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2. Land Acquisition

Recommended Actions:

- (1) Wisconsin DNR should acquire lands owned by WERCO along the Red River, and along and near the St. Louis River in Douglas County.
- (2) The St. Louis River Board should acquire lands along the St. Louis River that meet the high priority acquisition criteria set forth in the St. Louis River Management Plan. Once acquired, the St. Louis River Board, MDNR, and others should prepare site management plans.

Implementors:

WDNR and the St. Louis River Board.

Actions Taken:

Wisconsin:

5/94: Wisconsin land acquisition approved by Governor.

9/94: WERCO Wisconsin signs option to sell 6,000 acres to WDNR.

12/94: Wisconsin Governor signs purchase agreement for WERCO property.

1/95: Property transfer complete.

6/95: WDNR hosts Stewardship Celebration for WERCO purchase.

Minnesota:

2/95: St. Louis River Board purchases 3,060 acres along St. Louis River below Brookston, with another 22,000 acres planned for acquisition.

4/98: Follow up letter sent to MDNR. 22,600 acres were acquired from Minnesota Power on 6/97. Of the 22,600 acres, Minnesota Power donated 5,640 acres. This exceeds land Minnesota Power originally agreed to donate by 1.5%. Recommended state acquisition of 395 acres leased by Minnesota Power. Minnesota Power will probably donate most of this property to the state with the goal of protecting it from future development.

Project Status:

Complete.