Minnesota Natural Resources Department: Environmental Assessment Files Regarding State Parks

Dept. of Natural Resources
OFFICE OF PLANNING

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office Memorandum

DATE: August 29, 1988

TO: PARTIES ON EAW DISTRIBUTION LIST

FROM: Thomas W. Balcom, Supervisor T.B.
NR Planning and Review Services Section

SUBJECT: LAKE ITASCA BOAT HOUSE AND HARBOR PROJECT - ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET (EAW)

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has prepared an environmental assessment worksheet (attached) for the University of Minnesota Itasca Forestry and Biological Station's boat house and harbor project on Lake Itasca in Clearwater County. The project consists of the construction of a boat house and the dredging of a small harbor to replace an existing boat house and docks. A 30-day review and comment period will begin on September 6, 1988 with the publication of the notice of availability of this EAW in the EQB Monitor. Comments on the EAW should be sent to:

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION
ATTN: Paul Rundell
2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE
Bemidji, MN 56601
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4045

755 3953

Attachment

E.R. #(filled in by EQB) ______________

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET (EAW)

MARK AS APPROPRIATE:

__X__ REGULAR EAW ____ SCOPING EAW

NOTE TO REVIEWERS: For regular EAWs, written comments should address the accuracy and completeness of the EAW information, potential impacts that may warrant investigation and/or the need for an EIS. For scoping EAWs, written comments should address the accuracy and completeness of the information and suggest issues for investigation in the EIS. Such comments must be submitted to the Responsible Government Unit (RGU) during the 30-day period following notice of the EAW's availability in the EQB Monitor. Contact the EQB (metro 612-296-8523; non-metro: 1-800-652-9747, ask for environmental review program) or the RGU to find out when the 30-day comment period ends.

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1. **Project Name:** LAKE ITASCA BOAT HOUSE AND HARBOR [redacted] ?

2. **Proposer:** University of Minnesota

   Contact Person: Jon Ross

   Address: University of Minnesota Biological Station
   Lake Itasca, MN 56460

   Phone: (218) 266-3345

3. **RGU:** Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources

   Contact Person: Paul Rundell
   and Title: Resource Coodinator, Division of Parks and Recreation

   Address: 2115 Birchmont Beach Road NE
   Bemidji, MN 56601

   Phone: (218) 755-3953

4. **Project Location:** SW ¼ SE ¼ Section 2 Township 143N Range 36W

   a. County Name Clearwater City/Township Name Itasca

   b. Attach copies of each of the following to the EAW:

      1. a county map showing the general area of the project. (See Figure 2)
      2. a copy(ies) of USGS 7½ minute, 1:24,000 scale map. (See Figure 3)
      3. a site plan showing the location of significant features such as proposed structures, roads, extent of flood plain, wetlands, wells, etc. (See Figure 4)
      4. an existing land use map and a zoning map of the immediate area, if available.

5. **Describe the proposed project completely (attach additional sheets as necessary).**

The proposed project consists of the construction of a boat house and harbor at the University of Minnesota Itasca Forestry and Biological Station on Lake Itasca. The existing boat house will be demolished because the footings are structurally unsound. The new boat house (approx. 18 ft. by 24 ft.) will be located farther from the shoreline than the old one, will be constructed from wood and painted brown, and will be screened by trees from public view from the lake. The boat house will be used to store life jackets and gear such as paddles, nets, and traps so that this equipment is readily available to students and researchers. No fuel facilities will be located at the boat house.

A boat harbor, 50 ft. by 90 ft. or approximately 0.20 acres in size, will be constructed so that docks and watercraft can be placed out of view from the public and can be protected from the wind. The harbor will be dredged with a dragline to a depth of about 7 feet. A strip of forested land about 10 to 14 feet wide will be left between the lake and the harbor to act as a natural berm. A 12-15 foot cut will be made in the shore of the lake to provide an entrance to the harbor. The dredged material will be hauled to an established disposal site within Itasca State Park. — ? - old dump site

6. **Reason for EAW preparation:** Mandatory

List all mandatory category rule #'s which apply: 4410.4300 subp. 30 - Natural Areas

7. **Estimated construction cost:** $10,000

8. **Total project area (acres)** 0.25 acres **or length (miles)** ____________

9. **Number of residential units** N/A **or commercial, industrial, or institutional square footage** N/A

10. **Number of proposed parking spaces:** N/A

11. **List of all known local, state and federal permits/approvals/funding required:**

Level of Government		Type of Application	Status
Federal:			
State:	MN Dept. of Natural Resources (MDNR)	Protected Waters	Pending
	MDNR	Parks Project Checklist	Approved

12. **Is the proposed project inconsistent with the local adopted comprehensive land use plan or any other adopted plans?** _____ NO __X__ YES
If yes, explain:

This project was not addressed in the management plan for Itasca State Park. The proposed project is located on the east shore of the north arm of Lake Itasca, which is the most highly developed part of the shoreline. The park's boat landing and boat rental facility are located one-half mile north of the project. The station is located in the intensive use zone of

what does the U's plan say?

change to long range plan
it called for re build & expansion

the park, which includes Douglas Lodge, Peace Pipe Vista, Preachers Grove, and the campground registration office. Brower Inn, the swimming beach, and the museum are all located between one-half to one mile north of the station.

13. **Describe current and recent past land use and development on and near the site.**

The proposed project will be located on forested land at the Itasca Biological Station between existing faculty cabins and the Lake Itasca shoreline.

14. **Approximately how many acres of the site are in each of the following categories? (Acreages should add up to total project area before and after construction.)**

	Before	After		Before	After
Forest/Wooded	0.25	0	Wetland (types 3-8)	0	0
Cropland	0	0	Impervious Surface	0	0.05*
Brush/grassland	0	0	Other (specify)	0	0.20*

* 0.20 acres will be the boat harbor and 0.05 acres will be the boat house.

15. **Describe the soils on the site, giving the SCS soil classification types, if known.**

LLWL: (silty) over loam, well-drained light-colored soils.
(from Itasca Park Soils map)

16. **Does the site contain peat soils, highly erodible soils, steep slopes, sinkholes, shallow limestone formations, abandoned wells, or any geologic hazards? If yes, show on site map and explain:**

___ NO _X_ YES

The lakeshore area contains beach ridge sands. There is a steep slope on the east side of the proposed harbor.

17. **What is the approximate depth (in feet) to:**

a. groundwater _3'_ min. _3'_ avg.
b. bedrock _300'_ min. _400'_ avg.

18. **Does any part of the project area involve:**

a. shoreland zoning district? ___ NO _X_ YES
b. delineated 100-year flood plain? _X_ NO ___ YES
c. state or federally designated river land use district? _X_ NO ___ YES

If yes, identify water body and applicable state classification(s), and describe measures to protect water and related land resources:

The proposed project is on the shoreline of Lake Itasca, which is classified as a Natural Environment lake. The natural vegetation will be left on the shoreline and will screen the boat house and harbor from view from the lake. The boat house will be constructed from wood and painted brown to reduce its visibility. The type and color of the exterior materials used for the boat house (shingles and siding) will be consistent with those used on buildings in the park and with other buildings at the station.

19. **Describe any physical alteration (e.g., dikes, excavation, fill, stream diversion) of any drainage system, lake, stream, and/or wetland. Describe measures to minimize impairment of the water-related resources. Estimate quantity of material to be dredged and indicate where spoils will be deposited.**

Approximately 3000 cu. yds. of earth will be dredged with a dragline to construct the boat harbor. A cut approximately 12 to 15 feet long will be made in the shoreline of Lake Itasca to provide an entrance to the harbor. The harbor will be dredged before the connection is made to the lake to allow time for any turbid water to settle out. The dredged material will be disposed of in an established disposal site in Itasca State Park.

20. **a. Will the project require an appropriation of ground or surface water? If yes, explain (indicate quantity and source):** X NO ____ YES

b. Will the project affect groundwater levels in any wells (on or off the site)? If yes, explain: X NO ____ YES

21. **Describe the erosion and sedimentation control measures to be used during and after construction of the project.**

The disturbed area will be seeded after construction is completed. The walls of the boat harbor will be shored with timbers, if necessary, to control erosion.

22. a. Will the project generate:

1. surface and stormwater runoff?	X	NO		YES
2. sanitary wastewater?	X	NO		YES
3. industrial wastewater?	X	NO		YES
4. cooling water (contact and noncontact)?	X	NO		YES

If yes, identify sources, volumes, quality (of other than normal domestic sewage), and treatment methods. Give the basis or methodology of estimates.

b. Identify received waters, including groundwater, and evaluate the impacts of the discharges listed above. If discharges to groundwater are anticipated, provide percolation/permeability and other hydrogeological test data, if available.

23. Will the project generate (either during or after construction):

a. air pollution?	X	NO		YES
b. dust?		NO	X	YES
c. noise?		NO	X	YES
d. odors?	X	NO		YES

If yes, explain, including as appropriate, distances to sensitive land uses; expected levels and duration of noise, types and quantities of air pollutants from stacks, mobile sources, and fugitive emissions (dust); odor sources; and mitigative measures for any impacts. Give the basis or methodology of estimates.

During the construction of the boat house and harbor, there will be noise and dust from the use of construction equipment. The cabins at the station are located 100-200 feet away from the project. Two park campgrounds are located one-half mile and one mile away, respectively. Construction will be carried out either in the fall or in early spring, when use of the station and the campgrounds is minimal.

24. **Describe the type and amount of solid and/or hazardous waste including sludges and ashes that will be generated and the method and location of disposal:**

No solid and/or hazardous waste will be generated by the project.

25. **Will the project affect:**
    a. **fish or wildlife habitat, or movement of animals?** ______ NO __X__ YES
    b. **any native species that are officially listed as state endangered, threatened, or of special concern (animals and/or plants)?** __X__ NO ______ YES

If yes, explain (identify species and describe impact): Approximately 0.25 acres of forested land will be converted to open water, resulting in a very small loss of wildlife habitat, and there will be a small increase in lake shoreline. The boat harbor may provide spawning habitat for some species of fish.

ok

26. **Do any historical, archaeological or architectural resources exist on or near the project site? If yes, explain (show resources on a site map and describe impact):**

__X__ NO ______ YES

Dave sign off? U of M looked at.

27. **Will the project cause the impairment or destruction of:**

a. designated park or recreation areas?	__X__ NO	______ YES
b. prime or unique farmlands?	__X__ NO	______ YES
c. ecologically sensitive areas?	__X__ NO	______ YES
d. scenic views and vistas?	__X__ NO	______ YES
e. other unique resources (specify)?	__X__ NO	______ YES

If yes, explain:

28. **For each affected road indicate the current average daily traffic (ADT), increase in ADT contributed by the project and the directional distributions of traffic.**

N/A

29. **Are adequate utilities and public services now available to the project? If not, what additional utilities and/or services will be required?**

______ NO __X__ YES

SUMMARY OF ISSUES

For regular EAWs, list the issues as identified by "yes" answers above. Discuss alternatives and mitigative measures for these issues. For scoping EAWs, list known issues, alternatives, and mitigative measures to be addressed in EIS.

Inconsistancy with Itasca State Park Plan - The project was not addressed in the management plan for the park. The project is located in the intensive use zone of the park and on the most highly developed part of the shoreline of Lake Itasca.

Steep Slope - The steep slope on the east side of the harbor will be reseeded after construction if it has been disturbed.

Shoreland Zoning District - The natural vegetation along the shoreline will be left to screen the boat house and harbor from view from the lake. The boat house will be constructed from wood and painted brown to reduce its visibility.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat - The project will result in a very small loss of wildlife habitat and may result in an increase in spawning habitat for some species of fish.

Noise & Dust - the proposed project will generate noise and dust for a brief time during construction. Construction will be carried out either in the fall or in early spring, when use of the station and the campgrounds is minimal.

CERTIFICATION BY RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENTAL UNIT

I hereby certify that the information contained in this document is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and that copies of the completed EAW have been made available to all points on the official EQB distribution list.

