Interim Forest Management Plan

Property Identifiers

Property Names and Designation: #1710 Scattered Wildlife Area Compartments 110,120,130; #1705 Bolen Creek Fishery Area; #1704 Otter Creek Wildlife and Fishery Area Compartment 1,2; #1722 Muddy Creek Wildlife Area Compartment 101,102; #1720 Gilbert Creek Fishery Area and Wildlife Area Compartment 190.

County: Dunn

Property Acreage: 6,146

Master Plan Date: No master plan on file.

Property Manager: Jess Carstens

Property Assessment

General Property Descriptions

#1710 Scattered Wildlife Areas:

Compartment 110, Hay Creek Wildlife Area is a 387 acre property approximately 3 miles southwest of Sand Creek on State Hwy. 64. This property is divided into two units. This property may be accessed by parking along the roadsides on 850th St. or 780th St. or from a small parking lot on the north side of Hwy. 64 across from 810th. St. Hay Creek flows through this property from west to east and, along with the associated wetland/marsh, is the dominant feature on this wildlife area. The remaining portion of the property is primarily wooded.

Compartment 120, Big Beaver Creek Wildlife Area is a 572 acre property located approximately 4.5 miles northwest of Wheeler or 4.5 miles northeast of Boyceville. A small parking area is located off of 1210th Ave.

Big Beaver Creek is the primary water resource on this wildlife area as it flows through the middle of the property for nearly 2 miles. Little Beaver Creek flows through the east side of the property for a half mile before meeting Big Beaver Creek near the southeast corner of the wildlife area. There is also a roughly 2 acre impoundment in the center of the property. The areas adjacent to the creeks are primarily lowland brush and trees. The uplands are dominated by cool season grasses and an occasional oak tree. A small oak savanna restoration can also be found to the southwest of Big Beaver Creek.

The western most 110 acres of this property comprise Big Beaver Meadow State Natural Area. The meadow contains nearly equal elements of wet prairie and southern sedge meadow. This site lies near the botanical transition zone possessing both northern and southern species including several species of greatest conservation need.

Compartment 130, Lambs Creek Wildlife Area is a 750 acre property located approximately 5 miles north of Menomonie or 3 miles south of Wheeler. This property lies between County Hwy. F

on the west and State Hwy. 25 on the east. It is bounded by 865th Ave. and 810th Ave. on the north and south. A small parking lot is available for public access on the north side of 810th Ave. Roadside access is available at other locations and may require permission from neighboring landowners.

Lambs Creek flows through this property from west to east for roughly 2.25 miles making it and the associated marsh the predominant feature on the wildlife area. Moving away from the creek bottom, you will find central hardwood forest.

#1705 Bolen Creek Fishery Area:

This property is 108 acres in size located just west of the village of Connersville. Bolen Creek flows through this property. The property is comprised of bottomland hardwood, aspen and lowland brush and grass along Bolen Creek.

#1704 Otter Creek Wildlife and Fishery Areas:

Compartment 1 and 2: Ranging between 1-5 miles north/northwest of Wheeler, this property is comprised of several small parcels scattered throughout the western half of Otter Creek Township. An additional 400 acres make up the Otter Creek State Natural Area, and 347 acres are managed by the Fisheries program, bringing the total acreage for the Fish, Wildlife, and Natural Areas properties to 1039. Access to these properties can be gained through parking lots located on the south side of County Hwy. N, the south side of 570th St., on the east side of 530th St., and at the end of 1150th Ave. All other parcels required roadside parking.

Many of these properties have short segments of Otter Creek flowing through them. These areas generally have marshy areas associated with them. This area of Dunn County is known for its sandy soils; much of the remaining vegetation is jackpine and oak barrens and central hardwoods forest.

The Otter Creek State Natural Area provides a small scale glimpse of what this portion of the County may have looked like several decades ago. This is one of the few remaining areas exhibiting the oak and jackpine barrens community that was once prevalent in this area.

#1722 Muddy Creek Wildlife Area:

This property is 4100 acres and is often referred to locally as the "Elk Mound Swamp." It is located near the village of Elk Mound, between Menomonie and Eau Claire, approximately 1 mile west of exit 52 off of I-94. This is an expansive wildlife area that generally follows the course of Muddy Creek and County Hwy. E for approximately 5 miles (1 mile north of the Interstate and 4 miles south). This assemblage of properties includes Muddy Creek Wildlife Area as well as several small scattered parcels. Access to the property is plentiful and can be gained through numerous parking lots along the County and town roads as well as 3 lots off of U.S. Hwy. 12/State Hwy. 29.

Muddy Creek and the associated marsh and sedge meadow are the predominant features of this property. Within this marshy landscape are numerous "islands" that are either wooded or prairie. The periphery of the property, including the scattered parcels, is predominantly former farm fields that have been converted to warm season, tallgrass prairies. Numerous restored wetlands also exist within this group of properties. A small percentage of the property is wooded with a great deal of species diversity, including white pine, red and white oak and aspen.

A State Natural Area has been established on the south end of the property to recognize the 195-acre sedge meadow that occupies this portion of the Wildlife Area. This area is exceptional because it is in a transitional zone where plant species common to both northern and southern sedge meadows can be found in one place.

In addition, lying just to the south of the Wildlife Area is the 200+ acre Old Elk Lake. This shallow lake is fed by runoff and springs and is reminiscent of the prairie pothole lakes found in the Dakotas. This is a rare water resource in this part of Wisconsin that provides tremendous waterfowl production and valuable hunting and trapping opportunities.

#1720 Gilbert Creek Wildlife and Fisheries Area:

Gilbert Creek Fishery and Wildlife Area is a 241 acre property approximately 7 miles west of Menomonie on State Hwy. 29. This property is divided into two units. The unit west of County Hwy. Q can be accessed via driveway parking off of Hwy. 29. The unit east of County Hwy. Q has several parking areas providing access. Two parking lots are located on the east side of Hwy. Q and a third is located on the south side of County Hwy. N. Driveway parking is also available on the north side of Hwy. N.

The north and south forks of Gilbert Creek are the predominant features of the eastern portion of this property. These narrow, cold water trout streams meander through a considerable portion of the eastern unit. The area bounding the creeks is primarily an open landscape comprised of marsh and savanna. North of Hwy. N in the eastern unit is a wooded hillside.

The western unit is comprised of primarily lowland brush transitioning to central hardwoods on the hillside.

Landscape and Regional Context

All the above properties are located in the Western Coulee and Ridges Ecological Landscape. Dendritic drainage patterns are well-developed in this mostly unglaciated Ecological Landscape. Natural lakes are restricted to the floodplains of large rivers. Large warm water rivers are especially important here, and include the Wisconsin, Chippewa, and Black. The Mississippi River forms the Ecological Landscapes western boundary. Numerous spring-fed (coldwater) headwater streams occur here. Cool water streams are also common.

Current Land Cover

The Western Coulee and Ridges Ecological Landscape is a mosaic of forest, cropland, and grassland with wetlands mostly in the river valleys. Primary forest cover is oak and hickory. Maple and basswood forests, dominated by sugar maple, basswood, and red maple, are common in areas that were not burned frequently. Bottomland hardwoods, dominated by silver maple, swamp white oak, river birch, ashes, elms and cottonwood, are common within the floodplains of the larger rivers. Dry rocky bluffs may support xeric stands of native white pine, sometimes mixed with red or even jack pine.

Prairies are now restricted to steep south or west facing bluffs, unplowed outwash terraces along the large rivers, and a few other sites. They occupy far less than 1% of the current landscape. Mesic tallgrass prairies are now virtually nonexistent except as very small remnants along rights-of-way or in cemeteries.

HISTORY OF LAND USE AND PAST MANAGEMENT

Historically, these properties were largely used for agricultural purposes, and many of the stream corridors were heavily grazed. When properties were purchased by the state these parcels were converted to recreational land uses.

Hay Creek Wildlife Area: Acquisition of lands for the Hay Creek Wildlife Area occurred mostly in the early '60's, with a final acquisition in 1973. The purpose was to protect and provide public access to Hay Creek and the associated wetland complex.

Historically, the management objective was to protect the trout waters of Hay Creek and provide wildlife habitat for species that utilize wetlands and woods. These same objectives remain true today.

Primary management on this property involves management of the woodlands. The property is monitored for invasive species. Use of forest management and timber sales help maintain a healthy, vigorous woodland for wildlife.

Big Beaver Creek Wildlife Area: Acquisition of lands for the Big Beaver Creek State Wildlife Area began in 1959 to protect and provide public access to Big and Little Beaver Creeks and the associated wetland complex. The final acquisition occurred in 1973 and included the area where the parking lot currently is located, providing a spectacular view of the Big Beaver Creek marsh.

Historically the management objective on this property was to protect the wildlife habitat associated with the creeks and marsh and to manage the marketable timber on the property, which included tamarack. Today, what little tamarack remains is located mostly on the western portion of the Wildlife Area in an area that was designated as a State Natural Area in 2008, and encompassing roughly 110 acres. The “Big Beaver Meadow SNA” contains a unique wet meadow with nearly equal elements of wet prairie and southern sedge meadow, an extensive area of shrub carr and two patches of tamarack fen, which tower over a ground layer that supports several state-listed plant species. This SNA is positioned near the botanical transition zone, allowing for abundant mixing of species with both northern and southern affinities. Protecting this dwindling resource is an important management objective. The easternmost 78 acres of the SNA are landlocked with no road frontage and no access without crossing private lands. For this reason, this 78 acre tract was designated for sale under Act 20 – State Land Sales in 2015. Upon completion of field reviews, it was recommended that this parcel be offered for sale, with the State Natural Area designation remaining in place, as well as conservation and stream bank easements, which will allow for continued Department access and management oversight of this sensitive ecosystem.

