

VI. COMMUNITIES AT RISK AND COMMUNITY PLANNING UNITS

A community at-risk can be defined as a place where humans and their development meet or intermix with wildland fuels.

Within the Barnes-Drummond project area, the rural population centers and communities within the WUI represent the communities at-risk. To provide for a better overall community plan, the project area was subdivided into 10 individual planning units which encompass local population and development clusters. Within the rural communities, “pockets” of concentrated human development commonly occur in association with surface water features. Within these “lake communities”, structure density can rival that found within more urban areas. Each of these “pockets” is surrounded by large tracts of contiguous forestland, making them especially vulnerable to wildfire. While human activity within these areas may, at times, be very heavy, little or no support infrastructure exists at the community level. These areas must strictly rely on external fire protection resources (Town, State, and Forest Service). The existing infrastructure and development conditions within these communities can hinder fire suppression activities. Problems such as narrow roadways, limited or non-existent turn-around areas, lack of signage and other access constraints can greatly impact emergency response capabilities.

Planning unit boundaries are depicted in **Map 1**.

COMMUNITY PLANNING UNITS

Drummond

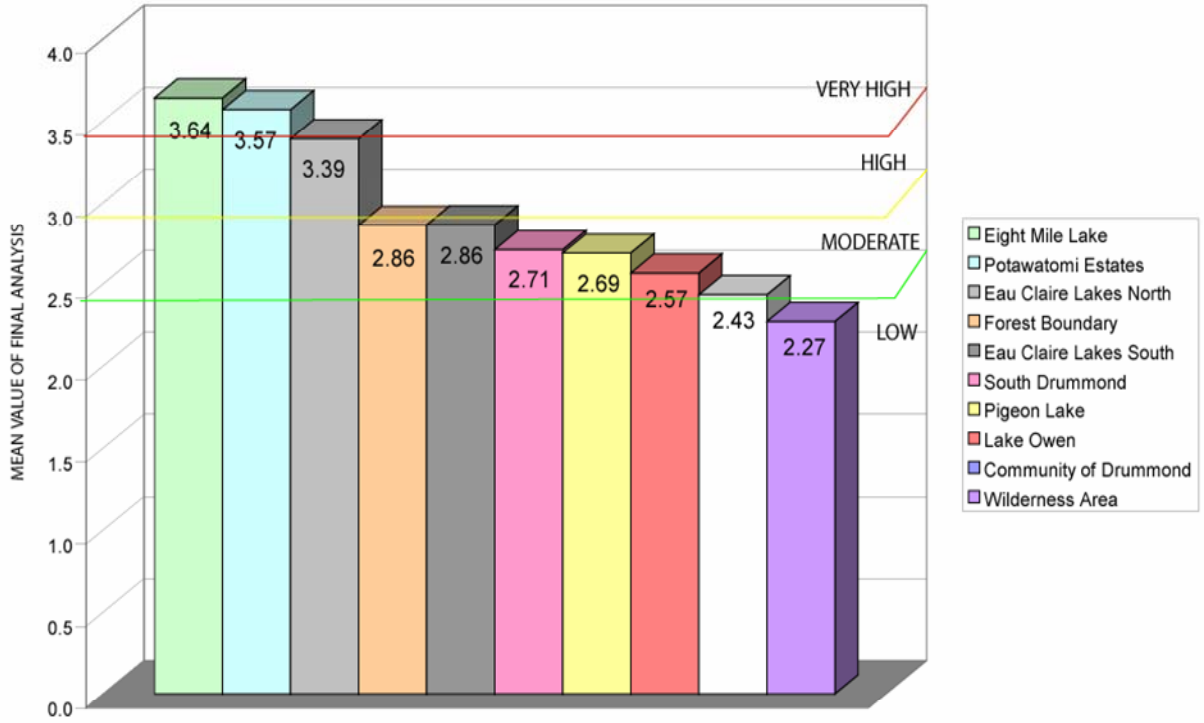
Community of Drummond
Drummond South
Forest Boundary
Lake Owen
Pigeon Lake
Wilderness Area

Barnes

Potawatomi Estates
Eau Claire Lakes North
Eau Claire Lakes South
Eight Mile Lake

The tables on pages 33-42 define and describe each community planning unit in terms of existing conditions, values and resources present, and community wildfire planning issues. The hazard assessment rating (**Figure 13**) for each of the planning units was determined by calculating the mean cell value of the final analysis model within each of the 10 planning units. Equal interval classification was used to categorize the planning units within the range of mean values. The decision to use this method was based on the consensus of the planning committee.

