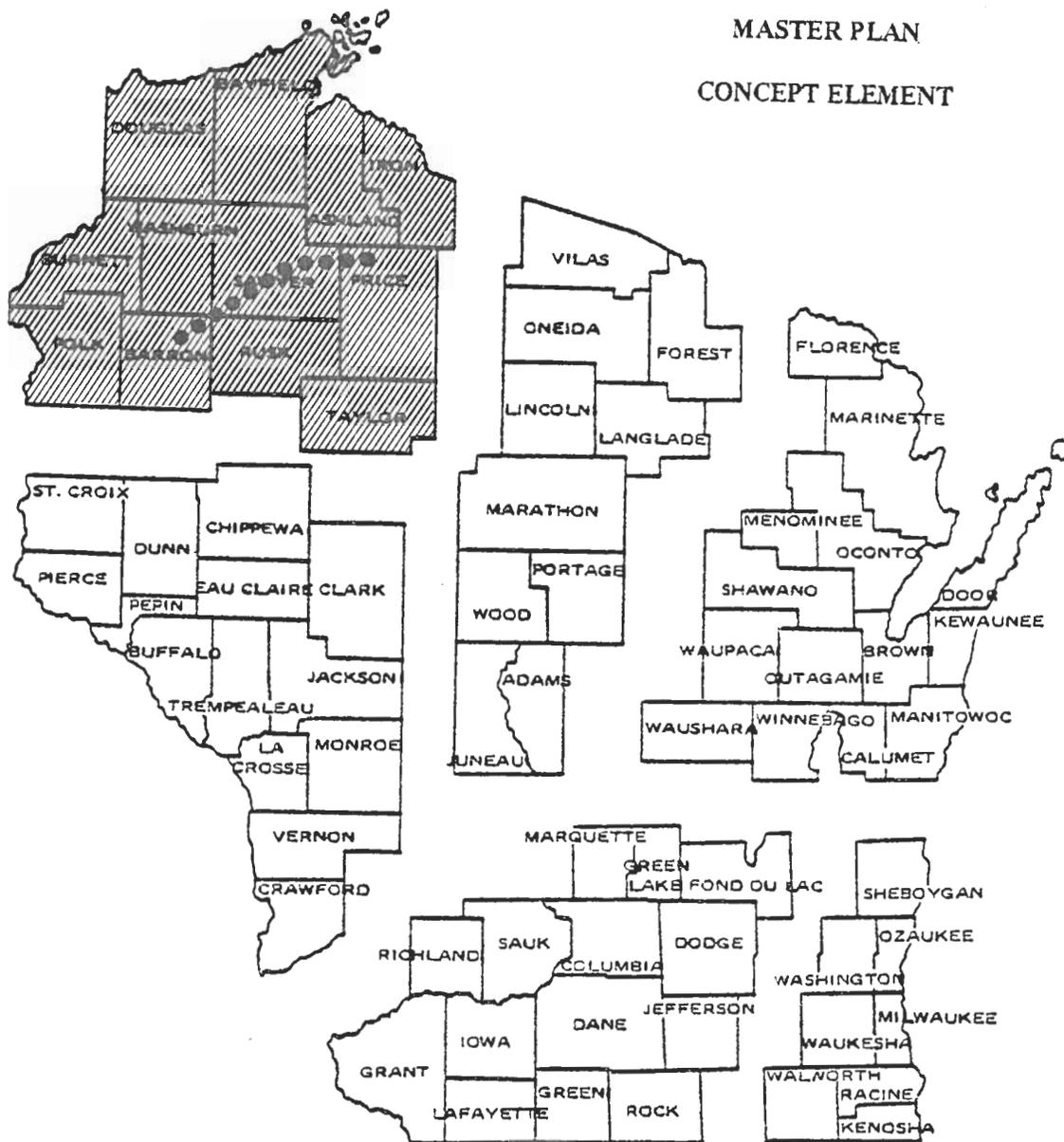


TUSCOBIA STATE RECREATION AREA TRAIL

MASTER PLAN

CONCEPT ELEMENT



Property Task Force

Leader: Ray Larsen, Tuscobia Trail Supt.
Sam Moore, Wildlife Management
Lynn Thompson, Law Enforcement
Jack Hames, Land Acquisition
Bob Gothblad, Environmental Protection
Mike Ries, Park Planner

Approved By: Natural Resources Board

Date: 11-14-84

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SECTION I - ACTION

A. GOAL, OBJECTIVES and ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Goal

To make available a 74-mile state recreation area trail for year-round use, which will provide safe two-way traffic for hiking, horseback riding, snowmobiling, deer hunting and trapping, and to preserve the resource for present and future generations.

Annual Objectives

1. Provide a trail with the necessary improvements that will accommodate 15,000 user days for snowmobilers.
2. Provide trail opportunities for 5,000 user days for hikers and joggers.
3. Provide opportunities for 2,000 horseback rider user days.
4. Provide 1,500 user days of deer hunting and trapping opportunities.
5. Accommodate individuals who are handicapped or disadvantaged through the proper design, construction, and management of the trail facility.

Additional Benefits

1. Provide for 1,000 to 3,000 user days for such activities as biking, berry picking, bird watching, photography, general nature study, and fishing in streams that are crossed by the trail.
2. Provide a connecting link to other recreational trail systems in the area.
3. To preserve the transportation corridor.

B. RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

It is recommended that Tuscobia Trail be changed in classification from a state park trail to a state recreation area trail. The trail will be used for hiking, jogging, nature study, deer hunting, trapping, snowmobiling, and horseback riding. If conflicts develop, specific geographic and time zones to eliminate such conflicts will be implemented as provided in section 23.091 of the Statutes.

1. Development (Figure 2)

The first phase of development will include the construction of a four-unit combination vault toilet and well with handpump at the trail's western terminus. East terminus development will include the construction of a 20-car parking lot, four-unit combination vault toilet, and well with handpump. Eight rest areas 1/2 to 1 acre in size

will be tilled and seeded, and fire rings, and horse hitching posts installed. A three-unit combination vault toilet will be constructed at four of the eight rest areas. Interpretive signs will be erected at key points along the trail. A culvert will be placed at the Park Falls end where there is a drainage problem on recently acquired property.

Another phase one project will include construction of approximately ten miles of fence primarily on the trail's west end to satisfy various fencing requests. This fencing will occur over a long-term period and be constructed on a priority basis, according to Department policy.

Other minor projects to be completed during phase one consist of planting of trees and shrubs to create a screen between the trail and highway, and constructing wood duck houses.

Second phase will include construction of a bridge over King Creek after acquisition of right-of-way. The Chippewa River crossing, which now utilizes the STH "70" bridge, will be the last remaining break in the trail corridor. If the DOT changes routes or improves or replaces the existing bridge, other opportunities will be sought to obtain an acceptable solution to crossing the river. Fencing of the right-of-way will also be required.

Total estimated development cost, based on 1984 cost figures, is \$187,000. All proposed development will be dependent upon available funds and statewide priorities. Additional and/or up-to-date justification will also be required.

All areas proposed for development will be examined for the presence of endangered and threatened wild animals and plants. If listed species are found, development will be suspended until the site is evaluated and appropriate protective measures are taken.

2. Management

a. Facility

The trail is managed under the direction of the trail superintendent located at Winter. Primary maintenance, land acquisition, and law enforcement responsibility rests with the property superintendent. Additional law enforcement is supplied by conservation wardens based in Winter, Park Falls, Spooner, and Rice Lake.

Trespass problems that occur along the trail will be minimized by marking the trail right-of-way with proper signing.

b. Vegetative Management

Control of brush and tree encroachment into the travel lane of the trail has been a major and continuing maintenance problem. The objective is to clear brush and trees approximately 6 feet from

each side of the present 12-foot-wide travel lane. A vegetative management program providing the flexibility to carry out the practices outlined in the environmental assessment and implementation element of the master plan will be followed. Cutting is currently being accomplished with temporary summer help, Youth Camp enrollees, and Camp Flambeau inmate labor as funding and availability permit.

Portions of the trail that offer special interest or problems will be identified and the vegetation managed to enhance plant diversity, accent positive resources and vistas, and screen incompatible adjacent land uses. In some areas this will require cutting unwanted trees and shrubs; in other areas planting trees and shrubs may be required.

c. Wildlife Management

Only a minimum of intensive management is planned which will include maintaining habitat diversity by using normal brushing and mowing activities as a primary management tool. Special effort will be made to protect and maintain openings to create more edge effect in brushy areas along the trail. Habitats resulting from this management activity will benefit most game and nongame wildlife present. Endangered species management will include habitat improvement and protection.

Control of larger woody vegetation along the edges of the trail will improve the quality of wildlife habitat. At selected locations containing pure hardwood types, large over-story trees will be cut to create a more lush and diverse understory of grass and low shrubs. This management technique will maintain or improve the edge effect.

From six to eight acres of wildlife openings will be mowed once every two years until sod is developed to help maintain the original grass-clover seeding and prevent encroachment by woody vegetation. After sod is developed a mowing will take place every five to ten years. The openings will add a measure of diversity to existing habitat and provide food for wildlife. Wildlife benefiting from these openings include deer, grouse, bear, small mammals, and predatory birds. The long, narrow property configuration precludes much work for furbearers. Because the trail makes an excellent travel lane crossing a multitude of habitat types, much trapping opportunity exists without specific management.

Beaver have been and will continue to be a problem on the property. To minimize damage to the trail and adjacent lands caused by flooding, beaver activity will be controlled. Beaver dams will be removed when necessary.

