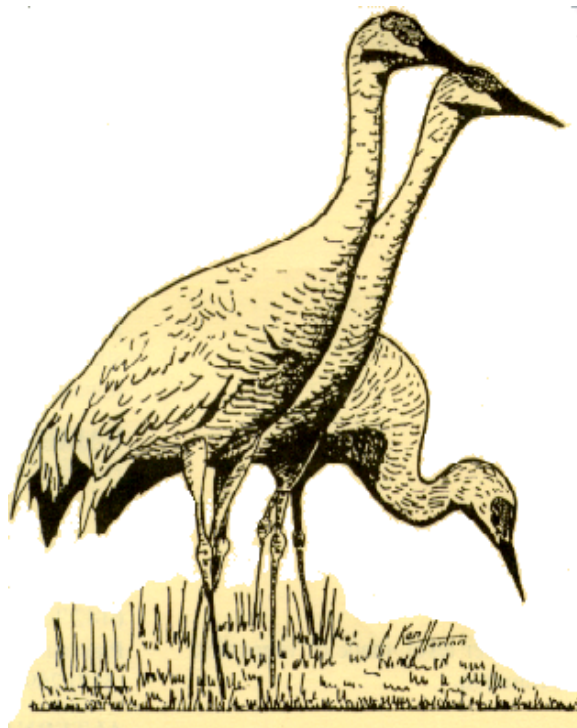


**Wildlife Conservation Plan**  
**For**  
**Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary**  
**Draft**



Prepared by  
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Updated January 21, 2014

# **Wildlife Conservation Plan for the Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary is a special place that is held in trust for the people of Michigan by Michigan Audubon. The sanctuary has expanded from Casper Haehnle's gift of 497 acres in 1955 to its present size of 1,006 acres. During the past six decades, vegetation, wildlife populations, wildlife management practices and the demand for recreation have changed. The role of the sanctuary can be summarized in its mission statement:

*The Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary is dedicated to the protection of and education about sandhill cranes, other birds and wildlife and the habitats that support them by providing opportunities for research and recreational viewing.*

This wildlife conservation plan provides a prescription for managing the sanctuary. It is based on the history, environmental conditions, threats, wildlife management principles and justifications described in *A Conservation Assessment for the Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary*. The purpose of a conservation plan is to outline the steps that will be taken in order to reach sanctuary goals and objectives. It recommends management actions in a step-by-step formula of what, when, where. The format includes a description of location, soils, presettlement vegetation, present vegetation, human impacts, vegetation cover map, recommendations for management actions or polices, a schedule to implement these actions, and monitoring reports.

The sanctuary is divided into six management units (Fig. 1). Commonalities of biotic communities, past and future management actions, natural and man-made features are the bases for the unit boundaries.

Three main goals are the basis for managing the sanctuary. They are conservation, education and research. The terms goals, objectives and actions are defined as:

Goal – a general, broad outcome that is not measurable.

Objective – a subset of the goals that reflect the results needed to achieve a 'Goal'. They are measurable.

Action – Actives required to fulfill the 'Objectives'.

The goals, objectives, and actions are relate to each other by starting with goal number. The goal number (1-3) is first, followed by a 'period' then the objective number (e.g. 3.02 is Goal #3, Objective #2). Actions and policies are indicated with lower case letters (e.g. a, b, etc.)The same goal and objective numbers are used in all management units, but actions are not. To further help differentiate these statements, they are sequentially indented.

The conservation goals and objectives for the sanctuary are:

- 1.00 Conserve native flora and fauna at the sanctuary, especially Sandhill Cranes.
  - 1.01 Maintain sanctuary boundaries.
  - 1.02 Restrict public access to environmentally sensitive areas including fens and wetlands used by cranes.
  - 1.03 Restore water levels to elevations that occurred prior to construction of the Portage Drain.
  - 1.04 Restore, enhance and maintain native biotic communities i.e. grasslands, savannahs, oak forests, fens, wetlands.
  - 1.05 Manage native plants and animals.
    - 1.06 Enlarge the sanctuary through gifts and purchase of additional land.
    - 1.07 Reduce invasive plants and animals.
- 2.00 Increase public understanding of the sanctuary, its wildlife and their environment.
  - 2.01 Conduct guided tours.
  - 2.02 Provide educational materials.
  - 2.03 Provide opportunities for self-guided wildlife viewing
  - 2.04 Publicize sanctuary activities, wildlife, etc.
  - 2.05 Maintain a historical account of Haehnle.
  - 2.06 Hire a part-time steward.
- 3.00 Increase scientific knowledge of wildlife and their environment through research.
  - 3.01 Maintain an inventory of plants, insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals
  - 3.02 Permit scientific studies of wildlife.

