

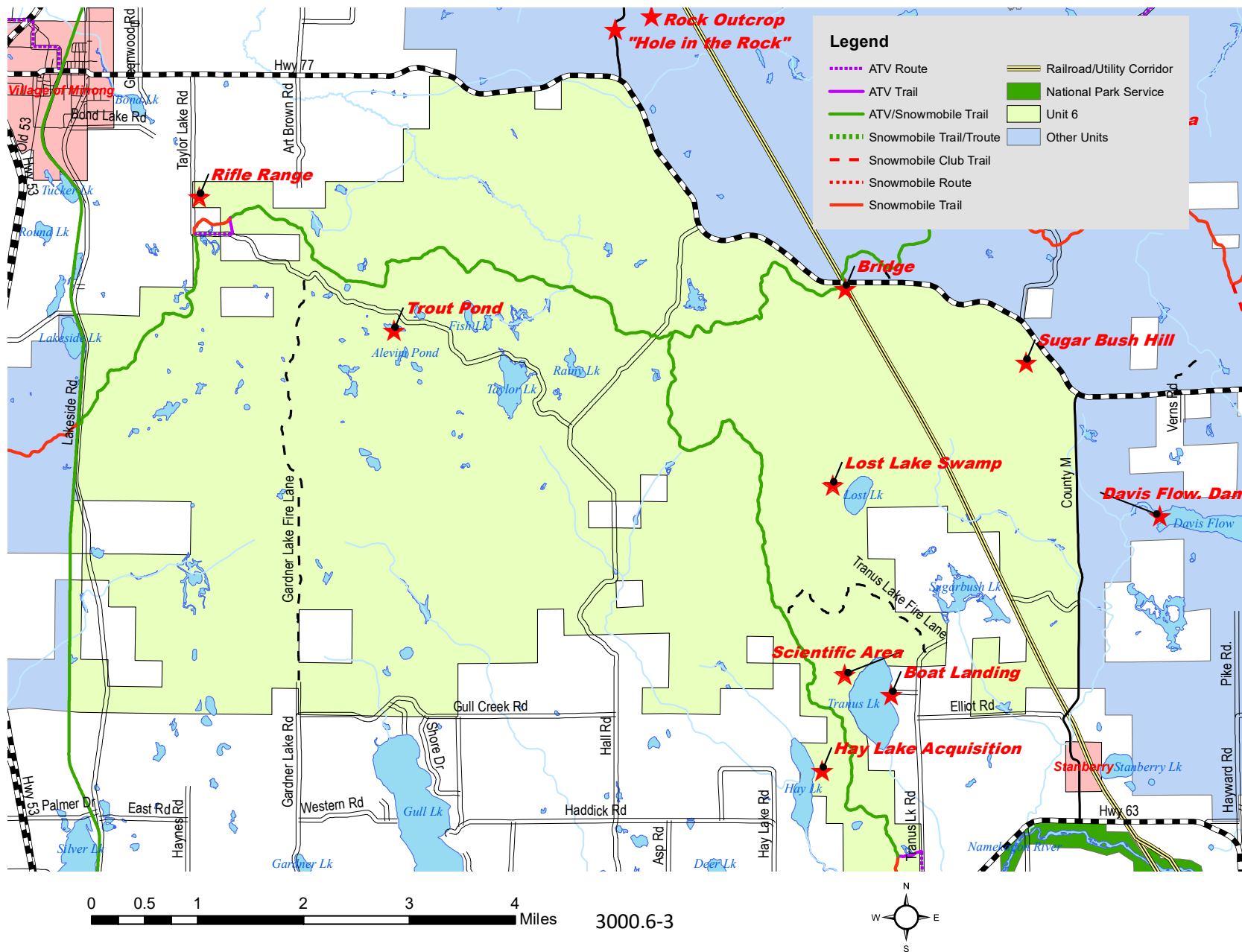
WASHBURN COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN
INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT UNITS
CHAPTER 3000.6 – GARDNER UNIT

