

Manistee

Adventure Planner



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Huron-Manistee
National Forests



Lying between the shores of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron in the northern half of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, the nearly one-million-acre Huron-Manistee National Forests are located in a transition zone between forested lands to the north and agricultural lands to the south. The Huron-Manistee National Forests contain rare ecological features, such as dry sand prairie remnants, coastal marshlands, dunes, oak savannahs, fens, bogs and marshes.

Whether you are looking to lose yourself in the peacefulness of the forest by straying from the beaten path or if you are looking to stay on the road more traveled, we've got something for you. Ranging from the tranquility found in the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area and Loda Lake National Wildflower Sanctuary to the more developed settings found on the motorized trails, the Forest provides quality recreation to its visitors.



Pine National Scenic River

Go Wild in the Wilderness

Explore the 3,500-acre Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area located along the Lake Michigan Shoreline.

Go wilderness camping, hike one of the wilderness trails or camp at the nearby Lake Michigan Recreation Area.



Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area

Paddle down a Wild and Scenic River

Canoe or kayak down one of the rivers that course through the Forest. From family-friendly slow and calm to thrill-seeking wild and fast, there is a trip available for everyone.

Witness the Wonder of Wildflowers

Walk the 1½ mile trail through the Loda Lake National Wildflower Sanctuary. Can you identify all 200 species of wildflowers? Keep an eye out for butterflies and birds, too. Explore the remains of the farm that once stood in the area.

Anglers and Hunters Welcome

Spend an afternoon salmon fishing on the Manistee. Or try your hand at catch and release fly fishing on the Pere Marquette. During the winter, ice fish on any of the hundreds of lakes scattered across the Forest.



Columbine

Have a hunting license? The Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area will provide you with ample opportunity to test your tracking skills. Turkey, deer and grouse are abundant, particularly in the openings scattered throughout the Forest.



Walk on the Wild Side

From multi-day hiking excursions to quick afternoon walks, visitors are sure to find a hike that appeals to them. Hike all or part of the 125-miles of the North Country National Scenic Trail, or in the mood for a shorter hike along the beautiful Manistee River? Hike along the Manistee River and cross the largest wooden suspension bridge in Michigan. Or pick one of the many shorter hikes available across the Forest such as Bowman Lake or Loda Lake.

North Country National Scenic Trail

Can You Find the Wildlife?

Bats, birds and butterflies; along with deer, bear and more common raccoons and coyotes that can be found almost anywhere in the forest. Take a walk along the Lake Michigan shoreline and watch a piping plover hop down the beach. Walk around the White River area and see the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly. Or just take a hike around Loda Lake and see how many birds you can hear.

Come again during a different time of year

There are fun recreational activities on the Forest at any time of year:

Spring: Wildflower hikes; fishing; walking and bicycling; wildlife watching, mushrooming and hunting.

Summer: Hiking, camping, boating, canoeing/kayaking, fishing, wildlife watching.

Autumn: Fall leaf viewing; fishing; hunting; driving for pleasure.

Winter: Snow-shoeing; cross-country skiing; snowmobiling; ice fishing, dog sledding.

Each time you visit, you'll see the change of seasons reflected in the forest. Be sure to dress appropriately for the season and carry the proper safety equipment. At a minimum, you should carry water, a snack, rain gear and a whistle.



Little "O" Trail

Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area

Nordhouse Dunes is part of the Ludington Dune Ecosystem, which also includes Lake Michigan Recreation Area and Ludington State Park. The dunes were formed about 4,000 years ago and rise up to 140 feet high. The Ludington Dune Ecosystem has the largest area of fresh water interdunal ponds in the world. The interdunal ponds, small water holes and marshes decorate the area. Dune grass covers many of the dunes and provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species.

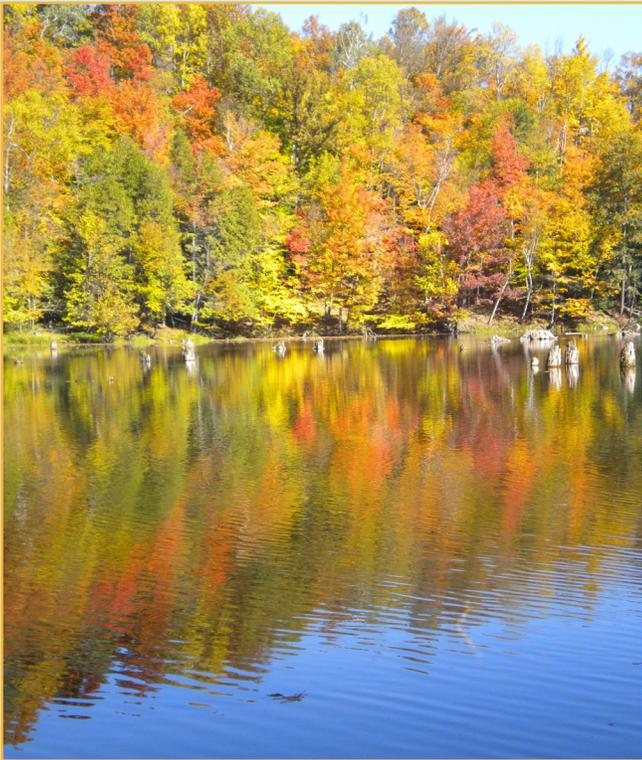
The dunes are interspersed with woody vegetation such as juniper, jack pine and hemlock. Plant life is varied and includes the federally endangered pitcher's thistle. The sand beach along the lake varies from narrow to wide and is home to the federally endangered piping plover, a shore bird that nests on the ground in small cobbles.

