

# COMPARTMENT REVIEW RECORD OF CHANGES AND DECISIONS

## Traverse City Forest Management Unit

2015 Year-of-Entry

Location: Stone House, Kalkaska

Date: July 18, 2013

Revised 10/21/2013

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The following documents the changes and decisions made at the Compartment Review to the Inventory Database, Reports, and Compartment Maps presented at Open House, for the Traverse City Forest Management Unit – Traverse City Area Compartment Review. This document is the official record of changes and decisions.

**Attendees:** Jason Stephens, FRD; Scott Throop, FRD; David Lemmien, FRD; Todd Neiss, PRD; Kelly Standerfer, FRD; Steve Crigier, FRD; Pat Cotant, FRD; Steve Griffith, WLD; Craig Allen, FRD; Katie Armstrong, FRD; Donna Hagan, FRD; Patrick Ruppen, FRD; Tim Webb, FRD; Bill Sterrett, FRD; Tom Haxby, FRD; Andrew Krugh, FRD; Keith Kintigh, WLD; Tim Schreiner, PRD

### Comments from Open House and E-Mail

At the Traverse City Open House on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 10 visitors attended and discussed proposed management with local and district staff. One written comment was submitted by Fred Heller in support of continued aspen management.

The Grand Traverse Band (GTB) of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians submitted the following comments: On Compartment 46, that the entire compartment was originally proposed as a BSA by the Biodiversity Planning Team; create and enhance potential for oak savanna along the South Branch in sections with no commercial harvest within 600 feet of the stream or 350 feet of the valley wall. That all compartments which lie between the North and South Branches be designated as old growth and no commercial harvest in wetlands, especially riparian wetlands. For Compartment 55 the comments by the GTB were: no commercial harvest in wetlands or within 300 feet of riparian corridors. Also, there were comments to not chip woody materials so that they may remain for coarse woody debris. There was a question as to why pin oak is removed in stand 29. For stand 75 it was suggested that there not be any chipping and that natural regeneration is allowed as opposed to planting. For Compartment 16 the GTB suggested for stand 24 to leave coarse woody debris, for stand 32 to keep at least 200 feet from stream and that there be no chipping.

Per Delbert Johnson, I'm submitting brief comments in support of the recommendations contained in the 2015 compartment reviews. I reviewed all of the Traverse City Unit documents. At the Traverse City Field Office Open House I had the opportunity to discuss with Pat Ruppen the management proposal to use trenching and hand planting of red pine, particularly in stands where you are trying to promote oak regeneration. These oak – aspen – pine complexes are excellent areas for hunting grouse and woodcock. It is really difficult to walk through these stands after they have been trenched. We discussed the possibility of using a rolling chopper to accomplish the same objective of exposing mineral soil for subsequent hand planting of red pine. I encouraged him to try treating at least one of the areas using a rolling chopper and evaluate it as an alternative to trenching. I realize that oak is difficult specie to regenerate and am interested in learning more about the relative success of this treatment.

At the Kalkaska Open House on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 13 people attended and discussed proposed management. There were no written comments.

Changes to be made: *(This is the record of official changes to the maps and database).*

**Compartment 1**

Stands 48, 38 – Add treatments as habitat cuts

**Compartment 6**

Stand 25 – Add a comment to use trail protection specifications and to avoid hauling in the winter on the snowmobile trail.

Stands 10, 52 – Add treatment for old orchard sites for maintenance and possibly planting in old farm field.

Stands 69, 73, 74, 89, 94 – Add treatment for opening maintenance and invasive species control.

Stand 53 – Add a proposed start date to treatment.

**Compartment 16**

Stands 84, 90 – Move up salvage sales to this year.

Stand 31 – Add treatment for Lowland shrub, prescribe winter cut for regeneration

Aspen sales will be in the winter and will need to be cognizant of snowmobile trail.

Stand 49 – Will be used for landing for sale in stand 44.

Stand 17 – Will be used as a landing for sale in stand 24. Add a comment to keep logging equipment off of snowmobile trail to the west.

Stand 44 - Use signage for snowmobile trail which will be used for hauling.

Stands 84, 62 – Add trail protection comments per snowmobile trail.

