

## Chapter NR 11

### WILDLIFE REFUGES AND CLOSED AREAS

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**Note:** Chapter NR 11 as it existed on October 31, 1982 was repealed and a new chapter NR 11 was created effective November 1, 1982. Chapter NR 11 as it existed on August 31, 2020, was repealed and a new chapter NR 11 was created effective September 1, 2020.

#### Subchapter I — General Regulations

##### NR 11.01 Exceptions to closed areas and refuges.

(1) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit the department or its fully authorized agents, the armed forces of the national guard or of the United States, or any peace officers or any person summoned by a peace officer to assist the officer in making an arrest or in preserving the peace from entering and being on any of the below described refuges or closed areas in the performance of official duties.

(2) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit or hinder the department and its employees, duly authorized agents, or contractors from entering and being on any of the below described refuges or closed areas in the performance of their official duties relating to wildlife management.

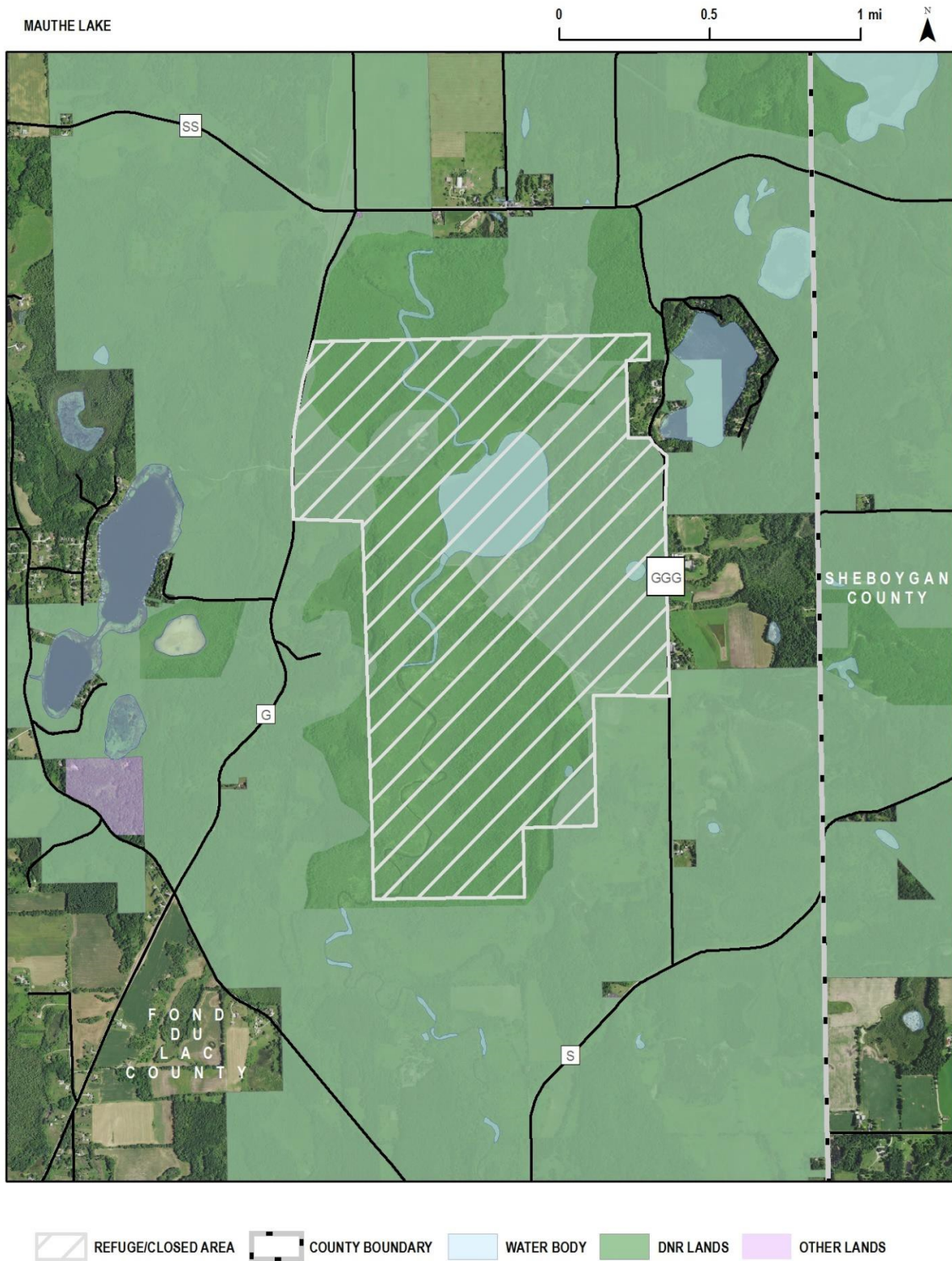
(3) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit individuals who are participating in a department-approved learn to hunt from hunting within the boundaries of properties identified as a closed area or refuge.

**History:** CR 19-090: cr. Register August 2020 No. 776, eff. 9-1-20.

#### Subchapter II — Game Refuges

**NR 11.02 Year-round game refuge.** A year-round game refuge is created in the following areas. No person may hunt or trap upon such areas or have in possession or under control any firearm as defined in s. 167.31 (1) (c), Stats., unless the firearm is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, crossbow unless it is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case, or any bow unless it is unstrung or enclosed within a carrying case. This restriction does not apply to a handgun possessed by a person who is authorized by law to possess a concealed handgun in Wisconsin.

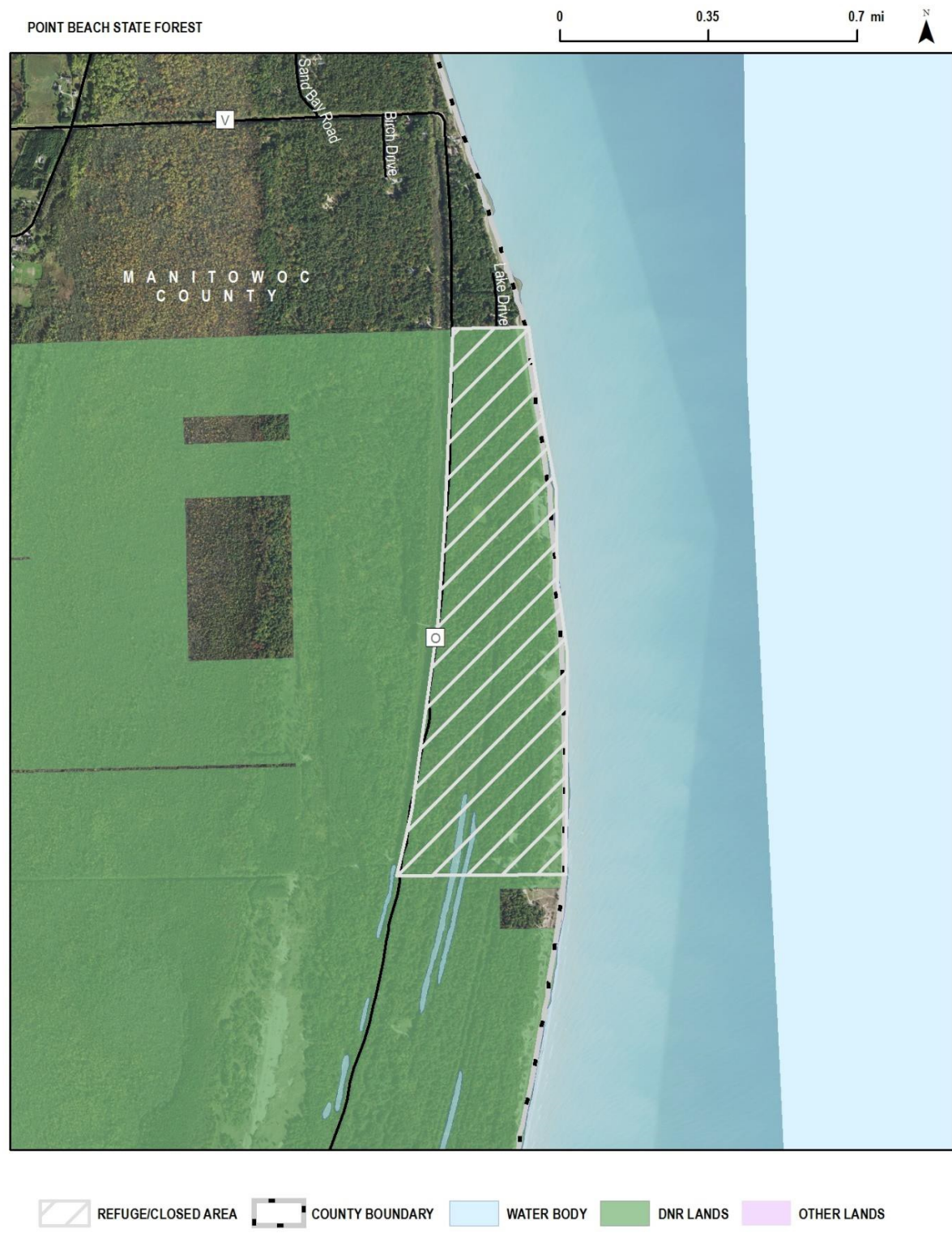
(1) FOND DU LAC COUNTY. (a) *Mauthe Lake.*



(2) GREEN LAKE COUNTY. (a) *Rogers Memorial*.



**(3)** MANITOWOC COUNTY. (a) *Point Beach.*



(4) SHEBOYGAN COUNTY. (a) Cedar Grove.



**(5) WALWORTH COUNTY.** (a) *Peterkin Pond.*



(6) WAUKESHA COUNTY. (a) *Scuppernong Springs Nature Area.*



(7) WINNEBAGO COUNTY. (a) *Picnic Point.*

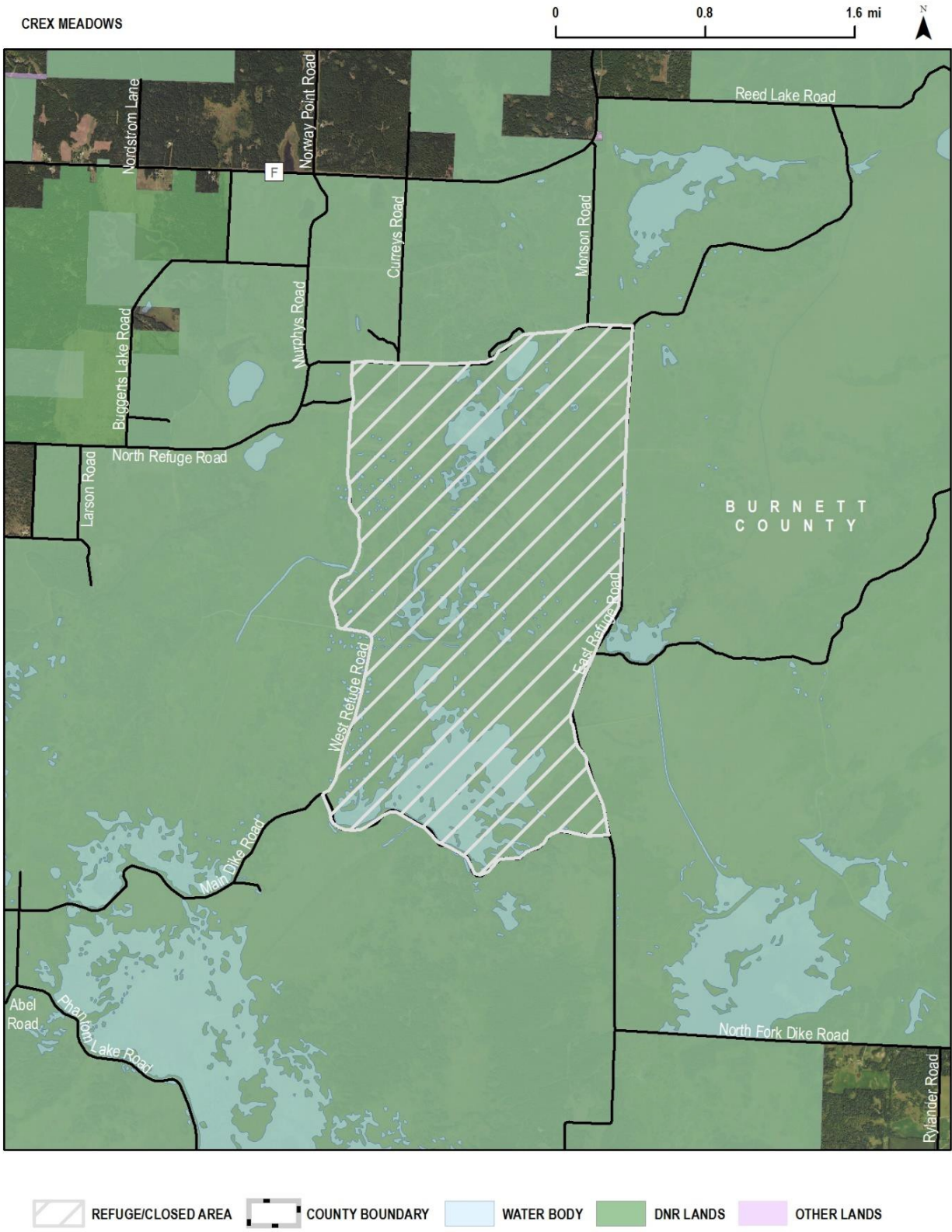


**History:** CR 19-090: cr. Register August 2020 No. 776, eff. 9-1-20; correction in (intro.) made under s. 35.17, Stats., correction in numbering in (1) to (7) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., and correction in (1) (title), (2) (title), (3) (title), (4) (title), (5) (title), (6) (title), and (7) (title) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., Register August 2020 No. 776.

**NR 11.03 Year-round no entry wildlife refuge.** A year-round wildlife refuge is established in the following areas. No person may enter such areas for any reason except for the retrieval of legally killed or crippled game in posted retrieval zones.

**Note:** Public entry to waters within the boundary of a refuge is not prohibited when such waters may be accessed without entry on to the refuge land.

(1) BURNETT COUNTY. (a) *Crex Meadows*.



(2) ROCK COUNTY. (a) *Lawrence Prairie.*



**History:** CR 19-090: cr. Register August 2020 No. 776, eff. 9-1-20; correction in numbering in (1), (2) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., and correction in (1) (title), (2) (title) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., Register August 2020 No. 776.

**NR 11.04 No entry wildlife refuge (September 1-December 31).** A wildlife refuge is established from September 1 to December 31 annually in the following areas. No person may hunt lands and waters within the boundary of the refuge or enter

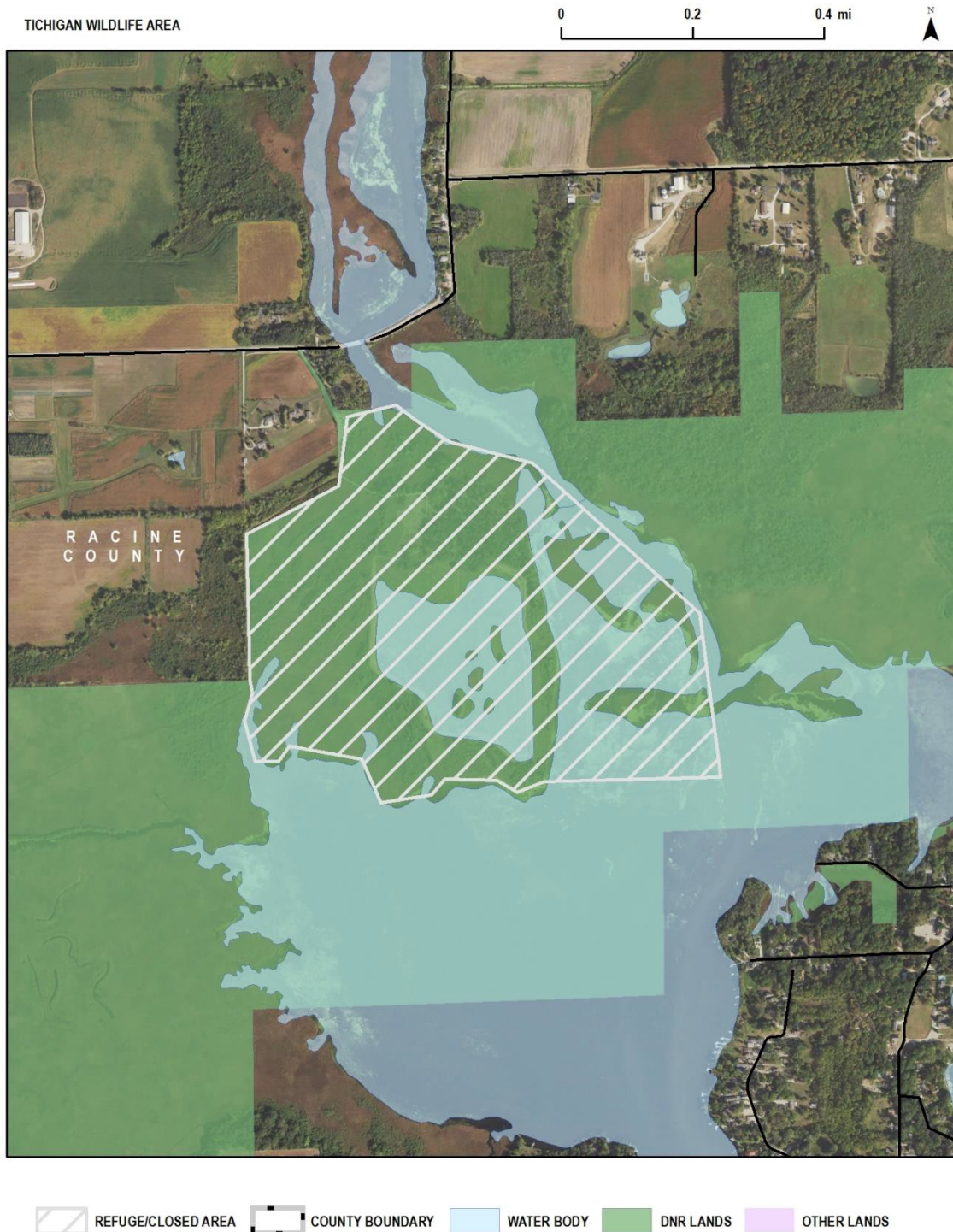
the land within the refuge boundary for any reason except for the retrieval of legally killed or crippled game in posted retrieval zones.

**Note:** Public entry to waters within the boundary of a refuge is not prohibited when such waters may be accessed without entry on to the refuge land.

(1) ADAMS COUNTY. (a) *Amey Pond*.



(2) RACINE COUNTY. (a) *Tichigan*.



**History:** CR 19-090: cr. Register August 2020 No. 776, eff. 9-1-20; correction in numbering in (1), (2) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., and correction in (1) (title), (2) (title) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Register August 2020 No. 776.

**NR 11.05 No entry wildlife refuge except gun deer and muzzleloader deer (September 1-December 31).** A wildlife refuge is established from September 1 to December 31 annually in the following areas. No person may hunt lands and waters within the boundary of the refuge or enter the land within

the refuge boundary for any reason except to hunt deer during the open gun and muzzleloader seasons established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (e) and (es) and except for the retrieval of legally killed or crippled game in posted retrieval zones.

**Note:** Public entry to waters within the boundary of a refuge is not prohibited when such waters may be accessed without entry on to the refuge land.

(1) KENOSHA. (a) *Peat Lake.*



**(3) RACINE COUNTY.** (a) *Dover.*



(4) WAUKESHA. (a) *Big Muskego Lake*.



**History:** CR 19-090: cr. Register August 2020 No. 776, eff. 9-1-20; correction in numbering in (1) to (4) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., and correction in (1) (title), (2) (title), (3) (title), (4) (title) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., Register August 2020 No. 776; CR 23-025: renum. (2) (a) to NR 11.07 (1m) (a) Register March 2024 No. 819, eff. 4-1-24.

