

Forest Management on Your Lakeshore Property

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Who Am I?

- Grew up near Lake Minnetonka in Minnesota
- Wilderness Ranger in the Boundary Waters
- Shoreline Restoration Specialist for Bayfield County 2005-2006
- UWEX Agriculture Agent
- Great grandma on Lake Minnetonka, Grandma on Gull Lake, In-laws on Lake Nebagamon

The Myth of the Great Northwoods



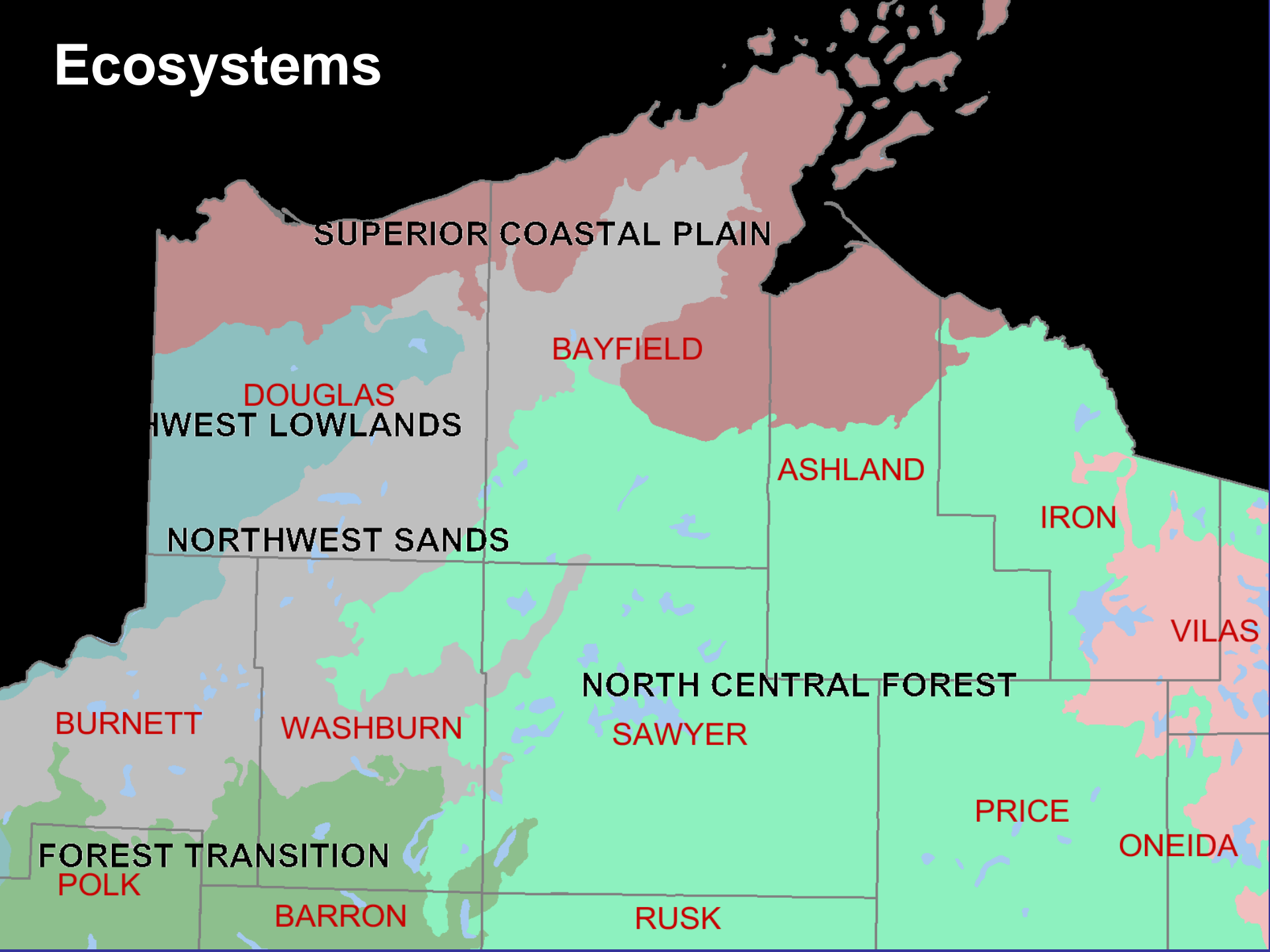
Today's Presentation

- Understanding our Shoreland Forests
- Living with Trees
 - Hammock Forest Management
 - Managing Forests in Transition

