

**SUBJECT:** Land Donation – Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area– Burnett County and Washburn County

**FOR:** OCTOBER 2013 BOARD MEETING

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Douglas J Haag -- Acting Real Estate Director

**SUMMARY:** The Conservation Fund has offered to donate 1,397.93 acres of land for the Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area in Burnett and Washburn Counties to the Department.

The Conservation Fund (TCF) wishes to donate this parcel to be managed as pine barren habitat. The donation of this parcel compliments the land trade between Burnett County and the Department which was approved by the Natural Resources Board in December of 2012. That transaction has not closed yet, but the combination of the two transactions will result in Department ownership of 6,491.49 acres of land within the Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area (NBWA). The NBWA was established as a lease on county land in 1956 when the Department began providing critical habitat for 246 species of plants and 121 species of birds.

Management of pine barren habitat located in the Northwest Sands of Wisconsin, and specifically the NBWA, has been a high priority goal for the Department since 1953 when it was identified in the initial and current 25-year Sharp-tailed Grouse Management Plans. The goal is to have core management areas that are a minimum of 5,500 contiguous acres in order to support a viable population of sharp-tailed grouse and support populations of all other barrens-dependent species. The NBWA hosts breeding populations of several species of greatest concern, including sharp-tailed grouse, upland sandpiper, golden-winged warbler, northern harrier, Blanding’s turtle and brown thrasher.

Protection of this rare habitat and its related species is documented as high priority in many state management plans including the Wildlife Action Plan, Strategies for Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Needs, Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin, Northwest Sands Habitat Corridor Plan and Managing Grasslands for Birds-A guide for Wisconsin. The NBWA was identified as a globally significant conservation opportunity area by the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan in 2005, is designated as an Important Bird Area by the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative and is a part of the Great Wisconsin Birding & Nature Trail network. There are over 150 Friends of the Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area, which include a wide range of interests including photographers, bird dog trialers, hunters and bird watchers.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board accept the donation of 1,397.93 acres of land for the Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area, that a certificate of appreciation be sent to The Conservation Fund 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 |

## CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 1, 2013  
 TO: Natural Resources Board  
 FROM: Cathy Stepp  
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, The Conservation Fund  
 Tract, File # WM 60228

FILE REF: WM 60228

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area  
 Burnett County and Washburn County

Grantor:

The Conservation Fund  
 c/o Mr. Tom Duffus  
 394 Lake Avenue South, Ste. 404  
 Duluth, MN 55802

Acres: 1,397.93Price: Gift -- (TCF received a \$529,892.50 Stewardship Grant)Interest: Fee TitleImprovements: NoneLocation: The tract is located 20 miles northwest of Spooner in Burnett and Washburn Counties.Land Description: The subject land is gently rolling with pine plantation, open land and brush.Covertypes Breakdown:

Type	Acreage
Pine Plantation	1,288.00
Upland Woodland	50.46
Wetland	4.47
Brush	55.00
Total:	1,397.93

Zoning: ForestryPresent Use: Timber ProductionProposed Use: Conservation and RecreationTenure: 2 yearsOffer Date: September 11, 2013Stewardship 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 Conservation Fund (TCF) wishes to donate this parcel to be managed as pine barren habitat. The donation of this parcel compliments the land trade between Burnett County and the Department which was



approved by the Natural Resources Board in December of 2012. That transaction has not closee yet, but the combination of the two transactions will result in Department ownership of 6,491.49 acres of land within the Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area (NBWA). The NBWA was established as a lease on county land in 1956 when the Department began providing critical habitat for 246 species of plants and 121 species of birds.

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3. LAND MANAGEMENT:

In February 2013, Department Forestry and Wildlife staff visited the property and agreed that the best use of this land is pine barren habitat. Although much of the land has been planted to pine plantations, most plantings are either failed or ready to be harvested. The Burnett County land exchange will allow the Department to be more efficient and to focus more on pine barren habitat work. Over the years we have received contributions and volunteer help from many supporting groups, including Friends of Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area, Wisconsin Sharp-tailed Grouse Society, Hazard Mitigation, Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America and turkey stamp. This support augments our regular budget allowing us to do more with less.

