



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Huron-Manistee National Forests
Huron Shores Ranger Station
5761 N. Skeel Avenue
Oscoda, MI 48750

989-739-0728 (Voice)
989-739-0347 (Fax)
989-739-0806 (TTY)

Date: March 2, 2009

Dear Interested Publics:

The Huron Shores Ranger Station is proposing resource management activities to meet management objectives established in the Huron-Manistee National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan (Forests' Plan). This letter is to inform you of the Clear Lake Project. The proposal includes timber management and wildlife habitat enhancement activities. An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project is being prepared. We invite you to help identify opportunities and concerns which relate specifically to this project proposal.

Affected Area

The project is located on National Forest System lands in Millen Township T26N R6E, Sections 16, 17, 20, 29, 30, 32, 33, and 34, and Curtis Township T25N R6E, Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, and 11; Alcona County, Michigan. These activities are proposed for implementation beginning in 2011. A map of the proposed project is enclosed.

Purpose and Need for the Proposal

The Clear Lake Project lies within Management Area (MA) 4.2, Roaded Natural Sandy Plains and Hills, as designated by the Forests' Plan. The purpose of management activities in MA 4.2 is to enhance and increase the variety of wildlife habitats and produce high volumes of timber products. Emphasis includes reducing life-threatening and property-damaging wildfire potential and providing a variety of recreational opportunities.

The project is proposed to meet the 4.2 MA objectives of providing vegetative age diversity in all vegetation classes and managing permanent openings and/or grasslands to meet species viability needs. Project proposals are designed to meet Forest Plan management objectives, to enhance the present condition of ecosystems, and to move the Clear Lake Project area toward the desired future condition described in the Forest Plan.

Proposed Actions include:

- Regenerate approximately 800 acres of the 1176 acres identified on the enclosed map as mature aspen by clearcutting in units up to 40 acres. This will maintain the aspen forest type, which will enhance wildlife habitat and create age-class diversity within the project area. Clearcutting may be done either by commercial timber sales or by non-commercial means if timber value is low.
- Thin approximately 18 acres of red pine to improve growth and vigor of the remaining trees. Thinning will be accomplished through a commercial timber sale.
- Maintain approximately 17 acres of wildlife openings with prescribed fire and/or noncommercial cutting by removing coniferous and deciduous woody encroachment, while releasing fruiting trees and shrubs.
- Place wildlife nest boxes to increase nesting and roosting opportunities throughout the project area.



- Implement non-native invasive plant species control measures in the project area using prescribed fire, mechanical, and biological treatments.
- Prescribe burn approximately 272 acres of oak to reduce the understory red maple component and improve the potential to regenerate oak. It is expected that three burns will be necessary to accomplish this objective and they will be implemented at three to five year intervals over the next 15 years.

Comments on the Proposal

We would like your input on the proposed project. Any suggestions you have regarding the site-specific proposal will be considered in the analysis as we identify issues and develop alternatives. Please call or provide written comment before April 2, 2009 to Quent McNichols at the phone number and address on the letterhead above, or submit comments electronically to gmcnichols@fs.fed.us. Comments received in response to the project will become a matter of public record. If you have questions or need further information regarding the proposal, please don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Quent McNichols
Project Leader/Forester

