

SUBJECT: LAND DONATION - STATEWIDE NATURAL AREA- LAFAYETTE AND GRANT COUNTIES
FOR: OCTOBER 2011 BOARD MEETING

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Richard Steffes

SUMMARY: The Worthing family has offered to donate approximately 8.75 acres of land for the Statewide Natural Area (Hardscrabble Prairie) in southwest Lafayette and southeast Grant Counties to the Department.

The parcel is partially in the Village of Hazel Green and has been in the Worthing family since the 1850's. There is an identified "mining" cultural site on the parcel. From the late 1820s to the 1850s lead miners dug shallow depressions, about 3-4 feet deep and about 10 feet by 15 feet in size, searching for lead. The Worthing property contains many of these shallow mining depressions. A road provides access to the west of the Worthing land. Extending from the road, a trail is maintained by the Village of Hazel Green and serves as a hiking and access trail to the adjoining 159 acres of state land.

Hardscrabble Prairie is a composite of oak opening and very diverse dry prairies, including some that are situated on a north-facing slope, an unusual exposure for the dry prairie community type. Abundant species include common ninebark, culver's-root, valerian, mountain mint, lead-plant, showy goldenrod, purple prairie-clover, prairie drop-seed, and side-oats grama grass. The natural area is important habitat for the globally rare ottoe skipper butterfly, the state-endangered Blanchard's cricket frog, the state-threatened prairie leafhopper, and the North American racer and highland dancer dragonfly, two species of special concern.

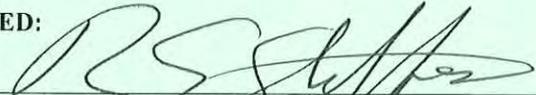
Acceptance of this donation will provide a buffer to the existing natural area, permanent access to the public that uses the easement trail and opportunities for natural resource protection and management.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board accept the donation of 8.75 acres of land for the Statewide Natural Area program, that a certificate of appreciation be sent to the Worthing family 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

9-27-11

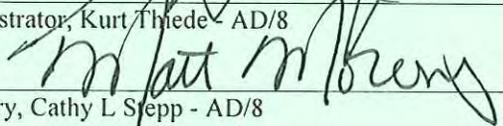
Date



Administrator, Kurt Thiede - AD/8

9-29-11

Date



Secretary, Cathy L Stepp - AD/8

10/5/11

Date

- cc: S. Miller - LF/6
R. Steffes - LF/6
L. Ross - AD/5
L. Osterndorf - ER/6
M. Aquino - SCR/Fitchburg

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 27, 2011 FILE REF: NA 20075
 TO: Natural Resources Board
 FROM: Cathy Stepp
 SUBJECT: Proposed Land Donation, The Worthing Family Tract, File # NA 20075

1. PARCEL DESCRIPTION:

Statewide Natural Area
 Lafayette and Grant Counties

Grantor:

The Worthing Family
 c/o Patricia Worthing
 1317 Tall Timbers Drive
 Crownsville, MD 21032

Acres: 8.75 (to be determined by survey)Price: GiftInterest: Fee titleImprovements: NoneLocation: The tract is located in Lafayette and Grant Counties just outside the Village of Hazel Green.Land Description: The subject land is fairly level to sloping.Covertypes Breakdown:

Type	Acreage
Upland Woodland	7.75
Grass	1.00
Total:	8.75

Present Use: RecreationalProposed Use: Natural Resource Protection and Public Outdoor RecreationTenure: 150+ yearsAgreement Date: September 12, 2011

Stewardship Land Access: Most of the property will be open to the public for all nature based outdoor recreational activities to include hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking and cross country skiing; the .75 acres in located in the Village of Hazel Green will not be open to hunting and trapping.

2. JUSTIFICATION:

The parcel is partially in the Village of Hazel Green and has been in the Worthing family since the 1850's. There is an identified "mining" cultural site on the parcel. From the late 1820s to the 1850s lead miners dug shallow depressions, about 3-4 feet deep and about 10 feet by 15 feet in size, searching for lead. The Worthing property contains many of these shallow mining depressions.

The parcel contains 7.75 acres of upland forest dominated by black walnut with some basswood and black cherry. The family is working with Department to harvest the walnut on the donated property. There is also a one acre degraded prairie in the center of the parcel that adjoins Department land. A road provides

access to the west of the Worthing land. Continuing from the road there is a sanitary sewer easement with 500 feet on the southwest edge of the parcel. The easement is maintained by the Village of Hazel Green and serves as a hiking and access trail for Hazel Green residents to access the adjoining 159 acres of state land.

