

State of Wisconsin

SENATE CHAIR
Alberta Darling

317 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882
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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: June 7, 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 June 7, 2019.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Darling** or **Representative Nygren** no later than **Wednesday, June 26, 2019**, if you have any concerns about the request or if you would like the Committee to meet formally to consider it.

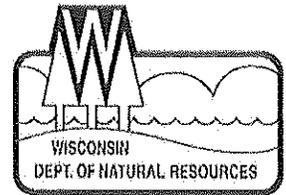
Also, please contact us if you need further information.

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



June 7th, 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

JUN 07 2019
J. Finance

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 \$347,033.00 from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to Marathon County for County Forest land acquisition.

The Kerswill project will add 199.84 acres Marathon County Forest. As part of their required match, the County has offered an additional 79.7 acres in the Town of Easton which will also be incorporated into the County Forest and Stewardship programs. The property and 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: Tim Cooke, Administrator, Internal Services Division
Doug Brown, County Forest & Public Lands Specialist, Bureau of Forestry Field Operations

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 7th, 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 \$347,033.00 Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant to Marathon County for acquisition of a 199.84-acre property. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats.

PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: Marathon County

Grant sub-program: County Forest Acquisition

Location: The land is in the Town of Hewitt in northeast Marathon County, approximately 25 miles from Wausau, the largest city in the county with population of ~60,000. Project area maps are attached as Appendix A.

Project Description:

Notably, this property includes more than ½ mile of frontage along the Trappe River. It hosts a variety of forest cover types and wildlife habitat. Cover includes 55 acres northern hardwood, 70 acres red maple, 53 acres aspen, 15 acres lowland alder, and seven acres of grassland.

This property adjoins Marathon County Forest lands to the east and Langlade County Forest lands to the north, and will improve connectivity of public lands. The property is situated within 25 miles of the cities of Wausau and Antigo, both of which rely on outdoor recreation-generated revenue. This connected block of Marathon and Langlade County forests include Bitzke Waterfowl Refuge and Ackley Wildlife Area, both heavily visited for hiking, hunting, snowmobiling, and bird watching.

The property has access from a town road via an access easement and through existing county ownership via a well-established interior woods roads system.

Project benefits:

- This acquisition advances a specific goal of Marathon County's 2018-2023 Strategic Plan to expand County Forest holdings by 320 acres/year over the next five years.
- This acquisition is a highly productive forestland, with an estimated \$40,000 in immediate return for timber ready to be cut on land with little need for infrastructure investment due to the existing interior road system.
- This tract also addresses the top goal of the Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Use Plan to acquire additional land for recreation: currently, 6 % or approximately 60,434 acres of Marathon County's land base of 1,013,760 acres is in public ownership.
- 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.
- This acquisition has full support of the County Board and Town of Hewitt.

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

PROJECT FINANCES:

A. Land value: as required by s.23.0917(7)(c)1., The appraisals for this project were reviewed by DNR to determine current fair market value and accepted appraisal valuing the subject property at \$349,000.00

B. Grant Calculation

Land value	\$349,000.00
Grant-eligible associated costs	<u>\$ 4,960.00</u>
Total grant eligible project costs	\$353,960.00
DNR Stewardship grant funding (50%)	\$176,980.00

Value of lands used as match: pursuant to s. NR 51.962(4)(a)7 and s. NR 51.962(4)(a)6., Wis. Admin. Code, Marathon County will incorporate 79.7 acres of additional land into the Stewardship Program as portion of match required for this grant. The property was donated to the County in part to support additional County Forest acquisition. The value of the match lands was determined by a DNR-reviewed and accepted appraisal.

Match land value	\$169,303.00
Grant-eligible associated costs	<u>\$ 1,500.00</u>
Total grant eligible project costs	\$170,803.00
DNR Stewardship grant funding	\$170,053.00
Total proposed grant award	\$347,033.00

I. RECOMMENDED:

	<u>6/6/19</u>
Terry Bay, Director Bureau of Facilities and Lands	Date
	<u>6/7/19</u>
Tim Cooke, Administrator Division of Internal Services	Date

Marathon Co. Forest-Kerswill Tract

Proposed
Stewardship
Grant

T30N R09E Sec 03
Town of Hewitt
&
29N 09E 18
Town of Easton
Marathon County

- Subject
- Match

- Public Land - Funded by Stewardship Grants
- County Forest Lands
- DNR Fee Title Lands Open to Public Access
- Current DNR Project Boundary
- State Natural Area
- Ice Age Trail
- PLSS Section Lines

