



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BAYFIELD REGIONAL CONSERVANCY'S



STRATEGIC CONSERVATION PLAN FOR DOUGLAS COUNTY, WISCONSIN 2010



Bayfield Regional Conservancy
Protecting the Land in the Lake Superior Basin and Beyond

Bayfield, Wisconsin
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ABOUT THE BAYFIELD REGIONAL CONSERVANCY

Bayfield Regional Conservancy (BRC) is a membership-based non-profit, regional land trust serving the counties of Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas and Sawyer in northwest Wisconsin. Founded in 1996, BRC works with private landowners on a voluntary basis *to protect the natural lands, waters, forests, farms, and places of scenic, historic and spiritual value in the Bayfield region*. Over the past fourteen years, BRC has been building a strong reputation as a leader in conservation within its region and as of May 2010 has successfully conserved approximately 2,500 acres at 22 sites through conservation easements, acquisitions, and partnerships. As BRC continues to grow and evolve as an organization, it is imperative that resources are used effectively and efficiently to ensure continued high quality conservation into the future. **With population and development pressure ever increasing, the need to proactively conserve areas of high conservation interest is at its greatest ever. To meet these challenges, BRC has committed to the development of comprehensive Strategic Conservation Plans (SCP) for each of the counties within their service area.** In 2009, the first of these plans, *Strategic Conservation Plan for Bayfield County, Wisconsin*, was completed. The present plan, *Strategic Conservation Plan for Douglas County, Wisconsin* represents BRC's second installment in their continuing strategic conservation planning efforts.

STRATEGIC CONSERVATION PLANNING

Identifying and prioritizing areas with high conservation value helps establish a proactive approach to conservation activities and allows BRC to operate more efficiently by aiding in future evaluation of potential projects. The purpose of this Strategic Conservation Plan is to create practical and manageable landscape and priority areas that serve to realize the Conservancy's overall vision for the area. The BRC mission statement and the priorities it sets forth were the basis for the creation of the project and, by virtue, priority area selection criteria. Selection criteria addressed four broad conservation themes found in the BRC mission statement:

- Natural Resources
- Water Quality
- Working Lands
- Community Heritage

Fundamental data sets were identified and compiled from a variety of sources to represent the selection criteria in a spatially explicit context. These data sets were used to identify areas where several high quality conservation values (e.g., wildlife habitat, water quality, rare species, scenic features, and wetlands) overlap with one another creating a "hot spot" for conservation -- these areas represent BRC's Priority Conservation Areas.

The Bayfield Regional Conservancy will use this Strategic Conservation Plan as another tool to guide a proactive land protection program targeting Priority Conservation Areas in their service area. Nevertheless, BRC will continue to consider

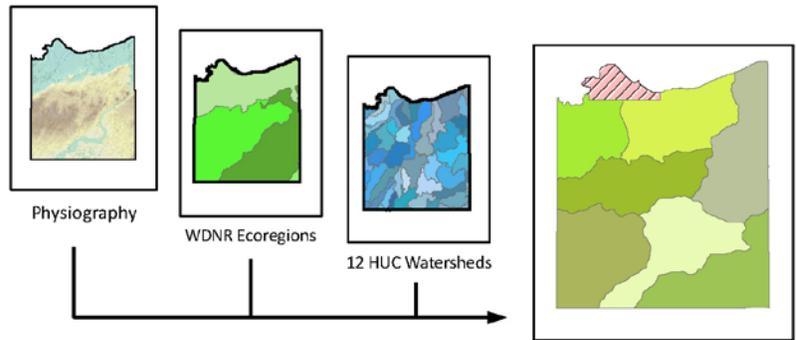
lands that were not classified as PCAs by the plan for future protection initiatives based on more detailed project-specific factors.

LAND PRIORITIZATION MODELING

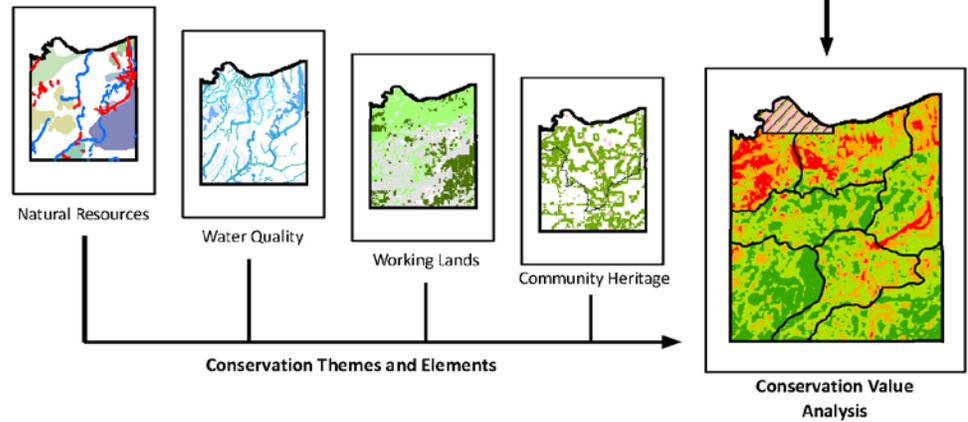
A three-step process was developed to delineate landscapes, identify lands and prioritize lands with significant conservation value. The first step involved creating practical and manageable landscape units, or Landscape Conservation Areas (LCAs), defined by broad ecological similarities and shared conservation issues. The next step included analyzing fundamental data sets representing the four broad conservation themes to quantify the conservation value of areas within Douglas County. The last step entailed identifying specific areas within Douglas County -- Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs) -- that encompassed features identified as having significant conservation value based on the results of the previous analysis (Figure 1).

Land Prioritization Model

Delineation



Analysis



Identification

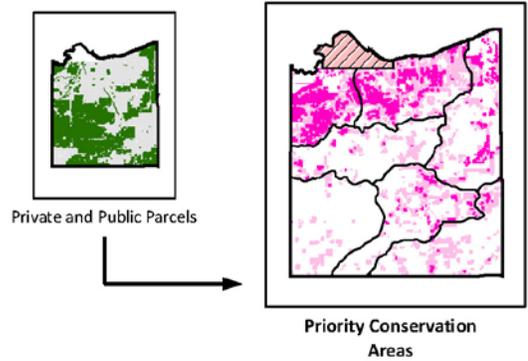


Figure 1. Schematic of Land Prioritization Modeling Process.

Defining Landscape Conservation Areas

Douglas County was divided into seven LCAs based on general physiographic (i.e., landtype associations), ecological (i.e., ecoregions) and hydrologic (i.e., subwatershed) characteristics, as well as similarities in land use and conservation issues (Figure 2). The grouping of natural features and conservation topics through the creation of distinct LCAs allows for a focused discussion of the traits and issues regarding the diverse landscapes of Douglas County. LCAs are a useful unit for describing coarse filter conservation objectives that both precede and support decisions on whether to pursue smaller scale, site-specific conservation projects.

