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:

January 16, 2024

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 January 16, 2024.

Please review the material and notify **Senator Marklein** or **Representative Born** no later than **Friday**, **February 2**, **2024**, 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



JAN 1 6 2024 JA. Finance

January 2, 2024

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

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 \$644,845.00 from the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program to Adams County for the "598 Acquisition." This is a request for approval to award 2024 fiscal year funds.

The 598 Acquisition is in the Towns of Big Flats and Rome in Adams County. Pursuant to s. 23.0917(5t)(b), Wis. Stats., the Town of Big Flats, Town of Rome, and Adams County have issued resolutions in support of this acquisition project.

The entire 598 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. Adams County's goals for establishing a county forest and this acquisition is to protect from further forest fragmentation of larger historic forest blocks, expand a newly developing county forest for public use, protect identified watersheds and increase recreational opportunities.

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 submission of this letter, the Department will award this grant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steven Little
Deputy Secretary

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

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM -

DATE: January 2, 2024

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 with

funding request 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 Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant in the amount of \$644,845.00 to Adams County for acquisition of a 598-acre property known as the "598 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 Big Flats, Town of Rome, and Adams County have approved resolutions in support of the acquisition project.

PROJECT DETAILS:

Project Sponsor: Adams County

Grant sub-program: County Forest acquisition

Location: The land is in the Towns of Big Flats and Rome, accessible via multiple town

roads and State Highway 13.

Project description: This 598-acre purchase is broken into two separate blocks. One site is a 240-acre tract in the Town of Rome, approximately 0.75 miles from existing county forest land. The other site is a 358.2-acre tract in the Town of Big Flats, approximately 3.35 miles from existing county forest land.

This acquisition had been identified by Adams County as a long-term investment for timber production, recreation, watershed protection and protection from further fragmentation of historic large forest holdings.

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.

This project has full support in the form of approved resolutions from the Town of Big Flats, the Town of Rome, and the Adams County Board, pursuant to s. 23.0917(5t)(b), Wis. Stats. The resolutions are attached as Appendix B.

Project benefits: County acquisition of this property will:

- o Secure two new blocks of County Forest lands for permanent sustainable forest management activities and guarantee public recreational use.
- o Continue to support the forest products industry, which is a top employer in the area (as indicated in the 2019 Forest Economy Report for Adams County).
- o Support the \$223,000,000 recreation and tourism industry in Adams County (reported by WI Department of Tourism, 2021) through recreational opportunities such as hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, etc. on Adams County Forest lands.



- o Secure an estimated stumpage value on the property of approximately \$322,768 as of March 2023, with approximately \$294,528 of that stumpage value (91% of the standing timber value) anticipated to be marketable within the next 20 years.
- o Support the goals of the Town of Rome's Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2018).
- o Protect lands in the endangered Karner Blue Butterfly High Potential Range and the Rusty Patched Bumblebee High Potential Zone.
- o Support important connectivity and ecological functions and values within the Fourteen Mile Creek Watershed and Big Roche-A-Cri Creek Watershed.
- o Protect lands within the Southern Forest Group, a group identified in the State Wildlife Action Plan with high or moderate association with 71 Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Wisconsin and High Ecological Landscape Opportunity Scores.
- o Permanently protect a significant historical/archaeological resource known as the Holmes Burial Mounds as identified by records from the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Public Uses: The parcel will be open to the public year-round for hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, crosscountry 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 Adams 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., two appraisals were reviewed to determine value of the subject lands. Appraisal #1 concluded a value of \$1,376,000.00. Appraisal #2 concluded a value of \$1,286,000.00. For grant purposes, the Department used the lower value: \$1,286,000.00.

