

R-LS
Natural Areas

(Chippewa)

REPORT ON PROPOSED PINE POINT NATURAL AREA

1. Location

This area, comprising about 1,176 acres of Natural Forest land, is located in Sections 1 & 2, T. 142 N., R. 31 W.; Section 36, T. 143 N., R. 31 W., and Sections 31 & 32, T. 143 N., R. 30 W., 5th. P. M. (See Map). The area includes all of the extreme North portion of Pine Point. It is bounded on the West, North and East by Leech Lake, and on the South by section line between Section 1 & 2, and Sections 11 & 12. T. 142 N., R. 31 W. The following table shows the acreage by ownerships.

Pine Point

Twp.	Range	Sec.	National Forest Areas	Indian Allotment Acres	Private Land Acres
142	31	1	409.63	117.82	74.75
142	31	2	353.50	100.25	74.75
143	31	36	342.85	--	--
143	30	31	70.00	301.47	103.05
143	30	32	--	--	9.75
Total:			1176.00	519.34	187.55

It is felt that by extending the boundary further South we would be largely defeating the purpose of the area, as there are already several summer homes built on privately owned land in Sec. 11 and it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to maintain the additional area in its natural condition. We could not shut off access to the privately owned lands.

2. Cover Types

The acreage and age class distribution of the various types on National Forest land are given below.

Type	Acreage	Age Class
Norway Pine	550.50	81 + yrs. (mature)
Jack Pine	28.00	51 + yrs. (mature)
Aspen	94.85	36 - 40 yrs. (poles)
Meadow	502.65	
Total	1176.00	

Following is an estimate of the average stand per acre by types.

Norway Pine Type

Norway Pine	3,550 bd. ft.
White Pine	105 bd. ft.
Jack Pine	185 bd. ft.
Jack Pine	125 bd. ft. (0.25 cds.)
Aspen	310 bd. ft. (0.62 cds.)
Total	4,275 bd. ft.

Jack Pine Type

Norway Pine	1,770 bd. ft.
Jack Pine	2,650 bd. ft.
Total	<u>4,275 bd. ft.</u>

Aspen Type

Aspen	2,300 bd. ft. (4.6 cds.)
Red Oak	800 bd. ft. (1.6 cds.)
White Birch	300 bd. ft. (0.6 cds.)
Total	<u>3,400 bd. ft.</u>

The Indian allotments and privately owned land within the area, comprising 707 acres, is largely meadow and scrub hardwood type.

3. Physical and Climatic Conditions.

The topography is level to rolling. The elevation is from 1,282 to 1,300 feet. The average annual precipitation is 30 inches. Temperatures range from 40° below zero to 90° above zero. The Norway and Jack pine types occupy typical, dry, sandy soil. The aspen type is sandy loam. The meadow land is covered with a layer of bog or decayed vegetation that has not completely decomposed.

4. Forest Value

The Norway and Jack pine types, representing 578.50 acres, are covered with a virgin, natural stand of Norway, Jack and White Pine, all in excellent condition. The stand varies from open to dense. In general, the reproduction, consisting mostly of Norway Pine with Jack Pine on the lighter soil and White Pine on the heavier soil, is good over the whole area. The aspen type, comprising about 95 acres, is a dense stand of pole-size trees with scattered hardwoods of very low quality mixed in. Quite a little pine reproduction is coming in under the aspen. The 503 acres of meadow land is subject to flowage when Leech Lake is at a high stage.

The merchantable timber is represented by Norway, White and Jack Pine, Aspen, White Birch, and Red Oak. The Pine is a virgin stand of high quality and, under normal conditions, could be disposed of at a very good stumpage price. The aspen is of pole size suitable for pulp, boxboard or fuelwood. The White Birch and Red Oak is scrubby and only good for fuelwood.

This area, excepting for the meadow land, has not been burned over, so far as is known, during the past 35 years. The virgin Pine have the characteristic catface fire scars, but evidence indicates that the present aspen type, about 35 years old, is the direct result of the last fire on this area. The fire hazard on this particular area is comparatively high due to the large meadow to the north and east of the timbered types.

5. Agricultural Value, Present and Future

The entire area of National Forest land has been classified as non-agricultural land. The most promising lands on Pine Point are allotted to Indians or are privately owned. The cost of clearing is more than the land is worth. The land's greatest value is for timber production and recreation.

6. Grazing Value, Present and Future

The only grazing is a few ponies owned by Indians. The ponies are turned loose in the spring and permitted to roam until fall. The automobile has largely replaced the horses. The meadow lands might be used for grazing purposes. Wild hay is also afforded for stock. The use of the meadow for hay production or grazing is not objectionable.

7. Mineral Value

None known.

8. Value of Area for Public Use

There has been no recreational development of any kind on national forest lands included within this area. Due to the fact that most of the shore is low, swampy land, it is not very desirable for recreational use. The Indians sometimes camp along the shore while fishing, usually in the late fall when the white fish are spawning. The Indians are usually very careful with their camp fires and there appears to be no good reason for discontinuing these privileges. There is a private resort on the point in Sec. 32. The use of private land for recreational purposes would not be interfered with, nor would the privately owned land be decreased in value as a result of this tract being declared a Natural Area.

9. Settlement

The nearest settlement is Onigum, known as the Indian Agency, which is about two miles south of the Area. The little Indian village is made up of two hospitals, one school, a store and about 75 Indian families. The local people do not depend on this area as a means of support. The Indians trap and hunt on the area and get some dry wood for fuel. There is no apparent reason why these privileges cannot be continued.

