

Management Area 4.4 - Rural

Maps:

Shaded area depicts Management Area 4.4.

Figure III-7. Management Area 4.4 on the Huron National Forest.

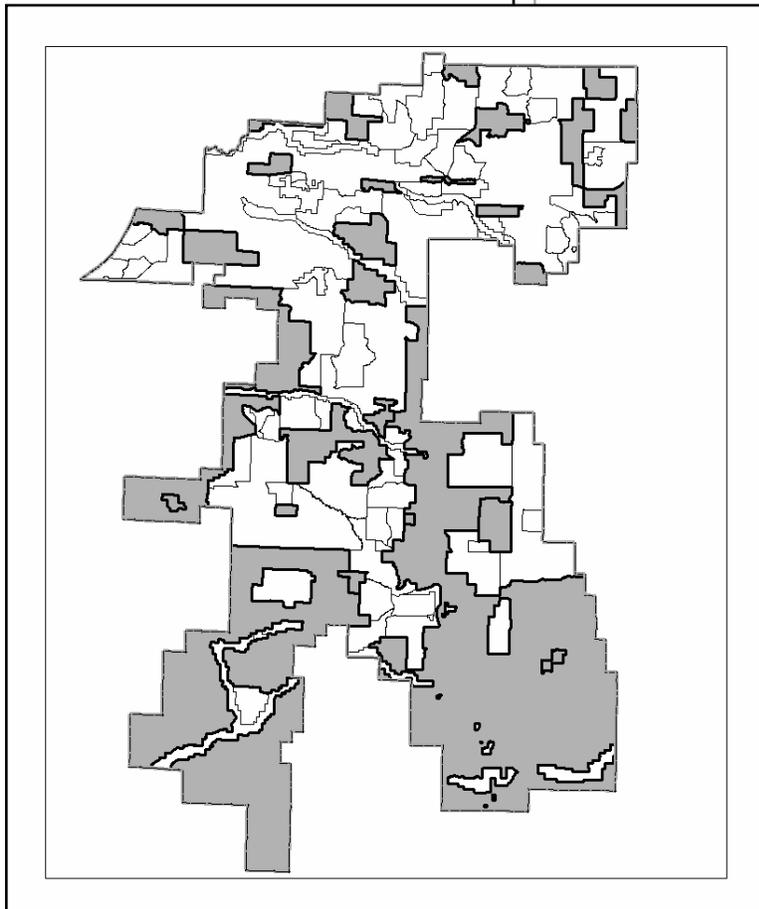
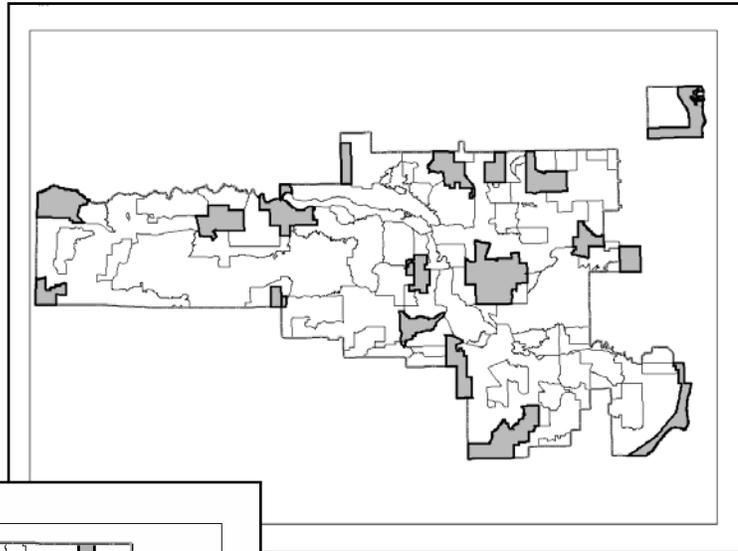


Figure III-8. Management Area 4.4 on the Manistee National Forest.

Purpose:

Management activities provide recreational opportunities, sources of firewood close to users, and moderate to high volumes of softwood timber products. Emphasis includes reducing life-threatening and property-damaging wildfire potential. Wildlife management is coordinated with adjacent non-National Forest land management with emphasis on deer, grouse and wildlife management. Some small blocks will be managed to protect isolated, essential areas for endangered, threatened or sensitive species.

Landscape Description:

This rural condition encompasses a broad spectrum of landforms that includes sandy plains, morainal hills and riparian areas. This condition exists where National Forest ownership is scattered and human activities have altered the landscape.

This prescription area contains approximately 13 percent of all National Forest System lands on the Huron-Manistee National Forests.

Emphasis areas within Management Area 4.4 are displayed in Table III-7.

Table III-7. Emphasis Areas Within Management Area 4.4.