B. Grant Calculation

Proposed grant award (50%)	\$ 644,845.00
Grant-eligible associated costs Total eligible project costs	\$\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \
Land value	\$1,286,000.00

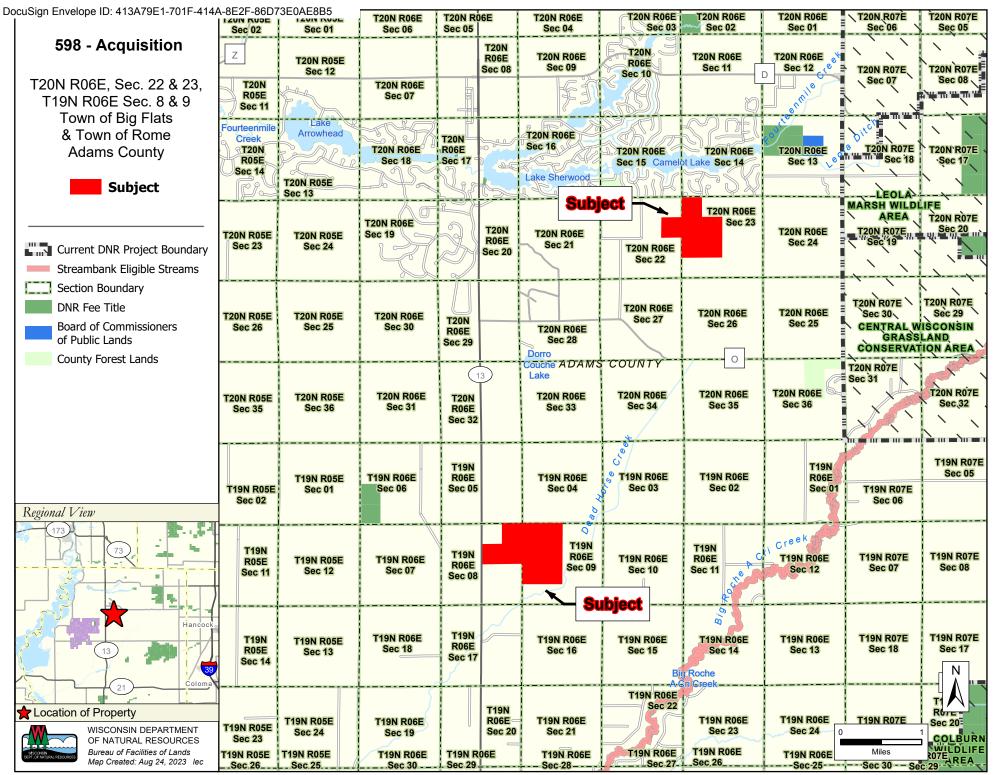
Proposed grant award (50%)

I. **RECOMMENDED:**

DocuSigned by

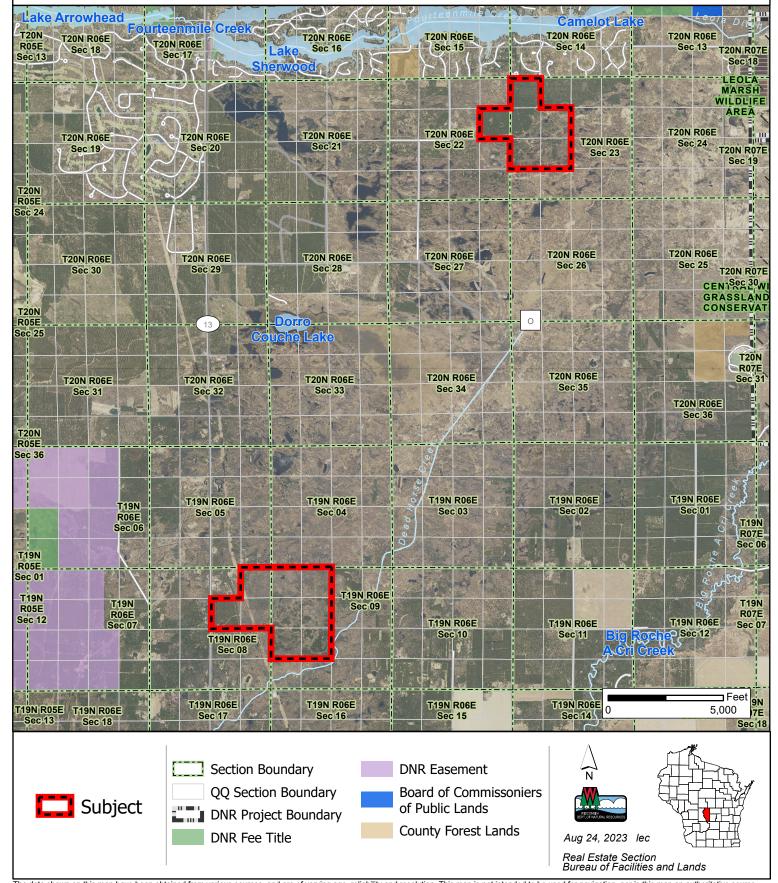
bootolighted by.	
terry Bay	1/4/2024 3:27 PM CST
Terry Bay, Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands	Date
DocuSigned by:	
tim Cooke	1/16/2024 9:06 AM CST
Timothy Cooke, Administrator, Division of Internal Services	Date

