

WASHBURN COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT
LAND ACQUISITION GRANT APPLICATIONS AND NARRATIVE



RIVER PROTECTION GRANT



JOHN DANDREA PROPERTY

S1/2SWSE SECTION 12 T42N-R12W, E. MINONG TOWNSHIP

20 ACRES

WASHBURN COUNTY FOREST JOHN DANDREA ACQUISITION PROPOSAL

History

The Washburn County Forest is managed within a county forest blocking boundary. The Washburn County Forestry Committee is authorized to pursue acquisition of private lands within this blocking boundary as lands become available. This policy is in place in order to more effectively administer and manage lands within this boundary. In addition, the policy is an attempt to reduce the effects of forest fragmentation and habitat loss.

Washburn County owns a significant amount of the frontage along the Totogatic River. A 40-acre private "in-holding" existed within Section 12 of East Minong Township. In October of 2000, the County acquired the north 20 acres of this parcel. Three separate attempts to purchase the south half have previously failed. John Dandrea, the current owner, has offered the parcel to Washburn County and negotiations are in process.

Washburn County, and local conservation groups have been actively lobbying to designate the Totogatic River as a State Wild River. County acquisition would assure that this 20 acre parcel would not be developed into cabin or housing lots.

The Washburn County Forestry Committee approved pursuing the acquisition of this parcel and to apply for grants to help fund the purchase. The Washburn County Board of Supervisors also approved the same at the March 2007 County Board meeting.

Washburn County has commissioned an appraisal that resulted in a value of **\$30,000.00**. Washburn County and John Dandrea are currently in negotiations for a final purchase price. This price will be in excess of the appraised value and Washburn County understands that only the River Protection grant will only consider costs up to that appraised value. Both parties agree that the parcel is worth more than the appraised value. Mr. Dandrea's original asking price was \$57,000, which is the listed fair market value for the property. John Dandrea has also agreed to donate 10% of the final agreed purchase price back to Washburn County to help offset acquisition costs.

Property Description

The John Dandrea property consists of 20 acres located in the South ½ SWSE Section 12 T42N-R12W; E. Minong Township, Washburn County, Wisconsin. The parcel is located approximately 2 miles north of Minong and ½ mile east of Highway 53. The Wild River Recreation Trail crosses the Totogatic River approximately 250 yards west of the parcel.

The Totogatic River meanders along the north boundary and the parcel contains approximately 2200 feet of river frontage. The parcel is made up of approximately 9 acres of upland oak and aspen; 4 acres of bottomland hardwood; 4 acres of wetland; and 3 acres of river and backwaters.

The upland areas are a mixture of northern pin oak, bur oak, aspen, white birch and white pine. There is no evidence of disturbance or any prior management on the property. The bottomland hardwood areas are comprised of silver maple, bur oak, yellow birch and black ash. These bottomland hardwood types are somewhat rare in Washburn County and the addition of this parcel would add to a larger bottomland hardwood stand that is considered a "High Conservation Value Forest" by Washburn County.

The Totogatic River is a relatively undeveloped river and the nearest structures to this parcel are a single cabin approximately 2 miles upstream and a cluster of three residences 1 mile downstream, adjacent to Highway 53. The river is stained, warm water drainage that headwaters in Bayfield County and terminates in Burnett County at the Namekagon River. The parcel is currently designated as a County Wild River within the Washburn County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

The property is completely surrounded by a 7300-acre block of County Forest, known as the Minong Unit and is one of a small number of private holdings within the unit.

Proposed Uses

Washburn County has identified a need for additional public lands for recreational uses. The current trend on non-industrial private lands is towards restrictions on use by the public. There is also a trend towards the sale and lease of hunting rights on industrial holdings. Washburn County has identified the need to protect lakeshore and riparian properties; as well as areas open to the public for outdoor recreation.

Our plan for the property is to leave it as undeveloped and undisturbed, with the exception of forest management of those areas lying outside of a sight distance corridor from the river. This parcel would fall into the County Wild River category, which does not allow for management within 300 feet of the edge of the river.

The property would remain open to public uses. There are no roads or trails on the parcel and motorized uses would be prohibited. Hunting and fishing would likely be the primary uses as well as the parcel providing for visual aesthetics along the river itself.

Project Support

One of the problems with additional acquisition of County Forest is that the local townships usually are against lands being removed from the tax roll. In this particular case, the Minong Township Board has written a letter supporting this acquisition project. Letters of support have also been received from Washburn County Land Conservation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association and are included within this application.

The Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association, which is "A voluntary, non-profit, non-regulatory association of citizens and local lake groups interested in the preservation of surface waters in Washburn County", has approved their involvement in this project and has donated \$250 towards the acquisition costs of this parcel.

In addition, the landowner is very motivated to sell this parcel to a government agency so that it be managed as wild land and not developed. Mr. John Dandrea has committed to donating 10% of the purchase price back to Washburn County as a supporting project partner.

This acquisition is supported on larger scales under the Washburn County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which identifies the Totogatic River (within the County Forest boundaries) as a "Wild River". The State of Wisconsin is currently attempting to adopt the Totogatic River under "Wild River" designation. In addition, this river has high ecological importance and is listed as an Outstanding Resource Water.

Proposed Management Plan

If acquired, this parcel would be entered into the County Forest Law program. Under this program, the area would be managed in accordance with the Mission Statement of the Washburn County Forest, which is as follows:

Natural Resources, such as those provided by the Washburn County Forest, are one of the bases for addressing ecological and socioeconomic needs of the present and future generations.

The mission of the Washburn County Forest is to manage and protect its natural resources on a sustainable basis.

County Forest resources should be protected from natural catastrophes such as fire, wind, insect and disease outbreaks, and from human threats such as encroachment, over-utilization,

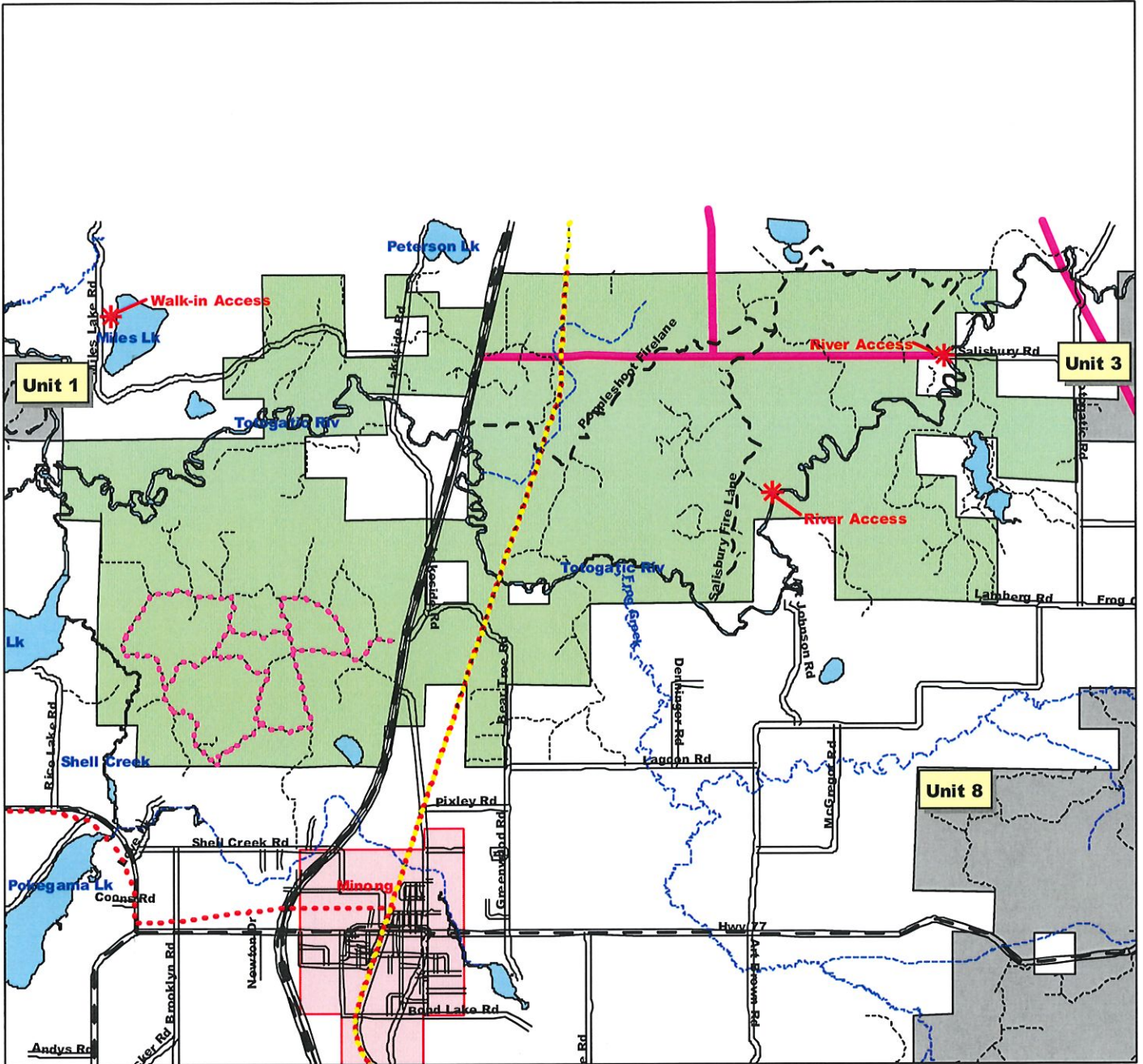
environmental degradation, and excessive development.

