



Wisconsin River Protection Program

River Management Grant Application for the White River, Bayfield County May 1, 2004



White River - Carlson Parcel

The Bayfield Regional Conservancy respectfully submits this grant application request for \$40,000 for land acquisition and land protection activities for the White River in Bayfield County, Wisconsin.

Many partners are working to protect this wild and scenic river with Class I trout water. The Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited is a partner in management. The Friends of the White River are partners in education and outreach to landowners. This initiative is a true collaboration of conservation organizations working together to protect the White River.

Carlson Parcel Property Management Plan



Bayfield County, WI

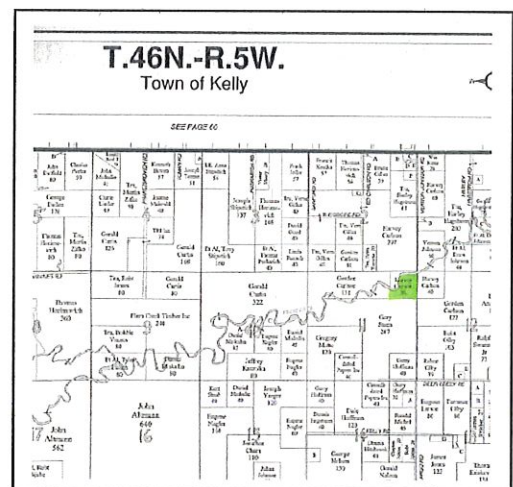
Introduction

This River Protection grant request represents an important step in the ongoing work of a group of organizations in northwest Wisconsin that together are focusing on protecting, preserving and improving the ecological quality of the White River and its watershed.

The applicant of this grant request is the Bayfield Regional Conservancy, a private non-profit land trust. However, the work leading up to this grant has been shared among BRC, the Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the University of Wisconsin-Extension, the Bad River Watershed Association, and Friends of the White River.

This grant requests funding to purchase a land parcel along the White River in Bayfield County, and additional resources to conduct landowner contact and education in a privately-owned section of the White River watershed.

The land parcel in question came available when the landowner approached individuals in the local conservation community. The landowner wanted to sell this parcel of land, and was willing to also make a partial donation of the land, but would do so only with the assurance that the land would be protected and preserved in perpetuity by the new owner.



This opportunity fit the goals of a local group of landowners and river users called Friends of the White River. On behalf of the Friends group, the Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited in 2003 secured a DNR River Planning grant that enabled further development of the Friends group and development of a watershed management plan for the White River. A high priority of this plan is to encourage the use of conservation tools such as land or easement purchase or donation from willing landowners in the White River watershed.

This DNR River Management grant provides the Friends of the White River and its partnership team—here, led by the Bayfield Regional Conservancy—the opportunity to make this first conservation acquisition along the White River. This initial step will serve as a model that other conservation-minded landowners in the watershed may choose to follow.

Property description: Owner: Harvey R. Carlson. Lands lying in Section 11, Town of Kelly (T46N, R5W), Bayfield County, more particularly described as: That portion of the NE quarter of the NE quarter lying south of the White River, 27 acres. Tax Parcel No. 04-026 2-46-05-11-1-1.990.



A. Description of existing conditions

This parcel of land includes nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of frontage on the White River. The land is undeveloped and heavily forested with a mix of coniferous (fir, spruce, pine, cedar) and deciduous (birch, poplar) species, many stands of which are well developed and mature.

The parcel is located along the southern edge of the Lake Superior clay plain; the White River has cut a deep ravine through the land, with areas of the riverbank rising steeply up to 300 feet above the river. Inland, the parcel is cut by several smaller, steep ravines which feed runoff and spring water northward into the White River. In the steepest spots along the river and the smaller inland ravines is seen moderate to severe clay-slump erosion.

There are no structures or other developments on this parcel, no agricultural development, and no road access, although logging roads on an adjacent parcel (to the southwest) come near the property boundary. The topography of the site would make road development extremely difficult at best, and agricultural or timber development nearly impossible.

