

# 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: July 31, 2017

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 July 31, 2017.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Darling** or **Representative Nygren** no later than **Thursday, August 17, 2017**, 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

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



July 16, 2017

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 grant of \$97,075.00 from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to Iron County Forest for the Saxon Harbor-TFG Acquisition.

The Saxon Harbor-TFG parcel is approximately 115 acres. The County's objectives for this acquisition include future forest management, developing public recreation opportunities and, safeguarding wildlife habitat. Specifically, the project will ensure public access to 1,500' of Lake Superior frontage. This property is adjacent to the existing Saxon Harbor County Park and has been identified as a component of reconstruction plans for park facilities destroyed in a 2016 flood. This project has also been identified as a key connector for the North Country Trail.

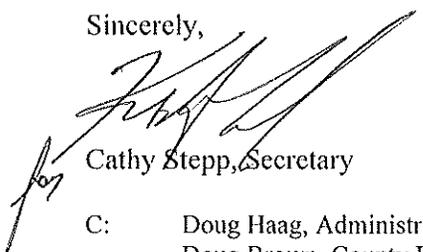
The entire property will be enrolled into the County Forest program and managed consistently with s. 28.11 Wis. Stats., which ensures that the land will be managed for optimum production of forest products together with recreational opportunities, wildlife, and watershed protection.

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: Doug Haag, Administrator, Internal Services Division  
Doug Brown, County Forest & Public Lands Specialist, Bureau of Forest Management

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

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**DATE:** July 24, 2017  
**TO:** Members of the Joint Committee on Finance  
**FROM:** Cathy Stepp, Secretary

**SUBJECT:** Request for approval of FY2018 Stewardship grant for acquisition north of Highway 64

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m)(a) and (dr), Wis. Stats., the Department of Natural Resources is notifying you of a proposed Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant in the amount of \$97,075.00 to Iron County for the acquisition of a 115-acre parcel known as the Saxon Harbor-TFG property. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

**PROJECT DETAILS:**

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

**Location:** The ~115-acre parcel is located in the Town of Saxon, Iron County adjacent to Saxon Harbor County Park.

**Project Description:** This unimproved parcel features upland, timbered bluffs and 1,500' of Lake Superior frontage. The property's timber includes a mixture of hemlock, aspen, white birch and white pine with deep ravines that host two state threatened plant species.

All ~115 acres will be incorporated into the Stewardship and County Forest programs and managed according to the Iron County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

Project area maps are attached as Appendix A.

**Project benefits:**

- This acquisition had been identified as a component of the reconstruction of Saxon Harbor park facilities destroyed by catastrophic flood in 2016. Specifically, it will allow for road access to a reconstructed, relocated campground.
- A public survey regarding Saxon Harbor redevelopment identified lake access, hiking trails and snowmobile trails as high priority. This property will provide additional Lake Superior shoreline expanding the total public frontage to nearly 4,400' and allow for additional trails with views of Lake Superior.
- As County Forest, this acquisition will ensure improved production of forest products through efficient management of contiguous blocks of county-owned timberlands.
- County purchase will ensure conservation of two state threatened plant species located on the property.
- This acquisition will allow for an off-road segment of the North Country National Scenic Trail between Saxon Harbor and Michigan's UP.

**Public Uses:** The property will be open to the public year-round for hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, biking, horseback riding, future designated camping and wildlife viewing. This parcel offers excellent recreational opportunities for area residents in Hurley and Ironwood,

MI, and allows for expanded recreational development of a destination site for tourism, an important economic engine for Iron County.

The public will be able to access the parcel from existing county owned lands. The Department's analysis of allowed nature-based outdoor activities is attached as Appendix B.

**Property Management:** The property will be enrolled into the County Forest Program and managed consistently 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 habitat and watershed protection. Management will occur according to the *Iron County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan*, as approved by the Department.

**Timetable:** Pending grant approval, Iron County intends to close on this property in 2017.

**PROJECT FINANCES:**

**A. Appraisals:**

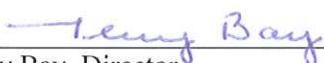
Pursuant to s.23.0917(7), Wis. Stats., DNR used two appraisals to determine fair market value of this parcel; the proposed grant award is based on the lower of the two.

