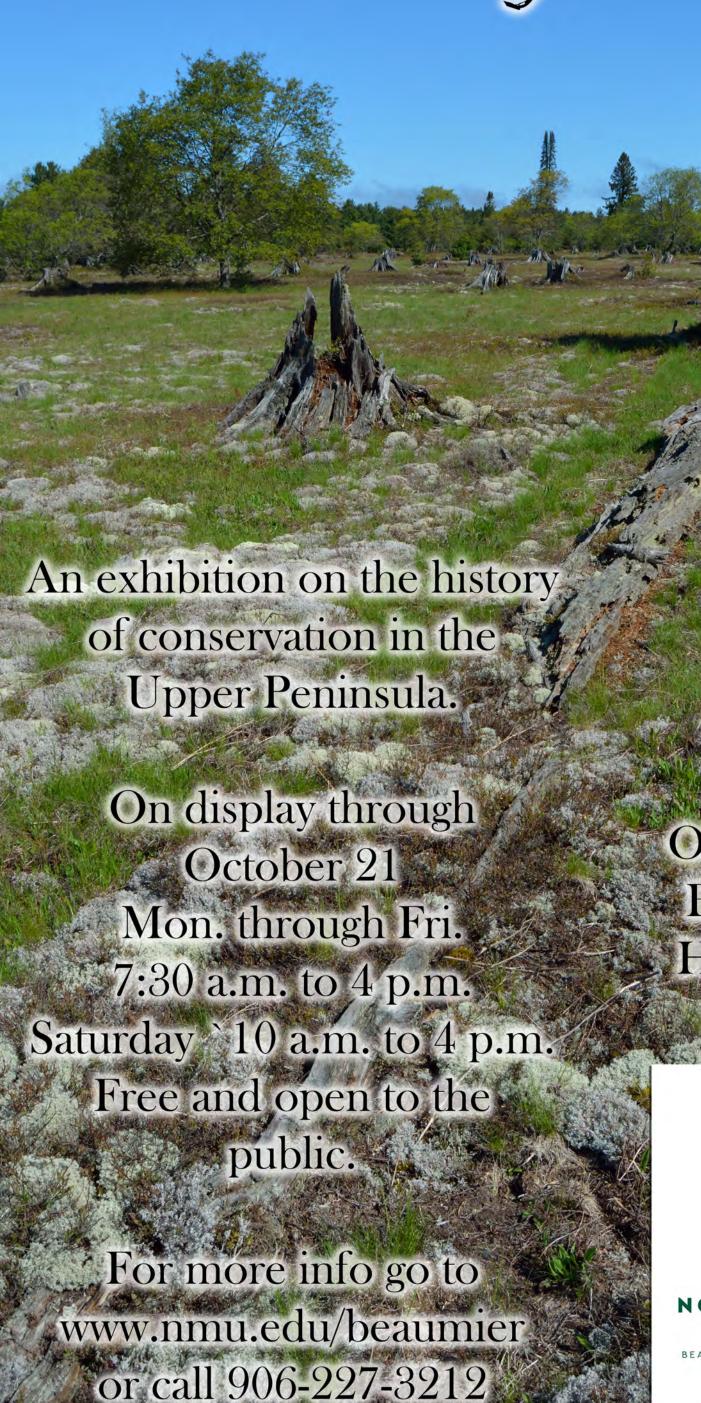
Conserving the Land



On display at the Beaumier U.P.
Heritage Center in Gries Hall







Manoomin - Food of Life

For hundreds of years, the Anishinaabe of the Great Lakes have harvested Manoomin, which has far more nutritional value than standard white rice. For this reason, it became central to the diet of the First Nations of the region, which due to a short growing season had fewer options of gathered foods than those who lived further south.

However, with the expansion of the United States and settlement of the region by European peoples, the gathering of Manoomin and its proliferation was challenged by lost habitat and tribal access to former rice beds. The biggest issue came with the damning of rivers and lakes in the 19th and 20th century, which changed water levels. The added use of motorized boats and vehicles on the lakes also took their toll on Manoomin habitat.

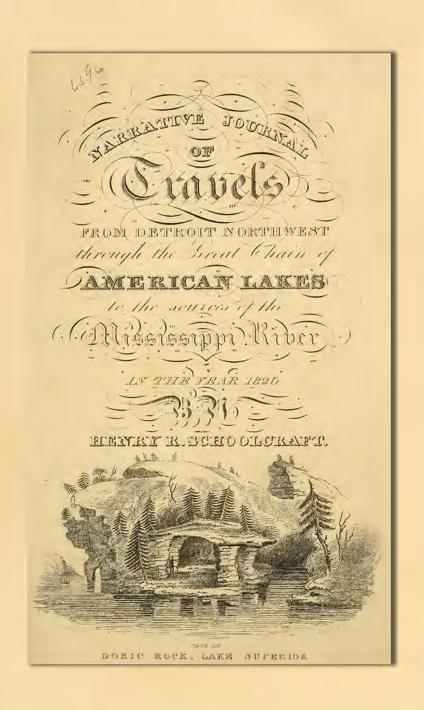
Because of the importance of Manoomin to Anishinaabe culture, many tribal groups, along with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife commission have been working together to help save and expand Manoomin habitats. There are active seeding programs of lakes and rivers in both tribal and non-tribal areas. In addition, there are lobbying efforts on the state and national level to protect current habitat areas by stabilizing water levels in lakes currently feeding rivers such as the Wisconsin River. In addition to habitat restoration, tribal groups are working to educate younger generations about the importance of Manoomin to their culture and the diets of First Nation peoples.

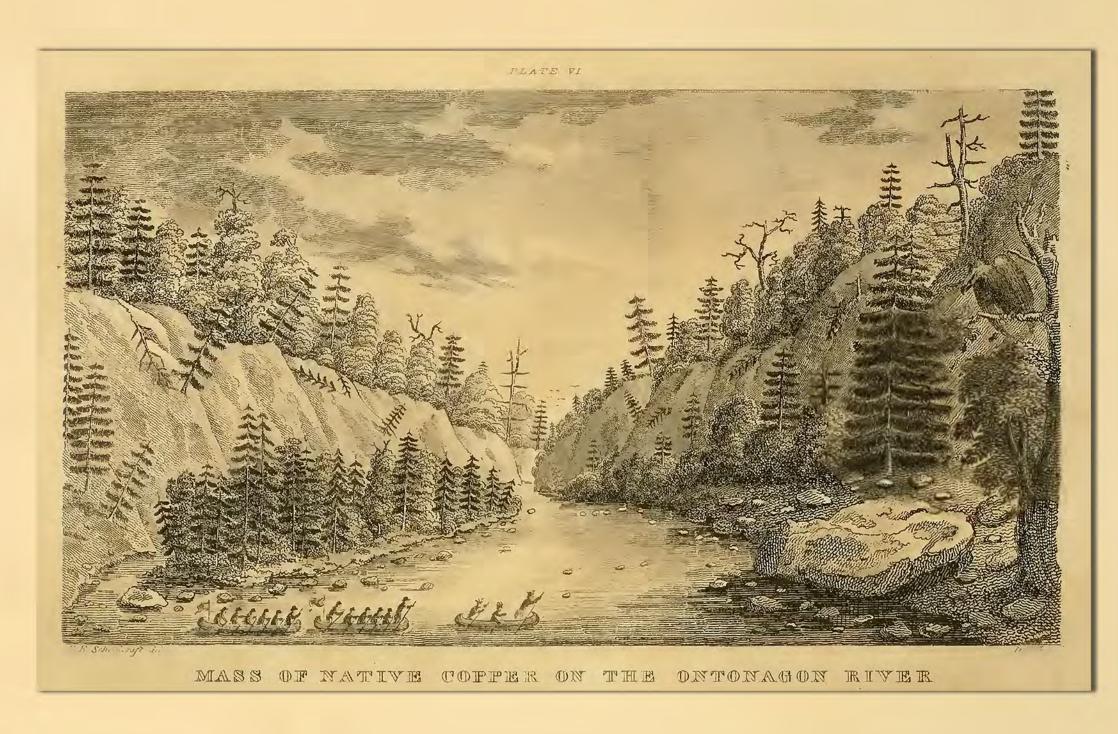


"Gathering Wild Rice," By Seth Eastman,
1849-1855.
Image Courtesy of the
Minnesota Institute of Arts



