

**NORTH WOODS AND WATERS
OF THE ST. CROIX
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA™**

Feasibility Study

(AMENDMENTS – DECEMBER, 2019)



One Special Place™



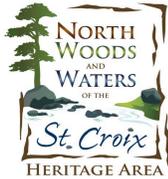
NORTH WOODS AND WATERS OF THE ST. CROIX

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National Significance of the Region

North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix National Heritage Area

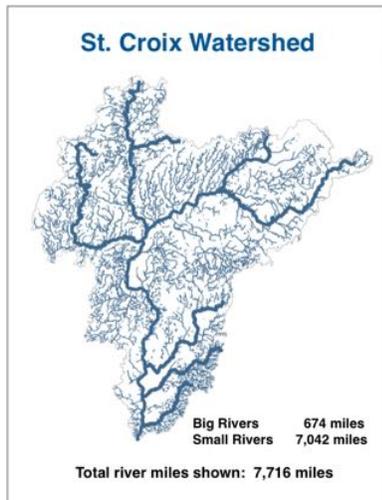


Geography North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix Heritage Area unites the St. Croix River watershed of Minnesota and Wisconsin — a region of approximately 7,800 square miles (nearly 5 million total acres). With its major tributary, the Namekagon River, the St. Croix was one of the first nationally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, and only river designated under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act that was managed by the National Park Service .

Statement North Woods and Waters has exceptional resources for sharing the nationally important story of an evolving conservation ethic rising out of a 19th Century logging boom of incalculable scale, leading to devastating ecological ruin, and then to conscientious environmental recovery.

Longer Description Europeans and European-Americans, over two centuries of the fur trade, gradually turned away from reciprocity with the Dakota and Ojibwe, in favor of coerced treaties to gain access to the region's richest resource — the White Pine. Opportunists and entrepreneurs, each, were intent on capturing timber profits as quickly as possible. Cutting practices geared toward short-term profit left the land devastated and barren. During the heyday of logging, the region had been the world's largest supplier of pine lumber, but following the practice of clear cutting and laying waste a forested area of 4 million acres, the White Pine region was abandoned by lumbermen who took away most of the wealth from the land and left behind a devastated "cutover" landscape of tree slash and stumps on sandy soils which made for largely inferior agricultural land — and the harsh

ecological reality of the region led to frequent farm failure and abandonment. The region that had been left covered in forest debris, was also subject to explosions of fire, which happened frequently with devastating loss of life and many dozens of communities destroyed by flames. In the wake of this ecological tragedy, the people of the North Woods and Waters region developed nation-leading environmental beliefs, practices and policies to sustainably reforest, conserve, protect, and appreciate natural resources during the mid-twentieth century. This emerging conservation ethic within the region became the threads of a larger environmental consciousness and national movement.



North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix National Heritage Area

Primary Themes Abstract

Logging Boom — People lived in this region for over 12,000 years, but this particular story begins when Ojibwe and Dakota Nations relinquished rights to harvest the majestic white pines in an 1837 treaty, known as the White Pine Treaty. The white pines, thought to be inexhaustible, were largely cut down over the course of 75 years — transformed by the lumber industry into the physical materials which built the cities of middle America, at least as far south as St. Louis — and made the agricultural settlement of the Great Plains possible. In the nation’s most expansive migration of region-defining raw materials from one place to another, the region’s white pine timber was exhausted by the 1910s. By the end of the white pine era, more than 15 billion board feet of pine had been floated down the St. Croix River and out of the region — more pine logs had been floated down the St. Croix than in any other river in America.

Cutover — In the wake of logging, as it was practiced in the 19th century, the landscape of the St. Croix watershed pineries was left devastated. The sandy soils of the ‘cutover’ region were poor for conventional farming and countless attempts at farming failed and the land abandoned. The millions of acres still covered in stumps and tree branches often exploded in firestorms that destroyed entire communities as flames swept the region. Forest fires played a leading role in the economics of the logging industry — not simply in the destruction of timber and wiping out sawmills and mill towns — fires shaped the character of the forest industry in creating the lumbermen’s tradition of “Cut out and get out.” It was a risky business whose raw material might be swept out any autumn day by an explosive mixture of heat and drought. It is not surprising that timber came to be regarded as an asset for quick liquidation — rather than a resource for permanent industry. Billions of feet of timber were thus destroyed, a waste of resource, and people’s lives and livelihoods were taken as a result.

The forests had provided food, shelter, a homeland and way of life to Native populations for centuries. As fire encroached more and more into their homeland, Native populations were also killed by fire in large numbers but, unlike European-Americans who were killed, Native North Americans were not even counted in the publicized death tolls associated with each new conflagration. As if fire did not destroy enough, depleted numbers of fur bearing animals and low market prices had already put an end to native participation in a fur trade that had effectively ended by the time of signing the 1837 White Pine Treaty, which opened the region to logging. The vast Native American homeland was already unable to adequately support traditional hunting and gathering. Lakes and rivers, once abundant resources, had supported tribal members for centuries. Now they were altered and depleted. Dams built on rivers to help with transportation of logs altered the flow of rivers and destroyed rice beds upon which indigenous communities relied. Most of the region was in the throes of an ecological catastrophe.

Conscientious Environmental Recovery — In the wake of the ecological tragedy that was the cutover, the people of the North Woods and Waters region developed nation-leading environmental beliefs, practices and policies to sustainably reforest, conserve, protect, and appreciate natural resources during the mid-twentieth century. Bold plans to restore forests were implemented in both states — not ever again in White Pine — but in a mix of forest types that most people today think of as a restored “North Woods.” The lumber industry in the North Woods and Waters region has also changed over the past century, and now provides a national model for sustainable forestry practices that create an essential economic base for communities along with outstanding recreational and conservation benefits.

The century-long history of rebuilding the geographic landscape from ecological ruin has been guided by leaders, residents and economic interests in the St. Croix region who appreciate the aesthetics and utility of their special places. Conservation and profitability are seen to merge — by preserving identified resources, coupled with sustainable uses of other resources. Quality of life and broad public access to outdoor recreational resources has taken on an importance not in evidence in the 19th century — a process achieved through practice, law and policy.

Nationally recognized conservation leaders — Sigurd Olson, Walter Mondale, and Gaylord A. Nelson — trace their environmental philosophies to time spent in the St. Croix watershed. Senator Gaylord A. Nelson, born and raised in Clear Lake, Wisconsin, is internationally known as the “Father of Earth Day.” As a boy, he paddled and fished the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers. The Clear Lake museum is today visited by people from around the world who revere Senator Nelson and his environmental legacy, and a billion people celebrate Earth Day worldwide. In awarding Gaylord A. Nelson the nation’s highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, President William Clinton stated, “As father of Earth Day, he is the grandfather of all that grew out of that event.”

The St. Croix region’s national importance lies in its ability to document the story of a conservation ethic that grew from a logging boom of incalculable scale, through devastating ecological ruin, to conscientious environmental recovery. The region claims an unparalleled collection of historical, cultural, natural and recreational resources, including several whose national significance has already been established. Flowing from a broadly adopted conservation ethic, there is now a critical mass of parks and protected areas in the North Woods and Waters region: a national park, a national forest, a national wildlife refuge, two national scenic trails, two national landmarks, twelve state parks, ten state forests, eight state trails, sixty-five state natural areas, and hundreds of regional, county, and municipal parks — these and 168 properties listed in the National Historic Register provide a myriad of environmental, recreational and historical destinations for residents and visitors to the region.

Note: Secondary Themes are described later in the document. They include the Fur Trade, Seeking a New Land: Immigrant Contributions and North Woods Tourism.

Photo Documentation

Logging Boom



Greatest logjam in Minnesota and Wisconsin history (no apparent record of a larger one anywhere in the world). It occurred in the Dalles of the St. Croix River just above and between the twin towns of Taylors Falls, Minnesota, and St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, on June 13, 1886. Estimates ranged from 125 million to 150 million feet of logs piled in the narrow gorge between the high cliffs. Logs were jammed against the bottom of the river and the log pile reached more than 30 feet above the water, from the narrow gorge upstream more than two miles. Tourists came by the thousands in trains and steamers to view this once-in-a-lifetime sight. Photographers and journalists came from across the American continent, and from as far away as Europe. The great logjam made it into history books in Sweden, former homeland to many of the loggers. The publicity of the logjam helped gain needed public support to preserve the area's natural beauty — and led to creation of the first bi-state park in the nation when mining interests threatened to destroy the historic and geologically significant cliffs of the Dalles of the St. Croix. The two halves of Interstate State Park were created, respectively, on the Minnesota side of the river in 1895 and on the Wisconsin side in 1900.



Boyle's log landing on the Kettle River at Sandstone, Minnesota — logs were piled higher than the bluff of over 100 feet. Estimated at 9,000,000 feet of logs, this was the largest pile of logs ever known. The photograph was taken in the winter of 1894-1895 and the picture was exhibited at the Paris Exposition of 1900.



Left top and below - Nevers Dam, constructed 1889-1890

The monumental logjam of 1886 (pictured on the previous page) strengthened the resolve of lumbermen to stop costly logjams by constructing a very large dam on the upper St. Croix. The new dam was able to regulate flow of logs and the level of water in the river.



This dam also culminated the long-pursued effort by lumbermen to create a complete monopoly of the river. With their powerful lobby, they also succeeded in limiting navigation on the lower river to two months per year, with the remainder of time reserved for floating logs to market. The public was enraged.

Nevers Dam was 624 feet long by 112 feet wide. There were 13 gates, 16 feet high by 24 feet wide, and one Lang Bear Claw gate, 20 feet high by 80 feet wide. When the dam shut its gates, the

head of water for Nevers was seventeen feet, which held back millions of feet of logs and enough water to create a lake twelve to fourteen miles above the dam. Many people called Nevers Dam "the largest pile-driven dam in the world." It was certainly one of the largest. The dam could sluice through some 8,000,000 feet of logs at a time, while controlling water needed to drive the logs to the downriver boomsite for sorting, and then to the sawmills — all without creating logjams. The dam remained in operation until 1954, when a portion of the dam was washed away. The dam was removed the next year.

Cutover



The cutover landscape created by wasteful liquidation of timber resources across four million forested acres was an unending source of dry kindling, highly susceptible to eruption into forest fire.

The consequences would be deadly.



The smoke created by the *Great Hinckley Fire* of September 1, 1894 was visible from as far south as Iowa, and airborne cinders from the fire were blown into Lake Superior to the north — with cinders falling on the city of Duluth, Minnesota.



A view of the main street in Hinckley, Minnesota, on September 2, 1894 — the morning after a wildfire destroyed the town. Two smaller fires, whipped by winds, had combined into the larger fire. The fire burned over 300 square miles, killed 418 Euro-Americans and untold numbers of Ojibwe who lived in forest areas, but were not counted. The fire lasted less than 5 hours.



A search party finds an entire family in the ruins of the Hinckley fire.



A view of the main street in Moose Lake, Minnesota, following the fire on October 12, 1918 — at least five smaller fires had combined, starting with a still smoldering October 4 fire, until winds and low humidity combined the fires into the flaming maelstrom that destroyed the region. Second photo, collecting the dead. On a road leading out of Moose Lake, "100 bodies were strewn here and there", according to *The New York Times*. A relief worker reported that there were thirty bodies piled in a heap in a cellar between Moose Lake and Kettle River. In total, at least 453 people died and 52,000 people were injured or displaced, 36 towns and villages were destroyed, 1,500 square miles burned, and \$73 million (\$1.216 billion in 2019 US dollars) in property damage was suffered. The all-consuming fire lasted less than 15 hours.

Conscientious Environmental Recovery

The St. Croix Region Honors Its Conservation Leaders



Vice President Walter Mondale and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz at the dedication of the first of four state park facilities that are being named in honor of Vice President Mondale in acknowledgment of his role (with Gaylord Nelson) of co-sponsoring the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, and his role in protecting the river. The four state parks are all located along a 72-mile stretch of the St. Croix River and St. Croix Scenic Byway.

(Photo taken October 15, 2019)

The naming of State Park facilities in honor of Vice President Mondale was placed in statute by the Minnesota Legislature and signed by Governor Walz in May of 2019.



Gaylord Nelson by the St. Croix River

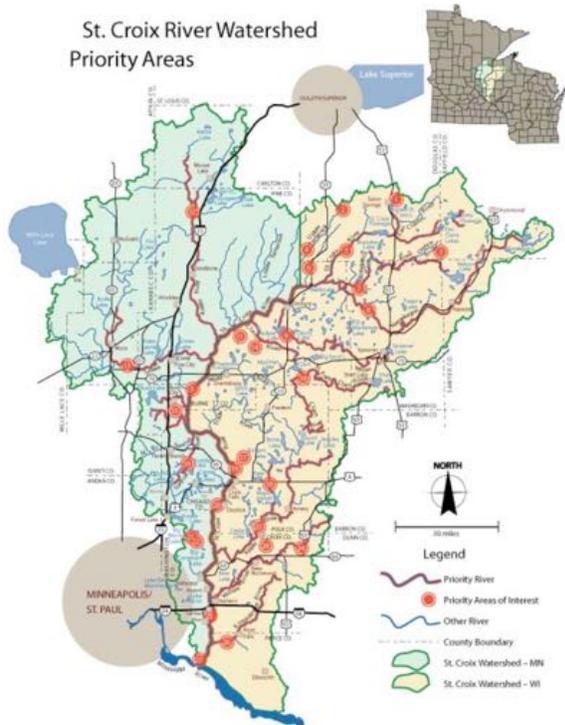


Following public opposition to a development proposal that would have resulted in loss of a scenic walkway area along the St. Croix River (photo right), the Gaylord Nelson Riverwalk, with broad public support, was established connecting the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway Visitor Center with a scenic overlook park in St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin.