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

3000.6.1 RESOURCE MAP



3000.6.2 COMPARTMENTS 49, 50, 56, 57, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 89, 91, 107

3000.6.3 ACRES 25,670 (former units 10, 11, 12)

3000.6.4 FOREST TYPES

FOREST TYPE	1995 ACRES	1995 PERCENT	2005 ACRES	2005 PERCENT	2020 ACRES	2020 PERCENT
ASPEN	10088	39.4%	10182	39.6%	10249	40.0%
NORTHERN HARDWOOD	4048	15.8%	3869	15.1%	3645	14.2%
RED OAK	3501	13.6%	3609	14.1%	3604	14.0%
LOWLAND BRUSH	1795	7.0%	1827	7.1%	1925	7.5%
SWAMP HARDWOOD	1471	5.7%	1411	5.5%	1609	6.3%
TAMARACK	339	1.3%	330	1.3%	1589	6.2%
NON FORESTED WETLAND	2121	8.3%	951	3.7%	1069	4.2%
SWAMP CONIFER	901	3.5%	2151	8.4%	584	2.3%
CEDAR	163	0.6%	253	1.0%	370	1.4%
WATER	340	1.3%	265	1.0%	281	1.1%
FIR / SPRUCE	429	1.7%	360	1.4%	236	0.9%
RED PINE	138	0.5%	153	0.6%	135	0.5%
WHITE BIRCH	93	0.4%	108	0.4%	119	0.5%
ROW	0	0.0%	82	0.3%	115	0.4%
WHITE PINE	59	0.2%	58	0.2%	77	0.3%
GRASS	20	0.1%	21	0.1%	36	0.1%
UPLAND BRUSH	159	0.6%	41	0.2%	24	0.1%
JACK PINE	5	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.0%
TOTAL	25670	100.00%	25670	100.00%	25670	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.*

3000.6.5 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.

Minor areas of this unit in the far west and far east are within the 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.

3000.6.6 LANDFORMS

Landforms within this unit are rolling collapsed moraines with swamps common (*Hayward Moraines LTA and Frog Creek Moraines LTA*)

3000.6.7 SOILS

A majority of the upland soils are sandy loams, lying in the west, south and southeastern portions of the unit (*Keweenaw-Pence complex; Stanberry Sandy Loam; Stanberry-Parkfalls-Wozny complex; and others*). The northern and northeastern areas of the unit are dominated by silt loams (*Frogcreek-Stinnett-Wozny complex; Frogcreek Silt Loam; Stinnett Silt Loam; and others*) and there are areas of loamy sand scattered throughout (*Keweenaw-Sayner-Vilas complex; Mahtomedi Loamy Sand; Crosswell Loamy Sand*). The unit also contains large areas of hydric soils (associated with Lost Lake) and also smaller areas scattered throughout. Hydric soils are a fairly even mix between mucks (*Lupton, Cathro and Tawas soils; Bowstring Muck; and others*) and peats (*Loxley, Beseman and Dawson soils*).

3000.6.8 FOREST HABITAT TYPES

The western $\frac{1}{4}$ of this unit is dominated by AVDe habitats; the eastern $\frac{3}{4}$ is a mixture of AAt, ATM, and ACaCi; and the far southeastern corner contains AVDe and PArVAm types.

The AVDe habitats provide 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.

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.

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.

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.

See Section 810.1.3 for more information on forest habitat types.

3000.6.9 WATER RESOURCES

Water resources in the northern 1/3 of this unit are part of the Totogatic River Watershed, which flow generally north to the Totogatic River, then west and southwest into the Namekagon and St. Croix Rivers. The general south 2/3 are part of the Trego Lake, Middle Namekagon River Watershed, which generally flows south into the Namekagon River, above Trego Lake, then west to the St. Croix River. The southwestern corner is part of the Lower Namekagon River Watershed, draining west into the Namekagon below Trego Lake.