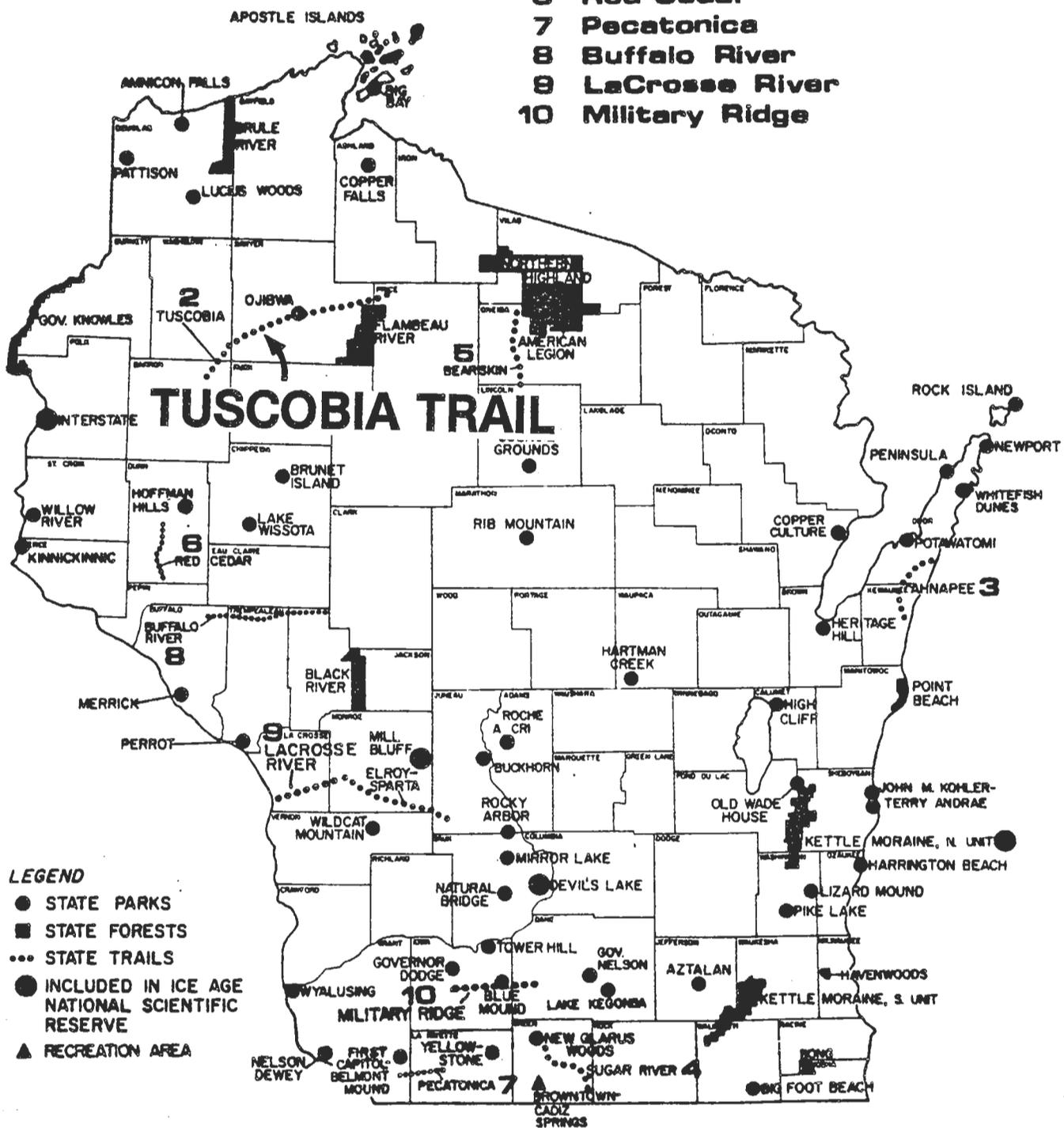
d. Fish Management

Fish management will include stream surveys, fish stocking, and beaver control on trout streams crossed by the trail. Damming of the streams by beaver warms the water making it unsuitable for trout.

3. Land Acquisition (Figure 3)

As of June 30, 1984, state ownership for the Tuscobia Trail was 834.84 acres out of an approved acreage goal of 910 acres. 75 acres of privately-owned lands (four owners) remain to be purchased. 26.28 miles of right-of-way (343 acres) owned by the Department of Transportation (DOT) are reserved for needed future highway improvements. These reserved lands may be used for trail purposes by agreement until such time DOT needs them for highway purposes.

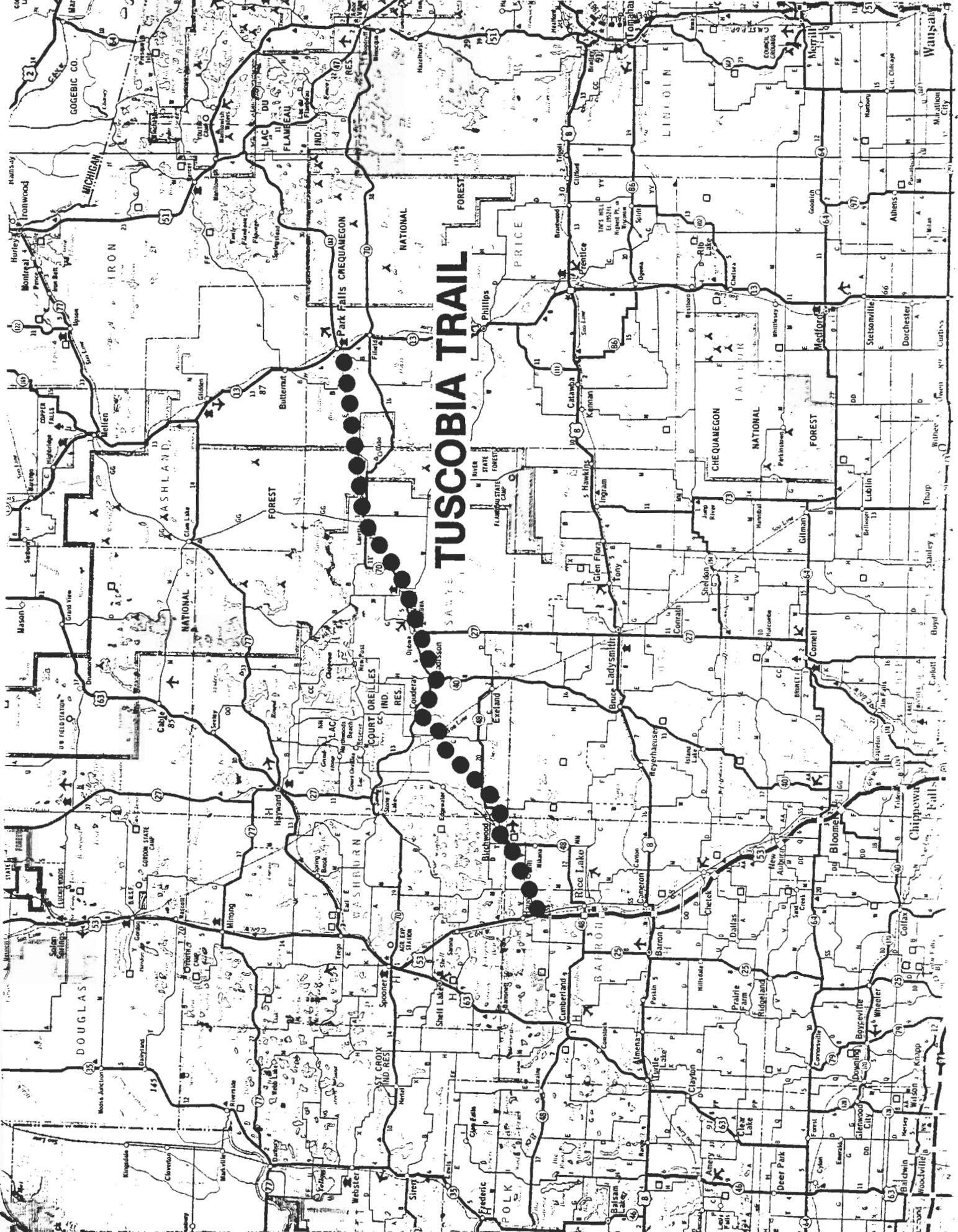
- 1 Elroy Sparta
- 2 Tuscobia
- 3 Ahnapee
- 4 Sugar River
- 5 Bearskin
- 6 Red Cedar
- 7 Pecatonica
- 8 Buffalo River
- 9 LaCrosse River
- 10 Military Ridge



LEGEND

- STATE PARKS
- STATE FORESTS
- ... STATE TRAILS
- INCLUDED IN ICE AGE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC RESERVE
- ▲ RECREATION AREA

