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**Base Map Data Sources:**  
Lakes, rivers, streams, and drainage ditches from NWI (National Wetland Inventory), MnDOT (Minnesota Department of Transportation) Base map, MN DNR 248, PLS (Public Land Survey) townships and sections; layers extracted from PLS Project, 2011, MN DNR, Division of Lands and Minerals.  
Minor civil divisions from Minnesota Department of Revenue, 2007.  
Population data were derived from the GIS (Geographic Name Information System) by pulling out the features that were coded as populated places. A selected subset of these was used for this map, 2005.  
County boundaries from MN DNR, derived from combination of 1:24,000 scale PLS lines, 1:100,000 scale TIGER, 1:100,000 scale DLG, and 1:24,000 hydrography lines, 1993.  
Fond du Lac Reservation boundary derived from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), 2003.  
Roads from MnDOT Base map, Fall of 2006.  
Railroad Tracts from MnDOT Base map, 2001.  
Contours: Interiors created by smoothing the Digital Elevation Model (see topographic relief) and then applying ArcGIS 3-D Spatial Analyst to create contours.

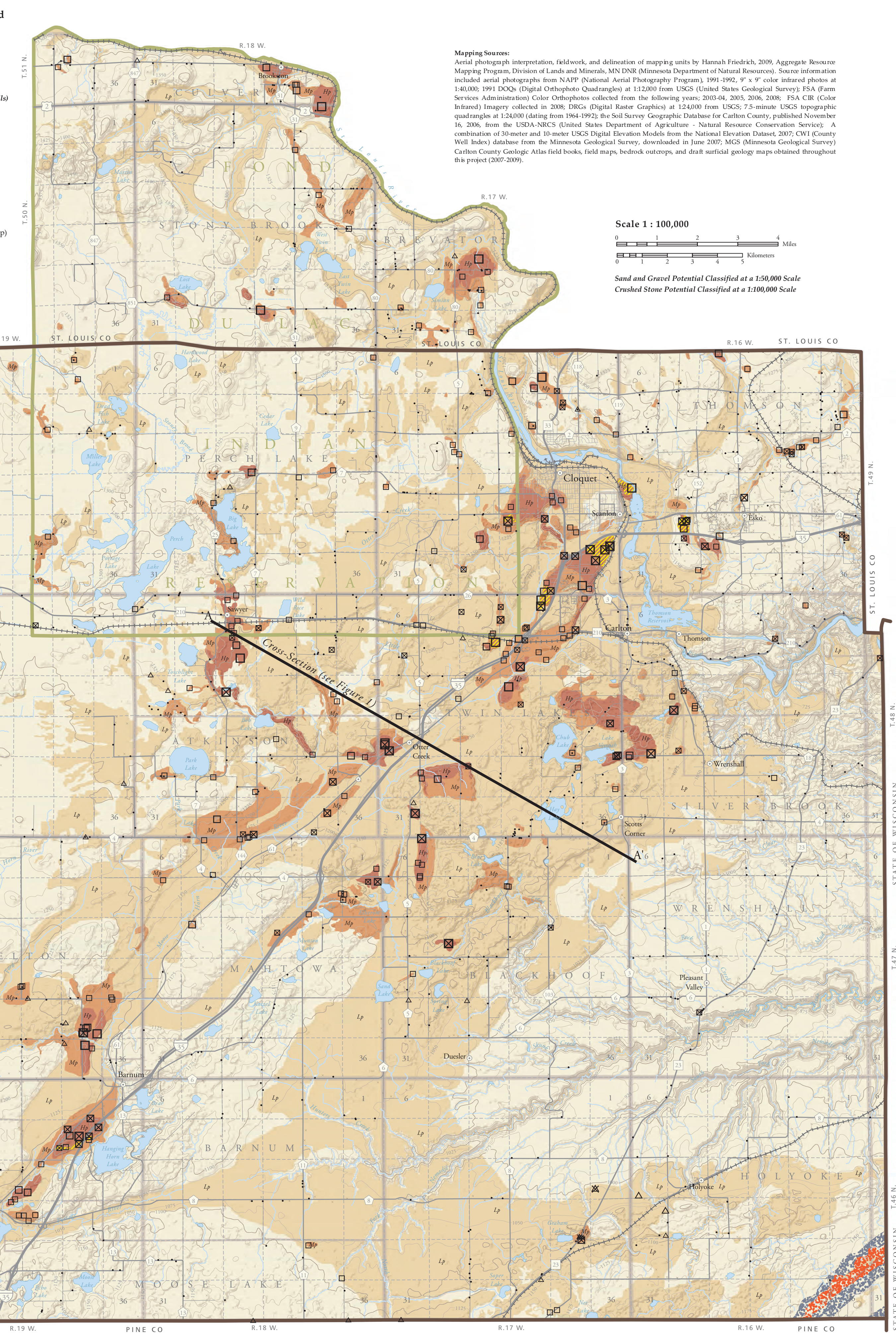
**Topographic relief or hillshade:** created from a combination of 30-meter and 10-meter digital elevation models (DEM) from the USGS National Data Center, 2007.  
GIS and Cartography by Kevin J. Hasson, MN DNR, Division of Lands and Minerals. Copy edited by Nick Kroka, MN DNR Division of Waters.

