

File# WR 500 C (3) - Iron County - 400.1 acres

The Department acquired this property as a part of a larger acquisition in 1999. At the time of approval, the Natural Resources Board directed the Department to enter into discussions regarding resale or exchange of up to 7,000 acres of land to County or Tribal governments.

The property has approximately 2,488 feet of frontage on Caroline Lake and is comprised of both uplands and wetlands. Caroline Lake was identified in 2007 as a wild lake and was given a score of 20 points, which is the highest level possible using the wild lakes criteria.

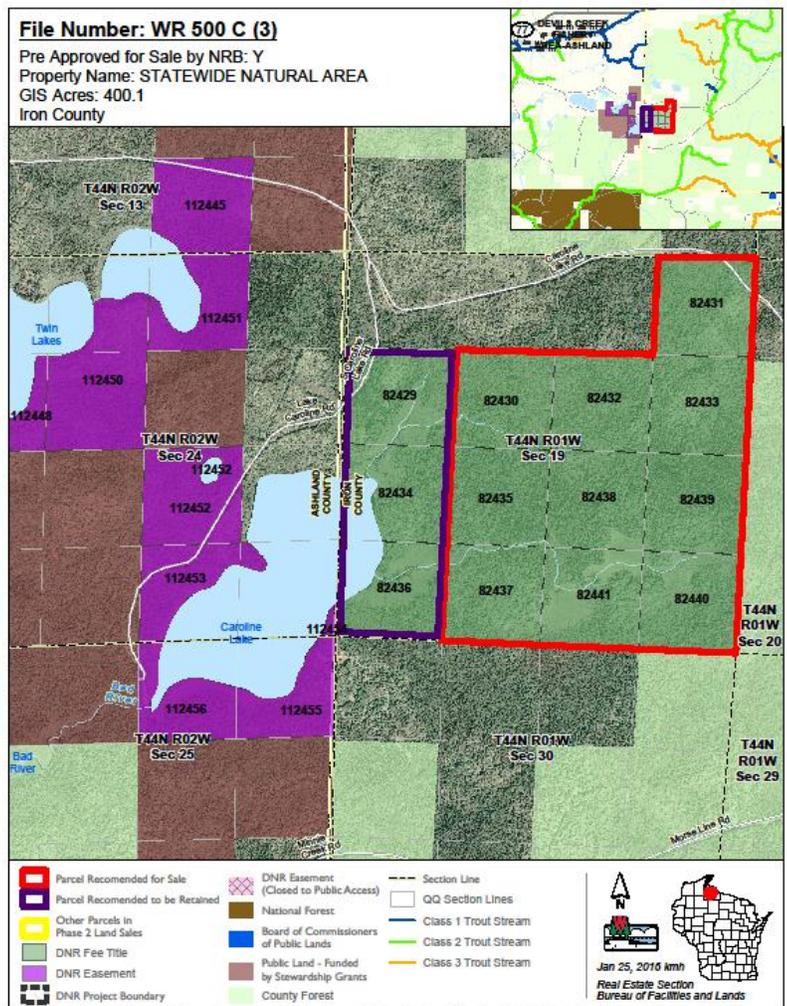
The property is accessible through Caroline Lake Road. The Department holds easements around the lake and the Nature Conservancy owns property around the lake that was funded through a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant.

The Department has invested staff time developing management plans for the property resulting in an Interim Forest Management Plan. Because of this work, a timber sale was established on the property in 2013 and is currently under contract to be cut. Additional timber sales have been discussed by Department staff, but none are in the establishment phase.

The Department recommends that the Natural Resources Board offer a portion of this property only to Iron County (400.1 acres) for sale under the authority granted by s. 23.145 Wis. Stats., subject to a deed restrictions prohibiting development of the property and that the land be open to the public for all five NBOA's in perpetuity. There will also be a requirement that the management of the property follow the Department's Interim Forest Management Plan.

The Department also recommends retaining a portion of this property (130.7 acres) to maintain state ownership adjacent to Caroline Lake, a wild lake.

Recommendation by the Natural Resources Board at the February 24, 2016 meeting directs the Department to offer this property for sale to the County as recommended by the Department excepting the requirement that the Interim Forest Management Plan is followed. Instead that the property be enrolled in the County Forest program and be subject to the restrictions under that program.



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