Appendix A. Project Maps



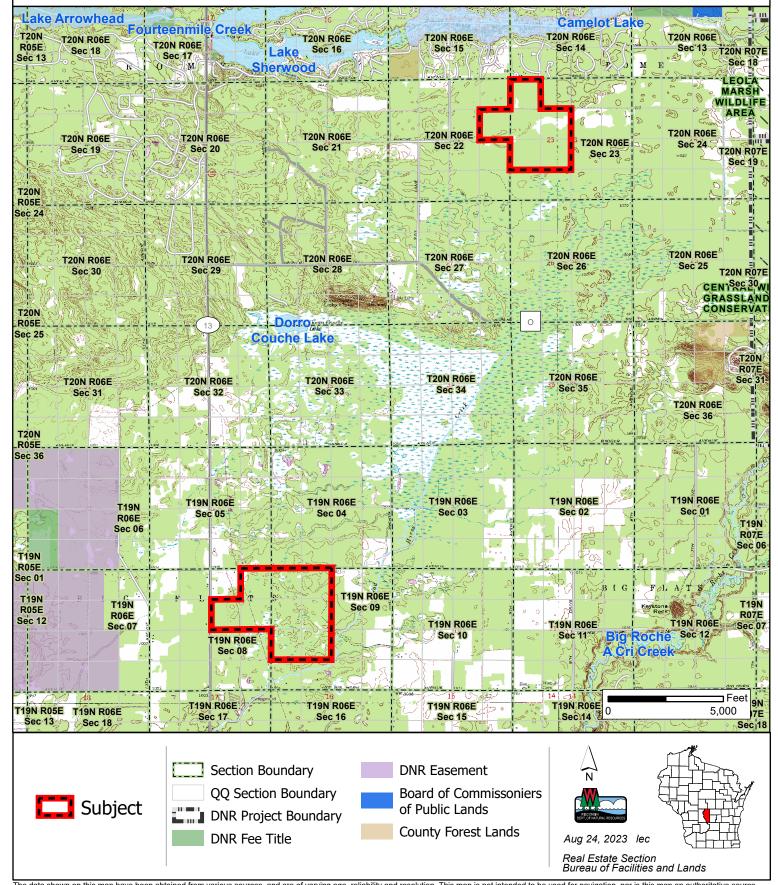
598 - Acquisition

Proposed Stewardship Grant Sponsor: Adams County Approximate Total Acreage: 598 T20N R06E Sec. 22 & 23, T19N R06E Sec. 8 & 9
Town of Big Flats & Town of Rome
County: Adams



598 - Acquisition

Proposed Stewardship Grant Sponsor: Adams County Approximate Total Acreage: 598 T20N R06E Sec. 22 & 23, T19N R06E Sec. 8 & 9
Town of Big Flats & Town of Rome
County: Adams



Appendix B. Local Resolutions



RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP LAND ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM, TO APPLY FOR DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF FORESTRY PROJECT LOAN AND TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE WISCONSIN DNR

INTRODUCED BY: Land & Water Conservation/UWEX Committee

INTENT & SYNOPSIS: To make application and participate in the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Land Acquisition Grant Program and the DNR Project Loan Program for the acquisition of __598_acres of forest land, to be included in the County Forest program and to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the DNR for grant participation.

