



Northwoods Alliance Inc. (NWA) and conservation partners are pleased to announce a significant advance toward establishing a Headwaters Cedar Community Forest in the Town of Land O Lakes. This project is a forested tract just south of the Michigan border with unique ecological and recreational values. The project was recently awarded close to 50% of the funding necessary to complete the community forest, through a successful grant from the USFS Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program. “We are grateful that the USFS recognized the conservation value of this project. Moving forward, the success of this project will depend on support from the community. We are optimistic, as we see strong community benefits from conserving this unique parcel”, said NWA vice-president John Schwarzmann. According to Schwarzmann, a Headwaters Cedar Community Forest will permanently protect 200 acres within the Northern Highland State Forest, valuable wetlands, unique flora & fauna and impressive areas of old cedar-hemlock forest. NWA is conducting biotic inventories of the parcel, and has worked for years to protect this parcel for the public good.

The goals of this project are; 1) to create perpetual public access to the 200-acre community forest, while obtaining community input; 2) permanently protect and responsibly manage the broad range of habitats on the property, to ensure that the diverse flora and fauna continue to thrive; and 3) establish a model of a community-managed forestland. In addition, a Headwaters Cedar Community Forest would support tourism and forestry as primary economic drivers of the local economy while offering a venue for natural resource education.

Director Joe Hovel summarized the financial situation for completing the Community Forest project, “Final figures will be determined by a certified appraisal, but the proposed budget to accomplish this goal is \$420,000. With the Community Forest award of \$200,000 and the funds raised to date from conservation groups and foundations, we now need to step up our efforts in the community to raise the remaining funds. We are currently reaching out to the public for help, as it truly is community action which will make this project a success.”

The Community Forest Program was authorized by Congress in 2008 to address forest fragmentation at the local level, and to engage communities as stakeholders in the management of the forests. In their efforts to engage the local community in protecting the Headwaters Cedar property, NWA has partnered with a number of local and regional organizations. Our current list of partners includes: the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the Town of Land O Lakes, Partners in Forestry Cooperative, Land O Lakes Fish & Game Club, Wisconsin Green Fire, Northwoods Land Trust, University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, The Nature Conservancy of WI, Sustainable Resource Institute and Wisconsin DNR Division of Forestry.

Supporting partners with significant financial assistance to date include \$10,000 from the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition, \$25,000 from the Weeden Foundation of Bedford Hills NY, and \$20,000 from generous anonymous donor.

NWA thanks all those who have contributed in any way to this conservation effort of which the benefits truly cross state lines. The project protects the beginning of the Ontonagon River, and critical bird and wildlife habitat.

For more information on Northwoods Alliance Inc. and Headwaters Cedar Community Forest, visit www.northwoodalliance.org, contact nwa@nnex.net, or Hovel at 715-479-8528.