

SUBJECT: Land Donation and Project Boundary Modification – Totogatic Wild River – Washburn County

FOR: JANUARY 2013 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Doug Haag

SUMMARY: The Conservation Fund has offered to donate the 259-acre former Solar Land Company parcel to the Department for the Totogatic Wild River project in Washburn County. Acquisition will support the goals of protecting the globally significant pine barrens habitat in this area as well as almost 2.5 miles of Totogatic River frontage. This parcel is situated between two non-contiguous Department owned parcels and acquisition will stitch together recreational and habitat resources on 822 contiguous acres and approximately 3.5 miles of the river.

Wisconsin Act 32, of 2009 created State Statute 30.26(2)3m and designated nearly 70 miles of the Totogatic River, from its outlet of Totogatic Lake in Bayfield, through Sawyer, Washburn, and Douglas Counties to its mouth at the Namekagon River in Burnett County for preservation and protection under the Wild Rivers legislative designation. The intent of the legislation is to provide guidelines for the Department to create Wild Rivers projects on specific rivers in the state, which allows the public to enjoy rivers in a free flowing condition, preserve them from development and to protect and enhance the river's natural beauty and its unique recreational and inherent natural resource values. Four impoundments along the Totogatic River's path were exempted from the designation since three have already been developed with buildings and all areas have a dam, which requires maintenance and repair with heavy equipment. The impoundments create Nelson Lake in Sawyer County, the Totogatic Flowage in Sawyer County, the Colton and Minong Flowages in Washburn County.

In April of 2012, the Natural Resources Board approved a 75% cost-share grant to the Conservation Fund for \$567,863 from the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program. The Conservation Fund has since raised the additional funds necessary to complete the transaction and took title to the property in December of 2012.

The property is approximately 95% upland woods and 5% lowland and wetlands. Timber types include large red pines with a mixture of oaks, cutover jack pines with a mixture of oaks, and mixed hardwoods with mixed softwoods to include white pines and balsam fir. There is an extensive network of trails throughout the property which will provide excellent access for both resource management and nature-based recreation.

Acquisition of this parcel complies with the legislated and established project goals by preserving and protecting water quality, habitat and scenic beauty of the Totogatic River. With that come the terrestrial benefits of contiguous undeveloped land for wildlife, forestry, and recreation. If acquisition is approved, the project boundary will be expanded to include this parcel.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accepts the donation of 259 acres of land for the Totogatic Wild River program and approve expansion of the project boundary to include this parcel; that a certificate of appreciation be sent to The Conservation Fund; and that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|----------|
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment of Impact Statement Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No <input type="checkbox"/> | Background Memo | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

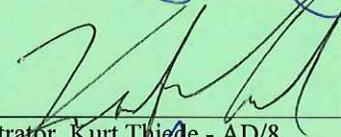
APPROVED:



Acting Real Estate Director, Douglas J. Haag - LF/6

1-2-13

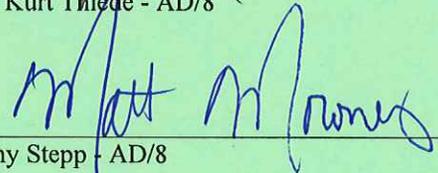
Date



Administrator, Kurt Thiede - AD/8

1-7-13

Date



Secretary, Cathy Stepp - AD/8

1/8/13

Date

- cc: S. Miller - LF/6
R. Steffes - LF/6
L. Ross - AD/5
R. Rasmussen - WT/3
P. Bruggnik - NOR

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 2, 2013 FILE REF: WR 70052
 TO: Natural Resources Board
 FROM: Cathy Stepp
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation and Project Boundary Modification, The Conservation Fund (former Solar Tract) Tract, File # WR 70052

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Totogatic Wild River
 Washburn County

Grantor:

The Conservation Fund
 Tom Duffus – Vice President
 394 Lake Avenue South, Suite 404
 Duluth, MN 55802

Acres: 259Price: GiftAppraised Value: \$603,000; \$751,100; \$1,166,000Interest: FeeImprovements: None

Note: The value of \$751,100 was used as the basis for the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Grant.

Location: The tract is located in Washburn County 25 miles northwest of City of Spooner

Land Description: The subject land is rolling with steep hills and banks.

