

State of Wisconsin

SENATE CHAIR
Alberta Darling

317 East, State Capitol
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ASSEMBLY CHAIR
John Nygren

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P.O. Box 8593
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Joint Committee on Finance

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling
Representative John Nygren

Date: May 14, 2019

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 14, 2019.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Darling** or **Representative Nygren** no later than **Monday, June 3, 2019**, 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

Tony Evers, Governor
Preston D. Cole, Secretary
Telephone 608-266-2621
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463
TTY Access via relay - 711



May 10th, 2019

MAY 14 2019
St. Finance

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 (d), Wis. Stats., the Department is notifying you as co-chairs of the Committee on Joint Finance of a proposed grant of \$265,400.00 from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to Jackson County for County Forest land acquisition.

This purchase will incorporate 290-acres into Jackson County Forest. This purchase is a partnership between Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Jackson County, for the parcel has been identified as critical habitat supporting the recently re-established elk herd in the region. The property will be open to 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,

Preston D. Cole
Secretary

C: Doug Haag, Administrator, Internal Services Division
Doug Brown, County Forest & Public Lands Specialist, Bureau of Forestry Field Operations

DATE: May 10th, 2019

TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Preston D. Cole, Secretary

SUBJECT: Request for approval of a Stewardship grant award for land acquisition exceeding \$250,000.00

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m)(a) and (dr), Wis. Stats., the Department of Natural Resources is notifying you of a proposed \$265,400.00 Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant to Jackson County for acquisition of a 290-acre property. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: Jackson County

Grant sub-program: County Forest Acquisition

Location:

The land is in the Town of Knapp in eastern Jackson County. This parcel abuts existing County Forest land and is easily accessible from Starlight Road and established forest roads into the property. Project area maps are attached as Appendix A.

Project Description:

This acquisition is a partnership between Jackson County and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF), and is being acquired as part of a larger collaboration among DNR, Jackson County, RMEF and the Ho-Chunk Nation to re-establish a viable elk herd in the region. This property was listed and on the market in 2018: RMEF purchased the property this January as a “gap funding” partner to allow Jackson County time to apply for and secure funds to purchase and manage it long term.

The property is completely wooded, with forest composition of approximately 51% oak, 43% pine and 6% aspen. There is unique topography on the property for this portion of the county, including significant ridges. The property is in the core range of the largest elk herd in Jackson County – DNR Wildlife Management reports that approximately 35 elk currently use the property regularly.

Project benefits:

- County acquisition of this property will secure a critical block of elk habitat and relieve pressure on nearby private lands by improving habitat on public land. RMEF and Jackson County have an ongoing partnership implementing habitat improvement projects on this and nearby lands.
- This acquisition is 100% productive forestland, with an estimated value of nearly \$150,000 of standing timber. The County anticipates \$83,000 in stumpage revenues in the near future with stands of timber ready for commercial harvest. Townships with County Forest in their boundaries receive 10% of those revenues.
- There is an existing, electrified pole shed on the property that the County and local snowmobile club plan to utilize for equipment storage.

- This acquisition expands public recreational lands in the county, a significant recreation destination for Madison, Milwaukee, Minneapolis and Chicago metropolitan regions due to ease of access off I-94 and St. Hwy 54.

Public Uses: The property is currently closed to public use: Stewardship-funded acquisition will ensure public access year-round for hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, biking, and primitive camping. County ownership will provide unlimited off-trail hiking opportunities throughout the property. The Department’s analysis of the permitted nature-based outdoor activities is attached in 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, and watershed protection. Management will occur according to the *Jackson County Forest 15 Year plan*, as approved by the Department.

PROJECT FINANCES:

- A. Land value:** as required by s.23.0917(7)(e)1., Two appraisals were reviewed to determine current fair market value. Pursuant to the “short tenure rule,” set forth in s. 23.0917(7)(b), grant calculation in this case is based on RMEF’s purchase price of \$525,000.00.

Appraisal #1	\$662,650.00
Appraisal #2 – accepted by DNR for grant calculation purposes	\$609,500.00

B. Grant Calculation

Land value	\$525,000.00
Grant-eligible associated costs	<u>\$5,800.00</u>
Total grant eligible project costs	\$530,800.00
DNR Stewardship grant funding (50%)	\$265,400.00

I. RECOMMENDED:

Terry Bay _____ 5/8/19 _____
 Terry Bay, Director Date
 Bureau of Facilities and Lands

Doug Haag _____ 5-13-19 _____
 Doug Haag, Administrator Date
 Division of Internal Services

- Attachments:
 Appendix A – project area maps
 Appendix B – public use staff analysis

Jackson Co. Forest - "Rocky Mt. Elk Fdn." Acquisition

T20N R1W Secs. 19 & 20
Town of Knapp
Jackson County

 **Subject**

-  DNR Project Boundary
-  DNR Fee Title
-  Public Land - Funded by Stewardship Grants
-  State Natural Area
-  County Forest Lands
-  County Line
-  Section Boundary

