



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Lodge Past, Present and Future

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

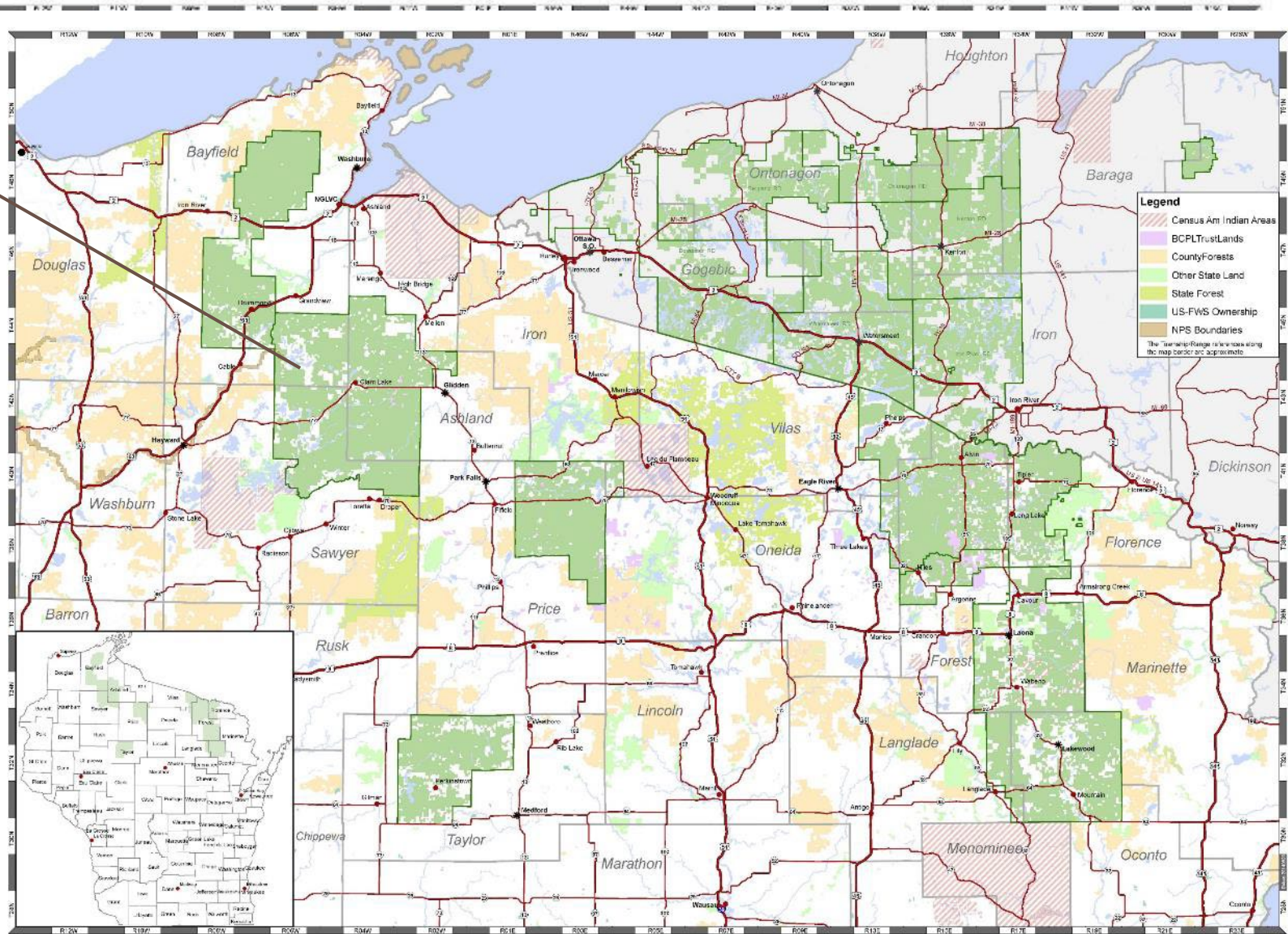
Hilary Markin

Partnership Coordinator

May 2026

Where is Forest Lodge?

Forest Lodge



What is Forest Lodge?

