

# COMPARTMENT REVIEW RECORD OF CHANGES AND DECISIONS

## Traverse City Forest Management Unit

### 2016 Year-of-Entry

**Location: Stone House, Kalkaska**

**Date: August 7, 2014**

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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:** David Lemmien, FRD; 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; Keith Kintigh, WLD; Jenny McGregor; FRD, Kerry Fitzpatrick; WLD, Margaret Studer; FRD, Andrew Krugh; FRD

### Comments from Open House and E-Mail

At the Traverse City Open House on July 23, 52 people attended and discussed proposed management.

The Grand Traverse Band (GTB) of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians submitted the following comments:

- Concerns were expressed about aspen harvests stating the need to keep harvests below 10 acres, leave cover areas for wildlife, retain downed woody debris, increasing in-stand diversity, edge effect and leaving openings in aspen and jack pine stands.
- The GTB expressed the following concerns about riparian corridors: “Riparian corridors along lakes and streams need increased buffer widths to provide additional coarse woody debris recruitment in-stream, large woody debris on the riparian interface, stream shading, wider wildlife travel corridors, increase habitat for furbearers, and a longer connection of older age class forest types mixed with younger age classes created by natural disturbance.”
- Concerns were expressed about the prevalence of chipping tops on sales and the GTB would prefer that tops are left for cover, woody debris and wildlife habitat.

In addition, specific comments have been submitted by the GTB on compartments 7,17,26,43 and 155 and these are listed by compartment below.

Comments continued next page:

Curt Petersen of Traverse City provided the following comments on Compartment 43:

- Recreational use needs to also recognize the Iceman trail from Kalkaska as this single day event has the largest positive financial impact for a one day even in the Vasa forest area.
- Stand 46 – Due to the Vasa trail and single-track mountain bike trail recreational importance, this area should not be clearcut, but should only be considered for moderate selective cutting. There should be no cutting within 30 yards of any recreational trails.
- Stand 49 - Due to the Vasa trail and single-track mountain bike trail recreational importance, this area should not be clearcut, but should only be considered for moderate selective cutting. There should be no cutting within 30 yards of any recreational trails.
- Stand 53 - There should be no cutting within 30 yards of the Vasa ski trail.
- Stand 89 – There should be no cutting within 30 yards of the Vasa single track trail.
- Stand 45 - There should be no cutting within 30 yards of the Vasa single track trail.
- Stand 64 for fall 2014 harvesting. Get input from local recreational groups such as X100 mountain bike race group.

In addition, it was suggested that future plans should consider input from the Vasa Ski Club, Cherry Capital Cycling Club, International Mountain Biking Association, Vasa.org, Grand Traverse Hiking Club, Iceman and others.

Charlene Abernathy commented that the state land around the Vasa trail should not be harvested. She noted that Acme Creek is very sensitive and expressed concerns whether adequate protection is present.

An e-mail was sent by Kyle Rorah in support of aspen and early successional management for wildlife habitat.

Marcie Timmins, Acme Township Parks and Recreation Chair wrote that the township is undertaking an invasive species management program and wanted to know how the state plans on controlling invasive species. She also wanted to know whether there were plans to partner with local schools on tree plantings for Arbor Day and finally she expressed concern about cutting near and uphill from Acme Creek.

An e-mail was sent by Susan Welsh of Lake Ann opposed to “mass logging” of forests in NW Michigan due to the impact on tourism generated by forest users and her concern about the loss of “old growth”. An e-mail in response was sent by Tim Webb. These comments refer to future sales in Compartment 11 which is in another Year of Entry.

Laurie Madison of Lake Ann sent an e-mail in opposition to planned harvesting near her home on Wildwood Road. These comments refer to future sales in Compartment 11 which is in another Year of Entry.

Stan Brossard of Williamsburg provided comments on Compartment 42, which is a 2019 Year of Entry. He expressed interest in seeing the area around the Headwaters Trail managed delicately with single tree selection used as a last resort and expressed opposition to clearcutting in this area

At the Kalkaska Open House on July 24, 14 people attended and discussed proposed management. There were no written comments.

**General Comments:** Meeting began with the reading of public comments from both email and the Open House as well as written comments submitted by the Grand Traverse Band (Tom Callison). MSU professor David McFarland and about a dozen forestry students attended the first half of the meeting.

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

### **Compartment 7**

GTB Written Comments:

- Stand 83 - No harvest, Monitor for potential growth and longer rotation. Evaluate the longer growth for natural stand replacement, and vegetative diversity.
- Stands 100, 16 - Leave stands un-harvested to allow for a more natural condition on the N. Branch of Platte River.
- Keep aspen clear cuts less than 10 acres and increase edge effect, leave tops and drumming logs.
- Massasauga rattler found on this compartment on Indian Hill Rd.

Compartment Review:

Add a shortwood spec. to stands 16, 18, 39, and 51 for more coarse woody debris in these stands for wildlife and associated interests.

Pending issue: Stand 24 is within the ERA/DHA (Ecological Reference Area/Dedicated Habitat Area currently under review statewide and we will keep as proposed until further direction is received.

### **Compartment 17**

Numbers don't seem to be adding to up to what Craig has added for Compartment 17. (Could be that updates were not made or that the status was not correct). There was also some discussion about moving the rotation age to 60 but as long as good documentation can be made for lengthening bigtooth aspen for market considerations we will likely keep the rotation age at 50.

