



Public Review Webinar:
Proposed Ecological Reference
Areas & Dedicated Habitat Areas

August 13, 2014

David Price and Amy Clark Eagle, FRD

Department of Natural Resources





Corrective Action Requests (CARs)

- 2 CARs received in 2013:
 - FSC: ERA network not maintained & does not fully address standard
 - SFI: No longer moving forward with Living Legacies initiative
- Must implement corrective actions by October 2014 certification audit

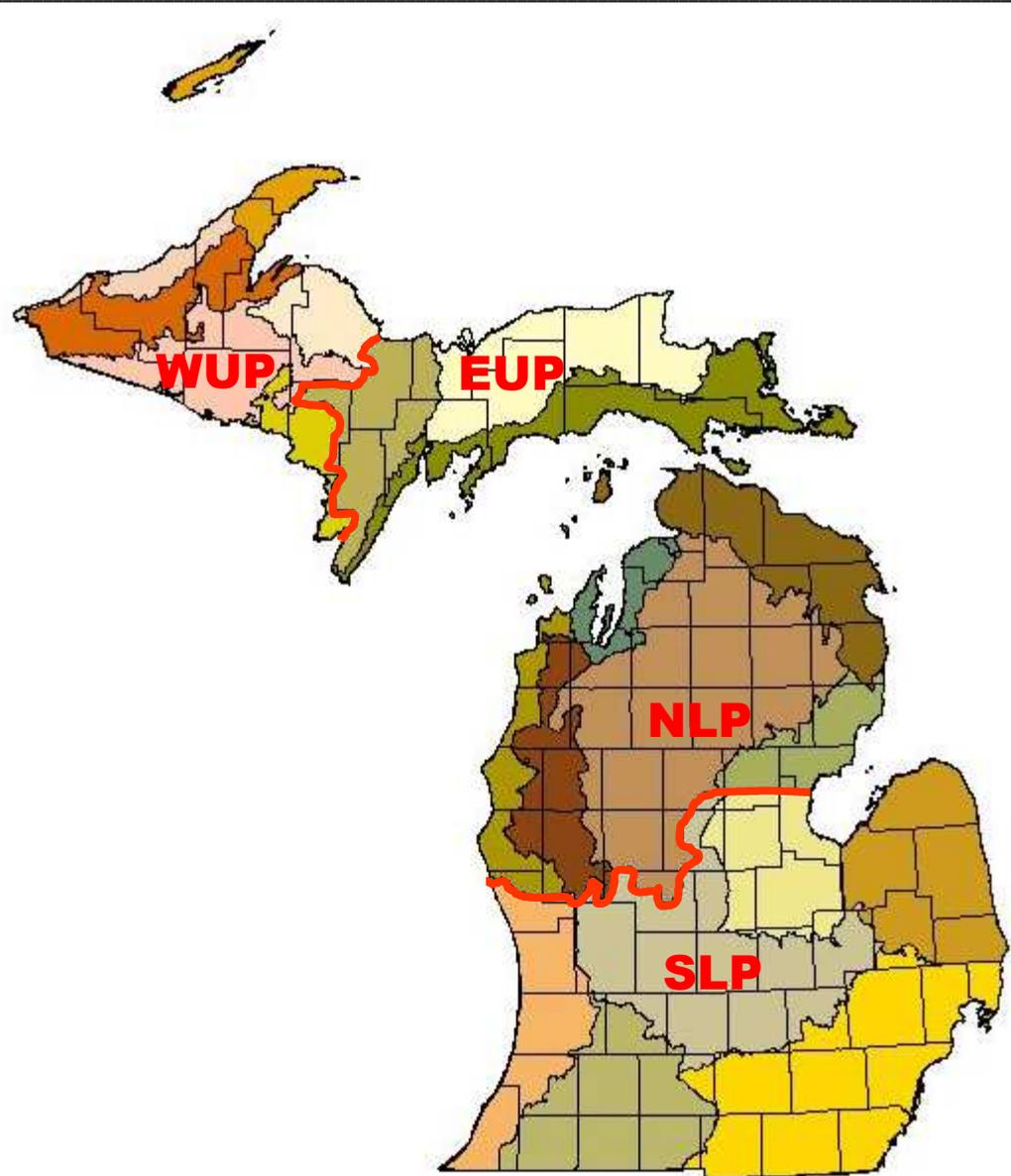


DNR Response to the CARs

Corrective actions:

- Update existing network of Ecological Reference Areas
 - Protect rare natural communities
 - Conserve representative examples
- Expand existing network of Dedicated Habitat Areas

