

Summary of Major Changes to Regional State Forest Management Plans

The following is a summary of major changes to Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Regional State Forest Management Plans (RSFMPs), comparing the October 2013 proposed final plans to the January 2013 draft plans.

Changes in All Three Plans

A complete analysis of state forest land that is suitable for timber production was added to Section 3 of each plan.

Information on climate change was added to Section 3 and the Introduction to Section 4 in each plan.

Management direction for aquatic resources was changed in Section 4 for each plan.

Featured species population-based goals were changed to habitat-based goals.

Section 5 (Special Resource Areas) was incorporated into Section 4 (Management Area Direction) of each plan, including the addition of Special Conservation Area maps.

Section 6 (Monitoring, Reporting, Review and Revision) became Section 5 in each plan. A discussion of known plan deficiencies as added to the revision discussion in each plan, as well as the inclusion of two tables of probable metrics for a future monitoring protocol.

Appendix D and the plan glossary were revised for each plan to further explain the model, the definition of rotation age, and the DNR forest inventory system.

Changes Exclusive to the Northern Lower Peninsula (NLP) RSFMP

100 or 200 acre projections for cedar, lowland conifer and lowland deciduous cover types were removed and replaced with adjusted harvest levels that utilize new inventory data on available acres.

Jack pine harvest projections in the Upper Muskegon Management Area (MA) were changed to account for projected harvest of 60+ year old jack pine for forest health reasons.

Projected harvest levels were lowered in the Camp Grayling MA to account for changes in military activities and manageable acres.

Projected harvest levels for northern hardwoods in the Emmet Moraines and Chandler Hills MAs were lowered to account for current work to salvage ash and beech which have been affected by Emerald Ash Borer and Beech Bark Disease.

The rotation age for aspen was changed from 70 to 60 years in the Avery Hills, Emmet Moraines and Williamsburg Moraine MAs, based upon a new analysis yield and value over time.

The rotation age for aspen was changed from 60 to 50 in the Rattlesnake Hills, Cheboygan Lake Plain, Thunder Bay Outwash, Upper Muskegon, and Evert Block MAs, based upon a new analysis yield and value over time.

The management for lowland deciduous cover types was changed in the Gladwin Lake Plain and Midland-Isabella MAs to account for additional uneven-aged management, changing the management direction from primarily final harvests to a 75-25 partial to final harvest ratio.

The desired future harvest level for the major cover types was included for each MA as part of the long-term management objectives.

Total proposed harvest acres decreased by approximately 4,400 acres per year to approximately 35,300 acres per year for the 10-year planning period.

American marten and golden-winged warbler were added as a featured species, as noted in Table 3.7, to more accurately reflect their distribution.

Ruffed Grouse was removed from several MAs, as reflected in Table 3.7, to more accurately reflect the distribution.

The language for the eastern massasauga rattlesnake was changed based on the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services.

The featured species language for deer was changed to more accurately portray winter deer range and management considerations in the NLP.

Changes Exclusive to the Eastern Upper Peninsula RSFMP

Inventory data was added and harvest projections were updated for the Whitefish Vermillion Point MAs for the Crisp Point property acquisition.

Information for the Upper Peninsula Grouse Enhanced Management System (GEMS) hunting areas was added.

The level of projected cedar harvests for the Cusino MA was changed from 250 acres to 633 acres.

The projected harvest levels for lowland conifers decreased by about 300 acres per year (in total) for the Cusino Complex, Huron Patterned Outcrop, Lake Michigan Shoreline, Munuscong Bay, Mackinac Mix, and Sage Truck Trail MAs, based upon an assessment of obligate deer wintering habitat.

Total proposed harvest acres decreased from about 12,300 acres per year to about 12,200 acres per year for the 10-year planning period.

Changes Exclusive to the Western Upper Peninsula RSFMP

The rotation age for aspen was changed from 60 to 50 in the Amasa Plains, Brule-Iron River, Cassidy Creek, Central Houghton, Chain Lake Moraine, Covington-Ned Lake, Cyr Swamp, Dead Horse Moraines, Groveland, Menge Creek, Net River, North Menominee Moraines, Norwich Plains, Palmer Moraine, Peavy End Moraines, Peshekee Highlands, Ralph Ground Moraines, and Sand River Lake Plain MAs, based upon a new analysis yield and value over time.

The rotation age for aspen was changed from 50 to 40 in the Sand Plains and Voelker Plains MAs, based upon forest health concerns and a new analysis yield and value over time.

Total proposed harvest acres increased by approximately 1,200 acres per year to approximately 13,600 acres per year for the 10-year planning period.

Some featured species were added or removed from a given MA. This includes the addition of Upper Peninsula GEMS to a few MAs.