

SUBJECT: LAND DONATION - STATEWIDE NATURAL AREA- DOOR COUNTY

FOR: SEPTEMBER 2011 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: Door County Land Trust has offered to donate 42.4 acres of land for the Statewide Natural Area Program. The parcel is adjacent to Department owned land in a project known as the Big and Little Marsh State Natural Area. The Department's 2001 Natural Heritage Inventory report ranked the Washington Island Wetlands (Big and Little Marsh, as well as Coffee Swamp and Jackson Harbor Ridges) as eighth in importance of all Lake Michigan Coastal Wetlands. Ranking took into account unique attributes, size, number of rare species, development and use pressure, defensibility and connectivity to other sites.

This area features a complex of boreal rich fen, northern wet-mesic forest and a large emergent aquatic marsh on marl. Big and Little Marsh has been designated as critical habitat for the Hine's emerald dragonfly by USFWS and also hosts patches of federally threatened dwarf lake iris. The dense forest surrounding the fen and wetlands serve as important migratory stop-over habitat for neotropical passerine species during both spring and fall migration and provides a diversity of neotropical migrants breeding habitat in summer.

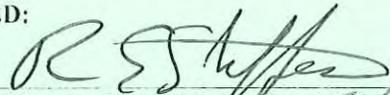
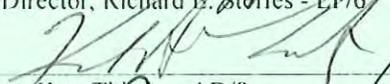
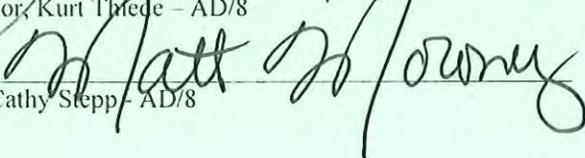
The property lies on the eastern side of Washington Island and encompasses the entire south end of the Little Marsh and the wetlands that are critical habitat of the Hine's emerald dragonfly. Approximately 24.4 acres of the property is comprised of wetlands including boreal rich fen and the emergent aquatic marsh on marl. The remaining 18 acres on the southwest and northeast corners of the property include a wet-mesic forest containing white cedar and shrub carr species and a small amount of northern hardwood/conifer forest containing aspen, sugar maples and an understory of conifers. Protection of this land and the surrounding intact forest is very important for protecting the water quality and Hine's emerald dragonfly habitat in the Big and Little Marsh.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accepts the donation of 42.4 acres of land for the Statewide Natural Area program, 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	8-5-11 _____ Date
 _____ Administrator, Kurt Thiede - AD/8	8-11-11 _____ Date
 _____ Secretary, Cathy Stepp - AD/8	8-11-11 _____ Date

- cc: S. Miller - LF/6 R. Steffes - LF/6
L. Ross - AD/5 L. Osterdorf - ER/6
J. Romback-Bartels - NER/Green Bay



CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 5, 2011
 TO: Natural Resources Board
 FROM: Cathy Stepp
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Door County Land Trust
 Tract, File # NA 20071

FILE REF: NA 20071

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Statewide Natural Area
 Door County

Grantor:

Door County Land Trust
 c/o Terrie Cooper
 P.O. Box 65
 Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Acres: 42.4Price: N/A - GiftDonationInterest: Fee TitleImprovements: NoneLocation: The tract is located in Door County 50 miles north of Sturgeon Bay.Land Description: The subject land is gently rolling.Covertypes Breakdown:

Type	Acreage
Wetland	24.4
Lowland Woodland	18.0

Total: 42.4

Zoning: Wetland and Natural AreaPresent Use: RecreationProposed Use: Resource Protection and Outdoor Public RecreationTenure: This parcel was purchased by the Land Trust in June of 2011 from the Jorgensons for \$267,000.Agreement Date: The Land Trust offered the property by a letter dated May 17, 2011.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 has offered to donate 42.4 acres of land for the Statewide Natural Area Program.

This parcel was purchased in June, 2011 by the Door County Land Trust for \$267,000 from Theodore and Tamre Jorgeson. It lies adjacent to 80 acres of Department owned land which is part of a larger 270 acres of Department owned land for the Big and Little Marsh State Natural Area.

