DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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# LONG RANGE PLAN FOR LAND ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION IN COUNTIES WITH CONSOLIDATED CONSERVATION AREAS



Pursuant to 1983 Laws, ch 301,s 31, subd 3(b) Report #1 of 3 reports

OFFICE OF PLANNING

# LONG RANGE PLAN FOR LAND ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION IN COUNTIES WITH CONSOLIDATED CONSERVATION LAND

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF PLANNING

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# INDEX

## I. INTRODUCTION:

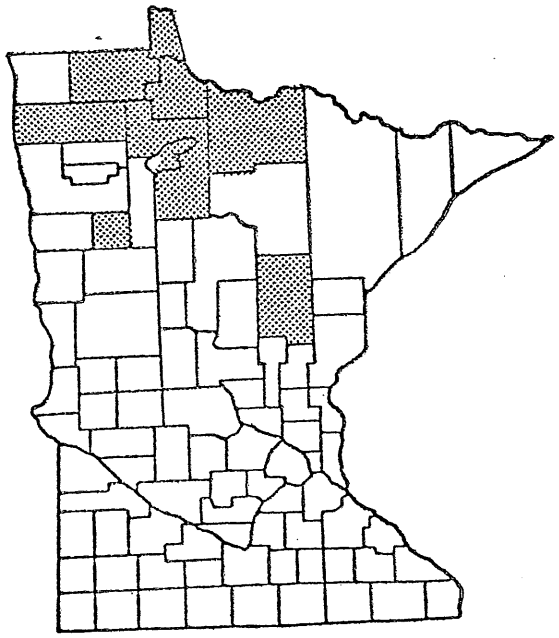
The DNR currently administers about 5.3 of the more than eight million acres of state-owned land. That land is managed for a variety of resource management objectives. Among these objectives are provision of recreation opportunities, protection of wildlife habitat and management of timber and mineral resources for the benefit of the people of Minnesota.

Recent legislation requires the DNR to develop an acquisition and disposal plan prior to acquisition or disposal of land in counties with Consolidated Conservation (Con-Con) land. (See Figure One.) This legislation states:

> Subdivision 1. CONSOLIDATED CONSERVATION LAND ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION PLAN. Before the commissioner may acquire or dispose of land in game preserves, areas and projects established under Minnesota Statutes 1945, section 84A.01, 84A.20, or 84A.31, in any county, the commissioner must prepare a county land acquisition and disposition plan. The plan must identify the general areas where the commissioner intends to acquire or dispose of land and their accompanying reasons. The plan must emphasize a balance of uplands and wetlands.
>
> Subdivision 2. REVIEW BY COUNTY BOARD. The plan must be submitted to the county board for review and comment. The board must notify the commissioner of natural resources of any concerns or disagreements with the plan within 90 days after receiving the plan or proposal.
>
> (Laws of Minnesota, 1984, Chapter 654, Article 2, Section 83, Minnesota Statutes, Section 84A.56)

This plan has been prepared in response to that legislation. It indicates general and specific DNR acquisition and disposal intentions for counties with Con-Con land. It also indicates wetland and upland character of such lands to the extent that this information is known. Elements of this plan are part of an ongoing process to evaluate acquisition and disposal needs of DNR programs.

FIGURE ONE: CONSOLIDATED CONSERVATION COUNTIES



Three clarifications are in order before progressing. First, 'acquisition' can have several meanings. It can indicate acquisition through purchase, through land exchange or through transfer of land from one administration to another. As used in this report, acquisition addresses only the first two meanings.

Second, the term 'wetland' is not defined in the legislation. Wetlands can include a range of types from permanent basins to seasonally flooded lowlands. A commonly used system for classifying wetlands is defined by the U.S. Department of the Interior (Classification of Wetlands in the United States, Special Scientific Report: Wildlife No. 20, 1953). Types 1

through 8 of that system define wetlands common to Minnesota. (See Appendix A.) Types 3, 4 and 5 are legislatively protected wetlands in Minnesota with constraints on drainage, filling and other actions. However, a broader definition of wetlands is needed for many resource management purposes. The Section of Wildlife used types 2 through 6 to define wetlands for the inventory of wildlife management areas. This report will define wetlands as types 2 through 6 for all programs except those that address protected waters concerns. U.S. Geological Survey maps and the wildlife management area inventory have been used to identify wetland acreages.

The third clarification regards the need to emphasize a 'balance of uplands and wetlands'. The DNR approach shall be to seek a general balance in acquisition and disposal throughout the Con-Con area. Wetlands and uplands will be both acquired and disposed. The individual needs of specific acquisition objectives will determine the mix of upland/wetland acreage for any given county.

## II. HISTORY OF STATE LAND OWNERSHIP:

The state has experienced three major processes by which land entered state ownership. The first was through various federal land grants. Most of these grants occurred during the nineteenth century, although additional acreage was granted by the federal government as late as the 1950's. The Federal government granted about 16.5 million acres to the state of Minnesota. All but 2.6 million acres of these were sold or given away. Grants were intended to serve a variety of public purposes; i.e. support public education, reclaim land for agriculture and support railroad construction.

Tax forfeiture is the second process by which land has entered state ownership. State laws provide for the transfer of title to land that is tax delinquent for more than three years. Most titles to tax-delinquent land are held in trust by the state for the taxing districts. It is estimated that more than eight million acres of land have gone tax-forfeit between 1899 and today. All but two and one-half million acres have been sold back to the public.

Consolidated Conservation land accounts for much of the state tax-forfeited land. Beginning in the 1920's, depression and drought caused large scale tax forfeiture of privately owned land. In many counties, agriculture had been encouraged through public bond supported drainage projects. Many of these efforts were ill-advised since the soils were amenable to neither drainage nor cultivation. When land in these areas was abandoned and tax payments ceased, drainage bonds were forfeited and certain counties faced bankruptcy.

In three separate legislative acts (Laws of Minnesota 1929 Chapter 258, Laws of Minnesota 1931 Chapter 407, Laws of Minnesota 1933 Chapter 402), the state assummed debts of certain drainage projects in seven counties in exchange for clear title to the tax-forfeited land within the project areas. A number of conservation areas were formed from these drainage project areas. (See maps in Appendix D.) Receipts from the management of land within these seperate conservation areas were combined by the legislature in 1949 to form the Consolidated Conservation Areas Fund, and the areas became known as Consolidated Conservation areas and the land within as Con-Con land.

The state received title to more than 1.6 million acres of Con-Con land in the

original transfer of titles. (See Figure Three.) In return, the state assumed about $4,750,000 in county drainage debts. Subsequent tax forfeiture within the conservation areas transferred additional acreage into Con-Con atus. Recent legislation, however, states that future tax forfeiture within Con-Con areas will not result in more Con-Con land.

> Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, land that forfeits to the state for nonpayment of taxes and is in a game preserve, areas or projects established under Minnesota Statutes 1945, section 84A.01, 84A.20, or 84A.31 shall be held in trust for the taxing district as land outside a game preserve, area, or project. The lands shall be disposed of and managed, and have income from the land allocated in the same manner as land that is outside a game preserve, area, or project.

(Laws of Minnesota, 1984, Chapter 654, Article 2, Section 84, Minnesota Statutes, Section 84A.57)

Over the years much of the Con-Con acreage has been sold back to the private sector. An estimate of the total Con-Con acreage sold is not feasible because historical records of land sales and tax forfeiture have not been automated, and many parcels of Con-Con land that were sold went tax-forfeit again. However, 235,295 acres of Con-Con land have been sold back to the private sector since 1954. (See Figure Two.) Additional acreage was sold prior to that date.

The existence of substantial acreage of tax-forfeited land in these counties is a measure of the quality of much Con-Con land for private use and development. Most of the tax-forfeited land has relatively low suitability for cultivation and low potential for other economic uses. The fact that so much of this land went tax forfeit at least once indicates that development efforts have been attempted and failed. Return of this land to private control poses the prospect that future development efforts will fail and that the land will again go tax forfeit.

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FIGURE TWO: CONSOLIDATED CONSERVATION LAND; ORIGINAL ACREAGE, CURRENT ACREAGE AND ACREAGE SOLD SINCE 1954

| COUNTY | YEAR* | ORIGINAL -ACREAGE | -CURRENT- -ACREAGE- | --CON-CON--- ACREAGE SOLD 1954-PRESENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| AITKIN | 1931 | 250,600 | 237,800 | 39,477 |
| BELTRAMI | 1929 | 522,700 | 492,200 | 31,837 |
| KOOCHICHING | 1929 | 227,400 | 198,600 | 1,893 |
| LAKE Of THE WOODS | 1929 | 420,300 | 420,400 | 13,347 |
| MAHNOMEN | 1931 | 3,500 | 4,600 | 20,124 |
| MARSHALL | 1933 | 75,800 | 67,900 | 95,658 |
| ROSEAU | 1931 | 150,700 | 134,700 | 32,959 |
| | TOTAL | 1,651,000 | 1,556,300 | 235,295 |

* Indicates the year in which legislation was passed establishing Consolidated Conservation areas.

SOURCE: DNR Land Bureau

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The third major process by which land entered state ownership may be termed a strategic acquisition process. Such acquisitions have occurred for park development, habitat preservation and other resource management objectives. Purchases have not accounted for all such acquisitions. Gifts and lar exchanges have contributed to the total. Throughout Minnesota, the DNR acquired 484,160 acres through various forms of acquisition. The majority of these acquisitions occurred since 1945.

The state has already disposed of millions of acres of public land. Since statehood, more than fifteen million acres have been sold or given away. Most of this was federal grant land, but several million acres of tax-forfeit land also have been sold. For several decades, the DNR has identified and sold land no longer needed to meet management objectives. Since 1933, the DNR has sold more than 390,000 acres of surplus land of all types throughout the state. Not all land offered for sale by the state receives bids. In the most recent land offering, bids were received on only 81 of 1,953 acres offered for sale. Land that receives no minimum bid remains in state ownership.

The state both acquires and disposes of land through exchange, with the DNR acting as staff for the Minnesota Land Exchange Board. In an exchange, two parties exchange land of approximately equal value. Small differences in value are adjusted by either waiver or cash payment. Major differences in value require either adding or deleting acreage. Exchanges occur with private land owners and other public agencies. For the state, benefits usually are acquisition of land that either complements the ownership pattern or has valued resource characteristics. Since land is received in return for land disposed, an exchange may not reduce the net total of state-owned acreage. Since 1943, the state has been involved in land exchanges involving more than 60,000 acres of state-owned land.