**NR 11.06 No entry wildlife refuge except trapping, gun deer and muzzleloader deer (September 1-December 31).** A wildlife refuge is established from September 1 to December 31 annually in the following areas. No person may hunt lands and waters within the boundary of the refuge or enter

the land within the refuge boundary for any reason except to trap or to hunt deer during the open gun and muzzleloader seasons established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (e) and (es), or except for the retrieval of legally killed or crippled game in posted retrieval zones.

**Note:** Public entry to waters within the boundary of a refuge is not prohibited when such waters may be accessed without entry on to the refuge land.

(1) BROWN COUNTY. (a) *Sensiba.*



(2) JEFFERSON COUNTY. (a) *Prince's Point*.



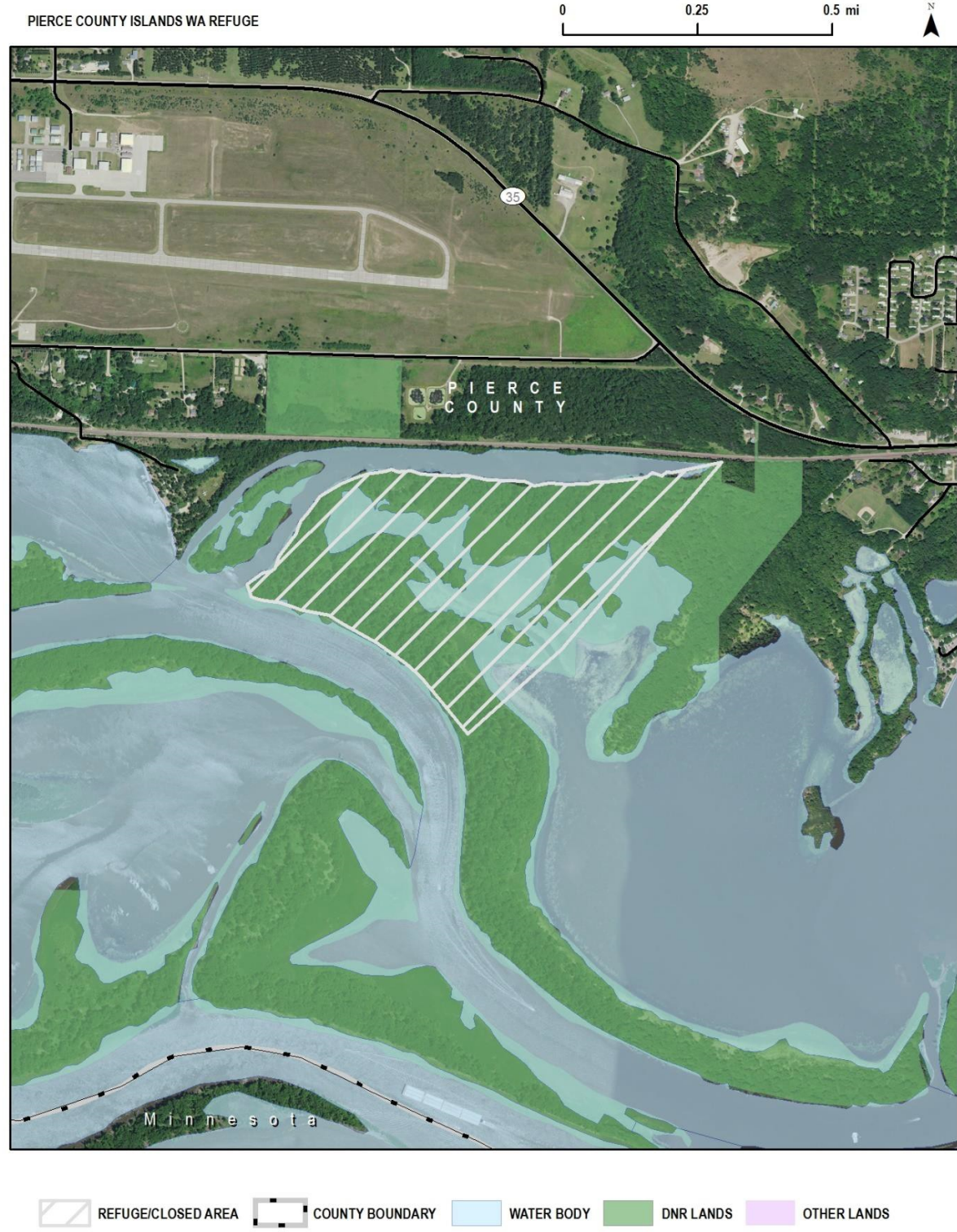
**(3) OCONTO COUNTY.** (a) *Oconto Marsh.*



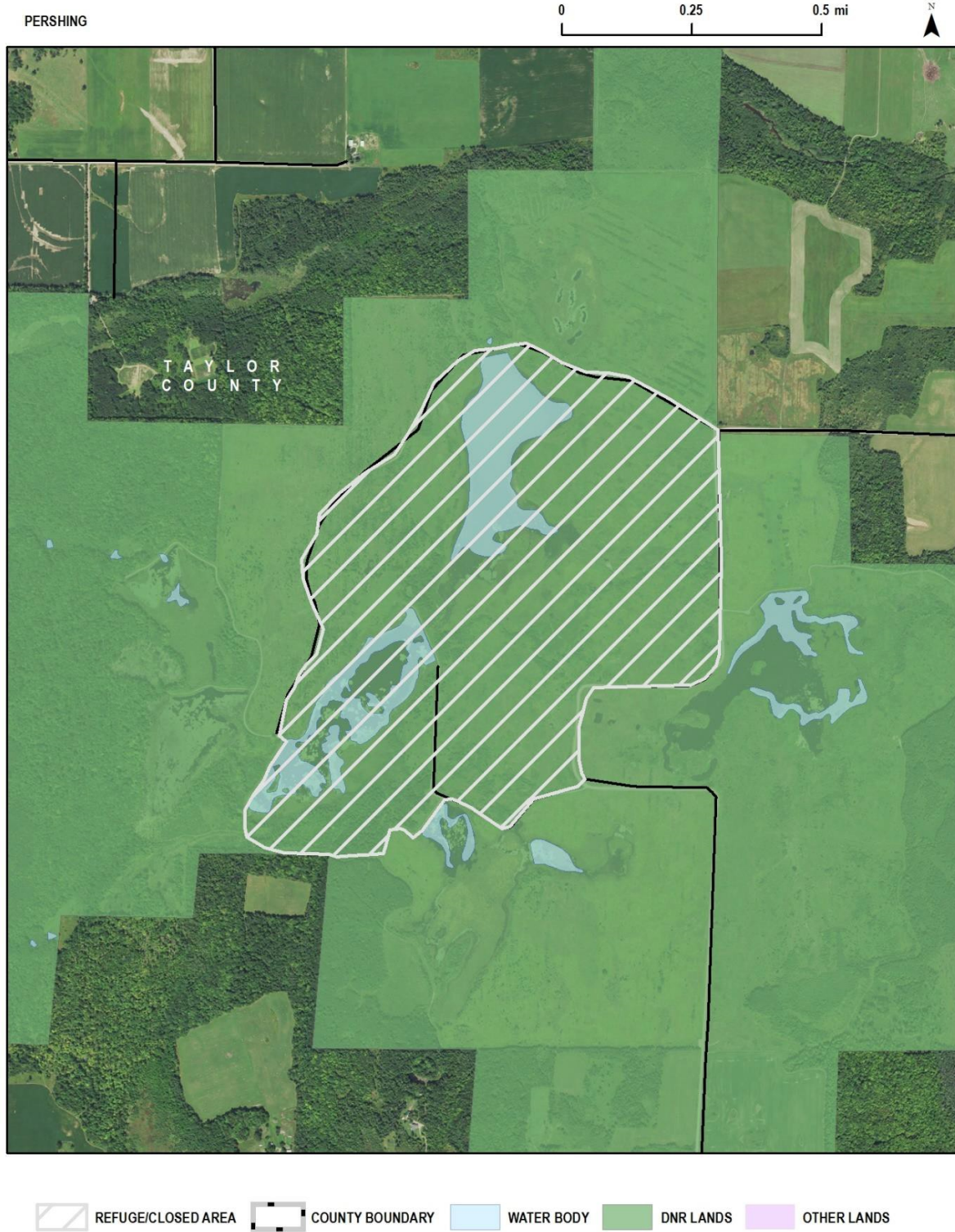
(4) ONEIDA COUNTY. (a) *Thunder Wildlife Area.*



(5) PIERCE COUNTY. (a) *Pierce County Islands.*



(6) TAYLOR COUNTY. (a) *Pershing.*



(7) VILAS COUNTY. (a) *Powell Marsh.*

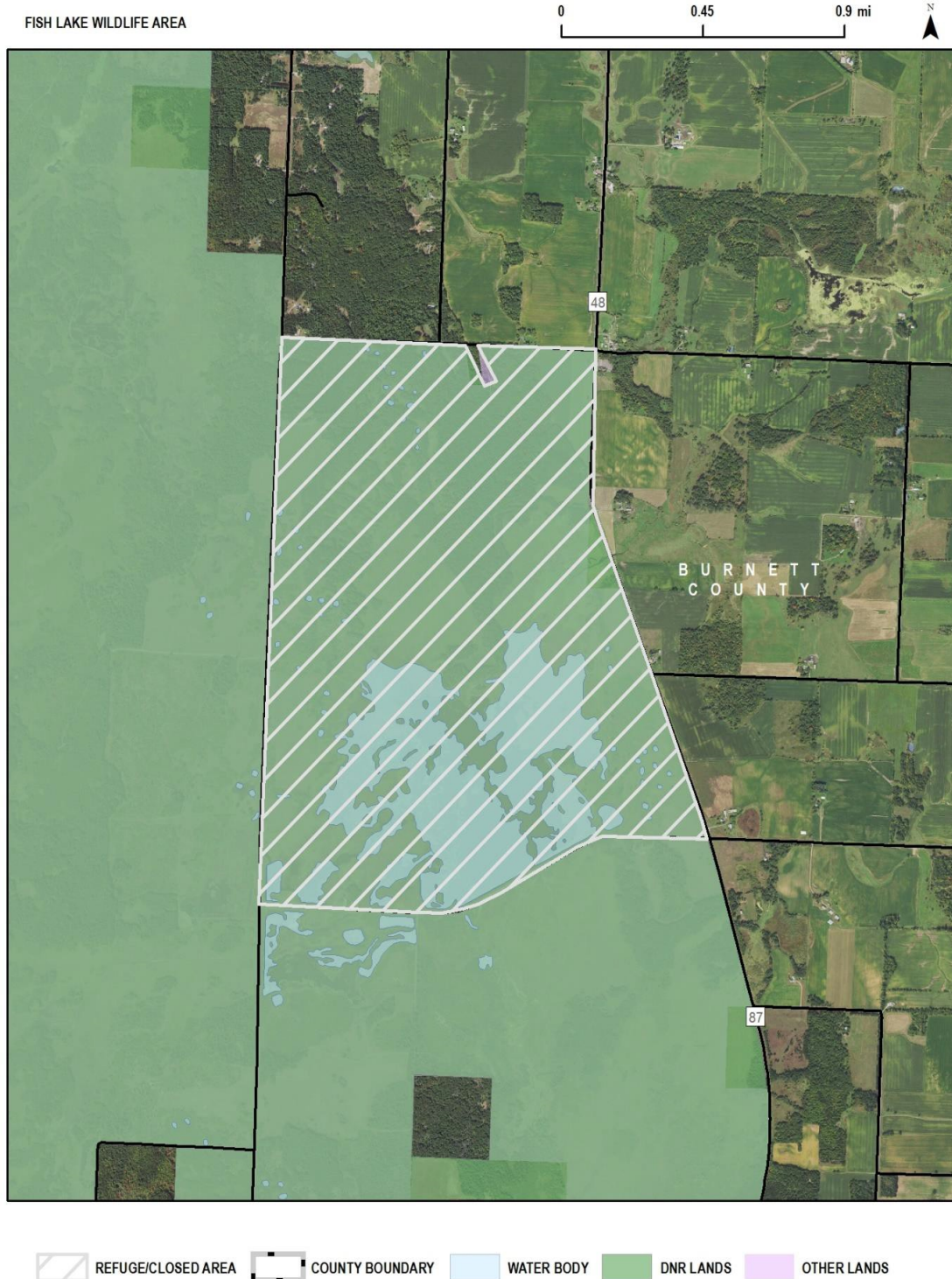


**History:** CR 19-090: cr. Register August 2020 No. 776, eff. 9-1-20; correction in (intro.) made under s. 35.17, Stats., correction in numbering in (1) to (7) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., and correction in (1) (title), (2) (title), (3) (title), (4) (title), (5) (title), (6) (title), (7) (title) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., Register August 2020 No. 776.

**NR 11.07 No entry wildlife refuge except gun deer and muzzleloader deer (September 1-November 30).** A wildlife refuge is established from September 1 to November 30 annually in the following areas. No person may hunt lands and waters within the boundary of the refuge or enter the land within  
**(1) BURNETT COUNTY.** (a) *Fish Lake.*

the refuge boundary for any reason except to hunt deer during the open gun and muzzleloader seasons established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (e) and (es), and except for the retrieval of legally killed or crippled game in posted retrieval zones.

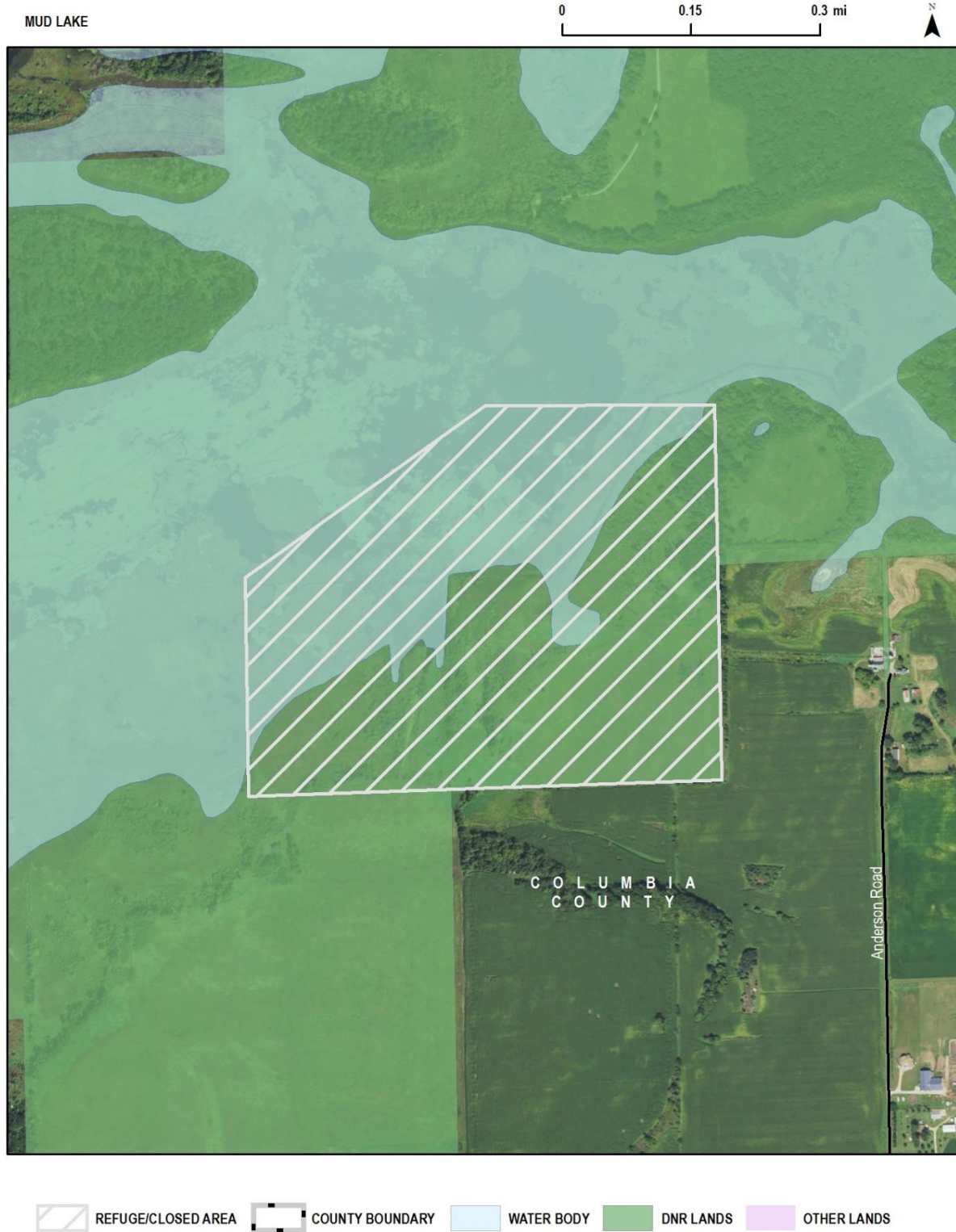
**Note:** Public entry to waters within the boundary of a refuge is not prohibited when such waters may be accessed without entry on to the refuge land.