After Michigan





In 1805, the Michigan Territory was created by the U.S. government, even though the majority of the land was still technically owned by the local tribal groups. In 1818, the border of the territory was extended all the way to headwaters of the Mississippi River. In 1820, the territorial governor, Lewis Cass, led an expedition north and west to explore what at that time was basically unknown land by the Americans. Henry Schoolcraft, a young geologist, joined the expedition and his journal is one of the best early descriptions of the Upper Peninsula. These lithographs are taken directly from his book, "Narrative Journal of Travels: Through the Northwestern Regions of the United States, Extending from Detroit Through the Great Chain of American Lakes to the Sources of the Mississippi River, in the Year 1820."

At the time that Michigan became a state in 1837, the Upper Peninsula was still largely a pristine wilderness. The biggest impact by European settlement of the region had been a diminishment of the population of various animals such as beavers, which were collected for their furs. The virgin forests were largely unmarred. But what was the forest of the U.P. like?

Contrary to what some believe, the U.P. was not dominated by massive White Pines. In fact, the forest of the U.P. was very diverse, dependent of the nature of the land itself. Certain plant species thrived in swampy areas where other preferred the uplands of the Western U.P. Forest fires were common then as now and harsh winters took their toll on older trees. Spruce forests were dominant in certain areas, where maple, aspen and oak trees might dominate in another area.

Between 1815 and 1856, the U.S. government's General Land Office surveyed Michigan. These surveys were very extensive and gave a very detailed overview of the dominant forest species everywhere in the State. By the 1850s, lumbering was already in full swing in the Lower Peninsula but in the U.P. was largely serving the mining operations in the Keweenaw and Marquette area, so these maps give a very accurate depiction of the land before mass European settlement.



"One cannot help fancying that he has gone to the ends of the earth, and beyond the boundaries appointed for the residence of man. Every object tells us that it is a region alike unfavourable to the productions of the animal and vegetable kingdom; and we shudder in casting our eyes over the frightful wreck of trees, and the confused groups of falling-in banks and shattered stones. Yet we have only to ascend these bluffs to behold hills more rugged and elevated; and dark hemlock forests, and yawning gulfs more dreary, and more forbidding to the eye. Such is the frightful region through which, for a distance of twenty miles, we followed our Indian guides to reach this unfrequented spot, in which there is nothing to compensate the toil of the journey but its geological character, and mineral productions. Indeed these are traits which are generally found to increase in interest, in proportion to the increased sterility of the soil, and the impoverished growth of vegetable life. And here also the effect of climate upon the productions of nature, presents a remarkable exception." - Henry Schoolcraft, 1820

Rethinking the Forests of Michigan

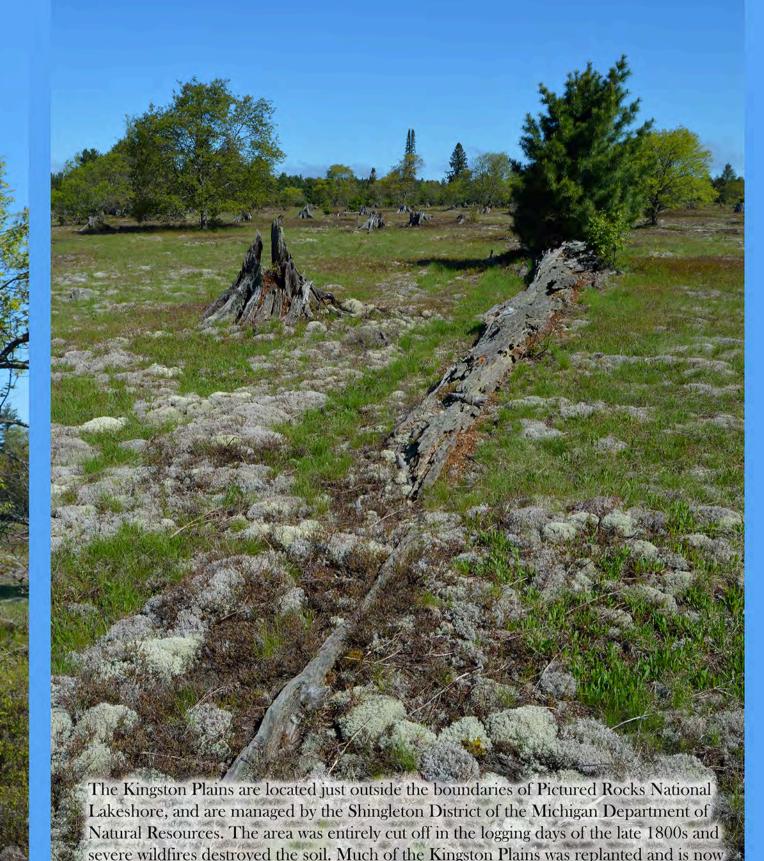
As forests fueled settlement and industry in the Upper Peninsula, not much thought was put in to long-term management of the woods. The stumpage of logged over lands was sold for farmlands, which was not a practical livelihood for much of the U.P. Still, conservation did not appear as a major concern until the later end of the nineteenth century. The idea of conservation conflicted with the many logging operations that had drawn settlers to the U.P., and the industry on which those settlers relied. When hardwood logging resources were reduced, logging operations turned to making paper pulp, which they could use less desirable types of woods

Real conservation efforts were not accepted until the 1920s, when many loggers and miners turned to farming as forest resources were depleted, and other turned to more urban jobs. As the market for cutover lands disappeared and taxes on landownership grew, many loggers and settlers left their land. When the Great Depression hit, many settlers and companies forfeited their land for nonpayment of taxes, and much of this land was bought by the State of Michigan or U.S. Government.

Around the 1920s and 1930s it was realized that one of the greatest uses of U.P. land was forestation, and many of the cutover lands and land that had turned to farmland was turned to reforestation. In the 1930s the Civilian Conservation Corps took on the task of replanting forests that had been the victim of forest fires or that had been logged over and the land turned over to the state. Around this time tourism was a growing industry, though it had always been around, and forests became more of a tourist draw for the recreation they provided.

Between the end of the nineteenth century and middle of the twentieth, a subtle shift from forest production to conservation took place. As the land and people's views changed, questions arose about how the management of the forests would change. Should the State and National Forests be for multi or single use? Should the primary purpose of these reserves be for timber production, recreational use or environmental protection? These questions are still as relevant today as they were in the 20th century.





completely forested. Other areas, such as the picture below shows, remain void of large

trees despite over 100 years of time passing. These areas continue to be "stump fields"; a

testament of past practices.

Huron Mountains

Nestled in the northern section of the Huron Mountains lies the Upper Peninsula's most elite private land group, The Huron Mountain Club. Six inland lakes and numerous fishing rivers and streams also complete the area, making the 24,000 acre parcel of land the most attractive wilderness getaway for the financially fortunate ever since the tail end of the nineteenth century. Though the Huron Mountain Club was founded as and still remains a private group today, the public benefits from its exclusiveness through information gained from the preserved wilderness of the private club.

