

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

January 26, 2021

Mr. Mark Johnson, Executive Director  
Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
95 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155  
[mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn](mailto:mark.johnson@lsohc.leg.mn)

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council's assistance in resolving a situation of conflicting uses on a parcel of state-owned land in Rice County. The parcel is now part of the Circle Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and was acquired with Outdoor Heritage Funds (OHF) granted to The Trust for Public Land under ML 2013, Chapter 137, Article 1, Section 2, Subd. 2(f), and ML 2014, Chapter 256, Article 1, Section 2, Subd. 2(g).

A survey of the WMA was recently completed which revealed a small overlap of use by a private landowner onto state land. The attached maps show the area of overlap. The area involved is approximately 0.22 acres. Land use in this 0.22 acre area is primarily woods and inconsistent with the land use desired for the WMA.

To resolve the issue, the DNR is proposing to sell this 0.22 acre area to the adjoining landowner who is making use of it. A sale is the DNR's preferred resolution over forcing the adjoining landowner to vacate the sliver of property. The amount of land is inconsequential to the overall WMA, and the cost to the DNR to convert land use would be prohibitive given the small area to be gained.

In accordance with MS 97A.056, Subdivision 15, the DNR is seeking the approval of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for this sale. The sale would follow the process in MS 94.10 with authority granted in MS 84.0273. The sale price would include expenses incurred by the DNR in association with the sale. Proceeds from the sale will remain under the control of DNR Commissioner and be used to acquire other WMA land in the future.

Please feel free to contact me or DNR staff to discuss further.

Sincerely,



David P. Olfelt, Director  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
DNR Building – 500 Lafayette Road  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-4020  
651-259-5180  
[Dave.Olfelt@state.mn.us](mailto:Dave.Olfelt@state.mn.us)

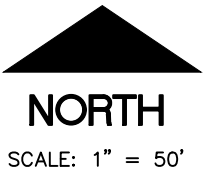
DPO/RW/jls; Attachments

c Mr. Bob Meier, Assistant Commissioner for Policy and Government Relation, DNR  
Mr. Mike Larson, Acting Chief, Section of Wildlife, MN DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Ms. Kelly Wilder, Liaison to Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, MN DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife

*Equal Opportunity Employer*

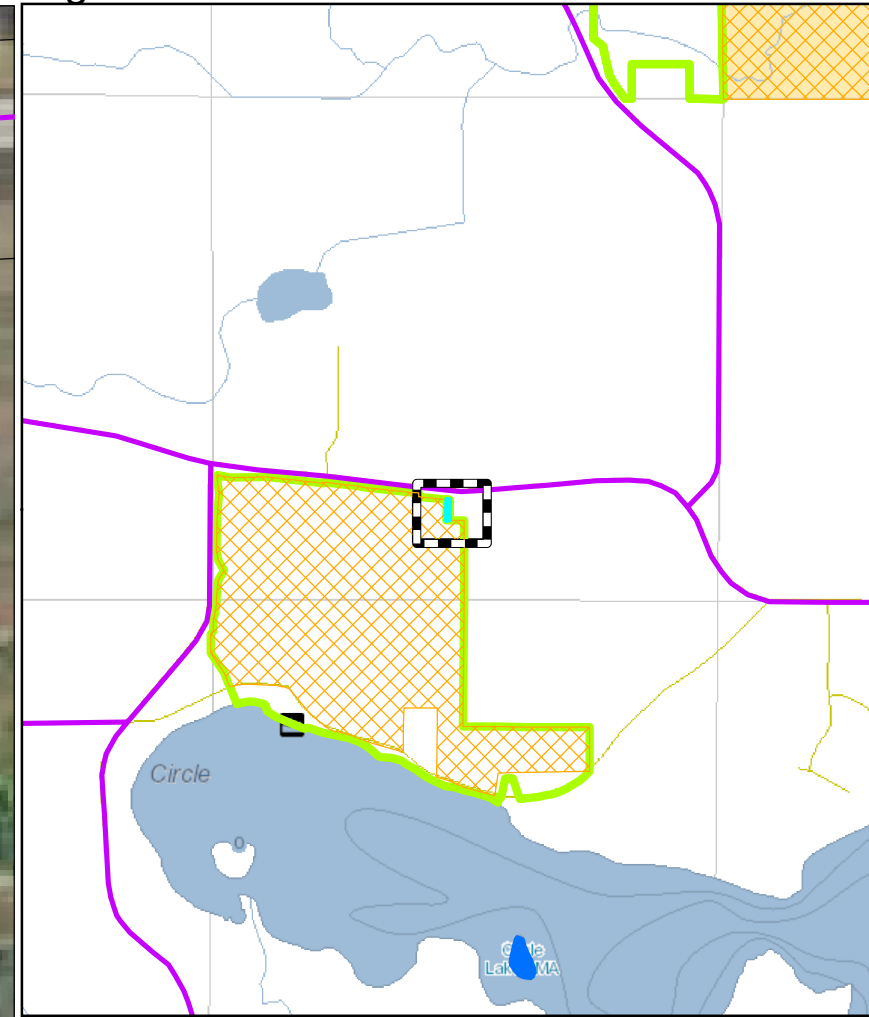
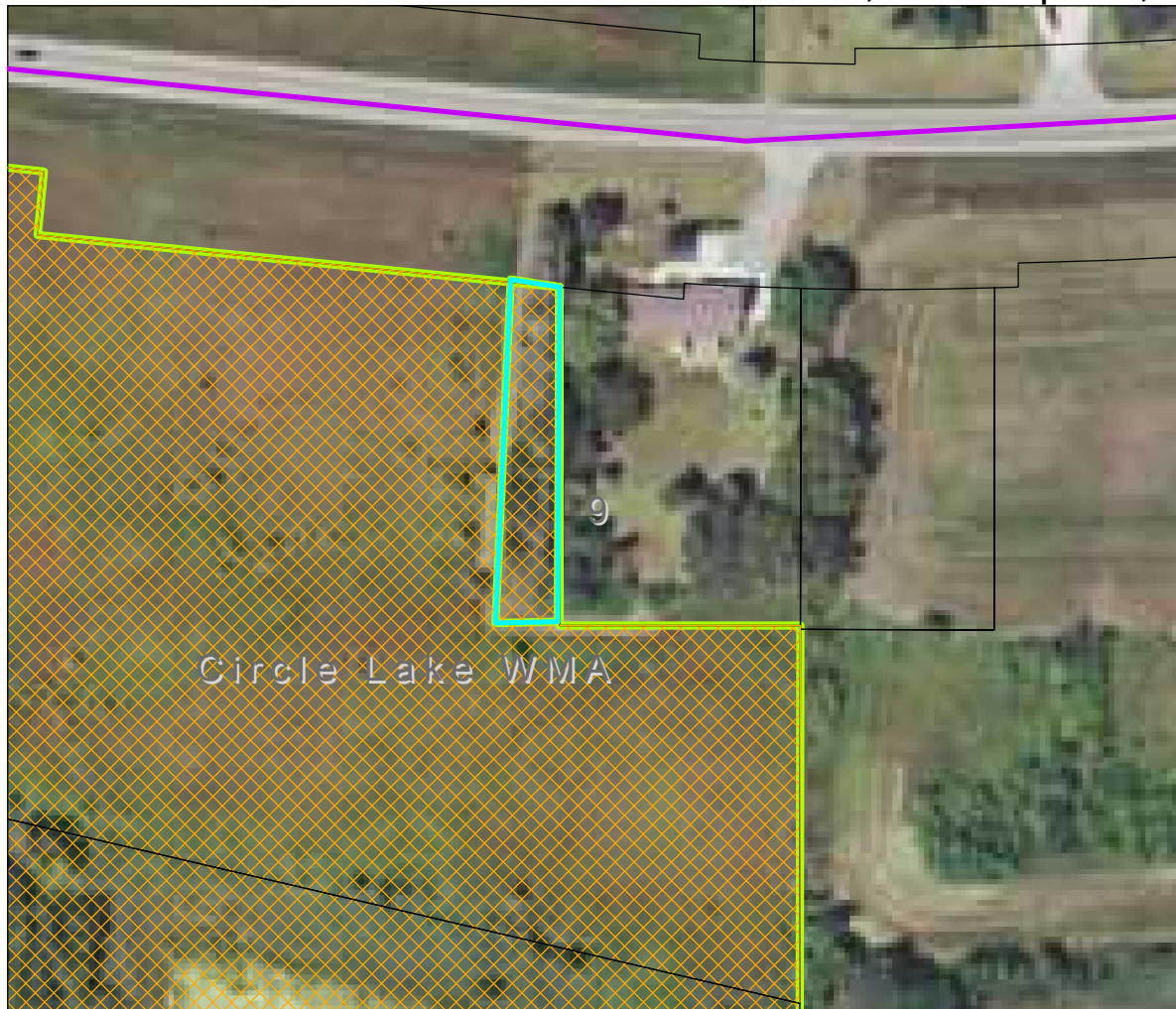


- 3/4" REBAR WITH PLASTIC CAP STAMPED "MN DNR LS 17003" SET
- Ⓜ MAG NAIL SET
- ⊕ CAPPED IRON PIPE FOUND
- WOOD FENCE POST
- ⊗ COMPUTED POSITION



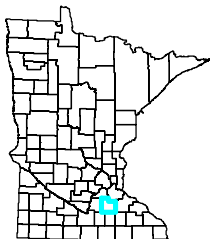
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES						
Survey: MAY–AUG 2019 W.J. NORDIN		DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE				
Drawn: AUG 2019 J.R. HENDRICKS						
Checked: AUG 2019 B.W. SHEPPERD		<b>EXHIBIT A</b>  <b>CIRCLE LAKE</b>  <b>WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA</b>  RICE COUNTY      NEAR MILLERSBURG				
Horz Datum:						
Sec.            9						
T. 111 N.	R. 21 W.	Req.	File WMA02047.00.00.01			File Sheet





# Circle Lake WMA - proposed 0.22 acre sale, Rice County Section 9, Township 111, Range 21











0 100 Feet

0 0.25 0.5 Miles



-  State Wildlife Management Area Boundaries
-  State Aquatic Management Area Boundaries
-  Potential WMA acquisitions or sales
-  Subject property

-  Minnesota Snowmobile Trails
-  Interstate Trunk Highway
-  U.S. Trunk Highway
-  MN Trunk Highway
-  County Highway
-  Municipal Road
-  Township or Other Road
-  Parcels



Note: This map shows the approximate relative location of property boundaries and other features but was not prepared by a professional land surveyor. This map is provided for informational purposes only and may not be sufficient or appropriate for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes.

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