Albert's Subsections





Natural Communities

- FSC and SFI certification standards direct use of Natural Heritage Program data
- MNFI has described 77 natural communities in Michigan
- 56 communities have been documented by MNFI in the NLP, EUP and/or WUP

Natural Communities

Lowland Forested

- Floodplain Forest
- Hardwood Conifer Swamp
- Northern Hardwood Swamp
- *Poor Conifer Swamp*
- Rich Conifer Swamp
- Rich Tamarack Swamp

Upland Forested

- Boreal Forest
- Dry Northern Forest
- Dry-Mesic Northern Forest
- Mesic Northern Forest
- Wooded Dune & Swale Complex

Natural Communities

Upland Nonforested

- Dry Sand Prairie
- Great Lakes Barrens
- Oak-Pine Barrens
- Pine Barrens
- Hillside Prairie

Natural Communities

Lowland Nonforested

- Bog
- Coastal Fen
- Coastal Plain Marsh
- *Emergent Marsh*
- Great Lakes Marsh
- Interdunal Wetland
- Intermittent Wetland
- *Muskeg*
- Northern Fen
- *Northern Shrub Thicket*
- *Northern Wet Meadow*
- Poor Fen
- Patterned Fen
- *Submergent Marsh*
- Wet-Mesic Sand Prairie

