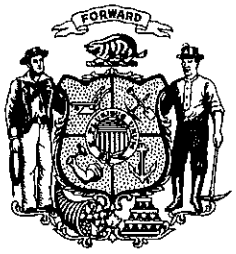
State of Wisconsin

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: 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 Washburn County – Meteor Acquisition, using grant funds in the amount of $761,925.00 from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. The proposed acquisition is located in the Townships of Trego, Springbrook, Crystal, and Minong, all in Washburn County.

The Washburn Meteor project will acquire 822.58 acres in the Townships of Trego and Springbrook, and as part of their required match, an additional 130.00 acres of land in the Townships of Crystal and Minong 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 952.58 acres of productive forest land. Additionally, public access will be ensured and approximately 2 miles of Whalen, Potato, and Westenberg Creeks along with 750 feet of frontage on Minong Flowage will be permanently protected.

The entire 952.58 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,

for Cathy Stepp
Secretary

C: Sanjay Olson, Lands Division Administrator
Steve Miller, Director, Lands and Facilities Bureau
Joe Schwantes, County Forest Specialist, Forest Management Bureau
Lavane Hessler, Stewardship Grant Manager, Lands and Facilities Bureau

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

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 $761,925.00 to Washburn County for the acquisition of 5 parcels, containing 952.58 acres in total, known as the Washburn Meteor project. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

I. PROJECT DETAILS:

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

Location: The 952.58 acre grant project consists of 5 separate parcels. The property being acquired with Stewardship grant assistance, the three Meteor parcels, is 822.58 acres in the Townships of Trego and Springbrook, Washburn County.

Properties incorporated into County Forest as match for this award:

- 125.00 acres in the Township of Crystal, Washburn County
- 5.00 acres in the Township of Minong, Washburn County

Project Description: The Meteor Timber property will expand the existing Washburn County forest by 822.58 acres and consists of three parcels. By acquiring this property, Washburn County will protect and ensure future forest management of a significant acreage of highly productive forest land. The property's timber includes 700 acres of red pine, 47 acres of aspen, 33 acres of jack pine mixed with aspen, and 43 acres of wetland cover-types. Further, this area will provide valuable public recreation opportunities and excellent wildlife habitat. The area also contains some wetland areas and over 0.5 miles of Whalen Creek, which holds special significance as a stream that feeds into the Namekagon National Scenic Riverway.

As a portion of the match required for this grant, and pursuant to s. NR 51.962(4)(a)(6), Wis. Admin. Code, Washburn County will incorporate 130 acres of additional land into the Stewardship Program.

- Parcel one is 125.00 acres consisting of 48 acres of rolling wooded uplands dominated by aspen, oak, and white pine, along with approximately 77 acres of non-forested lowland cover types. This parcel is bisected by more than 1 mile of Potato Creek and 1/8 mile of Westenberg Creek.
- The second county parcel is a 5.00 acre parcel located along the Minong Flowage and is adjacent to Totagitic County Park campground.

All 952.58 acres will be incorporate into the Stewardship and County Forest programs and managed according to the *Washburn County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.*

Project area maps are attached as Appendix A.

Printed on Recycled Paper

Project Goals: The Washburn Meteor project meets the following goals:

- Provides significant additional forest land for public nature-based outdoor recreation.
- Protects and ensures future forest management of a large amount of highly 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 Washburn County Forest for optimum production of forest products together with recreational opportunities, wildlife, and watershed protection.
- Provides Washburn County with a significant additional acreage of high quality 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.
- Creates 5 miles of new designated ATV trails and ensures public access to 5 miles of existing designated snowmobile trails, including a critical newly constructed bridge crossing Whalen Creek and a connection to the Wild Rivers State Trail.
- Ensures public access to and protects approximately 2 miles of Whalen Creek, Potato Creek, and Westenberg Creek along with 750 feet of frontage on Minong Flowage.

Public Uses: The Washburn Meteor 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 given the proximity to the population in Spooner, these properties will be enjoyed by many visitors annually. The public will be able to access the parcels from town roads or county highways. The Department's analysis of the permitted nature-based outdoor activities is attached in Appendix B.

Property Management: All 952.58 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 *Washburn County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan*, as approved by the Department.

Timetable: Pending grant approval Washburn County intends to close on this property in 2015.

II. PROJECT FINANCES:

A. Partnerships:

- Washburn County: Provides matching funds and is responsible for forest management, development, operation, and maintenance according to the *Washburn County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.*
- Meteor Timber, LLC, Seller.
- Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association: Donated a majority of the value of the 125 acre parcel located along Potato Creek to be used as match for this project, in order to help protect Whalen Creek.
- Department of Natural Resources: Provides financial grant assistance and works with Washburn County to implement the *Washburn 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 Meteor Timber parcels (822.58 acres).