The large open prairie area located off of 1210th Ave. on the property’s north/east side is managed in a manner that will keep it an open landscape. A great deal of effort has gone into restoring the oak savanna as well; this area had been pastured for many years in the past. Prescribed burning takes place on the grasslands every 5 years or so. In addition some intermittent mowing takes place to limit brush encroachment. Haying agreements have occasionally been implemented in the grasslands to meet the mowing needs. Mechanical tree/brush removal is the primary management method currently in use in the savanna area.

There is also a diked impoundment on this portion of this property. While this impoundment once included a full circle tin-whistle water control structure for water level manipulation, this structure

rusted out and was removed in roughly 2005. The dike itself was resurface in the winter of 2015, with water levels now fully dependent on rainfall/runoff and controlled by a rock spillway.

Lambs Creek Wildlife Area: Acquisition of lands for the Lambs Creek Wildlife Area began between 1960 and 1965 when several parcels were acquired. Between 1973 and 1980, several additional lands were acquired. The most recent acquisition came in 2002. The purpose was to protect and provide public access to Lambs Creek and the associated wetland complex as well as provide upland wildlife habitat adjacent to the creek and wetland

Historically, the management objective was to protect the waters of Lambs Creek and provide wildlife habitat for species that utilize wetlands and woods. These same objectives remain true today.

The property is monitored for invasive species. Primary management on this property involves management of the woodlands. Use of forest management and timber sales help maintain a healthy, vigorous woodland for wildlife. Specific opportunities exist for ruffed grouse management through scheduled harvests of the aspen resource present on the property.

Bolen Creek Fishery Area: Acquisition of lands for the Bolen Creek Fishery Area focused on protecting the stream corridor of Bolen Creek, and providing public access to the creek. This 108 acre property provides habitat for ruffed grouse, woodcock, wild turkeys, deer, and furbearers, as well as opportunity for trout fisherman in the creek.

Historically, the management objective was to protect the waters of Bolen Creek and provide wildlife habitat for species that utilize the creek and adjacent habitat. These same objectives remain true today. In addition, a long-standing sharecrop agreement has been in place on this property allowing row crop and hay production on roughly 16.5 acres.

The property is monitored for invasive species. Primary management on this property involves monitoring the sharecrop activity and management of the woodlands. Use of forest management and timber sales help maintain a healthy, vigorous woodland for wildlife.

Otter Creek Wildlife Area: Acquisition of lands for the Otter Creek Wildlife Area occurred between 1960 and 1965. The purpose was to protect and provide public access to Otter Creek and the associated wetland complex. The 400 acre Natural Area was purchased as recently as 2008 as a way to protect the barrens that are disappearing from the local landscape.

Historically, the management objective was to protect the waters of Otter Creek and provide wildlife habitat for species that utilize wetlands and woods. These same objectives remain true today. In addition, protecting the barrens and increasing ruffed grouse habitat are goals for these properties.

The property is monitored for invasive species. Primary management on this property involves management of the woodlands. Use of forest management and timber sales help maintain a healthy, vigorous woodland for wildlife. The barrens are managed using select tree removal and prescribed burning.

Muddy Creek Wildlife Area: Muddy Creek Wildlife Area was officially established in 1969. At that time, nearly 1400 acres were already protected through State ownership. Several attempts by landowners to drain the marsh were evident by the 10,000+ linear feet of ditches that were present throughout the marsh! Beaver took full advantage of these ditches creating numerous

impoundments. Adjacent farmland was considered marginal at best. Acquisition goals have yet to be met for this property and new acquisitions have occurred as recently as 2016.

Initial management of this property consisted mostly of restoring drained wetlands, including the creation of a 560-acre closed area. There are currently no closed areas on the Wildlife Area. Another key objective was converting agricultural lands back to their pre-settlement vegetation types, primarily prairie and savanna. Currently, the management focus is on protecting the Muddy Creek watershed and maintaining the wildlife habitat that has been created or restored over the last 40 years.

Of great significance to this plan and the overall management of Muddy Creek Wildlife Area are the numerous parcels of scattered wildlife habitat or extensive wetland habitat that lie in close proximity to Muddy Creek Wildlife Area. While these tracts are technically outside of the project boundary of Muddy Creek WA, they are generally considered to be part of the Wildlife Area from a management perspective, and any landscape level management plan pertaining to Muddy Creek Wildlife Area shall also include these scattered parcels located in the townships of Elk Mound, Red Cedar, and Spring Brook.

Management prescriptions on this property include seasonal drawdowns on impounded wetlands to create shorebird feeding opportunities and food for migrating waterfowl in the fall. In addition, grasslands are managed through prescribed burning, mowing, and herbicide treatment to prevent brush encroachment and to maintain vigorous areas of dense nesting cover for grassland wildlife. Wooded areas are managed through the use of various forestry techniques to ensure the future of healthy, productive woodlands. Approximately 12 acres of wildlife food plots are also planted annually to provide supplemental food for pheasants and other wildlife during the winter.

In 2008, a roughly 195-acre area near the south end of the Wildlife Area became a designated State Natural Area. The “Muddy Creek Sedge Meadow SNA” is unique in that it contains nearly equal elements of plant species found in both northern and southern sedge meadow complexes. Portions of this unique ecosystem are becoming brushy and would benefit greatly from a prescribed burn every 10 years or so, however, difficult access may make doing so unlikely. Meanwhile, brushing and timber cutting may be necessary to maintain the existing plant community structure within the SNA.

Making up the southernmost portion of Muddy Creek Wildlife Area is Old Elk Lake. Old Elk Lake is a shallow pothole lake reminiscent of those found in the prairie pothole region of the Dakotas. DNR ownership and easements provide protection to the entire west side of the lake where there are multiple access points for waterfowl hunters, trappers, and other users to reach the water.

At over 4,000 acres, Muddy Creek Wildlife Area is the second largest Wildlife Area in Dunn County, and receives a tremendous amount of public use, primarily from hunters and trappers, but also receives much use from non-consumptive users such as hikers and bird watchers.

Muddy Creek Wildlife Area and its associated properties contain a diversity of habitat types including prairies, wetlands, upland and lowland woodlots, and also Muddy Creek and Old Elk Lake. With this, a wide array of habitat management techniques are employed in order to manage habitat for a variety of wildlife habitat species. Prescriptive woodland management and timber harvests will remain essential to properly manage the habitats present on this property moving forward.

Gilbert Creek Fisheries and Wildlife Area: Acquisition of lands for the Gilbert Creek Fishery and Wildlife Area began in the early 1960s to protect and provide public access to Gilbert Creek

and the associated wetland complex. Land acquisition is still active in this area today, primarily through the Fisheries program, in an effort to protect and restore trout habitat in the creek.

Extensive grazing had caused a great deal of degradation to the stream banks of Gilbert Creek creating a poor fishery. Since the mid-2000s, the primary management objective on this property has been the restoration of the Creek and the adjacent uplands.

Department trout habitat crews have worked extensively to restore the banks and channels of both forks of the Creek to their pre-grazed conditions. This restoration has included bank stabilization and placement of structures within the creek. In addition, work has been done on the uplands to remove unwanted brush and trees such as boxelders. The open areas have also been planted to a mix of warm and cool season grasses.

Soils

Property #1710 Compartment 110 Hay Creek Wildlife Area, Compartment 120 Beaver Creek Wildlife Area, Compartment 130 Lambs Creek Wildlife Area, and Property #1722 Muddy Creek Wildlife Area are predominately comprised of Markey series soil types. The Markey series consists of very poorly drained muck soils in depressions on outwash plains. These soils formed in organic material derived from decayed sedges and grasses. They are underlain by sandy material at a depth of less than 42 inches. The available water capacity is high. Permeability is moderately rapid in the organic layer and rapid in the underlying sand. The water table is high. Runoff is slow to ponded. Natural fertility is medium. These properties also have veins of sandy loams associated within the properties. Most of these sandy loams are deep and poorly drained. The available water capacity is low, and permeability is very rapid. Natural fertility is low. And surface runoff is very slow to ponded.

Property #1705, Bolen Creek Fishery Area is comprised mainly comprised of Seelyville and Poskin silt loams. These soils consist of moderately deep, somewhat poorly drained loamy soils on stream terraces and outwash plains. These soils overlie sand and gravel. The available water capacity is medium, and permeability is moderate. The water table is seasonally high surface runoff is slow.

Property #1704 Otter Creek Wildlife and Fishery Area is comprised of different types of loamy sands and sands. The Plainfield Series is the most apparent on the uplands. These soils are excessively drained, sandy soils on outwash plans and stream terraces. The soils formed in sand that contains more than five percent weather able minerals. The available water capacity is low, and permeability is rapid. Natural fertility is low. Drought is a severe hazard.

Property #1720 Gilbert Creek Wildlife and Fishery Area is comprised of different silt loams throughout the property. Norden, Churchtown, Orion, Seaton comprise most of the uplands and the majority of the lowlands are Ettrick silt loams. In general, the soils are moderately deep, well drained, loamy soils on the upland ridges and valley sides. These soils are underlain by glauconitic sandstone. The availability water capacity is medium, and permeability is moderate. Natural fertility is medium. Drought is a moderate hazard.