Natural Communities

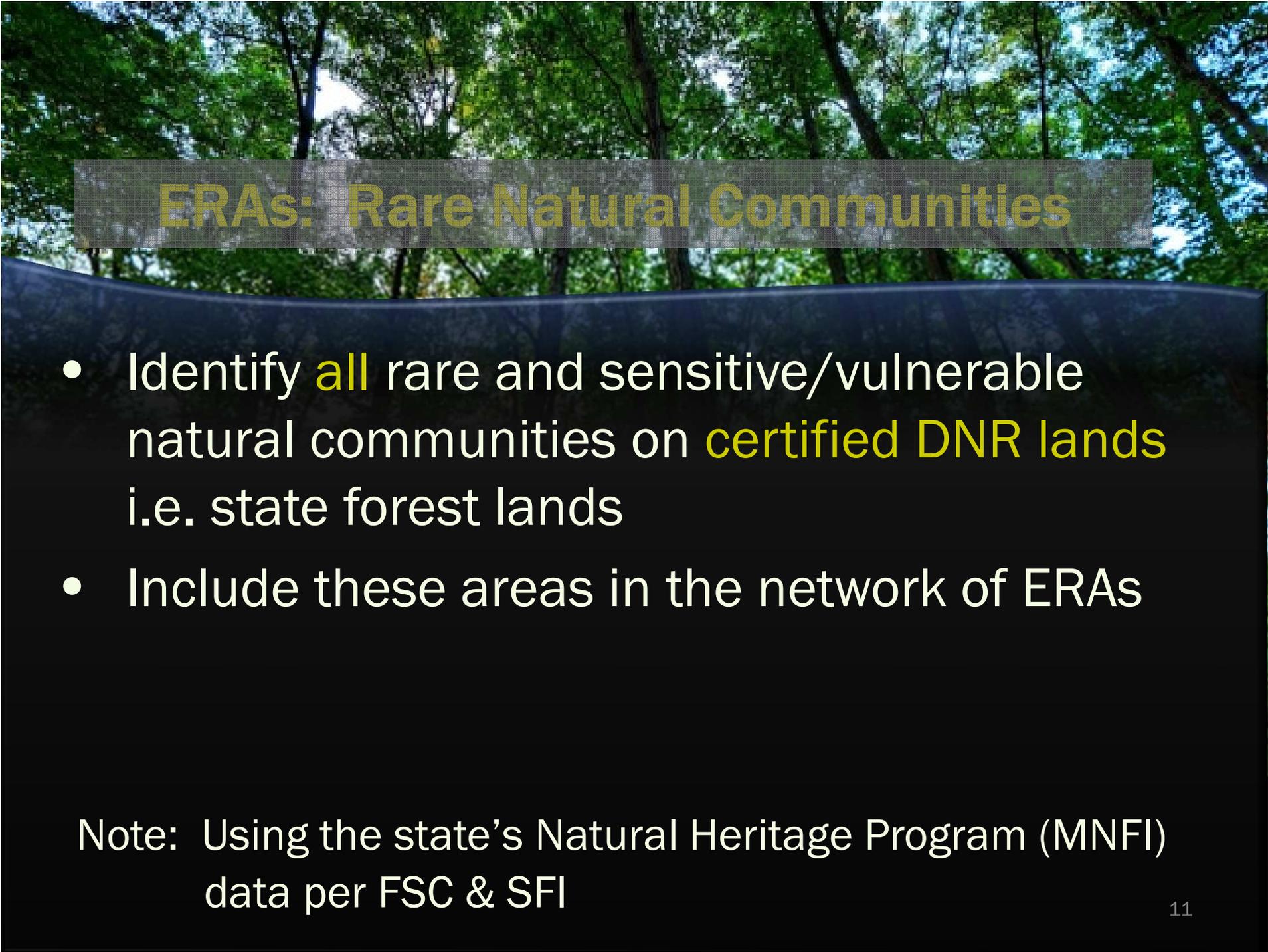
Bedrock/Shoreline

- Alvar
- Cave
- Sinkhole
- Clay Bluff
- Open Dunes
- Granite Bedrock Glade
- Granite Bedrock Lakeshore
- Granite Cliff
- Granite Lakeshore Cliff
- Limestone Bedrock Glade
- Limestone Bedrock Lakeshore
- Limestone Cliff
- Limestone Cobble Shore

Natural Communities

