



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DR. WILLIAM E. MORITZ
DIRECTOR

July 18, 2016

TO: Dr. William E. Moritz, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

Transaction: Wildlife Land Acquisition
Muskegon State Game Area – Muskegon County
The River Ridge Tract
Land Transaction Case #20160026

Purchase: 41.14 acres - \$40,000.00

Funding Source: Waterfowl Capital Outlay funds

PA 240 of 2012: PILT Estimate: \$271.00
This parcel is located south of the Mason-Arenac County line.

Description: Muskegon County, Muskegon Charter Township, T10N, R16W, Section 15:
As more particularly described in the purchase option.

Seller(s): River Ridge Properties LLC, Muskegon, Michigan

Authority: Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.

Notice: This item will appear on the Department of Natural Resources (Department) August 2, 2016, calendar, and is eligible for approval on August 9, 2016.

Management Purpose: This property will be managed as a part of the Muskegon State Game Area for wildlife and fish habitat while providing recreational access opportunities along the Muskegon River.

Comments: The acquisition of this 41.14-acre parcel is a targeted, strategic investment that strongly supports the Department's mission of enhancing, restoring, and conserving the state's wildlife resources, natural communities, and ecosystems for the benefit to Michigan's citizens, visitors and future generations. This property contains the following characteristics:

- Adjacent to publicly-owned land – the east side of the property is bordered by an existing Muskegon State Game Area property.
- Proximity to population centers – this acquisition is one mile east of Muskegon.
- Access – the parcel does not have frontage on a public road. Access will be by the adjacent public land and by boat.
- Waterfrontage – the parcel has one-quarter mile of frontage on both sides of the Muskegon River.

- Topography and cover – the Muskegon River crosses the northern part of the parcel where a floodplain wetland habitat with shallow marsh emergent and floodplain species is dominant. The southern portion of the property is characterized by an upland ridge that has an oak/conifer cover.
- Wildlife – this parcel supports mallard, pileated woodpecker, and wood ducks.
- Improvements – none.

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 public 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 securing wildlife habitat and increasing public recreation opportunities.

Engagement:

The Muskegon Charter Township believes that the inclusion of this property into the Muskegon State Game Area will benefit the township and county residents by providing additional recreation access opportunities, especially waterfowl hunting, trapping, bank fishing and wildlife viewing. As a result, they have provided a resolution which provides full support for this land acquisition.

The Muskegon County Administrator has provided a letter of support for this acquisition because it will provide additional recreation access opportunities, especially waterfowl hunting, trapping, bank fishing and wildlife viewing.

Recommendation:

1. That the acquisition be approved, with payment to be made from Waterfowl Capital Outlay funds.
2. This land is to be dedicated as part of the Muskegon State Game Area.



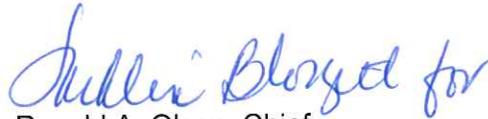
Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division



Debbie Begalle, Acting Chief
Forest Resources Division



James L. Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



William O'Neill
Natural Resources Deputy



Mark H. Hoffman
Chief Administrative Officer

I approve the staff recommendations.

