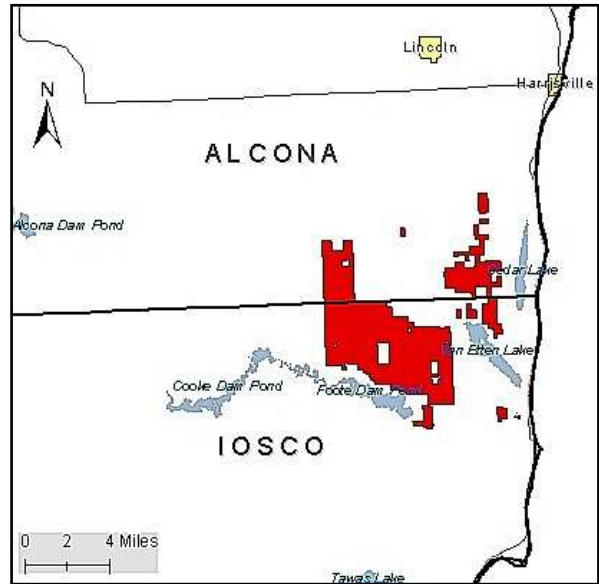


## Wurtsmith Management Area



### Attributes

The Wurtsmith Management Area is located near Lake Huron in Iosco and Alcona Counties in and has approximately 22,000 acres of State Forest land. The primary attributes which were important in identifying this MA include:

- Ecological Classification - The MA straddles the Standish and Onaway sub-regions of the NLP Ecoregion as classified by Albert (1994).
- Cover Types – Frequent fires influenced the historical upland vegetation dominated by a mix of red, white, and jack pines and oak. Lowland vegetation previously consisted of cedar, tamarack and other lowland species. Current vegetation is oak, jack pine, aspen, cedar, and relatively inaccessible lowland cover types.
- Landforms – This MA is on the east side of the ecoregion near Lake Huron and the area in Alcona County is dune and swale complex.
- Ownership size and connectivity – The State Forest land in this MA is concentrated into two blocks isolated from other areas of state forest land.
- Cultural – The lower part of the AuSable River flows along the south side of the MA. Van Etten and Cedar Lakes are nearby. The former Wurtsmith Air Force base, now a commercial facility, is near this MA.
- Social and Economic – This MA borders federal land – the Huron-Manistee National Forest and the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base and bombing range. The State Forest land in this MA may eventually be considered as part of a land consolidation agreement with the federal government. High visibility areas present visual management constraints.

### Major Cover Types

- Oak – There are about 7,800 acres of oak occurring as a mixture of pin and black oak mixed with jack pine. The age structure is unbalanced with over half of the acres more than 80

years old. Although regeneration harvests have been successful, areas of older oak are declining rapidly.

- Jack Pine – Most of the age classes on the 3,400 acres of jack pine acres under the age of 60 are well balanced, indicating recent intensive management. Approximately 25% of the jack pine is over age 60.
- Aspen – The age class distribution in the 2,700 acres of aspen is well balanced, with only 180 acres being older than the normal rotational age of 60.
- Cedar and Swamp Hardwoods – There are about 3,800 acres of cedar and swamp hardwoods, most of it in older age classes and considered inoperable due to poor access.

Wurtsmith			Age Class (Years)										
Cover Type	Acres	%	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100+
Oak	7,752	36%	437	651	1,223	339	112	150	215	525	1,388	2,165	486
Jack Pine	3,440	16%	378	719	583	246	198	473	375	415	7	0	46
Aspen	2,717	12%	50	737	605	459	346	178	64	113	4	0	0
Cedar	2,421	11%	0	0	3	40	0	0	0	0	24	1,694	660
Swamp Hardwoods	1,356	6%	0	26	72	57	0	29	0	351	376	220	161
White Pine	663	3%	0	219	182	51	20	10	8	0	0	95	64
Red Pine	374	2%	0	0	37	76	34	15	31	29	31	28	79
Grass	245	1%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Water	164	1%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Upland Brush	5	0%	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Types	2,603	12%											

Total 21,740

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

**Concepts of Management**

- Oak (36% of the MA) – Clearcut older stands to accelerate replacement of oak through regeneration.
- Cedar and Swamp Hardwoods (17% of the MA) - On selected sites, conduct regeneration cuttings in a manner that will not adversely impact wetland soils or encourage deer browse.
- Jack Pine (16% of the MA) – Target stands at or above the rotation age of 60 for regeneration harvests while maintaining jack pine acreage.
- Aspen (12% of the MA) – Maintain the acreage of aspen while targeting stands in the 70-79 year age class for regeneration harvests.