Update site conditions on map.

Clarify wildlife prescriptions, specifically: When planned wildlife prescriptions occur concurrently with planned forest management operations, the Forester and Wildlife Biologist should discuss and agree on a plan to move forward.

## **Compartment 26**

### GTB Comments:

- By and large not too much to comment on this compartment.
- Leave coarse woody debris on site without chipping. Salvage harvest ash trees is fine, just leave the tops and several trees for snags.

### Compartment Review:

- Stand 17 - Add comments to address the “BVT” corridor.
- Clarify wildlife prescriptions, specifically: When planned wildlife prescriptions occur concurrently with planned forest management operations, the Forester and Wildlife Biologist should discuss and agree on a plan to move forward.

## **Compartment 35**

### Manistee Plains MA Comments:

Currently 93 acres are prescribed. There are 31 acres in the 50-59 age class (meets rotation as well as harvest target guidance) not prescribed. An additional 79 acres in the 40-49 age class should also be prescribed to meet the target guidance. Pat Cotant will expand aspen where possible when setting up sales.

Stand 153 – Add road, well pad and cover type (A3) to map.

## **Compartment 43**

### GTB Written Comments:

- We have a real problem with savanna prescription when a prescribed fire is essential for the successful outcome of the prescription and it is not accomplished. If you are going to use fire to retard red maple growth and don't burn it, then you generally get a growth of red maple defeating the purpose. Don't do that.
- Use prescribed fire to regenerate blueberry and other ground forbs.
- Suppress red maple with prescribed fire.
- Keep the jack pine and quit planting red pine on a jack pine site.
- Retain older age oak for shelter and snags and leave mid rotation oak for seed trees.
- No Chipping

## Compartment Review:

- Noted that this MA of which this compartment is part of, is falling short of plan goal for aspen and this is in part due to factor limited stands which are being held this YOE and will planned for harvest in the next entry.
- Boardman Plains MA notes: Pat Ruppen is planning a larger harvest for the next year of entry for stands 87,60, 73, 61 and 39 due to access, terrain and current age of stand, these stands are factor limited due to access and vasa pathway. Compartment 155, Katie states that not of merchantable quality, stands 39 and 75, small diameters. Compartment 168, stands 108 and 109 (Donna) are still filling in the U and are not ready for harvest.
- The Boardman Plains MA Plan calls for 300 acres of final harvest Northern Hardwoods. Scott will verify if this reference to Northern Hardwoods is supposed to be for Oak.
- Pat Ruppen is confused on where this is coming from, he is already thinning stand 64 and stand 99 is factor-limited. (Scott is looking into this, will run both the oak and the Northern Hardwoods.

### **Compartment 57**

No changes

Compartment 57 older pines were discussed at pre-review and the red pine will not be able to be harvested or re-planted due to heavy advanced oak understory. The focus should be on removing the high-risk oak and continuing the pine oak community, but it will likely not be reflected as red pine acres in the plan.

### **Compartment 109**

- Stand 20 - Fell boundary marked trees with "X" into adjacent lowland stand for wildlife habitat
- Stands 26 and 30 - create SCA for old CCC camp
- Stand 69 - remove comment on replanting
- Note: Follow up on land disposal along Sunset Trail

### **Compartment 116**

We can pick up remaining acres later in the planning cycle as more of the 30-39 age class matures into the 40-49 age class. In reference to this comment, Katie felt these stands were too immature, non-merchantable at this time.

Stand 68 - Reduce treatment size within 25% allowable limit, if desired, at time of set up of the sale.

### **Compartment 119**

- Stand 52 - Nominate for disposal
- Stands 32 and 40 - submit survey request for the set-up of these stands.

### **Compartment 127**

- Stands 1, 2 and 3 - Follow up with SHPO regarding CCC camp.
- Stand 48 (north end) - Work with wildlife to install a gate.
- Consider a reciprocal easement with landowner in section 32 and put in survey request.

### **Compartment 139**

No changes

### **Compartment 152**

No Changes

### **Compartment 155**

GTB Comments:

- Stand 10 - Do not clear-cut in order to replace with red pine. Do not chip this stand. As an alternative, clear-cut for oak or better yet, leave oak for shelter wood and use prescribed fire.
- Stand 13- OK
- Stand 16 - Do not harvest just to replace with red pine, no chipping. Alternative, is to clear-cut, leave the tops and burn in a year.
- Stand 25 - Do not clear-cut to replace with red pine. Cut it, burn it and let it grow.
- Stands 34, 36, 64, 73, 80, 90, 4 - OK
- Stand 78- Stream buffers are questionable; 200 meter beyond valley walls and flood plain at bank-full are more appropriate.

Compartment Review:

- Stand 28 - Shrink treatment area to exclude stream buffer/site condition.
- Stands 2, 3, 12, 67, 70 – Make sure that wildlife treatments show on map.

**Compartment 168**

No Changes

**Compartment 245**

- Stand 94 - Change treatment to seed tree
- Stand 58 - Add wildlife treatments to plant forage crops in gaps of aspen regeneration.

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

Tom Haxby  
Name

Inventory and Planning Specialist  
Title

  
Signature

8/19/14  
Date