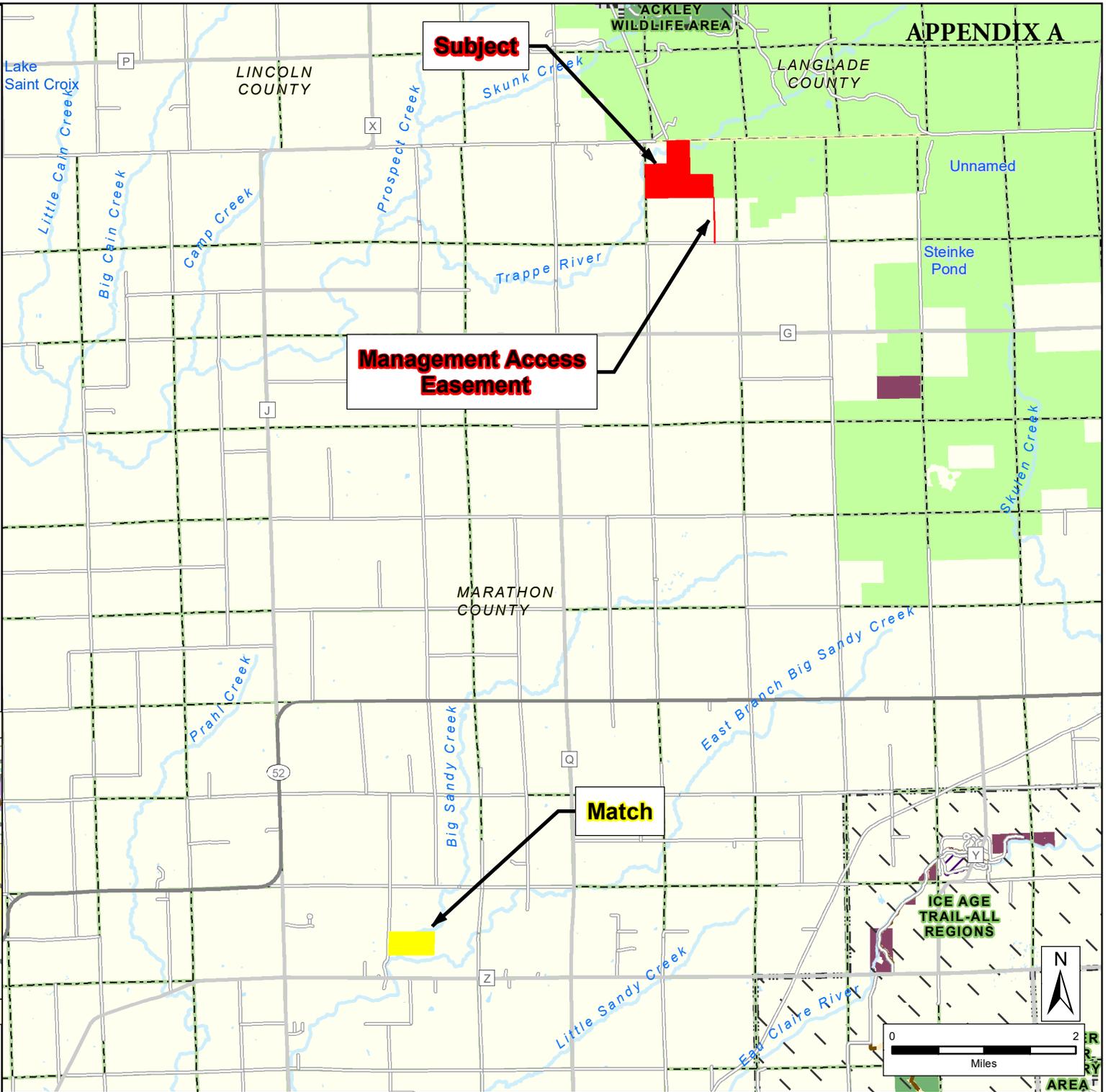
Regional View



★ Location of Property



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Facilities of Lands
Map Created: Jun 04, 2019 jdc



