

Mille Lacs Moraine

Conservation Challenges:

- *Conversion to agricultural uses
- *Changes in agricultural practices
- *Increased draitiling makes stream flow more flashy, reduces groundwater infiltration
- *Fluctuating/declining groundwater levels
- *Invasive spp.: Buckthorns, Eurasian honeysuckle, garlic mustard, leafy spurge, EAB
- *Habitat fragmentation
- *Agricultural water pollutants/sedimentation
- *Fire-dependent communities are likely to decline due to difficulty in restoring natural fire regimes

Conservation Opportunities:

Existing Conservation Network:

State Parks: Mille Lacs Kathio

State Forests: Wealthwood

SNAs: Mille Lacs Moraine

Wildlife Management Areas: Harold & Marie Deutsch
Ripple River
White Fish

Private:

Rare Species:

- American Bittern
- Bald Eagle
- Blanding's Turtle
- Blunt-lobed Grapefern
- Bog Bluegrass
- Butternut
- Cerulean Warbler
- False Mermaid
- Four-toed Salamander
- Georgia Bulrush
- Goblin Fern
- Halberd-leaved Tearthumb
- Humped Bladderwort
- Lanceleaf Grapefern
- Leafless Water Milfoil
- Least Moonwort
- Matricary Grapefern
- Narrow-leaved Water Plantain
- Northern Barrens Tiger Beetle
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Robbin's Spike-rush
- Snailseed Pondweed
- Thread-like Naiad
- Triangle Moonwort
- Vasey's Pondweed
- White Adder's-mouth
- Wood's Sedge
- Yellow Rail



courtesy of minnesotaseasons.com

Mille Lacs Moraine Opportunity Area

Ecological Significance:

While the Mille Lacs Moraine is an Eastern Broadleaf Forest community, it is located far enough to the north, that it has aspects more commonly seen within the Laurentian Mixed Forest. Wetlands receiving cold air drainage commonly have conifers such as tamarack, black spruce or white pine. White pine and balsam fir may also have a limited presence in upland communities too. The moraine lands provided a steeply rolling landscape that creates a matrix of wetlands, ponds, and small lakes. Much of the area remains uncultivated, and provides opportunities for conservation on a landscape scale. It also lies within the ecotone between Laurentian and Eastern Broadleaf provinces, and has a number of species that occur at the northern or southern edge of their ranges.



Counties:

- Aitkin
- Crow Wing
- Mille Lacs
- Morrison

Rare Native Plant Communities:

- Aspen - Ash Forest
- Black Ash - Yellow Birch - Red Maple - Basswood Swamp (Eastcentral)
- Black Spruce Bog, Treed Subtype
- Ice Deposition (Holocene)
- Lake and Wetland Deposition (Holocene)
- Low Shrub Poor Fen
- Native Plant Community, Undetermined Class
- Northern Poor Fen
- Red Oak - Basswood Forest (Calcareous Till)
- Rich Tamarack Swamp (Eastcentral)
- Sedge Meadow, Beaked Sedge Subtype

Ecological Evaluations:

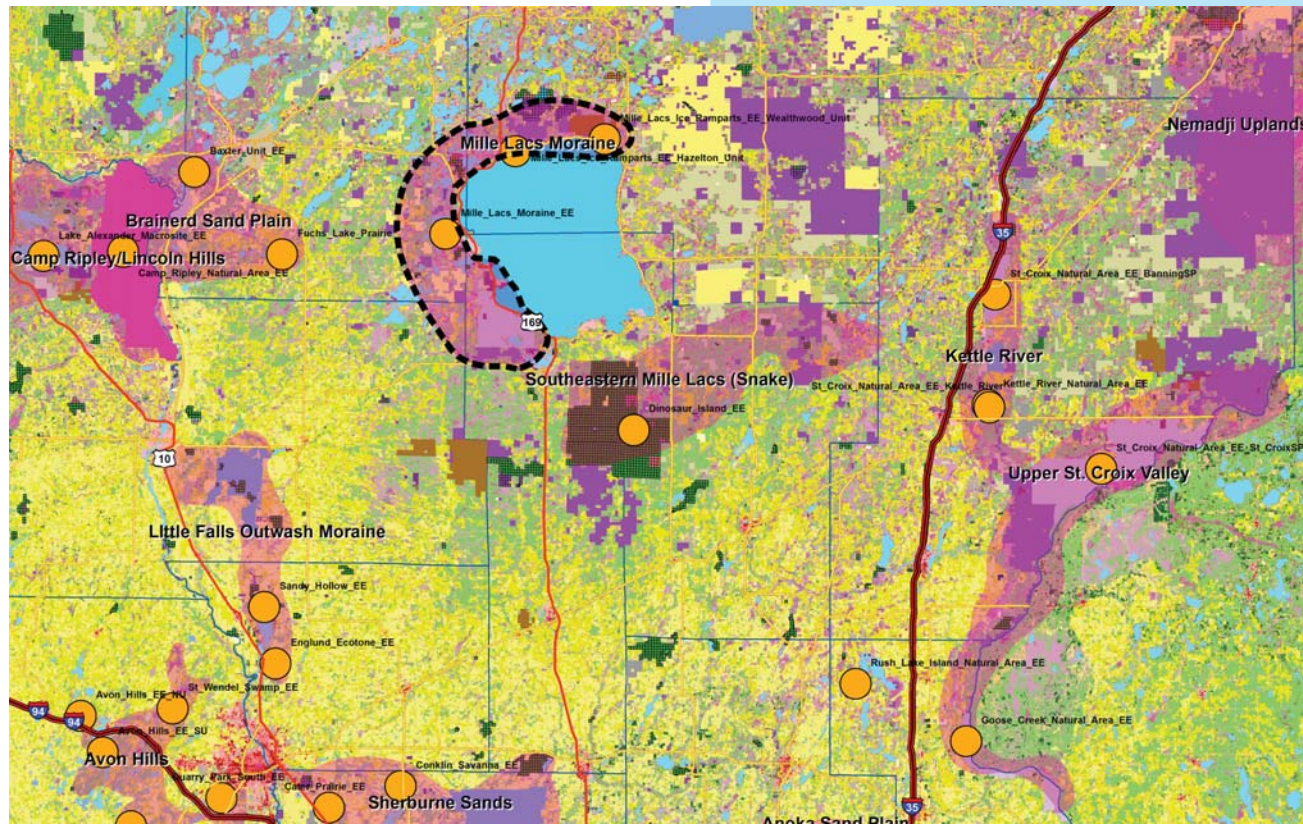
- Mille Lacs Moraine
- Mille Lacs Ice Ramparts
- Hazelton Unit
- Wealthwood Unit