**Base Map and Generalized Aggregate Resources Legend**

**Transportation Features**  
 Interstate Highway  
 US Highway  
 MN Highway  
 County Road  
 Township and Other Roads  
 Municipal Roads  
 Railroad Tracks

**Physical Features**  
 Lake  
 River or Stream  
 Drainage Ditches  
 100 Foot Elevation Contours  
 25 Foot Elevation Contours  
 Topographic Relief/Hillshade  
 Altitude = 315, Altitude = 45

**Other Features**  
 Eskers  
 Populated Places  
 MOOSE LAKE  
 Gravel Pits - Size Relative to Areal Extent  
 Gravel Pits (MnDOT Evaluated)  
 Sand Pits - Less than 5 Acres  
 Sand Pits (MnDOT Evaluated)  
 Field Observations  
 County Well Index Locations  
 Cross-Section Line (see Figure 1)  
 High Potential for Sand & Gravel (Hp)  
 Moderate Potential for Sand & Gravel (Mp)  
 Low Potential for Sand & Gravel (Lp)  
 Limited Potential for Sand & Gravel (Lp)  
 Depleted Mining Lands  
 Moderate Potential for Crushed Stone  
 Low Potential for Crushed Stone



**AGGREGATE RESOURCES MAP LEGEND**

**AGGREGATE RESOURCE POTENTIAL:** Aggregate potential is defined as an assessment of the relative probability that an aggregate deposit exists within a given mapping unit. For the purpose of this study, aggregate potential is defined as an assessment of the relative probability that an aggregate deposit exists within a given mapped unit and is classified within the range of potential observed in the study area. Almost all emphasis is placed on geologic evidence, physical parameters such as areal extent, and interpretation at the reconnaissance level, rather than upon economic feasibility, site-specific evaluation, and environmental permitting, which vary across time and at different locations. Important site-specific factors such as ownership, zoning, protected waters and wetlands, sensitive or protected environments, permitting, distance to markets, royalties, and individual site characteristics such as access all contribute to the feasibility of mining specific parcels; however, these factors are not considered in this reconnaissance-level study. Sand and gravel resources are classified at a scale of 1:50,000.

**SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL FOR SAND AND GRAVEL RESOURCES:** Units inferred to contain sand and gravel resource potential. Data for these units exhibit geological characteristics associated with sand-and-gravel-bearing landforms. Existing gravel pit and Mn/DOT aggregate sources lying within these units are considered identified or known resources which increases the level of confidence for the mapping unit.

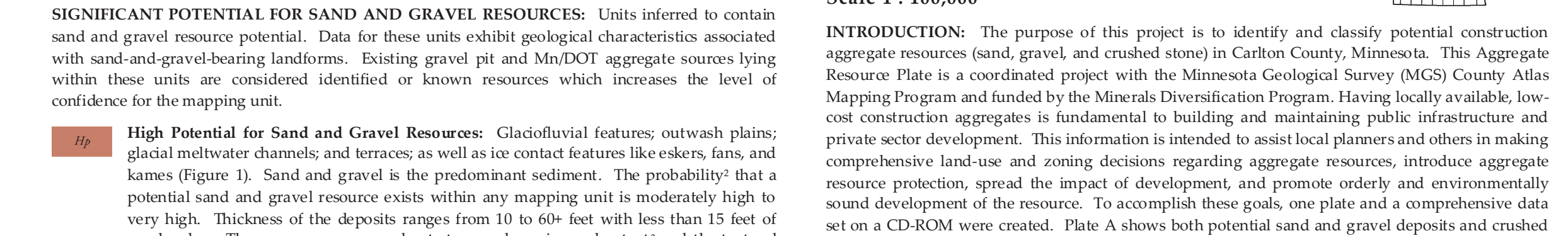
**High Potential for Sand and Gravel Resources:** Glacioluvial features, outwash plains; glacial meltwater channels and terraces, as well as ice contact features like eskers, fans, and kames (Figure 1). Sand and gravel is the predominant sediment. The probability that a potential sand and gravel resource exists within any mapping unit is moderately high to very high. Thickness of the deposits ranges from 10 to 60+ feet with less than 15 feet of overburden. These resources are moderate to very large in areal extent and the textural characteristics are good to very good. The quality is moderately high to very high.

