Form 1100-1
Rev. 5-91

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. 3.B.12

SUBJECT: LAND DONATION - ROWAN CREEK FISHERY AREA– COLUMBIA COUNTY

FOR: OCTOBER 2008 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: Ms. Joan Roth has offered to donate one acre of land to the Department for the Rowan Creek Fishery Area in Columbia County.

The parcel consists of wooded wetland in the Town of Dekorra about one mile west of the Village of Poynette. It is a small piece of land separated from her remaining 85.2-acre ownership by CTH CS. It is located in the project boundary, adjacent to approximately 300 acres of existing state-owned land. Acceptance of the donation will help consolidate state ownership and provide area for public use.

Rowan Creek Fishery Area was established in 1982 and has an acreage goal of 1,064 acres. Rowan Creek drains a 60 square mile area as it flows to Lake Wisconsin through a valley bordered by steep hillsides. The upper four miles of the creek are designated Class 1 and the lower eight miles are Class 2. While the dominant species is brown trout, stream surveys have reported many other native fish such as brook trout, northern pike, walleye, largemouth and rock bass, as well as numerous minnow species such as mottled sculpin, brook stickleback, western mud minnow, blacknose dace, creek chub and northern common shiner. The valley surrounding Rowan Creek still contains areas of intact native vegetation such as bluff prairies, oak woodlands and savanna, and extensive sedge meadows. A hiking and cross-country ski trail provides public recreation, and a variety of wildlife call the watershed home. The primary management of Rowan Creek is for trout.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of one acre of land for the Rowan Creek Fishery Area, that a certificate of appreciation be sent to the donor and that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

No ☒	Fiscal Estimate Required	Yes ☐	Attached
No ☒	Environmental Assessment of Impact Statement Required	Yes ☐	Attached
No ☐	Background Memo	Yes ☒	Attached

APPROVED:

Real Estate Director, Richard E. Steffes - LF/6 — Date 9-11-08

Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf - AD/8 — Date 9/15/08

Secretary, Matthew J. Frank - AD/8 — Date 10/6/08

cc: S. Miller – LF/6
R. Steffes – LF/6
L. Ross – AD/8
M. Staggs - FM/4
L. Eagan – SCR/Fitchburg

State of Wisconsin

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

FILE REF: FM 10008

DATE: September 11, 2008

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Matthew J. Frank

SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Joan Roth, Tract, File = FM 10008

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Rowan Creek Fishery Area
Columbia County

Grantor:

Joan Roth
W8947 CTH CS
Poynette, WI 53955

Acres: 1.0
Price: $0
Interest: Gift of Land
Improvements: None

Location: The tract is located in southwest Columbia County one mile west of the Village of Poynette.
Land Description: The subject land is low and wooded.

Covertype Breakdown:	Type:	Acreage:
	Lowland Woodland	1.0

Present Use: Part of residential site.
Proposed Use: Resource Protection and Recreation
Tenure: Several years
Agreement Date: August 15, 2008

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

2. JUSTIFICATION:

Joan Roth has offered to donate one-acre of wooded wetland to the Department in southwest Columbia County about one mile west of the Village of Poynette. It is a small piece of land separated from her remaining 85.2-acre ownership by CTH CS. It is located in the project boundary, adjacent to approximately 300 acres of existing state-owned land.

Rowan Creek Fisheries Area was established in 1982 with an acreage goal of 1,064 acres. Current ownership is about 654 acres. Rowan Creek drains a 60 square mile area as it flows through a valley bordered by steep hillsides to Lake Wisconsin. The upper four miles of the creek are designated Class 1 and the lower eight miles are Class 2. While the dominant species is brown trout, stream surveys have reported many other native fish such as brook trout, northern pike, walleye, largemouth and rock bass, as well as numerous minnow species such as mottled sculpin, brook stickleback, western mud minnow, blacknose dace, creek chub and northern common shiner. The valley surrounding Rowan Creek still

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contains areas of intact native vegetation such as bluff prairies, oak woodlands and savanna, and extensive sedge meadows. A hiking and cross-country ski trail provides public recreation, and a variety of wildlife call the watershed home. The primary management of Rowan Creek is for trout.

The Department recommends the acceptance of this donation to consolidate state ownership in Rowan Creek Fishery Area, to protect water quality and to provide additional opportunities for public outdoor recreation.

3. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE ROWAN CREEK FISHERY AREA

Established: 1982
Acres Purchased to Date: 653.52
Acquisition Goal: 1,064.00
Percent Complete: 61.42
Cost to Date: $544,145.18

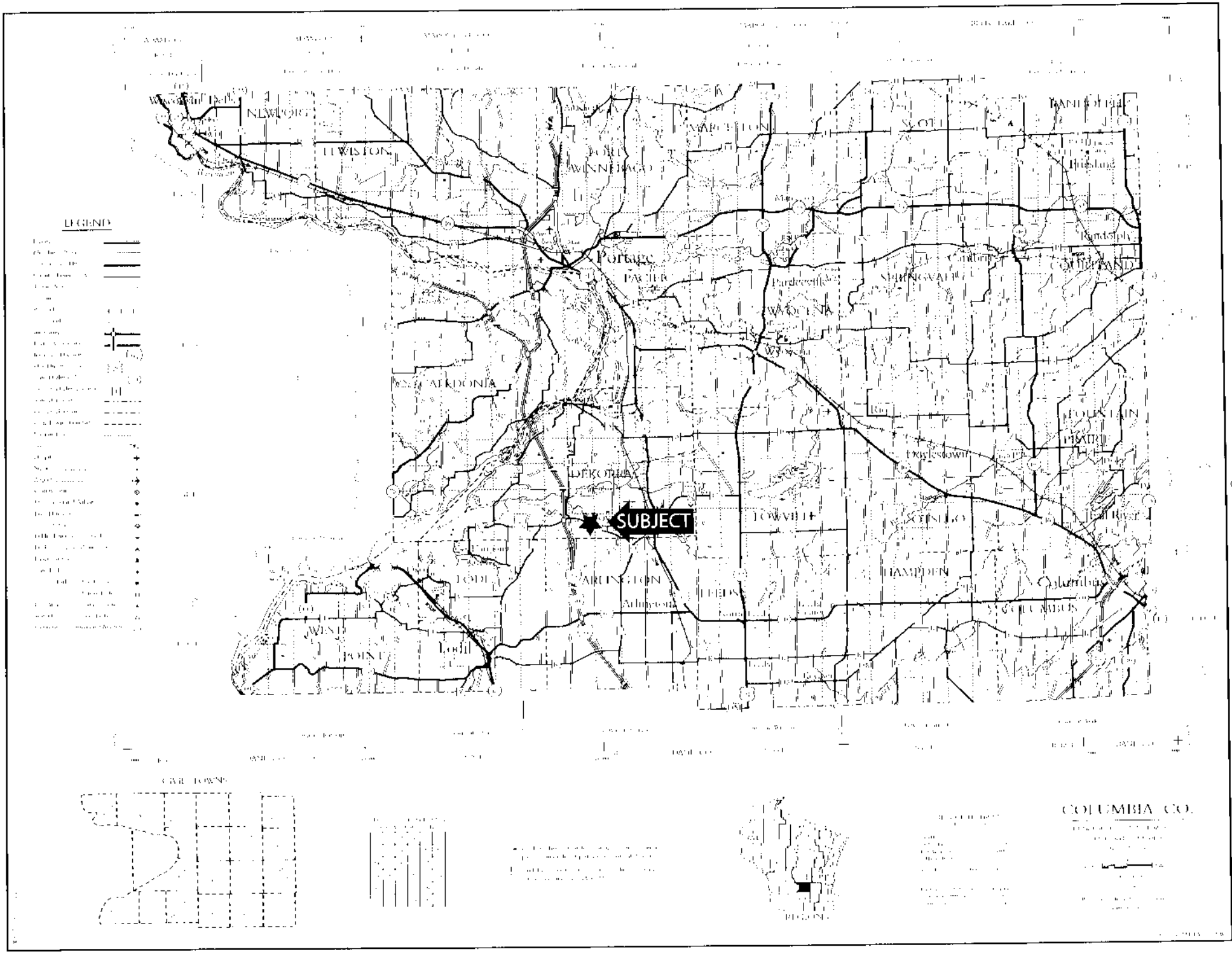
RECOMMENDED:

R E Steffes — 9-11-08
Richard E. Steffes — Date

Joseph Wm. Renville — 9/11/08
Bureau of Legal Services — Date

Laurie Osterndorf — 9/10/08
Laurie Osterndorf — Date

RES:dv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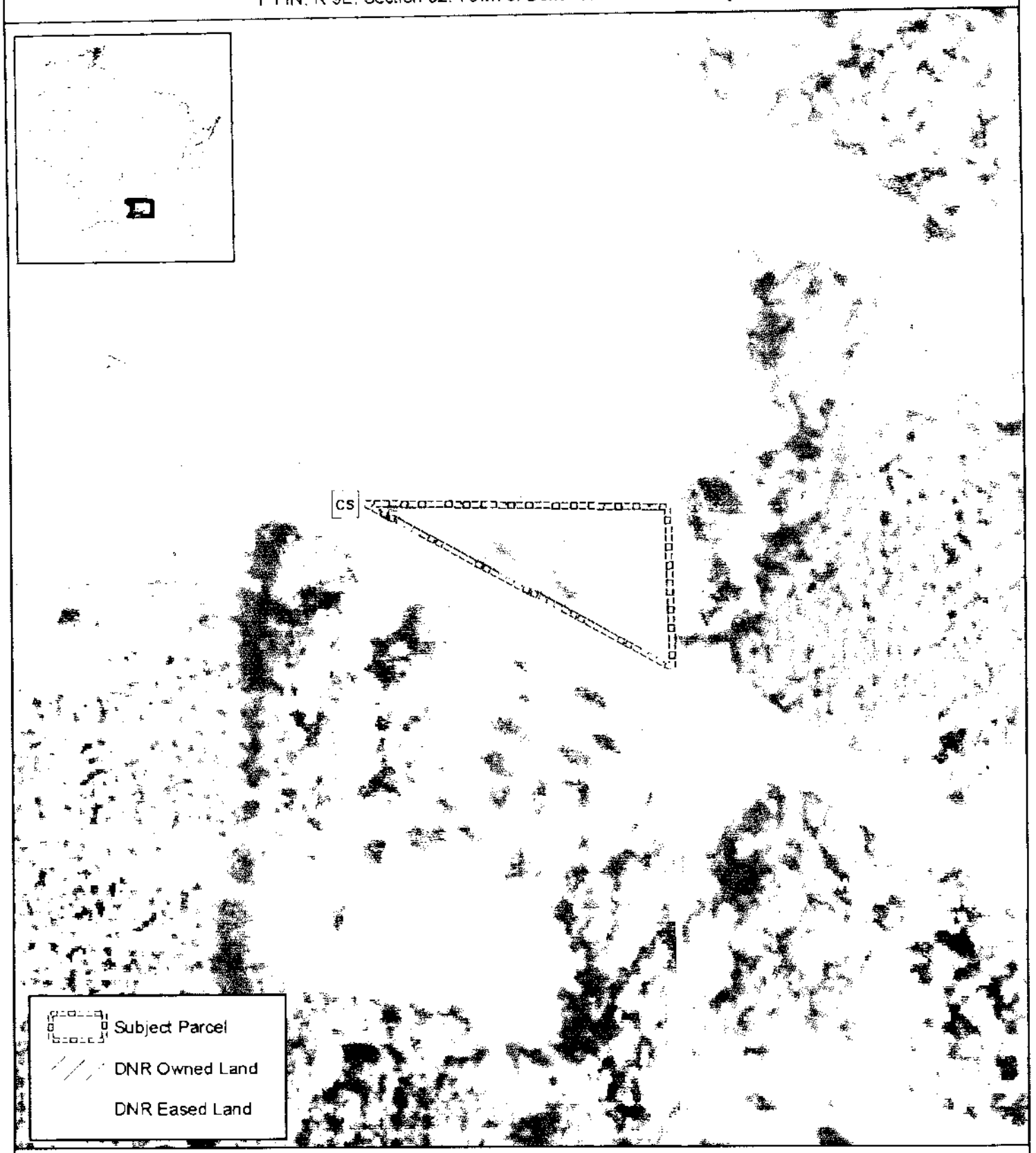
Roth Property

