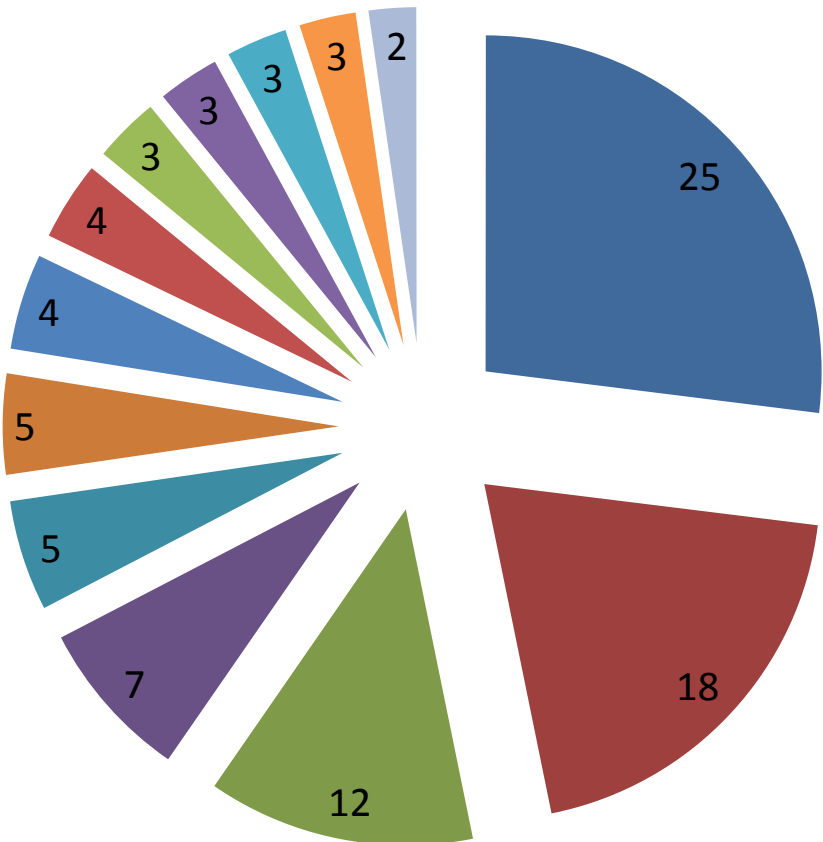


Why are we here today?

