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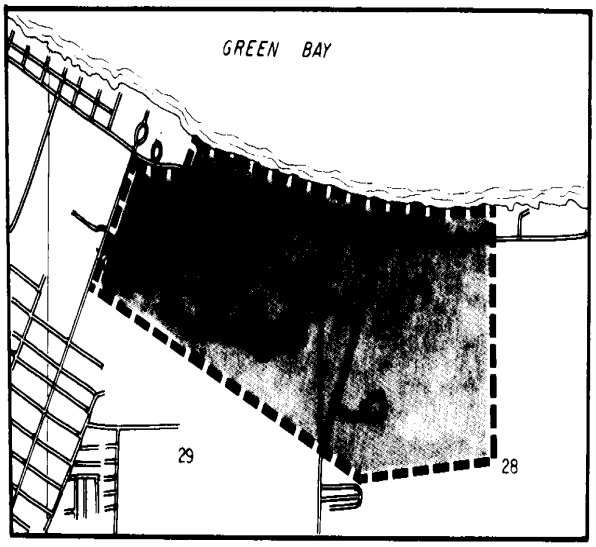
# Chapter NR 15

## GAME REFUGES

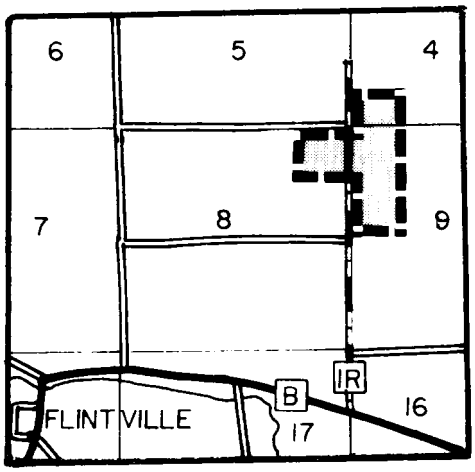

| | |
|---|---|
| NR 15.01 | Year round game refuge. |
| NR 15.015 | Waterfowl production areas. |
| NR 15.02 | No entry wildlife refuge (Sept. 1−Dec. 31). |
| NR 15.022 | No entry wildlife refuge except gun deer and muzzleloader deer (Sept. 1−Dec. 31). |
| NR 15.024 | No entry wildlife refuge (Sept. 1−Dec. 31); gun deer and muzzleloader deer hunting permitted. |
| NR 15.026 | No entry wildlife refuge (September 1 – November 30); gun deer and muzzleloader deer hunting permitted. |
| NR 15.03 | No entry wildlife refuge, rookeries and special areas. |
| NR 15.04 | Seasonal game refuge. |
| NR 15.10 | Horicon marsh wildlife refuge. |
| NR 15.11 | Horicon marsh fur farm. |
| NR 15.12 | University arboretum. |
| NR 15.13 | University bay and the university of Wisconsin arboretum. |
| NR 15.14 | Ferry bluff state natural area. |


**NR 15.01 Year round game refuge.** A game refuge is created in the following areas as posted with department signs and no person may hunt or trap upon such areas or have in possession or under control any gun or rifle unless the same are unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, crossbow unless it is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, or any bow unless it is unstrung or enclosed within a carrying case. The loaded uncased firearm restriction of this section does not apply to a handgun possessed by a person who is authorized by law to possess a concealed handgun in Wisconsin.

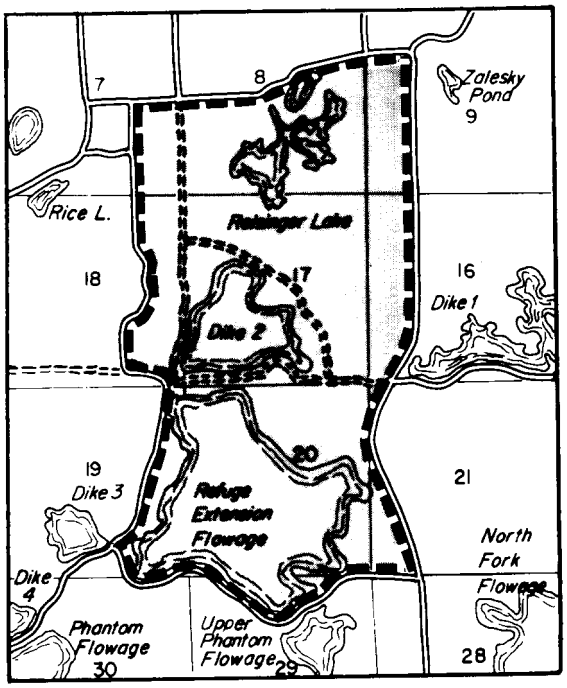
**(1)** BROWN COUNTY. (a) *Bay Beach.* Township 24 north, range 21 east, city of Green Bay.



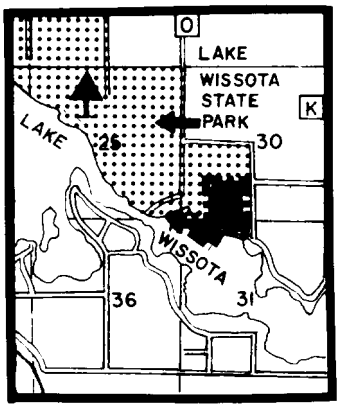

(b) *Suamico.* Township 25 north, range 20 east, town of Suamico.



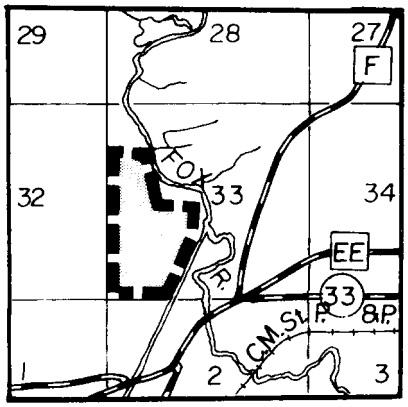

**(2)** BURNETT COUNTY. (a) *Crex Meadows.* Township 39 north, range 18 west, town of West Marshland.



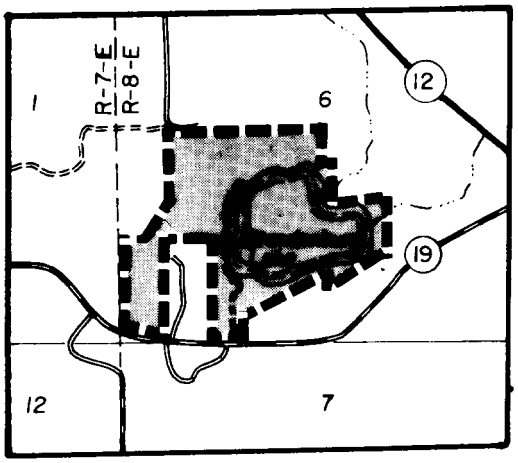
**(3)** CHIPPEWA COUNTY. (a) *Wissota.* Township 29 north, range 7 west and township 29 north, range 8 west, town of Anson.



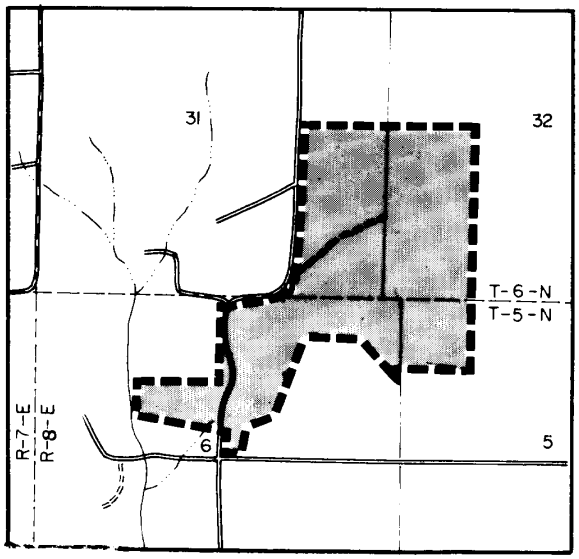

**(4)** COLUMBIA COUNTY. (a) *Indian Agency house.* Township 13 north, range 9 east, town of Ft. Winnebago.



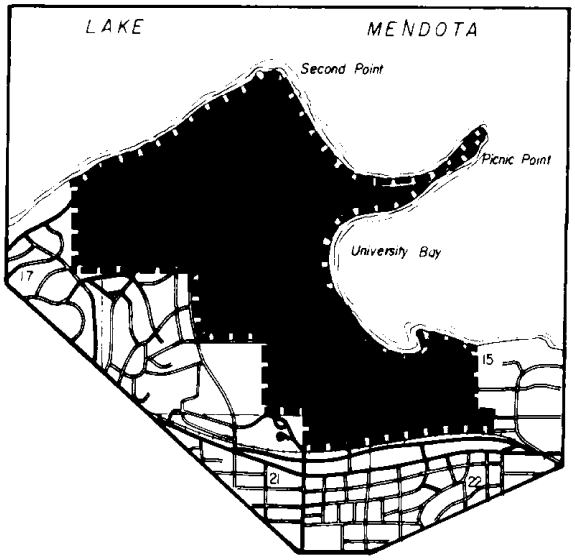

**(5)** DANE COUNTY. (a) *Brandenburg.* Township 8 north, range 8 east, town of Springfield.




(d) *Madison School Forest.* Township 6 north, range 8 east, town of Verona.




(e) *University Bay.* Township 7 north, range 9 east, town of Madison.



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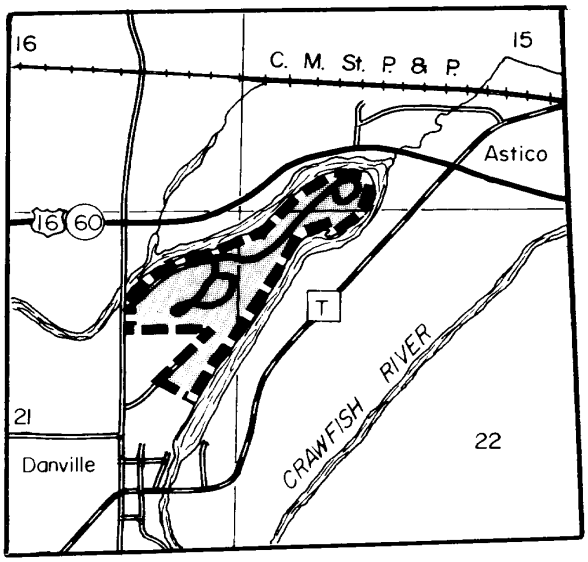
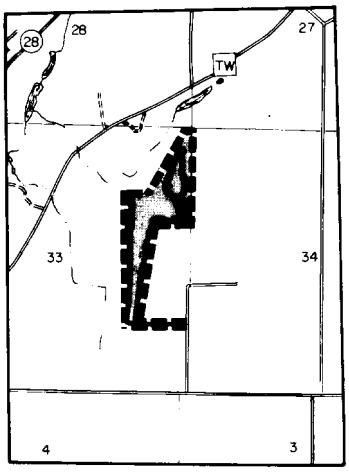
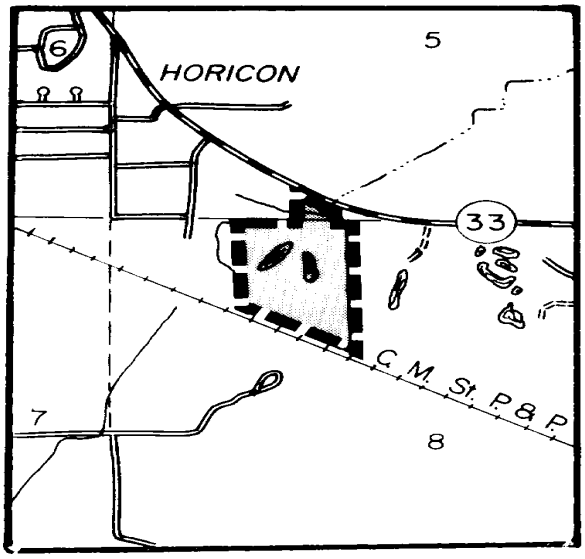
**(6)** DODGE COUNTY. (a) *Astico Park.* Township 10 north, range 13 east town of Elba.



