

# Upper Cannon Bluffs

## Conservation Challenges:

- \*Conversion to agricultural uses
- \*Changes in agricultural practices
- \*Conversion to mining
- \*Deforestation/logging
- \*Increased draintiling makes stream flow more flashy, reduces groundwater
- \*Waterways are more incised, with more alluvium, and higher turbidity, TMDL
- \*Invasive spp.: Buckthorns, Eurasian honeysuckle, garlic mustard, leafy spurge, EAB
- \*Habitat fragmentation
- \*Valley bottoms prone to high-volume floods of increased frequency
- \*Urbanization
- \*Fire-dependent communities are likely to decline due to difficulty in restoring natural fire regimes

## Conservation Opportunities:

- \*
- \*

## Rare Features:

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Acadian Flycatcher     | One-flowered Broomrape  |
| American Ginseng       | Ovate-leaved Skullcap   |
| Bald Eagle             | Rattlesnake-master      |
| Bat Concentration      | Red-shouldered Hawk     |
| Big Horseshoe Lake     | Rough-seeded Fameflower |
| Dewberry               | Round Pigtoe            |
| Black Sandshell        | Smoothish Orach         |
| Butternut              | Spike                   |
| Canada Frostweed       | Squirrel-corn           |
| Cowbane                | Sterile Sedge           |
| Creek Heelsplitter     | Valerian                |
| Davis' Sedge           | Western Fox snake       |
| Dwarf Trout Lily       | White Heath Aster       |
| Ellipse                | Widgeon-grass           |
| Fluted-shell           | Wood Turtle             |
| Gray's Sedge           |                         |
| Green Dragon           |                         |
| Jointed Sedge          |                         |
| Lilia-leaved Twayblade |                         |
| Loggerhead Shrike      |                         |
| Louisiana Waterthrush  |                         |
| Mucket                 |                         |
| One-flowered Broomrape |                         |

## Existing Conservation Network:

### State Forests:

### SNAs:

Cannon River Trout Lily

### Aquatic Management Areas:

### Wildlife Management Areas:

Faribault

### Reinvest in Minnesota:

# Upper Cannon Bluffs Opportunity Area

## Ecological Significance:

Rich, mesic hardwood forests of sugar maple, basswood, red oak, and American elm dominated the landscapes of south-central Minnesota prior to European settlement. These forests were able to persist as the frequent lakes, wetlands, hummocky terrain or in the case of this OA, steep slopes along the Cannon River provided firebreaks to stop the prairie fires. These were highly productive forests with a rich wildflower layer that is being lost to impacts from non-native earthworms, deer, common buckthorn, and garlic mustard. Fully intact forests are also disappearing quickly as they are also converted to residential development and agricultural cultivation. Only two percent of the Big Woods landscape remains forested, therefore these forest remnants should be a priority for conservation.



## Counties:

Rice  
Steele

## Rare Native Plant Communities:

- Calcareous Fen (Southeastern)
- Dry Barrens Oak Savanna (Southern), Oak Subtype
- Dry Bedrock Bluff Prairie (Southern)
- Elm - Ash - Basswood Terrace Forest
- Elm - Basswood - Black Ash - (Hackberry) Forest
- Northern Rich Fen (Basin)
- Oak - Shagbark Hickory Woodland
- Red Oak - Sugar Maple - Basswood - (Bitternut Hickory) Forest
- Sedge Meadow
- Sedge Meadow, Tussock Sedge Subtype
- Silver Maple - (Virginia Creeper) Floodplain Forest
- Silver Maple - Green Ash - Cottonwood Terrace Forest
- Southern Dry-Mesic Oak Forest
- Southern Mesic Oak-Basswood Forest
- Sugar Maple Forest (Big Woods)
- Wet Sandstone Cliff (Southern)
- Willow - Dogwood Shrub Swamp

