

# Menominee River State Recreation Area Management Plan



June 2017

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Parks and Recreation Division

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Bureau of Parks and Recreation

**PUB-LF-105**



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# Approval

## Menominee River State Recreation Area Management Plan

The project was jointly directed by:  
Deborah Jensen, Management Plan Administrator,  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division,  
and  
Jeff Prey, State Park Planner,  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Parks and Recreation

### Plan Approvals Michigan:

The Michigan plan approval applies to all lands owned and managed by the Michigan DNR. Approval of this plan also acknowledges support of the Wisconsin DNR management proposals.

SM  
9/17/17  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Parks & Recreation Division

9/19/17  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Natural Resources Deputy

9/28/17  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Department of Natural Resources

9/29/2017  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Approval

## Menominee River State Recreation Area Management Plan

### Plan Approval Recommendations Michigan:

The following dates reference when the plans were presented for recommendation. In some instances, additional time was allotted for plan review following the presentation with subsequent approval received by Email.

PRD – SECTION CHIEFS:	<u>01/11/2017</u> Date
DNR – RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BUREAU:	<u>01/09/2017</u> Date
MSPAC – STEWARDSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE	<u>01/25/2017</u> Date
NRC – MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:	<u>02/09/2017</u> Date

# Approval

## Menominee River State Recreation Area Management Plan

### **Plan Approvals Wisconsin:**

The Wisconsin plan approval applies to all lands owned and managed by the Wisconsin DNR. Approval of this plan also acknowledges support of the Michigan DNR management proposals.

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board approved this plan at their June 2017 meeting as per Chapter NR44.04 (3), Wis. Adm. Code.

This plan was prepared jointly with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Park and Recreation Division, as per Chapter NR44. 04 (13), Wis. Adm. Code.

# RESOLUTION NO. 02-2017-01

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)  
RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE  
“MENOMINEE RIVER STATE RECREATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN”

**ADOPTED: February 09, 2017**

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources’ (DNR) Parks and Recreation Division in partnership with the Wisconsin DNR, Bureau of Parks and Recreations has completed the Management Plan for Menominee River State Recreation Area; and

**WHEREAS**, the planning process reflects sensitivity to natural resource values, historic and cultural resource values, recreation and education opportunities, and is inclusive of all DNR programs and representative of eco-management; and

**WHEREAS**, the planning process was further inclusive of stakeholder, constituent, and public input; and

**WHEREAS**, the Management Plan represents sound guidance for future planning phases that will be consistent with the mission of the DNR and the Parks and Recreation Division, and reflective of the purpose and significance of Menominee River State Recreation Area; and

**WHEREAS**, the Management Plan is consistent with the recommendations of the Michigan State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel report submitted to Governor Rick Snyder; and

**WHEREAS**, the Management Plan has been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Parks and Recreation Division and the MSPAC Stewardship Subcommittee.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Menominee River State Recreation Area Management Plan; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee further recommends that the DNR Director approve the Management Plan for Menominee River State Recreation Area;

Submitted by: Chris Graham, Chair, MSPAC Stewardship Subcommittee

**Motioned by: No motion needed, support for resolution was approved in subcommittee**

**Seconded by:**

**Yeas:**

**Nays:**

**Abstained:**

**Absent:**

***This Resolution was adopted by the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee at their regular meeting on February 09, 2017 as Resolution No. 02-2017-01***

# Acknowledgments

## Wisconsin

### Natural Resources Board

Terry Hilgenberg, Chair  
Gregory Kazmierski, Vice Chair  
Julie Anderson, Secretary  
William Bruins  
Preston D. Cole  
Dr. Frederick Prehn  
Gary Zimmer

### Wisconsin DNR

Cathy Stepp, Secretary  
Kurt Thiede, Deputy Secretary  
Sanjay Olson, FWP Division Administrator  
Ben Bergey, Parks and Recreation  
Bureau Director

## Michigan

### NRC, State Parks Advisory Committee

Commissioner Louise Klarr, Chair  
Commissioner Christopher Tracy, Co-Chair  
Commissioner Christine Crumbaugh, Co-Chair  
Tom Bailey  
Jim Bradley  
Julie Clark  
Ann Conklin  
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### Michigan DNR

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Ron Olson, Chief,  
Parks and Recreation Division

#### Acknowledgement

The Planning Team thanks the many private citizens, local officials, and organizations who assisted in the creation of this plan by attending meetings and/or submitting written or verbal comments. It is apparent that the public greatly values Menominee River State Recreation Area for its beautiful natural resources and recreational opportunities.

# Table of Contents

Executive Summary .....	1
Chapter 1: Introduction and Planning Process .....	5
Plan Purpose .....	5
Core Values and Guiding Resources .....	6
Planning Process Overview .....	7
Public Participation .....	8
Chapter 2: Vision and Goals.....	9
Property Designation and Authority.....	9
Significance Statements.....	9
Property Goals .....	10
Chapter 3: Management, Development and Use of the Property .....	11
PIERS GORGE UNIT (344 existing property acres) .....	12
QUIVER FALLS UNIT (4,942 existing property acres) .....	21
PEMENE FALLS UNIT (2,388 existing property acres).....	35
Chapter 4: Public Involvement Process .....	44
Primary Stakeholders.....	44
Methods of Public Contact and Involvement .....	44
Management Planning Publications .....	46
Community Involvement and Public Participation .....	46
Response to Public Comments after Public Review .....	48
Chapter 5: Alternatives and Their Environmental Impacts .....	49
Recreation Management Alternatives.....	49
Land Management Alternatives .....	49
Real Estate and Boundary Modification Alternatives.....	50
Chapter 6: Impacts of the Proposed Plan (Wisconsin) .....	51
Introduction .....	51
Impacts to Natural Resources.....	51
Impacts to Recreational Facilities and Opportunities.....	54
Impacts to Cultural Resources .....	54



Socio-Economic Impacts .....	55
Economic Effects and their Significance .....	56
Fiscal Effects – State Government .....	57
Impacts of Boundary Adjustments .....	58
Cumulative Effects, Risk and Precedent .....	60
Chapter 7: Action Goals Plan (Michigan) .....	62

**List of Tables**

Table 1: Summary of Existing and Proposed Recreation Facilities for the Michigan Piers Gorge Unit. 14	
Table 2: Project Boundary Acreage Goals for the Michigan Piers Gorge Unit. ....	16
Table 3: Summary of Existing and Proposed Recreation Facilities for the Wisconsin Piers Gorge Unit. ....	18
Table 4: Project Boundary Acreage Goals for the WI Piers Gorge Unit.....	20
Table 5: Summary of Existing and Proposed Recreation Facilities for the Michigan Quiver Falls Unit. 23	
Table 6: Project Boundary Acreage Goals for the Michigan Quiver Falls Unit. ....	26
Table 7: Summary of Existing and Proposed Recreation Facilities for the Wisconsin Quiver Falls Unit. ....	30
Table 8: Project Boundary Acreage Goals for the Wisconsin Quiver Falls Unit.....	34
Table 9: Summary of Existing and Proposed Recreation Facilities for the Michigan Pemene Falls Unit. ....	36
Table 10: Project Boundary Acreage Goals for the Michigan Pemene Falls Unit.....	39
Table 11: Summary of Existing and Proposed Recreation Facilities for the Wisconsin Pemene Falls Unit. ....	41
Table 12: Project Boundary Acreage for the Wisconsin Pemene Falls Unit. ....	43
Table 13: Chronological Summary of Public Involvement. ....	46
Table 14: Overview of Wisconsin Real Estate Recommendations for the Menominee River State Recreation Area. ....	50
Table 15: Proposed Phasing for Wisconsin Facility Developments and Improvements. ....	57

**List of Appendices**

**Appendix A – Property Analysis**

- Land Ownership
- Existing Recreation Facilities & Use
- Water Resources
- Vegetation & Natural Communities
- Wildlife Resources

Habitat Needs & Capabilities  
Threatened, Endangered & Special Concern Species  
Geology and Mineral Resources  
Cultural Resources  
Structures  
Map A1 - Piers Gorge Unit Land Cover Types  
Map A2 - Quiver Falls Unit Land Cover Types  
Map A3 - Pemene Falls Unit Land Cover Types

**Appendix B– Regional Analysis**

Public Lands  
Regional Landscape  
Population and Basis for Local Economy  
Recreation Supply and Demand

**Appendix C - Zone Descriptions**

**Appendix D – Allowable Vegetation Practices (Wisconsin)**

**Appendix E – Planning Team**

**Appendix F - Public Comments**

Summary of Public Comment on Draft Plan  
Summary of Public Input Meetings, June 2014  
Online Public Survey Results  
Summary of Public Input Workshop, September 2012

# Executive Summary

The Menominee River State Recreation Area (MRSRA) encompasses 7,652 acres of land in Dickinson and Menominee Counties, Michigan, and Marinette County, Wisconsin. The Recreation Area was established in 2010 with the purpose of protecting the scenic values of the Menominee River and associated natural resources while providing opportunities for public access and recreation. Three management units make up the recreation area: Piers Gorge Unit in the north, Quiver Falls Unit, and Pemene Falls Unit in the south. Combined, these units feature 17 miles of undeveloped river corridor with both rocky gorges and wide open stretches that offer a destination for whitewater rafting and kayaking, as well as hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing.

This Management Plan is a collaborative effort between both the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Michigan DNR. With public ownership on both sides of the river, this joint plan will help create a "one place, one feel" experience for visitors. The plan defines a long-range management strategy that will assist the Michigan Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) and the Wisconsin Bureau of Parks and Recreation (BPR) in meeting their responsibilities to protect and preserve the site's natural and cultural resources and to provide access to land and water-based public recreation and education opportunities.

The objective of the plan is to bring together DNR staff from both states, stakeholders and the public into a process that defines the following for the Recreation Area:

- unique significance
- the future vision (property goals)
- future management, development and use
- management zones to guide management in specific areas

## **Management, Development and Use of Property**

The Menominee River State Recreation Area Management Plan recommends upgrades to a number of recreational facilities while maintaining the "backcountry" experience that many associate with this area.

### **Piers Gorge Unit (344 existing acres)**

Piers Gorge is one of the most scenic and popular natural attractions in the Menominee River corridor. It contains some of the fastest-moving water in Michigan and Wisconsin, offering whitewater recreation opportunities, beautiful scenery, and good wildlife viewing. Recreation at the Piers Gorge Unit plays an important role in regional and local tourism. The limited

improvements proposed on both sides of the river are intended to keep the visual character of the waterfalls and surrounding landscape, while enhancing the visitor experience.

In Michigan, recreation management concentrates on providing improved access to the river and to the land overlooking the gorge, and provides improved site amenities to accommodate day use visitors, while maintaining the scenic beauty of the site. A project boundary adjustment of 2 acres is proposed. Natural resource protection and management is an important aspect of preserving the beauty and ecological balance of the Piers Gorge Unit. Management objectives vary for each zone, depending on the desired future condition, but will generally reflect natural processes and the preservation or management for natural communities.

In Wisconsin, limited improvements are proposed to increase access to the river corridor through a primitive hiking trail, while maintaining the visual character of the waterfalls and surrounding landscape. A boundary adjustment of 257 acres is proposed east and west of the current property. Natural resource management varies for each zone but will generally preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types while allowing or managing for the conversion of aspen or other early successional forest stands to longer-lived community types, such as mixed conifer-hardwood stands.

#### **Quiver Falls Unit (4,942 existing acres)**

The Quiver Falls Unit is located approximately two miles downstream (southeast) of Piers Gorge. The approximately ten miles of largely undeveloped river corridor provides uninterrupted flow from the Sturgeon Dam in the north to the class II-III rapids that make up Quiver Falls. Water-based recreation, such as boating and fishing, are traditionally the primary recreational uses. The area is also used for primitive camping, hunting and scenic viewing. The limited improvements proposed on both sides of the river are intended to bring the existing uses in line with current land use rules and provide additional amenities to enhance the visitor experience, while protecting the wild and scenic qualities of the river corridor. This unit is divided into 3 sub-units: north, middle and south.

Michigan does not own any land in the northern section. The focus in the middle section is to provide minimal facilities for quiet, low density recreational uses. In the south, a higher level of activity is proposed, with existing trails being evaluated for motorized and non-motorized uses and a proposed rustic campground and river access points. Proposed project boundary modifications would result in a 95-acre net gain in land and would provide land consolidation and ease of management. Proposed natural resource management varies for each of the designated management zones, from limited management in the Primitive Zone to more active management to promote natural community types and desired wildlife species in the Recreation Management – Natural Resources Zone.

Wisconsin has limited state ownership in the north section of the Quiver Falls Unit. An expansion of the project boundary is proposed to incorporate the City of Norway, MI lands located within the State of Wisconsin to allow for additional recreation opportunities and river access. The continued management of regional snowmobile and ATV trail connections that utilize state lands and township roads and providing river access are primary recreation goals in this area.

The central section of the Quiver Falls Unit includes a large block of Wisconsin state land ownership. A number of recreation and access improvements are recommended to enhance river usage and provide connections to surrounding public lands. A 12-unit rustic campground is proposed to accommodate overnight use.

The southern section of the Wisconsin Quiver Falls Unit has traditionally seen a wider variety of activities and is zoned to allow for a higher level of recreation and visitor interaction. Development of a second day use area and improvements at the Quiver Falls scenic overlook are proposed.

A total project boundary adjustment of approximately 903 acres is proposed to create a more consolidated and easier to manage unit, with defined points of access. Proposed natural resource management varies for each of the designated management zones and for specific areas of the Recreation Area. The Grand Island Complex (271 acres) is proposed for designation as a state natural area in Wisconsin.

#### **Pemene Falls Unit (2,388 existing acres)**

The Pemene Falls Unit is the southern-most unit of the Menominee River State Recreation Area. The scenic Pemene Falls, class III-IV rapids, offer spectacular views. The unit is minimally developed, with parking areas, river access sites, campsites (Wisconsin) and the Pemene Falls overlook area (Michigan). The limited improvements proposed on both sides of the river are intended to bring the existing uses in line with current land use rules and provide additional amenities to enhance the visitor experience, while protecting the wild and scenic qualities of the river corridor.

Specific recreation enhancements proposed in Michigan include improvements to the parking area and overlook at Pemene Falls, development of a 3 mile hiking trail along the river and a portage around the falls. Potential boundary adjustment includes incorporating the Sturgeon Bend Campground into the Recreation Area if desired by Faithorn Township. For natural resource management, staff will work closely with Forest Resources and Wildlife Division staff to ensure consistent management with the adjacent State Forest land for forest health and wildlife.

The Wisconsin Pemene Falls Unit is currently with an approved project boundary from a previous department master plan with that includes minor administrative adjustments. A small number of improvements are recommended to enhance public access and recreation through trail development, river access and improved primitive camping opportunities. Natural resource

management varies according to the zone designation from preservation to more active habitat management to represent, restore or perpetuate native plant and animal communities.

### **Public Involvement Process**

Management planning for the Menominee River SRA included a comprehensive plan to involve the public in the process. Various methods were used to inform the public, government entities and stakeholders of the planning process and to promote involvement throughout the development of the management plan. A detailed description of the public involvement process is included in Chapter 4 of this plan.



The Menominee River corridor is the focus of the Recreation Area

# Chapter 1: Introduction and Planning Process

The Menominee River State Recreation Area (MRSRA) encompasses 7,652 acres of land in both Michigan and Wisconsin, including a 17 mile stretch of undeveloped river corridor. This Management Plan is a collaborative effort between both the Wisconsin DNR and Michigan DNR. With public ownership on both sides of the river, this joint plan will help create a "one place, one feel" experience. The combined effort gives both states a unified approach to developing a planning and management strategy that protects the resources while addressing recreation and tourism needs and opportunities that can have a positive impact on the local economy. For the public, the river and surrounding lands are the focus, not necessarily who owns the land. A unified approach will provide the benefits of cost effectiveness, efficiency in state government, and quality visitor experience.

The purpose of the acquisition, which was completed in 2011, is highlighted by the following values:

- Protection of the scenic values of the Menominee River and associated natural resources
- To provide opportunities for public recreation
- To build on existing state-owned river frontage

## **Plan Purpose**

The Management Plan for Menominee River State Recreation Area defines a long-range management strategy that will assist the Michigan Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) and the Wisconsin Bureau of Parks and Recreation (BPR) in meeting their responsibilities to protect and preserve the site's natural and cultural resources, and to provide access to land and water based public recreation and educational opportunities.

The Management Plan sets out a framework for protecting park resources while providing for meaningful visitor experiences. The long-range vision and management objectives for the park are derived from applicable legal directives, the purpose of the park, the park's significant natural and cultural resources and its relationship to the local community and region.

The plan establishes 20-year Management Zones that provides specific guidance for natural resource management, recreation opportunities and level of development at MRSRA. Second, the plan provides management objectives that address the desired future condition within the site in terms of recreation management, motorized access management, proposed project boundary modification and natural resource management.

For Wisconsin, the impacts of the proposed plan, including fiscal and staff impacts, are considered. For Michigan, the plan also provides 10-year Action Goals that address specific actions to achieve the desired future condition within each area of the park.

## **Core Values and Guiding Resources**

This management plan is guided by the core values that form the foundation of the Michigan and Wisconsin DNR. Core values are derived from the mission statements of the Department of Natural Resources and the Parks and Recreation Division/ Bureau, as well as priorities set by the Director. Other considerations include specific legal mandates, including not only state law, but also the administrative tools and policies of the Departments.

### **MDNR Mission Statement**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

### **MPRD Mission Statement**

The Parks & Recreation Division's mission is to acquire, protect, and preserve the natural and cultural features of Michigan's unique resources, and to provide access to land and water based public recreation and educational opportunities.

### **Five Goals of the MDNR**

1. Protect the natural and cultural resources
2. Ensure sustainable recreation use and enjoyment
3. Enable strong and natural resource-based economies
4. Improve and build strong relationships and partnerships
5. Foster effective business practices and good governance

### **WDNR Mission**

To protect and enhance our natural resources:

- our air, land and water;
- our wildlife, fish and forests
- and the ecosystems that sustain all life.

To provide a healthy, sustainable environment and a full range of outdoor opportunities.

To ensure the right of all people to use and enjoy these resources in their work and leisure.

To work with people to understand each other's views and to carry out the public will.

And in this partnership consider the future and generations to follow.

*"The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value"*

Theodore Roosevelt



### **MDNR Additional Guiding Resources**

In Michigan, there are a number of planning documents that provide recommendations for managing our park and recreation system and that were used as guiding references. These include:

- PRD Strategic Plan (2009-2019)
- Michigan State Parks & Outdoor Recreation Blue Ribbon Panel Report (2012)
- Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2013-2017)
- Michigan Comprehensive Trail Plan (2013-2018)
- Managed Public Land Strategy (2013)



### **WDNR Additional Guiding Resources**

Wisconsin also has a number of planning documents that provide recommendations for managing the park and recreation system and they were used as guiding references. These include:

- Wisconsin State Park System 2015-2020 Strategic Plan
- Economic Impacts of the Wisconsin State Park System: Connections to Gateway Communities (2013)
- Wisconsin Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2011-2016)
- Managing the Heritage Resources of the Wisconsin State Park System (2010)

## **Planning Process Overview**

The objective of the Management Plan is to bring together DNR staff from both states, stakeholders, and the public into a planning process that defines and clarifies the unique purpose, significance and future vision for Menominee River State Recreation Area. Those attributes are reinforced in the planning and management decisions that impact the park through the implementation of the management objectives for recreation and natural resources.

The process included many public informational meetings and planning workshops that were attended by private citizens, special interest groups, representatives of local governments, and representatives of other government agencies. The management planning process was divided into five phases: site inventory and analysis, development of project vision and goals, presentation of a draft concept, completion of a draft Management Plan document and Environmental Impact Statement, and DNR approval of the Management Plan.

In order for a plan to be effective, it must allow for some degree of flexibility to adapt to changes that cannot be predicted 10-20 years out. The plan will be reviewed by DNR staff every 5 years to ensure it is still meeting its intended purpose.

