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Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Cicero Swamp Wildlife Management Area
Habitat Management Plan

September 26, 2016
Town of Clay Town Hall, 4401 Route 31, Clay, NY
Adam Perry & Mike Putnam Wildlife Biologists
Andrew Drake, Forester
Adam Robedee, Forestry Technician

Agenda

- Overview of Wildlife Management Areas
- Highlights of Cicero Swamp Wildlife Management Area
- Overview of the Young Forest Initiative and Habitat Management Plans
- Goals and Management Activities for Cicero Swamp
- Questions

What is a Wildlife Management Area?

- Open to the public
- To provide & enhance:
  - wildlife habitat
  - wildlife-dependent recreation
- Sporting license fee/Federal PR funded

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Region 7 Wildlife Management Areas

- 9 counties
- 14 WMAs (53,268 ac.)
- 11 WMAs included in YFI (52,956 ac.)

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Cicero Swamp Wildlife Management Area

Overview:

- Acquired in 1945
- 4,991 acres
- Mostly forested wetland (80%)

Past Management:

- Grassland maintenance
- Pond creation
- Very limited forest management

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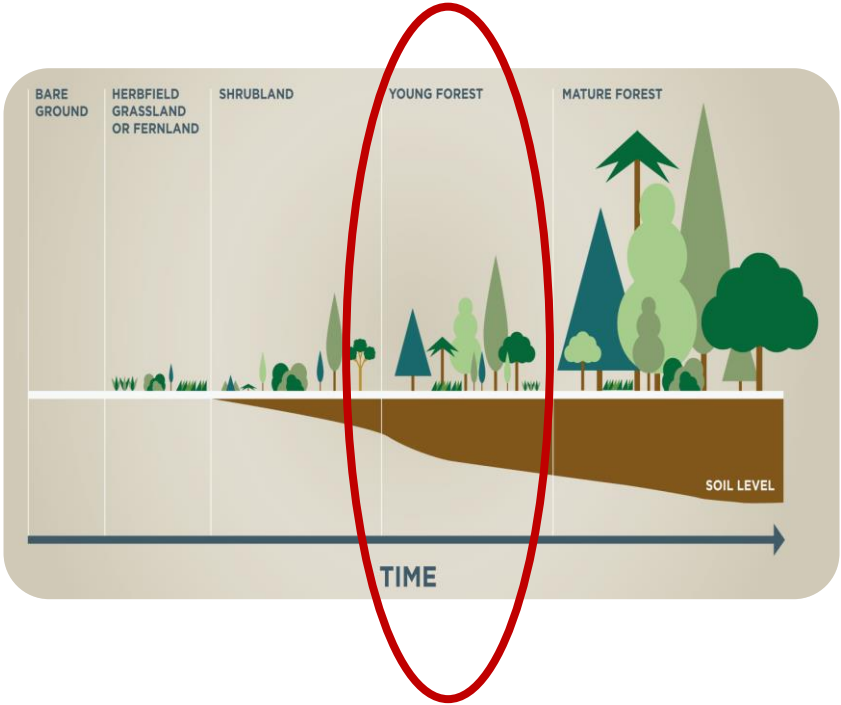
Young Forest Initiative

- Creating habitat for wildlife
- More opportunities for bird watching, hunting, fishing
- Will evaluate effectiveness of management and adapt if needed



Learn more at:
www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/104218.html

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What is a Habitat Management Plan?