FISCAL NOTE: A successful Knowles-Nelson applicant can receive 50% of the appraised value of the property for the purchase. Adams County would be responsible for the remaining costs. If approved, the Land & Water Conservation Division will be pursuing an indefinite term, 0% interest bearing project loan through the DNR Division of Forestry. This loan is repaid by a portion of the timber sales receipts (40% of stumpage value). No other funds are necessary for repayment of this loan.

WHEREAS: Adams County adopted Resolution #15-2022 establishing County Forest land pursuant to Wis. Stats. Sec. 28.10, as outlined in Chapter 400 of the Adams County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan; and

WHEREAS: Acquisition of additional forest properties would perpetually provide forest products to our local economy, revenues to the County, outdoor recreation opportunities to the public, improve watershed and biodiversity protections, and improve proper management -of the County Forest land; and

WHEREAS: Adams County is eligible to participate and make application to the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Land Acquisition Grant Program for land acquisition consistent with said Plan; and

WHEREAS: The Adams County Forest Administrator will apply for a County Forest Project Loan from the Department of Natural resources (DNR) up to \$1,000,000.

WHEREAS: The above-described loan would be an interest free loan, which would be paid back to the DNR at a rate no greater than 40% of the total County Forest timber sale revenue received annually. Said payment would continue annually until the loan is paid in full.

WHEREAS: Knowles-Nelson Grant funding may provide up to 50% of the acquisition price; and

WHEREAS: Participation in the grant program requires a county to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry (as required by NR 51.963 Wis. Adm. Code) to define the criteria for participating in the grant program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Adams County Board of Supervisors that the Land & Water Conservation Division may enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry to define criteria for grant program participation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Adams County Forest Administrator is hereby authorized to apply for County Forest Project Loan funding from the DNR to purchase ~598 acres of forestland within Adams County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Adams County Forest Administrator is hereby authorized to apply for Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant funding, if available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Adams County recognizes and acknowledges that if financial assistance is made available by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and if the County accepts the financial assistance, the County will comply with State rules for the program and meet the financial obligations under the grant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Land & Water Conservation/UWEX Committee and County Board will be notified if grant funding becomes available and then will consider authorization for the acquisition of the above-mentioned ~598 -acres.

BE IT FURTHER_RESOLVED: That the Adams County Forest Administrator is hereby authorized to sign and complete any and all applications and documents to participate in the Knowles-Nelson Grant Program, DNR Project Loan, and Memorandum of Agreement.

Resolution Number 2023-03

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM GRANT AWARD FOR ACQUISITION OF 358-ACRE PARCEL IN THE TOWN OF RIG FLATS, ADAMS COUNTY WISCONSIN FOR FORESTRY.

IN THE TOWN OF BIG FLATS, ADAMS COUNTY WISCONSIN FOR FORESTRY, CONSERVATION, AND PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program (the "Program") in 1989 to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Program has supported land acquisition and capital development by the Department of Natural Resources (the "WDNR"), local governments and nonprofit conservation organizations to preserve valuable natural areas, wildlife habitat, water quality and outdoor recreation for public benefit around the state; and