- Summer Retreat and Family Estate for over 100 years
- Acquired in 1999 through Trust for Public Lands
- 872 acres of northern hardwood forest
 - 4 Special Management Areas
- 18 Historic Structures within Mary Livingston Griggs Historical SMA
- Endowment for maintenance
- 3 ½ miles of lakeshore on Lake Namakagon





Past - History

- 1884: North Wisconsin Lumber Company purchase from Farm Mortgage Land Co.
- 1902: Crawford Livingston purchased 100 acres from the lumber company
- 1920-1930s: Majority of buildings were constructed
- 1937: 772 additional acres acquired
- 1999: Forest Lodge donated to the Forest Service, reserving 50-acre Life Estate
- 2002: Historic District listed on State and National Registers of Historic Places for its design

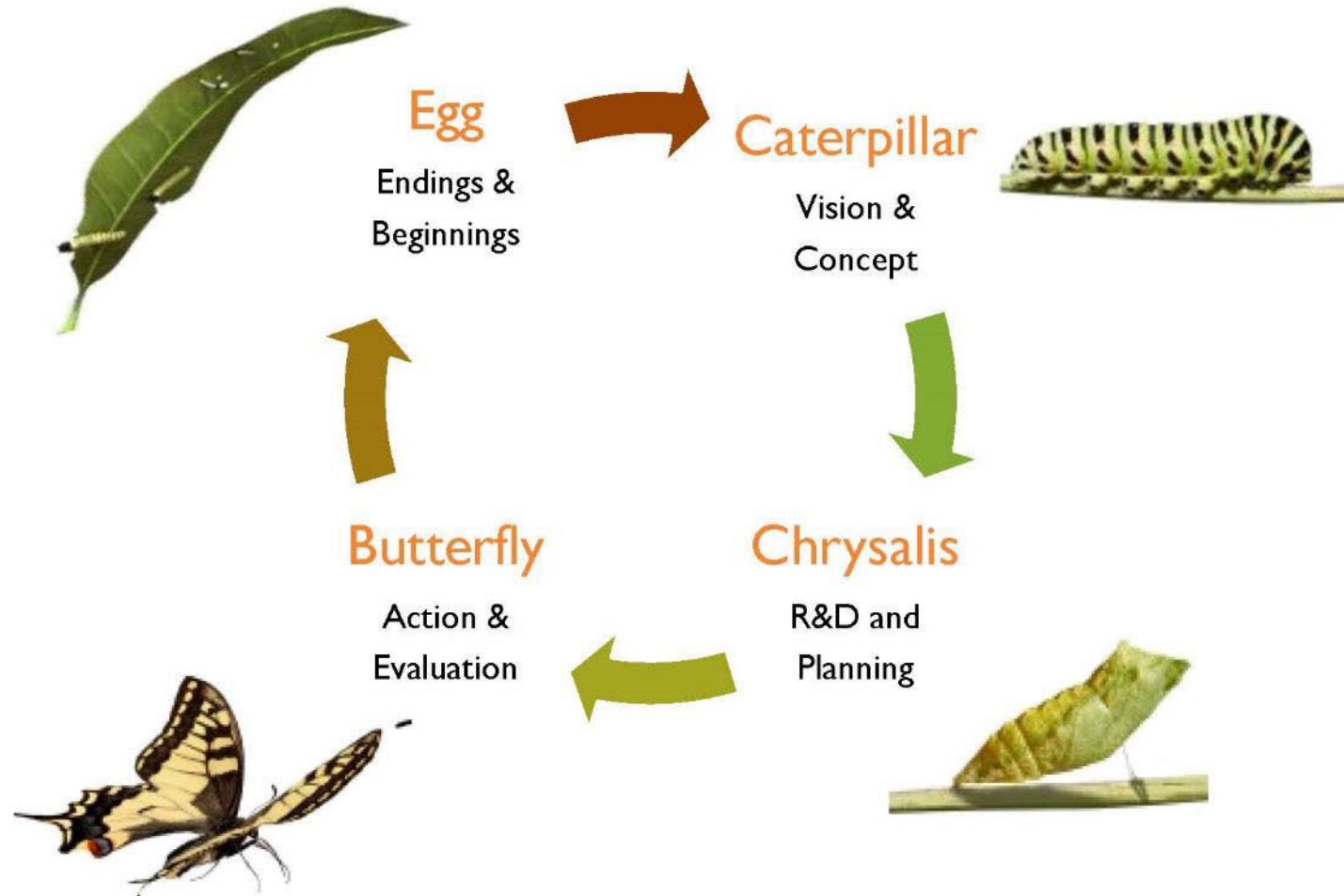


Past - History

- 1999: Forest Lodge donated to the Forest Service, reserving 50-acre Life Estate
- 2002: Historic District listed on State and National Registers of Historic Places for its design
- 2012: Life estate closed
- 2017: Section 111 lease with Northland College
- 2025: Lease terminated with closure of Northland College



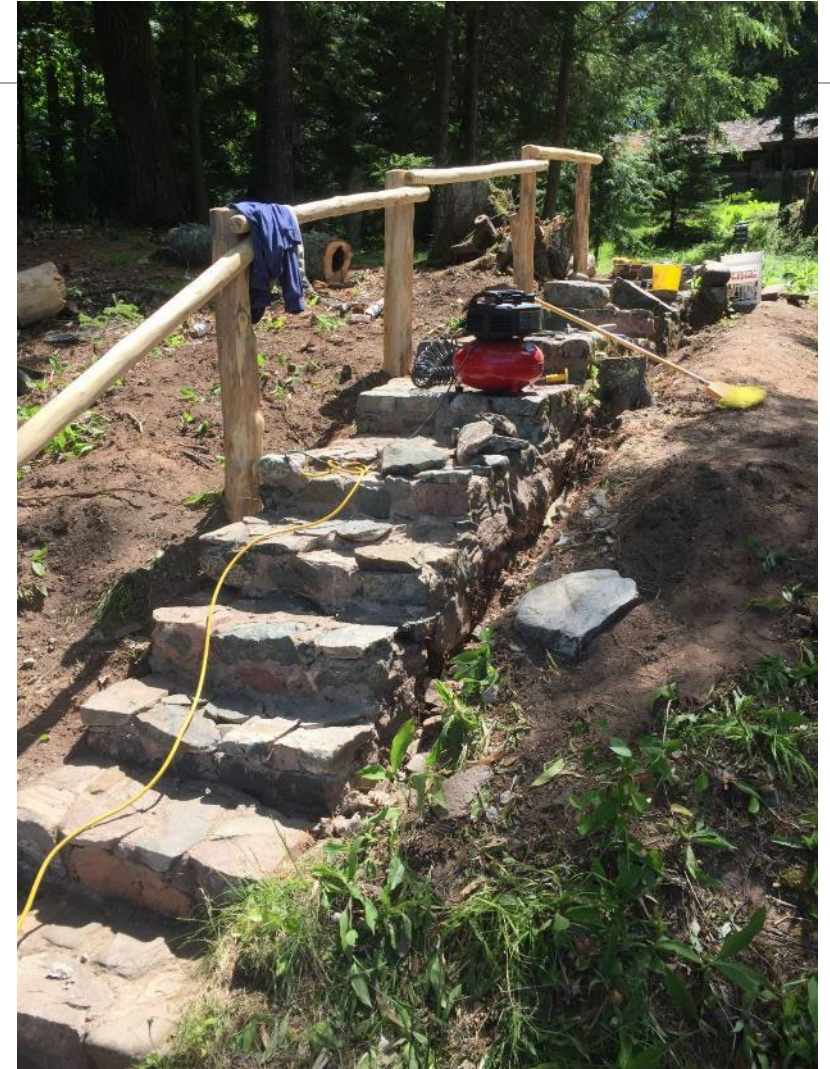
Partnership Network Life Cycle



Where are you currently making significant investments?

