

Shoreline Habitat

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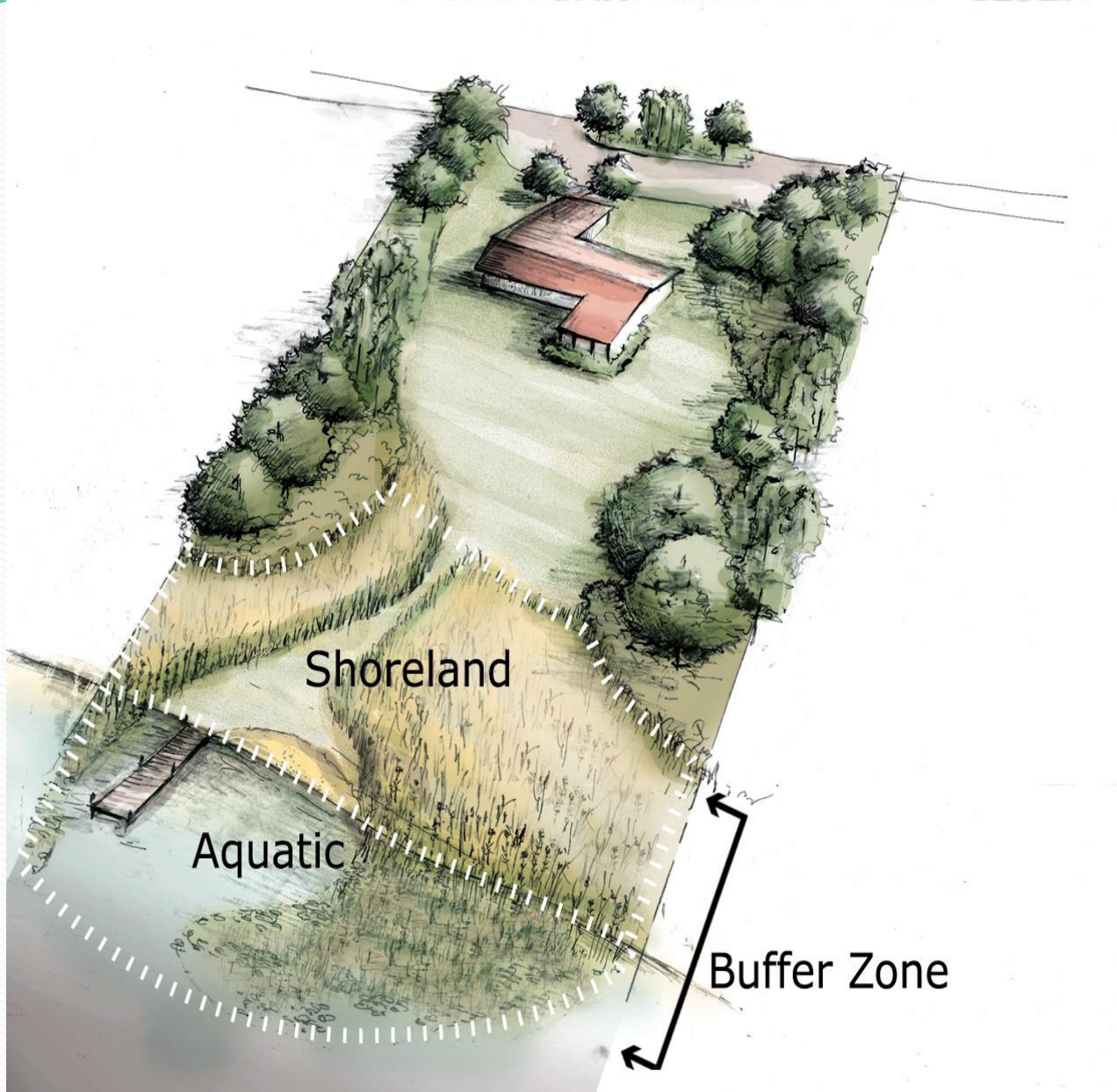
Program Overview

Shoreland Habitat

- ❖ What/Where is the shoreline?
- ❖ Ecological structure, function, and composition
- ❖ What is happening on our shorelines?
- ❖ How does my shoreline look?



What is the “shoreland”?



Why are shorelines important?