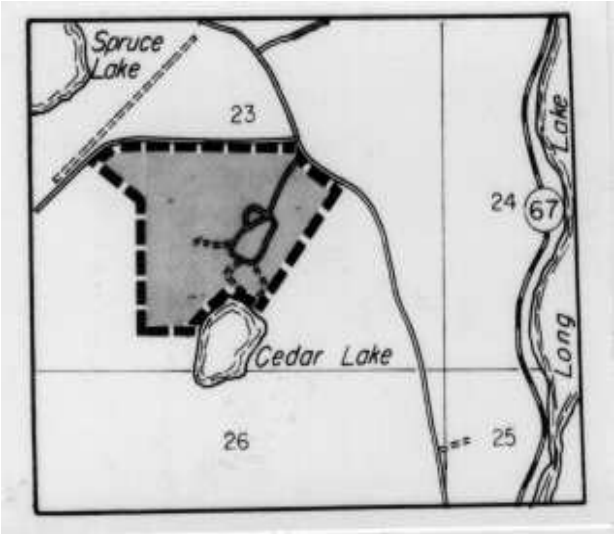

(b) *Horicon Ledge Park.* Township 12 north, range 16 east, town of Williamstown.




(c) *Horicon Public Schools.* Township 11 north, range 16 east, town of Hubbard.




**(7)** FOND DU LAC COUNTY. (a) *Cedar Lake Youth Camp.* Township 14 north, range 19 east, town of Osceola.



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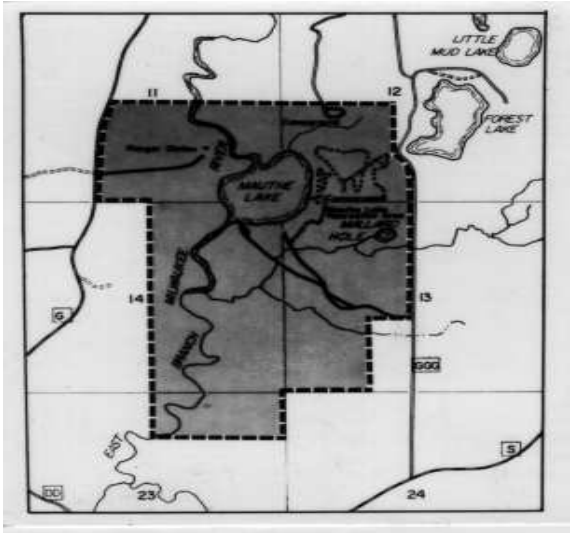
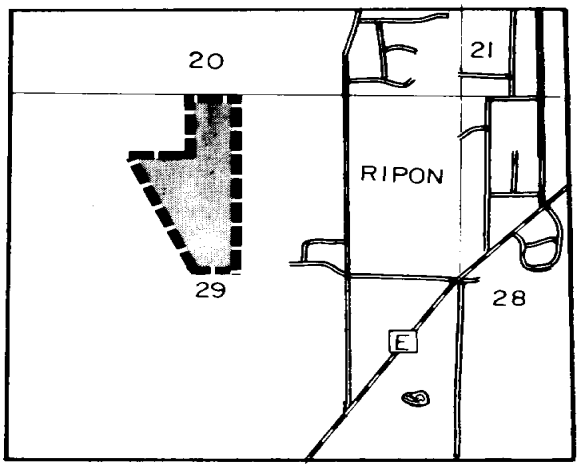
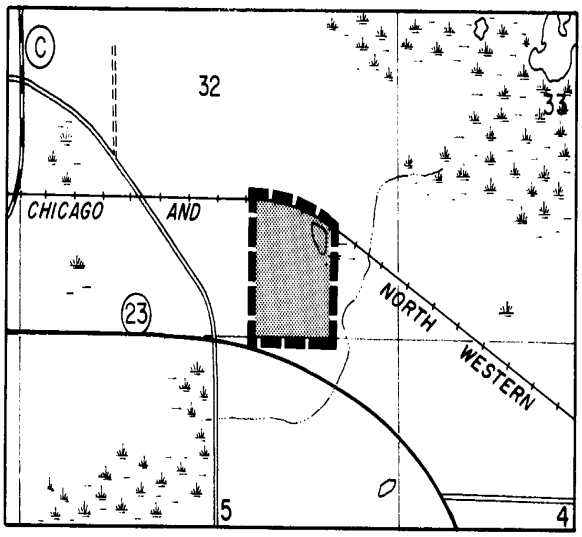
(b) *Mauthe Lake.* Township 13 north, range 19 east, town of Auburn.



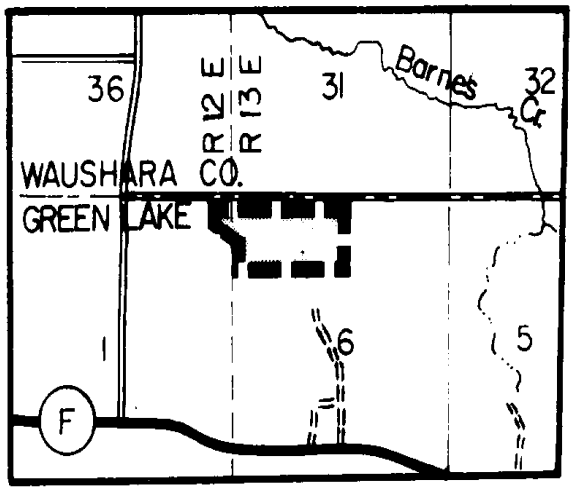

(c) *South Woods Park.* Township 16 north, range 14 east, town of Ripon.



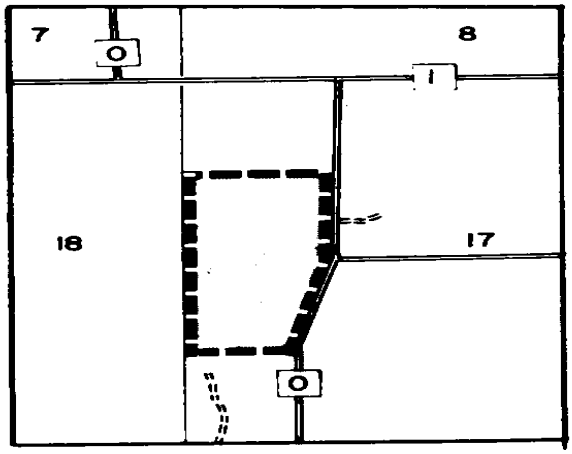

(d) *Eldorado Outdoor Education Center.* Township 16 north, range 16 east, town of Eldorado.




**(8)** GREEN LAKE COUNTY. (a) *Berlin.* Township 17 north, range 12 east, town of Seneca.




(b) *Maude R. Card estate.* Township 14 north, range 13 east, town of Mackford.



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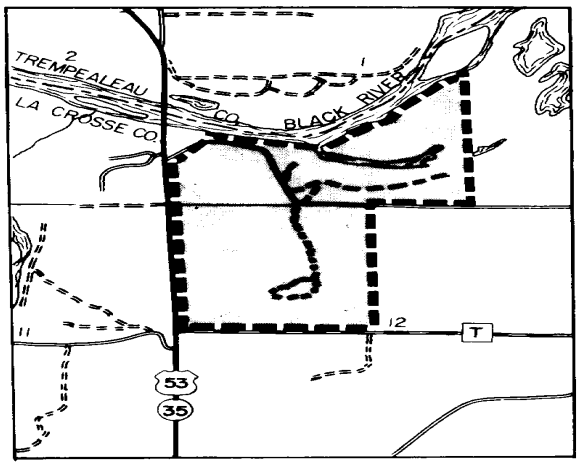
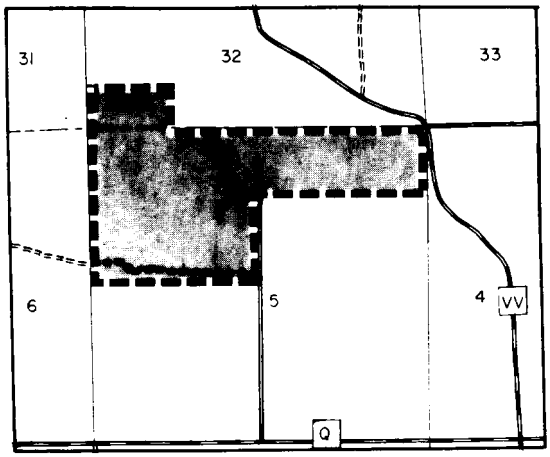
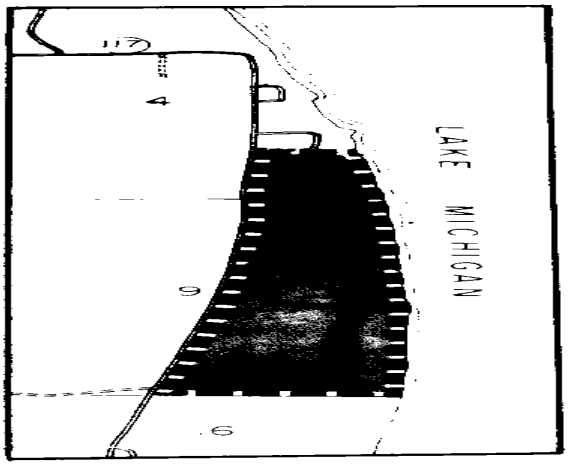
**(11)** LA CROSSE COUNTY. (a) *Camp Decorah.* Township 18 north, range 8 east, town of Holland.



