

State of Wisconsin

SENATE CHAIR
Alberta Darling

317 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
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ASSEMBLY CHAIR
John Nygren

308 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8593
Madison, WI 53708-8953
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Joint Committee on Finance

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling
Representative John Nygren

Date: May 29, 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 29, 2019.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Darling** or **Representative Nygren** no later than **Monday, June 17, 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 22, 2019

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 29 2019
J.F. 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 Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant to Landmark Conservancy for land acquisition. DNR is recommending a grant of \$110,985.00 for the Conservancy's "Fire Hill" acquisition. The proposed grant award represents 50% of the estimated total project costs. This property is located north of Highway 64, in the Town of Bayfield, Bayfield County.

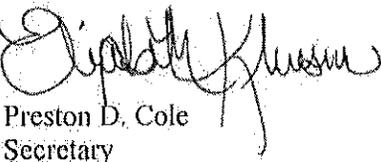
The proposed project will acquire 107 acres of land along the spine of the Bayfield Peninsula. This project will create a public conservation park for hiking, wildlife viewing and nature-based recreation in the heart of Bayfield's orchard county. The property is part of a larger effort to conserve water quality of North Pikes Creek.

There are no proposed 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 fourteen working days from today, the Department will award this grant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Preston D. Cole
Secretary

DATE: May 22, 2019

TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Preston D. Cole, Secretary

SUBJECT: Request for approval – Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant for land acquisition north of State Hwy. 64

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 \$110,985.00 to Landmark Conservancy for acquisition of 107.38 acres on the Bayfield Peninsula known as the Fire Hill tract. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

I. PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: Landmark Conservancy

Stewardship Grant sub-program: Habitat Area

Location: The property, named for a decommissioned DNR fire tower is located on the high central ridge of the Bayfield Peninsula northwest of the City of Bayfield. The property is accessed via public road, and an unimproved access road into the property.

Project Description: The property is wooded over rolling, sometimes steep terrain and includes high elevation points along the “spine” of the peninsula. During winter and “leaf off” months, the property affords views of Lake Superior, Chequamegon Bay, and the Apostle Islands. Numerous seeps and springs surface on this property and drain west into North Pikes Creek.

The “Fire Hill” tract lies in the center of a four-mile long “Bayfield Farm Loop,” an area where Bayfield County Tourism and the Bayfield Chamber and Visitor Bureau promote several orchard and berry “you pick” farms (see map attached) If the grant is successful, the property will be transferred to Bayfield County and managed as public conservation and recreational parkland.

Key benefits:

- Conservation of steep slopes and source-water springs above North Pikes Creek, an Outstanding Resource Water & Class 1 trout stream, will protect water quality and add value to the public investment in DNR and NCO conservation lands in the North Pikes Creek corridor.
- The property is in a designated “Tier 1” migratory bird stopover area; conservation will keep canopy habitat intact and provide public land for birdwatching in a tourism-dependent county.
- Acquisition of property for public, nature-based recreation in the heart of Bayfield County orchard country will enhance visitor experience and associated tourist economy.

Public support:

Bayfield County Forestry and Parks will take title to and manage the property as public parkland.

The Town of Bayfield passed a resolution in support of this Stewardship grant and Landmark Conservancy’s acquisition of this property.

DNR received letters of support for this grant from the Bayfield Chamber and Visitor Bureau, Trout Unlimited, and Bayfield County Forestry.

Consistency with planning: Acquisition of this land for conservation and recreational purposes supports recommendations of several comprehensive plans:

- The Town of Bayfield listed project benefits consistent with their Comprehensive Plan, including recommendations to: limit surface runoff into North Pikes Creek; provide for non-motorized recreational activities; preserve the Town’s rural and scenic character.
- The DNR’s Land Legacy Report identifies South Shore streams, including North Pikes Creek, as a “Legacy Place.”
- Pursuant to DNR’s State Wildlife Action Plan, the property hosts specific natural communities – aspen and birch and northern dry-mesic forest – identified as “major conservation opportunities” in the Lake Superior Coastal Plain.

Public Uses: The property will be open to the public for low-impact recreational activities including hunting, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, 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 Landmark Conservancy until it transfers to County ownership. Under either owner, management will occur according to a land management plan approved by the Department as consistent with the purposes of the Stewardship program.

