

State of Wisconsin

SENATE CHAIR
Alberta Darling

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Joint Committee on Finance

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling
Representative John Nygren

Date: May 30, 2018

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 30, 2018.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Darling** or **Representative Nygren** no later than **Monday, June 18, 2018**, 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
Daniel L. Meyer, Secretary
Telephone 608-266-2621
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463
TTY Access via relay - 711



May 11, 2018

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

MAY 30 2018
J. Finance

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 grant of \$406,712.00 from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. The award is proposed to The Nature Conservancy for land acquisition at the Crooked Creek Preserve in the Town of Troy, Walworth County. The proposed grant award represents 50% of the estimated project costs.

The property consists of 107 acres of forested Kettle Moraine habitat, and 250ft of stream frontage in the Mukwonago River headwaters. This parcel connects currently disjunct parcels in the Crooked Creek Preserve.

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,

Daniel L. Meyer
Secretary

C: Doug Haag, Administrator, Division Internal Services
Terry Bay, Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands
Pamela Foster Fell, Stewardship Grant Manager
Faith Murray, CFA Specialist, Northeast Region

DATE: May 11, 2018

TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Daniel L. Meyer, Secretary

SUBJECT: Request for approval of a Stewardship grant exceeding \$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 grant of \$406,712.00 to The Nature Conservancy for a 107-acre acquisition in Walworth County. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

I. PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: The Nature Conservancy
Grant sub-program: Habitat Areas

Location: This parcel is located along Scout Rd. in the Town of Troy. The property is part of Crooked Creek Preserve unit of The Nature Conservancy Mukwonago River Watershed Project Area. Project maps are attached as Appendix A.

Project Description: The property has hilly, wooded terrain, characteristic of the Kettle Moraine. Long owned by the Girl Scouts and operated as a summer camp, the property hosts a variety of cover types, including a small kettle pond and wetland, a corner of Crooked Creek and over 40 acres of restorable globally-rare oak savanna. This purchase will connect currently isolated parcels of public access conservation lands north and south of the property. Approximately a mile of existing two-track throughout will be maintained as walking trails.

Key benefits: Goals for the larger project area are to ensure health and water quality of the Mukwonago River. Situated in the Mukwonago headwaters watershed, this acquisition will:

- Protect the forested kettle wetland and riparian habitat along Crooked Creek.
- Preserve a diverse tract with very high groundwater recharge potential in the Mukwonago watershed.
- Improve public access in the Crooked Creek Preserve by connecting currently disjunct conservation parcels linking ~ 1 mile north-to-south and 290 acres open to public nature-based recreation.
- Allow for large-block land management goals: on this parcel, management priorities are to control invasive species, maintain wildlife habitat and eventual restoration of ~40 acres of oak savanna.

Public Uses: The property will be open to the public for low-impact recreational activities including hunting, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, shore fishing, and wildlife viewing. The Department's analysis of the permitted nature-based outdoor activities is attached as Appendix B.

Property Management: The property will be managed by The Nature Conservancy according to a Land Management Plan approved by the Department.

II. PROJECT FINANCES

A. Appraisals

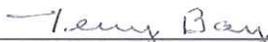
As required by s. 23.0917(7)(e)1., Wis. Stats., two appraisals were used to determine the fair market value of the land.

Appraisal 1 – accepted by DNR	\$800,000.00
Appraisal 2	\$820,000.00

B: Grant Calculation:

Accepted land value	\$800,000.00
Eligible related transaction costs	\$13,423.00
Total eligible project costs	\$813,423.00
Proposed Stewardship grant (50%)	\$406,712.00