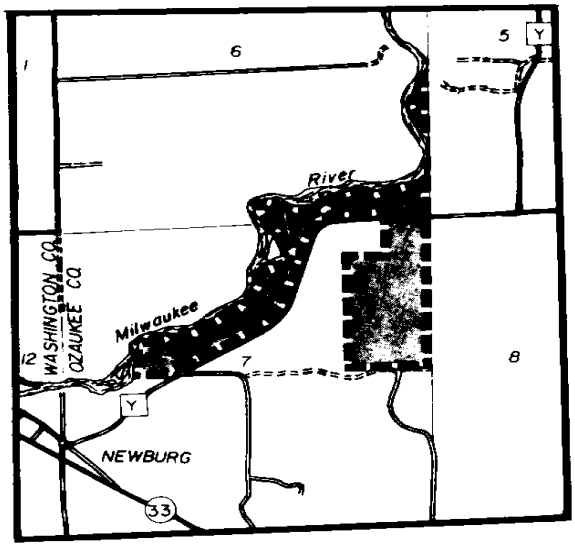

(b) *Camp Ehawee.* Township 18 north, range 6 west, town of Farmington.



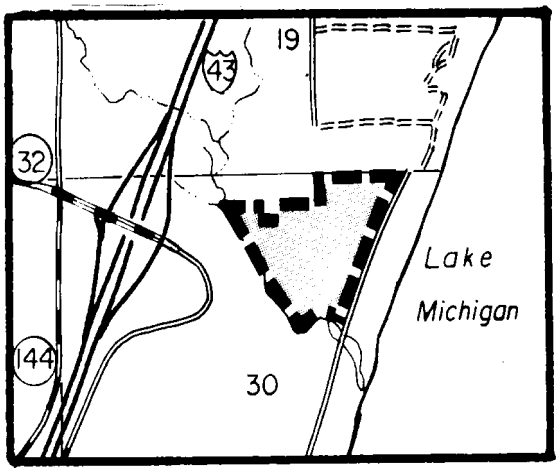

**(12)** MANITOWOC COUNTY. (a) *Point Beach state forest.* Township 20 north, range 25 east, town of Two Rivers.



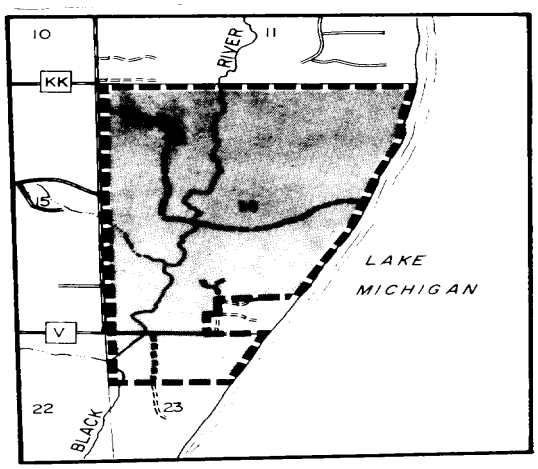

**(13)** OZAUKEE COUNTY. (a) *Riveredge.* Township 11 north, range 21 east, town of Saukville.




**(16)** SHEBOYGAN COUNTY. (a) *Cedar Grove.* Township 13 north, range 23 east, town of Holland.




(b) *Forest preserve.* Township 14 north, range 23 east, town of Wilson.



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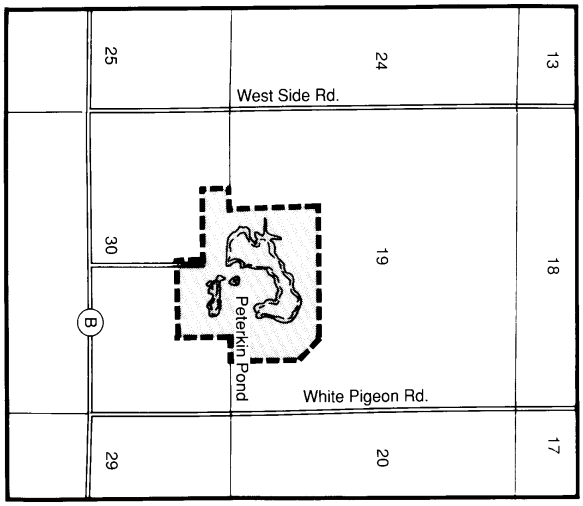
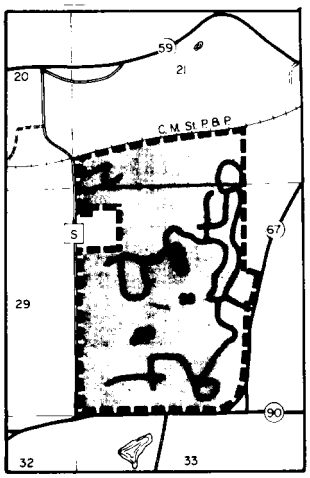
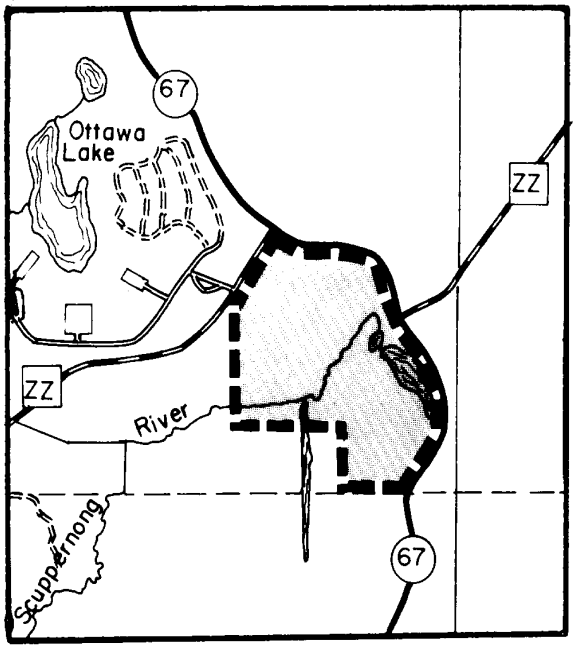
**(17)** WALWORTH COUNTY. (a) *Peterkin Pond.* Township 1 north, range 18 east, town of Bloomfield.



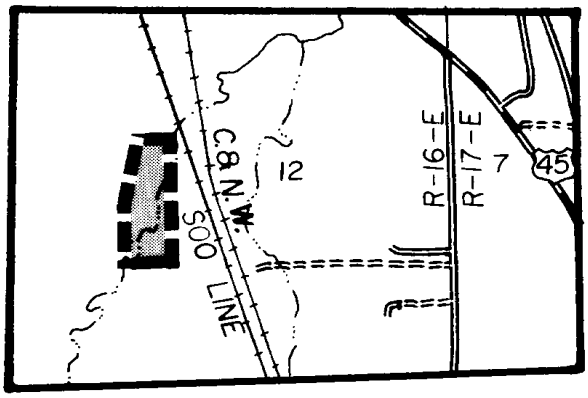

**(18)** WAUKESHA COUNTY. (a) *Old World Wisconsin.* Township 5 north, range 17 east, town of Eagle.




(b) *Scuppernong Springs Nature Area.* Township 6 north, range 17 east, town of Ottawa.




**(19)** WINNEBAGO COUNTY. (a) *U.W.—Oshkosh.* Township 17 north, range 16 east, town of Black Wolf.



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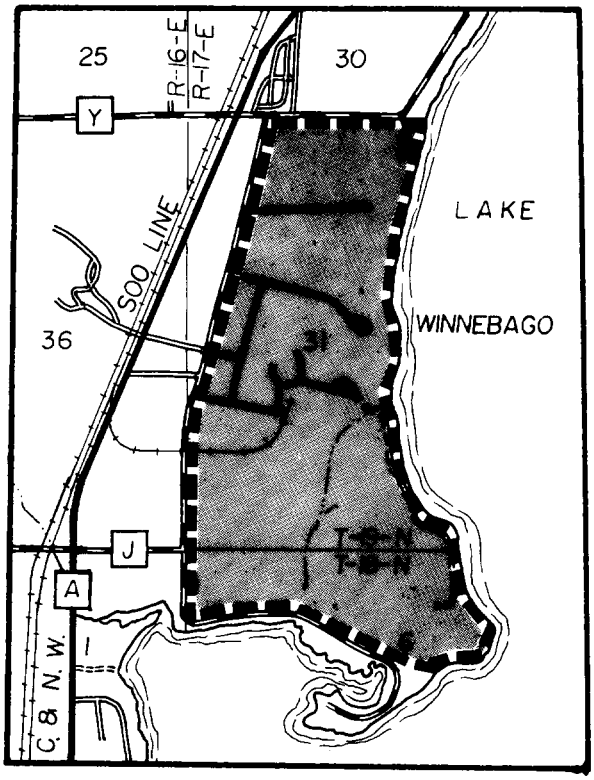
(b) *Winnebago State Hospital.* Township 19 north, range 17 east, town of Oshkosh.




**History:** 1−2−56; emerg. r. (53) (d) (e), (f) and (h) and (56), eff. 9−24−75; r. (48) (b) (c), (69) (b) (c) (d) and (f), cr. (49) (a), (b) and (c), Register, October, 1975, No. 238, eff. 11−1−75; r. (53) (d), (e), (f), and (h) and (56), Register, June, 1976, No. 246, eff. 7−1−76; cr. (7) (b), Register, April, 1978, No. 268, eff. 5−1−78; r. (28) (a) to (d), (48) (a) and (51) (e), Register, September, 1978, No. 273, eff. 10−1−78; r. and recr. (69), Register, December, 1978, No. 276, eff. 1−1−79; r. (59) (f), Register, March, 1979, No. 279, eff. 4−1−79; renum. (7) (b) to be NR 15.02 (80), Register, September, 1979, No. 285, eff. 10−1−79;r. (43) (a) and (c), (51), Register, April, 1980, No. 212, eff. 5−1−80; r. and recr. Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11−1−82; r. (5) (b) and (c), (9), (15) and (18), cr. (7) (d), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10−1−84; r. (14), Register, July, 1987, No. 379, eff. 8−1−87; r. (10), Register, September, 1990, No. 417, eff. 10−1−90; r. (20) (a), Register, March, 1991, No. 423, eff. 4−1−91; renum. (17) to be (18), cr. (17), Register, October, 1991, No. 430, eff. 3−1−92**;** corrections made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 1., Stats., Register, December, 1996, No. 492; reprinted to replace dropped maps in (5) (d), (6) (c), (7) (c), (8) and (19) (a), Register January 2003 No. 565; **CR 13−071: am. (intro.) Register July 2015 No. 715, eff. 8−1−15.**

**Note:** For a complete history of NR 15.01 prior to October, 1975 see the history note to NR 15.01 as it appeared as released in the August, 1973 Register.

