

Introducing the Headwaters Cedar Community Forest proposal in the Border Lakes:

A project of Northwoods Alliance Inc. and partners

200 acres Town of Land O Lakes, described as the west half of Section 27 lying south of County Road B, Town 43 North, Range 8 East

Highlights of Headwaters Cedar Community Forest (HCCF)

Would open 200 acres to non-motorized public access (has been closed since about 1993), access will be from County B (shown) and the surrounding state forest



Forest photos on project from Partners in Forestry COOP



Heavily forested under close canopy, HCCF is located in the Border Lakes conservation area



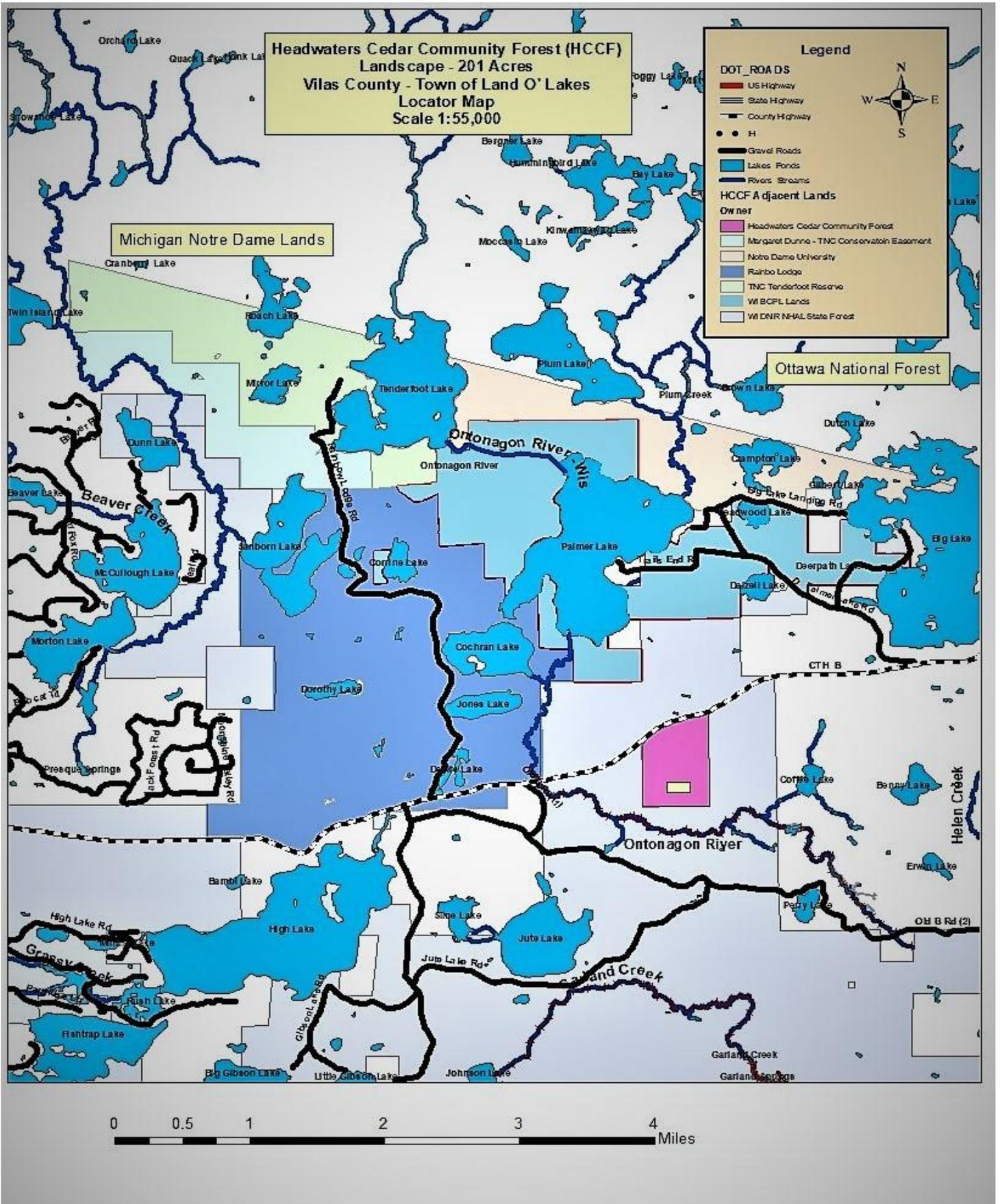
Forested stands are highlighted by 49 acres of majestic looking cedar (stand is 94% cedar) with rich understory of spreading wood fern, orchids, mountain maple