## **Public Participation**

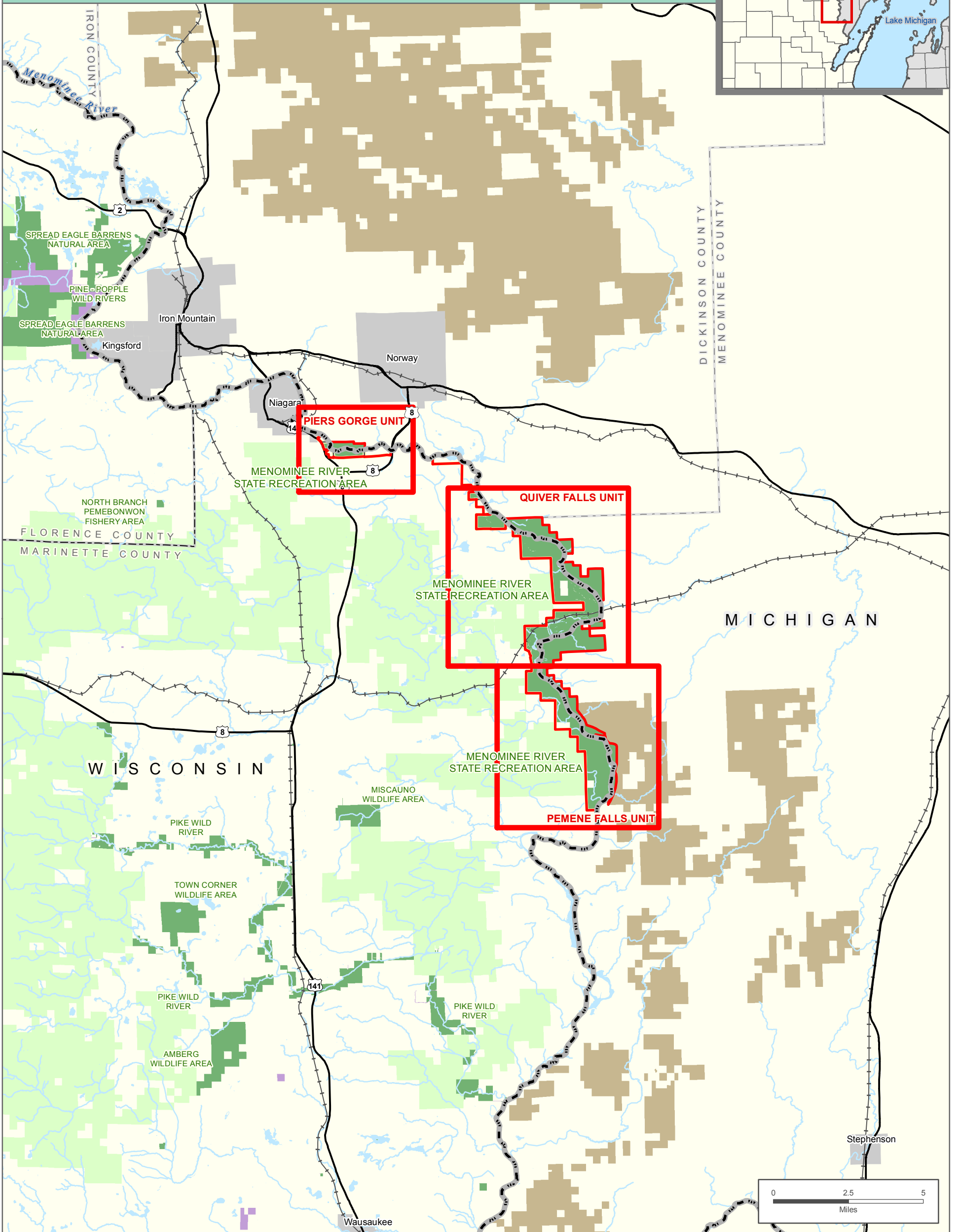
Understanding the important role of the public in developing this plan, the planning team used a variety of methods to gather feedback and input from park users.









- 1) A public input workshop was held in September 2012 to introduce the joint planning process to stakeholders and members of the public and to solicit initial ideas for future management.
- 2) An online public input survey was developed to gather general information about primary interests in the park: how visitors currently use the park, what are the most significant aspects, and recommendations for preservation and recreation enhancements.
- 3) Draft planning concepts were presented for comment at two public meetings held in June 2014. The draft documents were also available on the project website for a period of 30 days.
- 4) Public input meetings were held in August 2016 to present the full draft plan for review and comment prior to plan approval.

A detailed account of the Public Involvement Process is provided in Chapter 4 of this plan. The comments received are recorded in Appendix F. The planning team considered all of the feedback as part of the planning process and refined the plan as appropriate.

# REGIONAL LOCATOR

## Menominee River State Recreation Area



- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  MRSRA Boundary (WI & MI)  |  WI County Forest |
|  MRSRA Ownership (WI & MI) |  MI State Forest  |
|  DNR Fee Title             |  State Boundary   |
|  DNR Easement              |  County Boundary  |

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MRSRA-9524-MP-A dcb  
12/04/2017



**MAP A**

The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. This map is not intended to be used for navigation, nor is this map an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access. Users of this map should confirm the ownership of land through other means in order to avoid trespassing. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, applicability for a particular use, completeness, or legality of the information depicted on this map.



# Chapter 2: Vision and Goals

## Property Designation and Authority

**Wisconsin Statutory Authority:** The authority to acquire and manage land within Menominee River State Recreation Area is described in Wisconsin State Statutes 23.09, 23.11, 23.14, and 27.01. State Recreation Areas are administered by the Bureau of Parks and Recreation.

**Michigan Statutory Authority:** The authority to acquire and manage State Recreation Area land in Michigan is described in PA 451 of 1994, specifically Parts 504 and 741. State Recreation Areas are administered by the Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

## Significance Statements

Significance statements capture the essence of the important aspects of the property to help to establish a unique identity. These statements demonstrate the distinctive features of Menominee River State Recreation Area to our states' natural and cultural heritage, visitor enjoyment and impact on the region. Understanding the park's significance helps managers make decisions that preserve those resources and values necessary to accomplish the park's purpose.

### **Undeveloped Character:**

The land represents over 7,000 areas of undeveloped upland forest and wetlands, offering a remote, natural land experience for park visitors.

### **Recreation:**

The property has a history of providing a diverse range of recreational opportunities, including hunting, fishing, primitive camping and water-based recreation. The site provides rare white water opportunities, attracting both in and out of state visitors.

### **Wildlife:**

The Menominee River corridor offers excellent opportunities for both game and nongame wildlife. Bald Eagles are commonly seen and are known to nest all along the river. The site also hosts osprey, common loons, songbirds, eastern timber wolves and sturgeon.

### **Historic and Cultural Significance:**

The area has a rich history, including Native American tribal use, logging and iron mining, as well as hydroelectric production.

**Scenic/Natural Beauty:**

The river corridor within the Recreation Area offers seventeen miles of undeveloped shoreline, with spectacular scenery encompassing dramatic rock bluffs and some of the fastest-moving water in Michigan and Wisconsin.

**Community Connection:**

The site demonstrates a unique partnership between the states of Michigan and Wisconsin. The local communities have a strong connection to the Menominee River State Recreation Area and the visitors it attracts help to support the local economy.

## **Property Goals**

The following goals or desired future condition statements capture the important aspects of the park envisioned 15 to 20 years from now. They describe a vision for the successful use of the land and waters within Menominee River State Recreation Area and form the basis for the development of management objectives for the property.

**Improve Access:** River and land access provide recreational opportunities while connecting the property to the community.

**Essential Recreation:** This site provides a rare opportunity to experience exceptional river based recreation along with traditional passive outdoor recreation activities in a natural setting.

**Resource Protection and Management:** Natural communities are restored and managed sustainably to provide habitat for a diversity of native fish, wildlife and plants.

**Education and Interpretation:** The Menominee River State Recreation Area offers personal and non-personal interpretive and educational opportunities focusing upon natural and human history.

**Scenic Resources:** The “river experience” provides solitude and scenic beauty along with the roar of whitewater rapids and waterfalls.

**Partnerships and Collaboration:** The river corridor provides linkages to the community and surrounding forest lands while fostering productive partnerships.

# Chapter 3: Management, Development and Use of the Property

The Menominee River State Recreation Area was established in 2010; however, the Menominee River corridor has a long history of providing recreation opportunities for local residents and visitors in both Michigan and Wisconsin. Under WE Energies ownership, recreation use evolved over time and was generally not formalized. As the profile of the property is elevated to that of a State Recreation Area, a more defined approach is required to ensure public can continue to enjoy the land, while safeguarding the protection of the natural and cultural resources in the river corridor. The Menominee River State Recreation Area Management Plan recommends upgrades to a number of recreational facilities while maintaining the “backcountry” experience that many associate with this area.

An important component of the future management is to designate Management Zones for each area of the park (see Maps C1 – C3). Each zone has defined characteristics and management objectives. Incorporated in the individual zone descriptions is direct guidance as to how to manage the area for natural resources, recreation opportunities and development. In addition, historic and cultural resources, educational opportunities, visitor experience, and management focus, are considered. Each of the zones used in this Management Plan are described in Appendix C.

For Wisconsin, this management plan presents specific natural resource management strategies for the recreation area. For Michigan, while the management plan addresses some general natural resource goals, a separate Stewardship Plan will be developed to identify targets for conservation and related natural resource goals and management strategies. This plan will be developed by the Michigan PRD Stewardship Unit in consultation with Wildlife, Forestry and other resource divisions.

For planning purposes, the Menominee River State Recreation Area has been divided into three units: Piers Gorge, Quiver Falls and Pemene Falls. The objectives for recreation management, motorized access management, natural resource management and proposed project boundary modification for each unit are described below for both Michigan and Wisconsin. Maps illustrating the Existing and Proposed Recreation Developments, Proposed Land Management Classification, and Proposed Project Boundary Modification follow the description for each unit.

## **PIERS GORGE UNIT (344 existing property acres)**

Piers Gorge is one of the most scenic and popular natural attractions in the Menominee River corridor. It contains some of the fastest-moving water in Michigan and Wisconsin, offering whitewater recreation opportunities, beautiful scenery, and good wildlife viewing. Recreation at the Piers Gorge Unit plays an important role in regional and local tourism. The limited improvements proposed on both sides of the river are intended to keep the visual character of the waterfalls and surrounding landscape, while enhancing the visitor experience.



*Pier 3, Piers Gorge*

### **Michigan (145 acres)**

The Piers Gorge Unit of the Menominee River State Recreation Area includes 145 acres and has been divided into four Land Management Classification Zones:

- Scenic Resource Management
- Primitive/ Natural Management
- Recreation Management – Backcountry
- Recreation Management – Natural Resources

### **Recreation Management**

The level of recreational development and management focus varies in each zone in accordance with the land management classifications defined in Appendix C. Specific management objectives for the Piers Gorge Unit as a whole are described below.



### Designated Trails

An existing trail provides pedestrian access for viewing the gorge. This trail will be designated as a hiking trail and shown on the official State Recreation Area map.

#### Management Objectives

- Provide 0.4 mile moderate hiking trail from the parking lot to pier #3
- Provide 0.9 mile primitive hiking trail from pier #3 to pier #4
- Provide vista overlooks at piers #2 and #3, in keeping with the scenic values of the site
- Make accessibility improvements for viewing the gorge
- Consider additional primitive foot trail development in the future to form a loop trail

### River Access

#### Management Objectives

- Formalize the existing carry-in/carry-out river access site at pier #4
- Formalize the existing carry-in/carry-out river access site above pier #3 and below pier #2
- Work with rafting companies to allow them to install and maintain a river safety box containing emergency equipment
- Provide boating access site (launch ramp) within the proposed project boundary

### Day Use Facilities

#### Management Objectives

- Improve and expand parking area to accommodate 20 vehicles and bus turn-around
- Provide information station/ site locator
- Provide interpretive signage relating to geology, natural resources and history of the Menominee River and gorge
- Develop a day-use picnic area
- Establish an emergency access route to pier 3 (restricted/ vehicular)

### Overnight Facilities

The unit does not currently support overnight accommodations. The City of Norway has expressed an interest in working cooperatively with the Michigan DNR to explore rustic camping opportunities on a 4-acre parcel owned by the City, east of the Piers Gorge site.

**Table 1: Summary of Existing and Proposed Recreation Facilities for the Michigan Piers Gorge Unit.**

Facility	Existing	Proposed	Total
<b>Designated Trail Miles</b>			
Moderate hiking trail		0.4	0.4
Primitive hiking trail	1.3 undesigned	0.9 designed	0.9
<b>River Access</b>			
Carry-in/carry-out access	3 informal	3 formalized	3
Motorized river access	0	1	1
<b>Day Use Facilities</b>			
Parking (# vehicles)	12	8 /bus turn-around	20 /bus turn-around
Information Station	0	1	1
Interpretive signage	0	1	1
Picnic area	0	1	1
Contact Station	1	0	1
Vault Toilet	1	0	1

**Motorized Access Management**

This unit has motorized access to the parking lot via a Township road. Motorized access to the remainder of the property will be restricted due to topographic limitations and sensitive resources. A motorized emergency access (not open to public use) is proposed to address safety concerns. Motorized river access via a launch ramp is proposed as part of the boundary adjustment.

**Natural Resource Management**

Natural resource protection and management is an important aspect of preserving the beauty and ecological balance of the Piers Gorge Unit. Management objectives vary for each zone, depending on the desired future condition. Vegetation management practices for all zones will be outlined in a Stewardship Plan for the property.

**Scenic Resource Management** (40 acres)

The *Scenic Resource Management Zone* includes land extending from the edge of the river to the top of the bluff. The primary focus of this zone is to protect, preserve and enhance the scenic viewscapes of the gorge, while providing safe access for park visitors.

The natural resources in this zone may be modified slightly to support visitor use and viewing, but tolerance for natural resource impacts is low. The zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes, or to enhance the viewscales.

Management objectives:

- Protect habitat to the visual horizon from the Menominee River
- Selective, sensitive removal of vegetation to maintain views of the gorge
- Minimize impacts to aesthetics from a river-view perspective
- Minimize impacts due to off-trail use

Primitive/ Natural Management (12 acres)

The *Primitive/ Natural Management Zone* includes a cedar swamp area north of the existing parking lot and access road. Only low impact development or recreation activities will be allowed in this area and will be limited due to the wet nature of the land.

Native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodation. Vegetative management will only be allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes.

Management objectives:

- Control or eliminate invasive species
- Preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types

Recreation Management – Backcountry (76 acres)

Most of the wooded hillside extending from the top of the bluff to the northern park boundary has been zoned *Recreation Management – Backcountry*. The primary focus of this zone is to provide low levels of recreation (non-motorized), while protecting the natural character of the zone.

This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes.

Management objectives:

- Control or eliminate invasive species
- Preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types while allowing or managing for the conversion of aspen to longer-lived community types, such as upland hardwood stands

Recreation Management – Natural Resources (17 acres)

Approximately 17 acres at the east end of the Piers Gorge Unit have been designated as *Recreation Management – Natural Resources*. This includes the existing parking area and other land capable of supporting moderate levels of recreation and development in a natural setting.

Natural resources will be managed or modified to support visitor activities and maintain aesthetically appealing landscape, but are protected to the degree possible and appear natural.

Management objectives:

- Manage vegetation to facilitate recreational use and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape
- Control or eliminate invasive species
- Preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types

**Proposed Project Boundary Modification**

A *Project Boundary* is a geographic area in which the DNR has an interest in acquiring property that supports the mission of the DNR on a willing buyer/seller basis. A project boundary adjustment of approximately 2 acres is proposed east of the Piers Gorge Unit and is shown on Map D1. This area was selected because of its ability to provide additional recreational values for the property and the region. Areas within the expanded boundary would be considered for purchase, cooperative agreement, lease or easement.

The primary objectives of the proposed boundary expansion are:

- To protect the Menominee River
- To provide additional public space for recreational uses, including motorized river access, parking and picnicking
- To provide a buffer to adjacent land uses where public access is currently of concern

The Proposed Project Boundary for the Piers Gorge Unit would encompass approximately 147 acres. These proposed boundary changes are summarized in the table below.

**Table 2: Project Boundary Acreage Goals for the Michigan Piers Gorge Unit.**

<b>Current Ownership</b>	<b>Proposed Project Boundary Adjustment</b>	<b>Proposed Acquisition Goal Adjustment</b>
145 acres	2 acres	147 acres

In addition, the City of Norway owns a 4-acre parcel of riverfront property downstream of Piers Gorge, but not contiguous with the existing state ownership. The DNR will explore options to integrate development of this property in line with the management objectives for Piers Gorge.

### Wisconsin (177 acres)

The Piers Gorge Unit of the Menominee River State Recreation Area has been divided into four Land Management Classification Zones:

- Scenic Resource Management
- Habitat Management
- Native/ Ecological Community Management
- Recreation Management – Backcountry

### Recreation Management

Recreation at the Piers Gorge Unit plays an important role in regional and local tourism. The limited improvements are intended to keep the visual character of the waterfalls and surrounding landscape.

#### Designated Trails

A limited number of designated trails will be constructed. The phrase "designated trails" refers to trails that are designed, maintained, and limited to specific uses and are shown on the official state recreation area map.

#### Management Objectives

- Provide and maintain up to 3.5 miles of primitive hiking trails from the parking lot and along the river if all lands are acquired.

An existing primitive trail is present along the river's edge. Modest improvements will be made to enhance sustainability and provide improved access.

#### Day Use Facilities

Day use facilities will be limited to two small parking lots and locator signage.

#### Management Objectives

- Maintain existing three vehicle gravel parking lots
- Provide locator and management signage

**Table 3: Summary of Existing and Proposed Recreation Facilities for the Wisconsin Piers Gorge Unit.**

Facility	Existing	Proposed	Total
<b>Designated Trail Miles</b>			
Primitive hiking trail	0.3	3.25	3.55
<b>Day Use Facilities</b>			
Parking (# vehicles)	6	0	6
Locator and Management Signage	2	0	2

**Motorized Access Management**

This unit has no designated roads as topographic limitations and sensitive resources are present. The three vehicle parking lots will be maintained for pedestrian access.

**Natural Resource Management**

There are natural resource management opportunities on the recreation area, including the Piers Gorge Unit, that may be limited elsewhere within the landscape. Management within the different zones would maintain or enhance opportunities for older-aged forest while providing other opportunities for maintaining younger-aged forests and other management activities elsewhere. Active management and succession, natural disturbance, and other ecological processes will change composition, structure, and function in the different management zones.

**Habitat Management (31 acres)**

This classification is focused around the power line corridor that bisects this unit and proposes a mixture of land cover types.

Management objectives:

- Conifer plantations will be managed using started silviculture rotation until trees have reached potential for old growth appearance, values and characteristics. At that point, manage conifer plantations to provide a more random, natural appearance.
- Afforest open fields with northern hardwood species similar to those growing in the Native/Ecological Community management zone to establish a larger block of forest for area-sensitive species such as forest interior birds.
- Manage aspen and similar stands to provide younger successional stages for species using such habitat.

#### Native/Ecological Community Management (45 acres)

This classification parallels the river upon the steep slopes and offers a unique opportunity for ecological restoration / preservation.

##### Management objectives:

- Preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types while allowing or managing for the conversion of aspen or other early successional forest stands to longer-lived community types, such as mixed conifer-hardwood stands.
- Using extended rotations, manage for older-aged forest to:
  - Provide habitat for animals and plants requiring older forests
  - Provide additional buffering for the forest and seeps in the Primitive/Natural Management zone
- Provide High Conservation Value Forest for forest certification.
- Control or eliminate invasive species

#### Scenic Resources Management (6 acres)

This classification is along the river's edge to protect the scenic and visual characteristics of the river way.

##### Management objectives:

- Protect habitat in 200 feet parallel to the ordinary high water mark of the Menominee River or to the visual horizon from the river, whichever is greatest.
- There is no active natural resource management. Unplanned management from catastrophic natural events may be needed and will be consistent with the goals and objectives of the property.
- Minimize impacts to aesthetics from a river-view perspective

#### Recreation Management – Backcountry (95 acres)

This is the largest management classification within this unit. Limited recreation developments will work in conjunction to preserve and perpetuate existing natural communities.

##### Management objectives:

- Protect the Menominee River
- Control or eliminate invasive species, especially European marsh thistle (*Cirsium palustre*), in the seeps
- Preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types while allowing or managing for the conversion of aspen or other early successional forest stands to longer-lived community types, such as mixed conifer-hardwood stands.

### **Proposed Project Boundary Modification**

A boundary adjustment of 257 acres is proposed to east and west of the current property unit and is shown on Map D1. This area was selected because of its ability to provide additional ecological and social values for the property and the region. Areas within the expanded boundary would be considered for a range of protection options including purchase, cooperative agreements and conservation easements. The primary objectives of the proposed boundary expansion are:

- To protect the Menominee River
- To increase forest block sizes to better accommodate area-sensitive wildlife species
- To connect state recreation lands to the City of Niagara, WI.
- To provide additional public space for recreational trail uses and hunting
- To provide a buffer to land uses that would diminish habitat, management, or visitor experience

If all lands were purchased within the expanded property boundary, the Piers Gorge Unit would encompass approximately 434 acres. These proposed boundary changes are summarized in the following table.

