

**SUBJECT:** Land Donations – Statewide Wildlife Habitat– Rock County

**FOR:** OCTOBER 2012 BOARD MEETING

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Richard Steffes

**SUMMARY:** Pheasants Forever, Inc offered to donate 295.9 acres of land to the Department for the Statewide Wildlife Habitat Program.

The gift includes two parcels located in western Rock County in close proximity to several small cities and villages including Evansville, Orfordville, Brodhead and Footville. The City of Janesville is 12 miles east. Both parcels fall within the Evansville and Footville Leased Public Hunting Grounds and border lands currently leased for public hunting, which provide a mix of wetland, upland woods, cropland, and grass/pasture. The properties include 196.58 acres encumbered by a Wetland Reserve Program easement, which no longer allows agricultural use, and 36.5 acres, which have been restored to prairie under a CRP contract. The balance of the acreage is wooded land or cropland.

These parcels will provide permanent nesting habitat and winter cover, which is important to a variety of grassland and wetland bird species, particularly pheasant, and will enhance and complement the recreation lands enrolled under Voluntary Public Access leases within the Evansville-Footville Leased Public Hunting Grounds. The cropland will be leased or sharecropped with local farmers with some acreage set aside as food plots.

Established in 1991, the Statewide Wildlife Habitat Area Program acquires, protects and develops important habitat for pheasants, waterfowl and other species. Additionally, the criteria-based program provides opportunities for public recreation such as hunting, trapping, hiking, and bird watching. Although these parcels are being donated to the Wisconsin DNR for the enjoyment of all citizens of the state, the Rock River Chapter of Pheasants Forever is committed to helping with habitat needs on these two properties including burning, planting, brushing, and litter pickup.

Acceptance of this transfer opportunity from Pheasants Forever on this 295.9 acres for Statewide Wildlife Habitat Area will protect wildlife habitat, provide additional opportunities for public hunting and public recreation, restore and provide habitat for a variety of species, and encourage the conservation efforts of our local Pheasant Forever chapters.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board accept the donation of 295.9 acres of land for the Statewide Wildlife Habitat program; send a certificate of appreciation to Pheasants Forever, Inc; and make an expression of appreciation part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board.

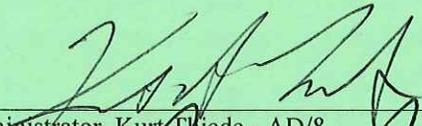
**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:**

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

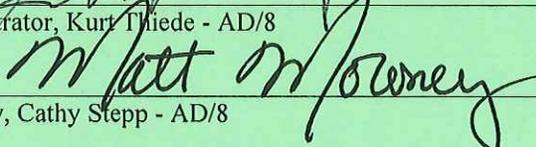
**APPROVED:**

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

10-3-12  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator, Kurt Thiede - AD/8

10/3/12  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Cathy Stepp - AD/8

10/5/12  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

cc: S. Miller - LF/6  
R. Steffes - LF/6  
L. Ross - AD/5  
T. Hauge - WM/6  
M. Aquino - Fitchburg

## CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 3, 2012 FILE REF: WM 60191  
 TO: Natural Resources Board  
 FROM: Cathy Stepp  
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Pheasants Forever, Inc (former Dooley and Costello tracts) Tract, File # WM 60191

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Statewide Wildlife Habitat  
 Rock County

Grantor:

Pheasants Forever, Inc.  
 Attn: Doug Fendry  
 5504 Chestnut Lane  
 McFarland, WI 53558

Acres: 295.9Price: GiftAppraised Value: N/AInterest: Fee Title PurchaseImprovements: NoneLocation: The tract is located in Rock County 12 miles west of JanesvilleLand Description: The subject land is level to gently rolling.Covertypes Breakdown:

Type	Acreage
Cropland	45
Upland Woodland	13
CRP	36.5
Grass / Pasture	201.4
Total:	295.9

Zoning: AgriculturePresent Use: Agriculture and outdoor recreationProposed Use: Public outdoor recreation and wildlife habitatTenure: 3 yearsAgreement Date: October 4, 2012Stewardship 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:

Pheasants Forever, Inc has offered to donate 295.9 acres of land for the Statewide Wildlife Habitat located in the Town of Center and the Town of Spring Valley in Rock County to the Department.

