



Technical Note No. 1, December 2019

## Experimental Forests Technical Notes

Published to the University of Minnesota Digital Conservancy  
by the UMN Cloquet Forestry Center and Hubachek Wilderness Research Center

### Defining the University of Minnesota Experimental Forests

Kyle G. Gill<sup>1</sup>, Lane B. Johnson, Rachael A. Olesiak, Rebecca J. Prange, and Andrew J. David<sup>2</sup>

#### Summary

According to the University of Minnesota Real Estate Office the Allred Trust, the Boone Trust, the Cloquet Forestry Center (CFC), and the Hubachek Wilderness Research Center (HWRC) are properties across northeastern Minnesota owned by the University of Minnesota that are to be used for natural resources education and research and administered by the Coordinator at the CFC. These primarily forested properties cover a total of 4196.8 acres. This technical note summarizes property information found in the University of Minnesota Real Estate Office Inventory Report (2018) and defines these properties as the land base associated with the Experimental Forests collection in the University of Minnesota Digital Conservancy.

#### Introduction

The University of Minnesota (UMN) Real Estate Office maintains the official inventory database and publishes an annual report of all UMN system real estate at the end of the fiscal year (Real Estate Office 2018). The “Greater Minnesota” section of the report includes a map, property legal descriptions, intended uses, rights and restrictions, the administrator, and additional comments summaries for each property in Minnesota outside of the Twin Cities Metro area; when necessary, rights and restrictions include mineral rights and income dedication. Each property summary also includes details of individual land tracts that make up a property; tracts are distinct either because they are geographically isolated or have unique acquisition history. For the purposes of this document, the term “property” is used to refer to the conglomeration of tracts that make up a given property; “parcel” is used to describe geographically-distinct portions of a property that are either one tract or multiple contiguous tracts.

The Real Estate Office (2018) reports that lands associated with the following four properties are to be administered by the “Coordinator<sup>3</sup> at the Cloquet Forestry Center” (CFC): the Allred Trust, the Boone Trust, the CFC, and the Hubachek Wilderness Research Center (HWRC). In total, these four properties encompass 4196.8 acres of land in northeastern Minnesota (Table 1; Figure 1). The Boone Trust and CFC, properties are made up of multiple parcels whereas the HWRC and Allred Trust are each geographically contiguous properties. According to the Real Estate Office (2018), the CFC property is to be used for, “Natural Resources education and research” and the use of each of the

---

<sup>1</sup> kggill@umn.edu

<sup>2</sup> The authors are all associated with the University of Minnesota Cloquet Forestry Center and Hubachek Wilderness Research Center that are part of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences Research and Outreach Center system. See [cfans.umn.edu](http://cfans.umn.edu) and [cfc.cfans.umn.edu](http://cfc.cfans.umn.edu) for more detail.

<sup>3</sup> Coordinator is interpreted to mean the Director of Operations of the Cloquet Forestry Center and Hubachek Wilderness Research Center.

other properties is, “Research, teaching, and demonstration/management programs conducted by the Cloquet Forestry Center.” The Director of Operations is assisted by the Forest Manager and Research Coordinator for coordinating and tracking on-the-ground usage of the properties.

This technical note has the following two objectives:

1. To update the property and parcel acreage data reported in the Cloquet Forestry Center Forest Management Plan 2016-2025 (Reinikainen et al. 2015)
2. To identify the land base associated with the Experimental Forests Collection on the UMN Libraries Digital Conservancy.

*Table 1. Summary of the four properties and seven geographically distinct parcels that make up the UMN Experimental Forest. Property, Parcel, County, and Area data are from the Real Estate Office Fiscal Year 2018 Land Report.*

Property	Parcel	County	Area (acres)
Allred Trust		St. Louis	160.0
Boone Trust	Boone West	St. Louis	160.0
	Boone East	St. Louis	40.0
CFC	Cloquet Forestry Center	Carlton	3391.4
	Oldenburg East (Parcel B)	Carlton	40.0
	Oldenburg West (Parcel C)	Carlton	40.0
HWRC		Lake	365.4
<i>Total</i>			<i>4196.8</i>

## Defining the UMN Experimental Forests

The Director of Operations and Forest Manager identify the UMN Experimental Forests (EF) for the unofficial purposes of titling this collection of properties as one administrative and technical reporting unit. They administer the use of all properties within the EF as part of their regular duties with the UMN College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) and the CFANS Research and Outreach Center system by maintaining data regarding short and long-term biotic and abiotic conditions and all known education, research, outreach, and management activities. The EF title is necessary because referring to the entire EF by just one of the properties, such as the Cloquet Forestry Center, unintentionally excludes work conducted at other properties. Other UMN properties with forested lands such as the North Central Research and Outreach Center, the Itasca Biological Station, and the Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, are not identified within the EF because the Director of Operations and Forest Manager do not have responsibilities on these properties.

