

**SUBJECT: LAND DONATION - PINE ISLAND WILDLIFE AREA - COLUMBIA COUNTY**

**FOR: AUGUST 2010 BOARD MEETING**

**TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes**

**SUMMARY:** Columbia County has offered to donate 0.50-acre of land to the Department for the Pine Island Wildlife Area. The property owned by David Dell was acquired by Columbia County using a Community Development Block Grant administered by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. The parcel is entirely within the project boundary and is surrounded by state-owned lands.

Pine Island Wildlife Area was created in 1952 with an acreage goal of 5,700 acres. It lies in the floodplain of the Wisconsin River and the Baraboo River, and includes several islands of the Wisconsin River. Pine Island Wildlife Area is home to many endangered species of reptile, bird and insect, as well as many more commonly seen animals, such as whitetail deer and wild turkey. It is a large wetland complex with upland savannas and wooded habitat. It was recently established as an Important Bird Area (IBA) because of its extensive grasslands.

The 0.50-acre Columbia County property is a former home site in a floodplain. Columbia County acquired the property through a Community Block Grant after the Department's application for a Hazard Mitigation Grant through Emergency Management was denied. The property was frequently flooded. Columbia County removed the buildings as part of the grant process. Accepting the donation of this property will provide for wildlife management, recreational opportunities and consolidation of state ownership in the area. The property will provide good habitat for deer, furbearing animals such as mink, beaver, muskrat, otter, and raccoon; as well as sandhill cranes, Great Blue herons, ducks, geese, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, pheasant, numerous species of songbirds, and raptors.

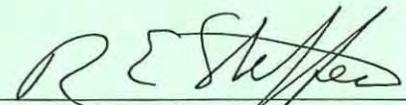
Acceptance of the Columbia County property will provide for wildlife management, recreational opportunities, and consolidation of state ownership in the area. This parcel will provide additional public use benefits especially for hunting, trapping, and general wildlife observation.

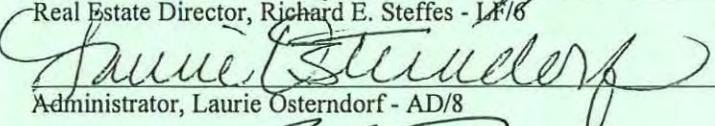
**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board accept the donation of 0.50-acre of land for the Pine Island Wildlife Area, that a certificate of appreciation be sent to Columbia County and that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board.

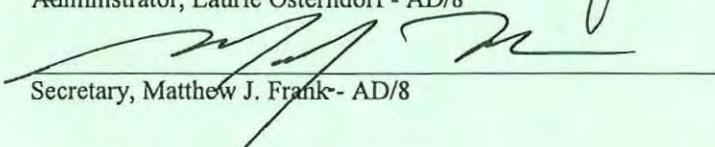
**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 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

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf - AD/8

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Secretary, Matthew J. Frank - AD/8

6-1-10  
 Date

6/8/10  
 Date

7-15-10  
 Date

- cc: S. Miller - LF/6  
 R. Steffes - LF/6  
 L. Ross - AD/8  
 T. Hauge - WM/6  
 L. Eagan - SCR/Fitchburg

## CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 26, 2010 FILE REF: WM 60094  
 TO: Natural Resources Board  
 FROM: Matthew J. Frank  
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Columbia County Tract, File # WM 60094

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Pine Island Wildlife Area  
 Columbia County

Grantor:

Columbia County  
 c/o Robert Westby  
 400 DeWitt Street  
 Portage, WI 53901

Acres: 0.50Price: GiftInterest: Fee title donationImprovements: None

Location: The tract is located in Columbia County about three miles west of the City of Portage in the Town of Caledonia.

Land Description: The subject land is level lowland.

<u>Covertypes Breakdown:</u>	<u>Type:</u>	<u>Acreage:</u>
	Building Site	0.50

Zoning: ResidentialPresent Use: Restored green space; improvements removed and future development restrictedProposed Use: Wildlife Management and Public RecreationTenure: Owned by the county for nine monthsOption Date: May 10, 2010

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:

Columbia County has offered to donate 0.50-acre of land for the Pine Island Wildlife Area in Columbia County to the Department. The property owned by David Dell was acquired by Columbia County using a Community Development Block Grant administered by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce. The parcel is within the project boundary and surrounded by department ownership.

