



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

July 15, 2013

TO: Keith Creagh, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

Transaction: Rail Reactivation/State Trail Relocation
Iron Ore Heritage Trail – Marquette County
Land Transaction Case # 20120072

Applicant: Humboldt Township, Champion, Michigan

PA 240 of 2012: PILT Estimate: None
The parcels involved in the rail reactivation/trail relocation are located North of the Mason-Arenac Line. The rail reactivation will result in a decrease of 35.4 acres. The trail relocation will not result in an increase of counted acres.
Excluded Acres: 8.03 acres excluded – trail easement rights.

Special Condition: Preservation of the Railroad Corridor by provisions of Federal Law, Section 8(d) of the National Trails Act, 16 U.S.C. 1247 (d).

Land Offered For Trail Relocation: Marquette County, Humboldt Township, T47N, R29W, a 50 foot wide recreational trail easement over a strip of land lying in Sections 10, 11, & 2, and more completely described in the case file.

State Land Desired For Rail Reactivation: Marquette County, Humboldt Township, T47N, R29W, being the inactive LS&I North Lake Branch Extension lying in Sections 3 & 10, as more completely described in the case file.

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

Notice: This item will appear on the Department of Natural Resources (Department) July 30, 2013 calendar, and is eligible for approval on August 6, 2013.

Comments:

Through a process called “railbanking” a railroad corridor that would otherwise be abandoned can be preserved (railbanked) for future rail reactivation through interim trail use. Because railbanked corridors are not considered abandoned under federal or state law, easements are not extinguished and the corridors are not fragmented.

Beginning in 1998, the Department has successfully railbanked eleven railroad corridors totaling nearly 150 miles. This transaction marks the first time that a railroad (Mineral Range Inc.) has requested to reactivate a corridor that the Department had railbanked for interim trail use.

Working with Humboldt Township, and various railroad and mining interests, an arrangement evolved by which:

- Humboldt Township will own the railroad corridor to be reactivated, and work out a deal with Mineral Range Inc. for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the reactivated railroad corridor.
- Humboldt Township will own the new trail route proposed to replace the reactivated portion of the railbanked railroad corridor and provide the Department a recreational trail easement over the new route.

The rail reactivation will enable renewed use of the railroad corridor for material shipment, while the trail relocation will keep the Iron Ore Heritage Trail (IOHT) in one piece. The IOHT is envisioned as a 48-mile, multi-use, year round trail that connects, preserves, and interprets the significant sites, structures, and stories of Marquette County’s iron mining heritage.

The proposed land transaction was reviewed and recommended for approval by the Land Exchange Review Committee in June, 2013.

Recommendation(s):

- (1) That the rail reactivation/trail relocation transaction be approved with the State reserving aboriginal antiquities.
- (2) That the offered recreational trail easement be multi-use.
- (3) That no person shall operate a wheeled motorized vehicle which is greater than 65” in width except for emergency, law enforcement, and trail maintenance vehicles.
- (4) That no person shall discharge a firearm, bow and arrow, crossbow or hunt on/from the trail.
- (5) That the offered recreational trail easement be dedicated for public use and administered by the Parks and Recreation Division.

