

Michigan National Forests



YOUR NATIONAL FORESTS

National Forests are one of America's greatest treasures. In the 20-state Eastern Region of the Forest Service, half the country's population is within a day's drive of a National Forest. The close proximity and public demands make the Eastern Region forests some of the most intensely used in the country.

In Michigan, we play host to three distinct National Forests. The Upper Peninsula is home to the Hiawatha and Ottawa National Forests. The Huron-Manistee National Forest is located in the northern portion of lower Michigan. The National Forests in Michigan are multiple-use forests. This means they are managed for commodity production, recreation, and a multitude of other uses.

Recreation opportunities are varied and millions of visitors come to enjoy:

- 2,500 miles of rivers (over 300 miles of designated Wild & Scenic Rivers)
- Over 1,000 lakes
- Over 1,000 campsites
- Nearly 100,000 acres of Congressionally designated wilderness
- Over 2,000 miles of trails (hiking, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, mountain biking)
- Hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, berry picking and other outdoor activities.

Timber harvest is managed to accomplish numerous objectives: the production of raw materials; to provide and improve habitat for wildlife, plants and fish; and to restore the forests to more vital and healthy ecosystems. Logging is done on the forests with nearly 100 million board feet harvested annually.

The Forests maintain many District Offices in a variety of communities throughout Michigan, as well as visitor centers, developed recreation areas, an extensive road system, and over 4,000 historic and prehistoric sites.

Forest employees are vital members of the communities in which they live and the forests themselves aid local communities and counties in many ways, including economic development, seeking grants, and natural resource educational aid to schools and community groups.

All of the above make the Hiawatha, Huron-Manistee and Ottawa National Forests a vital part of Michigan.

Forest Contacts

Hiawatha National Forest

Leeann Loupe, Public Affairs
2727 No. Lincoln Road
Escanaba, MI 49829
906-789-3329

Huron-Manistee NF's

Ken Arbogast, Public Affairs
1755 So. Mitchell Street
Cadillac, MI 49601
231-775-5023

Ottawa National Forest

Lisa Klaus, Public Affairs
E6248 US Hwy. 2
Ironwood, MI 49938
906-932-1330

Benefits to Michigan Residents in 2003

- Receipts from activities on the national forests are returned to the U.S. Treasury, with **25 percent** of them being returned to Michigan. In 2003, this return totaled: **\$2,594,821**.
- Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments to counties totaled **\$2,090,673**
- There are **432** National Forest **employees** living in Michigan with an estimated **payroll** of **\$17.3 million**. These employees live in and aid the local communities paying taxes, purchasing homes and goods, etc.
- Michigan has the largest number of **hunters** (nearly 1.5 million) of any state and is 4th in fishing (**1.8 million anglers**) and has over 2.4 million people who participate in **wildlife viewing/bird watching**.
- Approximately **37% of all hunting** within Michigan is done on national forest lands. **Retail sales** related to hunting on national forest land alone are estimated at **\$150 million** with over **3,200 jobs** created as a result. Statewide, hunters spend over **\$800 million**.
- The number of people participating in **hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing increased 63%** from 1980 to 1990. This number is expected to increase an additional 150% by the year 2040.
- Approximately **35% of all wildlife viewing/bird watching** is done on national forest lands within Michigan. **Retail sales** for these activities on national forest lands are estimated at **\$118 million** with over **2,600 jobs** created as a result.
- Michigan National Forests log over **8 million recreation visitor days** yearly. Visitors come to recreate at the developed camp site (**1,000 campgrounds**); in a serene, natural setting (**100,000 acres designated wilderness**); fish, canoe and kayak (**2,500 miles of rivers and 1,000 lakes**); and hike, bike and ski (**over 2,000 miles of trails**). This is just a sampling of the many activities people can enjoy on their forests.
- Nearly **\$9 million in receipts** were generated through **harvesting 109 million board feet of timber**.
- **Timber sales employ directly 1,500 people and indirectly employ over 10,000 people** through related jobs (mills, equipment, trucking, etc.)
- Michigan boasts **more snowmobilers than any other state**. Residents and non-residents alike enjoy recreating on **6,000 miles of maintained trails** throughout the State.



