



# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

6B  
Agenda Item #

**Requested Meeting Date:** 2/14/2017

**Title of Item:** Pheasants Forever land acquisition/donation to State

<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA	<b>Action Requested:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested
<input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA	<input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*

*\*provide copy of hearing notice that was published*

<b>Submitted by:</b> Land Commissioner	<b>Department:</b> Land Department
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<b>Presenter (Name and Title):</b> Mark Jacobs	<b>Estimated Time Needed:</b> 30-minutes
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**Summary of Issue:**

Pheasants Forever Inc. is planning to purchase private property in Aitkin County using Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Funds. They intend to donate the land to MN DNR to expand existing Wildlife Management Areas (Willowssippi and Grayling Marsh WMA's).

The parcels are in 12-50-25 (300-acres adjacent to Willowssippi WMA) and 13-48-23 (325-acres adjacent to Grayling Marsh WMA).

The attached letters and maps provide additional information.

**Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:**

**Recommended Action/Motion:**

**Financial Impact:**

Is there a cost associated with this request?  Yes  No

What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$

Is this budgeted?  Yes  No *Please Explain:*



December 29, 2016

Aitkin County Commissioners  
515 – 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Aitkin, MN 56431

Dear Commissioners,

We would like to inform you and the Aitkin County Board that Pheasants Forever, Inc. is planning to acquire 300 acres in Aitkin County. Pheasants Forever would like to gift this land to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as an addition to the Willowsippi Wildlife Management Area (WMA). This property is being acquired with Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Funds granted to Pheasants Forever, Minnesota Statutes require that the appropriate County Board be informed of this acquisition.

Pheasants Forever is planning to transfer this land to DNR. This property borders the Willowsippi WMA, rounds out ownership for management purposes and will provide access for hunters and timber management on the Hill River State Forest. The tract of land Pheasants Forever is planning to acquire is primarily open grassland and will provide quality nesting cover for Sharp-tailed Grouse and other openland species.

While the State does not pay property taxes, the State of Minnesota makes payments in-lieu-of –taxes (PILT) to counties each year under M.S.477A.11 for state natural resource lands. Payments for acquired WMA's are typically  $\frac{3}{4}$  of 1 percent of appraised or assessed value of the land. These PILT payments are made to counties, who share these payments with Townships.

In 2016, the current landowner paid \$1,428.00 in taxes; the projected annual PILT payment from the State to Aitkin County on this land would be \$1,800.00.

Please let us know if you have any questions pertaining to this proposed acquisition. We would be happy to discuss the matter with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Eran Sandquist  
PF State Coordinator - MN  
(763) 242-1273

Russell Reisz  
MN DNR – Aitkin Area Wildlife Manager  
1200 Minnesota Avenue South  
Aitkin, MN 56431

### Aerial Map



map center 45° 49' 59.94, -93° 27' 18.41

0m 1122ft 2244ft



**12-50N-25W**  
**Aitkin County**  
**Minnesota**



9/22/2018

This map is provided by a third-party provider and is not a warranty.

### Aerial Photograph of the Subject



December 29, 2016

Aitkin County Commissioners  
515 – 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Aitkin, MN 56431

Dear Commissioners,

We would like to inform you and the Aitkin County Board that Pheasants Forever, Inc. is planning to acquire land in McGregor Township. Pheasants Forever would like to gift this land to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as an addition to the Grayling Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Since this property is being acquired with Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Funds granted to Pheasants Forever, Minnesota Statutes require that the appropriate County Board be informed of this acquisition.

Pheasants Forever is planning to transfer this land to DNR. This property borders the Grayling Marsh WMA on three sides and rounds out ownership for management and access purposes. In addition, the tract of land that Pheasants Forever is planning to acquire will provide high quality upland nesting cover for Sharp-tailed Grouse and other open land species that will complement the brushland on the WMA

While the State does not pay property taxes, the State of Minnesota makes payments in-lieu-of –taxes (PILT) to counties each year under M.S.477A.11 for state natural resource lands. Payments for acquired WMA's are typically  $\frac{3}{4}$  of 1 percent of appraised or assessed value of the land. These PILT payments are made to counties, who share these payments with Townships.

In 2016, the current landowner paid \$1,640.00 in taxes; the annual PILT payment from the State to Aitkin County on this land would be \$2,760.00.

Please let us know if you have any questions pertaining to this proposed acquisition. We would be happy to discuss the matter with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Eran Sandquist  
PF State Coordinator – MN  
(763) 242-1273

Russell Reisz  
MN DNR – Aitkin Area Wildlife Manager  
1200 Minnesota Avenue South  
Aitkin, MN 56431

### Aerial Map



map center 46° 38' 35.25, -93° 11' 56.51

0ft 1037ft 2073ft



**13-48N-23W**  
**Aitkin County**  
**Minnesota**



9/22/2016

Map data provided by the National Geographic Agency at 1/21/2016

### Aerial Photograph of the Subject