



**BLACK LAKE BOG WETLAND TYPES**

Open bog, coniferous bog, alder thicket, sedge meadow

*Eric Epstein*

DOUGLAS COUNTY



# BLACK LAKE BOG

**Property Owner:** Douglas County  
**Recognitions & Designations:** WI State Natural Area, WI Wildlife Action Plan Reference Site, The Nature Conservancy Priority Conservation Area

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**Wisconsin Wetlands**  
ASSOCIATION

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## ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

Black Lake Bog is a vast and remote acid peatland spanning the Wisconsin-Minnesota border in Douglas County. This large lake and associated wetland complex of open bog, coniferous bog, alder thicket and sedge meadow form the headwaters of the Black River, which flows north to the Nemadji River and eventually into Lake Superior. The shallow Black Lake has a maximum depth of four feet and a muck bottom. Several thousand acres of undisturbed, high quality wetlands surrounding the lake are part of one of the largest roadless blocks in the state. Because of its wild character, this Wetland Gem provides important habitat for a variety of wildlife.

## FLORA & FAUNA

Bog habitats at the site are blanketed by sphagnum mosses. Leatherleaf dominates open bog habitat; other common plants include bog laurel, bog rosemary, small cranberry, round-leaved sundew, few-seeded sedge, few-flowered sedge, boreal bog sedge, and tussock cottongrass. Coniferous bog habitats are characterized by dense stands

of spruce with some tamarack. Underneath this canopy, Labrador tea and three-seeded sedge are common.

Black Lake Bog supports a variety of birds, including short-eared owl, great blue heron, palm warbler, Lincoln's sparrow, common yellowthroat, song sparrow, white-throated sparrow, Nashville warbler, yellow-rumped warbler, sedge wren, and purple finch. Rare birds include Le Conte's sparrow, which has been observed in open, sedge-covered areas, and yellow-bellied flycatcher, found where spruce tree cover is dense. Mammals recorded at this site include beaver, moose and the rare timber wolf.

## THREATS

Heavy deer browsing pressure threatens the regeneration of the site's conifer trees. Increased motorized recreation or road construction in the area could significantly degrade the unusually wild character of this sensitive area.

## ACCESS

Visit the Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program website: [dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna](http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna).



*Short-eared owl — Scott Franke*



*Beaver — Brian Hansen*

## Sources:

Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program (WDNR)  
 Coastal Wetlands of Wisconsin's Great Lakes (WDNR)  
 Wisconsin's Strategy for Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need (WDNR)  
 The Superior Mixed Forest Ecoregion: A Conservation Plan (TNC)