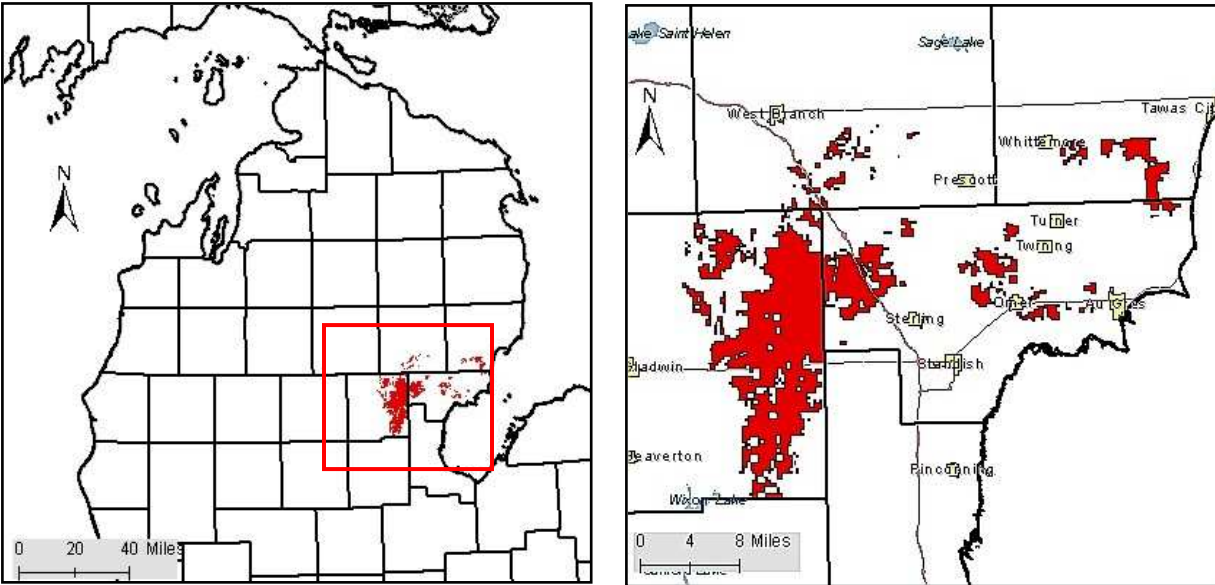# Gladwin Lake Plain Management Area

Attributes

The Gladwin Lake Plain Management Area is located east of Gladwin in Gladwin County and has approximately 120,000 acres of scattered State Forest land. The primary attributes which were important in identifying this MA include:

- Ecological Classification – Although much of this MA has not been classified by LTA, what has been classified is in the Saginaw Bay Lake Plain region of the NLP Ecoregion (Albert 1994).

- Cover Types – Historically, this management area was mostly hardwood, conifer swamp and hemlock. The current cover is over 39% aspen, 18% swamp hardwoods and 10% lowland brush.

- Landforms - The dominant lake plain landform (98%) consists of poorly drained flat clay plains with broad sand channels.

- Social and Economic – Due to the relative proximity of population centers to this management area, there is a high level of recreational use in this MA by nearby residents. Illegal ORV use and trash dumping are significant issues.

Major Cover Types

- Aspen - There are approximately 47,000 acres of aspen throughout the MA. Over 80% of the aspen is in the 10-49 year age classes.

- Swamp Hardwoods – The 21,000 acres of swamp hardwoods are slightly skewed toward the older age classes.

- Lowland Brush – Lowland brush acres total over 12,000 acres.

- Oak - There are nearly 11,000 acres of oak. Age classes are slightly skewed toward the older classes with approximately 35% of the oak acres represented by the 70-89 year age classes.

- Jack Pine – There are approximately 4,900 acres of jack pine with fairly evenly distributed age classes. The 0-19 year age class covers approximately 40% of the MA. Stands tend to be small and isolated which has helped prevent significant jack pine bud worm infestations.

- Red Pine – There are approximately 3,000 acres of red pine. Historical periods of red pine planting are reflected in the preponderance of red pine in the 40-59 year age classes (47% of the MA red pine acres).

- White Pine – The 2,300 acres of white pine is mostly of natural origin. The age class distribution is well balanced.

- Upland Brush/Grass - Grassland and upland brush totals approximately 2,500 acres. This is a result of the past management practices or natural processes of fire, frost or other disturbances which create openings in the forest canopy along with maintenance treatments to keep areas open.

Gladwin 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	46,741	41%	2,823	9,735	10,550	11,882	5,666	1,149	1,164	1,606	1,884	161	0	121
Swamp Hardwoods	21,664	19%	416	928	563	1,162	399	845	2,572	5,239	4,617	1,268	271	3,384
Oak	10,960	10%	1,354	1,705	868	994	274	168	443	1,455	2,440	735	208	316
Jack Pine	4,869	4%	648	1,309	707	784	472	329	357	213	50	0	0	0
Red Pine	2,996	3%	174	114	13	152	559	869	224	433	254	75	63	66
White Pine	2,355	2%	82	207	118	272	271	525	358	170	50	54	57	191
Grass	2,358	2%												
Water	1,667	1%												
Upland Brush	197	0%												
Other Types	19,962	18%												

Total   113,769

Other Types include: Bog, Marsh, Lowland Poplar, Cedar, Upland Hardwoods, Mixed Swamp Conifers, Tamarack, Spruce-Fir, White Birch, Upland Mixed Deciduous, Black Spruce, Lowland Brush,and Hemlock.

Concepts of Management

- Aspen (41% of the MA) - Largely due to the habitat impacts on game species and markets for aspen raw material, aspen will continue to be the featured species. Balance the distribution of the 0-59 year age classes and seek opportunities for harvests in the 60-89 year age classes to maintain the acreage of aspen. Due to high water tables, wetter aspen sites may be difficult to harvest during wet years. Allow aspen on inoperable sites to succeed to more shade tolerant species.

- Swamp Hardwoods (19% of the MA) - Limited management will take place in swamp hardwoods. Care must be taken to protect soil and water resources from harvesting impacts.

- Oak (10% of the MA) –Balance the 0-89 year age classes of oak with harvests and successful regeneration to manage for sustainable yields.

- Jack Pine (4% of the MA) – Current levels are expected to be maintained. Balance the distribution of the 0-69 year age classes. The greatest opportunity for management over next 10 years will be older 60-89 year age classes.

- Red Pine (3% of the MA) – Overall, red pine acreage is expected to slightly decrease as a result of conversion of some natural and planted stands to upland hardwoods (red maple),

particularly on sites that were formally open lands. Seek opportunities to expand red pine by introducing/promoting it in mixed communities, particularly with oak.

- White Pine (2% of the MA) – There will be little management of white pine in the near term as most acres are fairly young. Where seed sources are present it is expected that white pine will increasingly become established in the understory of many other cover types.

- Upland Brush/Grass (2% of the MA) - Through continued opening maintenance by prescribed burning and brush removal, sustain grass openings at a level sufficient to provide wildlife habitat.