

## File# NA 611 & NA 611 E - Florence County - 249.8 acres

The Department was gifted this property in 1996. The donor requested that the proceeds for any lands sold were to be used to purchase land for the Spread Eagle Barrens Natural Area project. At the time of donation the Natural Resources Board approved accepting the donation, but only 83 acres were within the project boundary and the remaining 258.22 acres outside the boundary were to be analyzed for retention or exchange for other natural area lands within the project or sold.

The property has approximately 3,200 feet of two bank frontage on Spread Eagle Outlet, and approximately 1,280 feet of shoreline on Frog Lake. There are 7-8 parcels located east of Frog Lake and west of North Frog Lake Road that are identified in the Natural Heritage Inventory as a quality Northern Dry-Mesic Forest community. It was documented during inventory as disturbed old growth red and white pine forest with trees up to 30 inches in diameter at breast height. This community type is also identified in the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan and has a state rank of S3 (rare or uncommon in Wisconsin) and a global rank of G4 (globally secure but rare in parts of range).

The Department has made investments in habitat improvements, specifically staff time for timber management. The portion of the property north of Bodelin Road is under timber sale contract, to be harvested by March 2017. The property north of Hwy 2 has been marked for timber sale but has not yet gone out for bid. The Department will work with Florence County to determine the timing for any future land sales based on existing timber sale contracts.

There may be title and ownership issues to resolve as well.

The Department recommends that the Natural Resources Board offer approximately 250 acres of this property only to Florence County under the authority granted by s. 23.145 Stats. The Department also recommends retaining a portion of this property (13 acres) due to rare habitat and adjacency to the larger State Natural Area and to include this parcel within the Spread Eagle Barrens State Natural Area project boundary. Proceeds from the sale will be used for land purchases within the Spread Eagle Barrens State Natural Area consist with the agreement at the time of the donation.

