



**Spruce Grouse Swamp**  
**Vilas County**  
**5000 Acres**

North woods: Important Natural Features — Matrix Forest, Old-growth Developmental and Interior Forest Areas, Freshwater Lakes, Northern Highland Outwash Pines, Large Embedded Wetland Complexes, and Significant Bedrock Features .

The North woods ecosystems are of continental importance. Even though the forest have changed over the last 150 years, they have not lost their intactness. Abundant species are the norm owing to the quality and amount of remaining habitats.

**Ecology & Significance**

- Wisconsin Responsibility – Mod High
  - Irreplaceable Features – Mod High
  - Diversity of Natural Features – Mod Low
  - Rare Species – Several
  - Conservation Concern Species – Mod High
  - Vulnerability to a Warming Climate – Mod High
  - Conservation Status – Some
- This site has promising conservation opportunities.

**Flora and Fauna**

The Spruce Grouse is a medium-sized bird closely associated with the coniferous forest of North America. It is one of the most arboreal grouse, fairly well adapted to perching and moving about in trees. When approached by a predator, it relies on camouflage and immobility to an amazing degree, for example letting people come to within a few feet before finally taking flight, a behavior that has earned it the nickname "fool's hen".

Spruce Grouse Swamp is part of an extensive wetland complex southwest of Lac Vieux Desert and features a mosaic of lowland community types including northern sedge meadow, muskeg, black spruce swamp, and tamarack swamp. The surrounding uplands contain a boreal-like dry forest on the low sandy ridges that are found throughout the site. Jack pine with scattered open grown red pine, and black spruce dominate on swamp islands. Aquatic features of interest include Wolf Lake, a small 5-acre bog lake, and a spring fed cold-water stream. The interior of the swamp is remote with no major roads present .



Photo courtesy Wikipedia.com



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Photo courtesy Wisconsin DNR

The site provides habitat for a number of boreal birds including gray jay, boreal chickadee, black-backed woodpecker, Connecticut warbler, and the state-threatened spruce grouse. Of interest are the reported sightings of the federally endangered Kirtland's warbler in close proximity to this area.

This site has the features to hold Spruce Grouse and other boreal birds longer than other locations in a warming climate.