

SUBJECT: Land Donation – New Auburn Wildlife Area– Barron County

FOR: MAY 2012 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: Great Northern Sand LLC offered to donate 24.43 acres of land to the Department for the New Auburn Wildlife Area. New Auburn Wildlife Area is an 1,180 acre property located in southeastern Barron County. The project was established in 1942 with an initial purchase of 550 acres, and in 1960 the property boundary was enlarged to its current acquisition goal. The project is managed as marsh, prairie grass fields and forested upland. Prairies have been established on the south and north ends of the property for waterfowl and grassland bird nesting. Sandhill cranes can be seen in significant numbers in the fall and there are breeding pairs present in the spring.

Current use of the property centers around hunting, trapping, and wildlife viewing. The subject donation is located entirely within the project boundary, adjoining the New Auburn Wildlife area on the east and south boundaries and connecting with DOT land to the west. Access to the subject is enhanced via the connection of the donation to this DOT owned land which abuts CTH SS.

The proposed gift consists primarily of a lowland fresh (wet) meadow, dominated by reed canary grass. The soil type is Markey muck, a poorly drained organic soil. The surrounding upland has been planted to row crops in recent years. The northwest 2-3 acres of the proposed donation was cultivated in past years, but the remainder of the property is too wet to provide agricultural viability.

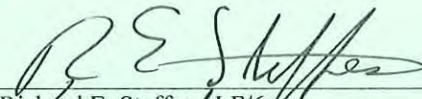
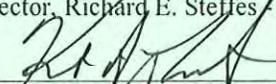
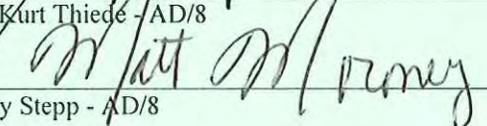
The parcel will provide recreational opportunities for hunting, trapping, hiking, and cross country skiing as well as bird watching and wildlife viewing. The gift of land provides the opportunity for the Department to enhance habitat and recreational use of this area of the project.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of 24.43 acres of land for the New Auburn Wildlife Area program, that a certificate of appreciation be sent to Great Northern Sand, LLC 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	<u>4-16-12</u> _____ Date
 _____ Administrator, Kurt Thiede - AD/8	<u>4/27/12</u> _____ Date
 _____ Secretary, Cathy Stepp - AD/8	<u>5/7/12</u> _____ Date

- cc: S. Miller – LF/6
R. Steffes – LF/6
L. Ross – AD/5
T. Hauge - WM/6
J. Gozdziwski - SPOONER

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 16, 2012
 TO: Natural Resources Board
 FROM: Cathy Stepp
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Great Northern Sand LLC
 Tract, File # WM 60169

FILE REF: WM 60169

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

New Auburn Wildlife Area
 Barron County

Grantor:

Great Northern Sand, LLC
 c/o Matt Thompson
 2325 East Clairmont Avenue
 Eau Claire, WI 54701

Acres: 24.43Price: GiftAppraised Value: \$0.00 (gift)Interest: FeeImprovements: NoneLocation: The tract is located in Barron County 3 miles northwest of New AuburnLand Description: The subject land low and level.Covertypes Breakdown:

Type	Acres
Grass	3
Wetland	21.43
Total:	24.43

Present Use: Private recreationProposed Use: Public recreation and wildlife habitatTenure: 6 monthsAgreement Date: March 12, 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:

Great Northern Sand LLC has offered the Department a 24.43 acre donation of land located in the project boundary of the New Auburn Wildlife Area.

New Auburn Wildlife Area is an 1180 acre property located in southeastern Barron County. The project was established in 1942 with an initial purchase of 550 acres, and in 1960 the property boundary was enlarged to its current acquisition goal. The project is managed as marsh, prairie grass fields and forested upland. Prairies have been established on the south and north ends of the property for waterfowl and grassland bird nesting. Sandhill cranes can be seen in significant numbers in the fall and there are breeding pairs present in the spring.

Current use of the property centers around hunting, trapping, and wildlife viewing. The subject donation is located entirely within the project boundary, adjoining the New Auburn Wildlife area on the east and south boundaries and connecting with DOT land to the west. Access to the subject is enhanced via the connection of the donation to this DOT owned land which abuts CTH SS.

