

SUBJECT: Land Donation – Crex Meadows Wildlife Area– Burnett County

FOR: MAY 2014 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Douglas J Haag

SUMMARY: Friends Of Crex Meadows has offered to donate 80 acres of land to the Department for the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area in Burnett County.

The subject parcel is located in the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area project boundary, 8 miles northeast of Grantsburg . It borders Department owned land to the north and east, and abuts private land along the west boundary. The subject’s south boundary partially adjoins DNR land acquired last year and also fronts a town road.

Crex Meadows Wildlife Area was established in 1946 and expands over 30,000 acres. This large wildlife property was originally part of the Northern Wisconsin Pine Barrens and is now Wisconsin’s largest remaining portion of this globally endangered ecosystem. The rare sedge marsh and brush prairie habitats make the area ideal for wildlife. Crex Meadows is home to 270 species of birds, 600 species of plants as well as a wide variety of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects.

The property consists of upland wooded ridges dominated by northern pin oak and mixed hardwoods. There are several marshy pockets in lower areas of the land. A 2.5 acre old field site is located on the western part of the parcel. An old building site with a hunting shack is located on the southern boundary just off North Fork Dike Rd. The Friends of Crex Meadows received a Stewardship grant in the amount of \$44,640 to assist with the purchase. The total value of the property was \$106,000. In addition to the Stewardship grant, the landowner donated a portion of the value and additional funding was provided by a federal grant.

The land will be managed for wildlife production with an emphasis on migratory game birds, prairie grouse, endangered and threatened species, and provision of hunting, trapping, wildlife education and observation. The subject is located in an area defined as a high potential range for Karner blue butterflies. The old field sites will be enlarged and managed for establishing lupine to provide additional Karner blue butterfly habitat.

The Department recommends accepting this donation from the Friends of Crex Meadows. The property blocks well with existing Department ownership and public conservation lands to the north, south, and east, enhancing public recreational opportunities. It will also provide opportunities to better protect the natural and scenic resources of this site by completing grassland and wetland restoration activities to enhance waterfowl, Blanding’s Turtle, and Karner Blue butterfly habitat.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of 80 acres of land for the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area program, that a certificate of appreciation be sent to Friends Of Crex Meadows 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 |

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 17, 2014 FILE REF: WM 60245
 TO: Natural Resources Board
 FROM: Cathy Stepp
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Friends Of Crex Meadows Tract, File # WM 60245

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Crex Meadows Wildlife Area
 Burnett County

Grantor:

Friends of Crex Meadows
 Annette Mosley, President
 102 East Crex Ave
 Grantsburg, WI 54840

Acres: 80Price: GiftAppraised Value: n/aInterest: Fee SimpleImprovements: Hunting shack, utilitiesLocation: The tract is located in 8 miles northeast of Grantsburg in Burnett County.Land Description: The subject land is gently rolling with some lower areas of marsh.Covertypes Breakdown:

Type	Acreage
Upland Woodland	80
Total:	80

Zoning: Rural Residential (RR-3)Present Use: Habitat RestorationProposed Use: Habitat Management and Public RecreationTenure: 2 yearsStewardship 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:

Friends Of Crex Meadows has offered to donate 80 acres of land for the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area in Burnett County to the Department.

The subject parcel is located in the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area project boundary, 8 miles northeast of Grantsburg. It borders Department owned land to the north and east, and abuts private land along the



west boundary. The subject's south boundary partially adjoins DNR land acquired last year and also fronts a town road.

Crex Meadows Wildlife Area was established in 1946 and expands over 30,000 acres. This large wildlife property was originally part of the Northern Wisconsin Pine Barrens and is now Wisconsin's largest remaining portion of this globally endangered ecosystem. The rare sedge marsh and brush prairie habitats make the area ideal for wildlife. Crex Meadows is home to 270 species of birds, 600 species of plants as well as a wide variety of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and insects.

