

# Getting started with GeMS, part 2

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Digital Mapping Techniques  
June 9, 2020  
<https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/Info/dmt/>

[github.com/wgnhs/gems](https://github.com/wgnhs/gems)



Wisconsin Geological  
and Natural History Survey  
DIVISION OF EXTENSION  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



MIT Press, 2020

## [Datafeminism.io](https://datafeminism.io)

Reading Group: videos and notes

Relates data visualization to feminist work on race, class, gender, and other aspects.



[wgnhs/gems](#) Unwatch 1 Star 2 Fork 1

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WGNHS developed tools and documentation for working with the USGS Geologic Map Schema (GeMS)

Manage topics

[28 commits](#) [2 branches](#) [0 packages](#) [0 releases](#) [1 environment](#) [1 contributor](#)

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|   |   |                                |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| 📄 ometone Update README.md              |   | Latest commit 68951b5 on Mar 9 |
| 📄 DMT2019-Moving-Maps-to-GeMS.pdf       | add slides PDF from DMT 2019 presentation                 | 13 months ago                  |
| 📄 DMT2019-moving-maps-to-gems-sc...     | add script of the DMT talk                                | 12 months ago                  |
| 📄 DecodeCodedDomains.py                 | tool to decode coded domains into tables in a geodatabase | 14 months ago                  |
| 📄 DecodeCodedDomains.tbx                | tool to decode coded domains into tables in a geodatabase | 14 months ago                  |
| 📄 GeMS Layers and Tables Quick Refer... | update the quick reference sheets                         | 12 months ago                  |
| 📄 GeMS Layers and Tables Quick Refer... | update the quick reference sheets                         | 12 months ago                  |
| 📄 README.md                             | Update README.md  | 3 months ago                   |
| 📄 Workflow Overview_05-19-19.pdf        | add workflow overview PDF                                 | 14 months ago                  |
| 📄 metadata-to-tables.py                 | Add file via upload                                       | 14 months ago                  |

📄 README.md

## gems

Tools and documentation for working with the USGS Geologic Map Schema (GeMS), developed at the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey (WGNHS). Please direct questions to Caroline at [caroline.rose@wisc.edu](mailto:caroline.rose@wisc.edu)

### Resources developed by WGNHS:

**Workflow documentation:**

[Workflow Overview \(PDF\)](#): This is a general overview of the steps we followed when converting previously published maps into GeMS

[DMT2019-Moving Maps to GeMS](#): Slides and the script from a presentation at the Digital Mapping Techniques meeting, May 2019, Butte, Montana. An almost identical presentation was given at the NCGDPP workshop in Golden, CO in September of 2019.

[GeMS Layers and Tables Quick Reference](#): This document summarizes all fields for any GeMS layer or table. This mostly reproduces the text in the GeMS manuscript. It is meant to be printed so that one layer is summarized on one sheet of paper. We found this useful because it helps narrow down the reference material. Provided in both doc and pdf format.

**Specialty tools:**

[metadata-to-tables.py](#): A python script for extracting any Enumerated Domain Values and their corresponding definitions from FGDC metadata in .txt format. Outputs a .csv file for each Enumerated Domain.

[DecodeCodedDomains.tbx](#): An ArcMap toolbox with one tool in it. It references the .py script of the same name. The tool accepts a geodatabase as input, and it turns every coded domain into a table within the database.

### Other resources:

USGS GeMS official documentation: <https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/info/standards/GeMS/>

USGS GeMS Toolkit: [https://github.com/usgs/GeMS\\_Toolkit/](https://github.com/usgs/GeMS_Toolkit/)

NCGMP09 on GitHub: <https://github.com/ngcmp09>

National Geological and Geophysical Data Preservation Program (NGGDP) on GitHub: <https://github.com/nggdp>

Arizona GS web map of a NCGMP09 map: <https://github.com/arizona/geologic-map-of-arizona>

