

SUBJECT: LAND DONATION - STATEWIDE NATURAL AREA AND GRAND TRAVERSE ISLAND STATE PARK – DOOR COUNTY

FOR: JANUARY 2009 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: Door County Land Trust (DCLT) has offered to donate 47.6 acres of land to the Department for the Statewide Natural Area Program at Big and Little Marsh State Natural Area and Grand Traverse Island State Park. DCLT purchased the 47.6 acres in three separate tracts during 2008 using State Stewardship Grant Funds and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Coastal Wetland Federal Funds.

The Statewide Natural Area program was established in 1972 to protect the best remaining examples of Wisconsin's native vegetation as well as habitat for endangered and threatened plants and animals. Natural areas will help protect the natural diversity of the landscape and preserve for future generations a living history of the past. Natural areas are used for study by elementary to college age school groups and researchers as well as the general public. Other recreational activities such as hiking, cross-country skiing, fishing, and hunting are also popular. Grand Traverse Island State Park established in mid-1970, consists of five islands and a shoal. These islands include Rock (state-owned), Detroit, Plum and Pilot (USA-owned), Fish and Fisherman's Shoal (a rocky area just above the water line with no vegetation). Over the years, the state has purchased a limited number of properties on Detroit Island.

The proposed donation includes a 2.6-acre tract for addition to the Grand Traverse Island State Park and is composed almost entirely of nationally decreasing palustrine forested wetlands which includes white cedar swamp and Great Lakes ridge and swale complex. There is a small upland which could be built on. It hosts the federally endangered dwarf lake iris and 1,200 feet of alkaline rockshore on Lake Michigan. This tract serves as an important resting spot for migrating birds and provides nesting habitat for a number of waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds as well as a breeding site for a host of amphibians and reptiles. The property contains a buildable site and is bordered on the north and west by lands already protected by DNR and DCLT.

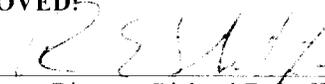
In addition, the donation includes two more parcels which include a 20-acre tract and a 25-acre tract located in Big and Little Marsh State Natural Area. These properties combined have 20 acres of nationally decreasing palustrine forested wetlands, including white cedar swamp on the west side of Big Marsh. There are 10 acres of northern hardwood forest surrounding the cedar swamp on one property, which are critical to protecting the watershed that feeds into Big Marsh. The forest provides critical habitat for a breeding colony of federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonflies and excellent resting, foraging and nesting habitat for migratory and resident waterfowl and songbirds. Protection of these properties is critical to protecting the watershed of the Big Marsh. Any development of this very sensitive tract would be detrimental to water quality and critical habitat for the Hine's Emerald dragonfly of the Big Marsh.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of 47.6 acres of land for the Statewide Natural Area program and Grand Traverse Island State Park, that a certificate of appreciation be sent to Door County Land Trust and that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- | | |
|--|--|
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Estimate Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Attached |
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Assessment of Impact Statement Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Attached |
| No <input type="checkbox"/> Background Memo | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attached |

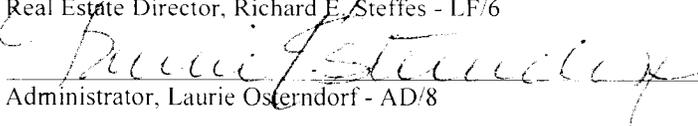
APPROVED:



Real Estate Director, Richard E. Steffes - LF/6

12 23 08

Date



Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf - AD/8

12/24/08

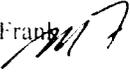
Date

Secretary, Matthew J. Frank - AD/8

Date

cc: S. Miller – LF/6 L. Ross – AD/8 R. Kazmierczak NER/Green Bay
 S. Steffes – LF/6 S. Holtz – ER/6

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 23, 2008 FILE REF: NA 20012 & PR 40028
 TO: Natural Resources Board
 FROM: Matthew J. Frank 
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Door County Land Trust
 Tract, Files # NA 20012 & PR 40028

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Statewide Natural Area and Grand Traverse Island State Park
 Door County

Grantor:

Door County Land Trust
 c/o Terrie Cooper
 P.O. Box 345
 Ephraim, WI 54211

Acres: 47.6Price: N/AInterest: Fee Title DonationImprovements: None

Location: The tracts are located in Door County, on Washington Island and Detroit Island, approximately 38 miles northeast of the City of Sturgeon Bay

Land Description: The subject land is generally level.