**Table 4: Project Boundary Acreage Goals for the WI Piers Gorge Unit.**

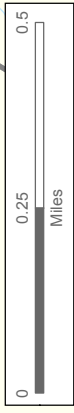
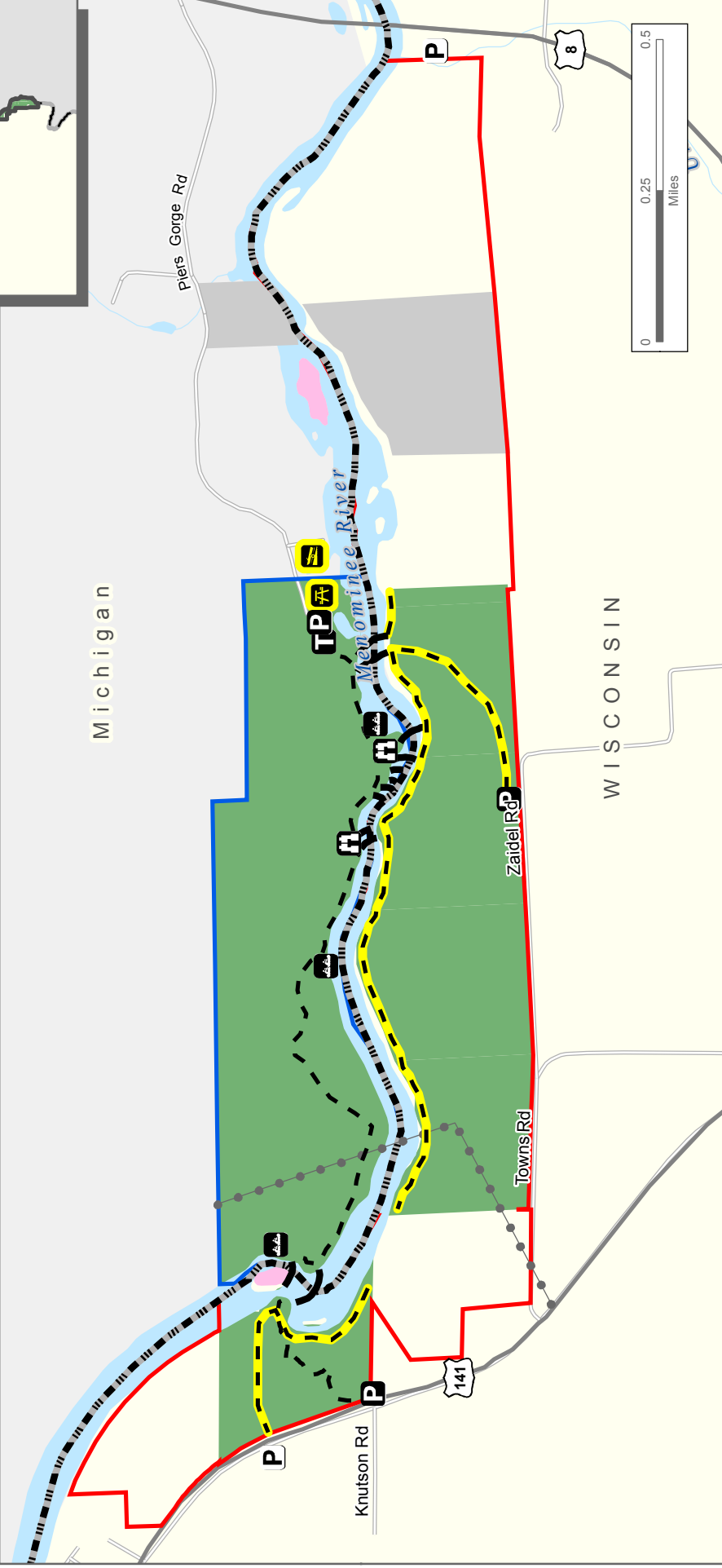
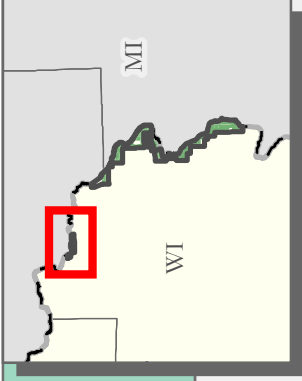
<b>Current Ownership</b>	<b>Proposed Project Boundary Adjustment</b>	<b>Proposed Acquisition Goal Adjustment</b>
177 acres	257 acres	434 acres



*River view from Pier Gorge Unit, Wisconsin*



# Piers Gorge Unit EXISTING AND PLANNED RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE Menominee River State Recreation Area























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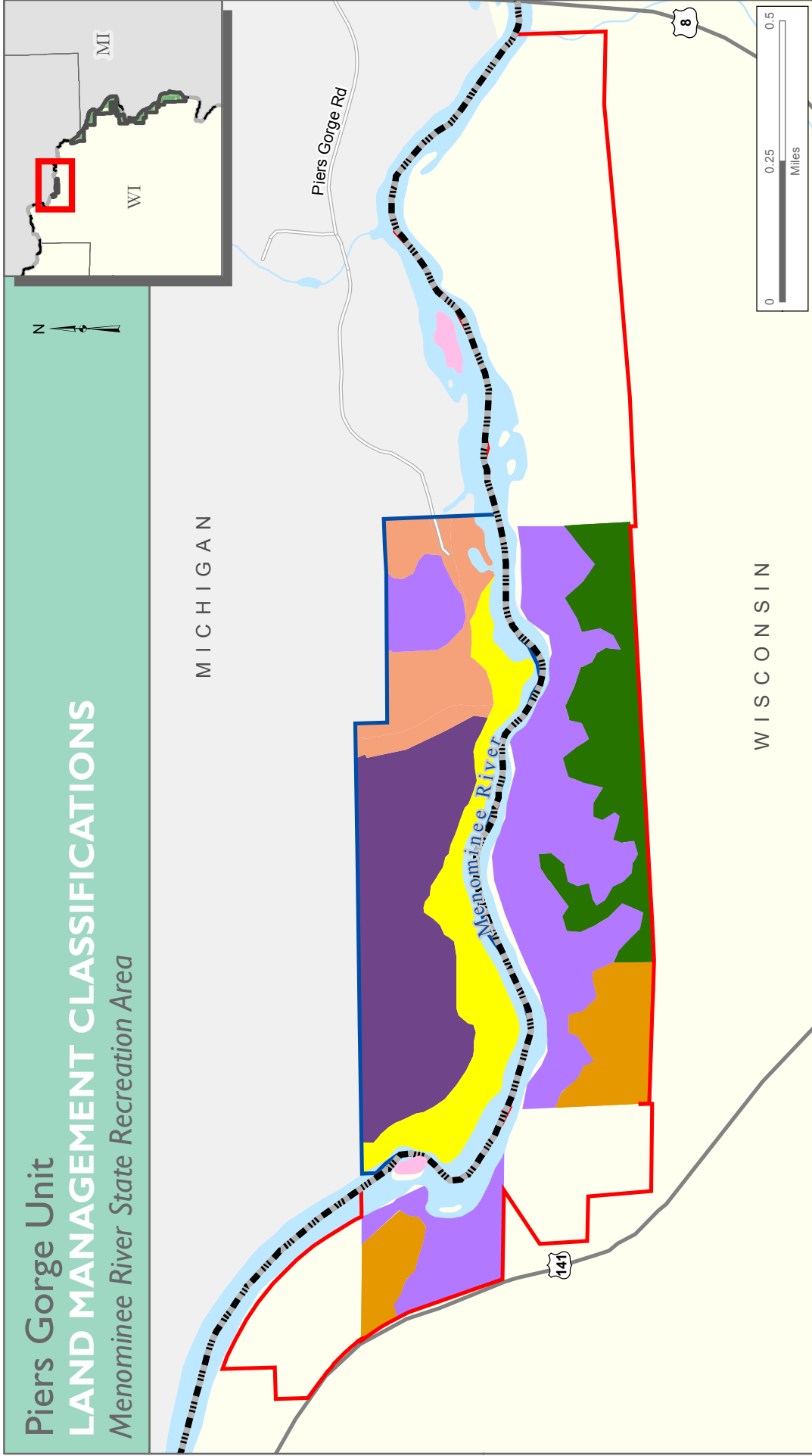
MRSRA-9524-MP-B-1 dcb  
 10/20/2017

## MAP B-1

-  Boat Access - Carry In
-  Scenic Overlook
-  Park and Ride
-  Parking Lot
-  Vault Toilet
-  Hiking Trail
-  Planned Boat Access - Ramp
-  Planned Picnic Area
-  Planned Trail
-  MRSRA Ownership (WI & MI)
-  WI MRSRA Boundary
-  MI MRSRA Boundary
-  Federal Ownership
-  City of Norway
-  State Boundary
-  Rapids
-  Powerline

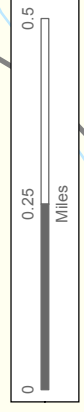
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# Piers Gorge Unit LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATIONS Menominee River State Recreation Area



W I S C O N S I N

M I C H I G A N
















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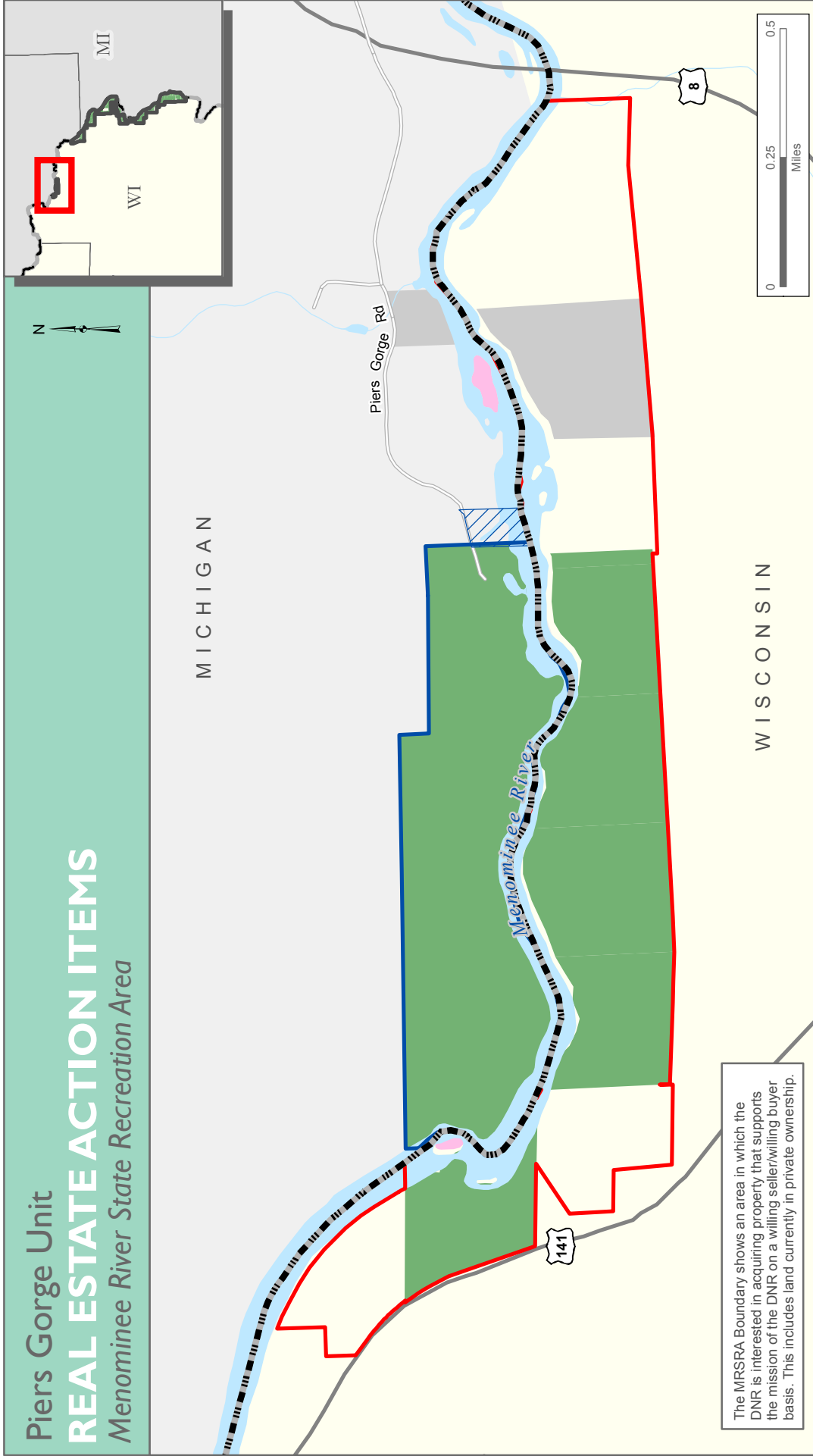
MRSRA-9524-MP - C-1 dcb  
12/04/2017

## MAP C-1

-  WI MRSRA Boundary
-  MI MRSRA Boundary
-  Federal Ownership
-  State Boundary
-  Habitat Management Area
-  Native/Ecological Community Management
-  Scenic Resources Area
-  Recreation Management Area - Backcountry
-  Recreation Management Area - Natural Resources
-  Recreation Management Area - Primitive

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# Piers Gorge Unit REAL ESTATE ACTION ITEMS Menominee River State Recreation Area



The MRSRA Boundary shows an area in which the DNR is interested in acquiring property that supports the mission of the DNR on a willing seller/willing buyer basis. This includes land currently in private ownership.

- WI MRSRA Boundary
- MI MRSRA Boundary
- MI MRSRA Boundary Expansion

- MRSRA Ownership (WI & MI)
- Federal Ownership
- City of Norway
- State Boundary



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MRSRA-9524-MP - D-1 dcb  
12/04/2017

## MAP D-1

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## **QUIVER FALLS UNIT (4,942 existing property acres)**

The Quiver Falls Unit is located some two miles downstream (southwest) of Piers Gorge and is named after the scenic falls in the south of the unit. The approximately ten miles of largely undeveloped river corridor provides uninterrupted flow from the Sturgeon Dam in the north to the class II-III rapids. Water-based recreation, such as boating and fishing, are traditionally the primary recreational uses. The area is also used for primitive camping, hunting and scenic viewing. The limited improvements proposed on both sides of the river are intended to bring the existing uses in line with current land use rules and provide additional amenities to enhance the visitor experience, while protecting the wild and scenic qualities of the river corridor.

For ease of mapping, the Quiver Falls Unit is divided into three sections: north, middle and south.

### **Michigan (2,209 acres)**

The Quiver Falls Unit of the Menominee River State Recreation Area includes 2,209 acres and has been divided into four Land Management Classification Zones:

- Scenic Resource Management
- Primitive/ Natural Management
- Recreation Management – Natural Resources
- Recreation Management – Developed

### **Recreation Management**

The level of recreational development and management focus varies in each zone in accordance with the land management classification zones defined in Appendix C. Specific management objectives for each of the sections of the Quiver Falls Unit are described below.

#### **North Section**

The State of Michigan does not currently own any land or propose to acquire any land in this section. The City of Norway provides a boating access site on the Menominee River below the Sturgeon Hydro Dam.

#### **Middle Section**

Most of this section is zoned Primitive and reflects a desire to provide minimal facilities to allow for quiet, low density recreational use.

### Designated Trails

There is an existing network of two tracks and user created trails within this area. The trails will be evaluated for appropriate use and a hiking trail system will be designated, with possible new sections or re-routes to avoid trespass or sensitive areas.

#### Management Objectives

- Provide 2 to 3 miles of primitive hiking trails from the proposed parking lot off County Road 577
- Resolve access issues where trail is currently on private land

### River Access

#### Management Objectives

- Provide 2 to 4 hike-in/canoe-in river access sites
- Maintain Faithorn Boating Access Site (BAS) and support facilities as a motorized river access
- Provide support for the Menominee Watershed Canoe Trail.

### Day Use Facilities

#### Management Objectives

- Provide gravel parking off County Rd. 577 for 4 vehicles
- Provide site locator and fee collection pipe at parking area/ trailhead
- Establish emergency access routes (restricted/ vehicular)
- Provide visitor service facilities within the proposed project boundary (Recreation Management - Developed Zone)

### Overnight Facilities

#### Management Objectives

- Provide 2 to 4 hike-in/canoe-in primitive campsites

### **South Section**

The southern section of the Michigan Quiver Falls Unit has traditionally seen a wider variety of activities and is zoned to allow for a higher level of recreation activity and visitor interaction.

### Designated Trails

There is an existing network of two tracks and user created trails within this area. The trails will be evaluated for appropriate motorized and non-motorized use (including the potential for equestrian and mountain bike access) and a park road/trail system will be designated and shown on the state park maps.

### Management Objectives

- Provide 5 to 10 miles of primitive to moderate hiking trails
- Resolve access/trespass issues
- Consider other trail uses as appropriate

### River Access

#### Management Objectives

- Provide carry-in/ carry-out river access at end of 37.25 Lane
- Identify river-access campsites from the river corridor
- Provide 1 to 2 hike-in/canoe-in river access sites
- Provide support for the Menominee Watershed Canoe Trail.

### Day Use Facilities

#### Management Objectives

- Provide trailhead and gravel parking for 4 vehicles off Orchard Rd.
- Provide trailhead and gravel parking for 10 vehicles off Spruce Rd. (Proposed Project Boundary)
- Provide site locator and fee collection at parking areas/ trailheads

### Overnight Facilities

#### Management Objectives

- Provide 4 to 10 site rustic campground at end of 37.25 Lane
- Provide 1 to 2 hike-in/canoe-in primitive campsites
- Evaluate the existing cabin for possible restoration, reuse, or removal, and consider historic interpretation of the site.

**Table 5: Summary of Existing and Proposed Recreation Facilities for the Michigan Quiver Falls Unit.**

Facility	Existing	Proposed	Total
<b>Designated Trail Miles</b>			
Hiking trail (primitive/moderate)	0	7-13	7-13
<b>River Access</b>			
Boat Access - Carry-in/carry out	0	3-6	3-6
Boat Access - Ramp	1	0	1
<b>Day Use Facilities</b>			
Parking (# vehicles)	0	18	18
Information station	0	3	3
Vault toilet	0	3	3
<b>Overnight Facilities</b>			
Primitive camping (backcountry sites)	0	3-6	3-6
Rustic campsites	0	4-10	4-10

## **Motorized Access Management**

### **North Section**

N/A

### **Middle Section**

Motorized river access and parking is provided at the Faithorn boating access site (BAS). A small gravel parking area is proposed off County Rd. 577. Motorized access to the remainder of the property will be restricted due to the desired primitive nature of the site. A motorized emergency access (not open to public use) is proposed to address safety concerns.

### **South Section**

Two seasonal county roads, totaling 1.3 miles, currently provides vehicular access to the river. It is proposed that the southern road will be improved as a park road to the proposed campground and carry-in river access. The northern road will be evaluated for ORV access. Additional park roads/trails may be provided for motorized access in the Natural Resources Zone in accordance with analysis of the existing trails for appropriate use. No motorized access will be allowed in the Primitive Zone or along the river corridor (except on existing park roads).

## **Natural Resource Management**

Natural resource protection and management is an important aspect of preserving the beauty, ecological balance and resource-based recreation opportunities of the Quiver Falls Unit. Management objectives vary for each zone, depending on the desired future condition.

### **Scenic Resource Management** (356 acres)

The *Scenic Resource Management Zone* includes land along the Menominee River corridor. The primary focus of this zone is to protect, preserve and enhance the scenic viewscapes, both from the river and from the land.

The natural resources in this zone may be modified slightly to support visitor use and viewing, but tolerance for natural resource impacts is low. The zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes, or to enhance the viewscapes.

Management objectives:

- Protect habitat to the visual horizon from the Menominee River
- Minimize impacts to aesthetics from a river-view perspective
- Maintain riparian corridor for wildlife movement and habitat, including bald eagle and osprey
- Allow natural processes to take their course



### Primitive/ Natural Management (768 acres)

The *Primitive/ Natural Management Zone* includes most of the middle section of the Quiver Falls Unit and areas along the river corridor in the south section. Only low impact development or recreation activities will be allowed in this area to protect the natural resources and maintain the quiet, wild character of the land.

Native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodation. Vegetative management will only be allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes.

Management objectives:

- Control or eliminate invasive species
- Preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types, such as bedrock glade, hillside prairie, oak-pine barrens and conifer swamp

### Recreation Management – Natural Resources (1,062 acres)

Approximately 193 acres west of County Rd. 577 (proposed for land exchange) and the majority of the south section has been designated as *Recreation Management – Natural Resources*.

Natural resources will be managed or modified to support visitor activities and maintain aesthetically appealing landscape, but are protected to the degree possible and appear natural.

Management objectives:

- Manage vegetation to facilitate recreational use and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape
- Manage for wildlife, including some Aspen management
- Control or eliminate invasive species
- Preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types



*Rich Conifer Swamp is one of the natural communities to be preserved*

Recreation Management – Developed (23 acres)

Approximately 23 acres at the south end of the middle section of the Quiver Falls Unit have been designated as *Recreation Management – Developed*. This includes the existing Faithorn BAS site and the proposed property acquisition area south of the BAS.

Natural resources may be actively managed or modified to support visitor activities and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape. Vegetation management will be allowed to facilitate development.

Management objectives:

- Manage vegetation to facilitate recreational use and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape
- Control or eliminate invasive species

**Proposed Project Boundary Modification**

A project boundary adjustment of approximately 95 acres (net gain) is proposed in the Quiver Falls Unit and is shown on Map D2. The Proposed Project Boundary reflects the long term goals of the MDNR and would provide land consolidation for both the MDNR and potentially a private forest enterprise, resulting in more efficient management and defined points of access. Acquisition would only occur on a willing buyer/seller basis and this proposal does not affect any current private property rights. The proposed modifications would result in an additional 0.75 miles of riverfront for water access and recreational use. The boundary adjustments include land proposed for sale, acquisition or exchange.

The primary objectives of the proposed boundary modification are:

- To protect the Menominee River corridor
- To provide additional river frontage for access and recreational use
- To consolidate the boundary
- To address trespass issues

The Proposed Project Boundary for the Quiver Falls Unit would encompass approximately 2,304 acres. These proposed boundary changes are summarized in the following table.

**Table 6: Project Boundary Acreage Goals for the Michigan Quiver Falls Unit.**

<b>Current Ownership</b>	<b>Proposed Acquisition/Exchange*</b>	<b>Proposed Sale/Exchange</b>	<b>New Proposed Ownership</b>
2,209 acres	315 acres	-220 acres	2,304 acres

\* Includes 5 acre Faithorn BAS currently owned by the MDNR and proposed for incorporation within the State Recreation Area.

## Wisconsin (2,733 acres)

The Quiver Falls Unit of the Menominee River State Recreation Area includes 2,705 acres and has been divided into five Land Management Classification Zones:

- Scenic Resource Management
- Native / Ecological Community Management
- Habitat Management
- Primitive/ Natural Management
- Recreation Management – Developed

### **Recreation Management**

The level of recreational development and management focus varies in each zone in accordance with the land management classifications defined in Appendix C. Specific management objectives for each of the sections of the Quiver Falls Unit are described below.