The Club was the vision of Marquette resident and manager of the Michigan Land and Iron Company, Horatio Seymour, Jr., to build a private hunting and fishing club for the prominent businessmen of the city to escape to. The addition of Marquette's John Munro Longyear and twelve prominent charter members from Detroit and Chicago assisted Seymour in the foundation of his outdoor club.

In 1896, the Huron Mountain Shooting and Fishing Club began making efforts towards conservation of fish species. Preliminary steps that the Club took included education about the fish culture within the club, appointment of a fish committee to oversee the health and habitat of the fish populations, and plans for the installation of a fish hatchery for Black Bass and Brook Trout.

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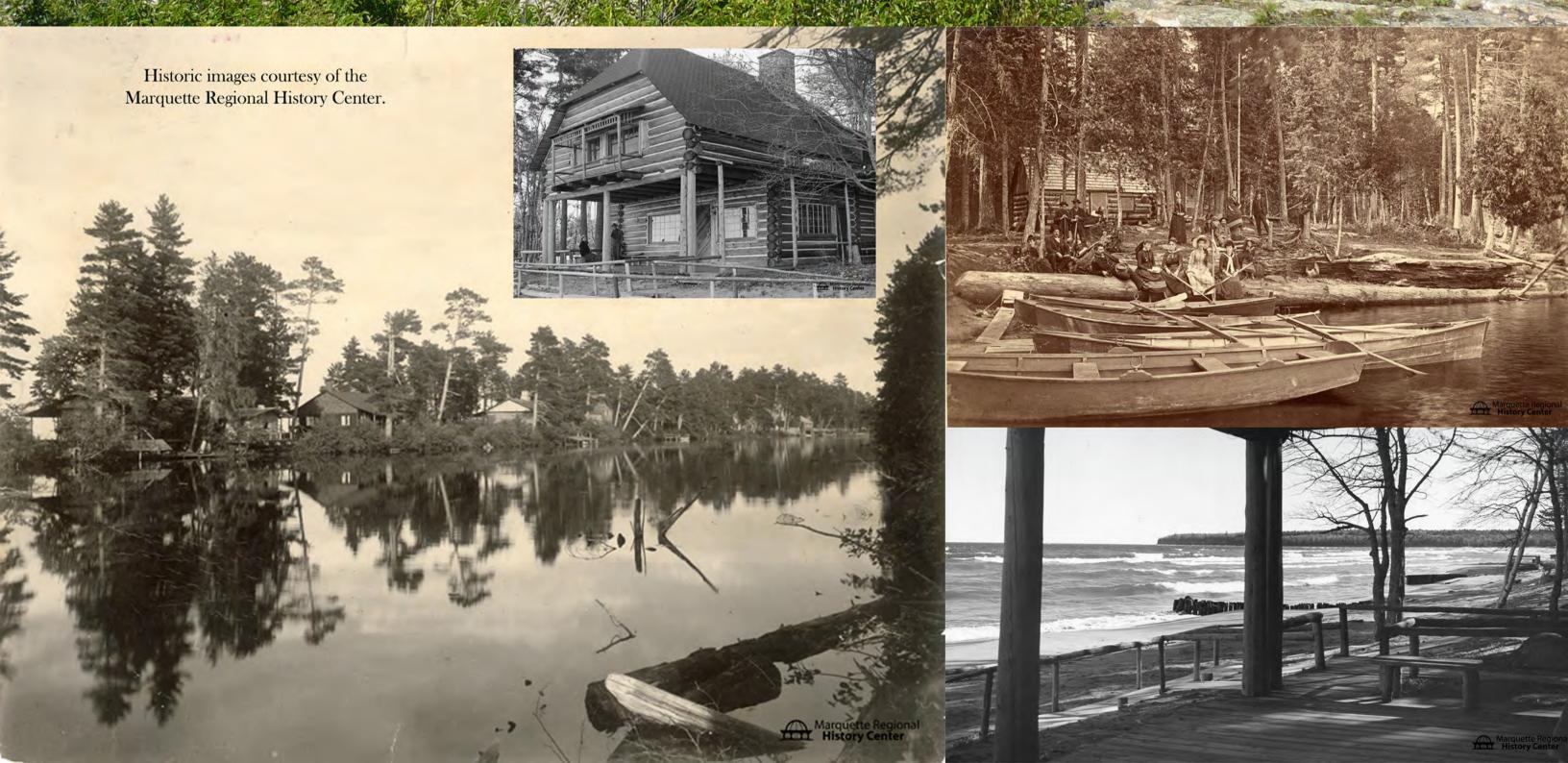
Successful grouse and duck hunting were recorded on the Club grounds and between 1896 and 1914 the introduction of nesting ducks and ring-necked pheasants was in effort, though in the end the results were not favorable. Deer seasons were regulated by a game warden that was introduced at the beginning in 1894. Club by-laws strictly prohibited the killing of small, innocent animals such as chipmunks, loons, and hedgehogs.

With the help of the research conducted by various botanists and scientist the Club's Forest and Wildlife Committee, establishing three main policies:

- 1. No trapping or killing of predators on Club lands for the purpose of benefitting game species.
- 2. Maintenance of adequate patrol warden service.
- 3. Scientific investigation by trained professional men to the end that reliable and dependable data be obtained as soon as possible on wildlife conditions in order that recommendations be made for intelligent management.

Though there are many who would like for the Huron Mountains to be open to the public, it has been the Club's private efforts and exclusiveness that have contributed to their conservation efforts. Former biology professor from Northern Michigan University, William L. Robinson fully supported the privacy of the Huron Mountain Club, saying, "It's an ideal setting for these sorts of programs because it's been protected over the years. If it weren't for the protection, cottage fever would have spread all over the place...like it has everywhere else."

Text by Marley Chenoweth



George Shiras III Naturalist/Photographer



George Shiras III
Image courtesy of the
Marquette Regional History Center

George Shiras III was born January 1, 1859 to George Shiras, Jr. and Lillie (Kennedy) Shiras in Allegheny, Pennsylvania. But it was in the Upper Peninsula that his life as a naturalist was defined and where he achieved his greatest accomplishments as the first nighttime wildlife photographer. His father, George Shiras II, first brought George III to the U.P. in 1870. These annual journeys to the Upper Peninsula enlightened the family to the beauty of nature that had been diminished in their urban Pittsburgh setting. Consequently, George III grew up learning to appreciate the outdoors and the sport of hunting.

It was on a trip to the Upper Peninsula in 1889 that George Shiras III became sympathetic to the plight of nature and quit hunting. As a born-again naturalist, he wanted to know more about the lives, habits, and mentality of wildlife. Instead he decided to "hunt game" using a camera. Through his experiments and ingenuity with a camera in the wild, he became known as the father of wildlife photography. He was the first person to successfully photograph wild animals and birds during the day from a canoe or a blind, and later figured out how to take pictures at night with a hand flash. With the assistance of his friend and assistant John Hammer, he learned how to trigger a camera shutter at a distance by running a string from a blind where he could pull it and take photographs without disturbing his animal subjects.

George III followed in his father's shoes as a lawyer and served in the Pennsylvania State House of Representatives in 1889 and 1890. He later served as an Independent Representative to the U.S. Congress in 1903. He did many things politically to help the wildlife he so frequently encountered. After his appointment to the Public Lands Committee, he recommended the bill creating Olympic National Park, encouraged the creation of a park in the Petrified Forest of Arizona, and was instrumental in creating a permanent game refuge instead of increasing the size of Yellowstone Park. His most important achievement was his work in penning the Migratory Bird Bill, which helped present the issue of interstate policing, thereby assisting birds and protecting migratory paths across the country.

