

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
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Joint Committee on Finance

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling
Representative John Nygren

Date: May 26, 2015

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 May 26, 2015.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Darling** or **Representative Nygren** no later than **Friday, June 12, 2015**, if you have any concerns about the request or if you would like the Committee to meet formally to consider it.

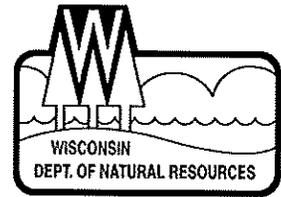
Also, please contact us if you need further information.

Attachment

AD:JN:jm

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
101 S. Webster Street
Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

Scott Walker, Governor
Cathy Stepp, Secretary
Telephone 608-266-2621
FAX 608-267-3579
TTY Access via relay - 711



May 20, 2015

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), Wis. Stats., the Department is notifying you as co-chairs of the Committee on Joint Finance of a proposed acquisition grant for the Douglas County – Amnicon River Acquisition, using grant funds in the amount of \$684,097.50 from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. The parcels are located in the Townships of Oakland, Dairyland, Solon Springs, Superior, and Wascott, all in Douglas County.

The Amnicon River project will acquire 720 acres in the Township of Oakland, and as part of their required match, an additional 342.21 acres of land in the Townships of Dairyland, Solon Springs, Superior, and Wascott will be incorporated into the County Forest and Stewardship Programs. The overall project will ensure future forest management, provide public recreation opportunities, and safeguard wildlife habitat on 1,062.21 acres of productive forest land. The project will improve public access to existing land locked Douglas County Forest lands and will permanently protect approximately one mile of the Little Pokegama and Nemadji Rivers.

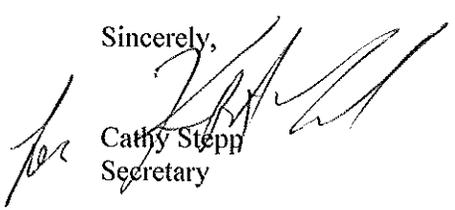
The entire 1,062.21 acres will be enrolled into the County Forest program and managed consistent with s. 28.11 Wis. Stats., which ensures that the land will be managed for optimum production of forest products together with recreational opportunities, wildlife, and watershed protection.

There are 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, Lands Division Administrator
Steve Miller, Director, Lands and Facilities Bureau
Joe Schwantes, Forest Management Bureau
Lavane Hessler, Lands and Facilities Bureau

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 20, 2015

TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Stepp, Secretary

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF STEWARDSHIP ACQUISITION GRANT FOR FUNDING GREATER THAN \$250,000

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m)(a) and (c), Wis. Stats., the Department of Natural Resources is notifying you of a proposed Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program grant in the amount of \$684,097.50 to Douglas County for the acquisition of parcels in 6 separate areas, containing 1,062.21 acres in total, known as the Amnicon River project. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

I. PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: Douglas County
Grant sub-program: County Forest

Location: The 1,062.21 acre grant project consists of parcels in 6 separate areas. The property being purchased with Stewardship grant assistance, the Jurmain parcel, is 720.00 acres in the Township of Oakland, Douglas County

Properties incorporated into County Forest as match for this award:

- 125.00 acres in the Township of Superior, Douglas County
- 160.80 acres in the Township of Superior, Douglas County
- 31.00 acres in the Township of Solon Springs, Douglas County
- 5.41 acres in the Township of Wascott, Douglas County
- 20.00 acres in the Township of Dairyland, Douglas County

Project Description: The 720 acre Jurmain property will provide access to existing Douglas County Forest land that is currently difficult to access due to the Amnicon River and neighboring private lands. By acquiring this property, Douglas County will protect and ensure future forest management of a significant acreage of productive forest land and protection of several hundred acres of wetlands critical to the Amnicon River watershed. The primary cover type on the property is aspen, with lesser amounts of conifer cover types, particularly in the lower lying areas. The property is located within a portion of the Northwest Lowland Bogs Conservation Opportunity Area. This area will provide valuable public recreation opportunities, with easy access from a town road and well developed network of woods roads, along with excellent wildlife habitat.