The properties include two parcels located in western Rock County in close proximity to several small cities and villages including Evansville, Orfordville, Brodhead and Footville. The City of Janesville is 10-12 miles west. Both parcels fall within the Evansville and Footville Leased Public Hunting Grounds and border lands currently leased for public hunting, which provide a mix of wetland, upland woods, cropland, and grass/pasture. The properties include 196.58 acres encumbered by a Wetland Reserve Program easement, which no longer allows agricultural use, and 36.5 acres, which have been restored to prairie under a CRP contract.

These parcels will provide permanent nesting habitat and winter cover, which is important to a variety of grassland and wetland bird species, particularly pheasant, and will enhance and complement the recreation lands enrolled under Voluntary Public Access leases within the Evansville-Footville Leased Public Hunting Grounds.

Established in 1991, the Statewide Wildlife Habitat Area Program acquires, protects and develops important habitat for pheasants, waterfowl and other species. Additionally, the criteria-based program provides opportunities for public recreation such as hunting, trapping, hiking, and bird watching.

Although these parcels are being donated to the Wisconsin DNR for the enjoyment of all citizens of the state, the Rock River Chapter of Pheasants Forever is committed to helping with habitat needs on these two properties including burning, planting, brushing, and litter pickup.

Specifically, the Costello property is a developed WRP and will need future maintenance of mowing, brushing and burning. There is a two-acre food patch that will need to be planted at least every other year depending on wildlife use and the remaining food available. A small gravel parking lot will need to be installed in the southeast corner at the end of Dohs Road.

The Dooley farm has several current federal contracts for CRP and WHIP, which will assist in rebuilding waterways and controlling brush encroachment. The habitat development will be completed by the summer of 2013 and Pheasants Forever will transfer the property to DNR at that time. Future maintenance needs will include burning, brushing, mowing and active farming to provide a food patch for wintering wildlife. A small gravel parking lot will be installed after DNR receives the property and it is withdrawn from CRP.

The Department recommends the approval of this transfer opportunity from Pheasants Forever on this 295.9 acres for Statewide Wildlife Habitat Area to protect wildlife habitat, to provide additional opportunities for public hunting and public recreation, to restore and provide habitat for a variety of species, and to encourage the conservation efforts of our local Pheasant Forever chapters.

3. LAND MANAGEMENT:

Management will include burning, brushing, mowing and active farming for wintering wildlife, as well as installation of gravel parking lots. Pheasants Forever is committed to assisting wildlife management program staff with the habitat and management needs on these properties.

4. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

5. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE STATEWIDE WILDLIFE HABITAT:

Established: 1991

Acres Purchased to Date: 5,189.36

Acquisition Goal: 6,000

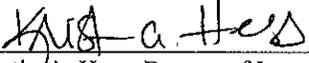
Percent Complete: 86.49 %  
Cost to Date: \$3,675,013.19

RECOMMENDED:



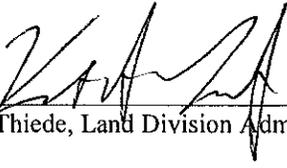
Richard E. Steffes, Real Estate Director

10-3-12  
Date



Kristin A. Hess, Bureau of Legal Services

10/3/12  
Date



Kurt Thiede, Land Division Administrator

10/3/12  
Date

RES:

## *Acknowledgment Of Gift*

This is to certify that at its October 2012 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 295.90 acres of land in Rock County for the Statewide Wildlife Habitat from

