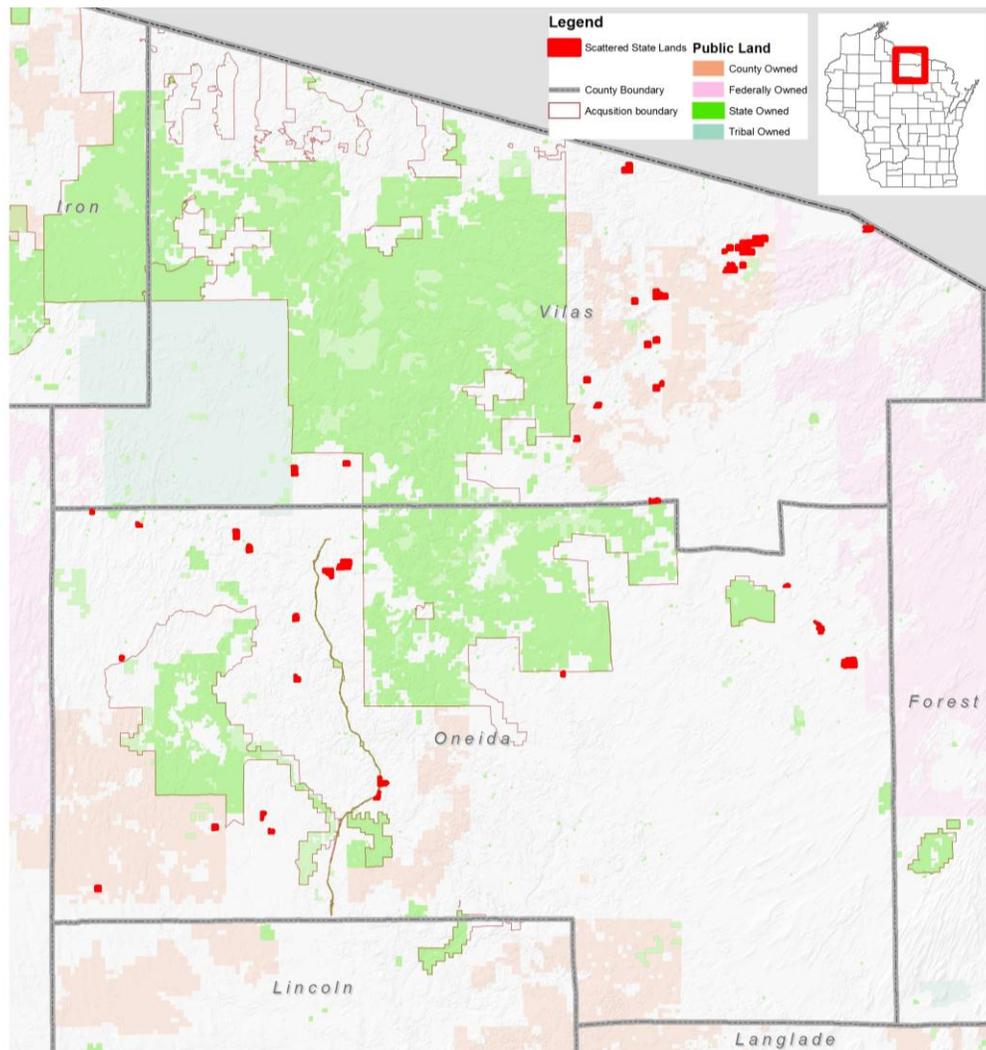
County: **Oneida, Vilas**

Property Acreage: **2,826**

Forestry Property Code: **4401, 4402, 6401, & 6403**

Master Plan Date: **None**

Part 1: Property Assessment



*Parcels in Red depict the properties covered by this interim forest plan



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

General Property Description

The Scattered Forest Lands program and the scattered fish properties included in this plan are comprised of stand-alone parcels that do not belong to any single property boundary. These properties have been acquired over time via land donations, to complement existing properties, and/or to protect/preserve unique ecologically important fish and wildlife values. State ownership of these lands allows forestry and wildlife habitat management as well as public hunting.