The proposed gift consists primarily of a lowland fresh (wet) meadow, dominated by reed canary grass. The soil type is Markey muck, a poorly drained organic soil. The surrounding upland has been planted to row crops in recent years. The northwest 2-3 acres of the proposed donation was cultivated in past years, but the remainder of the property is too wet to provide agricultural viability.

The parcel will provide recreational opportunities for hunting, trapping, hiking, and cross country skiing as well as bird watching and wildlife viewing. The Department recommends the DNR accept this generous donation. The subject property is located within the project boundary of the New Auburn Wildlife Area and provides opportunity for the DNR to enhance habitat and recreational use of this area of the project.

3. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

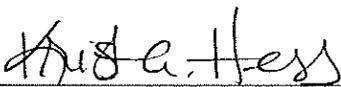
4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE NEW AUBURN WILDLIFE AREA:

Established: 1942
Acres Purchased to Date: 1,178.34
Acquisition Goal: 1,463.92 acres
Percent Complete: 80.49 %
Cost to Date: \$139,813.05

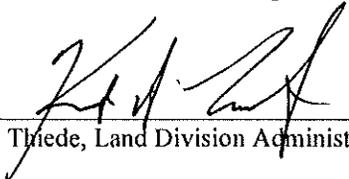
RECOMMENDED:


Richard E. Steffes, Real Estate Director

4-16-12
Date


Kristin A. Hess, Bureau of Legal Services

4/10/12
Date


Kurt Thiede, Land Division Administrator

4/27/12
Date

RES:

Acknowledgment of Gift

This is to certify that at its May 2012 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 24.43 acres of land in Barron County for the New Auburn Wildlife Area from

Great Northern Sand

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

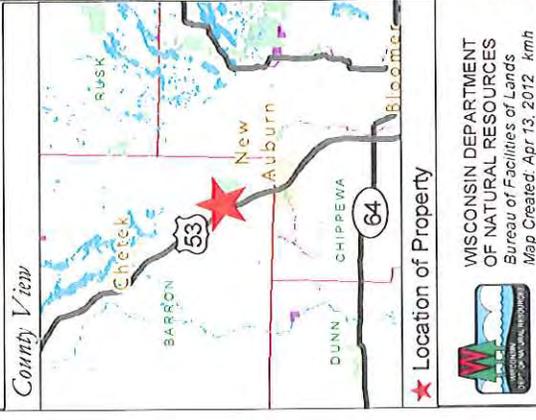
David Clausen, CHAIR

Great Northern Sand, LLC - Fee/Gift
 New Auburn Wildlife Area
WM 60169
 T32N R10W Sec 22
 Town of Dovre
 Barron County
 24.43 Acres



