

900.15 HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FOREST AREAS -- SITES HIGH IN LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY -- MAPS & AREA DESCRIPTIONS

1. RUBY SWAMP

Location

USGS 7.5' Quadrangle: Ruby
 Town-Range-Section: T31-R5W, sections 1, 2, and 3
 T32-R5W, sections 23, 25, 26, and 34-36
 Approximate Size: 1,613 ac.

Description of Site

This site is part of the larger Ruby Swamp area and consists of a series of shallow basins and uplands on a ground moraine. The basins are largely undisturbed wetlands that include Northern Wet Forest, Tamarack (poor) Swamp, Alder Thicket, Muskeg, and Northern Sedge Meadow. The surrounding uplands in the county forest portion of this area are under timber management of regeneration cuts, conifer plantations, and scattered patches of selectively cut mesic forest. The diversity of plants and animals within the wetlands is good. The wetlands on private lands near the site were not inventoried and need survey work. The nearby upland forests were not thoroughly surveyed either, and there may be some potential for rare plants and animals on the uplands. The only rare plant that was found at this site was ginseng in an upland forest.

Significance of Site

This site contains a large area of relatively undisturbed, good quality wetlands. There are small areas of disturbance centered on ditches that are dominated by reed canary grass and other areas that have been affected by beaver activity. The upland forests have been fairly intensively managed for timber but could be integrated into a landscape management approach for this site.

Management Considerations

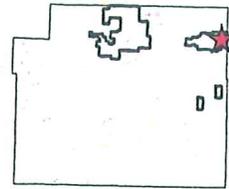
Primary considerations include maintaining water quality and minimizing disturbances to the wetlands. A suitable buffer should be maintained when timber operations are conducted on the adjacent uplands. The site, especially in timber harvest areas, should be periodically monitored for the presence of invasive species, especially reed canary grass and garlic mustard.

1. Ruby Swamp Element Occurrences

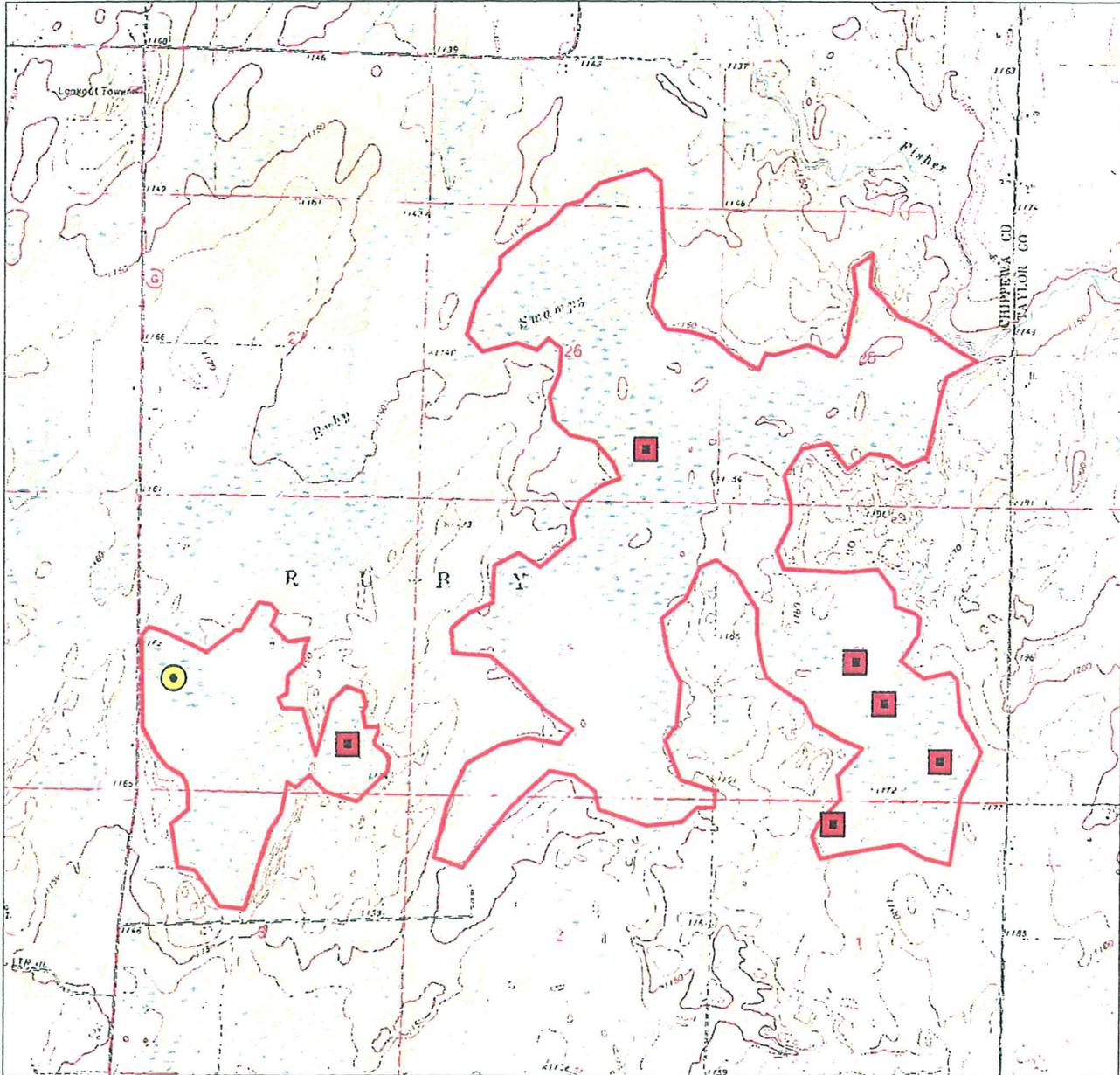
Scientific Name	Common Name	Date	State Rank	Global Rank	State Status
Animals					
<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	2002	S4B	G5	SC/M
Communities					
Alder thicket	Alder Thicket	2002	S4	G4	NA
Muskeg	Muskeg	2002	S4	G4G5	NA
Northern sedge meadow	Northern Sedge Meadow	2002	S3	G4	NA
Northern wet forest	Northern Wet Forest	2002	S4	G4	NA
Tamarack (poor) swamp	Tamarack (Poor) Swamp	2002	S3	G4	NA