Other timber stands include 46 acres black spruce, 46 acres aspen, 25 acres northern hardwood, 17 acres seed origin white pine and 17 acres of alder -scrub timber. Hemlock and yellow birch are scattered throughout. Community input will be welcomed concerning timber management practices as well as location of trails and other features involved in Community Forest management

Surrounded by Northern Highland State Forest (NHAL) and in close proximity to Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, The Nature Conservancy's Tenderfoot Reserve, University of Notre Dame Environmental Research Center and in wildlife corridor from NHAL to the Ottawa—project will protect the state forest and surrounding habitat! Located in the Border Lakes Conservation area, on the Winegar Moraine landform.



Project, (in pink), shows a 10-acre exclusion to be retained by current owner

Map by NWA Project map with timber stands is available on request

Protect Great Lakes near the source-Wetlands of black spruce, cedar and alder filter runoff from hills on the NHAL before draining to the Tenderfoot Creek—this is at the beginning of the Ontonagon River tributary which flows into Palmer and Tenderfoot lakes before releasing in the UP where it joins with the Cisco just north of US 2 and achieves federal Wild and Scenic River designation in the Ottawa National Forest on the way to Lake Superior.



Vernal pool on HCCF collects runoff from NHAL and forms seasonal stream



flowing to the Ontonagon River on the NHAL (WDNR photos)



HHCF is 1 ¼ mile east of Devils Lake Vista on the Sub-continental divide NWA photo October 2021

Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan states that the Winegar Moraine is the best opportunity to protect larger blocks of forest habitat from fragmentation. Active Goshawk habitat with dozens of others species of birds and mammals migrating through the Border Lakes as a wildlife corridor from the greater NHAL to the Ottawa.



wildlife photos NWA project file

Goshawk left, red shouldered hawk right



Bobcat with kitten on Upper Wisconsin River Legacy Forest Land O Lakes



Just downstream, the waters from the HCCF flow to Tenderfoot Lake, where a trail camera on the Tenderfoot Reserve of TNC showcases Border Lakes wildlife, including this family of black bears on the trail boardwalk

Threat of Conversion- fragmentation and parcelization are rampant of late in Vilas County, thus utilizing the current opportunity to create a Headwaters Cedar Community Forest is timely and critical.

Letters of support, sent with the application to the USFS Community Forest and Open Space Conservation program, demonstrated widespread community support: Town of Land O Lakes, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Northwoods Land Trust, Wisconsin Green Fire, Land O Lakes Fish & Game Club, Nature Conservancy of Wisconsin, Sustainable Resource Institute and Partners in Forestry Cooperative.

The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition has pledged grant support to the HCCF. The UW Center for Cooperatives supports our outreach and forest conservation efforts.

This cycle of Community Forest grants highlights a priority, termed the Habitat Connectivity Pilot Area in the western Lake Superior watershed, through a partnership with the USFS, EPA and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. This project is in the pilot area, on the headwaters of the Ontonagon River.



Northwoods Alliance Inc. is a grass roots, all volunteer non-profit and public charity. We seek to protect critical parcels of land for the environmental, economic, social and intrinsic benefits to society. Our efforts have long focused on the Ontonagon River watershed and the Border Lakes area. Many of our successful projects can be viewed within Northwoods Forest Conservation: A Handbook which is available on request. Within this watershed, completed projects by NWA leaders, include several in the neighborhood of the Headwaters Cedar Community Forest project, and down river in the UP with Wildcat Falls Community Forest, conservation easement on the South Branch near Ewen and the Victoria reservoir where the Wild & Scenic Ontonagon River enters the reservoir. Other notable projects include the Pilgrim River Watershed project, and the Upper Wisconsin River Legacy Forest.

We appreciate the value of partnerships and rely on community support. We need support to realize this important goal. For further information please contact us.

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