

Solon Springs Sharptail Barrens No. 65
State Natural Area
Management Plan

This management plan contains the Departments' general procedures for State Natural Areas. It also contains recommendations specific to the management need of each site and includes exceptions to the general procedures.

The specific management actions have been developed in consultation with the Department of Natural Resources' Natural Areas Section, recommended by the property manager, reviewed by the Natural Areas Preservation Council, and approved by the Department District Director and Bureau of Endangered Resources. The plan will be reviewed periodically and if necessary amended to assure that all necessary management considerations are incorporated. Changes to the management plan may be made with the advice of the Council and written agreement of the property manager, District Director, and the Bureau of Endangered Resources.

The primary objectives of these procedures is to preserve the site in a natural condition with little human disturbance. The Department of Natural Resources Master Plan Handbook-Standard Land Use Classification System, will be used to identify authorized land use practices. Sections 23.27, 23.28 and 23.29, Stats., and Section NR 45.13, Wis. Administrative Code, also may apply in regulating use. The land use classifications used include research natural area or interpretive natural area and critical species natural area. Resource development classifications may also be used, but only in that portion identified as buffer zone. The Natural Areas Handbook provides more detailed guidelines and procedures.

I. General Management for State Natural Areas

A. Management of Terrestrial and Aquatic Communities, Geologic and Archaeological Features.

1. Removal of plants, plant parts, animals, rocks and minerals, and artifacts is generally not permitted. However, hunting, fishing, trapping, berry picking and nut gathering is permitted if not expressly restricted or otherwise prohibited by law or Articles of Dedication. Collecting for scientific purposes may be allowed by Department permit.
2. Cutting or removal of living or dead trees, standing or down, or other vegetation in forest communities, is generally limited to that essential to meet public safety requirements. Cut material will be left within the natural area. Death of trees due to blowdown, fire, flooding, insects and disease is regarded as a normal natural occurrence. The Department and the

property manager may consider deviation from this procedure in the event of large scale mortality, on a case by case basis, with the advice of Council.

3. Control of plant succession with the use of fire, cutting, mowing or water level manipulation, may be employed to maintain a particular natural area type, or control of abnormal animal populations may be employed if provided for in this plan.
4. Introductions of exotic plant and animal species is prohibited. Reintroduction of an extirpated species, or introduction of a species of concern which is known to inhabit a particular community and edaphic condition may be permitted with the advice of the Council and consent of the Department.
5. Pesticides including herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and biological controls should not be used for plant or animal control. Department approval, with Council review, must be obtained for each case should an exception be necessary. Biological control agents are preferred over chemical agents.

B. Public Use

1. Intensive public use is not encouraged. Any public use which damages vegetation or otherwise impairs natural conditions is discouraged and if necessary will be controlled. Recreational uses such as hiking, nature appreciation, and education use which do not degrade the natural features is encouraged.
2. Attention drawing signs should be limited to those areas that have a low site fragility or have established trails. Signs indicating the area's purpose and use limitations are desirable at access points. Boundaries may be marked for the convenience of the property manager, visitors, and adjacent landowner.
3. Vehicle traffic of all types is discouraged. Existing walking trails and service roads may be maintained and they will be identified on the management plan map. New walking trails may be constructed where use is heavy or where needed to protect sensitive vegetation; these will be identified in the management plan.
4. No buildings, and other improvements such as dams, fireplaces, picnic grounds, athletic facilities, beach improvements or other waterway modification devices will be constructed. Any public use or maintenance facility essential to the natural area should be located in a buffer zone or outside the natural area.

II. Specific Management for Solon Springs Sharptail Barrens

A. Communities, Species or Features of Concern and Statement of Management Objectives. (Figure 1)

This 240 acre area features pine barrens.

Animal species of concern are sharp-tailed grouse (Tympanuchus phasianellus), grasshopper sparrow (Ammodramus savannarum), upland sandpiper (Bartramia longicauda), Connecticut warbler (Oporornis agilis), and Tennessee warbler (Vermivora peregrina).