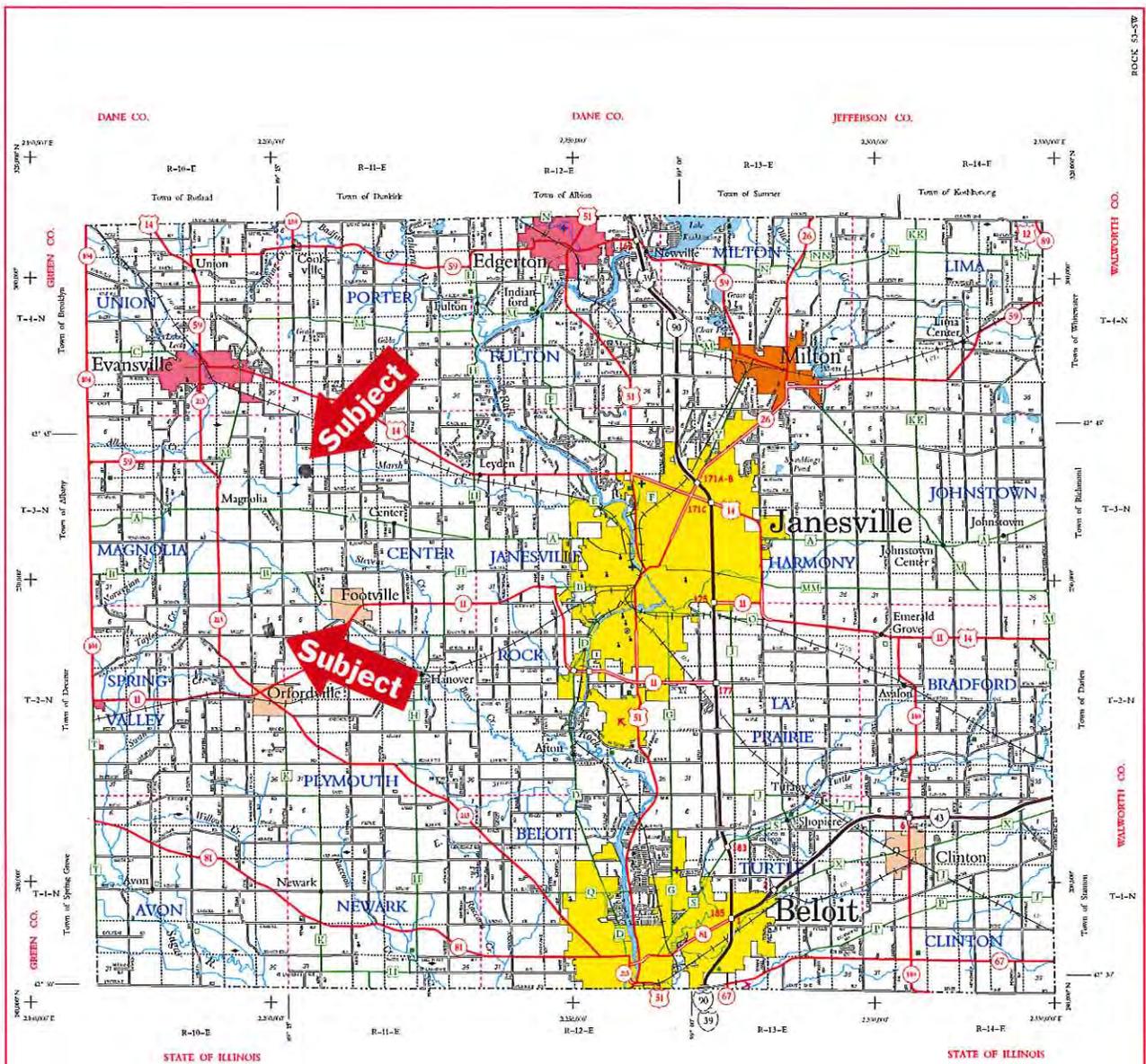
**Pheasants Forever, Inc**

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, CHAIRMAN



STATE OF ILLINOIS

STATE OF ILLINOIS

- LEGEND**
- Preway .....
  - Mulaine Divided .....
  - US or State Hwy .....
  - County Truck Hwy .....
  - Turn Road .....
  - Fireline .....
  - Railroad .....
  - State Trail .....
  - Interchange .....
  - Highway Separation .....
  - Traverse Highway No. .....
  - US Highway No. .....
  - State Highway No. .....
  - County Highway Letter .....
  - State Boundary .....
  - County Boundary .....
  - Civil Town Boundary .....
  - Section Line .....
  - Dam .....
  - Hospital .....
  - Schools .....
  - Airport .....
  - County Seat .....
  - Unincorporated Village .....
  - Fish Hatchery .....
  - Grove Farm .....
  - Public Home or Park Grd. .....
  - Public Camp or Picnic Grd. .....
  - Ranger Station .....
  - State Park .....
  - County Park .....
  - Water Feature .....
  - Bar Area .....
  - Wayside .....
  - Exit of Illinois - Rock Co. .....



