LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

Created by HRDC as a collaborative effort on behalf of the Lake of the Woods County

TOC

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA) was created to improve hazardous fuel reduction aimed at protecting communities and at risk lands from catastrophic wildfire. The HFRA outlines the requirements of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). A CWPP is the result of a planning effort to understand the potential impacts of wildfires in Lake of the Woods County, to identify strategies to reduce their occurrence, and mitigate losses.

A CWPP is developed collaboratively between the local government, local fire departments, and the state agency responsible for forest management, as well as in consultation to any other interested parties on the federal, state, or local level. A CWPP must identify areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and an action plan to mitigate losses. A CWPP is also required to recommend measures to reduce structural ignitability.

As of 2019 there were six areas identified for prioritized risk assessments. Each area identified has been assessed on items that can determine different levels of threats caused by wildfires. Objectives were then taken from the reviewed assessments as priorities to pursue in fire mitigation.

The Lake of the Woods (LOW) CWPP is to be used and reviewed on an as needed basis. Amendments can be added into the document to include any changes LOW County has over time. This includes additional areas for risk assessments, new objectives, and additional fire mitigation planning.

CHAPTER 1: COLLABORATION REQUIREMENTS

As stated by the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA) three entities must review and agree on the final version of the CWPP. The entities are as follows: The local government, the state agency responsible for forest management, and the local fire authority. Additionally, others are encouraged to review and collaborate on the plan before finalization. Those are but not limited to: Regional Foresters, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs Regional Foresters, US Fish & Wildlife Services, etc.

LOCAL / COUNTY / CITY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ROLE:

Guide the development of the CWPP by ensuring assistance and support for the planning effort. The local officials use their knowledge and relationships of their community to convene community partners in the planning process. They may enlist agencies assistance and support for the planning effort and connect interested parties to the planning developers. Local officials continue to encourage ongoing educational efforts to their communities to reduce ignitability of structures and create defensible spaces around them.

LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS ROLE:

The local fire authority can use their expertise and knowledge to develop and maintain partnerships with the community to implement best fire mitigation practices. Utilize resources to help in creation and implementation of processes in fire mitigation objectives addressed in the assessment. As well as partner with local officials to communicate and educate the community, tourists, resorts, and business owners on effective fire mitigation.

STATE FORESTERS ROLE:

State Foresters provide statewide leadership and encourage communities to utilize effective fire mitigation strategies as outlined in this CWPP. Can assist local fire authorities utilizing their resources and offer technical proficiency in assessments. Can assess identified risk areas in the community and provide proper fire mitigation strategies utilizing their expertise.

CHAPTER 2: LOW COUNTY BACKGROUND

LOCATION

Lake of the Woods County is located in north-central Minnesota along the southern border of Canada. The county is bordered by Roseau County to the west, Beltrami County to the south, and Koochiching County to the east. The northern border cuts through the large Lake of the Woods, and separates much of the county from Ontario to the east and Manitoba to the west, however the County also shares short land borders with these Canadian provinces. The Northwest Angle, while part of the County, can only be accessed by boat via Lake of the Woods, or by land by crossing through Manitoba. The Northwest Angle has a CWPP created in 2014 due to it's unque location and high risk of not having a mainstream water system and parts being made up of islands.

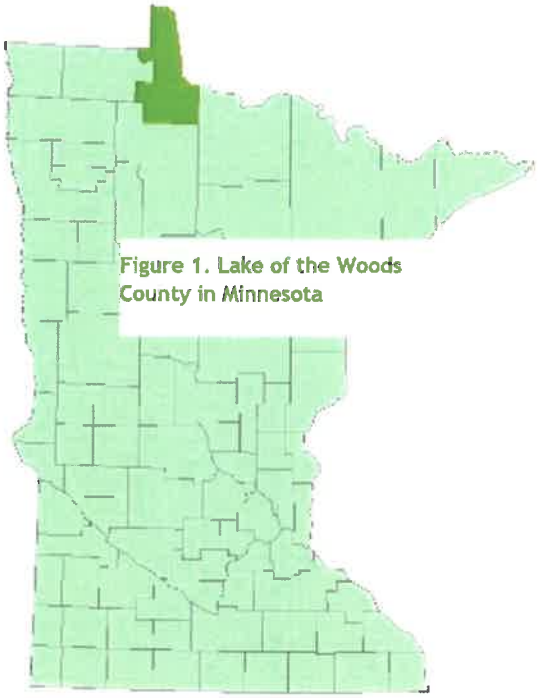

Figure 1. Lake of the Woods County in Minnesota

COMMUNITY PROFILE

The county is rural in comparison to the rest of the state, averaging just 4 persons per square mile. According to the 2010 Census, the total population is 4,045, with much of this population living in the communities of Baudette and Williams. However, there are large groups of seasonal tourism throughout the county as the county has many prime vacation destination areas. Areas of risk took into consideration several high trafficked areas of these nonresidential areas as well.