Appraisal #1- Meteor	$1,255,000
Appraisal #2 - Meteor	$1,152,000
Value Certified by Department - Meteor	**$1,152,000**

C. Grant Calculation

DNR approved land value	$ 1,152,000.00
Grant-eligible associated costs	$ 18,850.00
Total *grant eligible* project costs	**$ 1,170,850.00**
DNR Stewardship grant funding *(50% of grant eligible costs)*	**$ 585,425.00**
Value of land used as match* *(See note below on Sponsor Match)*	**$ 176,500.00**
County funds and landowner donation applied	$ 408,925.00
Purchase price in excess of state grant funds	

D. *Sponsor Match

As described above, pursuant to s. NR 51.962(4)(a)6 Wis. Admin. Code, Washburn County will incorporate 160 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

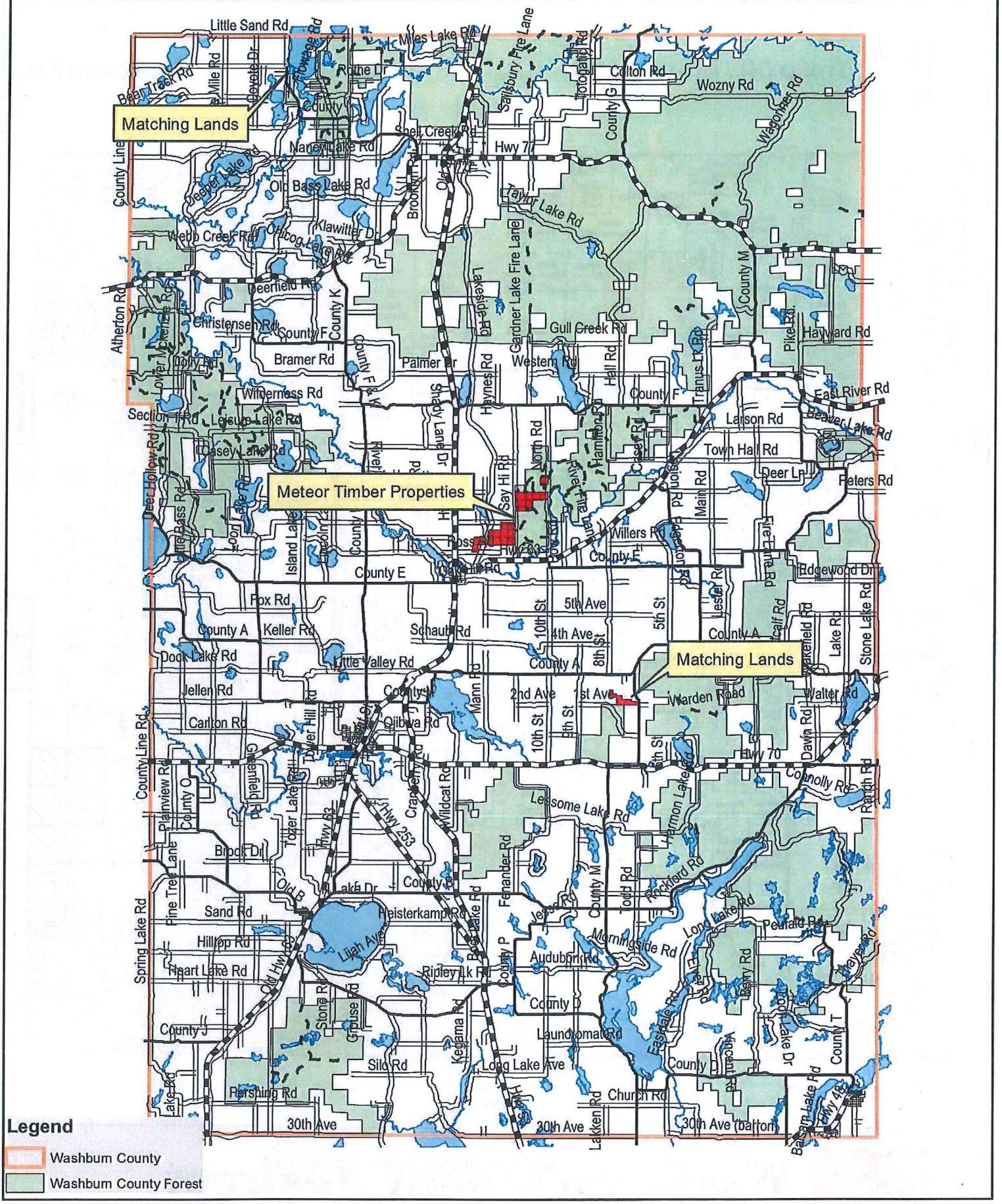
Sanjay Olson, Administrator
Lands Division

5-24-15
Date

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

Appendix A

Washburn County Forestry
Project Areas - Meteor Timber Acquisition



Washburn County Forestry
Project Areas - Meteor Timber Acquisition

Trego (N) / Brooklyn (S)

Washburn County Land Information Office Shell Lake, WI 54871

T.40N.-R.12W.

