

SUBJECT: EASEMENT DONATION – NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL – DOUGLAS COUNTY

FOR: SEPTEMBER 2010 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: The Department proposes to accept a 1.5-acre conservation easement from Curt and Erin Wasko for the North Country National Scenic Trail program in Douglas County. The item is being submitted because it is a gift of land rights.

The easement will link together trail sections to the north and south. The National Park Service built the trail many years ago believing it was on the Village of Solon Springs property. Once a survey was completed, it was discovered that the trail was about 30 feet onto the Wasko's property. The Wasko's, who are supporters and users of the trail, are donating this segment of trail corridor to the Department.

Established in October of 2000, the North Country National Scenic Trail has an acquisition goal of 2,050 acres. One of the goals of the North Country National Scenic Trail is to link public lands across the northwestern part of Wisconsin to segments of the trail located in Minnesota and Michigan. The trail corridor will pass through Iron, Ashland, Bayfield and Douglas Counties. Currently, the trail utilizes 170 miles of land within existing public projects, including the Chequamegon National Forest, the Bayfield County Forest, Brule River State Forest, Pattison State Park, Copper Falls State Park, the Douglas County Forest and many others.

The concept of the North Country Trail is similar to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in that it allows for long distance, non-motorized travel through scenic and geographically significant areas. When completed, the 4,200-mile trail will extend through seven states going from Crown Point State Historic Site in New York, to Sakakawea State Park on the Missouri River in North Dakota where it joins the route of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

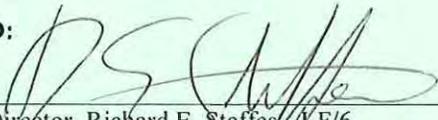
Acceptance of this gift from Curt and Erin Wasko to resolve the trespass issue described above, to conserve the natural and scenic values of the parcel and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation on the North Country National Scenic Trail.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of the conservation easement of 1.5 acres of land for the North Country National Scenic Trail in Douglas County and that a certificate of appreciation be sent to the donors and that an expression of appreciation be made part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

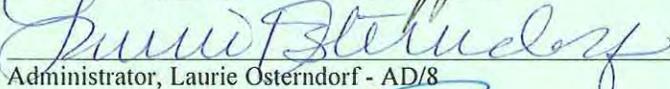
- | | |
|--|--|
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Estimate Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Attached |
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental Assessment of Impact Statement Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Attached |
| No <input type="checkbox"/> Background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

APPROVED:



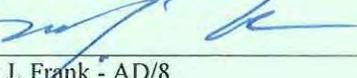
Real Estate Director, Richard E. Steffes - LF/6

8-19-10
Date



Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf - AD/8

8/24/10
Date



Secretary, Matthew J. Frank - AD/8

9-2-10
Date

- cc: S. Miller – LF/6
R. Steffes – LF/6
L. Ross – AD/8
D. Schuller – PR/6
J. Gozdialski – NOR/Spooner

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 19, 2010
 TO: Natural Resources Board
 FROM: Matthew J. Frank *MJF*
 SUBJECT: Proposed Easement on the Wasko Tract, File PR 40091
 Option Expires November 30, 2010

FILE REF: PR 40091

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

North Country National Scenic Trail
 Douglas County

Grantor:

Curt and Erin Wasko
 12051 South Holly Lucius Road
 Solon Springs, WI 54873

Acres: 1.5Price: \$1.00Interest: North Country Trail EasementImprovements: NoneLocation: The tract is located in Douglas County about a mile south of Solon Springs.Land Description: The subject land is flat to rolling.

<u>Covertypes Breakdown:</u>	<u>Type:</u>	<u>Acreage:</u>
	Upland Woodland	1.5

Zoning: ResidentialPresent Use: RecreationProposed Use: Trail corridor and resource protectionTenure: 10 yearsEasement Date: April 9, 2009

Stewardship Land Access: This property is being gifted for the North Country Trail, which is part of the state park system. Per s. 230916(3)(a), Stats., lands acquired for state parks are excluded from the public access provision of s. 23.0916, Stats. This parcel will be open for hiking and skiing. Hunting will be governed by s. 29.089(3), Stats.

