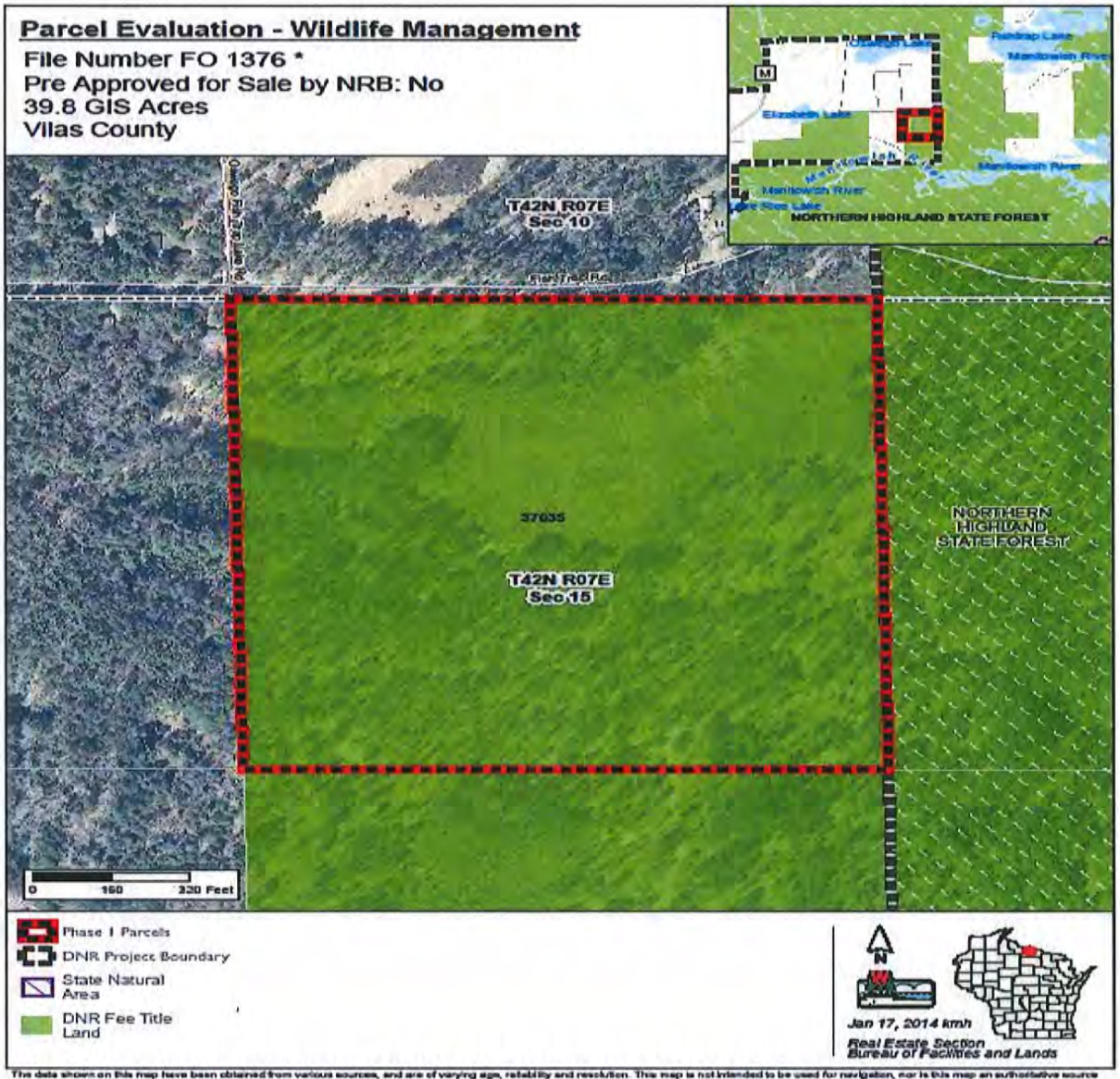
File# FO-1376 – Vilas County 39.8 Acres

This parcel was purchased in 1973 and at the time of purchase was located within the boundary of the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest. Access is provided by a town road and adjacent Department property. The NHAL Master Plan, approved by NRB action in 2005, included acquisition exclusion areas in and around the Towns of Manitowish Waters, Boulder Junction, Sayner, St. Germain, and Lake Tomahawk. These exclusion areas were originally removed from the Northern Highland and American Legion State Forest Administrative boundaries in 1975 by NRB action. The 1982 and 2005 NHAL Master Plans recognized this action and the continued interests of the local Towns for these areas to remain as exclusion areas and not be included in the NHAL project boundary. The intent of the 1975 action, and the two subsequent master plan actions, was to adjust the project boundary and remove lands from the NHAL project boundary, as well as the State Forest designation. The rationale for all three actions was to allow the Department the ability to divest the lands by trade or sale, for more appropriate forested lands within the NHAL and allowing the Towns to direct local growth and development in and around their communities. The Department will work with Vilas County to determine if there is a snowmobile trail on the property and convey a permanent easement to the County if necessary.

The Department recommends that the Natural Resources Board offer this land for sale under the authority granted by s. 23.145 Stats.