<u>Coverture Breakdown:</u>	<u>Type:</u>	<u>Acreage:</u>
	Upland Woodland	24.6
	Lowland Woodland	23.0
	TOTAL:	47.6

Zoning: General AgriculturePresent Use: RecreationProposed Use: Natural Area Protection and Public RecreationTenure: 1 year (DCLT acquired using Stewardship Grant funds)Option Date: October 7, 2008

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

2. JUSTIFICATION:

Door County Land Trust (DCLT) has offered to donate 47.6 acres of land to the Department for the Statewide Natural Area program, Big and Little Marsh State Natural Area and Detroit Island State Natural Area. DCLT purchased the 47.6 acres in three separate tracts during 2008 using State Stewardship Grant Funds and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Coastal Wetland Federal Funds.

The Statewide Natural Area program was established in 1972 to protect the best remaining examples of Wisconsin's native vegetation as well as habitat for endangered and threatened plants and animals. Natural



areas will help protect the natural diversity of the landscape and preserve for future generations a living history of the past. Natural areas are used for study by elementary to college-age school groups and researchers as well as the general public. Other recreational activities such as hiking, cross-country skiing, fishing, and hunting are also popular.

Grand Traverse Island State Park established in mid-1970 consists of five islands and a shoal. These islands include Rock (state-owned), Detroit, Plum and Pilot (USA-owned), Fish and Fisherman's Shoal (a rocky area just above the water line with no vegetation). Over the years, the state has purchased a limited number of properties on Detroit Island.

Within Grand Traverse Island State Park lay Detroit Harbor State Natural Area. This is an ecologically important area designed to protect several rare species of plants and animals as well as the nationally decreasing forested and emergent coastal wetlands, lakeshore and fisheries of this area. Presence of both the federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly in the Richter estuary and federally threatened dwarf lake iris on Detroit Island. In addition, the Richter estuary and Detroit Harbor have been recognized as the most productive smallmouth bass nursery in northern Green Bay based on intensive young-of-the-year surveys for smallmouth along Door County shorelines. The southwest end of Detroit Island also contains Great Lakes alkaline rockshore and a ridge and swale community that supports a host of unique plants including the federally threatened dwarf lake iris and state special concern species Crawe's sedge and low calamint.

Big Marsh and Little Marsh State Natural Area is an ecologically important area that is critical breeding habitat for the federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly and federally threatened supports dwarf lake iris. This SNA includes many privately owned 20 and 40-acre tracts. The Big and Little Marsh coastal wetlands are historic embayments of Lake Michigan that were formed thousands of years ago from sand deposition from long shore currents. These coastal wetlands lie less than 1,000 feet west of Lake Michigan and are connected by an outlet stream that drains eastward from Big Marsh into Lake Michigan. The Big and Little Marsh coastal wetlands are a complex of nationally decreasing palustrine emergent and forested wetlands including: boreal rich fen, relatively high quality northern wet-mesic forest, and an unusual emergent aquatic community with large expanses of seasonally dry marl and dolomite gravel pavement. The emergent aquatic community is dominated by softstem bulrush with common bog arrow-grass, a state species of concern, dominant in the shallow water over marl. In late summer, the marsh may dry up and exposes extensive marl flats and dolomite cobble pavement. The uncommon false mermaid weed is found within shallow vernal pools here. Adjacent to the marsh are calcareous meadows within pockets of conifer forest; these have a diverse flora that includes boreal and sedge meadow plants that can withstand a high soil pH. The meadows grade into the highest quality and wettest white cedar swamp on the island with the special concern species northern black currant and northern bog sedge in the understory. Little Marsh lies to the north of Big Marsh and is bordered by a black ash swamp. Upland forests surrounding the coastal wetlands are dominated by American beech and sugar maple.

