

File# FI 2695- Waushara County - 19 acres

The Department acquired this property for \$251,000 in 2002. At the time of acquisition, the Natural Resources Board approved utilizing these 19 acres outside the project boundary for future land trades.

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 and critical dry upland prairie and lupine habitat is found on and near the property.

The Department has made investments in removing debris and other items from the parcel and there is a long term plan to restore and upland dry area of the parcel. State Turkey Stamp dollars and sharecrop revenue has been identified to be used on this parcel to improve upland nesting and brood rearing habitat for wild turkeys. To accomplish this work, a portion of the parcel that was formerly farmed, is planned to utilize a farming agreement to convert the upland idle field to upland dry habitat. This will improve nesting and brood rearing habitat for wild turkeys and upland songbirds. Also, critical Karner Blue Butterfly habitat will be restored.

Currently very little time or cost is associated with maintaining the property.

The property has an active timber sale marked for sale. There is a snowmobile trail that runs through the property, and there is a gate located in the Northwest corner of the property to prevent illegal Equine travel throughout the larger department parcel.

The property is accessible now through other Department lands, but if sold will be a landlocked parcel.

The Department recommends that the Natural Resources Board offer this land for sale under the authority granted by s. 23.145 Stats.