Emphasis Area:	Approximate Acreage	Location	Objectives
Grouse	4,900	4 areas on Manistee National Forest 3 areas on Huron National Forest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage intensively to provide quality grouse habitat. • Maintain or increase the acres of aspen/birch in grouse management areas.
Wildlife	700	2 areas on Manistee National Forest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage for long-lived oak in a “remote” setting. • Manage for eagle nesting on one of the more secluded lakes in this area. • Provide habitats for pileated woodpeckers, brown creepers, northern flying squirrels and other species associated with mature, over-mature and old-growth timber.

Goals and Objectives and Desired Future Condition:**Goals and Objectives:**

- Maintain or increase wildlife habitat diversity.

- Emphasize hazardous fuels treatment in wildland urban interface and intermix areas.
- Provide recreational facilities for camping or picnicking.
- Provide improvements for fish habitat.
- Intensively manage grouse emphasis areas to provide quality grouse habitat and manage aspen intensively.
- Management will strive to increase utilization of wood residues and other currently non-merchantable material, when not needed for resource concerns, such as soil productivity and wildlife habitat, for fuelwood and other special forest products.
- Quality sites and opportunities for intensive timber management practices will be identified commensurate with the site's ecological capabilities.
- Manage permanent openings and/or grasslands to meet species viability needs. Distribution of openings will recognize the contribution of adjacent private lands.
- Manage for mesic grassland habitats.
- Create dry prairie habitat on Sparta soils series.
- Emphasize placement of utilities corridors in this area. Corridors are common in this management area.
- Acquire, create and manage shallow water-emergent wetlands.
- Provide opportunities for mineral exploration and development.

Desired Future Condition:

The ownership pattern of National Forest System land within this management area is often scattered. It is often a mixture of agricultural land, private lots and wooded National Forest System land that creates a rural environment. Human activities such as vegetation management, facilities, structures, utility corridors, mineral exploration and development are evident and harmonize with the surrounding environment. Interaction between users is frequent and users are aware of services provided, such as visitor information and law enforcement. There are few opportunities to test primitive outdoor skills. The area will provide roads and trails appropriate for motorized and non-motorized uses.

Red, white and jack pine are the dominant tree species, although aspen and other hardwoods are present. The trees within each stand are about the same age and size. The scattered openings on private land are agricultural fields, idle land, borrow pits and roads. Openings are interspersed throughout the area.

There are approximately 6,900 acres of designated old growth in this management area.

Standards and Guidelines:

2200 RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

- I Limit forage management to existing permanent openings where it is compatible with the desired character of the landscape. G

2300 RECREATION, WILDERNESS AND RELATED RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

- I Provide for dispersed recreational opportunities consistent with essential habitat maintenance. G
- II Trails
 - A Off-Highway Vehicles, Including Snowmobiles
 - 1 Allow competitive use of Off-Highway Vehicles where appropriate. G

2400 TIMBER MANAGEMENT

- I The following Standards and Guidelines apply to both even- and uneven-aged silvicultural systems.
 - A Uneven- and even-aged systems will be used. They will be consistent with area management objectives and the following restrictions:
 - 1 Even-aged management will be the primary silvicultural system used. G
 - 2 The uneven-aged system will normally be used only in northern hardwoods. G
 - 3 Stand size in wildlife emphasis areas may be less than 10 acres. G
 - 4 Seasonal restrictions on time of entry for timber harvests may be applied to protect other resources, activities and facilities. G
 - 5 Standard cutting methods such as single-tree and group selection, shelterwood, seed-tree and clearcutting may be used. S
 - 6 Major considerations of sale layout are logging system feasibility, road system adequacy and feasibility, adjacent landowners, visual aesthetics and resource protection, use and facilities. G
 - 7 Silvicultural standards will incorporate genetic improvement principles, practices and programs. G
 - 8 Regeneration activities:
 - a Site preparation activities can include mechanical, prescribed fire, hand and chemical. G
 - b For revegetation, use native vegetative species for timber production purposes. Revegetation activities can include natural-preferred-artificial or seeding methods. G
 - c Fertilization may be used to establish vegetation on disturbed areas. Manage use of fertilizers or soil enrichments to prevent movement into lakes and streams. G
- II The following Standards and Guidelines apply only to the even-aged

silvicultural system:

- A Temporary openings created by the application of the even-aged silvicultural system will be separated by a stand of at least 10 acres, except in wildlife emphasis areas. G
- B Firewood gathering will be allowed except in old growth areas. A permit is required. G
- C Intermediate treatment guidelines include:
 - 1 Using mechanical, chemical or hand release methods in all vegetative types. G
 - 2 Pruning for timber, visual improvement, safety and wildlife. G
 - 3 Thinning. G
 - 4 Using precommercial thinnings to maintain winter thermal cover for deer in lowland hardwood and conifer types. G
- D Harvest guidelines include the following:
 - 1 The clearcutting method may be used only for jack, red and white pines; oak; aspen; lowland conifers and northern hardwoods with adequate advanced regeneration. G
 - 2 The seed-tree cutting method may be used only for jack, red and white pines and lowland conifers. G
 - 3 The shelterwood cutting method may be used only for jack, red and white pines; all oak; northern hardwoods; lowland conifers and lowland hardwoods. G
- E Allow commercial thinning in all vegetative types. G
Precommercial thinning in all types is allowed if necessary to meet objectives of timber, wildlife and/or visual quality objectives.