Signature Thomas W. Balcom Date 8/29/88

Title Planning Director

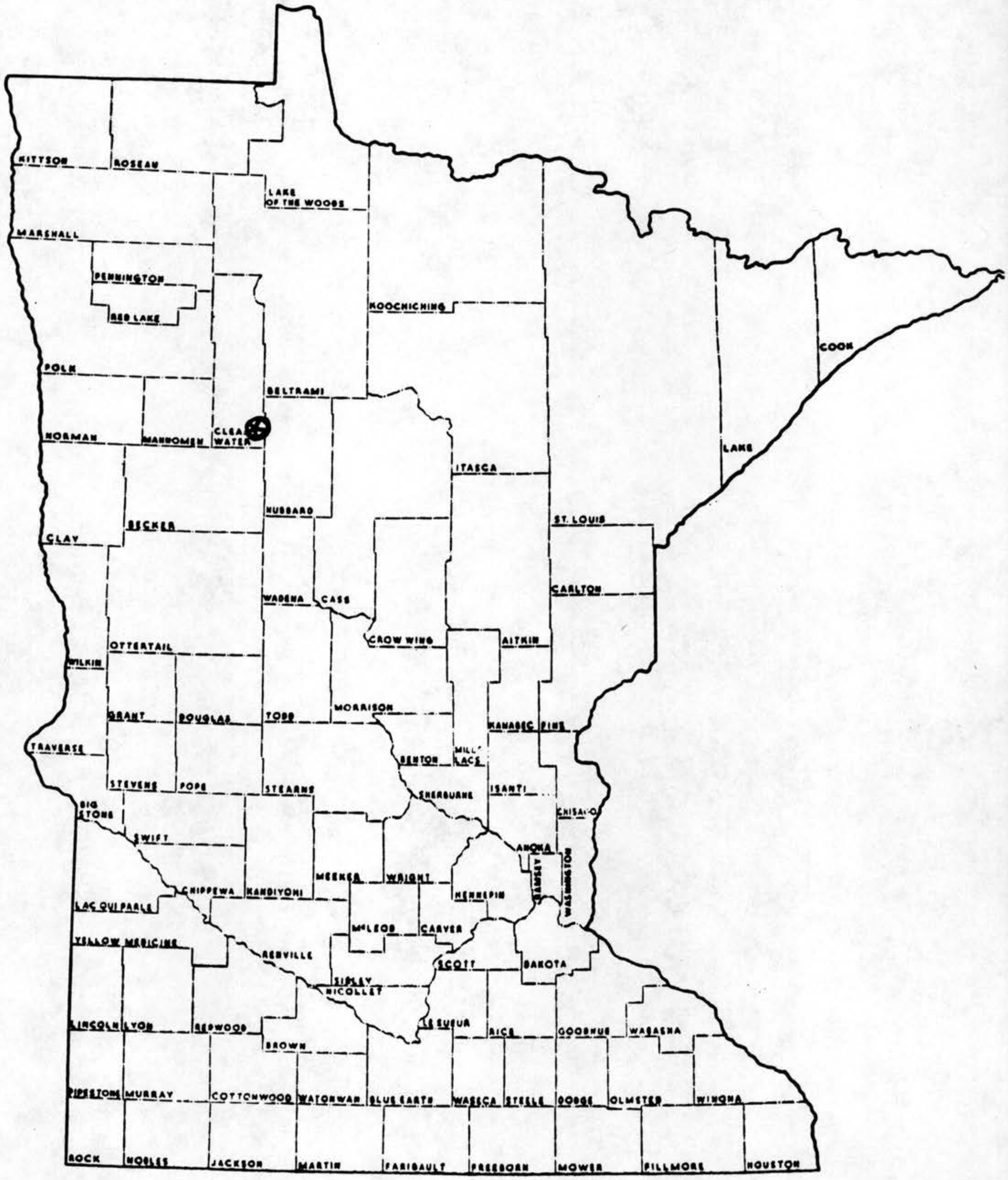


Figure 1
Project Location

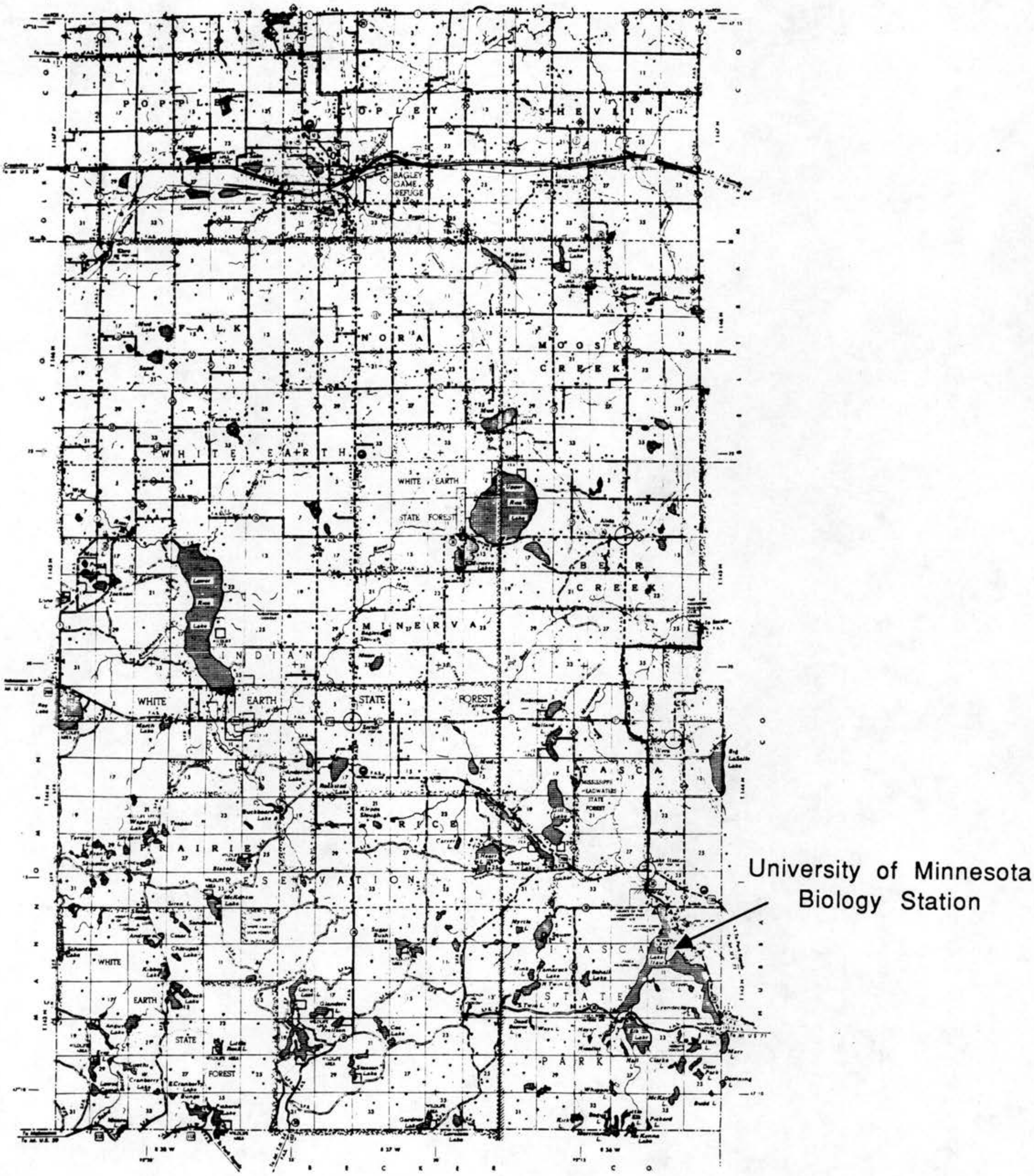
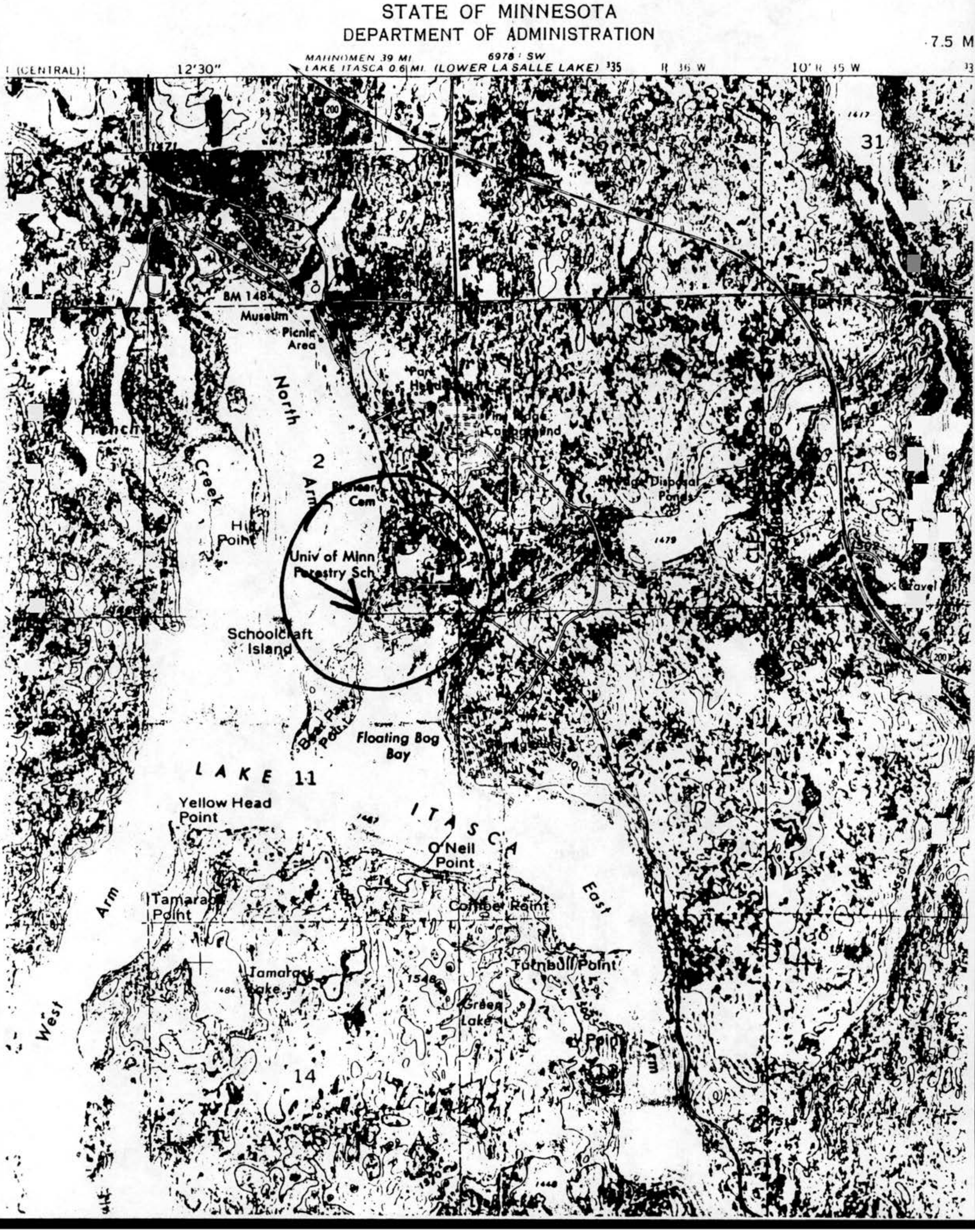


Figure 2
Southern Half of Clearwater County

Figure 3


STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION
7.5 M
MAHNOMEN 39 MI
LAKE ITASCA 0.6 MI
6978 I SW
(LOWER LA SALLE LAKE)
12'30"
R 36 W
10' R 35 W
31
200
BM 1484
Museum
Picnic Area
North
Arm
2
French
Creek
Hill Point
Univ of Minn Forestry Sch
Schoolcraft Island
Pioneer Cem
Sewage Disposal Ponds
1479
Floating Bog Bay
LAKE
11
ITASCA
Yellow Head Point
O'Neil Point
Tamarack Point
Coffee Point
East
West
Arm
Tamarack Lake
1484
1548
Green Lake
Turnbull Point
14

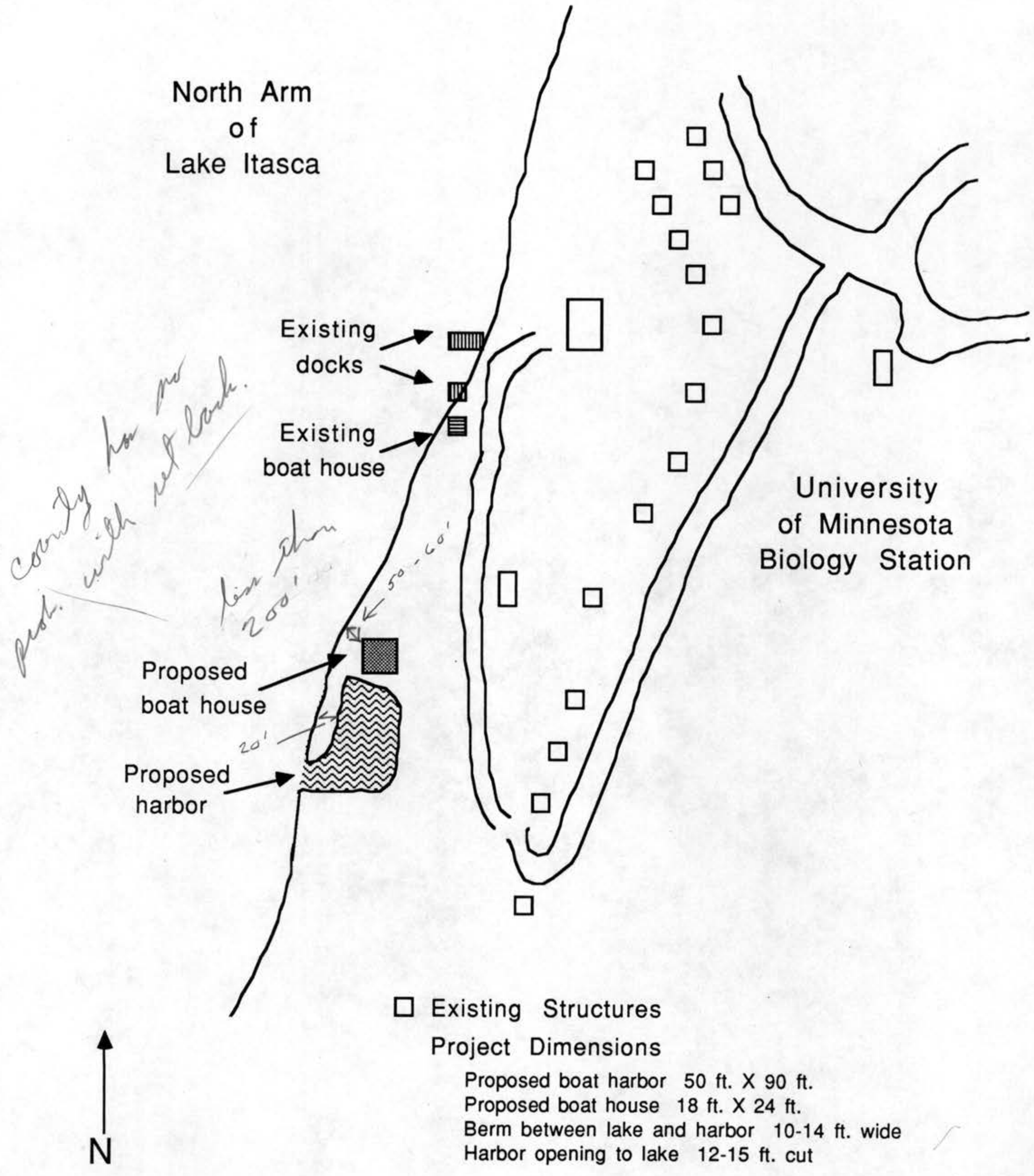

North Arm
of
Lake Itasca
Existing
docks
Existing
boat house
Proposed
boat house
Proposed
harbor
University
of Minnesota
Biology Station
County has no prob. with set back.
less than 200'
50-60'
20'
Existing Structures
Project Dimensions
Proposed boat harbor 50 ft. X 90 ft.
Proposed boat house 18 ft. X 24 ft.
Berm between lake and harbor 10-14 ft. wide
Harbor opening to lake 12-15 ft. cut
N

Figure 4

Addendum

Whitewater State Park Environmental Assessment

LW27-00776

I. Description of the Proposed Action

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources intends to increase the quality of outdoor recreational opportunities at Whitewater State Park by developing new facilities and upgrading existing ones.

The Heritage Conservation Recreation Service proposes to participate with the State of Minnesota in the following proposed projects:

- a new 84 site campground and sanitation building will be built to replace an existing campground which is prone to flood damage
- the existing bathing beach house will be renovated to provide toilet facilities, showers, a sewage system and to be barrier free.
- the signing of park facilities as called for in the park management plan.
- trail redesign and improvement to complete the park's trail system as called for in the park management plan.
- to plant trees in old agricultural fields and convert other old agricultural areas into prairie.
- improve campgrounds and picnic areas by replacing fire rings and drinking fountains and providing grills.
- constructing two miles of new boundary fence.
- move the wood storage shed from the group camp to the service court.
- obliterate the old campground and return the area to a natural state.
- obliterate a building site and restore to a natural state.

II. Description of the Environment

(see assessment previously submitted LW27-00776)

III. Environmental Impact of the Proposed Project

With the exception of the new campground, all the projects are in heavily disturbed areas and no adverse impacts are anticipated except to users. Park users will not be able to use these areas during construction. The projects will be done during low use periods to minimize the impact.

The new campground will be built in a former pasture. There will be a loss of some trees and soil compaction at the campsites. Animals using the area will be displaced.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
WHITEWATER STATE PARK

I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

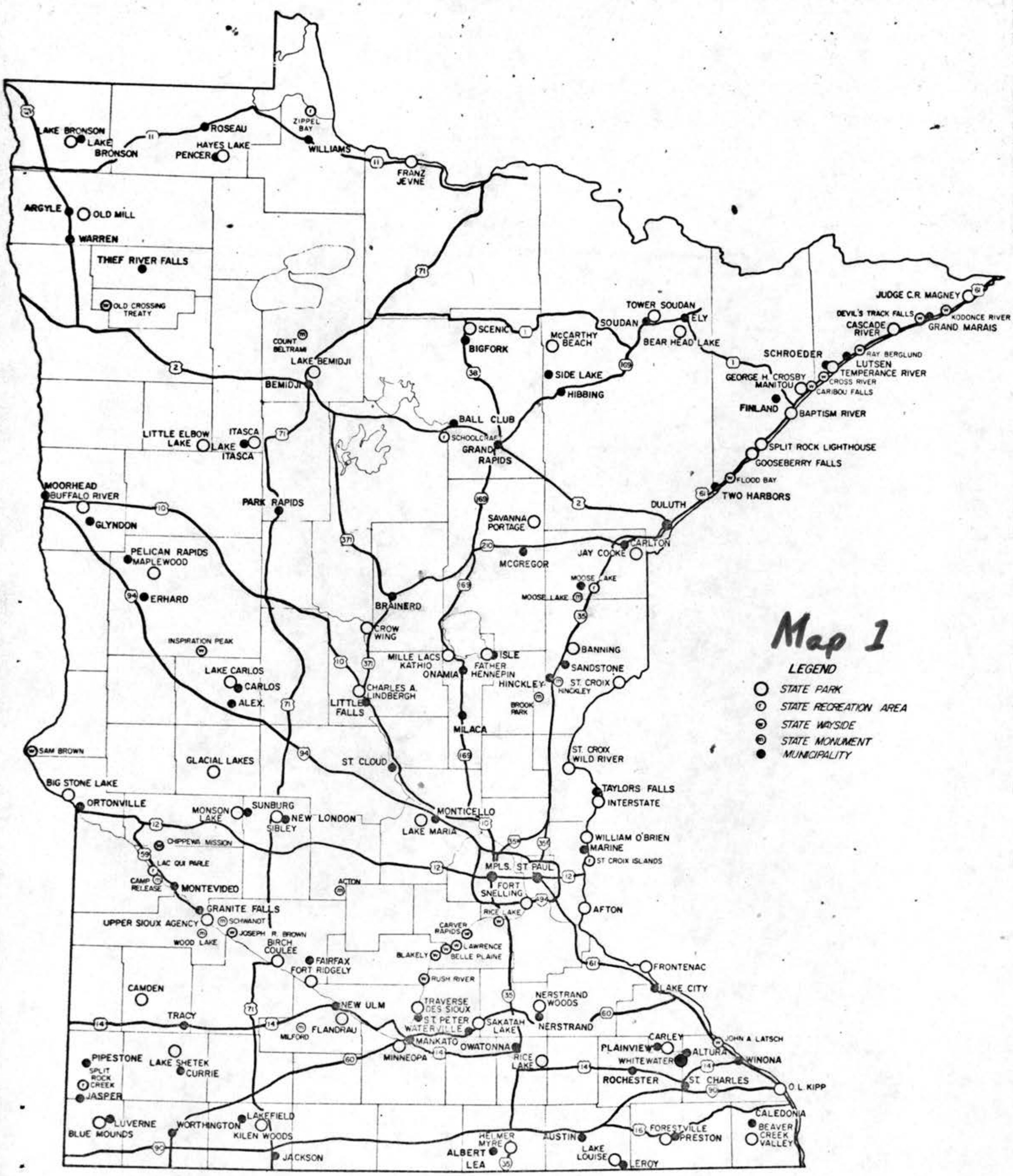
A. Purpose of the Action - Whitewater State Park was established by an act of the Minnesota State Legislature in 1919.