- Appraisal 1           \$184,600.00
- Appraisal 2           \$254,350.00

**B. Grant Calculation**

Fair market value	\$184,600.00
Grant-eligible associated costs	<u>\$ 9,550.00</u>
Total <i>grant eligible</i> project costs	\$194,150.00
<b>DNR Stewardship grant funding (50% of eligible costs)</b>	<b>\$ 97,075.00</b>

**I. RECOMMENDED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terry Bay, Director  
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

7/24/17  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug Haag, Administrator  
Division of Internal Services

7-27-17  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Attachments:**

- Appendix A – project area maps
- Appendix B – staff analysis of public uses

# Iron County Forest - Saxon Harbor

...  
*Preliminary Stewardship Grant*  
 ...

T47N R01W Sec 12  
 Town of Saxon  
 Iron County

- Subject
- Saxon Harbor County Park
- DNR Fee Title Lands Open to Public Access
- Tribal Lands
- County Forest Lands
- North Country Nat'l Scenic Trail
- PLSS Section Lines

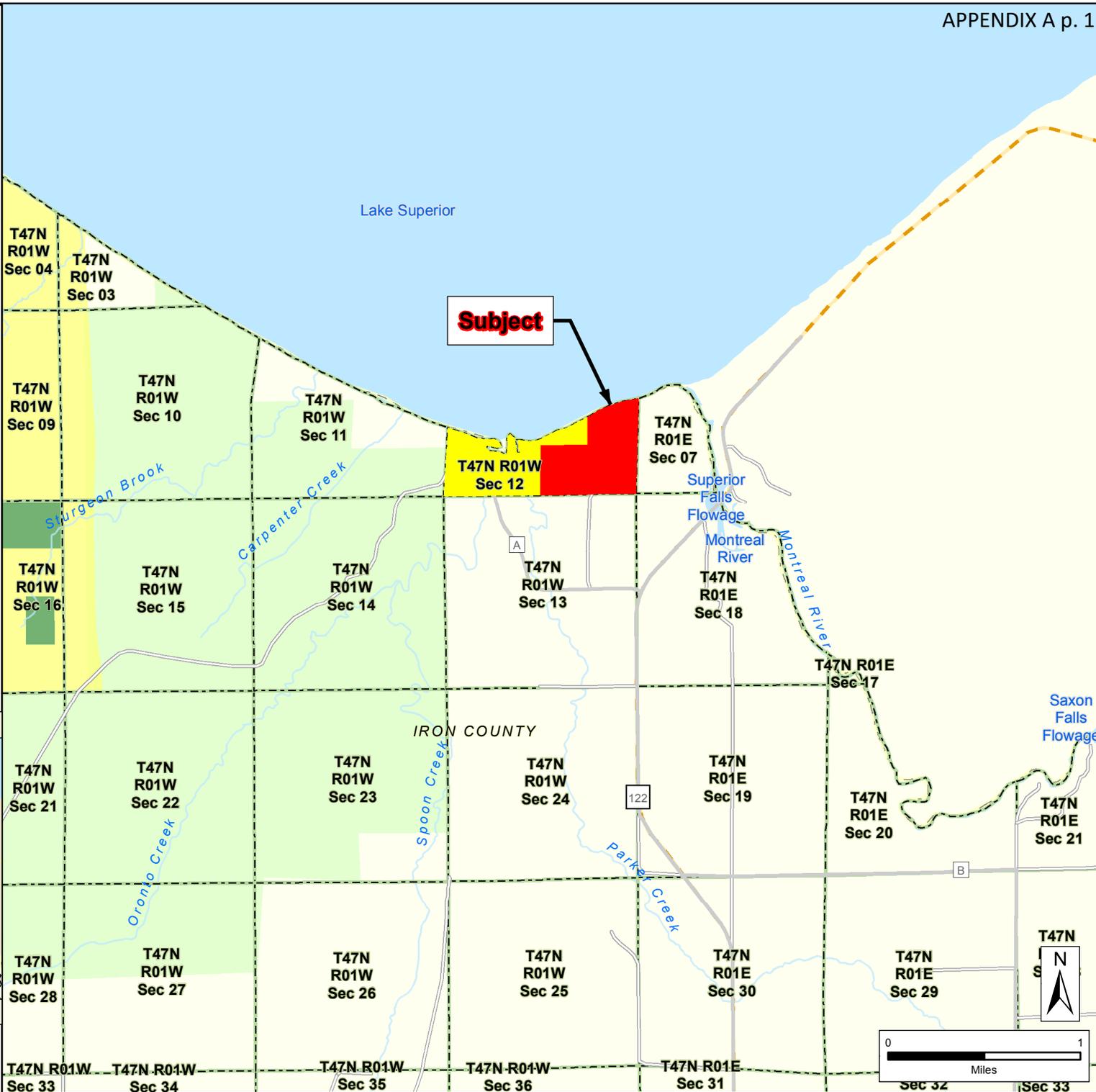
## Regional View



★ Location of Property



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
 Bureau of Facilities of Lands  
 Map Created: Jul 06, 2017 jpk

