

# State of Wisconsin

SENATE CHAIR  
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ASSEMBLY CHAIR  
**John Nygren**

309 East, State Capitol  
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Phone: (608) 266-2343

## Joint Committee on Finance

### MEMORANDUM

To: Members  
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling  
Representative John Nygren

Date: May 17, 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 May 17, 2016.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Darling** or **Representative Nygren** no later than **Monday, June 6, 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



April 29, 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)(a) and (dr), Wis. Stats., the Department is notifying you as co-chairs of the Committee on Joint Finance of a proposed acquisition grant for the Clark County – Meteor Acquisition, using grant funds in the amount of **\$348,000.00** from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. The parcel is located approximately 20 miles northwest of Neillsville in the Town of Butler, in Clark County.

The Meteor project will acquire 320.00 acres in the Town of Butler, and as part of their required match, an additional 120.01 acres in the Town of South Foster will be incorporated into the County Forest and Stewardship programs. The project will ensure future forest management, provide significant public recreation opportunities, and safeguard wildlife habitat on 440.01 acres of primarily productive forest land. The property encompasses the headwaters of Robinson Creek, a tributary that flows through the Blue Swamp State Natural Area prior to entering the North Fork of the Eau Claire River.

The entire 440.01 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  
Craig Thompson, Director, Lands and Facilities Bureau  
Jeff Barkley, Forest Management Bureau  
Pam Foster-Felt, Lands and Facilities Bureau

Secretary's Office Signature Request Cover Sheet

This form must accompany all items (other than grant-related forms) which require the Secretary's signature.

Item Name: Stewardship grant for JFC Review – Clark Co. Forest – Meteor acquisition

Contact Name, phone number and bureau affiliation:

Questions about the project – to Jeff Barkley, Forestry 4-9217

If this item is time sensitive, please provide a date by which the document must be signed:

asap, please.

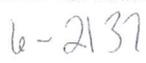
Purpose and Context: (Provide a *brief* explanation of the purpose of the item and state whether this is a new or continuing item.)

Proposed grant for Co. Forest acquisition exceeding \$250K threshold; requires JFC passive review.

DNR did receive communication from town members opposed, though not a board resolution to that effect. See write up in JFC memo.

Tim Gary has reviewed and discussed with Forestry. Email attached FYI

Routing:

- 1. Doug Haag 
- 2. Craig Thompson
- 3. Sanjay Olson 
- 4. Kurt Thiede/Cathy Stepp
  
- 5. Back to Terrisa M. in LF for routing to JFC Thanks!  
Terrisa - ~~264-6138~~ 

**DATE:** April 29, 2016

**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) and (dr), Wis. Stats., the Department of Natural Resources is notifying you of a proposed Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program grant in the amount of \$348,000.00 to Clark County for the acquisition of one parcel, containing 320.00 acres known as the Clark – Meteor project. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

**I. PROJECT DETAILS:**

**Project Sponsor:** Clark County  
**Grant sub-program:** County Forest

**Location:** The 320 acre grant project consists of two separate parcels. The property being acquired with Stewardship grant assistance is 320.00 acres in the Town of Butler, Clark County.

**Property incorporated into County Forest as match for this award:**  
Clark County – 120.01 acres the Town of Foster, Clark County

**Project Description:** The Clark - Meteor project will expand the existing Clark County forest by 320.00 acres. By acquiring this property, Clark County will protect and ensure future forest management of a significant acreage of productive forest land. The property is 93% forested including 114 acres of northern hardwood, 54 acres of oak, 54 acres of swamp hardwood, 38 acres of aspen, 24 acres of red maple and 13 acres of red pine. In addition, there are 23 acres of non-forested land. The property encompasses the headwaters of Robinson Creek which is a tributary stream flowing through the Blue Swamp State Natural Area before entering the north fork of the Eau Claire river. Under county ownership this area will continue to provide valuable public recreation opportunities and 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, Clark County will incorporate 120.01 acres of additional land into the Stewardship Program. The match parcel is 94% productive forest land. Four small ponds have formed in areas where gravel was excavated years ago, creating unique habitat. There is a good infrastructure of trails & woods roads on this property, as well as the acquisition parcel.

All 440.01 acres will be incorporated into the Stewardship and County Forest programs and managed according to the Clark County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Project area maps are attached as Appendix A.