2. JUSTIFICATION:

The Department proposes to accept a 1.5-acre easement as a gift from Curt and Erin Wasko within the boundary of the North Country National Scenic Trail in Douglas County in the Village of Solon Springs. It will link together trail sections to the north and south. The National Park Service built the trail many years ago believing it was on the Village of Solon Springs property. Once a survey was completed, it was discovered that the trail was about 30 feet onto the Wasko's property. The Wasko's, who are supporters and users of the trail, decided to donate this segment of trail corridor to the Department.

Established in October of 2000, the North Country National Scenic Trail has an acquisition goal of 2,050 acres. One of the goals of the North Country National Scenic Trail is to link public lands across the



northwestern part of Wisconsin to segments of the trail located in Minnesota and Michigan. The trail corridor will pass through Iron, Ashland, Bayfield and Douglas Counties. Currently, the trail utilizes 170 miles of land within existing public projects, including the Chequamegon National Forest, the Bayfield County Forest, Brule River State Forest, Pattison State Park, Copper Falls State Park, the Douglas County Forest and many others.

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The Department recommends acquisition of this trail easement from Curt and Erin Wasko to resolve the trespass issue as described above, to conserve the natural and scenic values of the parcel and to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation on the North Country National Scenic Trail.

3. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

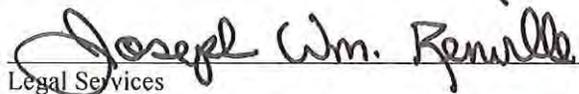
4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL:

Established: 2001
Acres Purchased to Date: 698.40
Acquisition Goal: 2,050.0 Acres
Percent Complete: 34.07%
Cost to Date: \$528,994.50

RECOMMENDED:


Richard E. Steffes

8-19-10
Date


Legal Services

8-20-10
Date


Laurie Osterndorf

8/24/10
Date

Acknowledgment Of Gift

This is to certify that at its September 2010, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted a gift of a 1.5-acre easement from the