**Moderate Potential for Sand and Gravel Resources:** Glacioluvial features, outwash plains; glacial meltwater channels and terraces, as well as ice contact features like eskers, fans, and kames (Figure 1). Sand and gravel is the predominant sediment. The probability that a potential sand and gravel resource exists within any mapping unit is moderate to very high. Deposit thickness ranges from 10 to 50+ feet with less than 20 feet of overburden. These resources are moderately small to large in areal extent and the textural characteristics are moderately good to good. The quality is typically moderate to high.

**Non-significant Potential for Sand and Gravel Resources:** Units that generally have little or no potential for significant aggregate resources. These units either have data exhibiting geological characteristics that are typically not consistent with significant aggregate resources or have a lack of data to infer a higher potential. Units typically contain clay, silt, fine sand, unsorted sediments (fill), or very thin layers of sand and gravel. Units may include aggregate resources that are too small to map (<10 acres).

**Low Potential for Sand and Gravel Resources:** Glacioluvial features, ice-walled lakes, outwash plains, glacial meltwater channels, and terraces; ice contact features like eskers, fans, and alluvial channels. Predominant sediment varies and can include sand, sand with gravel, and/or silty sand and gravel. The probability that a potential resource exists within this unit is low to moderately low. Thickness of the deposits ranges from 5 to 75+ feet with overburden ranging from 0 to 50+ feet. These resources are generally moderately small in areal extent and the textural characteristics are poor to moderately good. The quality ranges from low to moderately high.

**Limited Potential for Sand and Gravel Resources:** Units that include glacial features such as ground moraines, end moraines, lake plains, and small alluvial features such as flood plains and streams. The deposits of this unit contain one or more of the following clay with boulders, silt, sand, and/or gravel. The probability that a significant sand and gravel resource exists within this unit is very low to low. The thickness of these deposits is typically less than 10 feet but can range from 0 to 30+ feet with overburden thickness ranging from 0 to 20+ feet. The aggregate resources occurring in this unit are very small to small in areal extent. The textural characteristics are very poor to moderately poor with the quality ranging from very low to moderately low.



**DEPLETED SAND AND GRAVEL RESOURCES**

**Depleted Mining Lands:** Information gathered from aerial photographs and verbal communication on areas showing indications that sand and gravel resources are significantly depleted. For Carlton County and Fond du Lac Reservation delineated areas are 20 acres or larger. Indicators include reclamation of mine lands, secondary use of mine lands, and/or reclaimed extent of mine lands bounded by other land uses. Additional resources may exist at depth. Areas labeled as depleted are limited to mine lands where aggregate resources have been partially or entirely extracted and do not include development (i.e. residential or commercial) over resources that have not been mined.

**CRUSHED STONE RESOURCE POTENTIAL:** Two factors control the distribution of crushed stone potential in Carlton County and the Fond du Lac Reservation: bedrock quality and thickness of overburden. Bedrock mapping was completed by Minnesota Geological Survey (Boerboom, 2009) and crushed stone potential is based on these bedrock units. Only two bedrock mapping units, a basalt (MGS map unit Pn0) and a metatoolic granitoid containing two identified units defined as porphyritic metabasalt (MGS map unit Pvg) and metagabbro (MGS map unit Pga) appear to have physical characteristics suitable for crushed stone. The second factor, overburden thickness, was based on broad observations of bedrock elevation and thickness of glacial overburden (Setterholm, 2009). Exposures of bedrock are observed as isolated knobs. In areas where well data are available, overburden was interpreted to grade away from the outcrop to approximately 25+ feet thick. Therefore, crushed stone potential is conservatively delineated and spatially limited to areas near outcrops. Crushed stone resources are classified at a scale of 1:100,000.

**SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL FOR CRUSHED STONE RESOURCES:** Basalt and metatoolic rocks suitable for aggregate use. Neither formation has been quality tested; however, physical characteristics exhibit a suitable hardness and competency to be considered for crushed stone potential. Both of these units are inferred to be relatively thick (greater than 25 feet), with overburden thicknesses estimated to range from 0 to 10 feet.

