



CRITICAL HABITAT INDOOR LAB

Critical Habitat Designation – a Wisconsin DNR Program.

Every body of water has **critical habitat** - areas that are most important to the overall health of the aquatic plants and animals.



Remarkably, **80% of the plants and animals on the state's endangered and threatened species list spend all or part of their life cycle within the near shore zone.**

90% percent of the living things in lakes and rivers are found along the shallow margins and shores.

- Wisconsin law mandates special protections for these critical habitats.
- Critical Habitat Designation is a program that recognizes those areas and maps them so that everyone knows which areas are most vulnerable to impacts from human activity.
- A critical habitat designation assists waterfront owners by identifying these areas, so they can design their waterfront projects to protect habitat and ensure the long-term health of the lake they live

Section 1. What Is Critical Habitat?

1. What does the word “critical” mean?
2. What does the word habitat mean?

(5 pts)_____

Section 2. Why Is Critical Habitat Important? (this space for note-taking)

Section 3. Bony Lake Example: Cut and Paste Project

Four handouts are provided for this section:

- a. Bony Lake map
- b. Animal cut-out sheet
- c. Bony Lake critical habitat designation
- d. WI DNR Critical Habitat Designation Descriptions

Directions:

1. **Underline the location** with the numbers you are assigned and write them here

2. **Read the description** of each Critical Habitat location found on Bony Lake BON0 – BON13 to determine what habitat type is at each location.
3. **Determine the animals** that would be found in this habitat by using the laminated WI DNR Critical Habitat Designation Descriptions Sheet.
4. **Cut out the animals** that you feel would use the habitat at your assigned locations and **paste onto the Bony Lake map.**

1st lake section cut out and pasted (5 pts. _____)

2nd lake section cut out and pasted (5 pts. _____)

SUMMARY QUESTIONS

1. List 3 or more facts you learned in today’s lab session.

(5 pts)_____

2. What percent of living things found in lakes and rivers can be found along the shores and shallow margins? (see introduction pages)

(5 pts)_____

3. What part of the lake do 80% of all plants and animals on the state’s endangered or threatened species list spend all or part of their life cycle?

(5 pts)_____

4. What would we lose or not have in the future if we don’t continue to protect and respect our Critical Habitat Designated Areas?

(10 pts)_____

TOTAL CRITICAL HABITAT POINTS (40 pts)_____