



## RUSK COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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# 5 Natural, Agricultural & Cultural Resources

## 5.1 Natural Resources

### Overview

Natural resources relate to most, if not all, of the comprehensive plan chapters. As a result, natural resource issues may arise relating to each specific chapter and implementation of chapter goals, actions, and objectives. Several key resources and supporting information will be reviewed outlining the importance or issues relating to natural resources, cultural resources, and agriculture.

### Natural Resource Inventory & Analysis

Understanding Rusk County's natural features provide a framework for analysis and suggest possible disadvantages and advantages for particular land uses. It is essential to understand the location of environmentally sensitive areas to make responsible land use decisions. Maintenance of sensitive natural features is also important for the visual attractiveness of Rusk County and for the functions they perform as natural communities. Representation of this information can help Rusk County in making informed decisions relative to the goals for natural resource use, protection, and restoration. Additionally, the information ties to the Land and Water Management Plan and Agricultural Farmland Protection Plan. Because the natural environment has fixed locations, communities have options regarding siting human development.

### Topography & Elevation

Rusk County is found in the Northern Highland Geographical Province of Wisconsin. This region is characterized by an abundance of hills, lakes, and forests. The entire county lies within an area of recent glaciation; stream valleys are shallow, and drainage is not well established. As a result, the whole county is dotted and laced with numerous swamps and small lakes. Glaciation has also resulted in a general drainage pattern from northeast to southwest. This is especially noticeable in the eastern areas.



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### **Soils**

Deposits of glacial drift (a mixture of sand, silt, clay and boulders) cover the entire county with the exception of a few small areas where bedrock is exposed. Depth of glacial drift material varies from several inches to cover 100 feet. Many depressional areas are filled with muck or peat. Along the Chippewa River is a broad sandy plain 2 to 8 miles wide. Along the western border is a range of steep quartzite ridges forming the backbone for the Blue Hills. The major soil types of Rusk County are those of the Almena-Freer-Auburndale-Adolph-eat Association.

### **Steep Slopes**

Areas with steep slopes (18% and greater) are scattered around Rusk County, but are mostly found towards the west and northwest of the county. The towns of Wilson, Wilkinson, Strickland, and Rusk have the greatest slopes in the county. Steep slopes are generally associated with either oval hills of glacial lift or directly adjacent waterways.

### **Forest Cover**

Forests and woodlands play an important role in providing habitat for plants and animals as well as shaping the economy of many communities. The dominant forest cover type in Rusk County is Northern Hardwood as the figure below will show. There is a total of 78,362 forest acres.

### **Legacy Places**

The '*Wisconsin Land Legacy Report*' produced by the WDNR is a statewide assessment and description of places the public and Department staff identified as most important to meet Wisconsin's conservation and recreation needs for the next 50 years. The report identifies 229 Legacy Places and 8 Statewide Needs and Resources by ecological landscapes. The 229 Legacy Places range in size and their relative conservation and recreation strengths. Within Rusk County, the WDNR has identified six legacy places.



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Table: Legacy Places in Rusk County						
Place Name	Ecological Landscape	Size	Protection Initiated	Protection Remaining	Conservation Significance	Recreation Potential
Blue Hills	North Central Forest	L	Substantial	Limited	:::	:::
Chippewa Glacial Lakes	North Central Forest	L	Substantial	Moderate	:::	:::
Flambeau River State Forest	North Central Forest	L	Substantial	Limited	:::	:::
Jump River	North Central Forest	L	Limited	Substantial	:::	::
Upper Chippewa River	North Central Forest	L	Limited	Substantial	:::	:::
Weyerhaeuser Cedar Swamp	North Central Forest	S	Limited	Moderate	::	::

Source: WDNR

L: Large - Places where the study area will most likely incorporate more than 50,000 acres

S: Small – Places where the study area will most likely incorporate less than 5,000 acres

To better understand the table for Legacy Places in Rusk County, a description of the key headings is provided to allow the reader an understanding of what the data represents.

### Protection Initiated

**Limited:** Little, if any, formal permanent protection has occurred. Most of the protection efforts to date are the work of individual landowners.

**Moderate:** Some formal permanent or shorter-term protection work, either by a government or conservation or recreation group, has occurred.

**Substantial:** A considerable amount of formal protection has already taken place or been attempted and, in many cases, represents several partners working together with landowners.

### Protection Remaining

**Limited:** Little, if any, formal permanent protection likely remains.

**Moderate:** Some protection work remains and may range over a wide area or a number of different attributes, or require many partners.

**Substantial:** A considerable amount of protection effort remains to be undertaken if the place



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is to maintain its conservation and recreation values.

#### **Conservation Significance**

- ::: The area possesses excellent ecological qualities, is of adequate size to meet the needs of most of the critical components, and/or harbor natural communities of species of Great Lakes regional significance. Restoration efforts have a high likelihood of success.
- ::: The area possesses very good ecological qualities, is of adequate size to meet the needs of some of the critical components, and/or harbors natural communities or species of state significance. Restoration efforts will typically be important and have a very good chance of success.
- :: The area possesses good ecological qualities, may be of adequate size to meet the needs of some of the critical components, and/or harbors natural communities or species of state or ecological landscape significance. Restoration efforts are likely needed and have a good chance or success.

