

# State of Wisconsin

SENATE CHAIR  
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ASSEMBLY CHAIR  
**John Nygren**

309 East, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8593  
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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: June 13, 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 June 13, 2016.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Darling** or **Representative Nygren** no later than **Thursday, June 30, 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



June 10, 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 \$346,045.00. The award is proposed to the Natural Heritage Land Trust for purchase of the Nelson tract in the Town of Dunn, Dane County. This grant award is for 50% of the total eligible project costs.

The project will acquire 102.5 acres of land that is contiguous to the DNR's Hook Lake Wildlife Area. The purchase will provide for improved public access to the State Wildlife Area and ensure public access 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,

for 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:** June 10, 2016

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

**FROM:** Cathy Stepp, Secretary

**SUBJECT:** Request for approval of Stewardship grant for acquisition over \$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 \$346,045.00 to Natural Heritage Land Trust for the acquisition of 102.5 acres known as the Nelson tract. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

#### **I. PROJECT DETAILS:**

**Project Sponsor:** Natural Heritage Land Trust

**Grant sub-program:** Habitat Areas

**Location:** This parcel is located west of State Highway 51 in the Town of Dunn, Dane County. The property is contiguous to DNR's Hook Lake Wildlife and State Natural Areas. The property can be accessed from Hawkinson Road. Project maps are attached as Appendix A.

**Project Description:** This 102.5 acre, gently rolling parcel is adjacent to DNR ownership and located within the DNR Hook Lake Bog/Grass Lake Wildlife Area acquisition boundary and contiguous with DNR property. The DNR and the Town of Dunn hold a conservation easement on this property, purchased in 2003 to buffer the DNR Wildlife Area, prevent subdivision and development and retain the rural character of the Township. The easement does not allow public access.

The key benefits of this acquisition are enhanced public access to the adjacent Wildlife Area, (which has limited parking and to which existing access requires hiking along a 2700 foot lane); management efficiency for the DNR crews; public recreational access to lands now conserved but unavailable for public use.

The property is being sold per disbursement of an estate. The sellers approached conservation buyers first; if successful, the Land Trust's purchase will ensure permanent public access to the State Wildlife area from the east. If this grant is not successful, the property will be sold otherwise.

**Partnerships:** Natural Heritage Land Trust anticipates funding for the acquisition from both Dane County and the Town of Dunn. The Land Trust is committed to coordinated management with DNR in accordance with the DNR plan for the adjacent Wildlife Area; this property will likely be leased or managed per share cropping agreement in accordance with grassland/pheasant habitat objectives.

**Project benefits:** The Nelson acquisition will advance objectives of several conservation and recreational plans:

- This grant will address two primary objectives of the DNR's Master Plan for Hook Lake Wildlife Area: improved public access to the eastern edge of the DNR property and additional acres to

make up a viable core of contiguous grassland habitat. In particular, this acquisition will enhance the quality of pheasant hunting by adding significant acreage to a stocked property, allowing for more birds and increasing the likelihood that birds will stay on public property.

- The property lies within a Natural Resource Area Boundary in Dane County’s Parks and Open Space Plan where the County desires to provide additional conservation and public wildlife-based recreational opportunities.
- The property is within the Town of Dunn’s Rural Preservation Program, the goals of which include “to create and maintain corridors of protected land” and “preserve and buffer significant natural features, scenic vistas, and historic, cultural, and archaeological sites and landscapes from the impacts of development.”
- The parcel offers topography identified in DNR’s Land Legacy Report as a highest priority for habitat conservation and recreation in the Dunn-Rutland Savanna and Potholes area.

**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.

**Timeline:** Pending approval of the Stewardship award, the Land Trust has a agreement to purchase the property in fall, 2016.

**II. PROJECT FINANCES**

**A: Appraisal:** As required by s. 23.0917(7)(e)1., Wis. Stats., two appraisals were ordered and reviewed to determine a fair market value. DNR’s appraisal review found the comparable sales in the approved appraisal to be more thoroughly analyzed and most apt to the subject property.

