6. DNR Natural Resources Commission Policy and Procedure Series 08 – Records Management.
7. DNR Natural Resources Commission Policy and Procedure Series 13 – Procurement.
8. DNR Natural Resources Commission Policy and Procedure Series 14 – DNR-Owned (or Personal) Vehicles, Motorized Equipment, and Aircraft.
9. DNR Natural Resources Commission Policy and Procedure Series 16 – DNR Facilities Management.
10. DNR Natural Resources Commission Policy and Procedure Series 17 – Communications.
11. DNR Natural Resources Commission Policy and Procedure Series 18 – Automated Systems Security.
12. DNR Natural Resources Commission Policy and Procedure Series 21 – Personnel Manual.
13. DNR Natural Resources Commission Policy and Procedure Series 25 – Legal Services.
14. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 7.2 – Legal Compliance and Administration of Contracts.

Monitoring Criteria:

Statewide Criterion 7 – Institutional Processes, Indicator 7.1

5 - SPECIAL RESOURCE AREA MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

This section provides a description of areas of the State Forest that are designated as special resources areas. Special resource areas are comprised of three primary categories: Special Conservation Areas (SCAs), High Conservation Value Areas (HCVAs), and Ecological Reference Areas (ERAs).
SCAs are areas of the State Forest that have one or more identified special conservation objectives, interests or elements. They are a broad assemblage of areas that possess some inherent ecological, social or economic value, such as trout streams, archaeological sites or recreational areas.

HCVAs are areas of the State Forest that have been recognized for their contribution to specific conservation objectives or attributes through a formal process such as legislation, administrative rule, or Director's or Natural Resource Commission Orders. Designated HCVAs are located only upon State Forest lands, but within a landscape context it is important to coordinate conservation efforts of equivalent HCVA resources with other land owners throughout the landscape, including State Parks and wildlife areas, National Forests and Parks, and corporate and other private ownerships.

ERAs are areas that serve as models of ecological reference within the State. They are high quality examples of functioning ecosystems that are primarily influenced by natural ecological processes, and they may be located upon any land ownership in the State. High quality natural communities recognized by NatureServe and the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) as Global (G) or State (S) endangered (1), threatened (2), or rare (3) and with an Element Occurrence (EO) rank of A or B in the MNFI database serve as an initial base set of ERAs.

Additional information regarding these areas can be found in the document Conservation Area Management Guidelines. The Biodiversity Conservation Planning Process will be used to review nominations for additional HCVAs and ERAs on State Forest lands.

Identified ERAs, HCVAs and SCAs will be managed to conserve, protect and/or to enhance the defined conservation objective or value. The methods used will vary depending upon the objective and type of designation. Land managers, field staff and stand examiners should use technical materials, program staff and/or other references when assessing management options that are suitable for the specific conservation objective. All areas will be managed to protect the immediate natural resource values and human health and safety.

By definition, special conservation areas are spatial representations of specific portions of the State Forest. These areas are not mutually exclusive, and designated ERAs, HCVAs and SCAs may overlap one another. The DNR has developed maps that show the spatial extent of these areas across the landscape. The details of these maps lose clarity and meaning at a state-wide scale and are most clearly represented at an ecoregional scale. These maps are, therefore, only presented in ecoregional management plans.

5.1 - Special Conservation Areas

5.1.1 – Proposed/Nominated Natural Areas

Management Direction: Natural Areas (NAs) are a component of a statewide system of protected areas. This designation includes those NAs proposed and nominated for legal dedication, those cooperatively administered Nature Conservancy (TNC) Natural Areas Registry sites, and those administratively recognized by NRC resolution. There are currently 12 natural areas upon the State Forest that are nominated or proposed. There are 10 TNC registry sites and one NRC dedicated site on the State Forest. Proposed and nominated Natural Areas that have been evaluated through the formal Natural Areas review process and become legally dedicated will become HCVAs. For management purposes NAs that are proposed for legal dedication by the DNR Director will be managed and protected the same as legally dedicated NAs. Management of TNC Natural Area Registry sites will be in accordance with signed agreements between the DNR and TNC.

Proposed/Nominated NAs have retained or redeveloped elements of their natural character, have unusual flora and fauna, or possess biotic, geologic, scenic or other similar features of educational or scientific value. The primary management objectives for NAs are for recreation and the preservation of flora and fauna, or biotic, geologic or scenic features of educational or scientific value. A thorough inventory of floral and faunal species composition and community structure and the identification of natural ecological processes are a priority in these areas. Stewardship activities include active maintenance and restoration, or simply allowing natural ecological processes to occur without interference. Active management methods and techniques may include prescribed burns, invasive species control, brush control, planting of native plant species, and other forms of ecological restoration. Monitoring of management activities is necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of stewardship activities. Not more than 10% of lands under the control of the DNR may be dedicated as Natural Areas.

Natural areas provide recreational sites for persons who appreciate such sites solely for their inherent or intrinsic value. NAs also provide valuable and important research and educational opportunities.

Standards:

1. Part 351, Wilderness and Natural Areas, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, and the administrative rules thereof.
2. DNR Natural Resource Commission Policy and Procedure 26.27-04, Wilderness and Natural Areas, issued July 11, 2005.
3. Natural Areas Strategic Plan (Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2000).
4. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4 - Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands.
5. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1 – Forest Operations.
6. Conservation Area Management Guidelines (Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2005).
7. DNR Wildlife Division Process for Nomination, Review and Dedication of Natural Areas, issued November 30, 2001.

Guidelines:

1. Maintain or restore Natural Areas so as to preserve their natural ecological and social values.
2. Managing divisions develop site conservation and management plans for State Natural Areas and planned stewardship activities should be incorporated into annual work plans.
3. Employ the voluntary cooperation and support of interested citizens and conservation groups in the management of Natural Areas.