Nordhouse is popular for hiking, camping, hunting, nature study and wildlife viewing. There are approximately 10 miles of trail that can be accessed from two developed trailheads at the end of Nurnberg Road and Lake Michigan Recreation Area. The trails are minimally maintained so visitors should bring a map and compass or GPS to help with navigation.



Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area

Manistee National Recreation River



Red Bridge River Access Site, Manistee National Recreation River

This 30 miles of the Manistee River is wide and characterized by steep banks and sharp bends, with a swift current and mostly slow, wide bends. This segment of the river is open to both motorized and nonmotorized boating.

Backwater bayous, extensive riparian areas and mature forest communities provide habitat for a diverse number of wildlife species. The lower Manistee River is considered to be the most extensive and least disturbed remnant of true red-shouldered hawk habitat in the state.

In the fall, hunters come from all over to take advantage of the abundant white-tailed deer, waterfowl and small game hunting available along the river.

Anglers are lured by the annual salmon and steelhead runs, as well as brown trout, smallmouth bass and walleye. However, salmon season is particularly busy on the river.

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Camping is limited to designated sites and campgrounds along the river corridor. Thirty-seven primitive campsites are located along the river from Hodenpyl Dam to Tippy Dam. Several of the sites can be accessed at Blacksmith Bayou, Government Landing, Sawdust Hole and Red Bridge. Developed camping is available at Seaton Creek.



Rainbow Bend River Access site, Manistee National Recreation River

Pine National Scenic River

The 16 mile long Scenic segment of the Pine River provides a unique paddling experience for lower Michigan, with much of the appeal being the fast water and light rapids. The Pine River has a river gradient of 7% and offers the fastest average flow of any river in lower Michigan. The Pine River is a designated “Blue Ribbon” cold-water trout stream, with fishing being the second most popular activity on the river after paddling. Fish species include brook, brown and rainbow trout. Camping along the river corridor is allowed at Peterson Bridge Campground.

Pere Marquette National Scenic River

The river wanders gently across the central Michigan landscape, alternately hidden in the forested shadows of overhanging bluffs and stretched over grassy floodplains in its lower reaches. Free flowing and clear for over 60-miles from the junction of the Middle and South Branches to its terminus in Lake Pere Marquette, the river is the longest river system in Michigan’s Lower Peninsula without dams or impoundments. This river has a world class fishery. No motorized boats are allowed upstream of Indian Bridge. Fishing along the river is managed in sections, consult the DNR for specifics. Camping is allowed only at designated sites: Claybanks, Bowman Bridge, Gleason’s Landing, Elk and Sulak.

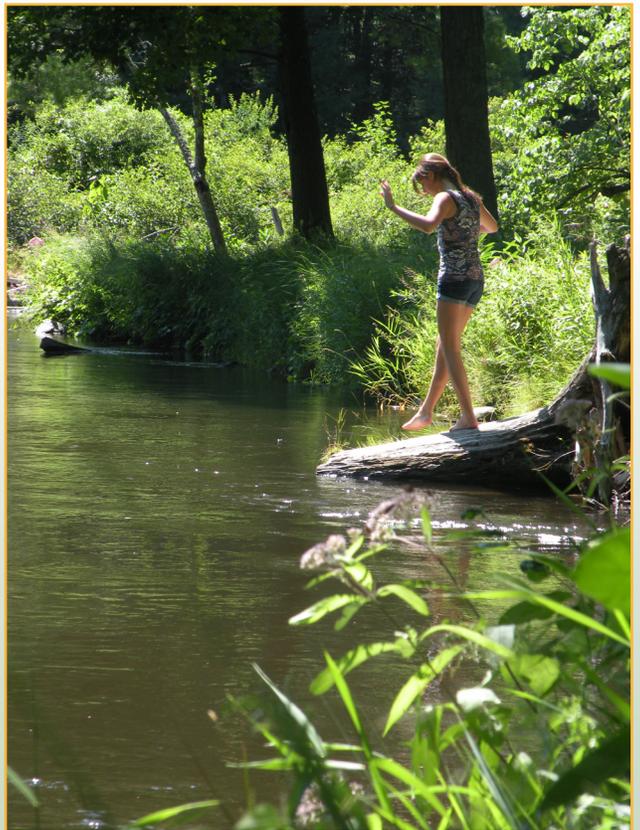
River Permits

On the Pine and Pere Marquette Rivers, watercraft permits are required for all watercraft, including tubes, from the Friday of Memorial Day weekend to the Monday of Labor Day weekend. River permits are \$2.00/watercraft per day and a \$6.00 transaction fee per trip. Permits are available on-line at recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777, select option 2.

For more information on river access sites and watercraft permits please call a Forest Service office or visit our website at:
www.fs.usda.gov/hmnf/.



Peterson Bridge, Pine River



Gleason’s Landing, Pere Marquette River

Nonmotorized Trails

Test your orienteering skills on the wilderness trails through the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness. Or stroll the boardwalks through Sterling Marsh on the North Country National Scenic Trail. Looking to ride a mountain bike or horse? With over 200 miles of nonmotorized trail we've got something for just about anyone.

The trails of the Huron-Manistee National Forests are built through glacial moraines and pre-historic sand dunes. This creates a gently rolling terrain with a sandy base through much of the forest. The high ridges provide breathtaking views along many of the trails, while the valleys provide flatter terrain for an easier walk.