Pine Island Wildlife Area was created in 1952 with an acreage goal of 5,700 acres. It lies in the floodplain of the Wisconsin River and the Baraboo River, and includes several islands of the Wisconsin River. Pine Island Wildlife Area is home to many endangered species of reptile, bird, and insect, as well as many more

commonly seen animals, such as whitetail deer and wild turkey. It is a large wetland complex with upland savannas and wooded habitat. It was recently established as an Important Bird Area (IBA) because of its extensive grasslands.

The 0.50-acre Columbia County property is a former home site in a floodplain. Columbia County acquired the property through a Community Block Grant after the Department's application for a Hazard Mitigation Grant through Emergency Management was denied. The property was frequently flooded. Columbia County removed the buildings as part of the grant process. Accepting the donation of this property will provide for wildlife management, recreational opportunities and consolidation of state ownership in the area. The property will provide good habitat for deer, furbearing animals such as mink, beaver, muskrat, otter, and raccoon as well as sandhill cranes, Great Blue herons, ducks, geese, wild turkey, ruffed grouse, pheasant, numerous species of songbirds, and raptors.

The Department recommends acceptance of the Columbia County property to provide for wildlife management, recreational opportunities and consolidation of state ownership in the area. This parcel will provide additional public use benefits especially for hunting, trapping, and general wildlife observation.

3. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

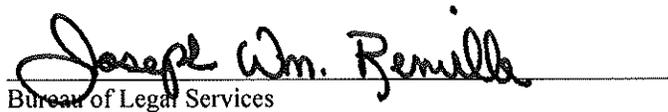
4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE PINE ISLAND WILDLIFE AREA:

Established: 1952  
Acres Purchased to Date: 5,266.46  
Acquisition Goal: 5,698.84 Acres  
Percent Complete: 92.41%  
Cost to Date: \$1,018,411.99

RECOMMENDED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard E. Steffes

6-1-10  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bureau of Legal Services

6-4-10  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laurie Osterndorf

6/8/10  
Date

RES:ch

## *Acknowledgment of Gift*

This is to certify that at its August 2010 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted a gift of 0.50-acre of land in Columbia County for the Pine Island Wildlife Area from

## **COLUMBIA COUNTY**

It is significant that the county is 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.

