

SUBJECT: LAND ACQUISITION, SNOW BOTTOM STATE NATURAL AREA – GRANT COUNTY

FOR: AUGUST 2008 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: The Department has obtained an option to purchase 20.1 acres of land from Anthony and Marilyn Gust for \$100,000 for the Snow Bottom State Natural Area in Grant County. The item is being submitted because the purchase price exceeds the appraised value of \$92,500. The amount in excess of appraisal value will be gifted to the Department from an individual, James O'Brien (\$2,500) and from Trout Unlimited (\$5,000)

The parcel lies within the Snow Bottom State Natural Area and contains 1,000 feet of frontage on the south bank of Castle Rock Creek. It is adjacent to a recently acquired 163-acre parcel owned by the Department, which has difficult access. Thus, the parcel adjoins department-owned lands to the north and across Cedar Rock Road to the south. Acquiring the Gust parcel would provide parking for those accessing Castle Rock Creek since the parcel has 1,000 feet of frontage along Cedar Rock Road. In addition to access for fishing, the public will be able to walk from this parcel to the 163 acres of state land abutting on the north side for hunting and other outdoor recreational uses.

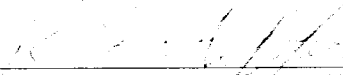
Castle Rock Creek has a national reputation and clientele. It annually ranks in the top five water resources in the state for fishing pressure per mile. It receives heavier pressure than any stream in southwestern Wisconsin. The stream has been intensively managed for the past 50 years leading to a reputation as a "big trout" fishery.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve the purchase of 20.1 acres of land for \$100,000 for the Snow Bottom State Natural Area as well as accept a donation of \$5,000 from the Trout Unlimited and \$2,500 from James O'Brien to be used toward the purchase. In addition, that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board and a certificate of appreciation be given to the donors.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

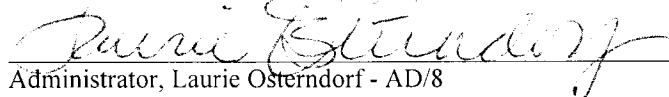
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|--|---|---|----------|
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fiscal Estimate Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Environmental Assessment of Impact Statement Required | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Attached |
| No <input type="checkbox"/> | Background Memo | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Attached |

APPROVED:



Real Estate Director, Richard E. Steffes - LF/6

Date



Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf - AD/8

7/10/08
Date

Secretary, Matthew J. Frank - AD/8

Date

- cc: S. Miller – LF/6
R. Steffes – LF/6
L. Ross – AD/8
S. Holtz –ER/6
L. Eagan – SCR/Fitchburg

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 7, 2008

TO: Governor Doyle

FROM: Matthew J. Frank

SUBJECT: Proposed Land Acquisition, Gust Tract, File # NA-20001,
Approval is Requested By September 15, 2008

FILE REF: NA-20001

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Snow Bottom State Natural Area
Grant County

Grantor:

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Gust
c/o Jenny Johnson
Realty Executives
200 West Main Street
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Acres: 20.1Price: \$100,000*Appraised Value: \$92,500Interest: Purchase in fee.Improvements: None*Comment: Includes a gift of \$2,500 from James O'Brien and \$5,000 from Trout Unlimited.Location: The tract is located in northeastern Grant County in the Town of Castle Rock.Land Description: The subject area starts in floodplain along the river and climbs up 200 feet to the road on the south side of the property.Water Resources: There are 1,000 feet of frontage along the south side of Castle Rock Creek.

<u>Covertypes Breakdown:</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
	Wooded Upland	20.1

Zoning: Town lacks comprehensive zoning. Floodplain/shoreland zoning for land along the stream.Present Use: VacantProposed Use: Resource Protection and Public RecreationTenure: 10 yearsProperty Taxes: \$471Option Date: May 23, 2008Stewardship Land Access: The property will be open to the public for all nature-based outdoor recreational activities including hunting, fishing, trapping and skiing.2. JUSTIFICATION:

The Department is proposing to purchase the predominantly wooded 20.1-acre Gust tract located in northeastern Grant County in the Town of Castle Rock for the Snow Bottom Natural Area. The subject parcel lies entirely within the Snow Bottom State Natural Area and contains 1,000 feet of frontage on the

south bank of Castle Rock Creek. It is adjacent to a recently acquired 163-acre parcel owned by the Department, which has difficult access and adjoins department-owned lands to the north and across Cedar Rock Road to the south. Acquiring the Gust parcel would provide parking for those accessing Castle Rock Creek since the parcel has 1,000 feet of frontage along Cedar Rock Road. In addition, the purchase improves public access to the state land to the north.

