

ESTUARIES & COASTAL WETLANDS OF LAKE SUPERIOR

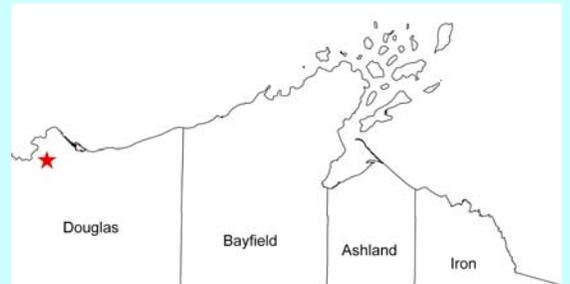
Pokegama-Carnegie Wetlands

Approximate Size: 2,770 (wetland area: 2,270 acres)*

Ownership: Douglas County/Private

Year Last Surveyed by WDNR/NHI: 1997

GLCWC Classification: N.A.



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Site Description

The extensive and poorly drained red clay flats in the headwaters of the Pokegama and Little Pokegama rivers support a large wetland mosaic of shrub swamp, sedge meadow, emergent marsh, and small ponds. This site is characterized by a large complex of shrub wetlands composed mostly of speckled alder and willows, as well as more open wet meadows that are dominated by coarse leaved sedges and bluejoint grass. Widely scattered small pools support a variety of emergent and submergent aquatic macrophytes. Tiny, upland "islets" of white spruce, white pine and red pine, balsam poplar, and trembling aspen punctuate the flats.

Of special significance are the many populations of rare plants occurring in the site's wetlands. Many of the rarities are represented by large and/or multiple populations. It is important to recognize that some of these species are not widespread in the Lake Superior region but are concentrated in the vicinity of the City of Superior. The large size of the site as well as the quality and diversity of open and shrub wetland types also support a diverse assemblage of amphibians and birds.

*Acreages are rough estimates based on GIS and aerial photographs and do not reflect ownership or management boundaries.

Additional Comments

Pokegama-Carnegie is the largest and most intact of the red clay wetlands in northwest Wisconsin. It has the greatest floristic diversity, supports some of the largest populations of rare species, and may be less likely in the short-term to suffer destruction or fragmentation owing to expanded development, disrupted hydrology, or incursions of aggressive species. Appropriate management and protection of this site is critically important.

Abbreviations and Helpful References

GLCWC - Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Classification.- http://glc.org/wetlands/pdf/wetlands-class_rev1.pdf

Lake Superior Binational Program - <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/lakesuperior/>

WDNR Coastal Wetlands webpages - <http://dnr.wi.gov>, Keyword: "coastal wetlands"

WDNR/NHI - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Inventory Program.
<http://dnr.wi.gov> , Keyword: "natural heritage"

"Managing Woodlands on Lake Superior's Red Clay Plain" - WDNR publication #PUB-FR-385 2007.
<http://dnr.wi.gov>, Keyword: "bmp landowner guides"

Text describing this site was published previously in a 2002 WDNR publication entitled "A Data Compilation and Assessment of Coastal Wetlands of Wisconsin's Great Lakes" by E.J. Epstein, A. Galvin and W.A. Smith. To view this information within the context of the full report, go to <http://dnr.wi.gov> and enter the keywords "coastal wetlands."

Suggested Citation

E.J. Epstein, A. Galvin and W.A. Smith. 2002. Site Description for Pokegama-Carnegie Wetlands. In: "A Data Compilation and Assessment of Coastal Wetlands of Wisconsin's Great Lakes." PUBL ER-803 2002. <http://dnr.wi.gov>, Keyword: "coastal wetlands pokegama"



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