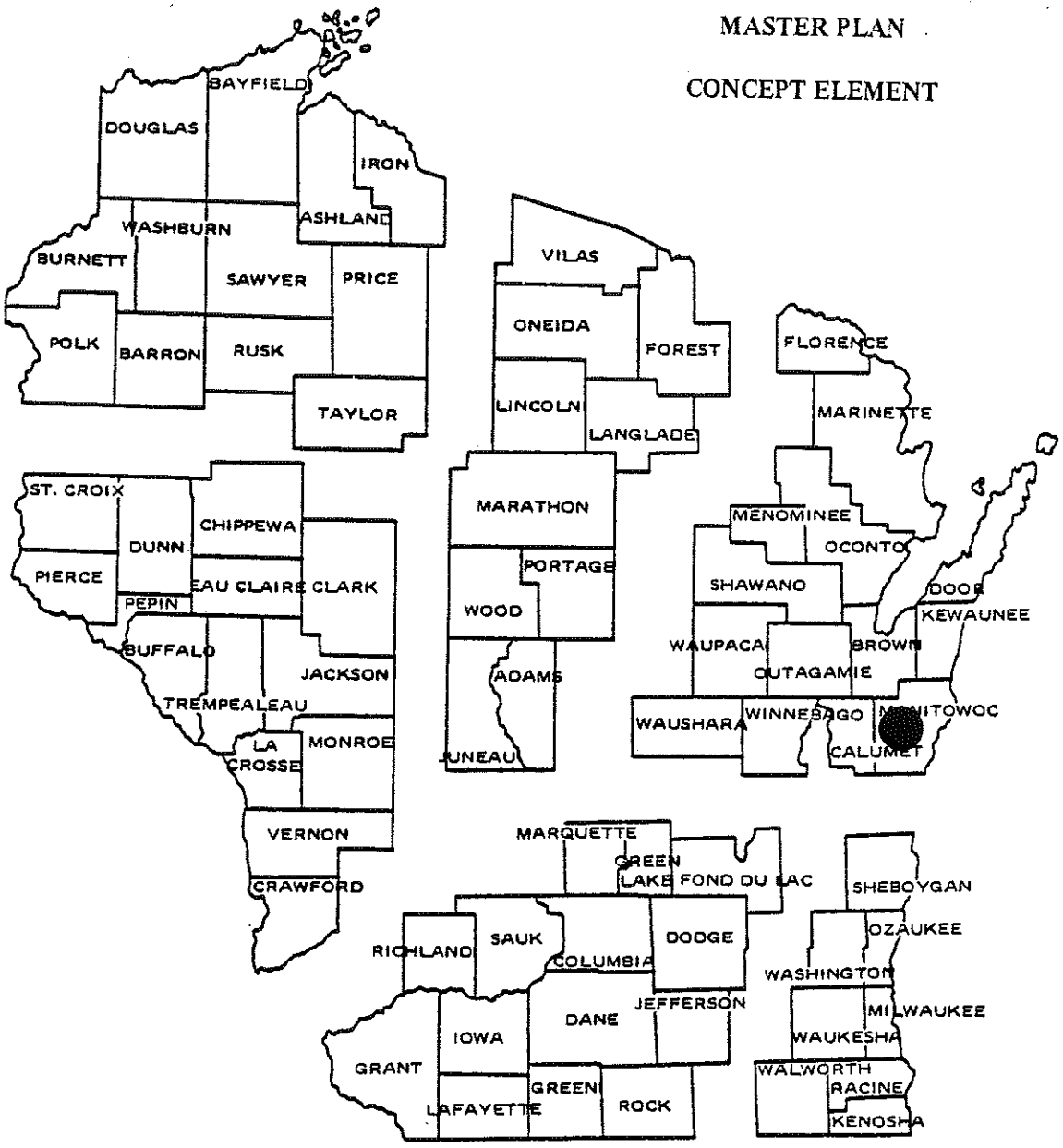
COLLINS MARSH WILDLIFE AREA

MASTER PLAN

CONCEPT ELEMENT



Property Task Force

Leader: Richard Johnson - Wildlife Manager
Daniel Olson - Wildlife Manager
Paul Peeters - Fish Manager
Jack Hoisington - Forester