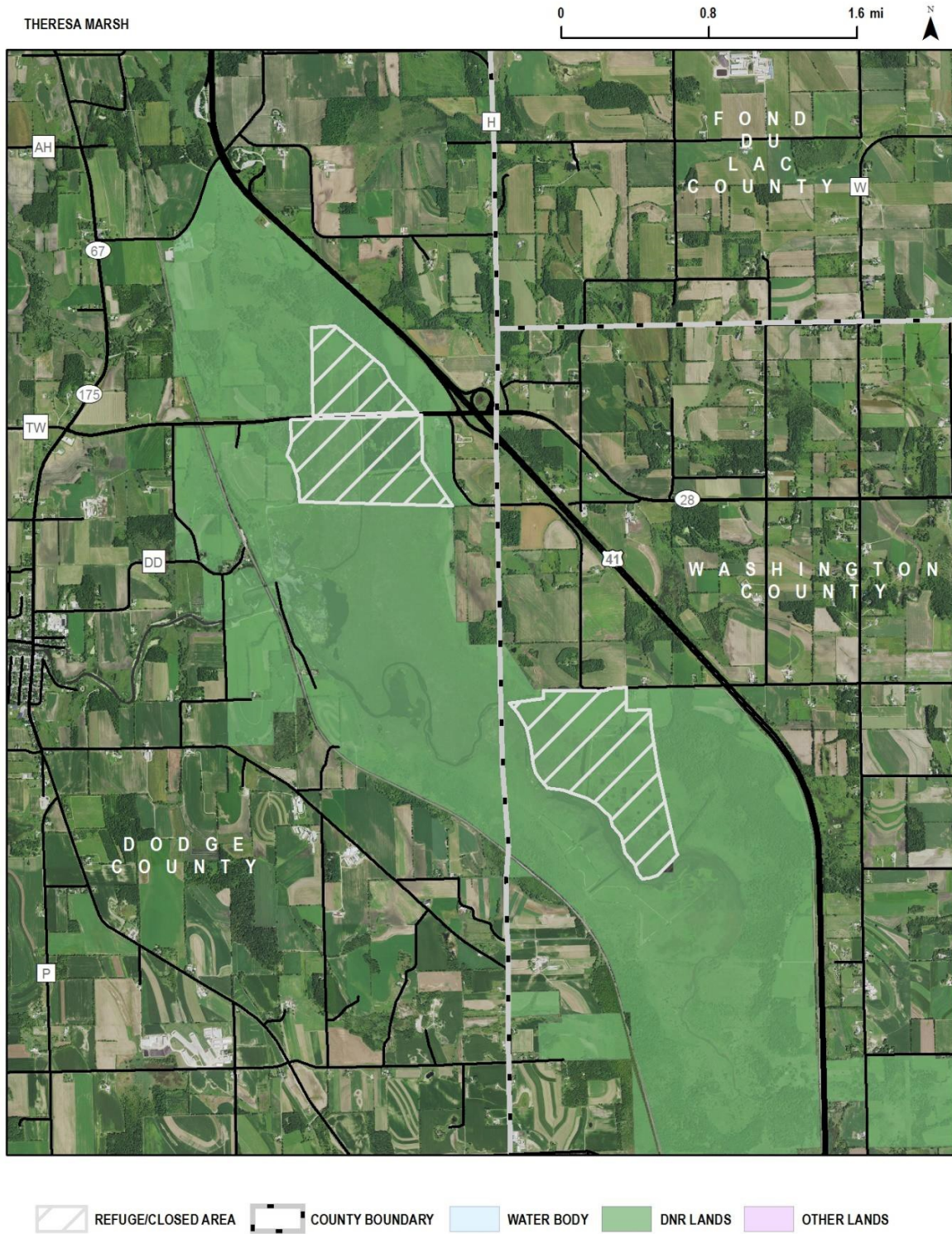
(1m) KENOSHA COUNTY. (a) *Richard Bong Wildlife Area.*



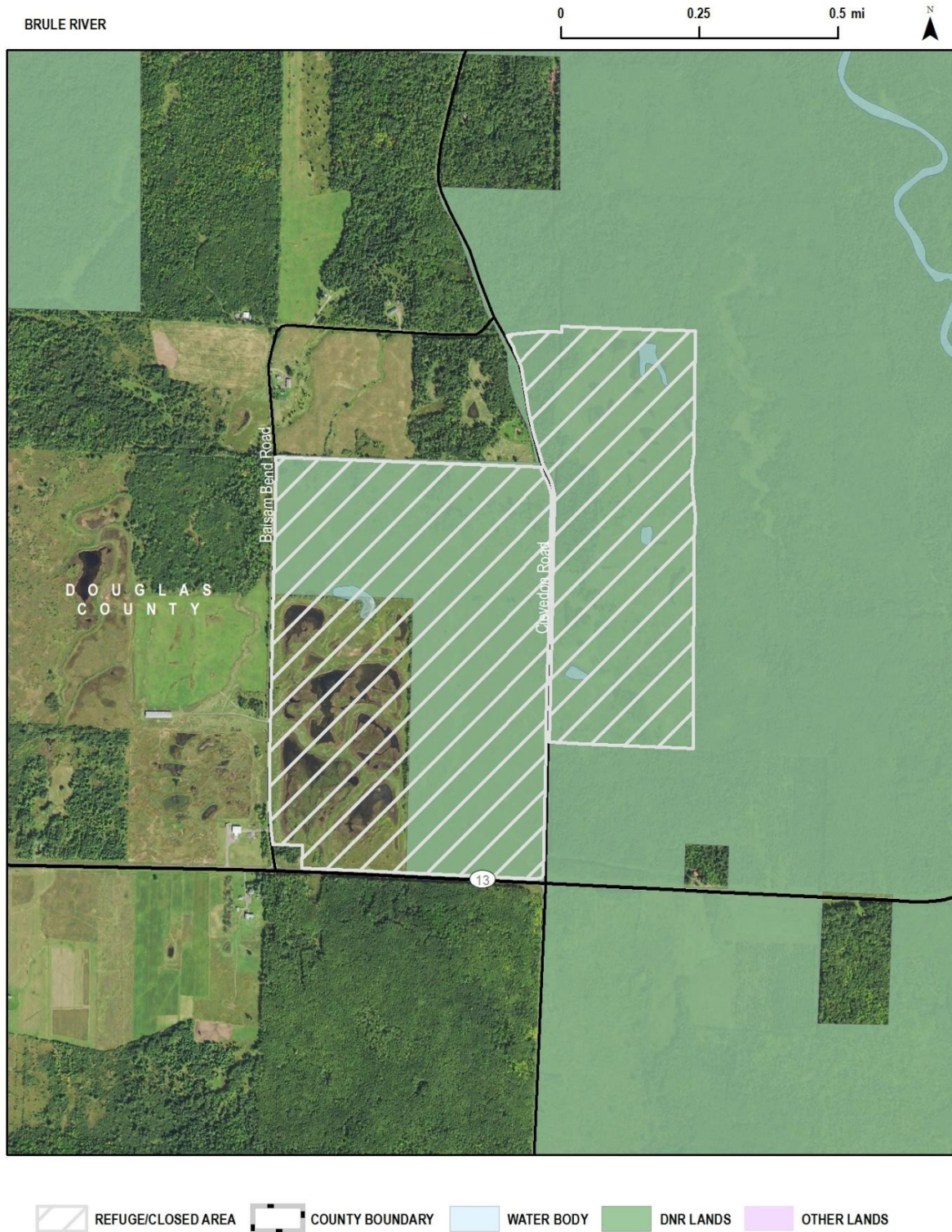
(2) COLUMBIA COUNTY. (a) *Mud Lake.*



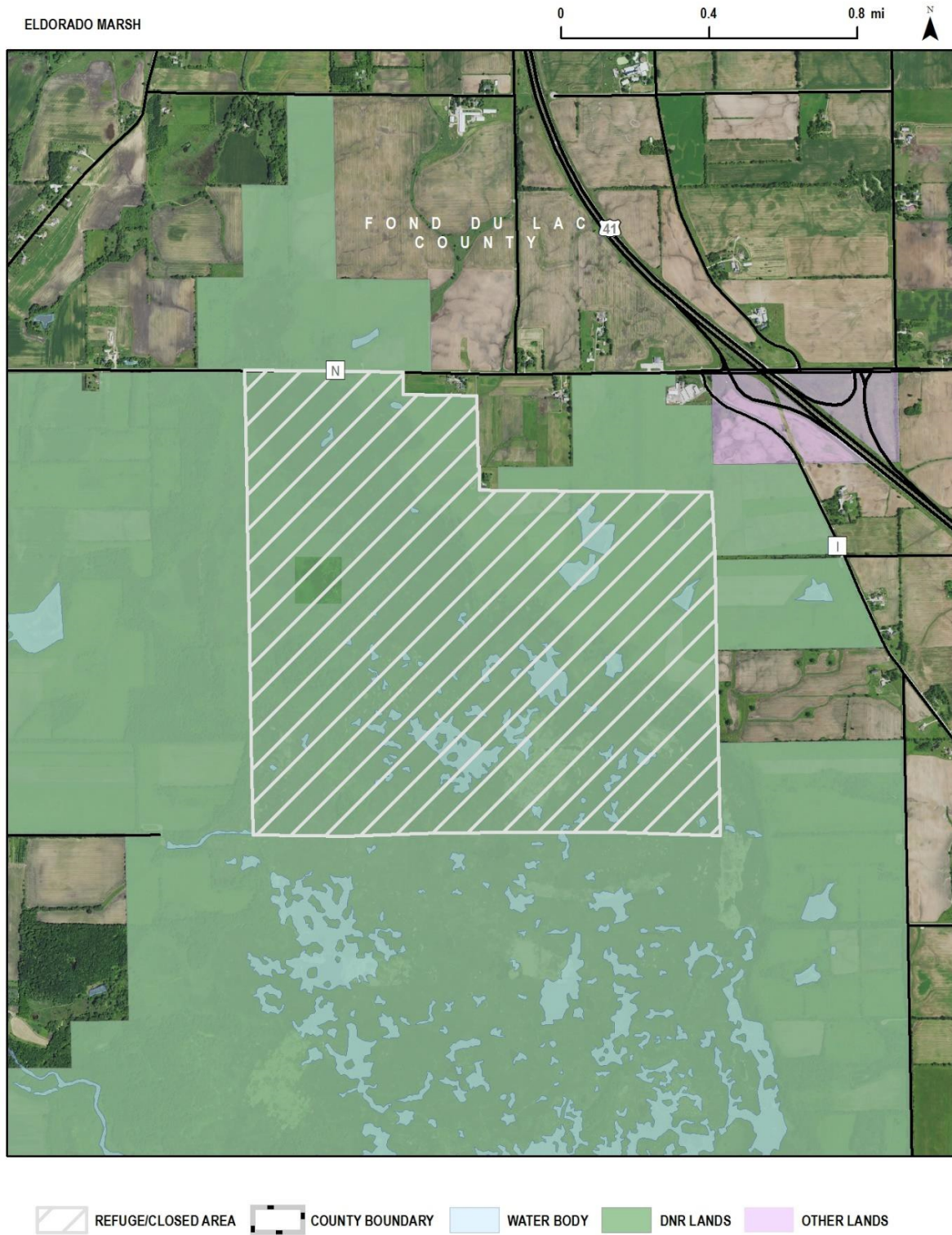
(3) DODGE AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES. (a) *Theresa Marsh.*



(4) DOUGLAS COUNTY. (a) *Brule River.*



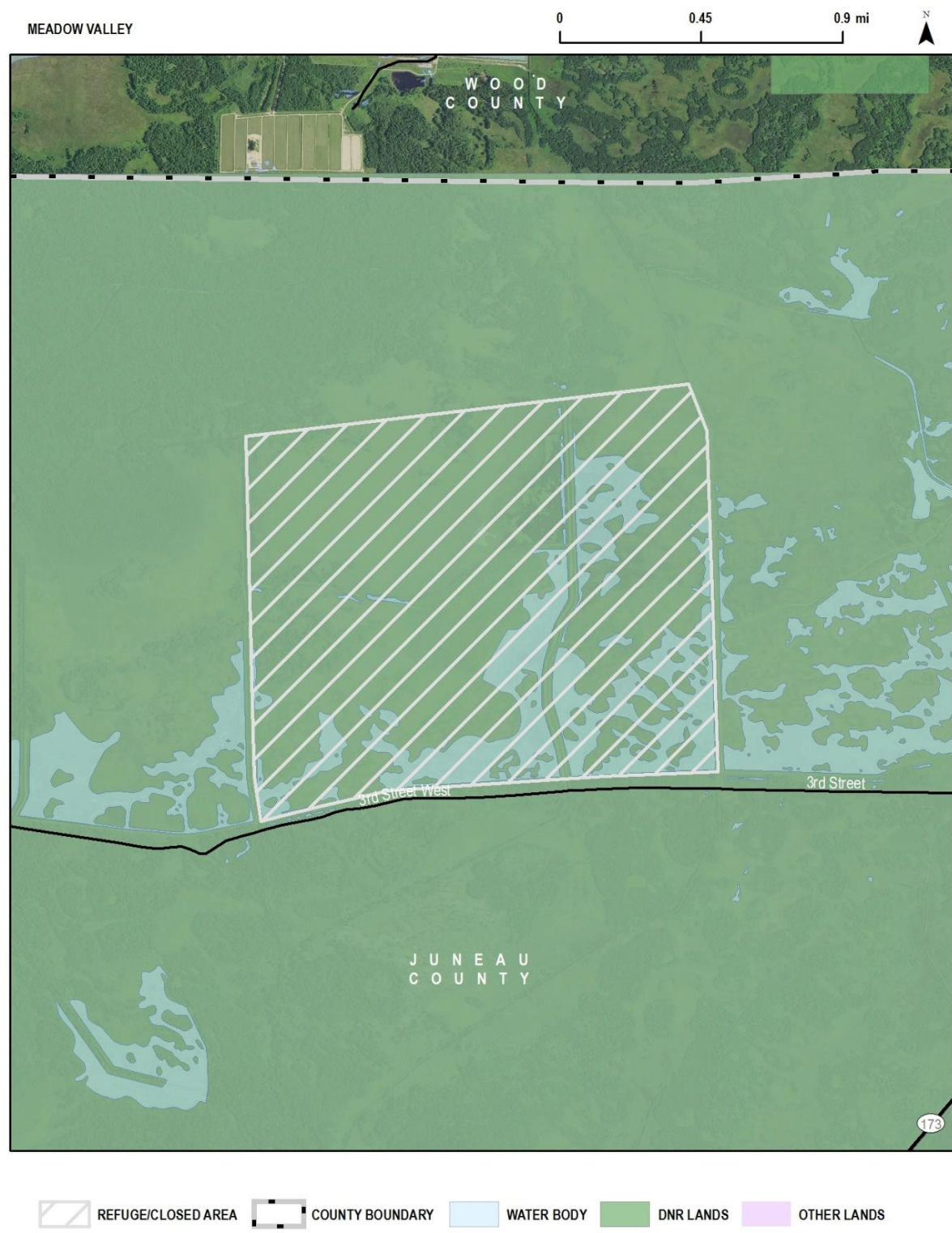
**(5) FOND DU LAC COUNTY. (a) *Eldorado.***



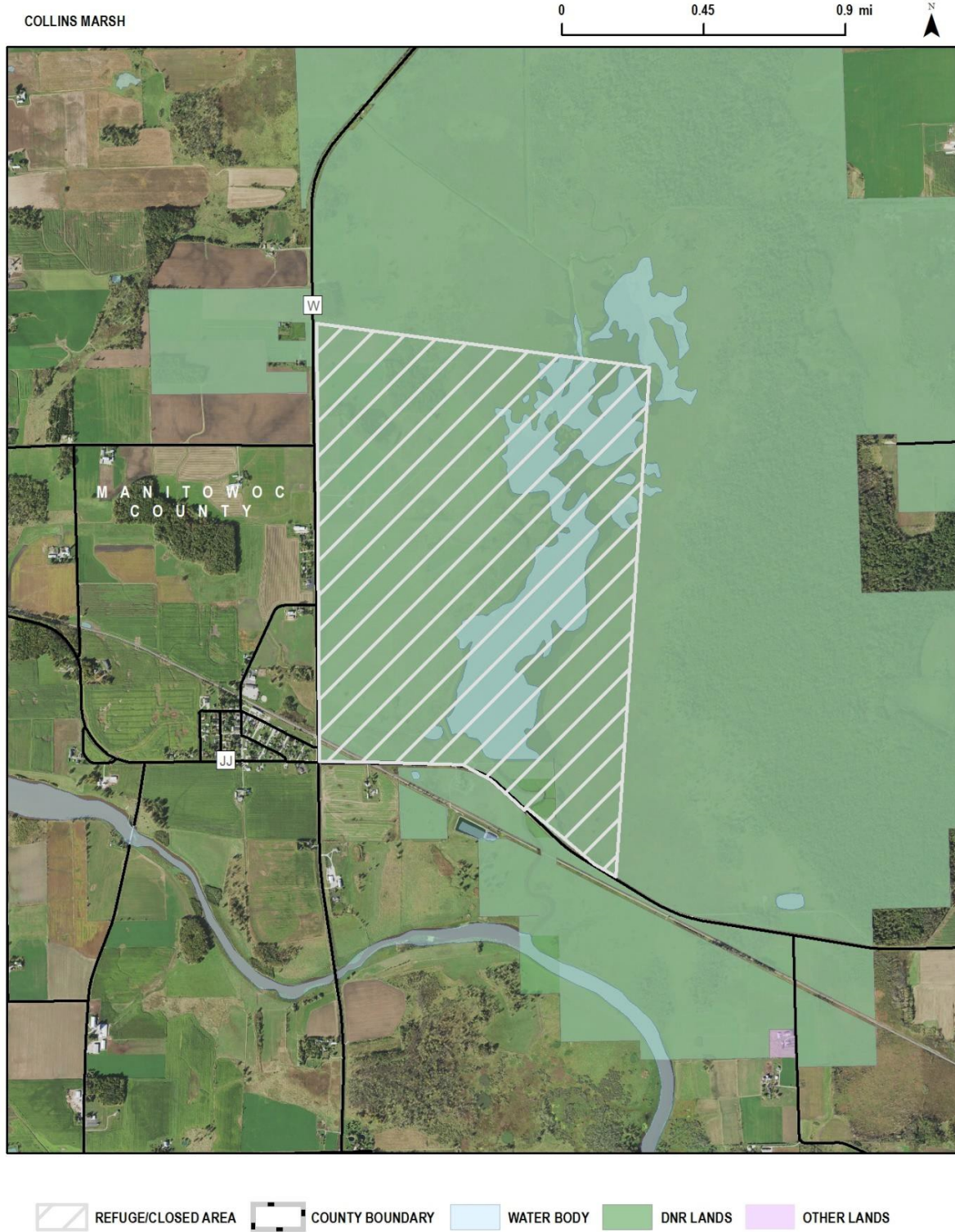
(6) GREEN LAKE AND MARQUETTE COUNTIES. (a) *Grand River Marsh*.



**(7) JUNEAU COUNTY.** (a) *Meadow Valley.*



(8) MANITOWOC COUNTY. (a) *Collins Marsh*.



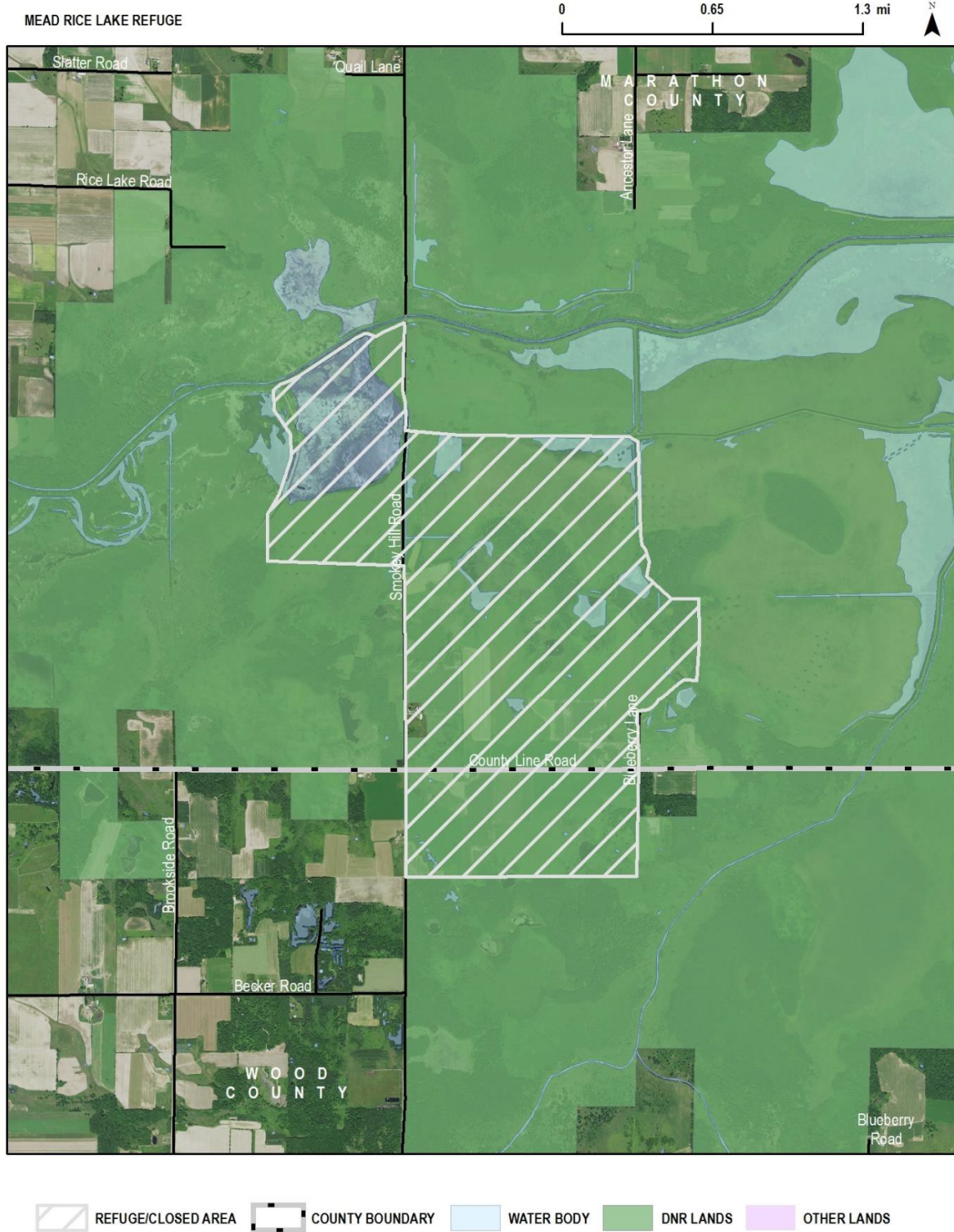
**(9) MARATHON COUNTY.** (a) *Honey Island Flowage.*



