

SUBJECT: LAND DONATION - STATEWIDE WILDLIFE HABITAT – CHIPPEWA COUNTY

FOR: JANUARY 2008 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: Pheasants Forever, Inc. has offered to donate to the Department 220 acres of land for the Statewide Wildlife Habitat program in Chippewa County.

The 220 acres, located in south-central Chippewa County in the Town of Hallie just southeast of Chippewa Falls, were acquired with the assistance of a Stewardship grant. Donation of this tract to the state will consolidate public land ownership in this area since the tract abuts 102.6 acres protected by county held conservation easements and 156 acres owned by the Department. This donation will bring the total amount of permanent open space in this area to nearly 480 acres. The parcel would provide additional habitat for game and songbirds and blocks well with the existing department-owned lands. The land to be donated consists of a 40-acre parcel and a 180-acre parcel located 1/8 mile apart. A state-owned parcel is located between these areas.

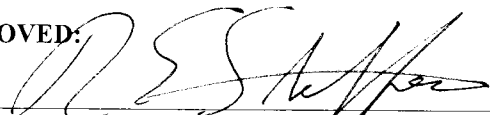
The Department recommends acceptance of this donation to allow wildlife habitat management, to provide public access for hunting and other recreation and to consolidate state and county ownership.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of 220 acres of land for the Statewide Wildlife Habitat program, that a certificate of appreciation be sent to Pheasants Forever and that an expression of appreciation be made a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS:

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|----------|
| 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 |

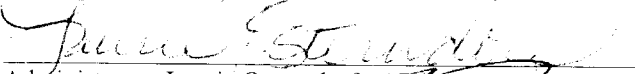
APPROVED:



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

12-21-07

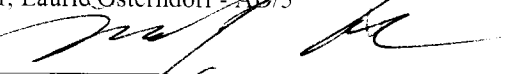
Date



Administrator, Laurie Osterndorf - AD/5

12/28/07

Date



Secretary, Matthew J. Frank - AD/5

11/3/08

Date

- cc: S. Miller – LF/6
 R. Steffes – LF/6
 L. Ross – AD/5
 T. Hauge – WM/6
 S. Humrickhouse -- WCR/Eau Claire




CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

State of Wisconsin

DATE: December 20, 2007

FILE REF: W-1733

TO: Natural Resources Board

FROM: Matthew J. Frank 

SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, Pheasants Forever, Inc., Tract. File # W-1733.

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Statewide Wildlife Habitat
Chippewa County

Grantor:

Pheasants Forever, Inc
c/o David Swan, President
3144 Greenview Drive
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Acres: 220

Price: Donation

Appraised Value: \$396,000

Interest: Donation in fee.

Improvements: none

Location: The tract is located in southern Chippewa County, 3 miles southeast of Chippewa Falls, in the Town of Hallie.

Land Description: The subject area is mainly low with some upland.

<u>Covertypes Breakdown:</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Acreege</u>
	Cropland	17.0
	Wetland	164.0
	Upland Woodland	35.0
	Brush	4.0
	TOTAL:	220.0

Zoning: Agriculture/Conservancy

Present Use: Agriculture and Recreation

Proposed Use: Wildlife Habitat and Public Recreation

Tenure: Purchased by Pheasants Forever in 2006 for \$308,000

Option Date: February 20, 2006

2. JUSTIFICATION:

The Department recommends the acceptance of a 220-acre donation from Pheasants Forever for the Statewide Habitat Program. The parcel, located in south-central Chippewa County in the Town of Hallie just southeast of Chippewa Falls, was acquired with a Stewardship grant. Donation of this tract will consolidate acquisition in this area since the tract is directly connected to 102.6 acres protected by county-held conservation easements of which 64.9 acres are open to limited public use and 156 acres owned by the Department. This donation will bring the total amount of permanent open space to nearly 441 acres. The parcel would provide additional wetland species habitat for game and songbirds and blocks well with the existing department-owned lands

The Statewide Wildlife Habitat project was established in 1991 to increase populations of ring-necked pheasants, waterfowl, and grassland songbirds in locations throughout the state. The project uses a landscape scale approach to habitat management that incorporates a patchwork of wetland and grasslands with cropland to create habitat conditions more favorable for self-sustaining wildlife populations. The intent is to widely scatter suitable habitat, rather than concentrating the habitat in one area. The mix of agricultural land, grasslands, and wetlands is the key to productive wildlife populations.

The need for the Statewide Wildlife Habitat program is based on a documented decline in grassland and wetland wildlife populations. Reductions in habitat quality and quantity because of land use changes have contributed to the decline of grassland nesting wildlife populations. Also, wetland loss or degradation has been an important factor in the decline of many wetland wildlife species.

The eastern portion of this larger part of the ownership consists of a hill overlooking wetlands to the west. The donation will provide important habitat for pheasants, waterfowl and songbirds. The land's proximity to Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire will ensure public use for hunting, bird watching and nature appreciation.

The Department recommends acceptance of this donation to allow wildlife habitat management, to provide public access for hunting and other recreation, to consolidate state ownership and to prevent incompatible development.

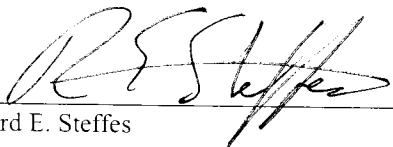
3. FINANCING:

No additional funds are necessary for this land donation. This land was acquired by Pheasants Forever with the assistance of a Stewardship grant of \$198,500. Chippewa County granted \$100,000 toward the purchase price of \$308,000.

4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE STATEWIDE WILDLIFE HABITAT:

Established: 1991
Acres Acquired to Date: 3,278.74
Acquisition Goal: 6,000 Acres
Percent Complete: 54.6%
Cost to Date: \$2,375,785

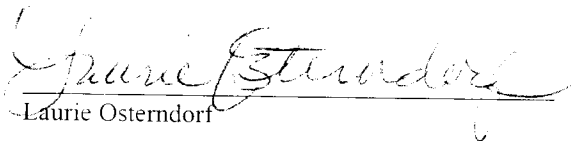
RECOMMENDED:


Richard E. Steffes

12-21-07
Date


Bureau of Legal Services

12/28/07
Date


Laurie Osterndorf

12/28/07
Date

RES:dv

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Acknowledgment Of Gift

This is to certify that at its January 2008 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 220 acres of land in Chippewa County for the Statewide Wildlife Habitat Area from

PHEASANTS FOREVER

It is significant that organizations such as yours are interested in helping protect Wisconsin's natural heritage and contribute materially toward this end.

An expression of our appreciation is a part of the official records of the Natural Resources Board. We present this certificate of sincere appreciation on behalf of present and future generations to thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Natural Resources Board

Christine Thomas, CHAIRMAN