

ESTUARIES & COASTAL WETLANDS OF LAKE SUPERIOR

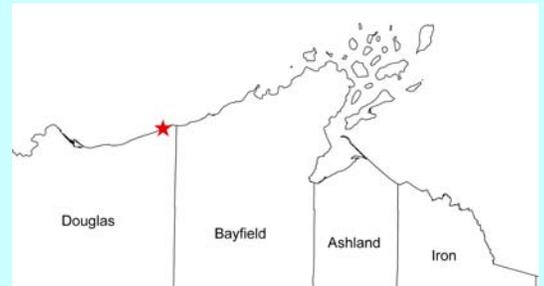
Mouth of the Brule River

Approximate Size: 435 (wetland area: 78 acres)*

Ownership: WDNR/Private

Year Last Surveyed by WDNR/NHI: 1997

GLCWC Classification: Barred Drowned River Mouth



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Site Description

On the west side of the mouth of the Brule River there is an emergent marsh of approximately 80 acres separated from the river and Lake Superior by a natural levee and sand spit. Several distinct plant species associations occur in the marsh. A small lagoon supports dense beds of pond lilies, pondweeds and common bladderwort. Around the lagoon there are stands of emergent aquatic macrophytes composed of bur-reed, soft-stem bulrush, cattail, and arrowhead. Near the margins of the marsh sedges are dominant, with lake sedge and tussock sedge the most important species. The natural levee between the marsh and the Brule River is vegetated with speckled alder, dogwoods, willows, and small ash trees. A very small beach and dune complex between the marsh and Lake Superior supports a sparse growth of marram grass and beach pea. Upstream, low terraces along the river support additional wetland communities, including black ash-dominated hardwood swamp, alder thicket and wet meadow. Steep clay bluffs flanking the Brule are forested with a boreal mixture of white pine, white spruce, balsam fir, balsam poplar, trembling aspen, and paper birch. Seepages and short spring runs are frequent on the clay slopes. Rare animals and plants are resident on this site, and several rare birds, including Common and Caspian Terns, use the mouth of the Brule as a resting and foraging area.

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

Additional Comments

Though this is a relatively small site, it contains a good quality marsh located at the mouth of one of Wisconsin's most fabled trout streams.

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 Mouth of Brule River. 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 brule river"



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