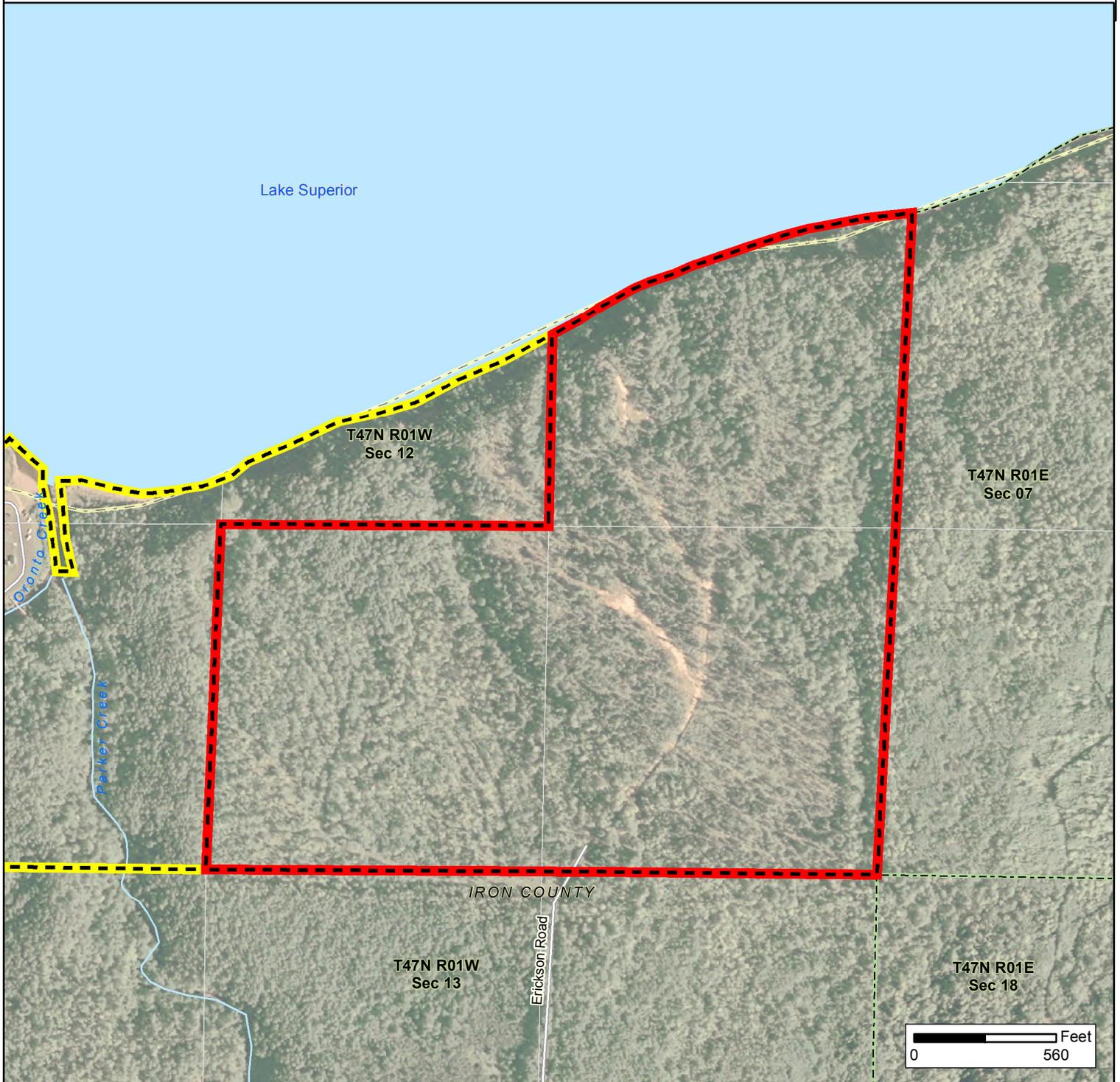


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# Iron County Forest - Saxon Harbor