Figure 13, Hazard Assessment Rating, Planning Units



PLANNING UNITS IN THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND

Community of Drummond	
General Description	The unincorporated community of Drummond is located along US Highway 63 in the Town of Drummond. The community is entirely surrounded by federal lands with few interspersed private holdings. Drummond serves as a local service and commerce center with several small commercial businesses and service establishments. Public services such as a library and public school are also found in the community. A lumber mill facility (Drummond Lumber Company) is a major local employer located within the community.
Hazard rating	low (mean = 2.43)
Land Management Area	federal (89.5%) private (10.5%)
Access	Drummond is located along a major US Highway (STH 63). All points within the community are accessible by roadway. Most roads within the community area paved and provide suitable ingress and egress.
Fire Occurrence	low
Homes	129
Businesses	10
Assessed Value of Improvements	residential \$6,362,100 commercial \$1,093,400
Jurisdiction	Drummond Fire Department (structure protection), USFS (wildfire suppression)
Sensitive Facilities	10- public library, gas station, lumber mill, post office, bank, church, public school, telephone station, civic center, apartment complex
Essential Infrastructure	fire department, water tower, well, electric utility line, 2 water points (a) ⁵
Community Values	historical museum, Drummond Lake Park & boat landing, North Country Trail
Preparedness capability	See Table 14 and page 65

⁵ Water Point Descriptions a= truck engine/trailer pump (500 GPM min.) to within 10 feet of waters edge. Multiple fill (3 or more, b= portable pump(s) (500 GPM min.) multiple fill (3 or more) no more than 75' from pump to fill site., c= tank truck to waters' edge single fill site by drafting or portable pump, h= dry hydrant

Drummond South Planning Unit	
General Description	This unit encompasses an area both east and west of US Highway 63 in the southern portion of the Town of Drummond. This unit includes numerous private holdings along with permanent and seasonal housing units. Lands on the Lake Owen side of the unit are primarily under federal ownership. This area was chosen as a planning unit due to the predominance of high-moderate fuel hazards and development density.
Hazard rating	moderate (mean = 2.71)
Land Management Area	federal (56.3%) private (43.7%)
Access	22.6 square miles
Fire Occurrence	Access to the area is generally very good. US Highway 63 run north/south through the unit, and numerous town roads provide access both to the east and west of USH 63.
Homes	low-moderate
Businesses	174
Assessed Value of Improvements	2
Jurisdiction	residential - \$10,428,800 commercial - \$17,500
Sensitive Facilities	Drummond Fire Department (structure protection), USFS (wildfire suppression)
Essential Infrastructure	none
Community Values	electric utility line, water point (a)
Preparedness capability	timber values, water quality values, recreational area
	See Table 14 and page 65

Lake Owen Planning Unit	
General Description	The Lake Owen unit includes the entire southeastern corner of the Town of Drummond. Lake/recreational housing development is prevalent along both the Lake Owen and Lake Tahkodah shores. This area was chosen as a planning unit due to the present and potential future housing density coupled with moderate to high fuel hazards.
Hazard rating	moderate (mean = 2.56)
Land Management	federal (65.9%) private (34.1%)
Area	22.7 square miles
Access	This area is primarily served by paved Town roads. South Lake Owen Drive provides the primary access, with secondary access provided by Kraft's Point and Otter Bay Roads. Access may be somewhat more limited on the federal lands northwest of Lake Owen as this area contains Maintenance Level 2 and 3 USFS roads.
Fire Occurrence	moderate
Homes	171
Businesses	3
Assessed Value of Improvements	residential - \$ 27,700,500 commercial - \$ 1,911,700
Jurisdiction	Drummond Fire Department (structure protection), USFS (wildfire suppression)
Sensitive Facilities	none
Essential Infrastructure	water points - 3 (a,b,h)
Community Values	Timber values, water quality values, recreational area, Tahkodah Hills Golf Course, North Country Trail
Preparedness capability	See Table 14 and page 65

