

Douglas La Follette, Secretary of State Kurt Schuller, State Treasurer J.B. Van Hollen, Attorney General Tia Nelson, Executive Secretary

101 E. Wilson Street 2nd Floor PO Box 8943 Madison, WI 53708-8943 608 266-1370 INFORMATION 608 266-0034 LOANS 608 267-2787 FAX bcpl.wisconsin.gov

Managing Wisconsin's trust assets for public education

AGENDA December 16, 2014 2:00 P.M.

Board of Commissioners of Public Lands 101 E. Wilson Street, 2nd Floor Madison, Wisconsin

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Approve Minutes December 2, 2014
- 3) Approve Loans
- 4) Request to Ratify Adjustments to Loan Program Interest Rates
- 5) Proposed Land Exchange US Forest Service (E1502)
- 6) Proposed Acceptance of Forest Stewardship Council Certification
- 7) Executive Secretary's Report
- 8) Adjourn

AGENDA ITEM 2 APPROVE MINUTES

Attached for approval are the minutes from the December 2, 2014, board meeting.

Board Meeting Minutes December 2, 2014

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair La Follette called the meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands to order at 2:00 p.m.

Present were:

Doug La Follette, Board Chair Secretary of State
Kurt Schuller, Commissioner State Treasurer
J.B. Van Hollen, Commissioner Attorney General

Tom German, Deputy Secretary

Richard Sneider, Loan Analyst

Board of Commissioners of Public Lands

Board of Commissioners of Public Lands

ITEM 2. APPROVE MINUTES - NOVEMBER 18, 2014

MOTION: Commissioner Schuller moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Van Hollen seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

ITEM 3. APPROVE LOANS

Deputy Secretary German said that the loans had received legal review.

Municipality		Municipal Type	Loan Amount	
1.	Elroy Juneau County Application #: 02015062 Purpose: Finance TID #4 Brunner	City Rate: 4.00% Term: 10 years incentive	\$250,000.00	
2.	Fox Lake Dodge County Application #: 02015063 Purpose: Repair storm sewers and	City Rate: 3.00% Term: 5 years roads	\$367,795.00	
3.	Kewaskum Washington County Application #: 02015065 Purpose: Purchase fire truck	Village Rate: 3.50% Term: 10 years	\$160,000.00	
4.	Marshfield Marathon and Wood Counties Application #: 02015061 Purpose: Finance TID #9 develope	City Rate: 4.25% Term: 20 years ment incentives	\$70,000.00	
5.	Warren St Croix County Application #: 02015064 Purpose: Purchase fire truck	Town Rate: 3.00% Term: 3 years	\$180,000.00	
		TOTAL	\$1,027,795.00	

MOTION: Commissioner Schuller moved to approve the loans; Commissioner Van Hollen seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

ITEM 4. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Deputy Secretary German said that staff is finalizing the materials for a land exchange with the US Forest Service, which will be included in the agenda for the December 16 board meeting.

ITEM 5. ADJOURN

MOTION: Commissioner Schuller moved to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Van Hollen seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Thomas P. German, Deputy Secretary

These minutes have been prepared from a tape recording of the meeting. The summaries have not been transcribed verbatim. Anyone wishing to listen to the recording may do so at the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, 101 E. Wilson Street, 2nd Floor, Madison, Wisconsin.

\$3,008,000.00

BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 16, 2014

AGENDA ITEM 3 APPROVE LOANS

Municipality		Municipal Type	Loan Amount	
1.	Bloomfield Walworth County Application #: 02015068 Purpose: Finance budget shortfalls	Village Rate: 3.00% Term: 3 years	\$800,000.00	
2.	Caledonia Racine County Application #: 02015071 Purpose: Finance sanitary sewer co	Village Rate: 3.50% Term: 10 years	\$150,000.00	
3.	Diamond Bluff Pierce County Application #: 02015070 Purpose: Finance road repairs	Town Rate: 3.50% Term: 10 years	\$100,000.00	
4.	Port Washington Ozaukee County Application #: 02015069 Purpose: Finance TID #2 developr	City Rate: 4.25% Term: 20 years	\$250,000.00	
5.	River Falls Pierce and St Croix Counties Application #: 02015072 Purpose: Finance land purchase re	City Rate: 3.50% Term: 10 years imbursement	\$1,600,000.00	
6.	Rock Falls Lincoln County Application #: 02015067 Purpose: Purchase grader and tires	Town Rate: 3.50% Term: 10 years	\$50,000.00	
7.	Springwater Waushara County Application #: 02015066 Purpose: Purchase tractor/loader	Town Rate: 3.00% Term: 5 years	\$58,000.00	

TOTAL

AGENDA ITEM 4 REOUEST TO RATIFY ADJUSTMENTS TO LOAN PROGRAM INTEREST RATES

Background

Since BCPL last changed interest rates in February 2014, short-term market interest rates have increased and long-term rates have declined. While our shorter term rates remain competitive, staff is recommending that BCPL lower the interest rates charged on longer-term loans to reflect the current interest rate environment. Recommendations include a reduction of 0.25% on 10 year loans and 0.50% on 20 year loans, as shown below. Staff believes this rate change will help maintain the competitiveness of the loan program, when compared to other funding sources available to our customer base.

In addition, from our perspective as a fiduciary, interest rates should be set to provide a return appropriate to the risk characteristics of BCPL loans relative to our investment alternatives, which are primarily limited to bonds. In analyzing alternative investments, the proposed rate changes are in line with market expectations. For example, we recently purchased 20-year, Aaa-rated Farm Credit Bonds with a yield of 3.84%. As Farm Credit bonds have similar credit quality and greater liquidity but a longer duration than Trust Fund Loans, it is reasonable to expect that Trust Fund Loans provide an investment return that is slightly lower than the yield available on Farm Credit Bonds. Therefore, the proposed 20 year loan rate of 3.75% makes sense relative to BCPL alternative investments.

The proposed new rate structure for the BCPL State Trust Fund Loan Program is as follows:

Loan Term	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Change
1-2 Years	2.50%	2.50%	0%
3-5 Years	3.00%	3.00%	0%
6-10 Years	3.50%	3.25%	-0.25%
11-20 Years	4.25%	3.75%	-0.50%

Interest Rate Adjustments

In an effort to maintain competitive position of the BCPL State Trust Fund Loan Program, staff recommended to the Executive Secretary and Board Chairman that program interest rates be reduced by 0.25% on 10 year loans and 0.50% on 20 year loans.

The Board had previously authorized the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Board Chairman to adjust loan interest rates up to 1% in between board meetings. In accordance with this authority, the Executive Secretary and Board Chairman have previously approved these changes.

Proposed Resolution

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands ratifies the changes in BCPL State Trust Fund Loan Program, with annual interest rates to be set at 2.50% for 1-2 year loans, 3.00% for 3-5 year loans, 3.25% for 6-10 year loans, and 3.75% for 11-20 year loans.

¹ Duration is a measure of the term of a loan or bond, in addition to providing a measure of price sensitivity to changes in market interest rates. Because a trust fund loan requires annual principal payments during the loan term while a bond requires a single principal payment at the end of the term, the loan can be considered to have a shorter average life than the bond. Under normal market rate conditions, a shorter term loan or bond would require a lower interest rate.

AGENDA ITEM 5 PROPOSED LAND EXCHANGE – USDA FOREST SERVICE (E1502)

BCPL owns approximately twenty thousand acres of land within the boundaries of the Chequamegon – Nicolet National Forest ("CNNF"). A substantial portion of these BCPL lands are not integral to BCPL timber management plans and such lands are contiguous to lands owned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service ("USFS").

The USFS owns several thousand acres of land near BCPL trust lands that are not integral to the mission of the CNNF. A majority of these lands are contiguous or surrounded by current BCPL land holdings.

BCPL staff and USFS staff have explored the possibility of exchanging approximately 3,440 acres of USFS property located in Forest, Langlade, Florence, Oneida and Price Counties with BCPL for approximately 3,890 acres of BCPL land located in Ashland, Forest, Florence, Vilas and Price Counties. The final details of the proposed exchange would be dependent upon the appraised values of the properties identified.

BCPL staff recommends approval of the exchange with the USFS for the following reasons:

- The exchange would significantly reduce land management costs and improve efficiency by the elimination of 63 miles of property boundaries between BCPL and CNNF.
- Both parties would benefit from reduced land management costs and improved efficiency by the elimination of inholdings that require obtaining permission from adjoining landowners for access.
- The proposed exchange would significantly contribute to the consolidation of four large blocks of BCPL school trust lands. It would increase BCPL's productive timberland and revenue generation potential for the trust funds.

Attachments:

Resolution w/Exhibits

Exhibit A – USFS Property Legal Description

Exhibit B – BCPL Property Legal Description

Exhibit C - Outgoing Property Summary Analysis

Exhibit D – Incoming Property Summary Analysis

BCPL Project Maps

AGENDA ITEM 5 PROPOSED LAND EXCHANGE – USDA FOREST SERVICE (E1502)

RECITALS

- A. The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands ("BCPL") owns approximately twenty thousand acres of land within the boundaries of the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest ("CNNF"). A substantial portion of these BCPL lands are not integral to BCPL timber management plans and such lands are contiguous to lands owned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service ("USFS").
- B. The USFS owns several thousand acres of land in and around the CNNF project boundaries but such lands are not integral to the mission of the CNNF. Many of these lands are contiguous to lands owned by BCPL.
- C. BCPL staff and USFS staff have discussed the possibility of engaging in a land exchange which would be similar to the land exchange between the parties which was completed last year, but larger in size which would create more economies of scale and have significantly more benefits for both parties. The proposed transaction would involve USFS exchanging approximately 3,440 acres of USFS property located in Forest, Langlade, Florence, Oneida and Price Counties for approximately 3,890 acres of BCPL property located in Ashland, Forest, Florence, Vilas and Price Counties.
- D. The properties to be conveyed by USFS (the "USFS Property") are more particularly described on attached Exhibit A.
- E. The properties to be conveyed by BCPL (the "BCPL Property") are more particularly described on attached Exhibit B.
- F. The BCPL Property has been evaluated by BCPL staff against sales criteria previously adopted by the Board. The BCPL Property has been determined by BCPL staff to be appropriate for sale or exchange according to such criteria. A copy of the summary analysis for the BCPL Property is attached to this resolution as Exhibit C.
- G. Virtually all of the USFS Property is located within the BCPL Consolidation Zone and has been evaluated by BCPL staff against purchase criteria previously adopted by the Board. The USFS Property has been determined by BCPL staff to be appropriate for purchase or exchange. A copy of the summary analysis for the USFS Property is attached to this resolution as Exhibit D. The few parcels located outside the Consolidation Zone would then be sold by BCPL.
- H. The proposed exchange is expected to significantly reduce land management costs and improve efficiency by the elimination of 63 miles of property boundaries between

