Form 1100-1
Rev. 5-91

3.B.9

NATURAL RESOURCES BOARD AGENDA ITEM

Item No. _____

SUBJECT: LAND DONATION - ICE AGE TRAIL - COLUMBIA COUNTY

FOR: MAY 2007 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: Columbia County has offered to donate to the Department 55.54 acres of land known as Gibraltar Rock County Park for the Ice Age Trail in Columbia County. The item is being submitted for Board acceptance of the donation.

This county park land adjoins the 92-acre former Horton property recently acquired by the Department in an exchange with the WI Department of Transportation (DOT). This land is within the Ice Age Trail corridor for Columbia County. The county and the Town of Westport have agreed to annually contribute to the Department an amount equal to their portion of the payment in lieu of taxes to be paid on the properties for management costs. The property will provide opportunities for public recreation, allow natural resource management and protect the undeveloped, scenic and largely natural character of this scenic parcel.

Gibraltar Rock is located about 18 miles north of Madison in southern Columbia County. The Rock is a sandstone bluff rising 400 feet above Lake Wisconsin to the north and contains cliff and cedar glade communities. The bluff offers impressive of surrounding hills and valleys with Blue Mounds and the Baraboo Range in the distance. On the south side is a sheer 200-foot cliff overlooking a large leather-leaf bog and scenic valley. Of this parcel, 35 acres was designated as a State Natural Area in 1969.

In 1987, the Wisconsin Legislature passed legislation that established the Ice Age State Scenic Trail as a state project and directed the Department to develop a trail to promote public awareness and appreciation of Wisconsin's glacial heritage, to preserve and protect significant glacial features and other natural and cultural features associated with the period of glaciation, and to provide a continuous off-road trail for recreational use. The Ice Age Trail is a cooperative project with the U.S. Park Service, the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation and its various volunteer groups around the state, and some counties through which the trail passes.

The Department recommends the acceptance of this gift of land that will provide opportunities for public recreation, allow natural resource management and protect the undeveloped, scenic and largely natural character of this scenic property. Acceptance of the county parcel will provide a highly visible and scenic parcel to the Ice Age Trail and State Natural Area program.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of 55.54 acres of land for the Ice Age Trail, that a certificate of appreciation be sent to Columbia County 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:

R E Steffes — 4-10-07
Real Estate Director, Richard E. Steffes - LF/6 — Date

Laurie Osterndorf — 4/11/07
Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf - AD/5 — Date

Scott Hassett — 4/11/07
Secretary, Scott Hassett - AD/5 — Date

cc: S. Miller – LF/6
R. Steffes – LF/6
L. Ross – AD/6
L. Eagan – SCR/Fitchburg
B. Chevis – PR/6

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

DATE: April 10, 2007 FILE REF: P-1904

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Scott Hassett

SUBJECT: Proposed Gift of Land, Columbia County, Gibraltar Rock Tract, File #P-1904,

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Ice Age National Trail
Columbia County

Grantor:

Columbia County
c/o Dawn Marquardt
120 West Conant Street
Portage, WI 53901

Acres: 55.54
Price: N/A
Interest: Donation of fee simple title.
Improvements: None

Location: The tract is located in Columbia County in the Town of West Point.

Land Description: The subject area consists of a steep hill leading up to a predominant bluff.

Covertype Breakdown:	Type	Acreage
	Wooded Upland	55.54

Zoning: Conservancy
Present Use: County Park
Proposed Use: Resource Protection and Public Recreation
Tenure: 50 years
Option Date: February 6, 2007

2. JUSTIFICATION:

Columbia County has offered to donate 55.54 acres of land know as Gibraltar Rock, a county park, to the Department. This county park land adjoins the 92-acre former Horton property recently acquired by the Department in an exchange with Department of Transportation. This land is within the Ice Age Trail corridor for Columbia County. The county and the Town of Westport have agreed to annually contribute an amount equal to their portion of the payment in lieu of taxes to be paid on the properties to the Department for management of the property. The property will provide opportunities for public recreation allow natural resource management and protect the undeveloped, scenic and largely natural character of this scenic parcel.

