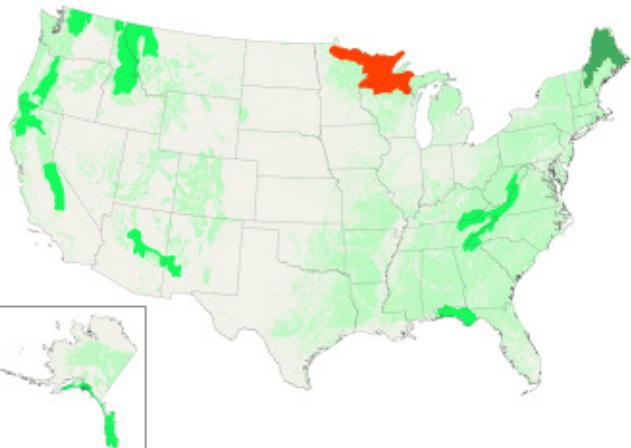


KEystone FOREST



Physical Description

The Upper Great Lakes Keystone Forest is part of the larger Western Great Lakes forest ecoregion. Even today, the remote Upper Peninsula of Michigan, northern Wisconsin and Minnesota harbor some of the most expansive forests remaining in the lower 48 states. A mix of spruce-fir coniferous forest and a hardwood mix of aspen, paper birch, beech and maple dominate this keystone forest. This vast forest is home to most of the wolves and almost one-half of the bald eagles in the lower 48 states, as well as other sensitive wildlife

species including the fisher, black bear, loon, osprey and brook trout. There is also potential habitat for the recovery of extirpated or rare species such as the cougar, lynx, marten and wolverine. The most dominant feature of the region is water, with hundreds of miles of shoreline on Lake Superior; tens of thousands of lakes, ponds and wetlands; and thousands of miles of rivers and streams. This keystone forest is well-known for its diverse backcountry recreational opportunities, including hiking, camping, canoeing, boating, fishing, hunting, cross-country skiing,

snowshoeing, nature study and solitude.

Threats

As the U.S. Forest Service has run out of areas to log in other regions, the rate of cutting has skyrocketed in the national forests of the Great Lakes. The state forests in the region have long been grossly mismanaged and continue to suffer major ecological damage from logging, road-building and intensive motorized recreation. A significant threat on both federal and state lands is widespread clearcutting to benefit commonly hunted wildlife, such as deer and ruffed grouse, to the detriment of many sensitive native species. Development on millions of acres of private inholdings and adjacent lands is a significant problem for the public lands of the region, as are expanding road networks and escalating levels of



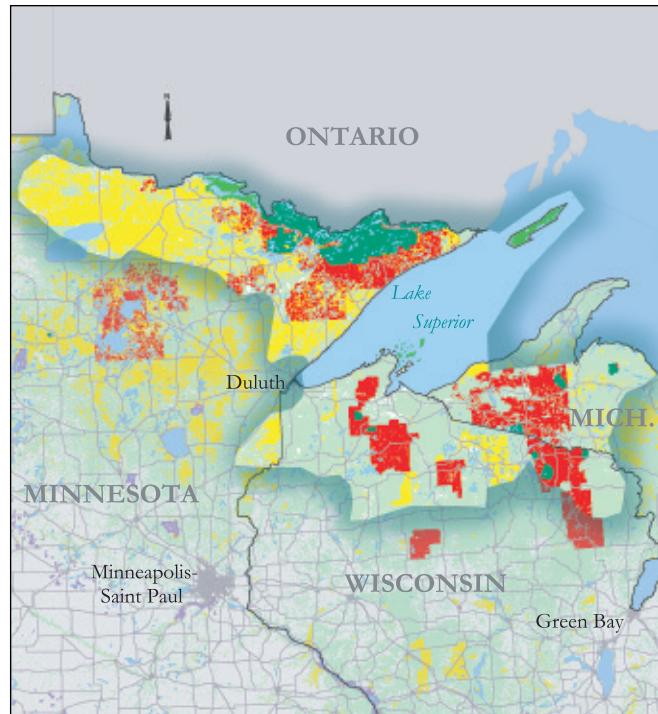
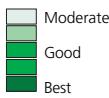
Chequamegon National Forest,
Wisconsin.

Forested BLM Lands (non-wilderness)	25,868
Forested National Forest Lands (non-wilderness)	3,614,182
Forested National Wildlife Refuge Lands (non-wilderness)	0
Forested National Park Lands (non-wilderness)*	274,677
Forested Wilderness	940,474
Forested miscellaneous public and private preserves	4,263,189
Privately owned, unprotected forest lands	79,999,649
Total Forested Lands	17,117,462

*Available data did not necessarily distinguish wilderness from non-wilderness within national parks, so some wilderness within national parks may be included within this statistic.



Forest Quality



Forest Ownership



off-road vehicle use. Without new national park or wilderness designations, the situation will certainly deteriorate in the coming years.

Efforts to Increase Protected Areas

Recent management plan revisions in Wisconsin's Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF) claim an increase in protected areas from 71,864 acres to 184,600 acres, with 15,500 acres being proposed for wilderness designation. CNNF currently has 44,000 wilderness acres. In Michigan's Ottawa National Forest, the Trap Hills Conservation Alliance is proposing a National Recreation Area that includes approximately 18,000 acres of wilderness. This draft proposal will be available to the public soon. Other remote areas in the Ottawa National Forest, as well as lands in the Hiawatha National Forest, Seney National Wildlife Refuge, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore and Michigan state forests offer excellent

opportunities for protected area management.

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www.northwoodswild.org and
www.hecenter.org*