

SUBJECT: Land Donation – Statewide Natural Area– Jefferson County

FOR: APRIL 2013 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Doug Haag

SUMMARY: The Natural Heritage Land Trust (NHLT) has offered to donate 16.5 acres of land for the Statewide Natural Area in Jefferson County to the Department. The land is located in the Allen Creek Wetlands State Natural Area as well as being located within the Glacial Heritage Area's, Allen Creek Conservation Area. NHLT purchased the property with a stewardship grant and a portion of a US Fish and Wildlife Service NAWCA grant in April 2012.

Allen Creek Wetland State Natural Area is important because of its exceptional high quality mix of southern Wisconsin wetland types. Foremost among the features are several alkaline fens emanating from the gentle slopes of the Allen Creek watershed. These fens are extremely rare on earth. They are almost exclusively limited to the upper Midwest with less than 5,000 acres known worldwide. Alkaline fens develop only in specialized circumstances, where a constant supply of nutrient rich water upwells to the surface. They are always small in surface acres rarely exceeding 15 acres. This presence of this rare wetland type on the NHLT parcel was pivotal in the ranking for the NAWCA project funding.

Botanists have inventoried 250 native species within the project. Allen Creek, is also classified as Exceptional Resource Water (ERW), as the creek contains the Least Darter, a species of special concern. A number of rare species are present in the Allen Creek wetland complex, including the Blanding's turtle (state-threatened), eastern red damselfly, double striped bluet, lesser fringed gentian, Ohio goldenrod, prairie Indian plantain (state threatened), and small white lady's slipper orchid (state-threatened). Many calcareous fens species are found including fen lousewort, grass of Parnassus, Riddle's goldenrod, and sage-leaved willow. Local landowners have formed a Friends of Allen Creek Watershed organization that works on land protection, habitat management and monitoring.

The 16.5-acre NHLT property is located on the west side of the gentle valley through which Allen Creek flows south. This property adjoins a DNR easement to the north, and would form the core of protection for other fens and spring parcels in the local watershed. The eastern two-thirds of the property is dominated by sedge meadow and oak savanna, both communities which are highly threatened by invasive species. The western one-third is upland and is a combination of pasture and degraded oak savanna. Star School Road is the northern boundary of the property and provides good access for public users. The property has a 0.6-acre pond that was constructed decades ago and provides good open water habitat for a variety of waterfowl. The property has the capacity to be open to all five nature-based outdoor activities.

Acceptance of this transfer opportunity from Natural Heritage Land Trust on this 16.5-acre property will aid in the conservation and recreational enhancement of the Allen Creek Wetlands State Natural Area and the Glacial Heritage Area - Allen Creek Conservation Area.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accepts the donation of 16.5 acres of land for the Statewide Natural Area program, that a certificate of appreciation be sent to The Natural Heritage Land Trust 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

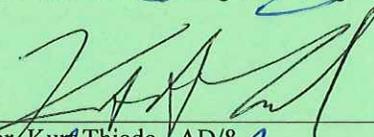
APPROVED:



Acting Real Estate Director, Douglas J. Haag - LF/6

3-20-2013

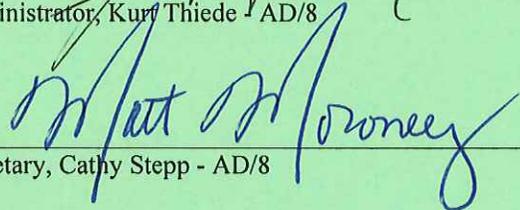
Date



Administrator, Kurt Thiede - AD/8

4-4-2013

Date



Secretary, Cathy Stepp - AD/8

4/8/13

Date

- cc: S. Miller - LF/6
D. Haag - LF/6
L. Ross - AD/5
E. Crain - ER/6
M. Aquino - Fitchburg

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 3, 2013
 TO: Natural Resources Board
 FROM: Cathy Stepp
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Natural Heritage Land Trust (Former Werling)
 Tract, File # NA 20087

FILE REF: NA 20087

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Statewide Natural Area
 Jefferson County

Grantor:

Natural Heritage Land Trust
 Jim Welch – Executive Director
 303 S. Paterson, Suite #6
 Madison, WI 53703

