

SUBJECT: Land Donation – Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resource Area– Waupaca County

FOR: DECEMBER 2012 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: The Department proposes to accept in gift of 44.55 acres from Pheasants Forever for the lower Wolf River Bottomland Natural Resource Area. The parcel is located in the Town of Caledonia in Waupaca County and is within the project boundary. The parcel is surrounded private lands along the west and east boundary, Highway 10 along the north boundary and town road along the south boundary. There are 292 acres of Department owned land located south of the town road.

The Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resource Area was established to protect the Lower Wolf River and Embarrass River corridor and their important floodplain forests, and includes portions of the Lake Winnebago pool system, which is important to many aquatic species, especially the lake sturgeon. This is an ecologically important landscape tucked away between the urban areas and agricultural communities of east-central Wisconsin and the extensive forests of northern Wisconsin. The project area is predominately open and rural with large, highly productive wetlands that are dominated by native vegetation. Agricultural areas are another predominant element of this landscape. The close proximity of the project area to the population center of the Fox River Valley makes it very popular for a multitude of recreational pursuits, especially fishing and hunting. Land uses in the area are quickly changing and development pressure is increasing. There are existing DNR projects within the Lower Wolf River Bottomland project boundary. The Department owns and manages approximately 31,000 acres within those projects.

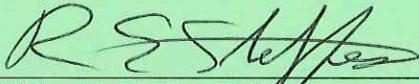
The Waupaca Chapter of Pheasants Forever has \$24,000 in NAWACA funding available for habitat restoration and will continue to commit volunteer time towards habitat work on the property. Accepting the gift of the 44.55 acre parcel will allow management of the area for wildlife and habitat and provide for public recreation.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of 44.55 acres of land for the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resource Area; send a certificate of appreciation to Pheasants Forever and make an expression of appreciation 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

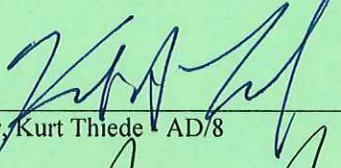
APPROVED:



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

11-7-12

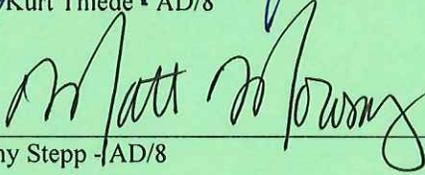
Date



Administrator, Kurt Thiede - AD/8

11/14/12

Date



Secretary, Cathy Stepp - AD/8

11/19/12

Date

- cc: S. Miller - LF/6
R. Steffes - LF/6
L. Ross - AD/5
T. Hauge - WM/6
J. Romback-Bartels - NER - Green Bay

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 6, 2012
 TO: Natural Resources Board
 FROM: Cathy Stepp
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Pheasants Forever, Inc.
 Tract, File # WM 60197

FILE REF: WM 60197

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resource Area
 Waupaca County

Grantor:

Pheasants Forever, Inc.
 c/o Doug Fendry
 5504 Chestnut lane
 McFarland, WI 53558

Acres: 44.55Price: GiftInterest: Fee titleImprovements: NoneLocation: The tract is located in Waupaca County 4 miles southeast of FremontLand Description: The subject land is level.Covertime Breakdown:

Type	Acreage
Lowland Woodland	20.28
Grass	24.27
Total:	44.55

Proposed Use: Conservation and Public RecreationTenure: 1 yearAgreement Date: November 2, 2012Stewardship 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:

The Department proposes to accept in gift of 44.55 acres from Pheasants Forever located in the Town of Caledonia in Waupaca County for the Lower Wolf River Bottomland Natural Resource Area. The parcel

falls completely within the project boundary. The parcel is surrounded private lands along the west and east boundary, Highway 10 along the north boundary and town road along the south boundary. There are 292 acres of Department owned land located south of the town road.

The Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resource Area was established to protect the Lower Wolf River and Embarrass River corridor and their important floodplain forests, and includes portions of the Lake Winnebago pool system, which is important to many aquatic species, especially the lake sturgeon. This is an ecologically important landscape tucked away between the urban areas and agricultural communities of east-central Wisconsin and the extensive forests of northern Wisconsin. The project area is predominately open and rural with large, highly productive wetlands that are dominated by native vegetation. Agricultural areas are another predominant element of this landscape. The close proximity of the project area to the population center of the Fox River Valley makes it very popular for a multitude of recreational pursuits, especially fishing and hunting. Land uses in the area are quickly changing and development pressure is increasing. There are existing DNR projects within the Lower Wolf River Bottomland project boundary. The Department owns and manages approximately 31,000 acres within those projects.

The Waupaca Chapter of Pheasants Forever has \$24,000 in NAWACA funding available for habitat restoration and will continue to commit volunteer time towards habitat work on the property.

The parcel topography is relatively flat and is approximately half grassland and half unmarketable timber. There is a drainage ditch located in the northern half of the property running east to west. That ditch connects to the main drainage ditch along the west boundary. Prior to upgrades on State Highway 10, the main ditch used to have free flowing water from the north. As part of the Highway upgrade, DOT severed the ditch with the road and diverted the ditch along the north side of State Highway 10 to the east. The ditch on the south side of Highway 10 has standing water from run-off. The boundary ditch will remain in tact for the benefit of adjoining landowners. The interior ditches may be filled using excess dirt from pond scrapes. Restoration efforts will include removal of invasive species of box elder and reed canary grass. converting the land into plantings of native grasses/sedges/forbs and natural ponds/scrapes.

The Department recommends accepting the gift of the 44.55 acre parcel to allow management of the area for wildlife and habitat and to provide for public recreation.

3. LAND MANAGEMENT:

The land will be managed with program funds by the Wildlife Management program staff stationed in Waupaca. Pheasants Forever will provide \$24,000 in NAWACA funding for habitat restoration and have committed to continued volunteer habitat work. Management will coincide with the land management plan as developed by Pheasants Forever. Management will also stay within the requirements of the Stewardship Grant and Management Contract for Non-Profit Land Acquisition under which the property was purchased.

4. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this gift to the state. Pheasants Forever did use Stewardship and federal NAWCA to acquire the land.

5. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE LOWER WOLF RIVER BOTTOMLANDS NATURAL RESOURCE AREA:

Established: 2002

Acres Purchased to Date: 3,510.60

Acquisition Goal: 45,000

Percent Complete: 7.80 %

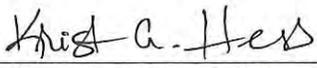
Cost to Date: \$6,681,250.65

RECOMMENDED:



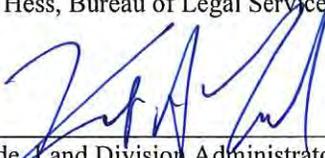
Richard E. Steffes, Real Estate Director

11-7-12
Date



Kristin A. Hess, Bureau of Legal Services

11/12/12
Date



Kurt Thiede, Land Division Administrator

11/14/12
Date

RES:

Acknowledgment of Gift

This is to certify that at its December 2012 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 44.55 acres of land in Waupaca County for the Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resource Area from:

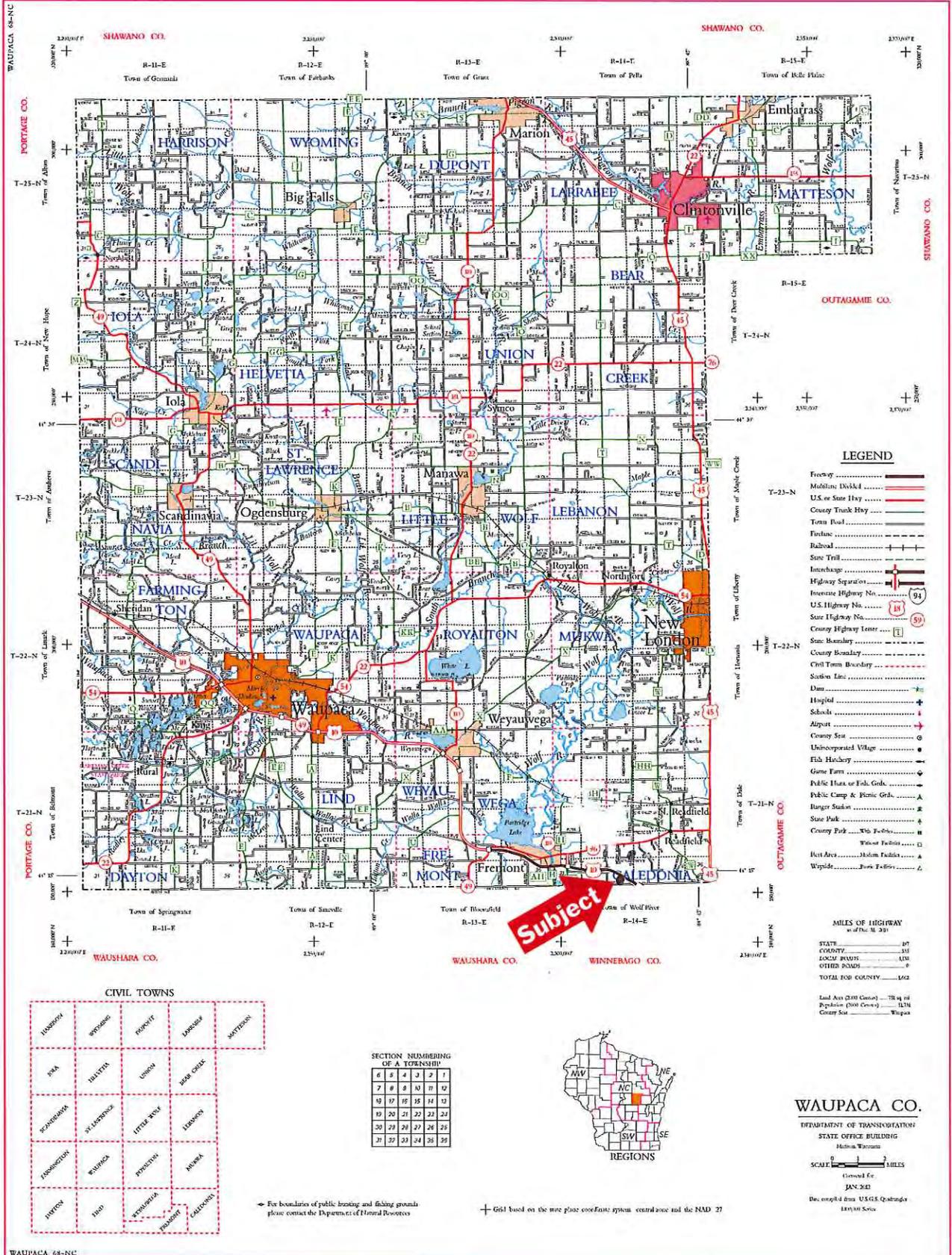
Pheasants Forever, Inc.

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

David Clausen, CHAIR



WAUPACA 68-NC

PORTAGE CO.

T-23-N

T-24-N

T-23-N

T-22-N

T-21-N

T-22-N

T-21-N

WAUSHARA CO.

WAUSHARA CO.

WAUSHARA CO.

WAUSHARA CO.

WAUPACA 68-NC

1230000' 1240000' 1250000' 1260000' 1270000'

R-11-E R-12-E R-13-E R-14-E R-15-E

SHAWANO CO. SHAWANO CO. SHAWANO CO. SHAWANO CO. SHAWANO CO.

HARRISON WYOMING DUPONT LARRABEE MATTESON

Big Falls Marion Embarras

HELVETIA UNION BEAR

LOLA CREEK

SCANDIA LAWRENCE Manawa

NAVIA LEFEBRE WOLF LEBANON

FARMING TON ROYALTON MUKWA New London

WAUPACA WAUPACA Weyauvega

LIND WEYAU WEGA

DAYTON FREMONT FREMONT CALEDONIA

1230000' 1240000' 1250000' 1260000' 1270000'

R-11-E R-12-E R-13-E R-14-E

WAUSHARA CO. WAUSHARA CO. WINNEBAGO CO.

