

WASHBURN COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN  
INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNITS  
**CHAPTER 3000.3 – WAGGONER UNIT**

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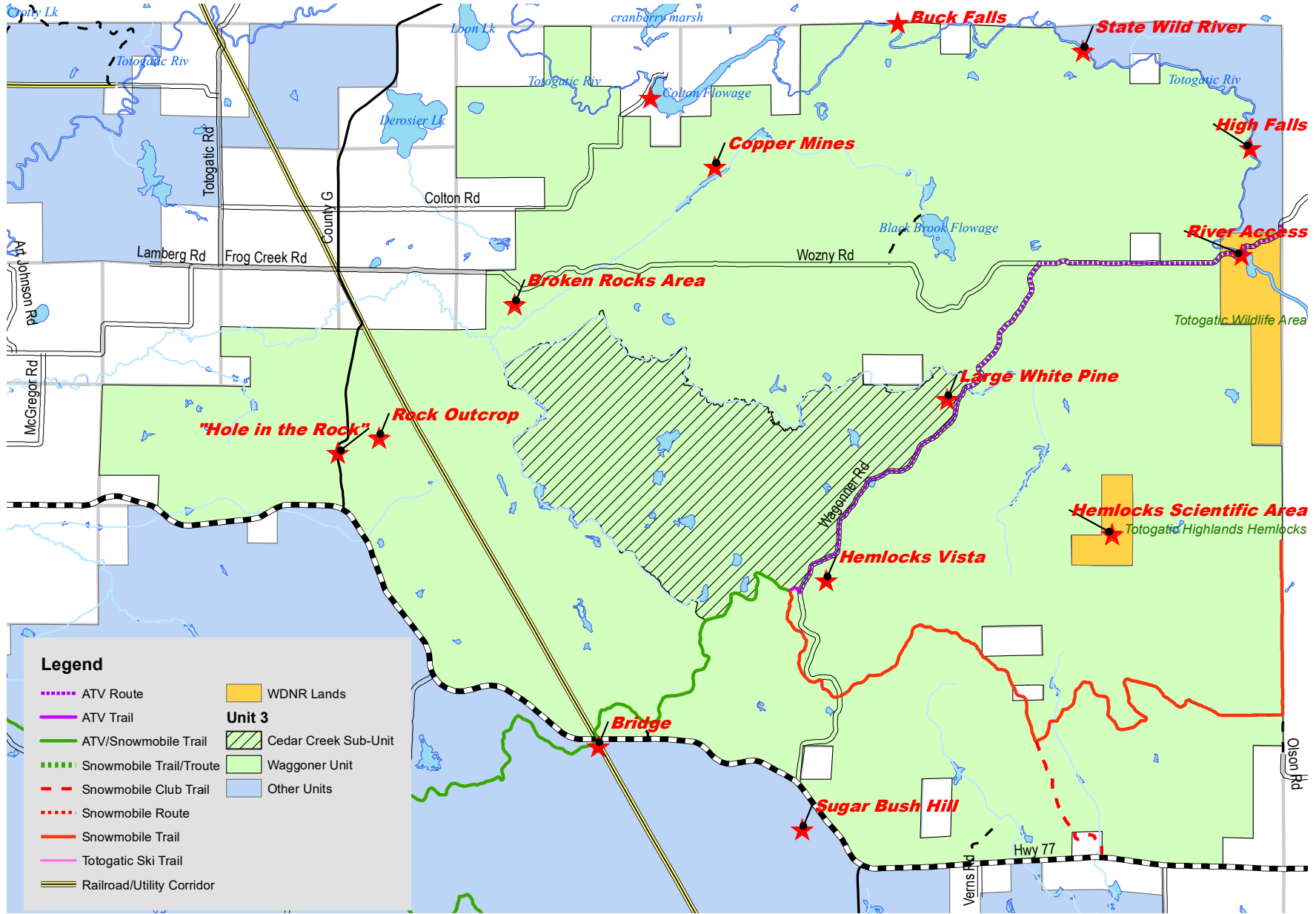
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*Approved by Washburn County Board of Supervisors October 19, 2021  
No Revisions*



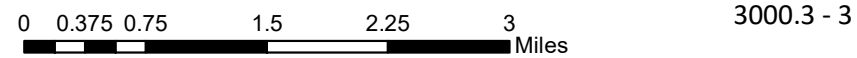
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# RESOURCE MAP

