

**ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND DECISION ON THE
NEED FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS)**

Form 1600-1 Rev. 2-99
(DNR)

State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Region or Bureau: Northern

Type List Designation: NR 150.03(8)(d)1 c.

NOTE TO REVIEWERS: Comments should address completeness, accuracy or the EIS decision. For your comments to be considered, they must be received by the contact person before

4:30 PM Sept. 8, 2000

(time)

(date)

Contact Person Rod Fouks

Title Douglas County Forest Liaison

Address PO Box 60
Gordon, WI 54838

Telephone Number (715)376-2299

Applicant: Douglas County Forestry Department

Address: PO Box 211
Solon Springs, WI 54873

Title of Proposal: Douglas County Forest Land Withdrawal

Location: County Douglas City/Town/Village Township of Summit

Township, Range & Section(s) Pt of GL 2, Sec 18, T46N- R15W

PROJECT SUMMARY

1. General Description (brief overview)

Douglas County proposes to withdraw 1.61 acres from the County Forest Law, 28.11, WI Statutes, and sell this land to the Town of Summit for an expansion of an existing cemetery. This land is adjacent to the cemetery. This land is described as the 113' lying immediately west and adjacent to the existing Town of Summit Cemetery and south of the north section line of Section 18, in Govt lot 2, Sec 18 T46N, R15 W.

2. Purpose and Need (include history and background as appropriate)

The Town of Summit has a need to expand their existing cemetery and approached Douglas County Forest about buying adjacent land west of the cemetery.

3. Authorities and Approvals (list local, state and federal permits or approvals required)

Authority is provided in the Douglas County Forest 10-Year Comprehensive plan, Douglas County Forestry Ordinance and Chapter 28.11, WI Statutes. The Douglas County Board of Supervisors has passed a resolution to petition the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to begin withdrawal of the above described parcel.

4. Estimated Cost and Funding Source

The cost of the investigation and processing the proposed withdrawal is not known. No appraisal is needed because the land is to be sold to another unit of government. The land will be sold to the Town of Summit for \$201.

PROPOSED PHYSICAL CHANGES (More fully describe the proposal)

5. Manipulation of Terrestrial Resources (include relevant quantities - sq. ft., cu. yard., etc.)

The Town of Summit plans on clearing the land and adding this acreage to their cemetery. Removal of soil material is not anticipated.

6. Manipulation of Aquatic Resources (include relevant quantities - cfs., acre feet, MGD, etc.)

There are no aquatic resources present on this site.

7. Buildings, Treatment Units, Roads and Other Structures (include size of facilities, road miles, etc.)

No building or roads are planned for this site.

8. Emissions and Discharges (include relevant characteristics and quantities)

There are none anticipated.

9. Other Changes

No other changes proposed.

10. Identify the maps, plans and other descriptive material attached

Attachment County map showing the general area of the project

Attachment USGS topographic map

Attachment Site development plan

Attachment Plat map

Attachment DNR county wetlands map

Attachment Zoning map

Attachment Other aerial photograph

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT (Describe existing features that may be affected by proposal)

Information Based On (check all that apply):

Literature/correspondence (specify major sources)

Personal Contacts (list in item 28)

Field Analysis By: Author Other (list in item 28)

Past Experience With Site By: author Other (list in item 28)

11. Physical (topography - soils - water - air)

This parcel is generally flat terrain overlying clay soils. No wetlands are located on this parcel.

12. **Biological (dominant aquatic and terrestrial plant and animal species and habitats including threatened/endangered species; wetland amounts, types and hydraulic value)**

This upland plant community is comprised predominantly of a middle aged aspen forest type. Many common wildlife species inhabit portions of this parcel. No threatened/endangered species are known to inhabit this parcel.

13. **Cultural**

a. **Land use (dominant features and uses including zoning if applicable)**

This land is currently zoned F1-Forestry but will have to be rezoned before being designated as a cemetery.

b. **Social/Economic (include ethnic and cultural groups)**

The land will remain in public ownership although the use of the land will change.

c. **Archaeological/Historical**

Although no on-site survey has been conducted, Victoria Dirst from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources was contacted and has no knowledge of any archaeological or historical sites present on this parcel.

14. **Other Special Resources (e.g., State Natural Areas, prime agricultural lands)**

No special resources are known.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES (probable adverse and beneficial impacts including primary, indirect and secondary impacts)

15. **Physical (include visual if applicable)**

This action would cause Douglas County to lose 1.61 acres of county forest land.

16. **Biological (include impacts to threatened/endangered species)**

No biological consequences are anticipated. The aspen cover type that is present on this parcel is well represented on nearby Douglas County Forest land.

17. **Cultural**

a. **Land Use (include indirect and secondary impacts)**

This parcel will no longer be forested.

b. **Social/Economic (include ethnic and cultural groups, and zoning if applicable)**

No consequences are foreseen at this time.

c. **Archaeological/Historical**

No consequences are foreseen at this time.

18. Other Special Resources (e.g., State Natural Areas, prime agricultural lands))

No consequences are foreseen at this time.

19. Summary of Adverse Impacts That Cannot Be Avoided (more fully discussed in 15 through 18)

The main impact is that Douglas County will lose 1.61 acres of forest.

ALTERNATIVES (no action - enlarge - reduce - modify - other locations and/or methods)

20. Identify, describe and discuss feasible alternatives to the proposed action and their impacts. Give particular attention to alternatives which might avoid some or all adverse environmental effects.

