

# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## OVERVIEW

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has requested that Wisconsin River Power Company (WRPCO) develop a consistent Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) for project lands on the Petenwell and Castle Rock Reservoirs. These particular project lands are known as Shoreline Commons Areas (SCAs), which WRPCO is required to monitor, maintain and manage under its the FERC Hydro-Power Project License #1984.

WRPCO has the responsibility to ensure that any shoreline activities that occur within project boundaries are consistent with project license requirements, purposes and operations.

WRPCO's goal in managing its lands, and planning for the long-term use of its lands within the project boundary, is to balance the competing interests in resources offered by the reservoirs and their shorelines.

WRPCO manages these lands to serve the greater public interest by providing for production of power needs, and allowing public recreation access, while managing and controlling private/commercial access across project lands and preserving important vegetation and wildlife habitat.

Developments have been occurring on the Petenwell and Castle Rock Reservoirs for more than 20 years under two FERC licenses, resulting in varying interpretations of SCA uses. These varying interpretations impact lands open to the public in such areas as underbrush and tree removal as well as view sheds and construction improvements. A single, comprehensive plan will assure all areas are maintained in a consistent and appropriate manner.

After obtaining input from property owners associations (Associations), user groups, agency personnel and developers, as well as reviewing other shoreline management plans, WRPCO developed a VMP for the Petenwell and Castle Rock Reservoirs. An executive summary of the plan follows. Documentation of Consultation is provided in Appendix B.

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

The SCA around the reservoirs is approximately a 100 feet horizontal in distance, measured landward from the reservoir. Within that buffer area, WRPCO will undertake the following vegetation management practices:

- Aesthetic and wildlife vegetation management.
- SCA public trail maintenance.
- Dead or diseased and dangerous tree removal.

- Regular inspections for efficient SCA public trail maintenance and vegetation management planning.

#### PROPOSED ALLOWABLE ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER VEGETATION MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The following is a summary of proposed vegetation management activities by adjacent property owners that would be allowed upon receipt of WRPCO's written approval.

- Individual residence view shed.
- Individual residence access path.
- Aesthetic and wildlife vegetation planting.

#### PROPOSED WRPCO MONITORING AND COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES

The following is a summary of proposed SCA monitoring and communications activities.

- Assignment of a full-time WRPCO Shoreline Management Specialist.
- Regular communications with adjacent property owners, Associations and user groups.
- Implementation of a SCA development application and approval process.
- Defined enforcement procedures for unauthorized SCA uses.
- Information provided to Association leaders as needed.