

## File# WR 500 (4) – Iron County - 121 acres

The Department acquired this property as a part of a larger acquisition from Packaging Corporation of America. The 1999 transaction involved 31,890 acres of land in fee and 924 acres in easement for \$25,000,000. At the time of approval the Natural Resources Board directed the Department to enter into discussions regarding resale or exchanges of up to 7,000 acres of land to County governments and/or Tribal governments.

The property has two unnamed creeks, with approximately 1,545 feet of two-bank frontage. This property falls within an area considered by the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan as the Winegar Moraine-Moose Creek Conservation Opportunity Area, within the North Central Forest. The North Central Forest contains the best large-scale interior forest management opportunities in the state. There are opportunities to create or maintain large habitat patches, develop or re-establish greater connectivity between forest habitat patches and restore missing and diminished cover types. Restoring conifers to many hardwood forests is a major opportunity. Hemlock and yellow birch, once the dominant species in this landscape, are greatly reduced and declining.

The property was last harvested for timber in 2007, with the next harvest scheduled in 2026. The Department has invested minimal time administering the timber sale. No other infrastructure or habitat improvements have been made.

Because the property lacks road access, use is limited to those that have private adjoining land. The Department currently has a road access agreement through private lands for timber sale uses. Marketing of the parcel will be limited to adjoining landowners as 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 Wis. Stats.

