Protecting the Sponge: Ramping up lake protection strategies for the forested zone of Minnesota



Presentation Breakdown:

Forest Protection Background

Forests + sandy soil = groundwater = good lake water quality

Protection Methodology

What tools can we use to achieve forest protection?

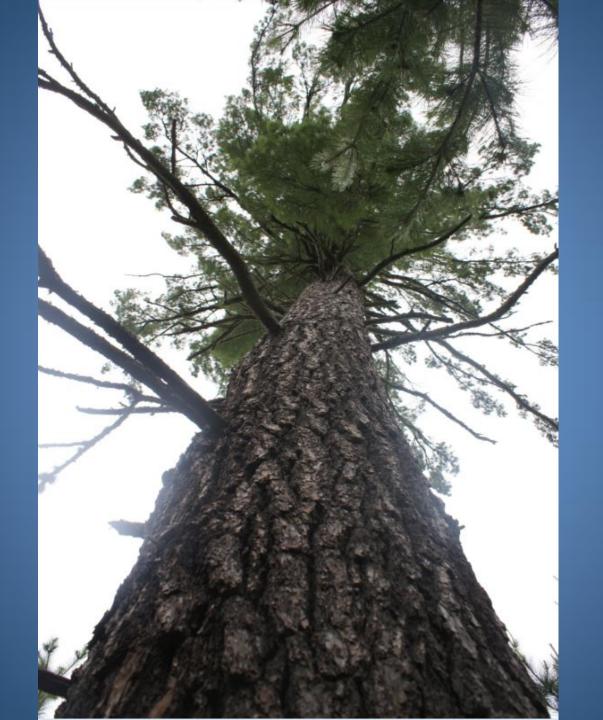
Forest Stewardship Meets Water Planning

Can forest stewardship influence water planning?

 Ramping up Efforts to Protect Lakes through Forest Stewardship

How can we ramp up efforts to ensure Minnesota's unique quality of life for future generations?













High Value of Forest and Fisheries Resources

- Annual direct expenditures by anglers in Minnesota = \$2.4 billion
- Annual direct economic contribution of Minnesota forest products = \$9.0 billion
- Indirect economic impacts are much greater for both industries

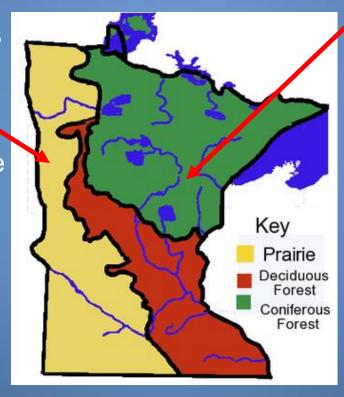




Context for Watershed Planning in Minnesota

Restoration

- Water Quantity Drivers
- Streams/ Ditch Based
- Ag Based
- Lake-bed Clay Soils
- High Land Disturbance
- Little Public Land
- Watershed Districts
- High Land Values



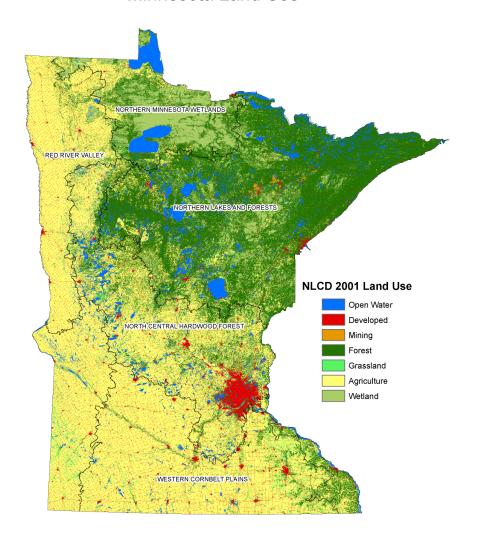
Protection

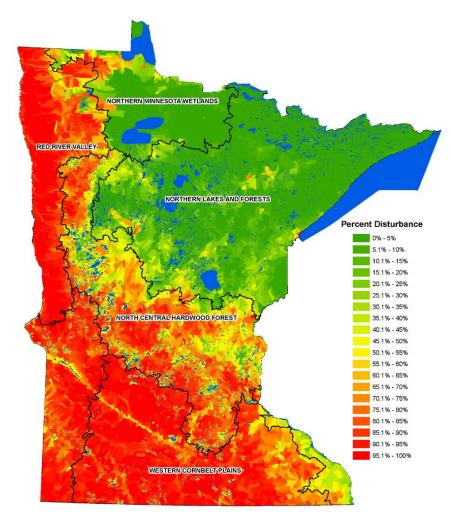
- Water Quality Based
- Lake Based
- Forest Based
- Outwash/Till Soils
- Low Land Disturbance
- Lots of Public Land
- Lake Associations

Low Land Values



Land Use Disturbance within Local Watershed Catchments

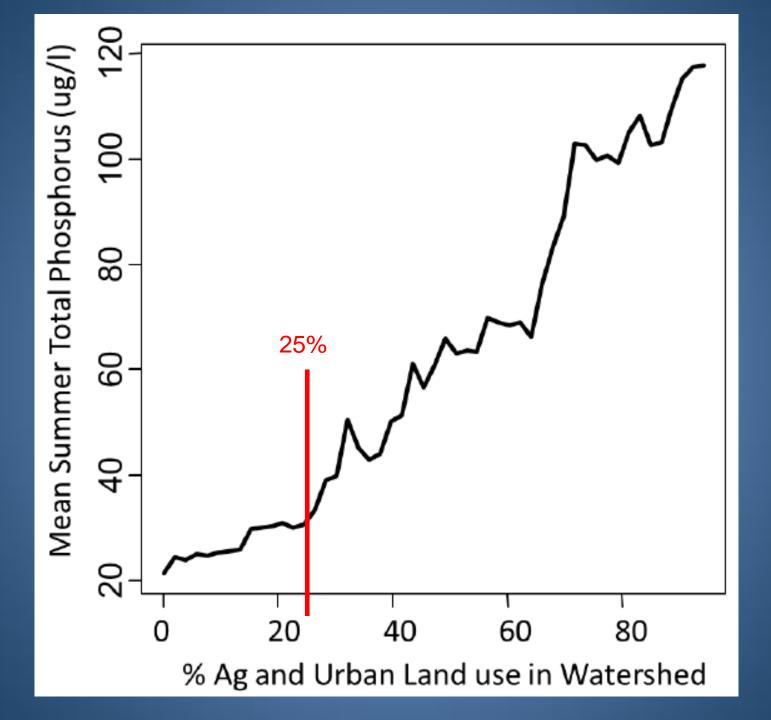


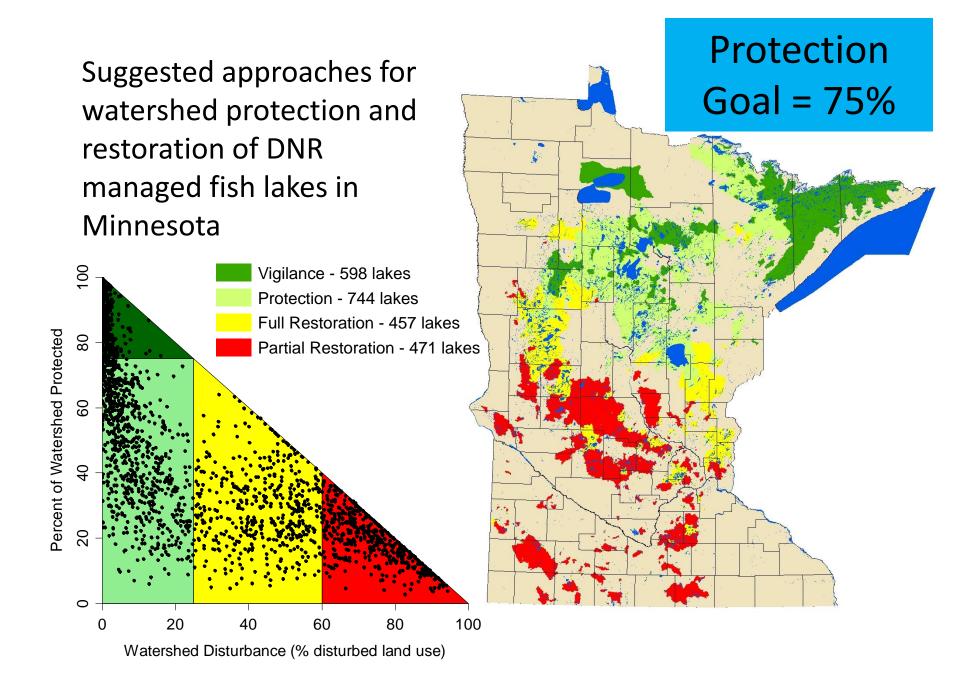


Undisturbed lands in the forested ecoregion provide excellent water quality in lakes