Chippewa County Forest Biotic Inventory

1. Ruby Swamp East



Site Location



1:36000

Legend Disclaimer:
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The survey site is approximate and is only intended to be used generally.

Surveys were conducted between 2002-2004 for natural communities, aquatic features, and priority taxa. The surveys were not comprehensive for all taxa potentially present.

DNR lands include lands under ownership of or management by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as of 2003.

- Animal Occurrence(s)
- Plant Occurrence(s)
- Community Occurrence(s)
- Primary Site Boundary
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- DNR-managed Lands



2. BUCKHORN TRAIL BOG

Location

USGS 7.5' Quadrangle: Holcombe, Ruby
 Town-Range-Section: T31-R5W, sections 4-6, and 8
 T32-R5W, sections 32 and 33
 Approximate Size: 659 ac.

Description of Site

Buckhorn Trail Bog is a large high quality wetland in a shallow depression on the Jump River Ground Moraine. The site is divided into northern and southern basins by a 100-acre island of logged hardwoods. The two basins are similar: each is composed of a central area of Muskeg with an outer border of Northern Sedge Meadow and Alder Thicket. There is also a Tamarack (poor) Swamp in the northern basin.

The surrounding landscape consists of large, low ridges interspersed with large shallow depressions. The forested upland portions are under silvicultural usage and are mostly heavily selectively logged or clear cut. The wetlands are generally relatively undisturbed with some disturbed areas where reed canary grass dominates, some ditches, and areas where beaver activity has had an impact. The uplands are under silvicultural management.

Significance of Site

This is a large undisturbed wetland complex, and all of the wetland communities are of good quality and size. The context of this site is good.

Management Considerations

Primary considerations include maintaining water quality and minimizing disturbances to the wetlands. A suitable buffer should be maintained when timber operations are conducted on the adjacent uplands. The site, especially in and adjacent to timber sales, should be periodically monitored for the presence of invasive species, especially reed canary grass and garlic mustard. Management of the upland could focus on longer rotation selective harvests.

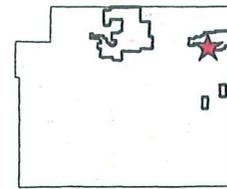
Special management considerations should be given to populations of rare animals that are known to occur within the Buckhorn Trail Bog site. Buffer zones and practices that minimize potential impacts to breeding and wintering habitat should be established and followed.