Critical Wildlife
Habitat

Aesthetic appeal

Protect Water
Quality

High Biodiversity

Protection for Fish



90% of all lake life is born, raised, sheltered, and fed or grows in the area where land and water meet:

The Shoreline



Ecological Structure, Function, & Composition





Ecological Structures of Shorelines

- Slope/Aspect
- Vegetation
- Large woody debris

Ecological Composition of Shorelines

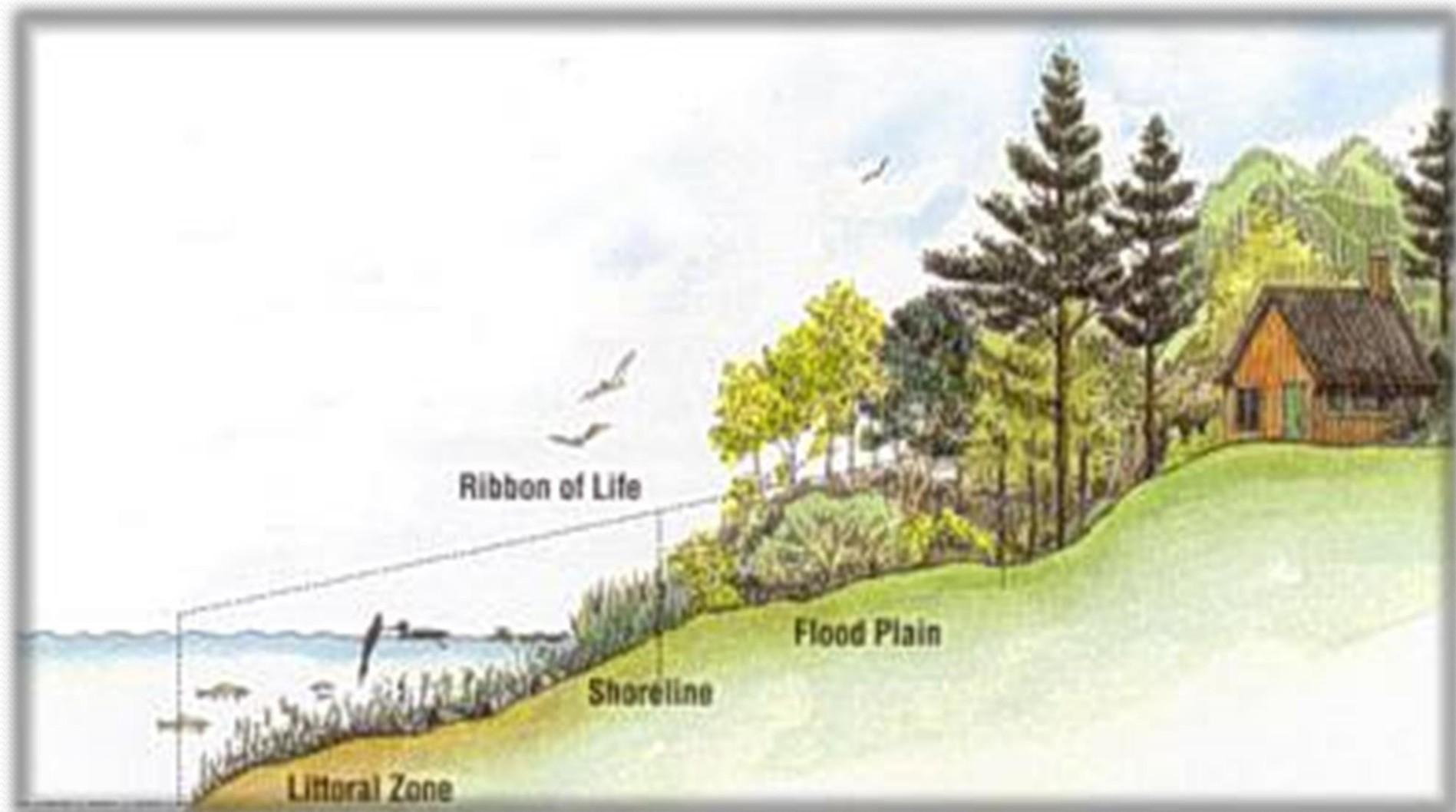
- Plant community
- Soil type
- Critter community