It is important to recognize that there are several restrictions on the disposition of state-owned land. Minnesota statutes prohibit the sale of certain types of state-owned land, including land within state park boundaries, land bordering or adjacent to meandered lakes and other public waters, land containing or abutting protected waters, land containing commercial peat deposits, and land within a state designated mining unit. In addition, the Minnesota constitution reserves to the state the mineral rights and water power rights of all state-owned land even after disposition. Mineral development considerations figure strongly in any decision to dispose of state-owned land, because 'severed mineral rights' issues can inhibit economically important mineral development.

## III. COUNTY AND PUBLIC ROLE IN DNR LAND ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL:

DNR land management and allocation are subject to considerable review and oversight. Local government, the public and the legislature play a role in that oversight. That role occurs at several points.

-Land acquisition programs are legislatively authorized. Establishment of most management units and change in management unit boundaries are determined by the legislature. Elected representatives have long played an active role in DNR land management programs.

-County government reviews and participates in land exchange decisions.

-All acquisitions of land for WMAs must be approved by the county board.

-DNR land management plans such as park development plans are reviewed at public forums. Anyone may offer comments on management plans at these forums.

-As part of the forest unit planning process, the public and local government will have an opportunity to review and comment on all changes in land allocation and management.

In addition, legislation has structured a complex relationship between counties and the DNR in management and classification of Con-Con land. The county may classify tax forfeited land as either 'agricultural' or 'non-agricultural'. A list of land parcels that are classified 'agricultural' may be sent by the county to the DNR for certification. Those parcels certified as 'agricultural' by the DNR may be sold. The DNR originally certified most 'agricultural' classifications by the counties. Such lands were then sold to the private sector. However, as drainage of wetlands and clearing of woodlots caused serious concern over habitat loss, fewer lands have come to be certified by the DNR as 'agricultural'.

These relationships between the DNR and counties on land classification are unique to Con-Con counties. No similar relationships exist outside of Con-Con counties.

## IV. SUMMARY OF ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL PLANS BY DNR PROGRAM AREA:

Four observations apply to the following program descriptions. One; DNR acquires almost all private land from willing sellers. (Condemnation of private land requires a legislative act and is almost never undertaken for natural resource management purposes. An exception is when the landowner and state use a 'friendly' condemnation to determine fair market value for a parcel the landowner has agreed to sell to the state.) Because of uncertainties relating to availability of willing sellers and of funding to purchase land, acreage estimates for many acquisitions are not feasible. Due to these same uncertainties, acquisitions not listed here could occur in the near future.

Two; acquisition intentions may change as DNR resource management efforts evolve. For example, new management units such as state trails or canoe and boating routes could be legislatively authorized in Con-Con counties. These would lead to acquisitions that can not now be anticipated. Also, certain acquisition programs such as the Water Bank program rely on acquisition opportunities that are not predictable.

Three; over the long term, the DNR plans to acquire most private land within state parks, scientific and natural areas, and within the right-of-way of state trails. Effective management of these units and a minimization of land use conflicts would be facilitated by state ownership of most or all land in the units. It does not plan to acquire all private land within state forests.

Four; much of the land to be acquired by the DNR in Con-Con counties has low potential for cultivation. Parcels that are acquired for recreation purposes tend to be adjacent to lakes or rivers and have untillable soil and slope characteristics. Those that are acquired for habitat purposes are usually

associated with wetland complexes and also may have characteristics unsuited to tillage.

The following summarizes acquisition plans by DNR program area.

A. PARKS: Minnesota has a well developed system of excellent state parks. The general reason for development of that park system has been to provide recreation opportunities to the people of the state of Minnesota. Parks also attract out-of-state visitors and thus contribute to state tourism, a major component of the Minnesota economy.

There are 81 units in the system including 64 state parks, 11 waysides and 6 state monuments. The DNR has an ongoing planning process for parks. As part of that process, development of the state park is determined and boundary adjustments planned if appropriate. Boundaries can be both expanded and contracted. The DNR plans to seek legislation to accomplish those boundary changes. The DNR plans to eventually acquire all private land within state park boundaries.

Seven state parks are in Con-Con counties. (See Figure Three.) However, land acquisition is complete in two of the six parks. For the 1983/85 biennium, the DNR plans to acquire 162 acres in Savanna Portage state park and 51 acres in Lake Bemidji state park. No other state park acquisitions are anticipated in Con-Con counties during the 1983/85 biennium.

Beyond this biennium, the DNR plans to acquire an additional 957 acres of privately owned land within state park boundaries in Con-Con counties. Because the DNR only acquires land from willing sellers, a schedule of anticipated park land acquisitions is not feasible.

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FIGURE THREE: LAND ACQUISITION INTENTIONS FOR STATE PARKS LOCATED WITHIN CONSOLIDATED CONSERVATION COUNTIES:

| STATE PARK | COUNTY | -PRIVATE ACREAGE TO BE ACQUIRED-- 1983/85 | EVENTUALLY | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SAVANNA PORTAGE | AITKIN | 162 | 505 | 667 |
| LAKE BEMIDJI | BELTRAMI | 51 | 92 | 143 |
| FRANZ JEVNE | KOOCHICHING | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| ZIPPEL BAY | LK O WOODS | -0- | 80 | 80 |
| LITTLE ELBOW LK. | MAHNOMEN | -0- | 80 | 80 |
| OLD MILL | MARSHALL | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| HAYES LAKE | ROSEAU | -0- | 200 | 200 |
| | TOTAL | 213 | 957 | 1,170 |

SOURCE: DNR Division of Parks

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B. STATE TRAILS: Three types of trails have been established to provide recreation opportunities to state residents and tourists. One, unit trails are developed within state parks and state forests. Their management and development is determined by unit plans for those management units. Two,

grant-in-aid trails are developed in cooperation with local units of government. The state does not manage or purchase land for grant-in-aid trails. Three, state trails are developed as independant management units as authorized by the legislature.

To date, thirteen state trails have been legislatively authorized. With the exception of one, none of these are located in Con-Con counties. The Tower-to International Falls Trail (now under development) will be located partially in Koochiching county.

The DNR Trail Plan indicates priority for trail development. Most Con-Con counties are located in recreation landscapes with low priority for trail development. Only, two areas, parts of Aitkin and Beltrami counties, have a high priority.

C. STATE FORESTS: State forests have been legislatively established to serve several resource objectives. The three primary objectives are 1) provide timber to meet the needs of the state's forest industry, 2) maintain and enhance wildlife and other natural resources and 3) provide the public with opportunities for recreation. Multiple use and sustained yield are guiding principles in determining forest resource management.

Most land in state forests either has been granted to the state by the Federal government or acquired through the Con-Con land ownership transfer. Very little land in state forests has been purchased from the private sector. During the current biennium, forest land acquisition programs are focused on the Richard J Dorer Memorial Hardwood and the Sand Dunes state forests. (An acquisition plan has been completed for the Dorer state forest.) Neither forest, however, is located in Con-Con counties. No land in Con-Con counties is scheduled for state forest acquisition during the current biennium.

Beyond this biennium, additional forest land may be acquired throughout the state. According to the Minnesota Forest Resources Plan: "Acquisition for forestry still occurs, though present acquisition efforts are selective and aimed primarily at consolidation of forest management units. It is expected that land acquisition will occur on a case by case basis for specific purposes such as consolidation, improvement of management efficiency, protection of key forest resources, and maintenance of an adequate public forest resource base to provide for multiple recreation requirements." (Volume 6, June, 1983).

In Con-Con counties, no specific land acquisition priorities have been established. Rather, the Division of Forestry acquires parcels as they become available provided they meet the following criteria; they must be within an established state forest boundary, they must be adjacent to other state-owned land and they must contain productive forest land. However, no funding has been designated for such acquisitions.

The Forest Unit Planning process may result in substantial re-alignment of forest unit boundaries. That process has been established to determine the management and disposition of land administered by the Division of Forestry. It is an interdisciplinary process designed to address the interests of all management perspectives. The Inter-disciplinary Planning Team of the Forest Unit Planning process will develop recommendations for acquisition, disposal and exchange of land within forest management units and other land outside of management units administered by the Division of Forestry. The southern part of Mahnomen is the only Con-Con county that will be studied through the Forest

Unit Planning process in the 1983/85 biennium. However, any acquisitions or disposals recommended for Mahnomen county would not be implemented during this biennium.

D. WATER ACCESS PROGRAM: The Water Access program is designed to provide the public with a means to use or access lake and river resources. Most accesses are for boat launching facilities. Lakes in the state have been prioritized in terms of their water access needs. Priorities are determined by lake size, fish ecology and water clarity. Further priority is established by proximity to large population centers. Larger lakes with relatively clear water that support permanent populations of game fish receive highest priority for water access development. Most river access needs are addressed by the Canoe and Boating Route program.

Additional lakes can be added to the acquisition priorities based on the lake's value to fisheries management. For example, Blue Lake in Aitkin county has potential to be rehabilitated and managed for trout. Because it is smaller than 150 acres, it would normally be designated a low priority lake. Based on its value for fisheries management, however, it is designated a high priority for water access acquisition. Currently, Blue Lake is the only example of such a lake in Con-Con counties.

The DNR has about 1,100 water accesses statewide. Most of these have been developed on land already owned by the state. Since the accelerated water access acquisition program began in 1979, the DNR has acquired 115 water access parcels on lakes and rivers. Water accesses are relatively small. (Legislation limits the size to seven acres.) The DNR eventually hopes to acquire additional accesses on 250 high priority lakes and rivers throughout the state. Twenty five of these are on lakes and rivers in Con-Con counties. (See Figure Four.)

