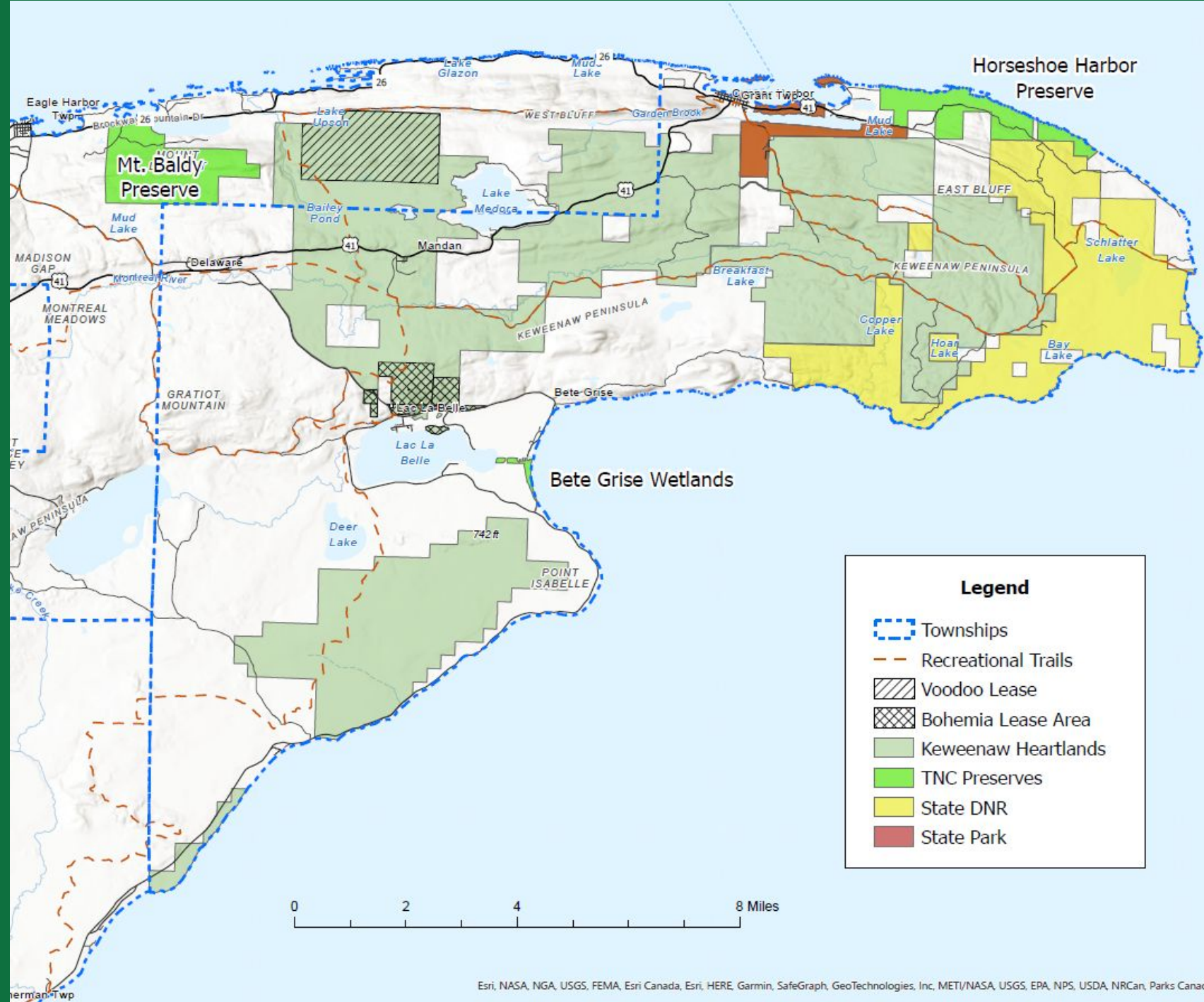


Keweenaw Heartlands Project Update

The Nature
Conservancy



In 2022,
The Nature
Conservancy
acquired 32,541
acres
known as the
Keweenaw
Heartlands





Why we protected these lands:

- Ensure lands remain forested, healthy and accessible to residents and visitors in perpetuity
- Maintain revenue to operate local government
- Ensure natural and cultural resources are protected forever



Our Current Focus:

Helping establish governance structures and infrastructure plans that will ensure the long-term health of biological and cultural assets and safe access for residents and visitors.

Identify the appropriate permanent owners of the property and the revenue mechanisms necessary for these entities to acquire and manage the property.