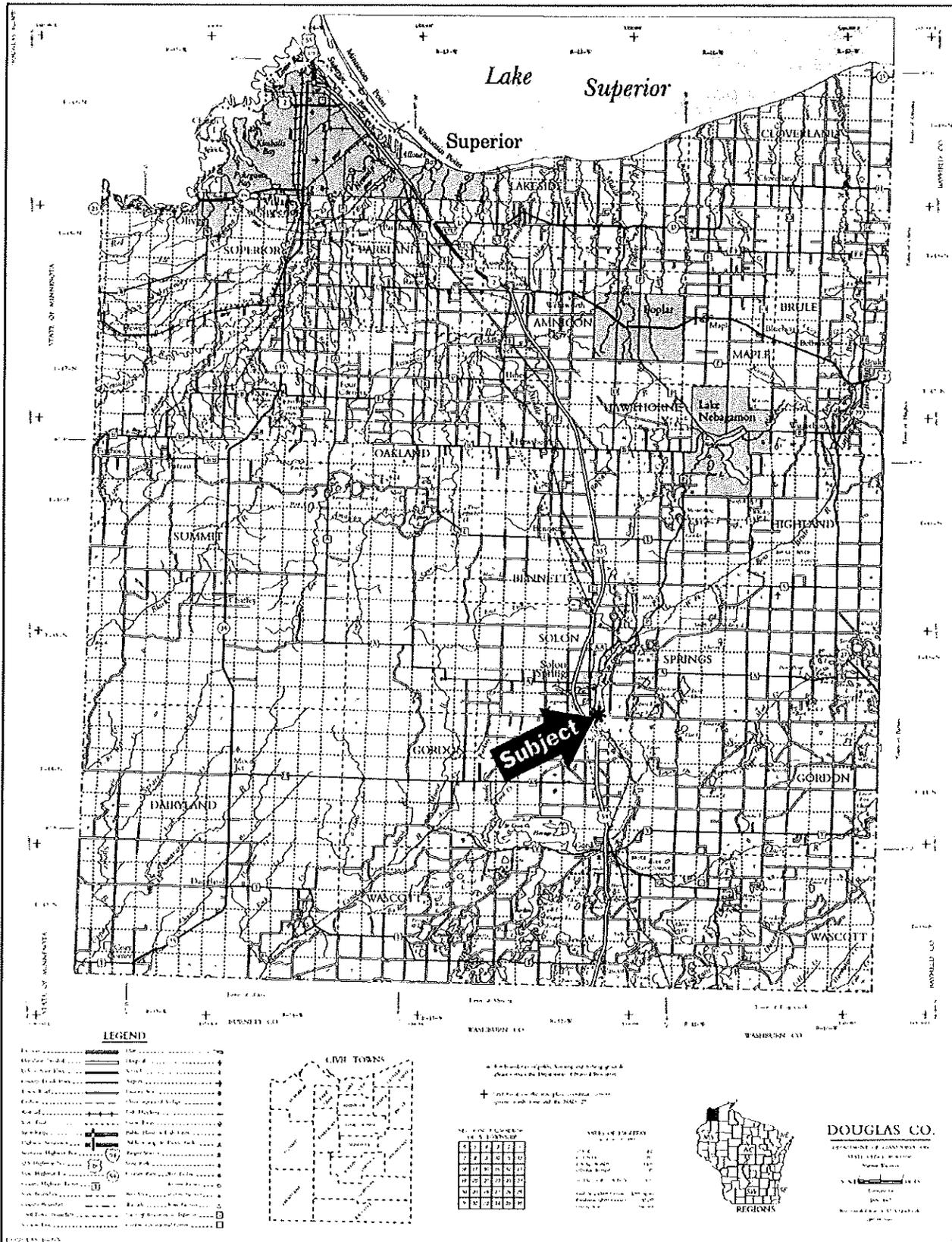
CURT AND ERIN WASKO

The easement will be used for the North Country National Scenic Trail in Douglas County. It is significant that people 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.