2600 WILDLIFE, FISH AND SENSITIVE PLANT HABITAT MANAGEMENT

I General Management

- A Forested
 - 1 Using pruning for safety and wildlife. G
- B Mesic Grasslands
 - 1 Manage mesic grassland habitats as areas 250 acres or larger. G
 - 2 If 250-acre areas are not attainable, provide multiple patches 75 acres or larger, which total at least 250 acres within a 640-acre area. G
 - 3 Manage multiple habitat areas within one mile of each other to increase suitability if possible. G
- C Dry Grasslands G
 - 1 Manage dry grassland habitat, 250 acres or larger in Landtype Associations 1 and 2. Manage multiple habitats as blocks when they are within one mile of each other to G

- increase suitability.
- D Provide for waterhole development or restoration when surface runoff and soil conditions permit. G
- II Endangered and Threatened Species
- A See Chapter II 2600 for Standards and Guidelines.
- III Regional Forester Sensitive Species
- A Standards and Guidelines for the management of Regional Forester Sensitive Species are:
- 1 Within core northern hardwood habitat areas:
 - a In 80 percent of the high-quality mesic northern hardwood (ginseng) habitat:
 - 1 Permit non-ground disturbing activities that mimic natural disturbance regimes common to this habitat. G
 - 2 Permit maintenance of existing improvements. G
 - b In the remaining 20 percent of the high-quality mesic northern hardwood habitat:
 - 1 Maintain at least 80 percent crown closure. G
 - 2 Allow potential high-quality mesic northern hardwood forest habitat adjacent to core areas to convert to actual high-quality mesic northern hardwood forest habitat. G
 - 3 New motorized trails will not be constructed in cedar swamps, hardwood conifer swamps and subirrigated forests unless there are no other reasonable routes. G
- B Manage wetlands identified as good and excellent sandhill crane nesting habitat to improve habitat conditions for this species. G
- C Develop and implement management direction for each osprey nesting area and great blue heron colony. G
- D Cerulean Warbler
- 1 Timber management and road construction activities should not occur in occupied habitat within 400 feet of a cerulean warbler nest tree, approximately a 10-acre area, during the breeding season. G
- IV Emphasis Areas
- A Deer Yards
- 1 Manage recognized deer yards outside old growth areas to provide a sustained supply of winter thermal cover and associated browse. G

2700 SPECIAL USES MANAGEMENT

- I Decisions on applications for special uses involving National Forest System lands would be made on an individual basis. G

- II Adhere to the Federal Power Act Section 4(e) Forest Service Conditions on the eight hydro-electric projects licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. s
- III Provide for utility transmission corridors. Emphasize the use of corridors when granting appropriate rights of way. G

2800 MINERALS AND GEOLOGY

- I Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive Wildlife
 - A Karner Blue Butterfly
 - 1 Federal oil and gas leases will contain a lease notice that the lands are identified as Karner blue butterfly metapopulation areas and occupancy is subject to more restrictive controls than routine areas. No surface occupancy or road construction will be permitted in occupied habitat. s
 - 2 Access to oil and gas development is by low standard road with minimum clearing. These roads are gated. The access road should be obliterated upon abandonment of the site. G
 - II Common Variety Minerals
 - A Use of common variety mineral deposits will be considered with the following limitations: G
 - 1 Permit use of common variety mineral deposits subject to the environmental limitations of the site. G

5100 FIRE MANAGEMENT

- I Suppression
 - A Use of tractor plows, retardant, constructed helispots, and wheeled vehicles will be common. G
- II Fire Use and Fuels Treatment
 - A Constructed fuel barriers will be no longer than eight miles in length, and temporary or permanent openings will be limited to no more than 500 acres. G
- III Activity fuels, slash, will be treated to a level commensurate with the allowable fire intensity and rate of spread that meets resource objectives in established prescriptions. Treatment along highways and adjacent properties will meet applicable state laws. G
- IV Management action to address high fuel hazards may occur in old growth when public safety and property are at risk. G

7700 TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

- I Oil and Gas
 - A All temporary roads will be planned and constructed to be revegetated within one year of termination of contract, lease or permit. G
 - B Arterial roads will be, as a minimum, designed and G

constructed to transport forest products and accommodate planned motorized recreation use, remain open, and, be maintained at level 3 standards or higher.