Designated a State Natural Area in 1997, Hardscrabble Prairie is a composite of oak opening and very diverse dry prairies, including some that are situated on a north-facing slope, an unusual exposure for the dry prairie community type. Abundant species include common ninebark, culver's-root, valerian, mountain mint, lead-plant, showy goldenrod, purple prairie-clover, prairie drop-seed, and side-oats grama grass. Other species are little blue-stem, June grass, pasque flower, alumroot, Illinois tick-trefoil, round-headed bush-clover, and shooting-star. The lower area contains a dry creek bed with large open-grown bur oaks scattered throughout.

The natural area is important habitat for the globally rare ottoe skipper butterfly, the state-endangered Blanchard's cricket frog, the state-threatened prairie leafhopper, a species of special concern the North American racer (blue racer, a snake), and a species of special concern the highland dancer dragonfly. Habitat heterogeneity and an abundance of nectaring plants makes the prairie attractive to at least 16 other species of butterflies including silver-spotted skipper, common wood nymph, painted lady, great spangled fritillary, and meadow fritillary. Nesting birds found that are "species of greatest conservation need" include black-billed cuckoo, yellow-billed cuckoo, brown thrasher, white-eyed vireo, and field sparrow. The property provides ideal habitat for gray and fox squirrels, white-tailed deer, bull snakes, and wild turkeys. A couple years ago a bobcat was photographed on the natural area.

Acceptance of the property will provide a buffer to the existing natural area, better management access since the fire break will be north of the prairie opening, permanent access to the public that uses the easement trail, and opportunities for natural resource protection. The land will be open for all five recreational uses except for the .75 acres in Grant County within the Village limits of Hazel Green that will not be open to hunting and trapping.

3. FINANCING:

No funding is required for this transaction.

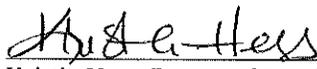
4. ACQUISITION STATUS OF THE STATEWIDE NATURAL AREA:

Established: 1972
Acres Purchased to Date: 47,095.59
Acquisition Goal: 41,000.00
Percent Complete: 114.87 %
Cost to Date: \$28,671,984.80

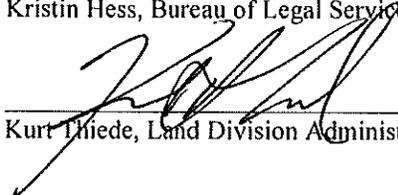
RECOMMENDED:


Richard E. Steffes, Real Estate Director

9-27-11
Date


Kristin Hess, Bureau of Legal Services

9/27/11
Date


Kurt Thiede, Land Division Administrator

9/29/11
Date

Acknowledgment Of Gift

This is to certify that at its October 2011 meeting, the Natural Resources Board gratefully accepted gift of 8.75 acres of land in Lafayette and Grant Counties for the Statewide Natural Area from

