

SUBJECT: LAND DONATION - WHITE RIVER FISHERY AREA- BAYFIELD COUNTY

FOR: JANUARY 2010 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: Bayfield Regional Conservancy has offered to donate 27.0 acres of land for the White River Fishery Area in Bayfield County.

The 27.0-acre parcel is within the White River Fishery Area . It was acquired in 2005 by the land trust in cooperation with a river protection grant from the Department and funding aid from the Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Friends of the White River . The parcel blocks well with other properties the Department has recently acquired and will help provide additional recreational opportunities for the public.

The White River Fishery Area was established in 1961 to manage and protect this unique and scenic trout stream and watershed. This multiple-use area is dedicated to trout fishing, hunting, canoeing, and other compatible outdoor recreational and educational opportunities. Numerous feeder streams, spring ponds, and outlet flows of several lakes provide the high quality water for this outstanding trout stream. The goals of the project are to manage and protect the water and fishery resources of the area and provide opportunities for public recreation.

The White River Fishery Area in Bayfield and Ashland Counties was expanded in 2004 to protect the middle segment of the White River flowing easterly between the Bibon Swamp State Natural Area and the White River Wildlife Area. The White River, the largest stream in Bayfield County, is one of the outstanding inland trout producing streams in northwest Wisconsin and is also heavily used for canoeing. It has excellent water quality, resulting in good natural reproduction of brook and brown trout.

The White River flows through the more than 10,000-acre wetland complex, the Bibon Swamp State Natural Area, which was established as a protected department property in 1980 to preserve the plants and animals associated with this geologically unique wetland. The White River continues to flow in an easterly direction into Ashland County and into the Department-managed White River Wildlife Area, which protects forest habitat and fisheries. The river drains into the Bad River-Kakagon Sloughs, a very large estuarine wetland complex located in northern Ashland County on the Lake Superior coast. As transition zones between land and water, coastal wetlands are often rich in species diversity and provide critical habitat for migratory and nesting birds, spawning fish, and rare plants.

The property includes about ½-mile of White River frontage and is primarily upland, mixed hardwoods and some stands of cedar and hemlock. The Conservancy has maintained the property for public use with land management and monitoring activities conducted by the Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of 27.0 acres of land for the White River Fishery Area, that a certificate of appreciation be sent to Bayfield Regional Conservancy 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:

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

12-22-09
Date

Laurie Osterdorf
Administrator, Laurie Osterdorf - AD/8

12/22/09
Date

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

12-23-09
Date

- cc: S. Miller – LF/6
 R. Steffes – LF/6
 L. Ross – AD/8
 M. Staggs – FM/4
 J. Gozdialski – NOR/Spooner

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 22, 2009 FILE REF: FM 10071

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Matthew J. Frank 

SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Bayfield Regional Conservancy, Tract, File # FM 10071
Option Expires March 20, 2010

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

White River Fishery Area
Bayfield County

Grantor:

Bayfield Regional Conservancy
c/o Ellen Kwiakowski
P.O. Box 410
Bayfield, WI 54814

Acres: 27.00Price: N/A – Gift of landAppraised Value: N/AInterest: Fee TitleImprovements: NoneLocation: The tract is located in Bayfield County 15 miles southwest of Ashland.Land Description: The subject land is level to gently rolling.

| <u>Covertypes Breakdown:</u> | <u>Type:</u> | <u>Acreage:</u> |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Upland Woodland | 27.0 |

Zoning: AgriculturePresent Use: Conservancy/Public UseProposed Use: Fishery Area Management and Public RecreationTenure: 4 yearsOption Date: December 14, 2009Stewardship 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:

The Bayfield Regional Conservancy has offered to donate to the Department a 27.0-acre parcel that is within the White River Fish Area. It was acquired in 2005 by the land trust in cooperation with a river protection grant from the Department and funding aid from the Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Friends of the White River. The 27.0-acre parcel blocks well with other properties the Department has recently acquired and will help provide additional recreational opportunities for the public. The White River Fishery Area was established in 1961 to manage and protect this unique and scenic trout stream and watershed. This multiple use area is dedicated to trout fishing, hunting, canoeing, and other compatible outdoor recreational and educational opportunities. Numerous feeder streams, spring ponds, and outlet flows of several lakes provide the high quality water for this outstanding trout stream. The goals of the project are to manage and protect the water and fishery resources of the area and provide opportunities for public recreation.