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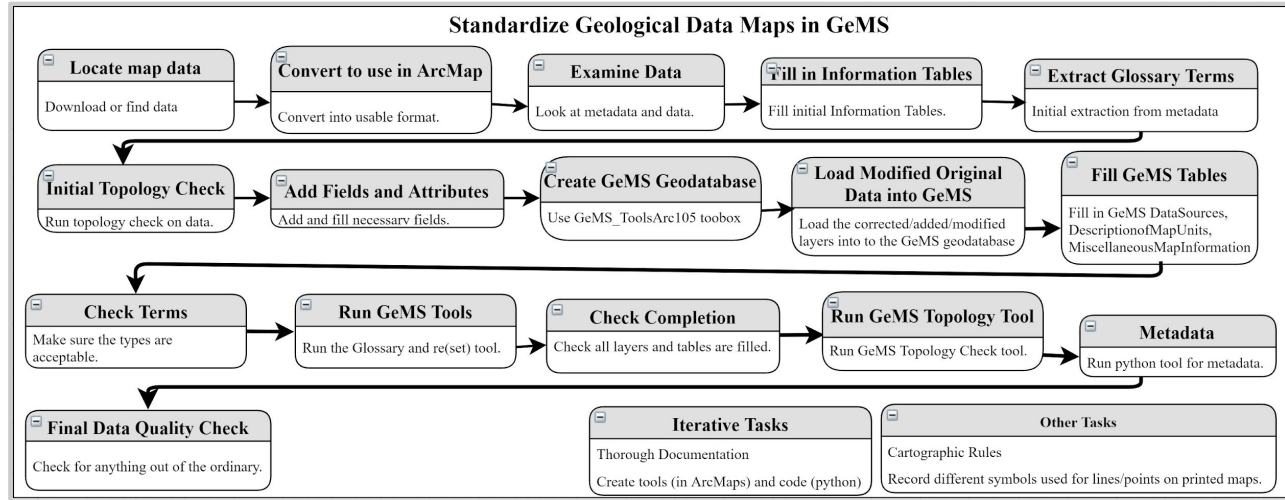
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[github.com/  
wgnhs/gems](https://github.com/wgnhs/gems)

← Summary of  
resources

# Workflow Overview

(PDF on github)





| Workflow Step             | Basic Steps   | Tools/Scripts/Templates  |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| Locate Data               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create folders to house initial data, edited data, and eventually GeMS data.</li> <li>Download from WGNHS website or</li> <li>Find in past project folders</li> </ul>  |  |
| Convert to use in ArcMaps | If in .E00 format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use conversion tool</li> <li>Create a new file geodatabase (with correct spatial information) and within that create a new feature dataset.</li> <li>Import the converted shapefiles into the geodatabase/feature dataset.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Import from E00 (Conversion) (tool)</li> <li>Create new File Geodatabase</li> <li>Create new Feature Dataset</li> </ul> |
|                           | If already in a geodatabase: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a new file geodatabase (with correct spatial information) and within that create a new feature dataset.</li> <li>Import the other geodatabase files into the geodatabase/feature dataset.</li> </ul>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create new File Geodatabase</li> <li>Create new Feature Dataset</li> </ul>  |
| Examine Data              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extract metadata from larger metadata txt (if necessary).</li> <li>Write down the initial data type in the progress table.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Run in-house extract from metadata script</li> </ul>  |
|                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fill in tables</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Templates:</li> </ul>   |



## MAP SYMBOLS



## master glossary



Abandoned beaches and wave-cut bluffs.



Cutbanks of large abandoned river channels.



Direction of flow of proglacial streams.



Low, narrow drumlins formed during the last glacial advance. ~~Arrowhead indicates direction of glacial movement.~~



High, wide drumlins formed during an earlier glacial episode and only slightly modified during the last glacial episode.



glacial striation  
Direction of subglacial scratches on rock surfaces.



Glacial ridges, transverse to ice-movement direction, including ice-thrust masses in map unit gt and small end moraines in map units gu, gc, gg, gm, sg, and p.