Covertypes Breakdown:

Type	Acreage
Upland Woodland	246
Wetland	13
Total:	259

Zoning:Present Use: Forestry and RecreationProposed Use: Conservation and public recreationTenure:Option Date: October 04, 2012

Stewardship Land Access: This property will be open to the public for all nature based outdoor recreational activities to include hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking and cross country skiing.

2. JUSTIFICATION:

The Conservation Fund has offered to donate the 259-acre former Solar Land Company parcel to the Department for the Totogatic Wild River project in Washburn County. Acquisition will support the goals of protecting the globally significant pine barrens habitat in this area as well as almost 2.5 miles of

Totogatic River frontage. This parcel is situated between two non-contiguous Department owned parcels and acquisition will stitch together recreational and habitat resources on 822 contiguous acres and approximately 3.5 miles of the river.

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In April of 2012, the Natural Resources Board approved a 75% cost-share grant to the Conservation Fund for \$567,863 from the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program. The Conservation Fund has since raised the additional funds necessary to complete the transaction and took title to the property in December of 2012.

The property is approximately 95% upland woods and 5% lowland and wetlands. Timber types include large red pines with a mixture of oaks, cutover jack pines with a mixture of oaks, and mixed hardwoods with mixed softwoods to include white pines and balsam fir. There is an extensive network of vegetated trails throughout the property which will provide excellent access for both resource management and nature-based recreation.

Acquisition of this parcel complies with the legislated and established project goals by preserving and protecting water quality, habitat and scenic beauty of the Totogatic River. With that come the terrestrial benefits of contiguous undeveloped land for wildlife, forestry, and recreation. If acquisition is approved, the project boundary will be expanded to include this parcel.

3. LAND MANAGEMENT:

Acquisition will provide connectivity between two non-contiguous parcels in the project area and allow for better management by LF staff out of Spooner with current funding resources. Property is maintained for the natural character of the riverway. Limited habitat work will occur beyond the river set-back as necessary.

4. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

5. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE TOTOGATIC WILD RIVER:

Established: 2010

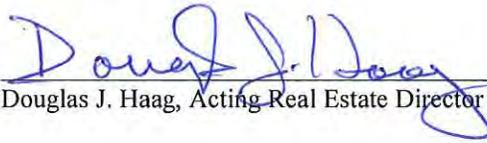
Acres Purchased to Date: 2,119.72

Acquisition Goal: 2,119.72 *Acquisition goal will be increased to include this parcel.

Percent Complete: 100 %

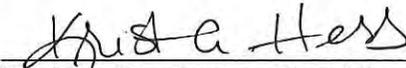
Cost to Date: \$3,985,645

RECOMMENDED:



Douglas J. Haag, Acting Real Estate Director

1-2-13
Date



Kristin A. Hess, Bureau of Legal Services

1/7/13
Date



Kurt Thiede, Land Division Administrator

1/7/13
Date

RES:

Acknowledgment of Gift

This is to certify that at its January 2013 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 259.00 acres of land in Washburn County for the Totogatic Wild River from