The White River Fishery Area in Bayfield and Ashland Counties was expanded in 2004 to protect the middle segment of the White River flowing easterly between the Bibon Swamp State Natural Area and the White River Wildlife Area. This boundary expansion project protects an important piece of the White River environmental corridor, improves public access to the river, and protects tributaries that feed into the White River offering protection to the entire White River Watershed. The White River, the largest stream in Bayfield County, is one of the outstanding inland trout producing streams in northwest Wisconsin and is also heavily used for canoeing. It has excellent water quality, resulting in good natural reproduction of brook and brown trout.

The White River flows through the more than 10,000-acre wetland complex, the Bibon Swamp State Natural Area, which was established as a protected department property in 1980 to preserve the plants and animals associated with this geologically unique wetland. The Lake Superior Binational Program has identified the Bibon Swamp State Natural Area as habitat important to the integrity of the Lake Superior ecosystem. The White River continues to flow in an easterly direction into Ashland County and into the Department managed White River Wildlife Area, which protects forest habitat and fisheries. The river drains into the Bad River-Kakagon Sloughs, a very large estuarine wetland complex located in northern Ashland County on the Lake Superior coast. As transition zones between land and water, coastal wetlands are often rich in species diversity and provide critical habitat for migratory and nesting birds, spawning fish, and rare plants.

The property includes about 1/2-mile of White River frontage and is primarily upland mixed hardwoods and some stands of cedar and hemlock. The Conservancy has maintained the property for public use with land management and monitoring activities conducted by the Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

The Department recommends acquisition of the 27.0-acre tract to provide public access to the land and river, protect the water resources of the property and associated habitat, permit fishery management and other natural resource activities and consolidate state ownership for the White River Fishery Area.

3. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE WHITE RIVER FISHERY AREA-BAYFIELD:

Established: 1961
Acres Purchased to Date: 3,860.44
Acquisition Goal: 10,754.00
Percent Complete: 35.9%
Cost to Date: \$1,576,906.00

RECOMMENDED:



Richard E. Steffes

12-22-09

Date



Bureau of Legal Services

12/22/09

Date



Laurie Osterndorf

12/22/09

Date

RES:ch

Acknowledgment Of Gift

This is to certify that at its January 2010 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 27.0 acres of land in Bayfield County for the White River Fishery Area from