This image was taken by George Shiras III in the Upper Peninsula. Date is unknown. Image courtesy of the National Geographic Society

Migratory Bird Treaty of 1918

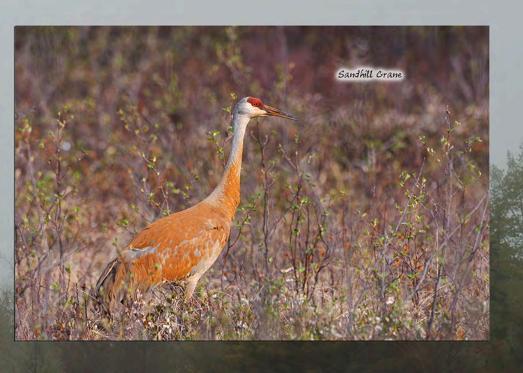
Photographs © Scot Stewart, Marquette, Michigan, http://sundewphotography.com/





















One of the oldest pieces of wildlife legislation in the United States is the Migratory Bird Treaty of 1918 (MBTA) which set new terms for the protection of bird species and their habitats. Originally enacted in 1916, it has gone through many additions since its inception but has been critical to rebuilding bird species that were being threatened with extinction. "The MBTA provides that it is unlawful to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, possess, sell, purchase, barter, import, export, or transport any migratory bird, or any part, nest, or egg or any such bird, unless authorized under a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior." (USFWS website).

Further statutes would aim to protect not only the birds but their habitats from being destroyed by pollution or land use. There have been growing needs to also manage the danger to birds from modern communications towers and power generating wind turbines.

Where many migratory bird species are still engendered, there are others that have been able to grow their populations due to the protection of the MBTA. The Sandhill Crane once endangered and has found the Upper Peninsula to be an ideal breeding ground and is frequently seen in the summer months.

In 1884, Cyrus McCormick, president of the McCormick Company, visited the Upper Peninsula with his friend Dr. William Gray to hike and camp. They travelled to Champion, where they hired an Indian guide who took them down the Peshekee River where they camped along an unnamed lake. For several years, McCormick returned to this spot to camp with his attorney Cyrus Bentley. After Bentley became member of the Huron Mountain Club, McCormick decided to purchase the property around the lake. Over the years, a total of 2,933 acres were purchased and several cabin buildings were built on what McCormick christened, "White Deer Lake." For the next several decades, the McCormick family and friends continued to use the cabins at the lake. After Cyrus McCormick's death in 1937, his son Gordon continued to manage the land until his last visit in 1947. When Gordon died in 1967, he willed the land and buildings to the United States Department of Agriculture.

"Today, the property is managed as a reserve as part of the Ottawa National Forest. Visitors will find a mixture of northern hardwoods and lowland conifers interspersed with small patches of towering white pine, Michigan's State Tree. Straddling the divide between Lake Superior and Lake Michigan, this region ranges from nearly level terrain to rocky cliffs. McCormick's water is what draws most visitors, with the Huron, Dead, Pahokee, and the Wild and Scenic Yellow Dog Rivers all have part of their headwaters within the wilderness. Many cascading waterfalls on the Yellow Dog make it unnavigable. The Yellow Dog is one of a few Eastern rivers designated 'Wild'. Eighteen small lakes add sparkle to the landscape. Trout, pike, and bass live here, but only in small numbers due to the less-than-fertile-waters. The three-mile White Lake Trail connects County Road 607 to White Deer Lake where the McCormick Estate once stood. Remnants of old, unmaintained trails can sometimes be found, but the rest of the Wilderness is fairly rugged, isolated, unspoiled, and relatively difficult to access." - Taken from the U.S. Forest Service website.



MARQUETTE NATIONAL FOREST

MICHIGAN

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

WHEREAS, the public lands in the State of Michigan, which are hereinafter indicated, are in part covered with timber, and it appears that the public good would be promoted by utilizing said lands as a National Forest;

Now, therefore, I, Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the power in me vested by section twenty-four of the Act of Congress, approved March third, eighteen hundred and ninety-one, entitled, "An Act to repeal timber-culture laws, and for other purposes," do proclaim that there are hereby reserved from settlement or entry and set apart as a public reservation, for the use and benefit of the people, all the tracts of land, in the State of Michigan, shown as the Marquette National Forest on the diagram forming a part hereof.

The withdrawal made by this proclamation shall, as to all lands which are at this date legally appropriated under the public land laws or reserved for any public purpose, be subject to, and shall not interfere with or defeat legal rights under such appropriation, nor prevent the use for such public purpose of lands so reserved, so long as such appropriation is legally maintained, or such reservation remains in force.

In Waitness Walkereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this 10th day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and nine, and of the Independence of the United States the one hundred and thirty-third.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

By the President:

ROBERT BACON

Secretary of State.

The National Forests

By the beginning of the 20th century, there were many advocates for a more sustainable forest model in America. The Progressive Era saw the formation of the National Forest Service. Four years later, the Marquette National Forest in Chippewa County (Michigan's First) was designated by President Teddy Roosevelt. Over the next several decades Marquette Forest would expand, as cutover and abandoned lands were purchased by the U.S. government.

The Hiawatha National Forest was founded in 1931 on lands in the Central Upper Peninsula and for 31 years, the two forests were separate. In 1962, the two forests were combined into one unit, keeping the Hiawatha name. This created a forest comprising of 894,836 acres. In 1931, the Forest Service also created the Ottawa National Forest in the Western U.P., which now comprises of 993,010 acres. The two forests contain 18% of the Upper Peninsula's land mass.

Where part of the original intent of the national forests was to serve as "tree farms" and allow for sustainable lumbering, from the outset recreational facilities were created in the units. In time, as the forests grew, they became havens for campers, hunters, hikers, naturalists and other recreational pursuits. Some parts of the forests became wild lands again, providing habitat for many species and places of where people could find solitude and commune with nature.

Camping and picnic facilities at Brevort Lake, 1937

Area planted by CCC in 1935, taken three years later to show progress.

MARQUETTE NATIONAL POREST

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CCC Members prune cedar forests to encourage groth of healthy trees, 1939.

Demond Hill Lookout Tower, 1925

Historic images courtesy of the Hiawatha National Forest. Special thanks to Eric Drake and John Franzen. Camp Strongs CCC crew planting trees, 1935.

Government officials surveying cutover lands in 1929.



If you stand on top of Brockway Mountain in the Keweenaw Peninsula, you can see on the horizon to the northwest, a land shape in the middle of the lake. This place, known as Isle Royale, has been enticing human visitors for thousands of years. Native American tribes began mining copper on the island thousands of years before Europeans ever stepped on the island.

As the forests of the Midwest began to disappear, Isle Royale was one of the few places that time had forgot. Early vacationers camped along its shores and canoed its lakes. Fishing became not only recreational for soon small commercial fishing operations began to dot the shoreline. Families and hunting clubs began to buy land and build wilderness cabins. A small number of resorts were not far behind and by 1900, Isle Royale was already a fabled yet still largely unpopulated vacation haven.