#### **North Section**

This section of the Quiver Falls Unit includes limited state land ownership. The plan does propose to expand the project boundary of this section to incorporate the City of Norway, MI lands located within the State of Wisconsin. This expansion will allow for additional recreation opportunities and access to the Menominee River.

#### **Designated Trails**

There is an existing snowmobile and ATV trail on state lands that connects to larger regional network.

#### **Management Objectives**

- Continue to provide for the regional snowmobile and ATV trail connection that utilizes state lands and township roads.
- Provide for other motorized and non-motorized trail connections if other lands become available.

#### **River Access**

Currently no formal access points exist within this section, but providing river access is a primary goal of this plan.

#### **Management Objectives**

- Provide a non-motorized boat launch with a four vehicle gravel parking lot.
- Support for the Menominee Watershed Canoe Trail.
- If lands become available, provide for shoreline fishing opportunities.

### Overnight Facilities

Currently no designated camping exists within this section because of the limited land base.

### Management Objectives

- If lands become available, provide two hike-in/canoe-in primitive campsites before the Sturgeon Falls Dam.

### Middle Section

This section of the Quiver Falls Unit includes a large block of state land ownership. A number of recreation and access improvements are recommended to enhance river usage.

### Designated Routes

A number of designated routes are recommended within this section that will provide connections to surrounding public lands.

### Management Objectives

- Provide up to 2.8 miles of a snowmobile / all season ATV route starting at the campground boat access parking lot, as shown on Map B-2B. This route continues north to Hazard Road.
- Provide up to 2.6 miles of snowmobile / all season ATV trail. As shown on Map B-2B, there are two segments of this trail. The first is the western segment that starts just south of the parking lot and continues west to private lands. The second segment starts at Plummer Road and continues north on to private lands and then connects to the Sturgeon Dam Road from the trail on state lands.



*Hazard Road ATV Trail*

### River Access

An existing motorized boat launch exists within this section. Within the last few years improvements have been made to this launch site. This launch site will be retained and two others added.

### Management Objectives

- Provide 2 hike-in/boat-in river access sites.
- Provide 1 motorized boat launch with a 10 vehicle parking lot.
- Support for the Menominee Watershed Canoe Trail.

### Overnight Facilities

Currently no designated camping exists within this section, but this section can provide for light camping use.

#### Management Objectives

- Provide a rustic campground with up to 12 camp sites located near the motorized boat launch and east of Rattie Road. All campsites will be non-electric, and developments will include one vault toilet and a water pump.
- Provide up to 4 rustic campsites along the river. When possible, utilize existing campsite locations from previous ownership and existing visitor use patterns.
- Provide site location signage and fee collection at parking areas / trailheads.

### South Section

The southern section of the Wisconsin Quiver Falls Unit has traditionally seen a wider variety of activities and is zoned to allow for a higher level of recreation activity and visitor interaction.

### Designated Trails

There is a limited network of trails within this section. This network provides access to the river and surrounding lands.

#### Management Objectives

- Provide between 1 to 3 miles of primitive to moderate hiking trails
- Maintain map and location kiosks

### River Access

An existing river access site is located near Quiver Falls. This site also allows access to Federal BLM islands located nearby.

#### Management Objectives

- Maintain the non-motorized (carry-in) river access site at the day use area
- Establish a portage trail around Quiver Falls

### Day Use Facilities

An existing day use location exists next to Quiver Falls. This site will be maintained and another site developed

#### Management Objectives

- Maintain the existing day use site and parking lot next to Quiver Falls
- Improve the existing scenic overlook at Quiver Falls
- Develop a day use site near the river's edge from High Banks Road. This site will include a 12 vehicle parking lot and 12' x 18' open air shelter.

- Provide site location signage and fee collection at parking areas/ trailheads

Overnight Facilities

Currently no designated camping exists within this section, but this section can provide for light camping use.

Management Objectives

- Provide one rustic campsite on the southwest corner of Isle le Grande.

**Table 7: Summary of Existing and Proposed Recreation Facilities for the Wisconsin Quiver Falls Unit.**

Facility	Existing	Proposed	Total
<b>Designated Trail Miles</b>			
Hiking	0	1-3	1-3
All Season ATV / Snowmobile Trail	2.6	0	2.6
All Season ATV / Snowmobile Route	0	2.8	2.8
<b>River Access</b>			
Carry-in/carry-out access	1	1	2
Motorized river access	1	1	2
<b>Day Use Facilities</b>			
Parking (# cars)	10	22	32
Information station	1	1	2
Fee collector	0	3	3
Vault toilet	0	1	1
<b>Overnight Facilities</b>			
Rustic campground	0	1	1
Primitive campsites	0	7	7

**Motorized Access Management**

**North Section**

Currently there are no department roads designated within this section. Sturgeon Dam Road, owned by the township does serve as access to the current state ownership. This road is plowed in the winter and open for all seasons. If other lands are acquired, a complete inventory and access plan will be developed that will conform to this master plan

**Middle Section**

Within this section, multiple motorized access opportunities exist. A number of Township roads provide ingress and egress options to this section. Rattie Road provides access to the southern

area, Hazard Road to the middle and Sturgeon Dam road to the North. All of these township roads are plowed in the winter and open for all seasons.

The department will define two road sections open to motorized vehicles. The first is the road that connects Rattie Road to the boat landing. This road is classified as a “moderate road” as defined by Wis Admin Rule NR 44. This road will not be plowed for winter use. The second road will allow for a connection of Rattie Road to Hazard Road. This department road will also allow snowmobile and ATV use as a designated route. The department road will be classified as “seasonal moderate road” as defined by Wis Admin Rule NR 44. This 2.8 mile road will not be plowed for winter use.

### **South Section**

No department owned roads exist in this section. Two Town of Pembine roads exist within this section for access. The first is Pemene Dam Road that leads to the day use area parking lot and river access location. The second is High Banks Road that is a spur off Pemene Dam Road. Both roads are not plowed for winter use. Combined, these roads total 0.6 miles.

## **Natural Resource Management**

Natural resource protection and management is an important aspect of preserving the beauty, ecological balance and resource-based recreation opportunities of the Quiver Falls Unit. Management objectives vary for each zone, depending on the desired future condition. Allowable vegetation management practices for all zones can be found in Appendix D.

### **Scenic Resource Management (28 acres)**

The *Scenic Resource Management Zone* includes land along the Menominee River corridor. The primary focus of this zone is to protect, preserve and enhance the scenic views, both from the river and from the land.

This zone includes a 200 foot wide corridor parallel to the ordinary high water mark of the Menominee River or to the visual horizon from the river, whichever is greatest. The goal is to also protect, maintain and enhance the aesthetic qualities. There is no active management planned for this zone. Unplanned management from responses to catastrophic events such as fire or insect outbreaks may be needed and will be consistent with the goals and objectives of the property. The establishment of the river corridor does not preclude the recreational developments identified in this master plan.

Management objectives:

- Protect habitat to the visual horizon from the Menominee River
- Minimize impacts to aesthetics from a river-view perspective

- Maintain riparian corridor for wildlife movement and habitat, including bald eagle and osprey
- Allow natural processes to take their course

#### Primitive/ Natural Management (271 acres)

The *Primitive/ Natural Management Zone* includes most of the middle section of the Quiver Falls Unit and areas along the river corridor in the south section. Only low impact development or recreation activities will be allowed in this area to protect the natural resources and maintain the quiet, wild character of the land.

Native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodation. Vegetative management will only be allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes.

The Grand Island Complex harbors qualities and characteristics that meet established criteria for consideration as both a representative ecological reference area and a High Conservation Value Forest. The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin identifies significant ecological features to be considered in planning at both continental and statewide perspectives.

Management objectives:

- Control or eliminate invasive species
- Preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types, such as bedrock glade, hillside prairie, oak-pine barrens and conifer swamp
- Conversion of aspen stands

Grand Island Complex (Grand and Green Islands) (271 acres):

- Designation as a state natural area
- Passive management other than invasive species control
- As needed, manage to sustain existing bedrock natural community types
- Allow the conversion of aspen stands to mixed hardwood-conifer and other hardwood types

#### Habitat Management (1,141)

The *Habitat Management Zone* includes lands that are located primarily in the north and middle sections of the unit. This zone can reflect either natural or perspective actions for vegetative or habitat management.

Management objectives:

- Manage as multiple aged stands of aspen.
- Stands with cover types other than aspen found in these areas will be managed to maintain or expand their presence; stands with old growth potential should be managed as such.



### Native / Ecological Community Management (1,137 acres)

The *Native / Ecological Management Zone* includes land that are located primarily in the southern sections of the unit. The primary focus of this zone is to represent, restore or perpetuate native plant and animal communities.

Management objectives are targeted to specific locations as described below.

#### Chapman locations:

- Allow and/or promote the conversion of aspen stands that are converting to northern hardwood, oak, or conifer stands to those types. This will increase diversity locally and regionally, provide habitat/stages that may be lacking on the recreation area and surrounding landscape.
- Develop larger blocks of forest and decrease edge effects for interior forest species.
- Manage both locations as old growth. The southern location has areas identified as having old growth forest potential.

#### Rattie Road Woods location:

- Allow to develop and/or promote old growth characteristics (managed old growth).
- Embedded aspen stands would be allowed or managed toward conversion to northern hardwood, oak, or mixed hardwood-conifer types.

#### Kremlin Woods location:

##### Wetlands

- Passive management other than invasive species control

##### Uplands

- Allow to develop and/or promote old growth characteristics (managed old growth).
- Embedded aspen stands would be allowed or managed toward conversion to northern hardwood, oak, or mixed hardwood-conifer types.

#### Grand Island Complex:

##### Grand and Green islands

- Passive management other than invasive species control
- Allow the conversion of aspen stands to mixed hardwood-conifer and other hardwood types

##### Uplands between Menominee River north to railroad tracks

- Manage as barrens-woodland complex
- Control or eliminate invasive species

### Recreation Management – Developed Recreation (194 acres)

The Recreation Management Zone includes lands that are located primarily in the southern sections of the unit. The primary focus of this zone is to enhance recreation management opportunities. Natural resources may be actively managed or modified to support visitor

activities and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape. Vegetation management will be allowed to facilitate development.

Management objectives:

- Manage vegetation to facilitate recreational use and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape
- Control or eliminate invasive species

**Proposed Project Boundary Modification**

A project boundary adjustment of approximately 903 acres is proposed in the Quiver Falls Unit and is shown on Map D-2. The proposed adjustment results in a more consolidated and easier to manage unit, with defined points of access, and would provide legal access to a land-locked parcel. The proposed boundary modifications would result in an additional 2.8 miles of riverfront for water access and recreational use. The lands within these areas would be under two classifications: scenic resource management along the river’s edge and habitat management. The boundary adjustments include land proposed for sale, acquisition or exchange.

The primary objectives of the proposed boundary modification are:

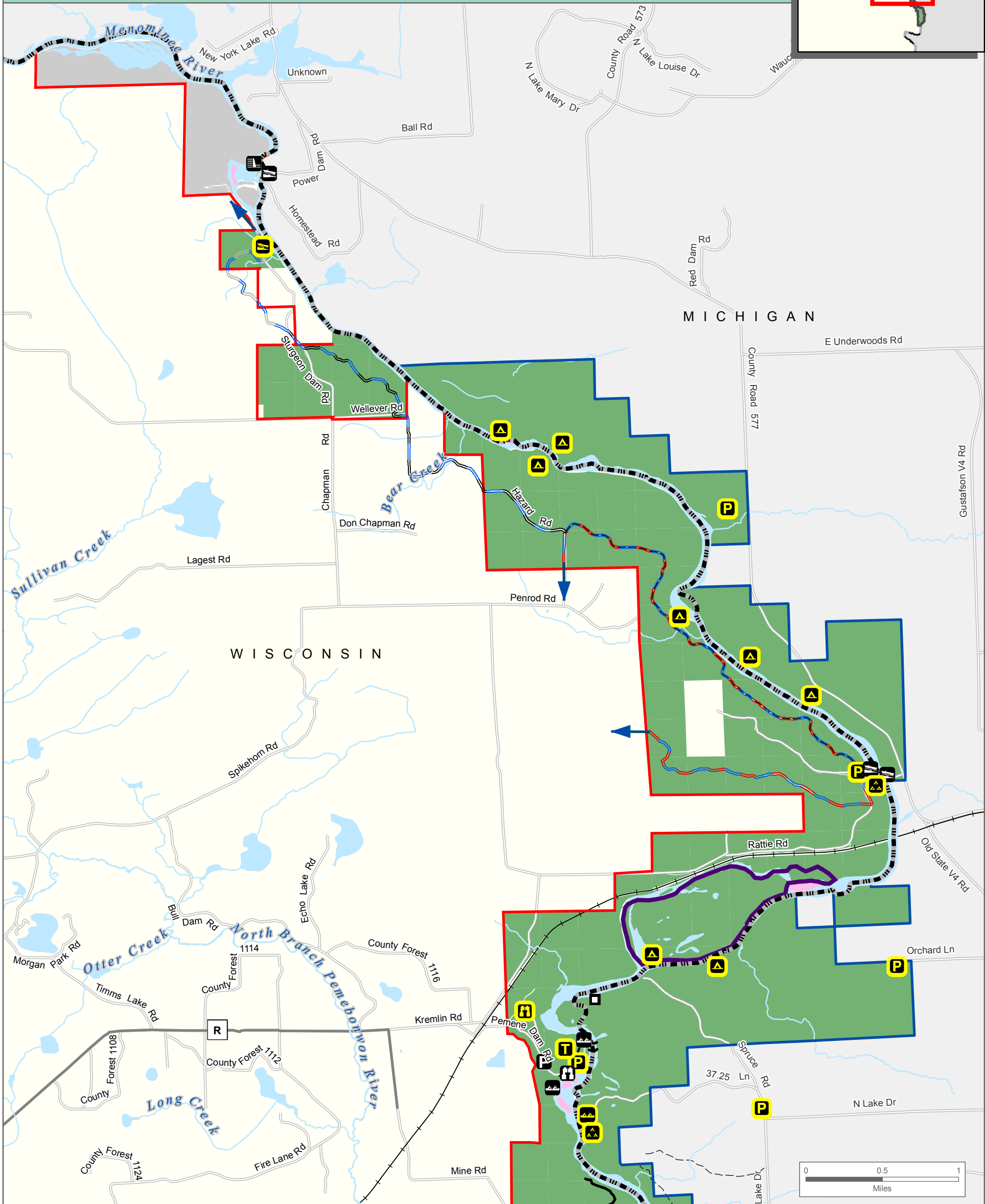
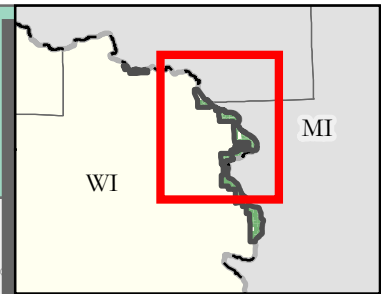
- To protect the Menominee River corridor
- To provide additional river frontage for access and recreational use
- To consolidate the boundary

The proposed Project Boundary for the Quiver Falls Unit would encompass approximately 3,636 acres. These proposed boundary changes are summarized in the table below.

**Table 8: Project Boundary Acreage Goals for the Wisconsin Quiver Falls Unit.**

Current Ownership	Proposed Project Boundary Adjustment	Proposed Acquisition Goal Adjustment
2,733 acres	+903 acres	3,636 acres

# Quiver Falls Unit EXISTING AND PLANNED RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE Menominee River State Recreation Area



<b>P</b> Parking Lot	<b>H</b> Scenic Overlook	<b>A</b> Planned Campsite	<b>MI</b> MI MRSRA Boundary
<b>B</b> Boat Access - Carry In	<b>B</b> Planned Boat Access - Carry In	<b>H</b> Planned Overlook	<b>MI</b> City of Norway
<b>B</b> Boat Access - Ramp	<b>B</b> Planned Boat Access - Ramp	<b>T</b> Planned Vault Toilet	<b>MI</b> Federal Ownership
<b>D</b> Dam	<b>A</b> Planned Campground	<b>P</b> Planned Parking Lots	<b>MI</b> Planned State Natural Area
<b>S</b> Structure			<b>MI</b> State Boundary
			<b>MI</b> Snowmobile
			<b>MI</b> Snowmobile and Winter ATV
			<b>MI</b> Snowmobile and Year-round ATV
			<b>MI</b> MRSRA Ownership (WI & MI)
			<b>MI</b> WI MRSRA Boundary

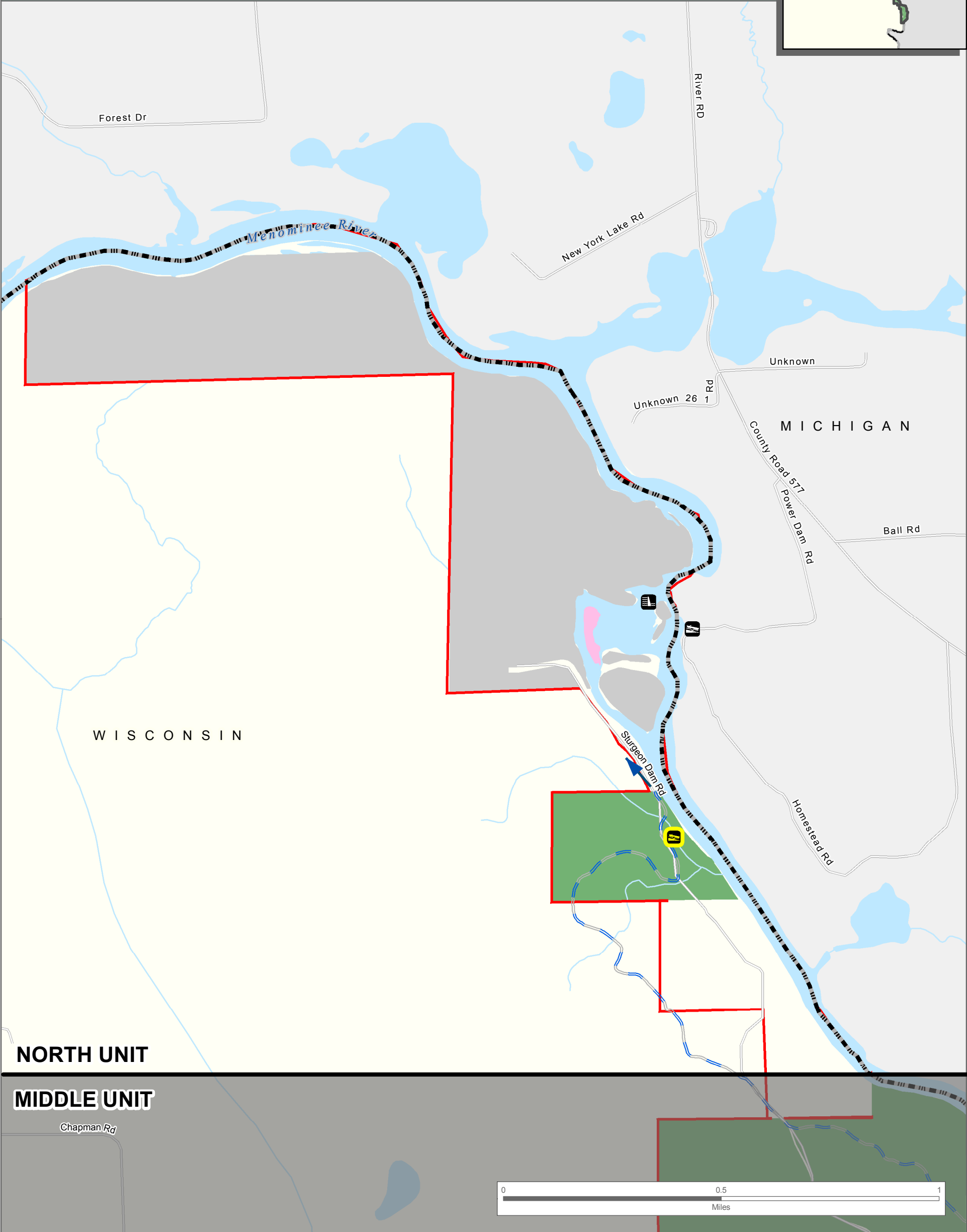
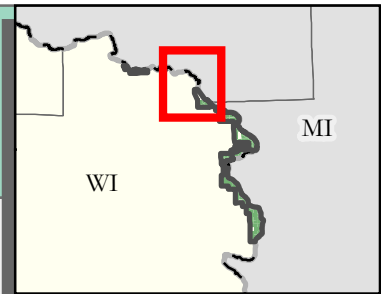
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 MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
 MRSRA-9524-MP-B-2 dcb  
 01/23/2018  
**Map B-2**

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# Quiver Falls Unit - North

## EXISTING AND PLANNED RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE

### Menominee River State Recreation Area



**NORTH UNIT**

**MIDDLE UNIT**

- Boat Access - Ramp
- Dam
- Planned Boat Access - Ramp
- MRSRA Ownership (WI & MI)
- WI MRSRA Boundary
- City of Norway
- Federal Ownership
- State Boundary
- Snowmobile Trail

