

# Town of Delta Year 2025 Comprehensive Plan

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Appendix A: The History of Delta, Wisconsin
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Appendix C: Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Law
Appendix D: Existing Land Use Classification System

# 1. Issues and Opportunities

The *Issues and Opportunities* element of the comprehensive plan provides background information on the town planning process, a summary of the issues facing the town, and an analysis of the town's population. Public participation efforts, community goals, and forecasts for the future will be discussed.

## 1.1 Introduction

The Town of Delta is a remote, rural community in northwestern Wisconsin (see Map 1-1). The town's landscape is a rolling expanse of seemingly endless forest. Breaking the expanse is a small farming area in the northeast, the White River and its tributaries, and more than 50 lakes of varying sizes and depths. Most of the town's development is circled around these lakes. Delta is home not only to individuals who support the local tourism and recreation industry, but also to growing numbers of education, finance, medical, and other professionals.

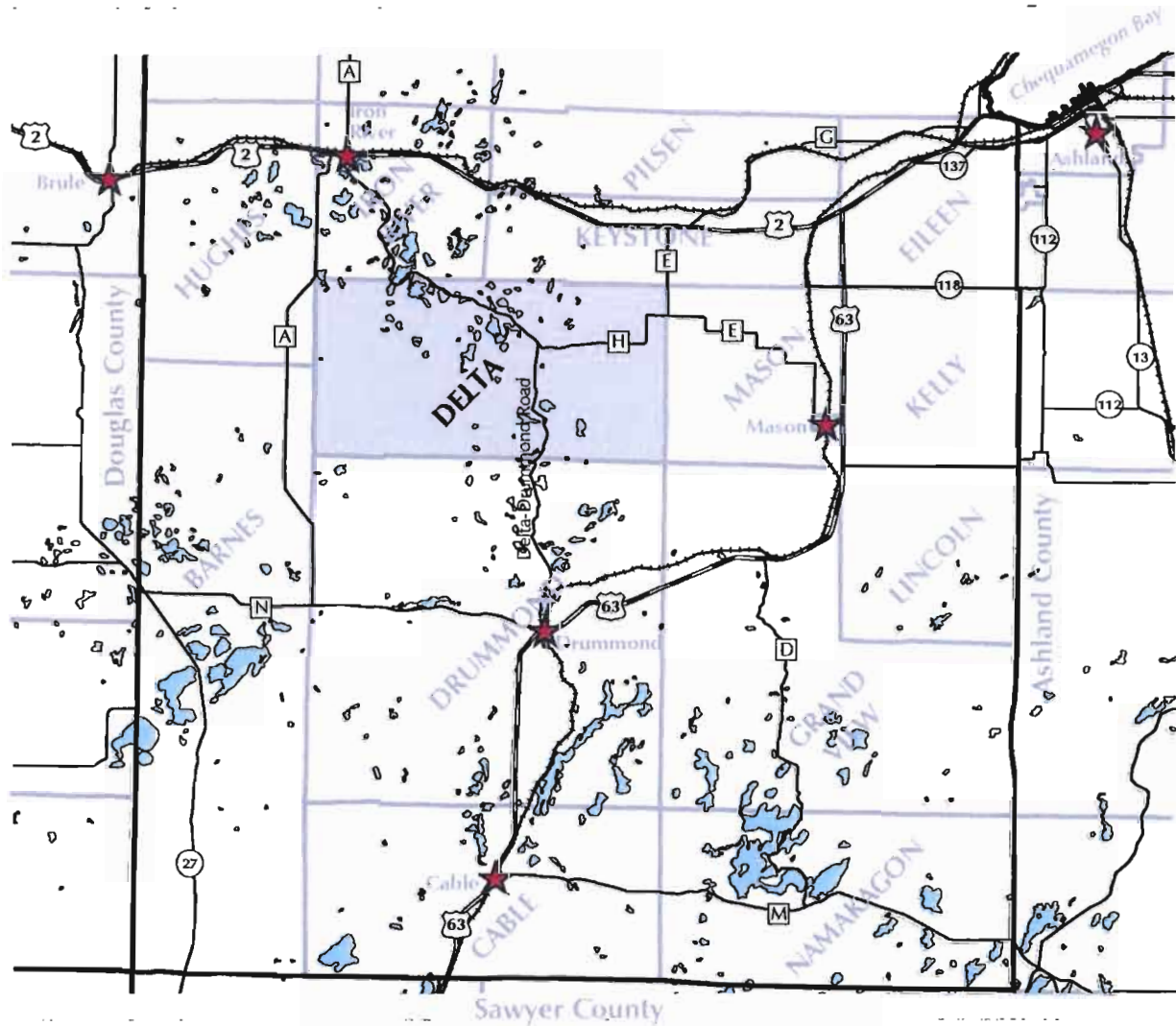
Major influences in the town include a significant presence of non-resident property owners, a tourism and recreation based economy, and the almost overwhelming presence of public lands. Recreational properties are used seasonally by residents of the surrounding region, drawn to Delta from larger metropolitan areas of Wisconsin and Minnesota. Delta is a destination for hunters, hikers, snowmobiles, ATVs, anglers, and a wide variety of other recreationists that come in search of lakes, trout streams, and wild lands. They have no trouble accessing natural resources, with more than 20 thousand acres of federal and state land available within the town. The Chequamegon National Forest and White River State Fishery Area occupy just over one half of the town's land area.

## 1.2 Initiation of the Planning Process

In May of 2002, the Town of Delta Plan Commission and Town Board took action to begin a comprehensive planning process. The town's planning process was initiated to provide tools for the management of growth and development. Significant housing growth, conversion of resorts to condominium ownership, the sale of large blocks of forest land, changing zoning regulations at the county level, and the need for a basis for decision making on these issues were all drivers in motivating the town to develop a comprehensive plan. The development of this plan will also help facilitate compliance with Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning law (Wis. Stats. 66.1001) and provide a more detailed level of planning for the town than was accomplished in the Bayfield County Land Use Plan. Refer to the *Implementation* element for more details on compliance with Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning law.

The Town of Delta initiated this comprehensive plan development process under the authority of Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning legislation, Wis. Stats. 66.1001. The Town also acted under the authority of Wis. Stats. 60.22(3) (village powers) and Wis. Stats. 61.35 (village planning). The Town of Delta was granted village powers at its annual meeting in 1979 and has been operating as such since April 11, 1979.

# Map 1-1 TOWN OF DELTA IN THE REGIONAL SETTING Bayfield County, Wisconsin



0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

This drawing is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This drawing is a compilation of records, information, and data used for reference purposes only.

Source: State of Wisconsin



In October of 2002, the Town of Delta was awarded two Lake Planning Grants by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to assist with funding of the comprehensive plan development project. The large number of lakes and the pristine quality of the town's waterways were instrumental in gaining approval for the grant funding.



## **Lake Connections**

Lakes related data, issues, trends, and recommendations found throughout the Town of Delta Comprehensive Plan will be highlighted with this logo in order to demonstrate the importance of water quality in the Town of Delta and to meet the intent of the Lake Planning Grants awarded by the Department of Natural Resources.

### **1.3 Issue Identification**

In November of 2002, the Town of Delta Plan Commission completed a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis to identify issues facing the town relative to growth and development. SWOT analysis is a brainstorming session that involves quick identification of community issues and often reveals a great deal about the community. For example, the exercise often reveals that the same characteristics of the community are viewed as both positive and negative issues. This can be the result of differing opinions of the participants, but more often is the result of the complexity of the issues facing a community.

For the Town of Delta, its remote location and publicly owned lands are the primary source of issues. Remoteness is viewed as a positive when considering the recreational opportunities and the quality of the natural resources in the town. However, remoteness is a challenge when considering the availability of medical care and jobs. The large areas of federal and state owned lands are also linked to recreational opportunities and natural resources, but can pose threats when considering the impact on the town's ability to raise revenue through property taxes.

Strengths and weaknesses are positives and negatives **internal** to the town. The following strengths and weaknesses were identified:

#### **Strengths**

- ♦ Good school district
- ♦ Good roads – well maintained and good signage
- ♦ Low density of housing
- ♦ Good groundwater and surface water quality – springs
- ♦ Reliable power and phone service
- ♦ Wild lands (Chequamegon National Forest, White River State Fishery Area)
- ♦ Recreation opportunities (resorts, hunting, fishing, biking, ATV's, snowmobiles, canoeing, boating, hiking)
- ♦ Little crime – safe area
- ♦ Good property values
- ♦ Available natural resources (timber, gravel)



## Weaknesses

- ♦ Lack of access to a 4-lane road
- ♦ Lack of jobs for younger people
- ♦ Lack of jobs
- ♦ High cost of living
- ♦ Long distance to medical care
- ♦ Long distance to county services – courthouse
- ♦ Long distance to major markets
- ♦ Many commute long distances
- ♦ Remoteness
- ♦ Lack of involvement in community decisions
- ♦ Cold climate challenge for older population
- ♦ Too much land owned by government
- ♦ Lack of tax base
- ♦ Lack of representation on County Board – district boundary changes



### Lake Connections

Delta Strengths:  
Good groundwater and surface  
water quality.

Delta Opportunities:  
Water recreation draws people  
to the town.

Opportunities and threats are **external** to the town and may be based on assumptions about the future. The following opportunities and threats were identified:

## Opportunities

- ♦ Good place to retire if healthy
- ♦ Good place to live
- ♦ Untapped agricultural opportunities
- ♦ Intelligent community members to draw from in decision making
- ♦ Friendly community members
- ♦ Gravel resources available
- ♦ Water recreation will continue to draw people to the town
- ♦ Resource based industries could locate in the town
- ♦ Large tracts of land may be available for sale in the future
- ♦ Land prices relatively low
- ♦ State and federal owned lands currently underutilized

## Threats

- ♦ DNR determining wetlands as lake bed
- ♦ Presence of threatened and endangered species limits use of land
- ♦ Private septic systems have limited lifetime in local soils
- ♦ Replacement of septic systems getting more difficult – changing rules
- ♦ Nonconforming lots and structures on water
- ♦ Uncontrolled development
- ♦ Extreme environmental groups influencing regulations
- ♦ Bayfield County Zoning constantly changing shoreland zoning regulations and ignoring grandfathering



The issues and opportunities identified by the Plan Commission and the public are vitally important to the development of their plan. These issues will be addressed by the goals and objectives set forth for each of the planning elements, and ultimately will be connected to the policies and recommendations created to guide the town for the next 20 to 25 years.

## **1.4 Public Participation**

Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning legislation, Wis. Stats. 66.1001, establishes a framework that requires public participation before comprehensive plans can be adopted by a community. The following public participation efforts are required:

- ♦ The governing body of a local governmental unit shall adopt written procedures that are designed to foster public participation, including open discussion, communication programs, information services and public meetings for which advance notice has been provided, in every stage of the preparation of a comprehensive plan.
- ♦ Written procedures shall provide an opportunity for written comments on the plan to be submitted by members of the public to the governing body and for the governing body to respond to such written comments.

A Town of Delta Public Participation Plan was adopted by the Town Board. This plan includes public participation objectives which the town utilized to gauge its success in providing abundant public participation opportunities throughout the development of the Town of Delta Comprehensive Plan.

### **Public Participation Plan**

Appendix B contains the Town of Delta Public Participation Plan as adopted by the Town Board. This plan includes public participation objectives which the town utilized throughout the development of the *Town of Delta Year 2025 Comprehensive Plan* to gauge its success in providing abundant public participation opportunities. The town set objectives in four areas: points of contact, variety of methods, purpose of methods, and response rate. Prior to the public hearing on the draft plan, the town had already met many of its public participation objectives.

#### **1. Points of Contact**

Of an anticipated 1200 points of public contact, there had been 1188 recorded in the form of surveys responded to, mailed meeting invitations, and public attendance of planning meetings. The rate of return on the public opinion survey was better than anticipated, but meeting attendance was lower than hoped for. Citizen attendance of the working meetings of the plan commission was the largest proportionate shortfall. Better attendance of these meetings would have aided in providing citizens with an in-depth understanding of the planning process. Citizen attendance of the public informational meetings was only slightly lower than anticipated. An objective of 100 people was set, and a total of 84 attended two public informational meetings. This provided a substantial number of citizens with the opportunity to interact directly in the planning process.

Potential points of contact	Objective	Actual (to date)
Mailed public opinion survey	213	246
Mailed public open house invitations	850	850
Informational meeting attendance	100	84
Plan commission meeting attendance	20	8
Public hearing attendance	17	11
Total:	1200	1199

## 2. Variety of Methods

Assuming that a public hearing will be held and written comments will be responded to, the town will have fully met its objectives for the variety of outreach methods. In addition to the 12 methods identified as mandatory, the town also elected to utilize a planning process newsletter that included answers to many of the questions that arose in the period of time between the two public informational meetings.

## 3. Purpose of Methods

The town has fully met its objectives for the purpose of public outreach methods. The methods employed have accomplished public awareness, public education, public input, and public interaction. The highest level of desired involvement, public interaction, was achieved at the public informational meetings. These meetings were both held during the summer months to maximize public interaction opportunities for both permanent and seasonal residents.

## 4. Response Rate

This objective is the largest remaining responsibility for the town. A public comment period of at least 30 days will take place before the public hearing. The Town of Delta will strive to respond to 100% of the public comments received on the draft comprehensive plan before making a decision to adopt the plan.

## Community Survey

A major component of the Town of Delta's public participation process began in January of 2003 with the mailing of a written survey to every town property owner. The Town of Delta Plan Commission created the survey and compiled the results. Of the 419 surveys mailed, 246 were returned representing a very substantial response rate of 59 percent.

The 38 question survey sought opinions relative to existing conditions in the town and attitudes toward growth and development within the context of several of the comprehensive planning elements. Significant agreement in the responses appeared throughout the survey results and occurred in the areas of the town's future vision, growth and development, regulations and codes, and outdoor recreation. Highlights of the survey are included within the *Town of Delta Year 2025 Comprehensive Plan*.

## Future Vision

Property owners were asked to rank the top five issues facing the Town of Delta. The issues that appeared most frequently in the top five were:

(Issue and percent of respondents who included this in their top five issues.)

1. Property taxes. (83%)

2. Protecting lakes and streams. (74%)

3. Maintain rural northwoods character. (74%)

4. Improve roads. (37%)

5. Improved zoning enforcement.  
(33%)

Property owners were asked questions that broadly addressed the general character and future direction of the town. Some of the strongest responses were:

The preservation of farmland is important in the Town of Delta. (64%)

The protection of natural resources (woodlands, wetlands, water, etc) is important in the Town of Delta. (87%)

## Growth and Development

Property owners were asked for their opinions regarding several aspects of potential future development. Some of the strongest responses were:

The construction of roads in new developments should be paid for by the developers. (80%)

The town should not develop an airport. (77%)

Single family homes should not be grouped in one area of a parcel to conserve open space (known as cluster development). (59%)

Opinions on commercial development such as retail stores, wholesale stores, and service businesses were not significantly different.

In favor.	(45%)	Opposed.	(46%)
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Commercial recreational development  
(campgrounds, resorts) is not desirable in the Town  
of Delta. (56%)

Home based businesses should be developed. (68%)

Industrial development is not desirable in the town.  
(55%)

The Town of Delta should not provide financial incentives to attract  
new business development. (80%)

Utility development (electrical transmission lines,  
natural gas pipelines, etc.) is not desirable in the  
Town of Delta. (56%)

Property owners were asked to choose the top three types of housing development that they would like to see in the future. The following were the most frequent responses:

(Type of housing and percent of respondents who included this in their top three choices.)

Single family homes. (65%)

Seasonal/recreational homes. (52%)

None. (35%)

Elderly housing. (20%)

## Regulations and Codes

Property owners were asked for their opinions relative to several potential areas of regulation that could be addressed by the town. The strongest responses were:

The town should adopt a policy on future subdivision developments in addition to existing county regulations. (54%)

This is no need for more stringent construction standards for new building. (55%)

The Town of Delta should adopt standards for mobile homes addressing foundation, skirting, age, and size. (70%)

The town should adopt regulations that apply to the development of mobile home parks. (78%)

The Town of Delta should restrict minimum lot sizes on land that is not under shoreland zoning. (69%)

The minimum lot size for off-water parcels should be 5 acres. (53%)

The town should adopt standards for sand/gravel pit locations and operations. (75%)

Opinions were not significantly different regarding whether the town should adopt more restrictive standards for signs and billboards than the county.

In favor.	(42%)	Opposed.	(46%)
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Town property tax revenue should not be used to pay for the enforcement of town ordinances. (92%)

## Outdoor Recreation

Property owners were asked for their opinions regarding several aspects of outdoor recreation. The strongest responses were:

Additional ATV trails are not desirable in the town.  
(57%)

Additional snowmobile trails are not desirable in the town.  
(59%)

Additional skiing and walking trails are desirable in the town.  
(53%)

Opinions on additional biking trails were not significantly different.

In favor.	(41%)	Opposed.	(45%)
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Opinions on the use of snowmobiles on town roads were not significantly different.

In favor.	(47%)	Opposed.	(45%)
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Opinions on the use of ATVs on town roads were not significantly different.

In favor.	(46%)	Opposed.	(48%)
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These survey responses will give the town its initial sense of direction. Responses to the broad concepts will aid in the development of a vision for the future as well as plan goals and objectives. Responses to the more specific questions will help the town craft its policy statements and implementation plan.

## **Public Informational Meetings**

The first of two public informational meetings was held May 29, 2003 at the Delta Town Hall. Invitations to this meeting were mailed directly to every property owner in the town, and approximately 43 people attended. The primary objectives of this meeting were to report on the work completed to date and to obtain feedback on the town's draft goals and objectives and on a conceptual draft of the preferred land use map. The results of these meetings should be viewed as one more piece of the total body of public participation. This format of public participation is advantageous in that the discussion leads to well thought out feedback. However, only a small

number of people are represented. Fewer people attended the public informational meetings than responded to the public opinion survey, for example. These results alone were not used to guide development of the plan. Where the results of this meeting were consistent with the results of other public participation, they were used by the plan commission to further refine the goals, objectives, and preferred land use map and to begin crafting the town's policies and implementation plan. Some of the key results included:

- ♦ Strong support for the re-establishment of a mixed-use town center.
- ♦ Support for the adoption of commercial design review standards.
- ♦ Affirmation of the survey results that indicate that the desired overall development pattern should be scattered versus clustered or concentrated.
- ♦ Support for directing residential development away from productive farmland, forests, and environmentally sensitive areas.
- ♦ Strong support for continuing to work with Bayfield County in order to achieve the town's desired pattern of land use.
- ♦ Strong support for implementation tools that can be administered by the plan commission.
- ♦ Strong support for much of the content of the conceptual preferred land use map.



### **Lake Connections**

Surface water quality issues were a focus of one portion of the first public informational meeting. Those in attendance were asked to identify a waterway with which they were most familiar or to consider waterways in the town in general. They were then asked to rate the top 5 issues facing those bodies of water. This activity was intended to provide a broad survey of potential issues that could serve as a starting point for more detailed study at a later date. The results represent the opinions of a few individuals and are not statistically representative of the town as a whole. Overall, the most frequently selected statements were:

1. Balancing use of waterways between quiet uses and powered uses.
2. No issues. These waterways are perfect.
3. Lack of fish or wildlife.

The second public informational meeting was held August 28, 2003 at the Delta Town Hall. Invitations to this meeting were mailed directly to every property owner in the town, and approximately 41 people attended. The primary objectives of this meeting were to report on the work completed to date and to obtain feedback on the town's draft policies, implementation strategy, and land use plan. This public informational meeting had a more open format than the first one. There were no questionnaires. The presented material was followed by an open discussion period. Those attending could ask questions related to any aspect of the presented material or the planning process as a whole.

A detailed report of the results of these meetings can be found in Appendix B.



## **Newsletter**

The invitation to the August public informational meeting was accompanied by a newsletter that provided additional information on the planning process, Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning law, and how the plan might affect the town after adoption. After the first public informational meeting, Plan Commission and Town Board members sensed the need to provide additional information to town residents and property owners. In response to this need, it was determined that a newsletter would be the most effective tool to answer the most frequently raised questions.

## **Plan Commission Meetings**

Twelve meetings of the Town Plan Commission were held throughout the planning process. These meetings were the vehicle for completing most of the plan drafting work. Activities included reviewing draft documents, selecting goals, objectives, and policies, reviewing implementation options, and preparing for the public informational meetings. These meetings were posted, held at the town hall, and open to the public. Minutes of these meetings can be requested from the Town Clerk. Although few members of the public actually attended, all results of the plan commission working meetings were presented at the public informational meetings. The meetings of the plan commission dedicated to work on the comprehensive plan included:

October 8, 2002	April 24, 2003
November 11, 2002	June 19, 2003
November 19, 2002	July 23, 2003
February 13, 2003	August 17, 2003
March 13, 2003	October 23, 2003
April 10, 2003	November 20, 2003

## **Public Hearing**

A public hearing was held before the Town Board on June 26, 2004 to consider adoption of the plan as recommended by the Plan Commission. This hearing was posted and advertised by a Class 1 notice and provided compliance with the public hearing requirement of Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning law (Wis. Stats. 66.1001). A summary of the planning process and plan was presented, but most of the time was reserved for public comment and open discussion. No substantive changes to the draft comprehensive plan were requested as a result of the public hearing or registered in writing during the 60 day public comment period.

## **1.5 Demographics**

Monitoring population growth is a primary tool in tracking change and predicting future growth and change within a community. Population characteristics relate directly to the town's housing, educational, utility, community, and recreational facility needs, as well as future economic development and transportation demands. Over time, fluctuations in the regional economy, housing markets, and other trends can also influence population change.