5.1.2 – National Natural Landmarks

Management Direction: The National Natural Landmarks (NNLs) Program recognizes and encourages the conservation of outstanding examples of our country's natural history. It is the only natural areas program of national scope that identifies and recognizes the best examples of biological and geological features in both public and private ownership. NNLs are designated by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior under cooperative agreements with public or private landowners and the program is administered by the National Park Service (NPS). There are currently two recognized national natural landmarks upon the State Forest, the Dead Stream Swamp NNL in the Cadillac and Roscommon Forest Management Units and Roscommon Red Pines NNL in the Roscommon Forest Management Unit.

The Federal rules for NNLs do not dictate management activity, and the State of Michigan has included NNLs upon DNR managed lands as a core component in the statewide system of protected areas and habitat corridors. As such, management direction is similar to that of Natural Areas.

NNLs have retained or redeveloped elements of their natural character, have unusual flora and fauna, or possess biotic, geologic, scenic or other similar features of

educational or scientific value. The primary management objectives for NNLs are to maintain and improve the quality of natural community condition and ecological function, to provide recreational opportunities, and to preserve flora and fauna, or biotic, geologic or scenic features of educational or scientific value. A thorough inventory of floral and faunal species composition and community structure and the identification of natural ecological processes are a priority in these areas. Stewardship activities include active maintenance and restoration, or simply allowing natural ecological processes to occur without interference. Active management methods and techniques may include wildlife habitat prescriptions, prescribed burns, invasive species control, brush control, planting of native plant species, and other forms of ecological restoration. Monitoring of management activities is necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of stewardship activities.

Recreational activities such as camping, hiking, skiing, hunting, and wildlife and wildflower viewing are compatible with NNL designation. NNLs provide recreational sites for persons who appreciate such sites solely for their inherent or intrinsic value. NNLs also provide valuable and important research and educational opportunities.

Standards:

1. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4 - Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands.
2. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1 – Forest Operations.

Guidelines:

1. Use Conservation Area Management Guidelines (Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2005).
2. Maintain or restore NNLs so as to preserve their natural ecological and social values.
3. Develop site conservation and management plans for NNLs and planned stewardship activities and incorporate into annual work plans.
4. Employ the voluntary cooperation and support of interested citizens and conservation groups in the management of NNLs.

5.1.3 – Potential Old Growth Areas

Management Direction: Forest stands that are currently coded with stand condition 8 (as potential old growth) in the Operation Inventory will be assessed using the Biodiversity Conservation Planning Process (Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2005a) for possible inclusion as Biodiversity Stewardship Areas (see Section 5.2.8), or other categories of SCAs, HCVAs or ERAs, as appropriate. Until this assessment has been completed no vegetative treatments shall occur in these areas. Once all stand condition 8 designation areas are assessed and the transfer of the inventory system is complete (from Operations Inventory to Integrated Forest Monitoring, Assessment and Prescription (IFMAP)) this category of SCA will be deleted.

Standards:

1. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4 - Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands.
2. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1 – Forest Operations.
3. Biodiversity Conservation Planning Process (Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2005a)

Guidelines:

1. Use Conservation Area Management Guidelines (Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2005b).
2. Activities to protect immediate natural resource values (such as eradication of invasive pests and wildfire suppression) or human health and safety may be undertaken in stands coded as Stand Condition 8.

5.1.4 – Trout Streams and Trout Lakes

Management Direction: The primary management direction for trout streams and trout lakes are for the maintenance and improvement of water quality, aquatic habitat, and the preservation of unique ecological and cultural resources. Inland lakes and streams are regulated by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. Active management activities may include the construction and maintenance of access sites, boating and fishing recreation, aquatic habitat improvement (including sand removal), and stream restoration (by removal of dams).

Standards and guidelines apply to those streams and lakes designated as trout resources by the Fisheries Order 210.01 and Fisheries Order 200.02 respectively.

Cold water fisheries provide recreational resources that are significant components of many regional and local economies. Economic benefits range from direct expenditures for equipment and related supplies to indirect support of local hotels, restaurants and other businesses. Many social and historical traditions are also associated with cold water resources and the maintenance and preservation of these resources for future generations is of importance to our society.

Standards:

1. All management activities within Inland Lakes and Streams will comply with the requirements of Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.
2. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1 – Forest Operations.
3. DNR Natural Resource Commission Policy and Procedure 39.21-20, Beaver Management, issued July 11, 2005.
4. Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division Policy and Procedure 251, Sale and Removal of Timber, issued March 1, 2000.
5. Water Quality Management Practices on Forest Land (Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2006).
6. State Natural River Plans.

Guidelines:

1. Use Interim Guidelines for Evaluating Riparian Management Zones on State Lands (Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2004b).
2. Use Conservation Area Management Guidelines (Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2005).
3. Forest management activities adjacent to trout streams and lakes comply with the above standards, while also taking into consideration other uses of these lands.
4. Management prescriptions adjacent to trout streams and lakes maintain and restore forest canopy cover over stream corridors (riparian management zones) and incorporate water quality best management practices (BMPs) to limit soil disturbance and biomass removal on high gradient sites where the potential for soil erosion and sedimentation into aquatic systems is high.

5.1.5 – Springs, Wetlands, and Riparian Areas

Management Direction: Springs, wetlands and riparian zones are often areas of high biodiversity that provide unique habitat for a large number of obligate bird, mammal, reptile, and amphibian wildlife species. The primary management direction is for the maintenance and improvement of water quality benefits, aquatic habitat, attenuation of flood flows, forest products, the preservation of unique ecological and cultural resources, and the provision of wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity. The general locations of wetlands and floodplains have been identified and are regulated by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Active management activities may include low-impact recreation, the management and harvest of timber, wildlife habitat improvement, and wetland restoration. BMP-related problems must be immediately identified and reported, and sufficient resources should be sought to take positive corrective actions.