The acquisition and possible development of privately owned lands within the park statutory boundary, by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Division of Parks and Recreation, will provide an additional acreage of publicly owned lands available for open space and various outdoor recreational opportunities.

The State of Minnesota proposes that the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, as administrator of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON), participate with the Department of Natural Resources in this proposed action.

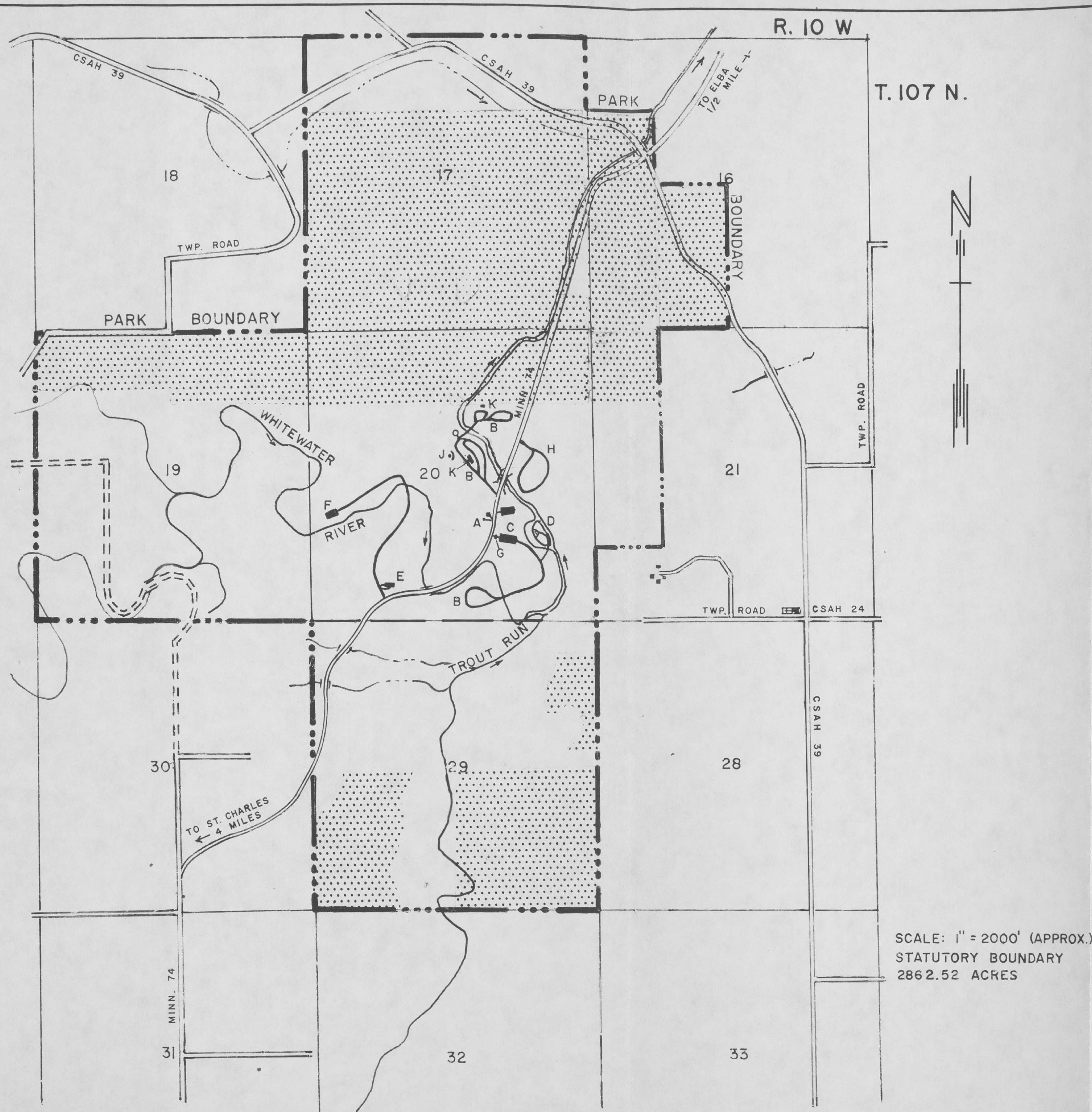
B. Location and Magnitude of the Project - Whitewater State Park is located in the extreme southeastern portion of the State (west-central Winona County). The cities of Winona and Rochester Minnesota are located approximately equidistant (22 miles) east and west respectively from the park (Maps 1 and 2).

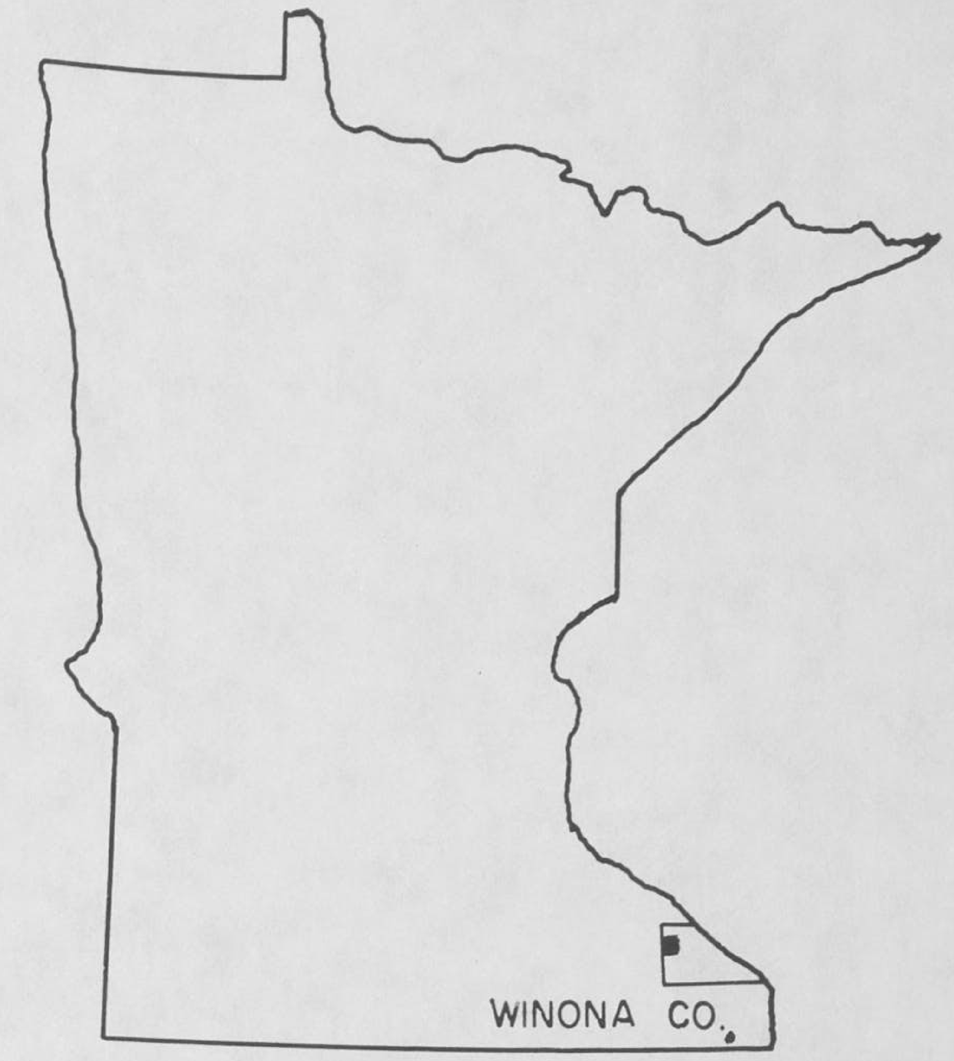
The 1919 legislative act authorized the State to purchase approximately 750 acres for the park. Subsequent legislative authorizations have increased the present statutory boundaries to include 2,862.52 acres. The total statutory acreage includes approximately 1,290 acres of privately owned lands, involving 9 separate tracts (Map 3). The Division of Parks and Recreation proposes that these 9 tracts be acquired with the assistance of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.


LEGEND
STATE PARK
STATE RECREATION AREA
STATE WAYSIDE
STATE MONUMENT
MUNICIPALITY
LAKE BRONSON
LAKE BRONSON
ROSEAU
HAYES LAKE
PENCER
ZIPPEL BAY
WILLIAMS
FRANZ JEVNE
ARGYLE
OLD MILL
WARREN
THIEF RIVER FALLS
OLD CROSSING TREATY
COUNT BELTRAMI
LAKE BEMIDJI
BEMIDJI
SCENIC
BIGFORK
McCARTHY BEACH
SIDE LAKE
HIBBING
TOWER SOUDAN
SOUDAN
ELY
BEAR HEAD LAKE
JUDGE C.R. MAGNEY
DEVIL'S TRACK FALLS
KODONCE RIVER
CASCADE RIVER
GRAND MARAIS
SCHROEDER
RAY BERGLUND
LUTSEN
TEMPERANCE RIVER
GEORGE H. CROSBY MANITOU
CROSS RIVER
CARIBOU FALLS
FINLAND
BAPTISM RIVER
SPLIT ROCK LIGHTHOUSE
GOOSEBERRY FALLS
FLOOD BAY
TWO HARBORS
DULUTH
LITTLE ELBOW LAKE
ITASCA
LAKE ITASCA
BALL CLUB
SCHOOLCRAFT
GRAND RAPIDS
MOORHEAD
BUFFALO RIVER
GLYNDON
PARK RAPIDS
SAVANNA PORTAGE
CARLTON
JAY COOKE
MCGREGOR
PELICAN RAPIDS
MAPLEWOOD
ERHARD
MOOSE LAKE
MOOSE LAKE
BRAINERD
CROW WING
INSPIRATION PEAK
BANNING
SANDSTONE
MILLE LACS KATHIO
ISLE
FATHER HENNEPIN
ONAMIA
HINCKLEY
ST. CROIX
HINCKLEY
BROOK PARK
LAKE CARLOS
CARLOS
ALEX.
CHARLES A. LINDBERGH
LITTLE FALLS
MILACA
SAM BROWN
GLACIAL LAKES
ST. CLOUD
ST. CROIX WILD RIVER
BIG STONE LAKE
ORTONVILLE
TAYLORS FALLS
INTERSTATE
MONSON LAKE
SUNBURG
NEW LONDON
SIBLEY
MONTICELLO
LAKE MARIA
CHIPPEWA MISSION
WILLIAM O'BRIEN
MARINE
ST CROIX ISLANDS
LAC QUI PARLE
CAMP RELEASE
MONTEVIDEO
ACTON
MPLS.
ST. PAUL
FORT SNELLING
GRANITE FALLS
UPPER SIOUX AGENCY
SCHWANDT
JOSEPH R. BROWN
WOOD LAKE
RICE LAKE
AFTON
CARVER RAPIDS
LAWRENCE
BELLE PLAINE
BLAKELY
BIRCH COULEE
FAIRFAX
FORT RIDGELY
FRONTENAC
CAMDEN
RUSH RIVER
LAKE CITY
NEW ULM
TRAVERSE DES SIOUX
NERSTRAND WOODS
TRACY
ST PETER
SAKATAH LAKE
NERSTRAND
FLANDRAU
MILFORD
WATERVILLE
MANKATO
JOHN A. LATSCH
CARLEY
PLAINVIEW
ALTURA
WHITEWATER
WINONA
PIPESTONE
LAKE SHETEK
CURRIE
MINNEOPA
OWATONNA
RICE LAKE
ROCHESTER
ST. CHARLES
SPLIT ROCK CREEK
JASPER
O.L. KIPP
CALEDONIA
LUVERNE
BLUE MOUNDS
WORTHINGTON
LAKEFIELD
KILEN WOODS
FORESTVILLE
PRESTON
HELMER MYRE
AUSTIN
BEAVER CREEK VALLEY
ALBERT LEA
LAKE LOUISE
LEROY
JACKSON

Map 1


GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP
WINONA COUNTY
MINNESOTA
ISSUED BY THE
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
IN COOPERATION WITH THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS
DATA OBTAINED AND MAP PREPARED BY THE
PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING DIVISION
OFFICE OF
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
SCALE OF STATUTE MILES
1969
BASIC DATA 1964**
Map 2
Polyconic Projection
North American Datum of 1927
Projection Reference
46th Parallel—94th Meridian
LEGEND
ROAD AND ROADWAY FEATURES
NAVIGATION
WABASHA CO.
FILLMORE CO.
HOUSTON CO.
WISCONSIN
MISSISSIPPI
RIVER
UPPER MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL WILDLIFE AND FISH REFUGE
WHITEWATER
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
MOUNT VERNON
ROLLINGSTONE
MINNESOTA MEMORIAL
NORTON
HILLSDALE
WINONA
ELBA
ST. CHARLES
UTICA
WARREN
HARDWOOD
HOMER
RICHMOND
STATE
FOREST
FREMONT
HART
WISCOY
PLEASANT HILL
NEW HARTFORD
SARATOGA
DRESBACH
GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP WINONA COUNTY MINNESOTA 85





Map 3

KEY

EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

STATE LAND

PRIVATE LAND

A.	HEADQUARTERS	G.	ADMIN. BLDG.
B.	CAMPGROUND	H.	PRIMITIVE CAMP
C.	PICNIC AREA	J.	AMPHITHEATER
D.	BEACH	K.	TOILET BLDG.
E.	VISITOR CENTER		
F.	GROUP CAMP		

NOV 8 1976

SCALE: 1" = 2000' (APPROX.)
STATUTORY BOUNDARY
2862.52 ACRES

MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCE
DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION
STATE PARK SITE

WHITEWATER STATE PARK
WINONA CO. – NEAR ELBA

SEC.	T. 107 N.	R. 10 W.	5 TH P. M.
DRAWN EJL 11-28-62	BUREAU OF ENGINEERING		SURVEY
CHECKED HRP 11-29-62			DATUM
REVISED SVF 9-17-75	1-23-62 ... Owens CHIEF ENGINEER		

OWNERSHIP REV.	REQ.	SHEET	FILE
	62 - 29	18	P.048 00.01

The current estimated cost for complete and immediate acquisition of these tracts is $533,200 (exclusive of any relocation costs).

A listing of the tracts to be acquired with this application is included in the appendix.

C. Timing of the Project - The Minnesota State Park System currently contains approximately 53,000 acres of privately owned lands within its statutory boundaries. The Division of Parks and Recreation has initiated a six year (1976-82) statewide acquisition program for the purposes of acquiring most of this remaining acreage. Completion of this program is currently estimated to cost more than $43 million.

The six year statewide program has been divided into three steps, each consisting of a two-year biennium period, and each with established land acquisition priorities. Acquisition priorities for the initial step (1976-77 biennium) of the program totaled approximately 12,000 acres. Appropriations to complete current biennium acquisition priorities totaled $9.5 million.

Although the Division of Parks and Recreation has established its acquisition priorities for each park, completion of these priorities is almost exclusively dependent upon the private land owners willing to sell to the State.

The program acquisition goal for Whitewater State Park is to completely acquire the remaining 9 tracts of private land. However, complete and immediate acquisition of these remaining tracts is impossible since the Division of Parks and Recreation does not have blanket powers of eminent domain. However, Citation Law 1971 authorized condemnation for a 130 acre tract because of its absolute necessity for park purposes.

