

Management Area 5.1 - Wilderness

Map:

Shaded area depicts Management Area 5.1. There are no Management Area 5.1 areas on the Huron National Forest.

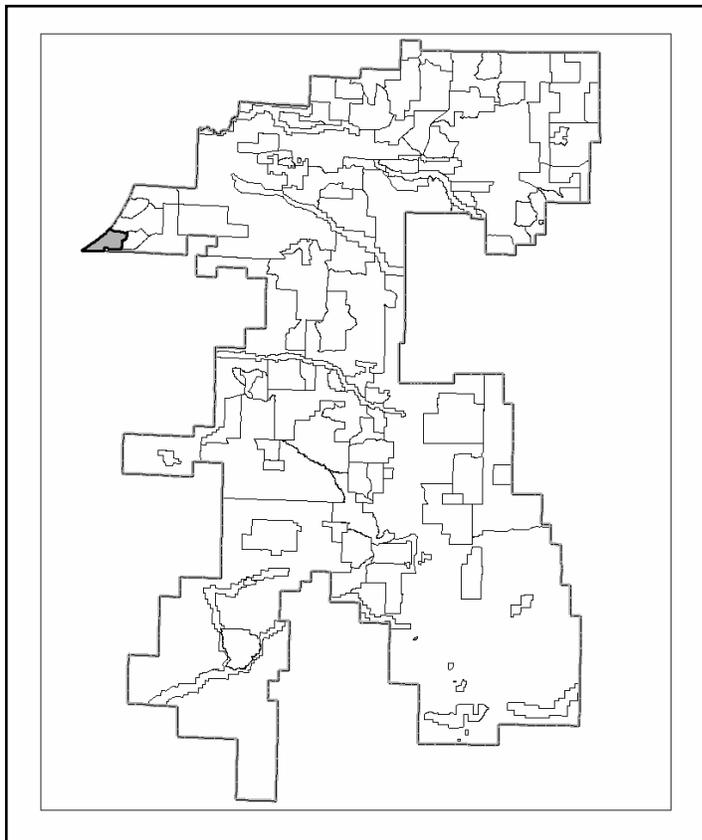


Figure III-9. Management Area 5.1 on the Manistee National Forest.

Purpose:

Management activities of Congressionally designated Wilderness provide for the protection and enhancement of wilderness characteristics and values. Primitive or semiprimitive, non-mechanized recreational opportunities occur in a natural environment emphasizing solitude. Recreational opportunities include backpacking, hiking, camping, canoeing, hunting, fishing, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and other nonmotorized activities.

Landscape Description:

Designated Wilderness areas could occur anywhere from morainal hills to low, wet areas. Wilderness areas probably will include a variety of habitats and landforms.

The Congressionally designated areas generally will be 5,000 contiguous acres or larger in size. The Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness is the only Congressionally designated Wilderness on the Forests.

This prescription area contains less than 1 percent of all National Forest System lands on the Huron-Manistee National Forests.

Goals and Objectives and Desired Future Condition:

Goals and Objectives:

- Provides habitat for wildlife species that avoid human activities.
- Allow natural ecological succession to operate to the extent feasible to promote, perpetuate and restore the wilderness character of the land - 36 CFR 293.2(a).
- Provide a mixture of primitive and semiprimitive non-mechanized recreational opportunities to meet identified needs and demands.
- Trails will be designed for the wilderness experience.
- Provide for the special needs of wildlife species requiring isolation consistent with the Act establishing the Wilderness.
- Use Minimum Impact Suppression Tactic Guidelines.
- Surface and subsurface ownership, National Forest System or other government entity, is desirable.
- Emphasize "no trace" camping.

Desired Future Condition:

These areas have a natural appearance with old growth and large trees dominating the forested stands. Timber management activities will not occur in these areas and no developed facilities or services will be provided. Little evidence of human presence will be apparent, and interaction between users will be infrequent.

Nonmotorized trails access Wilderness areas. There will be no open roads within the Wilderness area. Hunting, fishing, primitive camping and other activities may occur throughout the area. Recreation experiences here are quiet, secluded, and occur in a natural forest environment. Surface and subsurface mineral rights generally will be in public ownership to adequately coordinate management.

Standards and Guidelines:

1900 PLANNING

I Vegetation Management

- A Manage vegetation only to protect Wilderness values or to protect adjacent property from fire or pests. s
- B Do not allow gathering of fuelwood or other special forest products. G

- 2100 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
- I The Regional Forester will be advised when redesignation to Class I airshed is necessary to protect Wilderness or other unique National Forest System lands. s
- 2200 RANGELAND MANAGEMENT
- I Grazing was not authorized by the Act establishing the Wilderness. s
- 2300 RECREATION, WILDERNESS AND RELATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
- I Special Areas
 - A Wilderness
 - 1 The following are prohibited: s
 - a Camping in the Wilderness within 400 feet from the Wilderness boundary (the Lake Michigan waterline, Nurenberg Road, Green Road, and Forest trails, to include the entire boundary). s
 - b Camping within 100 feet from established trails. s
 - c Groups in excess of 10 people. s
 - d Building, maintaining, attending, or using a campfire within 400 feet from the Lake Michigan waterline, beach area. s
 - e Possession or use of mechanical equipment including motorized vehicles, wagons or carts. s
 - f Building, maintaining, attending or using a campfire within 200 feet from the Nordhouse Lake waterline. s
 - g Storing equipment, personal property or supplies, includes geocaching. s
 - h Possessing or transporting any motor or mechanical device capable of propelling a watercraft through the water by any means. s
 - i Possession or use of saddle, pack or draft animals. s
 - j Gathering of dead wood in the open dunes. s
 - II Recreation Construction
 - A Provide access parking outside the periphery of the area at a rate of up to five vehicles per 1,000 acres in the area. G
- 2500 WATERSHED MANAGEMENT
- I Water
 - A Guidelines for Management Activities
 - 1 Limit watershed improvement projects to correcting human-caused problems and natural disasters G

threatening public health and safety downstream, and to maintain environmental values to protect public health and safety.

