

Mike - I will not be able to make the KW recovery team meeting this week...too many other things on my plate. Was hoping you could pass along the following summary regarding Marquette County KW management to the other team members. Greg Corace can likely fill in any blanks.

Most of the forest owned by Marquette County is jack pine. As many recovery team members are aware, KW's were observed using Marquette County jack pine (these stands were created after a fire in the late 1980's). This jack pine is now too old for KW occupancy, so I have met with County Forestry Commission several times to encourage them to manage for KW's. In September, Marquette County released a Forest Planning document for public review/input. The Forest Plan was aimed at formalizing the County's plans for their forest lands. Unlike National Forest Plans it doesn't appear to have a "sun-set" date...but rather it is supposed to be updated as necessary. Recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat were included in the plan as important values of the Forest land, however, the real objective in their plan was to layout silvicultural practices, cutting schedules, etc. I will note that KWs were mentioned in the plan, but no real detail was provided as to how they would manage for this species.

The Service wrote a letter and attended the public hearing regarding incorporation of KW management in Forest Plan. Specifically we asked Marquette County to:

- 1) continue working toward a specific KW project - identify appropriate area (100 - 200 acres) to manage for KW's
- 2) incorporate into Plan a certain % of jack pine lands which would be managed for KWs such that long term they would continue to have KW habitat and hence contribute to recovery of the species
- 3) incorporate specific jack pine regeneration techniques which would create suitable KW habitat

I was at the Forestry Commission meeting prior to the public hearing (1 hour) and Greg and I were both at the public hearing (1 hour) and fielded lots of questions regarding KW and barrens management. The outcome is -1)the Forestry Commission agreed to continue looking at options for one "on-the-ground" KW project. I, and possibly Greg, need to sit down with Marquette County staff to identify the project based on their anticipated harvest schedule over the next several years. 2) they did not commit to maintaining KW habitat long term (although this was considered and discussed, albeit briefly). 3) they did not incorporate KW friendly jack pine regen. techniques. Even though this is less than what we had hoped, I still think it is a step in the right direction. This is a new idea, and as Steve S. can attest, getting foresters to support this change in jack pine management in the U.P. is a struggle.

I plan to invite Marquette County forestry commission and/or staff to the next KW Recovery Team meeting. We might think about having a meeting here in the U.P....perhaps we would have more likelihood to get participation from Marquette County and Michigan Tech. University.

Sorry I will miss the meeting. Call if you have questions.

Christie

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