

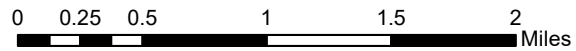
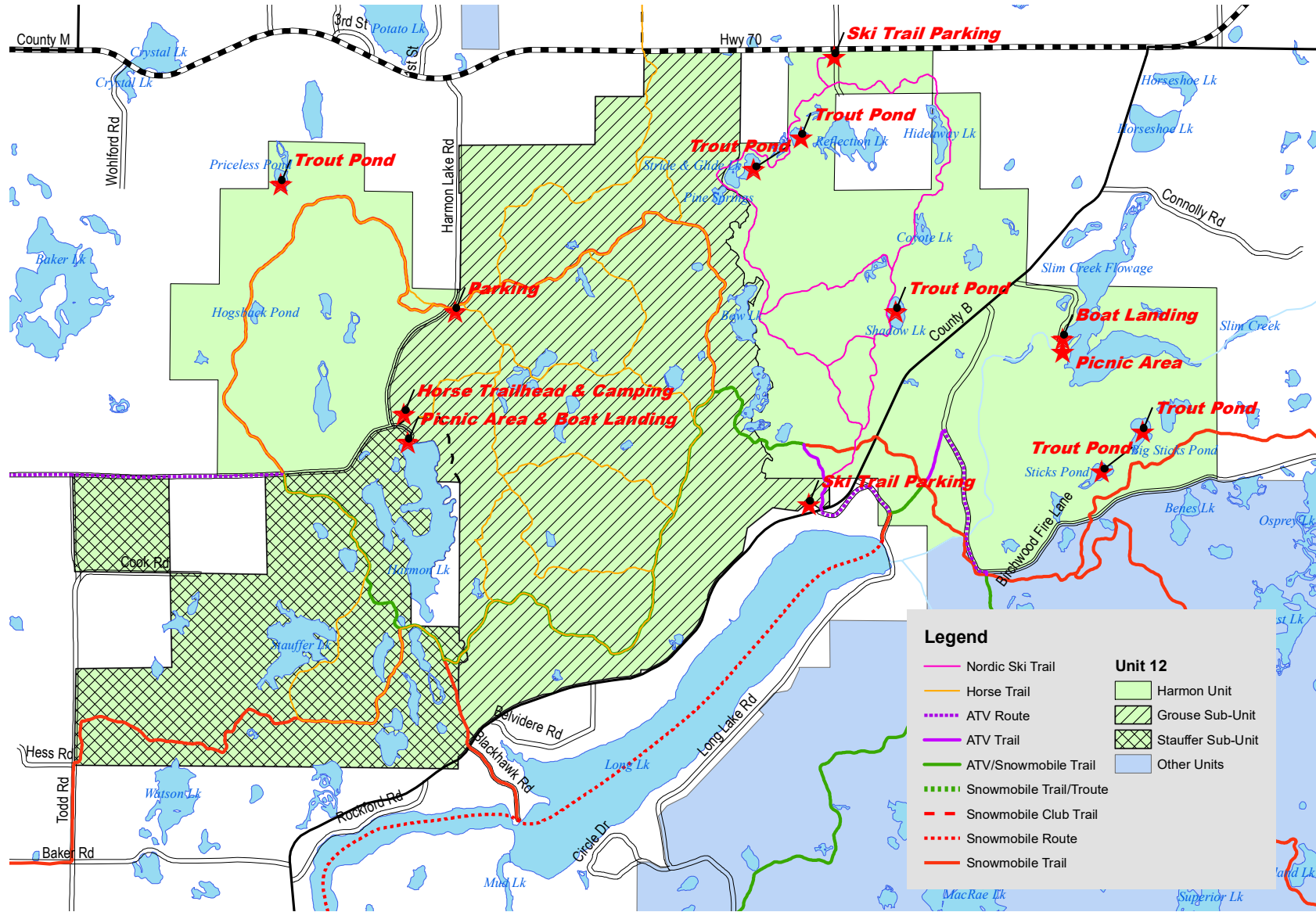
WASHBURN COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN
INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNITS
CHAPTER 3000.12 – HARMON UNIT

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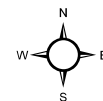
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*Approved by Washburn County Board of Supervisors October 19, 2021
No Revisions*