The broader EF grouping will simplify and enhance technical reporting on research and management projects that occur on one or more EF properties. This is necessary for short and long-term documentation of case study and land stewardship activities that do not necessarily meet the scope of peer-reviewed publications or department-specific technical reporting. Technical reports and research features will be archived with the UMN Libraries Digital Conservancy as part of the “University of

Minnesota Experimental Forests” collection<sup>3</sup>. Each property may also have an individual collection within the EF collection for archives that pertain to only one property. At the time of writing this technical note, only CFC and HWRC collections have been created because the majority of program activities occur at these two properties.

## **The four properties of the Experimental Forests**

Details regarding sustainable management of all EF properties, including broad mission, management goals, objectives, and strategies, can be found in Reinikainen et al. 2015. The sustainable forest management of CFC and HWRC properties are certified through the American Forest Foundation’s American Tree Farm System. Table 1 and Figure 1 of this technical note serve as updates to Table 1 and Figure 1 of Reinikainen et al. 2015 because the acreages reported in the latter do not entirely agree with the Real Estate Office Land Report (2018), no data source was noted, and a 37-acre “Oldenburg” parcel near Carlton, MN was sold in 2016. Below are short descriptions of the locations and parcels of each EF property; much of each description is found in the Real Estate Office Report (2018).

### **Cloquet Forestry Center**

The CFC has a total acreage of 3471.4 across three parcels in Carlton County. The largest parcel is 3391.4 acres located on the western edge of Cloquet, MN. It is accessible via a number of public roads; the buildings and grounds area is accessible via University Road (also known as Carlton County Road 5). A majority of the individual tracts that make up this parcel were acquired in 1909 and 1910 pursuant to 1909 Minnesota Laws Chapter 131 for the establishment of a demonstration and experimental forest. This parcel is located within the boundary of the reservation of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. The boundaries of this parcel are posted with signs that read, “Research Forest” and gates exist where internal roads intersect public roads.

Two 40-acre parcels located south of Sawyer, MN retain the name of “Oldenburg” to acknowledge their history as part of a broader land purchase from Margaret E. Oldenburg in 1938. The Real Estate Office refers to the Oldenburg parcels as Parcel B and Parcel C. Neither have access directly from a public road; Carlton County Road 7 is the closest public road. Parcel B does not have an established access route. Parcel C is accessible through forested land managed by the Carlton County Forest land department.

### **Hubachek Wilderness Research Center**

The HWRC has a total acreage of 365.4 acres at one parcel in Fall Lake Township near Winton, MN in Lake County. According to the University of Minnesota Real Estate Office (2018), “This property was acquired from the University of Minnesota Foundation in June 2012 for \$1.00. It was previously gifted to the Foundation in 2005. It is divided into two tracts: 1878.01 for the Wilderness Research Center (357.6 acres), and 1878.02 for the portion subject to a Life Estate (7.8 acres) which ended November 4, 2013.” The property is accessible by Shady Lane, a private road shared by multiple private landowners along the north shore of Fall Lake. HWRC property boundaries are primarily unsigned, though there is a sign identifying HWRC where the property driveway intersects Shady Lane.