As a portion of the match required for this grant, and pursuant to s. NR 51.962(4)(a)6 and s. NR 51.962(4)(a)7, Wis. Admin. Code, Douglas County plans to incorporate 342.21 acres of additional land into the Stewardship Program. Property proposed as match totals 342.21 acres:

- Property 1 is 125.00 acres of land on two parcels. The parcels are relatively flat and dominated by an aspen forest type. One of the parcels is bisected by more than ¼ mile of the Little Pokegama River.
- Property 2 is a single 160.80 acre parcel of land that is almost entirely forested by aspen, hardwood and pine and it features over ½ mile of frontage on the Nemadji River, which meanders through the property's southernmost extent and over ¼ mile of a tributary to the Nemadji River that runs through the middle of the property.

- Property 3 is a 31.00 acre tract that contains a mix of rolling uplands covered by northern hardwoods and some open wetland areas, which includes a small section of an unnamed stream that connects to Muskrat Lake.
- Property 4 consists of 2 parcels totaling 5.41 acres of land and contains a mix of pine dominated uplands and a fairly open lowland marsh.
- Parcel 5 is a 20.00 acre parcel that is covered by mixed hardwood in the uplands and balsam fir in the lowlands, and which connects existing county forest land to a town road for much improved access.

All 1,062.1 acres will be incorporated into the Stewardship and County Forest programs and managed according to the *Douglas County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan*.

Project area maps are attached as Appendix A.

Project Goals: The Amnicon River project addresses the following goals:

- Provides additional forest land for public nature-based outdoor recreation.
- Protects and ensures future forest management of a large amount of productive forest land.
- Protects a significant acreage from potential development and maintains forested habitats important to a variety of wildlife species.
- Provides additional acreage that will be managed as Douglas County Forest for optimum production of forest products together with recreational opportunities, wildlife, and watershed protection.
- Provides Douglas County with a significant additional acreage of productive timberlands that will be harvested sustainably and consequently contribute to the important local wood products based economy. This will provide needed forest products and contribute to steady local revenue.
- Ensures public access to and protects approximately 1 mile of the Little Pokegama and Nemadji Rivers along with sections of several smaller creeks and numerous wetlands.

Public Uses: The Amnicon River project properties will be open to the public year-round for hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, wildlife viewing, and many other nature-based recreational activities. These parcels offer excellent recreational opportunities and consequently will be enjoyed by many visitors annually. The public will be able to access the parcels from a variety of town roads, woods roads, and trails or across existing Douglas County Forest lands. The Department's analysis of the permitted nature-based outdoor activities is attached in Appendix B.

Property Management: All 1,062.21 acres will be enrolled into the County Forest Program and managed consistent with s. 28.11 Wis. Stats., which ensures that the land will be managed for optimum production of forest products together with recreational opportunities, wildlife, and watershed protection. Management will occur according to the *Douglas County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan*, as approved by the Department.

Timetable: Pending grant approval Douglas County intends to close on this property during 2015.

II. PROJECT FINANCES:

A. Partnerships:

- Douglas County: Provides matching funds and is responsible for forest management, development, operation, and maintenance according to the *Douglas County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan*.
- Jurmain and Jurmain, LLP, seller: Donating a portion of the property value.
- The Conservation Fund: A non-profit land conservation organization that helped broker the sale of the Jurmain property to Douglas County.

- Department of Natural Resources: Provides financial grant assistance and works with Douglas County to implement the *Douglas County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan*.

B. Appraisals:

As required by s. 23.0917(7)(e)1., Wis. Stats., two appraisals were used to determine the fair market value of the Jurmain parcel (720 acres).

Appraisal 1	\$ 828,000
Appraisal 2	\$ 828,000
Value certified by Department	\$ 828,000

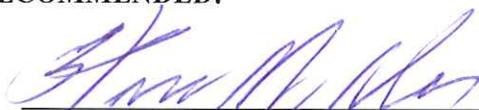
C. Grant Calculation

DNR approved land value	\$ 828,000.00
Grant-eligible associated costs	\$ 23,195.00
Total grant eligible project costs	\$ 851,195.00
DNR Stewardship grant funding <i>(50% of grant eligible costs)</i>	\$ 425,597.50
Value of land used as match* <i>(See note below on Sponsor Match)</i>	\$ 258,500.00
County funds and landowner donation applied	\$ 167,097.50
Purchase price in excess of state grant funds	

D. *Sponsor Match

As described above, pursuant to s. NR 51.962(4)(a)6 and s. NR 51.962(4)(a)7, Wis. Admin. Code, Douglas County will incorporate 342.21 acres of additional land into the Stewardship Program as a portion of match required for this grant. The value of those lands was determined by DNR reviewed appraisals.

