

# Interim Ecosystem Management Guidelines WUP Management Unit Including Escanaba, Ishpeming, Baraga and Crystal Falls Forest Areas

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## Native vs. Non-Native Vegetation:

Assumptions/Discussion:

Within the WUP Management Unit, a broad range of management activities take place, ranging from rather intensive plantings (i.e. Baraga Plains/AuTrain Basin), to areas managed for naturalistic values where little planting is done.

Plantings for wildlife habitat development and erosion control will continue to be an important part of management activities on state forest land. The position of the MDNR regarding native plants in resource management is:

“...that resource management emphasize conservation, enhancement and restoration of native plants in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Native plants are to be used, whenever possible, for natural resource management on public lands and mandated restoration projects. Use of native plants will also be strongly encouraged for natural resource management on private lands. Non-native genotype of native species may be used for certain instances. Naturalized plants may be used when native plants will not meet specific needs. Invasive non-native plants will not be used on public lands, mandated restoration projects or recommended for use on private lands.”

## Interim guidelines:

1. In areas where natural processes are the focal point of management only native species will be planted, if it is deemed that planting is necessary. Examples of these areas are Little Presque Isle, Shakey Lakes Savanna and within designated old growth boundaries.
2. In areas that are managed intensively through plantings (Sturgeon Sloughs, Baraga Plains, AuTrain Basin) and within the general forest zone native plant species will be the preferred option. If seed source problems exist or if other conditions exist that preclude their use, naturalized, non-invasive plants may be used to accomplish management objectives.