



The Driftless Area is a unique unglaciated landscape. The land in this part of the state is ancient compared with 10,000 years of ice-free land in the rest of the state. Rare species are numerous owing to the diversity and quality of habitats.

Driftless Area Important Natural Features—
 Large River Systems, Southern Forests, Prairie and Savanna, Springs, Cliffs and Talus Slopes, Relict Conifers, Bog Relicts, and Dendritic Landforms.

Ecology & Significance

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

This site has promising conservation opportunities.

Flora and Fauna

The herbaceous flora is the second richest known in the entire state, containing such uncommon plants as squirrel corn, twinleaf, Goldie's fern, narrow-leaved spleenwort, walking fern, leafcup, and adam and eve orchid (photo below). Common mesic ground layer species are abundant, providing a tremendous springtime floral display. The shrub layer is also diverse with witch hazel, leatherwood, bladdernut, and dogwoods. A few extremely rare plant species grow on the rocky slopes where seeps are found.

Eureka Maple Woods lies on a steep slopes above Rulands Creek, an outstanding trout stream. The forest is different on the north-facing slopes than the other slopes. These cooler slopes facing away from the mid-day sun are dominated by small to medium sized sugar maple and basswood,

The south-facing slopes are oak and hickory dominated. This block of forest absorbs most of the rainfall and it eventually reappears via numerous springs in the area. Soils are Norden loams thinly covering the steep slopes.



Photo courtesy Maine.gov

Bird species include several that are sensitive to forest fragmentation such as Cerulean Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, Ovenbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, and Wood Thrush. The rich forest also harbors several very rare invertebrates and a rare vole. Rulands Creek, fed by numerous high volume springs is a great trout stream.



Photo courtesy virginiawildflowers.com



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