III. RECOMMENDED:



 Steve Miller, Director
 Bureau of Facilities and Lands

5-20-15
 Date

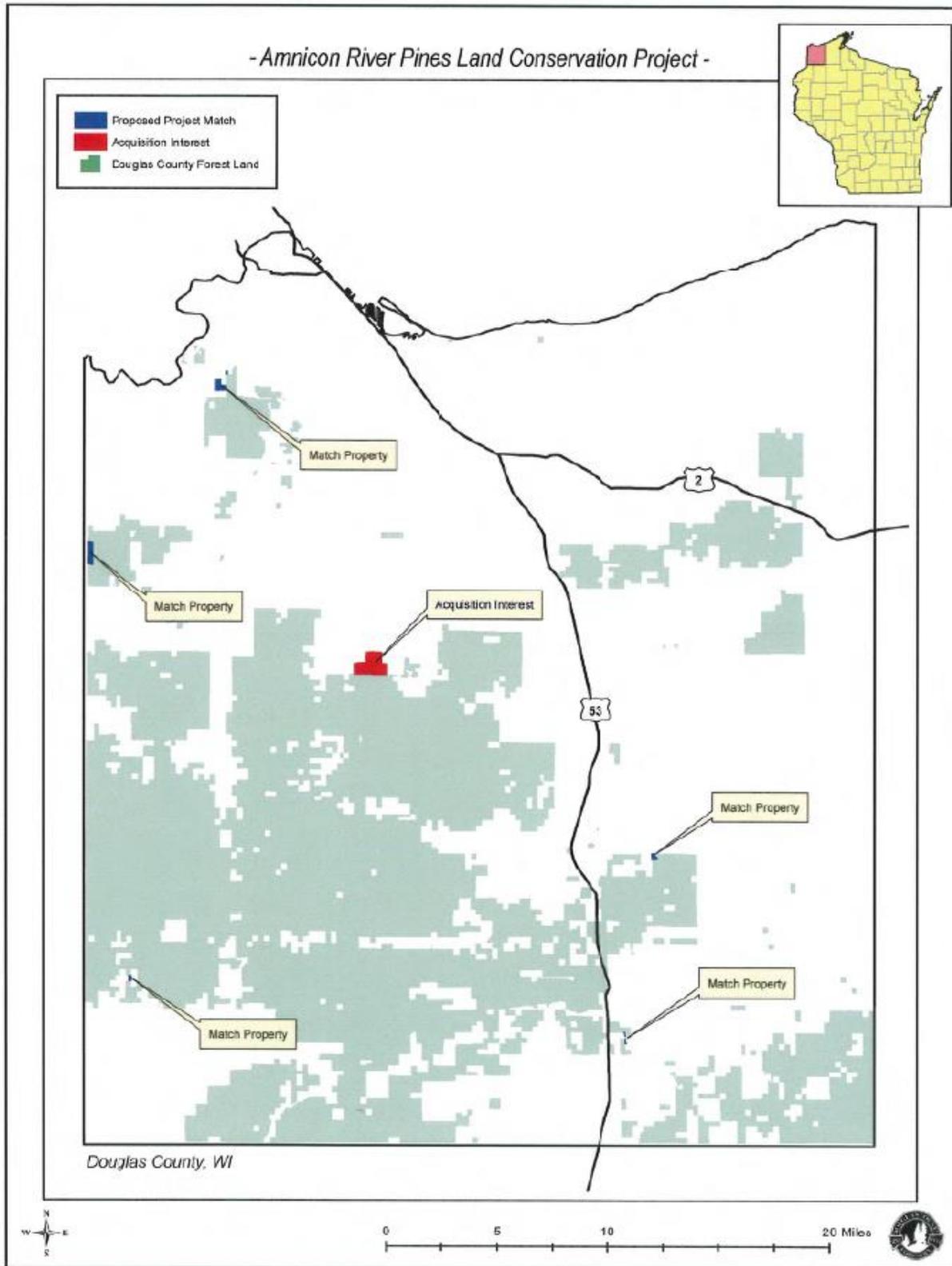


 Sanjay Olson, Administrator