- **Landscape and regional context:** The majority of the scattered state owned lands in Vilas and Oneida County are within the Northern Highland Ecological Landscape on the following Land Type Associations (LTA): Vilas-Oneida Outwash Plains (212Xb03), Vilas-Oneida Sandy Hills (212Xb02); Vilas-Oneida Loamy Hills (212Xb05), and Northern Highland Outwash Plains (212Xb01). Two properties (recon ID: 4402) in Oneida County are within the Central Forest Landscape. One is in the Argonne Outwash Plains LTA (212Xc02) and the other is in the Jump River Ground Moraine LTA (212Xd05).
- **History of land use and past management**
 - **Oneida:** There are 16 Compartments of land ranging in size from 14 acres up to 210 acres. A total of 42 descriptions make up the 1100 acre ownership of miscellaneous scattered state lands in Oneida County.
 - All scattered state lands had compartment reconnaissance completed in the mid-1980s, followed by intensive management through the mid-1990s
 - Most short-lived even-aged stands are 30 years old or younger. The oldest stand is a 14 acre red pine stand in Compartment 1 (4401), with a year of origin of 1876.
 - **Vilas:** There are 10 Compartments of land ranging in size from 34 acres up to 776 acres. A total of 51 - "40s" comprise the 1,726 acre ownership of scattered state lands in Vilas County.
 - Most scattered State Vilas land is located in the eastern ½ of the county (1,611 acres). Only 2 Compartments totaling 115 acres occur west of St Germain.
 - All scattered state lands had compartment reconnaissance completed in the mid-1980s, followed by intensive management through the mid-1990s
 - Most even-aged stands are 25 years old or younger. The oldest stand is an 11 acre cedar stand in Compartment 3, with a year of origin of 1862.

Site Specifics

This plan covers 2,826 acres of which 740 are Non-Forested/Non-Commercial acres (lakes, streams, marshes, roads, etc.)

- **Current forest types for Oneida parcels:** There are 1,100 acres of Forested habitat broken down into the following:

Forest Type Description	Stands	Acres	Percent of Forested Acres	Percent of Recon Acres
ASPEN	12	168	19%	15%
HEMLOCK	1	14	2%	1%
RED MAPLE	2	29	3%	3%
NORTHERN HARDWOODS	2	155	17%	14%
OAK	6	140	16%	13%
RED PINE	7	96	11%	9%
WHITE PINE	1	74	8%	7%
BLACK SPRUCE	6	141	16%	13%
TAMARACK	4	71	8%	6%
Total:	41	888	100%	81%



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- **Current forest types for Vilas parcels:** There are 1,198 acres of Forested habitat broken down into the following:

Forest Type Description	Stands	Acres	Percent of Forested Acres	Percent of Recon Acres
ASPEN	18	303	25%	18%
WHITE BIRCH	1	4	0%	0%
WHITE CEDAR	1	11	1%	1%
HEMLOCK	2	8	1%	0%
NORTHERN HARDWOODS	1	16	1%	1%
OAK	2	13	1%	1%
JACK PINE	16	392	33%	23%
RED PINE	6	107	9%	6%
BLACK SPRUCE	10	199	17%	12%
SWAMP HARDWOODS	1	3	0%	0%
TAMARACK	7	142	12%	8%
Total:	65	1198	100%	69%

- **State Natural Areas:** There are no State Natural Area designations on these scattered properties but some stands are adjacent to the Spruce Grouse Swamp SNA (#540) and will be managed with landscape considerations of the SNA (which allows management).
- **High Value Conservation Forests (HCVF) or other resources/natural community types limited in the landscape:** No drafts or final designations.
- **Biotic Inventory status:** None
- **Deferral/consultation area designations (refer to the following website):** None
- **Rare species:** Rare species and high-quality examples of native communities have been documented on a few of the parcels contained within this plan. NHI screening will be conducted prior to all future management activities.
- **Invasive species:** little documented; some parcels have been treated for garlic mustard, honeysuckle, and buckthorn
- **Soils:** Due to the scattered nature of these properties, soil types are quite variable. The following are common soils for the dry-dry/mesic sites typical for these properties: Rubicon sand, Vilas loamy sand, Sayner loamy sand, Padus-Pence Sandy loams, Padus loams, Loxley and Dawson Peat.