The property consists of upland wooded ridges dominated by northern pin oak and mixed hardwoods. There are several marshy pockets in lower areas of the land. A 2.5 acre old field site is located on the western part of the parcel. An old building site with a hunting shack is located on the southern boundary just off North Fork Dike Rd.

The land will be managed for wildlife production with an emphasis on migratory game birds, prairie grouse, endangered and threatened species, and provision of hunting, trapping, wildlife education and observation. The subject is located in an area defined as a high potential range for Karner blue butterflies. The old field sites will be enlarged and managed for establishing lupine to provide additional Karner blue butterfly habitat.

The Department recommends accepting this donation from the Friends of Crex Meadows. The property blocks well with existing Department ownership and public conservation lands to the north, south, and east, enhancing public recreational opportunities. It will also provide opportunities to better protect the natural and scenic resources of this site by completing grassland and wetland restoration activities to enhance waterfowl, Blanding's Turtle, and Karner Blue butterfly habitat.

3. LAND MANAGEMENT:

The general land management goal will be to manage the property for wildlife production with an emphasis on migratory game birds, prairie grouse, endangered and threatened species, and provision of hunting, trapping, wildlife education and observation.

The property will be specifically managed as a mix of old-field grasslands, forest and wetland habitat. The aspen and alder stands on the property will be managed for the benefit of woodcock and golden winged warblers. The subject is located in an area defined as a high potential range for Karner blue butterflies. The old field sites will be enlarged and managed for establishing Lupine to provide additional Karner blue butterfly habitat. A small parking lot will be constructed along the middle of southern boundary. Department ownership will reduce costs associated with boundary signing, surveys and boundary management.

4. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

5. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE CREX MEADOWS WILDLIFE AREA:

Established: 1946

Acres Purchased to Date: 28,553.52

Acquisition Goal: 31,093.58

Percent Complete: 91.83 %

Cost to Date: \$2,078,794.29

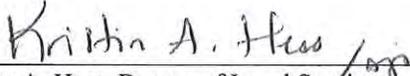
RECOMMENDED:



Douglas J. Haag, Deputy Facilities and Lands Bureau Director

4-17-14

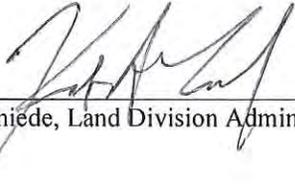
Date



Kristin A. Hess, Bureau of Legal Services

4/18/14

Date



Kurt Thiede, Land Division Administrator

4/22/14

Date

Acknowledgment Of Gift

This is to certify that at its May 2014 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 80 acres of land in Burnett County for the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area from

