



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

August 12, 2013

TO: Keith Creagh, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

Transaction: Wildlife Land Acquisition
Erie State Game Area – Monroe County
Wilmoth Tract
Land Transaction Case #20130100

Purchase: 104 acres, more or less. \$353,600.00

PA 240 of 2012: PILT Estimate: \$2,665.00 plus special assessments (if any)
This parcel is south of the Mason-Arenac County line and will result in an increase of 104 counted acres. There are no excluded acres as a part of this transaction.

Description: Monroe County, LaSalle Township, T07S, R09E, portions of Private Claims 313, 360, 377 and 376 as shown on the attached map.

Seller(s): Wilmoth Farms LLC, Erie, MI.

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

Notice: This item will appear on the Department of Natural Resources (Department) September 3, 2013, calendar, and is eligible for approval on September 10, 2013.

Purpose: The acquisition of this tract will provide for additional hunting, trapping, and wildlife related recreational opportunities in this rural coastal southern Michigan area.

Comments: This rural southern Michigan 104-acre parcel is within the boundaries of the Erie State Game Area and contains the following characteristics:

- Adjacent to State-owned land – the southwest half of the parcel borders existing State-owned lands.
- Access – an easement for management purposes will be provided from Toledo Beach Road to the property. Public access will be through the existing State-owned land that lies to the southwest of the parcel or via the waterways.
- Topography and cover – this is a coastal wetlands parcel that has been developed for agricultural purposes.
- Water frontage – more than 3,000 feet of frontage on both sides of Sulphur Creek, 1,100 feet of frontage on a boatable area of Lake Erie coastal wetlands, and a small pond.
- Improvements – a small bridge over Sulphur Creek.

- Wildlife – this parcel has the potential to be developed for wetland and wet prairie restoration.
- Fisheries – the restoration of this property as a coastal wetland area would support close, offsite fisheries via fish nursery grounds, aquatic insect production, and natural nutrient flushing into Lake Erie.
- State threatened species – American lotus (*Nelumbo luteo*), which is a type of water lily, is found on the property.

The recently completed “Department of Natural Resources Managed Public Land Strategy” provides guidance concerning land acquisition priorities. The plan places an emphasis on land acquisitions in southern Michigan, such as this parcel. It also places an emphasis on acquiring private holdings within DNR-managed public land project boundaries that further the goals, desired outcomes, and measurable objectives that are identified in the Strategy. As such, this acquisition furthers the following goals as outlined in the plan:

- Goal 1: Provide Quality Outdoor Public Recreation Opportunities
 - Monroe County only has 0.03 acres of public land per person. This acquisition increases the amount of land available and provides improved access to a large block of existing lands for dispersed public recreation in an area of southern Michigan that is only 20 miles southeast of metro Detroit.
- Goal 2: Foster Regional Economic Prosperity
 - Annually, more than three-quarters of a million people hunt in Michigan, making it a \$1.3 billion industry. While pursuing their activities, hunters visit restaurants, hotels, gas stations, and grocery stores across the rural areas of the state, bringing much needed economic activity to these areas. This acquisition will increase the amount of hunting land available and improve access to existing lands in this rural area.
- Goal 3: Protect Natural and Cultural Resources
 - This acquisition will increase or maintain the diversity of resilient cover types and natural communities aiding in the sustainability of healthy ecosystems and species populations.

The sellers will convey mineral rights relative to this tract, if owned.

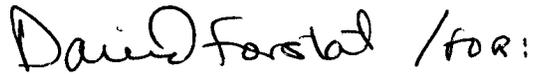
Acquisition of this parcel will contribute to the Department’s goals of consolidating State ownership, securing wildlife habitat, and increasing public recreation opportunities.