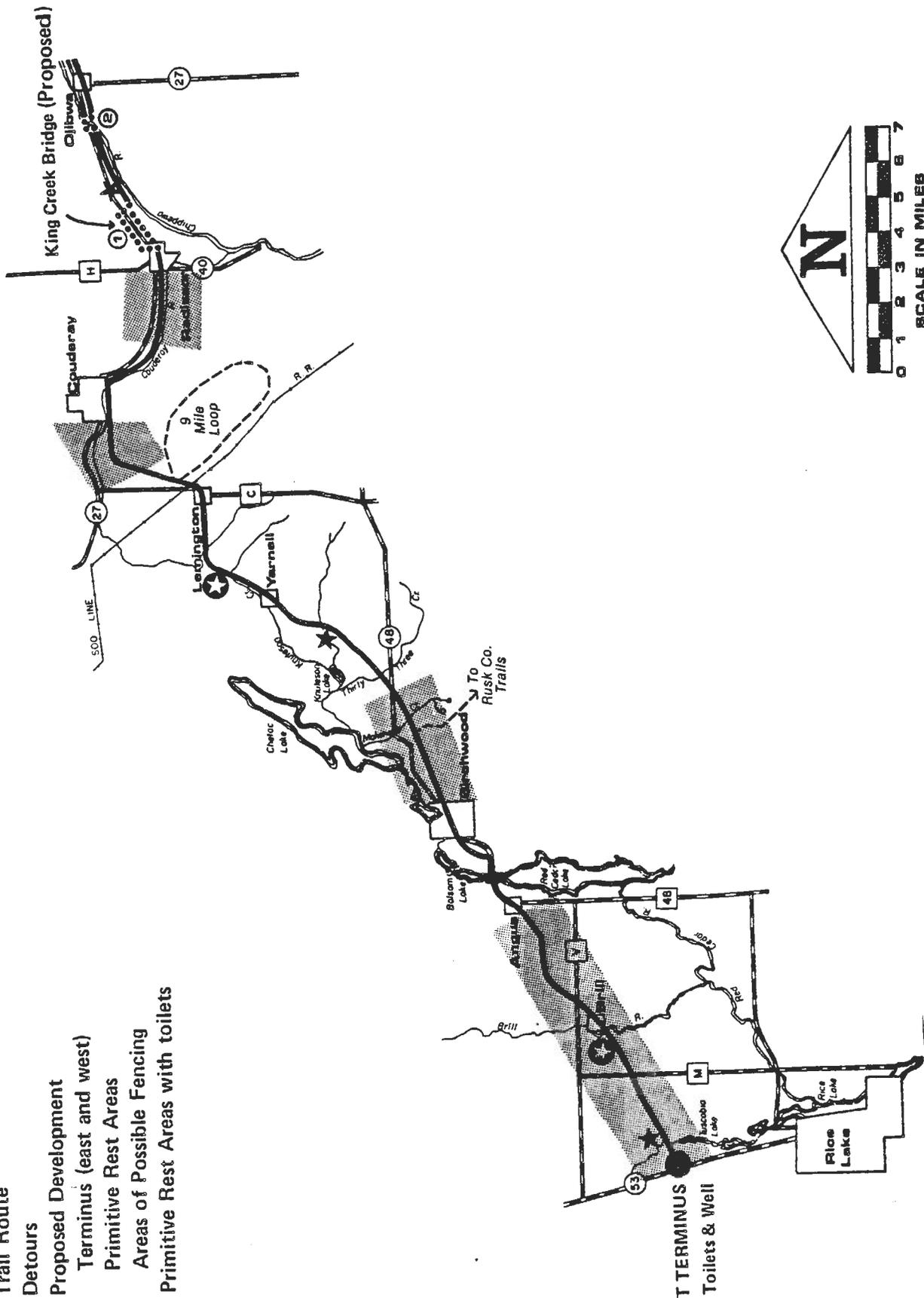
STATE TRAILS MAP FIGURE 1



LOCATION MAP FIGURE 2

TUSCOBIA STATE TRAIL

- Trail Route
- Detours
- Proposed Development
- Terminus (east and west)
- Primitive Rest Areas
- Areas of Possible Fencing
- Primitive Rest Areas with toilets



DEVELOPMENT MAP —
EXISTING & PROPOSED
FIGURE 4A

SECTION II - SUPPORT DATA

A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Location (Figure 1)

The 74-mile Tuscobia State Trail is located in the northwestern part of the state on a southwest-northeast axis from a point 4 miles north of Rice Lake to the City of Park Falls. The corridor lies within Barron, Washburn, Sawyer and Price Counties. It passes through the villages of Brill, Angus, Birchwood, Couderay, Radisson, Ojibwa, Winter, Loretta, and Draper.

a. Relationship to Highways

The trail parallels for distances of varying lengths, Highway 48 in the west and west central, Highway "70" in the central, and Price County Highway "EE" in the east section of the property. Other major access routes running in a north-south direction include Highway 53 on the west end, Highways 27 and 40 in the central section, and Highway 13 on the east end of the trail.

b. Relationship to Population Centers

The trail's western terminus is 4 miles north of Rice Lake, 100 miles northeast of the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, and 50 miles north of Eau Claire. The trail's eastern terminus is Park Falls, which is approximately 235 miles from Madison, 285 miles from Milwaukee, 195 miles from Green Bay, and 375 miles from Chicago. There are 2.5 million people living within a two-hour drive of the trail.

2. History of the Area

The railroad grade was constructed over a 15-year period from 1899 to 1914 by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company. The railroad primarily served the forest industries, agricultural communities, wood products factories, and mills from Tuscobia to the City of Park Falls. Tuscobia was a railroad junction point just north of Rice Lake. At peak of operations, 1 passenger, 1 freight, and 11 logging trains traveled each way along the grade daily. The railroad was abandoned in 1965.

3. Chronology of Property's Establishment and Development

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1965 | Permission received by Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company to abandon the line. |
| 1966 | Feasibility studies were conducted to determine interest in recreational trails. |

- Oct. 24, 1966 The Wisconsin Conservation Commission approved the establishment of the Tuscobia-Park Falls State Trail and purchase of the 600 acres of abandoned right-of-way. The original acreage goal was 650 acres.
- July 1967 DNR purchased all available right-of-way.
- July 19, 1974 The Natural Resources Board increased the acreage goal by 260 acres from 650 to 910.

At present, the State ownership is 94%, with 27% being owned by the Department of Transportation (343 acres), and 67% being owned by the Department of Natural Resources (834.84 acres). Seventy-five acres are in private ownership.

4. Past and Present Management Activities

- 1967-1969 Management of the trail was the responsibility of the Brunet Island State Park Superintendent.
- 1970 Management of the trail was transferred to the Winter Ranger.
- 1971-1974 Original management plan (Recreational Trail Guidelines) was written for the project.
- 1974-1978 Bridges and culverts replaced, Ojibwa Park connector trail completed and a parking lot at the western terminus was completed. Continuing maintenance tasks include signing, leveling of the trail tread, erosion control, cleanup of old railroad debris, right-of-way fencing, and control of encroaching vegetation.
- 1978-Present The trail is currently under reduced operation status due to budgetary limitations. Maintenance is primarily limited to controlling unwanted vegetation.

B. RESOURCE CAPABILITIES AND INVENTORY

1. Geology

The trail is located in a glaciated region with many lakes and poorly drained areas providing contrast to the rolling hills. Examples of moraines, kames and kettles can be viewed from the trail. Adjacent to the trail are the Blue Hills (Barron Hills), a monadnock group in Sawyer and Rusk Counties. There is a county-owned trail link several miles east of Birchwood which provides access to the 600 foot "Hills."

2. Soils

Soils along the trail corridor are classified in three predominant groupings: those typical of northern silty uplands and plains, those typical of northern sandy uplands and plains, and those typical of stream bottoms and major wetlands.

The silty upland soils are usually well drained and moderately permeable although some are quite stoney and imperfectly drained. The sandy upland soils are characterized by well drained sandy loams, while the stream bottoms and major wetlands soils are characterized by raw acid sedge and woody peat soils typified by very poorly drained lowlands.

3. Climate

The climate along the trail is continental, characterized by long, snowy, often severely cold winters and relatively short summers with warm days and cool nights. Spring and fall are often short with the transition from winter to summer and summer to winter quite rapid. Changes in weather from late fall to early spring can be expected every few days as frequent storm systems pass through the area along the Colorado and Alberta weather tracts. Prevailing winds are northwest to westerly late fall to early spring and from the south the rest of the year. Snowfall of over one inch can be expected on the average by the second week in November, and there is a 90% probability of snow on the ground during the winter months. Although occasional deep snow years occur, the major snowbelt lies to the north of the trail along Lake Superior.

Frost can be expected during any of the summer months, especially in low-lying areas. The average date of the last freeze is the last week in May to the first week in June. The first freeze of the fall occurs in the last week in August to the first week in September.

4. Water Resources

Twenty-two trout and warm water streams are crossed by the trail. Lakes in or near the project area include Balsam, Red Cedar, Birch and Lake Radisson (a flowage of the Chippewa River). These lakes are all typical warm water lakes containing such species as northern pike, muskellunge, walleye, black bass, and panfish. The Ozark minnow, a threatened species, has been found in the Brill River in the vicinity of the community of Brill. Longear sunfish, also a threatened species, are known to be present in some waters of the Couderay drainage system.

A list of the streams crossed by the Tuscobia Trail is found in the appendix.

5. Vegetative Cover

The area along the trail supports second growth hardwood forests of maple, basswood, elm, ash, oak, aspen, and birch (with a prominence of the latter two) and conifer species of white, jack, and red pine, balsam fir, hemlock, tamarack, and black and white spruce. Lowland vegetation consisting of cattails, reeds, rushes, bog rosemary, leatherleaf, bog birch, bog laurel, sedges, cranberries, wild rice, and sphagnum moss is also present. No endangered or threatened species of plants are known to be present on the property.

6. Wildlife

Game and furbearer species common on the trail include white-tailed deer, black bear, coyote, bobcat, fox, snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbit, raccoon, squirrel (var. spp), ruffed grouse, woodcock, muskrat, mink, otter, beaver, and weasel. Information on waterfowl using the streams and wetlands associated with the trail is not available. As time and funds permit, a complete wildlife inventory should be undertaken.

7. Site Inventory

Land use cover types are upland brush - 243 acres; lowland brush - 139 acres; northern hardwood - 95 acres; oak - 1 acre; fir-spruce - 24 acres; aspen - 270 acres; swamp - 19 acres; swamp hardwood - 1 acre; grasslands - 32 acres; and white pine - 7 acres.

8. Land-Use Classification

Approximately 95 acres utilized by the trail portion of the right-of-way, rest areas, and terminus development will be classified as intensive recreation development (IRD).

The remaining area within the trail corridor will be classified as extensive recreation area (ERA).

9. Historical and Archaeological Features

According to State Historical Society records there are no reported historical and/or archaeological sites located within the boundaries of the Tuscobia Trail.

C. MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

1. Vegetative Encroachment

Brush and tree encroachment is a continuing problem along the entire length of the trail.

2. Length and Configuration of Property

The 74-mile linear property makes law enforcement, development, and maintenance more difficult and expensive. Limited budgets compound this problem.

3. Detours

Because sections of right of way are still in private ownership trail users must be detoured on the town roads.

4. Trespass

While owned by the railroad company a number of adjoining land owners utilized the railroad right-of-way for small garden plots, driveways, and lawn areas. Many of these practices continue since state purchase of the right-of-way.