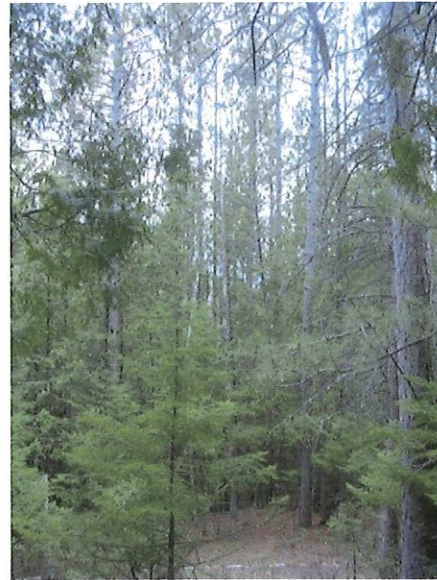
All lands immediately adjacent to the site are similarly forested, though timber harvesting has taken place in some accessible areas. A home is located on the adjacent parcel southwest of the site. Site photos and maps are attached to this application.

B. Description of proposed conditions.

1. The property will be maintained in its current condition to permit public access, protect the water quality of the river, to provide wildlife and plant habitat and to provide protection of the property as a natural, wild and scenic area.
2. There are no plans to transfer, gift or sell the property rights to any other organization. The Bayfield Regional Conservancy will hold this property in trust for the public benefit.



3. The property will be managed and maintained by the Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The chapter members are very familiar with this stretch of the White River and have volunteered to monitor the use of the property and implement the goals of the management plan. The Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited will sign a memo of understanding with the Bayfield Regional Conservancy regarding the implementation of the management plan.
4. The land will be managed in a natural state. Boundaries will be marked, signage installed, a primitive campsite/rest area may be designated for anglers and canoeists. No structures, roads or land-altering activities are planned.
5. A management memo will be drafted between BRC and Trout Unlimited.
6. A DNR River Planning Grant secured in 2003 by the Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited enabled the assembly of a White River Watershed Management Plan. A copy of that plan is included with this application.



White River - Education and Landowner Contact

The White River Watershed Plan recommends the use of conservation tools such as land or easement purchase or donation from willing landowners in the White River watershed.

The first step in implementing the plan is to contact landowners and follow up with those who have indicated interest through the many outreach session conducted in 2003. This grant request includes support for landowner education and consultation on options for conservation. In an area such as this where most land is privately held, landowner contacts are important in order for successful land protection to occur.

A number of watershed residents have regularly attended informational and planning meetings. Continued outreach and education will support the management plan's goal of a well-informed public.

This grant request includes \$9,500 of funds to support the start-up of a land protection program within the watershed. Besides visiting landowners, this includes the publication of three newsletters and continued watershed-wide meetings for landowners. Tools for conservation on private lands include conservation easements, the development of forest management plans and other voluntary activities that can protect the water quality and wildlife habitat along the White River.

Itemized breakdown of expenses

Grant request

\$27,000 land - Carlson parcel
 \$3,500 closing costs - Carlson Parcel
 \$8,500 landowner contact, administration, education & outreach
 \$1,000 3 newsletters and postage and misc printing
\$40,000 total grant request

Match provided (25%)

\$7,000 in-kind landowner donation
 \$1,500 in-kind management labor by Trout Unlimited
 \$1,000 donation by Trout Unlimited
\$ 840 in-kind match by BRC admin (24 hrs @ \$28/hr)
\$10,340 total local match