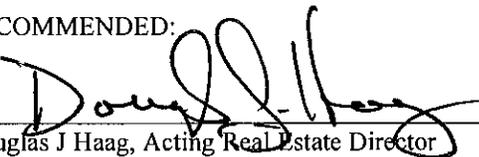
4. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

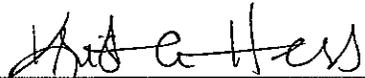
5. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE NAMEKAGON BARRENS WILDLIFE AREA:

Established: 1991  
Acres Purchased to Date: 0  
Acquisition Goal: 9,312.00  
Percent Complete: 0  
Cost to Date: \$283,440.65

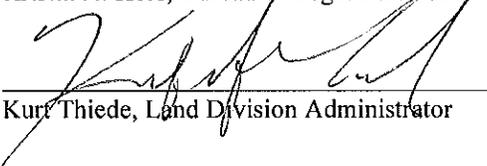
RECOMMENDED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Douglas J Haag, Acting Real Estate Director

10-3-13  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristin A. Hess, Bureau of Legal Services

10/3/13  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kurt Thiede, Land Division Administrator

10/6/13  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## *Acknowledgment Of Gift*

This is to certify that at its October 2013 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 1,397.93 acres of land in Washburn County for the Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area from

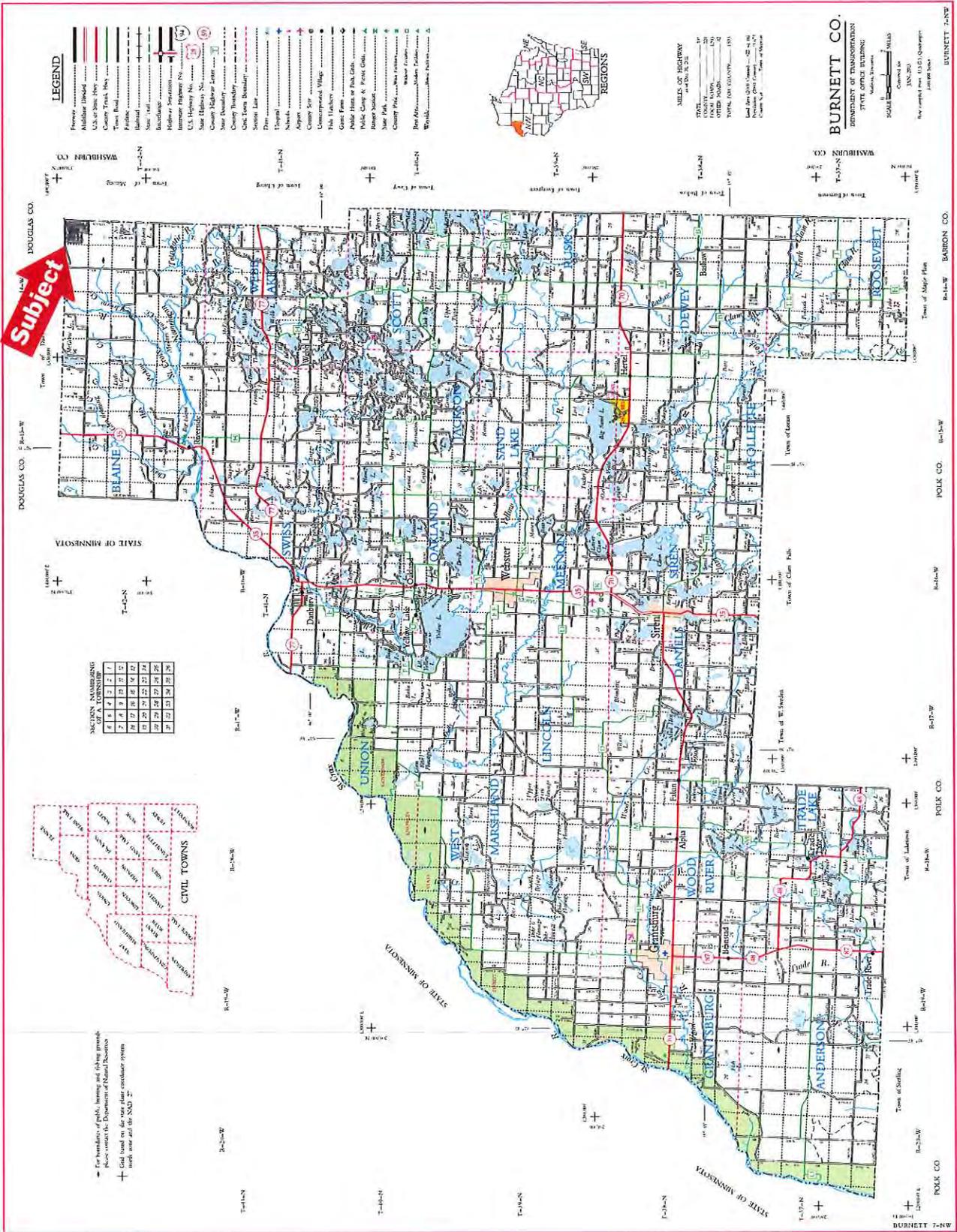
### **The Conservation Fund**

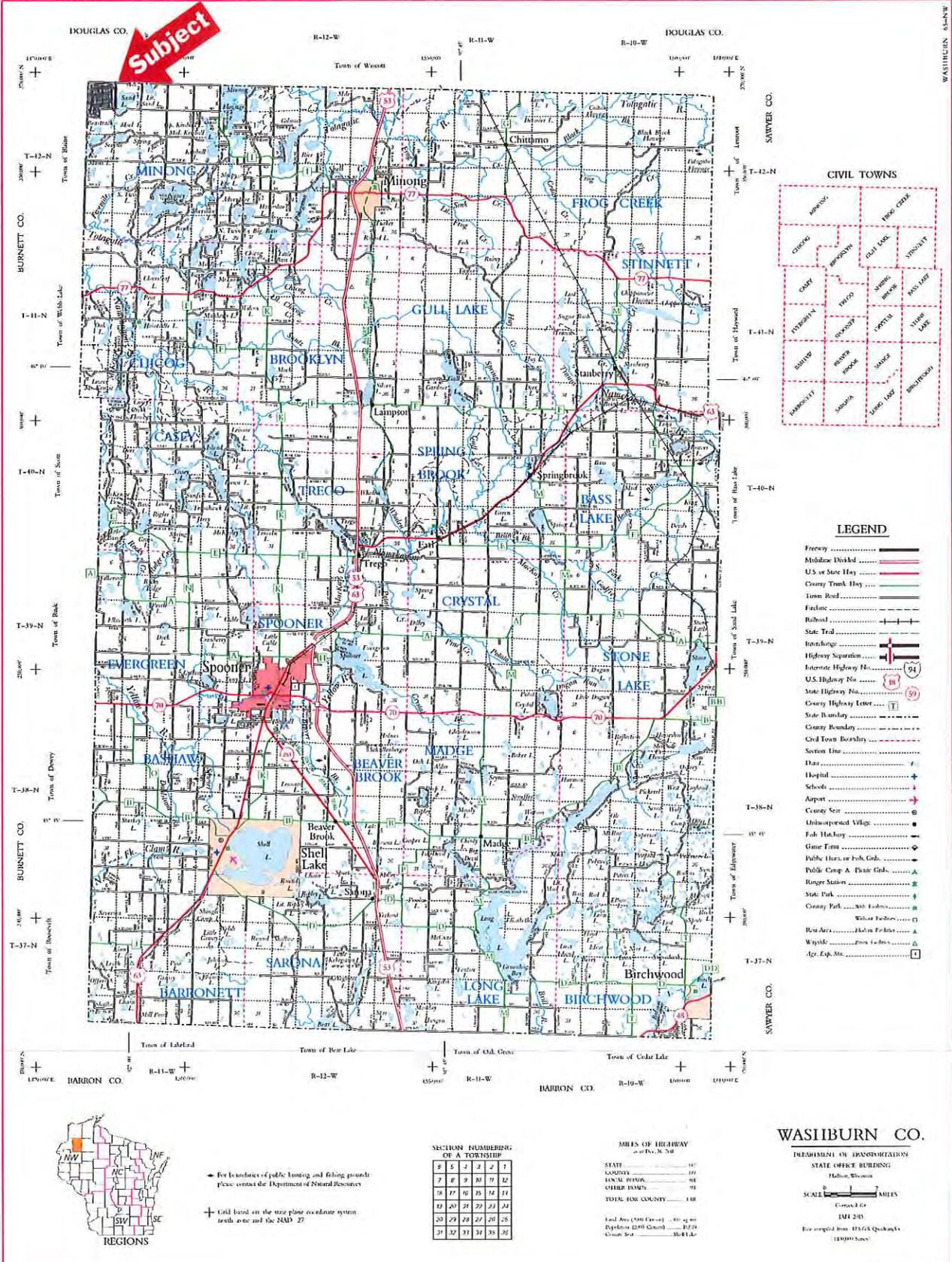
It is significant that organizations such as yours are interested in helping protect Wisconsin's natural heritage and contribute materially toward this end.

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.

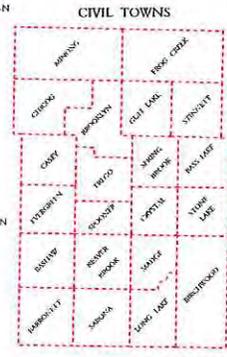
*Natural Resources Board*

Preston D. Cole, CHAIRPERSON





**Subject**



**LEGEND**

- County Boundary
- Milwaukee Divided
- US or State Hwy
- County Trunk Hwy
- Town Road
- Fairway
- Railroad
- State Trail
- Interchange
- Highway Separation
- Interstate Highway No.
- U.S. Highway No.
- State Highway No.
- County Highway Letter
- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- City/Town Boundary
- Section Line
- Ditch
- Highway
- School
- Airport
- Camp Site
- Unincorporated Village
- Fish Hatchery
- Game Farm
- Public Hunt or Fish Gnd.
- Public Camp A. State Gnd.
- Range Station
- State Park
- County Park
- Wildlife
- Rest Area
- Wreck
- Appl. Exp. Site



