



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT

LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES  
DIRECTOR

July 12, 2010

TO: Rebecca A. Humphries, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

Transaction: DNRE/MDOT Transportation Corridor Easement Acquisition  
Baraga Management Unit – Baraga County  
Baraga to Arnheim Railroad Corridor  
Land Transaction Case #20100123

Purchase: 10.71 linear miles - \$67,860.00

Description: See “Exhibit A” for complete legal description

Seller: Wisconsin Central Ltd., Homewood, Illinois

Authority: Part 5 and 19, Act 451, Public Acts of 1994, as amended  
PA 295 of 1976, State Transportation Preservation Act, as amended  
Part III, MDOT/DNR Memorandum of Agreement, June 26, 2009

Notice: This item will appear on the Department’s August 2, 2010 Calendar, and is eligible for approval on August 9, 2010.

Comments: In 2009, the DNRE and MDOT entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the purpose of setting forth the roles and responsibilities in the acquisition, development, management, and maintenance of certain transportation corridors for interim use as motorized and non motorized trails.

Per the MOA, when a transportation corridor with the potential of becoming a trail is identified, the DNRE and MDOT mutually agree on the method of acquisition and the role of each agency for making the acquisition.

The subject 10.71 mile long railroad corridor, stretching north from Baraga to the Houghton/Baraga County line (Baraga to Arnheim), has been identified by DNRE and MDOT staff as a transportation corridor to acquire pursuant to the MOA.

The DNRE is partnering with MDOT, under authority provided by PA 295 of 1976, the State Transportation Preservation Act, to acquire the remaining railroad operating easement rights in the corridor held by Wisconsin Central Ltd.

Both Departments currently have an ownership interest in this railroad corridor north from the Houghton/Baraga County line. The acquisition of the offered rights will preserve the corridor for future transportation use, while allowing trail use in the interim.

Recommendations:

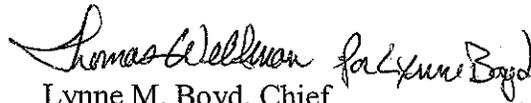
- (1) That the purchase of the offered remaining rights to the Baraga to Arnheim Railroad Corridor, a distance of 10.71 miles, more or less, be approved with payment to be made from funds appropriated from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, State Trailways Acquisition Initiative as contained in Act 59 of 2007.
- (2) That the Director request that MDOT acquire the remaining rights in the Baraga to Arnheim Railroad Corridor.
- (3) That the Department include this MDOT transportation corridor as part of the trail system managed by the Department.
- (4) That the property be dedicated for public use and administered by the Forest Management Division.

July 12, 2010

(5) That the lands described above be acquired for use as a Michigan Trailway and designated as such when the legislated requirements are met, pursuant to Part 721 of Act 451, Public Acts of 1994, as amended.



David E. Freed, Chief  
Land and Facilities



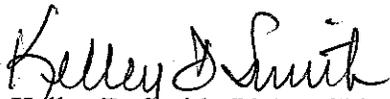
Lynne M. Boyd, Chief  
Forest Management Division



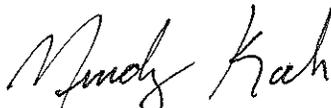
Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief  
Wildlife Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief  
Recreation Division



Kelley D. Smith, Ph.D., Chief  
Fisheries Division



Mindy Koch, Deputy Director  
Resource Management



Frank Ruswick, Deputy Director  
Stewardship

I approve the staff recommendation.

Rebecca A. Humphries  
Director

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Date Approved

**EXHIBIT A**  
**BARAGA – ARNHEIM RAILROAD CORRIDOR**  
**LTA #20100123**

All that portion of the Wisconsin Central Ltd.'s Branch Line right-of-way and property between the South line of the North Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 27, Township 51 North, Range 33 West, at or about former Soo Line Mile Post 23.1 and the North line of Section 4, Township 52 North, Range 33 West, at or about former Soo Line Mile Post 33.81, now discontinued, varying in width on each side of the Wisconsin Central Ltd.'s Main Track centerline, as originally located and constructed upon, over and across the following described real estate in Baraga County, Michigan:

Township 51 North, Range 33 West

Section 27: the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter;  
Section 22: Government Lots 1, 2, and 3 and the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter;  
Section 15: Government Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4;  
Section 10: Government Lots 3 and 4;  
Section 9: the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter and the East Half of the Northeast Quarter;  
Section 4: the East Half of the East Half;  
Section 3: Government Lots 3 and 4 and the West Half of the Northwest Quarter; Also,