**Table 1-1: Population Trends, Town of Delta, 1970-2000**

Census Count				# Change		
1970	1980	1990	2000	1970-80	1980-90	1990-00
150	205	215	235	55	10	20

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970-2000.

Table 1-1 displays population trends for the Town of Delta from 1970 to 2000. The town has experienced steady, but growing population levels over the 30 year period. From 1970 to 1980, the town's population increased by 55 persons, however in the following decade population only increased by 10 persons. From 1990 to 2000, population increased by 20 persons. Overall, population within the town has increased moderately.

### Comparative Population Trends

Table 1-2 displays a comparison of the Town of Delta's population to the Towns of Drummond and Mason, the Village of Mason, Bayfield County, and the State of Wisconsin. Similarly, Figure 1-1 depicts the comparative population change during the period for the Town of Delta, Bayfield County, and the State of Wisconsin.

**Table 1-2: Comparative Population Change, Town of Delta and Selected Areas, 1970-2000**

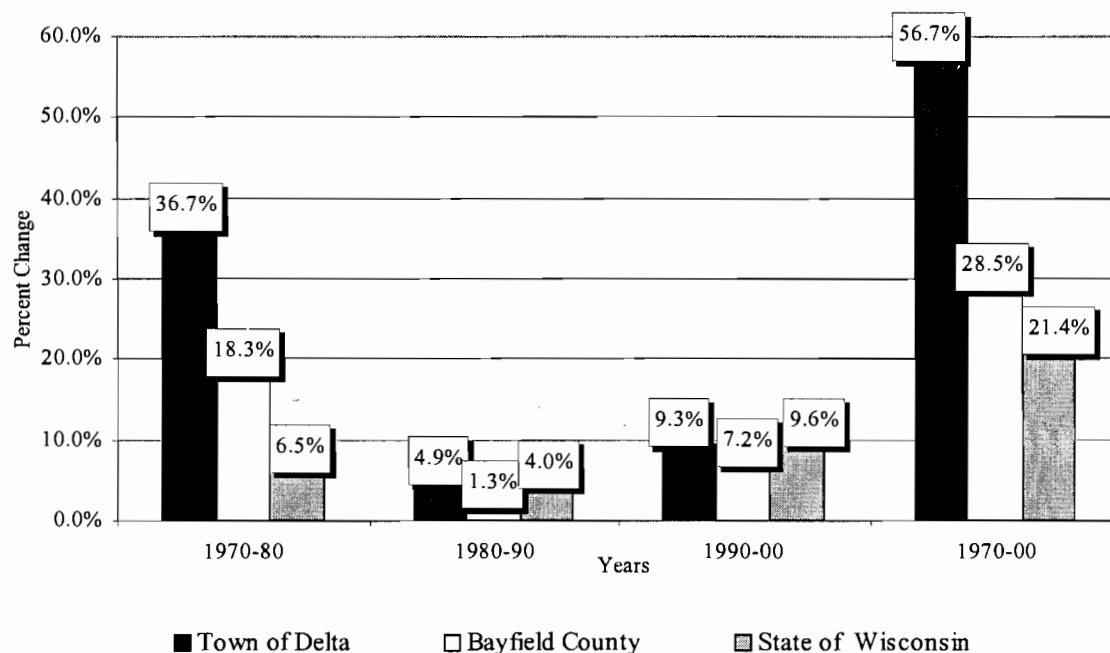
	1970	1980	1990	2000	% Change 1970-80	% Change 1980-90	% Change 1990-00	% Change 1970-00
Town of Delta	150	205	215	235	36.7%	4.9%	9.3%	56.7%
Town of Drummond	349	442	417	541	26.6%	-5.7%	29.7%	55.0%
Town of Mason	304	304	296	326	0.0%	-2.6%	10.1%	7.2%
Village of Mason	119	102	102	72	-14.3%	0.0%	-29.4%	-39.5%
Bayfield County	11,683	13,822	14,008	15,013	18.3%	1.3%	7.2%	28.5%
State of Wisconsin	4,417,731	4,705,642	4,891,769	5,363,675	6.5%	4.0%	9.6%	21.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970-2000.

When compared to the other areas shown, the Town of Delta experienced the greatest percentage of population growth from 1970 to 2000. The Town of Drummond also experienced a significant overall population growth for the 30 year period. However, the Town of Mason and Village of Mason experienced minimal and negative population growth, respectively.

Population growth within the county was greatest during the 1970s and greater than the State for the 30 year period shown.

**Figure 1-1: Comparative Population Change, Town of Delta, Bayfield County, and Wisconsin, 1970-2000**



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1970-2000.

### Population by Age Cohort

Table 1-3 displays the distribution of the population by age groups for 1990 and 2000 within Delta. A shifting age structure affects a variety of services and needs within the community including housing, elderly care, and schools.

**Table 1-3: Population by Age Cohort, Town of Delta, 1990-2000**

Age	1990		2000		% Change 1990-00
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	
Under 5	15	7.0%	14	6.0%	-6.7%
5-19	31	14.4%	33	14.0%	6.5%
20-44	62	28.8%	62	26.4%	0.0%
45-64	60	27.9%	64	27.2%	6.7%
65+	47	21.9%	62	26.4%	31.9%
Total	215	100.0%	235	100.0%	9.3%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990-2000.

For the period shown, the age structure in the Town of Delta has shifted slightly to older age groups with a 31.9% increase in the 65+ age group. The 2000 median age of residents in the

town was 46.1 years. The median age for Bayfield County was 42.1 and the median age for Wisconsin was 36.0.

### **General Population Trends**

The Town of Delta, as well as Bayfield County, is experiencing trends similar to many other northern and more seasonal communities in Wisconsin. The following factors were identified in the *Bayfield County Land Use Plan* as factors affecting population and demographic change.

Growing population of elderly (age 65 and over) inhabitants who remain, have family or other ties to the area:

- ♦ An influx of 35 to 54 year olds who are generally well educated, without children or with few children, and seek a tranquil setting to reside or start a business;
- ♦ An out-migration of retired individuals (age 65 to 84) who have spent their work careers in the area but seek to retire elsewhere and maintain their residence as a seasonal home;
- ♦ An increase of retired individuals (65 and over) who have spent their working career elsewhere and are now establishing a residence in the county or converting their summer home or seasonal dwelling into a permanent residence;
- ♦ A decrease in infants born into or moving with families into the county;
- ♦ An overall decrease in persons between the ages of 15 and 34; as this age group is most likely to seek employment and educational opportunities elsewhere.

### **Education Levels**

The educational attainment level of persons in a community is often an indicator of the overall income, job availability, and well-being of a community. According to the 2000 Census, approximately 83% of town residents age 25 and over have attained a high school or higher level of education (compare to 85% for the State of Wisconsin). Approximately 31% have attained a bachelor, or higher, degree (compare to 22% for the State of Wisconsin). For further labor force information refer to the *Economic Development* element.

### **Income Levels**

According to the 2000 Census, the largest segment of town residents, 23.4%, had a household income between \$15,000 and \$24,999. The greatest portion of county residents, 19.5%, had an income between \$35,000 and \$49,999. The town's median household income was \$4,289 higher than the county's. The town had a lower number of households with an income of less than \$10,000 and a significant number of households within the \$50,000 to \$74,999 income category contributing to the town's higher median income.

## **Employment Characteristics**

According to the 2000 Census, the greatest percentage of employment for the town and the county was within the educational, health, and social services economic sector, 31.6% and 22.4% respectively. The second largest economic sector for the town and the county was arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food service, 14.3% and 12.8% respectively. These economic trends indicate the seasonal nature of the economy and dependence upon tourism and seasonal visitors. For further economic and labor force information refer to the *Economic Development* element.

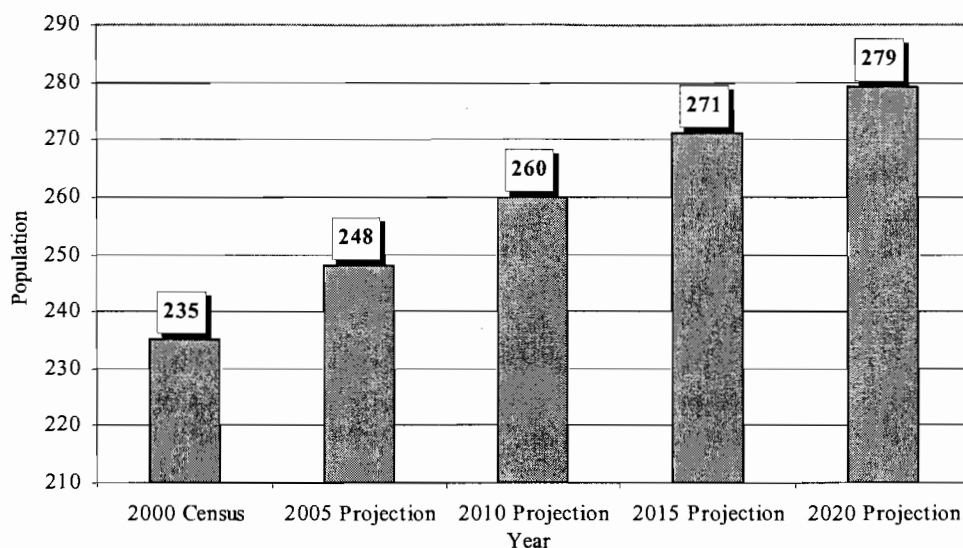
## **1.6 Trends and Forecasts**

Population projections are based on past and current population trends, and their reliability depends on the continuation of these past growth trends. Projections should be considered as one of many tools used to help anticipate and predict future needs within the town. Population levels are subject to the town's physical conditions, environmental concerns, land use, zoning restrictions, taxation, and other political policies that influence business and personal location decisions.

Every ten years, when the U.S. Bureau of the Census releases Census information for the State of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA) Demographics Services Center prepares baseline population projections for the communities and counties of Wisconsin. The WDOA takes approximately three years to release projection information after new census data are released. The WDOA utilizes a projection formula that calculates the annual population change over three varying time spans. From this formula, the average annual numerical population change is calculated, which is used to give communities preliminary population projections for a future date.

The WDOA has released preliminary population projections that utilize the 2000 Census.

**Figure 1-2: WDOA Preliminary Population Projections, Town of Delta, 2000-2020**

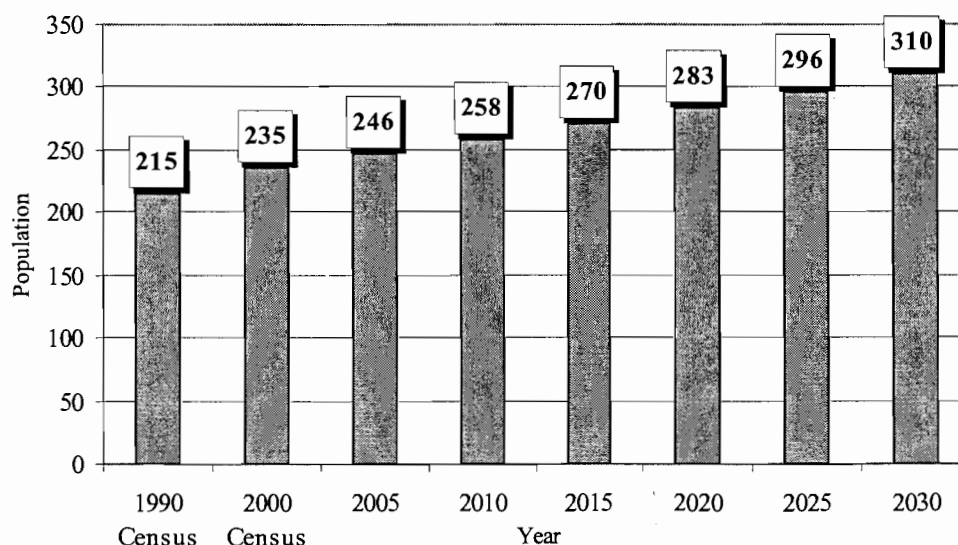


Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographics Services Center, Wisconsin Preliminary Population Projections, 2000-2020, October 2003.

### Linear Population Projections

Figure 1-3 illustrates the census counts from 1990 and 2000 and a linear projection that was calculated by taking the percent change between the census counts and projecting the trend on an annual basis to the year 2030.

**Figure 1-3: Linear Population Projections, Town of Delta, 1990-2030**



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990-2000. Foth & Van Dyke, 2002.

It is estimated that the town's population in the year 2030 will reach 310 persons, an increase of 31.9% from the 2000 Census count.

Population projections in the Bayfield County Land Use Plan, created by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, estimate the town's population to reach 282 persons by 2020. This projection is nearly identical to the linear projection identified in Figure 1-3.

Projections should be used only as guidance for estimating future population growth. It is likely that future town population levels will fall somewhere within the provided projections.

Preliminary population projections to the year 2030 have been completed for the state by the WDOA. Primary trends are as follows:

- ♦ Wisconsin's population in 2030 is projected to be 6.35 million, nearly one million more than the 2000 census count of 5.36 million.
- ♦ The pre-school and school-aged populations together – ages 0 through 17 – will decrease slightly from 1,369,000 in 2000 to 1,320,000 in 2010, and then increase steadily to 1,430,000 in 2030.
- ♦ The working age population – ages 18 through 64 – will peak in 2015 at 3.67 million and then decline slightly by 2030 to 3.60 million (but still 300,000 above the 2000 census count).
- ♦ The number of births in Wisconsin will show an increase from under 350,000 in the 2000-2005 period to approximately 385,000 in the three five-year periods after 2015. The volume of deaths, however, will increase substantially due to the aging population. Consequently, natural increase, the excess of births over deaths, will decline from 127,000 in the first half of the 2010s to a little over 85,000 in the second half of the 2020s.
- ♦ The age 65-plus population will increase slowly up to 2010, and then grow dramatically as the Baby Boomers join the ranks of the elderly. Wisconsin's elderly population will expand by more than 600,000 over the 30-year period from 703,000 in 2000 to 1,327,000 in 2030. Senior citizens formed 13% of the state's total population in 2000. Their proportion will rise to 21% in 2030.
- ♦ The population aged 85 and over is projected at 157,000 in 2030, an increase of 61,000 – or nearly 65% - over their 2000 tally of 96,000.

While these trends are projected for the state as a whole it is anticipated that many of these will also affect the Town of Delta.

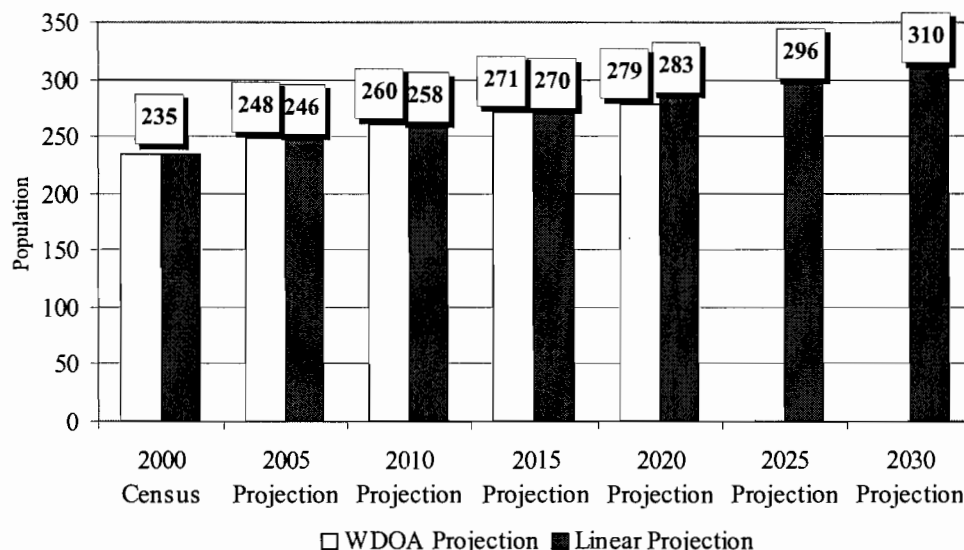
### **Comparative Population Projections**

Figure 1-4 displays both the WDOA preliminary population projection and the linear population projection for the Town of Delta.



The projections displayed in Figure 1-4 should be used only as guidance for estimating future population growth. It is likely that future town population levels will fall somewhere between the results of the various projections provided.

**Figure 1-4: Comparative Population Projections, Town of Delta, 1990-2030**



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990-2000. Foth & Van Dyke, 2002. Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographics Services Center, Wisconsin Preliminary Population Projections, 2000-2020, October 2003.

Population projections within the Bayfield County Land Use Plan, created by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, estimate the town's population to reach 282 persons by 2020. This projection is nearly identical to the linear projection and also very close to the WDOA preliminary projection.

### Household Trends

Data provided by the 1990 and 2000 census indicate a trend toward fewer persons per household throughout the State of Wisconsin. These trends hold true in Bayfield County, where persons per household has decreased by nearly 3 percent, and in the Town of Delta where the drop was closer to 4 percent. This trend is likely related to smaller family sizes and a growing number of retired persons remaining in single family homes. The trend toward fewer persons per household is likely to continue into the future, but is difficult to forecast with any certainty.

**Table 1-4: Persons Per Household, Town of Delta and Bayfield County, 1990-2000**

	1990	2000	% Change 1990-2000
Town of Delta	2.31	2.21	-4.3%
Bayfield County	2.52	2.45	-2.8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990-2000.

### **Employment Forecasts**

In January of 2001, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (WDWD) released a publication entitled *Wisconsin Projections, 1998-2008*. This publication makes economic projections for the state regarding the labor force, industries and occupations. Some of these predictions will likely influence local and regional employment trends.

According to the WDWD projections, the top five industries adding the most new jobs from 1998 to 2008 will be the business service industry, health services, educational services, social services and miscellaneous retail stores. The top five occupations with the most job openings for the same period are cashiers, retail salespersons, waiters and waitresses, general office clerks and general managers/top executives. More detailed information on local and regional employment trends can be found in the *Economic Development* element.

## **1.7 Issues and Opportunities Goals and Objectives**

Community goals are broad, value-based statements expressing public preferences for the long term (20 years or more). They specifically address key issues, opportunities, and problems that affect the community.

Objectives are more specific than goals and are measurable statements usually attainable through direct action and implementation of plan recommendations. The accomplishment of objectives contributes to fulfillment of the goal.

**Goal 1) Strengthen local control of land use decisions and maintain the ability to guide the town's destiny.**

### ***Supporting Objectives***

- ♦ Utilize the town's comprehensive plan as a tool to guide and support town actions and decisions.
- ♦ Support the Wisconsin Towns Association and be active in local, district, and state meetings.
- ♦ Request that county government amend its decision-making procedures to be consistent with the town's comprehensive plan.

**Goal 2)      Balance appropriate land use regulations and individual property rights with community interests and goals.**

***Supporting Objectives***

- ♦ Develop land use planning and protection strategies based on public input received throughout the plan development process and ongoing public participation efforts after the plan is adopted.
- ♦ Improve the town's land use review process to ensure that all interested parties are afforded an opportunity to influence the outcome, and to objectively examine development proposals.
- ♦ Promote flexibility in land use controls by exploring incentive based approaches and by allowing mitigation of potential negative impacts to produce win-win outcomes.

**Goal 3)      Increase community awareness, support and involvement in land use planning and water quality protection efforts.**

***Supporting Objectives***

- ♦ Create opportunities for citizen participation throughout all stages of plan and ordinance development and amendment.
- ♦ Improve public access to and understanding of available maps and other information related to town natural resources and the benefits and functions that they provide.
- ♦ Develop and provide educational materials on topics pertinent to town goals, objectives, policies, and land use controls.
- ♦ Utilize a variety of media to announce upcoming meetings and events such as Lake Association newsletters, local newspapers, posted town meetings, radio, public access television, and web pages.

**1.8    Issues and Opportunities Policies and Recommendations**

Policies and recommendations build on goals and objectives by providing more focussed responses to the issues that the town is concerned about. Policies and recommendations become the tools that the town can use to aid in making land use decisions.

Policies identify the way in which activities are conducted in order to fulfill the goals and objectives. Policies that direct action using the words "will" or "shall" are advised to be mandatory and regulatory aspects of the implementation of the Town of Delta Comprehensive Plan. In contrast, those policies that direct action using the word "should" are advisory and intended to serve as a guide.

Recommendations are specific actions or projects that the town should be prepared to complete. The completion of these actions and projects is consistent with the town's policies, and therefore will help the town fulfill the comprehensive plan goals and objectives.

## **Policies**

- ♦ The Town of Delta will conduct all business related to land use decision making by utilizing an open public process and by giving due consideration to its comprehensive plan.
- ♦ The Town of Delta Comprehensive Plan will maintain consistency with State of Wisconsin comprehensive planning requirements.

## **Recommendations**

1. Monitor comprehensive planning laws for changes that apply to the town.

## **1.9 Town of Delta Comprehensive Planning Goals and Overview**

This section includes a definition of each planning element (per Wisconsin Statutes 66.1001) and a compilation of the town's related planning goals for those elements where goals are required. This section provides the reader with a general overview of the town's desires for the future and the topics covered by the comprehensive plan. All goals, objectives, policies, and programs for the town are located in each respective plan element.

### **Issues and Opportunities Element**

"Background information on the local government unit and a statement of overall goals, objectives, policies and programs of the local government to guide the future development and redevelopment of the local government unit over a 20 year planning period."