For locations of public hunting and fishing grounds please contact the Department of Natural Resources

Grid based on the state plane coordinate system north zone and the FAD 27

**SECTION NUMBERING OF A TOWNSHIP**

1	2	3	4	5	6	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	37	38	39	40	41	42

**MILES OF HIGHWAY**

STATE	107
COUNTY	109
LOCAL ROAD	98
OTHER TRAILS	71
TOTAL FOR COUNTY	185

Land Area (5,000 Acres) 80,000  
 Population (2000 Census) 10,000  
 County Seat Spooner

**WASIBURN CO.**

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
 Madison, Wisconsin

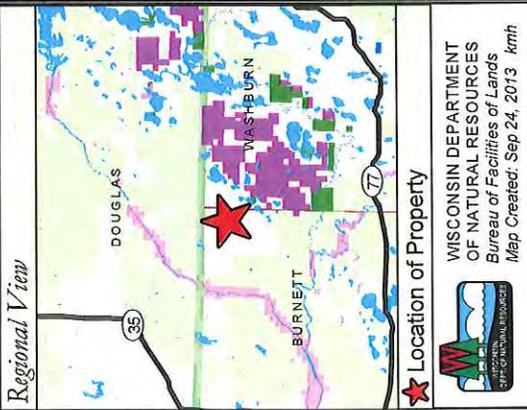
SCALE 1" = 1 MILE

FORM 2001  
 For copyright from: THICK Checkings  
 12/19/01/02

# The Conservation Fund - Fee/Gift Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area

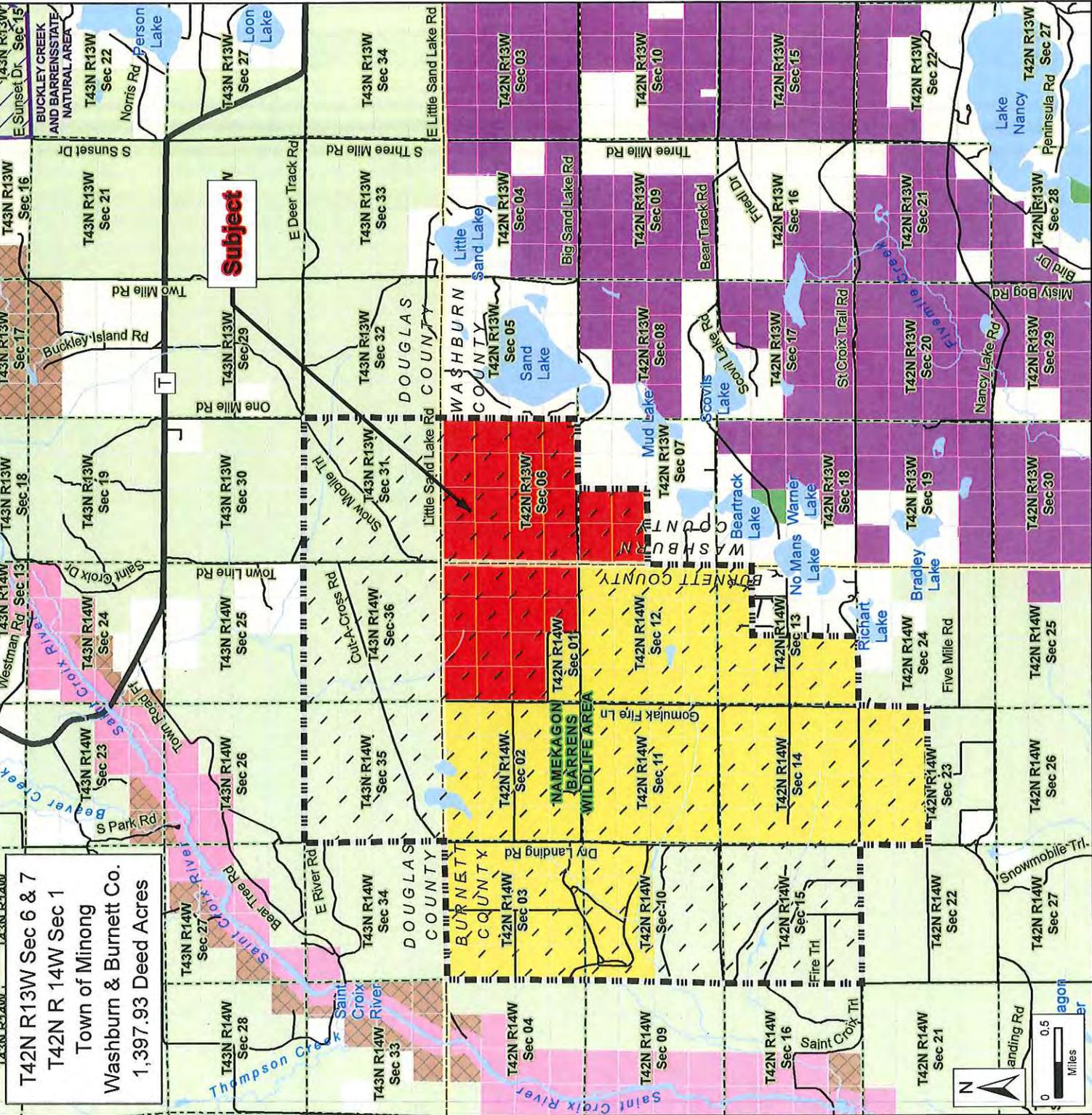
**WM 60228**  
**Subject**

-  DNR Fee Title