Complete and immediate acquisition is also impossible since such acquisition would be prohibitive within current appropriation limitations.

Established acquisition priorities for the initial step of the park program total 708.14 acres (2 tracts). The current estimated cost for complete acquisition of these 2 properties is $340,800 (exclusive of any relocation costs). One of the tracts has been appraised and condemnation proceedings initiated.

D. Future Developments - An inventory of the natural resources of the park is being conducted during the current biennium. This inventory will provide the basis for formulation of a specific long range comprehensive management plan for the park. The plan itself is tentatively scheduled to be completed by the end of the current biennium (June 30, 1977). If not completed by this date, any development within the park will not proceed after August 1, 1977 or until the plan has been completed.

Possible developments prior to the August 1, 1977 deadline will be closely coordinated with the planning staff conducting the natural resources inventory so that such developments are consistent with any preliminary management plans. After August 1, 1977 all park developments will follow guidelines established in part by the natural resources inventory and as outlined in the comprehensive management plan.

Existing plans include such possible future developments as: (1) Realignment of State Highway 74, which is the main access road into and through the park, to the south and east sides of the park proper; (2) Enlarging the present picnic area and adjacent beach; (3) Development of a group picnic area; (4) Expansion of the present family campground, and relocation of a small group camping area and development of a primitive group camping area; (5) Development of a nature interpretive center to include natural, historical, archaeological and geological displays, along with interpretive programs for each and; (6) Expansion of the present trail system.

E. Recreational Needs to be Served by the Proposal - Whitewater State Park lies within Economic Development Region 10, an 11 county area of Southeastern Minnesota (Map 4). The 1974 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) identified use levels of several components of the existing recreational facilities within this region, and projected the following future use levels concerning these facilities:

	Existing Levels	Projected Levels		
	1975	1975	1980	1990
Picnic Tables	2,081	-1,366	-1,653	-2,247
Camping Sites	2,013	-488	-1,086	-1,541
Miles of Hiking Trails	177	-221	*	*
Miles of Snowmobile Trails	107	-818	*	*

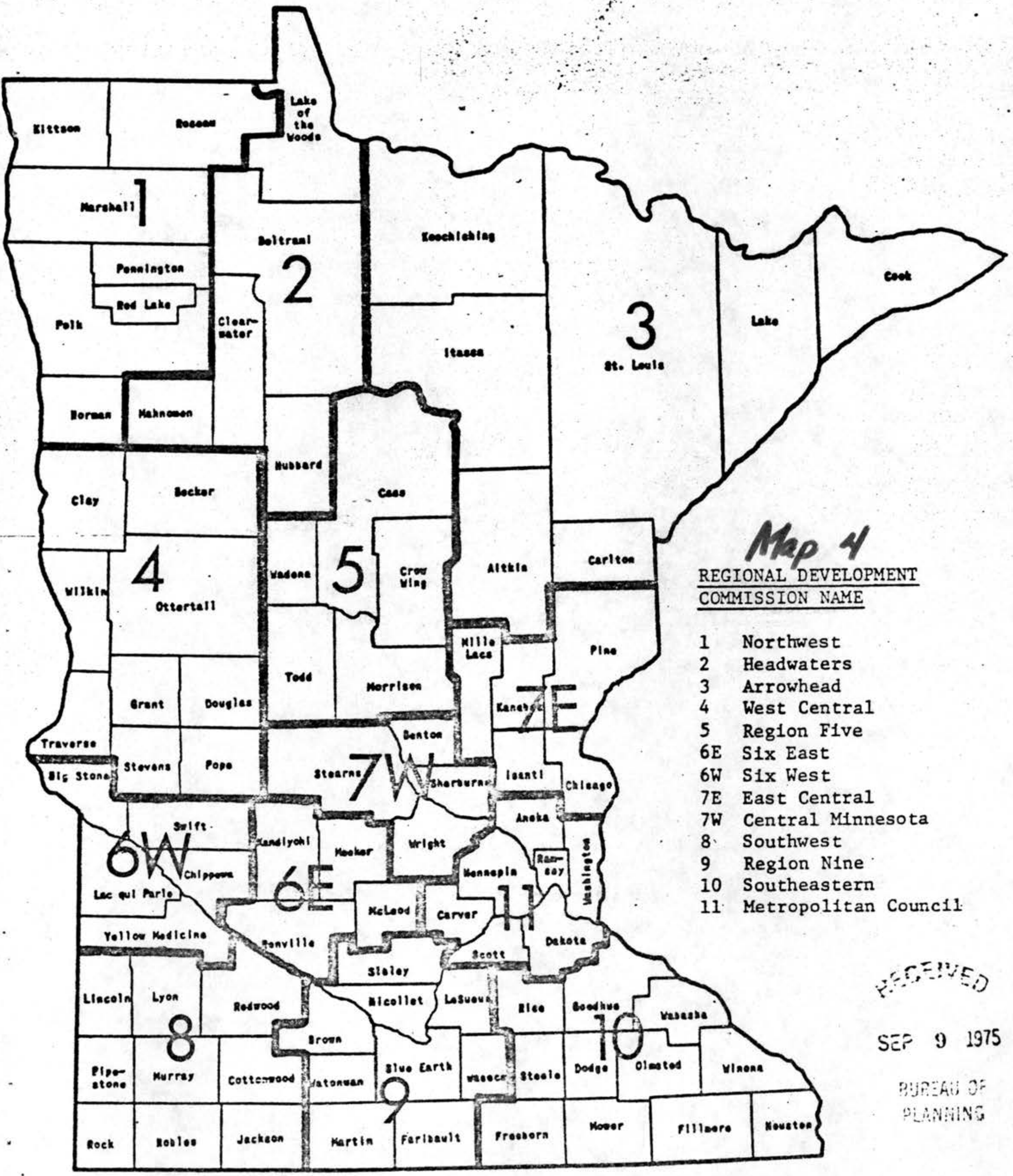
* No projections available

All facilities show deficits with respect to the existing demands for them, and those facilities for which future demands have been projected are expected to show greater deficits.

Park user data during the past 15 years (1960-1975) shows some rather wide fluctuations in total annual attendance figures during this period, and somewhat of a downward trend in attendance during the past several years.

	Cabins	Youth Camps	Tourist Camps	Day Visitors	Total Visitors
1960					176,700
1965	2,234	6,468	31,644	78,450	118,796
1970	1,661	11,740	66,548	268,203	348,152
1971	847	10,443	45,375	211,764	268,429
1972		10,999	53,962	246,294	311,255
1973		9,974	39,533	117,098	167,005
1974		4,283	21,128	95,330	120,741
1975		6,131	18,908	92,678	117,717

Minnesota Development Regions



State Planning Agency
Office of Local & Urban Affairs

Total visitation figures for the last three years are unrepresentative of visitation trends since new park user guidelines were initiated in 1973 and because flooding problems in both 1974 and 1975 necessitated complete closure of the park for a five week period during each year.

Despite what the above attendance figures may initially indicate, future park demand is expected to increase. This expected increase is based on the proximity of the park to large urban population centers, increased levels of leisure time and mobility for the population, and an increased demand for outdoor recreation resulting from greater urbanization and a projected (1974 SCORP estimate) 21 percent statewide population increase by 1990.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

A. Topography - Whitewater State Park lies within the landscape region of the State which has been geologically termed the stream dissected region. This is the area which was not covered by ice during the last two glacial phases. Despite this, tremendous volumes of glacial meltwater provided the erosive forces necessary to cut through the old sandstone and dolomite bedrock and form the bluffs and steep river valleys tributary to the Mississippi River which are found today. Topography within the park and the region is typified by rolling upland plains dissected by steep wooded valley walls containing numerous outcropped bedrock bluffs and flat valley floodplains. (Map 1-Appendix)

B. Soils - Soils within the park are broadly classified as the silty forest and prairie soils of Southeastern Minnesota. The characteristic soil association of this broad classification is the Fayette-Tama. These soils have formed from silty loess and occupy gently sloping to strongly sloping areas. The Fayette series consists of light colored soils, having been developed under the influence of forest vegetation, and which occupy the more sloping areas. The dark colored Tama prairie soils occupy the more level upland plain areas. These loess soils also form the basis for the rich alluvial floodplain soils wherever the former have been carried down into the valley.

C. Climate - Mean January temperatures average 24°F (maximum) and 4°F (minimum), while mean July temperature average 84°F and 60°F respectively. Total annual precipitation averages 30 inches. Snowfall averages 40 inches annually and accounts for approximately 25 percent of the total annual precipitation.

D. Water Resources - Major surficial water resources within the park consist of 6.5 miles of the Whitewater River - Middle Fork and 1.1 miles of Trout Run Creek. Both streams are small (averaging 10-12 inches and 9 inches in depth respectively). Because of the size and upstream topographic characteristics of the Whitewater River watershed, flooding can be a major problem. Recorded water level fluctuations of 10-15 feet on the Whitewater River are indicative of such problems.

Several different acquifers are located and presently being utilized within the park. The largest quantity of groundwater occurs in the bedrock which underlies the entire watershed. Additional quantities of groundwater are available from water bearing sand and gravel deposits of the western part of the watershed.

E. Mineral Resources - The mineral potential and the geologic reliability of economic concentrations of lead, zinc, and uranium occurring within the park are fair, as rated by the Division of Minerals of this Department. Other elements could occur in economic concentrations, but the probability of such occurrences is generally less than for the metals indicated.

F. <u>Flora</u> - Prior to the white settlement of this area (beginning in the 1850's), the original vegetation consisted of four main communities: (1) The tall grass prairie community occupied primarily the upland plain areas, but along with some red cedar, prostrate juniper and paper birch extended onto the south and west valley slopes; (2) the oak openings and barrens community, consisting primarily of bur oak, occupied the remaining dryer east and west valley slope sites down to the floodplains; (3) the big woods community composed primarily of red and bur oaks, and also containing some hickory, black walnut, butternut, and black cherry, occupied the north and east facing valley slopes; and (4) the bottomland forest community, composed primarily of elm, ash, cottonwood, boxelder, and willows, occupied the stream floodplain sites.

The early white settlers initiated programs of plowing the upland prairie sod and cutting trees and grazing cattle on the steep valley slopes, resulting in erosion and flooding. This and more recent man-made and natural changes have resulted in the present floral pattern found in the park.

This floral pattern consists of seven main vegetative communities. The most extensive community is the agricultural lands which are located primarily on the upland plain areas but also found in the lower end of the river bottom. The big woods community, composed primarily of sugar maple, basswood, and red oak is generally confined to the steep slopes but scattered throughout the park. The northern hardwoods community, also being confined to the steep slopes, is composed primarily of red oak, basswood, elm, ironwood, sugar maple, and hackberry. Together, these three communities occupy approximately 82 percent of the park land area. Four additional communities (bottomland forest, old field, mixed hardwoods-conifer, and brush) occupy the remaining land areas.

G. Fauna - The distribution and relative diversity of the terrestrial and acquatic habitats in this area is similarily exemplified in the diversity of fauna species which may utilize these habitats. A listing of the avian species which may utilize the park and/or adjacent habitats either as permanent or seasonal residents, as a rest area during periods of migration, or only as occasional visitants would include the wood duck, turkey vulture, red-tailed hawk, turkey (introduced) bobwhite quail, ruffed grouse, woodcock, and a variety of the smaller passerine species. A similar mammalian species list would include the opossum, Keen's myotis, beaver, long-tailed weasel, gray fox, coyote, white-tailed deer, and several of the insectivorous and rodentian species. The single most important fish species present in park waters is the brown trout. Several species belonging to the minnow family also utilize these aquatic habitats, as do both rainbow and brook trout on occasion. Species of reptiles and amphibians found here would include the wood and Blanding's turtles, six-lined racer, several species of snakes including the timber rattlesnake, the northern spring peeper, and the northern leopard frog.

Fauna species which the State of Minnesota lists as meriting special consideration and management, and the geographic ranges of which may include the park and adjacent habitats are the: Minnesota trout lily (endangered species); bobwhite quail (threatened species); Blanding's and wood turtles (species of changing or uncertain status); and the pileated woodpecker, six-lined racer, and the snapping turtle (species of special interest).

H. Air and Water Quality - Specific air quality data from the park are not available. However, considering the general wind direction (either from the northwest or the southeast) in this area, and the westerly and easterly directions of nearby potential industrial pollution sources

(Rochester and Winona), such pollution would not appear to be a problem. Industrial pollution sources in the Twin Cities area are remotely enough removed (approximately 85 miles to the northwest) to adversely impact the park environment. A local source of air pollution, resulting from vehicular emissions into the park environment, is present. This however is not considered to be a serious problem.

Analysis of surface water data by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, from the Whitewater River within the park, permits classification of these waters for human consumption with approved disinfection such as simple chlorination, and for the propogation and maintenance of both warm and cold water fish species and aquatic recreation of all kinds including bathing. Because of such watershed characteristics as topography, soils and land uses, water quality impairment can result from spring runoff and after heavy rains. Groundwater used for human consumption purposes does comply with State Health Department standards for such uses.

I. <u>Historical and Archaeological Resources</u> - The Minnesota Historical Society lists two sites, which have been designated as State Historic sites adjacent to the park. These sites are the Kiefer-Hammelberg House and the Marnack-Nicolas House, both designated because of their historic values concerning immigration, settlement, and architecture. Both sites are located on existing State owned lands within the Whitewater Wildlife Management Area and not within the Whitewater State Park boundary.

A 1974 survey conducted by the University of Minnesota revealed no archaeological sites within the park.

J. <u>Transportation and Utilities</u> - Several primary highways provide access into the area. U.S. Highway 14 and Interstate Highway 90, both within

10 miles of the south park entrance, provide east-west access to the area. North-south access routes are U.S. Highways 61 and 63, and State Highways 42 and 74. The latter highway, which has an average annual daily traffic volume of 620 vehicles, bisects the park. Access to park use areas and facilities is from park roads intersecting highway 74. Approximately 2 miles of County State Aid Highway (C.S.A.H.) 39 are located within the park, and provide access to private properties within and adjacent to the park.

Commercial transportation services available are bus service to communities along the primary highways, commercial airline service to Winona, and railway freight service to St. Charles.

Public utilities available to residences and properties within the park are telephone and electricity.

K. Socio-Economic Factors - Minnesota State Planning Agency (SPA) population projections for Winona County and Economic Development Region 10, show substantial increases through the year 2000 within both areas.

Projected Populations

	Winona Co.	Region 10
1975	45,600	396,900
1980	46,800	410,200
1990	48,900	441,500
2000	50,100	460,300

Based on 1970 SPA population statistics, the Winona County employed labor force was estimated to be 17,157 persons. Major fields of employment for this labor force are: Manufacturing (23.5% of the employed labor force); professional and related services (21.2%); wholesale and retail trade (18.3%); and agriculture, forestry and fisheries (11.2%). Additional SPA statistics estimated 13,004 total households within the county, each averaging 3.13 persons. Average county household income averaged $9,632/family, and compared to a statewide per family average income of $11,097.

Data from the Minnesota Crop and Livestock Reporting Service for 1973 estimated 1,213 farms within the county, each averaging 248 acres. Farming operations within the county typically involve raising both cattle and crops. Principal crops raised are corn, oats and hay. Substantial portions of these crops are used to maintain the cattle operations. Gross income for 1972 was estimated to be $29,745/farm in Winona County. This compared to a statewide per farm gross income estimate of $28,227.

The park currently harbors 7 residential year round homes and 1 residential seasonal home, 1 business, and several partial farming operations on privately owned lands within its boundary. The household occupants include 2 farm operators, a private campground operator, and 4 persons engaged in various businesses in nearby communities.

The one business is a 25-30 site campground operated on a 17 acre tract. The farming operations are contained on approximately 679 acres of lands. These farming operations are of the cattle and crop production type.

Tax levies on assessable private properties within the concerned township totaled $4,012.38 for 1975. Winona County tourist-travel expenditures during 1974 totaled nearly $9 million. Such expenditures accounted for 3.1 percent of the gross county sales.

L. Land Use and Development Trends

1. Agriculture - Of the 679 private acres used for agricultural purposes, 237 acres are used for pasture and 442 acres for cropland. An approximate acreage breakdown for the principal crops are: 325

acres of corn; and 117 acres of hay. An additional 573 acres of private lands are listed as water, and unused or non-pastured.

