

SUBJECT: LAND DONATION - GLACIAL HABITAT RESTORATION AREA – FOND DU LAC COUNTY

FOR: APRIL 2010 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: Pheasants Forever, Inc. has offered to donate 40 acres of land for the Glacial Habitat Restoration Area in Fond du Lac County.

The parcel is located in the Town of Rosendale in Fond du Lac County about 3.5 miles north of the Village of Rosendale. The parcel abuts department-owned lands along its northern side. Pheasants Forever acquired the parcel in 2008 with cooperation from the Fox River Valley and Fond du Lac County Chapters of Pheasants Forever, along with the Winnebago Conservation Club, Wings Over Wisconsin, and local chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation and Whitetails Unlimited. These non-profits were able to combine funds and receive a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant to purchase the property. Conservation ownership will allow wildlife management and habitat restoration, protect the natural, geologic, and cultural values of the property, and provide opportunities for public recreation and education on the Glacial Habitat Restoration Project Area.

The Glacial Habitat Restoration Area (GHRA) was established in 1990 with a goal to restore 38,600 acres of grasslands and 11,000 acres of wetlands to increase populations of ring-necked pheasants, waterfowl, and grassland songbirds in 24 townships in Dodge, Fond du Lac, Columbia, and Winnebago Counties. The project uses a landscape scale approach to habitat management that incorporates a patchwork 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 intent is to widely scatter suitable habitat throughout the area, rather than concentrating the habitat in one area. The mix of agricultural land, grasslands, and wetlands is the key to productive wildlife populations.

The Department is using perpetual easements, fee title acquisition, other agency programs, volunteer agreements, and cost-share activities in furtherance of project goals. The need for the GHRA is based on a documented decline in grassland and wetland wildlife populations. Reductions in habitat quality and quantity because of land use changes have contributed to the decline of grassland nesting wildlife populations. In addition, wetland loss or degradation has been an important factor in the decline of many wetland wildlife species. Applying the habitat management practices that restore and enhance grasslands and wetlands will create more favorable conditions for self-sustaining populations of blue-winged teal, mallards, ring-necked pheasants, and non-game grassland birds.

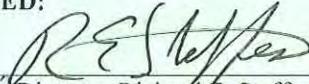
The 40-acre Pheasants Forever property was enrolled in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) until 2008 and the vegetation has reverted to primarily wet soil species. Since the CRP contract expiration, Pheasants Forever has managed the site as wet prairie and it has been open for public use. Access to the parcel is via department lands owned to the north that abut a town road (Olden Road).

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of 40 acres of land for the Glacial Habitat Restoration Area program, 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:

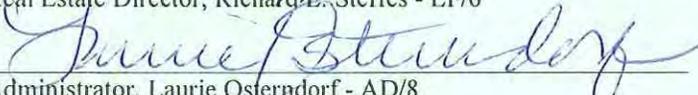
- | | |
|--|--|
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Estimate Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Attached |
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Assessment of Impact Statement Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Attached |
| No <input type="checkbox"/> Background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

APPROVED:



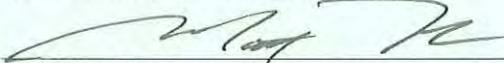
Real Estate Director, Richard E. Steffes - LF/6

3-24-10
Date



Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf - AD/8

3/28/10
Date



Secretary, Matthew J. Frank - AD/8

4-7-10
Date

- cc: S. Miller – LF/6
 R. Steffes – LF/6
 L. Ross – AD/8
 T. Hauge – WM/6
 R. Kazmierczak – NER/Green Bay

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 24, 2010 FILE REF: WM 60084

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Matthew J. Frank 

SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Pheasants Forever, Inc., Tract, File # WM 60084
Option Expires May 30, 2010

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Glacial Habitat Restoration
Fond du Lac County

Grantor:

Pheasants Forever, Inc.
c/o Kevin Wallenfang
5102 Sunrise Ridge Trail
Middleton, WI 53562

Acres: 40Price: \$0 (Gift)Appraised Value: \$100,000Interest: Fee Title PurchaseImprovements: NoneLocation: The tract is located in Fond du Lac County 3.5 miles north of the Village of Rosendale.Land Description: The subject land is level to gently rolling.

