

# State of Wisconsin

SENATE CHAIR  
**Alberta Darling**

317 East, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882  
Phone: (608) 266-5830



ASSEMBLY CHAIR  
**John Nygren**

309 East, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8593  
Madison, WI 53708-8953  
Phone: (608) 266-2343

## Joint Committee on Finance

### MEMORANDUM

To: Members  
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling  
Representative John Nygren

Date: February 25, 2016

Re: 14-Day Passive Review Approval – DNR

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m), Stats., attached is a 14-day passive review request from the Department of Natural Resources, received on February 25, 2016.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Darling** or **Representative Nygren** no later than **Tuesday, March 15, 2016**, if you have any concerns about the request or if you would like the Committee to meet formally to consider it.

Also, please contact us if you need further information.

Attachments

AD:JN:jm



February 12, 2016

The Honorable Alberta Darling, Co-Chair  
Committee on Joint Finance  
Room 317 East  
State Capitol  
PO Box 7882  
Madison WI 53707-7882

The Honorable John Nygren, Co-Chair  
Committee on Joint Finance  
Room 309 East  
State Capitol  
PO Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53707-53708

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Nygren:

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m)(dr), Wis. Stats., the Department is notifying you as co-chairs of the Committee on Joint Finance of a proposed Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program grant in the amount of \$165,129.00. The award is proposed to the Ducks Unlimited for purchase of the Washburn tract in the Town of Lincoln, Burnett County, north of Highway 64. This grant award is for 50% of the total eligible project costs.

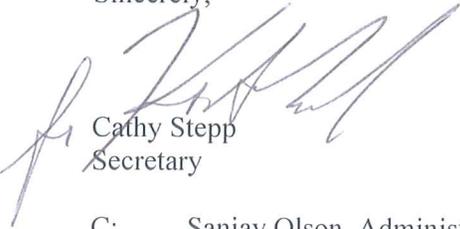
The project will acquire 360 acres of land contiguous to Burnett County forest and a larger complex of public lands surrounding DNR's Crex Meadows Wildlife Area. The purchase will provide for conservation and permanent public access to a large exceptional wetland complex for wildlife-based recreation.

The grantee proposes no prohibitions of nature-based outdoor activities, as defined in s. 23.0916(1)(b), Wis. Stats.

As provided in s. 23.0917(6m)(a), Wis. Stats., if the Department does not receive notification of the scheduling of a hearing from either of the Joint Committee on Finance co-chairpersons within 14 working days from today, the Department will award this grant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cathy Stepp  
Secretary

C: Sanjay Olson, Administrator, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Parks  
Craig Thompson, Director, Bureau of Facilities & Lands  
Pam Foster Felt, Stewardship Grant Manager  
Karen Blodgett, CFA Specialist, West Central & Northern regions

**DATE:** February 12, 2016

**TO:** Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

**FROM:** Cathy Stepp, Secretary

**SUBJECT:** Request for approval of Stewardship grant for acquisition north of Highway 64

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m)(a), (c) and (dr), Wis. Stats., the Department of Natural Resources is notifying you of a proposed Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program grant in the amount of \$165,129.00 to Ducks Unlimited for the acquisition of 360 acres known as the Washburn tract. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

**I. PROJECT DETAILS:**

**Project Sponsor:** Ducks Unlimited

**Grant sub-program:** Habitat Areas

**Location:** This parcel is located north of State Highway 64 in the Town of Lincoln, Burnett County. The property is contiguous to Burnett County Forest and within a large complex of public lands including the DNR's Crex Meadows Wildlife Area, State Forest, County Forest and federal lands along the St. Croix River. The property can be accessed along a two-track across county land and via an access easement from Klarquist Road to the west.

Project maps are attached as Appendix A.

**Project Description:** This 360 acre parcel is located within the Glacial Lake Grantsburg region of Burnett County. Approximately 30 percent of the property is upland savanna and pine barren habitat. The remainder is high quality wetland complex consisting of deep and shallow marsh, sedge meadow, bogs and forested wetland.