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Goal 1) | Strengthen local control of land use decisions and maintain the ability to guide the town's destiny.             |
| Goal 2) | Balance appropriate land use regulations and individual property rights with community interests and goals.      |
| Goal 3) | Increase community awareness, support and involvement in land use planning and water quality protection efforts. |

### **Housing Element**

"A compilation of goals, objectives, policies, maps and programs of the local governmental unit to provide an adequate housing supply that meets existing and forecasted housing demand in the local governmental unit."

- Goal 1) Promote housing development that provides a range of housing choices for current and future residents of the Town of Delta.
- Goal 2) Maintain and rehabilitate the Town of Delta's existing housing stock.
- Goal 3) Strive for housing development that maintains the rural nature of the town and that is compatible with the town's forested and recreational atmosphere.

### **Transportation Element**

"A compilation of goals, objectives, policies, maps and programs to guide the future development of the various modes of transportation, including highways, transit, transportation systems for persons with disabilities, bicycles, walking, railroads, air transportation, trucking and water transportation."

- Goal 1) Provide a safe, efficient and cost effective transportation system for the movement of people and goods throughout the community.

### **Utilities and Community Facilities Element**

"A compilation of goals, objectives, policies, maps and programs to guide the future development of utilities and community facilities in the local governmental unit such as sanitary sewer service, storm water management, water supply, solid waste disposal, on-site wastewater treatment technologies, recycling facilities, parks, telecommunication facilities, power-generating plants and transmission lines, cemeteries, health care facilities, child care facilities and other public facilities such as police, fire, and rescue facilities, libraries, schools and other governmental facilities."

- Goal 1) Maintain the high quality of town government, facilities, services and utilities.
- Goal 2) Promote a variety of recreational opportunities within the community.
- Goal 3) Ensure proper disposal of wastewater to protect ground and surface water resources.
- Goal 4) Ensure that roads, structures and other improvements are reasonably protected from flooding.
- Goal 5) Ensure that police, fire and emergency services are appropriate for the existing and future needs and demands of the town and its land uses.

### **Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element**

"A compilation of goals, objectives, policies, maps and programs for the conservation, and promotion of the effective management, of natural resources such as groundwater, forests, productive agricultural areas, environmentally sensitive areas, threatened and endangered species, stream corridors, surface water, floodplains, wetlands, wildlife habitat, metallic and

nonmetallic mineral resources, parks, open spaces, historical and cultural resources, community design, recreational resources and other natural resources.”

- Goal 1) Preserve the pristine quality of surface water and groundwater resources for current and future generations in the Town of Delta.
- Goal 2) Support further development of underutilized resources while minimizing potential negative impacts and maintaining consistency with the character of the Town of Delta.
- Goal 3) Maintain, preserve and enhance the town’s natural environment, forested lands, open spaces and wild lands.
- Goal 4) Maintain and enhance the town’s remote and natural atmosphere which contributes to the quality of life.
- Goal 5) Preserve significant historic and cultural lands and structures that contribute to community identity and character.

#### **Economic Development Element**

“A compilation of goals, objectives, policies, maps and programs to promote the stabilization, retention, or expansion of the economic base and quality employment opportunities in the local governmental unit.”

- Goal 1) Promote the stabilization and expansion of the economic base and quality employment opportunities in the Town of Delta.
- Goal 2) Promote the forestry industry and related business as an important economic base for the future of the community.

#### **Intergovernmental Cooperation Element**

“A compilation of goals, objectives, policies, maps, and programs for joint planning and decision making with other jurisdictions, including school districts and adjacent local governmental units, for siting and building public facilities, and sharing services.”

- Goal 1) Seek to establish and improve mutually beneficial relationships with other units of government.
- Goal 2) Improve relationships with state and federal agencies with a major presence in the town.

#### **Land Use Element**

“A compilation of goals, objectives, policies, maps and programs to guide the future development and redevelopment of public and private property.”

- Goal 1) Provide for a well-balanced mix of land uses within the Town of Delta.
- Goal 2) Encourage planned growth that enhances the local economy without harming the quality of natural resources, viability of recreational opportunities or the character of the town.
- Goal 3) Work cooperatively with Bayfield County to achieve the town's desired future pattern of land use.

### **Implementation Element**

"A compilation of programs and specific actions to be completed in a stated sequence, including proposed changes to any applicable zoning ordinances, official maps, sign regulations, erosion and storm water control ordinances, historic preservation ordinances, site plan regulations, design review ordinances, building codes, mechanical codes, housing codes, sanitary codes, or subdivision ordinances, to implement the objectives, policies, plans and programs contained in all other elements."

The *Implementation* element does not include goal statements.

### **1.10 Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Goals**

Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning legislation establishes 14 local comprehensive planning goals that attempt to encourage consistency between the plans of any agency or jurisdiction on a state-wide scale. The Town of Delta is not required to address these goals, because the planning effort is not being funded by a Wisconsin Department of Administration comprehensive planning grant. However, the town should be aware of these goals. The 14 local comprehensive planning goals are listed here for reference.

1. Promotion of the redevelopment of lands with existing infrastructure and public services and the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing residential, commercial and industrial structures.
2. Encouragement of neighborhood designs that support a range of transportation choices.
3. Protection of natural areas, including wetlands, wildlife habitats, lakes and woodlands, open spaces and groundwater resources.
4. Protection of economically productive areas, including farmland and forests.
5. Encouragement of land uses, densities and regulations that promote efficient development patterns and relatively low municipal, state government and utility costs.
6. Preservation of cultural, historic and archaeological sites.
7. Encouragement of coordination and cooperation among nearby units of government.



8. Building of community identity by revitalizing main streets and enforcing design standards.
9. Providing an adequate supply of affordable housing for all income levels throughout each community.
10. Providing adequate infrastructure and public services and a supply of developable land to meet existing and future market demand for residential, commercial and industrial uses.
11. Promoting the expansion or stabilization of the current economic base and the creation of a range of employment opportunities at the state, regional and local levels.
12. Balancing individual property rights with community interests and goals.
13. Planning and development of land uses that create or preserve varied and unique urban and rural communities.
14. Providing an integrated, efficient and economical transportation system that provides mobility, convenience and safety which meets the needs of all citizens including transit-dependent and disabled.

## 2. Housing

The *Housing* element contains an inventory and assessment of housing characteristics in the Town of Delta. It is intended that this inventory will help identify deficiencies and opportunities relative to meeting the present and future housing needs of the town.

This inventory includes available information regarding the current housing stock, housing forecasts, housing affordability, and a listing of housing related programs available to the town. Indicators were analyzed at the local, county, state, and regional level to determine trends, opportunities, and needs within the community. The physical location of housing determines the location and cost of many public services and facilities. In addition, housing characteristics are related to the social and economic conditions of the town's residents.



### **Lake Connections**

The *Housing* element contains projections for future housing needs. Housing types and quantities are both considered. Since the vast majority of the development in the Town of Delta is located near lakes, future housing development may have impacts on these waterways.

### 2.1 Housing Characteristics

The information presented in this section describes the town's current housing stock, identifies significant changes which have occurred in housing over time, and projects housing growth to the year 2030.

It is important to note that the data used in the housing analysis come from various sources, and discrepancies between certain data will be apparent. For example, census data show that the total number of housing units decreased by 30 between 1990 and 2000. No annexations, natural disasters, or population decline took place during that period, and there is no available explanation for the decrease in the recorded number of housing units. Other available data, such as the number of parcels assessed for residential use, showed a steady increase during that same time period. Another common discrepancy found in census-based housing data is a small difference between the total number of housing units used when reporting the housing supply (Table 2-1), the year structure built (Table 2-2), and the units in structure (Table 2-3). Again, there is no available explanation for this discrepancy.

The purpose of these data are to illustrate the general housing situation in the town and to provide enough information to make some basic forecasts of housing trends and future needs.

None of the discrepancies found in the following housing data are significant enough to seriously undermine the presented analysis.

## Housing Supply

Table 2-1 provides general information regarding the housing supply in the Town of Delta from 1990 to 2000, including a breakdown of units by occupancy and seasonal use. Seasonal units are those units which are used for seasonal, recreational, occasional, or other use.

**Table 2-1: Housing Supply, Town of Delta, 1990-2000**

	1990	2000	# Change 1990-00	% Change 1990-00
Occupied Units	93	107	14	15.1%
Owner Occupied	88	100	12	13.6%
Renter Occupied	5	7	2	40.0%
Vacant Year Round Units	6	21	15	250.0%
Seasonal Units	259	200	-59	-22.8%
Total Units	358	328	-30	-8.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990-2000.

Between 1990 and 2000, the total number of housing units in the town decreased by 8.4% or 30 units. Although occupied units and vacant year round units increased, the decrease in seasonal units accounts for the total housing units decline. However, this decrease in the total housing supply for Delta is questionable and conflicts with other data available for the same time period. The census data appears to have either overestimated the number of housing units for 1990, or underestimated the number of housing units for 2000. There is no plausible explanation for a loss of 30 housing units.

## Seasonal Housing Units

The increase in occupied units in combination with the decrease in seasonal units often indicates that units which were once used only seasonally have now become full time residences. This trend is also supported by the increase in the over 65 population within the town, an age group that often retires to their once seasonal homes. However, in Delta, the reduction of 59 seasonal units is only partially recovered under the increase of occupied units. Although the number of seasonal units in the town has decreased, approximately 61% of the town's total housing units was identified as being seasonal according to the 2000 Census. Seasonal housing unit projections, created by the Northwest Regional Planning Commission, indicate that Delta will have 269 seasonal housing units by 2020, a 69 unit increase from 2000 or a 34.5% increase.

A significant seasonal housing base has several effects on the town, including:

- ♦ Employment tends to be more seasonal to meet the demand of seasonal residents.

- ♦ Participation in community events or local government activity is generally attended by full-time residents unless events or meetings are held during seasonal peaks.
- ♦ Demand for park and recreation facilities is high although the full-time population in the area may be generally low.
- ♦ Tourism and a seasonal population in the area contribute significantly to overall spending and economic activity in the town.
- ♦ Seasonal populations require or demand more service oriented type businesses such as restaurants, bars, and hotels.
- ♦ Some seasonal homes may not be as well maintained due to lack of use.
- ♦ In areas of high seasonal demand, housing prices are generally higher.

These effects impact the town's appearance, level of services, and overall quality of life. Monitoring the number of seasonal residences within the town is important in order to proactively deal with potential negative impacts.

### **Age of Housing Stock**

The age of a community's housing stock is an important element to be analyzed when planning for the future. If there is a significant amount of older housing units they will most likely need to be rehabilitated, replaced or abandoned for new development within the planning period. Accommodating a new housing supply requires planning for additional infrastructure, stormwater management, land availability, utilities, transportation routes, and a variety of other factors that need to be considered prior to new development.

Table 2-2 describes the age of the housing supply in the Town of Delta and Bayfield County. According to the 2000 Census, the largest number of housing units within the town was built between 1960 and 1969. For the county, the largest number of units was built prior to 1939. The town has a significant number of housing units that were built between 1995 and 1998, indicating a fairly new housing supply. The "Total" does not match "Total Units" shown in Table 2-1, as the Bureau of the Census used sample data.

**Table 2-2: Year Structure Built, Town of Delta and Bayfield County, 2000**

Year Built	Town of Delta		Bayfield County	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
1999 to March 2000	9	2.8%	543	4.7%
1995 to 1998	58	17.9%	1,013	8.7%
1990 to 1994	21	6.5%	756	6.5%
1980 to 1989	48	14.8%	1,361	11.7%
1970 to 1979	50	15.4%	2,077	17.8%
1960 to 1969	78	24.1%	1,423	12.2%
1940 to 1959	38	11.7%	1,718	14.8%
1939 or earlier	22	6.8%	2,749	23.6%
Total	324	100.0%	11,640	100.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000. Based on sample data.

### Structural Type

Table 2-3 details the number of units by structure type in Delta. The majority of structures, 86.7%, were one-unit detached structures. The town also had a considerable number of mobile homes, 33 units or 10.2% of the total town housing supply. The “Total” does not match “Total Units” shown in Table 2-1, as the Bureau of the Census used sample data.

**Table 2-3: Units in Structure, Town of Delta, 2000**

	Town of Delta	
	Number	% of Total
1-unit, detached	281	86.7%
1-unit, attached	0	0.0%
2 units	0	0.0%
3 or 4 units	0	0.0%
5 to 9 units	0	0.0%
10 to 19 units	2	0.6%
20 or more units	0	0.0%
Mobile home	41	12.7%
Total	324	100.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000. Based on sample data.

### Housing Values

Census data for the town provides a relative measure of housing values when compared to the same data collected at the county level, see Table 2-4. This information also provides some insight into the affordability of housing in the town. Reported housing values are the census respondents’ estimates of how much the property (home and lot) would sell for if it were for sale. Based on a sample of 41 homes selected to be representative of units occupied by their owners (rather than vacant or rented units), the greatest number of homes in the town were valued between \$150,000 and \$199,999. The median housing value in the town for 2000 was \$155,700,

significantly greater than the county's median value of \$86,100. This comparison means that owner-occupied, single family homes in Delta are valued, on average, significantly higher than similar units elsewhere in Bayfield County. This also raises the question of whether there is adequate housing that is affordable to the full range of existing and future town residents.

**Table 2-4: Housing Values of Specified Owner-Occupied Units, Town of Delta and Bayfield County, 2000**

	Town of Delta		Bayfield County	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
Less than \$50,000	0	0.0%	458	17.5%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	10	24.4%	1,141	43.5%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	8	19.5%	526	20.0%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	17	41.5%	235	9.0%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	6	14.6%	173	6.6%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	0	0.0%	64	2.4%
\$500,000 to \$999,999	0	0.0%	21	0.8%
\$1,000,000 or more	0	0.0%	6	0.2%
Total	41	100.0%	2,624	100.0%
Median Housing Value	\$155,700		\$86,100	

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000. Based on sample data.

## 2.2 Housing Unit Forecast

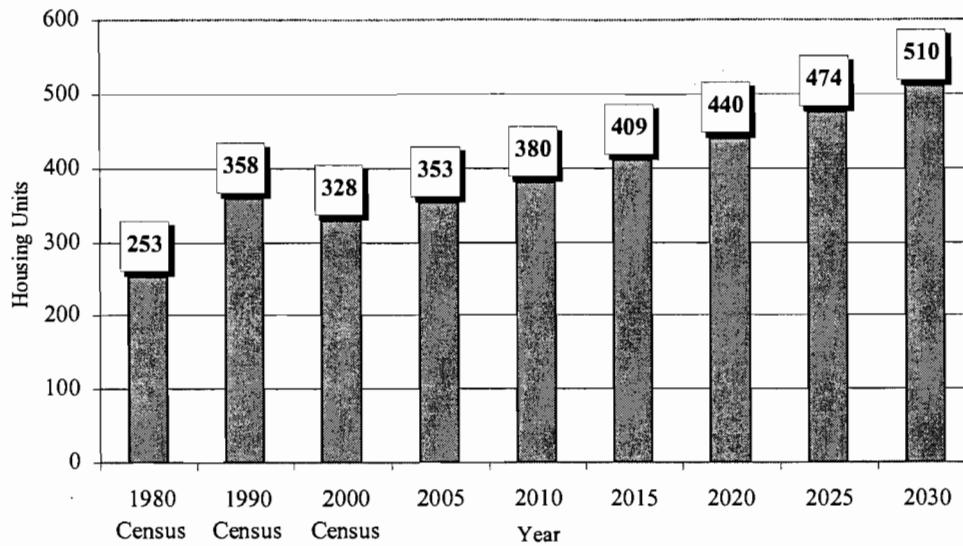
Housing unit projections are a useful tool in preparing the comprehensive plan for the Town of Delta. Specifically, housing projections are used to allocate required acreage to accommodate future residential development, as well as prepare for future demands that growth may have on the town's public facilities and services throughout the planning period. Similar to population projections, it is important to note that housing projections are based on past and current trends, and therefore should only be used as guides for planning.

Although U.S. Census data show a decrease in the total number of housing units between 1990 and 2000, housing units are expected to increase over the next 20 to 25 years in the Town of Delta. Because of this anomaly in the Census data, three different methods were used to prepare projections. The result is a range of likely housing counts for the year 2025.

### Linear Housing Unit Projections

Figure 2-1 presents a housing unit projection for the Town of Delta that assumes a continuation of past growth trends. Census counts from 1980, 1990, and 2000 were utilized to create a linear projection that was calculated by taking the percent change between the census counts and projecting the trend on an annual basis to the year 2030.

**Figure 2-1: Housing Unit Projections, Town of Delta, 1980-2030**



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980, 1990, and 2000. Foth & Van Dyke, 2002.

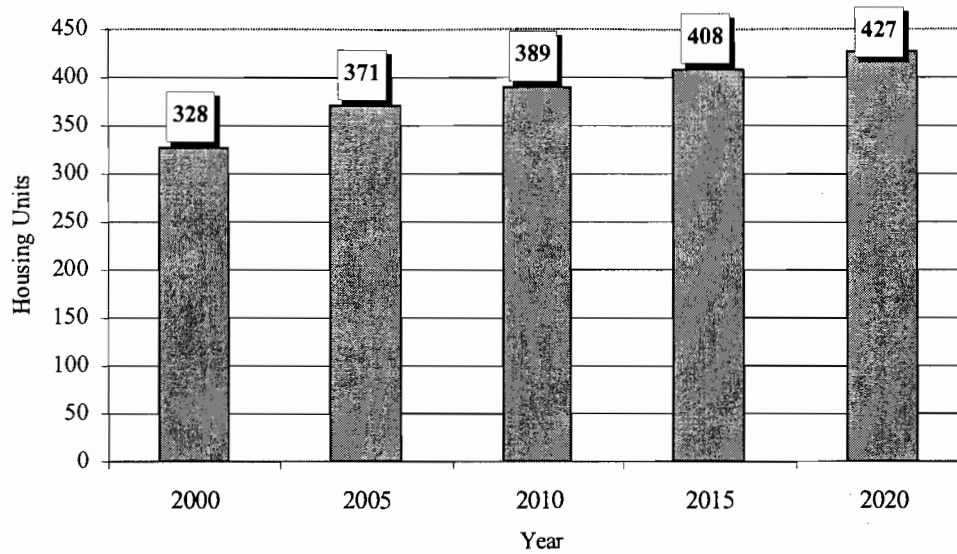
According to the above projections, the number of housing units in the town is projected to increase by 55.5% between 2000 and 2030.

#### **Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) Projections**

Housing projections provided by the NWRPC and included in *the Bayfield County Land Use Plan* indicate that the town will have an estimated 427 housing units by 2020. NWRPC also projected housing units assuming that past trends will continue into the future. However, this projection was completed using housing densities as the basis for comparison. Figure 2-2 displays the results of this projection. If this projection were continued to the year 2025, there would be an estimated 446 housing units in the town.



**Figure 2-2: NWRPC Projections, Town of Delta, 2000-2020**

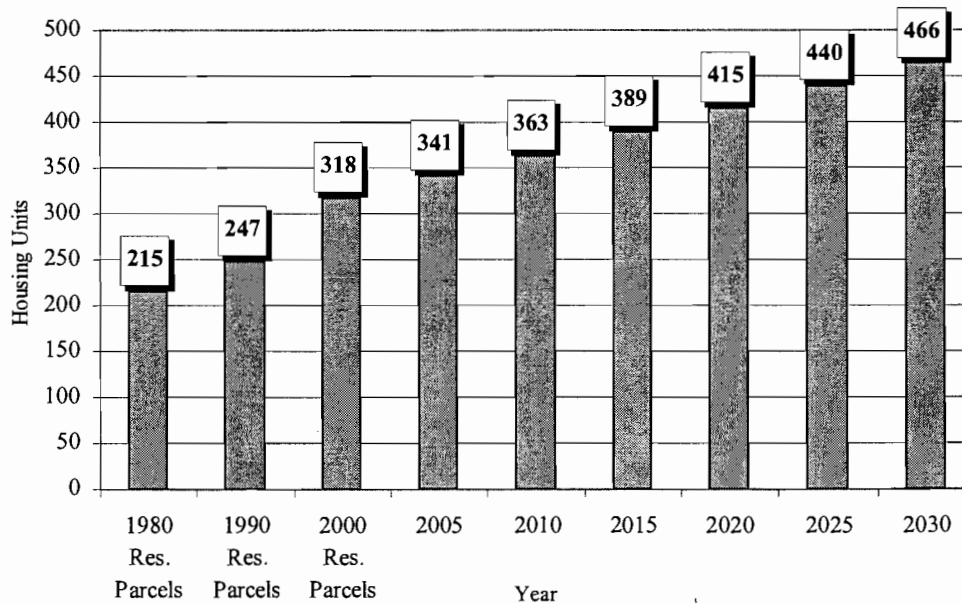


Source: Bayfield County Land Use Plan, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, 2002.

### Residential Parcel Projection

The number of parcels assessed for residential use is recorded annually in the Town of Delta. These figures were utilized to create an additional housing unit projection for the town.

