

**File#- W 1408 - Trempealeau County 99 acres**

The Department acquired this property as a part of a larger acquisition in 2002 from The Conservation Fund. At the time of acquisition, the Natural Resource Board approval indicated that this acreage outside the project boundary should be examined at a later date for boundary modification or for sale/exchange.

The property has approximately 3,232 feet of two bank frontage on an unnamed stream tributary to Borst Valley Creek, a class two trout stream. The property has legal access from CTH V, and is adjacent to the Borst Valley Wildlife Area project. The property is contiguous with lands owned by the Elk Rod and Gun Club. The property receives high use by both pheasant and bow/gun deer hunters.

The Department has made investments in infrastructure (over \$10,000) on this property, a gravel parking area with boulders, gate and signage and 0.6 miles of hunter walking trails in 2004 that connect with other trails on the wildlife area. The Department has maintained this infrastructure since that point. Other investments include native tree and wildlife shrub plantings and annual pheasant stocking. There is a cool season field that has been burned in 2009 at an approximate cost of \$2,500. This field is planned for restoration to native prairie in 2016 to provide better cover for pheasants. Pheasant stamp funds have been awarded for this purpose. Grant funds that have been used to manage this property include Turkey Stamp, Pheasant Stamp, NWTF Superfund . DNR sharecrop funds have been used to maintain trails.

This property has significant public recreational opportunity, and because of Department investments, sale of the property would represent a loss of investment of public money. It would also increase management costs on the adjacent Department lands, due to the loss of the trail connections.

The Department recommends retaining this parcel.