Lake Michigan Recreation Area

Trail maps are available on our website <http://www.fs.usda.gov/hmnf> or by calling one of our offices.

Nonmotorized Trail Information

Site Number on Map	Map Coordinates		Length in Miles	Day Hiking	Backpacking	Mountain Biking	Horseback Riding	Cross-country Skiing	Groomed	Snowshoeing	Day Use Fee	Drinking Water	Restroom	Picnic Area(s)	Camping
Nature/Interpretive Trails															
72	L7	Loda Lake	1.2	♣						♣	♣		♣	♣	
General Trails															
14, 15	B6, B5	Manistee River Trail	10.5	♣	♣			♣		♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣
25	C3	Marzinski	20				♣			♣		♣	♣		♣
26	C4	Big M	37	♣		♣		♣	♣	♣	♣		♣	♣	
29	C6	McKenzie	10.1	♣		♣		♣		♣			♣		
39	E1	Nordhouse Dunes	14	♣	♣			♣		♣	♣		♣	♣	♣
47	H6	Bowman Lake	7.5	♣		♣		♣		♣					♣
57	I3	Crystal Valley	10	♣				♣	♣						
68	K10	Hungerford Horse Trail	42				♣				♣	♣	♣	♣	♣
71	K10	Hungerford Mountain Bike Trail	10.6			♣						♣	♣		♣
See Page 9		North Country National Scenic Trail	127	♣	♣	♣		♣		♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣



North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST)

Over the course of the trail, hikers and bikers will traverse everything from fields to ridgetops, and see a variety of forest habitats along the way.

The trail meanders along several river valleys through the Forest, providing hikers multiple scenic views, while a 1 1/2 mile wheelchair accessible portion of the trail through Sterling Marsh provides ample bird-watching opportunities.

The 127-mile portion of the NCNST that goes through the Manistee National Forest includes 15 spur trails that provide access to trailheads, rest areas, county parks, campgrounds, and interpretive trails.

The National Park Service administers the trail.

North Country National Scenic Trail

The NCNST is marked with blue rectangle-shaped blazes. Connector trails are marked with white rectangle blazes on trees. All sections of the trail can be done as day hikes going from trailhead to trailhead.

Site Number on Map	Map Coordinates	NCNST Trailheads	Fee	Restroom	Picnic Tables	Water	Mountain Biking	Miles	Longitude	Latitude
1	B6	Marilla to	♣	♣	♣		Yes	-	-85.8395	44.373474
2	B5	Upper River Road to					Yes	7.4	-85.871153	44.289745
3	C5	Dilling Road to					No	-	-	-
4	C4	Udell to	♣	♣	♣	♣	Yes	17.4	-86.076379	44.232245
5	D4	Freesoil to					Yes	14.8	-86.029419	44.10539
6	G5	Timber Creek to	♣	♣	♣	♣	Yes	18.9	-85.995471	43.94837
7	H6	Bowman Lake to			♣		No	8.1	-85.966555	43.891076
8	I7	76th St. to					No	5.7	-85.901768	43.850864
9	J6	Sterling Marsh					No	-	-85.5335	43.509
10	J6	Nichols Lake to	♣	♣	♣		Yes	12.9	-85.910094	43.733343
11	M7	M-20 to					No	19.8	-85.826547	43.567216
12	N8	40th St. to					No	10.5	-85.781175	43.480777
13	O9	Croton Dam					No	10.6	-	-

Manistee River Trail

Another popular hiking trail on the Forest is the Manistee River Trail. The trail, with its steep slopes and sharp turns, meanders through native hardwoods and pines as it follows the east shore of the Manistee River for 10 miles through rolling hills. The trail traverses several wetlands and there are bridges crossing two creeks. A waterfall near the northern end of the trail is very popular with many hikers.



Suspension Bridge, Manistee River Trail

The Manistee River Trail/North Country National Scenic Trail connector on the north end of the trail is also the site of the largest wooden suspension bridge in Lower Michigan. Several observation sites along the trail provide hikers with vista views of the Manistee River and surrounding area. There are several dispersed campsites along the trail that offer long distance hikers and those looking to spend a quiet night along the the river.

A 23-mile loop trail is formed with the North Country Trail along the Manistee River. The loop trail can be accessed from the Marilla and Upper River Trailheads for the North Country National Scenic Trail and the Red Bridge and Seaton Creek accesses for the Manistee River Trail. A “must experience” for hikers!

Mountain Biking

There are several trails on the forest open to mountain biking. The Big M trail system offers 37 miles of trail through hardwood and pine forests, while the Hungerford Mountain Bike Trail provides a short 10.6 mile jaunt. Sections of the North Country National Scenic Trail are open to mountain biking, providing bikers a narrow, tight trail through a variety of terrain.



Cross-Country Skiing

Horseback Riding

Horseback riders can enjoy miles of single and two-track loops through pine and hardwood forest on the Hungerford Trail located near Big Rapids. The Marzinski Trail follows closed roads and single-track trail through stately pine plantations and closed canopy hardwood forests.

Cross-Country Skiing/Snowshoeing

Feel like braving the cold? With miles of groomed cross-country skiing on 2 trails, visitors are sure to find a challenge. For the more adventurous, off-trail skiing and snowshoeing is available at several other locations during the winter months. For trail maps, contact a Forest Service office.