Permits may be required from the DEQ Land and Water management Division (LWMD) for certain dredging, draining, filling, and construction or development activities in wetlands or floodplains. A permit from the DEQ LWMD is always required form permanent or temporary bridges and culvert crossings of inland streams. Silvicultural practices and the harvesting for forest products in wetlands are exempt from permit requirements. The construction of forest roads in wetlands are exempt from permit requirements if there is no alternative road location and adverse effects upon wetlands are minimized.

Springs, wetlands and riparian areas provide recreation sites that are of general high aesthetic quality. Riparian systems are recreational resources that are a significant component of many regional and local economies, particularly for the boating industries. Economic benefits range from direct expenditures for equipment and related supplies to indirect support of local hotels, restaurants and other businesses. Many social and historical traditions are associated with riparian resources, and the maintenance and preservation of these resources for future generations is of importance to our society. Wetlands also provide pollution treatment and abatement services that are of large economic value to society.

Standards:

1. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.2 – Best Management Practices Non-Conformance Reporting Instructions.
2. All management activities within wetlands will comply with the requirements of Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.
3. All management activities below the ordinary high water mark of inland streams will comply with the requirements of Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.
4. All management activities within floodplains will comply with the floodplain regulatory authority found in Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.
5. DNR Natural Resource Commission Policy and Procedure 39.21-20, Beaver Management, issued July 11, 2005.
6. Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division Policy and Procedure 251, Sale and Removal of Timber, issued March 1, 2000.

Guidelines:

1. Management prescriptions in or adjacent to springs, wetlands or Riparian Management Zones assist in the maintenance of water quality, nutrient cycles, and habitat through conformance with Interim Guidelines for Evaluating Riparian Management Zones on State Lands (Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2004b).
2. Use Conservation Area Management Guidelines (Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2005).
3. Management prescriptions maintain and restore forest canopy cover over stream corridors (riparian management zones) and incorporate water quality best management practices (BMPs) to limit soil disturbance and biomass removal on high gradient sites where the potential for soil erosion and sedimentation into aquatic systems is high.
4. Strive to maintain and restore functional wetland habitats (including muskeg, bogs and vernal pools) within the matrix of the forest landscape.
5. Preserve and enhance wildlife habitat values associated with wetlands by maintaining, enhancing or restoring natural hydrological regimes, and structural characteristics such as adequate snags and downed woody debris.

5.1.6 - Large Landscape-Level Forests

Management Direction: Large landscape-level forest (LLLF) habitats are important for the purpose of providing suitable habitat where interior forest dwelling species do not have to directly compete for resources with edge-adapted species. The primary management objective for LLLFs is to maintain, improve, and where appropriate to expand contiguous tracts of largely un-fragmented natural communities. The threshold for a LLLF in the northern lower and upper peninsula ecoregions is 3,000 acres (based upon the statutory definition of a Wilderness Area – see Section 5.2.1). The threshold for a LLLF in the southern lower peninsula ecoregions is 1,000 acres (based upon the FSC standard for intact forests in the Central Hardwoods region).

LLLFs may be composed of a mosaic of natural communities. They may contain natural features (such as windfall gaps, burns and rivers and lakes) and be bisected by minimal artificial features such as two-track forest roads and recreational trails, where no appreciable break in the forest canopy or the natural community occurs. LLLFs may also contain inclusions of non-forested community types, as naturally occur within forest landscapes.

Managers need to recognize and identify remaining intact and ecologically functional landscape-level forest ecosystems and areas of high ecosystem diversity across all ownerships in each ecoregion, with the goal of providing a minimum of one LLLF in each State Forest District. LLLFs will very often consist of a mosaic of ownerships (particularly with State and National Parks, and National Wildlife Refuges) and may contain inclusions of private ownership as long as the composition and structure of the communities upon the inclusions and the management thereof is consistent with the character of the DNR ownership.

Landscape-level habitats are susceptible to degradation by development and fragmentation, and where landscape-level forests are present an effort shall be made through positive direct action or in cooperation with partners in the landscape to prevent and reverse degradation or fragmentation of LLLF resources and to restore and expand sufficient areas to provide habitat for interior forest species. Management prescriptions that do not cause unnatural fragmentation may be conducted in LLLFs. Examples include prescribed burning, salvage harvesting for forest health reasons, selective harvesting to simulate natural gap dynamics for the purpose of increasing compositional diversity of forests, and understory planting. Management prescriptions that would increase fragmentation and degrade habitat for interior forest species should be avoided.

The existence and maintenance of large landscape-level forests have high intrinsic social value for a large segment of the public. Such areas provide unique opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation and concomitant economic opportunities for local communities. They also provide valuable research and educational opportunities that are not found in smaller, more fragmented areas of the forest.

Standards:

1. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4 – Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands.
2. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.6 – Forest Management Unit Analysis.

Guidelines:

1. Reference Michigan Natural Feature Inventory community abstracts for additional management guidance of natural communities within a LLLF.
2. Attempt to mimic ecological processes that maintain patch size within the natural range of variation for specific cover types.

5.1.7 - Habitat Areas and Corridors

Management Direction: Habitat areas provide some specific need for the life cycle of wildlife species. They range from winter deer yards in lowland conifer communities to grassland openings and savannas. Habitat areas are distinct from dedicated species recovery areas (such as Kirtland's warbler or piping plover areas) in that they are more general in nature, are not primarily associated with threatened or endangered species, and are not covered by species recovery plans that are developed in cooperation with Federal agencies. The primary management direction for habitat areas is for the maintenance of existing habitat, the restoration of degraded habitats and the expansion of specific habitats (including mesic conifers and grasslands/savannas).
Habitat corridors are often associated with lowland riparian and wetland communities. Corridors provide connective cover habitats between different community types that are used by a wide variety of wildlife species whose life cycles require multiple habitat needs. They are increasingly important to maintain connectivity in highly fragmented forested landscapes. The primary management direction for corridors is for the maintenance of existing corridors and the expansion or restoration of additional corridors in order to increase habitat connectivity within the landscape to the extent practical.