#### **Recreation Potential**

- ::: The area possesses excellent recreation potential, could offer a variety of water-based and land recreation opportunities, could meet several and existing and anticipated future recreation demands, is of adequate size to accommodate some potentially incompatible activities, could link important recreation, and or is in close proximity to large population centers.
- ::: The areas possesses very good recreation potential, could offer a variety of land and/or water-based recreation opportunities, could meet some existing or anticipated future recreation demands, may be of adequate size to accommodate some potentially incompatible activities, could link recreation area, and/or is near mid-sized population centers.
- :: The area possesses good to moderate recreation potential, could offer some land and/or water-based recreation opportunities, might meet some existing or anticipated future recreation demands, many may not be of adequate size to accommodate potentially incompatible activities, could like recreation areas, and/or is near small population areas.

#### **Wetlands**

A wetland is defined by state statute as “an area where water is at, near, or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophytic (water-loving)



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vegetation and which has soils indicative of wet conditions.” Wetlands may be seasonal or permanent and are commonly referred to as swamps, bogs, or marshes. Wetland plants and soils have the capacity to store and filter pollutants ranging from pesticides to animal wastes.

Wetlands can make rivers, lakes, and streams cleaner and drinking water safer; and provide valuable habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial animals and vegetation. Rare, threatened, and endangered species are found in wetlands. Some wetlands replenish groundwater supplies. Groundwater discharged from wetlands can be important in maintaining stream flows during dry months and can contribute high quality water to lakes and streams. Draining and filling of wetlands, or development near wetlands can remove these natural functions and values.

### **Floodplains**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designates floodplain areas. These are areas that are predicted to be inundated with floodwaters in the 100-year storm event (a storm that has a 1% chance of happening in any given year). FEMA produces flood hazard maps called Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) showing areas subject to flooding that are currently regulated by FEMA. The State requires local regulation of development in floodplains. Development is discouraged in floodplains to avoid both downstream and on-site property damage. For official delineation and elevation, the FIRMs should be referenced for floodplain boundaries and can often be reviewed at local government offices and the Rusk County Courthouse-Zoning Office.

### **Groundwater**

Groundwater is the water that occupies the spaces in between soil particles and rocks below the earth surface. Groundwater is the only source of drinking water for residents of Rusk County. Groundwater is also important for supplying fresh water to lakes, streams, and rivers. Contamination of groundwater by human activity is a severe problem because contaminants generally travel unnoticed, are difficult to remove, and may persist for decades. Water percolating through the soil can pick up human-made pollutants and transport them to the groundwater. Contaminants may also enter the groundwater through unused wells that are not properly sealed. Groundwater contamination comes from a variety of sources including leaking underground petroleum pipes and tanks; use and storage of road salt; improper use, disposal, and storage of hazardous materials; and mismanagement of fertilizers, animal waste, and pesticides.



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## Hydrologic Areas

### Basins

The state is divided into 3 major river basins each identified by the primary waterbody into which the basin drains. In Wisconsin, they are the Lake Superior Basin, Lake Michigan Basin and the Mississippi River Basin. Rusk County is located within the Mississippi River Basin along with two-thirds of the land in Wisconsin.

### Water Management Units (WMUs)

These areas are hydrologically based subdivisions of the larger major basins of the state. Wisconsin has 24 Water Management Units that were originally developed to support the old Water Quality Management Plans, which are now called State of the Basin Reports. Two of the 24 WMUs are located in Rusk County. They are the Upper Chippewa which covers most of Rusk County and the Lower Chippewa that just crosses the eastern side of the county.

### Watersheds

Watersheds are interconnected areas of land draining from surrounding ridge tops to a common point such as a lake or stream confluence with neighboring land area. Watersheds are further hydrologic subdivisions of the Water Management Units.

## Surface Water

Surface waters in Rusk County are primarily comprised of rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, and flowages. In total there are 266 lakes in Rusk County, 90 named and 176 unnamed. The largest lake in Rusk County is the Holcombe Flowage covering 3,890 acres. The next table lists named lakes in Rusk County with other information included.

<b>Table: Rusk County Named Lakes</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Sec. T-N R-W</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Lake Type</b>
Amacoy Lake	25-34-8	278	DG
Atwood Lake	27-33-9	5	SE
Audie Lake	1-35-9	128	DG
Bass Lake #1	12-35-7	27	SE
Bass Lake #2	16-34-9	88	SE
Bass Lake #3	28-34-7	26	SE



