



RUSHES LAKE WETLAND TYPES

Coniferous swamp, coniferous bog, open bog, marsh

Menominee Indian Tribe

MEMONINEE COUNTY



RUSHES LAKE

Property Owner: Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
 Recognitions & Designations: WI Land Legacy Place, WI Bird Conservation Initiative Important Bird Area

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Wisconsin Wetlands Association

wisconsinwetlands.org

ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

Located in eastern Menominee County/Reservation, this Wetland Gem harbors what is considered to be one of the most ecologically diverse forested wetland complexes in Northeast Wisconsin. The site features a complex of nearly 750 wetland acres associated with Rushes Lake, Jackson Creek, Long Marsh and an unnamed lake adjoining Rushes Lake. Rushes Lake is made up of a shallow, soft-water lake surrounded by a vast complex of coniferous bog, open bog and other northern wetland plant communities. Large adjacent areas of upland forest increase the wildlife value of these wetlands, which are home to a number of rare plant and animal species. The Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin considers this site special because of the types of wetlands and diversity of plants and animals. Rushes Lake is a popular destination for tribal hunting and wildlife watching.

FLORA & FAUNA

Rushes Lake is surrounded by a wide, open bog mat of sphagnum moss, sedges, rushes and low shrubs. The mat's soils are peaty and hummocky, providing conditions that support an unusual diversity of plant species. Plants common in the sphagnum mat include bog clubmoss, swamp laurel, bog rosemary, leatherleaf, Labrador tea, speckled alder, cranberry and bulrush. Surrounding the open lake is coniferous bog habitat dominated by tamarack and black spruce with occasional northern white cedar. The upland

forested areas include northern red oak, yellow birch, white birch, red pine, white pine and American beech.

Several mammal species make use of Rushes Lake wetlands, including snowshoe hare, mink, fisher, muskrat, beaver, black bear and deer. Bird species found at the site include robin, white-throated sparrow, Nashville warbler, common yellowthroat, mallard, blue-winged teal, American black duck and cedar waxwing. Game species include the ruffed grouse and eastern wild turkey. The site also supports several rare and interesting bird species, including common loon and American bittern, and has been home to a pair of bald eagles for more than twenty years. Amphibians are numerous and include bull frog, chorus frog, leopard frog, spring peeper and eastern gray tree frog. Snakes include garter, eastern hognose and pine.

THREATS

With the onset of global warming, invasive species have become a serious threat. Invasive plants like reed canary grass and Phragmites (common reed grass) are of particular concern. Future invasion by the emerald ash borer beetle threatens the area site's ash stands. The Menominee Tribe and its partners are developing an invasive species management plan that will be completed in late 2009. Heavy deer browsing pressure threatens the regeneration of the site's conifer trees.

ACCESS

The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin has deemed this area private and not open to the public.



Wolf pup — Menominee Indian Tribe



Western chorus frog — Allen Blake Sheldon

Sources:

Menominee Conservation Fish and Wildlife Department
 Wisconsin Land Legacy Report (WDNR)
 Wisconsin Important Bird Areas (WCBI)