

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: April 6, 2020

Re: **Revised** Passive Review Approval – DNR

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m), Stats., attached is a **Revised** passive review request from the Department of Natural Resources, received on March 18, 2020.

Attached is a modification to an existing Stewardship request dealing with the Florence County LeBreque acquisition and a reduction in the grant amount. This does not change the time line for objections on this request which is **Monday, April 06, 2020.**

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

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



APR 06 2020

St. Finance

April 5, 2020

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

RE: Knowles-Nelson Stewardship-Florence County-LeBreque acquisition Grant Reduction Request

Dear Senator Darling and Representative Nygren:

I am writing to modify the existing grant request sent to the Committee for passive review on March 18, 2020, a grant proposed to Florence County for the LeBreque acquisition. Florence County is requesting a reduction in the grant award amount.

The county purchased this property for less than appraised value.

Land value: \$186,000
Purchase price: \$168,000

The County is requesting a grant based on 50% of the purchase price for the property. The DNR's request for Committee approval of this grant is therefore reduced by \$9,000.

Grant Calculation

Land value-approved appraisal	\$186,000	County requesting-	\$168,000.00
Grant-eligible associated costs			<u>\$12,700.00</u>
Total new grant eligible project costs			\$180,700.00
DNR Stewardship grant funding (50%)			\$90,350.00
Total proposed new grant award			\$90,350.00

Sincerely,

Preston D. Cole
Secretary

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

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March 5, 2020

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

MAR 18 2020

St. 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 \$99,350.00 from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to Florence County for the LeBreque acquisition. This is a request for approval to award 2020 fiscal year funds.

The LeBreque acquisition is in the town of Commonwealth. The project will ensure continued future forest management, provide public recreation opportunities, and safeguard wildlife habitat on 120 acres of primarily productive forest land. The LeBreque acquisition will also protect a core recreational trail artery for state funded motorized recreation from the County Seat of Florence to the main trail system in the county.

The entire 120 acres 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.

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 14 working days from today, the Department will award this grant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Preston D. Cole

Preston D. Cole
Preston D. Cole
Secretary

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

DATE: March 5, 2020

TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Preston Cole, Secretary

SUBJECT: Request for approval of a Stewardship grant award for land acquisition north of Highway 64.

Pursuant to s. 23.0917(6m)(a) and (dr), Wis. Stats., the Department of Natural Resources is notifying you of a proposed Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant in the amount of \$99,350.00 to Florence County for acquisition of a 120-acre property known as the LeBreque tract. The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program is funded under s. 20.866(2)(ta), Wis. Stats. This is a request for approval to award fiscal year 2020 funds.

PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: Florence County
Grant sub-program: County Forest acquisition
Location: The land is in the Town of Commonwealth, accessible via Co. Rd. N.

Project description: This 120-acre property is relatively flat with no improvements. The property's primary timber cover is a mature oak/aspens (~ 102 ac), with a minor component of fir/aspens (~ 6 ac), and hemlock/hardwoods (~3 ac). A powerline/highway ROW (~ 3 ac) cuts through the property, as does a half mile of a core artery for motorized recreation along state funded trails leading from the city of Florence to the main trail system south of town.

This acquisition had been identified by Florence County as a long-term investment for timber production, recreation and watershed protection.

Adjacent to an existing block of County Forest, this tract will be incorporated into the Stewardship and County Forest programs and managed according to the County's Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Project area maps are attached as Appendix A.

Project benefits: County acquisition of this property will:

- Ensure long term guaranteed access for a core motorized recreational artery linking state funded trails to a commercial center.
- Provide Florence County additional productive forest land to a contiguous block of county forest lands. Projected revenue from timber harvest on this parcel is estimated up to \$80,000 (\$667/ac) within the next few years.
- Provide additional and improved access to existing county forest lands. This purchase will connect County Forest land on both sides of this block (~ 1000+ acres), to public road access: Hwy 101 to the west and Co. Hwy N to the east.
- Increase town revenue: under current private ownership, this parcel is enrolled in MFL, yielding <\$1/acre in property tax. Under County Forest ownership, the Town will receive a percentage of stumpage revenues for all county forest lands, estimated to total >\$3/acre.

Public Uses: The LeBreque acquisition will be open to the public year-round for hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, biking, horseback riding. County ownership will provide unlimited off-trail or cross-country hiking opportunities throughout the property and contiguous county forest lands. The property is less than 2 miles from Florence, the county seat, and 12 miles to Iron Mountain, the largest population center in the area.

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 forest products production, recreational opportunities, wildlife, and watershed protection. Management will occur according to the *Florence County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan*, as approved by the Department.