Approved By: L D Desodum

Date: 2-27-86

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
MADISON, WISCONSIN

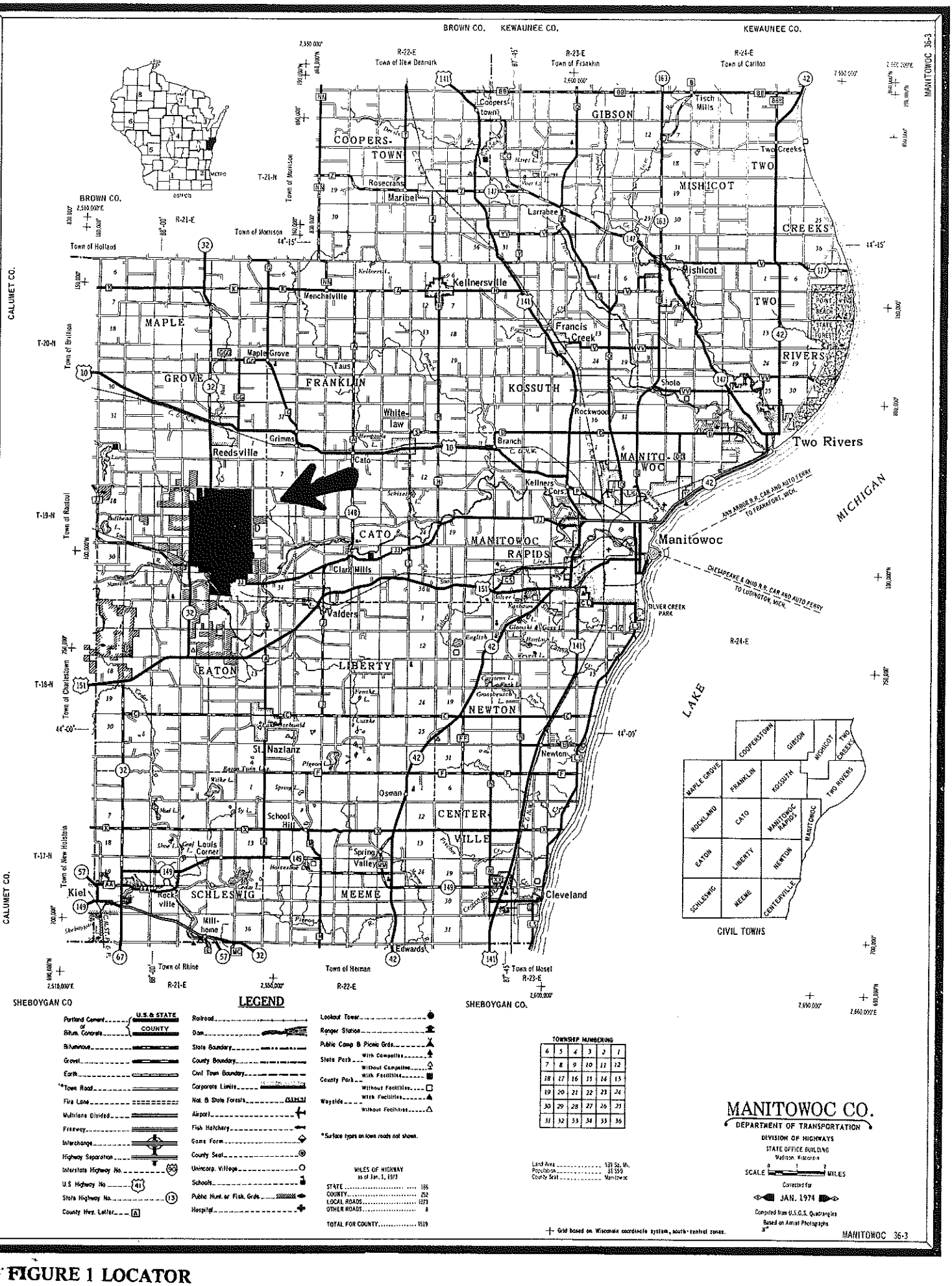


FIGURE 1 LOCATOR

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SECTION I - ACTIONS

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND OTHER BENEFITS

Goal

To manage a state-owned wildlife area for enhancement of local and migratory wildlife populations and to provide public hunting and trapping as well as compatible wildlife based recreational opportunities.

Objectives

1. Produce 2 ducks per acre of permanent water on 1,800 acres (3,600 ducks; 1983 level).

2. Provide for 300,000 fall goose use-days and a peak population of 7,000 geese by 1986.

3. Provide 6,500 participant-days of hunting and trapping opportunities as follows:

Activity	Participant-days
Waterfowl hunting	4,200
Pheasant hunting	1,000
Deer hunting	700
Other hunting	100
Trapping	500

4. Protect and maintain a breeding population of 400 great blue herons.

5. Protect and maintain one osprey nesting site.

6. Provide 600 participant-days of snowmobiling recreation associated with a county trail system.

7. Provide 1,000 participant-days of formal outdoor education opportunity.

Additional Benefits

1. Accommodate about 1,000 participant-days of other recreation including fishing, nature observation, hiking, cross-country skiing, dog training and informal outdoor education.

2. Harvest forest products consistent with property objectives.

3. Contribute to the habitat of resident and migratory wildlife.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Collins Wildlife Area will remain an important waterfowl area. A significant portion of the Manitowoc River bottoms, important to waterfowl and waterfowl users, lies immediately south of the present boundary. Shrub marsh and wetland types adjoining the northwest corner of the property also provide important waterfowl habitat. It is recommended that parts of these wetlands be incorporated into the boundary, while some unpurchased lands presently within the boundary are recommended for deletion (Figure 2).

The acquisition changes will result in a net change in the acreage goal from the present 4,354.92 to 4,600 acres; an increase of 245.08 acres. In addition, an area which has public hunting rights alongside the western property boundary needs to be incorporated within the boundary for official recognition; no other purchase is needed.

Development will be limited to 5 runoff ponds and 2 parking lots (Figure 3). There is potential for subimpoundment development on the east and west sides of the main flowage. A 140-acre subimpoundment will be constructed on the northwest corner of the property.