 Lands Division

5-24-15
 Date

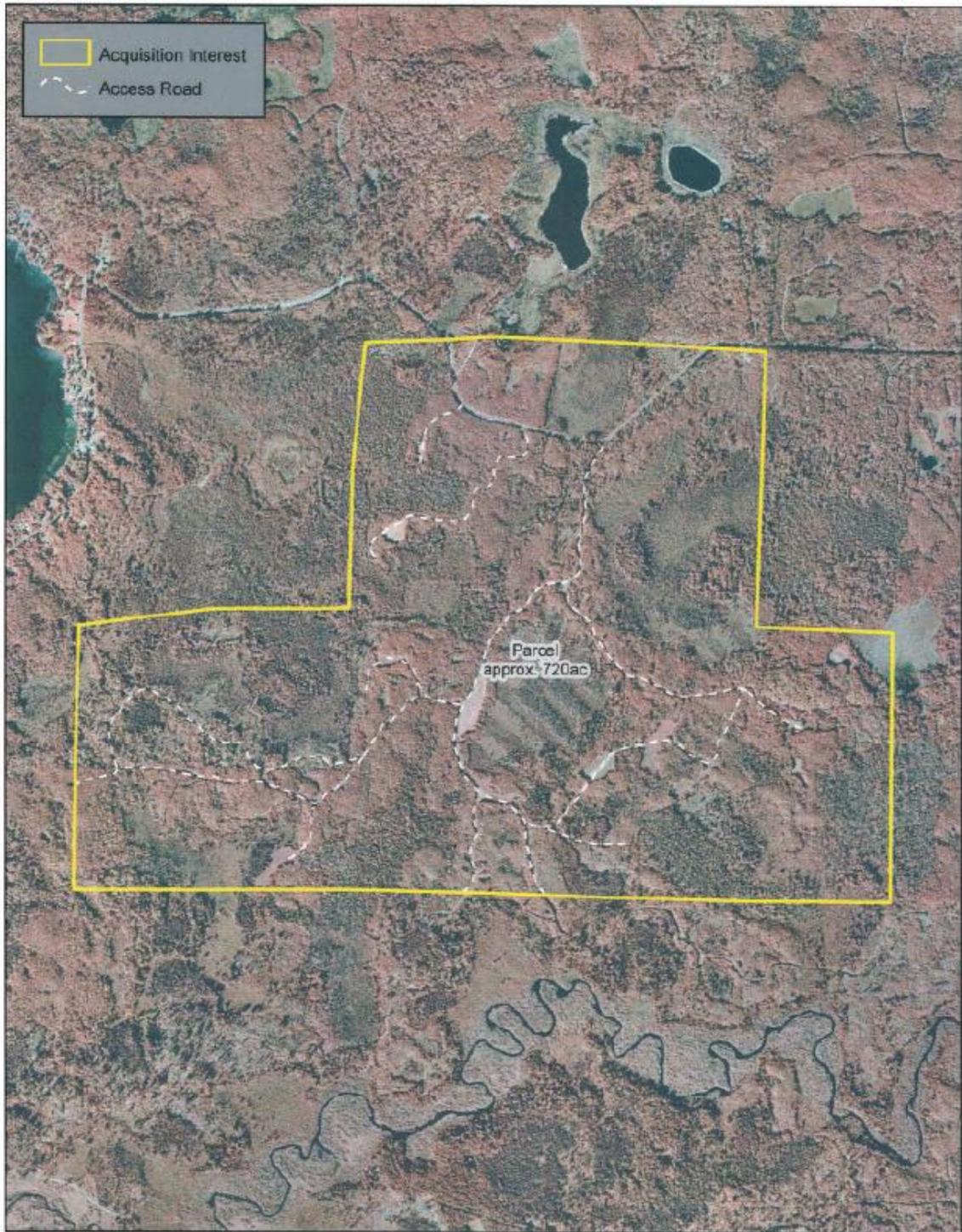
Attachments: Appendix A – Project Area Maps
 Appendix B – NBOA Staff Analysis

