



Michigan Department of Natural Resources **Biodiversity Conservation Planning Process Implementation Summary**

- **Goal:** To establish a network of functional representative Michigan ecosystems (Biodiversity Stewardship Areas or BSAs) that will conserve, restore and protect the native biological diversity of Michigan.

While the focus is on DNR-administered lands, cooperation with other landowners will be essential to achieve this goal.

- **Implementation Process:**

- DNR staff worked with a Public Advisory Team to develop an implementation plan that outlines a process and defines criteria to guide selection of BSAs.
- Potential BSAs are being identified through analysis and recommendations from DNR staff and stakeholder organizations and through public workshops.
- Within each ecoregion, a Core Design Team (tribal representatives, stakeholder representatives, and DNR field staff) will develop a set of recommended BSAs that best achieve the goal. This will require assessing identified potential BSAs and seeking new information about previously unidentified areas.
- Recommended BSAs will be reviewed internally within the DNR and through public review. The final decision on approval of the BSA network will be made by DNR leadership (the DNR's Statewide Council).
- Following approval, management objectives for BSAs on DNR-administered lands will be developed on a site-by-site basis with recognition of the multiple values and unique circumstances of each site. As BSAs are assessed by Core Design Teams, some management considerations will have been captured.
- The full network of BSAs will be reviewed and re-assessed on a 10-year cycle, linked with all-ownership Ecoregional Plans.

- **Management of BSAs:**

- The BSA designation is a planning designation that identifies our best opportunities for biodiversity conservation and does not entail any legal obligations.
- BSAs will not be 'set aside' areas – active management is anticipated for restoration and maintenance needs. Management prescriptions may include the full suite of available tools such as timber harvest, prescribed fire, hydrologic manipulation, and invasive species control (using chemicals, if necessary).
- Portions of BSAs that occur within DNR-administered lands will be managed for the primary purpose of biodiversity conservation by the appropriate Division (other activities that are compatible with this purpose may also be allowed).
- Portions of BSAs that occur within State Forests will be addressed in Regional State Forest Management Plans as one category of High Conservation Value Area.
- Management decisions about portions of BSAs within other ownerships will be the responsibility of the landowner. The DNR will seek out opportunities for cooperative management efforts with these other landowners.

Implementation Timeline

	Initial BSA Assessment			Complete RSFMPs	Ecoregional Planning Process	Core Design Team BSA Re-assessment *	BSA Public Review & MDNR Approval Processes	Revise RSFMPs, Parks & SGA Plans
	Analysis & Organization	Initial Core Design Team Process	BSA Public Review & MDNR Approval Processes					
NLP	Jan – Feb, 2009	Mar – Jun, 2009	Jul – Sep, 2009	Oct, 2009 – Nov, 2010	2012 – 2014	2012	2013	2015 -
WUP	Mar – Apr, 2009	May – Aug, 2009	Sep – Nov, 2009	Dec, 2009 – Jan, 2011	2012 – 2014	2012	2013	2015 -
EUP	May – June, 2009	July – Oct, 2009	Nov, 2009 – Jan, 2010	Feb, 2010 – Mar, 2011	2012 – 2014	2012	2013	2015 -
SLP	Jan – Mar, 2010	Apr – Dec, 2010	Jan – Mar, 2011	N/A	2008 – 2011	N/A	N/A	2012 -

NLP=Northern Lower Peninsula, WUP=Western Upper Peninsula, EUP=Eastern Upper Peninsula, SLP=Southern Lower Peninsula

* Due to the constrained timeline of the Initial BSA Assessment in the northern regions of the state (to ensure that BSAs are incorporated into the Regional State Forest Management Plans), an early re-assessment is planned to allow for a more comprehensive review of potential BSAs in these regions.

For Up-To-Date Information:

Visit our web page: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-30301_30505_33935---,00.html

To Nominate an Area:

Please complete a Conservation Area Recommendation Form, and in the ‘Comments’ box include a description of current uses and activities in the area: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/PR4199ConservationAreaRecommendationForm_145873_7.pdf

For Additional Questions:

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