3000.12.1 RESOURCE MAP



3000.12-3



3000.12.2 COMPARTMENTS 10, 11, 16, 100, 105

3000.12.3 ACRES 8,084

3000.12.4 FOREST TYPES

FOREST TYPE	1995 ACRES	1995 PERCENT	2005 ACRES	2005 PERCENT	2020 ACRES	2020 PERCENT
ASPEN	4588	56.8%	4325	53.6%	4256	52.7%
RED OAK	1046	12.9%	1130	14.0%	1270	15.7%
NORTHERN HARDWOOD	804	9.9%	775	9.6%	546	6.8%
LOWLAND BRUSH	267	3.3%	363	4.5%	321	4.0%
NON FORESTED WETLAND	317	3.9%	326	4.0%	355	4.4%
WATER	405	5.0%	452	5.6%	443	5.5%
TAMARACK	104	1.3%	101	1.2%	186	2.3%
SWAMP CONIFER	119	1.5%	164	2.0%	160	2.0%
WHITE PINE	113	1.4%	118	1.5%	124	1.5%
RED PINE	143	1.8%	81	1.0%	106	1.3%
WHITE BIRCH	41	0.5%	64	0.8%	202	2.5%
SWAMP HARDWOOD	38	0.5%	38	0.5%	44	0.5%
GRASS	31	0.4%	41	0.5%	42	0.5%
ROW	4	0.0%	4	0.0%	16	0.2%
FIR / SPRUCE	8	0.1%	82	1.0%	11	0.1%
UPLAND BRUSH	56	0.7%	20	0.2%	2	0.0%
TOTAL	8084	100.00%	8084	100.00%	8084	100.00%

**changes from 1995 to 2005 are to be used for general comparison. Certain data sets are calculated due to restructuring of IRMU units in 2020. Other changes may reflect changes in mapping accuracy or changes in forest type definitions. 1995 and 2005 data is an estimate based on prior reported percentages applied to current acreage.*

3000.12.5 ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES

The western 2/3 of the unit lies within the Forest Transition Landscape. This landscape allows for management opportunities of a wide variety of forests ranging from dry-mesic, mesic to wet mesic types. Management is generally driven by forest habitat types and current stand conditions.

Most of the eastern 1/3 lies within the Northwest Sands. This landscape indicates management opportunities for dry forests such as jack pine, red pine, scrub oak, and associates such as aspen. There are also opportunities to mimic barrens characters by emulating historic fire patterns through harvesting practices. There may be some opportunity to provide for presumed climax overstory by managing some sites towards white pine, red pine types. The smaller area east of Cty B has sandier soils more characteristic of the Northwest Sands. Despite the geographic

location within the Northwest Sands, much of the area typed as such, especially that area lying west of Cty B, exhibits characters more common to North Central Forest.

3000.12.6 LANDFORMS

Landforms within this unit are rolling collapsed moraine with outwash terraces and ice walled lake plains (*Late St. Croix Moraines Land Type Association*); and undulating outwash plain with morainic hills and ridges (*Spooner Plains Land Type Association*).

3000.12.7 SOILS

Sandy loam soils dominate most of the upland areas in the western $\frac{3}{4}$ of this unit (*Haugen, very stony-Greenwood complex; Haugen-Rosholt complex; Keweenaw, stony-Pence, Stony-Greenwood complex and others*), interspersed with pockets of silt loam (*Crystal Lake, Antigo Silt Loams and others*). The eastern $\frac{1}{4}$ of this unit is mostly loamy sand (*Graycalm-Menahga complex; Keweenaw-Sayner-Vilas complex; Mahtomedi-Cress complex and others*) with inclusions of sand (*Menahga and Mahtomedi*). Hydric soils are scattered throughout and are primarily peats (*Greenwood and Beseman soils; Loxley Muck Peat*) and some mucks (*Seelyeville and Markey soils; Seelyeville and Cathro Soils*).

3000.12.8 FOREST HABITAT TYPES

Most of the unit is typed as AVDe. There are smaller areas in the north and the west that contain AAt. The portion of the unit east of Cty B trends more towards PArVAm.

AVDe provides opportunities for early successional management of primarily aspen, as well as opportunity for red oak management, although on a shorter rotation basis and generally lower quality and less vigorous growth. Pine management, both natural and plantation are also options on a limited basis.

AAt is the principal habitat for hardwood management in the area. The potential for oak management is high and aspen and birch show excellent growth. Northern hardwood, while not optimal for the sites, can show good growth.