See Page 40

See Page 34

See Page 24

TREGO + BROOKLYN

N9700 N9300 N8900 N8500 N8100 N7700 N7300

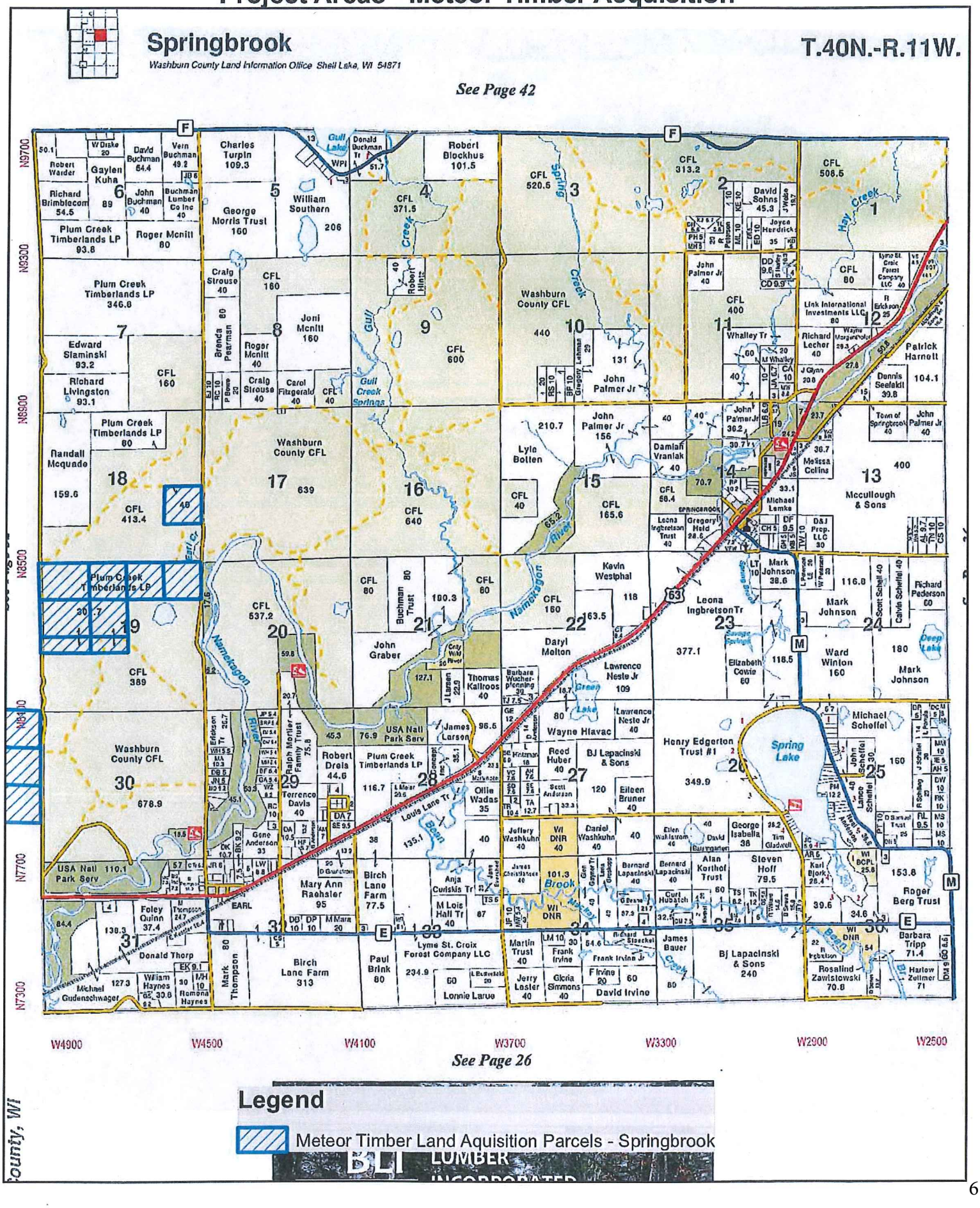
W7300 W6900 W6500 W6100 W5700 W5300 W4900