While managing for environmental needs including watershed protection, and maintaining native plant and animal diversity, these same resources must be managed for sociological needs which include provisions for recreational opportunities and the production of raw materials for wood using industries.

Management must balance local needs with broader concerns through the integration of forestry, wildlife, fisheries, endangered resources, water quality, soil, and recreational recommendations and practices. Management will provide this variety of products and amenities for the future through the use of sustainable forest management practices.

The Washburn County Forest is managed by the guidelines established in the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2006-2020. If acquired, this parcel would be added to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan as part of integrated resource management unit 2 (Minong Unit). Please accept the following plan language for Unit 2 as a description of proposed management for the parcel.

Integrated Resource Management Unit Minong - Unit 2



- Totogatic Ski Trail
- Points of Interest
- Major Streams
- Wildrivertrail.shp
- Logging Trails
- Snowmobile Trails / Routes
- Water
- Public Roads**
- County Forest Road
- County Highway
- Municipal Street
- State Highway
- Township Road
- Pipeline/Rail/Powerline Corridor
- Municipality
- Minong Unit
- Adjacent County Forest



7,327 ACRES



INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNITS (IRMU)

IRMU UNIT AND NUMBER Minong 2

UNIT INVENTORY

1. **Compartments:** # 93, 94, 95, 96, 98, 99
Washburn County Forest Acreage: 7327

2. **Predominant Cover Types**

TYPE	1995 ACRES	1995 PERCENT	2005 ACRES	2005 PERCENT
ASPEN	2683	36.9	2693	37.0
LOWLAND HARDWOOD	654	9.0	927	12.8
RED PINE	829	11.4	888	12.2
LOWLAND CONIFER	713	9.8	632	8.7
LOWLAND BRUSH	560	7.7	598	8.2
NON-FORESTED WETLAND	494	6.8	514	7.1
SCRUB OAK	349	4.8	321	4.4
TAMARACK	211	2.9	187	2.6
JACK PINE	298	4.1	185	2.5
OPEN WATER	95	1.3	91	1.3
GRASS	29	0.4	80	1.1
FIR, SPRUCE	65	0.9	64	0.9
UPLAND BRUSH	15	0.2	41	0.6
WHITE PINE	36	0.5	24	0.3
NORTHERN HARDWOOD	29	0.4	21	0.3
WHITE BIRCH	204	2.8	5	0.1
CEDAR	10	0.1	0	0
TOTAL	7271	100.0	7271	100.0

** *note:* changes from 1995 to 2005 are to be used for general comparison only. Minor changes may be a reflection of more accurate data associated with the implementation of a GIS system. 1995 acreage data is an estimate based on the 1995 reported percentages applied to the 2005 acreage per unit.

3. **Ecological Units / Land Type Associations**

The Minong Unit is located within the following ecological classification systems:

National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units (NHFEU)

Province: Laurentian Mixed Forest

Section: Western Superior Uplands
Subsection: Bayfield Sands
Land Type Associations Webb Lake Collapsed Barrens (primary)
(212Ka05)
Gordon Rolling Barrens (west, north)
(212Ka11)

Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin
Northwest Sands

4. **Landforms, Geology, Soils**

The landform within this unit is primarily pitted outwash. Topography is rolling. This landform and associated soils complex of sandy and gravelly soils over outwash or pitted outwash plains

There are numerous soil types within this unit, with sands and loamy sands most represented. Soil complexes, mucks, saturated sands are also presented as well as very scattered areas of loamy sands.

