

## **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR VOLUNTARY PUBLIC ACCESS HABITAT INCENTIVE PROGRAM STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**SUMMARY:** The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) gives notice that it has prepared a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and an environmental impact statement will not be prepared for a Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Improvement Program (VPA-HIP) grant being provided to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** A copy of the EA and FONSI can be accessed on the internet by clicking on the appropriate link at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/ea](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/ea). Single copies of the environmental assessment (EA), Supplemental EA, and FONSI documents may be obtained by contacting Ms. Andrée DuVarney, National Environmental Coordinator, USDA-NRCS, Ecological Sciences Division, Room 6158-S, P.O. Box 2890, Washington, D.C., 20013-2890 or by sending a request via email to [andree.duvarney@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:andree.duvarney@wdc.usda.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** NRCS is providing VPA-HIP grant funds to the MDNR to expand the existing Hunting Access Program (HAP); allow for more hunting opportunities for youth and apprentice hunters; encourage landowner participation in the program by offering increased financial incentives and greater program flexibility; encourage high quality wildlife habitat by offering increased financial incentives for enrolling quality habitat into the HAP and through targeted efforts on CREP lands; increase hunter and landowner awareness of the HAP through targeted outreach and program marketing; and to carry out habitat restoration projects on lands enrolled in the HAP. NRCS published notices on December 8, 2014 of its intent to adopt and supplement a Programmatic EA prepared by the Farm Service Agency in 2011 for use of VPA-HIP grant funds in Michigan. Upon an independent review of the EA, NRCS found that when supplemented by the December 2014 Supplemental EA, the document adequately addressed the effects of providing MWRD with 2014 VPA-HIP grant funds to continue activities described in the EA. In its Notice, NRCS requested comments and only one comment was received which expressed support.