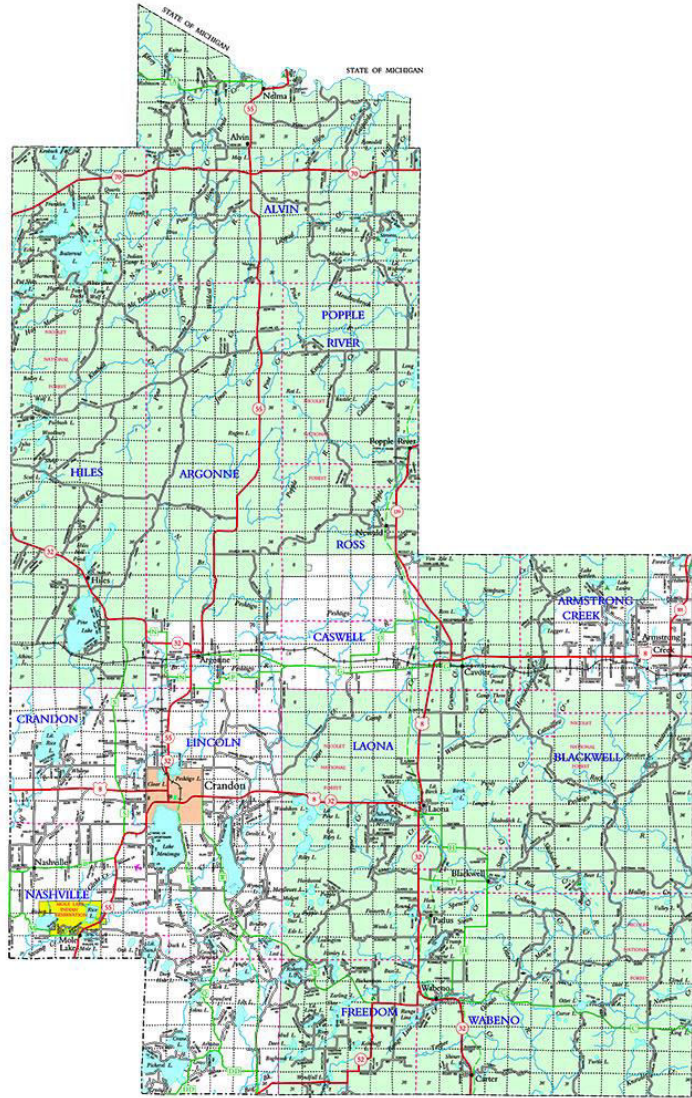




# 2020 WORK PLAN REPORT

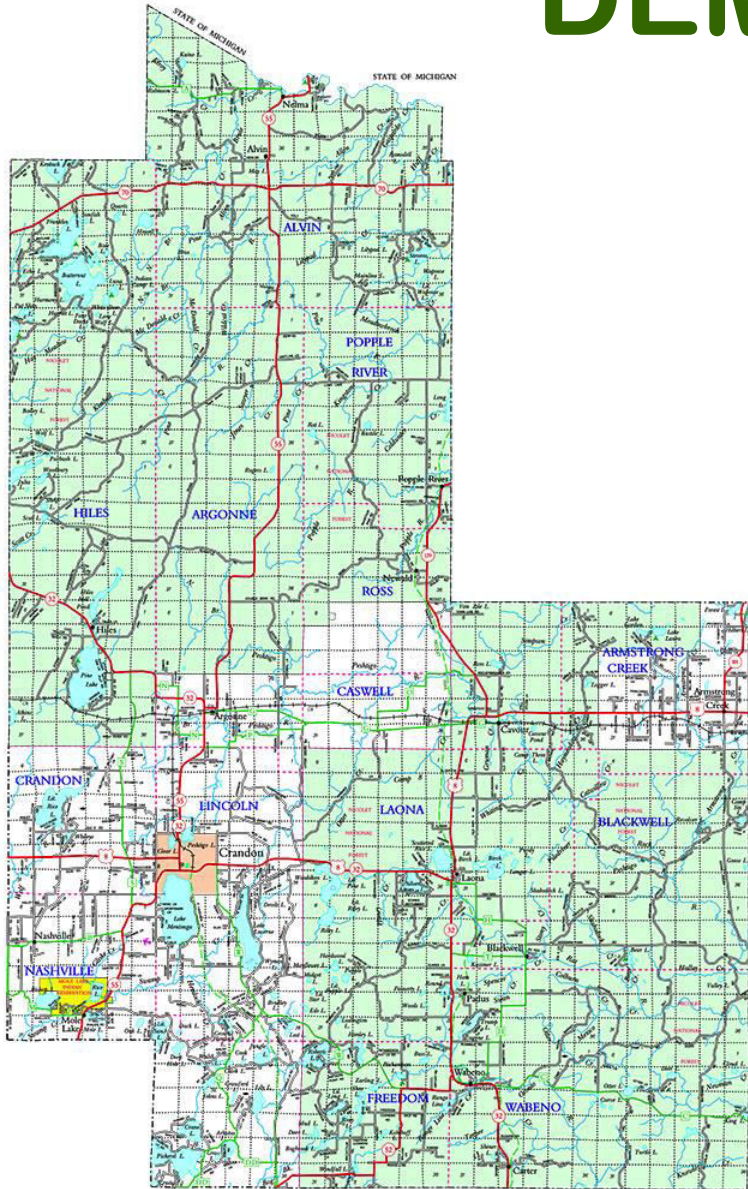
LWCB Presentation  
Tuesday, June 1, 2021