**Partnerships:** Friends of Crex Meadows contributed funds for this acquisition. The seller also contributed in the form of a bargain sale to Ducks Unlimited. The property may be offered to Burnett County for long term ownership and management as part of the adjacent county forest.

**Project benefits:** The Washburn acquisition provides the following conservation and recreational benefits:

- Secures 360 acres of public land for nature-based outdoor recreation in a complex of habitat areas that offers some of the best wildlife viewing opportunities in Wisconsin.
- Provides for public management of a large emergent wetland complex and excellent pairing and brood-rearing habitat for mallards, blue-wing Teal and Wood ducks and spring/fall migration habitat for a wide diversity of waterfowl. This property is within an area identified as conservation priority by the Upper Mississippi River/Great Lakes Region Joint Venture Plan.
- Conserves a wetland complex identified in DNR's Land Legacy Report as a highest priority for habitat conservation and recreational opportunities.
- Conserves acreage identified as a Critical Important Bird Area in Wisconsin by the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative, a partnership of several agencies and nonprofits to deliver "regionally-based, biologically-driven, landscape-oriented" bird habitat conservation.

**Public Uses:** The property will be open to the public for low-impact recreational activities including hunting, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, fishing, and wildlife viewing. The Department's analysis of the permitted nature-based outdoor activities is attached in Appendix B.

**Property Management:** The high quality habitat on this property does not require restoration at this time. Long term management may include enhancement of upland savanna areas with prescribed burning and maintenance of waterfowl production area habitat if need be. Management will be carried out by Ducks Unlimited with potential partnership from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or Burnett County in accordance with a Land Management Plan approved by the DNR.

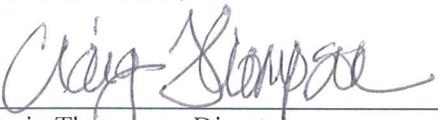
## II. PROJECT FINANCES

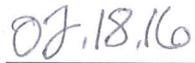
**A. Appraisal:** As required by s. 23.0917(7)(e)1., Wis. Stats., an appraisal was reviewed by DNR review appraisers who approved a **fair market value of \$324,000.00**

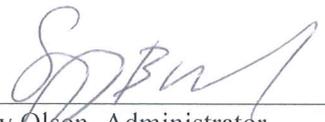
<b>B: Grant Calculation:</b>	Approved land value	\$324,000.00
	Eligible related costs	\$ 6,258.00
	Total eligible project costs	\$330,258.00

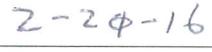
<b>C: Project Finances:</b>	Sponsor fundraising (including bargain sale contribution)	\$ 165,129.00
	<b>DNR Stewardship award (50%)</b>	<b>\$ 165,129.00</b>

## III. RECOMMENDED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Craig Thompson, Director  
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sanjay Olson, Administrator  
Division of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Attachments: Appendix A – property maps  
Appendix B – NR 52 public use analysis



Washburn tract wetlands

# Ducks Unlimited

Crex Meadows & Burnett Co. Forest Washburn Tract

T39N R17W Sec 20  
Town of Lincoln  
Burnett County

 Subject

Approx. GIS Acres = 359.81

Appendix A, page 1

-  DNR Fee Title
-  DNR Easement
-  DNR Easement Closed to Public Access
-  Public Land - Funded by Stewardship Grants
-  State Natural Area
-  County Forest Lands
-  National Park Service
-  State Recreation Trail
-  Legal Access Easement

