Form 1100-1
Rev. 5-91

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM Item No. 3.B.3.

SUBJECT: Land Sales – Phase I

FOR: JUNE 2014 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Kurt Thiede and Douglas Haag

SUMMARY: The 2013-15 state biennial budget directed the Natural Resources Board to make 10,000 acres of land available for sale by June 30, 2017. This new law specifies that net proceeds from the sale of these lands shall be used to repay outstanding public debt related to the Knowles Nelson Stewardship program. The new law only affects lands located outside of official project boundaries established prior to May 1, 2013. A project boundary is created by a feasibility study or master plan or other official action by the Natural Resources Board. The Department has over 600 named projects with established project boundaries. The Department owns approximately 1,517,454 acres in fee title ownership and 300,267 acres in easements. The sale of 10,000 acres represents less than 1% of the Department's total land ownership.

The sale of land under this new law will help the Department achieve the following objectives:

- Realign land ownership for more efficient management
- Repurpose lands that don't serve the Department's mission to more suitable use
- Work with other organizations to meet common property and conservation goals
- Direct limited land management funds to properties that serve the Department's mission
- Resolve boundary and access issues

To implement this new law the Department developed a subchapter to the Real Estate Handbook that outlines the process the Department and the Natural Resources Board will follow in order to comply with this law. The Department held five public information meetings on October 28th 2013 to share the draft sales policy with the public and gather comments on the new policy. The sale policy was also placed on the Department's public policy website for three weeks and comments were accepted during that period. The final draft of the land sale policy was presented to the Natural Resources Board for approval in December of 2013.

In addition to these efforts to involve and inform the public about this new program the Department developed a land sales webpage. This web page allows the Department to share new information about the land sales program as well as specific information about parcels being proposed for sale, parcels actually available for sale, and the requirements for bidding on any specific parcel being offered. The Department created maps of the first 32 parcels to be reviewed for possible sale under this new law and placed them on the website for public view. This web site went live in early February 2014, and the Department released a state wide announcement to the press indicating that information about this new land sales program and the first parcels to be reviewed under the new program were on the web site. That press release was covered by several major news publications, radio and television stations. The Department also sent notices of the possible sale of these lands directly to state legislators, tribal nations, counties, towns and villages that may have jurisdiction over or interest in the lands.

In addition to the involvement of the public and state and local officials, the Department conducted field reviews to evaluate the conservation and recreation values of each parcel. Field staff made recommendations to their respective land management bureaus on the disposition of each parcel of land being considered for sale.

This extensive external and internal involvement in the process has led the Department to make a recommendation to the Natural Resources Board on 26 (1625 acres) of the 32 parcels of land that were put out for review. Five of the parcels that went out for review were discovered to actually be in project boundaries and were removed from this process as this new law does not apply to properties inside of established project boundaries. One parcel was removed because the Department has questionable title and may not actually own the property.

Of the remaining 26 parcels, the Department is recommending that 22 of the parcels (1407 acres) be offered for sale and 4 parcels (218 acres) be retained by the Department. Fourteen of the sale parcels are landlocked and have no legal public access from a road and 8 of the sale parcels have legal access from a road or adjoining public land. The Department is recommending that 3 of the 22 sale parcels be offered for sale subject to some form of deed reservation that restricts future use of the property. The remaining 19 parcels are recommended to be sold with no restrictions or restrictive covenants.

Minimum selling prices will be established for each parcel approved for sale and the Department will obtain a title commitment that will be available to any prospective buyer. Parcels that are land locked and have no legal access

will be marketed to adjoining landowners through a competitive bidding process. Parcels that have legal access from a public road will be offered for sale to local or tribal governments that have expressed interest in the parcel and then to the general public through a competitive bidding process. In all cases the Department will work closely with local municipalities and adjoining landowners to ensure that trail corridors or ingress/egress easements are perpetuated prior to marketing any parcel for sale and that the Department retains access as necessary to adjoining lands. There is no specific timeline for marketing any of the parcels. The Department will work through its due diligence process and when each parcel is cleared for sale it will be marketed as outlined above.

The Department's specific recommendation and background information for each parcel is attached for your review.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approves the Department's recommendation to sell 22 parcels of land (1407 acres) under the authority of s. 23.145 Stats., and retain 4 parcels of land (218 acres) for conservation and/ or recreational purposes.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

No ☒	Fiscal Estimate Required	Yes ☐	Attached
No ☒	Environmental Assessment of Impact Statement Required	Yes ☐	Attached
No ☐	Background Memo	Yes ☒	Attached

APPROVED:

Deputy Facilities and Lands Bureau Director, Douglas J Haag - LF/6 — Date 6-16-14

Administrator, Kurt Thiede - AD/8 — Date 6-16-14

Secretary, Cathy Stepp - AD/8 — Date 6/17/14

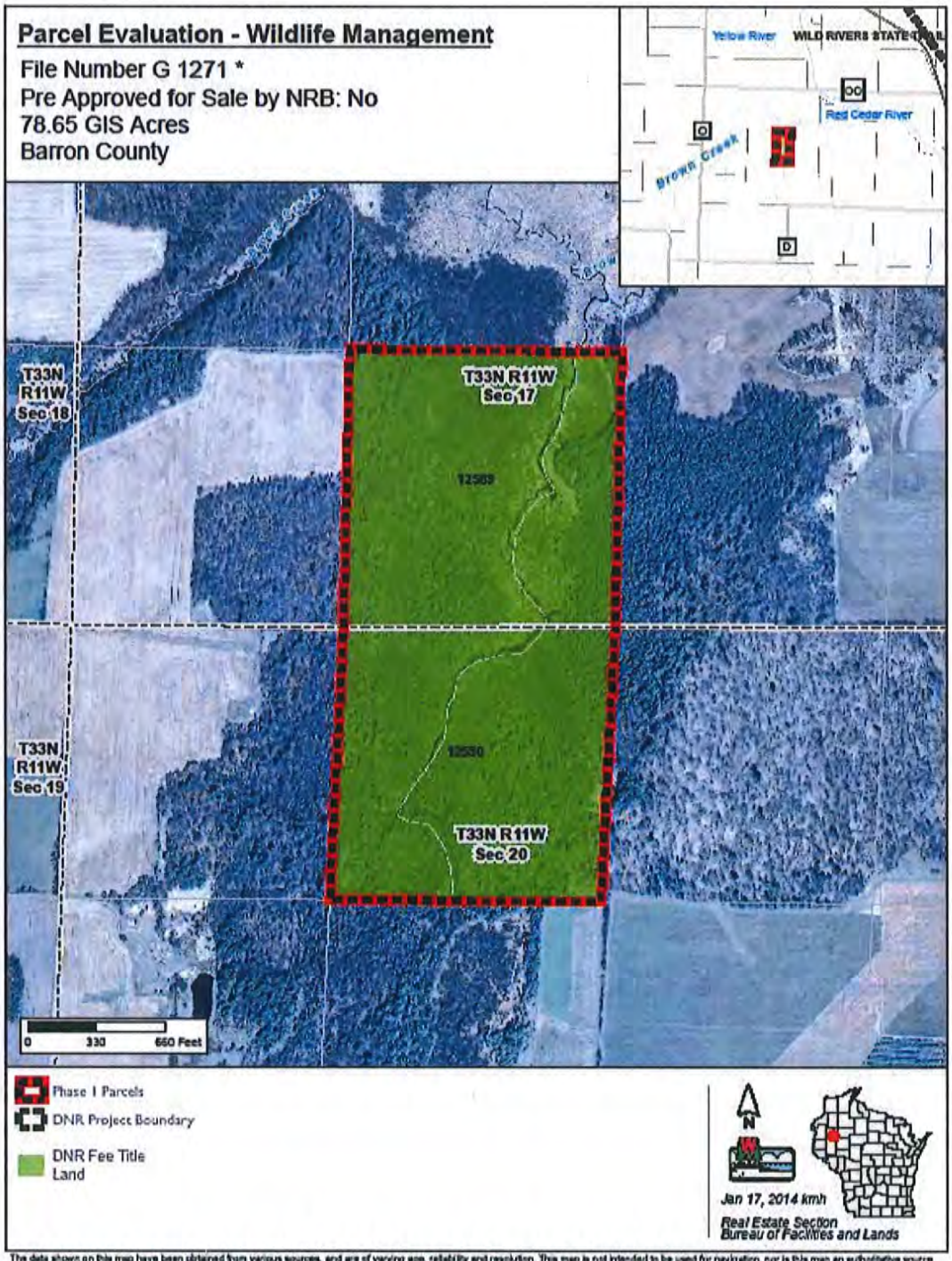
cc: S. Miller - LF/6
D. Haag - LF/6
L. Ross – AD/8

Parcels Recommended to Be Sold with No Restrictions

File#- G 1271 - Barron County 78.65 acres

The Department purchased this property in 1962 for $650. The parcel has 3,320 feet of two-bank frontage along an unnamed tributary to Brown Creek, a classified trout stream. The property provides excellent habitat and hunting for deer, bear and ruffed grouse, however management and recreational opportunities are severely limited because the property is landlocked. Because the property lacks road access, use is limited to those that have private adjoining land and the general public is restricted to legal access from the creek. The Department has not invested in infrastructure or habitat improvements to this property. The Forestry Program set up and administered a timber sale over 10 years ago in coordination with a neighboring landowner who was also completing harvest.

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



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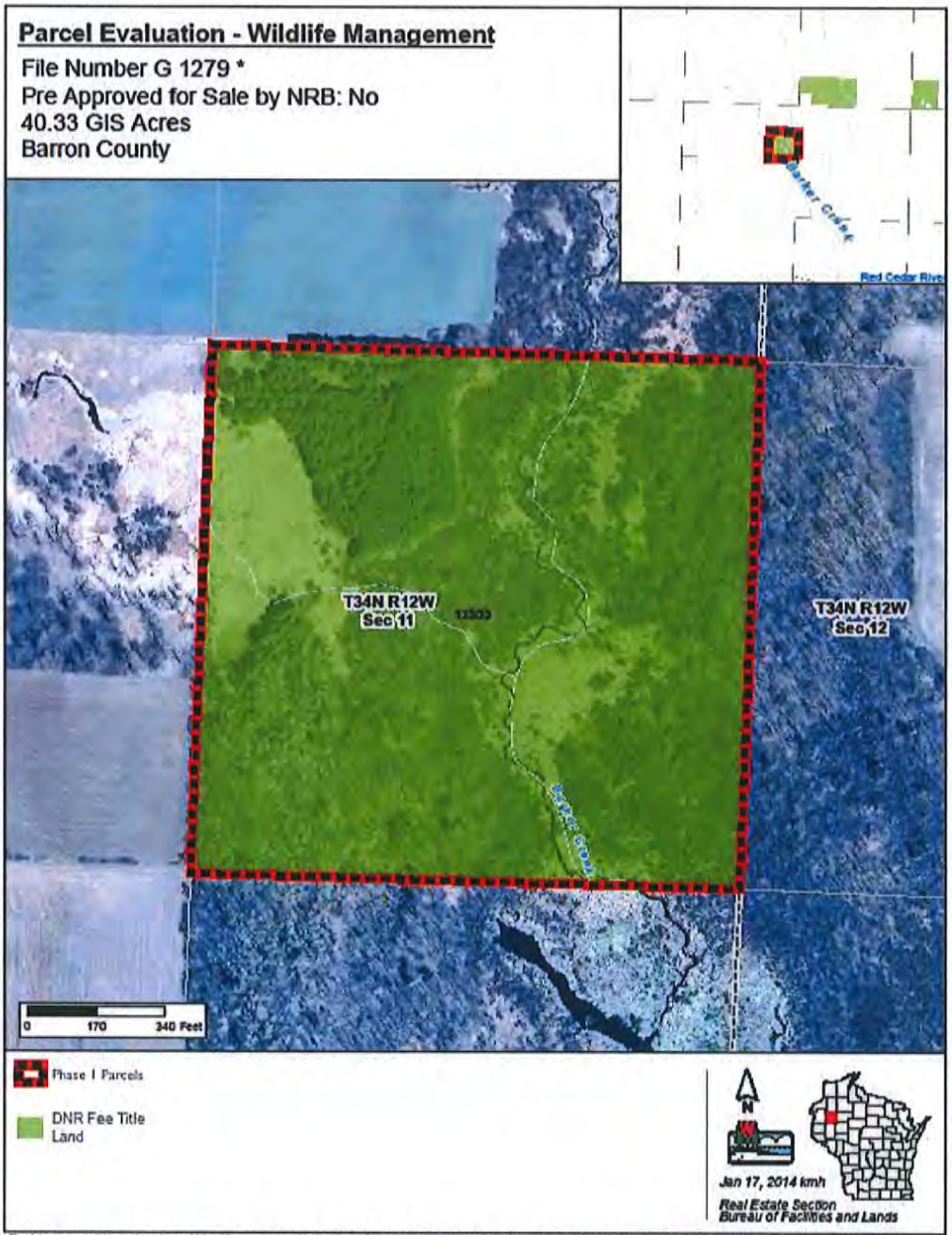
File# G-1279 – Barron County 40.33 acres

The Department purchased this property from in 1962 for $430. Property features include 1,700 feet of two-bank frontage on Barker Creek along with an additional 1,000 feet of two-bank frontage along an unnamed tributary. The property was acquired for waterfowl management, being located ¼ mile southwest of a 74 acre tract the Wildlife Program hoped to eventually adjoin. Because the property connection was never made, the subject tract remains a landlocked parcel, accessible only from the creek. The Department has not invested in infrastructure or habitat improvements to this property. The Forestry Program has recently planned a timber sale for this property and has invested time to negotiate access from the neighboring property. The sale will be bid within the upcoming months and the Department will retain the parcel until after the timber harvest is complete. The Town of Barron has expressed possible township interest in the purchase of this tract. The Town understands current access is provided only from the creek and would like to explore easement access from one of the adjacent landowners. The timeline for completing the cutting will provide opportunity for Barron Township to evaluate the town's interest in purchasing the property.

