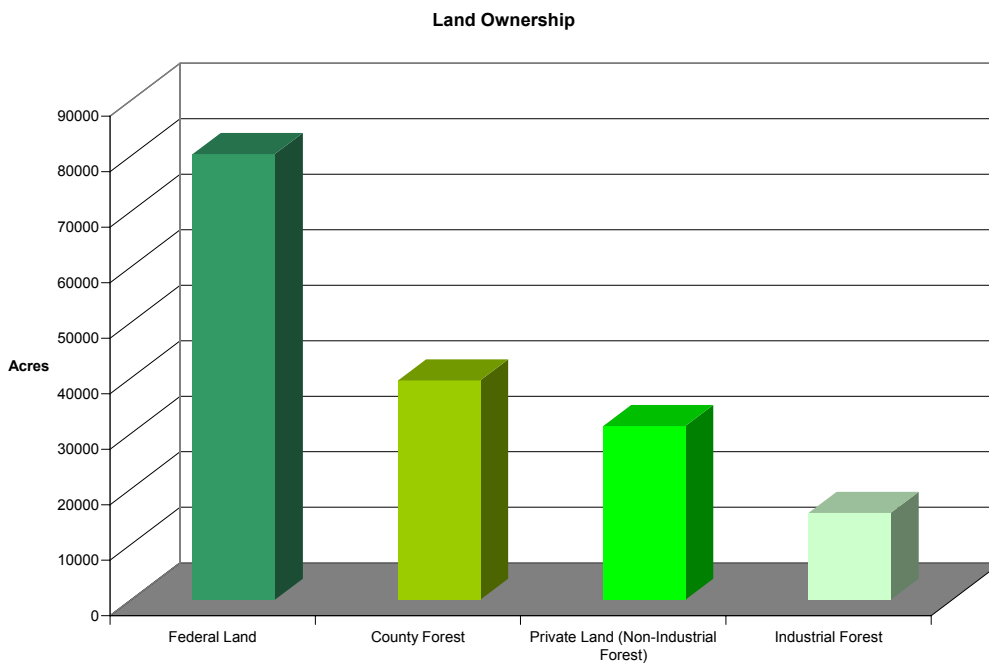


III. PROJECT AREA

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The project area is located approximately 60 miles southeast of Duluth, Minnesota in southwestern Bayfield County of northern Wisconsin. Communities within the project area include the civil Towns of Barnes and Drummond and two unincorporated places. Total land area within the project boundary is roughly 171,056 acres, which includes 119,794 acres of publicly owned and managed lands. The project area is depicted in **Map 1**, Community Base Map.

Figure 1, Barnes-Drummond Land Ownership



CLIMATE

Climate conditions within the project area are classified as continental, with long, cold winters and relatively short, warm summers. Average annual precipitation is about 33 inches, with 50 to 60 inches of snowfall. The mean summertime temperature is 65 degrees, with a wintertime mean of 6 degrees. Natural variations in precipitation levels can and do occur within the project area, occasionally resulting in excessive moisture conditions, or drought. Seasonal variations in precipitation, temperature and humidity can create periods of high vulnerability to wildfire, particularly during the spring and fall.

ECONOMICS

The area is predominantly rural in nature with a recreation and tourism based economy. Limited commercial and industrial development occurs within the project area, employing some local residents. The 2000 Census indicated that most project area residents worked outside of their home communities, with many commuting to areas outside of Bayfield County. In 2000, the median household income for Drummond was \$37,500, while in Barnes this figure was \$28,250. The median household income for Bayfield County was \$33,390.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The project area is located within the heavily forested region of Wisconsin referred to as the “Northwood’s”. Upland forest cover encompasses approximately 154,000 acres, while wetlands occupy over 16,000 acres of the land base. Surface water resources account for the remaining 8,300 acres.

Glacial processes have heavily influenced local topography. Much of the project area is generally characterized by hilly terrain, pitted by numerous kettle lakes and wetlands. Forest cover types generally consist of mixed broad-leaved deciduous, maple, aspen, red pine and mixed coniferous species. On the relatively flat glacial sand outwashes, jack pine, red pine and shrubland species are common.

The project area is located within two primary drainage basins, Lake Superior (LS) and the Mississippi River (MR). Lands within the area are drained via portions of six major watersheds including the Upper St. Croix and Eau Claire River (MR), Totagatic River (MR), Upper Namekagon River (MR), Bois Brule River (LS), White River (LS) and Iron River watersheds (LS).

Wetlands are well distributed throughout the project area, except within the glacial sand outwash area. The dominant wetland type is forested, with emergent/wet meadow and scrub/shrub wetlands also present.