PArVAm opportunities are generally limited to aspen and jack pine. Red and white pine management opportunities may be present. Oak can be managed but since it would likely be northern pin oak, pushing stands towards oak is not recommended.

3000.12.9 WATER RESOURCES

Nearly all of the water resources in this unit are part of the Brill River/Red Cedar River watershed, with flow generally running south and southeast to Long Lake, then south to the Brill River, Red Cedar and Chippewa Rivers. The far northern edge of the unit is part of the Middle Namekagon, Trego Lake watershed with flow generally running north to the Namekagon River, above Trego Lake, then westerly to the St. Croix River.

Lakes with County Forest Frontage

Name	Acres	Frontage	Fishery	Designations
Slim Creek Flow.	106.3	3.0 miles	Yes	None
Reflection Lake	25.2	0.6 miles	Yes	None
Harmon Lake	105.0	2.8 miles	Yes	None
Watson Lake	33.9	0.1 miles	No	None

Lakes within County Forest

Name	Acres	Fishery	Designations
Stauffer Lake	45.7	Yes	None
Bow Lake	14.4	No	None
Stride & Glide Lake	8.9	Stocked Trout	None
Sticks Pond	5.8	Stocked Trout	None
Shadow Lake	7.1	Stocked Trout	None
Priceless Pond	3.9	Stocked Trout	None
Pine Springs	2.7	No	None
Leaf Lake	1.4	No	None
Hogsback Pond	3.0	No	None
Hideaway Lake	8.0	No	None
Coyote Lake	4.9	No	None
Big Sticks Pond	7.4	Stocked Trout	None
Alpine Lake	3.5	No	None
51 unnamed ponds	163.0	No	None

Rivers and Stream within County Forest

Name	Miles	Type	Fishery	Designations
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Slim Creek	2.3	Warm Water	No	None
5 unnamed	0.6	Warm Water	No	None

3000.12.10 RECREATION

- The Harmon Lake ATV Trail runs east and west through the unit, connecting the Spooner Area to Birchwood.
- Snowmobile Trail 140, Trail 6, and the Harmon Loop Snowmobile trail lie within the unit.
- The Nordic Woods Ski trail lies in the eastern half of the unit, with trailheads/parking at Cty B and Hwy 70.
- The south loops of the Dugan Run Horse Trail run through the unit on a combination of single track, logging trails, snowmobile and ATV trails.
- The Harmon Trailhead of the Dugan Run Horse Trail lies on the north end of Harmon Lake and has parking, campsites, electricity, pavilion, and bathrooms.
- Fishing opportunities are available at Harmon Lake, which has a boat landing and picnic area.
- Fishing opportunities are available at Slim Creek Flowage, which has a boat landing and picnic area.
- Stocked trout fishing opportunities are available at Shadow, Alpine, and Stride and Glide Lakes; as well as Priceless, Sticks and Big Sticks Ponds
- Walk in fishing opportunities are available at Stauffer Lake.
- The unit includes the Harmon Lake Grouse Management Unit, which provides for diversity in age classes of early successional forests and related species. It offers grouse hunting opportunities as described in Section 530.4

3000.12.11 HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, ECOLOGICAL

- Evidence of old sleigh roads are abundant throughout the unit and indicate the probability of pine transport into Long Lake during the late 1800's and early 1900's.
- There are logging camps within the unit, but are kept confidential to protect the sites.
- There are a few old homestead sites within the area.

3000.12.12 PROTECTION NEEDS

- The mesic nature of the forests within the unit relate to a relatively low risk of wildfire.
- There are fairly substantial areas of red oak, indicating a need to monitor for oak wilt and protect from infestation.

- Prior work on age class diversification in the Harmon Grouse Unit area should continue and the multiple age class management should be maintained.
- The unit has a fairly high density of lakes, as well as numerous drainages leading to Long Lake. Forest management prescriptions should be adapted to protect shorelines and BMP's for Water Quality adhered to in order to protect the drainages leading to the lake.

3000.12.13 AESTHETICS

- Highway 70 and County B are aesthetic zones. While there are not specific mitigating techniques prescribed here, management will generally be tailored to minimize the aesthetic impact of even aged harvests. As a general philosophy, management will not be hidden, but visual impact should be mitigated through staggered harvest, irregular boundaries, and possibly conversion to northern hardwood types.
- Harmon Lake, Slim Creek Flowage, Stauffer Lake, and the named lakes around the Nordic Ski Trail are considered aesthetic zones. Management prescriptions will be tailored to minimize visual impact from the lake as well as pushing forest types adjacent to the water to longer lived tree species
- There are not specific aesthetic considerations for the recreational trails within the unit, but adaptations will be made to forest management prescriptions to keep as much shade as possible along the south and west sides of the ski trail.