**Moderate Potential for Crushed Stone Resources:** Metatoolic rocks exposed near or at the surface with overburden thickness estimated to range from 0 to 10 feet. Although observed fabric may cause preferential fracturing, the rock unit appears to be significantly competent to withstand crushing. Basalt, identified as part of the Chongatana Formation, exposed near or at the surface with overburden thickness ranging from 0 to 10 feet. This rock was observed to be massive with limited fabric and appears to be significantly competent to withstand crushing.

**NONSIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL FOR CRUSHED STONE RESOURCES:**

**Low Potential for Crushed Stone Resources:** Metatoolic rocks and basalt with overburden thickness ranging from 10 to 20 feet.

**Limited Potential for Crushed Stone Resources:** Metatoolic rocks and basalt with overburden thickness ranging from 20 to 50+ feet and other metasediments and sandstones with overburden thicknesses ranging from 0 to 50+ feet. Metasediments and sandstones are friable and have a strong fabric making these rock types unsuitable for crushed stone resources.

**IDENTIFIED SAND AND GRAVEL RESOURCES:** Locations where sand and gravel have been or are currently being mined. Several sources of information identify gravel mine locations: topographic maps, aerial photographs, soil surveys, MGS field mapping sites, Mn/DOT files, fieldwork, gravel operators, and other miscellaneous sources. Gravel mines range in size from less than 1 acre to greater than 50 acres and may be active, inactive, depleted, or reclaimed. The aggregate quality of the mines varies. Size of plot indicates the relative areal extent of the pit.

**Small** <5 Acres  
**Medium** 5-15 Acres  
**Large** >15 Acres

**Gravel Pits** Contain significant amount of sand and gravel. Includes sites that have been or are currently being mined.  
**Gravel Pits - Mn/DOT ASIS:** Sites were identified by Mn/DOT as part of the Aggregate Source Information System (ASIS). Some locations shown on this map were modified to better correlate to present gravel pit boundaries.

**Sand Pits** Contain significant amount of sand with little to no gravel. Includes sites that have been or are currently being mined.  
**Sand Pits - Mn/DOT ASIS:** Sites were identified by Mn/DOT as part of ASIS. Although they are identified as a potential resource site, sites have not necessarily been mined or geologically evaluated. Some locations were modified to better correlate to present sand pit boundaries.

**Field Observations:** A total of 1212 field observations were logged during the spring and fall of 2008. Pits were also inventoried during this time, including 372 gravel pits, 33 sand pits, and 19 borrow and clay pits. Surficial geologic sediment, glacial stratigraphy, and bedrock formations were observed and mapped. Bedrock exposures for basements, judicial districts, construction projects (trenches, cable, pipe, utility), and animal holes. Field observations of gravel pits and sand pits are shown on the map as Gravel Pits and Sand Pits (See Identified Sand and Gravel Resources).

**County Well Index Database Locations:** CWI dataset ([www.health.state.mn.us/data/whi/cwi/](http://www.health.state.mn.us/data/whi/cwi/)) is maintained by the Minnesota Geological Survey (C-19, pt. A, 6 p. scale 1:100,000). *Unlabeled* CWI data are assumed to be accurately located. *Unlabeled* CWI data are used as a source only if the address information on the well log can be verified and located using address information and online address location websites. Approximately 5700 wells located within Carlton County and Fond du Lac Reservation and the surrounding area were referenced to create this map.

**AGGREGATE RESOURCES MAPPING RESULTS**

**Figure 2: Inset Map of Aggregate Resources**

Sand and gravel resources account for most of the aggregate potential within Carlton County and the Fond du Lac Reservation in comparison to crushed stone. Three broad geographical regions of sand and gravel potential occur within the mapped area (see Figure 2).  
**The Western Portion** of the county contains smaller, isolated pockets of sand and gravel formed by the ice contact and outwash features. The ice contact and outwash deposits of this area are smaller (5-10+ acres) and result in thin (5-25 feet) deposits with finer texture, more sand and a lower stone content. The high water table creates large peat expanses which increases the amount of possible overburden and reduces the amount of easily excavated aggregate material.  
**The Central Corridor** is an approximately 12-mile-wide region paralleling Interstate 35 and the St. Louis River. Large, generally north-trending glacial outwash channels deposited coarse sand and gravel in terraces. West of the outwash channels, eskers, or sinuous ridges of sand and gravel, and their associated outwash fans contain coarse aggregate material. Deposits are generally larger (10-20+ acres) and thicker (10-50+ feet) than deposits in the Western Portion. Overburden in this region is generally less than 5 feet thick and the water table is low, which restricted peat growth to smaller areas.  
**The Southeastern Portion** contains the former Glacial Lake Superior Lake Basin and surrounding beaches. This region consists of clayey glacial till, lake basin clay, and sandy beaches which result in natural scarcity of coarse aggregate material. Remnant till located around the perimeter of the basin was washed, which produced a few small, isolated pockets of coarser aggregate material. The overburden is less than 10 feet thick and the water table is variable throughout this region.