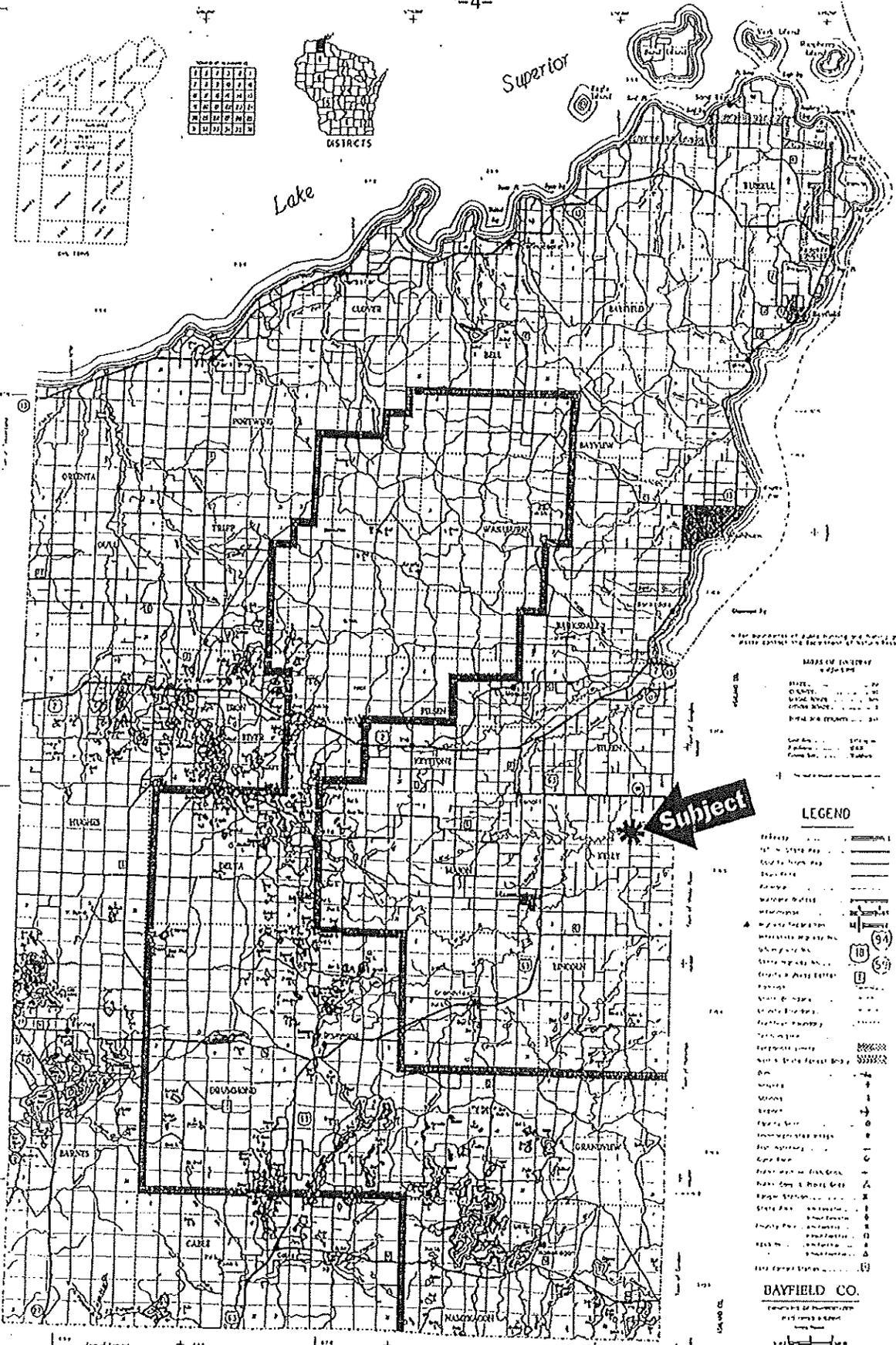
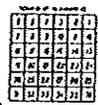
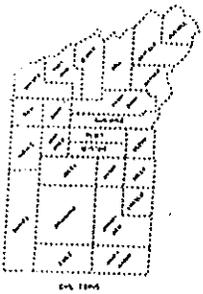
BAYFIELD REGIONAL CONSERVANCY

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, CHAIR



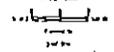
For purposes of sales and other taxes, this map is subject to the provisions of Wisconsin Statutes.

