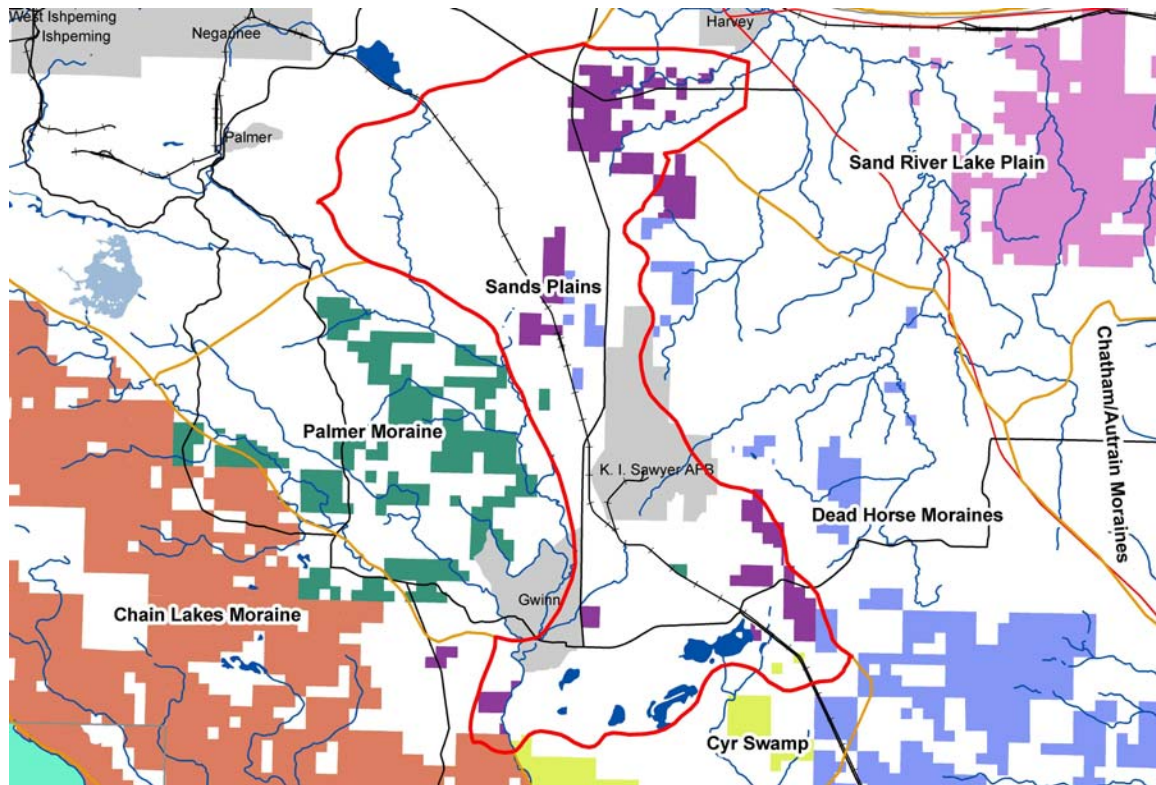


Sands Plains Management Area (32)



Attributes:

- 5,700 Acres of disjunct State Forest Land.
- Landform: Outwash Plains, Some Till-floored Lake Plains to the north east.
- Major Communities: Dry Northern Forest and Dry Mesic Northern Forest.
- Nominal forest fragmentation by agriculture, moderate urban development.
- High Snowfall; no known deer wintering complexes.
- Ownership: mostly small private, significant block of county lands, State Forest 14%, small corporate presence.
- Other: Heavy Recreation use. The Blueberry Ridge Ski Trails and Thunder Valley Horse Trail are located in this area.
- Primary community types: Dry mesic northern forest and dry northern forest.

Major Cover Types:

- Aspen acres total over 1,500 acres (26.4%) of the management area. The significant characteristic of aspen in this management area is the large number of over mature acres (686 acres or 45% is 70 or older). Fifteen percent of the over mature aspen is in Special Conservation Area status.
- Jack pine acres total approximately 1,200 (20.4%) of the management area. There are spikes of jack pine in the 10-19, 40-49, and 70-79 year age classes.

- Red pine acres total approximately 900 (16.1%) of the management area. There are spikes of red pine in the 10-19, 40-49, and 80-89 year age classes.
- Upland hardwoods cover less than 700 acres (11.6%) of the management area, but most acreage is uneven-aged in structure.
- Oak acres total over 500 acres (9.4%) of the management area. Most of the oak is over 80 years old.

Sands Plains (32)			Age Classes (Years)												
Cover Type	%	Total Acres	Age Not Coded	0-9 Yrs	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100+	Uneven Aged
Aspen	26.4%	1,514	0	67	242	129	264	126	0	31	30	557	0	68	0
Jack Pine	20.4%	1,169	0	48	482	76	1	162	14	70	117	48	48	0	103
Red Pine	16.1%	923	0	0	229	0	25	167	0	49	184	198	44	9	18
Upland Hardwoods	11.6%	667	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	0	6	0	0	626
Oak	9.4%	540	0	0	3	0	0	0	85	0	25	171	23	228	5
Grass	4.9%	280	276	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
White Pine	3.4%	195	0	0	12	9	0	0	0	0	25	18	7	6	118
Black Spruce	2.6%	148	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	8	57	49	4	0	15
Non Stocked	1.4%	81	81	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mixed Lowland Conifer	1.3%	72	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	3	30	0
Lowland Brush	0.7%	40	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bog or Muskag	0.6%	33	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spruce-Fir	0.3%	15	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paper Birch	0.2%	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0
Rock	0.2%	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water	0.2%	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Local Name	0.1%	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upland Brush	0.1%	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cedar	0.1%	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Marsh	0.1%	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100.0%	5,726	466	115	972	214	290	485	99	193	447	1,086	129	345	885

Concepts of Management:

- State forest ownership is limited (14%) in this management area. Recreational hunting and timber products demands are high. Early successional types (aspen, jack pine, red pine) are a majority of the forest types (63% of the management area) and the landscape has a history of active timber management. Therefore, timber management, early successional forest types and the associated wildlife habitat conditions will be the dominant management objective within this management area.
- Aspen: Balance age classes on a 50 year rotation. Actively discourage regeneration of poor (dry) site aspen, favoring conversion to jack and red pine instead. Expect a decrease of aspen acreage as over mature stands either succeed or are converted to conifers that are better suited to dry site conditions.
- Jack pine: Balance age classes on a 60 year rotation. Favor larger clearcuts to simulate fire regimes.
- Red pine: The bulk of the red pine in this management area is even-aged and will be managed using classical techniques (final harvest, site prep and replant) on an 80 year

rotation. The uneven-aged red pine will be managed to promote old forest conditions. In these stands red pine will be regenerated on a 150 year rotation using natural methods, i.e. shelterwood and small patch clearcuts.

- Upland Hardwoods:
 - Manage for uneven-aged stand structure on mesic, nutrient medium to rich sites using single tree selection to establish regeneration and release of crop trees. Maintain structural and stand diversity. Enter stands on a 15-20 year entry rotation depending on stand and site conditions.
 - Promote even-aged stand conditions on dry sites and mesic, nutrient poor sites. This will be accomplished using shelterwood or final harvest methods. These stands will be managed on a 60-90 year rotation.
- Oak: Maintain the oak cover type and mast production in this management area. Manage oak on a 160 year rotation. Limit harvest of stands less than 70 years of age.