Key Concepts (Values)

- Keeping Forested Lands Forested (Forest cover provides ecological, economic, and social benefits.)
- Keeping Forest Lands Working (Forest protection allows for productive forests too.)
- Follow the Risk (Focus on Private Forest Lands PFM Program is critical to success.)
- Stack Public Benefits (Water Quality and Habitat + Source Water and Jobs).
- Build in Resilience to Public Lands (Large tracts of permanently protected forest land are important for future tourism and timber industries. Use SFIA and conservation easements to extend existing conservation impact of public lands.)
- Find Priority Conservation Investments (Priority is at the intersection of quality and risk.)
- Landowners Deserve Service (Making the conservation options clear and accessible to the conservation minded private landowner.)
- Major in the Minors

Stacking Public Benefits

Multiple river **Public Access** public access points Trophy smallmouth & **Fish Habitat** muskie **USFS** Watershed **Source Water Protection** Assessment Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Cloud Mississippi Flyway: Waterfowl Neotropical songbirds Wildlife Habitat Red shouldered hawks **Morrison Preserving the Rural Character of Morrison County** County Comp. L.U. Plan **Soldier Readiness – Preserve Military ACUB** Training Regimen **Program** Camp Ripley (Central MN's Largest Employer) 2004









Presentation Breakdown:

Forest Protection Background

Forests + sandy soil = groundwater = good lake water quality

Protection Methodology

What tools can we use to achieve forest protection?

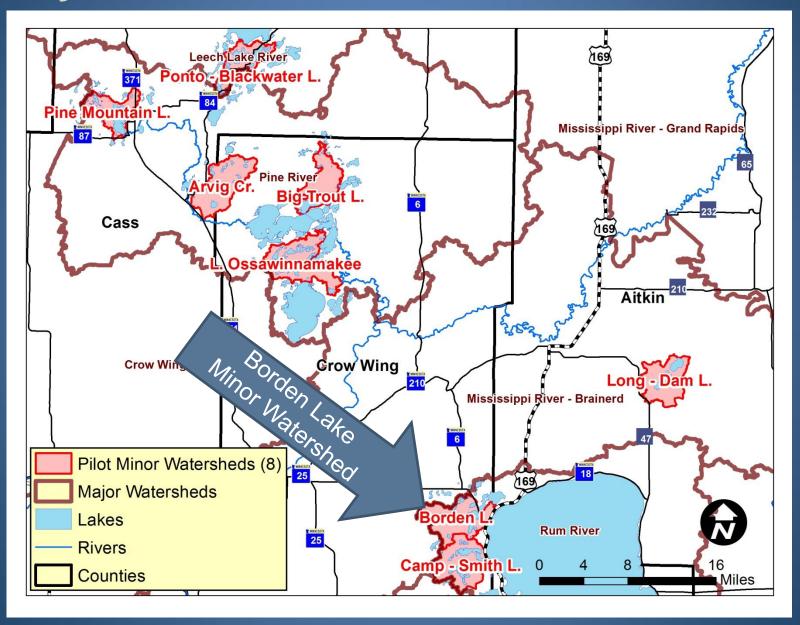
Forest Stewardship Meets Water Planning

Can forest stewardship influence water planning?

 Ramping up Efforts to Protect Lakes through Forest Stewardship

How can we ramp up efforts to ensure Minnesota's unique quality of life for future generations?

PFM by PTM in Minor Watersheds: Pilot Areas

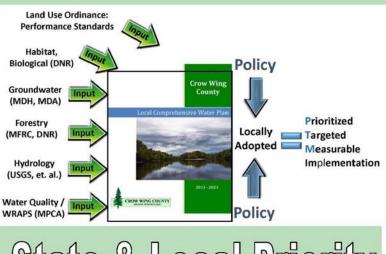


Once a Priority Minor Watershed Has Been Identified, How Can Local Units Implement?



How has Crow Wing County Prioritized Minor Watersheds??

2013-2023 Grow Wing County Water Plan

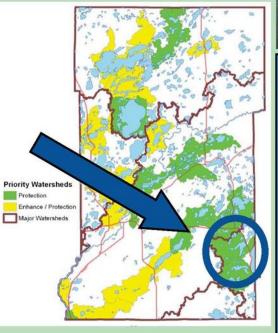


State & Local Priority











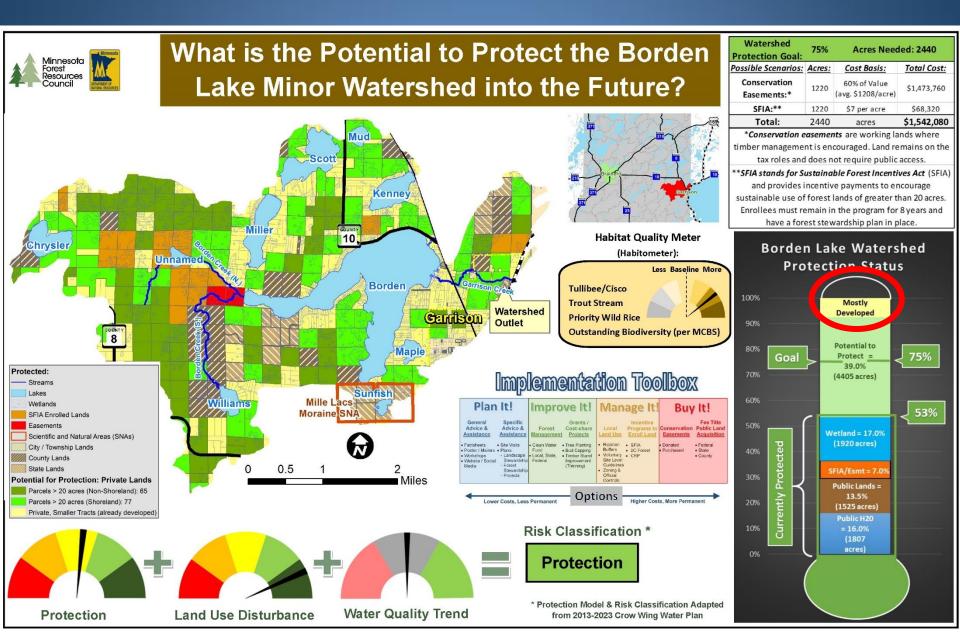
Why Borden Lake

Minor Watershed?

- + Trout Stream
- + Cisco/Tullibee Lake
- + Outstanding Biodiversity
- Steeper Topography/Heavier Soil
 (= more runoff potential)
- Unprotected Lands (= Higher Risk)



Is there potential to reach 75% Protection?



Many Legislatively-Created Options Available

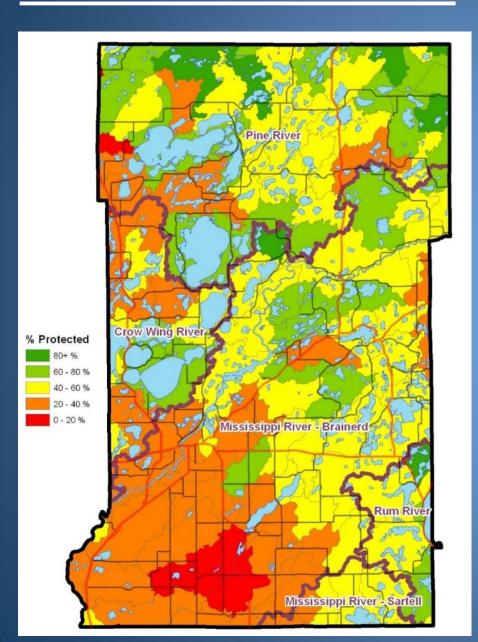
Private Forest Landowner Implementation Toolbox

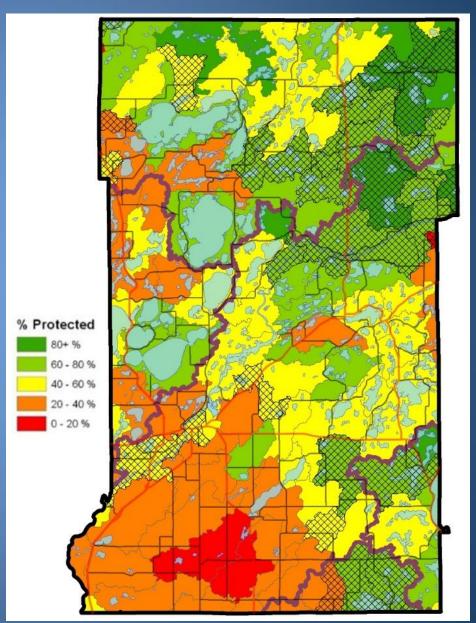


Landowners Choose!