Stands 6, 7, 12, 14, 17, and 21 – Add treatments for wildlife opening maintenance.

See comments above from GTB.

**Compartment 24**

Stands 2, 13 – Will be used for landing, especially south end and will be acceptable to remove trees as this will aid opening maintenance.

Stand 4 – Mow and plant rye to set back bracken fern, eventually prescribe burn.

Stands 3, 6 – Treatment is one treatment and each stand needs to be a separate treatment.

Stands 2, 4, 11, 13 – Opening maintenance, eventually plant

Stands 44, 56, and 40 – Hand fell and opening maintenance.

### **Compartment 33**

Stands 23, 4, 1 – Add trail protection specifications to comments.

Stand 43 – Add treatment to re-establish food plot

Stand 17 – Add treatment for invasive control, plant

Stand 61 – Add treatment for opening maintenance

Stands 51, 38 – Add treatment for hand fell, opening maintenance

Stand 52 – Add treatment for tag alder, regeneration if needed.

Stand 24 – Add treatment as a habitat cut.

### **Compartment 46**

Stands 65, 36 – Add comments to maintain brush piles, shortwood

Stand 102 – Add comments to leave some slash piles including tops.

Stand 74 – Add comment about shore-to-shore trail in treatment.

Stand 148 – Add comment to chop and plant red pine.

Stands 74, 102 – Remove limiting factors.

Stands 115, 123, 117, 130 – Remove SCA and seek field coordinator approval.

See comments above from GTB.

### **Compartment 55**

Stand 122, north part – Change management objective to oak/pine

Stand 122, south part – Change management objective to upland shrub.

Stand 113 – Add trail protection specifications.

See comments above from GTB.

### **Compartment 103**

Stands 11 16, 17, 19, 25, 26, 27, 28 - Selectively remove woody vegetation in order to maintain open land habitat. Important trees to retain would be scattered mature oak, pine, or cherry, fruiting shrubs, and a scattering of other trees and shrubs. Should eventually burn to stimulate any existing seed bank and encourage existing native vegetation. Augment with additional native seeds/seedling and/or appropriate pasture mix as needed to diversify site for wildlife forage and cover. Burn rotationally to maintain barrens dynamic, or mechanically treat if burning is not a possibility. Remove invasive species mechanically or with herbicide treatment.

Stands 108, 111, 112 - Maintain as needed with mowing, seeding, fertilizing, burning, or removal of woody encroachment.

### Compartment 105

Stands 48 & 50 – Burn these stands at least once per entry period in order to set back woody encroachment, increase species diversity, stimulate native herbaceous vegetation, promote berry production, and recycle nutrients. Second choice would be to mow or brush hog.

Stands 9 & 13 – These two stands were part of one non-forested stand that was originally created by Wildlife Division staff in 1977. Remove woody encroachment, mainly aspen, to restore opening. This will most likely take a brush hog or mulching drum. Maintain as needed with brush hogging, mowing, seeding of natives or pasture mix, fertilizing, burning, or removal of woody encroachment.

Stands 35, 36, 40 – These stands are most likely the result of cold air drainage and stand 36 was previously typed as upland brush. Utilize adjacent aspen sales to remove selected woody encroachment and restore upland brush community. Leave scattered mast producing trees and shrubs and/or conifers for wildlife food and cover. Then maintain as needed with brush hogging, mowing, seeding of natives or pasture mix, fertilizing, burning, or removal of woody encroachment.

### Compartment 112

Stands 26 & 30 – Burn to encourage native grasses. Also, may need to hand fell some woody encroachment prior to burning. An alternative to burning these stands would be mowing.

Stand 31 – This treatment is an Out of YOE salvage treatment due to dead oak and maple and has already been sold.

Stand 24 – Add comment about trail on seasonal county road.

### Compartment 121

Stand 4 – This stand was previously typed as an upland brush community, an important habitat type providing mast producing shrubs and trees, as well as grasses and forbs in a matrix providing large amounts of edge, which promotes wildlife use. Woody encroachment in to these cool air drainages should be set back to maintain the semi-open community. Selectively remove woody vegetation in order to maintain open land habitat. Important trees to retain would be scattered mature oak, pine, or cherry, fruiting shrubs, and a scattering of other trees and shrubs. Maintain as needed with mowing, seeding, fertilizing, burning, or removal of woody encroachment.