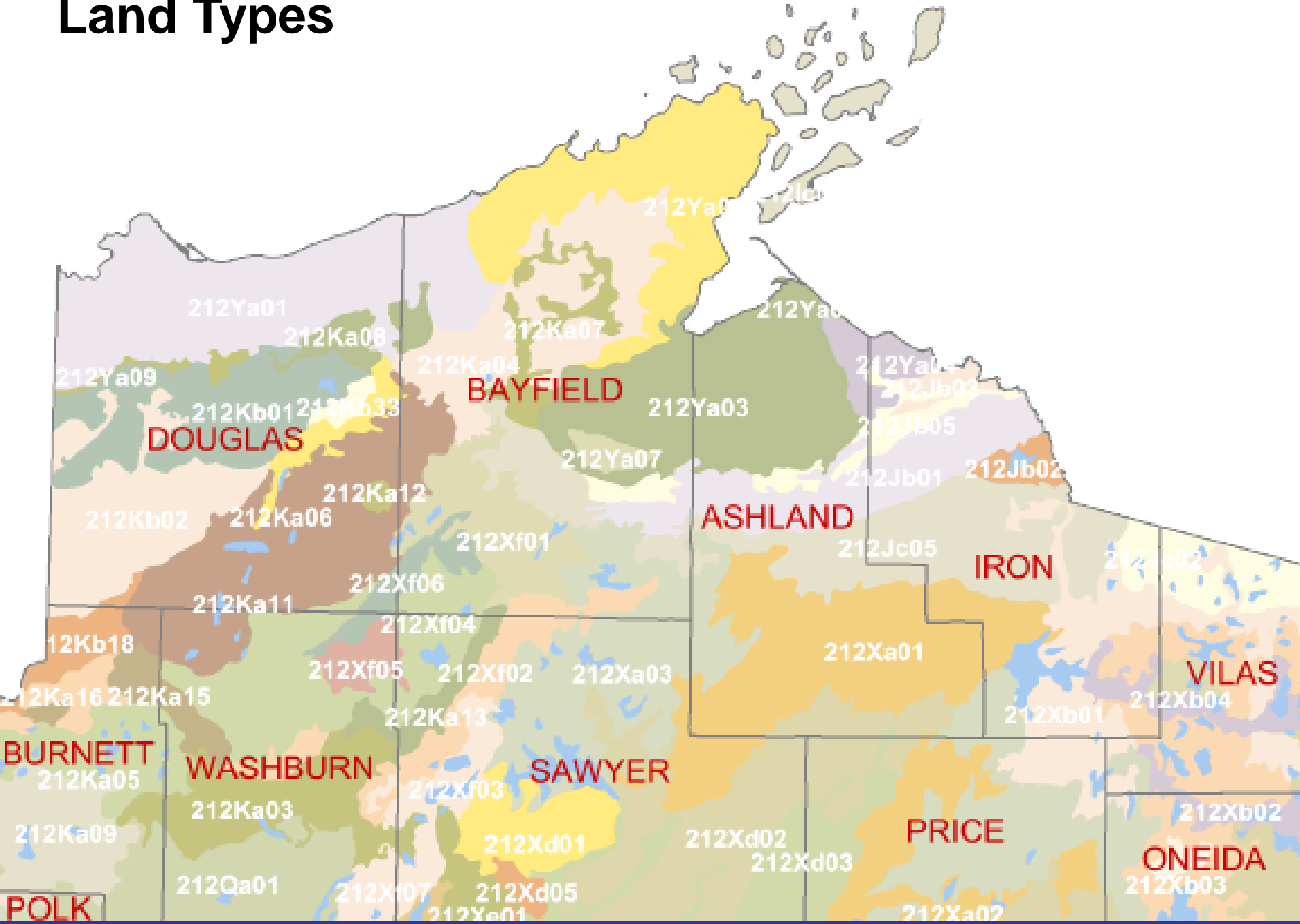
Understanding Your Shoreland Forest



Ecosystems



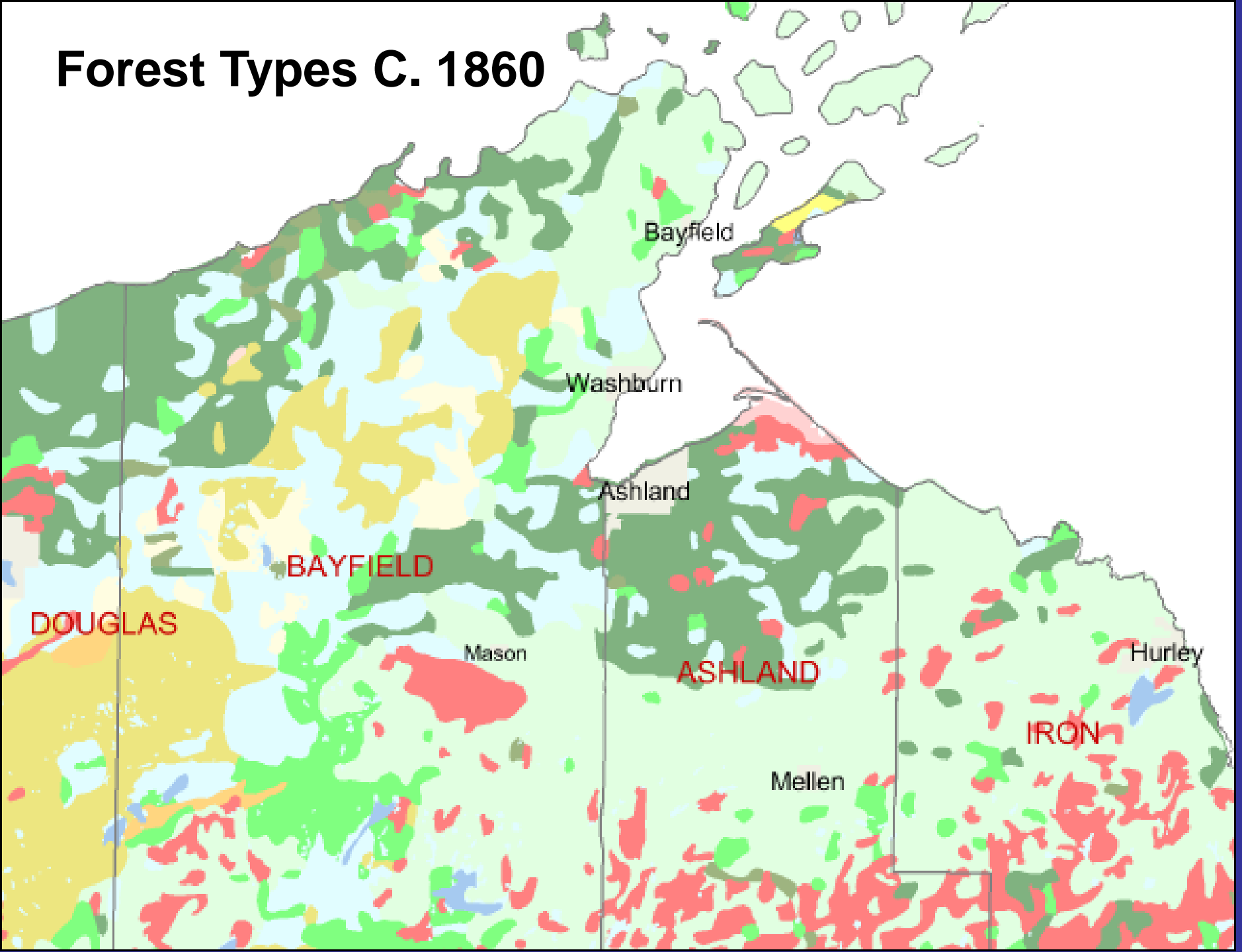
Land Types



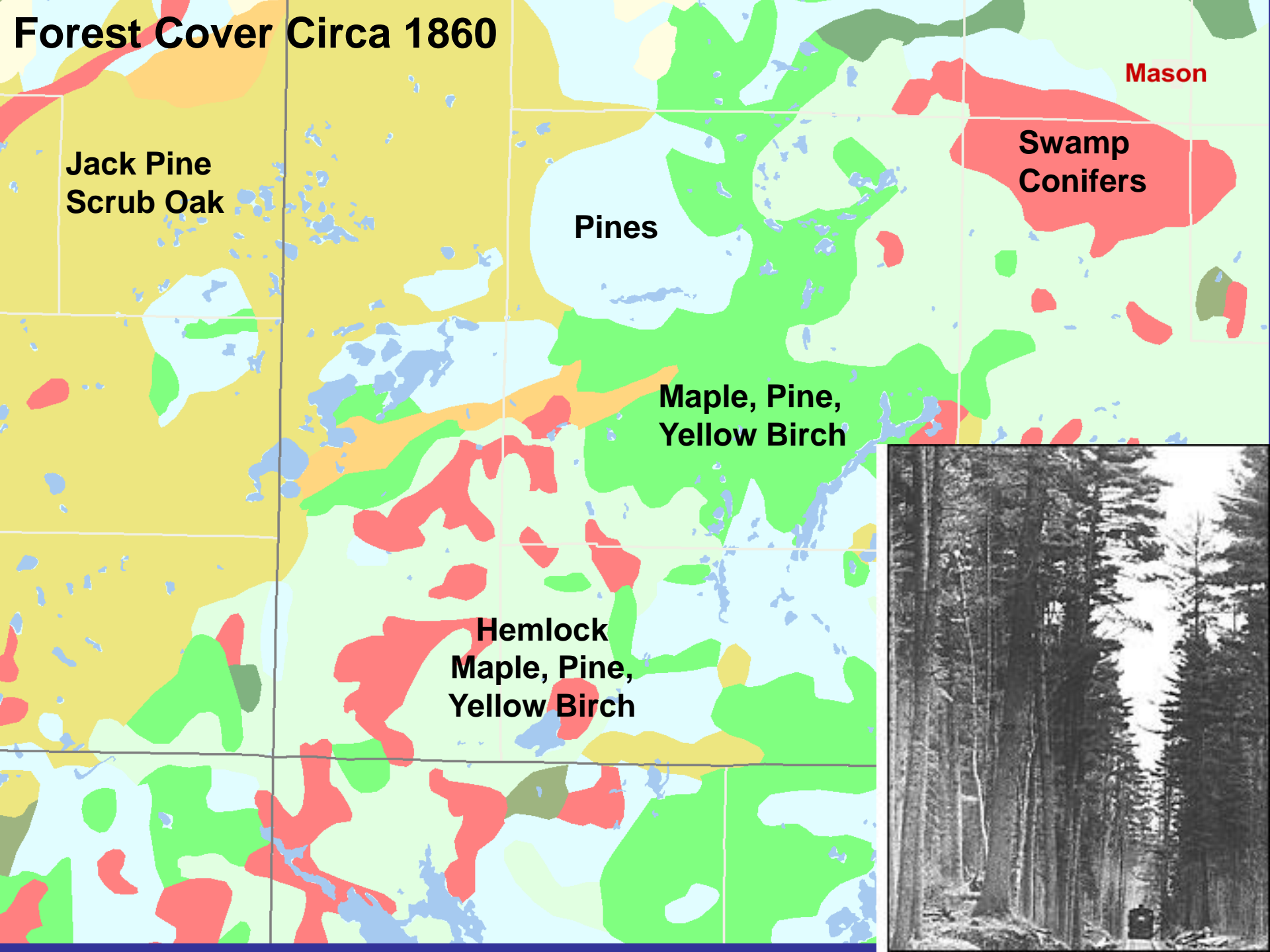