Legend

Meteor Timber Land Aquisition Parcels - Springbrook

Washburn County Abstract

Washburn County Forestry
Project Areas - Meteor Timber Acquisition



Washburn County Forestry
Project Areas - Meteor Timber Acquisition

Crystal

Washburn County Land Information Office Shell Lake, WI 54871

T.39N.-R.11W

See Page 34

See Page 24

See Page 18

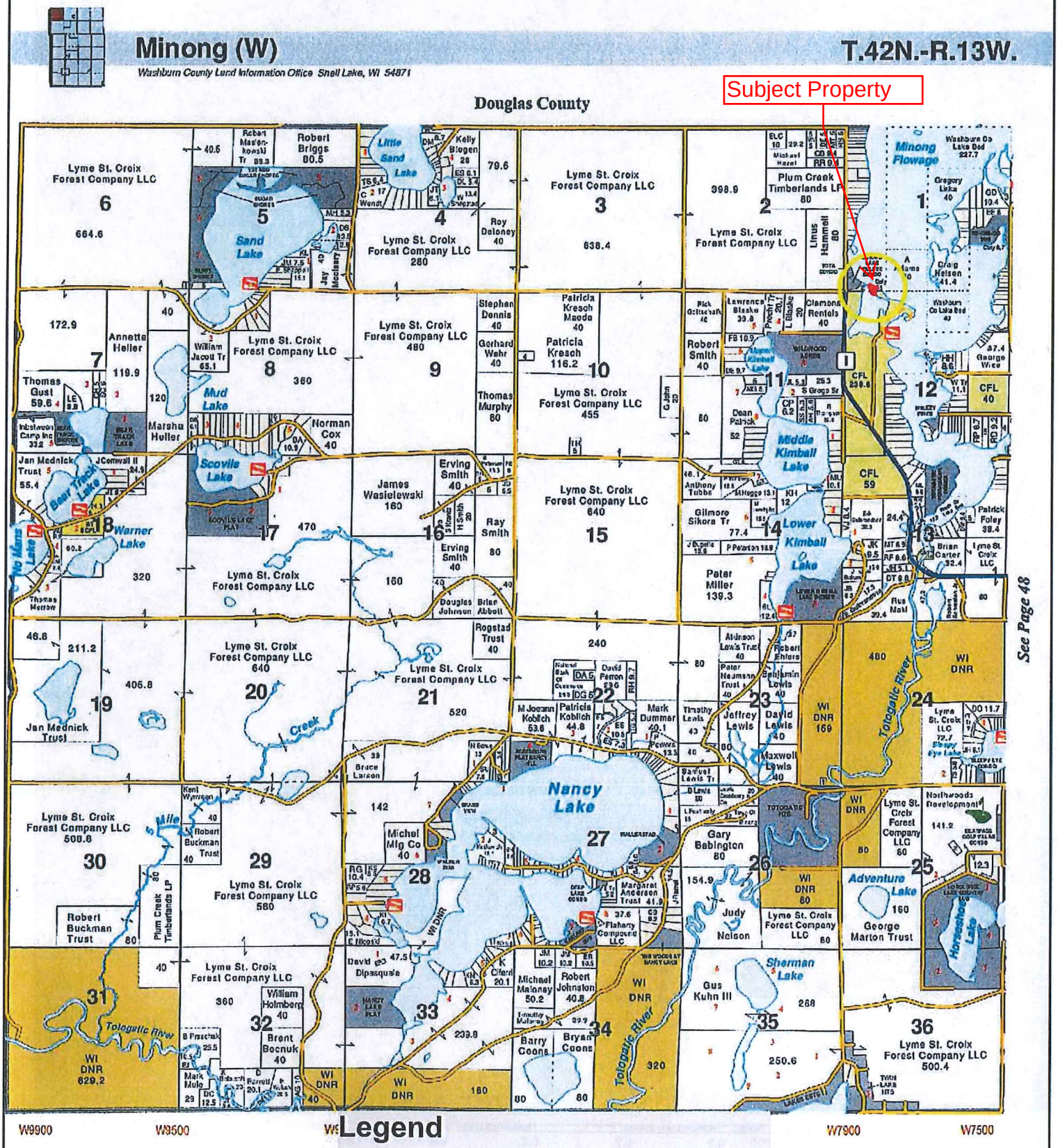
County, WI

Legend

Cost Share Matching Parcel - 120 Acres

Energy prices are going up.
Don't wait - call now for a free estimate!

