

care to follow slow no-wake rules in these areas.

Watershed Description

The Lake Wissota watershed, as defined here, encompasses 5,548 square miles of land. **The land use activities occurring within those 5,548 square miles will directly affect water quality in Lake Wissota.** For the purposes of this aquatic plant management plan, only a small portion of the entire basin is being considered. The watershed focus region reaches north to encompass Cornell Flowage, east to the eastern edge of the Chequamegon Waters Flowage, west almost to Bloomer, and south to just over the Eau Claire County border (Figure 20). This watershed includes the sub-watersheds of 19 creeks whose waters eventually combine and drain into Lake Wissota.

Watersheds. The watersheds of Lake Wissota, as determined by the WDNR, are McCann Creek /Fisher River and Lower Yellow River as depicted in Figure 20.

Subwatersheds. The subwatersheds included in Figure 21 are similar to those depicted by the WDNR, but are based on the United States Geological Survey Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUCs). These subwatersheds are slightly different than the WDNR watersheds and are broken down into smaller sections. The subwatersheds include: McCann Creek, Marsh-Miller Lake-O’Neill Creek, Bob Creek, French

Creek-Chippewa River, Buck Creek-Fisher River, Pike Creek, Witt Flowage-Fisher River, Elder Creek, Yellow River, Play Creek, Otter Creek, Lotz Creek-Yellow River, Big Drywood Creek, Little Drywood Creek, Old Abe Lake-Chippewa River, Jim Creek-O’Neill Creek, Lake Wissota, South Fork of Paint Creek-Paint Creek, and Sherman Creek-Paint Creek.

Land Cover. Land cover within the Lake Wissota watershed will directly influence water quality in the lake, as water flowing off of the land in the watershed will pick up nutrients, sediment, and potential pollutants as it flows to the lake. Within the watershed are 15 different land cover types including: water, developed open space, developed low intensity, developed medium intensity, developed high intensity, barren land, deciduous forest, evergreen forest, mixed forest, shrub/scrub, grassland/herbaceous, pasture/hay, cropland, woody wetlands, and herbaceous wetlands. The most prominent cover type in the watershed is deciduous forest (38.75%) followed closely by cropland (38.47%) (Figure 22). The distribution of the two dominant cover types is such that the deciduous forest land is more dominant in the northern part of the watershed, while the cropland is more dominant in the southern part of the watershed, especially near Lake Wissota. Developed land (high, medium, and low) makes up 0.73% of the watershed land cover, while wetlands (woody and herbaceous) make up 9.57%.

