

# Public Open House Meetings

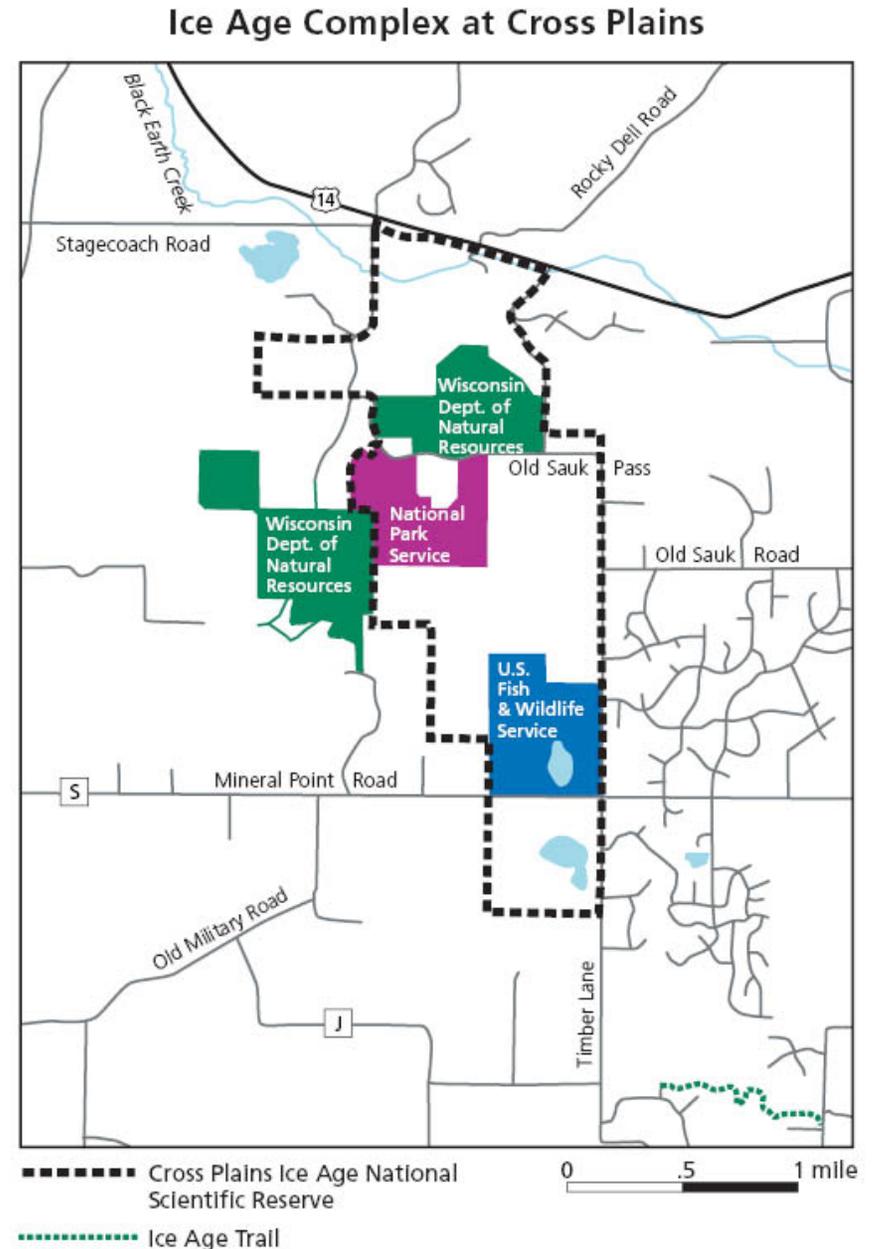
August 27 & 28, 2008

---

Beginning a General Management Plan for the  
Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains

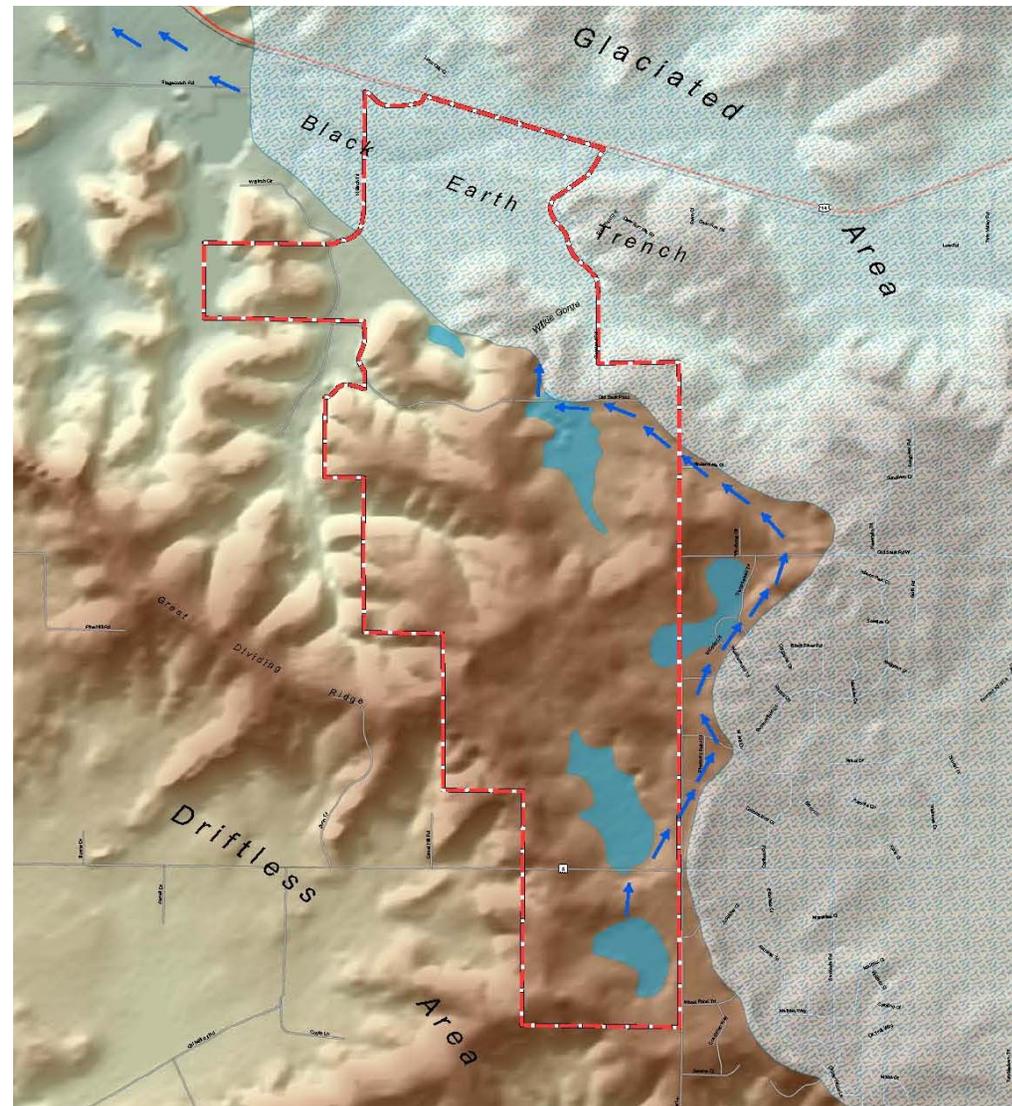
# The Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains

- ~1,600 acres
- Federal ownership by two agencies
- State ownership by the DNR



# Resource Significance of the Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains

**Terminal Moraines** -  
this is where the  
glacier stopped; they  
are more distinct east  
of Timber Lane and  
south of Old Sauk  
Road





