

Parent File G 2035 /Sale File WM 60429 – Barron County 69.19 Acres

The Department acquired this parcel for \$5,000 in 1966. The parcel is a part of the Extensive Wildlife Habitat project and is located in the Town of Almena in Barron County. This land was acquired for the purpose of developing a waterfowl flowage, which has been since abandoned because of the high cost per acre.

The parcel has approximately 1,310 feet of two-bank frontage along an unnamed creek. In addition, there are several ponds located on the eastern half of the parcel. There is a connected parcel to the west as well as a slightly separated parcel to the north, both being proposed to be offered for sale.

The parcel is accessible to the public and the Department via Highway eight on the south end and 14 ½ Avenue on the north end.

This parcel does show evidence of hunting and hiking. Because it is within city limits, there is no discharge of firearms but there is bow hunting for deer. There are some open water ponds on this parcel.

Investments on the parcel include a one-acre red pine plantation on the south end and a ring of white spruce planted around the field on the north end. The field had been planted to warm season grass that is succeeding to cool season grasses and goldenrod. The larger open water ponds on the north end are made by damming waterways.

A timber sale to regenerate aspen, thin red pine and manage other tree species has been set up however not sold.

The Department recommends that the Natural Resources Board offer this land for sale under the authority granted by s. 23.145 Wis. Stats., and that the land be offered first to the Village of Almena, subject to deed restrictions requiring the land be open to the general public for all five NBOA's in perpetuity, and secondly be offered to the general public, after completion of the planned timber sale.

Recommendation by the Natural Resources Board at the October 26, 2016 meeting directs the Department to retain this parcel.



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