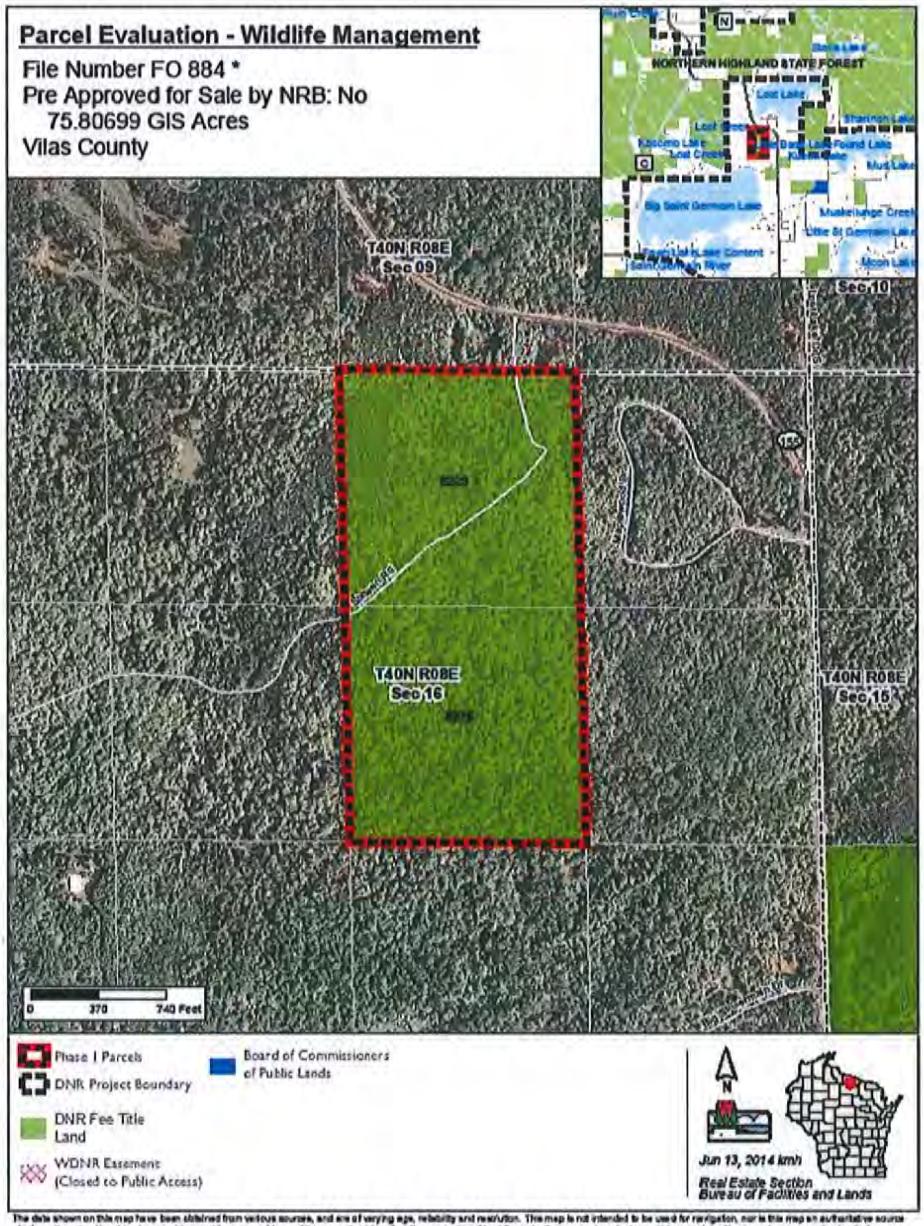
File# FO 884 – Vilas County 75.81 Acres

This parcel was purchased in 1962 and was located within the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest Boundary at the time. 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 property is accessible by a town road that is used as a snowmobile trail in winter. Vilas County has expressed concern about losing a snowmobile route that may cross this property and the Department intends to convey an easement to the County to protect the trail corridor.

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