



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT  
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES  
DIRECTOR

May 10, 2010

TO: Rebecca A. Humphries, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

Transaction: State Forest Land Exchange  
Crystal Falls Management Unit – Iron County  
Escanaba Management Unit – Delta County  
Land Transaction Case #20100005

Applicant: Darren and Tricia Mercier, Chandler, Arizona

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Private Land Offered In Exchange: Delta County, Bark River Township, T38N, R24W, Section 15,  
SE ¼ of the NW ¼. Containing 40 acres, more or less

Exchange Value: The offered 40-acre private parcel is equal in size to the desired State land.  
The offered parcel has attributes that are superior to the desired parcel, as  
outlined below.

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State Land Desired In Exchange: Iron County, Stambaugh Township, T42N, R34W, Section 7,  
SE ¼ of the NW ¼. Containing 40 acres, more or less

Exchange Value: The desired 40-acre State parcel is equal in size to the offered parcel.  
The desired parcel has attributes that are inferior to the offered parcel, as  
outlined below.

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Authority: Part 21 of Act 451, Public Acts of 1994, as amended

Notice: This item will appear on the Department of Natural Resources and  
Environment's (Department) May 24, 2010 Calendar, and is eligible for  
approval on May 31, 2010.

Comments: This transaction benefits the Department by consolidating ownership,  
enhancing public recreation, and clarifying boundaries within the Crystal  
Falls and Escanaba Management Units. The offered private land is inside  
the State Forest boundary and blocks in well with existing State  
ownership. The parcel includes a forested upland knoll in the northwest  
quarter, with the remainder being lowland. Access to the parcel is  
available across adjacent State Forest land.

The desired State-owned parcel is located outside the State Forest boundary and was approved for disposal in Phase II of the Land Consolidation Strategy. A geologist from the Forest Management Division has determined that the land has been the subject of underground mining operations for iron ore. As a result, a significant portion of the surface has subsided, resulting in uneven topography and depressions with ponding in some areas.

This transaction was reviewed by Department staff and recommended for approval by the Land Exchange Review Committee on February 18, 2010. The Mineral and Land Management staff has advised that the minerals relative to the offered parcel are already State-owned. They recommend that minerals relative to the desired State-owned parcel be conveyed as part of the transaction to keep them unified with the surface.

The desired State-owned land was acquired by tax reversion in 1972. As a result of this exchange, the offered land will assume tax-reverted status.

This transaction adheres to Natural Resources Commission Policy 2627 and the Department's Land Consolidation Strategy through prudent use of the Department's exchange authority. In this transaction, the statutory requirements for a land exchange are satisfied based on offered acreage being equal to the desired State acreage and the transaction being in the best interest of the State. The land characteristics, timber, habitat values, and management efficiencies of this exchange have been thoroughly reviewed by field staff and found to be in favor of the State. For these reasons, the expense of contracting for an appraisal of this exchange was not deemed to provide a benefit to the State and was therefore not undertaken.

Recommendations: (1) That the exchange be approved, under authority of Part 21, Act 451 of 1994, as amended, with the State reserving rights to aboriginal antiquities.

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(2) Mineral rights to the desired State-owned land will be conveyed.



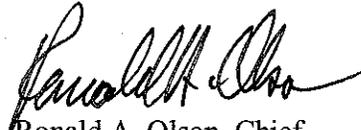
David E. Freed, Chief  
Land and Facilities



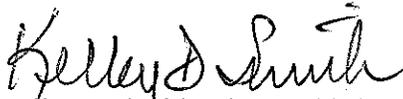
Lynne M. Boyd, Chief  
Forest Management Division



Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief  
Wildlife Division



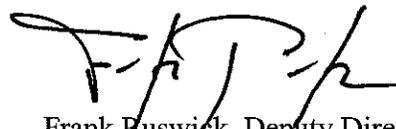
Ronald A. Olson, Chief  
Recreation Division



