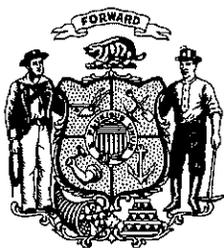


State of Wisconsin

SENATE CHAIR
Alberta Darling

317 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882
Phone: (608) 266-5830



ASSEMBLY CHAIR
John Nygren

308 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: May 31, 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 31, 2019.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Darling** or **Representative Nygren** no later than **Wednesday, June 19, 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 30th, 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 31 2019
St. Finance

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 \$322,850.00 from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to Forest County for County Forest land acquisition.

This purchase will incorporate 428-acres into Forest County Forest. 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,

jt
Preston D. Cole
Secretary

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

DATE: May 30th, 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 and north of State Hwy. 64.

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m)(a) and (dr), Wis. Stats., the Department of Natural Resources is notifying you of a proposed \$322,850.00 Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant to Forest County for acquisition of a 428-acre property. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: Forest County
Grant sub-program: County Forest Acquisition

Location:

The land is in the Town of Hiles in west central Forest County. This purchase will create a new block of County Forest abutting other public lands, USFS and Town property, on three sides. The property sits along County Hwy "S" and is located approximately ten miles from Crandon, the county seat and largest city in the county. Project area maps are attached as Appendix A.

Project Description:

This acquisition is a step in Forest County's plan to expand a growing County Forest Program. The County has prioritized forest expansion to ensure a supply of sustainable forest products and related revenue, maintain recreational opportunities and tourist economy, and reduce forest fragmentation of previously held industrial lands.

This parcel contains a variety of forest cover types offering habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. There are 204 acres of productive northern hardwood along with 146 acres in aspen cover of that will be managed in varying age classes to benefit wildlife, particularly ruffed grouse and woodcock. There are 47 acres of swamp hardwood and 29 acres of lowland brush-tag alder. These wetlands will be protected pursuant to Best Management Practices for Water Quality in the Forest Management Plan. Two acres of grass at the entrance of the property will be used as a future parking area for recreational users.

The property has excellent access from the county highway and includes a well-established interior road system that provides access for forest management and non-motorized recreational uses.

Project benefits:

- This acquisition is a highly productive forestland, with an estimated \$23,000 in immediate return from harvest-ready timber. In addition, within the next 10-12 years, the county projects an additional \$163,000 in timber revenues. Management access via existing interior woods roads will limit expenses for forest management infrastructure and enhance this return potential.
- Both County and Town will receive stumpage revenue from productive Co. Forest lands; the property is currently enrolled in MFL "closed," generating negligible property tax income.
- County acquisition will increase access and connectivity to public lands; will provide for parking area enhancing access to adjoining USFS land.
- This acquisition has full support of the county board and Town of Hiles.

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 *Forest County Forest 15 Year plan*, as approved by the Department.

PROJECT FINANCES:

- A. Land value:** as required by s.23.0917(7)(e)1 Wisc. Stats., two appraisals were reviewed to determine current fair market value.

Appraisal #1	\$680,000.00
Appraisal #2 – accepted by DNR for grant calculation purposes	\$642,000.00

B. Grant Calculation

Land value	\$642,000.00
Grant-eligible associated costs	<u>\$ 3,700.00</u>
Total grant eligible project costs	\$645,700.00
DNR Stewardship grant funding (50%)	\$322,850.00

I. RECOMMENDED:

 _____	<u>5/28/19</u> _____
Terry Bay, Director Bureau of Facilities and Lands	Date

 _____	<u>5/30/19</u> _____
Tim Cooke, Administrator Division of Internal Services	Date

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

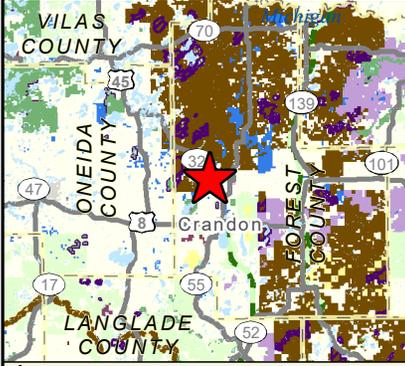
Forest County- Bonack Acquisition

Proposed
Stewardship
Grant

T37N R12E Sec 23 & 26
Town of Hiles
Forest County

-  Subject
-  Town of Hiles
-  County Forest Lands
-  National Forest
-  DNR Fee Title Lands
Open to Public Access
-  DNR Easement Lands
Open to Public Access
-  DNR Easement Lands
Closed to Public Access
-  Tribal Lands
-  Board of Commissioners
of Public Lands
-  U.S. Fish &
Wildlife Service
-  Current DNR
Project Boundary
-  State Natural Area
Project Boundary
-  State Natural Area
-  PLSS Section Lines