Gibraltar Rock is located about 18 miles north of Madison in southern Columbia County. The Rock is a sandstone bluff rising 400 feet above Lake Wisconsin to the north and contains cliff and cedar glade communities. T he bluff offers impressive of surrounding hills and valleys with Blue Mounds and the Baraboo Range in the distance. On the south is a sheer 200-foot cliff overlooking a large leather-leaf bog and scenic valley. The soils are thin, glaciated sandy loams. A major portion of the site is a dry-mesic forest dominated by red oak and basswood. Cliff communities are mostly open and harbor several species

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of ferns, pale corydalis, columbine, and cliff goldenrod. The under story has a large component of dry prairie species including big and little blue-stem, side-oats grama, prairie drop-seed, blue-eyed grass, bird's-foot violet, pasque flower, prairie smoke, lead-plant, bergamot, whorled milkweed, goldenrods, and asters. The site is used by migrating raptors, which catch thermals formed by the warm cliff face.

The Richmond Family originally donated 15.5 acres to the Friends of Our Native Landscape for Richmond Memorial Park in 1927. The Friends of Our Native Landscape was an early national land trust type organization. In 1955, the land was conveyed to Columbia County, which acquired an additional 40 acres for the "park". The park is largely undeveloped, but there is a hard surface road to the top of the bluff that is open to foot traffic. Thirty-five acres was designated a State Natural Area in 1969.

In 1987, the Wisconsin Legislature passed legislation that established the Ice Age State Scenic Trail as a state project and directed the Department to develop a trail to promote public awareness and appreciation of Wisconsin's glacial heritage, to preserve and protect significant glacial features and other natural and cultural features associated with the period of glaciation, and to provide a continuous off-road trail for recreational use. The Ice Age Trail is a cooperative project with the U.S. Park Service, the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation and its various volunteer groups around the state, and some counties through which the trail passes.

The Department recommends the acceptance of this gift of land that will provide opportunities for public recreation allow natural resource management and protect the undeveloped, scenic and largely natural character of this scenic property. Acceptance of the county parcel will provide a highly visible and scenic parcel to the Ice Age Trail and State Natural Area program.

3. FINANCING:

Funds are not required for this transaction.

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE ICE AGE TRAIL:

Established: 1988
Acres Purchased to Date: 4,740
Acquisition Goal: 9,673 acres
Percent Complete: 49.0 %
Cost to Date: $5,156,171

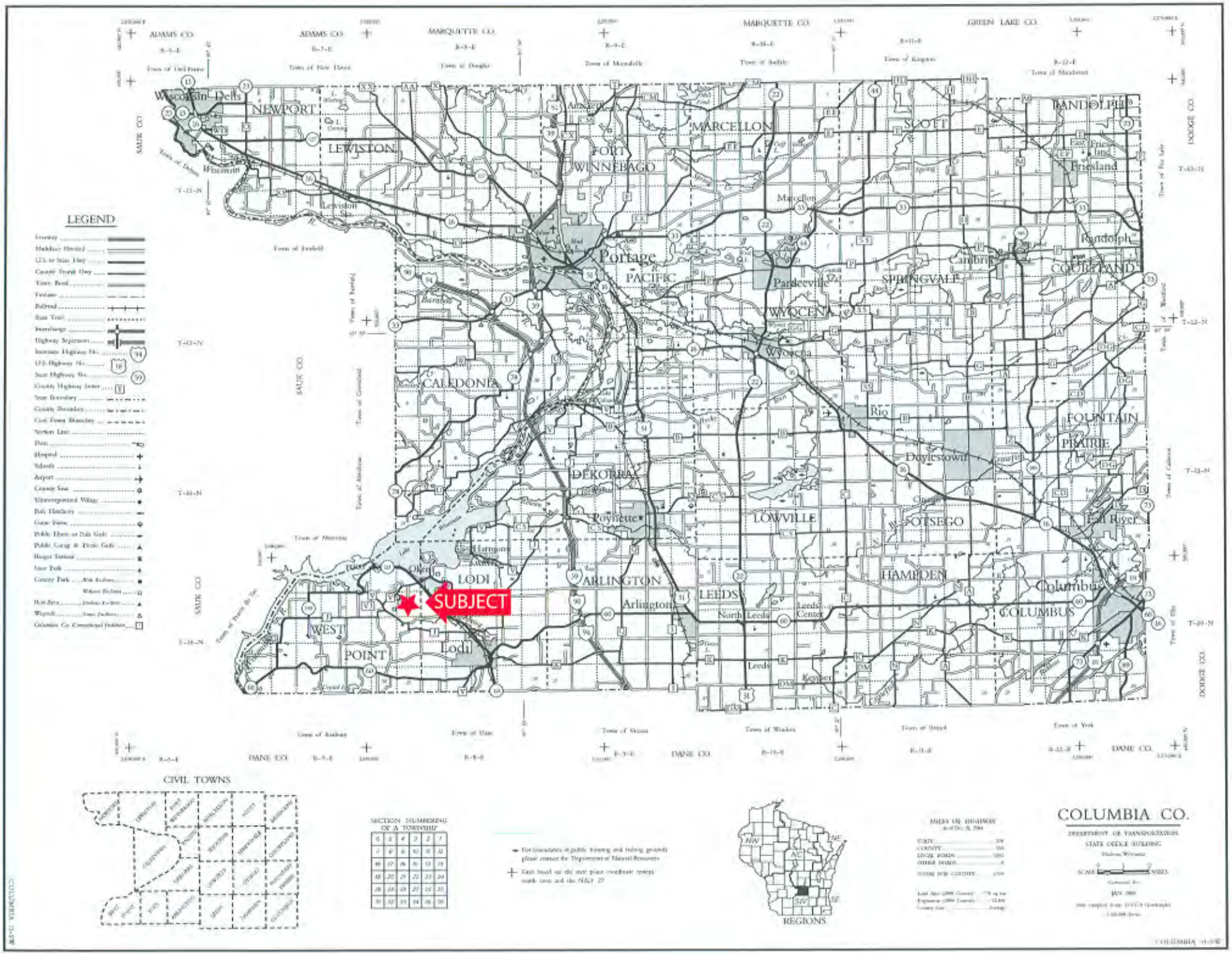
RECOMMENDED:

Richard E. Steffes — Date: 4-10-07

Joseph Wm. Renville
Bureau of Legal Services — Date: 4/10/07

Laurie Osterndorf — Date: 4/11/07

RES:dv



LEGEND
SUBJECT
ADAMS CO.
MARQUETTE CO.
GREEN LAKE CO.
DANE CO.
DODGE CO.
SAUK CO.
Wisconsin Dells
NEWPORT
LEWISTON
FORT WINNEBAGO
MARCELLON
SCOTT
RANDOLPH
Friesland
Portage
PACIFIC
Pardeeville
SPRINGVALE
Cambria
COURTLAND
WYOCENA
Wyocena
CALEDONIA
Rio
FOUNTAIN PRAIRIE
Doylestown
DEKORRA
Poynette
LOWVILLE
OTSEGO
Fall River
LODI
ARLINGTON
Arlington
LEEDS
HAMPDEN
Columbus
COLUMBUS
WEST POINT
Lodi
Leeds
Keyser
CIVIL TOWNS
SECTION NUMBERING OF A TOWNSHIP
REGIONS
MILES OF HIGHWAY
COLUMBIA CO.
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OFFICE BUILDING

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Please contact laurie.ross@wisconsin.gov for a hard copy of this document.

Columbia County Property

Ice Age Trail/ Gibralter Rock NA

- Subject Property
- WDNR Owned
- WNDR Eased
- WDNR Leased
- Ice Age Trail
- Project Boundary
- Open Water

N W E S

0 0.3 0.6 Miles

The DNR Managed Lands represent the boundaries of lands managed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources The Wisconsin DNR manages these lands through ownership, easement or lease rights. This data set is a spatial representation of the Oracle Land Records System maintained by the DNR, Bureau of Facilities and Lands (LF), and may include errors and/or omissions. The data should not be interpreted as a legal representation of legal ownership boundaries.

This data set does not differentiate between lands that are open or closed to the public for hunting and/or general public access. Some lands represented in this data set may not be open to the general public, or may have specific limitations or restrictions on public use. This data set is not intended for use as a land management tool; it is a listing of all DNR real estate transactions that have occurred on these lands over time.