(b) *McMillan Marsh.*



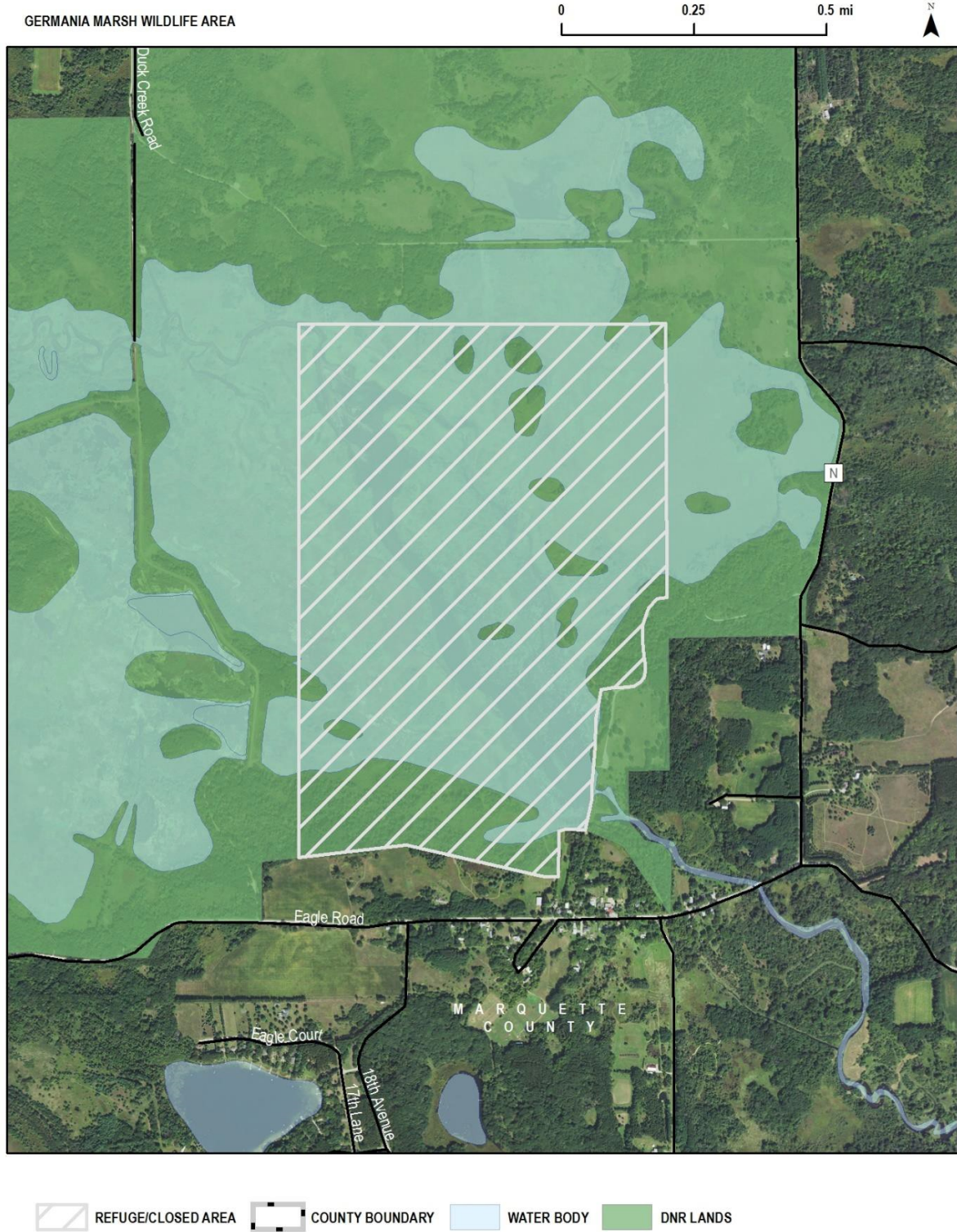
(c) Mead Wildlife Area.



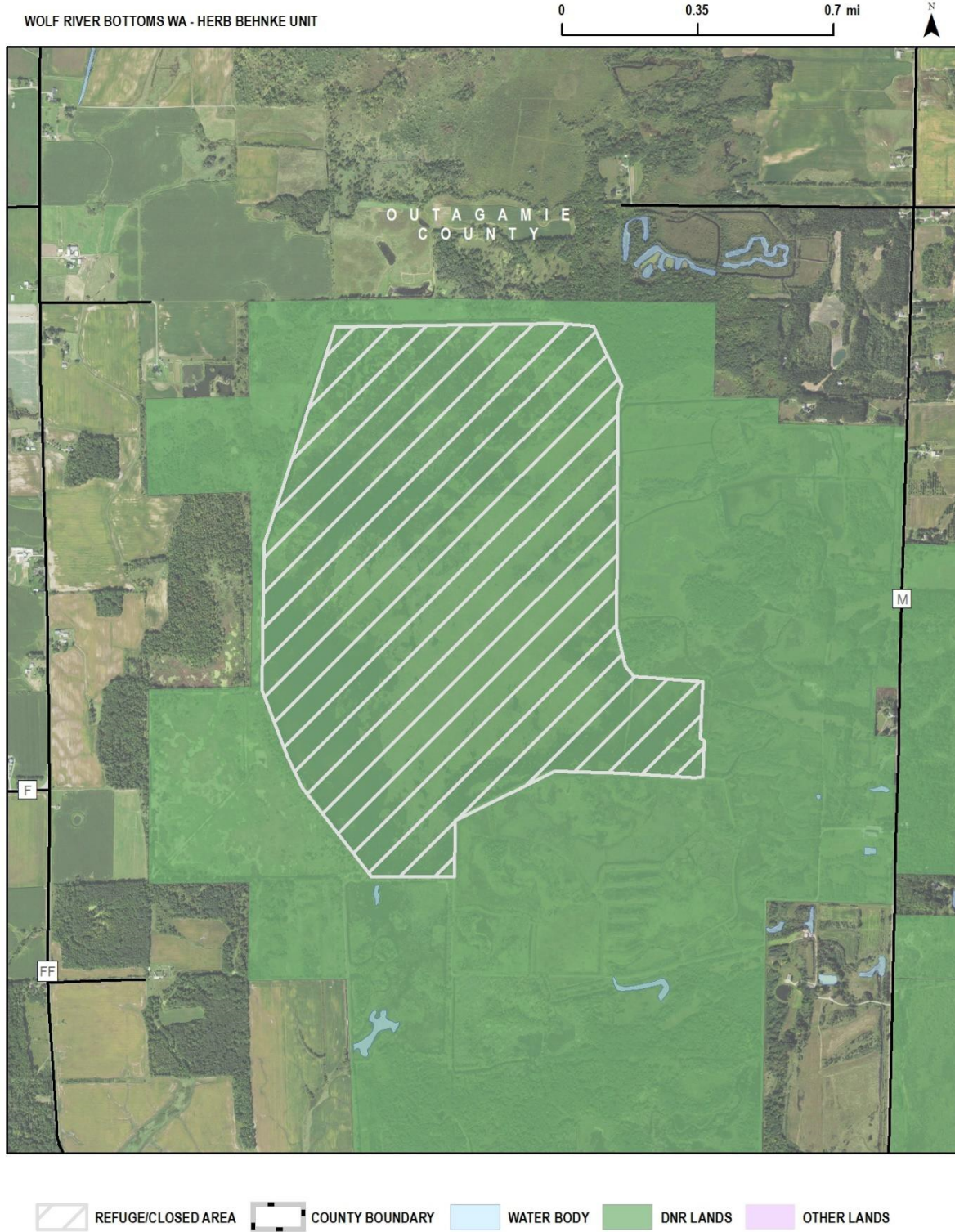
(d) *Townline/Berkhahn Flowage.*



(10) MARQUETTE COUNTY. (a) *Germania.*



(11) OUTAGAMIE COUNTY. (a) *Wolf River Bottoms Wildlife Area- Herb Behnke Unit.*



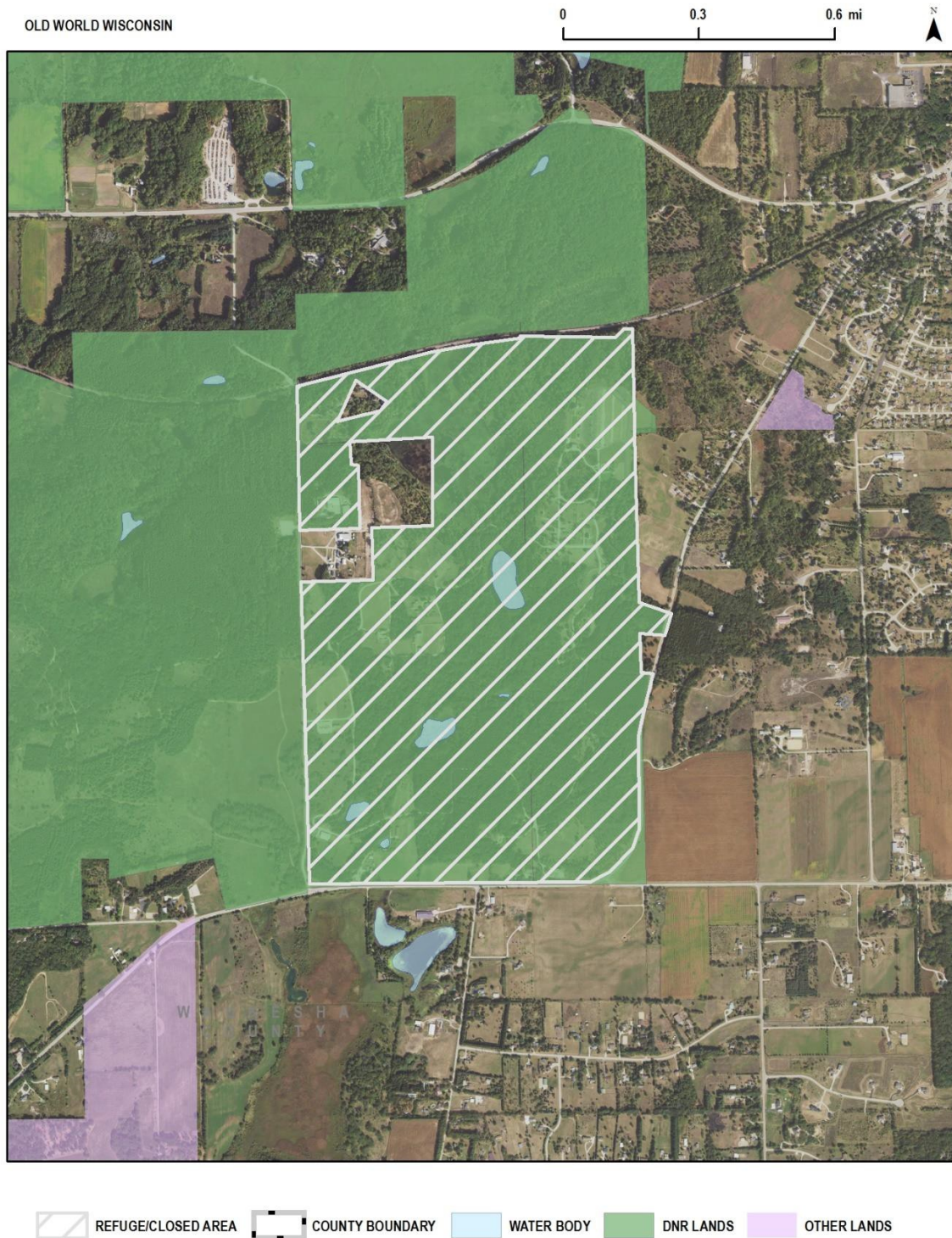
(12) SHEBOYGAN COUNTY. (a) *Sheboygan Marsh.*



(13) WALWORTH COUNTY. (a) *Turtle Valley*.



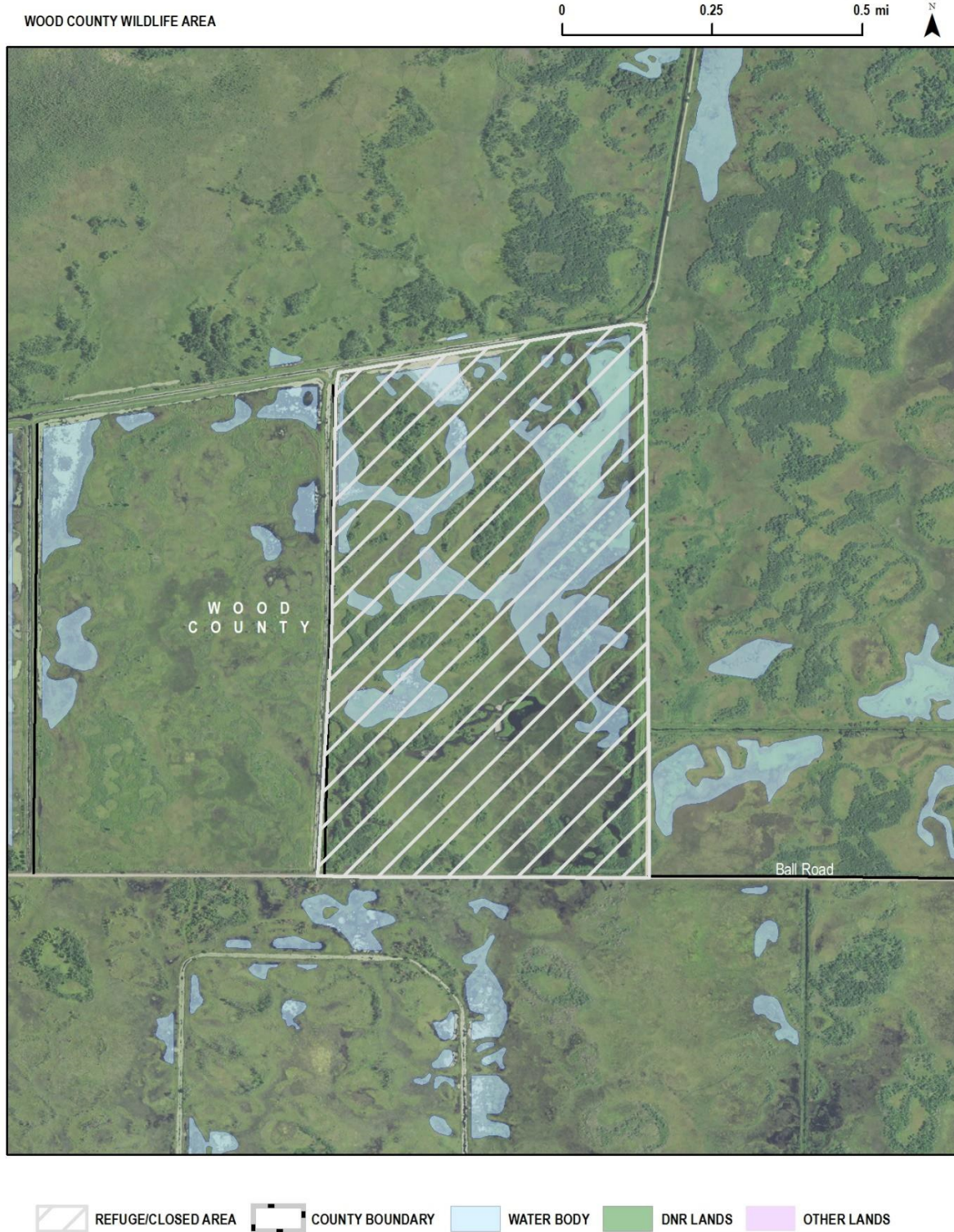
**(14)** WAUKESHA COUNTY. (a) *Old World Wisconsin.*



(b) *Vernon Wildlife Area.*



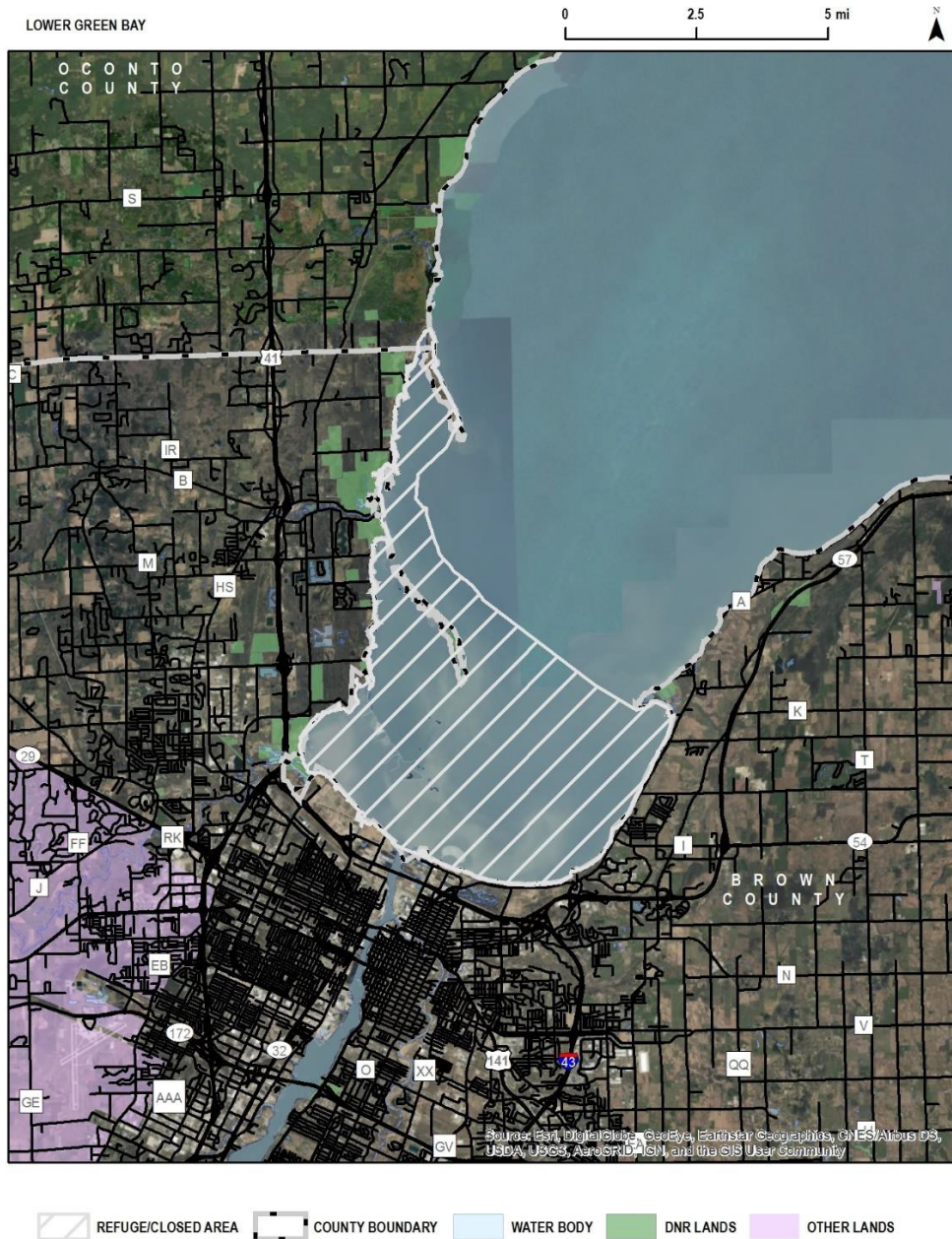
(15) WOOD COUNTY. (a) *Wood County*.