# DEMOGRAPHICS



- 77, 000 Acres
- 88% Covered by Forest
- 82% is publicly owned
  - 49% in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

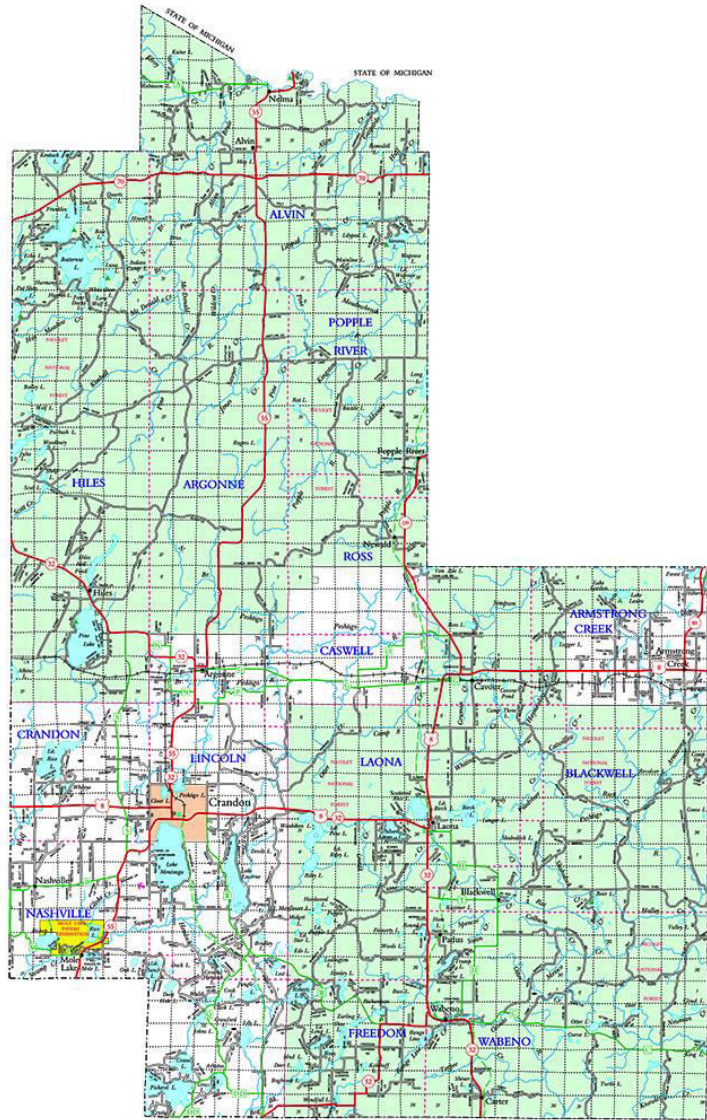
# DEMOGRAPHICS



- Surface water is used mainly for recreation
  - Fishing
  - Boating
- Lakes and rivers cover about 3% of the county.
- More than 850 miles of streams crisscross the county in 9 watersheds.



# DEMOGRAPHICS



- Agriculture exists on about 2% of the land, mainly forage crops and cattle.
- About 51% of housing in the county consists of vacation homes.
- The lakes and forests entice people to come Up North to buy a “cabin” or to build their retirement home.



