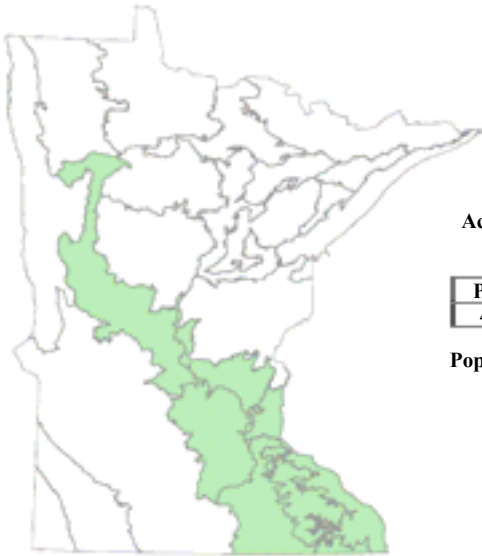


Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province



Quick facts

Acres: 11,839,537 (22% of state)

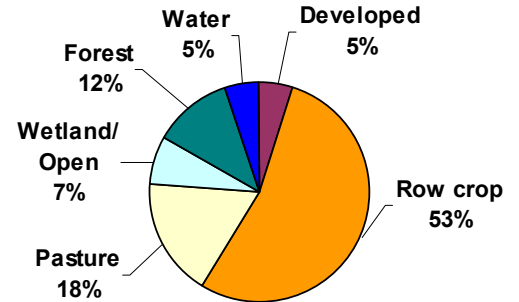
Ownership

Public	Private	Tribal
4.7%	95.1%	0.2%

Population density (people/sq. mi.)

Current	Change (2000-2010)
257.9	+38.4

Current Land Use/Land Cover



Overview

The Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province is a transition zone between the prairie to the west and the mixed coniferous-deciduous forest to the northeast. The province can be visualized as a belt that passes diagonally across Minnesota from the southeastern forests through the prairie-coniferous transitional zone to the Tallgrass Aspen Parklands in the



B. Delaney MN DNR

A landscape view of the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province – Morrison County – Hardwood Hills Subsection

northwest. The deciduous woods are a species-rich extension of the eastern United States deciduous forest, and numerous plant and animal species occur here at the very western edge of their range. Topography varies from level plains to the very steep blufflands that border the Mississippi River. Major landforms include lake plains, outwash plains, end moraines, ground moraines, and drumlin fields.

During Minnesota's last glacial period, the ice sheet sculpted portions of this geologically unique landscape but missed the "driftless" portion in southeastern Minnesota, northeastern Iowa, and southwestern Wisconsin. This area features caves, ravines, and sinkholes, and clear, spring-fed trout streams course through the steep and hilly countryside rich with plant and animal life. In the Twin Cities area, channels of preglacial rivers cut through rock formations, which later filled with glacial till. Once the till settled, the chains of lakes that now meander through the cities formed in the depressions.

Hardwood forests are home to many wildlife species that are enjoyed and appreciated by Minnesotans. Among the "must-see" species of this region are the wild turkey, red-shouldered hawk, cerulean warbler, Louisiana waterthrush, wood duck, and Blanding's turtle. Many people are also surprised to learn that the blufflands along the Mississippi River are home to the timber rattlesnake.

Row crop agriculture is one of the major land uses in this province. Recreation and tourism are also important industries, especially around the lakes. Many wetlands are scattered throughout this province, providing significant opportunities for wildlife recreation.

This province is home to the majority of Minnesotans. The urban and suburban areas of the Twin Cities and other regional centers like St. Cloud and Rochester continue to expand, although not quite as rapidly as in the 1990s.