No plant species of concern have been identified.

Management objectives are to preserve and protect the natural ecological values by simulating presettlement fire processes, and removing invasive exotics.

B. Problem Identification.

Known problem species are leafy and Cypress spurge.

No other specific problem species have been identified; however, the site has not been thoroughly inspected for the presence of invasive exotic species.

Facility related concerns are public use trails, and occasional off road motor vehicle use.

C. Management Requirements for Communities or Species and Type of Action.

COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

Prescribed Burning -

Divide the area into two burn units. These units are part of much larger units located on the Wildlife Management Area. Burns should be permitted to affect the trees in as natural of a manner as possible. Firebreaks should be placed around the perimeter for control but not around individual groves of trees.

Burn on a five to seven year rotation.

Burns may be conducted in spring or fall.

Pine Barrens -

Burn when scheduled to burn.

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Species of Concern

Sharp-tailed Grouse
Grasshopper Sparrow
Upland Sandpiper
Connecticut Warbler
Tennessee Warbler -

No specific management is required.

Problem Species

Leafy and Cypress Spurge -

Apply a 1 to 2% solution of Krennite in July or August for several years to eliminate this species. Control should be carried out on the entire property to effectively deal with this invasive exotic.

Search for the presence of other invasive exotics. Remove populations when found using the recommended guidelines from the Invasive Species Control Handbook.

Aspen -

Clones have been girdled. Further control should not be necessary, if burning can take place as scheduled.

D. Monitoring, Research, Educational and Public Use.

MONITORING

Breeding Birds -

Survey at least once every two to three years.

PUBLIC USE

Research and education use is encouraged.

INSPECTIONS

Inspections should be done once a year and the results reported on Natural Areas Inspection Sheet Form 1700-21.

E. Facility Development and Maintenance.

SIGNS

Boundary Markers -

Erect markers to delineate the natural area boundary.

ACCESS is directly off Wildlife Management roads.

DOG TRIALS

Dog trials are held here every year with little, or no information of the effects of such activities on the native vegetation. Of concern are the effects horses may have on the vegetation.

Research plots should be set up to assess the effects of these activities on the native vegetation.

