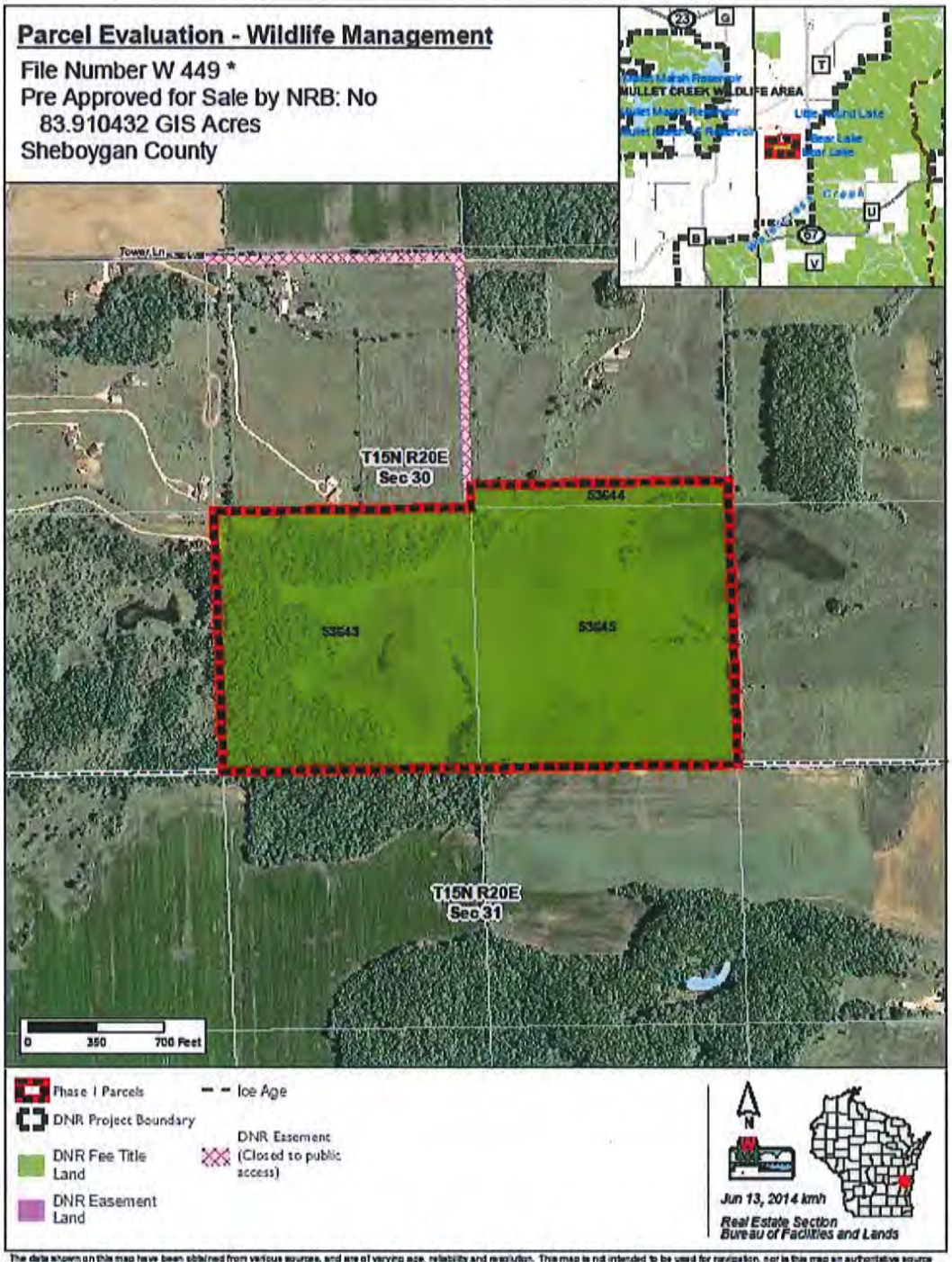
File# W 449 – Sheboygan County 83.91 Acres

The Department purchased this property in 1982. This parcel does not abut other Department lands, but is just outside the Kettle Moraine State Forest Northern Unit project boundary. There is no public access, but a management access easement does exist for Department staff. This parcel is part of a network of scattered properties that function as waterfowl refuges, and (also) serve to attract more waterfowl to the nearby public hunting areas of Bear Lake marsh and Mullet Creek Wildlife Area. These small parcels provide migratory habitat and nesting and brooding habitat. Approximately 35-acres of native grasses were planted by the Department about 15-years ago to provide upland nesting cover adjacent to the wetland pot-holes on this parcel at a cost of about $5,000. Prescribed burning occurs every 5 to 7-years at a cost of about $300 each time, and periodic exotic/invasive plant control has been done every 2 to 3-years at a cost of about $100 each time. No timber management is being considered at this time. This parcel is located in a priority township of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. These townships have the highest potential of providing critical waterfowl habitat. One of the goals of this plan is to restore or enhance wetland-upland complexes and protect existing complexes, using fee title and perpetual easements. Waterfowl brood surveys conducted by Plymouth Wildlife staff in the 1980s document Mallard and Blue-winged Teal production on this parcel. Of the 83.91 acres, 11 are prime agricultural soils in non-forested areas. The rest of the property is highly erodible soils, wetland soil types or high slopes.

The Department recommends retaining this parcel.



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