2. Residential - The 8 households located within the park occupy a total of 8 acres. Trends during the past few years concerning this land use has been toward the purchase and development of small rural acreages for residential purposes.

3. Commercial/Business - The seventeen acre tract presently committed to this land use is not incompatible with the land uses for which the park was intended. Land uses of these types, which would be incompatible with recreational land uses, do not presently exist within the park.

M. Existing Recreational Facilities - Present use facilities include 2 modern family campgrounds totaling 76 sites, plus an additional 49 site overflow campground; a 120 person maximum capacity primitive group camp, and a group camp containing 8 barracks (4 winterized) with a capacity for 130 persons. Other available facilities include a 105 table picnic area, a refectory, a beach area with related facilities, an interpretive center, an approximately 15 miles of multi-purpose (hiking, cross-country skiing) trails. Additional recreational opportunities available within the park include several miles of good stream trout fishing water.

Outside the main park unit, a variety of additional outdoor recreational opportunities are available within the adjacent 29,937 acre State owned Whitewater Wildlife Management Area. Similar recreational opportunities are also available within the 31,428 acres of State owned lands scattered throughout the eastern half of the region which have been designated as part of the Richard Dorer Hardwood Memorial Forest.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

A. Impact on the Physical and Biological Environment - Because Whitewater State Park is one of the most popular recreation areas in the State, the overall impact resulting from the proposal will benefit its physical and biological characteristics. The topographic characteristics of the park makes the soils within it subject to major erosion problems. Acquisition of agricultural lands, particularly those subjected to the intensive practices and expansion of the campground system resulting in dispersion of the users over a larger area, will both be more conducive to permitting the vegetative growth necessary for soil stabilization. Dispersion of users from heavy use areas (campgrounds and picnic areas) will also help alleviate possible soil compaction problems in these areas.

No impacts on the surficial water resources will occur. Although expected increased use levels will demand greater quantities of the groundwater resource, the resource itself is of sufficient quantity to supply increased demands.

The proposal will not impact any known concentration of major metals.

The proposed action will result in both beneficial and detrimental, direct and indirect affects on the flora and fauna resources of the park. Direct detrimental impacts on the floral resource will result from development activities which completely remove this resource from a specific site such as buildings and parking lots. Most impacts on the floral resource will indirectly result from the proposal, and as such these impacts will generally be beneficial to this resource. Expansion of the traditionally heavy use areas (campgrounds and picnic areas) will permit the growth of a heavier protective floral cover than is normally possible under present use levels. Acquisition of agri-cultural lands will permit natural reversion of these areas to floral communities more typical of adjacent natural communities occupying similar sites. For instance, the upland plains areas presently used for croplands should eventually revert to the native long grass prairie community, and currently pastured valley slope sites should eventually revert to some hardwoods forest type depending upon site characteristics such as slope and aspect. The only direct detrimental impacts on the fauna resource will result from development activities and as such will be insignificant. Indirectly, this resource will be impacted as the removal of habitats, resulting from these development activities, occur. The development and subsequent use of facilities in new areas, will subject fauna species utilizing habitats adjacent to these areas to additional stresses and possibly result in their displacement from such areas. As the floral species composition on agricultural lands changes with abandonment from such land uses, so too will the faunal species composition. The stream water located within the park are considered good brown trout streams, which currently receive heavy angling pressure particularly during the spring and early summer months. Increased park use will likely result in increased angling pressure. None of the species previously listed by the State of Minnesota as meriting special consideration and management will be significantly impacted by the proposal.

Some deterioration of air quality resulting from increased auto emission levels will likely occur as park use levels increase. Acquisition and abandonment of agricultural lands, and the dispersion of users from heavy use areas will have a resultant improvement on the water quality. Increased use levels could however negate such improvements.

B. Impact on Historical and Archaeological Resources - The proposal will not impact known resources of these types within the park or those adjacent to the park.

C. Impact on Transportation and Utilities - There are presently four access points to the various use areas within the park which intersect highway 74. This accessibility eliminates any possible means of control for efficient park operation in addition to being hazardous to park visitors using facilities near these roads. Realignment of highway 74 around the south and east sides of the park, and use of the present highway 74 as a park road, would eliminate accessibility and safety problems. None of the remaining primary or secondary roadways will be impacted by the proposal.

Commercial transportation systems will not be impacted by the proposal.

Utility lines and structures currently serving private residences will be abandoned and removed if not utilized for park purposes. Some possible future developments will require electrical service.

D. Impact on Socio-Economic Factors - Completion of the proposed project will require the relocation of eight households and one business. Although the Division of Parks and Recreation has been granted the powers of eminent domain for one land tract, the acquisition of private lands and any possible subsequent relocations is usually dependent upon willing sellers. For those owners willing to sell to the State, and for which relocation is necessary, public law 91-646 guarantees relocation and replacement housing assistance. This law also guarantees such assistance for the household occupants against whom the condemnation proceedings have been initiated.

Additional negative social impacts which may result from increased use levels are increased incidences of littering and trespassing on private properties adjacent to the park, and increased noise levels in the park vicinity.

The project will be of positive social benefit for the greater number of persons able to utilize the increased recreational opportunities afforded by its completion.

Acquisition will result in the loss of some tax assessable private lands within one township, and a subsequent loss of tax revenue for this township and for the county and the school district involved. The percent of tax revenue loss for each of these taxing units, on taxes levied for 1975, is shown below:

	Tax Revenue	Tax Loss	% Loss of Tax Revenue
Elba Township	$ 6,998	$ 240.74	3.440
Winona County	1,947,322	882.80	0.045
School District #858	642,690	2,888.91	0.449

Although none of the losses are of extreme significance, the loss to Elba Township may be enough to adversely impact the operating capability.

Current park use levels do provide some rather substantial benefits to the local economy. Based on 1975 park use figures and current estimated use values, an estimate of tourist-travel expenditures can be derived.

Tourist Camps	= 18,908 x 1.3 days* x $3.90/day**	= $ 95,863.56
Day Visitors	= 92,678 x $1.35/day***	= 125,116.30
Total		= $220,979.86

Although this total estimate does not directly benefit the local economy, a significant portion of it does. Increased park use levels will be of further benefit to the local economy.

* Data from Park Camping Permits

** Dep't. of Agric. and Applied Econ., Univ. of Minn.

*** Principles and Standards for Planning Water and Related Land Resources

D. Impact on Land Use - The proposal will remove the acreage of land presently committed to agricultural, business, and residential uses from such uses. These lands will then be committed for open space and various recreational uses.

The 9-hole golf course formerly located within the park was officially abandoned from such uses at the end of the 1975 season. Operation of the course had proven impractical and uneconomical, and considering the low level of available use areas within the park, its continued use as such could not be justified.

IV. MITIGATING MEASURES INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSAL

The action itself, through its land acquisition and use area expansion proposals is the mitigation necessary to insure that the natural amenities of these areas, some of which are currently subjected to overuse, will receive protection. Considering that each soil series has specific characteristics which may impose certain uses of them, the mitigation necessary to insure that this resource and its associated flora and fauna resources is not misused or overused is obtained by the proper design and location of future facility developments.

As expansion of existing use areas proceeds, the design and location of the sanitation facilities necessary to insure that water quality not be adversely impacted will also be developed. Such facility developments include a presently proposed sewage lagoon.

Although there are no archaeological resources or materials known to exist within the park, an agreement with the State Historical Society requires that persons engaged in any type of construction activity on State owned lands watch for such materials (a copy of this agreement is included in the appendix). If such materials are unearthed, these persons are instructed to stop further construction activities immediately and report their findings to the State Archaeologist. The State Historic Preservation Officer is then responsible for determining the appropriate course of action.

An arrangement may be made to lease tillable agricultural lands for a period of one or two years following the State's purchase of them. This arrangement permits the lessee to plant the same crop which was on the land the year it was acquired. The use of any chemical herbicide on this land is however prohibited immediately following State acquisition. Following the harvest of the first crop, the land is then disked and dragged, and seeded with June grass, perennial rye, and fescues. Not only does this alleviate potential erosion problems, but it also permits the lessee to harvest a hay crop from this land the following year.

If a landowner has planted a crop, but is unable to harvest this crop prior to selling to the State, an arrangement is made with the owner to harvest the crop at no additional cost to him.

The State may offer a retired landowner, who refuses to sell because of undue hardship, a life tenure on 3 to 10 acres of land surrounding his buildings for residential purposes. This arrangement avoids the cost of relocation and also the necessary costs for estate probation. This privilege costs nothing to the landowner.

Persons whose household or business requires relocation will be entitled to receive relocation assistance payments under the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act.

Increased incidences of littering and trespassing attributable to increased park use can at least be partially mitigated through the efforts of park personnel and local law enforcement authorities.

Realignment of State Highway 74 to limit park accessibility will aid such efforts. Although increased park use will result in increased noise levels within the park, such increases will not be noticeable in much of the existing use areas with realignment of highway 74.

Although only one of the three taxing units may be impacted by the proposal, tax revenue losses to all units can be totally or at least partially mitigated. Partial mitigation for revenue losses to both the township and the county can be obtained through a reduction in public services such as police and fire protection, which are currently provided to private property owners within the park, but which will not be necessary as these properties are acquired. The revenue loss incurred by the school district can be mitigated by increasing the State's share of the per unit pupil cost.

The former golf course area is being permitted to revert to a sparsely tree covered meadow useable for both passive and active forms of recreation. Household and any associated building structures located on private properties which cannot be utilized for park purposes will be sold and removed. These disturbed lands will then be artificially and/or naturally managed in a manner necessary to restore them to former conditions and used for open space and recreational purposes.

V. ANY ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED SHOULD THE PROPOSAL BE IMPLEMENTED

Although the proposal does offer the mitigation necessary to help alleviate existing adverse impacts on the natural resources of park use areas and private lands, and the proper design and location of future facility developments will help insure that such resources are not adversely impacted, nevertheless any development will likely result in a minimal, but unavoidable adverse environmental impact on these resources.

Implementation of the proposal will result in increased park use levels, and subsequently in increased auto emission levels. This will impose a minor, but also an unavoidable adverse environmental impact.

Any increases in littering, trespassing, and noise levels resulting from implementation of the proposal, and for which total mitigation is not possible, will also be considered unavoidable adverse environmental effects.

VI. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LOCAL SHORT-TERM USES OF MAN'S ENVIRONMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

Short-term uses of our environment, as they relate to the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, are not considered in terms of years. Trade-offs of environmental uses are necessary in order to gain certain benefits.

	GAINS	LOSSES
1.	Public ownership of an additional 1,290 acres of open space and outdoor recreational lands dedicated in perpetuity for such uses for the people of the State.	The loss of 1,290 acres of privately owned lands, approximately 700 acres of which are currently used for agricultural, business, and residential purposes.
2.	The gain of a centrally located site within the park, which had been committed to a single recreational use, for a variety of recreational uses.	The loss of this site as a 9 hole golf course from this land use.
3.	Soil stabalization on areas where erosion has been a problem, notably some agricultural lands and heavily used park areas, and a floral change on disturbed lands subsequent to abandonment from such uses.	A minimal, but unavoidable loss of the natural resources on recreational facility development sites.
4.	Some improvement in water quality through curtailment of erosion and nutrient runoff.	A probable minor deterioration of the air quality resulting from increased auto emission levels.

	GAINS	LOSSES
5.	Social benefits for the increased number of persons able to utilize the additional recreational facilities.	Negative social impacts resulting from the relocation of 8 households and 1 business, and from possible increased levels of noise, littering and trespassing.
6.	Increased economic benefits to the local economy resulting from the initial acquisition and development proposal and from increased park use levels.	The expenditure of an estimated $533,200 of public funds for land acquisition. The proposal will also result in some loss of tax revenue and an undetermined loss of income from agricultural production and the one business operation.

VII. ANY IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES WHICH WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE PROPOSED ACTION SHOULD IT BE IMPLEMENTED

Implementation of the proposed action will result in an irreversible commitment of existing private land uses to land uses perpetually dedicated for State park purposes. The 1,290 acres of private lands presently committed to various uses will thus become committed to publicly owned open space and recreational land uses.

Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act further requires such a commitment prior to money being granted for acquisition and/or development. Approval from the Secretary of the Interior is necessary before a change in land uses of any LAWCON acquired lands can be made.

The manpower, materials, and capital funds necessary for implementation of the proposed action will also be considered to be irretrievably committed.

VIII. ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

Major alternatives considered for the proposed project were: (A) no action, (B) acquisition with no development, and (C) project of a smaller scope.

A. <u>No Action</u> - This alternative was considered unacceptable since it would permit retention of 1,290 acres of lands, some uses of which are incompatible with designated State park recreational uses, in private ownership. No action would also permit retention of the existing road system allowing almost uncontrolled park accessibility and effective management difficulties. No action would place additional burdens on existing facilities, some of which are at or near maximum carrying capacity.

The overall impact of a no action alternative would lead to the overuse of existing recreational facilities and the natural amenities of the area for which the park was originally established. The ultimate result would be adverse environmental and social impacts on the park, its natural resources, and the park user.

B. <u>Acquisition with no Development</u> - This alternative would create an additional 1,290 acres of publicly owned lands available for open space and limited recreational uses. Acquisition would also be of some benefit to the biological and physical resources of the park and of some social benefit to the park user. However, considering the projected future increased demand for recreational facilities, non-development would result in the overuse of existing facilities and the same subsequent negative biological and social impacts as a no action alternative.

C. <u>Project of a Smaller Scope</u> - Some preliminary consideration has been given to the possible deletion of that part of section 17 lying north of C.S.A.H. 39. Fee title for the majority of this acreage is held by the Department of Natural Resources - Division of Fish and Wildlife. Deletion of this acreage may permit fee title exchange of other tracts within the park from this Division to the Division of Parks and Recreation. If further considerations proves this alternative to be feasible, the proposal will be presented for necessary legislative approval.

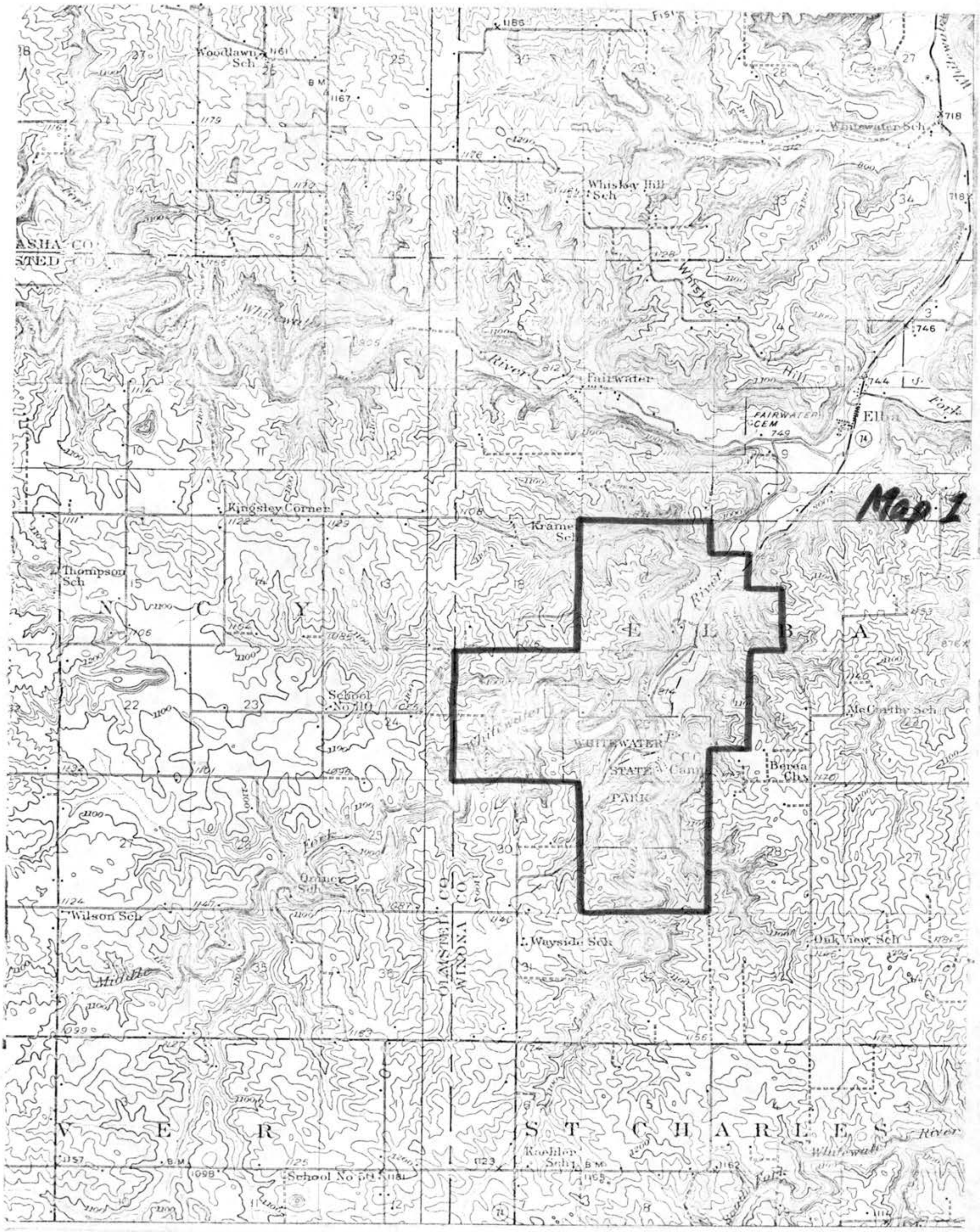
APPENDIX

Whitewater State Park

Tracts to be Acquired with this Application

Tract No.	Owner	Acres	Est. Cost	Action
3	R. Hildebrand	130.00	$ 62,400	Condem.*
9	McCarthy and Miller	578.14	278,400	*
4A	L. Schneider	91.90	55,200	
5	A. Mielke	33.80	15,600	
6	N. Heim	160.00	42,000	
8	N. Mickow	55.75	24,000	
10	J. Heim	157.00	42,000	
12	W. Benedett	43.00	16,800	
13	Lazy-D Campground	40.00	16,800	
TOTAL		1,289.59	$533,200	