2. Buckhorn Trail Bog Element Occurrences

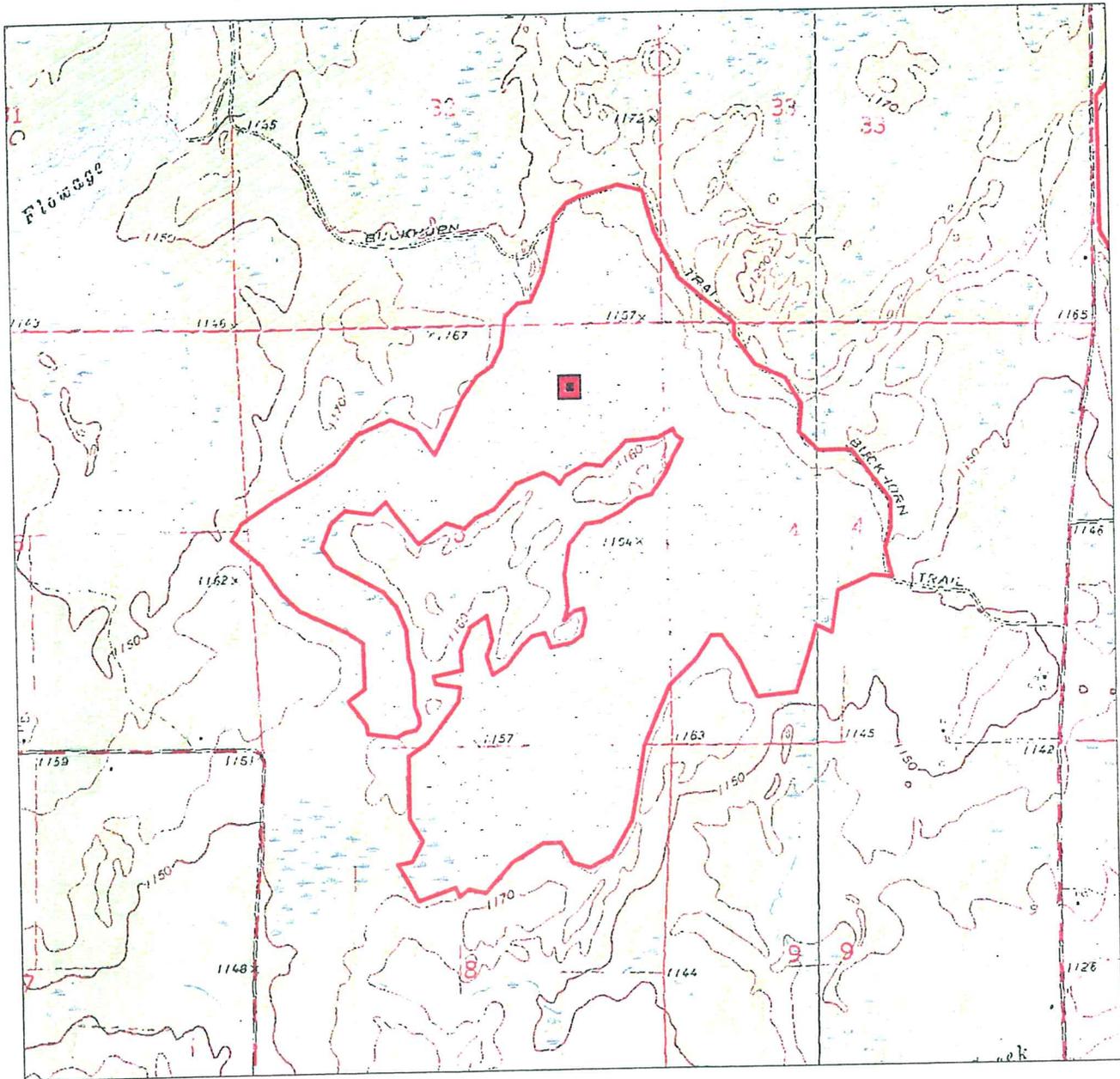
Scientific Name	Common Name	Date	State Rank	Global Rank	State Status
Communities					
	Tamarack (Poor) Swamp	2002	S3	G4	NA

Chippewa County Forest Biotic Inventory

2. Buckhorn Trail Bog



Site Location



1:24000

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ENDANGERED
RESOURCES



3. YELLOW RIVER WOODS

Location

USGS 7.5' Quadrangle: Colburn
 Town-Range-Section: T30-R5W, sections 20, 29, and 30
 Approximate Size: 101 ac.

