

**SUBJECT: LAND DONATION - CREX MEADOWS WILDLIFE AREA- BURNETT COUNTY**

**FOR: FEBRUARY 2012 BOARD MEETING**

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Richard Steffes

**SUMMARY:** The Friends Of Crex Meadows, a non profit conservation group, has offered to donate 74.6 acres of land to the Department for the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area in Burnett County.

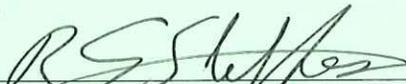
The 74.6 acre Janish parcel is located within the project boundary of the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area. The property lies just west of Buggert Lake, a shallow prairie wetland with tremendous value for both breeding and migratory waterfowl. The entire property was burned during the Ekdall Church fire in 1980. The vegetation has since recovered to a jack pine / black oak over-story with a diverse understory of native prairie grasses and forbs. A natural sand dune complex runs across the property from north to south with a corresponding unique vegetative component. The federally endangered Karner Blue Butterfly has been documented on the property. Pine/oak barrens are globally rare habitat types and the Glacial Lake Grantsburg project area, of which the subject property is a part, has been identified as one of the better locations where this type of habitat can be restored at a landscape scale. The mosaic of shallow wetlands, sedge marshes, and pine/oak barrens has been identified as a globally Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy and also provides habitat for other rare and endangered species such as Karner Blue Butterflies, and Blanding's Turtle. The adjacent wetlands harbor populations of a number of breeding high priority, species including: LeConte's Sparrow, American Bittern, Trumpeter Swan, Osprey, Sandhill Crane, Hooded Merganser, Bobolink, Sedge Wren, Wilson's Phalarope and Black Tern. During migration these wetlands also host thousands of staging waterfowl and Sandhill Cranes. This land gift adjoins existing DNR ownership along the east, west and south sides of the tract and it will improve recreational opportunities within the Crex Meadows project. The land will be managed to enhance and develop critical habitats for grassland (pine/oak barrens) dependent wildlife, including a number of high priority Neotropical migrants. It will be landscape scale in scope and affect species listed as high conservation priorities by a number of bird conservation planning efforts.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board accepts the donation of 74.6 acres of land for the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area, that a certificate of appreciation be sent to Friends of Crex Meadows and that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board.

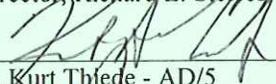
**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:**

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

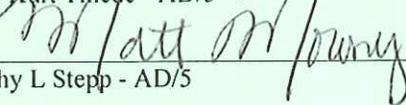
**APPROVED:**

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

1-23-12  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator, Kurt Thiede - AD/5

1-24-12  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Cathy L Stepp - AD/5

1/25/12  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

- cc: S. Miller – LF/6  
R. Steffes – LF/6  
L. Ross – AD/5  
T. Hauge - WM/6  
J. Gozdziwski (Spoonier) – Northern Region

**CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM**

DATE: January 20, 2012  
 TO: Natural Resources Board  
 FROM: Cathy L Stepp  
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Friends Of Crex Meadows  
 Tract, File # WM 60164 \*

FILE REF: WM 60164 \*

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Crex Meadows Wildlife Area  
 Burnett County

Grantor:

Friends of Crex Meadows  
 c/o Dale Bohlke, President  
 102 East Crex Avenue  
 Grantsburg, WI 54840

Acres: 74.6Price: Gift of landAppraised Value: \$134,280Interest: Fee title donationImprovements: NoneLocation: The tract is located in Burnett County along County Road F a few miles north of Grantsburg.Land Description: The subject land is level.Covertypes Breakdown:

Type	Acreage
Upland Woodland	72.1
Grass	2.5
Total:	74.6

Zoning: Residential-RecreationalPresent Use: Recreational LandProposed Use: Public outdoor recreation and wildlife habitatTenure: 1.5 months; purchased from Mr. Janish for \$142,500Agreement Date: December 22, 2011Stewardship 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 74.6 acre Janish parcel lies within the project boundary of the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area. The property lies about 1/10 mile west of Buggert Lake, a shallow prairie wetland with tremendous value for

both breeding and migratory waterfowl. The entire property was burned during the Ekdall Church fire in 1980. The vegetation has since recovered to a jack pine / black oak over-story with a diverse understory of native prairie grasses and forbs. A natural sand dune complex runs across the property from North to South with a corresponding unique vegetative component. The federally endangered Karner Blue Butterfly has been documented on the property. Pine/Oak barrens are globally rare habitat types and the Glacial Lake Grantsburg project area, of which the subject property is a part, has been identified as one of the better locations where this type of habitat can be restored at a landscape scale. The mosaic of shallow wetlands, sedge marshes, and pine/oak barrens has been identified as a globally Important Bird Area by the American Bird Conservancy and also provides habitat for other rare and endangered species such as Karner Blue Butterflies, and Blanding's Turtle. The adjacent wetlands harbor populations of a number of breeding high priority, Partners In Flight species including: LeConte's Sparrow, American Bittern, Trumpeter Swan, Osprey, Sandhill Crane, Hooded Merganser, Bobolink, Sedge Wren, Wilson's Phalarope and Black Tern. During migration these wetlands also host thousands of staging waterfowl and Sandhill Cranes. This land adjoins existing DNR ownership along the east, west and south sides of the tract and will greatly improve recreational opportunities within the Crex Meadows project. The land will be managed to enhance and develop critical habitats for grassland (pine/oak barrens) dependent wildlife, including a number of high priority Neotropical migrants. It will be landscape scale in scope and affect species listed as high conservation priorities by a number of bird conservation planning efforts.

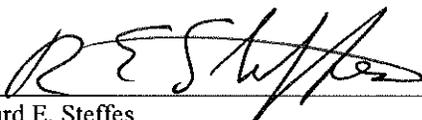
3. FINANCING:

No land acquisition funding is required for this transaction. The Friends of Crex Meadows received \$67,140 from the USFWS Section 6 E-22-HL-1 Karner Blue grant toward their acquisition of this property and a \$67,140 stewardship grant.

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE CREX MEADOWS WILDLIFE AREA:

Established: 1946  
Acres Purchased to Date: 28,318.92  
Acquisition Goal: 31,093.58  
Percent Complete: 91.08 %  
Cost to Date: \$1,306,799.19

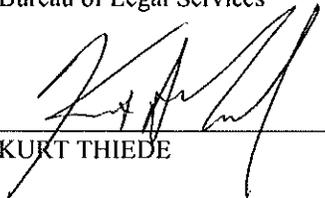
RECOMMENDED:

  
Richard E. Steffes

1-23-12  
Date

  
Bureau of Legal Services

1/24/12  
Date

  
KURT THIEDE

1/24/12  
Date

RES:

## *Acknowledgment Of Gift*

This is to certify that at its February 2012 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 74.6 acres of land in Burnett County for the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area from