BASES OF ESTIMATE
 1934-1935
 1935-1936
 1936-1937
 1937-1938
 1938-1939

LEGEND

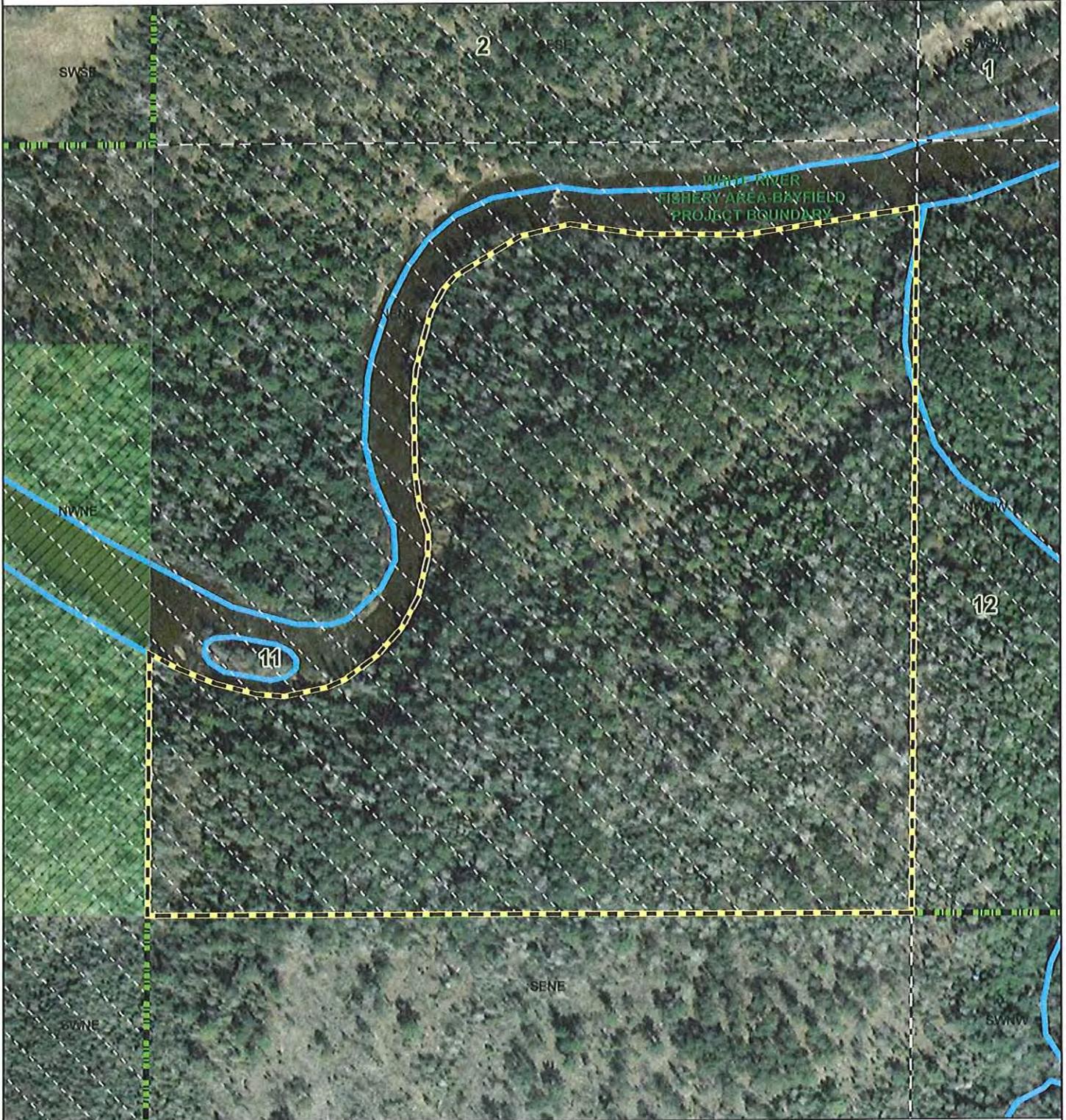
- 1st - State Hwy
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- 49th - State Hwy
- 50th - State Hwy

BAYFIELD CO.
 COUNTY OF BAYFIELD
 WISCONSIN



Bayfield Regional Conservancy (Carlson 27-Acres) Parcel

T46N R5W Section 11, Town of Kelly, Bayfield County, WI (27.00 Acres)



Legend

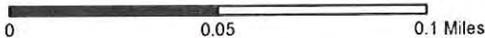
- - - PLSS Section Line
- PLSS Quarter-Quarter
- DNR Project Boundary
- County Boundary
- DNR Eased
- DNR Owned