PROPERTY CONTEXT/LANDSCAPE

Contextually, these properties are situated in an area that is heavily dissected and fragmented with agricultural fields and other open areas. However, this more fragmented setting offers great opportunities for “edge” game species and early successional “Species of Greatest Conservation Need” as identified within the states’s Wildlife Action Plan.

Wildlife Action Plan/Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Otter Creek Fisheries Area is listed in the Wildlife Action Plan’s Implementation document for the Western Coulee and Ridges Ecological Landscape (WCREL) for its’ Bur Oak Openings of Global Significance. Two priority natural community types are listed in the document that this property contains; Oak Barrens, and Southern Dry-mesic Forest. Species of Greatest Conservation Need associated with Oak Barrens, early successional Southern Dry-mesic forest, as well as the Alder thicket, shrub-carr, southern sedge meadow, emergent marsh, and planted warm season grasslands and fields of these properties include; Northern Bobwhite Quail, American Woodcock, Blue-winged Warbler, Brown Thrasher, Field Sparrow, Whip-poor-will, Willow Flycatcher and Pickerel Frog (all but American Woodcock are High Priority SGCN’s for WCREL). Management for oak barrens, early successional forest, sedge meadow, and warm season grass fields will also greatly benefit game species such as white-tailed deer, pheasants, turkey, ruffed grouse, quail, and rabbits. +

Conservation Opportunity Area

The Otter Creek Fisheries Area is located within the Otter Creek Oak Barrens Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) as identified by the Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan. Barrens attributes and management opportunities exist on upland areas of this property. It is important when assessing oak stands to consider possible barrens management, especially as it relates to regeneration techniques. None of the other properties fall within a conservation opportunity area.

Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI)/Rare Species

The Natural Heritage Inventory database indicates that 1 threatened and 16 special concern species are in the vicinity of these properties. Many of these species are associated with the aquatic habitat provided by the stream corridors. Forest management activities will maintain riparian buffers to avoid impacts to these aquatic associates. In addition, forest management activities are usually limited to frozen ground or dry conditions to minimize impacts to other species. NHI screening will be conducted prior to all future management activities.

Biotic Inventory Status

Master Plan Biotic Inventory is not complete.

Deferral/Consultation Area Designations

Not applicable.

Significant cultural or archeological features

Historic sites are present on or near some of these properties. Harvesting and management activities have and will continue to follow Department policy regarding identifying and mitigating any archeological or historic sites found within work areas.

Invasive species

Buckthorn, honeysuckle, garlic mustard, and Siberian elm, are known to occur on many of these properties. A complete inventory has not occurred. During all management activities, these invasive species will be discouraged and controlled to the greatest extent feasible.

Recreational Uses
Hunting, fishing, trapping, and hiking are the primary recreation uses of these properties. Allowed recreational activities include hiking, fishing, cross country skiing, hunting trapping, wildlife viewing, and outdoor education. Other activities may be allowed through permits and special rules.

General Forestry Considerations
While the properties covered under this plan lie in several tracts scattered across Dunn County, the general forest management goals and objectives that will be applied are consistent regardless of specific location. These tracts are all classified as land reserved for wildlife habitat and fishery conservation. As such these objectives are primary – and forest management secondary - for these lands. In most cases, careful, sustainable forest management can be used as a tool to achieve the desired wildlife and fishery habitat goals. Applicable forest management considerations for this setting are:

- Managing mature and over-mature oak forests to regenerate the oak component and establish younger oak stands on the landscape will be a priority for wildlife habitat and forest health objectives.
- Managing jack pine and aspen stands to regenerate those tree species and keep them represented on the landscape will be a priority for bio-diversity and habitat management objectives.
- Managing native white pine stands to improve forest health and encourage natural regeneration and expansion of this forest habitat type will be important for biologic diversity.
- Opportunities to manage lowland hardwood forests will be carefully evaluated. These forests range from extremely productive to minimally productive from a timber management standpoint. Retaining some areas of older growth will be important, as will be taking advantage of opportunities to regenerate early successional tree species such as cottonwood, silver maple, and river birch.
- Opportunities to manage upland mesic hardwood forests will generally be aimed at enhancing forest health, enhancing tree quality, and increasing tree species diversity.
- Insect and disease considerations will be an important – and unavoidable – factor in many forest management opportunities and decisions. Oak wilt, gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, and several other forest health threats will be evaluated on a continual basis.
- Best management practices will be employed at all times to protect water quality. This issue will be critically important on fishery properties where timber harvesting is typically conducted adjacent to or very near streams, wetlands, and other water resources.

Management Objectives for Typical Forest Types

Scattered Wildlife Areas #1710

Hay Creek, Compartment 110:

2017: Pine thinning in stands 2 and 3 to improve and maintain native white pine located on the property. This stand will be managed long term to grow large diameter white pine. The total harvest area will be 40 acres in size.

Big Beaver, Compartment 120:

2027: Bottomland hardwood and aspen clear cut in stands 8 and 9 to regenerate this timber type on the property. This will promote aspen regeneration on the property which will benefit ruffed grouse, woodcock, and whitetail deer. The total harvest area will be 32 acres in size.

Lambs Creek: Compartment 130

2017: Oak and red maple thinning/group selection harvest methods in stand #18. This harvest will maintain and promote conversion to red maple and central hardwoods. Swamp hardwood thinning/group selection harvest methods in stands #11 and 14. This harvest will maintain and promote conversion to red maple and black ash timber types. Stand #19 aspen regeneration and white pine release. This harvest method will promote aspen regeneration and release existing white pine regeneration. The total harvest area will be 54 acres in size.

2023: Regeneration harvest by using a clear-cut harvest method in stands #7 and 8. Thinning/Group Selection harvest in stand #22. This will promote aspen regeneration on the property which will benefit ruffed grouse, woodcock, and whitetail deer. The total harvest area will be 37 acres in size.

2025: Regeneration harvest by using a clear-cut/overstory removal harvest methods in stands #3, 10, 13. Thinning/Group Selection harvest in stands #1, 2. This will promote aspen regeneration on the property which will benefit ruffed grouse, woodcock, and whitetail deer. The total harvest area will be 111 acres in size.

Bolen Creek Fishery Area #1705

2017 Regeneration harvest by using a clear-cut with reserves harvest methods in stands #1 and 2. In stand #1 all trees greater than 1 inch in diameter will be cut except sugar maple, white pine, bur oak and yellow birch. In stand #2 all trees greater than 1” inch in diameter will be cut except oak greater than ten inches in diameter. This will promote aspen regeneration on the property which will benefit wildlife species such as ruffed grouse, woodcock, and whitetail deer. The total harvest area will be 20 acres in size.

Otter Creek Wildlife Area and Fishery Area #1704

2017 Regeneration harvest by clearcutting in stands #15, 16, and 24. Stand#15 will be converted from red pine to jack pine which is much better suited for this site. This harvest will promote aspen, birch, and jack pine on the property. Stands #15 will be inter-planted with jack pine after the timber harvest. The harvest areas are small in size and will have irregular boundaries for wildlife edge. There will be jack pine islands left outside the harvest boundaries for seed and aesthetics. Stand #24 is an aspen and jack pine clear-cut to regenerate to these timber types. This will promote aspen regeneration on the property which will benefit wildlife species such as ruffed grouse, woodcock, and whitetail deer. The total harvest area will be 29 acres in size.

2023 Pine thinning in stands #2, 6, and 12. This harvest will improve and maintain the pine and spruce located on the property. The total harvest area will be 54 acres in size.

2025 Pine thinning in stand #20. This harvest will improve and maintain white pine on the property. Regeneration harvest by clearcutting in stands #13, 22 and 27. This will promote aspen, birch and jack pine on the property. The total harvest area will be 65 acres in size.

Muddy Creek Wildlife Area #1722

Compartment #102

2019 Regeneration harvest by clear-cut with reserves harvest method in stand #23. This will promote aspen, birch, and oak regeneration on the property. The total harvest area will be 16 acres in size.

2020 Pine and hardwood thinning in stand #3 and 5. This will improve and maintain native white pine and hardwood on the property. These stands will be managed using big tree silvaculture. The total harvest area will be 90 acres in size.

Gilbert Creek Wildlife Area and Fishery Area #1720

2018 Regeneration harvest by clear-cut with reserves harvest method in stand #7. Many large diameter oak trees will be retained for wildlife, seed and aesthetics. This will promote oak regeneration on the property. The total harvest area will be 30 acres in size.

All Stands:

- Utilize BMP's for Water Quality to protect streams and wetlands when conducting timber sales.
- Identify invasive plant species and implement control practices such as prescribed fire, hand pulling, chemical and mechanical control to eliminate or reduce negative impacts.
- Utilize BMP's for Invasive Species to help limit the introduction and spread of invasive species when conducting timber sale.
- Retain reserve/legacy trees as groups or individuals throughout the property within harvested stands.
- Follow DNR's Species Guidance Documents: http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/endangeredresources/guidance.asp to protect rare species. In cases where species guidance documents haven't yet been developed, avoidance to rare species will occur via practices such as time of year restrictions, modified harvest boundaries, and/or consultation with rare species experts.
- Identify and protect any Archeological or Historical sites prior to management activities and plan.

