

# 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: November 16, 2023

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 November 16, 2023.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Marklein** or **Representative Born** no later than **Wednesday, December 6, 2023**, 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  
Adam N. Payne, Secretary  
Telephone 608-266-2621  
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463  
TTY Access via relay - 711



November 10, 2023

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 308 East  
State Capitol  
PO Box 8952  
Madison, WI 53707

NOV 16 2023  
*St. Finance*

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 \$24,605.00 from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to Vilas County for the Lanser acquisition. This is a request for approval to award 2024 fiscal year funds.

The Lanser acquisition is in the Town of Conover in Vilas County. Pursuant to s. 23.0917(5t)(b), Wis. Stats., the Town of Conover and Vilas County have issued resolutions in support of this acquisition project.

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.

The property will be open for all nature-based outdoor activities, as defined in s. 23.0916(1)(b), Wis. Stats. Vilas County Forest is adjacent to the property on three sides, with East Buckatabon Springs State Natural Area on the north side. The project will secure access to existing county forest lands while ensuring continued forest management on productive forest lands and additional protection of East Branch Buckatabon Creek, which is a tributary to the Wisconsin River.

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:  
*Steven Little*  
7A5DFE3497144B5...  
Steven Little  
Deputy Secretary

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

**CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** November 10, 2023

**TO:** Members of the Joint Committee on Finance

**FROM:** Steven Little, Deputy 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 \$24,605.00 to Vilas County for acquisition of a 40-acre property known as the Lanser Acquisition. 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 2024 funds.

The Town of Conover and Vilas County have approved resolutions in support of the acquisition project.

**PROJECT DETAILS:**

**Project Sponsor:** Vilas County  
**Grant sub-program:** County Forest acquisition  
**Location:** The land is in the Town of Conover, accessible via Dump Road

**Project description:** This 40-acre property is surrounded by existing public land. This property is contiguous to approximately 250 acres of Vilas County Forest and 40 acres of DNR property. The property consists of 11 acres of young aspen/fir saplings, 9 acres of swamp conifer, and the balance is lowland marsh and East Branch Buckatabon Creek.

This acquisition had been identified by Vilas 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:

- Improve and secure additional access to existing County Forest lands for forest management activities and public recreational use.
- Add additional productive forest to County holdings.
- Eliminate one mile of private/public boundary.
- Secure permanent sustainable management and protection from development, as supported by the motivations of the current landowner.
- Provide additional protection to East Branch Buckatabon Creek (springs-headwaters located on adjoining East Buckatabon Springs State Natural Area).
- Protect lands within the Wisconsin River Headwaters Conservation Opportunity Area and the Upper Wisconsin River Land Legacy Area

This project has full support from the Vilas County Board, Town of Conover, and the Partners in Forestry Landowner Cooperative. Pursuant to s. 23.0917(5t)(b), Wis. Stats., the Town of Conover and Vilas County have issued resolutions in support of this acquisition project. The resolutions are attached as Appendix B.

**Public Uses:** The parcel will be open to the public year-round for hunting, fishing, 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 C.

**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 *Vilas County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan*, as approved by the Department.


**PROJECT FINANCES:**

**A. Appraisals:** Pursuant to s. 23.0917(7)(e)1., Wis. Stats., land value was determined by a DNR-reviewed and accepted appraisal valuing the subject property at \$44,000.

**B. Grant Calculation**

Land value	\$44,000.00
Grant-eligible associated costs	<u>\$ 5,210.00</u>
Total eligible project costs	\$49,210.00
<b>Proposed grant award (50%)</b>	<b>\$24,605.00</b>

**I. RECOMMENDED:**

DocuSigned by:  
  
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 Terry Bay, Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands

11/15/2023 | 8:24 AM CST  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

DocuSigned by:  
  
D792C5F7A747400...  
 Timothy Cooke, Administrator, Division of Internal Services








11/15/2023 | 8:39 AM CST  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

## **Appendix A. Project Maps**

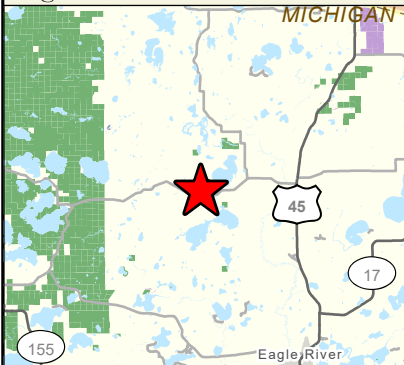
# Lancer - Acquisition


T41N R09E, Sec. 11  
Town of Conover  
Vilas County

 **Subject**

-  Current State Natural Area
-  Current DNR Project Boundary
-  Section Boundary
-  State Natural Area
-  DNR Fee Title
-  Board of Commissioners of Public Lands
-  County Forest Lands

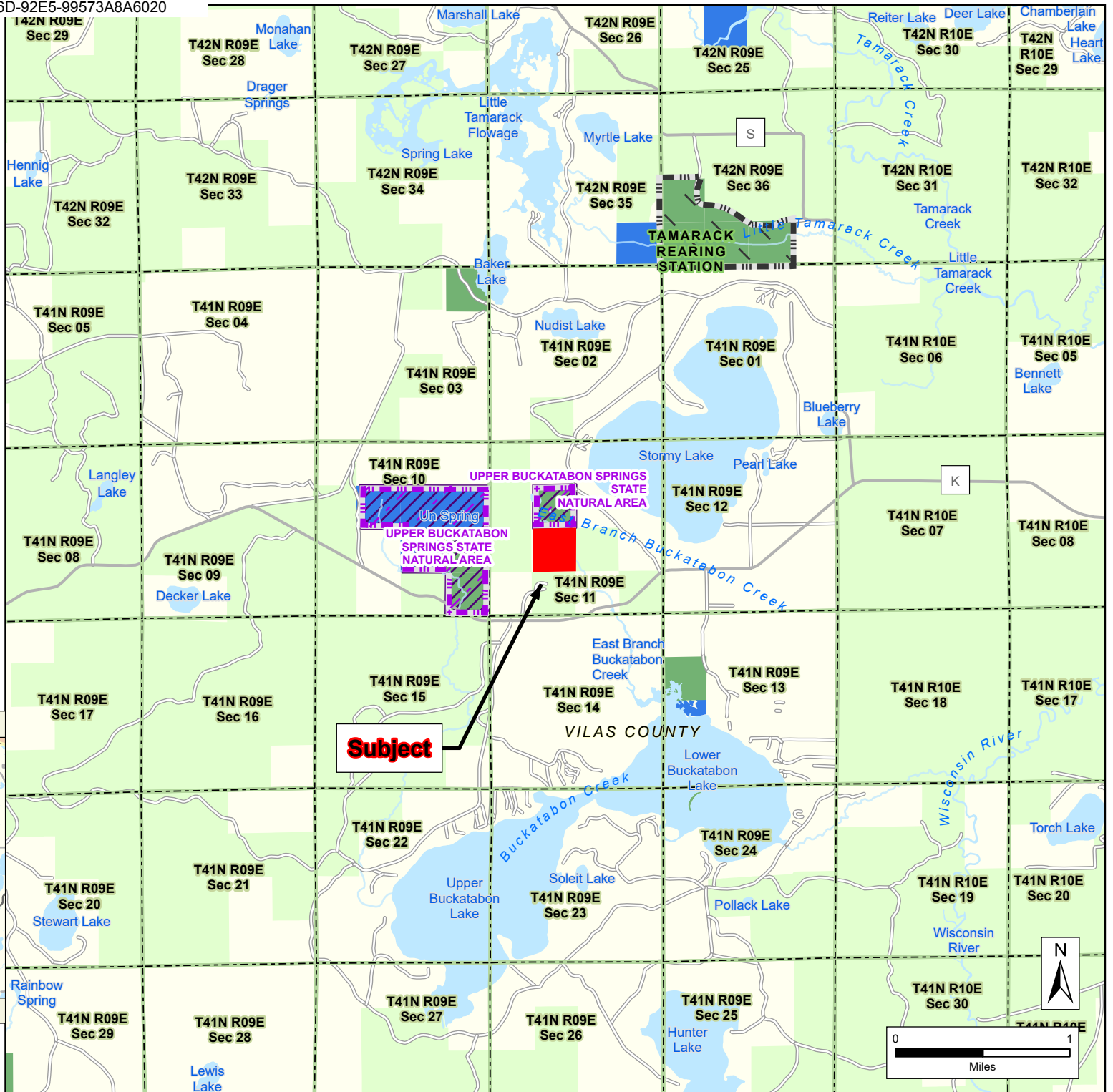
## Regional View



 Location of Property



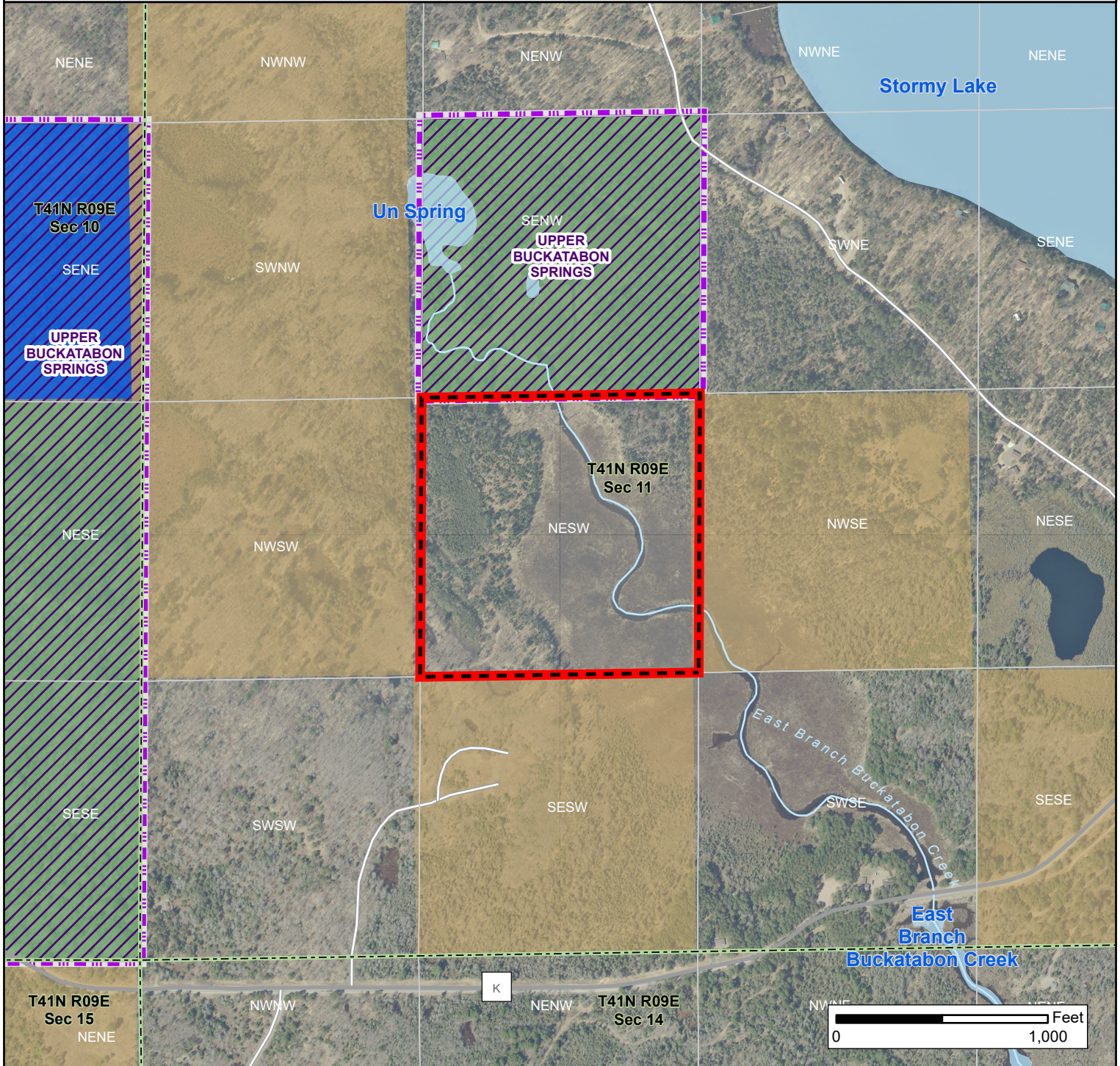
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Bureau of Facilities of Lands  
Map Created: Aug 24, 2023 *lec*



# Lancer - Acquisition

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

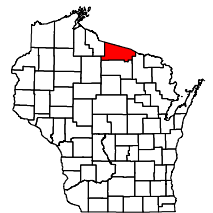
T41N R09E Sec. 11  
 Town of Conover  
 County: Vilas



**Subject**

- Section Boundary
- QQ Section Boundary
- State Natural Area Project Boundary

- DNR Fee Title
- Board of Commissioners of Public Lands
- County Forest Lands



Aug 24, 2023 *lec*

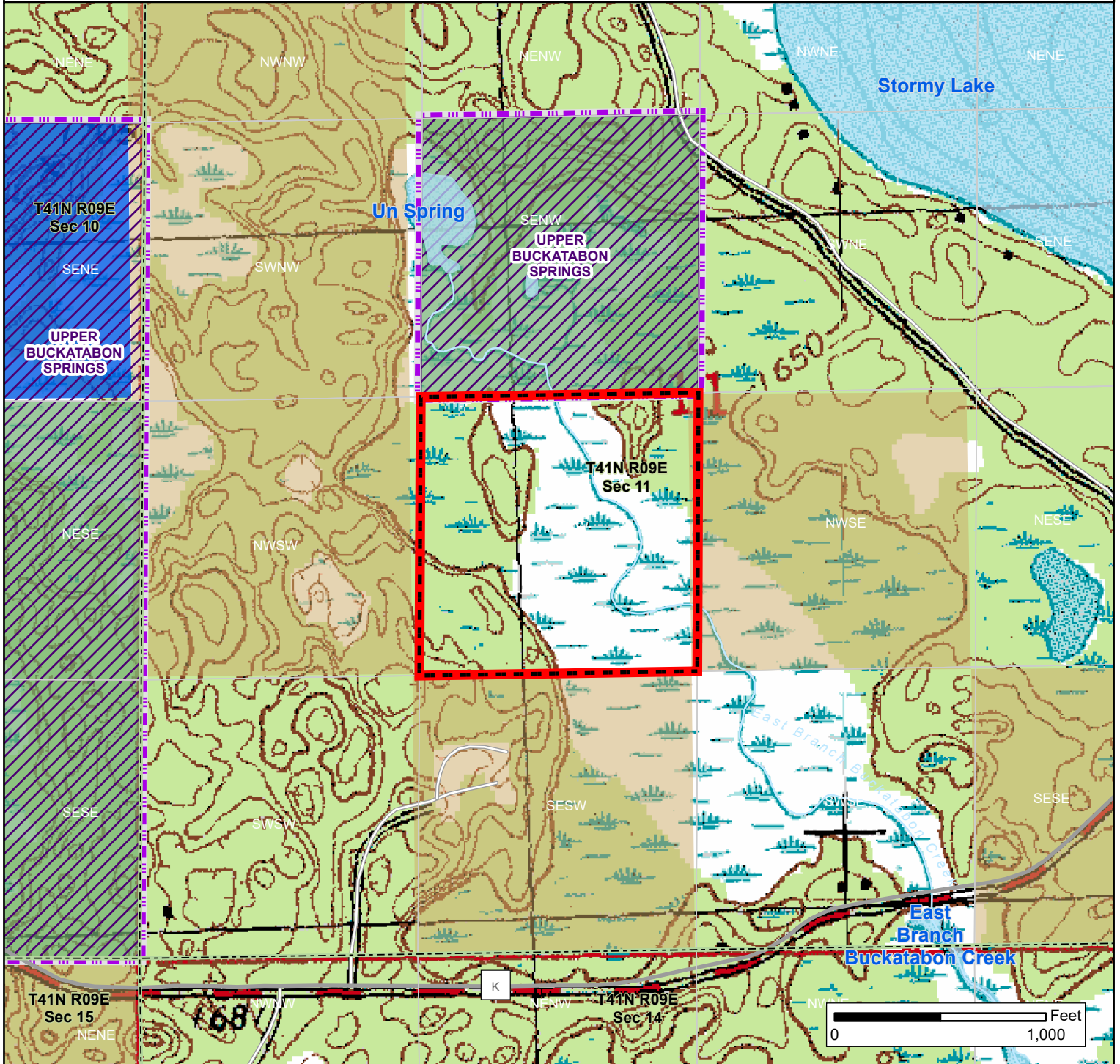
*Real Estate Section  
 Bureau of Facilities and Lands*

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.




# Lancer - Acquisition




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



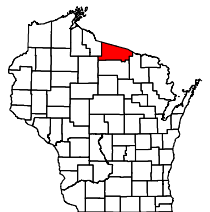
T41N R09E Sec. 11  
Town of Conover  
County: Vilas



 Subject

-  Section Boundary
-  QQ Section Boundary
-  State Natural Area Project Boundary

-  DNR Fee Title
-  Board of Commissioners of Public Lands
-  County Forest Lands

Aug 24, 2023 *lec*  
 Real Estate Section  
 Bureau of Facilities and Lands

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.



## **Appendix B. Local Resolutions**

### Resolution 216-23

#### Support of Vilas County Acquisition of Land in, Section 11 and 27, Township 41 North, Range 9 East

**Whereas**, the Vilas County Forest is managed to protect its natural resources on a sustainable basis to satisfy the sociological and socioeconomic needs of present and future generations under multiple use concepts through the integration of forestry, wildlife, recreation, water, soil, and endangered resources management practices, and,

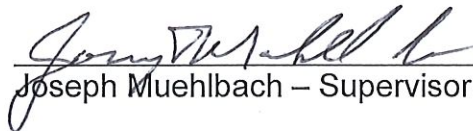
**Whereas**, Vilas County is actively working on acquiring productive forestland to add to the county forest, and,


**Whereas**, the purpose of acquiring lands is to perpetually provide forest products to our local economy, revenues to the County, outdoor recreational opportunities to the public, and provide for the most efficient administration of the Forest by consolidating and blocking lands within established County Forest boundaries, and,


**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved That** the Town of Conover supports the efforts of Vilas County to acquire two separate parcels of land; 40 acres in Section 11 known as Lanser Acquisition, and 35 acres in Section 27 known as National Finance Acquisition in the Town of Conover for the purpose of forestry, conservation and outdoor recreation.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023

  
Dale Mayo – Chairman

  
Joseph Muehlbach – Supervisor 1

  
Karl Jennrich – Supervisor 2

  
William Hogenmiller – Supervisor 2

  
George Champeny – Supervisor 4

Attested by Town Clerk:   
Kendra Lederer

**RESOLUTION 2023 - 04**

**Re: Application to Acquire State Funding Through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Program**

1           **WHEREAS**, the Vilas County Forest is managed to protect its natural resources on a  
2 sustainable basis to satisfy the sociological and socioeconomic needs of present and future  
3 generations under multiple use concepts through the integration of forestry, wildlife, recreation,  
4 water, soil, and endangered resources management practices; and

5           **WHEREAS**, the landowner of 40 acres in NESW, Section 11, Township 41 North, Range  
6 9 East, Town of Conover, Vilas County, Wisconsin has indicated they are willing to sell the  
7 property and work with the County on a transaction; and

8           **WHEREAS**, the County Board has the authority to acquire said properties for the purpose  
9 of establishing County Forest Land pursuant to §28.10 Wis. Stats.; and

10           **WHEREAS**, the acquisition and withdrawal policies and boundaries are outlined and  
11 defined in Chapter 400 of the Vilas County Forest 15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan as  
12 approved and adopted for the years 2021-2035 by the Vilas County Board of Supervisors on  
13 March 22nd, 2022 by Resolution No. 2022-24; and

14           **WHEREAS**, the purpose of acquiring lands is to perpetually provide forest products to our  
15 local economy, revenues to the County, outdoor recreation opportunities to the public, and provide  
16 for the most efficient administration of the Forest by consolidating and blocking lands within  
17 established County Forest boundaries; and

18           **WHEREAS**, the Forestry, Recreation and Land Committee has determined the acquisition  
19 of this land would benefit the public by providing periodic revenue to the County, together with  
20 recreational opportunities and protection of soil, water and wildlife resources and recommends  
21 approving an application to acquire funding through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant  
22 Program; and

23           **WHEREAS**, the County is eligible to apply for grant funding through the Knowles-  
24 Nelson Stewardship grant program pursuant to §23.0953, Wis. Stats.; and

25           **WHEREAS**, said Stewardship Grant Program may provide funding up to 50% of the  
26 acquisition price; and

27           **WHEREAS**, the balance of funding would come from the County Segregated Land Fund  
28 that was established by the Vilas County Board of Supervisors on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1982; pursuant to  
29 Res. No. 82-61 for the purpose of purchasing lands within the County Forest Block.

30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Vilas County Board of Supervisors in  
31 session this 24<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2023 that Vilas County requests grant funding available from the  
32 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources under the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Land  
33 Acquisition Grant Program.

34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Vilas County Forestry, Recreation & Land  
35 Committee is authorized to act on behalf of Vilas County to submit an application to the State of  
36 Wisconsin for land acquisition grant funding.

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Vilas County recognizes and acknowledges that if  
38 financial assistance is made available by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that  
39 provides funding up to 50% of the acquisition price, the County will comply with State rules and  
40 meet the financial obligations under the grant, with the balance of funding coming from the  
41 County Segregated Land Fund.

FISCAL COMMENT:

- Included within Resolution
- See Attached
- Not applicable

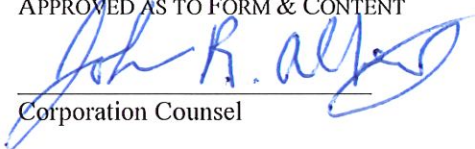
\_\_\_\_\_  
Finance Director

H. R. REVIEW

- Approved
- See Attached
- Not applicable

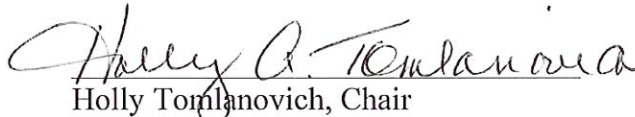
\_\_\_\_\_  
Human Resources Manager

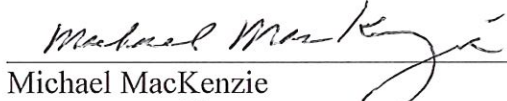
APPROVED AS TO FORM & CONTENT

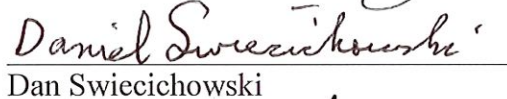
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Corporation Counsel

SUBMITTED BY:

**Forestry, Recreation & Land Committee**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Holly Tomlanovich, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael MacKenzie

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Swiecichowski

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph Muehlbach

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle Langheim

## **Appendix C. Public Use Analysis**

**Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Program**



**DNR Staff Analysis of  
Nature Based Outdoor Activities on  
Projects Purchased with  
Stewardship Grant Funds**

Rev. August 2012

**NOTE TO DNR STAFF:** *This completed form will be attached to the NBOA notice that the DNR will publish when considering a request for Stewardship grant funding. Do not list location information for the subject property or the seller's name because WI courts have held that this information is confidential until land ownership has changed hands. In "Staff Narrative" sections below each NBOA, summarize sponsor's reason for prohibition.*

<b>Applicant/ Sponsor</b> VILAS COUNTY FOREST	<b>Year of application:</b> 2023
<b>Project name and primary purpose</b> (after acquisition): "Lanser" tract acquisition – adding critical property for core recreation and productive timber for contiguous public lands for nature-based recreation.	
<b>Parcel size, shape and topography:</b> ~40 acres of timber lands. Generally flat, contiguous to county forest property on three sides and access to town road.	
<b>Plan(s) or reports identifying project area as priority:</b> Vilas County Forestry Comprehensive plan.	

**Proposed NBOA – Applicant Narrative and Checklist**

<b>HUNTING</b>			
<b>DNR Staff Narrative:</b> Property will be open to hunting.			
<b>X No prohibitions being proposed</b>			
<b>If a prohibition is proposed:</b>			
<b>Public safety factors considered, check all that apply.</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> The sponsor is within its own municipality boundary			
<input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is within 100 yards of building devoted to human occupancy			
<input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is within 50 feet of the center line of highways & roads			
<input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is within 1700 feet of school grounds, hospital, or sanatorium			
<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance exists –			
<input type="checkbox"/> Discharge or carrying a weapon <input type="checkbox"/> Hunting within park <input type="checkbox"/> Throwing or shooting missiles, arrows, spears, etc.			
<input type="checkbox"/> 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.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is adjacent to a parcel where the NBOA's to be prohibited already exists.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is adjacent to a public waterway.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Parcel is subjected to a non-sponsor ordinance			
<input type="checkbox"/> Project will be transferred to an eligible partner sponsor with ordinance prohibiting activity.			
<b>Unique plant and animal communities factors considered, check all that apply.</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal listed endangered species		<input type="checkbox"/> State listed endangered species	
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal listed threatened species		<input type="checkbox"/> State listed threatened species	
<input type="checkbox"/> Federal listed species of special concern		<input type="checkbox"/> State listed species of special concern	
	<b>Allowable species (Gun)</b>	<b>Allowable species (bow)</b>	<b>List Dates/Seasons (opening and closing)</b>
Waterfowl	Per state regulations	Per state regulations	Per state regulations
Small Game	Per state regulations	Per state regulations	Per state regulations
Turkey	Per state regulations	Per state regulations	Per state regulations
Large Game	Per state regulations	Per state regulations	Per state regulations

**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