Population	Baudette		Lake of the Woods County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	1,106	100.0	4,045	100.0
Under 19 years	281	25.4	887	21.9
20-54 years	429	38.8	1,646	40.7
55+ years	396	35.8	1,512	37.4

Map 1. Lake of the Woods County Base Map

HISTORY OF FIRE

The largest known fire to hit LOW county would be the Baudette Fire of 1910.

The Baudette Burn, The Baudette Fire, Or The Baudette-Spooner Fire of 1910 was one of the largest wildfires in Minnesota History burning over 360,000 acres. The reason was due largely in part from multifaceted conditions prime for wildfires. Lake of the Woods was predominantly a logging community. Enormous quantities of slash were left in the wake of harvested timber which fueled and powered the blaze. Drought lasting many months caused extremely dry conditions, and paired with strong winds, fanned several small fires into a massive blaze that consumed large quantities of land and several towns. During that time, wheels on trains often left sparks as they traveled which easily could have started any of the smaller fires.

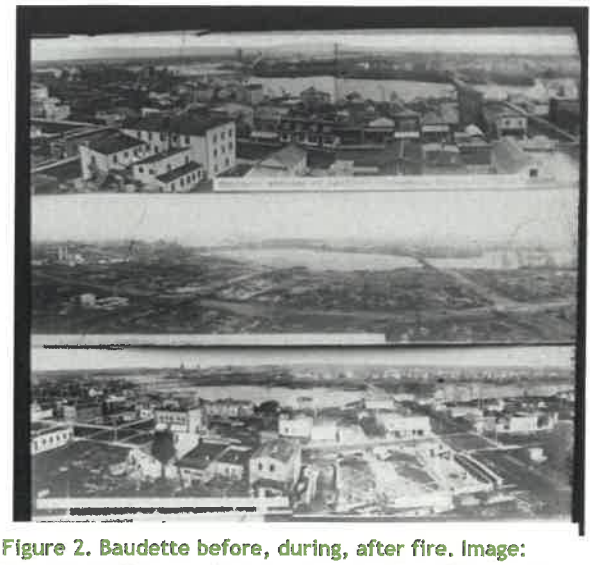

Figure 2. Baudette before, during, after fire. Image: https://reflections.mndigital.org/catalog/lfw:6#/image/0

OTHER MAJOR FIRE EVENTS IN **MINNESOTA** HISTORY

Date	Name	Ignite	Acres Burned
1894 September	Great Hinckley Fire	Burning stumps ignited 28 million board lumber pile at a the Brennan Lumber Company.	76,000
1894	Lac La Croix Fire	Lightning	175,000
1910 October	Baudette Fire, Baudette-Spooner Fire, or The Baudette Burn	Dry conditions several small fires combined, probable sparks from train ignited brush.	360,000
1918 October	Cloquet-Moose Lake Fire	Sparks from a train and dry conditions	960,000
1931	Dust Bowl Fires/Red Lake Fire	Stretched from Red Lake to Canadian Border	993,000
2007 May	Ham-Lake Fire	Campfire	76,000
2011 August	Pagami Creek Fire	Lightning strike at dry conditions went unnoticed and spread.	92,000

Early spring and fall are known for their dry weather and higher risk of fire hazards. To prevent risks, the education of residents, business owners, and tourists on Firewise practices is necessary for the community which is why LOW County has been proactive in outreaches. As nature can cause wildfires through lightning strikes during dry conditions, it is crucial to implement all fire mitigation practices to halt a fire before it spreads into an uncontrolled blaze.