July 15, 2013

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

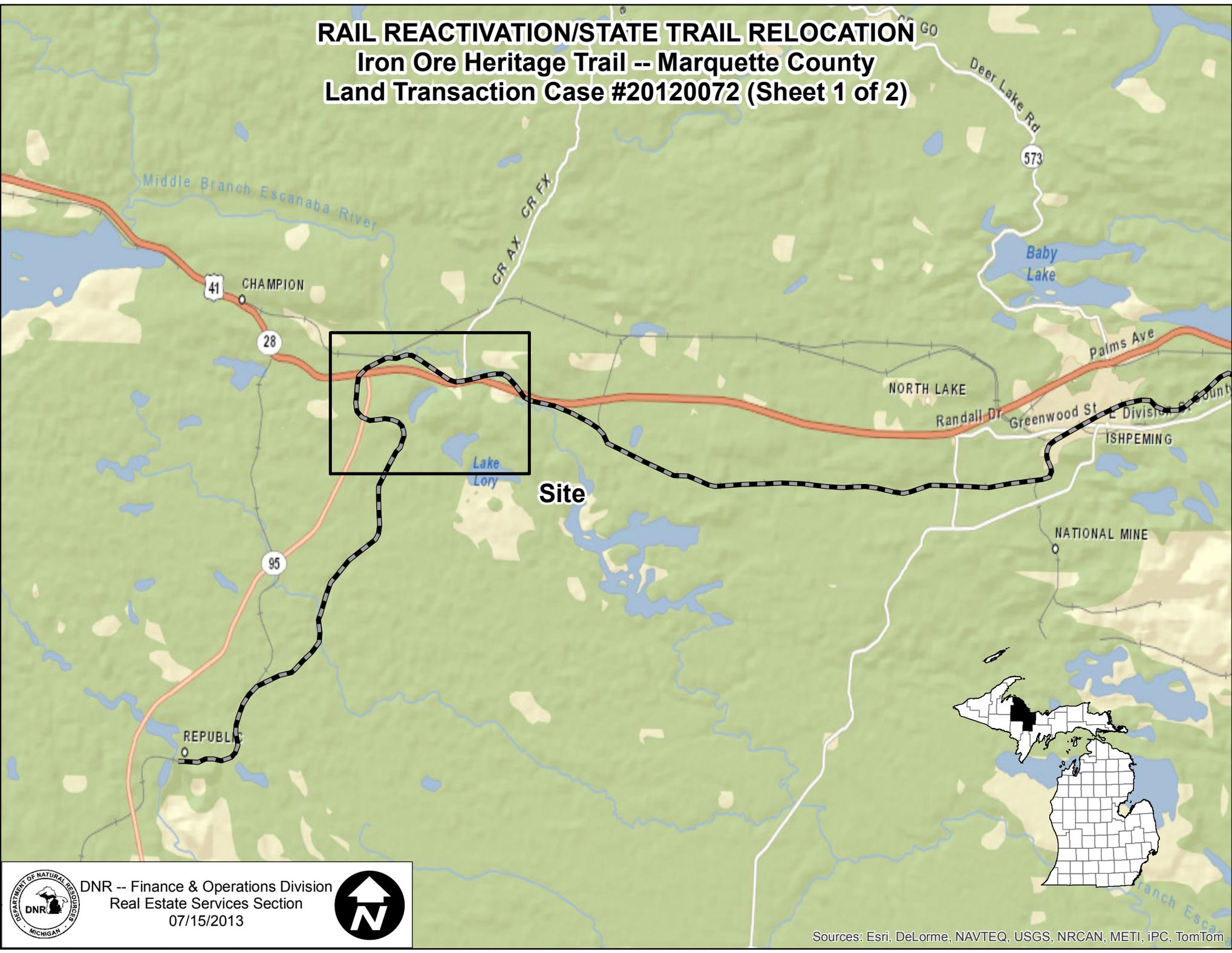
Mark H. Hoffman
Chief Administrative Officer

I approve the staff recommendations

Keith Creagh
Director

Date Approved

RAIL REACTIVATION/STATE TRAIL RELOCATION Iron Ore Heritage Trail -- Marquette County Land Transaction Case #20120072 (Sheet 1 of 2)

