



Snow Bottom
Grant County
10,600 acres

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 – Mod High
 - Diversity of Natural Features – Mod High
 - Rare Species – Several
 - Conservation Concern Species – Mod High
 - Vulnerability to a Warming Climate – Moderate
 - Conservation Status – Some
- This site has promising conservation opportunities.

Snow Bottom State Natural Area features a diverse and spectacular landscape encompassing the most significant remaining pine relicts in Wisconsin, as well as many other important and uncommon native plant communities including fen and springs, southern dry-mesic forest and oak woodland, riparian areas, and geological features, often referenced as Wisconsin’s Appalachia.

Flora and Fauna

Located on the scattered sandstone outcrops are the pine relicts-- isolated stands of white and red pine with occasional jack pine. Understory plant species include numerous evergreen and ericaceous species such as blueberry, huckleberry, pipsissewa, and partridgeberry. Red oak dominates the dry-mesic forest with white oak, sugar maple, basswood, and red maple and the herbaceous understory is diverse with jack-in-the-pulpit, enchanter’s nightshade, large-flowered bellwort, interrupted fern, lady fern, tick-trefoils, and hog peanut.



Photo courtesy Audubon

Commonly found nesting birds species are Pine Warbler (see above photo), Blackburnian Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, Louisiana Waterthrush, Wood Thrush and Turkey Vulture.

The site is also the home of the 17-year cicada— here at its western most location in the state.



Photo courtesy Wisconsin DNR

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