LAND COVERAGE

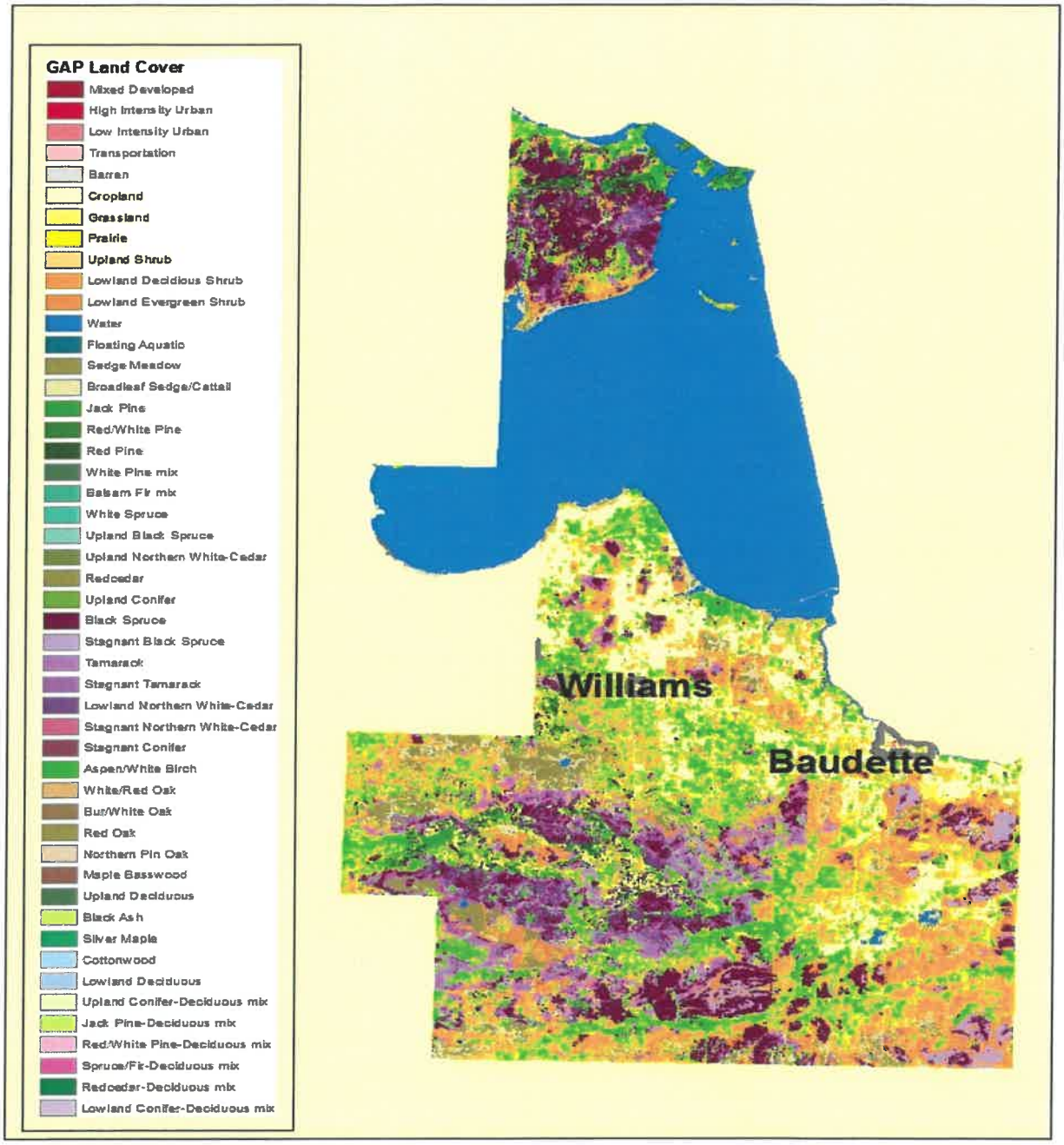

Figure 3. DATA TAKEN BETWEEN 1995-2000 BY GAP SATELLITE IMAGERY

Accumulation of vegetation, or fire fuels, can drastically increase the threats of a catastrophic wildfire. Knowledge of land coverage will relatively contribute in gauging a level of risk in identified area assessment locations. When planning for fire mitigation strategies LOW County may look into possible mapping projects to assist in the planning effort.

STATEWIDE WILDFIRES TRACKED BY THE MN DNR

Statewide Pattern

Figure 4. Bryan Mccoy map creation from DNR GIS files.

CHAPTER 3: FIRE MITIGATION

Wildfires pose dangers to a community during and long after an event. The impact of a catastrophic wildfire can disable a community and land use for years to come. The loss and destruction of vegetation generates erosion, flooding, and possibility of wiping out wildlife for a period of time. A largescale event can delay restoration for years to come. A community who is proactive in their approach to prevent a catastrophic wildfire are enacting in wildfire mitigation. Wildfire mitigation is action taken to prevent the likelihood of loss from a wildfire. Mitigation requires a community to come together to effectively reduce threats in multifaceted ways. Steps communities can take towards fire mitigation strategies are listed below. Each strategy can be used as a starting point to assess a locations fire hazards and steps towards mitigation. Lake of the Woods County can use these strategies to plan for fire mitigation purposes.