2600 WILDLIFE, FISH AND SENSITIVE PLANT HABITAT MANAGEMENT

I Endangered and Threatened Species

A Piping Plover

- 1 Active nest sites and areas used for raising young will be protected from human disturbance and pets. Pets will be required to be on a leash between April 1 and August 31 and at anytime near an active nest. s
- 2 The following access restrictions will apply from April 1 to August 31 and any time around active nest sites: s
 - a Except for emergency, administrative use, vehicle traffic will be prohibited along the beach. Efforts will be made to coordinate emergency, administrative use with individuals knowledgeable of nest sites. s
 - b Trail management and construction will direct the public away from active nest sites. s
 - c Pedestrians will be prohibited from leaving trails and entering nest site areas. s
 - d Kite flying will be prohibited within 650 feet of active nest site areas. s
- 3 Signing and psychological/symbolic fencing, such as two strands of twine tied between posts, will be allowed to keep human activity at least 134 feet away from predator exclosures. If needed, a larger protection area may be designated. Fencing and signing will be installed using current acceptable procedures. G
- 4 Where necessary, nesting and feeding areas will be protected from predators through predator exclosures and other proven devices and methods. Exclosures will be as follows: 5 feet between the nest and the predator exclosure, and 134 feet between predator exclosure and the psychological/symbolic fencing. Construction will occur at a time that does not subject the eggs to adverse weather during absence of adults. Fencing and signing will be installed using current acceptable procedures. G

B Piping Plover Critical Habitat

- 1 Human disturbance, including pets, will be kept at a low level from April 1 through July 1 by prohibiting G

the following:

- a Pets, unless on a leash. G
- b Loud noise. G
- 2 Beach stabilization and vegetation planting for artificial dune stabilization will not be allowed if they impair natural processes. S
- 3 Management activities related to treatment of Lombardy poplar are prohibited between April 1 and July 1 or whenever piping plover are present. S
- 4 Between April 1 and July 1, prescribed burning activities will be limited to conditions when smoke will not drift into critical habitat areas or whenever piping plover are present. G
- 5 The following apply for the protection, restoration, and maintenance of piping plover critical habitat containing primary constituent elements: G
 - a No new trail construction will occur. G
 - b Existing trails will be relocated where necessary. G
 - c Non-native woody vegetation–non-native invasive species–will be controlled. G
 - d Surveying will be conducted for the presence of active nest sites. G
- C Pitcher's Thistle
 - 1 Herbicide use will occur only when other methods of control for specific non-native invasive plant species are ineffective. G
- II Fish
 - A Provide for fish management and research in Wilderness areas consistent with the Act establishing the Wilderness. S

2700 SPECIAL USES MANAGEMENT

- I No utility transmission corridors for reservoirs, water conservation works, power projects, transmission lines and other facilities will be authorized except as authorized by the Act establishing the Wilderness. G
- II Do not permit organizational camps. G

2800 MINERALS AND GEOLOGY

- I Minerals-General
 - A Under the Michigan Wilderness Act of 1987, federal mineral rights are withdrawn from future application of the Mineral Leasing Acts of 1920 and 1947. S
- II Mineral Exploration and Development
 - A Provide for the consideration of the extraction of those minerals for which rights were established prior to December 31, 1983. S

- B Provide for mineral exploration and development subject to valid existing rights, public law, and to the extent that the area will continue to meet wilderness classification standards. s
- C Acquisition of mineral interest on a willing-seller basis will be an alternative considered for development proposals with surface occupancy. s
- III Common Variety Minerals
 - A These will not be developed or extracted except as authorized by the Act establishing the Wilderness area. s
- 3400 FOREST PEST MANAGEMENT
 - I Obtain the Regional Forester's approval for all pesticide applications in Wilderness areas and other pesticides if specific approval authority is required. s
- 5100 FIRE MANAGEMENT
 - I Suppression
 - A Use minimum impact suppression tactics. s
 - II Rehabilitation
 - A Burned areas will be rehabilitated using Wilderness guidelines. G
- 7300 BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES
 - I Construct no buildings or structures except as authorized by the Act establishing the Wilderness area. Existing buildings or structures not authorized by the Act will be obliterated and the site returned to a near-natural condition. s
- 7400 PUBLIC HEALTH AND POLLUTION CONTROL ACTIVITIES
 - I Water Supply
 - A Do not provide drinking water or develop drinking water sources. s
- 7700 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM
 - I General
 - A Allow no Forest Service roads except those authorized by the Act establishing the Wilderness. s