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<b>Table: Rusk County Named Lakes</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Sec. T-N R-W</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Lake Type</b>
Bear Lake	33-33-9	29	SE
Beauty Lake	9-33-9	8	SE
Big Falls Flowage	35-36-5	369	DG
Bog Lake	3-33-8	37	SE
Bollman Lake	3-33-7	20	SE
Boot Lake	17-33-7	87	SE
Bowker Lake	17-34-9	39	SE
Bruce Lake	7-34-7	35	DG
Brush Lake	30-33-8	17	SE
Bucks Lake	26-36-9	83	DG
Bull Moose Lake	7-33-7	43	SE
Caley Lake	39-34-7	55	SE
Chain Lake	36-33-9	468	DG
Clear Lake	31-33-8	95	DG
Coon Lake	33-33-9	6	SE
Corbett Lake	3-34-6	23	SE
Cranberry Lake	35-34-9	10	DG
Cummings Lake-N.	3-33-9	12	SE
Cummings Lake-S.	3-33-9	9	SE
Dairyland Reservoir	19-35-5	1,745	DG
Dead Goose Lake	21-33-9	20	SE
Dickey Lake	33-33-9	26	SE
Fireside Lake	26-33-8	302	DG
Fish Lake	28-33-9	115	SE
Galky Lake	20-33-8	4	SE
Goose Lake	27-33-8	20	SE
Hawkins Millpond	14-35-3	5	DG
Hill Trail Flowage	29-36-8	42	DG
Hogskin Lake	33-33-9	16	SE
Holcombe Flowage	28-32-6	3,890	DG
Horseshoe Lake	5-33-9	24	SE
Hungry Lake	25-33-9	20	SE



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<b>Table: Rusk County Named Lakes</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Sec. T-N R-W</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Lake Type</b>
Island Lake	29-33-8	526	DG
Koehler Lake	18-33-9	17	SE
Ladysmith Flowage	35-35-6	288	DG
Lake Four	26-33-9	21	SE
Lake Laverne	18-35-3	60	DG
Lake One	26-33-9	1	SE
Lake Three	26-33-9	4	SE
Lake Two	26-33-9	5	SE
Lea Lake	11-36-6	232	DG
Little Bear Lake	34-33-9	7	SE
Little Bowker Lake	17-34-9	11	SE
Long Lake	35-34-7	2	SE
Lost Lake	35-36-9	18	SE
Lost Mans Lake	2-34-9	2	SE
MacDonald Lake	27-33-9	7	SE
Marsh Lake	20-33-7	43	SE
Mathy Lake	8-33-8	7	SE
McCann Lake	31-33-8	133	DG
McGee Lake	9-35-4	-	-
Murphy Flowage	28-36-9	171	DG
Muskrat Lake	28-33-9	28	SE
North Lake	10-34-9	11	SE
Park Lake	24-35-6	16	SE
Perch Lake	36-36-9	23	DG
Pickerel Lake #1	16-34-9	12	SE
Pickerel Lake #2	16-34-9	19	SE
Pickerel Lake #3	16-34-9	18	SE
Pine Lake	4-35-9	15	SE
Pine Lake	35-33-9	262	SE
Potato Cr. Flowage	18-33-8	-	-
Potato Lake	24-33-9	534	DG
Pulaski Lake	18-33-7	126	SE





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Table: Rusk County Named Lakes			
Name	Sec. T-N R-W	Acres	Lake Type
Rock Lake	34-33-9	7	SE
Round Lake	8-33-7	105	SE
Rusk Lake	15-33-9	12	SE
Sand Lake	33-33-8	262	SE
Saxton Lake	28-34-7	5	SE
School Lake	28-33-8	7	SE
Shamrock Lake	10-35-3	56	DG
Skinner Cr. Flowage	2-36-3	66	DG
Star Lake	33-33-9	13	SE
Star Lake	19-36-8	19	SE
Styles Lake	18-34-9	7	SE
Sugar Lake	22-33-9	34	SE
Sunfish Lake	25-35-7	11	SE
Thornapple Flowage	23-34-7	268	DG
Three Lakes #1	25-36-9	4	SE
Three Lakes #2	24-36-9	3	SE
Three Lakes #3	24-36-9	1	SE
Two Bear Lake	4-33-9	36	SE
Washington Cr. Flowage	21-33-7	165	DG
Whiplash Lake	26-33-9	12	SE

\*Source: WDNR (DG-Drainage Lake, SE-Seepage Lake)

### Lake Types

Lakes are often classified into three types based on water source and type of outflow. The named lakes of Rusk County are classified as “spring”, “seepage” or “drainage” lakes.

Spring Lakes – Also called “groundwater drainage lakes”, are naturally fed lakes by groundwater, precipitation and limited runoff and groundwater, with no stream outlet.

Seepage Lakes – Naturally fed lake by precipitation, limited runoff and groundwater, with no stream outlet.



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Drainage Lakes – Lakes fed by streams, groundwater, precipitation and runoff and drained by a stream.

### Water Quality

Impaired waters, as defined by Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act, are those waters that do not meet the state's water quality standards. Every two years, states are required to submit a list of impaired waters to EPA for approval. In 2006, WDNR developed a proposed Impaired Waters List update. The list has not been finalized by WDNR and USEPA. The next table lists Rusk County waters that are polluted.

**Table: Proposed 303(d) Impaired Waters in Rusk County**

Waterbody	Pollutant	Impairment	Priority
Becky Creek	Bacteria; sedimentation	Bacteria;elevated temperature	High
Chippewa River Mainstream	Mercury; Polychlorobiphenyls	FCA	Low
Flambeau River – Dairyland Reservoir	Mercury	FCA	Low
Perch Lake	Mercury	FCA	Low
Pine Lake	Mercury	FCA	Low

Source: WDNR (FCA – Fish Consumption Advisory)

### Rivers and Streams

There are 69 named streams totaling 430 miles in Rusk County. The Flambeau, Thornapple, and Chippewa are the major rivers in the county. Surface water resources have also been evaluated and rated for water quality, wildlife, fish, and aesthetic values of the WDNR. High quality water resources were classified as either Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) or Exceptional Resource Waters (ERW). Outstanding Resource Waters are defined as a lake or stream having excellent water quality, high recreational and aesthetic value, high quality fishing, and are free from point source or non-point source pollution. Exceptional Resource Waters are defined as a stream exhibiting the same high quality resource values as an ORW but may be impacted by point or non-point sources of pollution or have the potential for receiving a wastewater discharge from a non-sewered community in the future. Several streams or rivers in the county have been identified as ORW or ERW.