STRATEGIES

- Assessing wildfire risks and proactively reducing high risk areas.
- Managing wildfire fuels and keeping them to minimums.
- Creating strategic fuel breaks to halt potential fires from spreading.
- Utilizing fire-resistant building materials for residential and commercial uses.
- Creating defensible space. Landscaping for homes as well as storing burnable materials away from buildings and clearing shrubbery from sides of structures.
- Enhancing emergency preparedness in case of wildfire.
- Fire response capabilities in an event.
- Upgrading current infrastructure to assist accessibly in travel, safety, and communication capacity.
- Developing programs that foster community awareness and education on Firewise practice.
- Neighborhood activism intentionality for wildfire mitigation.
- Adding dry hydrants where surface water is accessible
- WUI: Wildland Urban Interface the lines where wild fuels cross over to combustible homes and structures and interceding to eliminate risk of possible ignition.

Areas where the wildland meets urban development, WUIs are high risk areas. Lake of the Woods county is abundant in the natural resource of wildland and as development increases the areas of risk subsequently increase. WUI fires are one of the costliest and most dangerous fires. Even if most structures are not directly at risk to flames, blown embers from wildfires can cause ignition to fuels that are too close to buildings. WUIs were taken into consideration during the assessments and it's always advised to have groomed clear green spaces next to all structures.

CHAPTER 4: HAZARDOUS FUEL REDUCTION TREATMENTS

The CWPP will identify strategies to reduce losses and provide hazardous fuel reduction treatments. Each assessment has identified strategies for effective fire mitigation. These following practices have proven to significantly lessen the threat of wildfire hazards and losses. In the event a wildfire was to occur, locations with effective hazardous fuel reduction treatments will keep the blaze manageable and help prevent it from growing out of control. Lake of the Woods County may follow these hazardous fuel reduction treatments as a plan for fire mitigation.

As excessive fuels can turn a ground fire into a crown fire reduction of fuels is an essential practice for fire mitigation. Accumulation of excess vegetation in a wildfire will yield hotter, faster, and higher flames that climb up branches and into tree tops. In the occurrence of a wildfire, areas with reduced fuels will be easier managed and prevent crown fires that rapidly spread. A dense wooded tree stand with a long interval since the last wildfire likewise poses a high risk. Therefore, it's a recommended practice to reduce hazardous fuel reduction by thinning out dense tree stands to lower the risk.

Thinning out practices typically preserve mature sized trees. Dead low hanging limb removal will mitigate crown fires which can be done by machinery or hand crews. A controlled burn or prescribed fire is another effective method in approved areas. Pine species have a thicker bark and so are more tolerant to low-intensity fires of a controlled burn. These fires cause less damage and are much easier to manage and control. The health of a forest can also be positively enhanced through controlled burns. Many factors must be taken into consideration if the identified location would benefit from a prescribed burn. Such as the rate of fuel accumulation, land coverage, infrastructure, residential locations, commercial location, water sources, wildlife impact, when the last wildfire occurrence took place, and weather elements such as wind and rain. A prescribed burn doesn't need to cover an entire area, actually that is not recommended in this practice as unburned islands will provide sufficient cover for wildlife. Prescribed burns should break up fuel continuity and so in the case of a wildfire the burn would diminish in intensity once it hits the next green space. Effective fuel reduction treatments include fuel breaks, thinning, pruning, landscape modifications, and other reduction of risks such as incorporating the use of livestock to graze down areas of high vegetation. This may be successful in areas where equipment or burning are not approved.

CHAPTER 5: REDUCING STRUCTURAL IGNITABILITY

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK:

Local governments ensuring the use of regulations relating to land use and development to follow best practices. Regulations administered by utilizing: zoning ordinances, development standards, building codes, and fire codes. These codes are often enforced during new construction and also should be checked on over time as refreshers and as vegetation growth returns after construction is finished.

COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK:

This approach relies heavily on citizen engagement and individual responsibility. The community needs to come together to reduce structural ignitability not only for themselves but for areas around them too. Public education is a great start and so are outreaches that depict ways homes and other structures possibility to ignite and how to reduce ignition potential. There are two main ways structures ignite, from flames heating and from direct firebrand ignition. By modifying areas around structures, a homeowner has a much greater chance at surviving a wildfire and mitigating losses. Fire science research has proven that by minimizing fuels within a hundred feet of home can significantly reduce ignition potential.

RISK MODELS

The following shows examples of various risk factors that decrease or increase ignition potential for homeowners. LOW County may follow steps taken to achieve lower risk models as well as avoiding higher risk factors to reduce structural ignitability.