Stands 17 & 22 - Woody encroachment in to these cool air drainages should be set back to maintain the semi-open community. Selectively remove woody vegetation in order to maintain open land habitat. Important trees to retain would be scattered mature oak, pine, or cherry, fruiting shrubs, and a scattering of other trees and shrubs. Maintain as needed with mowing, seeding, fertilizing, burning, or removal of woody encroachment.

Stands 47 & 53 – Please utilize harvest operations to create some as much as possible (approximately 5-10 logs per acre) coarse woody debris (CWD), preferably via timber sale specs. This would be a good place to not chip tops.

Stand 48 – WLD would like to propose a habitat cut prescription in the northern part of stand 48 of about 2 acres. The potential area would be in the NE SW Sec. 36 just off of Wishbone Road SE. “Hand fell some of the deciduous component (aspen, maple, ash, etc) and some conifer to produce horizontal coarse woody debris, promote vertical cover in the form of regenerating deciduous species, and produce woody browse that will be available to a variety of herbivores during winter.”

Stand 46 – Refine treatment area in IFMAP.  
Stand 28 – Add comment to buffer trail

Stand 28, 46 – Have a site visit to decide direction for oak management.

Stand 28 – Per decisions made through a post-review site visit change treatment prescription to: Create matrix of oak barrens/savanna and mixed oak/pine types. Use "mark to cut" treatment to maintain some oak savannas, thin oak in areas of higher BA and reduce canopy cover in preparation for under planting red pine. Specifically, follow DNR guidelines for "Oak on Medium Quality Sites." Near pockets of adequate regeneration (oak, red maple or white pine), thin or remove most of oak to release regeneration. Where there is inadequate regeneration and steep slopes (or a desire to maintain savanna), shelterwood oak to 50% canopy closure. During marking and cruising, identify areas suitable for under planting red pine, opening canopy more if necessary. Residual BA will be variable but may range from 10 to 80. Removals should favor leaving white oak (for its resistance to oak wilt).

Stand 46 – Per decisions made through a post-review site visit change prescription to: Stand is gradually transitioning from mostly oak to a mixture of oak, pine and other species, but there is a desire to maintain some oak component in the stand. Treatment will attempt to release existing advanced regeneration and achieve some oak stump sprout regeneration before it is too old to sprout. Treatment should be "mark to cut" following DNR guidelines for "Oak on Medium Quality Sites." Near pockets of adequate regeneration (oak, red maple or white pine), thin or remove most of oak to release regeneration. Where there is inadequate regeneration, shelterwood oak to 50% canopy closure. Removals should favor leaving white oak (for its resistance to oak wilt). Residual BA will be variable but may range from 30 to 80.

Stand 48 – Per decision made through a post review site visit change prescription to: Remove some of the deciduous component especially aspen and red maple leaving some of cut timber as coarse woody debris. Specifically, leave top stick and top of each cut tree. Do not chip. Cut in winter to produce woody browse for a variety of herbivores.

Other Comments:

Would be ok to slightly expand redline to include merchantable aspen. Include spec to drop redline trees when finished cutting this unit. Includes mostly aspen so could probably be combined with Stands 45 and 47.

#### Compartment 124

Stand 3 & 8 – Concur with FMD treatment. Post timber sale maintain shrub community as needed with mowing, seeding, fertilizing, burning, or removal of woody encroachment.

Stand 37 – Concur with FMD treatment. Post timber sale maintain shrub community as needed with mowing, seeding, fertilizing, burning, or removal of woody encroachment.

Stand 54 – Concur with FMD treatment to commercially harvest some of the timber. WLD would prefer the Management Objective be to maintain upland brush community, and leave scattered mast producing trees and shrubs and/or conifers for wildlife food and cover. This is an important opening that provides an excellent edge component between an upland shrub community and a large deer yard. The opening provides herbaceous forage, as well as rubus spp., blueberry, juneberry, black and choke cherry. This stand was prescribed for opening maintenance during the last cycle, but due to budget and personnel issues, the prescription was not completed. Post timber sale maintain shrub community as needed with mowing, seeding, fertilizing, burning, or removal of woody encroachment.

