

Form 1100-1  
Rev. 5-91

**NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM**Item No. 4.E.

**SUBJECT:**

1. Land Donation – Devil’s Lake State Park – Sauk County
2. Land Donation – Glacial Habitat Restoration Area – Winnebago County

**FOR: MAY 2022 BOARD MEETING**

**TO BE PRESENTED BY: James W. Lemke, Real Estate Section Chief**

**SUMMARY:**

The department is requesting approval to accept the following two donations located within project boundaries under authority provided in s. 23.09(2)(d), Wis. Stats., and s. NR 1.41(1)(e), Wis. Admin. Code, which will provide opportunities for public recreation and will be open to the public for all five nature-based outdoor recreational activities to include hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking and cross-country skiing.

**1. Devil’s Lake State Park**

A donation of 80 acres of land from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) that lies within the Devil’s Lake State Park project boundary and abuts department-owned lands to the north, west and east and the Ho-Chunk Nation-owned portion of the Sauk Prairie State Recreation Area (former Badger Army Ammunition Plant) to the south. The property will be accessible to the public through the adjacent department-owned lands. With this proposed donation and the recent acquisition of the parcel to the west, this portion of Devil’s Lake State Park, also known as the South Bluff/Devil’s Nose State Natural Area, will be fully acquired.

Devil’s Lake State Park is one of the most scenic and visited parks in the State, with approximately 2.7 million + visitors per year. The addition of this parcel will create a contiguous corridor of public lands in this portion of the Baraboo Hills. This property is suited for a variety of recreational opportunities and could be developed with amenities such as hiking and mountain bicycling trails. Devil’s Lake State Park is currently going through the master planning process and, if accepted, this property would be included in that planning effort. The department recommends acceptance of this property to provide more recreational lands in the most visited department property, as well as improved public and department access and management by acquiring this inholding in the project area.

**2. Glacial Habitat Restoration Area**

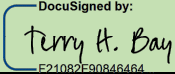
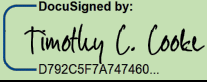
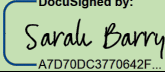
A donation of 171.82 acres of land from Wetlands America Trust, Inc. that lies within the Glacial Habitat Restoration Area (GHRA) project boundary. The subject property consists of rolling topography with glacial ridges of northern hardwood timber, wetland bottoms, and approximately 4,600’ of frontage on the northwest shore of Rush Lake, a well-known and popular waterfowl viewing and hunting area. Recent Ducks Unlimited management activities include restoration of native prairie, oak savanna and wetlands, and installation of a designated parking area in the northwest corner, at an overall cost of \$100,000. The property will also provide access to a 20.5-acre property landlocked since 2012.

The GHRA was established in 1990 to restore 38,600 acres of grassland and 11,000 acres of wetlands to increase populations of ring-necked pheasants, waterfowl, and grassland songbirds in 24 townships in Columbia, Dodge, Fond du Lac and Winnebago Counties. The project uses a landscape scale approach to habitat management that incorporates a mosaic of wetland and grasslands with cropland to create habitat conditions more favorable for self-sustaining wildlife populations in the glacial moraines of east central Wisconsin.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Board accept the two donations: 1. 80 acres of land for Devil’s Lake State Park; and 2. 171.82 acres for the Glacial Habitat Restoration Area. That a certificate of appreciation be sent to the landowners, and that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board.

**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (Check all that are applicable):**

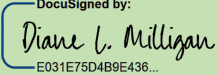
- Background Memo**
- Maps and Documents**

Approved By	Signature	Date
Terry H. Bay Bureau Director		4/20/2022   4:55 PM CDT
Timothy C. Cooke Internal Services Division Administrator		4/21/2022   10:15 AM CDT
Preston D. Cole, Secretary		4/22/2022   3:10 PM CDT

By: Sarah Barry

Form 1100-001N (Rev. 09/14)

## Natural Resources Board Agenda Item

Program and reviewer	Signature	Date	Comments
<b>Energy, Transportation and; Environmental Analysis</b> N/A Environmental Analyst  N/A Economist			
<b>Management and Budget</b> N/A Budget Analyst			
<b>Legal Services</b> Diane L. Milligan Attorney	 DocuSigned by: <i>Diane L. Milligan</i> E031E75D4B9E436...	4/19/2022   10:50 AM CDT	
<b>Other reviewers</b> N/A			

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**CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM**

DATE: April 18, 2022 FILE REF: PR 40274

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Secretary Preston D. Cole  
Department of Natural Resources

SUBJECT: 1. Proposed Land Donation, The Nature Conservancy, a District of Columbia nonprofit corporation Tract, File # PR 40274

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Devils Lake State Park-IANSR  
Sauk County

Grantor:

The Nature Conservancy, a District of Columbia nonprofit corporation  
Attn: Rodney Walter  
633 W. Main Street  
Madison- WI 53703

Acres: 80.00Price: GiftAssessed Value: N/A – tax exemptInterest: Fee titleImprovements: NoneLocation: The tract is located three miles south of Baraboo in Sauk County.Land Description: The subject land is steeply sloping upward from the south to the north.Covertyp e Breakdown:

Type	Acreage
Upland Woodland	80.00
Total:	80.00

Zoning: AgriculturalPresent Use: Public recreationProposed Use: Public recreationTenure: Eight monthsOption Date: N/A2. JUSTIFICATION:

The department is requesting approval to accept a donation of 80 acres of land from The Nature Conservancy, a District of Columbia nonprofit corporation (TNC), that lies within the Devil's Lake State Park project boundary and abuts department-owned lands to the north, west and east and the Ho-Chunk Nation-owned portion of the Sauk Prairie State Recreation Area (former Badger Army Ammunition Plant) to the south, under authority provided in s. 23.09(2)(d), Wis. Stats., and s. NR 1.41(1)(e), Wis. Admin. Code. The property will be accessible to the public through the adjacent department-owned lands and will provide opportunities for public recreation.

The subject property is an 80-acre inholding comprised of upland woodland and steeply sloping topography. This property is suited for a variety of recreational opportunities including hunting and wildlife watching and could be developed with amenities such as hiking and mountain biking trails. Devil's Lake State Park is currently going through the master planning process as part of the Central Sand Hills ecological landscape and, if accepted, this property would be included in that planning effort. With the acceptance of this donation and the recent acquisition of the parcel to the west, this portion of Devil's Lake State Park, also known as the South Bluff/Devil's Nose State Natural Area, will be fully acquired and accessible for public recreation.