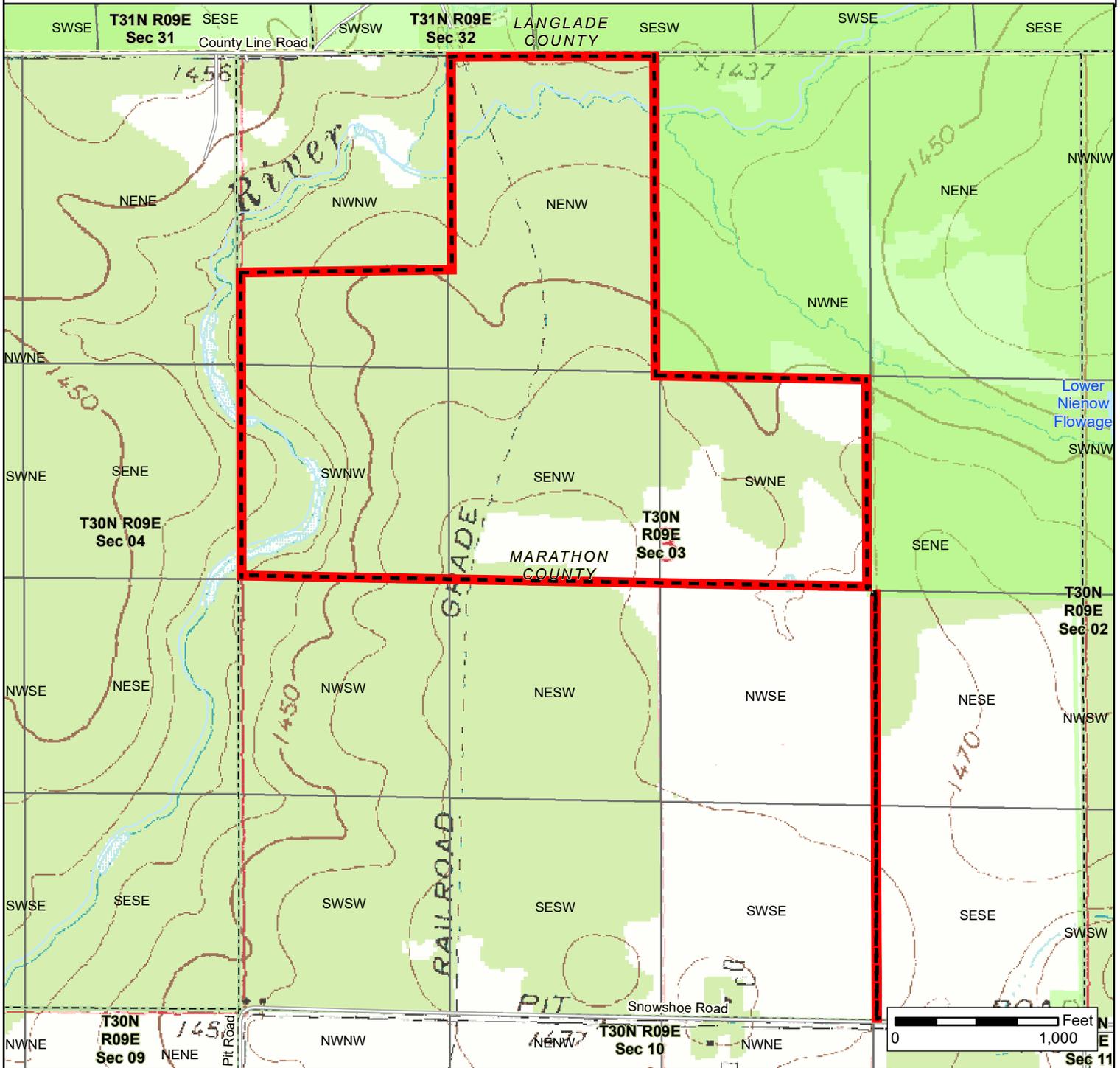
APPENDIX A

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.