Interim Forest Management Plan

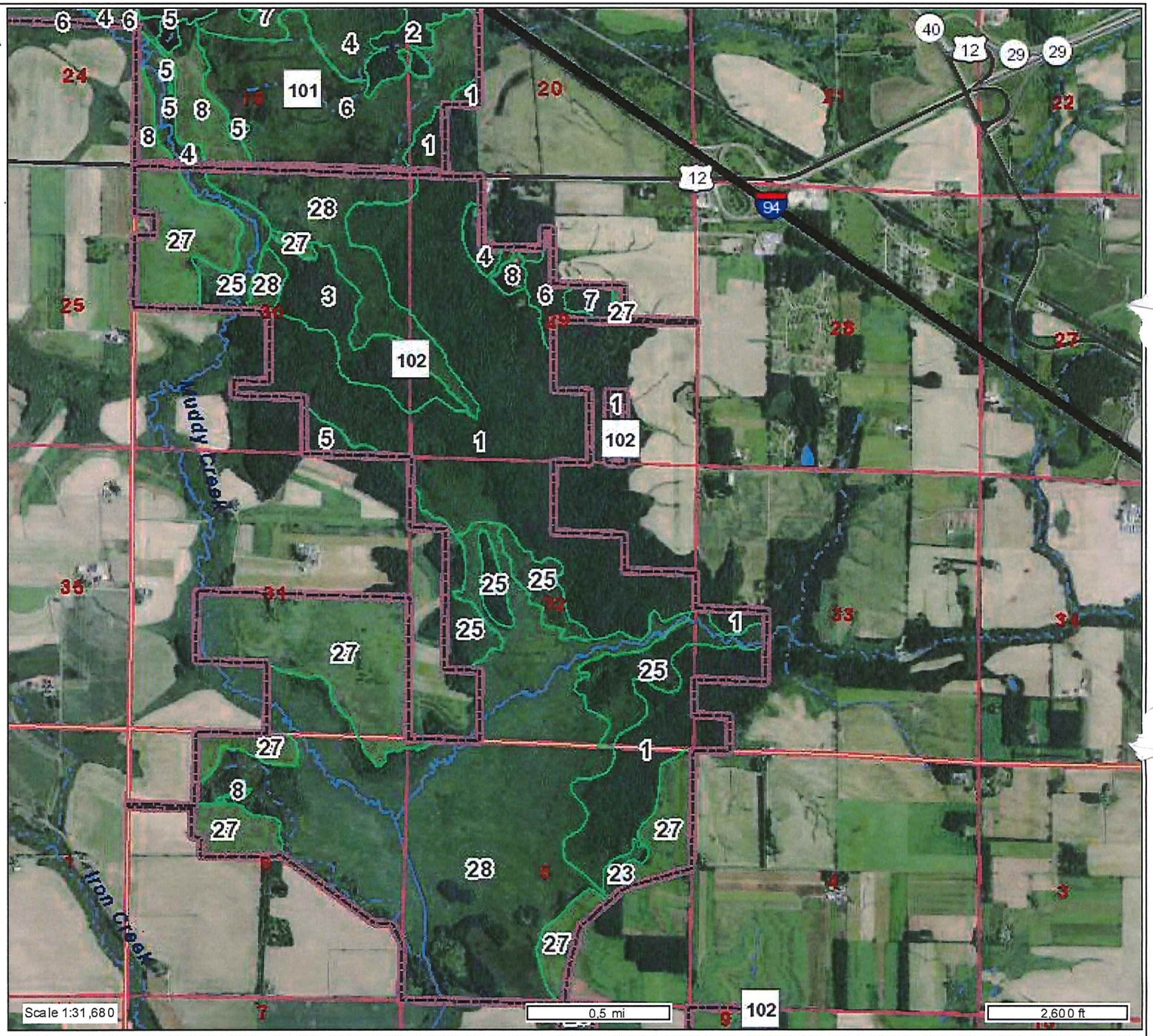
Approvals:

District Ecologist	**Dean Edlin**	11-28-16 Date
Forester	**Matt Molback**	11/28/16 Date
Forester	**Rob Strand**	11/28/16 Date
Property Manager	**Jess Carstens**	11/28/16 Date
Area/Team Supervisor	**Harvey Halvorsen**	11/28/2016 Date

Muddy Creek WLA
MUDDY CREEK WILDLIFE AREA

Compartment 102

- WisFIRS MGMT BND
- Compartment
- STAND
- State (24K)
- County (24K)
- Interstate Hwy
- US Hwy
- State Hwy
- Township
- Section
- Intermittent
- Perennial
- Lake (24K)



9/23/2016

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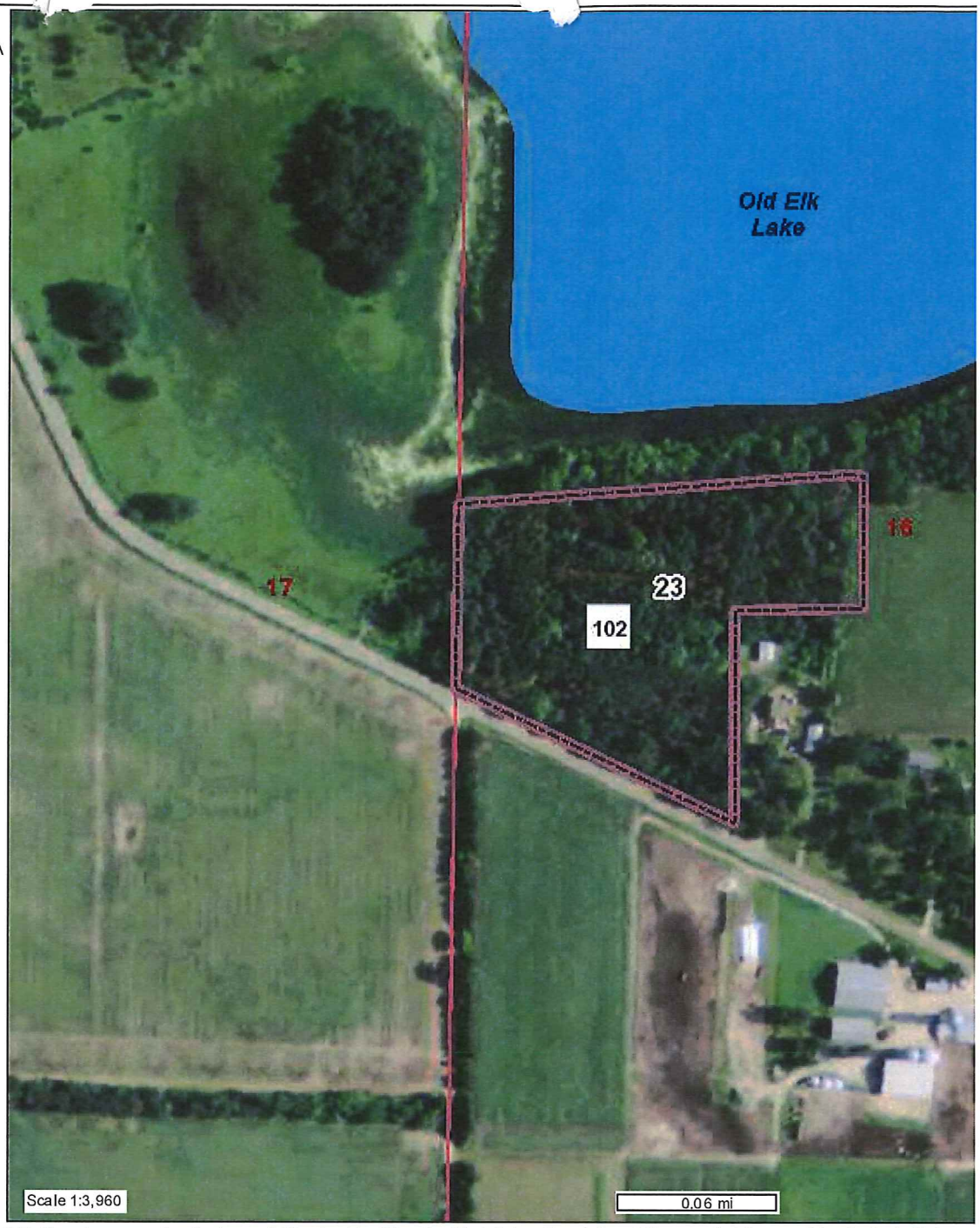
Muddy Creek WLA
MUDDY CREEK WILDLIFE AREA

Compartment 102

- WisFIRS MGMT BND
- Compartment
- STAND
- State (24K)
- County (24K)
- Interstate Hwy
- US Hwy
- State Hwy
- Township
- Section
- Intermittent
- Perennial
- Lake (24K)



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OTTER CREEK WILDLIFE AREA

Compartment 1

T30N-R12W-Sec30

- WisFIRS MGMT BND
- Compartment
- STAND
- State (24K)
- County (24K)
- Interstate Hwy
- US Hwy
- State Hwy
- Township
- Section
- Intermittent
- Perennial
- Lake (24K)

