

Parent File W 755 (1)/Sale File WM 60459– Vernon County 0.98 Acres

The Department was gifted this parcel in 1987. The property is a part of the Scattered Forest Lands project and is located approximately five miles south of La Crosse in Vernon County. At the time of gift acceptance, the approvals state that if after further study, the land is not needed for Department use, it may be resold.

The Department recommends offering for sale a portion of the property and to retain a larger portion of the property. The portions being recommended for sale have had past inquiries from adjacent landowners for possible trade or sale. There is an encroachment on one of the portions being recommended for sale. The sale of these small sections will not impact hunting opportunities on the larger parcel.

The portion recommended to be retained has rare birds breeding on site: Cerulean Warbler (State Threatened), Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) as per Wisconsin's Wildlife Action Plan-Wood Thrush (SGCN), Black Rat Snake(SGCN) and Bull Snake (SGCN). Wooded bluffs adjacent to the Mississippi river provide migratory stopover habitat.

The property's close proximity to the City of La Crosse provides an easily accessible hunting location. This property is used during both the archery and gun deer season as well as for turkey and small game hunting.

The Department has not made significant investments in infrastructure or habitat improvements.

The portion being recommended to be retained is accessible to the public through Hwy 35 and Chipmunk Ridge Road.

The Department recommends that the Natural Resources Board offer a portion of this land for sale (0.98 acres) to the adjoining land owners under the authority granted by s. 23.145 Wis. Stats.

