Form 1100-1
Rev. 5-91

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No 3-C15

SUBJECT: LAND DONATION - GLACIAL HABITAT RESTORATION – WINNEBAGO COUNTY

FOR: DECEMBER 2008 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: Pheasants Forever Fox River Valley Chapter offered to donate 49.86 acres of land to the Department for the Glacial Habitat Restoration Area (GHRA) in Winnebago County to the Department.

The parcel is located in the Town of Omro in Winnebago County about one mile north of the City of Omro. Pheasants Forever pursued purchasing the property with a combination of club funds, federal funds, and DNR State stewardship funds as part of a federal NAWCA grant. The parcel was purchased for $142,000. The parcel includes approximately 4,800 total feet of frontage along both banks of two intermittent streams. The parcel is a mix of cropland, woods and wetland.

The Glacial Habitat Restoration Area was established in 1990 to restore habitat for ring-necked pheasants, waterfowl, and grassland songbirds in Dodge, Fond du Lac, Columbia, and Winnebago Counties. The project uses a landscape scale approach to habitat management that incorporates a patchwork of wetland and grasslands with cropland to create habitat conditions more favorable for self-sustaining wildlife populations in the glacial moraines of east central Wisconsin. The intent is to widely scatter suitable habitat throughout the area, rather than concentrating the habitat in one area. The mix of agricultural land, grasslands, and wetlands is the key to productive wildlife populations. The Department is using perpetual easements, fee title acquisition, other agency programs, volunteer agreements, and cost-share activities with a goal to establish 38,600 acres of grassland nest cover and restore 11,000 acres of wetland within the 24 township project area. The need for the GHRA is based on a documented decline in grassland and wetland wildlife populations. Reductions in habitat quality and quantity because of land use changes have contributed to the decline of grassland nesting wildlife populations. Also, wetland loss or degradation has been an important factor in the decline of many wetland wildlife species. Applying the habitat management practices that restore and enhance grasslands and wetlands will create more favorable conditions for self-sustaining populations of blue-winged teal, mallards, ring-necked pheasants, and non-game grassland birds.

Accepting the gift will allow wildlife management and habitat restoration, which includes plans to restore the croplands to native prairie grass and wildflowers and some small wildlife ponds will be developed in the marsh area. This gift will provide opportunities for public recreation and education including public hunting, hiking, birdwatching, and other non-motorized outdoor recreational activities.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of 49.86 acres of land for the Glacial Habitat Restoration Area program, that a certificate of appreciation be sent to Pheasants Forever, Inc. and that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

No ☒	Fiscal Estimate Required	Yes ☐ Attached
No ☒	Environmental Assessment of Impact Statement Required	Yes ☐ Attached
No ☐	Background Memo	Yes ☒ Attached

APPROVED:

Real Estate Director, Richard E. Steffes - LF/6 — Date 11-6-08

Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf - AD/8 — Date 11/11/08

Secretary, Matthew J. Frank - AD/8 — Date 11/14/08

c: S. Miller - LF/6
R. Steffes - LF/6
L. Ross - AD/8
S. Holtz - ER/6
J. Romback-Bartels - NER/Green Bay

State of Wisconsin

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

FILE REF: WM 60021

DATE: November 6, 2008

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Matthew J. Fr[illegible]

SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Pheasants Forever Fox River Valley Chapter Tract, File # WM 60021

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Glacial Habitat Restoration Program
Winnebago County

Grantor:

Pheasants Forever, Fox River Valley Chapter
c/o Leo Kolaszewski
1011 South Oakwood Road
Oshkosh, WI 54904

Acres: 49.86
Price: Gift
Interest: Fee Title
Improvements: None

Location: The tract is located in Winnebago County less than a mile north of Omro.
Land Description: The subject land is modestly sloping from the upland woods and cropland to the wetland.

Covertype Breakdown:	Type:	Acreage:
	Cropland	38.00
	Upland Woodland	10.00
	Wetland	1.86
	TOTAL	49.86

Zoning: Agricultural
Present Use: Resource Protection and Recreation
Proposed Use: Resource Protection and Recreation
Tenure: Pheasants Forever acquired the land in 2005.
Option Date: October 29, 2008

Stewardship Land Access: This property will be open to the public for all nature-based outdoor recreational activities to include hunting, fishing, trapping and cross-country skiing.

