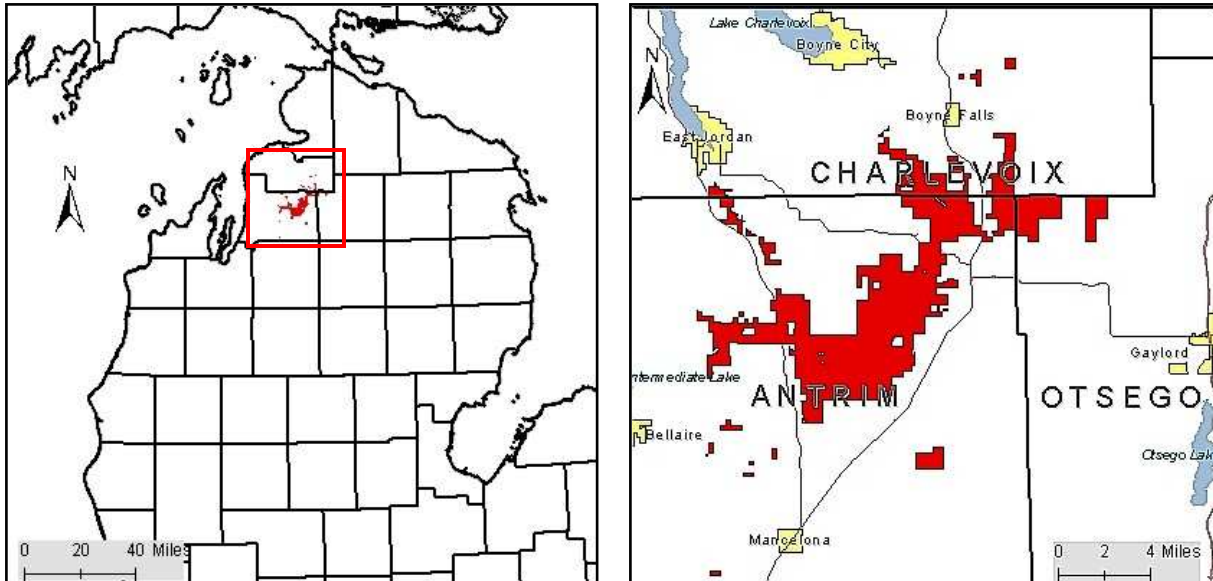


Jordan Valley Management Area



Attributes

The Jordan Valley Management Area is located in high plains of Antrim and Charlevoix Counties and has approximately 35,000 acres of State Forest land. The primary attributes which were important in identifying this MA include:

- Ecological Classification - The MA falls within the Vanderbilt Moraines sub-region of the NLP Ecoregion as classified by Albert (1994).
- Cover Types - Historically, northern hardwoods were prominent on virtually all the upland. The Jordan Valley is one of the few areas of the state to escape the devastating post-logging era fires. The current vegetation composition is mostly northern hardwoods, aspen and red pine. Five percent of the MA is in inaccessible lowland cover types.
- Landforms - The dominant landform consists of sandy, well drained moraine ridges surrounded by poorly drained outwash channels and plains. The Jordan River flows through the valley – the first river in Michigan to be designated wild and scenic under the state’s Natural River Act in 1972. There are many seeps and springs that flow into the river.
- Ownership size and connectivity – The Jordan Valley MA has some of the highest density of state land in the Lower Peninsula.
- Existing Management Plan - In 1974, the 22,000 acres of this MA was designated as the Jordan Valley Management Area with the intent of preserving the public land for multi-use outdoor recreation in a near-natural setting. The MDNR then authorized the Jordan Valley Management Plan which places a special emphasis on quiet recreational use, bans mineral exploration and extraction while enhancing environmental integrity. More recently, portions of the Jordan Valley have been included in old growth planning.
- Social – The Jordan Valley MA is a popular area for game hunting, hiking, mushroom hunting, camping, and canoeing. The Jordan River Pathway (part of the North Country Trail) routes through the valley. Scenic vistas in the Jordan Valley MA include Dead Man’s Hill and Landslide Creek overlook.

- Economic – According to the Jordan Valley Plan, management for vegetation, fish and wildlife is done so long as it’s done in a manner that maintains a vigorous biological community and protects water quality. Antrim gas development pressure is very high adjacent to State Forest lands and occurs in parts of this MA.

Major Cover Types

- Northern Hardwoods/Upland Hardwoods – There are about 21,000 acres of northern hardwoods in the Jordan Valley MA. Much of the hardwood is classified as potential old growth. Steep slopes and seeps present accessibility issues.
- Mixed Swamp Conifers – Most of the 4,500 acres swamp types are over 80 years of age. Virtually all of the lowland types in the Jordan Valley MA fall within riparian zones.
- Aspen – There is about 4,400 acres of aspen in the Jordan Valley MA. About one third is over age 60, with a significant portion of that being 80–100 years old and probably not available for harvest due to inaccessibility or influence by riparian rules.
- Upland Brush/Grass – There are approximately 2,300 acres in the valley, some occurring on historical sites such as old homesteads and logging camps.

Jordan Valley			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+	
Upland Hardwoods	21,205	60%	4	0	86	9	21	98	177	1,794	1,430	1,360	0	16,226
Mixed Swamp Conifers	4,564	13%	0	20	6	25	14	30	262	1,733	1,702	260	505	7
Aspen	4,374	12%	273	604	1,349	466	60	194	146	670	525	26	3	58
Grass	1,776	5%												
Upland Brush	478	1%												
Water	202	1%												
Other Types	2,816	8%												

Total 35,415

Other Types include: Swamp Hardwoods, Lowland Brush, Cedar, Spruce-Fir, Red Pine, White Pine, Lowland Poplar, Black Spruce, Hemlock, Tamarack, Bog, and Jack Pine.

Concepts of Management

- Northern Hardwoods/Upland Hardwoods (60% of the MA) – Where accessible, continue regular selection management of northern hardwoods to develop uneven-aged stand structure, emphasizing big tree production.
- Mixed Swamp Conifers and Cedar (13% of the MA) – Comply with Natural River guidelines for management of these types.
- Aspen (12% of the MA) – Balance the distribution of the 0-59 year ages classes of aspen. There will probably be some decrease in the acres of aspen due to inaccessibility and management constraints in the Natural River corridor.
- Upland Brush/Grass (6% of the MA) – Where practicable, maintain open areas by prescribed burning.