

Planned Prescribed Burning (2023 - 2055) near LVD - L'Anse Trail Corridor

Legend

- Broadcast Burn
- Hand-built Pile Burn
- Hand-piled Fuel Break
- Machine-built Pile Burn
- Mechanical Treatment Only
- fuelbreaks_Interior_USFSonly
- Prior Prescribed Burn
- Fire exceeding 10 acres
- Recreation Trails
- Forest Road
- County Road
- U.S. or State Highway
- Railroad
- LVD - L'Anse Trail Corridor
- Forest Boundary
- USFS Wilderness Area
- ARMY: USAF
- BIA
- BLM
- FWS
- NPS
- Other/Private
- US Forest Service (USFS)
- State/DNR



MAP NARRATIVE

The Keteegissingan (Lac Vieux Desert)-Kakaweenaning (L'Anse) Trail crosses approximately 60 miles of the interior of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, from L'Anse on Keweenaw Bay to Lac Vieux Desert on the Michigan-Wisconsin border.

Lac Vieux Desert-L'Anse Trail is one of the few remaining ancient trails that is not paved today or forgotten. It can provide the opportunity for tribal members and visitors a glimpse into the past, a true traditional historically pre-contact experience. The trail was formed as the Anishinaabe people engaged in hunting, gathering, fishing, harvesting wild rice and producing maple syrup in various villages through the seasons, as well as meeting different bands to trade supplies. Regular use of the trail continued until the early-to mid-1930s, after which its use declined. The trail is not currently readily identifiable on the ground surface. Any evidence that is likely to exist would most likely be subsurface. Therefore, historic maps and documents provided the primary means of identifying the trail corridor.

The trail was not static and there were variations in the trail route over time. This map's depiction of LVD-L'Anse Trail Corridor is based on 4 mapped trail locations which are believed to best represent the actual routes/locations of the trail over its entire period of use:

- General Land Office Maps (ca. 1847-51) provided the trail location only where it crossed each Public Land Survey System (PLSS) section line (but missing the trail points within township 46N range 37W)
- The LVD-L'Anse Trail Unit Plan (1936 USFS) included a map created by field work, drawn, checked and traced. It includes the portion of the trail missing on the GLO maps, indicating ground surveys were likely conducted on GLO-omitted portion and possibly elsewhere.
- Keweenaw Ranger District Map (1937 USFS) which indicated the trail route was ground-truthed, as the trail was likely still relatively visible in that year. Georeferenced to PLSS section lines.
- Iron River District Map (1937-38, created by E.R. Toole). The actual traverse data appears to be accurate, but the original digitizing may not have been reliable.

After reviewing available trail accounts, a Trail Corridor Plan committee delineated a corridor width of 1/4-mile on each side of the outermost trail (of the 4), to be identified and managed as the trail corridor. 27 miles (46%) crosses National Forest System lands on the Ottawa National Forest, 22 miles (38%) crosses private lands, and about 9 miles (16%) crosses State of Michigan lands.

The Ottawa National Forest will use existing and future Trail Corridor Plans to guide collaborative efforts with the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians in the planning and implementation of management actions within the trail corridor.

Prescribed burns depicted on this map were sourced from the Forest Service Activity Tracking System (FACTS). There is no record of USFS prescribed burning within the trail corridor in FACTS since its inception. Anishinaabe oral history suggests that indigenous burning likely occurred near this area historically, to support their traditional practices including hunting/gathering. These exact burn locations are not documented.

METADATA DETAILS FOR HISTORICAL FIRE DATA

The FireOccurrence point layer represents ignition points - or points of origin - from which individual USFS wildland fires started. Data is maintained at the Forest level to track the occurrence and origin of individual USFS wildland fires. Records date back to 1949.