Bedrock/Shoreline – cont.

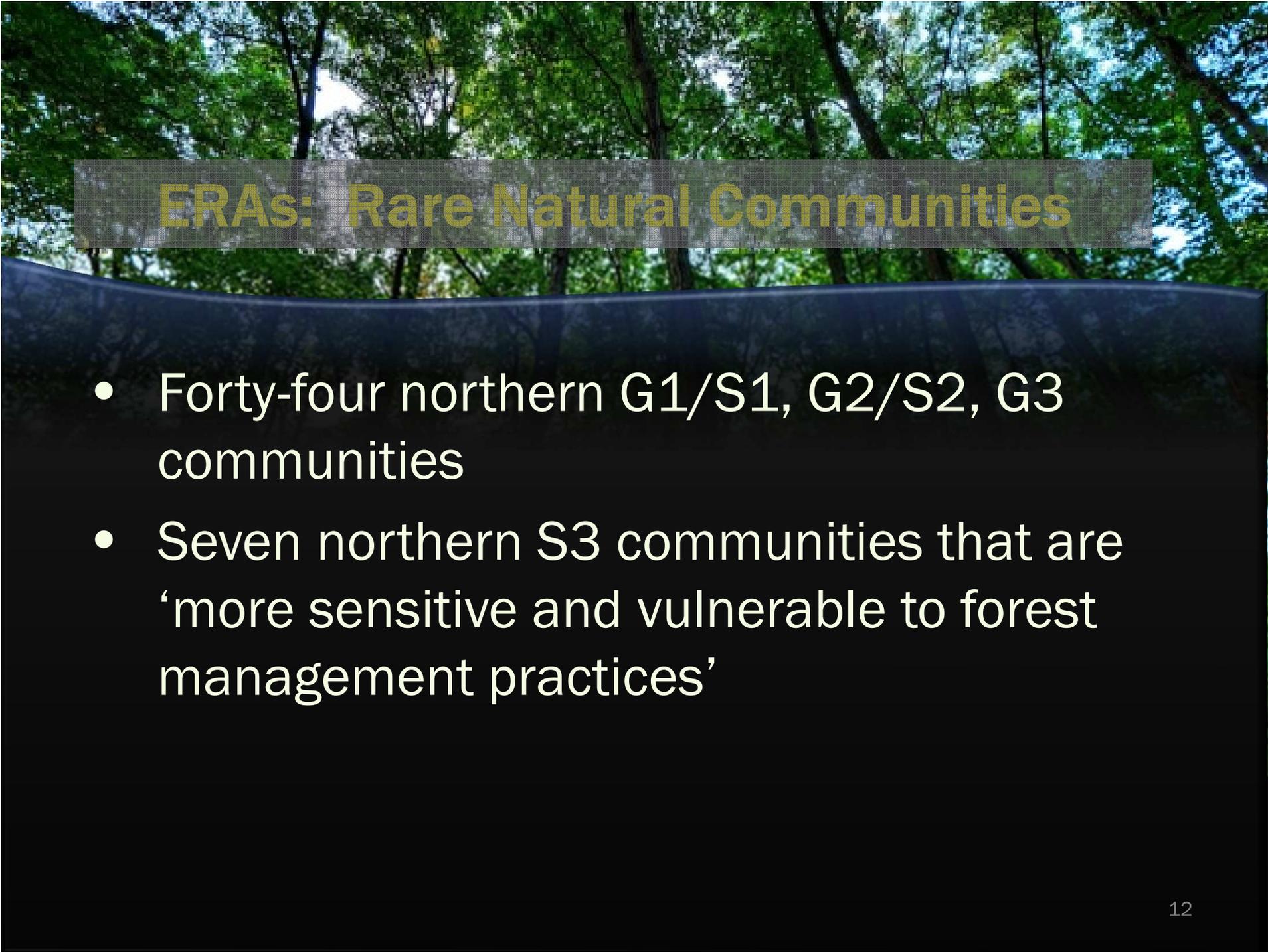
- Limestone Lakeshore Cliff
- Northern Bald
- Sand & Gravel Beach
- Sandstone Bedrock Lakeshore
- Sandstone Cobble Shore
- Sandstone Cliff
- Sandstone Lakeshore Cliff
- Volcanic Bedrock Glade
- Volcanic Bedrock Lakeshore
- Volcanic Cliff
- *Volcanic Cobble Shore*
- Volcanic Lakeshore Cliff