Senator Gaylord Nelson is best known as the “Founder of Earth Day.” An astonishing 20 million Americans participated in the first observance on April 22, 1970. Today, Earth Day is an annual observance that has grown to a week or more in many places. Gaylord Nelson grew up in Clear Lake, Wisconsin, just 10 miles from the St. Croix River. NWW, with Clear Lake and other communities throughout the watershed, will celebrate Gaylord Nelson’s legacy and that of other conservation heroes in 2020, the 50th Anniversary of the first Earth Day.

Examples of Community-led Conscientious Environmental Recovery

Resource protection and development of recreational opportunities has been broadly adopted throughout the region — and best accomplished through collaborative effort.



Example #1

The Conservation Collaborative, comprised of approximately 65 representatives of state and federal agencies, land trusts, non-profit conservation organizations, heritage sites, university extension, and members of the public met frequently to identify conservation Priority Areas throughout the St. Croix Watershed. The map at left shows specific Priority Areas where collaborative efforts to conserve the resource is warranted.

St. Croix River Watershed Conservation Priorities Report



Partners in protection

Stewardship of the St. Croix River valley's unique natural resources between Taylor's Falls and Scandia is supported by:

- Franconia Township
- City of Scandia
- Chisago County
- Washington County
- Trust for Public Land
- Minnesota Land Trust
- St. Croix River Association
- St. Croix Scenic Coalition
- St. Croix Conservation Collaborative
- Minnesota Chapter of the Audubon Society
- Minnesota Chapter of the Sierra Club
- Great River Greening
- Camelion Marine Watershed District
- Minnesota DNR
- National Park Service

For more information contact:
Hannah Texler, DNR plant ecologist, 651-772-7570; hannah.texler@dnr.state.mn.us



Example #2

After a local land cover mapping project was conducted along the St. Croix River to verify existence of a significant representation of pre-settlement plant communities, a number of non-governmental organizations partnered with city, township and county units, and with the state DNR and National Park Service to gain state

designation for a new Franconia Bluffs Scientific and Natural Area along the St. Croix River, in Franconia Township, Minnesota. The site is part of a 28-mile segment of the St. Croix River (Minnesota and Wisconsin) identified as an Audubon Important Bird Area.

North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix National Heritage Area

Primary Themes Narrative

(Chapter 3 Amendment to pages 43-72 of Feasibility Study)

Logging Boom

From the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth century, the white pine forests of present-day Minnesota and Wisconsin were cut-down and transformed into lumber to build an industrializing and expanding nation. Making use of the region's dense network of riverways as well as its buoyant and straight softwoods (which could cheaply be floated to market), the lumber industry met national demand and drove the region's economy until the pinery was exhausted.

White Pine logging dominated the St. Croix watershed from the 1830s until 1914. Demand for the region's pine drove federal acquisition of land from the Ojibwe and Dakota in 1837, in what became known as the White Pine Treaty. This tribal action, more than any other, opened the St. Croix River watershed to the largest logging boom experienced in nineteenth century America. Fueled by this major cession of land by treaty, logging continued to drive regional tribal relations, development, and politics until the very last of the merchantable white pine was removed.

Through this process, loggers transformed the St. Croix River and its tributaries throughout the watershed into highways of pine to maximize access to valuable lumber resources. Through dredging, channeling, and damming, the region's lumber industry, with assistance from the Army Corps of Engineers, increased the "drivable" rivers in the watershed from 338 miles to over 820 miles. By the end of the white pine era, more than 15 billion board feet of pine had been floated down the St. Croix River and out of the region – enough logs to fill 2.2 million railroad cars – enough rail cars to have reached across North America 6 times – just from the St. Croix region. More millionaires had been created in the North Woods and Upper Great Lakes region than were created in the California gold rush. The lumber industry also accounted for development of towns throughout the watershed like Stillwater, Marine, Taylors Falls, Hudson, Prescott, St. Croix Falls, Osceola, Frederic, and Hayward, which became hubs for milling, labor, shipping, and commerce.

See Related Resource Inventory (Appendix 3 - amended)

Cutover

In the wake of logging, the landscape of the St. Croix watershed pineries was left devastated. The wholly changed physical environment disrupted the ability of native Ojibwe bands to pursue their seasonal rounds, wherein they traditionally moved from place to place throughout the year, from one resource-gathering area to another, in a cycle that had been followed each year for centuries.

Despite treaty losses of ceded lands and loss of habitat and food sources on which they relied, four Ojibwe bands have been ever-present throughout these historic processes and recognize the North Woods and Waters region as their tribal homeland, which extends across the geographic St. Croix River watershed, and remains the home of the St. Croix, Mille Lacs, Fond du Lac, and Lac Courte O'reilles bands.

Covered in stumps and scrap cuttings, the environmental ruin of the cut-over region was prone to massive fires and, even with stumps removed, the land was poor for conventional agriculture, given its ubiquitous sandy soils. While states and lumber companies attempted to sell off “cut-over” lands to European immigrants, with rosy visions of abundance – the harsh ecological reality of the region led to frequent farm failure and abandonment. By the 1920s, the region had a reputation for economic backwardness, poverty, and crime, which eventually made it the subject of state and federal reform efforts.

In the St. Croix River watershed, the “cut-over” included lands in 14 counties between Minnesota and Wisconsin – mirroring the same areas that had once been dense with coniferous forests. The region also had regular massive fires throughout this era, including the 1894 Hinckley fire which swept across 480 square miles, burned more than 300,000 acres, consumed six towns in its path, and killed 418 settlers along with countless, uncounted, Native Americans in just five hours. Twenty-four years later, the Cloquet-Moose Lake fire became the most devastating fire in Minnesota history, burned 1,500 square miles, killed 453 people and destroyed 36 towns and villages. Of the countless fires of the era, the Great Hinckley Fire, as it became known, most captured the public’s view of the tragedy of fire. However horrible the fires were, they also became the harbinger of a fundamental shift in thinking about the balance between use of environmental resources and outright exploitation. From the devastation and ruin of the cut-over, an increasingly conservation-minded era had been born in the once, and future, reforested North Woods region.

See Related Resource Inventory (Appendix 3 - amended)

Conscientious Environmental Recovery

In light of the difficulties of cut-over farming and the environmental destruction of nineteenth century logging practices, Wisconsin and Minnesota developed nation-leading conservation and forestry laws and practices to encourage sustainable forestry and outdoor recreational tourism. Beginning in the 1920s, Wisconsin passed laws that enabled the creation of state and county forests, and subsidized counties for removing rural abandoned “cutover” lands from the tax rolls and instead encouraging forest conservation. Wisconsin also became the first state to develop rural zoning laws that regulated geographies that were suitable for farming, forestry, and recreation. Minnesota soon thereafter passed similar zoning laws, created forestry agencies, and adopted other measures to encourage conservation and outdoor recreation.

Regional conservation efforts were aided in the 1930s by the US Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps, which established and restored forest lands throughout the region. By the end of the 1940s, the region was covered in a second-growth patchwork of county, state, and federal forests, and parks. This reputation remained intact through the 1970s as Wisconsin and Minnesota (along with Michigan) were the first in the nation to develop consolidated Departments of Natural Resources to comprehensively manage environmental resources, regulation, and recreation.

Today, in the St. Croix watershed, there are at least 1.5 million acres of land that are being conserved as forests or parks at the county, state, and federal levels. Many of these parcels were designated during the 1920s through 1940s, including the massive Chequamegon National Forest in Wisconsin and Minnesota’s St. Croix State Park and Chengwatana State Forest, as well as a large variety of smaller forests. During the 1930s, many of these areas were restored by the efforts of the Civilian Conservation Corps which had a massive presence in the St. Croix River valley and assisted states and counties in establishing pine nurseries, plantations, fisheries, fire lanes, fire towers and other forest management infrastructure as well as a wide variety of recreational infrastructure.

The story of reforestation in the North Woods and Waters region is an American success story – Minnesota and Wisconsin, together, currently have more than one-third of the sustainably certified and managed forest acreage in the entire United States, and the national models for modern commercial forestry developed in the region have evolved from exploitive to sustainable harvests as a logical outgrowth of lessons learned from nineteenth century cut-over logging practices, and from sustainable conservation principles established in the twentieth century. These contemporary forest resources contribute not only to sustainable lumbering, but because so much of this forest acreage is open to public recreation (hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, camping, canoeing, snowmobiling), the forests also spur recreational tourism. In fact, the symbolism of this North Woods and Waters region is currently the major marketing campaign of Minnesota’s office of tourism, wherein the public is exhorted to “Find Your True North” which is described as ‘not just a place’ but a feeling – a state of

mind filled with adventure, culture and curiosity. The old “cut-over” region has been successfully rebranded as the “North Woods.”

In association with this movement, more parks and preserves were created in both states within the St. Croix River watershed, including Wisconsin’s Crex Meadows and Minnesota’s William O’Brien State Park, among others. During this period, dams, power plants and other sources of water and air pollution became focal points for environmental activism in the North Woods and Waters region.

Tribal, federal, state, local and public concerns about environmental protection have evolved in the North Woods and Waters region from the absolute necessity of reforesting a devastated nineteenth century cut-over and choosing, instead, economically sustainable use of natural resources. The North Woods and Waters region is a geographic landscape rebuilt from ecological ruin through conscientious environmental recovery, and has the extant resources and living traditions to share this heritage with the American public. This nationally significant historical process may have started with a unique regional identity of what conservation means, but this ethic surrounding conservation has been taken up across the country, and world in the case of Earth Day, and is a model for encouraging environmental appreciation, environmental activism, and new environmental protection laws.

Nationally recognized conservation leaders from Minnesota and Wisconsin:

Sigurd Olson, Walter F. Mondale, and Gaylord A. Nelson trace their environmental philosophies to time spent in the St. Croix watershed. Environmental concerns and lessons they learned locally have had a profound influence on establishment of federal environmental law and policy.

Senator Gaylord A. Nelson, born and raised in Clear Lake, Wisconsin, is internationally known as the “Father of Earth Day.” In awarding Gaylord Nelson the nation’s highest civilian award in 1955, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, President William Clinton stated, “As father of Earth Day, he is the grandfather of all that grew out of that event: The Environmental Protection Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act.”

When inducting him into its Conservation Hall of Fame, the National Wildlife Federation wrote: “Nelson’s public career always included an environmental agenda. He introduced the first legislation to ban the harmful pesticide DDT. He authored legislation to create the 2,175-mile Appalachian Trail in the Eastern United States and the National Trails system and was deeply involved with many other important pieces of environmental legislation including the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act, the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act, the National Lakes Preservation Act, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and the National Environmental Act. He was also instrumental in the formation of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore and, in 2004, 80% of the land within this National Park was designated as a federally protected wilderness; naming this region of the park in his honor – the Gaylord Nelson Wilderness.

Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson returned to his roots in Wisconsin and to the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers when he tirelessly advocated to have these rivers included as he coauthored the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act with Minnesota's Senator Walter F. Mondale. This act, which celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2018, has now protected 13,312 river miles across 238 rivers in 44 states.

Vice President Walter F. Mondale was later to state, "To this day, it's one of the most satisfying things I've done." Mondale later went on to introduce the National Clean Lakes Act, authored and introduced legislation that created Voyageurs National Park, the Upper Minnesota River Wildlife Refuge, and the Mississippi National Scenic Riverway System. He also fought for years to have the Kettle River (one of the St. Croix Tributaries) included with the St. Croix and the Namekagon as one of the Wild and Scenic Rivers. Although unsuccessful at the Federal level, the Kettle is now a Minnesota State Wild and Scenic River.

Sigurd Olson, famed scientist, educator, philosopher, writer and conservation leader, made an indelible mark on the 20th century environmental consciousness in America. Olson claims credits his early environmental awareness to lessons learned from his father-in-law, Soren Uhrenholdt, on Uhrenholdt's farm in Seeley, Wisconsin. Soren Uhrenholdt earned numerous awards in his own right for his work in sustainable forestry and agriculture. Uhrenholdt and his family purchased 160 acres along the Namekagon River. At the time, Wisconsin was trying to solve the problems of the cutover region — tax default lands, abandoned mills, loss of jobs — with a long-term vision of reforestation and a sustainable logging industry. In 1903, the legislature established a state forest system and established a progressive program of scientific management and conservation. (footnote, A Wilderness Within, The Life of Sigurd F. Olson, by David Backes, page 30.) Throughout Olson's career, he drafted and ushered landmark legislation, including the Wilderness Act, which established the wilderness protection system. The recipient of numerous honors from conservation organizations, Olson also won recognition as a writer, receiving the Burroughs Medal, the highest honor in nature writing, in 1974.

See Related Resource Inventory (Appendix 3 - amended)



Sigurd Olson credited his father-in-law, Soren Uhrenholdt, and the Uhrenholdt farm in Seeley, Wisconsin, as the source of some of his earliest lessons in conservation.



Gaylord Nelson receives Presidential Medal of Freedom from President William Clinton on September 29, 1995.

North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix National Heritage Area

Secondary Themes Narrative

Prologue

The North Woods and Waters region was not a site of conquest. Deep in the northwestern interior, legendary for its harsh climate. . . the region did not attract settlers until well into the nineteenth century. Neither the early arriving French, nor the British who succeeded them, wished to encourage settlement. Their economic interest was fixed solely on extracting furs. The mutually beneficial exchange of furs for European goods, however, required a cultural exchange as well, a process of interaction that left no one—Native or European—unchanged. Similar cultural meeting grounds emerged, at least for a time, all along the North American frontier, **but the hybrid society of the North Woods and Upper Great Lakes region, sustained by the fur trade, endured for two centuries. . . longer than anywhere else on the North American continent.**

The Fur Trade

“Those with whom we mingle do not become French, our people become Indian.”
MARQUIS DE DENONVILLE, 1685

Beginning in the seventeenth century, the first white traders to enter the North Woods and Waters region came from New France colony of Canada, far to the east of the Great Lakes. These early traders brought with them an already established international market in fur, but also brought a new approach that would break from the established business model that had been managed, licensed and controlled by French authorities in Montreal for half a century, and more. These new arrivals were unlicensed and intent on siphoning off the ‘Indian trade’ for themselves, willing to bypass Montreal for any other lucrative market.