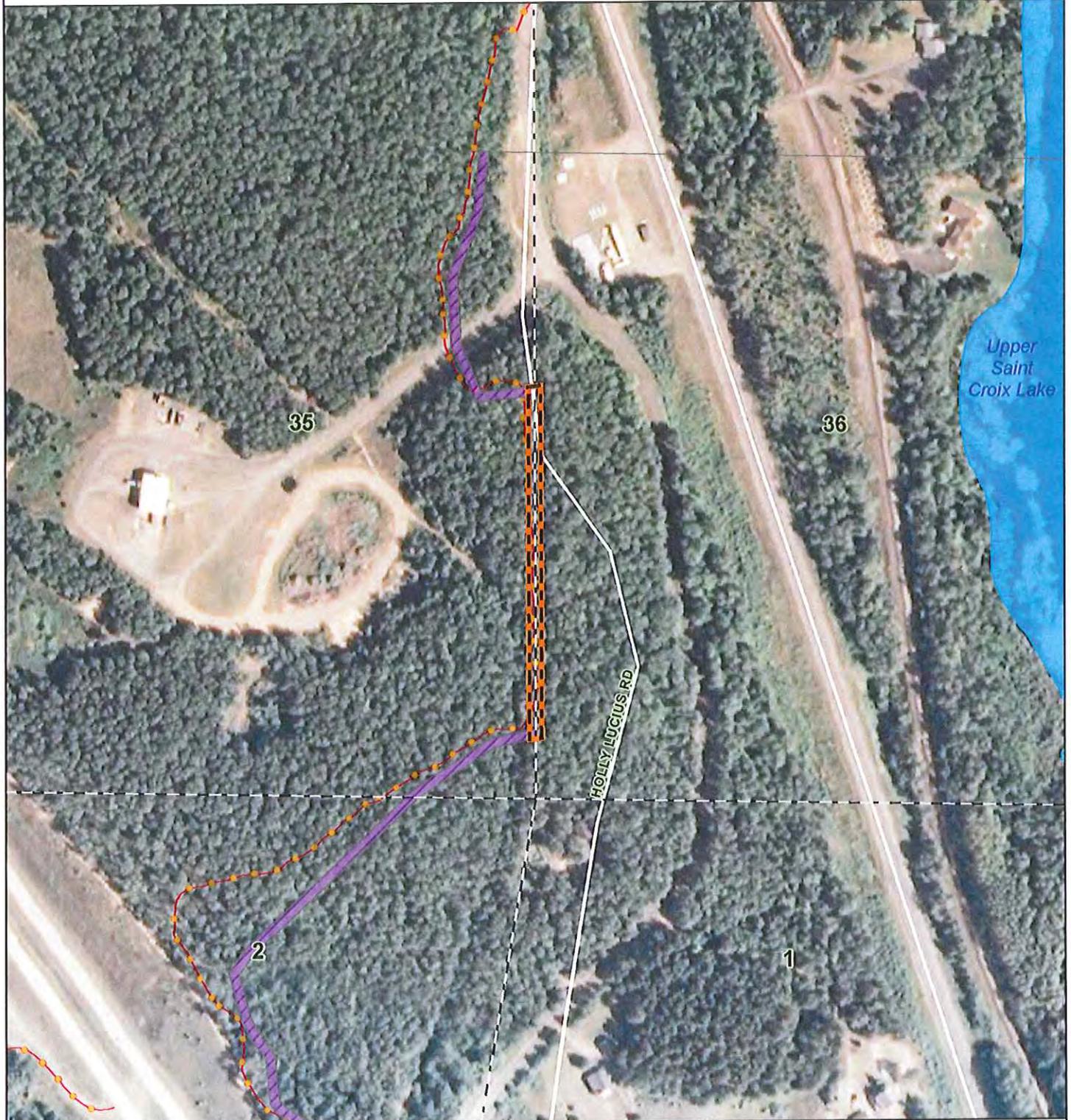
Natural Resources Board

Jonathan P. Ela, CHAIR



Erin and Curt Wasko Parcel

T45N R12W Section 36, Town of Solon Springs, Douglas County, WI (1.50 Acres)



Legend

- DNR Project Boundary
- PLSS Section Line
- PLSS Quarter-Quarter
- County Boundary
- DNR Eased
- DNR Owned
- North Country Trail