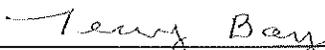
PROJECT FINANCES:

A. Appraisals: as required by s.23.0917(7)(e)1., Wis. Stats., land value was determined by a DNR-reviewed and accepted appraisal valuing the subject property at \$168,000.

B. Grant Calculation

Land value	\$186,000.00
Grant-eligible associated costs	<u>\$12,700.00</u>
Total grant eligible project costs	\$198,700.00
DNR Stewardship grant funding (50%)	\$99,350.00
Total proposed grant award	\$99,350.00

I. RECOMMENDED:



 Terry Bay, Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands

3/12/2020

 Date



 Timothy Cooke, Administrator, Division of Internal Services

3/12/20

 Date

LaBrecque Co. Forest Acquisition

T40N R18E Secs. 33 & 34
Town of Commonwealth
Florence County

 **Subject**

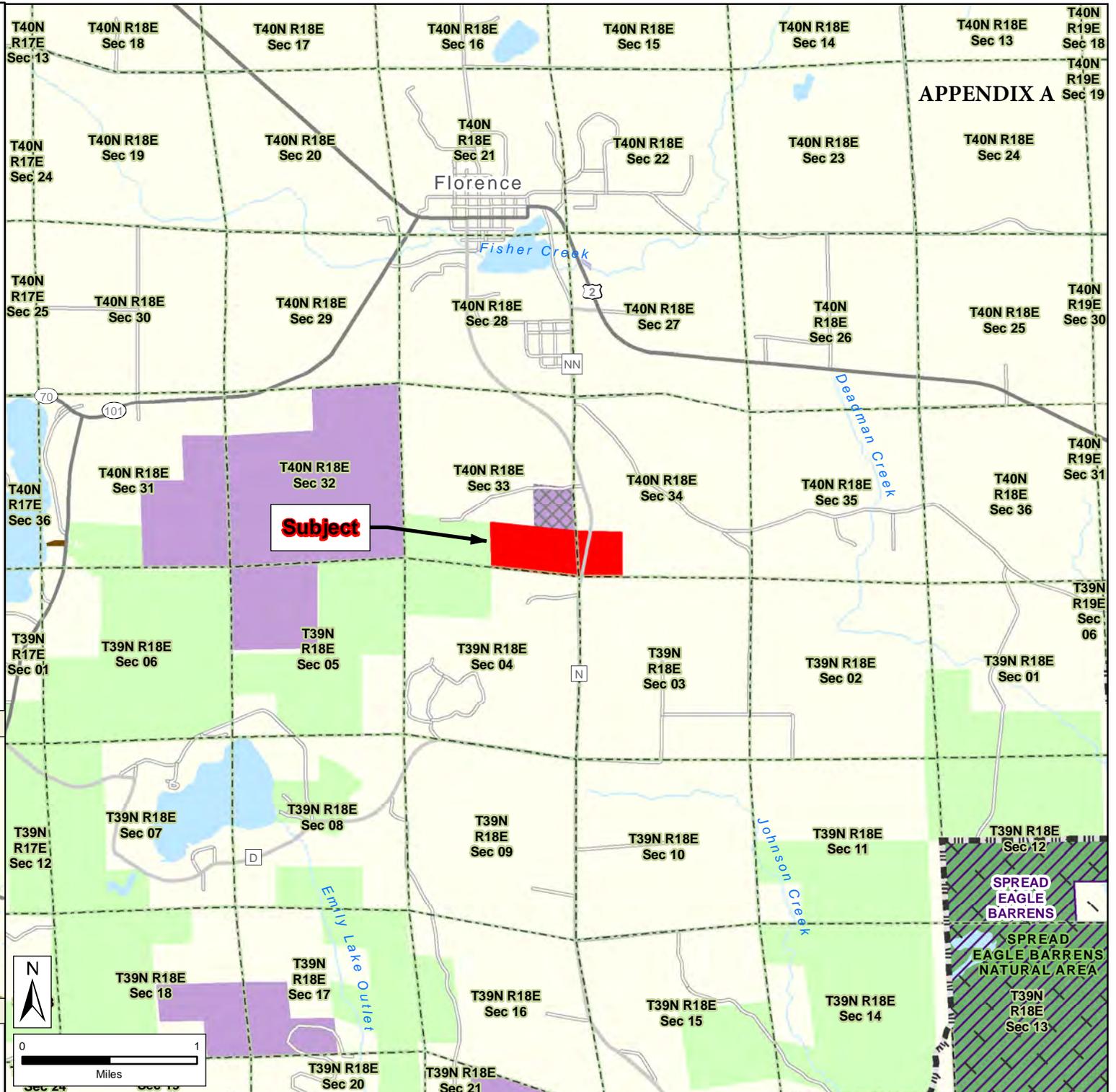
-  DNR Project Boundary
-  DNR Easement
-  DNR Easement
(Closed to Public Access)
-  DNR Fee Title
-  State Natural Area
-  County Forest Lands
-  National Forest
-  Section Boundary