Devil's Lake State Park is one of the most scenic and visited parks in the State, with more than 2.7 million visitors per year. Acceptance of this parcel will create a contiguous corridor of public lands in this portion of the Baraboo Hills and will provide additional land for outdoor recreation opportunities including all five nature-based outdoor activities.

The department recommends acceptance of this donation of land to provide more recreational lands in the most visited department property, as well as improved public and department access and management by acquiring this inholding in the project area.

3. LAND MANAGEMENT:

The property abuts department-owned land to the north, east and west and will be managed as part of the Devil's Lake State Park by department staff. The Central Sand Hills Regional Master Plan is currently in process and Devil's Lake State Park is part of this plan. This property would be included in this planning process.

4. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

5. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE DEVIL'S LAKE STATE PARK-IANSR:

Established: 1911

Acres Purchased to Date: 9,658.81

Acquisition Goal: 11,050.00

Percent Complete: 87.41 %

Cost to Date: \$15,035,296.85

RECOMMENDED:

DocuSigned by:  
*Terry H. Bay*  
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Terry H. Bay, Bureau Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands

Date

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4/19/2022 | 10:50 AM CDT

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Diane L. Milligan, Bureau of Legal Services

Date

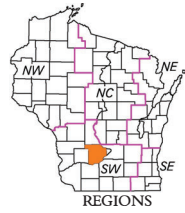
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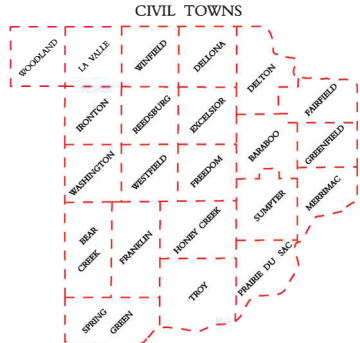
Timothy C. Cooke, Internal Services Division Administrator

Date



SECTION NUMBERING OF A TOWNSHIP

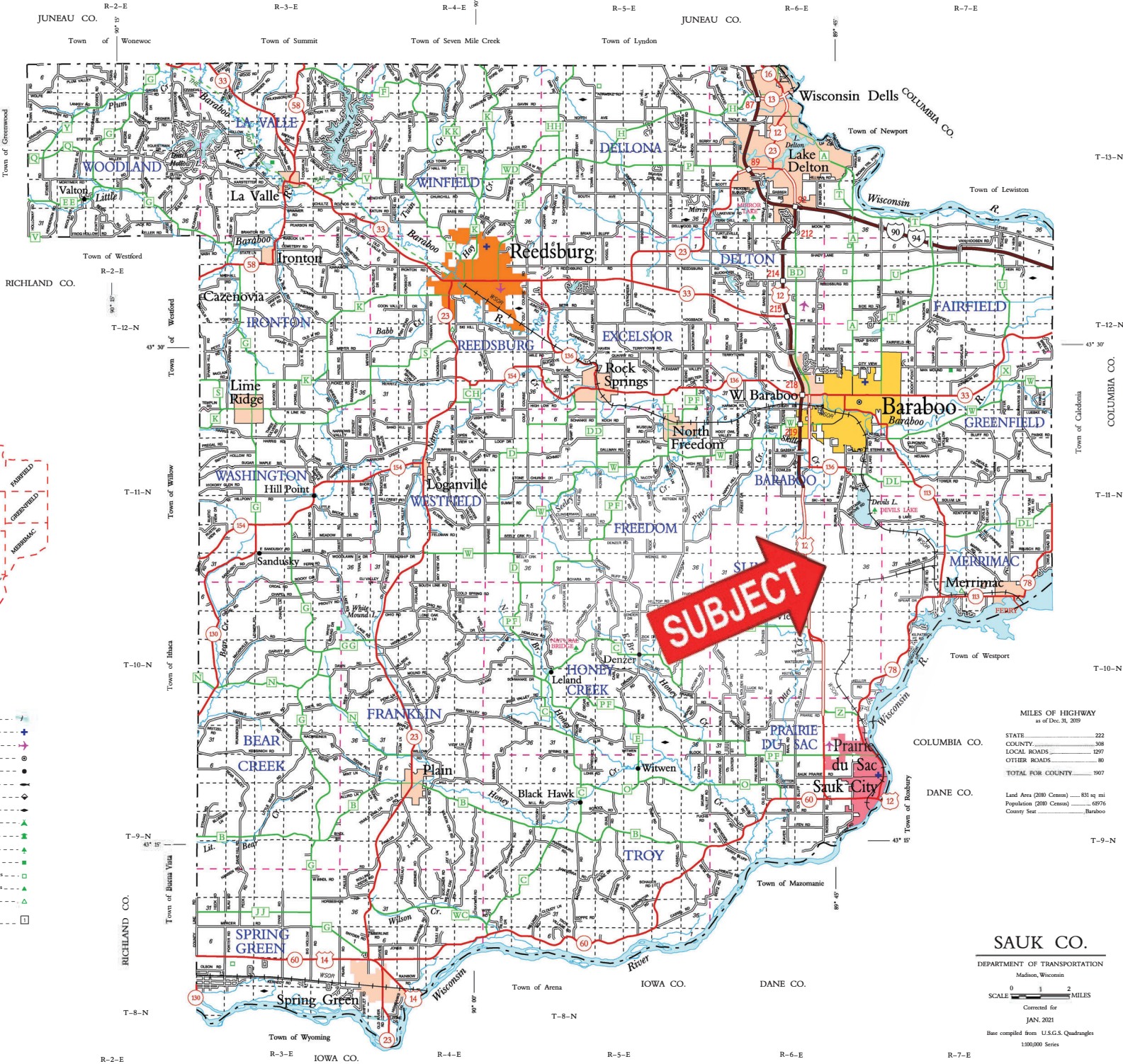
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7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36



LEGEND

- Freeway
- Multilane Divided
- U.S. or State Hwy
- County Trunk Hwy
- Town Road
- Firelane
- Railroad
- State Trail
- Interchange
- Highway Separation
- Interstate Highway No.
- U.S. Highway No.
- State Highway No.
- County Highway Letter
- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- Civil Town Boundary
- Section Line
- Dam
- Hospital
- Airport
- County Seat
- Unincorporated Village
- Fish Hatchery
- Game Farm
- Public Hunt. or Fish Grds.
- Public Camp & Picnic Grds.
- Ranger Station
- State Park
- County Park
- Without Facilities
- Rest Area
- Wayside
- Units of Wisconsin
- Units of Wisconsin - Baraboo/Sauk Co.

