



Plover River Woods
Marathon County
2000 Acres

North woods: Important Natural Features — Matrix Forest, Old-growth Developmental and Interior Forest Areas, Freshwater Lakes, Northern Highland Outwash Pines, Large Embedded Wetland Complexes, and Significant Bedrock Features .

The North woods ecosystems are of continental importance. Even though the forest have changed over the last 150 years, they have not lost their intactness. Abundant species are the norm owing to the quality and amount of remaining habitats.

Ecology & Significance

Wisconsin Responsibility – Mod High
 Irreplaceable Features – Low
 Diversity of Natural Features – Moderate
 Rare Species – A Few
 Conservation Concern Species – Moderate
 Vulnerability to a Warming Climate – Mod Low
 Conservation Status – Some

This site has promising conservation opportunities.

Flora and Fauna

The ground layer includes numerous sedges, marsh marigold, three-leaved goldthread, rosy twisted stalk, partridgeberry, naked miterwort, boneset, joe-pye weed, swamp saxifrage, and numerous orchids. Sugar maple dominates the northern mesic forest with basswood, red oak, and hemlock also present. In May, a carpet of spring ephemerals blankets the forest floor and includes an abundance of squirrel corn and Dutchman's breeches. Other species include hepatica, spring-beauty, bloodroot, nodding trillium, wild geranium, wild ginger, blue cohosh, red baneberry, mayapple, and wood betony.

Plover River Woods features a northern wet-mesic and northern mesic forest that contain an extraordinarily diverse ground flora. Bordering the Plover River is a wet-mesic forest dominated by white cedar.

The Plover River is a favorite stream for many trout anglers. The river flows northeast to southwest along glacial outwash ridges. Soils are loamy and silty, in addition to being well to poorly drained. The resulting condition of the land is perfectly set-up for lush vegetation. Many more plant species thrive here compared with many northern hardwood areas.



Photo courtesy Wikipedia.com

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Photo courtesy Wisconsin DNR

Birds include winter wren, hermit thrush, rose-breasted grosbeak, ovenbird, black-throated green warbler, golden-crowned kinglet, and purple finch. Amphibians abound with numerous small ponds and backwater areas of the Plover River providing places to lay eggs and raise tadpoles.

Mammal population are typical of hardwood forests with white-tailed deer, black bear, gray squirrel, and eastern chipmunks commonly seen. Snowshoe hare finds good habitat in the conifer areas near the river.