

Conservation Challenges:

- * Conversion to agricultural uses
- * Changes in agricultural practices
- * Deforestation/logging
- * Increased dewatering makes stream flow more flashy, reduces groundwater
- * Fluctuating/declining lake levels
- * Invasive spp.: Buckthorns, Eurasian honeysuckle, garlic mustard, leafy spurge, EAB
- * Habitat fragmentation
- * Urbanization/lakeshore development
- * Eutrophic lakes
- * 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: Sakatah Lakes
 State Forests: Richard J. Dorer Mem'l Hardwood
 SNAs: Whitney Island

Wildlife Management

Areas:

Boyd Sartell
 Cannon River
 Dove Lake
 Earl Swain
 Millest
 Paulson Marsh
 Sakatah

Aquatic Management Areas:

Cannon River
 Circle Lake
 Cedar Lake
 Dudley-Kelly
 Mazaska 2nd Add.
 Sakatah Lake
 Tetonka Lake
 Union Lake
 Waterville Hatchery
 Caron Lake

Rare Species:

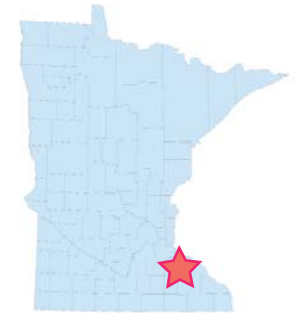
American Brook Lamprey	Least Darter
Bald Eagle	Ozark Minnow
Black Redhorse	
Butternut	
Cowbane	
Creek Heelsplitter	
Elktoe	
Ellipse	
Fluted-shell	
Glade mallow	
Goldie's Fern	
Green Dragon	
Henslow's Sparrow	

Zumbro Headwaters

Opportunity Area

Ecological Significance:

The Zumbro Headwaters lie at the southern boundary of the Big Woods region of southern Minnesota. Unlike other headwaters of the major rivers of southeastern Minnesota, the Zumbro's headwaters originate in less rugged terrain. Nevertheless, the rolling landscape affords opportunities for forests to persist, and bedrock-based communities to be present. Prairies become more prevalent south of this OA, as the landscape becomes more level. Native plant communities are located at the prairie-forest ecotone, and the specific communities are generally located at the fringe of the prairie or forest biome. It should be noted that communities in this ecotone have been subject to the dynamic forces that drive the shifting border between grassland and forest--which provides an additionally interesting aspect to the native plant communities in this area.



Counties:

Dodge
 Goodhue
 Olmsted

Rare Native Plant Communities:

- Black Ash - (Red Maple) Seepage Swamp
- Bur Oak - Aspen Forest
- Calcareous Fen (Southeastern)
- Dry Bedrock Bluff Prairie (Southern)
- Dry Limestone - Dolomite Cliff (Southern)
- Dry Sand - Gravel Prairie (Southern)
- Dry-Mesic Oak Forest
- Elm - Ash - Basswood Terrace Forest
- Elm - Basswood - Black Ash - (Hackberry) Forest
- Mesic Limestone - Dolomite Cliff (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
- Seepage Meadow/Carr Tussock Sedge Subtype
- Silver Maple - Green Ash - Cottonwood Terrace Forest
- Southern Dry-Mesic Oak (Maple) Woodland
- Southern Dry-Mesic Oak Forest
- Southern Wet-Mesic Hardwood Forest
- Southern Mesic Maple-Basswood Forest
- Southern Mesic Oak-Basswood Forest
- Southern Terrace Forest
- Sugar Maple - Basswood - (Bitternut Hickory) Forest
- Sugar Maple - Basswood - Red Oak - (Blue Beech) Forest
- Wet Prairie (Southern)

Ecological Evaluations:

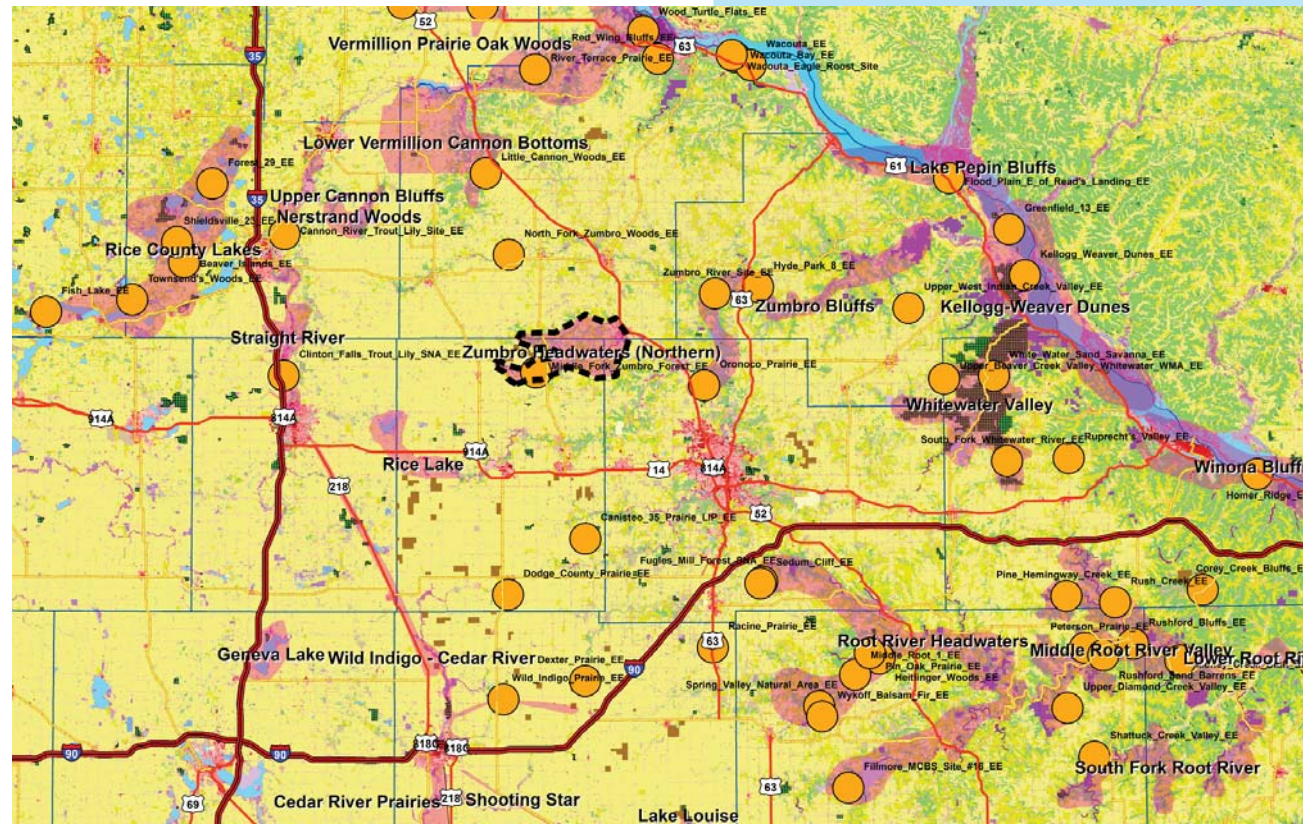
Middle Fork Zumbro Forest



Photo courtesy of explorethezumbro.org

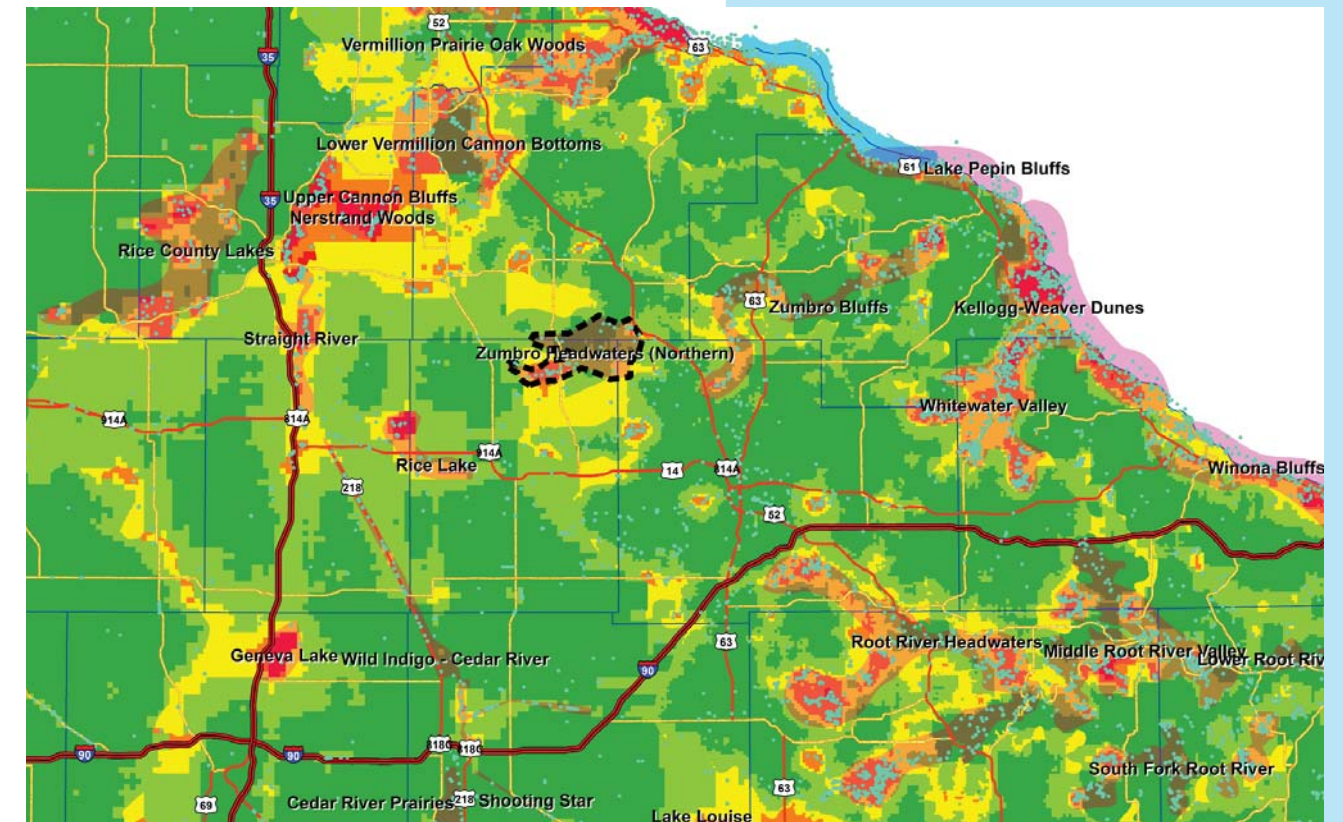
Zumbro Headwaters

Ecological Evaluations, Land Cover, Public Ownership



Zumbro Headwaters

Marxan Prioritization, Element Occurrences



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

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