

State of Wisconsin

SENATE CHAIR
Howard Marklein

316 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882
Phone: (608) 266-0703



ASSEMBLY CHAIR
Mark Born

308 East, State Capitol
P.O. Box 8592
Madison, WI 53708-8953
Phone: (608) 266-2540

Joint Committee on Finance

MEMORANDUM

To: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

From: Senator Howard Marklein
Representative Mark Born

Date: April 25, 2022

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 April 25, 2022.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Marklein** or **Representative Born** no later than **Thursday, May 12, 2022**, 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

HM:MB: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



April 14, 2022

APR 25 2022
J.F. Finance

The Honorable Howard Marklein Co-Chair
Committee on Joint Finance
Room 316 East
State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison WI 53707

The Honorable Mark Born, Co-Chair
Committee on Joint Finance
Room 304 East
State Capitol
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Marklein and Representative Born:

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 \$52,765 from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to Iron County for the Ofstad Trail acquisition. This is a request for approval to award 2022 fiscal year funds.

The Ofstad Trail acquisition is 100% productive forest land in the town of Oma. The project will secure permanent public recreation opportunities on an established motorized trail system, ensure continued future forest management and safeguard wildlife habitat on 79 acres connecting to 1,400 additional acres of Iron County Forest lands.

The County proposes no 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.

for

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Sarah Barry
A7D70DC3770642F...
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: April 14, 2022

TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Preston Cole, Secretary

SUBJECT: Request for approval of a Knowles Nelson 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 \$52,765.00 to Iron County for acquisition of a 79.26-acre property known as the Ofstad Trail 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 2022 funds.

PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: Iron County

Grant sub-program: County Forest acquisition

Location: The land is in the Town of Oma, accessible via Palmquist Road

Project description: This 79.26-acre property is relatively flat and is a 100% productive forest. This property is contiguous to the west to 1400 acres of Iron County Forest. The property is dominated by northern hardwoods (52 acres) with the balance being mixed conifers (27 acres). There is .65 mile of interior woods road that connect a public road to an existing County Forest road system for timber production operations and recreational access.

A key segment of motorized trail crosses the subject property.

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

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:

- Secure direct access from a town-maintained road to over 1,400 acres of County Forest lands. This parcel has historically provided access to the County lands via permission of private landowners. The eastern access point is important to both forest management efficiency and recreational uses. Prospective private buyers have inquired about closing public access: County acquisition will instead allow road and trail access to be constructed entirely on the public lands.
- Permanently secure a vital recreation corridor (5.4 miles) in a county for which tourism is the 2nd leading industry.
- Add ~80 acres of productive forest to County holdings: the next scheduled harvests will occur in 2033.

This project has full support from the Iron County Board, motorized recreational clubs in Iron County, the Hurley Chamber of Commerce, the Iron County Office of Economic Development and local businesses that benefit from the trail use on this parcel.

Public Uses: The parcel will be open to the public year-round for hunting, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, biking, horseback riding and motorized recreation. 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 *Iron County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan*, as approved by the Department.

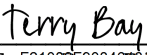
PROJECT FINANCES:

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 \$103,000.

B. Grant Calculation

Land value	\$103,000.00
Grant-eligible associated costs	<u>\$ 2,530.00</u>
Total eligible project costs	\$105,530.00
Proposed grant award (50%)	\$52,765.00

I. RECOMMENDED:

DocuSigned by:

 F21082F90946954
 Terry Bay, Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands

4/13/2022 | 10:40 AM CDT

 Date

DocuSigned by:

 D79265F7A747460
 Timothy Cooke, Administrator, Division of Internal Services






4/13/2022 | 12:43 PM CDT

 Date


Iron County Forest Ofstad Tract


Proposed Stewardship Grant

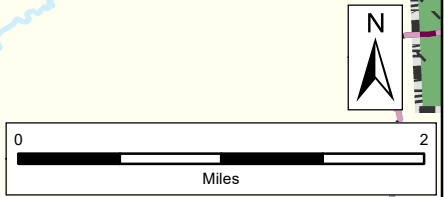
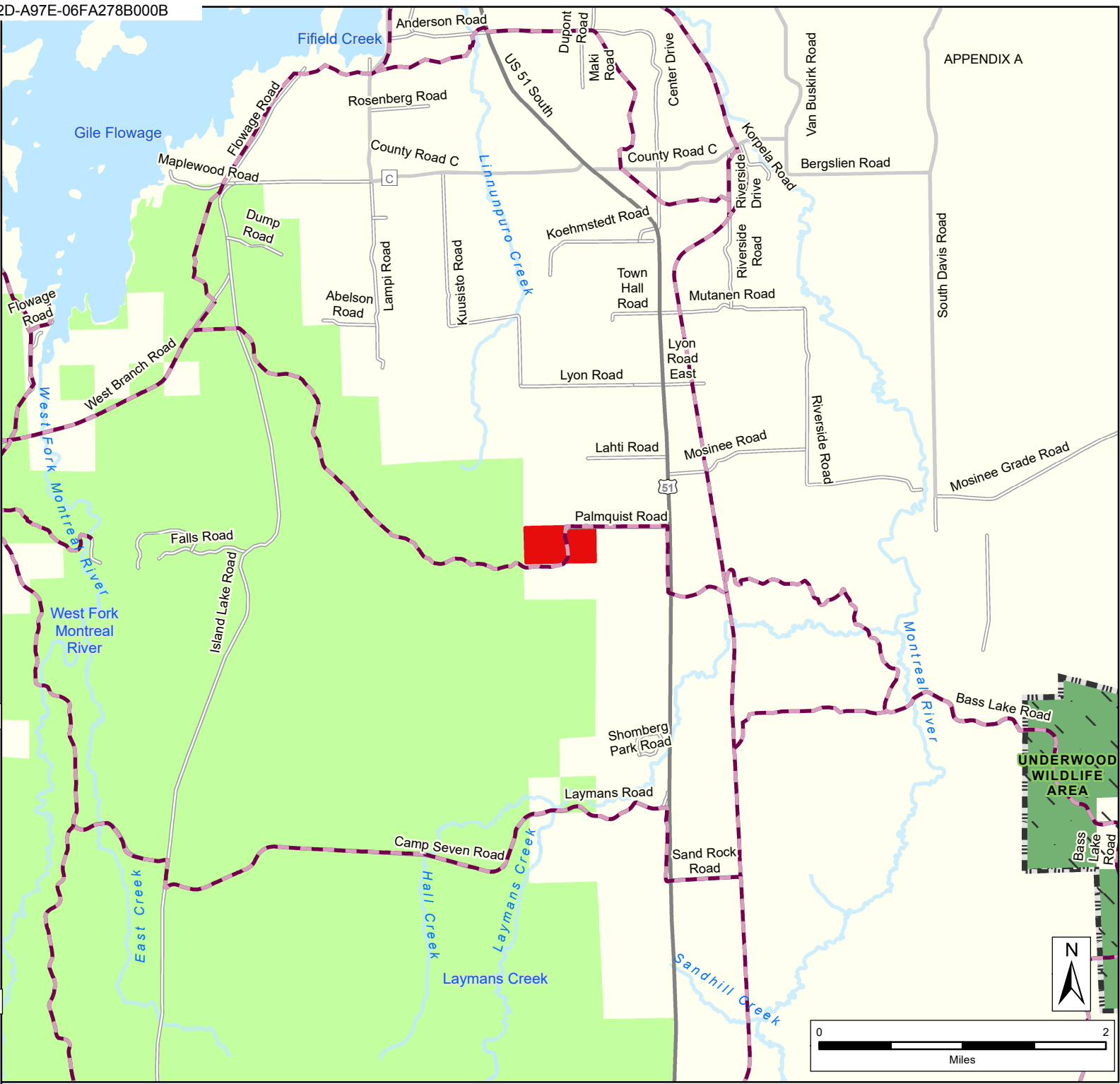
T45N R3E Section 30
Town of Oma
Iron County

-  Subject
-  DNR Land
-  County Forest Lands
-  SM & ATV Trails
-  Current DNR Project Boundary



 Location of Property

 WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Facilities of Lands
Map Created: Apr 11, 2022 msm

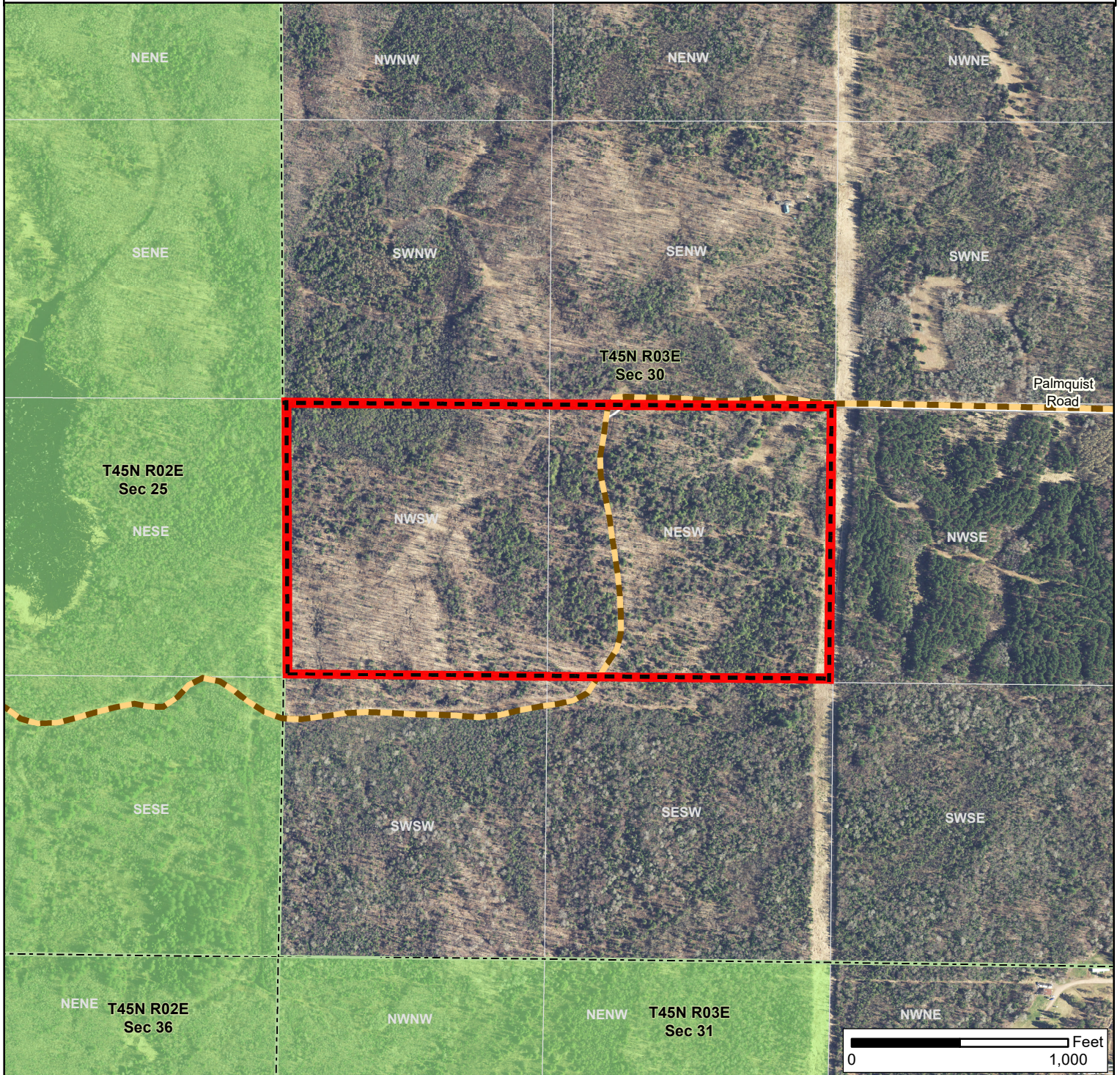


The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. This map is not intended to be used for navigation, nor is this map an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access. Users of this map should confirm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

Iron County Forest Ofstad Tract

Sponsor: Iron County
Approximate Total Acreage: 79.26


T45N R3E Section 30, Town of Oma
County: Iron





Proposed Stewardship Grant

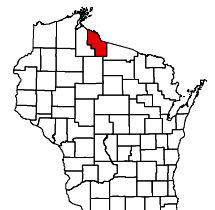
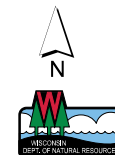
 **Subject**

 PLSS Section Lines

 QQ Sections

 SM & ATV Trail

 County Forest



Apr 12, 2022 msm

Real Estate Section
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

Aerial Imagery 2020

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

HIKING**DNR Staff Narrative:** Property will be open to hiking.**X No prohibitions being proposed****If a prohibition is proposed:****Public safety factors considered,** check all that apply.

- 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 Activities	List Dates (opening and closing)
On-Trail	Yes	Year-round
Off-Trail	Yes	Year-round

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING**DNR Staff Narrative:** Property will be open to cross country skiing.**X No prohibitions being proposed****If a prohibition is proposed:****Public safety factors considered,** check all that apply. 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

Type of Trail	Allowable Activities	List Dates (opening and closing)
Off-Trail (un-groomed)	Yes	Snow cover
On-Trail (un-groomed)	Yes	Snow cover