

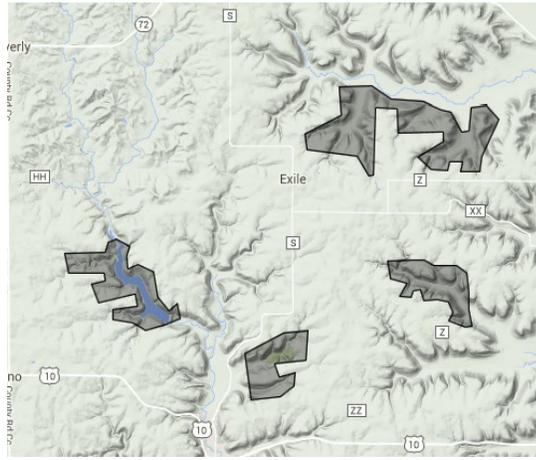


The Driftless Area is a unique unglaciated landscape. The land in this part of the state is ancient compared with 10,000 years of ice-free land in the rest of the state. Rare species are numerous owing to the diversity and quality of habitats.

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.



E-mail: greatnaturewi@gmail.com
 Web: greatnaturewi.com
 Phone: 608-790-6821



Ecology & Significance

Wisconsin Responsibility – Moderate
 Irreplaceable Features – Moderate
 Diversity of Natural Features – High
 Rare Species – Several
 Conservation Concern Species – Mod High
 Vulnerability to a Warming Climate – Moderate
 Conservation Status – Some protected areas

This site has promising conservation opportunities.

Fractured limestone (dolomite) forms the base for soil development and therefore habitat for all the plants and animals. These karst features come to the surface in the form of cave openings, rocky talus slopes, moist seeps and in a few places active cold air vents.

The location in the state also permits an exceptional diversity to thrive here. These woods lie at the intersection of the prairies to the west, the boreal forest to the north and the deciduous forest from the east.



Photo courtesy Wikipedia.org

Pepin-Pierce Woodlots

Pepin & Pierce Cos.

2000 acres

Flora and Fauna

These woodlots have the richest botanical diversity of any maple forest in the state. Botanists use a system that measure both the number of species and how closely they are tied to their habitat (conservatism). This index is greatly higher in Pepin and Pierce County woodlots than any other maple forest in the state. Species, such as goldenseal (photo below left), snow trillium (photo below), muskroot, adam and eve orchid, and great waterleaf verify this ranking.



Photo courtesy widnr

These woodlots also provide refuge and homes for many animals species, including some that are quite rare. Acadian Flycatchers are found at the north edge of their range in these woods. Rare bats use the numerous small caves as breeding and hibernation locations. Extremely rare snails are found in microclimates produced by cold air from karst fractures seeping to the subsoil, thus keeping the temperature cool in the hot summer sun.