% Protected before SFIA

% Protected with SFIA



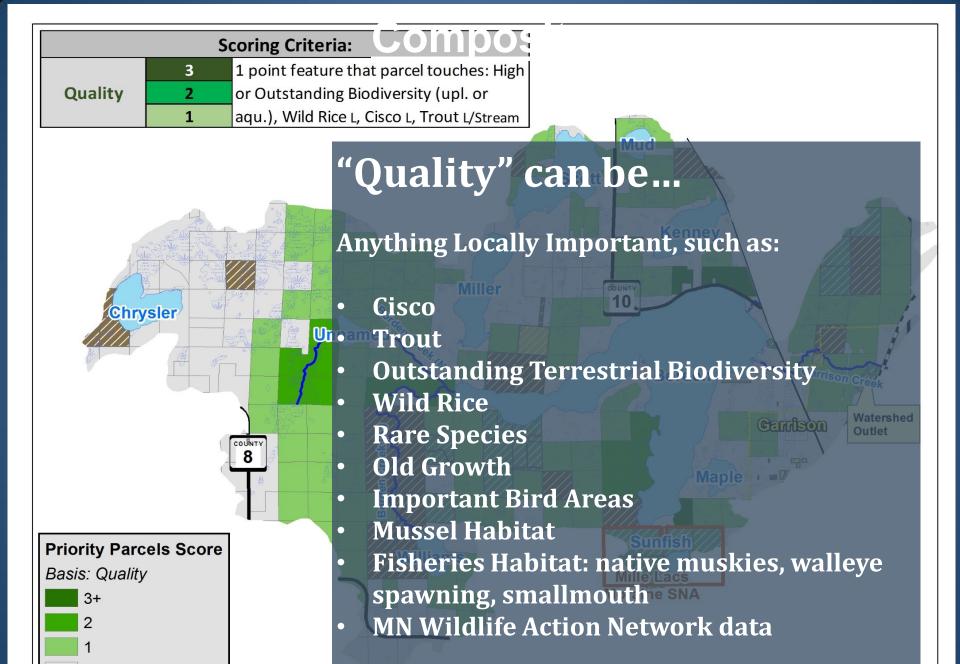


Local Decision Maker Table

Minor Water- shed		Lakes of Biodiversity Significance (DNR)	Lake	Trout Stream (DNR)	MCBS Terrestrial Biodiversity (DNR)	Priority Wild Rice Lakes	# of Animal Units	Phosphorous Sensitivity Significance (DNR)	Water Quality Trend(s)	% Protected	Cost \$	"Forests for the Future" Composite Score
L. Ossi	Yes	Yes	No	No	Moderate	Yes	0	Higher or Highest	Stable to Improving	35%	\$3.6 - 5.3M	92
Big Trout L.	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Moderate	No	0	Higher or Highest	Stable w/ Declining	53%	\$1.3 – 5M	97
Borden L.	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Mod-High- Outstanding	Yes	57	Higher or Highest	Stable / No Trend	53%	\$1.2 - 1.5M	98
Camp / Smith L.	No	Yes	No	Yes	Outstanding	Yes	0	Higher or Highest	Stable to Improving	59%	\$1.0 - 1.2M	104

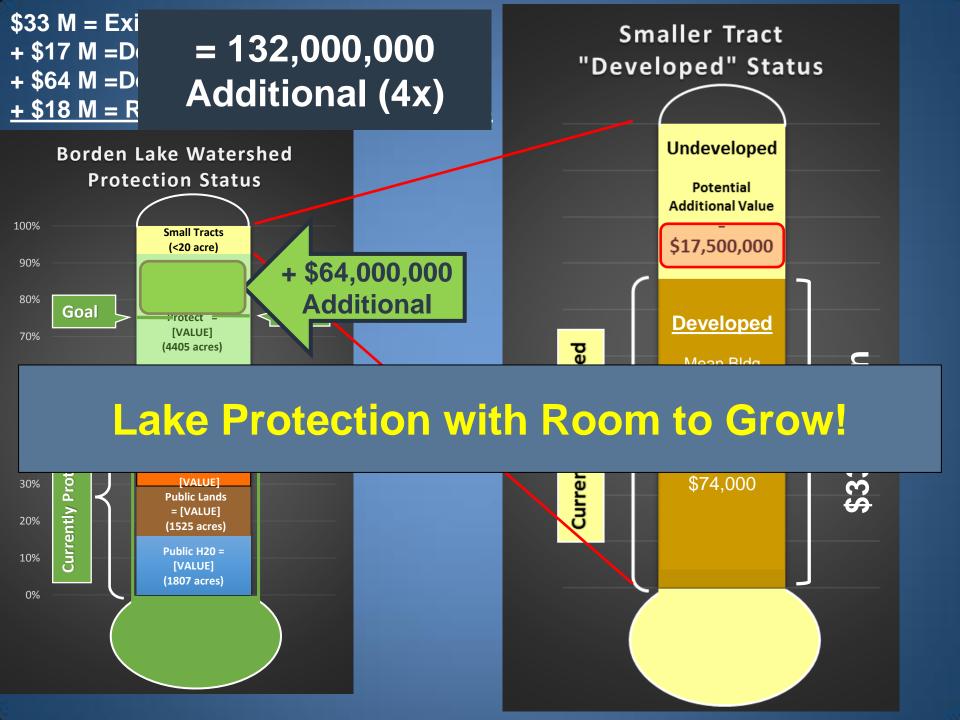
The Shortest Route to 75% = by Size!

Landowner	# of Parcels	Acres (total)	% of Goal	% of Total
Landowner #1	7	277.3	11.4%	2.5%
Landowner #2	4	151.8	6.2%	1.3%
Landowner #3	4	148.5	6.1%	1.3%
Landowner #4	3	137.6	5.6%	1.2%
Landowner #5	3	120.0	4.9%	1.1%
Landowner #6	3	119.5	4.9%	1.1%
Landowner #7	3	119.1	4.9%	1.1%
Landowner #8	3	118.3	4.8%	1.0%
Landowner #9	3	115.3	4.7%	1.0%
Landowner #10	3	114.6	4.7%	1.0%
Landowner #11	3	100.4	4.1%	0.9%
Landowner #12	1	91.5	3.7%	0.8%
Landowner #13	2	89.6	3.7%	0.8%
Landowner #14	2	87.5	3.6%	0.8%
Landowner #15	1	87.0	3.6%	0.8%
Landowner #16	2	83.6	3.4%	0.7%
Landowner #17	2	82.3	3.4%	0.7%
Landowner #18	2	81.7	3.3%	0.7%
Landowner #19	2	81.6	3.3%	0.7%
Landowner #20	2	81.2	3.3%	0.7%
Landowner #21	2	80.8	3.3%	0.7%
andowner #22	2	80.7	3.3%	0.7%
			100.0%	22.0%



Borden Lake Protection Scenario:

		- 4	Scoring		Property / Landowner Information							
Acres	Total Score	Riparian Adiacency Quality				Owner Name		Land Value Cost for Cont		2221		
200200			Sco	ring			r Informa	Control of Section 1				
Acres	Tota Scor		Riparian	Adjacency	Quality	Pa	arcel#	Owner Nan	ne			/alue = tion Cost
34.	7 5		3	0	2	66015	1105000009	VICTORSEN,	JON R DE	MARS & JA	\$23	9,500
66.	8 6		3	1	2	66015	1304000009	BAKKEN, JUA	ANE M ET	AL	\$175	5,700
62.	8 7		3	2	2	660154	4203000009	VICTORSEN,	JON R DE	MARS	\$15	2,100
40.	2 4		1	2	1	660153	3100000009	BENSON, JA	CK D		\$73	,700
40.	3 4		1	2	1	660153	3400000009	HUTCHISON,	GERALD	D & KIM	\$70	,400
39.	9 5		2	2	1	660143	3400000009	KIMBLE, ZAC	HARY L		\$58	,200
											\$769	,600
38.5	2	0	2	0	6600643000	00009	KUNDE, DAN	IIEL D JR & KARI	\$29,8	300	\$2,158)	
38.4	3	1	1	1	6600711000	00889	HADACHEK,	NANCY ELLEN T	\$72,9	900	(2,145)	13 1 2
38.3	3	1	1	1	6600742000	00009	LAVENDER S	PRINGS TREE FA	\$73,2	200	\$2,144	-0-
32.4	0	0	0	0	660033200A	00009	ANDERSON,	JEFFREY GUY	\$36,6	500	\$1,814)	
30.5	2	1	1	0	660072300B	00009	ROLFSON, D	OUGLAS A	\$63,0	000	\$1,707	
26.3	0	0	0	0	660033300A	.00889	EMSTAD-LIN	DBORG, DAWN	\$62,7	700	\$1,472	FIA:
25.1	5	3	1		660081300A	00009	WOIZESCHK	E, KEVIN R	\$25,1	22.22	\$1,406	
20.2	3	0	2		660204200A		7	OBERT S & LOLI	7		\$1,123	30 60
20.1	0	0	0		660291300B			I, DEVON A & SA	100000		97,1/25	12,0
20.1	0	0	0	0	660291300A	00009	SUTHERLANI	D, JOSEPH A JR I	\$24,4	100	\$1,124	
		J		_						\$10	03,134	
26.8	3	3	0	0	760014301	A00009	SICHAK, JA	MES		\$38,900	\$23,340	isitio
				-						¢	1,293,8	40 al n





Presentation Breakdown:

Forest Protection Background

Forests + sandy soil = groundwater = good lake water quality

Protection Methodology

What tools can we use to achieve forest protection?