Photo courtesy of minnesotaseasons.com

Mille Lacs Moraine

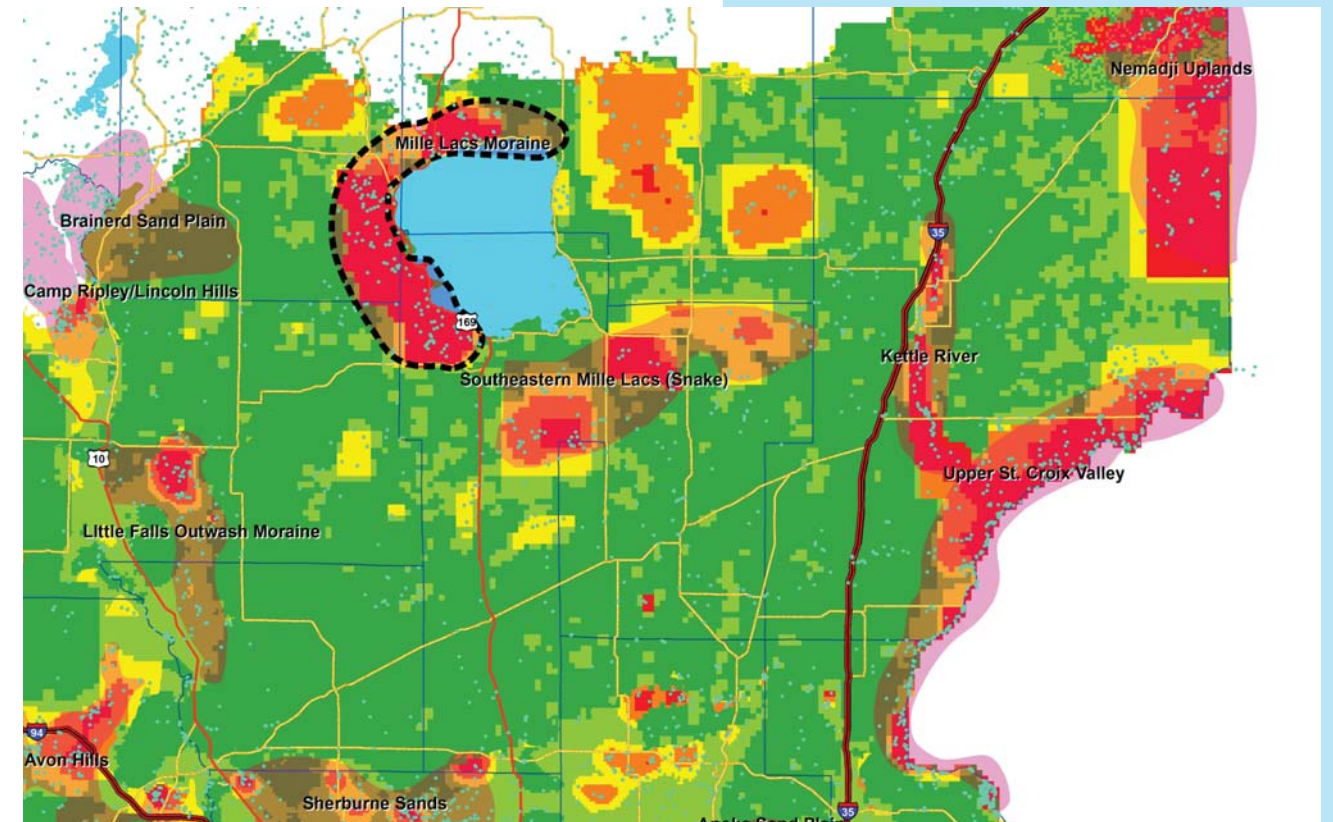
Ecological Evaluations, Land Cover, Public Ownership



Please see Legend at the front of the Opportunity Area Descriptions for a key to this map

Mille Lacs Moraine

Marxan Prioritization, Element Occurrences



Legend

- Profiled COA
 - Conservation Opportunity Area
 - Rare Feature
 - County Boundary
 - Large Lake
- Marxan Conservation Prioritization**
- Lowest Priority
 - Low Priority
 - Medium Priority
 - High Priority
 - Highest Priority
 - Interstate Highway
 - U.S. Trunk Highway
 - MN Trunk Highway