<u>Covertypes Breakdown:</u>	Type:	Acreage:
	Grassland	25
	Lowland Woodland	5
	Brush	10
	TOTAL:	40

Zoning: AgriculturePresent Use: Wet Prairie/RecreationProposed Use: Wildlife Management and Public RecreationTenure: 2 years; purchased in 2008 for \$100,000Option Date: March 1, 2010Stewardship 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:

Pheasants Forever, Inc. has offered to donate a 40-acre tract to the Department. The parcel is located in the Town of Rosendale in Fond du Lac County about 3.5 miles north of the Village of Rosendale. The parcel falls within the project boundary and abuts department-owned lands along its northern side. Pheasants Forever acquired the parcel in 2008 with cooperation from the Fox River Valley and Fond du Lac County



Chapters of Pheasants Forever, along with the Winnebago Conservation Club, Wings Over Wisconsin, and local chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation and Whitetails Unlimited. These non-profits were able to combine funds and receive a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant to purchase the property. The Department recommends acquisition to allow wildlife management and habitat restoration, protect the natural, geologic, and cultural values of the property, and provide opportunities for public recreation and education on the Glacial Habitat Restoration Project Area.

The Glacial Habitat Restoration Area (GHRA) was established in 1990 to restore 38,600 acres of grasslands and 11,000 acres of wetlands to increase populations of ring-necked pheasants, waterfowl, and grassland songbirds in 24 townships in Dodge, Fond du Lac, Columbia, and Winnebago Counties. The project uses a landscape scale approach to habitat management that incorporates a patchwork 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 intent is to widely scatter suitable habitat throughout the area, rather than concentrating the habitat in one area. The mix of agricultural land, grasslands, and wetlands is the key to productive wildlife populations.

The Department is using perpetual easements, fee title acquisition, other agency programs, volunteer agreements, and cost-share activities with a goal to establish 38,600 acres of grassland nest cover and restore 11,000 acres of wetland within the 24 township project area. The need for the GHRA is based on a documented decline in grassland and wetland wildlife populations. Reductions in habitat quality and quantity because of land use changes have contributed to the decline of grassland nesting wildlife populations. In addition, wetland loss or degradation has been an important factor in the decline of many wetland wildlife species. Applying the habitat management practices that restore and enhance grasslands and wetlands will create more favorable conditions for self-sustaining populations of blue-winged teal, mallards, ring-necked pheasants, and non-game grassland birds.

The 40-acre Pheasants Forever property was enrolled in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) until 2008 and the vegetation has reverted to primarily wet soil species. Since the contract expiration, Pheasants Forever has managed the site as a wet prairie and it has been open for public use. Access to the parcel is via department lands owned to the north that abut a town road (Olden Road).

The Department recommends acceptance of the Pheasants Forever, Inc. parcel to allow management of the area for wildlife, to consolidate state ownership and to provide additional opportunities for public recreation and education.

3. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction. The amount of the Stewardship grant was \$50,500.

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE GLACIAL HABITAT RESTORATION:

Established: 1990
Acres Purchased to Date: 16,022.55
Acquisition Goal: 28,400.00 Acres
Percent Complete: 56.42%
Cost to Date: \$12,949,816.66

RECOMMENDED:

RES Steffes
Richard E. Steffes

3-24-10
Date

Joseph Wm. Remille
Bureau of Legal Services

3-25-10
Date

Laurie Osterndorf
Laurie Osterndorf

3/28/10
Date

RES:ch

Acknowledgment of Gift

This is to certify that at its April 2010 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted a gift of 40 acres of land in Fond du Lac County for the Glacial Habitat Restoration Area from

PHEASANTS FOREVER, INC.

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

Jonathan P. Ela, CHAIR

Pheasants Forever, Inc Parcel

T16N R15E Section 14, Town of Rosendale, Fond du Lac County, WI (40.00 Acres)

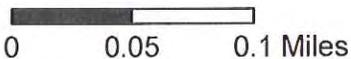


14
GLACIAL HABITAT
RESTORATION
PROJECT BOUNDARY

13

Legend

- - - PLSS Section Line
- PLSS Quarter-Quarter
- DNR Fee Pending
- DNR Project Boundary
- County Boundary
- DNR Eased
- DNR Owned