Landscape Conservation Areas

- Black River – Upper Amnicon River Moraines
- Boise Brule Valley
- Northwest Lowland Swamps
- South Shore Streams
- St. Croix Headwaters
- St. Louis – Nemadji Rivers and Wetlands
- Wascott – Eau Claire River Barrens

Valued Resources within each Landscape Conservation Area

These Landscape Conservation Areas encompass lands and features that:

- contribute to the region's overall terrestrial and aquatic floral and faunal diversity as well as its unique natural beauty;
- contribute to high water quality and overall health of Lake Superior water resources;
- contribute to the region's overall rural character and economy; and
- provide quality low-impact/passive outdoor recreational and educational opportunities (i.e., greenspaces), scenic viewsheds, cultural and historical resources, and spiritually significant sites within the region.

	Black River – Upper Amnicon River Moraines	Boise Brule Valley	Northwest Lowland Swamps	South Shore Streams	St. Croix Headwaters	St. Louis – Nemadji Rivers and Wetlands	Wascott – Eau Claire River Barrens
NHI # S1-S3 Elements	22	50	19	18	35	33	25
NHI # G1-G3 Elements	1	7	2	2	6	3	5
NHI Natural Communities	3	12	4	1	5	3	9
WDNR SGCN	12	19	11	9	15	13	13
WDNR SNA	1	6	3	1	4	3	2
WDNR COA	2	4	1	4	5	2	2
WDNR Land Legacy Site	2	3	4	2	2	5	4
LSBF Important Habitat Sites/ Areas	1	4	-	6	1	3	-
WBCI IBA	1	1	1	-	3	-	1
WDNR Critical Habitat	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Miles of Perennial Rivers	183	146	162	323	142	232	82

Miles of OERW	101	121	22	31	52	23	7
Miles Class 1 Trout Streams	11	85	-	7	18	23	1
WDNR Priority Wetlands, Rivers, or Lakes	16	30	11	12	29	20	9
WDNR Class 3 Wild Lakes	2	-	-	-	-	-	4
LSBF Fish Spawning Sites	3	1	-	3	-	2	-
Acres of Prime Farmlands or Farmlands of Statewide Importance	6,922	26,648	7,751	67,114	7,258	41,918	1,423
Miles of Recreational Trails	84	106	58	46	150	54	62

NHI S1-S3 Elements = Natural Heritage Inventory ratings of plants and wildlife that are significantly rare at the state level with S1 being the rarest.

NHI G1-G3 = Natural Heritage Inventory ratings of plants and wildlife that area significantly rare at the global level with G1 being the rarest.

NHI Natural Communities = Natural Heritage Inventory of Natural Communities that are significantly rare at the state level.

WDNR SGCN = Species of Greatest Conservation Need identified in the Wildlife Action Plan for Wisconsin.

WDNR SNA = State Natural Areas

WDNR COA = Conservation Opportunity Areas, or areas providing critical habitat for SGCNs as identified in the State's Wildlife Action Plan.

WDNR Land Legacy Site = High quality habitat areas identified as a critically important to meet the state's habitat and recreational needs.

LSBF Important Habitat Areas and Sites = Lake Superior Binational Forum identified areas as being important habitat for species of the Lake Superior Region.

WBCI IBA = Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative Important Bird Areas

WDNR Critical Habitat = Areas around water resources that provide critical habitat.

OERW = Outstanding and Excellent Resource Waters, the highest water quality rating given by the State.

Class 1 Trout Streams = Coldwater streams providing excellent habitat and supporting naturally occurring native trout populations.

WDNR Priority Wetlands, Rivers or Lakes = Wetlands, rivers and lakes providing critical habitat and exemplifying high quality water resources.

WDNR Class 3 Wild Lakes = Wild lakes with no development along their shorelines.

LSBF Fish Spawning Sites = Lake Superior Binational Forum identified areas serving as important fish spawning sites along Lake Superior.

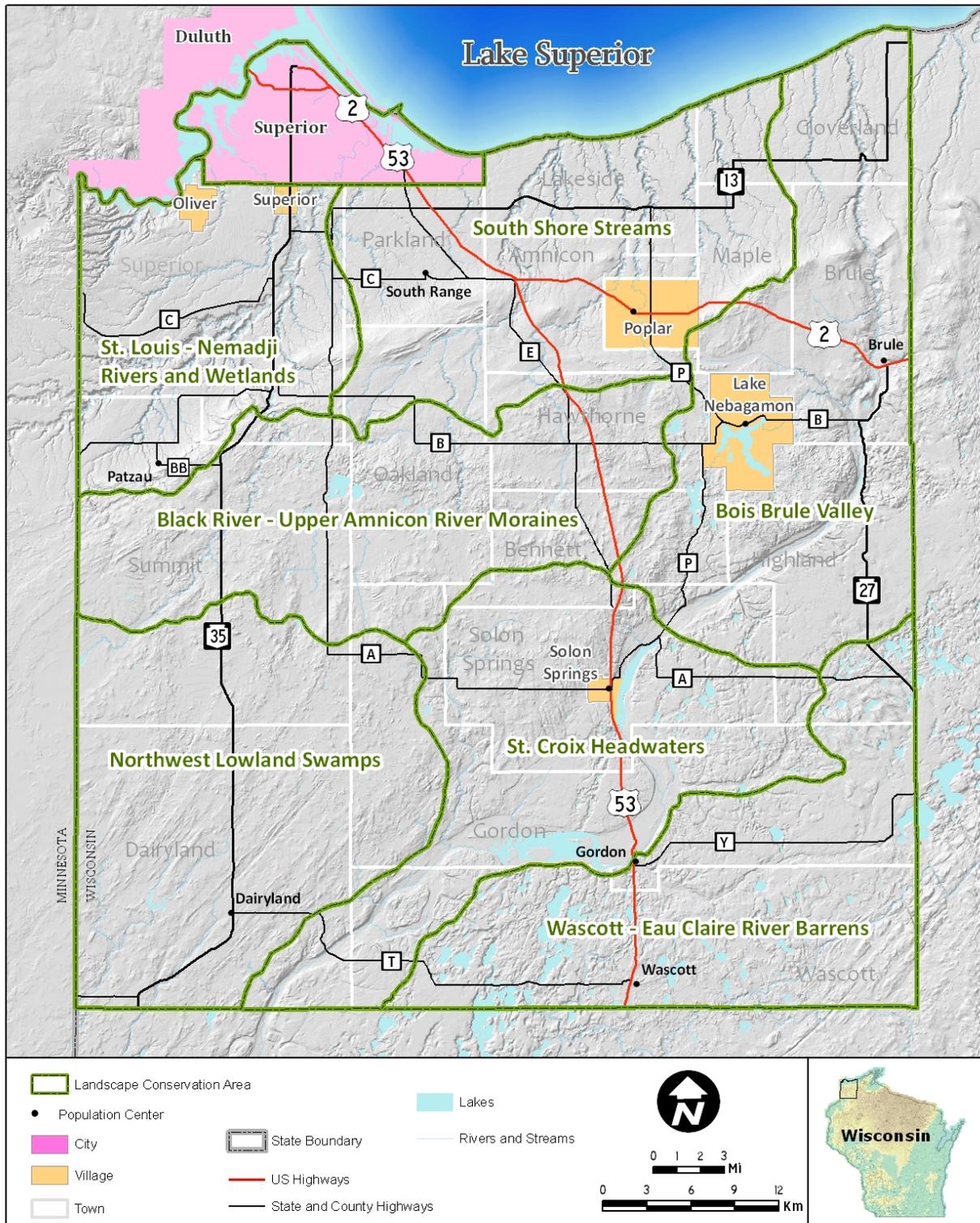


Figure 2. Landscape Conservation Areas Identified within Douglas County, Wisconsin.