F. Land Acquisition.

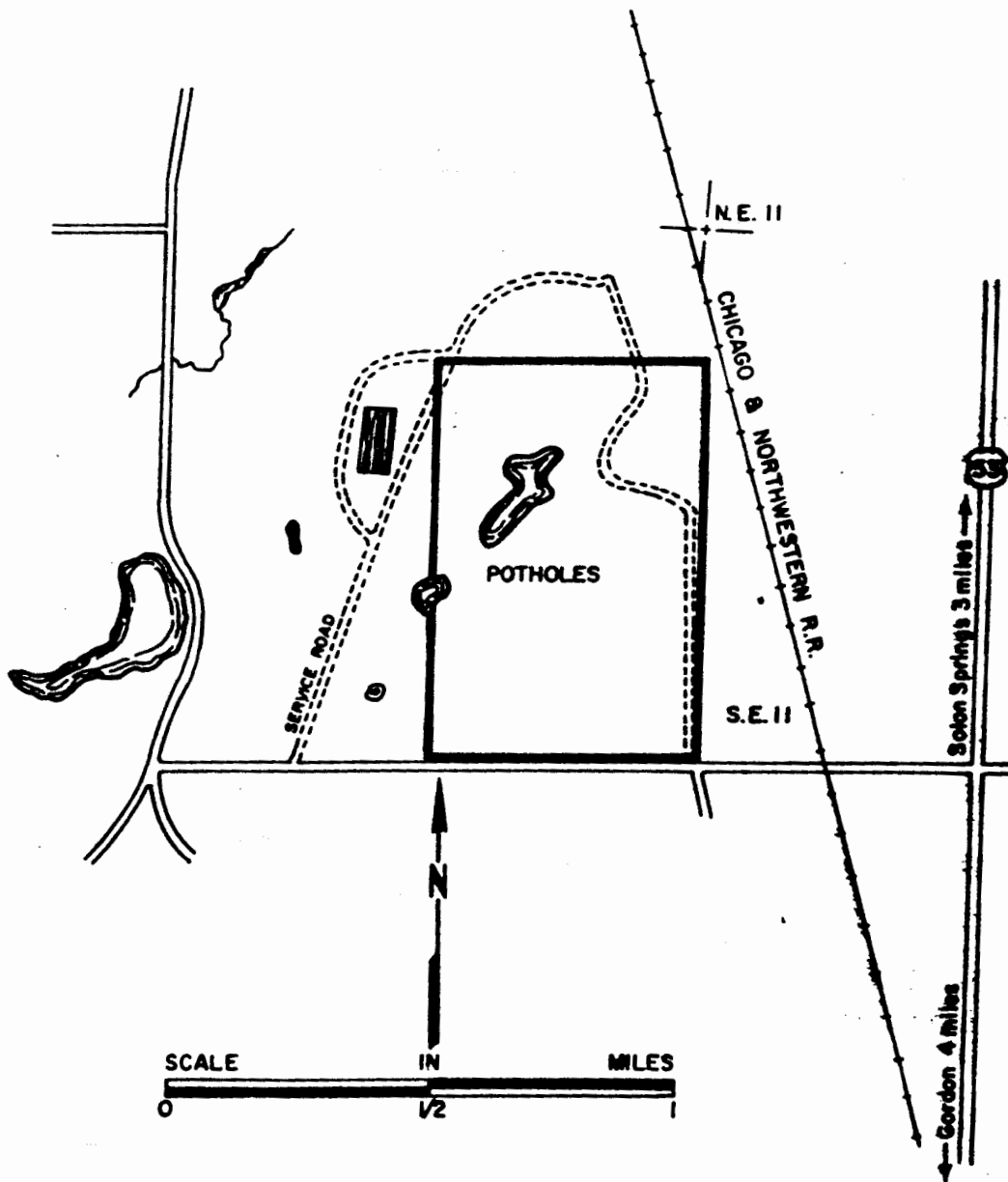
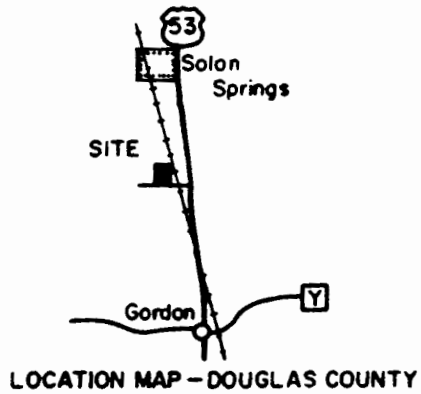
Acquisition within the natural area boundary of 240 acres is complete.

G. Anticipated Effects of Management Actions.

By searching for, eliminating, or reducing in abundance the problem species; simulating presettlement fires; and assessing impacts on the native vegetation, the site's integrity should be maintained. Natural community functions and rare species populations should be maintained.

FIGURE #1 VEGETATIVE COVER MAP

SOLON SPRINGS SHARPTAIL BARRENS STATE NATURAL AREA



REV: 7-19-71 gpb
7-15-88 rpb
10-17-88 rpb

This Management Plan is recommended by the Natural Areas Preservation Council and the property manager, and approved by the Department of Natural Resources District and Bureau of Endangered Resources.

Recommended by the Property Manager

Fred Strand May 5, 1994
Wildlife Manager Date

Approved by District

Bruce A. Moss for Bill Smith 5/9/94
Director Date

Approved by Bureau of Endangered Resources

Charles M. Pils 5/12/94
Director Date