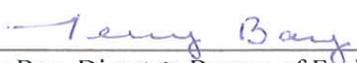
II. PROJECT FINANCES

A. Appraisal: The property value used for grant calculation is based on an appraisal reviewed and accepted by DNR. The subject property is owned by an individually-held LLC.

B: Grant Calculation:

Subject land value	\$214,800.00
Eligible related transaction costs	<u>\$7,170.00</u>
Total eligible project costs	\$221,970.00
Stewardship grant amount 50%	\$110,985.00

III. RECOMMENDED:



Terry Bay, Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands

5/21/19

Date



Doug Haag, Administrator, Division of Internal Services

5-23-19

Date

**Fire Hill tract
Landmark Conservancy**

Proposed
Stewardship
Grant

T50N R04W Sec 03 & 10
Town of Bayfield
Bayfield County

- Subject
- Recently Approved KN Stewardship Grant Parcels
- Stewardship Grant Public Lands
- County Forest
- Current DNR Project Boundary
- Boundary
- DNR Fee Title Lands
- Tribal Land
- Section Labels

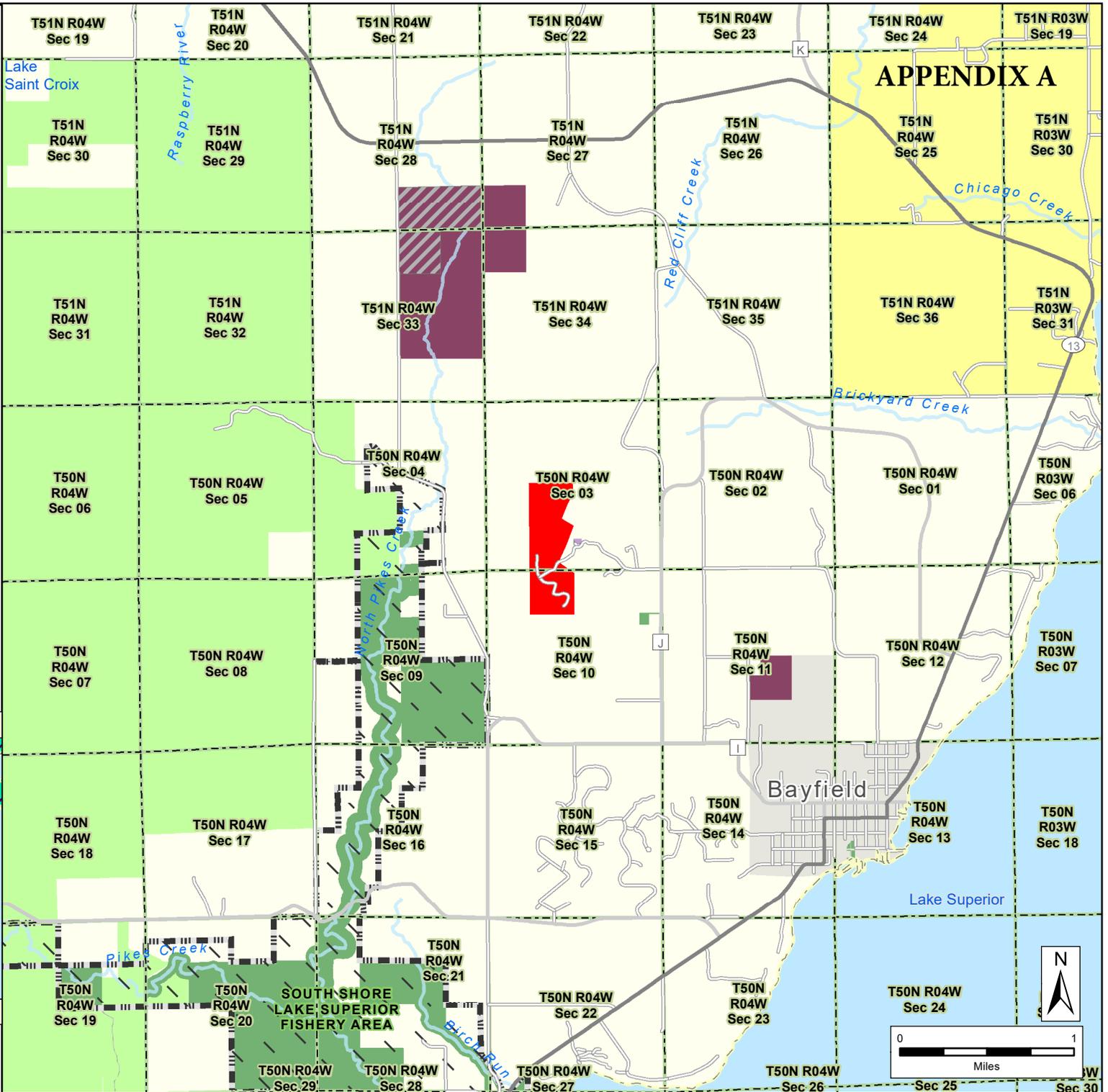
Regional View



★ Location of Property



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Facilities of Lands
Map Created: Apr 22, 2019 jdc