WHEREAS, the WDNR notified the Town of Big Flats that a grant from the Program has been tentatively awarded to support the acquisition of three-hundred fifty-eight (358) acres located in the Town of Big Flats by Adams County for forestry, conservation and public outdoor recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes Sec. 23.0917(5t) gives discretion to the Town of Big Flats Board of Supervisors to adopt a non-binding resolution in support of or opposition to those program-funded land acquisitions made within the Town and WDNR must consider such a resolution adopted within 30-days of such notification; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Program-funded land acquisition within the Town is consistent with the Town of Big Flats' Comprehensive Plan future land use designation in the identified area for preservation lands, as well as fitting within identified lands for future acquisition for the County Forest Program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Big Flats Board of Supervisors expresses its appreciation and gratitude to the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program for its selection of the aforementioned property for Program-funded acquisition, and does hereby support the potential three-hundred fifty-eight (358) acre land acquisition by Adams County in the Town of Big Flats for the purpose of forestry, conservation and public outdoor recreational purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk shall forward a copy of this resolution to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Adams County.

Dated this 8th dayinf August, 2023.

By:

Mark Reed, Town Chairman

Terri Horacek, Town Clerk

Resolution Number 23-10

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM GRANT AWARD FOR ACQUISITION OF 240-ACRE PARCEL IN THE TOWN OF ROME FOR FORESTRY, CONSERVATION, AND PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Legislature created the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program (the "Program") in 1989 to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Program has supported land acquisition and capital development by the Department of Natural Resources (the "WDNR"), local governments and nonprofit conservation organizations to preserve valuable natural areas, wildlife habitat, water quality and outdoor recreation for public benefit around the state; and

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2023, the WDNR notified the Town of Rome that a grant from the Program has been tentatively awarded to support the acquisition of two-hundred forty (240) acres located in the Town of Rome by Adams County for forestry, conservation and public outdoor recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Statutes Sec. 23.0917(5t) gives discretion to the Town of Rome Board of Supervisors to adopt a non-binding resolution in support of or opposition to those program-funded land acquisitions made within the Town and WDNR must consider such a resolution adopted within 30-days of such notification; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Program-funded land acquisition within the Town is consistent with the Town of Rome's Comprehensive Plan future land use designation in the identified area for preservation lands, as well as fitting within identified lands for future acquisition for the County Forest Program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Rome Board of Supervisors expresses its appreciation and gratitude to the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program for its selection of the aforementioned property for Program-funded acquisition, and does hereby support the potential two-hundred forty (240) acre land acquisition by Adams County in the Town of Rome for the purpose of forestry, conservation and public outdoor recreational purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk/Treasurer shall forward a copy of this resolution to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Adams County.

DATED THIS 1ST DAY OF JUNE, 2023

APPROVED BY:

V. Djumadi, Town Chairwoman

ATTESTED BY:

Amy Reuteman, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Appendix C. Public Use Analysis

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Program



HUNTING

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.

Applicant/ Sponsor Adams Co. Forest	Year of application: 2023
Project name and primary purpose (after acquisition):	
Multi parcels- 598 acquisition – addition to County Forest blocks in Towns of Rome and Big Flats	
Parcel size, shape and topography: Describe the size, shape, and topography of the parcel	el.
Two separate blocks; +/- 240 acres in Town of Rome, +/- 358 acres in Town of Big Flats; both blocks relatively	atively flat and heavily wooded.
Plan(s) or reports identifying project area as priority:	_
Adams County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan	