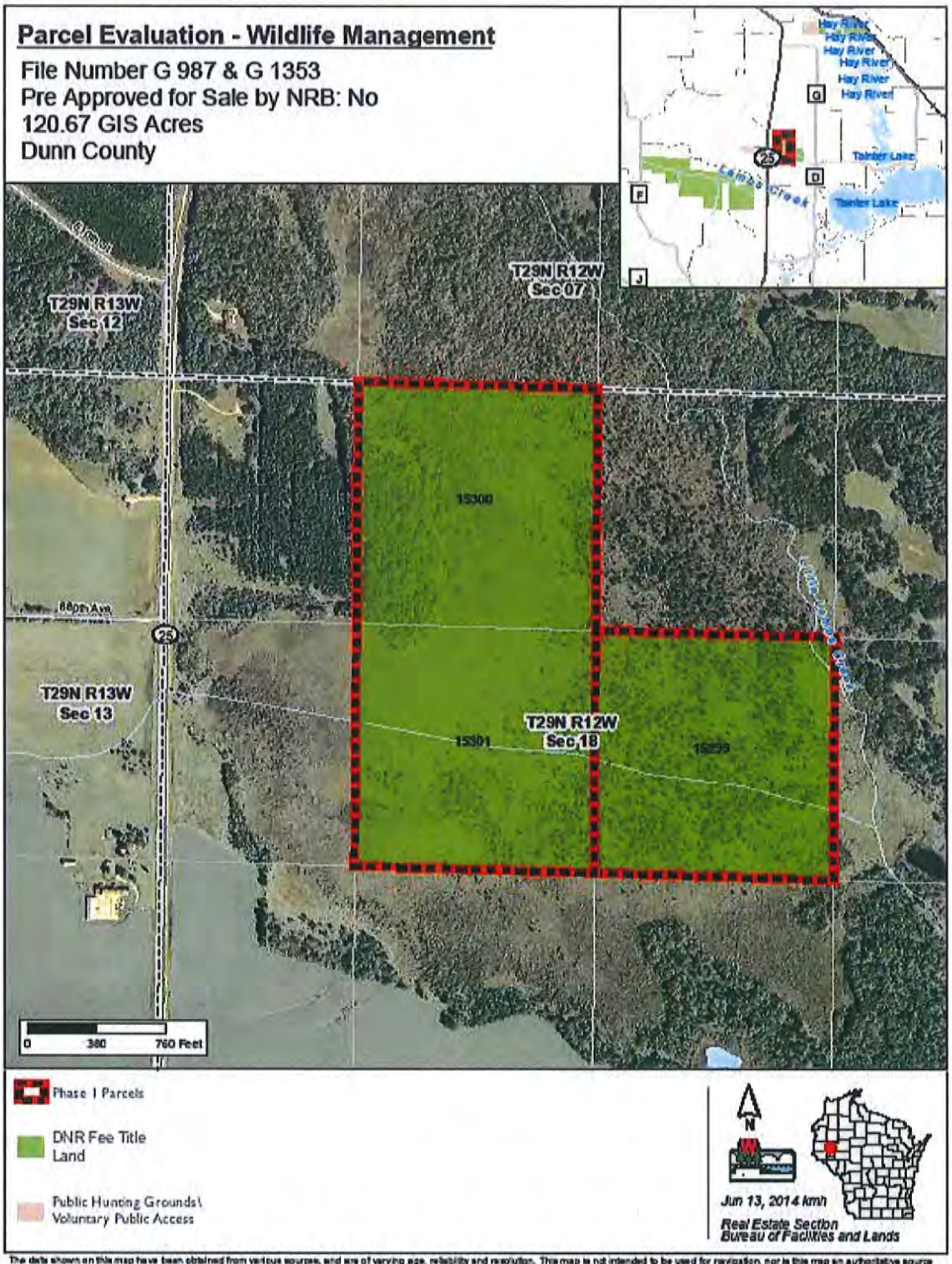
The Department recommends that the Natural Resources Board offer this land for sale under the authority granted by s. 23.145 Stats.



File # G 987 and # G-1353 - Dunn County 120.67 Acres

The Wisconsin Conservation Commission purchased these parcels in 1960. This acquisition provided protection to an un-named tributary to Little Lamb's Creek. The parcel was purchased to protect Dunn County wetlands, for fish management, wildlife production, and to guard against further fish and wildlife habitat destruction. There is currently no legal access onto this property for the Department or the general public, with the only access coming through permission from neighboring landowners. This property consists of low-lying ground that is wet and not suitable for development.

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



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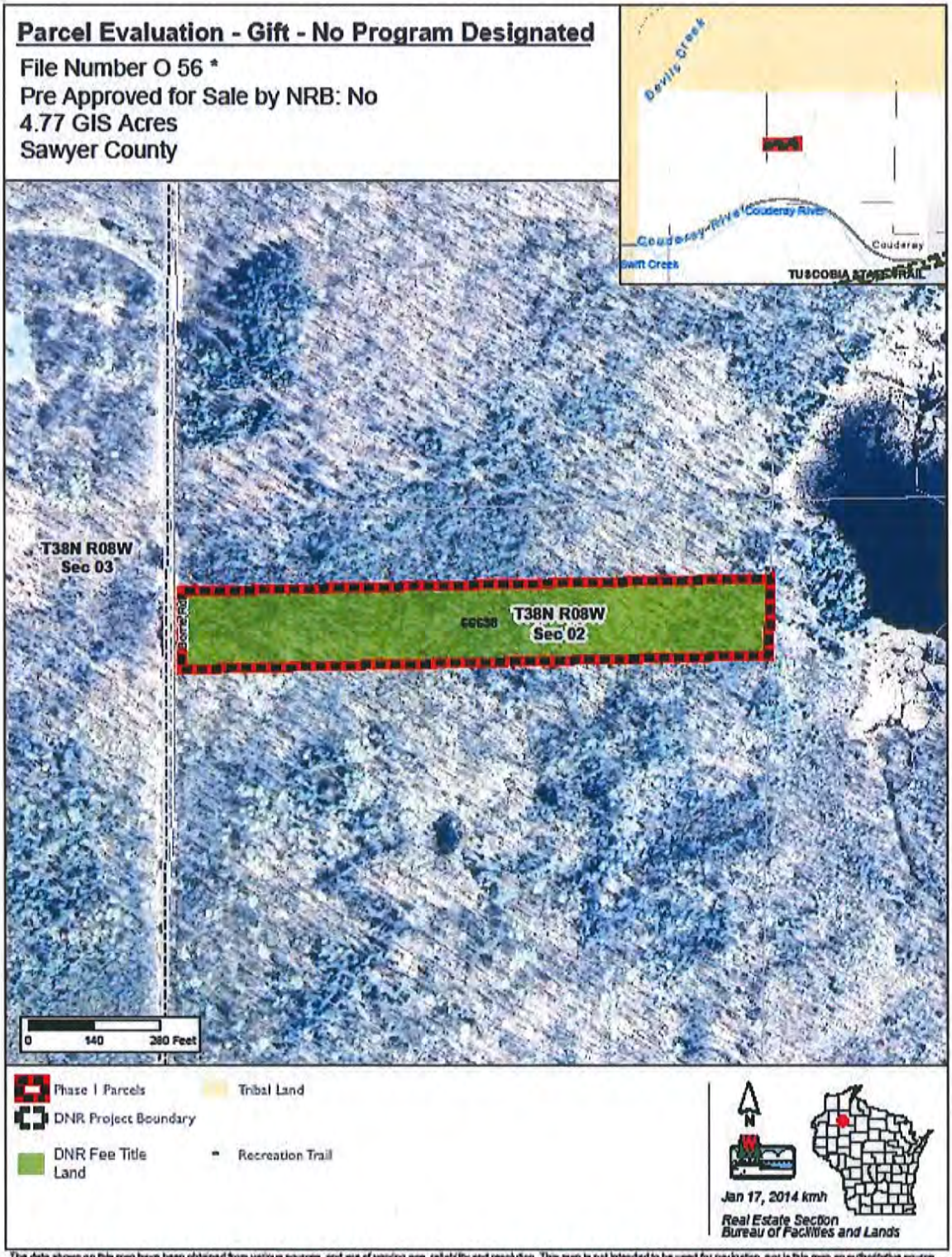
File # 0-56 - Sawyer County 4.77 acres

This parcel was gifted to the Department in July of 1990. At that time the Natural Resources Board designated these 4.77acres would be sold or exchanged in the future. The property does have road frontage and legal access for the public but it is not within a project boundary and due it size, has little conservation or recreation value.

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



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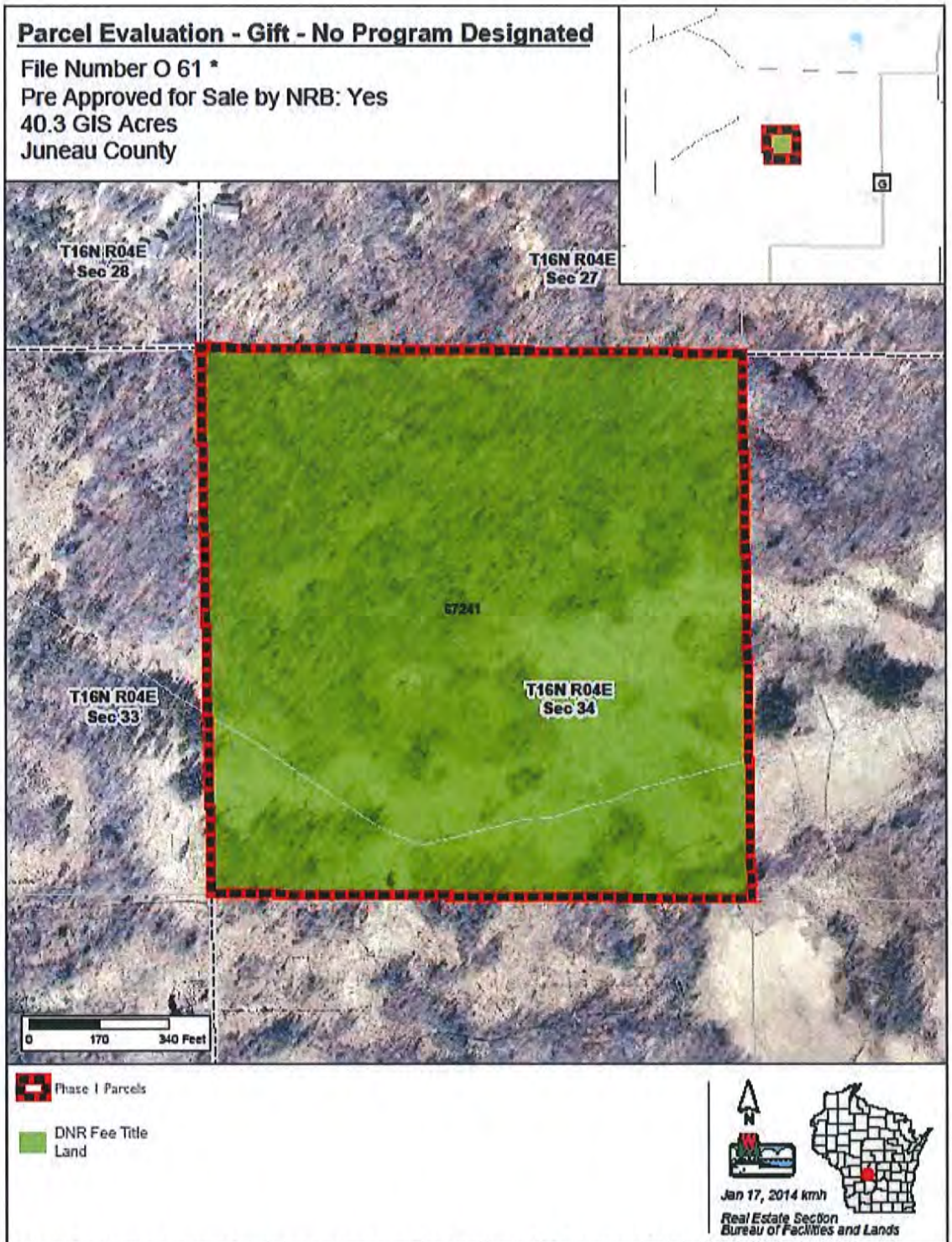
File# 0-61 - Juneau County 40.3 Acres

The Department was gifted this property in December of 1990. At the time of acceptance, the Natural Resources Board designated this entire parcel to be sold or exchanged in the future. This parcel is comprised of scattered timber pockets in a marsh complex in the S ½ and the N ½ of the property is mid-succession mixed upland timber consisting of mainly Oak Aspen and Jack Pine that was determined to have market value. It is an isolated parcel with no road frontage or access for the Department or the general public.