III. RECOMMENDED:



Terry Bay, Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands

5/11/18

Date

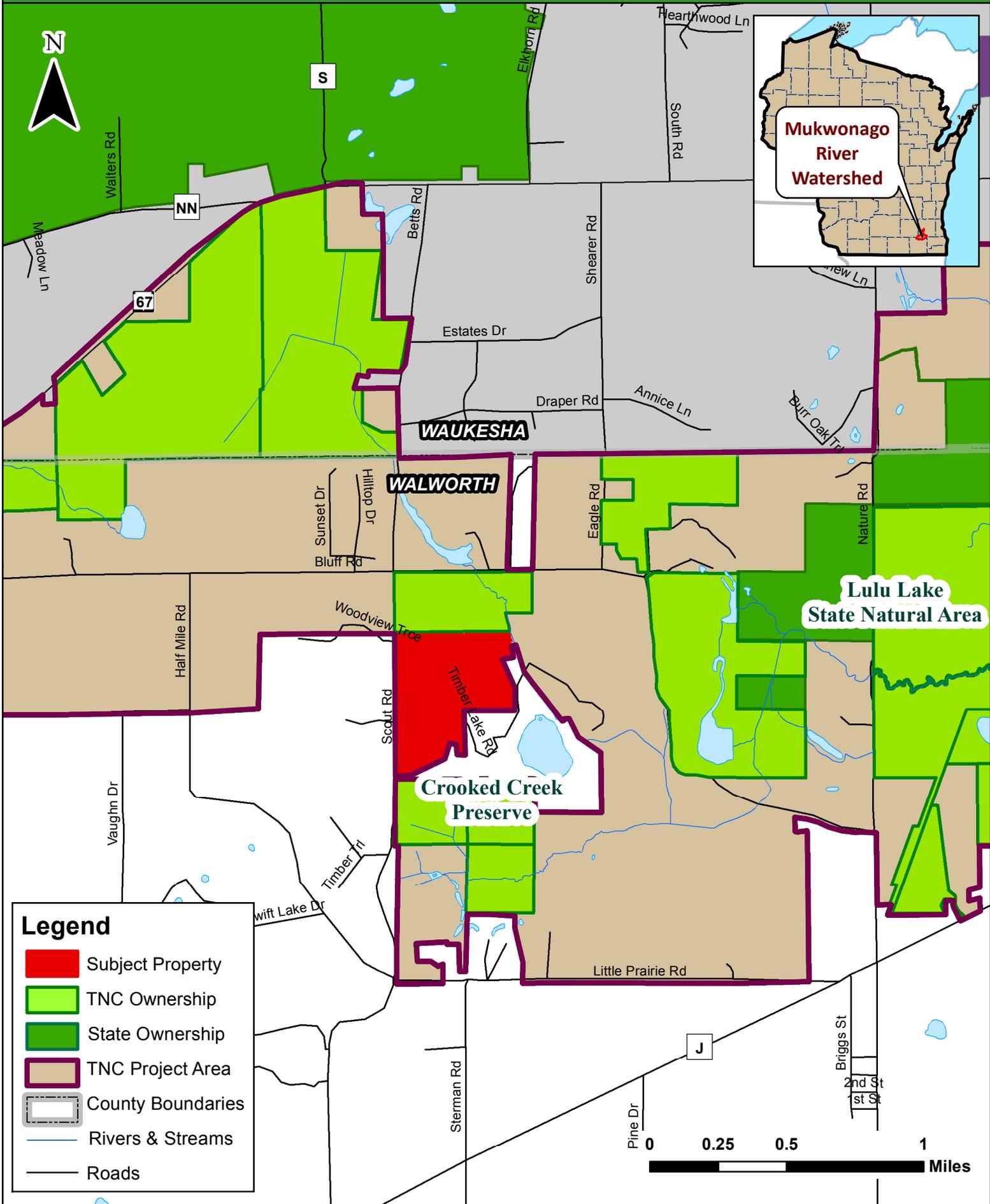


Doug Haag, Administrator, Division of Internal Services

5/21/18

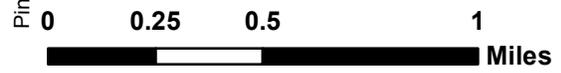