ERAs: Rare Natural Communities

- Identify **all** rare and sensitive/vulnerable natural communities on **certified DNR lands** i.e. state forest lands
- Include these areas in the network of ERAs

Note: Using the state's Natural Heritage Program (MNFI) data per FSC & SFI



ERAs: Rare Natural Communities

- Forty-four northern G1/S1, G2/S2, G3 communities
- Seven northern S3 communities that are ‘more sensitive and vulnerable to forest management practices’



ERAs: Representative Examples

Identify ~5 examples of **high quality** natural communities (rare & common) per ecoregion:

- State Forest lands
- Other DNR lands with protections
- Other lands with protections
(Federal, Conservancy, Local Government)

Note: Using the state's Natural Heritage Program (MNFI) data per FSC & SFI



Management of ERAs

- Highly restricted by FSC Certification Standard
- Management objective is to maintain or restore the identified natural community
- Management limited to low impact activities compatible with the natural community type



Management of ERAs

- Generally will not be managed for timber harvest
- However, the following are acceptable:
 - Harvesting activities necessary to restore or recreate conditions that meet the ERA objective
 - Timber harvest and prescribed fire to create and maintain conditions that emulate an intact, mature forest or other successional phases



Management of ERAs

- Acceptable management, continued:
 - Road building only where documented that it will help minimize overall environmental impact and will not jeopardize the ERA objective
 - Threats such as wildfire, natural or exotic pests or pathogens may warrant other management measures