Accomplishments in 2003

Forest Roads and Watershed Health and Restoration

- Surveyed, designed and implemented more than 15 watershed protection projects, which involved a multitude of partners.
- Treated 155 acres of noxious weeds and invasive species.
- Improved inland lake habitat and spawning through 86 miles of stream habitat restoration and/or enhancement and 1,744 acres of inland lake habitat and spawning improvement, incorporating multiple partnerships.
- Developed collection agreements, challenge cost-share agreements, cooperative agreements and public work agreements to help complete on-the-ground projects, management plans for specially designated areas, and forest plan implementation. Partnership agreements and grants contributed over \$2.6 million in cash and in-kind contributions to the Michigan National Forests.



Sustainable Forest Management

- Offered 97.9 million board feet of wood in support of ecosystem management and local communities.
- Accomplished reforestation of 15,245 acres of land.
- Completed silvicultural examination on over 51,000 acres.
- Provided extensive wildfire standby and response to 137 wildfires which burned over 2,700 acres in Michigan.
- Over 300 personnel assignments from Michigan Forests supported western wildland firefighting efforts.
- Accomplished over 2,600 acres of hazardous fuels treatment within a xeric ecosystem to reintroduce fire into the system and simulate natural disturbance intervals.

Recreation

- Provided over 8 million visitor days of recreation activities, events, services and facility use to residents and visitors.
- Through the Rec Fee Demo Project, \$515,000 in revenues have been raised to help complete maintenance backlogs and support other recreation projects.
- Numerous construction/reconstruction efforts were completed, such as trail surface hardening, construction and bridge installation on the North Country Trail National Scenic Trail, installation and replacement of toilets, installation of fire rings, and installation of wells, just to name a few.
- Administration and management of 16 National Wild and Scenic Rivers statewide.
- Winter recreation snowmobile trails being maintained by partners and rights-of-way acquisitions sought for permanent trail system.

FY 2003 PAYMENTS TO COUNTIES

25% PAYMENTS

PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT)

The PILT Payment. Under current federal law, local governments are compensated through the PILT payment for losses to their tax base due to the presence of federally owned land (payment in lieu of taxes). Payments are based on acres of eligible lands, population, and previous payments under other payment programs (e.g., the 25% payment).

PILT payments made to Michigan counties totaled **\$2,090,673** in FY 2003. For additional information regarding the PILT payments, visit the Bureau of Land Management's website at: www.blm.gov.



The 25% Payment. Each year the Forest Service returns 25 percent of all revenues to the State of Michigan for distribution among the counties whose borders overlap with National Forests. These funds are distributed to counties based on the amount of National Forest receipts within each county and are to be used for school and road programs.

In 2003, **\$2,594,821** were returned to the counties in Michigan

HIAWATHA NATIONAL FOREST

<u>County (Michigan)</u>	<u>25% Payment</u>	<u>PILT Payment</u>
Alger County	\$ 99,227.00	\$164,404.00
Cheboygan County	25.00	0.00
Chippewa County	245,939.00	133,228.00
Delta County	186,429.00	189,544.00
Mackinac County	117,322.00	43,883.00
Marquette County	4,526.00	—below—
Schoolcraft County	<u>94,518.00</u>	<u>104,752.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 747,986.00	\$635,811.00

HURON-MANISTEE NATIONAL FOREST

Alcona County	\$ 117,596.00	\$ 34,704.00
Barry County	7.00	0.00
Crawford County	39,371.00	10,337.00
Iosco County	32,040.00	60,646.00
Lake County	71,752.00	81,175.00
Manistee County	55,963.00	65,410.00
Mason County	38,732.00	50,778.00
Mecosta County	2,207.00	1,908.00
Montcalm County	2,067.00	2,080.00
Muskegon County	8,007.00	13,840.00
Newaygo County	70,403.00	71,396.00
Oceana County	34,008.00	34,985.00
Ogemaw County	20,771.00	1,065.00
Oscoda County	155,830.00	46,725.00
Wexford County	<u>61,771.00</u>	<u>58,948.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 710,525.00	\$533,997.00

OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST

Baraga County	\$ 51,911.00	\$ 40,382.00
Gogebic County	360,535.00	279,187.00
Houghton County	172,984.00	150,717.00
Iron County	206,874.00	172,599.00
Marquette County	14,114.00	20,871.00
Ontonagon County	<u>329,892.00</u>	<u>257,109.00</u>
TOTAL	\$ 1,136,310.00	\$920,865.00

MICHIGAN TOTALS	\$2,594,821.00	\$2,090,673.00
------------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------