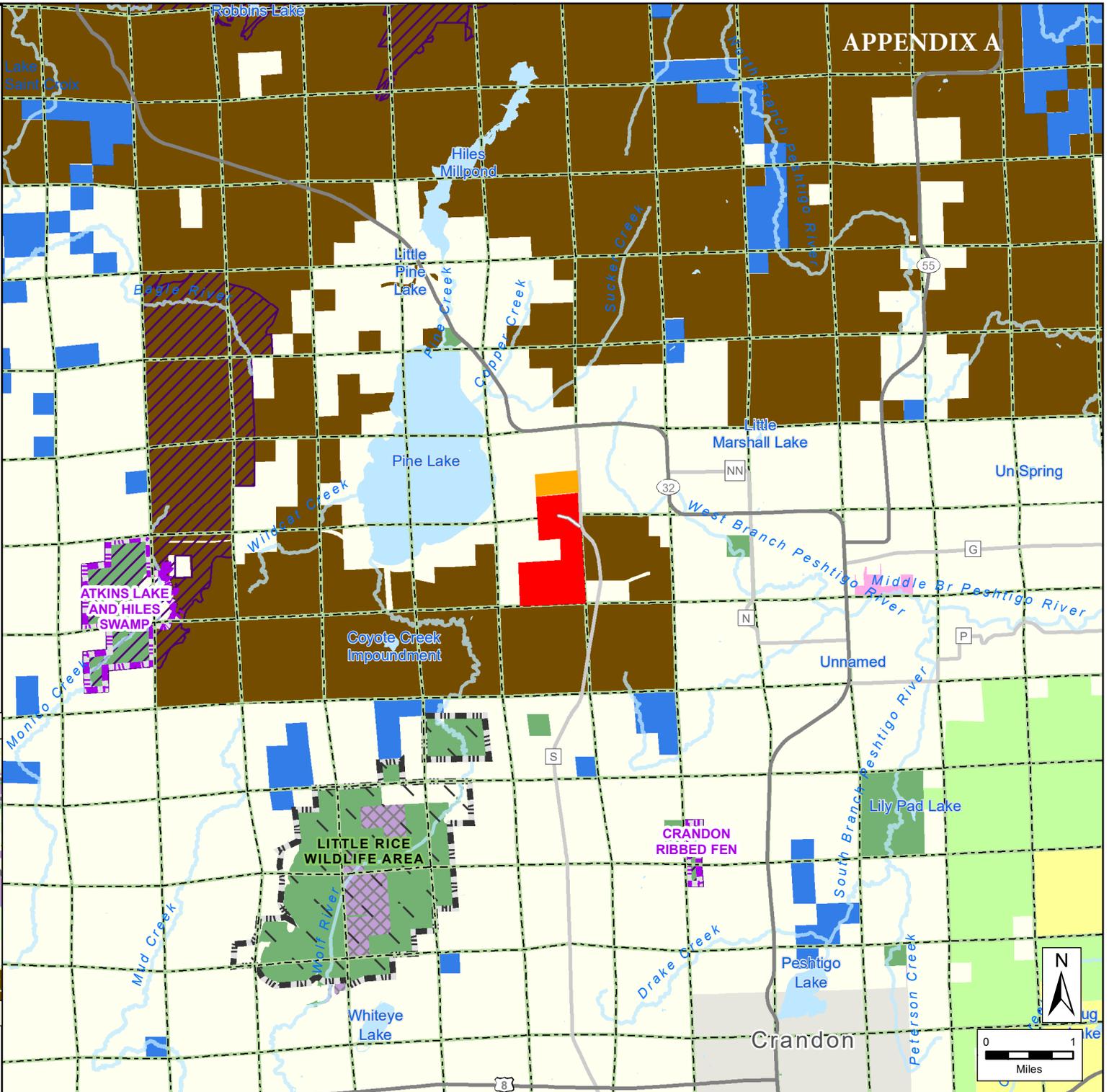
Regional View



★ Location of Property



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Facilities of Lands
Map Created: May 24, 2019 jdc



