

Restoring the North Shore's Lost Forest:

North Shore Forest Collaborative



North Shore's "Lost Forest"



The Lost Forest: Where did it go?



Pre-1890

Aspen/Birch: ↓

Pine: ↑



Today

Aspen/Birch: ↑↓

Pine: ↓

The Challenge Today



- **Opportunist species**
- **Wrong trees for the soil conditions**
- **Ecological Imbalance**

Restore Ecological Health & Balance



North Shore Forest Collaborative

What is it?

- A grass-roots, cooperative association.
- Begun in 2011.
- Focused on North Shore forest restoration.
- Collaborate in common landscape interests.



NSFC Mission

Revitalize and maintain a healthy and functioning forest ecosystem along Minnesota's Lake Superior North Shore:

- **Restoration:** Re-establish & maintain a diverse, healthy & resilient North Shore forest
- **Collaboration:** Shared-stewardship on cooperative projects across “all-lands”
- **Education:** Share expertise & inspire others.



Canada

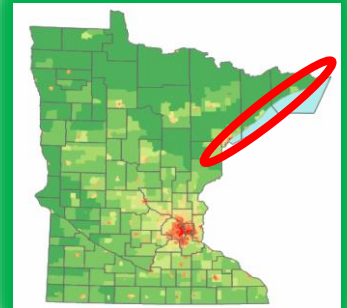
North Shore Forest Collaborative

(Since 2011)

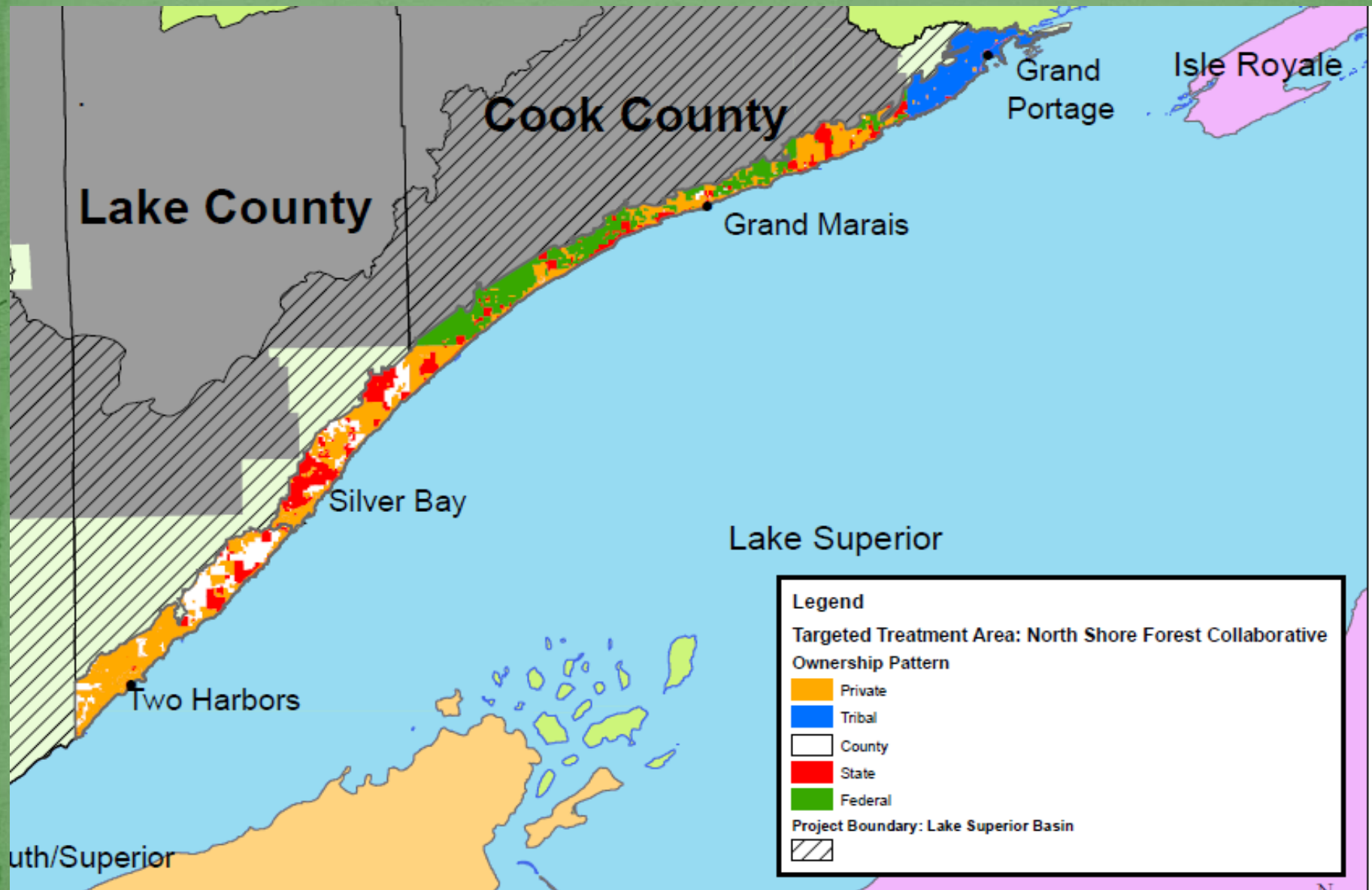
Lake Superior shoreline to
3.5 miles inland, following
ecological Land Type
Association

Focus Tree Species:

1. White Pine
2. White Spruce
3. White Cedar
4. Tamarack & Yellow Birch



NSFC Area Ownership



Within the Collaborative Area

- Cook and Lake Counties (3.5 miles inland)
- 270,000 acres; 422 sq. miles; 140 linear miles
- 8 State Parks
- Superior National Forest
- Grand Portage Reservation
- Grand Portage and Finland State Forests
- North Shore Scenic Drive (National Scenic Byway)
- Private Lands: largest owner type (6,000 parcels)

Who participates?

- Private landowners
- USDA - NRCS
- Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Association
- MN Forest Resource Council
- MN DNR
- MN DOT
- The Nature Conservancy
- Lake and Cook Co. SWCD
- USDA Forest Service
- Lake Co. Lands Dept.
- Invasives Teams
- Flute Reed Watershed
- Grand Portage Reservation
- Wolf Ridge ELC
- Volunteers
- Minnesota Power
- Private Non-Industrial Forest
- UMN Extension
- Rajala Woods Foundation

Restoration:

Re-establish & maintain a diverse, healthy & resilient North Shore forest.

Landowner Fencing Program:

**40,000 trees planted & caged
(Weekes Family Foundation)**

Neighbor to Neighbor Program:

**UMN Extension's Regional Sustainable
Development Partnerships**

**Conservation Grants: Over \$1M on
federal, state and private lands**



Collaboration:

Promote cooperative restoration efforts on all ownerships



Weekes Family Foundation



Education:

**Share expertise
and inspire others**



- Create awareness & seek solutions.
- Support private landowner's desire for technical knowledge.
- Reinforce that “restoration” is a long-term commitment.
- Foster peer-to-peer landowner information sharing.

How Can You Help?

North Shore Landowners:

- Consider restoration on your property.
- Talk to your neighbors about working together.
- Seek agency assistance.

Agencies:

- Join in the effort.
- Talk to you staff and management about the NSFC.

Citizens:

- Volunteer: [Northwoods Volunteer Connection](#)
- Contribute: [Sugarloaf: The North Shore Stewardship Assoc.](#)



Thank you

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Facebook [LINK](#)

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