



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

July 1, 2009

TO: Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Staff
Wildlife Staff

FROM: Ms. Lynne M. Boyd, Chief, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management
Dr. Russ Mason, Ph.D, Chief, Wildlife

SUBJECT: Lands in Scope

In 2005, Michigan's state forestlands were certified under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) programs. The certificates encompass all forest lands in the "state forest system" with the following exceptions:

- **1.3.2 Land Outside of the Scope of this Certification Evaluation**
With the exception of lands leased to the Michigan National Guard, all designated Michigan state forestlands are included in the scope of this certification evaluation. These lands, approximately 3.9 million acres in total, are organized into 15 forest management units (FMUs) located in both the Lower and Upper Peninsulas. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) manages other state lands that are not part of the state forest system and are not within the scope of this certification evaluation. These lands include state game areas and state wildlife management or research areas, as well as state parks and recreation areas.¹
- In 2006, through our review and internal audit processes, we noted that Luce County leased state forestlands should be out of scope for forest certification. This adjustment was reported to the external auditors.

In 2008, Director Rebecca A. Humphries, MDNR, affirmed that lands specified in the original documentation, with the exception of Luce County and military leased lands, are and will continue to be in scope as part of the state forest system.

In terms of forest operations, this means that all lands which currently are inventoried under either the OI system or IFMAP system, are identified in a state forest compartment, and go through the compartment review process, are included in the state forest system. For example, Houghton Lake Research Area is part of a state forest compartment and is inventoried under OI; therefore, it is in scope. However, those state game areas in southern Michigan that are

¹ *Joint Forest Management and Chain-of-Custody Certification Evaluation Report for the: State Forest Lands Managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Robert J. Hrubes, Ph.D., SCS Forest Conservation Program, December 6, 2005.*

using IFMAP are not part of a state forest compartment or the state forest system; therefore, they are out of scope.

The MDNR is in the process of developing a more detailed list and additional operational clarification for staff. For example, in order to address federal aid requirements and assure wildlife management remains the primary management goal on research and state game areas, these lands will be identified in the OI/IFMAP database as Special Conservation Areas (SCAs).

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Mr. Dennis Nezich, Forest Certification Specialist, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management, at 906-228-6561, extension 3051.

cc: Mr. Mike Ferrucci, Auditor, FSC
Mr. Robert Hrubes, Auditor, SFI

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "Dennis M. Nezich". Below it is a second, shorter signature, also in cursive, which is less legible but appears to be a name.