



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

September 16, 2019

TO: Daniel Eichinger, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

Transaction: Wildlife Land Acquisition
Cornish State Game Area – Van Buren County
The Cornish Trust Purchase
Land Transaction Case #20190004

Purchase: 101.51 acres - \$570,000.00

Funding Source: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (TF18-0156) and
Land Exchange Facilitation Fund (LEFF)

PA 240 of 2018: PILT Estimate: \$3,059.89
This parcel is located south of the Mason-Arenac county line and will result in an increase of 101.51 acres in DNR-managed lands.

Description: Van Buren County, Porter Township, T04S, R13W
Section 21: Part of the SW 1/4, and
Section 28: Part of the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4, as more accurately described in the case file.

Seller(s): Sharon S. Cornish Trust, Marcellus, 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) October 2, 2019 calendar and is eligible for approval on October 8, 2019.

Management Purpose: This vacant property is located along Shaw Road on the west side of Grass Lake, and it is located within the dedicated boundary of the Cornish State Game Area. The property will be managed for wildlife habitat and provide added public outdoor recreation opportunities.

Comments: The property is characterized by rolling hills mostly vegetated with grass and several acres of oak forest. Along with portions of Grass Lake, it is mostly submergent marsh. The riparian borders are comprised of emergent marsh, southern wet meadow and shrub-carr.

There are currently two food plots on the property that can be perpetuated to benefit wildlife. White-tailed deer, wild turkey, rabbit, squirrel, mallard, wood ducks, Canada geese, and muskrats are game species present on the property. There is also a variety of wetland and

grassland birds that use the property, including sandhill crane, pied-billed grebe, eastern meadowlark, and eastern kingbird.

Acquiring these parcels will address the Department's Managed Public Land Strategy by increasing the Cornish State Game Area and Kinney Waterfowl Production Area complex to 588 acres.

Acquisition of this property also contributes toward meeting the Wildlife Division's land acquisition strategy and objective of acquiring 1,000 acres of waterfowl habitat with high quality natural resource values. This acquisition also provides increased public outdoor recreation opportunities in southern Michigan.

The seller will convey the mineral rights relative to this tract.

Engagement: As required by PA 240 of 2018, information regarding this transaction was posted on the department's website and published in a local newspaper. A resolution of support was received from Van Buren County, and Porter Township Board supports this acquisition.

Recommendation:

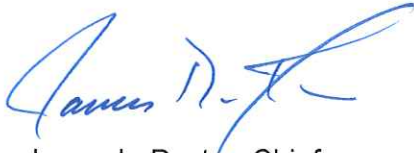
1. That the acquisition be approved, with payment to be made from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (TF18-0156) and the Land Exchange Facilitation Fund.
2. That the land be dedicated as part of the Cornish State Game Area.



Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division



Deb Begalle, Chief
Forest Resources Division



James L. Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



Shannon Hanna
Natural Resources Deputy



Mark H. Hoffman
Chief Administrative Officer

I approve the staff recommendations.

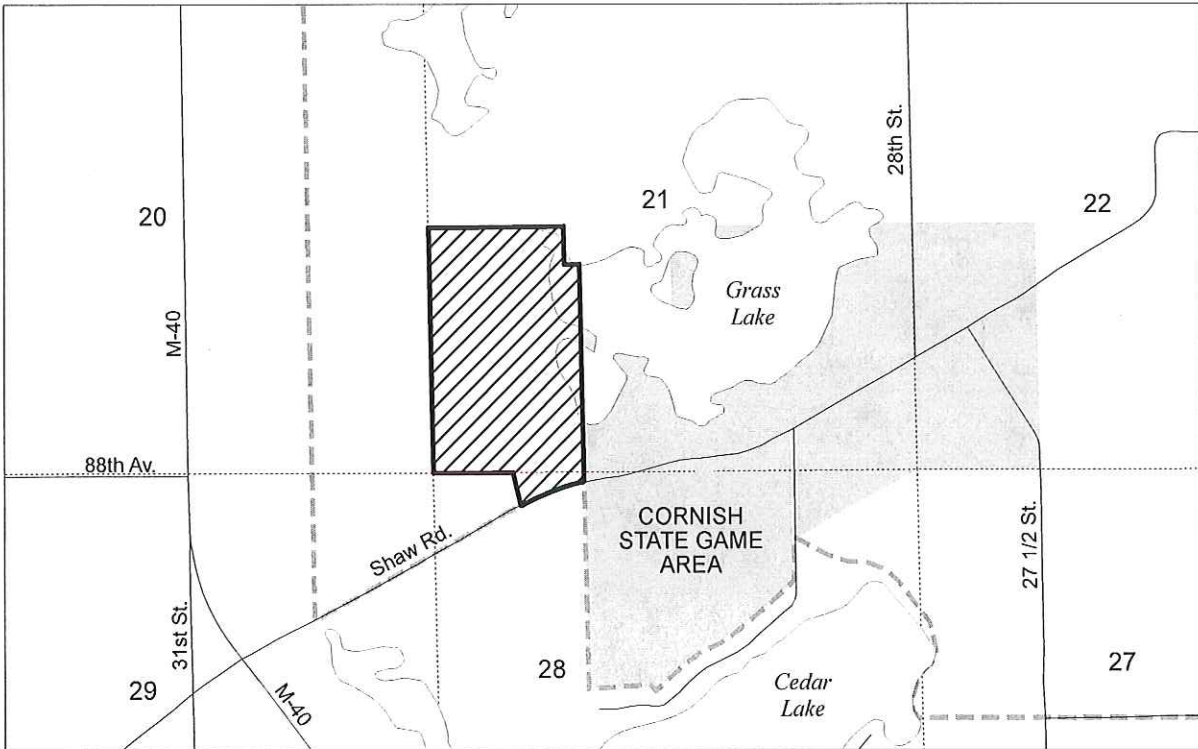
Daniel Eichinger
Director

Date Approved

WILDLIFE LAND ACQUISITION

Cornish State Game Area - Van Buren County

Land Transaction Case #20190004



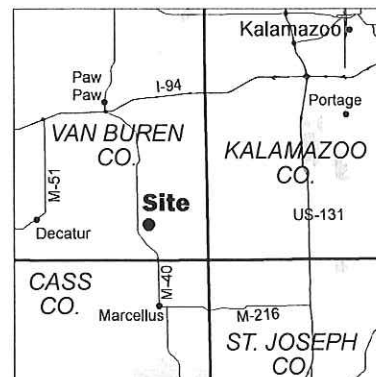
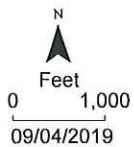
Sections 21 and 28, T04S, R13W, Porter Township

Land to be acquired by DNR (101.51 acres)

State land

Private land

DNR Project Boundary



DNR Project Boundaries