The proposed donation includes a 2.6-acre tract in the Grand Traverse Island State Park and is composed almost entirely of nationally decreasing palustrine forested wetlands including; white cedar swamp and Great Lakes ridge and swale complex, there is a small upland which could be built on. It hosts the federally endangered dwarf lake iris and 1,200 feet of alkaline rockshore on Lake Michigan. This tract serves as an important resting spot for migrating birds and provides nesting habitat for a number of waterfowl, shorebirds and songbirds as well as a breeding site for a host of amphibians and reptiles. The property contains a buildable site and is bordered on the north and west by lands already protected by DNR and DCLT.

In addition, the donation includes two more parcels, a 20-acre tract and a 25-acre tract located in Big and Little Marsh State Natural Area. These properties combined have approximately 20 acres of nationally decreasing palustrine forested wetlands, including white cedar swamp on the west side of Big Marsh. There are 10 acres of northern hardwood forest surrounding the cedar swamp on one property, which are critical to protecting the watershed that feeds into Big Marsh. The forest provides critical habitat for a breeding colony of federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonflies and excellent resting, foraging and nesting habitat for migratory and resident waterfowl and songbirds. Protection of these properties is critical to protecting the watershed of the Big Marsh. Any development of this very sensitive tract would be detrimental to water quality and critical habitat for the Hine's Emerald dragonfly of the Big Marsh.

The Department recommends accepting this donation from Door County Land Trust to complement adjacent protected lands, protect and restore natural values of this site, and provide access for scientific, educational, and non-intensive recreational use while providing significant educational opportunities through partnership with the University of Wisconsin.

3. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE STATEWIDE NATURAL AREA:

Established: 1972
Acres Purchased to Date: 12,819.97
Acquisition Goal: 10,500.00
Percent Complete: 122.09
Cost to Date: \$8,387,985.38

4a. ACQUISITION STATUS OF GRAND TRAVERSE ISLAND STATE PARK:

Established: 1978
Acres Purchased to Date: 24.07
Acquisition Goal: 1,080.39
Percent Complete: 2.2%
Cost to Date: \$74,200.00

RECOMMENDED:



Richard E. Steffes

12-23-08
Date



Bureau of Legal Services

12/29/08
Date



Laurie Osterndorf

12/29/08
Date

RE:S:ch

Acknowledgment of Gift

This is to certify that at its January 2009 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 47.6 acres of land in Door County for the Big and Little Marsh State Natural Area and Grand Traverse Island State Park from