Lakes with County Forest Frontage

Name	Acres	Frontage	Fishery	Designations
Tranus Lake	167.9	1.1 miles	Yes	Natural Area
Hay Lake	85.8	0.6 miles	Yes	None
Sugarbush Lake	70.1	0.3 miles	Yes	None

Lakes within County Forest

Name	Acres	Fishery	Designations
Taylor Lake	67.4	No	None
Rainy Lake	14.5	Yes Warm Water	None
Otter Pond	5.1	Stocked trout	None
Lost Lake	40.2	Yes Warm Water	None
Fish Lake	11.7	Yes Warm Water	None
Alevim Pond	2.3	Stocked Trout	None
72 Unnamed Ponds	251.1	No	None

Rivers and Stream with County Forest

Name	Miles	Type	Fishery	Designations
Tranus Creek	0.1	Warm Water	No	None
Stuntz Brook	1.0	Cold Water	Class II Trout	ORW
Spring Creek	1.5	Cold Water	Class II Trout	None
Sink Creek	1.4	Warm Water	No	None
Maggie Creek	0.8	Warm Water	No	None
Little Frog Creek	4.1	Warm Water	No	None
Hay Creek	2.8	Warm Water	No	None
Gull Creek	0.6	Cold Water	Class I Trout	ERW
9 unnamed	7.8	Warm Water	No	None

Taylor Lake Flowage

The dike and flowage control structures for this flowage, which are in the Town Road R.O.W., 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.

3000.6.10 RECREATION

- This is a large unit with long distances between public roads. It provides a “back-county” experience where forest users can pursue recreational interests with little concern for encountering other private lands. The unit is heavily used by hunters and there may be trout fishing opportunities in the upper portions of Gull Creek and Stuntz Brook.
- Otter and Alevim ponds are stocked with trout for fishing opportunities.
- The Stony Brook ATV trail crosses the northern portion of the unit. ATV trail 39 crosses the eastern portion of the unit and intersects with the Stony Brook Trail. Both of these trails are also snowmobile trails.
- A rest area with shelter, grill, fire ring and bathroom serve the ATV/snowmobile trails and is located just east of Hall Road on the Stony Brook Trail
- The Minong Rifle Range is located in Section 31 T42N-R11W, which includes a shelter house, bathroom, pavilion and trap range.
- Tranus Lake provides wild rice opportunities

3000.6.11 HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, ARCHEOLOGICAL

- There are numerous old homesteads and cabin sites scattered throughout the area.
- Lost Lake, Sugarbush Lake and Tranus Lake bogs have natural cranberry production and Native Americans may have gathered berries here.
- There are local legends of a derailed train that disappeared into the Lost Lake Swamp.
- It is likely that Native Americans gathered maple sap in the “Sugar Bush” hill area adjacent to Highway 77.

3000.6.12 PROTECTION NEEDS

- Areas of this unit have heavy soils, which necessitate frozen ground conditions for many timber sales. These same conditions justify restrictions on public motorized travel.
- The unit has numerous eagle and osprey nesting sites. Management considerations will protect those resources.
- The Tranus Lake Natural area lies in this unit. It is identified by Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory and managed under MOU between Washburn County and DNR.
- An inactive/capped landfill is located in the NWSW Section 21 T41N-R11W. Restrictions on motorized uses will remain in place to protect against disturbance.

3000.6.13 AESTHETICS

- 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.
- Management around Fish and Rainy Lake will include aesthetic considerations.
- In accordance with the Washburn County / DNR MOU, the western edge of Tranus Lake is designated as an aesthetic zone.

3000.6.14 LAND CONTROL

Easements Granted to County

- NWNW 6 41N-R10W. Easement for recreational trail bridge granted by Wisconsin Central LTD. To Washburn County in 2011.

- NW ¼ 20 T41N-R11W. Easement for firelane across the west 1.5 rods granted by King etal to Washburn County in 1980. Recorded 178173

Utility Easements/Agreements

- Sections 17, 20, 21 T41N-R10W. Easement granted to Public Service Commission/ATC for 345 KV powerline in 2005. Recorded 314634
- Sections 14, 23, 24, 25, 26 T42N-R11W. Easement granted to Public Service Commission/ATC for 345 KV powerline in 2005. Recorded 314637
- Section 31 T42N-R10W. Easement granted to Public Service Commission/ATC for 345 KV powerline in 2005. Recorded 314636
- Sections 6, 7, 8, 17 T41N-R10W. Easement granted to Public Service Commission/ATC for 345 KV powerline in 2005. Recorded 314635