## Ecological Evaluations:

Cannon River Trout Lily  
Clinton Falls Trout Lily

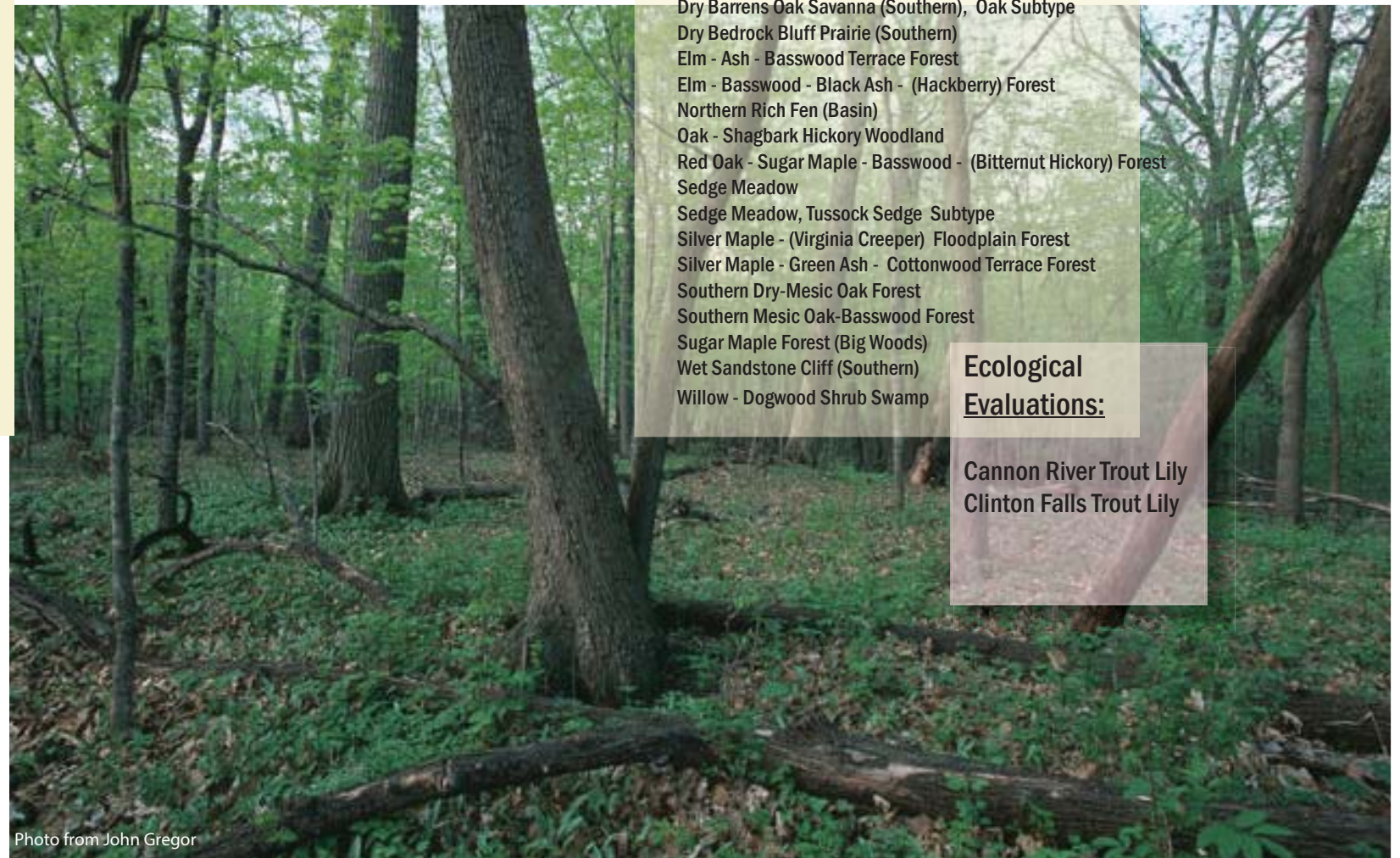
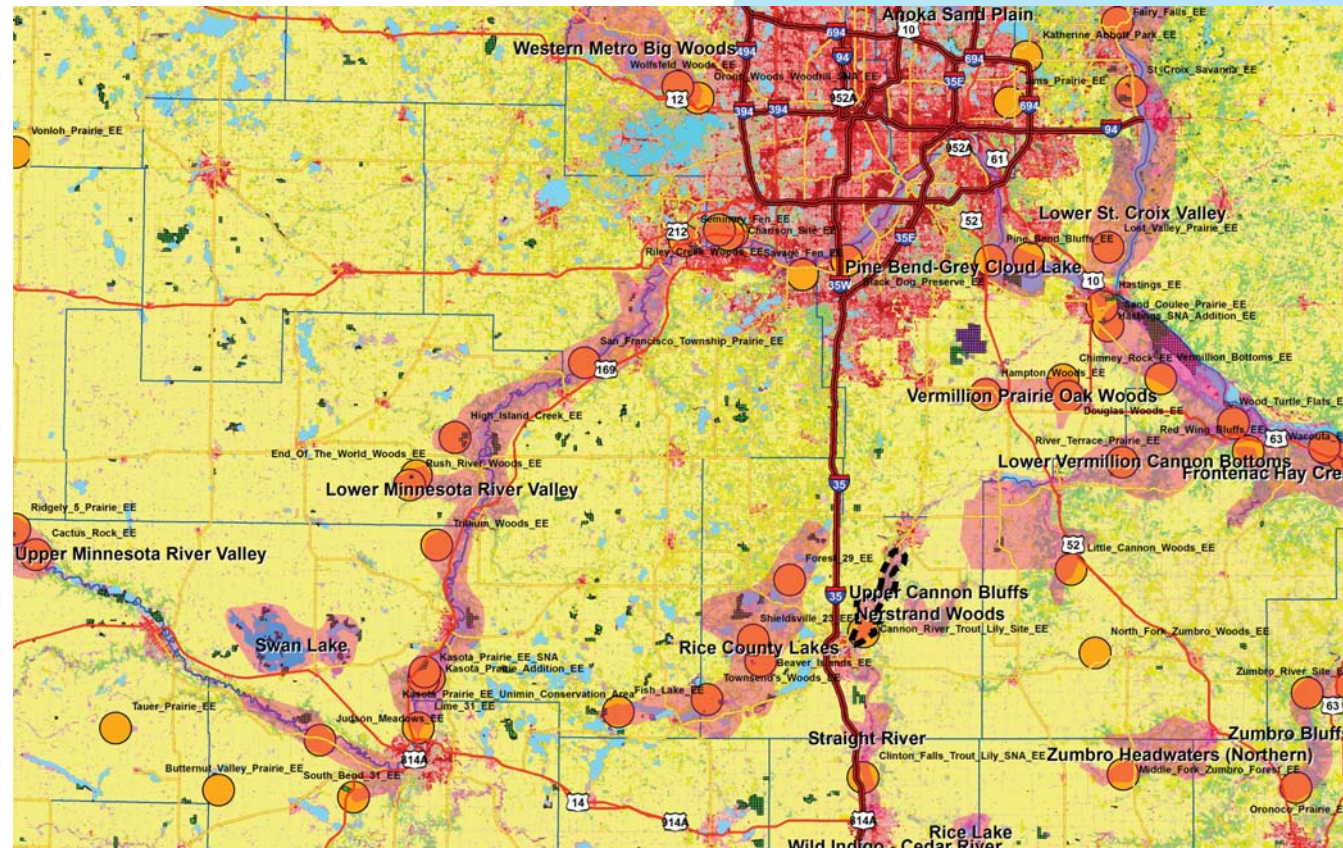