Crops are planted on most upland sites to attract geese through sharecrop agreements with local farmers. A portion of the uplands are maintained in grass cover for pheasant and duck nesting. Pheasants are stocked for hunting.

Water levels through the summer will be maintained at or below the 801' level; this should provide a maximum of 725 acres of open water. The 801' level will be maintained through the waterfowl season after which a complete overwinter drawdown will take place.

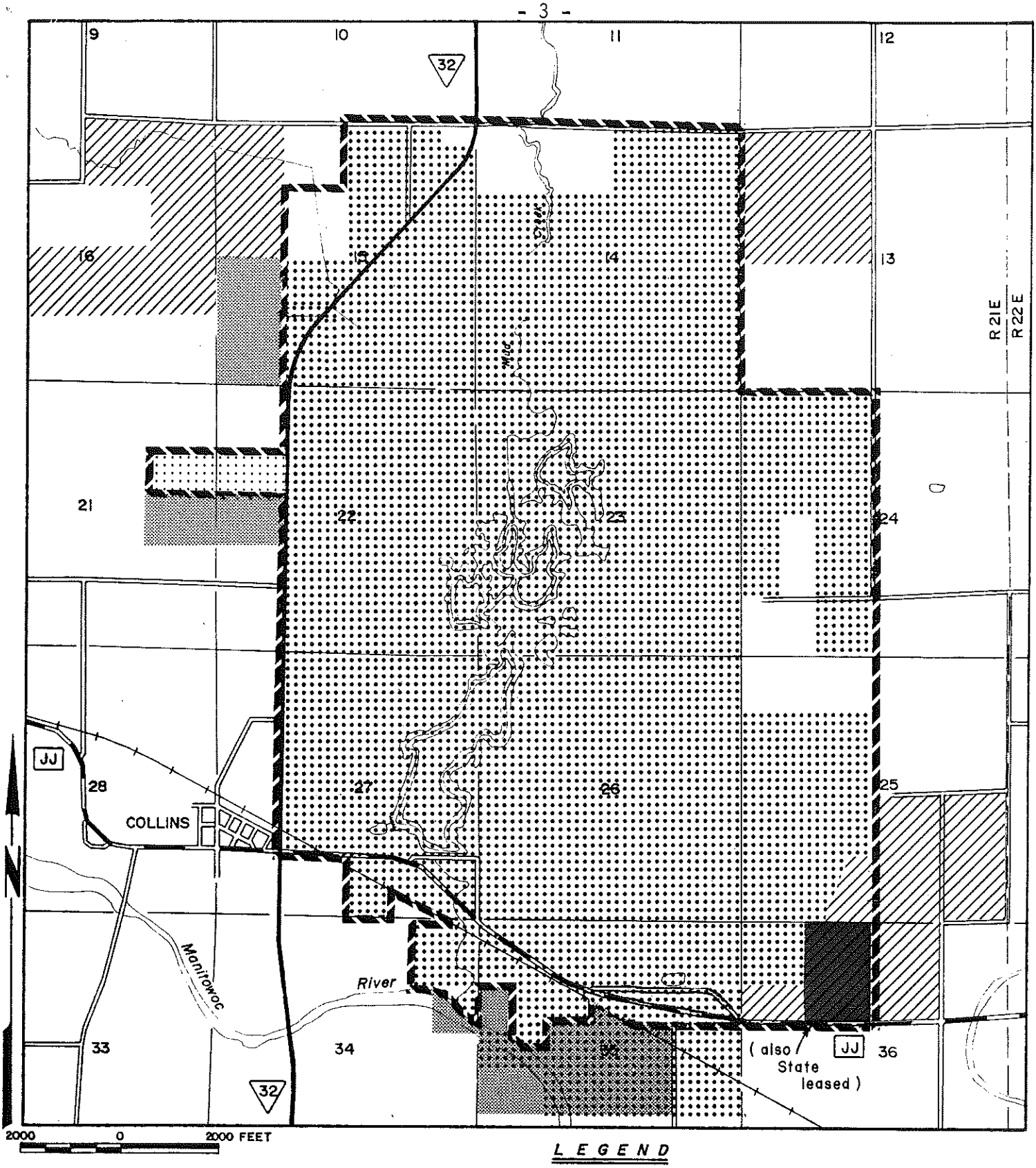
Occasionally, during periods of heavy rains or peak runoff, the Manitowoc River below Collins Wildlife Area tops its banks. When this happens, water levels may exceed the 801' level at the dam and back up into the flowage basin.

Potential exists for this water level regime to create extensive beds of cattail. If this happens, the best control is to raise the water level to 802' and hold it there for a period of time. To do this, the Department will pursue authority to maintain water levels at 802' through the regulatory process.

A 1,149-acre waterfowl refuge is closed to public entry from October 1 through November 30 of each year and is posted annually. Four parking lots are maintained and about 10 miles of property boundary are posted each fall.