High quality habitat areas and corridors are essential for maintaining populations of both game and non-game wildlife species, which is a primary social expectation of the public. This is particularly true for game species which form the basis for significant seasonal components of many regional and local economies. Economic benefits range from direct expenditures for equipment and related supplies to indirect support of local hotels, restaurants and other businesses. Many social and historical traditions are also associated with wildlife resources and the maintenance and preservation of these resources for future generations is of importance to our society.

Standards:

1. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4 – Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands.
2. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.6 – Forest Management Unit Analysis.

Guidelines:

1. In already fragmented landscapes, maximize habitat connectivity to the extent possible at the landscape level, by creating habitat corridors and protecting riparian management zones, by maintaining variability in the size and patterns of harvests, and through restoration plantings.
2. Where possible, cooperate with partners in the landscape to maintain and restore habitat connectivity.

5.1.8 - Archaeological Sites

Management Direction: The primary management objective for archaeological sites is for the identification, protection and preservation of sites of cultural and historical significance. Such sites may be identified by natural heritage data from the State

Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Potential sites may also be in previously unknown locations that are discovered in the course of normal field work.

Archaeological sites have intrinsic social value. As such, their identification, protection and preservation are an important public interest in our society.

Standards:

1. Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division Policy and Procedure 251, Sale and Removal of Timber, issued March 1, 2000.
2. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1 – Forest Operations.
3. Sites of archeological, historical or cultural interests are confidential in nature and are protected from public disclosure, since they are exempt from the Freedom of Information Act.

Guidelines:

1. Heritage data from the State Historic Preservation Office can be used for identifying and protecting sites that possess unique historical, archeological qualities. Such information may be confidential in nature, and is not always appropriate for public disclosure. Where the integrity of the site will not be compromised by public disclosure, such areas may present educational opportunities.
2. Notify Tribal Historical Preservation Officers (THPO) of any activities which may affect tribal archeological sites or tribal cultural property.
3. Notify the State Historic Preservation Office of all compartment review plans or other activities that may affect sites of historical significance, and of all potential archaeological sites that are discovered by field staff.
4. Invite the participation of concerned groups in collaborative planning and implementation of forest management activities, so that cultural and historic sites may be protected from damage or interference.
5. Protect and maintain identified archaeological and historic features during the course of routine forest planning and operations, in order to provide continued public access to these resources.

5.1.9 - Cultural and Customary Use Areas

Management Direction: Cultural use areas include areas that possess and provide significant values and purposes for Native American tribes and other various ethnic or religious groups. Customary use areas are sites that have been traditionally used by the public for specific purposes, such as wild fruit and mushroom gathering habitats. The primary management objective for cultural use areas is to protect and maintain identified areas for public use. The primary management objective for customary use areas is to maintain and provide general areas for public use in the course of routine forest operations.

Cultural and customary use areas have intrinsic social value, and the maintenance and preservation of these resources for future generations is of importance to our society.

Standards:

1. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.5 – Social Impact Considerations and Public Involvement Processes.
2. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 6.2 – Integrating Public Recreational Opportunities with Management on State Forest Lands.

Guidelines:

1. Consider general customary use areas (e.g. wild fruit and mushroom habitats) as secondary objectives in management plans, incidental to primary management objectives.
2. Protect and maintain identified cultural use areas during the course of routine forest planning and operations, in order to provide continued public access to these resources.

5.1.10 - Visual Management Areas

Management Direction: The primary management objective for visual management areas is for maintenance and improvement of aesthetic values. Examples include scenic vistas, scenic or natural beauty roads, and lakeshore areas. Management objectives of these areas should be for the maintenance, improvement or restoration of aesthetic values, as framed within the context of ecosystem management principles.

The State Forest provides aesthetic values that have important social and economic benefits to many local communities. These include general social appreciation of areas such as exceptional scenic vistas. Fall color tours are also an important component of many regional and local economies, with significant direct support of local hotels, restaurants and other tourist related businesses. The maintenance and preservation of scenic resources for future generations is of importance to our society.

Standards:

1. Part 357, Natural Beauty Roads, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.
2. Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division Policy and Procedure 251, Sale and Removal of Timber, issued March 1, 2000.
3. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.5 – Social Impact Considerations and Public Involvement Processes.
4. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 6.2 – Integrating Public Recreational Opportunities with Management on State Forest Lands.

Guidelines:

1. Consider visual management areas as the primary objective for areas of exceptional aesthetic value.
2. Consider aesthetic factors and conditions in the general forest (especially in forested areas immediately adjacent to major public roads) in management plans.

5.1.11 – Concentrated Recreation Areas

Management Direction: Concentrated recreation areas are those facilities that are designed and maintained for routine or heavy use, including State Forest campgrounds, motorized and non-motorized trails, trailheads, staging areas and public access sites. The primary management objectives for concentrated recreation areas are for the maintenance and improvement of existing recreational facilities, public health and safety (through provision of potable water and sanitation facilities), resource protection and water quality (through erosion control and sanitation), and fire safety (through use of designated campground fire rings. Management of these areas should consider ecological, social and economic values and uses. When appropriate for ecological and social reasons concentrated recreation resources may be closed or relocated.

Concentrated recreational resources provide the basis for significant components of many regional and local economies. Economic benefits range from direct expenditures for equipment and related supplies to indirect support of local hotels, restaurants and other businesses. Many social and historical traditions are also associated with recreational resources and the maintenance and preservation of these resources for future generations is of importance to our society.

Standards:

1. Part 125, Campgrounds, of Article 12, Environmental Health, of the Public Health Code Act, 1978 PA 368, as amended.
2. Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division Policy and Procedure 251, Sale and Removal of Timber, issued March 1, 2000.
3. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 6.2 – Integrating Public Recreational Opportunities with Management on State Forest Lands.

