STAKEHOLDER'S GUIDE TO REGIONAL STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is developing **Regional State Forest Management Plans** which will provide focused direction for management of State Forest resources in each of the four eco-regions: northern and southern halves of the Lower Peninsula, and eastern and western halves of the Upper Peninsula.

As a part of each Regional State Forest Management Plan, the DNR is classifying the State Forest into distinct **Management Areas (MAs)**, for purposes of planning and management. Management Areas are essentially groupings of existing compartments (1,500-acre to 3,000-acre blocks of DNR lands) that have similar attributes, such as vegetation types, proximity to key user markets, or portion(s) of landscape in different ownerships. Planning within the framework of management areas will help the DNR provide landscape level analyses and direction that will guide operational decisions made at each Forest Management Unit, through the existing compartment review process.

In order to analyze and select State Forest lands for assignment to specific MAs, it is necessary to identify significant and common attributes that can guide the formation of MA boundaries. The selection attributes that the DNR are using for development of MAs are as follows:

Ownership Attributes:

1. Adjacency to other public (including DNR parks and wildlife areas) or private ownerships, and also considering their varying intensity of stewardship and protection.
2. Percentage of the landscape in different public and private ownerships.
3. Consideration of ownership size and connectivity.
4. Areas with existing DNR management plans.

Social/Economic Attributes:

1. Proximity to wood product markets.
2. Proximity to population areas and major transportation arteries.
3. Trends in population growth and recreation demands.
4. Proximity to known historical/cultural sites.
5. Degree of access.

Ecological Attributes:

1. Similar site potential as expressed by habitat type.
2. Historic vegetative composition.
3. Current vegetative composition and structural characteristics.
4. Wildlife species distribution patterns for select species (including threatened and endangered species and those defined by the DNR Wildlife Action Plan (WAP)).
5. Proximity to known ecologically sensitive sites.
6. Existing forest connectivity or fragmentation.

7. Analyses of watersheds and the climate, bedrock geology, glacial landform and soils in Ecological Classification Systems.

The DNR welcomes public comments on proposed Management Areas for each eco-region. Draft maps of State Forest MAs and contact information for submittal of web-based comments to the DNR eco-regional planning teams may be viewed at the following links:

NLP/SLP Management Areas

EUP Management Areas

WUP Management Areas

The DNR will also be seeking public involvement in the drafting of specific management direction for each MA, which will guide the operational management of the State Forest. Further information regarding public meetings and additional web-based opportunities for providing comment will be announced at a future date. Timelines for the development of Regional State Forest Management Plans (RSFMPs) can be downloaded by clicking on the following links:

NLP/SLP RSFMP Timeline

EUP RSFMP Timeline

WUP RSFMP Timeline