- BCPL properties and CNNF properties. These are boundary lines that would no longer need to be walked, marked, maintained or surveyed by the respective parties.
- I. Both parties would benefit from the reduced costs and improved efficiency by the elimination of inholdings that require obtaining permission from adjoining landowners for access. Of the 21 parcels that BCPL would be conveying in the proposed exchange, 17 of them are landlocked and require permission from USFS or other adjoining landowners for access.
- J. The proposed exchange would significantly contribute to the consolidation of four large blocks of BCPL School Trust Lands.
- K. The preliminary estimates indicate that the USFS Property is more valuable per acre than the BCPL Property. Therefore, it is anticipated that BCPL would receive fewer acres in the proposed exchange. However, the land that BCPL would receive in the proposed exchange would be more valuable, productive timberland thereby improving BCPL's timber portfolio and future timber revenue prospects.
- L. The proposed exchange would also include several small parcels outside of the existing CNNF project boundary that the USFS is being encouraged to exchange. After the proposed exchange is completed, BCPL would sell such parcels to private landowners or the County Forest and use the proceeds of such land bank sales to purchase other properties that improve BCPL management efficiency or public access.
- M. BCPL staff recommends that the Board authorize the proposed exchange of the BCPL Property for the USFS Property for the following reasons:
 - a. The proposed exchange will reduce costs and improve management efficiency of BCPL school trust lands;
 - b. The proposed exchange will contribute to the consolidation of larger blocks of BCPL school trust lands; and
 - c. The proposed exchange will result in an increase in BCPL's timber base thereby improving BCPL's timber portfolio and future timber revenue prospects

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands approves the proposed land exchange between the BCPL and USFS in accordance with Chapter 24 of the Wisconsin Statutes on such terms and conditions as the Executive Secretary determines to be reasonable and necessary. The Executive Secretary is authorized and directed to obtain independent appraisals on the properties and adjust or substitute acreage parcels in the transaction in order to comply with Wis. Stats. Section 24.09 that requires the exchanged parcels have approximately equal value. The Executive Secretary is further authorized and directed to execute any documents reasonably necessary to complete the transaction.

EXHIBIT A USFS PROPERTY

(Incoming)

The NWNW, SWNW, SENW and the SW 1/4 of Section 35,

the SENW, SWNW, NESW, NWSW, SWSW, NESE, SWSE and SESE of Section 36, Township 38 North, Range 11 East,

Town of Three Lakes, Oneida County; (See Map 1)

The NENE, NESW, SESW and SE 1/4 of Section 25,

the NWNE, and SWNE of Section 36, Township 38 North, Range 3 East,

Town of Emery, Price County; (See Map 2)

The SESE of Section 3, Township 40 North, Range 14 East,

Town of Alvin, Forest County; (See Map 3)

The SWSW of Section 25, the SESE of Section 26,

the NENE, SWNE, NESW, SESW and SESE of Section 35,

the SENE, SE ¼, NESW, SWSW and SESW of Section 36, Township 38 North, Range 13 East,

Town of Argonne, Forest County; (See Map 4)

The NENW, and SENW of Section 20,

all of Section 19,

the NE ¼, NESE and SESE of Section 31,

the NWNW, SWNW, NESE and SESE of Section 32, Township 38 North, Range 14 East,

Town of Ross, Forest County; (See Map 4)

The NWSW of Section 5,

the NWNW, SWNW, SE ¼, SWSW and SESW of Section 6, Township 37 North, Range 14 East, Town of Ross, Forest County; (See Map 4)

The NE 1/4 of Section 5, Township 36 North, Range 16 East,

Town of Armstrong Creek, Forest County, (See Map 5)

The NWNE and NWSE of Section 6, Township 36 North, Range 15 East,

Town of Laona, Forest County; (See Map 6)

The NESE of Section 15, Township 34 North, Range 9 East,

Town of Parrish, Langlade County; (See Map 7)

The NENW and SENW of Section 22, Township 33 North, Range 9 East,

Town of Summit, Langlade County, Wisconsin. (See Map 7)

EXHIBIT B BCPL PROPERTY

(Outgoing)

The NWNE, NENW, SWNW, SENW, NESW, NWSW, and SWSW of Section 27, the NESE of Section 28, Township 39 North, Range 13 East, Town of Argonne, Forest County; (See Map 1)

The SENE, SWNE, SWNW, SENW, SW 1/4, and NWSE of Section 15, the NWNW, SWNW, and SE 1/4 of Section 22, Township 38 North, Range 13 East, Town of Argonne, Forest County; (See Map 2)

The NWNE, SWNE, SENE, and NWSE of Section 16, Township 38 North, Range 14 East, Town of Ross, Forest County; (See Map 3)

The SESW of Section 6, the NENE, NWNE, SENE, NESW, SESW, NESE, NWSE, and SWSE of Section 7, the SW 1/4, and SWSE of Section 8, Township 38 North, Range 14 East, Town of Popple River, Forest County; (See Map 3)

The NWNW of Section 5, Township 39 North, Range 13 East, Town of Argonne, Forest County; (See Map 4)

The SWSW of Section 32, Township 40 North, Range 13 East, Town of Alvin, Forest County; (See Map 4)

The SWSE of Section 24, Township 36 North, Range 15 East, Town of Blackwell, Forest County; (See Map 5)

The NENW, SWNW, SENW, and SW ¼ of Section 5, the NWNW of Section 8, Township 37 North, Range 13 East, Town of Argonne, Forest County; (See Map 6)

The SESE, SWSE, SWSW, and SESW of Section 30, the NENE, and NWNE of Section 31, the NWNW, SWNW, NWSW and SESW of Section 32, Township 38 North, Range 13 East, Town of Argonne, Forest County; (See Map 6)

The SENE, and NESE of Section 7, Township 38 North, Range 15 East, Town of Fence, Florence County; (See Map 7)

The SWNE, SENW, NESW and NWSE of Section 2, Township 38 North, Range 15 East, Town of Fence, Florence County; (See Map 8)

The NWNW of Section 18, Township 38 North, Range 16 East, Town of Fence, Florence County; (See Map 8)

Page 2
Exhibit B
BCPL Property
(Outgoing)

The NENE and SENE of Section 9, Township 40 North, Range 4 East, Town of Lac du Flambeau, Vilas County; (See Map 9)

The NWSE, NESW, SESW and SWSE of Section 20, the NWNE of Section 29, Township 40 North, Range 2 East,

Town of Eisenstein, Price County; (See Map 10)

The SWNW and the SENW of Section 26, Township 38 North, Range 3 East, Town of Emery, Price County; (See Map 11)

The NENW and SWNW of Section 2, Township 37 North, Range 3 East, Town of Emery, Price County; (See Map 11)

The SESE of Section 16, and Government lots number 8 and 9 of Section 20, Township 38 North, Range 2 East,

Town of Worchester, Price County; (See Map 12)

The SWSW and SESW of Section 36, Township 43 North, Range 3 West, Town of Gordon, Ashland County; (See Map 13)

The NENE, SWNE, NWSE, SWSE and SESE of Section 28, the NENE, NWNE and NENW of Section 33, Township 43 North, Range 3 West, Town of Gordon, Ashland County; (See Map 13)

The SWSE of Section 6, the SWSE and SESE of Section 7, Township 42 North, Range 3 West, Town of Shanagolden, Ashland County; (See Map 13)

The SESW of Section 5 and NENW of Section 8, Township 42 North, Range 3 West, Town of Shanagolden, Ashland County, Wisconsin. (See Map 13)

Board of Commissioners of Public Lands Summary Analysis of Potential Property Exchange Transaction ID#: E / 5 02

Item 5 Exhibit C Page 1 of 1

Common Name for Land Parcel: Forest Service Exchange Outging County: Mulit Township: Multi Legal Description: See Attached Legal Description GLO Acres: +/-3,890 Criteria – Outgoing BCPL Property 1. Title Ownership verified with Register of Deeds. 2. Timber Management Parcel is located outside of Consolidation Zone. Parcel is an isolated or unproductive parcel within the Consolidation Zone. Parcel is a deferred natural area. 3. Access Parcel does not provide the only reasonable access to other BCPL parcels that will be retained. ☐ If parcel does provide the only reasonable access to other BCPL parcels to be retained, a public access easement across the parcel has been reserved. Parcel has no current access. 4. Parcel Required By Other Government Entity parcel of land owned by another unit of government. ☐ Parcel is otherwise required by another unit of government. I recommend that BCPL purchase the above property on terms and conditions acceptable to BCPL: Yes No Trust Lands Forestry Supervisor I accept the recommendation of the Trust Lands Forestry Supervisor and direct the staff to proceed accordingly. Yes No **Executive Secretary**

Summary Analysis of Potential Property Exchange Transaction ID#: E / 502

Item 5 Exhibit D Page 1 of 3

Common Name for Land Parcel: Forest Service Exchange Incoming County: Mulit Township: Multi Legal Description: See Attached Legal Description Acres: +/-3,440 Criteria – Incoming Property 1. Forest Fragmentation Average tract size increases. \times The ratio of perimeter to area decreases. There is a clear reduction of the threat for conversion from forest to non-forest use. 2. Access Management access to our existing timber tracts is improved. There is an increase in the number of BCPL acres open to the public. 3. **Management Efficiency** The percentage of upland on BCPL properties increases. \boxtimes The amount of line work per acre decreases. \times The average distance from the tracts to the BCPL field office decreases. X 4. **Timber Character and Value** The average site index of forest soils on BCPL property increases. \times ☑ Within one cutting cycle there is an increase in the potential high-value sawlog volume and growth on the tract. ☐ There is an increase in the forest types and species that diversify the BCPL's timber portfolio. There is an increase in the number of acres and size of tracts where the BCPL has summer logging opportunities. I recommend that BCPL purchase the above property on terms and conditions acceptable to BCPL: 1 Yes П No 12/4/14 Trust Lands Forestry Supervisor I accept the recommendation of the Trust Lands Forestry Supervisor and direct the staff to proceed accordingly.

> 12/8/14 Date

1

Yes

No

elom

Board of Commissioners of Public Lands Summary Analysis of Potential Property Exchange Transaction ID#: E_/ SO2_

Item 5 Exhibit D Page 2 of 3

Incoming Property

Common Name for Land Parce	: Forest Service	Exchange	Incoming

County: Multi

Township: Multi

Legal Description:

See Attached Legal Description

Acres:

+/- 3,440

Parcel ID Number:

Previous Year Tax Levy:

\$ 0 tax exempt

U.S.D.A. Forest Service

Name(s) of Seller(s): Address of Seller(s):

500 Hanson Lake Rd.

Rhinelander, WI 54501

Seller Phone #:

<u>715-362-1300</u>

Seller's Attorney or Agent:

Jeff Mell

Contact Information:

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

500 Hanson Lake Rd

Rhinelander, WI 54501

Seller's Attorney or Agent Phone Number(s):

715-362-1373

Asking Price:

\$

Summary Analysis of Potential Property Exchange Transaction ID#: E /502

Item 5 Exhibit D Page 3 of 3

Incoming Property

Common Name for Land Parcel: Forest Service Exchange Incoming

County: Multi

Township: Multi

Legal Description:

See Attached Legal Description

Acres:

+/- 3,440

Acres of productive forest land in parcel(s):

2945 acres

Acres of timber base in parcel(s):

2094 acres

Acres of non-productive land in parcel(s):

495 acres

Acres of land with public access in parcel(s):

3345 acres

Acres of land without public access in parcel(s):

95 acres

Acres of current BCPL land that will become

accessible to the public through parcel(s):

0 acres

Acres of our current BCPL land that will become

accessible for timber management purposes through parcel(s): 35 acres

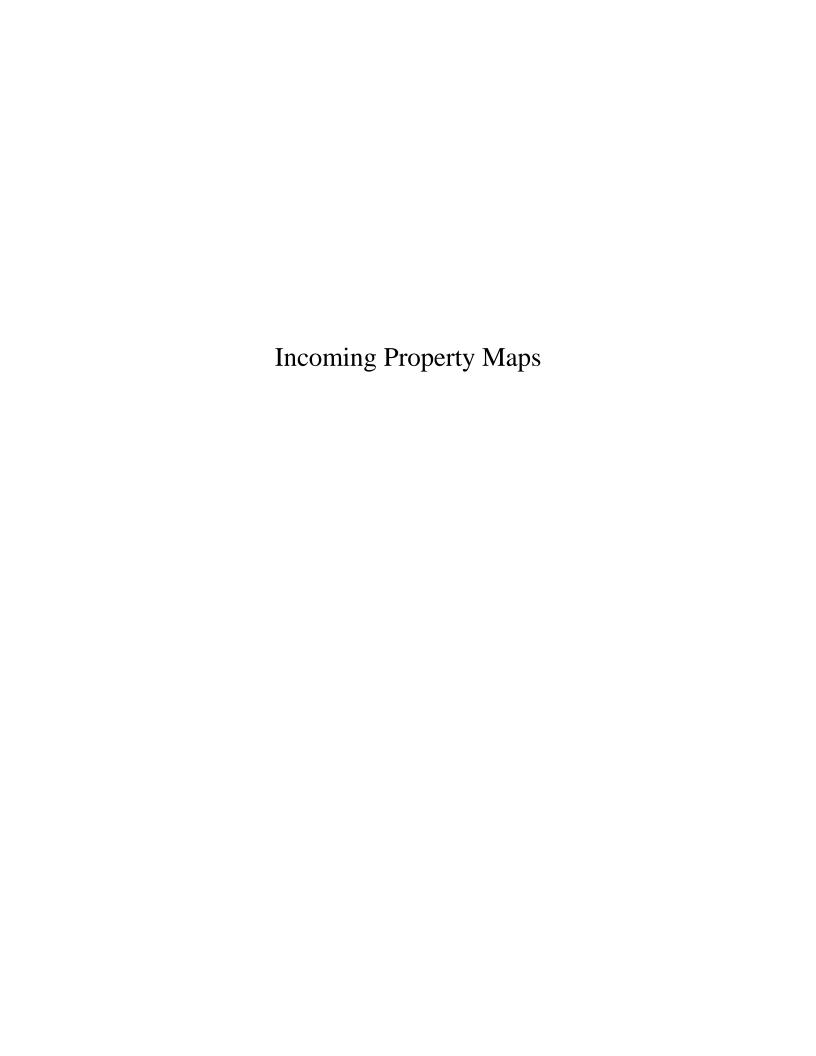
Comments (parcel cover type or other attributes of parcel or transaction):

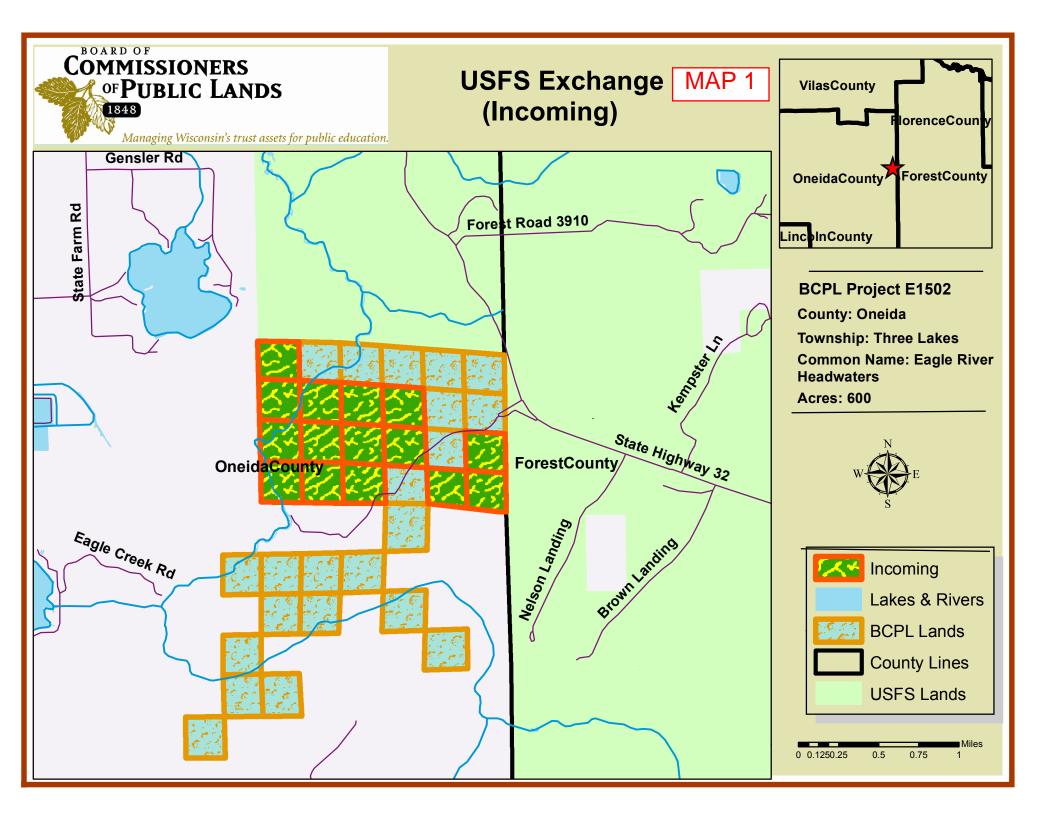
This exchange would greatly benefit both the BCPL and the USFS by improving management efficiencies, eliminating inholdings, and consolidation of existing parcels.

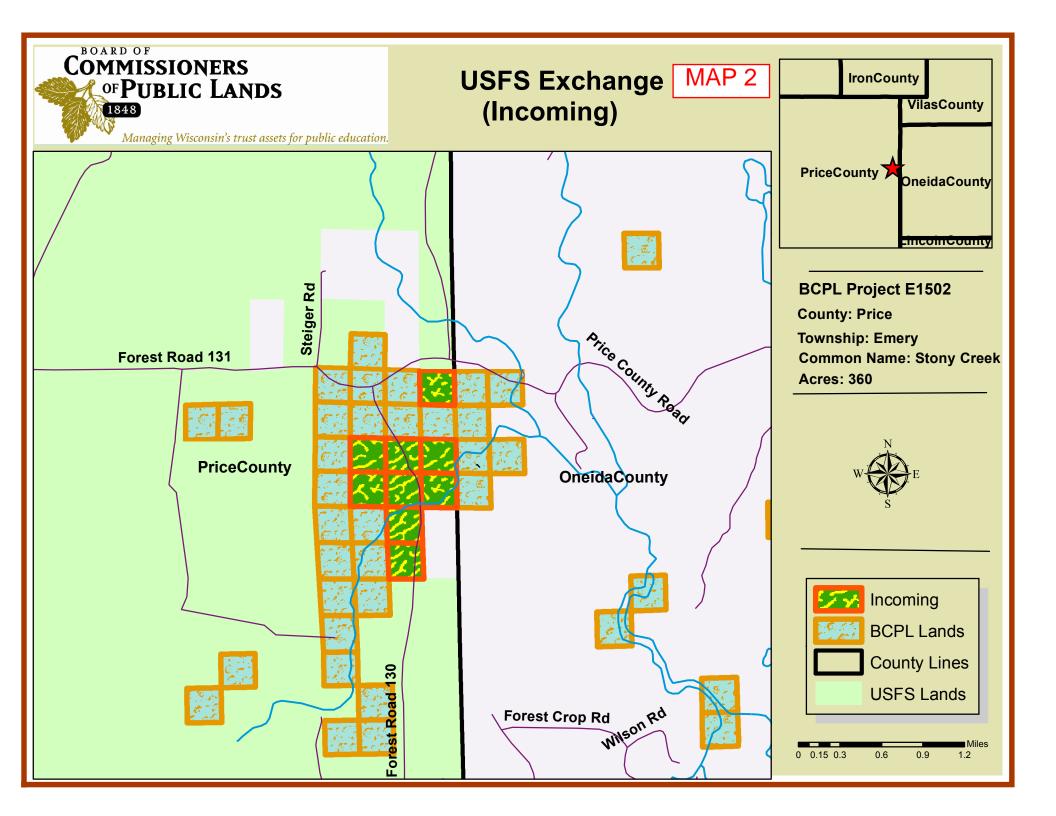
The outgoing BCPL property is comprised of twenty-one parcels scattered across five different counties. The BCPL parcels are completely surrounded by the USFS, seventeen of them are landlocked and four of the parcels totaling 1,700 acres have natural area quality values and should be conveyed to an agency mandated to manage research natural areas.

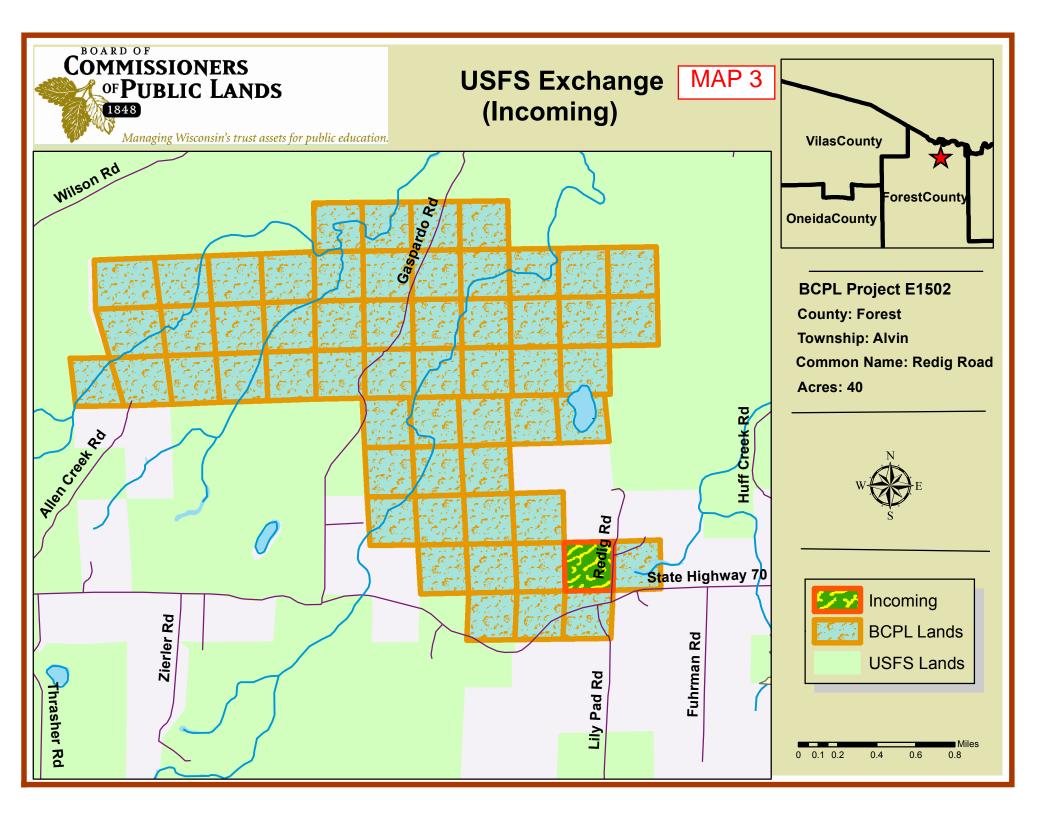
The incoming property is largely productive timberland that will contribute to the consolidation of four separate blocks of existing BCPL property and increase the BCPL timber base by 640 acres.

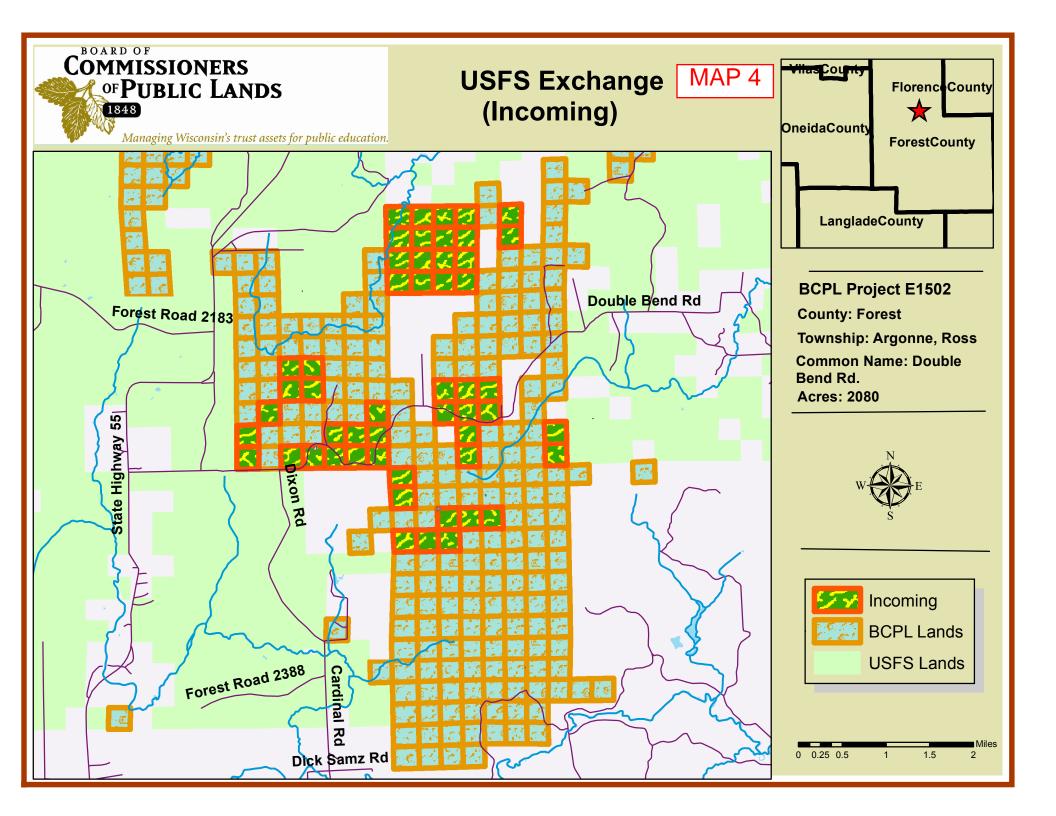
The exchange will eliminate 63 miles of property boundary between BCPL and the USFS and eliminate 6000 acres of land that currently requires access permission from other landowners.