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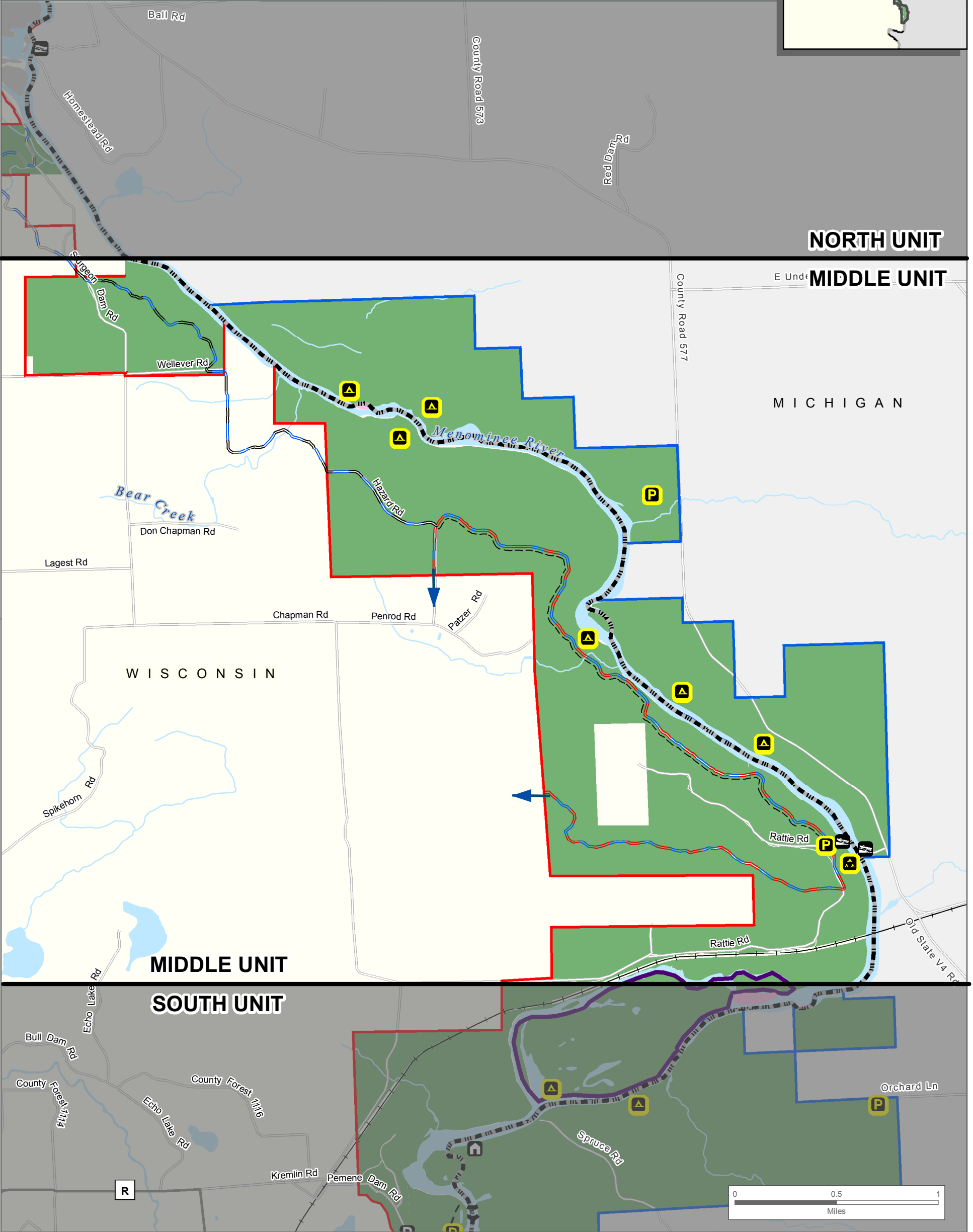
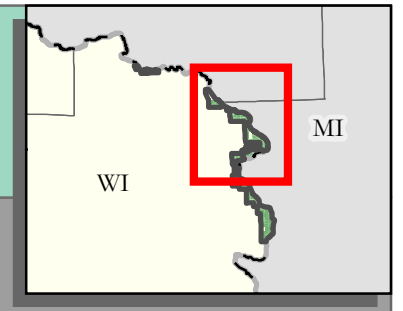
**MAP B-2A**

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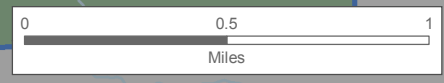
# Quiver Falls Unit - Middle

## EXISTING AND PLANNED RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE

### Menominee River State Recreation Area



Parking Lot	MRSRA Ownership (MI & WI)	Rapids
Boat Access - Ramp	WI MRSRA Boundary	State Boundary
Existing Structure	MI MRSRA Boundary	Hiking Trail
Planned Campground	City of Norway	Snowmobile
Planned Campsite	Federal Ownership	Snowmobile and Winter ATV
Planned Parking Lot	Planned State Natural Area	Snowmobile and Year-round ATV



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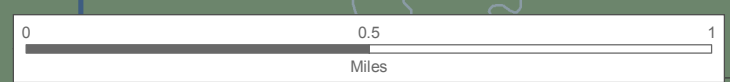
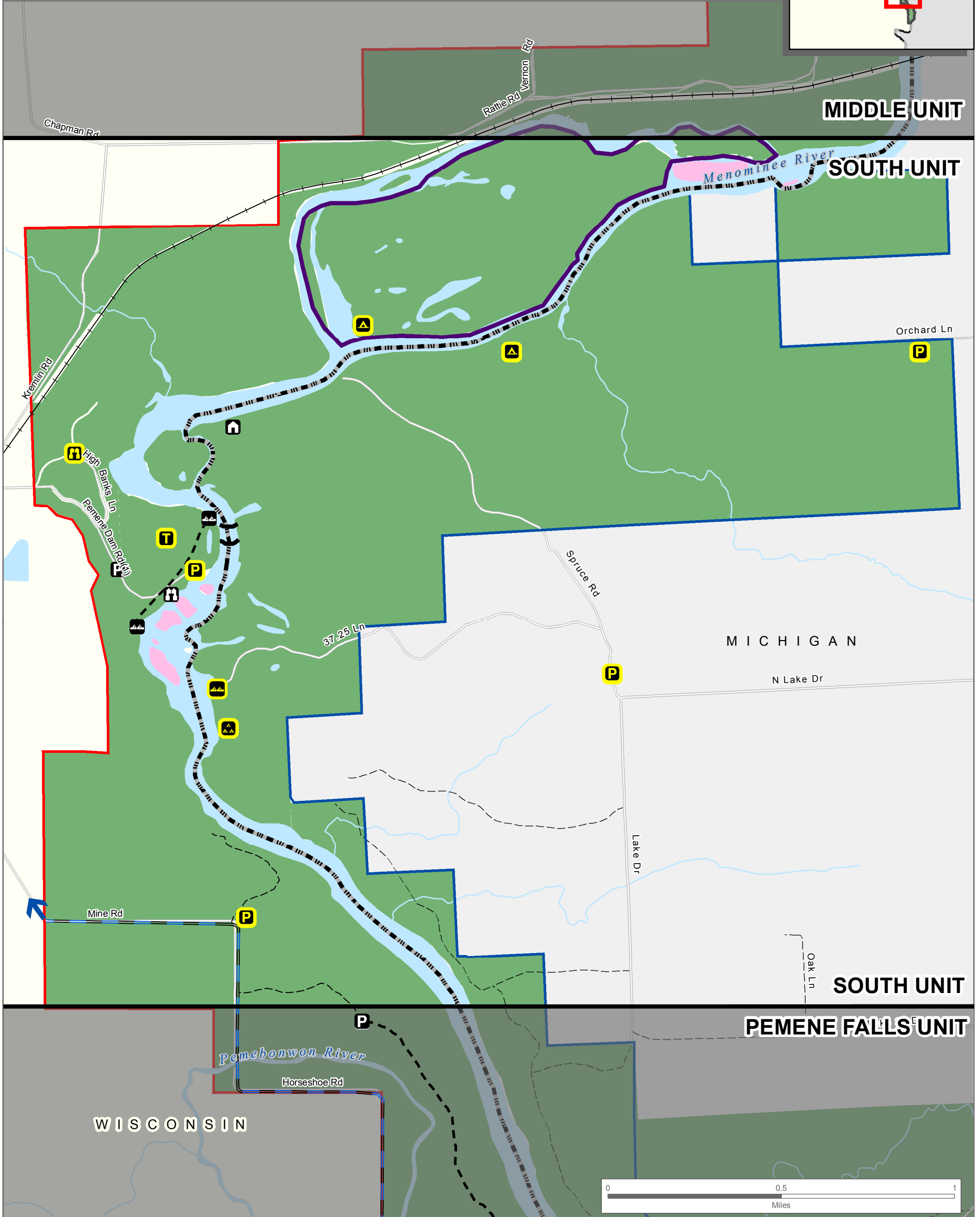
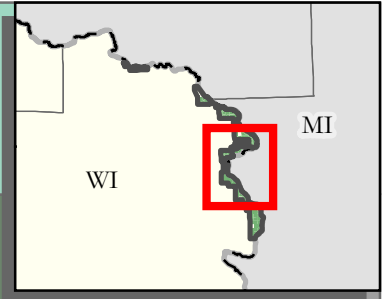
**MAP B-2B**

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# Quiver Falls Unit - South

## EXISTING AND PLANNED RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Menominee River State Recreation Area



- |                                |                      |                            |                           |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Boat Access - Carry In         | Planned Campground   | MRSRA Ownership (WI & MI)  | Rapids                    |
| Existing Structure             | Planned Campsite     | WI MRSRA Boundary          | State Boundary            |
| Scenic Overlook                | Planned Overlook     | MI MRSRA Boundary          | Hiking Trail              |
| Parking Lot                    | Planned Parking Lot  | Federal Ownership          | Primitive Road            |
| Planned Boat Access - Carry In | Planned Vault Toilet | Planned State Natural Area | Snowmobile and Winter ATV |

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 01/23/2018 **MAP B-2C**

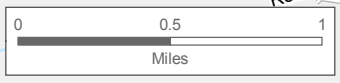
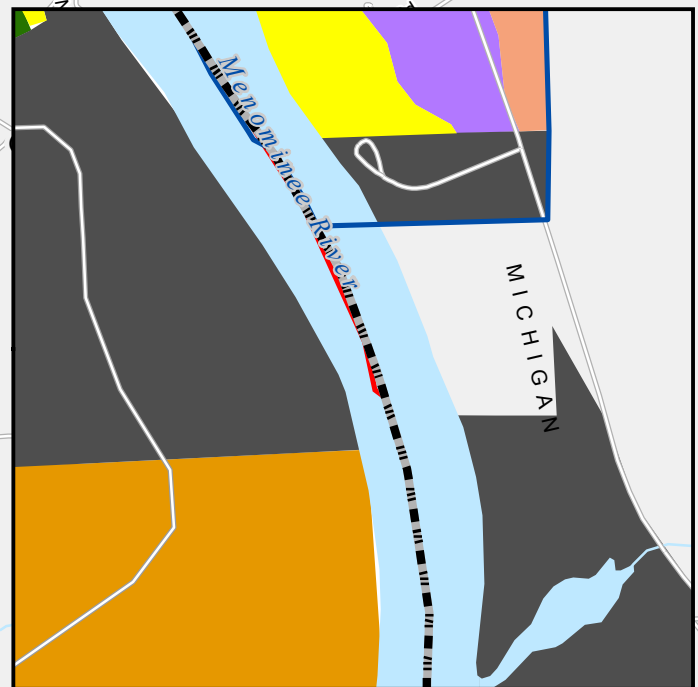
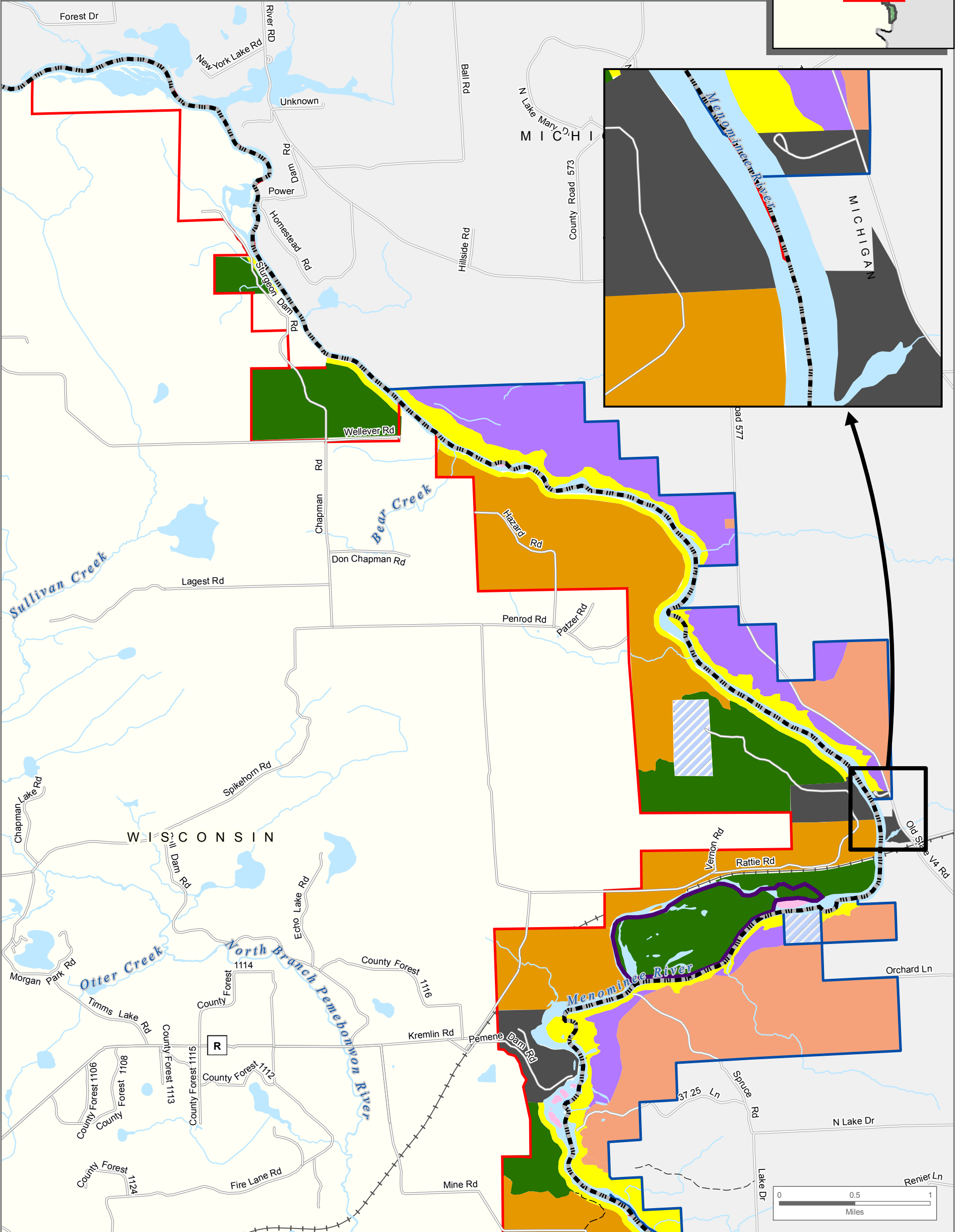
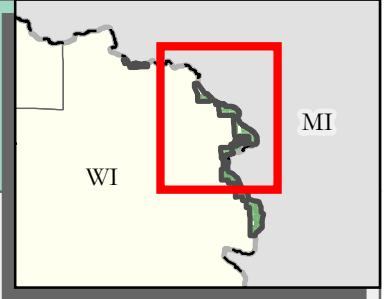
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# Quiver Falls Unit

## LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATIONS

### Menominee River State Recreation Area



Habitat Management Area	WI MRSRA Boundary	State Boundary
Scenic Resources Area	MI MRSRA Boundary	Primitive Road
Native/Ecological Community Management	Planned State Natural Area	
Recreation Management Area - Primitive	Federal Ownership	
Recreation Management Area - Developed	Private Land	
Recreation Management Area - Natural Resources		

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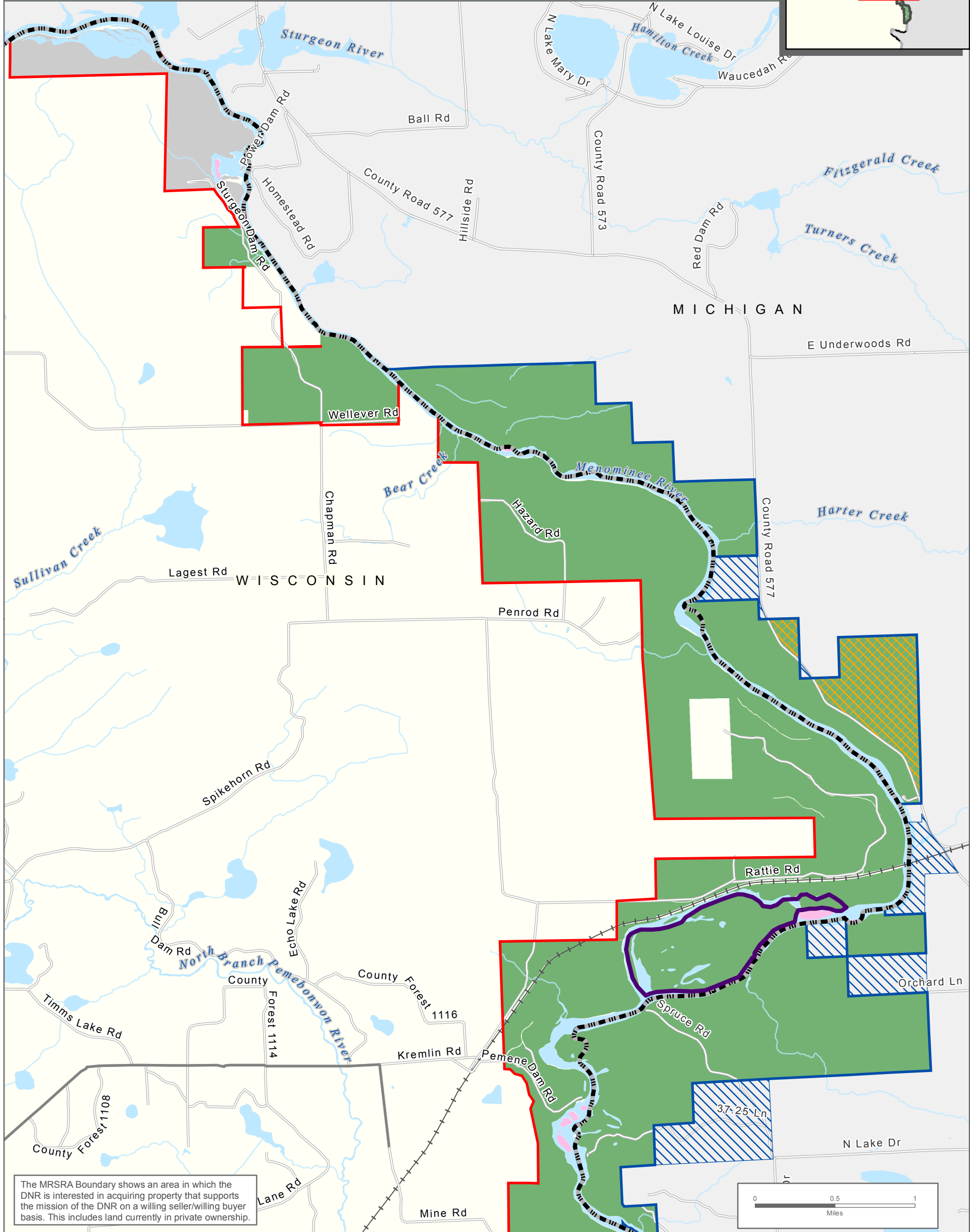
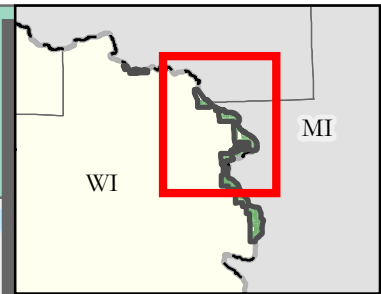
**MAP C-2**

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# Quiver Falls Unit

## REAL ESTATE ACTION ITEMS

### Menominee River State Recreation Area



The MRSRA Boundary shows an area in which the DNR is interested in acquiring property that supports the mission of the DNR on a willing seller/willing buyer basis. This includes land currently in private ownership.

WI MRSRA Boundary	MRSRA Ownership (WI & MI)
MI MRSRA Boundary	Federal Ownership
MI MRSRA Boundary Modification	City of Norway
Planned Sale/Exchange	Planned State Natural Area
	State Boundary

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**MAP D-2**

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## **PEMENE FALLS UNIT (2,388 existing property acres)**

The Pemene Falls Unit is the southern-most unit of the Menominee River Recreation Area, encompassing approximately 4 miles of river corridor terminating just north of County Road Z/374, which bridges the river between Wisconsin and Michigan. The scenic Pemene Falls, class III-IV rapids, offer spectacular views at the south end of the unit. The unit is minimally developed, with parking areas, river access sites, campsites (Wisconsin) and the Pemene Falls overlook area (Michigan). Water-based recreation, such as boating and fishing, are traditionally the primary recreational uses. The area is also used for primitive camping, hunting and scenic viewing. The limited improvements proposed on both sides of the river are intended to bring the existing uses in line with current land use rules and provide additional amenities to enhance the visitor experience, while protecting the wild and scenic qualities of the river corridor.