Camping Information

The Huron-Manistee National Forests offer many types of camping sites and opportunities. They range from the highly developed sites at Lake Michigan Recreation Area to rustic campsites such as the Bowman Lake campsites that can only be reached by walking a trail; or dispersed camping where you rough-it in the middle of the woods.

Campground Regulations

Here are some general guidelines to consider as you plan to camp on the Huron-Manistee National Forests:



Benton Lake Campground

- No RV hook-ups are available at Forest Service campgrounds.
- You cannot camp for longer than 14 consecutive days at a developed site and 16 consecutive days at a dispersed site.
- Use of sites is limited to: eight (8) people in a single unit.
- Campers may have: two (2) vehicles, eight (8) people and two (2) tents OR one (1) vehicle, one (1) camper, trailer or motor home (RV) and one (1) tent.
- Camping equipment left unattended for 24 hours or more will be removed.
- In a developed campground, camping outside of designated campsites is prohibited.
- Construction of makeshift furniture is prohibited.
- All campgrounds listed in this publication have restrooms.
- Only disability assistance animals are permitted in designated swimming areas. No pets are permitted in swimming areas.

Reserving Campsites

Camping at most developed campgrounds on the Huron-Manistee National Forests is on a first-come; first-served basis. However, some Forest Service campgrounds accept reservations through recreation.gov, a service available by phone or online.

Sites are searchable by name, state and by map. Reservations can be made for: Sand Lake Recreation Area, two loops of Lake Michigan Recreation Area, Peterson Bridge, Bowman Bridge, Gleason's Landing, Pines Point and group camping sites for both Pines Point and Hungerford Recreation Area. Reservations can be made through www.recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777 (International 518-885-3639, TDD 1-877-833-6777)



Marzinski Horse Camp



Nichols Lake Campground

National Forest, you must get a permit from a Forest Service office.

Dispersed Camping

- Do not camp within 200 feet of any body of water, except at designated sites.
- Do not camp within 400 feet of the Lake Michigan shoreline in the Nordhouse Dunes Wilderness Area.
- Camping is allowed only at designated sites within the river corridors for the designated Wild and Scenic sections of the Pere Marquette and Pine Rivers.
- Camping or leaving camping equipment (such as, but not limited to tents, camper trailers and/or tarps) is allowed in the same location for up to sixteen (16) days. After sixteen (16) days the camp and equipment **MUST** be moved off of Forest Service System lands.
- A permit is **NOT** required to camp on National Forest System lands outside of designated campgrounds.

Concessionaire

Operated Campgrounds

Several campgrounds are operated by American Land and Leisure, a private company that is authorized by a special use permit, issued by the Forest Service, to manage recreation facilities, such as campgrounds.



Sand Lake Recreation Area

Call (801) 226-3564 for questions on concession-operated campgrounds.

Firewood

Please use local firewood when you camp on the National Forest to prevent the spread of invasive species.

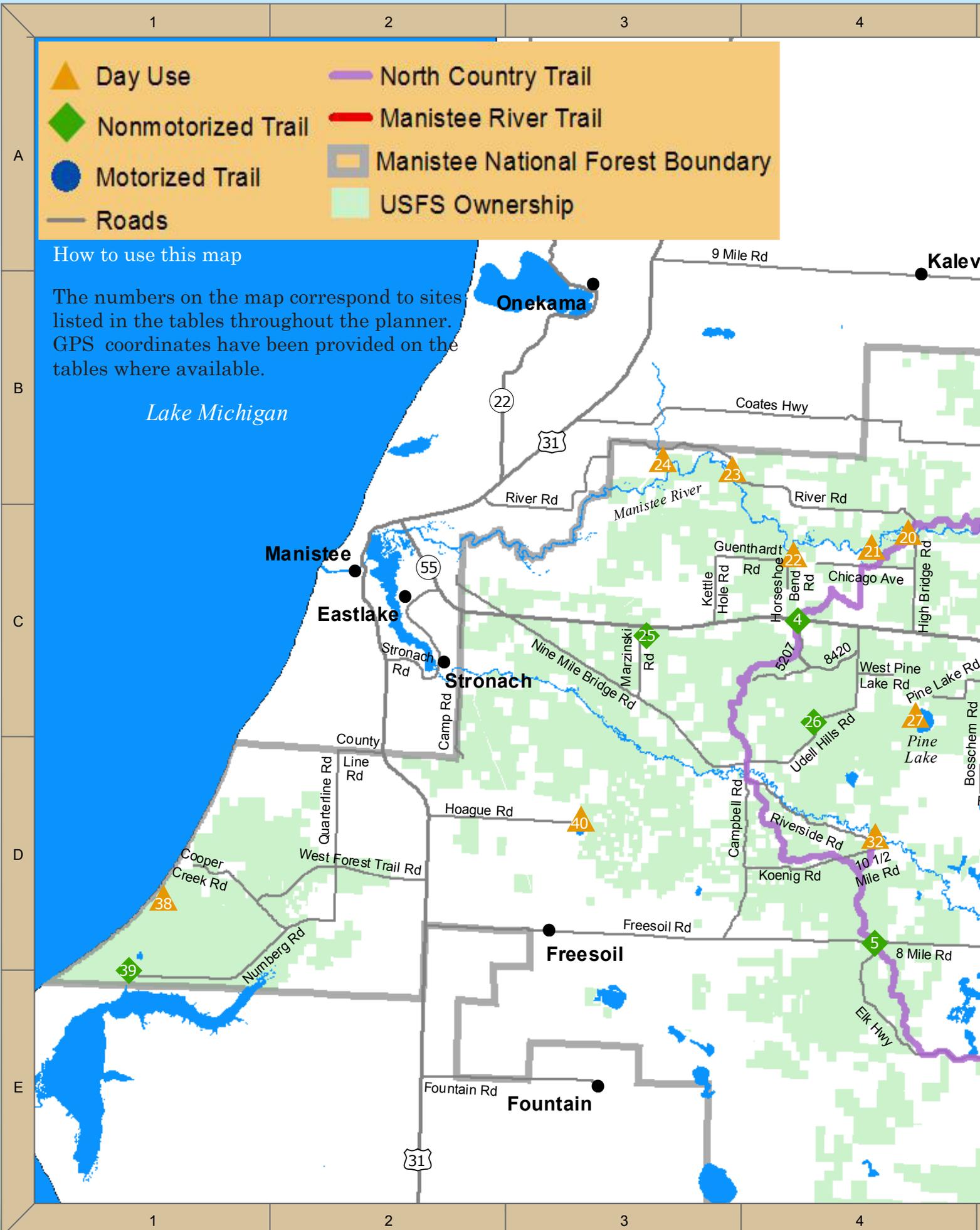
- You may gather firewood for use at your campsite on the National Forest without a permit.
- You may only gather or cut dead and down trees. You may not cut any live tree at any time.
- If you plan to gather firewood to take away from the