Conservation Value Analysis

Two GIS-based analyses -- overlay and scored -- were conducted using the fundamental data sets to identify areas with high conservation value within Douglas County. An overlay analysis was performed to provide a simplified depiction of areas with overlapping conservation elements and themes, and a scored, or weighted, analysis was performed to provide a quantification of Conservation Value (CV) across the planning area.

The cumulative scores were classified into four priority levels- Low, Medium, Medium High, and High. Areas receiving High and Medium High scores were identified as Priority Conservation Areas (PCAs). It is within these PCAs where proactive land protection programs may be targeted and implemented (see Conservation Value Figures for each LCA).

The analysis and results were then distributed to partner organizations and natural resource professionals familiar with Douglas County's natural resources for feedback. Once reviewed, the feedback was compiled and incorporated into the final *Strategic Conservation Plan for Douglas County*.

THREATS

Conflicting land use practices account for the primary threats affecting Douglas County. Land use conversions include increasing development in rural areas, especially along lake and stream shorelines, and fragmentation of forest landscapes for recreation and residential development. The subdivision of land into increasingly smaller parcels and subsequent changes in land ownership and management can result in losses of critical habitat. Habitat fragmentation is often associated with losses to species biodiversity and contributes to the spread of invasive species. Land use practices, including current agricultural practices, are also threat to water quality and may result in increased concentration of flows, increased peak runoff problems, and may restrict movement and migration of aquatic species.

Certainly, there is much land in public ownership in the county, however, a substantial portion of the county's priority lowlands, rivers, streams, and wetlands are still vulnerable to development. The conservation of these Priority Conservation Areas will complement and enhance the quality and integrity of the natural resources already protected through federal, state, and local governments and conservation organizations, like BRC.

STRATEGIES

Once the Priority Conservation Areas were identified, key conservation strategies were developed for implementing an effective and efficient proactive land protection program for continued conservation success.

Four strategies for effective land protection:

- ACTION
- OUTREACH AND EDUCATION
- ADVOCACY
- COLLABORATION

ACTION

Implement direct conservation activities that will protect, enhance and restore natural resources, water quality, community heritage, and working lands' capacity of Douglas County.

Tools and Activities

- Conservation Easements (permanent and term) – Donated, Purchased, and Bargain Sale
- Land Acquisition – Donated, Purchased, and Bargain Sale
- Implement Best Management Practices
- Landowner Management Agreements
- Active Land Management

Funders and Programs

- Bock Foundation
- Douglas County Environmental Reserve Fund
- Douglas County Land Conservation Department
- Douglas County Soil and Water Resource Management Program
- FWS North American Wetlands Conservation Act
- FWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program
- Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program
- Mott Foundation
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Five Star Restoration, Migratory Bird Conservation)
- National Parks Service - Land and Water Conservation Fund (State assistance)
- NOAA - Coastal Estuarine Land Conservation Program
- Northwoods Protection Fund of the Trust for Public Lands
- NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program
- NRCS Stewardship Conservation Program
- NRCS Wetland Reserve Program
- NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program
- The Conservation Fund Bridge Loans
- USDA Conservation Reserve Program
- USDA Farm and Ranchland Protection Program
- USDA Farm Bill Programs (CRP, CREP, WHIP, EQIP, WRP)

- USDA Forest Stewardship Program, Forest Land Enhancement Program, Forest Legacy Program
- US FWS Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund
- WDNR Lake Management Protection Grants
- WDNR Landowner Incentive Program
- WDNR Managed Forestland Agreement (MFL)
- WDNR River Protection Grants
- WDNR Wisconsin Forest Landowner Grant Program
- Wildlife Forever Challenge Grants
- Wisconsin Coastal Management Program
- Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative (PACE)

Partners

A list of potential partners who offer direct protection or management is provided in the Table below.

Partner	Protection	Management	Specific LCA
Douglas County Association of Lakes & Streams (DCALS)	X		All
Douglas County Forestry Department (DCFD)		X	All
Douglas County Land Conservation Committee (DCLCC)	X	X	All
Farm Service Agency (FSA)	X		All
Friends of the Bird Sanctuary (FOTBS)	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Croix Headwaters
Friends of the Brule (FOTB)		X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bois Brule Valley
Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters (FOTSCH)	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Croix Headwaters • Wascott – Eau Claire River Barrens
Great Lakes Commission (GLC)	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bois Brule Valley • South Shore Streams
Great Lakes Indian and Fish Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC)		X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bois Brule Valley • South Shore Streams
Lake Superior Binational Program (LSBP)	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bois Brule Valley • South Shore Streams
Living Forest Cooperative (LFC)		X	All
National Parks Service (NPS)	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northwest Lowland Swamps • St. Croix Headwaters • Wascott – Eau Claire River Barrens
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	X	X	All
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Agency (NOAA)		X	All
Northwoods Weed Cooperative (NWC)		X	All
River Alliance of Wisconsin (RAW)	X		All
St. Croix River Association (SCRA)	X		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Croix Headwaters
St. Louis River Alliance (SLRA)	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Louis – Nemadji Rivers and Wetlands
The Conservation Fund (TCF) - Bridge Loan Program	X		All
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	X		All
Trout Unlimited (TU)	X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black River – Upper Amnicon River Moraines • Bois Brule Valley • South Shore Streams

Partner	Protection	Management	Specific LCA
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Croix Headwaters • St. Louis – Nemadji Rivers and Wetlands • Wascott – Eau Claire River Barrens
United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	X		All
United States Forest Service (USFS)		X	All
United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)	X	X	All
University of Wisconsin Extension (UWEX)		X	All
West Wisconsin Land Trust (WWLT)	X		All
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, Consumer Protection (DATCP)	X	X	All
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)	X	X	All
Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association (WLWCA)	X		All
Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA)	X		All

Focus Areas with each Landscape Conservation Area

While these strategies can be applied to all the Landscape and Priority Conservation Areas, specific focus areas were identified to provide more specific attention to the strategies. These focus areas are provided in the Table below.

