

File# FI 2677 - Marquette County - 20 acres

The Department acquired this property as part of a larger acquisition in 2001. At the time of approval the Natural Resources Board approved the sale of these 20 acres outside the Mecan River Fishery Area project boundary.

The Department has not made significant improvements to this property; however a well maintained field access road exists on the parcel. This access road is used by the public to access the larger Fishery Area property. There is also a proposal for a parking area along 14th Ave for better access to State owned property. Management of the property has included removal of former fence lines to allow for better public access across the field.

The parcel is located within the Comstock Bog and Germania Marsh Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) - Upper Midwest Significance, and currently provides critical habitat identified in the Wildlife Action Plan for the COA. The parcel is also within the high potential range for the Karner Blue Butterfly. In addition, critical dry upland prairie and lupine habitat is found on and near the property.

The master plan for this property has not been updated to include changing property boundaries and project boundary goals. There is a current timber sale planned for the parcel and the surrounding Department ownership.

There is a current long term farming agreement on this parcel. Due to the presence of this agricultural crop field, the parcel has significant hunter use for fall deer, small game and spring turkey hunting. The farmer is also willing to consider providing additional hunting opportunities by specifically manipulating his crops to attract mourning doves. Due to this farming agreement, there is very little time or cost associated with managing and maintaining this parcel.

This parcel has excellent upland dry prairie habitat and hunting was observed during the site visit during field review.

Sale of this parcel would create additional management issues related to increased property boundary and non-visible ownership lines.

The Department recommends retaining this parcel.