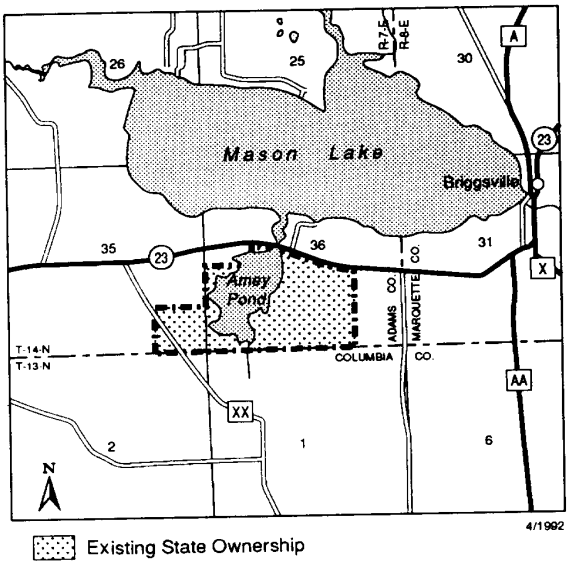
**NR 15.015 Waterfowl production areas.** A wildlife refuge is established in the following areas as posted with U.S. fish and wildlife service signs. No person may hunt or trap or have in his or her possession or under control within such area any firearm unless it is unloaded and completely enclosed within a carrying case, crossbow unless it is unloaded and completely enclosed within a carrying case, or any bow unless it is unstrung or completely enclosed within a carrying case, without authorization from the U.S. fish and wildlife service. The loaded uncased firearm restriction of this section does not apply to a handgun possessed by a person who is authorized by law to possess a concealed handgun in Wisconsin.

**(1)** WAUSHARA COUNTY. (a) *Wilcox Lake waterfowl production area.* Township 18 north, range 10 east, section 14, town of Dakota.

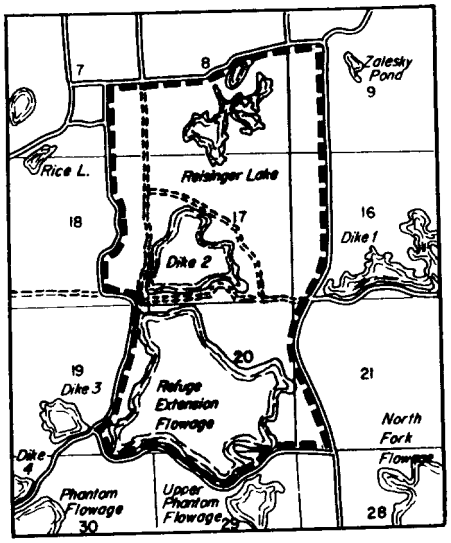
**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1997, No. 502, eff. 11−1−97; **CR 13−071: am. (intro.) Register July 2015 No. 715, eff. 8−1−15.**

**NR 15.02 No entry wildlife refuge (Sept. 1–Dec. 31).** A wildlife refuge is established in the following areas when posted with department signs and no person may hunt waterfowl at any time within such areas. No person may enter such areas except for the retrieval of legally killed or crippled game in posted retrieval zones from September 1 through December 31 unless such areas are posted as open with department signs.

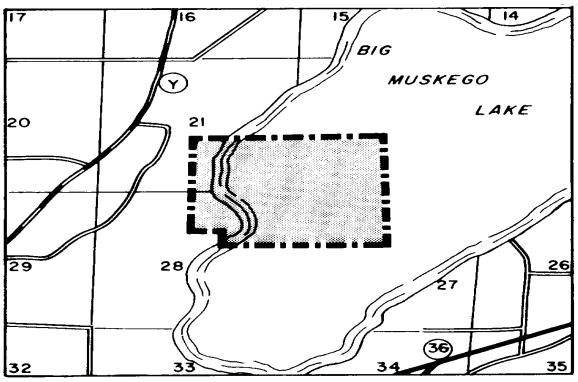
**(1)** ADAMS COUNTY. (a) *Amey pond.* Township 14 north, range 7 east, town of New Haven.



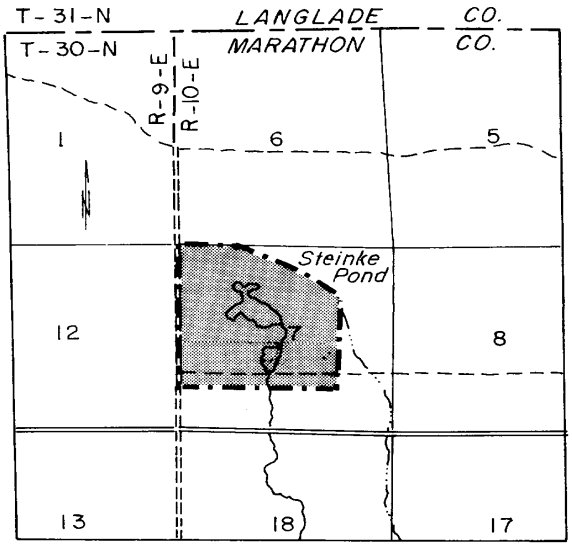
**(2)** BURNETT COUNTY. (a) *Crex Meadows.* Township 39 north, range 18 west, town of West Marshland.



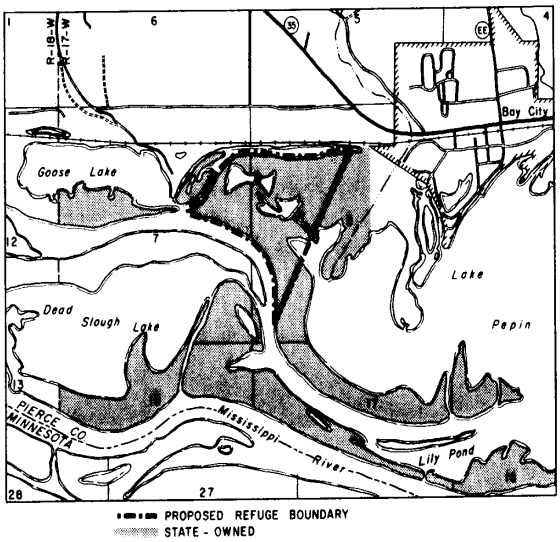

**(4)** WAUKESHA COUNTY. (a) *Big Muskego Lake.* Township 5 north, range 20 east, town of Muskego.



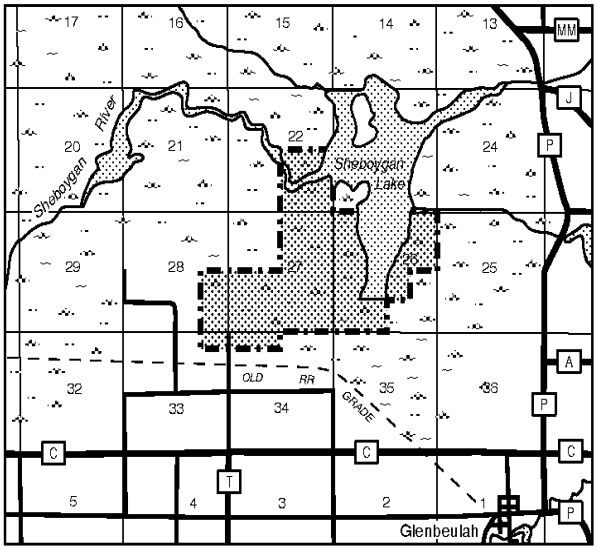

**(6)** MARATHON COUNTY. (f) *Steinke pond.* Township 30 north, range 10 east, town of Harrison.




**(8)** PIERCE COUNTY. (a) *Mike Young.* Township 24 north, range 17 west, town of Isabelle.




**(9)** SHEBOYGAN COUNTY. (a) *Sheboygan Marsh.* Township 16 north, range 20 east, towns of Greenbush and Russell.




**History:** 1–2–56; (see note); r. and recr. Register, October 1982, No. 322, eff. 11–1–82; cr. (2), Register, September, 1985, No. 357, eff. 10–1–85; renum. (1) and (2) to be (3) and (4), cr. (1), Register, August, 1986, No. 368, eff. 9–1–86; cr. (2), Register, July, 1989, No. 403, eff. 8–1–89; am. (intro.), (5) renum. from NR 15.021 (1), Register, August, 1990, No. 416, eff. 9–1–90; (6) to (9) renum. from NR 15.023 (1) to (4), Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11–1–90; emerg. am. (1), eff. 9–1–92; am. (1), Register, February, 1993, No. 446, eff. 3–1–93; am. (intro.), r. and recr. (3), Register, August, 1994, No. 464, eff. 9–1–94; (3) rn. to NR 15.022 (11), r. and recr. (9), Register, September, 1998, No. 513, eff. 10–1–98; CR 02–018: renum. (6) (a) to (e) and (7) to be NR 15.022 (8) and (9) Register September 2002 No. 561, eff. 10–1–02; reprinted to replace dropped map in (5), Register January 2003 No. 565; CR 06–012: r. (5) Register December 2006 No. 612, eff. 2–1–07.

**Note:** For a complete history of NR 15.02 prior to October, 1982, see the history to NR 15.02 as it appeared as released in the August, 1981 Register.

**NR 15.022 No entry wildlife refuge except gun deer and muzzleloader deer (Sept. 1–Dec. 31).** A wildlife refuge is established in the following areas when posted with department signs and no person may hunt waterfowl at any time within such areas. No person may enter such areas for any reason from September 1 through December 31 unless such areas are posted as

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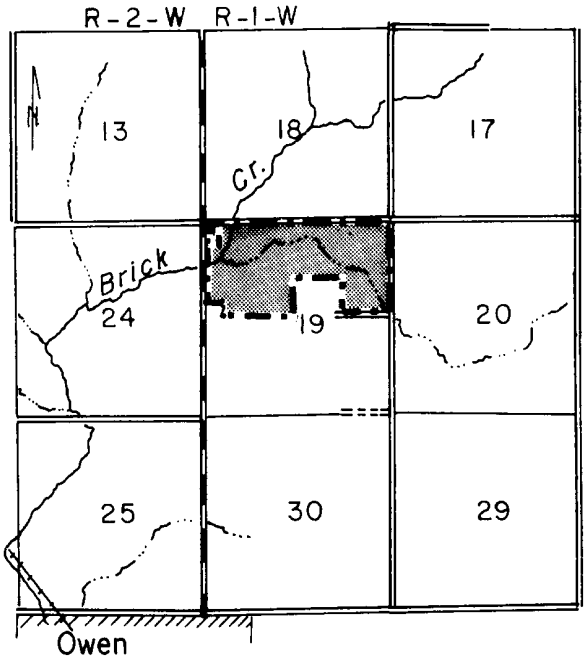
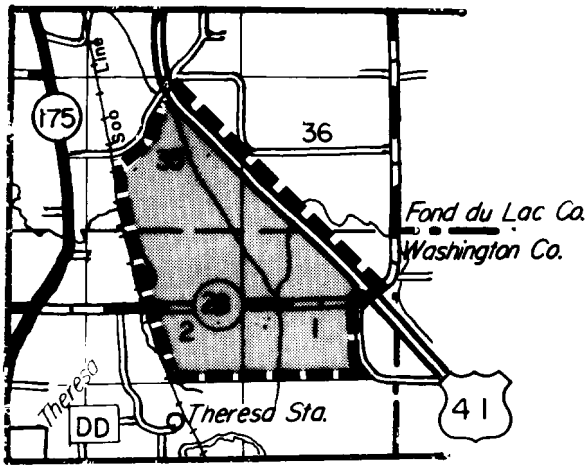
open with department signs except to hunt deer during the open gun and muzzleloader seasons for hunting deer established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (e) and (es), trapping by permit in the area described in sub. (5), and except for the retrieval of legally killed or crippled game in posted retrieval zones.