5. **Surface Water Resources** 25 acres of lakes; 161 acres of river; 4.1 miles of minor streams 2.5% of total unit

The major water resource associated in this unit is the Totogatic River along with six other small un-named lakes or ponds (over 1 acre in size.)

The Totogatic is stained, warm water drainage that headwaters in Bayfield County and has been designated as a county wild scenic riverway. It provides for a wide array of fishing opportunities. It provides a linking travel corridor for numerous mammals, amphibians and reptiles.

Shell Creek is the only named stream within this unit along with 3 other unnamed tributaries to the Totogatic River.

6. **Recreational Uses**

The Totogatic ski trail was built and has been in existence since 1988. Use has increased over the last years and presently consists of a number of loops and has acceptance of the Minong residents.

Use of the Totogatic River for canoeing, hunting, fishing and trapping are common although fallen trees often block travel. Float hunting for ducks is common along this stretch.

The Wild River Trail (abandoned rail grade) also bisects this unit. The Wild River Trail is a multiple use trail owned by WDNR and maintained and operated by Washburn County. The primary uses are snowmobile and ATV although non-motorized uses are also permitted.

Hunting use is primarily for whitetail deer, black bear and ruffed grouse.

7. **Historical, Cultural, Archeological Sites**

Past settlers and Native Americans used the Totogatic River as a major transportation route. Evidence of Native American use is present in the Shell Creek area lying just north of Minong. Logging camps have been found along the Totogatic River and it appears as though the river was used as a major log drive route to the St. Croix River (late 1800's). All historical sites are protected on the County Forest and digging or gathering of artifacts is not permitted.

Additional historical, cultural, or archeological sites may be recognized by State or the County, however these are considered confidential in order to protect the area.

A possible state record white spruce is located in Section 12, 42-12.

8. Surrounding Land Use

The surrounding land ownership is primarily private. These are scattered and are typically used for recreational purposes north of this unit, and pasture and farmlands to the south and east.

There is a portion of Douglas County Forest on the northeast side of the unit.

Management of the communities on the private lands around this unit is primarily towards aspen and pin oak. It can be assumed very little investment will be put back into the private lands for pine management, based on past land practices.

9. Protection Needs - Wildfire, Wildlife, Aesthetics, Other

The cover types in this unit are primarily aspen and other deciduous species, such as pin oak, red maple with some scattered patches of pine. Wildfire, although being a concern, is less of a factor within this unit. The highest hazard lies west of US Highway 53.

This landscape unit has historically been actively used by eagles and there are two eagle nests. Guidelines have been adopted by Washburn County Forest, which have been sanctioned by the Endangered Resources Bureau with the Department of Natural Resources. Restrictions provide for different levels of activity associated with the nest site and during nesting periods.

Natural Heritage Inventory records indicate the presence of eagles, which is listed as a federally threatened and state protected species. It also indicates the possible presence of broad winged skipper (butterfly), swamp pink (plant), bog copper (butterfly), and Flodman thistle (plant), which are all listed as species of special concern.

Aesthetic considerations have been reviewed for this landscape unit and have been identified on the aesthetics map (Appendix).

The Poppleshoot Firelane is graded and maintained east of Highway 53 for fire suppression, timber and recreation access, and other uses in this area.

The Totogatic River is a quality stream that contains rare aquatic fauna. As with most stream systems, the species occurrences are scattered throughout the stream, therefore, exact species locations are hard to determine. Maintenance of water quality is the basic requirement for perpetuation of the rare species.

A hazardous waste site (lead arsenate) was identified by DNR in the SE¼ Section 14. This site was cleaned in 1998 and monitoring wells are in place.

10. **Special Use and Management Zones**

The Totogatic County Wild Riverway's primary objective is to maintain the primitive and undeveloped characteristics of the riverway. The County Forest Plan is the prevailing management document along the river and discusses management restrictions to ensure protection of this unique riverway. The Totogatic River is considered an "A" Aesthetic Zone area.

The Totogatic Ski Trail is a "B" Aesthetic Zone area.

Eagle and osprey nest setback zones, and potential nest tree retention, should continue to follow guidance from WDNR Wildlife.

This unit is presently identified as a white zone in the access plan, which has the least amount of travel or access restriction within the County Forest.