Washburn County Forestry
Project Areas - Meteor Timber Acquisition

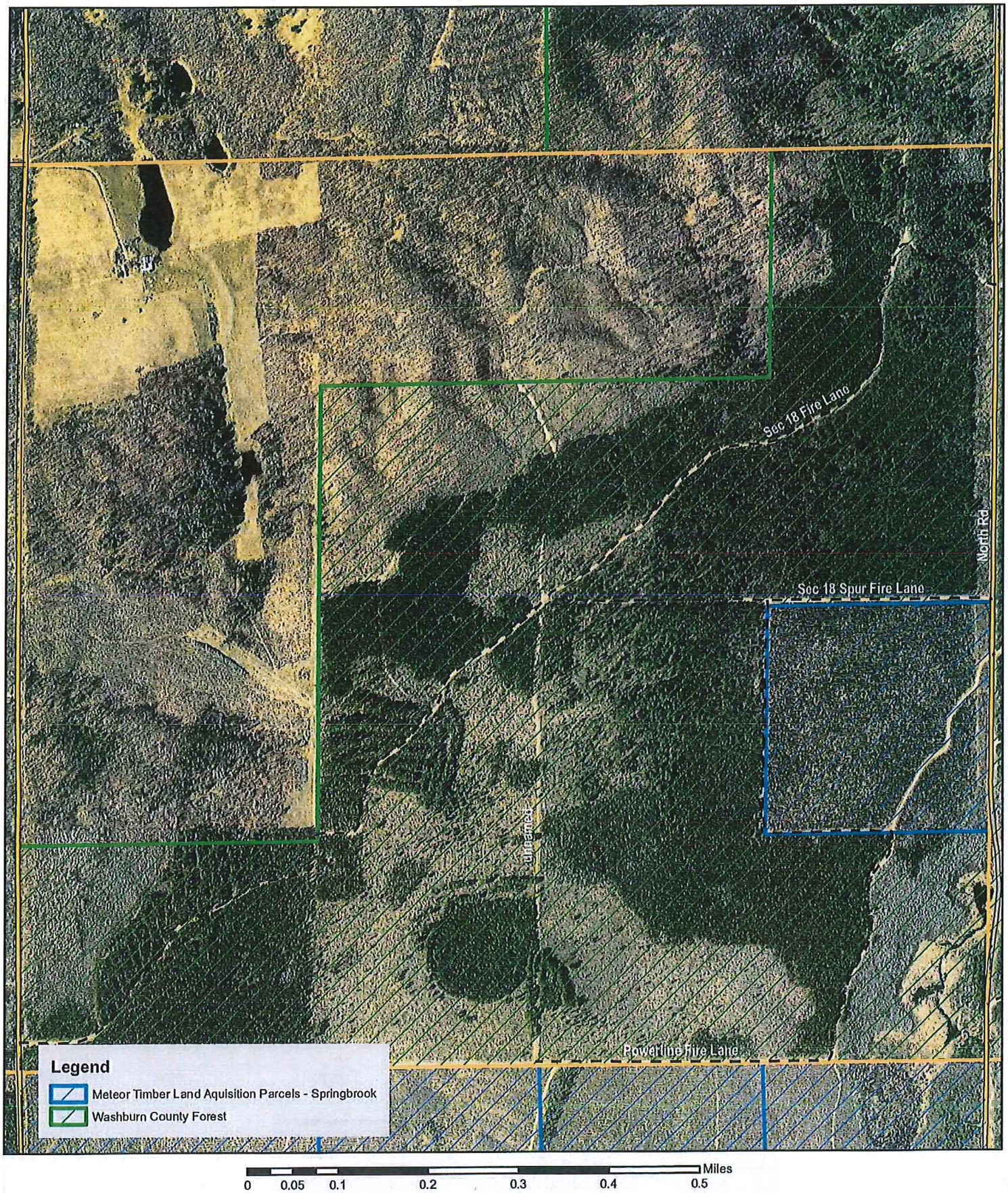


Legend

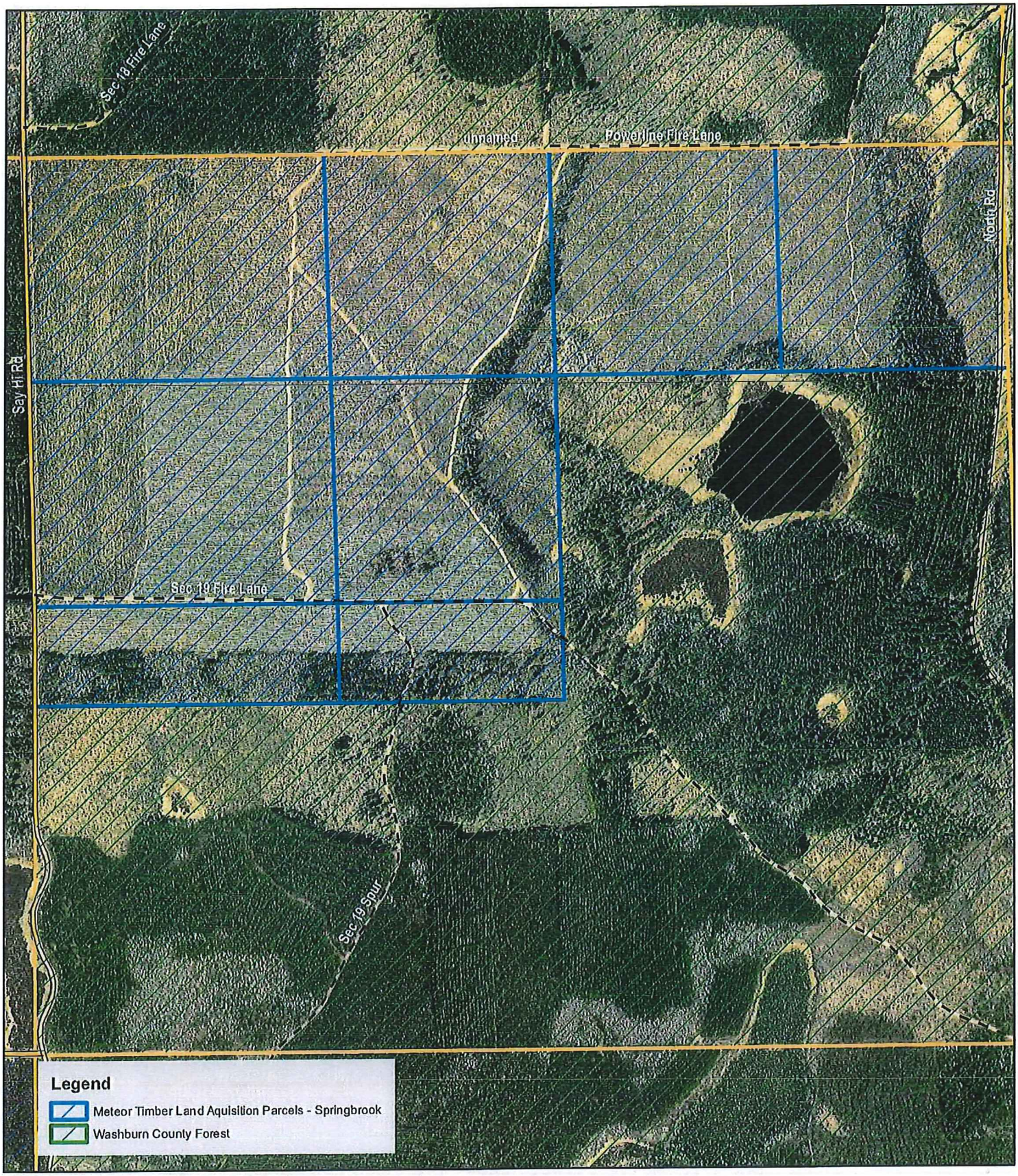
Cost Share Matching Parcel - 5 Acres

your life in the

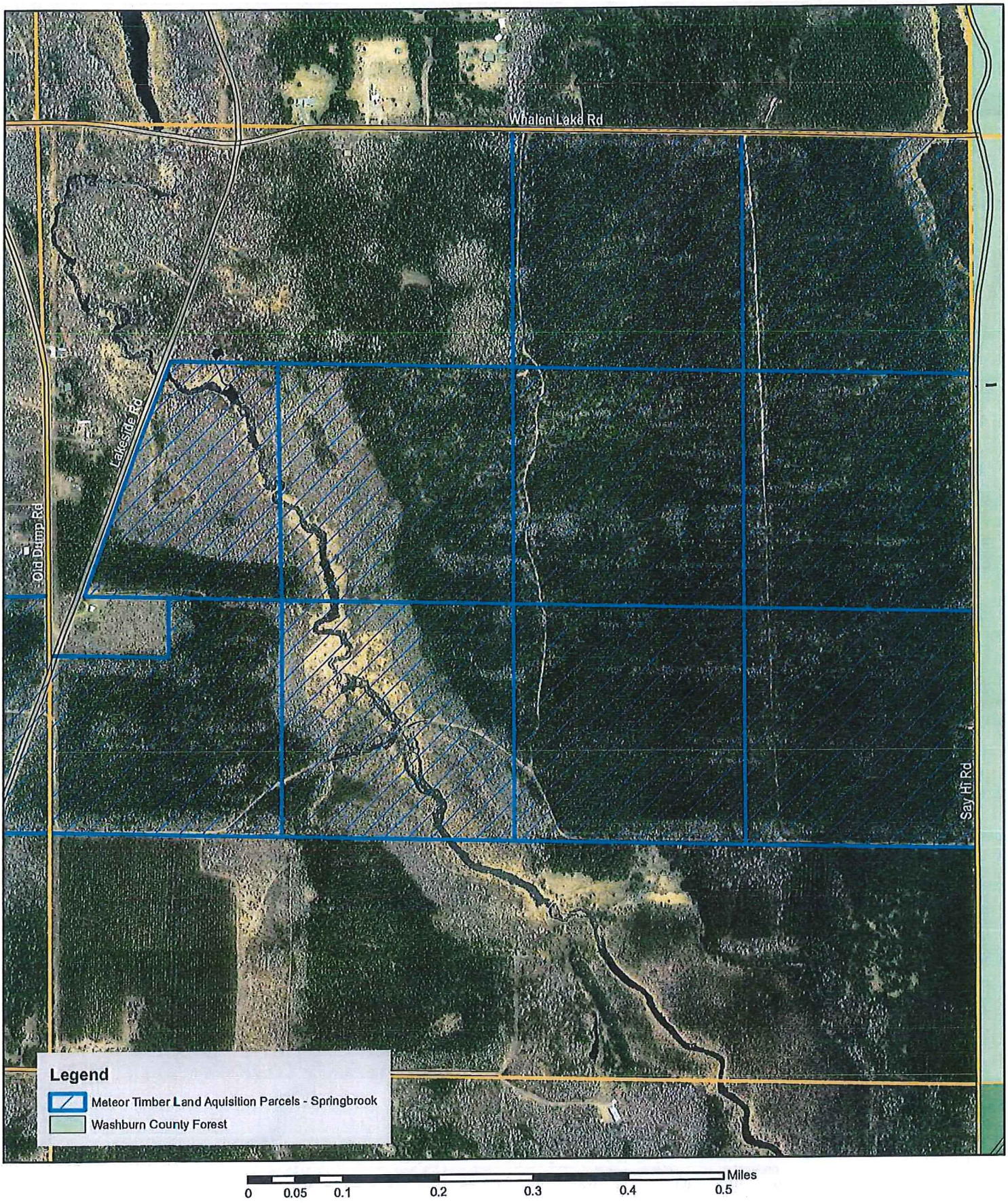