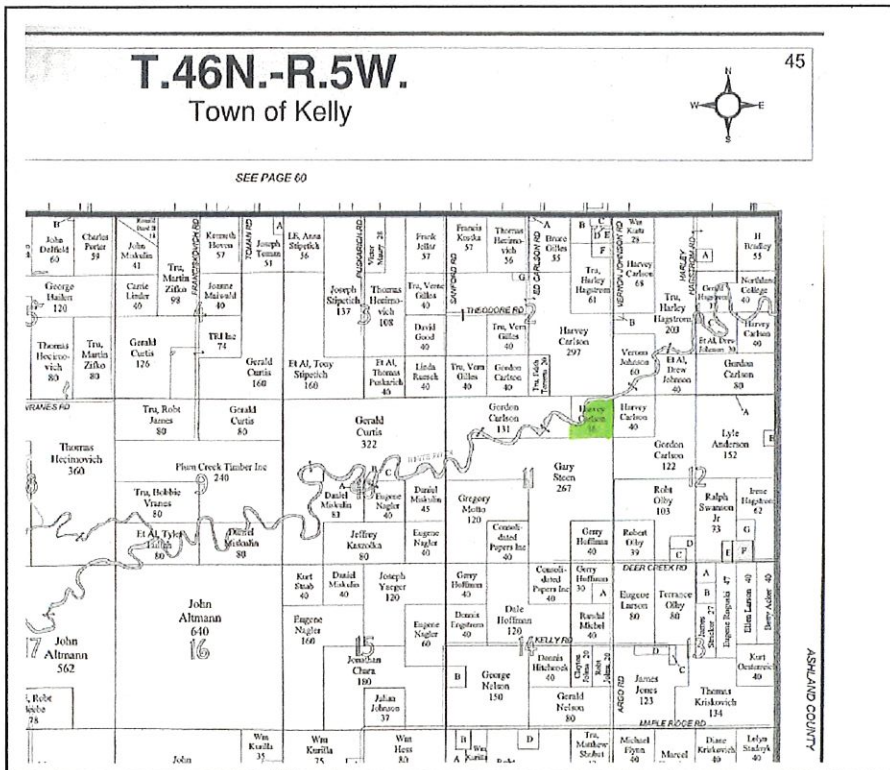
Status of Acquisition

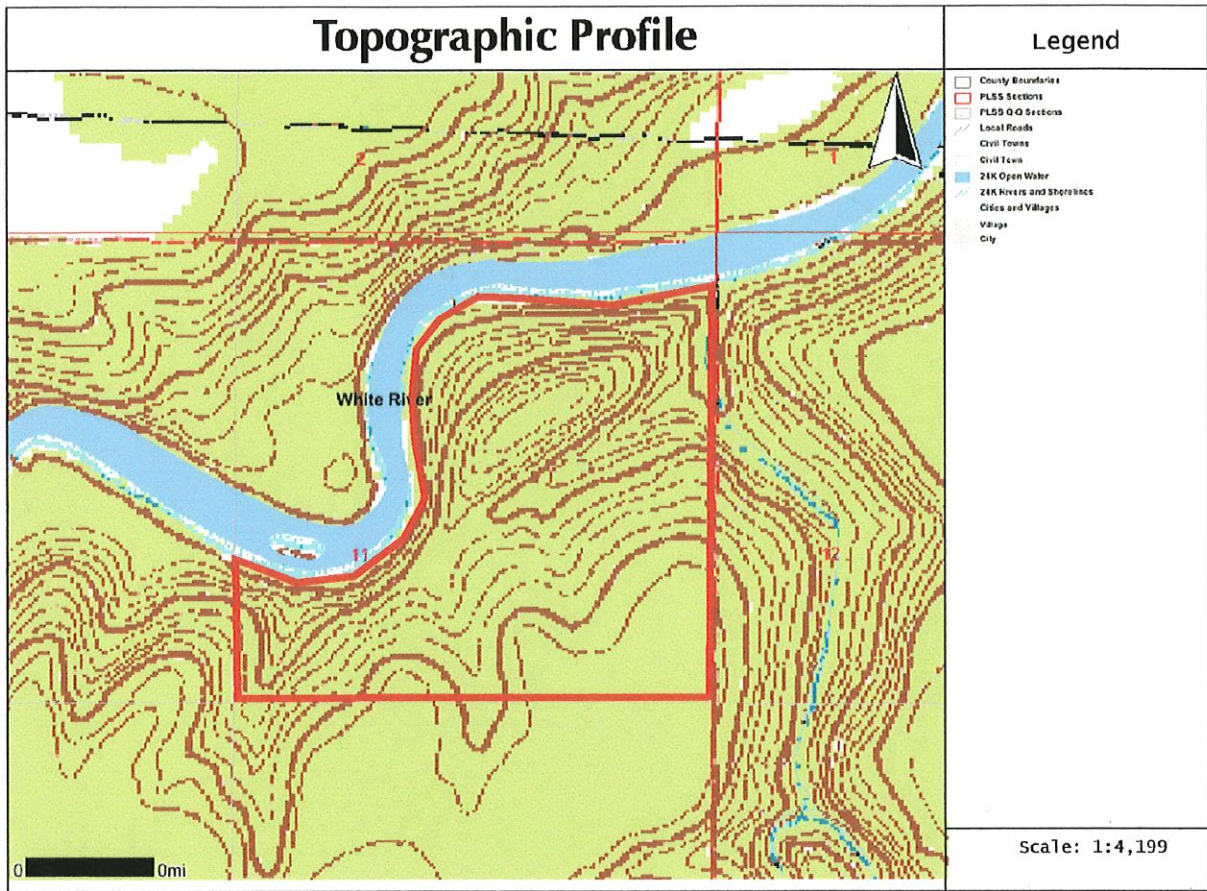
The land has been appraised, an environmental assessment conducted, a land management plan drafted and both parties are ready to close as soon as funding is confirmed.

