

File# FO 83 O (4) — Vilas County - 39.4 acres

The Department acquired this property from Northern Blue Grass Land Company as part of a larger acquisition in 1912. The NHAL Master Plan, approved by NRB action in 2005, included acquisition exclusion areas in and around the Towns of Manitowish Waters, Boulder Junction, Sayner, St. Germain, and Lake Tomahawk. These exclusion areas were originally removed from the Northern Highland and American Legion State Forest Administrative boundaries in 1975 by NRB action. The 1982 and 2005 NHAL Master Plans recognized this action and the continued interests of the local Towns for these areas to remain as exclusion areas and not be included in the NHAL project boundary. The intent of the 1975 action, and the two subsequent master plan actions, was to adjust the project boundary and remove lands from the NHAL project boundary, as well as the State Forest designation. The rationale for all three actions was to allow the Department the ability to divest the lands by trade or sale, for more appropriate forested lands within the NHAL and allowing the Towns to direct local growth and development in and around their communities.

The parcel shows intensive browse damage within the recently clear cut portions caused by high white-tail deer numbers. The property is currently used for grouse, deer and turkey hunting.

This property is accessible through a town road and is adjacent to County forest. There are two separate drivable and non-gated entry points onto this property, with associated logging roads that provide access to the two upland portions of the property. The St Germain Snowmobile Club has snowmobile routes along Birchwood Rd & Muskellunge Creek Rd right of ways that are adjacent to this parcel. The Department has made minimal investments on the property, only for forest management.

A neighboring landowner has asked about the status of this parcel, and was interested in acquiring it to prevent it from being subdivided. As the parcel is adjacent to County forest property, it may be a better fit for County management.

The Department recommends that the Natural Resources Board offer this land for sale under the authority granted by s. 23.145 Wis. Stats., subject to an easement along the road for the existing snowmobile trail.