Appendix A



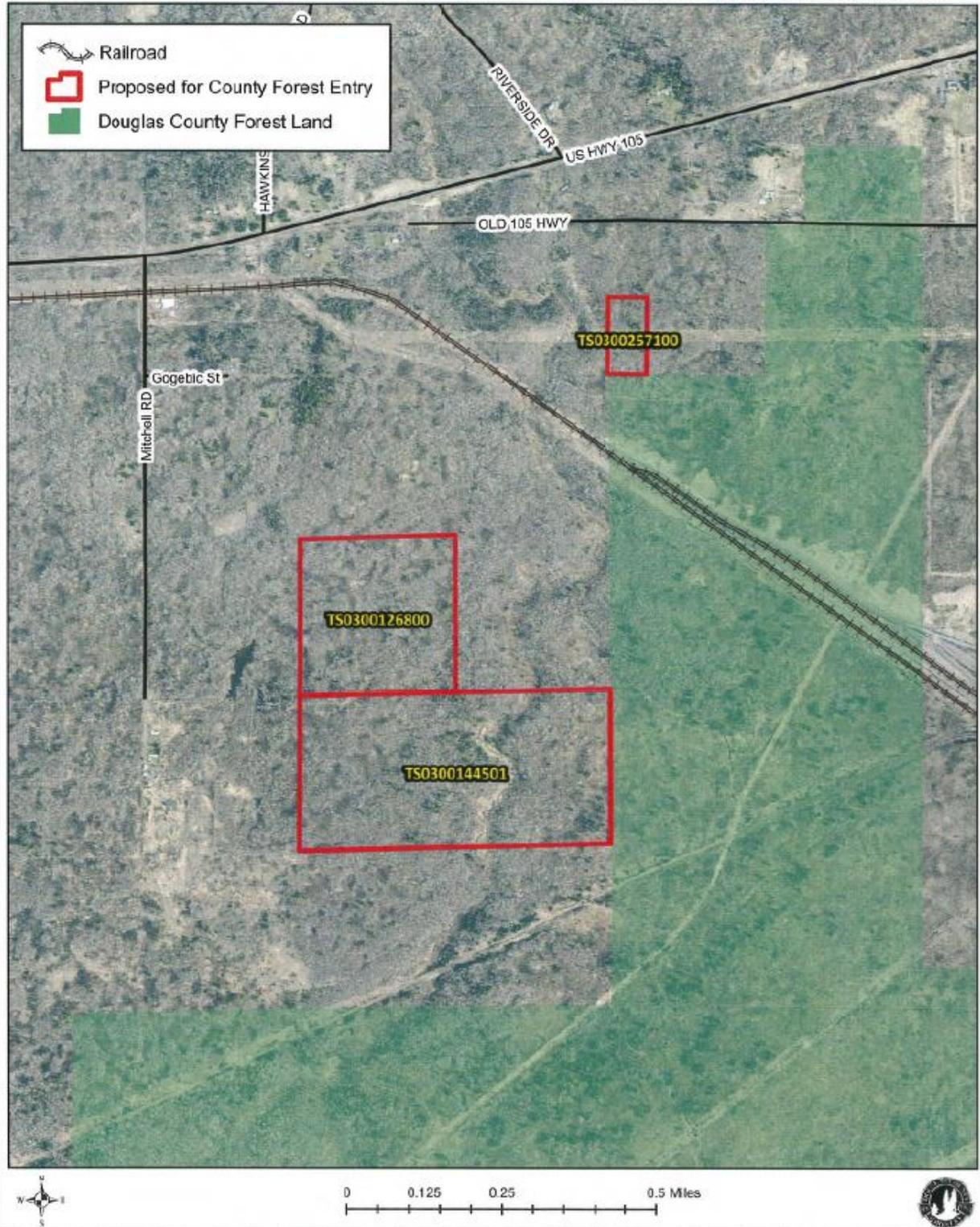
Jurmain Property - 720.00 acres

- Amnicon River Pinus Land Conservation Project -



PARCELS PROPOSED FOR PROJECT MATCH (Map 1 of 5)

