



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
Crane Pond State Game Area – Cass County
Hutchins Tract
Land Transaction Case #20130112

Purchase: 40 acres, more or less. \$120,000.00

PA 240 of 2012: PILT Estimate: \$1,294.00 plus special assessments (if any)
This parcel is south of the Mason-Arenac County line and will result in an increase of 40 counted acres. There are no excluded acres as a part of this transaction.

Description: Cass County, Newburg Township, T06S, R13W, the SE1/4 of the SE1/4 of Section 11.

Seller(s): Kenneth Hutchins and Lori Hutchins, Marcellus, 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.

Comments: This rural southern Michigan 40-acre parcel is within the proposed boundary of the Crane Pond State Game Area and contains the following characteristics:

- Adjacent to State-owned land – the parcel borders existing State-owned land on two sides.
- Access – a county road touches the southwest corner of the property.
- Topography and cover – rolling mature forest.
- Water frontage – none.
- Improvements – none.
- Wildlife – this parcel provides quality wildlife habitat for a variety of wildlife species, including cottontail rabbits, deer, turkey, woodcock, pileated woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, and red-shouldered hawks.

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
 - Cass County only has 0.09 acres of public land per person. This acquisition increases the amount of land available.
- 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.

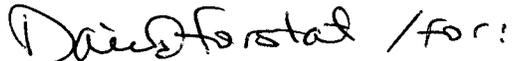
The sellers will convey mineral rights relative to this tract, if owned.

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

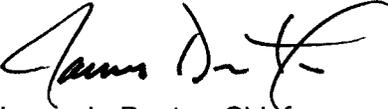
Recommendation: That the acquisition be approved, with payment to be made from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Southwest Eco-Regional Land Consolidation project.



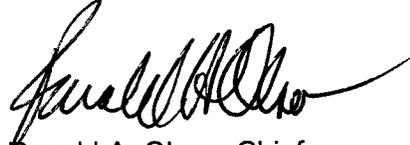
Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division



William O'Neill, Chief
Forest Resources Division



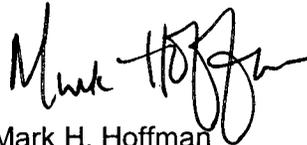
James L. Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



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