



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
Saranac-Lowell State Game Area – Kent County
Hendricks Tract
Land Transaction Case #20130105

Purchase: 18.6 acres, more or less. \$115,000.00

PA 240 of 2012: PILT Estimate: \$1,183.00
This parcel is south of the Mason-Arenac County line and will result in an increase of 18.6 counted acres. There are no excluded acres as a part of this transaction.

Description: Kent County, Vergennes Township, T07N, R09W, Government Lot One (1), EXCEPT the North Thirty-four (34) acres thereof.

Seller(s): Morton and Marilyn Hendricks, Grand Rapids, 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 southern Michigan area by providing for additional 500 feet of frontage on the Flat River in an area that is in close proximity to the City of Lowell and within 15 miles of Grand Rapids.

Comments: This rural southern Michigan 18.6-acre parcel is within the boundaries of the Saranac-Lowell State Game Area and contains the following characteristics:

- Adjacent to State-owned land – the parcel borders existing State-owned land on two sides.
- Access – via adjacent State-owned lands.
- Topography and cover – this property is generally rolling, with steep slopes by the river. The cover is largely comprised of mature oaks.
- Water frontage – 500 feet along the Flat River, a State designated Natural River.
- Improvements – none.

- Wildlife – this parcel provides quality wildlife habitat for a variety of wildlife species, including turkey, fox squirrel, and white-tailed deer.

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
 - This acquisition will provide an additional 500 feet of frontage on the Flat River and is in Kent County, only 15 miles from Grand Rapids. Kent County has only 0.01 acres of public land per person, which ranks as the ninth lowest in the State.
- 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, Southwest Eco-Regional Land Consolidation project and the Urban Areas Upland Game Habitat project.