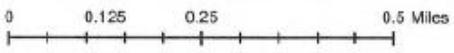
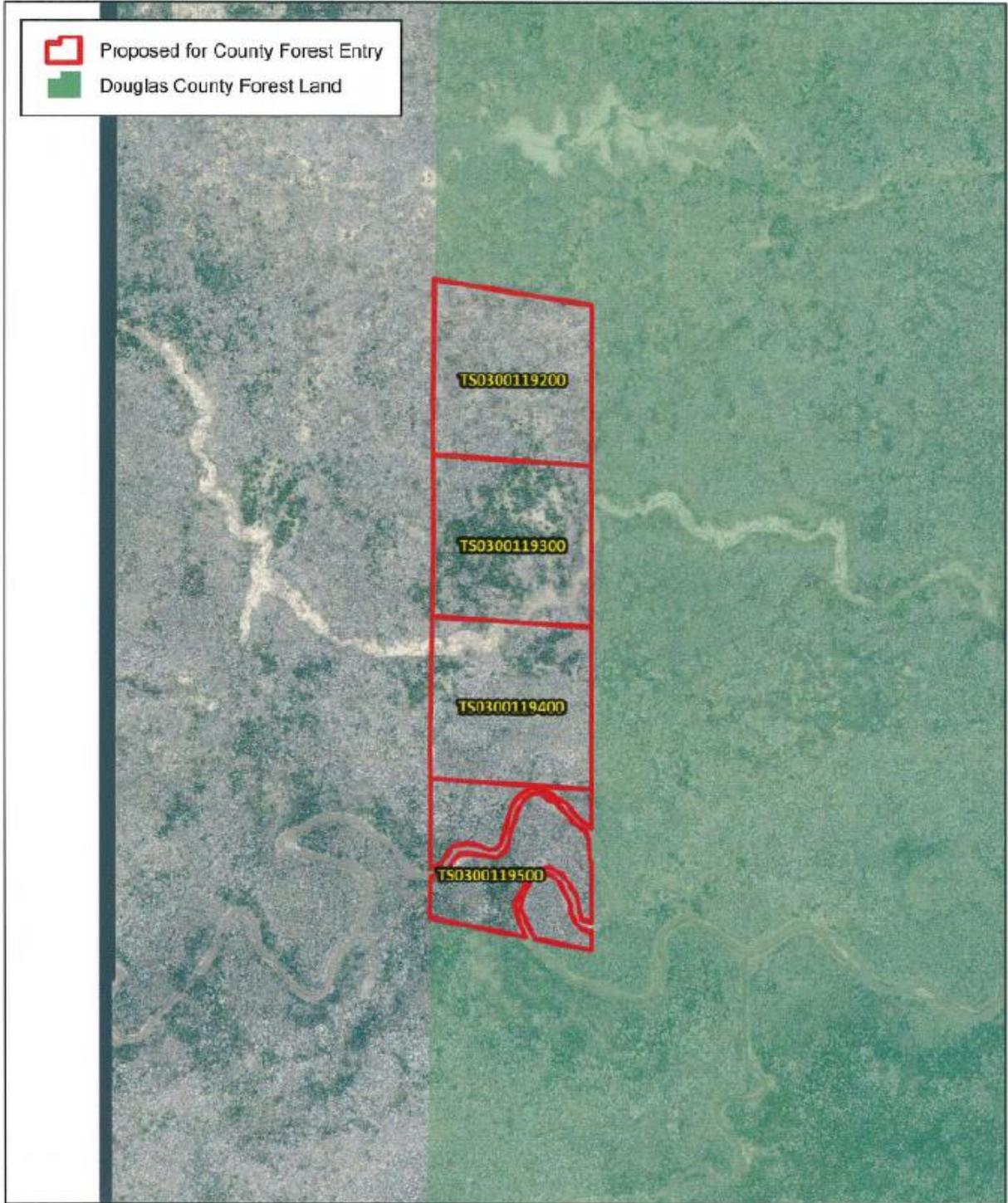
N 1/2 of the NE 1/4 Sec 18, SWSE Sec 7, and Part of the SWNW Sec 8, all in T48N - R14W, Town of Superior, Douglas County, Wisconsin



PARCELS PROPOSED FOR PROJECT MATCH (Map 2 of 5)

