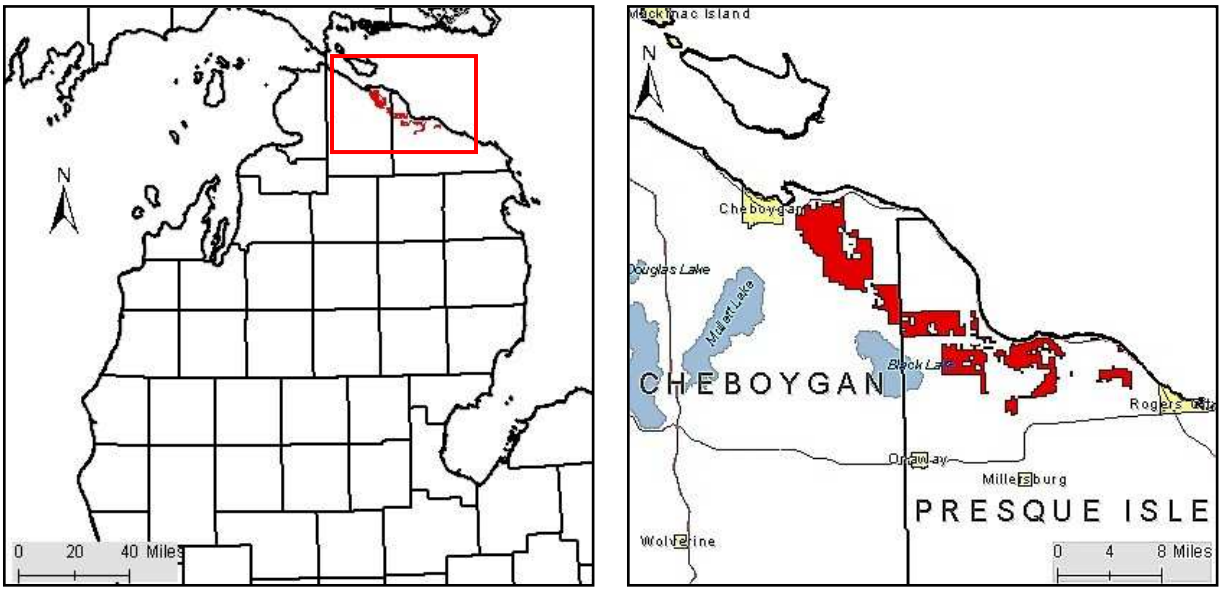
Hammond Bay Lake Plain Management Area



Attributes

The Hammond Bay Lake Plain Management Area is located along the north Lake Huron shore of in Cheboygan and Presque Isle counties and has approximately 40,000 acres of state-owned land. The primary attributes which were important in identifying this MA include:

- Ecological Classification - This MA falls within the Cheboygan sub-region of the NLP Ecoregion as classified by Albert (1994). This area has high quality fens along the Lake Huron shoreline.

- Landforms – The dominant landform consists of sandy lake plain over limestone bedrock near the surface. Like other sand lake plains, much of the topography is a series of beach ridges and adjacent wet depressions. These dune and swale complexes are well developed east of Cheboygan and along Hammond Bay.

- Cover Types – The current vegetation is mostly aspen, red pine, balsam poplar, oak and swamp types with 35% in relatively inaccessible lowland cover types.

- Cultural – The MA includes the Black Mountain Forest Recreation Area, Orchard Lake Grouse Management Area, Ocqueoc Falls on the Ocqueoc River and the Cheboygan State Park.

- Social – The state land is a traditional recreation area for the towns of Rogers City and Cheboygan with some private hunt clubs adjacent to the state forest land.

- Ownership size and connectivity – The state land in this MA is concentrated.

Major Cover Types

- Aspen - One fourth of the 11,000 acres are covered by aspen with approximately 20% of aspen in the 60+ year age classes considered inoperable due to poor access.

- Red Pine - Most of the 8,000 acres of red pine is over 50 years old with the 80 – 89 year age class having the greatest number of acres. Most of the red pine (and jack pine) is of natural origin and will regenerate naturally.

- Lowland Poplar – The majority of lowland poplar is aspen that grows on wetter sites along with balsam poplar, and other associated species. The amount of acres older than 50 years of age are indicative of poor access due to wet conditions. Inventory records indicate failed regeneration on some harvested sites.

- Oak –Two thirds of the oak is over age 80 and there is little regeneration. The proximity to Lake Huron moderates the local climate which encourages jack and red pine volunteers to seed into oak regeneration resulting in mixed stands.

- Mixed Swamp Conifers and Cedar - About 4,500 acres, mostly in older age classes and considered inoperable due to poor access.

Hammond Bay Lake Plain			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+	Uneven Aged
Aspen	10,891	27%	351	1,681	2,290	3,195	749	42	453	1,164	623	89	0	254
Red Pine	8,199	20%	11	139	90	37	698	575	991	2,853	511	364	111	1,819
Lowland Poplar	5,780	14%	175	962	1,167	384	525	153	277	1,098	789	206	0	44
Oak	2,507	6%	39	212	232	26	0	0	23	601	807	213	0	354
Mixed Swamp Conifers	2,455	6%	0	0	0	26	0	51	133	341	888	125	501	390
Cedar	2,136	5%	0	1	0	0	0	19	2	670	331	208	763	142
Upland Hardwoods	1,420	4%	0	0	0	108	70	0	34	110	129	22	0	947
Jack Pine	1,225	3%	0	399	253	148	73	33	88	61	55	115	0	0
Lowland Brush	1,506	4%												
Bog or Marsh	1,115	3%												
Grass	596	1%												
Water	139	0%												
Upland Brush	82	0%												
Other Types	2,480	6%												
Total	40,531													

Other Types include: White Birch, Swamp Hardwoods, Black Spruce, Hemlock, Spruce-Fir, Tamarack, Bog, and Sand Dune.

Concepts of Management

- Aspen (27% of the MA) – Focus management on balancing the age classes of manageable aspen (age 60 and less), by targeting for harvest the age 40–59 classes and where operable the 30–39 year age classes. Inoperable aspen in the 60+ year age classes will likely succeed to more shade-tolerant species such as red maple, balsam fir or spruce.

- Red Pine (20% of the MA) – Follow the Red Pine Management Guidelines to balance the age class distribution by aggressively harvesting in the age classes between 40-89 years and regenerating red pine. Allow selected areas of managed red pine to reach biological maturity. Following the Within Stand Retention Guidelines allow selected individual red pines in other cover types to become super canopy specimens. Where the stands are of natural origin, manage through prescribed burning or other methods for natural regeneration.

- Lowland Poplar (14% of the MA) – Allow stands over 60 years of age that are inaccessible due to wet conditions to succeed to a mixture of lowland hardwoods and balsam fir. Based on site suitability, harvest operable stands for regeneration. It is expected that harvest levels will decline due to inaccessibility.

- Oak (6% of the MA) **–** Increase regeneration harvests of oak and balance age classes by focusing management on the 80+ age classes through the use of shelterwood harvests. Introduce pine to create more diverse mixed stands.

- Mixed Swamp Conifers and Cedar (6% of the MA) - Harvest selected areas to promote under represented younger age classes through regeneration. On selected sites conduct habitat cuttings in a manner that will not adversely impact wetland soils or encourage deer browse.