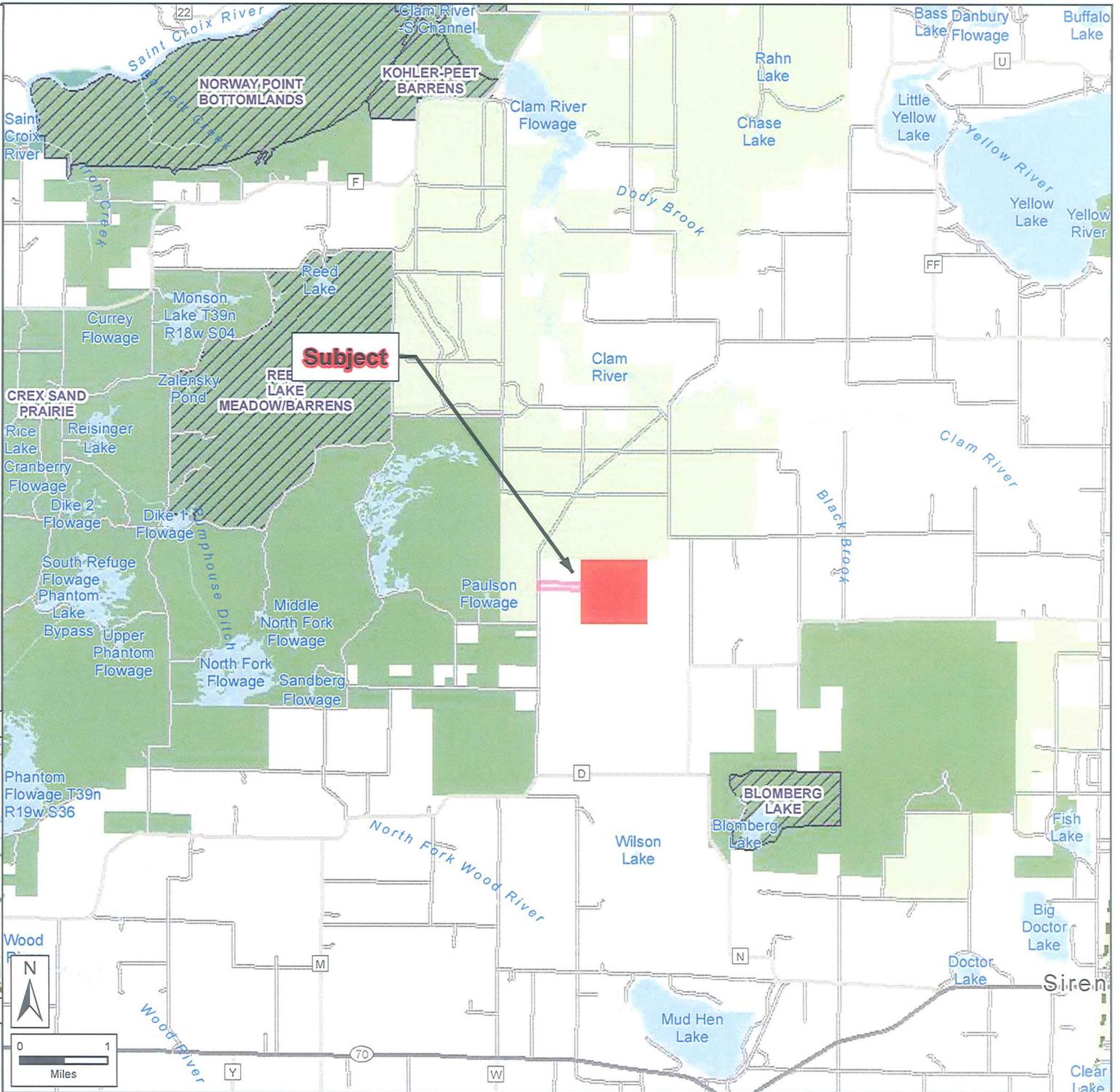
## Regional View



 Location of Property



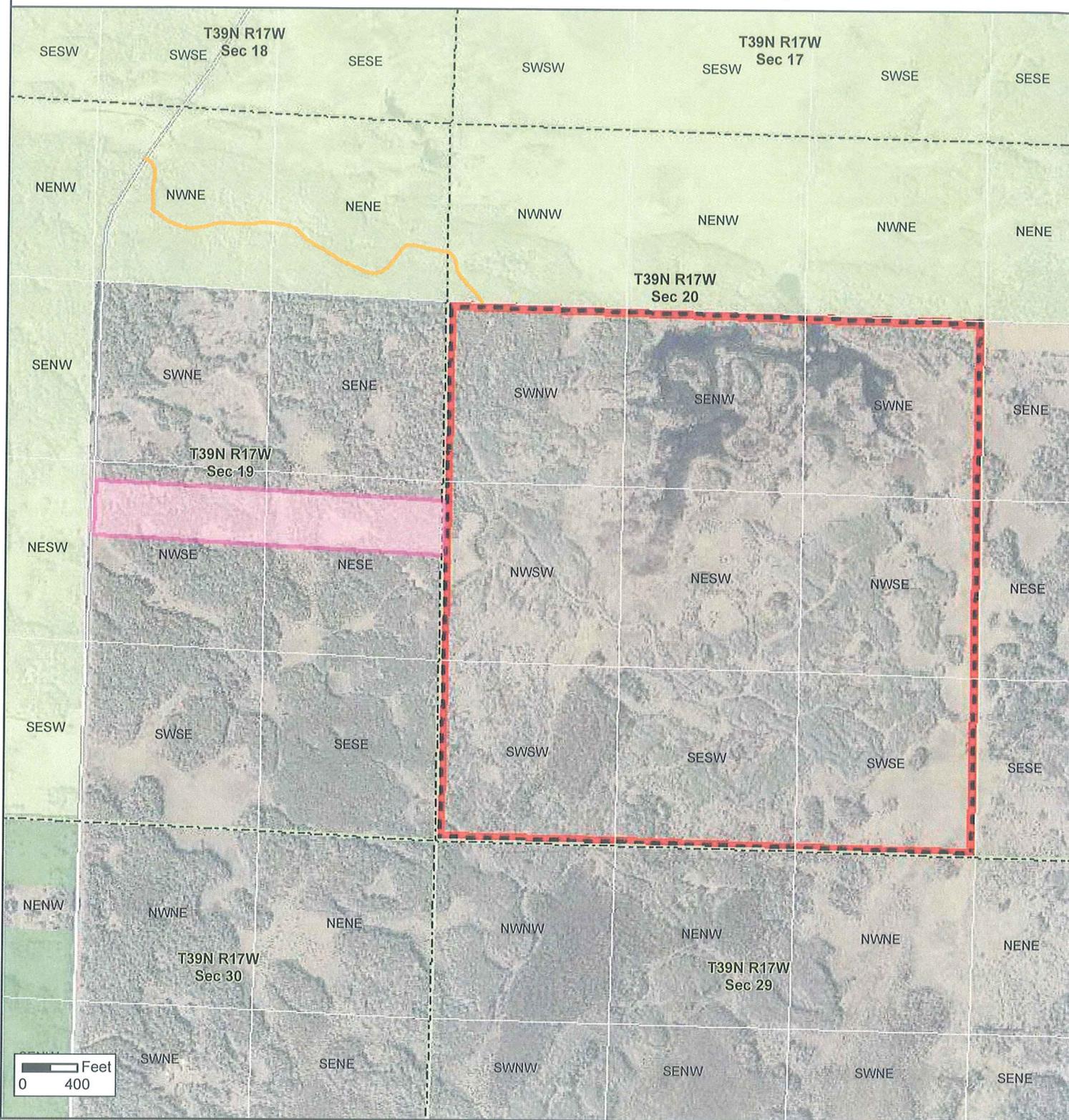
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Bureau of Facilities of Lands  
Map Created: Feb 11, 2016 drs



The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. This map is not intended to be used for navigation, nor is this map an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access. Users of this map should confirm the ownership of land through other means in order to avoid trespassing. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, applicability for a particular use, completeness, or legality of the information depicted on this map.