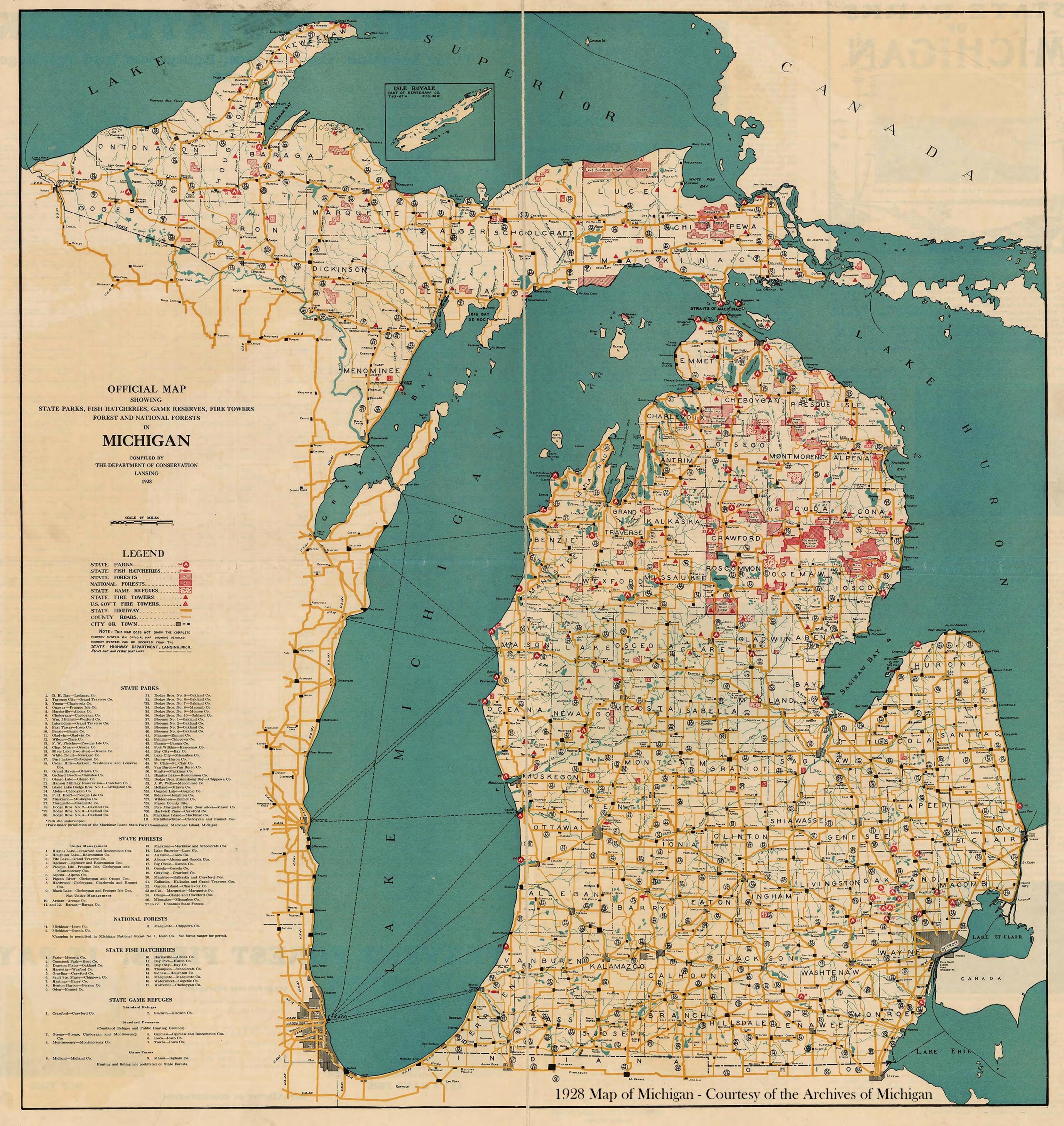
By this time, much of the forest of Isle Royale was owned by mining and lumber companies as prospective logging operations, however, they were held off by easier to access resources on the mainland. Still, the local residents and private land owners were greatly concerned that the beauty of the Island would be destroyed by logging operations and as early as the 1910s began to lobby for the U.S. Government to make the island part of the National Park system. Stephen Mather, director of the National Park Service, wasn't convinced that the island was "good enough" to be a National Park, but that all changed after he visited in 1924.

Mather felt that Isle Royale could be the ultimate "trail and water" National Park that he was looking for that would counter the already crowded parks due to the advent of the automobile. Over the next several years, there was extensive lobbying of Congress and the White House, and on March 3, 1931, President Hubert Hoover signed the Cramton-Vandenberg Bill creating Isle Royale National Park. However, it could not officially become a park until all of the private land parcels were purchased by the U.S. Government (with private rather than public funds). On April 4, 1940, the park acquired the last piece of private property and Isle Royale officially became a National

By the mid-1930s, the Minnesota Forest Products Company, which still owned approximately 66,000 acres of the Island, decided to begin cutting the forest for their industry (before it was taken by the government). In 1935, they began to log the southwest part of the island. During the hot and dry summer of 1936, a massive forest fire caught fire on the cutover lands. The fires required 1,800 firefighters (including dozens of CCC members) and burned a total of 27,000 of the islands nearly 134,000 acres.

Washington Club on Isle Royale, ca. 1900.

All images courtesy National Park Service, Isle Royale National Park and Keweenaw National Historic Park.





Porcupine Mountains

The Porcupine Mountains have been home to ancient miners, Native Americans, and eventually French explorers and fur traders. These different peoples mined, hunted, trapped and explored the mountains, utilizing its natural bounty. In 1840, state geologist Douglas Houghton, recognized the mining opportunities in the Porkies and soon many small mines were established. But by the early twentieth century, most mines had shut down. Today, you can visit a few of these mining sites and explore their ruins. Logging camps were also popular in the forests of the Porkies, but that business too came to a slow decline. The last logging camp, reduced to picking fallen trees after a torrential storm, was closed in 1945, the same year the Porcupine Mountains was dedicated a state park. The journey to becoming a state park started in 1925 with a recommendation from Michigan's first Superintendent of Parks, P.J. Hoffmaster to purchase 22,000 acres of the Porcupine Mountains. There was a failed 1941 attempt to pass a bill in the United States Congress to appropriate \$3,000,000 dollars for the purchase of the Mountains.

In the 1940s, Save the Porcupine Mountains Association was formed to advocate for the mountains to become a state park. The state legislature made a special appropriation of one million dollars in 1944 to purchase 46,000 acres of the Porcupine Mountains for a state park. The appropriation made the Porcupine Mountains into a forest museum, preserving the last mixed hardwoods of Michigan from wartime logging, only after verifying that the wood was not essential to wartime effort. Development of the park aims to preserve the forest and maintain it as a forest museum to be visited. After becoming a state park, a downhill ski hill was developed, more cabins were acquired, and scenic roads were built. Today, the park is the largest State Park in Michigan and is considered the jewel of the State's many natural wonders.



Reproduction of a published map depicting the geology of Carp Lake Township,
Ontonagon County, Michigan as understood in 1909.
Image courtesy of the Archives of Michigan.

Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

The Ojibwa who lived around the Pictured Rocks had great respect for the nature and beauty of the area. European explorers, scientists, and poets were awed as well and chronicled its attributes for a national audience. Still, as the area became more settled with farms and towns the Pictured Rocks were inaccessible to most.

In the 1920s, Munising area sportsmen proposed the idea of a state park, to P.J. Hoffmaster, the Superintendent of State Parks.

However, not much was done to conserve the Pictured Rocs until the 1960s.

During this period, there was a difficult and contentious negotiation between the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the National Park Service and private landowners over a future park designation for the Pictured Rocks. In 1966, a final draft of the bill, after many revisions and compromises, was passed creating the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore the very first park of its kind in the United States. The dedication ceremony took place on October 6, 1972 but the first major development in the park did not take place until 1978 when a plan for Miners Castle was implemented.

In 1969, a memorandum of understanding was passed which effected cooperative relations between government and state agencies. This memorandum stated that the Park Service managed the habitat along the lakeshore while the State of Michigan was in charge of most all hunting and fishing, except for what was considered high-use areas of the park. At first, many of the old logging roads were used extensively until the park service began to close them in order to let disturbed areas recover, though some saw it as a move to keeping sportsmen out of the park. In the winter skiing and snowmobiling were popular, though there was a struggle to maintain snowmobile trials that would not harm the lakeshore. Similar problems were faced with the invention of the dune buggy. Some tension between the lakeshore and community members continued as conservation efforts restricted recreation, hunting and logging operations.