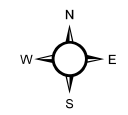


### Legend

- ⋯ ATV Route
- ATV Trail
- ATV/Snowmobile Trail
- - - Snowmobile Trail/Trout
- - - Snowmobile Club Trail
- ⋯ Snowmobile Route
- Snowmobile Trail
- Totogatic Ski Trail
- = = Railroad/Utility Corridor
- WDNR Lands
- Unit 3**
- Cedar Creek Sub-Unit
- Waggoner Unit
- Other Units



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3000.3.2 COMPARTMENTS 45, 46, 47, 48, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 90

3000.3.3 ACRES 28,398 (former IRM Units 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)

3000.3.4 FOREST TYPES

FOREST TYPE	1995 ACRES	1995 PERCENT	2005 ACRES	2005 PERCENT	2020 ACRES	2020 PERCENT
ASPEN	10757	37.9%	10773	38.0%	10792	38.0%
NORTHERN HARDWOOD	7764	27.3%	7649	26.9%	6700	23.6%
LOWLAND BRUSH	3231	11.4%	3385	11.9%	3373	11.9%
SWAMP HARDWOOD	2697	9.5%	2753	9.7%	2641	9.3%
NON FORESTED WETLAND	720	2.5%	599	2.1%	1173	4.1%
SWAMP CONIFER	1357	4.8%	1374	4.8%	990	3.5%
RED OAK	367	1.3%	319	1.1%	638	2.2%
CEDAR	261	0.9%	268	0.9%	624	2.2%
TAMARACK	340	1.2%	291	1.0%	377	0.3%
RED PINE	203	0.7%	204	0.7%	215	1.8%
WATER	0	0.0%	152	0.5%	177	0.6%
WHITE BIRCH	84	0.3%	88	0.3%	152	0.5%
ROW	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	137	0.5%
FIR / SPRUCE	369	1.3%	206	0.7%	116	0.4%
GRASS	128	0.5%	223	0.9%	111	0.4%
UPLAND BRUSH	61	0.2%	49	0.2%	49	0.2%
BOTTOMLAND HARDWOOD	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	48	0.2%
HEMLOCK	29	0.1%	32	0.1%	32	0.1%
ROCK	0	0.0%	14	0.1%	30	0.1%
WHITE PINE	30	0.1%	19	0.1%	23	0.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28398</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>28398</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>28398</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

*\*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.*

### 3000.3.5 ECOLOGICAL LANDSCAPES

This unit is nearly all within the North Central Forest Ecological Landscape. This landscape provides opportunities for mesic forests such as northern hardwood, oak, aspen/birch on the uplands as well as swamp conifer and swamp hardwood in the lowlands. There may be some opportunities to promote hemlock hardwood, yellow birch, and natural white pine.

In the far west and northwest portions of this unit are small areas of Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape. 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.

#### 3000.3.6 LANDFORMS

The landforms in this unit are rolling collapsed moraines with swamps common (*Frog Creek Moraines LTA and Hayward Moraines LTA*) and hilly bedrock controlled moraine (*Smokey Hill Basalt Ridge LTA*)

#### 3000.3.7 SOILS

The uplands are dominated by silt loam soils across this unit (*Frogcreek-Stinnett-Wozny complex; Frogcreek-Magroc-Stinnett complex; Frogcreek Silt Loam; and others*). There are components of sandy loam soils scattered across the center and east half of the unit (*Stanberry Sandy Loam; Keweenaw-Pence complex; Stanberry-Parkfalls-Wozny complex; and others*) and smaller areas of loamy sand in the northwest and western edges (*Grettum Loamy Sand; Graycalm-Menahga complex; and Keweenaw-Sayner-Vilas complex*). This unit also has significant acreage of hydric soils scattered throughout the unit, with several large wetland areas in the east and southwest. Most of these hydric soils are muck (*Lupton, Cathro and Tawas; Wozny Muck; Bowstring Muck; and others*) and some areas are peat (*Loxley, Beseman and Dawson soils; and Loxley Muck Peat*).

#### 3000.3.8 FOREST HABITAT TYPES (UPLAND)

Most of this unit's area is comprised of ATM, AAt, and ACaCi.

