

APPENDIX F

Ecologically Important Lowland Conifers (EILC): Stand Designation Process

EILC Background:

As directed by Forestry policy each SFRMP process is required to identify EILC. The objective of this designation is to reserve from treatment, adequate amounts of EILC across the subsections, so that the best representations can be evaluated and eventually selected.

Subsection Planning Teams are directed to prepare criteria to define EILC, identify cover types in their subsections which reflect EILC characteristics and determine an adequate acreage for each EILC cover type sufficient to conserve the characteristics of the EILC.

Ecologically important lowland conifers are defined as stands of black spruce, tamarack, and cedar, including stagnant lowland conifer stands, that are examples of high quality native plant communities (NPCs) that are representative of lowland conifer NPCs found in the subsections. The designated EILC stands will be reserved from treatment during the 10-year planning period. Future management of designated EILC stands is specifically, by policy, not determined in current CP-PMOP planning period.

EILC are reserved from treatment, for the period of time covered by the subsection plan, based on the ecologically important habitat or natural community type they represent. These reserved stands should be reviewed for continued protection at the beginning of the next cycle of subsection planning based on the Old Growth Guidelines or other guidelines in place at that future date.

EILC Designation Process

An EILC SFRMP work group convened to prepare a draft of the EILC designation. The EILC work group prepared background information, datasets, designation criteria and applied the EILC designation criteria to the appropriate cover types to identify specific EILC stands as policy directed. The draft EILC designation was presented and approved by the CP-PMOP SFRMP Planning Team. CP-PMOP SFRMP Planning Team adopted the following as presented by the EILC Work Group.

The total acreage of stands designated EILC is a function of:

- EILC percentage goal for the subsections and
- EILC Stand Designation Criteria

The EILC percentage goal to be designated was determined to be 5.0% based on the total acres of old growth goal within each subsection, divided by the total acres of all old growth types within the subsection within its respective working boundary. The derived percentage is then doubled to produce the actual EILC percentage goal. This percentage was then applied to each cover type acreage to identify specific stands (using the EILC Stand Designation Criteria identified below). The designated acreage for the EILC cover types was derived from all the stagnant stands that are located within MCBS Sites ranked as having a biodiversity significance of High. The Work Group recommended and CP-PMOP Planning Team agreed that this EILC acreage goal should not be used in the future as a basis for acreage goal setting for lowland conifer old-growth forest. The principle reason being that selecting EILC goals by this method would likely include far more than the 2X goal (as stated in the Rare Features Section, SFRMP Guidebook) for the potential old-growth pool.

Using the MCBS staff's preliminary assessment ranking of stands as a pool, The CP-PMOP EILC Work Group applied the following criteria to select out stands according to the above rationale. The Work Group then tallied the acreage totals and used this as our acreage goals. It is important to note that these goals do not include acreage in SNAs. From the potentially qualifying acres, attempts were made to select contiguous acres, and also place acres adjacent to SNA's and other unique resource areas.

EILC Stand Designation Criteria: CHIPPEWA PLAINS

Black spruce:

- Newage \geq 80 (=2251 stands)

Tamarack:

- Newage \geq 80 (Work Group evaluated the number of stands included in various newages and determined that \geq 80 gave 902 stands and 20708 acres, or 48% of the stands and 49% of the acres.

Cedar:

- Phys Class 0-3 = "upland cedar"; *keep all*; 73 stands, including Morph Meadows deer yards
- Phys Class 4 and above = "lowland cedar"; 681 stands; 10,064 acres
 - newage \geq 70 (591 stands; 9442 acres)

Stagnant spruce, tamarack, and cedar:

- Selection criteria:
 - Follow Agassiz Lowlands example for each LTA; 5% of each cover type (B,T,C,sB,sT,sC)
 - Adjacent to other lowland types in EILC or other "protection" (SNA, WPA, WMA, cRNA, etc.)

EILC Stand Designation Criteria: PINE MORAINES and OUTWASH PLAINS

Black Spruce:

- Newage \geq 65. 123y=oldest.

Tamarack:

- Newage \geq 65; 272 stands; 4364 stands.

Cedar:

- all ages (due to few stands and little acreage); phys class 3+ (stands in phys class 3; class 4; class 5); 72 stands, 1499 acres.

Stagnant Black Spruce, Stagnant Tamarack, Stagnant Cedar:

- same as CP; use to fill in or complete complexes (unless >100 ac stands or complexes themselves)

Table F. 1 below identifies the CP-PMOP EILC Stand Designations by cover type and LTA.

**Table F.1 EILC Acres Selected by
Cover Type and Land Type Association**

LTA	71, BSL	72, T	73, C	75, SX	76, TX	77, CX	Acres by LTA
212Ma18	0	0	0	0		0	0
212Na03	0	505.03	108.63	24.45	5.5	34.41	678.02
212Na04	28.98	6.71				0	35.69
212Na07	803.45	716.03	98.52	0	47	56.87	1721.87
212Na08	0	765.47	84.43	0	0	0	849.9
212Na09	803.91	716.1	33.73	586.81	709.84	265.85	3116.24
212Na10	199.04	948.6	402.7	8361.32	192.61	358.49	10462.76
212Na11	0					0	0
212Na16	194.61	73.49	147.6	537.3	64.02	125.06	1142.08
212Na18	29.77	151.49	365.78	34.33	149.51	21.33	752.21
212Na21	16.91	619.14	0	0	65.01		701.06
212Na22	25.42	19.11	16.72			0	61.25
212Nb02	0	0	11.83	0			11.83
212Nb07	0	0	0	0		0	0
212Nb12			0				0
212Nc01	14.56	60.18		0			74.74
212Nc02	0	0	6.03				6.03
212Nc03	16.21	84.67			0		100.88
212Nc04		266.25					266.25
212Nc05		35.21					35.21
212Nc06		37.24					37.24
212Nc08	0	5.45					5.45
212Nc09		14.42					14.42
212Nc10	0	39.76					39.76
212Nc11	12.02	81.89		0	0		93.91
212Nc12	46.39	58.95					105.34
212Nc13	8.21	10.1	128.5	0		71.51	218.32
212Nc14	88.24	153.04	77.51		17.28		336.07
212Nc16	128.66	194.33	322.92	6.49	77.62	441.88	1171.9
212Nc28	48.07	178.24		0			226.31
212Nc30	12.68	24.78	189.68	0	0	21.67	248.81
212Nc31	139.61	151.49	28.55		0		319.65
212Nc32		14.29					14.29
212Nc33	0	0					0
212Nc34	40.02	19.21					59.23
222Ma16		0					0
Acres by Ctype	2656.8	5950.7	2023.1	9550.7	1328.4	1397.1	22906.72