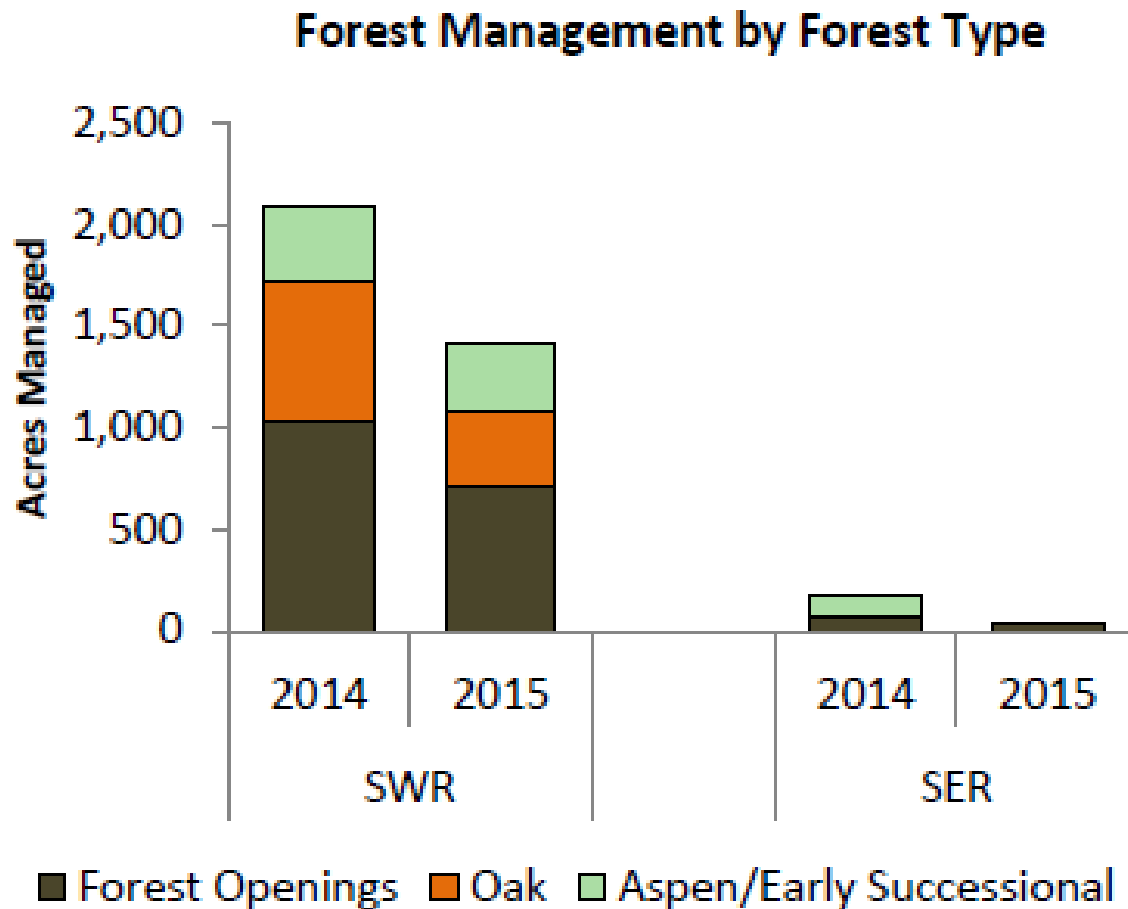
- Importance of Oak
 - Wildlife (habitat and food resources)
 - Timber/ economy
 - Recreation
 - Climate Change (Carbon sink)
 - Major cover type in SW MI

SW Region Wildlife Land Cover Types



- Oak
- Lowland Deciduous
- Mixed Upland Deciduous
- Aspen
- Lowland Shrub
- Herbaceous Openland
- Marsh
- Cropland
- Water
- Urban
- Northern Hardwood
- Low-Density Trees
- Red Pine