**Figure 2-3: Residential Parcel Projections, Town of Delta, 1980-2030**



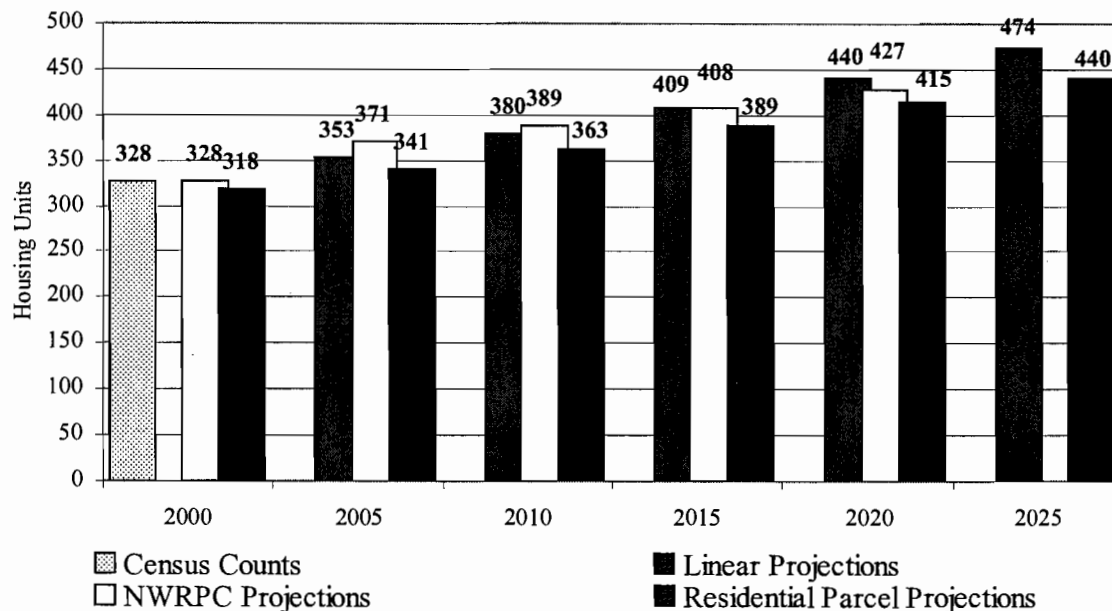
Source: Town of Delta.

Unlike U.S. Census housing counts, these data show a steady increase in parcels that were assessed for residential use. According to this projection, the town will have 466 residential parcels in 2030, a 46.5% increase from 2000.

## Comparative Housing Unit Projections

Figure 2-4 displays the results of all three housing unit projections. Despite the anomaly in the Census data, the results of the different projection methods varied by less than 10 percent. The Town of Delta can expect between 440 and 474 housing units by the year 2025 if current and past growth trends continue into the future.

**Figure 2-4: Comparative Housing Unit Projections, Town of Delta, 2000-2025**



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1980, 1990, and 2000. Foth & Van Dyke, 2002. Bayfield County Land Use Plan, Northwest Regional Planning Commission, 2002. Town of Delta.

### 2.3 Housing for all Income Levels, Age Groups, and for Persons with Special Needs

A growing number of people cannot find housing in their community that is suitable for their stage in life. Providing affordable housing within the community is vital to accommodating those starting out in life, young families, and elderly residents. The Town of Delta can pursue strategies to monitor and encourage the development of a range of housing choices to meet the needs of people with different income levels and with various needs. As the general population ages, there will be a number of community related features that will become increasingly important to monitor including: affordable housing, security, accessibility, proximity to services, transportation, food, level of emergency services, and location of medical facilities. These features will have land use, transportation, community facility, and economic implications.

The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) maintains a list of federally assisted rental housing in the state. According to this list, there are a total of 16 projects and 239 assisted units within Bayfield County. Of those units, 164 are elderly units, 65 are family units, and 10 are for the disabled. None of these units are specifically listed as being located within the Town of Delta.

According to the *Bayfield County Land Use Plan*, the Bayfield County Housing Authority maintains 12 apartment buildings in the county totaling 148 separate apartments, two buildings for families, and 12 family homes. The Housing Authority also has a voucher rental assistance program that helps persons who are renting in the private sector. The Housing Authority currently holds 73 vouchers that are utilized countywide. These programs are designed for low-income families or elderly/handicapped persons in the county. A permanently affordable housing program is available through the Northern Lake Health Care Center.

## **2.4 Availability of Land for Development/Redevelopment of Affordable Housing**

Lands available for the development or redevelopment of affordable housing might include areas that are zoned for higher densities, that allow multi-family housing, and that are currently undeveloped. Undeveloped lands in the Town of Delta are extensive. Less than three percent of the town's land area is currently developed as shown by Map 8-1, Existing Land Use. Approximately 40 percent, or 19,000 acres of the town's land area is undeveloped and in private ownership.

There is currently an adequate supply of land that is zoned for housing at higher density and for multi-family housing. The vast majority of the undeveloped land in the town is currently zoned to allow minimum lot sizes that range from 30,000 square feet to 4.5 acres. Duplexes and multi-family housing are allowed as permitted, special, and conditional uses in several zoning districts within the town. Promoting the availability of undeveloped or underused land is one way to meet the needs of low and moderate income individuals.

Should housing become increasingly unaffordable over the next 20 years, the town may find it necessary to explore options for affordable housing. One option is to support efforts that provide incentives for developers and home builders who create quality housing that is affordable for low and moderate income households. Another affordable housing option for Delta may be to support the use of manufactured homes that are constructed to state standards, that are consistent with surrounding uses, and that feature designs similar to site-built homes. Other affordable housing programs, found in section 2.8 of this element, may also be available for possible use within the town.

## **2.5 Housing Stock Maintenance and Rehabilitation**

The maintenance and rehabilitation of the existing housing stock can have many benefits for a town. It is an effective way to ensure safe and generally affordable housing. Maintenance of existing housing can preserve community character and helps curtail the need for expansive new housing developments. Housing stock characteristics that can be monitored to measure changes in quality over time include: price, aesthetics, safety, cleanliness, and overall compatibility with community character. Based on housing values and ages from 2000 Census data, the existing housing stock in the Town of Delta is in relatively good condition. Houses in Delta are newer and valued higher than Bayfield County as a whole. Zoning regulations that promote cleanliness and prevent nuisances are administered by Bayfield County.

## **2.6 Housing Goals and Objectives**

Community goals are broad, value-based statements expressing public preferences for the long term (20 years or more). They specifically address key issues, opportunities, and problems that affect the community.

Objectives are more specific than goals and are measurable statements usually attainable through direct action and implementation of plan recommendations. The accomplishment of objectives contributes to fulfillment of the goal.

### **Goal 1) Promote housing development that provides a range of housing choices for current and future residents of the Town of Delta.**

#### ***Supporting Objectives:***

- ♦ Encourage housing that is constructed to state standards and that is consistent with surrounding uses.
- ♦ Improve awareness of fair housing regulations and the rights of town residents for safe housing.
- ♦ Coordinate with the county and neighboring communities to plan for an aging population's housing needs.

### **Goal 2) Maintain and rehabilitate the Town of Delta's existing housing stock.**

#### ***Supporting Objectives:***

- ♦ Support enforcement of Bayfield County Zoning requirements for mobile homes to be skirted, anchored, and placed on a foundation.
- ♦ Consider adopting regulations to require mobile homes to have pitched roofs.
- ♦ Maintain an inventory of historically significant homes, not for regulatory purposes, but to encourage the use of voluntary maintenance and rehabilitation programs.

### **Goal 3) Strive for housing development that maintains the rural nature of the town and that is compatible with the town's forested and recreational atmosphere.**

#### ***Supporting Objectives:***

- ♦ Maintain single family homes at a low density as the preferred type of housing for the majority of the town's land.
- ♦ Encourage involvement from seasonal and permanent residents when dealing with housing issues.

## **2.7 Housing Policies and Recommendations**

Policies and recommendations build on goals and objectives by providing more focussed responses to the issues that the town is concerned about. Policies and recommendations become the tools that the town can use to aid in making land use decisions.

Policies identify the way in which activities are conducted in order to fulfill the goals and objectives. Policies that direct action using the words “will” or “shall” are advised to be mandatory and regulatory aspects of the implementation of the *Town of Delta Year 2025 Comprehensive Plan*. In contrast, those policies that direct action using the word “should” are advisory and intended to serve as a guide.

Recommendations are specific actions or projects that the town should be prepared to complete. The completion of these actions and projects is consistent with the town’s policies, and therefore will help the town fulfill the comprehensive plan goals and objectives.

### **Policies**

- ♦ The Town of Delta will work cooperatively with the county and neighboring communities to plan for the housing needs of its aging population, as the ability to meet this need within the town is very limited by lack of access to medical facilities and other services.
- ♦ Mobile and manufactured homes shall be constructed to meet federal, state, and county standards and shall feature designs similar to stick-built homes.
- ♦ Mobile home parks shall not be permitted within the Town of Delta, as the density and appearance of such developments are not consistent with the character of the town.

### **Recommendations**

1. Adopt a mobile home ordinance to specify submittal requirements for mobile homes constructed before 1976, to require mobile homes to have pitched roofs, and to prohibit mobile home parks in the town. Such an ordinance should include provisions for the grandfathering of existing mobile home parks.

## **2.8 Housing Programs**

The following housing programs are available to the Town of Delta to further the established housing goals, objectives, and policies. The following list is not all-inclusive. Housing programs and funding procedures will change over time, therefore the town should contact program sponsors for specific information on the listed programs.

### **Bayfield County Housing Authority**

The Bayfield County Housing Authority offers a number of affordable housing and rental assistance programs as detailed in Section 2.3. Contact the Housing Authority for detailed information on programs that are offered.

### **Northwest Community Service Agency (CSA), Inc.**

The Northwest CSA serves Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Iron, and Price Counties and is a member agency of the Wisconsin Community Action Program Association. The CSA offers a number of programs including rental assistance, rental rehabilitation, mortgage assistance, Section 8 housing assistance vouchers, fuel assistance, and homeless services. For further information contact the CSA, located in Superior, at (715) 392-5127.

### **Wisconsin Rural Development, Rural Housing Service**

The mission of the Rural Housing Service is to enhance the quality of life of rural people through the creation of safe, affordable housing where people can live, work, and prosper as part of a community. The Wisconsin Rural Housing Service offers housing preservation grants, loans and grants for farm labor housing, loans and grants for home improvement and repair, loans for financing housing site development, loans for home purchase or construction, loans on apartment buildings, and self-help technical assistance grants. For further information visit the web-site at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/wi/index.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wi/index.html).

### **Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Housing and Intergovernmental Relations**

The Division of Housing & Intergovernmental Relations provides housing assistance to benefit low- and moderate-income households through the Bureau of Housing. It offers state-funded housing grants or loans through local organizations, coordinates its housing programs with those of other state and local housing agencies, helps develop state housing plans and policies, and provides training and technical assistance. The division channels federal housing funds to local authorities and organizations and administers federal funds for the homeless.

### **Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA)**

The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority serves Wisconsin residents and communities by working with others to provide creative financing resources and information to stimulate and preserve affordable housing, small business, and agribusiness. Visit the web-page at [www.wheda.com](http://www.wheda.com) for more information about specific programs offered.

### **Historic Home Owner's Tax Credits**

A 25% Wisconsin investment tax credit is available for people who rehabilitate historic, non-income-producing personal residences, and who apply for and receive project approval before beginning physical work on their projects. For more information contact the Wisconsin Historical Society.

### **Community Options Program (COP)**

Community Options helps people who need long term care to stay in their own homes and communities. Its purpose is to provide cost-effective alternatives to expensive care in institutions and nursing homes. Elderly people and people with serious long-term disabilities receive funds and assistance to find services they are not able to get through other programs. Contact the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services for further information.

### 3. Transportation

The land use patterns of a community and a region are tied together by the transportation system including roadways, railroads, airlines, trails, and waterways. Residents, visitors, and commerce all rely on a dependable transportation system to function and provide linkages to areas beyond their community's borders. The town's transportation network plays a major role in the efficiency, safety, and overall desirability of the community as a place to live and work.

#### 3.1 Existing Road System

The existing road system for the Town of Delta is illustrated on Map 3-1, Existing Transportation Facilities. The town's road configuration is irregular as influenced primarily by the natural features of the landscape. Town roads and forest roads comprise the vast majority of roadway miles, with County Roads E and H being the only exceptions.

The general traffic circulation patterns through the Town of Delta are as follows:

- ♦ County Road H provides for east/west travel in Delta, and serves as a primary transportation route. County Road H connects to County Road E to the east which then provides access to U.S. Highway 2. County Road H connects directly to U.S. Highway 2 to the west in the community of Iron River. These routes connect the town with the major regional centers of Ashland and Duluth-Superior.
- ♦ Delta-Drummond Road serves as the primary north/south route in the Town of Delta. This collector road provides connection to U.S. Highway 63 in the community of Drummond. This is an important route for travel to local schools and connects the town with the communities of Cable and Hayward to the south.
- ♦ Scenic Drive serves as a secondary east/west collector route providing access to additional developed properties around the lakes and connections to forest roads to the south.
- ♦ The remaining town roads and National Forest roads serve as local roads and provide access to resource lands and developed areas within the town.

National Forest roads are significant travel routes in the Town of Delta. Forest roads provide access for general public transportation, fire prevention and suppression, recreation, timber management, and administration of the Chequamegon National Forest. Maintenance levels for these roads are prescribed by the unit of government that has jurisdiction over them, or in cooperation between the Forest Service and the unit of government. The town maintains approximately 34 miles of roadway jointly with the U.S. Forest Service.

According to a 2002 *Roads Analysis* conducted by Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest staff, recreational use now dominates motorized traffic on National Forest roads. Nation-wide, there has been a five-fold increase in recreational use of forest roads since 1950. Logging currently accounts for only one-half of one percent of all forest road use. Trends on U.S. Forest Service



roads include increasing road closures on less traveled routes, less soil disturbance during road maintenance activities, and lack of funding to create new roads.

### **3.2 Road Functional/Jurisdictional Classification**

The town's roads, which are the principal component of the circulation system, may be divided into three broad categories: arterial roads, collector roads, and local roads. The function that the road serves in relation to the existing traffic patterns, the adjacent land use, the land access needs, and the average daily traffic volumes determines its functional classification.

#### **Principal Arterial Roads**

Principal arterial roads serve interstate and interregional trips. These routes generally serve all urban areas greater than 5,000 population. The rural principal arterials are further subdivided into 1) Interstate highways and 2) other principal arterials. There are no principal arterials within the Town of Delta.

#### **Minor Arterial Roads**

In conjunction with the principal arterials, minor arterial roads serve cities, large communities, and other major traffic generators providing intra-regional and inter-area traffic movements. There are no minor arterials within the Town of Delta.

#### **Major Collector Roads**

Major collector roads provide service to moderate sized communities and other intra-area traffic generators and link those generators to nearby larger population centers or higher function routes. In the Town of Delta, County Road H and Delta-Drummond Road are major collectors.

#### **Minor Collector Roads**

Minor collector roads collect traffic from local roads and provide links to all remaining smaller communities, locally important traffic generators, and higher function roads. All developed areas should be within a reasonable distance of a collector road. Scenic Drive is a minor collector.

#### **Local Roads**

Local roads provide access to adjacent land and provide for travel over relatively short distances. All roads not classified as arterials or collectors are local roads. All roads within the town that are not classified as arterial or collector roads are classified as local roads.

TOWN OF IRON RIVER, BAYFIELD COUNTY  
T. 47 N., R. 8 W.

TOWN OF HUGHES, BAYFIELD COUNTY  
T. 46 N., R. 9 W.

TOWN OF BARNES, BAYFIELD COUNTY  
T. 46 N., R. 9 W.

TOWN OF DRUMMOND, BAYFIELD  
T. 45 N., R. 8-7 W.

**Average Annual Daily  
Traffic Counts by Year**



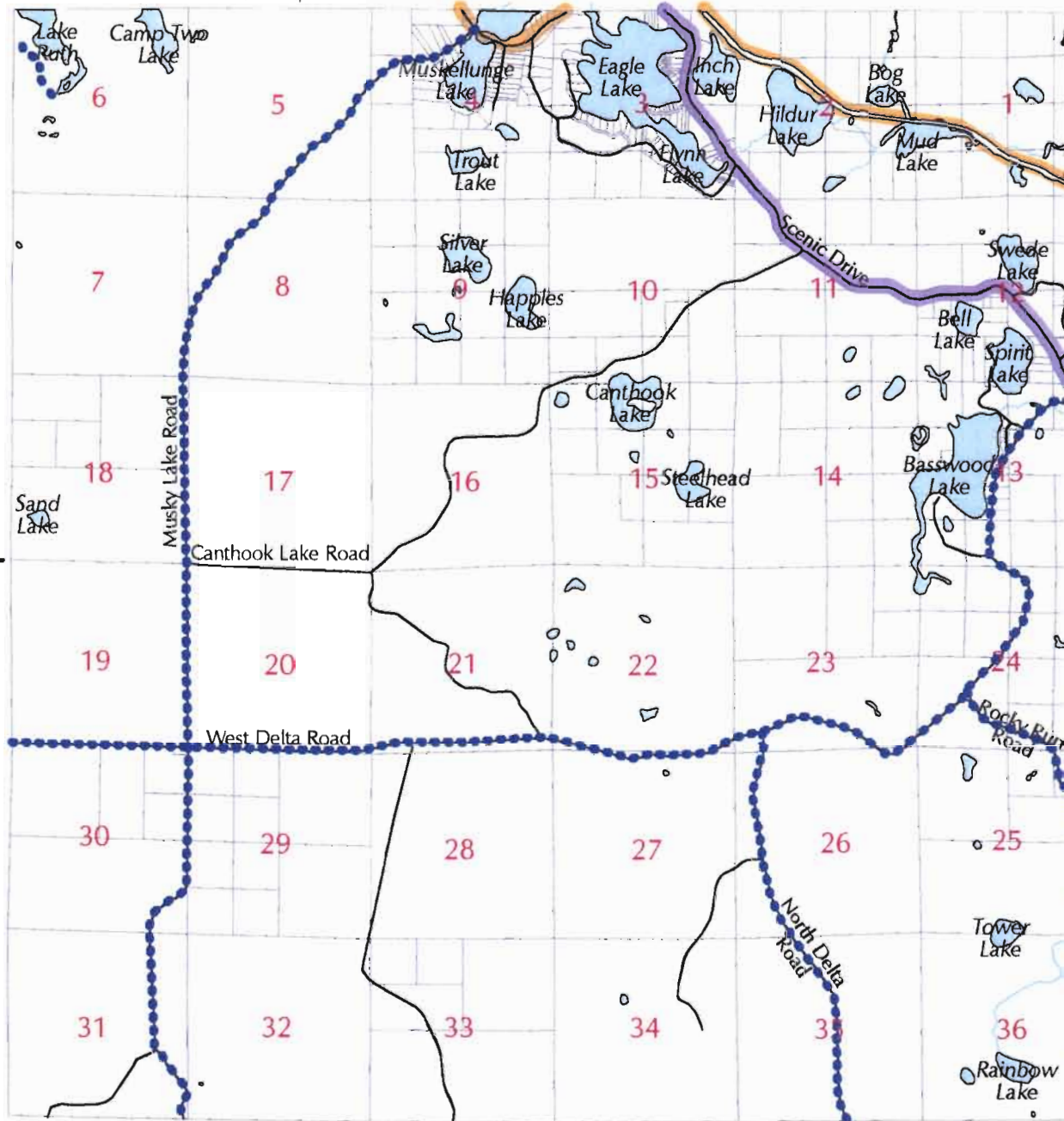
-A-	-Location-
260	1994
300	1997
300	2000

**Road Functional Classification**

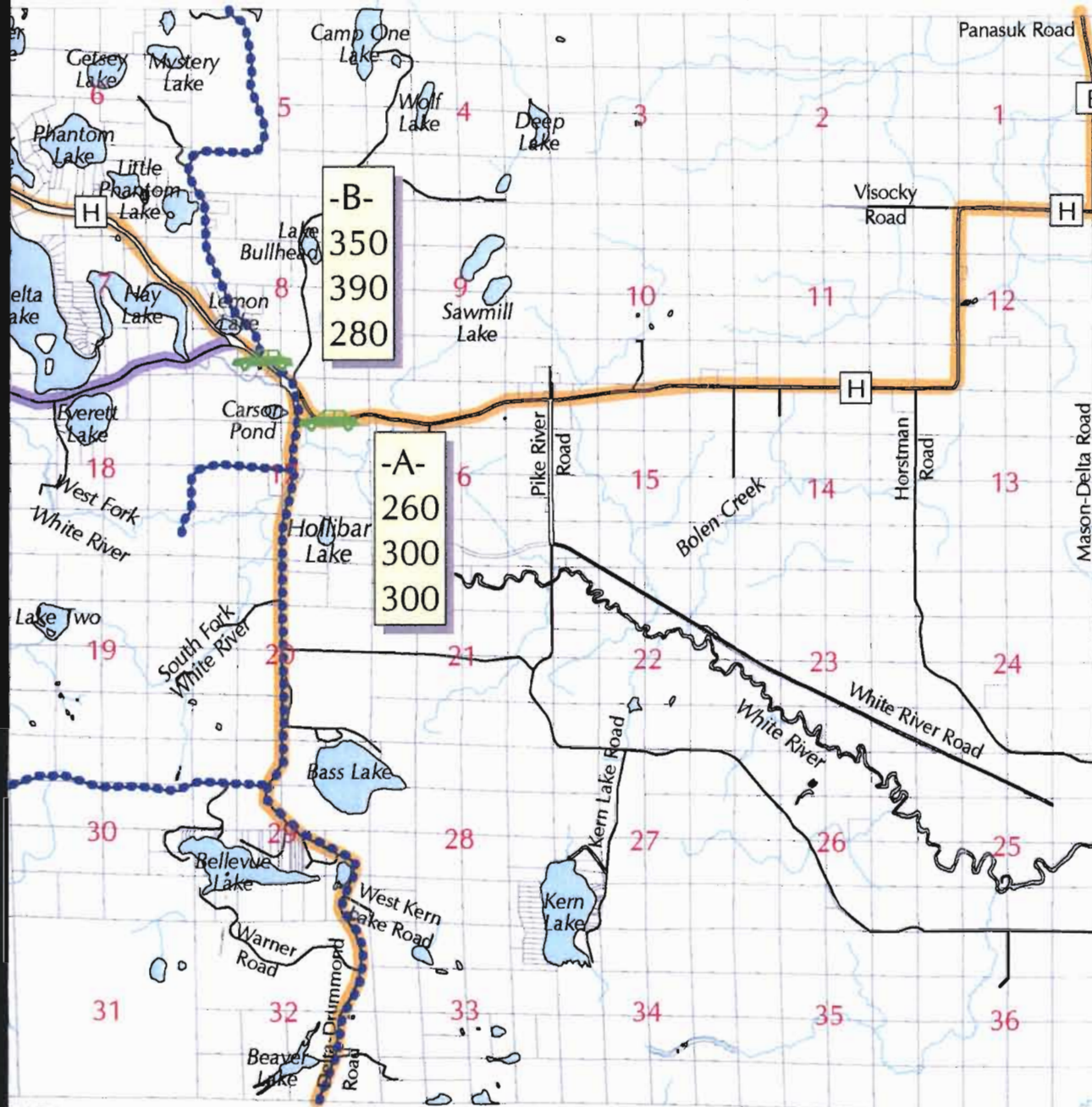
- Minor Collector
- Major Collector
- Town Road

**Other Features**

- Forest Roads with Town Maintenance Agreement
- Parcel Lines
- Streams
- Surface Water
- County Highway
- Section Numbers



TOWN OF KEYSTONE, BAYFIELD COUNTY  
T. 47 N., R. 7 W.



