

Root River Headwaters

Conservation Challenges:

- * Conversion to agricultural uses
- * Changes in agricultural practices
- * Conversion to mining
- * Deforestation/logging
- * Increased dewatering makes stream flow more flashy, reduces groundwater for algific habitats
- * Waterways are more incised, with more alluvium, and higher turbidity
- * Invasive spp.: Common buckthorn, Eurasian honeysuckle, garlic mustard, leafy spurge
- * Habitat fragmentation
- * Valley bottoms prone to high-volume floods
- * Fire-dependent communities are likely to decline due to difficulty in restoring natural fire regimes

Conservation Opportunities:

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Existing Conservation Network:

- State Parks:**
 - Forestville-Mystery Cave
- State Forests:**
 - Richard J. Dorer
- SNAs:**
 - Pin Oak Prairie
 - Wykoff Balsam Fir,
 - Cherry Grove Blind Valley
- Aquatic Management Area:**
 - Trout Run Creek
- Wildlife Management Area:**
 - William Pease

Rare Species:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Acadian Flycatcher | MN Pleistocene Ambersnail |
| American Beakgrain | Moschatel |
| American Brook Lamprey | Mucket |
| American Ginseng | Narrow-leaved Spleenwort |
| Bald Eagle | Nodding Wild Onion |
| Bat Concentration | Northern Cricket Frog |
| Beaked Snakeroot | Northern Myotis |
| Big Tick-trefoil | One-flowered Broomrape |
| Black Redhorse | Ozark Minnow |
| Blanchard's Cricket Frog | Pickereel Frog |
| Blanding's Turtle | Plains Wild Indigo |
| Cerulean Warbler | Prairie-parsley |
| Clasping Milkweed | Purple Rocket |
| Cliff Goldenrod | Rattlesnake-master |
| Creek Heelsplitter | Red-shouldered Hawk |
| Dune Grape | Reniform Sullivantia |
| Elktoe | Rock Whitlow-grass |
| Ellipse | Rough avens |
| False Mermaid | Round Pigtoe |
| Fluted-shell | Sedge Meadow |
| Glade Mallow | Short's Aster |
| Goldenseal | Silvery Spleenwort |
| Goldie's Fern | Small White Lady's-slipper |
| Gopher snake | Smooth Rock Cress |
| Gravel Chub | Smooth-sheathed Sedge |
| Great Indian-plantain | Snowy Campion |
| Green Dragon | Snow Trillium |
| Hickorynut | Spike |
| Hubricht's Vertigo | Spreading Sedge |
| Iowa Golden Saxifrage | Squirrel-corn |
| Iowa Pleistocene Ambersnail | Stemless Tick-trefoil |
| James' Sedge | Sweet-smelling Indian-plantain |
| Laurentian Bladder Fern | Timber Rattlesnake |
| Leedy's Roseroot | Tricolored Bat |
| Lilia-leaved Twayblade | Tuberous Indian-plantain |
| Limestone Oak Fern | Twinleaf |
| Loggerhead Shrike | Valerian |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | Variable Pleistocene Vertigo |
| Midwest Pleistocene Vertigo | Western Fox snake |
| Milk snake | Western Harvest Mouse |
| | White Heath Aster |
| | Wolf's Bluegrass |
| | Wood's Sedge |
| | Yellow Pimpernel |

Root River Headwaters Opportunity Area

Ecological Significance:

Eastern Hardwood Forest Province communities are located within an area of high-relief, unglaciated, dissected limestone plateau. *Tributary headwaters frequently descend abruptly into narrow gorges that provide refugia for boreal species in northern aspects that make this a particularly unique resource area.* Southern aspects can be too steep and xeric to support woodland, and are frequently vegetated with goat prairies. Wetlands are limited in this landscape, and are found only within valleys adjacent to streams. Many NPCs and species are endemic to the Blufflands subsection, such as twinleaf and shagbark hickory. The landscape contains other unique features such as numerous trout streams, and karst topography containing sinkholes, fractures, and cave systems. Variations in terrain afford opportunities for outlier communities such as algific talus slopes to persist in north-facing cliffs, and short and mixed-grass goat prairies to persist on southerly slopes in the wettest part of the state.