Past – Partnerships (2012-2025)

- Northland College
- Lac Courte Ojibwe Community College
- Wisconsin Historical Society
- Cable Natural History Museum
- Student Conservation Association
- Forest Service Passport in Time Volunteer Program
- HistoriCorps



Funding

- Forest Lodge Advisory Council and Endowment
 - Trust For Public Lands
 - Cable Natural History Museum
 - Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
 - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Partnerships

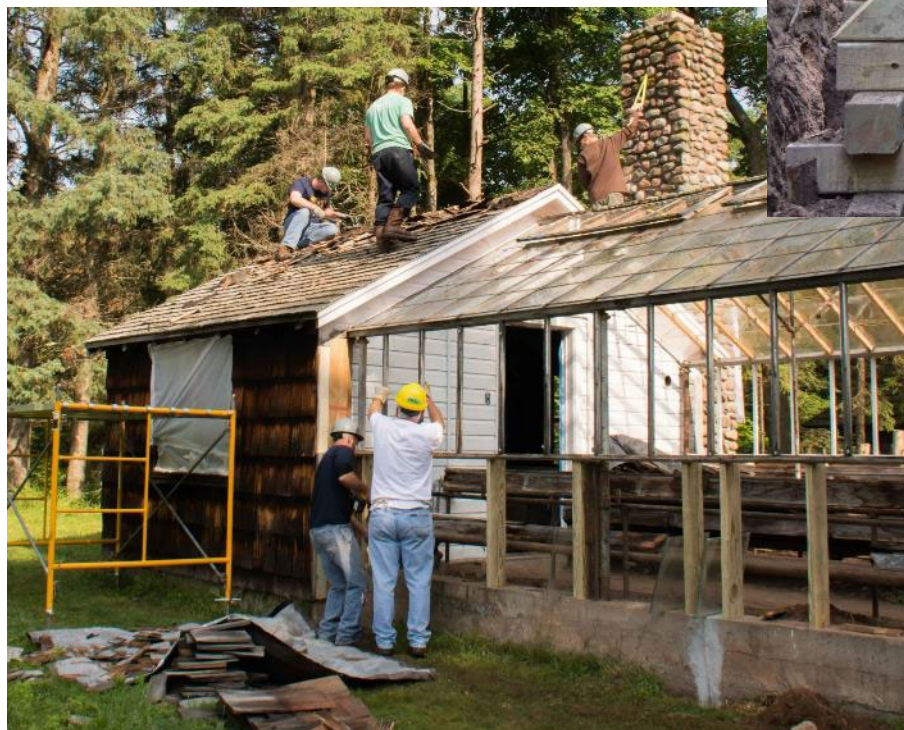
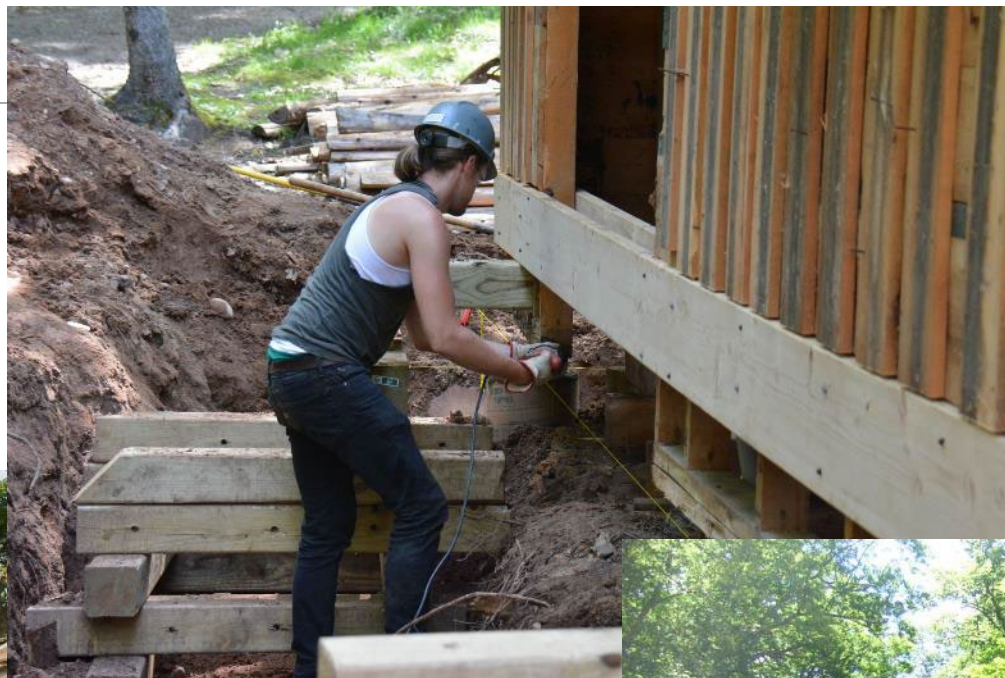