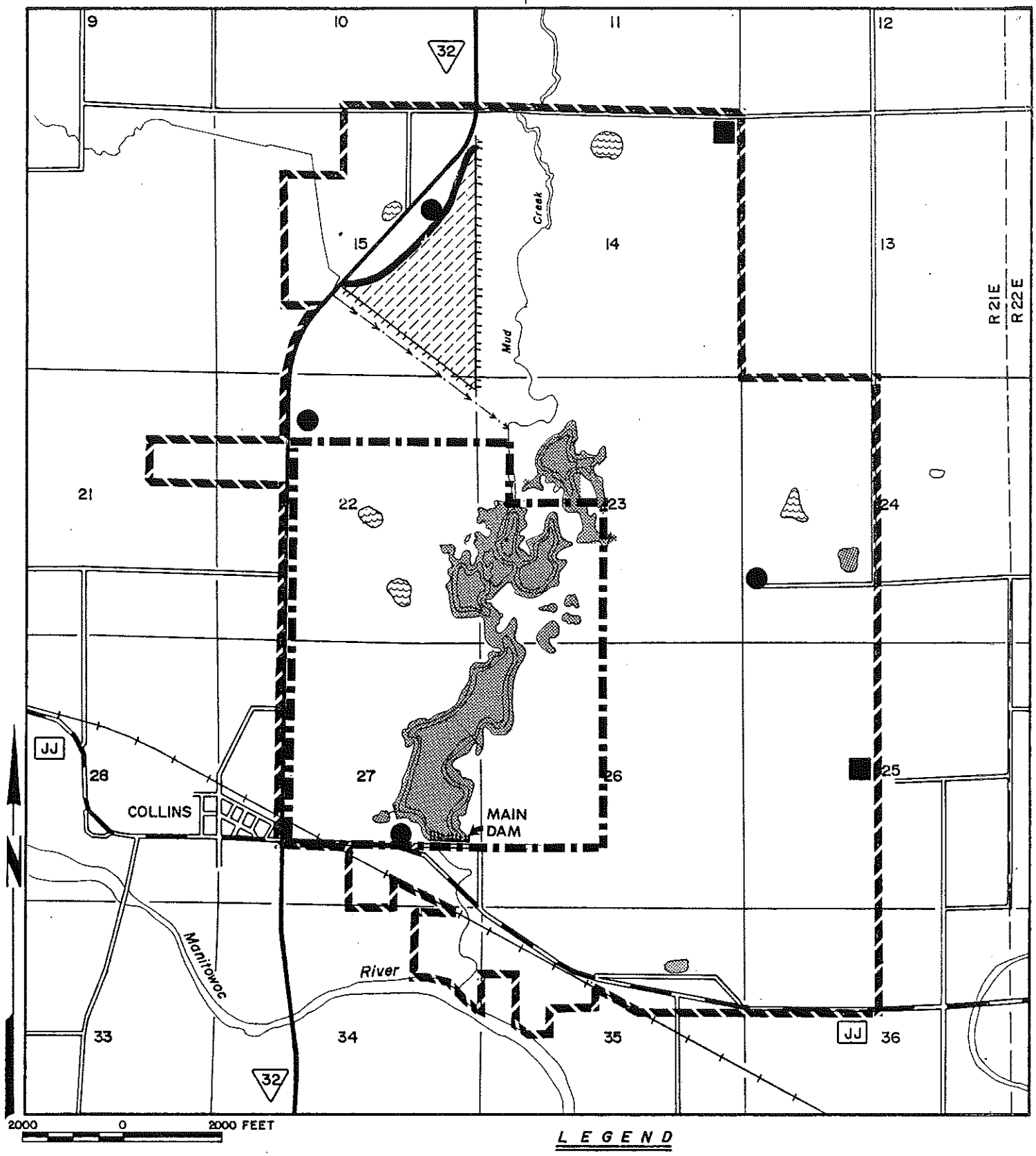
To protect and maintain a breeding population of 400 great blue herons, a block of about 80 acres of mature lowland hardwoods will be protected from logging.

One snowmobile trail, a part of the county trail system, will be maintained through cooperative agreement. No expansion of the system is planned. No other trail systems are planned. Town roads leading into the wildlife area will be abandoned by the town when state ownership is complete.



COLLINS WILDLIFE AREA

FIGURE 2 LAND CONTROL



LEGEND

- BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED PONDS
- PROPOSED PARKING LOT
- EXISTING PARKING LOT
- EXISTING WATER DEVELOPMENT
- REFUGE LINE
- PROPOSED DITCH
- PROPOSED DIKE
- PROPOSED WATER DEVELOPMENT (general area)

COLLINS WILDLIFE AREA

FIGURE 3 DEVELOPMENT

Fish Management

Because of limited potential, fish management will continue to be minimal. The features which make Collins Marsh an attractive waterfowl area reduce its potential as a major fishery area. As is typical with shallow inland marshes, winterkill is common.

Forest Management

Forest vegetation is primarily composed of swamp hardwoods and northern white cedar with small, scattered stands of oak-hickory. These forest types will be managed consistent with the best silvicultural and aesthetic techniques. Management of the stands will emphasize improving wildlife habitat and protecting the watershed.

The annual growth of forest vegetation is about 50 board feet per acre which can be increased with improved management.