* Tracts proposed for acquisition during current biennium



Map 1
Woodlawn Sch
Whiskey Hill Sch
Whitewater Sch
Fairwater
FAIRWATER CEM
Elba
Kingsley Corner
Kramer Sch
Thompson Sch
School No 110
WHITEWATER STATE PARK
CCC Camp
Berea Ch
McCarthy Sch
Wayside Sch
Oak View Sch
Wilson Sch
OLMSTED CO.
WINONA CO.
Koehler Sch
School No 59
N C Y
E L B A
V E R
S T C H A R L E S
Whitewater River
Middle Fork
Whiskey Hill

AGREEMENT
between
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
and
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This Agreement, entered into this 27th day of December, 1971, by and between the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, acting through the Commissioner of Natural Resources, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapters 84 and 85, hereinafter called the Department, the Minnesota Historical Society, acting through its Director, hereinafter referred to as the Society, to coordinate effective efforts to develop, maintain and administer for public benefit historic sites, historic districts and monuments and archaeological sites as they now exist as individual entities or as parts of large state land areas administered by the Department of Natural Resources, hereinafter referred to as state land, do hereby define areas of responsibility and authority on state land.

1. The Society or State Archaeologist agrees to provide research and analysis to determine the sites of historic and/or archaeological significance to be set aside, identified and marked with suitable inscriptions for preservation and interpretation on state land. These sites shall be delineated on any inventory and classification of sites prepared by the Society. This process will directly relate to the funding and staff time available for this purpose determined by the Minnesota Historical Society.

2. The Department desires to prepare master plans for the development of facilities, essential to public access and use for recreational purposes as well as updated resource management plans on such land under its jurisdiction so as to avoid and minimize depredation or damage to the historic and/or archaeological areas on such land. Such plans shall be furnished to the Society for their information and guidance. Agreement between the Department and the Society must be reached on plans relating to historical areas before development can proceed. Unless objections are received within 30 days, agreement will be assumed. The Department shall present copies of all developmental plans affecting sites delineated as historical or archaeological on any inventory and classification of such areas to the Society prior to advertising for bid on any construction so that the Society may make studies and investigations of the archaeological and historical values.

3. When archaeological or historic sites are known or, based on investigations, are suspected to exist on state land or waters the Society upon request from the Department shall obtain for the Department a licensed, qualified professional archaeologist to help preserve these sites.

4. The Department shall notify the Society at least forty days prior to the offering for sale or lease state lands under its jurisdiction, timber, minerals, or gravel or the altering of any body of water within designated historic and/or archaeological sites or areas.

5. The Department of Natural Resources will enforce the provisions of the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act of 1963, Minnesota Statutes 138.31 to 138.42, and to subsequent Amendments to these statutes on state land under its jurisdiction.

6. The Society and the Department may prepare and install interpretive exhibits (in existing buildings or proposed buildings) which, in its judgement, on lands or waters administered by the Departments of Natural Resources which the Society and Department jointly determine are suitable for such purposes, and costs of such features shall be met by any funds appropriated for such purposes to either the Department or the Society.

7. The Society shall identify original sites or buildings of historical or archaeological significance deserving preservation, restoration or reconstruction on state land administered by the Department of Natural Resources. The Society and the Department jointly shall determine which buildings or sites are suitable for such historical purposes, and decide on alterations in them to render them more suitable for interpretative and public service purposes. Costs of development shall be met by any funds appropriated for such purposes to either the Department or the Society.

8. The Department shall administer, develop, maintain, and operate all buildings, facilities and utilities as required for public accommodation and compatible recreation features, and enforce all rules and regulations and operate special fee services in these state parks as authorized by statutes... Except in those historical areas as described in Minnesota Session Laws 1969, Chapter 956.

9. This Agreement imposes no liability upon the State, the Commissioner of Natural Resources, or any other officers, employees or agents of the State for the acts or ommissions of any officer, employee or agent of the Society.

10. This Agreement is in force until amended or repealed by mutual agreement between the Department and the Society.

11. This Agreement shall supercede Agreement number 2 entered into by the State and the Society on the 14th day of August, 1968.

12. To keep this Agreement in force the Department and Society agree to meet at least semi-annually to review the operation of this Agreement and to correct problems that may have arisen because of it.

13. This Agreement shall be subject to the Minnesota Historic Sites Act of 1965 and to subsequent amendments to that statute.

14. Nothing in this Agreement shall be contrary to existing Minnesota Statutes nor to Rules and Regulations as adopted by each agency.

15. This Agreement shall be in effect until rescinded or superceded by joint agreement of the two agencies affected.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the respective authorities affix their seals and signatures this 27th day of December 19 71 .

Robert L. Herbst
Commissioner
Dept. of Natural Resources

Russell W. Fridley
Director
Historical Society

WHITEWATER STATE PARK

Addendum to Environmental Assessment submitted Jan. 14, 1977.

I. Description of the Proposed Action - Whitewater State Park was established by an act of the Minnesota State Legislature in 1919.

The acquisition and development of lands within the park statutory boundaries by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Division of Parks and Recreation, will provide additional outdoor recreational opportunities for the enjoyment of the public.

Whitewater State Park is located in the extreme southeastern portion of the State (west-central Winona County). The cities of Winona and Rochester Minnesota are located approximately equidistant (22 miles) east and west respectively from the park.

The State of Minnesota proposes that the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation as administrator of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON), participate with the Department of Natural Resources in this proposed action.

It is proposed to begin a two-stage development program over this biennium at Whitewater State Park. The first stage will consist of rehabilitation of existing facilities. The second will include new construction and vegetation management as called for in the park management plan. The rehabilitation will consist of remodeling and making handicapped accessible the group camp, remodeling the refectory into a shelter building, reorienting and sanding the beach, and remodeling the picnic sanitation building. The new development program is within the scope of the park management plan being submitted. It includes construction of a service center to include a shop, service court, parking lot, and well; winterization of the group camp pumphouse; building and placing park signs; construction of a sewage disposal system; trail development; and vegetation management. The new construction phase of this proposal will begin after the park management plans and finalized and submitted.

The present estimated total cost of this development is $426,588.70. Additional information is obtainable in the environmental assessment submitted on Jan. 14, 1977.

II. Description of the Environment - The description of the environment is as described in the environmental assessment submitted on Jan. 14, 1977.

III. Environmental Impact of the Proposed Project - The major impacts upon the environment will accrue from the proposed new development included in stage two of the proposal. The proposed new facilities to be built will have site specific impacts on flora and fauna resources and will also raise noise levels. Most of the disruption will occur during the actual construction phase and once the facilities are in place replanting and reseeding will be done to replace some of the fauna resources originally disturbed. The vegetation will be changed in the areas of development to those species tolerant to man's activity. After construction is completed noise levels will be lower, however, with the increased capacity of the recreational resources the noise levels will most probably not be at the pre-construction levels.

Construction of the sewage disposal system is of paramount importance because of the flood plain location of the park and also because of the near capacity situation of the present system. The new system will mitigate against the possibility of water quality deterioration. Site selection and engineering plans are presently being compiled and will conform to pollution control agency standards. Actual construction will cause considerable flora, fauna, and noise impacts, however, once in place restoration of the landscape will be completed.

Items contained in stage one will have minimal impact on the environment because the existing facilities are already in place.

Additional information on impacts is highlighted in the environmental assessment submitted to your office on Jan. 14, 1977.

IV. <u>Mitigating Measures Included in the Proposal</u> - Development will be carried out in such a manner as to assure that the integrity of that natural resources will be maintained and protected to the fullest extent possible. New development sites will be seeded to provide erosion control and soil limitations will be taken into account in the site location and design process.

Mitigating measures included in this proposal are highlighted in the environmental assessment submitted on Jan. 14, 1977.

V. Any Adverse Environmental Effects Which Cannot Be Avoided Should The Proposal Be Implemented - Adverse environmental effects will consist of the disruption of flora and fauna resources; increased park use levels will bring about increased noise levels, littering and trespassing. Even with all necessary precautions taken, disruption of the physical environment is unavoidable as recreational development and use occur. Refer to the environmental assessment submitted Jan. 14, 1977.

VI. Relationship Between Local Short-Term Uses of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity - Short-term uses of our environment, as they relate to the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, are not considered in terms of years. Trade-offs of environmental uses are necessary in order to gain certain benefits.

GAINS	LOSSES
1. Construction of public recreation facilities for the use and enjoyment of the visiting public.	1. Expenditure of approximately $426,588.70 of public funds.
2. Increased visitor usage and capacities to meet present and future demands.	2. Some adverse environmental impacts will occur.

VII. Any Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources Which Would Be Involved in the Proposed Action Should it be Implemented. - The manpower, materials, and capital funds necessary for implementation of the proposed action will also be considered to be irretrievably committed.

VIII. Alternatives to the Proposed Action - Major alternatives for the proposed action are 1) no action or, 2) project with a larger scope. Due to the near-capacity situation with many of the existing facilities, a no action alternative is unfeasible. This is particularly true with the sewage disposal system. A project with a larger scope is not deemed necessary at this time.

RECEIVED
SEP 12 1977
Dept. of Natural Resources
Div. of Parks & Recreation

ADDENDUM

WHITEWATER STATE PARK
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Submitted January 14, 1977

I. It is proposed to begin a two-stage development program this biennium at Whitewater State Park. The first stage will consist of rehabilitation of existing facilities. The second will consist of new construction and vegetative management as called for in the park management plan.

The rehabilitation will consist of remodeling, winterizing and making handicapped accessible for the group camp including the cabins, sanitation building, water lines and pump house and remodeling the picnic ground's sanitation building including replacing plumbing fixtures, bringing wiring up to state building code and making the building handicapped.

The present estimated cost of these proposals is $31,900.

The development program is within the scope of the park management plan being submitted. It will consist of: 1) a new shop and warehouse, 2) trail construction, 3) a new sewage disposal system, and 4) vegetative management.

The present estimated cost of this development is $432,975.

The rehabilitation projects will start this fall.

The new construction and vegetation management will begin after the park management plans are finalized and submitted.

II. (See assessment submitted January 14, 1977)

III. The group camp will be closed during the remodeling.

The picnic grounds sanitation building will be closed during the remodeling.

Those projects in the development program will have to site specific impacts. Noise will be generated by the equipment used. Some of the parks fauna will be displaced. The vegetation will be removed from the site and changed near the projects to types more adaptable to man's activities.

There will be a chance of some soil erosion.

The vegetative management will have both positive and negative impacts on the park's fauna and flora. Those plants and animals not associated with the plant community being managed for will be displaced and eliminated. Those plants and animals associated with the plant community being managed for will benefit by the improvement of their habitats.

IV. The group camp will be able to serve park users year round when the project is completed and will also be usable by the handicapped.

The picnic area sanitation building will be worked on during the off season; when few, if any, park users are present. The building will meet the requirements of the state building code and be handicapped accessible.

The new shop and warehouse building will increase the administrative efficiency of the park by storing supplies and equipment in a secure and weather proof area providing a central area to conduct routine park maintenance from.

The trail work will reduce the erosion and safety problems on the existing trail alignment. This will be accomplished by rerouting the trails in some areas and constructing steps and safety devices in the steep problem areas.

The sewage system will provide improved and additional sewage collection and treatment thus reducing the chance of polluting the park's surface or ground waters.

The vegetative management will perpetuate the selected plant communities for use and enjoyment of future generations.

The noise levels emitted by the construction equipment will be in compliance with the levels set by the State Pollution Control Agency. Most work will be done during the off season so few park users will be impacted.

V. The group camp will be closed to the public during the remodeling.

Some plants will be eliminated by the construction and facilities. Some animals will be forced to be relocated by the construction.

VI. (See assessment submitted January 14, 1977)

VII. (See assessment submitted January 14, 1977)

VIII. The only alternative to the rehabilitation projects is no action. As a result neither facility would be handicapped accessible. The group camp could only be used during the warm months.

The only alternative to the new development is no action. Under this alternative the park facilities and natural resources would continue to be abused through over use.

The alternative to Vegetative management is also no action. This alternative will not perpetuate the natural plant communities since man's activities have altered some natural processes thus changing the climax communities for this area.

ADMIN 1000
80

DEPARTMENT of Natural Resources

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office Memorandum

TO : R. W. Hosfield,
Programs Coordinator

DATE: September 1, 1976

FROM : Charles Kartak
Whitewater State Park

SUBJECT: Assessment Statements

Enclosed please find the information that you have requested. Feel free to contact us concerning any of the data or if more data is required. All total acreages are accurate, however, some guesstimating was done on a small portion of land as to the timber, pasture, and tillable ratios. Where we only would purchase a portion of a tract of private land we divided that portion into the total tax to come up with an estimated tax loss.

Our figure of public ownership land is 1574, however, of that portion, the Whitewater Wildlife Management area owns roughly 600 acres. Whether we will have to purchase those acres from them is subject to question because of the fact that excise tax from hunting and fishing went into purchasing the land.

Any information you could give us with regards to those acres and transferring them from Game Management to Park would be appreciated.

CTK/jl

Enc.

DATA NEEDED FOR

ASSESSMENT STATEMENTS

LAND USE (within each State Park)(in acres)

Private Ownership		
Open Land		
Crop	442	442
Pasture	113	113
Swamp/Marsh	0	
Water	5	5
Unused	74	74
Wooded Land		
Pastured	114	114
Non-Pastured	533	494
Residential	8	8
Industrial and/or Commercial	17 - 40	40
Sub-Total	1306	1290
Public Ownership		
Open Land		
Crop (leased)	0	
Pastured (leased)	0	
Recreation Use		
Forested	1126	
Open	120	
Developed	288	
Historical-	40	
Archaeological	0	
Sub-Total	1574	
TOTAL STATUTORY ACREAGE	2880	

559
114
25
698

ANTICIPATED RELOCATIONS

A relocation is defined as a family, a tenant family, or a business which would be displaced if all private lands within the statutory boundary were acquired today.

Number of Residential year around homes	7
Numer of Residential seasonal homes	1
Number of Industrial and/or commercial businesses	1
Number of farm operations	1

TAX LOSS

Tax loss will be determined on the 1975 taxes due and payable in 1976 for each individual parcel of land within the Park. Legal descriptions are needed for each parcel. Plat books are available at the Court Houses. At the Court House the Auditor, Assessor and Treasurer will help you find the following information:

Name of Owner	Legal Description	Acreage	Total County	TAX Township	Loss = $4,012.38 School Dist.	Special	TOTAL
			Winona	Elba	St. Charles		

A parcel not wholly within the Park boundary shall be prorated for only that acreage within the Park.