3000.12.14 LAND CONTROL

Easements Granted to County

- SENE (part gov. lot 9) Section 1 T38N-R11W. Withdrawal of all but east 2 acres, lying east of Harmon Lake Road to be retained in 1997. Recorded 249963
- NWSW 16 T38N-R10W. Easement granted from Robert Schmidt to Washburn County for forestry and public skiing purposes. Unknown date and no evidence of recorded document. It is unclear if this document was ever executed.

Easements Granted to Private Individuals

- SE1/4 12 T38N-R12W. Easement / R.O.W agreement granted to Johnson for access to east side of Harmon Lake in 1986. Recorded 199141

Utility Easement/Agreement

- SE1/4 12 T38N-R11W. Electrical easement to east side of Harmon Lake to Barron Electric in 1986. Recorded 198948

DOT

- NWNW 5 T38N-R10W. Driveway permit for horse trail access on south side of Highway 70.

Encroachment Issues

- SESE 12 T38N-R11W. Possible encroachment of driveway and outbuildings along south line. Internal records indicate contact has been made in the past.

3000.12.15 FOREST MANAGEMENT GOALS AND GUIDELINES

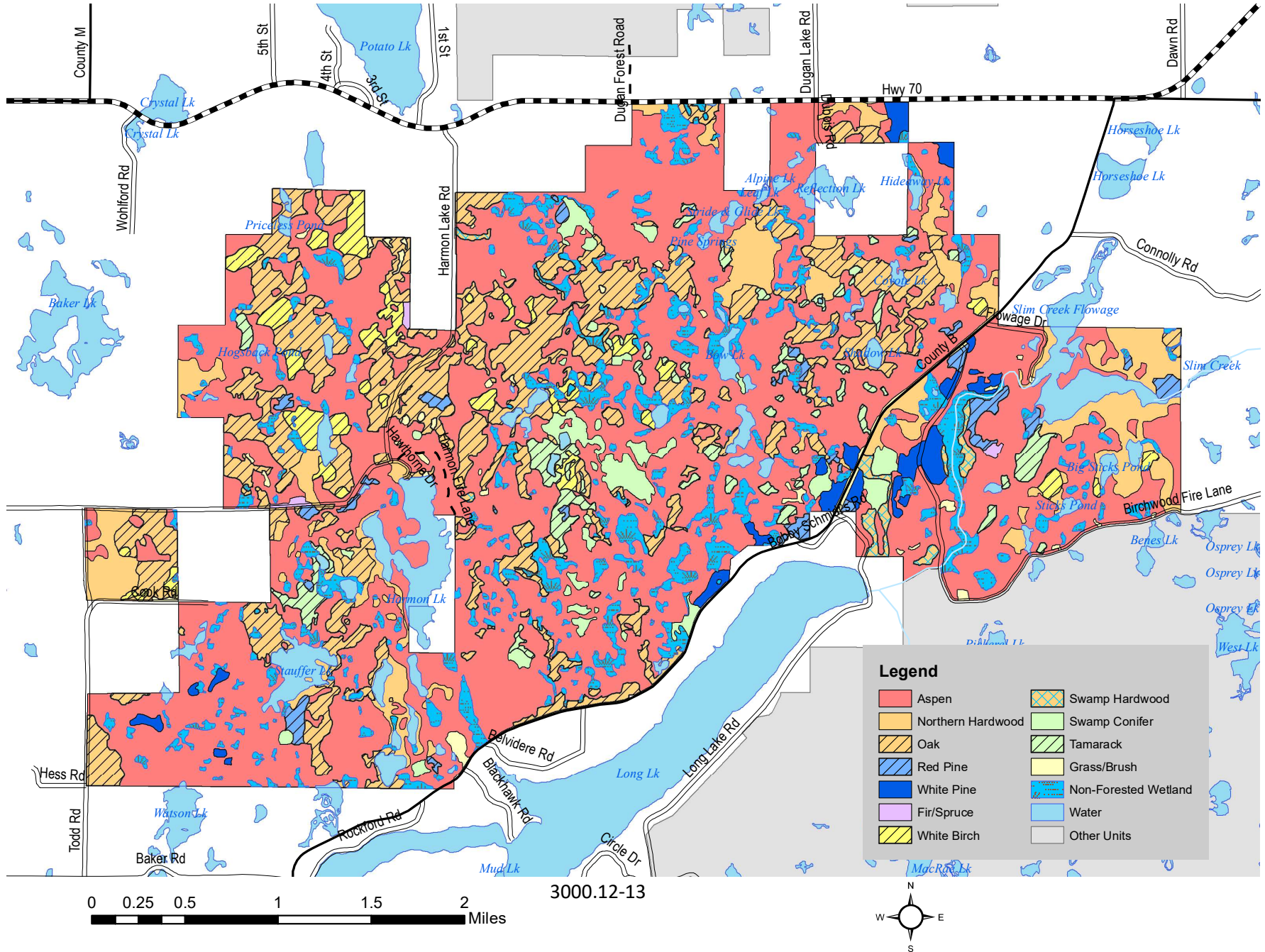
1. Retain the existing acreage of aspen within the Grouse Sub-Unit and areas to the west. The management goals originally compiled for the grouse management unit, as described in Section 530.4, should be adhered to when managing in the sub-unit.
2. Despite the aspen management goal assigned to the grouse management unit, the existing areas of oak and hardwood should be managed to the best opportunity to the site, not converted to aspen. Sufficient aspen regeneration has occurred in the past in this sub-unit and conversions of other stands to aspen are not recommended.
3. Aspen management should remain as a management goal in the area east of the Grouse Sub-Unit, but reductions in acreage can be considered if the forest types are being pushed to northern red oak, northern hardwood, or natural pine.
4. Red oak should be considered a critical resource to maintain within the unit.
5. Red oak stands on PArVAm and those AVDe habitats that are on the drier/less nutrient rich range, should be analyzed carefully to make sure that they are not dominated by northern pin oak. Pin oak sites should be converted to other types.
6. Red oak stands on PArVAm and AVDe types should be analyzed within the framework outlined in Section 825.9.3.2 and 825.9.3.3 to develop regeneration plans.
7. Red oak stands on AAt types should be analyzed within the framework outlined in Section 825.9.3.1 and 825.9.3.2.
8. Given that most of the oak in this unit is on drier and less nutrient rich soils, stands should be given priority for some of the younger rotation ages on the forest. Look for opportunities during good acorn years to conduct site preparation and shelterwood harvests.

