HCVF Site 160220 Poplar-Agnes, Cook County



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been identified on other ownerships.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

HCVF Informational Report

Report Run: September 3, 2013

General Information

HCVF #: 160220 HCVF Name: Poplar-Agnes Acres of HCVF site: 783.81 County: Cook

Data edited by: NE HCVF Workgroup **Role:** NE HCVF Workgroup **Date edited on:** 2013-07-26

Corresponding Land Administrator(s): DNR Forestry **Management Unit Name(s) (if applicable):** Scattered lands

HCVF Summary

Within a 5,148 MBS site (160220 - Poplar Agnes) that is scenic, fairly remote, and ecologically intact, encompassing the largest remaining, undeveloped portion of the lower Poplar River watershed; the Poplar River being a principal North Shore stream in the Sawtooth Mountains above Lake Superior at Lutsen. Both the condition of the native plant communities and the landscape context of the remaining state administered lands are of ecological significance within the Poplar Agnes Site. Of the State HCVF acres, 16 acres of a 40acre block in the Lake Agnes area has been designated as old-growth northern hardwoods and a contiguous area of 79 acres, known as the Lake Agnes Natural Area Registry Site, has also been designated as old-growth northern hardwoods. See the Lake Agnes Natural Area Registry agreement (MN DNR SNA program). A 439acre area is adjacent to the Lutsen SNA; this area is comprised of riparian and upland communities, predominantly in older native plant community growth stages, along a cross-section of the Poplar River valley and including adjacent cliff communities. A 39-acre area of upland black spruce (FDn32) adjoins the Lake Agnes RNA and is an important component of the conifer-dominated, riparian peatland community complex of the Poplar River in this site. A 162-acre area of old forest communities, currently with a mix of aspen, birch and northern hardwoods, are among northern hardwoods communities on a bedrock-controlled northern hardwoods knob. State HCVF acres include a stretch of the Poplar River, a Key River Reach per MNâ€[™]s CWCS, and border a short stretch of the upper reaches of Caribou Creek, a tributary to the Poplar River. Adjacent ownership within the larger MBS site is majority USFS-SNF and a minority private. 800 acres of the USFS land is within a Research Natural Area (cRNA). Taken together, these conservation units (i.e. SNA, NAR, OG, cRNA) comprise core areas within the Site that represent high quality older growth stages of northern mesic hardwood forests, mesic and wet forest cedar communities, northern mesic mixed forests, cliff communities and peatlands found throughout the Site. State HCVF acres have no roads, trails include portions of the Superior Hiking Trail and State snowmobile trail.

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): 1 plant. HCV1g (Outstanding Key Habitats Examples): Poplar River Key River Reach. HCV2-LMFa (Large habitat block): upland forest. HCV2-LMFbi (late-successional forest block): potential exists. HCV2-LMFbii (blocks with rare species): yes. HCV3c (Special S3 plant community): FDn43c, MHn45c. HCV3e (Old-growth forest): 93 acres NH. HCV3f (Primary forest): yes.

Management Considerations

Overall management objectives for the entire HCVF:

Engage with the North Shore Forest Collaborative for coordinated management across ownered-shouldered hawkip to effectively address HCVs on State HCVF parcels. Verify rare plant occurrence on State HCVF acres. Maintain/enhance the Poplar River and Caribou Creek as Key River Reaches by applying MFRC SLG Trout Steam guidelines to silvicultural prescriptions within the Poplar River and Caribou Creek RMZs. Silvicultural treatments in rare native plant communities maintains or enhances the floristic, structural, and spatial components that define the native plant community; see SRM Objective code CON1. Maintain/enhance natural cedar regeneration. Field verify potential primary forest occurrences. Apply DNR HCV General Landscape Guidance.

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

NTL SFRMP, North Shore Forest Collaborative

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.

USFS, SNA program. HCVF site is within the North Shore Forest Collaborative.

General Comments

USFS SNF Forest Plan Management Emphasis: Recreational use in a scenic landscape; cRNA. North Shore Collaborative ideas: application of DNR HCVF general landscape guidance applied across ownerships.

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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