What made the North Woods region unique is that it was geographically isolated. Arrival to the northern reaches of the North Woods and Waters region via Lake Superior was just a first step in accessing the vast fur resources. Across the rest of the approximately 7,800 square miles, the North Woods region was only accessible by walking on frozen waters in winter, or by canoe in summer, using the most well-endowed lattice of interconnected waterways and portages anywhere on the continent.

However remote, the land was not unoccupied, and long before the Europeans entered the North Woods and Waters region, networks of trade and communication among native peoples crisscrossed the region from one end to the other. What appeared as uncharted wilderness to Europeans who arrived in the mid-seventeenth century was familiar trading territory to Native North Americans. Soon, it became apparent to new arrivals that rather than bowing to a perception of innate European superiority, the trade-savvy native peoples engaged in an intricate ritual of diplomatic courtesy with the goal to create bonds that would establish a long-term trading partnership and alliance.

Trader and Native North American interests became tied to a code of reciprocity that demanded they assist one another when in need, acknowledging their mutual dependence in the harsh and unforgiving landscape of fur trade country. Traders also adapted profit-making tactics to accommodate Ojibwe and Dakota custom, with the understanding that their presence was utterly dependent on the goodwill of the tribes. The Native North American view of trade was framed as an exchange of gifts rather than as a simple commercial transaction. It had a symbolic value that exceeded even its material worth. Native peoples traded only with friends, and friendship, as long as it remained intact, bestowed the rights and obligations of extended kin, both figurative and often literal kin. From the time of first contact, intermarriage was common between Native women and French traders and voyageurs. The offspring of European fathers and Ojibwe or Dakota mothers, the Métis, would become the central cultural brokers in shaping Indian-white relationships in the North Woods and Upper Great Lakes region into the nineteenth century.

Enabled by comprehensive waterway systems and environmental abundance, as well as cultural accommodation and systems of kinship and intermarriage, the fur trade undergirded this society for two hundred years, bringing together Dakota, French, Ojibwe, British, American, and a scattering of other tribes and nationalities in what began as a mutually beneficial partnership. For two centuries fur was the universal currency, benefiting everyone, and the cultural linchpin that held such disparate people together was kinship, especially marriage between European men and Native women.

Deep in the center of the continent, far from land speculators or settlement pressure, this intercultural fur trade society flourished, shifting only gradually, over generations, from reciprocity to exploitation. When new and increased demands on natural resources came to define the fur trade and none of the resources were as plentiful as they had once been, it became increasingly difficult for traders and native peoples to see the value of reciprocity as a mutual benefit. By the nineteenth century, events that seemed a universe away began to impinge on the quality of social relations throughout the region.

The economic underpinnings of trade, captive to the vacillations of international capital and markets, were in serious decline, and hard-pressed traders increasingly discarded long-respected customs of generosity with native hunters, for more exploitive practices. By the 1830s, declining fur trade economics had also reduced the political influence of Native North Americans who, up to then, had provided the labor which drove the fur trade. Desperation on the part of both traders and Indian peoples fostered over trapping and undermined two centuries of social relationships. This set the stage for changes in national and international policy that paved the way for a trail of coerced treaties and broken promises, beginning with the White Pine Treaty of 1837 which ceded much of the pinery of the St. Croix watershed to the United States for lumbering.

Epilogue

Despite treaty losses of ceded lands starting in 1837, with loss of habitat and food sources on which they relied, four Ojibwe bands have been ever-present

throughout these historic processes and recognize the North Woods and Waters region as their tribal homeland, which extends across the geographic St. Croix River watershed, and remains the home of the St. Croix, Mille Lacs, Fond du Lac, and Lac Courte Oreilles bands.

Nearly 150 years after tribes signed the 1837 White Pine Treaty which ceded vast tracts of land to the US government and opened the region to logging, and following modern court victories validating usufructory rights reserved by the tribes in the 1837 and a later 1842 treaty, eleven Ojibwe nations (inside and outside the North Woods and Waters region) formed the inter-tribal Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) in order to promote conservation and exercise their right to effectively manage off-reservation resources in the ceded territories in Wisconsin and the ceded territory in Minnesota. On an equal footing today, the Ojibwe bands and GLIFWC work in cooperation with state, federal and local organizations on resource management because the resources are shared, as they were not in the nineteenth century. The ceded territories, which comprise most of the North Woods and Waters region, are vast and so are the natural resources within them. Cooperative resource management efforts have proven to be a more effective approach to conservation and have built a better foundation for informed management decisions by all concerned.

Today GLIFWC has emerged as a national leader in conservation, both for its exemplary work in restoring elk to its native territory in the North Woods and its focus on preserving Manoomin, wild rice, against mining and other threats to the existing rice beds both within the watershed and without. The Tribal Adaptation Menu Team, including GLIFWC Climate Change Program Staff, was recognized at the 2019 Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Annual Meeting held in St. Paul, MN on September 23, 2019. The awards were established in 2016 and only seven recipients across seven different categories are chosen each year. Each recipient is recognized for their outstanding work and contribution towards understanding climate adaptation strategies and impacts for the environment. The Tribal Adaptation Menu utilizes indigenous knowledge, language and history to plan meaningful climate adaptation action. Drawing from the experience and knowledge of a diverse group of tribal members and natural resource professionals, the authors of the Tribal Adaptation Menu have created a resource that recognizes the importance of indigenous languages, culture and history in climate adaptation planning for native communities and their non-tribal partners.

See Related Resource Inventory (Appendix 3 - amended)

Seeking a New Land: Immigrant Contributions

The interwoven stories of the logging boom, the cutover and its consequences, and conscientious environmental recovery cannot be told without interpreting the contributions of immigrants. Often living and working alongside Native Americans, immigrants of all nationalities worked in the logging camps, built the towns and cities, and settled the rural countryside. They farmed the southern-most parts of the St. Croix watershed and provided food for logging crews that worked the North Woods. Many of them also worked in the downriver boomsites and sawmills that turned the raw timber into marketable lumber.

Immigration to the St. Croix River watershed was promoted by mid-nineteenth century national policies such as the Pre-emption Act of 1841 and the Homestead Act of 1862, which made land easily available for immigrants from all countries who were willing to “settle” the region after the lands were ceded to the United States by the Ojibwe Nations in the White Pine Treaty of 1837 and the LaPointe Treaty of 1854. Waves of immigrants came to the region in search of new opportunities, promoted by the railroads, land speculators, entrepreneurs and, later, steamship companies that made emigration from Europe a central element of their business model. Both Minnesota and Wisconsin had immigration societies for the sole purpose of bringing immigrants to their states and resettling them. Books were published about the region and recruiters were sent all over Europe to try to bring people to this region. Minnesota and Wisconsin were both vigorous in trying to populate their respective states.

The first migrants to this region (excepting the Fur Traders/Trappers from the 1600s) were New Englanders, who were pursuing better agricultural land, or the region’s white pines after marketable timber had been nearly exhausted in New England. The greatest numbers of immigrants to this region came from Italy, Ireland, Germany, Poland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, travelling at great risk and cost across the Atlantic Ocean. Those who successfully made the journey wrote to family, friends, and congregations back in their native countries, sparking one of the largest chain migrations in US History. Groups of people emigrated together, fostering communities in the new land that clearly reflected specific cultural groups, which still exist throughout the watershed and can be experienced today.

According to researchers Eileen McMahon (Lewis University) and Ted Karamaski (Loyola University), in 1900 the North Woods region “had the greatest percentage of foreign-born residents in the USA.” (Presentation to NWW partners, St. Croix National Scenic Riverway 2013). They went on to state that, as to the challenges and successes faced by immigrants coming to the St. Croix region to create a new life, “there is a success story here, and its an American success story.”

Subsistence farming initially sustained these immigrants, but in winter, immigrants arrived from all over the upper Mississippi valley to the St. Croix region to work as lumbermen. These additional funds allowed them to send

money to their families in their homeland, or to purchase passage for them to America. In this raw American west, women were often left for months at a time, often an entire winter, to care for their farms, children and livestock on their new acreage.

The first three Swedish settlers arrived in the St. Croix region near Hay Lake (just south of Scandia, Minnesota) in 1850, with the first group of Swedish farmers arriving in 1851, settling in the Chisago Lakes region. Within six years, all of the government land in the southern watershed was claimed by land speculators, and by Swedes. According to researchers MacMahon and Karamanski, this migration from Sweden eventually encompassed the entire region between the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers, and was one of the most exclusive migrations of people of one nationality to a single area in the United States. This concentration of one ethnic group would have been unusual for the St. Croix region, but even more so, when compared to the entire country. In the 1900s, the Chisago Lakes region had the largest Swedish population outside of Sweden.

In the 1940s and 50s, Swedish author Vilhelm Moberg chose the Chisago Lakes region as the setting for his renowned series of four historical novels about the 19th century Swedish migration experience. Two movies based on Moberg's books were created in the 1970s, and the Swedish band ABBA wrote the musical *Kristina från Duvemala* about the books' heroine, which received its world premiere in Lindstrom, Minnesota. Voted "Book of the Century" in 1997, these Moberg books have been largely responsible for the thousands of Swedish visitors each year who make the pilgrimage to the St. Croix region, as an homage to ancestors who made the perilous journey to America all those years ago.

Immigration is a story that can be told throughout the United States. The United States is a nation of immigrants. The contributions of immigrants to the history of the St. Croix watershed region are a way to put a human face on the story of the region. Immigrant traditions are preserved through inclusion of buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, interpreted through museums throughout the region, and can be experienced as living cultural history today in heritage centers, festivals and foods that abound. Interpreting the immigrant experience as it relates to the three principal themes of logging, cutover, and conscientious environmental recovery, magnifies one important element of the human contribution to the story and history of the region.

See Related Resource Inventory (Appendix 3 - amended)

North Woods Tourism

While not a theme, per se, tourism and outdoor recreation in the North Woods and Waters region has been present since the logging era. The shift toward environmental conservation in the 20th century was particularly coupled with increased efforts to attract tourists seeking outdoor recreation and adventure to the region. States, towns, counties and other booster associations strove to promote tourism in the region by rebranding the “cutover” as the “North Woods,” with abundant opportunities for sportsmen, outdoor recreation, winter and water sports, and the ubiquitous “Up North” cabin as well as other entertainment opportunities.

Appreciation for the north woods environment of trees, lakes and rivers is a natural outgrowth of the mythologies associated with our region’s past, and accounts for the rise of heritage tourism and celebration of lumbering and fur trading in the region as well as amnesia about the cutover period. The symbolism of the North Woods and Waters region is currently a major focus of Minnesota’s office of tourism for the entire state. The public is invited to “Find Your True North” with an implicit promise that if they do, they will be rewarded with experiences across a range of extant cultural traditions and shared heritage, with strong ties to our past – the same qualities that are associated with the North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix region.

See Related Resource Inventory (Appendix 3 - amended)

North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix National Heritage Area

Needs and Opportunities

(Chapter 3 Amendment to pages 69-70 of Feasibility Study)

Opportunities

As stated in the NWW Feasibility Study, designation as a National Heritage Area will “expand opportunities for conservation, preservation, recreation, education and interpretation beyond the narrow boundary of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway to the entire watershed,” benefitting partner organizations, communities, residents of the region as well as national and international visitors. (pages 69-70). During the feasibility study public engagement process, participants in meetings and workshops identified strategies and activities that would result in national designation. In March and April of 2019, NWW convened citizens in four meetings, one each in quadrants of the heritage area, not only to reaffirm the ideas discussed in 2014 but also to discuss and prioritize opportunities that are part of NWW’s new five-year plan. This section of the update identifies universal opportunities (those that generally benefit all organizations, communities, residents and visitors) and specific opportunities tied to the themes and overall statement of national importance.

Universal Opportunities

Current Activities — North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix Heritage Area, a non-profit organization, has been offering watershed-wide programming without national designation for the past four years, following an intensive feasibility study period. These activities will continue:

- * Uniting the watershed through an **online event calendar, LYNX**. This free, watershed-wide online calendar officially launched in fall 2019 as a resource for organizations, residents, and visitors. www.northwoodsandwaterslynx.org
- * **Convening** groups in the watershed to assist with project planning and implementation.
- * Supporting **St. Croix Master Watershed Stewards**, an Environmental Protection Agency project that trained 32 Minnesota and Wisconsin watershed stewards, who contributed nearly 2,000 volunteer hours in 2019, serving non-profit organizations.
- * Promoting **Operation Pollination**, a National Heritage Area program which started in the watershed and now has more than 150 regional members — as of now, 33 out of 55 National Heritage Areas participate.
- * Using **social media** to share information about partner organizations.

- * Spearheading **Earth Day 2020 Programming** throughout the watershed in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day (Senator Gaylord A. Nelson was born and raised within the heritage area at Clear Lake, Wisconsin).

- * Providing **K-12 and collegiate educational opportunities** for education about the natural, historical and cultural assets of the St. Croix watershed

Future Activities — The following ideas have been identified as beneficial to NWW and to partner organizations, residents and visitors regardless of the mission of the organization or its interpretive theme:

- * Implementing a visitor-based **Passport Program**.

- * Connecting potential **volunteers** with organizations in the region.

- * Providing access to a **searchable database** of foundations and grants.

- * Creating, implementing, and evaluating a **re-granting program**.

- * Fostering professional development via **heritage tourism workshops**.

- * Bringing non-profit partners together for **planning**.

- * **Printing materials** that promote and draw residents and visitors to more than 300 sites throughout the watershed — including placement in area businesses and heritage sites.

- * Developing and placing **signage** at key locations (including gateways to the watershed from Minneapolis/St Paul and Duluth and along major roadways) and at heritage sites.

- * Cooperating with existing **international tourism** programs to promote heritage visits, enhance Swedish tourism (which already draws thousands of tourists to the region annually) and increase outreach to other countries whose residents emigrated to the NWW heritage area by the hundreds of thousands in the mid 1800s to the early 1900s.