Friends Of Crex Meadows

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

Preston D. Cole, CHAIRMAN

**Friends of Crex Meadows
(Larson Parcel) - Fee/Gift**
T39N R18W Sec 26
Town of West Marshland
Burnett County

Subject

DNR Fee Title

DNR Project Boundary

County Forest

PLSS Section Line

QQ Section Boundary

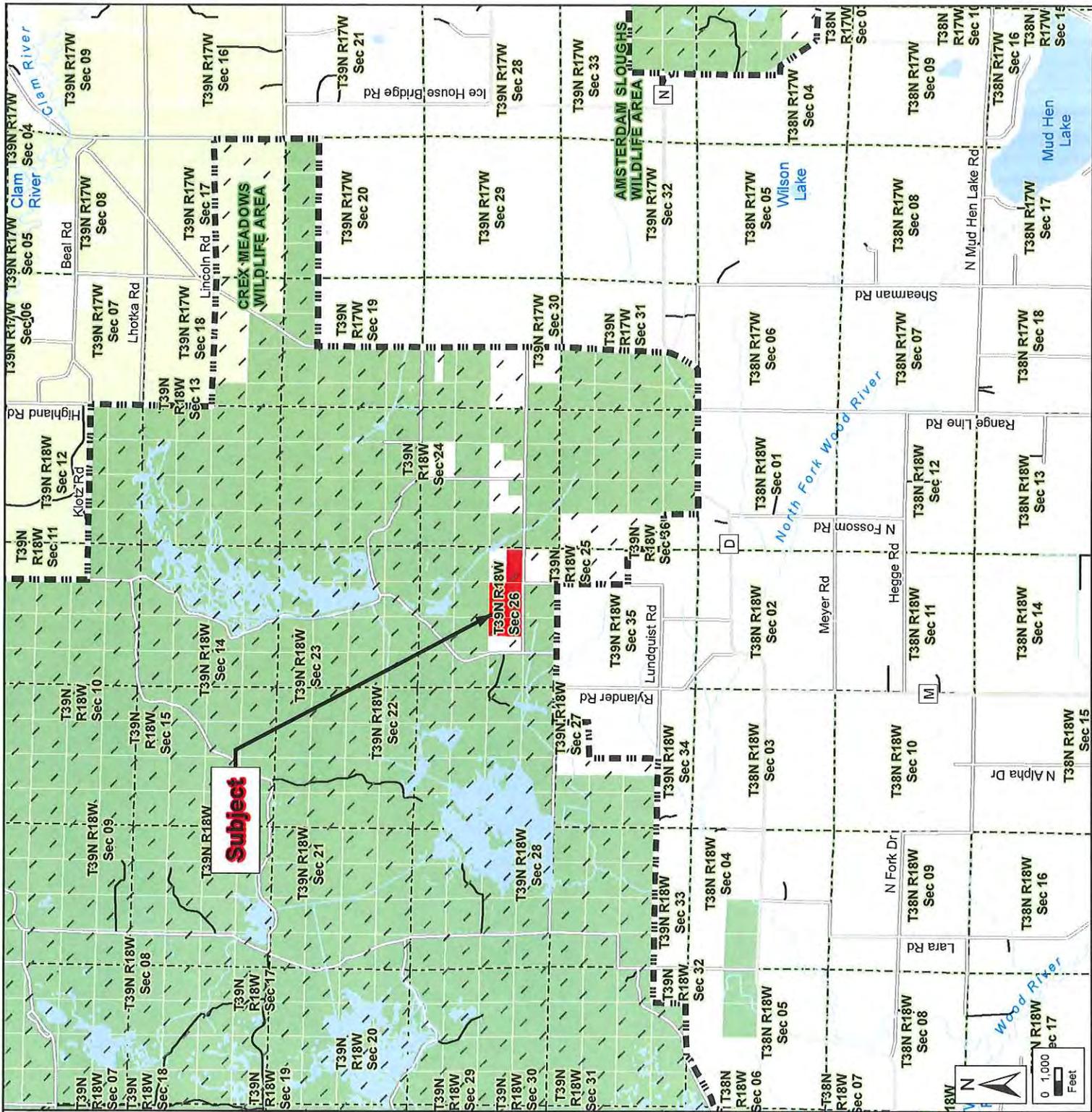
Regional View



Location of Property

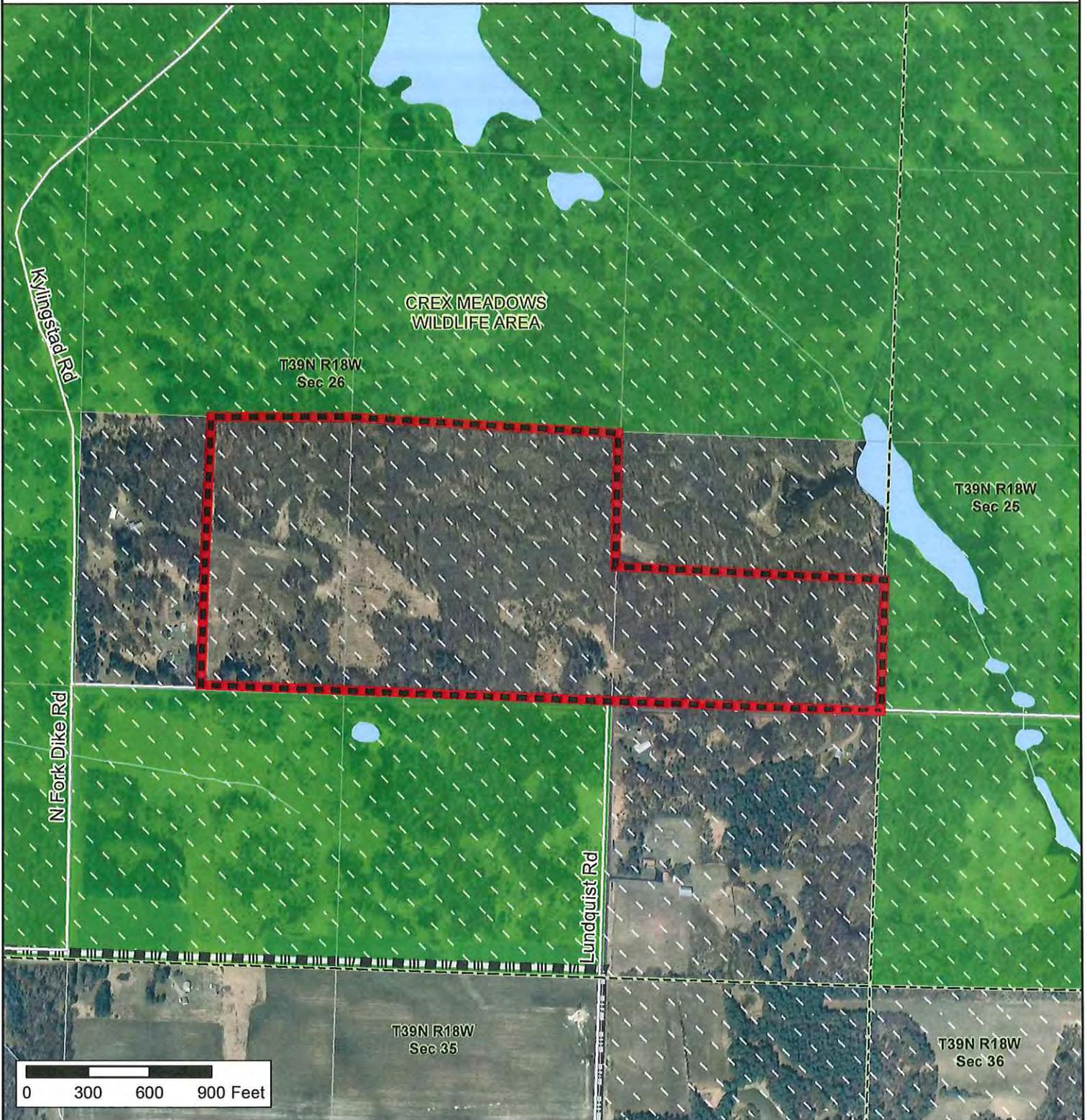
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Facilities of Lands
Map Created: Apr 11, 2014 kmh

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, completeness, or legality of the information depicted on this map.