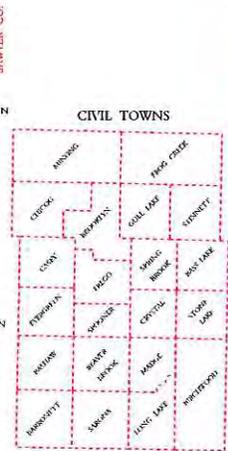
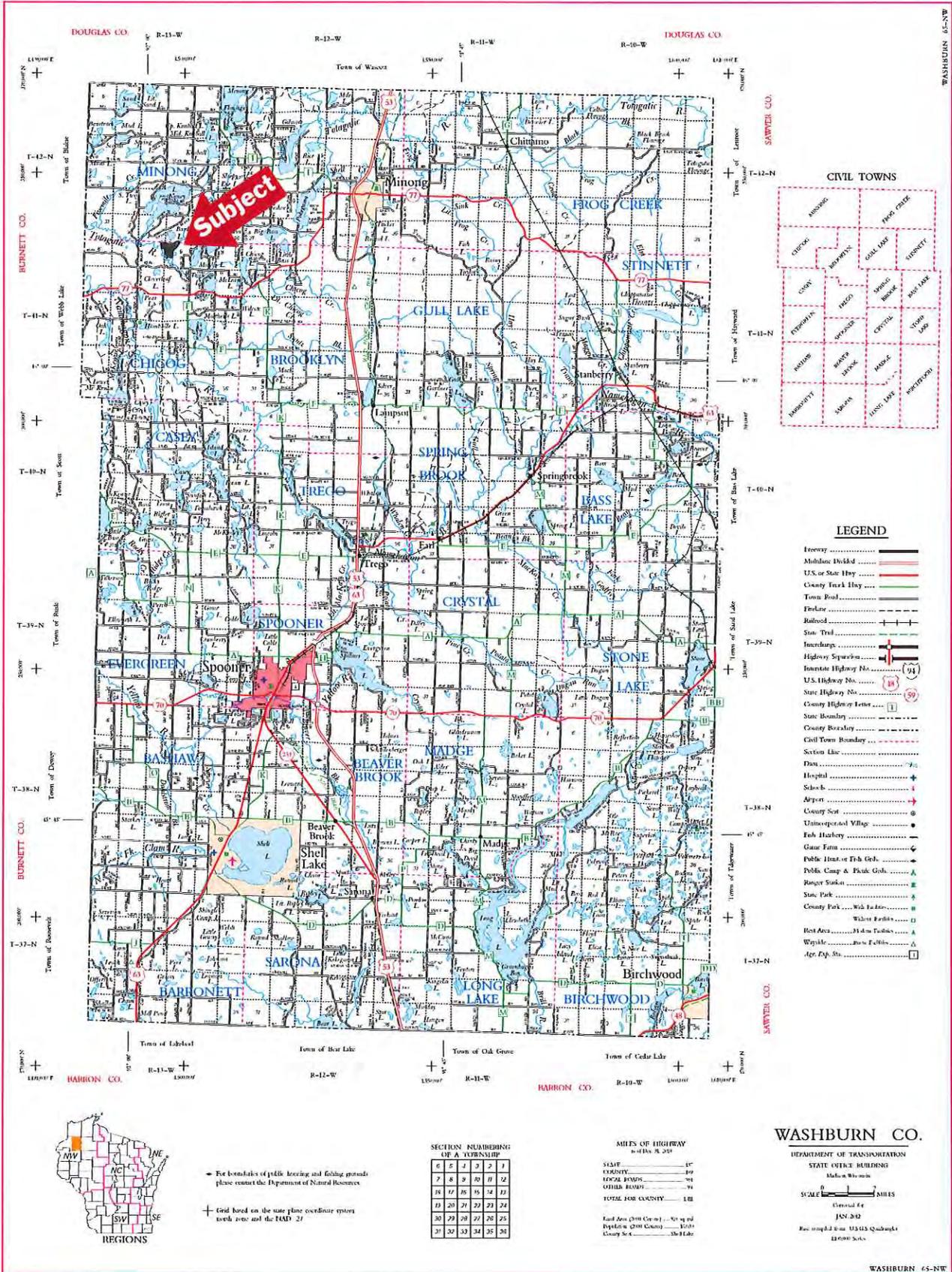
The Conservation Fund

It is significant that organizations such as yours are interested in helping protect Wisconsin's natural heritage and contribute materially toward this end.

An expression of our appreciation is a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board. We present this certificate of sincere appreciation on behalf of present and future generations to thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR



LEGEND

- Freeway
- Multiple Divided
- U.S. or State Hwy
- County Trunk Hwy
- Town Road
- Fireline
- Railroad
- State Trunk
- Interchanges
- 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
- School
- Airport
- County Seat
- Unincorporated Village
- Fish Hatchery
- Game Farm
- Public Hatchery or Fish Club
- Public Camp & Picnic Grounds
- Hanger Station
- State Park
- County Park
- Wildlife Refuge
- Hot Area
- Wapole
- Age Pop. Sta.



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

Grid based on the state plane coordinate system north zone and the NAD 83

SECTION NUMBERING OF A TOWNSHIP

6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	32	33	34	35
36	37	38	39	40	41

MILES OF HIGHWAY

as of Dec 31, 2014

STATE	107
COUNTY	109
TOWNSHIP	94
OTHER	94
TOTAL FOR COUNTY	304

WASHBURN CO.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

STATE OFFICE BUILDING

Madison, Wisconsin

Scale 0 to 7 Miles

Created by JAN 2010

Revised by 03/15/15

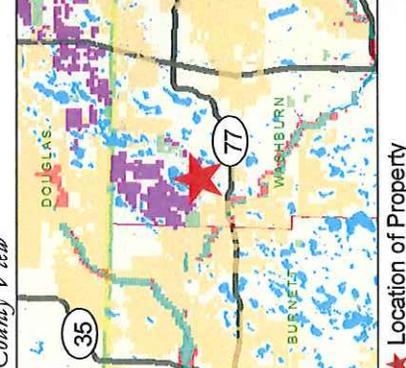
**The Conservation Fund
(former Solar tract) -
Fee/Gift
Totogatic
Wild River
WR 70052**