Records in FireOccurrence include historical fire point records from a variety of sources. As of 2021, InFORM (Interagency Fire Occurrence Reporting Modules) is the authoritative data source for all wildland fire occurrences on National Forest System Lands or National Forest-Protected Lands. InFORM also includes prior fire records that were migrated from FIRESTAT (the Fire Statistics System computer application). From 1986 through 2021, FIRESTAT was the authoritative data source to enter and maintain information from the Individual Wildland Fire Report (FS-5100-29). The Individual Wildland Fire Report is the record of fire occurrence required of all Forest Service units. FIRESTAT also included records of fires which pre-dated that interface.

Note: It is understood that fires which pre-date the use of FIRESTAT may or may not represent the actual ignition point of any given wildland fire. Locations of historical wildfires are often a direct result of the rules for fire reporting at the time they were collected. From 1949 through 1985, many fire locations were not coordinate-based, and may have been transferred from some type of paper map, or an approximate location may have been assigned using digital topographic maps. Older fire history data was transferred to new Data Dictionary Standards from May of 2017. Many older points had little associated information; therefore not all currently-required fields will have attributes.

Final mapped wildland fire perimeters are maintained at the Forest level in a FirePerimeter layer, to track the surface area initially impacted by unplanned fires. Records in FirePerimeter represent wildland fires that have corresponding records in InFORM / FIRESTAT. FirePerimeter polygons include all burned and unburned areas within wildland fire perimeters - such as unburned "islands", rocky outcrops, water bodies, and marshlands within a wildland fire perimeter - unless directed otherwise by USFS Line Officers. This perimeter data comes from varying sources, including GPS, paper maps, historic fire reports, geographic coordinates, projected coordinates, and memory. Most older polygons are not true perimeters but are simply the FireOccurrence points buffered by 20 meters, to create a polygon corresponding to each fire point. Many perimeters (especially before 1990) were small (less than 0.25-acre) and were not drawn on historical maps nor GPS'd around the perimeter. GPS'd perimeters would likely be the most accurate, with other polygons being much less accurate. Fires missing from the FireOccurrence points are also missing from the FirePerimeter layer.

This map displays only the fire polygons that exceed 10 acres, as smaller polygons would not be visible under the flame symbology used.

Prescribed fires are tracked in the Forest Service Activity Tracking System (FACTS) and should not be included in the FireOccurrence point dataset nor the FirePerimeter dataset. In the event that a prescribed fire escapes, an Individual Wildland Fire Report is then required, and the fire location/perimeter would be included in the FireOccurrence/FirePerimeter data for only the area burned after escape.

FIRE HISTORY KNOWN TO BE MISSING

The Ottawa National Forest was proclaimed in 1931, and grew with 2 additional land purchases in the next several years. No fire data within future Ottawa boundaries is available prior to 1931, nor from 1931 to 1948. Fire points/perimeters between 1949 and 1959 were sourced from an old Keweenaw fire atlas only, so data for other districts does not exist until 1960. Fires prior to 1970 are documented by year, but are missing names and month/day of discovery, due to lesser documentation criteria in those early years. Further, between 1970 and 1974, fire points/perimeters exist only for Watersmeet district fires; data for other districts is missing. There is also evidence of fires recorded/mapped in historic atlases of a ranger station which do not correspond to any fire within this dataset. Additionally, fire-scarring has been observed on trees on USFS lands in areas that do not correspond to any fire within this dataset. These findings indicate that the older data has numerous fire omissions.

Most fire locations on non-USFS lands are not depicted. (That data is not maintained by USFS and could not be obtained at the time of this mapping.)

ADDITIONAL DATA SOURCES USED

Surface management data was obtained from USFS Geospatial Interface, Open Data at DOI.gov, and Michigan's Open Data Portal.

Hydrology is depicted utilizing the National Hydrology Dataset (NHD), with stream names provided by Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Populated places were derived from the national Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) dataset produced by the U.S. Geographic Survey's National Geospatial Program.

Structure data was sourced from USGS topographic map series quadrangles, and may not reflect current structures nor outbuildings.



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