Cultural and Recreational Considerations

- **Cultural and archeological sites (including tribal sites):** The Vilas County Archaeological and Historical Sites map (WDNR, 2012) indicates some Historical sites on these properties. All known sites are to be protected during forest management operations.
- **Recreational Considerations:** Hunting and Fishing and other recreation are allowed on these properties but not all parcels have public access. Some of these parcels have parking lots and boat landings; many of which are managed by Facilities and Lands. Emphasis on recreational and aesthetic buffers around these lots and landings will be considered during timber sales.

Part 2: IFMP Components

Management Objectives (Outline primary forest management objectives):

- Sustainably manage these scattered areas



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- Manage each stand after consultation with the property manager to determine specific objectives for the particular area
- Incorporate landscape scale opportunities into management decisions to include:
 - protecting kettle lakes
 - restoring red and white pine types
 - restoring hemlock-hardwood forests
 - improving forest composition and structure
 - protecting rare and endangered species and habitats
 - providing older age classes where doing so will meet site-specific objectives
- Naturally regenerate stands whenever possible
- Passively manage wet and remote stands as deemed necessary

Property Prescriptions (*Identify specific and pertinent prescriptions by area or forest type, including passive management areas, extended rotation, and other information that will help achieve the objectives*):

Stand specific objectives and prescriptions will be discussed and determined at the Annual Integrated Property Management meetings. Resource professionals associated with the property including the forester, district ecologist, fish manager, wildlife biologist/property manager, and law enforcement staff will be in attendance. Follow management prescriptions identified in the NHAL State Forest Master plan.

All forest management prescriptions will follow the forest management principles outlined in the "Wisconsin Forest Management Guidelines" and the "Silviculture Handbook" for those stands where continuation of the forested habitat type is the goal. For those areas where forested acreage may be converted to other cover types those guidelines will not apply.

- The Spirit Lake Fisheries tract (Oneida County) has extensive wetland, poor access, extensive lakeshore, two bald eagle nests, and scattered mature white and red pines. This tract will be managed passively.
- ❖ Silvicultural systems to be applied include:
 - Intermediate thinning on even-aged managed species including but not limited to red and white pine, black spruce, tamarack, oak and red maple.
 - Manage aspen on an even-aged basis, using a coppice with standards silvicultural system. Emphasis on smaller sized harvest patches with "standards" and Green Tree Retention will improve age and structural diversity for wildlife such as grouse, deer, and turkey.
 - Manage jack pine on an even-aged basis, using a clear cut silvicultural system followed by site preparation and planting if needed with a preference to natural regeneration in most locations.
 - Manage black spruce and tamarack on both even-aged and all-aged silvicultural systems depending on site quality. Even-aged systems will utilize a strip clear cut method in large stands and a seed tree system in small stands. All-aged systems will utilize group selection or single tree selection with canopy gaps.
 - Manage red oak on an even-aged basis using the updated oak management silvicultural handbook guidelines, with an extended rotation on dry- mesic/mesic sites, using the 2 or 3 step shelterwood regeneration method. Maintain 5 to 10 mature, full-canopied oaks per acre as reserve trees during regeneration.
 - Manage red and white pine stands on an extended rotation favoring old growth characteristics in natural stands. Regenerating either by group selection, shelterwood or



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by clear cut and replanting. Retention of large pines during any thinning or regeneration stages will improve structural and age diversity for wildlife within the stand.

- Manage northern hardwood on an all-aged basis, creating all age classes through the installation of canopy gaps and thinning.
- Use passive management in cedar and hemlock stands. In addition, these species will be favored as retention trees in mixed stands wherever possible.
- Will consider salvage sales for stands subjected to storm or disease events on a case by case basis as approved by Resource Managers.

Approvals:

Regional Ecologist Date

Forester Date

Property Manager Date

Area/Team Supervisor Date