

File# NF 819 B – Bayfield County - 124.4 acres

The Department acquired this property for \$463,974 in 2005. There is approximately 4,425 feet of two-bank frontage along Lenawee Creek and approximately 1,200 feet of two-bank frontage along a tributary of Lenawee Creek, a portion of which is a class one trout waters (north of the property). Lenawee Creek supports naturally reproducing resident brook trout and Lake Superior run salmonids such as Coho salmon. These and other cold-water species (e.g., brown trout) are recreationally important fishes along Lake Superior's south shore. The property has mixed young and old deciduous and coniferous forest that contribute to high water quality in Lenawee Creek.

As part of the field inspection, DNR Superior Office fisheries staff quantitatively surveyed the fishes in a section of Lenawee Creek that flows through the property. The survey revealed Lenawee Creek as a cold-water tributary that is not currently listed in the DNR trout waters database shown on the Surface Water Data Viewer. The young-of-year brook trout and Coho salmon, along with other age classes of brook trout and brown trout indicate successful natural reproduction within Lenawee Creek, an attribute vital to the long-term sustainability of salmonid populations along Lake Superior's south shore and tributaries.

The Department has not made investments in infrastructure or habitat improvements. An ATV trail exists in the southern 1/3 of the property. Instream cold-water fisheries habitat work could occur in the future, perhaps requiring \$5,000 to \$15,000 of capital investment that would include time and materials. Time required could be two to four weeks with a two to four person crew.

Public recreation is mainly backcountry walking/hiking on improved and unimproved ATV trails and through the County forest. This property offers the general public a unique backcountry experience. The northern boundary of the property is accessible through the end of Puig road, whereas the southern 1/3 of the property is accessible through an improved ATV trail. Public recreation also includes fishing in Lenawee Creek.

The Department recommends retaining this parcel.