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FIGURE FOUR: LAKES AND RIVERS IN CON-CON COUNTIES WITH A HIGH PRIORITY FOR WATER ACCESS ACQUISITION

| COUNTY | --LAKES WITH A HIGH PRIORITY FOR WATER ACCESS--------- | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| AITKIN | BIG SANDY | ESQUAGAMA | RIPPLE |
| | BLUE | FARM ISLAND | ROUND |
| | ELM ISLAND | HAMMAL | WLADIMIRAF |
| BELTRAMI | BIG BUZZEL | CAMPBELL | LITTLE BASS |
| | BIG RICE | CASS | MARQUETTE |
| | BLACK | DELLWATER | MOVIL |
| | BOOT | GILSTAD | PIMUSHE |
| | BUCK | KITCHI | WHITEFISH |
| LK O WOODS | LAKE OF THE WOODS | | |
| | --RIVER(S) WITH A HIGH PRIORITY FOR A WATER ACCESS--- | | |
| KOOCHICHING | RAINY/LITTLE FORK | | |

SOURCE: DNR Water Access Program

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The DNR plans to acquire about 50 additional water accesses statewide per year. Since the DNR acquires sites from willing buyers, land acquisition is often uncertain. Although emphasis is on high priority lakes, it is not possible to indicate which will receive accesses in this biennium. Since most water accesses are used by motor vehicles, soils with firm structural bearing characteristics are needed. Thus, access sites are mostly upland areas.

E. CANOE AND BOATING ROUTE PROGRAM: The Canoe and Boating Route program is designed to provide access and facilities (rest areas, campsites and portages) for use of recreation rivers throughout the state. Land acquisition is currently limited to the nineteen rivers with about 2,500 miles of riverway that have been legislatively designated canoe and boating rivers. (At some point in the future, accesses may be required on other rivers yet. Four of the designated rivers are at least partially located in Con-Con counties. These are the Mississippi, Little Fork, Big Fork and Snake rivers. Parcel size for recreation river sites is limited to less than forty acres.

The DNR goal for the current biennium is to acquire eighteen new river recreation sites. Two of these could be located in Con-Con counties. One could be located on the Mississippi river in Aitkin county. (Development of the Mississippi river site will be consistent with the 'Memo of Understanding' with the Mississippi River Headwaters Board.) A second site could be located on the Little Fork river in Koochiching county. The precise location of these two sites is currently uncertain. Land already in public ownership could be used for these sites.

Beyond this biennium, approximately 60 new sites need to be acquired on the 19 designated river routes throughout the state. In addition, approximately 70 recreation sites developed under short term agreements with private landowners will need to be acquired outright to ensure a more permanent and reliable canoe route. The DNR is in process of developing a priority system to identify river segments in greatest need of acquisition and development for recreation. It is not certain what acquisition priorities will apply to sections of river in Con-Con counties.

Like the public access program, sites are sought that are mostly upland. Within each site, however, smaller areas of wetland may exist.

F. WATER BANK PROGRAM: The objective of the Water Bank program is to protect valuable wetland habitat that would otherwise be drained. During the three years that the program has been in operation, 685 acres have been acquired in fee title throughout the state. An additional 1807 acres have been acquired with less than fee title. Only 49 acres of fee title have been acquired in Con-Con counties.

By law, the Water Bank program must respond to acquisition opportunities as they occur. Areas for acquisition are identified by drainage permit applications. To qualify for water bank compensation, a wetland must have the following characteristics. It must be a protected wetland; the intent of the drainage must be for agriculture; the soils under the wetland must be potentially productive for cultivation; and drainage must be economically feasible as determined by a drainage plan.

If the landowner is receptive to acquisition, the parcel value is appraised,

and the DNR may either purchase fee title or offer other compensation (easement, waterbank agreement, conservation restriction or lease). The landowner, at his/her discretion, may choose any of the five options. At the discretion of the state, up to one acre of upland per acre of wetland basin may be included in the agreement. Water bank acreage acquired in fee title is established as a wildlife management area. (See Section IVH.) If the DNR opts not to offer the landowner compensation, the wetland may be drained.

Through this program, the DNR has been acquiring or protecting an average of about 860 acres per year in fee title or other arrangement. That average has been fairly constant. As of March 31 of last fiscal year (June, 1983-June, 1984), the DNR has acquired or is in process of acquiring about 757 acres. Much of the acquisitions has occurred in the northern part of the Red River Valley. Only one Con-Con county is included in this year's acquisitions. A 134 acre parcel in Roseau county (Township 159 North, Range 40 West, Section 7) will be acquired and used as a wildlife management area.

Water Bank acquisitions in Con-Con counties are mostly located in Roseau, Marshall and Mahnomen counties. In other Con-Con counties, fewer wetlands qualify for water bank program support. Because acquisition depends on drainage applications which are themselves unpredictable, it is not possible to precisely forecast the pace of water bank acquisitions in Con-Con counties.

G. SCIENTIFIC AND NATURAL AREAS: The Scientific and Natural Areas program objective is to preserve and perpetuate the ecological diversity of Minnesota's natural heritage for scientific study and public education. Included in that heritage are landforms, fossil remains, plant and animal communities, rare and endangered species, or other biotic features and geologic formations. To accomplish these objectives, the DNR has adopted a long-range plan for the Scientific and Natural Areas program. That plan calls for protection of five sites for each plant community occurence and three sites for plant and animal species and geologic occurence in each landscape region of the state. The long-range plan projects that up to 52,000 acres (peatland landforms excluded from the total) may be acquired statewide as Scientific and Natural Areas.

Since the program was initiated in 1979, the DNR has established 34 Scientific and Natural Area sites. Acquisition priorities vary depending on the unique features of natural heritage elements available in each region. In Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Aitkin and Beltrami counties, the priority is for protection of significant peat landforms. In Marshall and Mahnomen counties, the emphasis is on acquisition of undisturbed prairies. In both sets of counties, emphasis is on protecting rare and endangered species of flora and fauna.

In the 1983/85 biennium, only one Scientific and Natural Area site is to be acquired in a Con-Con county. That site is located in Marshall county and is approximately 160 acres in size. In the long term, acquisition of specific number of sites for Scientific and Natural Areas can not be estimated at this time. The pace of inventory efforts and level of funding are unpredictable elements that yield uncertainty to acquisition programs.

H. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS (WMAs): Because of increasing loss of critical wildlife habitat and the growing demand for recreation opportunities,

the legislature and the DNR have accelerated the wildlife land acquisition program. Some of the state's most significant WMAs are located in Con-Con counties. These areas will become even more important in the future as wildlife habitat continues to be lost to land clearing and wetland drainage.

The DNR is continuing to acquire private inholdings within existing WMAs in Con-Con counties. The DNR currently is in the process of acquiring 658 acres of private land in Con-Con counties. Additional acreage may be purchased during this biennium as willing sellers of priority tracts become available.

In total there are 42,685 acres of private lands in existing management units in Con-Con counties. While placement of this private land in public control would simplify management of WMAs, not all private land is critically needed for management programs. The Section of Wildlife has established three priorities for land acquisition. The top priority is termed 'critical'. Critical ratings apply to lands needed to protect or develop important wildlife habitat or to solve serious management problems. Only 3,411 acres or 8.1% of private land in WMAs are rated 'critical'.

The second priority is 'desireable' Lands needed for future management, development, or habitat protection are designated as desireable. A total of 18,276 acres of privately owned land in WMAs is designated as 'desireable'. DNR acquisition efforts do not focus entirely on 'critical' priorities. Since parcels are acquired from willing sellers, parcels in the 'desireable' priority category are often acquired as they become available.

The third priority is 'eventual'. Eventual ratings include lands which will increase the overall value and manageability of the unit and protect wildlife habitat. A total of 20,998 acres of private land in WMAs has an 'eventual' acquisition priority.

Another aspect of habitat acquisition is the Water Bank program addressed in Section IVF. That effort is tailored towards acquisition of protected wetlands.

As additional wetlands are acquired and as wildlife resource management needs change, new wildlife management units may be established in Con-Con counties. However, these would be established only if they are essential to meet habitat needs unmet by existing units. If established, new units could require additional acquisitions to structure an effective and manageable wildlife area.

While acquisition of most private land in WMAs would facilitate habitat management, fiscal realities and acquisition priorities limit the total acreage that will ever be acquired. Some acquisition funds have been declining. In the 1980/81 biennium, Resource 2000 funding provided $4.0 million for habitat acquisition. Since then, funding has declined to the $2.0 million available in the current biennium. Part of the shortfall is made up from larger surcharges on small game licenses.

Since, acquisition budgets probably will not increase markedly in the future, the best estimate of future acquisition is based on patterns from the recent past. By the time the current biennium is ended, the DNR will have acquired not much more than 1,500 acres within WMAs in Con-Con counties during the ten year period since 1976. (See Figure Five.) Habitat acquisition in Con-Con counties between now and the end of the century probably will resemble acquisition patterns between 1976 and 1985. (This assumes that basic land use

trends especially land clearing and wetland drainage do not change markedly in Con-Con counties or the state.) An estimate of acquisition beyond the turn of the century would be pure speculation. Consequently, wildlife acquisition estimates for this report will only focus on the period between now and the end of the century.

FIGURE FIVE: LAND ACQUISITION IN WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, CURRENT BIENNIUM AND 1976-1983

| COUNTY | TOTAL WMA* -ACREAGE- | ----LAND ACQUISITION---- --CURRENT-- -BIENNIUM-- | 1976-1983 |
|---|---|---|---|
| AITKIN | 59,982 | -0- | 283 |
| BELTRAMI | 53,384 | -0- | -0- |
| KOOCHICHING | 1,018 | -0- | -0- |
| LAKE O WOODS | 152,419 | -0- | -0- |
| MAHNOMEN | 15,415 | 540 | -0- |
| MARSHALL | 127,283 | 38 | 120 |
| ROSEAU | 217,556 | 80 | 476 |
| TOTAL | 627,057 | 658 | 879 |

* Wildlife Management Area

SOURCE: DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife

WMAs include both uplands and wetlands. Ownership of existing WMAs in Con-Con counties consists of approximately equal amounts of uplands and wetlands. (Wetlands include emergent wetlands, lowland shrubs and open water- See Appendix I.) Future habitat acquisition in Con-Con counties will probably consist of about an equal acreage of upland and wetland.

I. FISHERIES: The Section of Fisheries has a varied acquisition program. The general thrust of the program is to acquire and protect areas critical to propagation of game fish species.

The greatest area of activity statewide is the purchase of corridor easements on trout streams. Except for Aitkin county and portions of Beltrami and Mahnomen counties, Con-Con counties do not have a high concentration of lakes and trout streams. Consequently acquisition needs for fisheries purposes is less than in other areas of the state. There are no acquisition projects planned or in progress in Con-Con counties for the present biennium except for efforts to acquire several corridor easements (19 acres) on private parcels on the Clearwater River in Beltrami county.