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



Mindy Koch, Deputy Director  
Resource Management



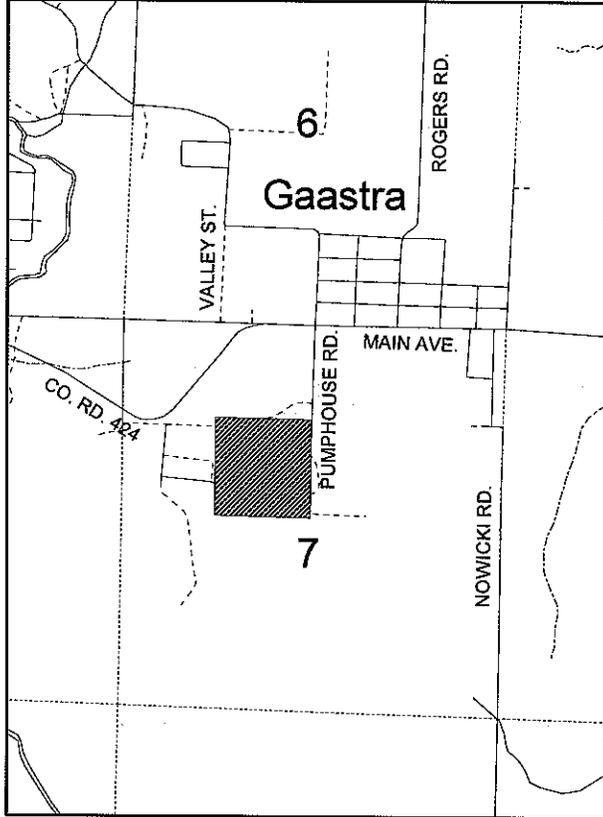
Frank Ruswick, Deputy Director  
Stewardship

I approve the staff recommendations.

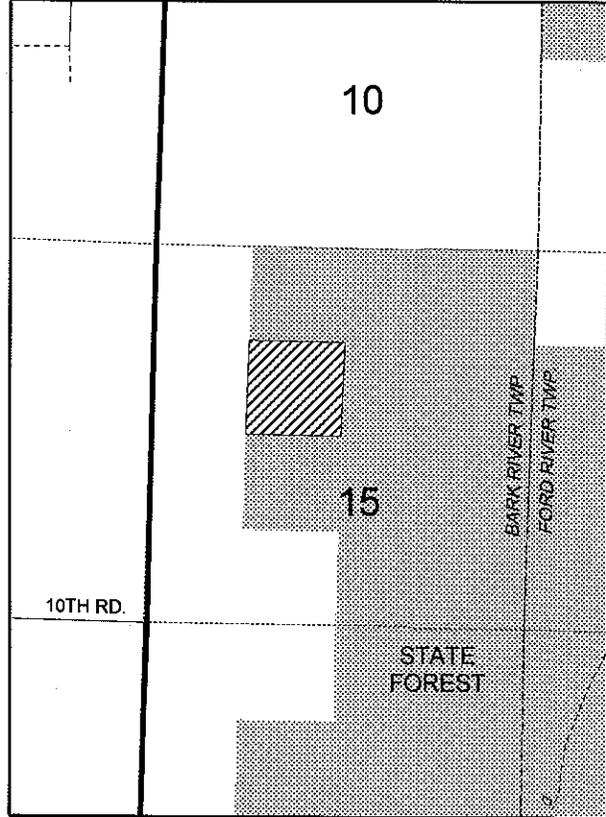
Rebecca A. Humphries  
Director

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Date Approved

**STATE FOREST LAND EXCHANGE**  
**Crystal Falls and Escanaba Management Units**  
**Iron and Delta Counties**  
**Land Transaction Case #20100005**



Iron County, City of Gaastra  
 Section 7, T42N, R34W



Delta County, Bark River Township  
 Section 15, T38N, R24W

- State Forest boundary
- Surplus state land desired from DNRE in exchange (40.00 acres)
- Private land offered to DNRE in exchange (40.00 acres)
- State Land
- Private land

