



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
Barry State Game Area – Barry County
RTG LLC Tract
Land Transaction Case #20130106

Purchase: 37 acres, more or less. \$94,000.00

PA 240 of 2012: PILT Estimate: \$3,193.00
This parcel is south of the Mason-Arenac County line and will result in an increase of 37 counted acres. There are no excluded acres as a part of this transaction.

Description: Barry County, Yankee Springs Township, T03N, R10W, that part of the West ½ of the SE ¼ of Section 11 lying South and West of the thread of Hill Creek and EXCEPT for the South 48 rods thereof.

Seller(s): RTG LLC, 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: This tract further consolidates the Barry State Game Area and will bring the ownership of the 'Great Fen' to approximately 95%.

Comments: This rural southern Michigan 37-acre parcel is within the boundaries of the Barry State Game Area. The property contains the following characteristics:

- Adjacent to State-owned land – this triangularly shaped parcel abuts a large block of existing State-owned lands along two sides.
- Access – via the adjacent State-owned lands.
- Topography and cover – the topography is relatively flat. The acquisition of this parcel will bring the State's ownership of the 'Great Fen' to approximately 95%. Fens are peat forming, groundwater fed, wetlands. They differ from bogs in that they are less acidic, have higher nutrient levels, and can support a more diverse plant and animal community. The parcel also includes a native prairie remnant.

- Water frontage – More than a quarter of a mile of frontage along the south side of Hill Creek.
- Improvements – none.
- Wildlife – the management strategy will be to maintain the existing habitats and control the presence of invasive species.

The recently completed “Department of Natural Resources Managed Public Lands 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 increases the amount of land available for dispersed public recreation in southern Michigan.
- 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 the opportunities for current and future generations to visit and experience the unique fen and prairie remnant areas.
 - 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.

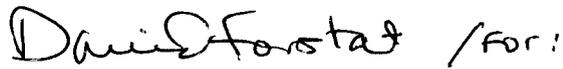
Acquisition of this parcel will contribute to the Department’s goals of consolidating State ownership, securing wildlife habitat, and increasing public recreation opportunities.

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

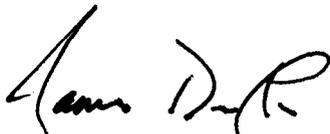
August 12, 2013



Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

 /for:

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



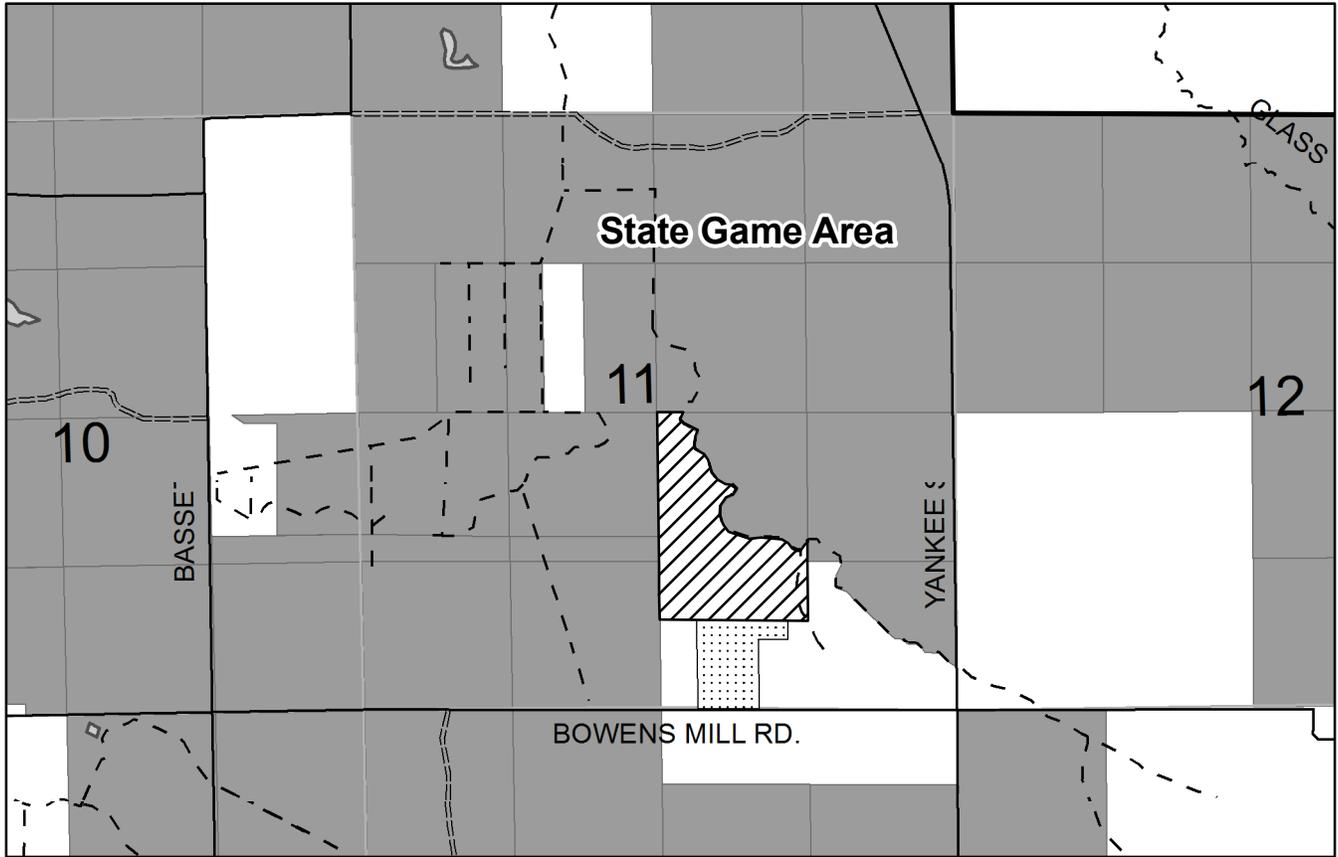
Mark H. Hoffman
Chief Administrative Officer