**SECTION NUMBERING OF A TOWNSHIP**

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36

**CIVIL TOWNS**

UNION	PORTER	MILTON	MILTON	LIMA
MAGNOLIA	CENTER	JANESVILLE	HARMONY	JOHNSTOWN
SPRING VALLEY	PEYMOUTH	BELOIT	LA PRairie	BRADFORD
AVON	NEWARK	BELOIT	TURTH	CLINTON

**MILES OF HIGHWAY**  
as of Dec. 31, 2019

STATE ..... 232  
 COUNTY ..... 20  
 LOCAL RDMPS ..... 104  
 OTHER RDMPS ..... 6  
 TOTAL FOR COUNTY ..... 362

Last Area (2019 Census) ..... 721 sq. mi.  
 Population (2019 Census) ..... 152,397  
 County Seat ..... Janesville

**ROCK CO.**  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
 Madison, Wisconsin

SCALE 1" = 1 MILE  
 Correct to  
 JAN 2021  
 Data compiled from USGS Quadmaps  
 10/2016 Edition

For boundaries of public hunting and fishing grounds please contact the Department of Natural Resources  
 Grid based on the state plane coordinate system south zone and the NAD 83

**Pheasants Forever  
(Doolley & Costello) -**

**Fee/Gift  
Statewide Wildlife  
Habitat**

**WM 60191**

**T2N R10E Sec 1 &  
T3N R11E Sec 7**

**Town of Spring Valley &  
Town of Center**

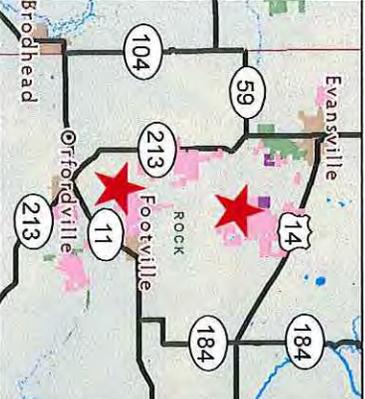
**Rock County  
295.90 Acres**

**Subject**

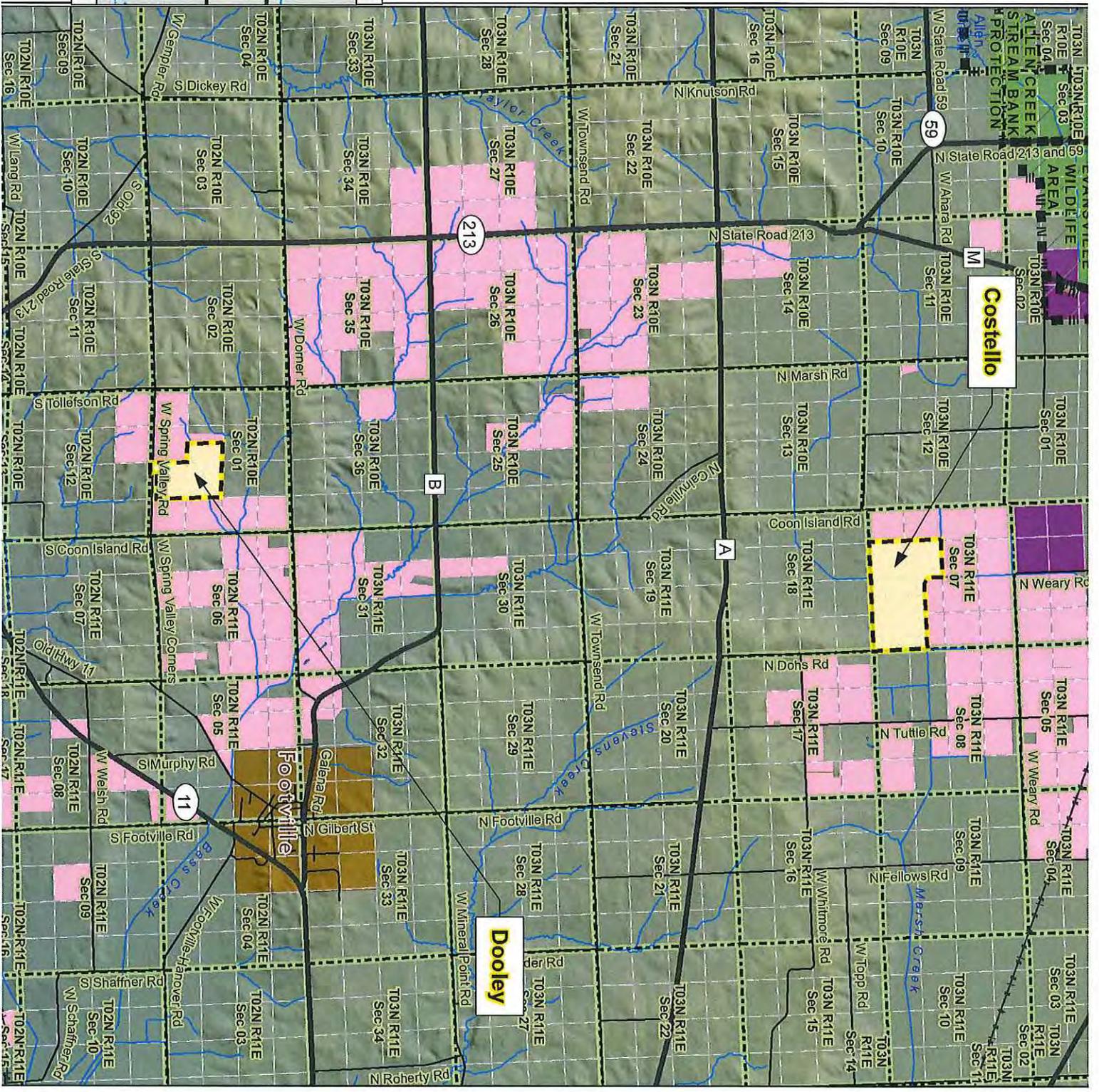
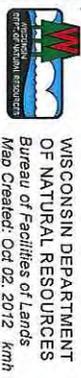
