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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

June 12, 2007

TO: Rebecca A. Humphries, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

Transaction: Wildlife Land Acquisition and Boundary Adjustment
Escanaba Management Unit – Delta and Menominee Counties
The Plum Creek Land Company Tract
Land Transaction Case #20060270

Purchase Price: 1,839.95 acres - \$1,431,000.00

Description: Delta County, Cornell Township, T41N, R24W, Section 18: SW ¼; NW ¼ except the W ½ of NW ¼ of SW ¼ of NW ¼, Section 19: W ½ of W ½; NE ¼ of NW ¼; NW ¼ of NE ¼; SE ¼ of SW ¼ lying West of Ford River. Section 30: NW ¼ of NW ¼ lying North and West of the Ford River; NE ¼ of NW ¼ lying North and West of Ford River, and Menominee County, Harris Township, T41N, R25W, Section 13: SE ¼, Section 23: N ½; N ½ of S ½, Section 24: N ½; SE ¼; N ½ of SW ¼, together with easement(s) for ingress and egress to all lands described above.

Seller: Plum Creek Land Company, a Delaware Corporation, Seattle, Washington

Option Expires: July 31, 2007

Stipulation: The Department of Natural Resources (Department) will be responsible for payment of cost incurred by Plum Creek to remove the lands from the Commercial Forest Act. Withdrawal fee is estimated to be \$95,000.00.

Property Taxes: The property taxes for 2006 were \$2,031.65.

Authority: Part 5 of Act 451, Public Acts of 1994, as amended

Notice: This item will appear on the Department's July 2, 2007 Calendar and is eligible for approval on July 9, 2007.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Keith J. Charters, Chair • Mary Brown • Hurley J. Coleman, Jr. • Darnell Earley • John Madigan • J. R. Richardson • Frank Wheatlake

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Comments:

The offered private parcel is located in eastern Menominee County and western Delta County, approximately 22 miles northwest of the City of Gladstone. This property is considered to be part of the Vega deer-yarding complex, representing critical habitat worthy of conservation efforts. This complex has been historically significant for wintering deer from a large area throughout the central portion of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

The 1,839.95-acre tract displays a gently-rolling terrain characterized by drumlins dominated by mixed conifer lowlands and deciduous uplands. The parcel contains approximately 3/4 of a mile of frontage along the north shore of the Ford River, a warm water fishery, and nearly one mile of an unnamed tributary to the Ford River which traverses the northeasterly portion of the tract. Primary access to the parcel is available from the northeast, two and one-half miles from the community of Hendricks, via good quality forest roads. Interior roads provide good access throughout and State-owned lands adjoin on three sides.

As part of this transaction, the Department coordinated efforts with Plum Creek Land Company representatives to accommodate its desire to harvest a portion of this property while maintaining the Department's desire to protect valuable habitat attributes. The harvest operations have been completed and inspected by Department personnel to confirm that the agreements have been accomplished. The harvest specifications were unique and designed to minimize environmental impact and ensure winter food and thermal complex attributes.

This parcel represents another in a series of acquisitions in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Northern Lower Peninsula, intended to protect the "winter-complex habitat" used by deer during the winter season. The parcel offers the opportunity for deer to have food and shelter in close proximity that will enhance winter survival. State ownership will also allow the Department to institute management techniques designed to enhance this "winter-complex habitat" on State-owned land.

Acquisition of this large parcel will contribute to the Department's goal of consolidating State ownership, limiting land fragmentation, securing wildlife corridors, enhancing forest and wildlife management potential, and increasing public recreational opportunities in this portion of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

The purchase will include mineral rights owned by the seller.

Recommendations:

(1) That this tract be approved for purchase with payment to be made from funds appropriated for Deer Range Habitat Acquisition, as contained in Act 153, Public Acts of 2006.

(2) That the Department pay the cost of withdrawing the land from the Commercial Forest Act.

(3) That the boundary of the Escanaba Management Unit be adjusted to include all of these lands following completion of the purchase.