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

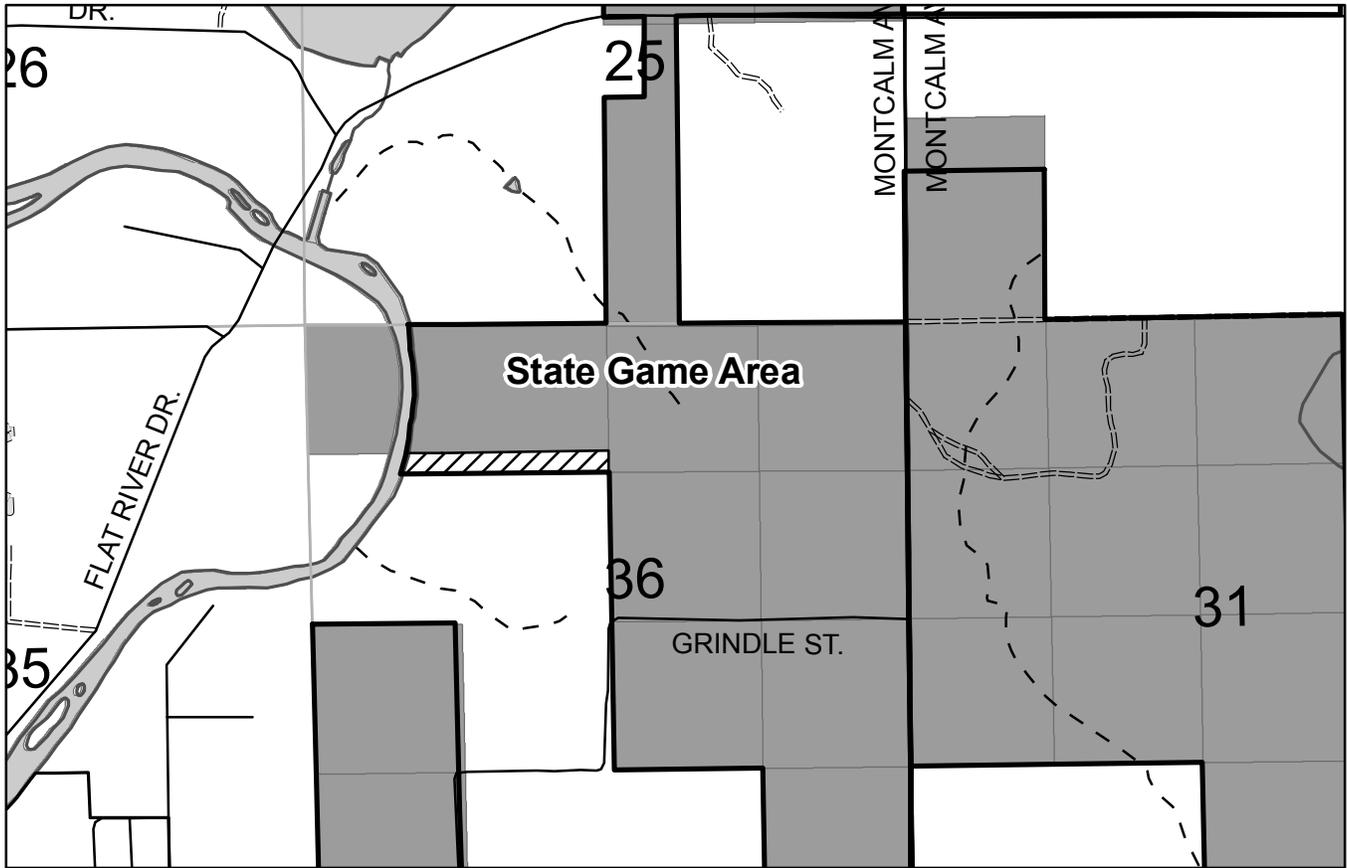
Keith Creagh
Director

Date Approved

WILDLIFE LAND ACQUISITION

Saranac-Lowell State Game Area -- Kent County

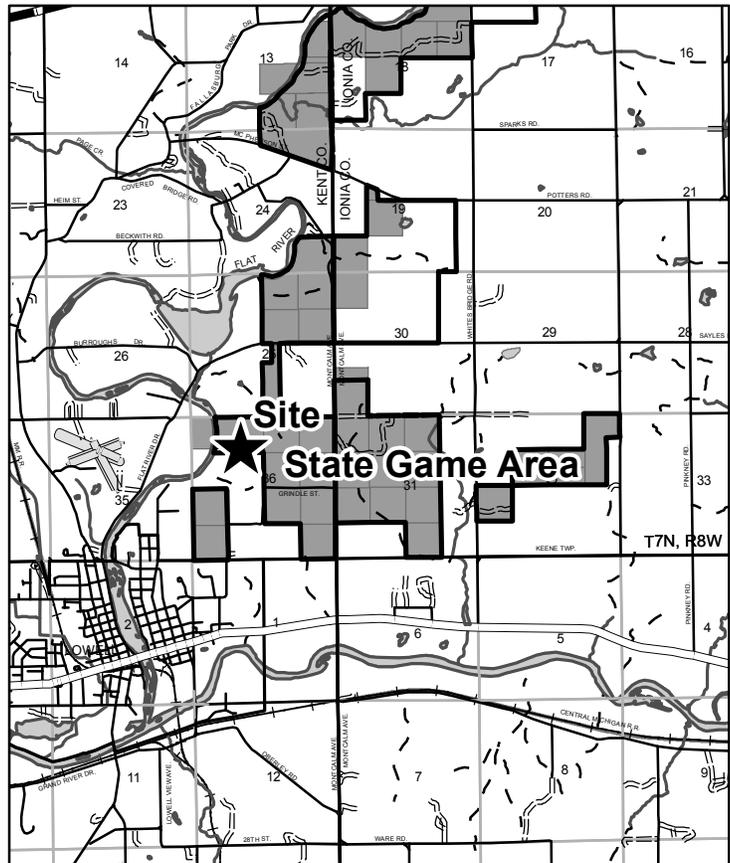
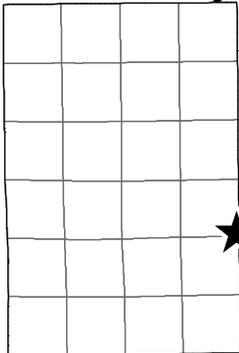
The Hendricks Tract -- Land Transaction Case #20130105



Section 36, T7N, R9W Vergennes Township

-  State Game Area Boundary
-  Land Offered to DNR
(18.6 acres -- \$115,000)
-  State Land
-  Private Land

Kent County



Regional Location



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

