



HORTONVILLE BOG WETLAND TYPES

Open bog, coniferous bog, coniferous swamp, lowland hardwood swamp

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OUTAGAMIE COUNTY



HORTONVILLE BOG

Property Owner: WDNR

Recognitions & Designations: WI State Natural Area, WI Wildlife Action Plan Reference Site

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ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

Hortonville Bog is one of the highest quality bogs in southern Wisconsin. The open bog habitat at this site is not only high quality, but is also especially extensive for this region. This Wetland Gem is located in west central Outagamie County, and is approximately 640 acres in size. At the center of the site is an acidic open bog with a deep sphagnum moss layer. There is no open water, but the ground is very spongy and hummocky. Surrounding the open bog is a ring of coniferous bog, which is surrounded by coniferous swamp. Because of the site's unusually pristine condition and the sensitivity of the vegetation, there is no public access to the property.

FLORA & FAUNA

The open bog in the center of the site has a dense layer of sphagnum moss with herbs like tussock cottongrass and few-seeded sedge. A dense shrub layer of leatherleaf and Labrador tea is interrupted by sparsely scattered saplings of tamarack, black spruce and white pine. The ring of coniferous bog has a sparse canopy of black spruce and tamarack with a subcanopy of black spruce, tamarack and some white pine. The shrub layer is sparse with leatherleaf, Labrador tea, velvet-leaved blueberry and bog laurel. The ground layer includes dense sphagnum moss and herbs such as tussock cottongrass, tawny

cottongrass, few-seeded sedge, three-seeded sedge, three-leaf false solomon's seal and cranberry. The bog hosts several species of birds characteristic of northern bog communities including winter wren, Canada warbler, Nashville warbler, white-throated sparrow, sharp-shinned hawk, northern waterthrush and Lincoln's sparrow. Two rare butterflies, two-spotted skipper and broad-winged skipper, are known in this area and likely use the site's wetland habitats. White-tailed deer are common here.

THREATS

The eastern and western ends of these wetlands have been ditched and disturbed. Agriculture and low density residential development on adjacent lands may impact this bog. Deer trails on the site are evidence of substantial deer use and may indicate potential for impacts to native vegetation, especially regeneration of conifer trees.

ACCESS

This site is not suitable for visitation by the general public because of sensitive natural resources. Contact the State Natural Areas Program for information: dnr.wi.gov/land/er/sna.



Sphagnum mosses — Drew Feldkirchner



Winter wren — Scott Franke

Sources:

Wisconsin State Natural Areas Program (WDNR)
Wisconsin Land Legacy Report (WDNR)
A Users Guide to Public Wildlife Recreation Along the Lower Wolf River (WDNR)