

# 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  
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## Joint Committee on Finance

### MEMORANDUM

To: Members  
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Alberta Darling  
Representative John Nygren

Date: May 21, 2020

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 21, 2020.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Darling** or **Representative Nygren** no later than **Wednesday, June 10, 2020**, 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 13, 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

MAY 21 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 \$31,650.00 from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to Taylor County for the Mezich acquisition. This is a request for approval to award 2020 fiscal year funds.

The Mezich acquisition is in the town of Rib Lake. The project will ensure continued future forest management, provide public recreation opportunities, and safeguard wildlife habitat on 40 acres of primarily productive forest land. The Mezich acquisition will also help block in existing county forest lands.

The entire 40 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,

DocuSigned by:  
*Beth Bier*  
7372F809DAE441F...

Beth Bier, Deputy Secretary  
For: 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:** May 1, 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 \$31,650.00 to Taylor County for acquisition of a 40-acre property known as the Mezich 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:** Taylor County  
**Grant sub-program:** County Forest acquisition  
**Location:** The land is in the Town of Rib Lake, accessible via a County Forest Road.

**Project description:** This 40-acre property is relatively flat with no improvements. The property's primary timber cover is a mature aspen/fir/red maple (~ 28 ac), with a minor component of northern hardwoods (~ 10 ac), and a small non-forested area containing a small pond (~2 ac).

This acquisition had been identified by Taylor 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:

- Provide Taylor 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 \$30,000 (\$750/ac) within the next few years.
- Provide additional blocking to existing county forest lands. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> of a 2-phase acquisition plan to block a full section of public land and reduce private in-holdings with no road access.
- Increase town revenue: revenue from timber harvests and acreage share payments is anticipated to exceed tax revenue from private ownership.

**Public Uses:** The Mezich 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 10 miles from Rib Lake and 21 miles to Medford, the county seat.

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 *Taylor 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 \$62,000,00. Taylor county has requested 50% of their purchase price, rather than 50% of accepted land value.

**B. Grant Calculation**

County purchase price	\$60,000.00
Grant-eligible associated costs	<u>\$3,300.00</u>
Total project costs	\$63,300.00
DNR Stewardship grant funding (50%)	\$31,650.00
<b>Total proposed grant award</b>	<b>\$31,650.00</b>

**RECOMMENDED:**

Terry H. Bay  
Terry Bay, Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands

5/11/2020  
Date



\_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy Cooke, Administrator, Division of Internal Services

5/13/2020  
Date

**APPENDIX A**  
**Taylor Co. Forestry**  
**Mezich Tract**

T32N R3E Sec. 13  
 Town of Rib Lake  
 Taylor County

 **Subject**

-  DNR Project Boundary
-  DNR Easement
-  DNR Fee Title
-  County Forest Lands
-  County Line
-  Section Boundary
-  Motorized Recreation Trail
-  Ice Age Trail

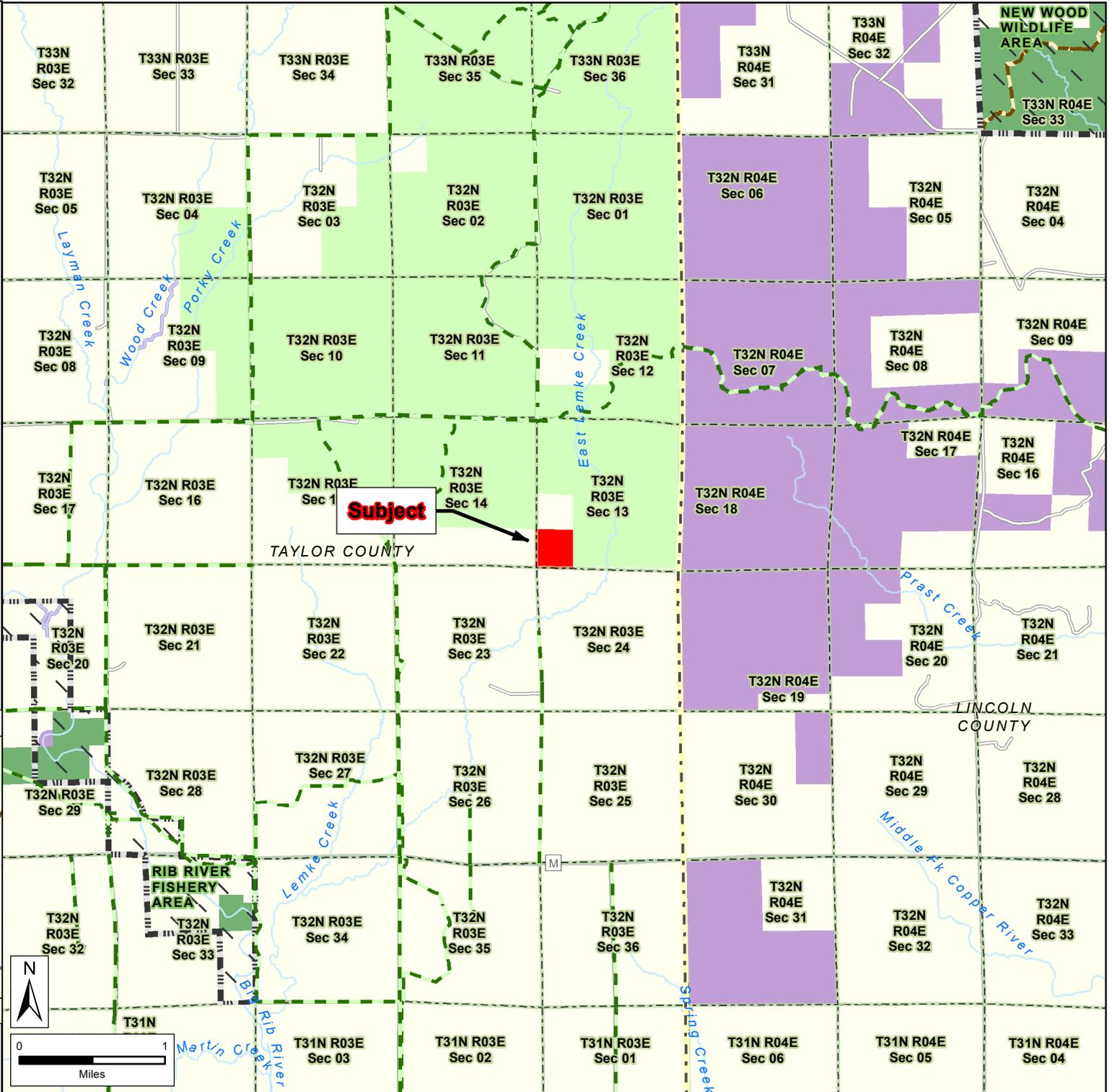
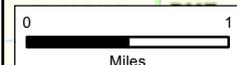
*Regional View*