For information about the actual management, including public use and public access of the lands, contact the nearest DNR Regional office. Contact information for DNR Regional Offices and Service Centers is provided on the following internet site:

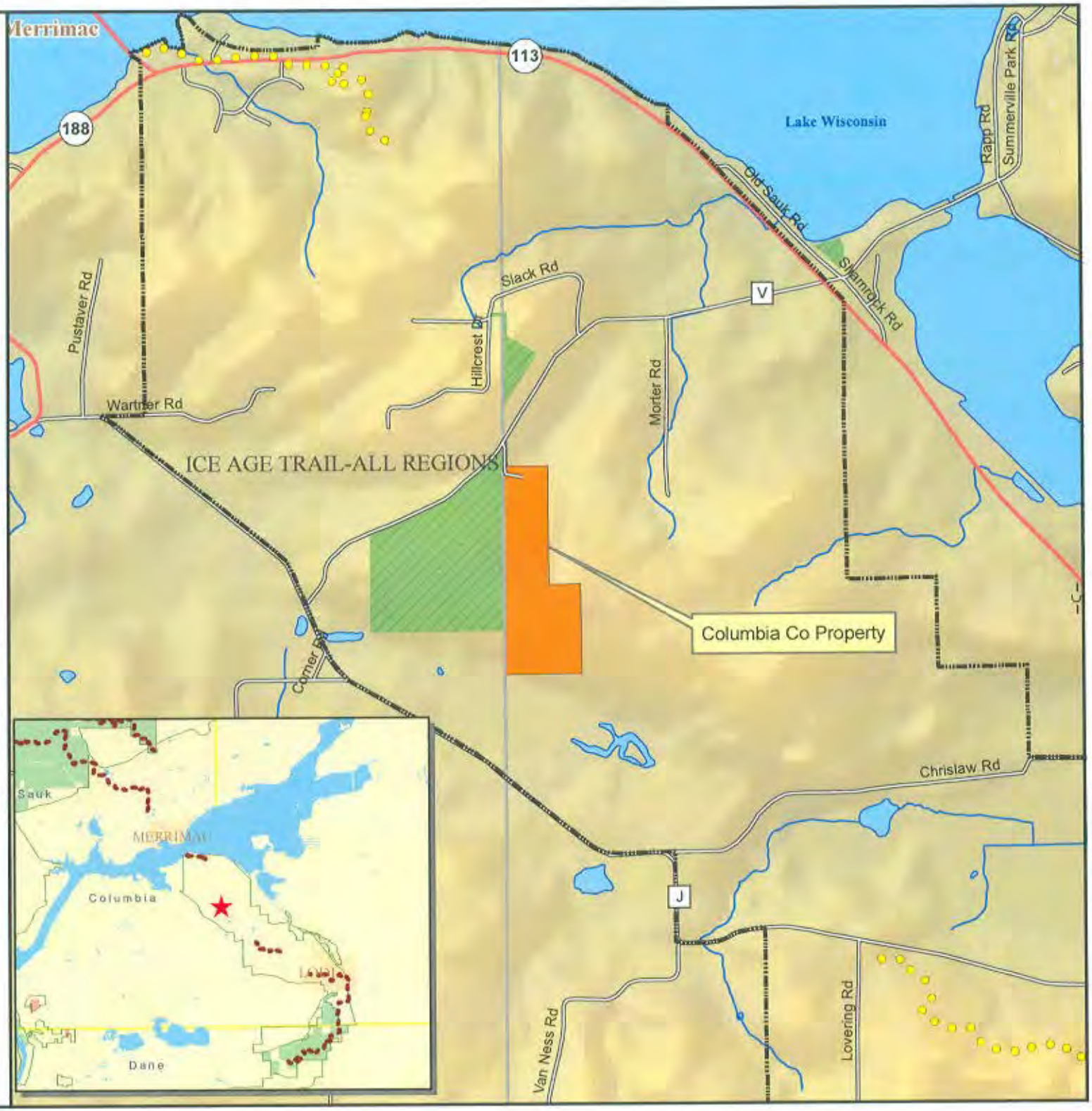
http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cs/servicecenterlocations.htm

Updates to this data set are ongoing, and will be incorporated into future versions when available.

STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Bureau of Facilities and Lands

April 5, 2007



Acknowledgment Of Gift

This is to certify that at its May 2007 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted a gift of 55.54 acres of land, known as Gibraltar Rock County Park, from

COLUMBIA COUNTY

This donation of land will be used as an addition to the Ice Age Trail in Columbia County. It is significant that the Department work with agencies such as Columbia County who are interested in helping protect Wisconsin's natural heritage and contribute 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 L. Thomas, CHAIR