- * Promoting regional heritage interests using **cooperative advertising** in target markets within and outside the region.

- * Forming an **online store** that promotes books, artwork, and traditional crafts already sold through museums or historical sites.

- * Establishing a **National Heritage Area hub** (such as a visitor center) at an historic site along the St. Croix River that will promote all natural, cultural, and recreational sites in the watershed, tying all the nationally significant themes together.

* Working with **regional universities and colleges** to educate and empower the next generation of professionals through internship programs with NWW and its partner organizations.

* Supporting designation of Minnesota's St. Croix Scenic Byway as a **National Scenic Byway**, and extend the Scenic Byway into Wisconsin, creating a circle of National Scenic Byways through the watershed.

Specific Opportunities

The following are specific opportunities for conservation, preservation, recreation, education and/or interpretation connected with each specific NWW theme.

Note: This is not an exhaustive list and many more opportunities will emerge during the NHA Management Plan Development phase.

Primary Themes Opportunities

Logging Boom — Building Cities of Middle America and the Great Plains

The St. Croix Boom Site marks the place on the St. Croix River where, in the fifty eight years between 1856 and 1914, more than 15 billion board feet of lumber were corralled and sorted before being shipped downriver or sold in the western United States to build homes and cities as our nation expanded. This recently-renovated site is a National Historic Landmark. A visitor kiosk provides information on the logging boom in the watershed. National designation will connect this site with other logging-related sites throughout the watershed and will:

- 1) Enhance the interpretative reach of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway (SACN) throughout the watershed. SACN is the foremost interpreter of logging history in the watershed, but many residents (especially those farther from the St. Croix River) do not know about the Riverway, and do not visit its exhibits or attend its programs. National Designation will broaden the ability to convey the message about the logs that were harvested from every part of the watershed and floated down the St. Croix.
- 2) Increase understanding of the treaties with the Ojibwe and Dakota people, especially the White Pine Treaty of 1837 and the 1854 Treaty of LaPointe that established reservations within and outside the watershed and clarified the rights of Ojibwe to hunt, fish, and gather on ceded lands.
- 3) Educate citizens and visitors about the role that Chief Buffalo and other Ojibwe leaders played in negotiating treaties that ceded rights to the White Pine on millions of acres in the mid-1800s but protected the sovereignty of Ojibwe nations and their rights to hunt, fish, and gather within ceded territories in perpetuity.

- 4) Link the St. Croix Boom Site (a National Landmark) with the nearby Marine Mills site managed by the Minnesota Historical Society, with Arcola Mills, (NR, just upriver), and with other National Register logging-related sites in the watershed.
- 5) Interpret the role of dams on the St. Croix and tributary rivers as an important aspect of the logging story that is rarely documented. One exception that can serve as an example of how this interpretation could occur is the interpretative program about Nevers Dam at Minnesota's Wild River State Park. .
- 6) Showcase historic river towns and residences that are connected to the logging boom, bringing deeper knowledge to residents and attracting tourists who are interested in the history of these communities. An example is the Folsom House in Taylors Falls. Completed in 1855, this home was the residence of William Henry Carman Folsom, a lumberman, businessman and politician. The home resides in the Angel's Hill District of Taylors Falls (on the National Register) and is managed by the Minnesota Historical Society.
- 7) Renew interest in historical sites, museums and parks which already tell the logging story, increasing attendance and financial support for those historical buildings and museums.
- 8) Encourage other logging-related sites that are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places to move forward with application.
- 9) Cross-market and promote community festivals related to the logging boom, drawing people with interests in the logging story to communities throughout the watershed. Key examples of these festivals include Wannigan Days in St. Croix Falls/Taylors Falls, Jack Pine Savage Days in Spooner, WI, Log Jam Days in Stillwater, MN, and the Lumberjack World Championships in Hayward, WI.
- 10) Short term: Create traveling displays of logging and the lumber industry that can move throughout the watershed using the East Central Minnesota and Indianhead library system in Wisconsin to community centers, schools, and historic sites.
- 11) Long-term: Build a museum of logging and the lumber industry, telling the full story of the logging boom and its role in building the towns and cities of middle America and the Great Plains. An example of the type of museum that could be built in the heritage area would be the Museum of Forestry in Grand Rapids, MN, operated by the Minnesota Historical Society but located just outside the heritage area.

Cutover — Stories of Devastating Ecological Ruin

Largely absent as a narrative that was meant to be forgotten, few resources are extant which directly tell the story of the cutover landscape which remained following wasteful liquidation of timber resources across the region. Resources identified in the resource section are in Minnesota: the Hinckley and Moose Lake museums and related buildings. And yet, in 1894, the same year and day as the Great Hinckley Fire, firestorms swept Wisconsin, burning a swath 125 miles long from Amery to Washburn, Wisconsin. There is currently little interpretation of these fires in the Wisconsin portion of the watershed, even though they were the “most destructive in terms of property value that Wisconsin has ever known, exceeding, in that regard, even the monstrous fire that ravaged Peshtigo and both shores of Green Bay in 1871.” (*Burning an Empire: The Story of American Forest Fires*, Stewart H. Holbrook) Whole towns in Wisconsin were destroyed that day (including Barronett and Comstock in the St. Croix Watershed), and many more had portions of their communities destroyed. Knowledge of these fires and the destruction of towns and the environment is increasingly unknown in Minnesota, even where it is interpreted, and almost absent in Wisconsin. National designation will:

- 1) Tell the complete story of the cutover, integrating the Minnesota and Wisconsin history of the devastating ecological and human disaster that 1894 firestorms created, along with awareness of the multiple fires that ravaged the cutover areas for the next three decades.
- 2) Link the northern part of the watershed with the southern, fulfilling the statement of one of our founding members, “To tell the story of the river towns and the extraordinary homes that were created as a result of the logging boom, you have to tell the story of the cutover and the lives and property that were destroyed as a result.”
- 3) Renew interest in those sites that already tell the story of the cutover, increasing attendance and financial support for those historical buildings and museums.
- 4) Encourage other cutover-related sites that are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, and assist in moving forward with application.
- 5) Expand understanding of the impact of the cutover areas on the lives of the thousands of immigrants who moved there, lured by promises of agricultural bounty, only to find largely inferior agricultural land with the daunting task of stump removal — then to see their homes and communities destroyed by fire or the lives of families and friends taken.
- 6) Connect the cutover story with the emergence of the conservation ethic that grew out of this bleak period in Minnesota/Wisconsin history.

Conscientious Environmental Recovery – Emerging Conservation Ethic

In less than 80 years, the lumber boom had come and gone, and loggers left stumps and wildfires in their wake as they headed farther west. Agriculture was supposed to follow the timbering of the vast forest, and immigrants were enticed to settle and establish farms, either in the former forestland or by plowing under native prairies. However, the economic model that had worked in other regions failed here when in some areas – notably the cutover – it proved difficult to cultivate the land. (Feasibility Study, page 60) This set the stage for a re-imagining of this region as a place of recreation, reflection, and retreat. With national designation, we will:

- 1) Refocus the nation’s attention on the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, under which the St. Croix and its major tributary the Namekagon were designated as one of the first eight Wild and Scenic Rivers in the United States and paved the way for hundreds more to become designated nation-wide.
- 2) Highlight SACN’s official non-profit partner, the St. Croix River Association, and its work to protect, restore and celebrate the St. Croix River. The SCRA’s movement (from its origins in 1911) from a business venture to a pre-eminent river conservation organization demonstrates a shift in philosophy and approach to the river.
- 3) Cross-market and promote the incredible array of recreational resources that now exist for residents and visitors in the parks and public lands that exist in this region.
- 4) Promote lesser-known historic sites, such as the St. Croix Recreational Demonstration Area, a National Historic Landmark, within St. Croix State Park.
- 5) Create educational programs and permanent exhibits that highlight the role of well-known conservationists, such as Sigurd Olsen, Senator Gaylord A. Nelson and former Vice President Walter F. Mondale in preserving regions of this watershed, including the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.
- 6) Educate residents and visitors about lesser-known conservationists (such as Soren Uhrenholdt, C.C. Andrews and Walter Bresette).
- 7) Increase understanding of the current contributions of the Ojibwe Nations to conservation through the programs and projects of the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission and the work of the four sovereign nations within the watershed.
- 8) Identify current conservation leaders in the region by conducting a “Who’s your conservation hero?” campaign in connection with Earth Day 2020 and annually thereafter.

- 9) Engage residents in environmental and conservation programs currently underway by non-profit and governmental entities, and through NWW's St. Croix Master Watershed Stewards and Operation Pollination Programs.
- 10) Work with Clear Lake, Wisconsin, to help plan and build the Gaylord A. Nelson Environmental Learning Center, to highlight Senator Nelson's contributions to the environmental movement.
- 11) Cross-promote and market the educational and recreational activities of conservation organizations (i.e., a passport program currently underway).
- 12) Support the work of groups that are developing auto tours of the region, especially the Northwest Sands Ecological Landscape collaborative, which focuses attention on this globally significant region of Northwest Wisconsin.
- 13) Help to preserve historic hunting lodges (such as Seven Pines Lodge) and family cabins (e.g. Gibson, Van Schaeffer and Lessner) that are on the National Register and/or NR-eligible) that tell the stories of the early movement toward recreation in the early 1900s.
- 14) Promote hunting, fishing, birding, hiking, biking, paddling, climbing (ice and otherwise) and other recreational activities that are readily available in all areas of the watershed.
- 15) Engage young people in outdoor and environmental activities by promoting existing programs (such as the St. Croix River Association's "Rivers Are Alive" program) and by expanding other programs in the region (such as Kids for Saving Earth, a national non-profit).
- 16) Cross-promote museums and festivals that provide a living history of conservation and recreation movements, including the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum in Hayward, WI, the Wisconsin Canoe Heritage Museum in Spooner, and the American Birkebeiner international ski race (Hayward, WI) and Vasaloppet USA international ski race (Mora, MN).

Secondary Themes Opportunities

Fur Trade — French-Canadian Traders and the Enduring Ojibwe Nations

The St. Croix River watershed remains native ground today. While tribes in the Lower Mississippi valley and elsewhere were forced completely from their homelands, the Ojibwe have maintained their ancestral homelands within the North Woods and Waters region and the Dakota have retained active ties to it. The Ojibwe people's enduring presence in the watershed is a story that is nationally significant in its own right. Another aspect of this nationally significant

story is the relationship of the Ojibwe and Dakota people to the European traders and trappers who were attracted to this region by its abundance of furs in the mid 1600s. The economic and kinship ties established during this time lasted over 200 years – longer than anywhere else in America. National designation will provide opportunities to:

- 1) Deepen resident and visitor understanding of the Ojibwe culture and contributions to this region's stories of national importance.
- 2) Promote exhibits at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum, the Fond du Lac Cultural Center and Museum and the Migizi Cultural Center at the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College.
- 3) Renew interest in the sites that currently interpret the fur trade, especially the Northwest and XY Sites and Forts Folle Avoine and Snake River Trading Posts, increasing attendance and financial support for these and other museums and the living history programs they offer.
- 4) Promote a wider understanding of Ojibwe culture and history through encouraging attendance at public events that celebrate Ojibwe Culture – including Lac Courte Oreilles Honor the Earth Powwow (the largest in North America), Mille Lacs Band traditional Powwow, St. Croix Band Wild Rice Powwow, and the recently-revived Fond du Lac Powwow.
- 5) Increase signage at historically significant areas, and work toward recognition as National Historic Landmarks for some of them.
- 6) Promote the use of Ojibwe language on signage whenever possible and include Ojibwe place names at events.
- 7) Disseminate publications produced by Ojibwe Nations such as *Mazina'igan, A Chronicle of the Lake Superior Ojibwe*.
- 8) Work with public school districts to enact Wisconsin Act 31, which provides instruction in the history, culture and tribal sovereignty of the federally-recognized Wisconsin American Indian nations and their tribal communities; and with the Minnesota Indian Education program and Parent Advisory Councils in Minnesota to bring Ojibwe culturally-specific information to watershed residents.
- 9) Work with Burnett County Historical Society and the Fond du Lac Nation to widely disseminate Cecilia's story throughout the watershed (*Cecilia: The Trials of an Amazing Ojibwe Woman 1834-1892*) Cecilia was an Ojibwe woman who lived in the watershed in the mid-1800s. Her story, intertwined with that of Benjamin Connor, a fur trader, illustrates the relationships between European Traders/Trappers and Ojibwe people, and takes the reader through much of the northern part of the watershed and to the Apple River.

Seeking a New Land – Immigrant Contributions

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, immigrants came to the watershed to pursue economic opportunity. The story of the logging boom, cutover, and conscientious environmental recovery cannot be told without interpreting the contributions of immigrants who worked in the logging camps, built the towns and cities, and developed agriculture to support settlement. Often ethnic identities were displayed in these communities that still exist today through museums, festivals and customs. National designation provides opportunities to:

- 1) Deepen resident and visitor understanding of immigrant groups within the watershed and their contributions to the region's nationally important stories.
- 2) Promote exhibits at the major immigrant museums throughout the watershed, including Gammelgarden Museum, Amador Heritage Center, Kanabec County Historical Society, and smaller historical societies, all of whom describe the immigrant experience in the watershed.
- 3) Renew interest in sites that interpret immigrant cultures, increase attendance and financial support for museums and the living history programs.
- 4) Connect museums that interpret a specific ethnicity. Often these museums are struggling to maintain their own organizations and do not have the capacity to do joint programming or cross-marketing. An example of an NHA project might be a "circle tour" of Scandinavian sites for tour operators, where all sites related to this particular topic would be open on the same days with interpreters present at each location.
- 5) Promote town festivals that celebrate the cultures that settled them, such as Pea Soup Days in Sommerset, Wisconsin (French Canadian heritage), the Aebleskiver Dinner in Luck, Wisconsin (Danish heritage) the Pepper Fest in North Hudson, WI (Italian heritage) Syttende Mai in Woodville, Wisconsin (Norwegian heritage), Midsommer's Day and Sankta Lucia at Gammelgarden in Scandia, MN and at Karl Oskar House in Lindstrom, MN (Swedish heritage).
- 6) Illustrate immigrant contributions to agriculture through promoting community celebrations, such as the Rutabaga Festival in Askov, MN and Cumberland WI, or the Threshing Show in Almelund, MN which has commemorated agricultural history for nearly 60 years.
- 7) Increase understanding of the role of immigrant farmers in supporting logging camps (as lumbermen in the winter and farmers the rest of the year) and creating the agricultural industry that supported and built this region both during and after the "cutover" time period.
- 8) Showcase the nationally important stories of the growth of agriculturally sustainable practices (beginning with the novel idea of crop rotation in 1883) and the cooperative farming movement that originated in this watershed and shaped this part of the nation.