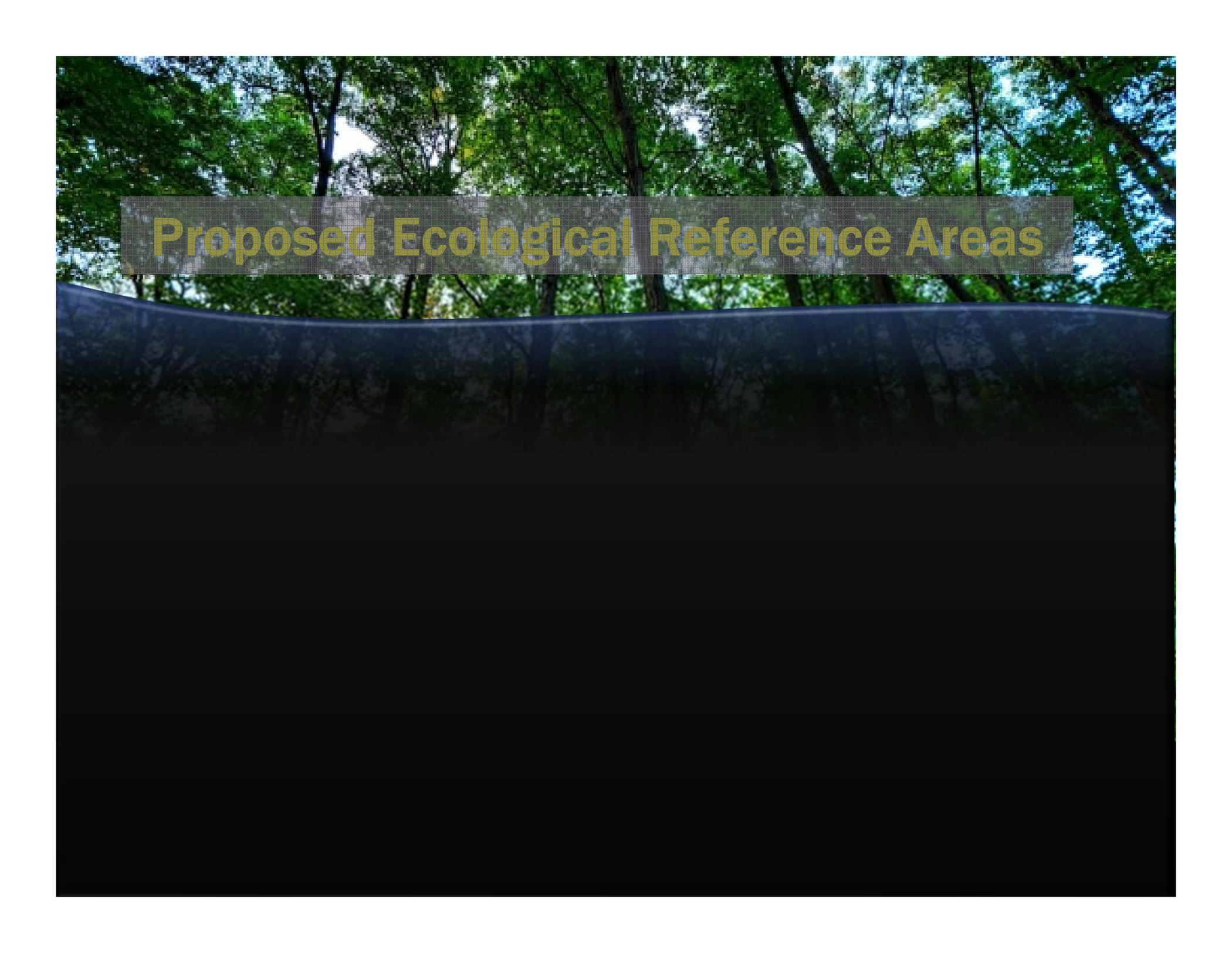
Acceptable Land Uses Within ERAs

- Generally, current uses by the public will continue
- Proposed future activities will be evaluated using severity, scope, and irreversibility as criteria
 - See “Guidance for Land Use Activities within DNR-Administered Ecological Reference Areas”



Maintenance of ERA Network

- If inaccurate, boundaries of ERAs can be modified during forest inventory
- Network will be evaluated every five years
- Planning needs will be addressed after new ERAs are designated

A photograph of a forest canopy reflected in a dark, curved surface, likely a body of water or a large mirror. The top half of the image shows a dense forest of green trees against a blue sky. The bottom half shows a dark, curved surface that perfectly reflects the forest above. A semi-transparent, grey rectangular box is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the text "Proposed Ecological Reference Areas" in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font.