- A 10-year plan to manage habitat for wildlife
- Acreage goals for each habitat type
- Guided by responsible management practices

Photo: Mike Putnam

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Cicero Swamp Habitat Management Plan

Major Goals:

- Create 12% young forest
- Promote forest diversity
- Maintain shrublands
- Maintain/improve grasslands with mowing/fire
- Seasonally regulate impoundments

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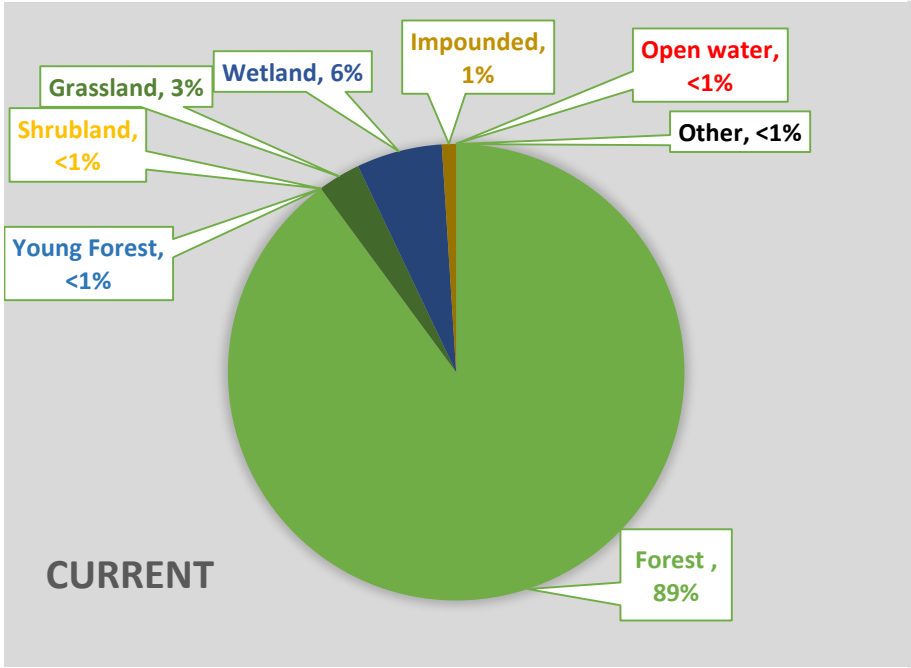
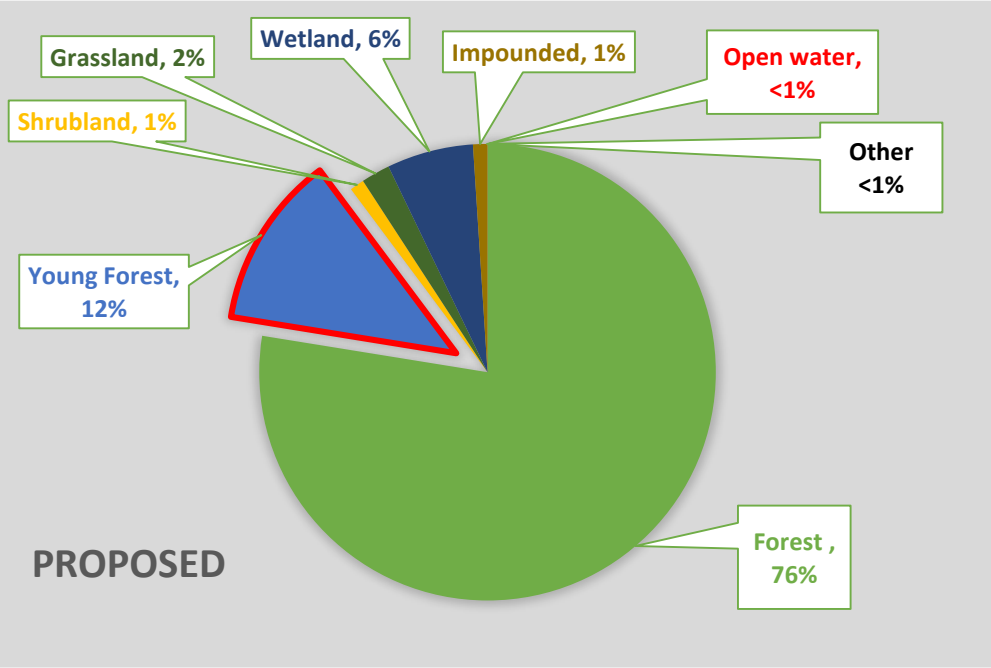
Cicero Swamp Habitat Classification





