



STAKEHOLDER'S GUIDE TO REVIEW OF 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 three eco-regions: northern half 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 proposing to classify the State Forest into distinct **Management Areas**, 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. Management Area planning 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 Management Areas, it is necessary to develop selection criteria. The selection criteria the DNR proposes to use for development of Management Areas are as follows:

Ownership Criteria:

1. Adjacency to other ownerships, both internal and external to the DNR.
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 Criteria:

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

Ecological Criteria:

1. Similar site potential as expressed by habitat type.
2. Historic vegetative composition.
3. Current vegetative composition and structural.
4. Wildlife species distribution patterns for select species, as defined by the DNR Wildlife Action Plan (WAP).
5. Proximity to known ecologically sensitive sites.
6. Existing forest connectivity or fragmentation.
7. Analyses of climate, bedrock geology, glacial landform and soils in Ecological Classification Systems.

This document and website links provide examples for the application of selection criteria for creating Management Areas and their conceptual use in Regional State Forest Management Plans for each of the three northern eco-regions, which may be viewed on the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

[Northern LP Example](#)

[Eastern UP Example](#)

[Western UP Example](#)

Public comments on the proposed MA selection criteria will be accepted by the DNR until October 7, 2007. Submit comments by e-mail; U.S. mail; or at the Natural Resources Commission meeting, on September 13, 2007, in Lansing.

Please see below for details.

E-mail comments to: Dnr-SFPlanning@michigan.gov.

Mail written comments to:

REGIONAL STATE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS
FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SECTION
FOREST MINERAL AND FIRE MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30452
LANSING MI 48909-7952

Present verbal comments on:

September 13, 2007
12:30 p.m.
Natural Resources Commission Meeting
The Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing

Additional opportunities for public review of proposed Management Area maps (based upon the application of finalized selection criteria) for each eco-region, and the management direction they provide to field staffs, will be available during future public review of draft portions of Regional State Forest Management Plans. Northern Eco-regional Teams will also be forming public stakeholder Regional Advisory Teams to provide input into the process for a second type of plan, **Eco-regional Resource Plans** (ERP), which will provide strategic landscape-level natural resource goals for both public and private ownerships within an eco-region, including strategic direction for Regional State Forest Management Plans.