Road Use Agreements to Private Parties

- SENW 31 T41N-R10W. Access to SWNW 31 T31N-R10W. Issued to Robert Morgan for ATV use only. Expired 08/01/2019
- SWNW, SENW, NENW 14 T41N-R11W. Access to SESW 11 T41N-R11W. Issued to Buchman etal. Expired 12/31/2005
- NWNE 22 T41N-R11W. Access to SESW 11 T41N-R11W. Issued to Anderson. Expired 12/31/2005.

Landfills

- NWSW 21 T41N-R11W. The Town of Gull Lake had a landfill north of Gull Creek Road. Landfill operations ceased in 1993 and the area was capped. No disturbance is allowed on this site.

DOT

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

- NENW Section 5 T41N-R10W
- NENE Section 5 T14N-R10W
- SWSE Section 26 T42N-R11W
- SENW Section 26 T42N-R11W
- NENW Section 27 T42N-R11W

- NWNE Section 28 T42N-R11W
- NENW Section 28 T42N-R11W
- SWSW Section 31 T42N-R10W
- SESE Section 31 T42N-R10W
- NWSW Section 36 T42N-R11W
- NWSE Section 36 T42N-R11W

Other

- Sections 3, 4, 9, 10. Flowage easement for Taylor Lake Flowage granted to Wisconsin Conservation Commission. Unknown date.
- SENE, NESE 25 T41N-R11W. Hay Lake acquisition with LAWCON grant funds. Deed restriction securing permanent protection. Original deed recorded 289705. Correction with deed restriction recorded 304467.
- NENW, SENW 27 T42N-R11W. Quit claim deed from Forestry to Highway Department in 2017 after illegally executed lease with crushing operator on rock quarry. Recorded 375755.
- A permit was issued to Antzcak Construction in 2015 to store recycled blacktop originating from a Cty G reconstruction project. This agreement expires in August 2020.

3000.6.15 FOREST MANAGEMENT GOALS AND GUIDELINES

1. Red oak should be considered a critical resource to maintain within this unit. Attempts should be made to retain the existing acreage within the management direction listed in Section 825.9.3. As part of this, however, conversion from even aged oak to all aged northern hardwood is recommended on those sites where hardwood regeneration is present. Despite a gradual conversion to northern hardwood, oak will likely remain a strong component within these stands.
2. This unit has a substantial amount of aspen forest types. Even so, they are generally diversified with other forest types mixed throughout. In general, it is recommended to not decrease aspen acres in any significant manner and opportunities to push aspen stands to other, more lacking, forest types can be taken advantage of.
3. Northern hardwood types should also be considered important within the unit, especially in context of the red oak on richer sites with potential to convert to all aged management. Even aged management of hardwood may be the best option on certain sites, within the

context of the northern hardwood decision matrix and as defined in Section 825.9.4.