TNC's Interim Management Activities:



Maintain public access, including existing designated & marked motorized and non-motorized trails. No new trails planned.



Maintain current infrastructure.



Minimal to no forest harvesting activity.



Undertake any management actions necessary to secure the property and to protect public health and safety.

TNC's Interim Management Activities:



**Keep property in
current tax status:
30,864 acres enrolled
in Commercial
Forest Act (CFA)
1,777 acres Ad
Valorem taxes**



**Inventory
Ecologic,
Historic,
Cultural and
Infrastructure
assets on
property**



**Contract the
preparation of
the CFA Forest
Management
Plan**



**Hire two staff
to be based in
the Keweenaw**

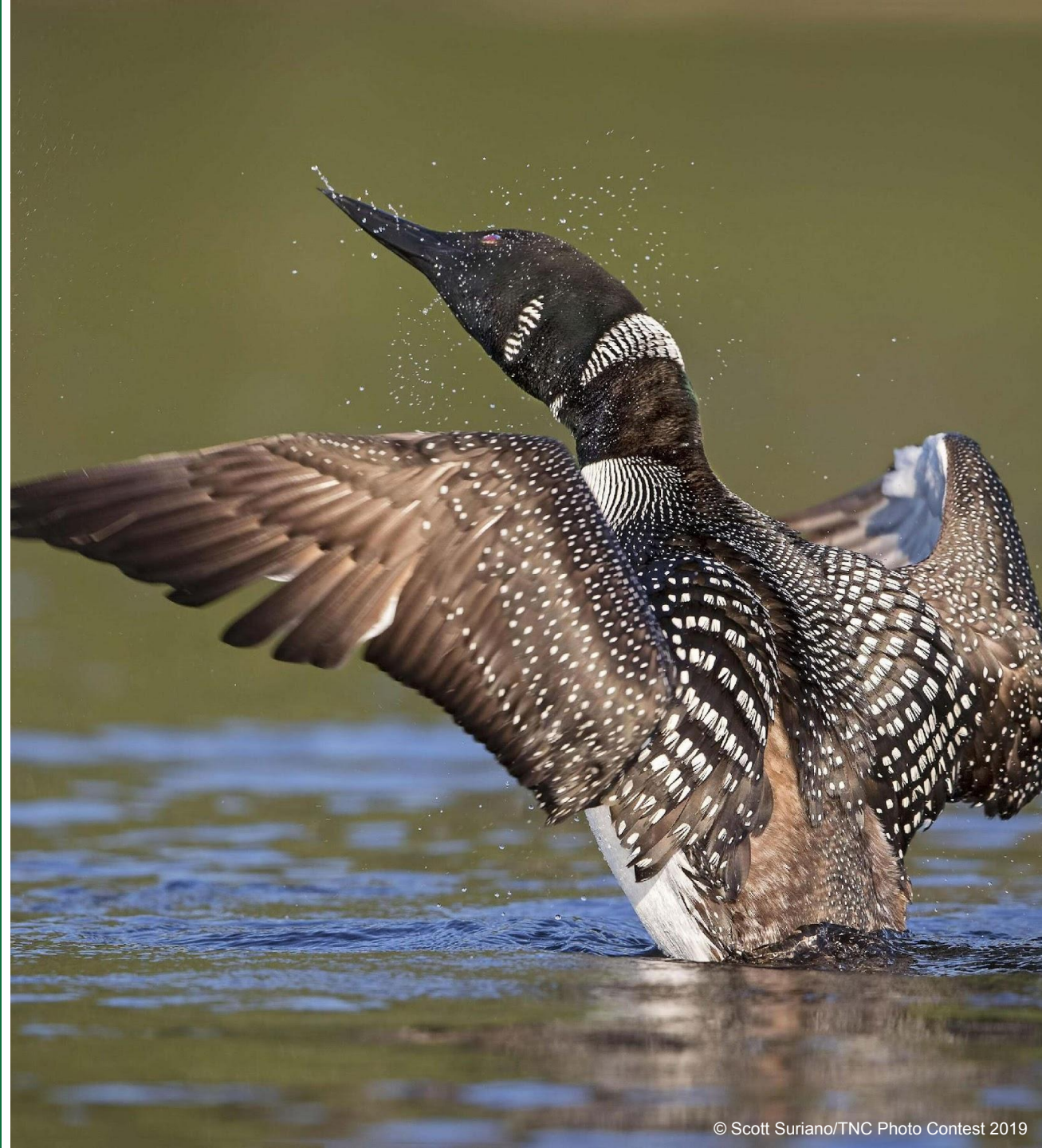


Future Ownership:

- Anticipate primarily public ownership (State, County, Township, special purpose district)
- Transition will happen as public funding becomes available
- Anticipate this process to take the next 3-5 years

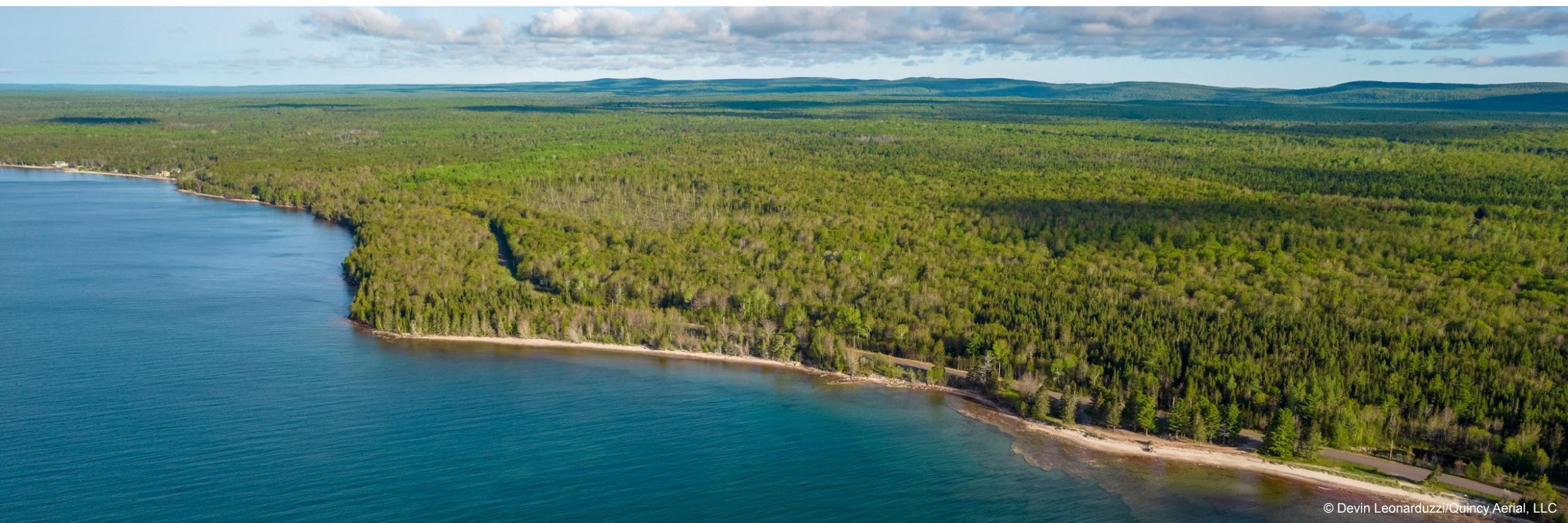
Status of Funding:

- As with all TNC's acquisition projects, the land was protected through securing a loan
- TNC is working with agencies and elected officials to secure public funding
- TNC is working hard to raise private funds, grants, and donations



Spread the word!

Every bit will help as we raise funds to cover the cost of the acquisition, interest, taxes, management, a local endowment, etc.





The Planning Committee:

- **Developing a community-led vision and plan for governing and managing the land**
- **Identifying and planning for other community needs, such as infrastructure, housing, public safety and utilities**
- **Includes representatives from local government, user groups, and other community interests**





The Planning Committee:

- Today, the Planning Committee resumed meeting and is discussing different governance scenarios;
- John Molinaro of RES (Rural Economic Success) Associates, LLC. will continue to lead that effort, sponsored by TNC and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