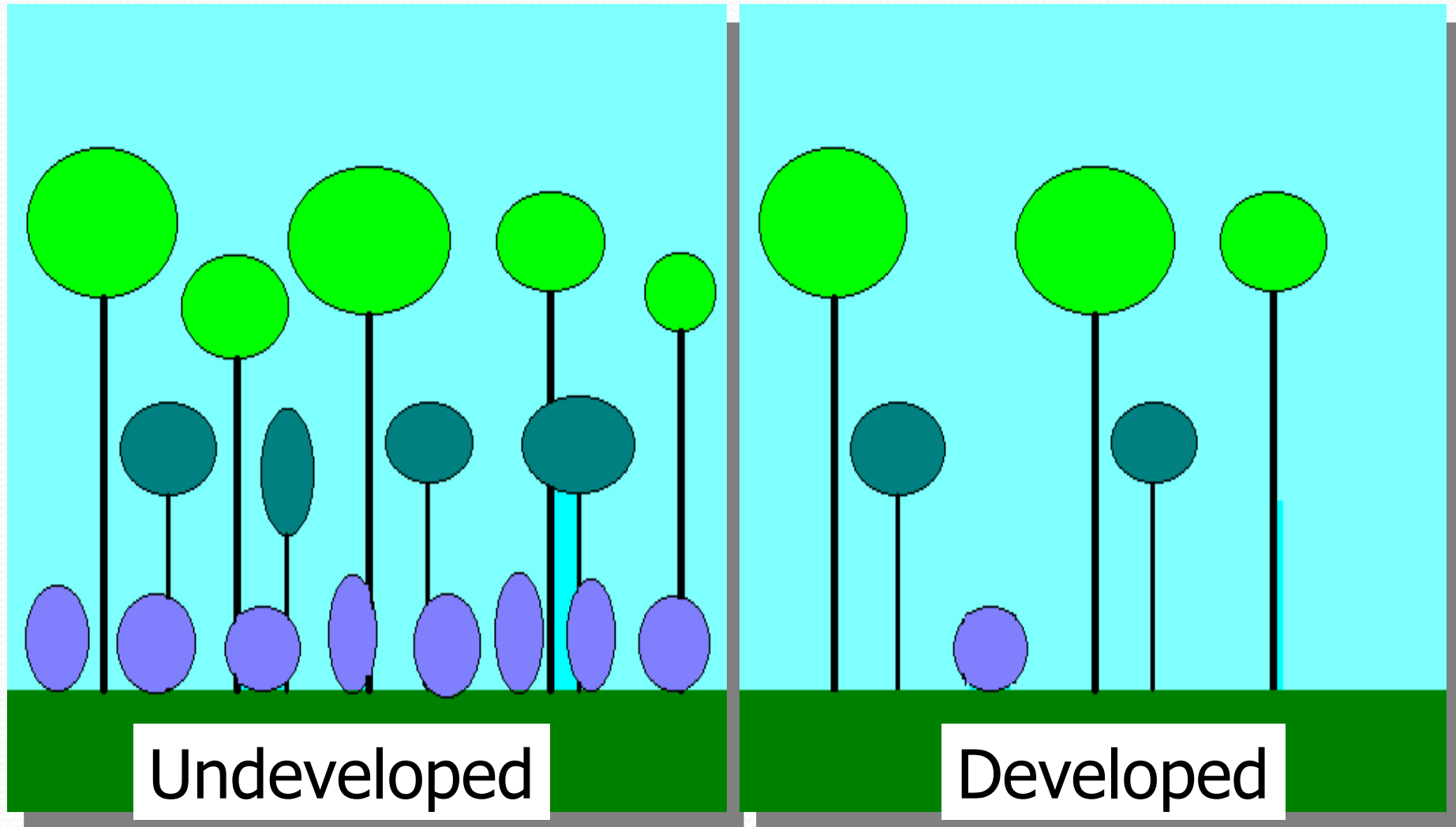
Ecological Functions of Shorelines

- Hydrologic cycle
- Wave energy
- Light energy
- Erosion

Shoreline Habitat Structure, Composition, & Function



What's Happening to Shorelines?



At the homeowner scale everyone takes loving care of their own property....



At the landscape scale we are loving our lakes to death!