Regional View



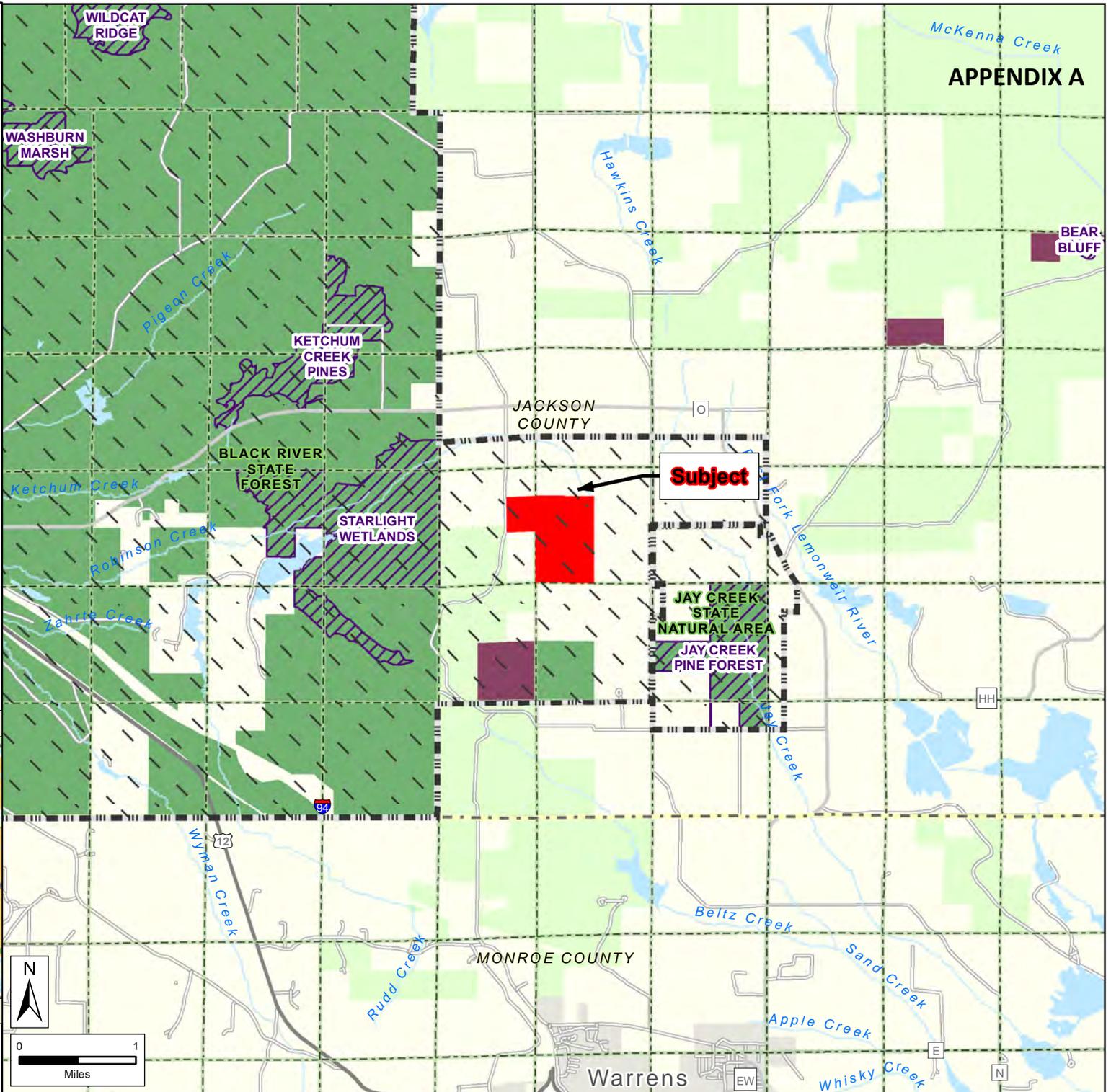
 Location of Property



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Facilities of Lands
Map Created: May 01, 2019 jst



APPENDIX A



The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. This map is not intended to be used for navigation, nor is this map an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access. Users of this map should confirm the ownership of land through other means in order to avoid trespassing. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, applicability for a particular use, completeness, or legality of the information depicted on this map.