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Table: Rivers and Streams Status	
Water Body Name	Status
Devils Creek	ORW
South Fork Flambeau River	ORW
South Fork Main Creek	ORW
Alder Creek	ERW
Becky Creek	ERW
Big Weirgor Creek	ERW
Clear Creek	ERW
Deer Creek	ERW
Flunkers Creek	ERW
Hackett Creek	ERW
Hemlock Creek	ERW
Jump River	ERW
Little Weirgor Creek	ERW
Louler Creek	ERW
Middle Fork Main Creek	ERW
Pigeon Creek	ERW
Rock Creek	ERW
South Fork Hemlock Creek	ERW

## Shorelands

Shorelands include lands within 1000 feet of the ordinary high water mark of a lake or pond and lands within 300 feet of ordinary high water mark or landward edge of the floodplain of a river or stream.

## Trout Streams

Trout need certain environmental conditions to survive and flourish. Plenty of oxygen, cold water, sheltered places to hide and rest, and abundant supplies of insects and forage fish are the most important. Trout waters usually indicate relatively high water quality. The WDNR has classified some of the streams in Rusk County shown in the table below. There are three classes to show the different types of trout streams throughout the state.

Class 1



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High quality trout waters that have sufficient natural reproduction to sustain population of wild trout.

#### Class 2

Streams may have some natural reproduction, but, stocking is required to maintain a desirable sport fishery. These streams have good survival and carryover of adult trout, often producing some fish larger than average size.

#### Class 3

These waters are marginal trout habitat with no natural reproduction occurring. They require annual stocking of trout to provide trout fishing. Generally, there is no carryover of trout from one year to the next.

**Table: Rusk County Trout Waters**

Stream Name	Portion Trout Waters	Brook	Brown	Class
Alder Creek	All	n		1
Becky Creek	All	n		1
Big Weirgor Creek	S30, T36N, R8W to outlet	n	x	1,3
Clear Creek	All	n		1
Deer Creek	All	n		1,2
Devils Creek	All	n	x	1,2,3
Flunkers Creek	All	n		1
Hackett Creek	All	n		1
Hemlock Creek	S26 – 27, T36N, R9W to CTH F	n		1,2,3
Hemlock Creek (S Fk)		n		1
Josie Creek	All	n		2
Little Soft Maple Creek	All	n		2
Little Weirgor Creek	All	n	n	1
Louler Creek	All	n		1
Main Creek (Mid	Above S18, T35N,	n		1



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Table: Rusk County Trout Waters				
Stream Name	Portion Trout Waters	Brook	Brown	Class
Fk)	R3W			
Main Creek (S Fk)	Above S18, T35N, R3W	n		1,2
Moose Ear Creek	Middle S28, T35N, R3W	n		2
Pigeon Creek	All	n		1
Rock Creek	All	n		1
Soft Maple Creek	S25, T34N, R9W to S27, T34N, R8W (town rd)	n		3

Source: WDNR (n – natural, x – stocked)

## Metallic and Non-metallic Mining Resources

The Rusk County Zoning Office maintains a complete list of metallic and non-metallic mines within Rusk County.

## 5.2 Agricultural Resources

### Overview

This agricultural resources section is based on the principle of achieving sound long-range planning that protects prime agricultural resources of the county while treating landowners in a fair and equitable manner. Good planning helps rural communities promote agriculture and its contribution to rural economics, support appropriate development of land, manage renewable resources, avoid unnecessary conflicts among neighboring land uses, protect community features of special value, and encourage appropriate community development.



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### Agricultural Resources Inventory and Trends

Farming has been a significant land use activity throughout the county's history. Statistics provided by the USDA Census of Agriculture for Rusk County show that between 1997 and 2002 the county gained 19 farms but lost 2,851 acres of farm land.

Table: Farm Changes in Rusk County – 1997 & 2002				
Year	Number of Farms	Land in Farms (acres)	Average Farm Size (acres)	Number of Farms Lost/Gained
1997	696	176,161	253	-
2002	715	173,310	242	+19

Source: USDA, Census of Agriculture

**What is a farm?** Wisconsin farms can be diverse. There is no specific “right” definition of what a farm can be. The process to define what a farm is should begin with the inventory of agriculture operation in the community. Most government agencies that collect agricultural statistics define a farm as any place from which \$1,000 or more of the agricultural products were produced or sold in a normal year. The statistics provided by the USDA included both large, commercial operations that hire numerous non-family employees, medium-sized family labor commercial farms, and smaller, part-time or hobby farms whose households may rely entirely on non-farm jobs to keep the farm business going.



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The table below lists off the value farms have and the average for farms value is \$35,950.