Owner: Harvey Carlson
 63390 Ed Carlson Road
 Ashland, WI 54806

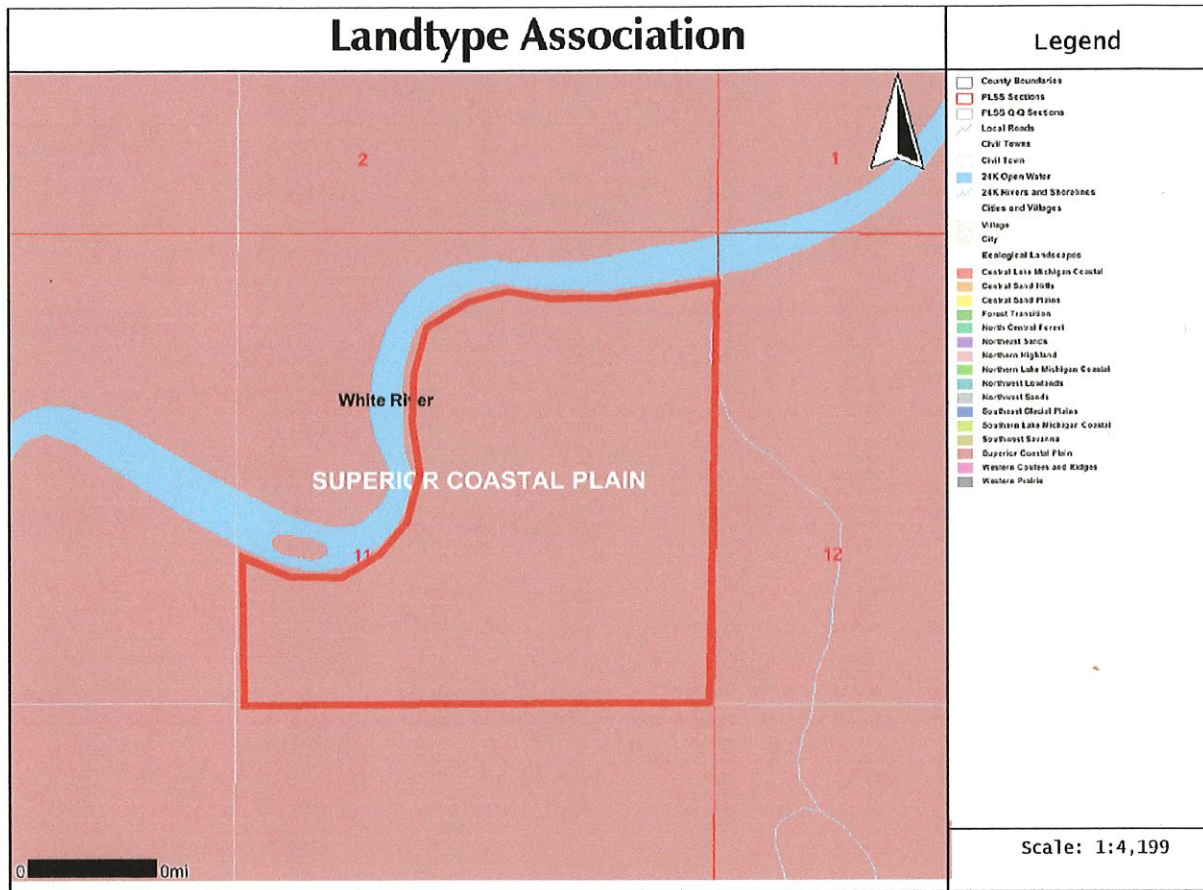
Parcel size: 27 acres
 Appraised value: \$34,000

