



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

June 17, 2013

TO: Keith Creagh, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

Transaction: State Forest Land Acquisition
Pigeon River Country Management Unit – Otsego County
The Jensen Tract
Land Transaction Case #20120240

Purchase: 25 acres, more or less. \$80,000.00

PA 240 of 2012: PILT Estimate: \$565.49
This parcel is north of the Mason-Arenac County line and will result in an increase of 25 counted acres. There are no excluded acres as a part of this transaction.

Description: Otsego County, Charlton Township, T31N, R01W, The North 25 acres of the N1/2 of the NE1/4, lying East of Tin Shanty Road in Section 10.

Seller(s): Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Missoula, MT, on behalf of John Jensen, Hartland, MI.

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

Notice: This item will appear on the Department of Natural Resources (Department) July 2, 2013, calendar, and is eligible for approval on July 9, 2013.

Purpose: The vacant property is a key in-holding within the Pigeon River Country Management Unit that will further protect Michigan's elk range. Acquiring the tract will ensure the land remains its natural state, safeguarding development within the Pigeon River and continue to provide a corridor for elk to travel with the least amount of human-related disturbance. The purchase of the land will occur through a cooperative partnership between the Department and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, illustrating how the Department will increase collaboration in the future as documented in the Public Land Management Strategy.

Comments: The offered tract is located in Otsego County, approximately 15 miles northeast of the city of Gaylord, and within the boundary of the Pigeon River Country Management Unit. Bounded on all sides by State-owned land, the acquisition secures more than one square mile of consecutive DNR-managed public lands. The following characteristics make it a priority acquisition for the Department:

- Adjacent to State-owned land – Completely surround by existing State forest lands.
- Access – the property has approximately one-quarter mile frontage on Tin Shanty Road, a county maintained road.
- Topography and cover – the tract is dominated by northern hardwoods, primarily sugar maple and basswood.
- Wildlife – the property is located within the elk range. It contains excellent deer, bear, bobcat, ruffed grouse, woodcock and furbearer habitat.

The acquisition of this tract has been a collaborative project between the Department and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF). With a similar mission and shared goals, RMEF stepped in and secured an option on the tract in order for the Department to pursue the purchase of the in-holding. The highly desirable tract would not have been on the market long enough for the Department to secure the property. RMEF volunteered to assist the Department in holding the property until the DNR could acquire the tract, preventing the potential development of the sensitive land and subdivision for private recreation purposes.

Acquisition of this parcel will contribute to the Department's goals of consolidating State ownership, securing wildlife habitat, enhancing forest management, and increasing public recreation opportunities.

Support: Otsego County and Charlton Township support this acquisition.

Recommendation: That the acquisition be approved, with payment from the Land Exchange Facilitation Fund, Game & Fish Subfund.

