



**To: Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council**

**From: Melissa Barrick, Crow Wing SWCD**

**Copies: Mark "Chip" Lohmeier, Hubbard County Land Commissioner**

**Date: December 21, 2021**

**RE: Fee Title Acquisition of The Conservation Fund/Former Potlatch Property for Hubbard County**

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CWSWCD is working on a fee title acquisition in Hubbard County through the *Targeted RIM Easement & Acquisition to the Parcel Level Pine & Leech Watersheds Phase II grant (ML21 First Special Session, Chp. 1, Art. 6, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(i))*. This acquisition will include approximately 72 acres of forested land in Hendrickson Township and 238 acres of forested land in Akeley Township.

The property is currently owned by The Conservation Fund (TCF). TCF purchased approximately 72,000 acres of land including these parcels from Potlatch Deltic in October 2020. Their intention is to keep these Potlatch lands from being further divided and to retain working forests in northern Minnesota. Their goal is to have these lands transferred into public ownership within ten years.

The Hendrickson Township property is directly adjacent to the Kabekona River, north of Kabekona Lake and the Kabekona Lake AMA (see Figure 1). Kabekona River is a designated trout stream. The parcel contains a small portion of lowland brush wetland and borders additional lowland brush wetlands bordering the Kabekona River. The upland portions of the parcel are planted to Norway pine with some aspen included. Hubbard County manages approximately 120 acres of tax forfeited lands immediately north of the parcel and 40 acres immediately south. The acquisition of this parcel would ensure a contiguous corridor for wildlife.

The trail that parallels the eastern edge of the 72 acres in Hendrickson Township (see Figure 2), then shifts to the southwest and eventually southerly and continues southerly into tax forfeited land is a Minimum Maintenance Township Road (Notherly Way). The other trail that leaves the minimum maintenance township road and ends roughly in the center of the Hendrickson parcel is an old logging access trail used by Potlatch for thinning a portion of the stand. This trail will be retained for future thinning access.

The Akeley Township property is parcel is directly adjacent to the Shingobee River between Shingobee Lake and Steel Lake, the parcel contains a small portion of shallow marsh. The parcel is directly adjacent to shallow marsh, open water, and shrub swamp wetlands surrounding the Shingobee River (see Figure 3).

The trails on the 238 acres in Akeley Township are two-track timber access trails and all originate from private lands and will be allowed to grow shut as the existing timber matures (see Figure 4).

Hubbard County Natural Resources Management Department manages approximately 138,000 acres of tax forfeited land. These lands are managed for social, environmental, and economic benefit of the people of Minnesota. These lands provide wildlife habitat for game and non-games species, water/wetland protection, public recreation, production of natural resources such as timber products and aggregate, all while providing a sustainable economic return to local taxing districts. See [Hubbard County website](#) for more information.

Hubbard County would manage the land for multiple uses such as sustainable timber production, recreation, wildlife habitat, and water quality protection. The existing trails that bisect the parcel would be maintained for general motorized and non-motorized access. There are currently no existing designated OHV or snowmobile trails in close proximity to the parcel and Hubbard County has no plans to expand any designated trails onto these parcels.

The protection of this land through forest management expands habitat and recreational opportunities in Hubbard County. It provides the opportunity to “round out” existing county lands reducing management costs and logistical challenges of noncontiguous properties.

The 2021 County assessed values are as follows:

Township	Parcel ID	Acres	Assessed Value
Hendrickson	1	35.7	\$61,700.00
Hendrickson	2	36.1	\$71,100.00
Akeley	3	238	\$343,100.00

The protection of this land contributes to helping to achieve 75% land protection goal in the Leech Lake River Watershed.

The Crow Wing SWCD requests approval by the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council of the proposed fee title acquisition in Hubbard County.

