

Land Type Association Descriptions: Hiawatha National Forest

Hiawatha National Forest 	Partnering with The Nature Conservancy 
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Accomplishments: Produced a document with descriptions of each Land Type Association on the Hiawatha National Forest.	External Partners: The Nature Conservancy Internal Partners: Hiawatha National Forest - Soils/TEUI, Planning

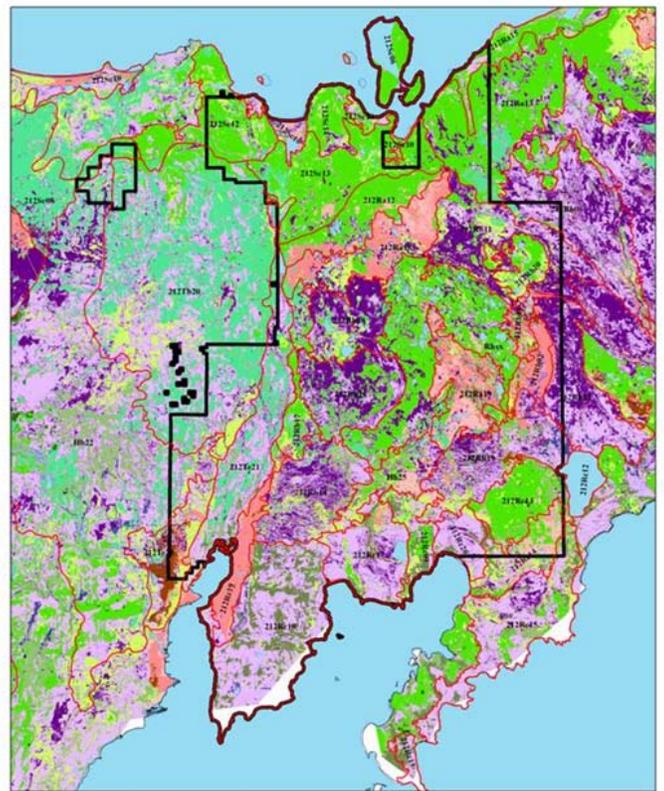
Project Objectives: Develop attributes and descriptions for Land Type Associations (LTAs).

Land Type Associations are landscape-scale terrestrial ecosystems used in National Forest planning as a framework for analysis and conservation design, and as a context for project planning.

The Hiawatha National Forest (HNF) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) worked together to develop a document with summary information for all Land Type Associations (LTA) that intersected HNF land. The goal of this project was to develop a discrete set of criteria to describe LTAs, provide guidance for management, facilitate communication between partners, and help in the identification of critical or sensitive habitat and ecosystems. The LTA descriptions utilized a number of datasets, including state and federal products such as LANDFIRE.

Working jointly on this project, the Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy both gained an improved understanding of Upper Michigan's ecosystems and produced materials that will facilitate communication with individuals and organizations. TNC is planning on reaching out to other organizations (e.g., Michigan Department of Natural Resources; DNR, private forest industries) using this information as a base to better facilitate landscape-scale ecosystem management.

As well as assessing existing conditions and using the information for NEPA analysis, TNC produced documentation of changes in vegetative communities between 1800 and 2001. There are many additional applications for the LTA dataset.



Land Type Associations on the West Unit of the Hiawatha National Forest, displayed over the LANDFIRE BpS layer depicting pre-EuroAmerican vegetation.