Friends of Crex Meadows (Larson Parcel) - Fee/Gift

T39N R18W Sec 26, Town of West Marshland, Burnett County



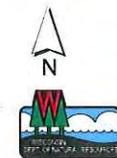
 Subject

 DNR Fee Title Land

 QQ Section Lines

 DNR Project Boundary

 Section Line

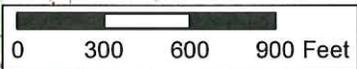
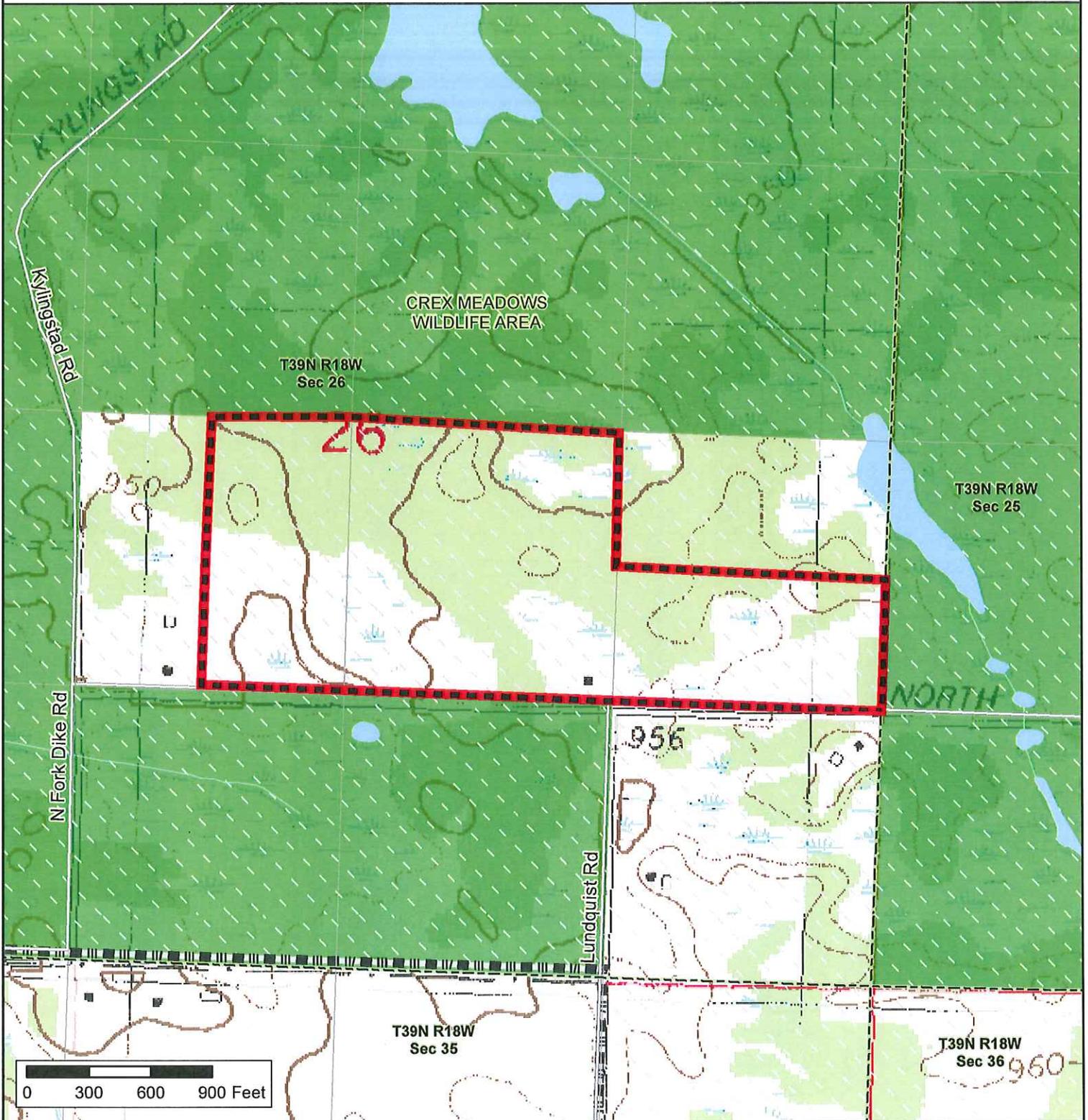


Apr 11, 2014 kmh

Real Estate Section
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

Friends of Crex Meadows (Larson Parcel) - Fee/Gift

T39N R18W Sec 26, Town of West Marshland, Burnett County



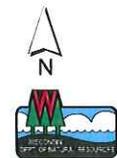
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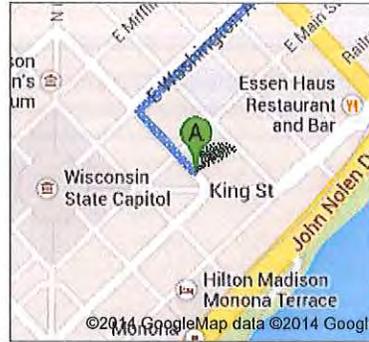
 Section Line