# Ducks Unlimited - Crex Meadows & Burnett Co. Forest Washburn Tract

T39N R17W Sec 20, Town of Lincoln, Burnett County



Appendix A, page 2

 Subject

Approx. GIS Acres = 359.81

-  DNR Fee Title
-  County Forest
-  Access Road
-  Legal Access Easement



N





Feb 11, 2016 jst  
Real Estate Section  
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. This map is not intended to be used for navigation, nor is this map an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access. Users of this map should confirm the ownership of land through other means in order to avoid trespassing. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, applicability for a particular use, completeness, or legality of the information depicted on this map.

## DNR Staff Analysis of Nature Based Outdoor Activities on Projects Purchased with Stewardship Grant Funds



Rev. August 2012

**NOTE TO DNR STAFF:** *This completed form will be attached to the NBOA notice that the DNR will publish when considering a request for Stewardship grant funding. Do not list location information for the subject property or the seller's name because WI courts have held that this information is confidential until land ownership has changed hands. In "Staff Narrative" sections below each NBOA, summarize sponsor's reason for prohibition.*

<b>Applicant/ Sponsor:</b> Ducks Unlimited	<b>Year of application:</b> 2015
---	-------------------------------------

**Project name and primary purpose (after acquisition):** Glacial Lakes Grantsburg complex – Washburn tract. The primary purpose is to protect wildlife habitat, particularly the wetland complex and waterfowl habitat and to provide public wildlife based recreation.

**Parcel size, shape and topography:**

The 360-acre parcel is square. Approximately 30% of the property is upland supporting savanna, grassland and pine-barren habitats. The remaining property is high quality wetland complex consisting of deep and shallow marshes, sedge meadows, bogs and wet forest and wet meadows.

**Plan(s) or reports identifying project area as priority:** Wisconsin Land Legacy Report, Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan, Ducks Unlimited Conservation Delivery Program, Great Lakes/Upper Mississippi Joint Venture plan, Wisconsin bird initiative Important Bird Area priorities.

### Proposed NBOA – Applicant Narrative and Checklist

<b>HUNTING</b>			
<b>DNR Staff Narrative:</b> Property will be open to hunting			
<b>X No prohibitions being proposed</b>			
<b>If a prohibition is proposed:</b>			
<b>Public safety factors considered, check all that apply.</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> The sponsor is within its own municipality boundary			
<input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is within 100 yards of building devoted to human occupancy			
<input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is within 50 feet of the center line of highways & roads			
<input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is within 1700 feet of school grounds, hospital, or sanatorium			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance exists –			
<input type="checkbox"/> Discharge or carrying a weapon <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting within park <input type="checkbox"/> Throwing or shooting missiles, arrows, spears, etc.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Visitor's expectations of safety at the site which include user conflicts that may create public safety issues and impact one or more NBOA's activities.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is adjacent to a parcel where the NBOA's to be prohibited already exists.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is adjacent to a public waterway.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is subjected to a non-sponsor ordinance			
<input type="checkbox"/> Project will be transferred to an eligible partner sponsor with ordinance prohibiting activity.			
<b>Unique plant and animal communities factors considered, check all that apply.</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal listed endangered species		<input type="checkbox"/> State listed endangered species	
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal listed threatened species		<input type="checkbox"/> State listed threatened species	
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal listed species of special concern		<input type="checkbox"/> State listed species of special concern	
	Allowable species (Gun)	Allowable species (bow)	List Dates/Seasons (opening and closing)
Waterfowl	Per State Regulations	Per State Regulations	Per State Regulations
Small Game	Per State Regulations	Per State Regulations	Per State Regulations
Turkey	Per State Regulations	Per State Regulations	Per State Regulations
Large Game	Per State Regulations	Per State Regulations	Per State Regulations