Washburn County Forestry
Project Areas - Meteor Timber Acquisition
Section 18 T40N-R11W



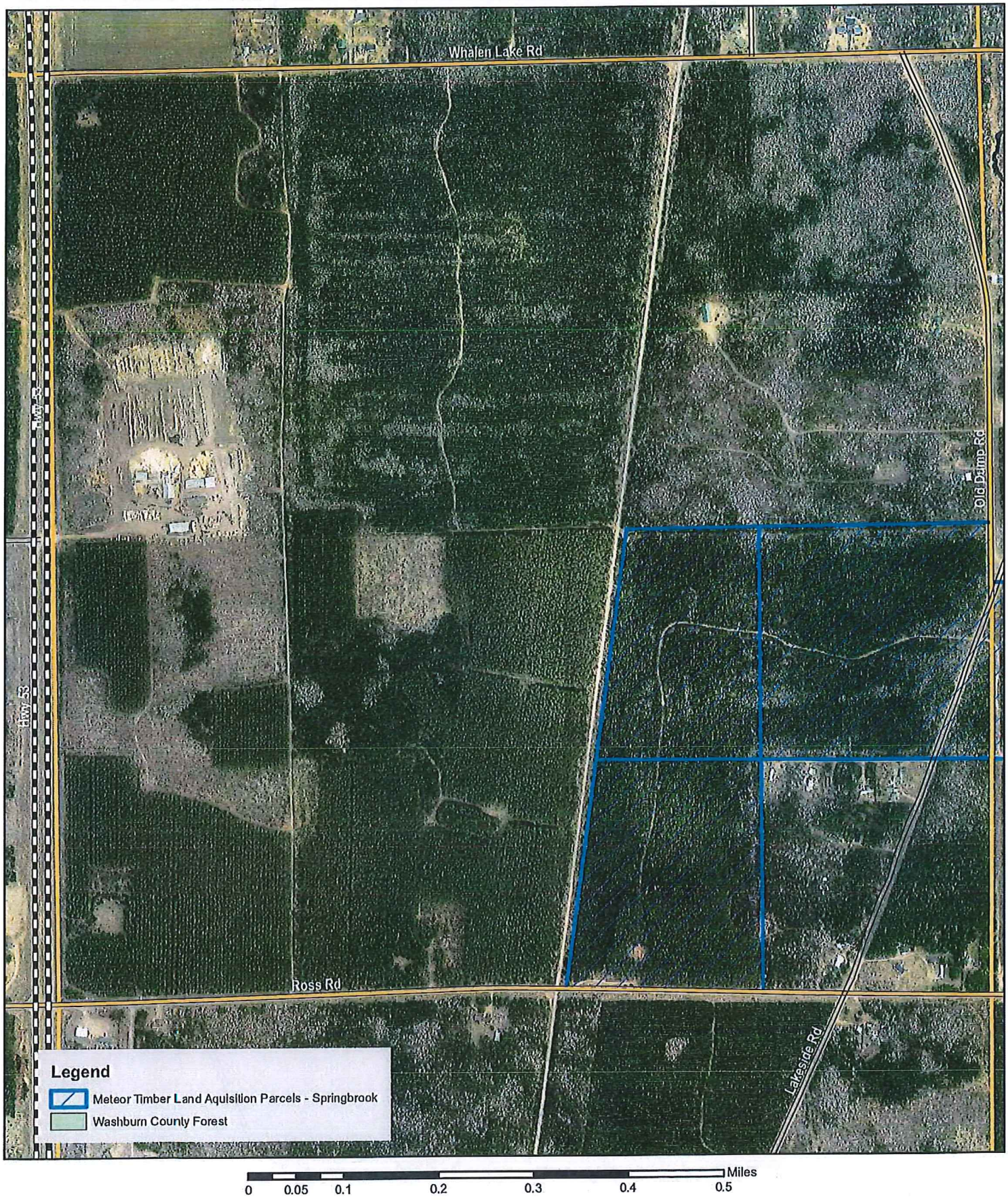
Washburn County Forestry
Project Areas - Meteor Timber Acquisition
Section 19 T40N-R11W