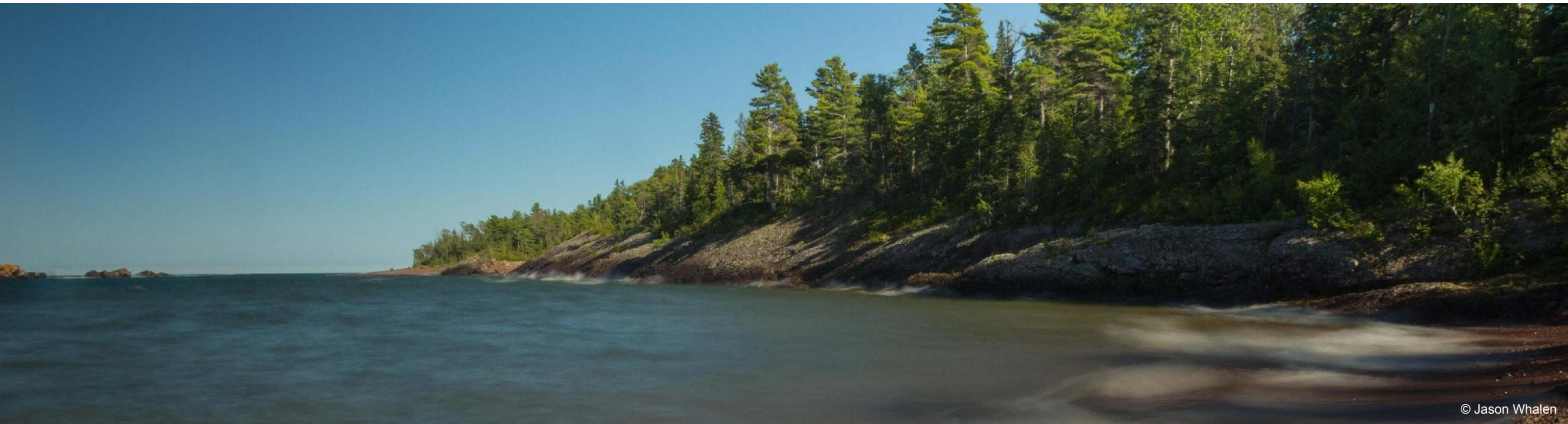




The Planning Committee:

Committee proceedings and other project updates can be found on:

The Keweenaw Community Foundation's web page:
<https://keweenawcommunityfoundation.org/keweenaw-land-project>



An aerial photograph of a vast, dense forest in shades of green. In the background, a large body of water is visible under a sky with scattered white clouds. The text is centered over the forest.

Keweenaw Heartlands Ecological and Cultural Inventory

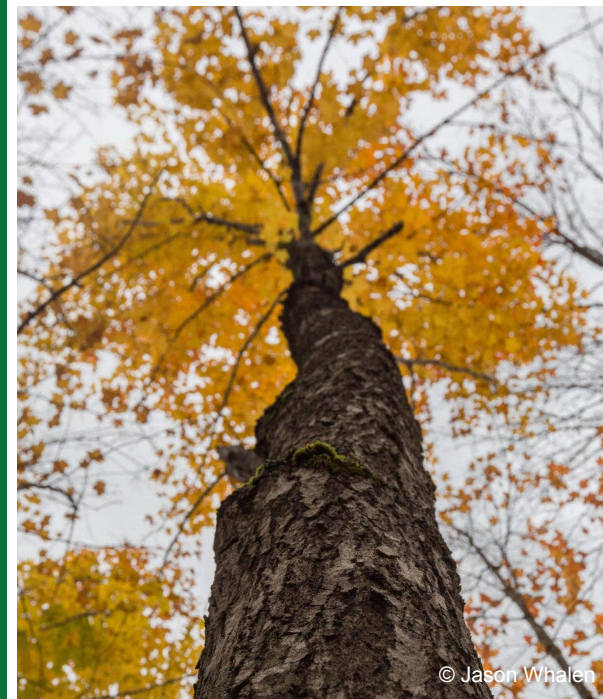
January-December 2023

Inventory Goal:

- Establish a baseline for the status of ecological, cultural, timber and infrastructure features to inform:
 - Legal mechanisms (easements, deed restrictions, etc.) to protect natural and cultural resources
 - Plans to guide management of natural and cultural resources
 - Plans to guide recreational uses, including infrastructure



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© Jason Whalen



© wild.NZ

Approach:



**Compile
existing data
and
information**



**Map the extent
and condition
of natural and
cultural
features and
current
infrastructure**



**Conduct
strategic field
surveys and
gather input
from residents
and community
organizations**



**Synthesize data
and provide
user-friendly
maps and
information to
support
governance and
management**

A portal for the community to provide information about the property will be established on the Keweenaw Area Community Foundation Keweenaw Project webpage later this spring:

**[keweenawcommunityfoundation.org/
keweenaw-land-project](https://keweenawcommunityfoundation.org/keweenaw-land-project)**



**How should we tap into
community knowledge? Tell us!**



Questions and Comments?



Thank you!

If you have questions about the
project/process, contact:

Rich Bowman: (517) 881-2761,
rich_bowman@tnc.org

Helen Taylor: (517) 896-7730,
htaylor@tnc.org

To report on-the-ground concerns
or observations, contact:
(906) 225-0399, keweenaw@tnc.org

