



## Featured Species Habitat Management Guidance for Upland Sandpiper

**Latin Name:** *Bartramia longicauda*

**Scope:** Upper Peninsula

**Rationale** - *why we value the species and the problem for the species:*

The Upland Sandpiper (UPSA) is listed as a SGCN in Michigan (Michigan DNR 2015) and as a focal species by the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture, with which Michigan is a cooperating partner (Potter et al. 2007). This bird has undergone a long-term statewide decline of on average 2.47% per year between 1966 and 2012, losing 68% of the population over the past 46 years (Sauer et al. 2014). These declines are thought to have been caused by the losses of large contiguous opening complexes due to decreases in the size of timber harvests and increased fire suppression.

**Habitat Need** - *the cause & effect relationship between habitat and species and its primary limiting habitat need:*

The UPSA needs relatively large contiguous and sparsely vegetated opening complexes (Thogmartin et al. 2006,). Although they have territories that range in size from 20-30 acres they rarely occupy sites less than 125 acres (Dechant et al. 2002). UPSA abundance is positively correlated with patch area and inversely correlated with perimeter-area ratio (Helzer and Jelinski, 1999) thus their densities increase as sites become larger and less fragmented.

**Habitat Objectives** - *the treatment or management to address the primary limiting habitat need:*

- 1) Maintain opening complexes of 250 acres or larger (Dechant et al. 2002).
- 2) Open blocks within complexes should be within 1 mile of each other (Dechant et al. 2002).
- 3) Maintain approximately 3,000 acres of permanent openings (Jeske et al. 1976; Aho 2005) on DNR and USFS lands.
- 4) Maintain 2000 acres of temporary openings through burns or clearcuts. Where possible, strive to consolidate patches into larger opening complexes, by creating temporary openings associated with permanent openings. Utilize the compartment review process to schedule jack-pine clear-cuts associated with these permanent openings on a sustainable rotation, schedule harvests adjacent to burns or schedule similarly-aged jack-pine treatments in close proximity to each other.

**Priority Geographic Areas** – *the specific geographic areas where we should focus management for the species:*

The 4 UP Regional State Forest Management Plan Management Areas (Danaher Kingston Plains, Floodwood Plains, Sands Plains MAs, and Maxton Plains), which identify UPSA as a featured species.

**Priority Landscapes** – *the landscape, setting, or cover-type where we should focus management within the areas above:*

Glacial outwash plains, large grassland/wetland openings, savannas with xeric to dry-mesic soils.

**Population Goal** - *the goal for the species, its habitat, or a stakeholder's actions:*

- 1) Maintain or increase the presence of UPSA.
- 2) Maintain or expand openings to attract and provide habitat for this species.

**Evaluation Method** - *the monitoring method to measure progress towards the goal above:*

- 1) Annually assess presence via Michigan Breeding Bird Surveys, and local observations.
- 2) Propose follow-up on cover-type treatments per compartment review process and assess quantity of potential habitat every 5 years.

**Incidental Species** – *other species which may benefit from management for this species:*

Bobolink; eastern meadowlark; and sharp-tailed grouse.

**References** - *citation for documents referenced in this guidance:*

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