Counties:

- Fillmore
- Olmsted

Rare Native Plant Communities:

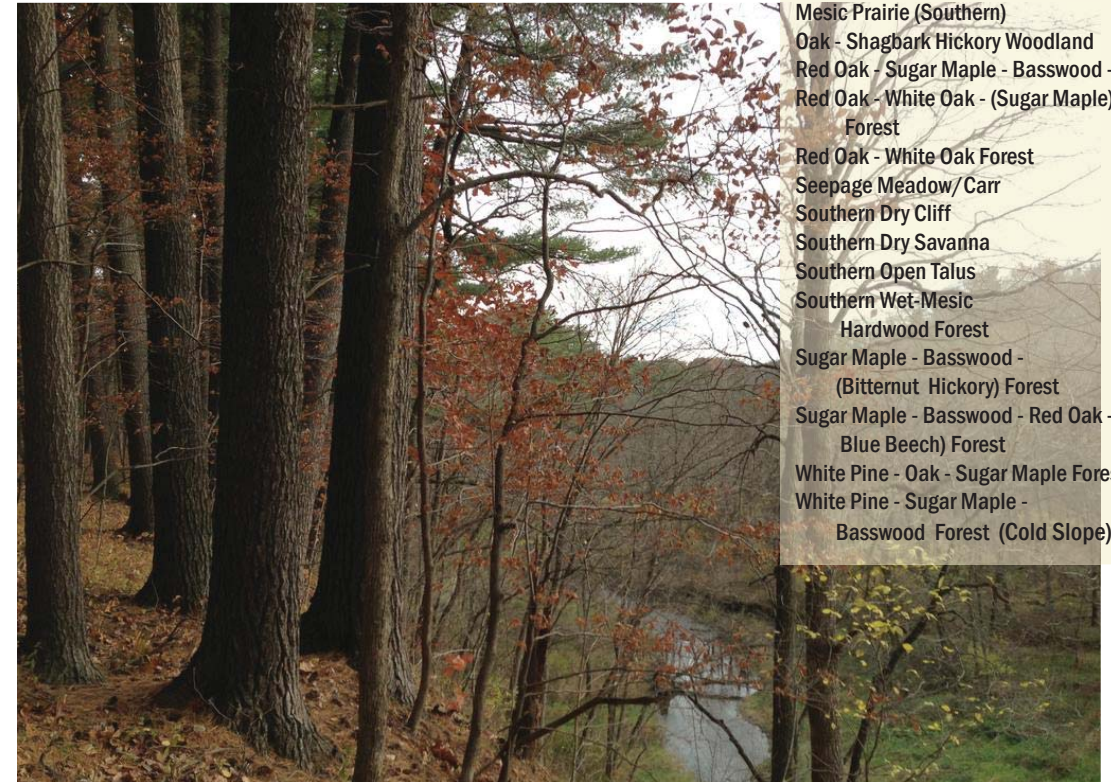
- Algific Talus, Limestone Subtype
- Black Ash - Sugar Maple - Basswood - (Blue Beech) Seepage Swamp
- Dry Barrens Prairie (Southern)
- Dry Bedrock Bluff Prairie (Southern)
- Elm - Ash - Basswood Terrace Forest
- Elm - Basswood - Black Ash - (Blue Beech) Forest
- Moderate Cliff, Limestone Subtype
- Mesic Limestone - Dolomite Cliff (Southern)
- Mesic Limestone - Dolomite Talus (Southern)
- Mesic Prairie (Southern)
- Oak - Shagbark Hickory Woodland
- Red Oak - Sugar Maple - Basswood - (Bitternut Hickory) Forest
- Red Oak - White Oak - (Sugar Maple) Forest
- Red Oak - White Oak Forest
- Seepage Meadow/Carr
- Southern Dry Cliff
- Southern Dry Savanna
- Southern Open Talus
- Southern Wet-Mesic Hardwood Forest
- Sugar Maple - Basswood - (Bitternut Hickory) Forest
- Sugar Maple - Basswood - Red Oak - Blue Beech) Forest
- White Pine - Oak - Sugar Maple Forest
- White Pine - Sugar Maple - Basswood Forest (Cold Slope)