Date

Mukwonago River Watershed Project Area

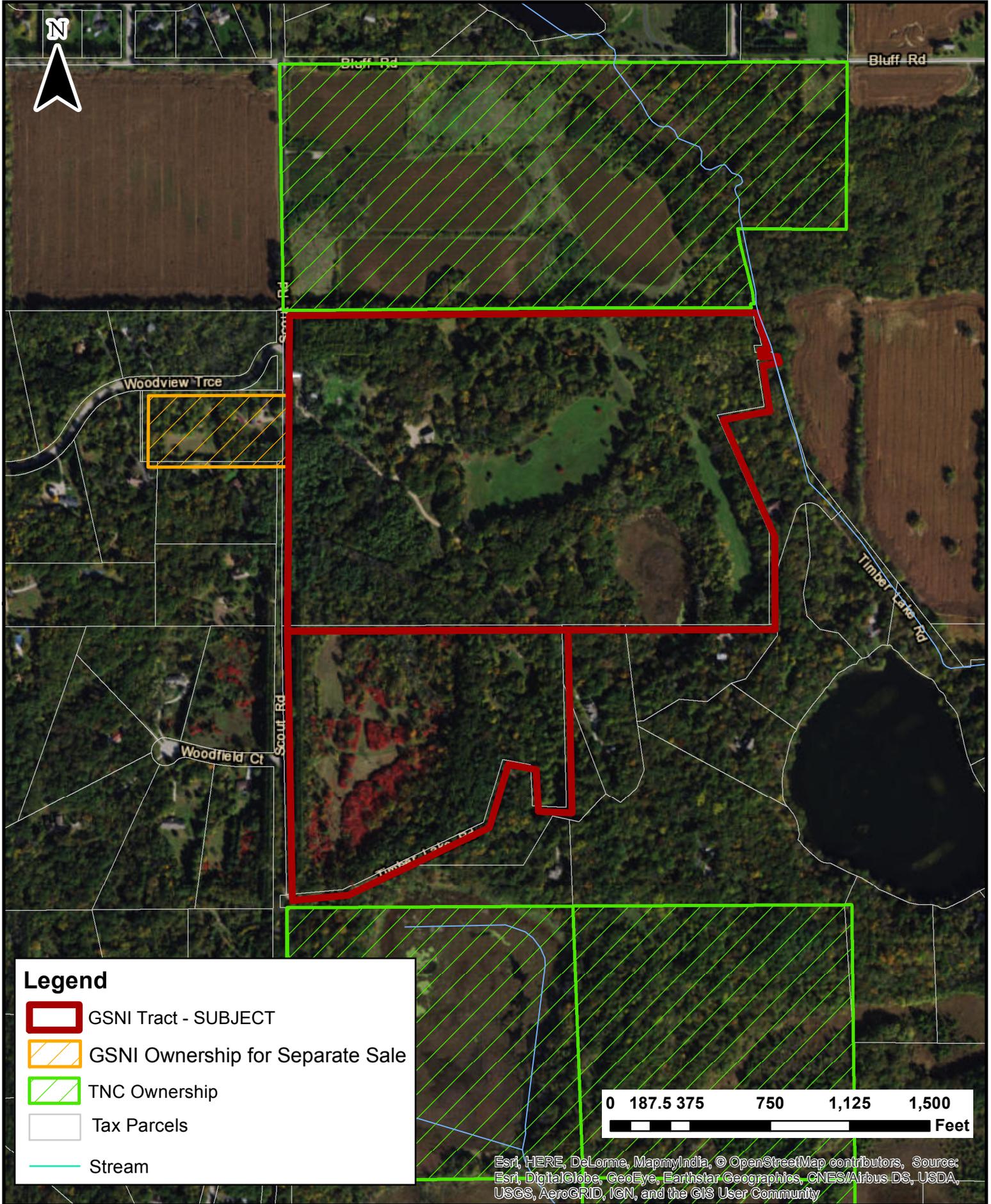


Legend

- Subject Property
- TNC Ownership
- State Ownership
- TNC Project Area
- County Boundaries
- Rivers & Streams
- Roads