**Project Goals:** The Clark - Meteor project meets the following goals:

- Provides significant forest land for public nature-based outdoor recreation.

**B. Appraisals:**

As required by s.23.0917(7)(e)1., Wis. Stats., two appraisals were evaluated to determine the fair market value of the Meteor parcel (320.00 acres). DNR's review appraiser's approved value is based on the aptness of comparable sales in each.

Appraisal 1	\$456,000
Appraisal 2	\$375,000
<b>Value Certified by Department - Meteor</b>	<b>\$456,000</b>

**C. Grant Calculation**

DNR approved land value	\$ 456,000.00
Grant-eligible associated costs	\$ 3,100.00
<b>Total grant eligible project costs</b>	<b>\$ 459,100.00</b>
<b>DNR Stewardship grant funding</b> <i>(50% of grant eligible costs)</i>	<b>\$ 229,550.00</b>
<b>Value of land used as match*</b> <i>(See note below on sponsor match)</i>	<b>\$ 118,450.00</b>
County funds applied to project expenses in excess of state grant funds	\$ 113,000.00

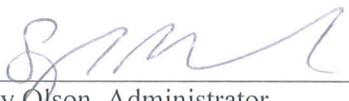
**D. \*Sponsor Match**

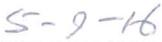
As described above, pursuant to s. NR 51.962(4)(a)7 and s. NR 51.962(4)(a)6., Wis. Admin. Code, Clark County will incorporate 120.01 acres of additional land into the Stewardship Program as a portion of match required for this grant. The value of those lands was determined by DNR reviewed appraisals.

**III. RECOMMENDED:**

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

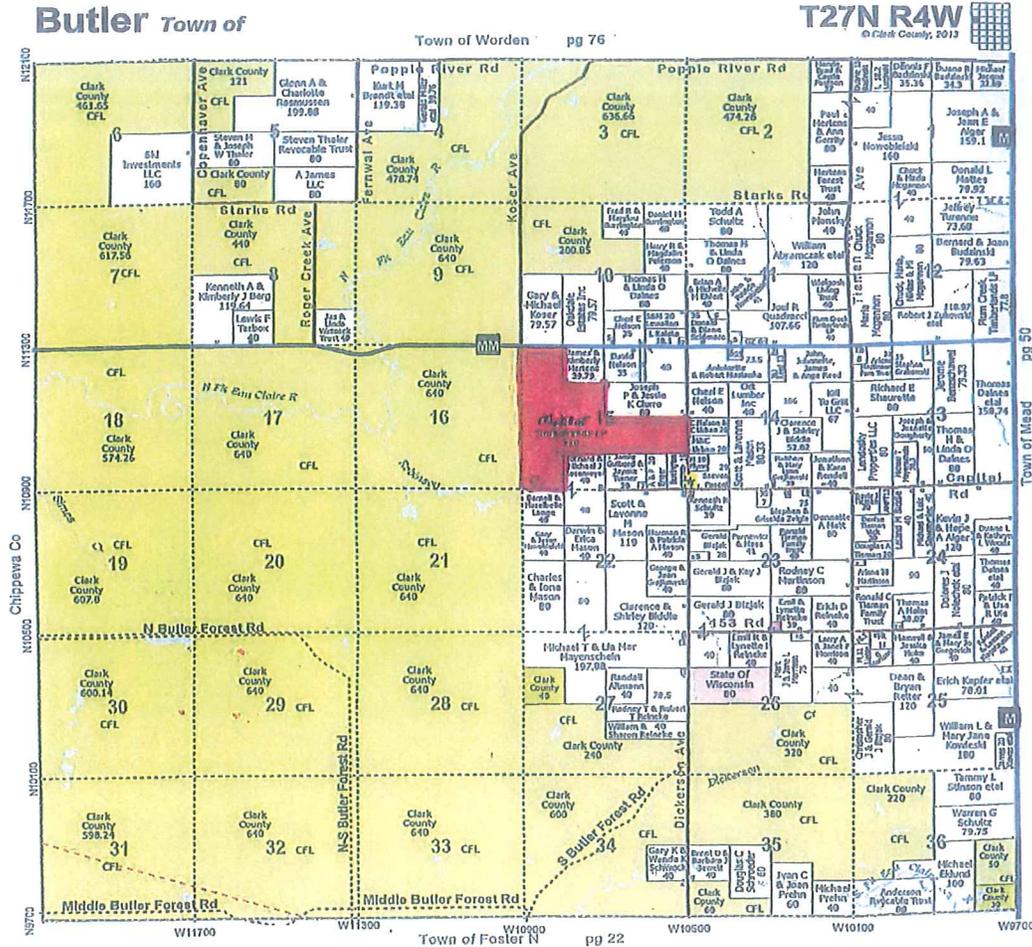
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sanjay Olson, Administrator  
Lands Division  
twf

