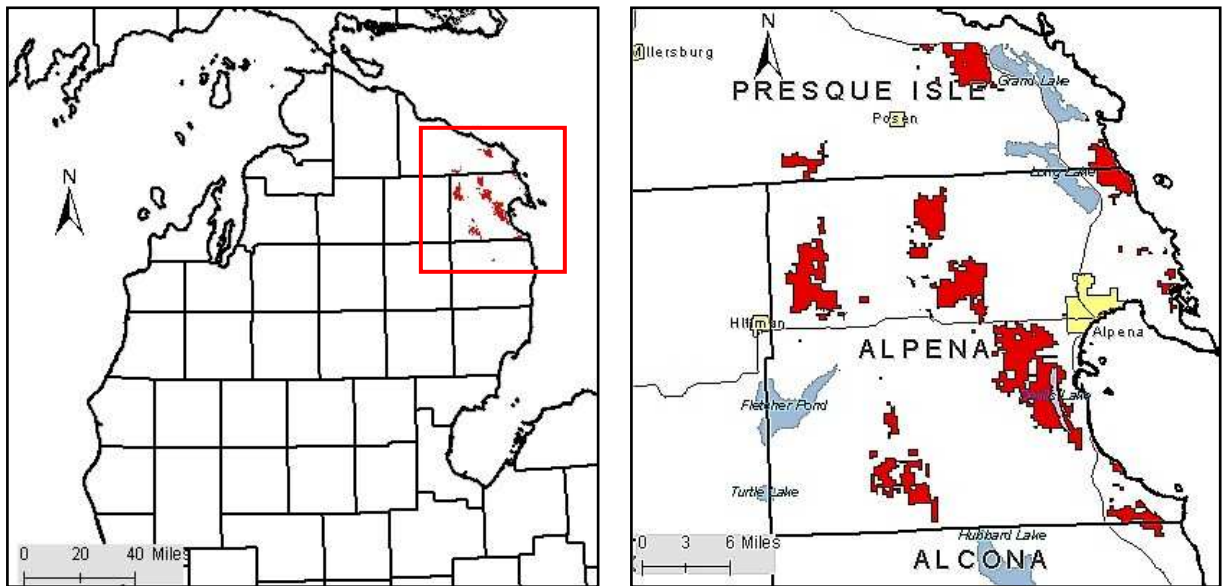


Alpena Lake Plain Management Area



Attributes

The Alpena Lake Plain Management Area is located mostly in Alpena County between the towns of Alpena and Hillman with a small portion in Presque Isle County. There are approximately 56,000 acres of State Forest land, most of which is in large blocks with some isolated compartments. The primary attributes which were important in identifying this MA include:

- Ecological Classification - The MA falls within the Onaway and Cheboygan sub-regions of the NLP Ecoregion as classified by Albert (1994).
- Cover Types - Historically, most of this MA was classified as wetland with isolated red pine on the higher elevations mixed with jack pine, white pine and oak. Currently, state forest land is 78% lowland cover types.
- 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. There are several large wetland complexes in this MA.
- Social and Economic – This MA is a popular area for game hunting, hiking, mushroom hunting, etc. by the nearby communities of Alpena and Hillman. The Devil's Lake/Indian Reserve Recreation Plan provides direction for part of the MA. There are several areas where archeological issues or access problems may require a modified fire suppression plan.
- Ownership - This MA presently includes the Rockport parcel which is currently under consideration for possible reclassification as state park land.

Major Cover Types

- Lowland Poplar and Swamp Hardwoods – Lowland poplar and swamp hardwoods cover approximately 18,000 acres, with 8,000 acres over age 70 most likely being inaccessible.
- Cedar – Most of the 7,000 acres of cedar in this MA are at least 80 years old. There is virtually no cedar in younger age classes.

- **Mixed Swamp Conifers** – Most of the over 4,000 acres of mixed swamp conifers is in older age classes and considered inoperable due to poor access.
- **Red Pine** – There are about 2,600 acres of red pine in the MA, with about 2,000 acres in the 60–100 year age class. Various regeneration techniques have been prescribed in this landscape, however, there has been very little red pine regeneration in the past 30 years. Some natural regeneration is occurring, particularly in jack pine plantings and underneath oak. About 50% of the acreage is natural pine within dune swale complexes and some areas may be inaccessible.
- **Oak** – Ninety-three percent of 1,700 acres of oak is over 80 years of age. There are numerous 5-spot (patch clearcut) treatments. Management of significant oak acreage in the Chippewa Hills area is constrained by recreation/trail issues.

Alpena Lake Plain			Age Class (Years)											Uneven Aged
Cover Type	Acres	%	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-99	100+	
Lowland Poplar	10,424	19%	157	2,088	1,717	2,088	962	233	515	933	1,583	38	57	53
Swamp Hardwoods	7,847	14%	0	234	351	417	304	100	308	1,726	2,092	803	110	1,393
Cedar	7,077	13%	0	19	19	35	93	10	3	384	673	2,134	3,573	134
Aspen	5,716	10%	158	610	1,093	1,231	1,080	247	167	425	524	171	0	10
Mixed Swamp Conifers	4,085	7%	0	28	85	140	111	53	169	334	1,068	524	1,026	473
Red Pine	2,598	5%	0	3	50	50	175	209	247	691	733	173	207	21
Oak	1,734	3%	0	0	0	16	87	26	15	153	657	756	0	24
Upland Hardwoods	1,508	3%	0	24	51	0	114	26	0	105	464	7	7	710
Lowland Brush	6,640	12%												
Upland Brush	895	2%												
Grass	486	1%												
Water	468	1%												
Other Types	6507	12%												
Total			55,985											

Other Types include: Tamarack, Marsh, White Pine, Spruce-Fir, Jack Pine, White Birch, Sand Dune, Hemlock and Bog.

Concepts of Management

- **Lowland Poplar and Swamp Hardwoods (33% of the MA)** – Where practicable and to the extent possible due to access and market issues, final harvest older age classes and promote natural regeneration. Management should consider possible impacts to soil and water resources as well as deer browse issues.
- **Cedar (13% of the MA)** – Regeneration harvests should be considered if deer browsing can be minimized and wetland soils are not adversely impacted
- **Red Pine (5 % of the MA)** – Following the Red Pine Management Guidelines, address the age class spike of red pine and trough of regeneration. Where accessible, harvest older stands and regenerate suitable red pine areas through planting or prescribed fire to encourage natural regeneration. 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. Encourage natural regeneration, particularly in jack pine plantings and below an oak overstory. Some acreage may be lost to jack pine conversion on very dry sites.
- **Oak (3% of the MA)** – Continue stand replacement harvests to encourage oak regeneration, particularly on poorer quality sites. This MA provides opportunities for establishment of diverse oak/pine types. Allow white pine in stands that have good natural white pine regeneration in the understory to become an overstory component of mixed oak-pine stands.