Eskers, arrowhead point in direction of stream flow.





|    | A       | B  | C   | D                |
|----|---------|--|---|------------------|
| 1  | MapUnit | Name   | FullName  | Age              |
| 2  |         | Modern Sediment  |   |                  |
| 3  | Msu     | Modern Stream Sediment                                     | Modern Stream Sediment  | Holocene         |
| 4  | Mbt     | Talus  | Talus of Barron Quartzite   | Holocene         |
| 5  | Mpm     | Organic Sediment   | Organic Sediment  | Holocene         |
| 6  |         | Copper Falls Formation                                     |   |                  |
| 7  | Csu     | Meltwater-Stream Sediment                                  | Meltwater-Stream Sediment of the Copper Falls Formation (Undifferentiated)          | Late Pleistocene |
| 8  | Css     | Eroded Meltwater Stream Sediment                           | Eroded Meltwater Stream Sediment of the Copper Falls Formation (Undifferentiated)   | Late Pleistocene |
| 9  |         | Chetek Member  |   | Late Pleistocene |
| 10 | C5su    | Meltwater-Stream Sediment of the Chetek Member             | Meltwater-Stream Sediment of the Chetek Member of the Copper Falls Formation        | Late Pleistocene |
| 11 | C5sp    | Pitted Meltwater-Stream Sediment of the Chetek Member      | Pitted Meltwater-Stream Sediment of the Chetek Member of the Copper Falls Formation | Late Pleistocene |
| 12 |         | Sylvan Lake Member   |   |                  |
| 13 | C4uh    | Hummocky Glacial Sediment of the Sylvan Lake Member        | Hummocky Glacial Sediment of the Sylvan Lake Member of the Copper Falls Formation   | Late Pleistocene |
| 14 | C4uu    | Glacial Sediment of the Sylvan Lake Member                 | Glacial Sediment of the Sylvan Lake Member of the Copper Falls Formation            | Late Pleistocene |
| 15 | C4sp    | Pitted Meltwater-Stream Sediment of the Sylvan Lake Member | Pitted Meltwater-Stream Sediment of the Sylvan Lake Member                          | Late Pleistocene |



|                        |  |  |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Initial Topology Check | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Run initial topology check of feature dataset new topology. (Select lines and polygon)</li> <li>• Load rules from template folder (TopologyRules.rul)</li> <li>• In an editor session, open the Error Inspector tool</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add New&gt;Topology... to feature dataset tool (right click on feature dataset)</li> <li>• Load TopologyRules.rul in New&gt;Topology... tool</li> <li>•  Error Inspector tool</li> </ul> |
|------------------------|--|--|

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Go through each error and correct as needed</li> <li>• Save editor session</li> </ul> <p>Check line directions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check that lines are going the same direction as PDF map</li> <li>• Use long hash right lines for lines that have designs on the side (like cutbanks) and a line with an arrow for lines like drumlins</li> <li>• Flip line where necessary:</li> <li>• 1 line: in editor session click on line until vertices show, right click and select Flip</li> <li>• Multiple lines: select all lines that need to be changed and use the Flip Line (Editing) Tool</li> </ul> <p>Lines to Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check if any lines need to be changed to points (line to Orientation Points or Direction Points)</li> <li>• Select lines that need to be turned into points and export as its own</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Symbology</li> <li>• Editing Session right click on line &gt; Flip tool</li> <li>• Multiple lines: Flip Line (Editing) tool</li> </ul><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select by Attributes... (example: Type = 'surface slope of stream plains')</li> <li>• Data &gt; Export Data...</li> <li>• Add Geometry Attributes (Data Management) Tool</li> <li>• Field Calculator for Azimuth in</li> </ul> |
|--|--|--|





# Quick-reference Sheets

(PDF on github)