Examples of a residential Lower Risk Model

- Home has a cleared space of at least 30 feet away from fuels. Green grass mowed.
- Few scattered trees, kept thinned and pruned within 30 feet.
- Install double-paned windows.
- Avoiding outdoor burning.
- Screen openings to prevent ember intrusion.
- Non-flammable siding.
- Garden hose connected to home.
- Chimney cleaned and screened.
- Woodpile, fuel tanks, and other burnable storage shed located at least 30 feet away from home.
- Vegetation mowed at least 100 feet from any structure.
- Accessible driveway and marked address for emergencies.
- Clean roof and gutters.
- Class A roofs

Examples of a residential Higher Risk Model

- Trees within 30 feet are dead or ungroomed.
- Outdoor burning too close to buildings and possible fuels.
- Garden hose not easily accessible.
- Woodpile, fuel tanks, and outbuildings too close together.
- Vegetation not mowed up to 100 feet from structures.
- Unmarked Driveway.
- Wooden roof.
- Flammable siding.
- Highly flammable and ungroomed decorative vegetation alongside home and other structures.
- Branches and other debris on roof.
- Clogged gutters.

The risk levels indicate potential threats with low risk areas deemed low in threats to structures and high risk areas have higher and faster ignitability factors that can spread to any additional area including those with low risks. The risk area assessment is not a map of probabilities indicating all identified areas will encounter a fire and non-identified areas will never experience wildfires. Structural ignitability factors are encouraged as an ongoing community educational piece in effective fire mitigation strategies. Commercial and residential structures are advised to be aware of their own and neighboring structures for risk factors. Neighborhood activism can significantly reduce losses from wildfires by taking steps to obtain lower risk models. To reduce structural ignitability emergency management of Lake of the Woods will provide educational materials at community events such as Chipper Days for ongoing education of the community. The examples of fire mitigation for residential structures can also apply to commercial structures. Another way to reduce structural ignitability to older buildings may be to retrofit at-risk structures with fire resistant materials. As well as enclosing foundations of structures to prevent the possibility of blown embers causing ignition to exposed areas. New construction is encouraged to use non-combustible materials, prohibit wooden shingles, and encourage the use of functional shutters on windows. Also, education on decorative gardening to choose less flammable vegetation options. Create defensible zones around all infrastructure, such as power lines.

The local government's role is to guide the development of the CWPP by ensuring assistance and support in the planning effort. The local officials use their knowledge and relationships of their community to convene community partners in the planning process. Lake of the Woods county has enlisted HRDC to develop a CWPP similar to one that was created for The Angle. Emergency Management has convened other interested parties and provided documentation and information as needed in the development of the CWPP. As well as providing ongoing educational efforts to community to reduce ignitability of structures and create defensible spaces around them, neighborhood activism and continued community outreaches.

The community has taken action by including two or more Chipper Days at locations in the county to be championed by Emergency Management and the local Fire Departments. They provide 600 copies of various emergency preparedness educational reading materials that show Firewise practices. They have also installed single access locations (E911 blue signs) purchased by the county. The community holds at least 1 public meeting with training for participants on Firewise. They are passionate on staying involved in continuing education for the community on safe fire practices. Lake of the Woods County also has many resorts that can benefit from Firewise practices and information. Maintaining and increasing firefighting capacity will also help communities proactive in fire mitigation. Such as by personnel completing and refreshing trainings. Purchasing additional firefighting equipment, recruiting and retaining firefighting personnel, and installing hydrants and dry hydrants in or near high risk areas where surface water is accessible. Additional steps taken has been to hire a trailer to haul yard waste between the months of April and October to reduce accumulation of fire fuels thus enacting in fire mitigation.

CHAPTER 6: AREA ASSESSMENTS

A collaborative effort between HRDC, Emergency Management, and the DNR brought together the following assessments. The following six areas have been identified by Jill Hasbargen Olson Emergency Management Director. The items identified in the chart were shown approval by all entities. Without further recommendations Taylor Schenk Fire Team Leader-Baudette Division of Forestry of MN DNR provided lead services on the assessments of the identified areas as well as recommendations for a plan of action for fire mitigation.

ITEMS DEFINED

Accessibility: In case of a wild fire a locations accessibility can support emergency personnel travel to as well as evacuation points out for others. Evacuation plans should also be in place for every community including assisting those with special needs. When looking at accessibility in these terms can determine risks in an area.

Fuel Hazards: Knowledge of a locations fuels and vegetation varieties can determine risks to an area.

Fire Occurrence: How often fires have occurred can determine the risk a wildfire may pose to an area. Low occurrences can determine the scale of a fire if one were to occur.