# Staff

- Steve Kircher, Conservationist and Land Information Officer
- Kayla Littleton, Conservation/GIS Technician
- Sandy Beauchaine, Administrative Assistant (shared with Zoning Dept)



# Staff

Our staff delivers Conservation and Educational programs in cooperation with county, state, and federal agencies, plus local groups such as non-profits, lake associations, and schools.

Some of our programs include:

- Wildlife Damage
- Cost Share to Protect Shorelines
- Surface Water/Wetland Permit Assistance
- Aquatic Invasive Species(AIS) and Terrestrial Invasive Species



# Grant Funding

In 2020, the Forest County Land & Water Conservation Department received over \$157,000 in Conservation Grant Funding.

DATCP SWRM Grant	\$102,969.00
Lake Monitoring Coalition Grant	\$ 2,927.98
NACD Technical Assistance Grant	\$ 51, 962.24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$157,858.52</b>

## Wildlife Damage Abatement & Claims Program (WDACP)

- In 2020, we helped one local farmer who lost a beef steer to a bear.
  - The steer weighed 600 pounds and we were able to compensate the farmer for half of market price, about \$300.





# 2020 Cost Share Projects

- In 2020, our Staff conducted 12 site visits
- As a result, three Cost Share projects were approved and two were completed.



# 2020 Cost Share Projects

- **Crane Lake**
  - Project consisted of shoreline and upland plantings.
  - Plantings were completed in Summer, 2020.
  - Seventy feet of riparian buffer zone was restored.
  - \$3400 reimbursed to Landowner





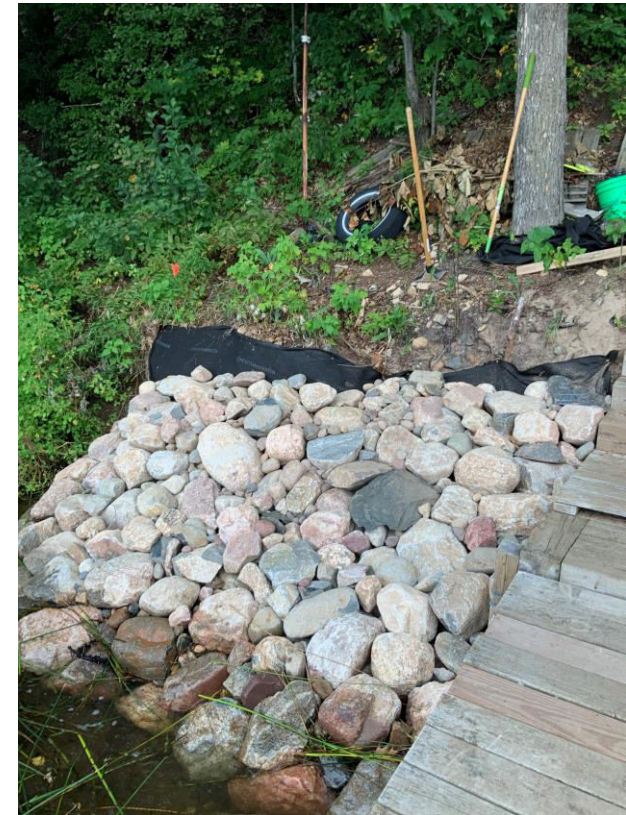
# 2020 Cost Share Projects

- **Lake Metonga Project**
- This project was initially started in 2017-18, but never finished.
  - Working with our DATCP engineer, our staff developed a plan.
  - The property owner selected a local contractor and work began in Spring 2020.



# Lake Metonga Project

- The project was completed in the Fall of 2020 and we were able to reimburse the landowner \$15,500 in Cost Share funds





# City of Crandon Project

- In the Summer of 2020, City of Crandon Street Personnel approached us and requested Cost Share funds for restoration efforts along Lake View Drive on Lake Metonga.
- Working with our DATCP engineer, a plan was developed and accepted by the City of Crandon.



Additional Cost Share funding for the project was procured from two counties in December 2020.

Work will resume in the Spring of 2021.