Township 52 North, Range 33 West

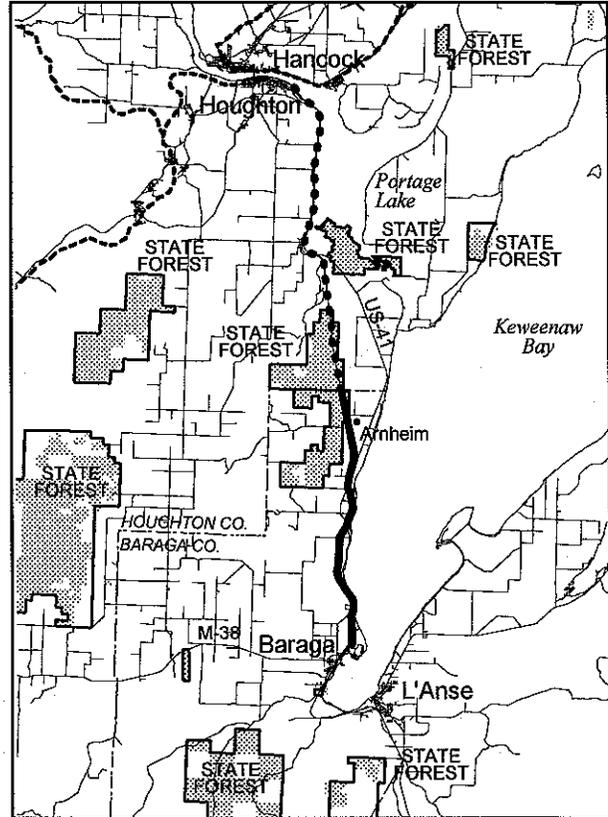
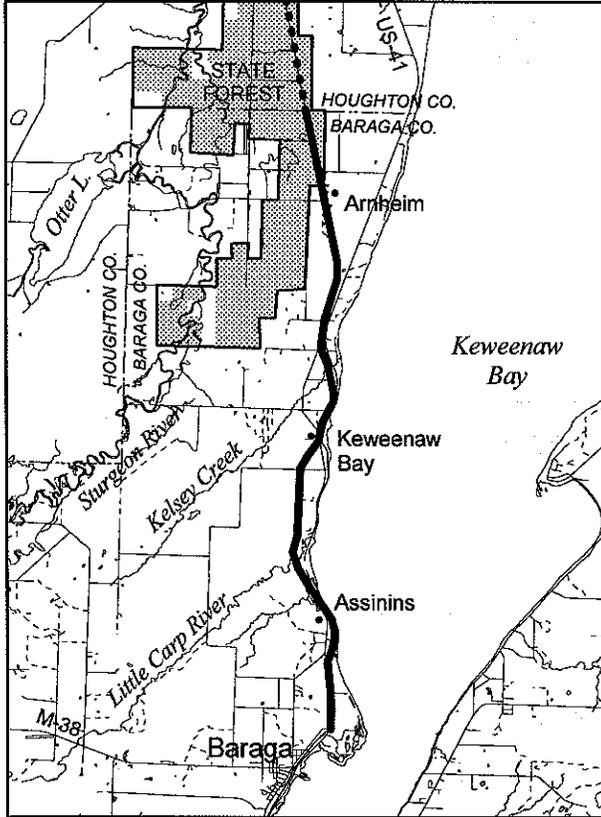
Section 33: the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter;  
Section 34: the West Half of the Southwest Quarter, the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter and Government Lots 1, 2, and 3;  
Section 27: Government Lots 1, 2, 3, and 4;  
Section 22: Government Lots 3 and 4 and the East Half of the Northwest Quarter;  
Section 15: the East Half of the West Half and the West Half of the Southeast Quarter;  
Section 10: the West Half;  
Section 3: the West Half of the West Half;  
Section 4: the East Half of the Northeast Quarter;

**LESS AND EXCEPT** the "Wye" area located westerly of the above described 100-foot-wide right-of-way in said Government Lot 4 in Section 27 and Government Lots 1 and 2 in Section 34, Township 52 North, Range 33 West.

Herein above described property is bounded on the South by the South line of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 27, Township 51 North, Range 33 West, Baraga County, Michigan at or about former Soo Line Mile Post 23.1 and bounded on the North by the North line of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 4, Township 52 North, Range 33 West, Baraga County, Michigan, at or about Mile Post 33.81.

# DNRE/MDOT TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR EASEMENT ACQUISITION

Baraga Management Unit - Baraga County  
Baraga to Arnheim Railroad Corridor  
Land Transaction Case #20100123



Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 22, and 27, T51N, R33W  
Sections 3, 4, 10, 15, 22, 27, 33, and 34, T52N, R33W  
Baraga Township

Regional Location

- State Forest boundary
- Railroad corridor to be acquired by DNRE/MDOT (10.71 linear miles - \$67,860.00)
- Current DNRE/MDOT ownership
- Other DNRE trails
- State land
- Private land