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

APPENDIX A - Project Maps  
Acquisition Parcel



■ = Proposed Acquisition  
for Clark County



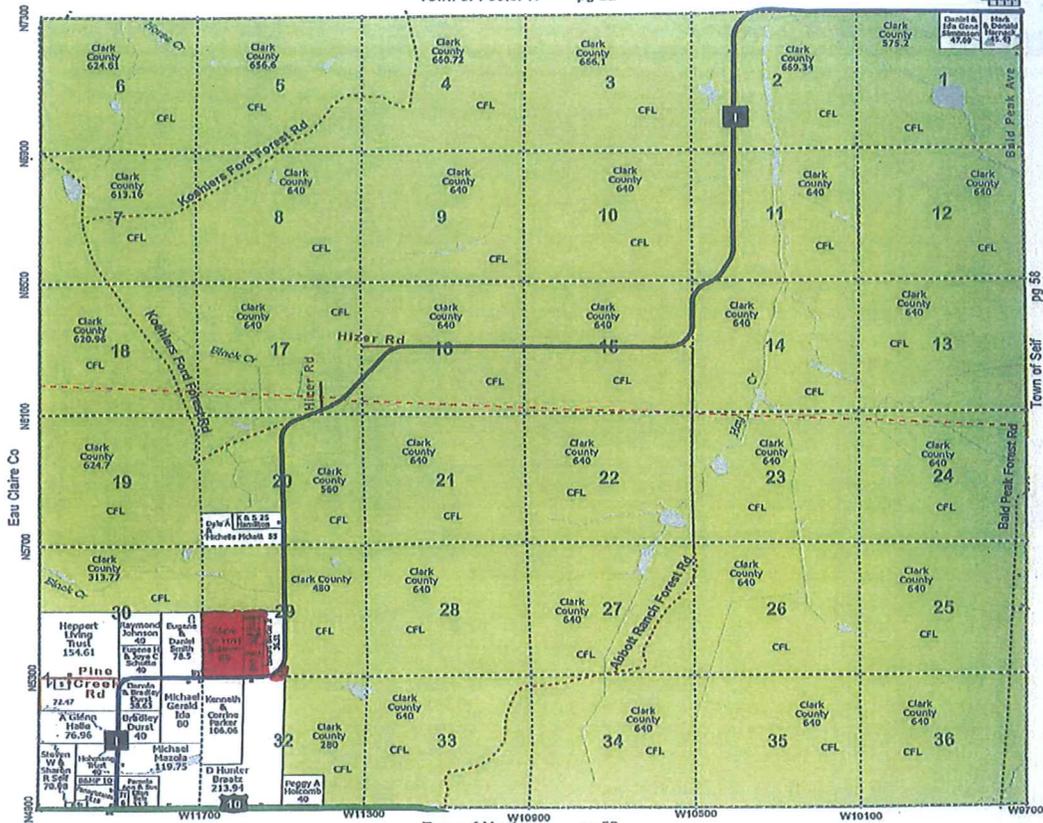
This map is intended for advisory purposes only. It is based on courses believed to be reliable but Clark County does not warrant this information as an "AS IS" basis. It is not intended to be used for any other purpose.

MATCH PARCEL

Foster S Town of

Town of Foster N pg 22

T25N R4W © Clark County, 2013



**FORESTRY & PARKS RESERVATION WEBSITE**

- ⇒ Make online reservations for Clark County campgrounds, parks, and recreation areas (Russell Park, Rock Dam, Sherwood, Snyder, Mead, etc.)
- ⇒ Reserve both campsites and pavilions
- ⇒ Buy trail passes and permits

<https://parks.co.clark.wi.us>

Clark Co Forestry & Parks 715-743-5140 517 Court Street Nellsville, WI 54456

■ = Proposed Match Property for Stewardship Grant

36' x 60'  
02' x 10'  
22' x 11'