**History:** CR 19-090: cr. Register August 2020 No. 776, eff. 9-1-20; correction in numbering in (1) to (8), (10) to (13), (15) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., and correction in (1) (title), (2) (title), (3) (title), (4) (title), (5) (title), (6) (title), (7) (title), (8) (title), (10) (title), (11) (title), (12) (title), (13) (title), (15) (title) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., Register August 2020 No. 776; CR 23-025: renum. (1m) (a) from NR 11.05 (2) (a), r. and recr. (6) (a) Register March 2024 No. 819, eff. 4-1-24.

**NR 11.08 No entry wildlife refuge, rookeries and special areas (April 1- August 24).** A wildlife refuge is established from April 1 through August 24 in the following areas when posted with department signs. No person may enter upon such area for any reason from April 1 through August 24.

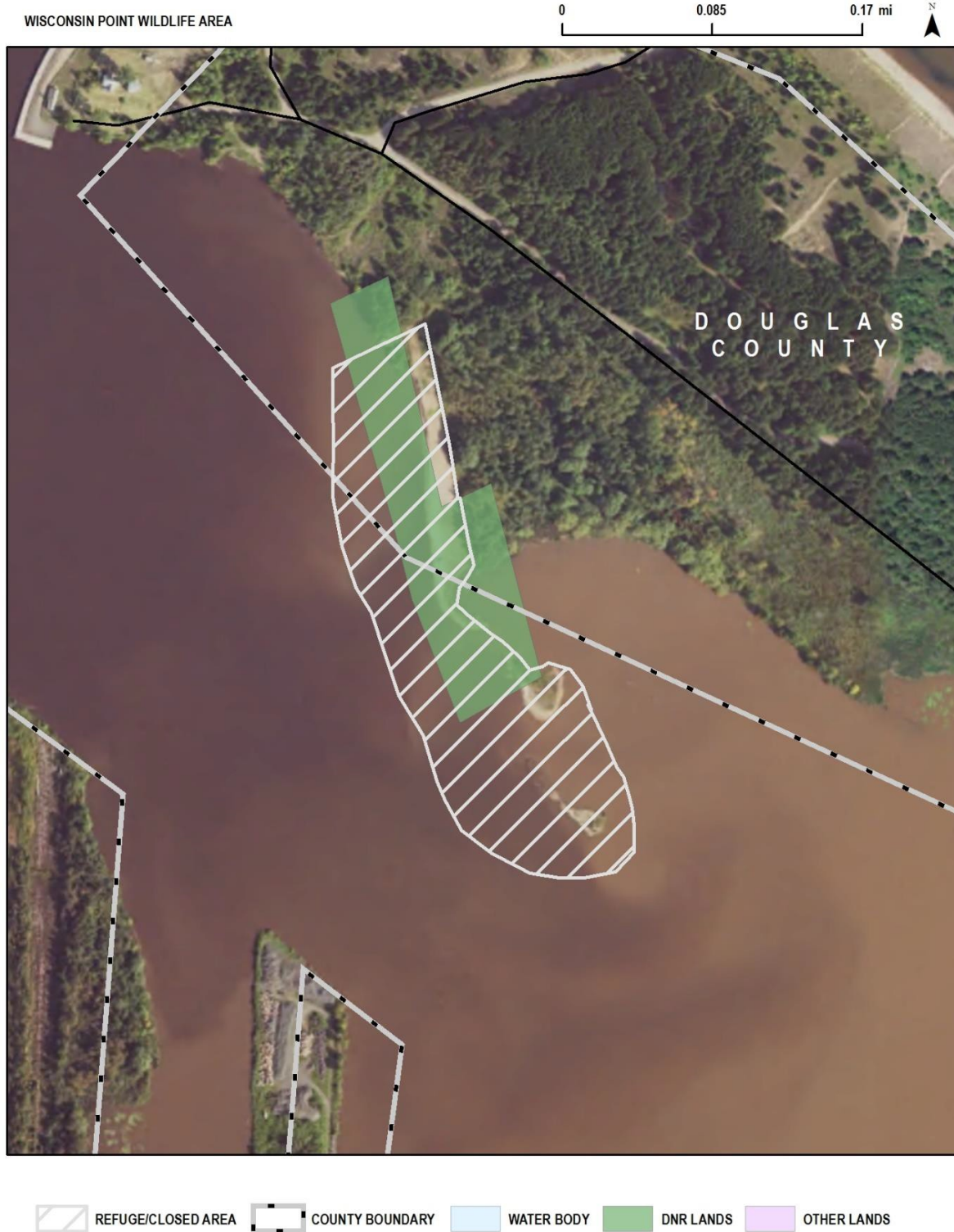
(1) BROWN COUNTY. (a) *Lower Green Bay.*



**(2) DODGE COUNTY.** (a) *Horicon Marsh.*



(3) DOUGLAS COUNTY. (a) *Wisconsin Point Wildlife Area.*

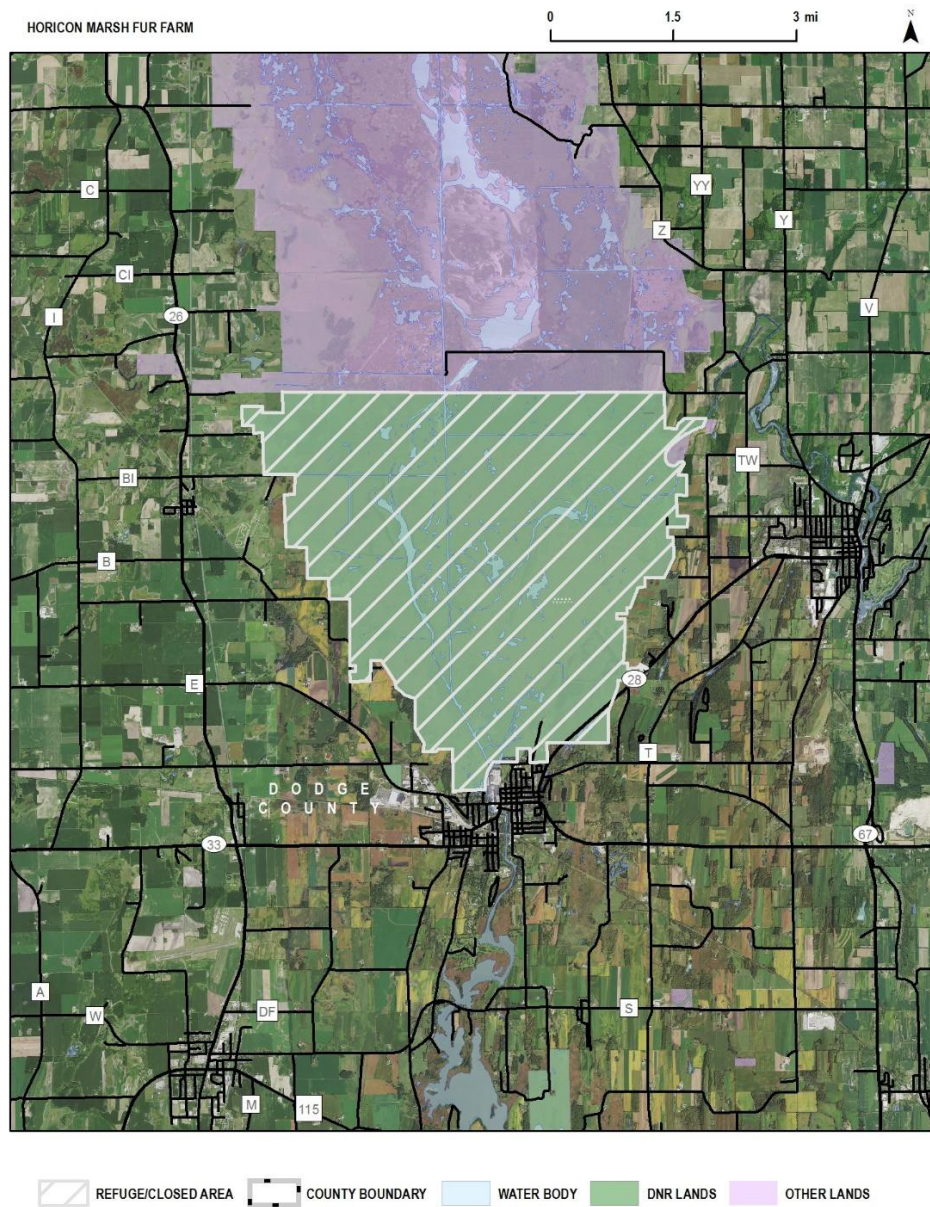


(4) KENOSHA COUNTY. (a) *Richard Bong Wildlife Area.*



**History:** CR 19-090: cr. Register August 2020 No. 776, eff. 9-1-20; correction in numbering in (1) to (4) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., and correction in (1) (title), (2) (title), (3) (title), (4) (title) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., Register August 2020 No. 776.

**NR 11.09 Horicon Marsh Fur Farm.** A state fur farm to be known as the Horicon marsh fur farm is established on all of the state-owned land on the Horicon marsh wildlife area in Dodge County. No person may hunt or trap any furbearing animals on such area unless authorized by a valid department permit. Any violation of the permit shall be deemed to be a violation of this section.



**History:** CR 19-090: cr. Register August 2020 No. 776, eff. 9-1-20.

**NR 11.10 Ferry bluff state natural area (December 1-March 31).** A wildlife refuge is established in the following area. No person may enter upon such area from December 1 through March 31 except for the retrieval of legally killed or crippled game.



**History:** CR 19-090: cr. Register August 2020 No. 776, eff. 9-1-20.

### Subchapter III — Closed Areas

**NR 11.11 Waterfowl closed area; trapping and deer hunting permitted.** A closed area is established in the following areas posted with department signs. Trapping of furbearing mammals is permitted during established seasons. No person

may hunt any species of wild animal beginning on the first day of the open season for waterfowl established in s. NR 10.01 (b) and (g) and ending on the first Saturday in December, except that deer may be hunted during periods established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (e), (em), (ep), and (es). Legally killed or crippled game may be retrieved.

(1) ST. CROIX COUNTY. (a) *Oakridge Lake.*



**History:** CR 19-090: cr. Register August 2020 No. 776, eff. 9-1-20; correction in numbering in (1) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., and correction in (1) (title) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., Register August 2020 No. 776.

**NR 11.12 Early waterfowl hunting season closed area.** A closed season is established at the Mead wildlife area. No person may hunt waterfowl until the beginning of the duck season established in s. NR 10.01 (1) (b), except that hunting is allowed as established in s. NR 10.01 (1) (v).

**History:** CR 19-090: cr. Register August 2020 No. 776, eff. 9-1-20.

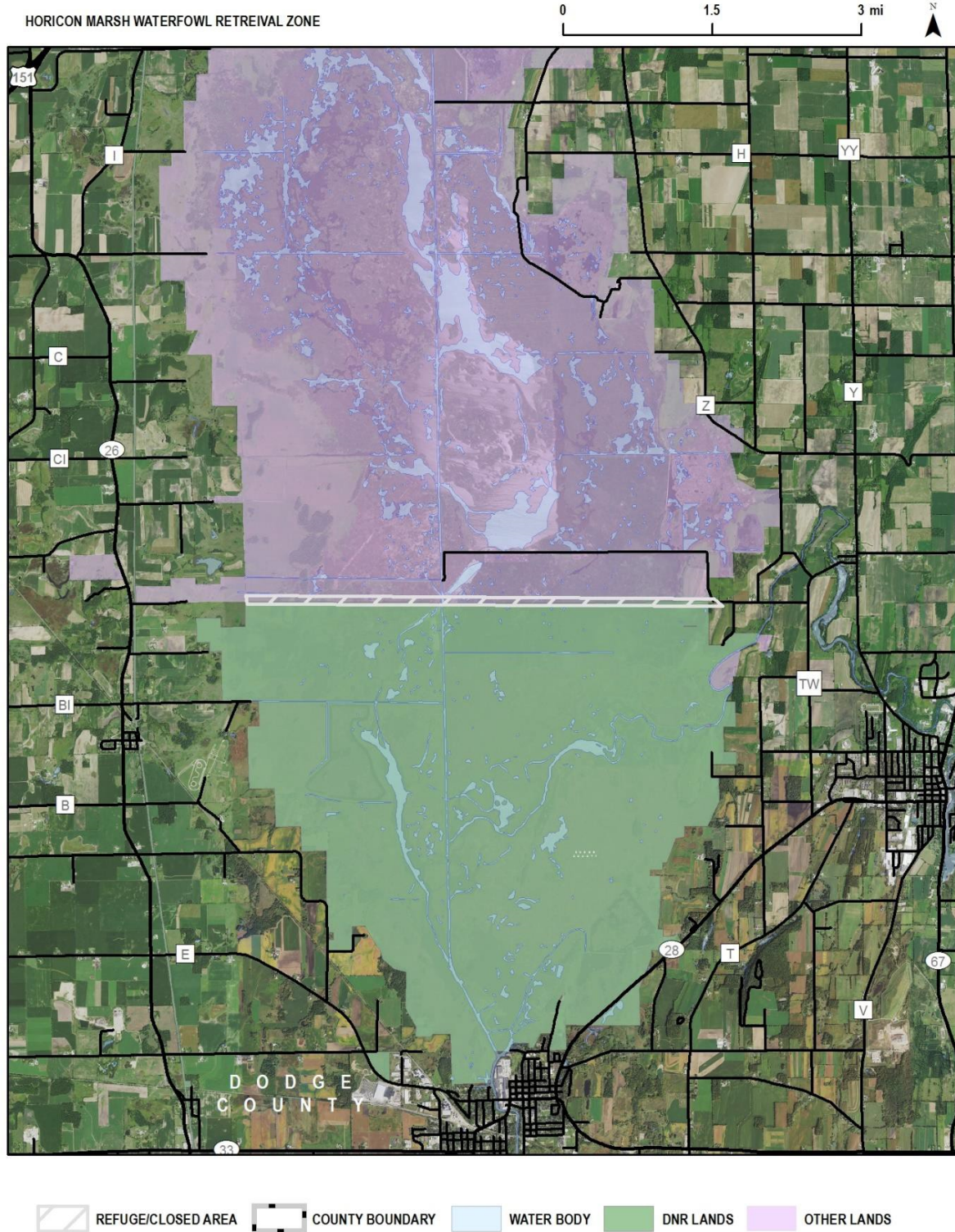
**NR 11.13 Mississippi river closed area.** The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge has established Closed Areas which are identified in 50 CFR § 32.42 and posted in the field with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service signs. Migratory bird hunting is prohibited at all times within these areas. Other hunting and trapping is allowed the day after the close of

the Wisconsin duck hunting season as established in s. NR 10.01 (1). Legally killed or crippled game may be retrieved from these areas provided there is no attempt to chase birds from the area.

**History:** CR 19-090: cr. Register August 2020 No. 776, eff. 9-1-20.

**NR 11.14 Waterfowl closed area; retrieving permitted.** A waterfowl closed area is established in the following areas. No person may hunt or trap any species of wild animal in such areas during the open seasons for waterfowl established in s. NR 10.01 (1), except that deer may be hunted during the periods established in s. NR 10.01 (3) (e). Legally killed or crippled waterfowl may be retrieved by dog or hand.

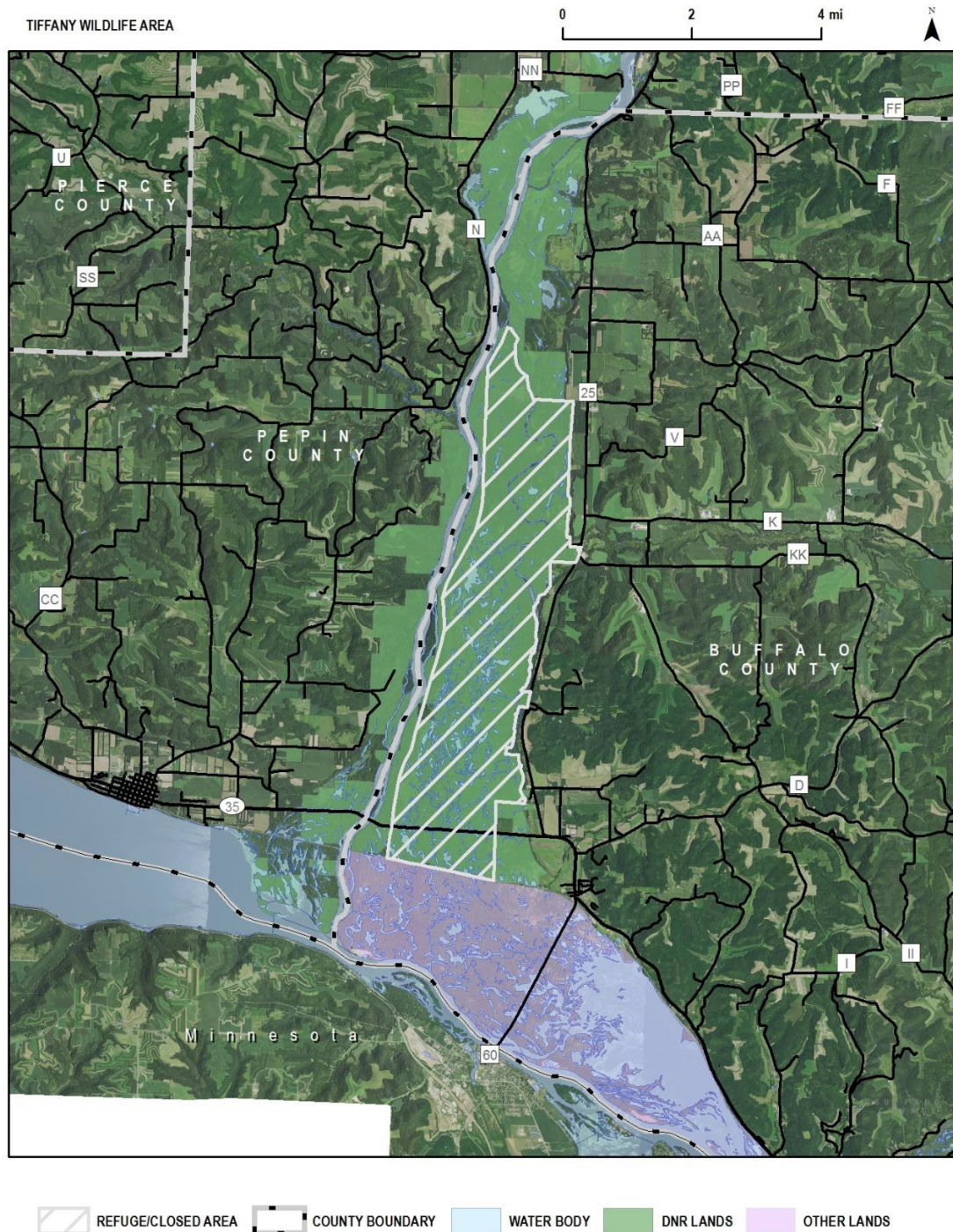
(1) DODGE COUNTY. (a) *Horicon Marsh.*



**History:** CR 19-090: cr. Register August 2020 No. 776, eff. 9-1-20; correction in numbering in (1) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., and correction in (1) (title) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., Register August 2020 No. 776.

**NR 11.15 Beaver/ otter closed area (year-round).** A year-round closed season is established in the following areas. No person may trap beaver or otter in any such areas at any time.