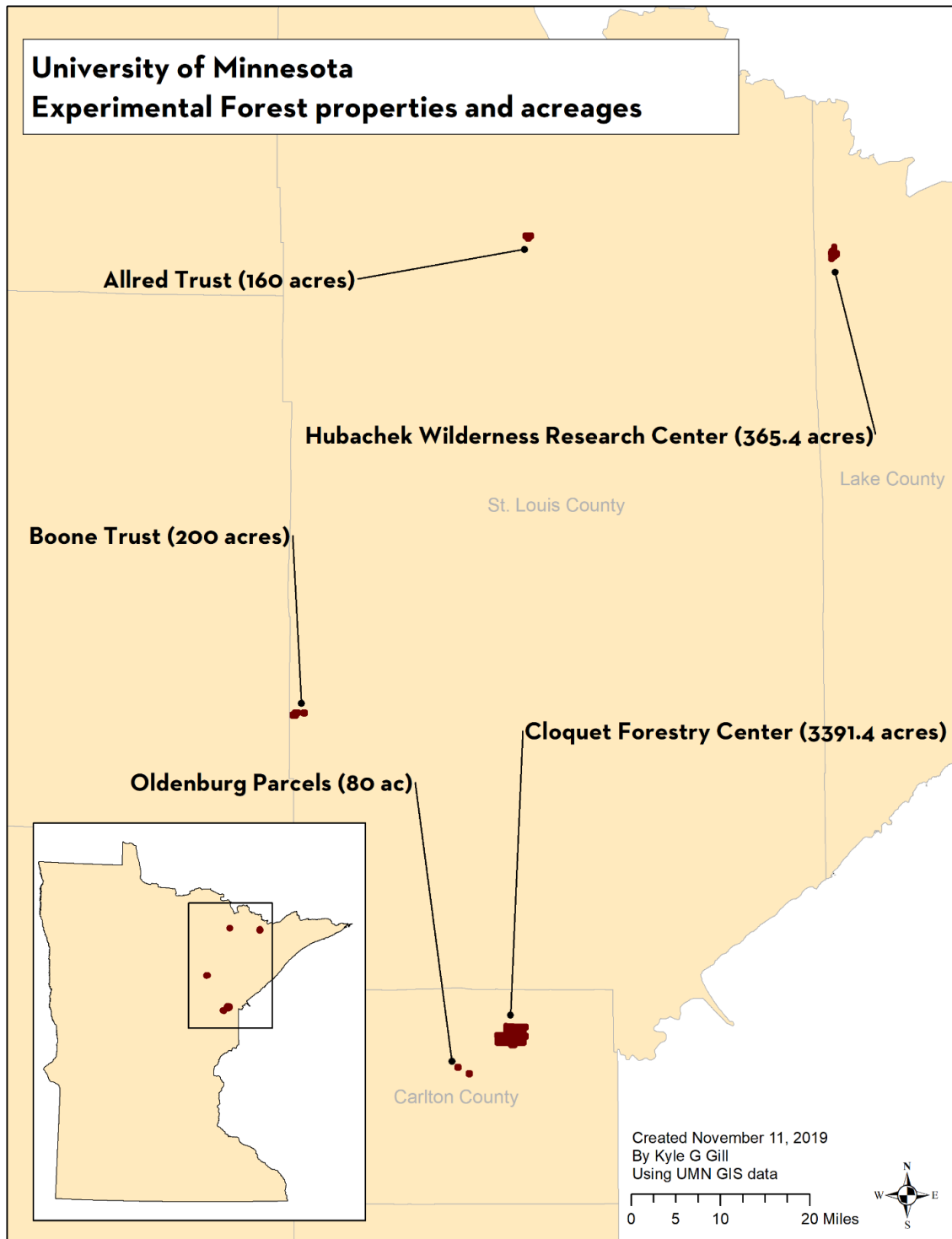
### **Allred Trust**

The Allred Trust is 160 acres in one parcel. It is located in Beatty Township near Cook, MN in St. Louis County. The lands were a gift from Evan A. and Donna W. Allred in 1985. Property boundaries are unsigned. The Allred Trust property is accessible via Kallio Road, which passes through the northwest corner of the property.

**Boone Trust**

The Boone Trust is 200 acres in two parcels near Thunderbird Lake, MN in the unorganized territory of Janette Lake, St. Louis County. These parcels were a gift of the UMN Foundation in accordance with the wishes of Mary Olive Boone in 2001. The west parcel is 160 acres and the east parcel is 40 acres. Both are accessible from Beauty Mountain Road roughly one mile west of MN Highway 73. Property boundaries are primarily unsigned. Since 2013 the Forest Manager has worked with a private landowner near the Boone parcels as an unofficial caretaker in exchange for an annual firewood collection permit along roadways. Beauty Mountain Road is maintained by St. Louis County.

Figure 1. Locations of the University of Minnesota Experimental Forest properties and parcels. The Cloquet Forestry Center Director of Operations and Forest Manager have administrative and stewardship responsibilities across these lands.



## Works cited

Real Estate Office, University of Minnesota. 2018. University of Minnesota Real Estate Inventory Report. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. Available:

<http://www.realestate.umn.edu/index.html>, last accessed December 09, 2019.

Reinikainen, M., L. Nagel, C. Pike, and G. Cuomo. 2015. Cloquet Forestry Center Management Plan 2016-2025. University of Minnesota Department of Forest Resources State Paper Series No. 242.

Available: <http://hdl.handle.net/11299/202220>

University of Minnesota Experimental Forests Collection. 2019 University of Minnesota Libraries Digital Conservancy. Available: <https://conservancy.umn.edu/handle/11299/206491>, last accessed December 09, 2019.