-  DNR Easement
-  DNR Easement (Closed to Public Access)
-  Burnett County Trade
-  DNR Project Boundary
-  Other Federal Land
-  County Forest
-  Private Conservation Lands
-  State Natural Area
-  PLSS Section Line
-  QQ Section Boundary



**Location of Property**

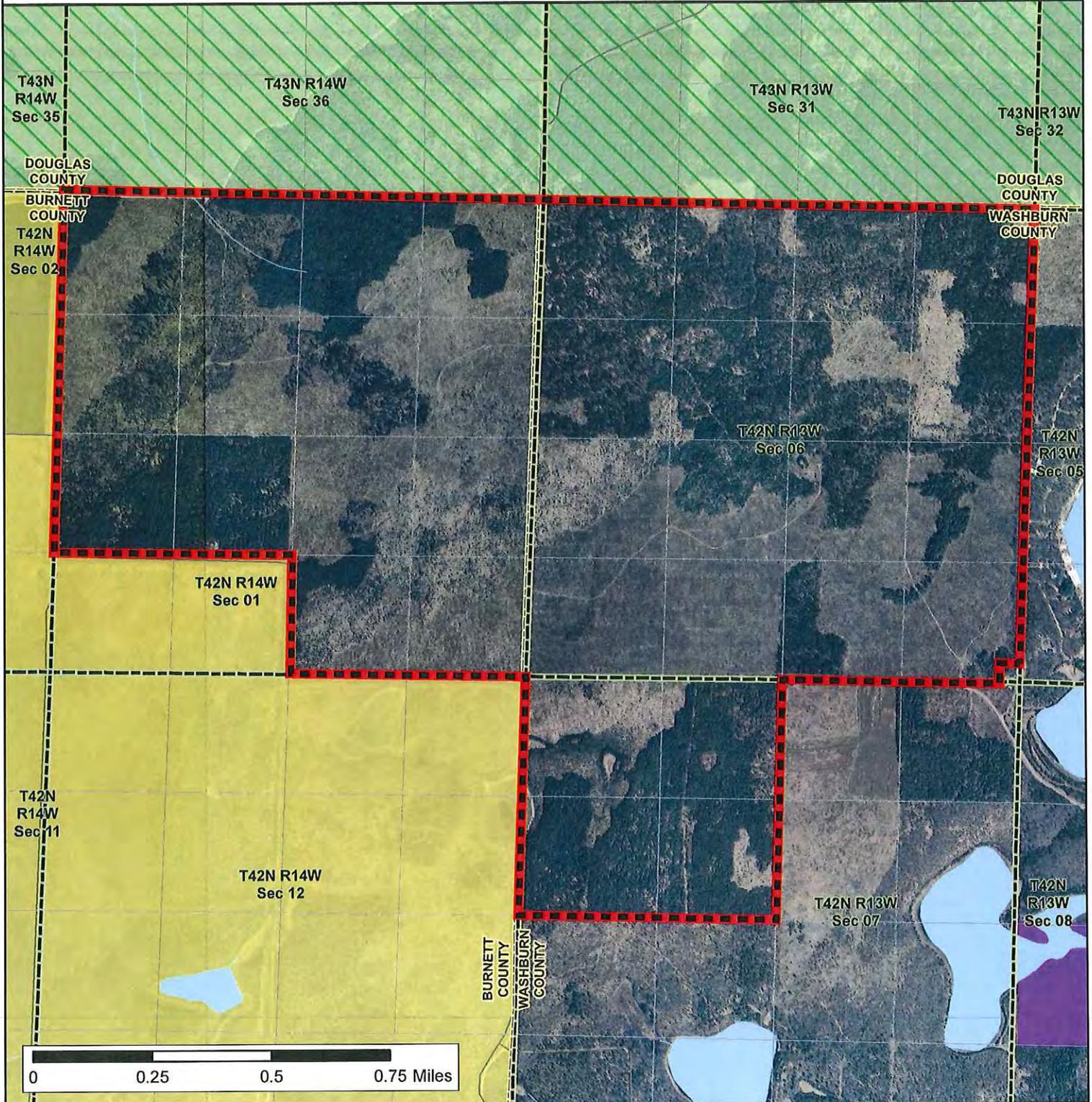
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Bureau of Facilities of Lands  
Map Created: Sep 24, 2013 kmh



The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. This map is not intended to be used for navigation, nor is this map an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access. Users of this map should confirm the ownership of land through other means in order to avoid trespassing. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, completeness, or legality of the information depicted on this map.

