



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

August 12, 2019

TO: Daniel Eichinger, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

Transaction: Forest Resources Land Acquisition
Pigeon River Country Management Unit
Otsego and Cheboygan Counties
The Storey Lake Tract
Land Transaction Case #20180156

Purchase: 2,103 acres - \$3,800,000.00

Funding Source: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund – Act 165 of 2018 (TF 17-0211)
Land Exchange Facilitation Fund

PA 240 of 2018: PILT Estimate: \$25,800.00
This parcel is located north of the Mason-Arenac county line and will result in an increase of 2,103 acres of DNR-managed lands.

Description: Otsego County, Corwith Township, T32N, R02W:
Section 6: The West 1/2, the SE 1/4 and the S 1/2 of the NE 1/4
Section 7: Entire

Otsego County, Corwith Township, T32N, R03W:
Section 1: All that part which lies Easterly of the New York Central Railroad right-of-way.
Section 12: The East 1/2

Cheboygan County, Nunda Township, T33N, R02W:
Section 31: The West 1/2 of the SW 1/4

Cheboygan County, Wilmot Township, T33N, R03W:
Section 36: All that part of the SE 1/4 lying East of the Michigan Central Railroad right-of-way.

Seller(s): Etablissement Aspachado, c/o David A. Robinson, New York, New York

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 3, 2019 calendar and is eligible for approval on September 10, 2019.

Management Purpose: Acquisition of the property will allow it to be managed as part of the Pigeon River Country Management Unit, without being subject to the Concept of Management. It will provide a critical connection between the Pigeon River Country State Forest and extensive state forest land west of I-75. This will add opportunity for forest management, wildlife habitat, and a variety of recreational opportunities.

Comments: This tract consists of approximately 2,103 acres of wildlife travel corridor that provides the critical connection between the Pigeon River Country State Forest and extensive state forest land west of I-75. It contains excellent wildlife habitat, especially for far-ranging species such as elk, black bear, and bobcat. It contains winter deeryard habitat for white-tailed deer and over one mile of Stewart Creek corridor, a cold-water trout stream and tributary to the Sturgeon River, as well as the entirety of Storey Lake. In addition, the property is directly adjacent to the North Central State Trail and offers a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities.

The seller will convey mineral rights relative to this tract.

Engagement: Support was received from Otsego County, Corwith Township, Cheboygan County, and Nunda Township. Wilmot Township was neutral. In addition, several letters of support were received from various organizations regarding this acquisition.

As required by PA 240 of 2018, notice of this acquisition was published in the local newspapers on August 7 and 9, 2019, and posted on the Department's website. Letters were also sent to the counties and townships.

Recommendation:

1. That the acquisition be approved, with payment to be made from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Act 165 of 2018 (TF 17-0211) and the Land Exchange Facilitation Fund.
2. This land is to be dedicated as part of the Pigeon River Country Management Unit, without being subject to the Concept of Management.

Following is signature page only.



Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division



Deb Begalle, Chief
Forest Resources Division



James L. Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



for Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



Shannon Hanna
Natural Resources Deputy



Mark H. Hoffman
Chief Administrative Officer

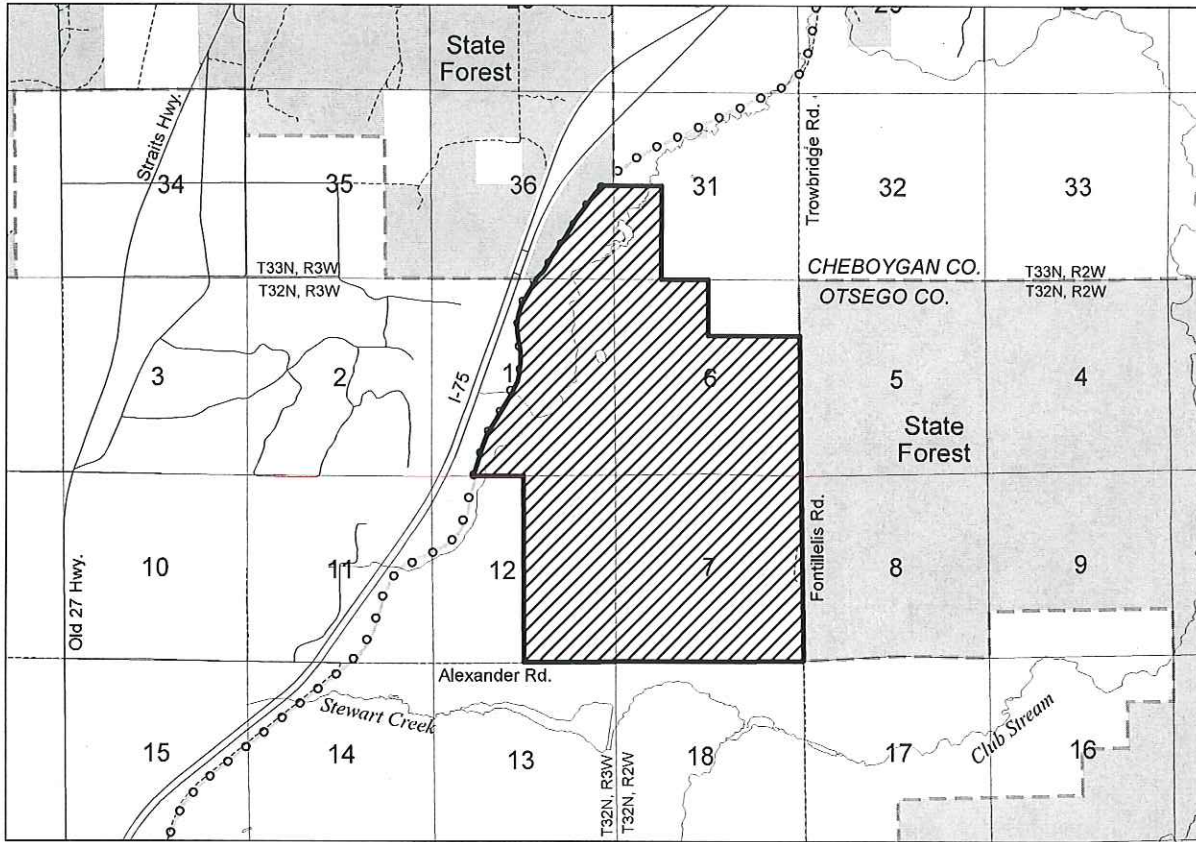
I approve the staff recommendations.

Daniel Eichinger
Director






Date Approved

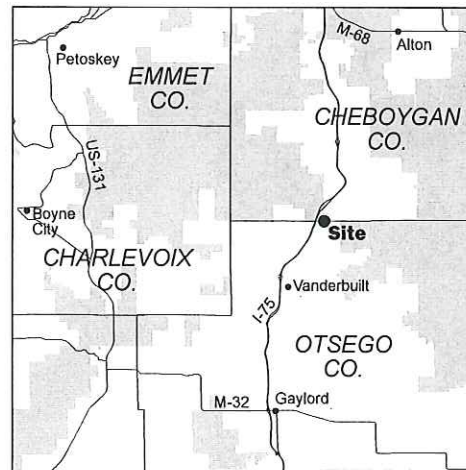
FOREST RESOURCES LAND ACQUISITION


Pigeon River Country Management Unit – Cheboygan and Otsego Counties
 Land Transaction Case #20180156



Sections 6 and 7, T32N, R02W, Corwith Township, Otsego County
 Sections 1 and 12, T32N, R03W, Corwith Township, Otsego County
 Section 31, T33N, R02W, Nunda Township, Cheboygan County
 Section 36, T33N, R03W, Wilmot Township, Cheboygan County

-  Land to be acquired by DNR (2,103 acres)
-  State land
-  Private land
-  DNR Project Boundary
-  North Central Trail



 DNR Project Boundaries