

Management In the Middle

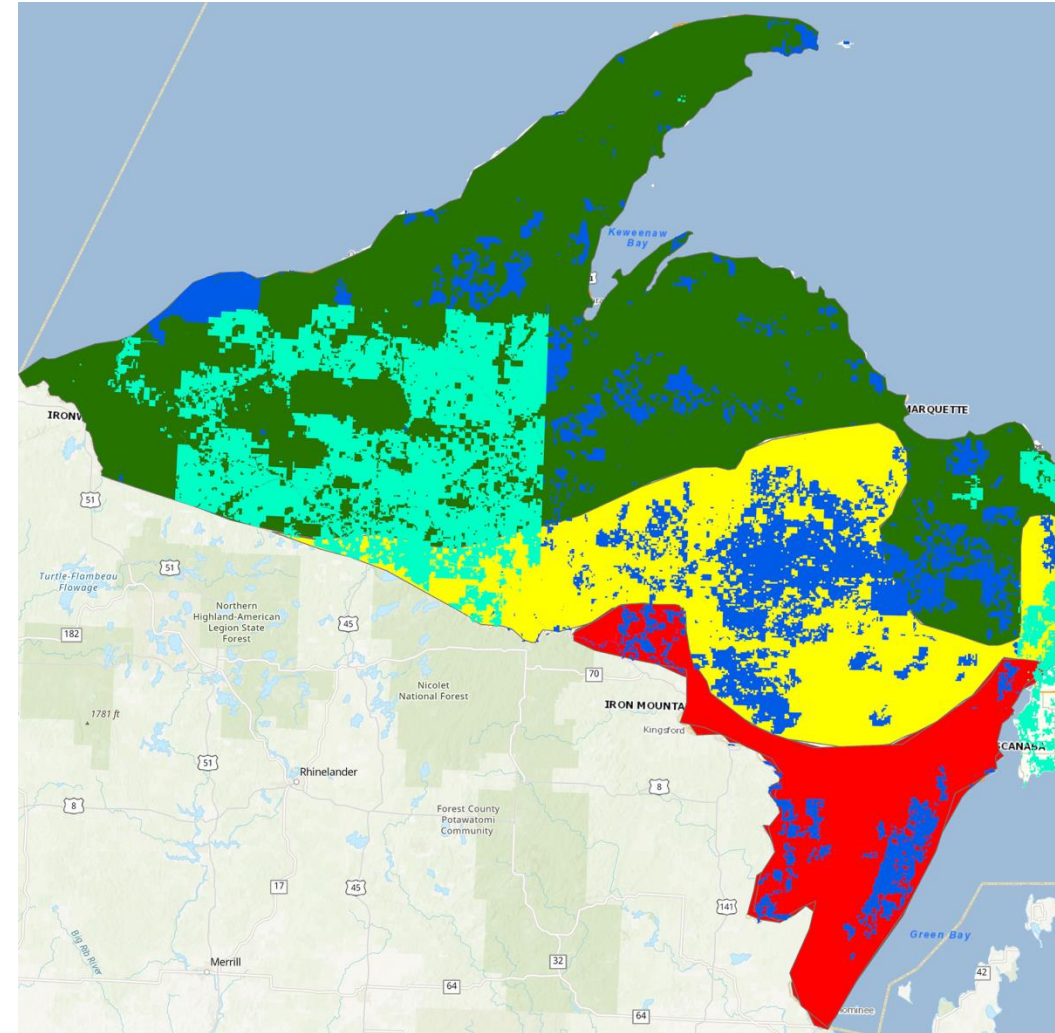


Modernizing Hardwood Silviculture in the Zone of Maximum Impact

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The Current Situation

- Advanced regeneration is key!
- Generally, in the Lake Superior watershed we are concerned with sustainability of products.
- In the south we face many challenges that will take considerable effort to overcome.
- In the central UP we have an opportunity to effect meaningful change by modernizing hardwood silviculture!



How We are Modifying Treatments

- Abandoning the Arbogast curve.
- Targeting a basal area to 60 Sq Ft rather 80 Sq Ft in thinning or selection treatments.
- Preservation of large trees for seed.
- Larger sales across the landscape to overcome browse pressure.
- Dropping gaps from treatments until advanced regeneration becomes established.
- Making bigger gaps once regeneration is established.

Risks and Back-Up Plans

The Risks

- We don't give this enough time to work.
- We run out of time, and the trees reach economic maturity.
- Co-manager and or forester buy in doesn't materialize.
- Raspberry, sedge, ironwood, and ash win.

The Back Up Plans

- Maintain flexibility, don't cut ourselves into a dead end.
- If we fail, we still have a stand to work with in the future.
- We are exploring cover type conversions to northern hardwood and out of northern hardwood in areas where we are struggling to regenerate.



Thank You!

Rick Hill

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