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Cicero Swamp Habitat Management Plan

Target YFI Species:

- American Woodcock
  - Open areas for singing
  - Moist, rich soils for feeding
  - Young, dense forest for nesting and brood rearing
  - Overgrown fields/shrublands for roosting

Photo by Tom Bell

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Cicero Swamp Habitat Management Plan

Other species of interest:

- Eastern massasauga rattlesnake
- Ruffed grouse/wild turkey
- Cerulean warbler
- Spotted turtle
- Waterfowl
- Bats

Photo: Tom Bell

Photo: Kyle Olson

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Cicero Swamp Habitat Management Plan

Management Actions:

Forest

- Timber harvests
- Non-commercial forest management

Shrubland

- Tree removal, brush hog
- Control invasive species

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Cicero Swamp Habitat Management Plan

Management Actions:

Grassland

- Routine mowing
- Prescribed fire
- Improvement at 481 Ponds

Wetland and Pond

- Maintain dikes and WCS
- Seasonally regulate water levels in 481 ponds
- Control invasive species

Photo: Tom Bell

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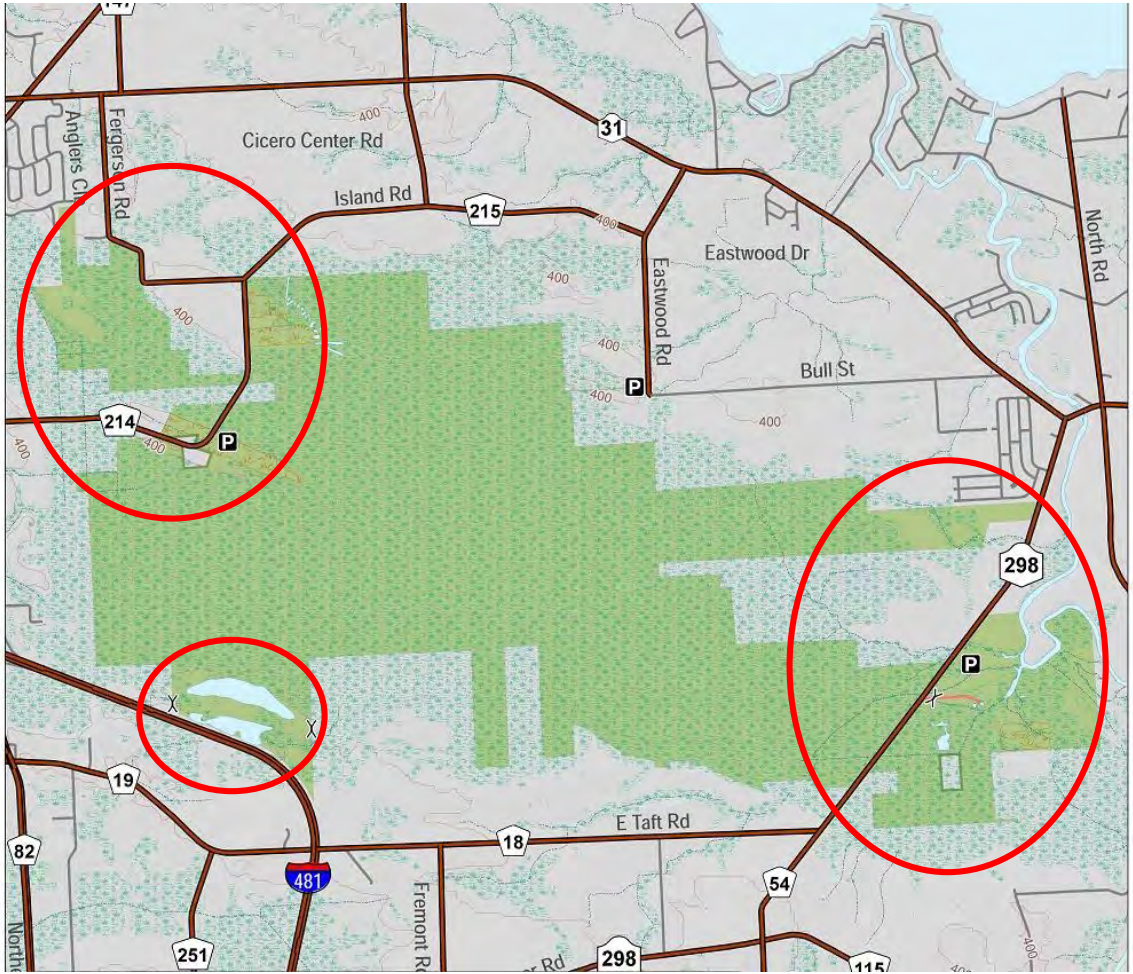