The Department's 2001 Natural Heritage Inventory report ranked the Washington Island Wetlands (Big and Little Marsh, as well as Coffee Swamp and Jackson Harbor Ridges) as eighth in importance of all Lake Michigan Coastal Wetlands. Ranking took into account unique attributes, size, number of rare species, development and use pressure, defensibility and connectivity to other sites. In 2001 the Bureau of Endangered Resources established project boundaries for the Washington Island Wetlands which includes the Big and Little Marsh State Natural Areas.

The subject property is located on Washington Island within the boundaries of the Big and Little Marsh State Natural Area., which features a complex of boreal rich fen, northern wet-mesic forest and a large emergent aquatic marsh on marl. Big and Little Marsh has been designated as critical habitat for the Hine's emerald dragonfly by USFWS and also hosts patches of federally threatened dwarf lake iris. The dense forest surrounding the fen and wetlands serve as important migratory stop-over habitat for neotropical passerine species during both spring and fall migration and provides a diversity of neotropical migrants breeding habitat in summer.

The former Jorgenson property lies on the eastern side of Washington Island and encompasses the entire south end of the Little Marsh and the wetlands that are critical habitat of the Hine's emerald dragonfly. Approximately 24.4 acres of the Jorgenson property is comprised of wetlands including boreal rich fen and the emergent aquatic marsh on marl. The remaining 18 acres on the southwest and northeast corners of the property include a wet-mesic forest containing white cedar and shrub carr species and a small amount of northern hardwood/conifer forest containing aspen, sugar maples and an understory of conifers. This surrounding intact forest helps protect the water quality and Hine's emerald dragonfly habitat in the Big and Little Marsh.

Data from the Division of Historic Preservation show no record of historic or archeological structures on the subject property. Natural Heritage Inventory records show numerous known occurrences of endangered, rare or special concern species or natural communities within the subject property boundaries, which is one of the reasons for the original purchase by DCLT.

The Department recommends acceptance of this gift from Door County Land Trust for resource protection and education and public recreation

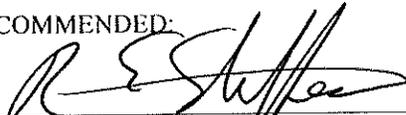
3. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction. The Door County Land Trust received a Stewardship grant of \$136,500 (NA3F-203) and a USFWS grant of \$133,500 for the initial purchase.

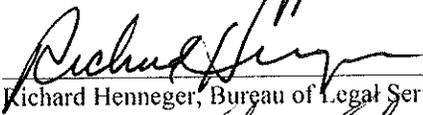
4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE STATEWIDE NATURAL AREA:

Established: 1972
Acres Purchased to Date: 47,095.59
Acquisition Goal: 41,000.00
Percent Complete: 114.87 %
Cost to Date: \$28,671,984.80

RECOMMENDED:


Richard E. Steffes, Real Estate Director

8-5-11
Date


Richard Henneger, Bureau of Legal Services

8/6/11
Date


Kurt Thiede, Land Division Administrator

8/11/11
Date

Acknowledgment Of Gift

This is to certify that at its meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted a gift of 42.4 acres of land in Door County for the Statewide Natural Area 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

David Clausen, CHAIR

Door County Land Trust Fee Gift

Statewide Natural Area

NA 20071

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T33N R30E Section 04
Town of Washington
Door County
(42.40 acres--deed)