Figure 1: Hendrickson Township, 72 acre parcel (outline in red)

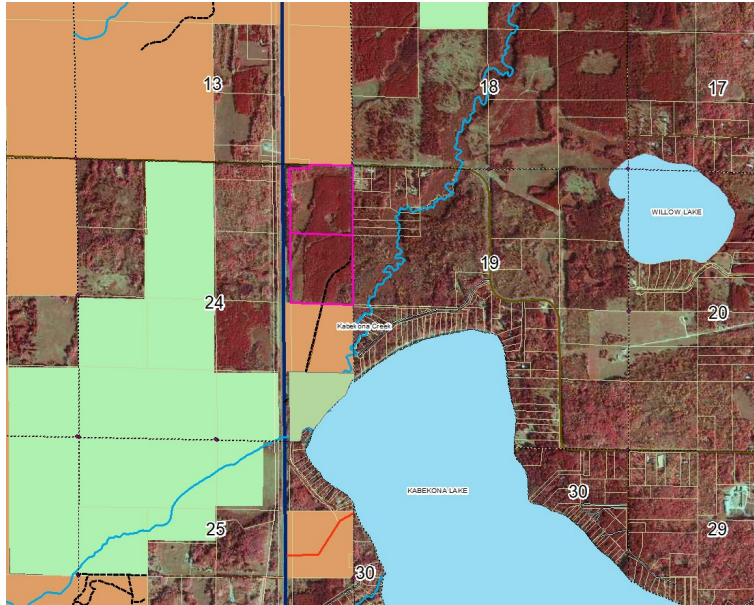


Figure 2. Hendrickson Township parcels and existing trails



Figure 3: Akeley Township, 238 acre parcel (outline in aqua)

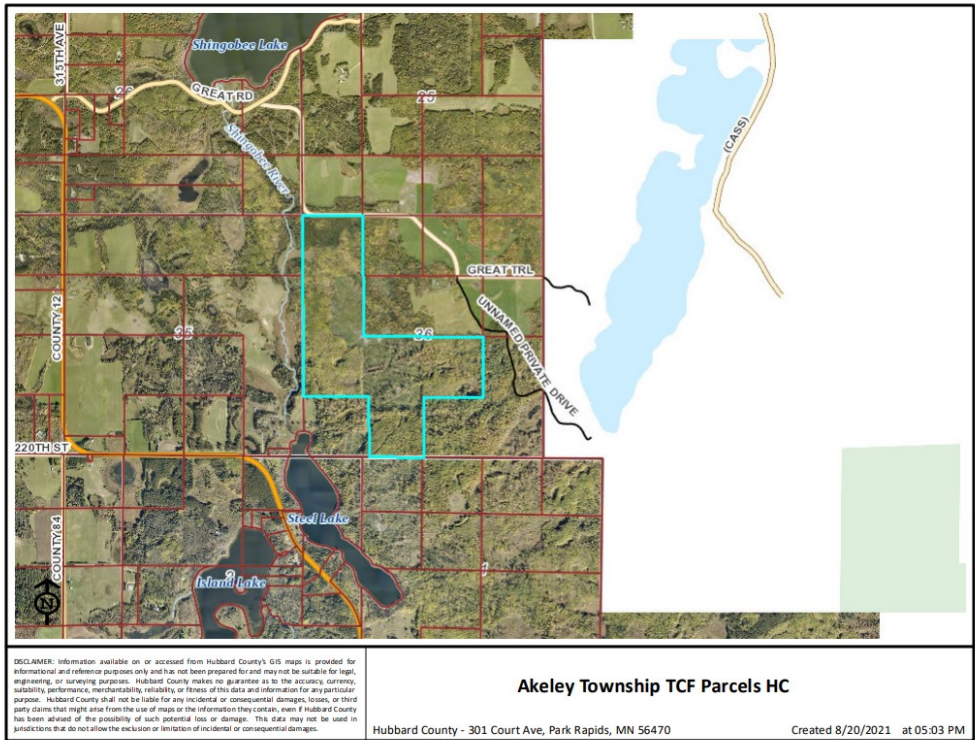


Figure 4. Akeley Township parcels and existing trails