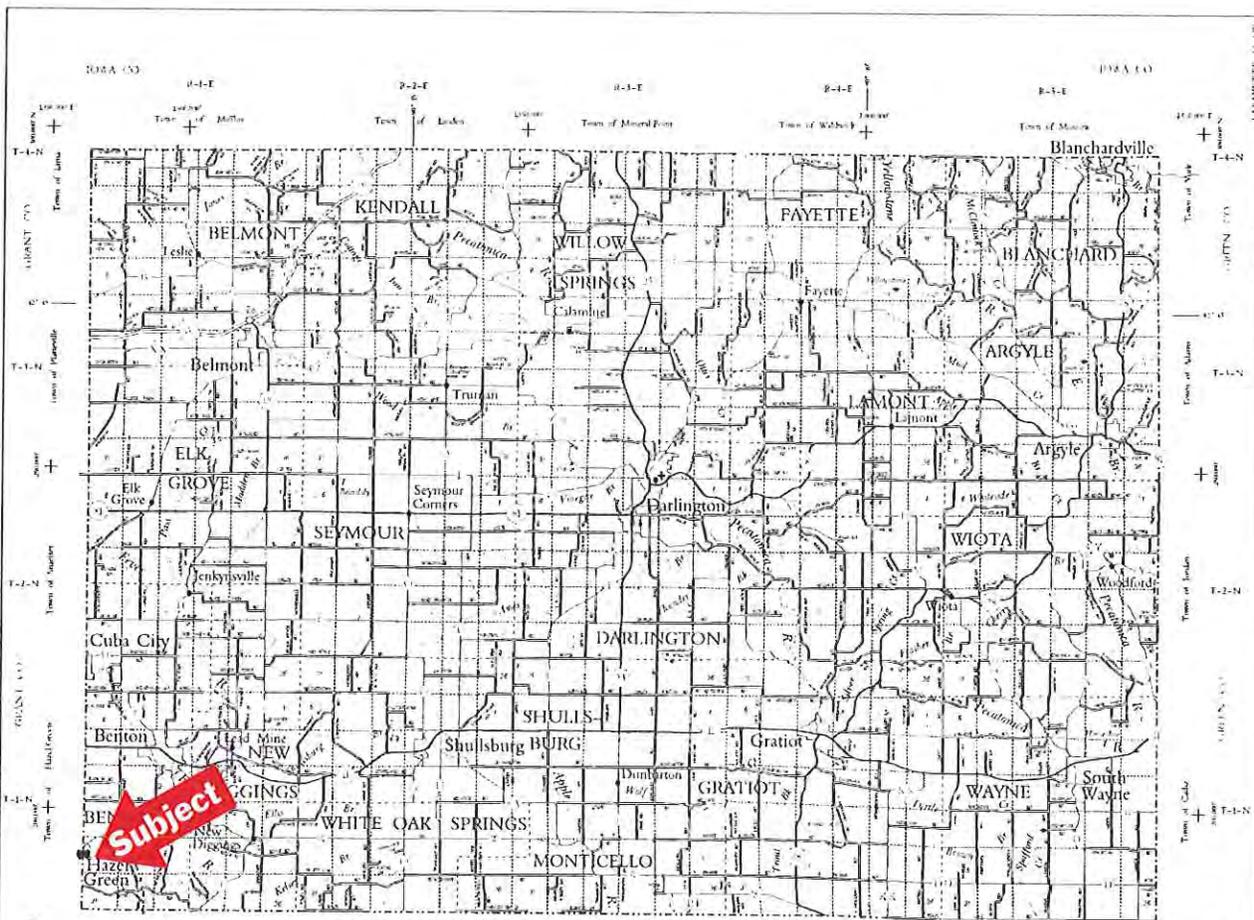
The Worthing Family

It is significant that individuals such as you 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.

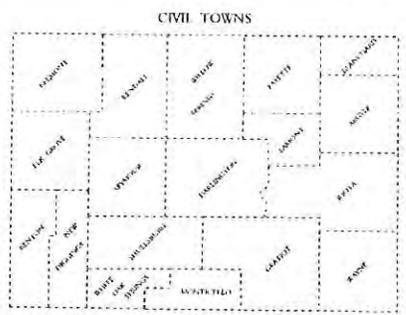
Natural Resources Board

David Clausen, CHAIR



LEGEND

Town	.....	City	.....
Mul-tine Divided	.....	Hwy. 40	.....
US or Stat. Hwy.	.....	State	.....
County Tract Hwy.	.....	County Seat	.....
Town Road	.....	Unincorporated Village	.....
Ferries	.....	Fish Hatchery	.....
Railroad	.....	Game Farm	.....
Stat. Tral.	.....	Fish House or Fish Gok.	.....
Interchange	.....	Fish Camp & Pinar Gok.	.....
Hydrow Separation	.....	Power Station	.....
Interstate Highway No.	.....	State Park	.....
US Highway No.	.....	County Park	.....
State Highway No.	.....	Water Feature	.....
County Highway Line	.....	Water Feature	.....
State Boundary	.....	Water Feature	.....
County Boundary	.....	Water Feature	.....
Civil Town Boundary	.....	Water Feature	.....
Section Line	.....	



SECTION NUMBERING
 CT & TOWNSHIP

5	4	3	2	1
12	11	10	9	8
19	18	17	16	15
26	25	24	23	22
33	32	31	30	29

MILES OF HIGHWAY
 BY TYPE

STATE	107
COUNTY	27
UNCLASSIFIED	10
TOTAL FOR COUNTY	144

LAFAYETTE CO.
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
 Moline, Illinois