These objectives are a framework from which detailed and specific short-and long-range programs of management will be developed and implemented. Availability of resources (volunteers, paid staff, finances, personal interests and skills) limits what can be accomplished. Therefore, the Haehnle Committee must decide which objectives and actions should be actively pursued.

Once recommendations have been implemented, it is important to monitor the results. Sometime unexpected results occur, such as drought, flooding, new invasive species appear, etc. Successful projects should also be monitored to know what works. Records of accomplishments will be an important tool for future evaluation of this management plan. They are described in *Wildlife Management Record of Accomplishments and Monitoring*.

A five-year schedule for performing the management actions is listed in Table 1. The recommended season (Winter, Spring, Fall or all) are indicated. It is a summary of actions required to meet management needs.

## **II. WILDLIFE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT FOR ALL UNITS**

The following management recommendations apply to the entire sanctuary.

- 1.01 Maintain sanctuary boundary.
  - 1.01a At least once-a-year inspect boundary for evidence of trespassing. Ongoing
  - 1.01b Place sanctuary boundary signs at a distance so that one can not enter the sanctuary without seeing a sign. Ongoing
- 1.02 Restrict public access to environmentally sensitive areas e.g. fens, wetlands used by cranes.
  - 1.02a Policy: The upland areas west of Mud Lake marsh will be open to the public and the remaining area of the sanctuary, which includes Mud Lake marsh, and fens will be classified as a Wildlife Area and closed to the general public. Haehnle Sanctuary Committee members have standing permission to enter the Wildlife Area. Committee members Lathe Claflin, Ronald Hoffman, and Gary Siegrist are authorized to grant permission to others entering the Wildlife Area.
- 1.06 Enlarge the sanctuary through gifts and purchases of additional land.
  - 1.06a Haehnle Committee reviewed previous list of property and adopted at its February 13, 2012 meeting a new priority list of land to acquire (Figure 2). Review every five years.

- | <u>Priority</u> | <u>Description</u>  |
|-----------------|---|
| 1               | Parcel 2 Judy Cory 40 ac. house along Seymour Rd. & south of Eagle Lake   |
| 2               | Parcel 3 George Smith 55 acres lowlands east of Wooster Rd.   |
| 3               | Parcel 4 Judy Corey 20 ac. cottage north of Eagle Lake  |
| 4               | Parcel 6 Zone 4 210 ac. mostly wetland, access to northeast corner of sanctuary   |
| 5               | Parcel 7 Quality Hardwoods 118 ac. woodland east of sanctuary   |
| 6 tie           | Parcel 1 Bury 106 ac. wetland south of Cutler Rd.   |
| 6tie            | Parcel 5 Corey 40 ac. west of Wooster Rd.   |
| 1.06b           | Inform adjacent landowners of Audubon's interest in enlarging the sanctuary. Ongoing  |
| 1.06c           | Consider acquisition of land when it becomes available. Long-range  |
| 1.07            | Reduce invasive plants and animals.   |
| 1.7a            | Policy: A large number of invasive species of plants are found at Haehnle. Some are widespread and highly invasive while others are confined to local areas and are less invasive. The most problematic species will be managed within constraints of time and money. Ongoing   |
| 2.01            | Conduct guided tours.   |
| 2.01a           | As needed and volunteers are available, offer nature walks. Ongoing   |
| 2.01b           | Offer programs to various groups e.g. civic, Audubon chapters. Ongoing  |
| 2.01c           | Offer "step-on" bus tours. Ongoing  |
| 2.01d           | Provide weekend greeters during autumn. Ongoing   |
| 2.01e           | Monitor number of visitors during autumn. Ongoing   |
| 2.02            | Provide educational materials.  |
| 2.02a           | Prepare and distribute copies of the various brochures and other leaflets. Ongoing  |
|                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary</li> <li>● Sandhill Cranes at the Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary</li> <li>● Birds At the Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary</li> <li>● Nature Trail A Guide for a Walk at Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary</li> <li>● Wetland Restoration At The Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary</li> <li>● Prairie Restoration at the Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary</li> <li>● Michigan Audubon Society's Sanctuaries, Nature Centers and Affiliates</li> <li>● Sandhill Crane Fall Viewing Areas</li> </ul> |
| 2.03            | Provide opportunities for self-guided wildlife viewing.   |
| 2.03a           | Develop and maintain interpretive, walking trails, including mowing. Ongoing  |
| 2.03b           | Pick-up litter as needed. Ongoing   |
| 2.04            | Publicize sanctuary activities, wildlife, etc.  |
| 2.04a           | Maintain web site <a href="http://www.haehlnlesanctuary.org">www.haehlnlesanctuary.org</a> . Ongoing  |
| 2.04b           | Write articles for Jackson Audubon newsletter, Bird Tracks. Ongoing   |
| 2.04c           | Send news releases to newspapers and other media. Ongoing   |
| 2.04d           | Publish a Haehnle Newsletter twice a year. Ongoing  |
| 2.04e           | Grant interviews to news organizations. Ongoing   |
| 2.05            | Maintain a historical account of Haehnle.   |
| 2.05a           | Maintain copies of Haehnle Sanctuary Committee Meeting Minutes. Ongoing   |
| 2.05b           | Maintain Jackson Audubon Society and Michigan Audubon Society financial records. Ongoing  |
| 2.05c           | Collect historic records related to the sanctuary e.g. deeds, photos, personal recollections, newspaper articles. Ongoing   |
| 2.06            | Hire a part-time steward.   |
| 2.06a           | Haehnle Committee prioritizes a list possible steward tasks. Completed Feb. 13, 2007  |
| 2.06b           | Develop a job description. Long-range   |
| 2.06c           | Prepare a proposal for MAS to enter into contract for a part-time steward. Long-range   |
| 2.06d           | Hire a part-time steward. Long-range  |