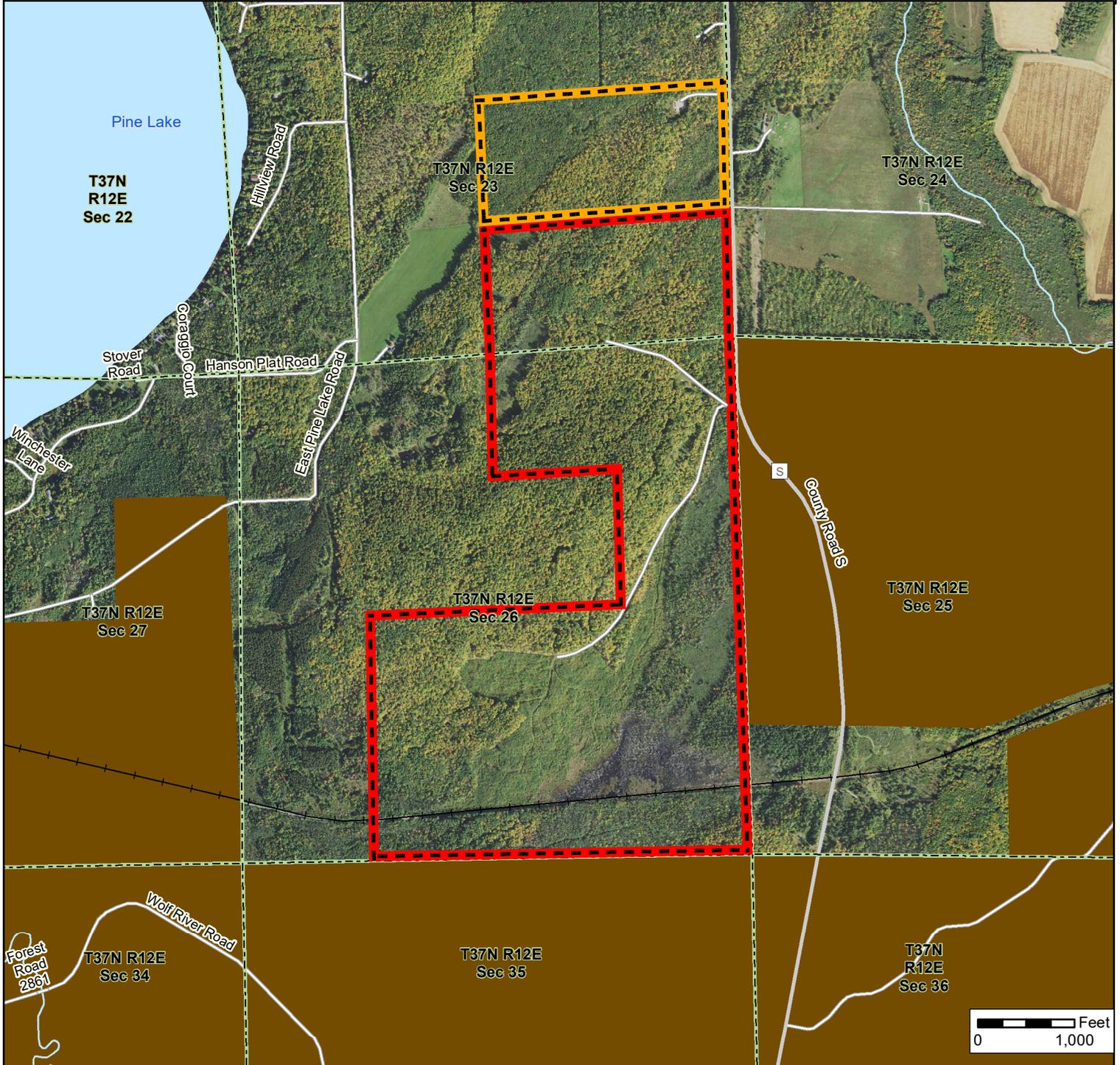
APPENDIX A

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.