MapUnitPolys (polygon feature class) required

Fields:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| MapUnit            | Short plain-text key (identifier) for the map unit. Example values: "Qal", "Tg", "Kit", "water", "Trc3", etc. Foreign key to DescriptionOfMapUnits table. Null values not permitted—a mapped polygon must have an assigned map unit  |
| IdentityConfidence | How confidently is this polygon identified as MapUnit? Value is usually "certain", "questionable", or "unspecified". Null values not permitted. Suggest setting default value to "certain". Values must be defined in Glossary.  |
| Label              | Determined from the appropriate value of the Label in the DescriptionOfMapUnits table and IdentityConfidence: if IdentityConfidence = "questionable", then append "?" to Label value from the DescriptionOfMapUnits table. Allows for subscripts and special characters. Null values permitted |
| Symbol             | References an area fill symbol (background color + optional pattern). Area fill symbols must be defined in an accompanying style file. If Esri Cartographic Representations are used to symbolize map units, the value may be null or blank. Null values permitted                             |
| DataSourceID       | Foreign key to DataSources table, to track provenance of each data element. Null values not permitted  |
| Notes              | Optional field. Free text for additional information specific to this polygon. Null values permitted   |
| MapUnitPolys_ID    | Primary key. Example Values = MUP1, MUP2, MUP3, etc. Values must be unique in database. Null values not permitted  |

Topology rules:

- Polygons must not overlap
- No gaps between polygons
- Boundaries must be overlain by lines in ContactsAndFaults

Note that not all lines in ContactsAndFaults necessarily bound polygons: polygons separated by concealed contacts or faults may have been merged during construction of the database; also some faults, concealed contacts, and concealed faults may dangle (terminate within polygons) and thus not separate polygons. Note also that open water (lakes, double-line rivers), glaciers, and unmapped areas are polygons, and so must have non-null MapUnit values (e.g., water, glacier, unmapped). Water and glacier areas commonly are not labeled (Label=null).



## MapUnitPolys (polygon feature class) required

### Fields:

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| MapUnit            | Short plain-text key (identifier) for the map unit. Example values: "Qal", "Tg", "Kit", "water", "Trc3", etc. Foreign key to DescriptionOfMapUnits table. Null values not permitted—a mapped polygon must have an assigned map unit  |
| IdentityConfidence | How confidently is this polygon identified as MapUnit? Value is usually "certain", "questionable", or "unspecified". Null values not permitted. Suggest setting default value to "certain". Values must be defined in Glossary.  |
| Label              | Determined from the appropriate value of the Label in the DescriptionOfMapUnits table and IdentityConfidence: if IdentityConfidence = "questionable", then append "?" to Label value from the DescriptionOfMapUnits table. Allows for subscripts and special characters. Null values permitted |
| Symbol             | References an area fill symbol (background color + optional pattern). Area fill symbols must be defined in an accompanying style file. If Esri Cartographic Representations are used to symbolize map units, the value may be null or blank. Null values permitted                             |
| DataSourceID       | Foreign key to DataSources table, to track provenance of each data element. Null values not permitted  |
| Notes              | Optional field. Free text for additional information specific to this polygon. Null values permitted   |
| MapUnitPolys_ID    | Primary key. Example Values = MUP1, MUP2, MUP3, etc. Values must be unique in database. Null values not permitted  |

### Topology rules:

- Polygons must not overlap
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# Quick-reference Sheets

(PDF on github)