Proposed NBOA – Applicant Narrative and Checklist

DNR Staff Narrative: Property will be open to hunting.			
X No prohibitions bein	g proposed		
If a prohibition is prop	oosed:		
Public safety factors co	onsidered, check all that apply. N	A	
☐ The sponsor is within	its own municipality boundary		
☐ Parcel is within 100 y	ards of building devoted to human	occupancy	
☐ Parcel is within 50 fee	et of the center line of highways &	roads	
☐ Parcel is within 1700	feet of school grounds, hospital, or	sanatorium	
☐ Ordinance exists –			
	a weapon 🛚 Hunting within park	☐ Throwing or shooting missiles,	arrows, spears, etc.
	•	user conflicts that may create publi	· •
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 transfe	erred to an eligible partner sponsor	with ordinance prohibiting activity.	
-	al communities factors consider		
☐ Federal listed endang		☐ State listed endangered specie	es
☐ Federal listed threate			8
☐ Federal listed species of special concern ☐ State listed species of special concern			
			List Dates/Seasons
	Allowable species (Gun)	Allowable species (bow)	(opening and closing)
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: P	roperty will be open to trapping.		
X No prohibitions being	proposed		
☐ No water on site			
If a prohibition is prope	osed:		
	nsidered, check all that apply. NA		
☐ Size/shape of parcel			
☐ The sponsor is within i	ts own municipality boundary		
☐ Parcel is within 100 ya are prohibited: conibe	ords of building devoted to human of ar body gripping traps (with jaws wic	ccupancy and p der than 60 sq.	per s. NR 13.(1)(b)(12), the following traps inches) and cable restraints.
Ordinance exists that p	rohibits trapping or some type of tra	ipping.	
☐ Visitor's expectations of impact one or more NE		er conflicts tha	t may create public safety issues and
Parcel is adjacent to a	parcel where the NBOA's to be pro	hibited already	exists.
☐ Parcel is adjacent to a	public waterway.		
☐ Parcel is subjected to	a non-sponsor ordinance		
☐ Project will be transfer	red to an eligible partner sponsor w	ith ordinance p	rohibiting activity.
Unique plant and anima	I communities factors considered	l , check all that	apply.
☐ Federal listed endange	ered species	☐ State listed e	endangered species
☐ Federal listed threater	ed species	☐ State listed t	hreatened species
☐ Federal listed species	of special concern	State listed s	pecies of special concern
Location	Allowahla Chanina		List Dates/Seasons
Location	Allowable Species		(opening and closing)
Upland	Per state regulations		Per state regulations
Water	Per state regulations		Per state regulations
FISHING			
DNR Staff Narrative:	Properties with fishable water will b	oe open to fish	ning
X No prohibitions being	· · · · ·		
If a prohibition is prope			
Public safety factors considered, check all that apply. NA			
□ 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		hreatened species	
☐ Federal listed species	of special concern	State listed s	pecies of special concern
Method	Allowable Activities		List Dates/Seasons
momou	Anomabic Activities		(opening and closing)
Shore	Per state regulations		(opening and closing) Per state regulations

HIKING			
DNR Staff Narrative: F	Property will be open to hiking.		
X No prohibitions being	g proposed		
If a prohibition is prope	osed:		
Public safety factors co	nsidered, check all that apply. NA		
☐ Visitor's expectations	of safety at the site which include u	ser conflicts that i	may create public safety issues and
impact one or more NE	BOA's activities.		
☐ Parcel is adjacent to a	parcel where the NBOA's to be pr	ohibited already e	exists.
☐ Parcel is adjacent to a	public waterway.		
☐ Parcel is subjected to			
☐ Project will be transfer	red to an eligible partner sponsor v	with ordinance pro	hibiting activity.
l —	I communities factors considere		· · ·
☐ Federal listed endange	•		dangered species
Federal listed threaten	sted threatened species		
☐ Federal listed species	of special concern	☐ State listed spe	ecies of special concern
Location	Allowable Activit	ios	List Dates
Location	Allowable Activit		(opening and closing)
On-Trail	Yes		Year-round
Off-Trail	Yes		Year-round
CROSS COUNTRY SKI	ING		
DNR Staff Narrative: F	Property will be open to cross cou	untry skiing.	
X No prohibitions being	g proposed		
If a prohibition is prope	osed:		
			ons 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			
\square 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 Activitie	es	List Dates
			(opening and closing)
Off-Trail (un-groomed)	Yes	l Si	now cover
		_	
On-Trail (un-groomed)	Yes	Si	now cover
		_	now cover