



Little Presque Isle Tract

Non-Motorized Trails Review

Glossary

The following glossary provides definitions of some terms used in the review materials which some readers may find helpful.

Ecological Reference Areas (ERAs) are areas of state forest which have been recognized for their contribution to the landscape as being areas of exceptional conservation value. They are higher quality examples of functioning ecosystems that are primarily influenced by natural ecological processes. An ERA identifies a geographic area on the landscape where there is emphasis on conserving biological diversity achieved through maintaining these high quality native natural communities, with a long term goal of ensuring that these natural communities are conserved as examples of our State's biological diversity. They serve as models of ecological reference within the state. The ERAs are based on the Michigan Natural Heritage database of known natural community sites, otherwise known as Element Occurrences. The system of ERAs has undergone extensive internal and public review.

Upper Peninsula Deer Winter Range (DWR) comprises landscapes in which forested stands are present in sufficient quantity, quality and spatial arrangement to provide food and shelter to mitigate the effects of winter weather conditions and are occupied by deer in winter.

There are two types of Deer Winter Range in the U.P.:

Obligate Winter Range: Also called Deer Wintering Complexes or DWC for short, and are often referred to as deeryards. These occur in the north and central portions of the U.P. where winter snow depths are typically severe and deer are obligated to migrate to and concentrate in these areas to survive winter.

Conditional Winter Range: These areas occur in southern portions of the U.P. including southern portions of Iron, Dickinson, Delta counties and all of Menominee County. In these areas, winter snow depths are typically shallower than areas farther north and deer migrate infrequently or short distances.