**SUBJECT**



MILES OF HIGHWAY as of Dec. 31, 2019

STATE	222
COUNTY	308
LOCAL ROADS	1397
OTHER ROADS	80
TOTAL FOR COUNTY	1907

Land Area (2000 Census) ..... 831 sq mi  
 Population (2000 Census) ..... 6976  
 County Seat ..... Baraboo

**SAUK CO.**  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 Madison, Wisconsin

SCALE 0 1 2 MILES  
 Corrected for  
 JAN. 2021  
 Base compiled from U.S.G.S. Quadrangles  
 1:500,000 Series

For boundaries of public hunting and fishing grounds please contact the Department of Natural Resources




**NRB Item:**  
**The Nature Conservancy,**  
**a District of Columbia**  
**nonprofit corporation**  
**-- Fee**

*Devil's Lake*  
*State Park-IANSR*


T11N R06E, Sec. 35  
Town of Sumpter  
Sauk County

PR 40274

-  Current DNR Project Boundary
-  Current State Natural Area Project Boundary
-  State Natural Area
-  DNR Fee Title
-  Tribal Land
-  State Recreation Trail
-  Ice Age
-  Streambank Eligible Stream

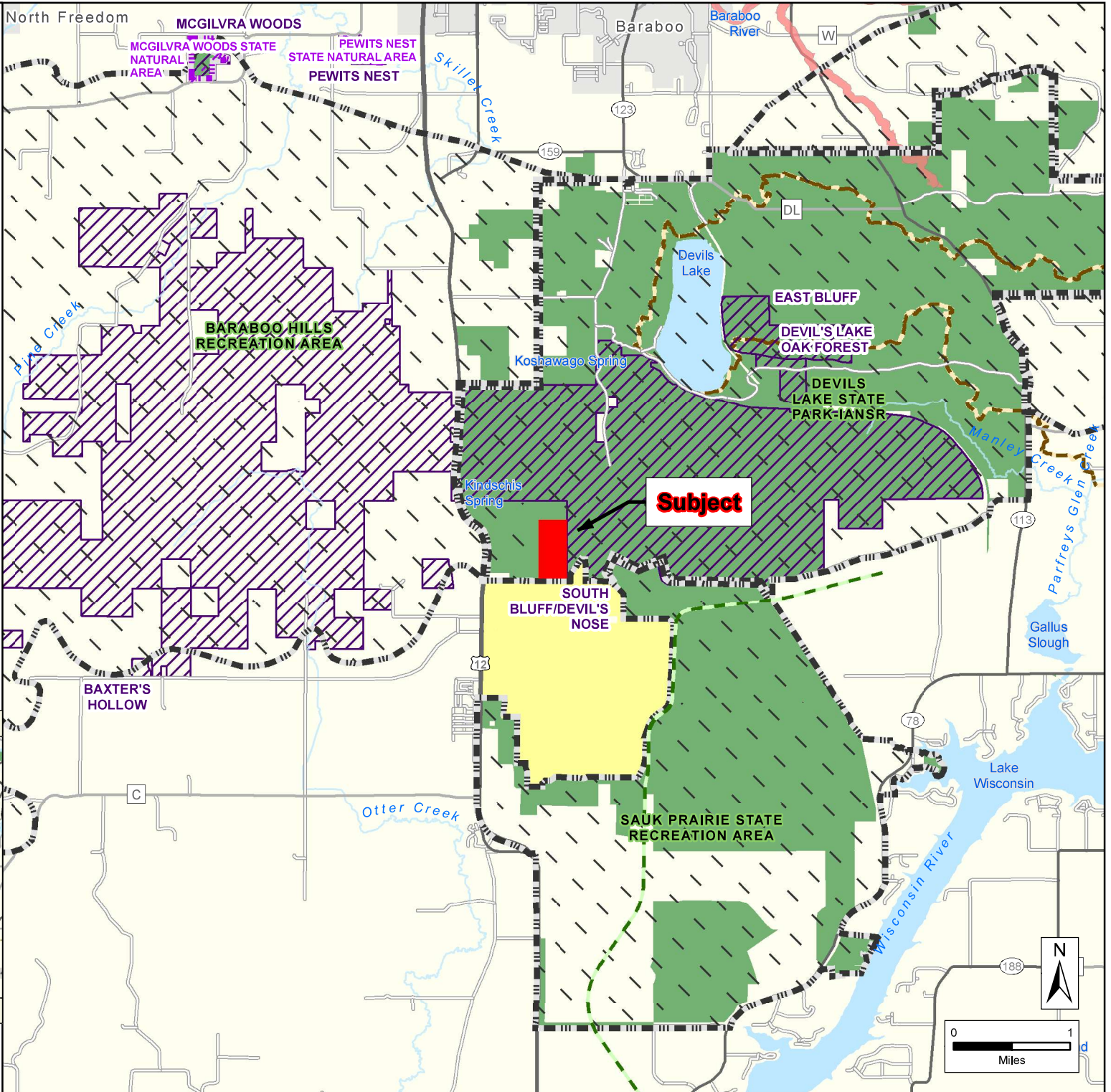
*Regional View*



 Location of Property



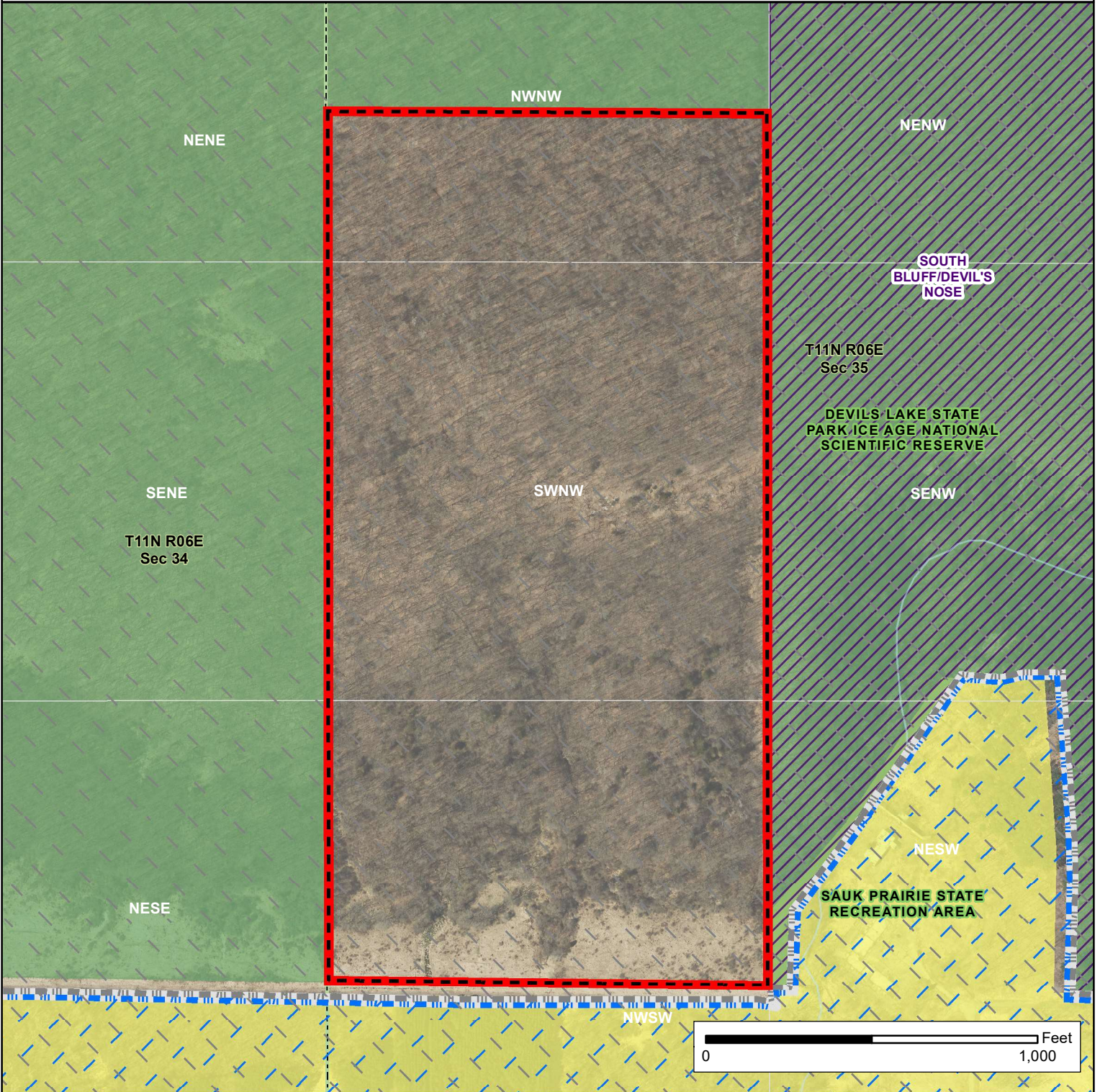
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Bureau of Facilities of Lands  
Map Created: Apr 11, 2022 cjm