Appraisal 1	\$574,000.00
Appraisal 2	\$685,000.00

**B: Grant Calculation:**

Approved land value	\$685,000.00
Eligible related costs	\$ 7,090.00
Total eligible project costs	\$692,090.00

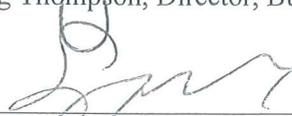
**C: Project Finances:**

Sponsor fundraising	\$ 59,045.00
Anticipated from Town of Dunn	\$114,800.00
Anticipated from Dane County	\$172,200.00
<b>DNR Stewardship award (50%)</b>	<b>\$ 346,045.00</b>

**III. RECOMMENDED:**

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

06.08.16  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

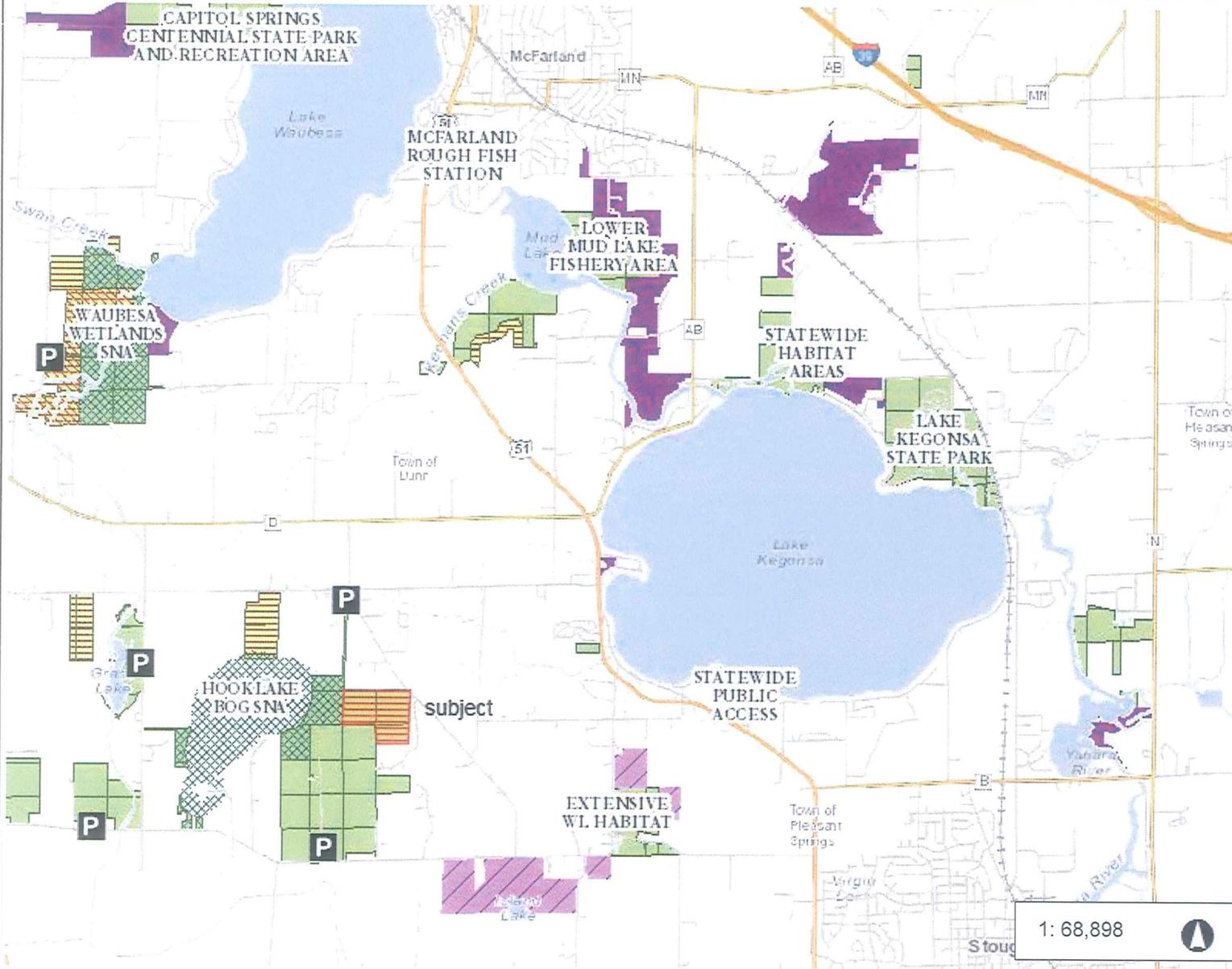
  
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 Sanjay Olson, Administrator  
 Division of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