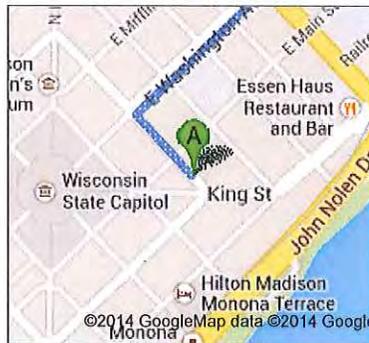
Apr 11, 2014 kmh

Real Estate Section
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

 101 S Webster St, Madison, WI 53703



1. Head northwest on S Webster St toward E Main St



go 0.1 mi
total 0.1 mi

 2. Take the 2nd right onto E Washington Ave
About 8 mins



go 4.1 mi
total 4.2 mi

 3. Turn left onto Hwy 51 N/US-51 N/N Stoughton Rd
Continue to follow Hwy 51 N/US-51 N
About 6 mins



go 4.4 mi
total 8.6 mi

 4. Take the ramp onto I-39 N/I-90 W/I-94 W
About 21 mins



go 23.7 mi
total 32.2 mi



5. Keep left to continue on **I-94 W**
About 2 hours 2 mins



go 139 mi
total 172 mi



6. Take exit **70** for **US-53 N** toward **Eau Claire**
About 47 secs



go 0.6 mi
total 172 mi



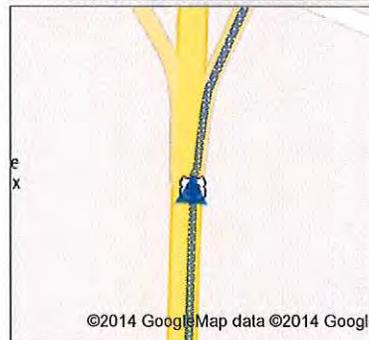
7. Slight right onto **US-53 N**
About 1 hour 12 mins



go 80.7 mi
total 253 mi



8. Take the **WI-70** exit toward **Spooner/Stone Lake**



go 0.3 mi
total 253 mi



9. Turn left onto **WI-70 W/WI-70 Trunk W**
About 28 mins



go 25.5 mi
total 279 mi

- 10. Turn left onto **WI-35 S/WI-70 W/WI-70 Trunk W**
About 4 mins

go 2.5 mi
total 281 mi



- 11. Turn right onto **WI-70 W/WI-70 Trunk W**
About 3 mins

go 2.1 mi
total 283 mi



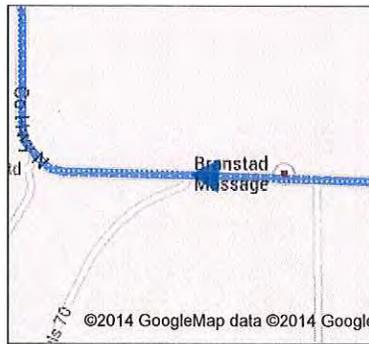
- 12. Turn right onto **Daniels 70**
About 4 mins

go 1.7 mi
total 285 mi



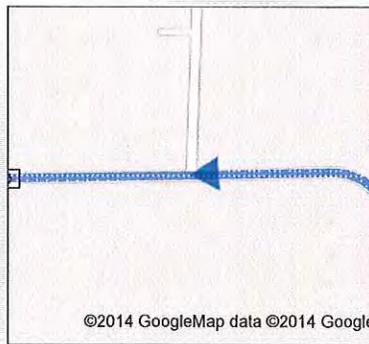
- 13. Continue onto **Co Hwy N**
About 6 mins

go 3.3 mi
total 288 mi



- 14. Continue straight onto **Co Rd D**
About 3 mins

go 1.7 mi
total 290 mi



15. Turn right onto **Klarquist Rd**
About 2 mins



go 1.0 mi
total 291 mi

16. Take the 1st left onto **N Fork Dike Rd**
About 5 mins



go 1.9 mi
total 293 mi

B N Fork Dike Rd



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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