Guidelines:

1. Seek to maintain the number and improve the quality of concentrated recreation facilities for use by the public.

5.1.12 - Mineral Resource Areas

Management Direction: The primary management objective for mineral resource areas is to develop minerals in a manner which does not damage or impair the ecological functions and values in the surrounding area. Mineral extraction has a finite life. After extraction operations cease, restoration or reclamation of oil, gas and metallic and non-metallic mineral sites shall be accomplished in accordance with plans that are required as a condition of the lease.

Mineral resources in the form of oil, natural gas, metallic and non-metallic minerals provide the basis for significant components of many regional and local economies, and also provide for a portion of the energy and resource needs of our society. Royalties from leases of such resources upon State-owned lands also provide a large amount of income for the Natural Resource Trust Fund, which provides the means for acquisition of properties containing significant natural resources or which are in-holdings within the larger matrix of the State Forest.

Standards:

1. See Section 4.2.6.

Guidelines:

1. Use adequate reclamation plans to continue or return a mineral extraction site's contribution to the ecological profile of adjacent areas.

5.1.13 – Great Lakes Islands

Management Direction: A considerable portion of the biological diversity unique to Michigan is supported by the nearly 600 islands contained within Michigan's borders. Great Lakes Islands provide significant habitat for numerous other species, including many rare plants and animals, several of which are endemic or largely restricted to the Great Lakes region. Due to their isolation, islands provide good examples of many Great Lakes-associated natural communities and ecosystems, and thus have potential to provide insights for understanding the consequences of human disturbance on the increasingly fragmented ecosystems of the mainland.

The primary management objectives for islands encompass a wide range of purposes, and are outlined in the standard below. These objectives range from the protection of ecological and natural functioning ecosystems with strict limitations on any human impacts; to the identification and management of significant historical and archaeological sites listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places; to the provision of opportunities for intensive recreational and vegetation management activities. The degree of human impacts should decrease in proportion to the increasing ecological and/or historical sensitivity.

The DNR will consider the economic impact of island development (or lack of development) on islands or nearby communities when developing management plans. In most instances, such consideration shall not override ecological or historical values. The human carrying capacity on State owned islands shall be considered in management plans.

Management plans will be developed with formal opportunity for participation by other divisions within the DNR, as well as affected governmental agencies and local units of government, the Department of State, and citizens. The DNR shall coordinate planning activities across ownership boundaries, and shall also coordinate with the adjacent states and Canadian provinces near those islands being incorporated into a management plan.

Standards:

1. DNR Natural Resource Commission Policy and Procedure 29.20-05, Management of State Owned Island Properties, issued July 11, 2005.

Guidelines:

1. Use the series of Michigan Natural Features Inventory reports entitled "Biological Inventory for Conservation of Great Lakes Islands" as a basis for the

identification of community types and significant biodiversity areas in island management plans (Michigan Natural Features Inventory 1999, 2000a, 2000b, 2002a and 2002b).
2. Use community abstracts developed by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory as additional reference in the identification and management of Great Lakes Islands.
3. Manage historic and archaeological sites in accordance with section 5.1.8 of this plan.

5.1.14 – Contiguous Resource Areas

Management Direction: These are DNR-owned lands that are directly contiguous to adjacent ownerships that may be managed for similar or dissimilar purposes. Such lands include distinct but contiguous DNR-owned lands, such as State Parks, State Forest and Wildlife Areas. Such lands also include DNR-owned lands that are adjacent to other ownerships such as Federal Parks, National Forest wilderness areas, National Wildlife Refuges, conservancy lands, and private lands such as the Huron Mountain Club. These contiguous lands may often have dissimilar management goals and objectives that are directly related to the primary purpose of the different ownerships, which should be coordinated on a landscape-level basis.

The primary management objective for State Forest lands contiguous with such ownerships is to manage them within a landscape context by having an awareness of the different objectives on each of the different land ownerships. This is particularly necessary where High Conservation Value Areas are located or co-located upon adjacent lands.

The primary management objectives for State Forest lands contiguous with such ownerships is to unify management goals within a landscape context by coordinating similar management purposes and minimizing conflicts from dissimilar management purposes. This is particularly necessary where High Conservation Value Areas are located or co-located upon adjacent lands. An example of this is the Inland Buffer Zone (IBZ) that is established around the fee-title boundary of the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, where a specially zoned buffer area is recognized by both the National Parks Service and the DNR and is considered in management plans for both organizations.

Public lands, forests and parks of all ownerships are resources that have a positive influence upon regional and local economies. These influences include the provision of raw material for the forest products industry as well as being a basis for regional recreational and tourism industries.

Standards:

1. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.5 – Social Impact Considerations and Public Involvement Processes.

Guidelines:

1. Consider special management purposes, goals and objectives for contiguous lands in the management of contiguous State Forest lands, so that management goals may be complimentary where possible.
2. Consider proposed management within a landscape context.

5.2 - High Conservation Value Areas (HCVAs)

5.2.1 – Legally Dedicated Natural Areas, Wilderness or Wild Areas

Management Direction: Dedicated Natural Areas (NAs) have retained or redeveloped elements of their natural character, have unusual flora and fauna, or possess biotic, geologic, scenic or other similar features of educational or scientific value. NAs are a core component of a statewide system of protected areas and habitat corridors. There are currently six legally dedicated NAs upon the State Forest, totaling 2,865 acres: the Besser NA in the Atlanta Forest Management Unit, the three Bois Blanc Island NAs in the Gaylord Forest Management Unit; the Little Brevort Lake NA in the Sault Ste. Marie Forest Management Unit; and the Roscommon Red Pines NA in the Roscommon Forest Management Unit. There are six other legally dedicated NAs upon other DNR-managed lands in the northern Michigan landscape: the Laughing Whitefish Falls Scenic Area; the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness Area, the Presque Isle River and the Union Springs Scenic Sites in the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park; the Thompson's Harbor NA in the Thompson's Harbor State Park; and the Wagner Falls Scenic Site. These NAs total 49,986 acres.

