



JUMP-MONDEAUX RIVER WETLAND TYPES

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Floodplain forest, coniferous swamp, alder thicket, ephemeral pond

PRICE/TAYLOR
COUNTY



ECOLOGY & SIGNIFICANCE

This riverine Wetland Gem is a large floodplain forest located within the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest including the confluence of the Jump and Mondeaux Rivers. The corridor traverses the Price County/Taylor County border and includes two State Natural Areas: Silver Creek & Mondeaux River and Mondeaux Hardwoods. The site includes some old-growth stands as well as areas of coniferous swamp, alder thicket, ephemeral ponds and springs. Because this floodplain corridor has remained largely intact, it features a diverse plant community including several rare species. The undisturbed character of the floodplain also means that in-stream habitat is excellent and these rivers support diverse aquatic communities. The rivers' meanders, oxbows and scenic beauty make this site a popular destination for paddlers.

FLORA & FAUNA

The Jump-Mondeaux River Floodplain is characterized by meandering rivers flanked by floodplain forest of black ash and American elm with yellow birch, basswood, ironwood, and bur oak. Some trees larger than 26 inches in diameter are found here. Frequent

scouring by overbank flooding maintains a relatively open and diverse understory featuring ferns, sedges, Dutchman's breeches, cut-leaved toothwort, wild leek, wild ginger, wood nettle, ostrich fern, trout lily and marsh marigold. Scattered shrubs include ironwood, speckled alder, red osier dogwood, common winterberry and alder-leaf buckthorn. In some areas, the rivers flow through old-growth silver maple, red maple and bur oak, with some black ash, hemlock, and basswood. The groundlayer in old-growth areas includes clubmosses, bracken fern, maidenhair fern, hepatica, early meadow-rue and bloodroot. Along part of the Mondeaux River is an extensive coniferous swamp composed of hemlock, yellow birch, sugar maple, red maple, basswood and white pine. Springs and ephemeral ponds add to the mosaic of habitats in this riverine wetland system.

Birds using this floodplain forest include common raven, pileated woodpecker, winter wren, hermit thrush, northern waterthrush, blue-headed vireo, eastern wood-pewee, ovenbird, Baltimore oriole, scarlet tanager and Blackburnian, chestnut-sided, Nashville and black-throated green warblers. The state-threatened red-shouldered hawk also uses the site.

THREATS

The Jump River system is fairly undisturbed because it drains a predominantly forested landscape, although some agriculture is present in the watershed. Currently, this floodplain corridor suffers few problems with exotic species, but future invasion by the emerald ash borer beetle threatens the site's ash stands.

ACCESS

This river system provides excellent paddling opportunities. For details, visit the Silver Creek & Mondeaux River and Mondeaux Hardwoods pages of the State Natural Areas Program website: dnr.wi.gov/org/land/er/sna.



Blue-headed vireo — Scott Franke

JUMP-MONDEAUX RIVER FLOODPLAIN

Property Owner: USDA Forest Service
Recognitions & Designations: WI State Natural Area,
WI Land Legacy Place

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