Making Investments





HistoriCorps

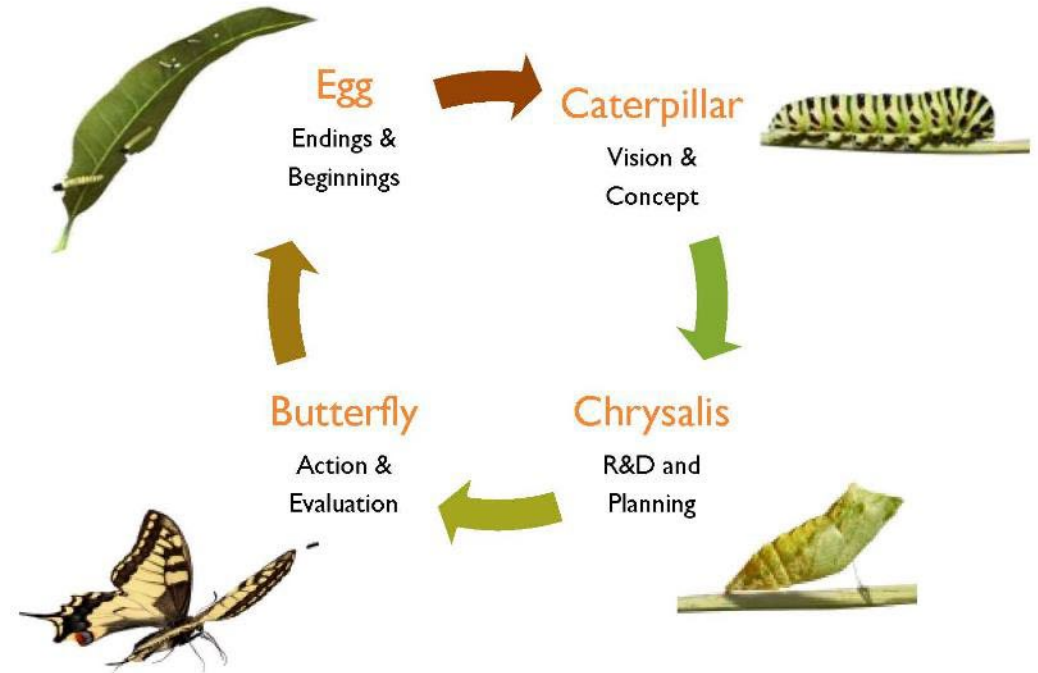


2025 Back to the Beginning

- Lease terminated with closure of Northland College



Partnership Network Life Cycle

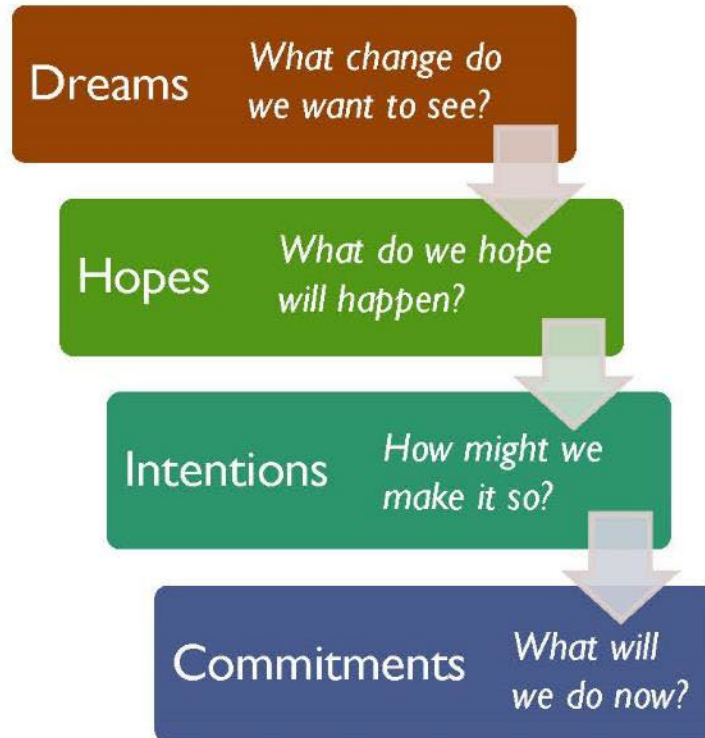


How many times have you gone back to the “egg” stage?