No action: Land would remain as Douglas County Forest land and would be managed with the rest of the Douglas County Forest. The Town of Summit Cemetery would not be able to expand.

Other locations: Other locations are not practical for the Town of Summit.

EVALUATION OF PROJECT SIGNIFICANCE (Complete each item)

21. Significance of Environmental Effects

- a. Would the proposed project or related activities substantially change the quality of the environment (physical, biological, socio-economic)? Explain.

This withdrawal should not substantially change the quality of the environment due to its small size and the abundance of this same aspen cover type on adjacent forest land.

- b. Discuss the significance of short-term and long-term environmental effects of the proposed project including secondary effects; particularly to geographically scarce resources such as historic or cultural resources, scenic and recreational resources, prime agricultural lands, threatened or endangered species or ecologically sensitive areas. (The reversibility of an action affects the extent or degree of impact)

There should not be significant impacts on historic or cultural resources and threatened or endangered species or ecologically sensitive areas since these resources are not currently identified on this parcel.

22. Significance of Cumulative Effects.

Discuss the significance of reasonably anticipated cumulative effects on the environment. Consider cumulative effects from repeated projects of the same type. What is the likelihood that similar projects would be repeated? Would the cumulative effects be more severe or substantially change the quality of the environment? Include other activities planned or proposed in the area that would compound effects on the environment.

There is the possibility that similar requests may be received. Each request will be handled on its own merit. The Douglas County 10 Year Comprehensive plan will guide decisions.

23. Significance of Risk

- a. Explain the significance of any unknowns which create substantial uncertainty in predicting effects on the quality of the environment. What additional studies or analyses would eliminate or reduce these unknowns? Explain why these studies were not done.

The small size and abundant aspen cover type in this area should preclude any significant risk to the environment.

- b. Explain the environmental significance of reasonably anticipated operating problems such as malfunctions, spills, fires, or other hazards (particularly those relating to health or safety). Consider reasonable detection and emergency response, and discuss the potential for these hazards.

There are no anticipated operating problems that would cause a significant impact on the environment.

24. Significance of Precedent

- a. Would a decision on this proposal influence future decisions or foreclose options that may additionally affect the quality of the environment? Explain the significance.

This action may set a precedent but each request would be handled as explained in #22.

- b. Describe any conflicts the proposal has with plans or policy of local, state or federal agencies that provide for the protection of the environment. Explain the significance.

There are no known conflicts.

25. Discuss the effects on the quality of the environment, including socio-economic effects, that are (or are likely to be) highly controversial, and summarize the controversy.

There are no known controversial effects to the environment.

26. Explain other factors that should be considered in determining the significance of the proposal.

All factors have been previously covered.

SUMMARY OF ISSUE IDENTIFICATION ACTIVITIES

27. Summarize citizen and agency involvement activities (completed and proposed).

The Town of Summit approached Douglas County about purchasing a 10 acre parcel for expansion of their cemetery.

Douglas County Forestry Committee and County Board of Supervisors approved this withdrawal and sale.

The Town of Summit asked for a reduction to 1.61 acres instead of the 10 acres that they had originally requested.

This amendment was approved by Douglas County.

28. List agencies, groups and individuals contacted regarding the project (include DNR personnel and title).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comment Summary</u>
9/21/95	Douglas County Board of Supervisors	Resolution #176-95 approved withdrawal
2/5/99	Douglas County Forest Administrator	Amended application to 1.61 acres
3/30/99	Victoria Dirst DNR Archeologist	No known historical features.
3/30/99	David Heath DNR Endangered Resources Specialist	No known endangered or threatened resources.

DECISION (This decision is not final until certified by the appropriate authority)

In accordance with s. 1.11, Stats., and Ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code, the Department is authorized and required to determine whether it has complied with s. 1.11, Stats., and Ch. NR 150, Wis. Adm. Code.

29. Complete either A or B below.

A. EIS Process Not Required []

Analysis of the expected impacts of this proposal is of sufficient scope and detail to conclude that this is not a major action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. In my opinion therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required prior to final action by the Department on this project.

B. Major Action Requiring the Full EIS Process []

The proposal is of such magnitude and complexity with such considerable and important impacts on the quality of the human environment that it constitutes a major action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Rod Feaks

Signature of Evaluator

8/21/00

Date Signed

Brad D. Johnson

Noted: Team/Sub-team Supervisor or Bureau Director

8/24/00

Date Signed

Copy of news release or other notice attached? Yes [] No

Number of responses to public notice 0

Public response log attached? Yes [] No

CERTIFIED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH WEPA

William Spatz
Regional Director or Director of ISS (or designee)

10/5/00

Date Signed

NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS

If you believe that you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that Wisconsin statutes and administrative rules establish time periods within which requests to review Department decisions must be filed.

For judicial review of a decision pursuant to sections 227.52 and 227.53, Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to file your petition with the appropriate circuit court and serve the petition on the Department. Such a petition for judicial review shall name the Department of Natural Resources as the respondent.

To request a contested case hearing pursuant to section 227.42, Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to serve a petition for hearing on the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. The filing of a request for a contested case hearing is not a prerequisite for judicial review and does not extend the 30-day period for filing a petition for judicial review.

Note: Not all Department decisions respecting environmental impact, such as those involving solid waste or hazardous waste facilities under sections 144.43 to 144.47 and 144.60 to 144.74, Stats., are subject to the contested case hearing provisions of section 227.42, Stats.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 227.48(2), Stats.

8-19-92

DUG NW046 14

Parcel