TOWN OF MASON, BAYFIELD COUNTY  
T. 46 N., R. 6 W.

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 Miles



This drawing is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This drawing is a compilation of records, information and data used for reference purposes only.

# MAP 3-1 EXISTING TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES Town of Delta Bayfield County, Wisconsin



Source: Northwest Regional Planning Commission, 2002; Bayfield County 1998-2000;  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation, (Functional Road Classification) 2001;  
Wisconsin Department of Transportation (Average Annual Daily Traffic Counts) 1994-2000.

### 3.3 Traffic Volume Trends and Forecasts

Town of Delta annual average daily traffic (AADT) counts for 1994, 1997, and 2000 are provided in Table 3-1 and shown on Map 3-1. There are two sites within the town where AATD counts were performed.

**Table 3-1: Annual Average Daily Traffic Counts,  
Town of Delta, 1994-2000**

Location	1994	1997	2000	# Change	% Change
				1994-00	1994-00
A CTH H, just east of Delta Drummond Road	260	300	300	40	15.4%
B CTH H, just west of Delta Drummond Road	350	390	280	-70	-20.0%

Source: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Average Annual Daily Traffic Counts 1994, 1997, and 2000.

Average Annual Daily Traffic counts are calculated by multiplying raw hourly traffic counts by seasonal, day-of-week, and axle adjustment factors. The daily hourly values are then averaged by hour of the day and the values are summed to create the AADT count.

### 3.4 Additional Modes of Transportation

#### Air Service

According to the Wisconsin State Airport System Plan 2020, the airport nearest to the Town of Delta is located in Cable. The Cable Union Airport is classified as a Basic Utility-B airport indicating that the airport is designed to accommodate aircraft of less than 12,500 pounds gross weight, with approach speeds below 121 knots and wingspans of less than 49 feet. A transport/corporate classified airport can be found in Ashland and Hayward. The nearest airports with commercial air passenger service are Duluth International and Gogebic County Airport located in Michigan.

#### Rail Service

There are no rail lines in the Town of Delta.

#### Waterways

There are no waterways used for transportation purposes within the Town of Delta. Lake Superior and the St. Lawrence River provide an extensive waterway network for the upper Midwest, the state of Wisconsin, and the county. The Duluth/Superior Harbor is the closest large-scale harbor that handles large vessels with a primary function for shipping and economic development.



## **Truck Routes**

The Wisconsin Truck Operator Map identifies and designates a list of qualifying highways for operation of vehicles and combinations of vehicles the overall lengths of which cannot be limited. According to the map, as provided by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, there are no officially designated highways or other state truck highways identified as being located within the Town of Delta.

## **Transit**

There are no transit facilities or services in the Town of Delta. The only major source of public transportation in Bayfield County is the Bay Area Rural Transit (BART) system. The BART system provides on demand commuter type transportation to rural residents and links the outlying communities with the larger populated areas. Funding for the rural transportation system is divided between federal assistance (50%) and local tax base or other unrestricted state and federal funds.

## **Bicycle and Pedestrian Routes**

Although there are no sidewalks or bicycle lanes maintained by the Town of Delta, biking and walking are important modes of transportation, primarily for recreational purposes. In addition to the many trails found within the Town of Delta, all roads are available to some extent for biking and walking due to low traffic levels and the rural nature of the community. Trails are described in more detail in the *Utilities and Community Facilities* element.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation *Bicycle Route Map*, County Road H is considered a bike route within the town (see Map 3-1). East of Delta-Drummond Road, County H is considered a “Best Condition Route.” To the west of this intersection, it is considered a “Moderate Condition Route.”

## **3.5 Planned Transportation Improvements**

### **State Highway Projects**

Bayfield County is located in Transportation District 8 of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT). According to the WDOT website, there are no studies or projects currently being planned or conducted in or near the town.

### **County Highway/Road Projects**

The Bayfield County Highway Department has planned for future highway improvement projects in the Town of Delta. Improvements to 3.4 miles of County Road H from Hilder Lake to Finger Lake Road have been tentatively approved by the Bayfield County Highway Committee for 2005. Improvements to 6.4 miles of County Road H from U.S. Highway 2 to Eagle Lake Road would extend partially into the town. These improvements are tentatively scheduled to take place in 2006 as part of the long-range improvement plan, so this project may be revised or adjusted.

## Town Road Projects

The Town of Delta utilizes the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) system and has a Five Year Road Improvement Plan in place to help prioritize road improvement needs. The current plan, which was last updated in 2003, indicates several proposed projects including:

- ♦ Chip seal: Pine Point Road, .20 miles and Cedar Crest Road, .23 miles.
- ♦ Engineering: Basswood Lake culvert/bridge.
- ♦ Culverts: replace 5 as needed.
- ♦ Gravel: as needed.

All of the above listed projects have been completed in 2003. According to the Improvement Plan the following projects are proposed for 2004 through 2007:

### 2004

- ♦ Replace Basswood Lake culvert.
- ♦ Repair center pier of the White River bridge on Mason-Delta Road.
- ♦ Begin re-paving West Delta Road to Basswood Road, and Basswood Road.
- ♦ Engineering for Delta-Drummond Road (Federal road replacement project).
- ♦ Cut down hills on Sutherland Road.
- ♦ Replace 5 culverts as needed.
- ♦ Gravel as needed.

### 2005

- ♦ Complete re-paving West Delta Road to Basswood Road and Basswood Road.
- ♦ Pave Knutsen Road, .36 miles.
- ♦ Pave Delta-Drummond Road (Federal road replacement project).
- ♦ Calcium chloride, two loads.
- ♦ Replace five culverts as needed.
- ♦ Gravel as needed.

### 2006

- ♦ Pave Cemetery Road.
- ♦ Calcium chloride, two loads.
- ♦ Replace five culverts as needed.
- ♦ Gravel as needed.
- ♦ Repair asphalt cracks.

### 2007

- ♦ Pave part of Camp 1 Road.
- ♦ Replace 5 culverts as needed.
- ♦ Gravel as needed.

See Map 4-2, Planned Community Facility and Transportation Improvements, in the *Utilities and Community Facilities* element for the approximate location of planned town road maintenance and improvement projects.

## **Forest Road Maintenance**

National Forest Roads are maintained according to an assigned maintenance level. Maintenance levels are assigned for all roads within the National Forest in the Town of Delta, including town and county roads.

Maintenance Level 5 is assigned to roads that provide a high degree of user comfort and convenience. They are double-lane, paved, and connected to other public highways. These include County Road H, Delta-Drummond Road, and Scenic Drive.

Maintenance Level 4 is assigned to roads that provide a moderate degree of comfort and convenience. These are generally double-lane and aggregate surfaced. These include Musky Lake Road, West Delta Road, Rocky Run Road, Beck Road, and Finger Lake Road.

Maintenance Level 3 is assigned to roads that are open to travel without consideration to user comfort or convenience. They are typically single lane, spot surfaced and only appropriate for low speeds. These include North Delta Road and Canthook Lake Road.

Maintenance Levels 1 and 2 are assigned to roads that are only open to high clearance vehicles and those used as intermittent service roads. These roads may be used for transporting timber. These include all other forest roads in the Town of Delta.

## **3.6 Coordination with Other Transportation Plans**

### **Wisconsin State Highway Plan 2020**

According to the Wisconsin State Highway Plan 2020, STH 63 was classified as a non-congested corridor in 2020, assuming no capacity expansion. USH 2 was classified as having a moderate congestion level in 2020. While neither of these corridors is located within the town, a indication of a moderate congestion level may suggest that USH 2 could be a source of increased traffic volume within Delta in the future.

### **U.S. Forest Service Road Management Policy, 2001**

The U.S. Forest Service road management policy directs the agency to “maintain a safe, environmentally sound road network that is responsive to public needs and affordable to manage.” This policy also requires that all agency decisions regarding National Forest roads that “may affect access or generate adverse environmental effects be informed by a roads analysis.”

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest completed a forest-wide roads analysis in 2002. The analysis is a planning document that assesses present road conditions, road-related issues, access needs, environmental impacts, and road costs versus benefits. This analysis is not meant to be a decision making document, but rather a tool to prioritize roads within the forest that need further evaluation. Based on the evaluation conducted within the analysis, many forest roads in the Town of Delta were rated as having high levels of potential environmental, social, and economic impacts. This suggests that many forest roads in Delta are a high priority for future management

decisions that could range from changes to road maintenance plans, to planned deterioration of roads, to construction of new roads.

### **3.7 Transportation Goals and Objectives**

Community goals are broad, value-based statements expressing public preferences for the long term (20 years or more). They specifically address key issues, opportunities, and problems that affect the community.

Objectives are more specific than goals and are measurable statements usually attainable through direct action and implementation of plan recommendations. The accomplishment of objectives contributes to fulfillment of the goal.

**Goal 1) Provide a safe, efficient, and cost effective transportation system for the movement of people and goods throughout the community.**

#### ***Supporting Objectives:***

- ♦ Require developers to bear an equitable share of the costs for the improvement or construction of roads needed to serve new development.
- ♦ Consider adopting minimum design and construction standards for new roads.
- ♦ Continue to prepare and annually update a multi-year transportation improvement plan to identify and prioritize short-term needs, long-term needs, and funding sources for road upgrades, new roads, and other transportation facilities.

### **3.8 Transportation Policies and Recommendations**

Policies and recommendations build on goals and objectives by providing more focussed responses to the issues that the town is concerned about. Policies and recommendations become the tools that the town can use to aid in making land use decisions.

Policies identify the way in which activities are conducted in order to fulfill the goals and objectives. Policies that direct action using the words “will” or “shall” are advised to be mandatory and regulatory aspects of the implementation of *the Town of Delta Year 2025 Comprehensive Plan*. In contrast, those policies that direct action using the word “should” are advisory and intended to serve as a guide.

Recommendations are specific actions or projects that the town should be prepared to complete. The completion of these actions and projects is consistent with the town’s policies, and therefore will help the town fulfill the comprehensive plan goals and objectives.

#### **Policies**

- ♦ Developers shall bear the costs of constructing new roads to town standards before any new road is accepted by the town.



- ♦ New roads should be designed and located in such a manner as to maintain and preserve natural topography, cover, and significant landmarks, and to preserve views and vistas.
- ♦ The Town of Delta will utilize erosion control and other appropriate best management practices when conducting road improvement work.
- ♦ Roads that serve multiple improved properties may be constructed to town standards, and private access points shall conform to the Town of Delta Driveway Ordinance.

### **Recommendations**

1. Adopt written town road specifications that may include black-topping as a requirement for any new town roads.
2. Amend the town driveway ordinance to include county roads in the town and to include enforcement provisions.
3. Continue to utilize the town's *Five Year Road Improvement Plan* and the PASER system to prioritize and plan for town road improvements.
4. Continue to pursue the reconstruction of Delta-Drummond Road in cooperation with the Town of Drummond and the U.S. Forest Service.
5. Continue to pursue improvements to the intersection of Delta-Drummond Road and CTH H.

### **3.9 Transportation Programs**

The following transportation programs are available to the Town of Delta to further the established transportation goals, objectives, and policies. The following list is not all-inclusive. Transportation programs and funding procedures will change over time, therefore the town should contact program sponsors for specific information on the listed programs.

#### **Rustic Roads Program**

The Rustic Roads System in Wisconsin is an effort to help citizens and local units of government preserve what remains of Wisconsin's scenic, lightly traveled, country roads for the leisurely enjoyment of bikers, hikers, and motorists. An officially designated Rustic Road shall continue to be under local control. The county, city, village, or town shall have the same authority over the Rustic Road as it possesses over other highways under its jurisdiction. A Rustic Road is eligible for state aids just as any other public highway. For further information visit the WisDOT's web-site.

## **Transportation Economic Assistance (TEA) Program**

The Transportation Economic Assistance program provides 50% state grants to governing bodies, private businesses, and consortiums for road, rail, harbor, and airport projects that help attract employers to Wisconsin or encourage business and industry to remain and expand in the state. Grants of up to \$1 million are available for transportation improvements that are essential for an economic development project. It must be scheduled to begin within three years, have the local government's endorsement, and benefit the public. For more information about this program, contact the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Division of Transportation Investment Management.

## **Transportation Enhancement Program (part of the Statewide Multi-Modal Improvement Program (SMIP))**

Transportation enhancements (TE) are transportation-related activities that are designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of transportation systems. The transportation enhancements program provides for the implementation of a variety of non-traditional projects, with examples ranging from the restoration of historic transportation facilities, to bike and pedestrian facilities, to landscaping and scenic beautification, to the mitigation of water pollution from highway runoff. Most of the requests and projects awarded in Wisconsin have been for bicycle facilities. Examples of bicycle projects include multi-use trails (in greenways, former rail trails, etc.), paved shoulders, bike lanes, bicycle route signage, bicycle parking, overpasses/underpasses/bridges, and sidewalks.

Transportation enhancement activities must relate to surface transportation. Federal regulations restrict the use of funds on trails that allow motorized users, except snowmobiles. TEA 21 expanded the definition of transportation enhancements eligibility to specifically include the provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists, which had not been clearly eligible under ISTEA. Contact the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for further information.

## **Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER)**

PASER is a simple method of rating asphalt and concrete roads on a scale of 1 to 10 and gravel roads on a scale of 1 to 5, based on visual inspection. PASER manuals and a video explain how and why roads deteriorate, and describe proper repair and replacement techniques. PASER rating can be put into PASERWARE, an easy to use pavement management software program. PASERWARE helps to inventory roads, and keep track of their PASER ratings and maintenance histories. It also helps to prioritize road maintenance and improvement needs, calculate project costs, evaluate the consequences of alternative budgets and project selection strategies, and communicate those consequences to the public and local officials. Both PASER and PASERWARE are available from the University of Wisconsin's Transportation Information Center at no charge. The Center also offers free training courses.

## 5. Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources

This element provides an inventory of the agricultural, natural, and cultural resources of the Town of Delta. The elements analyzed in this section include soils, farmland, topography, geology, mineral resources, vegetation types, watersheds and drainage, wetlands, floodplains, surface water features, groundwater, environmentally sensitive areas, threatened and endangered species, wildlife habitat, historic and archaeological sites, and cultural resources. These features present opportunities for conservation and development and need to be considered when making decisions concerning the future of the town.

### 5.1 Soils

The use and management of soil has many impacts in the Town of Delta. Soil forms the foundation that all other ecosystems depend on – plant life, wildlife, streams, wetlands and lakes. Soils may also pose limitations to our use of the land in activities such as agricultural production, forestry, building development, and road construction.

Limited information on soils in Bayfield County is currently available. The *Bayfield County Soil Survey*, published in 1961 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, is based on a 1939 reconnaissance survey. Information provided in this publication is very general, and techniques of mapping soils have changed in many ways since this survey was developed.

General soil conditions and limitations data should be reliable on a large scale, but the reconnaissance survey cannot be used for detailed planning. Soil associations are groups of related soil types, and 27 different soil associations were mapped in the Town of Delta. The following descriptions of the soils found in the town combine several of the mapped soil associations, and are helpful for general planning purposes:

#### **Fine textured soils formed in glacial lake deposits, nearly level and undulating.**

Found primarily in the eastern third of the Town of Delta, these soils are composed mainly of silt and clay. These soils include the Ontonagon-Pickford soil association which is considered the best suited soil for agriculture in Bayfield County. Erosion control is important in sloped areas of these soil types, and drainage is often a limitation to agriculture, forestry, and development in the low lying areas.

Soil associations included:   Ontonagon-Pickford  
  Pickford-Bergland

#### **Course to medium textured soils formed in glacial lake deposits, nearly level and undulating.**

Scattered throughout the eastern portion of the town, these soils are composed mainly of sandy and loamy material overlying clay at a depth ranging from 6 inches to 6 feet. The sandy and loamy textured soil over clay results in drainage and erosion hazards for many potential land uses.

Soil associations included:   Orienta-Ogemaw  
  Superior  
  Superior-Ogemaw

**Course to medium textured soils formed in glacial lake deposits, rolling.**

Found in an isolated area in southwestern Delta, these soils are composed of sandy and loamy material underlain by clay at 3 to 6 feet in depth. Limitations due to poor drainage and erosion potential are common in these soils.

Soil associations included:   Orienta

**Moderately coarse and medium-textured formed in upland glacial drift, undulating.**

Found throughout the Town of Delta, except in the extreme western portions, these soils are composed mainly of sandy and loamy material. Low fertility and moisture holding capacity limit their productivity for crops, and stones limit the use of many areas to forest and recreation.

Soil associations included:   Cloquet-Gogebic  
  Cloquet-Hiawatha  
  Gogebic-Cloquet  
  Munising

**Moderately coarse and medium-textured formed in upland glacial drift, rolling.**

Found throughout the town, these soils are primarily composed of sandy and loamy material. Glacial features known as moraines and pitted outwash result in the hilly landscape found in association with these soils. Fertility is low, but these soils are well suited for use as woodland.

Soil associations included:   Cloquet-Hiawatha  
  Gogebic-Cloquet

**Coarse-textured soils of the uplands and outwash plains, nearly level and undulating.**

Occupying most of the western third and scattered throughout the central portion of the Town of Delta, these soils are mainly composed of sandy material. The vast majority of this soil type within Delta is located in the Chequamegon National Forest and has been planted to red pine. Limitations of these soils include low fertility, low moisture holding capacity, and high acidity.

Soil associations included:   Kinross  
  Omega-Vilas  
  Vilas-Omega

**Coarse-textured soils of the uplands and outwash plains, nearly level and rolling.**

Occupying most of central Delta and scattered throughout the rest of the town, these soils are primarily composed of sandy material. Glacial features known as moraines and pitted outwash result in the hilly landscape found in association with these soils. Limitations of these soils include low fertility, low moisture holding capacity, high acidity, and steep slopes. These areas are best suited as woodlands.

Soil associations included:   Vilas-Omega

**Coarse-textured soils of the uplands and outwash plains, hilly and steep.**

Found mainly in northwestern Delta, these soils are primarily composed of sandy material. Similar to the Vilas-Omega rolling soil association, these soils are limited in use by low nutrients and moisture, high acidity, and steep slopes. The Vilas-Omega rolling and Vilas-Omega hilly

and steep associations together underly most of the area known as the barrens of Bayfield County. The barrens are characterized by fairly open timber stands mixed with grasses. Soil associations included: Vilas-Omega

**Moderately coarse and medium-textured soils of the outwash plains and stream valleys, nearly level and undulating.**

Found in one isolated location near Muskellunge and Twin Bear lakes, these soils are composed mainly of sandy and loamy material with underlying sand and gravel. Fertility and moisture holding capacity of these soils are fair, but erosion control is a concern due to moderately steep slopes.

Soil associations included: Pence

**Organic soils.**

Scattered throughout the eastern two thirds of the Town of Delta, these soils are found in wetlands. The soil is composed of decaying organic material known as peat. The majority of these soils abut the shoreline of the town's lakes, ponds, and bogs.

Soil associations included: Greenwood peat  
Rifle peat  
Spalding peat  
Tahquamenon peat

**Alluvial land.**

These soils form in sediment deposits associated with major rivers and streams. Soil characteristics vary widely from one alluvial area to another. Alluvium is mapped along the White River in the Town of Delta.

Soil associations included: Alluvial land

## **5.2 Farmland**

Agricultural production is a small but important part of Delta's resource base. Approximately 2% of the town can be considered farmland as classified on the 2002 Existing Land Use Map (Map 8-1). According to figures from the *Wisconsin Town Land Use Data Project*, as compiled by the Program on Agricultural Technology Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, 8.6% of the town was in farmland use from 1991-1993. Information from the project also indicated that in 1990 there were three farms in the town, however by 1997 there were seven. None of the farms were indicated as dairy farms. The *Land Use* element of this plan further details trends and amount of land devoted to farming.