Over the long term, the Section of Fisheries intends to acquire a number of sites throughout Con-Con counties. Exact location of sites can not be indicated at this time. Acquisition expectations are based on history and the long-range plan for fisheries in the Resource 2000 proposed funding program. The Section of Fisheries acquires land through easements as well as in fee title. The major easement program is described below:

Trout Streams Easements: The DNR purchases corridor easements along trout streams for stream protection, habitat improvement and fisherman access. (At the request of the landowner, fee title has been purchased on occasion instead of easements.) The corridor width may vary with an average of less than 16 acres of easement purchased per stream mile. Plans are to acquire about 21.5 miles of easement on the 91.7 miles of trout stream in Con-Con counties. (See Figure Six.)

FIGURE SIX: TROUT STREAM EASEMENT ACQUISITIONS IN CON-CON COUNTIES

| COUNTY | TOTAL MILES OF TROUT STREAM- | MILES OF EASEMENT -TO BE ACQUIRED-- |
|---|---|---|
| AITKIN | 8.4 | 1.5 |
| BELTRAMI | 35.8 | 7.0 |
| KOOCHICHING | 36.5 | 10.0 |
| LAKE OF THE WOODS | 2.0 | 1.0 |
| MAHNOMEN | 6.0 | 2.0 |
| MARSHALL | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| ROSEAU | 3.0 | 0.0 |
| TOTAL | 91.7 | 21.5 |

SOURCE: DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife

The following fisheries management programs acquire land in fee title, although easements are sometimes used for certain programs:

Rough Fish Control Barriers: The DNR acquires sites, mostly by fee purchase, to install barriers and traps to reduce and prevent expansion of undesireable rough fish species (e.g. carp and bullheads). Sites are small, averaging 1.5 acres each. About seven of these may be acquired in Con-Con counties. Exact location has not been determined yet. (See Figure Seven.)

Spawning Areas: Many areas that are seasonally inundated provide superior habitat for northern pike spawning. These areas are not always effectively protected by shoreland development controls. When development threatens damage to a spawning area, that area can be acquired. These sites average about 13 acres in size. About 24 of these may be acquired in Con-Con counties. Location of these areas has not been determined.

Spawn Taking Sites: During the spring spawning season, the DNR 'strips' spawn from walleyes and other species for the hatching program. Fish can be most efficiently netted at certain points which are acquired as spawn taking sites. These sites are small, averaging only about two acres. About ten of these may be acquired in Con-Con counties. Location of these sites has not been determined yet.

Rearing Ponds: Certain ponds can be managed to rear game fish. Such ponds normally do not have a resident fish population which could prey on fish fry. These sites vary in size from five to twenty acres with the average pond being about ten acres. About ten of these ponds may be acquired in Con-Con

counties.

Warmwater Stream Fishing Access and Management: As stresses on land use continue to increase, access to warmwater streams on private lands is increasingly restricted. River fishing is an important activity in counties with few lakes. It is anticipated that eighteen half-acre sites will be needed for warmwater stream fishing access. These sites may also require extended easement acquisition. The program will focus on rivers in each county with the best fisheries potential. However, a priority for river and access site location has not been developed.

The DNR Section of Fisheries in total plans to acquire about 800 acres in Con-Con counties. Of these about half would be in spawning areas and rearing ponds and would be considered wetlands. The balance would be upland.

## VI. LAND DISPOSAL:

The DNR disposes of surplus land through exchange and sale. A surplus land evaluation study has just been completed by the DNR. That study identified about 9,000 acres statewide with a relatively low priority for resource management. About 3,000 acres of this surplus land is located in Con-Con counties. (See Figure Eight.) Appendix B lists all parcels in this category.

In addition, in recent years the DNR has offered for sale several thousand acres for which no bids were received. Also, default in payments occured on some parcels that were sold. Land that did not sell or for which payments were defaulted is still in public ownership and considered surplus. A total of 640 acres of this land is located in Con-Con counties. Appendix C lists all parcels in this category. Surplus land identified by these two processes will be offered for sale. Timing for the land sale is dependant on a variety of considerations including conditions of the rural real estate market and additional resource evaluation of surplus land.

The general conditions in the rural land market are partly responsible for the failure of surplus land to receive bids. In many areas of the state, the price of undeveloped land has dropped sharply. High interest rates and low economic return potential probably will continue to discourage future surplus land sales.

A further constraint to the sale of surplus land in Con-Con counties is the private and public costs associated with development of these areas. About 71% of surplus land in the seven Con-Con counties is wetland. Past experience has demonstrated the high costs associated with draining and cultivating these very flat, but wet soils. Even many of the upland areas are not ideally suited to cultivation.

The costs of developing surplus lands also accrue to the public sector. Once sold, many surplus land parcels could be settled. Public service costs for remote homesteads often is in excess of tax revenues. Many surplus parcels may be located in areas designated for no development by county land use planning programs.

FIGURE SEVEN: LONG TERM FISHERIES ACQUISITION NEEDS IN CON-CON COUNTIES

| COUNTY | PROGRAM | -NUMBER- OF SITES | -ACREAGE ACQUIRED-- FEE TITLE | EASEMENT |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| AITKIN | rough fish control | 2 | 4 | -0- |
| | spawning area | 4 | 52 | -0- |
| | spawn taking | 2 | 4 | -0- |
| | rearing pond | 2 | 20 | -0- |
| | trout stream | 1.5 miles | -0- | 24 |
| | warmwater stream access | 3 | 2 | -0- |
| BELTRAMI | rough fish control | 2 | 3 | -0- |
| | spawning area | 4 | 52 | -0- |
| | spawn taking | 2 | 4 | -0- |
| | rearing pond | 2 | 20 | -0- |
| | trout stream | 7.0 miles | -0- | 112 |
| | warmwater stream access | 3 | 2 | -0- |
| KOOCHICHING | rough fish control | 1 | 2 | -0- |
| | spawning area | 4 | 52 | -0- |
| | spawn taking site | 2 | 4 | -0- |
| | rearing pond | 2 | 20 | -0- |
| | trout stream | 10.0 miles | -0- | 160 |
| | warmwater stream access | 2 | 1 | -0- |
| LAKE O WOODS | spawning area | 4 | 52 | -0- |
| | spawn taking site | 2 | 4 | -0- |
| | rearing pond | 2 | 20 | -0- |
| | trout streams | 1.0 miles | -0- | 16 |
| | warmwater stream access | 2 | 1 | -0- |
| MAHNOMEN | rough fish control | 2 | 3 | -0- |
| | spawning area | 4 | 52 | -0- |
| | spawn taking | 2 | 4 | -0- |
| | rearing pond | 2 | 20 | -0- |
| | trout stream | 2.0 miles | -0- | 32 |
| | warm water stream access | 2 | 1 | -0- |
| MARSHALL | spawning area | 2 | 26 | -0- |
| | warmwater stream access | 2 | 1 | -0- |
| ROSEAU | spawning area | 2 | 26 | -0- |
| | trout stream easement | 3.0 miles | -0- | 48 |
| | warmwater stream access | 4 | 2 | -0- |
| TOTAL | | | 454 | 392 |

SOURCE: DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife

FIGURE EIGHT: SURPLUS LAND IN CON-CON COUNTIES

| COUNTY | ----------ACREAGE---------- FROM SURPLUS ---STUDY---- | FROM OTHER -SOURCES-- | TOTAL SURPLUS ACRES |
|---|---|---|---|
| AITKIN | 1,796 | 200 | 1,996 |
| BELTRAMI | 132 | -0- | 132 |
| KOOCHICHING | 315 | 440 | 755 |
| LAKE OF THE WOODS * | 719 | -0- | 719 |
| MAHNOMEN | -0- | -0- | -0- |
| MARSHALL | -0- | ** | ** |
| ROSEAU | 6 | -0- | 6 |
| TOTAL | 2,968 | 640 | 3,608 |

* Lake of the Woods county and DNR are jointly evaluating public land management policy in that county. From this evaluation, additional surplus land may be identified.

** The county and DNR are jointly evaluating state land acquisition and disposal plans for Marshall county. Additional surplus land may be identified from that evaluation.

SOURCE: DNR Land Bureau and Office of Planning

The state also disposes of land through exchange. An exchange can be initiated by either a landowner (individual, business or other public agency) or by the DNR. Currently, most exchanges are initiated by landowners interested in acquiring public property better suited to their needs. The DNR evaluates the respective merits of the lands involved in the proposal and if the conditions previously cited are met, the exchange is pursued to completion. All proposals approved by the DNR are recommended to the Land Exchange Board which has final authority on land exchange issues. Because such exchanges are largely unpredictable, an estimate of exchange activity is not possible.

Over the long term, additional surplus land for exchange or sale will be identified through the Forest Unit Planning process. This process addresses management needs of DNR-administered land in multi-county units. Land that serves the management objectives of no divisions will be designated surplus.

This Forest Unit Planning process is just beginning and is scheduled to continue on a ten year cycle. Since the process has just begun, it is difficult to estimate the amount of acreage that will be designated surplus. That acreage will probably vary from region to region based on a variety of resource management considerations.

## VII. LAND CLASSIFICATION AND MANAGEMENT:

Land is classified to encourage uses compatible with limitations posed by the

natural, social and economic climate. The state has had a long history of land classification and management.

In 1932, in response to widespread tax forfeiture of land in northern Minnesota, Governor Floyd B. Olson appointed the Committee on Land Utilization. Their objective was to find an economic use for the forest cut-over region in the northern part of the state. The committee report, entitled Land Utilization in Northern Minnesota, cautioned against further expansion of agriculture in the northern part of the state. The report suggested that recreation and forestry were more suitable activities for the region.

In 1935, Jesness and Nowell issued their landmark report addressing land classification needs in northern Minnesota. Recognizing the many limitations that northern soils and climate held for agriculture, the authors recommended establishment of conservation zones in 14 counties. To reduce public service costs and personal hardship caused by unwise development decisions, the authors recommended that more than twelve million acres be set aside in conservation zones. No agriculture or premanent settlement would be allowed in these zones. Many Con-Con project areas coincided with the boundaries of these zones.

Throughout the 1930's, interest in land management and classification was strong especially as applied to areas that sufferred from a heavy rate of tax forfeiture. However, with the return of prosperity during and after World War II, interest waned.