Specific plans:

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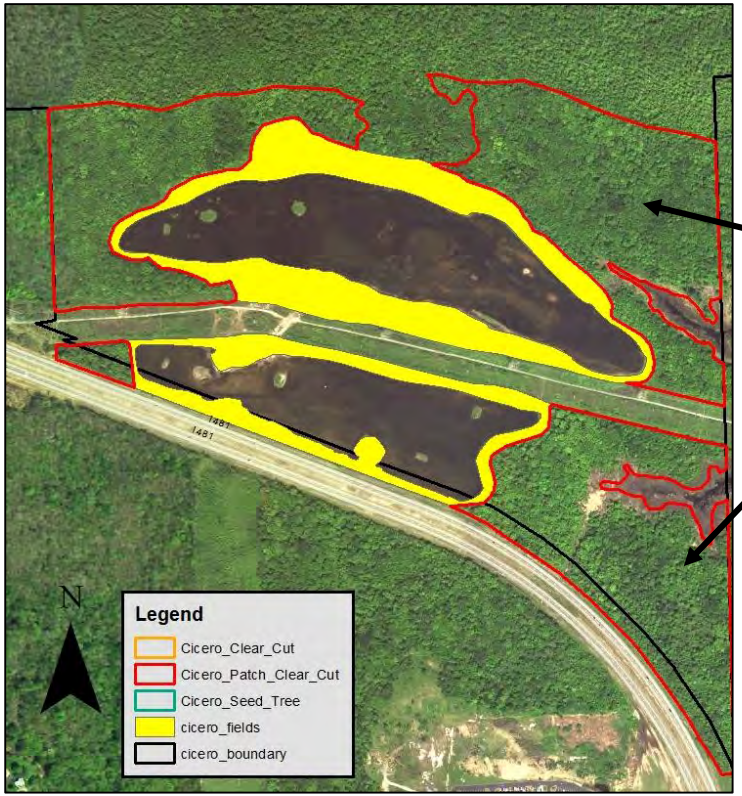

481 Ponds area

- Improve grass areas
- Create shrublands/YF/soft-edge
- Continue to regulate water levels
- Control invasive aquatic plants