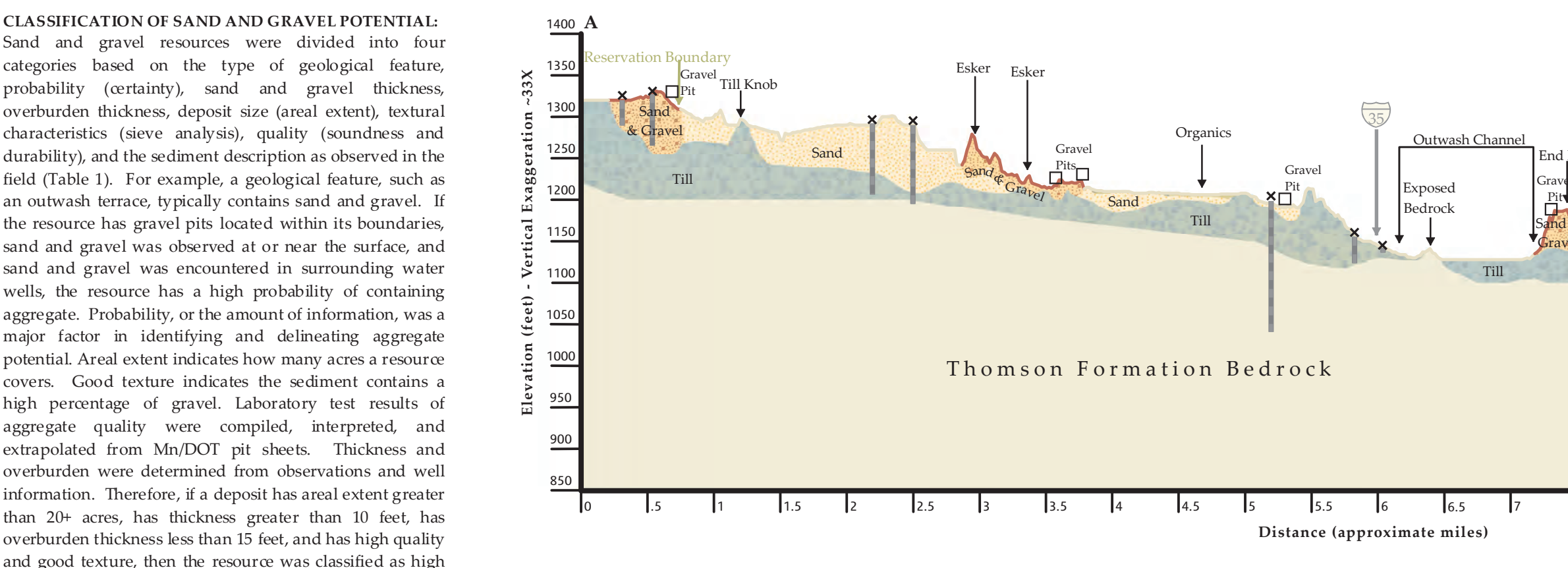
Overall, within Carlton County and Fond du Lac Reservation sand and gravel quality is high due to the competent nature of Superior Lake source rock. However, the local influence of soft bedrock increases sand and could potentially limit use for concrete. Many of the easily accessible deposits closest to main roads in both the Central Corridor and Western Half are either depleted or are close to depletion. Significant mineable deposits remain but are farther from areas of need such as population centers and main roads.

Except for a few outcrops, the overall bedrock quality is generally poor, which restricts its use as a crushed stone resource. The two bedrock units suitable for crushed stone are basalt and a metatoolic formation. Metatoolic rocks are exposed in small outcrops near Kettle River in the southwestern portion of Carlton County. Five outcrops of this bedrock unit were directly observed in DNR and MGS mapping and appear to have the durability, or competency, to be considered for crushed stone potential. Other outcrops of this rock type exist yet their suitability as a crushed stone resource has not been tested in a materials lab, the aggregate potential is based on direct geologic observations and is conservatively delineated. Basalt is exposed in the extreme southwestern corner of Carlton County. Although this rock has not been further tested, there are several quarries within this unit in Pine County, Minnesota and in Wisconsin. Therefore, it is classified as moderate potential as a crushed stone resource.