9/29/2016

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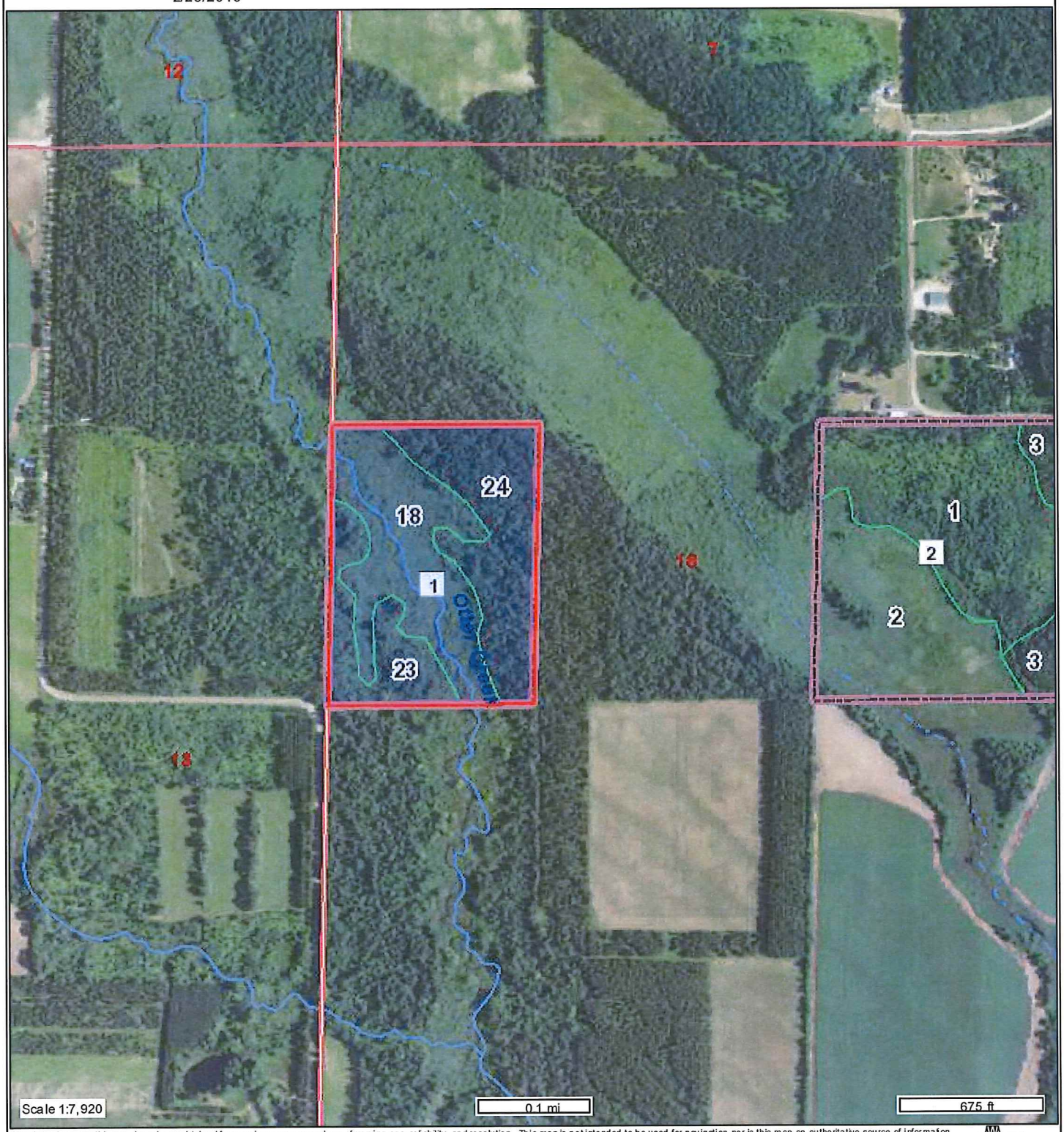
Otter Creek Comp. #1
OTTER CREEK WILDLIFE AREA

Compartment 1

2/23/2016

- WisFIRS MGMT BND
- Compartment
- STAND
- State (24K)
- County (24K)
- Interstate Hwy
- US Hwy
- State Hwy
- Township
- Section
- Intermittent
- Perennial
- Lake (24K)



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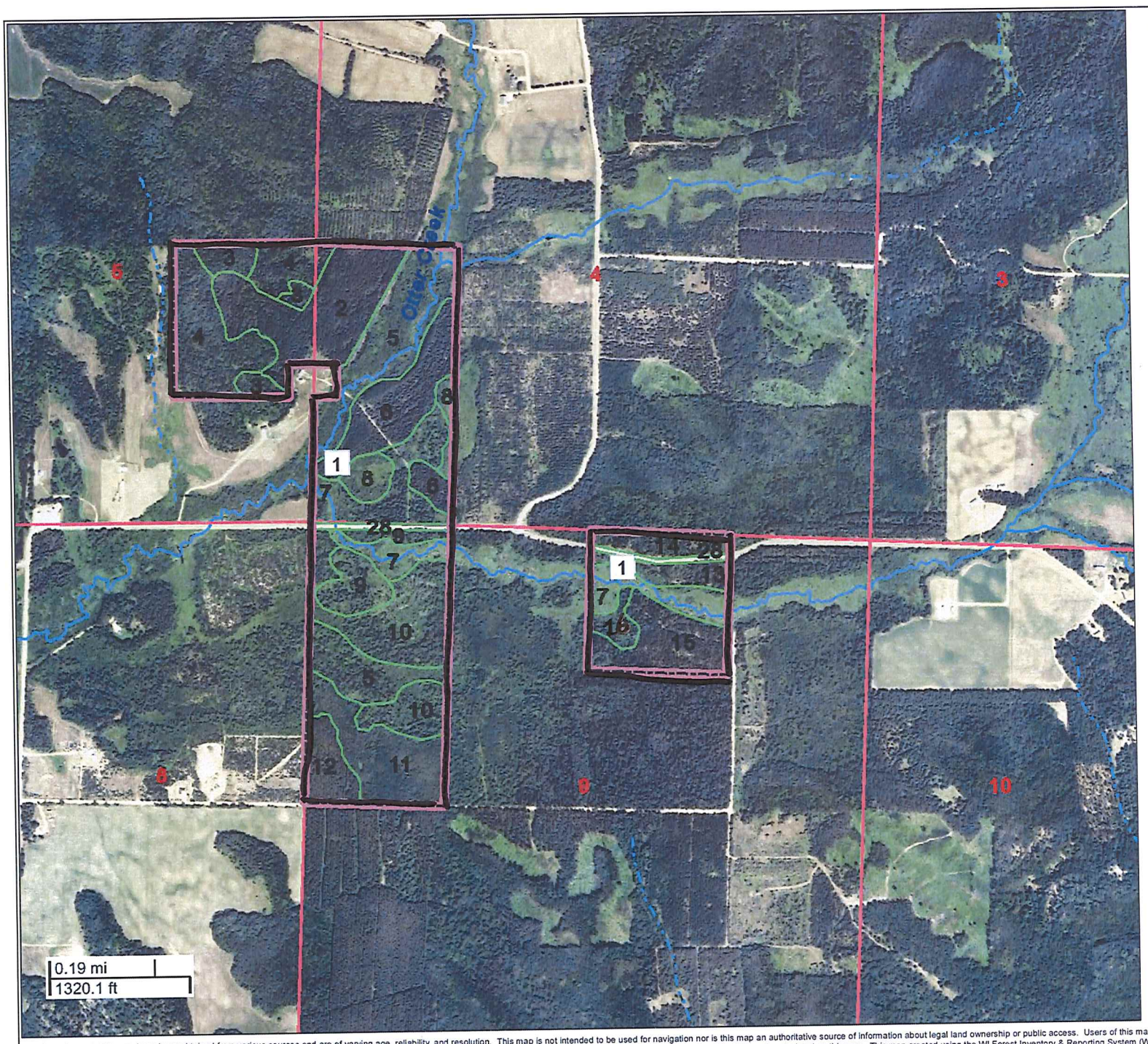
Otter Creek Comp. #1



Legend

- WisFIRS MGMT BND
- Compartment
- STAND
- State (24K)
- County (24K)
- Interstate Hwy
- US Hwy
- State Hwy
- Township
- Section
- Intermittent
- Perennial
- Lake (24K)

