
2006 Forest Plan

Hiawatha National Forest

*Alger, Cheboygan, Chippewa, Delta, Mackinac, Marquette
and Schoolcraft Counties, Michigan*

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USDA Forest Service

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2600 Wildlife, Fish and Sensitive Plant Habitat Management

Desired Conditions: The Hiawatha National Forest provides habitats that support viable populations of a wide range of existing native and desired non-native wildlife and plant species. Aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitats on National Forest System lands contribute to ecosystem sustainability and biological diversity of the Great Lakes region.

The Forest provides wildlife habitat with corridors and contiguous tracts to allow for greater distribution of wildlife species. Management activities contribute to the conservation and recovery of federally-listed threatened, endangered and sensitive species.

The Hiawatha monitors four management indicator species and other species of interest to ensure that necessary habitat are maintained or enhanced to support these species, as well as associated species.

Goals:

1. Diverse, healthy, productive and resilient habitats for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife are provided.
2. Ecological conditions are provided to sustain viable populations of native and desired non-native species and to achieve objectives for management indicator species.
3. Habitat for resident and anadromous fish is maintained or enhanced.
4. Habitat for resident and migratory wildlife species is maintained or enhanced.
5. Provide for self-sustaining populations of desired fish and other aquatic species.
6. Desired fish populations in lakes and streams are achieved through cooperation with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Tribes and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

Objectives:

1. In this planning period, annually restore or enhance 9 to 13 miles of riparian and in-channel stream habitat. This will include 7 to 11 miles of coldwater and coolwater habitat annually.
2. In this planning period, annually restore or enhance conditions for warmwater fish communities in 3 to 5 lakes.

3. In this planning period, annually conduct fishery resource inventories on 7 to 10 lakes and 5 to 8 streams to assess the capability of habitats and fish populations to meet the public need.

Vegetation Management Standards:

1. Vegetation will be managed within the ecological capabilities of the forest.

Vegetation Management Guidelines:

1. The maximum size of temporary openings for sharp-tailed grouse and Kirtland's warbler management should not exceed 1,100 acres. In Kirtland's warbler management areas, the 1,100-acre temporary opening guideline may be exceeded by harvesting adjacent blocks after the appropriate stocking density (determined in consultation with the FWS) is achieved and after the third-year stocking review.
2. Deeryards and adjacent uplands should be managed to provide winter thermal cover and browse.
3. Vegetation management activities should encourage intrastand diversity and mast producing species.

Structural Guidelines:

1. When determining reserves for even-aged managed stands on ELTs 10/20, method A or B, or a combination of both should be used. For all other ELTs, either method A or method B should be used.
 - A. Two to four live trees with diameters greater than or equal to the average stand diameter per acre should be reserved. Preference should be given to live den trees.
 - B. Variable size reserve islands/clumps that total up to a half-acre for every 10 acres should be reserved.
2. For uneven-aged managed stands:
 - A. Up to five live den trees per acre should be reserved, unless they present a safety concern.
 - B. Live den trees felled for safety reasons should be left as coarse woody debris.