# NRB Item: The Nature Conservancy, a District of Columbia nonprofit corporation -- Fee

T11N R06E, Sec. 35, Town of Sumpter, Sauk County



## Devil's Lake State Park-IANSR

 **Subject**



Contraction from Original Pre-2013 Project Boundary




Original Pre-2013 Project Boundary - Not Subject to JFC Review




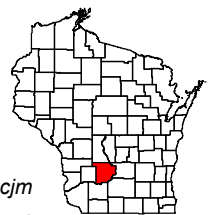
DNR Fee Title

 State Natural Area

 Tribal Reservation

 Section Boundary

 QQ Section Boundary



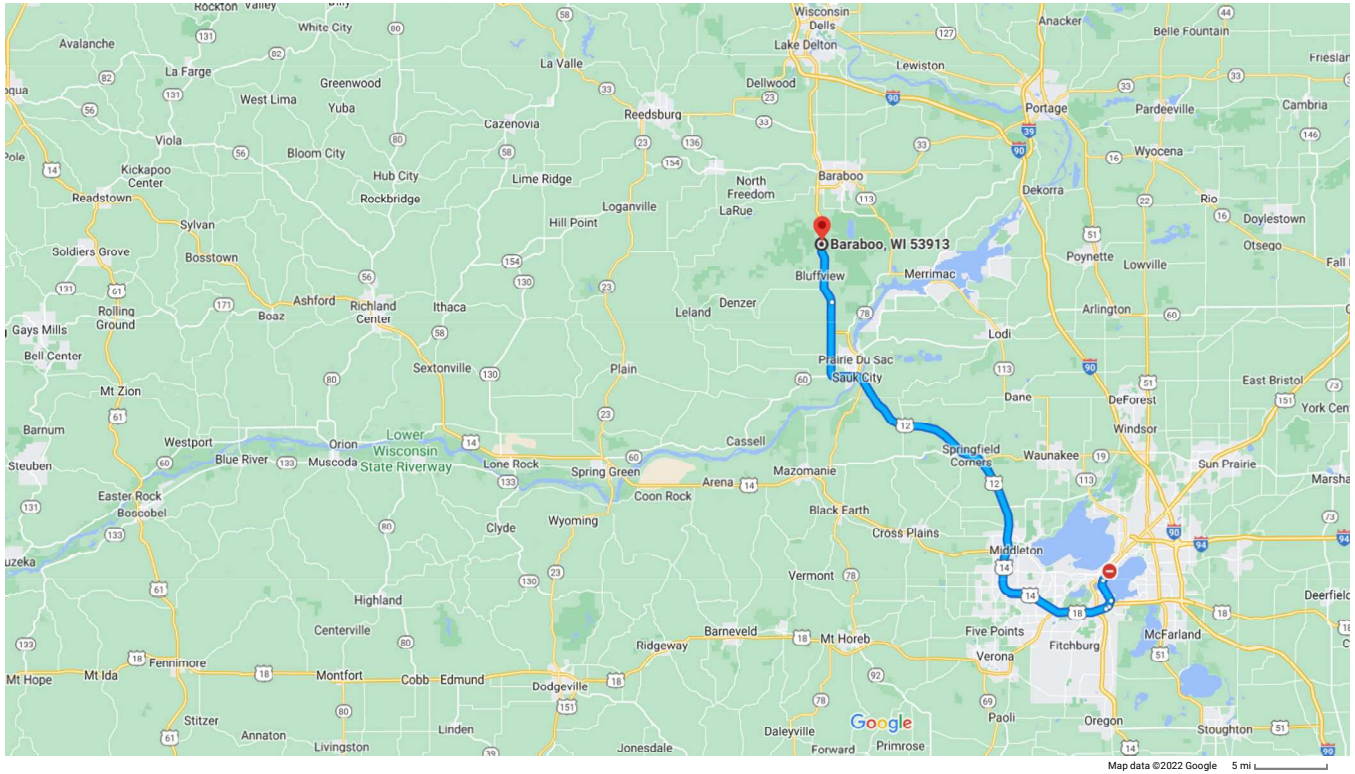
Apr 11, 2022 cjm

Real Estate Section  
Bureau of Facilities and Lands



Google Maps 101 South Webster Street, Madison, WI to Baraboo, WI 53913

Drive 42.5 miles, 49 min



101 S Webster St  
Madison, WI 53703

**Take S Butler St and E Wilson St to John Nolen Dr**

- ↑ 1. Head northwest on S Webster St toward E Main St  
2 min (0.3 mi)
- ↪ 2. Turn right at the 1st cross street onto E Main St  
112 ft
- ↪ 3. Turn right at the 1st cross street onto S Butler St  
335 ft
- ↶ 4. Turn left onto E Wilson St  
0.1 mi
- ↶ 4. Turn left onto E Wilson St  
0.1 mi
- ↪ 5. Sharp right onto John Nolen Dr  
2 min (0.8 mi)

**Get on US-12 W/US-18 W in Madison**

- ↑ 6. Continue straight to stay on John Nolen Dr  
4 min (2.2 mi)
- ↪ 7. Turn right onto Rimrock Rd  
1.6 mi
- ↗ 8. Use the right lane to take the ramp onto US-12 W/US-18 W  
0.4 mi
- ↑ 8. Use the right lane to take the ramp onto US-12 W/US-18 W  
0.3 mi

**Continue on US-12 W to Sumpter**

- ↗ 9. Merge onto US-12 W/US-18 W  
42 min (39.1 mi)
- 📍 Continue to follow US-12 W
- ↑ 10. Continue onto Iron Brigade Mem Hwy  
34.8 mi
- ↑ 10. Continue onto Iron Brigade Mem Hwy  
4.2 mi
- ↪ 11. Turn right  
📍 Destination will be on the right  
23 s (207 ft)

Baraboo  
Wisconsin 53913

These directions are for planning purposes only. You may find that construction projects,

**CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM**

DATE: April 18, 2022 FILE REF: WM 60767

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Secretary Preston D. Cole  
Department of Natural Resources

SUBJECT: 2. Proposed Land Donation, Wetlands America Trust, Inc. Tract, File # WM 60767

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Glacial Habitat Restoration Area  
Winnebago County

Grantor:

Wetlands America Trust, Inc.  
Attn: Geoffrey Cripe  
1 Waterfowl Way  
Memphis TN 38120

Acres: 171.82Price: GiftAssessed Value: \$156,600Interest: Fee titleImprovements: There is a small, dilapidated wood cabin that will be removed prior to closing.Location: The tract is located 13.5 miles southeast of Berlin in Winnebago CountyLand Description: The subject land is sloping down towards Rush Lake, with the area near the shore being basically level.Covertyp e Breakdown:

Type	Acreage
Wetland	92.00
Grass / Pasture	79.82
Total:	171.82

Zoning: A-2, General AgriculturePresent Use: Public recreationProposed Use: Public recreationTenure: 6.5 yearsOption Date: N/A2. JUSTIFICATION:

The department is requesting approval to accept a donation of 171.82 acres of land from Wetlands America Trust, Inc. (a fiduciary agent of Ducks Unlimited) that lies within the Glacial Habitat Restoration Area (GHRA) project boundary in Winnebago County under authority provided in s. 23.09(2)(d), Wis. Stats., and s. NR 1.41(1)(e), Wis. Admin. Code. The subject property consists of rolling topography with glacial ridges of northern hardwood timber, wetland bottoms, and approximately 4,600' of frontage on the northwest shore of Rush Lake, a well-known and popular waterfowl viewing and hunting area. The property will also provide access to a 20.5-acre department-owned property landlocked since 2012.



Wetlands America Trust, Inc. (WAT) purchased the property using a combination of NRDA funds and a Knowles Nelson Stewardship grant. Recent Ducks Unlimited management activities include restoration of native prairie, oak savanna and wetlands, including creating various smaller inland ponds, as well as a designated parking area in the northwest corner, at an overall cost of \$100,000. Infrastructure improvements include two water control structures manufactured by Agri-Drain that are approximately 20"x24" with inlet and outlet PVC pipes located on an abandoned railroad grade to act as a berm or dike. Before ownership transfer, WAT will be removing a 12' by 24' dilapidated wood structured cabin located in the southeast portion of the property.

The GHRA was established in 1990 to restore 38,600 acres of grassland and 11,000 acres of wetlands to increase populations of ring-necked pheasants, waterfowl, and grassland songbirds in 24 townships in Columbia, Dodge, Fond du Lac and Winnebago Counties. The project uses a landscape scale approach to habitat management that incorporates a mosaic of wetland and grasslands with cropland to create habitat conditions more favorable for self-sustaining wildlife populations in the glacial moraines of east central Wisconsin.

The department recommends acceptance of this donation of land to allow for continued public access supporting recreational activities in the Glacial Habitat Restoration Area.

3. LAND MANAGEMENT:

This property will be managed in conjunction with the surrounding GHRA property. Habitat management will be completed by staff in the Wildlife Management program. Approximately \$100,000 and 200 volunteer hours has already been spent by Ducks Unlimited on prairie, savanna, and wetland restorations on the property. Ducks Unlimited plans to maintain a strong presence on the land in support of department management plans. Habitat management in the future will consist primarily of maintenance of these restorations through the use of mowing, prescribed burning, occasional herbicide treatments, and wetland infrastructure upkeep. Ducks Unlimited plans to maintain a strong presence on the land in support of department management plans.

4. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

5. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE GLACIAL HABITAT RESTORATION AREA:

Established: 1990

Acres Purchased to Date: 10,954.38

Acquisition Goal: 28,400.00

Percent Complete: 38.57 %

Cost to Date: \$21,919,699.04

RECOMMENDED:

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*Terry H. Bay*  
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4/20/2022 | 4:55 PM CDT

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Terry H. Bay, Bureau Director, Bureau of Facilities and Lands

Date

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4/19/2022 | 10:50 AM CDT

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Diane L. Milligan, Bureau of Legal Services

Date

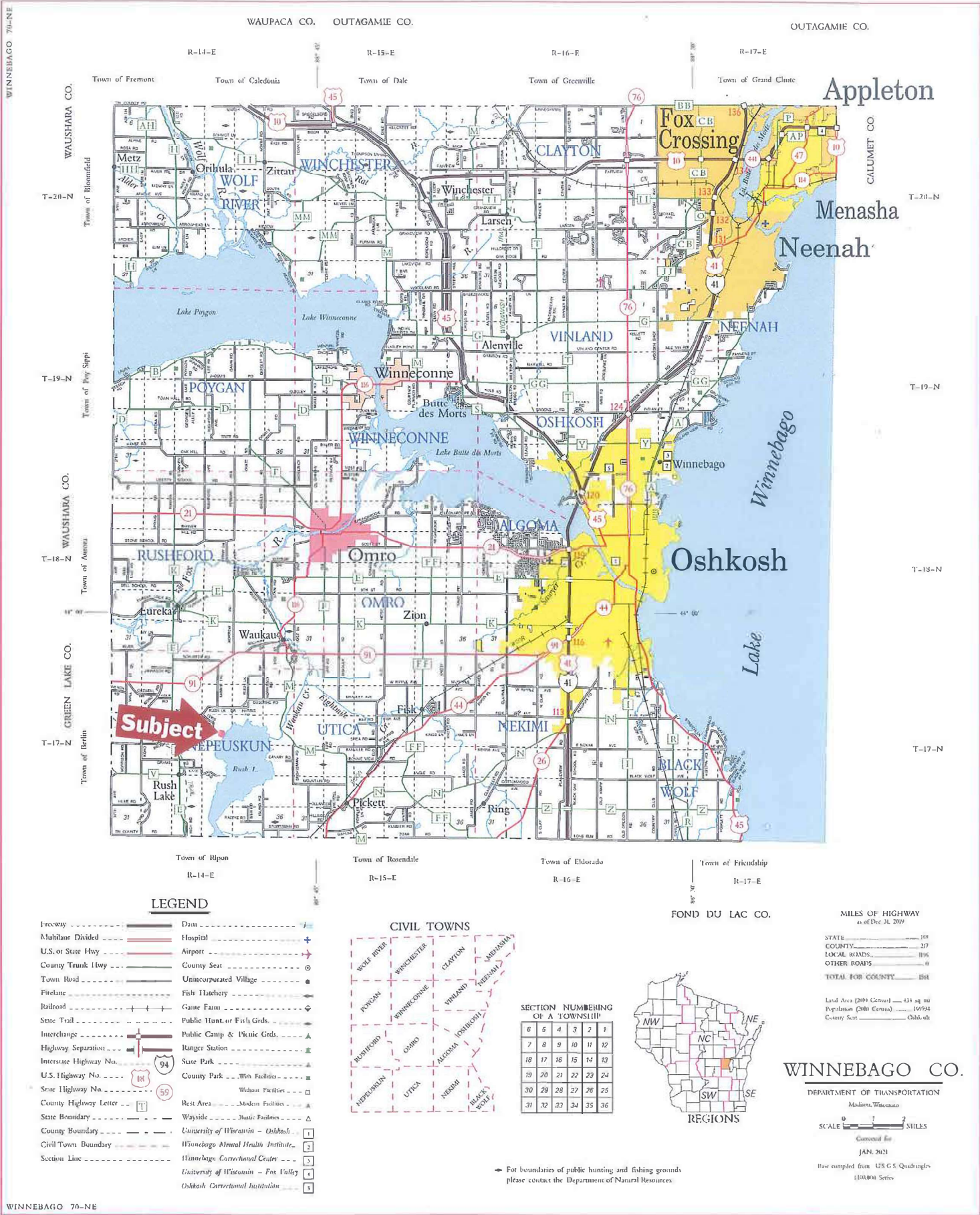
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4/21/2022 | 10:15 AM CDT

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Timothy C. Cooke, Internal Services Division Administrator

Date





# NRB Item: Wetlands America Trust, Inc. -- Fee

## Glacial Habitat Restoration Area

T17N R14E, Secs. 15 & 16  
Town of Nepeuskun  
Winnebago County


 **Subject**

WM 60767

-  Current DNR Project Boundary
-  Current State Natural Area Project Boundary
-  State Natural Area
-  County Boundary
-  DNR Fee Title
-  NRCS - WRP (Wetland Reserve Program - Closed to public access)
-  U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