That interest was revived during the 1960's when the DNR's current emphasis on land classification and management was initiated. At that time, an effort was begun to classify all county and DNR-administered land. Classifications were based on the suitability of the land for a variety of land uses or management. The classification effort was jointly conducted by county and DNR staff. Criteria were established to ensure consistency in the classification process. Classifications were reviewed by county land classification committees. That approach worked well in a number of areas. Land classification committees are still functioning in Aitkin and Lake of the Woods county.

To address the challenge of rising resource demands in the 1980's, the DNR has established a renewed emphasis on public land management and classification. The continuing land classification effort is now supplemented by two land management efforts. One is the Forest Unit Planning process. As described earlier in this plan, the objective of the Forest Unit Planning process is to determine the management and disposition of all land in state forests and all DNR-administered land outside of management units. Towards that end, an Interdisciplinary Planning Team has been established to assist in developing management recommendations

The Land Suitability Project has been established to determine suitability of all DNR-administered land for a variety of management purposes (i.e. forestry, habitat, recreation, etc.). Land suitability is one of many considerations determining management recommendations in the Forest Unit Planning process. From the Forest Unit Planning process and the Lands Suitability project, modifications in DNR land classification will emerge. The end result could be significant change in DNR resource management priorities.

The future will likely see a continuing DNR emphasis on land management that

recognizes the suitability of land for various uses. Consistent with that direction, the DNR will focus on the limitations and opportunities posed by the physical environment, the site characteristics of land and the economic realities of resource supply and demand. The objective is greater efficiency in management and allocation of all DNR-administered land.

## VIII. SUMARY OF DNR LAND ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL INTENTIONS BY CON-CON COUNTY:

Figure Nine summarizes long and short term DNR land acquisition and disposal plans for Con-Con counties.

A. AITKIN COUNTY: During the 1983/85 biennium, the DNR plans to acquire 162 acres at Savanna Portage state park and one canoe and boating site on the Mississippi River. A water access may also be acquired on Blue Lake. No other acquisitions are planned for this biennium.

Beyond this biennium, DNR acquisition plans focus on recreation and habitat needs. An additional 505 acres will be acquired at Savanna Portage state park. Water accesses will be acquired for the following high priority lakes: Big Sandy, Blue, Elm Island, Esquagama, Farm Island, Hammal, Ripple, Round and Wladimiraf. A warmwater stream access may be acquired at three sites in the county. Canoe and boating route sites will be acquired on the Mississippi River. Access easements on about 1.5 miles (24 acres) of trout stream will be acquired. The DNR plans to acquire about 87 acres for various fisheries management purposes. In the wildlife habitat category, 2,935 acres of private lands are located within 14 wildlife management areas. Of that total, only 919 acres are rated 'critical' for habitat management programs.

Most of the fisheries habitat lands acquired in fee title and about half of the wildlife habitat lands will be wetland. Fisheries easement and recreation acquisitions will be mostly upland areas.

The DNR has identified 1996 acres of surplus land in Aitkin county. Of the total, 1,492 acres are wetland. About 600 acres of the wetland have deposits of non-commercial peat which might be purchased for agricultural production. Such land, however, may require substantial drainage which could be subject to DNR and other permit requirements.

B. BELTRAMI COUNTY: In the 1983/85 biennium, the DNR plans to acquire 51 acres in Lake Bemidji state park. No other acquisitions are currently planned for this biennium.

Beyond this biennium, acquisition plans focus on recreation and habitat needs. The DNR plans to acquire an additional 92 acres in Lake Bemidji state park. Water accesses will be sought on the following high priority lakes: Big Rice, Cass, Kitchi, Marquette, Movil, Pimushe lakes, Little Bass, Big Buzzel, Whitefish, Gilstad, Campbell, Black, Boot, Dellwater and Buck. A warmwater stream access may also be acquired at three sites in the county. Sites may also be acquired for the Canoe and Boating program on the Mississippi river. Access easements on about seven miles (112 Acres) of trout streams may be acquired. The DNR plans to acquire about 81 acres for various fisheries management programs. There are 4,643 acres of privately owned land within the Morph Meadows and Red Lake wildlife management areas. None of that acreage is rated 'critical' for wildlife management.

Land acquired for fisheries easements and for recreation purposes will be mostly upland. Fisheries land acquired in fee title and about half of the wildlife habitat land to be acquired will be wetland.

The DNR has identified 132 acres of surplus land in Beltrami county, ten acres of which is wetland.

C. KOOCHICHING COUNTY: The DNR plans to acquire one canoe and boating site on the Little Fork River during the 1983/85 biennium. No other acquisitions are currently planned for this biennium.

Beyond this biennium, DNR acquisition plans will focus on recreation and habitat needs. Additional canoe and boating sites will be sought on the Little Fork and Big Fork Rivers and a water access acquired on the Big Fork River. A warmwater stream access may also be acquired at two sites in the county. Land will be acquired for the Tower-to-International Falls state trail and access easements on about 10 miles (160 acres) of trout streams. The DNR plans to acquire about 79 acres for various fisheries management purposes. Also, 90 acres of private land are located within two wildlife management areas. These are categorized as 'eventual' acquisition priorities.

Acquisition of fisheries easements and recreation land will focus mostly on upland areas. The fisheries fee title acquisition and about half of the habitat acquisition acreage will be lowland.

DNR has identified 755 acres of surplus land in Koochiching county, all but 228 acres of which is wetland.

D. LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY: At present, no acquisitions are planned in Lake of the Woods county during the 1983/85 biennium.

Beyond this biennium, recreation acquisitions include 80 acres for Zippel Bay state park and a public access on Lake of the Woods. The DNR plans to acquire about 77 acres for various fisheries management purposes and about one mile (16 acres) for trout stream easements. A warmwater stream access may be acquired at two sites in the county. In addition 5,816 acres of private land is located within wildlife management areas. Of this, 880 acres are 'critical' to wildlife management programs. Fisheries easements and recreation land acquisitions will be mostly upland. Most of the fisheries land acquired in fee title and about half of the wildlife habitat land to be acquired will be wetland.

In Lake of the Woods county, the DNR has identified 719 acres of surplus land, 512 of which is wetland. About 240 acres of the wetland contain deposits of non-commercial peat. When offered for sale, such parcels may be purchased for agricultural development. Such land, however, might require substantial drainage which could be subject to DNR and other drainage permit requirements. The DNR in cooperation with county staff is developing a long term plan for management of state land in the county. From that plan, additional surplus parcels may be identified.

E. MAHNOMEN COUNTY: The DNR plans to acquire 540 acres for a wildlife

management area in Mahnomen county during the current biennium. No other acquisitions are currently planned for this biennium.

Beyond this biennium, DNR plans to acquire 80 acres in the Little Elbow Lake state park, about two miles (32 acres) of trout stream access easements and two warmwater stream access points. There are 5,827 acres of privately owned land within WMAs. After acquisition of 540 acres in the current biennium, only 792 acres of private land are designated 'critical' to habitat management programs. About 80 acres may be acquired for various fisheries programs.

Approximately half of the acreage acquired in wildlife management units and most of the acreage acquired in fee title for fisheries management will be wetlands. Trout streams easement acquisitions will be mostly upland.

No surplus land has been identified in Mahnomen county. The Forest Unit Planning process will address the southern part of this county during the 1983/85 biennium. That process may identify surplus land although no action for disposal would occur during this biennium. Also, settlement of the White Earth Native American land claims could result in land disposal of an unknown acreage.

F. MARSHALL COUNTY: The DNR will acquire one scientific and natural area and one 38 acre parcel of private land within a wildlife management area in Marshall county during the 1983/85 biennium. No other acquisitions are currently planned for this biennium.

Beyond this biennium, DNR acquisition plans focus almost entirely on habitat areas. There are 13,838 acres of private land within wildlife management areas. Only 280 acres of this is rated 'critical' to wildlife management efforts. One determinant of future land acquisition will be an agreement being negotiated between the DNR and Marshall county on land acquisition and disposal. That agreement allows DNR to acquire up to 8,000 acres for habitat management. It is possible that new wildlife management units could be established on such acreage. As part of the agreement, land will be offered for sale by the DNR equal in acreage to that which is purchased. Additionally, the DNR plans to acquire four warmwater stream access points and about 26 acres of spawning areas.

Approximately half of the acreage acquired for wildlife management areas and most of the fisheries spawning acreage will be wetland. The warmwater stream accesses will be mostly upland.

No surplus land has been identified in Marshall county. However, the agreement being negotiated between the county and the DNR could identify several thousand acres of state land to be released for sale. Much of that land could have value for agricultural development.

G. ROSEAU COUNTY: The DNR will acquire a 120 acre parcel in Roseau county during the present biennium for the Water Bank and wildlife habitat acquisition programs. It will also acquire an 80 acre tract within a wildlife management area. No other acquisitions are currently anticipated during the 1983/85 biennium.

Beyond this biennium, the DNR plans to acquire 200 acres for Hayes Lake state

park. It also plans to acquire four warmwater stream access points, three miles (48 acres) of access easements for trout streams and about 26 acres of spawning areas. There are 9,418 acres of private land within wildlife management units. None of that land is rated as 'critical' to habitat management efforts.

Most spawning area acquisitions and about half of the wildlife management area acquisitions will be wetlands. Easement and land in parks acquisitions will be mostly upland.

The DNR has identified 6 acres of surplus land in Roseau county. This land is upland.

