



STATE OF MICHIGAN



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

January 15, 2008

TO: Rebecca A. Humphries, Director

INFORMATION: Natural Resources Commission

SUBJECT: Michigan State Forest Management Plan (Plan) – FOR
INFORMATION ONLY.
The DRAFT Plan will be available on the DNR website the week of
January 28, 2008

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA), authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (Department) to develop plans for the long-term management of the state forests.

Discussion and Background:

The 3.9 million acre Michigan state forest system is one of the largest public natural resources in the Eastern United States, and is valued as one of Michigan's most precious resources. In 1982, the Natural Resources Commission adopted what is effectively known as the Statewide Forest Resources Plan of 1983, to, in part, guide the management of the state forest. Today, there are increasing demands upon the state forest for timber and mineral production, recreational use, and for the provision of many ecosystem services (such as air and water quality and the provision of fish and wildlife habitat). Recognizing these competing demands, the Michigan Legislature in 2004 enacted Part 525, Sustainable Forestry on State Forestlands, of the NREPA, which charged the Department to adopt a forestry development, conservation, and recreation management plan for state-owned lands. Part 525 also required the Department to seek and maintain third-party certification that the management of the state forest satisfies the sustainable forestry standards of at least one non-governmental certification program. In 2005, the Department was granted certification under the standards of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). These certification standards also require the Department to develop and maintain a forest management plan. The draft Michigan State Forest Management Plan provides current information and guidance that will enable the sustainable management of the state forest, and has three purposes: 1) to supersede and replace the 1983 plan; 2) to satisfy the planning requirement of Part 525; and 3) to partially satisfy the planning requirements of the SFI and FSC certification standards. The current draft can be found at <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

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Recommendation:

The Michigan State Forest Management Plan is submitted for information and consideration. It will be submitted for final action in March 2008.

Douglas A. Reeves, Acting Chief
Wildlife Division

Kelley D. Smith, Chief
Fisheries Division

Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forest, Mineral and Fire Management

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Parks and Recreation

David Freed
Office of Land Management

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Resource Management Deputy

I approve the staff recommendation.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director