



SULTZ SWAMP WETLAND TYPES

Coniferous bog, open bog

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BAYFIELD COUNTY



ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

Sultz Swamp is a rare acid peatland in the coastal zone, located on the Bayfield Peninsula six miles inland from the Lake Superior coast. This secluded swamp, including extensive black spruce swamp and open bog habitat, is the largest wetland complex of its type in the region. It is also one of the least disturbed wetland complexes of the region because it is embedded within a large area of county forest and its watershed is predominantly forested. Sultz Swamp is listed by Bayfield County as a Designated Wild Area in the county's 10-Year Forest Management Plan. This high quality swamp provides habitat for large populations of several rare species.

FLORA & FAUNA

While the black spruce canopy of this swamp is closed, the understory is quite open. The understory layer supports a variety of plants including Labrador tea, three-leaved false Solomon's seal, creeping snowberry, moccasin flower, blueberries, boreal bog sedge and three-seeded sedge and the ground surface is carpeted

by a layer of sphagnum mosses. Open bog areas at the site, characterized by deep, hummocky layers of peat, have a sprinkling of spruce and tamarack trees and an understory dominated by ericaceous shrubs such as leatherleaf, bog laurel, bog rosemary and small cranberry. Few-seeded sedge, star sedge, tussock sedge and tawny cottongrass are also common here. Rare plants of the site include a large population of the Wisconsin threatened Michaux's sedge and occurrences of the rare swamp pink.

Resident birds of this swamp include solitary vireo, ruby-crowned kinglet, Lincoln's sparrow and palm warbler. Several interesting birds, including yellow-bellied flycatcher, golden-winged warbler, Nashville warbler and ruby-crowned kinglet, and the rare butterfly dorcas copper, have also been documented at the site.

THREATS

Small scatterings of invasive plants like purple loosestrife, Phragmites (common reed grass) and reed canary grass have been noted in disturbed areas of the site. These invasions should be monitored and managed to prevent spread. The main disturbance to the site is a power line corridor, which crosses the swamp from east to west. This corridor could be an invasion pathway for exotic plants that are already on site. Heavy deer browsing pressure threatens the regeneration of the site's conifer trees.

ACCESS

Contact the Bayfield County Forestry Department. Contact information online at: www.bayfieldcounty.org/Forestry-Department.asp.



Palm warbler — Brian Hansen

SULTZ SWAMP

Property Owner: Bayfield County
 Recognitions & Designations: WI Coastal Wetland Inventory Primary Site, WI Wildlife Action Plan Reference Site, The Nature Conservancy Priority Conservation Area

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Sources:

Coastal Wetlands of Wisconsin's Great Lakes (WDNR)
 Priority Wetland Sites of Wisconsin's Lake Superior Basin (WDNR)
 Wisconsin Land Legacy Report (WDNR)
 Wisconsin's Strategy for Wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need (WDNR)