The primary management objectives for NAs are for recreation and the preservation of flora and fauna, or biotic, geologic or scenic features of educational or scientific value. A thorough inventory of floral and faunal species composition and community structure and the identification of natural ecological processes are a priority in these areas. Stewardship activities include active maintenance and restoration, or simply allowing natural ecological processes to occur without interference. Active management methods and techniques may include prescribed burns, invasive species control, brush control, planting of native plant species, and other forms of ecological restoration. Monitoring of management activities is necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of stewardship activities.

Wilderness areas are 3,000 or more acres in size, have been primarily affected by natural processes, and any human impacts are substantially unnoticeable. Such areas contain ecological, geological or other features of scientific, scenic, or natural history value. Wild areas are less than 3,000 acre in size, but possess one or more characteristics of a wilderness area. Wilderness and Wild Areas are core components of a statewide system of protected areas and habitat corridors. There are currently four wild areas located upon the State Forest, totaling 3,351 acres: the Little Presque Isle Wilderness Area in the Gwinn Forest Management Unit; the Dog Lake and the Grindstone Creek Wild Areas in the Pigeon River Country Forest Management Unit; and the Seiner's Point Wild Area in the Sault Ste. Marie Forest Management Unit. There is currently one wilderness area that is co-located in the Gaylord Forest Management Unit and Wilderness State Park that is 4,492 acres in size. There are three other wilderness areas that are located upon other DNR lands in the northern Michigan landscape: the High Island and Hog Island Wilderness Areas in the Beaver

Island State Wildlife Research Area; and the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness Area in the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. These wilderness areas total 53,241 acres.

The primary management objectives for wilderness or wild areas are for recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and for aesthetic, historic, scientific and ecological values. Stewardship activities are minimal and generally limited to allowing natural ecological processes to occur without interference.
Per statute, not more than 10% of lands under the control of the DNR may be dedicated as Natural, Wilderness, or Wild Areas.

Natural Areas, Wilderness and Wild Areas provide recreational sites for persons who appreciate such undeveloped areas for their inherent or intrinsic ecological values, by offering unique opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation. In this manner they can provide economic opportunities for local communities. They also provide valuable and important research and educational opportunities.

Standards:

1. Part 351, Wilderness and Natural Areas, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, and the administrative rules thereof.
2. DNR Natural Resource Commission Policy and Procedure 26.27-04, Wilderness and Natural Areas, dated July 11, 2005.
3. Natural Areas Strategic Plan (Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2000).
4. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4 - Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands.
5. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1 – Forest Operations.
6. DNR Wildlife Division Process for Nomination, Review and Dedication of Natural Areas, issued November 30, 2001.

Guidelines:

1. Use Conservation Area Management Guidelines (Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2005).
2. Maintain or restore Natural Areas, Wilderness and Wild Areas so as to preserve their natural ecological and social values.
3. Develop site conservation and management plans for State Natural Areas and incorporate planned stewardship activities into annual work plans.
4. Employ the voluntary cooperation and support of interested citizens and conservation groups in the management of Natural Areas, Wilderness and Wild Areas.

5.2.3 - Natural Rivers

Management Direction: The primary management objectives for Natural Rivers are for boating and fishing recreation, fish and wildlife habitat and corridors, and for aesthetic, floodplain and water quality values. Natural Rivers preserve, protect and enhance our state's finest river systems for the use and enjoyment of current and

future generations. Natural Rivers are located upon both public and privates lands. There are eleven Natural Rivers that are partially located in the State Forest: The Fox and Two Hearted Rivers in the Upper Peninsula; and the AuSable, Betsie, Boardman, Jordan, Pere Marquette, Pigeon, Pine, Rifle and Upper Manistee Rivers in the northern Lower Peninsula.

Single tree selection is the only method of harvesting that may occur within the dedicated zone of Natural Rivers. Commercial harvest is not permitted within the required vegetated buffer in order to retain trees that provide cover, large woody debris and aesthetic values.

The maintenance, enhancement, or restoration of tree cover in suitable habitat along rivers is crucial to provision of shade and large woody debris that sustain the ecological health of the stream system. Management planning needs to consider the unique aesthetic values of Natural Rivers, and should take positive action to ensure the protection and maintenance of these valuable resources. Management plans should maintain and enhance natural scenic values and free-flowing conditions.

The maintenance of scenic recreational rivers is important for the recreational fishery and recreational boating industries, which are significant economic sectors for many areas of the state.

Standards:

1. Part 305, Natural Rivers, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, and the administrative rules thereof.
2. DNR Natural Resource Commission Policy and Procedure 26.27-03, Natural Rivers, issued July 11, 2005.
3. DNR Natural Resource Commission Policy and Procedure 39.21-20, Beaver Management, issued July 11, 2005.
4. Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division Policy and Procedure 251, Sale and Removal of Timber, issued March 1, 2000.
5. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1 – Forest Operations.
6. State Natural River Plans.

Guidelines:

1. Recreational related structures should be limited within Natural River zones.
2. Use interim Guidelines for Evaluating Riparian Management Zones on State Lands (Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2004b).

5.2.4 - Critical Dunes

Management Direction: Critical dunes are located upon both public and private lands throughout northern Michigan. There are 15 critical dune areas upon State Forest lands that provide a total of 9,289 acres of habitat, with additional acres located upon other public and private lands throughout northern Michigan.