APPENDIX A

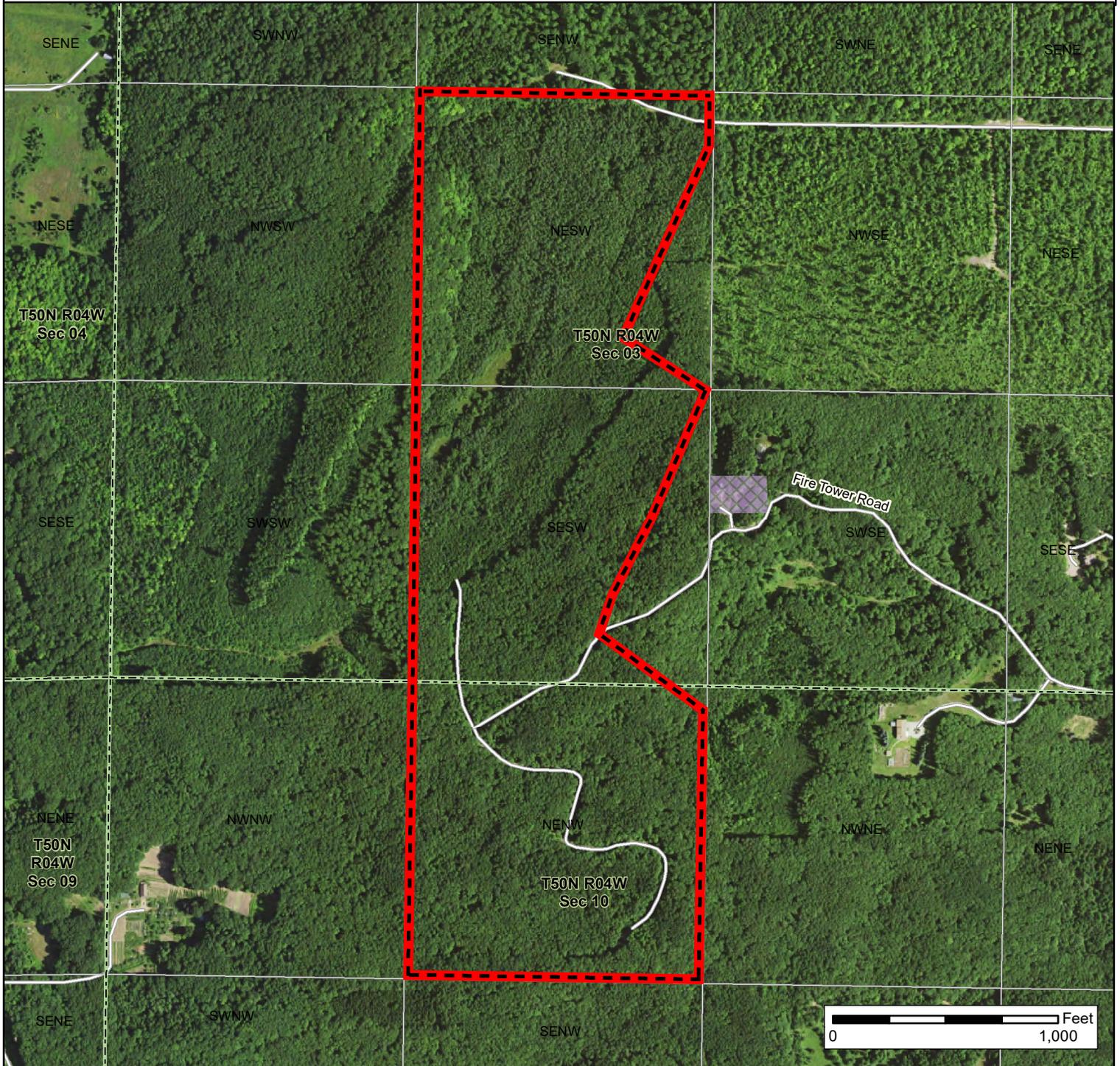


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Fire Hill Park-Landmark Conservancy

Sponsor: Landmark Conservancy
 Approximate Total Acreage: 107.3

T50N R04W Sec 03 & 10 Town of Bayfield
