

File# FO 82 [(4) — Vilas County - 70 acres

The Department acquired this property in 1912 from Northern Blue Grass Land Company. This parcel is a part of the Northern Highlands exclusion zones. 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.

There are three snowmobile trails approximately 3,225 feet long intersecting the property, which are maintained by the St. Germain Snowmobile Club. The Department has not invested in infrastructure improvements and only investments related to timber management have occurred on the property. The Northern Hardwood stand on this property provides habitat for forest interior bird and animal species and management has been done to improve the timber quality on the property.

This parcel is accessible from Juve and Pedykort road, with three vehicle pull off locations along snowmobile trails which the public uses to access the property. The property is adjacent to a Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) parcel. This BCPL parcel was traded by the Department to BCPL for a parcel in the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest.

The Department recommends that the Natural Resources Board offer this land for sale under the authority granted by s. 23.145 Wis. Stats., subject to easements to ensure the snowmobile trails are allowed on the property.