# Resource Significance of the Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains

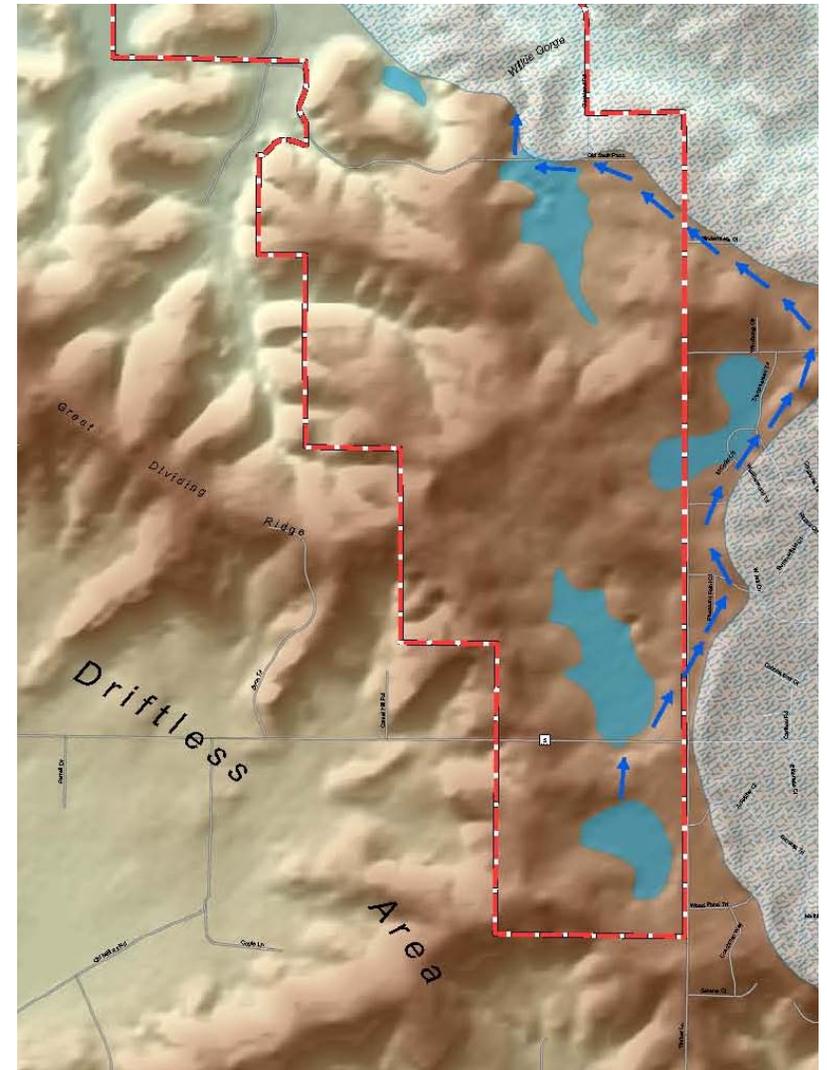


The water in these ponds eventually found a place to flow underneath the glacier, cutting a **gorge** that today cuts across Old Sauk Pass a short distance west of Cleveland Road



# Resource Significance of the Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains

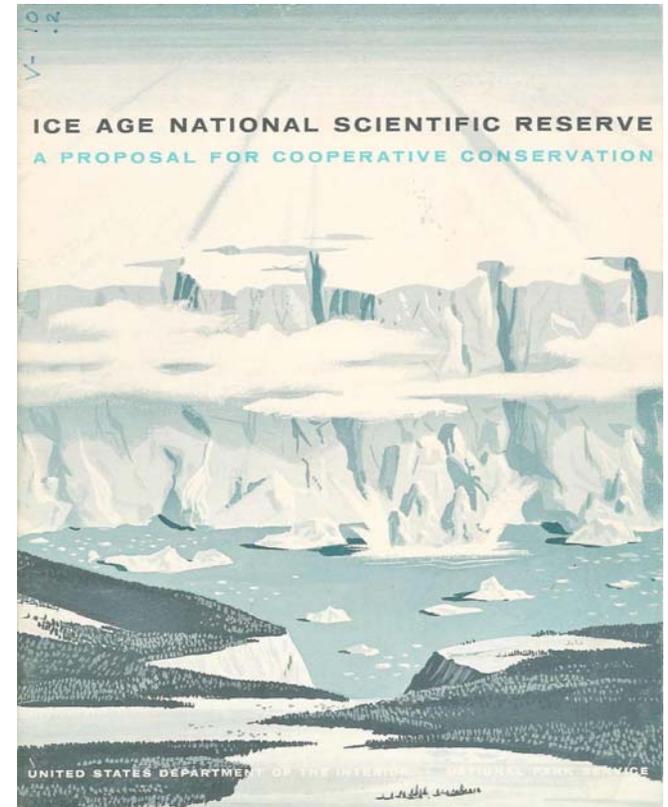
Beyond the Terminal Moraine and ponds/basins is the **unglaciated landscape** known as the **Driftless Area**