LCA	Focus Areas	Specific Strategies and Partnership Opportunities within Focus Areas (Partners)
Black River - Upper Amnicon River Moraines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riparian protection along Amnicon River¹, Black River^{1,2}, Balsam Creek Headwaters (Big Balsam Creek)², Middle River¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation easements (WDNR¹, Trout Unlimited²)
Bois Brule Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection along Blueberry Creek^{1,2} and Swamp Confluence Habitat management implementation and facilitation within Sand Barren communities (south of the Brule River in the southern portion of LCA) Working lands protection adjacent to Smith Creek BMP implementation along Trask Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation easements (WDNR¹, Trout Unlimited²) Land Acquisition within Douglas County Brule River State Forest Acquisition Area - Blueberry Creek and Brule River Confluence, Trask Creek and Sand Barrens (WDNR, State Forestry, The Conservation Fund) Sand Barrens Habitat Cooperative Management Agreements (State Forest, County Forest, National Forest, WDNR - Natural Resources/ Endangered Resources, private landowners) Farmland Preservation- PACE (DATCP, NRCS, County Conservationist) Encourage sustainable forestry MFL- Managed Forest Law (WDNR- Forestry, State Forestry) BMP establishment along Trask Creek (County Conservationist)
Northwest Lowland Swamps	<i>Focus Areas were not identified within this LCA</i>	<i>Focus Areas were not identified within this LCA</i>
St. Croix Headwaters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Riparian protection along the St. Croix River and Flowage¹, Catlin Creek^{1,2}, Beebe Creek^{1,2}, Buckley Creek^{1,2}, and Lower Ox Creek^{1,2} Habitat management implementation and facilitation within Sand Barren communities (south of the St. Croix River in the panhandle of the LCA and the eastern portion of the LCA) Forestry protection adjacent to the St Croix River and Flowage¹ Cooperative management on 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation easements (WDNR¹, Trout Unlimited²) Land Acquisition within St. Croix National Scenic Riverway – St. Croix River and Buckley Creek – (NPS, Federal agencies) Sand Barrens Habitat Cooperative Management Agreements (State Forest, County Forest, National Forest, WDNR - Natural Resources/ Endangered Resources, private landowners) Cooperative Management Agreements Encourage sustainable forestry MFL (WDNR- Forestry, State Forestry)

LCA	Focus Areas	Specific Strategies and Partnership Opportunities within Focus Areas (Partners)
	lands along Upper Ox Creek	
South Shore Streams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian protection along Amnicon River¹, Middle River¹, and Poplar River^{1,2} • Working lands protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation easements (WDNR¹, Trout Unlimited²) • Farmland Preservation- PACE (DATCP, NRCS, County Conservationist)
St. Louis – Nemadji Rivers and Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian protection along Balsam Creek^{1,2}, Balsam Creek Headwaters (Empire Creek^{1,2}, Little Balsam Creek^{1,2}), Black River^{1,2}, Pokegama River¹ • Working lands protection • Support ongoing conservation efforts along Nemadji River³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation easements (WDNR¹, Trout Unlimited²) • Farmland Preservation- PACE (DATCP, NRCS, County Conservationist)
Wascott – Eau Claire River Barrens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection along Eau Claire River^{1,2}, Ounce River^{1,2} and Totagatic River Junction • Habitat management implementation and facilitation within Sand Barren communities (northern half of LCA and west of Cranberry Lake) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation easements (WDNR¹, Trout Unlimited²) • Sand Barrens Habitat Cooperative Management Agreements (State Forest, County Forest, National Forest, WDNR - Natural Resources/ Endangered Resources, private landowners)

OUTREACH and EDUCATION

Implement targeted landowner outreach regarding conservation resources, impacts of threats, and conservation options available for the private landowner.

Tools and Activities

- Direct mailings to landowners within the Priority Conservation Areas;
- Implement targeted workshops held in Priority Conservation Areas to address specific resource and landowner concerns;
- Host informal special events such as hikes, canoe trips, or others as appropriate, inviting not only members but landowners in Priority Conservation Areas as well.

Funders and Programs

- Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) Forestry Education Grant
- Mott Foundation
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- WDNR Rivers Program, WDNR Lakes Program

Partners

A list of potential partners for carrying out these targeted outreach strategies is provided in the Table below.

Partner	Agriculture	Forestry	Community Heritage/ Water Resources	Specific LCA
American Farmland Trust (AFT)	X			All
Douglas County Conservation Service (DCCS)	X	X	X	All
Friends of the Brule (FOTB)			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bois Brule Valley
Friends of the Bird Sanctuary (FOTBS)			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Croix Headwaters
Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters (FOTSCH)			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northwest Lowland Swamps St. Croix Headwaters
Gordon/ St. Croix Flowage Association (GSCFA)			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Croix Headwaters
Living Forest Cooperative (LFC)	X	X		All
North County Trail Association (NCTA)			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bois Brule Valley Black River – Upper Amnicon River Moraines Northwest Lowland Swamps St. Croix Headwaters St. Louis – Nemadji Rivers and Wetlands
National Parks Service (NPS)		X	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northwest Lowland Swamps St. Croix Headwaters Wascott – Eau Claire River Barrens
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	X	X	X	All
River Alliance of Wisconsin (RAW)			X	All
St. Croix River Association (SCRA)			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Croix Headwaters
St. Louis River Alliance (SLRA)			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Louis – Nemadji Rivers and Wetlands
Trout Unlimited (TU)			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black River – Upper Amnicon River Moraines Bois Brule Valley South Shore Streams St. Croix Headwaters St. Louis – Nemadji Rivers and Wetlands Wascott – Eau Claire River Barrens

Partner	Agriculture	Forestry	Community Heritage/ Water Resources	Specific LCA
Upper St. Croix Lakes Association (USCLA)			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Croix Headwaters
United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)			X	All
University of Wisconsin Extension (UWEX)	X	X	X	All
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR)	X	X	X	All
Wisconsin Wetlands Association (WWA)			X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bois Brule Valley (Blueberry Swamp, Brule Glacial Spillway) • Black River – Upper Amnicon River Moraines (Black Lake Bog) • St. Croix Headwaters (Empire Swamp)
West Wisconsin Land Trust (WWLT)	X	X	X	All
Wisconsin Woodland Owner's Association (WWOA)		X		All

Focus Areas with each Landscape Conservation Area

While these strategies can be applied to all the Landscape Conservation Area, initial focus areas were identified within each to provide further detail to the strategies. These focus areas are provided in the Table below.

LCA	Working Lands Outreach	Natural Heritage/ Water Resources Outreach
Black River - Upper Amnicon River Moraines	Oakland, Summit, Superior	Amnicon River, Black River, Balsam Creek Headwaters (Big Balsam Creek), Middle River
Bois Brule Valley	Brule, Cloverland	Barrens, Smith Creek, Trask Creek, Blueberry Creek and swamps
Northwest Lowland Swamps	Minimal High Priority Working Lands	
St. Croix Headwaters	Minimal High Priority Working Lands	Barrens, Catlin Creek, Beebe Creek, Upper Ox Creek, Lower Ox Creek, St. Croix River and Flowage
South Shore Streams	Amnicon, Cloverland, Lakeside, Maple, Oakland, Parkland, Poplar	Amnicon River, Middle River, Poplar River
St. Louis – Nemadji Rivers and Wetlands	Summit, Superior	Balsam Creek, Balsam Creek Headwaters (Empire Creek, Little Balsam Creek), Black River
Wascott – Eau Claire River Barrens	Minimal High Priority Working Lands	Barrens, Eau Claire River, Ounce River

ADVOCACY

Promote policies and funding mechanisms at the local level that protect and conserve natural resources and support economic growth of Douglas County.