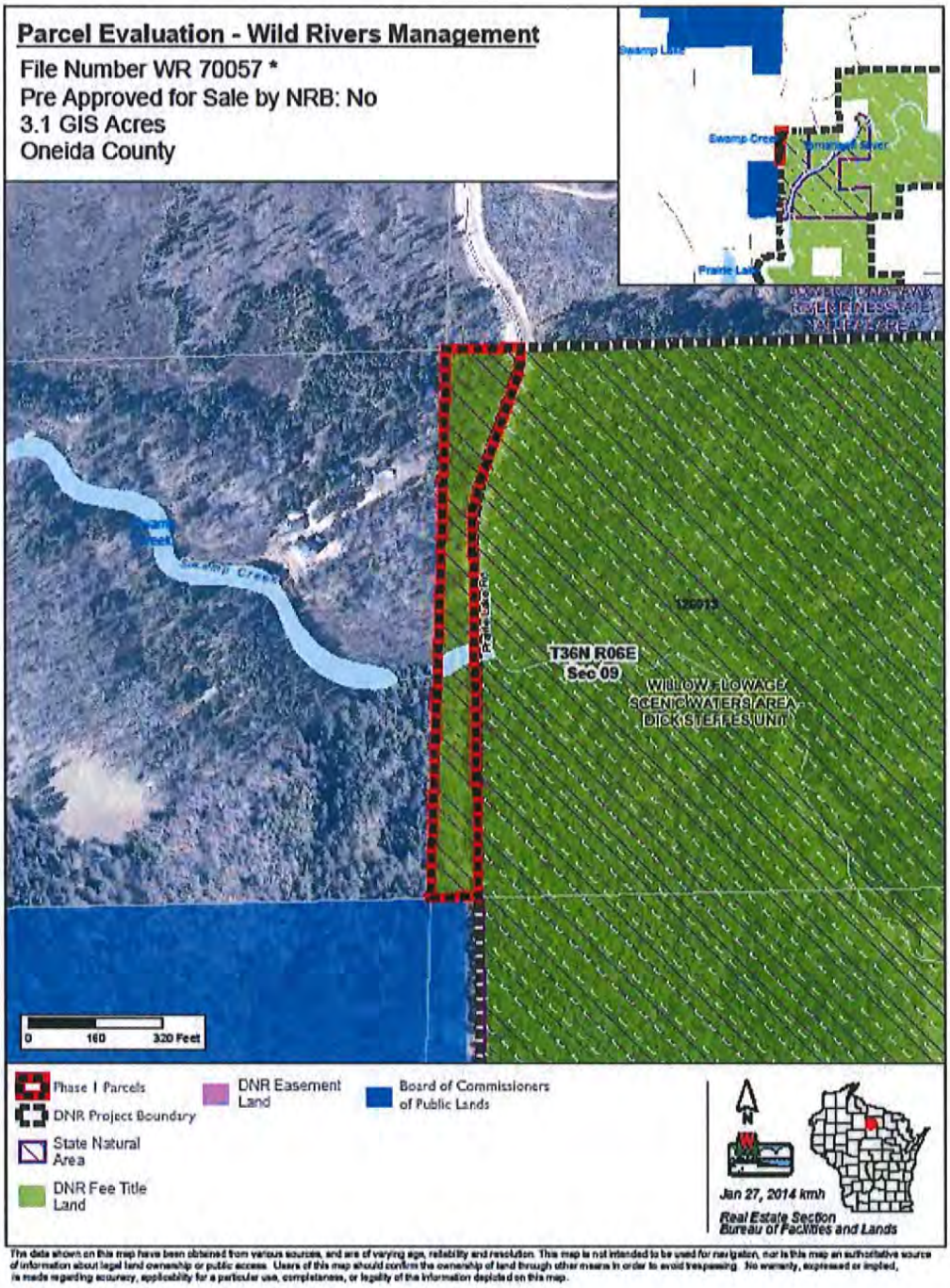
The Department recommends that the Natural Resources Board offer this land for sale under the authority granted by s. 23.145 Stats.



File# WR 70057—Oneida County 3.1 Acres

The Department purchased various tracts of land from BCPL in a large transaction that closed in September of 2008. This parcel is part of a 40-acre tract that was part of that BCPL transaction. A town road bisects the 40 acre tract creating this 2 acre sliver which is located outside of the project boundary. There is a private residence west of the parcel and a driveway serving the residence was on the parcel prior to the Department's purchase of the 40 acre parcel from BCPL. The Department offered to sell this parcel to the prior owners of the residence but they declined. The current owners of the residence recently purchased their property and requested an access easement from the Department in order to obtain legal access as required by their lender. The Department offered to sell this property to the current owners and they expressed an interest in purchasing the property but to facilitate their closing the Department conveyed an access easement with the understanding that this parcel would subsequently be offered for sale to the current owners.

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



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File# O 19 – Waupaca County 44.42 Acres

The Department was gifted this property in 1981. Information in the file indicates the land was to be available for future sale or exchange. The parcel is landlocked. The Forestry staff indicates a small 3 acre pocket of aspen is ready for harvest. The property does include a snowmobile trail that has been established using state funds. The Department intends to provide a perpetual easement to Waupaca County securing the snowmobile trail prior to sale.

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

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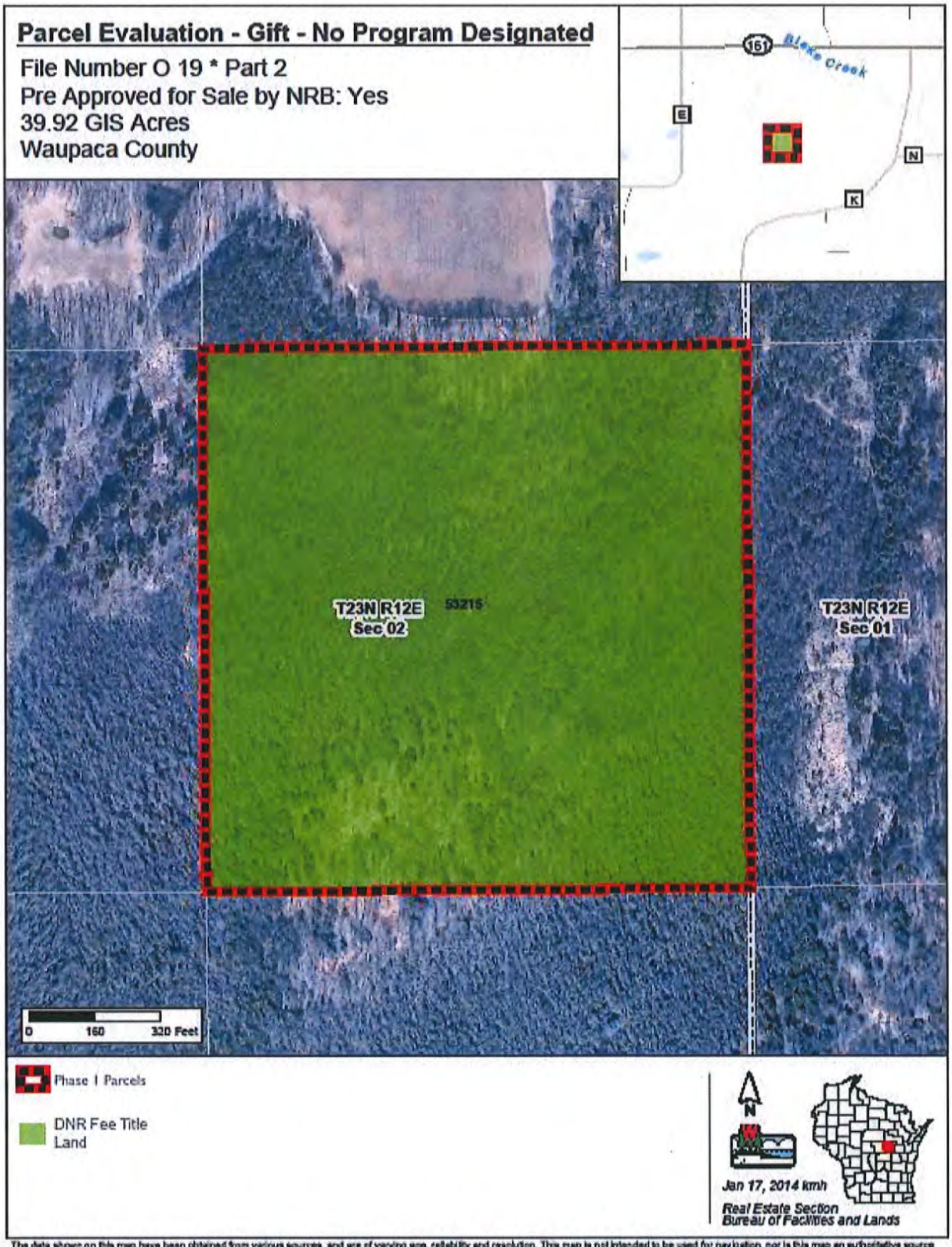
File #O 19 – Waupaca County 39.92 Acres

The Department was gifted this property in 1981. Information in the file indicates the land was to be available for future sale or exchange. The parcel is landlocked.

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



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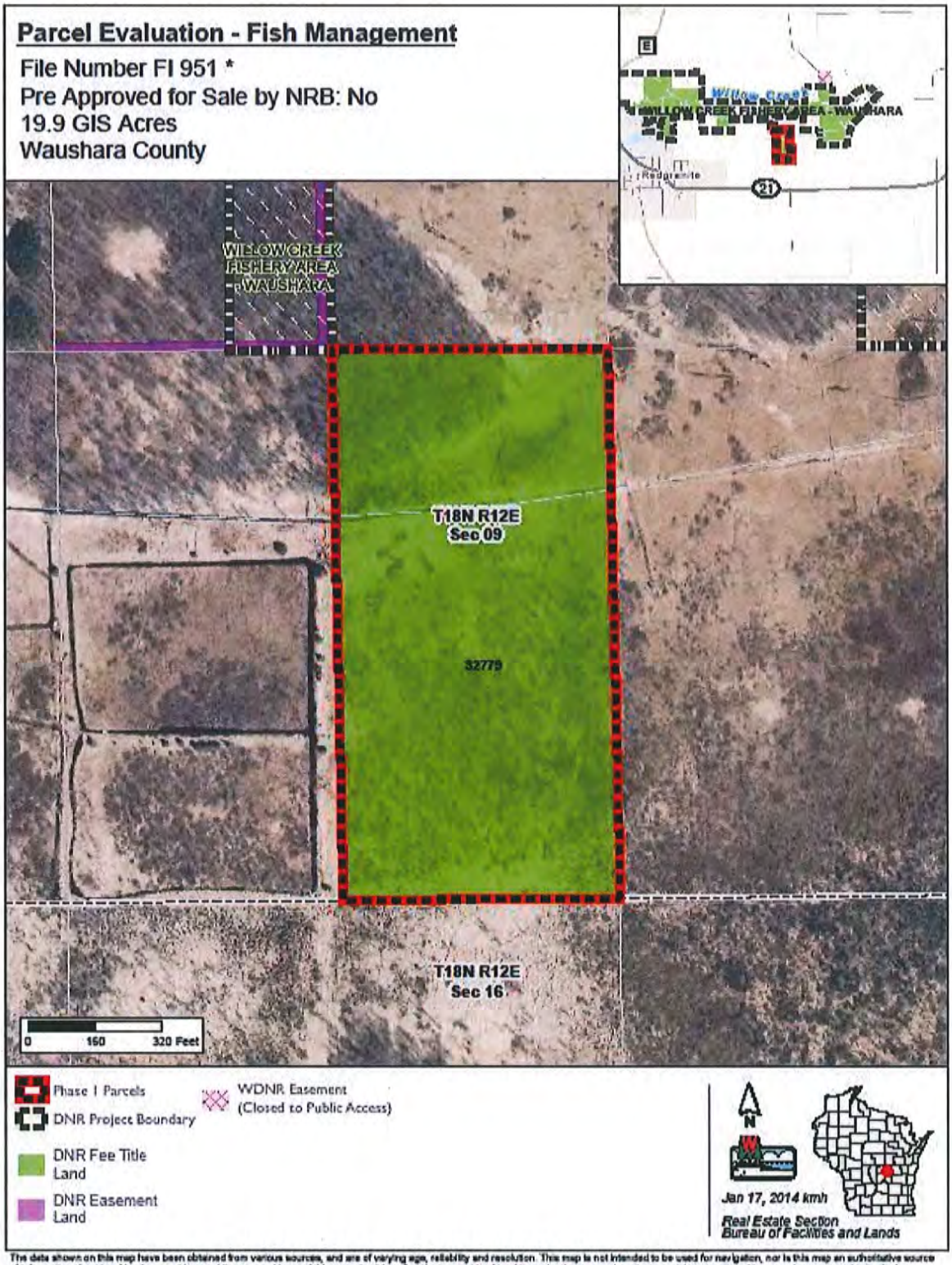
File# FI 951 – Waushara County 19.9 Acres

The Department purchased this property in 1971 as part of a lager purchase of 50 acres for the Willow Creek Fishery Area. This parcel is now located outside of the Willow Creek Fishery Area project boundary. Department staff has invested little money and time in management of the 20 acres due to difficult access. The parcel is landlocked and there is no legal access for the Department or the general public.

