

# Resource Management in Action at Saint Croix State Park

**On July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008, straight-line winds affected more than 420 acres of forests in Saint Croix State Park.**

**This blowdown will initiate the restoration of rare habitats.**

- Pine Barrens and Oak Savannas are critically imperiled in Minnesota and are rare globally.
- These communities are defined by sparse trees with an understory of prairie-like grasses.
- There were once more than 3,000 acres of these ecosystems in the park.

**What will happen with all the trees?**

- Opening up the canopy and allowing native grasses to flourish is the first step toward restoring these communities.
- Logging methods will be used to accelerate the goals of the management plan.
- 670 acres will be harvested and restored.
- Harvested timber may be used for pulp, wood products, and biomass fuel as a source for sustainable energy.

**What's the point? Objectives for Thinning and Salvage Cleanup:**

- Restore the overall quality and biodiversity of the Pine Barrens and Oak Savannas in the park.
- Minimize wildfire hazard potential by reducing fuel build-up from the blowdown.
- Minimize potential of disease infestations, and outbreaks to our native trees.
- Restore a historic landscape to the park, which is a National Historic Landmark.

**What will the restoration look like?**

- After the restoration, this area will be marked by scattered stands of trees and dominated by native grasses, shrubs, and wildflowers.
- The transition will involve logging, prescribed burning, and exotic species control.

**Restoration takes time.** You can expect to see this transition occurring over several years.



After the Severe Wind Event.

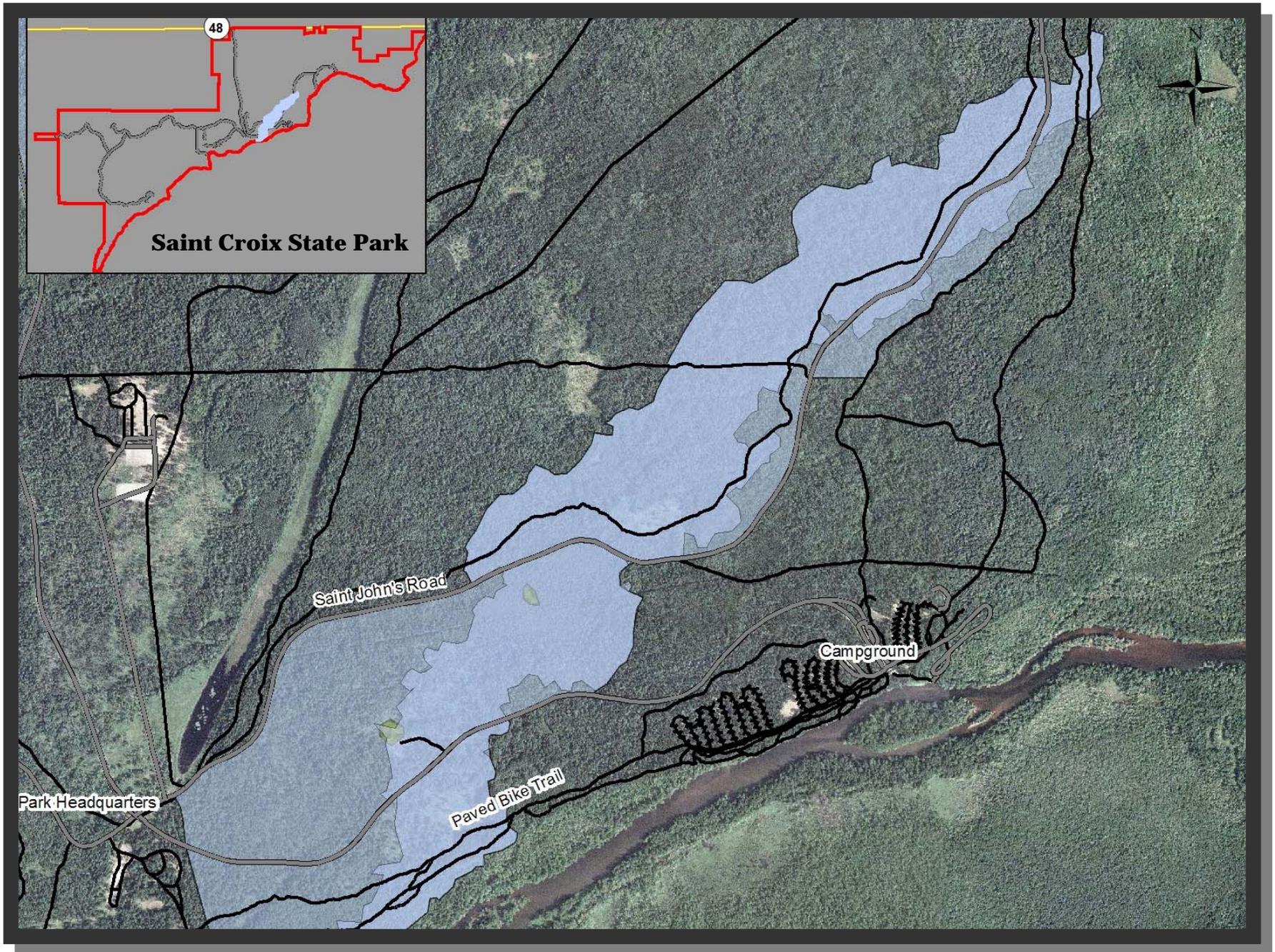


Logging Restoration in Progress



Healthy Pine Barrens

**For more information, look for our supplemental materials online at [http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state\\_parks/st\\_croix/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/st_croix/index.html) or contact our Area Resource Specialist at (320) 384-6615 x228.**



**Park map illustrates the 670-acre restoration area, including the 420-acre blow down (light blue).**