# The Conservation Fund - Fee/Gift

## T42N R14W Sec 1 & T42N R13W Sec 6 & 7, Town of Minong, Washburn & Burnett County

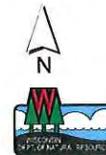


### Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area



Subject

- DNR Fee Title Land
- DNR Easement Land
- Burnett County Trade
- County Forest
- Section Line
- QQ Section Lines



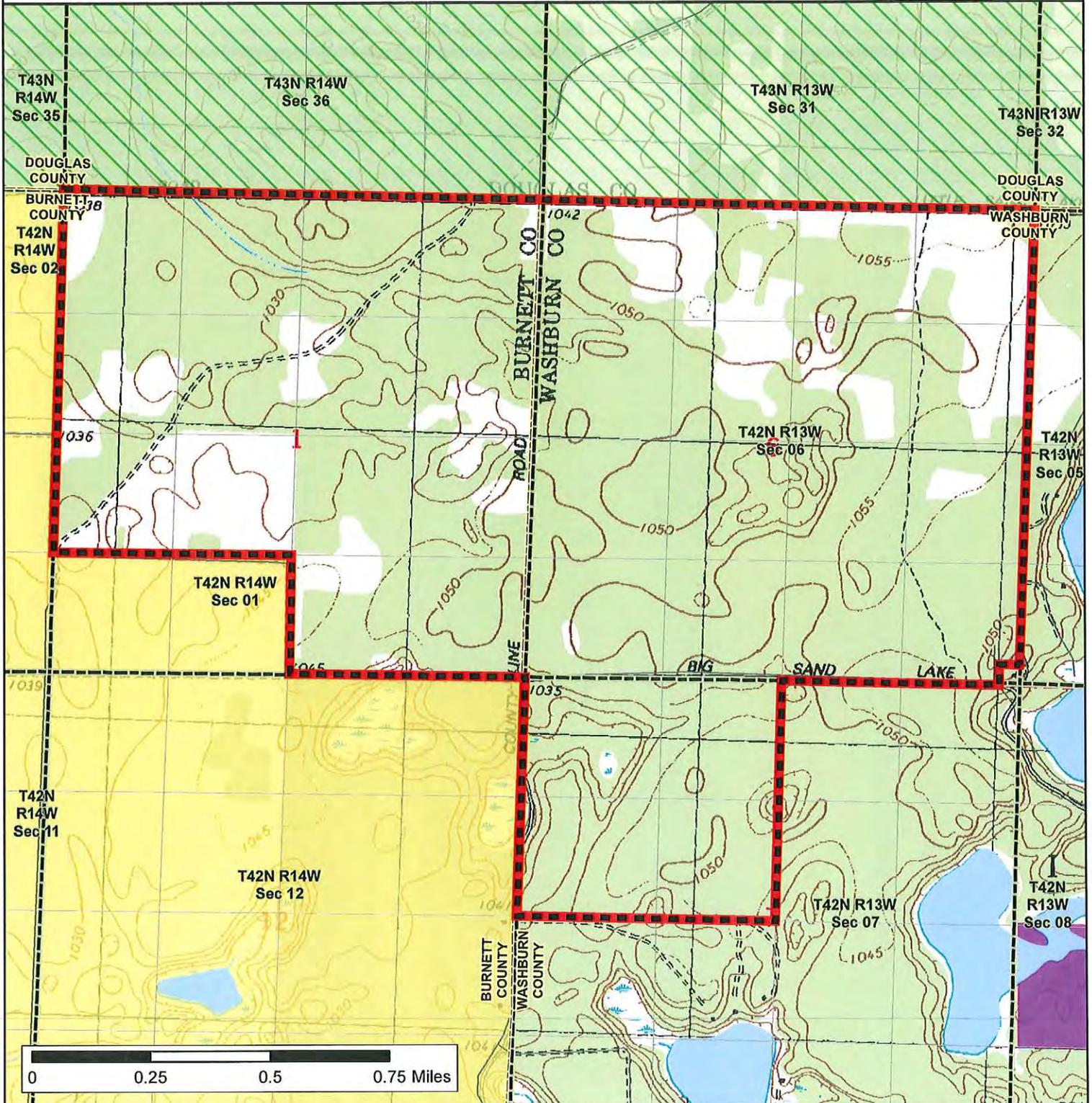
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Real Estate Section  
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