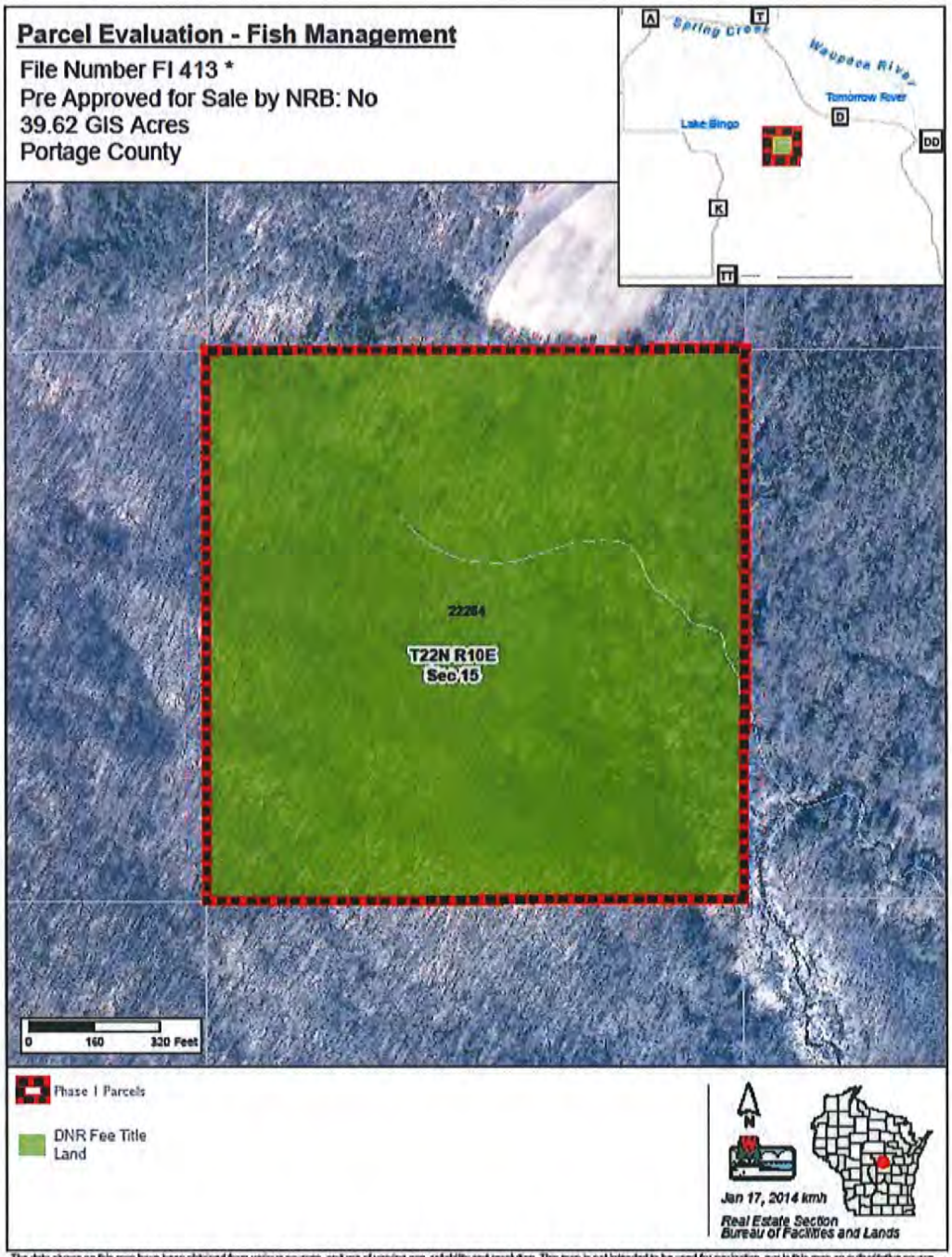
The Department recommends that the Natural Resources Board offer this land for sale under the authority granted by s. 23.145 Stats.



File# FI-413 - Portage County 39.62 Acres

The Department purchased this property in February of 1964 along with another parcel that was a part of the Peterson/ Sannes Creek Rem area (66-acres) in Waupaca County that is not being recommended for sale at this time. This 40-acre parcel has a tributary of Stedmons Creek which is considered to be the headwaters of the stream which is Class 1 Trout water and a source of high value spring flow to the Tomorrow River. Due to the extensive wetlands on the property there is very little risk of land use changes that could impact the headwaters of this stream. A contractor has purchased the timber that was finalized in 2012 for an estimated sale price of $9,300, with a scheduled harvest the winter of 2014-2015. The timber is Aspen and mixed hardwoods. This is an isolated parcel and does not have access or road frontage and it is being proposed to be marketed to the adjacent neighbors. The state does not hold any access to the property and the only public access is through the stream.

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



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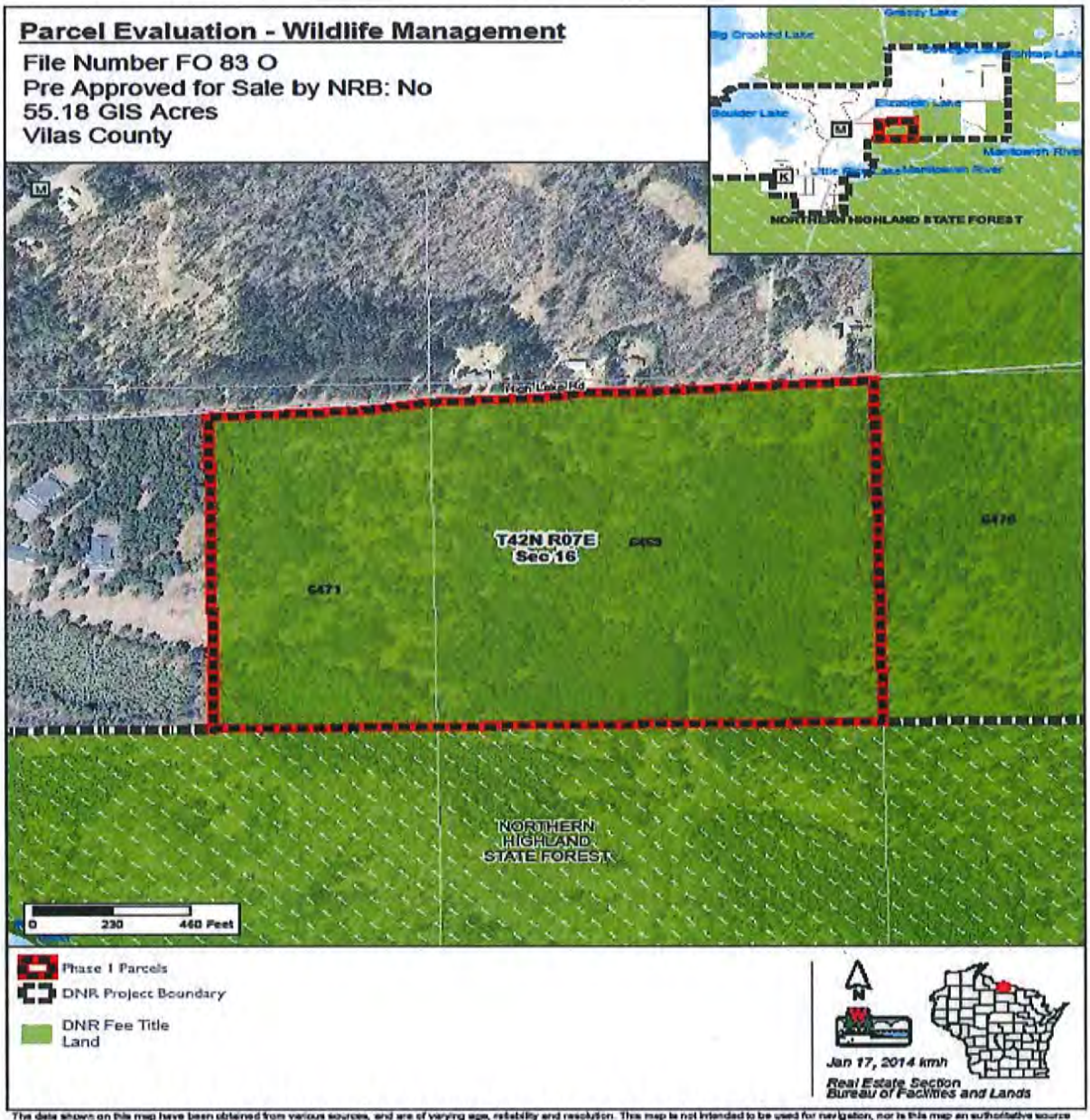
File# FO 83 O – Vilas County 55.18 Acres

This parcel was purchased in 1911. Access is provided by a town road. The woods road is a snowmobile trail in the winter. 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 evaluate rerouting the snowmobile trail and conveying a permanent easement to the County for the snowmobile trail.

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



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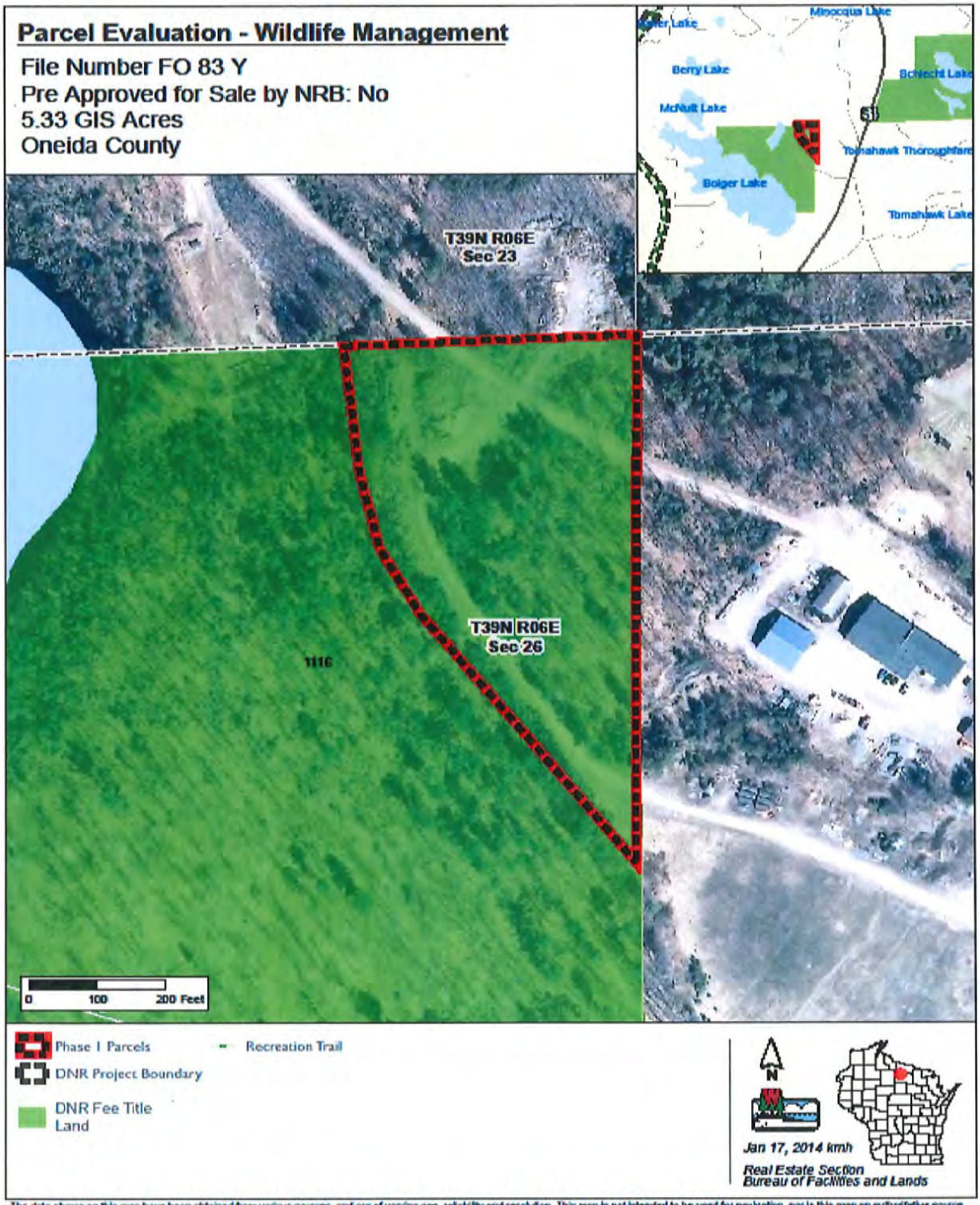
File# FO 83 Y – Oneida County 5.33 Acres

This parcel was purchased in 1911. The Town of Minocqua originally expressed and interest in this property but since then the Department has granted them an easement across the gravel road on the property for access to their facilities. The road system serves a town of Minocqua facility and there is no use of the those roads by the public. The town of Minocqua has expressed interest in gaining ownership of this parcel to resolve access and boundary matters.