Snow Bottom State Natural Area features a diverse and spectacular landscape encompassing the most significant remaining pine relicts in Wisconsin, as well as many other important and uncommon native plant communities including fen and springs, southern dry-mesic forest and oak woodland, riparian areas, and geological features. Located on the scattered sandstone outcrops are the pine relicts, isolated stands of white and red pine with occasional jack pine. Understory plant species include numerous evergreen and ericaceous species such as blueberry, huckleberry, pipsissewa, and partridgeberry. Red oak dominates the dry-mesic forest with white oak, sugar maple, basswood, and red maple and the herbaceous understory is diverse with jack-in-the-pulpit, enchanter's nightshade, large-flowered bellwort, interrupted fern, lady fern, tick trefoils, and hog peanut. To the detriment of the oaks, more mesophytic, shade-tolerant tree species are becoming established under current management practices and fire suppression. Also present is a diverse wetland of calcareous fen and springs that supports numerous calciphitic plants such as shrubby cinquefoil, grass-of-parnassus, Kalm's lobelia, Ohio goldenrod, boneset and swamp thistle.

In addition, the water resources on the Gust property are considered excellent by department fisheries staff. The acquisition includes 1,000 feet of frontage on the south bank of Castle Rock Creek, a Class I trout stream. Castle Rock Creek has a national reputation and clientele. It annually ranks in the top five water resources in the state for fishing pressure per mile. It receives heavier pressure than any stream in southwestern Wisconsin. The stream has been intensively managed for the past 50 years, and was the first stream in the state to enforce artificial lures and no-kill zones, leading to a reputation as a "big trout" fishery.

The Department recommends acquisition of the 20.1-acre Gust tract. The property is located within the Snow Bottoms Natural Area boundary and Castle Rock Creek Fishery Area and will serve to block existing and future department ownership. Acquiring the subject property will allow the Department to provide additional opportunities for public recreation and to better protect the natural and scenic resources of this site by preventing development incompatible with the goals of the project and by promoting natural resource management.

3. FINANCING:

State Stewardship bond funds for Nature Areas are anticipated:

Funds allotted to program:	Balance after proposed transaction:
\$2,000,000	\$1,691,538

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE SNOW BOTTOM STATE NATURAL AREA:

Established: 2002
Acres Purchased to Date: 163.2*
Acquisition Goal: 9.995 acres
Percent Complete: 1.63%
Cost to Date: \$500,000

*Comment: Department ownership fee and easement acres, currently in the boundary, as shown on the project map, were purchased under the Fish Remnant program prior to establishment of the natural area.

5. APPRAISAL:

Appraiser: Robert Bredemus (Private Appraiser)

Valuation Date: January 19, 2007

Appraised Value: \$92,500

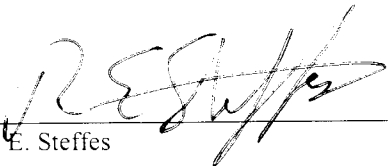
Highest and Best Use: rural residential site with excellent outdoor recreational amenities

Allocation of Values:

- a. land: 20.1 acres @ \$4,600 per acre: \$92,500 (Rounded)
- b. market data approach used, four sales
- c. adjusted value range: \$3,046 to \$4,936 per acre

Appraisal Review: Ron Olson – March 20, 2007

RECOMMENDED:



 Richard E. Steffes

7-7-08

 Date



 Bureau of Legal Services

7/9/08

 Date

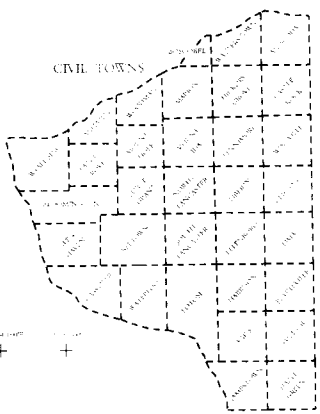
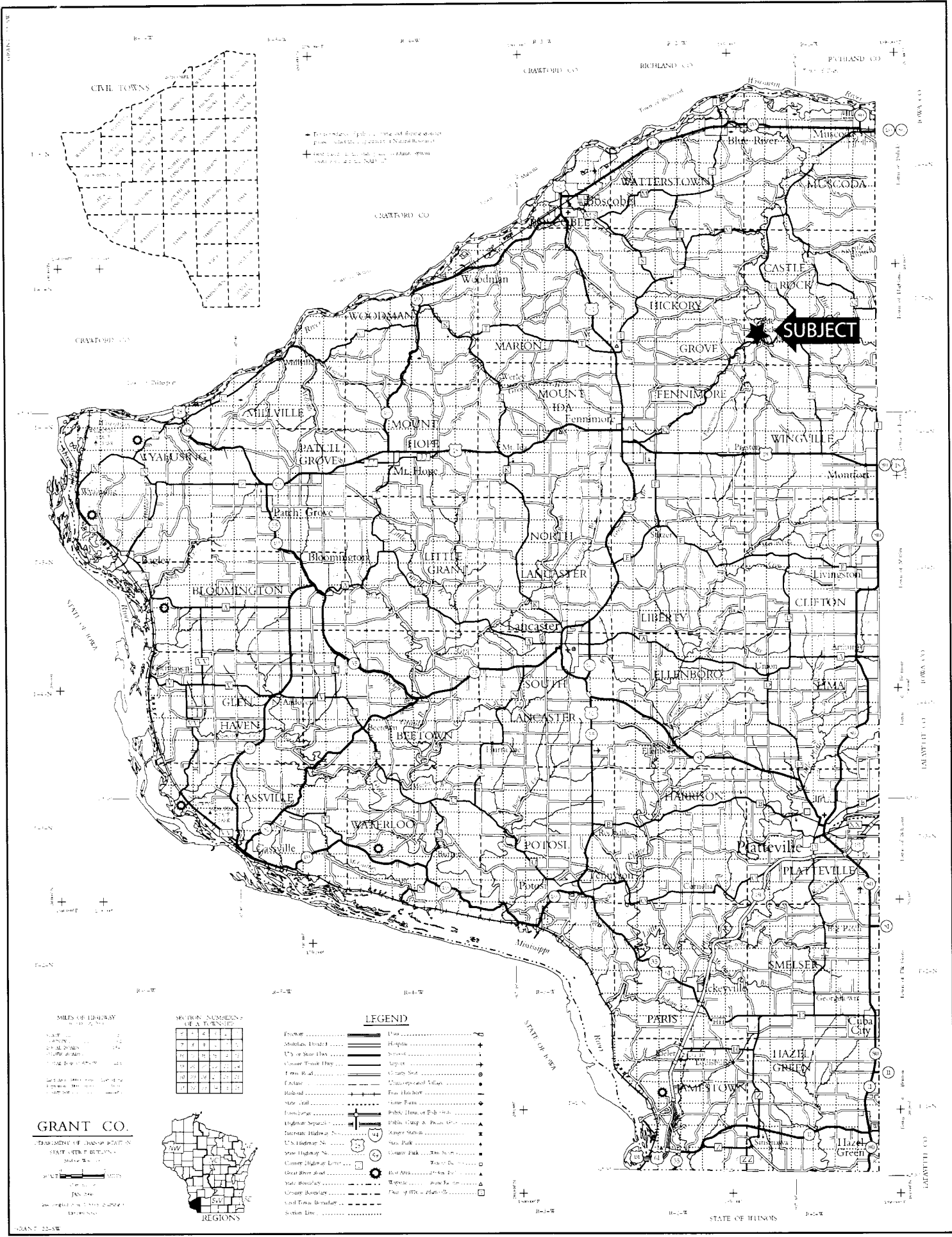