Residential: Residential risks should be determined and fire mitigation strategies provided to reduce risks.

Commercial: Commercial risks should be determined and fire mitigation strategies provided to reduce risks.

Population of area: For both residents and nonresidents in the location to determine fire risk hazards in an area.

Other: Space left intentionally open for amendment purposes

Wildfire Risk Assessment: Upon review of the above items an assessment of risk will be determined for the identified location.

Recommendation for mitigation: Upon review of the assessment, a recommendation for fire mitigation plan of action will be determined.

An identified area for assessment is recommended but not limited to any populated areas, areas with high accumulation of fuels, or any seasonally trafficked areas. These areas were identified for assessment in early 2019. Spots left blank intentionally for additional areas to be added by amendment as Lake of the Woods is developed over time.

AREAS OF ASSESSMENT

1. Baudette
2. Williams
3. Carp/Rako Area
4. Wheelers Point Community Area
5. Birch Beach Area
6. Norris Camp Area/ Faunce Area/Bankton TRL Area
7. _____
8. _____

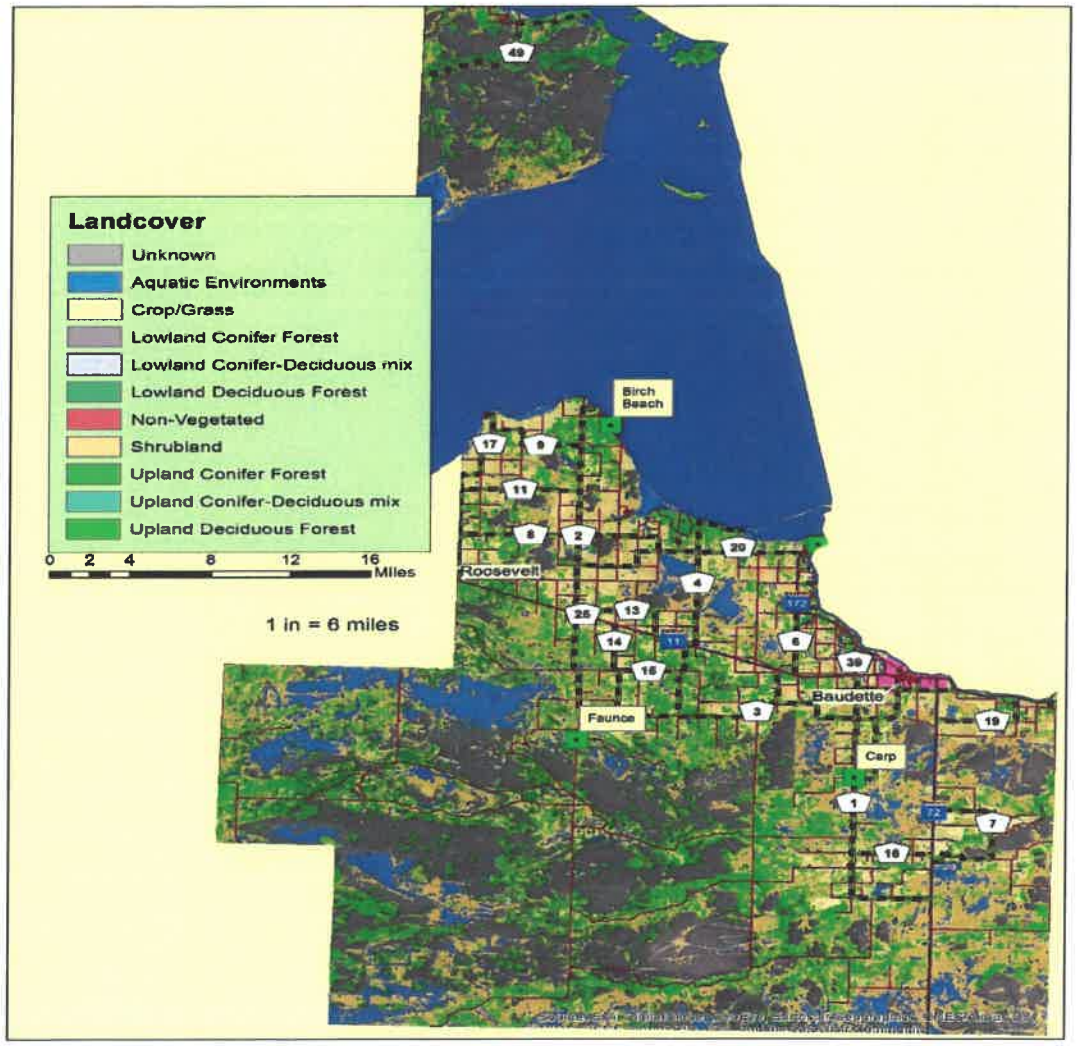

Figure 5. Bryan Mccoy map creation from DNR GIS files.