D. RECREATIONAL NEEDS AND JUSTIFICATIONS

1. Current and Projected Needs Analyzed From State Plan

The 1981 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for Regions 1 and 4, which includes the counties of Barron, Washburn, Sawyer, and Price lists needs for 240 miles of pleasure walking trail and 105 miles of bike trail for Region 1. Region 4 has need of 184 miles of hiking trail, 81 miles of pleasure walking trail, 350 miles of bike trail, 370 miles of cross-country ski trail, and 341 miles of snowmobile trail. Neither region shows a need for additional horse trail according to SCORP. The regional need projections are made only to 1984.

From public input, the Department of Natural Resources determined that horseback riding was a preferred use of the trail rather than bike riding. The master plan reflects these findings.

2. Current and Projected Needs as Defined in Local Plans

The county recreation plans indicate that few long distance hikers have been utilizing available trails. Short distance pleasure walking is more popular. All of the counties involved feel there is an adequate bike trail system. The Northwest Regional Planning Commission maintains that the bike route laid out in town, county, and state roads by the State Division of Tourism currently fill the bicyclists' needs in this area of the state. The counties feel that there is enough miles of snowmobile trail to handle present and future needs.

E. ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

1. Management

a. Continue With the State Park Trail Designation

As a state park, the entire 74-mile trail could be managed to allow for a wide variety of recreational activities. However, hunting and trapping would be prohibited in conformance with Section 29.57(4) Statutes.

b. Redesignate as a State Recreation Trail

As a state recreation area authorized under Section 23.091 of the Statutes, the trail could be managed to provide a full range of recreational and educational uses, including deer hunting and trapping. Small game hunting would not be permitted. Use zones could be established with rules adopted to control activities within the zones, as well as limit the number of people using any particular zone. A copy of Section 23.091 is in the appendix. This is the preferred designation.

2. Development and Acquisition

a. No Additional Acquisition or Development

Although most of the right-of-way has been acquired this alternative would provide for no further acquisition, maintenance, or development.

This alternative is not desirable since the grade was acquired for recreational purposes. Further, such an approach could lead to safety, trespass, and encroachment problems, as well as degeneration of the resource.

b. Moderate Trail Development

This preferred alternative would call for construction of a vault toilet and well with hand pump at the trail's western terminus, construction of an east terminus facility with parking lot, vault toilet, and well with hand pump, eight small primitive rest areas along the trail, four of which will have vault toilets, interpretive signing, culvert installation, and fencing. Construction of a bridge over King Creek is dependent on purchase of privately-owned right-of-way.

c. Large Scale Trail Development

This alternative would provide for a full complement of trail facilities for use by bikers, hikers, and snowmobilers. The trail would be surfaced. Rest stops would be provided at major access points, as well as at communities along the trail. Toilets, water, and picnic tables would be provided at all major rest stops. Campgrounds for trail users would be constructed at various points on the trail. Limited budgets, public sentiment against surfacing, and adequate bike trails in existence at this time make this alternative unfeasible.

d. Other Development and Use

Cross-country ski trail guidelines recommend that one-third of the trail be uphill, one-third downhill, and one-third level. The proposed trail is generally level and would be suitable, but not

ideal, for cross-country skiing. If the popularity or feasibility of snowmobiling diminishes in the future, the trail could be converted to cross-country ski use without incurring any additional development cost. Snowmobile and cross-country skiing will not be designated on the same trail as user conflicts would develop.

There is a growing demand for trails on which to ride "three-wheelers." These motor vehicles are motor cycle-type machines having large low pressure tires. These vehicles are being allowed on snowmobile trails in Langlade and Marathon Counties. Their use is being observed and evaluated.

2422M

- (b) Establishment of State Trail and purchase of abandoned C&NW Railway branch line between Tuscobia and Park Falls.
(Item 3.B-12, Minutes of September 9, 1966.)

600 acres from C&NW RR, Chicago, Ill. - \$20,000. Price per acre - \$33.34. Tenure - 1900.

Commissioner Smith reported that the Land Committee and the Priorities Committee (Smith-Tyler) inspected the area which has been proposed for a state trail in the Tuscobia-Park Falls area on Tuesday, October 18.

Commissioner Smith stated that while this trail is not as scenic as the Elroy-Sparta trail, it is scenic and the Department has indicated that it can be established as a part of the plan for state trails. Mr. Smith pointed out that unless the State exercises the option at this time, the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company will probably dispose of the land and it will be lost to the State.

Commissioner Smith stated the Land Committee and the Priorities Committee jointly recommend that the Department be authorized to execute the options with the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company in the amount of \$20,000, for purchase of property to develop the Tuscobia-Park Falls State Trail and he so moved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner MacArthur.
When put to a vote, motion was carried unanimously.

23.091 Recreation areas. (1) DESIGNATION. The department may acquire, develop, operate and maintain state recreation areas. State lands and waters may be designated as state recreation areas that are environmentally adaptable to intensive recreational uses or are so located to provide regional recreational opportunities for urban areas.

(2) MASTER PLAN. The department may designate a recreational area only after a master plan for use and management of the area is prepared, public hearings on the plan are held in the county where the largest portion of land in the project is located, the procedures prescribed in s. 1.11 are complied with, and the plan is approved by the natural resources board.

(3) USE ZONES. The department may establish use zones within state recreation areas providing for the full range of recreational uses, including hunting and fishing. It may adopt rules to control uses within zones and may limit the number of persons using any zone. Such use zones shall be consistent with the activities identified in the master plan formulated under sub. (2).

History: 1977 c. 29.

Appendix C

BARRON COUNTY

Tuscobia Creek - Class I brook trout water

Brill River - Class II brown and brook trout water

SAWYER COUNTY

33 Creek - Class I brook trout

41 Creek - Class I brook trout

Yarnell Creek - Class I brook trout

Swift Creek - Class I brook trout above Tuscobia Trail
Class II stocked brook trout below Tuscobia Trail

Couderay River - Warm water stream

Eddy Creek - Class I brook and brown trout

Hemlock Spur Creek - Class I brook trout

Chippewa River - warm water stream

Ojibwa Park Creek - Class I brook trout

Brunet River - Class I and II brook and brown trout stream.

Above town road in Sec. 26-27, T39N, R5W

Thornapple River - Warm water stream

Log Creek - Class II brook trout downstream from Tuscobia Trail to outlet,
Class III upstream from trail to origin.

Pine Creek - All trout water, Class III Sawyer County

PRICE COUNTY

Rock Creek - All Class II brook trout water

Butternut Creek - All Class II brook and brown trout water

Pinkerton Creek - All Class II brook trout water

Smith Creek - All Class II brook trout water

Appendix D

Trout streams fish

Brook trout, creek chub, blacknose dace mudminnow, mottled sculpin, brook stickleback, brassy minnow, Johnny darter, black-sided darter, white sucker, most common species. Likely to be 10-20 other species mostly cyprinids. Survey data is limited.

Non-trout streams fish

Similar to above but without the trout and greater diversity (20-30 spp) especially among cyprinids. White sucker and/or creek chub likely to dominate on biomass while common shiner or central stoneroller likely to dominate in terms of numbers. Streams close to the Couderay River are also likely to contain small numbers of warmwater game species including northern pike, smallmouth bass, walleye and muskellunge plus centrarchid panfish (rockbass, pumpkinseed).

Amphibians

Frogs of Rana spp., adults and tadpoles, other genera of toads/frogs and salamanders common to northwest Wisconsin stream and stream-edge communities may be present.

Reptiles

Snapping turtle, painted turtle, northern watersnake, other species of turtles/snakes common to northwest Wisconsin stream and stream-edge communities may be present.

Miscellaneous Invertebrates

Numerous species of aquatic insect larvae of caddisfly, mayfly and stonefly groups also Simuliidae and aquatic Coleoptera. Aquatic annelids including leeches of parasitic and non-parasitic species. Native crayfish Orconectes genus, freshwater clams and other molluscs common to northwest Wisconsin, Gammarus and Hydrellis spp. common in spring and spring-fed areas.

Aquatic Plants

Elodea sp., Ranunculus sp., Vallisneria sp., Lemna sp., epiphytic green algae, watercress in spring and spring-fed areas. Others submergent and emergent plants common to stream communities in northwest Wisconsin. No rare or endangered and non in-field inventory data.



The State of Wisconsin

SCIENTIFIC AREAS PRESERVATION COUNCIL

Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

June 28, 1984

IN REPLY REFER TO: 1750

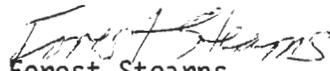
June 28, 1984

Mr. Dave Weizenicker
Bureau of Parks & Recreation
Dept. of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Dave:

We have reviewed the Tuscobia State Trail Master Plan and find that the goals, objectives and recommended management do not affect scientific area program interests.

Cordially,


Forest Stearns
Chairman

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Date: August 15, 1984

File Ref: 2100-1

AUG 15 1984

To: → Dave Weizenicker - P&R/4

From: Dick Lindberg - FOR/4 *RL*

Subject: Tuscobia State Trail Master Plan

The Wild Resources Advisory Council recognizes the absence of wild resources opportunities on this linear property. However, it does wish to comment on other issues regarding the management of the trail and its use.

1. A special effort should be made to publicize the horseback riding opportunities afforded by this trail and, it should be statewide.
2. Horses and horseback riders need specialized campgrounds like the type provided at Wildcat Mountain. A discussion of this need was not found in the plan.
3. The 12 foot strip of trail designated for continuing maintenance may not be adequate to stop encroachment of the trail by trees bordering the maintained strip.
4. The beaver problem and its affect on the trail was not clearly defined.
5. Motorized vehicle use of trails is not compatible with horseback riding. Therefore, 3-wheeler use is not recommended during snow-free seasons. The Council feels that what is proposed could lead to serious problems.
6. Some mention should be made of the need for greater than usual trail maintenance to counteract the damage horses will surely cause to the trail surface.

RL:dj

Date: September 11, 1984

File Ref: 2510

To: R. Lindberg - FOR/4

From: D. Weizenicker

J. Weizenicker
D. Weizenicker

Subject: WRAC Comments on Tuscobia State Trail Master Plan

This is in response to the Council's comments on the Tuscobia Master Plan.