Description of Site

The Yellow River Woods site lies a one-mile free flowing section of the Yellow River on deposits of the Maple Hill End Moraine. The Yellow River flows through a narrow, steep sided valley here. The site occupies the steep slopes and uneven uplands along the eastern side of this valley and a small wetland west of the river. It is mostly forested with good quality second growth Northern Mesic Forest and a small stand of Northern Dry-mesic Forest. There are depressions with Ephemeral Ponds, ponds, Hardwood Swamp, and Northern Sedge Meadow. Small streams draining these wetlands form deeply incised forested ravines through the steep slopes along the river.

The Northern Dry-mesic Forest is located on the steep slopes along the river. It features red oak, a few mature white pines, and some subcanopy and sapling hemlocks. Hemlock is uncommon in the county forest.

The northern mesic forest consists of sugar maple and red oak and has a good spring ephemeral population and the Special Concern broad beech fern (*Thelypteris hexagonoptera*) and sapling butternuts (*Juglans cinerea*).

There are also several Ephemeral Ponds within this forest. The wetland depressions support beaver ponds, moderate quality Northern Sedge Meadow, and black ash hardwood swamp.

There is a medium quality Northern Sedge Meadow and shrub-swamp on the west side of the river, clearly visible from the road on the west side of CTH S. This site was marked for logging in 2003.

Significance of Site

This site has good quality communities having good size and context and supports two Special Concern species plus hemlock, an uncommon species in the county forest. This is one of only two sites in the county forest with a major river passing through it.

Management Considerations

There is a casual use ATV path on the west side of the Yellow River that descends the very steep slope and continues along the floodplain. In 2003 it was also noted that the ATVs were traveling in the river. ATV access should be curtailed in this area due to the sensitivity of the soils and river.

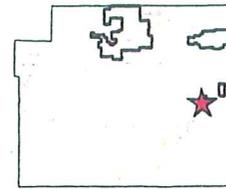
A primary consideration should be protecting the water quality in this stretch of the Yellow River. In addition to ending illegal ATV access, Best Management Practices should be used when designing timber sales to ensure that there is a sufficient buffer between the steep slopes above the river and harvesting activities. Additional measures should be taken, when necessary, to avoid impacts to the small wetlands and ephemeral pools. The site in general, and timber sales in particular, should also be monitored for the introduction of invasive species such as garlic mustard.