T41N R13W Sec 3
Town of Chicago
Wasburn County
259 Acres

Subject
Access Easement

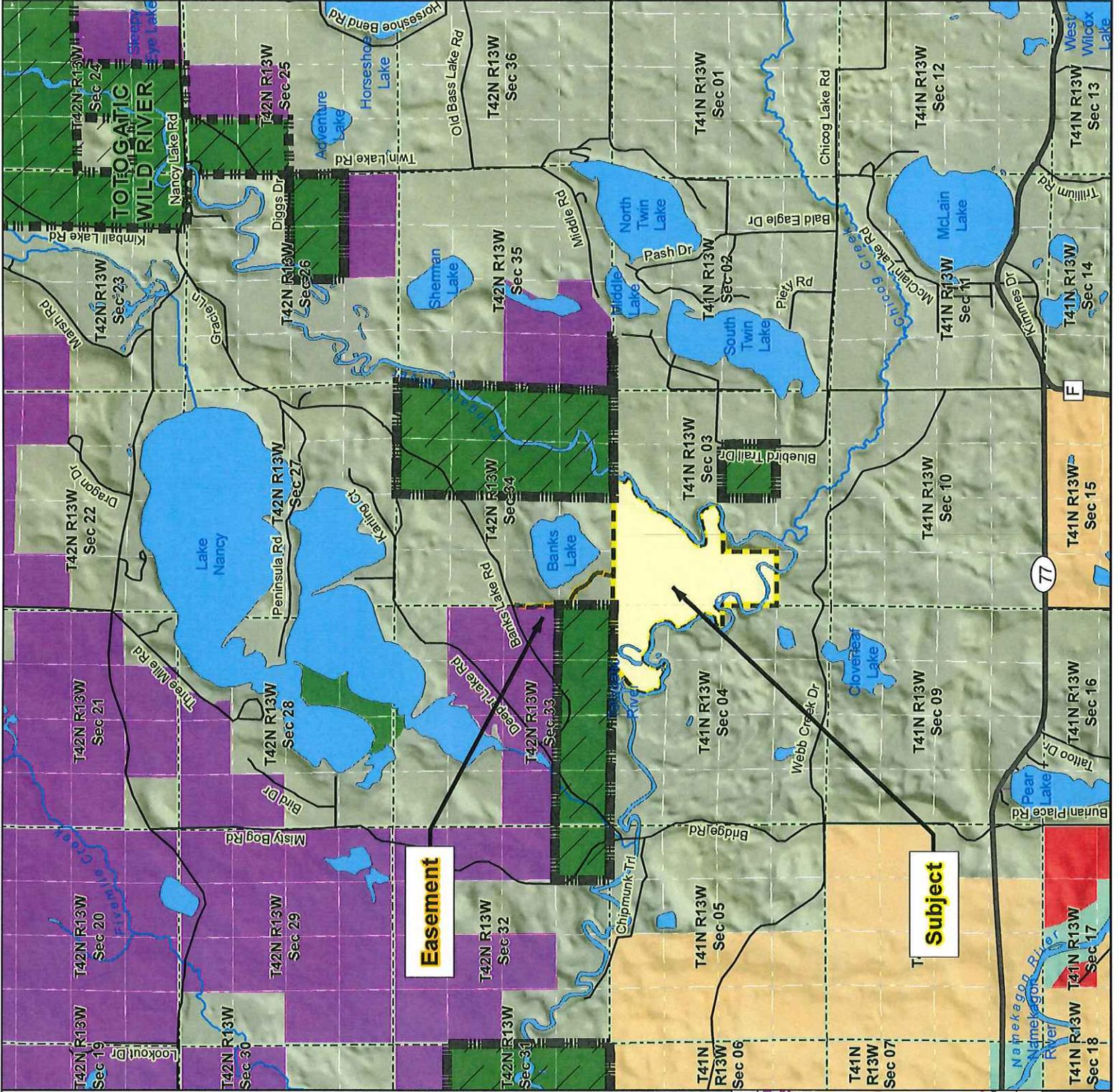
	WDNR Fee Title
	WDNR Easement
	DNR Project Boundary
	Federal Land
	County Forest Land
	Private Conservation Lands
	State Natural Area
	PLSS Section Line
	QQ Section Boundary