## **5.3 Forest**

Forests are the most expansive land cover found in the Town of Delta and are some of the most significant features of the town's resource base, culture, and economy. Forest land serves many functions, adds value to both the local economy and quality of life, and contributes to the town's rural atmosphere. They provide wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, timber and pulpwood, and educational opportunities. They are connected to many aspects of the local and regional economy. The health and management of these forests have many planning implications for the town.

According to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) land cover maps (see Map 5-1), about 36,000 acres or 78% of the town is forested. The majority of the forested land found within Bayfield County and within the Town of Delta is located within the Chequamegon National Forest. Forest types found within Delta vary widely. According to WDNR land cover maps, aspen, maple, and mixed coniferous/deciduous forests dominate the eastern half of the town. Jack pine, red pine, aspen, and other mixed coniferous/deciduous forests dominate the western half where sandy soils are most prevalent.

### **Historic State**

Native forest types in the town were primarily northern conifers and hardwoods according to the WDNR's map: *Original Vegetative Cover of Wisconsin*. This map approximates forest types that were likely to be found in Wisconsin during the mid 1800s. Native forest communities included:

#### **Boreal**

- ♦ White spruce, balsam fir, tamarack, white cedar, white birch, aspen

#### **Upland Mixed Conifer – Deciduous**

- ♦ Sugar maple, yellow birch, white pine, red pine
- ♦ White pine, red pine
- ♦ Aspen, white birch, pine

#### **Deciduous**

- ♦ White oak, black oak, bur oak

#### **Forested Wetland**

- ♦ White cedar, black spruce, tamarack, hemlock

### **Forest Uses and Economics**

Forests impacted the region of northwest Wisconsin by nearly 9 billion dollars (based on 1994 data) of forest related industry output according to *Forests and Regional Development* (Marcoullier & Mace, 2002). These related industries include wood processing, other manufacturing, construction, tourism, wholesale and retail trade, and a myriad of support services. These outputs are driven by both recreational and timber harvest uses of forest lands. Often viewed as being in conflict with one another, both forms of forest use must be balanced and managed in order to ensure continued benefits to the region and the Town of Delta.

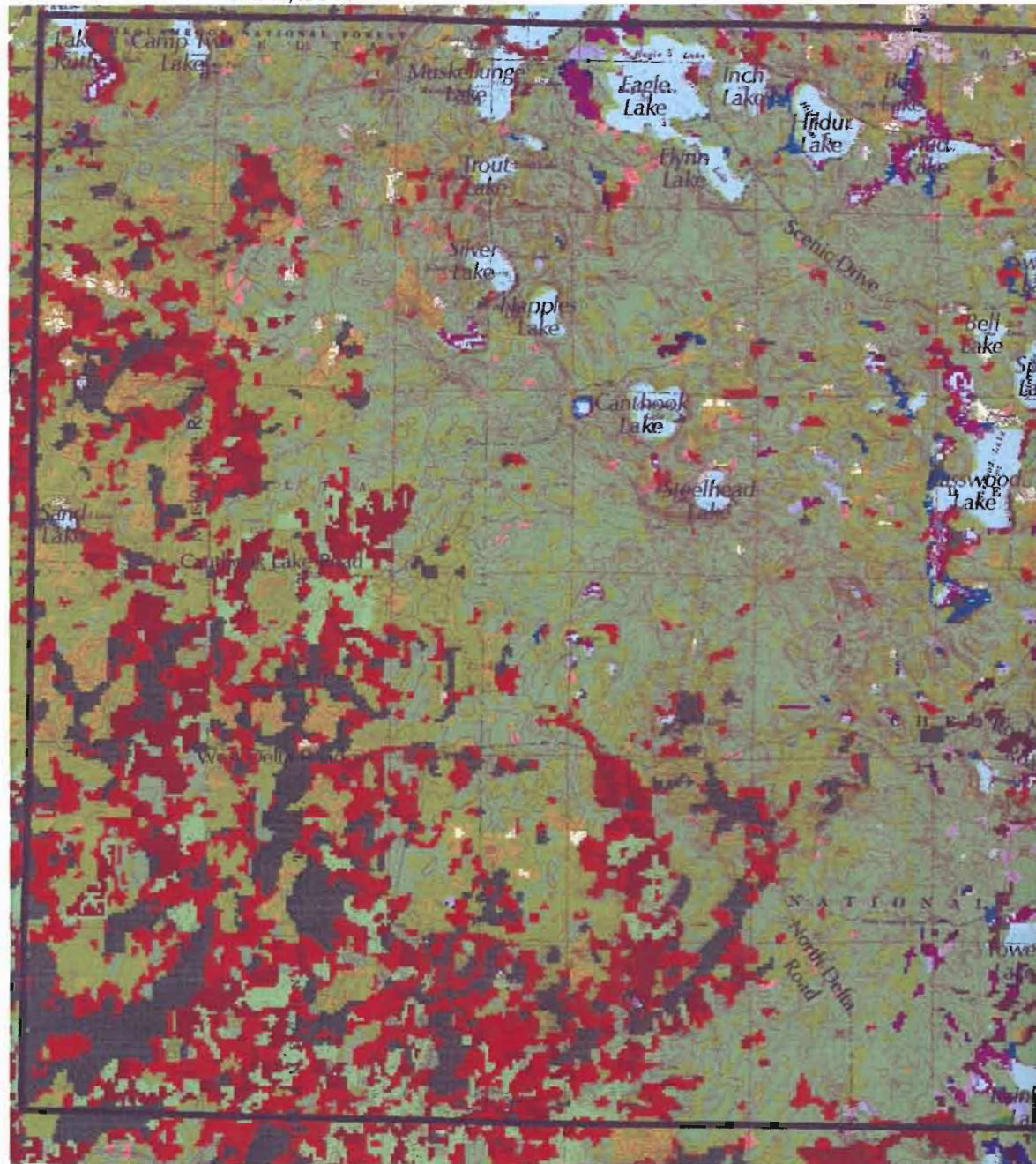
Potential conflicts within the realm of recreational forest use must also be taken into consideration when managing forest land. Motorized uses such as snowmobiles and ATVs, use for hunting and trapping, and passive uses like hiking and cross-country skiing all take place on forest lands in the Town of Delta. Adequate separation between potentially conflicting uses must be maintained in order to ensure continued forest viability and quality into the future.



TOWN OF IRON RIVER, BAYFIELD COUNTY  
T. 47 N., R. 8 W.

TOWN OF HUGHES, BAYFIELD COUNTY  
T. 46 N., R. 9 W.

TOWN OF BARNES, BAYFIELD COUNTY  
T. 46 N., R. 9 W.



Town Boundary

Surface Water

**LAND COVER**

**AGRICULTURE**

- General Agriculture
- Row Crops
- Forage Crops
- Grassland
- Shrubland
- Barren

**FOREST**

- Jack Pine
- Red Pine
- Mixed/Other Coniferous
- Aspen
- Oak
- Northern Pin Oak
- Red Oak
- Maple
- Mixed/Other Broad-leaved Deciduous
- Mixed Deciduous/Coniferous

**WETLAND**

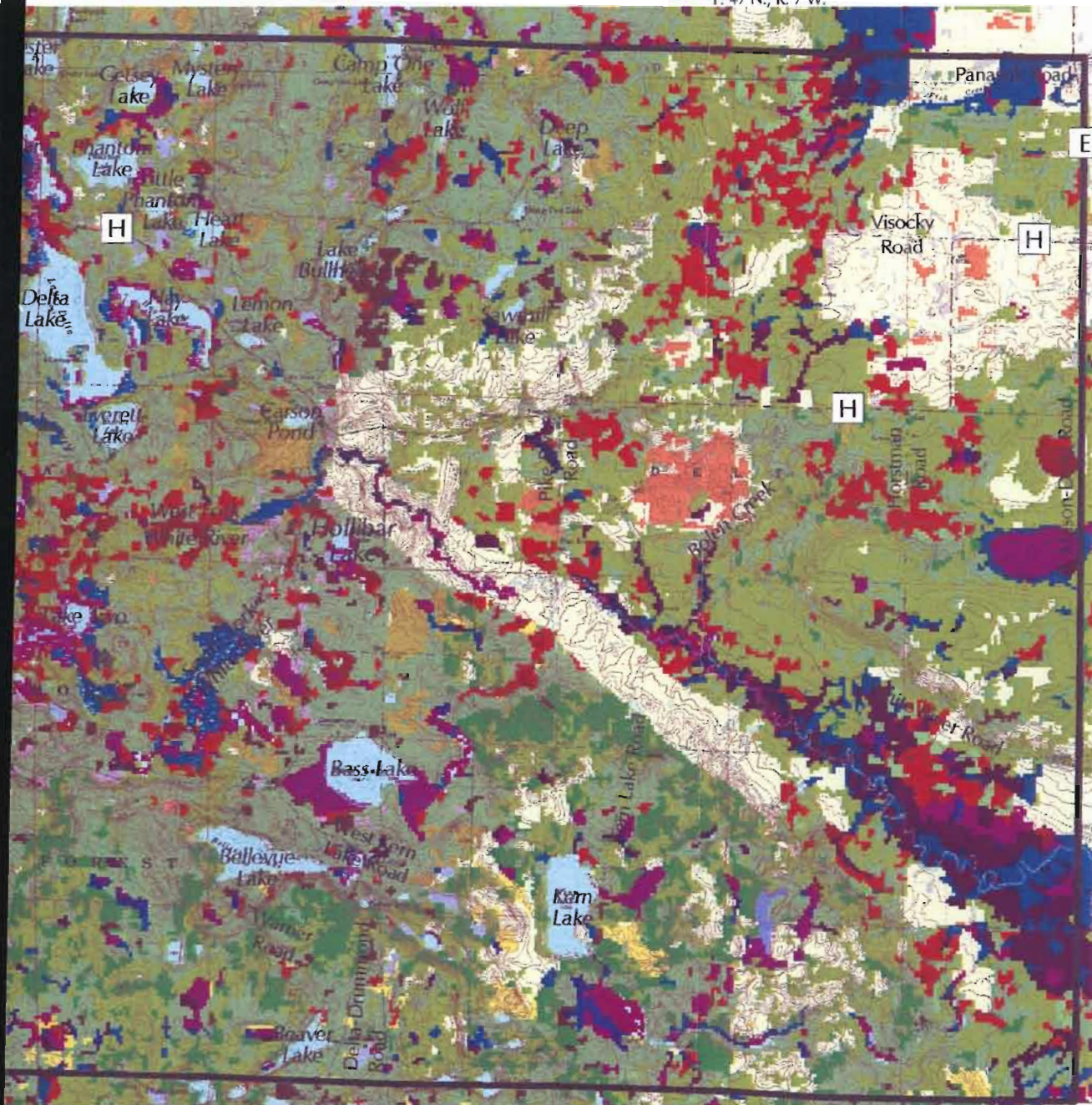
- Emergent/Wet Meadow
- Lowland Shrub
- Lowland Shrub: Broad-leaved
- Lowland Shrub: Broad-leaved
- Lowland Shrub: Needle-leaved
- Forested: Broad-leaved Deciduous
- Forested: Coniferous
- Forested: Mixed Deciduous/Coniferous

TOWN OF DRUM  
T. 45



TOWN OF KEYSTONE, BAYFIELD COUNTY

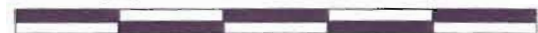
T. 47 N., R. 7 W.



TOWN OF MASON, BAYFIELD COUNTY  
T. 46 N., R. 6 W.

Bayfield County  
T. 46 N., R. 7 W.

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 Miles



This drawing is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This drawing is a compilation of records, information and data used for reference purposes only.

Source: U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles—Delta, Drummond NW, Grand View NW (1971), Ino (1975), Hart Lake, Iron River (1984), Bayfield County.

Classification derived from LANDSAT Thematic Mapper (TM) satellite imagery from 1991, 1992, and 1993. The classification has been "smoothed" to a 1-acre minimum mapping unit (4 contiguous pixels) from the original 30-meter pixel size. Wetlands smaller than one acre and open water pixels were not smoothed. Classification was done at the Wisconsin DNR, GEO Services Section.

Source: Wisconsin DNR, 1991-93; U.S.G.S. 1971-1984.



# MAP 5-1 LAND COVER AND U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE Town of Delta Bayfield County, Wisconsin



**Foth & Van Dyke**

m:\02d010\april\delta\_6.apr October 30, 2003 Drawn by: kpk1 Checked by: nps



## **Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest**

The Chequamegon National Forest occupies nearly one half of the Town of Delta. This national forest was established by presidential proclamation in 1933. Since 1998, the Chequamegon National Forest and the Nicolet National Forest have been consolidated and managed as one administrative unit. The Chequamegon side of the forest includes 858,400 acres in six northern counties including approximately 21,000 acres in the Town of Delta. National Forest lands are managed by the United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service (USDA-FS), which also develops and administers forest policy and planning.

Management of the Chequamegon National Forest is prescribed generally by the 1986 *Forest Plan* as amended. The overall forest management policy was last amended in 1992 to include a philosophy known as “ecosystem management.” The Forest Service defines ecosystem management as “an ecological approach to natural resource management to assure productive, healthy ecosystems by blending social, economic, physical, and biological needs and values.” General management prescriptions found within the Town of Delta fall into three categories:

### Management Prescription 1

Desired land conditions include even-aged stands on short rotation. Hardwoods are harvested for fiber production, and consideration is given to motorized recreation and wildlife game species. Land under this prescription includes the area north of West Delta Road and Rocky Run Road.

### Management Prescription 4

Desired land conditions include even-aged stands on long and short rotation. Softwoods are harvested for sawtimber and fiber production, and consideration is given to motorized recreation and both game and non-game wildlife. Land under this prescription includes the area south of West Delta Road and west of North Delta Road.

### Management Prescription 5

Desired land conditions include Congressionally designated wilderness. These areas are reserved for the protection of the natural ecosystem, wilderness character, and recreational experience. These are also known as “roadless areas.” Land under this prescription includes the Rainbow Lake Wilderness Area.

The USDA-FS began the process of revising the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest Plan in 1996. This process was nearing completion at the time the Town of Delta Comprehensive Plan was being drafted, and changes to the management prescriptions within the town were pending.

## **Privately Owned Forest Land**

Approximately 40% of the Town of Delta is privately owned resource land. This figure, derived from the 2002 Existing Land Use Map (Map 8-1), includes both forested and open privately owned undeveloped lands, but is predominantly forested. Public forest lands are often thought of as the primary source of forest related functions and values, but a significant amount of timber production, wildlife management, and forest recreation also take place on privately owned forest lands.

Private forest lands in the Town of Delta are owned both by individuals and corporate entities. Corporately owned, or industrial forests, occupy about 1500 acres, or just over 3% of the town. Industrial forests are important to note, as they are often managed more intensively for commodity production and often contain large contiguous blocks of forest land. Changes in the ownership and management of industrial forests can have a drastic and noticeable impact on the town.

The use of voluntary management programs on private forest lands is also significant in Delta. Lands enrolled in WDNR forest management programs like Managed Forest Law (MFL) and Forest Crop Law (FCL) included nearly 2,300 acres in 2002. Management programs on private forest lands are important to note for timber harvest and public access reasons. These programs require that a timber harvest takes place at some point on enrolled lands, and some of these private properties become open to public use for recreational purposes. Refer to *Land and Resource Protection/Management Programs* in the *Land Use* element for a description of the MFL and FCL programs. Demand for enrollment in these programs is expected to increase as property values and the resulting taxes continue to rise.

## **5.4 Topography**

Topography in the Town of Delta can be described as nearly level to rolling and steep. Elevations in Delta range from a low of approximately 1,010 feet above sea level in the far northeast corner to a high of about 1,330 feet above sea level in the southern and western reaches of the town. This puts the Town of Delta in the middle to upper range of elevations found throughout Bayfield County.

The most variety in elevation is associated with a region of glacial lakebed that extends from the northwest to the southeast and contains the majority of the town's lakes. Steep slopes in excess of 15% are common in this area according to slope maps developed by the U.S. Forest Service.

More level areas of the town are associated with areas of glacial lake deposits in the northeast, the Pine Barrens in the southwest, and alluvial lands surrounding the White River. The sandy "Pine Barrens" is a flat plain extending in a belt 10 to 20 miles wide from Bayfield County across Douglas and northern Washburn into Burnett and Polk Counties.

## **5.5 Geology**

Geological features directly influence topography, soils, surface water, and groundwater, and indirectly influence many other natural resources as well. Understanding the geology of the town is important in planning for the future. The geology of the Town of Delta is primarily influenced by bedrock, Lake Superior, and glacial activity.

The soils of Bayfield County are underlain by layers of ancient sandstone and igneous rocks. The bedrock below the Town of Delta is primarily composed of varying depths of sandstone. The sandstone bedrock was scoured by the rising waters of Lake Superior as well as the advance and retreat of glaciers. This scoured sandstone influenced many of the coarse textured soils found within the town.

During glaciation, the water level of Lake Superior was much higher than it is today. According to the *Bayfield County Soil Survey*, the glacial basin of Lake Superior ran through the Town of Delta from the northwest corner to the southeast corner. Clay, silt, and sand were deposited by the lake, influencing the soils and surface waters of the town.

Other glacial features present in the town include end moraines and pitted outwash. Moraines formed where glaciers halted temporarily and deposited material in meltwater. End moraines in the northeast corner of Delta were further modified as they were submerged by the rising waters of Lake Superior. Outwash plains formed where rivers of meltwater deposited masses of sand and gravel. In the northeast and southwest corners of the town, pitted outwash plains contained blocks of ice that, when melted, formed depressions.

## **5.6 Metallic and Nonmetallic Mineral Resources**

Non-metallic mineral resources found in the Town of Delta include sand and gravel deposits. No known deposits of metallic mineral resources are located in Delta.

Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 135 requires that all counties adopt and enforce a Non-Metallic Mining Reclamation Ordinance that establishes performance standards for the reclamation of active and future nonmetallic mining sites, but not abandoned sites. It is intended that NR 135 will contribute to environmental protection, stable non-eroding sites, productive end land use, and the potential to enhance habitat and increase land values and tax revenues. The Bayfield County Zoning Department administers this program in Bayfield County and currently has eight active sites licensed within the Town of Delta.

## **5.7 Watersheds and Drainage**

A watershed can be defined as an interconnected area of land draining from surrounding ridge tops to a common point such as a lake or stream confluence with a neighboring watershed. All lands and waterways can be found within one watershed or another. In Wisconsin, watersheds vary in scale from major river systems to small creek drainage areas and typically range in size from 100 to 300 square miles. River basins encompass several watersheds. There are 32 river basins in Wisconsin which range in size from 500 to over 5,000 square miles.

The vast majority of lands within the Town of Delta are located within the White River, Iron River, and Fish Creek Watersheds of the Lake Superior Basin. A very small segment of western Delta is located within the Upper St. Croix and Eau Claire Rivers Watershed of the St. Croix Basin. See Map 5-2, Water Features, for local watershed boundaries.

## **5.8 Wetlands**

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, wetlands are areas where water covers the soil, or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time during the year, including during the growing season. Water saturation (hydrology) largely determines how the soil develops and the types of plant and animal communities living in and on the soil. Wetlands may support both aquatic and terrestrial species.

The prolonged presence of water creates conditions that favor the growth of specially adapted plants (hydrophytes) and promotes the development of characteristic wetland (hydric) soils.

Wetlands may be seasonal or permanent and are commonly referred to as swamps, marshes, fens or bogs. Wetland plants and soils have the capacity to store and filter pollutants ranging from pesticides to animal wastes. Wetlands can make lakes, rivers and streams cleaner, and drinking water safer. Wetlands also provide valuable habitat for fish, plants, and animals. In addition, some wetlands can also replenish groundwater supplies. Groundwater discharge from wetlands is common and can be important in maintaining stream flows, especially during dry months.

Local, state, and federal regulations place limitations on the development and use of wetlands and shorelands. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) has inventory maps for each town that identify wetlands two acres and larger. The wetland inventory map should be consulted in conjunction with this document whenever the town reviews development proposals in order to identify wetlands and to ensure their protection from development. Wetlands located in Delta are shown on Map 5-2, Water Features and Map 5-3, Environmental Features.

The Bibon Marsh, located just east of Delta in the Town of Mason, is the largest wetland in Bayfield County and is afforded protection as the Bibon Swamp State Natural Area. Land use in the Town of Delta is important to this wetland, as a portion of the White River watershed is located within the town. This wetland occupies the basin of a glacial lake bed and displays a high level of ecological diversity. Several rare and state-listed threatened species are found within the marsh, and some forested portions contain trees that are more than 150 years old.

## **5.9 Floodplains**

For planning and regulatory purposes, floodplain is normally defined as those areas, excluding the stream channel, that are subject to inundation by the 100-year recurrence interval flood event. This event has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year. Because of this chance of flooding, structural development in the floodplain should be discouraged. Floodplain includes the floodway and flood fringe. The floodway is the portion of the floodplain that carries rapidly flowing water, while the flood fringe is the portion of the floodplain outside the floodway, generally associated with standing water. Park and open space uses may be permitted in the flood fringe.

Wisconsin Statute 87.30 requires Counties, Cities, and Villages to implement floodplain zoning. The Bayfield County Zoning Department enforces a Floodplain Zoning Ordinance. This ordinance strictly regulates development within the floodplain. In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has developed flood hazard data. Under the authority of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, FEMA conducted studies to determine the location and extent of floodlands and the monetary damage risks related to the insurance of urban development in floodland areas. The 100-year floodplain areas for the unincorporated areas of Bayfield County have been delineated by FEMA.