The project area supports habitat for numerous species of animals, plants and insects, including several threatened, endangered and sensitive species. A portion of eastern Drummond lies within an elk “buffer zone,” established as a part of the Clam Lake experimental elk study project.

POPULATION AND GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

The total population of the Town’s of Barnes and Drummond grew at a faster rate than that of Bayfield County during the period 1980-2000. Both municipalities are expected to increase in population through the year 2020. Current and projected population statistics are depicted in **Tables 1 and 2**.

Table 1, Population 1980-2000

	1980	1990	2000	Change
Barnes	493	473	610	+23.7%
Drummond	442	417	541	+22.4%
Bayfield County	13,882	14,008	15,103	+8.8%

Source: US Census Bureau

Table 2, Population Projections 2005-2025

	2005(EST)	2010	2015	2020
Barnes	662	763	855	946
Drummond	541	572	586	600
Bayfield County	15,652	15,643	15,986	16,319

Source: Bayfield County Land Use Plan, Wisconsin DOA

LAND USE

Table 3, Town of Barnes Existing Land Use Statistics

Land Use	Acres	Percent
Agriculture	283.9	0.4%
Commercial	263.8	0.4%
Commercial Forest	7900.5	10.5%
County Forest	38683.5	51.6%
Industrial Forest	7753.5	10.3%
Municipal/Institutional	477.0	0.6%
Other Forests	378.8	0.5%
Parks	25.9	0.0%
Private Forest	12506.9	16.7%
Private Residential	6.3	< 0.1%
Residential	6738.8	9.0%
Unknown	4.3	< 0.1%
Vacant	4.4	< 0.1%
Total	75027.6	100.0%

Source: Town of Barnes Comprehensive Planning Data

Table 4, Town of Drummond Existing Land Use Statistics

Land Use	Acres	Percent
Agriculture	985.7	1.1%
Commercial	156.1	0.2%
County Land	45.6	0.0%
Federal Land	72863.5	79.7%
Forest	14038.6	15.4%
Government/Institutional	78.9	0.1%
Manufacturing	35.1	< 0.1%
Open Space	202.6	0.2%
Residential	2608.7	2.9%
State Land	384.6	0.4%
Total	91399.4	100.0%

Source: Town of Drummond Land Use Plan Data

Land development within the project area has historically focused largely in and around shoreland areas. In recent years, the increased demand for waterfront property coupled with the scarcity of available waterfront on larger lakes has placed great development pressure on small sensitive lakes, streams and wetlands. At the same time, demand for rural forested land and off-water residential development has also increased significantly. Land use statistics (**Tables 3 & 4**) were extracted from the Town of Barnes Comprehensive Plan (2005) and the Town of Drummond Land Use Plan (2002). These statistics, along with the corresponding map (**Map 2**), depict the relative proportion and spatial location of given land uses present at the time the plans were created.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

The density of residential housing development in shoreland areas of Barnes and Drummond is among the highest found in Bayfield County, outside of the incorporated communities. New residential units constructed are primarily retirement/second homes and seasonal/recreational houses. Additionally, a large number of seasonal homes have been converted to permanent dwelling units. Project area housing statistics are depicted below in **Tables 5-8**. Project area housing unit density is depicted in **Map 3**.

Table 5, Housing Units 1980-2000

	1980	1990	2000	Change
Barnes	1,049	1,307	1,486	+41.7%
Drummond	645	621	645	+0.0%
Bayfield County	9,642	10,918	11,640	+20.7%

Source: US Census Bureau

Table 6, Housing Units Projections 2005-2020

	2005	2010	2015	2020
Barnes	1,608	1,718	1,827	1,936
Drummond	637	637	637	637
Bayfield County	10,734	11,208	11,683	12,158

Source: Bayfield County Land Use Plan

Table 7, 2000 Census Housing Profile- Occupied Housing Units

	Total HU	Occupied	Owner	Pct	Renter	Pct
Barnes	1,486	278	248	16.7%	30	2.0%
Drummond	645	231	184	28.5%	47	7.3%
Bayfield Co.	11,640	6,207	5,127	44.0%	1,080	9.3%

Source: US Census Bureau

Table 8, 2000 Census Housing Profile- Vacant Housing Units

	Total HU	Vacant	Seasonal	Pct	Other ¹	Pct
Barnes	1,486	1,208	1,160	78.1%	48	3.2%
Drummond	645	414	397	61.6%	17	2.6%
Bayfield Co.	11,640	5,433	4,922	42.3%	511	4.4%

Source: US Census Bureau

¹ Includes vacant units for sale, rent, rented or sold units not occupied, and other vacant housing units