

AB - Quaking Aspen-Paper Birch Forest



Photo credit: Michael Lew-Smith

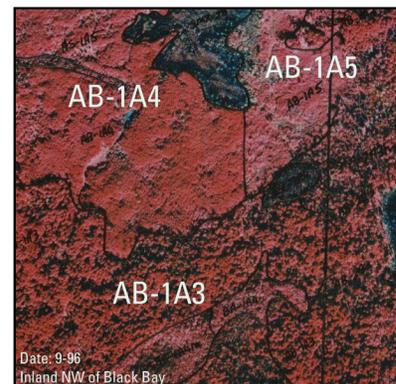


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The Quaking Aspen-Paper Birch Forest Map Unit (AB) represents two associations within the Quaking Aspen - Paper Birch Forest Alliance: [Aspen Birch/Boreal Conifer Forest](#) and [Aspen - Birch - Red Maple Forest](#). These associations are also included in the JPAX Map Unit when they occur as a mosaic pattern with the Jack Pine / Balsam Fir Forest Association (see description for JPAX). And, they are also included in the WRPA Map Unit when they occur as a mosaic pattern with either one or both the White Pine/Mountain Maple Mesic Forest Association and the Red Pine/Blueberry Dry Forest Association (see description for WRPA).

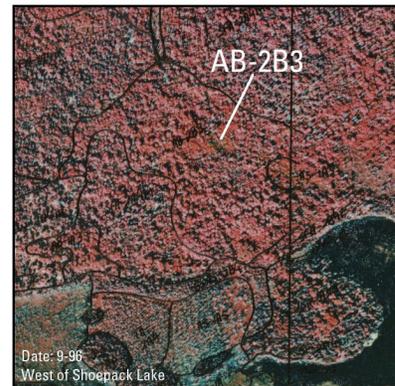
The Aspen/Birch / Boreal Conifer Forest Association is one of the most abundant and widespread types occurring from well drained ridges to lower areas. It includes young forests to mature stands, typically dominated by quaking aspen with paper birch and big tooth aspen common. The tree sub-canopy includes conifers along with red maple. The Aspen - Birch - Red Maple Forest Association is not as common and is more localized throughout the area. Although similar to the former, this association lacks the conifers in the tree sub-canopy with the red maple remaining present. Regardless of association, open canopies due to blowdown situations are fairly common.

AB exhibits different signatures based on stand age. AB-1A3 appears orange-red with small patches of very dark red and a somewhat choppy texture. The canopy is continuous and evenly dispersed. The orange-red is aspens and birch, and the dark red is fir in the tree sub-canopy. AB-1A4 appears bright orange-red with a more sculptured carpet-like texture. AB-1A5 appears pink for the young aspen with lighter pink patches revealing the herbaceous layer. The photo was taken in September 1995.

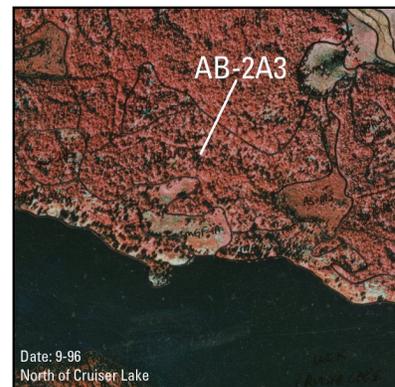


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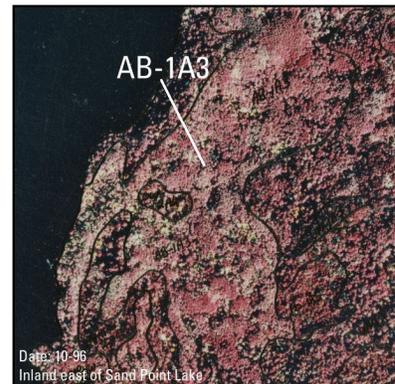
AB-2B3 appears as red and orange-red with dots of blue. The texture is somewhat choppy. The orange-red is the aspen and the blue dots are mostly balsam fir. The canopy is open and clumped due to blowdown. The tree height falls within the 12-20 meter range. The photo was taken in September 1996.



AB-2A3 appears as red and orange-red with scattered dark red spots. The canopy is open and evenly dispersed. The tree height falls within the 12-20 meter range. The photo was taken in September 1996.



AB-1A3 appears as red and pink with a few splotches of yellow and very dark red. The texture is carpet-like to choppy in places. The canopy is closed and evenly dispersed. The tree height falls within the 12-20 meter range. The photo was taken in October 1996.



Area Report for AB Map Unit

Polygons: 3,361

Hectares: 21,696

Acres: 53,613

Average Size: 6 hectares, 16 acres

Accuracy Assessment Results for AB Map Unit

The Quaking Aspen-Paper Birch Forest Map Unit was assessed at 65% producers' accuracy (confidence interval 52-77%) and 84% users' accuracy (confidence interval 72-95%). Errors in producers' accuracy were primarily associated with Map Unit ABW, AL, and SFA. Users' accuracy is considered adequate as mapped.