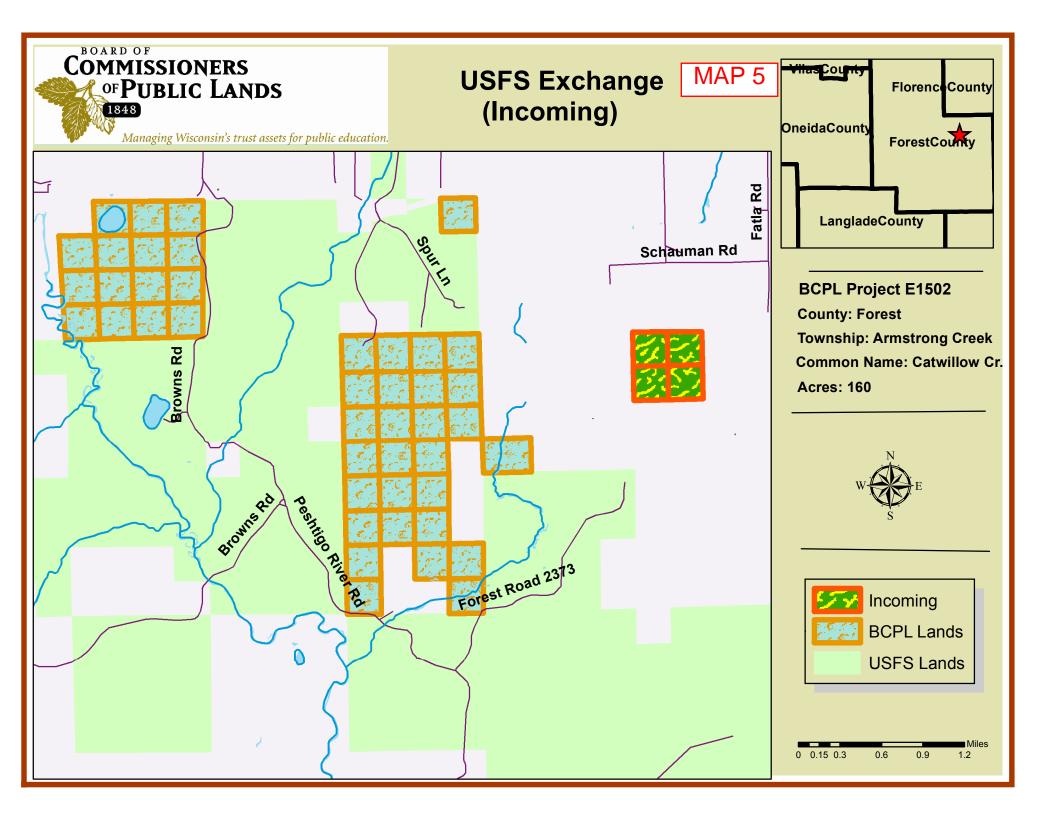


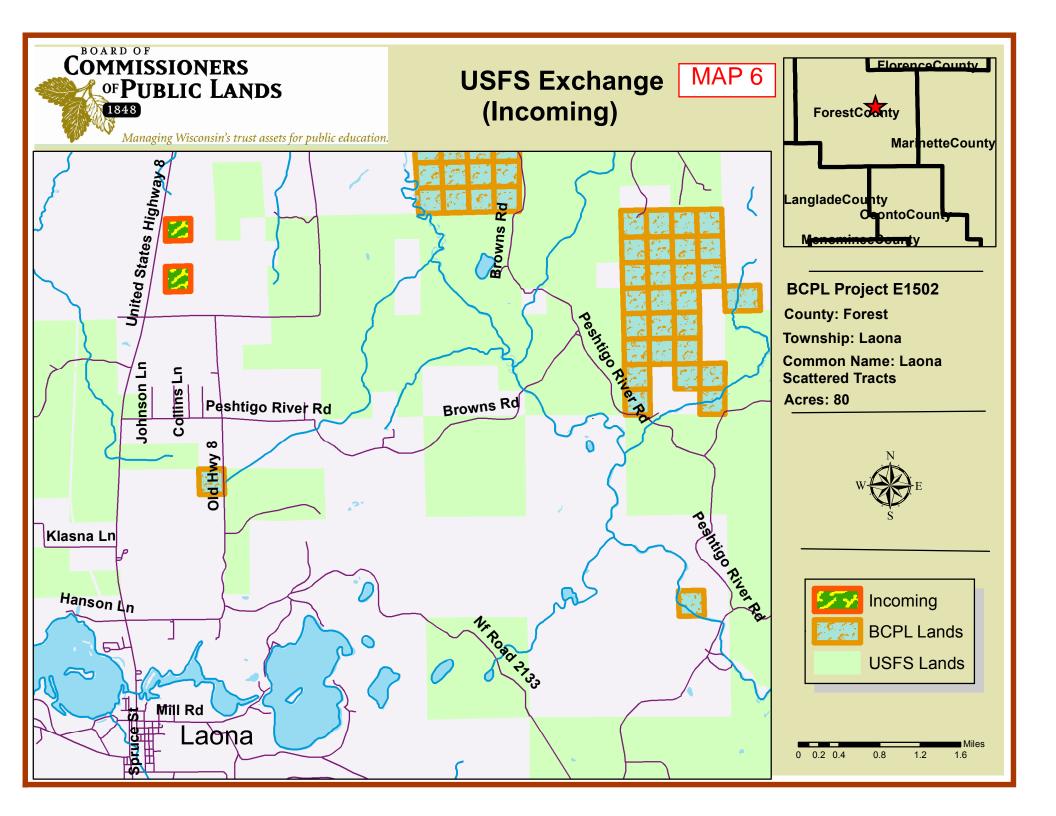


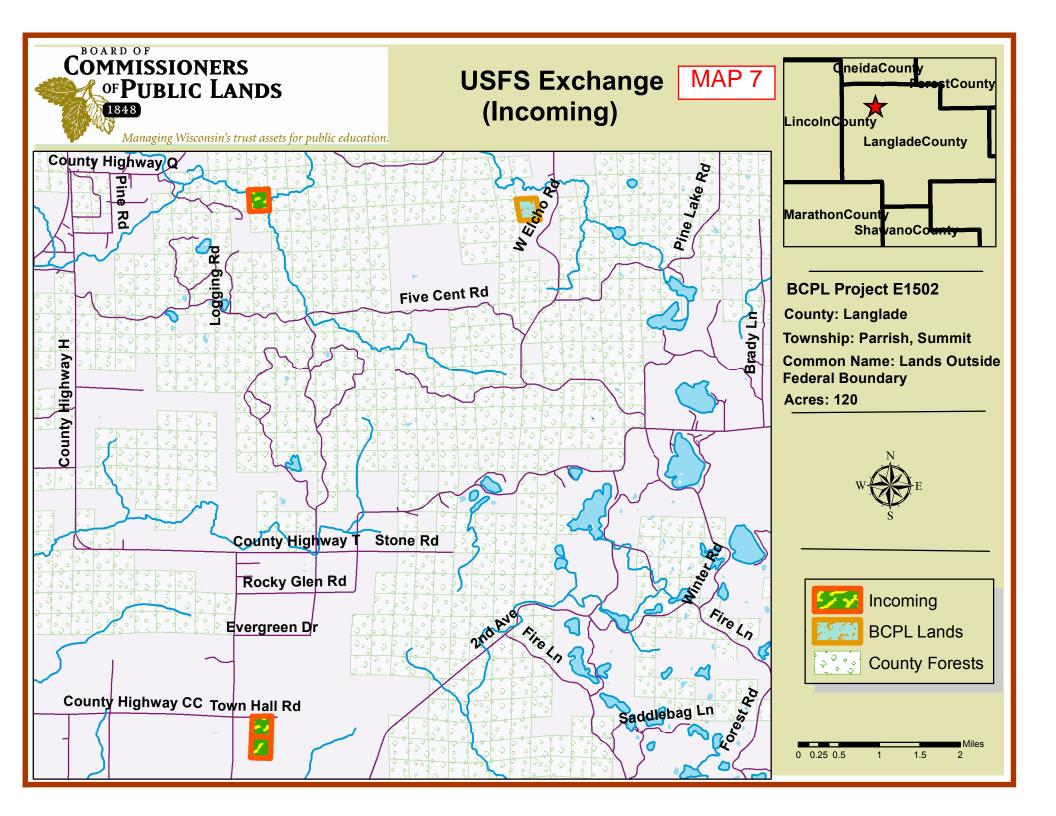


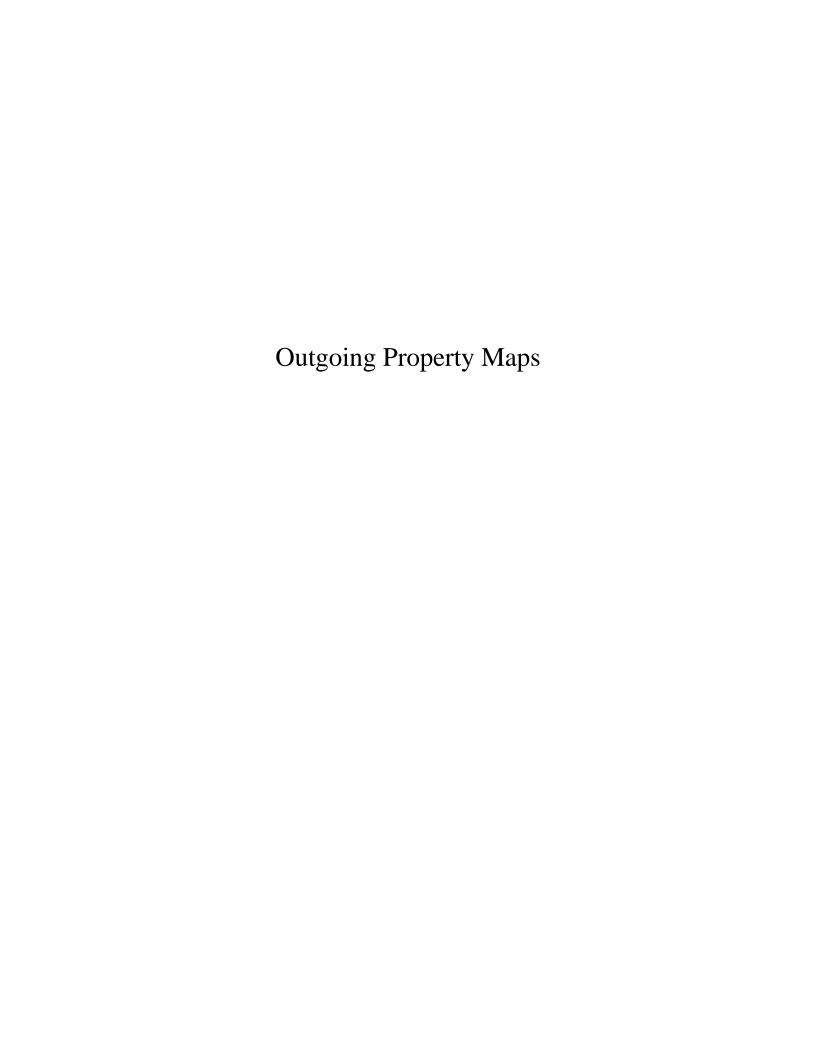


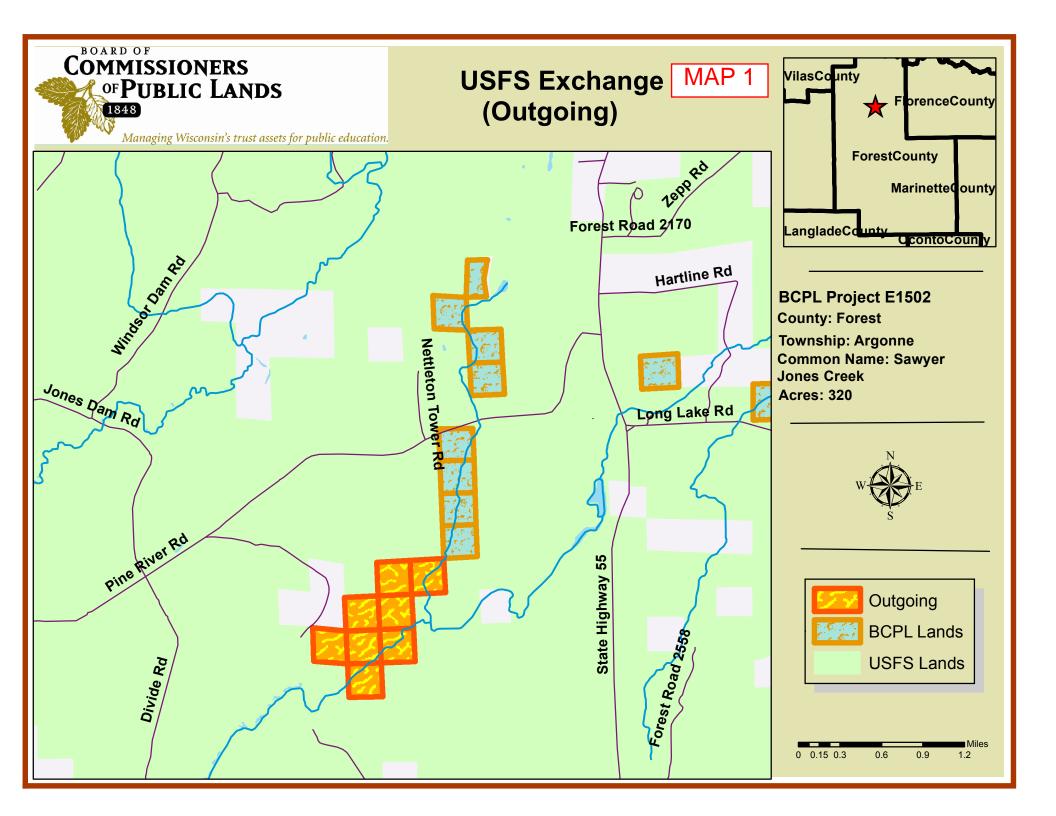


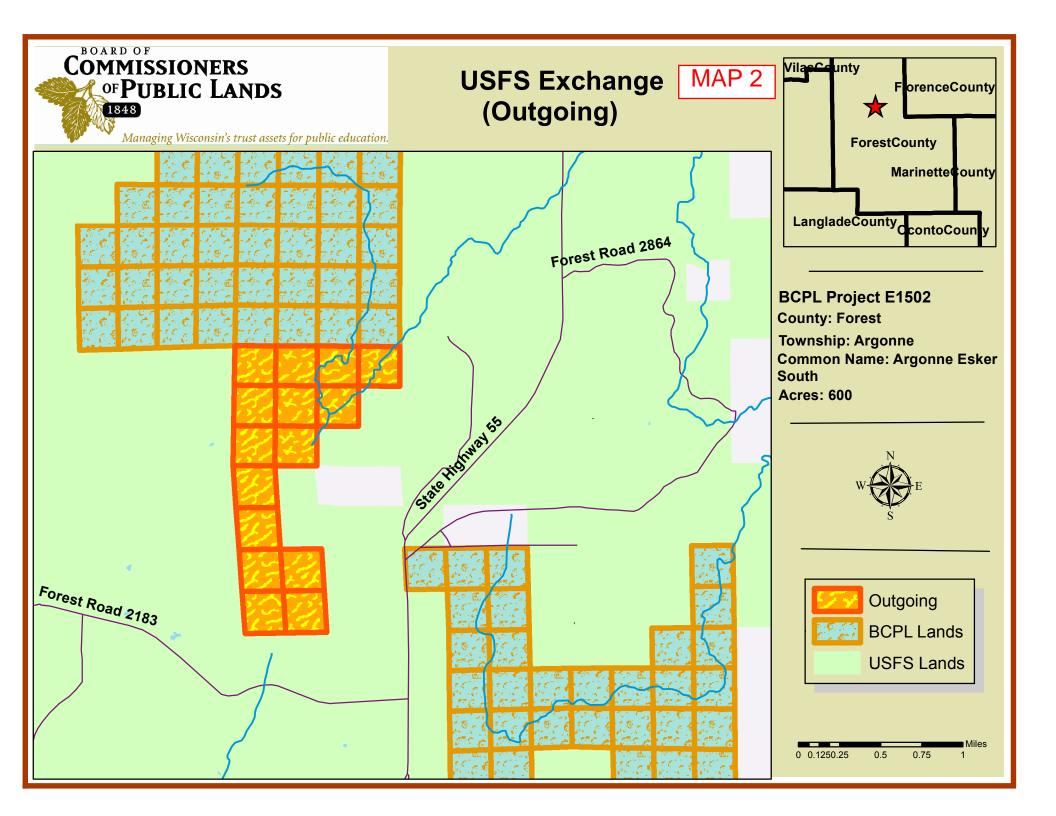


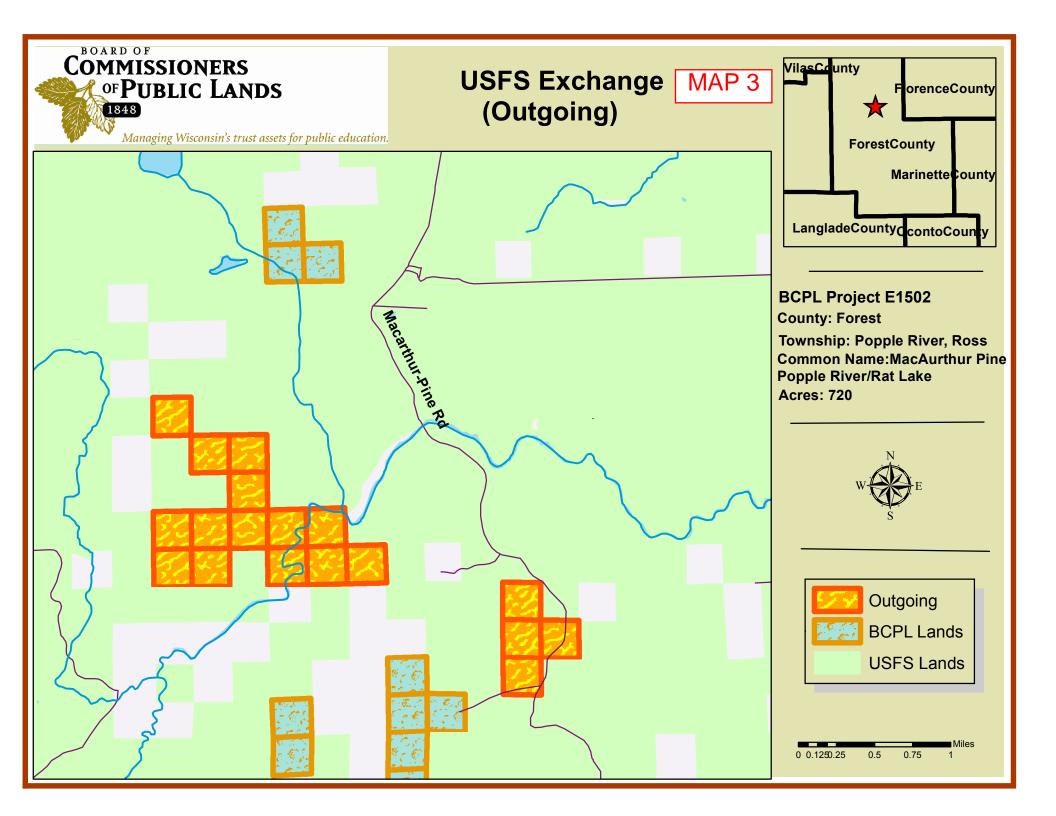


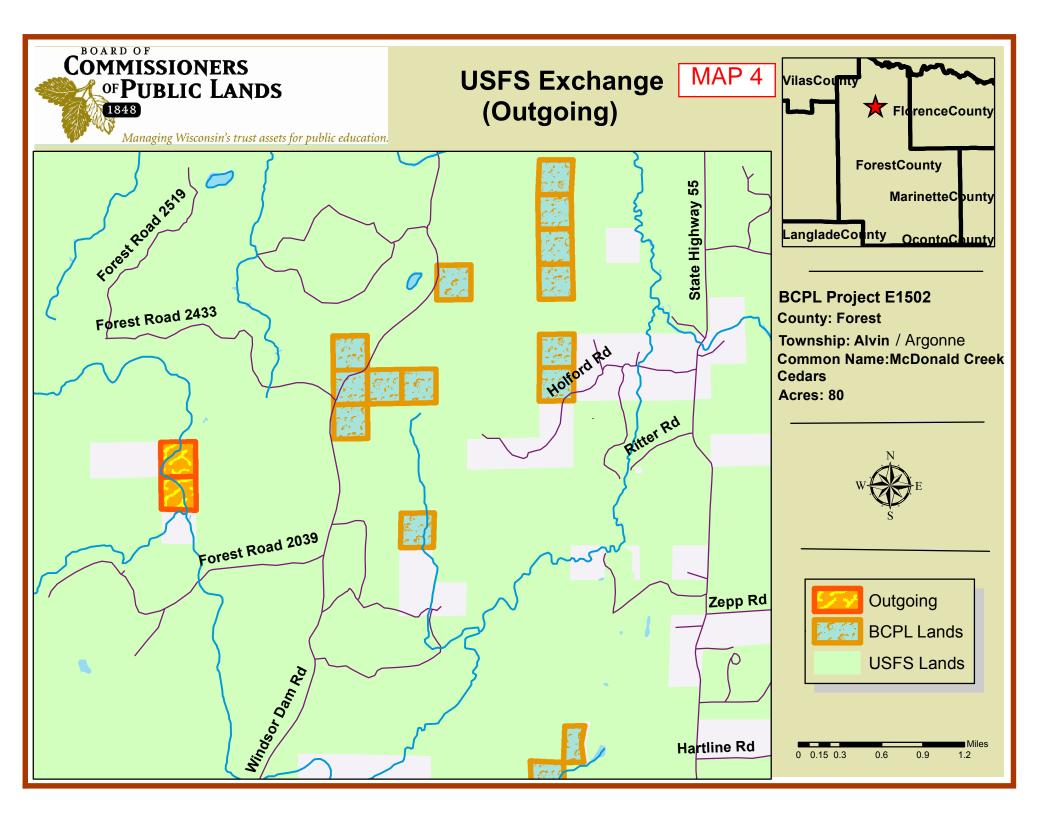


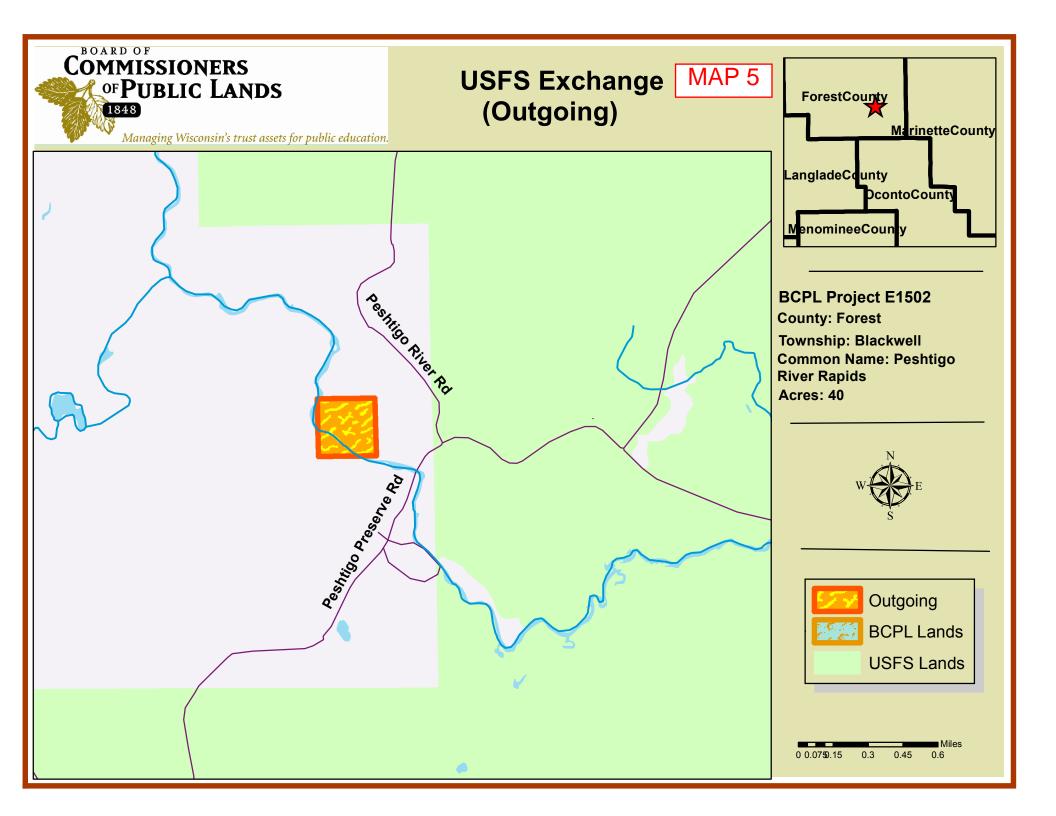


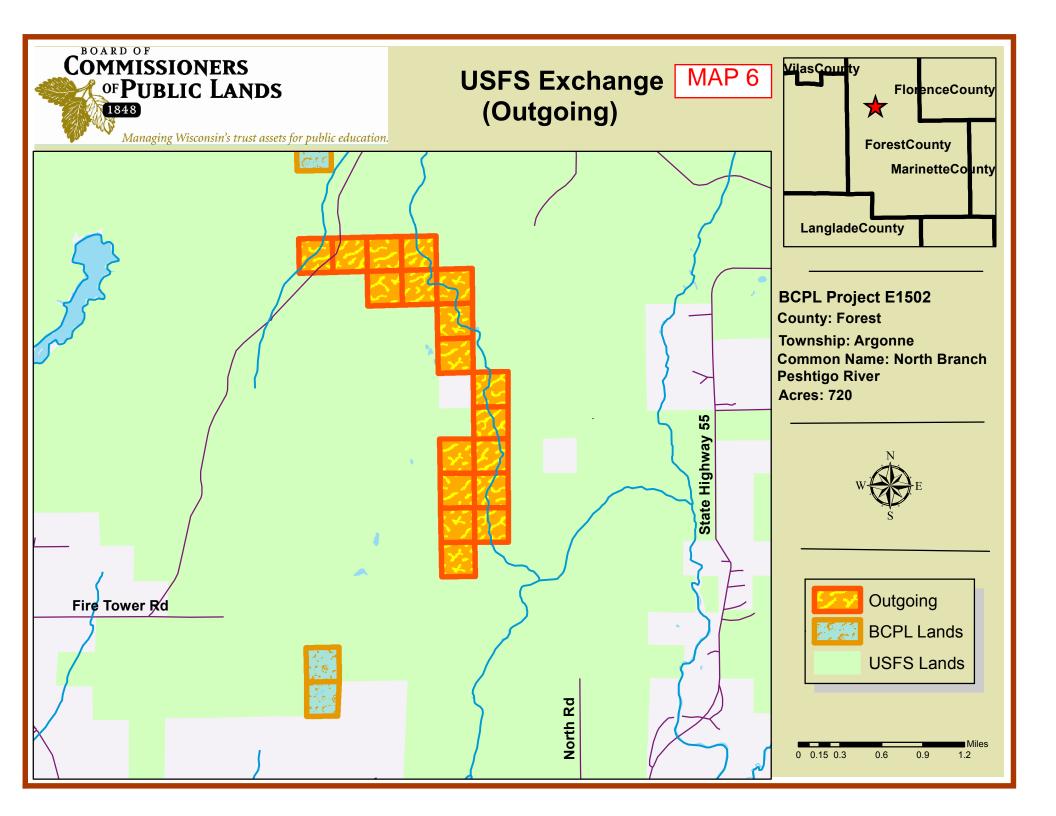


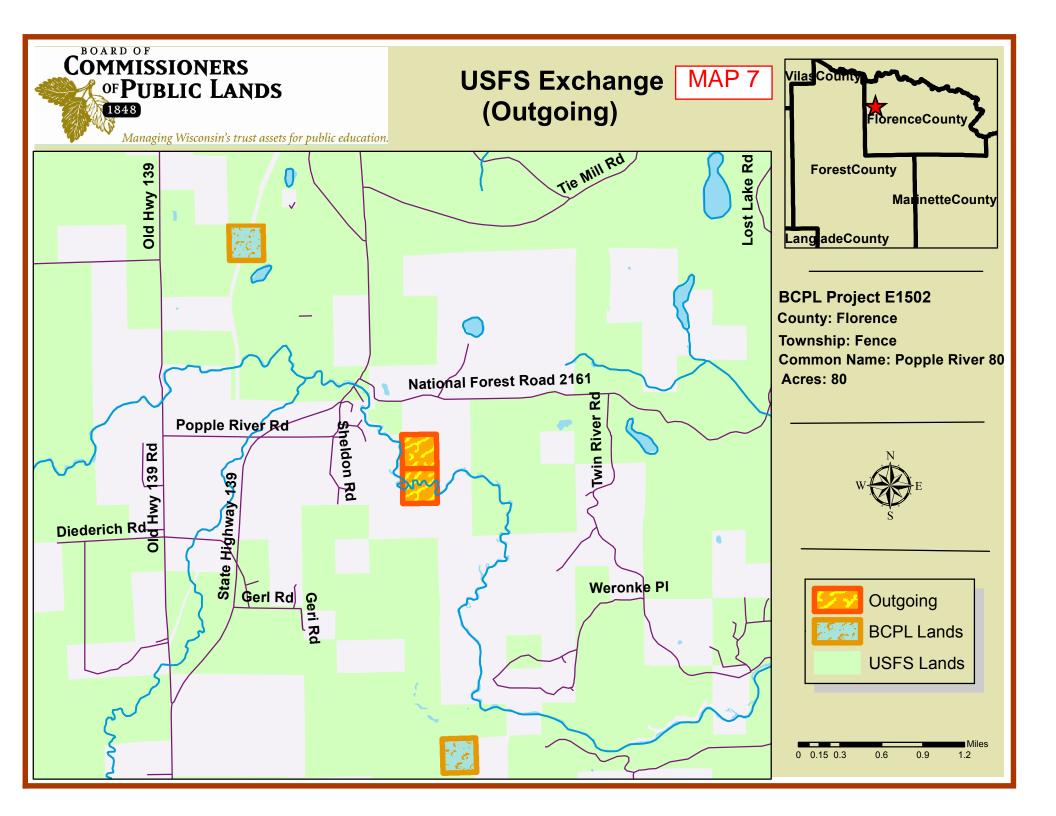


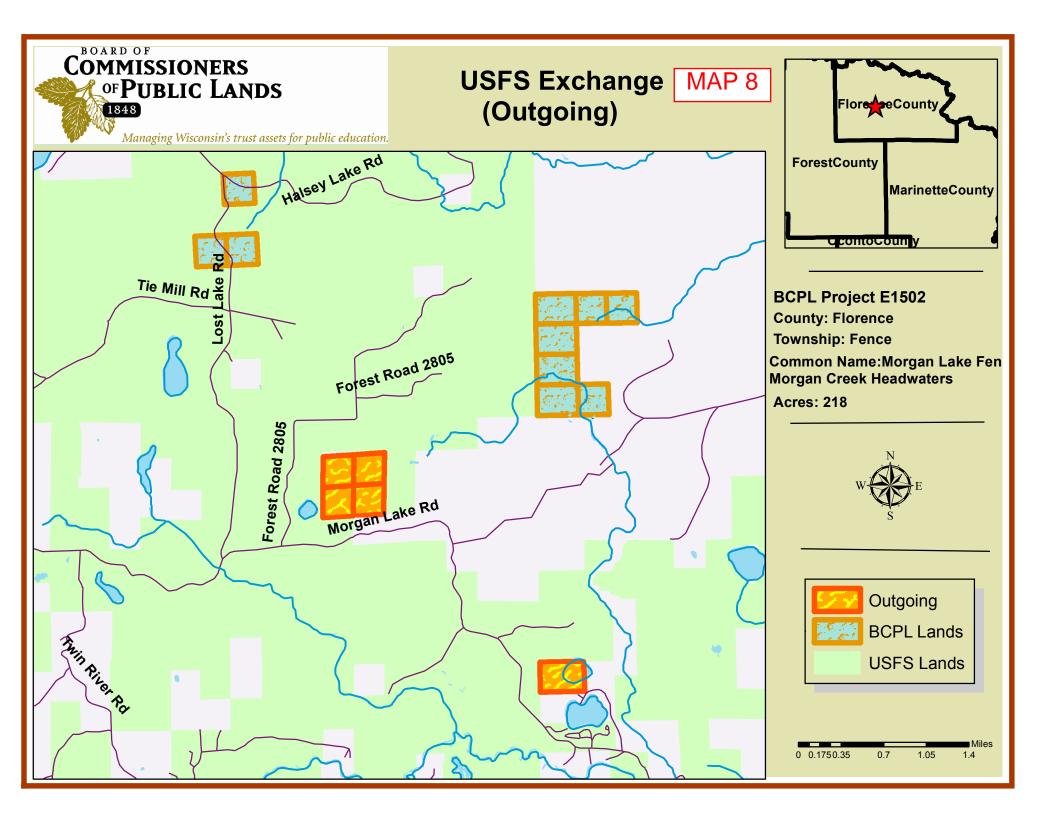


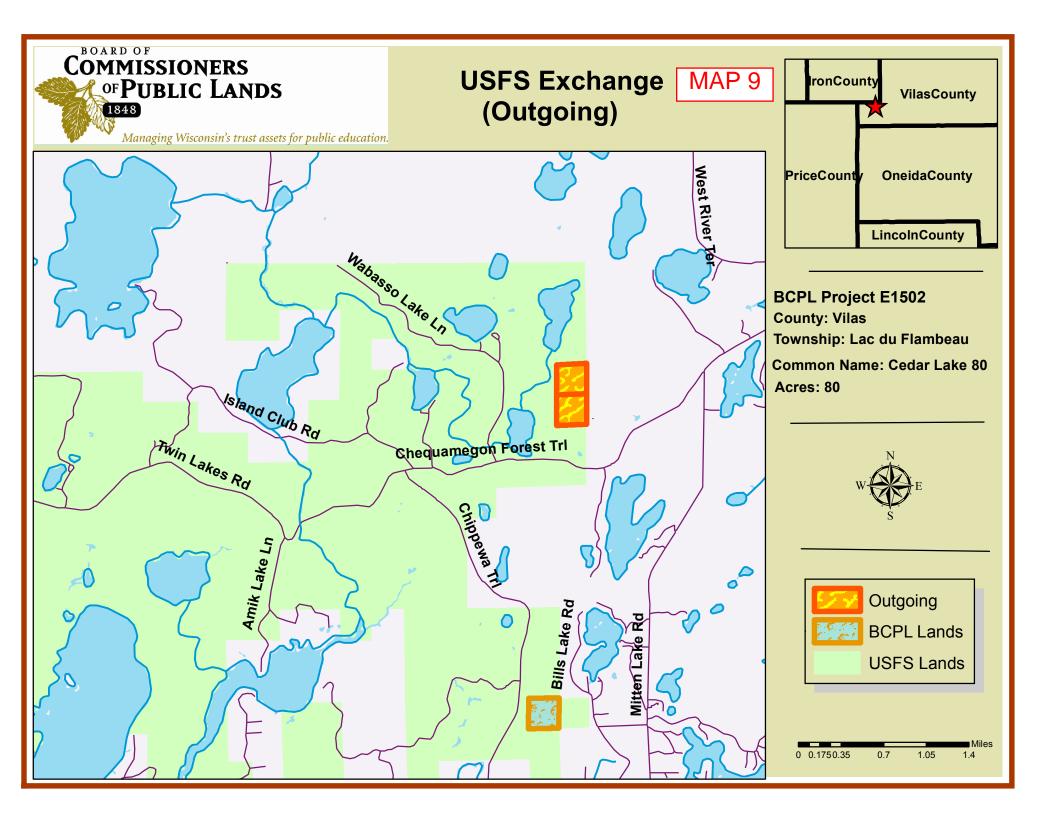


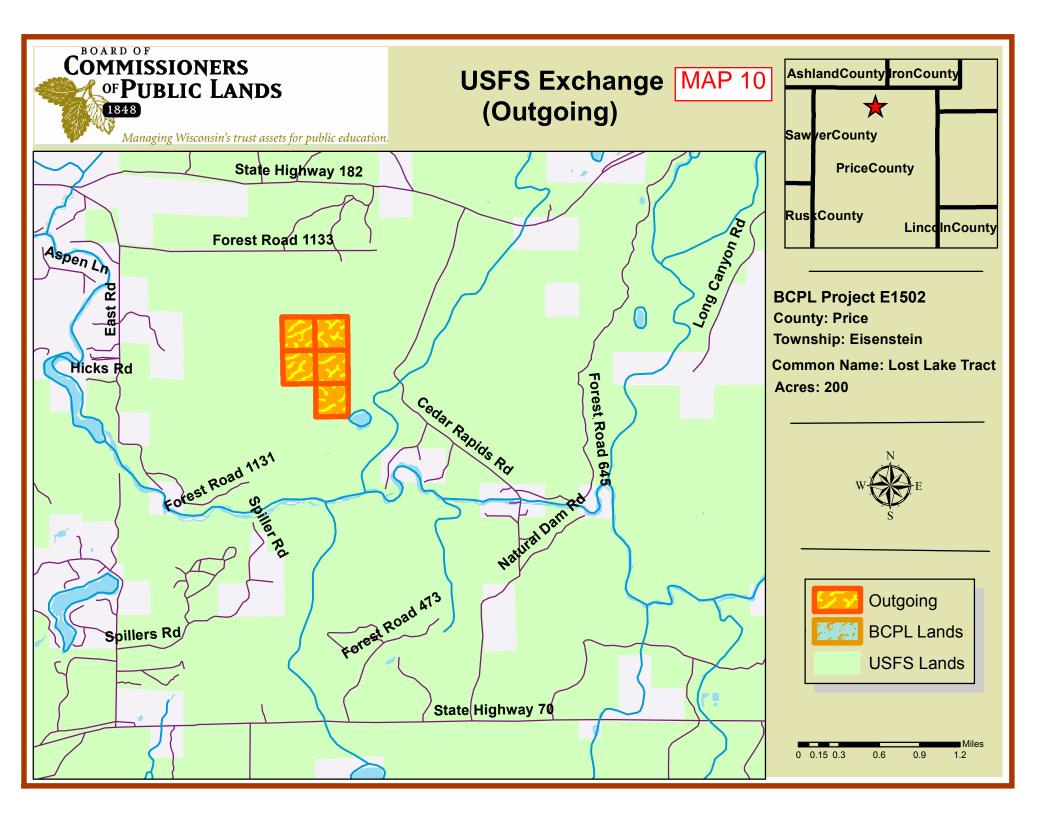


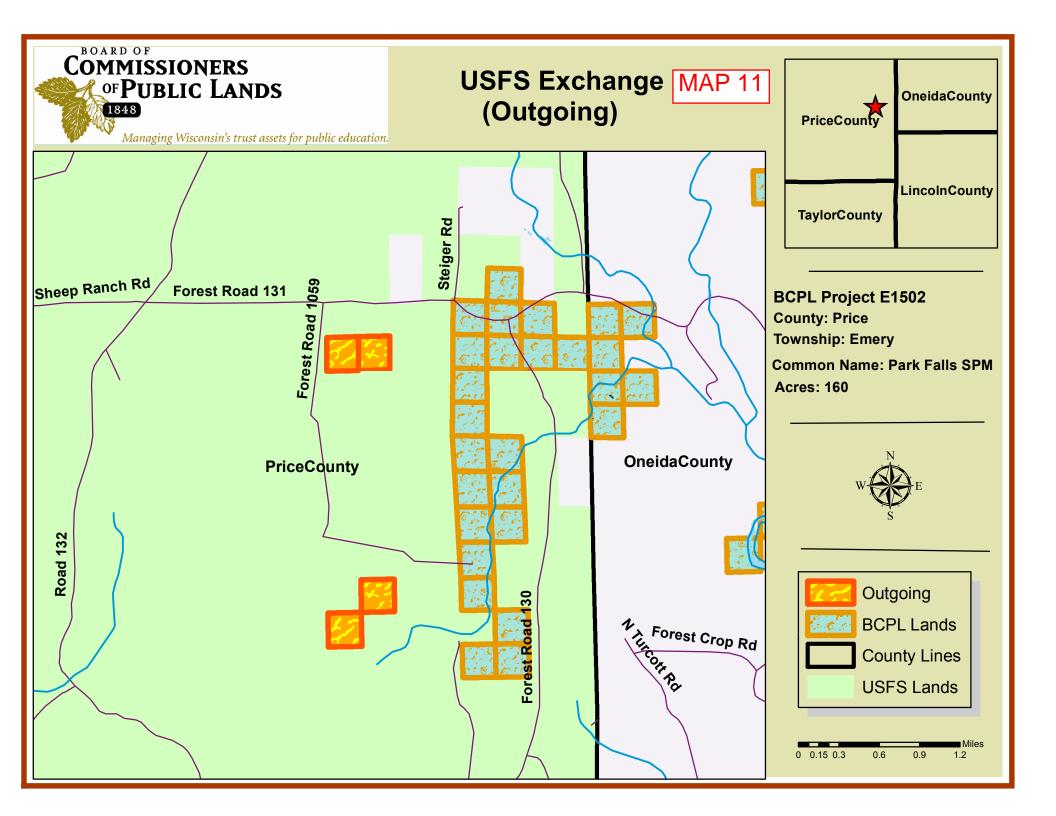


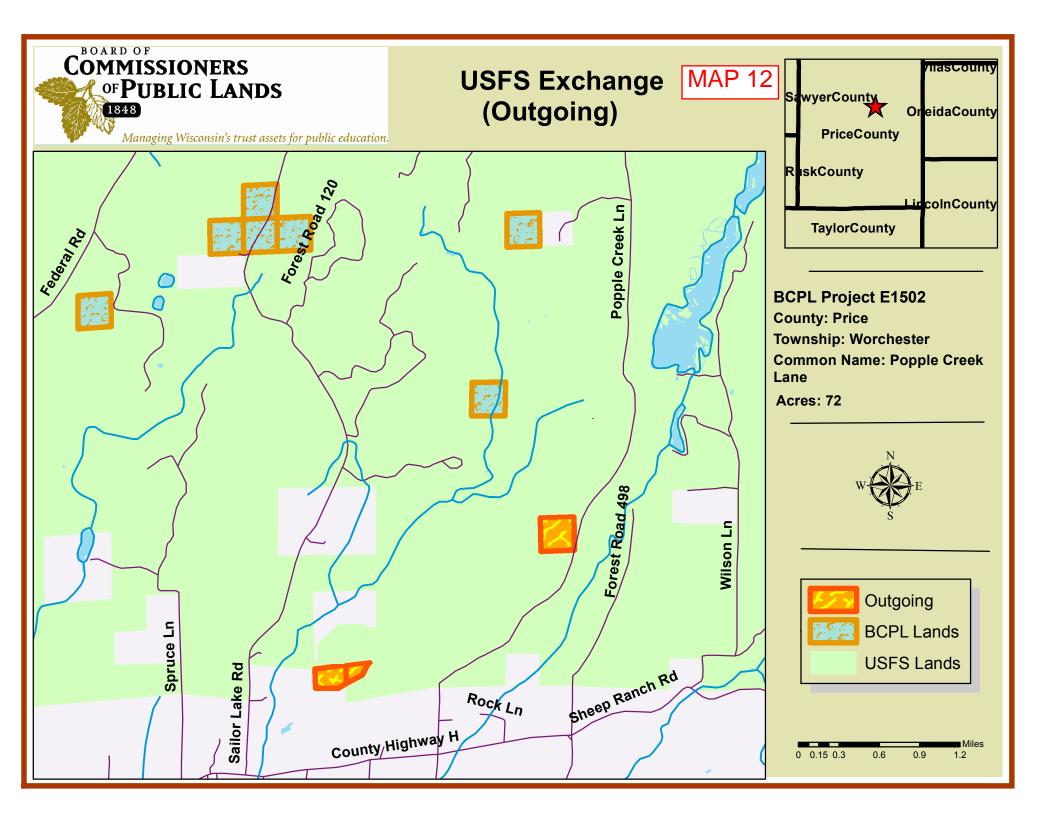


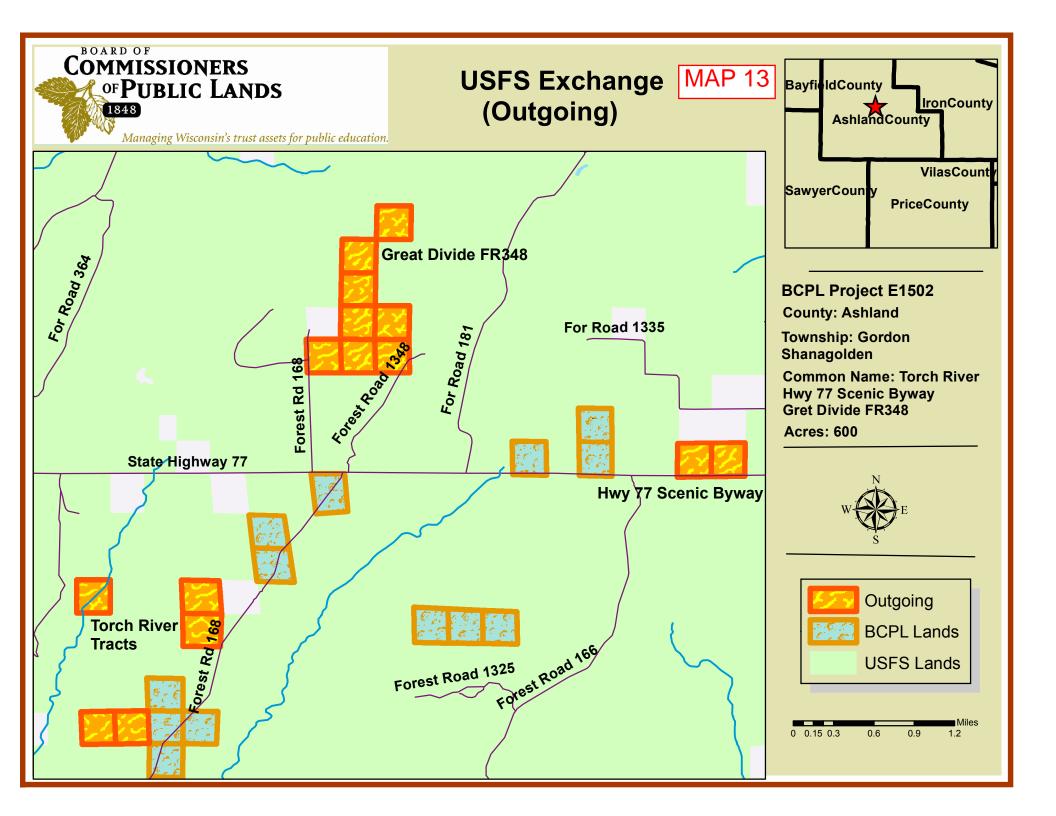












AGENDA ITEM 5 PROPOSED ACCEPTANCE OF FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL CERTIFICATION

RECITALS