Acres: 16.5Price: GiftAppraised Value: N/AInterest: Fee Title GiftImprovements: NoneLocation: The tract is located in Jefferson County 2 miles south of the City of Ft. AtkinsonLand Description: The subject land is primarily level lowland. About a third of the parcel is sloping upland woods. An area near the town road is suitable for a parking lot.Covertyping Breakdown:

Type	Acreage
Water	0.6
Grass	3
Wetland	6
Upland Woodland	6.9
Total:	16.5

Zoning: Agriculture & Rural ResidentialPresent Use: RecreationProposed Use: Public Recreation and Natural Area protectionTenure: Acquired earlier this yearOption Date: September 18, 2012Stewardship Land Access: This property will be open to the public for all nature based outdoor recreational activities to include hunting, trapping, hiking and cross-country skiing.

2. JUSTIFICATION:

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3. LAND MANAGEMENT:

Per the GHA master plan, Department staff will manage the properties within the GHA termed high quality habitat areas. These are three sites, Allen Creek, Lower Bark River, and Lower Koshkonong Creek. Natural Areas staff will coordinate management of habitat, vegetation, and public use with area Wildlife staff and a bevy of volunteers. The coordination aspect of the management at this site is foremost. The neighbors to the north of this parcel have made a commitment to act as volunteer stewards for the site. State Natural Areas are expanding their volunteer manager program, which would provide additional volunteer management for this site. They are also developing a Memorandum of Understanding with The Prairie Enthusiasts, who would accept some of the management responsibilities. This property may be evaluated for a small parking area depending on public use.

4. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

5. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE STATEWIDE NATURAL AREA:

Established: 1972

Acres Purchased to Date: 34,822.42*

Acquisition Goal: 41,000

Percent Complete: 84.93 %

Cost to Date: \$32,246,783

*Comment: Dedicated easements acreage removed

RECOMMENDED:



Douglas J. Haag, Acting Real Estate Director

4-8-13

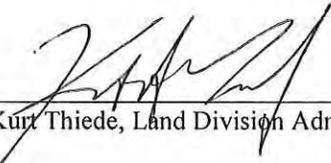
Date



Kristin A. Hess, Bureau of Legal Services

4/3/13

Date



Kurt Thiede, Land Division Administrator

4/4/13

Date

Acknowledgment of Gift

This is to certify that at its April 2013 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 16.5 acres of land in Jefferson County for the Statewide Natural Area from