**STAND TALL  
THINK TALL  
SMILE TALL**

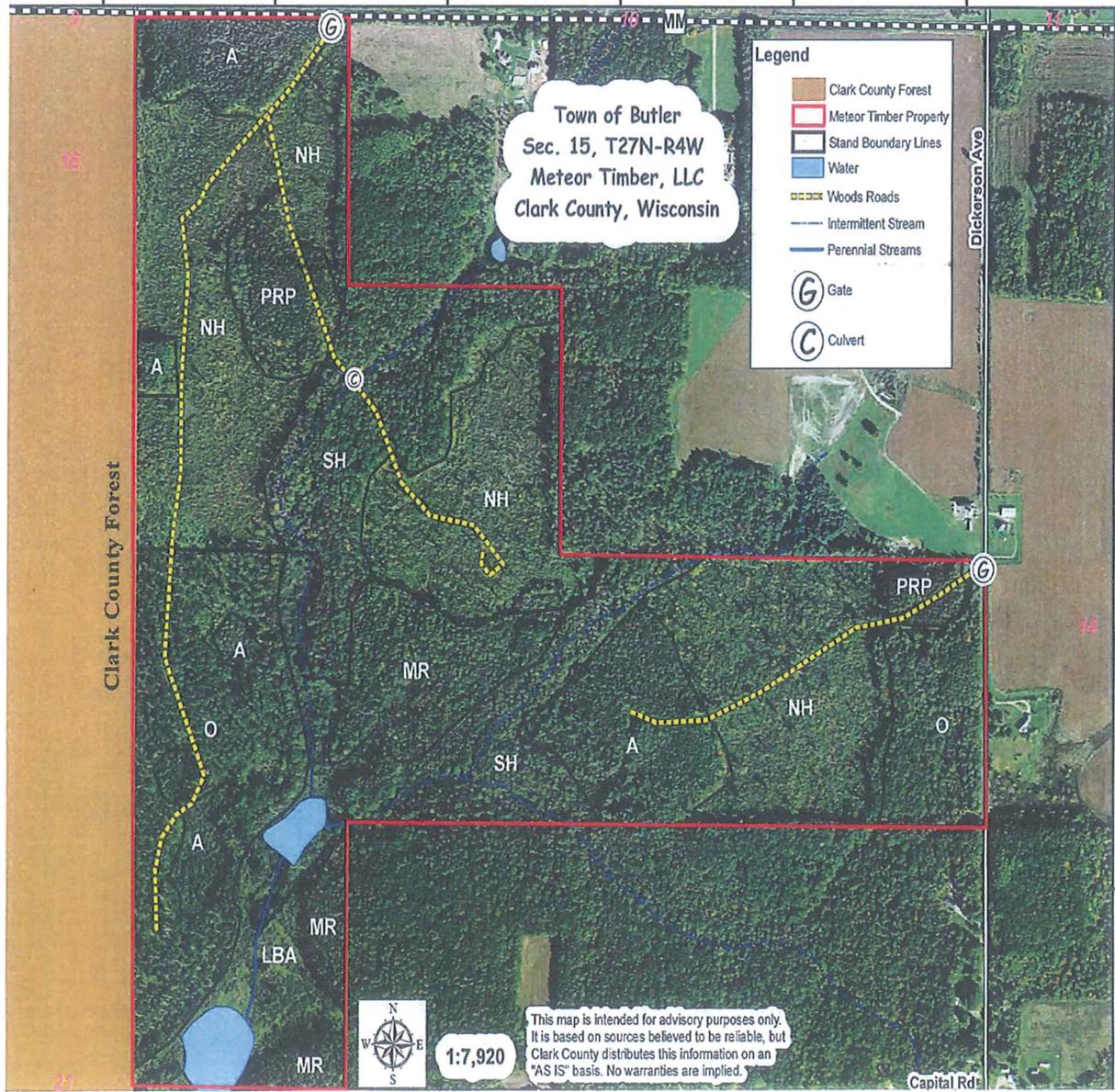
24 This map is intended for advisory purposes only. It is based on sources believed to be reliable but Clark County disclaims this information on an "AS IS" basis. No warranty is made hereof.

