

Huron-Manistee National Forests
Mio, Harrisville and Tawas Ranger Districts Special Uses
Outfitter/Guide Fishing Services

The Mio, Harrisville and Tawas Ranger Districts, Huron-Manistee National Forests, is proposing to issue watercraft authorizations for outfitter/ guide fishing services on the Au Sable River. Authorized sites are McKinley and 4001 River Access Sites on the Upper Au Sable River (National Scenic River portion) and Bob Cat Creek, Thompson's Landing, Pine Acres, Sawmill Point and Whirlpool River Access Sites on the Lower Portion.

Special use permit(s) would be issued for three (3) watercraft. One, two, or three special use permits may be issued. Each permit would authorize the use of one watercraft on the Au Sable River per day, unless otherwise stated. Each watercraft would be allowed 200 priority use service days. The initial authorization would last 2 years with the possibility of extending the term eight additional years for a total of ten years.

In 1992, the Forest Supervisor, Stephen A Kelly, made a decision to allow existing livery and fishing outfitter/guides to continue operating on the Au Sable River. The number of permits allowed was based on historic use of the river. As a result of this decision, the Forest Service issued fourteen special-use outfitter/guide fishing permits for each watercraft permitted on the Au Sable River. Currently there are only eleven watercraft per day permitted. The Forest is proposing to authorize the remaining three permits that have been returned to the Forest Service for non-use since 1992.

If you have any comments or additional information regarding this proposal please contact Pat Thompson, at the Mio Ranger District, 107 McKinley Road, Mio, Michigan 48647, (989) 826-3252, TTY - (989) 826-3592.