County View



Location of Property

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Facilities of Lands
Map Created: Dec 20, 2012 kmlh



77

E

Subject

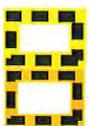
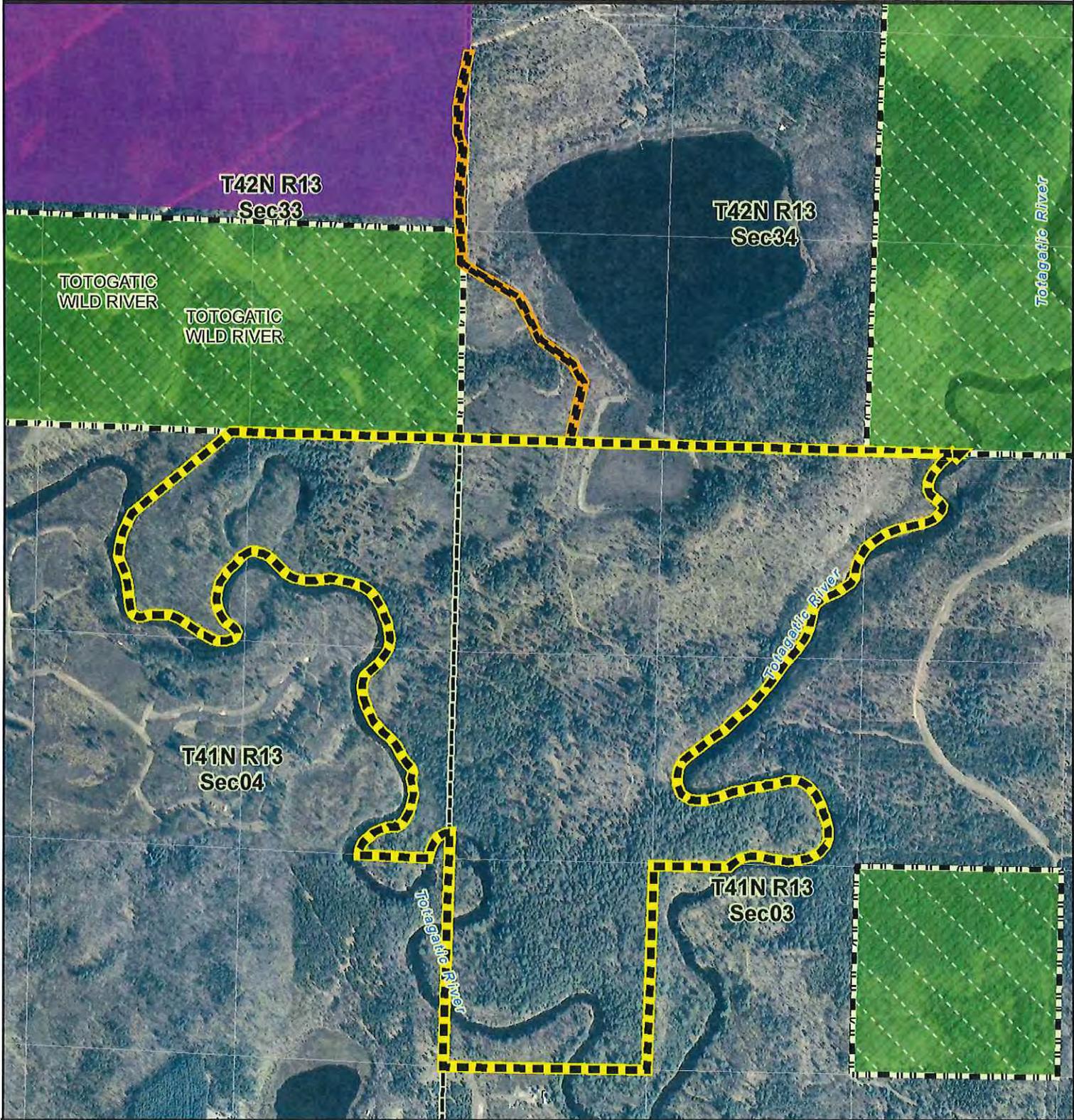
Easement