# GeMS is flexible

## DECISIONS:

estimating confidence values

terms to use for 'type' attributes

represent features as points or as lines

hierarchy key assignment

paragraph style descriptions

how to cite the map

which definitions to use in the Glossary

which layers are best suited for which points

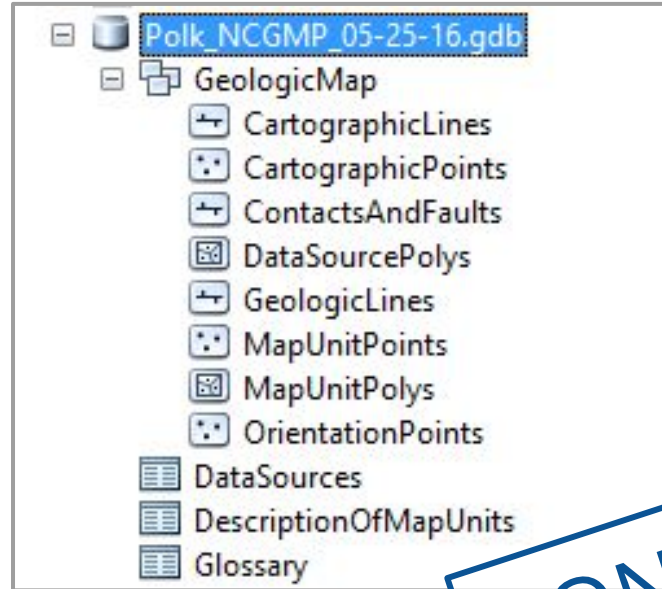
etc.



# GeMS is flexible

## DECISIONS:

- estimating confidence values —————→ Standard list of values
- terms to use for 'type' attributes —————→ Draw from master glossary
- represent features as points or as lines —————→ New feature classes as needed
- hierarchy key assignment
- paragraph style descriptions
- how to cite the map
- which definitions to use in the Glossary
- which layers are best suited for which points
- etc.



**DONE?**





# Pleistocene Pleistocene Pleistocene Pleistocene Pleistocene & other difficulties



**GeMS Fields Checklist**

**+** “Validate database” script

**Metadata For GeMS Maps -  
Step by Step in ArcCatalog**

**Metadata Summary for GeMS  
Fields**

**+** “FGDC CSDGM2  
Metadata” script



# “GeMS Fields Checklist” (PDF on github)

## Glossary (non-spatial table)

|  |                    |  |
|--|--------------------|--|
|  | Term               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Check paragraphStyles against original map</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Terms are in the master glossary</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Master glossary has the map listed in the 'Maps' column</li></ul> |
|  | Definition         | Look for truncated definitions   |
|  | DefinitionSourceID |  |
|  | ❖ SeeAlso          |  |
|  | <u>TermSrcFld</u>  |  |
|  | TermSrcFC          |  |
|  | Glossary_ID        |  |

## DataSources (non-spatial table)

|  |                |   |
|--|----------------|---|
|  | DataSources_ID | Unique and readable abbreviations of the citations  |
|  | Source         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Cite the entire publication instead of the plate itself.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Citations follow USGS format</li></ul> |
|  | Notes          |   |
|  | URL            | If referencing a past Survey publication, the URL directs to the overall publication, not just the plate.   |

# “Metadata For GeMS Maps - Step by Step in ArcCatalog”

(PDF on github)

ArcCatalog



FGDC metadata



|                     |  |   |   |
|---------------------|--|---|---|
| Overview > Citation | Titles                                 | 2 | Lineage > Source_Information > Source_Citation > Citation_Information               |
| Overview > Citation | FGDC Geospatial Data Presentation Form | 1 | Citation > Citation Information > Geospatial Data Presentation Form                 |
| Overview > Citation | Dates > add a Publication Date         | 1 | Time Period of Content > Time Period Information > Single Date/Time > Calendar Date |
| Overview > Citation | Series > Name                          | 1 | Citation > Citation Information > Series Information > Series Name                  |

Also reference:

The Esri Illustrated Guide to FGDC metadata:

<http://desktop.arcgis.com/en/arcmap/10.6/manage-data/metadata/illustrated-guide-to-complete-fgdc-metadata.htm>

