

November 2023

Northwoods Alliance, Inc.
6063 Baker Lake Rd
Conover, WI 54519



Dear Northwoods Alliance donors

With your support, August 1, 2023 was a milestone for Northwoods Alliance Inc (NWA). Headwaters Cedar Community Forest (HCCF) was acquired as the organizations first fee-title holding in Wisconsin. This project was especially gratifying to me, as for over thirty years I have wanted to see that particular parcel protected for the public. Lying in the heart of the Border Lakes conservation area, HCCF is a tremendous complement to our past conservation advocacy efforts in the area, including the adjoining 1130 Ontonagon tract on the state forest.

The other NWA fee-title holding is the ever-popular Wildcat Falls Community Forest. There is no denying the ten-year ordeal to make that a great community asset for all to enjoy. This also could not have been accomplished without your support.

In 2006 as we accepted the responsibility of Northwoods Alliance, several of us had already been active in area conservation. Building an inactive, fledging non-profit into a successful advocacy group destined to hold conservation parcels was a goal we took seriously. Our 2007 Land Conservation Initiative required 10 years of stability in the all-volunteer model prior to pursuing acquisitions of important lands. Those pre-acquisition ten years were not only stable but our advocacy successes grew to see several thousand acres protected with public access, as we have touted in Northwoods Forest Conservation: A Handbook.

The Northwoods is currently experiencing an alarming pace of forest fragmentation. Our efforts to conserve habitat for critters and people are increasingly important. I want to update you on our current efforts.

In northern Vilas County, NWA is spearheading two important Forest Legacy projects which will be reviewed by a national USFS panel this winter. They both have been submitted under a new category in the program called 'Family ownerships with greater strategic importance'. In this case, our advocacy likely will require providing part of the matching funds given the uncertainty of Knowles Nelson Stewardship as was demonstrated earlier this year in Oneida County with the large Pelican River project.

The Border Lakes project proposal is ~1200 acres in two slightly separated tracts, being in both the Wisconsin River and Lake Superior watersheds. Highlights of this great project include protection of: Emil Lake which is the headwaters of the Tamarack Creek; the scenic hills on which most of the Forest Lake bike trail segment winds through closed canopy hardwoods; and a very significant stretch of scenic corridor on county road B.

The second Forest Legacy project is a 191-acre expansion of the Upper Wisconsin River Legacy Forest. This project is shown as the Upper WI River Bird Habitat at northwoodalliance.org because it hosts known threatened & endangered species.

As we express our deep gratitude for your past support, I assure you any funds to Northwoods Alliance goes directly to land conservation projects with public access. Our all-volunteer, and shared office (with Partners in Forestry) concept results in low overhead which allows us to apply 100% of your gift into the project. We appreciate your past generosity and hope you will continue your support as you are able.

Sincerely

Joe Hovel for the board of directors

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Welcome area off County Road B at Headwaters Cedar Community Forest