David E. Freed, Chief
Land and Facilities

William E. Moritz, Chief
Wildlife

Lynn M. Boyd, Chief
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management

Kelley D. Smith, Chief
Fisheries

Arminda S. Koch
Resource Management Deputy

Dennis R. Fedewa
Chief Deputy

I approve the staff recommendations.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

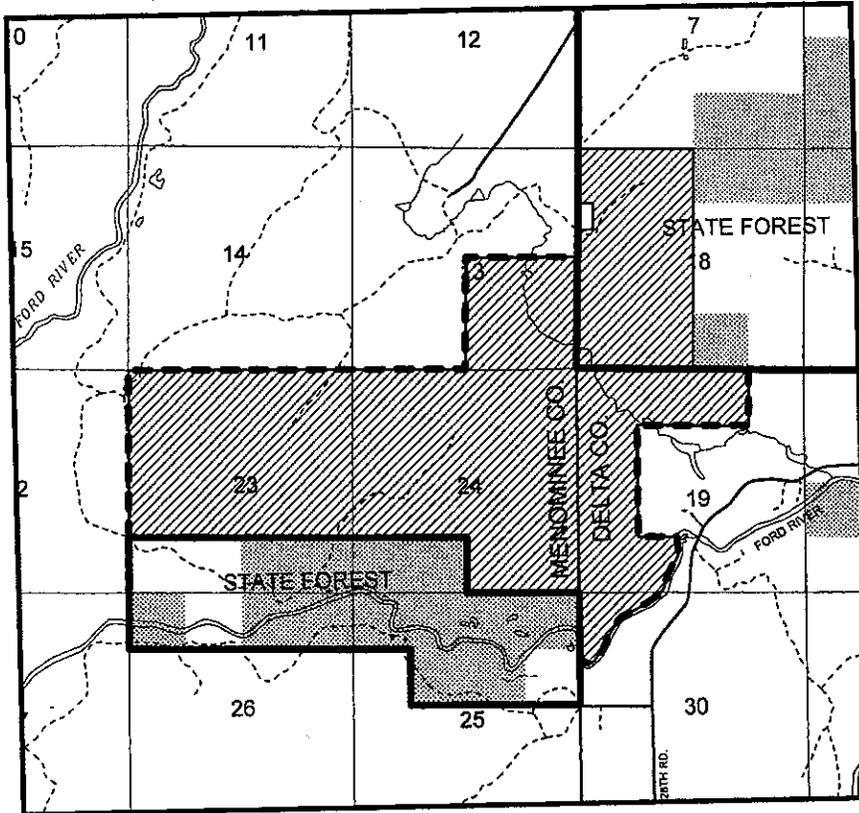
Date Approved

WILDLIFE LAND ACQUISITION AND BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

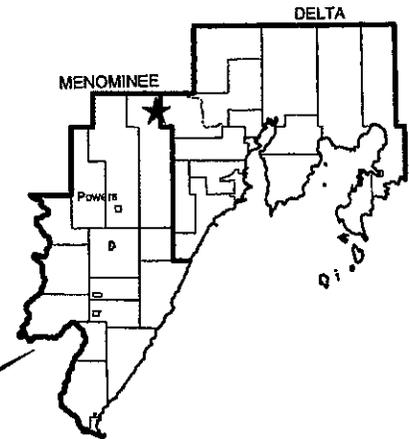
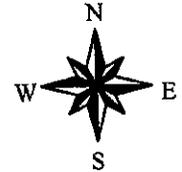
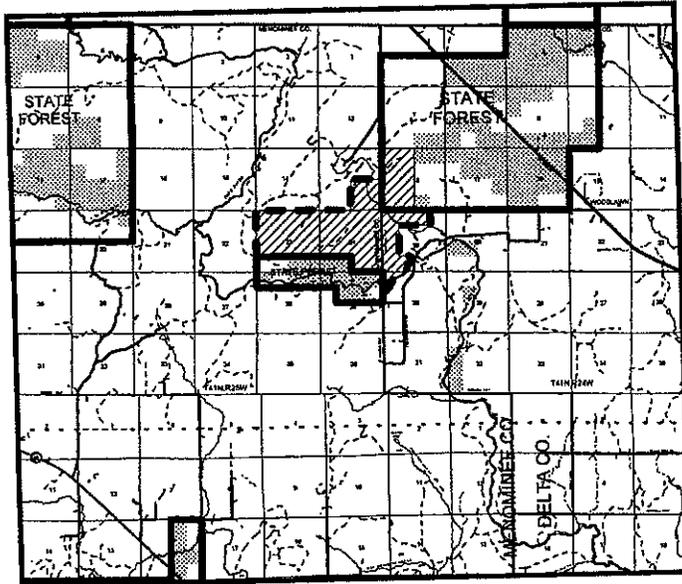
Escanaba Management Unit - Delta and Menominee Counties

The Plum Creek Land Company Tract

Land Transaction Case #20060270



Sections 13, 23, 24, T41N, R25W, Harris Township, Menominee County
 Sections 18, 19, 30, T41N, R24W, Cornell Township, Delta County



- State Forest Boundary
- - - Boundary Adjustment
- ▨ Land Offered to DNR (1,839.95 acres - \$1,431,000.00)
- ▤ State Land
- Private Land

SOURCE
 MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 FOREST, MINERAL AND FIRE MANAGEMENT

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