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

William O'Neill, Chief
Forest Resources Division

James L. Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division

William E. Moritz, Ph.D.
Natural Resources Deputy

Mark H. Hoffman
Chief Administrative Officer

I approve the staff recommendations

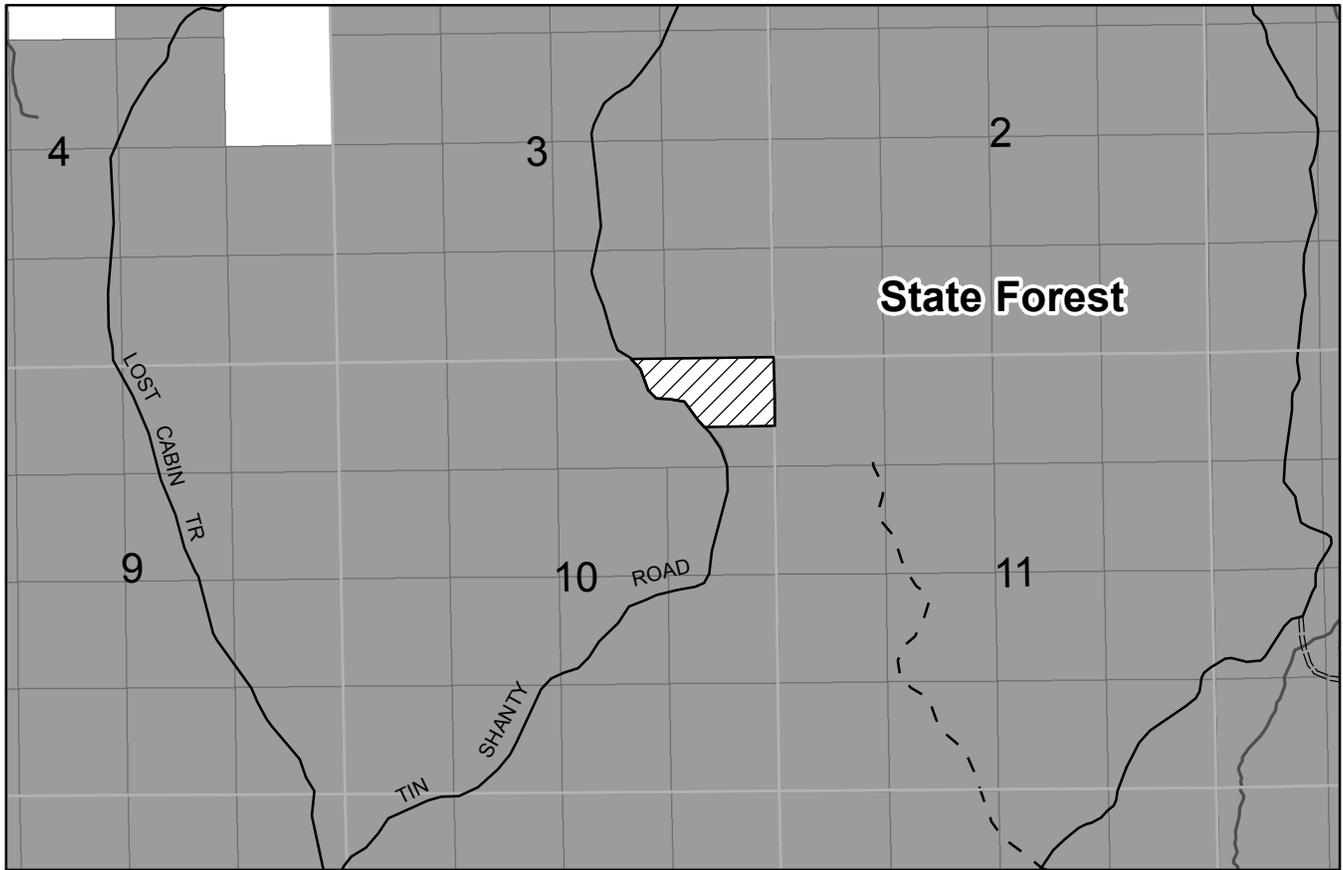
Keith Creagh
Director

Date Approved

STATE FOREST LAND ACQUISITION

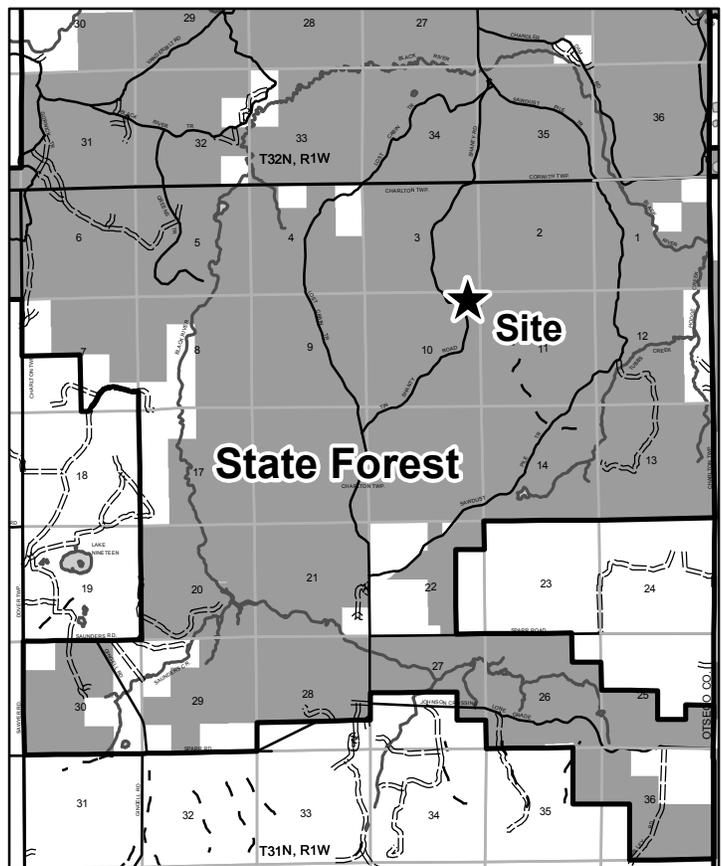
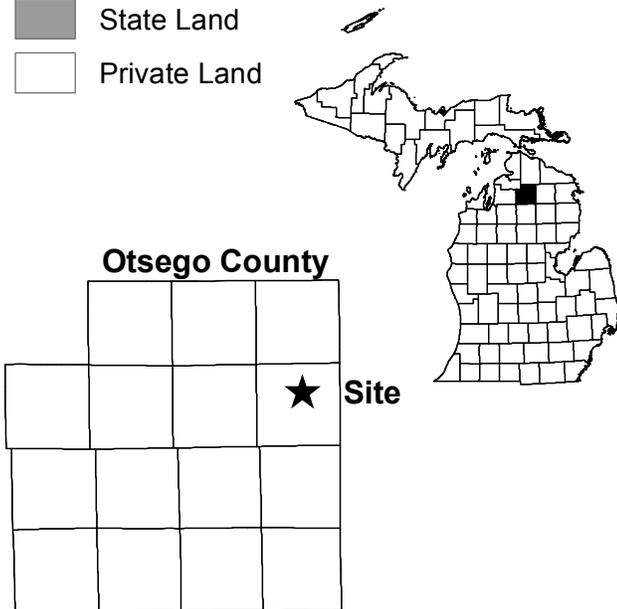
Pigeon River Country Management Unit -- Otsego County

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**Section 10, T31N, R1W
Charlton Township**

-  State Forest Boundary
-  Land Offered to DNR(25 acres--\$80,000)
-  State Land
-  Private Land



Regional Location



DNR -- Finance & Operations Division
Real Estate Services Section
06/06/2013