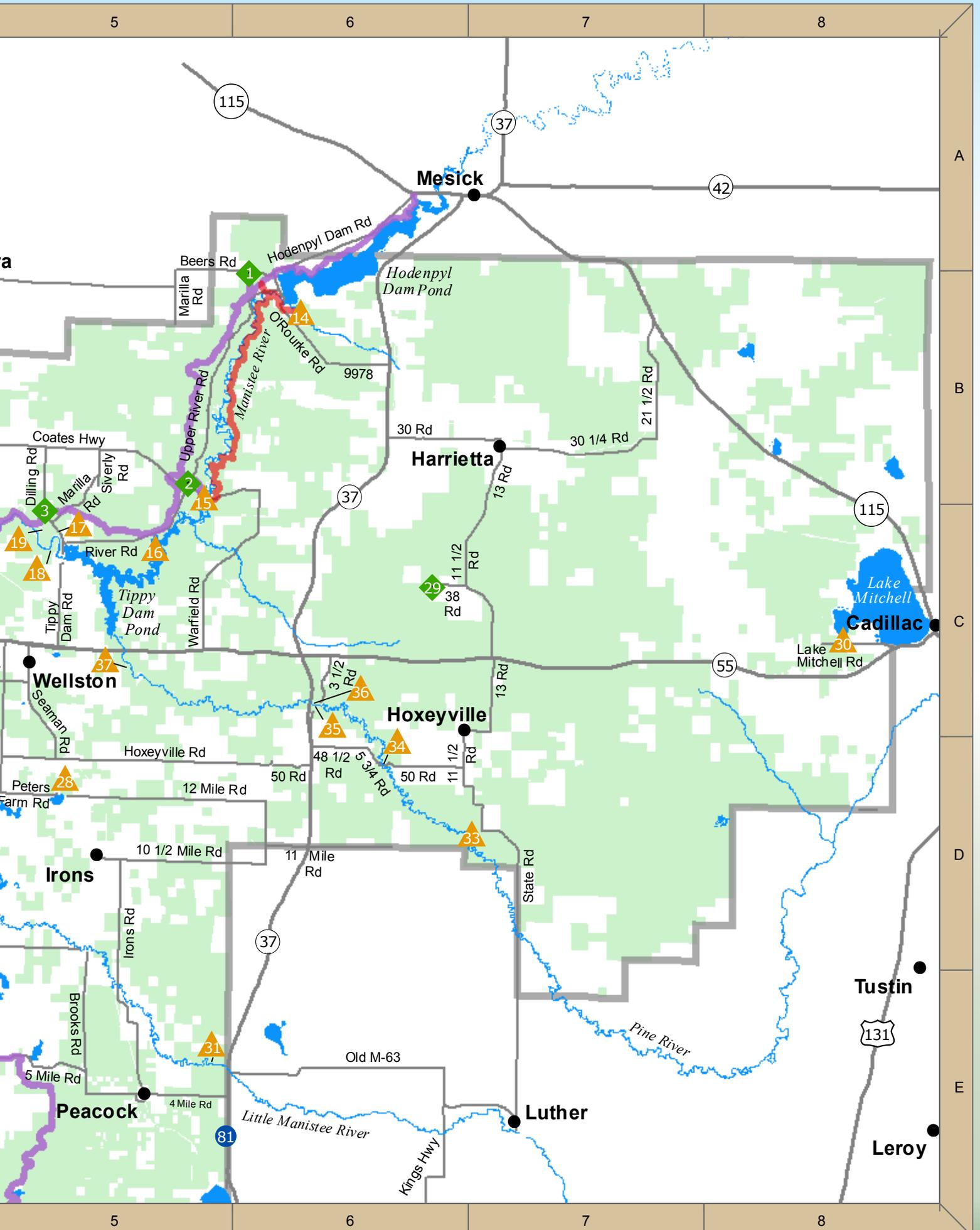
Campgrounds and Day Use Areas

Site Number on Map	Map Coordinate	Site Name	Fee Area	Drinking Water	Restrooms	Picnic Area	Campsites	RV Camping (in ft <=)	Group Camping	Campground Host	Swimming	Fishing	Fishing Pier	Back-in Boat Access	Canoe/Kayak Access	Latitude	Longitude
Manistee River - Cadillac/Manistee Locator Map																	
		Dispersed Camping					48					♣					
14	B6	Seaton Creek	♣	♣	♣	♣	17	25		♣		♣			♣	44.357853	-85.874191
15	B5	Red Bridge		♣	♣	♣						♣		♣	♣	44.283725	-85.861621
16	C5	Government Landing			♣							♣			♣	44.263275	-85.888673
17	C5	Suicide Bend										♣				44.269624	-85.942586
18	C5	Tunk Hole			♣	♣						♣				44.261498	-85.946669
19	C5	Sawdust Hole	♣		♣	♣	8					♣				44.269311	-85.951683
20	C4	High Bridge	♣		♣	♣						♣			♣	44.268159	-86.01552
21	C4	Blacksmith Bayou	♣		♣	♣	8					♣		♣	♣	44.26112	-86.035278
22	C4	Udell Rollways	♣		♣	♣						♣				44.25822	-86.078802
23	B3	Bear Creek	♣		♣	♣						♣		♣	♣	44.291668	-86.114169
24	B3	Rainbow Bend	♣		♣	♣						♣		♣	♣	44.294681	-86.152937
M-55 - Cadillac to Manistee - Cadillac/Manistee Locator Map																	
25	C3	Marzinski		♣	♣		21	45								44.222618	-86.161485
27	C4	Pine Lake	♣	♣	♣	♣	12	25		♣				♣		44.195379	-86.009229
28	D5	Sand Lake Rec Area	♣	♣	♣	♣	41	50	1	♣	♣	♣			♣	44.167	-85.93615
30	C8	Hemlock	♣	♣	♣		19	25		♣		♣		♣		44.231817	-85.504318
Little Manistee - Cadillac/Manistee Locator Map																	
31	E5	Old Grade	♣	♣	♣		20	40		♣		♣				44.060823	-85.85163
32	D3	Bear Track	♣	♣	♣	♣	16	25	4	♣		♣			♣	44.147498	-86.030555

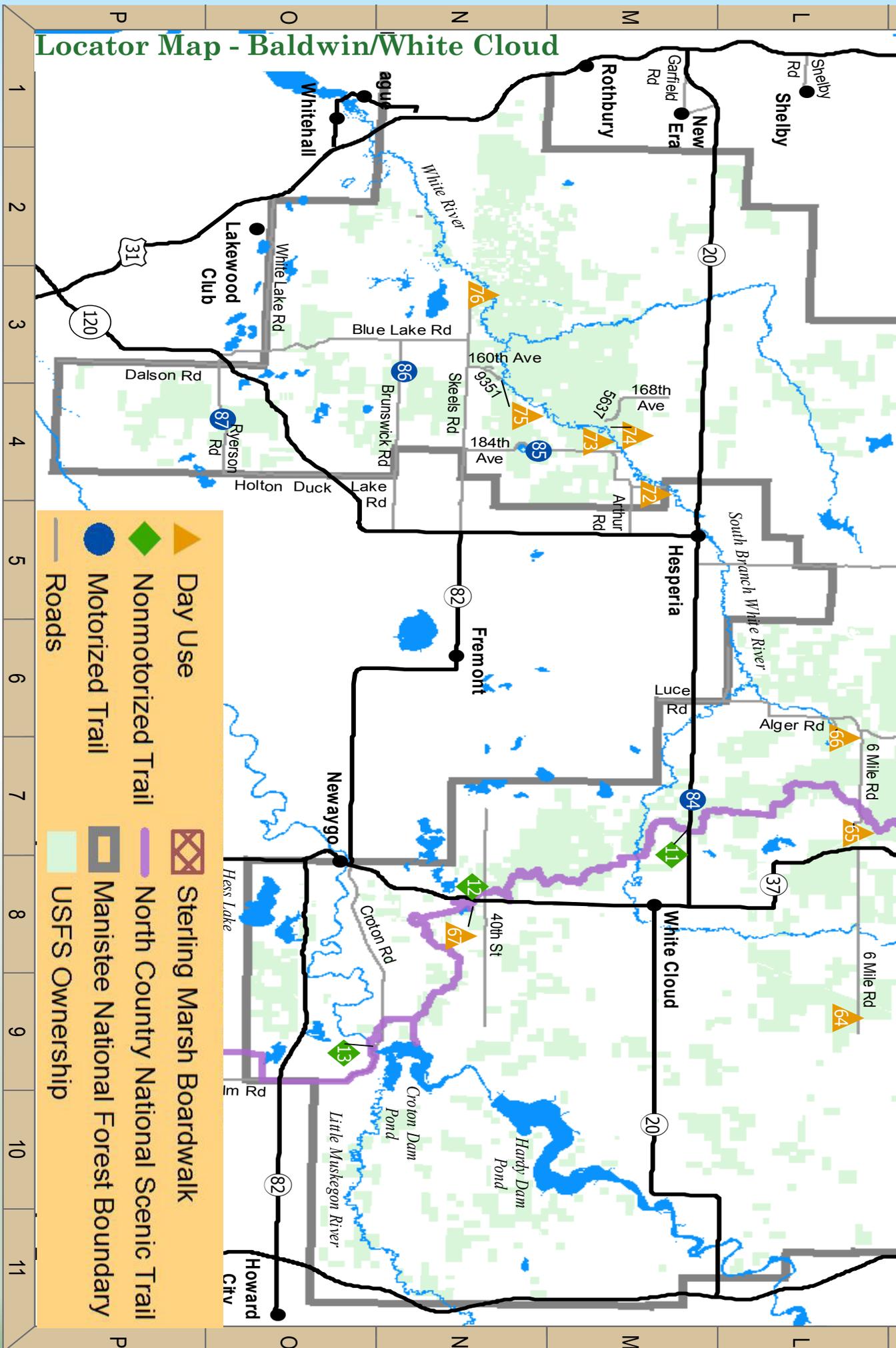
