



Live music provided as a courtesy of the Prairie Smoke Band



Prairie Smoke Bluegrass Band, from Portage Wisconsin, has performed at festivals, coffeehouses, clubs and private events throughout south central Wisconsin. Inspired by Bill Monroe, Flatt and Scruggs and Ralph Stanley; Prairie Smoke plays Traditional Bluegrass as well as original material.

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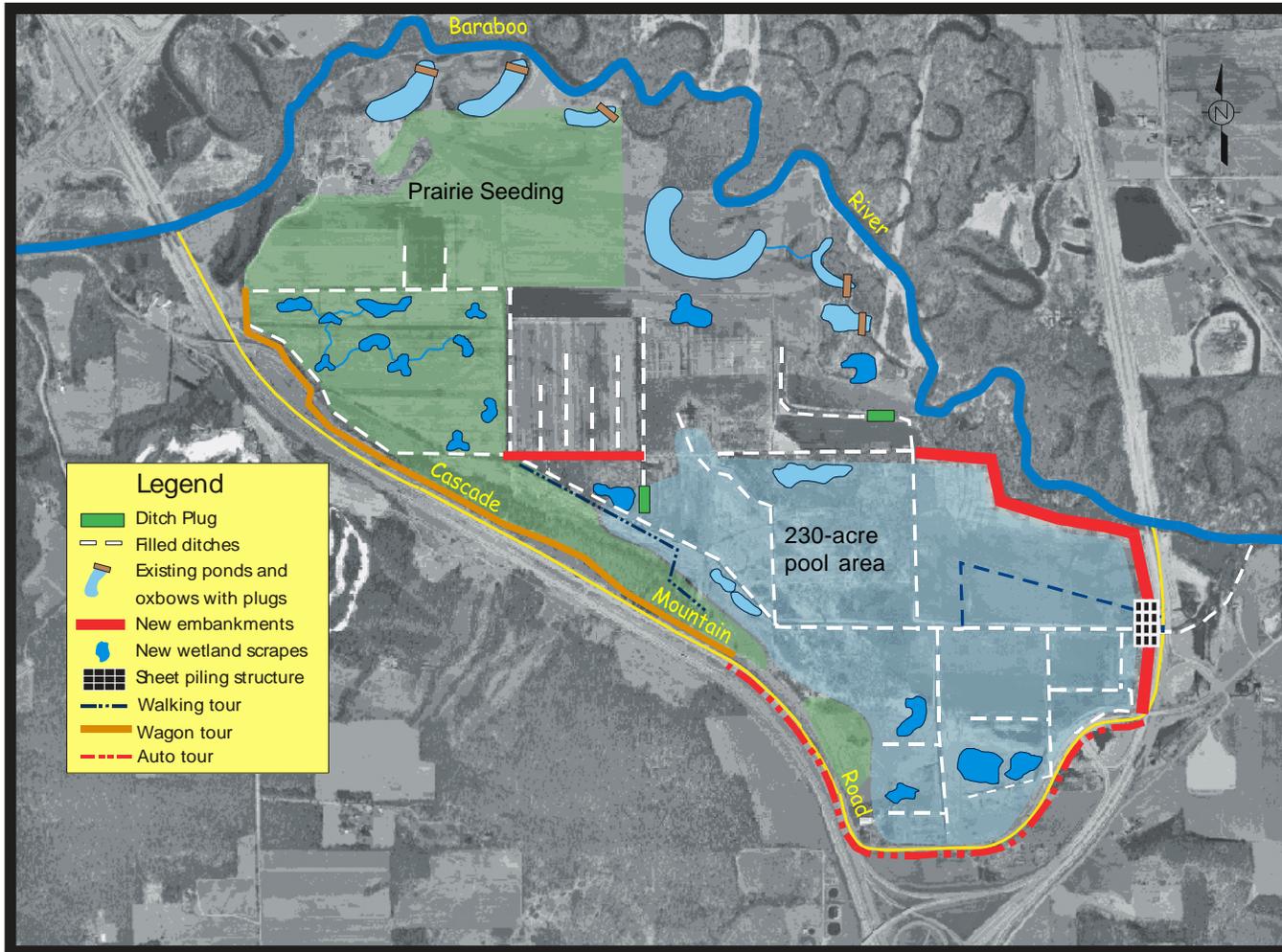
Wisconsin

May 2003



Photo by Barbara Jansen, NRCS

The Baraboo River project began as a collaborative effort between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 1997. The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), managed by NRCS, offered an opportunity for enrolling over 800 acres of marginal farmland into a high quality wetland restoration and waterfowl production area. Six landowners enrolled their property into the WRP program. The property is now owned and managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and is a successful Waterfowl Production Area.



The work is complete on this wetland restoration that is now the Baraboo River Waterfowl Production Area. Miles of old drainage ditches have been filled in and shallow wetland scrapes have diversified the topography of the area. A new dike embankment and water control structure creates a 230-acre pool area. In addition, 300 acres of prairie and savanna species have been seeded for nesting cover to benefit migratory birds, small game, deer and other wildlife.

The WPA will be open to the public for hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education and interpretations.

Contributing Partners include:

- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Ducks Unlimited
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Sand County Foundation
- Wisconsin Waterfowl Association
- UW Center for Limnology
- US Geological Survey

*A testament to the strength
of true partnerships*

The project is located in Columbia County near the confluence of the Baraboo and Wisconsin Rivers and is comprised of wetland complexes, grasslands and floodplain forest. A water control structure will control invasive vegetation and promote beneficial emergent and submersed plant communities. It will maximize habitat values for waterfowl and other wildlife. This floodplain is home to prothonotary warblers and a suite of other songbirds that require mature floodplain trees and wetland and grassland habitat. Bald eagles and Blandings turtle will also likely call the site home after the restoration.

