

SUBJECT: LAND DONATION - STATEWIDE NATURAL AREA – PORTAGE COUNTY

FOR: JANUARY 2010 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: The Mead Witter Foundation has offered to donate 58.99 acres of land for the Statewide Natural Area program, specifically the Little Bear Hemlock Hardwoods Natural Area in Portage County.

The Little Bear Hemlocks is comprised of four isolated woodlots that are remnants of the vast forest that once occupied this landscape. This parcel is located in Portage County about two miles northeast of Junction City just west of the Mead Wildlife Area and the other three woodlots lay within two miles of each other in Wood County. This parcel contains old growth hemlocks with diameters greater than 30 inches in addition to white pine, sugar maple and yellow birch. Tip up mounds and abundant coarse woody debris provides old growth characteristics and the substrate for hemlock reproduction.

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.

Acceptance of this gift from the Mead Witter Foundation will help protect the natural values and integrity of this ecosystem, allow for natural area management and protect the site from development incompatible with the goals of the natural values of the property.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of 58.99 acres of land for the Statewide Natural Area program, that a certificate of appreciation be sent to the Mead Witter Foundation and that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board.

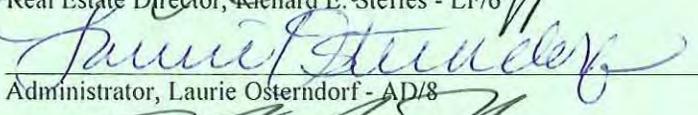
LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

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

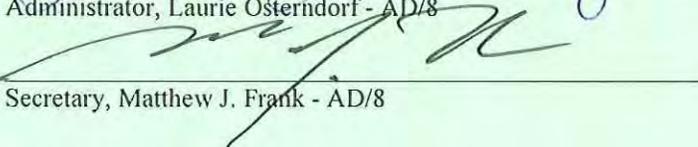
APPROVED:


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

Date 12-22-09


Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf - AD/8

Date 12/29/09


Secretary, Matthew J. Frank - AD/8

Date 1/4/10

- cc: S. Miller – LF/6
 R. Steffes – LF/6
 L. Ross – AD/8
 R. Schroeder – ER/6
 S. Humrickhouse – WCR/Eau Claire

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 22, 2009 FILE REF: NA 20040
 TO: Natural Resources Board
 FROM: Matthew J. Frank *MF*
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Mead Witter Foundation, Tract, File # NA 20040

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Statewide Natural Area
 Portage County

Grantor:

Mead Witter Foundation
 c/o Ms. Susan Feith, Vice Chair
 730 First Avenue South
 P. O. Box 39
 Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495

Acres: 58.99Price: Gift of LandInterest: Fee Title DonationImprovements: NoneLocation: The tract is located in Portage County about two miles northeast of Junction City.Land Description: The subject land varies from level to gently sloping.

<u>Covertypes Breakdown:</u>	<u>Type:</u>	<u>Acreage:</u>
	Upland Woodland	31.0
	Lowland Woodland	5.0
	Building Site	2.0
	Cropland	<u>20.99</u>
	TOTAL:	58.99

Present Use: Resource ProtectionProposed Use: Resource Protection and Public RecreationStewardship 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 Department is proposing to accept a 58.99-acre gift of land from the Mead Witter Foundation for the Statewide Natural Areas program, specifically the Little Bear Hemlock Hardwoods Natural Area. The Little Bear Hemlocks is comprised of four isolated woodlots that are remnants of the vast forest that once occupied this landscape. This parcel is located in Portage County about two miles northeast of Junction City just west of the Mead Wildlife Area and the other three woodlots lay within two miles of each other in Wood County. This parcel contains old growth hemlocks with diameters greater than 30 inches in addition to white pine, sugar maple and yellow birch. Tip up mounds and abundant coarse woody debris provides old growth characteristics and the substrate for hemlock reproduction.

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.

The Department recommends acceptance of this gift from the Mead Witter Foundation to help protect the natural values and integrity of this ecosystem, allow for natural area management and protect the site from development incompatible with the goals of the Natural Area program. The improvements on the property are of no value. These will be removed and the site returned to a natural condition.

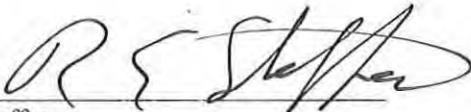
3. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE STATEWIDE NATURAL AREA:

Established: 1972
Acres Purchased to Date: 3,474.19
Acquisition Goal: 41,000.00
Percent Complete: 106.03%
Cost to Date: \$22,678,284.90

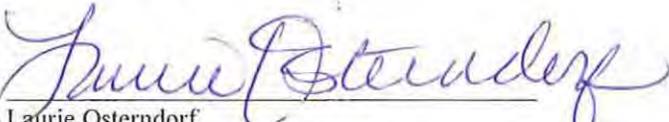
RECOMMENDED:


Richard E. Steffes

12-22-09
Date


Bureau of Legal Services

12-23-09
Date


Laurie Osterndorf

12/29/09
Date

RES:dv

Acknowledgment Of Gift

This is to certify that at its January 2010 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 58.99 acres of land in Portage County for the Statewide Natural Areas, Little Bear Hemlock Hardwoods Natural Area from the

MEAD WITTER FOUNDATION

The site contains an exceptional stand of old growth hemlocks as well as pine, maple and birch. 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