Site Number on Map	Map Coordinate	Site Name	Fee Area	Drinking Water	Restrooms	Picnic Area	Campsites	RV Camping (in ft <=)	Group Camping	Campground Host	Swimming	Fishing	Fishing Pier	Back-in Boat Access	Canoe/Kayak Access	Latitude	Longitude
Pine River - Cadillac/Manistee Locator Map																	
33	D6	Elm Flats	♣		♣	♣						♣			♣	44.152505	-85.709432
34	D6	Dobson Bridge	♣		♣	♣						♣			♣	44.179998	-85.758891
35	C6	Peterson Bridge S.	♣	♣	♣	♣	31	25		♣		♣			♣	44.202063	-85.797846
36	C6	Peterson Day Use	♣		♣	♣						♣			♣	44.203284	-85.798227
37	C5	Low Bridge	♣		♣	♣						♣			♣	44.216115	-85.903371
Lake Michigan - Cadillac/Manistee Locator Map																	
38	D1	Lake Michigan Rec Area	♣	♣	♣	♣	100	50	3	♣	♣					44.11612	-86.42539
40	D3	Hoags Lake	♣		♣	♣					♣	♣		♣		44.151862	-86.19449
Pere Marquette River - Baldwin/White Cloud Locator Map																	
41	I7	72nd Street										♣				43.857725	-85.874191
42	I7	Green Cottage	♣		♣	♣						♣		♣		43.861868	-85.880024
43	I7	Claybanks	♣		♣		8	25				♣				43.870848	-85.882337
44	H7	Joregenson's										♣				43.872926	-85.901452
45	I6	Gleason's Landing	♣	♣	♣	♣	4		2			♣		♣		43.871582	-85.921627
46	H6	Rosebush Bend										♣				43.881244	-85.932989
47	H6	Bowman Bridge	♣	♣	♣	♣	20	50	4	♣		♣		♣		43.887776	-85.940002
48	H6	Bowman Lake Walk-in Site				♣	4					♣			♣	43.891241	-85.967719
49	H6	Rainbow Rapids	♣		♣	♣						♣		♣		43.922415	-85.975877
50	H5	Sulak (DNR and FS)			♣		12	25				♣		♣		43.923778	-86.013254
51	H5	Lower Branch Bridge										♣			♣	43.934687	-86.050648
52	H5	Elk Walk-in Site			♣		2					♣		♣		43.928249	-86.029677
53	H5	Upper Branch Bridge	♣		♣	♣						♣		♣		43.928345	-86.0207
54	H5	Log Mark										♣				43.939843	-86.072896