Other Information

Regarding potential historical or archaeological sites, all areas of development will be thoroughly investigated for the presence or absence of sites and appropriate protective measures will be taken for significant sites. If any are found during development, construction will be suspended until the State Historical Preservation Officer is consulted. The site(s) will be evaluated and, if significant, would be preserved.

All areas of development will also be examined for the presence of endangered and threatened species and appropriate measures will be taken in consultation with the District Endangered Resources Coordinator (DNR).

SECTION II - SUPPORT DATA

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Collins Wildlife Area is located in the Town of Rockland in Manitowoc County and includes the confluence of Mud Creek and the Manitowoc River. The property was approved for purchase in 1958. Public support and a cash donation of $20,000 supplied by the Manitowoc County Fish and Game Protective Association resulted in a strong acquisition program with a majority of land acquired in the early 1960's.

The current ownership consists of 4,123.82 acres in fee title and 99.4 acres in hunting easements purchased at a cost of $445,000 . The acquisition goal is currently 4,354.92 acres. However, deleting about 60 acres of agricultural land on the edge of the wildlife area, while correcting the western boundary to include a 50-acre easement area, and adding about 245 acres to the southern and northwest boundary for duck production and secure hunting opportunities increases the purchase goal by 245.08 acres; the new recommended goal is 4,600 acres.

In addition, 50 acres located 1/2 mile outside the boundary area included in the acquisition acreage goal, but are considered surplus and should be sold or traded for other lands.

Acquisition Summary

Existing Acreage Goal	State Ownership	Proposed Acreage Goal	Acreage Goal Change
4,354.92	4,223.22	4,600	+245.08

Nearby private lands totaling 2,205 acres are leased for public hunting. Most of these lands are located south of the property boundary in the Town of Eaton. Leased acreage was considerably larger at one time, but much has been withdrawn by landowners because of hunter related problems.

The main dam was completed in 1965 and floods 1,800 acres at full pool. A subimpoundment on the southwest corner was constructed in 1969. An 8-acre runoff pond was constructed on the east side in 1980. Originally designed as a pair pond, it has developed into an important source of brood water.

The primary species benefited through management are mallards, wood ducks, Canada geese, and pheasants. Secondary benefits have been realized by other duck species, muskrats, great blue heron, egrets, and many other nongame species.

About 300 acres are tillable uplands, and 200 acres are planted each year into corn, oats, buckwheat or hay to provide food for ducks and geese. The balance is in nesting habitat and fall hunting cover. All cropping is accomplished through sharecrop agreements with local farmers.

A 3-mile snowmobile trail, part of the county trail system, has been maintained by a local club. An additional mile was added to the trail in 1980. Use of the trail is highly variable but provides an estimated 600 participant-days of snowmobiling.

Nature study and outdoor education are important activities at Collins Marsh and account for most of the compatible use recreation. A nature center, established in 1965, is operated by Conservation Education Incorporated of Manitowoc County on lands leased to them by the Department. The center includes a classroom, field museum, and observation tower.

RESOURCE CAPABILITIES AND INVENTORY

Geology and Soils

Prevalent soil types in Collins Marsh are Willette and Houghton mucks. These are flat, poorly drained soils which flood frequently and typically have a water table less than a foot below the surface for most of the year. Soils adjoining the uplands are primarily Poygan silty clay loam. These are also very poorly drained soils and somewhat gently sloping.

Gently rolling uplands surround the marsh. The soils are predominately Manawa silt loam and Kewaunee loam. The Manawa silt loam is a somewhat poorly drained clay soil and the Kewaunee loam is a well drained clay soil over clay glacial till. Both soils are well suited for agriculture.

The Willette-Houghton-Poygan group cover about 85% of the property with the remaining 15% in the Manawa-Kewaunee complex.

Vegetative Cover (Figure 4)

The vegetation covering Collins is in 6 general types. These types and the approximate acreages are shown as follows:

TABLE 1. VEGETATION

Description	Acres	%
Deep and Shallow Marsh	1,075	25
Swamp Hardwood	1,425	33
Swamp Conifers	45	1
Fresh Meadow	525	12
Central Hardwoods	40	1
Grassland and Cropped Fields	1,190	28
Totals:	4,300	100

Swamp hardwoods, the largest component of the property, are partially flooded at least for a portion of the year. While there is some reproduction, the actual acreage is reduced each year as a larger number of trees die. Swamp hardwood stands have some commercial firewood value and sawlog potential and provide good cover for wildlife. The primary species is black ash.

The uplands are in grass or crops. The actual cropland is very limited (200 acres) by the type of soils present. Most of the upland grasslands (about 1,000 acres) contain a large percentage of canary grass indicating a poorly drained soil.

Fish and Wildlife

Collins is an important stopover for waterfowl during spring migration. It is also very important brooding and fall staging area for waterfowl. The 2 most common nesting species are mallard and wood duck. Blue-winged teal are not abundant nesters. The total fall population of ducks peaks at about 10,000. While no surveys are available for nesting coots, fall populations probably reach 7-8,000.

Other species which commonly use the area for nesting or during migration are: blue-winged teal, redhead, black duck, wigeon, shoveler, gadwall, pintail, lesser scaup and ring-necked duck. Migrant Canada geese currently peak at a population of about 7,000. In addition, blue and snow geese are common fall migrants, peaking in some years at 1,200. Whistling swans and sandhill cranes are also frequent visitors.