T 11N, R 9E, Section 32, Town of Dekorra, Columbia County



N

0 150 300 600 900 Feet

Created by Bureau of Facilities and Lands
Real Estate Section
September 8, 2008

Roth Property

Rowan Creek Fishery Area

Subject Property

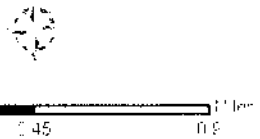
WDNR Owned

WNDR Eased

WDNR Leased

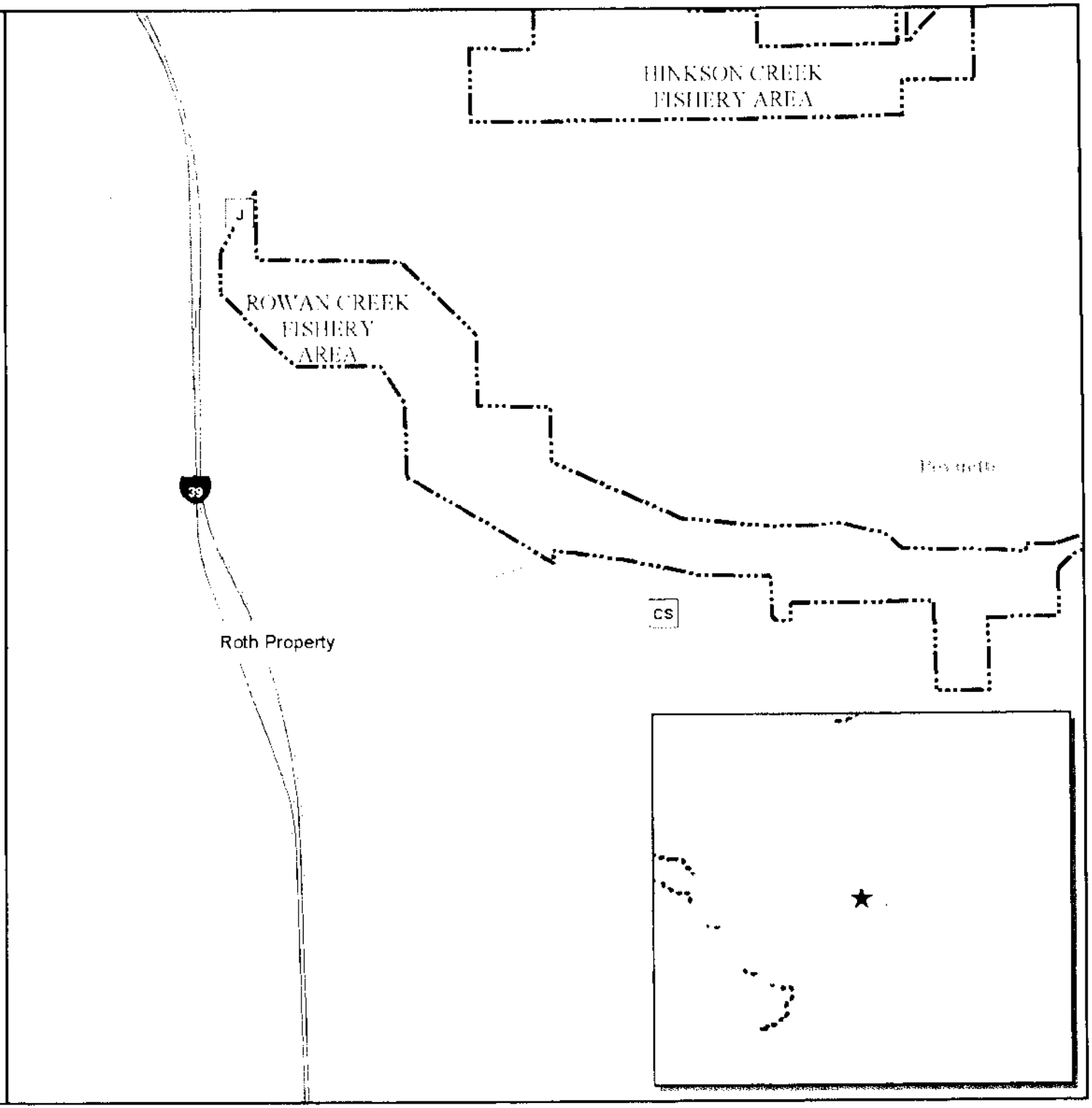
Ice Age Trail

Project Boundary



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Bureau of Facilities and Lands



Acknowledgment Of Gift

This is to certify that at its October 2008 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of one acre of land in Columbia County for the Rowan Creek Fishery Area from

JOAN M. ROTH

It is significant that individuals like you 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

Christine Thomas, CHAIRMAN