-  Public Hunting Grounds/ Voluntary Public Access
-  WDNR Owned
-  WDNR Easement
-  DNR Project Boundary
-  PLSS Section Line
-  OO Section Boundary



*County View*



**★ Location of Property**



# Pheasants Forever<sup>7</sup> (Costello) - Fee/Gift

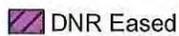
T3N R11E Sec 7, Town of Center, Rock County

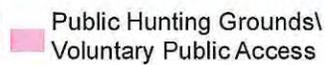


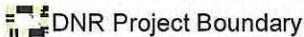
## Statewide Wildlife Habitat

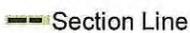
 Subject

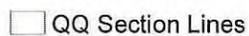
 DNR Owned

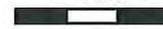
 DNR Eased

 Public Hunting Grounds/  
Voluntary Public Access

 DNR Project Boundary

 Section Line

 QQ Section Lines

  
0 150 300 450 Feet



Oct 02, 2012 kmb  
Real Estate Section  
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

# Pheasants Forever (Dooley) - Fee/Gift

T2N R10E Sec 1, Town of Spring Valley, Rock County



T02N R10  
Sec01

T02N R10  
Sec12

### Statewide Wildlife Habitat



Subject

DNR Owned

DNR Eased

Public Hunting Grounds\ Voluntary Public Access

DNR Project Boundary

Section Line

QQ Section Lines

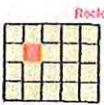
0 150 300 450 Feet



Oct 02, 2012 kmb  
Real Estate Section  
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

