STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

September 12, 2016

TO:	Keith Creagh, Director
INFORMATION:	Natural Resources Commission
Transaction:	Wildlife Land Acquisition Maple River State Game Area – Gratiot County The Bellingar Tract Land Transaction Case #20160027
Purchase:	29.84 acres - $56,696.00
Funding Source:	Waterfowl Capital Outlay funds
PA 240 of 2012:	PILT Estimate: $865.00 This parcel is located south of the Mason-Arenac County line.
Description:	Gratiot County, Washington Township, T09N, R02W, Section 29: As more particularly described in the purchase option.
Seller(s):	Bryan and Tami Bellingar, Ashley, 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) October 4, 2016, calendar, and is eligible for approval on October 11, 2016.
Management Purpose:	This property will be managed as a part of the Maple River State Game Area for wildlife habitat and will provide additional hunting opportunities near a large population center.

Comments: The acquisition of this 29.84-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 north and west sides of the property are bordered by existing Maple River State Game Area property.
- Proximity to population centers – this acquisition is nine miles north of St. Johns and 25 miles north of Lansing.
- 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-half mile of frontage on the north

side of the Maple River.

- Topography and cover – the parcel lies within the Maple River floodplain, is entirely wooded and is seasonally flooded.
- Wildlife – this parcel supports mallard, wood duck, white-tailed deer, and cottontail rabbit.
- 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: Washington Township is supportive of the purchase while Gratiot County is neutral.

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 Maple River State Game Area.

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief for
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

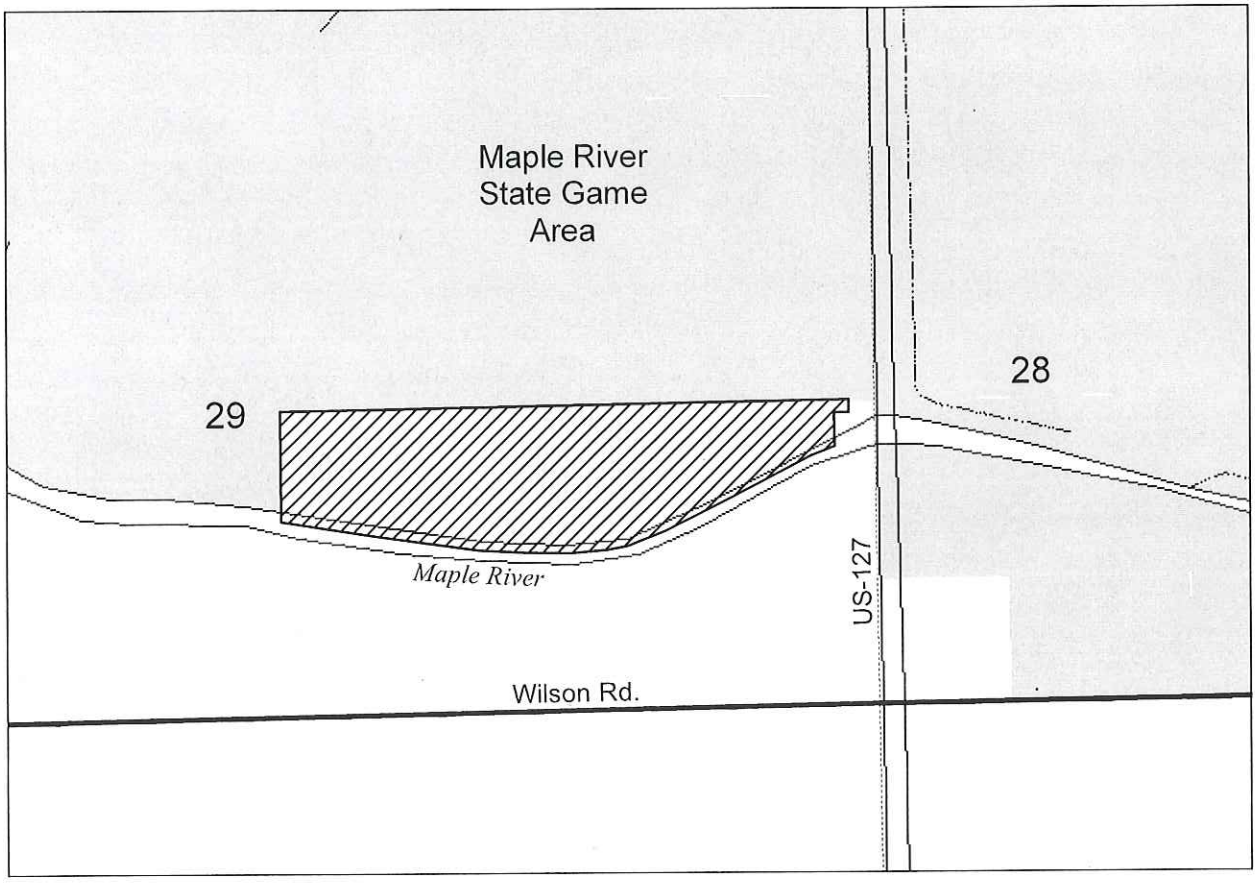
I approve the staff recommendations.

Keith Creagh
Director

_____
Date Approved

WILDLIFE LAND ACQUISITION

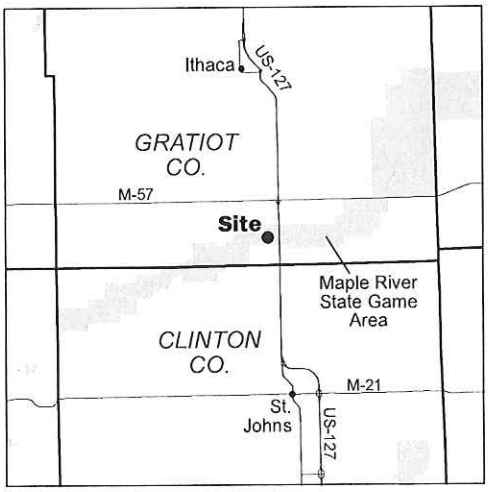
Maple River State Game Area – Gratiot County
The Bellingar Tract
Land Transaction Case #20160027



Section 29, T09N, R02W, Washington Township

Land to be acquired by DNR (29.84 acres)
State land
Private land
DNR Project Boundary

N
Feet
0 250 500
08/26/2016



DNR Project Boundaries