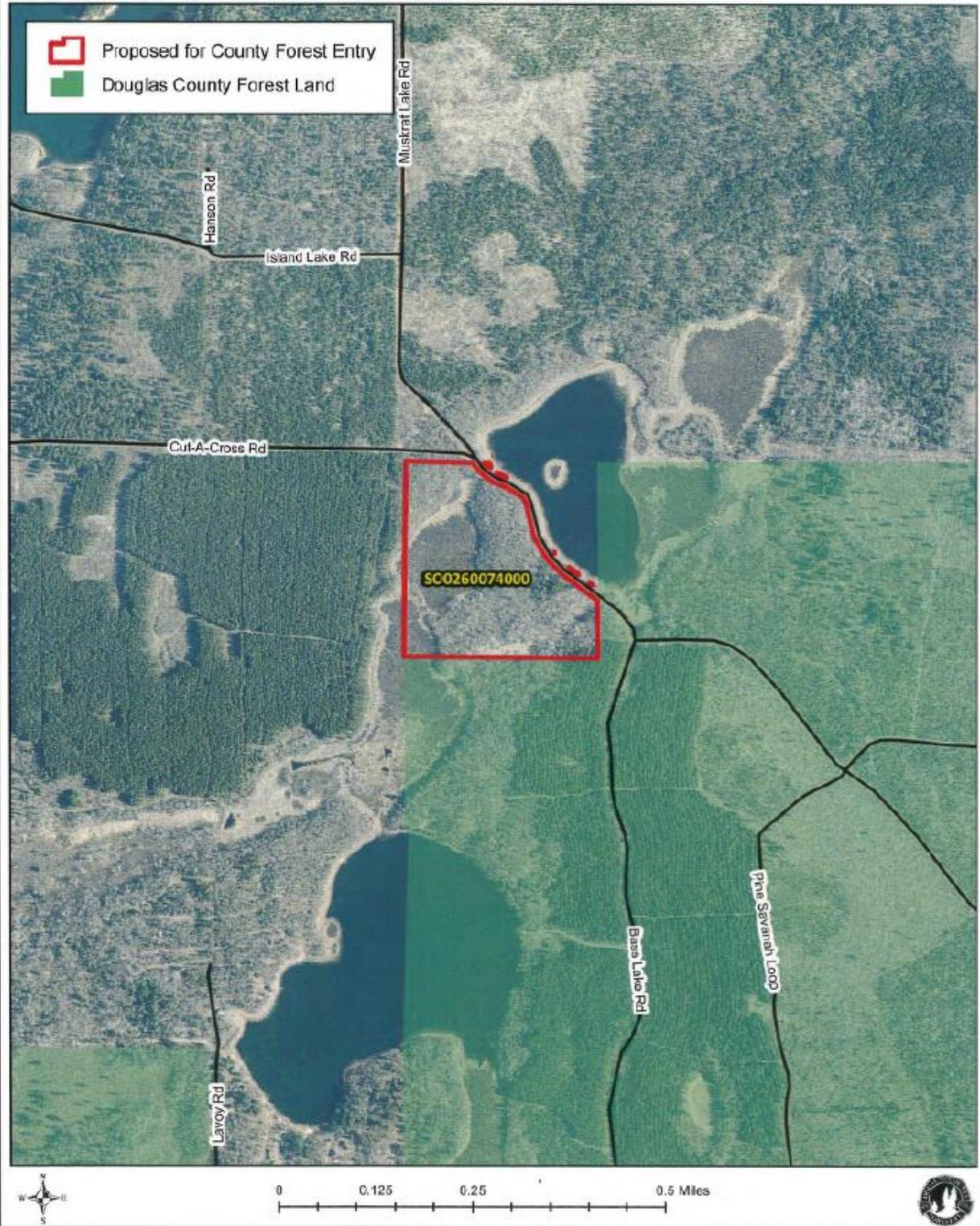
NENE, SENE, NESE, & SESE Section 19, T47N - R15W, Town of Superior, Douglas County, Wisconsin