Proposed Ecological Reference Areas





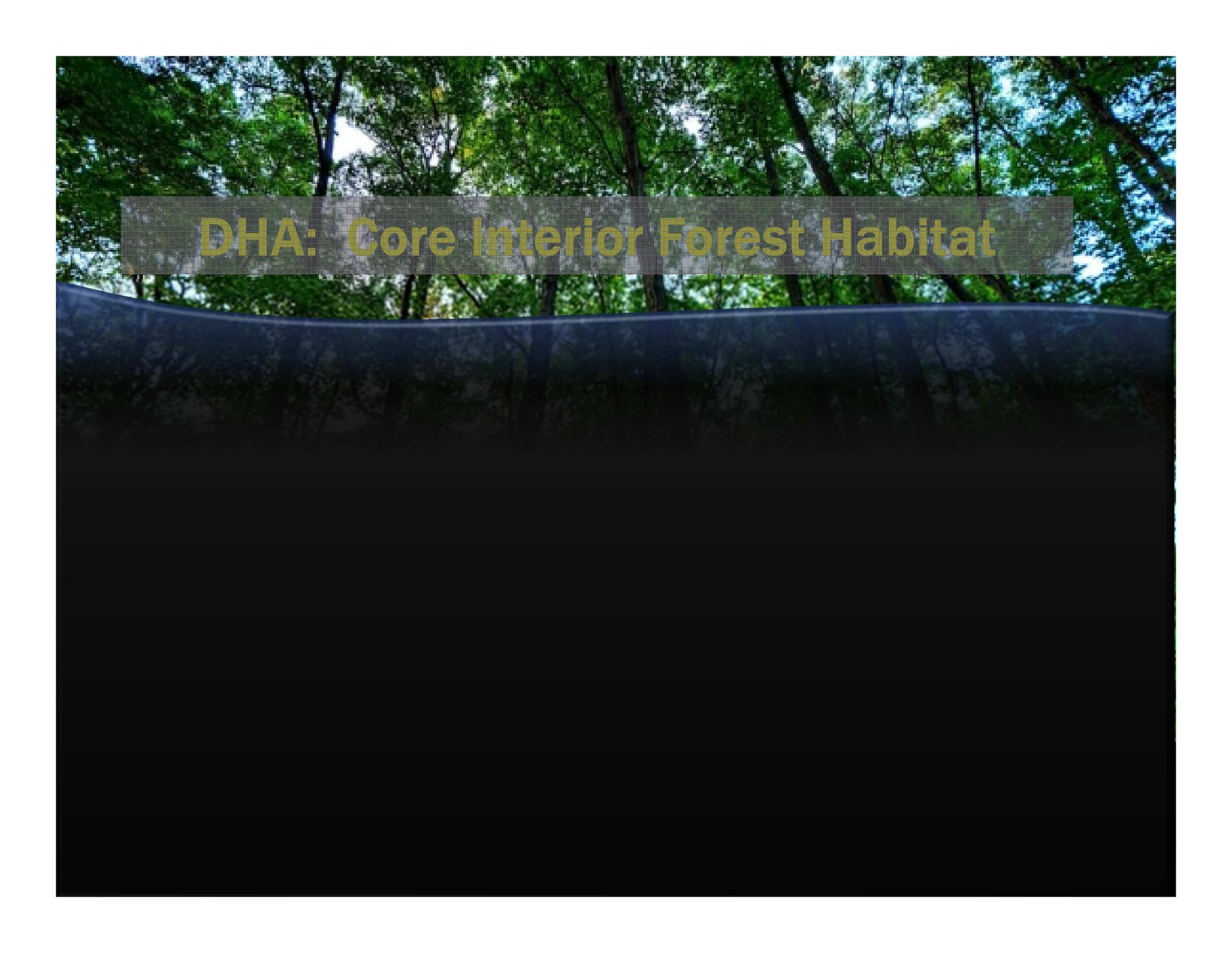




DHA: Core Interior Forest Habitat

- Identify a network of areas for species dependent upon interior core forest habitat on DNR managed lands
- Will be a category of Dedicated Habitat Areas

Note: This meets an FSC standard specific to certified **public** lands



DHA: Core Interior Forest Habitat



Management of DHAs

- Follow management direction for overlapping designations (e.g. New ERAs, State Parks, Natural Areas)
- Otherwise existing management will continue, as described in applicable plans



Management of DHAs

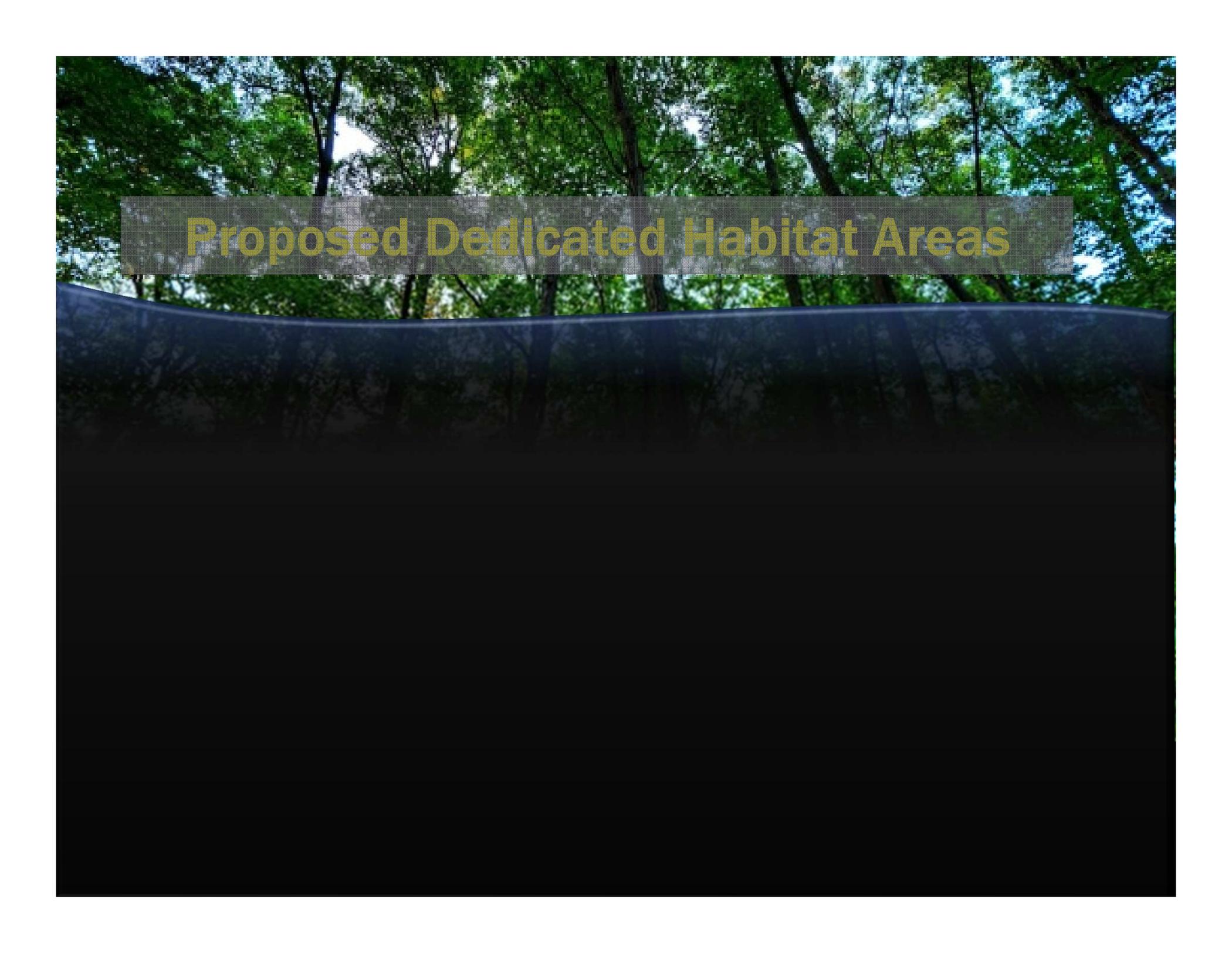
- Objective is to create and maintain compositional and structural conditions of intact, mature forest or other successional phases that continue to provide core forest
- All forest management activities that help to achieve objective are acceptable, including timber harvest and prescribed fire