Marathon Co. Forest-Kerswill Tract Acquisition

Sponsor: Marathon County
 Approximate Total Acreage: 199.84

T30N R09E Sec 03, Town of Hewitt
 County: Marathon



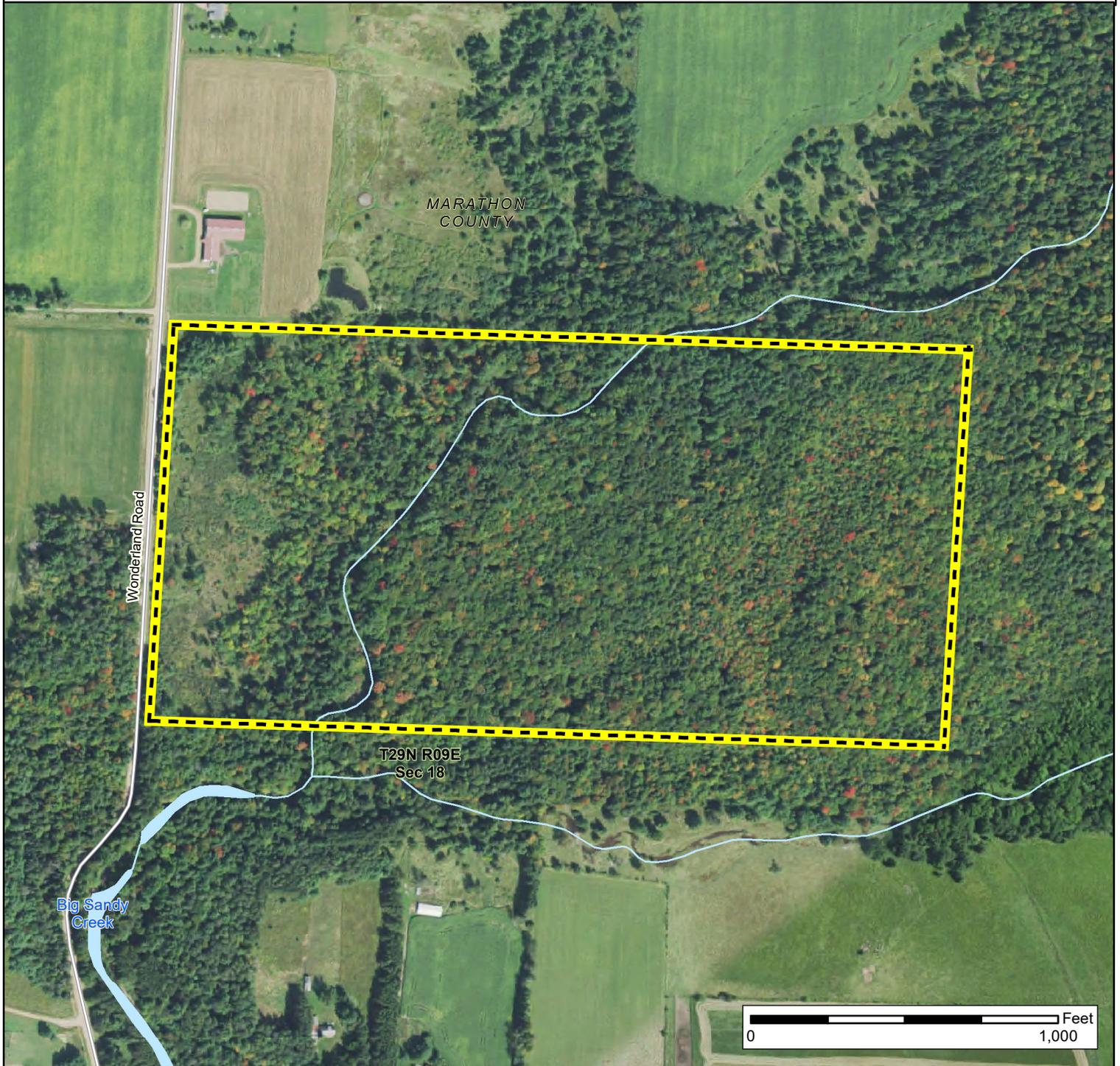
<p>Proposed Stewardship Grant</p> <p> Subject</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  County Forest  County Boundary  Section Labels  Local Roads 	   <p>Jun 04, 2019 jdc Real Estate Section Bureau of Facilities and Lands</p>
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Marathon Co. Forest-Kerswill Tract Match

Sponsor: Marathon County
Approximate Total Acreage: 79.7

T29N R09E Sec 18, Town of Easton
County: Marathon



Proposed Stewardship Grant Match

 Match

-  County Boundary
-  Section Labels
-  Local Roads



Jun 04, 2019 jdc
Real Estate Section
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

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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:** 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 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