 Proposed for County Forest Entry
 Douglas County Forest Land



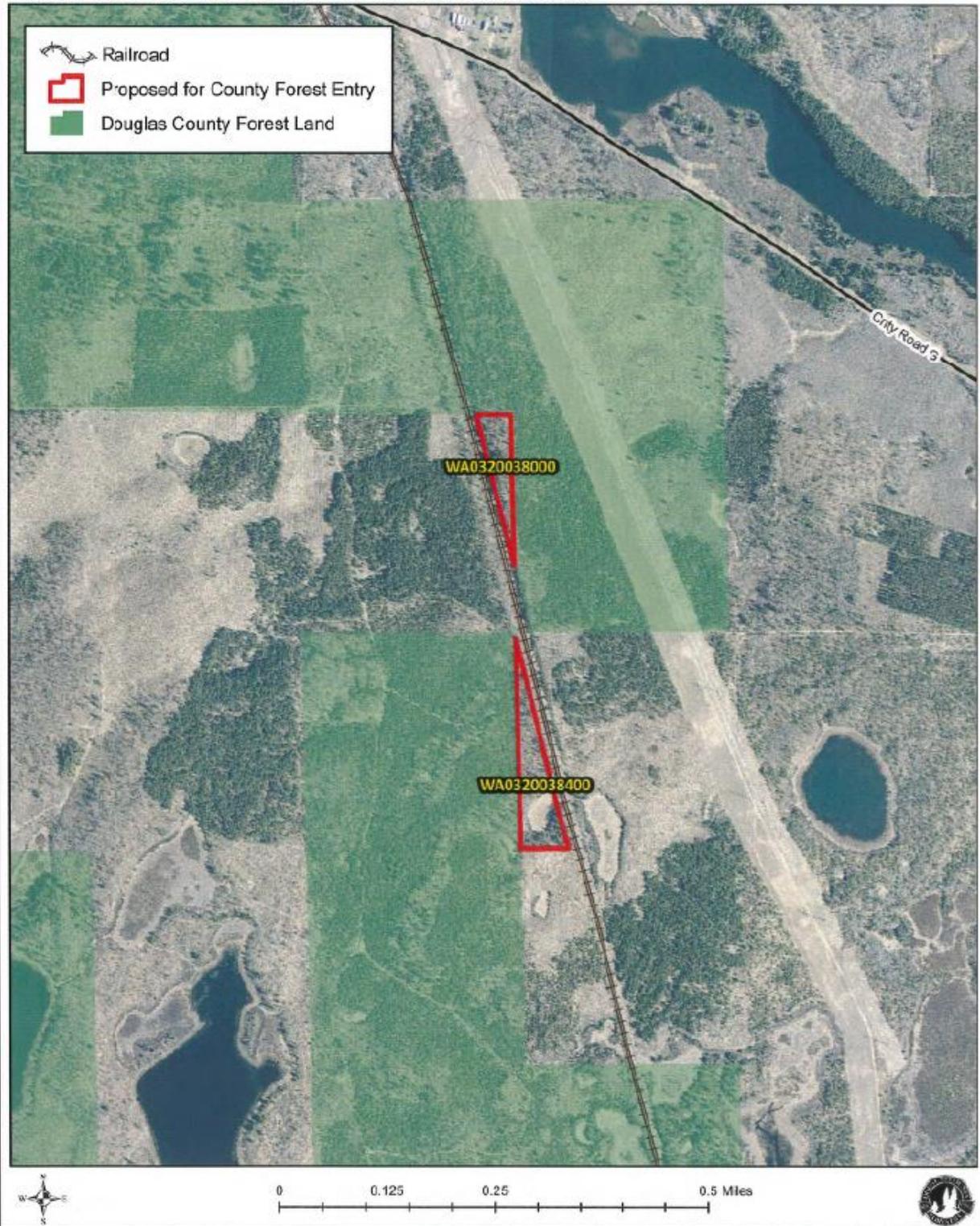
PARCELS PROPOSED FOR PROJECT MATCH (Map 3 of 5)

NWNW Section 33, T45N - R11W, Town of Solon Springs, Douglas County, Wisconsin



PARCELS PROPOSED FOR PROJECT MATCH (Map 4 of 5)

Parts of Section 7, T43N - R11W, Town of Wascott, Douglas County, Wisconsin



PARCELS PROPOSED FOR PROJECT MATCH (Map 5 of 5)

East 1/2 NESW Section 28, T44N - R15W, Town of Dairyland, Douglas County, Wisconsin