In Michigan, the MRSRA land abuts State Forest land which offers additional recreation opportunities and wildlife habitat. With a joint boundary between the PRD and Forest Resources Division (FRD) managed lands, a close working relationship will be maintained to ensure cooperation of management practices and a positive experience for recreational users.

### **Michigan (525 acres)**

The Pemene Falls Unit of the Menominee River State Recreation Area includes 525 acres transferred from the Forest Resources Division (FRD) to the Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) in 2016. The unit has been divided into four Land Management Classification Zones:

- Scenic Resource Management
- Primitive/ Natural Management
- Recreation Management – Natural Resources
- Recreation Management – Developed

### **Recreation Management**

The level of recreational development and management focus varies in each zone in accordance with the land management classifications defined in Appendix C. Specific management objectives for each of the zones of the Pemene Falls Unit are described below.

#### **Designated Trails**

There are some existing two tracks and user-created trails within this area. The trails will be evaluated for appropriate use and a hiking trail system will be designated.

#### **Management Objectives**

- Provide 3 miles of primitive hiking trails from Pemene Falls to Faithorn Township's Sturgeon Bend Campground

River Access

Management Objectives

- Incorporate Gerald Welling Memorial Boating Access Site, with motorized launch, skid pier, vault toilet, and parking for 25 vehicles, into the Recreation Area
- Provide portage around Pemene Falls
- Support the Menominee Watershed Canoe Trail

Day Use Facilities

Management Objectives

- Improve gravel parking at Pemene Falls to accommodate 10-15 vehicles
- Provide site locator and fee collection pipe at parking area
- Provide site interpretation at Pemene Falls
- Provide scenic overlook at the falls
- Develop alternate ADA viewing site below the falls
- Provide 1 to 2 gravel hunter access parking lots with up to 4 spaces each

Overnight Facilities

Management Objectives

- Provide 1 to 2 hike-in/canoe-in primitive campsites

**Table 9: Summary of Existing and Proposed Recreation Facilities for the Michigan Pemene Falls Unit.**

Facility	Existing	Proposed	Total
<b>Designated Trail Miles</b>			
Hiking trail	0	3 miles	3 miles
<b>River Access</b>			
Portage	0	1	1
Boat access - ramp	2 (1 non-DNR)	0	2
<b>Day Use Facilities</b>			
Parking (# vehicles)	10	10	20
Information station	0	1	1
Interpretive signage	0	1	1
Vault toilet	0	1	1
<b>Overnight Facilities</b>			
Primitive campsites (backcountry sites)	0	2	2
Rustic campsites (Sturgeon Bend, Twp.)	11 (non-DNR)	0	11

## **Motorized Access Management**

Access to the Unit is provided off State W2 Road (paved). An alternative access point may be considered off Lake Drive at the north of the unit. Motorized access within the unit will be restricted to preserve the primitive nature and scenic qualities of the river corridor, except at the Pemene Falls overlook and developed boating access site.

## **Natural Resource Management**

Natural resource protection and management is an important aspect of preserving the beauty, ecological balance and resource-based recreation opportunities of the Pemene Falls Unit. Natural resource management objectives vary for each zone, as described below. PRD will work closely with Forest Resources and Wildlife Division staff to ensure consistent management with the adjacent State Forest land for forest health and wildlife. Acreages shown reflect existing recreation area acreage.

### Scenic Resource Management (395 acres)

The *Scenic Resource Management Zone* includes land along the Menominee River corridor. The primary focus of this zone is to protect, preserve and enhance the scenic viewsapes, both from the river and from the land.

The natural resources in this zone may be modified slightly to support visitor use and viewing, but tolerance for natural resource impacts is low. The zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes, or to enhance the viewsapes.

Management objectives:

- Protect habitat to the visual horizon from the Menominee River
- Minimize impacts to aesthetics from a river-view perspective
- Maintain riparian corridor for wildlife movement and habitat, including bald eagle and osprey
- Allow natural processes to take their course
- Manage Pemene Falls area to maintain and enhance the viewsapes

### Primitive/ Natural Management (14 acres)

The *Primitive/ Natural Management Zone* incorporates two areas of mature mixed conifer swamp: one in the north of the unit and the other along Kading Creek. A granite bedrock glade community south of the creek is also zoned primitive. Only low impact development or recreation activities will be allowed in this area to protect the natural resources and maintain the quiet, wild character of the land.

Native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodation. Vegetative management will only be allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes.

Management objectives:

- Control or eliminate invasive species
- Preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types, such as bedrock glade and conifer swamp

Recreation Management – Natural Resources (112 acres)

Approximately 112 acres, east of the scenic river corridor has been designated as *Recreation Management – Natural Resources*.

Natural resources will be managed or modified to support visitor activities and maintain aesthetically appealing landscape, but are protected to the degree possible from development activities and appear natural.

Management objectives:

- Manage vegetation to facilitate recreational use and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape
- Manage for wildlife, including some Aspen management
- Control or eliminate invasive species
- Preserve and perpetuate existing natural community types

Recreation Management – Developed (1.5 acres)

This includes the developed Gerald Welling Memorial BAS site. Faithorn Township's Sturgeon Bend Campground, currently outside of the property boundary, is also zoned Developed Recreation (an additional 14 acres).

Natural resources may be actively managed or modified to support visitor activities and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape. Vegetation management will be allowed to facilitate development.

Management objectives:

- Manage vegetation to facilitate recreational use and maintain an aesthetically appealing landscape
- Control or eliminate invasive species

**Proposed Project Boundary Modification**

The land in this Unit was transferred to PRD in 2016. A project boundary adjustment of approximately 14 acres is proposed in the Pemene Falls Unit and is shown on Map D-3. This incorporates the Sturgeon Bend Campground into the Recreation Area, which would allow this facility to be administered as part of the State Recreation Area if desired by Faithorn Township.

The primary objectives of the proposed boundary modification are:

- To protect the Menominee River corridor
- To consolidate ownership and ensure consistent management along the river corridor

The Proposed Project Boundary for the Pemene Falls Unit would encompass approximately 539 acres, as summarized in the table below.

**Table 10: Project Boundary Acreage Goals for the Michigan Pemene Falls Unit.**

<b>Current Ownership</b>	<b>Proposed Project Boundary Acquisition/Exchange</b>	<b>Proposed Sale/Exchange</b>	<b>Proposed Acquisition Goal Adjustments</b>
525 acres	14 acres	0 acres	539 acres



*Menominee River below Pemene Falls*

## Wisconsin (1,863 acres)

The Pemene Falls Unit of the Menominee River State Recreation Area includes 1,400 acres and has been divided into three Land Management Classification Zones:

- Scenic Resource Management
- Native / Ecological Community Management
- Habitat Management

### **Recreation Management**

The level of recreational development and management focus varies in each zone in accordance with the land management classification zones defined in Appendix C. Specific management objectives for each of the sections of the Pemene Falls Unit are described below.

The year 2000 management plan for this unit established a number of recreation developments. A small number of enhancements are recommended to enhance public access.

#### Designated Trails

Currently two miles of moderate hiking trails exist within this unit. Further designated trails are recommended that will improve recreation access. As shown on Map C-3, the primary additions are along the river's edge.

#### Management Objectives

- Provide up to 3.2 miles of primitive hiking trails.
- Provide up to 2.9 miles of moderate hiking trails.

#### River Access

An existing motorized boat launch exists within this unit. This launch site will be retained.

#### Management Objectives

- Provide one motorized boat launch with a 6 vehicle parking lot.
- Support for the Menominee Watershed Canoe Trail.

#### Overnight Facilities

Currently two designated primitive camping sites exist within this unit. These sites will be retained and improved.

#### Management Objectives

- Provide 2 camping pods with 3 primitive camp sites.
- Provide site location signage and fee collection at parking areas / trailheads.

### Parking

Currently four parking areas exist within this Unit. These parking lots will be retained with modest improvements that may include gravel native surface improvements.

#### Management Objectives

- Provide site location signage and fee collection at parking areas / trailheads.

**Table 11: Summary of Existing and Proposed Recreation Facilities for the Wisconsin Pemene Falls Unit.**

Facility	Existing	Proposed	Total
<b>Designated Trail Miles</b>			
Hiking trail	2	4.1	6.1
<b>River Access</b>			
Motorized river access	1	0	1
<b>Day Use Facilities</b>			
Parking (# vehicles)	24	0	24
Information station	0	4	4
Fee collector	0	5	5
<b>Overnight Facilities</b>			
Primitive camping (backcountry sites)	2	4	6

### **Motorized Access Management**

Five motorized access points with parking lots have been established within this unit. All of these access points connect to public roads via a department primitive road. As shown on Map B-3, a total of 2.23 miles of primitive road connect these parking lots.

Another 0.59-mile department primitive road segment connects to a motorized boat landing within this unit.

All of these roads segments are not plowed in the winter and considered seasonal. In total, 2.82 miles of seasonal primitive department roads exist within this unit.

### **Natural Resource Management**

Natural resource protection and management is an important aspect of preserving the beauty, ecological balance and resource-based recreation opportunities of the Pemene Falls Unit. Management objectives vary for each zone, depending on the desired future condition. Allowable vegetation management practices for all zones can be found in Appendix D.

### Scenic Resource Management (706 acres)

The *Scenic Resource Management Zone* includes land along the Menominee River corridor. The primary focus of this zone is to protect, preserve and enhance the scenic views, both from the river and from the land.

This zone includes a 200 foot wide corridor parallel to the ordinary high water mark of the Menominee River or to the visual horizon from the river, whichever is greatest. The goal is to also protect, maintain and enhance the aesthetic qualities. There is no active management planned for this zone. Unplanned management from responses to catastrophic events such as fire or insect outbreaks may be needed and will be consistent with the goals and objectives of the property. The establishment of the river corridor does not preclude the recreational developments identified in this master plan.

#### Management objectives:

- Protect habitat to the visual horizon from the Menominee River
- Minimize impacts to aesthetics from a river-view perspective
- Maintain riparian corridor for wildlife movement and habitat, including bald eagle and osprey
- Allow natural processes to take their course
- Control or eliminate invasive species

### Habitat Management (435 acres)

This zone can reflect either natural or prospective actions for vegetative or habitat management.

#### Management objectives:

- Manage as multi-aged aspen stands.
- Stands with cover types other than aspen found in these areas will be managed to maintain or expand their presence; stands with old growth potential should be managed as such.
- Control or eliminate invasive species



Native / Ecological Community Management - Pemene Falls Pines (722 acres)

The *Native / Ecological Management Zone* include lands that are located primarily in the southern sections of the unit. The primary focus of this zone is to represent, restore or perpetuate native plant and animal communities.

Management objectives are targeted to specific locations described here:

- Managed old growth pine dominated forest
- Embedded aspen stands would be allowed or pushed toward conversion to mixed hardwood-conifer types.
- Control or eliminate invasive species

**Proposed Project Boundary Modification**

The current state ownership within this unit is 1863 acres. The current project boundary is recommended to be carried forward with minor administrative adjustments as shown in the table below.

**Table 12: Project Boundary Acreage for the Wisconsin Pemene Falls Unit.**

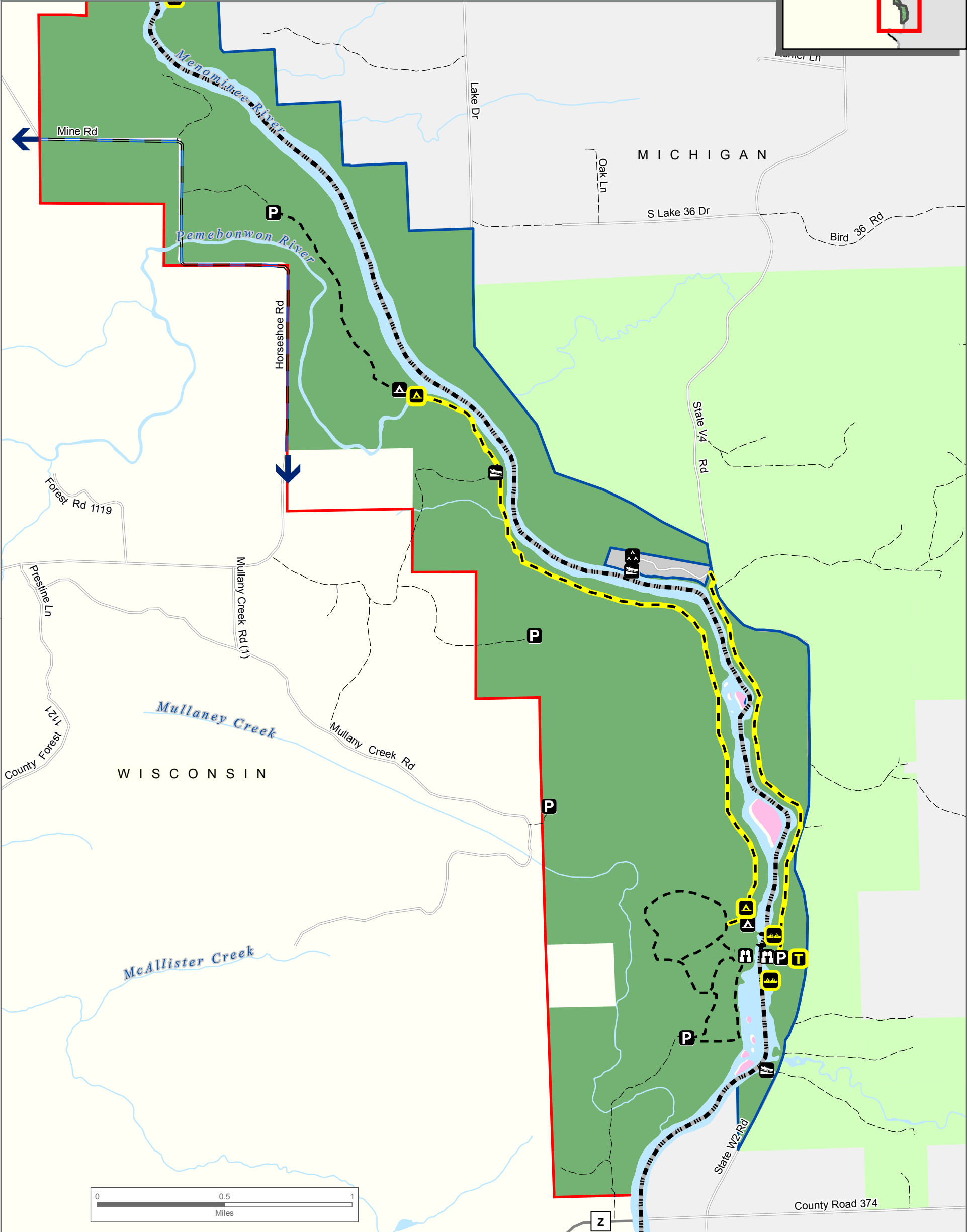
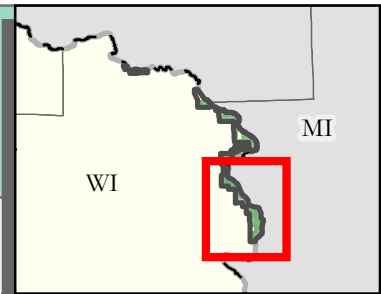
<b>Current Ownership</b>	<b>Proposed Project Boundary Adjustment</b>	<b>Proposed Acquisition Goal Adjustments</b>
1,863 acres	273 acres	2,139 acres

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# Pemene Falls Unit

## EXISTING AND PLANNED RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE

### Menominee River State Recreation Area



Boat Access - Carry In	Planned Boat Access	MRSRA Ownership (WI & MI)	State Boundary
Boat Access - Ramp	Planned Campground	WI MRSRA Boundary	Primitive Road
Campground	Planned Campsite	MI MRSRA Boundary	Hiking Trail
Campsite	Planned Parking	MI State Forest	Planned Hiking Trail
Parking Lot	Planned Toilet	Federal Ownership	Snowmobile and Winter ATV
Scenic Overlook		Faithorn Township Park	

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MRSRA-9524-MP-B-3 dcb  
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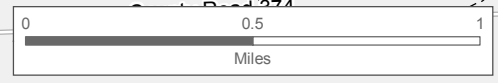
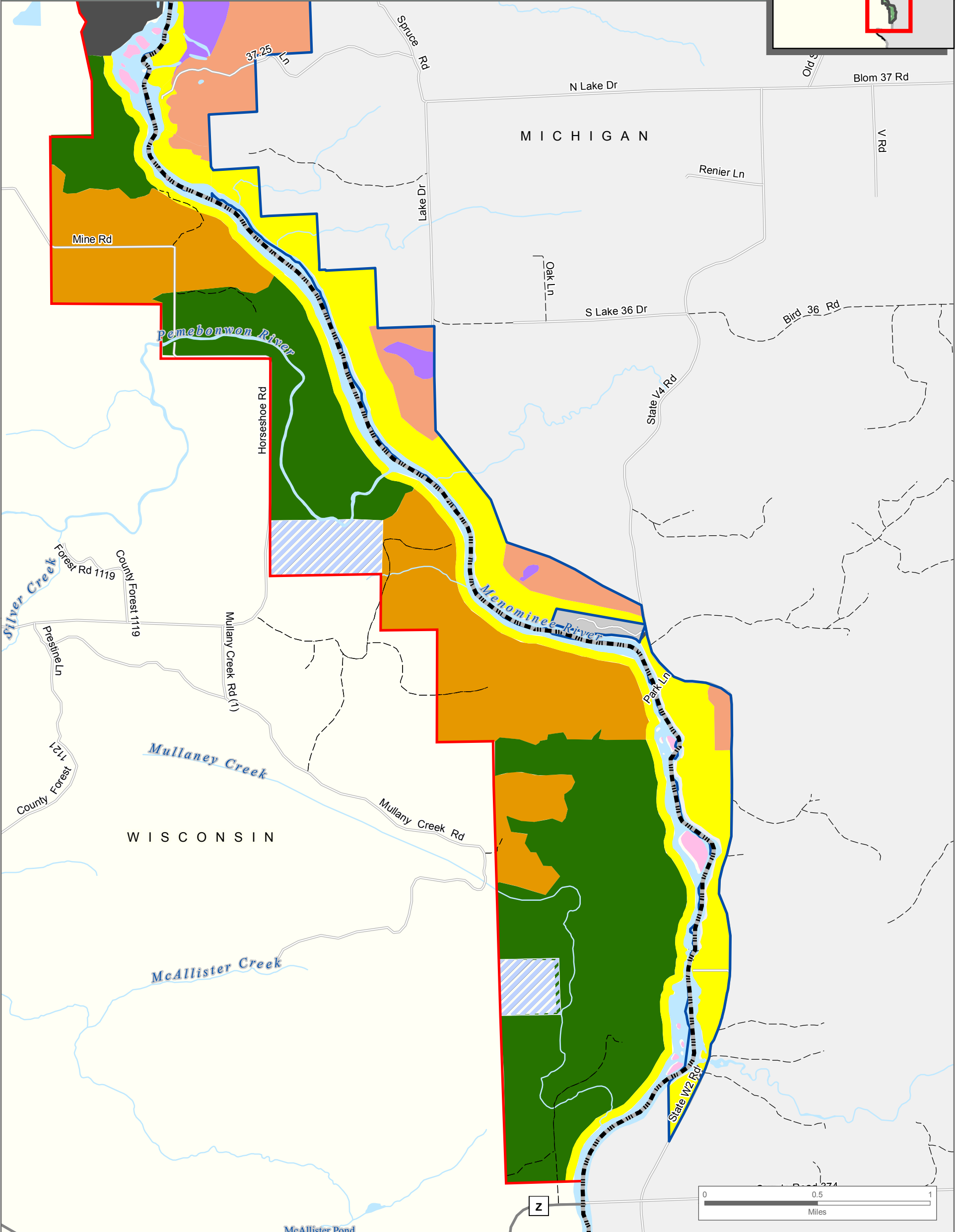
**MAP B-3**

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# Pemene Falls Unit

## LAND MANAGEMENT CLASSIFICATIONS

Menominee River State Recreation Area



- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:yellow; border:1px solid black;"></span> Scenic Resources Area                               | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; border:2px solid red;"></span> WI MRSRA Boundary  | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; border-bottom:2px dashed black;"></span> State Boundary                             |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:purple; border:1px solid black;"></span> Recreation Management Area - Primitive              | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; border:2px solid blue;"></span> MI MRSRA Boundary   | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; border-bottom:1px dashed black;"></span> Primitive Road                             |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:grey; border:1px solid black;"></span> Recreation Management Area - Developed                | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightpink; border:1px solid black;"></span> Federal Ownership  | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightgrey; border:1px solid black;"></span> Faithorn Township Park |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:orange; border:1px solid black;"></span> Habitat Management                                  | <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background: repeating-linear-gradient(45deg, transparent, transparent 2px, lightblue 2px, lightblue 4px); border:1px solid black;"></span> Private Land |   |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:green; border:1px solid black;"></span> Native/Ecological Community Management               |   |   |
| <span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:lightorange; border:1px solid black;"></span> Recreation Management Area - Natural Resources |   |   |