Bayfield County, WI

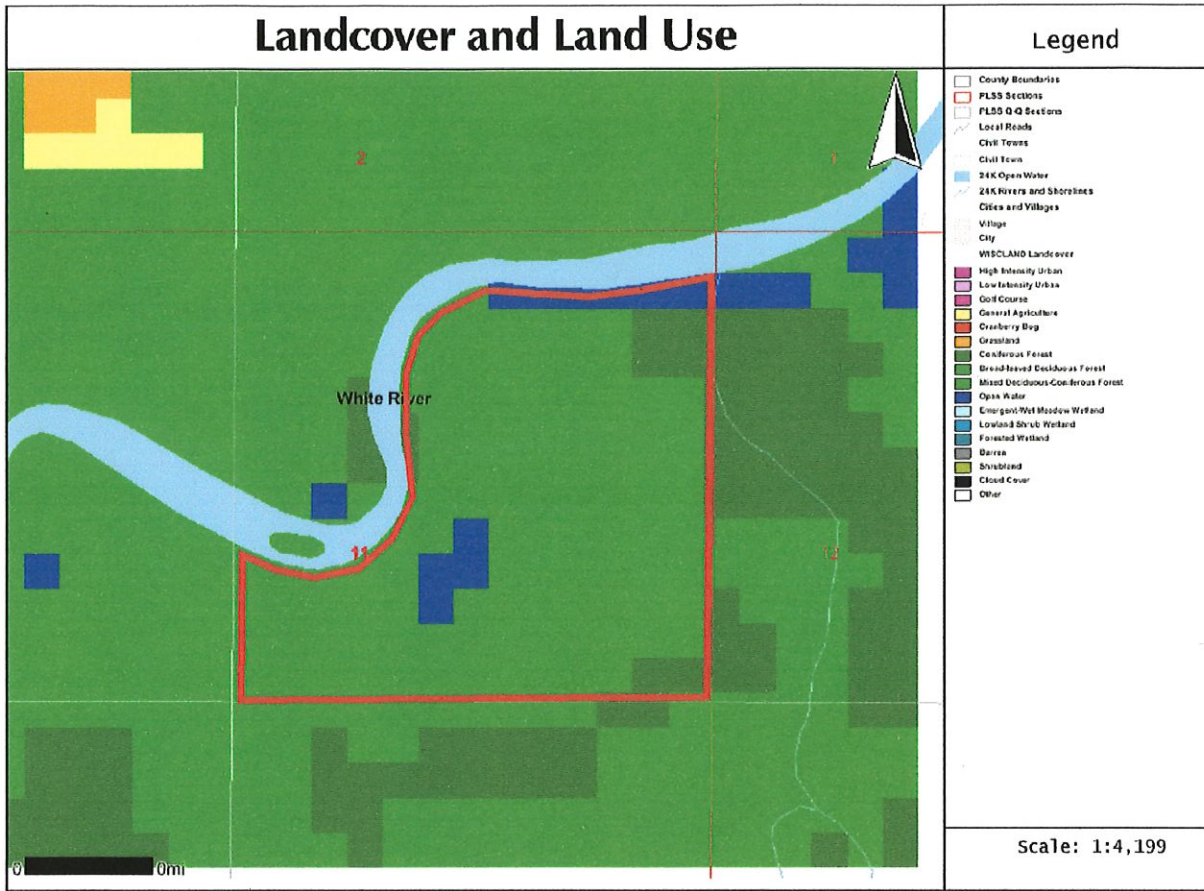




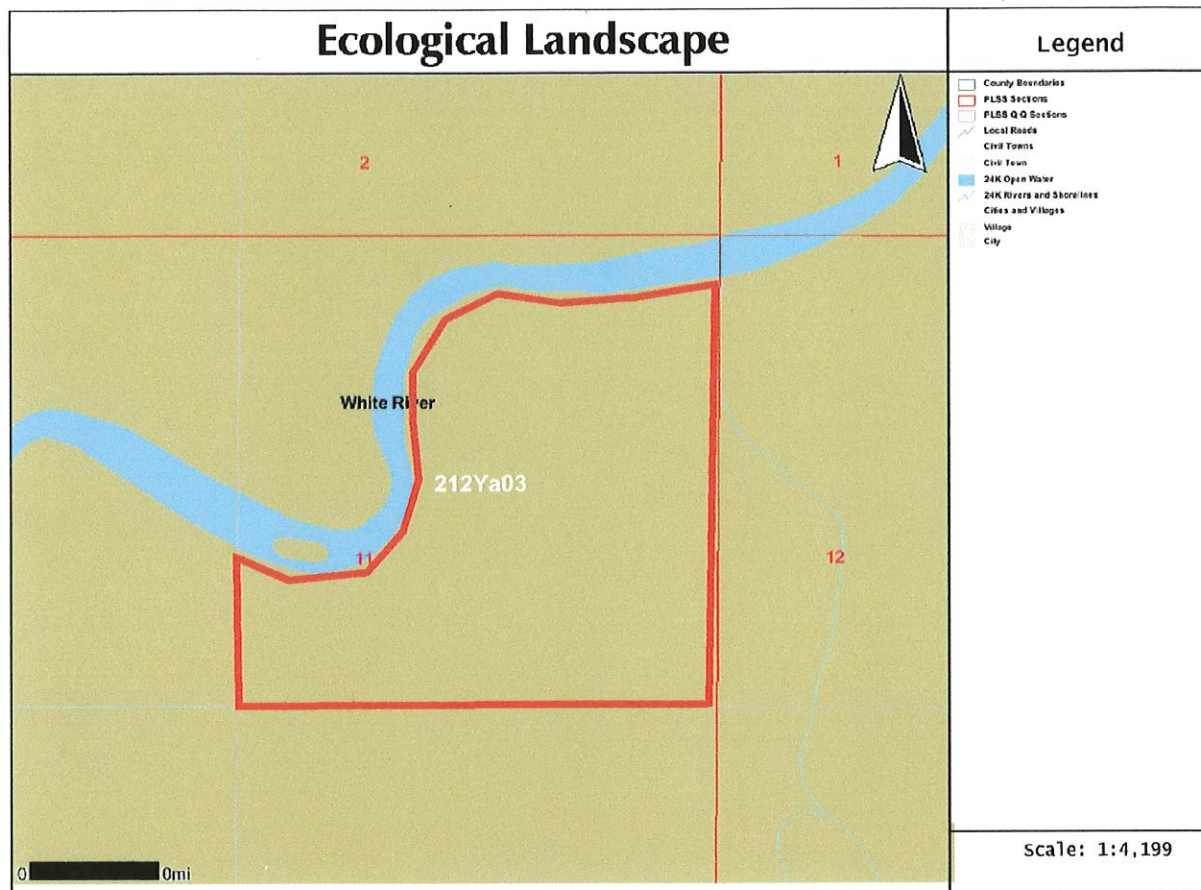
Topographic profile: From south to north, the land drops steadily toward and then steeply to the river. The riverbank itself is a steep ravine XX feet deep, and there is intermittent erosion on the clay banks of the ravine. A north-flowing creek follows the eastern edge of the parcel and empties into the White River at that point.