Floodplains are present in the Town of Delta in association with the White River and some of its tributaries and connected lakes. In addition to the main channel of the White River, the South and East Forks of the White River have floodplain identified on FEMA maps. Along the South

Fork, Lake Two is also shown as having floodplain. In association with the East Fork, Bear, Delta, Everett, and Hay Lakes all have areas of floodplain along their shores. Floodplains within the town are relatively narrow and usually found in conjunction with wetland areas. Floodplains in Delta are shown on Map 5-2, Water Features.

The Town of Delta received FEMA disaster relief funds in 1999 and 2001 due to flooding situations. Early spring rains overwhelmed the still frozen road ditches, washing out several roads and culverts.

## 5.10 Surface Water Features

The Town of Delta is rich in surface water resources, and the vast majority of existing development is centered around the town's 50 plus lakes. The town's lakes are generally small to medium sized and occupy a total of approximately 1,800 acres. These lakes vary widely from wild 5 acre, 50 foot deep glacial potholes to 180 acre drainage lakes ringed with cottages and resorts. Table 5-1 displays a list of DNR identified lakes found in the Town of Delta. The public access information in this table has been updated by the Town Plan Commission. Map 5-2 displays lakes, rivers, and streams found in the town.



**Lake  
Connections**

Delta contains more than  
50 lakes and many miles  
of streams.

The surface waters of the Town of Delta include many unique and pristine resources. Several of the town's lakes form the headwaters of the White River – one of the primary sources of water for the Bibon Marsh State Wildlife Area. This wildlife area, as well as the Iron River watershed, are both considered critical to the integrity of the Lake Superior ecosystem. The Town of Delta is also home to Bollen Creek – an Exceptional Resource Water and class I trout stream. The *Lake Superior Basin Water Quality Management Plan* (1999) identifies the White River as an “aquatic priority site” exhibiting high species diversity. The *Bayfield County Critical Resource Information Booklet* (1975) identified the following “potentially critical resources” within the Town of Delta:

- ♦ The White River watershed
- ♦ Cold water environments
- ♦ Rainbow Lake
- ♦ Beaver Lake
- ♦ Bullhead Lake
- ♦ Steelhead Lake
- ♦ Trout Lake

TOWN OF IRON RIVER, BAYFIELD COUNTY  
T. 47 N., R. 8 W.

TOWN OF HUGHES, BAYFIELD COUNTY  
T. 46 N., R. 9 W.








TOWN OF BARNES, BAYFIELD COUNTY  
T. 46 N., R. 9 W.

TOWN OF DRUMMOND, BAYFIELD COUNTY  
T. 45 N., R. 8-7 W.

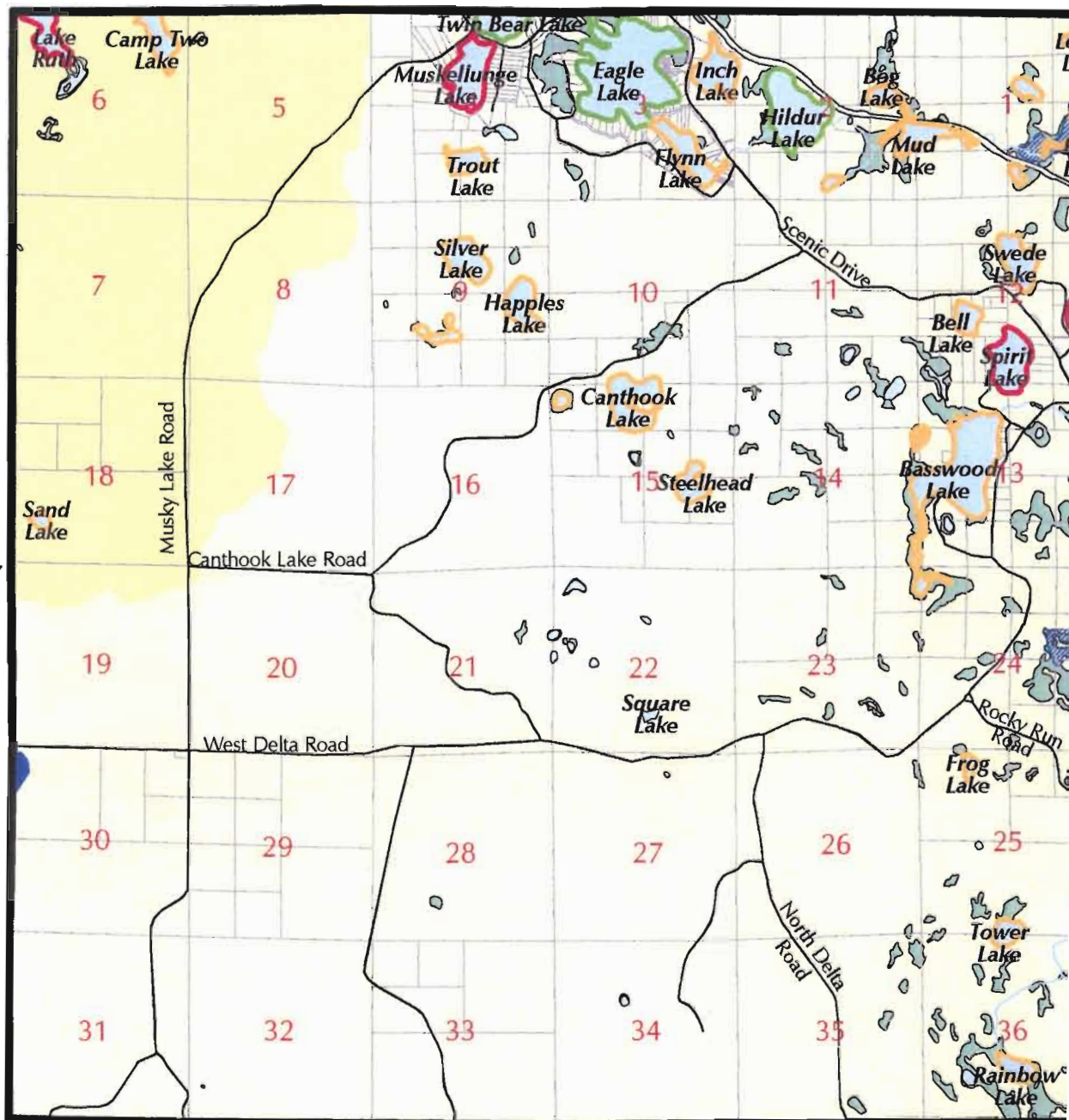
### Water Features

-  Fish Creek Watershed
-  Iron River Watershed
-  Upper Saint Croix and Eau Claire Rivers Watershed
-  White River Watershed
-  WDNR Designated Wetlands\*
-  FEMA Floodplain\*\*
-  Class One Lake\*\*\*
-  Class Two Lake
-  Class Three Lake

### Other Features

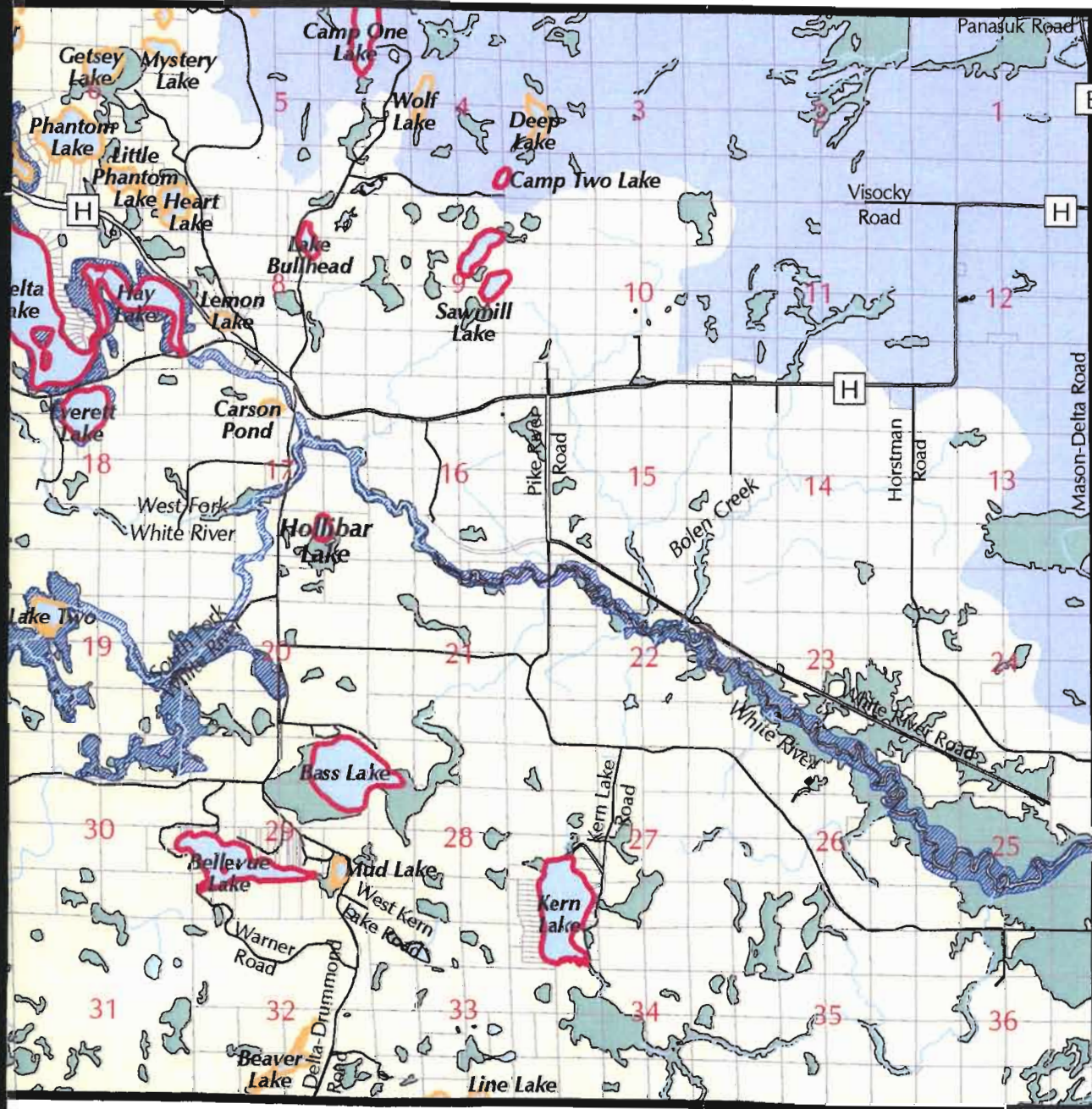
-  Town Boundary
-  Local Road
-  Parcel Lines
-  Streams
-  Surface Water
-  County Highway
-  Section Numbers

\* Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.  
\*\* Federal Emergency Management Agency.  
\*\*\* Bayfield County Shoreland Zoning.





TOWN OF KEYSTONE, BAYFIELD COUNTY  
T. 47 N., R. 7 W.



TOWN OF MASON, BAYFIELD COUNTY  
T. 46 N., R. 6 W.

MAP 5-2

WATER

FEATURE DATA

Town of Delta

Bayfield County, Wisconsin

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 Miles



This drawing is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This drawing is a compilation of records, information and data used for reference purposes only.

Source: Northwest Regional Planning Commission, 2002;  
Bayfield County 1998-2000; WDNR 2002; FEMA 1997.



m:\02d010\apri\delta\_9.apr October 30, 2003 Drawn by: kpk1 Checked by: nps

**Table 5-1: Lake Descriptions, Town of Delta, 2001**

Lake Name	Surface area (acres)	Maximum depth (feet)	Public access	Water source	Abundant and common fish species
Bass Lake	76	43	boat ramp	seepage	panfish
Basswood Lake	119	9	trail	spring	N. pike, panfish
Bear Lake	32	18	trail	drainage	N. pike, panfish
Beaver Lake	19	39	trail	seepage	
Bell Lake	14	35		seepage	panfish
Bellevue Lake	65	45	boat ramp	seepage	N. pike, panfish
Bog Lake	12	13	roadside	spring	LM bass
Bullhead Lake	7	46		seepage	panfish
Camp One Lake	37	40	boat ramp	seepage	panfish
Camp Two Lake (46-7)	4	53		seepage	
Camp Two Lake (46-8)	23	39	trail	seepage	panfish
Canthook Lake	34	38		seepage	panfish
Carson Pond	5	12		spring	panfish
Deep Lake	13	61		seepage	panfish
Delta Lake	180	30	boat ramp	drainage	
Eagle Lake	170	52	navigable	drainage	muskie, LM bass
Echo Lake	no data				
Everett Lake	34	55		seepage	
Flynn Lake	29	9	navigable	drainage	
Frog Lake	8	8	wilderness	seepage	
Getsey Lake	19	20		seepage	panfish
Happles Lake	24	36	trail	seepage	
Hay Lake	59	21		drainage	N. pike, LM bass
Heart Lake	24	19		seepage	walley, panfish
Hilder Lake	67	66	roadside	drainage	
Hollihar Lake	7	20		seepage	
Inch Lake	31	41		seepage	
Kern Lake	91	21		seepage	panfish
Lemon Lake	6	40	roadside	seepage	
Lester Lake	24	44	trail	seepage	panfish
Line Lake	8	18	wilderness	seepage	LM bass, panfish
Little Phantom Lake	no data				
Mud Lake (46-7)	8	8	wilderness	seepage	
Mud Lake (46-8)	no data				
Muskellunge Lake	44	33		seepage	N. pike
Mystery Lake	14	13		seepage	
Phantom Lake	44	35		seepage	panfish
Rainbow Lake	14	21	wilderness	seepage	
Ruth Lake	66	30	boat ramp	seepage	N. pike, LM bass, panfish
Sawmill Lake	12	45		seepage	
Silver Lake	26	51	trail	seepage	LM bass, panfish
Spirit Lake	35	30		seepage	panfish
Square Lake	3	9	wilderness	seepage	
Steelhead Lake	17	51		seepage	LM bass, panfish
Swede Lake	27	35	wilderness	seepage	
Toothpick Lake	7	20	trail	seepage	LM bass, panfish
Tower Lake	13	54	wilderness	seepage	LM bass
Trout Lake	14	39		seepage	LM bass, trout
Tub Lake	11	31	boat ramp	seepage	LM bass, panfish
Twin Bear Lake	172	59	boat ramp	seepage	N. pike, walleye
Two Lake	8	7	trail	drainage	trout
Unnamed lakes	23	7	various	various	
West Lake	11	17	wilderness	seepage	panfish
Wolf Lake	12	27		seepage	
1822					

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2001 Revision to Wisconsin Lakes Book. Town of Delta.



## 5.11 Groundwater Quality

Groundwater is the source of all drinking water in the Town of Delta. Groundwater is a limited resource, and both its quality and quantity are important factors. These factors are primarily influenced by local geology and local land use. Precipitation percolates through the soil and bedrock where it eventually reaches a saturated zone known as an aquifer. It is from these aquifers that wells draw their water.

Groundwater in the Town of Delta is generally abundant and of good quality. Two primary aquifers are present in the town: the sand and gravel aquifer and the crystalline rock aquifer. The sand and gravel aquifer is present throughout the town at varying depths below the ground surface. This aquifer is easily accessible, but it is also the most easily contaminated. The crystalline rock aquifer is a deep aquifer and is also found throughout the town. The crystalline rock aquifer yields low to moderate amounts of water, but is generally less susceptible to contamination. The sand and gravel aquifer generally supplies adequate water in the town, but where this aquifer is not available, wells must draw from the deeper crystalline rock.

Groundwater contamination is most likely to occur where fractured bedrock is near the ground surface, or where only a thin layer of soil separates the ground surface from the water table. Soils are relatively deep in the Town of Delta, so shallow depth to the water table combined with highly permeable soil is the more likely scenario. Potential sources of groundwater contamination include:

- ♦ Chemical storage
- ♦ Landspreading of sewage treatment plant sludge
- ♦ Road salt usage and storage
- ♦ Animal feedlots
- ♦ Use and spillage of fertilizers and pesticides
- ♦ Accidental spills
- ♦ Septic tanks and drainfields
- ♦ Underground storage tanks
- ♦ Underground pipelines and sewers
- ♦ Landfills
- ♦ Mines, pits, and quarries

According to the map, *Groundwater Contamination Susceptibility in Wisconsin* (DNR/USGS/WGNHS, 1989), potential for groundwater contamination in the Town of Delta varies widely (see Map 5-3). In central Delta (shown in red hatch on Map 5.3), sandy, rapidly permeable soils and shallow depth to groundwater pose a very high risk for contamination. This portion of the town is comparable to the "Central Sands" region of Wisconsin (Portage, Waushara, Wood and Adams Counties) which is considered one of the highest risk areas for groundwater contamination in the state. To the other extreme, in the eastern portion of the town, where heavier silt loam and clay soils are present, there is very little risk of groundwater contamination. In the western and southern areas of Delta, the risk is moderately high.

## **5.12 Environmentally Sensitive Areas**

Environmentally sensitive areas contain natural features that are unique, that serve special functions, or are easily impacted by intensive land uses. Such unique, functional, and sensitive features in the Town of Delta include:

- ♦ Small to medium sized lakes
- ♦ Large blocks of contiguous forest
- ♦ Trout streams
- ♦ Easily contaminated groundwater
- ♦ Rare, threatened, and endangered species
- ♦ Wetlands and floodplains
- ♦ State designated Natural Areas

These features are found throughout the landscape of the Town of Delta and are shown on Map 5-3, Environmental Features.

## **5.13 Threatened and Endangered Species**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) lists species as “endangered” when the continued existence of that species as a viable component of the state’s wild animals or wild plants is determined to be in jeopardy on the basis of scientific evidence. “Threatened” species are listed when it appears likely based on scientific evidence that the species may become endangered within the foreseeable future. The WDNR also lists species of “special concern” of which some problem of abundance or distribution is suspected but not yet proven; the intent of this classification is to focus attention on certain species before becoming endangered or threatened.

The WDNR maps threatened and endangered species occurrences on a general level for planning purposes. According to the Department, threatened and endangered species occurrences are abundant in the Town of Delta. Threatened and endangered aquatic species have been identified in association with the central lakes area and with the White River within the town. Threatened and endangered terrestrial species are found primarily in the forest lands of southwestern Delta within the National Forest. See Map 5-3 for general locations of threatened and endangered species.

## **5.14 Wildlife Habitat and State Natural Areas**

Wildlife habitat is defined as the presence of enough food, cover, and water to sustain a species. The Delta landscape provides habitat for a variety of plants, birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and fish including many rare, threatened, and endangered species. Unique and critical habitat communities present within the town include:

- ♦ Natural shorelines of lakes and streams
- ♦ Large, uninterrupted blocks of forest
- ♦ Wetlands and floodplains
- ♦ Jack pine savannas (pine barrens)

The WDNR also identifies State Natural Areas, which are defined as tracts of land in a natural or near natural state, which are managed to serve several purposes including scientific research, teaching of resource management, and preservation of rare native plants and ecological communities. The Sadjak Springs State Natural Area is located in the Town of Delta within the White River State Fishery Area. Sadjak Springs features soft water springs that feed a small trout stream, and eventually, the White River.

## **5.15 Historic and Cultural Resources**

### **Historic Places**

The Wisconsin Architecture & History Inventory (AHI), provided by the Wisconsin Historical Society lists historical and architectural information on properties in Wisconsin. The AHI contains data on buildings, structures and objects that illustrate Wisconsin's unique history. The majority of properties listed are privately owned. Listed properties convey no special status, rights or benefits.

The Town of Delta has 7 sites listed on the AHI, but only 4 of these remain standing. An historic rail bridge over the White River and County Road H has since been removed. The Delta and Sutherland Schools have deteriorated and collapsed. The four remaining properties include the Delta Town Hall, St. Paul's United Church of Christ, the White Elephant and Delta Lodge. Delta Lodge is the town's oldest building, and the White Elephant is what remains of a large structure built in the early 20th century to house an agricultural experiment. This building has been converted to apartments. The structure that is now the Delta Town Hall was once the Pike River School and has since been structurally modified. Work on restoring the bell from this structure was in the planning stages as of the 2003 annual town meeting. The intact sites may be candidates for inclusion in an official historic register

The National Register of Historic Places recognizes properties of local, state and national significance. Properties are listed in the National Register because of their associations with significant persons or events, because they contain important information about history or prehistory, or because of their architectural or engineering significance. The National Register also lists important groupings of properties as historic districts. In addition, the National Park Service highlights properties that have significance to the nation as a whole by conferring them the status of National Historic Landmark.

The Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places parallels the National Register. However, it is designed to enable state-level historic preservation protection and benefits. Most of the properties in Wisconsin listed in the National Register are also listed in the State Register. No historic places within the Town of Delta are currently listed on the National or State Register.

Additional information on the history of the Town of Delta is available in *The History of Delta, Wisconsin, 50 Years, 1924-1974*. This booklet was compiled by town residents, Shirlene Meyer and Carol Wuennecke, and a copy is included in this plan as Appendix A.

## **Archeological Sites**

The Wisconsin Archaeological Site Index (ASI) is maintained by the Office of the State Archeologist. Similar to the AHI, these sites have no special status, rights or benefits. However, should a state or federally sponsored project potentially impact these sites, a complete archeological survey would need to be conducted before the project could proceed. It should also be noted that all burial sites are granted protection from disturbance by both public and private actions by Wis. Stats. Chapter 157.

