

Title: St. Croix River Overlook

Location: SE, Sec. 36, T. 44 N., R. 12 W., Minong and Solon Springs Quadrangles. Park in Wayside at edge of river valley just north of Gordon.



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Description: The view to the north and east is of the obviously underfit St. Croix River. Note how wide the valley is in comparison to the size of the stream it contains. Now look directly across the river. Note one clear terrace level and another which is somewhat subdued in the distance.

Significance: The reason the river valley is so wide here is that much larger volumes of water flowed through the St. Croix in times past. The history of the St. Croix, especially in southern portion is very complex and it has carried water from the Mississippi drainage as well as Lake Superior numerous times during Late Wisconsin time (Black, 1974; Wright and Ruhe, 1965). In this area we see the results of drainage from the Lake Superior basin during ice retreat. The dates of this drainage are not clear but when glacier ice blocked the present eastern outlet and lower areas between here and there, water from the basin drained down the St. Croix.

References: Sardeson, 1936