

Upper Wisconsin River Legacy Forest
Forest Legacy Program, Division of Forestry
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

General description:

- Upper Wisconsin River Legacy Forest protects 1,042 acres of forestland under a conservation easement held by the State of Wisconsin and administered by the Division of Forestry.
- The Forest is comprised of three separate easements to comprise the larger conservation initiative which protects forestland and riparian habitat for long-term sustainable forestry, public access and a clean Wisconsin River watershed.
- Located just east of Highway 45 and southeast of Land O'Lakes, this well-forested tract borders the Nicolet-Chequamegon National Forest for over a mile of the east edge, is in close proximity to the Spruce Grouse State Natural Area and Vilas County Forest, and is very close to the Ottawa National Forest and Sylvania Wilderness in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.
- Additional adjacent properties include various private landowners.

Project name: Upper Wisconsin River Legacy Forest

Year protected: 2015

Acreage: 1,042 acres

Location: Northern Vilas County

Number of blocks: One block which originally comprised of three properties, is now one parcel.

Public access: Hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking, cross-country skiing

Motorized access: Vehicles allowed on designated access trail to parking lot; Snowmobile access on designated trail

Project highlights:

- The easement keeps this property in productive forest use. The land will remain in undeveloped condition and will be managed by the private landowner as a working forest.
- Forest habitat of the Upper Wisconsin River Legacy Forest includes jack pine, aspen and red pine covering a majority of the upland areas, with areas of white pine, spruce, fir and northern hardwood. The wetlands in proximity to the river corridor include dense stands of cedar, black spruce and tamarack
- The Upper Wisconsin River Legacy Forest contains over two miles of frontage along the Wisconsin River. The Wisconsin River is relatively shallow and slow moving through the property, making it ideal for recreational activities such as duck hunting, trapping, kayaking, and canoeing. The River also offers excellent fishing, and this stretch is known to contain bass, musky, and walleye.

Public access:

- **Non-motorized recreation:** The property is open to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping, hiking and cross-country skiing.
- **Hunting and trapping:** Hunting and trapping are allowed on the property during the appropriate seasons and with the correct licenses.
- **Motorized Access:** Public access is available by licensed motor vehicle to a parking area approximately one mile north of County Highway E.
- **Snowmobile & ATV use:** Use of snowmobiles is allowed on the property's designated snowmobile trail. Contact local and county trail clubs for maps and trail conditions.
- **TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ACCESS:** Public access may be temporarily closed under certain circumstances, including in emergency situations, for public safety reasons, to protect and restore environmentally sensitive areas or areas currently undergoing timber harvest or management activities, or other situations as needed.

- **AVOID TRESPASSING:** Other non-Forest Legacy private properties adjoin this conservation area. Avoid trespassing and be respectful of adjacent landowners. It is your responsibility to know where you are at all times while using the property.
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PLEASE, No burning, no campfires are allowed

Access:

- The Upper Wisconsin River Legacy Forest can be accessed from South Crystal Lake Road to the north and County Road E on the south. An access road (.7 mile east of 45) is provided to a parking area approximately 1 mile north of County Road E.

Please note:

- **Active management:** Under the terms of the easement, the landowner will continue to manage the land for the sustainable production of forest products. **Please be aware that active management may occur while you are on the property.** Logging is the most common management activity occurring throughout the property, involving large logging equipment and frequent large log truck traffic. The landowner may close portions of the property to public access while management activities take place. All management is done according to the management plan outlined in the easement.
- **Monitoring:** The Department monitors this property as needed to ensure compliance with the easement and state program requirements.
- **Forest Tax Programs:** The Forest Legacy Program is independent of Wisconsin's Forest Tax Programs, including Managed Forest Law (MFL). However, this property may be participating in MFL. Use the DNR's [MFL web maps](#) or contact the DNR to find out more about this property's MFL status.

For more information on Upper Wisconsin River Legacy Forest contact:

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Wisconsin's Forest Legacy Program identifies and protects, through the use of conservation easements, environmentally important private forestlands threatened with conversion. Properties in the program stay under private ownership and management. Wisconsin's aim is to protect large blocks of forestland that are managed for the sustainable use of forest resources and that offer public recreation opportunities in order to preserve the integrity of the state's forests. For more information, go to dnr.wi.gov and search "Forest Legacy."