# “Metadata Summary for GeMS Fields” (PDF on github)

| Attribute  | Is an Enumerated Domain | Links between Tables / Feature Classes   | Appears in Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition | Appears in Enumerated_Domain_Value_Definition_Source |
|--|-------------------------|--|---|--|
| MapUnitPolys / MapUnit   | Yes                     | Links to DescriptionOfMapUnits / MapUnit |   |  |
| Any Type field (e.g., in the ContactsAndFaults or GeologicLines feature classes)         | Yes                     | Links to Glossary / Term                 |   |  |
| Any Confidence Field (e.g., ExistenceConfidence, IdentityConfidence, etc.)               | Yes                     | Links to Glossary / Term                 |   |  |
| Any DataSource Field (e.g., DataSourceID, DefinitionSourceID, DescriptionSourceID, etc.) | Yes                     | Links to DataSources / DataSources_ID    |   |  |
| DescriptionOfMapUnits / ParagraphStyle   | Yes                     | Links to Glossary / Term                 |   |  |
| DescriptionOfMapUnits / GeoMaterial  | Yes                     | Links to GeoMaterialDict / Definition *  |   |  |
| DescriptionOfMapUnits / GeoMaterialConfidence  | Yes                     |  |   |  |
| DescriptionOfMapUnits / MapUnit  |                         | Yes                                      |   |  |
| DescriptionOfMapUnits / FullName   |                         |  | Yes   |  |

Metadata summary: MapUnitPolys (polygon feature class) required

| Attribute Label:   | Attribute Domain Values:  |
|--------------------|---|
| MapUnit            | Enumerated Domain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Value drawn from this table.</li> <li>Value_Definition drawn from the “FullName” attribute of the DescriptionOfMapUnits table (linked by foreign key “MapUnit”)</li> <li>Value_Definition_Source is “this report, table DescriptionOfMapUnits”</li> </ul>   |
| IdentityConfidence | Enumerated Domain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Value drawn from this table.</li> <li>Value_Definition drawn from the “Definition” attribute of the Glossary table (linked by foreign key “Term”)</li> <li>Value_Definition_Source drawn from the “Source” attribute of the DataSources table (linked by foreign key “DataSources_ID” connected to the “DefinitionSourceID” in the Glossary table)</li> </ul> |
| Label              | Unrepresentable domain  |
| Symbol             | Unrepresentable domain  |
| DataSourceID       | Enumerated Domain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Value drawn from this table.</li> </ul>   |





J.

E.

g

Attig, John W. and Rawling, J. Elmer, III, 2020, Quaternary Geology of Oneida County, Wisconsin: Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey M-507, scale 1:100,000.

Map 507

<http://wgnhs.wisc.edu/pubs/m507/>  
<https://000972/>

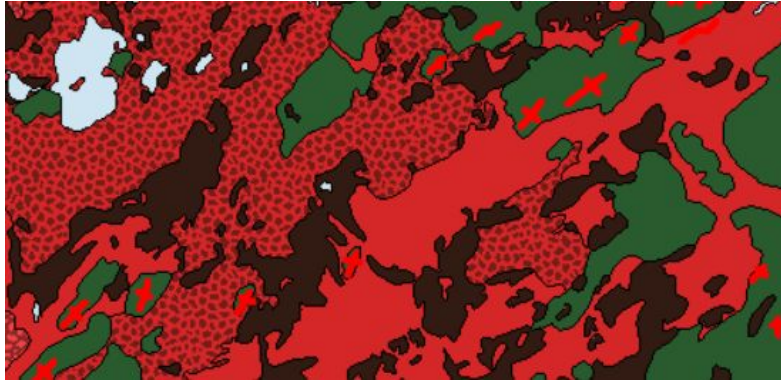


# A shift in focus

Support our 500K statewide surficial compilation project

- Cartographic Representations have been helpful for this
- ArcGIS online helps collaborators working remotely

## □ Cartographic Representations



| DataSourceID                     | MapUnitPolys_ID | RuleID |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| Forest_Pleistocene_Simpkins_1987 | MUP1            | ts     |
| Forest_Pleistocene_Simpkins_1987 | MUP2            | p      |
| Forest_Pleistocene_Simpkins_1987 | MUP3            | sup    |
| Forest_Pleistocene_Simpkins_1987 | MUP4            | sup    |
| Forest_Pleistocene_Simpkins_1987 | MUP5            | sup    |
| Forest_Pleistocene_Simpkins_1987 | MUP6            | ts     |
| Forest_Pleistocene_Simpkins_1987 | MUP7            | p      |
| Forest_Pleistocene_Simpkins_1987 | MUP8            | p      |
| Forest_Pleistocene_Simpkins_1987 | MUP9            | ts     |

-The representation is stored within geodatabase.