- A. BCPL has owned forested school trust lands for over 166 years and has managed such forest lands in an economically and ecologically prudent manner for the benefit of the respective trust beneficiaries.
- B. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is a well-established forest accreditation organization that strives to improve forest management throughout the entire wood products supply chain. FSC evaluates forest land managers and companies which produce, process, manufacture or distribute wood products against standards and FSC provides accreditation to those firms which meet the standards. FSC's goal is to promote economically prosperous, socially beneficial and ecologically appropriate forest management.
- C. FSC has been in business for over twenty years and has certified over 6 million acres of forests in Wisconsin. The State of Wisconsin DNR and the vast majority of county forests in the state have been certified by FSC. All private industrial timber land enrolled in the Managed Forest Law (MFL is a tax program benefitting industrial timberland managers in the state) is FSC certified. BCPL is the only government timber land manager not certified in Wisconsin today.
- D. Many loggers, sawmills, paper companies and wood products manufacturers in Wisconsin are certified by FSC. A sample of these companies includes both large firms like Procter and Gamble Paper Products, Weather Shield Windows, Domtar Paper Company and Kimberly Clark Corp to smaller sawmills and loggers such as WD Flooring, Besse Lumber Co., and Algoma Lumber Co. Other companies that favor or give preference to FSC certified wood include TimeWarner, New Page Corporation, and Home Depot.
- E. FSC certification for landowners is based upon a local audit performed by a third party previously approved by FSC. Rainforest Alliance, Inc. (RA) is such an approved third party auditor.
- F. RA has audited BCPL's forest management practices by reviewing extensive documents, conducting interviews and making on-the-ground field reviews. RA has determined that BCPL is managing its forest lands in a way that meet FSC's goal and RA has recommended to the FSC that BCPL receive certification.
- G. Lack of FSC certification will preclude certain important industrial buyers from purchasing BCPL timber and/or pulpwood.

Staff recommends that the Board authorize the acceptance of FSC certification so that BCPL can market its timber in the future as "FSC certified."

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands approves the acceptance of FSC certification. The Executive Secretary is authorized and directed to execute any documents reasonably necessary to complete such transaction.