 Location of Property



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

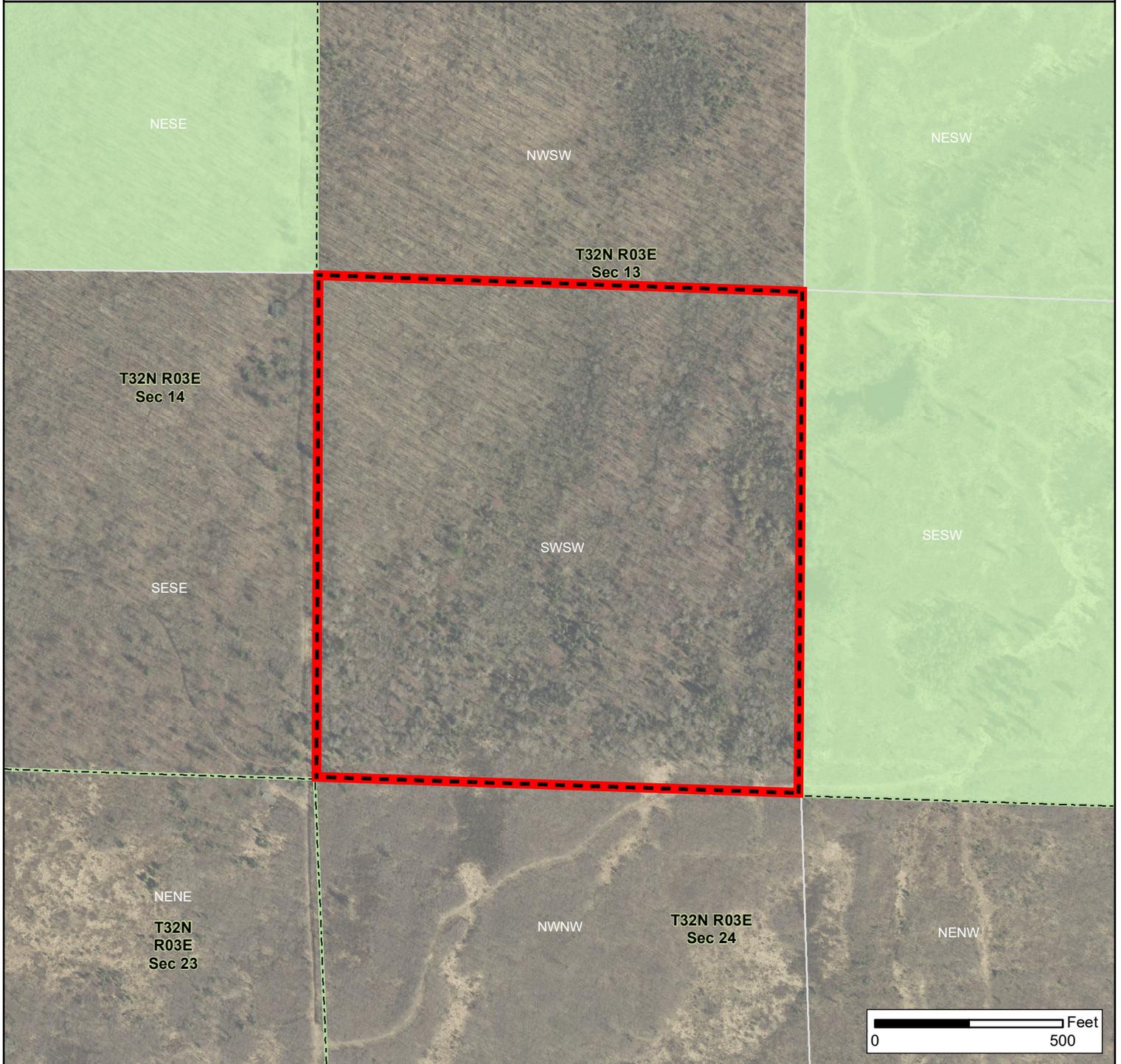


The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. This map is not intended to be used for navigation, nor is this map an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access. Users of this map should confirm 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.

# Taylor Co. Forestry Mezich Tract

Proposed Stewardship Grant  
Sponsor: Taylor County  
Approximate Total Acreage: 40

T32N R3E Sec. 13, Town of Rib Lake  
County: Taylor



 **Subject**

-  County Forest Lands
-  Section Boundary
-  QQ Section Boundary



Apr 21, 2020 jst

Real Estate Section  
Bureau of Facilities and Lands



**TRAPPING****DNR Staff Narrative:** Property will be open to trapping.**X No prohibitions being proposed****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:** 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