N

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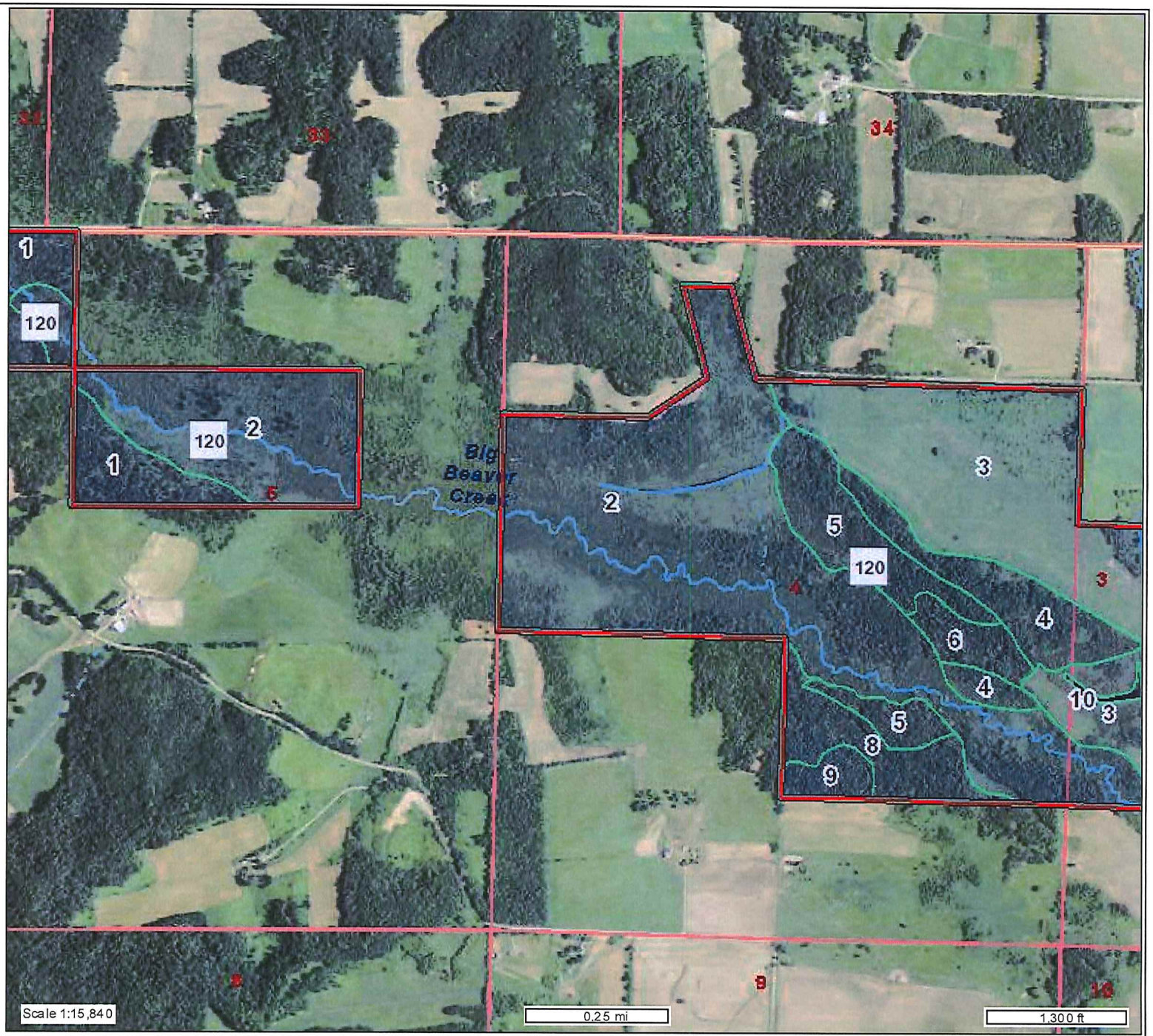
SCATTERED WILDLIFE - DUNN CTY.

Compartment 120

T30N-R13W-Sec4
3,5

- WisFIRS MGMT BND
- Compartment
- STAND
- State (24K)
- County (24K)
- Interstate Hwy
- US Hwy
- State Hwy
- Township
- Section
- Intermittent
- Perennial
- Lake (24K)



9/29/2016

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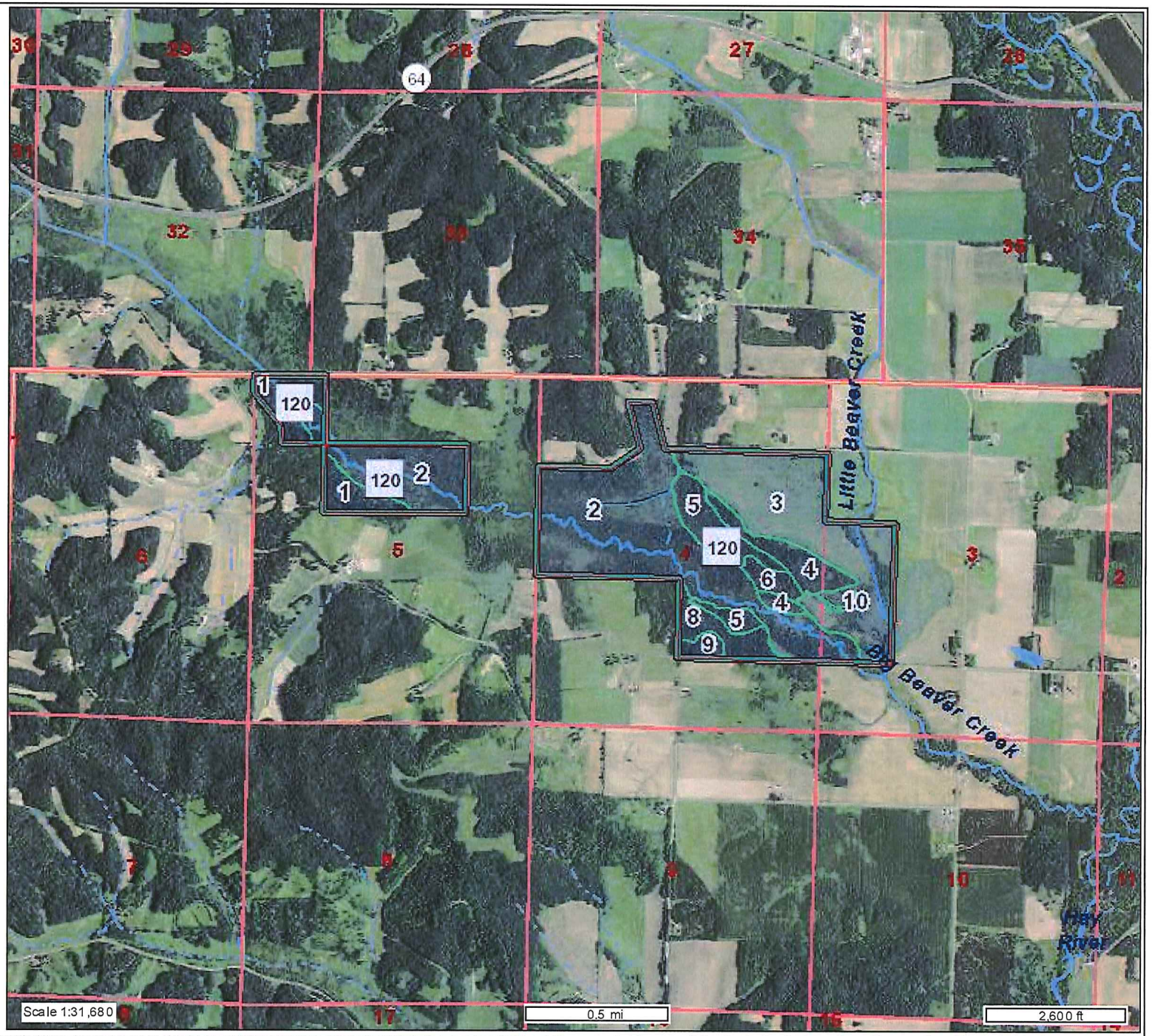
SCATTERED WILDLIFE - DUNN CTY.

Compartment 120

T30N-R13W-Sec4
3,5

- WisFIRS MGMT BND
- Compartment
- STAND
- State (24K)
- County (24K)
- Interstate Hwy
- US Hwy
- State Hwy
- Township
- Section
- Intermittent
- Perennial
- Lake (24K)



9/29/2016

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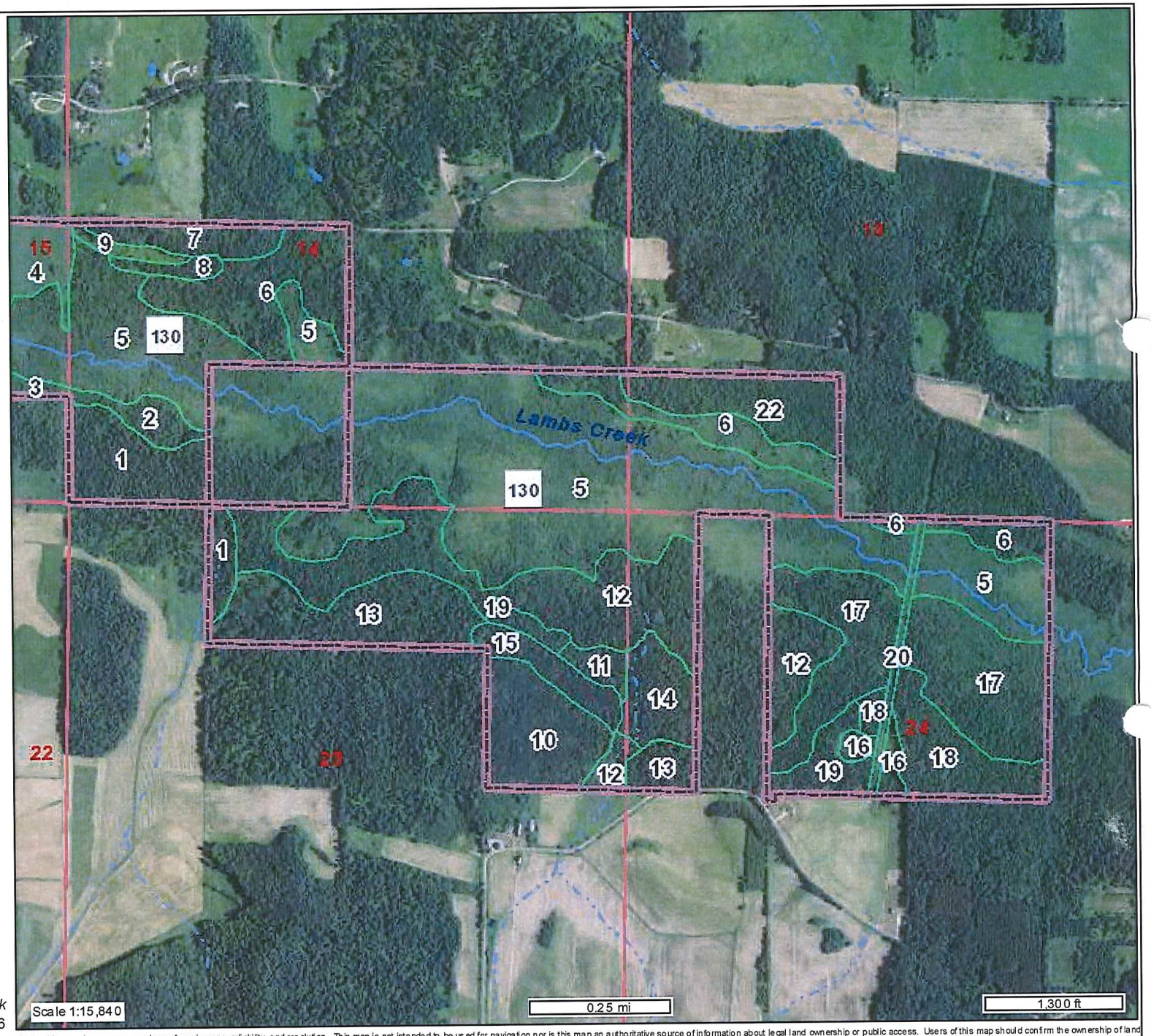
Lambs Creek W.L.A
SCATTERED WILDLIFE - DUNN CTY.