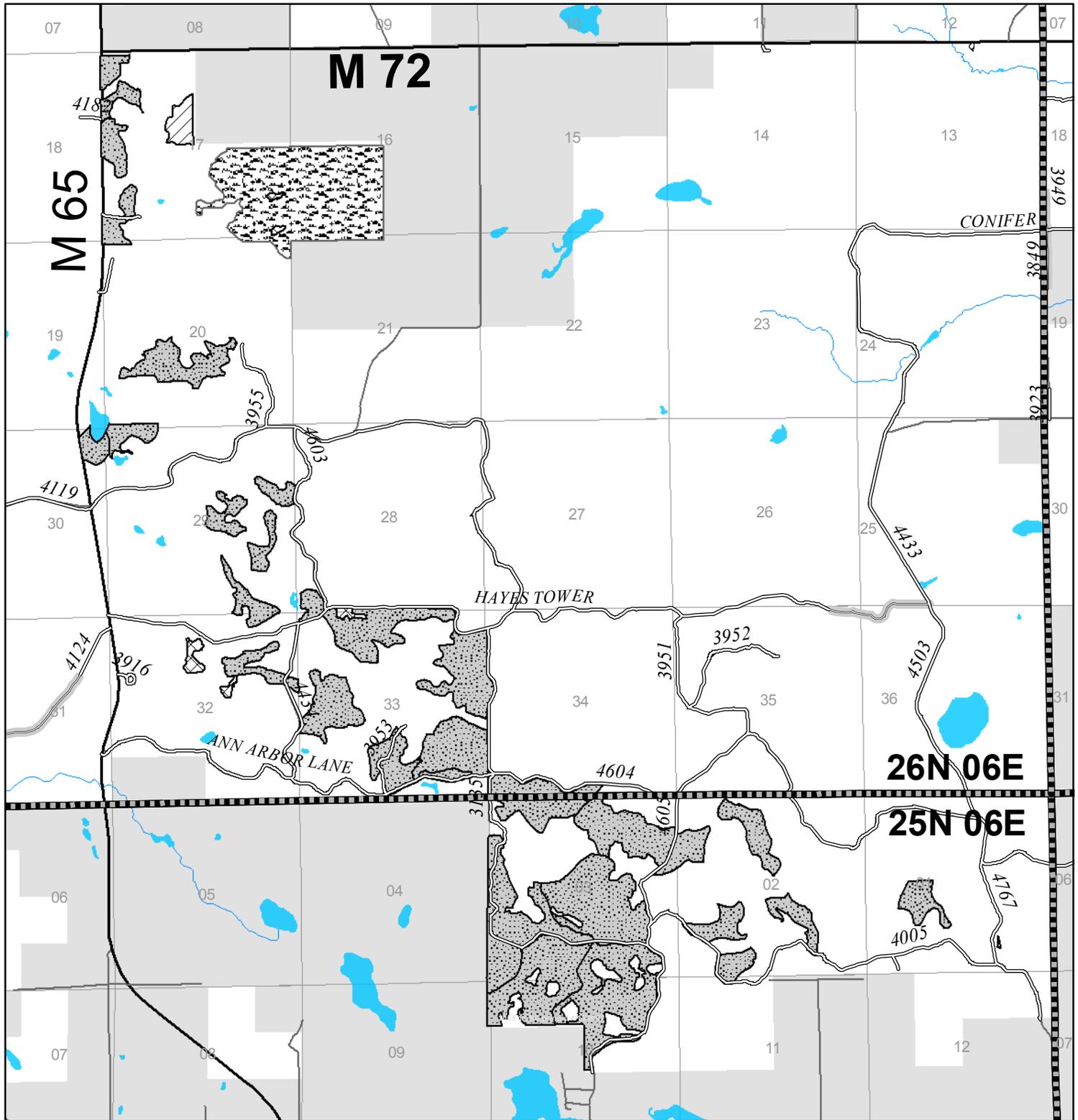
Attachments: Project Proposal Map

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit such comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27 (d), any person may request that a submission be withheld from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that confidentiality is granted in only very limited circumstances. The Forest Service will inform the requester of its decision regarding a request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the submission will be returned and the requester notified that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's target center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-w, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington DC 20250-9401 or call 202-720-5964 (voice or TDD).

Clear Lake Project Proposal

T26N R6E Sections 16,17,20,21,29,30,32,33,34 T25N R6E Sections 1,2,3,10,11



Legend

- Mature Aspen
- Oak Underburn
- Opening Maintenance
- Red Pine Thinning
- Non USFS Lands