11. **Access, Roads, Firelanes, Trails**

The Department continues to work to assure Salisbury Bridge in Section 4, 42-11 is maintained as a public bridge for the present state funded snowmobile trail and for passenger vehicle access into the block. At time of the drafting of this plan, the Township of Minong is discussing replacing this bridge. It may be advisable for Washburn County to consider assisting the township financially with this project should funds be available.

There are two existing county forest road firelanes (Crottie and Salisbury).

There are also numerous unrestricted roads. We may want to consider access control on some of the minor secondary roads.

12. **Land Capabilities (Land Type Association Habitat Classification Types)**

The land capabilities of this unit range from a more nutrient, moisture rich PARVAm to a poorer nutrient, dryer PQGc habitat type. The dominant soils on the poor end are dry nutrient poor sands to dry mesic loamy sands with poor to medium nutrient status. Management implications on these habitat types are suitable for even-aged management of all early successional species occurring in this region.

13. **Landscape Management Potential**

There is an abundance of the aspen timber type associated with this landscape unit.

Jack pine is slowly dropping out as a seral stage due to the excessive competition of other species and the higher nutrient content of the soils. Management on private surrounding lands indicates a strong move also to pin oaks, aspen type. Because of these basic land capabilities and management objectives of other surrounding land users, the county could consider shifting management towards successional stages that are lacking.

14. **Forest Management Guidelines**

- Target jack pine as a critical type to maintain within this unit. Any mature jack

pine scheduled for harvest should be evaluated for pre-sale scarification. Sites with aspen components at high enough levels to seriously impede natural regeneration should be considered first for conversion to jack pine and secondarily other conifer plantations. Direct seeding may also be considered. Marginal to poor quality scrub oak can be considered for conversion to jack pine or other conifers

- Maintain stands of red oak on the more nutrient and moisture rich habitats. Consider prescribed burning to reduce encroachment of other species and scarifying or other methods to regenerate. Also consider maintaining better stands of pin or scrub oak in the same manner.
- Statewide Forest Inventory (FIA) indicates losses of aspen acreage in northern Wisconsin. Attempt to maintain approximately the existing acreage of aspen within this unit. The opportunity to readily allow or promote natural stands of red or white pine or red oak would take precedence over conversion back to aspen. Scrub oak stands with strong aspen components should be considered for conversion to aspen.
- Conversion of aspen mechanically to conifer plantations can be considered on a limited basis, especially on the drier habitat types.
- White pine could be promoted on a limited scale. Maintain existing white pine stands and promote the conversion of additional areas through scarification, under planting, direct seeding or other methods. Hand planted sites are not recommended due to the high risk of tip weevil damage although adding a small percentage of white pine to the red and jack pine planting stock could also be considered.
- Management of bottomland hardwoods adjacent to the Totogatic River should be for the purposes of stand health and retention of typically bottomland hardwood species. NHI as a special community of importance recognizes this forest type. Management must also comply with the guidelines of the Totogatic Riverway Zone. Salvage operations are also permitted.
- White birch stands, and other stands with a strong white birch component, should be considered for scarification in order to retain the site as birch (PARVAm sites).
- Identify natural stands of spruce and balsam fir and encourage regeneration of these stands.
- Maintain and possibly promote upland brush sites and/or grass for wildlife habitat. These sites are beneficial to a variety of large and small mammals, songbirds, and other animals.

14. **Site Specific Forest Management and Other Opportunities**

- Consider acquisition of lands along the Totogatic River within the blocking to preserve the Wild River system.
- Work with the Northwood School District in providing an education through an outdoor classroom environment on the Forest.
- Increase and review opportunities for osprey platforms as associated with the river.
- Consider berming or gating roads off of Poppleshoot and Salisbury Firelanes in areas where erosion or damage to the shoreline of the Totogatic River is occurring.
- Emphasis should also be given to protect the numerous oxbow lakes, as they're associated with the county forestland and the Totogatic River. The county recommends that the Bureau of Endangered Resources review these areas as special resource areas.
- The Totogatic River shoreline should continue to be managed as a County Wild River. Continue efforts for designation of the Totogatic River as a State Wild and Scenic River.
- Consider utilizing alternative methods in managing the red pine plantations associated with the A aesthetic zones adjacent to Highway 53 in order to enhance aesthetics.

Location of Dandrea Parcel
S1/2SWSE Section 12 T42N-R12W
E. Minong Township, Washburn County, WI