35



The Conservation Fund (former Solar tract) - Fee/Gift

T41N R13W Sec 3 & 4, Town of Chicog, Washburn County



Subject



Access Easement

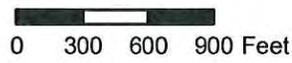
 DNR Fee Title

 DNR Eased

 DNR Project Boundary

 Section Line

 QQ Section Lines



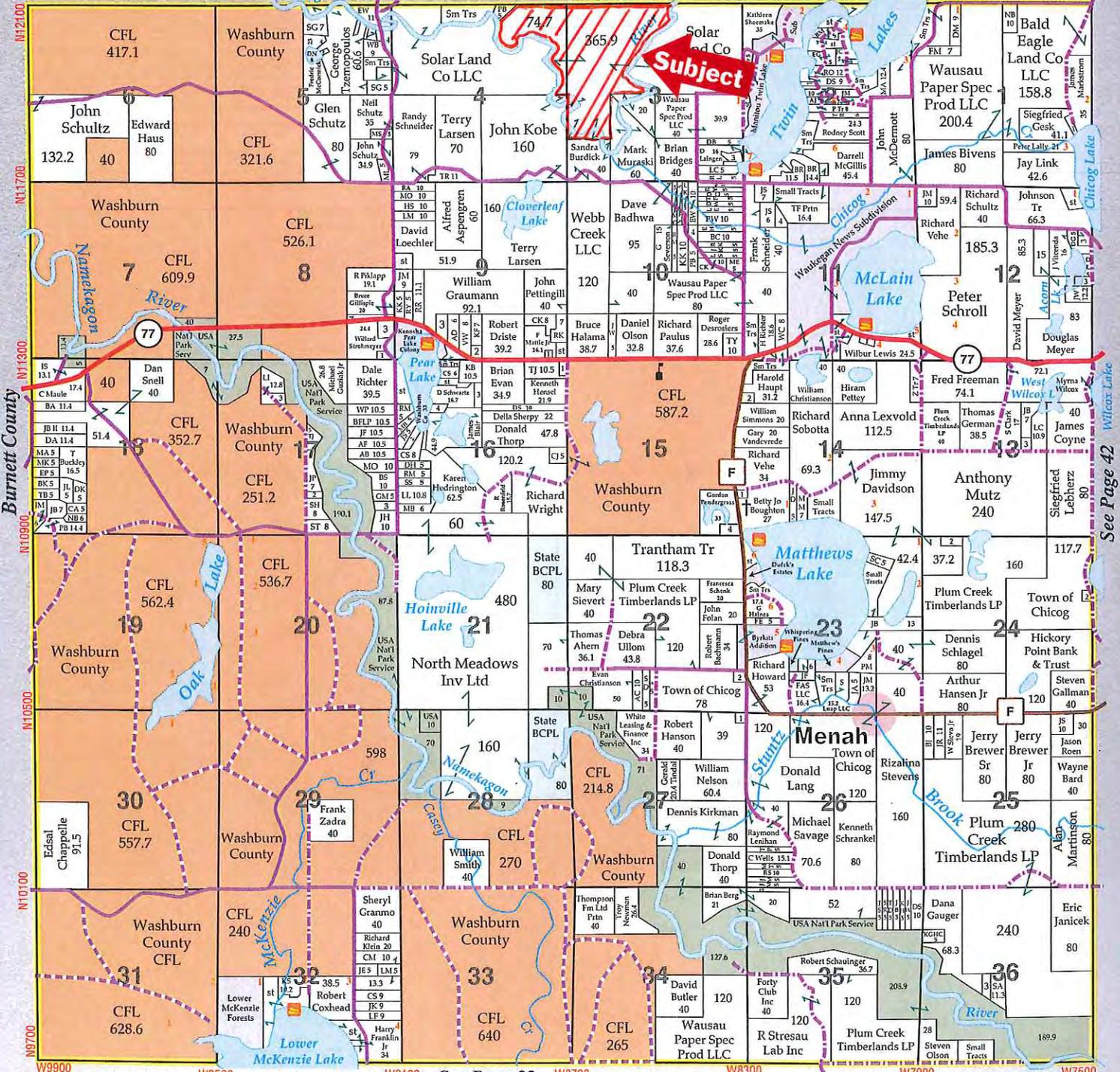
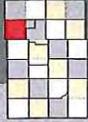
Dec 20, 2012 kmh
 Real Estate Section
 Bureau of Facilities and Lands

17. Chicog (W)

T.41N. - R.13W

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Burnett County

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