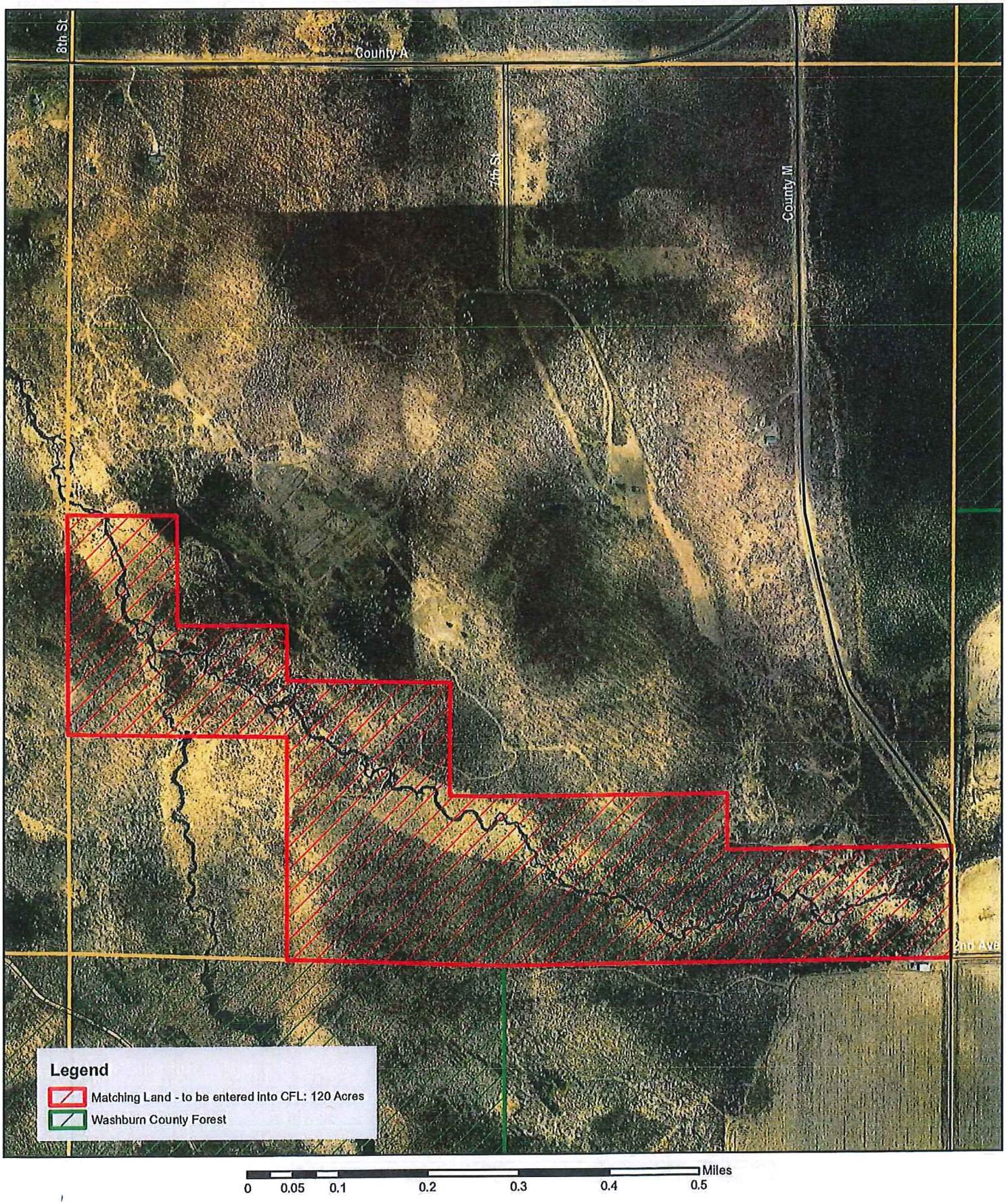
Washburn County Forestry
Project Areas - Meteor Timber Acquisition
Section 25 T40N-R12W



Washburn County Forestry
Project Areas - Meteor Timber Acquisition
Section 26 T40N-R12W



Washburn County Forestry
Project Areas - Meteor Timber Acquisition
Section 22 T39N-R11W



Washburn County Forestry
Project Areas - Meteor Timber Acquisition
Sections 1, 12 T42N-R13W

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Program

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.*

Applicant/ Sponsor: Washburn County	**Year of application:** FY 2015

Project name and primary purpose (after acquisition):

Meteor Timber Acquisition

Parcel size, shape and topography: Describe the size, shape, and topography of the parcel.
This project will acquire approximately 822.58 acres of forested land. The property is primarily gently rolling and includes 700 acres of red pine, 47 acres of aspen, 33 acres of jack pine, and 43 acres of wetland. The property includes over ½ mile of Whalen Creek shoreline, a special significance stream that feeds into the Namekagon National Scenic Riverway. An additional 125 acres in two parcels will be used as match and incorporated into the county forest. This property consists of 48 acres of rolling wooded uplands and 77 acres of lowland. The second parcel is adjacent to the Totagitic County Park with frontage on the Minong Flowage.