1. A special effort should be made to publicize the horseback riding opportunities afforded by this trail and it should be statewide.

Department Response:

The Department will publicize the trail and its uses through the Visitor's Guide, District news releases, trail brochure, etc.

2. Horses and horseback riders need specialized campgrounds like the type provided at Wildcat Mountain. A discussion of this need was not found in the plan.

Department Response:

The need for a horseman's campground on the Tuscobia Trail was discussed with representatives of the Wisconsin Horse Council during the early formulation of the master plan. Most horse use will be by locals and it was agreed that a specialized campground was not needed.

3. The 12-foot strip of trail designated for continuing maintenance may not be adequate to stop encroachment of the trail by trees bordering the maintained strip.

Department Response:

In the vegetative management section on page 2, it is recommended that 6 feet on each side of the 12-foot wide travel lane be cleared of brush and trees to provide a clear 24-foot wide corridor. This will be accomplished by cutting and regular mowing.

4. The beaver problem and its affect on the trail was not clearly defined.

Department Response:

Twenty-two streams are crossed by the trail. Flooding caused by the presence of beaver dams on these streams can damage the trail and adjacent lands.

5. Motorized vehicle use of trails is not compatible with horseback riding. Therefore, 3-wheeler use is not recommended during snow-free seasons. The Council feels that what is proposed could lead to serious problems.

Department Response:

It was mentioned in one of the development and acquisition alternatives there is a growing demand for trails on which to ride 3-wheelers and their use is being observed and evaluated. However, since the preferred alternative provides for moderate trail development to accommodate horseback riding, hiking, and snowmobiling, 3-wheeler use will not be permitted.

6. Some mention should be made of the need for greater than usual trail maintenance to counteract the damage horses will surely cause to the trail surface.

Department Response:

Since the trail surface is either sod or the original ballast material composed of cinder and crushed rock, little damage will occur. Use is expected to be relatively light which will also reduce the amount of maintenance. Additionally, there are no bicycles on this trail.

We thank the Council for its review of the master plan.

DJK:sbM77

cc: J. Treichel - P&R/4
→ D. Kulhanek - P&R/4
D. Jacobson - Spooner

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Note: (This revision combines Form 1600-1 and 1600-2 into one form.)

DISTRICT OR BUREAU

Northwest

DOCKET NUMBER

TYPE LIST DESIGNATION(S)

NR 150.03(2)(e)4

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
(Reference Information Sources Utilized)

Applicant: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Title of Proposal: Tuscobia State Trail Master Plan

Location: County Price, Sawyer, Washburn, Barron
Township ___ North, Range ___ East, West
Section(s) _____
Political Town _____

PROJECT SUMMARY

1. General Description (brief overview)

The conceptual phase of the Tuscobia State Trail Master Plan includes goals, objectives and recommended actions and includes support information used to arrive at the development proposals. Management plans include facility, vegetative, wildlife, and land acquisition programs, and establishes land use classifications. Proposed development includes construction of a well with hand pump and four-unit combination vault toilet at the west terminus, eight rest areas with fire rings and horse hitching posts, interpretive signing, fencing, culvert replacement and construction of a bridge over King Creek.

The plan also proposes a change in the property designation from state park trail to state recreation area trail.

2. Purpose and Need (include history and background as appropriate)

The purpose of this plan is to comply with the Natural Resource Board Policy, M.C. 2103.1 on Master Plans for Department properties. The plan is needed to set long range goals and objectives, and provide for land acquisition, development and operations of the trail in such a way as to allow sound decision making, consistency in management, and input from the public and other agencies.

3. Authorities and Approvals (list statutory authority and other relevant local, state and federal permits or approvals required)

Chapter 23.091, Wisconsin Statutes

Administrative Code NR 50.09 - maintenance and signing standards

Manual Code 3561.11 - Approvals for bridge and culvert installation

DNR herbicide and pesticide use (NWD approval form)

4. Estimated Cost and Funding Source

\$110,000 ORAP 2000, LAWCON or other available funds

PROPOSED PHYSICAL CHANGES

5. Manipulation of Terrestrial Resources (include relevant quantities - sq. ft., cu. yard., etc.)

Vegetation Management - Woody vegetation will be eliminated by cutting, mowing, and/or herbicide treatment on approximately 6 feet on each side of the trail travel lane (1.4 acres/mile of trail, total 105 acres). Herbicide application will be by ground methods (i.e., - no aerial application) using state of the art equipment available (hand sprayers, pressure pump - boom sprayer, injector, wick method, etc.). Herbicide use will be limited to the growing season, primarily spring and early summer. Application of any herbicide will be made by or supervised by a person trained and registered by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. Grasses and herbaceous plants capable of withstanding periodic mowing will gradually become dominant where the woody canopy is eliminated.

Wildlife Management - Approximately six to eight acres of forested upland will be converted to grassy openings to create habitat diversity and enhance aesthetics. Conversions will sometimes require only a minimal amount of hand work cutting a few unwanted trees and brush and leveling of the surface to permit mowing. Construction of some openings will require cutting more trees, leveling with a bulldozer, and reseeding with grasses and/or clover. Wildlife benefiting from these openings include deer, grouse, bear, small mammals and predatory birds.

6. Manipulation of Aquatic Resources (include relevant quantities - cfs., acre feet, NCD, etc.)

Aquatic resources will not be purposefully affected, however, some disturbance may result during the process of culvert installation and replacements or bridge construction. The placement of a culvert near the eastern end of the trail will require approximately 100 cu. yds. of fill to cover the culvert and level the trail.

7. Buildings, Treatment Units, Roads and Other Structures

A bridge will be required for crossing King Creek (just east of Radisson) should this section of former right-of-way be acquired. At present, trail users are detoured along public roadways around this break in the trail.

Fencing of the right-of-way will continue on a request and priority basis. Removal of the old fence usually requires the cutting of some trees and brush to facilitate construction.

A four-unit combination sealed vault toilet of standard design will be constructed at the west terminus to serve trail users. Twenty cubic yards or less of excavation will be needed. A well with hand pump will also be installed at this location.

8. Emissions and Discharges

None. Not applicable.

9. Other Changes

None. Not applicable.

10. Attach Maps, Plans and Other Descriptive Material as Appropriate (list)

State locator map.

Acquisition map.

Development map.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Information Based On (check all that apply):

Literature/correspondence

Personal Contacts (list in item 31)

Field Analysis By: Author, Other (list in item 31)

Past Experience With Site By: Author Other (list in item 31)

11. Physical (topography - soils - water - air - wetland amounts and types)

The trail, being a former railroad grade, has cuts and fills which result in a generally level trail through the gently to moderately rolling terrain. The trail is linear, with an average width of 16 feet, on a 100 foot wide right-of-way. The right-of-way is up to 400 feet wide at some former railroad sidings. There are over 200 water crossings which vary from season, intermittent drainages to permanent major rivers. Twenty-two crossings are fishable water and/or classified as trout streams. Lowland brush, open and

forested bog, and open marsh habitats commonly border the trail or its right-of-way. Additional information on topography, soils, and water resources is provided in the master plan.

12. Biological

a. Flora

A variety of herbaceous and woody plants are established along the sides of the old railbed. These disturbed plant communities are generally similar to those adjacent to the trail right-of-way. In some agricultural areas the right-of-way contains the only woody cover. Common woody species include: alder, willow, honeysuckle, aspen, hazel, elm, white birch, maple, spruce, balsam fir, red oak, and white pine. Herbaceous plants include the various grasses, ferns, berries, and wildflower species common to northwestern and north central Wisconsin.

b. Fauna

Wildlife commonly observed along the trail include: white-tailed deer, black bear, snowshoe hare, cottontail rabbit, grey squirrel, ruffed grouse, broad-winged hawk, robin, blue jay, cedar waxwing, eastern chipmunk, red squirrel, woodpeckers, and miscellaneous reptiles and amphibians. Many wildlife species benefit from the edge and habitat diversity created by trail right-of-way, but none are known to be entirely dependent on the trail for specific life history requirements.

Comprehensive lists of plant and animal species present are in the master plan.

13. Social/Economic (include ethnic and cultural groups, and zoning if applicable)

Many businesses in towns near the trail or through which the trail passes are tourist and visitor oriented. Approximately 15,000 snowmobilers per year making gas, food, beverage and lodging purchases during the winter season are especially important economically. The trail is also used for a variety of individual and group activities including hiking, walking, jogging, horseback riding, berry picking, and gun deer hunting.

14. Other Special Resources (e.g., archaeological, historical, endangered/threatened species, scientific areas, natural areas)

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail and the Tuscobia State Trail run coincidentally for about 10 miles from Highway 53 to approximately 2 miles west of Birchwood. The Ice Age Trail is a hiking trail following glacial moraines across the state. It connects a number of parks and Ice Age National Scientific Reserves established to preserve and interpret glacial features in Wisconsin.

There are no designated scientific or natural areas on or adjacent to the trail.

There are no known archaeological or historical sites on the trail or its right-of-way.

The trail passes within 1/4 mile of two known bald eagle nest sites (on the federal endangered species list). The Brill River is inhabited by the Ozark Minnow (listed since 1976 as a threatened species in Wisconsin).

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES (probable adverse and beneficial impacts including indirect and secondary impacts)

15. Physical (include visual if applicable)

Temporary negative visual impacts of the brushing program will be replaced by the more permanent positive impacts of a mowing program.

No significant impacts on water quality, groundwater, or wetlands are anticipated. Roundup herbicide (if used) will not be applied within 75 feet of any water receiving significant domestic or angling use. Needed culvert replacements will be accomplished with Bureau of Water Regulation and Zoning approval in such a manner and time so as to minimize any impact on water resources.

