

File# FO 82 [3) — Vilas County - 38.3 acres

The Department acquired this property in 1912 from Northern Blue Grass Land Company. This parcel is a part of the Northern Highlands exclusion zones. The NHAL Master Plan, approved by NRB action in 2005, included acquisition exclusion areas in and around the Towns of Manitowish Waters, Boulder Junction, Sayner, St. Germain, and Lake Tomahawk. These exclusion areas were originally removed from the Northern Highland and American Legion State Forest Administrative boundaries in 1975 by NRB action. The 1982 and 2005 NHAL Master Plans recognized this action and the continued interests of the local Towns for these areas to remain as exclusion areas and not be included in the NHAL project boundary. The intent of the 1975 action, and the two subsequent master plan actions, was to adjust the project boundary and remove lands from the NHAL project boundary, as well as the State Forest designation. The rationale for all three actions was to allow the Department the ability to divest the lands by trade or sale, for more appropriate forested lands within the NHAL and allowing the Towns to direct local growth and development in and around their communities.

This is a productive Northern Hardwoods stand that had improvements done in 2005 to improve the existing uneven aged sawlog timber. The property provides habitat for interior bird and animal species. There are logging road access points along the western edge of this parcel where cars can pull off and park to use the property. There is a logging/skid trail that runs through this parcel as well as extensive undesignated trails that are worn down by hikers and dog walkers. There is a designated snowmobile trail that runs on a private road and the town road in the northwest corner of the parcel. There has been little investment by the Department, other than timber management.

The Department recommends that the Natural Resources Board offer this land for sale under the authority granted by s. 23.145 Stats. subject to an easement for the existing snowmobile trail.