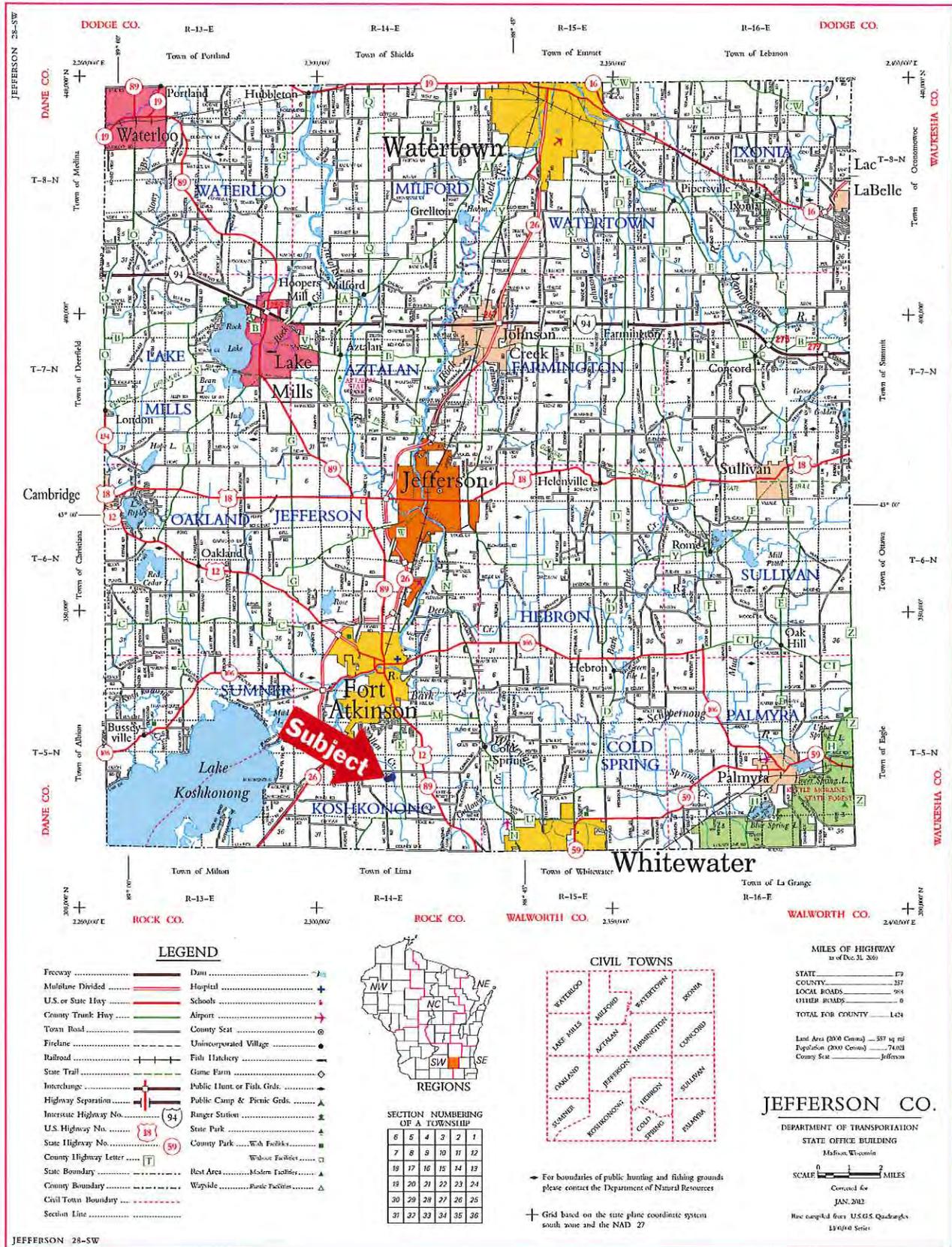
The Natural Heritage Land Trust

It is significant that organizations such as yours are interested in helping protect Wisconsin's natural heritage and contribute materially toward this end.

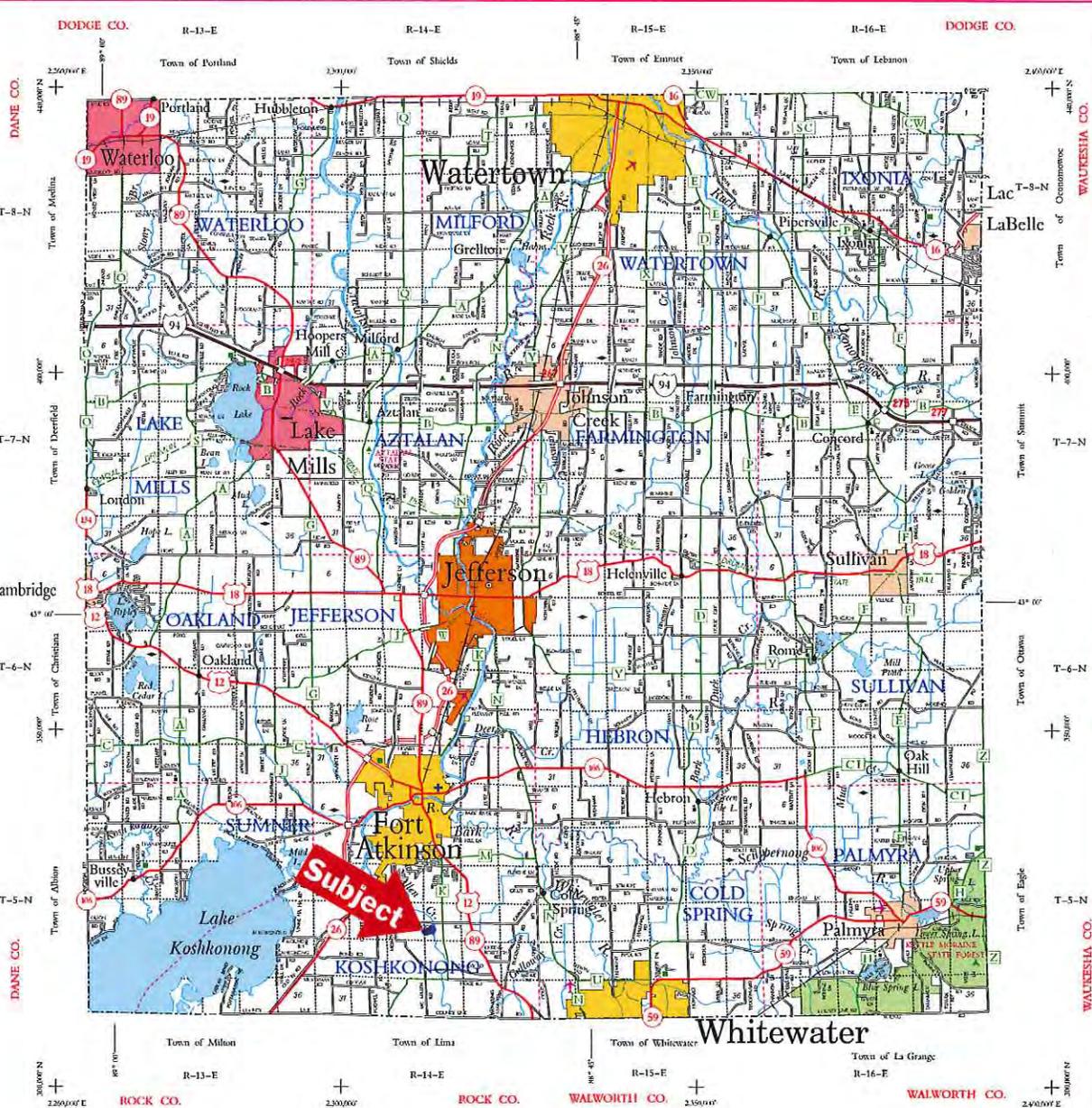
An expression of our appreciation is a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board. We present this certificate of sincere appreciation on behalf of present and future generations to thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Natural Resources Board

