

Staff Ride

Resources



Wildland Fire Leadership Development Program

Mack Lake Fire - Travel Directions

The Mack Lake Fire is located between the towns of Mio and Rose City along State Highway M-33 in northern Michigan. Highway M-33 is the best access to the site. The closest jetports are Midland-Bay City-Saginaw and Traverse City (TVC). Each is about 90 miles or 1 ½ hours driving time from the site.

From the Detroit, Michigan area

Take highway I-75 or US-23 north until they merge. Continue north on I-75 and take exit 202 (Highway M-33 north to Mio). Travel 33 miles north to Mio if you are staying overnight. The parking area for Stands 1-4 is approximately 27 miles north of the I-75 exit. The parking area is immediately north of the M-33 & Curtisville Road (County road 604) intersection on the right (east) side of the highway. **Please note that the parking area is the highway right-of-way, there is no constructed parking.**

From the Upper Peninsula of Michigan

Take I-75 south to Grayling exit 256 North Down River Road. Turn left at the off ramp heading east on North Down River Road. Continue on North Down River Road for approximately 7 miles. Turn right at Stephan Bride Road and continue for 2 miles. Follow this road until the next stop sign. Turn left onto State Highway M-72. Continue for approximately 25 miles until you reach Mio. Turn right at the stoplight onto M-33 South. Continue on M-33 South for approximately 6 miles until you reach the parking area for Stands 1-4. The parking area is located on the east (left) side of the road once you pass through the large highway cut bank. The parking area location is at the point the four lane highway begins to merge back into a two lane highway. **Please note that the parking area is the highway right-of-way, there is no constructed parking.** If you miss the site, turn around at the Curtisville Road intersection just south of the parking area.

Parking Area to Stand 1

Stand 1 is located immediately to your north along the highway right-of-way, at the top of the highway cut bank.

Stand 1 to Stand 2

Hike north, along the highway right-of-way, approximately ½ mile to Stand 2.

Stand 2 to Stand 3

Continue north along the highway right-of-way, for approximately ¼ miles until you intersect the powerline corridor. Turn right (east) onto the powerline corridor and continue for approximately 200 yards to Stand 3.

Stand 3 to Stand 4

Follow the tractor plow line to the east for approximately ½ mile until you reach Stand 4. The tractor plow line follows the powerline corridor for a short distance and then gradually runs northeast generally paralleling the powerline corridor. The tractor plow line can be distinguished by a shallow trench often with jack pine regeneration forming a distinct line of trees in the bottom of the trench (a tractor plow line right after a crown fire is a perfectly prepared seedbed for jack pine). There are a few locations as shown in the maps where the operator lifted his plow or the plow line is hard to distinguish due to the effects of time. A saw line has been cut through the dense jack pine to help with access and prevent eye injuries. **Please do not walk directly on the plow line.**

Stand 4 back to Stand 1

Follow the previous directions and backtrack your route to the parking area adjacent to Stand 1.

Stand 1 Parking Area to Stand 5

Turn south (left) onto Highway M-33. Take an immediate left turn (east) onto Curtisville Road (County Road 604). Continue for 2 miles until the intersection with Eggleston Road. Turn left (north) onto Eggleston and proceed approximately 1 mile to Stand 5. You will pass the shore of Mack Lake just before you reach Stand 5. The picture on the front cover of General Technical Report NC-83 was taken from the short section of road that runs along the lakeshore.

Stand 5 to Stand 6

Continue north on Eggleston Road ¼ mile to the intersection with County Road 489. turn left on 489 and continue for 1 mile. Turn left (west) at the next four way intersection staying on County Road 489. Continue for 1 mile to the intersection with Hoy Road. Turn right (north) on Hoy Road and continue for 1 ½ mile to Stand 6.

Stand 6 to Mio

Follow Hoy Road north for approximately 2 miles into the town of Mio. Hoy Road turns into 14th Street as it enters town. Continue on 14th Street until you intersect M-33.