ATM is a very diverse type that represents the hemlock-hardwood forest. It supports a high number of tree species and growth rates are high for both hardwoods and conifers. Management should be influenced by composition and condition of current stands.

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.

ACaCi is locally assumed to be best suited for management of northern hardwood. Sugar maple is generally a large component on these sites, other species show stronger representation here than they do on other northern hardwood habitats in Wisconsin.

There are also minor components of PArVAm and AVDe in the northwestern corner of the unit, which provides an opportunity for aspen, pine and oak management.

*See Section 810.1.3 for more information of forest habitat types.*

### 3000.3.9 WATER RESOURCES

The water resources within the northern 2/3 of this unit are part of the Totogatic River watershed, generally flow north to the Totogatic River, then south and west, into the Namekagon and Saint Croix River systems. Waters in the southern 1/3 are part of the Trego Lake, Middle Namekagon River watershed, which flows general south into the Namekagon, above Trego Lake, and ultimately the Saint Croix River.

#### Lakes with Partial County Forest Frontage

<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Frontage</b>	<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Designations</b>
None				

#### Lakes within County Forest

<b>Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Designations</b>
Black Brook Flowage	37.6	No	None
38 Unnamed Ponds	185.0	No	None

#### Rivers and Stream with County Forest

<b>Name</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Designations</b>
Totogatic River	3.6	Warm Water	Yes, Warm Water	ORW
Frog Creek	11.6	Warm Water	No	None
Black Brook	5.4	Warm Water	No	None
Cedar Creek	4.2	Warm Water	No	None
Sink Creek	2.6	Warm Water	No	None
Elm Creek	1.9	Warm Water	No	None
9 Unnamed	8.8	Warm Water	No	None

### Black Brook Flowage

The dike and flowage control structures for this flowage are in need of upgrade and reconstruction. The State Legislature adopted more stringent requirements for inspections of dams in Wisconsin and the costs for compliance with the program are significant. DNR Wildlife has operational control over this structure and internal discussions have resulted in a decision to move towards removal of the flowage. There is a small patch of wild rice in the flowage, which gives some level of control to tribal entities. This Plan recommends moving forward with removal plans, which will likely require mitigating procedures for rice.

#### 3000.3.10 RECREATION

- This unit provides some of the most remote forest area in the county and provides for a “back country” experience.
- This is a popular hunting unit. Grouse hunters in particular are attracted to the unit due to the high number of trails and extensive aspen acreage.
- The Stony Brook ATV trail enters the south boundary of this unit, connects to the Cedar Creek Fire Lane and exits at the Waggoner Road. The trail connects to Sawyer County as a road route on Waggoner and Wozny Roads.
- Snowmobile Trail 8 East follows the Stony Brook ATV trail except that it continues eastward from Waggoner Road as a snowmobile and winter ATV trail, across the south central portion of the unit to the Washburn County line.

#### 3000.3.11 HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, ARCHEOLOGICAL

- There are copper mine shafts located along the north side of Black Brook. There is not much recorded historical information, but they are suspected to date from the late 1800’s.
- There is also a likely history of Native American copper gathering through the northwestern portion of the unit.
- The Totogatic has a history of log drives in the 1800’s. While nothing is directly identified, there are likely logging camps and sluice dams associated with the river.
- There are scattered old homesteads and trapper’s cabins scattered throughout the unit. Of particular interest is the long abandoned settlement known as the Momson Farm. This area had several homes, a school and rumor of a post office. This site lies in the southeastern corner of the unit.
- There is evidence of historical sites in the southwest portion of the unit, associated with Frog and Cedar Creeks. These sites will be protected from disturbance.



- Prior planning documents indicate a “historical crossing” of Frog Creek in Section 21 T42N-R10W. The exact location, purpose and potential historical value are unknown at this time.
- Archeological studies associated with utility construction within this unit found evidence of railroad worker camps from the mid 1800’s. It is likely that there are other sites of historic significance associated with the railroad construction.