16. Biological

Shrub dominated plant communities will be converted to herbaceous plant communities. Actual losses to the shrub type will be minimal in most areas as the shrub edge will merely be moved back from the trail. The increased grass-forb habitat created in areas receiving sufficient sunlight will increase the available herbaceous plant and associated insect food base to benefit many species of wildlife. Nest boxes will also benefit various birds and mammals where suitable natural nesting and roosting cavities are lacking. No impacts on fish or other aquatic species are anticipated.

17. Social/Economic (include ethnic and cultural groups and zoning if applicable)

Recreation area trail designation will allow small game hunting, deer hunting, (gun and bow), and trapping during their respective established seasons. It is not expected that this change will result in a large number of new users or have any significant economic consequence. None of the proposed actions will create or eliminate local employment opportunities. Herbicide application is not likely to be sufficient cause to disrupt any trail use. A well maintained trail, free of encroaching brush, is expected to enhance user enjoyment and safety which should continue to benefit local suppliers of gas, food, and lodging. No other changes in the type or intensity of use are expected.

18. Other Special Resources (e.g., archaeological, historical, endangered/threatened species, scientific areas, natural areas)

There has been no known impact on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail to date and none are foreseen as a result of the proposed activities on the Tuscobia State Trail.

There will be no impacts on the threatened or endangered species present. The Brill River will not be affected by any proposed action. The bulk of activity on the trail in the vicinity of the eagle nests occurs after the young of the current nesting season have fledged and prior to the beginning of the next nesting season.

19. Probable Adverse Impacts That Cannot Be Avoided

Proposed construction will result in an irretrievable loss of energy resources. A minor loss of plant life and displacement of animal life will occur in construction areas.

ALTERNATIVES (no action - enlarge - reduce - modify - other locations and/or methods)

20. Identify, describe and discuss feasible alternatives to the proposed action and their impacts. Give particular attention to alternatives which might avoid some or all adverse environmental effects.

1. Management Alternatives

a. Continue with the State Park Trail Designation

As a state park, the entire 74-mile trail could be managed to allow for a wide variety of recreational activities. However, hunting and trapping would be prohibited in conformance with Section 29.57(4), Statutes. This alternative is not recommended since prohibiting hunting and trapping would serve no useful purpose and enforcement would be difficult because of the length of the property.

b. Redesignate as a State Recreation Trail

As a state recreation area authorized under Section 23.091 of the Statutes, the trail could be managed to provide a full range of recreational and educational uses, including hunting and trapping. Use zones could be established with rules adopted to control activities within the zones, as well as limit the number of people using any particular zone. This is the preferred designation.

2. Development and Acquisition Alternatives

a. No Additional Acquisition or Development

Although most of the right-of-way has been acquired, this alternative would provide for no further acquisition, maintenance, or development. This alternative is not desirable since the grade was acquired for recreational purposes. Further, such an approach could lead to safety, trespass, and encroachment problems, as well as degeneration of the resource.

b. Moderate Trail Development

This preferred alternative would call for construction of a four-unit combination vault toilet and well with hand pump at the west terminus, construction of eight small primitive rest areas, interpretive signing, culvert installation and fencing. Construction of a bridge over King Creek is dependent on purchase of privately owned right-of-way.

c. Large Scale Trail Development

This alternative would provide for a full complement of trail facilities for use by bikers, hikers, and snowmobilers. The trail would be surfaced. Rest stops would be provided at major access points, as well as at communities along the trail. Toilets, water, and picnic tables would be provided at all major rest stops. Campgrounds for trail users would be constructed at various points on the trail. Limited budgets, public sentiment against surfacing, and adequate bike trails in existence at this time make this alternative unfeasible.

d. Other Development and Use

Cross-country ski trail guidelines recommend that one-third of the trail be uphill, one-third downhill, and one-third level. The proposed trail is generally level and would be suitable, but not ideal, for cross-country skiing. If the popularity or feasibility of snowmobiling diminishes in the future, the trail could be converted to cross-country ski use without incurring any additional development cost. Snowmobile and cross-country skiing will not be designated on the same trail as user conflicts would develop.

There is a growing demand for trails on which to ride "three-wheelers." These motor vehicles are motor cycle-type machines having large low pressure tires. These vehicles are being allowed on snowmobile trails in Langlade and Marathon Counties. Their use is being observed and evaluated.

EVALUATION (Discuss each category. Attach additional sheets and other pertinent information if necessary.)

21. Secondary Effects: As a result of this action, is it likely that other events or actions will happen that may significantly affect the environment? If so, list here and reference their discussion in items 15-18 as appropriate.

No such efforts are foreseen. The actions are designed to maintain the present conditions which have had no known secondary effect to date.

22. New Environmental Effect: Does the action alter the environment so a new physical, biological or socio-economic environment would exist? If so, list here and reference their discussion in items 5-10 or 15-18 as appropriate.

The small amount of forested acreage (6-8 acres) that will be converted to grassy game openings will not be a significant gain/loss to either habitat type along the trail as a whole.

Hunting and trapping opportunities will be expanded on the trail. Their effects will be monitored to evaluate and alleviate any safety, trespass, or user conflicts which may arise.

23. Geographically Scarce: Are the existing environmental features that would be affected by the proposed action scarce, either locally or statewide? If so, list here and reference their discussion in items 15-18 as appropriate.

Publicly owned railroad grade developed for recreational purposes is a regionally scarce feature.

24. Precedent: Does the action and its effect(s) require a decision which would influence future decisions? Describe.

No. The plan is proposed primarily to maintain the trail and protect future options.

25. Controversy: Discuss and describe concerns which indicate a serious controversy or unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

Public reaction to the use of herbicide and method of its application could be expected.

Allowing small game hunting and trapping may prove to be controversial because of possible conflicts with other trail uses, trespass on private property, and vandalism.

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26. **Consistency With Plans:** Does the action conflict with local or agency zoning or with official agency plans or policy of local, state or federal government (e.g., NR 1.95)? If so, how? Refer to applicable comments in item 31.

The plan does not conflict with local or agency zoning, policy or plans.

27. **Cumulative Impacts:** While the action by itself may be limited in scope, would repeated actions of this type result in major or significant impacts to the environment?

There are no cumulative impacts known.

28. **Foreclose Future Options:** Is the action irreversible? Will it commit a resource (e.g., energy, habitat, historical features) for the foreseeable future?

No foreclosure of future options is foreseen-the action is reversible.

The proposed management and development actions could be discontinued at anytime. Through natural succession, plant communities would develop similar to those adjacent to the trail. Bridges and culverts could be removed as necessary.

29. **Socio-cultural Impacts:** Will action result in direct or indirect impacts on ethnic or cultural groups or alter social patterns?

No

Yes, refer to item 17.

30. **Other:**

None

LIST OF AGENCIES, GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROJECT (Include DNR personnel and Title)

31.	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comment Summary</u>
	2/1983	John Dunlan - SCS Washburn & Sawyer Co.	Supplied soils information
	2/1983	Barron County SCS	Supplied Soils information
	11/15/1983 & 2/1983	Northwest Regional Plan. Comm.-Mark Mueller	Needs information

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RECOMMENDATION

EIS Not Required,.....

Analysis of the expected impacts of this proposal is of sufficient scope and detail to conclude that this is not a major action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. In my opinion therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required prior to final action by the Department on this project.

Refer to Office of the Secretary.....

Major and Significant Action: Prepare EIS.....

Request EIR.....

Additional factors, if any, affecting the evaluator's recommendation:

SIGNATURE OF EVALUATOR <i>Thomas E. ... - Jonell Peak</i>	DATE 10/13/83
NOTED AREA SUPERVISOR OR BUREAU DIRECTOR <i>Paul J. ...</i>	DATE 11/5/83

Number of responses to public notice several
Public response log attached?..... see attached

- comments addressed 11/3/83 WAC

CERTIFIED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH WEP
DISTRICT DIRECTOR OR DIRECTOR OF BEI (OR DESIGNEE)
Lewis ... DATE 9/25/84

This decision is not final until certified by the appropriate District Director or the Director of BEI. If you believe you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that Wisconsin Statutes and Administrative Codes establish time periods within which requests to review Department decisions must be filed. For judicial review of a decision pursuant to ss. 227.15 and 227.16, Stats., you have 30 days after service of the decision to file your petition for review. The respondent in an action for judicial review is the Department of Natural Resources. You may wish to seek legal counsel to determine your specific legal rights to challenge a decision. This notice is provided pursuant to s. 227.11(2), Stats.

31. cont.