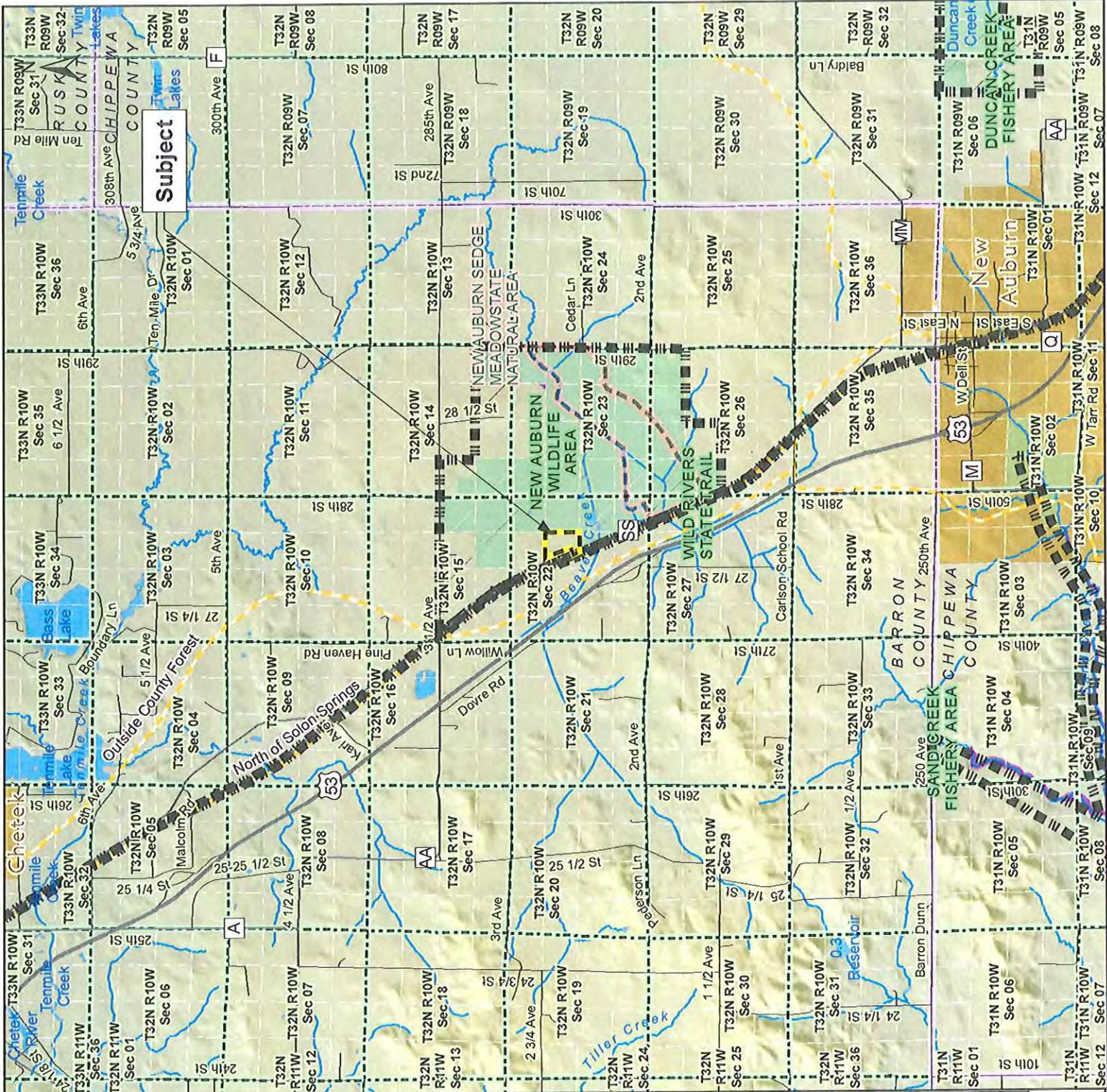
- WDNR Owned
- WDNR Easement
- DNR Project Boundary
- State Natural Area
- Recreation Trail
- PLSS Section Line
- QQ Section Boundary

0 600 Feet



★ Location of Property

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 Bureau of Facilities of Lands
 Map Created: Apr. 13, 2012 kmh