Compartment 130

T29N-R13W-Sec13, 14, 15
23, 24

- WisFIRS MGMT BND
- Compartment
- STAND
- State (24K)
- County (24K)
- Interstate Hwy
- US Hwy
- State Hwy
- Township
- Section
- Intermittent
- Perennial
- Lake (24K)



M.Molback
3/21/2016

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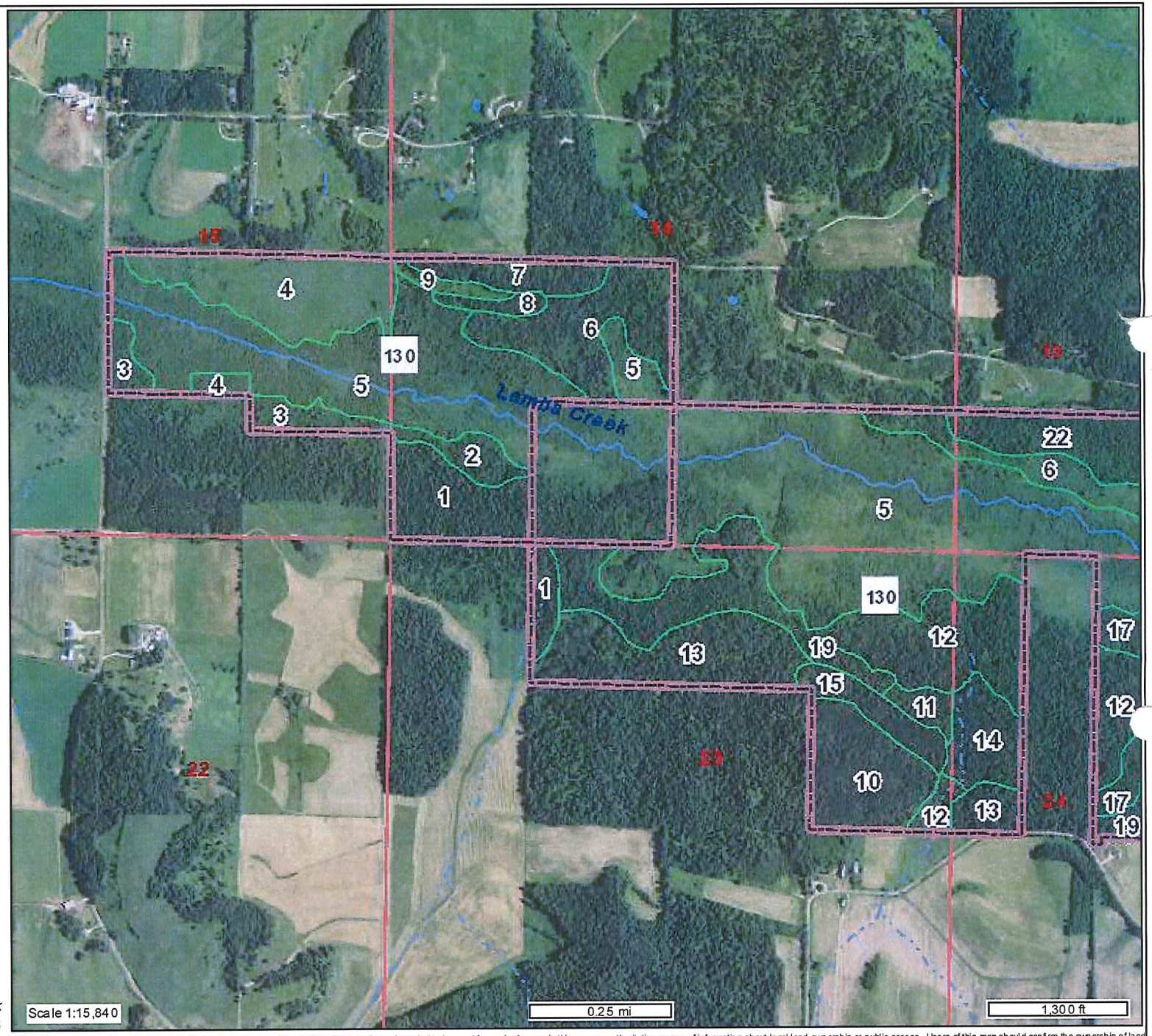
Lambs Creek W.L.A
SCATTERED WILDLIFE - DUNN CTY.

Compartment 130

T29N-R13W-Sec13, 14, 15
23, 24

- WisFIRS MGMT BND
- Compartment
- STAND
- State (24K)
- County (24K)
- Interstate Hwy
- US Hwy
- State Hwy
- Township
- Section
- Intermittent
- Perennial
- Lake (24K)



M.Molback
3/21/2016

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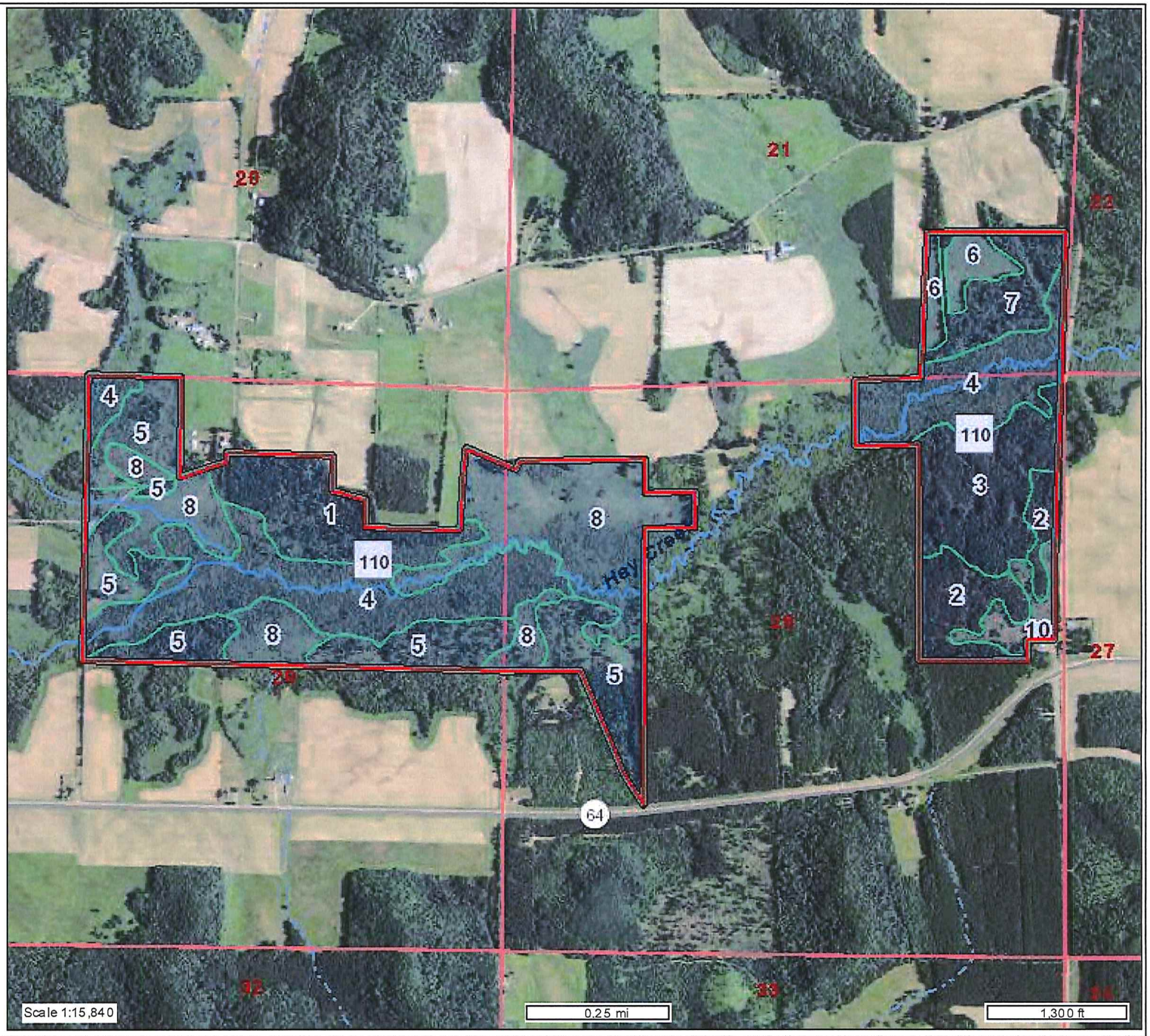
SCATTERED WILDLIFE - DUNN CTY.