Ecological Landscape: The parcel is located in the Superior Coastal Plain, an area of lacustrine clays that slope northward toward Lake Superior, but are cut by steep valleys formed by north-flowing rivers and creeks in the Lake Superior watershed.



Land cover and land use: The parcel is heavily forested with a mix of deciduous and coniferous species. The parcel features no agricultural development, no roads, and no structures.



Ecological Landscape: The entire parcel is classified by the landtype association called the Ashland Lake-Modified Till Plain (LTA 212Ya03).

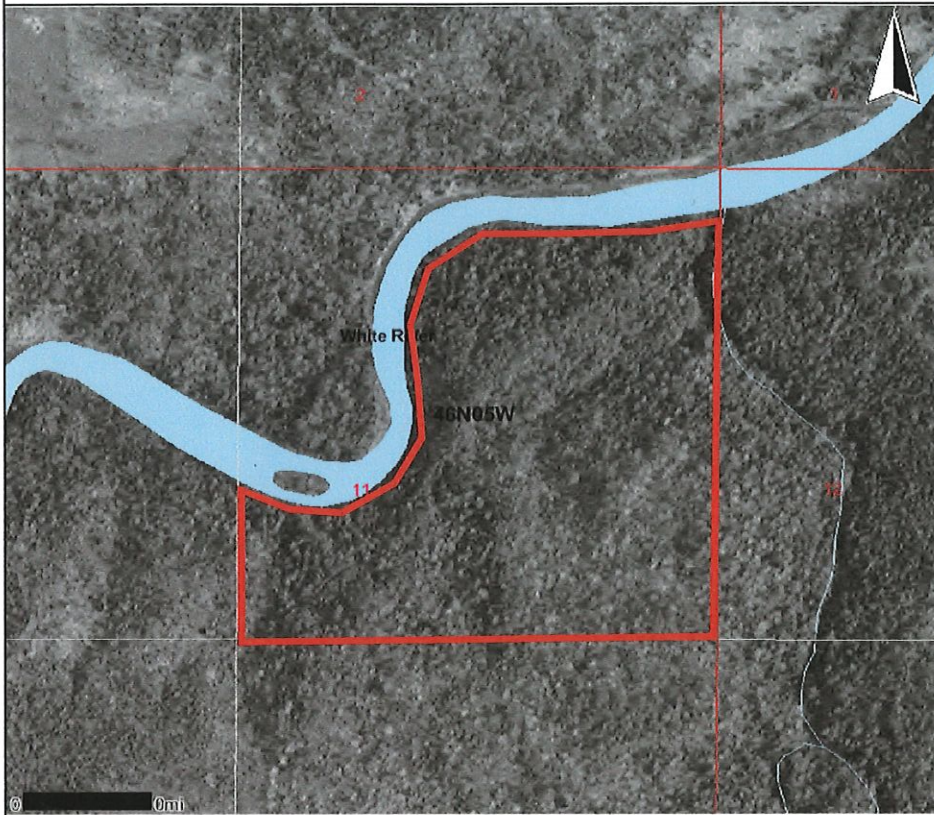
Description: The characteristic landform pattern is undulating modified lacustrine moraine with deep v-shaped ravines. Soils are predominantly somewhat poorly drained clay loam over calcareous clay till or loamy lacustrine.