# First Recognition of the Ice Age Complex as Nationally Significant

The Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains is the Cross Plains Unit of the **Ice Age National Scientific Reserve**

- Congress authorized the creation of the Reserve in 1964 as joint project with the State of Wisconsin—the Cross Plains site was identified and designated as one of nine sites making up the Reserve
- Purpose: *“to assure protection, preservation, and interpretation of the nationally significant values of Wisconsin continental glaciation, including moraines, eskers, kames, kettleholes, drumlins, swamps, lakes and other reminders of the Ice Age”* (Public Law 88-655)
- The Reserve is a partnership between the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the National Park Service



# First Recognition of the Ice Age Complex as Nationally Significant

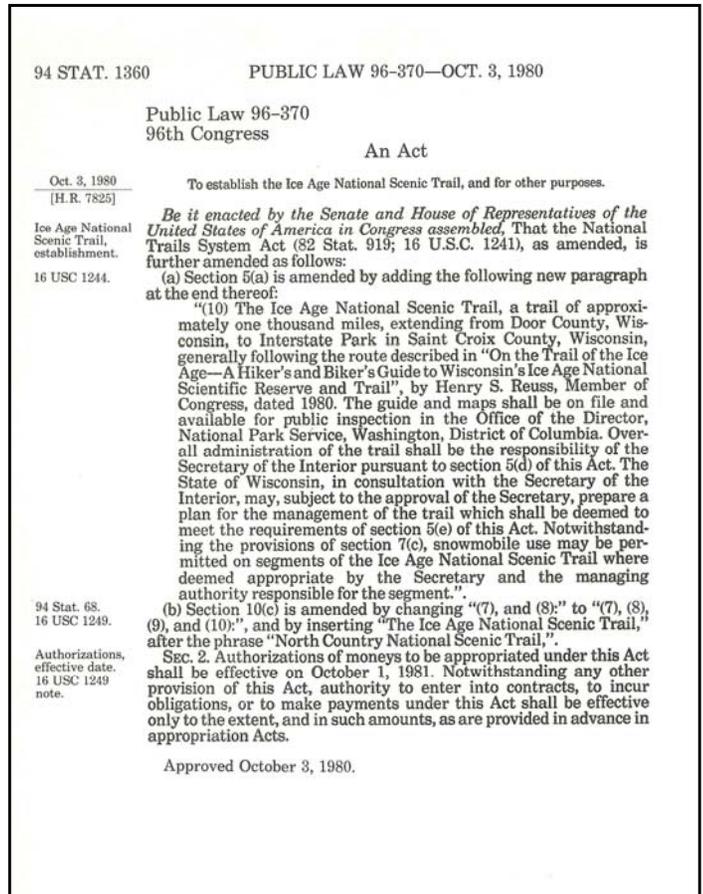
---

- ❑ The Reserve is an “Affiliated Area” of the National Park System
- ❑ At the State level, the Cross Plains Unit of the Reserve is designated as Cross Plains State Park
- ❑ The original parcel on the north side of Old Sauk Pass was purchased in 1975
- ❑ It protected key glacial features, but did not have adequate space for development of facilities; thus, never developed and “opened”
- ❑ The DNR, with NPS assistance, completed a feasibility study in 1998 that established the current (expanded) boundary shown in the earlier map slide and in the newsletter
- ❑ The DNR has acquired additional lands in the expanded boundary since 1999 as lands have become available from willing sellers

# Second Recognition of the Ice Age Complex as Nationally Significant

The Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains includes the NPS Interpretive Site for the **Ice Age National Scenic Trail**