 County: Bayfield



Proposed Stewardship Grant

Subject

- Decommissioned DNR fire tower
- Section Labels
- QQ Section Boundary
- Local Roads



Apr 22, 2019 jdc

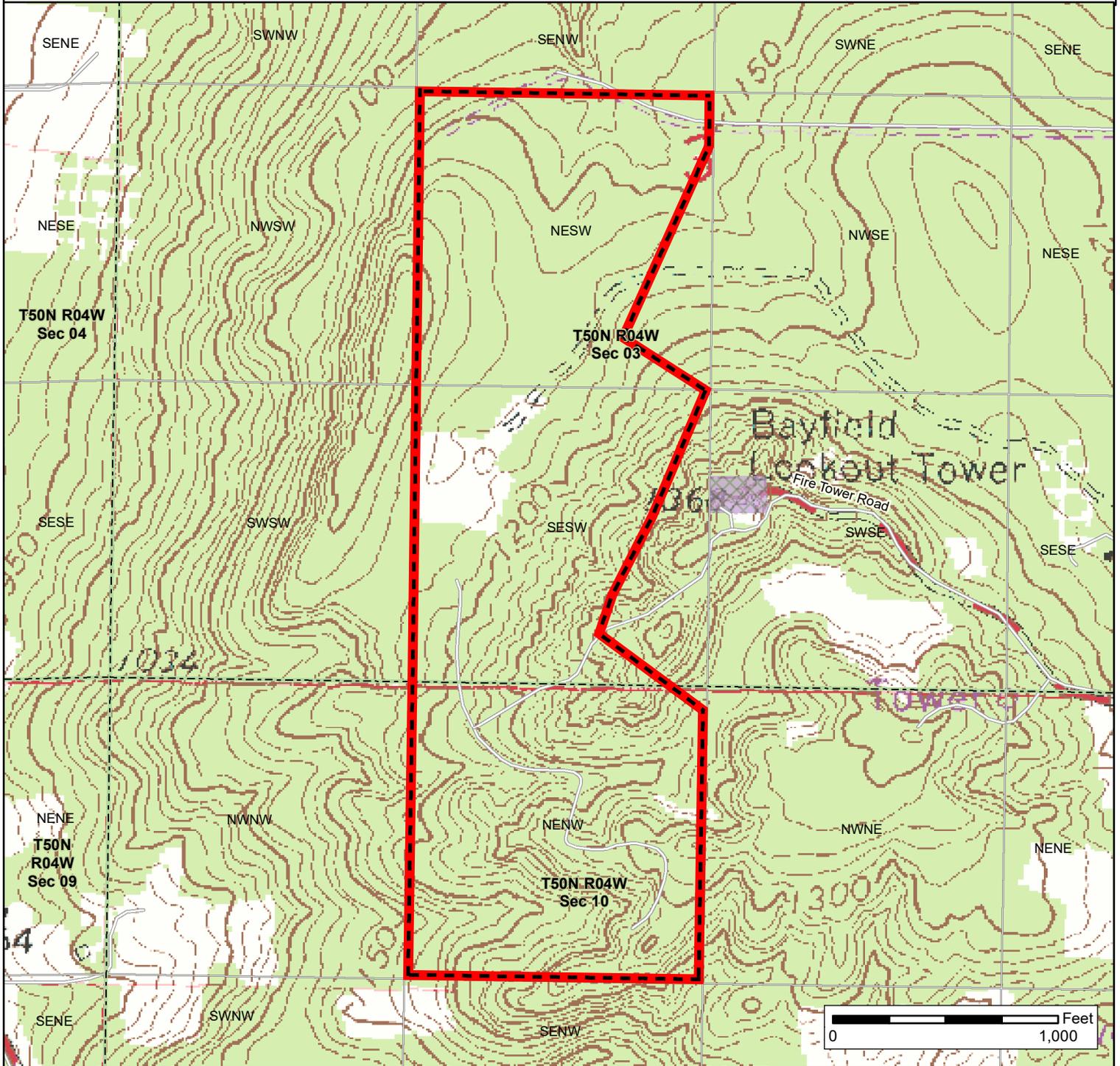
Real Estate Section
 Bureau of Facilities and Lands

