

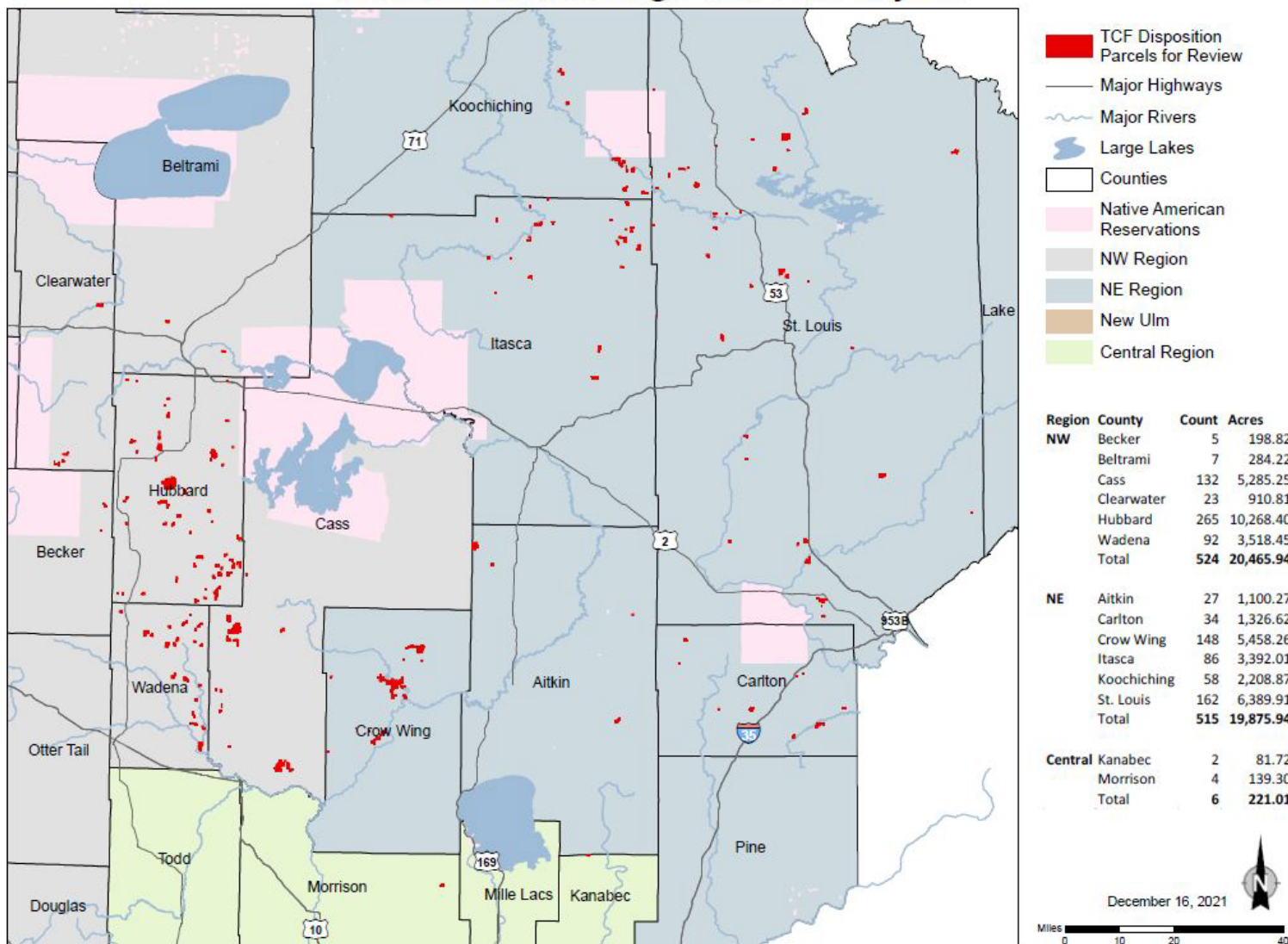


DNR's MN Heritage Forest Project

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Minnesota Heritage Forest Project



Overview

- TCF acquired 72,440 acres of Potlatch forestlands in 2020
- Located in 14 counties
- TCF's Goal: work with county, state, tribal and local governments as well as private organizations, over the next decade to determine the best conservation and sustainable management outcomes.