- ❑ The Ice Age Trail was authorized as a component of the National Trails System by Congress in 1980
- ❑ Purpose: *“National scenic trails ... will be extended trails so located as to provide for maximum outdoor recreation potential and for the conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities of the areas through which such trails may pass.”* (National Trail System Act, 1968)



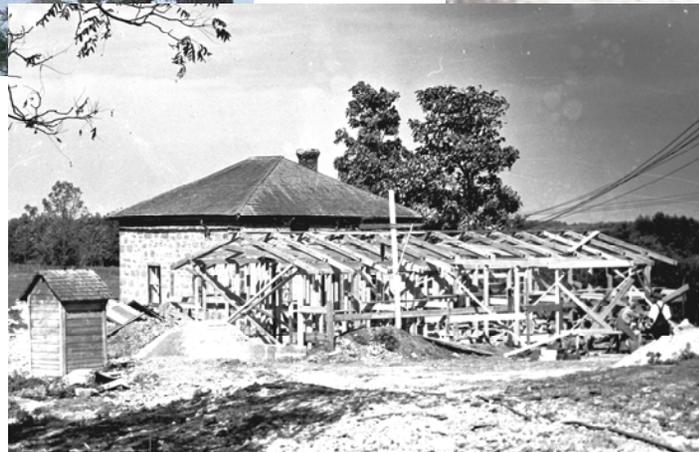
# Second Recognition of the Ice Age Complex as Nationally Significant

---

- ❑ The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a partnership between the National Park Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, and (in Dane County) Dane County Parks
- ❑ The Dane County corridor for the Ice Age NST was planned in 1990-1991 and approved in 1992
- ❑ Congress did not provide Federal Agencies with authority to spend funds to acquire lands for the Ice Age Trail, “except that funds may be expended for the acquisition of lands ... for one trail interpretation site”
- ❑ In the Fiscal Year 2001 appropriations, Congress authorized the NPS to establish the Interpretive Site at Cross Plains by providing funds specifically for the purpose of purchasing the Wilkie property
- ❑ The NPS acquired the Wilkie property on a willing seller basis in 2002

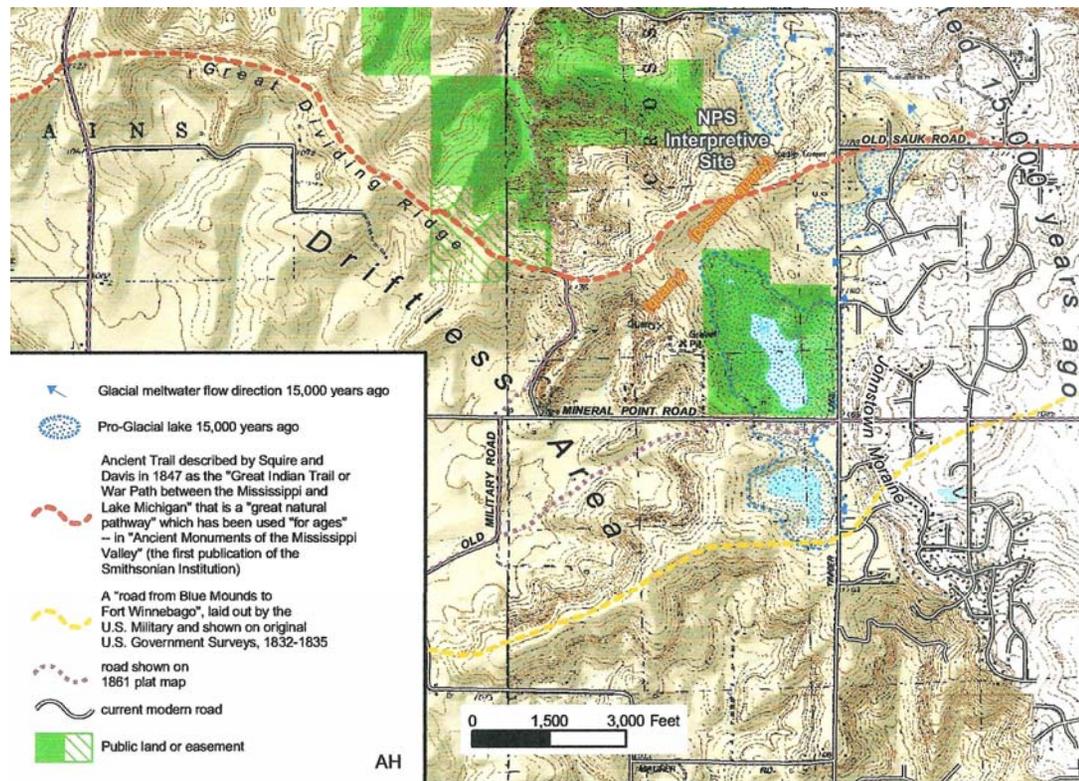
# Cultural Resources at the Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains

- ❑ The farming community that developed in this area
- ❑ The Wilkie farmstead, dating from the 1850s



# Cultural Resources at the Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains

- ❑ The Great Indian Trail, an ancient pathway between the Mississippi River and Lake Michigan
- ❑ The Military Road, from Blue Mounds to Fort Winnebago



# Planning—The Reasons

---

- The DNR has owned land for the Reserve since 1975. The NPS and DNR have acquired several additional parcels since 2002. **We need to decide what we will do with our lands**, i.e. how will they serve the purposes for which they were acquired.
- **We need to let local citizens and public officials know** what we will do with our lands, so that they can make appropriate decisions about land uses, services, etc. in relation to these lands, and adjacent lands that may be affected.
- **We want to transform these lands into recreational and educational assets** for the surrounding communities.

# What Are General Management Plans Intended to Do?

---

- GMPs ensure that park managers and stakeholders share a broad understanding of:
  - Resource conditions;
  - Opportunities for visitor experience; and,
  - Kinds of management, access, and development... that will best achieve the park's purpose and conserve its resource unimpaired for future generations.

# What Are General Management Plans Intended to Do?

---

- Define desired conditions for resources and for visitor experiences in different areas of the park for the long-term (15-20 years)
- Define what facilities (trails, parking lots, waysides, visitor centers, etc.) are appropriate in these different areas to provide these desired conditions
- GMPs are not site development plans
- GMPs do not guarantee funding



# Opportunities for Public Involvement

---

*Now*, we need your input, your thoughts on overall goals for the Ice Age Complex. Please share your vision, ideas, and concerns with us. We will use this feedback to craft a range of alternative ways the area might be managed.

*In Spring 2009*, we will present these alternatives to you. We will ask for your specific feedback on the alternatives before analyzing their costs, benefits, and environmental impacts.

*Finally*, from this analysis, we will choose a preferred alternative and develop a draft plan. You will have an opportunity to comment on this plan again before it is finalized.



# Public Involvement is Very Important

---

- In addition to public meetings, public input is welcome at any time during the process—written (letters or emails), phone calls, NPS Park Planning Internet site:
  - <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>
- At this stage, public input received by September 12 would be most helpful
- Planning Team members will be glad to come and meet at any time with Town Boards or any gathering of officials or citizens that desire more information or would like to discuss their views and concerns

# Has Anything Been “Pre-Decided”?

---

- NO. We are guided at this point only by the purposes for which the lands have been acquired and the long-range goal for the expanded Cross Plains Reserve Unit stated in the 1998 Feasibility Study:
  - *“To preserve the geologic, natural, cultural and scenic qualities of the Cross Plains Reserve and provide interpretive, educational and low-impact recreational opportunities.”*



# What Will This Area Eventually Be?

---

- It will be an outstanding natural, recreational, and educational facility serving the various purposes for which the lands have been acquired by Federal and State Agencies
- It will be a “partnership park,” seamlessly managed by the Department of Natural Resources, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and perhaps other partners
- It will be designed with the awareness that it is located adjacent to a large urban area
- It will be developed as funds allow



# Conclusion

---

- We will be glad to answer any general questions you may have
- Please be sure to give us your comments and ideas about how these lands should be used, now or very soon
- Thank you for coming!