

Potential Waterfowl Nesting Habitat in Chippewa County, MI

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Abstract

Chippewa county is located in the Northeast corner of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Wetlands make up 48.8% of the entire county; however, not all of those wetlands are suitable for waterfowl nesting habitat. Michigan happens to be one of the largest staging grounds for waterfowl during their migration through the Mississippi flyway. Finding suitable habitat for waterfowl to nest in is very important considering that approximately 53% of all wetlands in the conterminous United States was lost as early as the 1980's according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Portrayed in this map is a projection of the potential waterfowl nesting habitat sites within Chippewa County, MI.

Introduction

Chippewa County is located in the Northeast corner of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. If the land cover is made up of approximately 53% wetlands, then about 75% of those wetlands will be suitable for waterfowl nesting habitat. Waterfowl nesting habitat is mainly comprised of Freshwater Emergent, Forested, and Shrub wetlands.

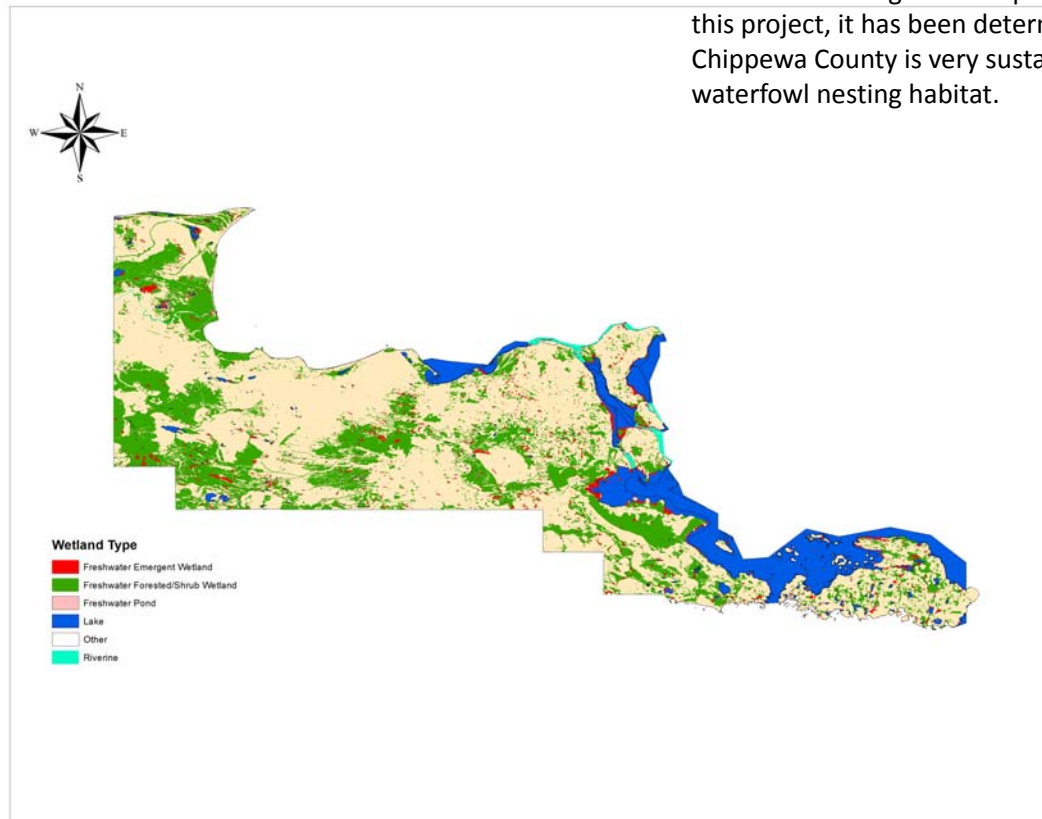


Methodology

Statewide data for wetlands was clipped down to the county level by using a Michigan County map for the input. Percentages for wetland cover and type was calculated using the data in the wetlands data frame courtesy of the USFWS.

Results/Conclusion

Chippewa County houses approximately 565,611 acres of wetland area. According to the statistics acquired using the field calculator, 346 502 acres are suitable for waterfowl nesting habitat. The final product is a map showcasing the two types of wetland habitat capable of sustaining waterfowl nesting habits. Upon analysis of this project, it has been determined that Chippewa County is very sustainable for waterfowl nesting habitat.



Data Sources

Dahl, T. E. (1990). Losses in the United States. *Wetlands*. Retrieved November 20, 2013

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

ESRI 2013 Data and Maps. Environmental Systems research Institute. Redlands, CA