COLLINS WILDLIFE AREA

FIGURE 4 VEGETATION

Coot, galinule, greater and lesser yellow legs, killdeer and a number of sandpiper species are commonly found on the property. Other birds utilizing the area are ring-necked pheasant, Hungarian partridge, American woodcock, sandhill crane, black tern, green-backed heron, American bittern and a variety of passerine birds. Raptors frequenting the area are: northern harrier, red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, rough-legged hawk, great horned owl, barred owl, and osprey.

Collins contains excellent great blue heron habitat and supports one of the largest rookeries in the state. About 200 nests exist in the rookery and, on the average, about 400 young are produced each year.

Mammals which frequent the property are white-tailed deer, cottontail rabbit, gray and fox squirrels, raccoon, skunk, muskrat, mink, opossum, red fox and a variety of small mammals. Gray fox, coyote and otter are uncommon, but present.

Fish species present include carp, fathead minnows, suckers, black bullheads, yellow perch and northern pike. Yearly fluctuations in species composition occur depending upon which species were able to survive the winterkill and/or regain access to the marsh in Spring.

Endangered and Threatened Species

The wildlife area is utilized by 2 endangered and 2 threatened species. Osprey, a Wisconsin endangered species, have successfully nested on Collins since 1979. One young was fledged in both 1979 and 1980, and 2 were fledged in 1981. Three young were observed during 1983. Forster's terns, another endangered species in Wisconsin, have been occasionally observed on the wildlife area. Whether or not they nest on the property is unknown.

Threatened species which use the area during the summer are double-crested cormorants and great egrets. Great egrets are seen frequently, but do not appear to be nesting on the property. Cormorants have been observed during the summers of 1980, 1981 and 1982. No nesting has been observed indicating these may be sub-adults or unsuccessful breeders.

No management practices for these species are presently carried out. The area itself provides the necessary habitat needs for these species. Protection from human interference is the vital management tool here. Currently, this is not a problem, but should it become one in the future, a no entry refuge may be established.

No endangered or threatened species of mammals, fish, amphibians or molluscs nor endangered plants are known to be present on the property.

Water Resources

Mud Creek, a low gradient sluggish stream, is the major source of water for Collins Marsh. The stream originates in Northwest Manitowoc County and drains approximately 35 square miles. The marsh is located on the stream about one-half mile upstream of its confluence with the Manitowoc River.

A dam built in 1965 impounds the creek forming an 1,800-acre flowage. Because of the impoundment, there is no definable channel except at the very north end of the property.

Spring runoff on the Manitowoc floods large acreages of riverbottoms including the area below the dam. The boundary expansion would include a section of these bottoms.

Historical and Archaeological Features

No architectural, archaeological or historical surveys have been made of the area. The occurrence of archaeological sites on nearby Killsnake Wildlife Area suggests that similar sites may occur on Collins. Thus, prior to initiating any ground disturbing activities, the State Historical Society will be contacted for advice.

Land Use Potential

The property is developed and managed to enhance waterfowl production and use. Nesting cover and brood water potential should achieve production of up to 2 ducks per acre of permanent water. Crops are planted primarily to provide feed for ducks and Canada geese although other wildlife will benefit as well.

The present Canada goose population peaks at about 7,000 and there is potential to provide for 10,000. Cover is supplied for upland game birds and mammals to provide for about 1,800 participant-days of upland hunting.

There is no potential for natural or scientific area because most of the property has been manipulated at one time or another. The entire property will be designated Fish and Wildlife Development Area RD_2 and maintained for public hunting.

MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

Over-Use

Because of the refuge (1,149 acres), limited space is available to waterfowl hunters. An increase in the number of hunters using Collins has put heavy pressure on the resource. Firing lines and the problems commonly associated with firing lines have developed on the north and south refuge lines.

Water Control

Operation of the dam is a problem for some adjoining landowners. Though there is no basis in fact, they maintain that water levels in the marsh are too high and adversely affect their holdings. Some hunters would like to see water levels kept higher. Actions have been taken to mitigate these problems.

RECREATIONAL NEEDS AND JUSTIFICATIONS

Manitowoc County is experiencing a rapid increase in population, as is the nearby Fox River Valley. Fifteen percent of the state's population lives within 50 miles of Collins Marsh. Of this, some 364,000 or 8% of the state total, live in 9 nearby cities. In addition, it is only 75 miles from Milwaukee to Collins.

Sightseeing

Residents of Planning Region 3 comprised of Brown, Door, Florence, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Oconto and Sheboygan Counties (Wisconsin Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, 1981), generate sightseeing recreation occasions at a rate equal to the state average. Out-of-state visitors account for 65% of the total sightseeing demand; this demand is expected to increase an estimated 25% by 1990.

Sightseeing, more than other recreational activities, requires a scenic vista or wildlife that is easily observed. State-owned properties provides protection of these resources from land use changes which would destroy them. Better access, information systems and signing of properties may be needed to accommodate sightseers, hikers, photographers and bird watchers.