North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix National Heritage Area

Coordinating Entity

(Appendix 7 Amendment to pages 175-184 of Feasibility Study)

Coordinating Entity — North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix Heritage Area (NWW), a 501(c)3 organization, will manage the proposed National Heritage Area. NWW was incorporated in 2015, obtained non-profit status in 2018, and seated a nonprofit board. The initial members of the Heritage Area Initiative remain active on the Board of Directors, or as advisors, and give the organization a solid ten-year history of working collaboratively toward designation. New members have joined the Board in the intervening years, lending their time, talents and financial contributions to achieve the goals that were identified in the feasibility study process. North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix Heritage Area was formed to promote the natural, cultural, and historical resources of the St. Croix watershed (its mission) and achieve the following goals:

- 1) Create sustainable economic opportunities based on the region's heritage to enhance communities, livability, recreation and quality of life.
- 2) Create connections throughout the region that help preserve and enhance the historical, cultural, and natural resources that exist within our nationally distinctive watershed.
- 3) Increase awareness and understanding of the watershed's heritage, stories and the resources that underlie these stories by 1) raising awareness for the region's residents through heritage area events and educational opportunities, and 2) promoting and interpreting the region to regional, national and international visitors.

The following section demonstrates the capacity of North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix Heritage Area to successfully meet requirements for national designation under National Park Service and National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Guidelines.

Minimum Requirements

1) **The organization serves the proposed region**

NWW was formed expressly to serve the St. Croix River watershed, an area encompassing approximately 7,800 square miles, 2 states, 18 counties, 4 Ojibwe Nations, 111 distinct zip codes (and even more communities). It is already serving the region by offering programs and services watershed wide, as exemplified by its online watershed-wide events calendar, LYNX (see www.NorthWoodsAndWatersLYNX.org)

2) The organization represents the interested/affected community

NWW's bylaws allow for 21 members on its Board of Directors, including four positions that are specified for representatives of the four Ojibwe nations who have both ancestral and ceded lands in the watershed. Representatives from sub-watersheds are sought from each part of the watershed whenever possible. A matrix is reviewed annually to make sure that the Board of Directors represents the region in a variety of categories: knowledge, skills, experience, connection to the heritage area's goals and/or themes, fiscal, geographic distribution, or other connections.

3) Partnerships

a. The organization has experience and current capacity in building partnerships

From its inception, NWW has built a reputation for grass-roots involvement, connecting with over 1600 people through meetings and workshops during the feasibility phase. A strong partnership with the St. Croix Valley Foundation (SCVF), and the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway (SACN) led the feasibility study, but the study process involved the formation of partnerships throughout the watershed. Currently, NWW works with the SCVF and SACN as well as the St. Croix River Association and Art Reach St. Croix as primary partners. Board members also represent participating organizations: the Chisago County Economic Development Authority, Gammelgarden Museum, the St. Croix Master Watershed Stewards and the St. Croix Scenic Coalition.

A note about the St. Croix Valley Foundation:

With over sixty million dollars in assets, the St. Croix Valley Foundation is the premier financial development organization for building non-profit capacity in the St. Croix region. Under its auspices are 10 community foundations. Together, the boards of these organizations have more than 200 community leaders that are working to improve the quality of life in their communities. The St. Croix Valley Foundation supported the heritage initiative initially through contributions of staff time, raised and managed funds, and completed and submitted the initial feasibility study in partnership with the heritage initiative task force (the predecessor of NWW). Currently, the St. Croix Valley Foundation works with the NWW Treasurer to manage funds for NWW, giving NWW and its donors the accountability of a 25-year old organization with a gold star charity rating. NWW will continue this relationship to ensure strong financial management, transparency and accountability.

b. The organization has the potential for building relationships

Appendix 1 of the Feasibility Study lists the key individual and organizational participants – funders, members of the task force, tribal representatives, subject matter experts, capacity advisors, consultants, meeting hosts, and volunteers. A goal of NWW in 2020 is to establish membership categories to streamline and enhance communications with the more than 3,000 residents who are currently on our list of supporters. Currently, people serve with NWW in a variety of ways, including serving

on the Board of Directors, participating on one of four committees that carry out the goals of the heritage area, as an advisor, an ambassador (community representative), or as a volunteer.

c. The organization is able to generate commitments of partnership support as documented in letters of support in the written feasibility study document

Included with the Feasibility Study are 66 letters of support from subject matter experts, funding entities, tribal governments, Minnesota and Wisconsin state agencies, cities and villages, economic development entities, businesses and chambers of commerce, regional organizations, and non-profit arts, natural resources, and historic organizations.

d. The public/key stakeholders support the organization as the proposed NHA coordinating entity

Continuing support from NWW funders and ongoing involvement of key partners tangibly demonstrates commitment and belief in NWW's capacity to achieve its goals.

4) Fundraising

a. The organization has experience and current capacity with fundraising, demonstrating ability to meet or exceed minimum federal matching requirement

The Feasibility Study required over \$250,000 in funding, which was obtained from private individuals, cities, and foundations. NWW managed these funds through its relationship with the St. Croix Valley Foundation. The matching fund requirement from federal appropriations will allow NWW to leverage funding through the past and current funding connections. New funders have made contributions in the past two years, including three new foundations and multiple individuals. Annual financial contributions to the organization are a requirement of Board membership. In addition to direct administrative and programmatic contributions, NWW will match federal contributions through a membership structure that includes city and county participation, non-profit organizational contributions, individual memberships, and a range of in-kind contributions. Social entrepreneurial strategies (sales of books, products related to NWW's mission) will also be part of the matching revenue mix.

b. The organization has experience developing financial plans, including a three-year conceptual financial plan for the Long Range Plan as detailed in the written feasibility study document, including major expense categories and an estimate of funds to be raised (and their sources) by the coordinating entity

The conceptual budget, covering 5 years, was submitted with the Feasibility Study and can be updated upon request. NWW's annual budget will always reflect our plans for bringing our vision to life. The five-year budget in the feasibility study focused on general goals for regranteeing, conducting regional cultural projects, and collaborative marketing and promotion. Our current budget is much more specific and programmatic, for example, promotional efforts such as LYNX, our on-

line, watershed-wide calendar (www.NorthWoodsAndWatersLYNX.org), initiatives such as coordinating watershed-wide activities to celebrate Senator Gaylord A. Nelson and Earth Day 2020 (the 50th Anniversary), and support for our St. Croix Master Watershed Stewards Program.

5) Existing organizational capacity (staff, volunteers) and infrastructure (office space, computers, copy machines, social media, etc.) will support the work of the heritage area

Office/infrastructure — Currently, NWW meets in the offices of the St. Croix Scenic Coalition, which donates space and equipment for physical and virtual meetings. With an organization serving an area as large as the St. Croix watershed, NWW increasingly relies on virtual means (currently Zoom technology) to conduct business meetings and to maintain connections throughout the watershed. NWW also conducts in person meetings throughout the watershed on a more intermittent basis to connect with partners and residents as necessary.

Social media — The NWW website is currently under revision to better meet the needs of the organizations and individuals who will use it to find historical and current information about the watershed and our partners. The NWW event calendar (a separate website) went live in October. LYNX, available at www.NorthWoodsAndWatersLYNX.org was built to allow individuals, organizations, and communities promote their activities. Because it covers the large geographic area described earlier, it helps NWW, residents and visitors submit, search for, and attend activities throughout the watershed. NWW also uses Facebook to connect with people and organizations and will be adding Instagram to its repertoire soon to share both archived and current visual and audio-visual materials about the heritage area with the public.

Staff/volunteers — NWW employs a part-time project manager and relies on an extensive network of volunteers and partners to carry out most of its substantive ongoing activities. For certain projects NWW contracts for needed expertise and supervises interns for routine office and phone work. NWW anticipates its paid staff, volunteer network, and partnerships will grow dramatically over the next five years.

North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix National Heritage Area

Resource Inventory

(Chapter 3 Amendment to pages 123-144 of Feasibility Study)

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Resources Related to Themes

Introduction

In preparation of the North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix National Heritage Area Feasibility Study (FS) the study team drafted five themes and a Statement of National Significance that capture the history and culture of the region and express its contribution to the development of American's story. With the guidance of the National Heritage Areas Program, the themes and statement have been narrowed to focus on the nationally important story of a conservation ethic that grew from unrestricted resource extraction, through devastating ecological ruin, and to conscientious environmental recovery, best told through the exceptional collection of resources in the region and the living history and culture of its people.

The original list of themes and significance statement were vetted by the public and a panel of experts. The Resource Inventory (Appendix 3) created during this initiative lists more than 400 historic properties, parks, waterways, trails, archeological sites, museums, and other resources that support the originally stated themes and national significance. Just as the themes and statement of significance has been narrowed, this inventory of resources has been curated from the original list of 400 to reflect just three themes: logging, the cutover, and conscientious environmental recovery. The fur trade and the relationship between Native Americans and Europeans are reflected as secondary themes, with resources associated with them listed here.

Integrity is a key element of designation for units of the National Park System, NHLs, state historic sites and listings in the NR of Historic Places. As such, these designations provide a convenient tool with which to assess whether the region's resources retain sufficient integrity to interpret the region's significant stories. The proposed boundary of North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix National Heritage Area has a number of these sites for which integrity has already been established. The region is anchored by the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, a national park that was also designated as one of the original Wild and Scenic Rivers in the U.S. The conceptual boundary also includes four state historic sites and 168 sites listed on the National Register. National Registry sites have been narrowed to include only those that directly relate to the statement of national significance and its themes. The sites with already established designations are listed first under each category.

Resources Related to Themes

Logging

Resource	Designation	County/State	City, Town, or Township	Description
The St. Croix Boom Site	NHL NR	Washington, MN	Stillwater Township	The St. Croix Boom Site marks the place on the St. Croix River where, between 1856 and 1914, more than 15.5 billion board feet of lumber were corralled and sorted before being shipped downriver or sold out west to build homes and cities as our nation expanded.
St. Croix Boom Company House and Barn	NR	Washington, MN	Stillwater Township	Across the highway from the St. Croix Boom Site is a private home that was once the built circa 1885 as the residence of the on-site superintendent for the St. Croix Boom Site.
Wild River State Park (WRSP)	State Park	Chisago, MN	Almelund	WRSP interprets the story of Never's Dam built when an 1886 log jam packed the Dalles of the St. Croix River solid with logs. 150 million feet of lumber was tied up in the jam. Loggers worked with dynamite to blast loose the logs at critical points. Jams such as this, as well as the necessity to control the flow of logs to the mills down-river, resulted in construction of Nevers Dam in 1889.
Franconia Historic District	NR	Chisago, MN	Franconia	This is a community of seven houses built between the 1850s and 1880s. Franconia was a major landing site for immigrants; at one time it had 500 residents and both a sawmill and a flourmill. The Paul Munch House is a contributing property (NR separate listing)
Angel's Hill Historic District	NR	Chisago, MN	Taylor's Falls	Angel's Hill Historic District is an architecturally cohesive mid-19th-century neighborhood of New England-style Greek Revival buildings with 28 contributing properties including the 1854 Folsom House, and the Taylor's Falls United Methodist Church constructed in 1861, (of white pine, of course) the oldest continuously used Methodist church in Minnesota. The church was built at a cost of \$2,500 on land donated by W.H.C. and Mary Jane Folsom

Resource	Designation	County/State	City, Town, or Township	Description
Folsom House State Historic Site	NR MHS	Chisago, MN	Taylor Falls	W.H.C. Folsom, a lumber baron, businessman, and politician, had this house constructed for his family in 1855. The home is nestled in the Angel's Hill historic district of Taylor Falls, which is noted for its concentration of New England style buildings.
Ann River Logging Company Farm	NR	Kanabec, MN	Mora Vicinity	One of Kanabec County's earliest and largest farmsteads, established in 1880 to support a logging operation (the era's leading local industry) as a headquarters for the logging company, food and feed producer, and stable for work animals.
Polk County Courthouse	NR	Polk, WI	Balsam Lake	This courthouse, built in 1899, has three floors of museum galleries that interpret life in the late 1800s and early 1900s, including the logging and lumber industry
H.S. Miller Bank	NR	Pierce, WI	Prescott	This 1885 bank building with Italianate and Romanesque elements now houses the Prescott Chapter of the Pierce County Historical Society. Prescott is the confluence of the St. Croix and the Mississippi River. Prescott was particularly important during the logging era of the late 1800s when, every spring, millions of logs were floated down the St. Croix River.
Frederic Depot	NR	Polk, WI	Frederic	This depot was assembled in 1901, after being "sawed" out in the Soo Line's shop in Minneapolis and hauled by rail to Frederic. Currently operated as a museum, interpreting logging, sawmilling and the relation to the railroad. Frederic was the leading producer of basswood in the world for several years, during the "second" logging boom.
Osceola Commercial Historic District	NR	Polk, WI	Osceola	In this historic district, there are 17 contributing commercial buildings, including the 1879 Geiger Saloon which at one time converted to the Polk County Courthouse.