Tools and Activities

- Encourage the establishment of local farmland preservation programs with sustainable funding mechanisms
- Encourage coordination between long-term land use planning and agricultural preservation planning
- Encourage the inclusion of forest lands in Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative (PACE)
- Conduct outreach to key decision makers such as Town Boards and Comprehensive Planning Committees to raise awareness of BRC and to convey findings of this Plan

Funders and Programs

- American Farmland Trust (AFT)
- Douglas County Conservation Department (DCCD)
- Living Forest Cooperative (LFC)

- Mott Foundation
- River Alliance of Wisconsin (RAW)
- St. Croix River Association (SCRA)
- St. Louis River Alliance (SLRA)
- Wisconsin Woodland Owner's Association (WWOA)

COLLABORATION

Engage conservation and community organizations, government agencies, local corporations and interested citizens in conservation activities in Douglas County to promote and strengthen partnerships that maintain and enhance the region's natural resources.

Tools and Activities

- Hold public meetings to share results of plan and tools for land protection with interested parties
- Discuss partnership opportunities with other conservation organizations
- Engage in Comprehensive Douglas County Land Use Planning process
- Engage with potential partners on a semi-regular basis to gain a better understanding of each other's priorities and to share technical expertise (e.g., establish a listserv, semi-annual lunch, conservation outings)
- Collaborate with agencies that complement land protection
- Seek landscape level grants for protection or planning

Funders and Programs

- Mott Foundation
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (e.g., Five Star Restoration, Migratory Bird Conservation)

Partners

A list of potential partnership opportunities are provided in the Table below. As partnership opportunities often evolve out of actual opportunities and needs, this list will always be changing.

Partner	Potential Opportunity Description
Town Planning Commissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public meetings to relay BRC priorities and ways Land Trusts can collaborate with Towns to fulfill comprehensive planning goals
Douglas County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate findings of plan and tools for land protection
St. Louis River Alliance St. Croix River Association Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters River Alliance of Wisconsin Friends of the Brule Friends of the Bird Sanctuary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share priorities, • Discuss partnership opportunities, • Seek landscape level grants for protection or planning in northwestern Wisconsin and Lake Superior Basin.

Western Wisconsin Land Trust	
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CONCLUSION

The completion of this Strategic Conservation Plan for Douglas County, Wisconsin is an important step in achieving BRC's goals to strengthen proactive land protection efforts and increase efficiency and conservation effectiveness by accomplishing the following:

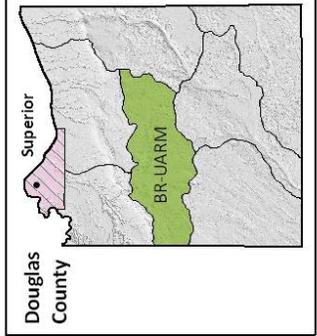
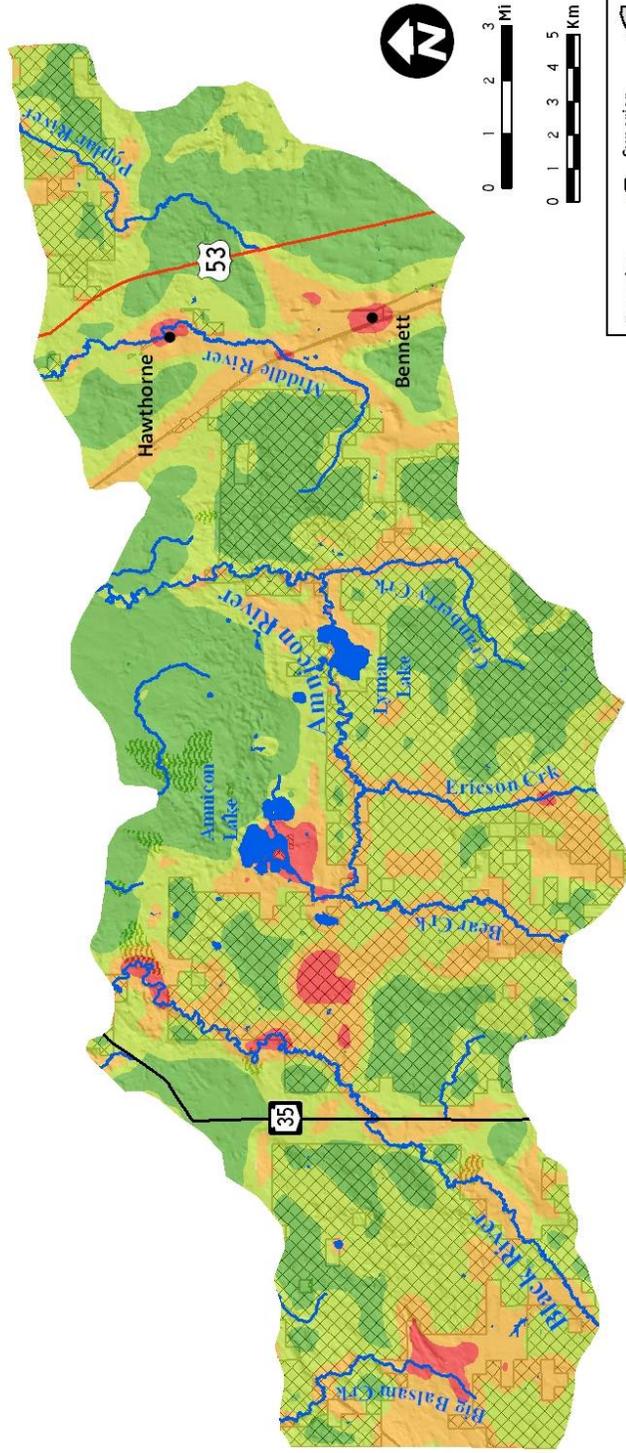
- Strengthening relationships with other conservation professionals and entities throughout the County, thus enhancing implementation;
- Compiling and reconciling all pertinent and available data sets and making them readily accessible to staff, facilitating future project selection and evaluation of conservation opportunities;
- Enabling the Conservancy to target outreach efforts to landowners and land use decision makers with respect to conservation opportunities; and
- Providing a foundation for more detailed planning efforts that focus on specific areas.

While the Strategic Conservation Plan offers BRC an opportunity to strengthen and focus its land protection efforts, it is important to recognize the Plan's limitations. Data sets were not ground-truthed, therefore any inaccuracies or limitations of the data sets utilized in the analysis were not corrected. For example, community heritage data is limited to where inventories have been implemented and there may be additional important element occurrences not yet identified by Wisconsin Natural Heritage Inventory. Also the plan does not evaluate or consider the level of potential conservation interest from landowners, real estate market values and key land-use decision makers and therefore a feasibility study may be a warranted next step. Since the objective of this plan was to identify areas with high conservation significance on a broad landscape scale, it should not be used as the only evaluation tool for proposed site-specific land protection projects. Finally, in order to be useful over the long term, the Strategic Conservation Plan should be regularly updated as new or revised data become available.

The Strategic Conservation Plan will serve as a valuable tool for guiding BRC's land protection efforts and will help strengthen the organization's capacity to achieve protection of Douglas County, Wisconsin's rich array of conservation values. The Plan will be used to direct BRC's outreach efforts to landowners, communities, and key decision-makers thus enhancing the organization's proactive land protection efforts by strategically directing it to the areas of the County where conservation values are concentrated. BRC will also continue to respond to conservation inquiries outside of the identified Priority Conservation Areas. The Plan provides an opportunity to reach out to and build partnerships with other conservation entities that are focusing their efforts within the same geographic region. Finally, this Plan will serve to communicate BRC's priorities and illustrate the need for effective and strategic conservation in Douglas County.