The primary management objectives for critical dunes are for low impact recreation and the preservation of rare habitats and species. Management of critical dune areas should recognize the special nature and ecological processes of unique sand dune

resources, which support more endemic and rare species and rare community types than any other Great Lakes ecosystem. Rare community types include open dunes, wooded dune and swale complexes, sand/gravel beaches, interdunal wetlands, and Great Lakes barrens. Management needs to recognize these rare communities and the type of dune (parabolic, perched, linear and traverse) as well as the ecological factors that are essential to the creation and maintenance of dunes, which include: a presence of abundant sand; strong winds blowing in a relatively consistent direction; water level fluctuation of Great Lakes; and vegetation to accumulate and stabilize sand. Activities that disrupt or destroy any of these factors can threaten the long-term viability of dune ecosystems.

A permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is required for developmental (including contour changes), silvicultural and recreational activities in areas identified as critical dunes. Uses are prohibited on slopes measuring greater than 33 percent without a variance, and structures are prohibited on the first lakeward facing slope of a critical dune area. Commercial timber management and non-designated ORV use shall not occur within critical dune areas.

Many State Parks, National Lakeshores and coastal areas of the State Forest contain exemplary occurrences of sand dunes. These features are a significant drawing force for many popular forms of recreation and the presence of these features are a considerable factor in many local economies throughout the state. Popular forms of recreation include camping, swimming, hiking, nature study and ORV use (in dedicated areas only). Where resource preservation is compatible with recreational uses, existing programs should be continued and new programs should be implemented to offer these social and economic services to the public.

Standards:

1. Part 353, Sand Dunes Protection and Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, and the administrative rules thereof.
2. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4 - Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands.
3. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1 – Forest Operations.

Guidelines:

1. Protect, enhance and restore rare and imperiled natural communities located within critical dune areas.
2. Design recreational facilities for low impact use and should blend with the natural character of dune features.
3. Limit access trails and incorporate boardwalks and stairs for traversing areas sensitive to disruption or with high slopes that are prone to erosion.
4. Take positive action to control and direct pedestrian use which can cause severe disruption to natural dune processes.
5. Limit vegetation management in critical dunes to enhancement or restoration work.
6. Where significant disruption to ecological processes has occurred, take corrective action to restore natural processes.

7. Implement programs to eradicate invasive plants and animals which can cause severe disruption of natural dune processes.

5.2.5 - Dedicated Species Recovery Areas

Management Direction: For areas that have been dedicated for specific endangered species recovery habitat, the procedures for habitat management and protection and the appropriate silvicultural systems to be employed will be guided by the respective species recovery plan. These plans are often developed through periodic public processes in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (responsible for the recovery of Federally listed threatened and endangered species), and with other Federal land managing entities such as the U.S. Forest Service. Dedicated species recovery areas are designated for the Kirtland's warbler and piping plover, both Federal and State endangered bird species. There are 17 Kirtland's warbler management areas upon State Forest land, totaling 148,256 acres. There are 6 piping plover critical habitat areas upon State Forest land, totaling 1,508 acres.

The primary management objective for these areas is for recovery of the populations of target species to levels and conditions where threats to their continued existence are satisfactorily mitigated. Secondary objectives, such as timber or other commodity production, are constrained by limitations and vegetative objectives as specified in the recovery plan.

Significant economic potential for eco-tourism is often present in local communities in the vicinity of dedicated species recovery areas, particularly for endemic species such as the Kirtland's warbler.

Standards:

1. Part 365, Endangered Species Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended.
2. The Endangered Species Act of 1973, Public Law 93-205, 87 Stat. 884
3. The DNR will cooperate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other pertinent public and private organizations in the management of dedicated species recovery areas.
4. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4 - Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands.
5. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1 – Forest Operations.
6. 1985 Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Plan.
7. 2003 Piping Plover Recovery Plan.
8. 2006 (Draft) Karner Blue Habitat Conservation Plan.
9. 2006 (Draft) Eastern Massasauga Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances.

Guidelines:

1. Use species abstracts developed by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory as additional reference in the management of dedicated species recovery areas.

5.2.6 - Dedicated Management Areas

Management Direction: The designation of additional areas for dedicated management is not currently an active DNR program. Quiet Areas are one type of Dedicated Management Area. The Sand Lakes Quiet Area is the one such dedicated area in the State Forest. It is located in the Traverse City Forest Management unit, and it consists of 2,775 acres. The primary management objective for Dedicated Management Areas is a function of their dedicated purpose. For Quiet Areas this entails a prohibition from entry by public motorized vehicles and equipment, except for designated campground areas. Mineral development is also restricted. The primary use is for dispersed, non-intrusive recreation, such as watching wildlife, hiking, biking, or cross country skiing.

These uses also have a positive influence upon the local economies in which they are located. Forest management prescriptions are permissible, within the consideration of all ecological and socio-economic values and uses. These also make a contribution to local economies in the form of forest products. The primary social-economic management objective for dedicated management areas is to continue to maintain and improve the quality of such resources is for non-motorized, dispersed recreation.

Standards:

1. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1 – Forest Operations.
2. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 6.2 – Integrating Public Recreational Opportunities with Management on State Forest Lands
3. Sand Lakes Quiet Area Management Plan, dated December 21, 1982.

Guidelines:

1. Use permissions and limitations contained in dedicated charters and approved management plans to guide management activities within dedicated management areas.

5.2.7 – Environmental Areas

Management Direction: Environmental Areas (EAs) are located upon both public and private lands throughout the State. There are 33 dedicated EAs upon the State Forest. They are concentrated in Alpena, Mackinac, Chippewa, Delta and Baraga Counties, and total approximately 1,508 acres.

The primary management objective for EAs is for fisheries and migratory bird habitat and for ecological values. Preservation of coastal marshes within EAs is important for the protection and maintenance of critical fisheries spawning and refuge habitat, as well as providing habitat for migratory and non-migratory bird species. Studies and surveys conducted by the Department and others have recorded over 25 fish species, 12 mammal species, and 131 bird species utilizing these valuable coastal habitats. In addition, typically unseen and overlooked species which are equally essential for maintaining healthy fish and wildlife populations are also provided protection under this coastal designation. Many EAs contain rare Great Lakes Marshes, but other important habitats such as upland ridges and islands are also included. In several instances, upland areas are designated for habitat protection for shore birds. Management

planning needs to consider the sensitive nature of coastal shore lands, and should take positive action to assure an increased level of protection over these valuable resources.