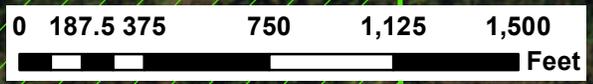


Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois - Aerial Map



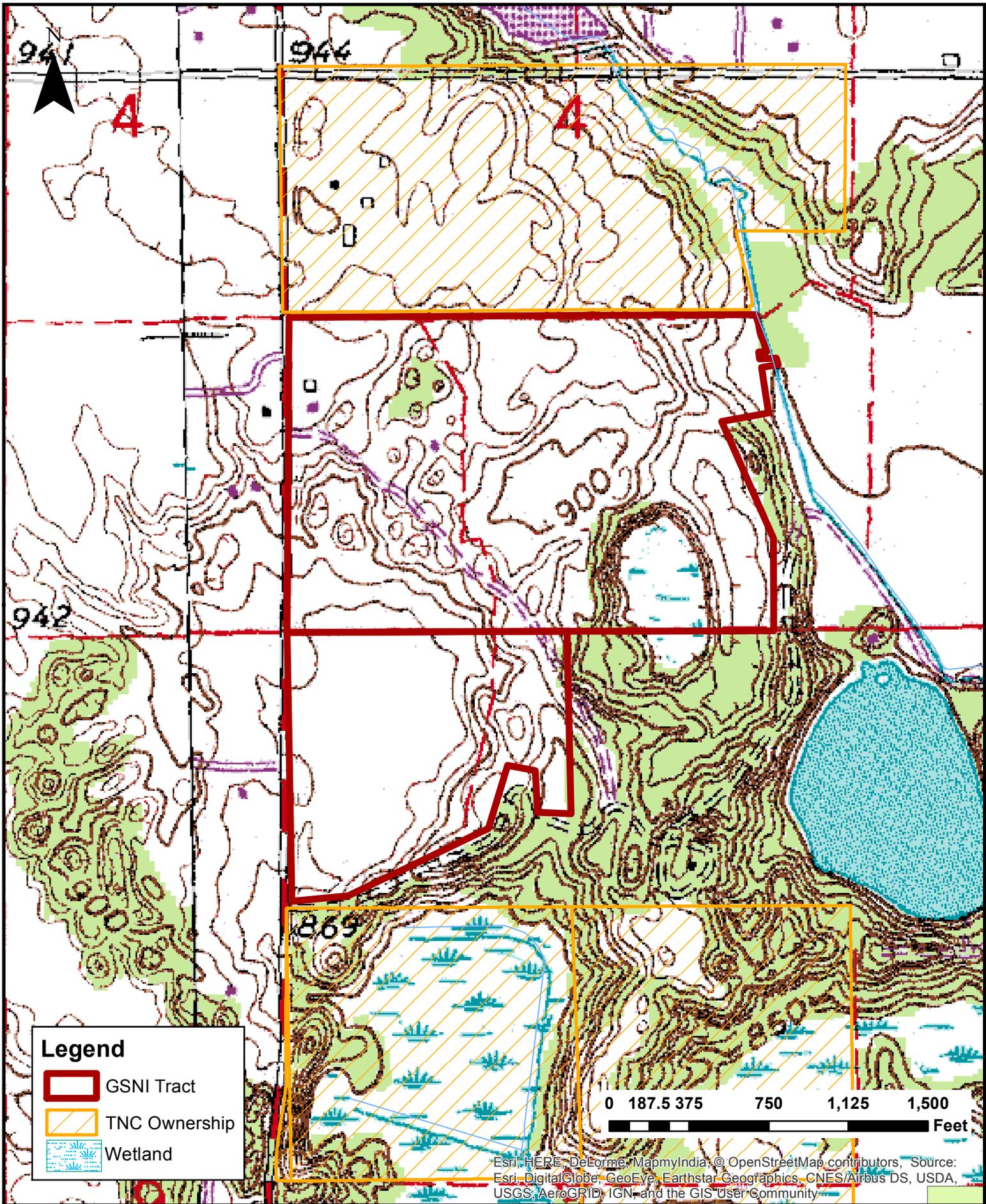
Legend

-  GSNI Tract - SUBJECT
-  GSNI Ownership for Separate Sale
-  TNC Ownership
-  Tax Parcels
-  Stream



Esri, HERE, DeLorme, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois - Topo Map



Legend

- GSNI Tract
- TNC Ownership
- Wetland



Esri, HERE, DeLorme, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

TRAPPING**DNR Staff Narrative:** Property will be open to trapping**X No prohibitions being proposed****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 community 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 to fishing**X No prohibitions being proposed****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 community 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	Per state regulations	Per state regulations
Boat	N/A – no practical boat access	N/A

HIKING**DNR Staff Narrative:** Property will be open to 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 community 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	All Year
Off-Trail	Yes	All Year

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING**DNR Staff Narrative:** Property will be open to cross county 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 community 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	Snow cover
On-Trail (un-groomed)	Yes	Snow cover
On-Trail (groomed)	No groomed trails	No groomed trails