Cumulative Impacts:



Increased Erosion

Increased Nutrient Input

Decreased Biological Diversity

Decreased Lake Water Quality

What is the
ecological
condition
my
shoreline?



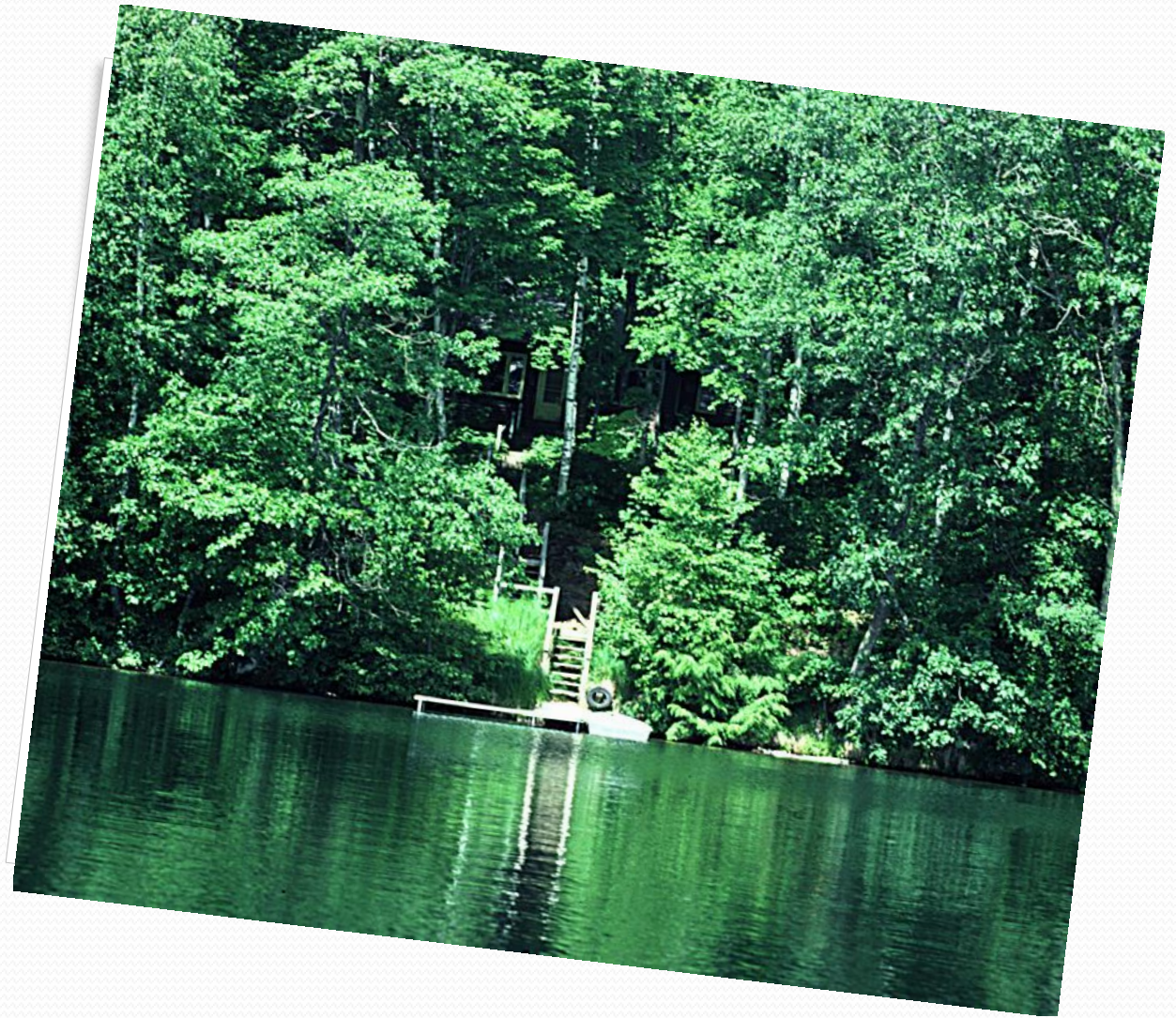
**How does
my
shoreline
look?**

**Is my
shoreline
structure
simple or
complex?**



How does
my
shoreline
look?