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### Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area



Subject

- DNR Fee Title Land
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Sep 24, 2013 kmh

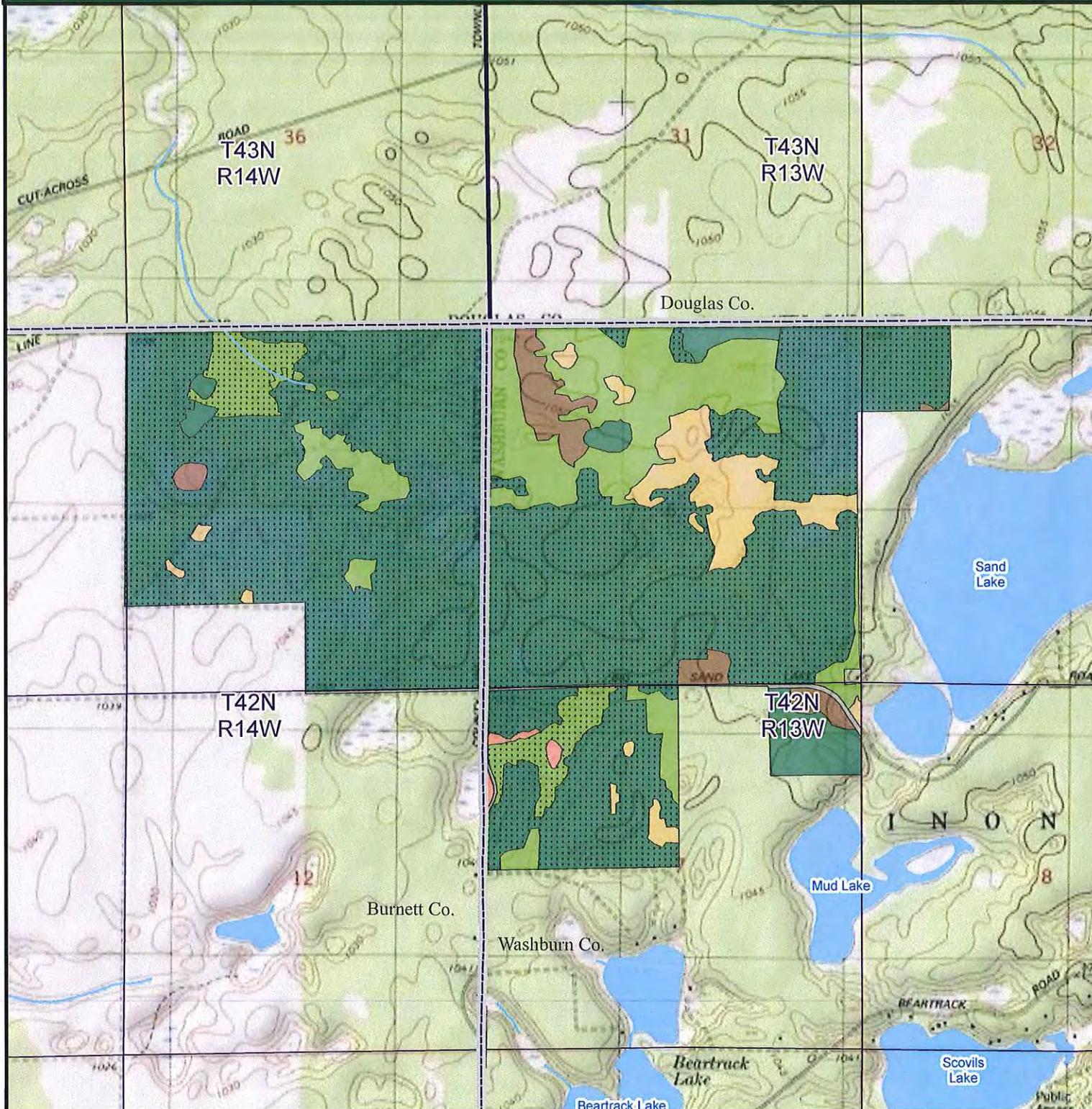
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# Lyme St. Croix Forest

Part of Sect. 1, T42N-R14W Burnett County, and  
Parts of Sects. 5, 6 & 7, T42N-R13W Washburn County, Wisconsin

1,478 Acres



## Legend

- ◆ Plantation
- ◆ Aspen
- ◆ Lowland Conifer/Hardwood
- ◆ Lowland Non-Forest
- ◆ Jack Pine
- ◆ Mixed Pine & Upland Conifer
- ◆ Red Pine
- ◆ Right-of-Way
- ◆ Scrub Oak/Mixed Oak
- ◆ Upland Non-Forest
- ◆ Water