Stand 42 – This stand is a Wildlife field that is planted to rye annually and will be converted to a perennial pasture mix. Renew this prescription. Plant to rye for several years and then switch to an approved pasture

mix or native herbaceous planting. Maintain as needed with mowing, seeding, fertilizing, burning, or removal of woody encroachment.

Stand 39 – This stand is slowly closing in with woody encroachment. Utilize adjacent timber to remove select woody encroachment. Leave scattered mast producing trees and shrubs and/or conifers for wildlife food and cover.

Stand 66 – This stand is an old Wildlife field that was planted to rye and then pasture mix. Renew this prescription. Plant to rye for several years and then switch to an approved

Discussion of road access as to whether we can fix road. If we cannot do timber sale because of road/access then we will need to add a site condition. Possibly use RDR money if this is a priority for unit.

### **Compartment 136**

Add 40 acre out parcel that was acquired to inventory.

Stand 82 – Add trail protection specifications.

Stands 2, 17, 30 – Add treatments for opening maintenance, stands 2,17 may possibly be for prescribed burning.

### **Compartment 141**

Stand 48 – Change management objective to non-forested – upland shrub.

Stands 5, 6 - Add treatment for woody encroachment removal, plant herbaceous.

Stands 38, 42 – Add treatment for woody encroachment removal.

Stand 27 – Add trail protection specifications to treatment.

Site visit for SW portion of compartment including stand 12 to discuss options.

### **Compartment 149**

SCA Removal – south portion of compartment, mainly older oak – Seek field coordinator approval.

Stands 44, 31 – Add trail protection specifications.

Stand 1 – “U” type add treatment for opening maintenance

Stand 35 – Add treatment for opening maintenance.

Stand 14 – Per post-review site visit decision: Will be clearcut with reserves and planted to red pine.

Stands 7 & 12 – Per post-review site visit decision: Will be will be burned or mechanically treated to keep in a semi-open state.

Stand 6 – Per post-review site visit decision: Poorer quality areas will be clearcut and planted to red pine. Also try to connect these areas to stand 14 for a more contiguous block. Rest of stand 6 - All aspen and red maple will be taken along with thinning the oak, but will be held for 5 years because of gypsy moth concerns. And some areas will be left untreated especially around the ORV trail and stand 7 & 12.

Stands 31 & 44 – Per post-review site visit decision: Will be treated as originally prescribed but will be held for 5 years because of gypsy moth concerns.

#### **Compartment 166**

Stands 2, 5 - Add treatment of mow for opening maintenance.

Stand 47 – Add treatment for burn or mow.

Stands 22, 34, 27,30,46,43 – Add treatment for grass planting.

#### **Compartment 222**

Stands 5 & 8 - Burn rotationally to maintain barrens dynamic, set back woody encroachment, and to stimulate any existing seed bank and encourage existing native vegetation. Mechanically treat encroachment as needed to promote barrens-like habitat. Augment with additional native seeds/seedling as needed to diversify site for wildlife forage and cover. Remove invasive species mechanically or with herbicide treatment. Maintain as needed with mowing, seeding of native vegetation or appropriate pasture mixture, fertilizing, burning, or removal of woody encroachment.

Stands 26 & 47 - These stands will be treated similarly to stand 5.

Stand 6 – Drop treatment

Stand 5 - Note that trail is actually edge of burn area.

#### **Out of Year of Entry Decisions**

##### **Compartment 3**

Close off to vehicle access which is on the horseback trail. Illegal motorized access and excessive trash problems.

##### **Compartment 41**

Stand 164 – Ash and beech salvage. Already sold for harvest next month.

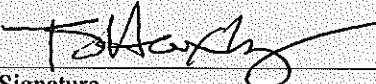
##### **Compartment 140**

Stands 5, 8 – Red pine 80 years old. Previously prescribed as a crown thinning. Change to a overstory removal with reserves. Retention is large future legacy red pine over 20" dbh. Leave understory oak.

As the Compartment Review Meeting Facilitator, I certify that the above changes have been agreed to.

Tom Haxby  
Name

Inventory and Planning Spec.  
Title

  
Signature

10/21/2013  
Date