Black River - Upper Amnicon River Moraines Landscape Conservation Area

Cumulative Conservation Value Analysis



- Population Center
- ▨ Public Lands
- ▨ Protected Lands
- US Highways
- State Highways
- Rivers and Streams
- Lakes
- ⋯ Priority Wetlands

- Conservation Value Class**
- High
 - Medium High
 - Medium
 - Low
 - ▨ Working Lands - High Priority

Bois Brule Valley Landscape Conservation Area

Cumulative Conservation Value Analysis

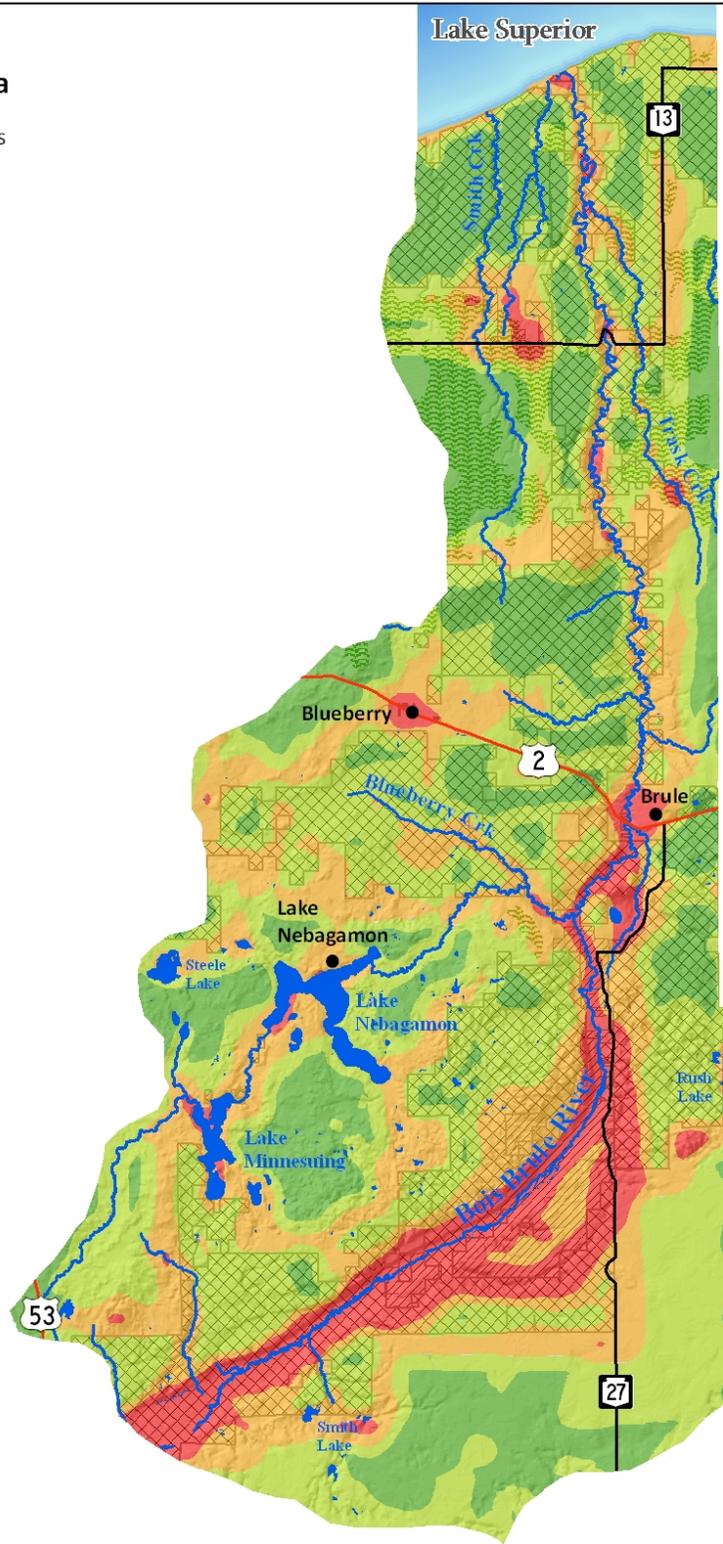
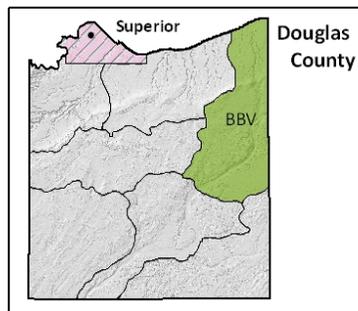
Conservation Value Class

- High
- Medium High
- Medium
- Low
- Working Lands - High Priority
- Population Center
- Public Lands
- Protected Lands
- US Highways
- State Highways
- Rivers and Streams
- Lakes



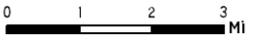
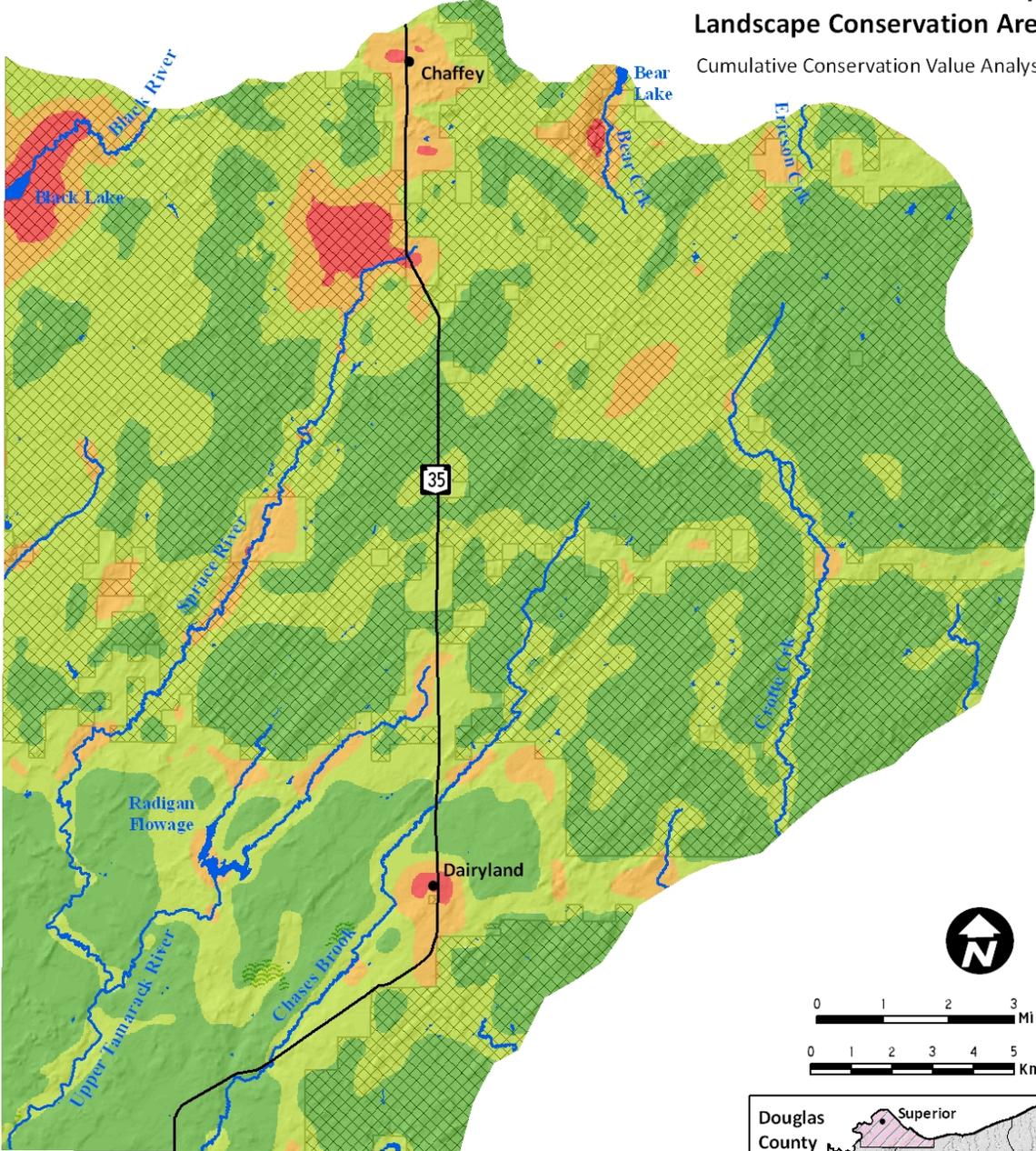
0 1 2 3 Mi