9. There are numerous northern hardwood stands within the unit. Most are associated with the scattered AAt types, but some are associated with AVDe. Northern hardwood should be considered as very important to maintain, even those that could be considered as “off-site” within the AVDe habitats.
10. Consider opportunities for natural white/red pine management on the drier PArVAm forest types, especially in the area adjacent to, and east of Cty B.
11. Emphasize management, retention and promotion of white birch stands within the unit.
12. Promote, enhance and maintain existing stands of natural red and white pine.

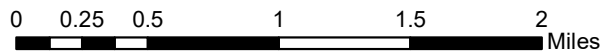
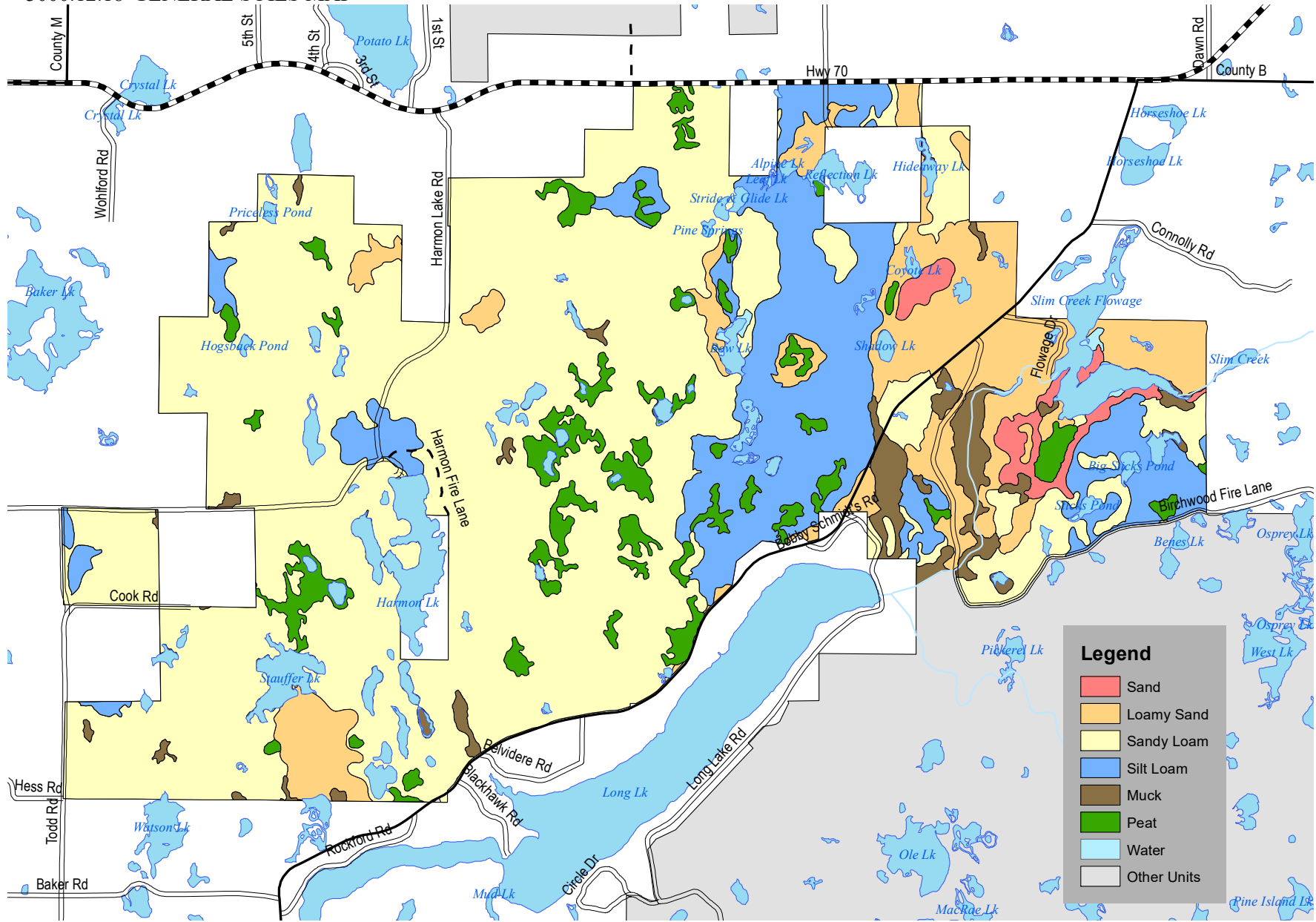
3000.12.16 SITE SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

1. The County, as a priority, should pursue the following parcels for acquisition if they come available:
 - Any parts of Government Lots 2 & 3 Section 13 T38N-R11W that is undeveloped and adjacent to existing county forest ownership (Harmon Lake).
 - Those parts of the NESE & SESE Section 1 T38N-R11W lying east of Harmon Lake Road (narrow strip between road and forest)
 - Government Lots 11 & 12 Section 4 T38N-R10W
 - Government Lots 8 & 9 Section 4 T38N-R10W
 - Those portions of lands in Section 9, 16 & 17 T38N-R10W lying north and west of County B (primarily small lots)
2. Continue to maintain the primitive access status of the unit, with the exception of the Stauffer Sub-Unit. *See Road and Access Plan Chapter 3000.*
3. Consider enhancing the Nordic Woods Ski Trail to provide for free-style skiing (skate ski) as well as amenities such as bathrooms and pavilion at one of the trailheads.
4. Consider developing and expanding use at the Slim Creek Flowage dam site, including installation of safety fencing for walkway across the dam and the “island” area to the east. Amenities could include fire rings, grills, tables, pavilion, and bathroom.
5. There may be opportunity for nature trail development with trailhead at the Slim Creek dam site.
6. Continue to operate and maintain Harmon Lake Horse Trailhead and camping area. Consider adding a septic system and sanitary dump station at the site.
7. Monitor horse trail areas for invasive species.
8. Continue to maintain Harmon Lake ATV trail connector and monitor for enforcement needs associated with any off-trail uses.

3000.12.17 GENERAL FOREST TYPE MAP



3000.12.18 GENERAL SOILS MAP



3000.12-14