Management of DHAs

Minimize fragmentation by:

- Use of temporary access roads
- Minimizing number and size of permanent access roads and trails, and/or
- Maintaining canopy closure over roads and trails



Proposed Dedicated Habitat Areas

WUP Dedicated Habitat Areas

DHA Name	Forest Type	DNR Administration	Acres
Craig Lake	Upland Deciduous Forest	State Park	257
Groveland Mine	Upland Mixed Forest	State Forest	341
Keweenaw Point	Upland Mixed Forest	State Forest	757
Little Presque Isle	Upland Deciduous & Mixed Forest	State Forest	3,118
Lost Lake	Upland Mixed Forest	State Forest	558
Porcupine Mountains	Upland Deciduous Forest	State Park	49,225
Thomas Lake	Upland Deciduous Forest	State Forest	892
TOTAL			55,148

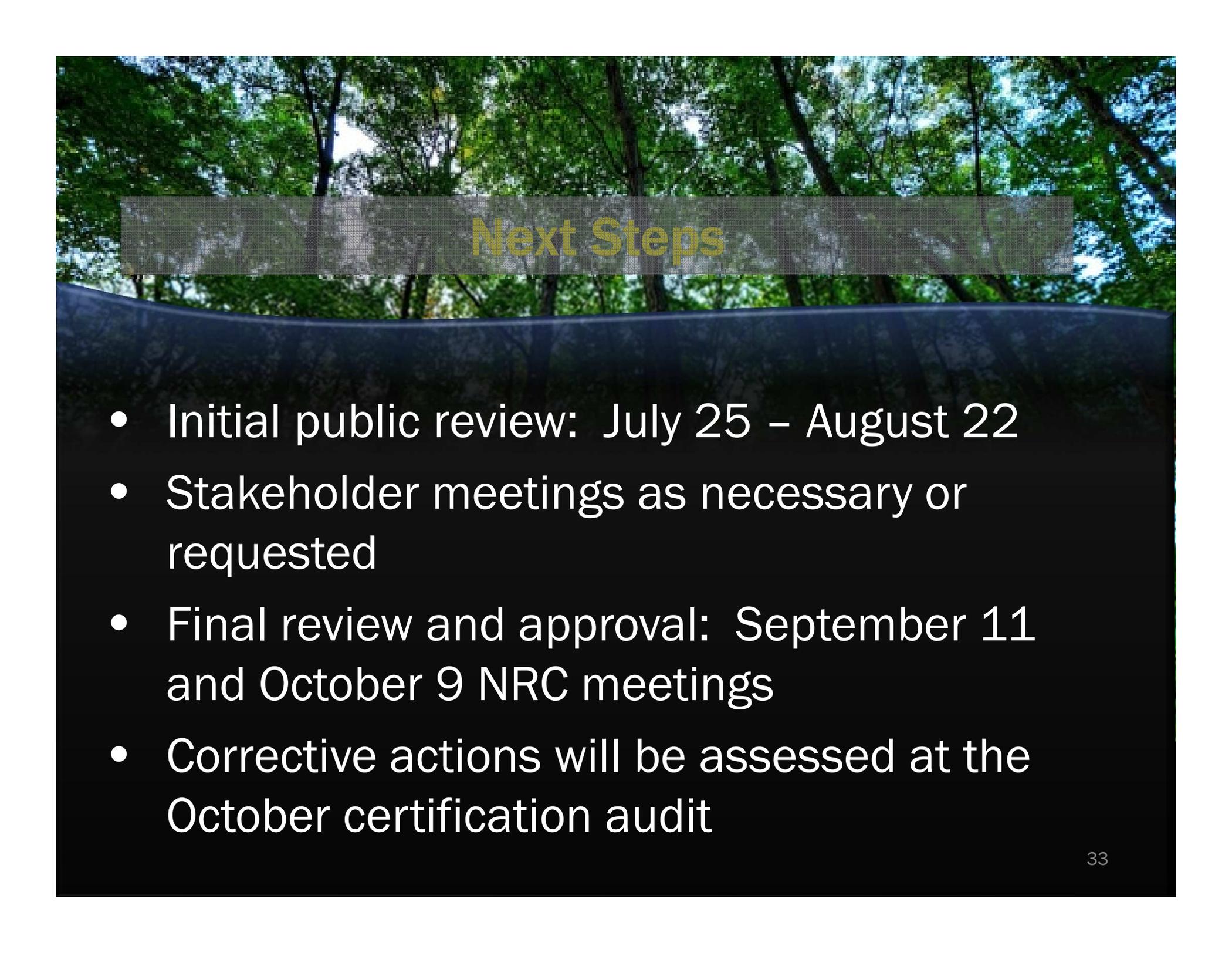
EUP Dedicated Habitat Areas

DHA Name	Forest Type	DNR Administration	Acres
Dollar Lake	Upland Deciduous Forest	State Forest	1,413
Fourth Lake	Upland Deciduous Forest	State Forest	2,170
<u>Gogomain Swamp</u>	Lowland Coniferous Forest	State Forest	4,322
<u>Le Vasseur Creek</u>	Lowland Coniferous Forest	State Forest	666
Lighthouse Point	Upland Mixed Forest	State Forest	1,935
North Summer Island	Upland Deciduous Forest	State Forest	1,340
Pretty Lakes	Upland Mixed Forest	State Forest	2,245
Simmons Woods	Upland Mixed Forest	State Forest	9,919
Skidmore Branch	Lowland Coniferous Forest	State Forest	1,830
Summer Meadow Creek	Lowland Mixed Forest	State Forest	4,444
Tahquamenon River	Upland Deciduous Forest	State Park	2,433
Two-Hearted River	Lowland Mixed Forest	State Forest	723
<u>Werners Creek</u>	Lowland Deciduous Forest	State Forest	697
TOTAL			34,135

NLP Dedicated Habitat Areas

DHA Name	Forest Type	DNR Administration	Acres
<u>Betsie River</u>	Lowland Mixed Forest	State Forest	1,052
Cathead Bay	Upland Deciduous Forest	State Park	742
<u>Deadstream Swamp</u>	Lowland Coniferous Forest	State Forest	1,291
Grass Lake	Lowland Coniferous Forest	State Forest	957
Green Swamp	Lowland Coniferous Forest	State Forest	3,713
Grindstone Creek	Upland Deciduous Forest	State Forest	447
Hughes Swamp	Lowland Mixed Forest	State Wildlife Area	1,703
Jordan River Valley	Upland Deciduous Forest	State Forest	3,410
Minnehaha Swamp	Lowland Coniferous Forest	State Forest	969
Platte Lake	Lowland Coniferous Forest	State Forest	1,025
Sand Lakes	Upland Mixed Forest	State Forest	2,992
<u>Skegemog Swamp</u>	Lowland Coniferous Forest	State Forest	1,242
Solon Swamp	Lowland Coniferous Forest	State Forest	1,517
Sturgeon Bay	Upland Mixed Forest	State Park	2,713
Tin Shanty Hardwoods	Upland Deciduous & Mixed Forest	State Forest	1,859
TOTAL			25,631





Next Steps

- Initial public review: July 25 – August 22
- Stakeholder meetings as necessary or requested
- Final review and approval: September 11 and October 9 NRC meetings
- Corrective actions will be assessed at the October certification audit