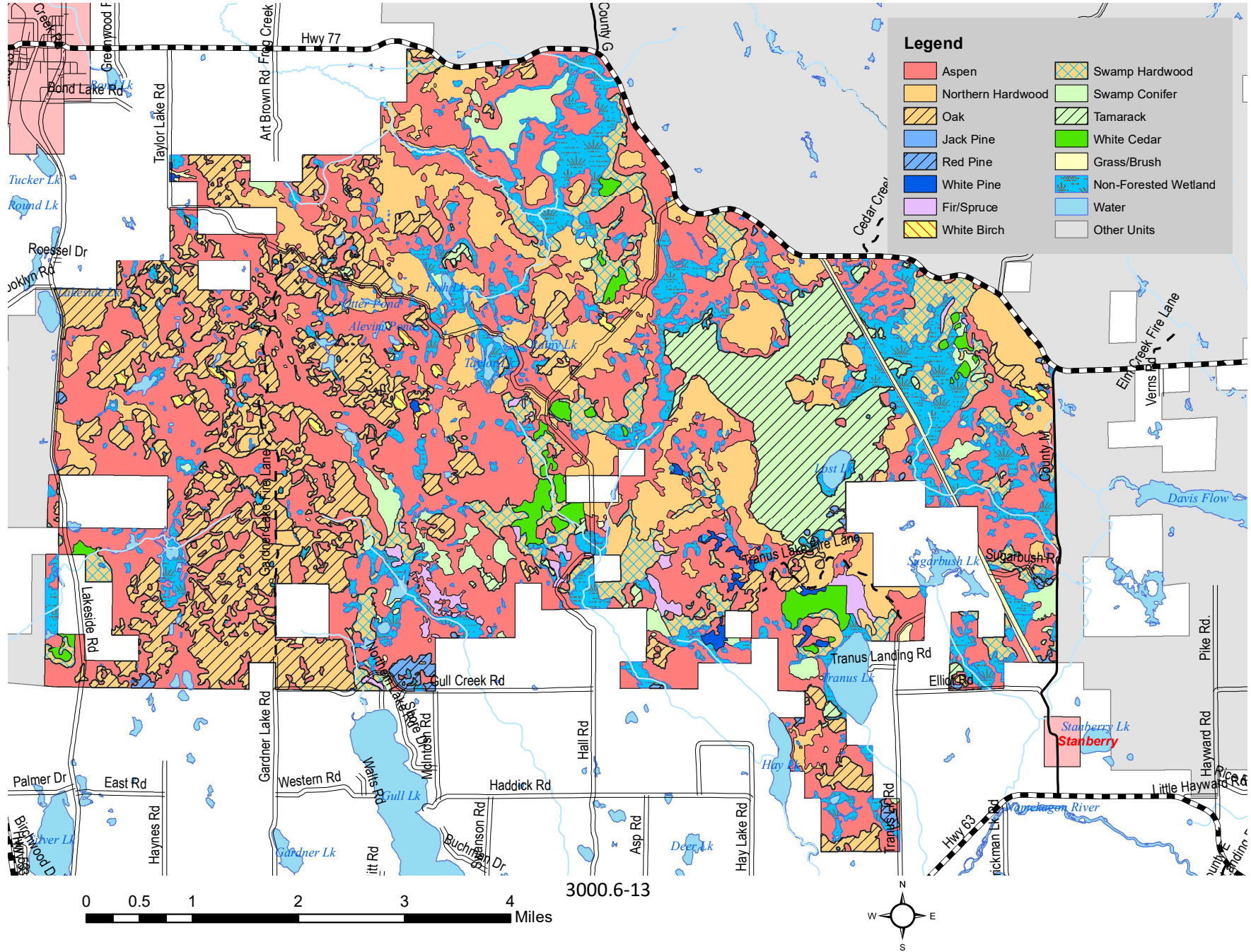
Treatments to reduce sedge and/or ironwood may be needed in certain stands.

4. Attempt to retain existing stands of natural balsam fir and spruce. Implement techniques to regenerate these sites when they are due for management.
5. Retain natural pine acreage. In addition, there may be a potential for white pine on certain habitats. Look for opportunities to regenerate pine on a limited scale or as a component of other stands, especially if any AVVb habitats are found.
6. Red pine plantations are a minor component. These types should be retained on the landscape and it would not be inconsistent with this Plan to consider additional red pine on a limited basis.
7. Look for opportunities to regenerate and promote white birch.
8. Management of swamp conifers within this unit should be conducted only after thorough research of techniques and opportunities. It may be viable to consider these sites for carbon storage as defined in Section 850.