-The map features are drawn by rule.

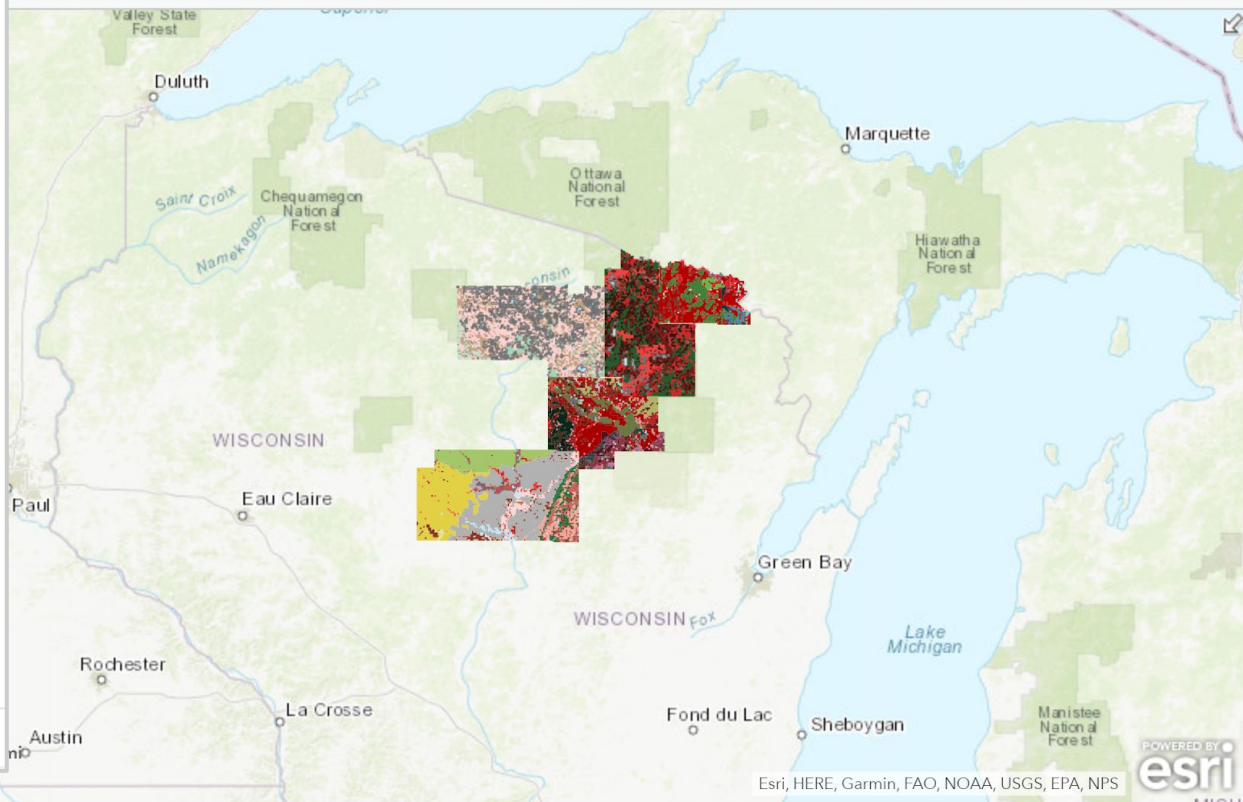
[Details](#) | [Basemap](#) Share Print ▾ Measure