(1) BUFFALO COUNTY. (a) *Tiffany wildlife area.*

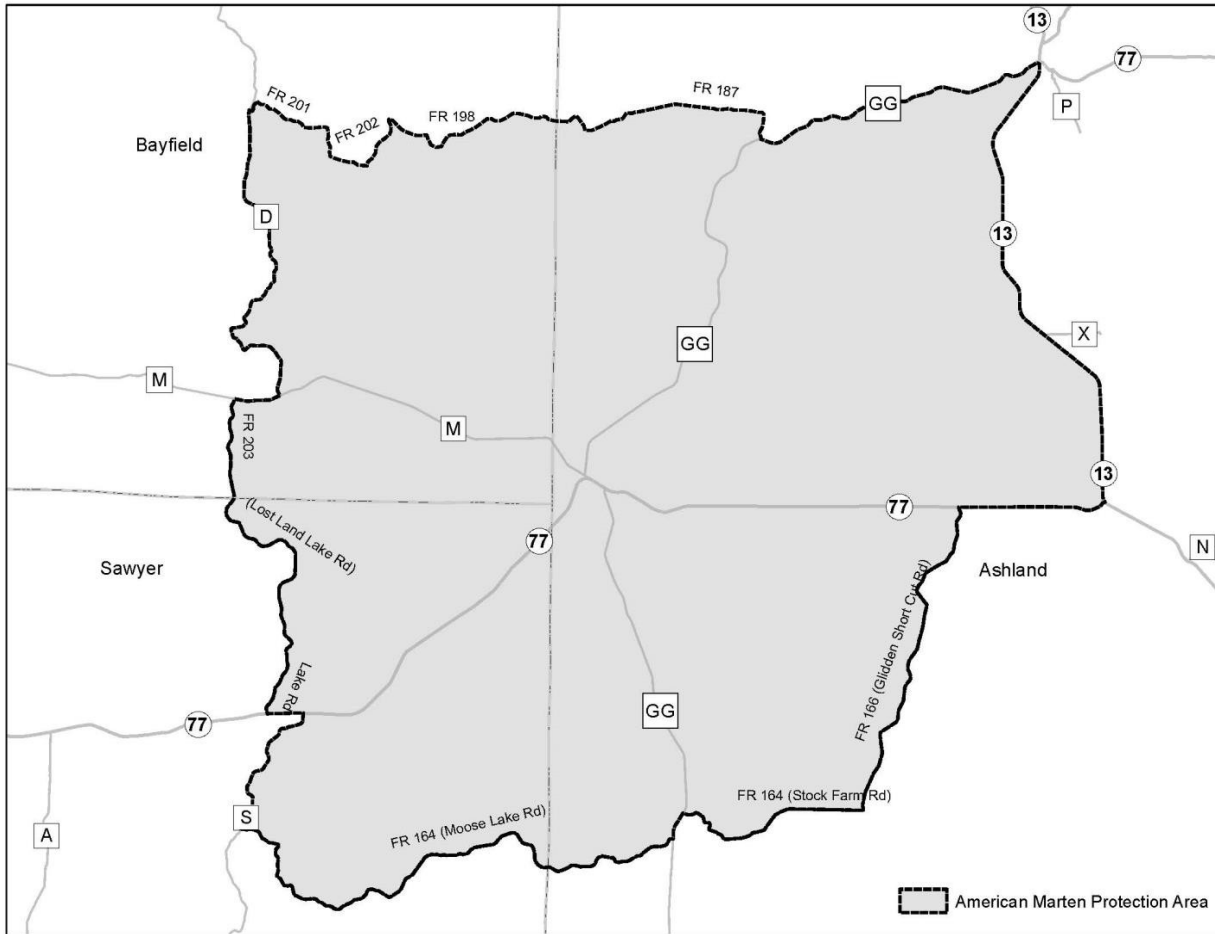


**History:** CR 19-090: cr. Register August 2020 No. 776, eff. 9-1-20; renum. (2) to (1) and correction in numbering in (1) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 1., Stats., and correction in (1) (title) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 2., Stats., Register August 2020 No. 776.

**NR 11.16 Marten protection area. (1) DEFINITIONS.** In this section: "Pan tension" means the amount of weight that, when applied to the trap pan of a jawed trap, will result in activation of the trap.

**(2) ESTABLISHMENT.** No person may trap any species of wild animal in the following areas at any time unless trapping with the equipment identified in sub. (3):

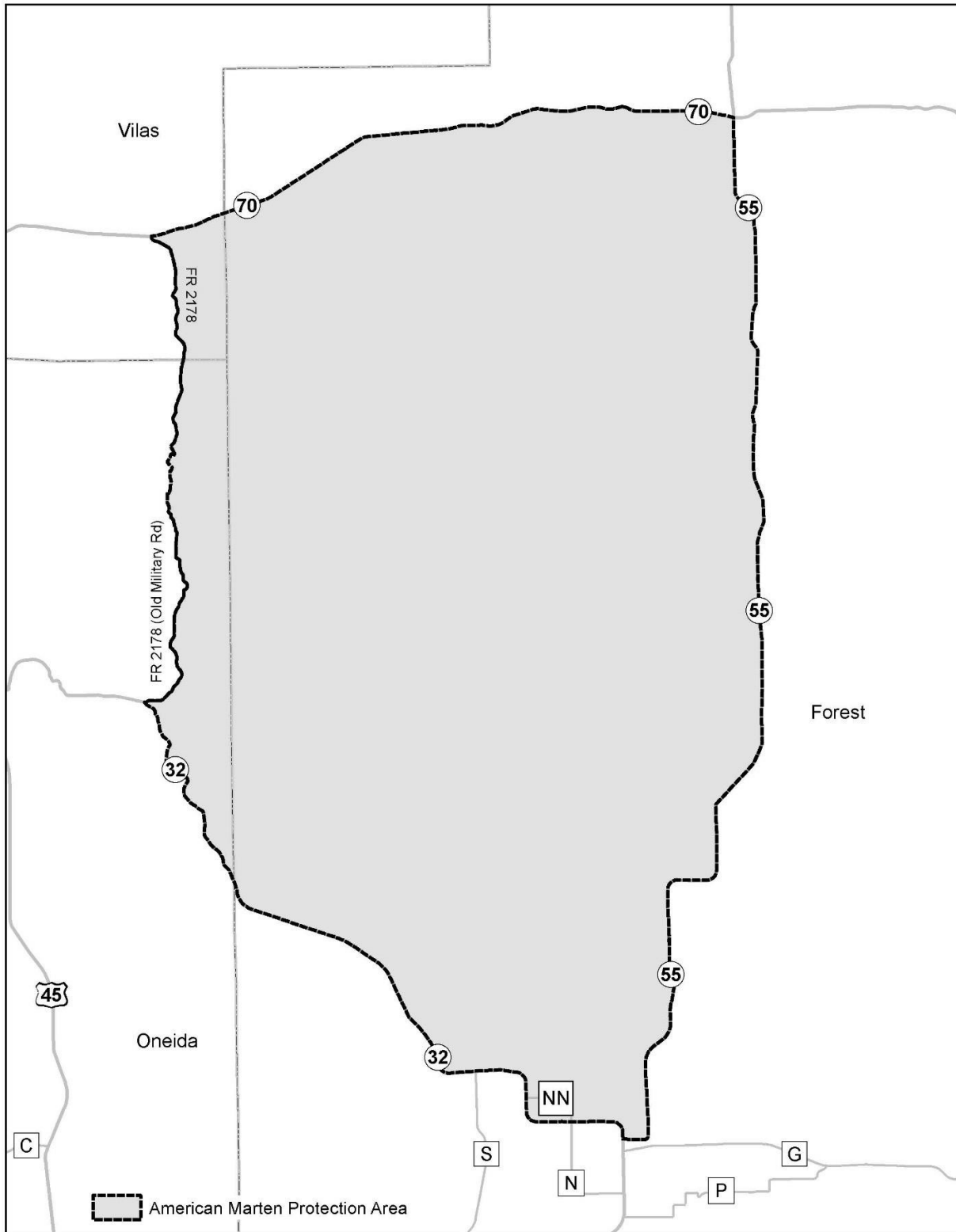
(a) *Clam Lake Area (Ashland, Bayfield, and Sawyer Counties).*



(b) *Apostle Islands Area (Ashland and Bayfield Counties).*



(c) Pine River Area (Forest, Oneida, and Vilas Counties).



**(3) AUTHORIZED EQUIPMENT IN A MARTEN PROTECTION AREA.** The following traps may be used for trapping within a Marten protection area identified in sub. (2):

(a) Cage or box traps or cable restraints in compliance with s. NR 10.13.

(b) Weasel boxes in compliance with s. NR 10.13 (3) (d).

(c) Within only those areas identified in s. NR 11.16 (2) (a) and (c), jawed traps placed as non-submersion sets provided that the pan tension of the device is set to no less than 4 lbs.

**Note:** Pan tension can be modified through the use of commercially adjustable pans, sheer pins, springs, spring steel, or foam.

(d) Jawed traps, enclosed trigger traps, snares, or body-gripping traps as authorized under s. NR 10.13 being used as water sets during the open seasons established in s. NR 10.01 (4).

**History:** CR 19-090: cr. Register August 2020 No. 776, eff. 9-1-20; correction in (3) (c) made under s. 13.92 (4) (b) 7., Stats., Register March 2021 No. 783.

**NR 11.17 Public lands closed area.** Except as provided by s. 29.089, Stats., the department may establish temporary closed areas by posting signs within the exterior limits of department owned, managed, or leased lands for wildlife management purposes. No person may enter such area or hunt or trap any species of wild animals, except as authorized by department signs posted on the lands.

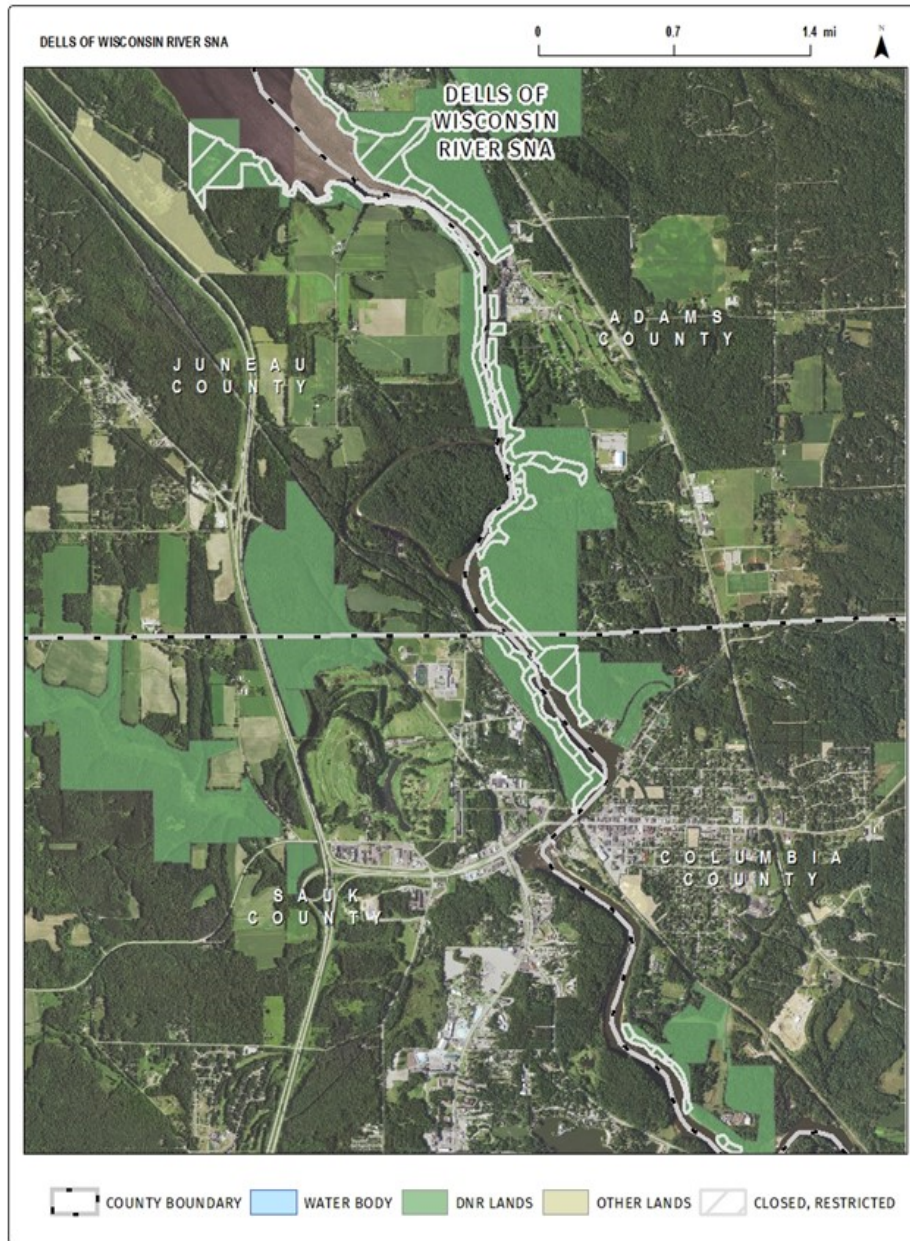
**History:** CR 19-090: cr. Register August 2020 No. 776, eff. 9-1-20; correction made under s. 35.17, Stats., Register August 2020 No. 776.

#### **Subchapter IV - Human Health and Safety Closures**

**NR 11.20 Year-round closed area.** A closed area is established in the following areas. No person may discharge any firearm, airgun, bow, or crossbow or trap upon such areas:

**Note:** There are additional restrictions of firearm use found in ss. 167.31 and 941.20 (1) (d), Stats., and s. NR 45.09 (1).

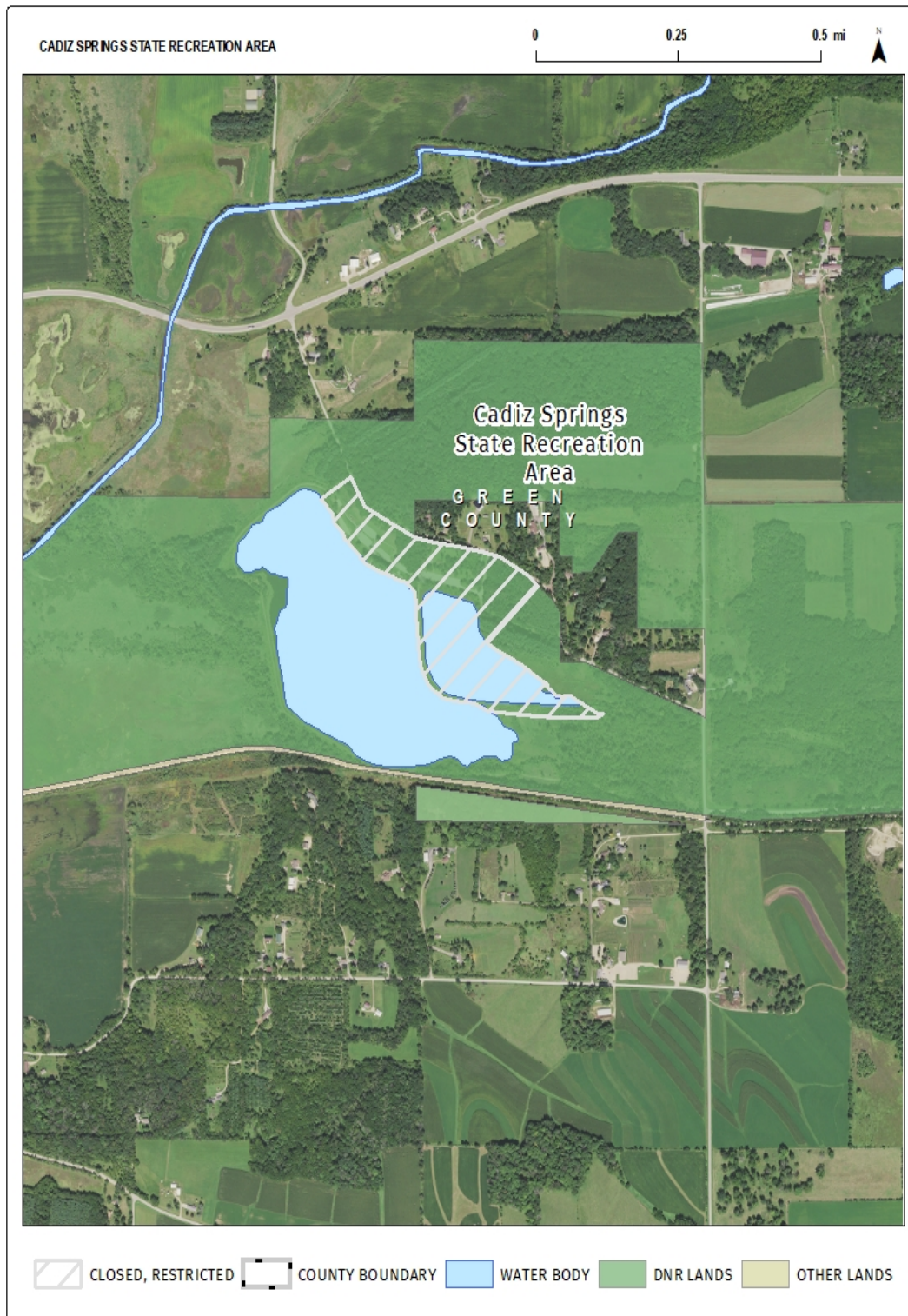
**(1)** ADAMS, JUNEAU, COLUMBIA AND SAUK COUNTIES. (a)  
*Dells of the Wisconsin River State Natural Area.*



(2) DANE COUNTY. (a) *Capital Springs Centennial State Recreation Area.*



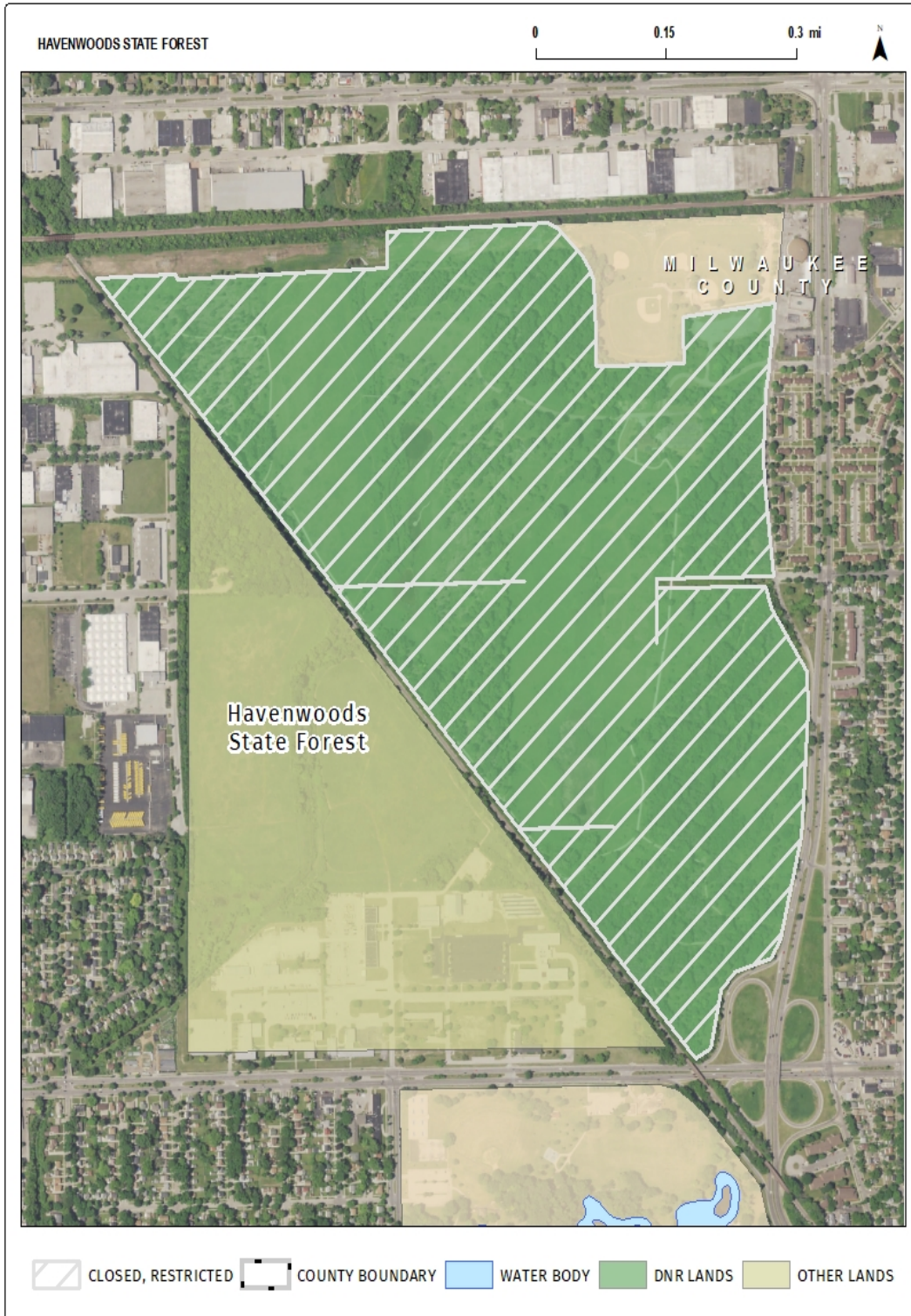
**(3)** GREEN COUNTY. (a) *Cadiz Springs State Recreation Area.*



