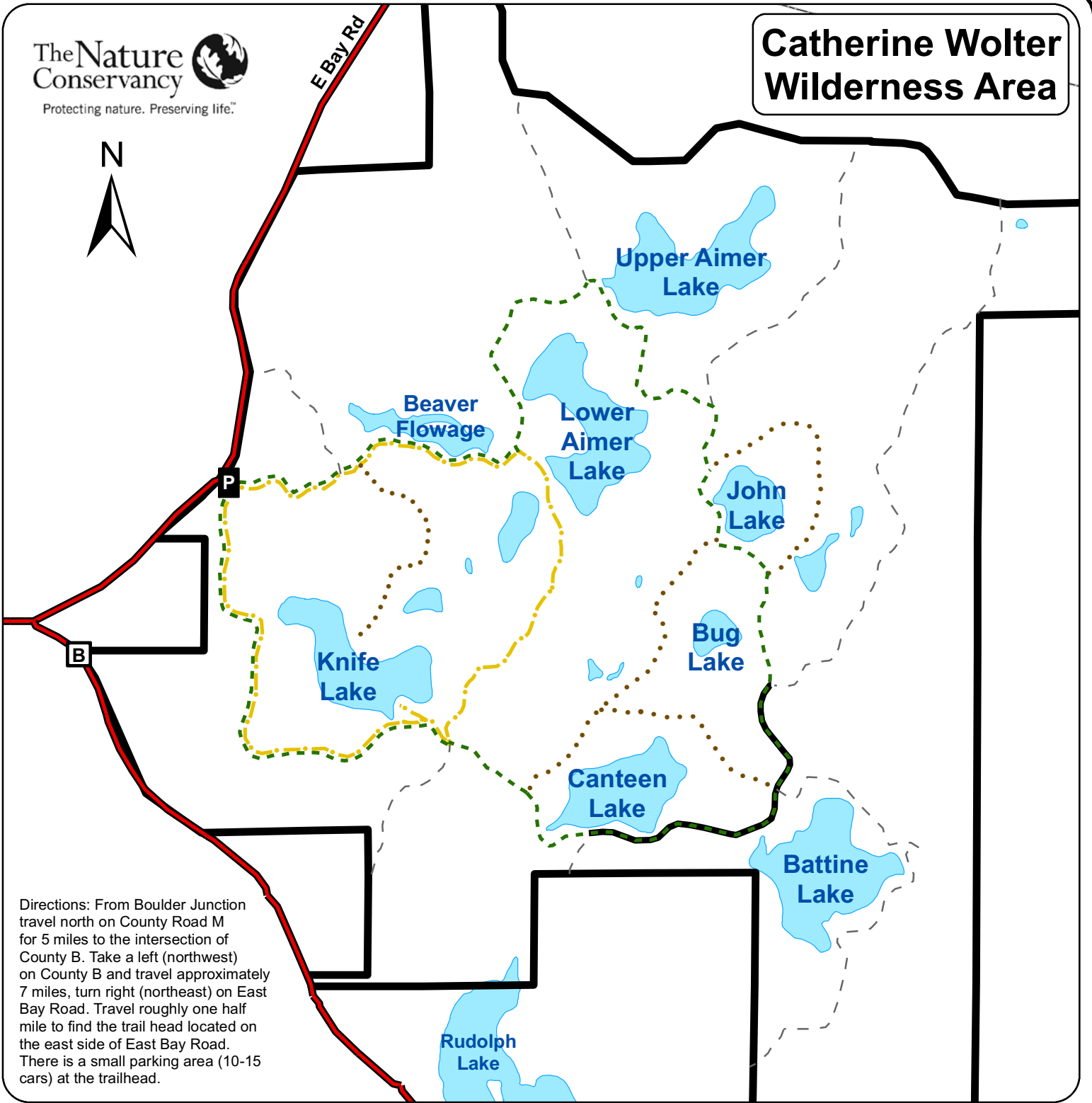
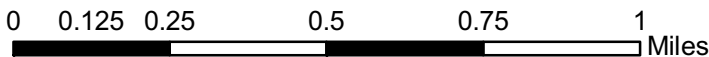