Common Forest Communities

- Jack Pine – Scrub Oak
- White Pine – Red Pine (Oak, Aspen, Pine)
- Northern Hardwood, Hemlock Hardwood
- Aspen
- Lowland Conifer

Forest Types C. 1860



Forest Cover Circa 1860



Cutover Forest in 1911



Photo courtesy of the Wisconsin DNR



Forest Management 101:

- Our forests are very young and highly disturbed
- The current species distribution may not match land-type associations
- Pre-settlement forests to cut-over to lakehomes in second or third growth forests to ?

The Changing Forest

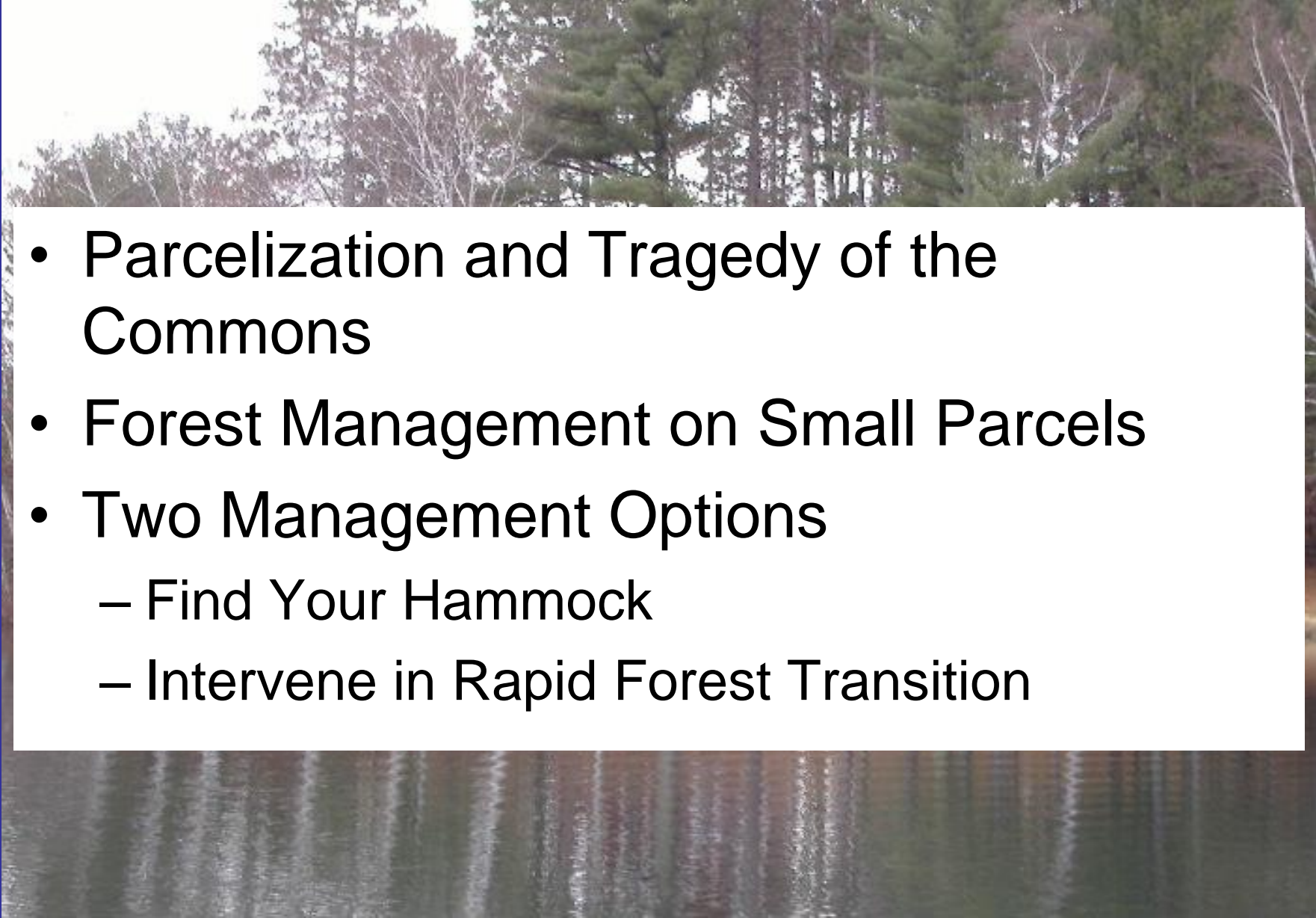
**SUCCESSION OF
VEGETATIVE
COMMUNITIES**