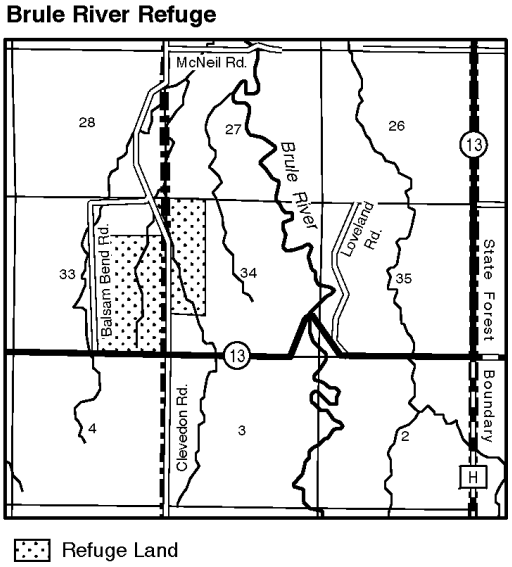
**(1)** CLARK COUNTY. (a) *Sportsman's lake.* Township 29 north, range 1 west, town of Hoard.



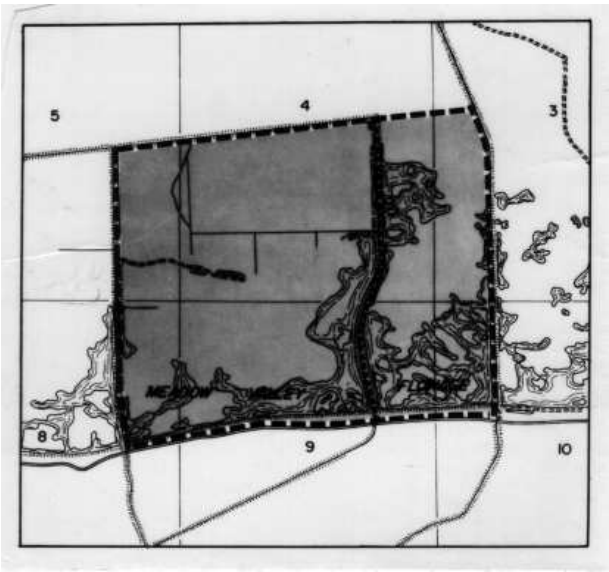

**(2)** DODGE COUNTY. (a) *Theresa Marsh.* Township 12 north, range 17 east, town of Theresa, and township 13 north, range 17 east, town of Lomira.




**(3)** DOUGLAS COUNTY. (a) *Brule river.* Township 49 north, range 10 west, sections 33−34, town of Cloverland.




**(5)** JUNEAU COUNTY. (a) *Meadow Valley.* Township 20 north, range 2 east, town of Kingston.



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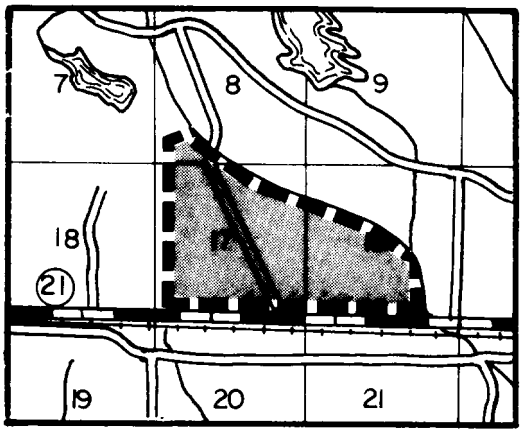
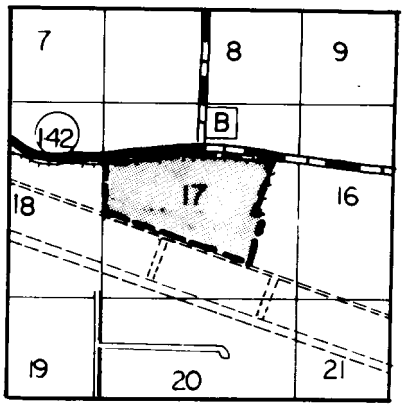
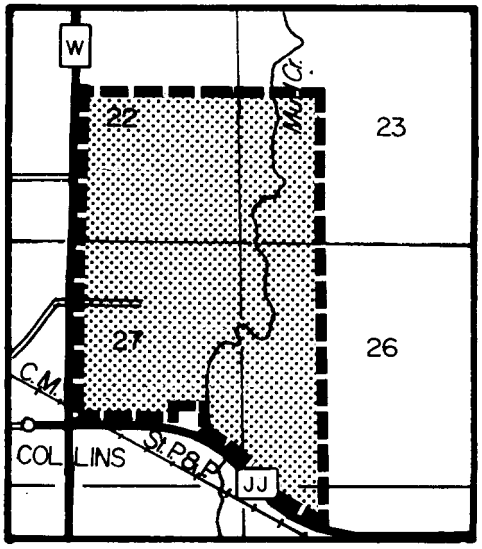
(b) *Necedah.* Township 18 north, range 3 east, town of Necedah.



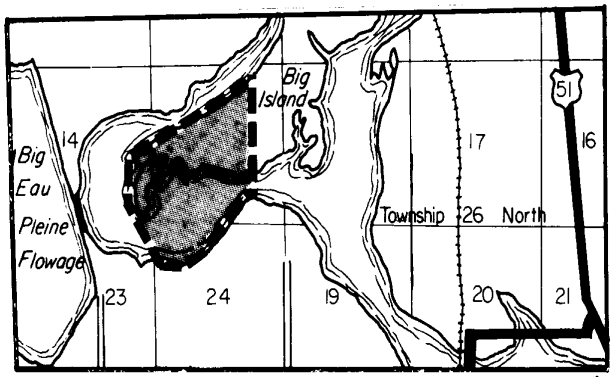

**(6)** KENOSHA COUNTY. (a) *Bong.* Township 2 north, range 20 east, town of Brighton.



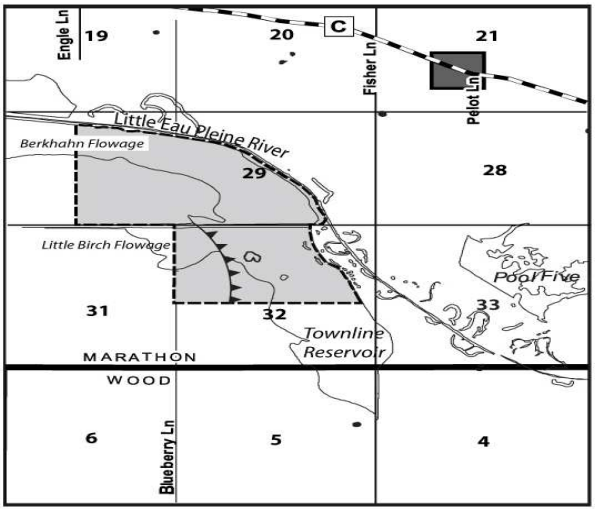

**(7)** MANITOWOC COUNTY. (a) *Collins Marsh.* Township 19 north, range 21 east, town of Rockland.



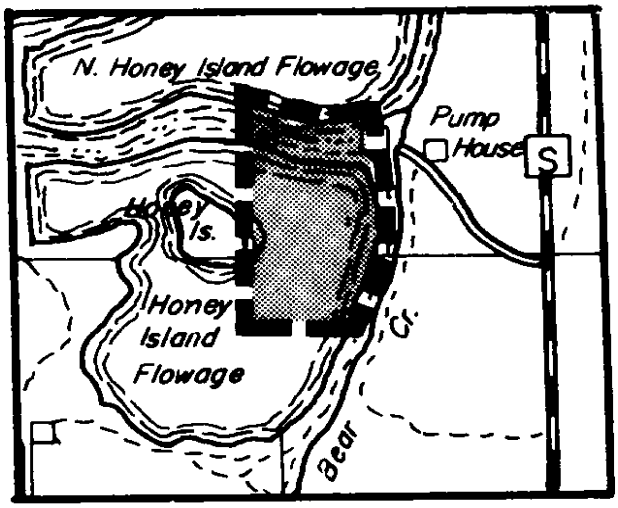

**(8)** MARATHON COUNTY. (a) *Beans Eddy.* Township 26 north, range 6 east, town of Bergen.




(b) *Townline reservoir/Berkhahn flowage.* Township 26 north, range 6 east, town of Bergen.




(c) *Honey Island Flowage.* Township 26 north, range 5 east, town of Green Valley.



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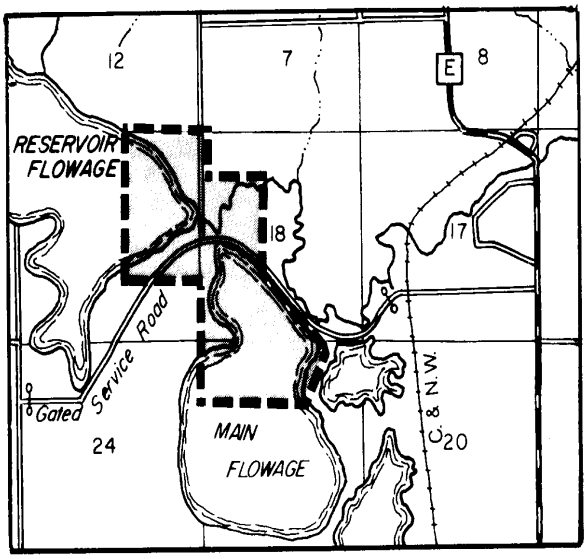
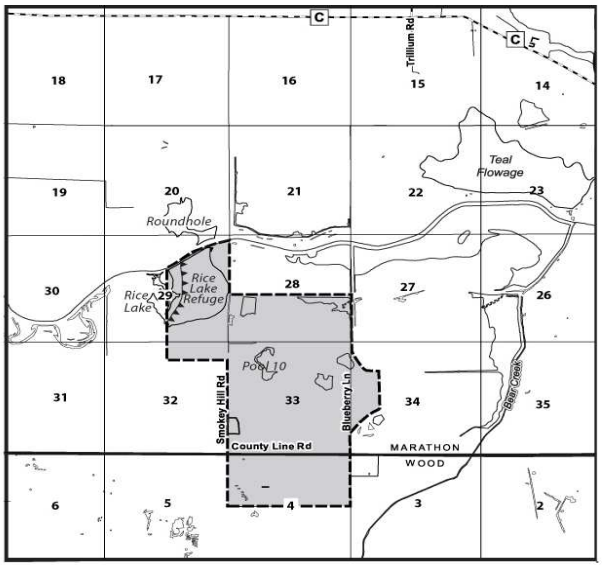
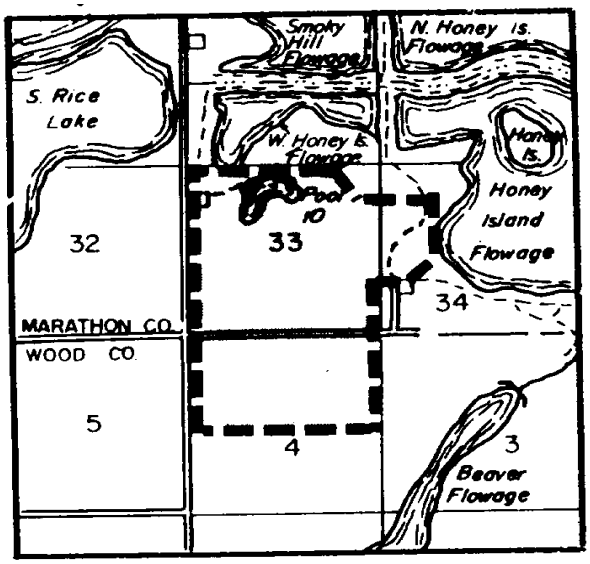
(d) *McMillan Marsh.* Township 26 north, range 2 east, town of Spencer and township 26 north, range 3 east, town of McMillan.



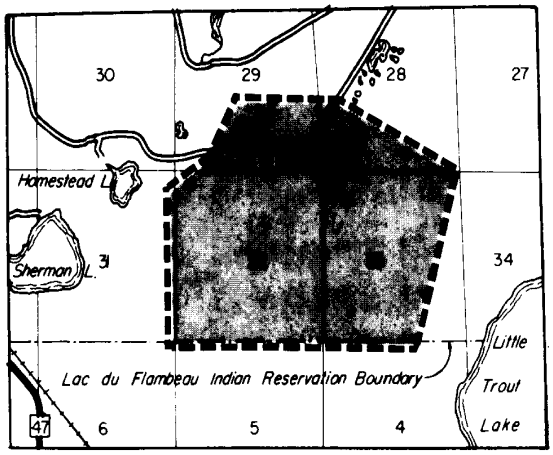

(e) *Mead.* Rice Lake refuge. Township 26 north, range 5 east, town of Green Valley.




**(9)** MARATHON AND WOOD COUNTIES. (a) *Mead.* Township 25 north, range 5 east, town of Milladore and township 26 north, range 5 east, town of Green Valley.




**(10)** VILAS COUNTY. (a) *Powell Marsh.* Township 42 north, range 5 east, town of Manitowish Waters.



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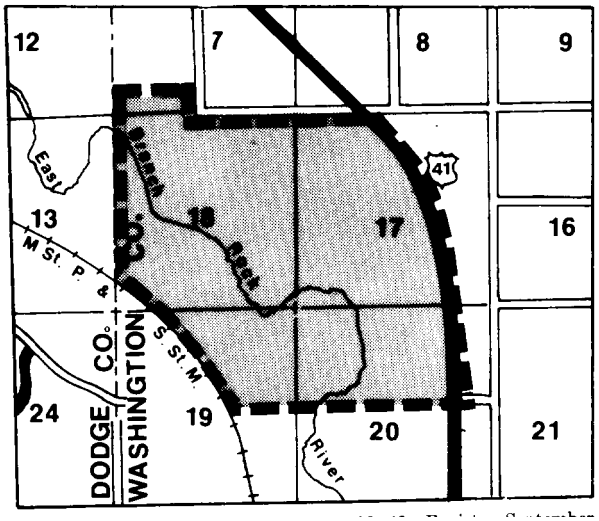
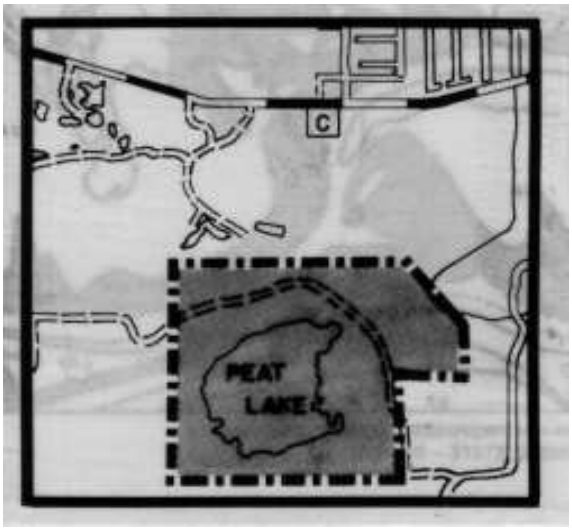
**(11)** WASHINGTON COUNTY. (a) *Theresa Marsh.* Township 12 north, range 18 east, town of Wayne.



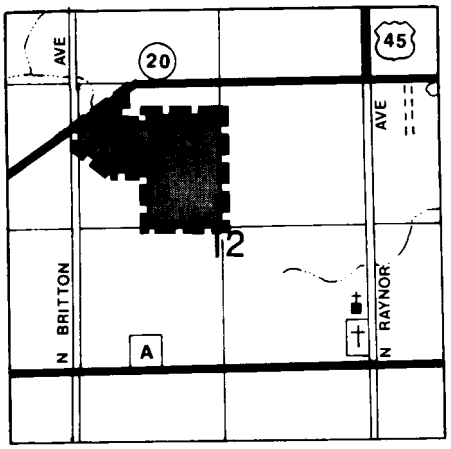

**History:** Cr. (intro. par.), (1) renum. from NR 15.02 (49), Register, September, 1979, No. 285, eff. 10−1−79; r. and recr. Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11−1−82; am. (intro.), Register, August, 1984, No. 344, eff. 9−1−84; r. (8) and (11), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10−1−84; cr. (7) (b), Register, September, 1985, No. 357, eff. 10−1−85; renum. (1) to (7) to be (2) to (8), cr. (1), Register, August, 1986, No. 368, eff. 9−1−86; (11) renum. from NR 11.04 (5), Register, July, 1988, No. 391, eff. 8−1−88; r. and recr. (7) (a), Register, July, 1989, No. 403, eff. 8−1−89; renum. (6) (b), (8) and (11) to be NR 15.024 (1) to (3), Register, October, 1989, No. 406, eff. 11−1−89; am. (intro.), Register, August, 1990, No. 416, eff. 9−1−90; am. (intro.), Register, August, 1994, No. 464, eff. 9−1−94; r. and recr. (3), Register, October, 1997, No. 502, eff. 11−1−97; (11) rn. from NR 15.02 (3), Register, September, 1998, No. 513, eff. 10−1−98; am. (intro.), Register, September, 1999, No. 525, eff. 10−1−99; r. (11), Register, September, 2000, No. 537, eff. 5−1−01; CR 02−018: (8) and (9) renum. from NR 15.02 (6) and (7), renum. (10) and (11) to be (9) and (10) Register September 2002 No. 561, eff. 10−1−02; reprinted to replace dropped maps in (8) (a) and (c), Register January 2003 No. 565; CR 03−015: am. (intro.) Register July 2003 No. 571, eff. 8−1−03; CR 09−015: r. (4), r. and recr. (8) (b) and (e) Register October 2009 No. 646, eff. 2−1−10.

**NR 15.024 No entry wildlife refuge (Sept. 1–Dec. 31); gun deer and muzzleloader deer hunting permitted.** A wildlife refuge is established in the following areas when posted with department signs and no person may hunt waterfowl at any time within such areas. No person may enter such areas for any reason from September 1 through December 31, except to hunt deer during the open gun and muzzleloader seasons for hunting deer established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (e) and (es).

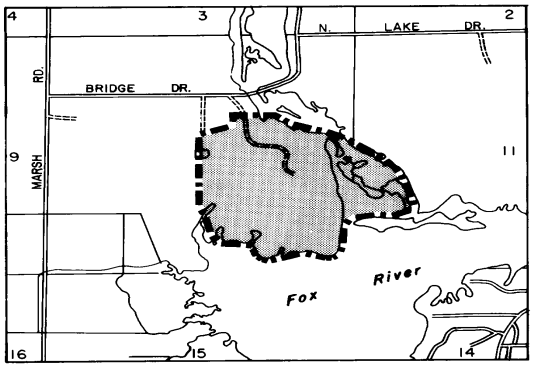
**(1)** KENOSHA COUNTY. (a) *Peat Lake.* Township 1 north, range 20 east, town of Salem.



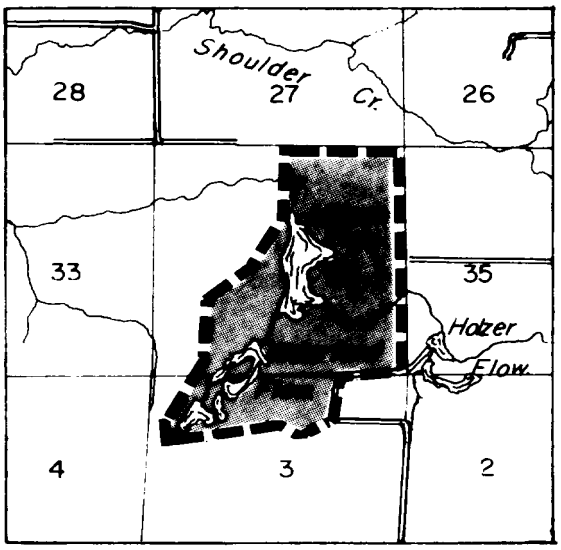

**(2)** RACINE COUNTY. (a) *Dover.* Township 3 north, range 20 east, town of Dover.




(b) *Tichigan wildlife area.* Township 4 north, range 19 east, town of Waterford.




**(3)** TAYLOR COUNTY. (a) *Pershing.* Township 33 north, range 4 west, town of McKinley.



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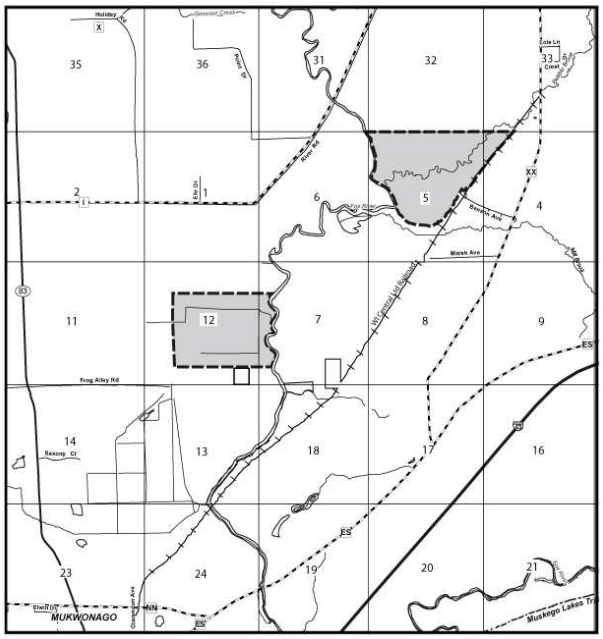
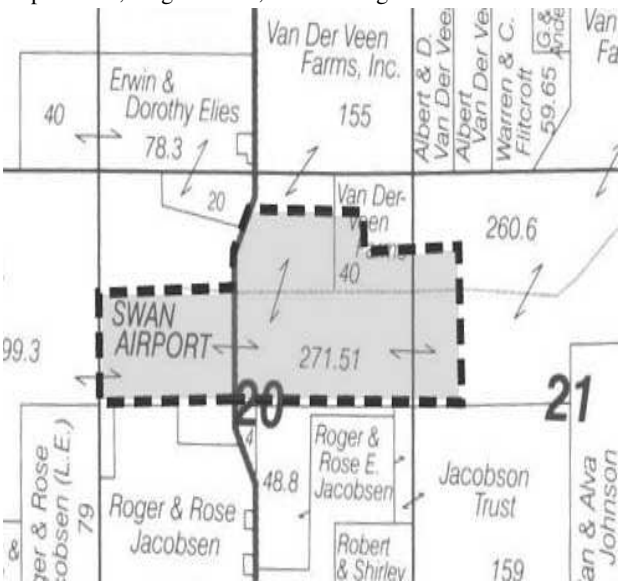
**(4)** WAUKESHA COUNTY. (a) *Vernon wildlife area.* Township 5 north, range 18 east, town of Mukwonago and Township 5 north, range 19 east, town of Vernon.




**History:** (1) to (3) renum. from NR 15.022 (6) (b), (8) and (11), cr. (intro.), Register, October, 1989, No. 406, eff. 11−1−89; am. (intro.), Register, October, 1990, No. 418, eff. 11−1−90; am. (3) map, Register, April, 1992, No. 436, eff. 5−1−92; am. (intro.), Register, August, 1994, No. 464, eff. 9−1−94**;** renum. (3) to be (4), (3) renum. from NR 11.04 (5), Register, July, 1997, No. 499, eff. 8−1−97; am. (intro.) and (1), Register, September, 1999, No. 525. eff. 10−1−99; CR 03−015: am. (intro.) Register July 2003 No. 571, eff. 8−1−03; CR 09−015: r. and recr. (4) Register October 2009 No. 646, eff. 2−1−10; CR 11−030: am. (4) (a) Register February 2012 No. 674, eff. 3−1−12.

**NR 15.026 No entry wildlife refuge (September 1 – November 30); gun deer and muzzleloader deer hunting permitted.** A wildlife refuge is established in the following areas when posted with department signs and no person may hunt waterfowl at any time within the areas. No person may enter the areas for any reason from September 1 through November 30, except to hunt deer during the open gun and muzzleloader seasons for hunting deer established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (e), (es), (et) and (ez).

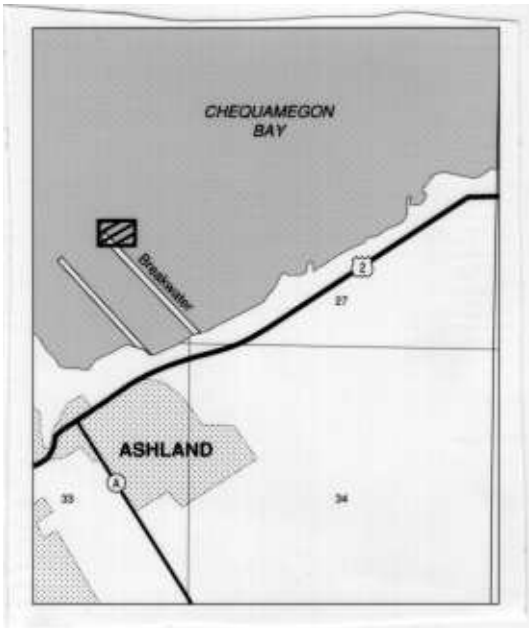
**(1)** WALWORTH COUNTY. (a) *Turtle Valley wildlife area*. Township 3 north, range 16 east, town of Sugar Creek.



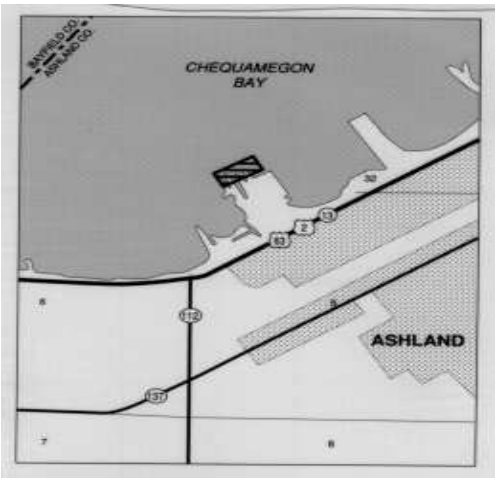

**History:** CR 05−017: cr. Register October 2005 No. 598, eff. 2−1−06.

**NR 15.03 No entry wildlife refuge, rookeries and special areas.** A wildlife refuge is established in the following areas when posted with department signs and no person may enter upon such area for any reason from April 1 through August 24.

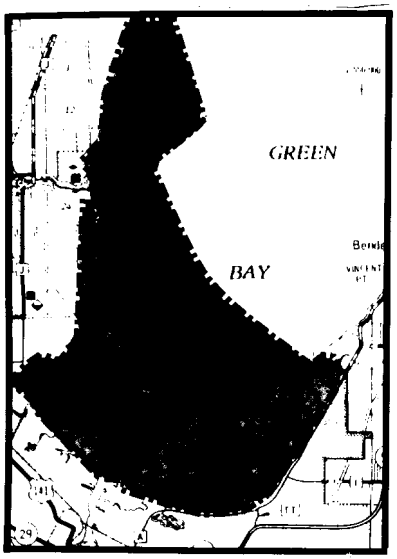
**(1)** (a) *Ashland Tern Island.* Township 48 north, range 4 west, city of Ashland.



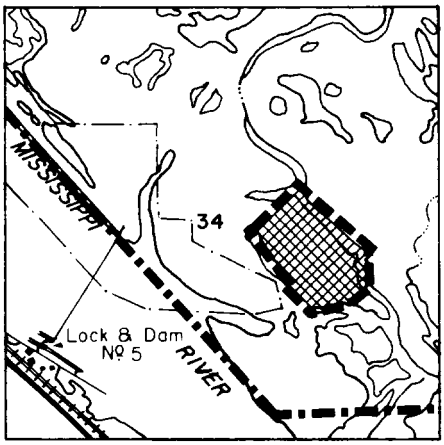
(b) *NSP Tern Island.* Township 48 north, range 4 west, city of Ashland.



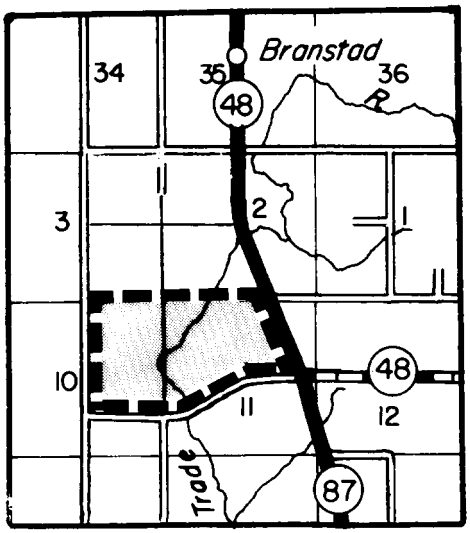

**(2)** BROWN COUNTY. (a) *Lower Green Bay.*



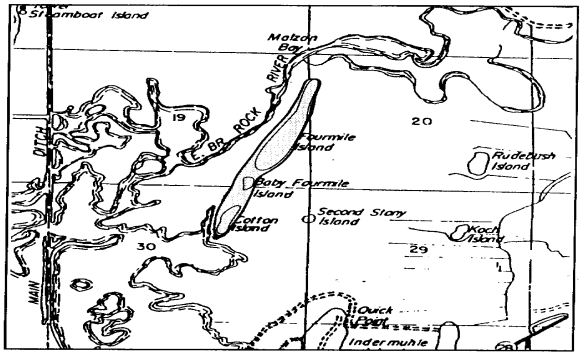

**(3)** BUFFALO COUNTY. (a) *Whitman Dam.* Township 20 north, range 12 west, town of Milton.



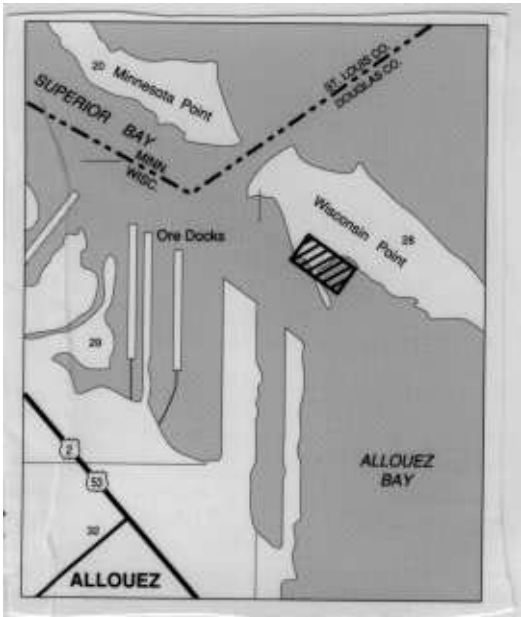

**(4)** BURNETT COUNTY. (a) *Fish Lake.* Township 37 north, range 19 west, town of Anderson.




**(5)** DODGE COUNTY. (a) *Horicon Marsh.* Township 12 north, range 16 east, town of Williamstown.




**(6)** (a) *Wisconsin point wildlife area.* Township 49 north, range 13 west, city of Superior.



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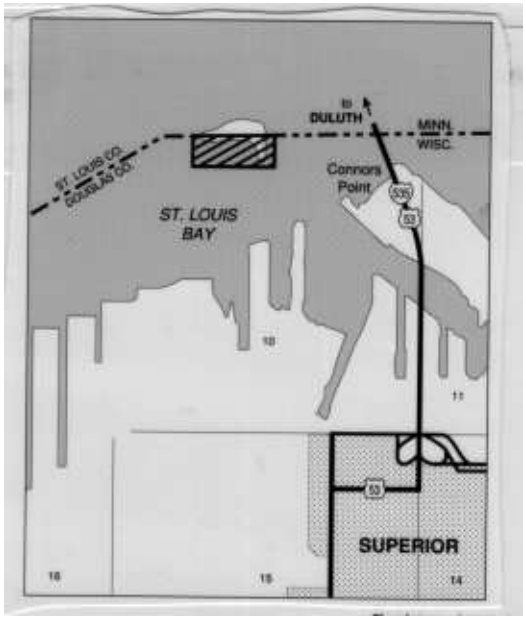
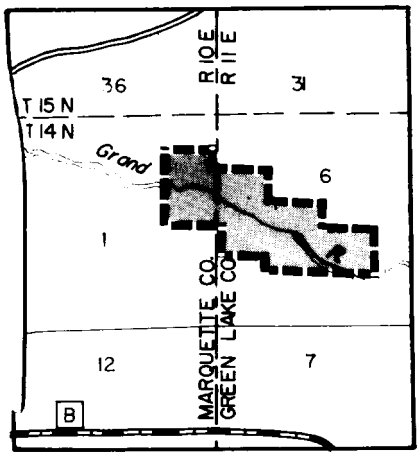
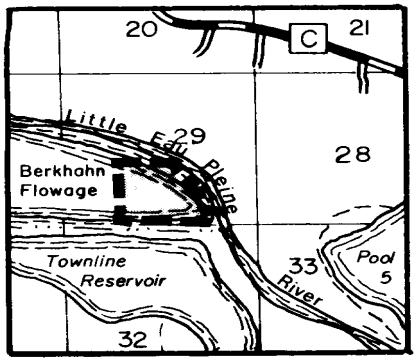
(b) *Interstate Island wildlife area.* Township 49 north, range 14 west, city of Superior.



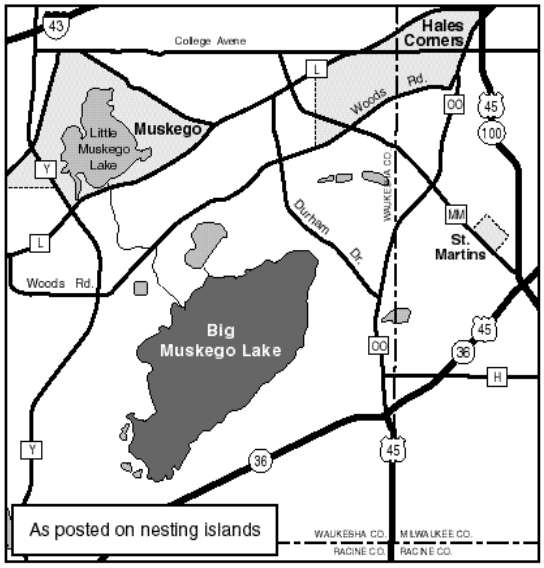

**(7)** GREEN LAKE AND MARQUETTE COUNTIES. (a) *Grand River.* Township 14 north, range 10 east, town of Buffalo and township 14 north, range 11 east, town of Marquette.




**(8)** MARATHON COUNTY. (a) *Mead.* Township 26 north, range 6 east, town of Bergen.



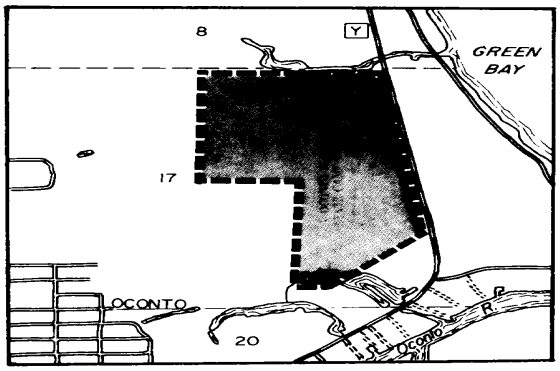

**(9)** WAUKESHA COUNTY. (a) *Big Muskego Lake Nesting Islands.* Township 5 north, range 20 east, city of Muskego.




**History:** Cr. Register, January, 1977, No. 253, eff. 2−1−77; r. and recr. Register, April, 1980, No. 292, eff. 5−1−80; r. and recr. Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11−1−82; renum. (1) to (6) to be (2) to (5), (7) and (8), cr. (1) and (6), Register, September, 1991, No. 429, eff. 10−1−91; r. and recr. (5), Register, August, 1994, No. 464, eff. 9−1−94; am. (intro.), cr. (9), Register, September, 1999, No. 525, eff. 10−1−99.

**NR 15.04 Seasonal game refuge.** A game refuge is created in the following areas as posted with department signs and no person may hunt or trap upon such areas from September 1 through the waterfowl season established in s. NR 10.01 (1) (b) and (g).

**(1)** OCONTO COUNTY. (a) *Oconto Marsh.* Township 28 north, range 22 east, town of Little River.




**History:** Cr. Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11−1−82; am. (intro.), Register, July, 1989, No. 403, eff. 8−1−89.

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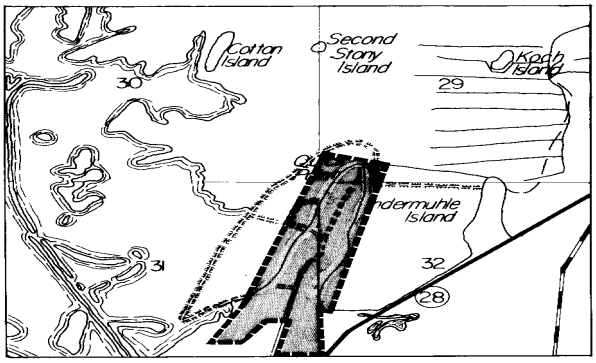
**NR 15.10 Horicon marsh wildlife refuge. (1)** A wildlife refuge is established in the following area as posted with department signs. No person may hunt or trap or have in possession or under control thereon any firearm unless it is unloaded and completely enclosed within a carrying case, crossbow unless it is unloaded and completely enclosed within a carrying case, or any bow unless it is unstrung or completely enclosed within a carrying case. The loaded uncased firearm restriction of this subs. does not apply to a handgun possessed by a person who is authorized by law to possess a concealed handgun in Wisconsin:

Township 12 north, range 16 east, town of Williamstown, Dodge county.




**(2)** Fur−bearing animals may be trapped on the above described lands only under written permit from the department or its agents as provided in s. NR 15.11 (1).

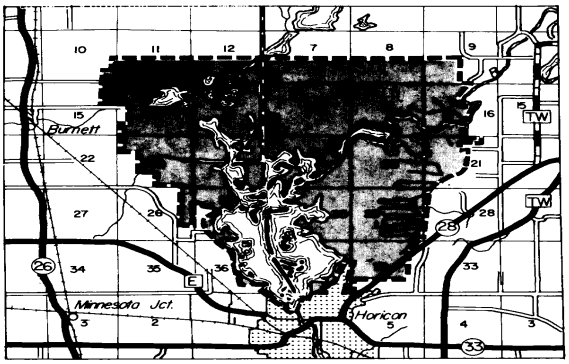
**(3)** Wildlife research in all phases may be conducted on the above described lands by the department and its agents without restriction.

**(5)** The department shall cause the boundaries of the Horicon marsh wildlife refuge as created and established by this section to be marked with signs posted for that purpose.

**(6)** This section shall not prohibit the department or its duly authorized agents, the armed forces of the national guard or of the United States, or any peace officers or any person summoned by a peace officer to assist him in making an arrest or in preserving the peace from entering and being on the above described Horicon marsh wildlife refuge in the performance of official duties

**History:** 1−2−56; am. Register, August, 1957, No. 20, eff. 9−1−57; renum. from WCD 15.10 to be NR 15.10 and am. (1), intro, par., and (2) (3), (4), (5) and (6), Register, April, 1971, No. 184, eff. 5−1−71; am. (5) Register, April, 1976, No. 244, eff. 8−15−76; r. and recr. (1), Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11−1−82; r. and recr. (1), r. (4), Register, September, 1984, No. 345, eff. 10−1−84; **CR 13−071: am. (1) (intro.) Register July 2015 No. 715, eff. 8−1−15.**

**NR 15.11 Horicon marsh fur farm. (1)** A state fur farm to be known as the Horicon marsh fur farm is established on all of the state−owned land on the Horicon marsh wildlife area in Dodge county as posted with department signs and no person may hunt or trap any furbearing animals on such area unless authorized by a valid department permit. Any violation of the permit shall be deemed to be a violation of this section.




**(2)** The secretary shall cause the boundaries of the Horicon marsh fur farm as created and established by this section to be marked with signs posted for that purpose.

**(3)** This section shall not prohibit the department or its fully authorized agents, the armed forces of the national guard or of the United States, or any peace officers or any person summoned by a peace officer to assist him in making an arrest or in preserving the peace from entering and being on the above described Horicon marsh fur farm in the performance of official duties.

**History:** 1−2−56; am. Register, August, 1957, No. 20, eff. 9−1−57; renum. from WCD 15.11 to be NR 15.11 and am. (1), (2) and (3), Register, April, 1971, No. 184, eff. 5−1−71; r. and recr. (1), Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11−1−82; CR 08−021: r. and recr. (1) Register November 2008 No. 635, eff. 12−1−08.

**NR 15.12 University arboretum.** A wildlife refuge is established in the following area and no person may hunt or trap upon such area or have in possession or under control thereon any firearm unless it is unloaded and completely enclosed within a carrying case, crossbow unless it is unloaded and completely enclosed within a carrying case, or a bow unless it is unstrung or completely enclosed within a carrying case, but nothing herein shall prohibit, prevent or interfere with the department, its deputies, agents or employees in the destruction or removal of injurious animals. The loaded uncased firearm restriction of this section does not apply to a handgun possessed by a person who is authorized by law to possess a concealed handgun in Wisconsin.

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Township 7 north, range 9 east, town of Madison.

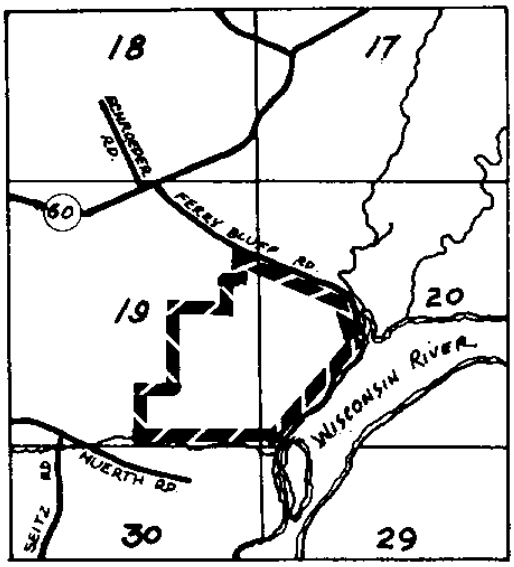
**History:** Cr. Register, August, 1957, No. 20, eff. 9−1−57; renum. from WCD 15.12 to be NR 15.12, and am. (1), intro. par., and (2), Register, April, 1971, No. 184, eff. 5−1−71; r. and recr. Register, October, 1982, No. 322, eff. 11−1−82; **CR 13−071: am. Register July 2015 No. 715, eff. 8−1−15.**

**NR 15.13 University bay and the university of Wisconsin arboretum.** Wildlife research in all phases may be conducted on lands and waters within the boundaries of the university of Wisconsin arboretum as described in s. NR 15.12 and university bay as described in s. NR 15.01 (5) (e). Research may be conducted by the department and its agents and by the regents of the university of Wisconsin or their agents. The university shall provide a list of all research projects conducted on the university arboretum and university bay properties annually to the department for department approval.

**History:** Cr. Register, August, 1958, No. 32, eff. 9−1−58; renum. from WCD 15.13 to be NR 15.13 and am., Register, April, 1971, No. 184, eff. 5−1−71; correction made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7, Stats., Register, September, 1984, No. 345; am. Register, September, 2000, No. 537, eff. 10−1−00.

**NR 15.14 Ferry bluff state natural area.** A wildlife refuge is established in the following area and no person may enter upon such area from November 15 through March 31 except for the retrieval of legally killed or crippled game.

Township 9 north, range 6 east, town of Prairie du Sac




**History:** Cr. Register, September, 1990, No. 417, eff. 10−1−90.