# 2020 DNR Surface Water Grants

- **Harbor Lane Project**

- Property owners in the Harbor Lane area on Lake Lucerne have been experiencing flooding for the past 5 years.
- In July 2020, two damaged culverts were removed to help alleviate the flooding.
  - Water levels were minimally affected



# Highway W Project

- After several DNR and Trout Unlimited site visits, the County Highway W culvert, adjacent to Harbor Lane, was found to be too high to allow adequate drainage into Swamp Creek and needs to be upgraded and lowered.
- This effort lined up with Trout Unlimited's new program aimed at assisting county and town governments with road-stream crossing management, especially regarding fish passage and flood resiliency.
- Working with Trout Unlimited, a DNR Surface Water Grant was received and work is expected to begin in July/August 2021.



# Permit Assistance in 2020

- **Town of Lincoln Pavilion Project**

- In the Summer of 2020, the Town of Lincoln wanted to provide a Picnic and Recreation area to include a Pavilion for the citizens of the Town of Lincoln and the surrounding communities.
- The total impacted area is approximately 200' x 150'
- Forest County Land & Water was asked to facilitate the Permit Application for the project and a permit was obtained in August, 2020.
- Work was started in the Fall of 2020





# Permit Assistance in 2020

- **Lake Lucerne Fish Stick Project**
  - In September 2019, the Lake Lucerne Advancement Association(LLAA)



approved moving forward with creating multiple fish sticks along the shore of Lake Lucerne.



# Lake Lucerne Fish Stick Project

- Forest County Land & Water was asked to facilitate the Permit Application for the project and a permit was obtained in October, 2020.
  - Work was started and completed in the Winter of 2021.





# Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program

- Forest County has over 800 lakes and rivers. Therefore, an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program was developed to protect our waterways from the threat of AIS.
- Our program focuses on educational outreach, technical assistance, and AIS management.
- The LWCD helps with:
  - Clean Boats Clean Waters Program(CBCW)
  - Lake, River & Wetland Monitoring
  - Purple Loosestrife Monitoring & Control
  - Educational Outreach



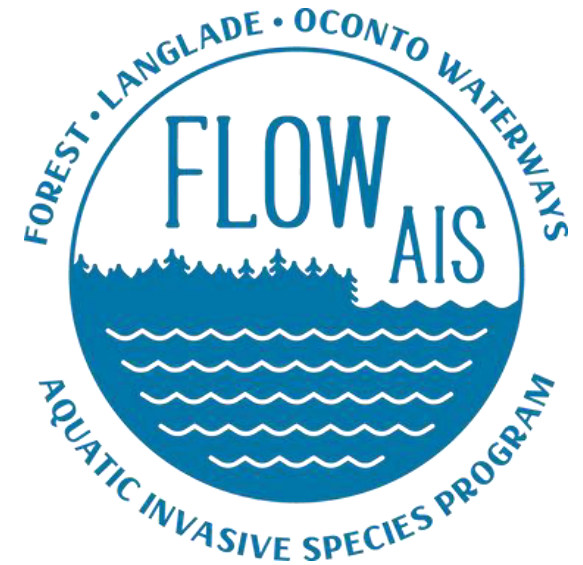


# Lake, River, & Wetland Monitoring

- The Land and Water Conservation Department monitored 20 lakes and 13 boat landings in 2020 and discovered only a couple of new occurrence of invasive species.
- In the Spring of 2020, we received a report of a Giant Hogweed breakout near the Town of Alvin.
  - Upon further investigation, it was determined that the plants were not Giant Hogweed, but the noninvasive Cow Parsnip and no further action was needed.
- In the Summer of 2020, we received notification of a zebra mussel outbreak in Roberts Lake.
  - The Wisconsin AIS Coordinator was contacted and Roberts Lake was added to the AIS Database and will be monitored to see if further action is required.
  - The Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) was also contacted and will monitor Roberts Lake and provide control measures to prevent the spread of the zebra mussels.

# Tri County AIS Coordinator Grant

- The Tri County AIS Coordinator Grant Program was reintroduced in the Summer of 2020.
- This person will act as project manager and cover all aspects of AIS Control.
- The Coordinator was hired by the Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council and will have a primary office in Llanglade County.





# QUESTIONS?

- **Steve Kircher**

County Conservationist-Land Information/GIS Director

Forest County Land Conservation-Land Information/GIS Department

200 E. Madison

Crandon, WI 54541

715-478-1387

[lcc@co.forest.wi.us](mailto:lcc@co.forest.wi.us)

[www.forestcountylandandwater.org](http://www.forestcountylandandwater.org)

- **Larry Sommer**

Forest County Land & Water Committee Member

715-478-5002