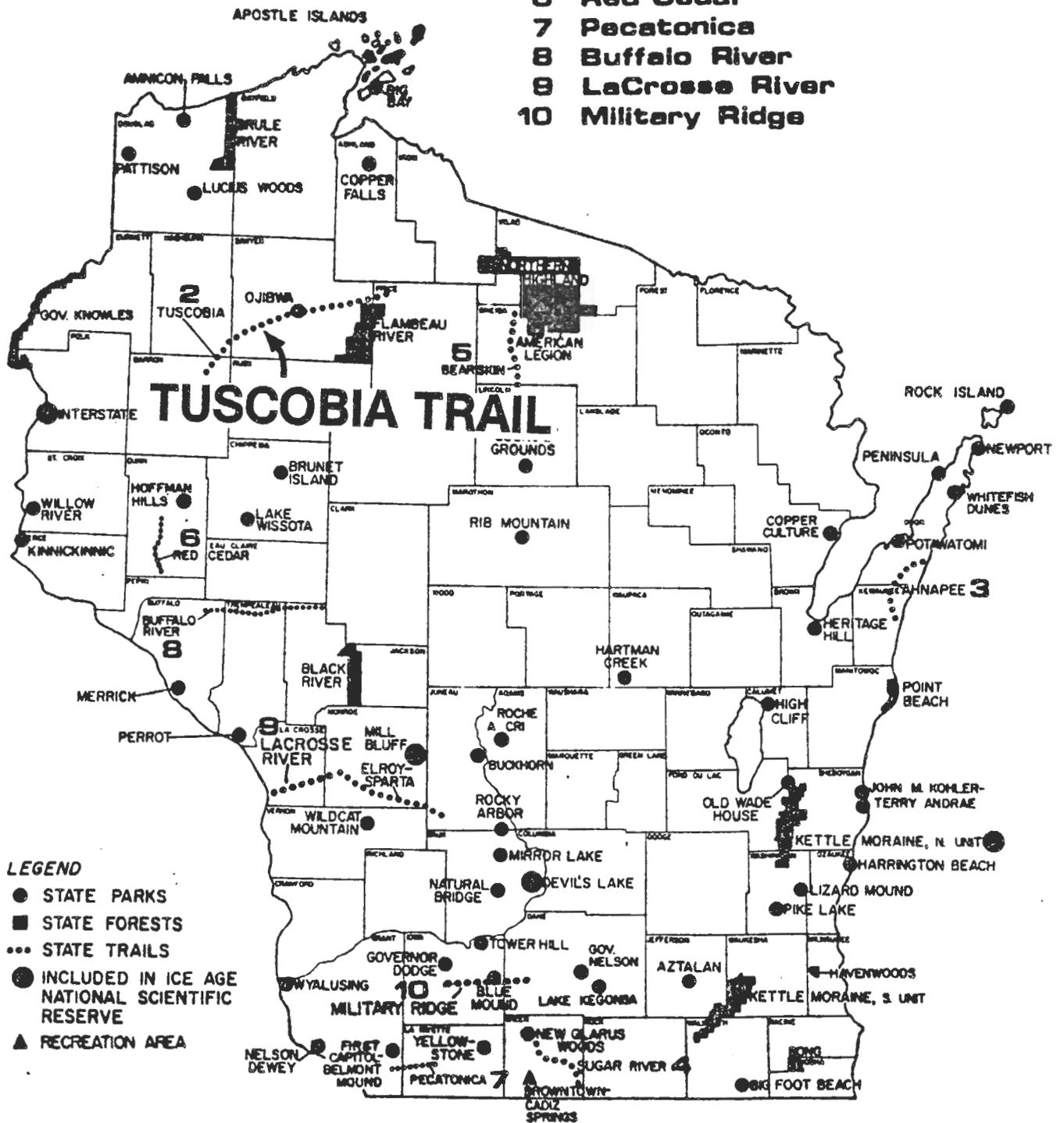
<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comment Summary</u>
2/1983	Arthur Doll, Rec. Planning	No Response
2/1983	Frank Morse-DNR Ent.	Chemical Information
5/6/83	Jim Hale - DNR Endangered & Non-game Coordinator	Info. Non-game Endangered Species
2/21/83	Public Meeting at Brill	74 Attendees - Horseback riding wanted, no surfacing
3/21/83	Public Meeting at Winter	33 Attendees - Horseback riding wanted - 3-wheeler brought up
3/24/83	Public Meeting at Park Falls	17 Attendees - Horseback riding wanted - snowmobile oriented
2/15/83	World Ride - Yamaha	No Response
2/15/83	Birchwood Chamber of Commerce	No Response
2/15/83	Rice Lake Chamber of Commerce	No Response
2/15/83	Bud Ebner, President Birchwood Snow. Club	Attended Meeting
2/15/83	Ed Virgin - Principal Birchwood Schools	No Response
2/15/83	Brill Area Sportsman Club, Roger Leonard, President	Would like to see a use survey
2/15/83	W. R. Pearson Northwoods Bicycle Club	Wants surfacing, No Herbicides
2/15/83 & 6/20/83	Jack Nedland Barron Co. Rec. Coord.	Keep snowmobiling, Top priority

<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comment Summary</u>
Jan-Mar 1983	Gerry Bever - DNR Rick Cornelius - DNR Frank Pratt - DNR Jim Lealos - DNR	Fish Management and Water Resources Information
Jan-Mar 1983	Sam Moore - DNR	Wildlife Input
Jan 1983	Sawyer Co. Zoning Adm.	Toilet Regulations
1/14/83	Cliff Germain Scientific Areas Pres. Council	No areas involved in this project
2/14/83	State Historical Soc. Kim Mark Peters - Reg. & Comp. Spec.	No properties involved
2/1983	Price Co. SCS	No Response
2/17/83	Phil Anderson DNR Liason-Ice Age Trail	Plan sounds compatible with Ice Age Trail Uses
3/16/83	Flambeau Riders Lisa Braun	No Response
3/16/83	Dave Wester USFS Chequamegon	Provided Information on proposed trail near Loretta
3/16/83	P.F. Chamber of Commerce	No Response
3/16/83	Chequamegon Sportsman	No Response
3/16/83	Adrian Pearson - Town of Winter Chairman	No Response
3/16/83	Eisenstein Sportsman Club	No Response
3/16/83	Elmer Vaverka - Town of Ojibwa Chairman	No Response
3/16/83	Flambeau - Town of Ojibwa	No Response
3/16/83	Town of Draper - Chairman	Attended meeting
3/16/83	Winter Village Pres.	Attended Meeting - No Input

31 cont.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comment Summary</u>
3/16/83	Norm Butterfield - Radisson Town Chairman	No Response
3/16/83 & 6/20/83	Robert Kinney Sawyer Co. UW-Extension	Co. Rec. Plan
3/16/83 & 6/20/83	Ron Herman Price Co. UW-Extension	Co. Rec. Plan
3/14/83	Frank Dusek & Doc Frye Price Co. Snowmobile Trail Association	Comments on grooming
2/15/83	Dave Greschner Rice Lake Chronotype	Interested in outcome
2/15/83	Jon LeBlanc, Sec. Rice Lake Rod & Gun	No Response
2/15/83	Indianhead Saddle Club Diane Berg - Sec.	Attended Meeting - Want Horseback riding
5/83	Larry Damman DNR - Cumberland Area	Water Regs.
6/83	Roger Jasinski DNR - Park Falls Area	Water Regs.

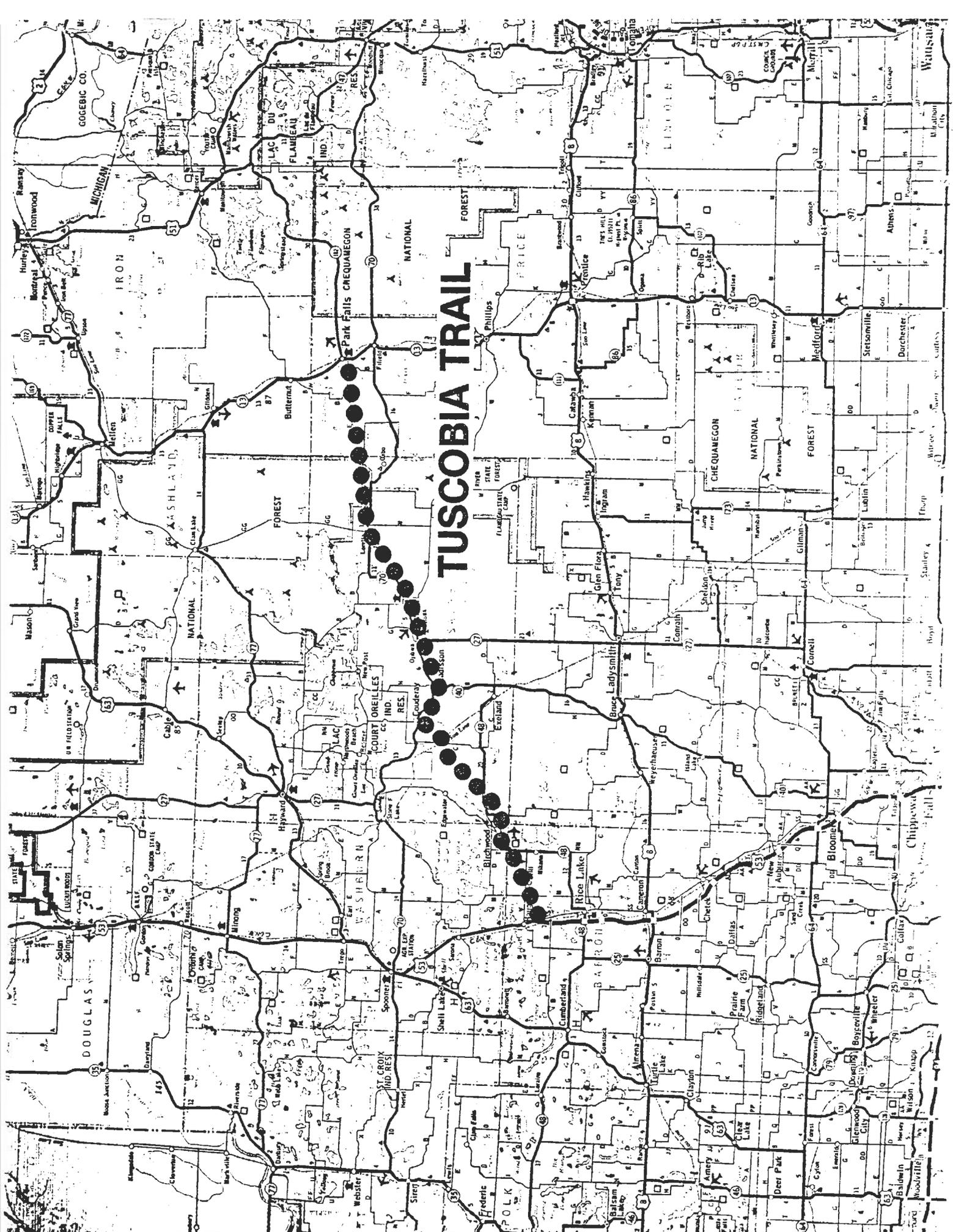
- 1 Elroy Sparta
- 2 Tuscobia
- 3 Ahnapee
- 4 Sugar River
- 5 Bearskin
- 6 Red Cedar
- 7 Pecatonica
- 8 Buffalo River
- 9 LaCrosse River
- 10 Military Ridge



- LEGEND**
- STATE PARKS
 - STATE FORESTS
 - ... STATE TRAILS
 - INCLUDED IN ICE AGE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC RESERVE
 - ▲ RECREATION AREA