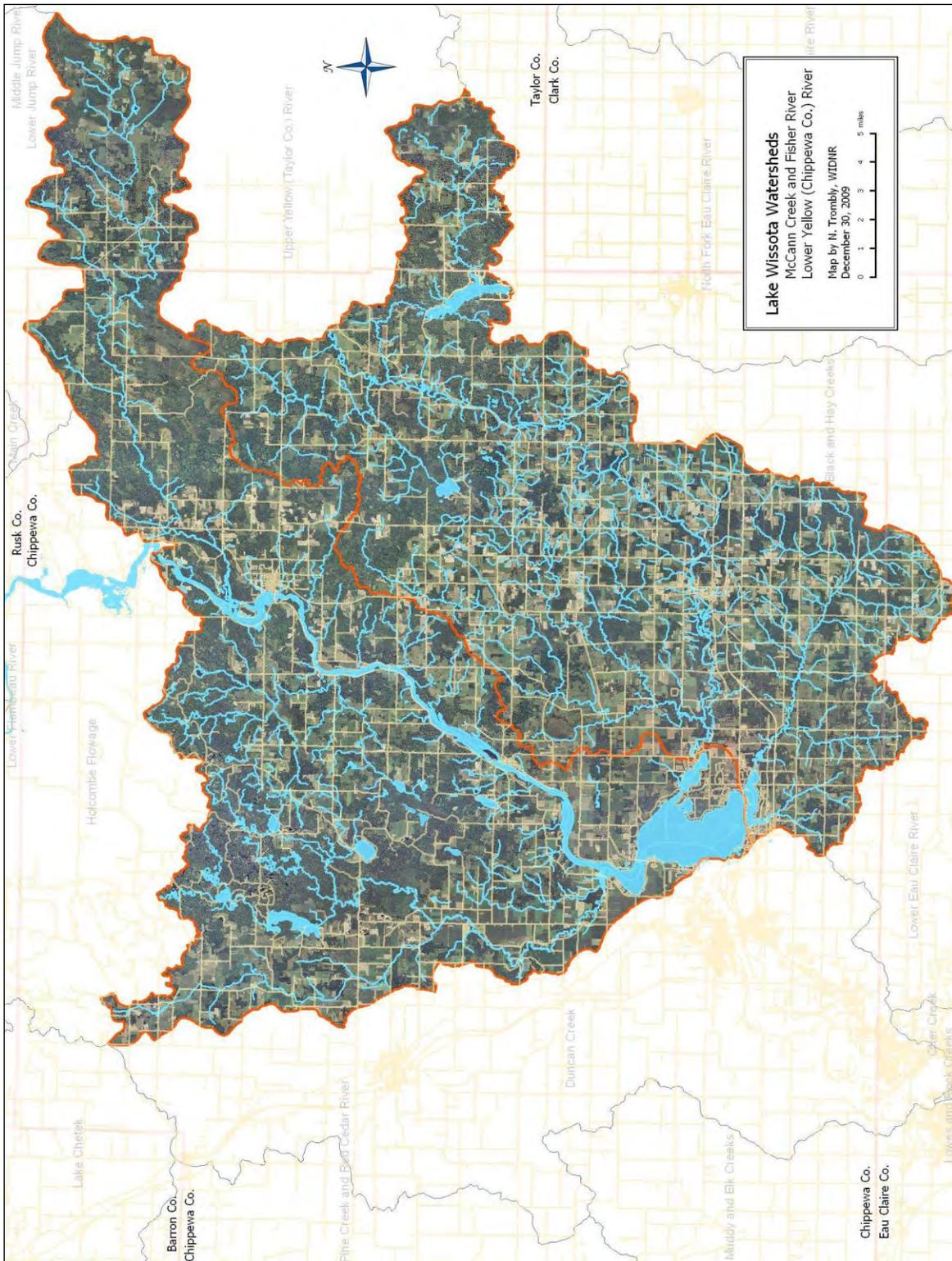


Figure 20. Watershed boundaries for Lake Wissota, including McCann Creek/Fisher River and Lower Yellow River, as delineated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in 2009.