Forest Stewardship Meets Water Planning

Can forest stewardship influence water planning?

 Ramping up Efforts to Protect Lakes through Forest Stewardship

How can we ramp up efforts to ensure Minnesota's unique quality of life for future generations?

Forest & Water Plans Coming Together

Implementation: Clean Water / **Maintain Tourism Economy \$\$**

Disturbance Framework

DNR Lake Protection-

2013 CWC Water Plan



Cass/ CWC **Water Plan Updates**

Toward Future Implementation

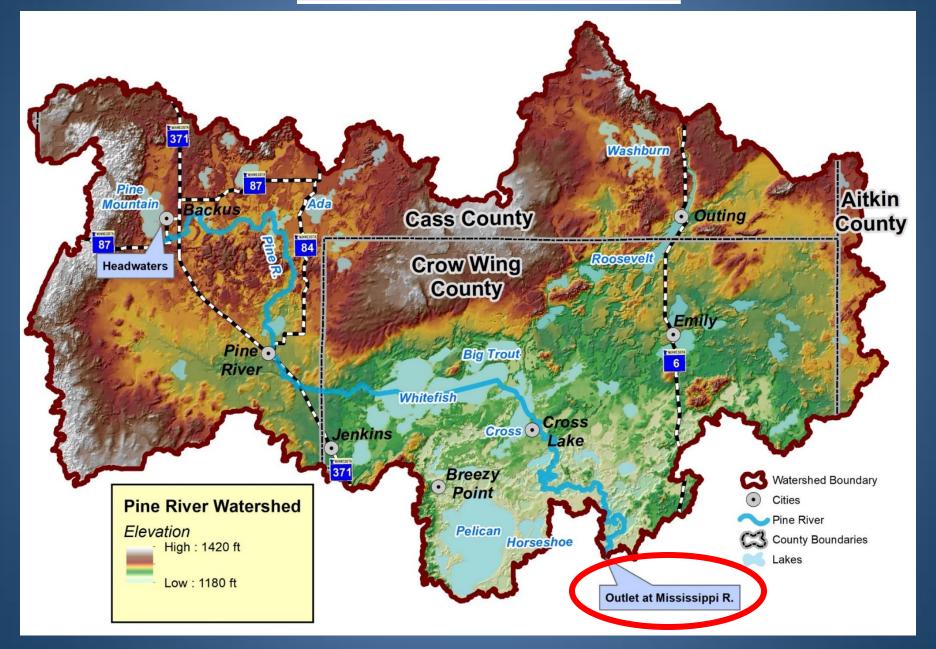
Pine River Watershed 1 Plan

Pine River

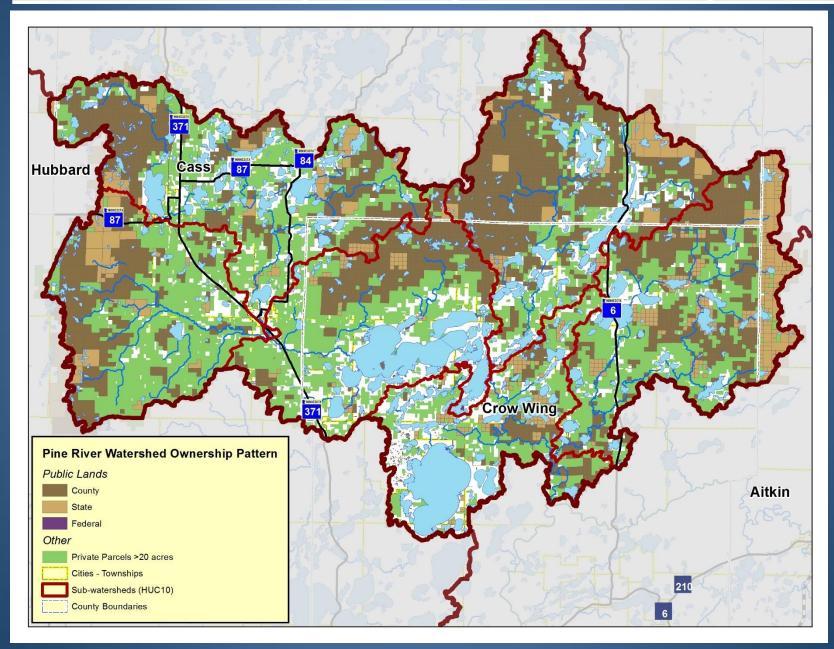
Implementation: Protected Forested Watersheds / Forest Economy \$\$

Landscape

Pine River Watershed



Pine R. Landscape: Complex Ownership Pattern



Protect the Sponge

Forests, Water and People

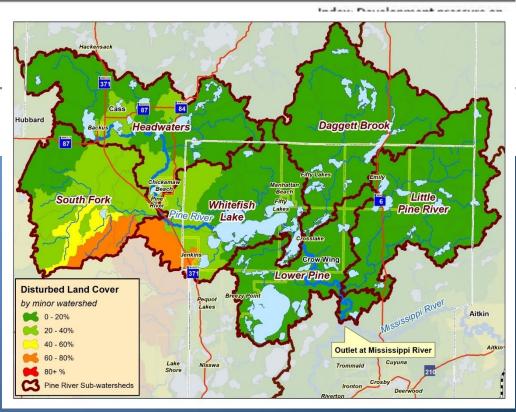
Drinking water supply and forest lands in Minnesota

USDA Forest Service Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry



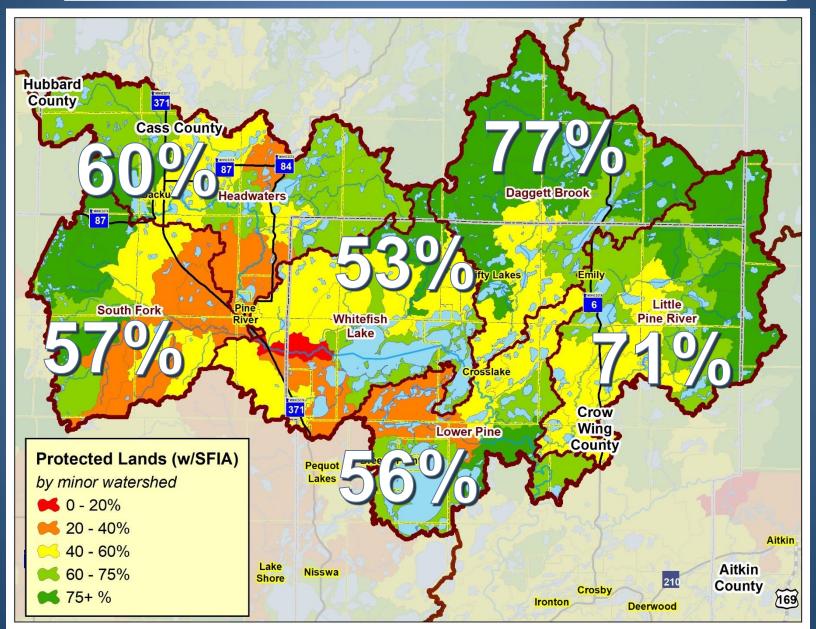
Table 1. Watershed results for Minnesota

Watershed Name	Hydrologic Unit Code	Mean APCW for watersheds	
Pine	07010105	9 of 10	
Rum	07010207	6 of 10	
Clearwater-Elk	07010203	5 of 10	



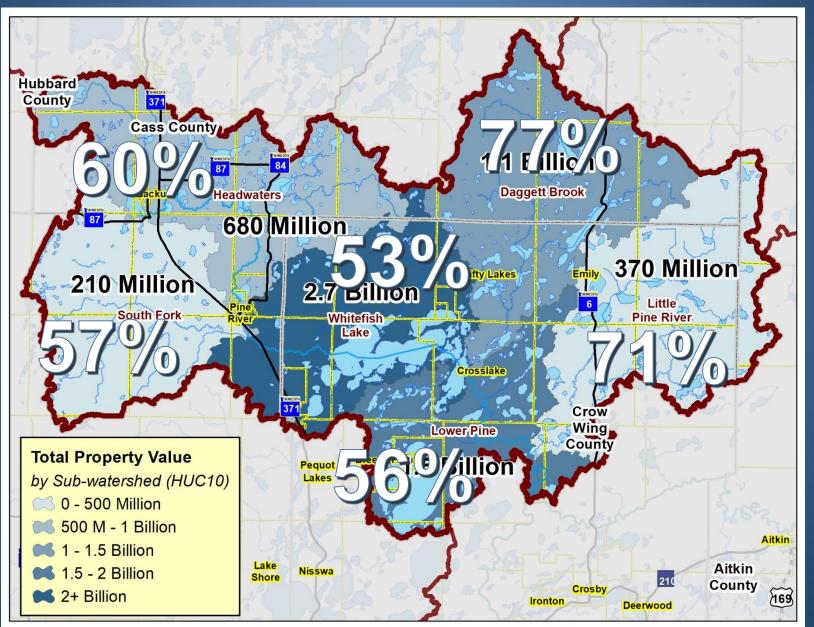
Protected Lands:

Public Lands/Waters, Easements, Private Wetlands, SFIA

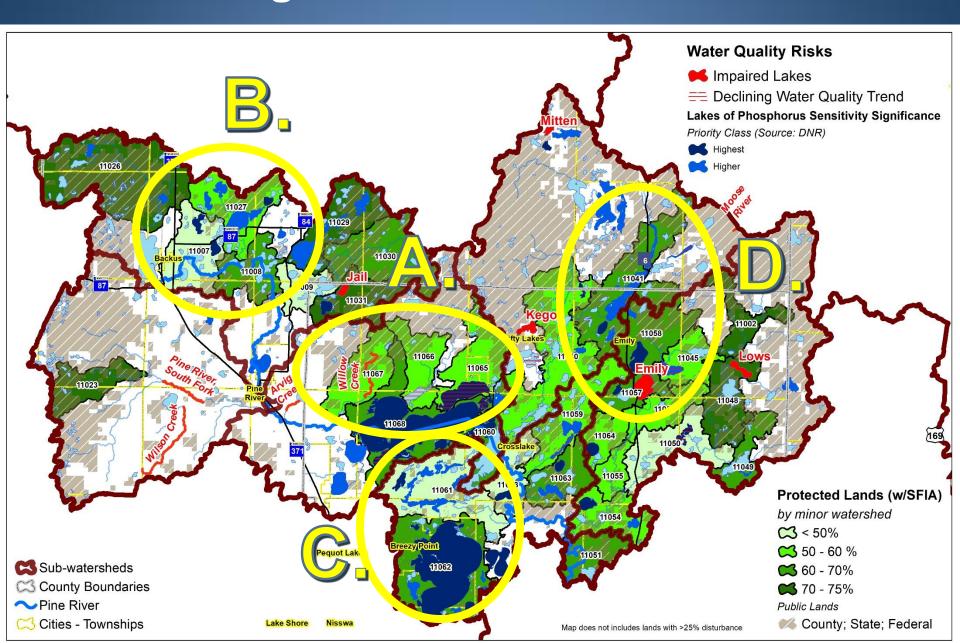


Value to County:

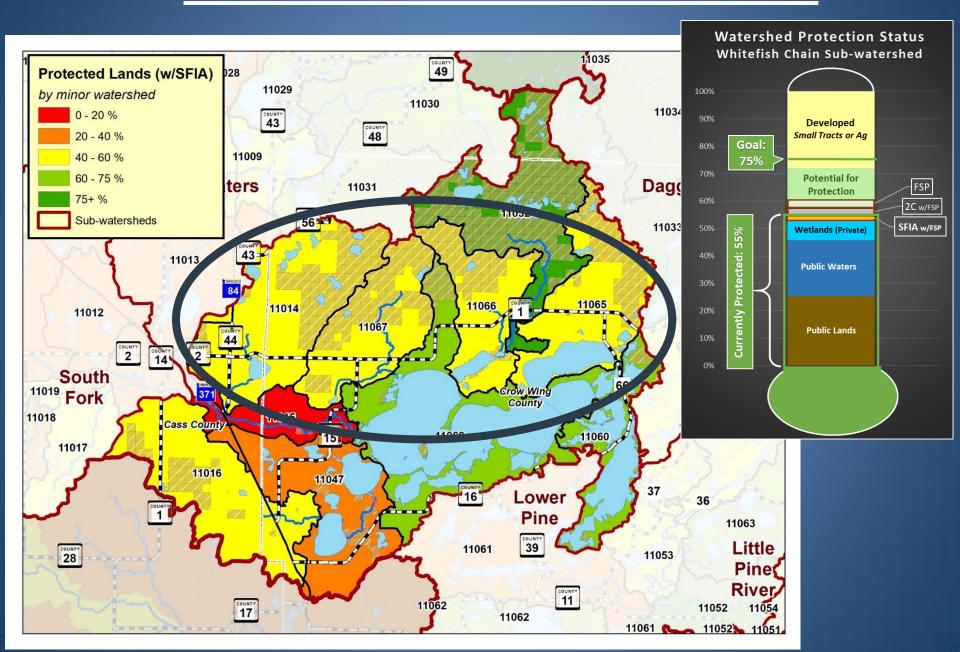
Total Property Values (Land + Building)



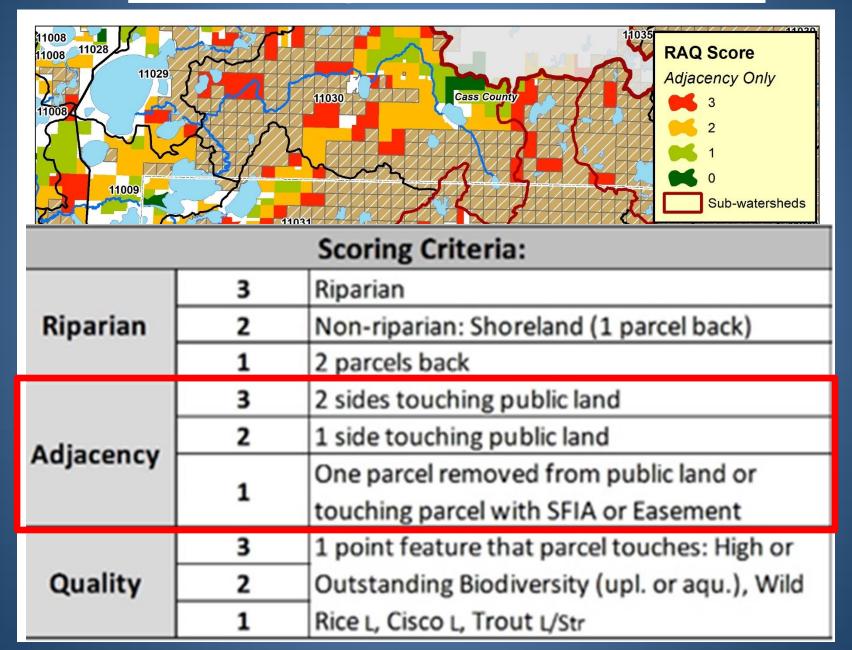
Starting Point: <75% protection, <25% disturbance



