





|           |        |        | 21     |        |        |        |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Age Class | 1999   | 2009   | 2019   | 2049   | 2099   | 2179   |
| 0-20      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      |
| 21-40     | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      | -      |
| 41-60     | 1,793  | 2,268  | 880    | 6,137  | 8,192  | 7,738  |
| 61-80     | 7,897  | 4,465  | 1,939  | 42     | 8,159  | 9,048  |
| 81-100    | 11,194 | 8,822  | 7,991  | 2,209  | 6,869  | 3,130  |
| 101-120   | 16,018 | 20,465 | 16,315 | 5,065  | 513    | -      |
| 121-140   | 1,661  | 3,417  | 10,884 | 10,778 | 15     | -      |
| 141-160   | 1,393  | 887    | 939    | 6,534  | 88     | -      |
| 160+      | 155    | 641    | 1,088  | 1,948  | 4,916  | 4,968  |
| Total     | 40,111 | 40,965 | 40,036 | 32,712 | 28,753 | 24,884 |

Table 4.19 Area summaries of thermal cover habitat type



Figure 4.49 Habitat Type 5 Predicted Area Summary for the Entire FMA Area

Although thermal cover communities will be slightly older in 20 years, the total area of the thermal cover forest community will remain stable. Thermal cover '160+' age-class will increase from 155 ha to 1088 ha. By 50 years, total thermal cover will decrease by 32,712 ha (18%). At this time, 17,312 ha (53%) of the stands will be between 120 and 140 years while stands older than 160 years will increase to 1,948 ha. Also, in 50 years, only 42 ha (0.01%) of thermal cover communities will be between the ages of 60 to 80 years. In 100 years, thermal communities older than 160 years will continue to increase to 4,916 ha. In 180 years, zero hectares in the FMA area will be between 100 and 160 years old. Figures 4.50-4.54 show the change in spatial distribution in thermal cover at five points in time.

## 4.3.6 Habitat Type 6 — Residual Forest Structure

This habitat type was not modeled for future condition.

## 4.3.7 Habitat Type 7 — Caribou Habitat

Caribou habitat is defined as all pure conifer (80% coniferous cover) greater than or equal to 80 years of age, as well as open and closed muskeg areas. For caribou habitat to be considered effective it must have limited fragmentation (i.e., must consist of large contiguous



patches) and few linear disturbances. Road densities are also included as part of the caribou habitat model. The critical threshold for road densities was less than or equal to 0.3 km/km<sup>2</sup>.

Using GIS, stands (polygons) identified as caribou habitat were dissolved to continuous habitat patches. Patches greater then or equal to ten hectares are considered caribou habitat. Descriptive statistics (pie graphs) for future fragmentation characterization of caribou Habitat is included.

Tables 4.20-4.21 summarize the predicted age-class distribution for this habitat. Figure 4.55a graphically depicts the change of caribou habitat over the planning horizon.

| Time N | lumber of<br>Patches | Total<br>Area<br>(ha.) | Mean<br>Patch<br>Size | Max.<br>Patch S<br>Size | standard<br>Dev. |
|--------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| 0      | 306                  | 95,405                 | 312                   | 20,923                  | 1,730            |
| 20     | 362                  | 82,648                 | 228                   | 17,088                  | 1,259            |
| 50     | 312                  | 104,829                | 336                   | 25,075                  | 2,110            |
| 100    | 428                  | 54,170                 | 127                   | 4,814                   | 521              |
| 180    | 393                  | 38,681                 | 98                    | 3,379                   | 327              |

Table 4.20 Univariate statistics of caribou patch sizes in the FMA area<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Minimum patch size is always 10 ha



Figure 4.55a Change of Predicted Caribou Habitat Over the Planning Horizon