DNR's Heritage Forest Project

DNR has formed a project team to:

- review and rank the parcels,
- determine which parcels fill a need in DNR's land portfolio,
- seek support and funding to acquire them.

DNR's interest is to conserve working forestlands and all the benefits they provide.



DNR's approach to the project

- DNR will not seek to acquire lands within reservation boundaries.
- No predetermined goal for acreage acquisition.
- Use Strategic Land Asset Management (SLAM) goals.
- DNR is not the only organization who can manage these lands to meet conservation goals and objectives.
- Comprehensive approach – efficient, transparent, strategic.

Project Communications

- Introductory communications and updates as the project progresses
 - Tribal Governments
 - County Governments
 - Stakeholder Organizations
- Communicating with general public at a later date

MN Heritage Forest Project Plan

PHASE 1 – PROJECT KICK-OFF

Fall 2021 - February 2022

COMPLETE

- Develop project framework
- Apply SLAM metrics for initial prioritization
- Initial outreach to tribes, counties and conservation partners

PHASE 2 – COUNTY TEAM REVIEW

March 2022 - June 2022

IN PROCESS

- Apply local expertise and coordinate with county land managers and others
- Recommend parcels to acquire in each county

PHASE 3 - STATEWIDE TEAM REVIEW

July 2022 – May 2023

PENDING

- Review county team recommendations against statewide goals
- Finalize prioritized parcel list
- Seek local support
- Seek tribal feedback
- Seek acquisition funding

PHASE 4 – COMPLETE ACQUISITION

May 2023 – Feb 2025

PENDING

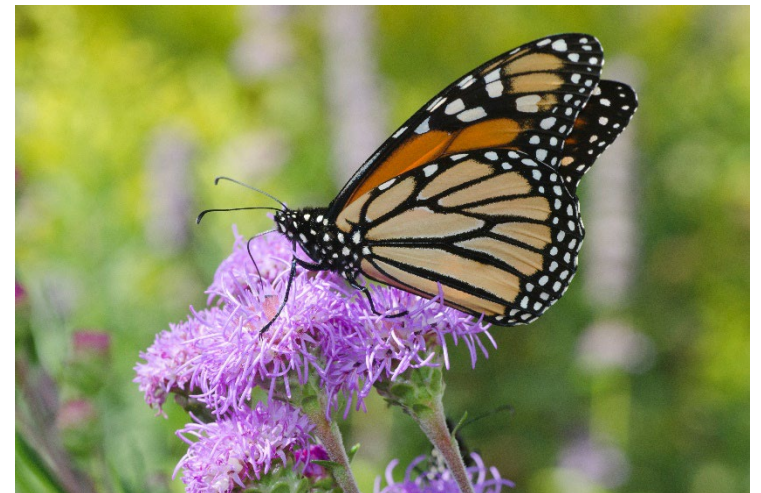
- Complete survey and appraisal
- Negotiate purchase agreement
- Confirm funding
- Complete title review
- Execute closing documents
- Take ownership of acquired parcels



SLAM: Strategic Land Asset Management

DNR's SLAM Goals:

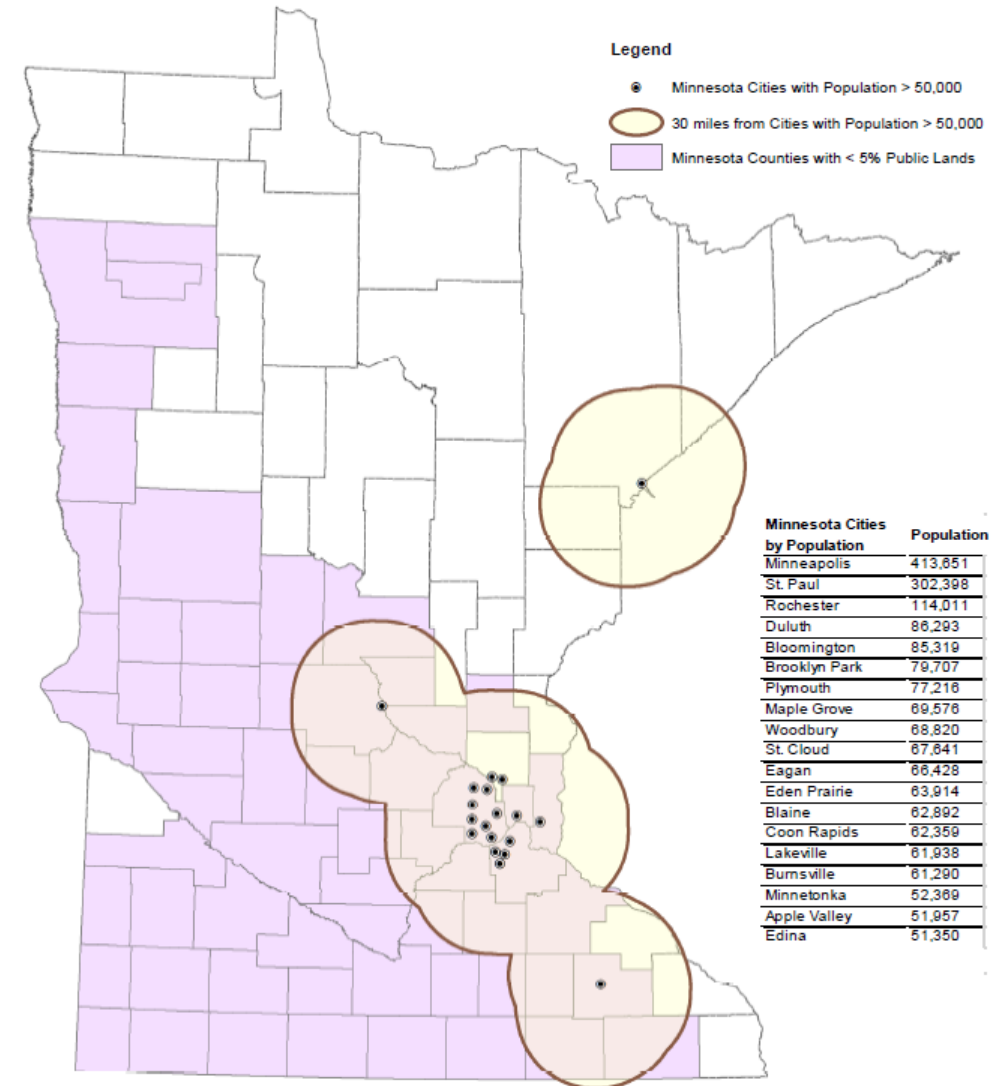
- Increase close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities
- Protect significant and/or rare natural resources
- Protect and restore water resources
- Mitigate and adapt to climate change
- Expand access to existing land holdings
- Consolidate land ownership, creating larger, contiguous blocks of DNR lands



Goal 1: Increase Close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities

1. Parcel is within 30 miles of a population center over 50,000 people; OR,
2. Parcels are located in counties with less than 5% public lands; AND,
3. it increases or improves recreational opportunities on DNR-administered lands, including hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, biking or other recreational opportunities including access to public waters.

NOTE: Parcels that are purchased within outdoor recreation units for direct purposes other than recreation (for example, to eliminate a trespass or improve management access) do not meet this goal.



Goal 2: Protect significant and/or natural resources

Acquisition protects existing, high quality significant or rare natural resources that fall into one of the following categories:

1. Designated shallow lakes
2. Wetlands, as identified in the National Wetlands Inventory (including calcareous fens)
3. Threatened, endangered and special concern species (NHIS data – element occurrences)
4. Native prairie, the prairie subset of NPC data, or core areas of the Prairie Conservation Plan
5. S1 and S2 or G1 and G2 native plant communities
6. MBS Sites ranked as having high or outstanding biodiversity significance
7. Large (>80 acres) blocks of productive forestlands



Goal 3: Protect and restore water resources

- 1. Acquisition protects and restores critical lakes, streams, wetlands and springs. It is one of the following:**
 - A. Existing or restorable wetlands (including calcareous fens)
 - B. Identified areas of sensitive shoreline
 - C. Lakes of biological significance
 - D. Designated trout streams or trout stream tributaries
 - E. Karst feature inventory points
 - F. Minnesota spring inventory
 - G. Sensitive and/or priority water and fisheries resource
- 2. Acquisition protects lakes and stream reaches at highest risk of becoming impaired. It:**
 - A. Occurs in a catchment upstream of any of the priority streams in the WRAPS Stream Protection Priority data layer (includes entire catchment).
 - B. It occurs within a catchment, or within 1000 feet of the shoreline as a Lake of Phosphorus Sensitivity Significance ranked “highest.”
- 3. Acquisition protects a public water supply, particularly in high demand areas**
 - A. It occurs within or immediately adjacent to a Wellhead Protection Area (WPA) or drinking water supply management area (DWSMA).
 - B. It is located within a pilot Groundwater Management Area (GWMA).

Goal 4: Mitigate and adapt to climate change

1. **Acquisition maintains or increases carbon storage, carbon sequestration and/or landscape resiliency:**
 - A. Acquisition results in conversion of land from another use to forest, prairie, wetland or other native plant community.
 - B. Acquisition is at imminent or high risk of conversion to agricultural use from forest, prairie, wetland or other NPC.
 - C. Acquisition results in conservation of mature forest (>120 years old).
 - D. Acquisition protects land that is located in a high soil carbon area (>1 SD above the mean of soil carbon map).
2. **Acquisition will create significantly larger blocks of habitat or natural intact communities, improve riparian and terrestrial connectivity or maintain ecosystem services through protection of climate resilient, high biodiversity areas:**
 - A. The parcel will increase the size of an existing contiguous complex of protected lands by at least 10%.
 - B. Parcel is located in an SNA Conservation Prioritization ("Marxan") Map "Medium," "High" or "Very High" priority area; OR,
 - C. Parcel is located in a Wildlife Action Plan priority area; OR,
 - D. Parcel is located in a Prairie Plan core or strategic habitat complex; OR,
 - E. Parcel is located in the Pheasant Action Plan or, as it is updated, Duck Action Plan areas

AND,

It has a better than average resiliency rating via the TNC Resilient Lands Mapping tool.



Goal 5: Expand access to existing land holdings

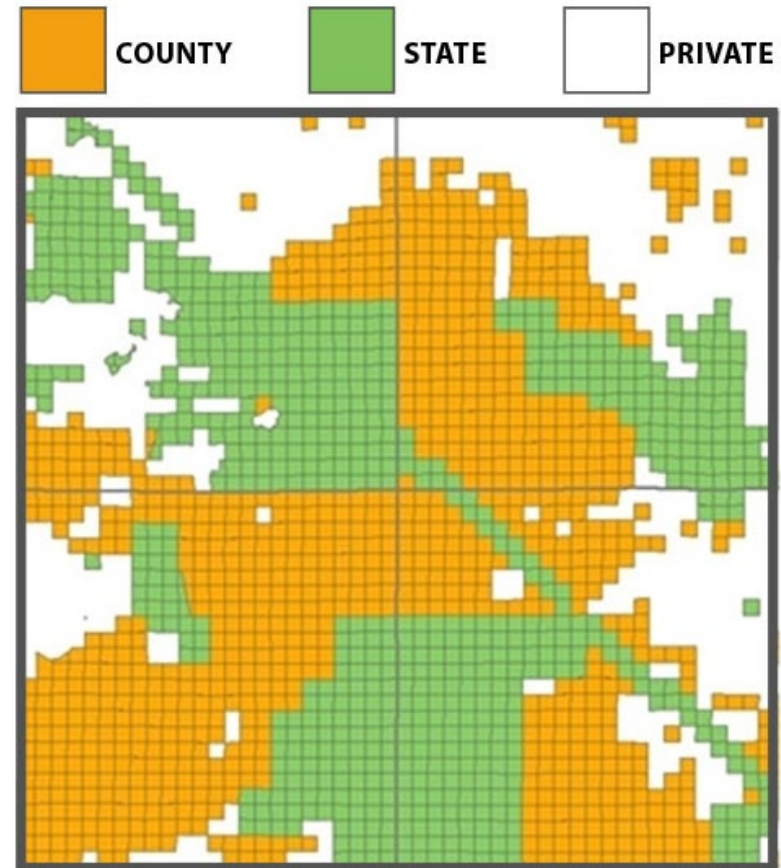
Acquisition provides new or additional access to existing DNR-administered lands, through easement or fee title transaction, to either:

1. expand the public's ability to access existing public lands; OR,
2. improve DNR's ability to manage existing landholdings.



Goal 6: Consolidated land ownership, creating larger, contiguous blocks of land

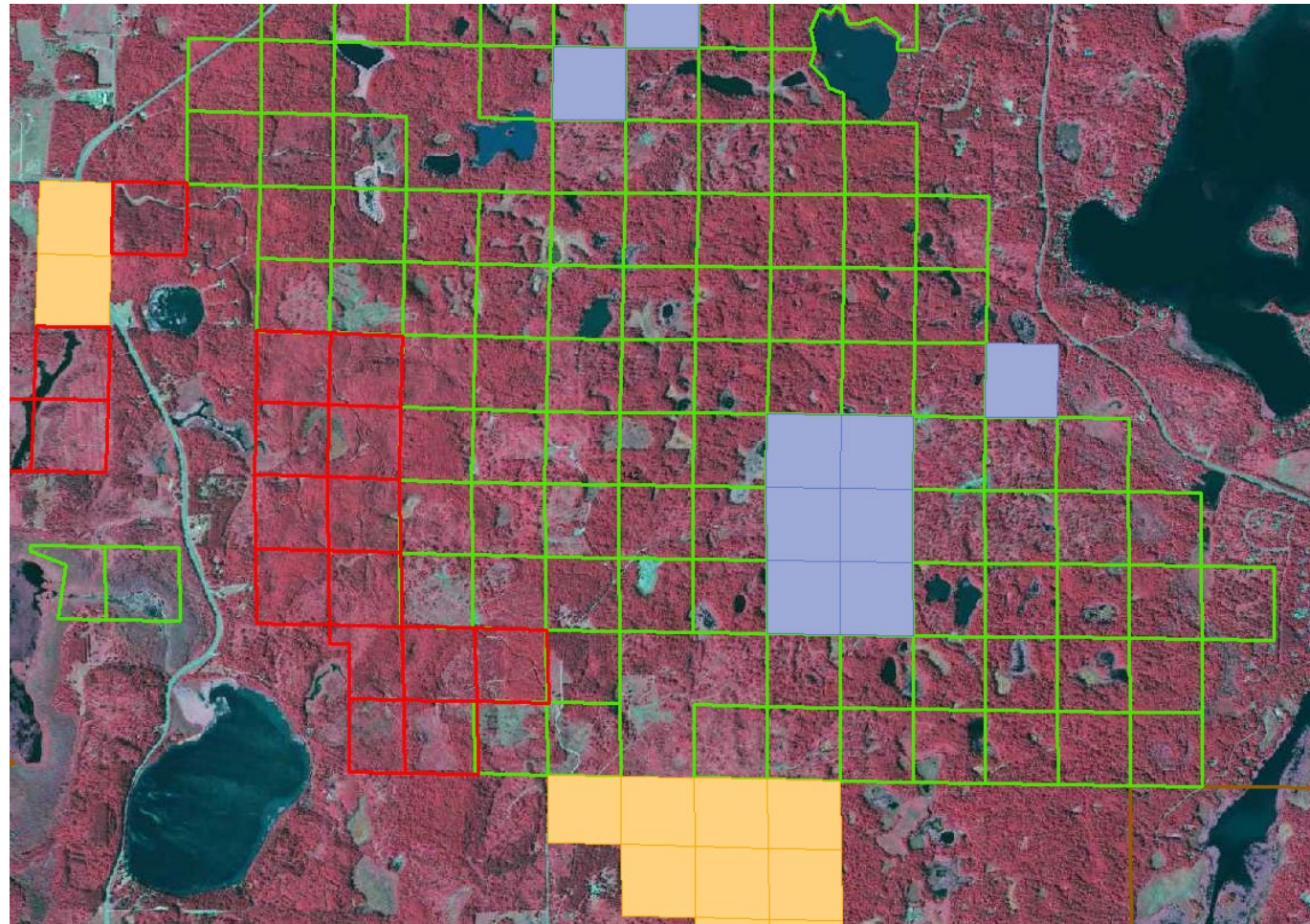
1. Acquisition is within the statutory or management boundary of existing DNR-administered units; OR,
2. Acquisition completes critical trail corridor connections between existing holdings; OR,
3. Acquisition shares a boundary with existing DNR-administered lands; OR,
4. Acquisition reduces the boundary feet of a unit.



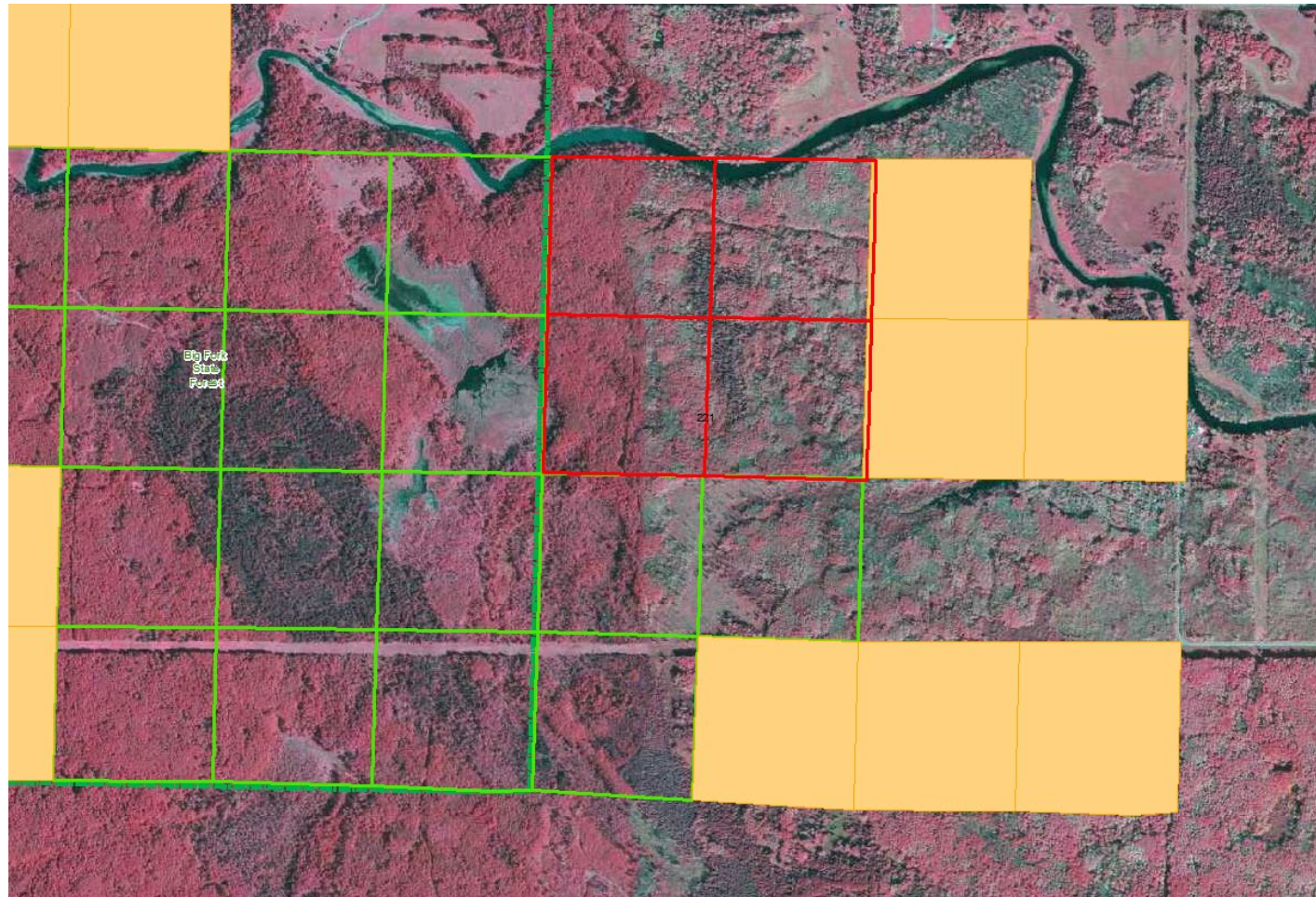
Some Examples – SE Hubbard, Badura SF



Some Examples – Southern Cass, Pillsbury SF



Some Examples – Itasca, Big Fork SF



Questions and Discussion

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