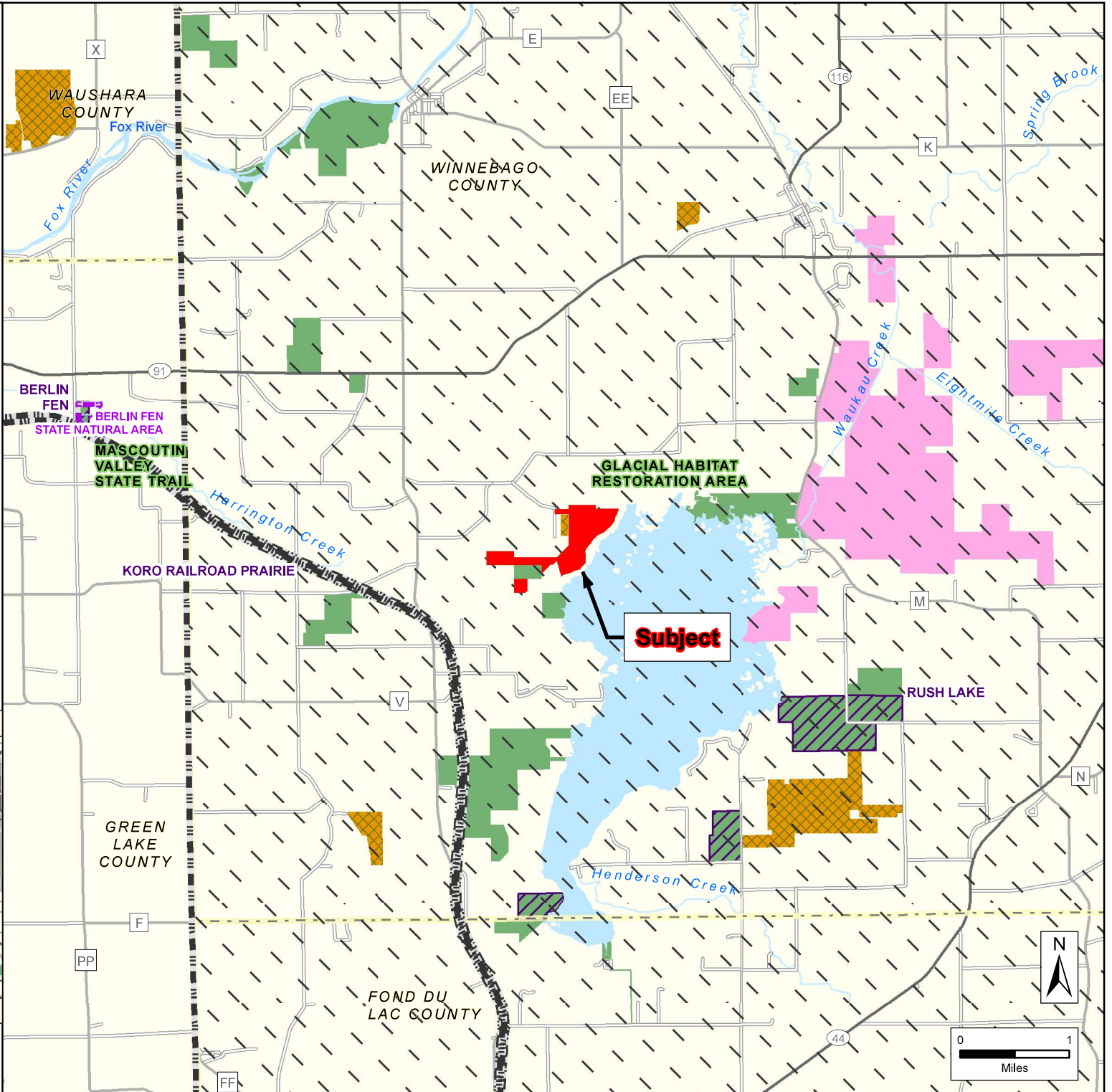
### Regional View



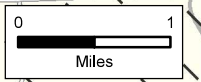
 Location of Property



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Bureau of Facilities of Lands  
Map Created: Apr 07, 2022 jst