Mead Witter Foundation, Inc. Parcel

T25N R7E Section 31, Town of Eau Pleine, Portage County, WI (58.99 Acres)



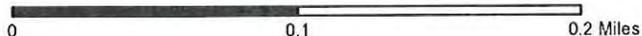
Legend

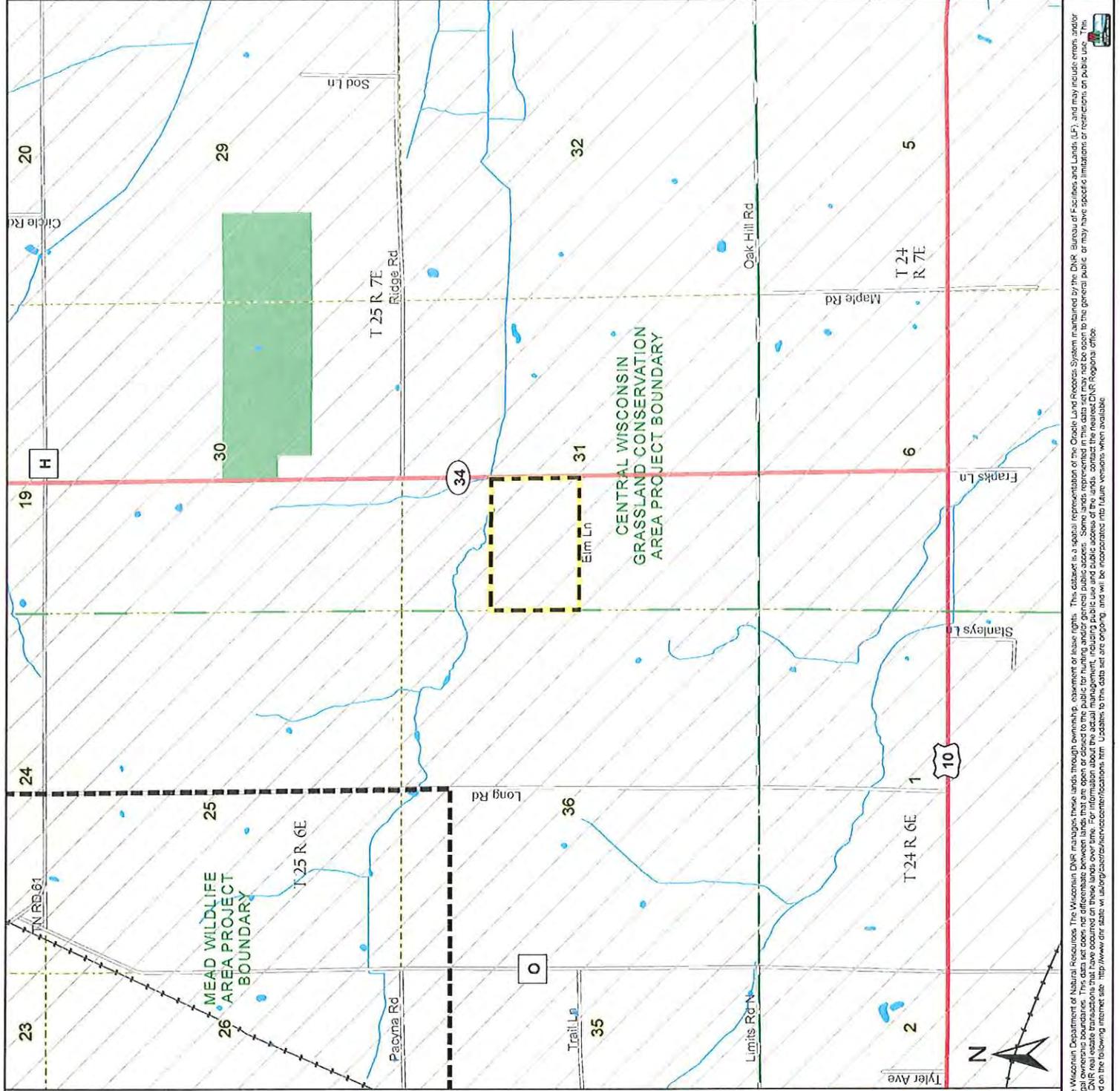
- - - PLSS Section Line
- PLSS Quarter-Quarter
-  DNR Project Boundary
-  County Boundary
- DNR Eased
- DNR Owned

Subject Property
NA 20040

Statewide
 Natural Area

-  Fee Simple
-  Easement
-  Ingress/Egress





**Mead Witter
Foundation, Inc. Parcel**

NA 20040

Statewide Natural Area

T25N R7E Section 31
Town of Eau Claire
Portage County, WI
(58.99 Acres)

Subject Property

-  Fee Simple
-  Easement
-  Ingress/Egress

Legend

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



The DNR Managed Lands represent the boundaries of lands managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The Wisconsin DNR manages these lands through purchase, easement or lease rights. This dataset is a spatial representation of the Central Land Record System maintained by the DNR Bureau of Facilities and Lands (FLS), and may include errors and/or omissions. The data should not be interpreted as a legal representation of legal ownership boundaries. This 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 dataset 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/cas/z/r/office/identification.htm>. Updates to this data set are ongoing, and will be incorporated into future versions when available.