 Laurie Osterndorf

7/10/08

 Date

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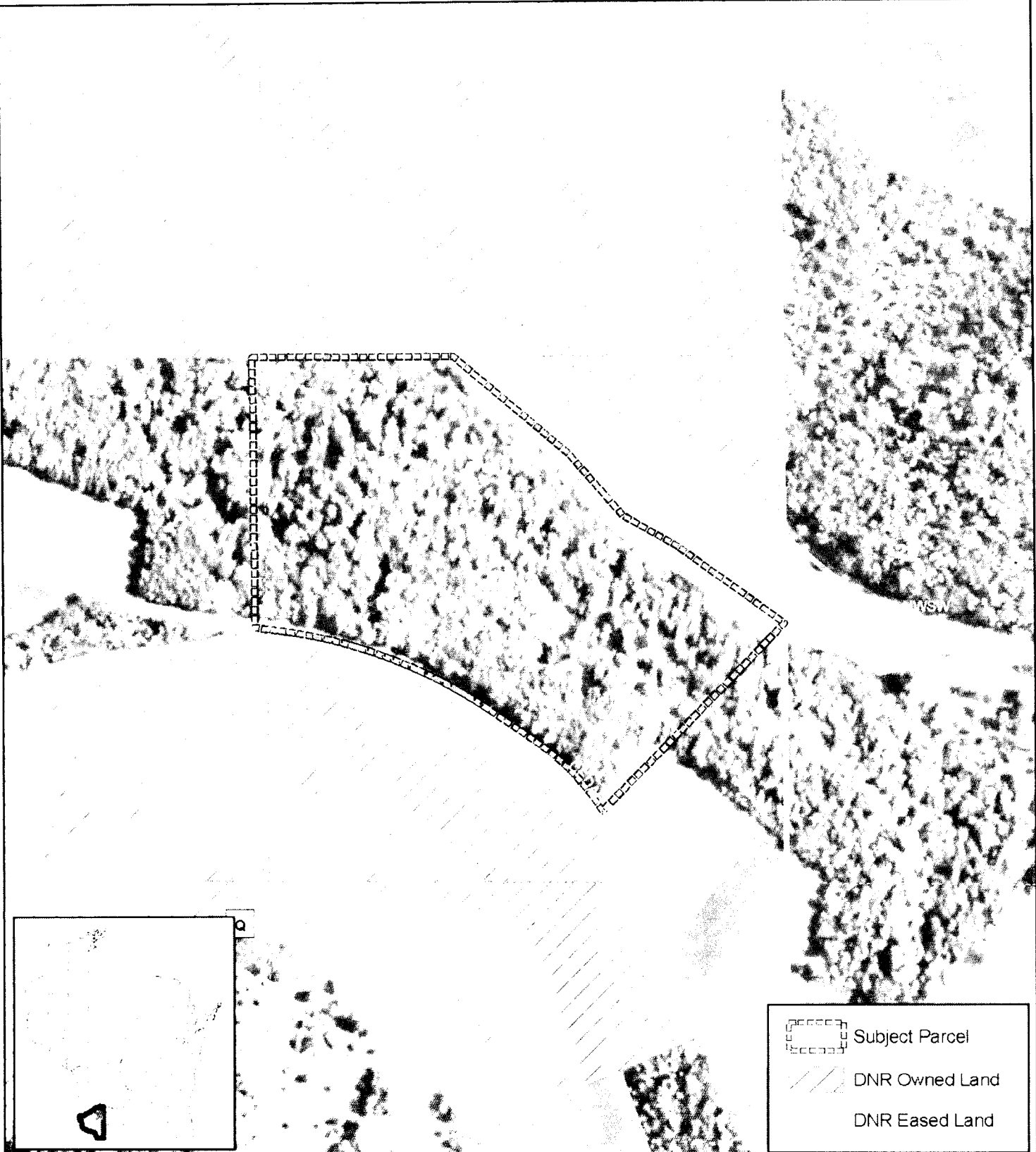
- LEGEND**
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 - County Highway Line
 - Great River Road
 - State Boundary
 - County Boundary
 - Local Town Boundary
 - Section Line
 - U.S. or State Hwy
 - County Trunk Hwy
 - Trunk Road
 - Express
 - Highway
 - City
 - County Seat
 - Highway Station
 - Interstate Highway
 - U.S. Highway No.
 - State Highway No.
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 - State Highway No.
 - County Highway Line
 - Great River Road
 - State Boundary
 - County Boundary
 - Local Town Boundary
 - Section Line





GRANT CO.
 TRANSMITTED TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE UNDER ACT OF MARCH 19, 1917
 STATE OF ILLINOIS
 JAN 29 1924
 DEPARTMENT OF STATE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS


Gust Property

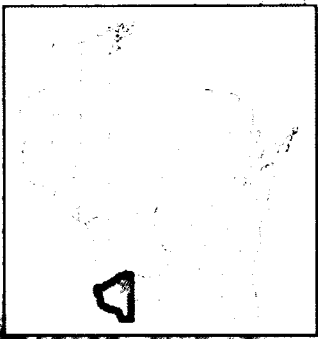
T 7N, R 1W, Section 30, Town of Castle Rock, Grant County



 Subject Parcel

 DNR Owned Land

 DNR Eased Land



Created by Bureau of Facilities and Lands
Real Estate Section
June 23, 2008



