

You will be amazed at the findings of our research project!



The Golden Research Project



My first realization that potential frac sand properties could be registered in Wisconsin for 10 years and extended to 20 years with the proper documentation prompted me to wonder how much impact this possibility would have on the land values and future land usage in the Towns where they were located. After visiting with Dr.Ted Auch and

Attorney Liz Feil, we designed our Golden Project to find out more. While we did not retrieve information from the Register of Deeds offices in all Counties, we set out to obtain records on Registered Lands in representative counties in Western Wisconsin. You, as a Frac Sand Sentinel Reader, will find the results of this Golden Research Project of great interest in terms of FUTURE.

The process of registering land for frac sand mining in Wisconsin looks at land on a case by case basis, without considering the cumulative or future environmental impacts of the industry. The goal of the map was to create a tool for stakeholders and residents to understand the future scale and scope of frac sand mining across West Central Wisconsin.

We also considered the Wisconsin DNR's "cranberry exemption," which allows cranberry growers to mine sand, and is allowing many cranberry growers to take advantage of the high demand for sand by selling their sand on the frac sand market.

In total, the potential for mine expansion in West Central Wisconsin could consume an additional 212,202 acres or 331 square miles. This analysis also included the water use of

the industry, and found that an astounding 30 billion gallons of water were used between January 2010 and December 2017. Using the limited data available to us, we also were able to determine “gallons of water to tons of sand mined” ratios for the years of 2013, 2014, 2015, and/or 2017; we found that water usage varies greatly depending on the mine, with ratios ranging between 30-39 to as much as 521 gallons of water per ton of sand.

You might like to know that the legal basis for registering lands is found in NR sections 135.53-135.64 which govern the nonmetallic mineral deposit registration program.

Please check out the research project at this site:

<https://www.fractracker.org/2018/11/wisconsin-nonmetallic-mining/>

I think you will find the study of great interest along with a great many other extensive pieces of work accomplished by Dr. Ted Auch for the people in Wisconsin who have been working so diligently to more fully understand this industry and to protect themselves and their children from some of the challenges

posed by the mines, processing plants and trans-load facilities that have blossomed here over the past 10 years.

The Golden Project required some extensive teamwork on the part of Liz, Ted and me. We so appreciated the work of several others who also went to the County Court Houses in Western Wisconsin to retrieve data! Thank you so much for your diligent and sincere work ethic in this collection project. We also thank Ted for writing for and obtaining the grant from STHA, Inc. and then synthesizing the data collected for this critical report on the status of non-metallic mining in our State of Wisconsin.
(PJP)

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Welcome to the Frac Sand Sentinel, a newsletter highlighting resource links, news media accounts, blog posts, correspondence, observations and opinions gathered regarding local actions on, and impacts of, the developing frac sand mining and processing industries.

The content of this newsletter is for informational purposes only. The editor of the Frac Sand Sentinel does not accept any responsibility or liability for the use or misuse of the content of this newsletter or reliance by any persons on the newsletters contents.

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: CCC-WIS.COM and for additional information, [click here](#) for panoramic aerial views of frac sand mines, processing plants, and trans-load facilities.