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



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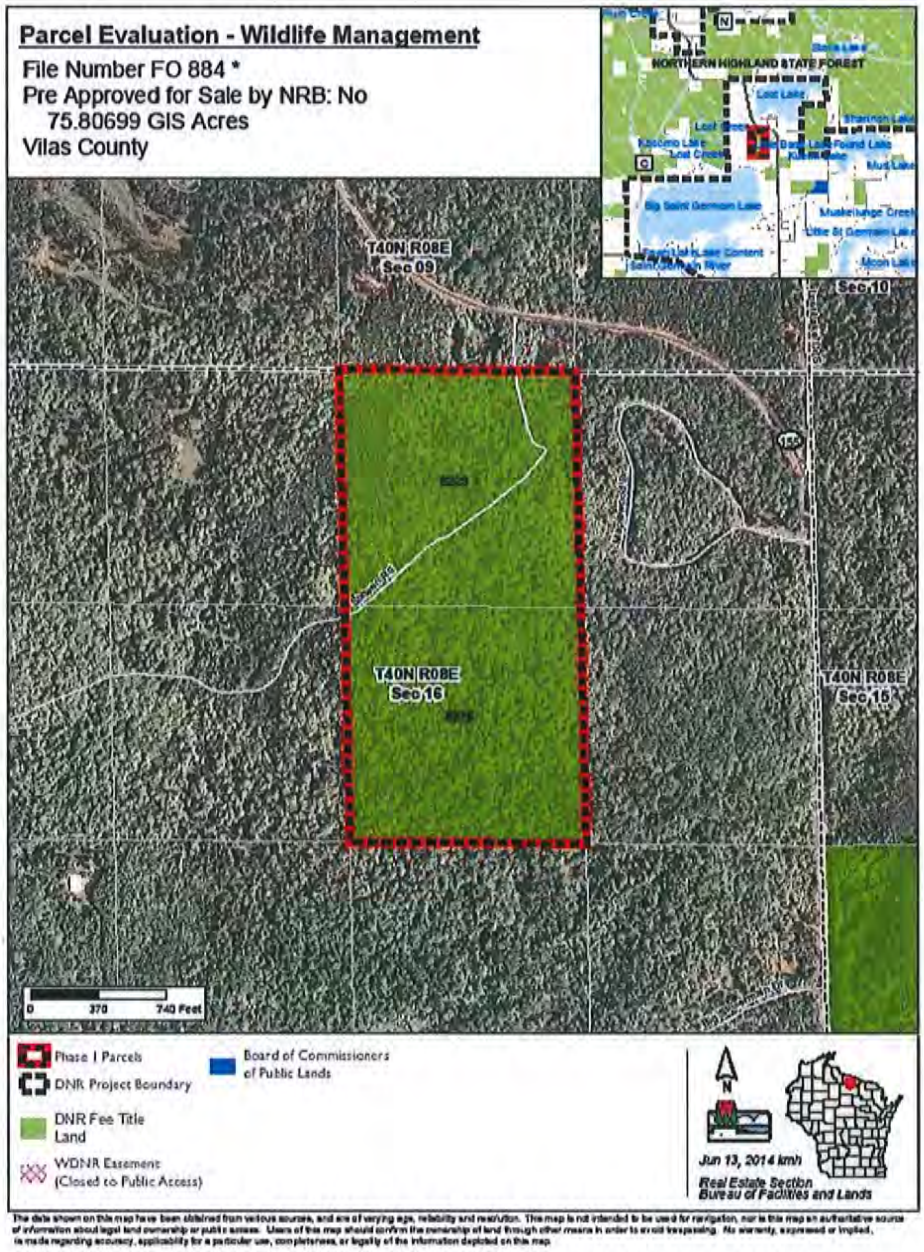
File# FO 884 – Vilas County 75.81 Acres

This parcel was purchased in 1962 and was located within the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest Boundary at the time. 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. This property is accessible by a town road that is used as a snowmobile trail in winter. Vilas County has expressed concern about losing a snowmobile route that may cross this property and the Department intends to convey an easement to the County to protect the trail corridor.

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



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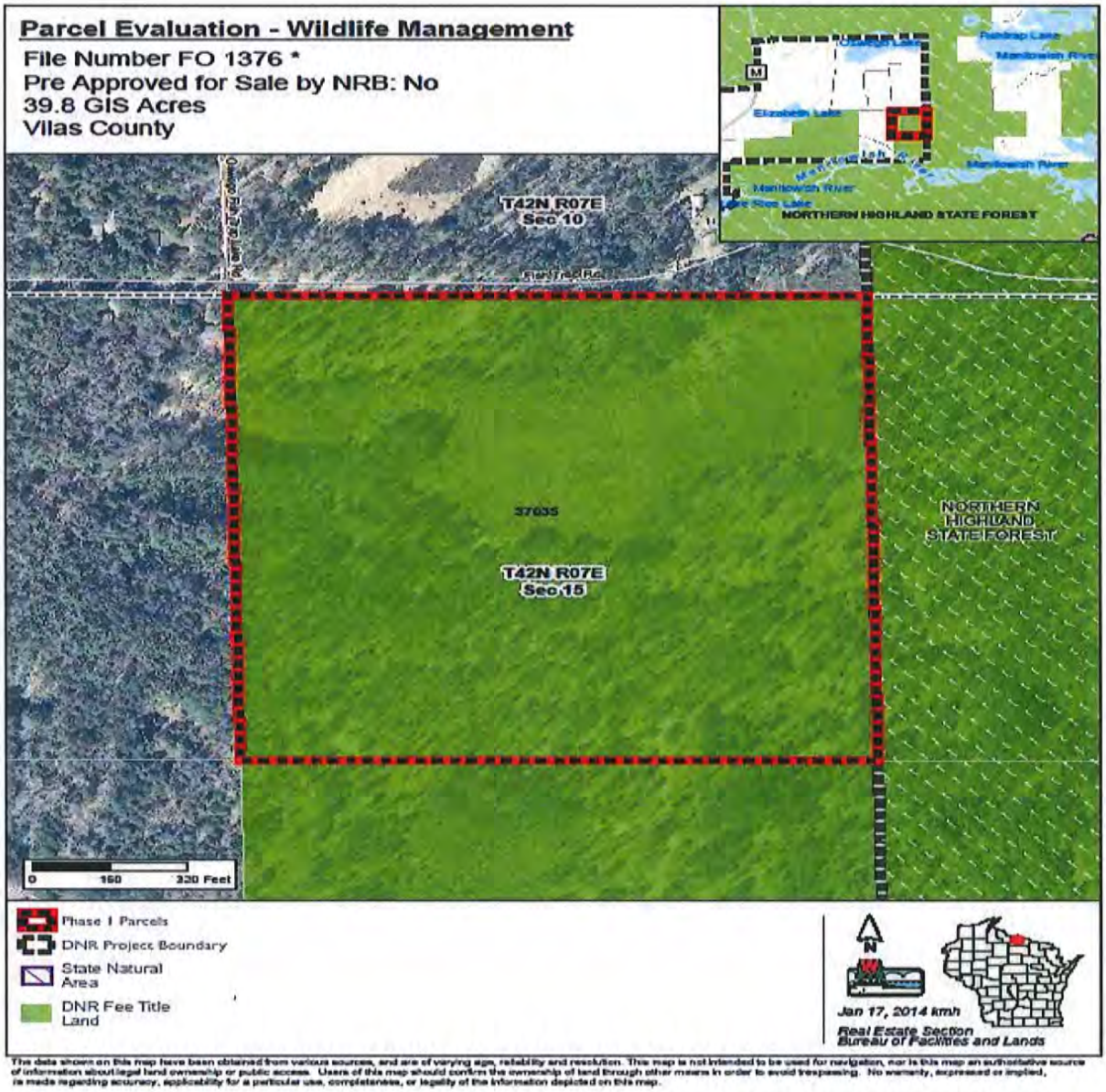
File# FO-1376 – Vilas County 39.8 Acres

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.



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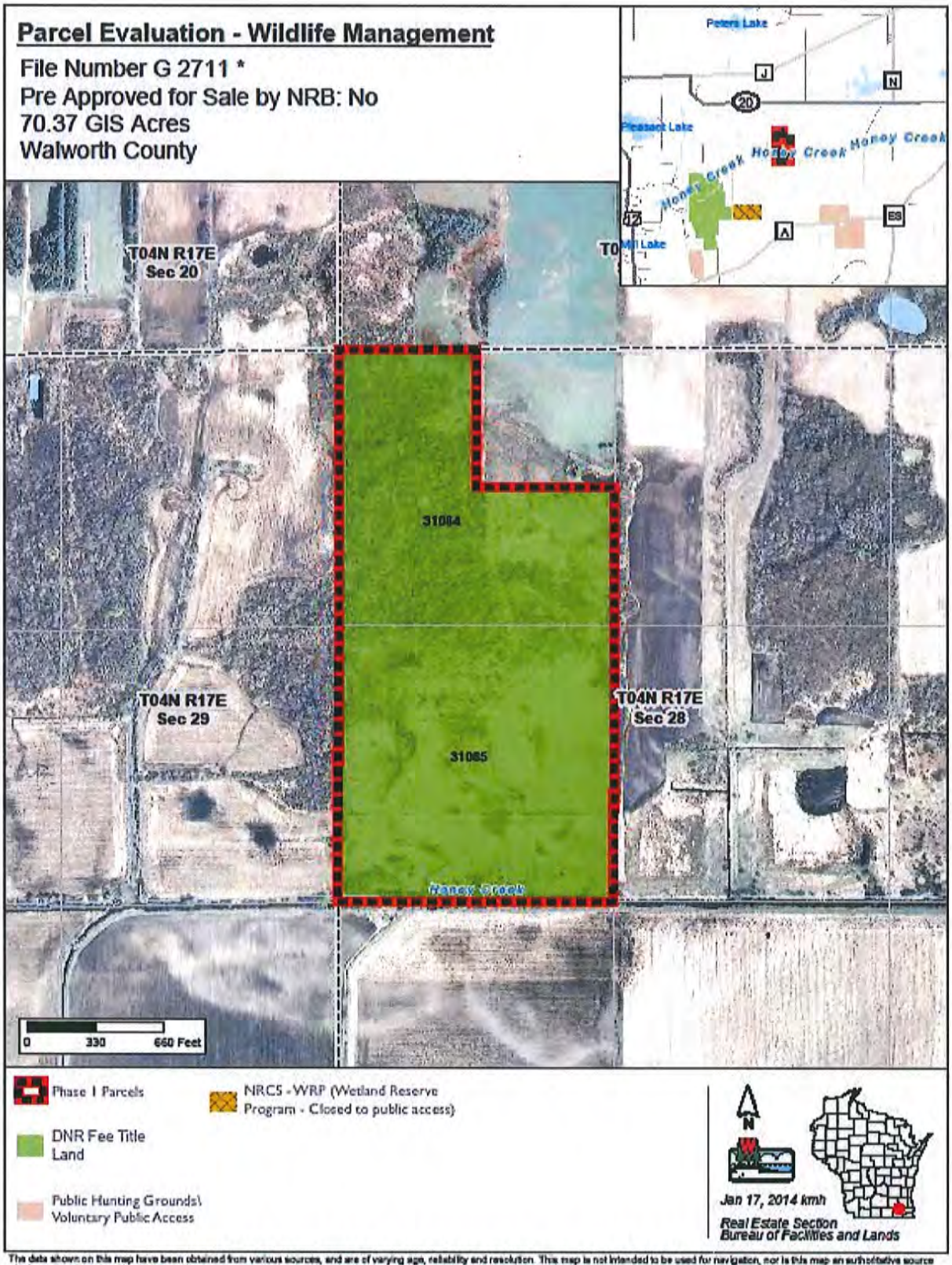
File# G 2711 – Walworth County 70.37 Acres

This parcel was acquired in 1971 under the Extensive Wildlife Habitat authority. The plan at that time was to acquire small tracts of prime nesting and winter habitat for pheasants and waterfowl. Neither the Department nor the general public have legal access to this parcel and the Department has no investment in infrastructure or habitat restoration/management.

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



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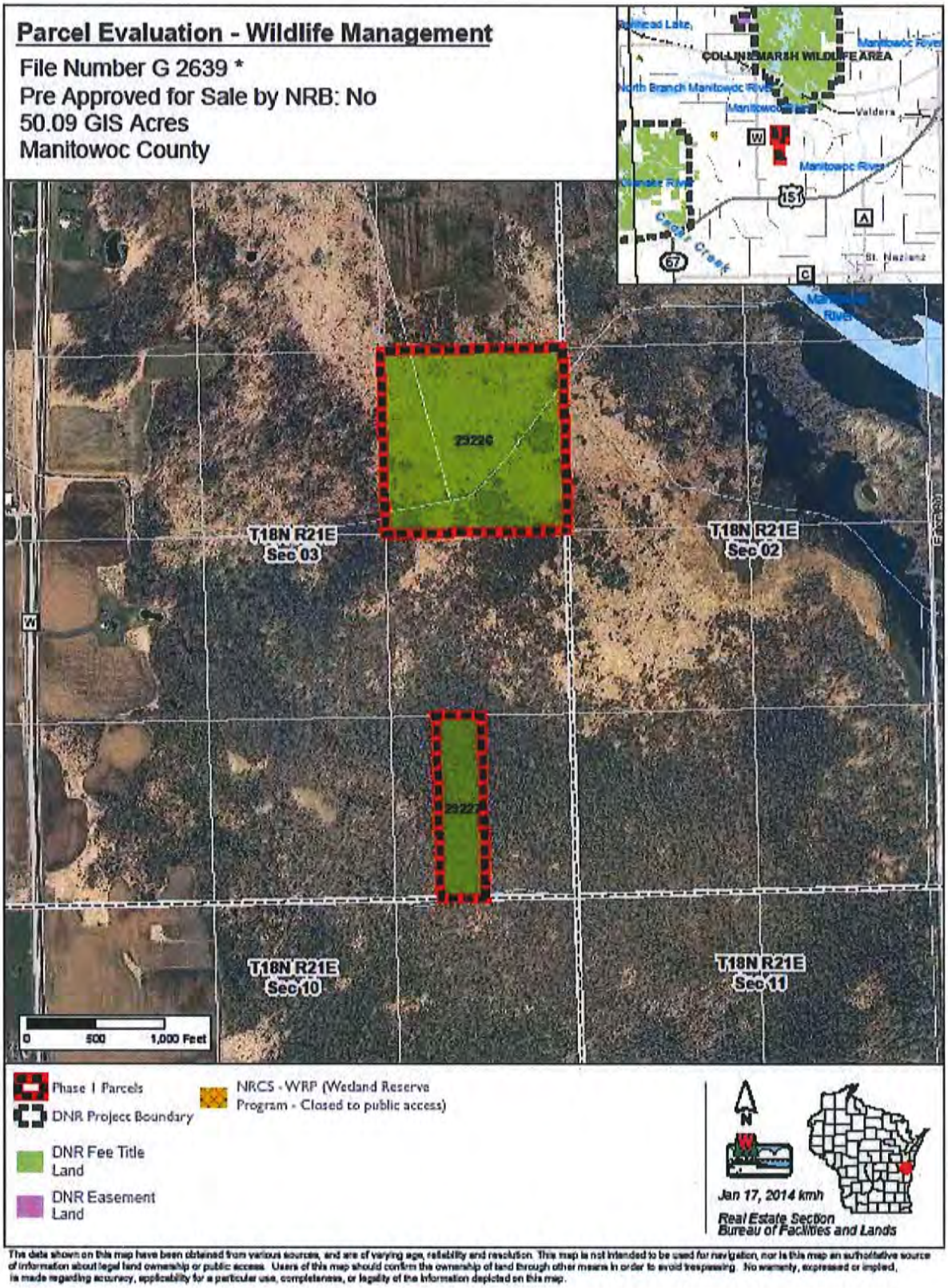
File# G 2639 – Manitowoc County 50.09 Acres

This is actually two separate tracts of land (40 acres and 10 acres) acquired in 1970. The parcels were intended to serve as an anchor for the Department's public hunting ground lease program in that area. There are no longer hunting leases located in this area and neither the Department nor the general public has legal access to these parcels. The Department has no investment in infrastructure or habitat restoration/management on this parcel.