### 3000.3.12 PROTECTION NEEDS

- Given that the forest types are primarily deciduous and the soils more dominated by loams, the risk of catastrophic wildfire within this unit is relatively low.
- The Cedar Creek sub-unit remains designated as a primitive area and motor vehicle use is restricted. The non-motorized designation protects the unit’s resources and provides opportunity for “back country” experience.
- The remainder of the unit is designated in the “Managed” access classification. Only certain roads are designated and mapped as open to motorized use.
- The dominance of silt loam and sandy loam soils indicate a high potential for rutting and erosion. Illegal motorized travel should be monitored for enforcement.
- There are numerous basalt rock outcrops within this unit that are unique and important to many user of the forest. These are considered protected and may not be mined for any purpose.
- There are buckthorn infestations in the Olson Road area and are associated with old homestead sites in Section 36 T42N-R10W. Continue to treat and monitor.
- There are scattered stands of hemlock within the unit that warrant protective management.
- This unit contains the Lost lake Acid Bog. The site is further described in Section 835.3.6. Forest Management activities adjacent to this resource should contain special prescriptions to minimize impacts to the bog.

### 3000.3.13 AESTHETICS

- The Totogatic River is an Aesthetic Zone with a no cutting setback of 100 feet from the river’s edge or a visual distance from the water’s edge.
- Highway 77 is an Aesthetic Zone. 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.

### 3000.3.14 LAND CONTROL

#### Easements to Washburn County

- SWNW 14 T42N-R11W. Easement granted from Lyle Paske to Washburn County for forestry purposes in 1993. Recorded 231990.

#### Road Use Agreements Granted to Private Parties

- NENW, NWNW, NWNE 21 T42N-R11W. Access to SESE 16 T42N-R11W. Issued to John Walker. Expired 12/31/1995.
- NWSW, SWNW, NWNW Section 35. Access from snowmobile trail to NENE 34 T42N-R10W. Issued to Brett Storrar. Expired 6/1/2015.

#### Utility Easements/Agreements

- SWSW 2; SESE, SWSW 3 T41N-R10W. Electrical easement 15 feet north of Hwy 77 R.O.W granted to Lake Superior Power. Unknown date. No evidence of recorded document.

#### Encroachment Issues

- NWSW 13 T42N-R11W. Appears to be field/wildlife food plot encroaching from north.
- SWSE 2 T41N-R10W. Parking lot for Outback Bar extends onto County Forest. Bar owners in the past also illegally constructed a snowmobile trail connection across County lands through this area and were forced to reclaim. Continue to monitor area.

#### DOT

DOT granted driveway permits into this unit from State Highway 77, as listed on the original forest reconnaissance acetate overlays, are as follows:

- SESW Section 1 T41N-R10W
- SWSW Section 1 T41N-R10W
- SESW Section 3 T41N-R10W
- SESE Section 3 T41N-R10W
- SESW Section 4 T41N-R10W
- NWSW Section 4 T41N-R10W

- SESE Section 4 T41N-R10W
- SWSE Section 22 T42N-R11W
- SESE Section 22 T42N-R11W
- SENW Section 26 T42N-R11W
- NENW Section 28 T42N-R11W
- SWSW Section 31 T42N-R10W
- SESW Section 31 T42N-R10W
- SESE Section 36 T42N-R10W
- SENW Section 36 T42N-R10W

Other

- NWNW, NENW 3 T42N-R10W. Land trade with Buck Falls to resolve cabin built in wrong location. East 12.26 acres of NWNW to Buck Falls, West 12.26 acres NENW to Washburn County in 1985. Withdrawal recorded 192112. Deeds recorded 192937, 192938.
- SWSW, SWSE 4; NWSW 14; NWSE 26; SENE 27 T42N-R10W. Longyear Realty Corp quit claim mineral rights to JML Heirs LLC in 2010. Recorded 341109.
- NENE 1 T41N-R10W. Unmaintained access from dead end of Olson Road to north line of section 1. County asserts this is a public ROW, formerly Town Road, which was never abandoned. Road continues north with section line along center of road.

3000.3.15 FOREST MANAGEMENT GOALS / GUIDELINES

1. Northern hardwood will be the primary focal point of management within this unit. All northern hardwood sites will be evaluated through a hardwood decision matrix to determine whether sites should be managed even aged, or all aged. Site preparation, canopy gaps and other methods should be considered as viable options to assure that regeneration goals are met. Northern hardwood acreage should be maintained although a slight decrease is allowable if it is deemed the only realistic management goal for the site (based on tree quality and lack of regeneration).
2. Continue to refine the northern hardwood management matrix as well as adapt management techniques in accordance with any new science that is developed. Continue to test strategies to maximize regeneration and tree quality. Research, testing and field trials relating to ironwood and sedge should be a priority.

