



Dakota County
1590 Highway 55
Hastings, MN 55033

November 24, 2025

Subject: Acquisition of property to become addition to Gores Pool #3 State Wildlife Management Area

Dear Dakota County Commissioners,

This letter is to introduce a proposal for the State of Minnesota to acquire approximately 63.5 acres of flood plain forest and river bottoms in East Central Goodhue County (Ravenna Township). The property is within a ~7,102.87acre state property known as the Gores Pool #3 State Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and would become an addition to the existing WMA (see included map).

The acquisition of these 63.5 acres will preserve habitat for wildlife species and will enable wildlife management, while providing outdoor recreational opportunities to the residents of many nearby cities and towns. The property will become part of Minnesota's outdoor recreation system available for dispersed wildlife-based recreation such as hunting, trapping, birdwatching, and hiking.

As always, PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) payments will be made on an annual basis. PILT payments for wildlife management lands are distributed among counties, townships, and school districts as if they were property taxes on the land. The payment is based on a percentage of the appraised value of the property and is updated every number of years. These PILT payments are usually comparable to the amount of property taxes a private landowner would have otherwise made, and in some cases can even end up being higher comparatively.

The final step in adding this parcel to Minnesota's public land system is receiving approval from the Dakota County Board of Commissioners. We hope you see the value in allowing this piece of property to become part of the WMA and kindly ask for resolution on this acquisition during the next meeting. I would be available to attend an upcoming meeting to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tim Pharis'.

Tim Pharis
Area Wildlife Supervisor
MNDNR-Wildlife
15325 Babcock Ave.
Rosemount, MN 55068
651-322-4643