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



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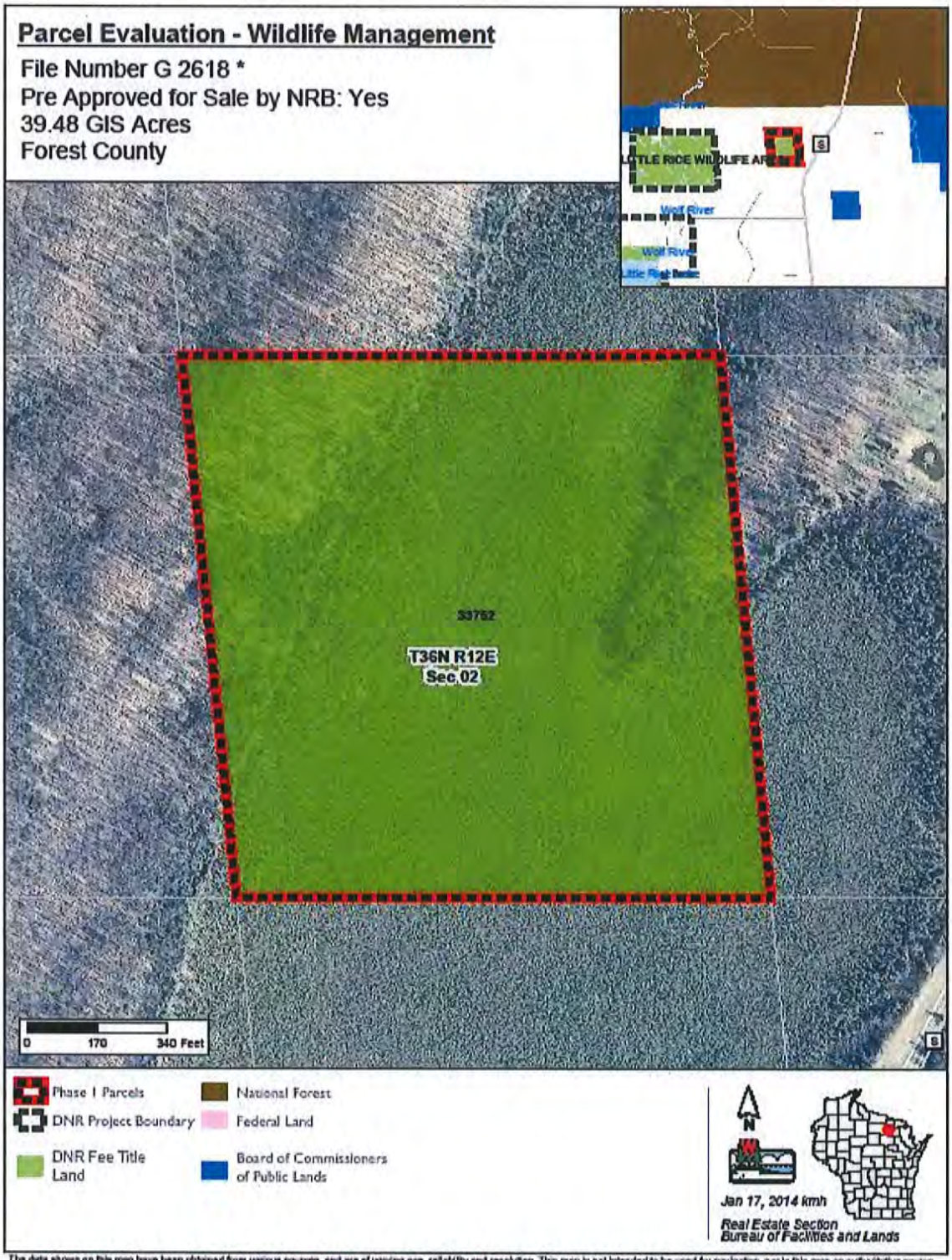
File# G 2618 – Forest County 39.48 Acres

The Department received this property from the U.S. Forest Service in January of 1972 through an ORAP exchange. From the original 80 acre acquisition, 39.48 acres, located in T36N R12E Sec2, is being presented for sale. At the time of purchase, it was determined that this parcel was to be sold or exchanged in the future. It is an isolated parcel, not in a project boundary and with no legal access. There have been no infrastructure or management investments on the property. This parcel is primarily wetland or lowland habitat and has low timber production potential.

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



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File# O-72 – Dodge County 10.16 Acres

The Department was gifted this property by the Luther Memorial Church Foundation in July of 1993. It was accepted under the Extensive Wildlife Habitat program in Dodge County. This 10.16 acre parcel is isolated from other Department owned land, is located outside of a project boundary and has no road access. There is currently an access easement off the south-west corner of the parcel, which appears to not provide legal access to a road. There have been no infrastructure or management investments made on this property.

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

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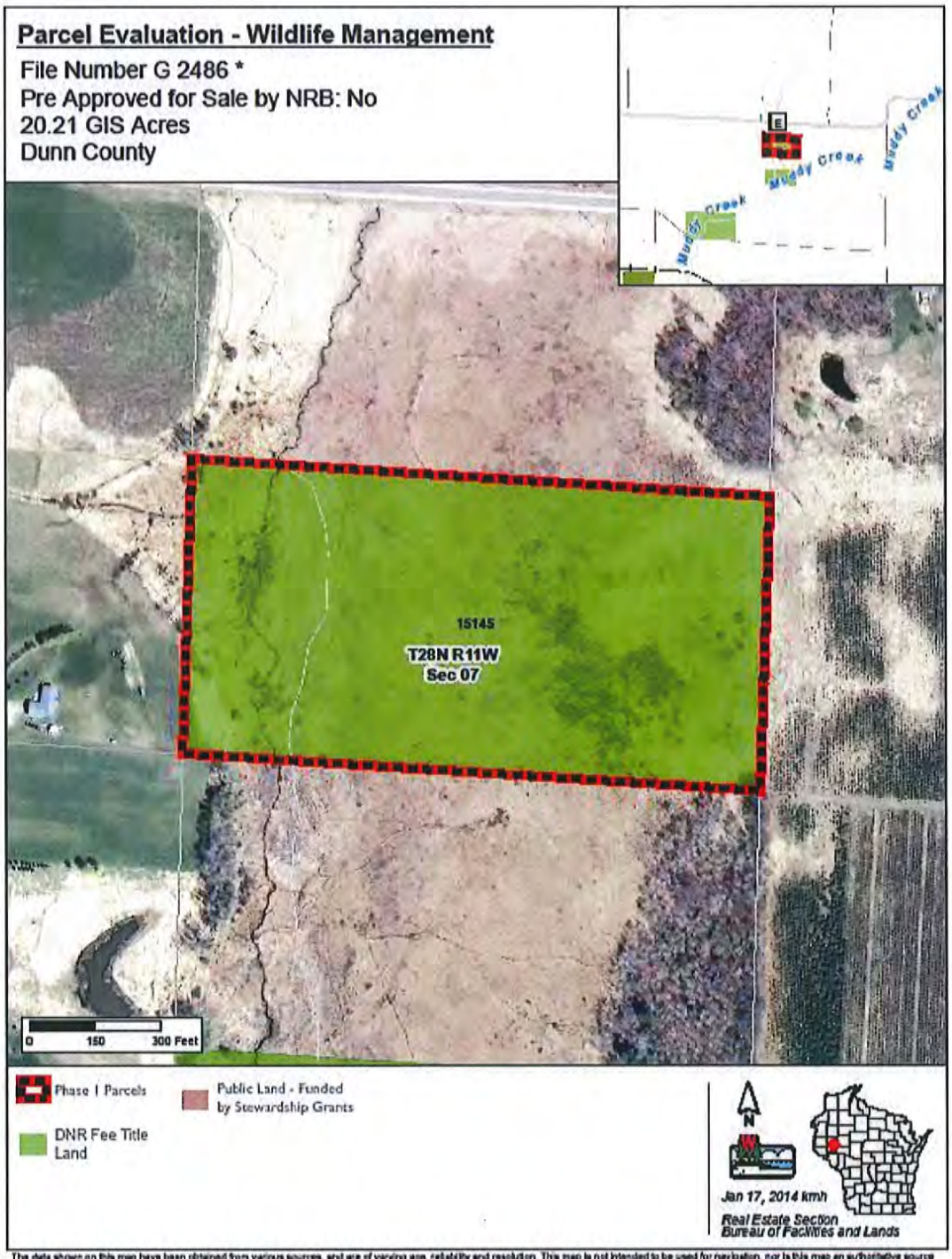
File# G-2486 – Dunn County 20.21 Acres

The Department purchased this property in June of 1968 under the Scattered Wildlife program. The total size of the original purchase was 60 acres. This parcel is isolated from other Department lands and has no road access. An unnamed creek runs through the western portion of this parcel. While no investment has been made in infrastructure or management, it is located within a pheasant management area and does contain winter cover and nesting habitat for wild pheasants. Nearby Muddy Creek Wildlife Area is heavily utilized by pheasant hunters, this property receives similar hunting pressure by those able to secure access from neighboring landowners.

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

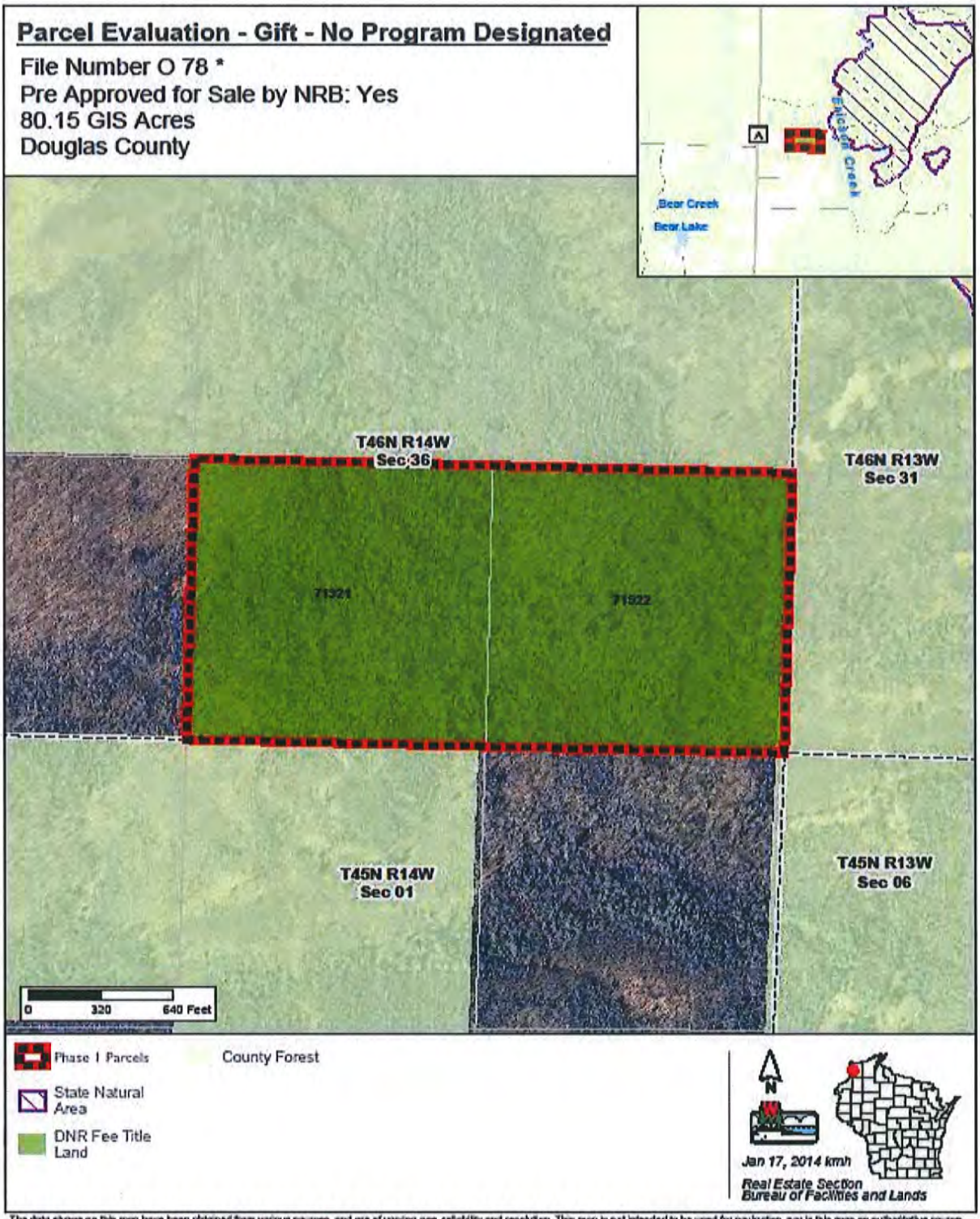


Parcels Recommended to be Sold with Some Restrictions

File# 0-78—Douglas County 80.15-acres

The Department was gifted this 80-acre parcel in October of 1993. At that time the Natural Resources designated these 80-acres would be sold or exchanged in the future. The property blocks well with the Douglas County Forest and the County has indicated an interest in purchasing the property. Given the blocking nature of the property the land likely provides good public hunting opportunities.

