Water On the Line: Gogebic Taconite’s Push to Mine the Penokee Hills

815 Acres of critical wetlands on the proposed iron mine site would have their current protection eliminated by Wisconsin’s proposed new mining law.

Where Would Penokee Mine Runoff Go?

Where Is Gogebic Taconite’s Proposed Penokee Iron Mine?

Datum and Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 15N, Centered at 90.55° W

Wetlands data from US Fish & Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory, acquired from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR).

All hydrology and designated waterways data from WDNR website. Roads from U.S. Census Bureau (Census 2010).


Areas and distances measured in ArcMap 10 using above projection.

Insets: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 15N. Elevation data from 30 meter USGS Digital Elevation Model. Watersheds and polygons from same sources as wetlands map.

Distances derived by measurement in ArcMap 10 (line) and Google Maps (road) respectively. All maps produced by Carl Sack, December, 2011. For non-commercial use.

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Wetlands in areas of special natural resource interest (ASNRI wetlands) are defined as either within the boundary of or having a direct hydrological connection to areas and waterways with a special designation, including trout streams and Lake Superior. Under current law, ASNRI wetlands cannot be mitigated or offset by development. The mining bill introduced to the State Legislature on December 8, 2011, partly written by G-Tac, would allow them to be filled or removed for iron mining and mitigated by conservation projects anywhere in the state.

Sources: Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter NR 103; LRB-3520; Wisconsin Legislative Council Memo to Members of the Assembly Committee on Jobs, Small Business, and the Economy (Dec. 9, 2011).

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815 Acres of wetlands within the mine site are directly connected to designated waterways.