Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Wisconsin

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WISCONSIN
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

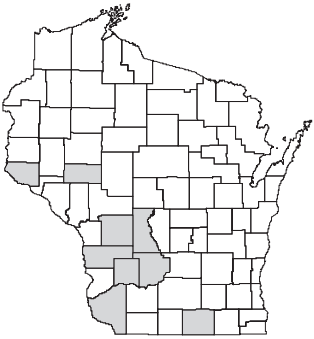
Muskroot

(Adoxa moschatellina)

Federal Status: Not Listed
State Status: Threatened

Description: Muskroot is an inconspicuous plant, except for the shiny quality of the three-parted leaves. In June, its greenish-yellow flowers form a cluster at the end of a slender stalk. This plant usually grows in small perennial colonies. On average the plant reaches only 3 to 5 inches in height.

Habitat: This rare wildflower is found in shaded, moist woods, often under hemlock, white pine or birch. These cool woods are often

associated with north-facing cliffs in Wisconsin's "Driftless" area.

Forestry Considerations: Single-tree selection silviculture is preferred in the immediate vicinity of muskroot populations. This technique will not significantly alter the shade levels and cool, moist air that the muskroot favors. Winter tree harvest is preferred, because muskroot is susceptible to damage by trampling, digging, log skidding and erosion.