The maintenance of viable populations of fish and bird species are important for the recreational and commercial fishery and recreational hunting industries, and for migratory bird watching, which are significant economic sectors for these and many other areas of the state.

Standards:

1. Part 323, Shorelands Protection and Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, and the administrative rules thereof.
2. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4 - Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands.
3. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1 – Forest Operations.
4. A permit from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality is required for dredging, filling, grading, other alterations of the soil, alterations of the natural drainage, alteration of vegetation utilized by fish or wildlife, or both, including timber harvest in identified colonial bird nesting areas and the placement of permanent structures in EAs. Activities which do not require a permit include maintenance of existing dikes, and timber harvest if outside a colonial bird nesting area.
5. Commercial timber management will not occur within EAs.

Guidelines:

1. Where significant disruption to ecological processes has occurred, Take corrective action to restore natural processes.
2. Implement programs to eradicate invasive plants and animals in EAs, which can cause severe disruption of coastal wetland ecology.
3. Design recreational facilities for low impact use and blend them with the natural character of the shoreline.
4. Limit access trails and incorporate boardwalks for traversing areas sensitive to disruption.

5.2.8 - Biodiversity Stewardship Areas

Management Direction: Management emphasis has recently shifted from a narrow focus upon conserving or restoring native old growth forests to a more holistic view of conserving and restoring some portion of the native biological diversity of Michigan. This can be done by conserving and restoring functional representative native ecosystems, comprised of a natural mosaic of early-successional, mid-successional and late-successional or climax structural communities that provide the diverse habitats needed to support viable populations of native species. In this regard the management objective is to identify a system with multiple representation of all native species and MNFI natural community types, in sufficient number, distribution and quality to ensure their long-term persistence (for a minimum of 100 years). The means by which this system will be identified and designated is provided in the Biodiversity Conservation Planning Process (Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2005a.)

An area or landscape designated for biodiversity conservation management should be functional by maintaining focal species, communities, systems and supporting ecological processes within their natural ranges of variability. A balance must be maintained in the distribution of successional types, such that a mosaic of different types is present. Larger consolidated tracts of land minimize undesirable edge effects, while smaller dispersed tracts provide greater ecosystem diversity. Staff should seek to identify areas of high quality natural condition, including those areas having high abundance of rare, threatened or endangered species or natural communities, as well as areas having minimal human impact. If necessary, a consultation or field assessment with MNFI staff is appropriate.

The maintenance of native biodiversity and functional ecosystems is vitally important for sustaining a host of social and economic values, ranging from ecosystem-based tourism to support of functional ecosystems from which many economic resources (e.g. vegetative fiber, wildlife, and fisheries) and social values (e.g. recreation, ecosystem services, cultural uses) are derived.

Standards:

1. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4 - Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands.
2. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 3.1 – Forest Operations.
3. Biodiversity Conservation Planning Process (Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2005a)

Guidelines:

1. Conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils and fragile ecosystems, and intact, high quality and functional landscapes [Ecological Reference Areas (ERAs), High Conservation Value Areas (HCVAs), and Special Conservation Areas (SCAs)] using Conservation Area Management Guidelines (Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2005b).
2. Use community and species abstracts developed by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory as additional reference in the identification and management of natural communities for biodiversity stewardship purposes.
3. Once assessment through the Biodiversity Conservation Planning Process has occurred, limit forest treatments in designated late-successional climax structural communities to those that will maintain, enhance or restore natural ecological structure and processes and native biodiversity values.
4. Use prescribed fire or other practices to maintain the cover type in areas dominated by early and mid-successional species, unless the management objective is to allow natural succession to another cover type occur.
5. Maintain early-successional areas that are large and dispersed enough to emulate natural disturbance patterns.
6. In general, the minimum desired tract size should be roughly proportional to the size of natural disturbance events.

5.3 - Ecological Reference Areas (ERAs)

Management Direction: ERAs serve as native reference systems concerning natural ecological conditions and processes. They are framed in the context of the Natural Community types that have been identified by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, and that are presented in Appendix I. ERAs may occur upon any ownership – be they public or private lands. Public lands include Federal or state forests, parks or game areas/refuges.

The primary management objectives for ERAs are to identify, assess, preserve and enhance/restore such resources. A thorough inventory of floral and faunal species composition and community structure and the identification of natural ecological processes are a priority in ERAs. Management activities or prescriptions in ERAs are highly restricted to those that maintain or enhance the defined attributes and values, and those activities that protect the immediate natural resources values or human health and safety. Management activities may include active maintenance and restoration, or simply allowing natural ecological processes to occur without interference. Active management methods and techniques may include prescribed burns, invasive species control, brush control, planting of native plant species, and other forms of ecological restoration. Monitoring of management activities is necessary to evaluate their effectiveness.

Aside from their ecological values, ERA uses also include socio-economic uses such as recreation, research and education.

Standards:

1. DNR Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.4 - Biodiversity Management on State Forest Lands.

Guidelines:

1. Use Conservation Area Management Guidelines (Michigan Department of Natural Resources 2005).
2. Encouraged and allowed to continue the function of natural ecological processes.
3. Where significant disruption to ecological processes has occurred, take corrective action to restore natural processes.
4. Implement programs to eradicate invasive plants and animals which can cause severe disruption to native communities.
5. Use community abstracts developed by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory as additional reference in the identification and management of ERAs.

6 - MONITORING, REVIEW & REVISION

6.1 - Management Review System

The DNR State Forest management review process is described in the Forest Certification Work Instruction 1.2 - Management Review Process for Continual Improvement in the Management of Forest Resources. The work instruction describes internal audit schedules,