

The Land:

A Once-In-A-Lifetime Opportunity

The 390,000 acres currently owned by the Kamehameha Schools are truly an important “transition zone” between the needleleaf forests of Canada and the broadleaf forests of the south. This “zone” contains species of both worlds and the intermingling of these forest inhabitants creates a community that is like no other in North America.



Large mammals such as the moose and the gray wolf depend on vast intact landscapes for their habitat. This land is critical to maintaining the area they need for survival.



Highlights of the Physical Features

- ◆ More than 42,000 acres of the Big Two-Hearted River and watershed—the real jewel in the crown
- ◆ Many rare wetland community complexes
- ◆ Twenty miles of major rivers and 250 miles of secondary rivers
- ◆ More than 31 miles of the border to Pictured Rocks National Lake Shore
- ◆ At least 130 undeveloped inland lakes (more than 120 are larger than 10 acres) that form the headwaters to several major river systems in the UP
- ◆ Two miles of significant Lake Superior shoreline adjacent to over 20,000 acres along and within the watershed of the Presque Isle River, a National Scenic River, and buffering lands to the Porcupine Mountain Wilderness State Park
- ◆ The variety of wetland communities and the complexity of the peatland-forest ecosystem in portions of this land are beyond comparison within the Great Lakes region
- ◆ Several significant high granitic balds containing state-listed ecologically rare features
- ◆ Unique old growth hemlock gorges along the Presque Isle River, a National Scenic River

There are few areas of forest left in the Midwest that are this extensive, in such good ecological health, and that support such a rich diversity of wildlife.

Rare organisms can be found here such as the western moonwort, the common loon or the wood turtle. Furthermore, this “mixing” sets up unique biological situations, where snowshoe hares (from the north) and cottontail rabbits (from the south) run next to one another or where a northern great gray owl feeds on southern flying squirrels. Home to wolves, moose, black bear, numerous bird species and orchids, the collective set of properties are important contributors to the northwoods landscape of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