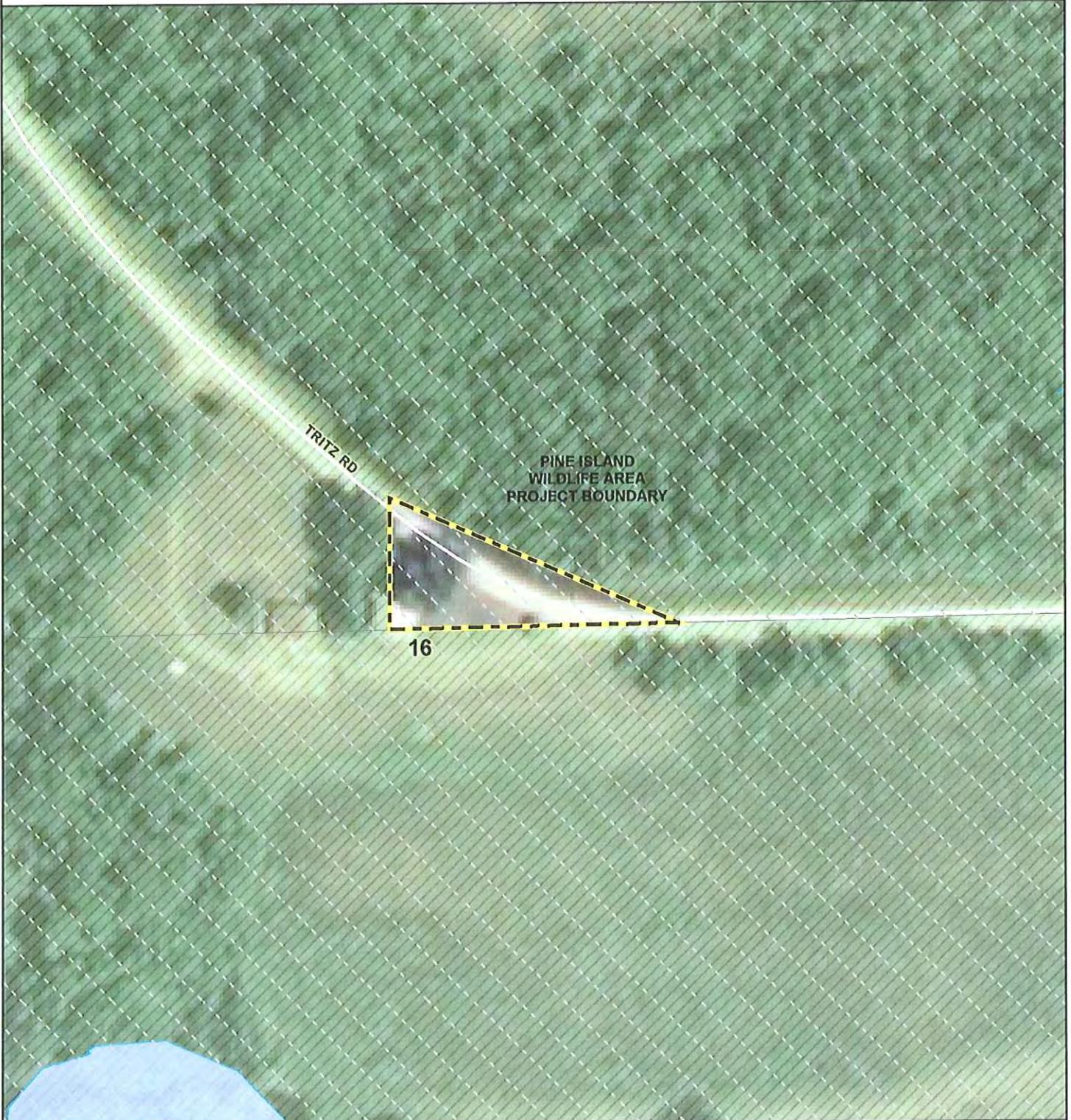
*Natural Resources Board*

Jonathan P. Ela, CHAIR



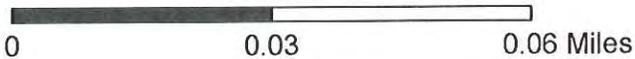
# Columbia County Parcel

T12N R8E Section 16, Town of Caledonia, Columbia County, WI (0.50 Acres)



### Legend

- - - PLSS Section Line
- PLSS Quarter-Quarter
- ▤ State Natural Area
- ▨ DNR Project Boundary
- ▩ County Boundary
- DNR Eased
- DNR Owned