CIVIL TOWNS

HARRISON	WYOMING	ROBERT	LARRABEE	MATTESON
LOLA	HELVETIA	UNION	BEAR CREEK	
SCANDIA	ST. LAWRENCE	LITTLE WOLF	HARRISON	
FARMING TON	WAUPACA	ROYALTON	MUKWA	
DAYTON	LEFEBRE	WEGA	WYAU	
	WYAU	WEYAU	WEGA	
	WEGA	WEGA	WEGA	

SECTION NUMBERING OF A TOWNSHIP

6	9	12	15	18	21
7	10	13	16	19	22
8	11	14	17	20	23
15	18	21	24	27	30
16	19	22	25	28	31
17	20	23	26	29	32

LEGEND

- Freeway
- Multiple Divided
- U.S. or State Hwy
- County Trunk Hwy
- Town Road
- Right-of-Way
- Railroad
- State Trail
- Interchange
- Highway Separation
- Interstate Highway No.
- U.S. Highway No.
- State Highway No.
- County Highway Letter
- State Boundary
- County Boundary
- Civil Town Boundary
- Section Line
- Dam
- Hospital
- Schools
- Airport
- County Seat
- Unincorporated Village
- Fish Hatchery
- Game Farm
- Public House or Fish. Grd.
- Public Camp & Picnic Grd.
- Hanger Station
- State Park
- County Park
- Wetland
- Best Area
- Wetland
- Wetland

MILES OF HIGHWAY

STATE 107
 COUNTY 131
 LOCAL ROAD 110
 OTHER ROAD 8
 TOTAL FOR COUNTY 356

Land Area (200 Census) 78.4 sq mi
 Population (200 Census) 12,700
 County Seat Waupaca

WAUPACA CO.
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
 MADISON, WISCONSIN

SCALE 1" = 1 MILE
 Created by
 JAN 2011
 Data compiled from USGS Quads
 18740 Series

WAUPACA 68-NC

For boundaries of public hunting and fishing grounds please contact the Department of Natural Resources

Grid based on the more precise coordinate system central zone and the NAD 27

Subject



REGIONS

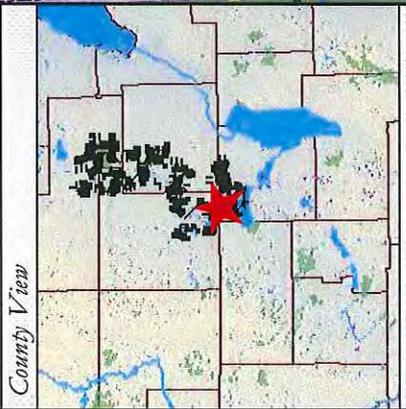
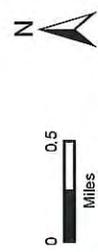
Pheasants Forever - Fee
Lower Wolf River Bottomlands Natural Resources Area