Subject Property

WM 60084

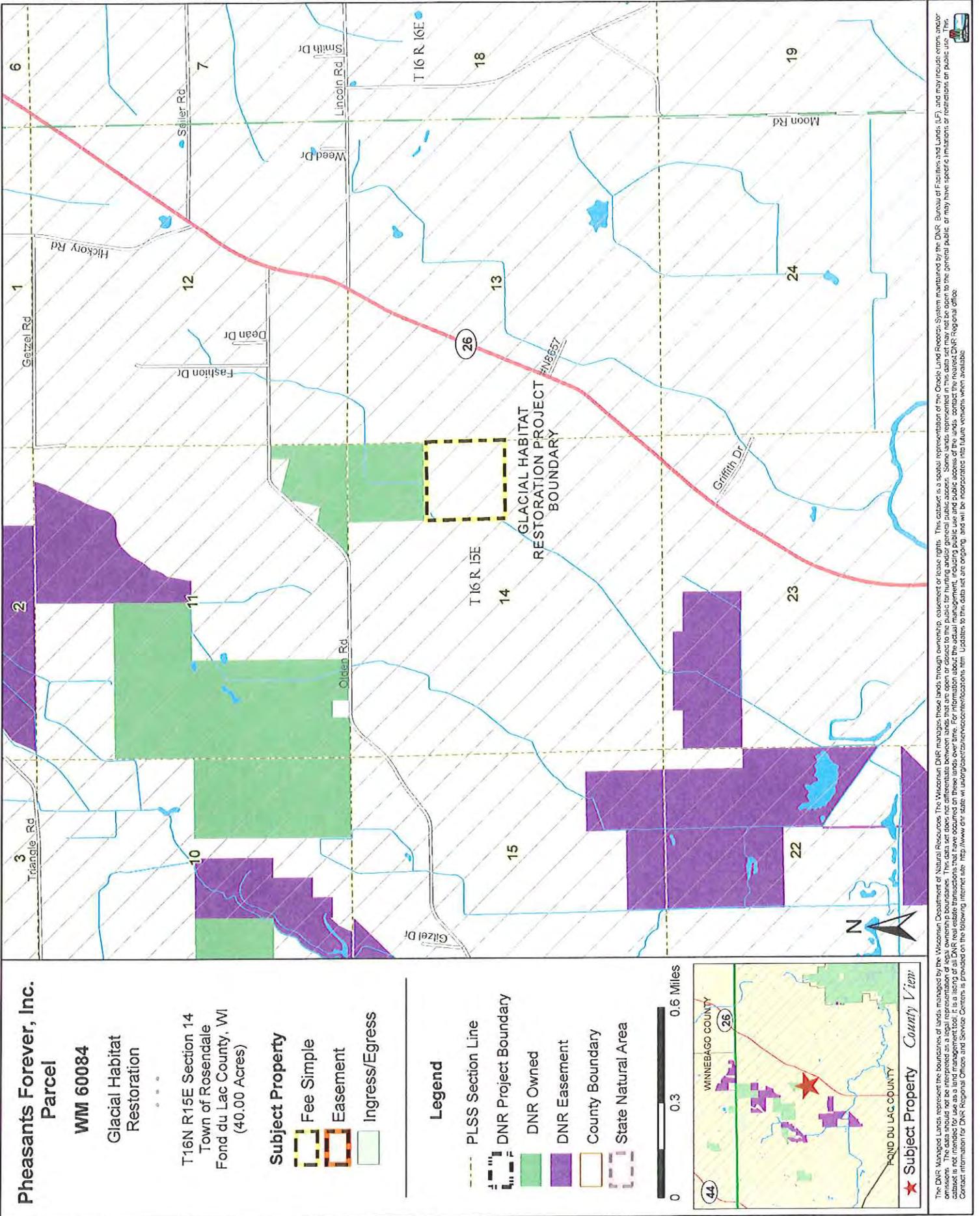
Glacial Habitat Restoration

- Fee Simple
- Easement
- Ingress/Egress

State of Wisconsin

March 23, 2010
Real Estate Section
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

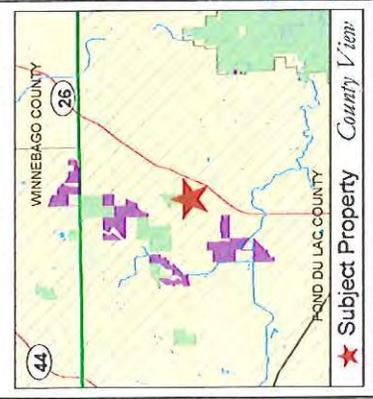
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Pheasants Forever, Inc.
Parcel
WM 60084
 Glacial Habitat
 Restoration
 T16N R15E Section 14
 Town of Rosendale
 Fond du Lac County, WI
 (40.00 Acres)

Subject Property
 Fee Simple
 Easement
 Ingress/Egress

- Legend**
- PLSS Section Line
 - DNR Project Boundary
 - DNR Owned
 - DNR Easement
 - County Boundary
 - State Natural Area



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 cadaster is a spatial representation of the Oracle Land Register System maintained by the DNR, Bureau of Facilities and Lands (LFL), and may include errors and/or omissions. The data should not be interpreted as a legal representation of DNR 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 cadaster may not be open to the general public, or may have specific limitations or restrictions on public use. This data set is for informational purposes only. For more information, please contact the DNR Regional Office and Service Centers is provided on the following internet site: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/office/regions/locations.htm>. Updates to this data set are ongoing, and will be incorporated into future versions when available.