0 1 2 3 4 5 Km



Northwest Lowland Swamps Landscape Conservation Area

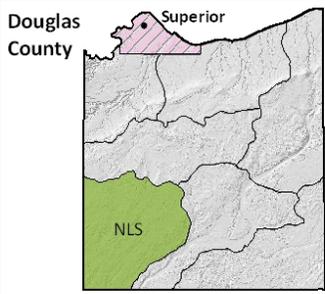
Cumulative Conservation Value Analysis



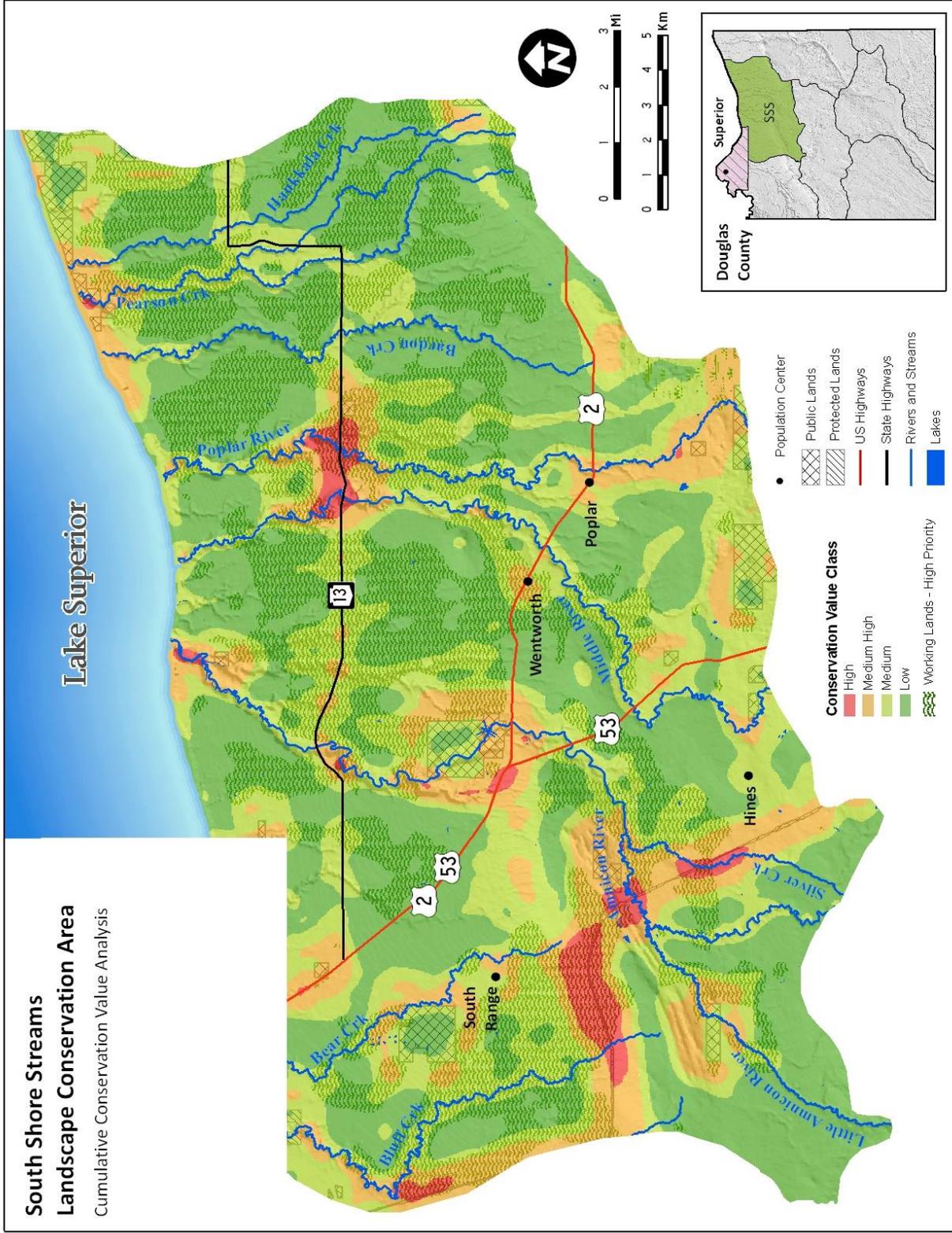
Conservation Value Class

- High
- Medium High
- Medium
- Low
- Working Lands - High Priority

- Population Center
- Public Lands
- State Highways
- County Highways
- Rivers and Streams
- Lakes