By the 1980s, after facing difficulties creating the park and managing it early on, the lakeshore was on the right track. More development of park resources and conservation efforts were taken, including reintroducing native peregrine to the lakeshore that had been eliminated by use of pesticides. By the late 1990s, visitor traffic had increased immensely, due to as growing knowledge regionally and nationally about the park. This led in part of the designation of the Beaver Basin as a wilderness area in 2009, to insure the protection of this fragile ecosystem.

PICTURED ROCKS, LAKE SUPBRIDE

Image taken from "Narrative Journal of Travels: Through the Northwestern Regions of the United States, Extending from Detroit Through the Great Chain of American Lakes to the Sources of the Mississippi River, in the Year 1820," by Henry Rowe Schoolcraft.

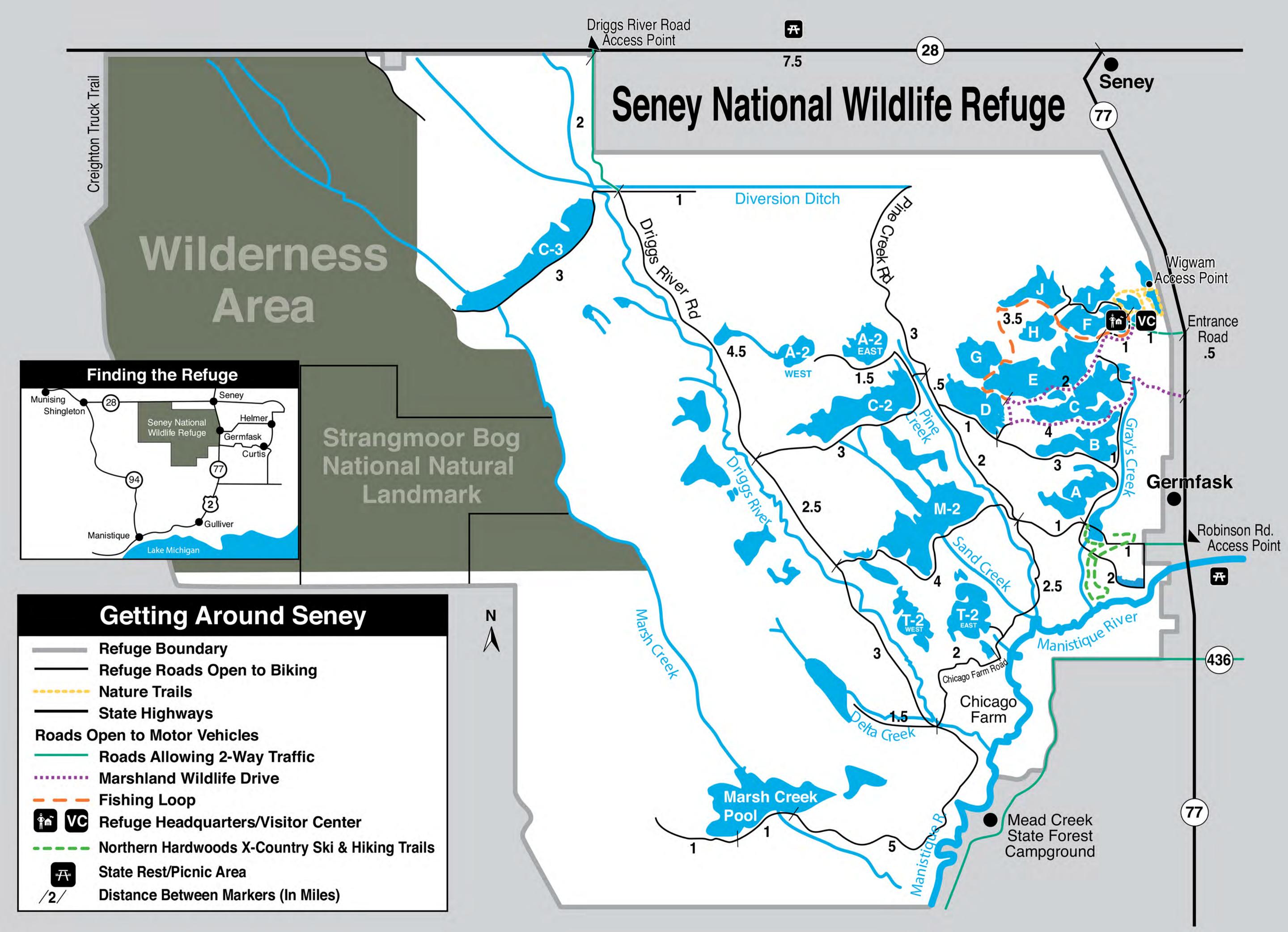


Image of early Park Ranger at Picture Rocks, ca. 1966.

Courtesty of the Alger County Heritage Center.



Vase Rock, ca. 1960. Image courtesy of the National Park Service.