Jackson Co. Forest - "Rocky Mt. Elk Fdn." Acquisition

Proposed Grant:

Sponsor: Jackson County Forest

Approximate Total Acreage: 290

T20N R1W Secs. 19 & 20, Town of Knapp

County: Jackson



Proposed Stewardship Grant

 **Subject**

-  County Forest Lands
-  Section Boundary
-  QQ Section Boundary



May 01, 2019 jst

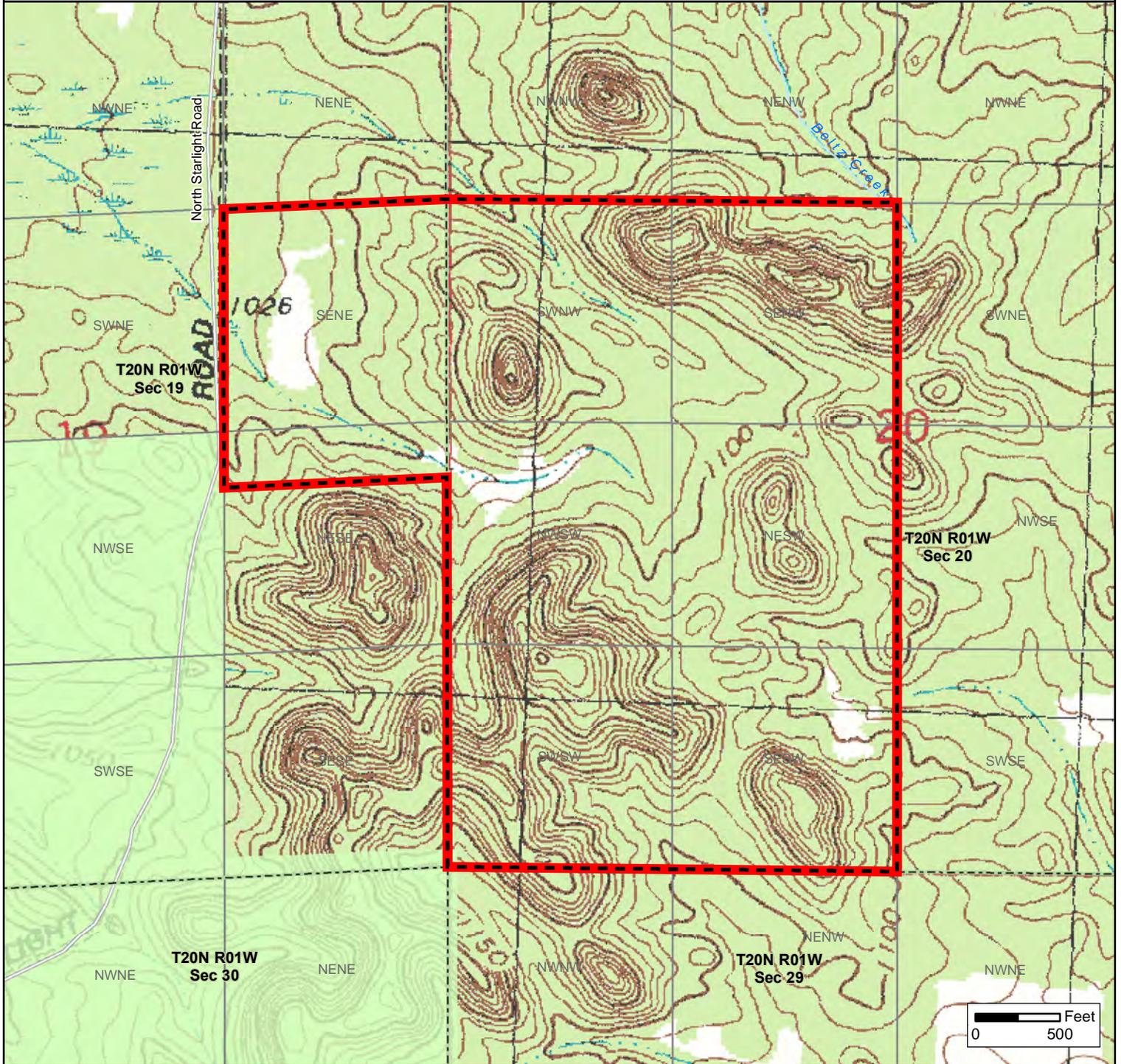
Real Estate Section
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

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Jackson Co. Forest - "Rocky Mt. Elk Fdn." Acquisition

Proposed Grant:
Sponsor: Jackson County Forest
Approximate Total Acreage: 290

T20N R1W Secs. 19 & 20, Town of Knapp
County: Jackson



**Proposed
Stewardship Grant**

 **Subject**

-  County Forest Lands
-  Section Boundary
-  QQ Section Boundary



May 01, 2019 jst

Real Estate Section
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. This map is not intended to be used for navigation, nor is this map an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access. Users of this map should confirm the ownership of land through other means in order to avoid trespassing. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, applicability for a particular use, completeness, or legality of the information depicted on this map.

TRAPPING

DNR Staff Narrative: Property will be open to 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: NA – property has no fishable water.

X No prohibitions being proposed

X 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	NA	NA
Boat	NA	NA

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 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 to 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	Snow cover
On-Trail (un-groomed)	Yes	Snow cover
On-Trail (groomed)	Grooming not anticipated	NA