
APPENDIX E

Landtype Associations of the Study Area

Ecoregions are geographic areas of similar physical, chemical, and biological characteristics organized within a hierarchical framework. Each level of the hierarchy shares important ecological attributes such as climate, geology, landform, hydrology, soils, and vegetation. Terminology for the ecoregions presented here follows that developed for the USDA Forest Service by Bailey (1995), the National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units (NHFEU) (Avers et al., 1994), and others. Related information using somewhat different methods of classifying broad landscapes of Wisconsin and the western Great Lakes can be found in Albert (1995) and Hole and Germain (1994).

The NHFEU comprises the following eight different scales of mapping (from largest to smallest): Domain, Division, Province, Section, Subsection, Landtype Association, Landtype, and Landtype Phase. These scales range from millions of square miles to less than 100 acres.

The Chippewa County Forest is located within **Province 212 – Laurentian Mixed Forest**; **Section 212X - Northern Highlands**; and **Subsections 212Xe - Perkinstown End Moraine, 212Xd - Central/Northwest Wisconsin Loess Plains, and 212Qb - Lincoln Formation Till Plain, Mixed Hardwoods**.

The Chippewa County Forest study area contains five **Landtype Associations (LTAs)**. Below are brief descriptions for the LTAs that occur within the study area.

LTA 212Xe04 - Pikes Peak Moraines

The characteristic landform pattern is hilly collapsed moraine. Soils are predominately well drained sandy loam over dense, acid sandy loam till. This LTA comprises 65 percent of the study area.

LTA 212Xd05 - Jump River Ground Moraine

The characteristic landform pattern is undulating moraine and stream terraces. Soils are predominately somewhat well drained silt loam over dense, acid sandy loam till. This LTA comprises 21 percent of the study area.

LTA 212Xe03 - Maple Hill Moraines

The characteristic landform pattern is undulating and rolling collapsed moraine complex. Soils are predominately moderately well drained silt loam over dense, acid sandy loam till. This LTA comprises eight percent of the study area.

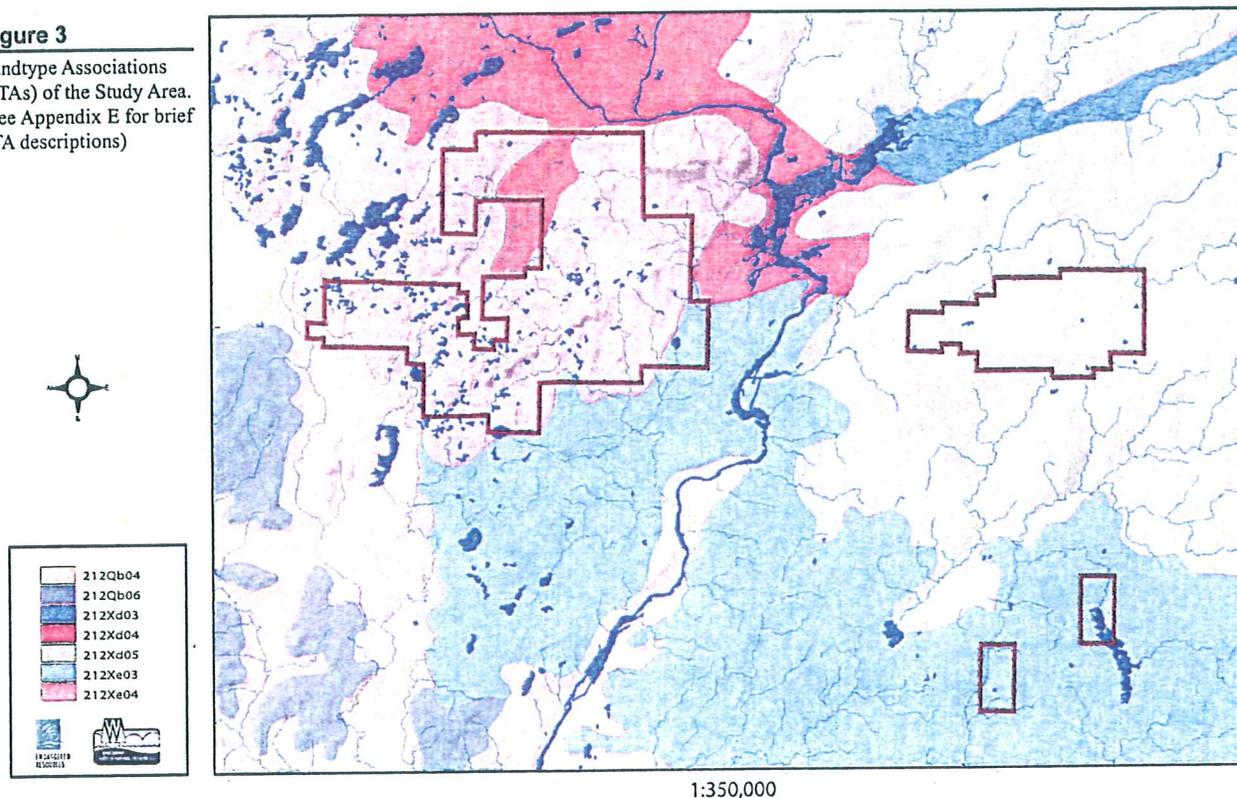
LTA 212Xd04 - Chippewa-Flambeau Plains

The characteristic landform pattern is rolling collapsed outwash plain. Soils are predominately excessively drained loamy sand over outwash. This LTA comprises five percent of the study area.

LTA 212Qb04 - Chetek Plains

The characteristic landform pattern is nearly level outwash plain with terraces, fans, and sandstone hills common. Soils are predominately well-drained sandy loam over outwash. This LTA comprises one percent of the study area.

Figure 3
 Landtype Associations
 (LTAs) of the Study Area.
 (See Appendix E for brief
 LTA descriptions)



The study area is comprised of portions of five Landtype Associations (LTAs), the finest level of the NHFEU hierarchy (Fig. 3). Brief descriptions of these LTAs are provided in Appendix E.

Size

The total acreage of the study area is 48,638 acres, which accounts for about seven percent of the area of Chippewa County. Twenty percent of the forested acreage in the county occurs within the study area, based on analysis of satellite imagery (Wisland, WDNR 1999) (Fig. 4).

General Land Use

The major land uses in the study area are commercial forestry and recreation. Important recreational activities include hunting, fishing, hiking, berry picking, and bird watching. Other uses include education and nature appreciation, which are coordinated at the Ice Age Reserve visitor center.

Physical Environment

Geography

Northern Chippewa County is characterized by rolling, hilly topography. Much of the area is located along a terminal moraine, and the landscape is composed of a diverse set of landforms, including outwash plains, kettles, kames, eskers, and ground moraines. Portions of the area contain abundant wetlands. Lakes are plentiful; there are over 300 lakes within the study area, many of them undeveloped.