

Sensitive Area Designation Surveys



Sensitive area designation surveys are designed to identify and protect important fish and wildlife habitat. The surveys can also be used as a tool for lake protection. Sensitive area designation surveys are an integrated approach to resource management, utilizing the expertise of many DNR resource managers. Resource experts identify locations around a lake which are critical to the future health and balance of the lake's ecosystem. Sensitive area surveys provide lake organizations, shoreline property owners, county zoning officials, DNR personnel, and other interested individuals with specific management recommendations that can be used to help protect these areas and improve the overall health of lakes.

Sensitive areas are often located in areas that consist of:

- terrestrial vegetation
- aquatic/wetland vegetation
- gravel/rubble lake substrate
- woody cover

These areas provide water quality benefits to the lake and provide habitat that is necessary for seasonal and/or life stage requirements of fish, invertebrates and wildlife. Aquatic and terrestrial plants also help to reduce shoreline erosion. A 'designated sensitive area' alerts interested individuals such as DNR personnel, county zoning personnel and lake associations that the area contains critical habitat vital to sustaining a healthy lake ecosystem and/or features an endangered plant or animal. In these areas permit reviews and decisions regarding activities that may impact the resource are reviewed closely by management personnel. Information presented in a sensitive area report may discourage certain permits from being approved within these sites or may require

specific conditions for approval.

On July 17th, 2001 a sensitive area survey was conducted on Long and Bass Lakes in Lincoln County. A total of 10 sensitive areas were designated on these lakes. Many of the sites were selected because of aquatic/terrestrial vegetation, quality fish habitat beneficial to both game and non-game species, and quality wildlife habitat. Copies of the Long and Bass Lakes Sensitive Area Designation Report, and data collected to compile the report, can be obtained from the Rhinelander DNR Service Center.

The DNR has scheduled a sensitive area designation survey on McCarthy Lake in Lincoln County that will be conducted in August of 2002. For more information regarding sensitive area designations you may contact Jennifer Wudi at 715-365-8937.

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APPENDIX A