Sponsor: Iron County Forest  
Approximate Total Acreage: 116.54

T47N R01W Sec 12 Town of Saxon  
County: Iron



**Proposed Stewardship Grant**

 **Subject**

-  Saxon Harbor County Park
-  PLSS Section Lines
-  QQ Section Boundary



Jul 06, 2017 jpk

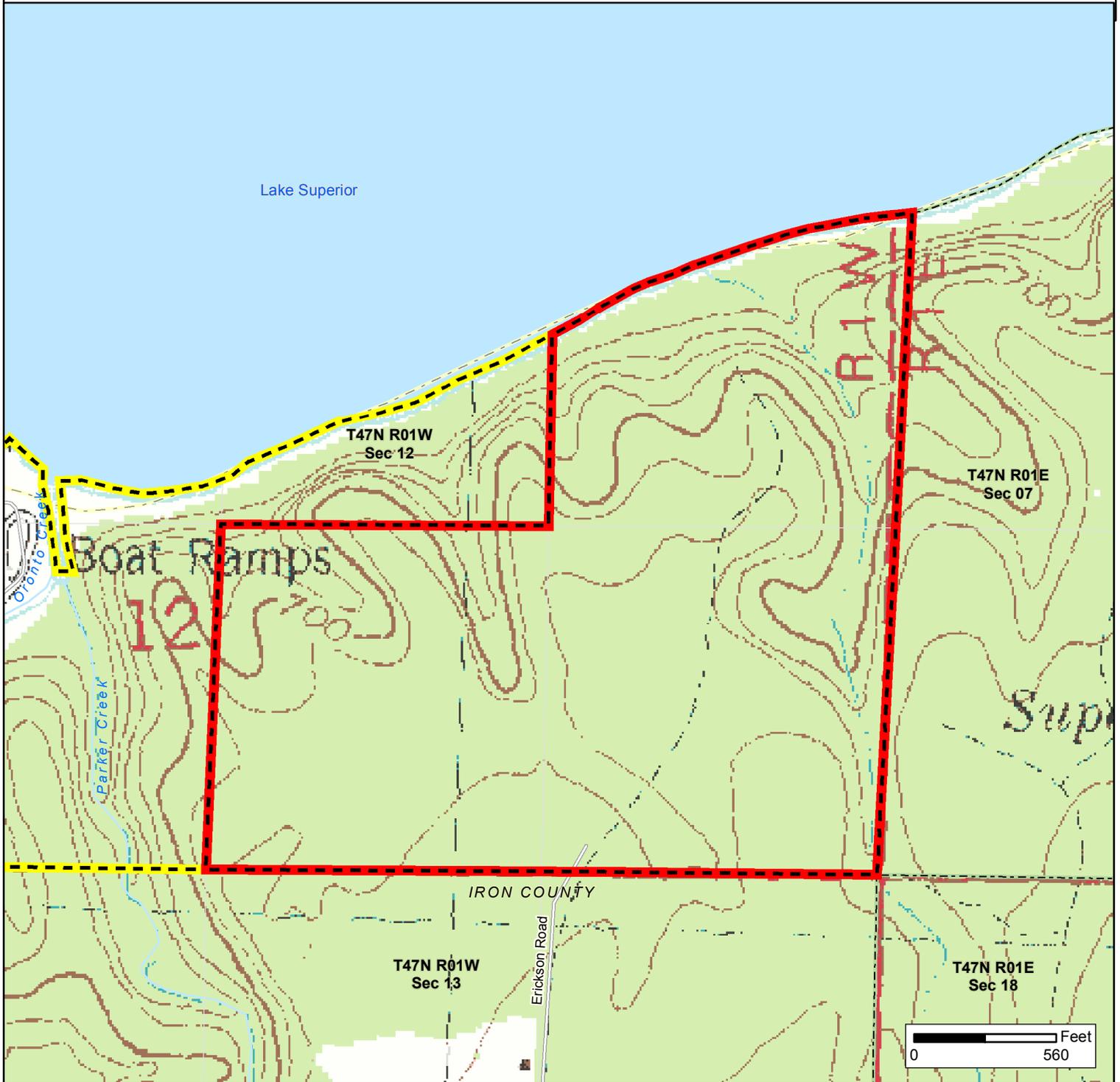
Real Estate Section  
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

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# Iron County Forest - Saxon Harbor

Sponsor: Iron County Forest  
Approximate Total Acreage: 116.54

T47N R01W Sec 12 Town of Saxon  
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**Proposed Stewardship Grant**