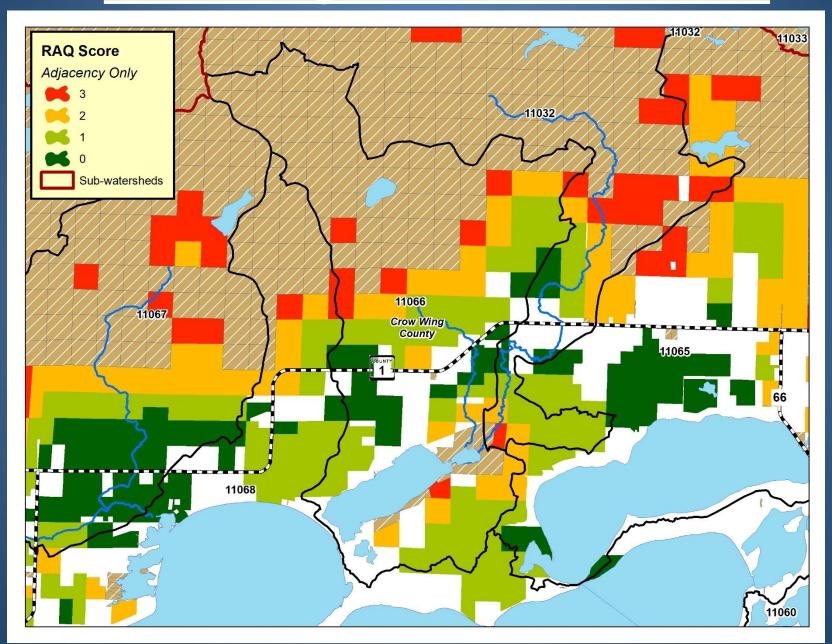
Cluster A: Whitefish Sub-watershed



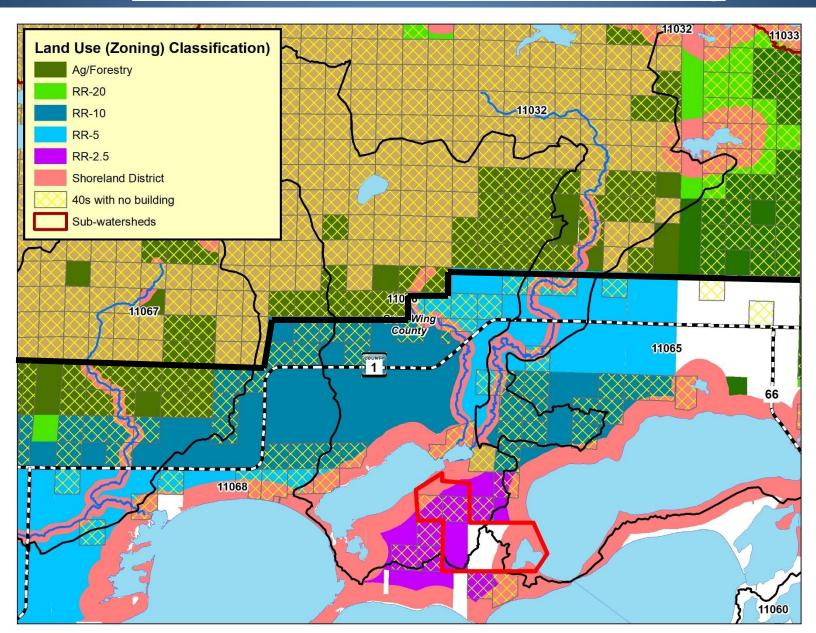
RAQ Scoring: Sub-Watershed Scale



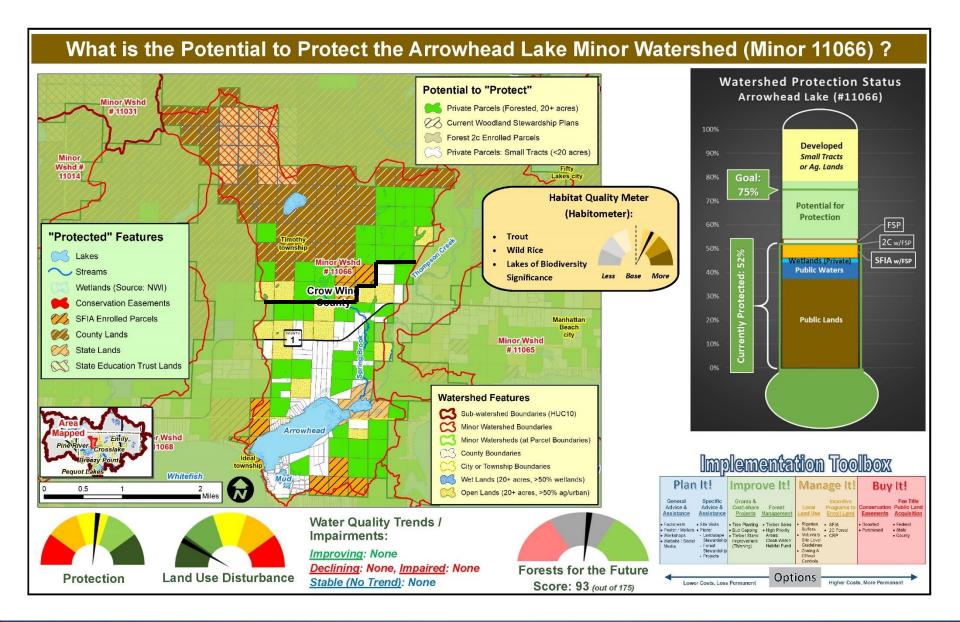
RAQ Scoring: Minor Watershed Scale



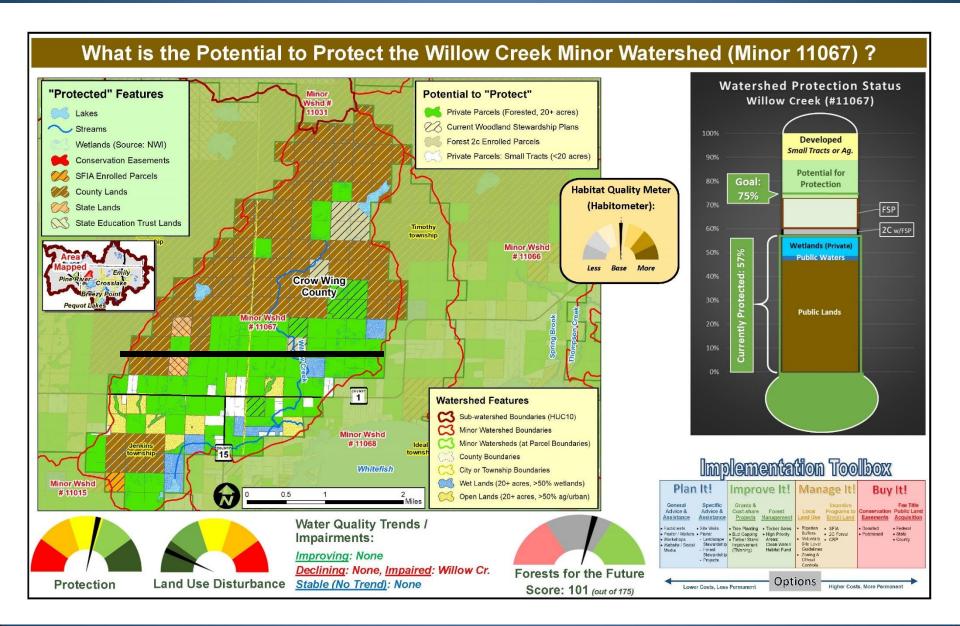
Importance of Land Use Planning



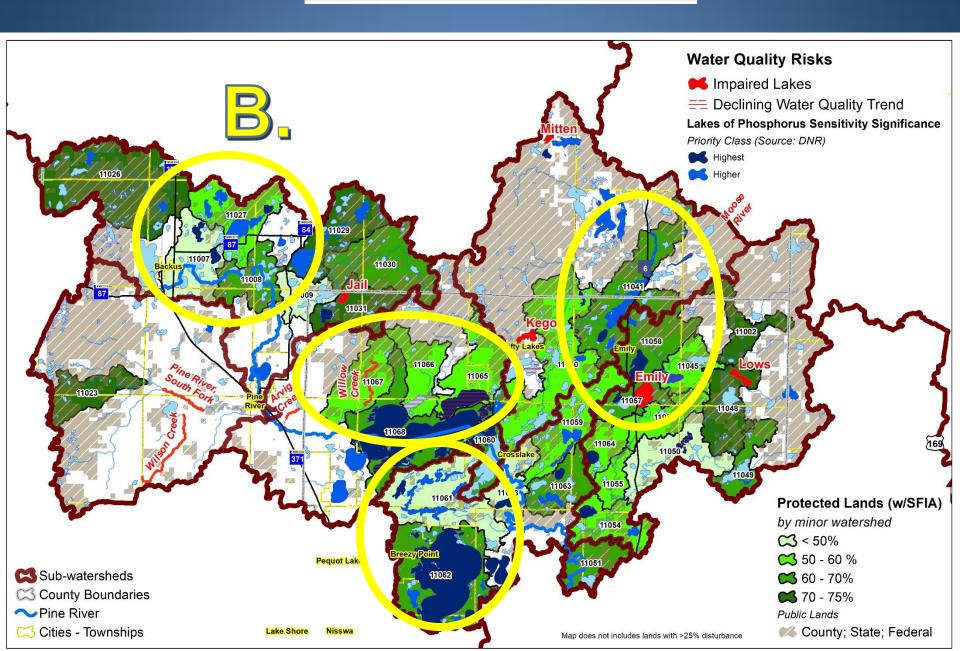
Arrowhead Lake / Spring Brook Minor Watershed