Forest County-Bonack Acquisition

Sponsor: Forest County
 Approximate Total Acreage: 428

T37N R12E Sec 23 & 26 Town of Hiles
 County: Forest



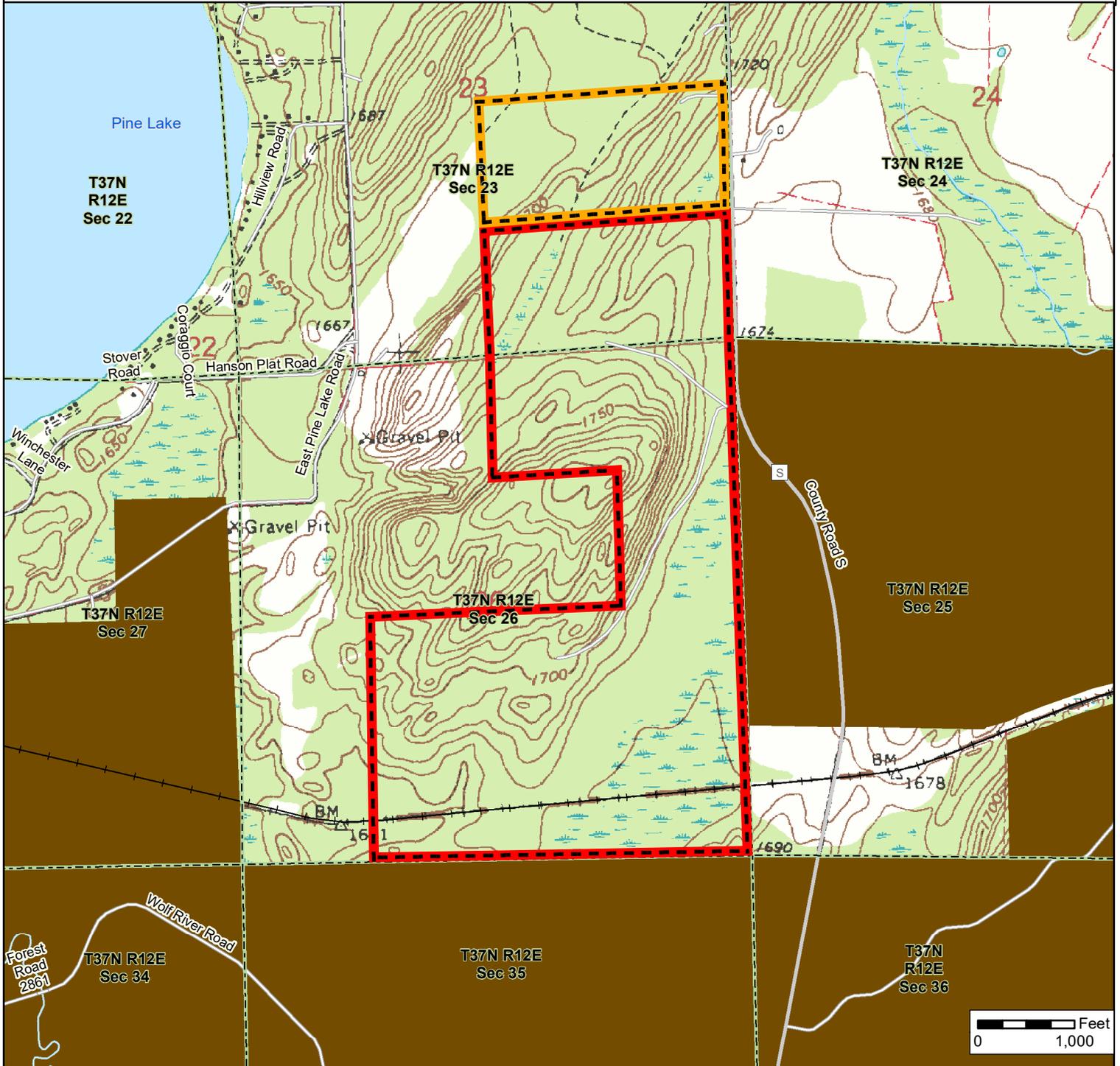
<p style="text-align: center;">Proposed Stewardship Grant</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="border: 2px dashed red; width: 20px; height: 10px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> Subject </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Hiles National Forest Section Labels County Hwys Local Roads 	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>May 24, 2019 jdc</p> <p><i>Real Estate Section Bureau of Facilities and Lands</i></p> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>
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Forest County-Bonack Acquisition

Sponsor: Forest County
 Approximate Total Acreage: 428

T37N R12E Sec 23 & 26 Town of Hiles
 County: Forest



<p style="text-align: center;">Proposed Stewardship Grant</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="border: 2px dashed red; width: 30px; height: 20px; margin-right: 5px;"></div> Subject </div>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town of Hiles National Forest Section Labels County Hwys Local Roads 	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>May 24, 2019 jdc</p> <p><i>Real Estate Section Bureau of Facilities and Lands</i></p> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>
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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