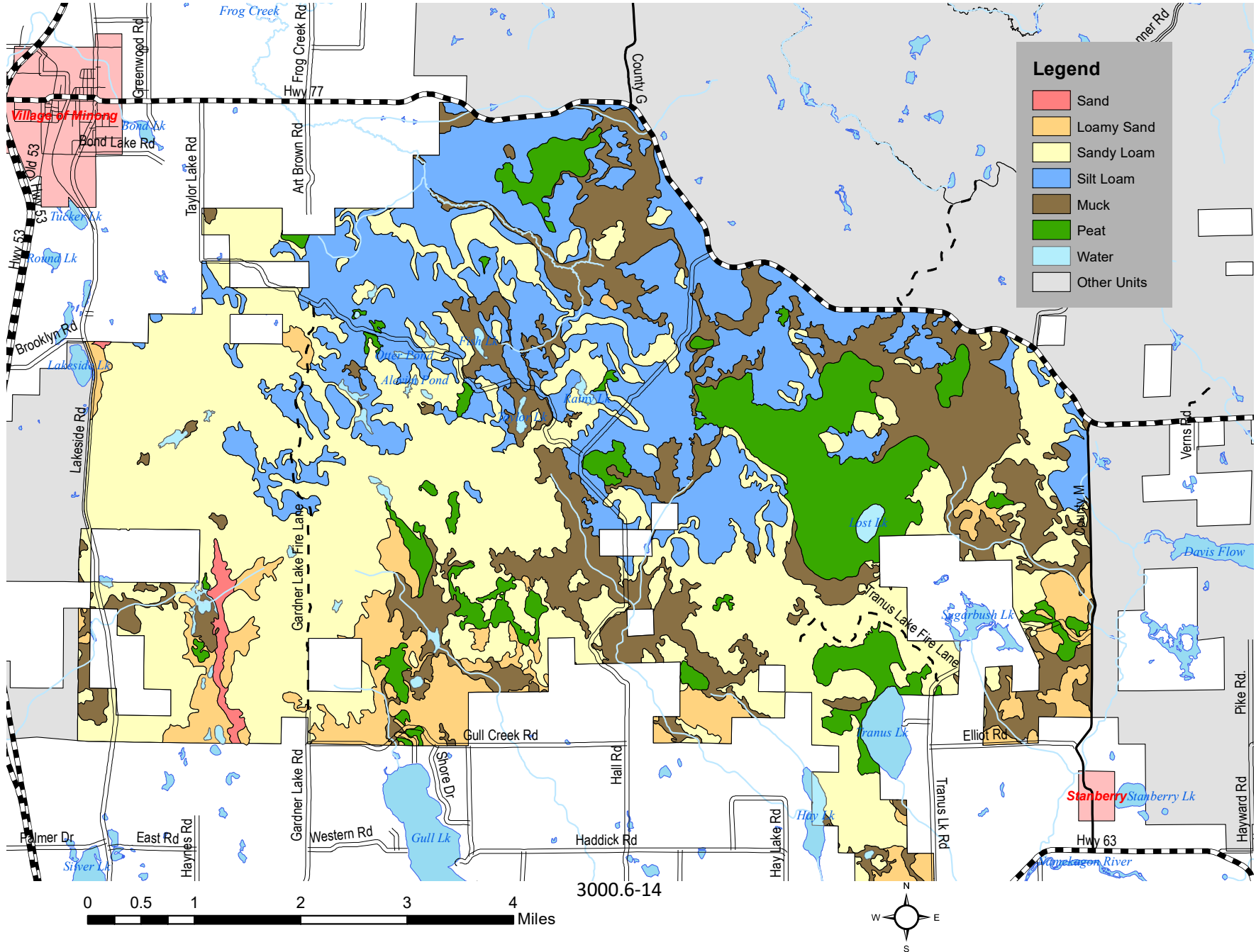
3000.6.16 SITE SPECIFIC MANGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

1. The County, as a priority, should pursue the following parcel for acquisition if they come available:
 - NENW, NWNE Section 6 T41N-R11W
 - SWSW Section 14 T41N-R11W
 - SESE Section 25 T41N-R11W
 - Those lands in Sections 17, 18, 20 T41N-R10W that would better “square” County Forest ownership.
2. Develop parking areas along Highway 77.
3. Continue to support and make investments in improving Minong Rifle Range while assuring that public has open access to the facility.

3000.6.17 GENERAL FOREST TYPES MAP



3000.6.18 GENERAL SOILS MAP



Legend

- Sand
- Loamy Sand
- Sandy Loam
- Silt Loam
- Muck
- Peat
- Water
- Other Units

