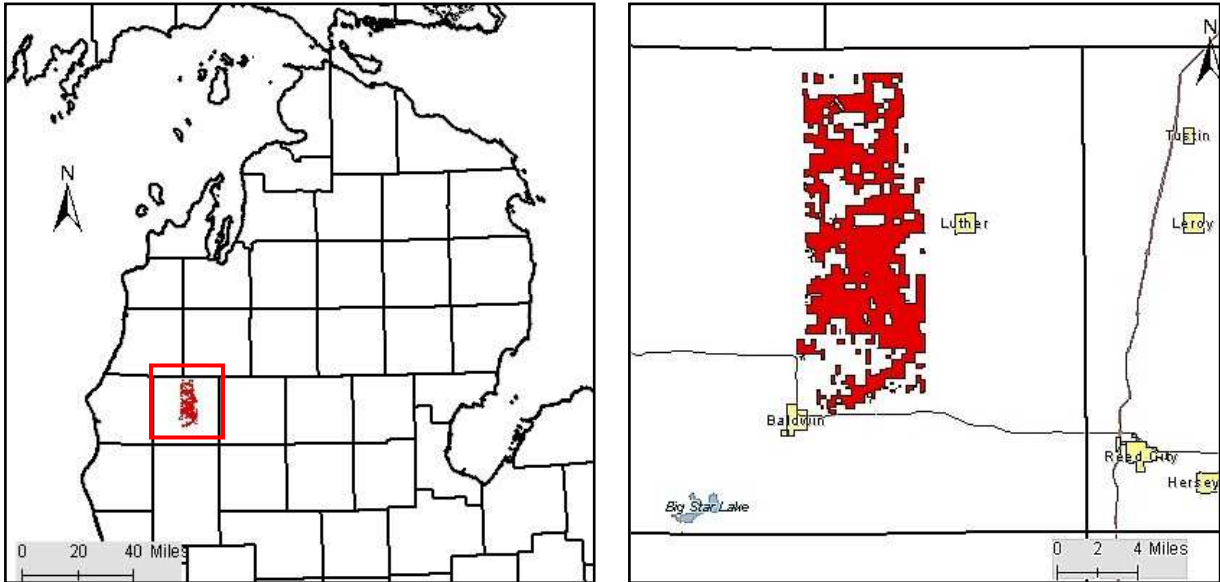


Lake County Outwash Management Area



Attributes

The Lake County Outwash Management Area which contains approximately 40,000 acres of state forest land is located in the center of Lake County just west of the town of Luther and northeast of Baldwin. The primary attributes which were important in identifying this MA include:

- Ecological Classification - The MA falls mostly within the Newaygo Outwash Plain Sub-region of the NLP Ecoregion as classified by Albert (1994).
- Cover Types – Historically this area has been a mixture of cedar swamp, jack pine and jack pine/red pine uplands and oak/pine barrens. Currently, jack pine, oak, aspen and swamp hardwoods cover the majority of the area.
- Landforms – Outwash plain accounts for more almost 80% of the landforms within the management area.
- Social and Economic – Due to the location in proximity to more heavily populated areas of Southern Michigan dispersed hunting is significant. Campgrounds include Bray Creek, Leverentz Lake Rustic and Carrieville. Pathways include the Pine Forest Pathway and the Little Manistee Route which is used for both ORV and snowmobile.
- Ownership size and connectivity – The majority of the state land in this area is composed of concentrated compartments. However, there are isolated private parcels scattered throughout the state land.

Major Cover Types

- Jack Pine – Jack pine covers over 11,500 acres of the management area. Over one-third of the jack pine is in age classes above 50 years. Younger age classes are well represented.

- Oak – The almost 10,000 acres of oak in the management area is composed of black, white and northern pin oak and much of this is of poor quality for timber. While there has been some regeneration, two-thirds of the oak acreage is older than 70 years of age.
- Swamp Hardwoods - More than 5,500 acres of swamp hardwoods are primarily located in the Baldwin-Luther and Voss Swamps.
- Aspen – Of the more than 4,700 acres of aspen, most aspen is of poorer quality for timber. Almost all aspen is less than 50 years of age and very little aspen is older than 50. The small amount of older aspen is most likely inaccessible or otherwise unsuitable for harvest. There is a slight bubble in the 30-39-year age class.
- White Pine – Within the management area almost 1,600 acres are covered by white pine. Although almost all ages classes are well balanced, there is a slightly elevated amount of white pine in the younger age classes.
- Grass/Upland Brush - Upland brush and grass totals approximately 700 acres This is a result of the past management practices or natural processes of fire, frost or other disturbances which create openings in the forest canopy along with maintenance treatments to keep areas open.

Lake County Outwash			Age Class (Years)											Uneven Aged
Cover Type	Acres	%	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100+	
Jack Pine	11,512	29%	1,126	2,552	1,532	1,814	434	997	784	1,189	864	57	0	163
Oak	9,746	25%	771	605	494	609	118	35	151	994	4,087	1,022	354	506
Swamp Hardwoods	5,570	14%	33	303	110	657	81	0	5	140	712	818	44	2,624
Aspen	4,763	12%	57	927	1,161	1,751	509	68	20	159	97	14	0	0
White Pine	1,590	4%	84	276	189	111	361	144	103	78	29	103	34	78
Red Pine	1,520	4%	0	150	534	157	409	247	2	0	0	0	21	0
Cedar	1,222	3%	0	0	0	33	0	0	0	113	70	302	107	597
Grass	708	2%												
Water	148	0%												
Upland Brush	90	0%												
Other Types	2,643	7%												
Total		39,512												

Other Types include: Lowland Brush, Mixed Swamp Conifers, Bog, Marsh, Upland Hardwoods, Lowland Poplar, Hemlock, and Spruce-Fir.

Concepts of Management

- Jack Pine (29% of the MA) – Continue to target older jack pine for harvest, especially in areas affected by jack pine budworm. Jack pine will mostly be regenerated by natural regeneration after harvests with some need for scarification or control of herbaceous ground covers.
- Oak (25% of the MA) – Due to the older age of most oak stands and lack of regeneration, target regeneration through a selection of techniques based on the site characteristics. These techniques may include harvest methods, prescribed burning, and scarification, control of herbaceous groundcovers or retention/introduction of a conifer component to shelter oak.
- Swamp Hardwoods (14% of the MA) – Very little active management will occur in these areas due to access or concerns about damage to soil and water resources.

- Aspen (12% of the MA) - Management should continue to maintain a balanced distribution of aspen at current levels for wildlife habitat and fiber production. Some aspen is most likely inaccessible due to wet ground or other constraints and should be allowed to succeed to other cover types based on habitat suitability. Target accessible aspen in the 60-89 year age classes for regeneration harvests. Target some of the 30-39-year age class for early harvest.
- White Pine (4% of the MA) – Although markets for white pine products are not well developed, where practicable, white pine should be maintained at current levels through selection harvests for species diversity.
- Grass/Upland Brush (2% of the MA) – Continue opening maintenance by prescribed burning or brush removal to maintain upland brush/grass at suitable levels for wildlife.