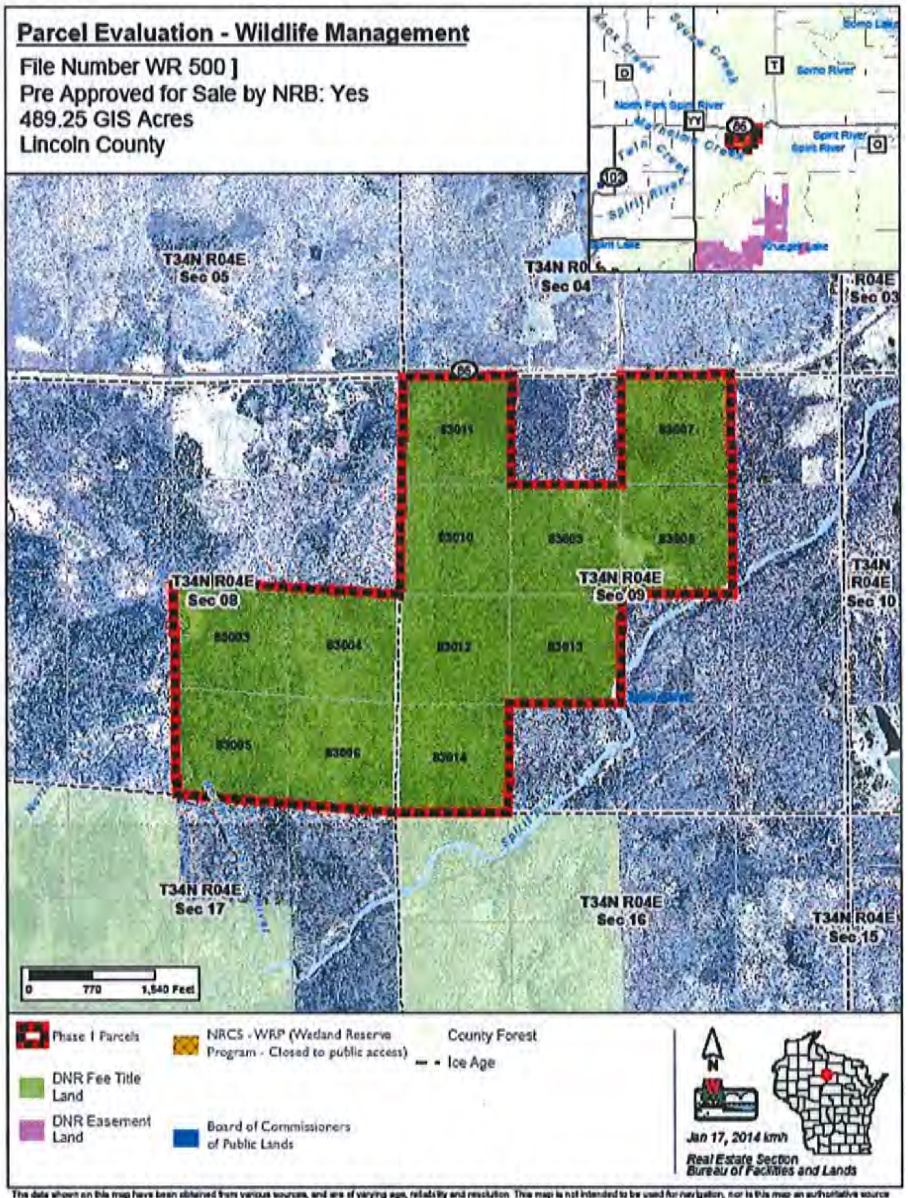
File # WR 500] - Lincoln County 489.25 Acres

This property was purchased in November of 1999 as part of a 32,000 acre purchase from Packaging Corporation of America. Approximately 7000 acres of land from that transaction were identified for resale to counties and tribes. This tract was identified for sale to Lincoln County due to its blocking nature with county forest lands. The land is not located within a Department approved project boundary. The property is accessible by a county highway and has hunter walking/hiking trails throughout the property, including access to Spirit River trout stream. The property is currently being used by the public regularly for outdoor recreation such as hunting (primarily deer and grouse).

Active timber harvests (aspen, mixed hardwood) provide stand age diversity of aspen habitat for grouse, woodcock, and nesting cover for many songbird species. Other habitat types on the property include riparian areas, cedar swamp, tag alder, pine, and fur creating a diverse habitat structure for a variety of species. The property is also within the highest suitable area for the Young Forest Initiative.

A recent timber harvest totaling $112,000 on 121 acres was closed out in 2013. This harvest was conducted in northern hardwoods (selection thinning) and an aspen regeneration harvest of mature aspen. Future timber harvests are anticipated on another 150 acres of aspen timber type, which could result in $130,000+ of monetary return. In addition, those aspen harvests would result in varying the size/age classes on this property and result in a more diverse habitat for wildlife.

The Department recommends that the Natural Resources Board offer this land for sale under the authority granted by s. 23.145 Stats. and that the land be offered to Lincoln County subject to a deed restriction that requires the land be enrolled in the County Forest program and be open to the general public for hunting, trapping, foot travel (hiking, skiing, snowshoeing) and fishing in perpetuity.