Resource	Designation	County/State	City, Town, or Township	Description
North Wisconsin Lumber Company Office	NR	Sawyer, WI	Hayward	The North Wisconsin Lumber Company Office was built in 1889 by a prominent logging company in Wisconsin's Namekagon region which was founded by A.J. Hayward and R.L. McCormick.
Second Street Commercial District	NR	St. Croix, WI	Hudson	Twenty-two buildings contribute to this historic district, which comprise the commercial core of Hudson's downtown. Most built after 1866.
Sixth Street Historic District	NR	St. Croix, WI	Hudson	This is a prestigious residential neighborhood, including those built in the Greek Revival, Gothic Revival Italianate, and Queen Anne styles.
William Dweley House	NR	St. Croix, WI	Hudson	Fine Italianate house built in 1865 by "explorer, scaler of logs, and surveyor, William Dweley."
Cushing Hotel	NR	Washington, MN	Afton	1867 hotel exemplifying the commercial lodging common to mid-19 th century river towns. The hotel now operates as the Afton House Inn. People employed in the timber industry along with land speculation would have been the major lodgers at that time.
Marine Mill State Historic Site	NR MHS	Washington, MN	Marine-On-St. Croix	This is the site of Minnesota's first commercial sawmill, active 1839–1888, nucleus of the region's lumber industry and a major landing on its crucial transportation route. A contributing property to the Marine on St. Croix Historic District, it now operates as a Minnesota Historical Society Site.
Marine-On-St.-Croix Historic District	NR	Washington, MN	Marine-On-St. Croix	Marine-on-St. Croix is a mid-19 th -century river town, birthplace of the Minnesota lumber industry, with a well-preserved business district and residential areas of its Yankee upper class and Swedish working class.
Albert Lammers House	NR	Washington, MN	Stillwater	Circa 1893 house associated with brothers Albert and George Lammers, who expanded the state's lumber industry into northwest Minnesota. Also noted for the most elaborate Queen Anne architecture in Stillwater
Capt. Austin Jenks House	NR	Washington, MN	Stillwater	1871 house of a prominent river pilot involved with timber rafting on the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers

Resource	Designation	County/State	City, Town, or Township	Description
Henry Stussi House	NR	Washington, MN	Stillwater	One of Washington County's finest rural houses, built in the late 1870s from a Palliser, Palliser & Company pattern book. Henri Stussi was a notable figure in the local milling (and ice) industries
Ivory McKusick House	NR	Washington, MN	Stillwater	Ivory McKusick was a notable lumberman, surveyor and businessman, and his brother John platted Stillwater and founded its first sawmill. Distinctive 1868 Second Empire house.
St. Croix Lumber Mills – Stillwater Manufacturing Company	NR	Washington, MN	Stillwater	This is an 1850 stone powerhouse – the only surviving structure associated with major Stillwater-based businessman Isaac Staples, and the adjacent factory.
Stillwater Commercial District	NR	Washington, MN	Stillwater	The 11-block central business district reflects the economic and architectural diversity of a prosperous lumbering and manufacturing center, with 63 contributing properties built between 1860 and 1940. Only a few of them have been called out in this inventory, as they are listed separately on the NR.
Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Freight House	NR	Washington, MN	Stillwater	1883 passenger and freight depot with a telegraph and Railway Express Agency office, significant in local transportation, commerce, communication, and engineering. ^[9] Also a contributing property to the <u>Stillwater Commercial Historic District</u> .
William Sauntry House and Recreation Hall	NR	Washington, MN	Stillwater	This house has a unique Moorish Revival recreation within its 1891 Queen Anne structure. William Sauntry was a prosperous lumberman.
John and Martin Mower House and Arcola Mill Site	NR	Washington, MN	Stillwater Township	Exemplary 1847 Greek Revival house and remnants of one of the first St. Croix Valley. Arcola Mill was the nucleus of an early lumber town. Operated by a non-profit for educational purposes to interpret logging, sawmilling, and the artistic community that was supported there.

Cutover

Largely absent as a narrative that was meant to be forgotten, few resources are extant which directly tell the story of the cut-over. The Hinckley Fire Museum, located in the 1895 Northern Pacific Depot (National Registry listed), rebuilt after the fire, interprets the fire's devastation and the cutover's story to the public. North of Hinckley is Moose Lake, which was the start of the Cloquet Fire of 1918. The Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Sault Ste. Marie Depot (National Registry listed) provided emergency housing for people left homeless by the 1918 Cloquet Fire. The Depot now houses a local history museum that commemorates the Moose Lake (known as Cloquet) Fire of 1918, the worst fire in Minnesota's history.

In addition to this list of resources that interpret the Cutover story are several land offices and farm houses that survived these fires. Many are listed in the National Register, but because these farm houses are not identified with the fire, they are not listed here.

Resource	Designation	County/State	City, Town, or Township	Description
Northern Pacific Depot Hinckley Fire Museum	NR	Pine, MN	Hinckley	Railway station built in 1895 as a duplicate of the original lost in the Great Hinckley Fire, symbolizing the destruction of that event and the seminal state conservation program that it spurred. Now the Hinckley Fire Museum
Hinckley Fire Relief House	NR	Pine, MN	Sandstone	Rare intact example of the emergency housing built for survivors of the Great Hinckley Fire in 1894, symbolizing one of Minnesota's worst wildfires and the state's humanitarian aid response.
Minnesota Trust Company Commercial Building Sandstone History and Art Center	NR	Pine, MN	Sandstone	Sandstone, just nine miles NE of Hinckley, was also destroyed in the Hinckley fire of 1894. This 1894 commercial building is connected with the efforts of James J. Hill to swiftly rebuild Sandstone after the Great Hinckley Fire.
Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Sault Ste. Marie Depot Moose Lake Historical Society and Fires of 1918 Museum	NR	Carlton, MN	Moose Lake	1907 first-class railway station that provided emergency housing for people left homeless by the 1918 Cloquet Fire. Now houses a local history museum that commemorates the Moose Lake (known as Cloquet) Fire of 1918, the worst fire in Minnesota's history. Started where the Great Hinckley Fire left off, 24 years earlier, this fire burned 250,00 acres, destroyed 38 towns, took 453 lives and injured or displaced 52,000 others.

Resource	Designation	County/State	City, Town, or Township	Description
Sayer House	NR	Chisago, MN	Harris	Large Italianate house/inn built c. 1875, dating to a period of land speculation as Chisago County was settled. Also known as the George Flanders House.
Red Clover Land Company Demonstration Farm	NR	Pine, MN	New Dosey Township	Showplace farmstead built circa 1915 by the company instrumental in attracting settlers to eastern Pine County, but whose easy terms prompted many to default and leave within a decade.
Burnett County Abstract Company		Burnett, WI	Grantsburg	1907 building that housed the Burnett County Abstract Company which performed title searches, facilitating transfers of real estate in the county. Would have been instrumental in assisting with land transfers to immigrants to convert cut-over timber land to agricultural production.
Cushing Land Agency Building		Polk, WI	St. Croix Falls	In 1854, Caleb Cushing, a Massachusetts lawyer, politician and land speculator established the company which handled real estate transactions in Polk, Burnett, Washburn and Barron Counties.

Conservation

Conservation Leadership: Senator Gaylord A. Nelson, Walter F. Mondale, and Sigurd Olson

The bulk of the resource listings that reflect the conservation theme have to do with the places where conservation took place in the past and where it can be experienced today through recreation or living cultural and history. But it took people to create the contemporary conservation movement – a resurgence of the progressive era – and this region provided nationally recognized leadership in this movement as exemplified by Senator Gaylord A. Nelson, famed environmentalist and author Sigurd Olson, and former Vice President Walter F. Mondale. Three of these areas provide superb opportunities for interpretation and for national designation of sites within the St. Croix River Watershed, namely:

The **Soren Uhrenholdt Memorial Forest in Sawyer County is already listed on the National Register and is a Wisconsin State Forest.** The **Soren Uhrenholdt Farm** in Seely, WI has a virgin stand of white pine in honor of Soren Uhrenholdt, well-known for promoting sustainable forestry and agricultural practices. Famed environmentalist and author Sigurd Olson credits both the place and the person (Soren Uhrenholdt) with inspiring his environmental ethos. Olson was influential in the protection of the Boundary Waters and helped draft the Wilderness Act of 1964, helped establish Voyageurs National Park in northern Minnesota, Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and Point Reyes National Seashore in California.

The **Clear Lake Historical Museum** in Wisconsin tells the story of Senator Gaylord A. Nelson, the US Senator who not only helped establish the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, but also founded Earth Day (April 22) in 1970. This celebration and national teach-in is considered by many to be the birth of the modern environmental movement. Earth Day has evolved from that national bi-partisan event into a global event with the participation of almost 200 countries and a billion people. This museum also honors Senator Nelson’s connections to the American Indian communities, and his environmental legacy following 1970, which is detailed earlier.

Walter F. Mondale sites within Minnesota State Parks were designated in 2019 by the State of Minnesota in honor the environmental legacy of former Vice President Walter F. Mondale. With Senator Gaylord A. Nelson, the Senator Mondale helped establish the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Mondale later went on to introduce the National Clean Lakes Act, authored and introduced legislation that created Voyageurs National Park, the Upper Minnesota River Wildlife Refuge, and the Mississippi National Scenic Riverway System. He also fought for years to have the Kettle River (one of the St. Croix Tributaries) included with the St. Croix and the Namekagon as one of the Wild and Scenic Rivers. Although unsuccessful at the Federal level, the Kettle is now a Minnesota State Wild and Scenic River.

Resources related to conservation leadership	County, State	City/Town
Soren Uhrenholdt Farm	Sawyer, MN	Seely
Uhrenholdt Memorial Forest	Sawyer, MN	Seely
Soren and Elizabeth Uhrenholdt and Sigurd Olson’s Graves	Sawyer, MN	Seely
Clear Lake Historical Museum	Polk, WI	Clear Lake
Senator Gaylord Nelson’s Gravesite	Polk, WI	Clear Lake
Walter F. Mondale designated sites in Minnesota State Parks: A segment of the St. Croix River Water Trail, the Day Use Area in William O’Brien, an overlook at Interstate Park and the Visitor Centers at Wild River and St. Croix State Parks	Washington, Chisago, Pine, MN	Multiple Towns and Cities

Conservation on the landscape I: The St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, Interstate Parks, St. Croix Recreational Demonstration Area within the St. Croix State Park

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

Foremost among the sites interpreting the nationally important conservation story is the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway that lies at the heart of the watershed. The park was one of the nation's original examples of river protection under the first federal river protection law, the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act created through the cooperation and leadership of US Senators Gaylord Nelson (WI) and Walter Mondale (MN). The park stands as a nationally significant example of our society's emerging conservation consciousness, interpreting "the environmental history of the US and the revolutionary change from river exploitation to river protection" (see SCNSR significance statements, North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix National Heritage Area Feasibility Study, Appendix 4.)

Formed by both the Namekagon and St. Croix Rivers, the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway flows through 255 miles of the most scenic and least developed country in the Upper Midwest. The purpose of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is to preserve, protect, and enhance the values of the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers and their immediate environment for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The values for which the Riverway has been designated as a wild and scenic river are its free-flowing character, exceptional water quality, and the aquatic, riparian, recreational cultural/historic, geologic, scenic and aesthetic values present in the rivers.

But the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway was not the first of the sites that demonstrate the conservation ethic, nor would it be its last

Interstate State Park (Two parks in Minnesota and Wisconsin)

These two parks – the second of Minnesota's parks (1895) and the first of Wisconsin's (1900) – **was the first interstate parkland collaboration in the United States**, and a tangible reflection of the growing awareness of nature as a place for reflection, retreat, and recreation, not just for the extraction of commodities. It was created as a response to a mining threat – St. Paul businessmen had proposed mining the iconic Dalles basalt bluffs to provide part of the materials for paving St. Paul streets. A travel agent named George Hazzard became the leading advocate for a park, and gained the support of newspapers, several landowners in the area, influential people like W.H.C. Folsom (whose home is now on the National Register, and one of the 26 sites managed by the Minnesota Historical Society), and ultimately the state senator and representative. These last two introduced a bill to the Minnesota Legislature calling for the creation of the State Park of the Dalles of the St. Croix and urging cooperation with Wisconsin to protect both sides of the Dalles. Interstate Park is one of the many state and local parks set aside during the progressive era (1890s-1920).

St. Croix Recreational Demonstration Area, one of three National Historic Landmarks within the conceptual boundary of the North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix National Heritage Area, is now part of Minnesota's largest state Park, **St. Croix State Park** in Pine County. The park includes a National Historic Landmark, the St. Croix Recreational Demonstration Area campground facilities built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). This program, administered by the Park Service, was a Depression Era program to build parks and employ people using CCC or Works Program Administration (WPA) labor. The Recreational Demonstration Area in St. Croix State Park was built through this program in 1943 and is the only such property in Minnesota or Wisconsin.

Conservation on the landscape II: State Parks, State Wild and Scenic Rivers, Scientific and Natural Areas, Wildlife Management Areas, National Forests, State and County Forests

State Parks

In addition to the Interstate State Parks and St. Croix State Park, both of which have national significance, there are nine other state parks within the St. Croix River watershed – for a total of 12, 9 in Minnesota, 3 in Wisconsin.