Hunting

The increasing population density of this Planning Region is encroaching on the recreation and resource base. Many private lands are being lost to other uses or are posted against any form of trespass. Moreover, the quality of wildlife habitat is steadily decreasing as hedgerows, woodlots and odd corners are being eliminated for clean farming.

The decreasing habitat base cannot accommodate increasing numbers of people participating in hunting activities under existing regulations. Existing resources cannot satisfy the projected demand for high quality hunting experiences. Current trends in habitat loss, posting of private lands, and density of hunters could depress increased participation anticipated by 1990.

Efforts directed toward maintaining quality recreational hunting opportunities must include both the conservation and management of wildlife habitat in areas like Collins Marsh.

Fishing

Although fishing pressure is increasing statewide, there is little potential on Collins Marsh to create more fishing opportunity. One possible but expensive fish management technique is overwinter aeration of an area of the marsh in an attempt to allow more fish to survive the annual winterkill. However, this would also mean the survival of larger numbers of carp and bullheads which could be detrimental to the attractiveness of the area to waterfowl.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Reduction

A reduction in property size would necessitate radical changes in management including flowage removal. Reduction is an impractical alternative, because recreational demands could not be met and wildlife habitat needs would be significantly reduced.

2. Status Quo

This alternative means no change to the current management regime. In light of increasing recreational pressures, Collins would continue to operate at a level qreatly reduced from its potential, diminishing the quality of wildlife habitat and experience for the public. Without runoff pond construction, duck breeding pair territorial sites will not be optimized and duck production could be reduced. The lack of adequate protection of one timber site would have negative impacts upon the great blue heron rookery.

3. Enlarge (recommended alternative)

A practical enlargement of the property into those areas which best enhance the resource base will help meet the increased pressure to provide for public recreation. Addition of bottomland areas along the Manitowoc River will enhance the property by providing additional spring and fall feeding and resting areas, and area for hunting opportunity. The anticipated increase in recreational demand cannot be totally met by property expansion, but it should reduce the effects of that pressure.

The recommended alternative is to expand the boundary south into the Manitowoc River bottoms and west on the northwest corner of the property. This alternative also calls for completion of acquisition as remaining parcels become available. Minor developments to improve property management should be initiated. Habitat consistent with the needs of the waterfowl resource base would be provided and the increased recreational demand could be better accommodated.

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APPENDIX A

Master Plan Comments

By: Cynthia Morehouse
Representing: DOT Bureau of Environmental and Data Analysis
Date: January 28, 1985

We have reviewed the Master Plan for the Collins Wildlife Area in Manitowoc County. It is our determination that the Master Plan's recommended management proposals would not have significant adverse effects on our transportation interests and concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this Master Plan.

By: Stan Nichols
Representing: State Geologist
Date: December 20, 1984

Major Comments: Page 2, par. 6 - This paragraph should be expanded to more clearly describe the drawdown regime. A drawdown anytime during the fruiting period of cattail is likely to produce more cattail. This is something you apparently wish to discourage. Winter, spring and early summer drawdown should be used for the beneficial purposes you discuss.

DNR Response: Concur; text modified.

By: Dick Lindberg
Representing: Wild Resources Advisory Council
Date: January 15, 1985

1. The property now has no wild or wilderness area potentials.
2. Management proposals are typical - one side management for hunting.
3. No mention was made of natural areas or potentials for them.
4. Could some of the management be directed at nongame wildlife species?

DNR Response: The property has been disturbed by agriculture, timber cutting, ditching and a variety of practices which have eliminated any natural area opportunities. Nongame species will benefit from game management activities. Habitat protection will provide additional benefits, especially for osprey and great blue heron.

By: Richard W. Dexter
Representing: The State Historical Society
Historical Preservation Division
Date: January 8, 1985

Thank you for providing us with a copy of the Collins Wildlife Area Master Plan.

We have searched our records for information on properties of architectural, historical, or archeological significance in the wildlife area. There are no properties in that area which are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and none have been identified as eligible for listing in the National Register.

As your document suggests, the archeological potential in the wildlife area is high. We look forward to reviewing any future plans for ground disturbing activities so that we may advise you whether an archeological survey is warranted.

If there are any questions concerning this matter, please contact me at (608) 262-2732.

By: William Rienks
Representing: Wisconsin Conservation Congress
Date: January 17, 1985

Overall view - excellent

It is our feeling that this is a very workable management plan that addresses the major concerns regarding the marsh and will manage it in the interests of the majority of the people.

1. Major comments: Page 1 & 2 in regard to further acquisition and deletion, we support the recommended changes. Most of the recommended acquisitions are marginal farm land on which the owners claim their property is being adversely affected by the dam. We feel other recommended measures will correct the problem, but if this doesn't work out, purchase should be considered.

2. Editorial comments: Plan fails to address goose damage to farmers and this is becoming a problem.

   DNR Response: Text added.

3. Additional comments: The dam should be operated at the 8 01 level which is slightly less than maximum. The drainage ditch on the west side should be dredged to prevent water from backing up on farm land. We feel the stated goose population goal of 10,000 is too high; 8,000 would be a more realistic goal and would help alleviate goose damage problems.