FIGURE NINE: DNR LAND ACQUISITION AND SURPLUS ACREAGE IN CON-CON COUNTIES

| | LAND ACQUISITION | | ACREAGE TO BE ACQUIRED | | SURPLUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| COUNTY | PURPOSE | LOCATION | 1983/85 | LONG TERM | ACREAGE |
| AITKIN | Parks | Savanna Port. | 162 | 505 | 1,996 |
| | H2O Access | 9 lakes | * | 63** | |
| | Canoe/boat | Miss. R. | * | * | |
| | Wildlife Management Areas | | -0- | * | |
| | Fisheries | | -0- | 111# | |
| BELTRAMI | | | | | |
| | Parks | Lake Bemidji | 51 | 92 | 132 |
| | H2O Access | 15 lakes | * | 105** | |
| | Canoe/boat | Miss. R. | -0- | * | |
| | Wildlife Management Areas | | -0- | * | |
| | Fisheries | | 19 | 193# | |
| KOOCHICHING | | | | | |
| | Canoe/Boat | Little Fork R. | * | * | 755 |
| | | Big Fork R. | -0- | * | |
| | Trail | Tower-Int. Falls | -0- | * | |
| | H2O Access | Rainy/Little Fork | -0- | 7** | |
| | Wildlife Management Areas | | -0- | * | |
| | Fisheries | | -0- | 239# | |
| LAKE OF THE WOODS | | | | | |
| | Parks | Zippel Bay | -0- | 80 | 678 |
| | H2O Access | Lk O Woods | -0- | 7** | *** |
| | Wildlife Management Areas | | -0- | * | |
| | Fisheries | | -0- | 93# | |
| MAHNOMEN | Parks | Little Elbow Lk. | -0- | 80 | -0- |
| | Wildlife Management Areas | | 540 | * | |
| | Fisheries | | -0- | 112# | |
| MARSHALL | Sci. & Nat. Areas | | 160 | -0- | *** |
| | Wildlife Management Areas | | 38 | * | |
| | Fisheries | | -0- | 27 | |
| ROSEAU | Parks | Hayes Lake | -0- | 200 | 6 |
| | H2O Bank | (T159n, R40w) | 120 | * | |
| | Wildlife Management Areas | | 80 | * | |
| | Fisheries | | -0- | 76# | |

* acreage is indeterminant at this point in time.
** indicates maximum acreage likely to be acquired
*** acreage of disposal is dependant on joint DNR/county evaluation of public land ownership in the county.
\# indicates acquisition of both easement and fee title
H2O Access indicates Water Access program acquisition
H2O Bank indicates Water Bank program acquisition

## APPENDIX A: WETLAND TYPES IN MINNESOTA

TYPE 1. SEASONALLY FLOODED BASINS AND FLATS: In wooded areas, these wetlands are usually dry during much of the growing season. In western Minnesota, the surrounding land is often farmed extensively. On uncultivated Type 1 wetlands, the vegetation is generally grasses and weeds such as cockleburs, ragweed, smartweed and beggar ticks. In wooded areas, vegetation in floodplain forests is typically cottonwoods, black willow, silver maple and green ash in the overstorey, with nettles, poison ivy, wild grape and Virginia creeper on the ground layer.

TYPE 2. INLAND FRESH MEADOW: This wetland usually has standing water in the spring but is used as pasture during the summer. After heavy rains, standing water may accumulate to a few inches. The soil is usually waterlogged within a few inches of the surface throughout the growing season. Wild hay is often cut from these areas. Typical vegetation includes sedges, rushes and a variety of grasses.

TYPE 3. INLAND SHALLOW FRESH MARSHES: On this wetland, the soil is usually waterlogged during much of the growing season. Often it is covered with a few inches of water. These wetlands are often found bordering deeper marshes (Type 4 wetlands) or as seep areas on irrigated lands. They, in combination with Type 4 wetlands, constitute the principal production areas for waterfowl. Common vegetation includes cattails, sedges, rushes, arrowhead, burrweed and smartweed.

TYPE 4. INLAND DEEP MARSHES: On these wetlands, the soil is covered with six inches to three feet or more of water during the growing season. They may border open water areas or completey fill shallow lake basins or sloughs. Vegetation includes cattails, wild rice, reeds, arrowhead and bullrushes. In open areas, submergent or floating leafed aquatic plants such pondweeds, duckweeds, coontail or waterlillies may occur.

TYPE 5. INLAND FRESH OPEN WATER: On these wetlands, water is usually less than ten feet deep and is fringed by a border of emergent vegetation. Vegetation (mainly at depths of less than six feet) includes pondweeds, naiads, wild celery, watermilfoils, muskgrasses, waterlillies, and coontail. This wetland may sustain a permanent population of fish. It is used extensively by waterfowl for feeding and resting during migration. It is also used extensively as brood areas during mid- and late summer. The borders are used for nesting by waterfowl.

TYPE 6 SHRUB SWAMPS: On these wetlands, the soils are usually waterlogged during the growing season. They occur along sluggish streams, and floodplains but many are isolated. Vegetation includes alders, willows, dogwood and buttonbush, as well as some herbaceous growth. These areas are valuable for food and cover for many types of wildlife.

TYPE 7. WOODED SWAMPS: On these wetlands, the soil is usually waterlogged with a few inches of the surface during the growing season and is sometimes covered with water. These wetlands occur along sluggish streams and on floodplains. Northern connifer swamps can contain tamarack, white cedar, black spruce and balsam fir with some broad leaf species such as white birch and black ash. These areas serve as valuable deeryards in the winter. Understory types can include red-osier dogwood, alder, labrador tea, and other heath family shrubs and ground pines. Many types of protected orchids are found in these wetlands.

TYPE 8. BOGS: In bogs, the soil is usually waterlogged and supports a spongy covering of moss. Typical vegetation includes heath shrubs, sphagnum moss, cranberries, sedges and cotton grass. Stunted black spruce and tamarack are often found in these bogs. Surrounding vegetation is usually upland forest. Bogs also contain many unique plants such as pitcher plants and sundew.

Source: "10 Important Questions" U.S. Corps of Engineers. U.S. Printing Office, 1978.

## APPENDIX B: SURPLUS LAND

The following pages list parcels within Con Con counties that have been identified as surplus. Some interpretation of the list may be needed to fully identify locations of parcels. The parcels are organized by county. The information follows in seven columns.

The first column indicates the county within which the parcel is located.

The next five columns identify the land survey descriptions of the surplus land parcels. Column two identifies the Township number of the township within which the parcel is located.

Column three identifies the Range number of the township within which the parcel is located.

Column four identifies the section number of the section within which the parcel is located.

Column five, labeled "40", is an identifier for the forty acre parcel location within the section. The following codes identify the location of the sixteen forties in each section:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 22 | 21 | 12 | 11 |
| 23 | 24 | 13 | 14 |
| 32 | 31 | 42 | 41 |
| 33 | 34 | 43 | 44 |

Column six, labeled " ACREAGE", indicates the size of the parcel rounded to the nearest whole acre.

Column seven, labeled "COMMENTS" provides information on possible resource characteristics of the parcel. Abbreviations in column seven are defined as follows:

adj. to riparian -- adjacent to a riparian parcel
floodplain -- within the 100 year floodplain
unprotected wetland -- wetland with resource value that is not included in the Protected Waters Inventory
comm. timber -- commercial timber resource
wildlife -- a wildlife resource
non-comm. peat -- non-commercial peat resource
indust. mineral -- industrial mineral resource (eg. sand and gravel)
blank -- the uncontested parcels

The following surplus parcels have been identified by field staff rather than by computer:

| COUNTY | TOWNSHIP | RANGE | SECTION | 40 | ACREAGE | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| LK O WOODS | 160 | 33W | 06 | 41 | 40 | |
| " | 161 | 33W | 22 | 42 | 0.75 | |
| " | 161 | 34W | 13 | 21 | 0.11 | |

The following surplus parcels were identified by automated criteria and evaluated by regional staff:

| COUNTY | TOWNSHIP | RANGE | SECTION | 40 | ACREAGE | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AITKIN | 46 | 23W | 16 | 21 | 40 | |
| | | | 28 | 32 | 40 | adj. to riparian |
| | 48 | 22W | 02 | 11 | 33 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | | 12 | 32 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | | 21 | 31 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | | 23 | 40 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | | 24 | 40 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | | 32 | 40 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | 03 | 12 | 27 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | | 13 | 40 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | | 14 | 40 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | | 24 | 40 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | 22 | 24 | 40 | |
| | 49 | 24W | 16 | 32 | 40 | |
| | | 25W | 35 | 11 | 38 | |
| | | | | 12 | 40 | |
| | | | | 13 | 40 | |
| | | | | 14 | 40 | |
| | | | | 24 | 40 | |
| | | | | 42 | 40 | |
| | | | 36 | 41 | 40 | |
| | | | | 42 | 36 | |
| | | | | 43 | 40 | |
| | | | | 44 | 36 | |
| | 50 | 25W | 05 | 14 | 40 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | | 41 | 40 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | | 44 | 40 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | 08 | 11 | 40 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | 19 | 33 | 50 | comm. timber |
| | | | 24 | 33 | 40 | |
| | | | 26 | 12 | 40 | |
| | | | | 43 | 40 | |
| | | | | 44 | 40 | |
| | 50 | 25W | 30 | 11 | 40 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | | 12 | 40 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | | 21 | 40 | comm. timber |
| | | | | 22 | 40 | comm. timber |
| | | | 35 | 12 | 40 | comm. timber |
| | | | | 21 | 40 | |
| | | | | 23 | 40 | |
| | | | | 24 | 40 | comm. timber |
| | | | | 32 | 40 | |

| COUNTY | TOWNSHIP | RANGE | SECTION | 40 | ACREAGE | COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AITKIN | 50 | 25W | 35 | 33 | 40 | floodplain |
| | | | 36 | 21 | 40 | floodplain |
| | | | | 22 | 40 | floodplain |
| | 51 | 27W | 16 | 21 | 23 | comm. timber |
| | 52 | 26W | 23 | 24 | 10 | floodplain |
| BELTRAMI | 152 | 31W | 17 | 22 | 40 | |
| | | 32W | 01 | 11 | 40 | |
| | | | 03 | 11 | 12 | |
| | | | 13 | 11 | 40 | |
| KOOCHICHING | 66 | 25W | 03 | 11 | 37 | |
| | 67 | 25W | 14 | 21 | 40 | comm. timber |
| | | | 17 | 12 | 40 | |
| | | | | 13 | 40 | |
| | 68 | 22W | 05 | 11 | 19 | |
| | | | | 12 | 19 | |
| | | 24W | 07 | 24 | 40 | indust. mineral |
| | | | | 43 | 40 | |
| | | 25W | 01 | 34 | 40 | comm. timber |
| LAKE O WOODS | 158 | 30W | 01 | 12 | 40 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | | 13 | 40 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | | 21 | 40 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | | 42 | 40 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | 02 | 31 | 40 | |
| | | | | 42 | 40 | |
| | | | 31 | 43 | 40 | non-comm. peat |
| | | | | 44 | 40 | non-comm. peat |
| | 159 | 30W | 22 | 11 | 40 | wildlife |
| | | | | 12 | 40 | wildlife |
| | | | 23 | 22 | 40 | wildlife |
| | | | 33 | 33 | 40 | |
| | 160 | 33W | 05 | 32 | 40 | wildlife |
| | | | | 34 | 40 | wildlife |
| | 161 | 33W | 13 | 44 | 00.2 | |
| | | | 30 | 33 | 38 | |
| | | | | 42 | 40 | |
| | | 34W | 24 | 34 | 40 | |
| ROSEAU | 162 | 38W | 10 | 11 | 06 | |