SCALE: 1" = 10 MILES

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Worthing Family

State Natural Area -
Hardscrabble Prairie

NA20075

T1N R1E Sec 30 and
T1N R1W Sec 25

Village of Hazel Green
Lafayette and Grant Counties

8.75 acres



Subject Parcel



DNR Owned



DNR Easement



DNR Project Boundary

QQ Section Boundary

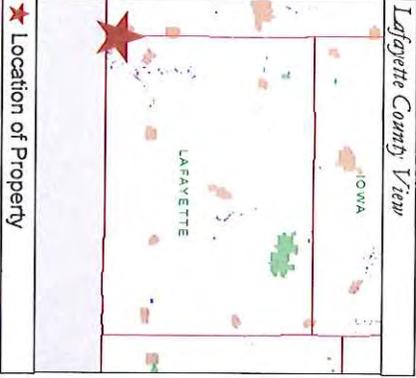


State Recreation Trail

0 300

Feet

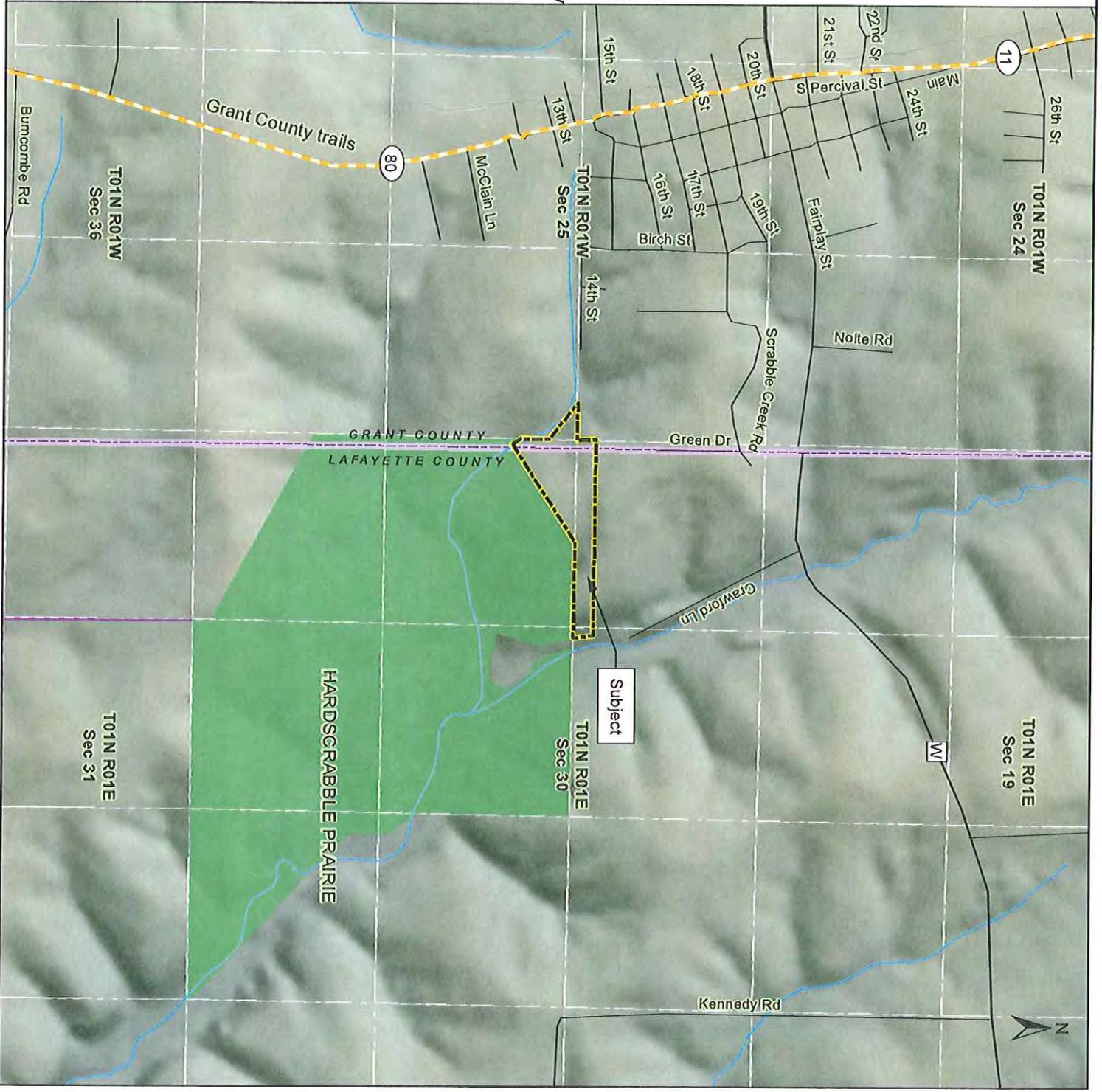
Lafayette County View



★ Location of Property



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Facilities of Lands
Map Created: Sep 27, 2011 kmh



Worthing Family

T1N R1E, Sec 30 and T1N R1W Sec 25, Village of Hazel Green, Lafayette and Grant Counties