DNR Wildlife Division Metrics

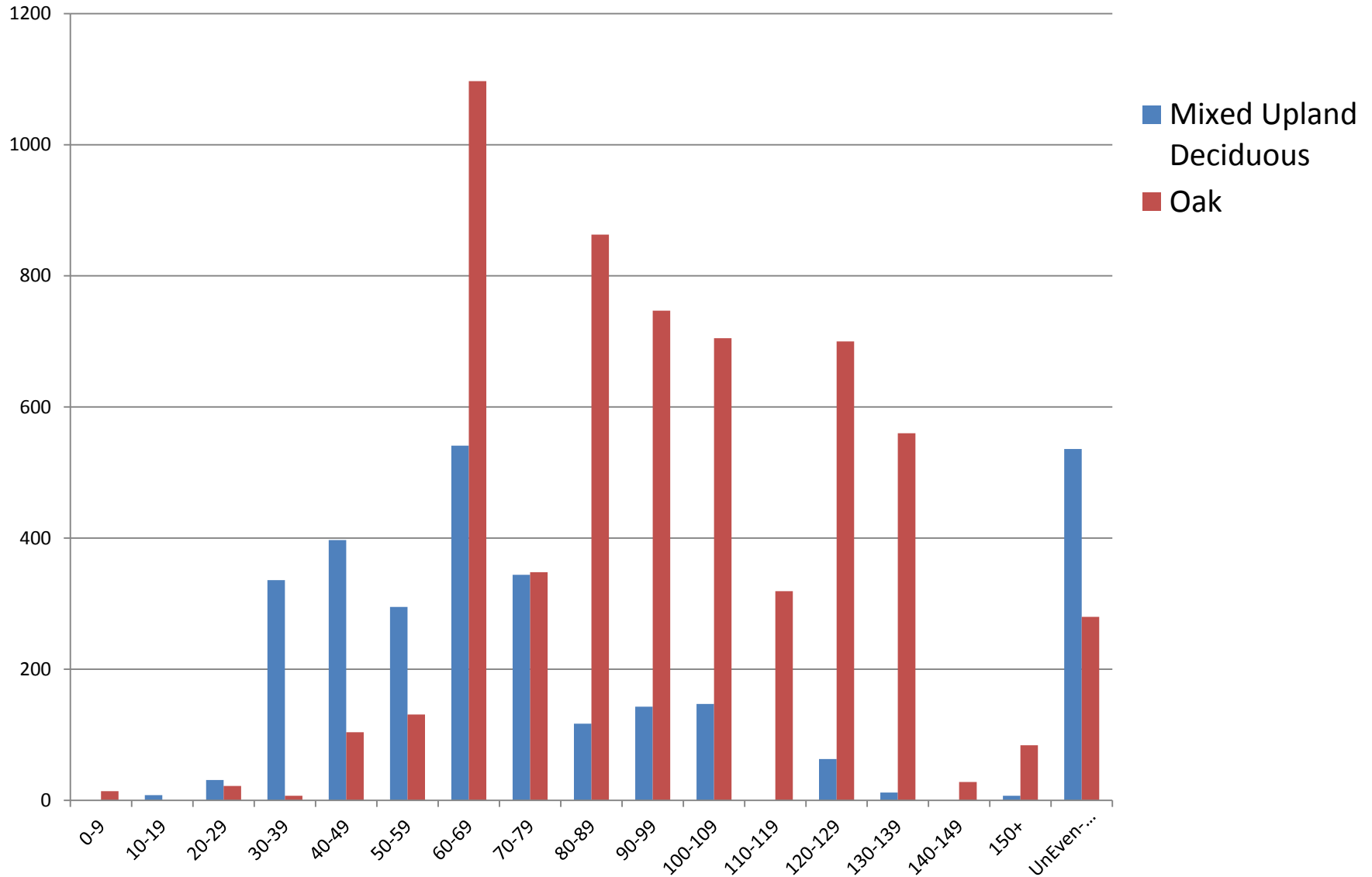


Managed Lots of Forest/ Oak Over the Years

- Good job
 - Early successional
 - Mature Oak
 - If not always strategically

So What's the Problem?

Barry SGA Oak and Mixed Upland Deciduous Age Class Distribution



Not Regenerating Oak on Mesic Sites

- Except
 - Under CCC red pine
 - In old fields
- Our Oak resource
 - Mature
 - Little Regeneration
 - Frequently Converting to Mesophytic spp.

Yet There's Reason to be Hopeful

DNR WLD SW Region

- 1st wall to wall forest inventory
- Oak regeneration identified as one of top habitat priorities
- Embracing need for adaptive management
- Considering research and monitoring
- Deer

Barry County Buck and Antlerless Harvest



General Take Home Message

- Complex problem, no silver bullet
- Take full advantage (most knowledgeable oak managers/ ecologists in one room)
- Meeting hopefully helps with
 - Recognition of problem
 - Becoming more familiar with literature
 - Network builder
 - Conversation starter

SW DNR WLD Take Home Message

- Don't be afraid to Manage (caution and thought)
- Work in an adaptive management framework Set clear objectives
 - Set Clear Objective
 - Monitor
 - Manage again
 - Share and discuss lessons learned
- It's OK to make mistakes

SW DNR WLD Take Home Message

- Managing for management sake (maplizing forest) benefits few, if any wildlife species
- Metrics
 - Change metric from acres of oak harvested to acres of oak regenerated

THANK YOU

Funding:

Michigan DNR Wildlife Division
Southwest Region
Planning and Adaptation Section

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