ASSESSMENT CHARTS

AREA ASSESSMENT OF BAUDETTE

Item	Location: Baudette
Accessibility	Ingress/Egress on Hwy 11 East and West, Hwy 72 South, County Rd 1 South. Hwy 11 North into Canada but would require international border crossing. There is a Volunteer FD in town as well as local forestry office. Evacuation points would be Williams to the west (20 minutes) or Clemenston to the East (10 Minutes). Total driving distance to notify town of evacuation would be about 20-25 miles
Fuel Hazards	WUI, Majority of area around town is agricultural fields. Smaller areas of lowland brush, aspen, conifer mix with ladder fuels that pose a threat. Largest area is to the east of main town body. There are various small unmaintained brush pockets along the river on the NE side of town.
Fire Occurrence	Low, but potential for large fires is high and have historically happened
Residential	Dense buildings in the heart of town, further east river lots are more spaced. Various houses throughout town are vacant. Majority of town construction is older. Water is plentiful, town has hydrants as well Rainy River to the north and Baudette River running through middle of town.
Commercial	ANI Pharmaceuticals is largest commercial space with various small business. Almost all commercial properties are occupied and operating. The biggest vacant one would be on 4th Ave NW.
Population of area	Est 1004 in 2017
Other	
Other	
Wildfire Risk Assessment	Fire occurrence is low but potential for small fires from debris burning is moderate. Potential for large fires south of town is moderate. Agricultural areas around town would act as a reasonable fire break in the event of a large fire south of town but an ember wash could ignite small pockets of fuel with WUI area.
Recommendations for Mitigation	Neighborhood activism and community outreach to educate property owners on edges of town about Firewise landscaping and defensible space around structures.

AREA ASSESSMENT OF WILLIAMS

Item	Location: Williams
Accessibility	Main access is Hwy 11 east and West. Can get out of both North and South but turns into unpaved roads. Evacuation points would be Baudette or Roosevelt 15-20 minutes east and west respectively. There is a forestry office and volunteer fire department in town. Approximate distance to notify all residents is about 10 miles.
Fuel Hazards	WUI, large areas of undeveloped/unmaintained land directly adjacent to the SW, W, and North of town. This land cover is mostly lowland brush and aspen with a conifer component to the south. Most fuels would only support a running ground fire or mid-story fire. Crown fire potential is low.
Fire Occurrence	Low/moderate
Residential	Housing is not overly dense, few vacant homes. Hydrants present in a few areas of town otherwise water scarce in the immediate area.
Commercial	Few commercial buildings. None known to be vacant. Old grain elevator just removed spring 2019.
Population of area	Est at 177 as of 2017
Other	
Other	
Wildfire Risk Assessment	If a large fire were to occur in the forested areas to the south Williams would be moderate to high risk given proper fuel conditions. There is not much for agricultural fields between the forest and town with the forest going right to the edges of town. While fires are not common within the forest, they have a high potential of getting large fast due to fuel type and continuity.
Recommendations for Mitigation	Community education of Firewise principles and working with Volunteer Fire Department to develop and action plan in the event of a large fire.

AREA ASSESSMENT OF CARP/RAKO

Item	Location: Carp/Rako
Accessibility	Carp area has one paved road in and out of it the Rako area has all gravel. Evacuation points would be North to Baudette or East to Hwy 72 and then North or South. Rako would have the longer evacuation of the two to get to a town. Neither of these are developed towns more a scattering of dwellings.
Fuel Hazards	Rako is surrounded by large areas of forest of aspen/conifer component. Carp has parts that primarily agricultural with other areas solid forest or lowland brush.
Fire Occurrence	Low but potential for large fire is high when they do occur.
Residential	Housing is scattered, vacant outbuildings are common in both areas. There is a river in carp that can serve as a water sources and a gravel pit in Rako that holds water year round.
Commercial	None
Population of area	Not many
Other	
Other	
Wildfire Risk Assessment	Fire risk in both places is low/mod. Potential for a fire becoming large if a start happens is mod/high. Logging is common as is part of a managed forest so slash is present in different areas on various years.
Recommendations for Mitigation	Residents would benefit from learning about Firewise.