3. Yellow River Woods Element Occurrences

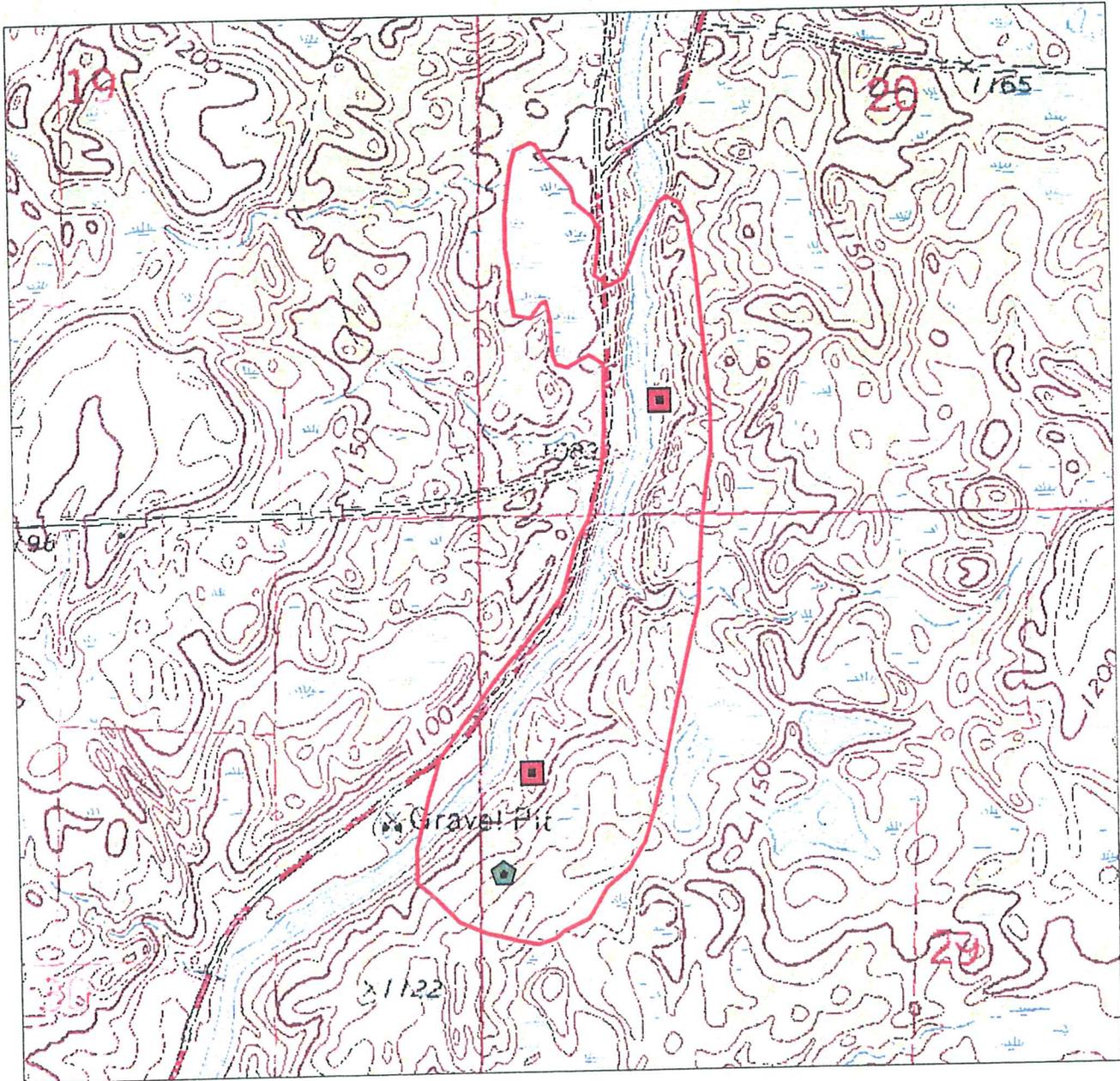
Scientific Name	Common Name	Date	State Rank	Global Rank	State Status
Plants					
<i>Phegopteris hexagonoptera</i>	Broad Beech Fern	2002		G5	SC
Communities					
	Northern Dry-mesic Forest	2002	S3	G4	NA
	Northern Mesic Forest	2002	S4	G4	NA

Chippewa County Forest Biotic Inventory

3. Yellow River Woods



Site Location



1:12000

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6. M & E WOODS

Location

USGS 7.5' Quadrangle: Cornell
 Town-Range-Section: T32-R7W, section 28
 Approximate Size: 66 ac.

Description of Site

M & E Woods is a forested portion of a larger ice walled lake plain on the Pikes Peak End Moraine. The surrounding landscape is mostly forested, very uneven end moraine topography with numerous depressions supporting lakes, ponds, wetlands, and streams. There are scattered clearings used for agriculture and low-density residential development. There are a few paved county roads but most of the roads are gravel, dirt, or unimproved.

This site is located on a 135-acre ice walled lake plain which has a large portion cleared for agriculture. This small area of intact forested ice walled lake plain consists of a 50 foot high, moderately sloped hill situated on the south end of a small seepage lake. The area to the northeast, north, and west is on farmland. The area to the south and southeast is logged forest. County Highway E passes within a quarter mile of the site.

This site contains good quality second growth forest of red oak and sugar maple with mesic and dry-mesic characteristics. Hemlock occurs in small numbers here. The shrub and herb layers are sparse. Old stumps and tip-up mounds are present. There is a good quality Ephemeral Pond on the southwest end of the site. Trees have been marked for logging and a new gravel logging road ends at the south end of the site.

Significance of Site

This site is covered in good quality second growth forest and contains hemlock, an uncommon tree in this area. There is a good quality Ephemeral Pond. The communities at this site are of good quality but are small in size and are in a marginal context.

Management Considerations

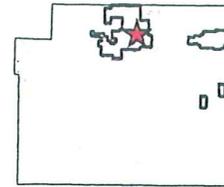
Older forest is currently under-represented on the property and throughout this landscape, and there are several stands here that would make excellent candidates for representation of later forest successional stages and maybe also as "benchmarks" for one or several of the forest communities present. This site could serve as a core area of lands that would feature older, intact, nearly connected forest. Timber sales on this site could be designed to maintain large blocks of forest that would retain core areas of older forest, protect sensitive drainages, and focus on types that are native to the landscape.

