



Critical Habitat Module

LEEP

Drummond School

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Inland Waters of Bayfield and Douglas Counties

What are critical habitats?

- Homes for fish and wildlife
 - Submerged aquatic plants
 - Emergent and floating leaf plants
 - Rush beds
 - Wild rice beds
 - Shoreland and nearshore wetlands
 - Woody habitat
 - Spawning substrate



Critical Habitats – What to Remember

- Critical habitats provide areas for fish and wildlife to:
 - Feed
 - Seek cover from predators
 - Spawn
 - Loaf
- Critical habitats also:
 - Protect water quality
 - Increase biodiversity
 - Increase scenic beauty

Submerged Aquatic Plants

- Insects live on plants
- Small fish use plants to hide
- Big fish use plants to ambush small fish
- Stabilize sediments
- Ducks feed on seeds



Emergent and Floating Leaf Plants

- Fish use for cover or shade
- Wildlife use for frogs and turtles
- Feeding and cover areas for fish and wildlife



Rush Beds

- Fish cover and feeding areas
- Fish spawning areas
- Reduces wave energy
- Favorite muskrat food and lodge building material



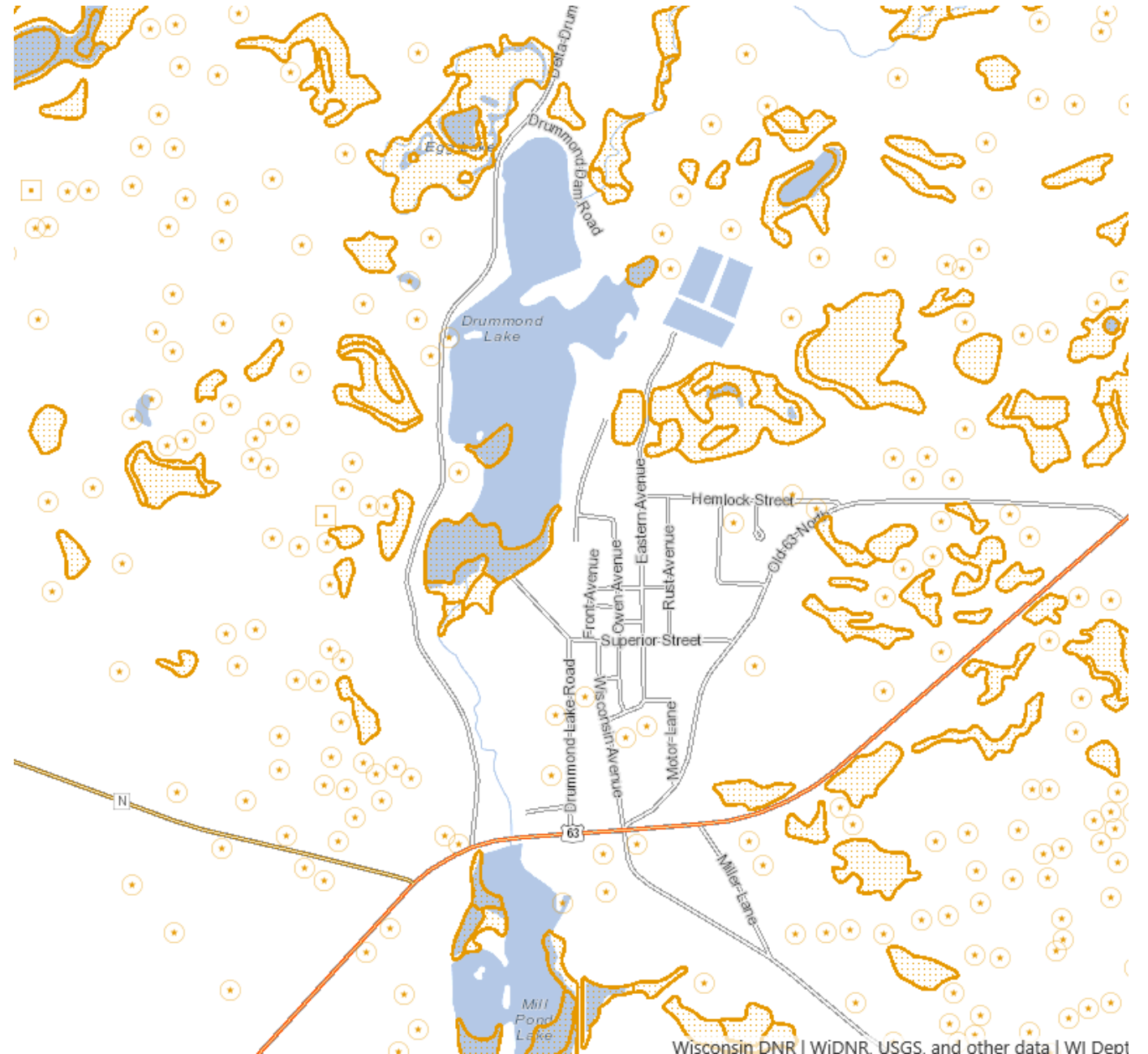
Wild Rice Beds

- Duck, goose and swan food source
- insect habitat
- Sediment stabilization
- Human food source



Wetlands

- Wildlife use for shelter and food.....Beaver, muskrat, frogs, turtles, snakes and birds
- Water filters for lakes
- Biological diversity



Woody Habitat

- Fish feed, use for cover, ambushing prey, and spawning
- Turtles use for basking
- Ducks use for loafing and feeding



Spawning Substrate

- Cobble, gravel and sand areas in lakes and rivers where walleye congregate to spawn.



Impacts to Critical Habitats