Preston Cole, Chair



JEFFERSON 28-SW

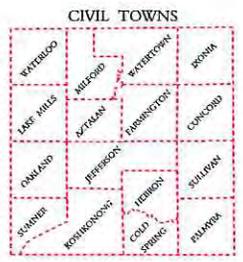


- LEGEND**
- Freeway 94
 - Multi-lane Divided 94
 - U.S. or State Hwy 94
 - County Trunk Hwy 94
 - Town Road 94
 - Fireline 94
 - Railroad 94
 - State Trail 94
 - Interchange 94
 - Highway Separation 94
 - Interstate Highway No. 94
 - U.S. Highway No. 94
 - State Highway No. 94
 - County Highway Letter 94
 - State Boundary 94
 - County Boundary 94
 - Civil Town Boundary 94
 - Section Line 94
 - Dam 94
 - Hospital 94
 - Schools 94
 - Airport 94
 - County Seat 94
 - Unincorporated Village 94
 - Fish Hatchery 94
 - Game Farm 94
 - Public Hunt or Fish. Grd. 94
 - Public Camp & Picnic Grd. 94
 - Ranger Station 94
 - State Park 94
 - County Park 94
 - Wildlife Facility 94
 - Rest Area 94
 - Modern Facility 94
 - Wapide 94



SECTION NUMBERING OF A TOWNSHIP

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36



MILES OF HIGHWAY
as of Dec. 31, 2009

STATE 173
 COUNTY 237
 LOCAL ROADS 994
 OTHER ROADS 0
 TOTAL FOR COUNTY 1424

Land Area (2000 Census) 537 sq mi
 Population (2000 Census) 74,031
 County Seat Jefferson

JEFFERSON CO.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
 Madison, Wisconsin

SCALE 0 1 2 MILES

Corrected for
 JAN. 2013

Base compiled from U.S.G.S. Quadrangle
 130104 Series

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

Grid based on the state plane coordinate system south zone and the NAD 27

Natural Heritage Land Trust (former Werling) - Fee/Gift

Statewide Natural Area

NA 20087

T5N R14E Sec 21 & 22
Town of Koshkonong
Jefferson County



-  WDNR Fee Title
-  WDNR Easement
-  WDNR Easement (Closed to Public Access)
-  DNR Project Boundary
-  Allen Creek/Wetland SNA Project Boundary