The ASI lists 20 sites of archeological significance within the Town of Delta. Included are the Delta Cemetery, 2 sites of unknown origin, and many logging camps. One of the most significant sites is a logging camp known as the White River Camp. This site was later used to construct the Delta Civilian Conservation Corp camp which was operated from 1935 to 1942.

## **Cultural Resources**

Bayfield County has a number of museums and historical sites, and although none are located in the town, some are within a relatively close distance and attract tourists and seasonal visitors to the area. The following sites are all open to the public:

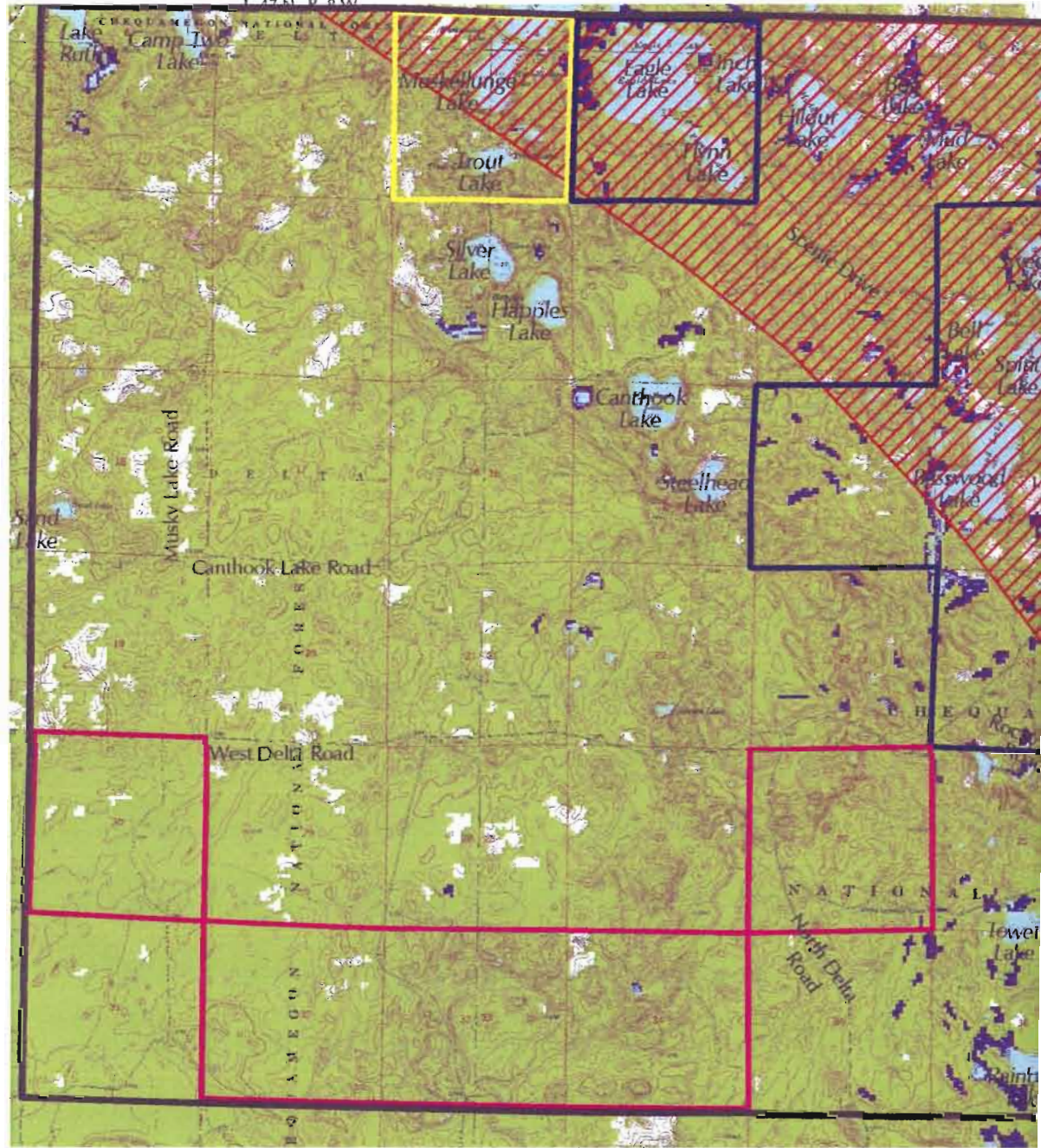
- ♦ Apostle Island lighthouses and sites of historical significance
- ♦ Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Museum, Bayfield
- ♦ Bayfield Heritage Association Museum, Bayfield
- ♦ Bayfield Maritime Museum, Bayfield
- ♦ Cable Natural History Museum, Cable
- ♦ Drummond Historical Museum, Drummond
- ♦ Hokenson Brothers Fishery Museum, Town of Russell
- ♦ Lakeview School Museum, Madeline Island
- ♦ Madeline Island Historical Museum, Madeline Island
- ♦ Mason Historical Museum, Mason
- ♦ Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, Town of Eileen
- ♦ Washburn Historical Museum & Cultural Center, Washburn
- ♦ Western Bayfield County Museum, Iron River



TOWN OF IRON RIVER, BAYFIELD COUNTY

TOWN OF HUGHES, BAYFIELD COUNTY  
T. 46 N., R. 9 W.

TOWN OF BARNES, BAYFIELD COUNTY  
T. 46 N., R. 9 W.



TOWN OF DRUMMOND,  
T. 45 N., R. 9 E.

**Environmental Features**

- Class I Trout Stream & Exceptional Resource Water
- Sadjak Springs State Natural Area
- Highly Susceptible for Groundwater Contamination (Approximate Boundary)

**Threatened and Endangered Species Occurrences**

- Aquatic
- Terrestrial
- Aquatic and Terrestrial

**Land Cover**

- Forest
- Wetland

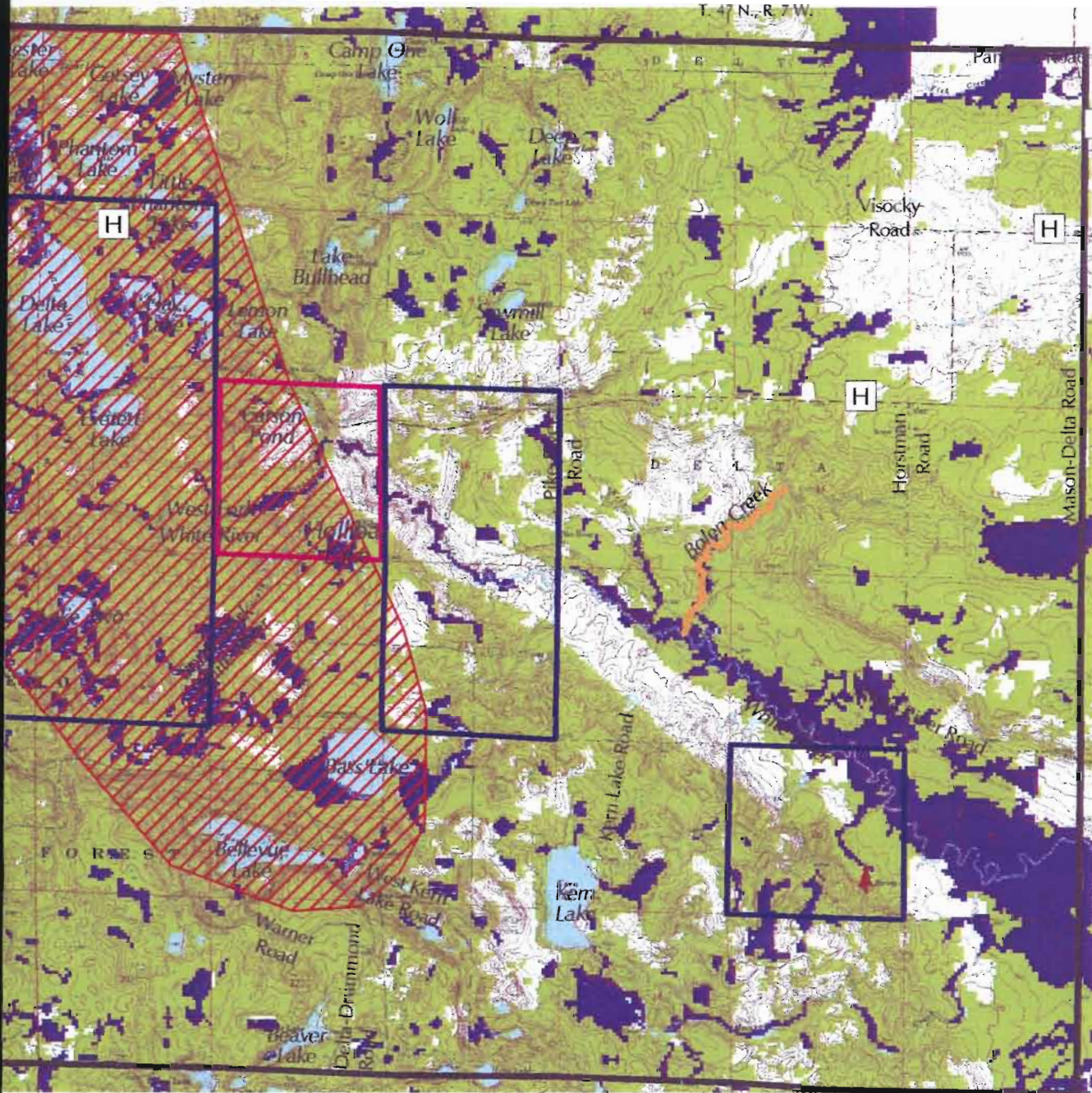
**Other Features**

- Town Boundary
- Local Road
- Surface Water
- County Highway



TOWN OF KEYSTONE, BAYFIELD COUNTY

T. 47 N., R. 7 W.



TOWN OF MASON, BAYFIELD COUNTY  
T. 46 N., R. 6 W.

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 Miles



This drawing is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as one. This drawing is a compilation of records, information and data used for reference purposes only.

Source: U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles—  
Delta, Drummond NW, Grand View NW (1971), Ino (1975).  
Hart Lake, Iron River (1984), Bayfield County.

Classification derived from LANDSAT Thematic Mapper (TM) satellite imagery from 1991, 1992, and 1993. The classification has been "smoothed" to a 1-acre minimum mapping unit (4 contiguous pixels) from the original 30-meter pixel size. Wetlands smaller than one acre and open water pixels were not smoothed. Classification was done at the Wisconsin DNR, GEO Services Section.

Source: Wisconsin DNR, 1991-93; U.S.G.S. 1971-1984.

UW Extension—"Groundwater Contamination Susceptibility in Wisconsin" Map (1989);

DNR Natural Heritage Inventory; DNR Lake Superior Basin Water Quality Management Plan (1999).



# MAP 5-3 ENVIRONMENTAL FEATUTRES Town of Delta Bayfield County, Wisconsin



**Foth & Van Dyke**

m:02d010\apridelta\_9.apr October 30, 2003 Drawn by: kpk1 Checked by: nps

## **5.16 Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Goals and Objectives**

Community goals are broad, value-based statements expressing public preferences for the long term (20 years or more). They specifically address key issues, opportunities, and problems that affect the community.

Objectives are more specific than goals and are measurable statements usually attainable through direct action and implementation of plan recommendations. The accomplishment of objectives contributes to fulfillment of the goal.

### **Goal 1)        Preserve the pristine quality of surface water and groundwater resources for current and future generations in the Town of Delta.**

#### ***Supporting Objectives:***

- ♦ Evaluate the potential impact of development proposals on groundwater quality and quantity.
- ♦ Evaluate the potential impact of development proposals on surface water quality.
- ♦ Support efforts to identify features in the town that are critical to the quality of natural resources including: groundwater recharge areas, exceptional resource waters and their watersheds, trout streams and their watersheds, steep slopes, and areas that are highly susceptible to groundwater contamination.
- ♦ Encourage the development of comprehensive lake management plans which include surveys, assessment and monitoring, and recommendations for restoration and improvement.
- ♦ Encourage the formation of lake and river associations and support the activities of such associations whenever they are consistent with the *Town of Delta Year 2025 Comprehensive Plan*.
- ♦ Support data collection and monitoring of surface water quality in the town by lake organizations, citizen volunteers, and appropriate regulatory agencies.
- ♦ Consider coordinating town-wide efforts to identify and address ongoing water quality and water recreational use issues.
- ♦ Consider coordinating efforts to identify potential aquatic habitat areas for WDNR sensitive area designations.

**Goal 2) Support further development of underutilized resources while minimizing potential negative impacts and maintaining consistency with the character of the Town of Delta.**

***Supporting Objectives:***

- ♦ Support requests for properly located and responsibly operated non-metallic mines in the town.
- ♦ Support efforts to enhance recreational uses that are compatible with existing recreational uses on public and private lands within the Town of Delta.
- ♦ Encourage the continuation and expansion of the forest products industry in the local and regional economy.
- ♦ Support continued and expanded agricultural uses in the Town of Delta by preventing fragmentation of open space and maintaining agricultural zoning.

**Goal 3) Maintain, preserve, and enhance the town's natural environment, forested lands, open spaces, and wild lands.**

***Supporting Objectives:***

- ♦ Support forest management practices that ensure a balance between timber harvest and recreational uses.
- ♦ Maintain involvement with publicly owned forest lands and provide input to the WDNR and U.S. Forest Service regarding forest management decisions on public lands within the town.
- ♦ Work cooperatively with the WDNR and U.S. Forest Service in sponsoring workshops and educational materials regarding sound forest management practices and programs.

**Goal 4) Maintain and enhance the town's remote and natural atmosphere which contributes to the quality of life.**

***Supporting Objectives:***

- ♦ Identify and preserve those scenic views and vistas that characterize Delta.
- ♦ Discourage uniform residential lots sizes of less than 4.5 acres over large areas that diminish rural character and are more characteristic of urban/suburban areas.
- ♦ Develop design guidelines that require commercial and industrial uses to address aesthetic impacts through attractive building style and materials, prevention of light trespass, landscaping, hidden parking, attractive signage, shared highway access points, and functional pedestrian access.



- ♦ Support Bayfield County regulations that apply to billboards and consider adopting local standards for signs that preserve the character of the town.

**Goal 5) Preserve significant historic and cultural lands and structures that contribute to community identity and character.**

***Supporting Objectives:***

- ♦ Work cooperatively with property owners, Bayfield County, local historical societies, and other appropriate organizations to identify, record, and protect lands, sites, rustic roads, and structures with historical or cultural significance.
- ♦ Promote the history of Delta and aspects of the town that have helped to define its culture and heritage.
- ♦ Encourage the adaptive re-use of historic structures and record their history.

**5.17 Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Policies and Recommendations**

Policies and recommendations build on goals and objectives by providing more focussed responses to the issues that the town is concerned about. Policies and recommendations become the tools that the town can use to aid in making land use decisions.

Policies identify the way in which activities are conducted in order to fulfill the goals and objectives. Policies that direct action using the words “will” or “shall” are advised to be mandatory and regulatory aspects of the implementation of the *Town of Delta Year 2025 Comprehensive Plan*. In contrast, those policies that direct action using the word “should” are advisory and intended to serve as a guide.

Recommendations are specific actions or projects that the town should be prepared to complete. The completion of these actions and projects is consistent with the town’s policies, and therefore will help the town fulfill the comprehensive plan goals and objectives.

**Policies**

- ♦ The Town of Delta will direct future development to areas that minimize negative impacts to productive forests, farmland, unique historic and cultural features, and environmentally sensitive areas including wetlands, floodplains, and surface waters.
- ♦ The Town of Delta will work cooperatively with lake associations to resolve surface water use issues (watercraft regulations, balancing quiet uses with powered uses, etc.), as the ability of the town to address these issues directly is limited.

## **Recommendations**

1. Host an informational meeting to provide area lake organizations with an opportunity to learn about available water quality programs such as Citizen Self-help Lake Monitoring, Sensitive Area Designations, and Lake Protection and Planning Grants.

## **5.18 Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources Programs**

The following programs could be utilized by the town to help advance agricultural, natural, and cultural resource goals and objectives. The following list is not all-inclusive. For specific information on a listed program the program sponsor should be contacted directly.

### **Chequamegon Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)**

Community Supported Agriculture organizations provide small to medium sized farms with direct marketing opportunities in their local communities. The Chequamegon CSA is a group of farms located throughout the region that are committed to sustainable organic agriculture practices. Since 1995, the Chequamegon CSA has provided customers with weekly deliveries of locally grown fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers. The CSA has delivery sites in Ashland, Washburn, Bayfield, Cornucopia, Port Wing, La Pointe, Iron River, and Superior. For information on this program, contact Jenny Mahan at (715) 372-5762 or [marshmeadows@cheqnet.net](mailto:marshmeadows@cheqnet.net).

### **Non-Point Pollution Abatement Program**

Funds are available to improve water quality by limiting or ending sources of non-point source (run-off) water pollution by providing financial and technical assistance to landowners, land operators, municipalities, and other governmental units. Governmental units within designated priority watersheds and priority lakes are eligible to apply. Eligible projects are watersheds and lakes where: 1) the water quality improvement or protection will be great in relation to funds expended; 2) the installation of best management practices is feasible to abate water pollution caused by non-point source pollution; and 3) the local governmental units and agencies involved are willing to carry out program responsibilities. Efforts are focused statewide in critical watersheds and lakes where non-point source related water quality problems are most severe and control is most feasible. A watershed or lake project normally has a 10-12 year time frame - two years for planning and eight to ten years to implement best management practices. Contact the WDNR Regional Environmental Grant Specialist for further information.

### **Stewardship Grants for Nonprofit Conservation Organizations**

Funds are available for the acquisition of land or easements for conservation purposes and restoration of wildlife habitat. Nonprofit conservation organizations are eligible to apply. Priorities include acquisition of wildlife habitat, acquisition of lands with special scientific or ecological value, rare and endangered habitats and species, acquisition of stream corridors, acquisition of land for state trails including the Ice Age Trail and North Country Trail, and restoration of wetlands and grasslands. Eligible types of projects include fee simple and easement acquisitions and habitat restoration projects. Contact the WDNR for further information.

### **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)**

The purpose of WRP is to restore wetlands previously altered for agricultural use with the goal being to improve wildlife habitat. Land which has been owned for one year that can be restored to wetland conditions is eligible. Landowners may restore wetlands with permanent easements, 30-year easements, or 10-year contracts. Permanent easements pay 100% of the agricultural value of the land and 100% cost-sharing; 30-year easements pay 75% of the agricultural value and 75% cost sharing; 10-year contracts pay 75% cost share only. Public access is not required. Contact the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for additional information.

### **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)**

The purpose of WHIP is to develop or improve fish and wildlife habitat on privately owned land. Practices include seeding, fencing, instream structures, etc. Almost any type of land is eligible including agricultural and non-agricultural land, woodlots, pastures, and streambanks. Normally a 10 year contract is required to maintain the improved habitat. Up to 75% of restoration costs, to a maximum of \$10,000, may be awarded. Public access is not required. Contact the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for additional information.

### **Wisconsin's Historical Markers Program**

For almost 50 years, Wisconsin's State Historical Markers program has been making known both important small incidents and monumental events that form the state's past. Placed on the very site where significant events occurred, markers evoke an immediacy of the past that no history book can provide. The Wisconsin State Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation administers the Wisconsin Historical Markers Program. Applications are required for all official State of Wisconsin historical markers and plaques. Applications are available at [www.wisconsinhistory.org/histbuild/markers/apply](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/histbuild/markers/apply).



The following are lakes related programs...

### **Self-Help Citizen Lake Monitoring**

Self-Help Volunteer Lake Monitors have played an integral part of the Wisconsin lake-scape since 1986 by collecting vital information on water quality. Citizens who live on their lakes and know their lakes better than anyone else have volunteered on behalf of their lakes and their communities in a partnership with the Department of Natural Resources. This concept was so successful that Self-Help Citizen Lake Monitoring was expanded to include volunteer opportunities for chemistry, dissolved oxygen monitoring, and aquatic plant surveys. Since its beginning, over 3200 volunteers have participated in the program, monitoring over 1000 different lakes.

## **Lake Management Planning Grants**

Lake planning grants provide funding for the lake management planning process. Small scale lake planning grants of up to \$3,000 are available for use in obtaining and disseminating basic lake information, conducting education projects, and developing management goals. These grants are ideal for lake groups just beginning the planning process or for activities that supplement an existing plan.

Large scale lake planning grants up to \$10,000 per project are available for bigger projects. The intent of the large-scale program is to conduct technical studies to help develop elements of, or complete, comprehensive management plans. (See University Wisconsin – Extension publication G3606, *A Model Lake Plan for a Local Community*). Depending on the condition and needs of the lake (which the planning process will help determine), the plan will specify activities, for example, related to minimizing the impact of future development, managing user conflicts, improving fishing, or improving water quality.

## **Lake Protection Grants**

Lake protection grants provide funding for implementing the recommendations of a management plan. As one progresses from planning to implementation, the costs and the time involved increase. Because implementation is more expensive, protection grants are available for up to \$200,000 per project. Grants for regulation or ordinance development projects are limited to \$50,000.

## **Sensitive Area Designations**

Definition of a Sensitive Area as stated in Chapter NR 107.05(3)(i)(1.) is an area of aquatic vegetation identified by the WDNR as offering critical or unique fish and wildlife habitat, including seasonal or lifestage requirements, or offering water quality or erosion control benefits to the body of water. Sensitive areas have been designated under this rule on lakes in Vilas, Langlade, Lincoln, and Bayfield Counties.