Keith Creagh
Director

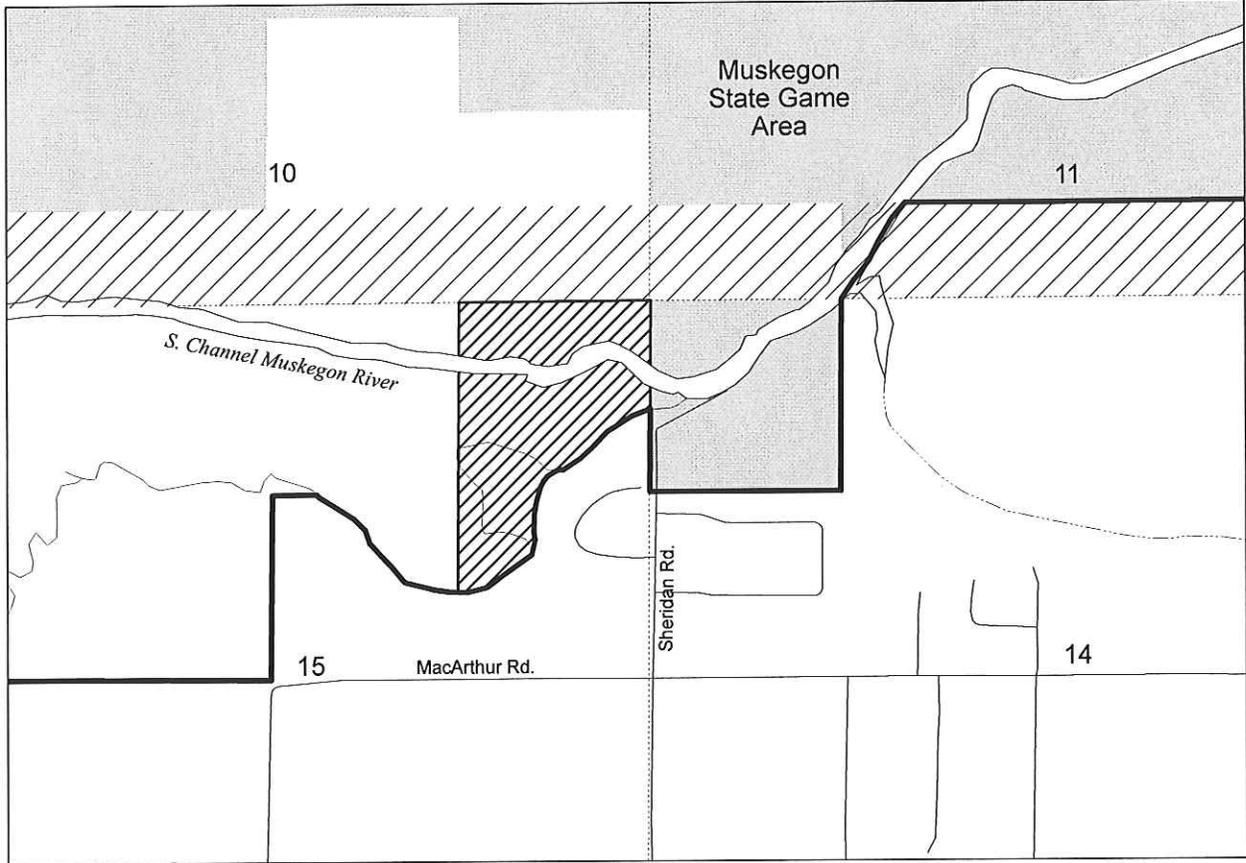
Date Approved

WILDLIFE LAND ACQUISITION

Muskegon State Game Area – Muskegon County

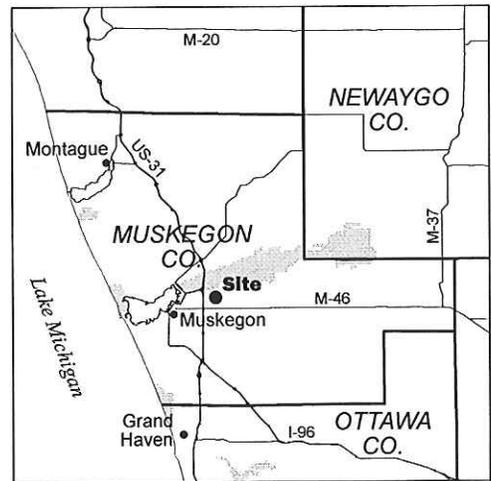
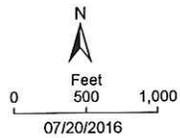
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Section 15, T10N, R16W, Muskegon Charter Township

- Land to be acquired by DNR (41.14 acres)
- State land
- Consumers Energy right-of-way
- Private land
- DNR Project Boundary



DNR Project Boundaries