Stewardship Grant Public Lands

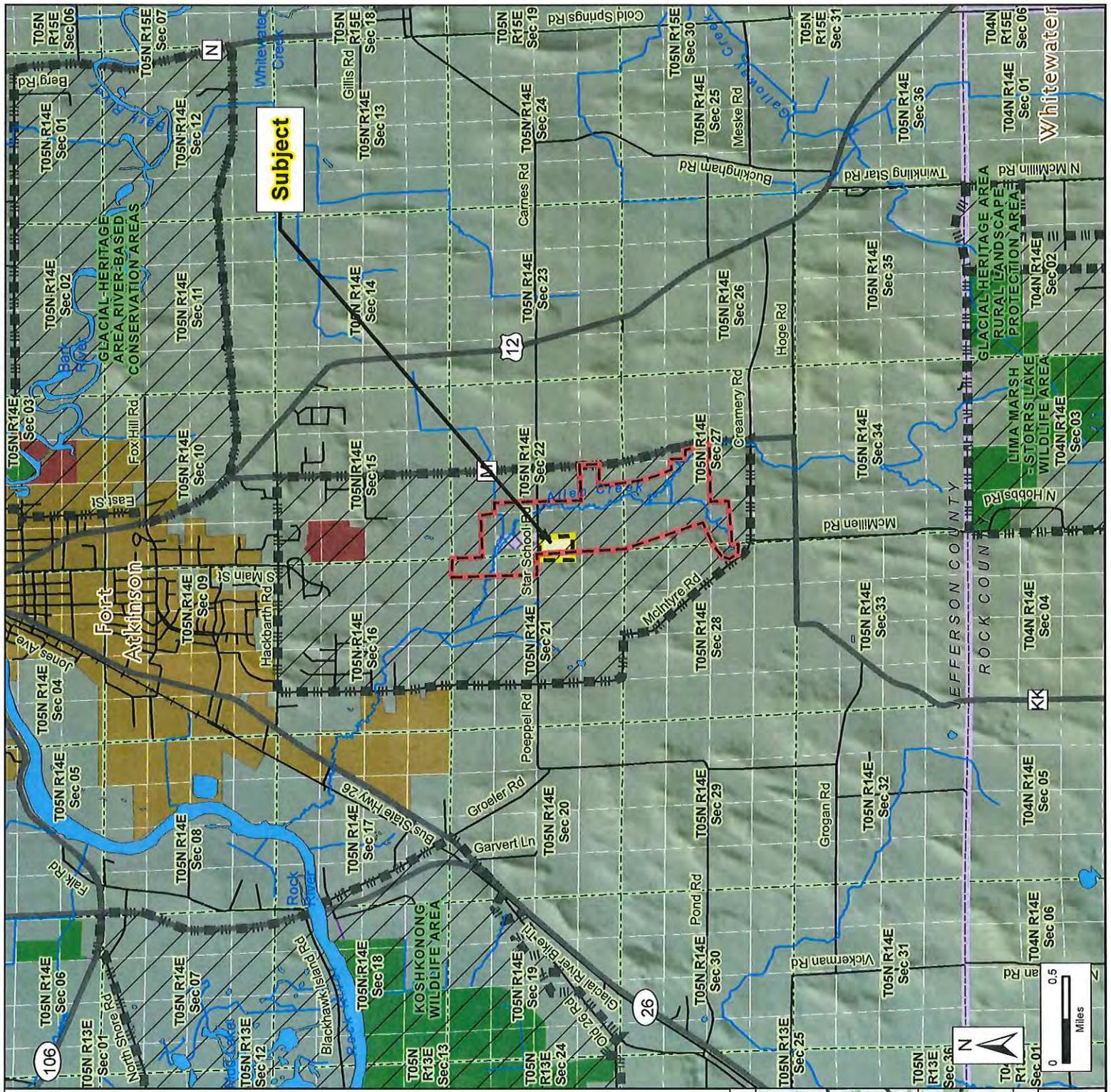
-  Stew - Fee Title
-  PLSS Section Line
-  QQ Section Boundary