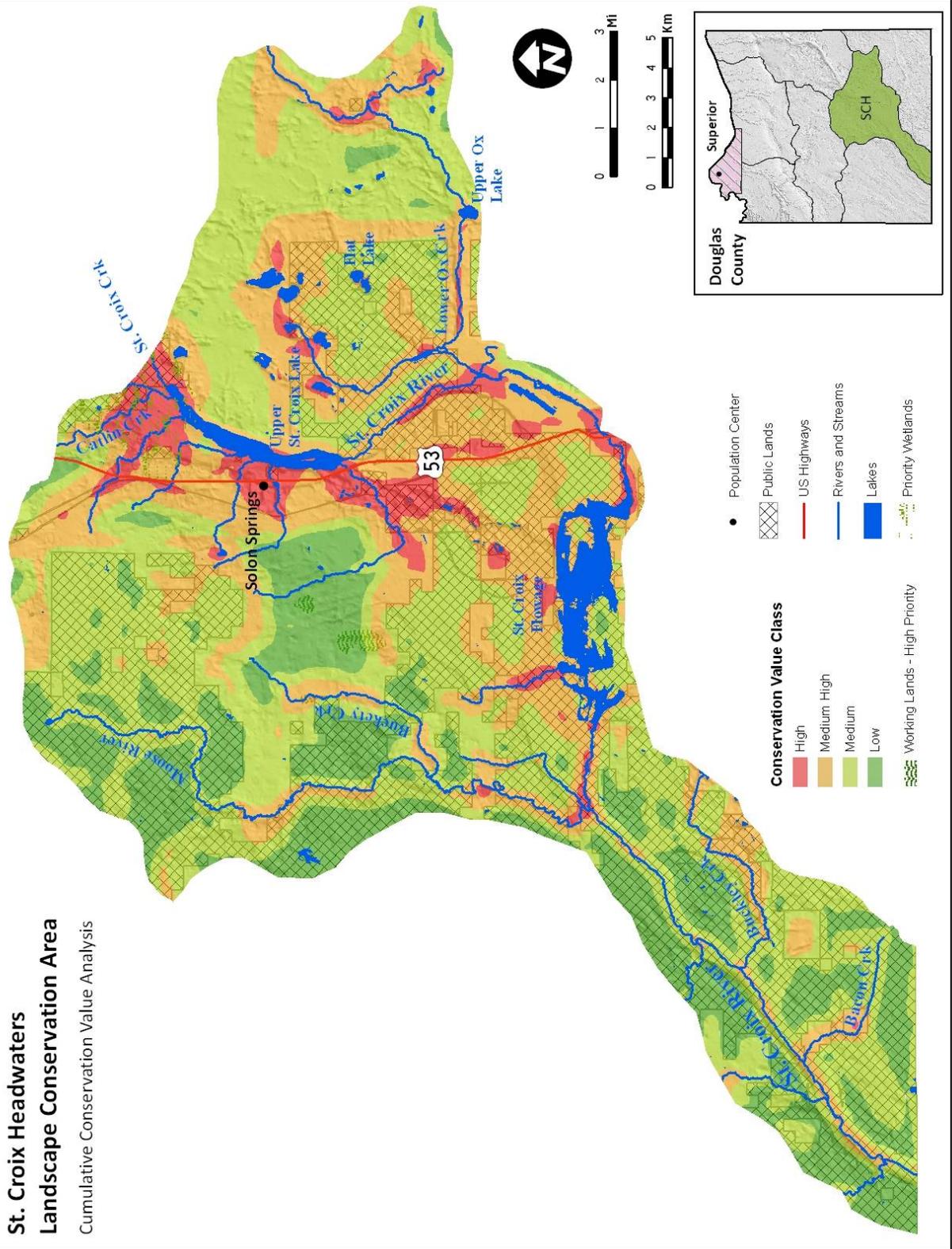


**South Shore Streams
Landscape Conservation Area**
Cumulative Conservation Value Analysis



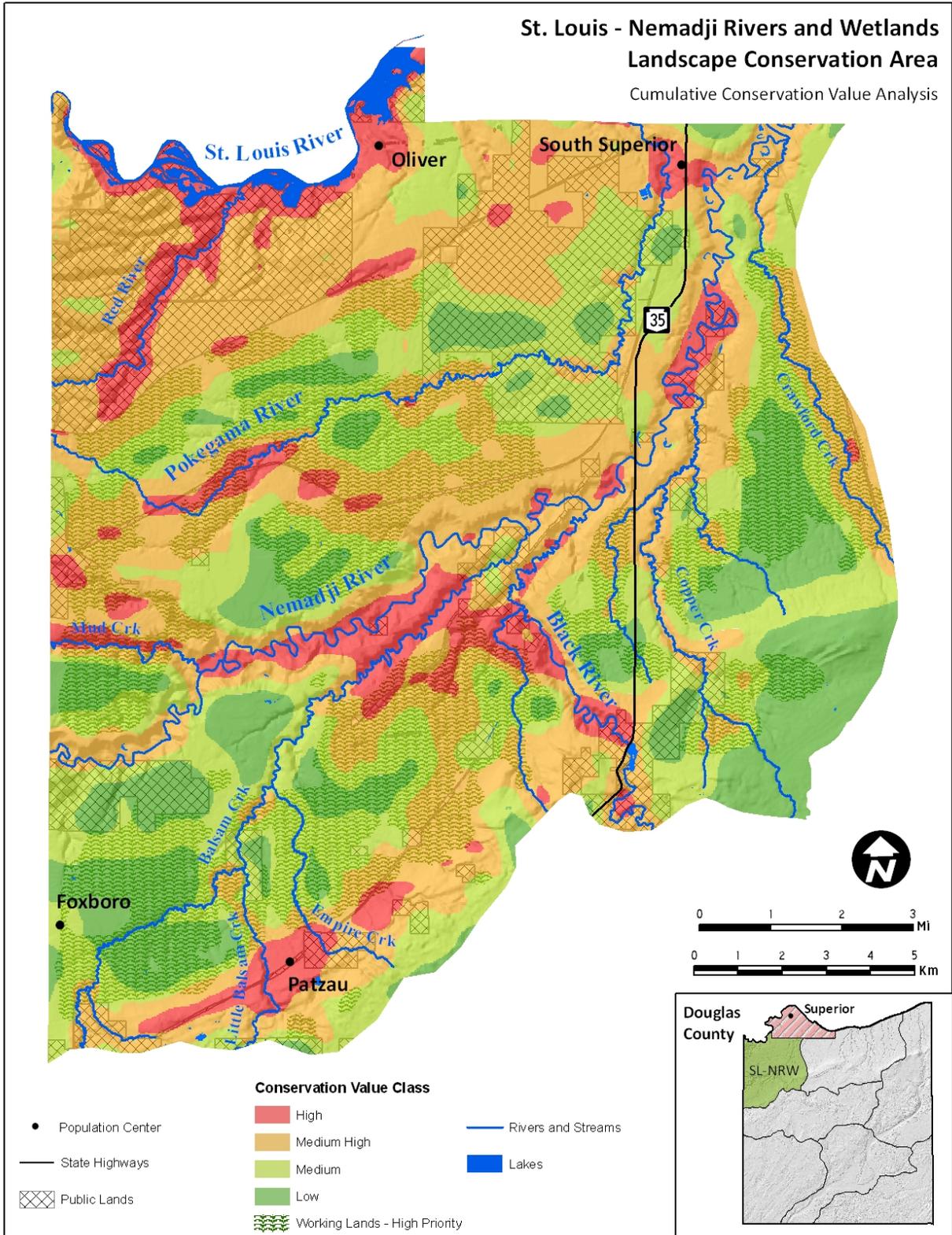
St. Croix Headwaters Landscape Conservation Area

Cumulative Conservation Value Analysis



St. Louis - Nemadji Rivers and Wetlands Landscape Conservation Area

Cumulative Conservation Value Analysis



Wascott - Eau Claire River Barrens Landscape Conservation Area

Cumulative Conservation Value Analysis

- Population Center
 - ⊠ Public Lands
 - US Highways
 - State Highways
 - Rivers and Streams
 - Lakes
-
- Conservation Value Class**
 - High
 - Medium High
 - Medium
 - Low
 - ⊠ Working Lands - High Priority