3. Areas currently typed as aspen will continue to be managed as such. Look for opportunities to diversify age classes and add edge effect within the area. Minor decreases in aspen acreage is appropriate if the sites are being converted to forest types that will add to diversity within the unit.
4. Stands of northern red oak are unique within this unit and should be managed aggressively to maintain as either stands or as components of northern hardwood types. Of particular importance is the larger stand of red oak within the Cedar Creek sub-unit.
5. Consider the existing acreage of red pine as adequate. Replant red pine on any sites scheduled for final rotation within the unit.
6. Even though northern hardwood and aspen are the primary management goals within the unit, upland conifers are generally lacking. Take advantage of opportunities to perpetuate spruce, balsam or other conifers on upland sites on a limited basis. Occurrence of loamy sands, or other drier habitat types may provide an opportunity for natural regeneration of red or white pine.
7. Look for opportunities to maintain and increase white birch acres by scarification.
8. White pine can be promoted on a limited basis as forest stands or as components within other types.
9. Cedar types will not be managed unless it is part of a silvicultural trial for regeneration techniques and on a small scale. Commercial type management will not be conducted unless the prescription has a reasonable expectation of regeneration success and deer population numbers are likely low enough for cedar seedling/sapling survival
10. Management of bottomland hardwood types, which are primarily adjacent to the Totogatic River, should be for purposes of stand health and only with the supporting research that justifies management techniques.
11. There are a few areas of hemlock within this unit. The tree species should be protected within the unit, regardless of quality, but stands should be monitored to assure that natural conversion to northern hardwood is not occurring. Consider management to force these areas to remain in hemlock. Consider field trials on hemlock regeneration if herbivory levels are expected to be low enough for survival.

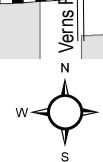
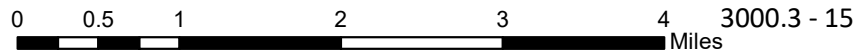
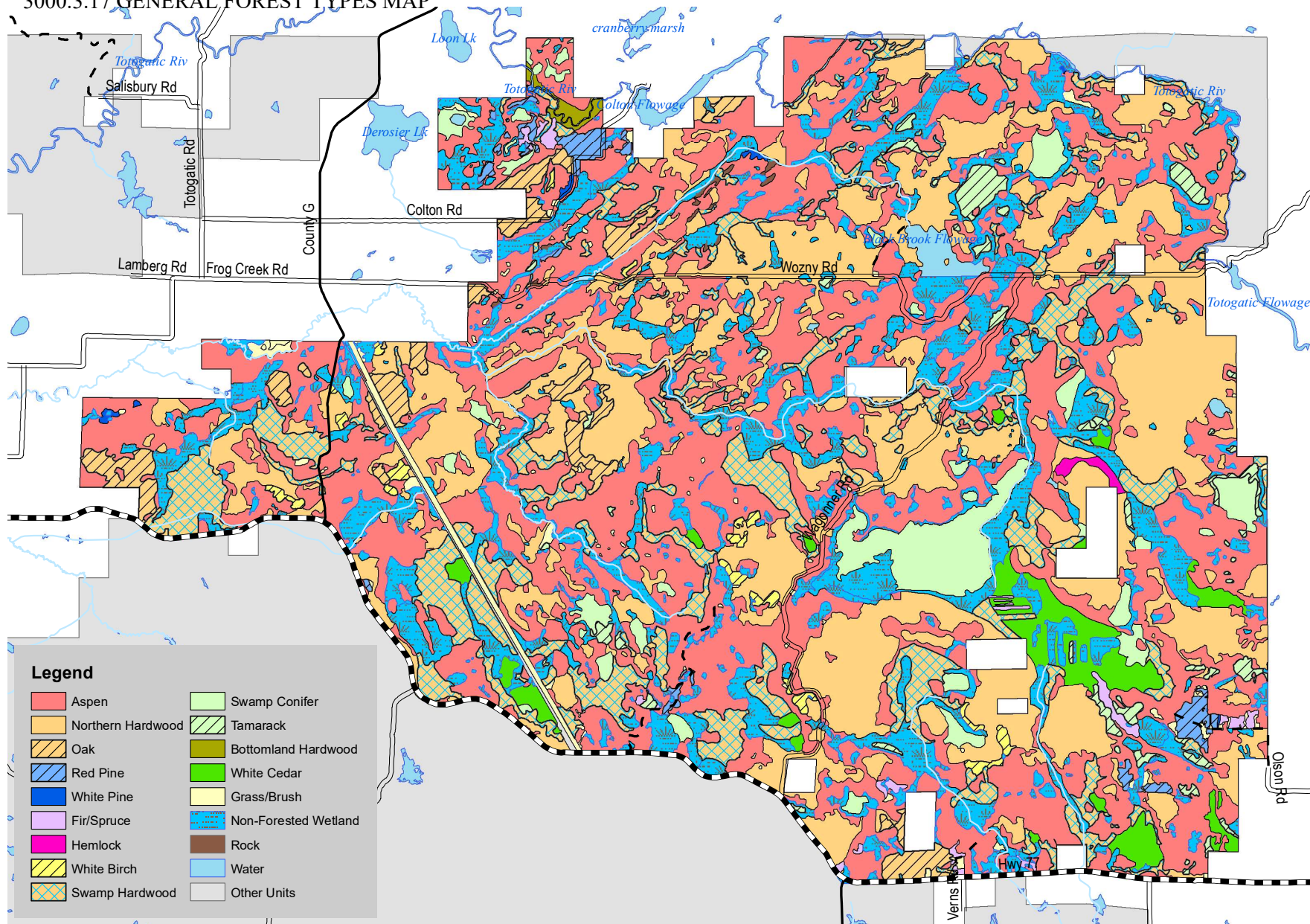
#### 3000.3.16 SITE SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND GOALS