0 250 500 Feet

Subject Property

PR 40091

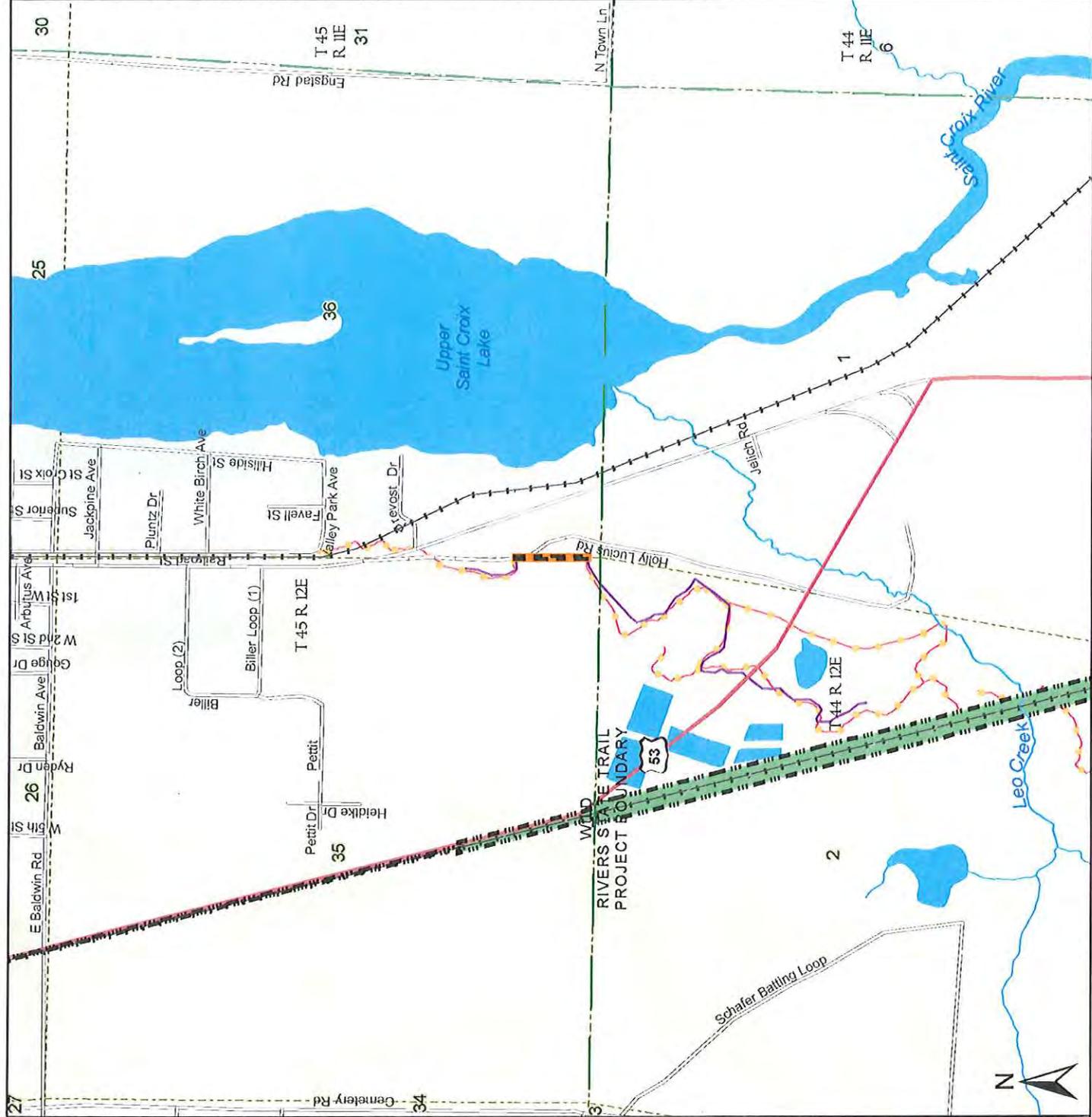
North Country National Scenic Trail

- Fee Simple
- Easement
- Ingress/Egress

State of Wisconsin

August 12, 2010
Real Estate Section
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

User Advisory: Neither the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) nor any of its employees shall be held liable for any improper or incorrect use of the information and/or contained herein and assumes no responsibility for use of the information. Furthermore, no warranty, expressed or implied, is made regarding accuracy, adequacy, completeness, legality, or reliability of any information. The WDNR provides mapped information on an "as is" basis. The WDNR has made reasonable efforts to provide accurate information, but cannot exclude the possibility of errors or omissions in source information. There is no guarantee the parcel boundaries are defined by a survey. The map user is expected to exercise reasonable use of the map information.



**Erin and Curt Wasko
Parcel
PR 40091**

North Country National
Scenic Trail
T45N R12W Section 36
Town of Solon Springs
Douglas County, WI
(1.50 Acres)

Subject Property

- Fee Simple
- Easement
- Ingress/Egress

- DNR Project Boundary
- State Natural Area
- PLSS Section Line
- County Boundary
- DNR Owned
- DNR Easement
- North Country Trail



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 dataset is a spatial representation of the Oracle Land Records System maintained by the DNR, Bureau of Facilities and Lands (L.F.), and may include errors and/or omissions. The data should not be interpreted as a legal representation of legal ownership boundaries. This data is current as of the date of the data collection. For information about the actual management, including public use and public access of the lands, contact the nearest DNR Regional office. This dataset 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/ceer/office/locations.htm>. Updates to this data set are ongoing, and will be incorporated into future versions when available.