DOOR COUNTY LAND TRUST

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

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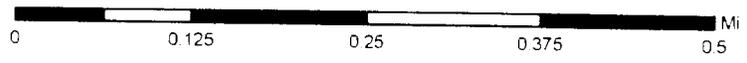
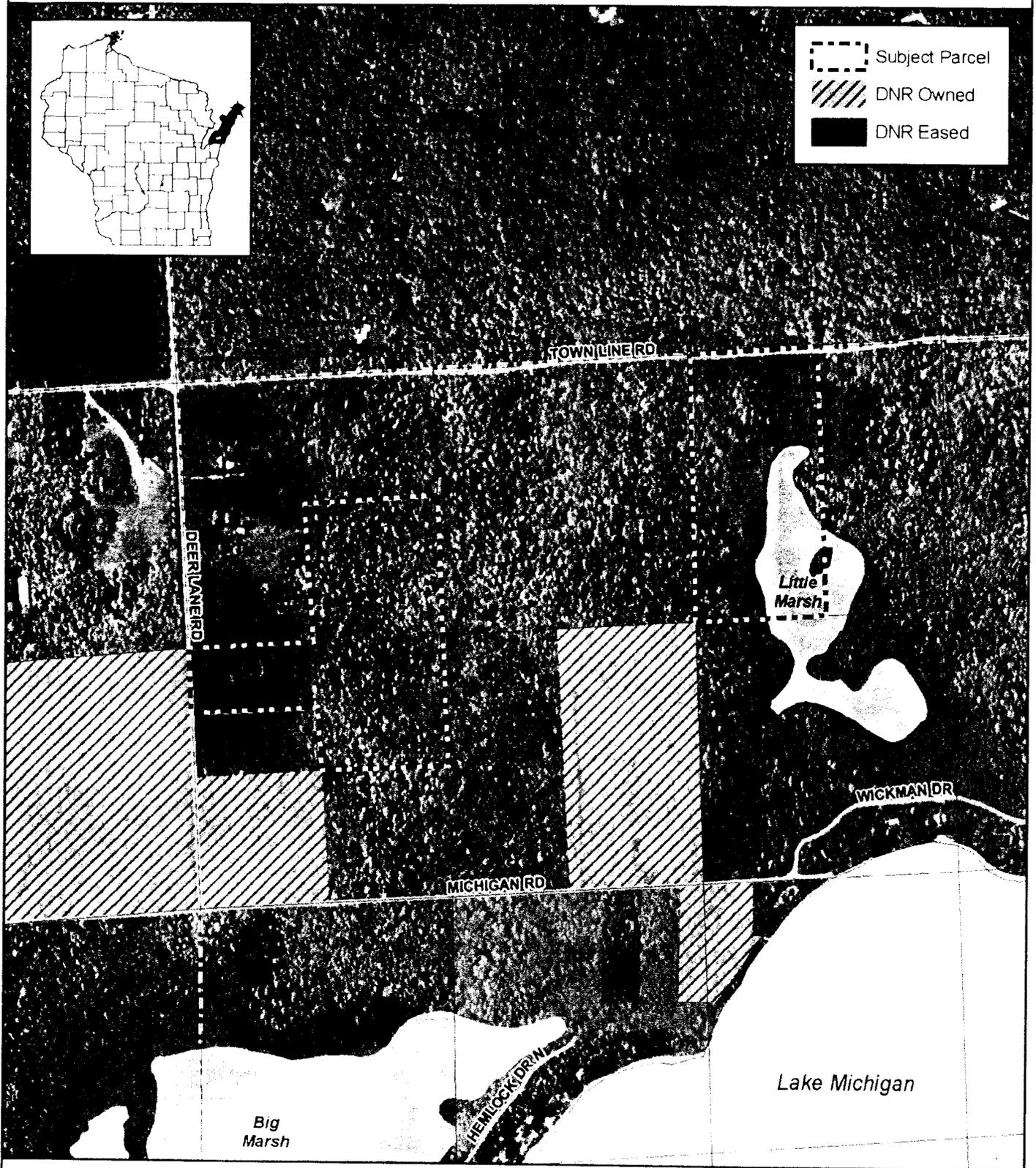
**Please contact laurie.ross@wisconsin.gov
for a hard copy of this document.**

Door County Land Trust-- Naden and Hansen Tracts

T33N R30E Sec 4, Town of Washington, Door County



- Subject Parcel
- DNR Owned
- DNR Eased



Created by Bureau of Facilities and Lands
Real Estate Section
December 22, 2008



Door County Land Trust-- Hansen & Naden Tracts

Big and Little Marsh State Natural Area



-  Subject Property
-  WDNR Owned
-  WDNR Easement
-  Project Boundary



This data was prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used as a legal document. The data was prepared using the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Geographic Information System (GIS) and is based on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Land Use and Ownership Data. The data was prepared using the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Geographic Information System (GIS) and is based on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Land Use and Ownership Data. The data was prepared using the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Geographic Information System (GIS) and is based on the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Land Use and Ownership Data.