# Catherine Wolter Wilderness Area

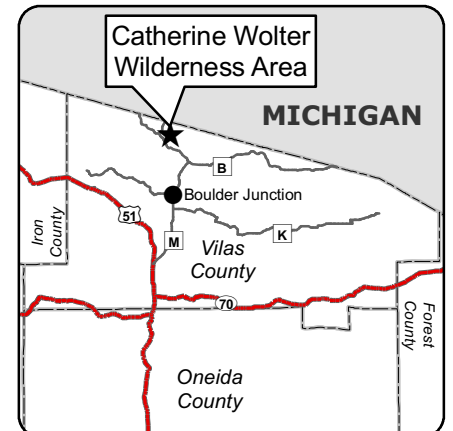


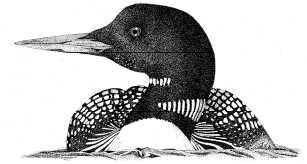
Directions: From Boulder Junction travel north on County Road M for 5 miles to the intersection of County B. Take a left (northwest) on County B and travel approximately 7 miles, turn right (northeast) on East Bay Road. Travel roughly one half mile to find the trail head located on the east side of East Bay Road. There is a small parking area (10-15 cars) at the trailhead.

- Preserve boundary
- Lake
- Parking area
- Knife Lake Loop - 2.5 miles, slightly hilly, easy walk
- Aimer Lakes Loop - 5.2 miles, hilly, some wet areas
- Shared access road
- Secondary preserve trails
- Unmaintained trails leading to private lands
- Paved road



July 15, 2009





## Catherine Wolter Wilderness Area

The Catherine Wolter Wilderness Area encompasses a large block of northern forest and 15 wild lakes and ponds, an increasingly rare commodity in northern Wisconsin today.

The Conservancy acquired the 2,189 acres from Mrs. Catherine Wolter, a long-time resident of the Presque Isle area, in 2000. The Wolter family had owned and cared for the property for 58 years, limiting the amount of fishing and the use of motorized vehicles on the lakes.

As a result, the lakes host a rich diversity of aquatic species. The lakes and surrounding forests provide habitat for many native plants and wildlife.

### Public Access

The Nature Conservancy is committed to protecting the natural features at the Catherine Wolter Wilderness Area, particularly the lakes, while allowing public access for recreation.

The preserve is open to the public from sunrise to sunset for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, bird-watching and other low impact recreational activities. We allow dogs on the preserve. However, from April 1 to August 1, dogs must be on a leash in order to protect ground-nesting birds.

Carry-in access for non-motorized boat and canoe use is allowed on all waters. Catch and release fishing, with artificial lures, is allowed on Lower Aimer, Knife and Bug lakes. The remaining named and unnamed water bodies are designated for research only, and no fishing will be allowed for a 10-year period.

Hunting for white-tailed deer and ruffed grouse is allowed from October 1 to December 31 in accordance with state law. Snowmobiles may only be used on the existing snowmobile trail near County Highway B for winter recreation.

Please help protect this unique area by making sure your shoes/boots are clean of any mud that may transport invasive plant seeds to the preserve from other locations, and pack out everything you pack in. Please stay on marked trails and respect private property surrounding the preserve.

### What to See: Wildlife

Wildlife that use the area include migratory songbirds like the American redstart and Blackburnian, black-throated blue, golden-winged, magnolia and mourning warblers. You may also see common loons, osprey, bald eagles, otters, fishers, black bears and timber wolves.

### Conservation Significance

The Catherine Wolter Wilderness Area protects more than 36,000 feet of undeveloped shoreline. According to a 1996 report by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, two-thirds of northern Wisconsin's undeveloped lakes 10 acres or larger have been developed since 1960. If this trend continues, all undeveloped lakes in northern Wisconsin not in public ownership could be developed in the next 20 years.

The preserve is part of the 24,000-acre Border Lakes Area in Vilas County, which harbors white pines up to 400 years old, wetlands, spring-fed ponds and many wild lakes and streams.

The Border Lakes area also serves as a travel corridor for far-ranging mammals including timber wolves and possibly moose and Canada lynx. It is nestled within the 1.2-million-acre Ontonagon-Presque Isle Watershed, which links the Ottawa National Forest in Michigan with Wisconsin's Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest.

### How You Can Help

Protection of the Catherine Wolter Wilderness Area is only possible through the generous support of individuals who donate time and resources to The Nature Conservancy. Visit [nature.org/joinanddonate](http://nature.org/joinanddonate) or contact us (see below) to find out how you can help.

### Contact Information

For more information about the Catherine Wolter Wilderness Area, stop by our Northwoods Office at: 8648 Hwy 51 N #3, Minocqua, WI 54548, call 715-358-6305 or e-mail us at [Wisconsin@tnc.org](mailto:Wisconsin@tnc.org).