Is my
shoreline
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complex?



**How does
my part of
the lake
shoreline
look?**

**How does it
sit in the
landscape?
How is it
affected by
the lake
shape?**

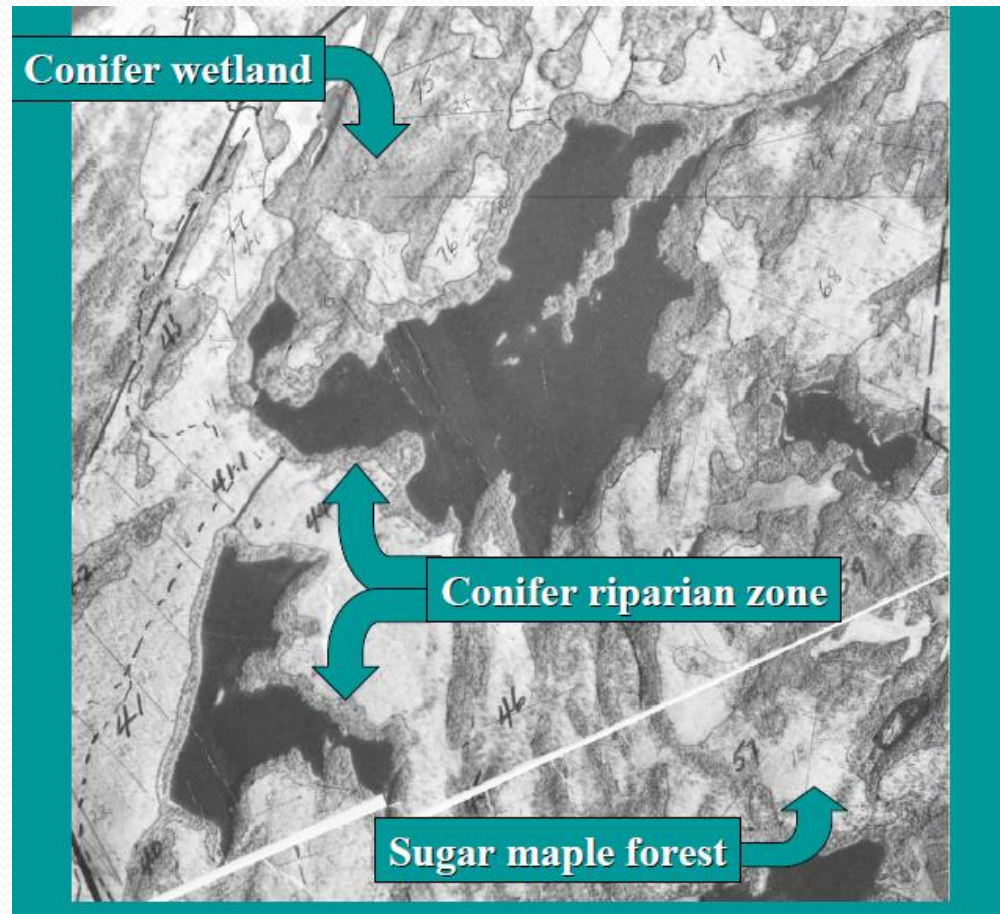


What are the plants that grow on my shoreline?

What is the natural plant community?

Am I working with my land?

- Wetland?
- Forest?
- Grassland?



What are the animals that call my shoreline home?

What critters live with me?

What critters could live here?



- Birds?
- Mammals?
- Amphibians?
- Insects?

What are the functional processes moving through my shoreline?

Water:



Light:



What are the functional processes moving through my shoreline?

Wave energy:



Nutrients:



Ecosystems are not only more
complex than we think,
**They are more complex than
we can think.**

**Your shoreline is part of a
larger community – lake,
watershed, eco-region.**



Start with your shoreline



Planting in 2001



2002



2006





Then
look
around.

- What does the structure, function and composition of the whole lake shoreline look like?

- **What is happening the structure, function, and composition of watershed that will affect your lake?**



**To halt the decline of an ecosystem,
you have to think like an ecosystem.**



A photograph of a calm lake with a dense forest of green trees on the left bank. Several large, fallen logs are scattered in the water, some partially submerged. The sky is clear and blue.

Questions???

Thank you.