Statewide Natural Area - Hardscrabble Prairie

 Subject Parcel

 DNR Owned

 State Recreation Trail

 QQ Section Lines

 County Boundary


0 200 400 600 Feet

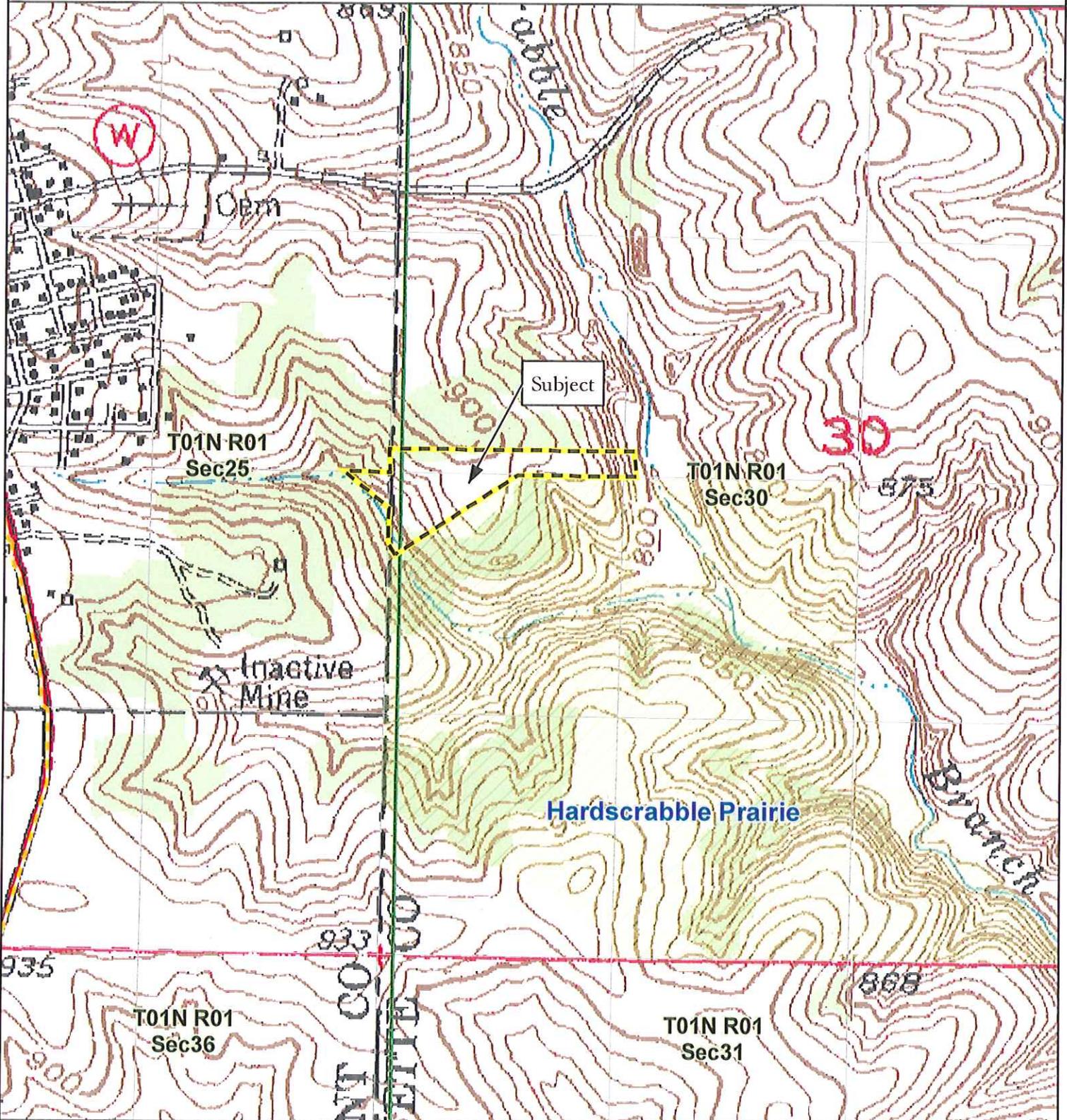

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Sep 27, 2011 kmh
Real Estate Section
Bureau of Facilities and Lands

Worthing Family

T1N R1E, Sec 30 and T1N R1W Sec 25, Village of Hazel Green, Lafayette and Grant Counties



Statewide Natural Area - Hardscrabble Prairie

 Subject Parcel

 DNR Owned

 State Recreation Trail

 QQ Section Lines

 County Boundary


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