   DNR Response: The 8 01 water level will be maintained. The goose objective has been lowered to 7,000.

By: Forest Stearns
Representing: Scientific Areas Preservation Council
Date: February 4, 1985

We have reviewed the Collins Marsh Wildlife Area Concept Master Plan and find that the goals, objectives, and proposed management are generally in harmony with our program interests.

We note that there is a heron rookery on the project areas and that state threatened great egrets are frequently observed, though not known to nest on the project area. We recommend that management decisions for the large acreage of bottomland timber consider the habitat needs of these species; ideally retaining as much unmanaged old growth timber as practical.

DNR Response: Heron and egret considerations will be included in forest management plan.

APPENDIX B

Public Meeting Summary
January 23, 1985

PURPOSE:

A meeting was held to discuss the merits of the Department's Master Plan and to resolve problems arising from high water levels in the area; 123 people were in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Elmer Brandt

Don't believe have a permit for 7 foot, want the 801 level specifically mentioned in plan. Neustadter said in original hearing he was going to maintain a water level of 400-500 acres per statement to Examiner Alexander.

Ed Schroeder

Speaking for 50 landowners in town. Dick already has his comments recorded.

Bill Reenks - Rep. Wis. Conservation Congress

They don't think this should come down to a battle between sportsmen and farmers. Should be careful about making judgements that marsh is responsible for all water problems in areas. WCC is going to recommend that water be maintained at 801 level. WCC wants to see marsh and dam maintained and also favor the proposed land acquisition. Are concerned about use goals and think 10,000 geese may be too many and think crop damage complaints are result of this.

Bill Ebert

Overall view of plan - the dead trees due to high water detract from scenic beauty. Believes taxes should be paid by DNR just like private individuals. Does not believe tax reimbursements by DNR equals that paid by private individuals. Wants water lowered to original 801 level.

Jerry Reichert

Says 12-14" of water is sufficient for ducks and have 4' of water now, Why? (High water conditions explained)

Dave Kennel

A duck hunter--says the DNR is only trying to get back what the farmers have ruined for years.

Tom Ward

County Soil Conservation Dept. - Agrees that there is a problem of water levels associated with the 2 prevalent soil types in the area below the 805 level. Soil acts like a sponge. Says channel construction will help drain the soil faster. They recommend trying this with water level at 801 and see if that alleviates the problem.

Dale Bolle

Complained about the graphs being in black and white. Expressed concern for property owners. Says state should pay taxes like the landowners--says he didn't know if they do or don't. Seemed to suggest that farmers post land to get their point across.

Ken Behnke

Says gates work. Need to get someone to open gates rapidly in summer when rains come. Need to figure out a way to do this. Says water drains rapidly out his creek when the gate is open.

Jim Larson

Farm has been in wife's family for almost 100 years. Says wife's father plowed almost all the land previously and now he can't even cut canary grass there. Proposes that unless something is done about this, his land will no longer be open to public hunting.

Dean Fischer - Rep. Rockea Hunting Club

Have 3,600 acres there and don't need any more. Says can raise all the ducks you want, but won't be able to harvest them if farmers won't let people hunt. Says fishing is better with water lower.

Dale Bolle

Says the shared revenue is complicated and doesn't understand it. But says you're (landowners) getting shafted.

Vic Vogt

Commenting on crop damage and property damage. Hunters short out his electric fence and cows get out. Thinks DNR should pay for damages. Says before the extra foot was put on the dam, he never had any water problems. (State law explained)

Dennis Rusch

Says area to the north of ditch which is proposed to be dredged has more water than needed. Says more water lessens area which can be hunted. Doesn't like to see water so high that it's killing trees.

Dennis Behnke

Says DNR is ruining the trees in the swamp by raising the water level. (Water level plans explained)

Joe Larson

Says forester can't look at his woods for WTL entry because water is too high.

Tom Ward

SCS would like to see some breakdown of the acres on the property that are available for feed for geese, etc.

Joe Gintner

Is a farmer, as well as a sportsman - feels water problem at Collins are a result of recent rainy years.

Gary Krajnik - Rep. Conservation Education

Says they feel the plan is workable and hopes differences can be resolved so plan can be implemented.

Elmer Brandt

Why would anyone hold a public hearing if you aren't going to abide by it. Why wouldn't you let the Town of Rockland know you are changing the waterlevel. (Township communication plans explained)

Dennis Behnke

In regards to taxes...no matter how you slice the pie, if you remove more land from the tax base the remaining landowners have to pay more taxes. I don't care how you explain it in regards to a small area, the Town of Rockland or whatever, the more land statewide that the DNR owns the more all of us pay for taxes. (Tax impact explained emphasizing positive features).

Ed Schroeder

How do you count the geese? (Survey techniques explained)

Joel Larson

Have you ever considered farming the land yourself--buying your own equipment and opening the rest of the land up for bids--some of that money could go back to the Town of Rockland.

What recourse do we have for goose depredation. I understand that Tom Ward (LCC) was going to adopt a program (Tom Ward replied we have not adopted the program yet; Dick mentioned if we can't work together this won't work).

We are farmers--we want respect--the farmer-landowners are raising the wildlife on their land--we aren't looking for handouts.

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