## APPENDIX C: UNSOLD SURPLUS LAND

The following is a list of DNR-administered parcels within Con Con counties that were identified and offered for sale in 1982. (Acreage figures are rounded to the nearest whole acre.)

| COUNTY | TWP. | RNG. | SEC. | QUAR. | ACRES |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AITKIN | 46 | 25W | 7 | 43 | 40 |
| | 48 | 22W | 10 | 31 | 40 |
| | | | 14 | 11 | 40 |
| | | | | 12 | 40 |
| | | 25W | 10 | 31 | 40 |
| | | | | | tot. 200 acres |
| KOOCHICHING | 69 | 25W | 16 | 41 | 40 |
| | | | | 44 | 40 |
| | 70 | 26W | 34 | 32 | 40 |
| | | | | 33 | 40 |
| | | | | 34 | 40 |
| | | | 36 | 23 | 40 |
| | | | | 43 | 40 |
| | 152 | 27W | 29 | 11 | 40 |
| | | | | 12 | 40 |
| | | 28W | 36 | 31 | 40 |
| | | | | 32 | 40 |
| | | | | | tot. 440 acres |

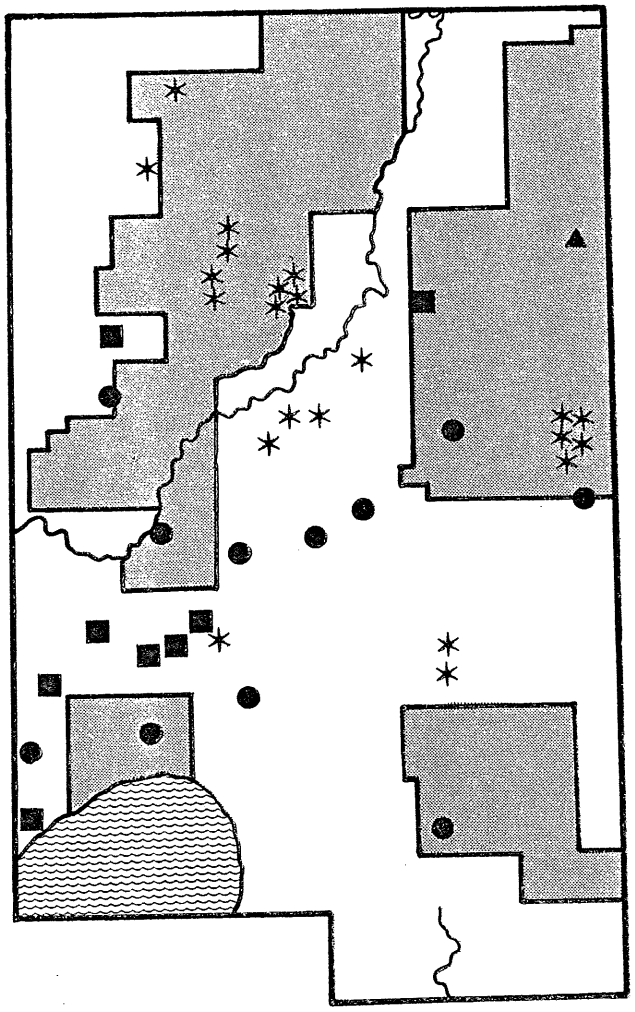
SUMMARY OF SURPLUS ACREAGE IN COUNTIES WITH CONSOLIDATED CONSERVATION AREAS:

| | FROM SUITABILITY ----PROCESS----- | FROM 1982 -PROCESS- | --TOTAL--- |
|---|---|---|---|
| AITKIN | 1,796 acres | 200 acres | 1,996 acres |
| BELTRAMI | 132 acres | 0 acres | 132 acres |
| KOOCHICHING | 315 acres | 440 acres | 755 acres |
| LAKE OF THE WOODS | 719 acres | 0 acres | 719 acres |
| ROSEAU | 6 acres | 0 acres | 6 acres |
| | 2,968 acres | 640 acres | 3,608 acres |

## APPENDIX D: MAPS OF CON-CON COUNTIES

The following maps display the Consolidated Conservation areas within Aitkin, Beltrami, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, and Roseau counties. The maps also display the relative locations within those counties of most of the land aquisitions and dispositions discussed in this report.

