

Fisheries Habitat Protection

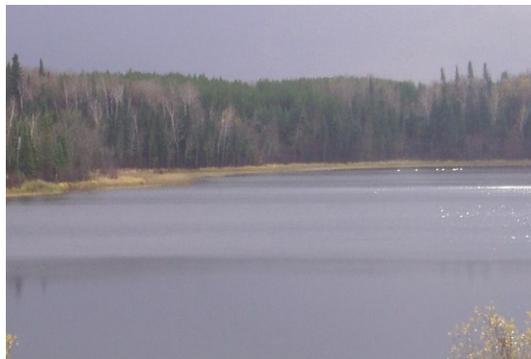
PROJECT GOALS & TIMELINE

- BY JUNE 2017 PERMANENTLY PROTECT 500 ACRES OF CRITICAL SHORELAND AND FOREST IN NORTH CENTRAL MINNESOTA WATERSHED LOCATIONS
- CONCENTRATING EFFORTS IN 38 LAKES ACROSS A PRIORITY 4 COUNTY REGION IDENTIFIED BY MN DNR FISH HABITAT PLAN
- FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT WAS PROVIDED BY THE OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LESSARD-SAMS OUTDOOR HERITAGE COUNCIL (LSOHC)



Resilient, viable fisheries

Minnesota has a substantial history of sport fishing. Who can forget reeling in a fighting northern pike for the first time. Beyond the pure excitement sport fishing is also a boon to business bankrolls, contributing \$2.4 billion in 2011 alone to our state economy. Our robust fisheries are driven by the presence of Tullibee (also known as cisco), the preferred forage fish for production of quality walleye, northern pike, muskellunge, lake trout, and other sport fish. They require cold, well-oxygenated waters, conditions most common in lakes with deep water and functioning watersheds. The health of a watershed is characterized, among other things, by the amount of undisturbed shoreline, intact physical habitat such as forested areas, minimal erosion, and subsequent runoff.



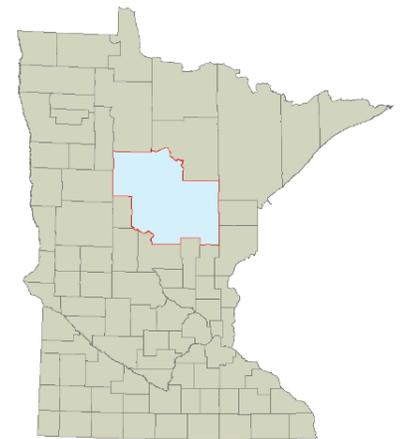
Protecting shoreline integrity and watershed health

Fish habitat in these lakes is largely affected by shoreline disturbance and the quality of the water as determined by its oxygen levels and nutrient content. Shoreline disturbance reduces physical habitat that fish need for food production, spawning, and cover from predation. Run-off from disturbed land can contribute to oxygen-depleting nutrients entering into lakes, as well as algae blooms, which also diminish dissolved oxygen levels. 68 lakes in Minnesota have been identified by the MN DNR as the primary "refuge lakes" for Tullibee that need protection. 38 of these refuge lakes (58%) are located in Hubbard, Crow Wing, Cass, and Aitkin counties and constitute some of our state's premier recreational lakes where the disturbance of shorelines and watersheds is a growing threat.

Some things should be forever...

The Minnesota Land Trust is working to protect fish habitat along the shores and within the watersheds of refuge Tullibee lakes and other critical shorelands to insure a healthy, resilient sport fishery for Minnesota. Partnering with a project team, including the DNR Fisheries Habitat Coordinator and county governments, strategic criteria have been developed to identify crucial areas in the region. Focusing on the priority watersheds within Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, and Hubbard counties, the Land Trust will protect 500 acres of forest and shoreland, and approximately 3 to 4 miles of critical shoreline. With your help the Minnesota Land Trust can preserve and protect these important fisheries, ensuring a lasting legacy for generations to follow.

For more information contact Pat Collins, Program Manager, at 218-341-9332, or pcollins@mmland.org



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