WM 60197

21N R14E Sec 33
 Town of Caledonia
 Waupaca County
 44.55 Acres

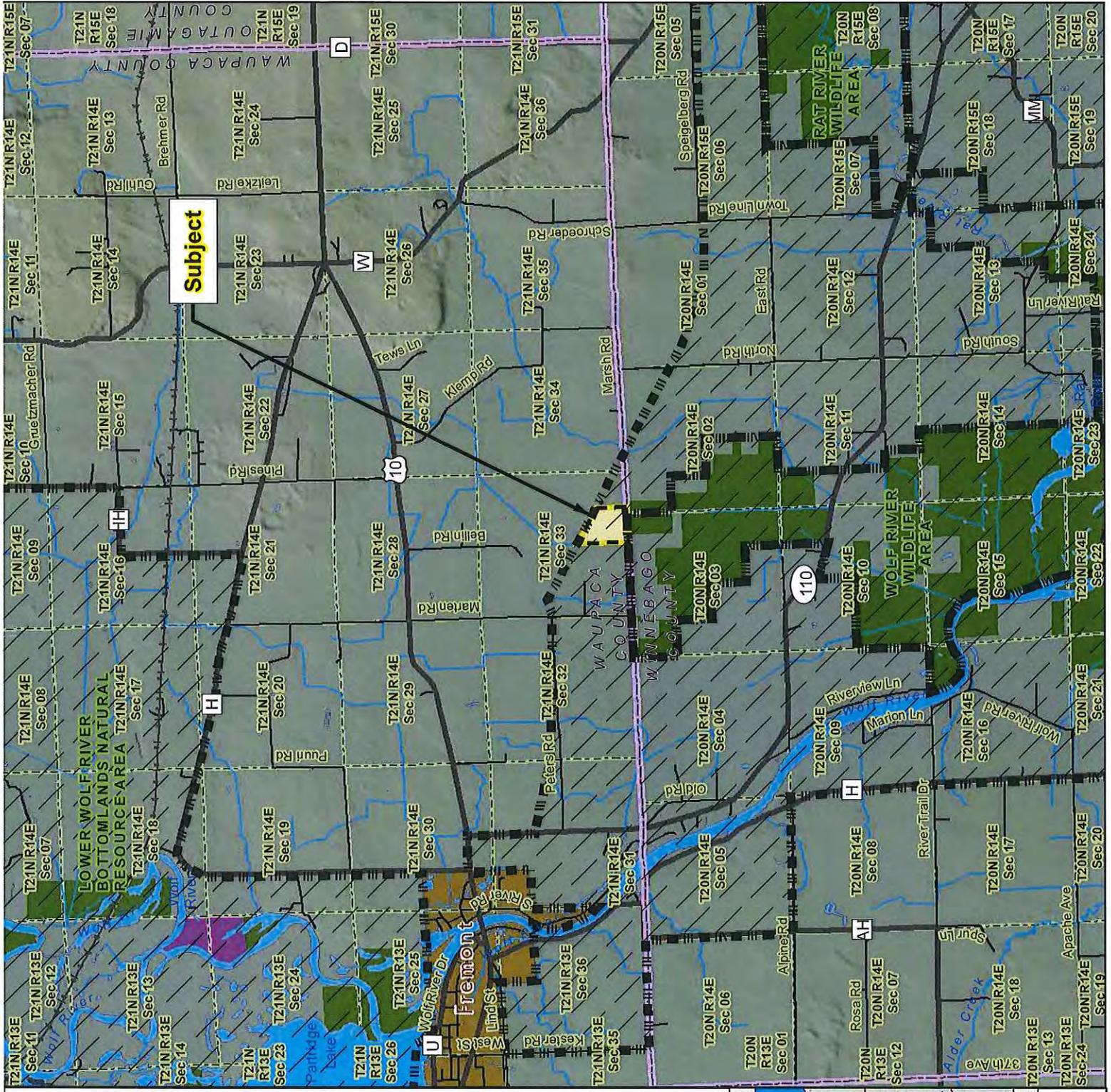


-  WDNR Owned
-  WDNR Easement
-  DNR Project Boundary
-  PLSS Section Line



★ Location of Property


 WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 Bureau of Facilities of Lands
 Map Created: Nov.04, 2012 . kmh



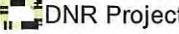
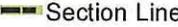
Pheasants Forever - Fee

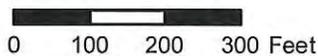
T21N R14E Sec 33 Town of Caledonia, Waupaca County



Lower Wolf River Bottoms Natural Resources Area

 Subject

-  DNR Owned
-  DNR Eased
-  DNR Project Boundary
-  Section Line
-  QQ Section Lines



 N


 Nov 04, 2012 kmh
 Real Estate Section
 Bureau of Facilities and Lands

5. Caledonia

T.21N. - R.14E.

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See Page 29



FREMONT + WEVAUWEGA

See Page 17

See Page 19

See Page 19

E8100 MARSH RD E8500 R.7 E8900 Winnebago County E9300 1. THORNBERY CT 2. BARNWOOD CT 3. BARNWOOD LN 4. AUTUMNWOOD LN E9700

Outagamie County

SCENIC VIEW CT

MANU RD