

Threats to Ecological Value

Non-native species pose the greatest ecological risk to the uplands in PCA 2. Garlic mustard, multiflora rose, smooth tartarian honeysuckle, autumn olive, and common buck-thorn—five of fourteen non-native species present in the dry-mesic southern forest, are each abundant in different areas. It is likely that several of these non-native species will continue to spread, which could reduce the floristic value of the upland forest.



Garlic Mustard

Management Recommendations



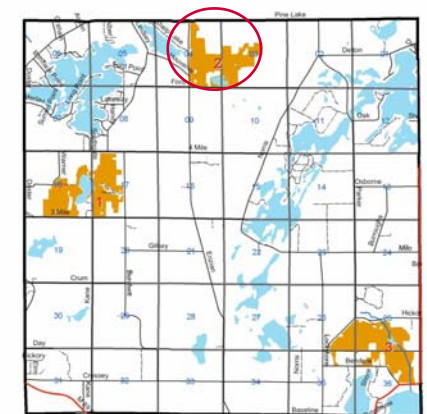
Water Smartweed

PCA 2 is a very good candidate for conservation priority. The mixture of upland and wetland areas provides a well-connected, diverse set of wildlife habitats. The variability in small depressional wetlands is important in supporting amphibian populations. In addition, the floristic quality of the hardwood-conifer swamp is high. These ecosystems are largely buffered from human activity and are likely best left unmanaged.

Prairieville Township Ford Road Marsh PCA 2

Location

Potential Conservation Area (PCA) 2, located in sections 3 and 4 of Prairieville Township, is a 347-acre site that is bounded by Pine Lake Rd., Norris Rd., Ford Rd., and Enzian Rd.



High priority potential conservation areas
Prairieville Township

Legend

- state highways
- county roads
- township boundary
- lakes
- rivers
- sections
- potential conservation areas



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Diverse Ecosystems

Site Description

The majority of this PCA is upland forest, although two large wetlands and several small depressional wetlands also occur on the site. The site is bordered by agricultural fields and roads.



Potential conservation area 2
Prairieville Township
347 acres

Legend

- potential conservation area
- roads
- wetlands



Communities and Ecosystems

The upland habitat in PCA 2 is a mixture of dry-mesic southern forest and pine plantations. The forest is an oak-hickory community that commonly occurs on sandy soils in this area.



There are two large wetlands on the property. A shallow wet depression along Ford Road supports an emergent marsh. Northwest of this marsh lies a hardwood-conifer swamp with a diverse plant community.



Southern Swamp

Plants and Animals of Interest

The shallow waters of the southern swamp and emergent marsh provide favorable habitat for many amphibians. Eight species of frogs and toads were counted in this area.



Spring Peeper

The mixture of wetland and upland communities provides a wealth of habitat for wildlife. Some portions of the forest see little human contact; these areas harbor interior forest species, which are uncommon because so little interior forest habitat remains in southern Michigan.

During the 2003 Michigan Breeding Bird Census 49 species of birds were identified in this PCA.

Four Township Water Resources Council

P.O. Box 634
Richland, MI 49083-0634
www.ftwrc.org