AREA ASSESSMENT OF WHEELER POINT COMMUNITY AREA

Item	Location: Wheeler Point Community Area
Accessibility	Hwy 172 South and County Rd 8 to the West are the two main road access points to this area. Evacuation point would be Baudette or Williams. There are no emergency personnel nearby and would have to travel from Baudette to get to the area, roughly 10 miles and then there is a few miles of road within the area that would have to be driven to alert the residents.
Fuel Hazards	Fuels are intermixed within the maintained properties creating a WUI area. Fuel is mix of conifer and aspen fuel type with ladder fuels prevalent.
Fire Occurrence	Low/moderate
Residential	North of 33 and East of 72 the structures are very densely packed together. Majority are rental trailers/cabins for the resorts in the areas. There are not hydrants in the area yet but the river is directly adjacent.
Commercial	Most of the larger buildings along the river are resorts or they're outbuildings for equipment.
Population of area	As far as permanent residents there are not many but during peak tourist times, (winter and summer) there can be a few hundred people in this area.
Other	
Other	
Wildfire Risk Assessment	Majority of fires in this area are likely going to be ditch fires or debris burning. The potential for large fire in this area is low to moderate but if one was to occur evacuations could be very time consuming if tourists are around. Wheelers Point itself and directly west would be the most threated area. Rare occurrence of a south wind and a fire starting south of the area along the river would also create a bad situation however there are a lot of roads to act as fire breaks.
Recommendations for Mitigation	Get resorts involved in Firewise programming and spending more time up keeping their areas especially during fire season.

ASSESSMENT OF BIRCH BEECH AREA

Item	Location: Birch Beech Area
Accessibility	Access to houses is by dirt road only, from there to Hwy 2 and then south to Williams is the only way in/out. 14-16 miles to Williams from this area, which is the closest emergency personnel.
Fuel Hazards	This area is directly adjacent to undeveloped forest land and has continuous fuel all throughout making it a WUI area. Large area of both flashy fuels as well as conifer/aspen with lots of ladder fuels makes this area prone to a high intensity fire.
Fire Occurrence	Low/moderate
Residential	Many dwellings in this area are seasonal cabins with a mix of old and new construction. The only water source is Lake of the Woods.
Commercial	Long Point Resort is further north along shore
Population of area	Seasonal
Other	
Other	
Wildfire Risk Assessment	This area is of high risk to large fire given the fuels of the area. While the occurrence is low/mod in the area and are often contained quickly, conditions are primed for a large fire.
Recommendations for Mitigation	Firewise education to the owners here would be a great starting point. Community wide fuel management project would also be a good idea if able to complete properly.

ASSESSMENT OF NORRIS CAMP AREA/ FAUNCE AREA/ BANKTON TRAIL AREA

Item	Location: Norris Camp Area/ Faunce Area/ Bankton Trail Area
Accessibility	Remote, evacuation would be the Faunce-Butterfield Rd to the Roosevelt Rd then North to Roosevelt. Closest emergency personnel are Williams and is about 25 miles away. There are fire suppression vehicles on site at Norris Camp maintained by MN DNR Wildlife and staffed by them during working hours.
Fuel Hazards	Main area of structures is Norris Camp itself. There are continuous fuels in all directions. It is a working forest comprised of conifers and aspen, logging slash, brush with ladder fuels present everywhere.
Fire Occurrence	Low
Residential	Buildings are scattered outside of the cluster at Norris Camp. Norris Camp is a MN DNR Wildlife office with one onsite living quarters.
Commercial	Outbuildings for storage of DNR Wildlife equipment
Population of area	Minimal
Other	
Other	
Wildfire Risk Assessment	Though fire occurrence is low and wildlife maintains a regular prescribed fire regime there is a potential for large scale wildfires as there are large areas of undisturbed marsh/forest directly adjacent.
Recommendations for Mitigation	Norris camp maintains a solid amount of defensible space. The only thing that would be of benefit is putting a fuel break around the perimeter.

OBJECTIVES

After reviewing the area assessments, the following objectives were found:

- Community wide fuel management project
- Fuel breaks
- Firewise
- Neighborhood Activism
- Community Outreaches
- Resorts involved on Firewise

CONCLUSION:

The Lake of the Woods Community Wildfire Protection Plan covers requirements as stated in the HFRA. Any item discussed in this document is meant to assist in planning efforts, projects, and initiatives that promote all aspects of fire mitigation.

PLAN APPROVAL

The local government, local fire authority, and the state agency responsible for forest management must review and sign the document below. The LOW CWPP may be reviewed on an annual basis by any of the three entities listed. Any amendments to the document require the local government, local fire authority, and the state agency responsible for forest management to review and sign off for approval of changes.

SIGNATURES

Name	Agency	Date
1		
2		
3		
4		
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AMENDMENTS