## Legend

## Oneida

-  gn
-  gnh
-  gw
-  gwh
-  lm
-  p
-  sc
-  sd
-  se
-  si
-  sp

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## Legend

Water or ice

Glacial till, mostly sandy

Alluvial sediment

Lacustrine sediment, mostly coarse-grained

## Marathon

Peat and muck

Ice-contact and ice-marginal sediment, mostly coarse-grained

Water or ice

Alluvial sediment, mostly coarse-grained

Glacial till, mostly sandy

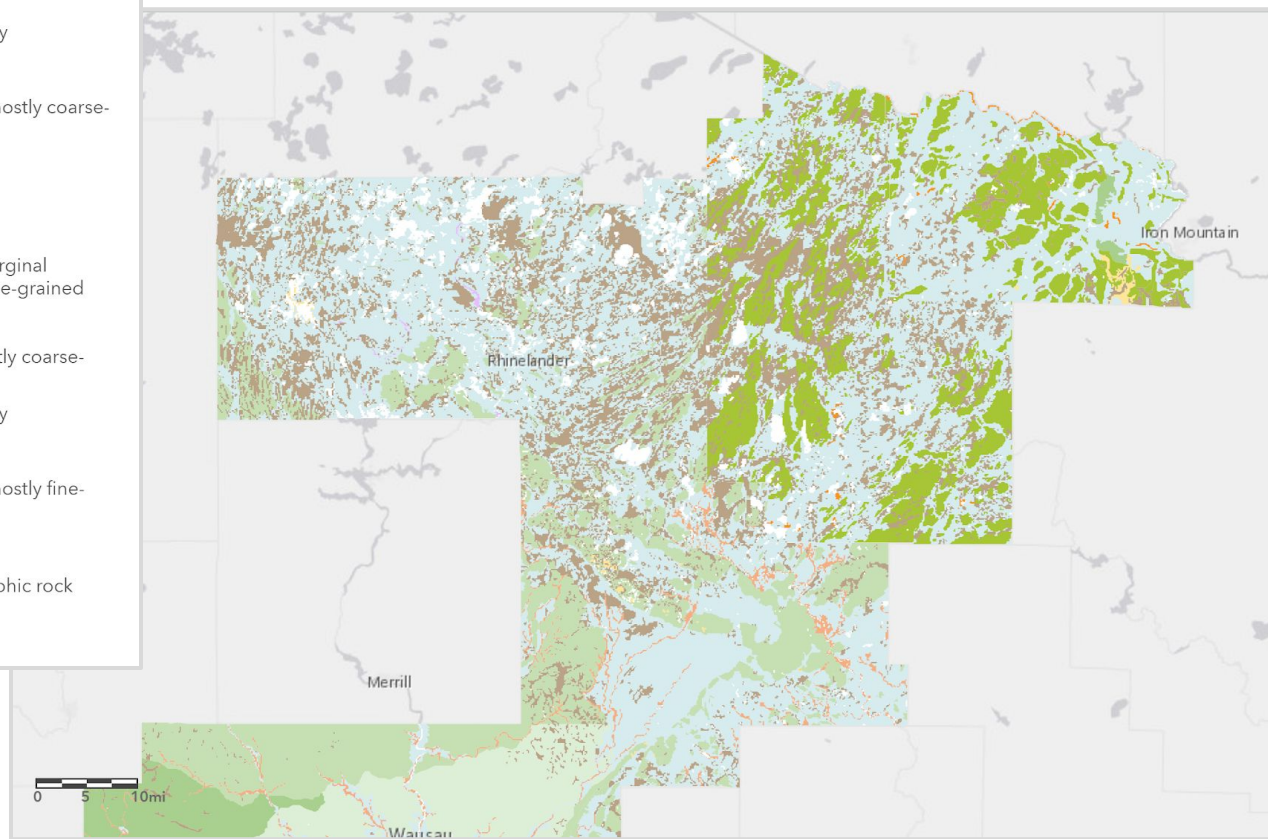
Residual material

Lacustrine sediment, mostly fine-grained

Glacial till, mostly silty

Igneous and metamorphic rock

Sandstone







More thoughts: Will it be helpful to combine our many “master” datasets?

- Master glossary (.x/s)
- Master data sources
- List of maps and their status (*Trello board*)
- Points, lines, polygons
- List of formal names and links to GeoLex (*Google sheets*)
- List of links to maps in NGMDB (*Google sheets*)

Let me know if you have done this!

# [github.com/wgnhs/gems](https://github.com/wgnhs/gems)

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&

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Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey