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Managing Wisconsin's trust assets for public education.

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**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC LANDS APPROVES PURCHASE
OF 3,000 ACRES AND \$2.8 MILLION IN LOANS TO MUNICIPALITIES**

MADISON – The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands approved the purchase of 3,000 acres of land in Iron County from Potlatch Forest Holdings at today's board meeting. The Board also approved \$2.8 million in loans to four municipalities.

The purchase of these lands will increase productive timberland and revenue for the Trust Funds through future timber sales, while also contributing to the timber economy in Northern Wisconsin. In addition, the forest types and tree species will add more value and diversity to the agency's land portfolio.

The agency has sold nearly 6,000 acres of land poorly suited for timber production or otherwise located within the boundaries of another government agency. As directed by the legislature, proceeds from the sale of those Trust Lands can be reinvested in other property which helps the agency meet its goal of consolidating its Trust Lands. This consolidation will improve land management efficiency for the agency. The agency's land bank authority, granted unanimously during the 2006 legislative session, enhances BCPL's ability to support sustainable forestry, reduce forest fragmentation, permanently protect unique natural areas and improve public access.

The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands also administers the State Trust Fund Loan Program, which provides financing to school districts and municipalities for public purpose projects. In the last 12 months, including actions approved today, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands has approved 216 loans totaling \$202.8 million. That's a significant increase over the number of loans authorized in fiscal year 2007 (113 loans totaling just over \$72 million).

Loans approved at today's board meeting include:

- Village of Hartland – Waukesha County
- City of Oshkosh – Winnebago County
- Town of Ripon – Fond du Lac County
- City of Sturgeon Bay – Door County

Over the past five years, Wisconsin citizens have benefited from over \$600 million in Trust Fund loans to support Wisconsin's public infrastructure. The loans can be made to municipalities and school districts for any public purpose.

Created in 1848 by the Wisconsin Constitution, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands was established to accept federal land grants and to manage trust funds for the benefit of public education in Wisconsin. The majority of Trust Fund assets are held in the Common School Fund, from which most State Trust Fund loans are issued.

A complete list of Wisconsin municipal and school projects funded by today's Board action can be found here: (<http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/docview.asp?docid=16213&locid=145>).

The agency's biennial report can be found here: (<http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/docview.asp?docid=15317&locid=145>).

A list of loans approved in the last twelve months can be found here: (<http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/docview.asp?docid=16224&locid=145>).

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