6/8/16  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

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



# Natural Heritage Land Trust - Nelson



### Map Features

- State Natural Area Labels (40+
- P** DNR Parking Area
- Rivers and Streams
- Intermittent Streams
- Open Water
- Great Lakes
- State Natural Area by Ownership:
  - WI DNR
  - Non-DNR
- Stewardship Grant Acquisition:
  - US Fish & Wildlife Service
  - Fee Simple
- Easement:
  - Open
  - Hike & Fish
  - Hike & Hunt
  - Hike Only
  - Closed
- Leased

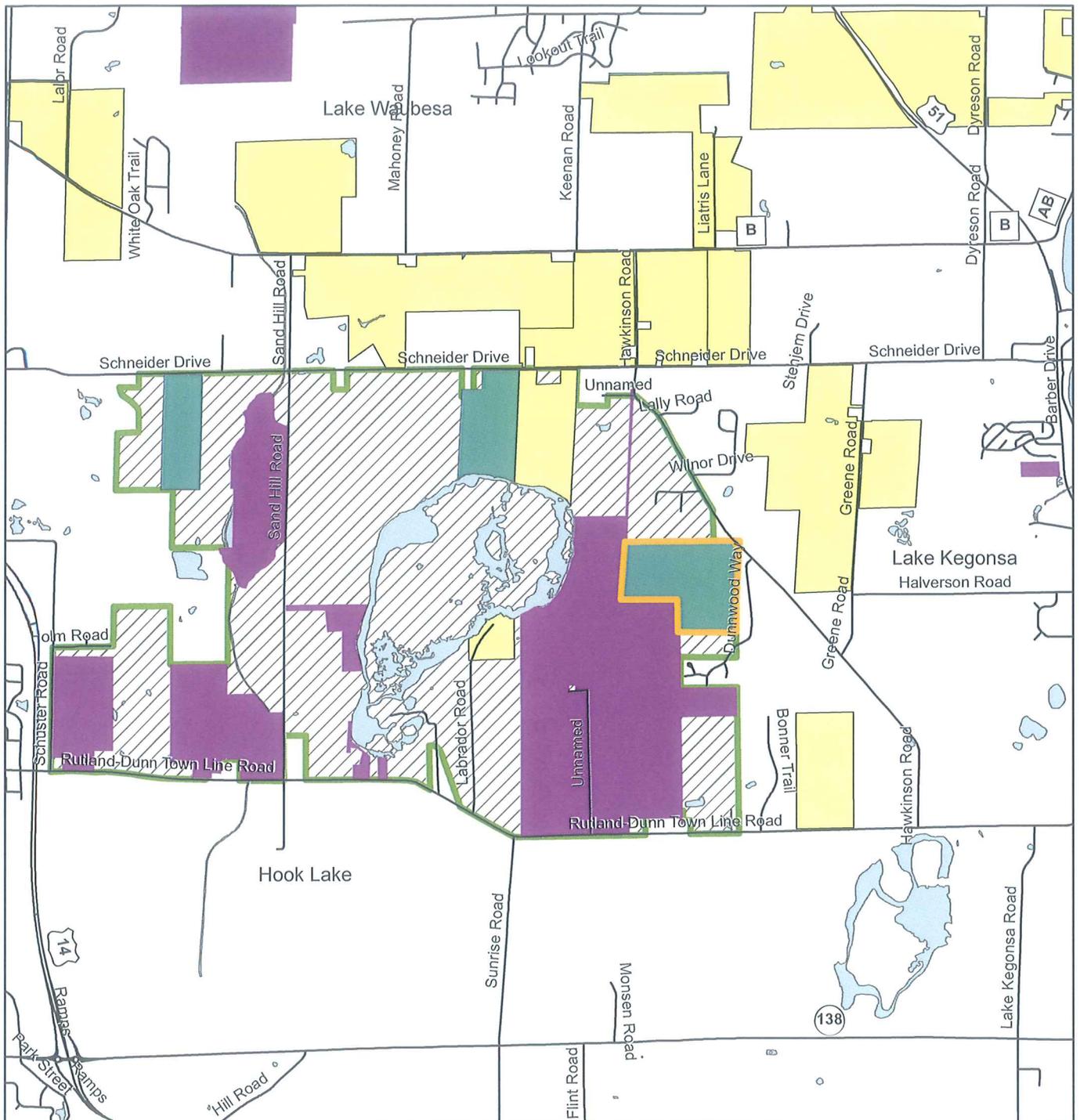
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Notes