Pigeon Lake Planning Unit	
General Description	The Pigeon Lake planning unit includes lands directly abutting Pigeon Lake and development along CTH N to the west. Lakefront development is generally modest, with seasonal and year-round residences present. Development along CTH N is predominantly seasonal/recreational housing. The unit is bounded by the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.
Hazard rating	moderate (mean = 2.68)
Land Management	federal (71.5%) private (28.5%)
Area	4.9 square miles
Access	Primary access is provided via CTH N. Pigeon Lake Road provides access to the north side of the lake.
Fire Occurrence	low
Homes	50
Businesses	none
Assessed Value of Improvements	residential - \$ 2,221,200 commercial - \$ 0
Jurisdiction	Drummond Fire Department (structure protection), USFS (wildfire suppression)
Sensitive Facilities	Pigeon Lake Field Station, old mission site
Essential Infrastructure	1 water point (b)
Community Values	timber values, water quality values, recreational area, trail
Preparedness capability	See Table 14 and page 65

Wilderness Planning Unit (Rainbow Lake Wilderness & Flynn Lake Wilderness Study Area)	
General Description	<p>The Rainbow Lake Wilderness was federally designated as wilderness area in 1975. This area is found within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in portions of the Town's of Drummond and Delta. The general physiography is rolling uplands, containing 16 small lakes and 9 small ponds. The wilderness is a popular recreation spot, with numerous hiking trails (including the North Country Trail) and backcountry camping opportunities. This area was designated as a planning unit due to the fire management/suppression implications associated with wilderness.</p> <p>The Flynn Lake Wilderness Study Area adjoins the Rainbow Lake Wilderness, extending southward to the Community of Drummond. This 6,300 acre tract is currently managed by the Forest Service as a Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM) Area.</p>
Hazard Rating	low (mean = 2.27)
Land Management Area	federal (98.6%) county (0.0%) private (1.4%)
Area	16.5 square miles
Access	<p>Access is limited. The main point of access to the south is Reynard Lake Road (FR 392), an un-paved, Maintenance Level 3 FS road. This route is not adequately maintained for emergency vehicle ingress and egress, although it is possible. Access to the east side is provided along the Delta-Drummond Road (FR 223), a paved, 2-lane roadway which is maintained by the Town of Drummond. Access along the west side is provided by the North Delta Road (FR 228) an unpaved forest road. Points along this route are generally accessible by vehicle. Vehicle access to the wilderness interior is not possible via forest roads or trails. Low level maintenance of forest roads, environmental hazards such as washouts and downed timber could further reduce access.</p>
Fire Occurrence	low
Homes	2
Businesses	none
Assessed Value of Improvements	residential - \$87,700 commercial - \$ 0
Jurisdiction	Drummond Fire Department (structure protection), USFS (wildfire suppression)
Sensitive Facilities	None
Essential Infrastructure	1 water point (a)
Community Values	recreational area, timber values, North Country Trail
Preparedness Capability	See Table 14 and page 65



Forest Boundary Planning Unit	
General Description	Western boundary area of Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in the Town of Drummond. Limited residential development present, primarily along the CTH N corridor. Predominantly federal land ownership.
Hazard rating	moderate (mean = 2.86)
Land Management Area	federal (90.4%) county (0.0%) private (9.6%) 31.4 square miles
Access	Primary access routes include County Highway N (east-west) and County Highway A (north-south, along west boundary). Beck Road (FR 229) is the primary north-south corridor, with numerous Forest Roads bisecting the interior.
Fire Occurrence	low
Homes	51
Businesses	0
Assessed Value of Improvements	residential \$1,648,000 commercial \$0
Jurisdiction	Drummond Fire Department (structure protection), USFS (wildfire suppression)
Sensitive Facilities	none
Essential Infrastructure	none
Community Values	trails, timber values, recreation values, water quality values
Preparedness Capability	See Table 14 and page 65

PLANNING UNITS IN THE TOWN OF BARNES

Eau Claire Lakes North Planning Unit	
General Description	The Eau Claire chain of lakes is one of northwestern Wisconsin's premiere recreational and vacation destinations. The chain is comprised of 11 connected spring-fed lakes surrounded by pines and northern hardwoods. The area has a high degree of second home/recreational housing development, and several commercial businesses. This area was designated as a planning unit due to the existing development and the high hazard fuel types present.
Hazard rating	high (mean = 3.38)
Land Management Area	county (4.3%) private (95.7%)
Access	22.3 square miles
Fuel Hazards	Access is generally very good. Main routes through the unit include STH 27, CTH Y and CTH N. Numerous Town roads provide access to individual parcels within the interior and along the lakeshores. Bayfield County Forest lands are present along the north boundary of the planning unit. Road access within these areas is limited to low maintenance forest roads and trails.
Fire Occurrence	Forest cover types present include jack pine, grasslands, red pine and mixed deciduous/coniferous forest. Fuel Hazard ratings are generally moderate to high.
Homes	617
Businesses	26
Assessed Value of Improvements	residential - \$ 39,794,800 commercial - \$ 2,178,400
Jurisdiction	Barnes Fire Department (structure protection), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (wildfire suppression)
Sensitive Facilities	retirement center, Barnes Fire Department, Barnes Town Hall, community church
Essential Infrastructure	communications structure, 8 water points (a-3, b-2, c-3)
Community Values	tourist destination, resorts, recreation values, timber values, church, town facilities
Preparedness Capability	See Table 13 and page 64

