



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

2AB
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: May 13, 2025

Title of Item: DNR Acquisition of Land through Heritage Forest Initiative

<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA	Action Requested: <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only
Submitted by: Dennis (DJ) Thompson		Department: Land
Presenter (Name and Title):		Estimated Time Needed:
Summary of Issue: The Heritage Forest Initiative is being spearheaded by the Northern Waters Land Trust (NWLT) who have acquired funds to purchase lands in Aitkin County that were previously owned by Potlatch. After the purchase, NWLT is donating the land to either the State DNR or County for management. The attached resolution is required for the lands that the State DNR will be receiving.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:		
Recommended Action/Motion: Adopt resolution for approval of State DNR land acquisition.		
Financial Impact: Is there a cost associated with this request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ Is this budgeted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

Legally binding agreements must have County Attorney approval prior to submission.

CERTIFIED COPY OF RESOLUTION OF COUNTY BOARD OF AITKIN COUNTY, MINNESOTA

ADOPTED May 13, 2025

By Commissioner: xxx

20250513-xxx

Proposed State DNR Land Acquisition

WHEREAS, In accordance with Minnesota Statutes 89.021, the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources on May 13, 2025, provided the Aitkin County Board with a description of lands to be acquired by the State of Minnesota for State Forest purposes, as described in Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources utilizes funding that requires County Board approval for Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM).

EXHIBIT A – see attached

Minnesota Heritage Forest ACQ0161298

Lands of approximately 686 acres legally described as follows, see EXHIBIT A.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Aitkin County on May 13, 2025, that the State's proposed acquisition of the above described land is approved.

Commissioner xxx seconded the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

xxx MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members Voting xxx

**STATE OF MINNESOTA}
COUNTY OF AITKIN}**

I, John Welle, County Engineer, Aitkin County, Minnesota do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in the Administration Office of Aitkin County in Aitkin, Minnesota as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said Board on the 13th day of May 2025, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand and seal this 13th day of May 2025

John Welle
County Engineer

Exhibit A
DRAFT – LAND DESCRIPTION
Natural Heritage Forest
Acquisition 161298
The Conservation Fund to MN DNR
Aitkin County

The Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NW ¼ of NE ¼), Section 29, Township 50, Range 22, Aitkin, Minnesota.

AND

The Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NE ¼ of SE ¼); Government Lot 3 (NW ¼ of SE ¼); Government Lot 4 (SW ¼ of SE ¼); the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SE ¼ of SE ¼); that part of Government Lot 2 (SW ¼ of NE ¼) lying South of Highway 200; and all that part of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SE ¼ of NE ¼), lying South of Highway 200, ALL IN Section 21, Township 52, Range 27, Aitkin County, Minnesota.

AND

The Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE ¼ of SW ¼); the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SW ¼ of SW ¼); and the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SW ¼ of NW ¼), LESS Highway Right of Way, ALL IN Section 22, Township 52, Range 27, Aitkin County, Minnesota.

AND

The Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NE ¼ of NW ¼) and the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NW ¼ of NW ¼), Section 27, Township 52, Range 27, Aitkin County, Minnesota.

AND

The Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NE ¼ of NE ¼); the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SE ¼ of NE ¼); Government Lot 1 (NW ¼ of NE ¼); Government Lot 2 (SW ¼ of NE ¼); and the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NE ¼ of SE ¼), LESS Railroad Right of Way and LESS that part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter lying South and West of the former railroad right of way known as the Minneapolis, St. Paul Saulte Saint Marie Railway Company and also known as Soo Line Railroad and now known as the Moose lake to Cass Lake Soo Line Trail, ALL IN Section 28, Township 52, Range 27, Aitkin County, Minnesota.

This is a preliminary version of the legal description. This description is intended to generally describe the property in the proposed transaction. However, the final legal description is subject to change for reasons including but not limited to correcting errors, ensuring accuracy, and/or after property surveying.

Prepared by:
D. A. Drusch
MN DNR Lands & Minerals
10-9-2023