Resource: State Parks	Designation	County
Interstate State Park – Minnesota (Includes the CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic District and Campground)	MN State Park NHL/NR	Chisago
Interstate State Park - Wisconsin	MN State Park	Chisago
St. Croix State Park	State Park	Pine
Wild River State Park (Includes the Point Douglas to Superior Military Road/Deer Creek Section)	MN State Park NR	Chisago
Moose Lake State Park	MN State Park	Carlton
Father Hennepin State Park	MN State Park	Mille Lacs
Banning State Park	MN State Park	Pine
Afton State Park	MN State Park	Washington
William O’Brien State Park	MN State Park	Washington
Kinnickinnic State Park	WI State Park	Pierce
Straight Lake State Park	WI State Park	Polk
Willow River State Park	WI State Park	St. Croix

State Wild and Scenic Rivers

Two of the tributaries of the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers (both part of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway) have also been given Wild and Scenic River status by their respective states – the Kettle (tributary to the St. Croix) and the Togatic (tributary to the Namekagon)

Resource: State Wild and Scenic Rivers	Designation	County
Kettle State Wild and Scenic River	MN Wild & Scenic River	Multiple
Togatic State Wild and Scenic River	MN Wild & Scenic River	

Scientific and Natural Areas

Minnesota and Wisconsin both maintain public lands programs (called Scientific and Natural Areas in Minnesota and State Natural Areas in Wisconsin) that provide opportunities for scientific research, education, and nature-based recreation. Through these public lands, the program recognizes outstanding examples of native landscape communities, significant geological formations and archeological sites. Within the St. Croix River watershed, there are 50 SNAs; 8 within Minnesota and 42 in Wisconsin.

Resource: Scientific and Natural Areas	Designation	County
Helen Allison Scientific and Natural Area	MN SNA	Aitkin
Franconia Bluffs Scientific and Natural Area	MN SNA	Chisago
Rush Lake Island Scientific and Natural Area	MN SNA	Chisago

Resource: State Wild and Scenic Rivers: Scientific and Natural Areas	Designation	County
Twin Lakes/Book Lake Scientific and Natural Area	MN SNA	Isanti
Kettle River Scientific and Natural Area	MN SNA	Pine
Falls Creek Scientific and Natural Area	MN SNA	Washington
St. Croix Savanna Scientific and Natural Area	MN SNA	Washington
Black Lake Bog Scientific Natural Area	MN/WI SNA	Douglas, Pine
Lake Owen Hardwoods State Natural Area	WI SNA	Bayfield
Namekagon Fen State Natural Area	WI SNA	Bayfield
North Country Trail Hardwoods State Natural Area	WI SNA	Bayfield
North East Lake State Natural Area	WI SNA	Bayfield
Rock Lake State Natural Area	WI SNA	Bayfield
Wilson Lake State Natural Area	WI SNA	Bayfield
Big Island State Natural Area	WI SNA	Burnett
Blomberg State Natural Area	WI SNA	Burnett
Blomberg Lake State Natural Area	WI SNA	Burnett
Brant Brook Pines and Hardwoods State Natural Area	WI SNA	Burnett
Crex Sand Prairie State Natural Area	WI SNA	Burnett
Ekdall Wetlands State Natural Area	WI SNA	Burnett
Fish Lake Meadows State Natural Area	WI SNA	Burnett
Fish Lake Wildlife Area	WI SNA	Burnett
Kohler-Peet Barrens State Natural Area	WI SNA	Burnett
Namekagon Barrens State Wildlife Area	WI SNA	Burnett
Norway Point Bottomlands State Natural Area	WI SNA	Burnett
Reed Lake Meadow State Natural Area	WI SNA	Burnett
St. Croix Ash Swamp State Natural Area	WI SNA	Burnett
St. Croix Seeps State Natural Area	WI SNA	Burnett
Empire Swamp State Natural Area	WI SNA	Douglas
Solon Springs State Natural Area	WI SNA	Douglas
Solon Springs Sharptail Barrens State Natural Area	WI SNA	Douglas
Brule Glacial Spillway State Natural Area	WI SNA	Douglas
Kinnickinnic River Gorge and Delta State Natural Area	WI SNA	Pierce
Farmington Bottoms State Natural Area	WI SNA	Pierce
Interstate Lowland Forest State Natural Area	WI SNA	Pierce
Centennial Bedrock Glade State Natural Area	WI SNA	Polk
McKenzie Creek State Wildlife Area	WI SNA	Polk
Osceola Bedrock Glades State Natural Area	WI SNA	Polk
Standing Cedars State Natural Area	WI SNA	Polk
Sterling Barrens State Natural Area	WI SNA	Polk
Tula Lake State Natural Area	WI SNA	Polk
Tunnel Channel Woods State Natural Area	WI SNA	Polk
Kissick Alkeline Bog Lake State Natural Area	WI SNA	Sawyer
Lake Helane State Natural Area	WI SNA	Sawyer
Apple River Canyon State Natural Area	WI SNA	St. Croix
Cylon State Natural Area	WI SNA	St. Croix
Kinnickinnic Wet Prairie State Natural Area	WI SNA	St. Croix
Dory's Bog and Hunt Hill State Natural Area	WI SNA	Washburn

Resource: State Wild and Scenic Rivers: Scientific and Natural Areas	Designation	County
Lampson Moraine Pines State Natural Area	WI SNA	Washburn
Totagatic Highlands Hemlocks State Natural Area	WI SNA	Washburn

Wildlife Management Areas

In addition, Minnesota and Wisconsin have both established Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) that are part of their outdoor recreation systems and are established to protect those lands and waters that have a high potential for wildlife production, public hunting, trapping, fishing, and other compatible recreational uses. There are 5 WMAs in the St. Croix Watershed, 3 in Wisconsin and two in Minnesota. The US Fish and Wildlife Service also manages the St. Croix Wetland Management District in St. Croix County, Wisconsin.

Resource: Wildlife Management Areas	Managed By	County
Crex Meadows	WI DNR	Burnett
McKenzie Creek Fish and Wildlife Area	WI DNR	Washburn
St. Croix Islands State Wildlife Area	WI DNR	St. Croix
Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area	MN DNR	Chisago
Sandstone State Wildlife Management Area	MN DNR	Pine
St. Croix Wetland Management District	US FWS	St. Croix

National Forests: Chequamegon and Nicolet

The Forest Reserve Act of 1891, which established the US National Forests, and the Forest Management Act of 1897, allowed for the formation of the National Forest System whose mission is to “protect and manage the forest lands so they best demonstrate the sustainable multiple-use management concept, using an ecological approach, to meet the diverse needs of people.” In the St. Croix Watershed, the **Chequamegon and Nicolet National Forests** (CENN) exemplify our story of national significance. Debate raged over the proper use of the cutover land, much of which had been destroyed by fire, abandoned, or forfeited due to tax delinquency. 1928, the Federal Government, under the authority of the Weeks Law of 1911, began buying abandoned and tax delinquent land in the Northwoods to establish a national forest. In March 1933, shortly before he left office, President Herbert Hoover issued a proclamation establishing the Nicolet National Forest. The Chequamegon was established as a separate national forest in November 1933, by President Franklin Roosevelt, from the Nicolet's westernmost lands. During the Great Depression, thousands of young, unemployed men joined the Civilian Conservation Corps. CCC camps were established in the newly formed national forests including the (CENN). During the 10 years the CCC was active, Corpsmen planted thousands of acres of jack pine and red pine, built fire lanes, and constructed recreational facilities. Much of their work in the St. Croix Watershed is still evident, and many of their buildings are on the National Register. The CCC and CENN played big roles in the reforestation of northern Wisconsin, which in 1933 was heavily logged and burned over. In the CENN, there are more than 100 sites associated with the Corps. These include structures buildings, bridges, pine plantations, former CCC camps and fire towers. Some of the sites still exist and are still in use, others have been reconstructed and many have just pieces remaining. Some have been demolished or removed. But some are on the National Register of Historic Places.

State Forests

The first forestry divisions in Minnesota and Wisconsin were established in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Today, in the St. Croix River Watershed, there are 11 State Forests in the watershed; 6 in Wisconsin and 5 in Minnesota.

Resource: State Forests	Designation	County
Solana State Forest	MN State Forest	Aitkin
Fond Du Lac State Forest	MN State Forest	Carlton
Snake River State Forest	MN State Forest	Aitkin, Kanabec
Rum River State Forest	MN State Forest	Aitkin, Kanabec, Mille Lacs
Chengwatana State Forest	MN State Forest	Pine
Daughters of the American Revolution State Forest	MN State Forest	Pine
General CC Andrews State Forest	WI State Forest	Pine
St. Croix State Forest	WI State Forest	Pine
Nemadji State Forest	WI State Forest	Pine
Governor Knowles State Forest	WI State Forest	Burnett
Uhrenholdt Memorial State Forest	WI State Forest	Sawyer

County Forests

County Forest Law in Wisconsin allows for the management of forests for public benefit. There are 29 county forests in Wisconsin, 3 are in the St. Croix Watershed. These county forests, a model for sustainable forestry, seek to “ensure that county forests will be protected and used sustainably for future generations.” These forests help to protect the environment, and benefit Wisconsin’s economic health by creating jobs and providing tax relief at the local level through income from county forest timber sales. There are county forests in 6 of the Wisconsin Counties in the St. Croix River watershed.

Resource: County Forests	Designation	County
Ashland County Forest – 40,305 acres	WI County Forest	Bayfield
Douglas County Forest – 280,144 acres	WI County Forest	Douglas
Barron County Forest – 16,305 acres	WI County Forest	Sawyer
Bayfield County Forest – 175, 749 acres	WI County Forest	Bayfield
Polk County Forest – 17, 183 acres	WI County Forest	Douglas
Sawyer County Forest – 115, 197 acres	WI County Forest	Sawyer

Recreation/Tourism

These resources are directly associated with the development of the North Woods as a recreational retreat. Many have been listed earlier in the section on conservation, namely the **St. Croix Recreational Demonstration Area** park and campground facilities built by the CCC at **St. Croix State Park** that highlights governmental intention to implement a policy of building a tourism economy in the cutover. Similarly, **Interstate State Parks** clearly reflect the early tourism history of the region. And of course, the designation of the **St. Croix and Namekagon** as a national park and one of the nation’s first **Wild and Scenic Rivers** not only protected the waterway but made it more accessible for the public. (FS, page 64).

This section will focus on the resources that demonstrate the transformation of the watershed into an area known for its recreational and scenic values. Wisconsin’s **Forest Lodge** and **Seven Pines Lodge** are among the finest examples of the luxurious hunting and fishing retreats that wealthy businessmen from Chicago, Milwaukee and the Twin Cities built to get away from their urban homes in the late 19th and early 20th century. The North Woods also holds a multitude of family cabins, past and present whose regional or local historical significance has been recognized, including the **Gibson, Van Schaeffer and Lessner** cabins. Today, they are publicly owned as they are located within the boundary of the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.

Historical Structures

Resource	Designation	County/State	City, Town,	Description
Forest Lodge	NR	Bayfield, WI	Namakagon	Rustic retreat of the Livingston/Griggs family on Namekagon Lake, on the site of a logging camp. Buildings (1893 to 1950) include the lodge, two-story boathouse and maids’ cabin. Now operated as an educational facility by Northland College.
Forest Lodge Library	NR	Bayfield, WI	Cable	Mary Livingston Griggs built this rustic log building in 1925-1926 for the community of Cable to honor her mother and their family lodge on Namekagon Lake
Island Lake Camp	NR	Bayfield, WI	Drummond	This rustic cabin was likely one of the first “summer retreats” built in 1888 for the McCormick family and Dr. William Gray, newspaperman and editor of “The Interior” a Presbyterian Publication
Seven Pines Lodge	NR	Polk, WI	Lewis	Seven Pines (1903-1910) is an Adirondack-style fishing camp set above a spring-fed trout stream. Surrounded by towering pine trees, the lodge reflects a rustic lifestyle that came into vogue for wealthy Americans in the early 1900s. The lodge was built by John “Ole” Manseth; later visited by Calvin Coolidge.

Resource	Designation	County/State	City, Town,	Description
Arnold Schwyzer Summer House and Farmstead	NR	Pine, MN	Sandstone	This is a summer home and hobby farm that was developed between 1902 and 1920 that stands as an example of the private lake retreats built in Pine County by affluent urbanites. This is now the Audubon Center of the North Woods , a premier environmental education center in the heart of the Minnesota side of the watershed.
Log Cabin	NR	Washington, MN	Oak Park Heights	1932 restaurant noted for its quaint log cabin motif designed to attract the first generation of motorists and its associations with the St. Croix Region's Prohibition-era roadhouse network. Now operated as a restaurant.

National and State Designated Trails

The scenic and natural areas of the North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix Heritage Area are prime areas for the development of recreational trail systems on land and water. There are 15 designated trails in all: Two of them are nationally designated, the **Ice Age National Scenic Trail and the North Country National Scenic Trail**. The other thirteen are state-designated.

Resource	Designation	County/State
Ice Age National Scenic Trail	National Scenic Trail	Multiple WI Counties
North Country National Scenic Trail	National Scenic Trail	Douglas
Cattail State Trail	WI State Trail	WI Multiple
Matthew Lourey State Trail	MN State Trail	MN Multiple
St. Croix Trail	WI State Trail	WI Multiple
Stower Seven Lakes State Trail	WI State Trail	WI Multiple
Gateway State Trail	MN State Trail	MN Multiple
Willard Munger State Trail	MN State Trail	MN Multiple
Tuscobia State Trail	WI State Trail	WI Multiple
Wild Rivers State Trail	WI State Trail	WI Multiple
Gandy Dancer Trail	WI State Trail	WI Multiple Burnett, Douglas, Polk)
Snake River Water Trail	MN Water Trail	Multiple
Kettle River Water Trail	MN Water Trail	Multiple
St. Croix River Water Trail	MN Water Trail	Multiple

Scenic By-Ways

Scenic by-ways are defined as road corridors that have outstanding scenic, natural, recreational, cultural, historic, or archeological significance. These corridors offer an alternative travel route to major highways, while telling a story about Minnesota’s or America’s heritage, recreational activities or beauty. Scenic Byways are managed to protect these outstanding characteristics and to encourage economic development through tourism and recreation.

North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix Heritage Area is fortunate to have **three scenic byways** within the watershed: The **Great River Road National Scenic Byway**, at the confluence of the St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers in Prescott, Wisconsin; the **St. Croix Scenic Byway**, which follows the historic Point Douglas, MN to Superior, WI; and the **Veteran’s Evergreen Memorial Drive**, which travels for 50 miles between Sandstone, MN to Duluth, MN.