 **Subject**

-  Saxon Harbor County Park
-  PLSS Section Lines
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Jul 06, 2017 jpk

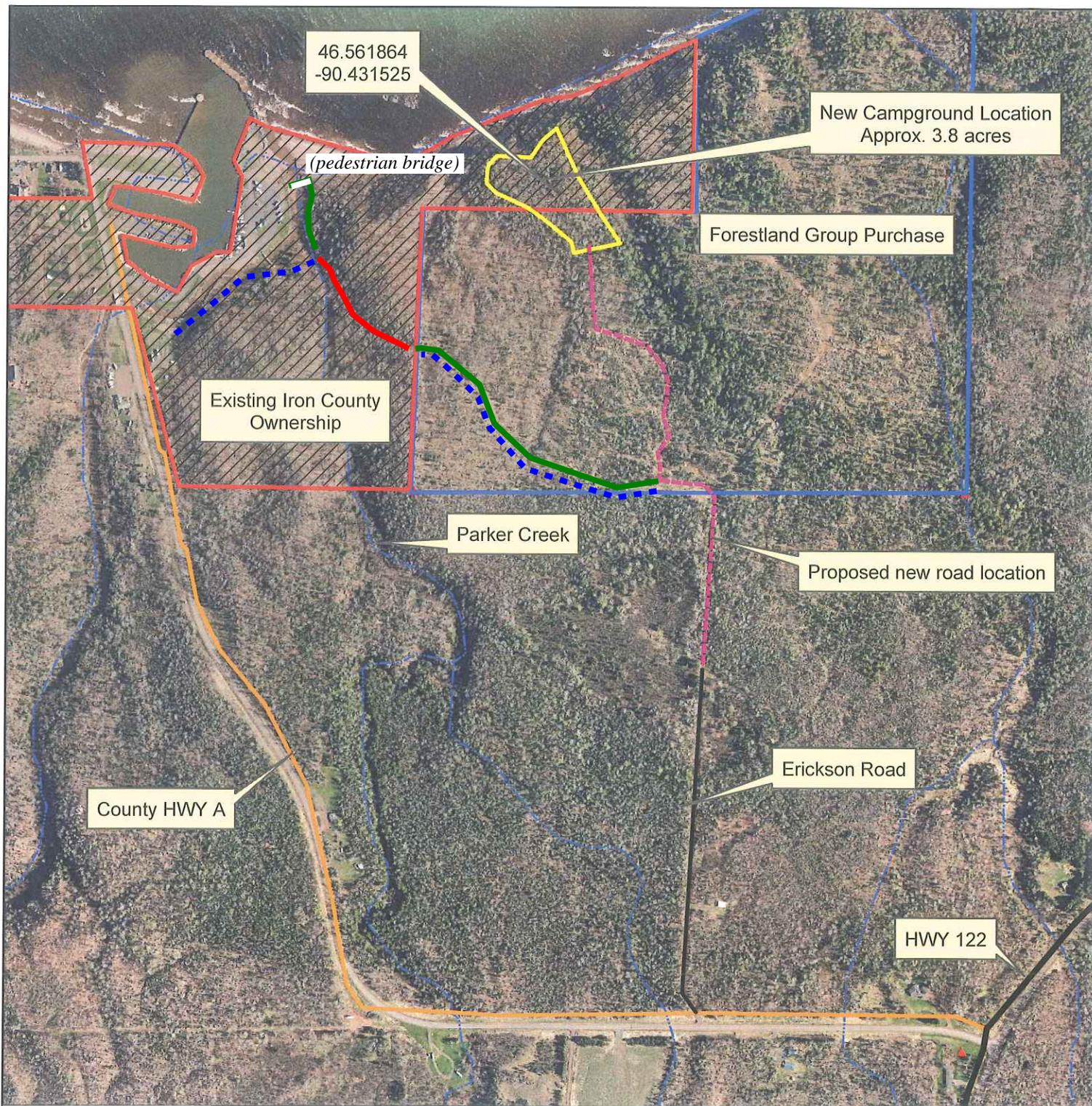
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# Saxon Harbor Potential Campground Relocation



0 375 750 1,500 Feet



- Walking Path  
(with section breakout)
- Pedestrian/Bike Path
- Combined Use  
(pedestrian path / snowmobile trail)
- - - Snowmobile Trail

Map Prepared By: Eric Peterson, Forest Administrator  
March 14, 2017

**FIGURE 1  
Project Location &  
Boundary Map**



**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** **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. **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