



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

August 18, 2014

TO: Keith Creagh, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

Transaction: Wildlife Land Acquisition
Port Huron State Game Area – St. Clair County
Burch Tract
Land Transaction Case #20140111

Purchase: 73 acres, more or less. \$283,000.00

PA 240 of 2012: PILT Estimate: \$2,260.00
This parcel is south of the Mason-Arenac County line and will result in an increase of 73 counted acres. There are no excluded acres as a part of this transaction.

Description: St. Clair County, Grant Township, T8N, R16E, Section 32, that part of the S1/2 of the NW1/4 lying East of the Black River; AND the W1/2 of the NW1/4 of the NE1/4; AND a parcel with a point of beginning at the intersection of the N 1/8 line and the N/S 1/4 line, thence North along said N/S 1/4 line a distance of 24 feet, thence West 24 feet parallel to the N 1/8 line, thence Southwesterly to a point on the N 1/8 line lying 40 feet west of the point of beginning, thence to the Point of Beginning.

Seller(s): Richard and Jeannette Burch, Jeddo, Michigan.

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

Notice: This item will appear on the Department of Natural Resources (Department) September 2, 2014, calendar, and is eligible for approval on September 9, 2014.

Purpose: This tract further consolidates the Port Huron State Game Area and provides improved access to existing state-owned lands, valuable habitat for a variety of species and additional recreational opportunities.

Comments: This rural southern Michigan 73-acre parcel is within the boundaries of the Port Huron 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.
- Access – the parcel includes 643 feet of frontage on a county-maintained gravel road. The two blocks of land are linked by a strip of fee ownership and a gravel farm lane. The acquisition of this property will provide improved access for this area of the Port Huron State Game Area.

- Topography and cover – the property is generally level and well drained. The northeastern block is currently used for agricultural production and has a small woodlot. The southwestern block provides a variety of cover types including young aspen, brush, grassy openings, and a small area of northern hardwood forest near the river. The river frontage features an almost 100-foot steep bank from the top of the slope to the river.
- Improvements – there are no improvements on the property.
- Wildlife - this parcel provides quality wildlife habitat for a variety of wildlife species including deer, turkey, and grouse.

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.

The seller 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 received resolutions of support from Grant Township and St. Clair County regarding this acquisition.

Recommendation: That the acquisition be approved, with payment to be made from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Southeast Eco-Regional Land Consolidation project.

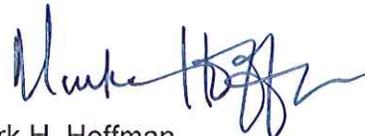

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division


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

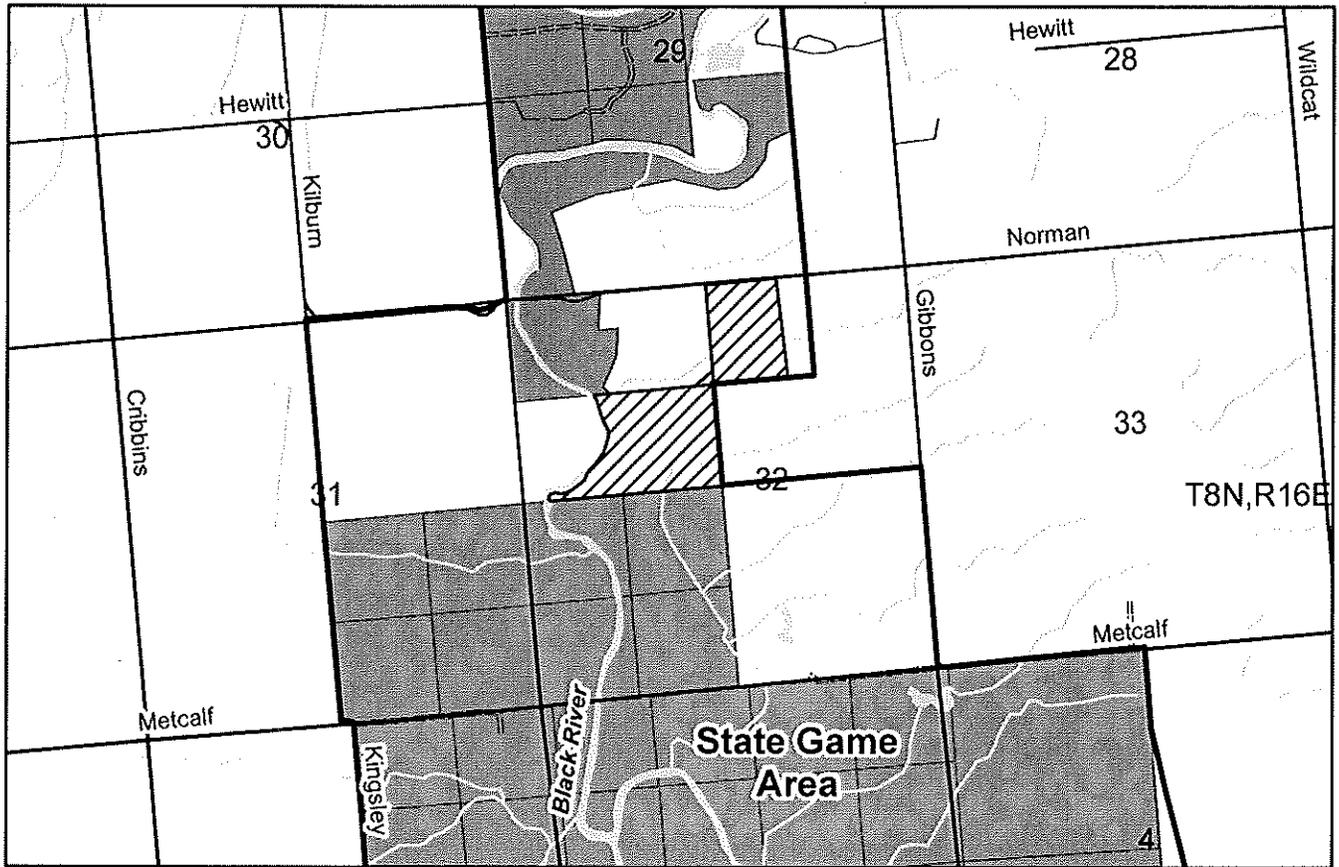
Keith Creagh
Director

Date Approved

WILDLIFE LAND ACQUISITION

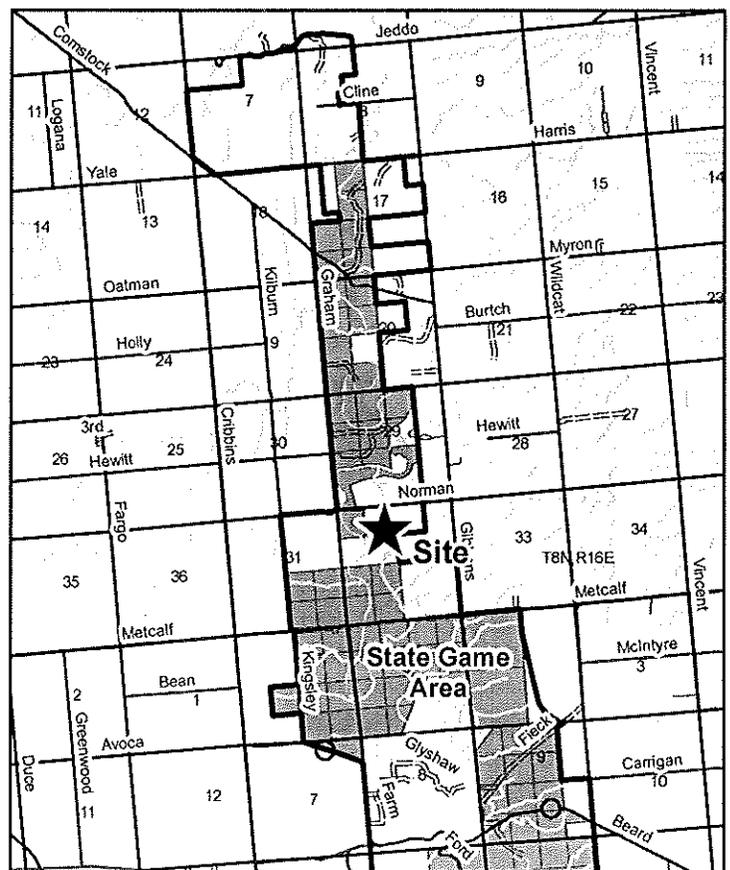
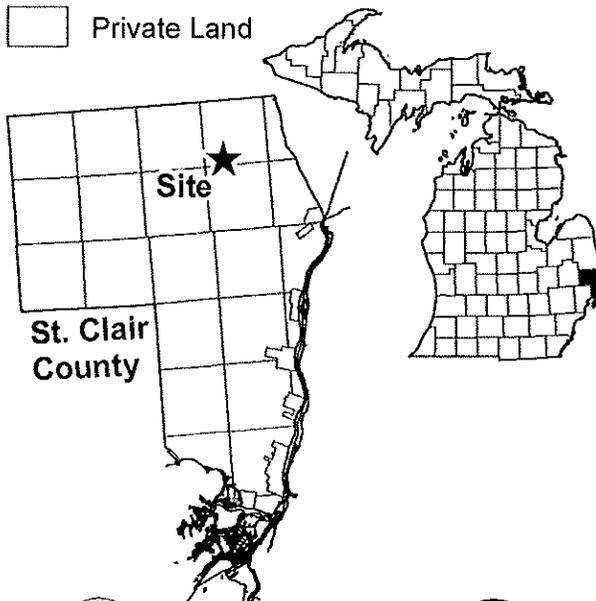
Port Huron State Game Area -- St. Clair County

The Burch Tract -- Land Transaction Case #20140111



Section 32, T8N, R16E Grant Township

- State Game Area Boundary
- Land Offered to DNR
(73 acres -- \$283,000)
- State Land
- Private Land



Regional Location