Photo from John Gregor

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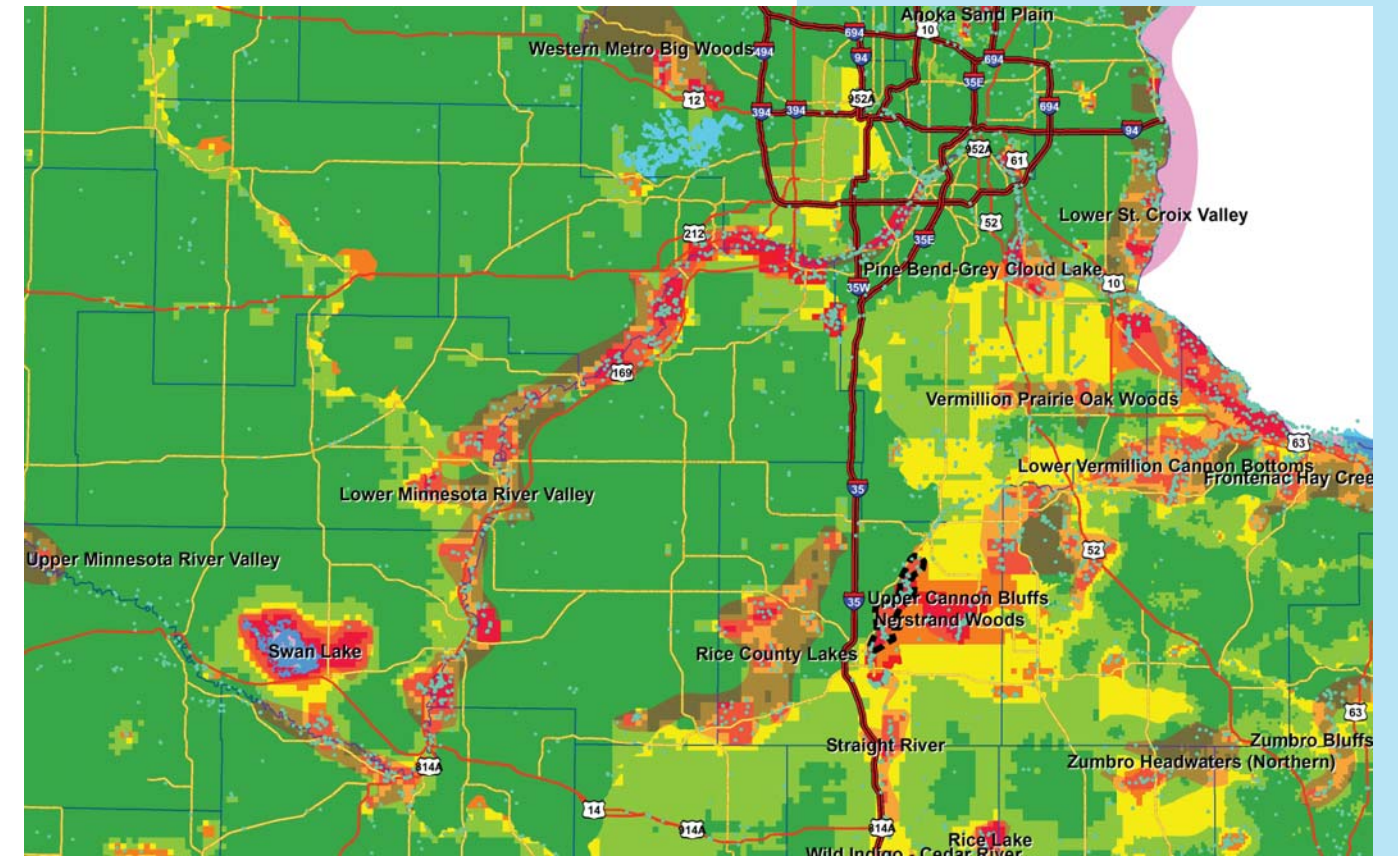
Ecological Evaluations, Land Cover, Public Ownership



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

# Upper Cannon Bluffs

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