

Parent File FI 2809/Sale File FM 10398– Lincoln County 80.62 Acres

The Department acquired this parcel as a part of a larger acquisition for \$248,000 in 2005 as part of the Prairie River Fishery Area located in the Town of Birch in Lincoln County. At the time of approval, the Natural Resources Board approved the 120 acres, located outside the project boundary, to be examined for conservation value and recommendation to expand the project boundary or to sell or exchange that portion.

There is not legal road access to the portion of the parcel being proposed for sale. Public access would be through other Department lands.

The portion being recommended to be retained has an access easement off of Grundy Road. Substantial investments in staff time have been made to establish public access to this parcel from Grundy Road. Once logging is completed on the property, the easement will be open for vehicle access. Other investments have been made to improve the access road on the property through a Conservation Infrastructure project.

Currently a 77-acre timber sale is under contract, with an estimated value of \$82,000 in future timber sale revenue. Part of that timber sale contract required the contractor to gravel several hundred feet of road and build and gravel a parking lot on the land being proposed to retain. Even though the State has not directly invested in these particular road improvements and infrastructure, they are an investment by the state. These improvements will be paid for by the state accepting a reduced amount to stumpage value for the timber.

Further, an additional 54 acres of timber are under contract on adjacent state lands. The only reasonable access to these lands is through the parcel the Department is recommending to retain.

The Department recommends that the Natural Resources Board retain the southeast 40-acre parcel and offer the western 80-acres for sale under the authority granted by s. 23.145 Wis. Stats., and the land be only offered to Lincoln County, subject to a deed restriction requiring the land be open to the general public for all five NBOA's in perpetuity.