### **Friends Of Crex Meadows**

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

**Friends of Crex Meadows - Fee/Gift**

Crex Meadows Wildlife Area

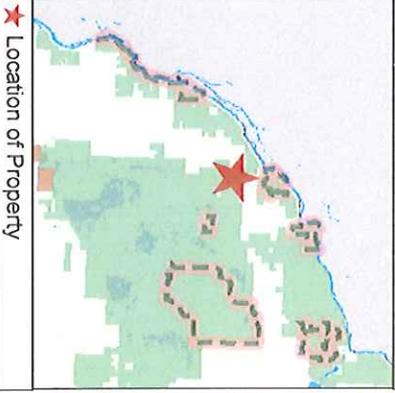
WM 60164

T39N R19W Sec 1  
Town of West Marshland  
Burnett County  
74.60 Acres

 Subject Parcel

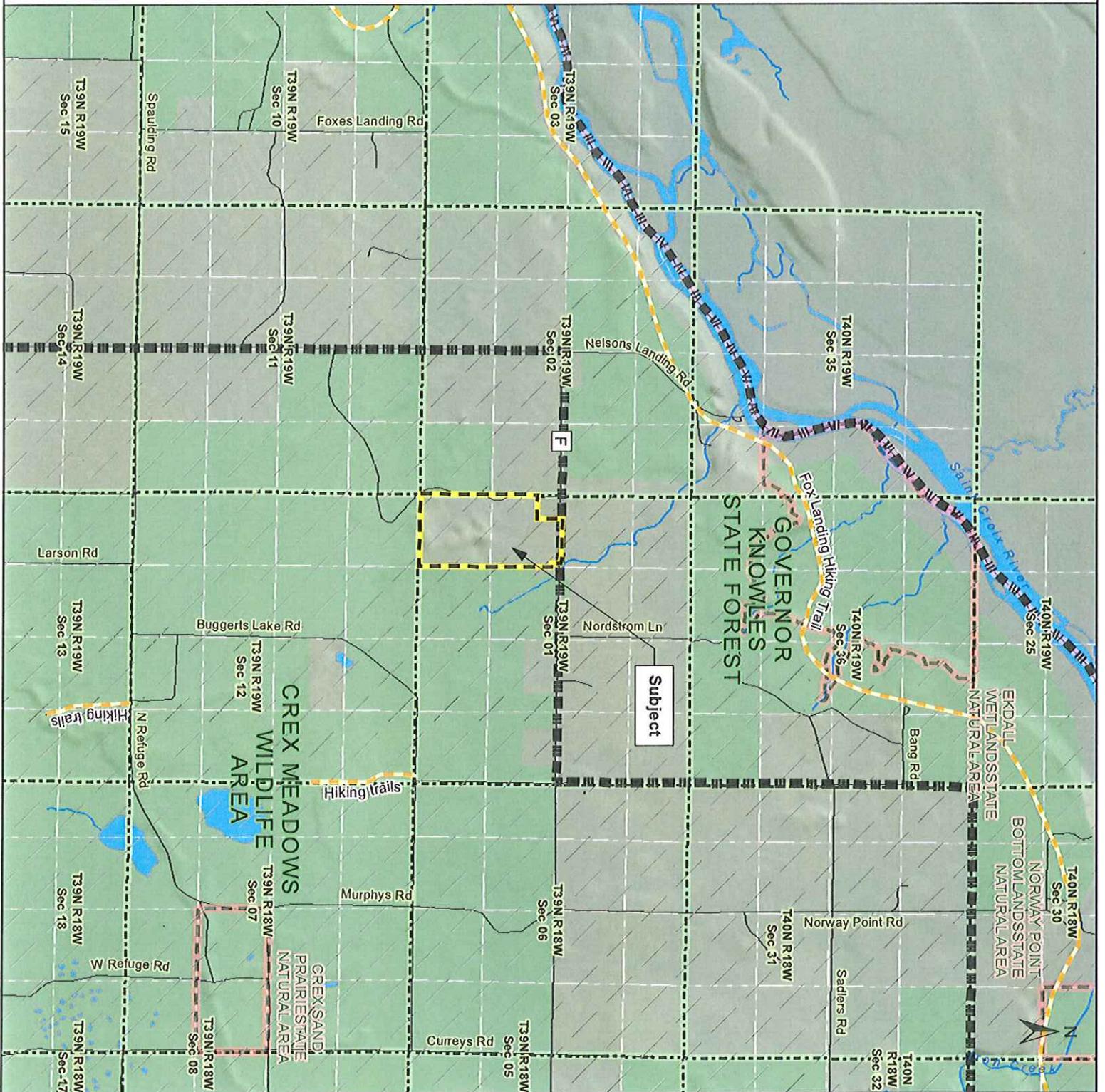
-  WDNR Owned
-  WDNR Easement
-  DNR Project Boundary
-  State Natural Area
-  Recreation
-  Trail
-  PLSS Section Line
-  Section Boundary