Wisconsin also maintains a scenic by-way system, but it is a new program and there are only three in the entire state, and none in the North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix Heritage Area. However, for 40 years, Wisconsin has maintained a **Rustic Roads Program**. To achieve Rustic Roads status, a roadway must have outstanding natural features along its borders. These might include rugged terrain, native vegetation and wildlife or open areas with vistas that make the road unique. A Rustic Road may be a dirt, gravel or paved road. It should be at least two miles long with a maximum speed limit of 45 mph. The Rustic Roads map for Wisconsin shows **22 Rustic Roads in the St. Croix Watershed**, too many to list here.

Resource	Designation	County/State	City, Town, or Township	Description
Great River Road National Scenic Byway	National Scenic Byway	Pierce, WI	Prescott	Prescott is the northern gateway to the Wisconsin Great River Road National Scenic Byway, and the confluence of the St. Croix River and the Mississippi River. The meeting of these two rivers helped to make Prescott a major center for commerce throughout its history.
St. Croix Scenic By-way	MN State Scenic By-way Portions are on the NR	Washington, Chisago, and Pine, all in Minnesota		The St. Croix Scenic Byway follows a route established in 1855 between Point Douglas, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin. Although intended as a highway for troop movement, the road quickly attracted a flood of civilian and commercial traffic. The 124-mile Byway route passes through three Minnesota counties: Washington, Chisago and Pine.

Resource	Designation	County/State	City, Town,	Description
Veterans Evergreen Memorial Drive	MN State Scenic By-way	Pine and Carlton, MN		The Veterans Evergreen Memorial Drive been known as the "scenic route to Duluth" for decades. This 50-mile route begins near Sandstone and Banning State Park and ends just south of Duluth with a spectacular view of the St. Louis River.

Fur Trade

The resources most closely associated with the fur trade are the rivers and lakes that form a vast watery landscape (nearly 8,000 miles of rivers and their tributaries) that provided habitat for the much-valued beaver and transportation for trappers and traders. Portage trails connect lakes and rivers, following paths used for hundreds of years. The most noteworthy portages connected directly to the St. Croix/Namekagon rivers are the **St. Croix-Bois Brule at the headwaters, the Namekagon – Lac Courte Oreille portage below Hayward and the Namekagon-Lake Owen portage near Cable**. All three are listed on the National Register.

Fur trading posts were known to exist in many locations throughout the valley including two known locations along the St. Croix Riverway. The **North West Company Fur Post Historic Site in Minnesota** (renamed Snake River Fur Post) and **Forts Folle Avoine Historical Park in Wisconsin** contain the archeological remains of actual trading posts. Both sites interpret Ojibwe culture and contributions to the robust fur trade.

The **Madeline Island Museum (a Wisconsin State Historic Site)** lies outside the watershed on an island in Lake Superior but includes an actual building from the American Fur Company Post, a company actively engaged in trade in the St. Croix watershed in the early 19th century. This site and **Historic Fort Snelling (an NHL)** also outside the watershed represent the American arrival in the region, the opening of US settlement and the cultural interaction between the Dakota, Ojibwe, and the new arrivals.

Because the watershed has been occupied for more than 10,000 years, it contains many archeological sites associated with Native American Cultures. The Feasibility Study lists 12 **archeological sites**. Most are not publicly accessible, but all provide valuable understanding of the watershed’s history. One site that is open to the public is **Birkmose Park** in Hudson, Wisconsin, where several burial mounds are located. Also well-known are Afton Minnesota’s **Bissel Mounds**. More sites have been documented, but information is restricted from the public in order to ensure protection of the resources; sites may be added as the inventory continues to grow through time.

Resource	Designation	County/State	City, Town,	Description
Northwest and XY Company Trading Post Sites	NR	Bayfield, WI	Webster	This was the site of competing British fur trading companies from 1802 to 1805, now reconstructed as Forts Folle Avoine Historical Park on 80 acres on the Yellow River. Along with the two fur trading posts, the site has constructed an Ojibwe village, and interprets Ojibwe life during the fur trade.
Brule-St. Croix Portage	NR	Douglas, WI	Brule River State Forest, Solon Springs	This two-mile portage trail from the St. Croix River to the Bois Brule River in the Great Lakes watershed was used by Native Americans and early European explorers and traders. The first recorded was du Lhut in 1680, and later by Jonathan Carver and Henry Schoolcraft.

Resource	Designation	County/State	City, Town,	Description
North West Company Post (now the Snake River Fur Post)	NR	Pine, WI	Pine City	1804 fur trading post reconstructed on its original site by the Minnesota Historical Society. This museum interprets the history of the North West Company in the context of the wider history of Native Americans, French voyageurs, and British fur traders in the early 19th century on the Ginebig-ziibi (Snake River).
Polk County Courthouse	NR	Polk, WI	Balsam	Built in 1899, this courthouse has been converted into museum galleries which interpret, among many other exhibits, the Native American presence and contributions to Northern Wisconsin in the late 1800s to early 1900s.
Namekagon-Lake Owen Portage (Turtle Portage)	WI State Trail	Bayfield, WI	N/A	This ancient trail was part of an extensive trail system that connected the Mississippi River with Lake Superior. Ojibwa Indians, explorers, early traders and missionaries used the trail network.
Namekagon-LacCourte Oreilles Portage Trail		Sawyer, WI	Hayward	The 2.5-mile Namekagon Portage was a well-known canoe portage connecting the St. Croix River watershed to the Chippewa River watershed. The portage started on the Namekagon River to Windigo Lake in the Chippewa River watershed and through Grindstone Lake to Lac Courte Oreilles where a well-known Ojibwa village was located. This portage was used as one of the alternative routes to the Mississippi River for persons passing from Lake Superior to the Mississippi River by way of the Bois Brule River.
Madeline Island Museum	NHL WI State Historic Site	Ashland, WI	Madeline Island	The Madeline Island Museum (a Wisconsin State Historic Site) lies outside the watershed on an island in Lake Superior and includes an actual building from the American Fur Company Post, a company actively engaged in trade in the St. Croix watershed in the early 19 th century. This site and the associated Sandy Lake tragedy memorial site were highly significant in the myriad of unsuccessful attempts to remove Native Americans from Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Resource	Designation	County/State	City, Town,	Description
Historic Fort Snelling	NHL MN Historic Site	Ramsey, MN	St. Paul	Historic Fort Snelling (an NHL) also outside the watershed represent the American arrival in the region, the opening of US settlement and the cultural interaction between the Dakota, Ojibwe, and the new arrivals.
Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post	MN Historic Site	Mille Lacs, MN	Oneida	the exhibits at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and Trading Post (a Minnesota Historical Society site) were developed in a collaborative endeavor between the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the Minnesota Historical Society. The museum interprets pre-contact and contact Native American history, focusing on Mille Lacs Ojibwe
Fond du Lac Cultural Center	Fond du Lac	Carleton, MN	Cloquet	This museum and cultural center, located in Cloquet, MN, integrates contemporary and historical artwork and artifacts to interpret the culture of the Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe.
Migizi Cultural Center	Lac Courte Oreilles	Sawyer, WI	Hayward	This museum and cultural center, located at and managed by the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College, provide tribal members and the general public an opportunity to understand past and living history of the Lac Courte Oreilles tribe.

In Search of a New Land (Immigrant Contributions)

The following is a description of representative structures that interpret the contributions of immigrants to the history and culture of the watershed, particularly during the period of the most rapid population growth during the mid-1800s and early 1900s. Many homes, schools, churches and portions of communities (historic districts) have been placed on the National Register to commemorate the history of these immigrant groups as they began their lives in a new land. Not all National Register structured are listed on this roster, and there are hundreds of National Register-eligible structures throughout the region that have never gone through the registry process. However, this representative sample should demonstrate that resources are present to tell the immigrant story and its connection to our nationally important story.

There are more than 40 historical societies and/or museums that are not listed on the NR in the watershed. Most have permanent collections that interpret this time period and are open to visitors. Of note is **Gammelgården Museum** in Scandia, MN Meaning “Old Farm” in Swedish, the **Gammelgården Museum** is the only open-air museum devoted to preserving, presenting, and promoting Swedish immigrant heritage in the United States. In five buildings that have been carefully preserved and restored including the first sanctuary of Elim Lutheran Church (built in 1856), the oldest existing parsonage in Minnesota, a barn constructed in 1879, a typical immigrant house, and a small vacation house. Here, visitors can get a glimpse of the daily lives and artifacts of these immigrants and participate in events and classes. Two miles to the south are two National Register buildings managed by the Wisconsin Historical Society, the Johannes Erickson House and Hay Lake School that exemplify Swedish construction of the 1800s. To the north of Gammelgården Museum in Lindstrom, MN, is **Nya Duvemala** (known as the Karl Oscar House), the historic home built in 1860, and used as the basis for the wildly popular Emigrant quartet of books by Swedish author, Vilhelm Moberg. These museums and other historic sites in the Chisago Lakes area draw more than 3,000 visitors from Sweden annually. In addition, on the first summer of August, the Almelund Threshing Show provides a living experience of early settlement history, drawing more than 10,000 people.

Resource	Designation	County/State	City, Town,	Description
Center City Historic District	NR	Chisago, MN	Center City	Center City Historic District is a grouping of 19 homes and the Chisago Lake Lutheran Church (the second Lutheran church in Minnesota) built between 1888 and 1910 - a time of high Swedish migration and settlement in the county.
Hay Lake School	NR	Washington, MN	Scandia	This school was built in 1855, after several years of holding school in local homes and in the old Elim Lutheran Church building, now part of the Gammegarden Museum.
Johannes Erickson House	NR	Washington, MN	Scandia	Constructed in 1868 by Johannes Erickson and his 13-year-old son, Alfred, this old log home became at various times a granary, a garage, and a playhouse. It is a rare surviving example of a style brought to Minnesota by Swedish immigrants from Dalsland and Smaland.

Resource	Designation	County/State	City, Town,	Description
Franconia Historic District	NR	Chisago, MN	Franconia	This community of seven houses built from 1850 to 1880 embodies pioneer settlement on the St. Croix River. Franconia was an important landing for immigrants, and once had 500 residents and a sawmill and flourmill.
Gustaf Anderson House	NR	Chisago, MN	Lindstrom	This is an 1879 brick Italianate house of a notable settler and land speculator, Gustaf Anderson.
Moody Barn (Round Barn #1)	NR	Chisago, MN	Lindstrom	This is one of the innovative round barns in the watershed, built in 1915 as a prominent example of early 20 th century dairy farming.
Arthyde Stone House	NR	Aitkin, MN	Arthyde	This fieldstone bungalow (built 1922) in a short-lived settlement is a locally prominent reminder of the failed townsite speculation common to northern Minnesota's cutover land.
Bethlehem Lutheran Church	NR	Aitkin, MN	Aitkin	This 1897 church is representative of the Swedish American population that predominated during this time
Bethlehem Lutheran Church	NR	Pine, MN	Askov	Built 1914-1915, this church anchored the Danish American community of Askov, Pine County's most significant ethnic community.
District No.74 School	NR	Pine, MN	Danforth Township	This is a highly intact one-room school that represents the typical venue for education in rural Pine County in the first half of the 20 th century (Built 1899)
John Doboszinski Farmstead	NR	Pine, MN	Willow River Vicinity	One of the few surviving examples of Pine County's early subsistence farmsteads, est. in 1894. Also associated with the initial settlement of the area by Polish immigrants.
Partridge Township Hall	NR	Pine, MN	Askov	A 1901 example of the simple, one-room public buildings erected in early Pine County settlements, and a witness to Askov's evolution from a railroad stop to a Danish American colony
Mitchell Jackson Farmhouse	NR	Washington, MN	Lakeland	Farmhouse of early settler Mitchel Y Jackson remembered for an informative and wide-ranging diary kept from 1852-1863.
Charles Spangenberg Farmstead	NR	Washington, MN	Woodbury	One of Washington County's few remaining 19 th century farmsteads, with a 1972 farmhouse, circa 1875 granary and circa 1887 barn.

Resource	Designation	County/State	City, Town,	Description
Daniels Town Hall	NR	Bayfield, WI	Daniels	Swedish Lutherans built this church at Mud Hen Lake in 1886, but the congregation moved just 7 years later. The building has been the Daniels Town Hall ever since.
John Lindstrom Round Barn (Round Barn #2)	NR	Polk, MN	Balsam Lake	This round barn was built in 1913, with the first story walls built of fieldstone and the upper parts of wood, with a silo in the center.
Marcus Sears Bell Farm	NR	St. Croix, WI	New Richmond	This Italianate farmhouse (1884) and granary (built in 1884 and rebuilt 1916) was built by Marcus Bell, a farmer, real estate developer, and civic leader. Today, the farm is the site of the New Richmond Heritage Center, with a church, school, log cabin and other buildings onsite.
First English Lutheran Church	NR	St. Croix, WI	New Richmond	This church was built in 1906 by Swedish Lutherans. Early sermons were in Swedish and English.
Louis C. and Augusta Kriesel Farmstead	NR	St. Croix, WI	St. Joseph	This is a diversified farm, built between 1900 and 1910, including a farmhouse, barn, silo, and post-production buildings.
Lewis Farmhouse	NR	St. Croix County, WI	Hudson	Gabled ell farmhouse built in 1867, also called the Willow River Farm
Samuel T. Merritt House	NR	St. Croix, WI	St. Joseph	This two-story clapboard Italianate house was built in 1867 by a New Englander who arrived in 1862. Merritt was the first to ship wheat downriver to LaCrosse.
John S. Moffat House	NR	St. Croix County, WI	Hudson	This house is built as an octagon in 1854, by Judge John S. Moffat. The building is now the museum of the St. Croix County Historical Society, which interprets life in the 19 th century with carpenter, blacksmith and general store displays and a carriage house.
John Nicholas and Hermina Thelen House	NR	St. Croix County, WI	St. Joseph	Farmstead which spans from the wheat farming era to dairy, with the farmhouse (1885) smokehouse and granary (1873) and barn/silo (1917)