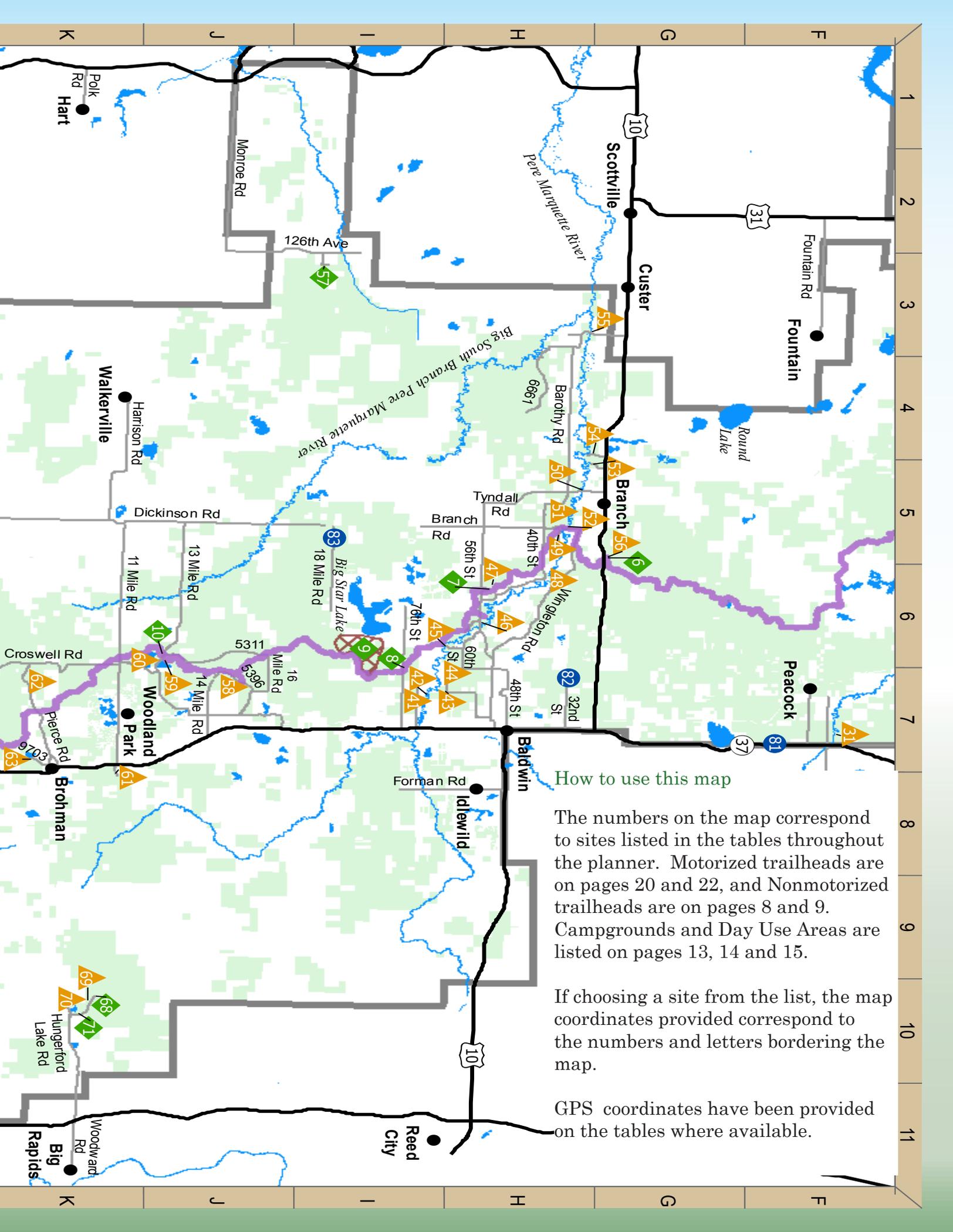
Locator Map - Cadillac/Manistee





Locator Map - Baldwin/White Cloud





How to use this map

The numbers on the map correspond to sites listed in the tables throughout the planner. Motorized trailheads are on pages 20 and 22, and Nonmotorized trailheads are on pages 8 and 9. Campgrounds and Day Use Areas are listed on pages 13, 14 and 15.

If choosing a site from the list, the map coordinates provided correspond to the numbers and letters bordering the map.

GPS coordinates have been provided on the tables where available.

Motorized Trails

The Huron-Manistee National Forests offers a diverse motorized trail system for all four seasons.

ATV/Motorcycle Trails:

Through the Huron-Manistee National Forests, the Michigan Cross-County Cycle Trail (MCCCT) begins at M-20 near White Cloud and extends to the north approximately 128 miles to the northernmost extent of the Cadillac District. The majority of this trail system is open to motorcycles only and some portions require a Secretary of State license.

The Little O ATV Trail, M-20 Motorsport Trail, and the Big O Motorcycle Trail loops off of the MCCCT trail offer opportunities for ATV's (50" or less) to ride. The Cedar Creek Trail System is the southernmost trail system for 50" ORV's in Michigan. It offers 24 miles of trail.

The M-37 Trailhead on the Little O ATV Trail system connects to Department of Natural Resource (DNR) Trails which offer over 200 miles of motorized off-road trail riding. Please visit www.michigan.gov/dnr for trail maps.

The Horseshoe and Holton motorcycle-only trails in the southwestern portion of the White Cloud District offer an additional 50 miles for both Secretary of State licensed and unlicensed motorcycles. These two trail systems challenge the rider as they are tight, winding and heavily forested.

Site Number on Map	Map Coordinate	Trail	Length	<=50" (ATV)	<=40" (Motorcycle)	Must be Highway Legal	Restroom
MCCCT							
		Baldwin section	177	No	Yes	Yes	No
		Manistee section	32	No	Yes	Yes	No
MCCCT - Big O							
82	G7	32nd St.	36	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