MATCH PARCEL

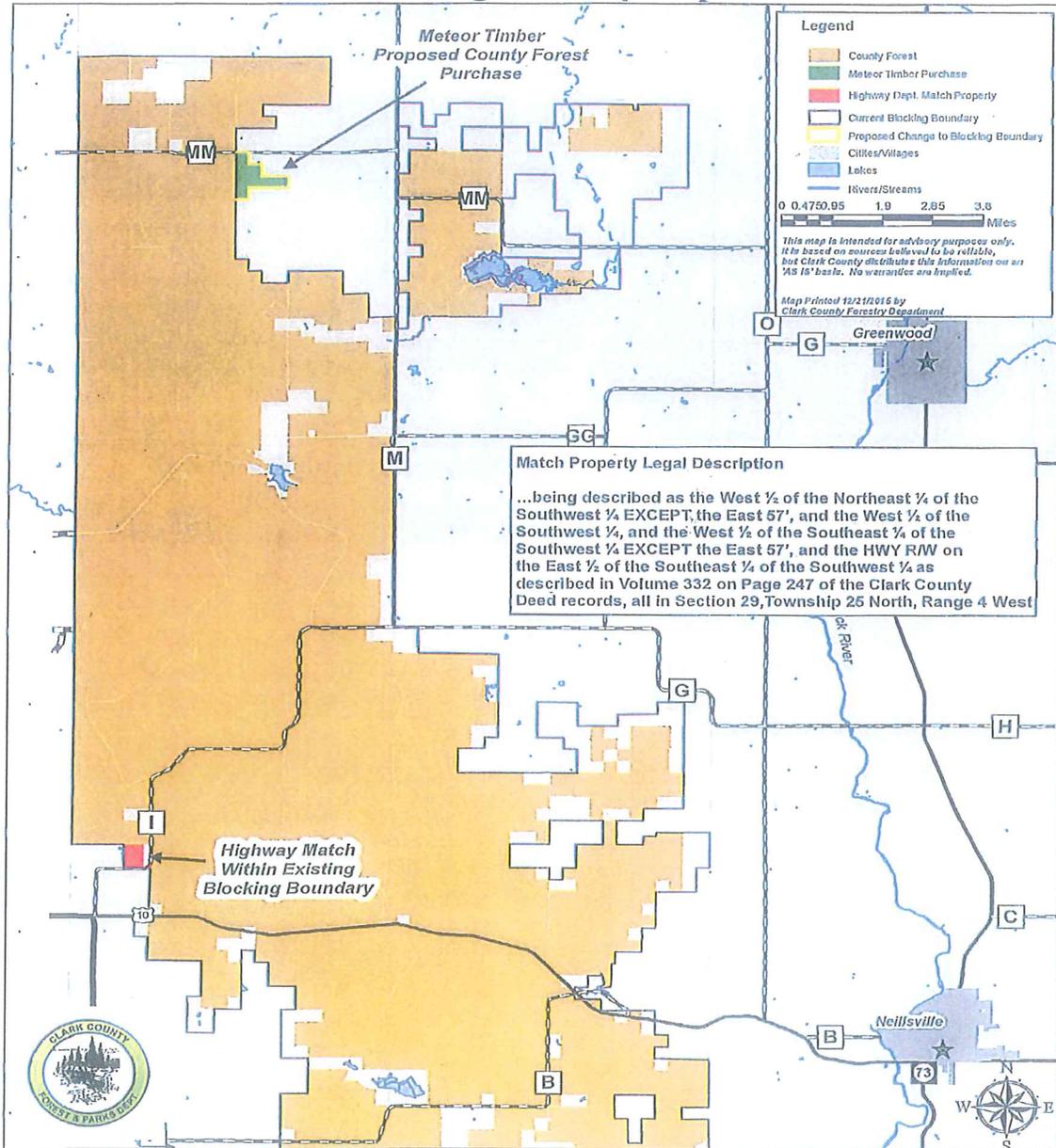
Town of Foster  
Sec. 29, T25N-R4W  
High Department Match  
Clark County, Wisconsin



ACQUISITION PARCEL



## Clark County, Wisconsin County Forest Land Purchase Proposal & Blocking Boundary Proposal





**TRAPPING**

DNR Staff Narrative: Property will be open for trapping.

- 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.

- No prohibitions being proposed (Fishing opportunities are minimal on these parcels)
- 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)
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Shore	Yes	Per State Regulations
Boat	Yes	Per State Regulations

**HIKING**

DNR Staff Narrative: Property will be open for hiking.

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.

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