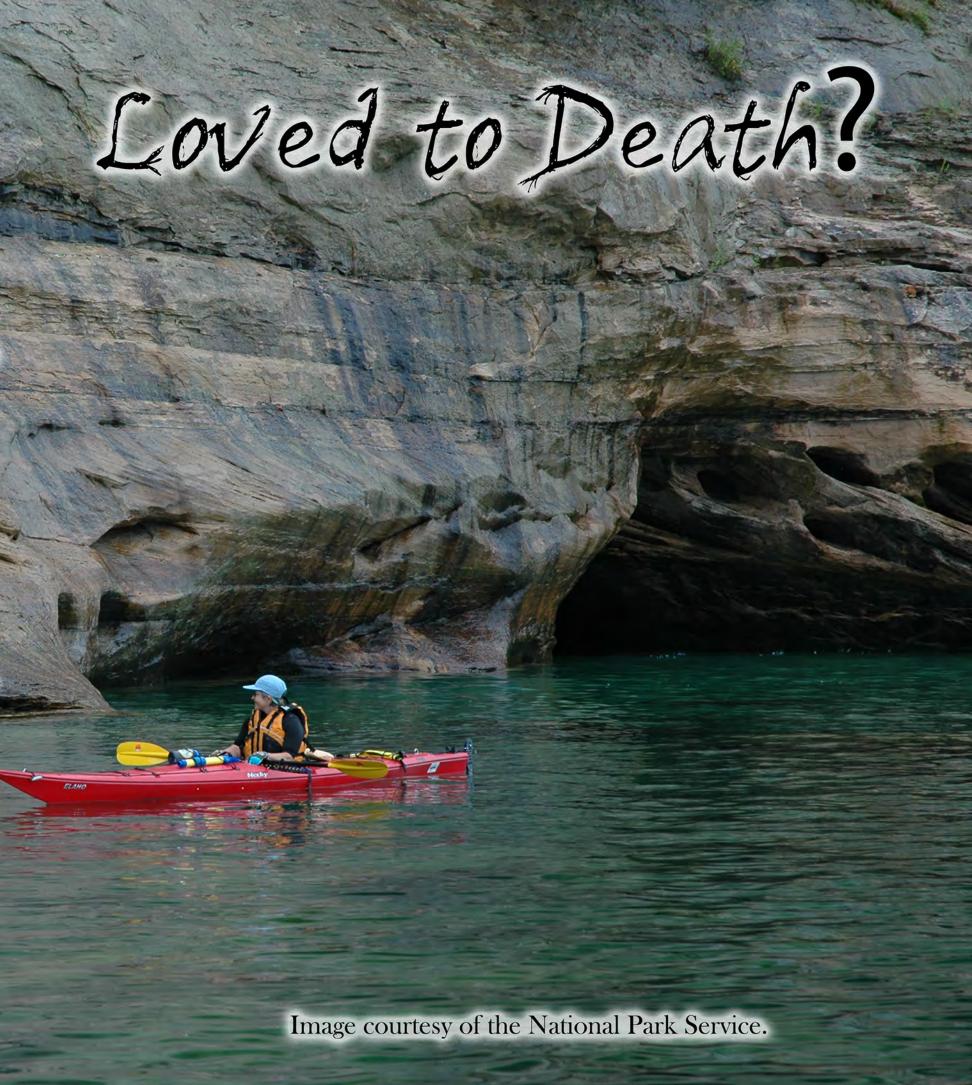


The Big Deal Northern Great Lakes Forest Project The largest single land protection project in state history and one of the largest projects in The Nature Conservancy's 54-year history in 29 countries, the Northern Great Lakes Forest Project protects 271,338 acres stretching across eight counties in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. By adopting an innovative "working lands" approach to conservation, this Project not only provides the people of Michigan with the permanent protection of some of our state's most treasured landscapes, but also helps protect thousands of timber and tourism jobs that working families in the area rely on for their livelihoods. With help from Govenors John Engler and Jennifer Granholm, as well as several Michigan foundations, the Conservancy purchased a working forest conservation easement on roughly 248,000 acres and acquired outright 23,338 acres in the Big Two Hearted River watershed (Luce County) from The Forestland Group, LLC. The timberlands investment firm, based in Chapel Hill, N.C. bought the land at a 2002 auction. What the Conservancy Has Done/Is Doing The Northern Great Lakes Forest Project affects the State of Michigan in several ways. Sustainable Forestry: In addition to protecting large tracts of Upper Peninsula forestland from fragmentation and conversion to non-forest uses, the conservation agreement will assure that current and future owners of the land may continue to harvest timber, thus keeping the land "working" and contributing to the local economy. Under the easement, current and future owners must maintain sustainable forest certification under the Forest Stewardship Council, an internationally recognized forest certification program, or adhere to specified forestry guidelines. • Limits on Development: The project places significant limits on future development. Specifically, for the land covered by the working forest conservation easement (248,000 acres) not more than 40 single family residences will be permitted, and a total of two forest management facilities (including an office building and a log yard) constructed. Limits are also placed on future development of other compatible uses, like communication towers and wind energy production. • Public Access for Outdoor Recreation: The conservation agreement will also enhance the legal rights of the public to access the land for outdoor recreation, and it does so by establishing these public access rights in perpetuity. Under the terms of the conservation easement, access rights are permanently granted for specific recreational uses, including hunting, fishing, snowmobiling along designated trails, and non-motorized boating and canoeing. • Impact on State and Local Governments: All the land covered by the working forestry easement will remain in private ownership and on the local tax rolls. This means local communities will continue to receive the full level of current tax payments under the state's Commercial Forest Reserve Act, an important source of revenue for local government programs and services for area residents. Continued private ownership also means that major conservation and outdoor recreation goals of the State of Michigan can be met without taking on the full costs of public ownership. Text provided courtesy of the Nature Conservancy. For more info go to www.nature.org. Image of the Two Hearted River courtesy of Jan Wilberg, Milwaukee, WI

Anyone who is active on social media will have seen headlines like this over the past several years: "U.P. chosen as top affordable location by Lonely Planet" or "Upper Peninsula, the hidden gem of the Midwest." It is becoming more obvious each year that the U.P. is being "rediscovered" by the national and international press and more people are visiting the region. This has become most obvious in Munising, which has seen a huge boom in tourism in the past few years. The biggest draw is Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, which in 2015, saw an increase of over 200,000 visitors from the previous year, a 28 % increase. Largely due to the growing popularity of sea kayaking and paddle boarding, this increase is great for local businesses but puts an added pressure on the National Park, Forests and the surrounding environment. More traffic means more congestion and pollution. Where visiting Miner's Beach in the summer was usually a quiet and relatively lonely affair it is now crowded with dozens of kayaks on a daily basis.

So the question is: how will the U.P. deal with this influx of visitors? Will it be loved to death with greater tourism numbers? How will this impact our way of life and the land itself?

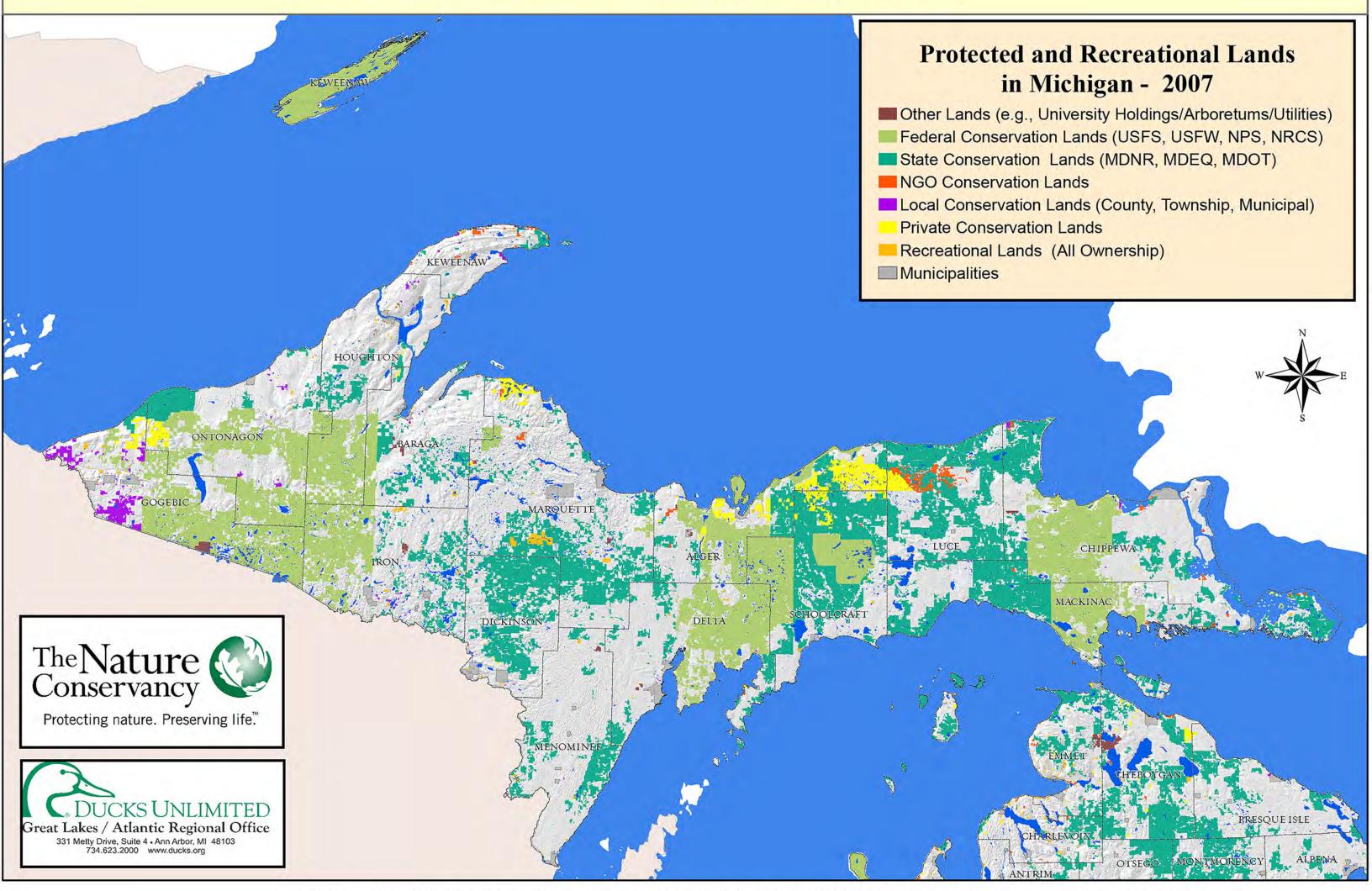
Where there are no easy answers to these questions, the key to the future for the Upper Peninsula is smart planning for growth, development and zoning.