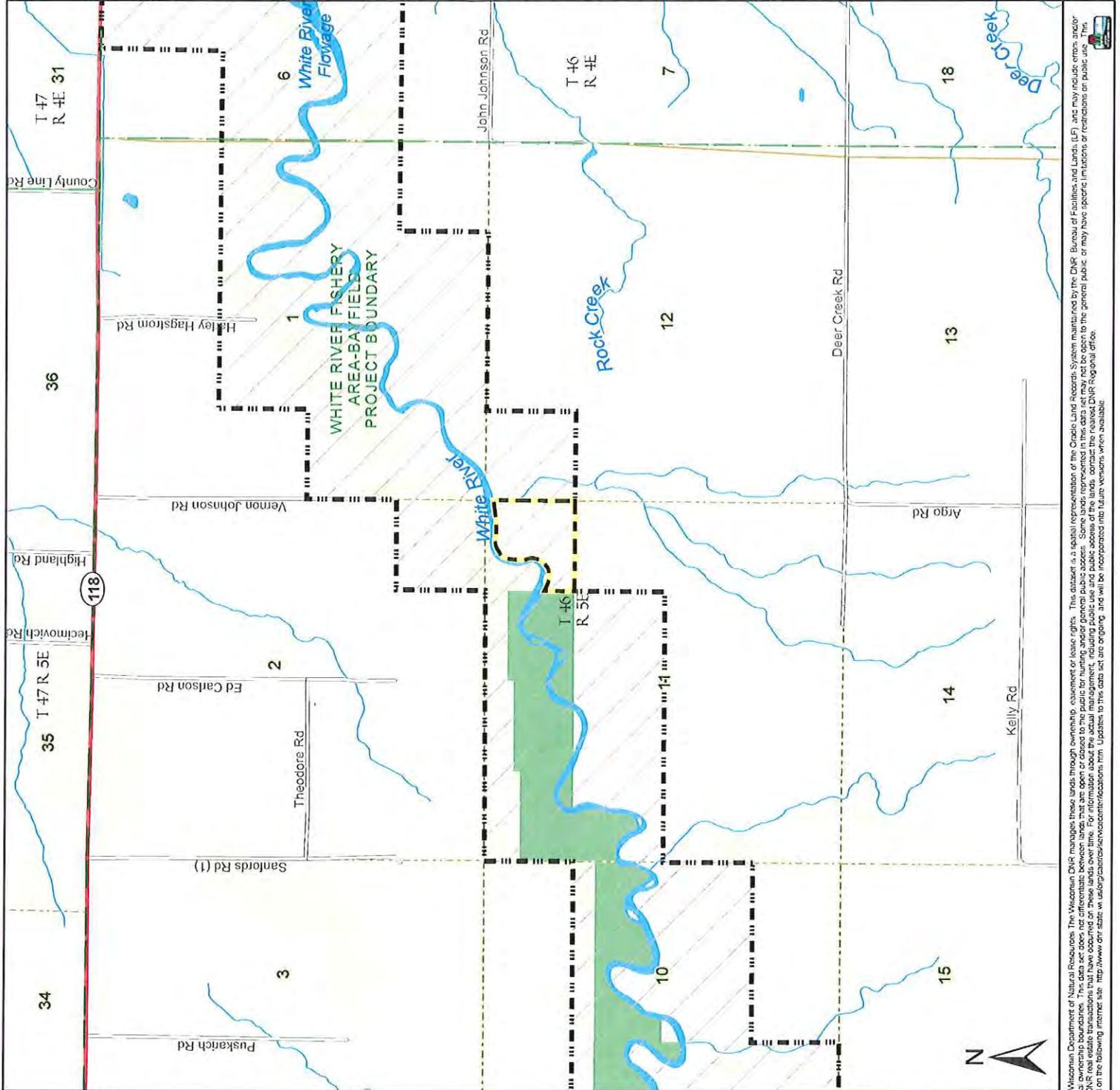
Subject Property

FM 10071

White River Fishery Area-Bayfield

- Fee Simple
- Easement
- Ingress/Egress





Bayfield Regional Conservancy (Carlson 27-Acres) Parcel FM 10071

White River Fishery Area-Bayfield
 T46N R5W Section 11
 Town of Kelly
 Bayfield County, WI
 (27.00 Acres)

Subject Property

-  Fee Simple
-  Easement
-  Ingress/Egress

Legend

-  DNR Project Boundary
-  PLSS Section Line
-  County Boundary
-  DNR Owned
-  DNR Easement



Subject Property County View

The DNR Managed Lands represent the boundaries of lands managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources System consists of the DNR, Bureau of Facilities and Lands, and may include other sectors. This dataset is a spatial representation of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources System. The data set does not differentiate between lands that are open or closed to the public for hunting and/or general public access. Some lands represented in this data set may not be open to the general public, or may have specific limitations or restrictions on public use. The data set is 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. Contact information for DNR Regional Offices and Service Centers is provided on the following internet site: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/so/contacts.htm>. Updates to this data set are ongoing and will be incorporated into future versions when available.