Section 16 — T 107 R 10

Tax # 180127 Walter Benedett St. Charles
55 acres $E\frac{1}{2}$ $SW\frac{1}{4}$
20 Pasture 35 Timber.

Tax # 180129 Hamlin Glende & Theresa Glende
40 Acres $W\frac{1}{2}$ $NW\frac{1}{4}$
Till. 11 Pasture 10, Waste 18, Bldg..1
Ex. Wiskow, Wilson Kieffer, Ex. Ziegler
Ex. Dotterwick 17 acres. Ex Hwy. 21.23 Acres
1976 Est. Value $36,820.00

Tax # 180133 Gerald& Kathryn A Dotterwick Altura
17 acres Parcel in $SW\frac{1}{4}$ $NW\frac{1}{4}$
Commercial 17
1976 Est. Vlaue $30,950.00

Tax # 180136 Dave & Patricia Schneider
$NW\frac{1}{4}$ $SW\frac{1}{4}$ 5.02 acre parcel
4 timber 1 bldg.site.
1976 Est. Value $13,275.00

Tax # 180137 Leo & Marie Reisdorg John & Elizabeth Heim
65 acres $S\frac{1}{2}$ $SW\frac{1}{4}$
Pasture 15 Timber 50
1976 Tax Value $2975.00

Section 17

Tax # 180140 Rose A. Mc Garthy St. Charles
346 acres $SW\frac{1}{4}$ $NE\frac{1}{4}$, $S\frac{1}{2}$ $NW\frac{1}{4}$ & $SW\frac{1}{4}$
Till 122, Rd. 1 Timber 224, Pasture 0
Ex. CSAH 39 2.77 acres and 66 acres in $SW\frac{1}{4}$
Ex. 264 acres State Hwy.
1976 Est Value $ 40,460

Tax # 180141 Barbara Susan McCarthy c/o Leo McCarthy St. Charles
21.92 acres $SE\frac{1}{4}$
Tillable 9 Pasture 11.9, Bldg. 1
1976 Est. Value $15,360

Tax # 180142 George DeVirny & David DeVetter c/o Leo McCarhhy St. Charles
16.76 Acres $SE\frac{1}{4}$
Tillable 4, Pasture 5 Timber 6.7 , Bldg 1.
1976 Ext Value $13,230

Tax # 180143 Charles McCarthy
5 acres in $SE\frac{1}{4}$ $NE\frac{1}{4}$
Timber 5
Est Market Value $1287,

9
742
55.00
40.00
17.00
5.02
65.00
346.00
21.92
16.76
5.00
5.00
5.00
57.00
10.00
80.00
55.75
80.00
2.55
40.00
144.89
80.00
80.00
80.00
91.60
1363.49

Tax # 180144 James McGuire
5 Acres SE$\frac{1}{4}$ NE$\frac{1}{4}$
Est Market Value$1285

Tax # 180145 Charles & Judith McCarthy
8 5 acres SE$\frac{1}{4}$ NE$\frac{1}{4}$ Timber 3, Bldg. 2
Est. Market Value $29,250.

180146 Rose & Leo McCarthy
57 acres SE$\frac{1}{4}$ NE$\frac{1}{4}$ NE$\frac{1}{4}$ SE$\frac{1}{4}$
Pasture 35, Timber 16, Waste 3 Rd. 2 Bldg.

Tax # 180147 Roger B. Hildebrand & Ellsworth H. Hildebrand
10 arces SE$\frac{1}{4}$ SE$\frac{1}{4}$
Pasture 5 Timber 5

Section 19

Tax 180157 ~~Roger~~ Rose McCarthy
80 acres N$\frac{1}{2}$ NE$\frac{1}{4}$
~~Til~~ Tillable 40 Pasture 15, Timber 20 Waste 5

Tax # 180165 Norman W MicKow & Ann MicKow St. Charles.
55.75 acres in N3/4 N$\frac{1}{2}$ NW$\frac{1}{4}$
Tillable 33, Pasture 10, Timber 7, Waste 2 3/4, Rd. 3
Est. 1976 Value $8160,.00

Section 20

Tax # 180170 Roger & Ellsworth Hildebramd Altura
80 acres N$\frac{1}{2}$ NE$\frac{1}{4}$ 840 Acres Ne$\frac{1}{4}$ NW$\frac{1}{4}$
1976 Market Value $37,470.00

Tax # 180172 Arvil&Ruth Mielke
2.55 acrew in SE$\frac{1}{4}$
Tillabel 2$\frac{1}{2}$
1976 ~~EExt~~ Value 500.00

Tax # 180174 Rose A. McCarthy
6 40 Acres in NW$\frac{1}{4}$ NW$\frac{1}{4}$
1976 Value 3575.

Section 21

Tax # 180180
Leo & Marie Reisdorf John & Elizabeth T. Heim St. Charles
40 acres S$\frac{1}{2}$ N$\frac{1}{2}$ NW$\frac{1}{4}$
40 Timber 30 Waste
Tillable 86, Pasture 20, Timber 43 Waste 10, Building 1
1976 Market Value $42,720

180183 Lyman Mielke & Hazel Mielke St. Charles
144.89 acres in Sec 21
Pasture 15, Tillable 18, waste 3
1976 va ue $57,690

Section 29

Tax # 180263 Arvil & ~~Ruth Mielke~~ St. Charles
80 acres ~~¼ acres 2~~ E½ NE¼ Ex State 48.7
Tillable 31
1976 Value $6200.00

180266 Norman E. Heim Tomas & Oliva Heim
80 acres E½ SE¼
Tillable 40 Pasture 7 Timber 33
1976 Ext Value $9775.00

Tax # 180267 Norman Heim & Thomas & Olivia Heim
80 acres W½ SE¼
8 Tillable 15m Pasture 28, Timber 20, Waste 17
1976 Ext. Value $5700.00

Tax # 180269 Carol Schneider Lawrence Schneider & L. Schnederct.
91.6 acres SW¼
Tillable 66 Pasture 20 Timber 5
1976 Value $14,840.00

Estimated Tax Loss from Purchase of Privately owned Lands in the Statutory Boundary of Whitewater State Park.

Tax Loss	Net Tax
# 180127	$262.38
180129	154.22
180133	417.38
180136	17.40
180137	46.24
180140	475.94
180141	81.82
180142	192.00
180143	38.80
180144	338.80
180145	327.16
180146	80.64
180149	12.58
180157	193.84
180165	160.18
180170	386.68
180172	4.60
180174	68.06
180180	224.71
180183	167.77
180263	68.22
180266	186.80
180267	108.38
108269	297.78

Total---- $4,012.38

ELBA TOWNSHIP TAX EXEMPT LANDS

	1974 **Est. Market Value**	
Section 16		
Section 17		
40 acres in NE ¼ NE¼	$1800.00	
40 acres in NW ¼ NE¼	1080.00	
11.86 acres E½ SE¼	180.00	
.4 acres NW¼ NW¼ School Dist. #41	100.00	
40 acres NE¼ NW¼	585.00	
39.60 acres in NW¼ NW¼	780.00	
Section 19		
40 acres in SE¼ NE¼	840.00	
40 acres in SW¼ NE¼	840.00	
E 19 acres in NE¼ SE¼	420.00	
E 19 acres in SE¼ SE¼	480.00	
102 Acres SE¼ S	4080.00	
20 Acres NW¼ NW¼ SE¼	1200.00	
93.76 acres in Frac. NW¼	4200.00	
40 acres in NE¼ SW¼	1920.00	
74.03 acres in FRAC W½ SE¼	~~960.00~~	5520.00
30 acres in SE¼ SW¼	960.00	
10 acres in SE¼ SW¼	360.00	
Section 20		
80 acres S½ NE¼	174.00	
157.45 acres in SE¼ Park Hdqters Supt. Home Shelter.	167,000.00	
60 acres SW¼ NW¼ 10½ SE¼ NW¼	2400.00	
20 acres S½ SE¼ NW¼	660.00	
160 acres SW¼ Golf Course Bldg.	49,000.00	

Section 21	
80 acres SW$\frac{1}{4}$ NW$\frac{1}{4}$, NW$\frac{1}{4}$ SW$\frac{1}{4}$	7800.00
Section 29	
48.7 acres E$\frac{1}{2}$ NE$\frac{1}{4}$	750.00
80 Acres W$\frac{1}{2}$ NE$\frac{1}{4}$	1920.00
160 acres in NW$\frac{1}{4}$	10,300.00
68.1 acres SW$\frac{1}{4}$	4080.00

Total 1,573.54 acres

WHITEWATER

Tract	Name of Owner	Acres	Est. Cost	+ 20%
Cand 2, 3	Roger B. Hildebrand	130.00	$ 52,000	62,400
9	McCarthy & Miller unwilling	578.14	232,000	278,400
	TOTAL (No. of Parcels) 2	708.14	$ 284,000	340,800

708.14
581.45
1,289.59

212,400
340,800
533,200

2,862.52
1,281.59
1,580.93

708.14
571.45
1281.59

284,000
177,000
461,000

Hildebrand

Tract	Name of Owner		Acres	Est. Cost	Wrong
4A	Lawrence M. Schneider	sold to private unwilling	91.90	$ 46,000	+ 20% 55,200
5	Arvil E. Mielke	unwilling	33.80	13,000	15,600
6	Norman E. Heim	sold to private unwilling	160.00	35,000	42,000
8	Norman Mickow	unwilling	55.75	20,000	24,000
10	John Heim	unwilling	157.00	35,000	42,000
12	Walter Benedett	unwilling	43.00	14,000	16,800
13	~~Hamline Glende~~ Lazy-D campground	unwilling	40.00	14,000	16,800
7			581.45	$177,000	212,400

442
113
114
679

TRACT NO. NAME	ACRES	RECORDING DATA	RESERVATIONS
S-1 Calvin L. Carter	157.45	Doc. No. 900 Filed 8-10-21 Bk. 133 Pg. 322	
S-1A Calvin L. Carter	212.67	Doc. No. 1222 Filed 9-3-22 Bk. 136 Pg. 439-9	
S-2 Ada A. Johnson	60	Doc. No. 994 Filed 12-31-21 Bk. 136 Pg. 166-7	
S-2 Stephen A. Somsen	60	Doc. No. 993 Filed 12-31-21 Bk. 136 Pg. 166	
S-3 Richard Kroening	12.5	Doc. No. 1307 Filed 2-21-23 Bk. 138 Pg. 106-7	
S-4 Charles W. Kramer	40	Doc. No. 1318 Filed 3-3-23 Bk. 138 Pg. 111	
S-4A Charles A. Kramer	71.864	Doc. No. 102258 Filed 12-3-34 Bk. 150 Pg. 110	Fee title held by Game and Fish Div.
S-5 John A. Latsch	185.67	Doc. No. 4582 Filed 10-7-27 Bk. 149 Pg. 156	
S-6 Roger B. Hildebrand	60	Doc. No. 199790 Filed 2-5-64 Bk. 256 Pg. 263	
S-7 Lydia Rinker	40	Doc. No. 98545 Filed 10-3-33 Bk. 160 Pg. 641-2	Fee title held by Game and Fish Div.
S-8 William H. Ohm	153.76	Doc. No. 99400 Filed 12-30-33 Bk. 150 Pg. 141	Fee title held by Game and Fish Div.
S-9 Robert E. Callahan	103.03	Doc. No. 145481 Filed 10-16-48 Bk. 202 Pg. 65	Fee title held by Game and Fish Div.
S-10 Winona County	10	Doc. No. 191767 Filed 11-14-61 Bk. 33 Pg. 647	Fee title held by Game and Fish Div.
S-11 Lyman A. Mielke	36.2	Doc. No. 178154 Filed 1-2-58 Bk. 236 Pg. 24	Fee title held by Game and Fish Div.
S-12 William Wiskow	40	Doc. No. 147168 Filed 12-14-48 Bk. 202 Pg. 78	Fee title held by Game and Fish Div.
S-13 Fannie Rodger	40	Doc. No. 176696 Filed 8-22-57 Bk. 234 Pg. 329	Fee title held by Game and Fish Div.
S-14 Ketchum Estate	39.6	Doc. No. 201656 Filed 8-10-64 Bk. 258 Pg. 1	Fee title held by Game and Fish Div.
S-15 Helen E. Hildebrand	20.0	Doc. No. 109873 Filed 12-4-37 Bk. 155 Pg. 390	Fee title held by Minn. Hwy. Dept.
1 Lyman A. Mielke	80	EP 12/1/65	
2 Herman Putzier	40		
3 Roger B. Hildebrand	130		
4 [illegible]	[illegible]	EP 3/3/66	
[illegible]	[illegible]		
5 Arvil E. Mielke	33.8		
6 Norman E. Heim	160		
7 Bernice Prudoehl	102		
8 Norman Nickow	55.75		
9 McCarthy and Miller	578.14		
10 Leo M. Reisdorf	40		
11 School Dist. 2754	0.4		

44x34

STATUTORY BOUNDARY
2662.52 ACRES

JUL 12 1966

APPROVED
SPONSOR
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS
N. K. Della
DIRECTOR

COMMISSIONER OF CONSERVATION

BY ____________
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
DATE 7-11-66

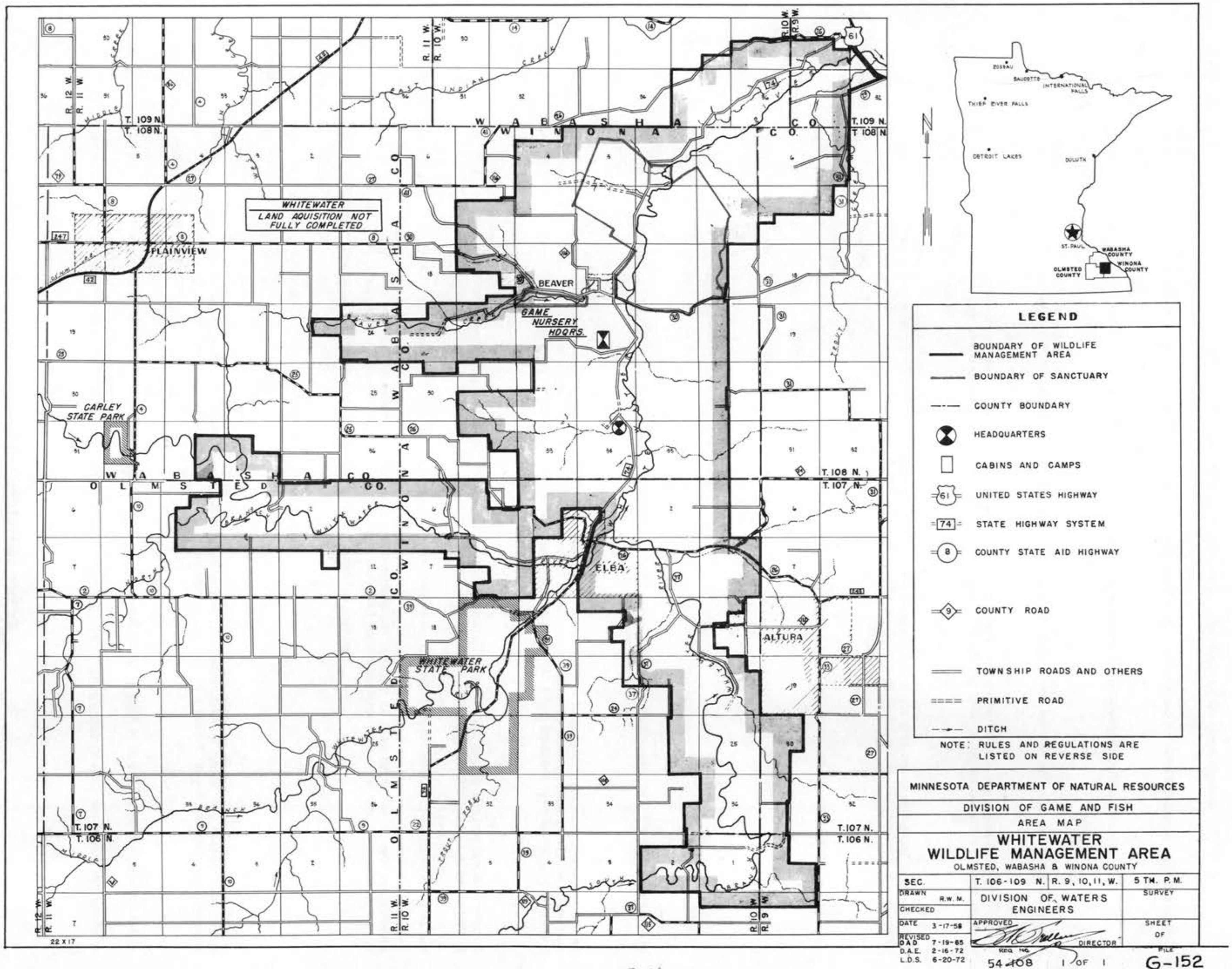
MINNESOTA CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