<b>Table: Economic Characteristics for Farms in Rusk County</b>	
<b>Farms by value of sales</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
Less than \$1,000	225
\$1,000 to \$2,499	71
\$2,500 to \$4,999	53
\$5,000 to \$9,999	64
\$10,000 to \$19,999	40
\$20,000 to \$24,999	19
\$25,000 to \$39,999	46
\$40,000 to \$49,999	11
\$50,000 to \$99,999	91
\$100,000 to \$249,999	80
\$250,000 to \$499,999	10
\$500,000 or more	5
<b>Total farm production expenses (\$1,000)</b>	<b>25,776</b>
<b>Average per farm (\$)</b>	<b>35,950</b>
<b>Net cash farm income of operation (\$1,000)</b>	<b>9,880</b>
<b>Average per farm (\$)</b>	<b>13,779</b>

### Rusk County Farmland Trends

The data above may be used in a variety of ways including:

1. **Documenting the variability of town land use trends within county borders.** Understanding that counties can be diverse – both in terms of their natural resource base and land use trends, it may lead planners into developing different approaches or policies for different parts of Rusk County.
2. **Helping local communities understand their own trends** and to



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- see how their situation compares to their neighboring communities.
3. **Provide a statistical foundation for the development of new land use/comprehensive plans** particularly the components of those designed to protect agriculture resources.
  4. **Encourage debate and dialogue at the town level (and across municipal boundaries)** regarding land use trends and possible policy options. Having a common foundation of information can also facilitate inter-jurisdictional cooperation on regional land use plans.

### 5.3 Cultural and Historic Resources

#### Introduction

Cultural resources are those tangible and intangible aspects of our cultural society, both past and present, that are valued by or representative of a given culture, or that contain information about a culture. Tangible cultural resources include, but are limited to, sites, districts, landscapes, objects, structures, and historic documents associated with or representative of people, human activities, cultures, in the past or present. Intangible culture features including myth, folklore, family life, ideology, folk dance, and folk song are renewable and transmitted from generation to generation.

Most cultural resources are unique and nonrenewable. These cultural resources were created or occurred at specific geographical locations at certain points by different individuals. Although cultural resources fall into broad patterns of civilizations, the circumstances that created each resource are unique and thus cannot be duplicated. Because the path of human history continues, new cultural features are created daily, and only time will provide the context for evaluating the relative significance of these features.

#### Historic Resources Inventory

The Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) provides historical and architectural information on about 120,000 properties in the state. There are currently 588 sites that have been identified in Rusk County. Of the 588 sites, there are 160 in Ladysmith, 42 in Bruce, 19 in Conrath, 32 in Glen Flora, 41 in Hawkins, 24 in Ingram, 16 in Sheldon, 20 in Tony, and 35 in Weyerhauser. That leaves 199 in 'rural' Rusk County, or areas that doesn't include cities or villages. The table below details the 199 found in the unincorporated areas of Rusk County.





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<b>Table: Rusk County Architecture and History Inventory</b>			
<b>Site ID</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Current Name</b>	<b>Historic Name</b>
20429	Atlanta	Atlanta Town Hall	Atlanta School-District 8
20430	Atlanta	-	-
20431	Atlanta	-	-
20432	Atlanta	-	-
19290	Big Bend	Harry G Brainard House	Emet Post Office
19291	Big Bend	-	-
19292	Big Bend	-	-
19293	Big Bend	L Kern House	Roy Clark House
19294	Big Bend	-	-
19295	Big Bend	Zigmund Krupa Farm	Krupa Farm
19296	Big Bend	Zigmund Krupa Farm	Krupa Farm
19297	Big Bend	Clarence Kern House	Chatfield House
19298	Big Bend	Big Bend Town Hall	Big Bend Town Hall
19299	Big Bend	Ernie and Ellie's Island Resort	Elijah Swift's Logging Headquarters
20317	Big Bend	-	Nelson Barn
20318	Big Bend	Big Bend School House	Big Bend School
20319	Big Bend	Frank Britten House	Frank Britten House
20320	Big Bend	Mud Lake Indian Cemetery	Mud Lake Indian Cemetery and Battle Site
20321	Big Bend	Cal Silvernail House	Lesley Silvernail House
20322	Big Bend	Island Lake House	Island Lake House
20323	Big Bend	-	Bean House
20324	Big Bend	-	-
20448	Big Falls	Jenny Anderson Farm	-
20449	Big Falls	Big Fall Town Hall	-
20450	Big Falls	Big Fall Privy Town Hall	-
24469	Big Falls	Big Falls Dam Historic District	Bif Falls Dam Powerhouse
24470	Big Falls	Big Falls Dam Historic District	Big Falls Hydroelectric Dam
24471	Big Falls	Big Falls Dam Historic District	Substation Enclosure
24472	Big Falls	Big Falls Dam Historic District	Shop and Store House
20446	Cedar Rapids	-	-



