



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH  
DIRECTOR

April 14, 2014

TO: Keith Creagh, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

Transaction: Wildlife Land Acquisition  
Allegan State Game Area – Allegan County  
Gate Property, LLC Tract  
Land Transaction Case #20130155

Purchase: 125 acres, more or less. \$228,000.00

PA 240 of 2012: PILT Estimate: \$1,880.00  
This parcel is south of the Mason-Arenac County line and will result in an increase of 125 counted acres. There are no excluded acres as a part of this transaction.

Description: Allegan County, Clyde Township, T2N, R15W, the South 5 acres of the West ½ of the Northeast ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 28; and the Southeast ¼ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 28; and the Northeast ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 28; and the Northwest ¼ of the Southwest ¼ of Section 27; along with a right of way for ingress and egress over the North 16.5 feet of the Southwest ¼ of the Northeast ¼ and 20 feet square in the Northeast corner of the Southeast ¼ of the Northwest ¼ and the East 16.5 feet of the North ½ of the Northwest ¼.

Seller(s): Gate Property, LLC, Fennville, MI.

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

Notice: This item will appear on the Department of Natural Resources (Department) April 29, 2014, calendar, and is eligible for approval on May 6, 2014.

Purpose: This tract further consolidates the Allegan State Game Area and provides valuable habitat for the deer, pheasants and wild turkey.

Comments: This rural southern Michigan 125-acre parcel is within the boundaries of the Allegan State Game Area. The property contains the following characteristics:

- Adjacent to State-owned land – the parcel abuts a large block of existing State-owned lands along one mile of its two mile border.
- Access – the property has an access easement that will provide improved access to a large block of State-owned land.
- Topography and cover – the property is generally flat and is very diverse with multiple wetland habitats, switchgrass fields, wooded areas, and a large pond. The habitats on this property have been well managed as a part of the Department’s Landowner Incentive Program.
- Water frontage – large pond.
- Improvements – none.
- Wildlife - this parcel provides quality wildlife habitat for a variety of wildlife species including deer, pheasants, and wild turkey.

As a result, this property will provide quality opportunities for dispersed public recreation in southern Michigan and will support Michigan’s \$1.3 billion hunting industry by increasing the amount of hunting land available and improving access to existing hunting lands.

The sellers will convey mineral rights relative to this tract, if owned.

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

Engagement: The Department has engaged Clyde Township and Allegan County in discussions regarding this acquisition and has received a resolution of support from the Township. Department staff are having discussions with the County.

Recommendation: That the acquisition be approved, with payment to be made from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Public Land Access and Consolidation – Gate Property project.

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

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Date Approved