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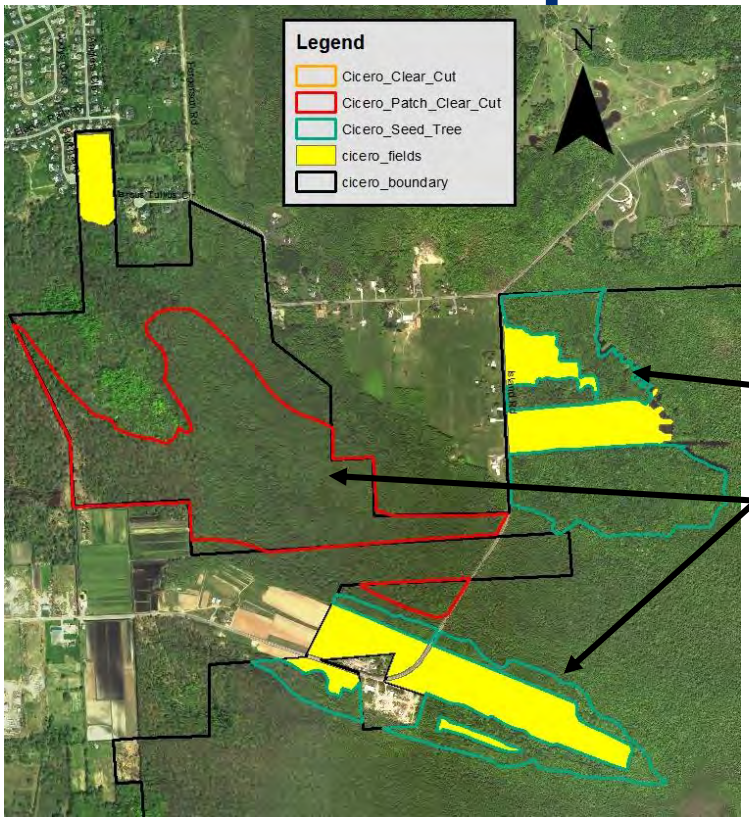

Northwest section

- Maintain grassland areas(yellow)
- Harvest via seed tree cut (green)
- Create patch clear cuts (red)

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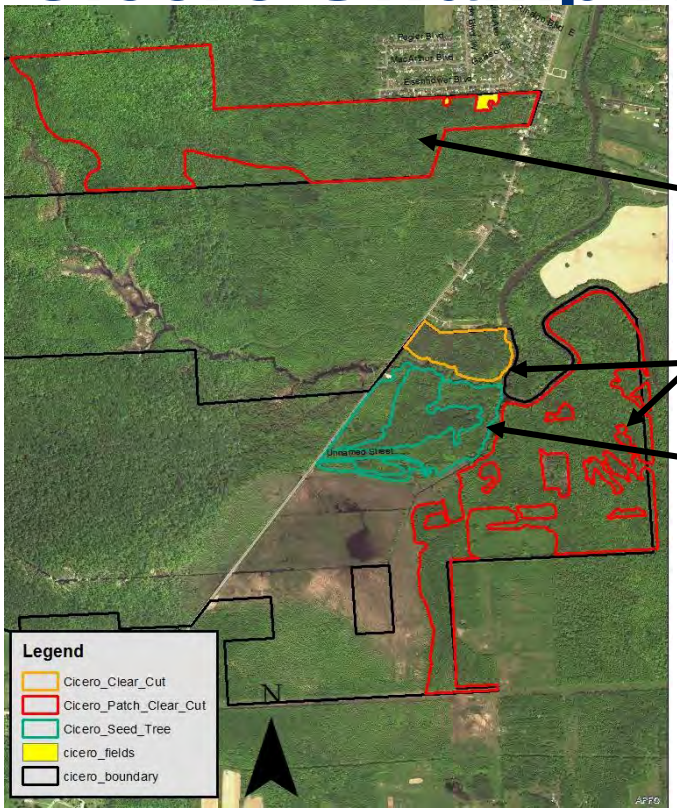

East section

- Create patch clear cuts (red)
- Harvest via clearcut (orange)
- Harvest via seed tree cuts (green)
- Maintain shrubland areas

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Cicero Swamp Habitat Management Plan

Monitoring Activities:

- Before and After Surveys
  - Woodcock (annual)
  - Songbirds (semi-annual)
- Sensitive Species Surveys
  - Rare bats
  - E. massasauga rattlesnake
- Vegetative Response

Contact Information

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Thank you!

Questions?

Survey on the table

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