MAY 1988

STATE TRAILS MAP FIGURE 1



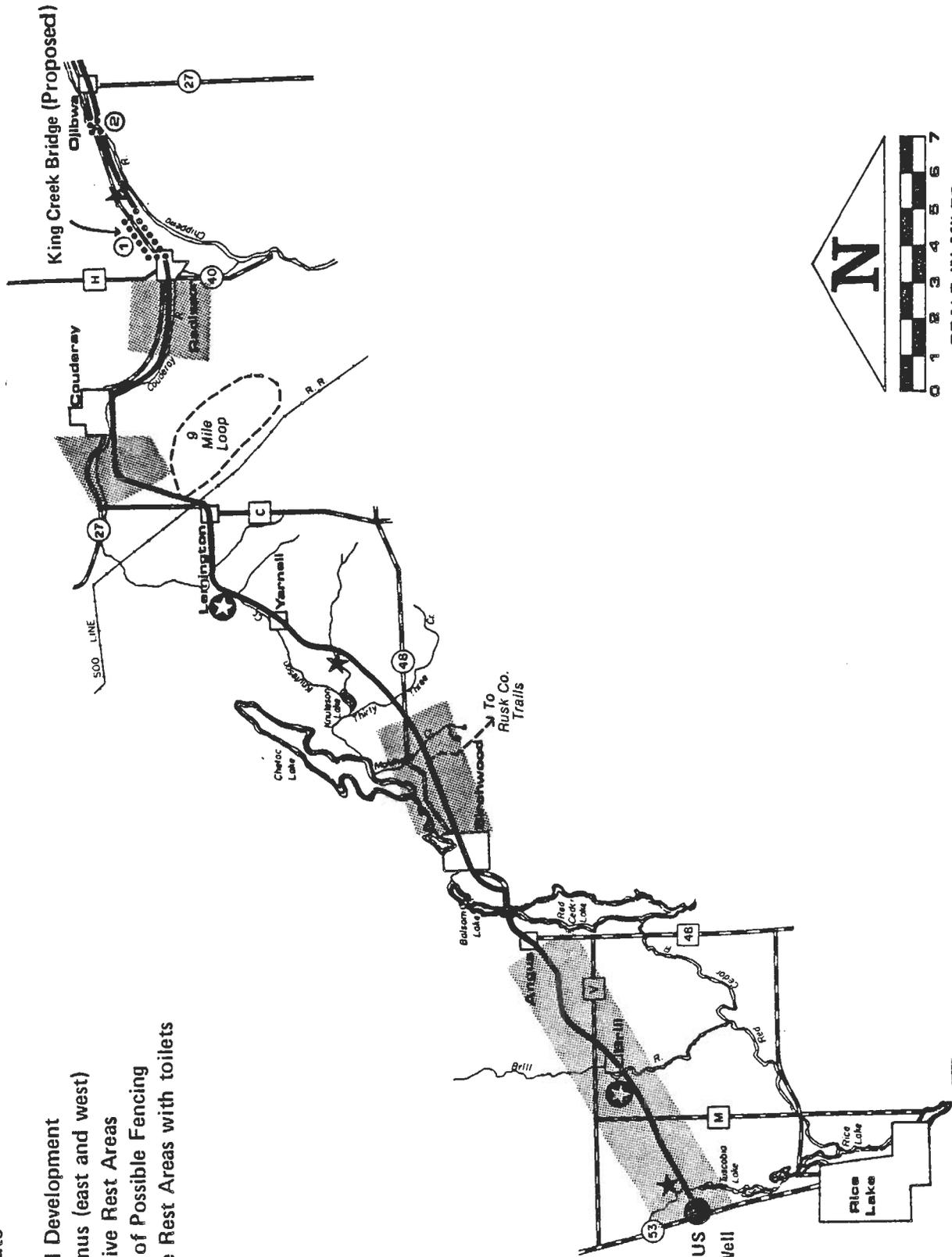
TUSCOBIA TRAIL

Park Falls Chequamegon

LOCATION MAP FIGURE 2

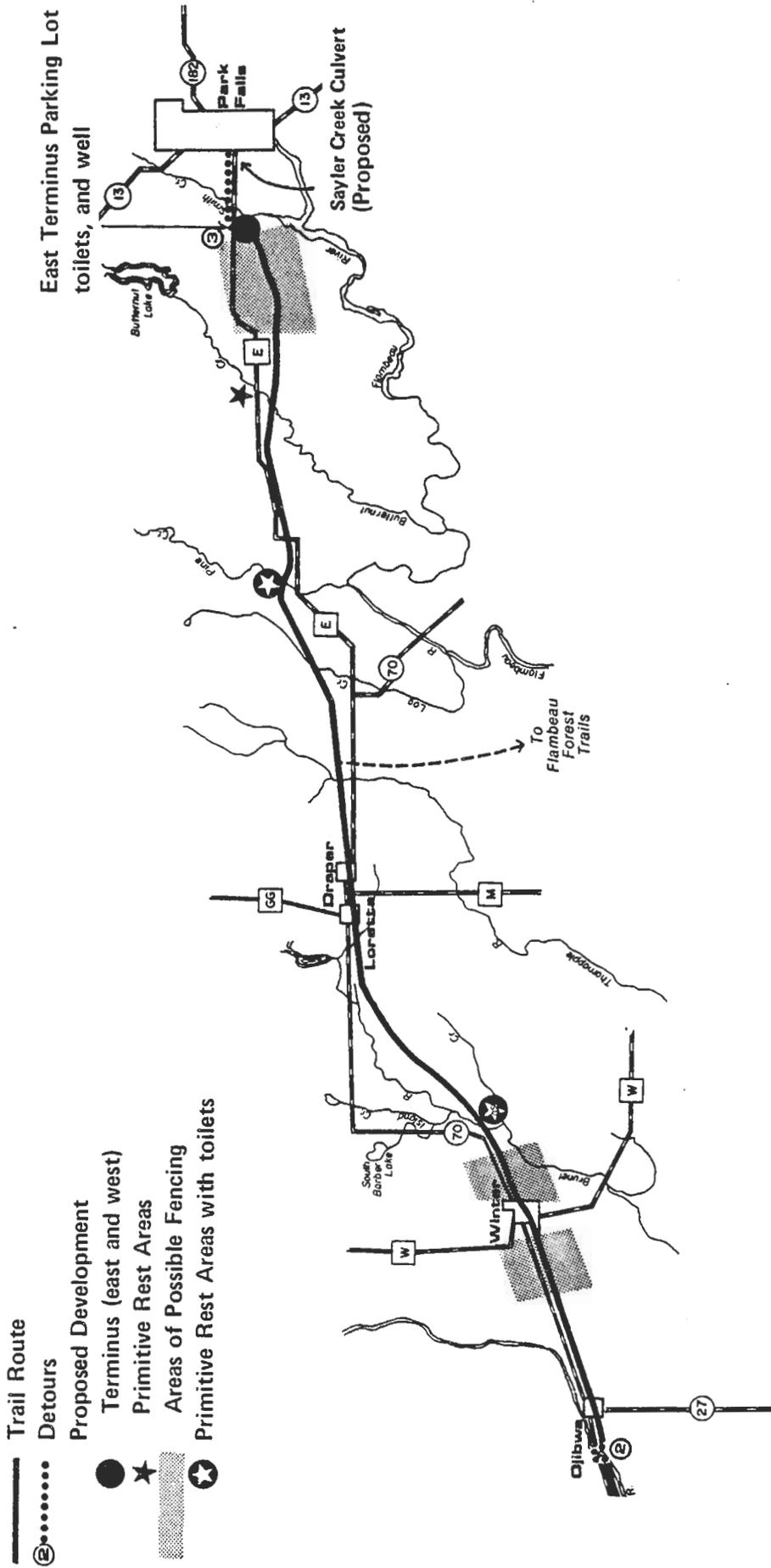
TUSCOBIA STATE TRAIL

- Trail Route
- Detours
- Proposed Development
- Terminus (east and west)
- Primitive Rest Areas
- Areas of Possible Fencing
- Primitive Rest Areas with toilets



DEVELOPMENT MAP —
EXISTING & PROPOSED
FIGURE 4A

TUSCOBIA STATE TRAIL



DEVELOPMENT MAP —
EXISTING & PROPOSED
FIGURE 4B

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Date: September 24, 1984

File Ref: 2510

To: L. Posekany - EI/3

From: D. Weizenicker *Steve Weizenicker*

Subject: Amendment to EA #1758 - Tuscobia State Trail Master Plan

The following amends environmental assessment #1758 prepared for the Tuscobia State Trail Master Plan.

Page 1, Item 1 - Add "East terminus development will include the construction of a 20-car parking lot, four-unit combination vault toilet, and well with handpump. A three-unit combination vault toilet will be constructed at four of the eight rest areas."

Page 2, Item 4 - Change estimated cost to \$187,100.

Page 3, Item 7 - Add "A 20-car gravel surface parking lot, a four-unit combination vault toilet of standard design, and a well with handpump will be constructed at the east terminus near Park Falls. A three-unit combination vault toilet will be constructed at four of the eight rest areas. Forty cubic yards or less of excavation will be needed."

Page 5, Item 17 -Delete "small game hunting."

Page 6, Item 20, 1(6) - Revise "---, including deer hunting and trapping."
Add "small game hunting would not be permitted."

Page 7, Item 20, 2(6) - Add "A small parking lot, a four-unit combination vault toilet and well with handpump will be constructed at the east terminus. A three-unit combination vault toilet will be constructed at four of the eight rest areas."

Page 8, Item 22 - Delete "hunting."

Page 8, Item 25 - Delete "small game hunting."

After reviewing the original assessment and this amendment, we believe the impacts of the Tuscobia State Trail Master Plan proposals have been adequately addressed.

DJK:jks

cc: D. Kulhanek - P&R/4
R. Larsen - Winter Ranger Station
P. Wallace - Spooner