(4) MILWAUKEE COUNTY. (a) *Forestry Exploration Center.*



(b) *Havenwoods State Forest.*



**(5)** ROCK COUNTY. (a) *Lima Marsh - Storrs Lake State Wildlife Area.*



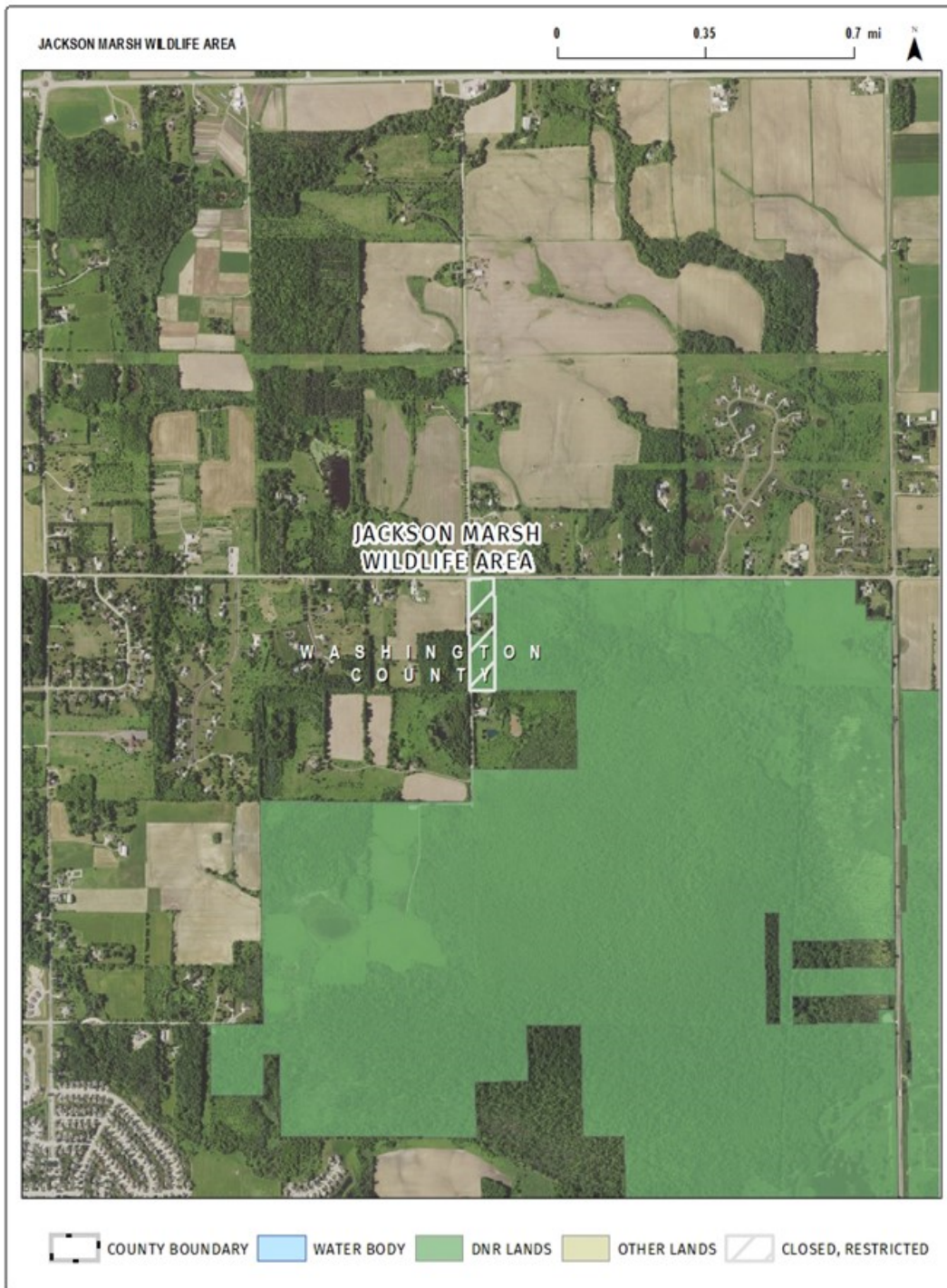
(6) SAWYER COUNTY. (a) *Hayward Nursery*.



(7) WASHINGTON COUNTY. (a) *Allenton State Wildlife Area.*



(b) *Jackson Marsh State Wildlife Area.*



(8) WAUKESHA COUNTY. (a) *Kettle Moraine State Forest – Pike Lake Unit.*



**(9) WOOD COUNTY.** (a) *Griffith Nursery.*



**History:** CR 23-060: cr. Register July 2024 No. 823, eff. 8-1-24.

**NR 11.21 Year-round no entry.** Each of the following areas is established as a year-round closed area that no person may enter for any reason except the retrieval of legally killed or crippled game in posted retrieval zones within the closed area:

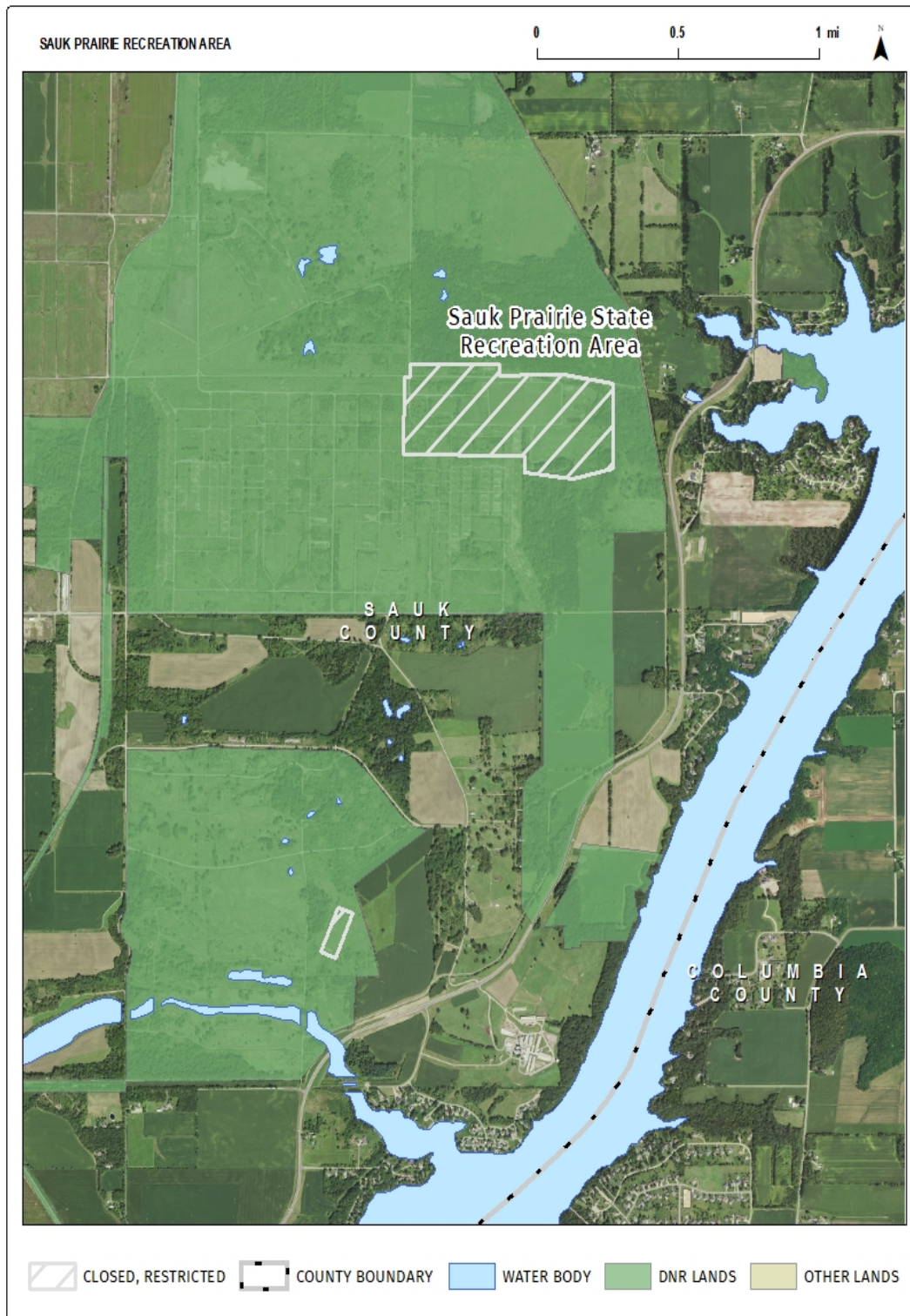
**(1)** PIERCE COUNTY. (a) *Bay City Ridge State Natural Area.*



**(2)** SAUK COUNTY. (a) *Pewits Nest State Natural Area.*



(b) *Sauk Prairie State Recreation Area.*

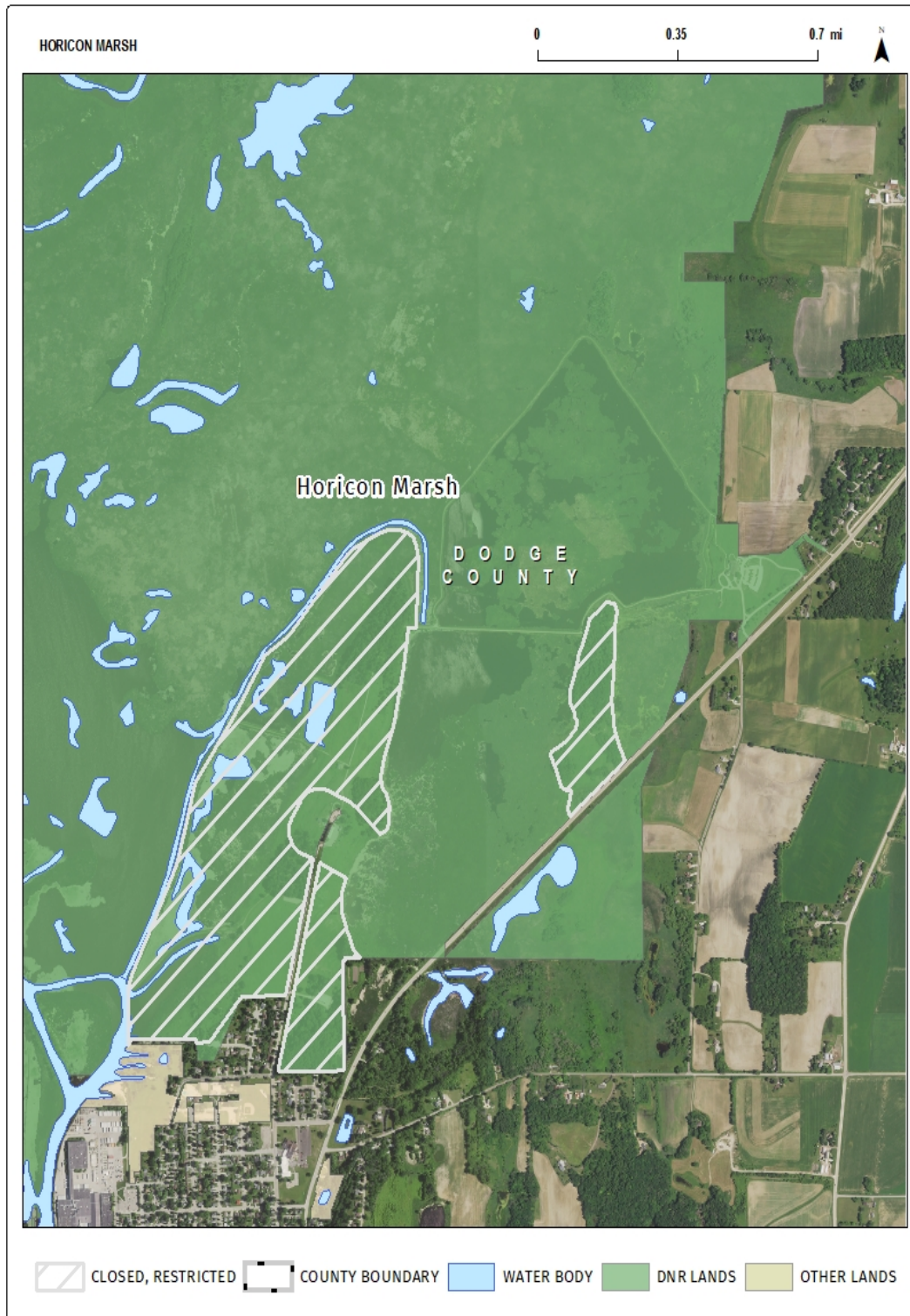


**History:** CR 23-060: cr. Register July 2024 No. 823, eff. 8-1-24.

**NR 11.22 Closed area, bowhunting only and trapping allowed by special permit.** Each of the following areas is established as a closed area that no person may discharge any

firearm or air gun upon such areas except to dispatch an animal caught in a trap or to trap by permit as authorized under s. NR 11.09:

(1) DODGE COUNTY. (a) *Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area.*

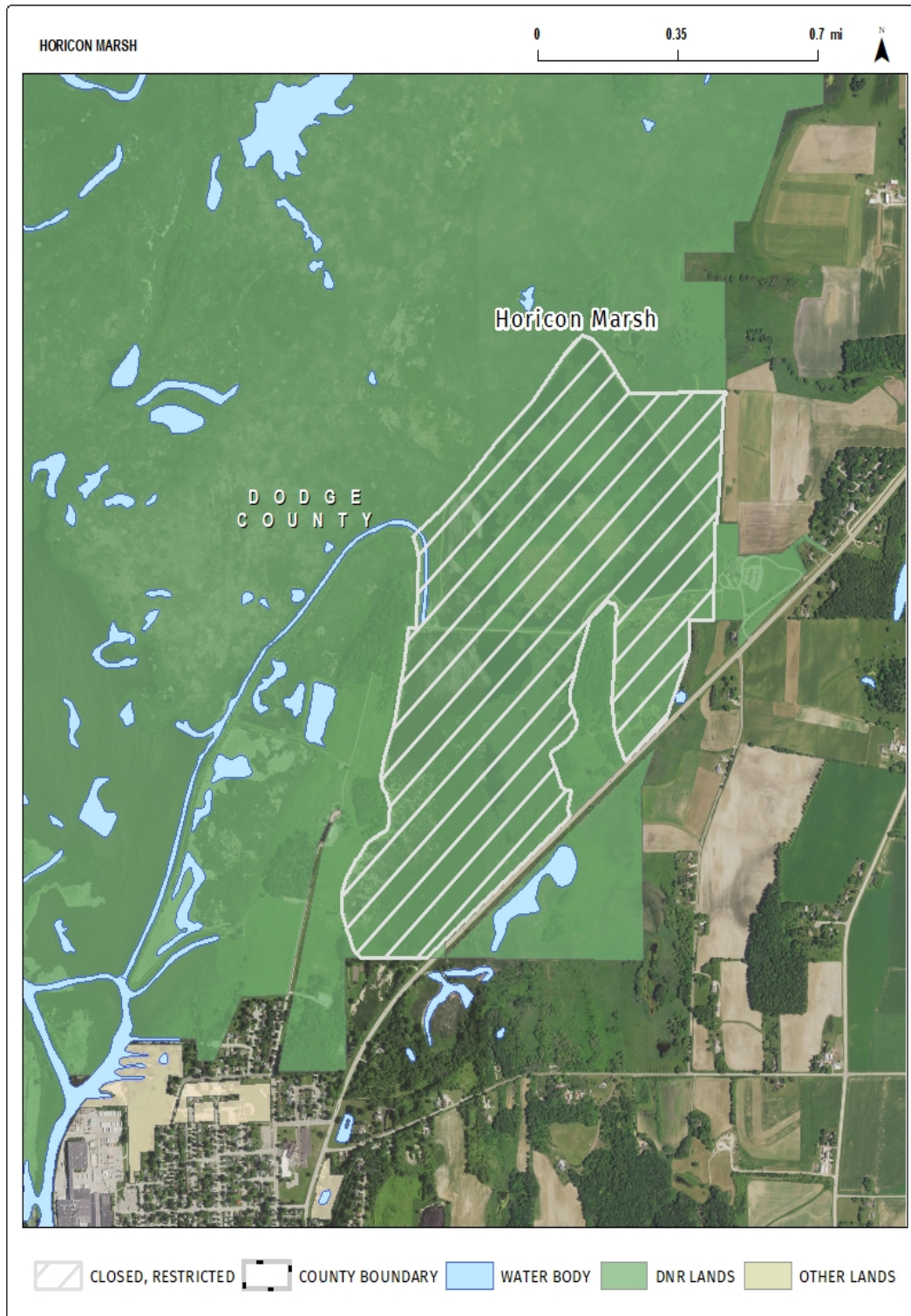


**History:** CR 23-060: cr. Register July 2024 No. 823, eff. 8-1-24.

**NR 11.23 Closed area, trapping allowed by special permit.** Each of the following areas is established as a closed area that no person may discharge any firearm, air gun, bow or

crossbow upon such areas except to dispatch an animal caught in a trap or to trap by permit as authorized under s. NR 11.09:

(1) DODGE COUNTY. (a) *Horicon Marsh State Wildlife Area.*

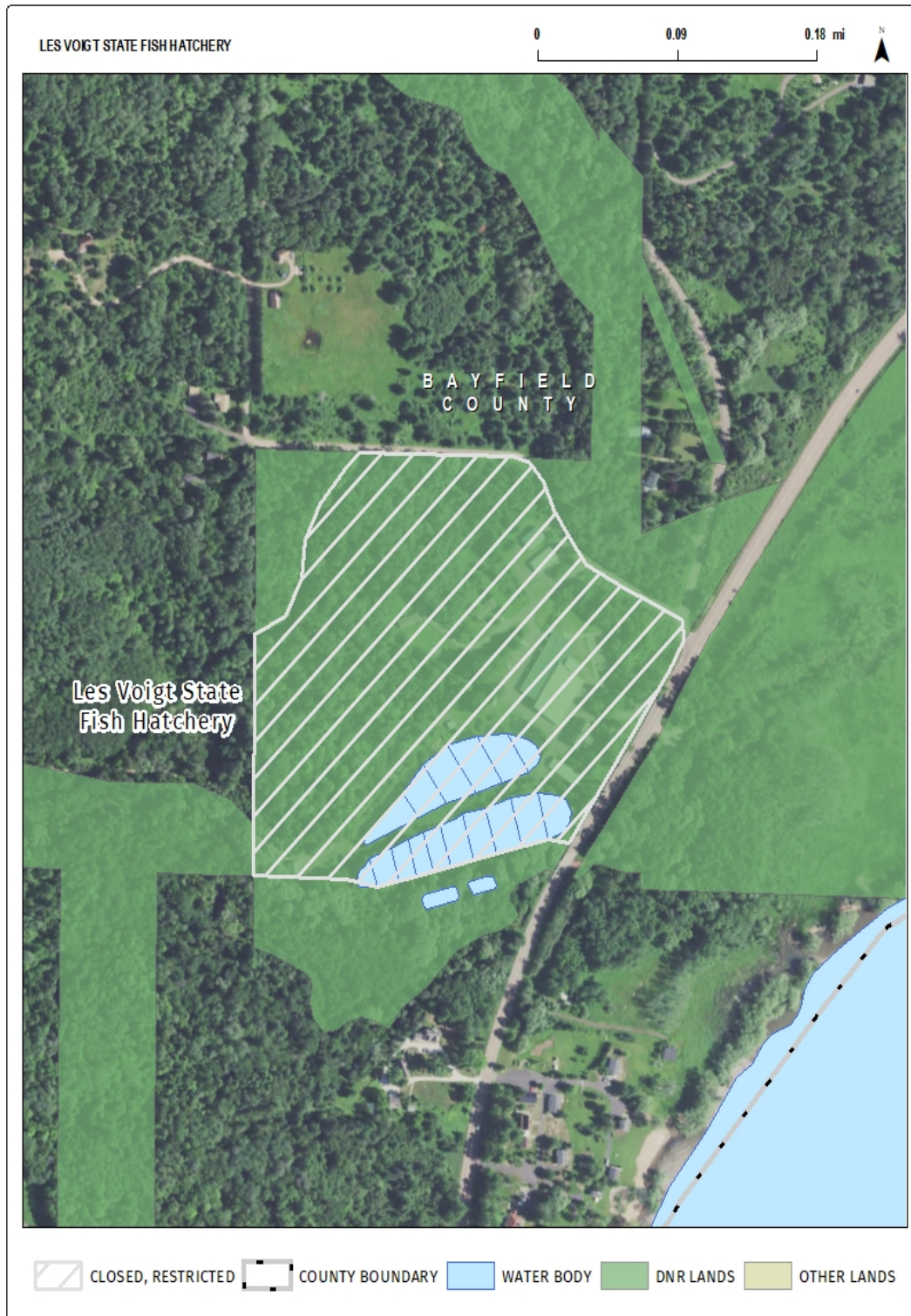


**History:** CR 23-060: cr. Register July 2024 No. 823, eff. 8-1-24.

**NR 11.24 State fish hatchery closed area.** Each of the following areas is established as a closed area that no person may hunt or trap or have in their possession or under their control

a firearm unless the firearm is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case:

(1) BAYFIELD COUNTY. (a) *Les Voigt State Fish Hatchery.*



**(2) DANE COUNTY.** (a) *Nevin State Fish Hatchery.*



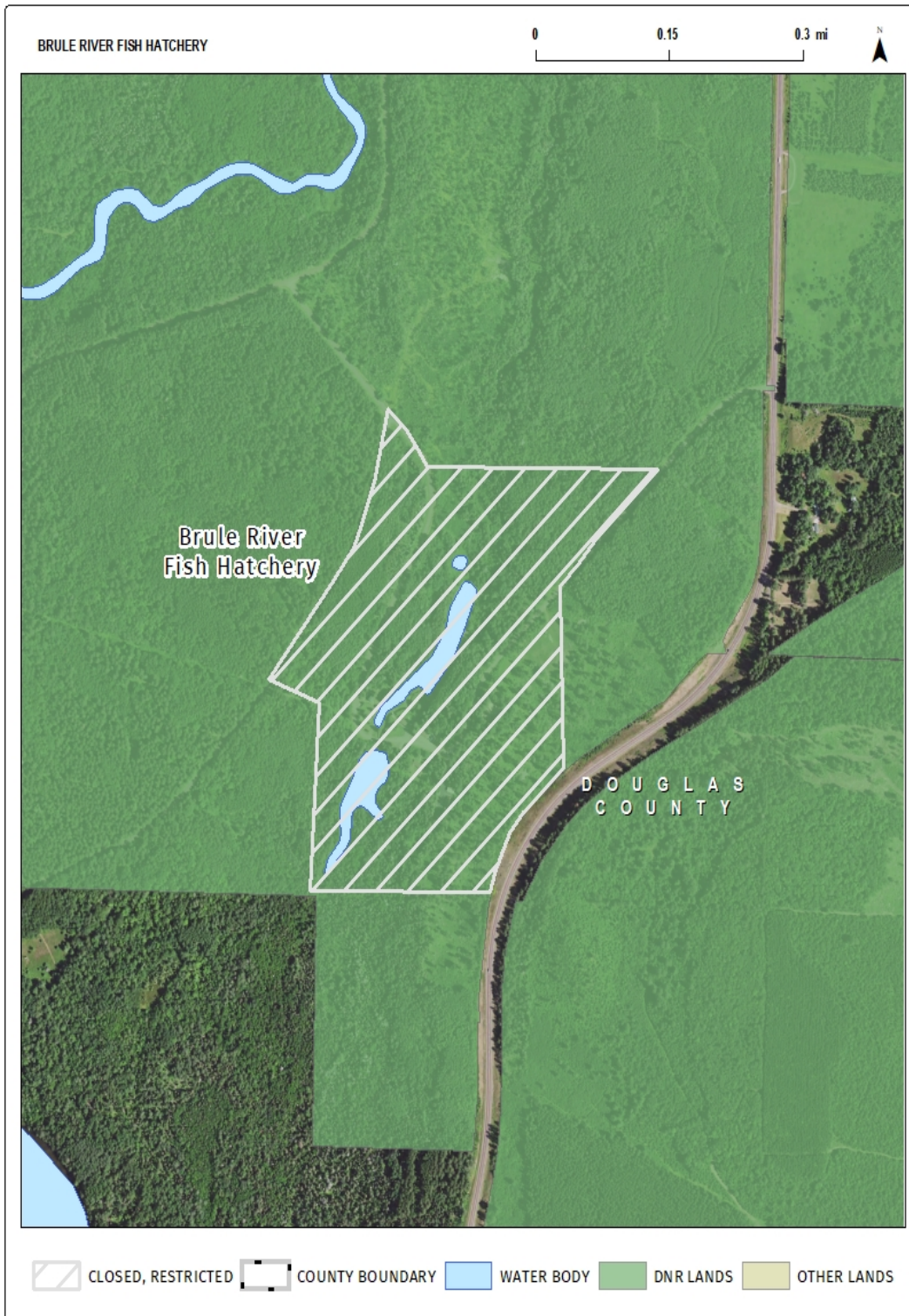
(b) *Token Creek Rearing Station.*



**(3)** DOOR COUNTY. (a) *Strawberry Creek State Fish Hatchery.*



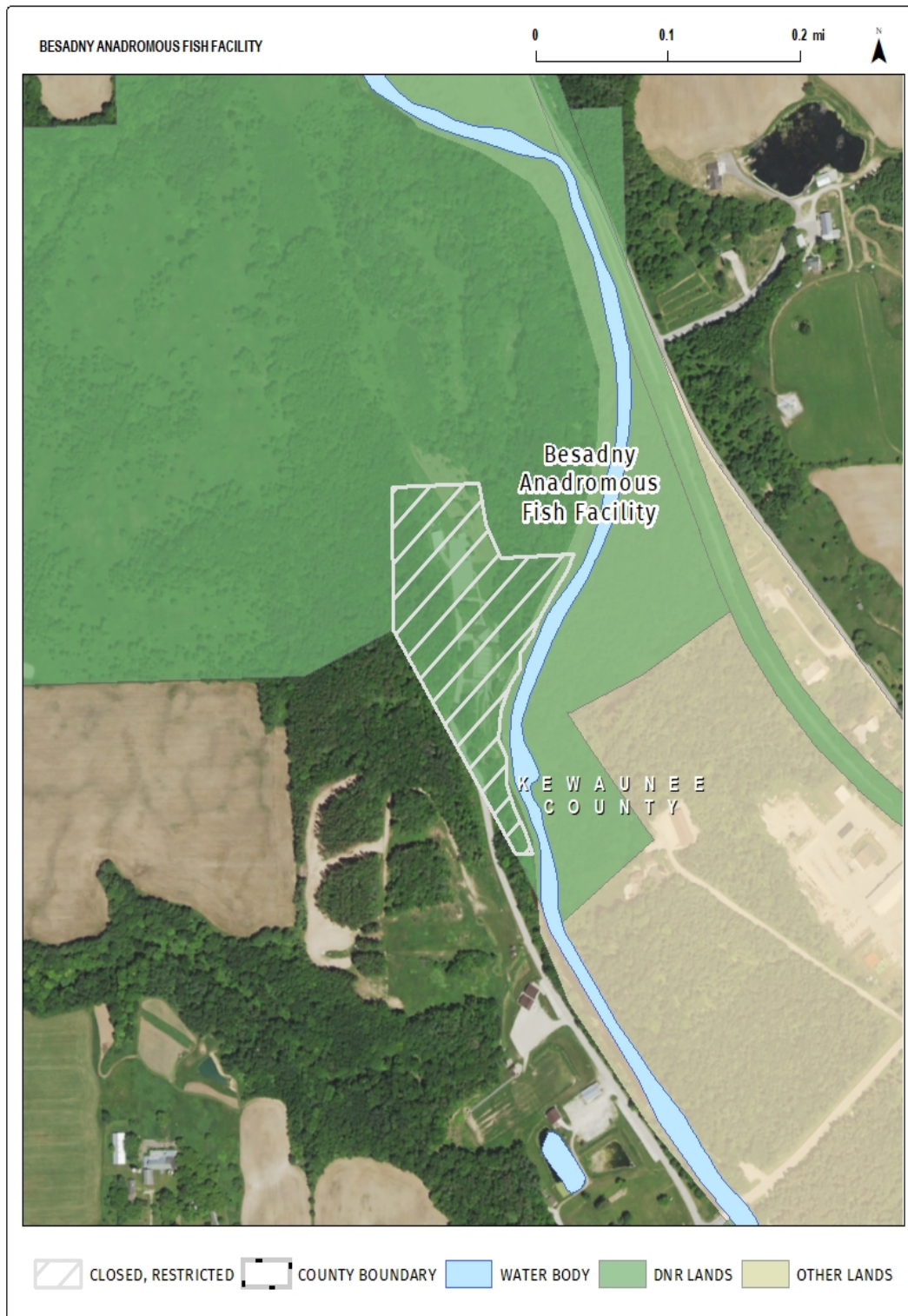
(4) DOUGLAS COUNTY. (a) *Brule River State Fish Hatchery.*



(5) JEFFERSON COUNTY. (a) *Lake Mills State Fish Hatchery.*



**(6) KEWAUNEE COUNTY.** (a) *C.D. “Buzz” Besadny Anadromous Fish Facility.*



**(7)** LANGLADE COUNTY. (a) *Langlade Rearing Station.*



**(8)** MARINETTE COUNTY. (a) *Thunder River Rearing Station.*



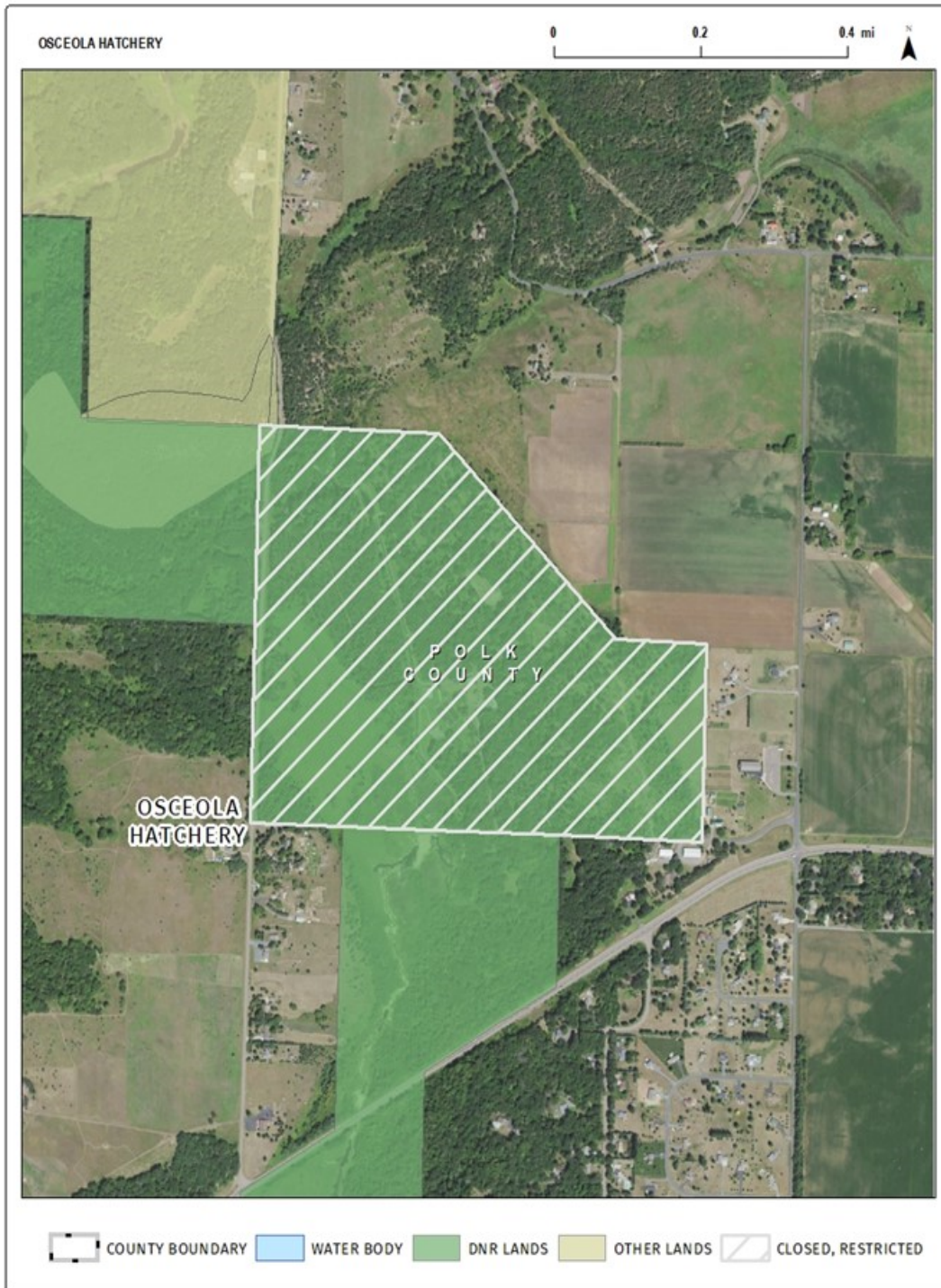
**(9)** OCONTO COUNTY. (a) *Lakewood Rearing Station.*



(10) ONEIDA COUNTY. (a) *Arthur A. Oehmcke State Fish Hatchery.*



(11) POLK COUNTY. (a) *Osceola State Fish Hatchery.*



(b) *St. Croix State Falls Hatchery.*



(12) SHEBOYGAN COUNTY. (a) *Kettle Moraine Springs State Fish Hatchery.*



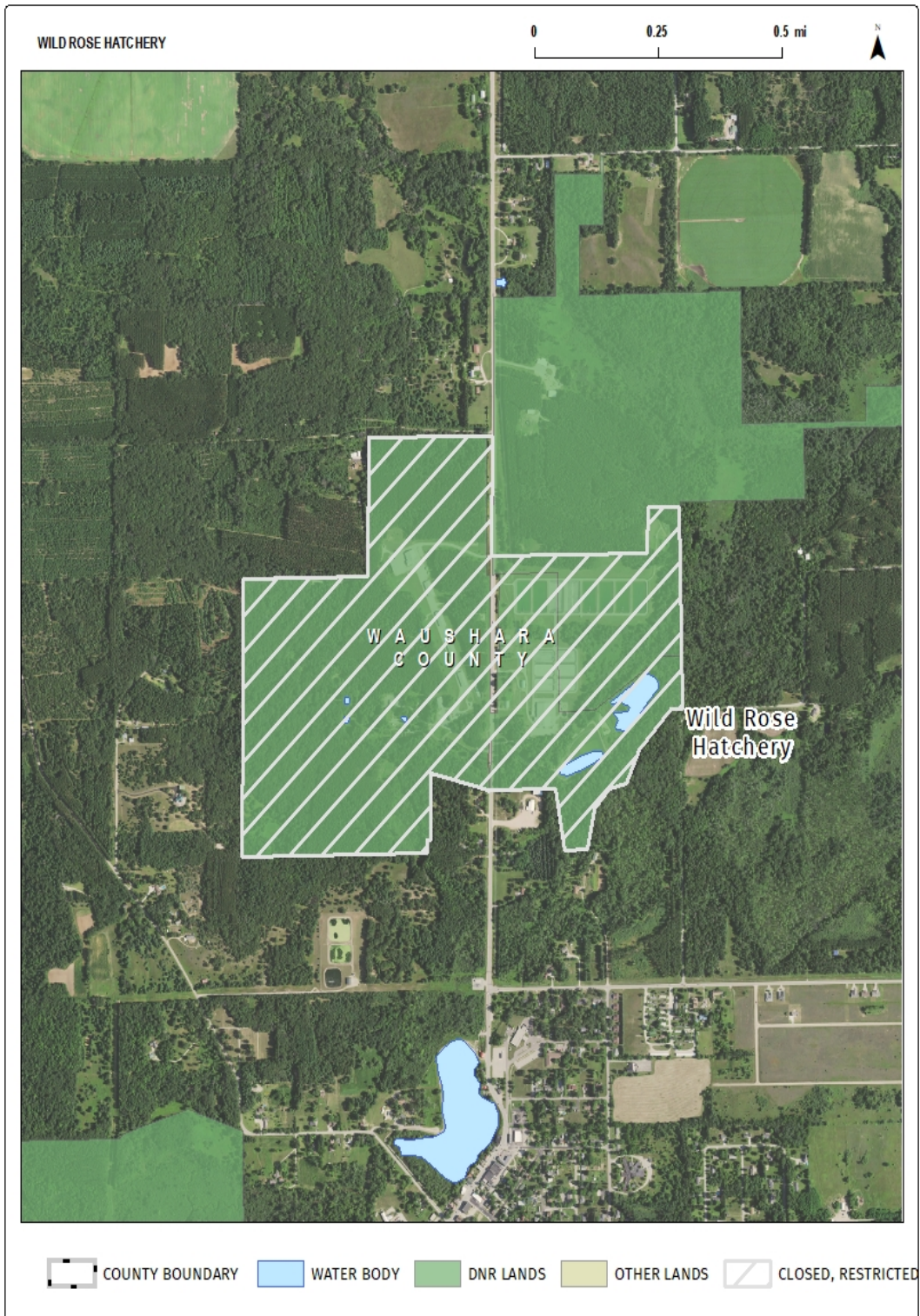
(b) *Kettle Moraine Springs State Fish Hatchery-Annex.*



**(13) WASHBURN COUNTY.** (a) *Governor Thompson State Fish Hatchery.*



**(14)** WAUSHARA COUNTY. (a) *Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery.*



**History:** CR 23-060: cr. Register July 2024 No. 823, eff. 8-1-24.