Ecological Evaluations:

- Spring Valley
- Wykoff Balsam Fir
- Middle Root River 1
- Fogles Mills Forest
- Fillmore MCBS #16

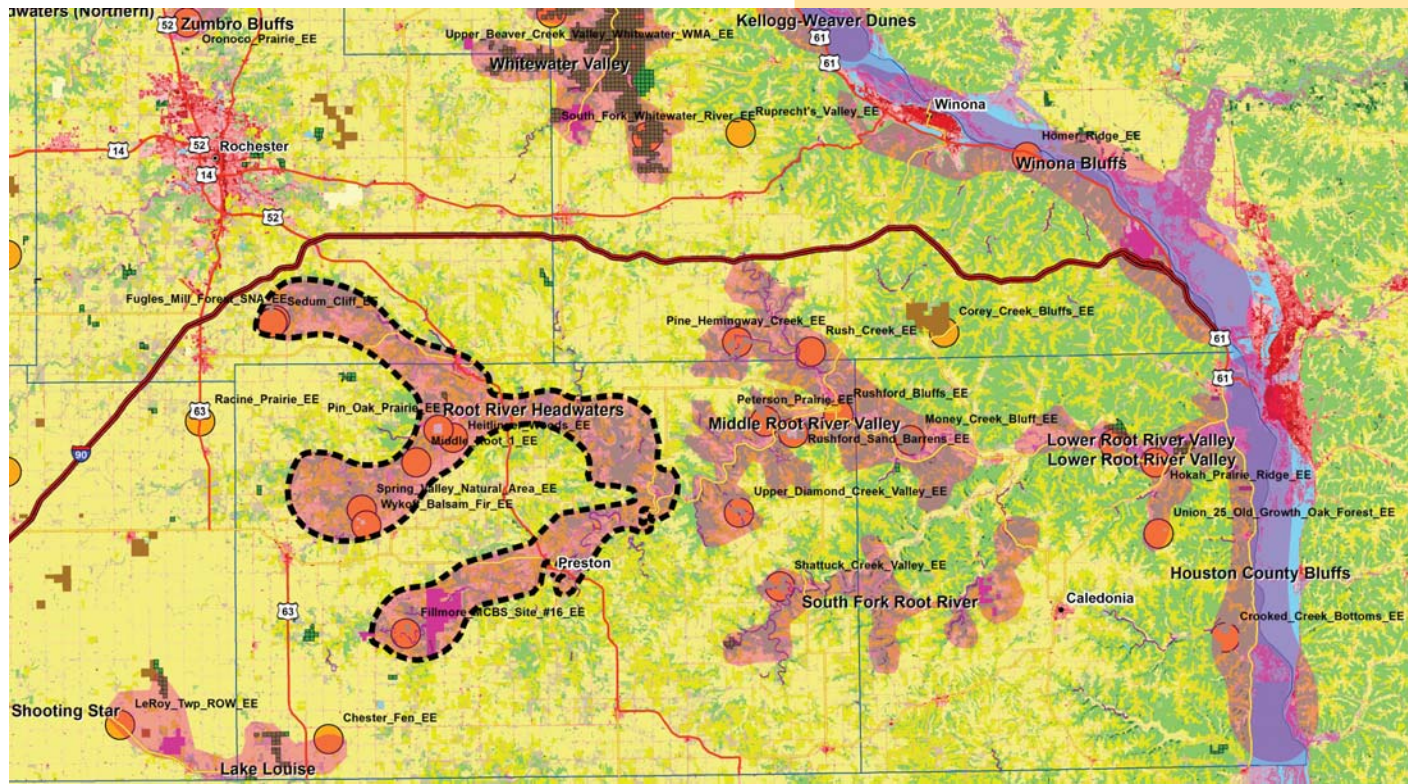
Other Candidate Sites:

- Eagle Bluff High Priority
- Pleasant Grove HP Area



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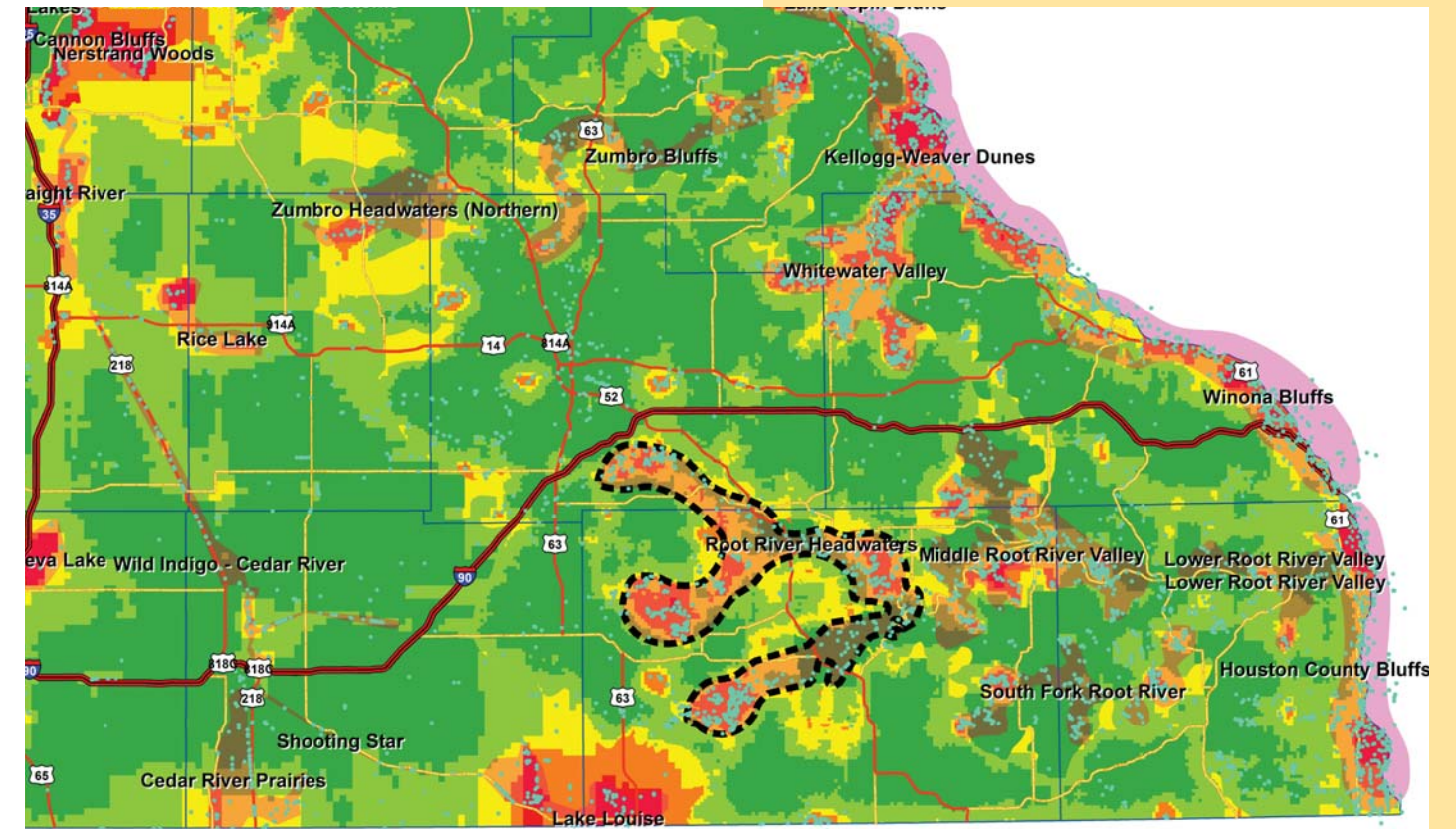
Ecological Evaluations, Land Cover, Public Ownership



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

Root River Headwaters

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