- 3.01 Inventory plants and animals found at the sanctuary. All of the actions listed below are ongoing.
- 3.01a Maintain a database of plants found in each biotic community with emphasis on grasslands and fens.
  - 3.01b Maintain a database Lepidoptera.
  - 3.01c Maintain a database of fish.
  - 3.01d Maintain a database of amphibians.
  - 3.01e Maintain a database of reptiles.
  - 3.01f Maintain an annual database of bird abundance.
  - 3.01g Conduct weekly counts of Sandhill Cranes during autumn.
  - 3.01h Maintain a database of mammals.
- 3.02 Permit scientific studies of wildlife.
- 3.02a Maintain a list of scientific studies.

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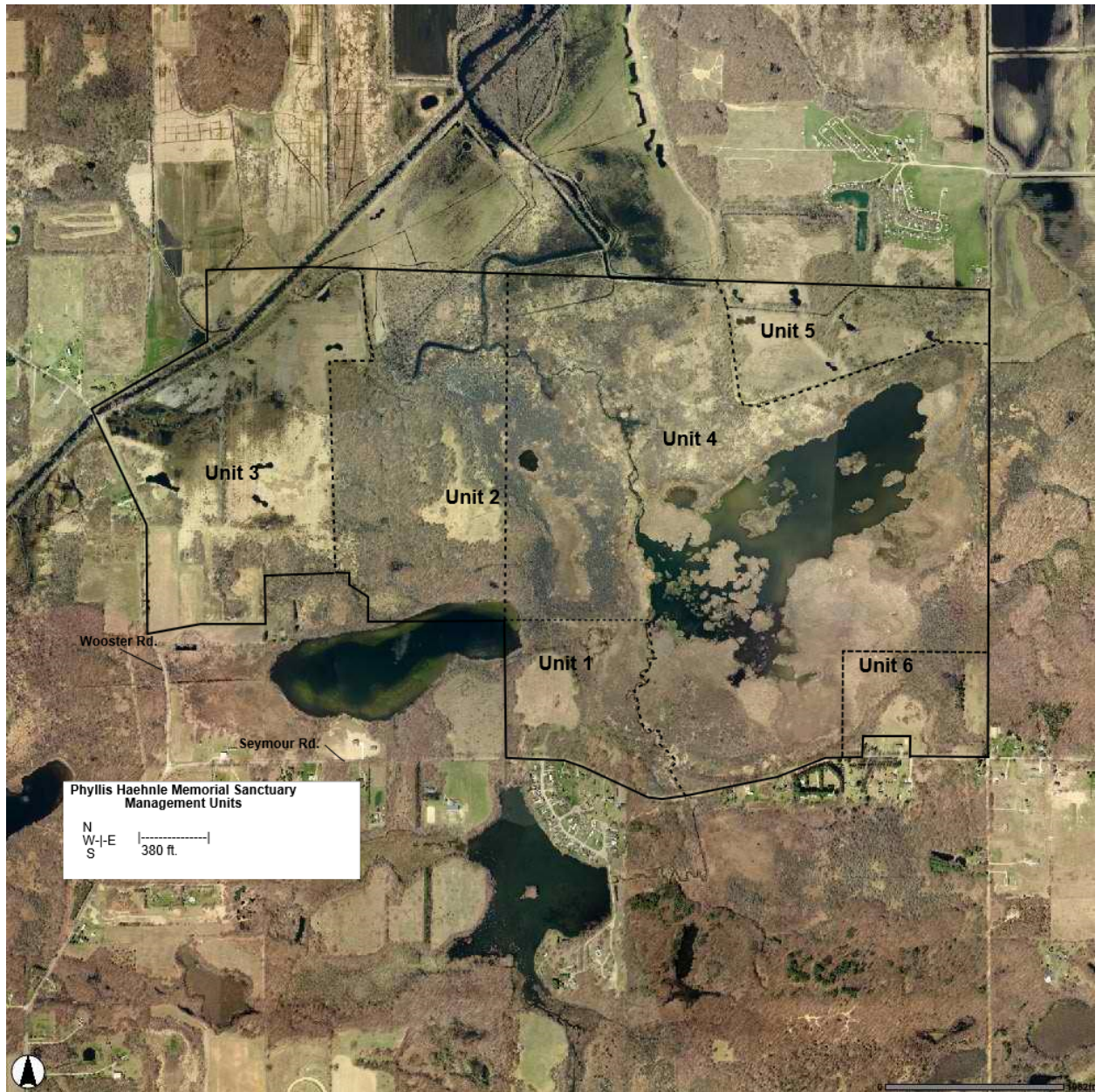


Figure 1. A map of wildlife management units at the Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary.