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

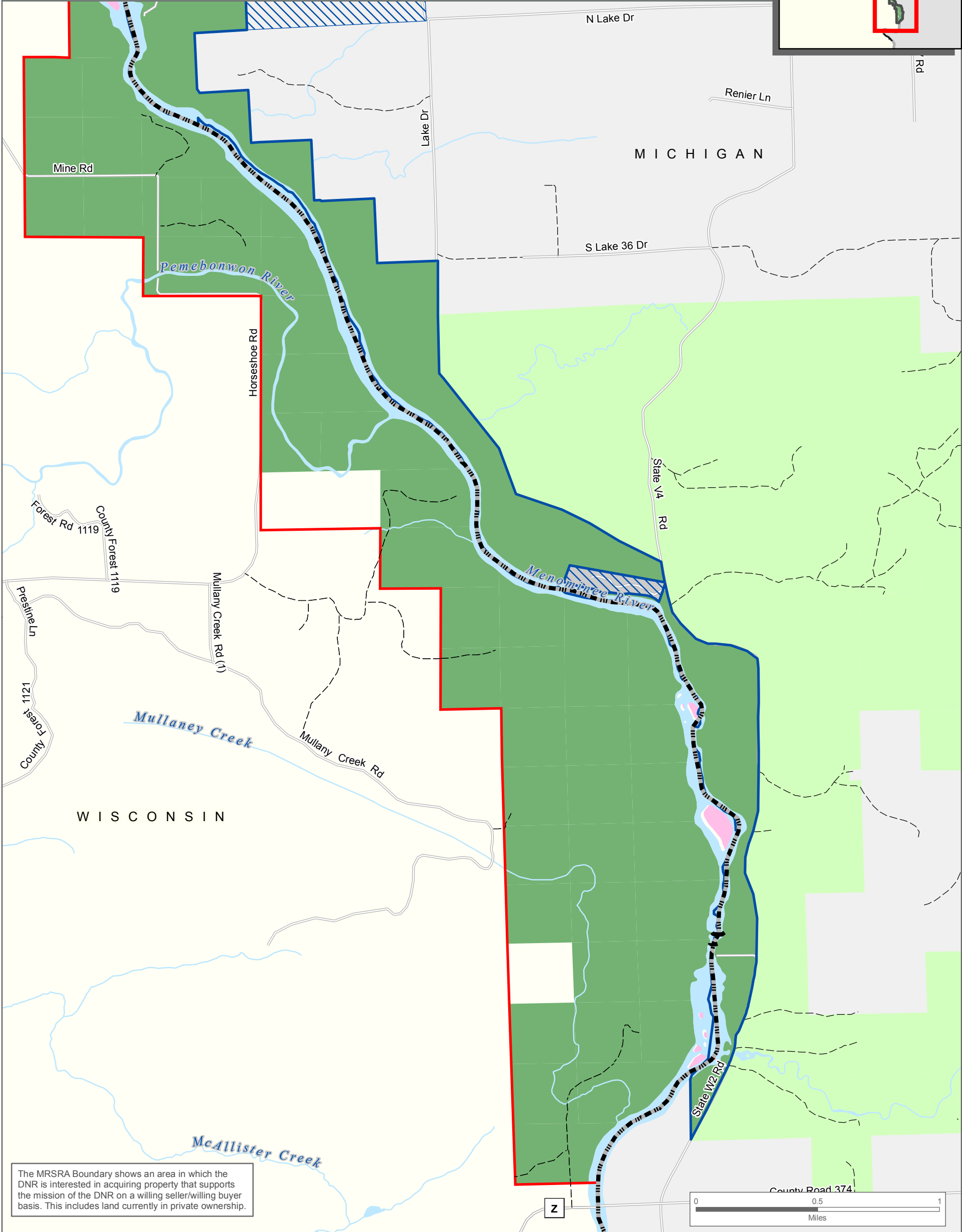
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12/04/2017

### MAP C-3

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# Pemene Falls Unit REAL ESTATE ACTION ITEMS

## Menominee River State Recreation Area



The MRSRA Boundary shows an area in which the DNR is interested in acquiring property that supports the mission of the DNR on a willing seller/willing buyer basis. This includes land currently in private ownership.

	WI MRSRA Boundary		MRSRA Ownership (WI & MI)		State Boundary
	MI MRSRA Boundary		MI State Forest		Primitive Road
	MI MRSRA Boundary Modification		Federal Ownership		
			Faithorn Township Park		

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MRSRA-9524-MP-D-3 dcb  
12/04/2017

**MAP D-3**

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# Chapter 4: Public Involvement Process

Management planning for the Menominee River State Recreation Area included a comprehensive plan to involve the public in the process. From the beginning, steps were taken to ensure opportunities for public participation throughout the planning process. The public involvement process is in accordance with Wisconsin Administrative Code, NR 44 - Master Planning for Department Properties and Michigan DNR standards for Management Planning.

## **Primary Stakeholders**

To develop an effective management plan, the Departments listen to many voices. People of varied interests and backgrounds have participated in Menominee River management planning activities. Some of these “stakeholders” in the future of the recreation area include neighboring landowners, conservation organizations, recreation users, civic groups, state and federal agencies, local governments, and members of the local business community.

## **Methods of Public Contact and Involvement**

Various means were used to inform the public of the planning process and to promote involvement throughout the development of the management plan. This included periodically contacting public stakeholders to gather information and provide ways for people to participate.

### **Communication Methods**

- Statewide news releases for both Michigan and Wisconsin
- Direct mailings of public notices, draft documents, and public comment forms
- Public meetings
- Online survey
- Informational presentations to interested groups and organizations
- E-mail correspondence
- Government-to-government consultations
- Tribal Government notifications
- The Menominee River State Recreation Area internet website was a comprehensive resource used to facilitate the public involvement plan. Nearly all documentation produced on the plan was made available on this website.
- Comment forms were posted online for people to electronically submit their contributions, ideas and suggestions during each public comment period.

### **Topics Posted on the Website**

- General information about the Recreation Area
- Links for individuals to be added to the mailing list, or to contact the park planners
- Park Master Planning overview
- Vision Statement and Property Goals
- Property Planning Maps
- Draft Master Plan and Environmental Analysis

### **Public Comment**

Public comments were submitted by interested or affected parties throughout the management planning process. The public's input was received in a variety of formats: written comment forms, online surveys, mail, e-mail, fax, or verbal correspondence. Department staff analyzed and recorded comments for public record. A qualitative summary of comments was prepared following each phase of the master planning process. Each comment summary reviewed key issues, described what was heard collectively, and reported that information back to the public. A record of the comments received at each stage of the planning process is available in Appendix F.

### **Issue Identification and Consideration**

At each major step in the process, the public's input served as a planning tool to help identify planning issues and suggestions. The public's comments, the Property and Regional Analysis, DNR staff technical input, and other considerations guided the management planning team. During this process decisions were made based on:

- The land's resource capability
- The role of the property in its local and regional context
- Applicable federal and state laws, administrative DNR Codes, and DNR design standards
- Policies and missions of the state park and its programs
- Consideration of public input
- The professional expertise of DNR resource managers

A broad range of interests were heard and considered in the development of the management plan. Final decision-making responsibility and authority in Wisconsin rests with the WDNR's citizen policy-making Natural Resources Board (NRB). The NRB reviews the Menominee River State Recreation Area Management Plan and makes an approval decision on the plan. The public has a final opportunity to comment at the NRB meeting before the Board renders their decision. In Michigan, review and approval is by the Michigan State Park Advisory Committee (MSPAC), a subcommittee of the Natural Resources Council. The MSPAC makes a recommendation for approval to the MDNR Director.



## **Management Planning Publications**

Information on a variety of topics was compiled to support the planning process and was made available to the public. These documents are available in paper copy by order request from the Bureau of Parks and Recreation. Both Michigan and Wisconsin post their final management plans on their respective websites, where they can be readily accessed in the future.

### **Planning Documents**

Working documents were developed with involvement from the public as the management plan's focus narrowed toward completion. Completed documents were made available to the public by request, during public meetings and were posted on the internet.

## **Community Involvement and Public Participation**

The Wisconsin and Michigan Department of Natural Resources, recognizing that the reality of Menominee River State Recreation Area must reflect the people it serves, encouraged citizen input throughout the planning process. Public meetings were announced via the media, direct mail, project website, and postings to the Wisconsin statewide meetings calendar. Opportunity to sign up for mail or e-mail contact lists was incorporated into an internet webpage and in literature that was distributed during the planning process.



*Members of the public listen to the draft plan proposals at a public meeting in Pembine, Wisconsin*

**Table 13: Chronological Summary of Public Involvement.**

Date	Contacts
<b>2012</b>	
Sept. 6	Public Input Workshop – Norway Public Schools (66 attendees) Introduced the joint planning process to stakeholders and members of the public and to solicit initial ideas for future management.
Sept/Oct	Online Survey (97 responses) To gather general information about primary interests in the park: current use, significant aspects, and recommendations for enhancements.
<b>2013</b>	
July 24	Meeting between Michigan DNR staff and representatives of the rafting community
<b>2014</b>	
May	Tribal Government notification letters mailed, Michigan and Wisconsin
June 11	Public Input Open House – Faithorn Township Hall, Michigan (30)
June 12	Public Input Open House –Brown County Library, Green Bay, Wisconsin (3) Draft planning concepts were presented for comment
June 1 – June 30	Draft planning concepts were available for review and comment on the project website
June 11	Meeting with representatives from Verso to discuss property issues at Piers Gorge
June 12	Meeting between Michigan DNR staff and City of Norway
<b>2016</b>	
Aug. 4	Letter and email announcing availability of management plan documents sent to the stakeholders and mailing list. The draft management plan and associated maps posted to the project webpage.
Aug. 4 & 5	News release announcing public meeting was sent to media and posted to public meeting calendar.
Aug. 23 & 24	Public open house meeting Norway, MI (26 attendees) & Pembine, WI (20 attendees)
Aug. 4-Sept. 5	Public review and comment period
Aug. 15	Michigan & Wisconsin DNR staff met with the City of Norway, MI
Aug. 16	Wisconsin DNR staff met with the Town Board of Pembine, WI
Aug. 16	Wisconsin DNR staff met with the Town Board of Beecher, WI
Feb. 17	Michigan MSPAC meeting to approve the plan and recommend approval by the Director
June 17	Wisconsin NRB meeting to approve the plan

## **Response to Public Comments after Public Review**

The public comments received on the Draft Plan released on August 4, 2016 are included in Appendix F. The planning teams for Michigan and Wisconsin reviewed the comments and made the following revisions to the plan:

- Private land within the Proposed Project Boundary was removed from all of the maps, except for the proposed real estate action maps (D series) and text was added to explain what this means.
- In-holdings were clearly labelled as private land.
- Equestrian and bike trails were added as uses to be considered in the southern Quiver Falls Unit in Michigan.
- Campsite locations within the Wisconsin Quiver Falls Unit were modified to improve visitor use patterns.
- Quiver Falls Unit campground location will be sited east of Rattie Road (Wisconsin).



*Meeting participants review the planning materials and discuss the proposals with DNR staff*

# Chapter 5: Alternatives and Their Environmental Impacts

A management plan alternative is a grouping of a number of compatible options for resource management, recreational development, and public use of a property owned by the Wisconsin or Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The content of an alternative should be compatible with the property designation, property capabilities, the management plan's vision and goals, and the area's Regional Analysis. The alternatives summarized below are the most recent set of alternatives that were considered as part of the planning effort for the Menominee River State Recreation Area.

## **Recreation Management Alternatives**

### **Alternative One: Status Quo**

There would be no new recreational facilities or development within Menominee River State Recreation Area.

### **Alternative Two: Preferred Alternative – Low Level of Recreational Development**

This alternative was chosen as the preferred option. The Menominee River State Recreation Area already has a low level of recreation development within the current boundary. The added developments proposed in Chapter 3 would provide additional rustic camping and day use activities, such as better access to the Menominee River, expansion of camping options and trail redevelopment. In terms of the range of management approaches, the recreational facility development would be less than many other state park properties but still provide improved or designated access and recreation opportunities to all units of the property.

## **Land Management Alternatives**

### **Alternative One: Status Quo**

Management of the Menominee River State Recreation Area would remain somewhat passive with no changes. This alternative is feasible but not desirable because it would not meet the vegetative management goals for the property. In Michigan, areas of the Pemene Unit have been actively managed as part of the State Forest.

**Alternative Two: Preferred Alternative – Active and Passive Land Management**

This alternative was chosen as the preferred option. The landscape will be both actively and passively managed for a set of diverse ecosystems including older forests, other forests of various age and size classes. In addition, a scenic management zone has been designated for the river corridor vegetation that will preserve the undeveloped characteristics of the shoreline.

**Real Estate and Boundary Modification Alternatives**

**Alternative One: No Additional Land Acquisition**

This alternative would support no land acquisition beyond what is within the existing recreation area boundary. Lands recommended in the management plan for acquisition would not be acquired in Wisconsin. In Michigan, land may still be purchased outside of the project boundary in extenuating circumstances. This would cause the recreation area to not meet the vision and goals of providing additional lands for a variety of recreational pursuits and providing additional protection for the Menominee River and the protection of unique, rare, and endangered habitat and species.

**Alternative Two: Preferred Alternative – A Limited Boundary Adjustment of the Menominee River State Recreation Area**

This alternative was chosen as the preferred option. Under this alternative, the recreation area boundary would be enlarged to include approximately 601 acres of additional land in Wisconsin and 111 acres of additional in Michigan. In Michigan, the boundary also supports a possible land exchange, which could consolidate ownership for both the MDNR and neighboring landowners. Acquisition would provide an opportunity to protect over 3.75 miles of Menominee River shoreline, preserve the visual characteristics of the Piers Gorge waterfalls and provide for more options for recreation use.

As part of this alternative the Wisconsin project boundary and acquisition goal will increase as reflected in the summary table:

**Table 14: Overview of Wisconsin Real Estate Recommendations for the Menominee River State Recreation Area.**

Existing Project Boundary	5,477 Acres
Proposed Project Boundary	6,209 Acres
<b>Changes in Project Boundary</b>	732 Acres
Existing Acquisition Goal	5,130 Acres
Proposed Acquisition Goal	6,209 Acres
<b>Changes in Acquisition Goal</b>	1,079 Acres
<b>Percent Complete</b>	93%
Parcel Re-designations	0 Acres
Proposed Land Sale	0 Acres

# Chapter 6: Impacts of the Proposed Plan (Wisconsin)

## Introduction

This chapter in combination with Chapters 4 and 5 collectively meet the requirements of the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act (WEPA) and Wis. Chapter NR 150 for this management plan. This analysis discloses the environmental impacts, both positive and negative, of the actions recommended in this management plan to decision-makers and the public. Based on the information presented in this management plan, the proposed actions are anticipated to have many net beneficial environmental effects.

An environmental impact study is not required for park management plans in Michigan. While many of the impacts and benefits identified by this Wisconsin study can be expected to also apply in Michigan, largescale logging is not a proposed activity and the resulting disturbance and economic impacts will not be a factor.

## Impacts to Natural Resources

### **Soils**

The probability of significant short-term and long-term impacts to the soil resources is low for the management activities prescribed in this master plan. The more disruptive management activities, such as logging, may affect 100-200 acres/year while those with a lighter impact (e.g., prescribed burns) may affect hundreds to several thousand acres/year.

Soil erosion on these disturbed parcels will be minimized by the use of best management practices (BMPs) to protect water quality. BMPs contain strict standards for road construction, water crossings, skid trails and logging landings. All trails and primitive roads will be monitored for signs of excessive soil erosion caused by management activities or recreational use and actions will be taken to minimize the erosion potential. Soil erosion on newly acquired cropland will eventually be reduced or eliminated as most acres will be converted to permanent cover as described in this plan.

### **Geological Resources and Landforms**

Sand or rock material may be acquired from nearby mineral pits for property management projects.

### **Air Quality**

Potential impacts to air quality would come primarily from prescribed burns conducted in the spring and fall on grasslands, savannas and certain wetlands. Prescribed burns may occur on a property every year though the area burned will probably be rotated between different burn units. The burn plan contains best management practices and procedures to safely manage the fire and includes measures to minimize nuisance smoke impacts.

Other minor air emissions generated on the properties include: particulates from construction and habitat management activities, and oxide emissions from vehicles and equipment. These emissions will be relatively insignificant and less than the emissions generated from adjacent roadways and other economic activities (e.g., construction and farming) in the area.

### **Water Resources**

Water Quality of Surface Waters and Wetlands – Providing permanent vegetative cover and the use of best management practices (BMPs) when these management activities are conducted will have an overall positive impact on both surface waters and wetlands. No increase in impervious surface area is being proposed. Trail and road construction will avoid changing watercourse direction and flow, volume and velocity. Pervious road and pathway surfaces will be used where impervious surfaces are no longer needed. Runoff from roadways and other impervious surfaces will not drain directly into nearby streams and lakes to minimize water pollution risks. The impacts of stormwater runoff during timber harvesting will be mitigated by implementing the practices described in the “Wisconsin’s Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Water Quality” field manual.

Water Culverts – A number of water culverts are located though out the property. Maintenance, repair, and/or removal of culvert structures will be evaluated and conducted on a case-by-case basis, based on cost-effectiveness, property needs, and benefits to wetlands, water quality and wildlife.

### **Habitat Management**

The management practices described in Chapter 3 will improve the quality and composition of the habitats on these properties. These management practices will maintain and promote a variety of native vegetative cover types in the wetlands and forest communities. The property manager will consult with and seek to coordinate habitat management strategies with partners when the boundaries of respective managed lands abut.

Important vegetation management objectives outlined for this property include:

- Protecting ecologically important community types (e.g., wetlands and northern forests)
- Improving the composition and structure of the forests
- Preserving the health and ecological integrity of the plant and animal communities
- Providing early successional vegetation to promote habitat diversity
- Increasing the acreage of woodlands with mature forest characteristics
- Monitoring and controlling invasive species as practicable

Most of the planned changes to the composition and structure of the habitats, especially the forests, will occur slowly over the next 50 years. These changes will often be directed by natural succession. The most noticeable changes will occur where conifer plantations are harvested and converted to native communities such as grasslands or hardwood forests.

Policies that address the monitoring, inspection and the control of invasive species will be followed. For example, some of the invasive species that will be monitored are spotted knapweed, garlic mustard, Japanese hedge parsley, honeysuckle, buckthorn and purple loosestrife. Management activities may include manual harvesting, use of herbicides or biological agents, fire and natural predators. The primary effect of these actions will be the maintenance of or an increase in the native biotic communities.

### **Wildlife and Fisheries**

The actions in this master plan, if enacted, will have positive impacts on the resident and migratory wildlife and fishery populations for decades to come. The management activities and boundary adjustments will enhance the quality and size of the desired habitats. The management objectives and prescriptions outlined in the Appendices will create, restore and/or maintain the diverse wetland, grassland, shrub, forest and aquatic habitats needed by the resident and migratory wildlife and fishery populations.

Larger habitat blocks will be created that are more favorable for sustaining a wider array of species than the current matrix of smaller blocks. The proposed management activities will be especially beneficial to grassland nesting waterfowl and grassland birds.

The in-stream and riparian zone management will enhance the capacity of cold/cool water streams to support self-sustaining fish populations. Land purchases and management activities that reduce runoff volume, improve runoff quality and help sustain groundwater inputs will help protect the game fisheries.

### **Endangered, Threatened and Rare Species and Native Communities**

Inventory work identified specific native communities and rare species occurrences on this property. The habitat management activities described in the plan are designed to protect and enhance the vegetation needed by both game and non-game species.



The management prescriptions in this plan are expected to yield significant medium to long-term benefits to the endangered, threatened, and rare species and their habitat on these properties. Implementation of the proposed recommendations would promote the continued presence of these species and under-represented ecological communities. These actions are consistent with DNR obligations to protect threatened and endangered species and plant communities.

## **Impacts to Recreational Facilities and Opportunities**

### **Visual/Scenic Resources**

Small changes in the visual qualities and aesthetics will occur over time. The changes will be most noticeable where young forests develop into mature, closed canopy stands. The proposed project boundary adjustments of additional lands will also help protect the visual and auditory quality of the user experiences.

### **Recreational Use and Nature Enjoyment**

The state recreation area is well known for river recreation opportunities, hunting (particularly deer, turkey and bear), trapping, bird watching, ATVing and snowmobiling, and hiking opportunities. The proposed habitat management recommendations and boundary adjustments will improve the quality of the habitat and expand the acreage available for these and other outdoor recreation activities. The proposed land management objectives and prescriptions will have medium to long-term positive benefits for all recreation uses.

Most of the land management activities, such as prescribed burns and forest management needed to attain the vegetation management goals, will take place during off-peak recreational seasons thus substantially reducing potential conflicts with recreational users.

Lands acquired with Stewardship funds are normally open for recreational use, but they may be closed to one or more of the typical recreational activities in order to: (a) protect public safety, or (b) protect a unique animal or plant community. NR 52 describes the factors to be addressed and the process to be followed for restricting or prohibiting one or more recreational activities.

## **Impacts to Cultural Resources**

These properties may contain both historic Native American and Euro-American sites. Activities with potential to disturb archaeological sites will only be undertaken after consultation with the DNR Archaeologist. Any sites with cultural or historical value will be managed in accordance with guidance and statutory requirements (see ss. 44.40 and DNR Manual Code 1810.10).

## **Socio-Economic Impacts**

### **Timber Products**

The primary purpose of forest land on state recreation areas is to provide forage and cover for wildlife, provide diverse habitats, protect native communities and add to the aesthetic character of the property. Forest management primarily seeks to achieve recreation, wildlife and native community objectives with production of forest products a secondary benefit.

Although forest products are not the primary goal of this property, the forest products from these lands help support forest based economic activities and they generate state revenues. Harvesting activities are anticipated to occur over the life of this master plan.