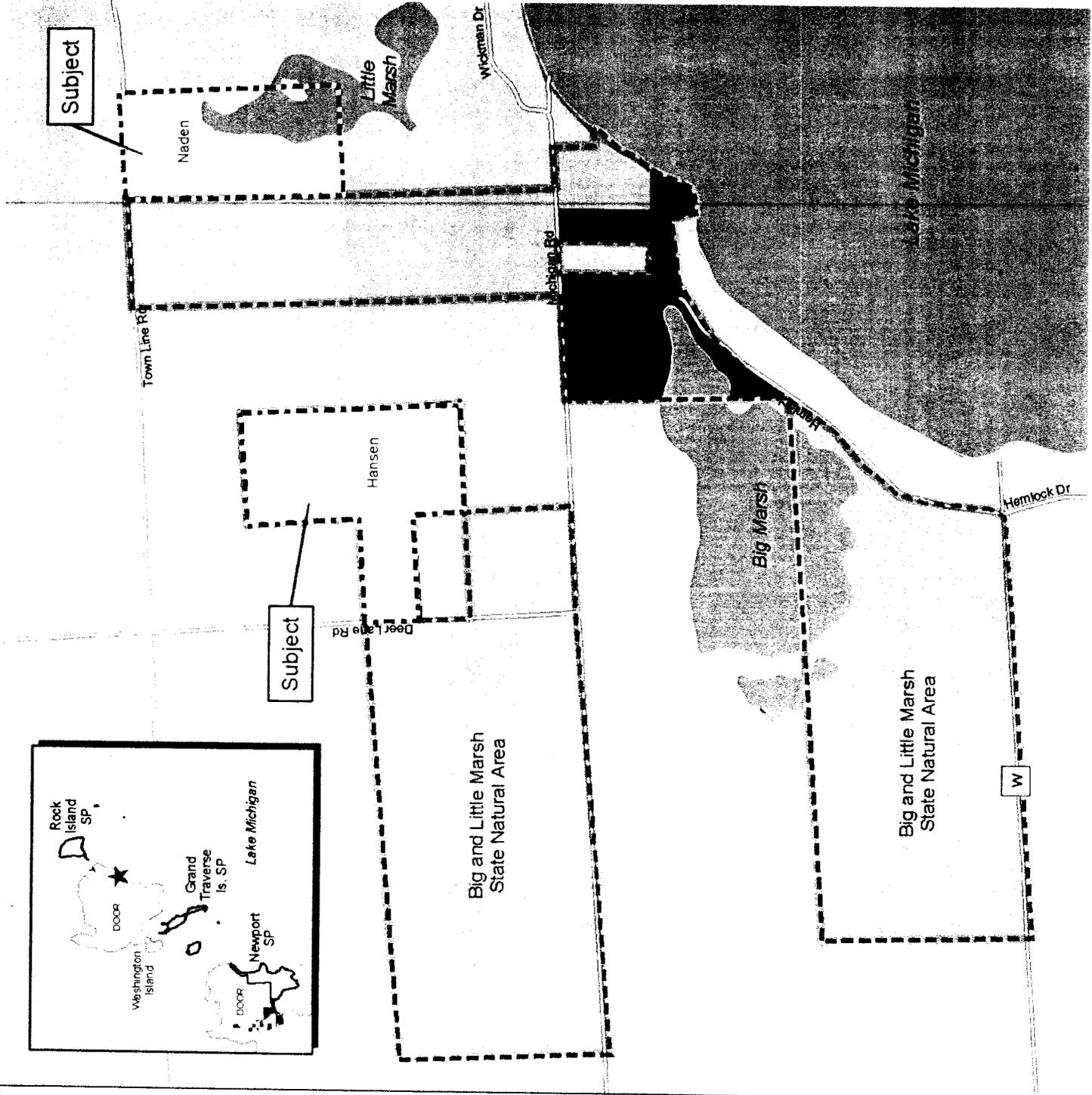
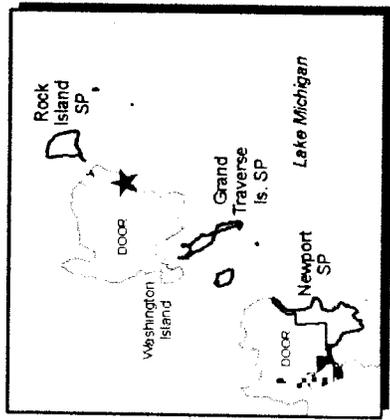
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STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Bureau of Facilities and Lands