Compartment 110

T31N-R11W-Sec21
T31N-R11W-Sec28
T31N-R11W-Sec29

- WisFIRS MGMT BND
- Compartment
- STAND
- State (24K)
- County (24K)
- Interstate Hwy
- US Hwy
- State Hwy
- Township
- Section
- Intermittent
- Perennial
- Lake (24K)



9/29/2016

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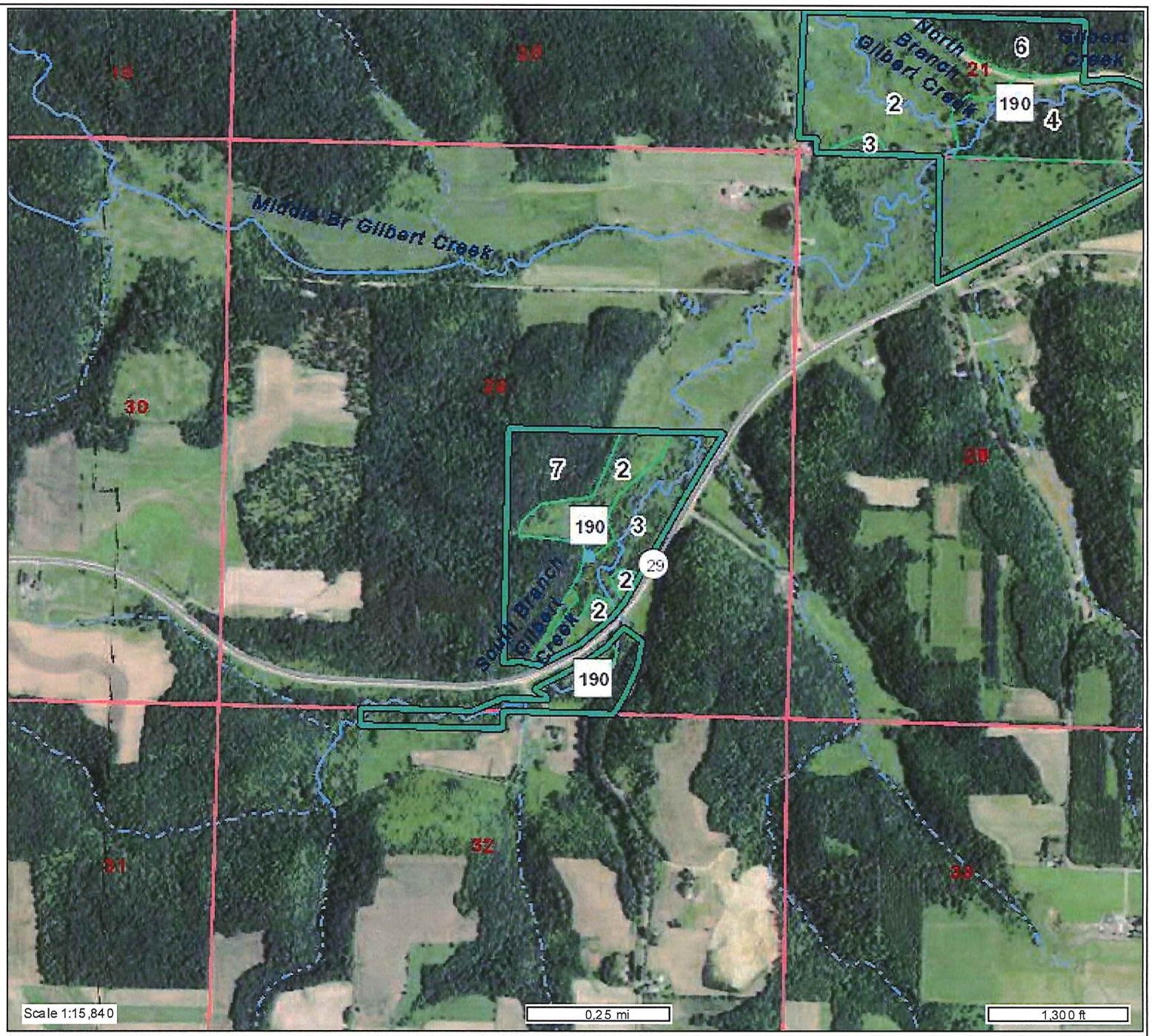
GILBERT CREEK FA

Compartment 190

T28N-R14W-Sec29

- WisFIRS MGMT BND
- Compartment
- STAND
- State (24K)
- County (24K)
- Interstate Hwy
- US Hwy
- State Hwy
- Township
- Section
- Intermittent
- Perennial
- Lake (24K)



9/29/2016

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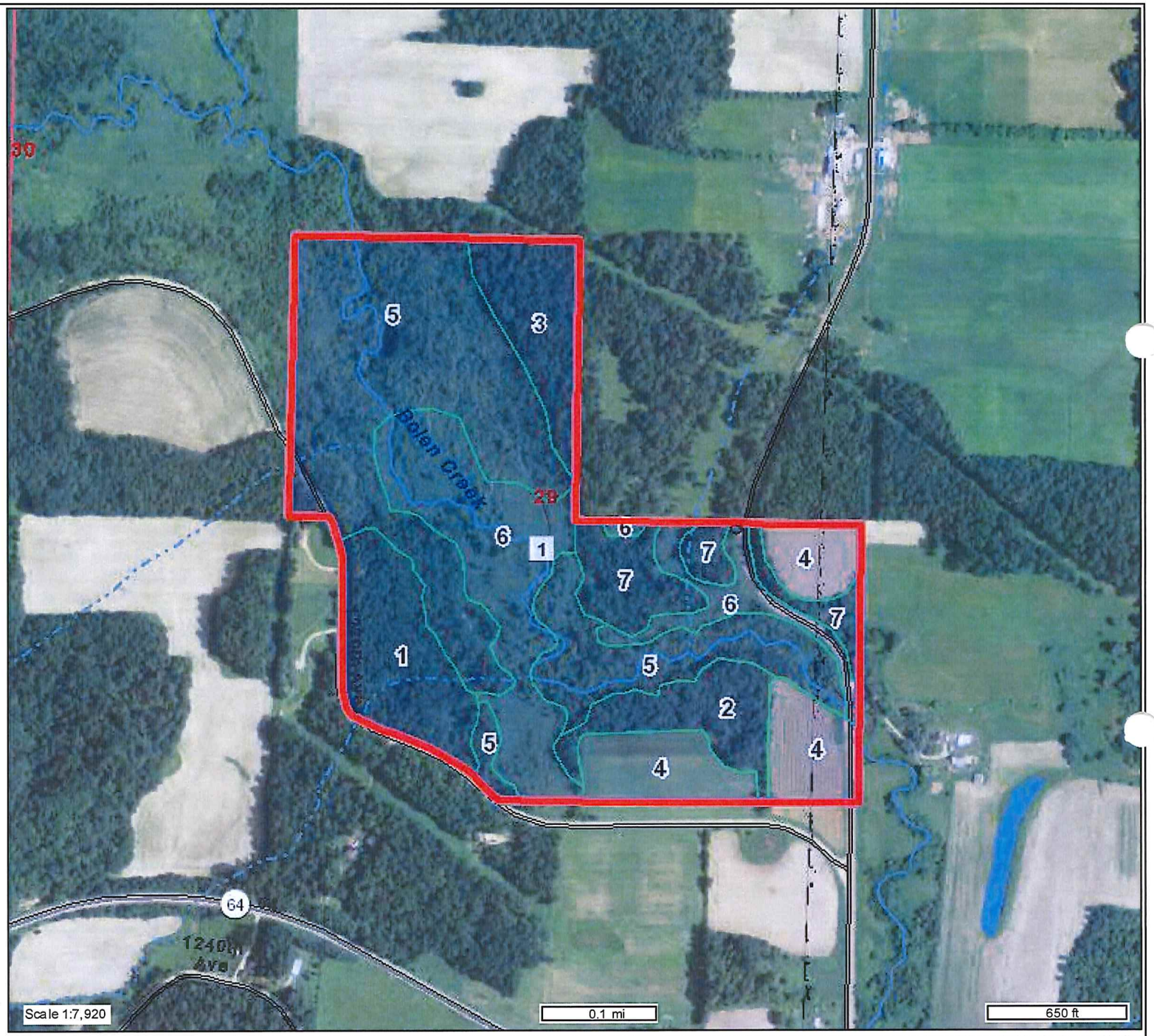
Bolen Creek F.A.
BOLEN CREEK FISHERY AREA

Compartment 1
108 acres
Dunn
T31N-R14W-Sec29

- WisFIRS MGMT BND
- Compartment
- STAND
- State (24K)
- County (24K)
- Interstate Hwy
- US Hwy
- State Hwy
- Local Road
- Section Corner Label
- Section Corner
- Township
- Section
- Intermittent
- Perennial
- Lake (24K)



M.Molback
4/13/2016

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