Regional View



 Location of Property

 WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Facilities of Lands
Map Created: Jan 21, 2020 jst



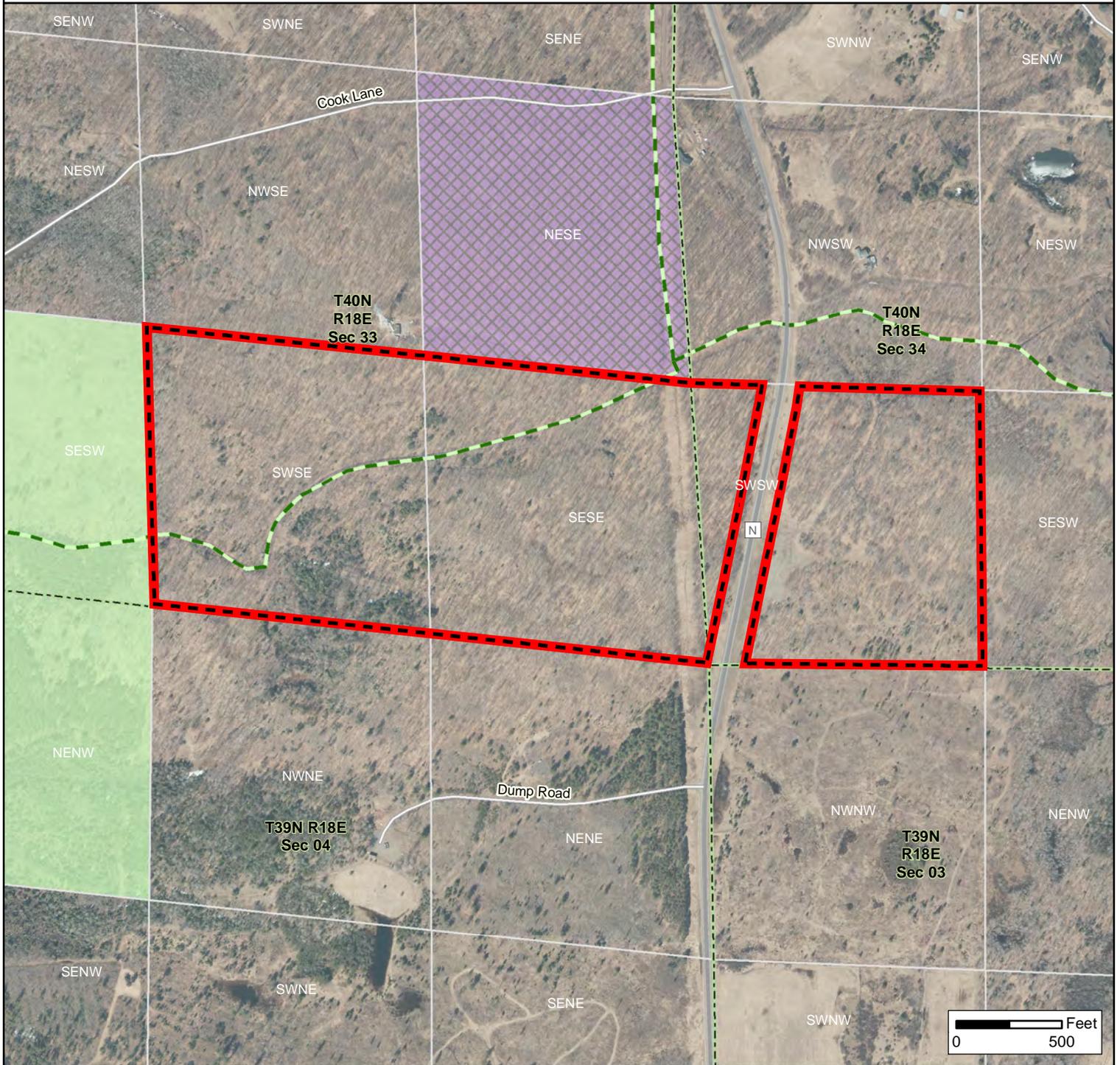
APPENDIX A

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.

LaBrecque Co. Forest Acquisition

Proposed Stewardship Grant
 Sponsor: Florence County
 Approximate Total Acreage: 120

T40N R18E Secs. 33 & 34, Town of Commonwealth
 County: Florence



Subject

- DNR Easement (Closed to Public Access)
- County Forest Lands
- Section Boundary
- QQ Section Boundary
- Motorized Recreation Trail



Jan 21, 2020 *jst*

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

X 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	No water on property	No water on property

FISHING

DNR Staff Narrative: no fishable water on the property

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