# Areas of Planned Future Acquisition and Disposal of D.N.R. Administered Land in Aitkin County



Consolidated Conservation Area

Water

Wildlife Management Area

State Park and Recreation Area

Priority for Lake Access

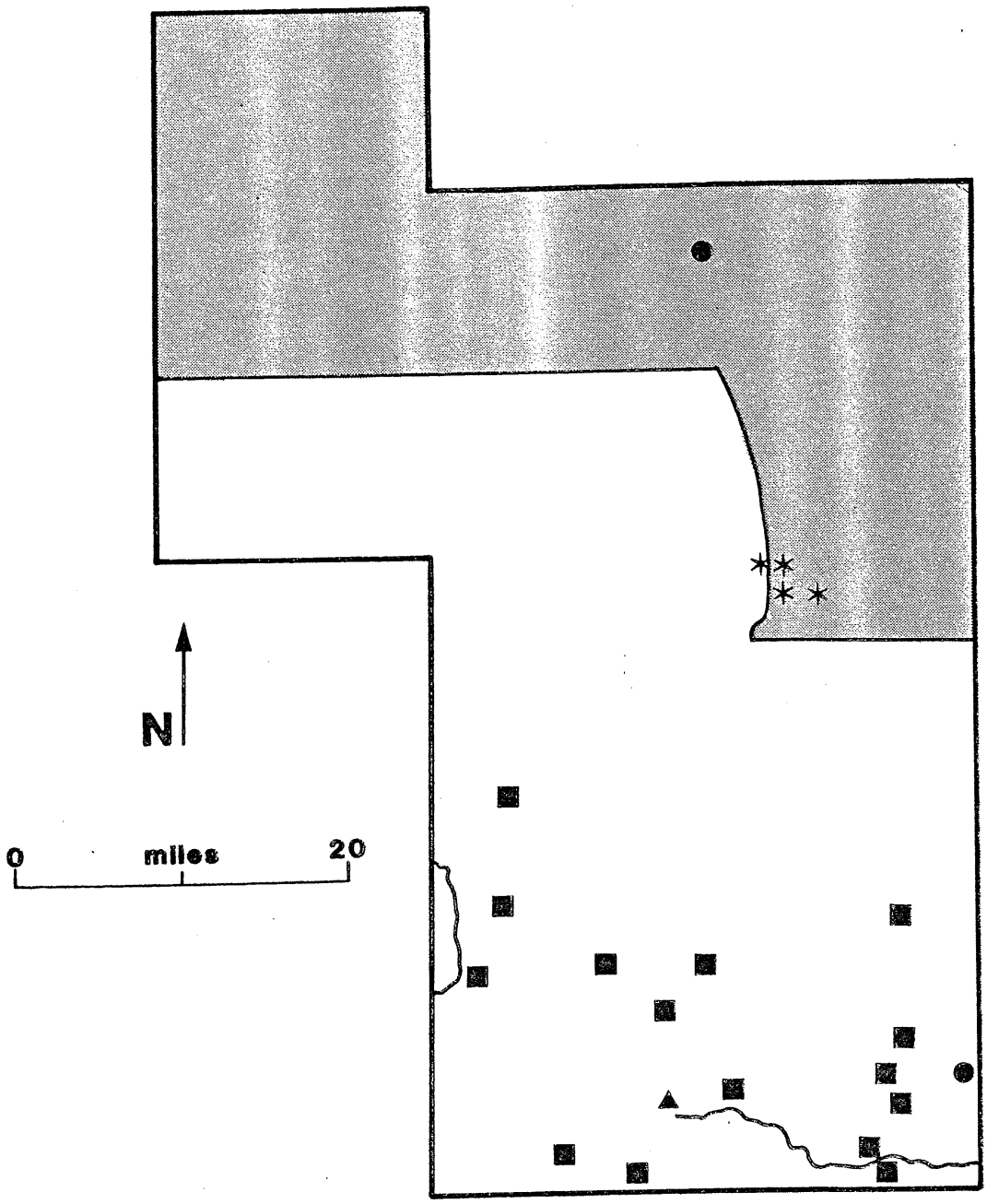
Surplus Land

Canoe and Boating Route

N

0 miles 20

# Areas of Planned Future Acquisition and Disposal of D.N.R. Administered Land in Beltrami County




Consolidated Conservation Area

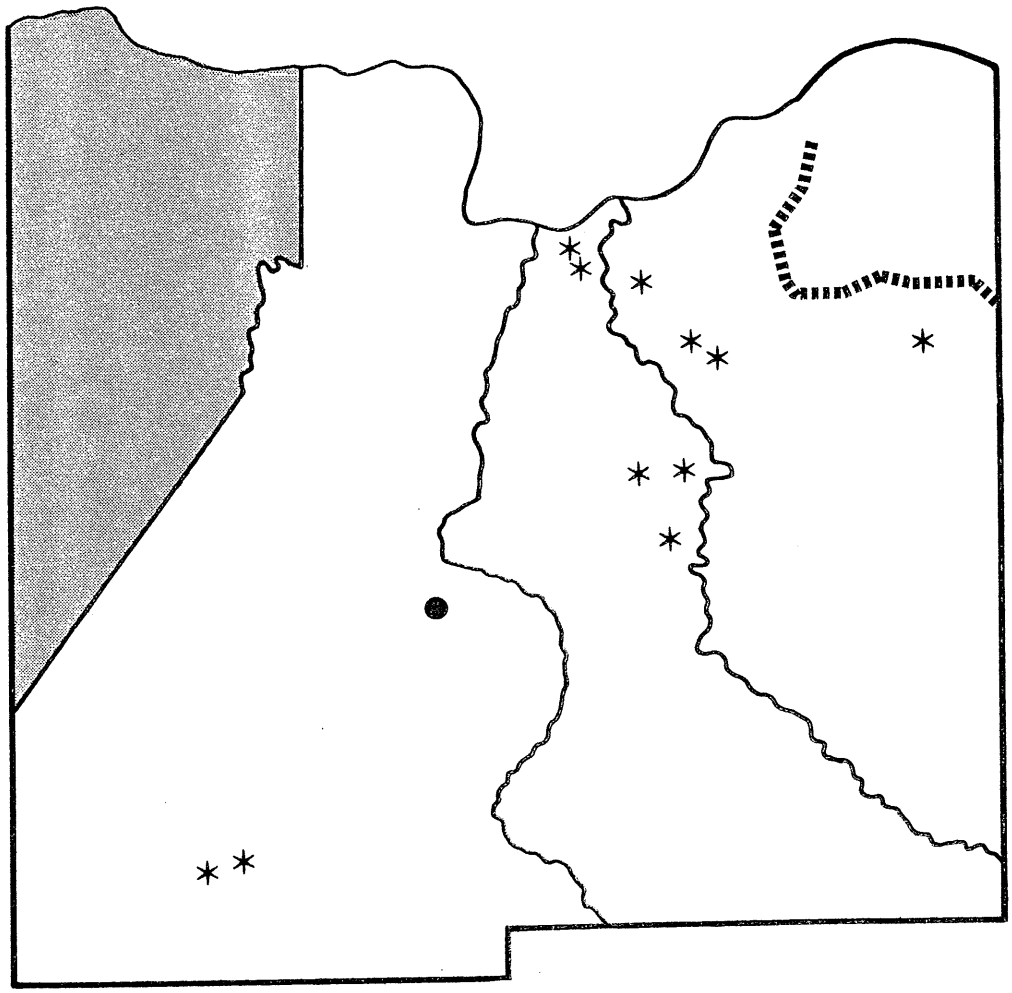
● Wildlife Management Area

▲ State Park and Recreation Area

■ Priority for Lake Access

✶ Surplus Land

# Areas of Planned Future Acquisition and Disposal of D.N.R. Administered Land in Koochiching County

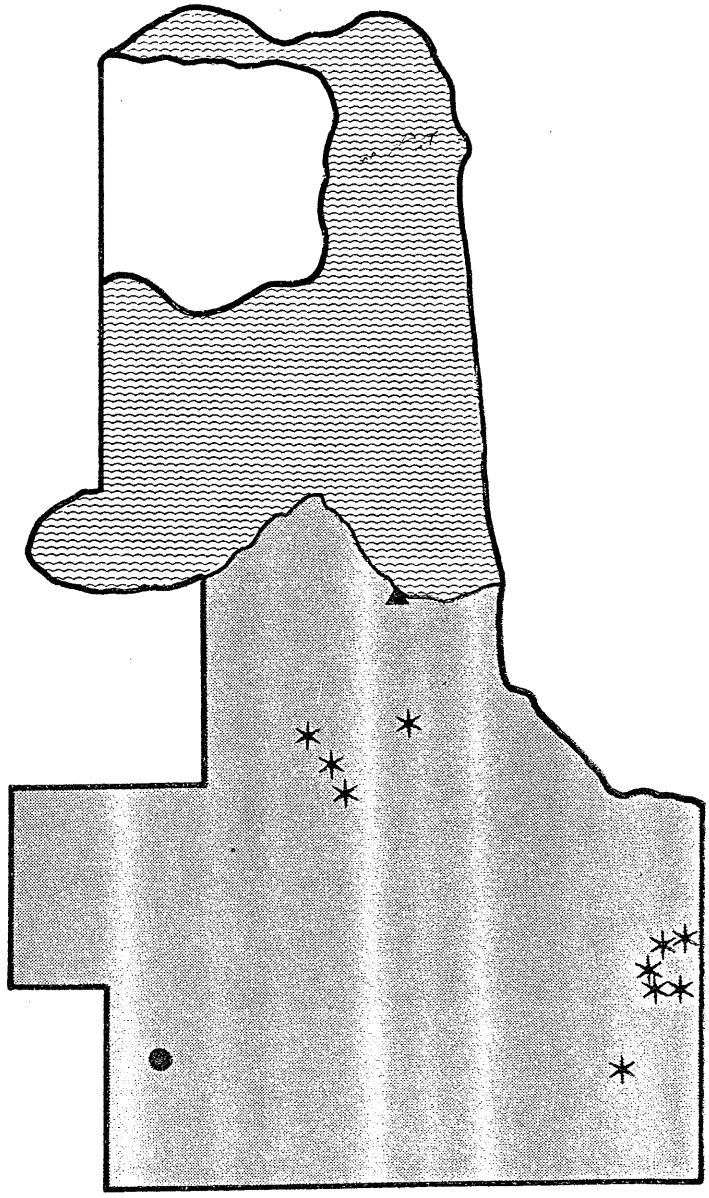


N

0 miles 20

- Consolidated Conservation Area
- Wildlife Management Area
- State Park and Recreation Area
- Priority for Lake Access
- Surplus Land
- Canoe and Boating Route or River with High Priority for Access
- State Trail

# Areas of Planned Future Acquisition and Disposal of D.N.R. Administered Land in Lake of the Woods County



Consolidated Conservation Area

Water

Wildlife Management Area

State Park and Recreation Area

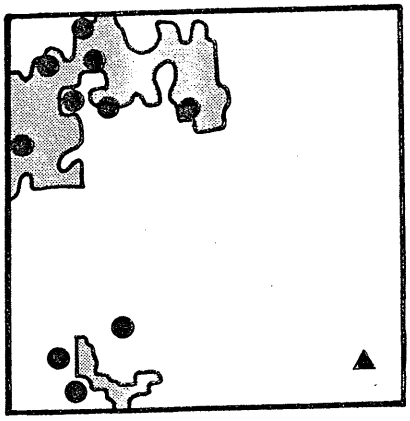
Priority for Lake Access

Surplus Land

N

0 miles 20

# Areas of Planned Future Acquisition and Disposal of D.N.R. Administered Land in Mahnomen County



Consolidated Conservation Area

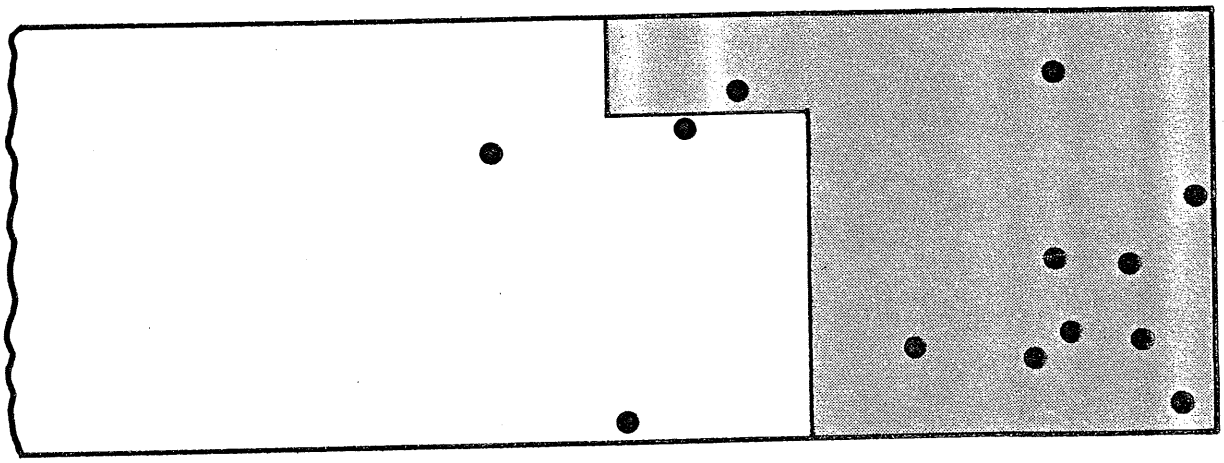
● Wildlife Management Area

▲ State Park and Recreation Area

N

0 miles 20

# Areas of Planned Future Acquisition and Disposal of D.N.R. Administered Land in Marshall County



Consolidated Conservation Area

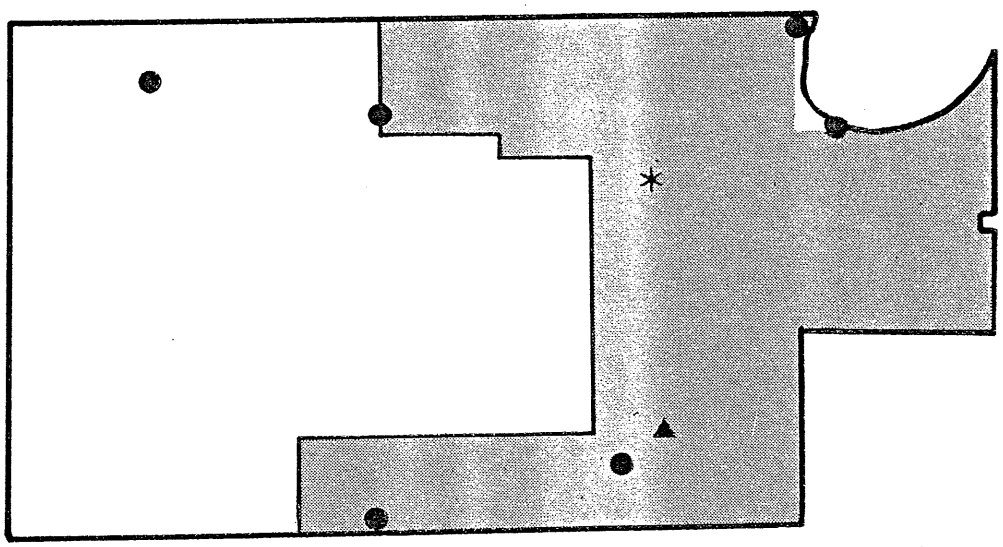
● Wildlife Management Area

▲ State Park and Recreation Area

N

0 miles 20

# Areas of Planned Future Acquisition and Disposal of D.N.R. Administered Land in Roseau County



Consolidated Conservation Area

● Wildlife Management Area

▲ State Park and Recreation Area

■ Priority for Lake Access

✳ Surplus Land

N

0 miles 20