1. The County, as a priority, should pursue the following parcel for acquisition if they come available:
  - SENE Section 2 T42N-R10W

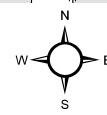
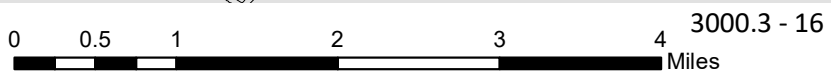
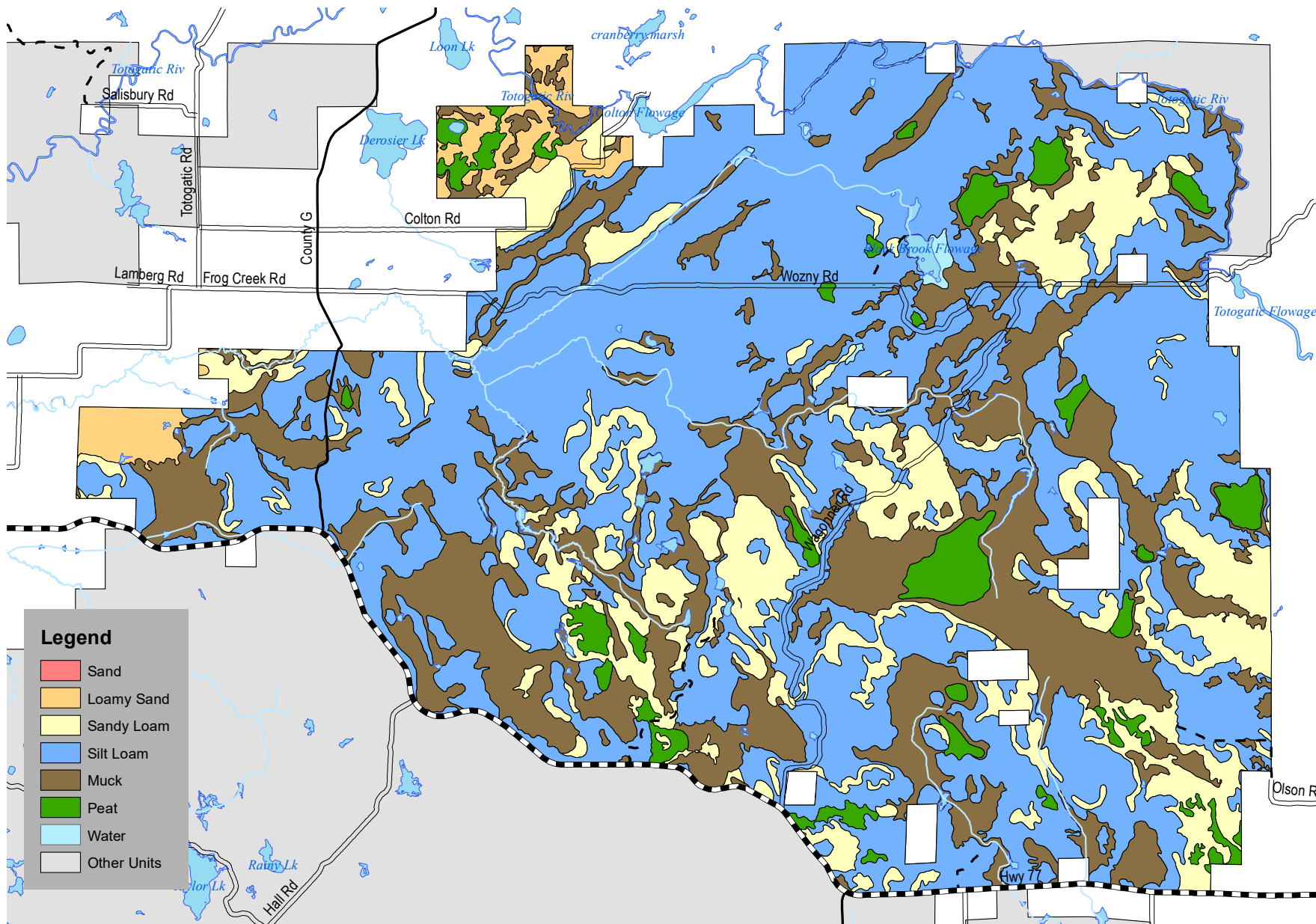
- NENW Section 3 T42N-R10W
  - SESE Section 11 T42N-R10W
  - S1/2SE Section 16 T42N-R10W
  - N1/2NE Section 34 T42N-R10W
  - N1/2NESE Section 34 T42N-R10W
3. Look for opportunities to re-acquire WDNR owned lands in Section 23 and 26 (Totogatic Highlands Scientific Area); as well as the E1/2SE Section 13 and E1/2NE Section 24 (part of the Totogatic Wildlife Area).
  4. Work with DNR Wildlife, DNR Dam Safety and Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission to develop a removal plan for Black Brook Flowage. The flowage contains wild rice and the County will likely need to provide for rice mitigation projects in order to get tribal approval to remove the structure.
  5. Reclaim, restore and/or obliterate the old “jeep trail” that follows along the south edge of the Totogatic River. The entire area has wet soils and numerous springs and intermittent waterways that flow to the river. Illegal traffic has caused significant damage and erosion. In the past the area has attracted off road enthusiasts looking for “challenge” riding.
  6. The Totogatic’s designation as State Wild River does not promote development of recreational access or facilities. Landing areas adjacent to roadways may be upgraded or rehabilitated but no additional development is recommended by this Plan.
  7. There are 2 waterfalls on the Totogatic within this unit. There have been requests to develop access and hiking trails to these waterfalls, but such development is considered as use inconsistent with the State Wild River designation. These falls are extremely remote and within a very rugged landscape. This Plan does not recommend development of hiking trails to these areas but rather retaining the remote nature of the sites.
  8. The copper mine sites should be evaluated for any potential public safety concerns and should not be directly advertised or their precise locations disclosed.
  9. Find funding opportunities to upgrade the abandoned Town road from the end of Olson Road to the County Forest Boundary. Upgrade the road running north and west as funding permits.
  10. Local residents reference a rock formation along County G as the “Hole in the Wall”. There have been discussions about removing portions of this rock outcrop to widen the highway. Continue to make efforts to protect his local landmark.
  11. Look for opportunities to provide for parking along Highway 77 and Cty G.
  12. The Cedar Creek sub-unit will remain as a primitive area with restrictions on motorized use.

13. Consider designation of the Lost Lake Acid Bog as a non-management unit. In addition, consider opportunities for carbon storage as identified in Section 850.

### 3000.3.17 GENERAL FOREST TYPES MAP



3000.3.18 GENERAL SOILS MAP



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