



**Boot-Bass Connection**  
**Iron County**  
**12,000 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 – Low  
 Diversity of Natural Features – Mod High  
 Rare Species – Several  
 Conservation Concern Species – Mod High  
 Vulnerability to a Warming Climate – Mod High  
 Conservation Status – Half

This site has promising conservation opportunities.

Turtle-Flambeau Patterned Bog features an extensive and diverse landscape containing numerous vegetation communities including patterned bog, northern wet, mesic, and dry-mesic forest, and emergent aquatics. The patterned bog community is quite complex and includes water tracks, sphagnum lawns, and discrete areas of large trees. Very rare in Wisconsin, this wetland type can be characterized as a minerotrophic peatland with alternating moss and sedge-dominated peat ridges (strings) with saturated and inundated hollows (flarks). They are oriented parallel to the contours of a slope and perpendicular to the flow

### Flora and Fauna

Lehto Lake features an extensive peatland complex associated with Randall Creek, a slow, soft, warm water stream tributary to the Bear River. From the outlet on Randall Lake to the Bear River, this seasonally navigable stream is bordered by extensive stands of northern sedge meadow and shrub swamp/fen thickets. Scattered islands of second-growth pine and paper birch occur next to the creek and out in the open bog areas.



Photo courtesy Wisconsin DNR

Bass Lake Preserve contains a small, 15-acre, undeveloped soft-water seepage lake, which still retains wilderness characteristics.

The three existing preserves have intervening land of similar quality. If the adjacent lands are protected, a much more viable future is in store for these properties. Large intact habitats are much more resistant to invasion by exotic species. They are also much more resistant to longer term changes in climate and other factors. The project also includes wilderness type lakes, which are becoming exceedingly rare due to intense real estate pressure to subdivide.



Photo courtesy Google Maps— Note effect of snowmobile trail



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