Foundations for Strong Collaboration

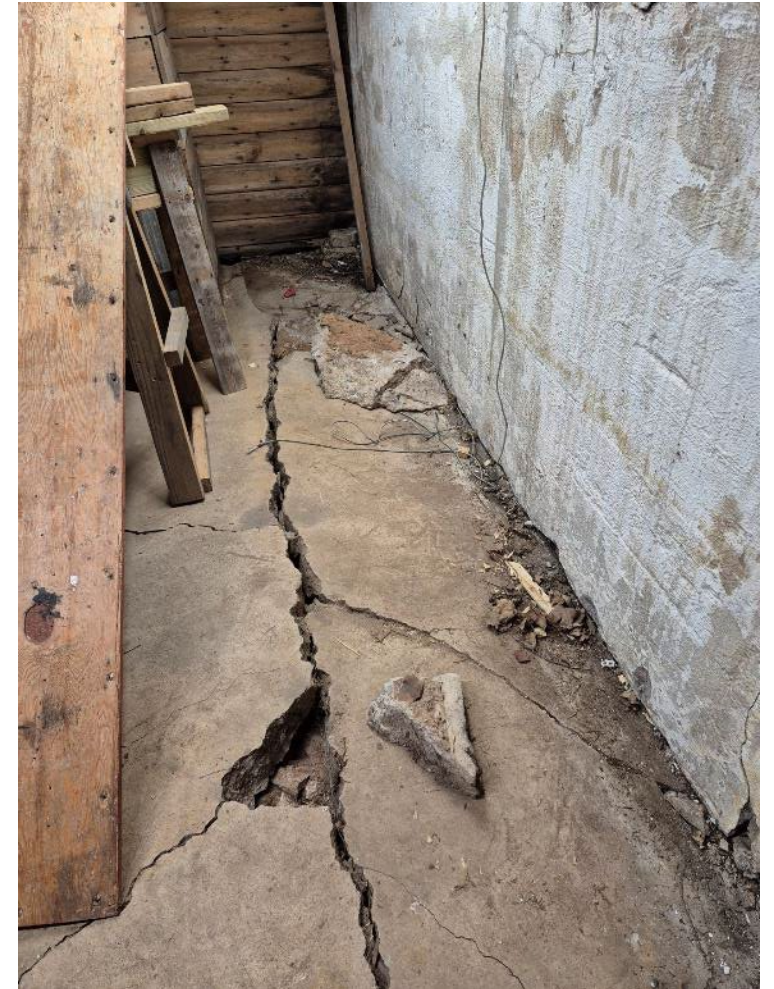


Cate Bradley, NPS
RTCA, retired



Present

- Agreement for programming – Cable Natural History Museum
- Historic Property Management Plan
- HistoriCorps
- Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest



Future – Desires of next lease

- Preserve the historical importance and integrity of the buildings and grounds comprising the Mary Livingston Griggs Historical Special Management Area
- Dedicated to the vision/mission of Forest Lodge and continue to advance the vision/mission
- Protect, preserve, enhance and interpret the natural resources and environment
- Engage the community through outreach activities such as volunteering, programming, and special events.



Future – Desires of next lease

- Provide ongoing maintenance and operations of the buildings and grounds
- Invest in buildings and property
- Ensure public health and safety, security and accessibility
- Operate within a complex partnership environment



Future – When

- Summer of 2026
 - Develop and finalize Request for Proposal
 - Operations at Forest Lodge
- Fall of 2026
 - Public engagement around Request for Proposal
 - Send out Request for Proposal
- Late Fall/Winter 2026/2027
 - Review Requests for Proposals
 - Negotiate new historic use agreement
- Spring 2027
 - New agreement in place



What are some of the limitations that are holding you back right now, how are you working through them?

Questions





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