**Table 1: Classification of Sand and Gravel Potential**

Characteristics	SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES		NONSIGNIFICANT RESOURCES	
	High Potential	Moderate Potential	Low Potential	Limited Potential
<b>Surficial Geology Features</b>	Eskers, outwash channels, outwash terraces, ice contact features	Collapsed outwash channels, outwash terraces, ice contact features	Alluvial terraces, glacial beaches, outwash channels, ice contact features	Alluvial valleys, glacial lake plains, moraines
<b>Predominant Sediment</b>	Sand and gravel	Sand with gravel	Silty sand to sand and gravel	Clay/silt/clay sand and gravel
<b>Probability*</b>	Moderately high to very high	Moderate to very high	Low to moderately low	Very low to low
<b>Sand and Gravel Thickness (in feet)</b>	10-60+	10-50+	5-75+	0-30+
<b>Overburden Thickness (in feet)</b>	0-15	0-20	0-50+	0-200+
<b>Sand and Gravel Deposit Size (total acres)†</b>	Moderate to very large (10-50+ acres)	Moderately small to moderately large (10-20 acres)	Small to moderately small (0-10 acres)	Very small (0-10 acres)
<b>Sand and Gravel Textural Characteristics†</b>	very good	good	moderately good	moderately poor
<b>Sand and Gravel Quality†</b>	Moderately high to very high	Moderate to high	Low to moderately high	Very low to moderately low

**Footnotes associated with potential sand and gravel resources seen throughout map text and Figure 1**  
**\*Probability:** Having or yielding a value that is small in size or quantity and variation is attributed to lack of data.  
**†Quality:** The degree of certainty that aggregate exists within a mapping unit largely defined by the amount of available information.  
**‡Areal Extent:** The size, horizontal extent, or distribution of a unit (e.g., area in acres). This attribute does not necessarily reflect the size of an individual polygon but the size of a deposit found within that polygon.  
**§Textural Characteristics:** Particle size distribution defined as the percent of gravel or sand vs. silt or clay (Eq. 2, see analysis).  
**¶Quality:** The physical characteristics of the material, such as soundness (e.g., magnesium sulfate test), durability (Los Angeles Rattler test), and percent of deleterious rock types such as shale, iron oxide, and unsorted chert.



**CLASSIFICATION OF SAND AND GRAVEL POTENTIAL:** Sand and gravel resources were divided into four categories based on the type of geological feature, probability (certainty), sand and gravel thickness, overburden thickness, deposit size (areal extent), textural characteristics (sieve analysis), quality (soundness and durability), and the sediment description as observed in the field (Table 1). For example, a geological feature, such as an outwash terrace, typically contains sand and gravel. If the resource has gravel pits located within its boundaries, sand and gravel was observed at or near the surface, and sand and gravel was encountered in surrounding water wells, the resource has a high probability of containing aggregate. Probability, or the amount of information, was a major factor in identifying and delineating aggregate potential. Areal extent indicates how many acres a resource covers. Good texture indicates the sediment contains a high percentage of gravel. Laboratory test results of aggregate quality were compiled, interpreted, and extrapolated from Mn/DOT pit sheets. Thickness and overburden were determined from observations and well information. Therefore, if a deposit has areal extent greater than 20+ acres, has thickness greater than 10 feet, has overburden thickness less than 15 feet, and has high quality and good texture, then the resource was classified as high potential.

The areas delineated as limited potential for sand and gravel resources did not meet the above-mentioned criteria. The resources may not exist; were lacking supporting data sources (very low probability); were too small in areal extent; were too thin; were under too thick of an overburden; consisted of more sand than gravel; or did not meet quality specifications.

The only material classified as having significant potential. Surface and subsurface sediment and their associations were interpreted from field observations, the gravel pit survey, and county well information. Bedrock lithology in this area consists of Thomson (gravelack) and Fond du Lac (sandstone) Formations (Boerboom, 2009). Bedrock elevation was derived from the Depth to Bedrock Plate created by Setterholm, 2009. Although exposures of bedrock occur within an outwash channel, the bedrock here is not suitable for crushed stone.

**Figure 1: Cross Section of Predominant Sediment Relative to Sand and Gravel Potential**

**General References**  
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