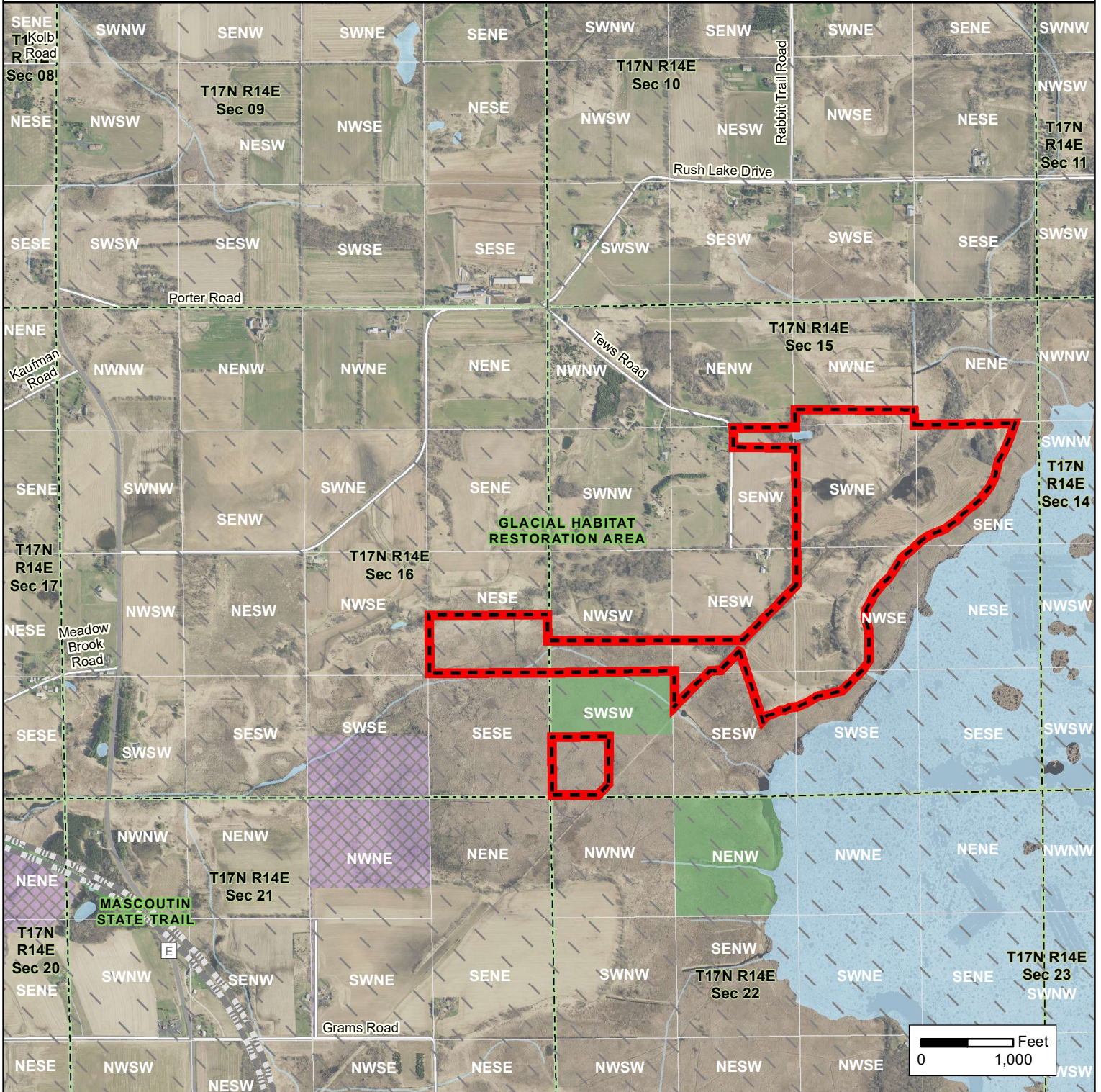
**Subject**





# NRB Item: Wetlands America Trust, Inc. -- Fee

## T17N R14E, Secs. 15 & 16, Town of Nepeuskun, Winnebago County



**Glacial Habitat Restoration Area**

**Subject**



Original Pre-2013 Project Boundary - Not Subject to JFC Review



DNR Fee Title



DNR Easement Closed to Public Access



Section Boundary



QQ Section Boundary



Apr 07, 2022 jst

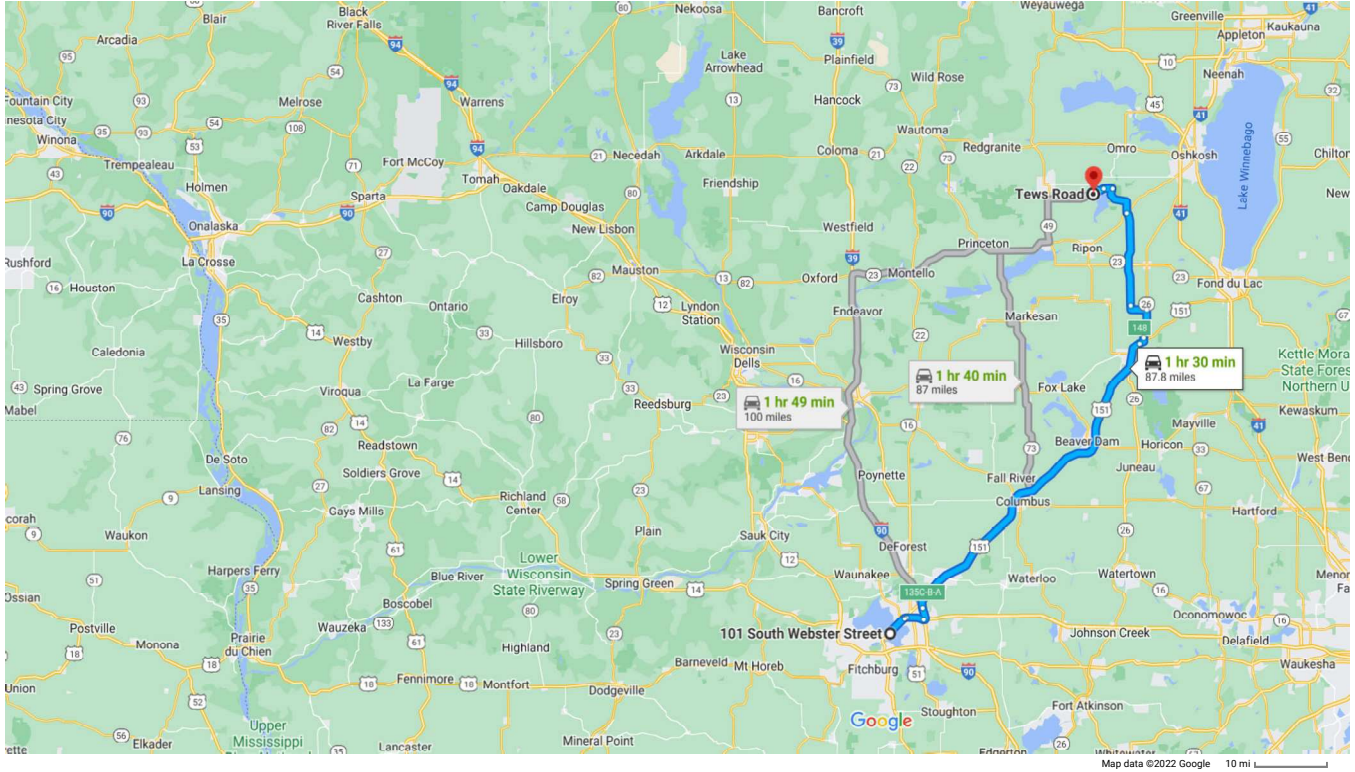
Real Estate Section  
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

The data shown on this map have been obtained from various sources, and are of varying age, reliability and resolution. This map is not intended to be used for navigation, nor is this map an authoritative source of information about legal land ownership or public access. Users of this map should confirm the ownership of land through other means in order to avoid trespassing. No warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, applicability for a particular use, completeness, or legality of the information depicted on this map.



Google Maps 101 South Webster Street, Madison, WI to Tews Rd, Nepeuskun, WI 54971

Drive 87.8 miles, 1 hr 30 min



101 S Webster St  
Madison, WI 53703

Get on WI-30 E

- ↑ 1. Head northwest on S Webster St toward E Main St  
9 min (3.3 mi)  
0.1 mi
- ↘ 2. Turn right at the 2nd cross street onto E Washington Ave  
Pass by Burger King (on the right in 2.5 mi)  
2.9 mi
- ↗ 3. Use the right lane to take the WI-30 E ramp to I-90/I-94  
0.2 mi

Take US-151 N to WI-26 N/WI-26 Trunk N in Waupun. Take exit 148 from US-151 N

- ↑ 4. Continue onto WI-30 E  
50 min (56.5 mi)
- ↙ 5. Take exit 3 B on the left to merge onto I-39 N/I-90 W/I-94 W toward I-94 W/Wis Dells  
2.5 mi
- ↘ 6. Take exit 135C-B-A to merge onto US-151 N toward Sun Prairie  
2.0 mi
- ↘ 7. Take exit 148 for WI-26 N toward Rosendale/Oshkosh  