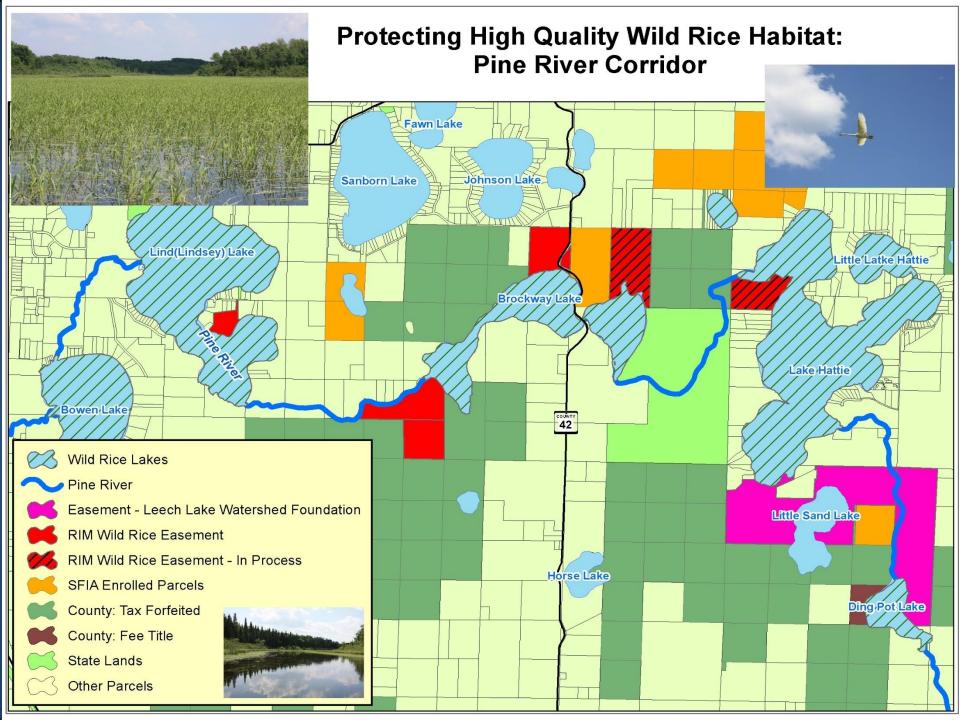


Willow Creek Minor Watershed

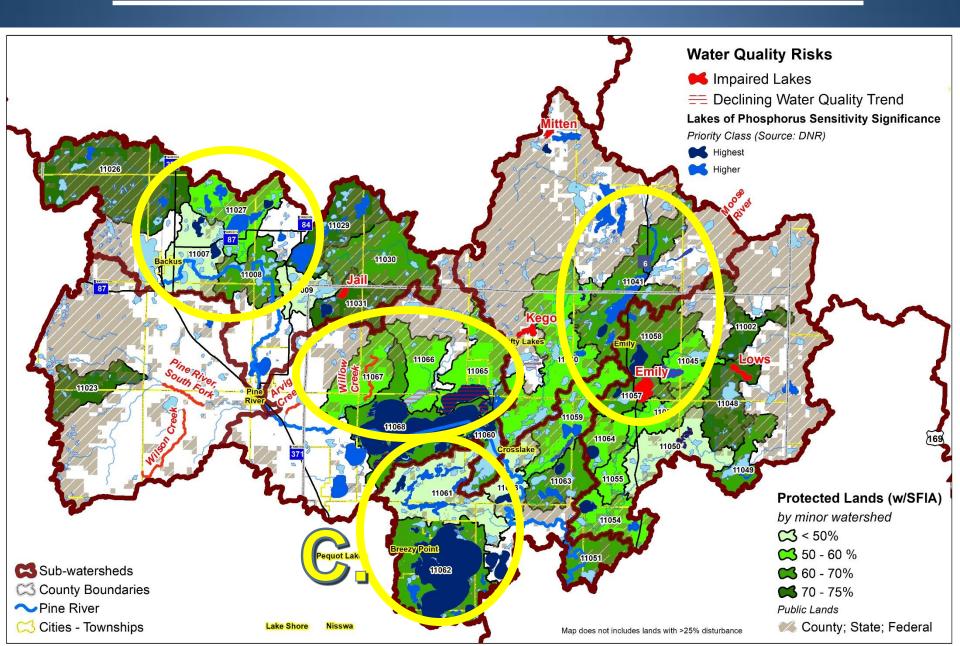


Cluster 2: Headwaters





Cluster 3: Pelican / Ossawinnamakee



Sample watershed: Lake Ossie

Lake Ossawinnamakee: Heavily forested | low "protected" lands | Cisco refuge lake



Protection from development

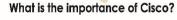
Alarmingly, Only 20 to 40% of the forested area is protected from development.





Enhance/Protection

Although over 90% of the area around Lake Ossawinnamakee is carpeted in a relatively natural condition (forest and water), only about 33% of this land is protected from future development. This is one reason why this watershed was classified as having opportunities for further enhancement and protection. Because nearly half of the forests in this watershed are privately owned, one potential strategy is to work with landowners to develop and implement forest stewardship plans.



The presence of Cisco or Tullibee in a watershed is simply a good indicator of the good health of that lake. These bail-fish thrive best in deep, well oxygenated, lakes. Cisco represent a great food source for a host of game fish.



Forest Stewardship Plan

Forest stewardship management planning assistance for clean water protection.

Private forest landowners can look to Crow Wing County and the Crow Wing Soil & Water Conservation District to provide assistance for tree planting, forest stand improvement, invasive species control, forest habitat improvements, and erosion control near riparian areas. Various tax incentives exist to preserve forest lands in addition to programs that can offer up to 50% financical assistance for developing and implementing forest stewardship plans.

Key: Local Technical Team



Presentation Breakdown:

Forest Protection Background

Forests + sandy soil = groundwater = good lake water quality

Protection Methodology

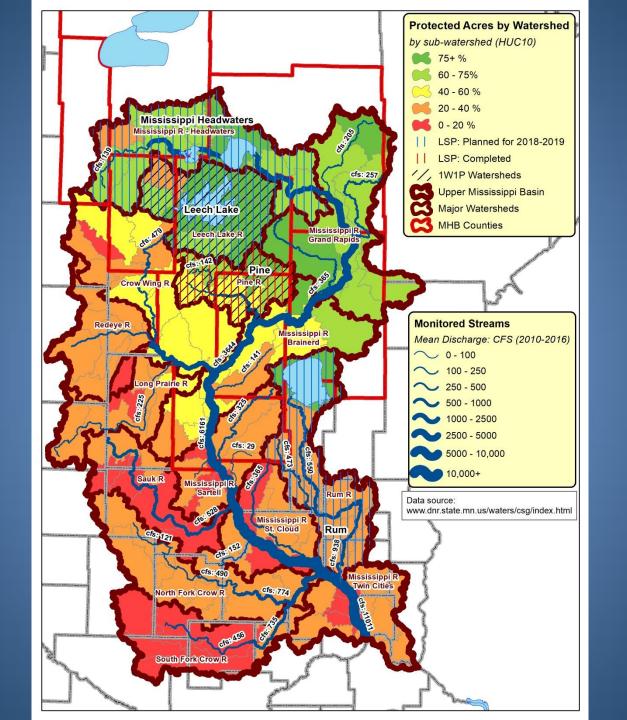
What tools can we use to achieve forest protection?

Forest Stewardship Meets Water Planning

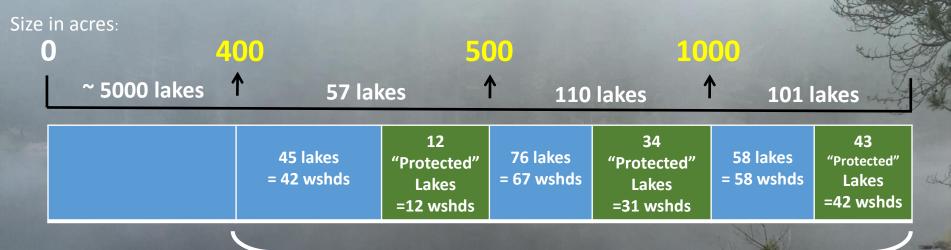
Can forest stewardship influence water planning?

Ramping up Efforts to Protect
 Lakes through Forest Stewardship

How can we ramp up efforts to ensure Minnesota's unique quality of life for future generations?



of Lakes in Mississippi headwaters Counties > 400 acres: 268



179/268 lakes (146 watersheds)

- 6 Wildlife Lakes
- 8 Impaired Lakes (to TMDL process)
- = 165 Lakes (130 watersheds)

After setting aside the protected lakes, where do we go from here?