County View



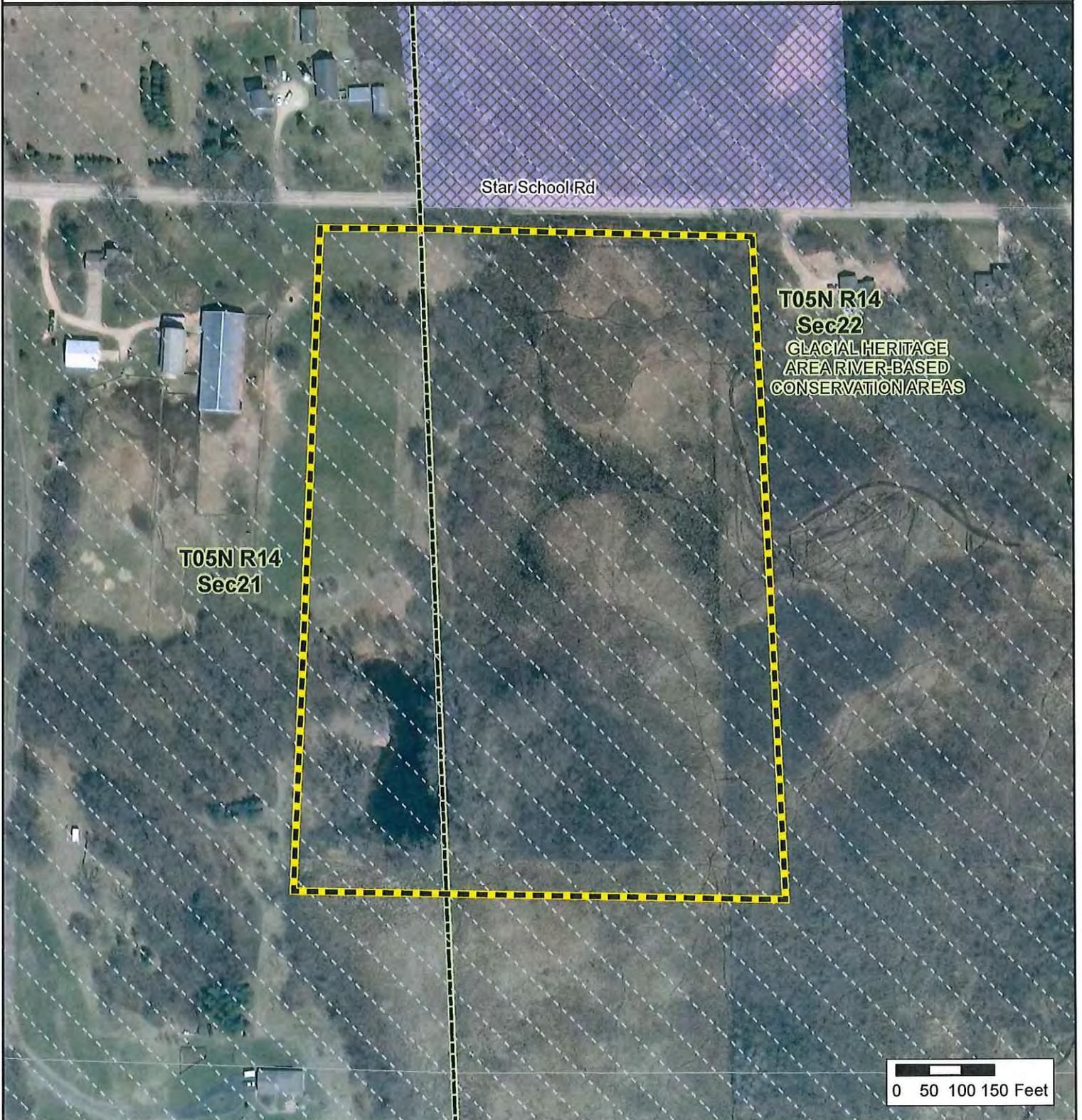
Location of Property

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Facilities of Lands
Map Created: Mar 20, 2013 . kmh



Natural Heritage Land Trust (former Werling) - Fee/Gift

T5N R14E Sec 21 & 22, Town of Koshkonong, Jefferson County



Statewide Natural Area

 Subject

 DNR Fee Title

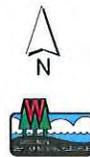
 DNR Eased

 WDNR Easement
(Closed to Public Access)