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<b>Table: Rusk County Architecture and History Inventory</b>			
<b>Site ID</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Current Name</b>	<b>Historic Name</b>
20447	Cedar Rapids	Cedar Rapids Town Hall	Pioneer School
20412	Dewey	-	John Deiderich House
20413	Dewey	-	John Deiderich Farm
20417	Flambeau	Round Meadow Community Club	Round Meadow School House
20418	Flambeau	-	Round Meadow School House Privy
20419	Flambeau	-	-
20420	Flambeau	Ducommun Barn	C Kunce Barn
20421	Flambeau	Herbert J Smith House	Parks Farm House
20422	Flambeau	Ethel Lucount Farm	Schoolman Farm
20423	Flambeau	Ethel Lecount Farm	Schoolman Farm
20424	Flambeau	-	-
20425	Flambeau	-	-
20426	Flambeau	Melvin & Dorathye Wedwick House	Eugene E Grieshammer House
20427	Flambeau	Silvernale House	Luderge Laberge House
35191	Flambeau	-	Glen Flora Jail
20344	Grant	-	-
20345	Grant	-	Old Wagon Wheel Bridge
20346	Grant	Ladysmith Ranger Station	-
20347	Grant	Ladysmith Ranger Station	-
20348	Grant	Ladysmith Ranger Station	-
20349	Grant	Ladysmith Station	-
20350	Grant	Ladysmith Ranger Station	-
20351	Grant	River Heights School	River Heights School
20352	Grant	-	Port Arthur Hotel and Store
20353	Grant	Grant Town Hall	Grant Center School
20354	Grant	Edward Wouters House	George Hritz House
20355	Grant	Golat Farm	-
20341	Grow	Ray Fredman Farm	Ebenezer Guns Barn
20342	Grow	Ray Fredman Farm	Ebenezer Guns Barn
20343	Grow	Holy Trinity Church	Holy Trinity Church



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<b>Table: Rusk County Architecture and History Inventory</b>			
<b>Site ID</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Current Name</b>	<b>Historic Name</b>
20406	Hawkins	Tony Milesky Farm	Louis D Sinclair Farm
20407	Hawkins	Stanley Vrana House	Robert Sisko Farm
20408	Hawkins	John Vrana Farm	Robert Sisko Farm
20409	Hawkins	John Vrana Farm	Robert Sisko Farm
20415	Hubbard	-	Andrew Vacho Farm
20416	Hubbard	-	Andrew Vacho Farm
20451	Hubbard	-	Hubbard Town Hall
20452	Hubbard	Hubbard Town Hall	Hubbard Town Hall
20336	Lawrence	-	-
20337	Lawrence	-	-
20338	Lawrence	-	-
20339	Lawrence	Lawrence Town Hall	Walrath School
20340	Lawrence	Ole Olson House	Ole Olson's Shed
19247	Marshall	Dewey Sprague Farm	-
19248	Marshall	Dewey Sprague Farm	-
19249	Marshall	Dewey Sprague Farm	-
19250	Marshall	Dewey Sprague Farm	-
19251	Marshall	-	-
19252	Marshall	Harstvedt House	Marshall Center School House
19253	Marshall	Tom Huffman House	George Nosser House
19254	Marshall	Dan Pemper House	John Pemper House
19255	Marshall	Gordon McElmurry House	Riverside School
20453	Murry	-	-
20456	Murry	St. Ann's Catholic Church	St. Ann's Catholic Church
20457	Murry	Clarence Clausen House	Bernard LaBlanc Farm
20458	Murry	Clarence Clausen Shed	Bernard LaBlanc Farm
20459	Murry	Town of Murry Town Hall	Murphy Dance Hall
20460	Murry	Franz Gerber Farm	-
20461	Murry	Franz Gerber Farm	-
20463	Murry	-	Gerber House
20410	Richland	-	Glen Flora Depot
20326	Rusk	-	-



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<b>Table: Rusk County Architecture and History Inventory</b>			
<b>Site ID</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Current Name</b>	<b>Historic Name</b>
20327	Rusk	John Deering Farm	Rusk Farm Company Display Farm
20328	Rusk	John Deering Farm	Rusk Farm Company Display Farm
20329	Rusk	John Deering Farm	Rusk Farm Company Display Farm
20330	Rusk	Louis Strzyzewski House	Dahl House
20331	Rusk	Cmickiewicz House	Kaylor House
20332	Rusk	Rusk Town Hall	Bear Lake School
20333	Rusk	-	Bear Lake 7 <sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church
20334	Rusk	Blue Bird Inn	Blue Bird Inn
20335	Rusk	Twin Lake Farm	Janota Farm
20433	South Fork	Stanley Copija House	Mike Copija House
20434	South Fork	-	Romorewicz House
20435	South Fork	-	John Pempek House
20436	South Fork	South Fork Community & Town Hall	South Fork School
20437	South Fork	-	Simon Zomchek Barn
20438	South Fork	Edward Tomaszewski Farm	Antone Sniezek Hog Shed
20439	South Fork	Zayer Barn	Hojnacki Barn
20440	South Fork	National Church	Polish National Catholic Church
20441	South Fork	Tony Swentonowski Farm	John Swentonowski Farm
20442	South Fork	Tony Swentonowski Farm	John Swentonowski Farm
20443	South Fork	Tony Swentonowski Farm	John Swentonowski Farm
20444	South Fork	Tony Swentonowski Farm	John Swentonowski Farm
20445	South Fork	Tony Swentonowski Farm	John Swentonowski Farm
133318	South Fork	-	Skinner Creek Road Bridge
20390	Strickland	-	Schuda Place
20391	Strickland	Strickland Town Hall	Grandview School
20392	Strickland	Strickland Town Hall Privies	Grandview School Privies
20393	Strickland	-	-
20394	Strickland	-	-
20395	Strickland	-	-
20396	Strickland	-	-
20397	Strickland	-	-