Province Subsections

[Anoka Sand Plain](#)

[Big Woods](#)

[Blufflands](#)

[Hardwood Hills](#)

[Oak Savanna](#)

[Rochester Plateau](#)

[St. Paul Baldwin Plains and Moraines](#)

Summaries of Species in Greatest Conservation Need

A list of the species in the province, including identification of those unique to the province, is found in [Appendix E](#). Table 5.5 presents the number of species in greatest conservation need in each subsection and the number unique to each subsection. Subsections are ranked from most to fewest SGCN. This ranking can help conservation stakeholders prioritize their efforts in a province. For example, the Blufflands, St. Paul-

Baldwin Plains, and Big Woods subsections have considerably more species in greatest conservation need than the other subsections in the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province. Further investigations into the reasons for these differences should be carried out during implementation of the CWCS.

Table 5.5. Number of SGCN in and Number Unique to the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province by Subsection

Subsection	Number of SGCN	Number of SGCN Unique to Subsection
Blufflands	156	14
St. Paul Baldwin Plains	149	1
Big Woods	121	1
Anoka Sand Plain	97	1
Rochester Plateau	94	0
Oak Savanna	93	1
Hardwood Hills	85	1
Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province	205	51



H. Texler MN DNR

Floodplain forest of the Mississippi River valley – Blufflands Subsection

SGCN Problem Assessment

The SGCN problem assessment provides information on the factors influencing the vulnerability or decline of SGCN that are known or predicted to occur in the province. The following table lists the percentage of SGCN in the province influenced by nine possible factors or problems. The results of the species problem assessment indicate that habitat loss and degradation in the province are the predominant challenges facing SGCN populations.

Table 5.6. SGCN Problem Analysis for the Eastern Broadleaf Province

Problem	Percentage of SGCN for which this is a known problem
Habitat Loss in MN	82
Habitat Degradation in MN	88
Habitat Loss/Degradation Outside of MN	26
Invasive Species and Competition	26
Pollution	35
Social Tolerance/Persecution/Exploitation	22
Disease	3
Food Source Limitations	4
Other	20

NOTE: The inverse of the percentages for each problem does not necessarily represent the percentage of SGCN for which the factor is not a problem, but instead may indicate that there is not sufficient information available to determine the level of influence the factor has on SGCN in the subsection.

Summaries of Key Habitats

Table 5.7 ranks the habitats by the frequency with which they are identified in the subsections as key habitats. Table 5.8 ranks the subsections by their number of key habitats.

Table 5.7. Frequency of Key Habitats in the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province by Subsection

Key Habitats Ranked by Frequency	Number of Subsections	Percentage of Subsections
Shrub/Woodland-Upland	7	100
Wetland-Nonforest	7	100
River-Headwater to Large	7	100
Grassland	6	86
Prairie	6	86
Shoreline-dunes-cliff/talus	4	57
Lake-Shallow	4	57
Forest-Upland Deciduous (Aspen)	3	43
Forest-Upland Deciduous (Hardwood)	3	43
River-Very Large	3	43

Table 5.8. Number of Key Habitats in the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province by Subsection

Subsection	Number of Key Habitats
St. Paul Baldwin Plains	10
Big Woods	9
Hardwood Hills	8
Anoka Sand Plain	7
Blufflands	6
Oak Savanna	5
Rochester Plateau	5

Assessment of SGCN and Key Habitats

Table 5.9 shows the number of species that use at least one key habitat at the subsection, province, and statewide scales. Subsections are ranked within each province by the percentage of SGCN that use at least one key habitat in the subsection. The percentages do not vary greatly among the subsections in the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province.

Table 5.9. SGCN That Use Key Habitats in the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Province by Subsection

Subsection	Total Number of SGCN	Number of SGCN Using at Least 1 Key Habitat	Percentage of SGCN Using at Least 1 Key Habitat
St. Paul Baldwin Plains	149	146	98.0
Big Woods	121	116	95.9
Hardwood Hills	85	79	92.9
Blufflands	156	139	89.1
Rochester Plateau	94	83	88.3
Oak Savanna	93	81	87.1
Anoka Sand Plain	97	83	85.6
Province total	205	192	93.7
State total	292	269	92.1

Note: Subsections are ranked by the percentage of SGCN that use at least one key habitat in the subsection.