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

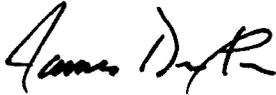
August 12, 2013



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

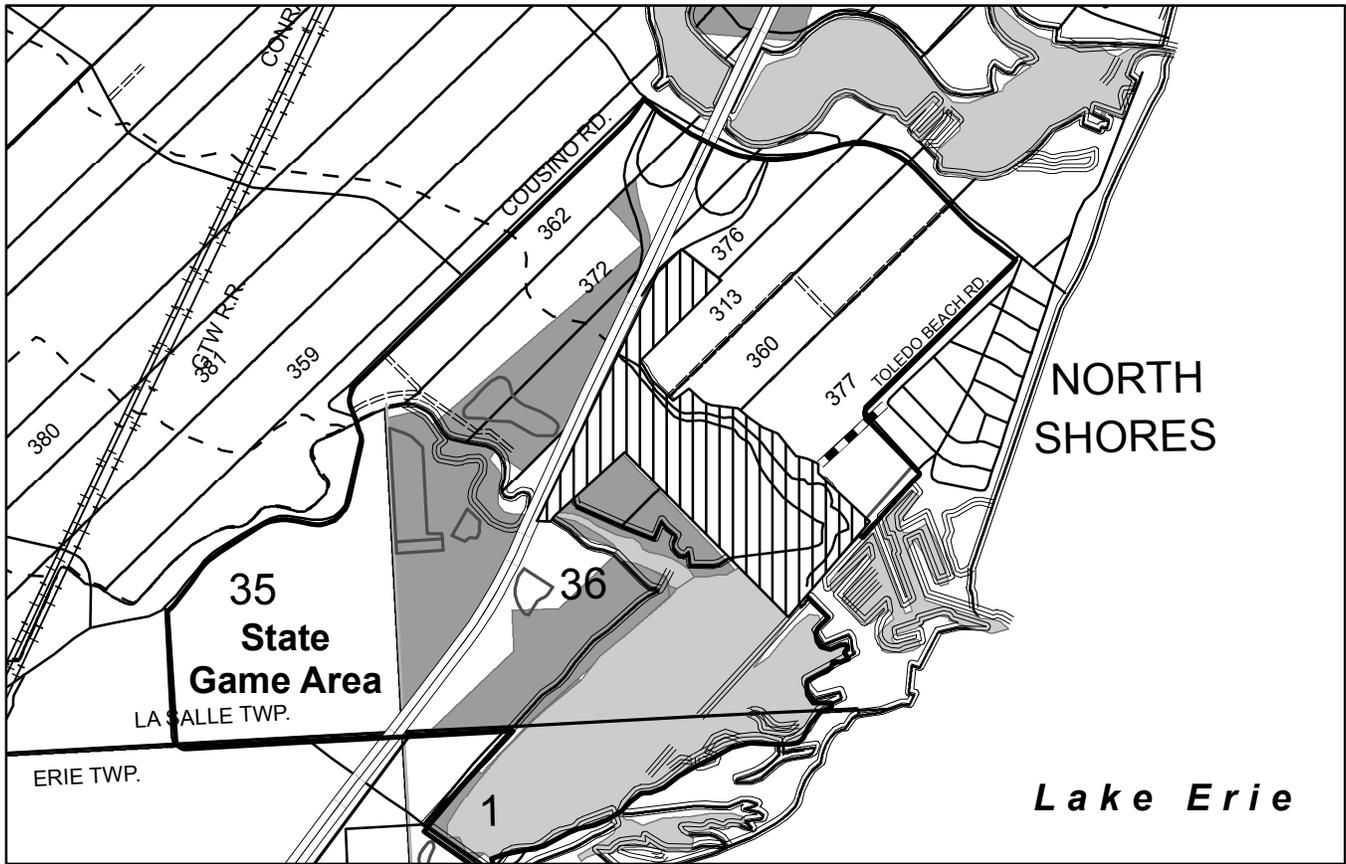
Keith Creagh
Director

Date Approved

WILDLIFE LAND ACQUISITION

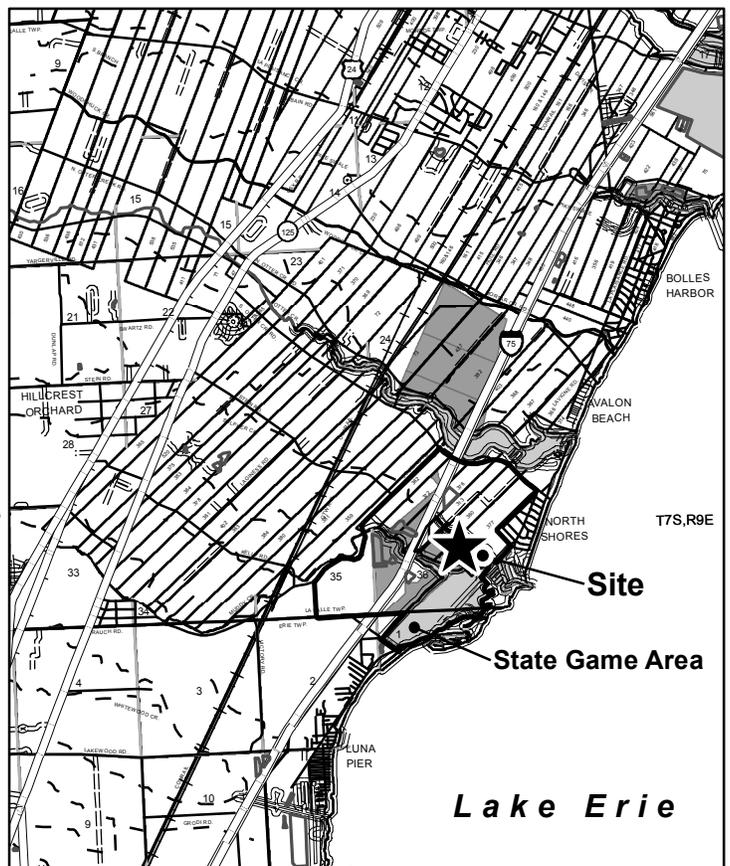
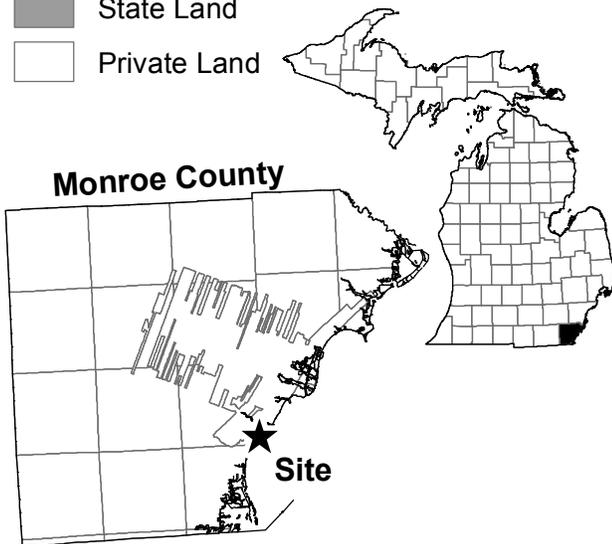
Erie State Game Area -- Monroe County

The Wilmoth Tract -- Land Transaction Case #20130100



Private Claims 313, 360 & 377 T7S, R9E, LaSalle Township

-  State Game Area Boundary
-  Land Offered to DNR
(104 acres -- \$353,600)
-  Access Easement
-  State Land
-  Private Land



Regional Location



DNR -- Finance & Operations Division
Real Estate Services Section
07/24/2013