 DNR Project Boundary

 Section Line

 QQ Section Lines



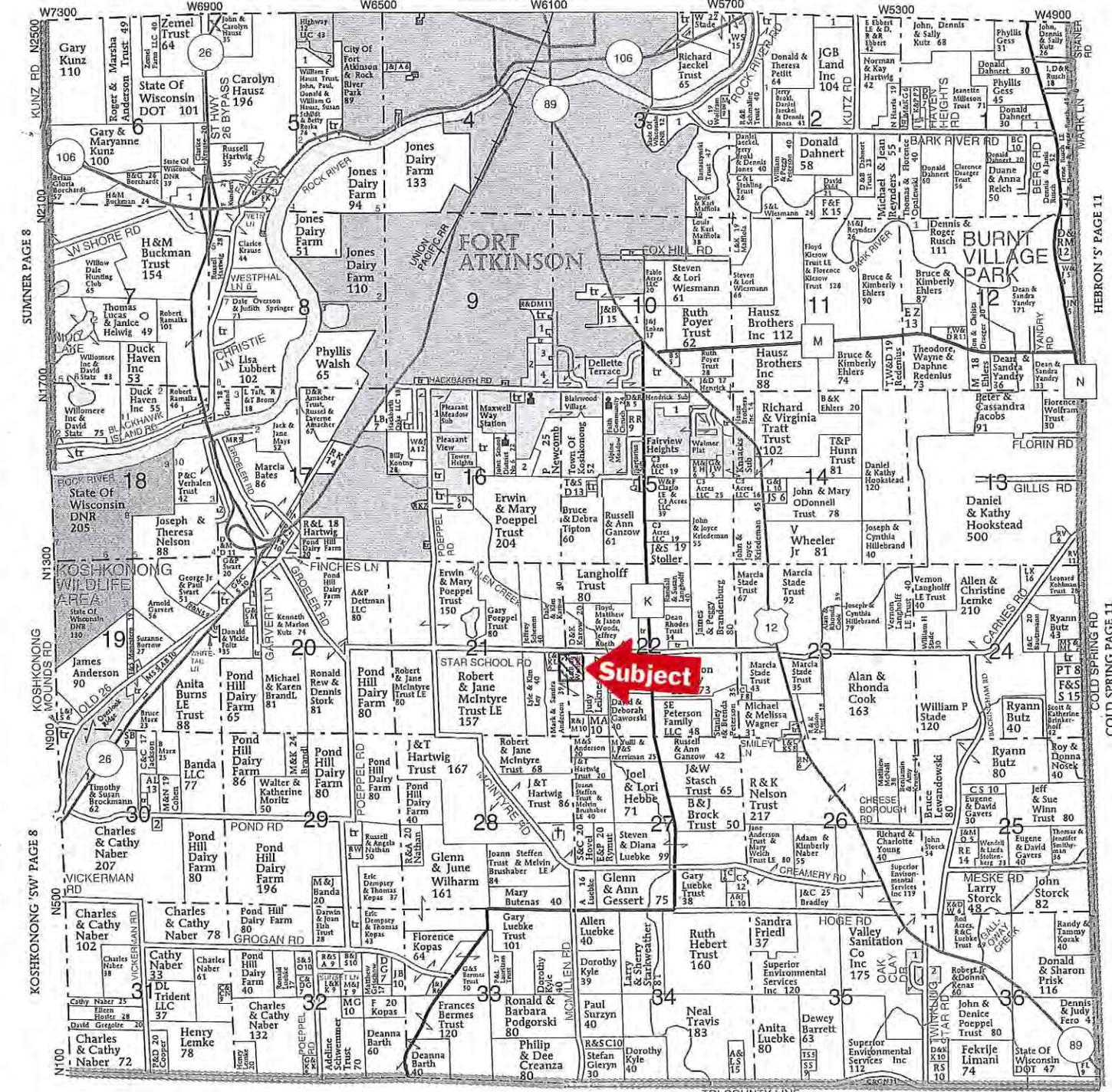
Mar 20, 2013 kmh
Real Estate Section
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

KOSHKONONG SE T-5-N • R-14-E

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See Pages 70-72 For Additional Names.

KOSHKONONG 'N' PAGE 16



ROCK COUNTY

TRI COUNTY LINE

SUMNER PAGE 8

KOSHKONONG 'SW' PAGE 8

HEBRON 'S' PAGE 11

COLD SPRING RD