6. M & E Woods Element Occurrences

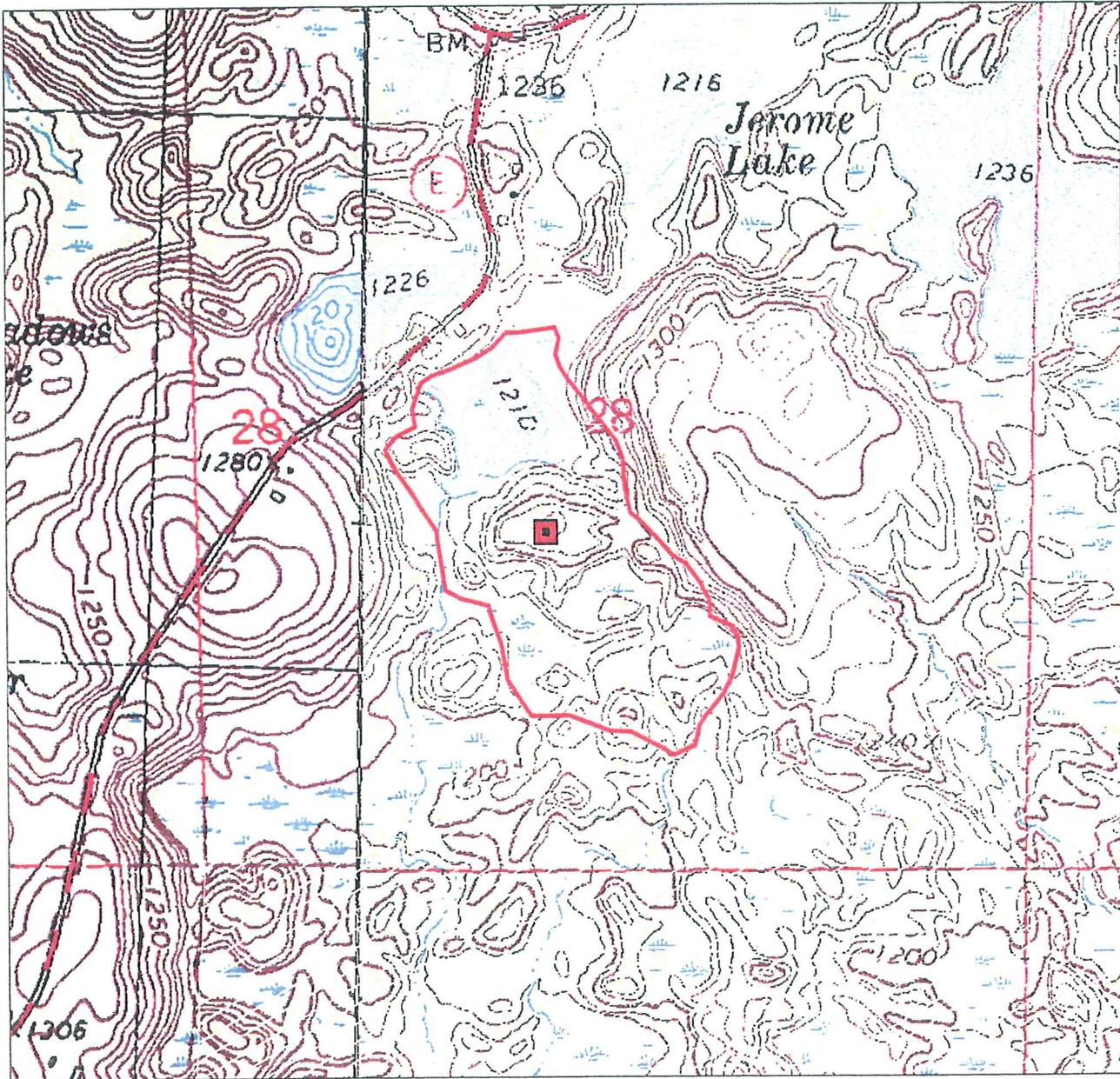
Common Name	Date	State Rank	Global Rank	State Status
Communities				
Northern Mesic Forest	2002	S4	G4	NA

Chippewa County Forest Biotic Inventory

6. M & E Woods



Site Location



1:12000

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11. O'NEIL CREEK HARDWOODS

Location

USGS 7.5' Quadrangle: Bob Lake
 Town-Range-Section: T31-R8W, sections 2-4, 9-12, and 14-15
 Approximate Size: 2,148 ac.