OWNERSHIP MAP

WHITEWATER STATE PARK

WINONA CO. – NEAR ELBA

SEC.	T. 107 N.	R. 10 W.	5 TH P.M.
DRAWN RES 7-6-66	BUREAU OF ENGINEERING		SURVEY
CHECKED JAJ 7-6-66			DATUM
REVISED	DATE 7-8-66 CHIEF ENGINEER		
CODE NR 056	REQ. 66-111	SHEET 1 OF 1	FILE P-21


WHITEWATER
LAND AQUISITION NOT
FULLY COMPLETED
PLAINVIEW
BEAVER
GAME
NURSERY
HDQRS.
CARLEY
STATE PARK
ELBA
ALTURA
WHITEWATER
STATE PARK
W A B A S H A CO.
W I N O N A CO.
O L M S T E D CO.
T. 109 N.
T. 108 N.
T. 107 N.
T. 106 N.
R. 12 W.
R. 11 W.
R. 10 W.
R. 9 W.
22 X 17
ST. PAUL
WABASHA COUNTY
WINONA COUNTY
OLMSTED COUNTY
DULUTH
INTERNATIONAL FALLS
THIEF RIVER FALLS
DETROIT LAKES
LEGEND
BOUNDARY OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
BOUNDARY OF SANCTUARY
COUNTY BOUNDARY
HEADQUARTERS
CABINS AND CAMPS
UNITED STATES HIGHWAY
STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM
COUNTY STATE AID HIGHWAY
COUNTY ROAD
TOWNSHIP ROADS AND OTHERS
PRIMITIVE ROAD
DITCH
NOTE: RULES AND REGULATIONS ARE LISTED ON REVERSE SIDE
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF GAME AND FISH
AREA MAP
WHITEWATER
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
OLMSTED, WABASHA & WINONA COUNTY
SEC.
T. 106-109 N.
R. 9, 10, 11, W.
5 TH. P. M.
SURVEY
DRAWN R.W.M.
CHECKED
DATE 3-17-58
REVISED
DAD 7-19-65
D.A.E. 2-16-72
L.D.S. 6-20-72
DIVISION OF WATERS ENGINEERS
APPROVED
DIRECTOR
REG. NO.
54-408
SHEET 1 OF 1
FILE
G-152

24,937

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DIVISION OF GAME & FISH

REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE PUBLIC USE OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS.

No use shall be made of any state owned wildlife management area except in accordance with the following regulations:

Section 1. Entry and use.

(a) Those parts of wildlife management areas posted STATE GAME REFUGE - NO TRESPASSING, shall not be entered except as authorized by an agent of the Commissioner.

(b) No part of any wildlife management area may be entered or used during the hours 10 P.M. to 5 A.M. if so posted at the major access points.

Section 2. Hunting and trapping.

All wildlife management areas are open to the taking of wild animals by hunting or trapping during the established seasons therefor in the zones in which they are located unless specifically closed by Commissioner's Order. All persons shall report animals taken on wildlife management areas and submit them for inspection if requested to do so by an agent of the Commissioner.

Section 3. Fishing.

Taking of fish and minnows for commercial purposes is prohibited.

Section 4. Watercraft.

Use of motorized watercraft or amphibious vehicles is prohibited except as follows:

(a) In the Roseau River Wildlife Management Area, Roseau County, motorized watercraft may be used in the main channel of the Roseau River. Motorized watercraft powered by motors of 10 horsepower or less may be used elsewhere on this management area.

(b) In the Thief Lake Wildlife Management Area, Marshall County, motorized watercraft powered by motors of 10 horsepower or less may be used.

(c) In the Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area, Big Stone, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle and Swift Counties, and the Gores-Pool 3 Wildlife Management Area, Dakota and Goodhue Counties, motorized watercraft may be used except in those places posted by the Commissioner.

Section 5. Vehicles.

Motor vehicles may operate not in excess of 20 mph on roads and trails established for travel purposes. No person shall operate a snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, motor bike, air boat or hover craft in a wildlife management area. Snowmobiles may be used on designated trails. Driving any vehicle anywhere except on established roads or trails is prohibited. No vehicle shall be parked where it obstruct travel.

Section 6. Aircraft.

Unauthorized use of aircraft below 1000 feet AGL (above ground level) over a wildlife management area is prohibited except in emergencies.

Section 7. Firearms and target shooting.

Target, trap, skeet or promiscuous shooting is prohibited.

Section 8. Disorderly conduct.

Obnoxious behavior or other disorderly conduct is prohibited.

Section 9. Disposal of waste and abandonment of property.

Disposal or abandonment of garbage, trash, spoil, sludge, rocks, cars and other debris or personal property on any wildlife management area is prohibited.

Section 10. Destruction or removal of property.

Signs, posts, fences, buildings, trees, shrubs, vines, plants or other property may not be destroyed or removed except that marsh vegetation may be used to build blinds and berries may be picked for personal use. Wild rice may not be harvested unless the area is specifically opened by Commissioner's Order.

Section 11. Private property or structures.

No person shall construct or maintain any building, dock, fence, beehive, billboard, sign or other structure on any wildlife management area. Deer stands may be built but shall not become private property or be used to preempt hunting rights.

Section 12. Private operations.

Soliciting business, agricultural cropping or conducting other commercial enterprises on any wildlife management area is prohibited except by lease agreement.

Section 13. Introduction of plants or animals.

Plant and animal life taken elsewhere shall not be released, placed or transplanted on any wildlife management area.

Section 14. Animal trespass.

Domestic animals shall not be permitted on wildlife management areas except as authorized by lease agreement. The use of dogs for hunting purposes is permitted.

Section 15. No person shall camp on any wildlife management area without permission of an agent of the commissioner.

Charles Kartak 507-932-3001

Harold Becker 9-1

1 business - Laz D Campground - # site = 25-30

farms operation - ~~Hildebrand~~ several

442 acres crop : breakdown

300-350 - corn } - for cattle
rest - hay

7 year round } occupants engaged in what
1 seas. hshld. }

Cabin rentals - out 4-5 years ago

3,447
~~1,366~~
2,081

Couple in from St. Charles
1 const. worker
1 cpgrd owner works in Winona
1. farmer Hildebrand
2. (Snyder & Hein) - 1 farmer & 1 with rest. in Alba

.00045

1,947,322) 882.800000

7789288

10,387120

1947322

4

7789288

642,690

4

2570760

642690

3213450

.00449

642,690) 2888.910000

2570760

3181500

2570760

6,167,400

581,417.43

60,588.62

642,006.05

684.37

642,690.42

~~Winona~~ Co. Auditor

507-452-3337

Elba Twp. Total 1975 Levy = $1,012,768 - Assessed
6,998.23 - Levied

Co. " " = $1,947,322 - Levied

St. Charles S.D. " " = $ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~Elba Twp.~~
#858 ~~104,275~~
$581,417.43 - Winona Co.

Total Tax Loss = $4,012.38

$60,588.62 - Olmstead Co.
$684.37 - Fillmore Co.

Mille Rates = Twp. = 6.91 6.91 = 6
Co. = 24.83 24.83 = 22
Ag. S.D. = 71.98 ↔ 73.98 78.98 = 72
N-Ag. S.D. = 83.98

110.72 = 100

Part of 858 in Fillmore & Olmstead Co's.

Co. Auditor - Olmstead = 507-285-8145
Co. Auditor - Fillmore = 507-765-4701

4,012.38
.72
802476
2808666
2888.9136

4,012.38
.06
240.7428

4,012.72
.22
802544
802544
882.7984

1,012.768
.00691
1012768
9114912
6076608
6,998.22688

27992
6998
20994
6998

6998 / 240.7400 .0344
20994
30800
27992
28080
27992
0880

.06
110 / 7.000
400

.72
110 / 79.000
770
200

.23
110 / 25.000
300

	Total Levy	Park	% Loss
Elba	6,998	240.74	3.440
Co.	1,947,322	882.80	0.045
S.D.	642,690	2,888.91	0.449

Acres in Hardwood Forest = 27,623.41 June 74

3,802

31,428 - pres

V. f. Fisheries

Two streams are located in Whitewater State Park, they are the Middle Branch of the Whitewater River, and Trout Run River. Both these streams are fished exclusively for Brown trout and are stocked with +8" fish three to four times a year.

The Middle Branch of the Whitewater River is considered a good trout stream, and receives heavy fishing pressure. The trout carrying capacity is estimated at 40 lbs/acre with the total fish carrying capacity at 150-200 lbs/acre. Some natural reproduction does take place in this stream, but the actual amount will not be known until the fisheries study is completed during the summer of 1976.

The fish population in 1975 was estimated to be as follows:

Brown trout	Common
Blacknose dace	Abundant
Longnose dace	Abundant
Creek club	Abundant
Common shiner	Present
Bigmouth shiner	Present
Brassy minnow	Present
Fathead minnow	Present
Stoneroller	Common
Johny darter	Present
Fantail darter	Present
Slimy sculpin	Abundant
White sucker	Common
Rainbow trout	Occassional
Brook trout	Occassional

The aquatic plants noted in the stream include:

Water Buttercup
Water Smartweed

The Trout Run River is considered a prime trout stream, although it only receives light fishing pressure. The trout carrying capacity is estimated at 20 lbs/acre; mostly fingerlings due to the lack of cover for adults, with the total fish carrying capacity at 50 lbs/acre. Some natural reproduction does take place in this stream, but the actual amount will not be known until the fisheries study is completed during the summer of 1976.

The fish population in 1975 was estimated to be as follows:

Brown trout	Common
Longnose dace	Abundant
White sucker	Present
Brook stickle back	Present
Slimy sculpin	abundant

The aquatic plants noted in the stream include:

Water Buttercup
Water Cress
American Brook Lime

WHITEWATER STATE PARK

HISTORY

Because the Whitewater is not navigable by canoe, the valley had little value from a prehistory point of view. Undoubtedly its scenic quality was appreciated by Native Americans, but there is no evidence currently of major habitation sites within the park.

More important is the history of landuse within the valley because it has allowed visitors today a glimpse of what it must have been like when early pioneers settled the land in the 1850's. However, under the brush and trees today lie tons of sandy soil, a far different situation than when the pioneers first found rich alluvial soils.

As the pioneers moved onto the ridges and began clearing vast areas of timber land, for the cultivation of grain and crops, dairying became popular. Around the turn of the century, hillsides were heavily grazed in the valley, and shortly thereafter the first bad floods began hitting the bottomlands.

Farmers continued working the land up and down hill; hillsides were cleared of timber and then overgrazed. This all made run-off easier and faster. With the run-off went soil, sand, and debris. Almost overnight huge ridges of land appeared on farms closest to the hillsides. Then, like a fan, these ridges spread out covering field after field.

The Ira card farm on Highway 74 just east of Beaver was a good example. When a barn was torn down there in 1930 it was discovered that livestock was standing on what originally was the hay mow floor.[1] A full basement was found below the soil - buried in from 8 to 10 feet of mud. Since that time another 5 to 6 feet of sand and mud have filled in.

Highway 74 itself was built by Hanlon and Oakes in the early 1920's to be an all-weather road, 6 feet above the surrounding area; now it is 6 feet below in places.

Residents still recall the year 1938 when the Whitewater, its river bed filled in with sand, overflowed 28 times. The state highway department was forced to close Highway 74 each time.

Just before the turn of the century, in 1890, the Mike Ellringer farmstead at Whitewater Falls was on a high spot about 20 feet above the banks of the river. It is startling today to view this spot and discover the river banks higher than the site of the old farmstead.

At the junction of Whitewater and Beaver Creek was the once prospering town of Beaver. At its peak, Beaver boasted two stores, a hotel, a livery stable, church, school, two flour and grist mills, a blacksmith shop, produce market and two saloons. In the center of the village was a "common" or recreation park. Most of the Beaver's first settlers came from the New England states and they brought with them their styles of architecture for homes and this idea of a common.

The common today is nothing but a large swamp. Trees and brush hide the ruins of most business buildings which were torn down long ago. Today allt hat stands is one small store and three or four homes.

Residents of Beaver perhaps didn't analyze why disastrous floods kept pouring sand and silt - 6 inches at a time - into their homes. They only knew that living became unbearable here and consequently began a mass migration to higher ground. Business and residential property was disposed of before World War I; in the 1920's the tempo of migration away from here speeded up.

By the 1930's departing families turned the moving trend into a general "flight." Buildings were torn down - either by owners as they left, or by wrecking companies coming in to salvage materials. In 1943, under the Pitman Robinson Act, the government stepped in and began purchasing farms through the valley to be incorporated into the Whitewater Wildlife Management Area. Two farms had been bought already by the Department of Conservation for this purpose. Of course by this time the State Park had been in operation for over 200 years (see Park History section).

Sources:

We Remember the Beaver Story, 100 Years in the Whitewater Valley, Winona County Historical Society, 1962.

WHITEWATER STATE PARK

EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

Table lists the buildings found within the park. Relative to all buildings within the state park system they mostly fall in the "fair" to "good" categories. However, those ratings do not take into consideration the ongoing maintenance that must occur (e.g., roofing, plumbing, etc.) within these structures.

Table lists recreation facilities available within the park. The "Overflow (south) Campground" is now being used continuously, but does not compare in scenic quality with either the "Cedar Hills Campground" or the north campground; it is laid out in long rows of site after site and is a very hazardous area to camp in when the river floods. Cedar Glen contains 37 campsites; and the north campground contains 39 campsites.

The sewage system within the park is in need of repair or perhaps complete rebuilding. The drainfield within the interpretive area as well as at the managers residence is not functioning at an acceptable level. In addition, the Imhoff septic tank is located within the floodplain causing concern for possible environmental degradation.

The old clubhouse is currently serving as both an assistant manager's residence as well as nature center. This building is related as being in "poor" shape and can be only considered for use on a temporary basis.

Recreation Related Development*

Cedar Glen Campground

37 campsites, modern sanitation building equipped with showers and flush toilets.

North Campground

39 campsites, modern sanitation building equipped with showers and flush toilets.

Overflow (South) Campground

49 campsites, pit toilets with water pump are provided.

Primitive Group Campground

120 campsites, pit toilets with water pump are provided.

Group Camp

6 non-winterized barracks, 4 winterized barracks, dinner hall/meeting room, winterized and has a capacity of 130. Complete kitchen facilities are available.

Picnic Area

A shelter, sanitation building (flush toilet), refectory and 105 tables are provided.

Beach Area

Pool with bathhouse is provided, nature/foot trails, 15 miles, cross-country ski trails, 15 miles.

Interpretive Center

Building has capacity of approximately 30 at any one time and is equipped with flush toilet and water

*As provided by Harold Becker, Whitewater Park Manager August, 1976.

WHITEWATER STATE PARK

HIGHWAYS

The park does not have a separate access road that breaks from a major road and winds its way up to the unit. Rather, T.H. 74 runs through the middle of the park within 200 feet of the picnic area, contact station, and both campgrounds. The paved road currently has a speed limit of mph within the park.

The road is used primarily by local traffic going between St. Charles, Elba, and Plainview as well as other small towns in the immediate vicinity. It is also the main route for recreationists utilizing the park and the Whitewater Wildlife Management Area. Minnesota Highway Department figures show T.H. 74 has an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of 620 vehicles. It is important to note that these figures are for the entire year: summer figures would be considerabely higher. (See Map for circulation patterns and ADT figures).

Although the road is essential to park usage, its present allignment is far from being desirable.

1. The road presents a safety hazard to unsuspecting park users.

2. The road introduces types and levels of noise which are incompatible to a natural outdoor experience.

3. The road provides any number of entry points into the park, thus making law enforcement a difficult proposition.

4. The road and its related traffic is a visual distraction to visitors attempting to "get away from it all."

Source:

[1] Minnesota Traffic Map, 1974, Minnesota Highway Department.