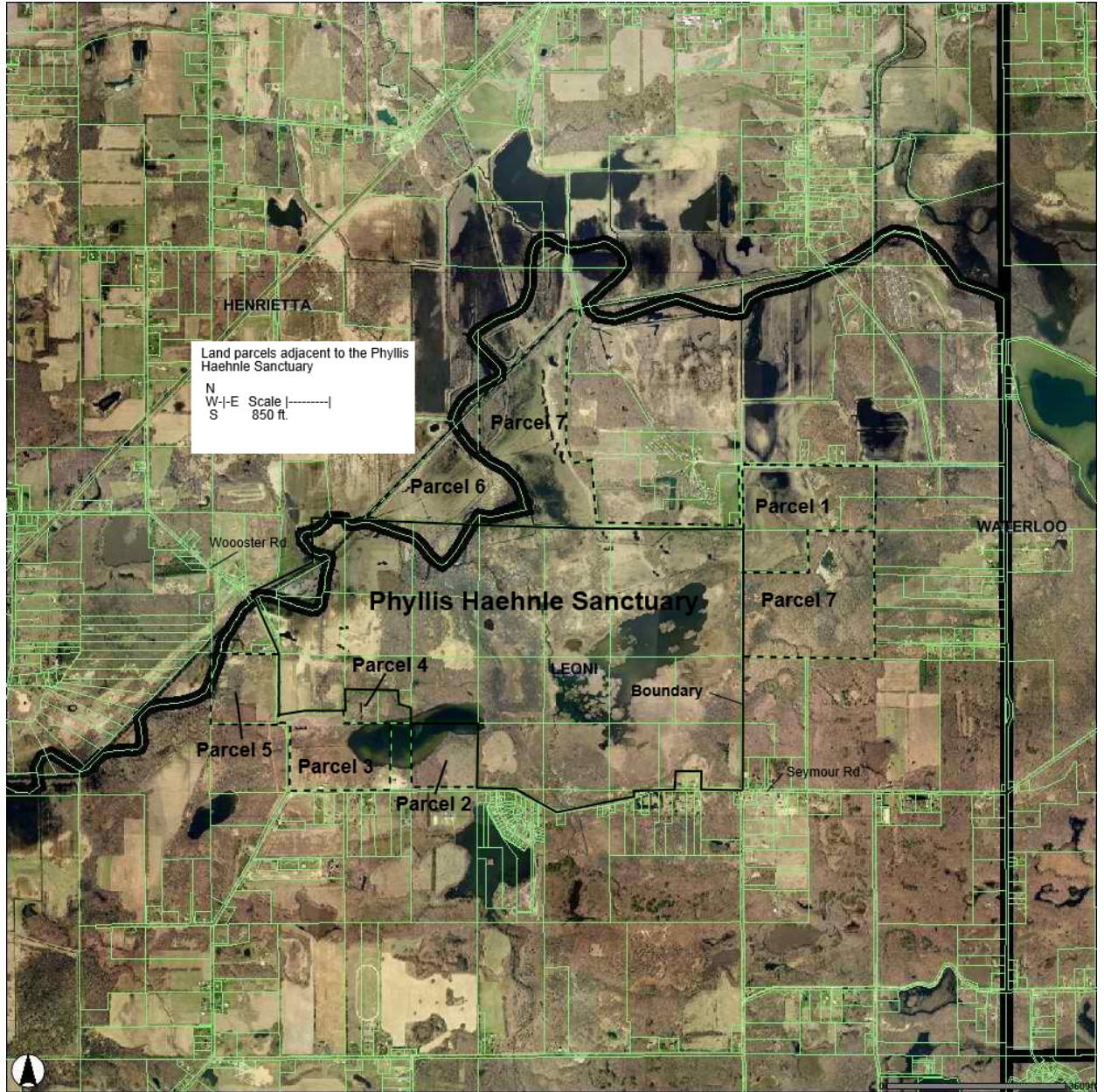


Figure 2. Map of landowner parcels adjacent to the Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Sanctuary.

Table 1. Five-year schedule for performing management actions.

Action	Description	Season of Year				
		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1.01a	Inspect sanctuary boundaries	w	w	w	w	w
1.01b	Place sanctuary signs within sight of one another	w	w	w	w	w
1.06a	Review priority list of properties to acquire					w
1.06b	Inform neighbors of desire to enlarge sanctuary	all	all	all	all	all
2.01a	Provide guides for nature walks	all	all	all	all	all
2.01b	Offer programs to various groups	all	all	all	all	all
2.01c	Offer "step-on" bus tours to view cranes	f	f	f	f	f
2.01d	Provide weekend greeters	f	f	f	f	f
2.01e	Monitor number of visitors	f	f	f	f	f
2.02a	Prepare and distribute brochures	f	f	f	f	f
2.03a	Maintain trails	sp f	sp f	sp f	sp f	sp f
2.03b	Pickup litter	all	all	all	all	all
2.04a	Maintain web site	all	all	all	all	all
2.04b	Write articles for Jackson Audubon newsletter	all	all	all	all	all
2.04c	Send news releases to newspapers and other media	all	all	all	all	all
2.04d	Publish a Haehnle Newsletter	sp f	sp f	sp f	sp f	sp f
2.04e	Grant interviews to news organizations	all	all	all	all	all
2.05a	Maintain copies of Haehnle Sanctuary Committee meeting minutes	all	all	all	all	all
2.05b	Maintain copies of JAS and MAS Haehnle financial records	all	all	all	all	all
2.05c	Collect historic records e.g. deeds, photos, personal recollections	all	all	all	all	all
3.01a	Maintain database of plants	all	all	all	all	all
3.01b	Maintain database of Lepidoptera	all	all	all	all	all
3.01c	Maintain database of fish	all	all	all	all	all
3.01d	Maintain database of amphibians	all	all	all	all	all
3.01e	Maintain database of reptiles	all	all	all	all	all
3.01f	Maintain database of bird abundance	all	all	all	all	all
3.01g	Conduct weekly counts of Sandhill Cranes	fall	fall	fall	fall	fall
3.01h	Maintain database of mammals	all	all	all	all	all
3.02a	Maintain a list of scientific studies	all	all	all	all	all
Total management actions		28	28	28	28	29

all - all seasons, f - fall, sp - spring, su - summer, w - winter