I approve the staff recommendations

Keith Creagh
Director

Date Approved

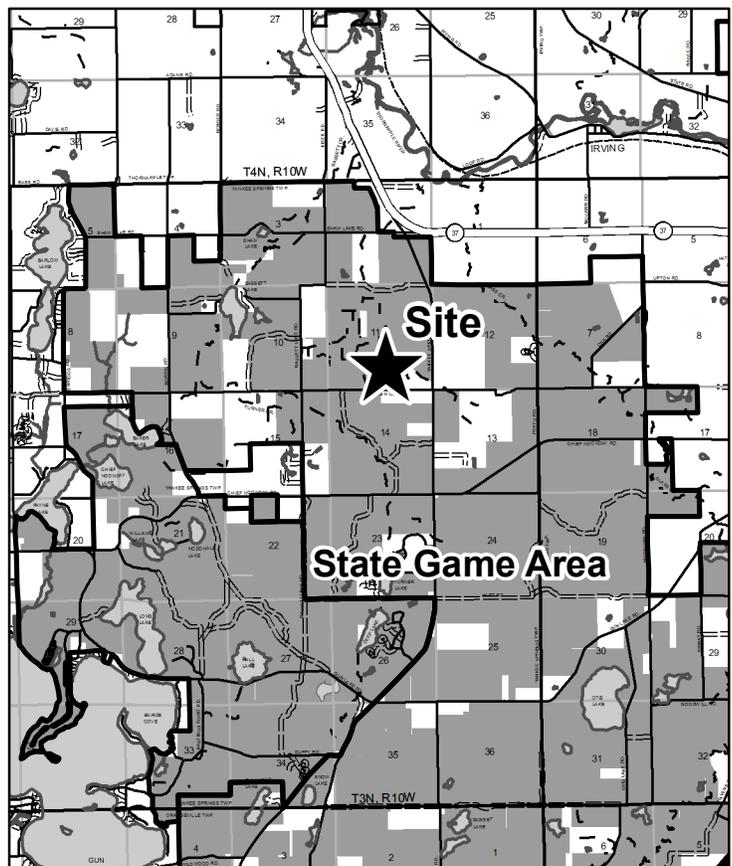
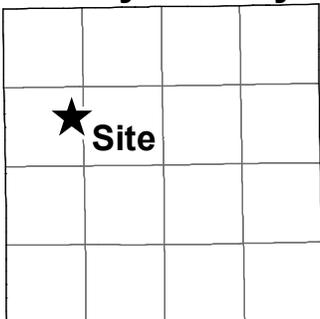
WILDLIFE LAND ACQUISITION
Barry State Game Area -- Barry County
The RTG LLC Tract -- Land Transaction Case #20130106



Section 11, T3N, R10W
Yankee Springs Township

-  State Game Area Boundary
-  Land Offered to DNR
(37 acres -- \$94,000)
-  Seller's Other Land
-  State Land
-  Private Land

Barry County



Regional Location



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