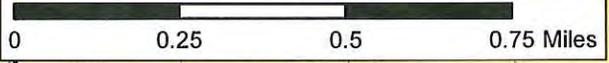
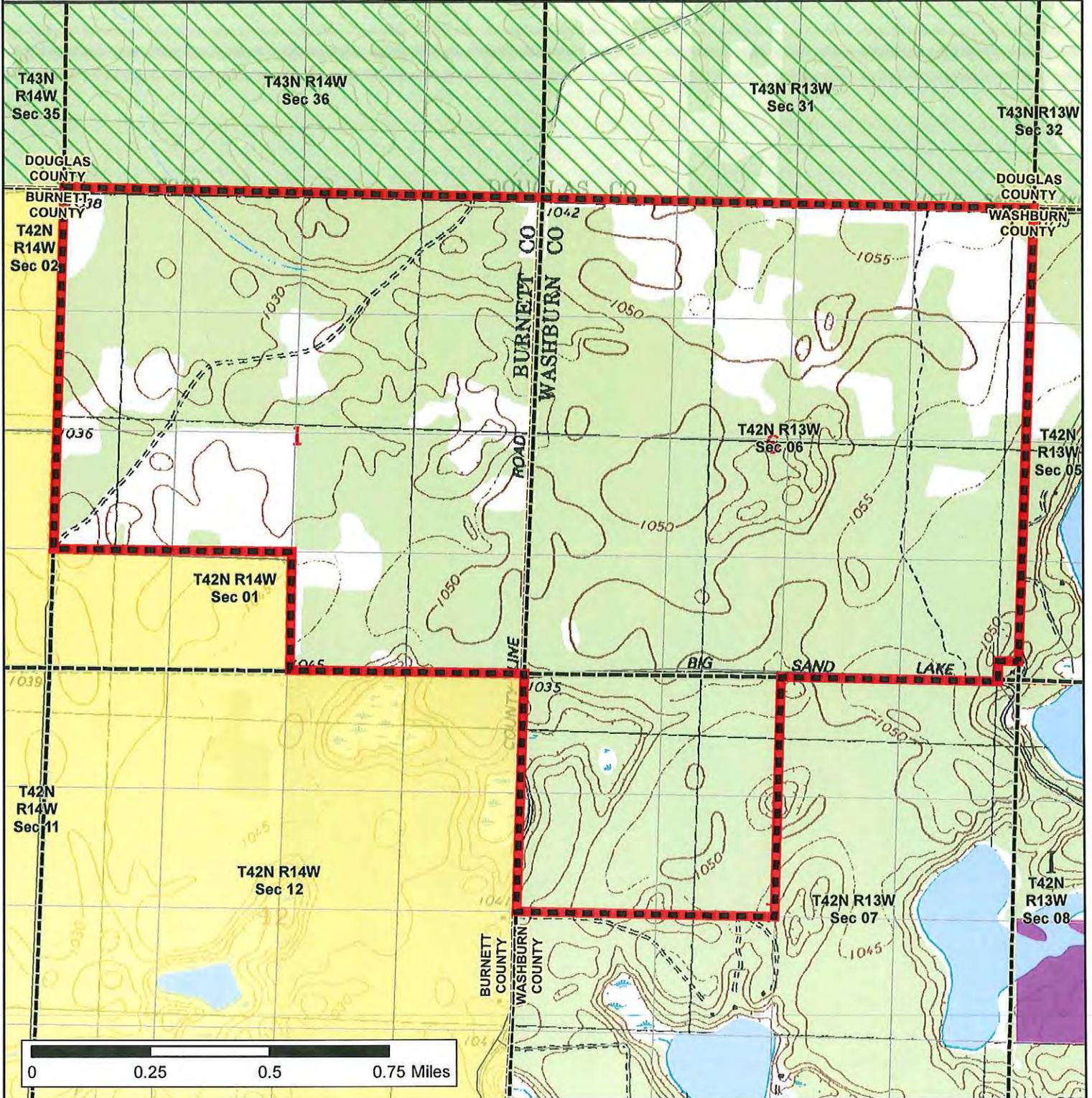
**Map Disclaimer:**  
This map is intended to provide a visual representation of property and geographic features. It is not a legal survey but a depiction of the property based on reasonably available information suitable for the intended purposes. This map shows the approximate relative location of property boundaries but was not prepared by a professional land surveyor. The use of this map is limited to applications consistent with the intent and accuracy of the map and source data. It may not be sufficient or appropriate for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. No guarantees or warranties are expressed.



June 8, 2012

# The Conservation Fund - Fee/Gift

## T42N R14W Sec 1 & T42N R13W Sec 6 & 7, Town of Minong, Washburn & Burnett County



### Namekagon Barrens Wildlife Area



Subject

- DNR Fee Title Land
- County Forest
- DNR Easement Land
- Section Line
- Department Leased Land
- QQ Section Lines

Sep 24, 2013 kmh  
Real Estate Section  
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

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