STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

August 13, 2018

TO:	Keith Creagh, Director
INFORMATION:	Natural Resources Commission
Transaction:	Parks and Recreation Land Acquisition Western Upper Peninsula District – Houghton County The Kuusisto Tract Land Transaction Case #20160175
Purchase:	70 acres - $300,000.00
Funding Source:	Douglass Houghton Falls Acquisition Project, 15-0186
PA 240 of 2012:	PILT Estimate: $3,357.97 This parcel is located north of the Mason-Arenac County line and will result in 70 counted acres.
Description:	Houghton County, Calumet Township, T56N, R33W, Section 36: Part of the NE 1/4; AND Schoolcraft Township, T56N, R32W, Section 31: The South 1/2 of the SW 1/4, and the North 1/2 of the SW 1/4.
Seller(s):	James D. Kuusisto, Lake Linden, Michigan.
Authority:	Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.
Notice:	This item will appear on the Department of Natural Resources (Department) September 4, 2018 calendar, and is eligible for approval on September 11, 2018.
Management Purpose:	The property will be managed by Parks and Recreation Division as a park and scenic area. This acquisition will contribute to achieving quality recreation opportunities, protecting and managing natural resources.
Comments:	The property includes 70 acres of land that is crossed by the deep gorge of Hammell Creek and contains the 110-foot high Douglass Houghton Falls, Michigan's tallest waterfall. The property is accessible via frontage on M-26 and is covered in a mix of mature pine and open meadow. The property will be improved with appropriate public access to protect the natural features surrounding the falls and provide safe viewing. Public facilities at the falls will be dedicated to all those who have served their country in the military, and particularly those veterans who continue to suffer from the lingering effects of their experiences. The seller will convey mineral rights relative to this tract.

Engagement: Support was received from Calumet Township and Houghton County.

Recommendation:

1. That the acquisition be approved, with payment to be made from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust fund, Douglass Houghton Falls Acquisition Project, 15-0186.
2. This land is to be dedicated as part of the Douglass Houghton Falls Scenic Site.

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

Jerry Hoole FOR
Deb Begalle, Chief
Forest Resources Division

James L. Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division

William O'Neill
Natural Resources Deputy

Mark H. Hoffman
Chief Administrative Officer

I approve the staff recommendations.

Keith Creagh
Director

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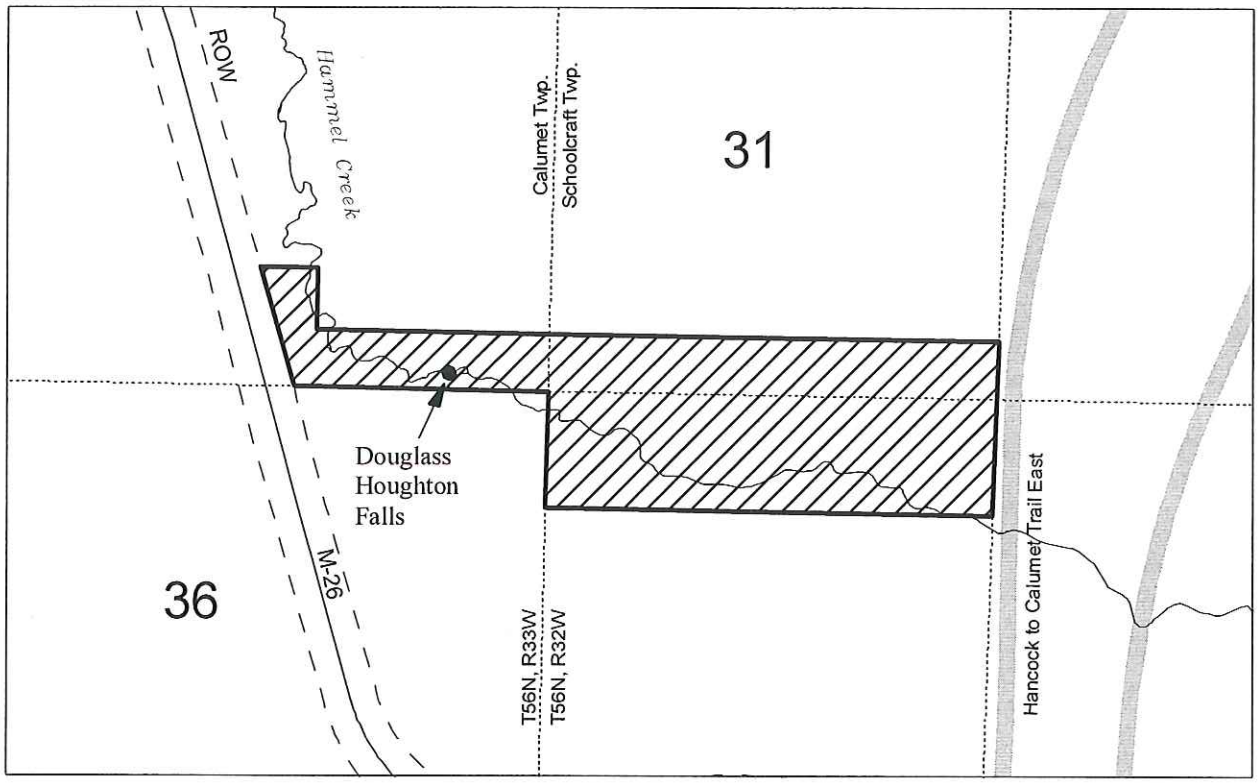
Date Approved

PARKS AND RECREATION LAND ACQUISITION

Western Upper Peninsula District – Houghton County
The Kuusisto Tract
Land Transaction Case #20160175

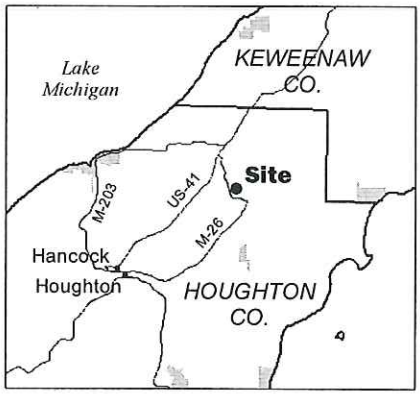


Section 31, T56N, R32W, Schoolcraft Township
Section 36, T56N, R33W, Calumet Township

Land to be aquired by DNR (70 Acres)
State land
Private land

N

Feet
0 920
08/03/2018



DNR Project Boundaries