Forest Management 101:

- Forests are always changing
- Change can happen slowly or suddenly
- Sudden forest change is no fun

Living With Trees

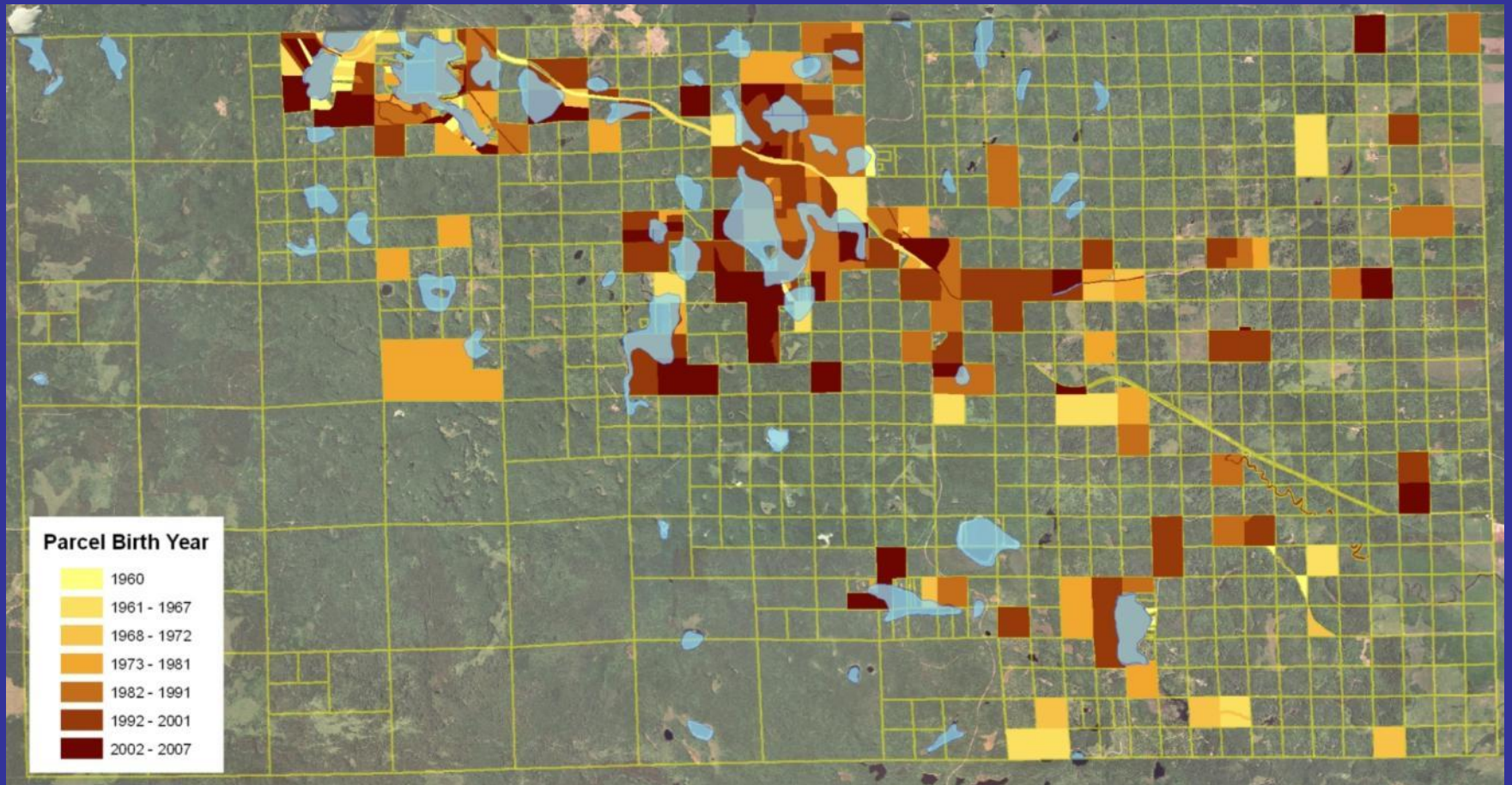
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- Parcelization and Tragedy of the Commons
 - Forest Management on Small Parcels
 - Two Management Options
 - Find Your Hammock
 - Intervene in Rapid Forest Transition

