HCVF Site 850040 Upper Beaver Creek Valley, Winona County











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HCVF Informational Report

Report Run: September 3, 2013

General Information

HCVF #: 850040 HCVF Name: Upper Beaver Creek Valley Acres of HCVF site: 751.92 County: Winona

Data edited by: Region 3 HCVF Team **Role:** Region 3 HCVF Team **Date edited on:** 2013-07-24

Corresponding Land Administrator(s): FAW **Management Unit Name(s) (if applicable):** Upper Beaver Creek Valley (Whitewater WMA)

HCVF Summary

Scenic steep slopes & valleys along upper reaches of Beaver Creek in the Whitewater WMA. The west portion includes a significant large tract of quality forest, with portions mature. N- to e-facing slopes support Mesic Hardwood Forest (MHs37a, MHs38a, MHs39b) and the rare White pine-Sugar Maple-basswood Forest (Cold Slope) (MHc38a). Also present are small tracts of White Pine Forest, a high- quality Algific Talus Slope, and Black Ash-Sugar Maple-Basswood-(Blue Beech) Seepage Swamp (WFs57b). Drier s- to w-facing slopes support Oak-Shagbark Hickory Woodland (FDs38a) and small Bedrock Bluff Prairies (UPs13c). Elm-Basswood-Black Ash-(Blue Beech) Forest (MHs49a) occurs along Beaver Creek. Significant rare animals a reptile/amphians species, the only known woodland voles in the county, and three species of rare forest interior birds: Louisiana waterthrush, red-shouldered hawks, and cerulean warblers. Twelve rare plant species occur in forests in this site, and three additional rare plants known to exist in adjacent forest may exist within the site.

HCVs known to be present that factored into HCVF designation.

FSC expects DNR to maintain HCVs within designated HCVFs. Because HCVF boundaries are not the same as the larger, multi-ownership MBS Sites, this list will differ from the values identified during the MBS Survey.

HCV1b (S1 or S2 species): smooth-sheathed sedge (Carex laevivaginata), Christmas fern (Polystichum acrostichoides), Carey's sedge (Carex careyana), false mermaid (Floerkea proserpinacoides), one reptile/amphibian species. [Also several species on private land adjacent and possibly in the WMA: James' sedge (Carex jamesii), narrow-leaved spleenwort (Diplasium pycnocarpon), spreading sedge (Carex laxiculmis)]. HCV1e (Rare species concentration): 12 SGCN species. HCV1f (Taxonomic group concentration): many rare plant species, woodland voles, reptile/amphibian. HCV2-EBFa (intact forest block): yes. HCV2-EBFb (old forest): yes. HCV3a (G1 or G2 plant community): MHc38a. HCV3b (S1 or S2 plant community): algific talus, dolomite subtype (CTs46a2), White Pine-Sugar Maple-Basswood Forest (Cold Slope) (MHc38a), Elm-Basswood-Black Ash-(Blue Beech) Forest (MHs49b), Black Ash-Sugar Maple-Basswood-(Blue Beech) Seepage Swamp (WFs57b).

Management Considerations

Overall management objectives for the entire HCVF:

Bedrock bluff prairies need clearing and prescribed burning; burning would also benefit FDs38a forest. Timber harvest in mesic hardwood forest should be minimal and should ensure adequate canopy cover for forest interior birds and woodland voles, as well as shade-requiring rare plants. Avoid introducing invasive species and disturbing diverse forest ground layers, including rare plants.

Management direction from the following sources was considered in developing the above recommendations:

High Biodiversity Site Plan

Are the HCVs within this HCVF likely to benefit from coordination with adjacent landowner(s)? _Yes_

This HCVF was flagged by the Regional HCVF Team as warranting cross-ownership coordination efforts. The specific HCVs likely to benefit from such coordination with adjacent landowners are identified below.

Site is broken up into portions divided by private ownership. These landowners are essential partners in conserving rare plant communities and species.

General Comments

This is a "High Biodiversity Site" identified by the Blufflands SFRMP

Reference to rare plants and animals, Minnesota Biological Survey Sites of Biological Significance and mapped native plant communities are records maintained in the Minnesota DNR's Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS). A date of information is associated with each record. The NHIS is continually updated as new information becomes available. The lack of data listed for any geographic area should not be construed to mean that no significant features are present.

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