2. JUSTIFICATION:

The Department proposes to accept a 49.86-acre gift of land from Pheasants Forever. The land is located in the Town of Omro in Winnebago County about one mile north of the City of Omro. The parcel is within the project boundary of the Glacial Habitat project area. Pheasants Forever pursued purchasing the property with a combination of club funds, federal funds, and DNR state Stewardship funds as part of a federal NAWCA grant. The parcel was purchased for $142,000. There are about 200 acres of state land located 2-1/2 miles to the southeast. The parcel includes approximately 4,800 total feet of frontage along both banks of two intermittent streams. The land cover consists of 38 acres of active croplands, 10 acres of old-growth mixed hardwoods and 1.86 acres of wetland/stream bank.

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The Glacial Habitat Restoration Area was established in 1990 to restore 38,600 acres of grasslands and 11,000 acres of wetlands to increase populations of ring-necked pheasants, waterfowl, and grassland songbirds in 24 townships in Dodge, Fond du Lac, Columbia, and Winnebago Counties. The project uses a landscape scale approach to habitat management that incorporates a patchwork of wetland and grasslands with cropland to create habitat conditions more favorable for self-sustaining wildlife populations in the glacial moraines of east central Wisconsin. The intent is to widely scatter suitable habitat throughout the area, rather than concentrating the habitat in one area. The mix of agricultural land, grasslands, and wetlands is the key to productive wildlife populations. The Department is using perpetual easements, fee title acquisition, other agency programs, volunteer agreements, and cost-share activities. The need for the GHRA is based on a documented decline in grassland and wetland wildlife populations. Reductions in habitat quality and quantity because of land use changes have contributed to the decline of grassland nesting wildlife populations. Also, wetland loss or degradation has been an important factor in the decline of many wetland wildlife species. Applying the habitat management practices that restore and enhance grasslands and wetlands will create more favorable conditions for self-sustaining populations of blue-winged teal, mallards, ring-necked pheasants, and non-game grassland birds.

The Department recommends accepting the gift to allow wildlife management and habitat restoration, which includes plans to restore the croplands to native prairie grass and wildflowers and some small wildlife ponds will be developed in the marsh area. This gift will protect the natural, geologic, and cultural values of the property, and provide opportunities for public recreation and education including land use activities of public hunting, hiking, bird watching, and other non-motorized outdoor recreational activities.

3. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE GLACIAL HABITAT RESTORATION:

Established: 1990
Acres Purchased to Date: 12,979.41
Acquisition Goal: 17,600.00
Percent Complete: 73.75
Cost to Date: $10,322,765.11

RECOMMENDED:

Richard E. Steffes — Date: 11-6-08

Bureau of Legal Services — Date: 11/10/08

Laurie Osterndorf — Date: 11/11/08

RES:dv

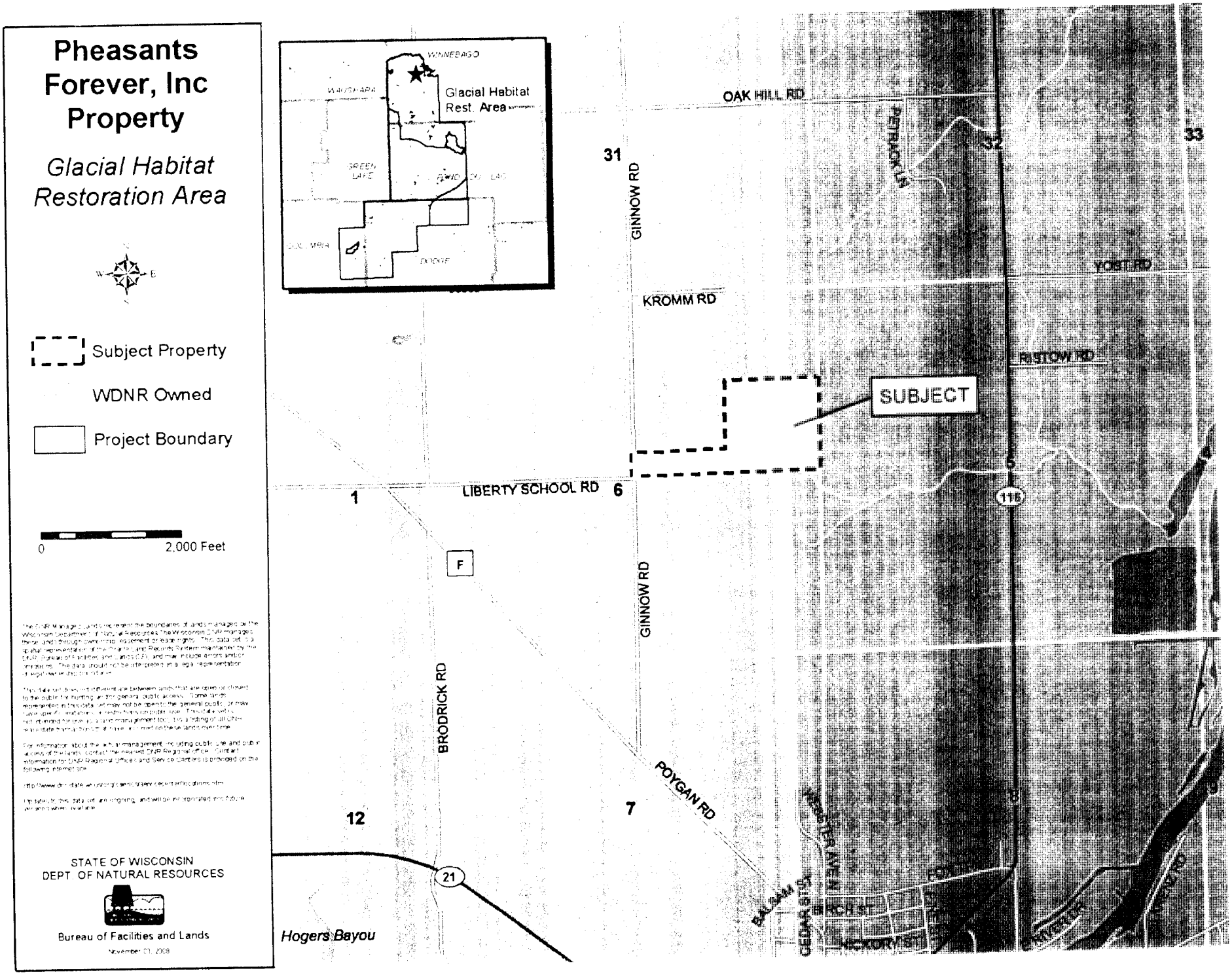
Pheasants Forever, Inc Property

T 18N R 15E Section 6, Town of Omro, Winnebago County

0 0.25 0.5 Mile

N

Created by Bureau of Facilities and Lands
Real Estate Section
November 3, 2008


Pheasants Forever, Inc Property
Glacial Habitat Restoration Area
Subject Property
WDNR Owned
Project Boundary
0
2,000 Feet
STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Facilities and Lands
November 03, 2008
WINNEBAGO
WAUSHARA
Glacial Habitat Rest. Area
GREEN LAKE
DODGE
OAK HILL RD
PETRACK LN
31
32
33
GINNOW RD
YOST RD
KROMM RD
RISTOW RD
SUBJECT
5
LIBERTY SCHOOL RD
6
1
116
F
GINNOW RD
BRODRICK RD
POYGAN RD
7
12
21
Hogers Bayou
BALSAM ST
CEDAR ST
BIRCH ST
HICKORY ST
RIVER DR

Acknowledgment Of Gift

This is to certify that at its December 2008 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 49.86 acres of land in Winnebago County for the Glacial Habitat Restoration Area from

PHEASANTS FOREVER, FOX RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER

It is significant that organizations such as yours are interested in helping protect Wisconsin's natural heritage and contribute materially toward this end.

An expression of our appreciation is a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board. We present this certificate of sincere appreciation on behalf of present and future generations to thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Natural Resources Board

Christine Thomas, CHAIRMAN