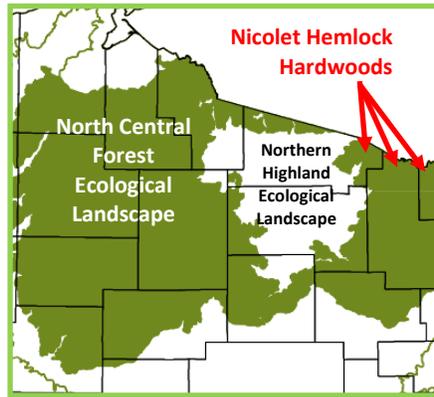




Vilas County — Focusing on the Nicolet Hemlock Hardwoods

The Nicolet Hemlock Hardwoods is a special place located in far eastern Vilas County (and northern Forest and Florence Counties). It is within the larger 'North Central Forest Ecological Landscape' region as defined by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Glaciers influenced the region, forming its forests, lakes and streams that feed some of the state's largest river systems. The nutrient-rich soils support old-growth forests and rare plant species. Forested watersheds keep soils in place, lessening sedimentation and



Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources "The Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin"

nutrient loading into our waters. Shoreland and woodland areas are

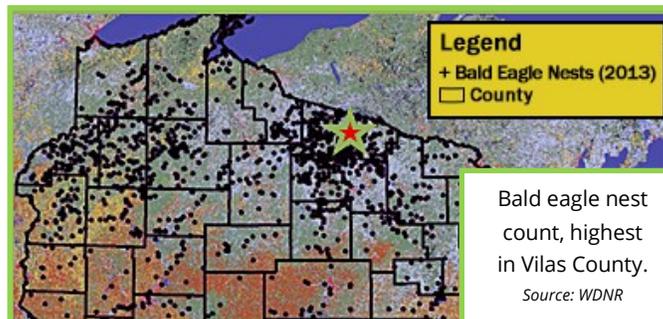
becoming more 'urbanized,' negatively impacting the very waters and woods that draw people here. This pattern will continue as our planet warms and populations increase. It's vital that we act today to ensure a balance between development and conservation so that future generations have the chance to experience the northwoods as we do today. With the Nicolet National Forest, there's an opportunity for private landowners to protect their land to provide linkages to public land so animals and plants can adapt.

The Nicolet Hemlock Hardwoods—Why It Deserves Our Protection

- ⇒ Abundant forests that keep our surface and ground water clean and provide refuge for wildlife.
- ⇒ Soils that can support healthy mature and old-growth forests. Old-growth forests once dominated the landscape but today are very rare.
- ⇒ High concentration of freshwater lakes, ponds and streams. With surrounding wetlands, they provide safe havens for sensitive species like frogs, turtles, salamanders and bats.
- ⇒ Large numbers of nests sites that host the iconic common loon and bald eagle.
- ⇒ The headwaters to the Pine and Popple Rivers are directly to the east. These rivers, also within the Nicolet Hemlock Hardwoods, are state-designated "Wild Rivers," providing important wildlife and bird habitat.
- ⇒ In an era of changing climate, Wisconsin will see an influx of new residents and development that will forever change the northwoods' character and health.



Photo by Joshua Woolfolk



Bald eagle nest count, highest in Vilas County.
Source: WDNR

Protecting natural shoreline will also protect sensitive species like the common loon.
Photo by Bev Engstrom