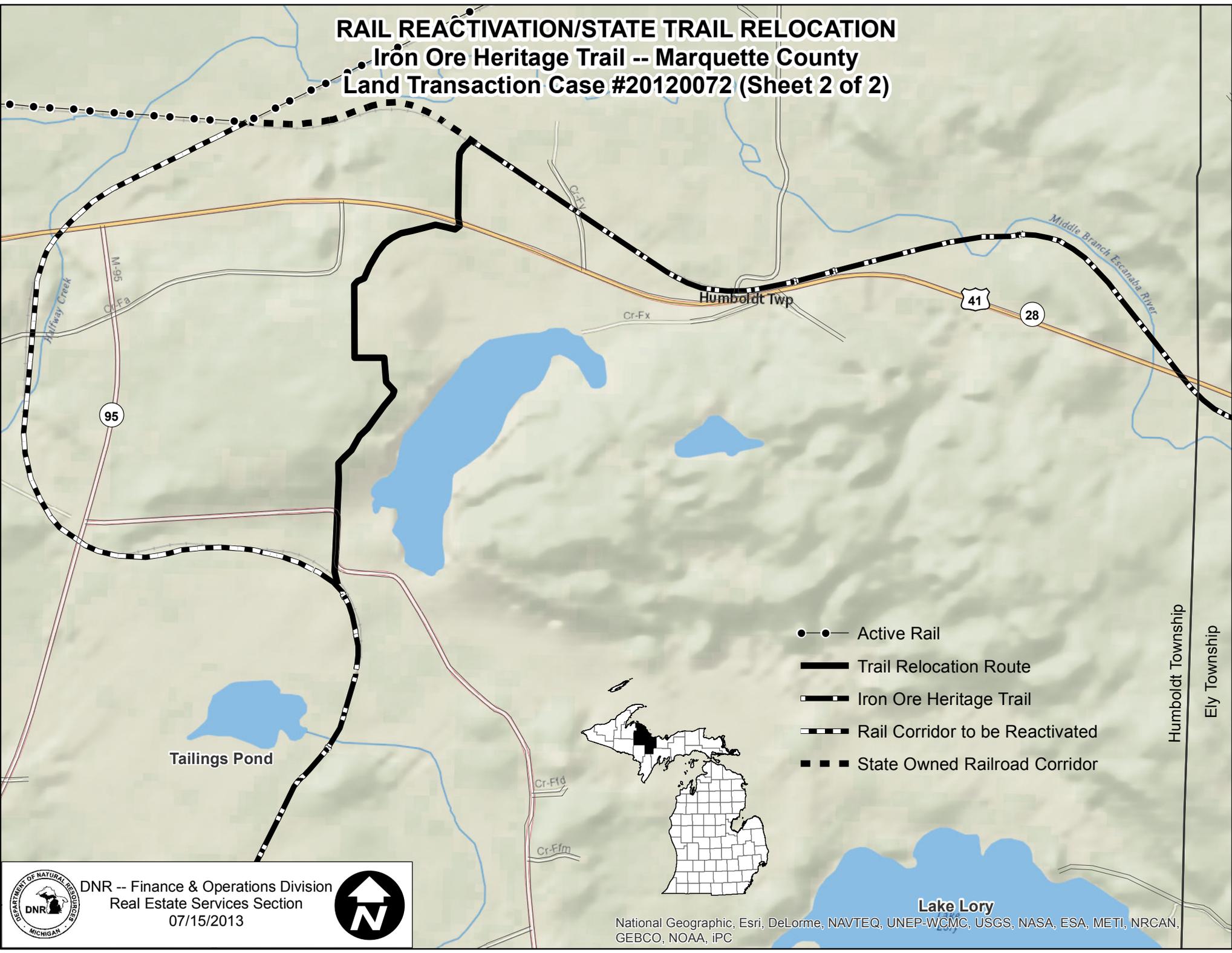


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Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, NRCAN, METI, iPC, TomTom

RAIL REACTIVATION/STATE TRAIL RELOCATION
Iron Ore Heritage Trail -- Marquette County
Land Transaction Case #20120072 (Sheet 2 of 2)



- Active Rail
- Trail Relocation Route
- ▬ Iron Ore Heritage Trail
- ▬ Rail Corridor to be Reactivated
- State Owned Railroad Corridor




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Humboldt Township
 Ely Township