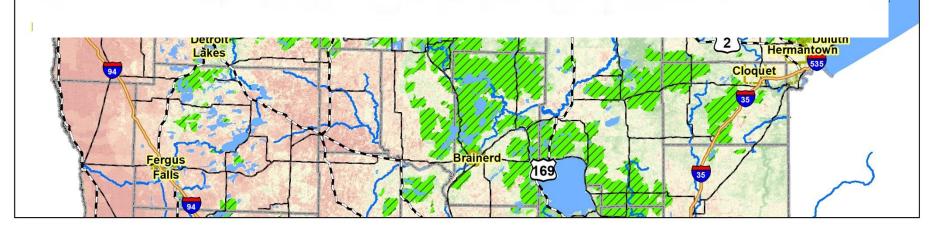
FFF Composite Score

Econ + Ecol + Rec High: 173.75

Low: 11

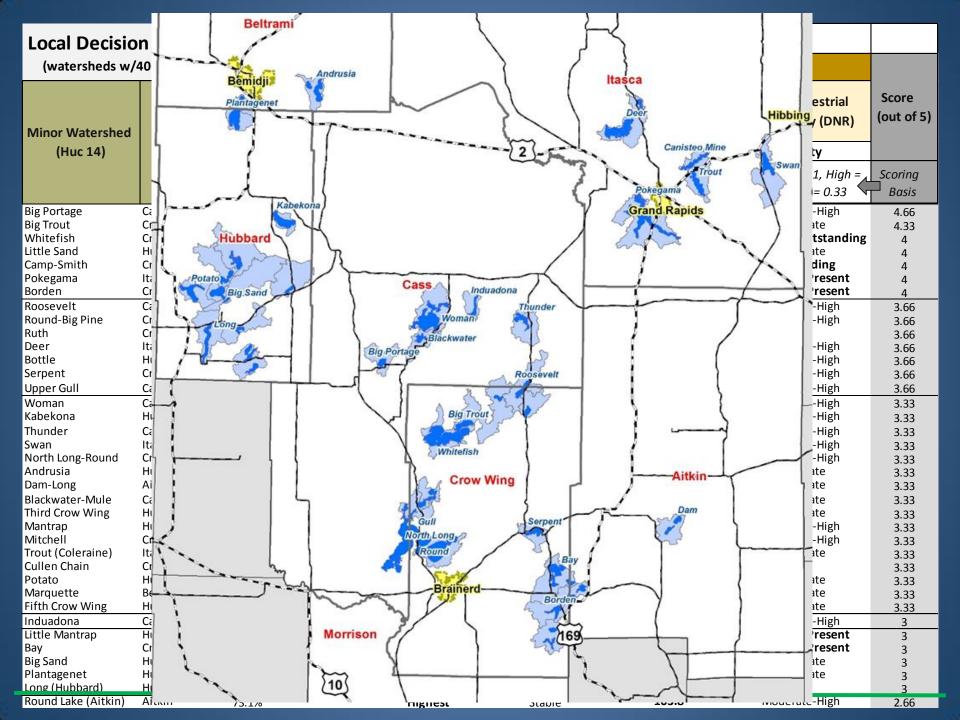
Identification of Priority Forests for the Minnesota Forests for the Future Program

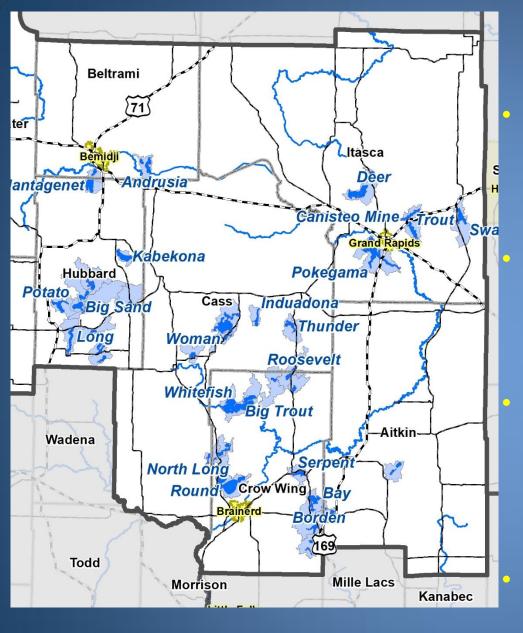
A GIS-based identification of priority private forestlands with high recreational, economic, and ecological values



Priority = Intersection of Quality & Risk

Local Decision Makers Table		Important State Priorities						
(watersheds w/400-1000 acre lakes)		Aquatic		Terrestrial				
Minor Watershed (Huc 14)	County	% Protected	Coldwater (Tullibee, Trout)	Phosphorous Sensitivity Significance (DNR)	Water Quality Trend(s)	"Forests for the Future" Composite Score	MCBS Terrestrial Biodiversity (DNR)	Score (out of 5)
			Quality	Risk (Long Term)	Risk (Short Term)	Quality	Quality	
			Yes = 1	Highest = 1, Higher = 0.66, High = 0.33	Declining Trend = 1	1 = Above Mean for MHB Wshds (93.8)	Outstanding = 1, High = 0.66, Mod. = 0.33	Scoring Basis
Big Portage	Cass	57.9%	Yes	Higher and Highest	Stable w/Declining	97.1	Moderate-High	4.66
Roosevelt	Cass-Crow Wing	62.0%	Yes	Highest	Stable w/Improving	100.7	Moderate-High	3.66
Upper Gull	Cass	34.7%		Higher and Highest	Stable w/Declining	98.0	Moderate-High	3.66
Woman	Cass	72.7%	Yes	Higher	Improving	100.3	Moderate-High	3.33
Thunder	Cass	66.2%	Yes	Higher	Stable w/Improving	106.5	Moderate-High	3.33
Blackwater-Mule	Cass	51.1%		Higher and Highest	Improving, Declining	99.1	Moderate	3.33
Induadona	Cass	62.8%		High	Stable w/Declining*	98.7	Moderate-High	3
Sylvan	Cass	50.0%		Highest	Stable	107.2	High	2.66
Ada	Cass	69.4%		Higher	Stable w/Improving	95.0	Moderate-High	2.33
Birch Stea							ter, Natural le Benefits,	
Lind(Linasey)	Cass	40.5%		Highet	Stanie	90.0	ivioderate	2.33
,	Cass-Hubbard	66.2%		Higher	Stab₁€	104.0	Moderate	2
Wabedo	Cass	67.3%		Higher	Stable	96.4	Moderate	2
Hattie	Cass	59.8%		High	Stable	98.3	Moderate-High	2
Vermillion	Cass	61.2%	Yes	High	Stable	86.3	Moderate-High	2
Pleasant	Cass	43.0%		Higher	Stable	95.5	Moderate	2
Swamp	Cass-Hubbard	62.8%				99.3	High	1.66
Lizzie	Cass-Crow Wing	41.4%		High		98.4	Moderate	1.66
Gull	Cass-Crow Wing	66.9%		Higher	Improving	89.3	Moderate-High	1.33
Gull River (backwaters	Cass-Crow Wing	33.8%		Higher		84.5	Moderate-High	1.33
Norway	Cass	29.7%		Higher	Stable	89.9	Moderate-High	1.33
Webb	Cass	51.1%		Higher	Stable w/Improving	91.2	Moderate	1
Placid	Cass-Morrison	29.2%		High		79.6	Moderate-High	1





Example Scenario:

- Score = 3 out of 5
 - 53 Lakes
 - 36 Watersheds
 - **Total Needed to get to 75%?**
 - 89,824 acres
 - / 36 = mean: 2495 acres
- Cost (50/50 @ \$1500/ac)?
 - SFIA = \$2,500,000
 - +Easements = \$40,500,000
 - = \$43,000,000

Taxable Market Value = \$5,100,000,000

Keep Forested Lands Forested, Follow the Risk, Sell the Whole Toolbox (landowners decide)



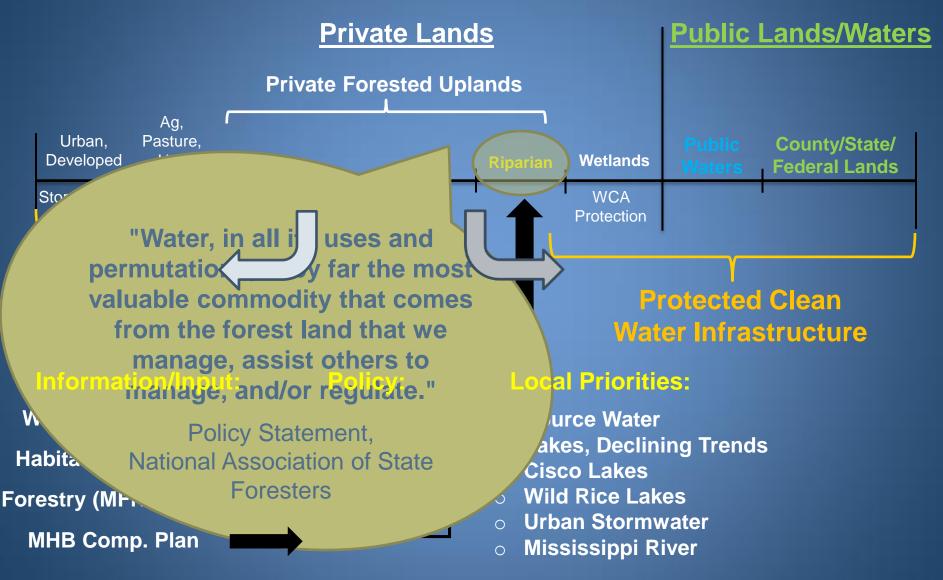


Private Consultant PFM Role Role Role Role Role

- Smaller tracts
- Riparian
- WQ practices
- WQ protection
- Corridor oriented

- Larger tracts
- Non-Riparian
- Timber sale oriented
- Large scale forest management

Generalized Landscape Protection Model



Protecting habitat as well as water quality!