Eau Claire Lakes South Planning Unit	
General Description	Similar to Eau Claire Lakes North, with the exception of generally lower fuel hazard ratings. Chosen as a planning unit due to high density housing.
Hazard rating	moderate (mean = 2.86)
Area	9.1 square miles
Land Management	private (100.0%)
Access	Ingress and egress is provided mainly via paved Town roads. State Highway 27 runs north-south through the planning unit, and would likely serve as a primary escape route. Access to CTH N to the north is possible via Pease Road or Tars Pond Road from the east side of the planning unit.
Fuel Hazards	Dominant forest cover types include mixed broad leaved deciduous, red pine and mixed coniferous/deciduous forest. Fuel model types present generally have a hazard rating of low to moderate.
Fire Occurrence	low to moderate
Homes	299
Businesses	9
Assessed Value of Improvements	residential - \$ 24,277,600 commercial - \$ 921,300
Jurisdiction	Barnes Fire Department (structure protection), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (wildfire suppression)
Sensitive Facilities	none
Essential Infrastructure	4 water points (a-1, c-3)
Community Values	tourist destination, resorts, recreation values, timber values
Preparedness capability	See Table 13 and page 64

Potawatomi Estates Planning Unit	
General Description	Potawatomi Estates is a large residential subdivision in the Town of Barnes. The development contains both seasonal/recreational and permanent housing units. This area was designated as a planning unit due to the high-density development present, road access and signage concerns and the presence of high hazard fuels.
Hazard rating	very high (mean = 3.57)
Land Management Area	county (33.8%) private (66.2%)
Access	9.1 square miles
Fuel Hazards	Ingress and egress for emergency vehicles is a significant issue within Potawatomi Estates. In some cases, roads are narrow and turnaround areas non-existent. Unimproved “sugar sand” roads pose additional access challenges. Adequate signage is also lacking. Access is limited within the Bayfield County Forest lands found along the northern border of the planning unit.
Fire Occurrence	Dominant forest cover types are Jack pine and mixed deciduous/coniferous forest. Surrounded by pine barrens, this area is generally assigned a high fuel hazard rating.
Homes	moderate
Businesses	294
Assessed Value of Improvements	1
Jurisdiction	residential - \$ 13,773,700 commercial - \$ 12,500
Sensitive Facilities	Barnes Fire Department (structure protection), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (wildfire suppression)
Essential Infrastructure	historic buildings on island on Island Lake, property owner association improvements, recreational facilities, and campground
Community Values	9 water points (a-1, b-1, c-7)
Preparedness capability	structures, timber value, water quality values
	See Table 13 and page 64

Eight Mile Lake Planning Unit	
General Description	The Eight Mile Lake Planning Unit encompasses two separate tracts surrounding West & East Eight Mile Lakes. Currently, there is limited development within the planning unit, with structures confined to the East Eight Mile Lake segment. However, this unit has potential for future growth and development. This isolated planning unit is located within the pine barrens and associated high hazard fuels area.
Hazard rating	very high (mean = 3.64)
Land Management Area	federal (0.0%) county (83.7%) private (16.3%)
Access	Access is limited. Webster Road provides access north-south, while Eightmile Lake Road provides east-west connectivity to County Highway A. Developed area is contained within wildland area (Bayfield County Forest). Access within BCF lands is limited to unmaintained roads and trails.
Fuel Hazards	Shrubland and mixed forest predominates. Surrounding area is a shrubland/pine barren containing jack pine, red pine shrubland and mixed forest. High hazard fuels area.
Fire Occurrence	low
Homes	6
Businesses	0
Assessed Value of Improvements	residential - \$ 556,200 commercial - \$ 0
Jurisdiction	Barnes Fire Department (structure protection), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (wildfire suppression)
Sensitive Facilities	none
Essential Infrastructure	none
Community Values	structures, timber value, water quality values
Preparedness capability	See Table 13 and page 64