Description of Site

The O'Neil Creek Hardwoods site lies on the Pikes Peak End Moraine. The end moraine consists of a 100-foot high hill with steep to gentle slopes, small depressions with wetlands and ponds, and a stream on the north edge. The site has a large ice-walled lake feature. Two gravel roads bisect O'Neil Creek Hardwoods. The site is mostly forested with numerous depressions supporting lakes, ponds, wetlands, and streams. The predominant community is selectively logged, moderate to good quality second growth Northern Mesic Forest. There is an area of mature second growth red oak and sugar maple in the central portion of the site that has a good spring ephemeral population. There is a pine plantation near the center of the site. Northern Sedge Meadow occurs in small depressions, in drainages, and around ponds. Much of the forested land is managed for timber production.

Significance of Site

This site contains a high quality example Northern Mesic Forest of good size and in a good context with a fairly rich herb layer and a population of the State Threatened bog bluegrass, as well as the State Threatened Cerulean Warbler. The wetlands are of good to moderate quality, are small in size, and are in a good to moderate context.

Management Considerations

Older forest is currently under-represented on the property and throughout this landscape, and there are several stands here that would make excellent candidates for representation of later forest successional stages and maybe also as "benchmarks" for one or several of the forest communities present. This site could serve as a core area of lands that would feature older, intact, nearly connected forest. Numerous sensitive species would benefit from this management emphasis. Timber sales on this site could be designed to maintain large blocks of forest that would retain core areas of older forest, protect sensitive drainages, and focus on types that are native to the landscape.

The site should be monitored periodically for invasive species, especially garlic mustard on the uplands. Special attention should be paid to timber sale areas and ATV trails as seeds can easily and widely be spread by machinery. Small populations of invasive species should be eradicated as quickly as possible to minimize the risk of spreading.

Bog bluegrass is sensitive to changes in hydrology and light levels. Management in the vicinity of the population at this site calls for the use of appropriate buffer zones and best management practices to minimize disrupting canopy coverage and hydrology.

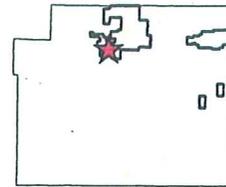
11. O'Neil Creek Hardwoods Element Occurrences

Scientific Name	Common Name	Date	State Rank	Global Rank	State Status
Animals					
<i>Agabates acuductus</i>	A Water Scavenger Beetle	2002	S2S3	GNR	SC/N
<i>Boloria eunomia</i>	Bog Fritillary	2003	S3	G5	SC/N
<i>Crangonyx richmondensis</i>	A Side-swimmer	2002	SU	GNR	SC/N

