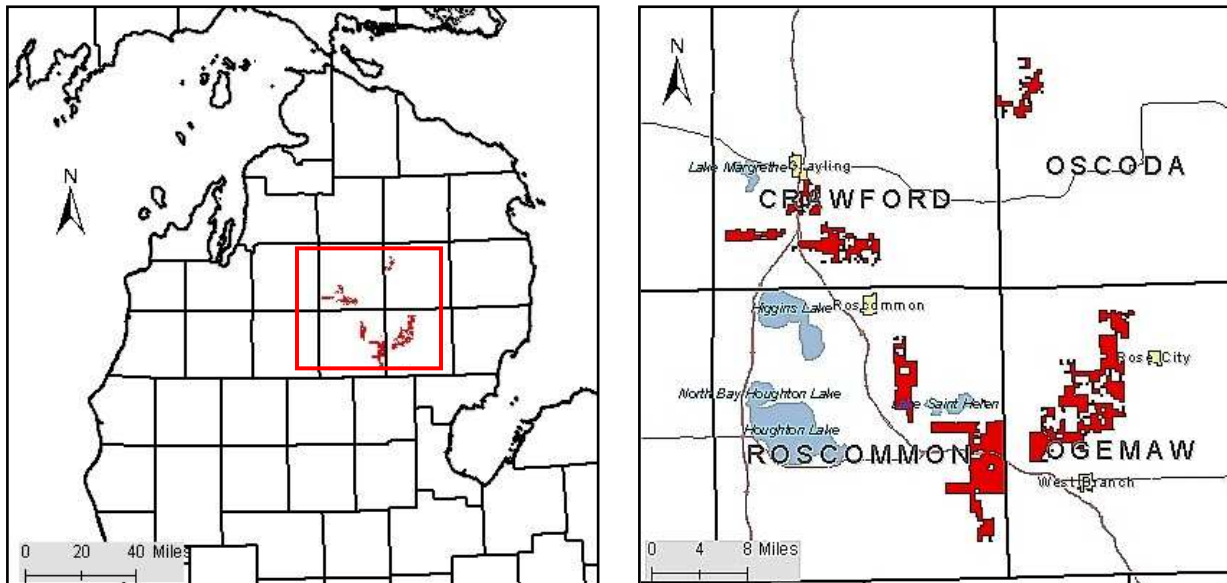


Ogemaw Hills Management Area



Attributes

The Ogemaw Hills Management Area is located mostly in Ogemaw and Roscommon Counties with smaller portions in Crawford and Oscoda Counties and has approximately 61,000 acres of scattered State Forest land. The primary attributes which were important in identifying this MA include:

- Ecological Classification - The MA falls within the Grayling Outwash Plain sub-region of the NLP Ecoregion as classified by Albert (1994).
- Cover Types - Historically, most of this MA was covered with mixed red, jack and white pine and upland hardwood. The current vegetation composition is primarily aspen, oak, red pine and jack pine with 6% in the relatively inaccessible lowland cover types.
- Landforms - The dominant landform consists of large ridges of ice-contact sands surrounded by poorly drained outwash channels and plains.
- Ownership size and connectivity – The state land in this MA is in scattered patches across four counties.
- Social and Economic – This MA is a popular area for game hunting, hiking, mushroom hunting, etc. for the nearby communities of Grayling, West Branch, Houghton Lake, Roscommon and Mio. Some of the state land is under short-term military lease.

Major Cover Types

- Aspen – There are over 23,000 acres of aspen, much of which is big-tooth aspen in mixed communities with white birch, red maple, oak, and white and red pine. Overall, the aspen is of good quality with only 4% of the aspen over age 50, reflecting recent intensive management. The highest quality aspen has a white birch component.
- Oak – Most of the 19,000 acres is in the Roscommon Forest Management Unit with approximately 5,000 acres in the Grayling unit. Oak areas frequently have high quality oak timber with a white pine the understory. Although regeneration is prevalent, the age class

structure is skewed to the older 70-90 year age classes. Clearcutting and shelterwood regeneration harvests have often resulted in red maple regeneration instead of oak.

- Jack Pine – Of the approximately 6,400 acres of jack pine, almost is in the 10-29 year age classes and approximately 1,700 acres are over age 60.
- Red Pine – Represented by the 80-89 year age classes, approximately 67% of the 3,600 red pine acres were planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. However, there has been very little red pine regeneration over the past 50 years.
- White Pine – Natural white pine plantations are merchantable, however white pine weevil infestation and damage is common in plantations.

| Ogemaw Hills | | | 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+ | |
| Aspen | 23,367 | 38% | 1,525 | 3,900 | 5,706 | 7,998 | 3,270 | 269 | 150 | 228 | 166 | 107 | 48 | 0 |
| Oak | 19,347 | 32% | 2,089 | 1,443 | 692 | 1,223 | 345 | 23 | 200 | 3,473 | 6,717 | 2,824 | 190 | 128 |
| Jack Pine | 6,405 | 10% | 327 | 1,758 | 1,144 | 509 | 613 | 330 | 823 | 603 | 265 | 33 | 0 | 0 |
| Red Pine | 3,583 | 6% | 236 | 211 | 188 | 3 | 357 | 209 | 342 | 915 | 1,013 | 109 | 0 | 0 |
| White Pine | 966 | 2% | 0 | 34 | 10 | 32 | 73 | 128 | 62 | 157 | 192 | 177 | 45 | 56 |
| Grass | 1,181 | 2% | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Upland Brush | 755 | 1% | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Water | 192 | 0% | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other Types | 5,384 | 9% | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Total 61,180

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

Concepts of Management

- Aspen (38% of the MA) – Maintain current aspen acreage through regeneration harvests and seek opportunities to harvest stands before reaching rotation age to balance the age class distribution in the 0-59 year age classes. Retain all white birch in stands where it is currently present. Harvest older aspen on operable sites and allow inoperable sites to succeed to more shade tolerant species.
- Oak (32% of the MA) – Where practicable, under-plant red and white pine to achieve a more diverse mixed oak-pine type. Utilize regeneration harvest methods along with prescribed burns, scarification or herbaceous control to minimize competition and encourage oak regeneration.
- Jack Pine (10% of the MA) – Balance age classes by harvesting the 60+ year age classes for regeneration.
- Red Pine (6% of the MA) – Follow the Red Pine Management Guidelines to balance the age class distribution by aggressively harvesting in the age classes between 60-89 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. Allow lower quality red pine sites to convert to jack pine.
- White Pine (2% of the MA) – There will be little management of white pine in the near term since most acreage is in younger age classes. Where good seed sources are present, the recruitment of white pine through the under story of existing and adjacent stands should be encouraged. In the long term, white pine stands will have a mixture of several species.