10. Transportation Facilities

The area is accessible by waterway and by road. It is approximately five miles by water and 15 miles by road from Walker, the closest city and railroad point. Walker is about 30 miles south of Cass Lake by road. There is a good road from Walker to Onigum. An old road takes off of the Onigum road and runs north through the ~~W&W~~ Sec. 1. The road is in very poor condition and is not fit for auto travel. There is practically no need for this road, and it is used only by Indians, principally in winter, for getting out fuel wood. Another road runs along the east side close to the shore of Leech Lake. This road is maintained to some extent by private parties owning land on the extreme Northeast point. During high water, the road is practically impassable. The maintenance of this road on the east side for auto travel would not be objectionable from the standpoint of the Natural Area.

11. Public Sentiment

Very little publicity has been given to the proposed natural area. There is no apparent reason why anyone should object to its establishment. The matter of setting the area aside as a wilderness area was taken up with some of the Indian people living in and around the area, but they did not seem to be concerned one way or another over the matter. It is believed that the people of Walker and the public in general would be very much in favor of the establishment of this tract as a Natural Area.

12. Plan of Management

Preserve the area in as wild a state as possible. Make no sales, and issue no permits of any kind, except possibly hay permits. No improvement of any kind to be constructed or maintained by the Government. No objection to the private road on the east side being maintained as an auto road and no objection to the Indians maintaining the road through Section 1 as a wagon road to give them access to the fishing grounds on the west shore. Dead and down timber will be left. The Indians themselves form a part of the natural conditions and as they have made a practice of picking up firewood over the area for their personal use in the past, there should be no objection to their continuing this practice in the future. As a matter of protection the meadows should be burned each year.

13. General

This region was once noted for its pine forests - principally norway pine. The Chippewa National Forest was created by special Act of Congress June 27, 1902, and later amended by the Act of May 23, 1906. The later amendment provided for the purchase from the Indians of the virgin timber on ten Sections of land within the Forest boundary. On all the rest of the Forest, the merchantable pine was sold by the Indians, the Government purchasing only the land, unmerchantable timber and 5 to 10 percent of the original stand of merchantable norway and white pine which was purchased and left for seed trees. This area on Pine Point is part of the original ten Sections which was left in its natural state. Only the dead and down timber has ever been logged from the original ten Sections. This area has only been logged once for dead and down timber, whereas the rest of the original ten Sections have been cut over several times. This area was chosen in preference to other areas because it more nearly meets the qualifications necessary for a natural or wilderness area than any other in the Forest. It contains a typical, virgin stand of pine which has been the least molested of any of the Forest, and is of sufficient size for the purpose. The aspen is always closely associated with the pine in this region. The topography is typical of the region -- a mixture of level and rolling ground. The area is free from special uses, and almost surrounded by water, offering a very attractive trip by boat as well as accessible by land. Close by is a typical Indian village (Onigum) and, also close by is one of the oldest trading posts on the Forest, which is still inhabited by Indians. (The old trading post is located on the west shore of Agency Bay due east of Onigum.) On the north shore of Leech Lake, at Sugar Point, which can be plainly seen from this area on a clear day, the last battle between the Indians and white man took place in 1898. Although the area is rather small, it is almost ideally suited for a Natural Area.

It is recommended that this tract be designated as a Natural Area in accordance with Reg. L-20.

Respectfully submitted:

/s/ J. M. Walley - dg
J. M. WALLEY, Forest Supervisor

Jan. 26, 1932.

Approved:

/s/ Crosby A. Hoar
CROSBY A. HOAR, Acting Regional Forester

Feb. 3, 1932.

/s/ Raphael Zon
RAPHAEL ZON, Director
Lake States Forest Experiment Station

Feb. 10, 1932.

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE PINE POINT NATURAL AREA OUT OF CERTAIN
LANDS WITHIN THE CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST, MINNESOTA

By virtue of the authority vested in me by Regulation L-20 of the Secretary of Agriculture, I do hereby designate as the Pine Point Natural Area the following-described lands in the Chippewa National Forest, in order that the said lands may be dedicated to scientific and educational use:

This area comprising about 1176 acres located in sections 1 and 2, T. 142 N., R. 31 W.,; Section 36, T. 143 N., R. 31 W. and Section 31, T. 143 N., R. 30 W., is inclosed by the following boundary:

"All National forest land on Pine Point lying North of a line described as follows: Beginning at a point on Leech Lake which point is a meander corner on the South side of the NE 1/4 SE 1/4, Section 1, extending west along the south boundary of said NE 1/4 SE 1/4 to the SW corner thereof; thence south 20 chains along the east boundary of the SW 1/4 SE 1/4; thence west 20 chains; thence north 20 chains; thence ~~20~~ west chains; thence south 20 chains; thence west 70 chains to the Sw corner of the SE 1/4 SW 1/4, Section 2; thence north along the west boundary of said SE 1/4 SW 1/4, Section 2 to Leech Lake. The west, north and east boundary of said Pine Point consists of the shore line of Leech Lake."

Jurisdiction, occupancy and use will be governed by the provisions of Regularion L-20 and the instructions thereunder.

Signed this 16 day of June, 1932.

/s/ R. Y. Stuart
Forester Ag.