50.9 mi  
1.2 mi

Take Co Rd M to Tews Rd in Nepeuskun

- ↗ 8. Continue onto WI-26 N/WI-26 Trunk N  
34 min (28.0 mi)
- ↙ 9. Turn left onto County Hwy TC  
3.9 mi
- ↑ 10. Continue straight onto Co Rd M  
2.7 mi
- ↑ 11. Continue straight to stay on Co Rd M  
12.9 mi
- ↙ 12. Turn left onto Osborne Rd  
5.0 mi
- ↙ 13. Turn left onto Rush Lake Dr  
1.3 mi  
1.8 mi

← 14. Turn left onto Tews Rd  
0.3 mi

Tews Rd  
Nepeuskun, WI 54971

These directions are for planning purposes only. You may find that construction projects, traffic, weather, or other events may cause conditions to differ from the map results, and you should plan your route accordingly. You must obey all signs or notices regarding your route.

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## **Acknowledgment of Gift**

This is to certify that at its May 2022 meeting, the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board gratefully acknowledged a gift of land in Sauk County for Devil's Lake State Park from:

### **The Nature Conservancy**

Our expression of appreciation on behalf of Wisconsin's citizens is hereby recorded in the official records of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board. We acknowledge this generous contribution.

Wisconsin Natural Resources Board

Greg Kazmierski, Chair

## **Acknowledgment of Gift**

This is to certify that at its May 2022 meeting, the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board gratefully acknowledged a gift of land in Winnebago County for the Glacial Habitat Restoration Area from:

### **Wetlands America Trust, Inc.**

Our expression of appreciation on behalf of Wisconsin's citizens is hereby recorded in the official records of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board. We acknowledge this generous contribution.

Wisconsin Natural Resources Board

Greg Kazmierski, Chair