Potawatomi
Estates
near Island Lake

Parcelization:
Tragedy of the Commons



Town of Delta New Parcel History



Fragmentation

Lands adjacent to lakes in the Northwoods are forested.

Fragmentation means more people must be responsible stewards.



Town of Barnes New Parcel History


Tragedy of the Commons: What You Do On Your Property Affects the Rest of the Lake.





Lake Ahmeek, Bayfield County

**Forest Management on Small Parcels is
Very Difficult...and Expensive**



**You and Shoreland Forest Management
Or
The Noble Act of Stewardship
Or
The Cold War of Lake Nebagamon**

1. Find Your Hammock
and Leave it Alone

Forests are Disorderly with Dead Wood





**Can't Sit Still?
Remember you can cut faster than forests can grow.**



Yes, You Can Pick Ticks off a Four Year Old



Lawns and Lakes Don't Mix

Hammock Lakeshore Management

- Leave the dead wood
- Don't be an herbivore
- Live with the bugs, it's part of the "Northwoods"
- Limit the lawn
- Swim from the dock not from the beach
- If you want fish, you need weeds

The best tool for managing your lakeshore property is your hammock.

Sometimes...Intervention is
Necessary and Useful

2. Managing a Forest in Active Transition



The Aspen Dilemma



The Aspen Dilemma



Life After Oaks



Deer and the Missing Understory



Invasive Species



Active Restoration

Intervening in Active Forest Transition....Find Professional Help

- Managed Forest Law – WDNR
- Private Foresters
- County Land Conservation Departments
- Landscapers specializing in native restoration
- UW-Extension

2003 WI NIPF Forest Management Planning

% Owners With Plan*

18.67%

% Owners Without Plan

81.33%

% Acres With Plan

31.18%

% Acres Without Plan

68.82%

*Forest Management Plan less than 15 Years Old

Summary

- Healthy lakes require healthy forests
- Lake-owners are forest stewards
- Cabins are for relaxing, use a hammock
- Understand your forest and take action to guide active transition...if it's occurring.