

Reading 2: A Visit to Seney NWR

What is your favorite place? Mine is the Seney National Wildlife Refuge. It is located in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Much of the refuge is wetlands and forests. The wetlands include lakes, streams, and marshes. The forests have pine and fir trees. There are birds, deer, bears, and other small animals—that includes me!—in the forest.

Early mornings in the Seney National Wildlife Refuge are peaceful and quiet. One summer morning I took my canoe to the refuge. I was floating on the river when I heard a gentle splash in the water. A bald eagle caught its breakfast—a fish—in its talons. It flew just a few feet above my head. Its huge wings lifted it above the trees.

A refuge is a special land use. The impact of individuals is very small. People who walk stay on trails. Others may drive their cars on special roads. They stop along the way (at marked places) to view animals and plants.

The Seney National Wildlife Refuge is preserving wetlands. Wetlands are important for animals and plants. People and animals enjoy wetlands. It is unlikely that this area will change much because it is a National Wildlife Refuge. I often think about the refuge when I am at my home in Marquette. I can sit at my computer and view pictures of the refuge on the web cam. My work as a geographer with the Department of Environmental Quality keeps me outside to enjoy nature. I often think that more people should visit Seney National Wildlife Refuge. I wonder if more visitors would cause changes in it.

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