### Nelson Acquisition Project Boundary, Hook Lake Wildlife Area and Badfish Creek Natural Resource Area



- Nelson Property
- DNR Protected Lands
- NHLT/Dunn Conservation Easements
- DNR Closed Easements
- Hook Lake Wildlife Area Boundary



2013 aerial imagery from USDA-FSA Aerial Photography Field Office. Additional data produced and copyrighted by Dane County, and other graphics produced by the Natural Heritage Land Trust. <NelsonProject Boundary.mxd>



## Nelson Conceptual Future Site Plan



-  Nelson Property
-  DNR Lands

2013 aerial imagery from USDA-FSA Aerial Photography Field Office. Additional data produced and copyrighted by Dane County, and other graphics produced by the Natural Heritage Land Trust. <Nelson Conceptual Future Site Plan.mxd>



<b>TRAPPING</b>								
<b>DNR Staff Narrative:</b> <span style="color: red;">Property will be open to trapping</span>								
<p><b>✦ No prohibitions being proposed</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No water on site</p> <p><b>If a prohibition is proposed:</b></p> <p><b>Public safety factors considered,</b> check all that apply.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Size/shape of parcel</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The sponsor is within its own municipality boundary</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 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.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance exists that prohibits trapping or some type of trapping.</p> <p><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.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is adjacent to a parcel where the NBOA's to be prohibited already exists.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is adjacent to a public waterway.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is subjected to a non-sponsor ordinance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Project will be transferred to an eligible partner sponsor with ordinance prohibiting activity.</p> <p><b>Unique plant and animal communities factors considered,</b> check all that apply.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Federal listed endangered species</td> <td style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> State listed endangered species</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Federal listed threatened species</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> State listed threatened species</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Federal listed species of special concern</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> State listed species of special concern</td> </tr> </table>			<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
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Location	Allowable Species	List Dates/Seasons (opening and closing)						
Upland	Per state regulation	Per state regulation						
Water	Per state regulation	Per state regulation						

<b>FISHING</b>								
<b>DNR Staff Narrative:</b> <span style="color: red;">Fishing is allowed, however, there are no fishable waters on the property.</span>								
<p><b>✦ No prohibitions being proposed</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No water on site</p> <p><b>If a prohibition is proposed:</b></p> <p><b>Public safety factors considered,</b> check all that apply.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance exists – <input type="checkbox"/> _____.</p> <p><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.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is adjacent to a parcel where the NBOA's to be prohibited already exists.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is adjacent to a public waterway.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is subjected to a non-sponsor ordinance</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Project will be transferred to an eligible partner sponsor with ordinance prohibiting activity.</p> <p><b>Unique plant and animal communities factors considered,</b> check all that apply.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Federal listed endangered species</td> <td style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> State listed endangered species</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Federal listed threatened species</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> State listed threatened species</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Federal listed species of special concern</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> State listed species of special concern</td> </tr> </table>			<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
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<input type="checkbox"/> Federal listed species of special concern	<input type="checkbox"/> State listed species of special concern							
Method	Allowable Activities	List Dates/Seasons (opening and closing)						
Shore	N/A	N/A						
Boat	N/A	N/A						

