Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Wisconsin

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Stora Enso and
Plum Creek.
For more information, contact
Eunice.Padley@dnr.state.wi.us
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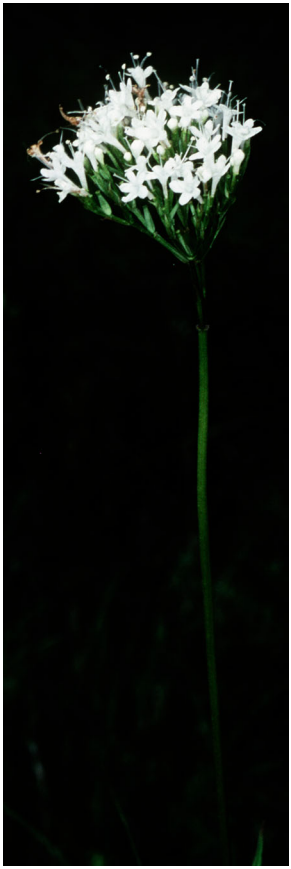
WISCONSIN
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Marsh Valerian

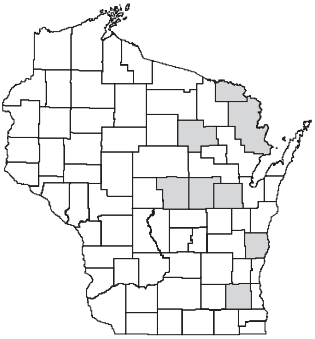
(Valeriana sitchensis)
sometimes
(Valerian uliginosa)

Federal Status: Not Listed
State Status: Threatened



Description: Marsh Valerian is a perennial native plant with clusters of white flowers borne on the tips of its stems. The plant can reach a height of 3 feet or more. The basal leaves have broad blades, but the stem leaves are divided and appear in pairs.

Habitat: Growing in various habitats, the marsh valerian may be found in moist northern woods, bogs and swamps, as well as in openings and wet meadows. In Wisconsin, it is often

found in association with tamarack and white cedar.

Forestry Considerations: Activities that would change the moisture levels in soils within several hundred feet of this rare plant should be avoided. Clearcutting, tilling, ditching or significantly modifying the soil surface with bulldozers or backhoes is not advisable. Single-tree selection or group-selection silviculture likely is compatible with the continued existence of marsh valerian. Avoid harvesting of white cedar, as such sites often revert to alder thickets, a habitat not suitable for this valerian.