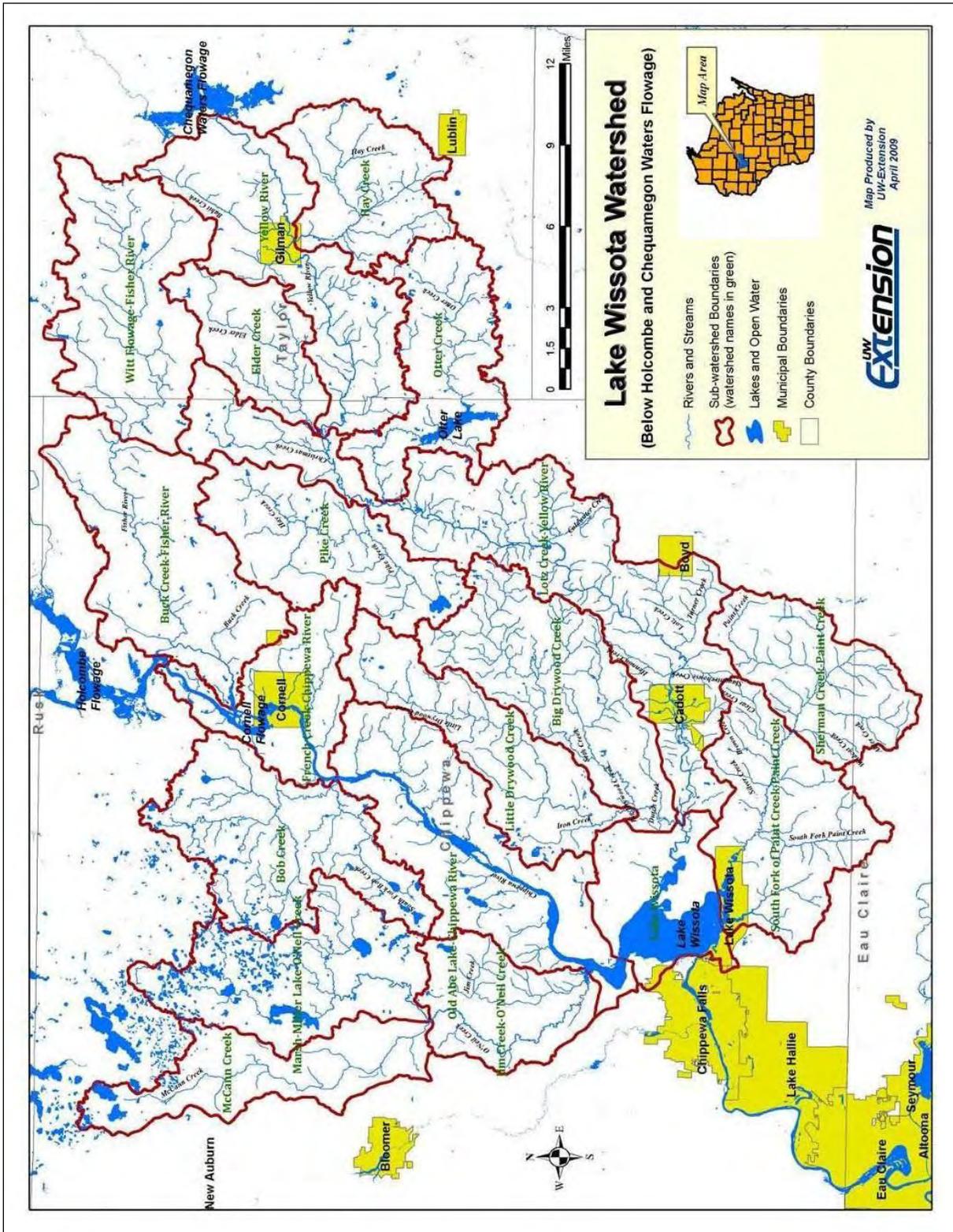


Figure 21. Subwatersheds of Lake Wissota (below Holcombe and Chequamegon Waters Flowage). Map courtesy of UW-Extension Basin Educator Dan Zerr.