The Department recommends that the Natural Resources Board offer this land for sale under the authority granted by s. 23.145 Stats and that the land be offered to Douglas County subject to a deed restriction that requires the land be enrolled in the County Forest program and be open to the general public for hunting, trapping, foot travel (hiking, skiing, snowshoeing) and fishing in perpetuity.



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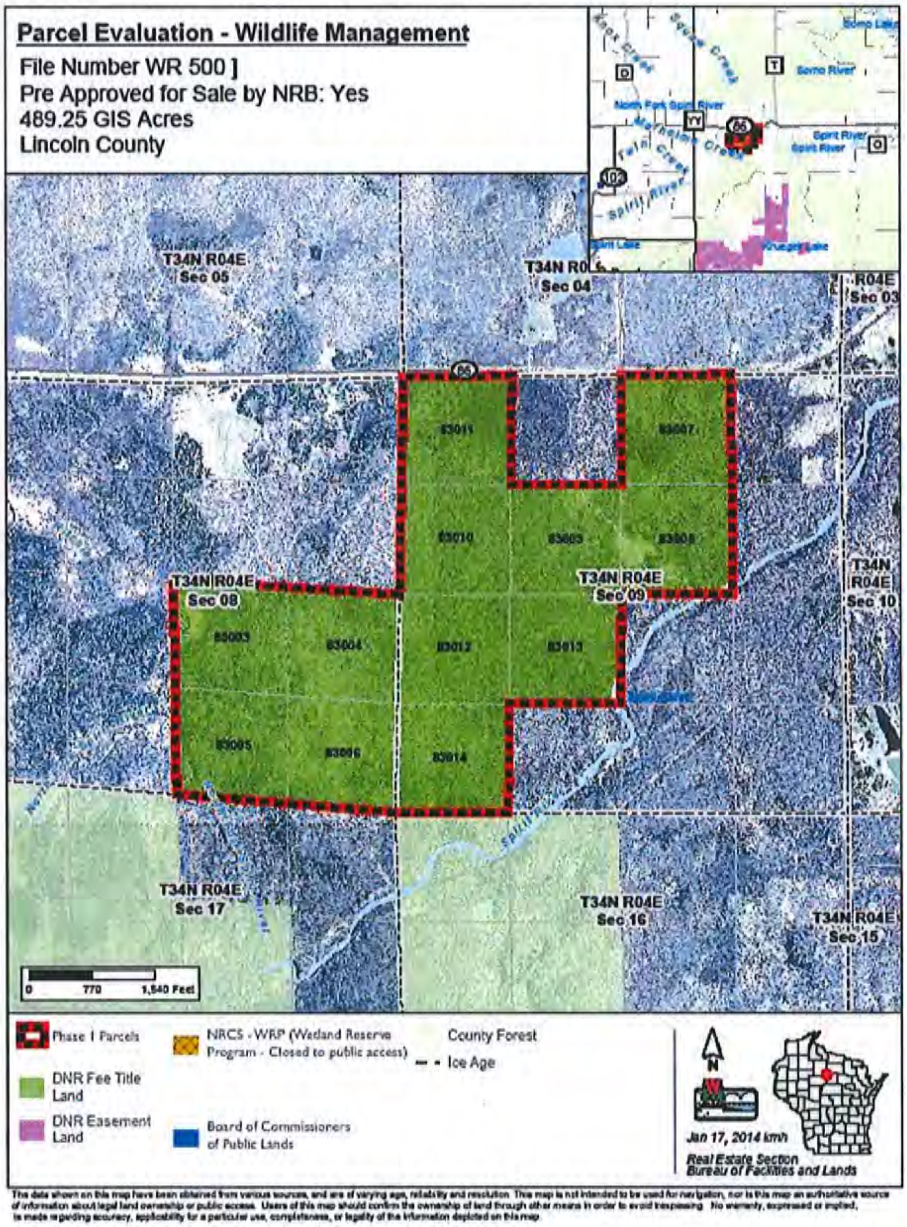
File # WR 500] - Lincoln County 489.25 Acres

This property was purchased in November of 1999 as part of a 32,000 acre purchase from Packaging Corporation of America. Approximately 7000 acres of land from that transaction were identified for resale to counties and tribes. This tract was identified for sale to Lincoln County due to its blocking nature with county forest lands. The land is not located within a Department approved project boundary. The property is accessible by a county highway and has hunter walking/hiking trails throughout the property, including access to Spirit River trout stream. The property is currently being used by the public regularly for outdoor recreation such as hunting (primarily deer and grouse).

Active timber harvests (aspen, mixed hardwood) provide stand age diversity of aspen habitat for grouse, woodcock, and nesting cover for many songbird species. Other habitat types on the property include riparian areas, cedar swamp, tag alder, pine, and fur creating a diverse habitat structure for a variety of species. The property is also within the highest suitable area for the Young Forest Initiative.

A recent timber harvest totaling $112,000 on 121 acres was closed out in 2013. This harvest was conducted in northern hardwoods (selection thinning) and an aspen regeneration harvest of mature aspen. Future timber harvests are anticipated on another 150 acres of aspen timber type, which could result in $130,000 + of monetary return. In addition, those aspen harvests would result in varying the size/age classes on this property and result in a more diverse habitat for wildlife.

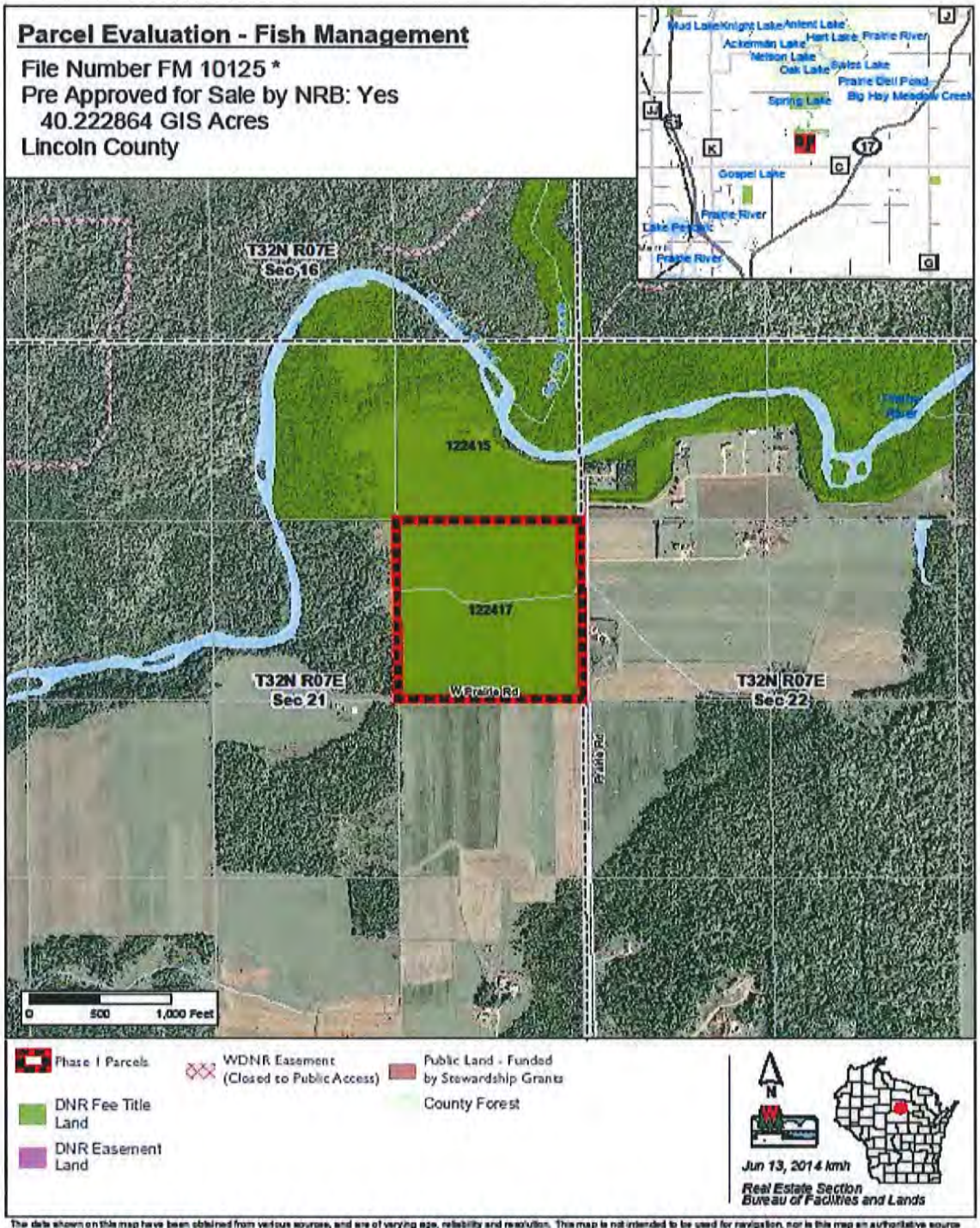
The Department recommends that the Natural Resources Board offer this land for sale under the authority granted by s. 23.145 Stats. and that the land be offered to Lincoln County subject to a deed restriction that requires the land be enrolled in the County Forest program and be open to the general public for hunting, trapping, foot travel (hiking, skiing, snowshoeing) and fishing in perpetuity.



File# FM 10125 – Lincoln County 40 Acres

This parcel was purchased in 2011 as part of a 100 acre purchase for the Prairie River. Access is provided by a town road. At the time of purchase the Natural Resources Board directed the Department to sell 45 acres because the land was productive agricultural land. The Department discussed the sale of this parcel with the town and they suggested that the sale be limited to the southerly 40 acres. The Department complied with that request and placed the property on the market in 2012 through a listing with a local realtor. No offers were received. The Department annually contracts for sharecropping (hay harvesting) on the property.

The Department recommends that the Natural Resources Board offer this land for sale under the authority granted by s. 23.145 Stats. subject to a deed restriction that would limit residential development on the property to the southern 1/2 of the property to prevent any impact to hunting opportunities on adjoining state land.



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Parcels Recommended to be Retained

File# NA 888 – Iowa County 40.12 Acres

The Department purchased this property from in December of 2006 with Stewardship funds under the Ridgeway Pine Relict State Natural Area project authority. Only 3 acres of this parcel are located outside of the project. However, at the time of purchase the Natural Resources Board designated the entire parcel to be sold or exchanged in the future . The parcel abuts other Department lands and has road frontage along Ridgevue Road. Since the original purchase there has been a significant investment restoring the land to native prairie species. Nearly $7,500 has been spent on seeds and planting. Additional funds were spent in subsequent years mowing and controlling invasive species in the prairie plantings. Financial resources were also spent posting the property boundaries. A parking lot was also developed in 2013 within walking distance from this parcel.

Ridgeway Pine Relict SNA is identified within the Driftless Area Features Conservation Opportunity Area (Continental Significance) within the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan (WWAP; 2005). Management (and continued ownership and protection) of this property is consistent with many conservations actions from the WWAP including the preservation of large grassland sites wherever they exist. The 80 acres of restored prairie on state owned property, plus approximately 170 acres of prairie and old field on neighboring private property (including a large acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program) provide a large 250 acre block of grassland ideal for several grassland bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). Grassland birds including Bobolinks, Meadowlarks, and several species of sparrow have been documented in these grasslands (SNA files). Researchers from WI DNR have recommended restoring and protecting large blocks of grassland such as this, to provide habitat for area sensitive grassland birds: "Blocks of 80-250 acres are preferable to smaller blocks, and blocks 250-1,000 acres are the most desirable" (Sample and Mossman, WDNR, 1997).

Additionally, the DNR is working with two private landowners within the project boundary by providing funding and consultation for habitat restoration through the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP). As many as five private landowners within the project boundary are enrolled in Managed Forest Law (MFL), and several neighbors have been in contact with DNR staff from both Forestry and Natural Heritage Conservation (NHC, formerly Endangered Resources) in recent years for guidance/ advice on managing their property.