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Fire Hill Park-Landmark Conservancy

Sponsor: Landmark Conservancy
 Approximate Total Acreage: 107.3

T50N R04W Sec 03 & 10 Town of Bayfield
 County: Bayfield



Proposed Stewardship Grant

Subject

- Decommissioned DNR fire tower
- Section lines
- QQ Section Boundary
- Local Roads



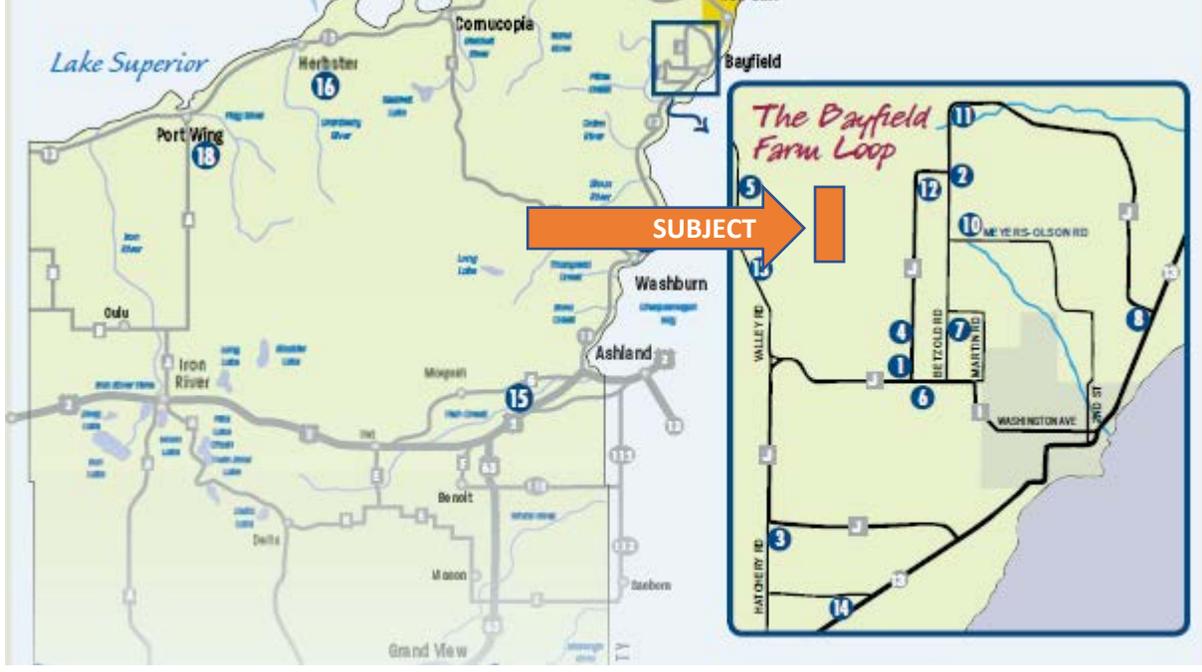
Apr 22, 2019 jdc

Real Estate Section
 Bureau of Facilities and Lands

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ORCHARDS, FRUIT AND FLOWERS

Bayfield County
Wisconsin's crown jewel!



From Bayfield County Tourism www.travelbayfieldcounty.com

TRAPPING**DNR Staff Narrative:** Property will be open to trapping.**X No prohibition 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 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:** There is no fishable water on site.**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 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	NA	NA
Boat	NA	NA