December 22, 2009

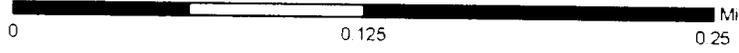
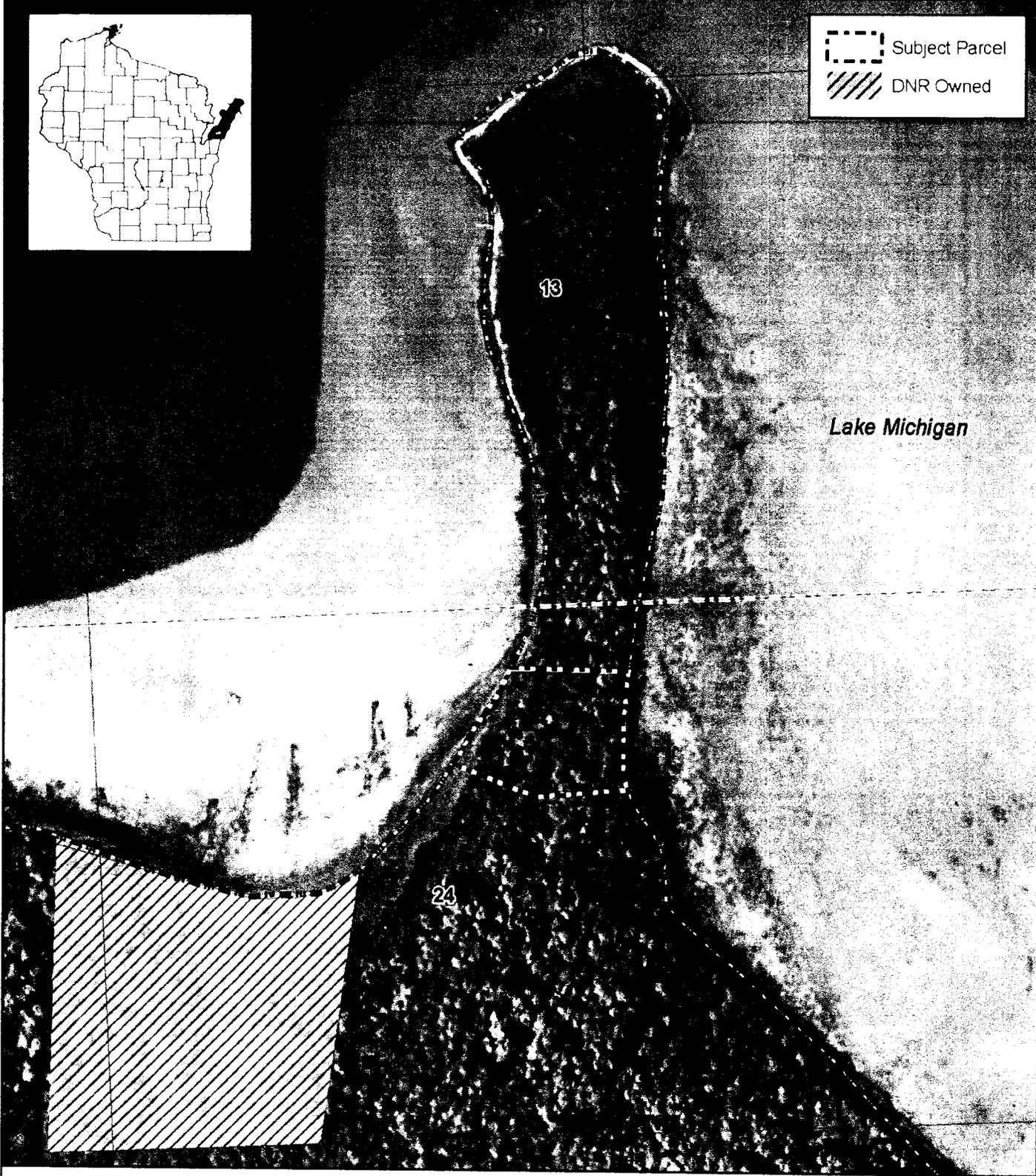


Door County Land Trust-- Purinton Tract

T33N R29E Sec 24, Town of Washington, Door County



 Subject Parcel
 DNR Owned



Created by Bureau of Facilities and Lands
Real Estate Section
December 22, 2008