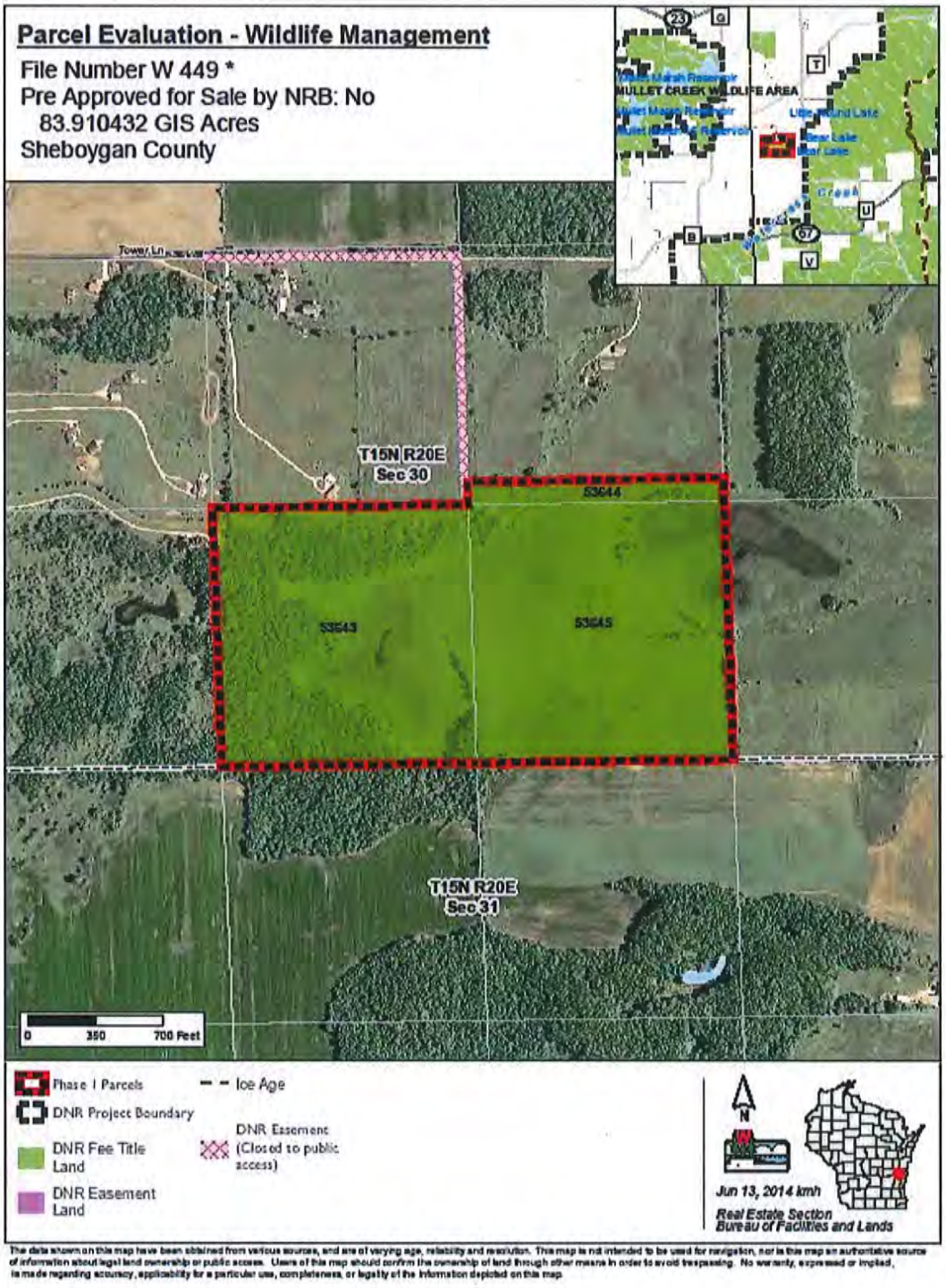
All of the cropland within the SNA boundary, including this parcel, is designated as Highly Erodible Land (Ridgeway Pine Relict State Natural Area Feasibility Study/Environmental Analysis, 1996). Neighboring landowners have commented to Department staff that the restored prairie was noticeably reducing the amount of runoff they were receiving on their property. They were complimentary of the work DNR had completed since acquiring the property. The public has access to the property and it is open for all nature based outdoor activities. All but three acres of the property are in a project boundary.

The Department recommends retaining this parcel.

File# W 449 – Sheboygan County 83.91 Acres

The Department purchased this property in 1982. This parcel does not abut other Department lands, but is just outside the Kettle Moraine State Forest Northern Unit project boundary. There is no public access, but a management access easement does exist for Department staff. This parcel is part of a network of scattered properties that function as waterfowl refuges, and (also) serve to attract more waterfowl to the nearby public hunting areas of Bear Lake marsh and Mullet Creek Wildlife Area. These small parcels provide migratory habitat and nesting and brooding habitat. Approximately 35-acres of native grasses were planted by the Department about 15-years ago to provide upland nesting cover adjacent to the wetland potholes on this parcel at a cost of about $5,000. Prescribed burning occurs every 5 to 7-years at a cost of about $300 each time, and periodic exotic/invasive plant control has been done every 2 to 3-years at a cost of about $100 each time. No timber management is being considered at this time. This parcel is located in a priority township of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. These townships have the highest potential of providing critical waterfowl habitat. One of the goals of this plan is to restore or enhance wetland-upland complexes and protect existing complexes, using fee title and perpetual easements. Waterfowl brood surveys conducted by Plymouth Wildlife staff in the 1980s document Mallard and Blue-winged Teal production on this parcel. Of the 83.91 acres, 11 are prime agricultural soils in non-forested areas. The rest of the property is highly erodible soils, wetland soil types or high slopes.

The Department recommends retaining this parcel.



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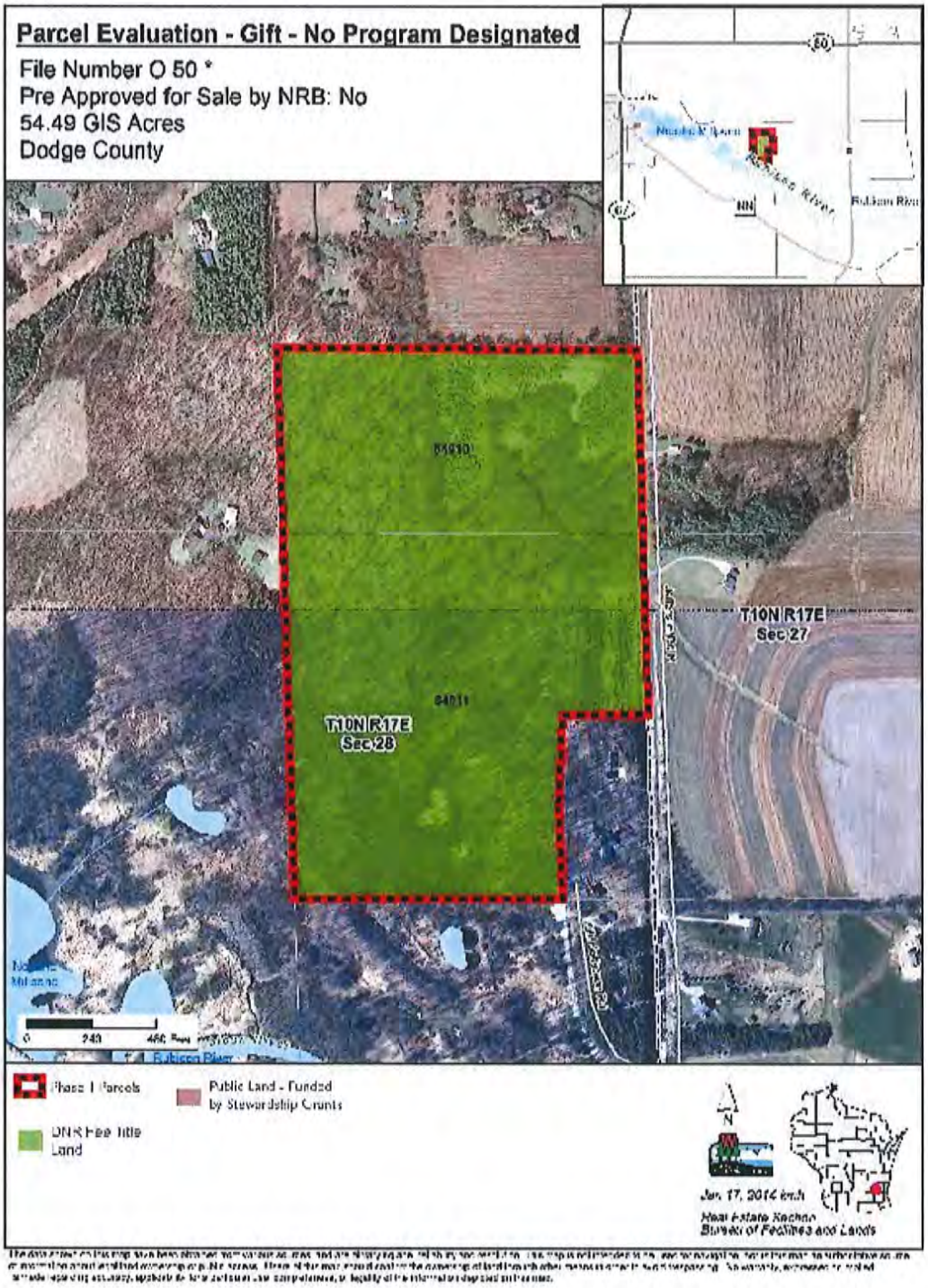
File# O 50 – Dodge County 54.49 Acres

The Department was gifted this property in June of 1989. It was acquired for the Extensive Wildlife Habitat Program in Dodge County. This parcel is isolated from other Department lands and is located outside of a project boundary. There is road access from Jefferson Road North. The original documents for this acquisition indicate that the donors intent was to have this parcel remain in a natural condition. The letter from the Department to the governor indicates that the Department anticipated holding the property for long term conservation use, but also that the parcel could be sold if not needed. The Department has put a considerable amount of effort into the management of this property including boundary posting, parking lot construction, and tree planting for reforestation. The property does receives public use during hunting seasons and hikers and cross country skiers use the property as well.

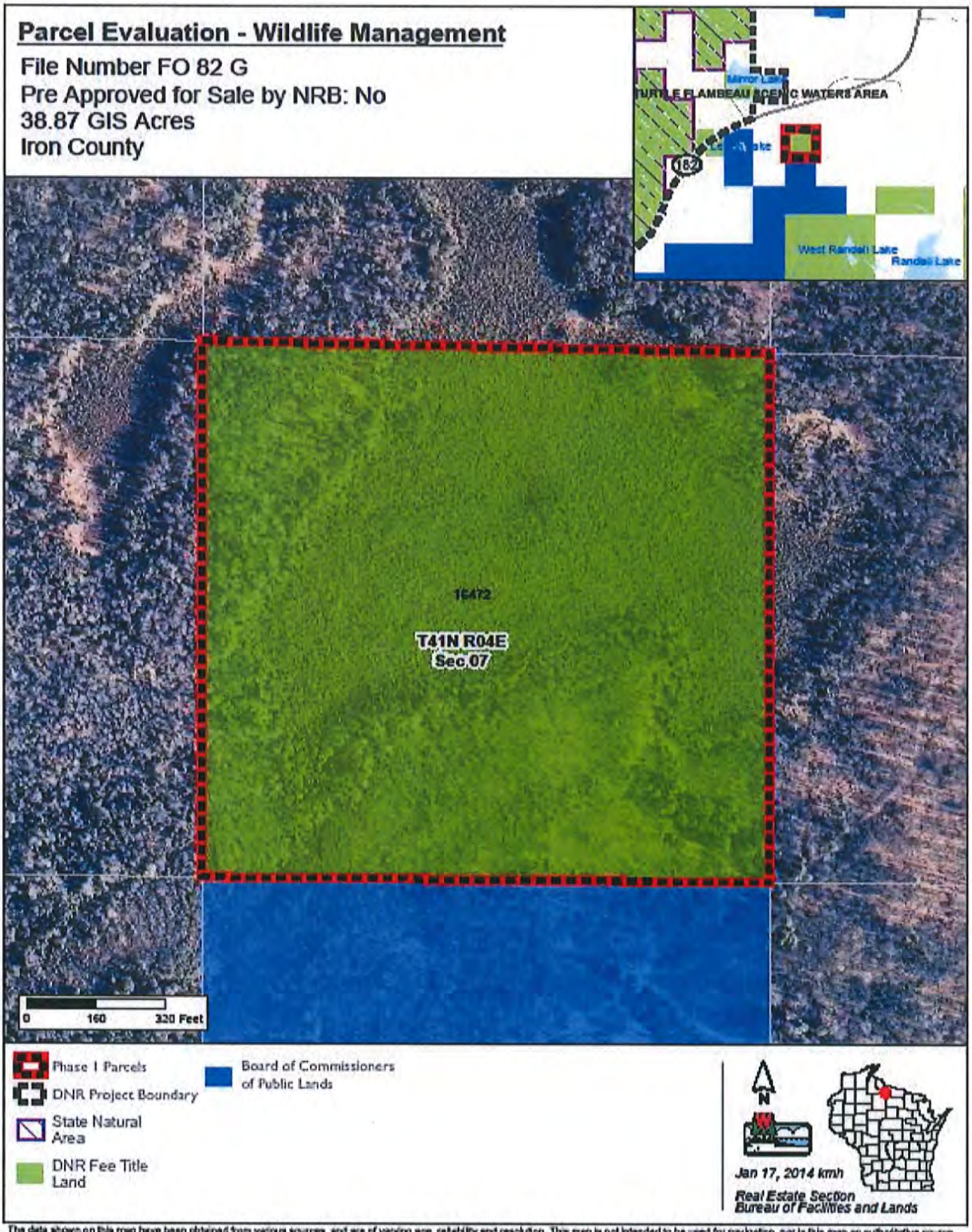
The Department recommends retaining this parcel.



File# FO 82 G – Iron County 38.87 Acres

This parcel was purchased in 1908 from Iron County. The property is only accessible to the public through adjoining BCPL land. The parcel does have public use and is open to all five NBOA's. The parcel has very similar habitat characteristics to Lehto Lake State Natural Area.

The Department recommends retaining this parcel.



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