

## Hiawatha Sportsman's Club

**Issue:** Concern has been growing for many years regarding the health of the aspen resource throughout the eastern UP. Aspen stands have reached the age where their ecological viability is jeopardized (assuming fire and windthrow are relatively rare events). Aspen is critical for deer, grouse, woodcock, and rabbits as well as many other species of animals.

The 1978 management plan anticipated regenerating the majority of the aspen resource by 1990. This plan was not implemented.

In 1998 the HSC board approved a 5-year plan to accelerate the aspen harvest. This was only partially implemented in 1999 due to storm salvage and has been implemented in 2000 through 2009.

**It should be noted that the 2005 land purchase included aspen acreage.**

**Goal:** Maintain the existing aspen habitat component on the Club - approximately 25%.

<b>2009 Density distribution of pole size aspen/birch</b>			
<b>A6/B6</b>	<b>A5/B5</b>	<b>A4/B4</b>	<b>Total</b>
990	1,092	1,000	3,082
32%	35%	32%	100%

Assuming 80% of the A6/B6 can be regenerated, 80% of the A5/B5, and 50% of the A4/B4, would leave approximately 2,165 acres in need of harvest. Harvesting this over the next 9 years would indicate 240 acres/year but if we need to harvest it over the next 6 years the harvest would be 361 acres/year.

**Past:** The 8 year average aspen harvest has been 272 acres/year.

Recent years have seen priorities change due to forest health issues (jack pine budworm and BBD).

Some stands or portions of stands have already converted to pine (red or white), or hardwoods.

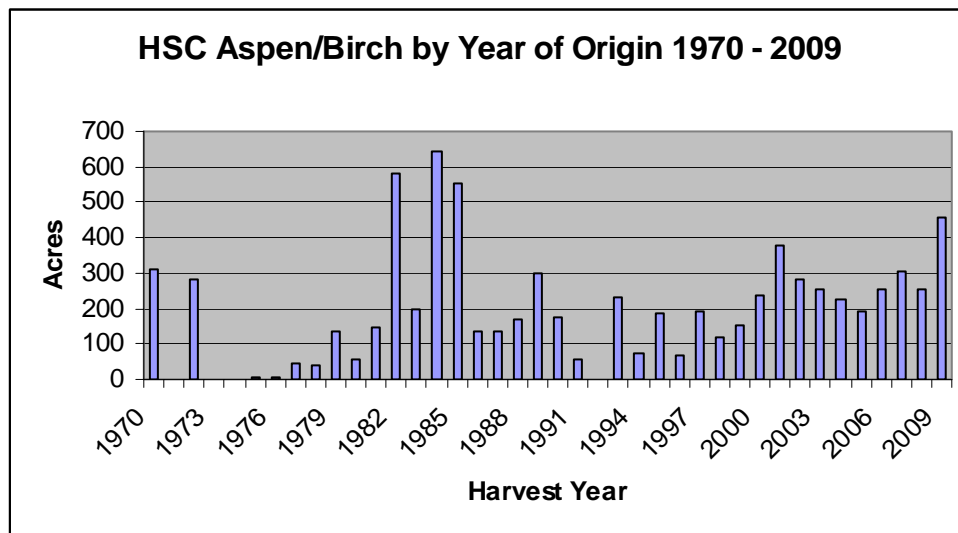
Aspen harvest areas are included within other harvest types.

Below is the actual harvest by year, by forest type. **Type and acres are from the existing type and acres after harvest and re-inventory (i.e. the most recent data).**

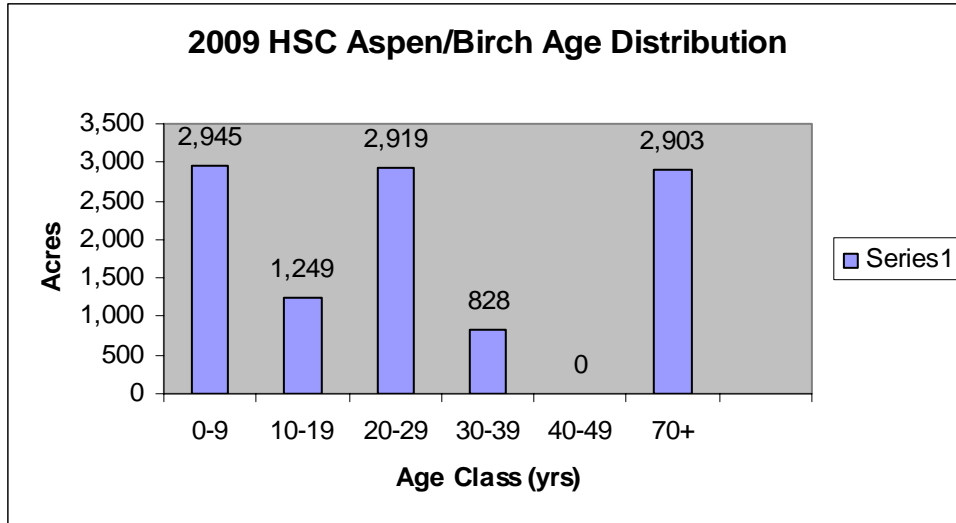
Sum of ACRES	TYPE										Grand Total
Z_YR_HARVE	A	G	J	M	N	O	Q	R	W		
2002	268				123	1					392
2003	219	4	373	71	128			96			891
2004	215		247	41	15						518
2005	250	5	30	187	37		29		2		540
2006	199	7	70	607				1			884
2007	288		20	230					6		543
2008	399			85	10				6		500
2009	341			117	55				10		523
Grand Total	2,178	16	740	1,339	368	1	29	97	23		4,792

Recommendation:

1. 2010 aspen harvest should be 300 to 400 acres+- (the 1/1/10 to 3/31/10 aspen harvest was approximately 84 acres).
2. Maintain an accelerated aspen harvest.
3. Provide information to the Board and membership why this is our recommendation.
4. Let membership know that this accelerated harvest will be visible.
5. Mark pine leave trees within the harvests rather than leaving all pine. This will allow better establishment of the new habitat.



Year of origin is the first active growing season.



2009 Size distribution of aspen/birch		
<b>Aspen/birch</b>		
Saplings	7,761	72%
Poles	3,082	28%
	10,843	100%

**2009 Forest stocking by age for aspen/birch forest type.**

Age Class	Nonstock	poor	medium	good	Total	%
0-9		7	543	2,396	2,945	27%
10-19		3	131	1,115	1,249	12%
20-29		0	383	2,536	2,919	27%
30-39		0	139	689	828	8%
40-49		0	0	0	0	0%
70+		1,000	987	916	2,903	27%
	0	1,010	2,182	7,651	10,843	100%
	0%	9%	20%	71%	100%	

No age information is available for 10 acres saplings.  
Poles without age information are assumed to exceed 70 years old).

Note: During the late 1990's the deer impact on aspen regeneration was significant.

Hiawatha Sportsmans Club  
Aspen by age class

03-15-10



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