Great Northern Sand LLC - Fee/Gift

T32N R10W Sec 22, Town of Dovre, Barron County



New Auburn Wildlife Area

 Subject Parcel

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



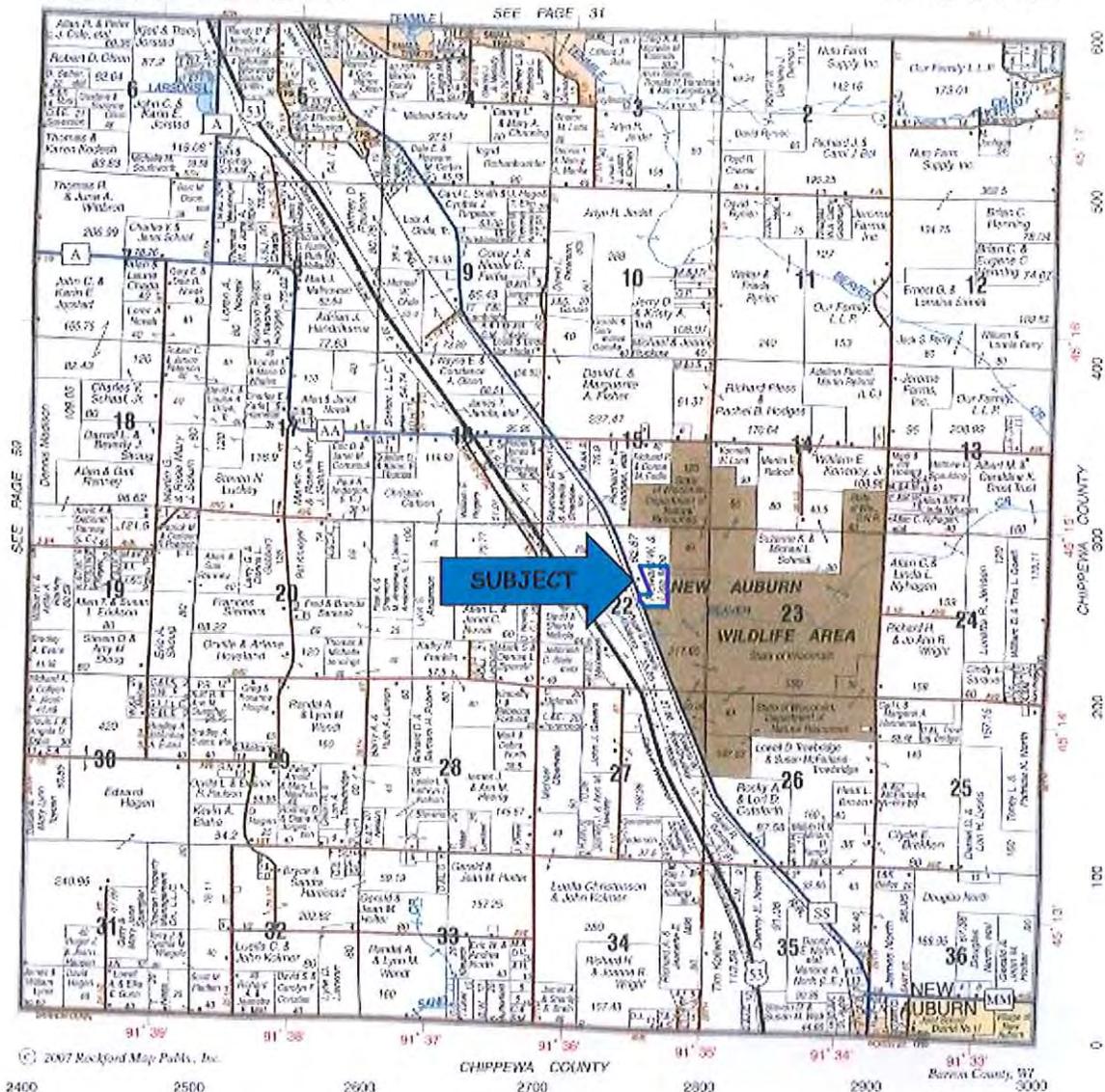
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Apr 13, 2012 kmh
 Real Estate Section
 Bureau of Facilities and Lands

T.32N.-R.10W.

DOVRE



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CHIPPEWA COUNTY

2400 2500 2600 2700 2800 2900 3000

General Public Land Information

Public conservation areas, wildlife refuges, parks and forest lands are illustrated throughout this book. Please note that private lands may be located within these areas and they are not always open for public access. The DNR may or may not lease lands within these areas, so please look for posted signs and contact the Facilities and Lands Bureau of the WI DNR at 608-266-2133 for specifics. You may also find more detailed land information at http://www.dnr.wisconsin.gov/land/facilities/land_mapping.html
DNR Service Center • 1341 2nd Avenue • P.O. Box 397 • Cumberland, Wisconsin 54829 • 715-822-3590

Forest Crop Land

Parcels of land which are designated FCL (Forest Crop Land) may be open to the public for hunting and fishing. Landowners may prohibit other activities in accordance with Wisconsin Statute 77.01 and Administrative Code NR 46.

Managed Forest Lands

MFL designated properties are not shown in this plat book edition due to the partial legal descriptions and the constantly changing nature of these lands. To determine if private land is enrolled in the Managed Forest Law program, please contact your local Wisconsin DNR office. MFL properties may or may not be open for public access and it is your responsibility to check with the landowners to determine access. Access may be restricted within 300 feet of any building or commercial logging operation in accordance with Wisconsin Statute 77.83 (2) (a) and (2) (b). Printouts of properties that are open or closed are available through the Wisconsin DNR online at <http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/land/forestry/tax/orderform.htm>.