County View



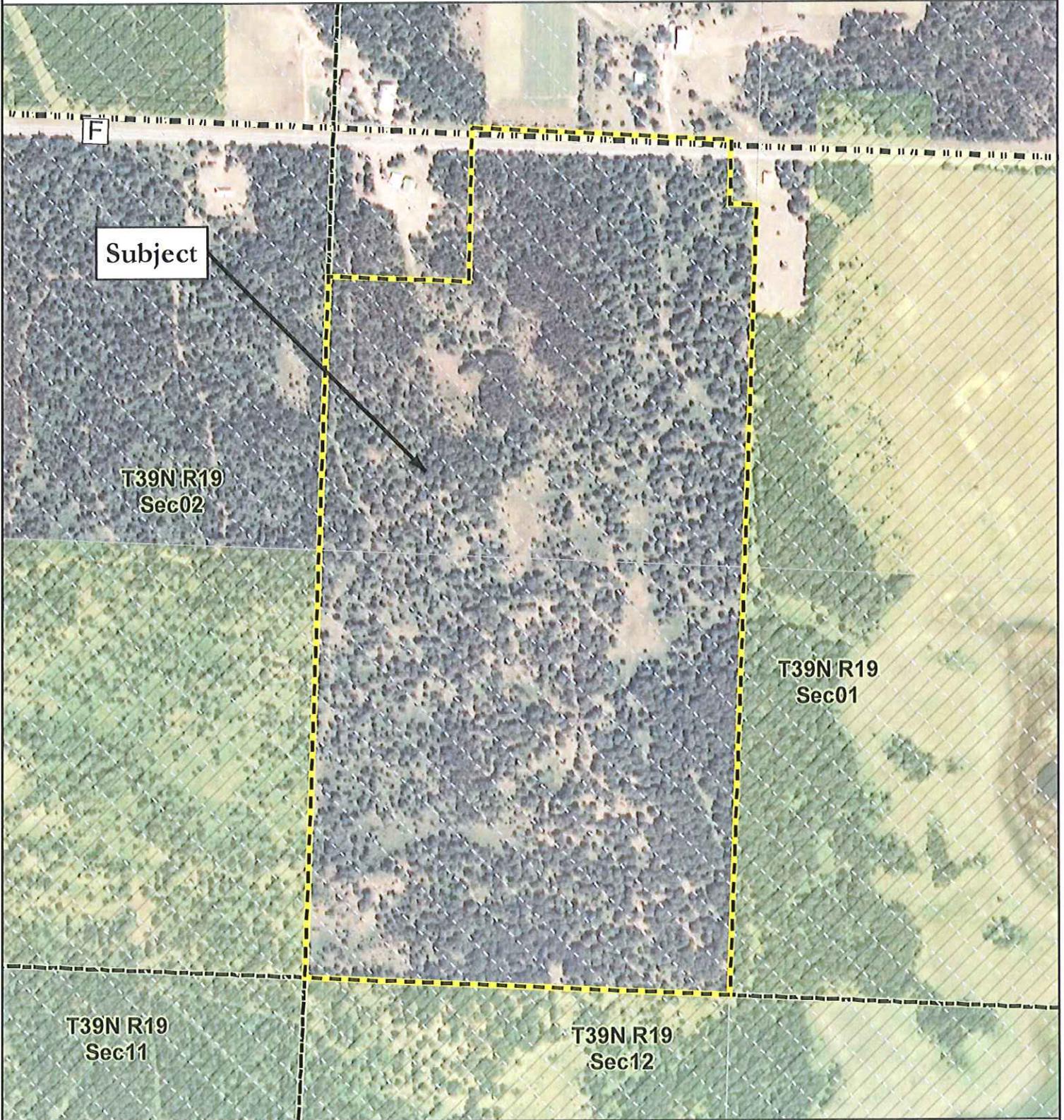
★ Location of Property

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Bureau of Facilities of Lands  
Map Created: Jan 20, 2012 kmh



# Friends of Crex Meadows - Fee/Gift

T39N R19W Sec 1, Town of West Marshland, Burnett County



## Crex Meadows Wildlife Area

 Subject Parcel

 DNR Owned

 DNR Project Boundary

 Section Line

 QQ Section Lines



 N



Jan 20, 2012 kmh  
Real Estate Section  
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