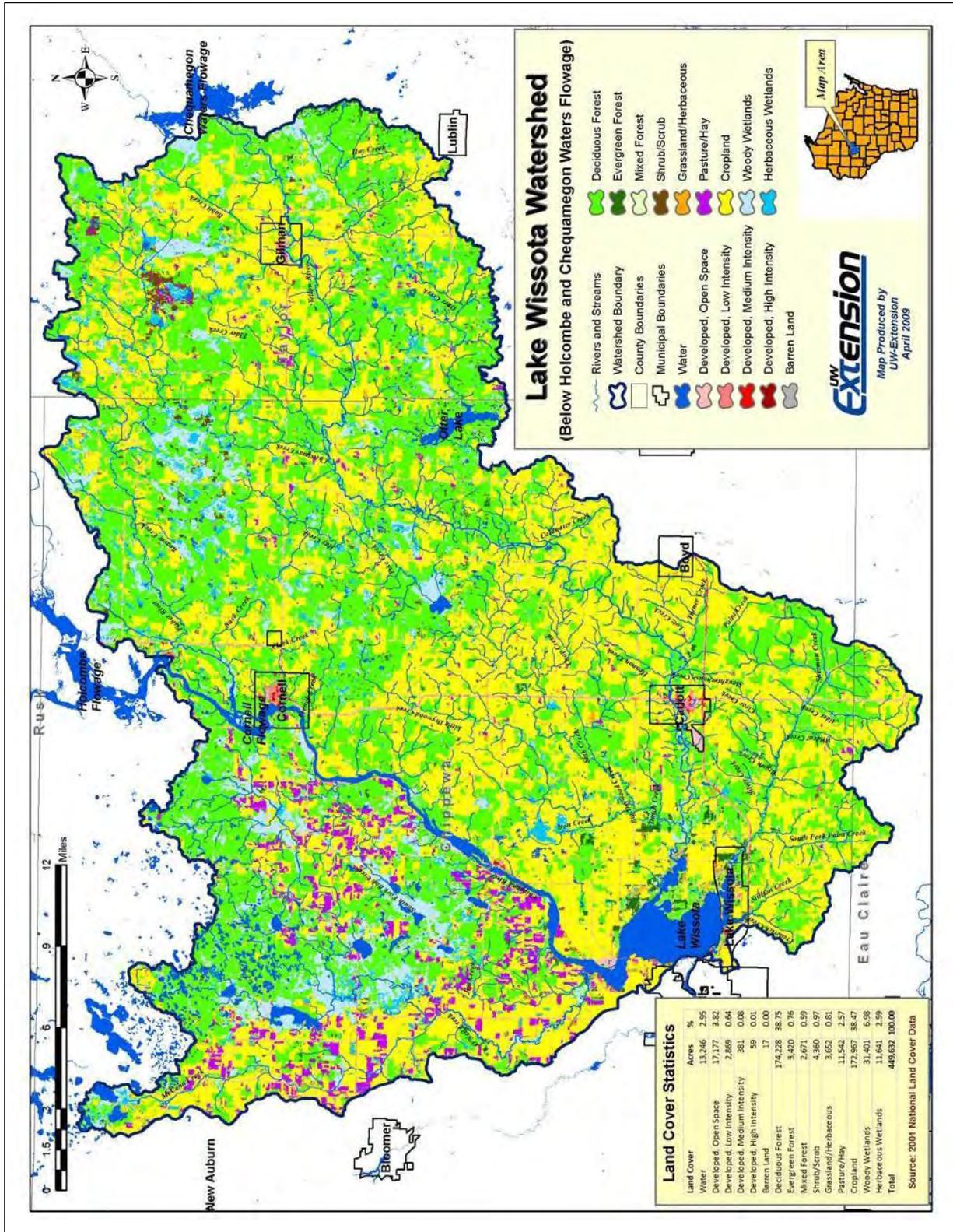


Figure 22. Land cover types of the Lake Wissota watershed (below Holcombe and Chequamegon Waters Flowages). Map courtesy of UW-Extension Basin Educator Dan Zerr.

Land Cover Statistics		
Land Cover	Acres	%
Water	13,246	2.95
Developed, Open Space	17,177	3.82
Developed, Low Intensity	2,869	0.64
Developed, Medium Intensity	381	0.08
Developed, High Intensity	59	0.01
Barren Land	17	0.00
Deciduous Forest	174,228	38.75
Evergreen Forest	3,420	0.76
Mixed Forest	2,671	0.59
Shrub/Scrub	4,360	0.97
Grassland/Herbaceous	3,652	0.81
Pasture/Hay	11,542	2.57
Cropland	172,967	38.47
Woody Wetlands	31,401	6.98
Herbaceous Wetlands	11,641	2.59
Total	449,632	100.00

Source: 2001 National Land Cover Data

Figure 23. Land cover statistics table enlarged from Figure 22.

V. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee

The Lake Wissota Advisory committee recommends that the aquatic plant management plan be treated as a working document. As new research is conducted, it should be evaluated and incorporated into the management plan as appropriate to the lake. The lake community and its constituents should implement the goals set forth in the management plan over the next

five years and revisit the management plan in detail at the end of those five years to define the goals and strategies that are best suited for the lake at that time. A new advisory committee should be formed to review and update the aquatic plant management plan with any new information that is available.