### Subject Property

WM 60094

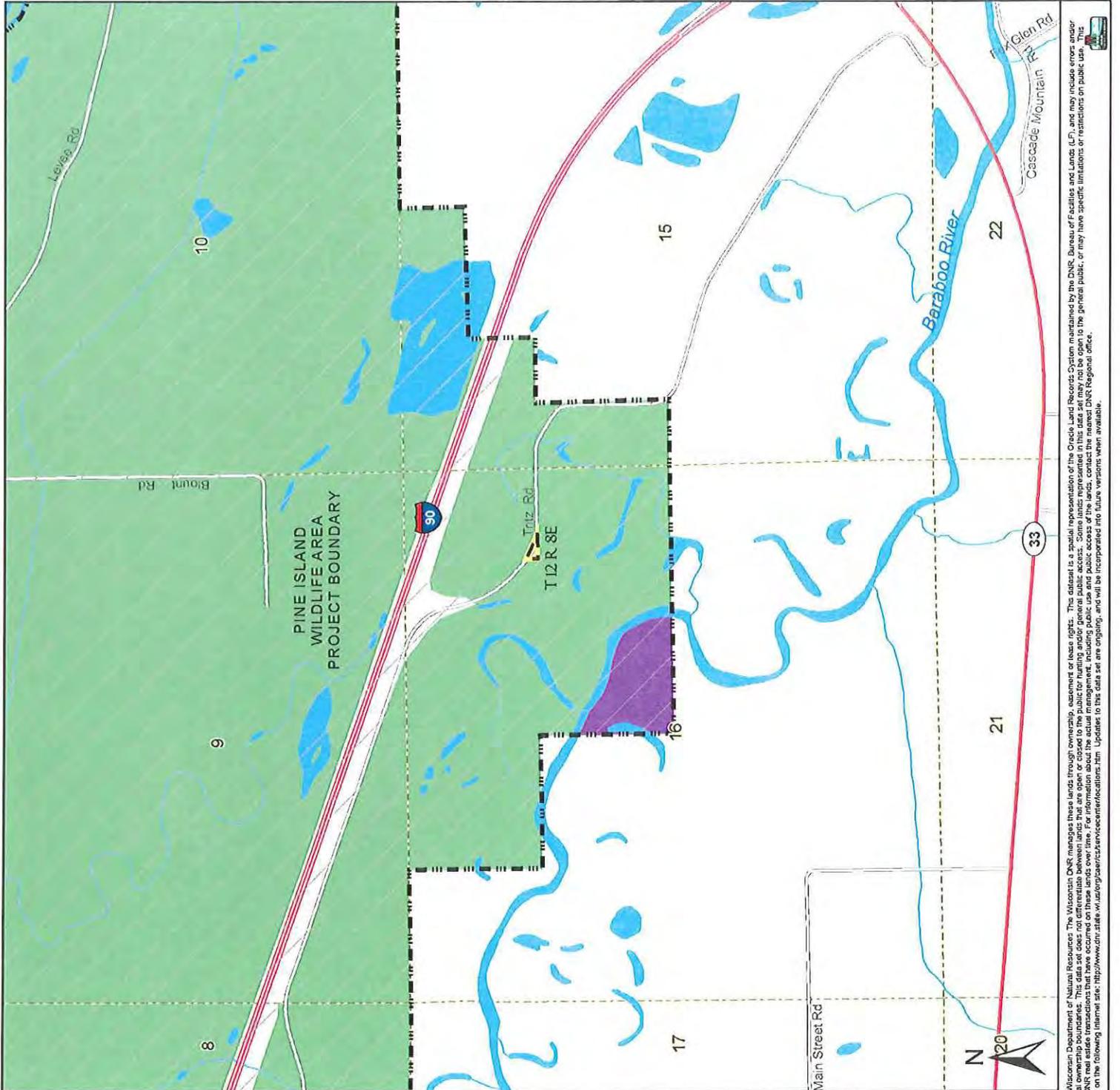
Pine Island Wildlife Area

- ▨ Fee Simple
- ▩ Easement
- Ingress/Egress

State of Wisconsin

May 19, 2010  
Real Estate Section  
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

User Advisory: Neither the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) nor any of its employees shall be held liable for any improper or incorrect use of the information and/or contained herein and assumes no responsibility for use of the information. Furthermore, no warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, adequacy, completeness, legality, or reliability of any information. The WDNR provides mapped information on an "as is" basis. The WDNR has made reasonable efforts to provide accurate information, but cannot exclude the possibility of errors or omissions in source information. There is no guarantee the parcel boundaries are defined by a survey. The map user is expected to exercise reasonable use of the map information.



**Columbia County Parcel**  
WM 60094

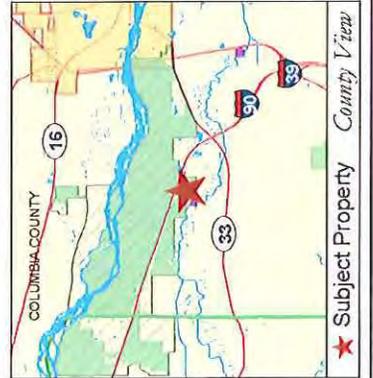
Pine Island  
Wildlife Area

T12N R8E Section 16  
Town of Caledonia  
Columbia County, WI  
(0.50 Acres)

- Subject Property**
- Fee Simple
  - Easement
  - Ingress/Egress

**Legend**

- PLSS Section Line
- DNR Project Boundary
- DNR Owned
- DNR Easement
- County Boundary
- State Natural Area



The DNR Managed Lands represent the boundaries of lands managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Wisconsin DNR manages these lands through ownership, easement or lease rights. This dataset is a spatial representation of the Oracle Land Records System maintained by the DNR, Bureau of Facilities and Lands (LF), and may include errors and/or omissions. The data should not be used for any purpose other than the intended use. The data are not intended for use as a land management tool; it is a listing of all DNR real estate transactions that have occurred on these lands over time. For information about the actual management, including public use and public access of the lands, contact the nearest DNR Regional Office. Contacted information for DNR Regional Offices and Service Centers is provided on the following Internet site: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/user/csr/servicecenters/locations.htm>. Updates to this data set are ongoing, and will be incorporated into future versions when available.