Soil Associations: Badriver-Odanah-Sanborg-Portwing-Herbster, Rubicon-Sulz

Soil Description: Somewhat poorly drained, well drained and moderately well drained clayey soils

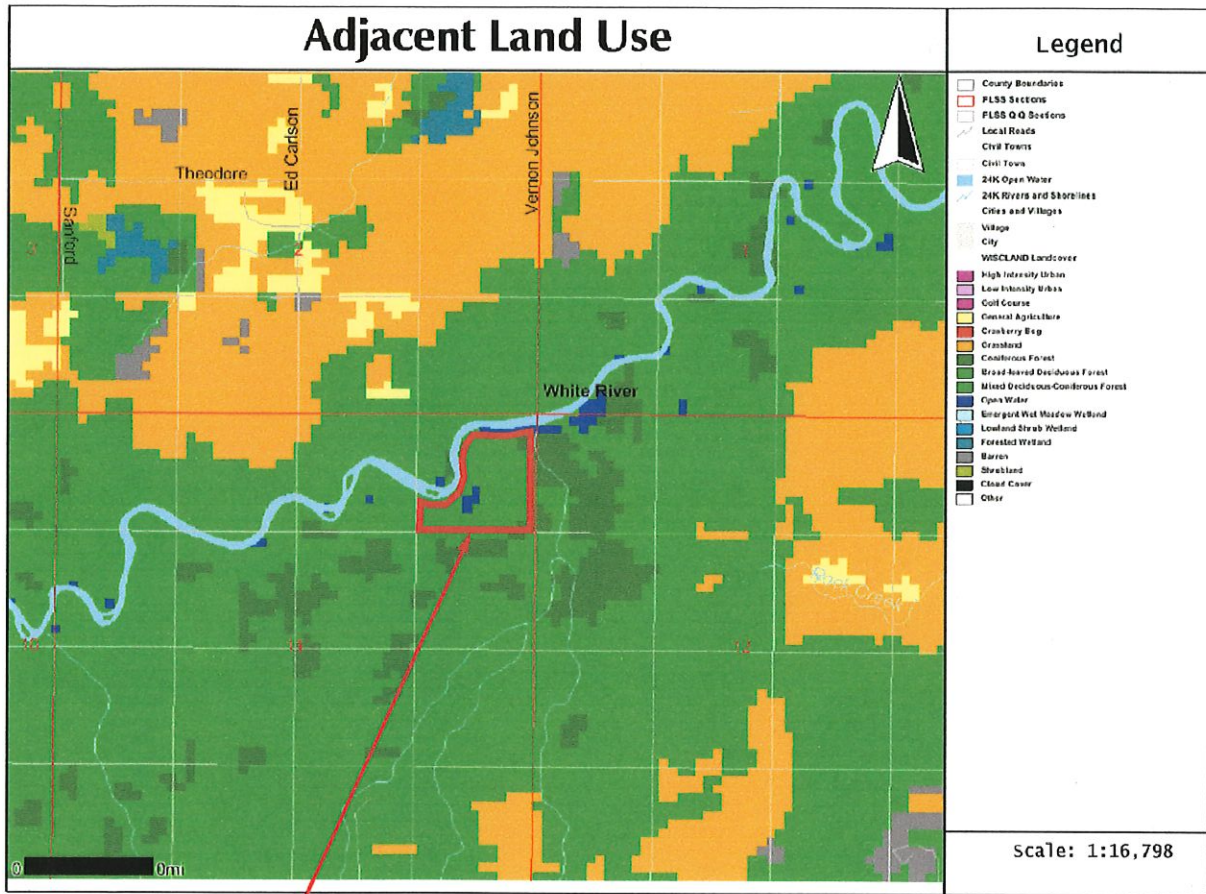
Aerial Photo

Legend



- County Boundaries
- FLSS Townships
- FLSS Sections
- FLSS Q-Q Sections
- Civil Towns
- Civil Town
- 24K Open Water
- 24K Rivers and Shorelines
- Cities and Villages
- Village
- City

Scale: 1:4,199



target land parcel

Adjacent land use: Land immediately adjacent to the target parcel is heavily forested with a mix of deciduous and coniferous species. Approximately one-half mile to both the north and east are found agricultural grasslands.