

Wetlands are among the most productive wildlife habitats on earth!

Wetlands provide habitat for many species of reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals that are uniquely adapted to aquatic environments. Upland wildlife like deer, moose and bear commonly use wetlands for food and shelter.

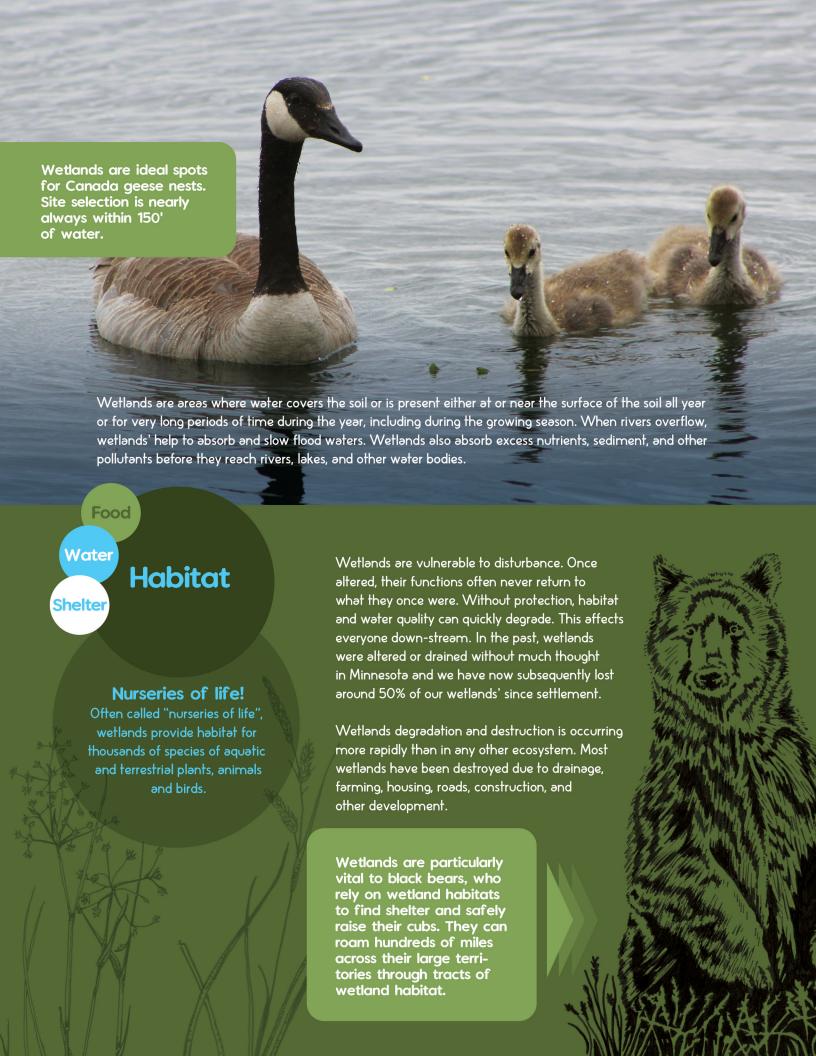
The dense vegetation found in most wetlands provides places for wildlife to build homes and to hide from predators.

For many species, like the Canada goose, wood duck, great blue heron, muskrat, beaver, snapping turtle, and bullfrog, wetlands are primary habitats - the only places they can live. For others, such as black bear, moose, deer, wood frogs, and marsh hawks, wetlands are not primary habitat but are important for a part of their life cycle or during certain times of the year.

Woodlands, Wetlands & Wildlife

Your wetland, a habitat for forest creatures

Recent studies suggest that some wetland types are among the most productive ecosystems in the world!





Wetland Regulations

In Minnesota, wetlands are governed by both state and federal laws. The state law is called the Wetland Conservation act. The federal law is part of the Clean Water Act. If you are planning any activity that will impact Wetlands, you must apply for a permit from multiple agencies. Luckily in Minnesota this is handled through the combined permit application. Certain types and sizes of activity are exempt but you must still have a permit.

The basic requirement is that "Wetlands must not be drained or filled, wholly or partially, unless replaced by restoring or creating wetland areas of at least equal public value under an approved replacement plan."

Wetland loss leads to increased flood and drought damage, nutrient runoff, water pollution, and shoreline erosion. It is also detrimental to our region's economy: rec-reation like fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching are large economic drivers in northern Minnesota.

There are 8 wetland types. Some are easily identifiable by areas of standing water or tree growth. Others require a trained eye to determine. The 8 types are as follows:

- Seasonally Flooded Basin
- Inland Fresh Meadow
- Shallow Marsh
- Wooded Swamps
- Open Water
- · Shrub Swamps
- Deep March
- Bogs



It can be very difficult to identify wetlands and wetland regulations can be quite complex. Some examples of projects that could potentially affect wetlands include:

- Filling a low area of a residential lot for a building or lawn
- Tiling wet areas of cultivated fields
- Digging a pond in a low area
- Cleaning out an old ditch or improving an existing ditch
- Adding fill for a crossing of a stream or wet swale

If there is the potential for your project to impact a wetland, before you start it is important to contact your local regulatory authority.

> If you don't know where to start, Hubbard SWCD can help you determine which agency is your local contact. Or just ask for our wetland / shoreland regulation guide.

We can help you navigate the restrictions and regulations that govern properties connected to, or surrounding wetlands.

> Phone: 218-732-0121 Web: hubbardswcd.org



