

TRAVERSE CITY FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT COMPARTMENT REVIEW PRESENTATION

COMPARTMENT #52 ENTRY YEAR: 2012

Compartment Acreage: 3056 County: Grand Traverse

Stand Examiner: Patrick Ruppen

Legal Description: T26N R9W Sections 13,14,15,16,17,18

Management Goals: This compartment is contained within LTAs 5111 and 5549 of Sub-Section VII 2.2. LTA 5111 is a broad flat outwash plain with few kettle lakes. Soils are generally excessively drained and wildfires were common; often spreading for miles. Pre-settlement vegetation varied for this LTA but Xeric Conifer Forests and Pine Barrens were common on the more fire prone sites. Forests dominated by white pine and oak mixed with other conifers were common on the less fire prone sites. Due to wildfire suppression and extensive conifer plantations, the extent of natural xeric pine associations, barrens, and prairie openings has been greatly reduced. An attempt should be made through vegetative management and the use of prescribed fire to reset the clock on some of these stands and to create some new pine, oak and aspen mixes. Due to fire exclusion Red Pine has not been regenerating naturally in many of these stands therefore it is recommended that Red Pine seedlings be inter-planted in some treated stands to retain this component of the xeric pine mix. Stands with high components of early succession species, (particularly jack pine and aspen), are aging and declining. A focus should be on regenerating these stands or salvaging these stands components. Browsing and poor quality stump sprouts have been a problem in the past when regenerating oak stands. Many of these low quality oak stands are remnants on soils and topography inclined to succession back to natural pine stands with a high component of white pine. A focus should be on encouraging succession back to natural pine stands while maintaining a considerable component of mixed oak in the canopy for mast production. A high quality oak/pine barrens community has been identified in Section 15. This area should be managed to enhance and maintain the functions of the barrens area. LTA 5549 is a mosaic of lowland conifer, hardwood, shrub and emergent swamp associated with the river and creek drainages. Significant deer wintering habitat was observed.

Soil and Topography: Rubicon sand, Roselawn Sand and Lupton Muck near water courses. Mixed topography with broad flats, rolling terrain and steep slopes up to 50% adjacent to the Boardman River valley and Carpenter Creek Drainage which cuts through this compartment. Some pothole topography.

Ownership Patterns, Development, and Land Use in and Around the Compartment:

Sections 13 and 16 are block state ownership. The rest of compartment has mixed ownership with private inholdings.

Unique, Natural Features (include only non-site specific and non-sensitive information):

The Boardman River is a state designated wild and scenic river. Carpenter Creek is a designated trout stream. A nominated Ecological Reference Area -Oak/pine Barrens Community occurs In Section 15.

Special Management Designations or Considerations: The Boardman River is a state designated wild and scenic river. Carpenter Creek is a designated trout stream. A nominated Ecological Reference Area - Oak/pine Barrens Community occurs
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Watershed and Fisheries Considerations: The Boardman River and Carpenter Creek are both designated trout streams. Since these streams are of very high quality, their trout populations are supported by natural reproduction. They are not stocked. To keep them in good condition, it is critical that BMPs and Natural Rivers buffers are strictly adhered to. The Natural Rivers buffers are as follows: Carpenter Creek, 50 ft and the Boardman River, 100 ft. In stands 110 and 120 on Carpenter Creek these buffers should be adhered to as shade, limiting sediment input, and woody debris recruitment are crucial to trout streams. Restricting cutting to outside the appropriate buffers will help to maintain the temperatures and habitat required to maintain the health of these streams, and the watershed in general. We also recommend managing for species other than young aspen around small trout streams, in order to avoid problems with beavers. Beavers have the ability to severly degrade small trout streams (Heather Seites, MDNRE Fish Division comments).

Wildlife Habitat Considerations: This compartment falls primarily within a broad, flat outwash plain with few wetlands and excessively drained sand. This is a fire-driven landscape, so a range of habitat conditions from open barrens to some late-succession forests is appropriate. Thus management should continue to promote various age classes and species mixes of oak-aspen-pine forest through burning and timber harvest. Final harvests should retain as many snags and downed logs as possible as well as a variety of residual live trees, especially oak. If possible tops should be left un-chipped and scattered around the sale area and kept under 24 inches in height. Open-land habitat should be maintained by periodic burning. Remnant high quality Oak Pine Barrens can be found in this compartment and these communities benefit greatly from burning. Also, opportunities exist to restore more of this exceptionally rare habitat type and should be pursued. Many rare and common wildlife species utilize the unique blend of habitat components provided by barrens. Several abandoned oil well sites will be replanted to annual rye to provide a spring/fall food source for deer using nearby winter cover and to eliminate invasive species. The compartment is also transected by the Boardman River and Carpenter Creek drainages. These riparian areas should be primarily managed for lowland mixed forest, including cedar and hemlock. Some deer use these areas for winter cover. Natural disturbances included beaver activity and small blow-down patches, which can be mimicked with occasional patch cuts if necessary.

Mineral Resource and Development Concerns and/or Restrictions: Surface sediments consist of glacial outwash sand and gravel and postglacial alluvium. The glacial drift thickness varies between 400 and 600 feet. Beneath the glacial drift is the Mississippian Coldwater Shale. There is no current economic use for the Coldwater Shale. The nearest gravel pits are one and one-half miles to the southeast. Gravel potential in the compartment is considered good. This area is located in the Silurian Niagaran reef trend. Most of the State land is currently leased for oil and gas development and there may be additional reef potential. Portions of this Compartment have been recently leased for underground gas storage. The Antrim Shale has not been developed in this area, but may have some future potential.

Vehicle Access: Access to some areas is good via county roads and two tracks. Other areas have challenging access due to slopes and sandy road conditions.

Survey Needs: none known

Recreational Facilities and Opportunities: Schecks Campground and Trail Camp, Boardman Valley Snowmobile Trail, Grand Traverse Motorcycle Trail, Shore to Shore Hiking-Riding Trail

Fire Protection: VFD Fire Protection is provided by Gr. Traverse Rural Fire Dept., Battalions 3 and 6. DNRE Fire Protection is from the Traverse City Field Office, however this entire compartment falls within Zone 6. On a Very High of an Extreme Fire rating, additional DNRE suppression equipment will automatically dispatch to the scene from Kalkaska and Manton to the fire scene, and units from other stations will shift to be closer in case they are needed. Urban Inner-face is not too much of an issue here with the exception of some areas in sections 17 and 18, and also located there are two state forest campgrounds. Access is adequate, and travel times are acceptable.

Additional Compartment Information:

**** Cover type details, proposed treatments and stands designated as FDF are listed in the attached reports:

Cover Type by Age Class Cover Type by Management Objective Compartment Volume Summary Proposed Treatments – No Limiting Factors Proposed Treatments – With Limiting Factors

**** The following information is displayed on the attached compartment maps:

Base feature information, stand numbers, cover types Proposed treatments Proposed road access system Suggested potential old growth





