



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH  
DIRECTOR

May 12, 2014

**TO:** Keith Creagh, Director

**INFORMATION:** Natural Resources Commission

**Transaction:** Wildlife Land Acquisition  
Sharonville State Game Area – Jackson County  
Armstrong Tract  
Land Transaction Case #20140024

**Purchase:** 30 acres, more or less. \$82,500.00

**PA 240 of 2012:** PILT Estimate: \$515.00  
This parcel is south of the Mason-Arenac County line and will not result in an increase of counted acres. The 30 acres being acquired are excluded from counting as they will be used to access other land owned by the Department.

**Description:** Jackson County, Norvell Township, T4S, R2E, Section 2, that part of the S ½ of the Northeast fractional ¼ lying North of the Nly R/W Line of the LS & MS RR.

**Seller(s):** Mandel and Teresa Armstrong, Brooklyn, MI.

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

**Notice:** This item will appear on the Department of Natural Resources (Department) June 3, 2014, calendar, and is eligible for approval on June 10, 2014.

**Purpose:** The acquisition of this parcel will connect the Sharonville State Game Area to a proposed access easement that the Camp Liberty/Operation Freedom Outdoors is pursuing with the landowner located to the south of this parcel. Once this parcel and the access easement are acquired, Department staff intend to work with Camp Liberty to expand hunting opportunities for disabled veterans.

- Comments: This rural southern Michigan 30-acre parcel is adjacent to the boundaries of the Sharonville 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 property is benefitted by an access easement across a neighboring parcel and can be accessed by the adjacent State-owned lands.
  - Topography and cover – the property is generally flat and provides a mix of lowland and upland habitats.
  - Water frontage – none.
  - Improvements – none.
  - Wildlife – the acquisition of this parcel will provide good habitat for deer, turkey, ruffed grouse, woodcock, eastern box turtles, and the Indiana bat.
  - Partnerships- the acquisition of this parcel will support the Department’s partnership with Camp Liberty/Operation Freedom Outdoors by facilitating their efforts to expand hunting opportunities for disable veterans.

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 Norvell Township and Jackson County in discussions regarding this acquisition and has received vocalized support from the Township Supervisor. The County has no concerns.

- Recommendation: That the acquisition be approved, with payment to be made from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Southwestern Lower Peninsula Eco-Region Acquisition project.

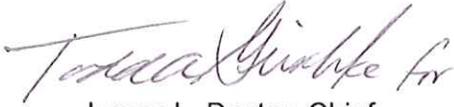
May 12, 2014



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

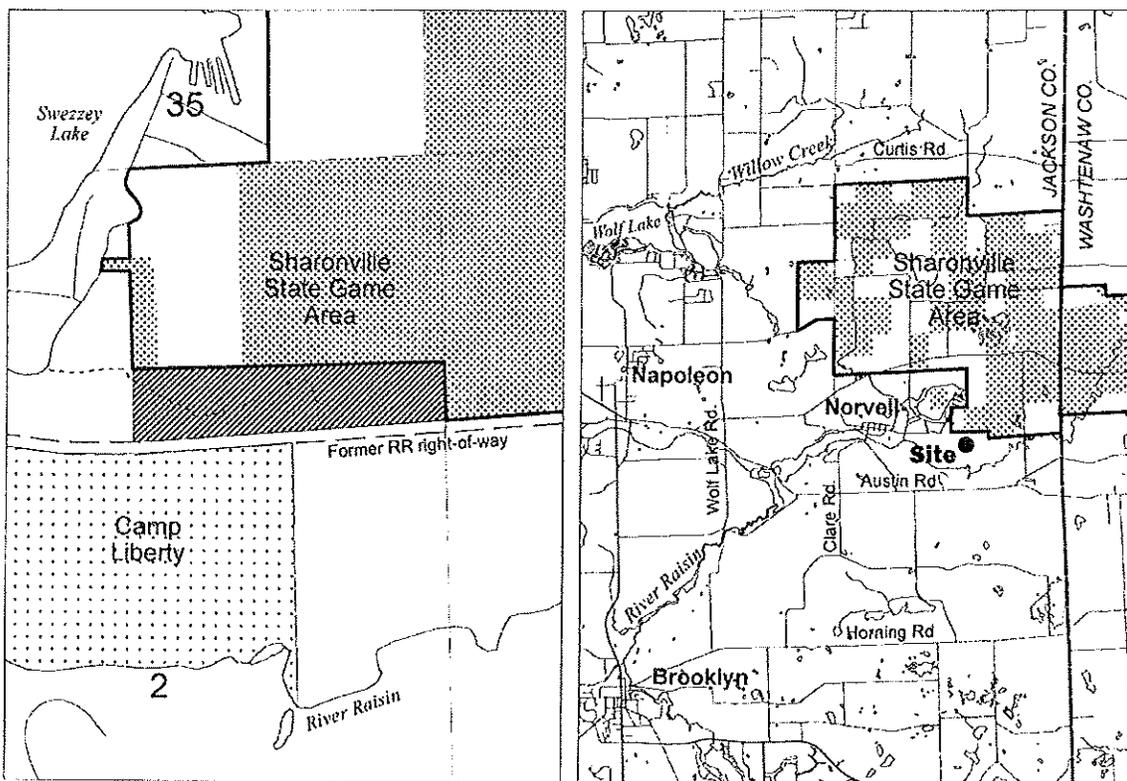
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Approved

# WILDLIFE LAND ACQUISITION

## Sharonville State Game Area – Jackson County

### Armstrong Tract

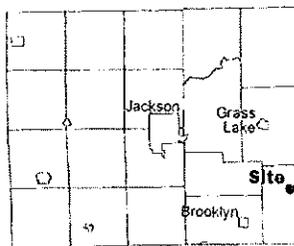
#### Land Transaction Case #20140024



Section 2, T04S, R02E, Norvell Township

Regional Location

- Land offered to DNR (30.00 acres, more or less)
- Camp Liberty
- State land
- Private land
- DNR Project Boundary



JACKSON COUNTY