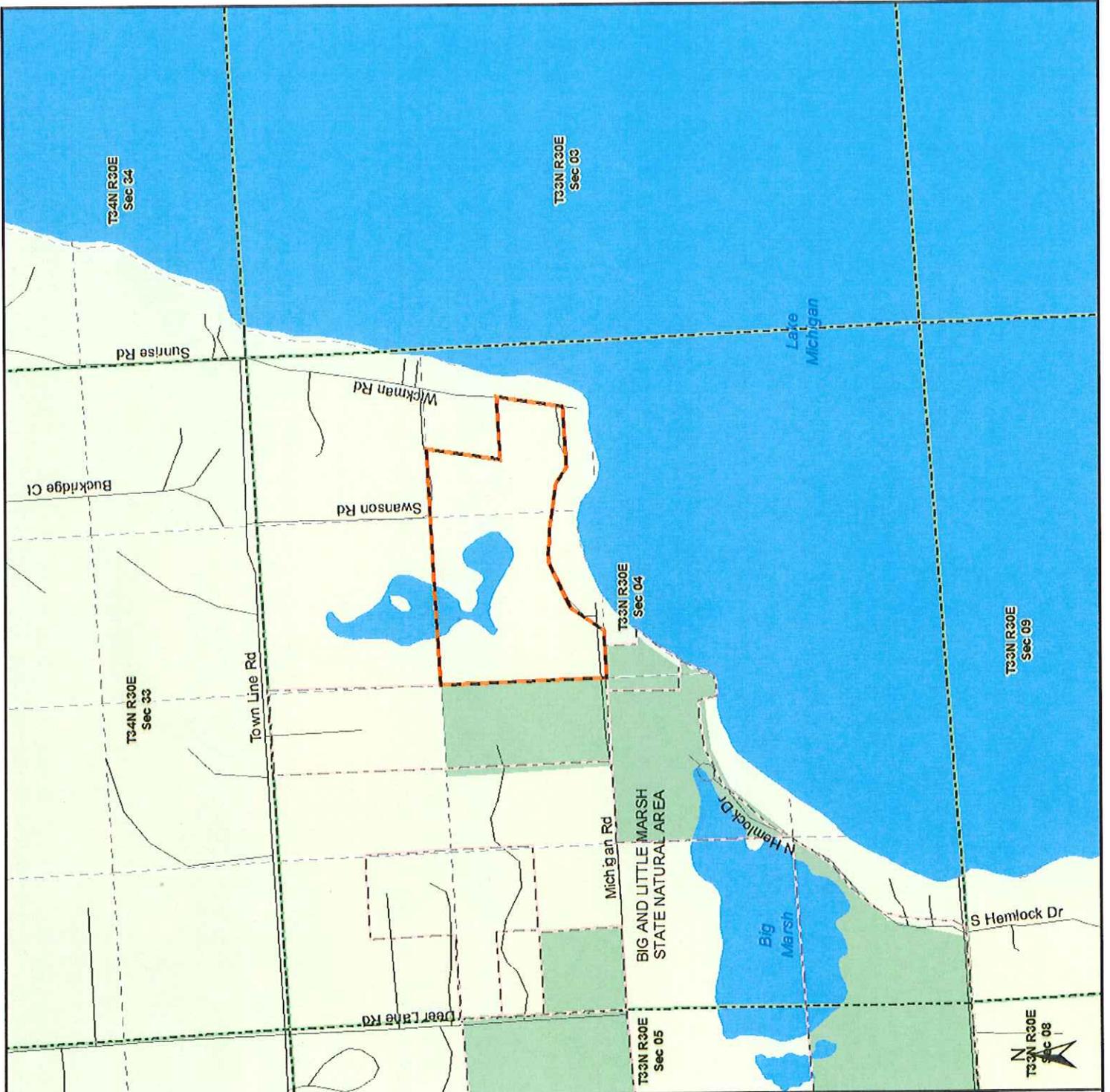
 Subject Parcel

-  Project Boundary
-  WDNR Owned
-  State Natural Area
-  PLSS Section Line
-  QQ Section Boundary

0 1,000
Feet



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Map Created: July 28, 2011 .swm



Door County Land Trust Fee Gift

T33N R30E Section 4, Town of Washington, Door County



**Statewide Natural Area
NA 20071**

 Subject Parcel

-  DNR Owned
-  Section Line
-  State Natural Area
-  1/4-1/4 Section Line



July 28, 2011
 Real Estate Section
 Bureau of Facilities and Lands