All forests will be managed to maintain or improve the vigor of and reduce the impacts of forest pests and pathogens. Forest cover types will increase under this plan. Aspen will be managed on certain stands to provide young age classes and promote game species such as woodcock. Conifer plantations will be harvested and converted to hardwoods except for those providing roosting sites or with aesthetic value.

Timber harvests are expected to increase in value with anticipated increases in timber size and quality.

### **Infrastructure and Transportation**

Recreational use on these properties is heaviest during the summer and fall. Use is expected to increase over the next 10-20 years, but the impact on local traffic levels and road maintenance is expected to be minimal.

A slight increase in heavy truck traffic may be noted on certain areas of the property when timber sales are being conducted, but the impact of the logging trucks on local roads will be limited by road restrictions and logging activity is anticipated to be relatively infrequent (10-20 year frequency for any given property).

The property will continue to generate minimal solid waste. All debris from illegal dumping will be disposed of or properly recycled. Licensed sanitary waste contractors may be used as needed.

### **Noise**

Noise impacts from the recreation is expected to be minimal for both users and neighbors. Wildlife may be temporarily impacted by these noises, but chronic impacts are not expected. The noises would be generated by recreation, land management, forestry and trail construction and maintenance activities such as chain sawing, skidding logs and timber harvest machinery and construction equipment. The noise will primarily occur during daylight hours and may have

some high level, short duration peaks. The noise will often be seasonal in nature and transient (i.e., once the project is completed the noise source will be eliminated).

Recreational activities also generate noise, including the discharge of firearms. The largest change from the existing noise levels would be additional camping that would be contained to the local campground.

### **Public Safety**

The actions in this master plan are anticipated to have a positive effect on public safety. Designated use areas (e.g., roads and parking lots) are inspected to locate and remove hazardous trees. Herbicide, pesticide, prescribed fire and other property management activities will follow agency and label safety procedures.

### **Land Use**

The land uses surrounding the existing properties will be minimally affected by the actions in this master plan. The proposed project boundary expansion totals 601 acres. The lands in these boundaries are river frontage and woods. Any developed acreage on acquired parcels will be split off from the undeveloped portion of the property and retained by the willing seller or resold.

## **Economic Effects and their Significance**

Economic benefits are anticipated to result from the influx of visitors to the Menominee River State Recreation Area. At full development, the anticipated visitation will be approximately 25,000 tourists annually that would increase economic activity at local business establishments. Recent data indicates that, in the northeastern region of Wisconsin, local resident park visitors contribute an average of \$19.12 per day to the economy, while non-local park visitors contribute an average of \$59.94 per day. The projected 25,000 total annual visitation to property creates an estimated economic impact of approximately \$1.3 million per year.

Economic benefits during construction of the park facilities would accrue to building trade members, laborers, and suppliers, some of whom may be local. Competitive bidding procedures would be followed. No estimate of dollar amounts to the local area is available, as the extent of local contractor involvement is not yet known. Some employees working on development would probably live in the vicinity of the park. Those employees would participate in the local economy and spend a significant amount of their income on daily needs as members of the community.

## **Fiscal Effects – State Government**

### **Estimated Cost of Proposed Developments**

Program budgets for capital development facilities are determined on a biennial basis. Because of the cost of developing facilities for property, funding priorities within the Department’s capital budget would necessarily be adjusted to accommodate the proposed development. If the proposed developments were funded without an increase in capital spending authority and/or an increase in the property’s operating budget, it would cause other Department developments and operations to be delayed or deferred.

### **Recommended Phasing for Recreation Facility Development, Improvements and Construction**

The property improvement projects described for each of the management zones in the preceding chapters should generally be implemented according to the three phases as indicated in Table 6.1. The rate of development will depend upon the availability of funding and the approval of the proposed improvement projects as part of the Department of Natural Resources Capital Development Process. It is estimated that the total cost of all three phases of the proposed recreation improvements will be approximately \$614,000 (in 2016 dollars). This cost would be distributed over a period of 10-15 years or more.

**Table 15: Proposed Phasing for Wisconsin Facility Developments and Improvements.**

<b>New Recreation Facility Developments</b>	<b>Cost Estimate</b>	<b>Phase</b>
<b>Water Access</b>		
Boat Ramp and Launch	\$ 45,000	II
Canoe / Raft Launch’s	\$ 15,000	I
<b>Camping</b>		
Primitive Camping - 11 sites	\$ 16,000	III
Rustic Campground - 12 sites	\$170,000	III
<b>Trails, Roads and Parking Lots</b>		
Snowmobile / ATV Trail 2.8 miles	\$ 50,000	I
Primitive Hiking Trail 7.4 miles	\$150,000	I
Primitive Road Improvements 1.5 miles	\$ 30,000	I
<b>Day Use</b>		
Information Stations	\$55,000	II
Fee Collectors	\$ 8,000	II
Parking Lot Upgrades	\$75,000	II
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$614,000</b>	

*Note: Development costs are based on 2016 dollar-values and assume full completion of all proposed construction. In actuality, work may be phased over several state capital biennial budget cycles.*

### **Operations Costs**

Once fully developed, an additional staff position (FTE) would be required for the maintenance of the camping and day use areas. Also, a seasonal LTE will be required for operations and maintenance. An additional \$45,000 a year in management funds would also be needed.

### **Revenue Projections**

The state park access and camping fees will be the main revenue source for the property. Once fee collection stations are installed, it is estimated that the property revenues will be approximately \$210,000 a year.

### **Payment in Lieu of Property Taxes**

State law requires the DNR make payments in lieu of property taxes (PILT) to ensure the affected town's property base is not adversely affected. PILT payments in 2015 to the local governments for was \$96,620.77.

There are two statutes and several formulas under each statute that dictate influence these payments.

- Wisconsin ss. 70.113 applies to land acquired by the DNR prior to January 1, 1992. Payments under this statute are made directly to the taxation district in which the land is located. Schools, VTAE and counties do not receive any payment under this law.
- Wisconsin ss. 70.114 governs the payment in lieu of property taxes for all lands purchased by the DNR after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1992. This law has been amended several times so the specific formula used by the DNR to determine individual payments varies depending on when the property was acquired and how it was acquired.

The Department of Revenue sets land use equalization values for the counties and towns that also affect the amounts received under PILT.

The DNR uses an automated process for collecting information and calculating PILT payments. The process is determined by statute with little room for interpretation or calculation by the DNR. For further details, please refer to Wisconsin State Statutes or to the Department of Natural Resources web site at <http://dnr.wi.gov/> and perform a search for "Payment in Lieu of Taxes".

## **Impacts of Boundary Adjustments**

### **Estimated Costs of Land Acquisition**

As required by state and federal laws, the DNR pays just compensation to willing sellers for fee simple purchases or easements. Just compensation is the estimated fair market value based on appraisal. A seller may choose to make a gift or partial donation of the land as well. This plan recommends 601 acres be considered for fee title acquisition.

Lands purchased for addition to Menominee River State Recreation Area would likely be acquired using Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program funds or a similar bonding fund. The cost to the state of bonding for land acquisition and project development occurs when the interest or dividends must be paid on the bonds. Several methods of making these payments could be used, the main one being General Program Revenue (GPR).

DNR policy is to purchase land only from willing sellers. The purchase price is set by an appraisal prepared in compliance with state and national guidelines, unless the seller chooses to make a gift or a partial donation of land. This master plan proposes a 601 acre addition of uplands to Menominee River State Recreation Area with a current estimated undeveloped average value of \$850 – \$7,000 per acre.

Individual parcel values vary depending on the individual qualities of the site, as well as whether any improvements or buildings existed on the parcel. If all lands were purchased, the total estimated cost of acquisition at current value would be approximately \$1.2 million. It is unlikely that all tracts within the boundaries would be available for acquisition simultaneously, and some may never be. Expenditures would therefore likely be spread over a considerable span of time.

#### **Impacts to Land Owners within or adjacent to a Project Boundary**

The impact may be positive or negative depending on an individual's perceptions of being inside a project boundary, the proposed habitat management objectives, and the types and amount of public usage. Potential impacts include:

- The DNR may offer a fair market value bid to a willing seller within the project boundary thus expanding the pool of potential buyers. Being inside or adjacent to a project boundary does not affect how, when or to whom a landowner may sell their land.
- If a parcel is acquired the habitat management activities will probably change the land use. For example, neighbors may experience fewer impacts associated with cropland such as seasonal tillage and harvesting activities. Instead the management activities associated with grassland or woodland habitats will be more prevalent (e.g., prescribed burns, tree planting or harvesting).
- Recreational usage adjacent to a landowner may change depending on the size of the acquisition parcel and the habitat on the land. Recreation may increase for a variety of hunting and fishing activities as well as for seasonal pursuits (e.g., snowshoeing). However, the change will depend in part on how the land was used and managed by the previous owner.
- It does not change the existing zoning as this is a local government decision.
- It does not limit how you can manage or use your property. Nor does it provide DNR staff, other governmental agencies, or the public access to your property.

#### **Impacts on Energy Consumption**

Due to the limited amount of infrastructure development proposed, no significant impacts to energy consumption are expected. Any new facilities will be designed to meet current energy efficiency requirements.

## **Cumulative Effects, Risk and Precedent**

### **Significance of Cumulative Effects**

The proposed actions are anticipated to have positive long-term effects on the quality of the natural environment and recreational users. The habitat changes and the proposed land acquisitions are expected to provide the following benefits:

- More recreational land to meet the needs of a growing population.
- Quality recreational experiences for users through improved access facilities and sustainable wildlife and fisheries populations for harvest and observation.
- Improved habitat for game and non-game species, including endangered, threatened and species of concern species.
- Improving the quality of surface water runoff reaching trout streams and wetlands.
- Better protection of the critical groundwater resources needed to sustain trout streams.
- Increased use of sustainable forestry practices.

These benefits are consistent with the DNR's mission and responsibilities, and the recognized need to provide and protect public lands for future generations.

### **Significance of Risk**

Management of these properties poses a low overall potential for risk to the environment. The management activities will be similar to those used over the last several decades so no precedents are being set and the activities typically have less negative and more positive environmental impact than the surrounding residential and agricultural lands. Only a small percentage of the total land and water will be actively managed (e.g., logged or prescribed burns) in any given year. No new, high-risk actions or actions which involve an irretrievable commitment of resources, or actions that could not be reversed in the future are proposed in the plan.

The presence of motor vehicles and other equipment during construction and logging pose a slight risk of spills or causing erosion. These risks would be mitigated by best management practice requirements and at pre-construction meetings with contractors.

Prescribed fire has been identified as one of the most effective vegetative management tool for grassland management. DNR procedures require prescribed burns have an approved burn plan and adequate fire-fighting equipment and trained personnel present on site. During periods of high fire danger, burning restrictions are put into effect and a complete burning ban may be

implemented. Herbicide/pesticide use will strictly follow label instructions to protect the environment and public safety.

The risk of introduction of invasive species increases with public entry and use of the property. Actions will be taken to control infestations as practicable. Off road vehicles can be a vector for the introduction of invasive species but will be limited to a narrow trail corridor, except where personal mobility devices are allowed for disabled individuals.

#### **Significance of Precedent**

Approval of this management plan would not directly influence future decisions on other DNR property master plans. However, this plan or portions of it may serve as reference or guidance material to aid the preparation of master plans for similar properties elsewhere. Implementation of the objectives contained in the master plan would not be precedent-setting, primarily because the proposed habitat management, development activities and recreation actions are not unique and regularly occur on state wildlife, fishery and natural areas lands across Wisconsin.

#### **WEPA Compliance**

Property planning under Ch. NR 44, Wis. Adm. Code, is an equivalent analysis action under NR 150.20(2)(a)1., Wis. Adm. Code, and therefore complies with the Wisconsin Environmental Policy Act, s. 1.11, Stats. and Ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code.



# Chapter 7: Action Goals Plan (Michigan)

The Action Goals proposed for the Menominee River State Recreation Area in Michigan present a plan for the implementation of the recreation and management objectives identified in Chapter 3. The goals identify the desired completion date, the park staff or other entities that will be involved, and the primary person responsible for moving that action forward. The planning team has developed 10-Year Action Goals that it believes are necessary to guide management and development within the park in order to achieve the desired user experience. The goals were developed in response to public and stakeholder input and in context with the vision and future condition statements discussed in Chapter 2 of this plan.

Action goals are recommended that address the following categories:

- Natural Resources
- Historic/Cultural Resources
- Recreation Opportunities
- Education/Interpretation Opportunities
- Management Focus
- Development

Management Plans do not guarantee future Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) funding to achieve the actions identified. PRD will seek internal funding, alternative funding sources, partnerships and other potential mechanisms for implementing the desired future conditions defined in this plan. On an annual basis, PRD districts determine priorities for project planning and project capital outlay. Each District's top projects are then evaluated at a state wide level for available funds.

These goals apply either to the whole park or to specific locations within the park, as appropriate and according to the management zone. Refer to the management descriptions in Chapter 3 and the zone descriptions in Appendix C for appropriate activities in each zone. Many of the goals proposed will formalize the existing recreation uses by studying and recommending the optimal locations for river access and trails, in order to provide a balance between the protection of the resources and recreational use.

In addition to the goals that follow, the planning team explored the potential for improvements to the Pemene Falls overlook, including the development of an alternative accessible viewing location below the Falls. While this is still a long term goal, it was felt that due to funding realities, that project may not be feasible within the 10 year planning period.

## General Action Goals

Many of the 10-Year Action Goals for Menominee River Recreation Area are general in nature and apply within all of the units and across all of the management zones. These often deal with park-wide issues, such as invasive species control, universal access, developing Stewardship, Wildfire and Emergency plans, or marketing the park's many recreational opportunities to a wider audience of potential users.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
<b>Natural Resources</b>			
Complete Michigan Forest Inventory (MiFi) cover type mapping for the Recreation Area	3-5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship	Stewardship Ecologist
Develop a Stewardship Plan that identifies conservation targets and priorities for resource management and stewardship	3-5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Forest Resources Wildlife	Stewardship Ecologist
Implement Stewardship Plan for the park, following development of the plan	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager Stewardship
Implement invasive species control, with a strong emphasis on early detection and rapid response.	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Fisheries	Park Manager
Continue to protect exemplary natural communities and legally protected species	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager Stewardship
Maintain and enhance river viewsapes with respect to natural habitat	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager Stewardship
<b>Historic/Cultural Resources</b>			
Complete Phase 1 Archaeological Study focused on river corridor and proposed development areas	3-5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship State Archaeologist	Cultural Resource Analyst State Archaeologist
Review all proposed earthwork activities for potential impact on historic/cultural resources	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner State Archaeologist	Cultural Resource Analyst State Archaeologist
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>			
Maintain and enhance opportunities for hunting/fishing/gathering/trapping/birding	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Wildlife Fisheries	Park Manager

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Evaluate existing trails and access points for appropriate use and establish a trail/ access plan for each Unit	2 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager Regional Planner
Evaluate overnight accommodation opportunities and develop a plan that is sustainable and compliments other opportunities in the area	2 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager Regional Planner
Work with partners to continue to support the Menominee River Canoe Trail by providing appropriate amenities and information to the public	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner Recreation Partners	Park Manager
<b>Education/Interpretation Opportunities</b>			
In coordination with partners, provide comprehensive information to the public, both onsite and remote, on the Recreation Area and the opportunities it offers	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Marketing & Outreach Recreation Partners	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach
<b>Management</b>			
Continue to explore land acquisition/ exchange/ management partnerships within the Proposed Project Boundary to consolidate land and increase access and protection of the Menominee River corridor	Ongoing	Park Manager PRD Land Liaison Regional Planner	PRD Land Liaison
Develop an Emergency Plan and coordinate with area Emergency Management agencies	Annual	Park Manager EMS Agencies	Park Manager
Refine and update Wildfire Plan	Annual	Park Manager Stewardship Forest Resources	Park Manager
Continue to work with Wisconsin DNR to establish and implement a joint management plan for administration of the Recreation Area	Ongoing	Park Manager District Supervisor Wisconsin DNR	Park Manager District Supervisor
Mark the property boundary adjacent to private property to reduce trespass	1-3 years	Park Manager	Park Manager
<b>Development - See proposed Development for each Unit</b>			

## Piers Gorge Unit Action Goals

The Piers Gorge Unit is the most well-known and heavily visited of the three Menominee River State Recreation Area management units in Michigan. Action Goals will focus on improved accessibility and safety, while maintaining the scenic beauty of the site.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
<b>Natural Resources</b>			
Manage vegetation to maintain views of the gorge while protecting aesthetics from the river-view perspective	Ongoing	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>			
Designate and map the existing trail between the parking lot and Pier #4	1 Year	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager
Evaluate opportunities to create a looped hiking trail within the Unit	1-2 Years	Park Manager Stewardship	Park Manager
<b>Education/Interpretation Opportunities</b>			
Install information kiosk with map at the parking area	2 Years	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager
Develop and install interpretive signs that educate the public on the geology, natural resources, history and recreation opportunities of the gorge and Menominee River corridor	5 Years	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach
<b>Management</b>			
Partner with rafting companies to install and maintain a river safety emergency box	1 Year	Park Manager Rafting Companies	Rafting Companies
Continue to pursue the development of a boating access site (launch ramp) within the Proposed Project Boundary	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager Regional Planner
Continue to pursue the development of a restricted vehicle emergency access route to Pier #3 through partnership with adjacent landowners	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner Lands Liaison	Park Manager Regional Planner

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
Continue to support the development of recreation opportunities on the Village of Norway owned riverfront parcel , that compliment those of the Recreation Area	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager Regional Planner
<b>Development</b>			
Make accessibility improvements to the hiking trail from the parking lot to Pier #3	5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager Regional Planner
Make improvements to the Overlooks at Piers #2 and #3, including accessibility improvements, in keeping with the scenic values of the site	5-10 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager Regional Planner
Formalize the existing carry-in/ carry-out river access sites at Piers #2, 3 and 4	5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager
Improve and expand the parking area to accommodate a bus turn-around and 20 vehicles	5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Regional Planner
Develop a day-use picnic area in the Unit	5 -10 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager

<b>Quiver Falls Unit Action Goals</b>			
<p>The Quiver Falls Unit includes nine miles of undeveloped Menominee River corridor. The limited improvements proposed are intended to bring the existing uses in line with current land use rules and provide additional amenities to enhance the visitor experience, while protecting the wild and scenic qualities of the river corridor.</p>			
Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>			
Evaluate the existing trail system and designate trails appropriate to the zone designation	2-5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager

<b>Action Goals</b>	<b>Target Completion Date</b>	<b>Program Input From</b>	<b>Responsible Program Position</b>
Identify locations and establish 2-4 hike-in/ canoe-in river access sites and/or primitive campsites	5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager
<b>Education/Interpretation Opportunities</b>			
Install information kiosk and maps at parking areas/ trail heads	2-5 Years	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager
<b>Management</b>			
Take care of immediate safety concerns at the Trappers Cabin	1 Year	Park Manager District Supervisor	Park Manager
Address trespass issues through land acquisition or use agreements with adjacent landowners	1-3 Years	Park Manager PRD Land Liaison	Park Manager PRD Land Liaison
Identify and establish appropriate emergency access routes	2 Years	Park Manager	Park Manager
Work with Menominee County Road Commission to maintain seasonal roads in the southern section for vehicular access.	Ongoing	Park Manager Regional Planner PRD Land Liaison	Park Manager PRD Land Liaison
Evaluate the existing cabin structure for possible removal, restoration or reuse and consider historic interpretation of the site	2-3 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager Regional Planner
<b>Development</b>			
Develop gravel parking lots to service the unit, with fee collection pipe	2-5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager
Formalize carry-in/ carry-out river access at the end of 37.25 Lane	5 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager
Develop a 4-10 site rustic campground at the end of 37.25 Lane	5-10 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Regional Planner

## Pemene Falls Unit Action Goals

This unit features the scenic Pemene Falls. The area is minimally developed and the proposed Action Goals focus on improving accessibility and providing additional amenities to enhance the visitor experience, while protecting the wild and scenic qualities of the river corridor.

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
<b>Historic/Cultural Resources</b>			
Document resources in the vicinity of the falls for possible interpretation and education	2-3 Years	Park Manager Stewardship State Archaeologist	Cultural Resource Analyst
<b>Recreation Opportunities</b>			
Develop a hiking trail from Pemene Falls to Faithorn Township's Sturgeon Bend Campground	5-10 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager
Identify locations and establish hike-in/ canoe-in river access sites and/or primitive campsites	5-10 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Park Manager
Evaluate opportunities to provide a safe portage around Pemene Falls	5-10 Years	Park Manager Stewardship Regional Planner	Regional Planner
<b>Education/Interpretation Opportunities</b>			
Develop and install interpretive signs at Pemene Falls	3-5 Years	Park Manager Marketing & Outreach	Park Manager
<b>Management</b>			
Incorporate Gerald R. Welling Memorial boating access site into the Recreation Area boundary	1 Year	Park Manager PRD Land Liaison	Park Manager
Coordinate with Faithorn Township on the management of the Sturgeon Bend Campground	Ongoing	Park Manager	Park Manager
Maintain a close working relationship with Forest Resources Division and Wildlife Division to ensure a coordinated approach to recreation opportunities and resource management	Ongoing	Park Manager Forest Resources Wildlife	Park Manager

Action Goals	Target Completion Date	Program Input From	Responsible Program Position
<b>Development</b>			
Install fee collection pipe and baseline site amenities at the parking area	1-5 Years	Park Manager Regional Planner	Park Manager