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<b>Table: Rusk County Architecture and History Inventory</b>			
<b>Site ID</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Current Name</b>	<b>Historic Name</b>
20398	Strickland	-	-
20399	Strickland	-	-
20404	Strickland	-	Wieszewski House
20405	Strickland	-	Oakland School
20364	Stubbs	W J Nachtwey & Jack Siglin House	Fred Siglin House
20365	Stubbs	Ray Anderson House	Kellogg House
20366	Stubbs	Olga Hayden House	Frank Munroe House
20367	Stubbs	Jim Sheffield House	Emery W Hill House
20368	Stubbs	Congregational Church	Congregational Church
20369	Stubbs	Cecil Weld House	Ben Kepner House
20370	Stubbs	Stanley Moore House	Cameron House
20371	Stubbs	Frank Zalensky Farm	Pinjumuz Farmstead
20372	Stubbs	Frank Zalensky Farm	Pinjumuz Farmstead
20373	Stubbs	Frank Zalensky Farm	Pinjumuz Farmstead
20374	Stubbs	-	John Trazak Farmstead
20375	Stubbs	H Kopper House	L Plaszcz House
20376	Stubbs	Peter Tommcok Octagon Barn	-
20377	Stubbs	Stubbs Town Hall	Harding Scholl House
20378	Stubbs	-	Blazey Draus Farmstead
20379	Stubbs	-	Blazey Draus Farmstead
20380	Stubbs	-	Blazey Draus Farmstead
20381	Stubbs	-	Blazey Draus Farmstead
20382	Stubbs	-	Ross Burlington – John Swenhart House
20383	Stubbs	Granger House	Ross Granger House
20384	Stubbs	Earl Goff Farm	William Howard Goff Farm
20385	Stubbs	Edward Meier House	Frank Pierce Stevens House
20386	Stubbs	George Janowski House	Joe Janowski House
20387	Stubbs	Miller House	Walter O'Hara House
20388	Stubbs	-	-
20389	Stubbs	-	-



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<b>Table: Rusk County Architecture and History Inventory</b>			
<b>Site ID</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Current Name</b>	<b>Historic Name</b>
35082	Stubbs	Kathy and Stuart Clark House	-
20356	Thornapple	Thornapple Town Hall	Thornapple School
20357	Thornapple	David Manosky Farm	Beldenville Lumber Co
20358	Thornapple	David Monosky Farm	Beldenville Lumber Co
20359	Thornapple	David Monosky Farm	Beldenville Lumber Co
20360	Thornapple	-	Thornapple Mill
20361	Thornapple	Lake Superior Power Plant	-
20362	Thornapple	-	-
20363	Thornapple	-	Caley Lake School
20428	Thornapple	-	A Lungren Riverview Stock Farm
20411	True	Pine Haven Home	H W True House
19270	Washington	-	Bollman School
19271	Washington	James Murray Barn	Pulaski Barn
19272	Washington	Ralph Goldsmith Farm	-
19273	Washington	Ralph Goldsmith Farm	-
19274	Washington	Ralph Goldsmith Farm	Shaw Lumber Co Farmhouse
19275	Washington	-	Shaw Lumber Co Farmhouse
19276	Washington	-	Shaw Lumber Co Farmhouse
19277	Washington	-	-
19278	Washington	Elmer Schultz Farm	Flambeau Farm
19279	Washington	-	Flambeau Farm
19280	Washington	B G West & Don Nuto Farm Supply	Darlington Ranch Resort House
19281	Washington	St. Francis of Assisi Mission Church	Flambeau Mission Church
19282	Washington	George Sherry's Flambeau Resort Tavern	-
19283	Washington	E Hopkins House	Duncan Cameron House
19284	Washington	A Skowronski House	Old Flambeau School
19285	Washington	Chris Gourdeaux House	New Flambeau School
19286	Washington	Lee Schmidt House	La Voie House
19287	Washington	William Giebel House	George Savord House



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<b>Table: Rusk County Architecture and History Inventory</b>			
<b>Site ID</b>	<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Current Name</b>	<b>Historic Name</b>
19288	Washington	Elmer Schultz Farm	Shaw Lumber Co Barn
19289	Washington	Elmer Schultz Farm	Shaw Lumber Co Barn
29181	Washington	-	Shaw Farm Bridge
19258	Willard	-	Wilson State Graded
19259	Willard	Gill Farm	John Skrypek Farm
19260	Willard	Gill Farm	John Skrypek Farm
19261	Willard	Gill Farm	John Skrypek Farm
19262	Willard	Gill Farm	John Skrypek Farm
19263	Willard	Leonard Celske House	-
19264	Willard	Willard Town Hall	Center School
19265	Willard	-	-
19266	Willard	Mark and Beverly Nuessle House	Cyprian Cote House
19267	Willard	-	Cyprian Cote House
19268	Willard	Wayside Gospel Mission	Roy Schoolhouse
19269	Willard	R C Berling House	Fred Yager Farmhouse
20464	Wilson	-	Wilson Center School
20465	Wilson	-	-

Source: WI Architecture & Historic Inventory

### Historical Societies/Organizations

Historical Societies/Organizations exist in the County in the City of Ladysmith (Rusk County), Village of Bruce, Village of Hawkins, and Village of Sheldon.