Protected Areas of the Upper Peninsula Privately Protected Lands Land or easements owned by the Nature Conservan-cy, Michigan Nature Association, Keweenaw Land Trust, Upper Peninsula Wild Lands Biosphere Reserve State Forests Timber harvests are required to be certified by the Susby Robert Archibald Upper Peninsula residents treasure wild lands that un-The University of Michigan Biological Research Station owns 3,200 acres on Sugar Island. This land is one of only tainable Forestry Initiative and by the Programme for the Yellowdog Watershed Partnership, Audubon Society and the Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy. Some organizaforty-seven biosphere reserves in the United States Total Biosphere Reserve – 3,200 acres Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), which is the largest forest certification system in the world. State Forests dergird the quality of life we enjoy. Yet, there are tensions between employment and environment that sometimes tions own land in fee simple title, others own easements and some own a mix of fee simple and easements. Only collecare broken into management units. Baraga – 142,900 Why are wild lands important? They are important to Hiawatha National Forest Gwinn - 278,000 tive total acreage owned or protected by each organization Crystal Falls – 300,000 Escanaba – 142, 000 the existence of healthy ecosystems and interconnected webs of living species that exist in symbiotic relationships is listed. Within these totals, there are dozens of parcels of privately owned land, not listed individually. Dukes - 233 Grand Island - 59 that we only dimly understand. They are crucial for the existence of a healthy planet. Wild lands also have a spiri-Horseshoe Bay - 2065 Shingleton – 380,000 Newberry – 352,000 Sault Ste. Marie – 322,500. Total is 1,917,400 minus 26, Ottawa National Forest McCormick – 3675 Nature Conservancy - 41, 329 (in thirteen parcels) Michigan Nature Association – 4,031 (fifty+ parcels) Keweenaw Land Trust – 4,950 (in twenty-five tual importance for humans because they define our place 828 managed by state forests but included in natural areas Total State Forests – 1,890,572 acres Sturgeon River Gorge – 351 Total Research Natural Areas – 6,383 acres on the planet and allow us to occasionally escape ourselves, Yellowdog Watershed Partnership - 688 I have ranked below the categories of wild lands in the Audubon Society - 5,647 (in four parcels) **Experimental Forest** Northern Great Lakes Forest Project Experimental Forest Dukes Experimental Forest – 5,500 managed by the U.S. Forest Service. Total is 5,500 minus the Dukes Research Natural Area within the Experimental Forest Total Experimental Forest – 5,267 acres In 2010 the State of Michigan, the federal government, several private foundations, the Nature Conservancy and the Forestland Group, LLC reached an agreement to pro-Upper Peninsula beginning with those that have the highest level of protection from development and exploitation. The ranking is somewhat arbitrary but defensible. In addition to U.P. Land Conservancy - 5,892 (twenty-five+ parcels) Gratiot Lake Conservancy -- 3,600 acres Total Privately Protected Lands -- 66,137 acres the lands listed below there are 509 miles of river designated tect a total of 270,000 acres of land in the Upper Peninsula. as "Wild and Scenic." (all figures in acres.) The Nature Conservancy acquired 23,338 acres in the Two National Park/National Lakeshore Isle Royale National Park – Isle Royale is not included in this total because it is included under Federal Wilderness Porcupine Mountains State Wilderness - 59,000 Hearted River watershed and purchased working forest Total State Wilderness – 59,000 acres State Natural Areas conservation easements on approximately 248,000 acres. Timber harvesting follows sustainable forestry standards, Craig Lake State Park – 8459 - Managed by Van Riper State Park Isle Royale National Park – 571,000 Although not formally classified as a Federal Wilderness, Isle Royale is managed as wilderness and thus is included development is limited and the lands are protected from fragmentation. The Two Hearted River Watershed purchase of 23,338 acres is included in the Nature Conservancy total Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore – 73, 216 This total is 644,216 acres, but requires the subtraction of Bois Blanc Island – 968 - Managed by Mackinac State 11,740 acres of federal wilderness located within the boundaries of Pictures Rocks National Lakeshore to achieve a total Forest Carney Fen – 2,325 - Escanaba State Forest Northern Great Lakes Forest Project – 248,000 acres Crow River Mouth – 520 - Lake Superior State Forest Deer Park – 60 - Lake Superior State Forest Laughing Whitefish Falls Scenic Site – 360 - Managed by Located within national forest boundaries Big Island Lake Wilderness - 5856 Sylvania Wilderness and Recreation Area – 18,327 Total National Park Service - 61,475 acres The Upper Peninsula includes 10,529,280 acres. Of these 4,940,160 acres have some level of protection from devel-McCormick Wilderness – 16, 998 Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness – 14,500 Michigan DNR Little Brevort Lake – 542 - Lake Superior State Forest National Forests While logging still occurs in Upper Peninsula national opment and exploitation, ranging from federal wilderness areas to commercial forests with working forest easements. Rock River Canyon Wilderness – 4,640 Mackinac Wilderness – 12, 230 Little Presque Isle – 430 - Escanaba River State Forest Maxton Plains – 2017 - Lake Superior State Forest McMahon Lake Strangmoor – 1770 - Lake Superior State forests, the cut is smaller in recent years due primarily to 46.9% percent of the Upper Peninsula land area has some public opposition. Hiawatha National Forest – 894, 836 Horseshoe Bay Wilderness - 3,790 Round Island Wilderness – 378 Delirium Wilderness – 11, 870 Ottawa National Forest – 993, 010 This total is 1,887,846, but requires the subtraction of Rocking Chair Lakes - 240 - Escanaba River State Forest Seiner's Point – 2,502 - Lake Superior State Forest Shakey Lakes – 1,520 - Escanaba River State Forest 102,087 acres of federal wilderness listed above that is with-Located within Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in national forest boundaries. Total National Forest Land – 1,785,759 acres Beaver Basin Wilderness – 11,740 Total Federal Wilderness – 671,329 acres Tahquamenon Natural Area - 19,005 - Taquamenon Falls State Park Union Springs Scenic Site – 160 - Included in the Porcu-National Wildlife Refuges Seney National Wildlife Refuge – 95, 296 pine Wilderness State Park Wagner Falls Scenic Site – 23 - Michigan Department o Huron National Wildlife Refuge – 147 Total National Wildlife Refuge – 95,443 acres Parks and Recreation Division Total State Natural Areas- 40,901 acres **Nature Conservency Protected Lands** Conservation Easement Deed Restrictions Fee Ownership Life Estate Michigan DNR Lands Mineral and Surface, Mixed Ownership, and Other Rights; Other Protected Lands County park Local park This map was created by Thomas Sofka, student in Earth, Environmental and Geographic Sciences at Northern Michigan University. National park or forest 25 50 State park or forest Miles Major Roads Communities Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 16N Kilometers Roads Cities Projection: Transverse Mercator 50 100 Villages Rivers Datum: North American 1983

Conservation and Recreational Lands of Michigan's Upper Peninsula CARL Database for Michigan - August 2007



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This exhibit is dedicated to Sweetie, our pet duck, whose untimely death occurred during the installation.