

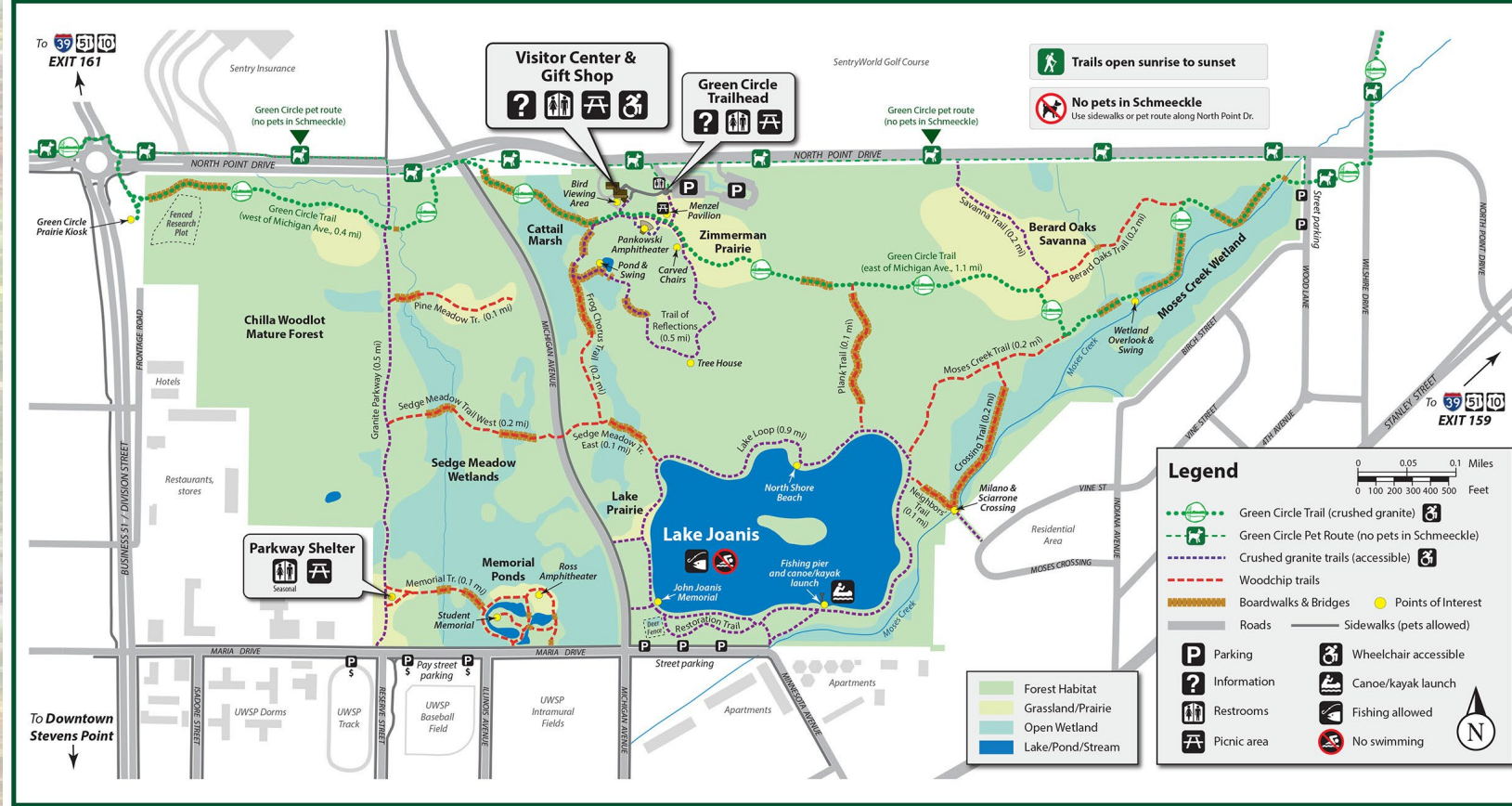


Managing an Urban Greenspace as Bird Habitat:

Schmeckle Preserve, Stevens Point WI

Jordan Winkenbach, Mike Demchik, Jim Buchholz

Schmeckle Reserve Trail Map



- 280-acre outdoor laboratory & classroom for College of Natural Resources at UWSP
- Officially designated in June 1977
- High visitation and use: Estimated **125,000 trail users annually**

Restoration and Management Plan for Schmeckle Reserve, UW-Stevens Point



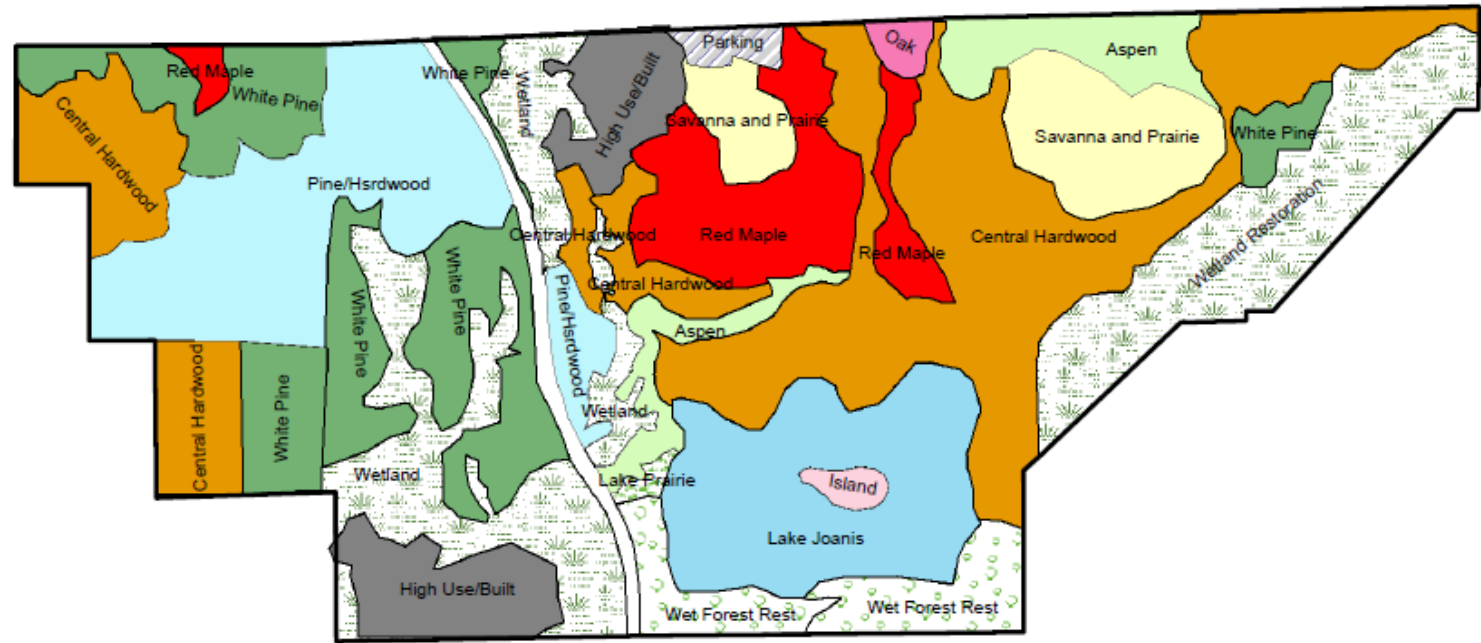
Community and student volunteers and staff planted 250 native trees in Schmeckle Reserve on April 22, 2023, as part of a jack pine forest restoration.

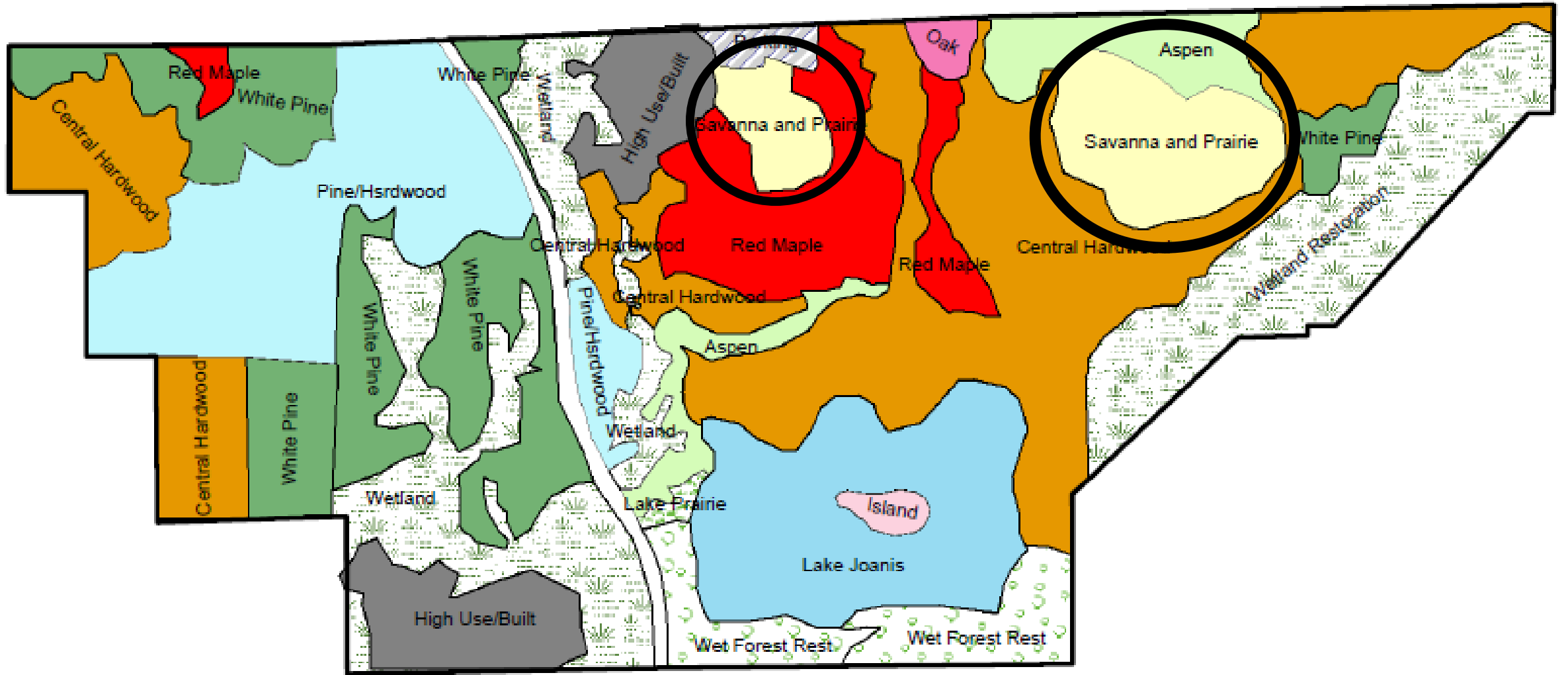
Plan Authors and Contact Info: Mike Demchik, Professor of Forestry, College of Natural Resources, UW-Stevens Point, mdemchik@uwsp.edu, 715-346-3214
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Original Plan Approval Date: 5/19/2020 (CNR Property Management Committee)
Revision date(s): 5/9/2023 (rev. 1)
Public comment period (latest revision): 5/10/2023-5/24/2023
Approved date (latest revision): 6/23/2023 (CNR Property Management Committee)



Schmeckle Reserve
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point






Funding for bird habitat creation & enhancement in 2020

- NFWS Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program grant
- *USFS Landscape Scale Restoration program*

- *Includes the ~14.5 acre oak savanna sites, plus numerous other projects in the area*



USDA  **Forest Service**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Landscape Scale Restoration Grants for the Northeast & Midwest
Partnering to Restore America's Forests






Projects in 11 states



Improving forest ecosystem health and benefits on over **95,000 Acres**



Assisting 23,000 private forest landowners and practitioners



796,000 trees and shrubs to be planted

\$9,000,000 INVESTMENT

\$4.1 Million Contributed from the Forest Service

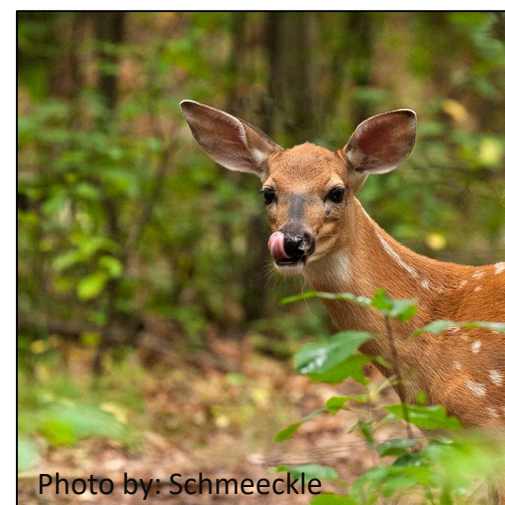
\$4.9 Million Contributed from matched funds

For more info visit fs.usda.gov/r9

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Management concerns in savanna restoration areas:

- Moderate to high cover of glossy buckthorn
- Lack of open structure/structural diversity
→ *lack of understory development*
- *Very heavy deer browse*
- *Oak wilt*







Glossy Buckthorn Removal:

- Forestry 434: Techniques in Ecological Restoration
- Student chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration
 - *Both sites included in a 'Site Stewards' Program*
- UWSP Fire Crew
- Schmeckle staff
- Friends of Schmeckle volunteers
- *Others*





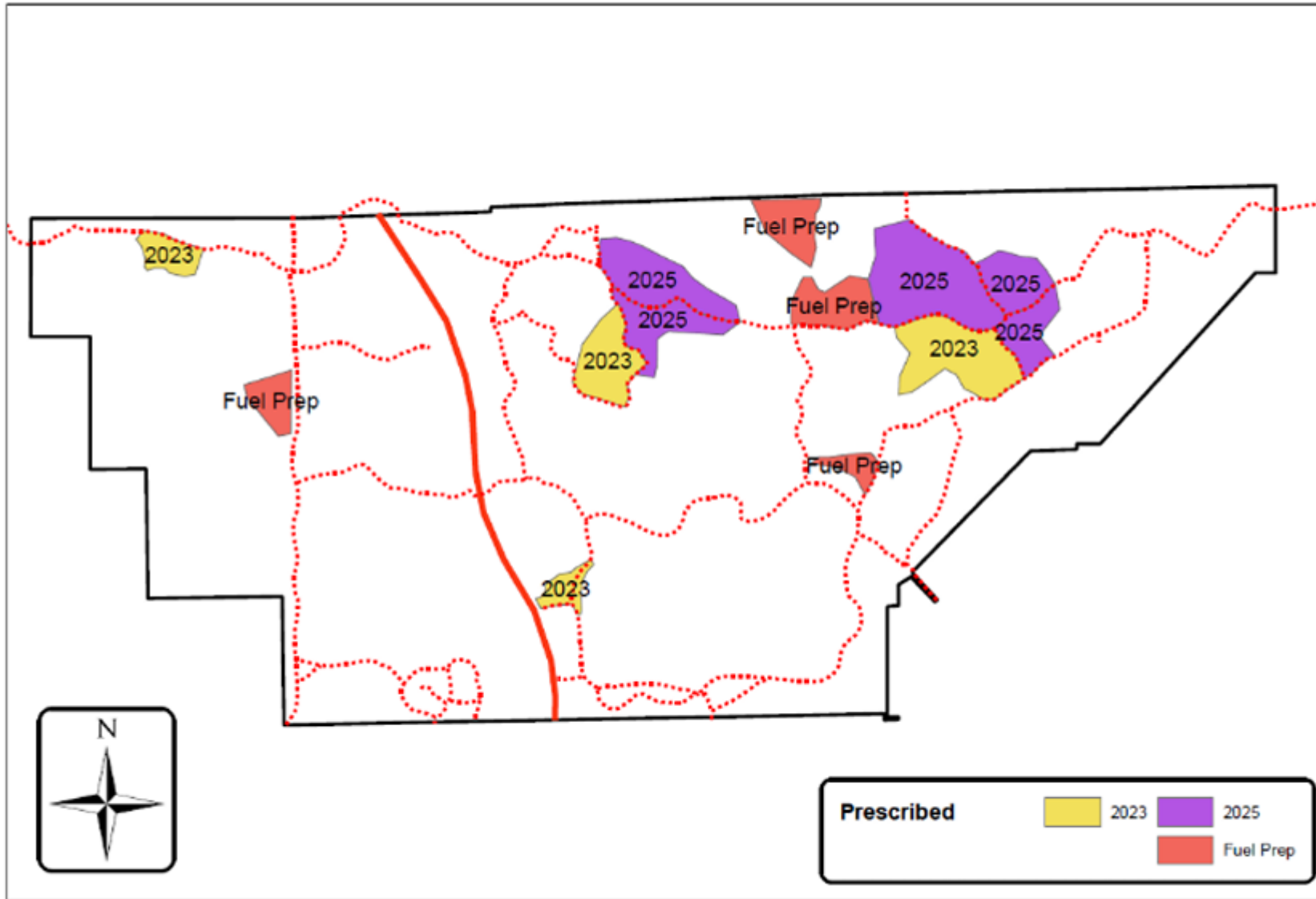
Restoration of open structure/structural diversity:

- Marked by Ecosystem Restoration students
- S212 Wildland Fire Chainsaw Certification course
- UWSP Fire Crew
- UWSP SER chapter
- USFWS/USFS personnel
- Schmeeckle crew
- *Others*





Schmeeckle Prescribed Burn Units



Return periodic fire with a roughly 3-5 year return interval

0 0.2 0.4 0.8 Miles

Map by Mike Demchik
Update 3/20/23







Students planting butterfly weed & rattlesnake master plugs following burn.



**SER members
collecting and
spreading native,
local seed**



Oak Savanna Restoration area



This site is infected with oak wilt disease. Trees were removed to limit the spread of oak wilt and open up the canopy. The ground vegetation has been burned and sprayed with herbicide to clear the soil. Native grasses and flowers will be seeded in fall 2021.



Oak savanna habitat

For more info, call 715-346-4992 or visit
www.uwsp.edu/schmeeckle







Ongoing work:

- Continue regular prescribed burning, understory seeding
- Regular herbicide spot treatments for new buckthorn sprouts
- Potential understory oak and native shrub plantings
- Using point count bird data to determine habitat creation success

Habitat components restored:

- **Invasive shrub cover → Native shrubs, forbs, grasses**
 - *(Nesting sites, insect populations, food source)*
- **Continuous canopy → Numerous openings, structural complexity**
 - *(Vertical habitat, tree regeneration, food source, cover)*
- **Heavy deer browse → Dissipated by numerous openings**
 - *(Tree (oak) regeneration greatly improved)*
- **Oak wilt → Successful containment?**
 - *Time will tell*



Impact of
Habitat Creation?



Thank you!

Prescribed Fire for Forest Management Webinar Series

Register at www.uwsp.edu/wfc



Wisconsin Forestry Center
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