Plan(s) or reports identifying project area as priority:

Washburn County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan

Proposed NBOA – Applicant Narrative and Checklist

HUNTING

DNR Staff Narrative: Property will be open for hunting.

X No prohibitions being proposed

If a prohibition is proposed:

Public safety factors considered, check all that apply.

☐ The sponsor is within its own municipality boundary
☐ Parcel is within 100 yards of building devoted to human occupancy
☐ Parcel is within 50 feet of the center line of highways & roads
☐ Parcel is within 1700 feet of school grounds, hospital, or sanatorium
☐ Ordinance exists –
☐ Discharge or carrying a weapon ☐ Hunting within park ☐ Throwing or shooting missiles, arrows, spears, etc.
☐ 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.
☐ Parcel is adjacent to a parcel where the NBOA's to be prohibited already exists.
☐ Parcel is adjacent to a public waterway.
☐ Parcel is subjected to a non-sponsor ordinance
☐ Project will be transferred to an eligible partner sponsor with ordinance prohibiting activity.

Unique plant and animal communities factors considered, check all that apply.

☐ Federal listed endangered species ☐ State listed endangered species
☐ Federal listed threatened species ☐ State listed threatened species
☐ Federal listed species of special concern ☐ 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

TRAPPING

DNR Staff Narrative: Property will be open for trapping.

X No prohibitions being proposed

☐ **No water on site**

If a prohibition is proposed:

Public safety factors considered, check all that apply.

☐ Size/shape of parcel

☐ The sponsor is within its own municipality boundary

☐ Parcel is within 100 yards of building devoted to human occupancy and per s. NR 13.(1)(b)(12), the following traps are prohibited: conibear body gripping traps (with jaws wider than 60 sq. inches) and cable restraints.

☐ Ordinance exists that prohibits trapping or some type of trapping.

☐ 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.

☐ Parcel is adjacent to a parcel where the NBOA's to be prohibited already exists.

☐ Parcel is adjacent to a public waterway.

☐ Parcel is subjected to a non-sponsor ordinance

☐ Project will be transferred to an eligible partner sponsor with ordinance prohibiting activity.

Unique plant and animal communities factors considered, check all that apply.

☐ Federal listed endangered species ☐ State listed endangered species

☐ Federal listed threatened species ☐ State listed threatened species

☐ Federal listed species of special concern ☐ State listed species of special concern

Location	Allowable Species	List Dates/Seasons (opening and closing)
Upland	Per State Regulations	Per State Regulations
Water	Per State Regulations	Per State Regulations

FISHING

DNR Staff Narrative: Property will be open for fishing

X No prohibitions being proposed

☐ **No water on site**

If a prohibition is proposed:

Public safety factors considered, check all that apply.

☐ Ordinance exists – ☐_____.

☐ 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.

☐ Parcel is adjacent to a parcel where the NBOA's to be prohibited already exists.

☐ Parcel is adjacent to a public waterway.

☐ Parcel is subjected to a non-sponsor ordinance

☐ Project will be transferred to an eligible partner sponsor with ordinance prohibiting activity.

Unique plant and animal communities factors considered, check all that apply.

☐ Federal listed endangered species ☐ State listed endangered species

☐ Federal listed threatened species ☐ State listed threatened species

☐ Federal listed species of special concern ☐ State listed species of special concern

Method	Allowable Activities	List Dates/Seasons (opening and closing)
Shore	Yes	Per State Regulations
Boat	Yes	Per State Regulations

HIKING

DNR Staff Narrative: Property will be open for hiking.

X No prohibitions being proposed

If a prohibition is proposed:

Public safety factors considered, check all that apply.

☐ 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.

☐ Parcel is adjacent to a parcel where the NBOA's to be prohibited already exists.

☐ Parcel is adjacent to a public waterway.

☐ Parcel is subjected to a non-sponsor ordinance

☐ Project will be transferred to an eligible partner sponsor with ordinance prohibiting activity.

Unique plant and animal communities factors considered, check all that apply..

☐ Federal listed endangered species ☐ State listed endangered species

☐ Federal listed threatened species ☐ State listed threatened species

☐ Federal listed species of special concern ☐ State listed species of special concern

Location	Allowable Activities	List Dates (opening and closing)
On-Trail	Yes	Year round
Off-Trail	Yes	Year round

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

DNR Staff Narrative: Property will be open for cross-country skiing.

X No prohibitions being proposed

If a prohibition is proposed:

Public safety factors considered, check all that apply.☐ 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.

☐ Parcel is adjacent to a parcel where the NBOA's to be prohibited already exists.

☐ Parcel is adjacent to a public waterway.

☐ Parcel is subjected to a non-sponsor ordinance

☐ Project will be transferred to an eligible partner sponsor with ordinance prohibiting activity.

Unique plant and animal communities factors considered, check all that apply.

☐ Federal listed endangered species ☐ State listed endangered species

☐ Federal listed threatened species ☐ State listed threatened species

☐ Federal listed species of special concern ☐ State listed species of special concern

Type of Trail	Allowable Activities	List Dates (opening and closing)
Off-Trail (un-groomed)	Yes	Per snow conditions
On-Trail (un-groomed)	Yes	Per snow conditions
On-Trail (groomed)	No	Per snow conditions