The Rusk County Historical Society operates a substantial museum in the City of Ladysmith at the Rusk County Fairgrounds. The museum contains an expansive collection of buildings, artifacts, and equipment.

The Bruce Historical Society also operates a museum building (former Bruce Newsletter building), and also maintains the Appollonia Church historic site.

The Historical organizations in Hawkins and Sheldon maintain historic buildings within the Village.



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### Historic Places (National and State Registers)

The National Register of Historic Places in the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the Register include districts, buildings, structures, sites, and objects that are significant in American history, archeology, architecture, culture, and engineering. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior. All historic places listed on the National Register are registered on the Wisconsin National Register of Historic Places. The table lists two current sites that are from Rusk County that are in the National Register of Historic Places.

Table: National & State Registries			
Historic Name	Town/Village/City	Location	Date Listed
Flambeau Mission Church	Ladysmith	W of Ladysmith	08-07-1979
State Bank of Ladysmith	Ladysmith	102 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	01-17-1980

Source: National Register of Historic Places

### Protecting Important Archaeological Sites

To begin the process of protecting important sites, the WHS has four specific recommendations.

- Development of a strong cultural resource component will allow the residents to identify valuable sites and locations and clarify the role they play in the present and also in planning for the future.
- Local residents and American Indian communities who have or do live and work in the area possess much additional information on past history. Therefore, steps should be taken to have this information incorporated into a document that narrates the societal history.
- Cemeteries and burials should be cataloged under Wis. Stat. 157.70 to provide for the maximum protection of these sites and to clearly define their boundaries.
- Archaeological investigations should be completed at the locations of known archaeological sites to assess the impacts of projects on these





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resources and archaeological investigations should be completed at high potential areas as identified through research.

- There are also a wide variety of other methods used to protect the sites. For example, easement purchases, zoning, land purchases, and state tax exemptions can further documentation and preservation of know and yet to be discovered sites.

### **Cultural/Community Events and Festivities**

Cultural events and festivals are an important part of Rusk County's culture and every part of the county has something to offer. Throughout the year, especially during the summer, there are multiple things to do. What follows is a list of some of the cultural/community events that happen in Rusk County.

- **Bruce Blue Hills Festival**
- **Northland Mardi Gras**
- **Glen Flora Days**
- **Ingram Days**
- **Northwoods Rock Rally**
- **Weyerhauser Booster Days**
- **Hawkins Harvest Festival**
- **Rusk County Fair**
- **Sheldon Community Fair**

### **Cultural and Historic Resource Programs**

#### **Wisconsin Historic Preservation Fund Sub-grants (Tax Credits)**

Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) sub-grants are administered by the Wisconsin Historical Society's Division of Historic Preservation (DHP). These grants are in the form of income tax credits for income-producing historic buildings, archaeological sites, and historical homes. These credits are available to all local units of government in the State of Wisconsin and to non-profit organizations.



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### **Wisconsin Humanities Council Historic Preservation Grants**

The Wisconsin Humanities Council offers grants of up to \$10,000 for projects that enhance appreciation of the need for historic preservation and/or increase public awareness of the importance of particular historic buildings or decorative art works in Wisconsin. Preference is given to rural communities and small towns with populations under 30,000.

### **National Trust for Historic Preservation/Jeffris Preservation Services Fund (PFS)**

This fund was established in 1998 by a gift from the Jeffris Family Foundation to the National Trust. The PSF provides funding to small towns to use in the planning stages of historic preservation projects. Eligible expenses include costs for professional consultants and educational activities. A dollar for dollar match is required for these grants.

## **5.4 Survey Data Summary**

According to the Rusk County Comprehensive Planning Survey, the respondents said the lakes and rivers are in great condition, along with the groundwater, wetlands, wildlife and the habitat. The respondents indicated that the farm lands may be below average. They also feel for the most part the Rusk County resources including farmlands, lakes, rivers, etc. are being protected.



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### **5.5 Summary – Goals & Objectives**

**Goal:** Protect, preserve, and efficiently utilize natural resources in the County, as well as provide employment and recreational opportunities. Encourage production agriculture and preservation of agricultural lands. Promote the preservation of historic and cultural resources of the area.

**Objectives:**

1. Promote the responsible use of Rusk County resources.
2. Protect natural resources from pollution and degradation, and encourage proper land/timber management by government and private owners.
3. Promote use of farmland for agricultural purposes
4. Seek and promote educational opportunities for people to learn more about local historic and cultural resources.

**Actions:**

- A. Promote development and agricultural practices which protect surface and groundwater quality, including proper erosion control, manure management, and stormwater management practices.
- B. Work with the Rusk County Historical Society and other organizations interested in the preservation of historic and cultural resources.
- C. Continue formulation of the County Forest Management Plan and Land & Water Conservation Plan.
- D. Promote education opportunities for residents and property owners that provide natural resource conservation practices, proper land management, agri-business issues, and historic and cultural resource understanding.