(PF) -

# Costello Acquisition Plat Map

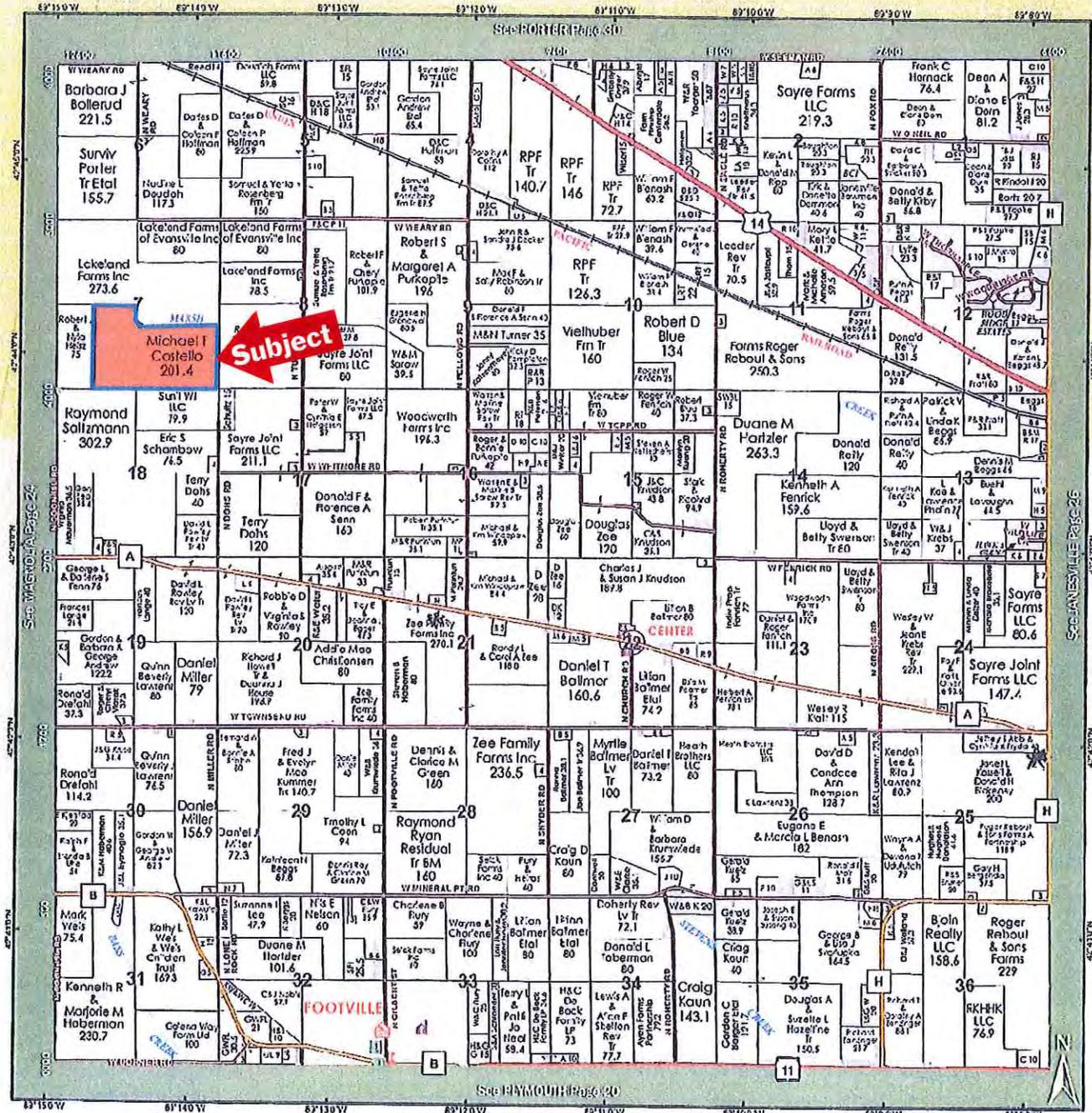


## CENTER 2010

T.3N. - R.11E.



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(P)-Dooley

### SUBJECT PROPERTY LOCATION MAP