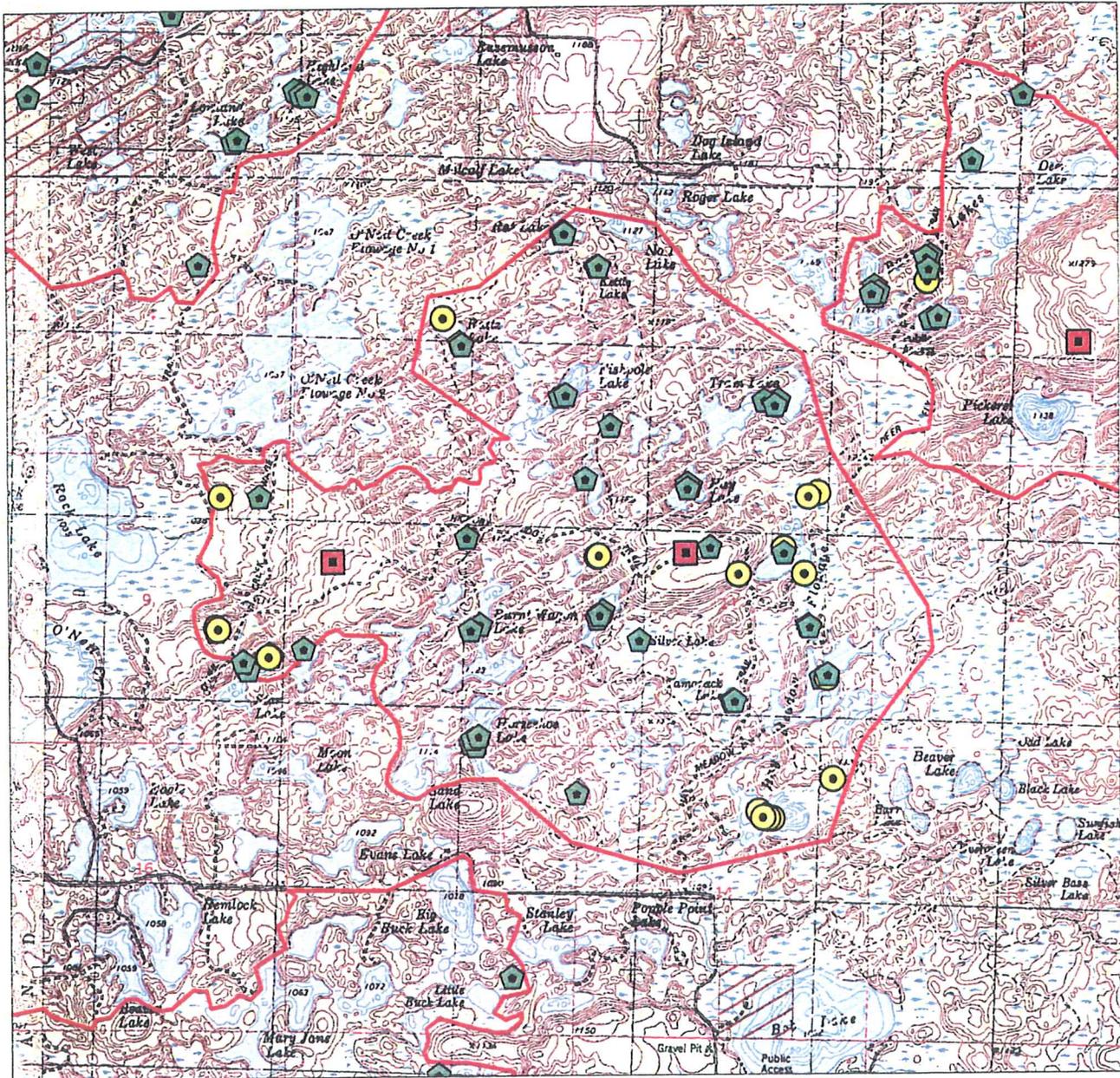
Scientific Name	Common Name	Date	State Rank	Global Rank	State Status
<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	Cerulean Warbler	2002	S2S3B	G4	THR
<i>Haliplus leopardus</i>	A Crawling Water Beetle	2002	S1S3	GNR	SC/N
<i>Hebrus burmeisteri</i>	A Velvet Water Bug	2002	S2S3	GNR	SC/N
<i>Hydrometra martini</i>	A Water Measurer	2002	S3	G5	SC/N
<i>Lestes eurinus</i>	Amber-winged Spreadwing	2002	S3	G4	SC/N
<i>Lestes inaequalis</i>	Elegant Spreadwing	2002	S2S3	G5	SC/N
<i>Liodessus flavicollis</i>	A Predaceous Diving Beetle	2002	S3?	GNR	SC/N
<i>Lynceus brachyurus</i>	Holarctic Clam Shrimp	2002	S1S3	G5	SC/N
<i>Nannothemis bella</i>	Elfin Skimmer	2003	S3	G4	SC/N
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	1979	S3S4B	G5	THR
<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	Bullfrog	2002	S3	G5	SC/H
<i>Rhantus sinuatus</i>	A Predaceous Diving Beetle	2002	S3	GNR	SC/N
Plants					
<i>Aplectrum hyemale</i>	Putty Root	2002	S2S3	G5	SC
<i>Ceratophyllum echinatum</i>	Prickly Hornwort	2003	S2	G4?	SC
<i>Eleocharis robbinsii</i>	Robbins' Spikerush	2003	S3	G4G5	SC
<i>Myriophyllum farwellii</i>	Farwell's Water-milfoil	2003	S3	G5	SC
<i>Poa paludigena</i>	Bog Bluegrass	2003	S3	G3	THR
<i>Potamogeton diversifolius</i>	Water-thread Pondweed	2003	S2	G5	SC
<i>Utricularia geminiscapa</i>	Hidden-fruited Bladderwort	2003	S3	G4G5	SC
<i>Utricularia purpurea</i>	Purple Bladderwort	2003	S3	G5	SC
Communities					
Northern mesic forest	Northern Mesic Forest	2002	S4	G4	NA

Chippewa County Forest Biotic Inventory

11. O'Neil Creek Hardwoods



Site Location



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