GREAT LAKES INDIAN FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION
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• MEMBER TRIBES •

MICHIGAN
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Keweenaw Bay Community
Lac Vieux Desert Band

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Lac Courte Oreilles Band
Lac du Flambeau Band
Red Cliff Band
St. Croix Chippewa
Sokaogon Chippewa

MINNESOTA
Fond du Lac Band
Mille Lacs Band

MEMORANDUM

To: Tribal – USDA Forest Service MOU Meeting Participants
From: Alexandra Wrobel, Forest Ecologist
Date: October 3, 2018
Re: GLIFWC – USDA Logging Study Update

Background. In 1997, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) and the USDA Forest Service entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to conduct a long term research project to study the impact of selective cut harvest on understory plants. Four study sites were established on the Medford District of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Each site included a treatment plot (selective cut harvest) and a control plot (no harvest).

Data collection began in 1997, before the start of treatment (harvest) activities, to determine the extent to which the control and treatment plots within each site were similar in community type. Plots were sampled for 5 years prior to treatments and have been sampled a variable number of times since treatments were applied (Table 1.).

Activities Prior to 2013: In previous seasons, vegetation survey data were collected during both spring and summer at all four sites through the summer of 2012 (Table 1). Data were then entered into a customized Microsoft Access database.

Following an ordination analysis completed on data collected in 2011 and 2012, it was determined that no significant different existed between the treatment and control understory vegetation communities. Using these results as well as general observations made during field visits, it was decided to change sampling methods for subsequent years.

Activities from 2013-2015: Due to very little variation in the herbaceous community, and the high intensity of sampling at each location during two seasons each year (during each visit, transects may be walked numerous times), field crews may be introducing the element of human disturbance to the locations. As a result, it was decided to only sample the study sites once each year. Starting in 2013, each of the four sites were visited once per year, alternating the season between years. For example, in 2013 and 2015 all four sites were sampled during the spring season, while in 2014 and 2016 sites were scheduled to be sampled during the summer season. All four sites were sampled in 2014 as scheduled, however only two sites were available in 2016 due to storm damage. All four sites were sampled in the spring of 2017 and again in the summer of 2018.

Table 1. The years and seasons in which sites (number 1 – 4) were sampled (denoted by X). Treatment applications are identified for each treatment plot (**Treatment**). Note breaks in year sequence.

		1	2	3	4
1996	Spring	X	X	X	X
	Summer	X	X	X	X
1997	Spring				
	Summer	X	X	X	X
1998	Spring		X	X	X
	Summer	X	X	X	X
1999	Spring	X	X	X	X
	Summer	X	X	X	X
2000	Spring	X	X	X	X
	Summer	X	X	X	X
2002	Spring	**Treatment**			
	Summer	X			
2003	Spring		**Treatment**		
	Summer	X	X	X	X
2004	Spring	X	X		
	Summer	X	X		
2005	Spring			**Treatment**	**Treatment**
	Summer				
2007	Spring	X	X	X	X
	Summer	X	X	X	X
2011	Spring	X	X	X	X
	Summer	X	X	X	X
2012	Spring	X	X	X	X
	Summer	X	X	X	X
2013	Spring	X	X	X	X
	Summer				
2014	Spring				
	Summer	X	X	X	X
2015	Spring	X	X	X	X
	Summer				
2016	Spring				
	Summer	X	X		
2017	Spring	X	X	X	X
	Summer				
2018	Spring				
	Summer	X	X	X	X

cc. Jonathan Gilbert, Biological Services Director
Miles Falck, Wildlife Section Leader