81	F7	M-37		No	Yes	Yes	
MCCCT - Little O							
82	G7	32nd St.	41	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
81	F7	M-37		Yes	Yes	No	Yes
MCCCT - M-20 Motorsport Trail							
84	M7	M-20	26	Yes	Yes	North of Loop	Yes
Cedar Creek							
87	O4	Linderman Rd.	24	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Horseshoe							
85	N4	184th Ave.	24	No	Yes	north from TH - 19 miles	Yes
Holton							
86	N3	Brunswick Rd.	25.1	No	Yes	south from TH - 13 miles	Yes



Roads and Trails for Motorized Vehicles

You will find many places to drive and ride a wide range of motorized vehicles on the Huron-Manistee National Forests.

The National Forests offer roads that are open to all highway legal vehicles, as well as trails for off-road vehicles (ORVs), motorcycles and snowmobiles.

To operate on the National Forest, all vehicles must be registered and licensed as required by the State of Michigan. ORVs and snowmobiles must be licensed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MI-DNR). For more information, visit www.michigan.gov

On all National Forests, motor vehicles can be used only on roads, trails or areas that are designated as open for that type of vehicle. Cross-country travel with any type of motorized vehicle is prohibited on the Huron-Manistee National Forests, except at the Bull Gap Hill Climb on the Mio Ranger District.

To help you determine where you can legally ride or drive your vehicle, the Forest Service has developed the motor vehicle use maps (MVUMs). The MVUM displays National Forest System roads, trails or areas designated open to motorized travel, as well as allowed uses by vehicle class (ex. highway-legal vehicles, vehicles less than 50 inches wide and motorcycles), and seasonal allowances. Routes not shown on the MVUM are not open to public motor vehicle travel. Routes designated for motorized use may not always be signed on the ground but will be identified on the MVUM. It is your responsibility to use the MVUM to stay on designated roads, trails and areas open to motor vehicle use.

The MVUM is free to the public and available at each local Ranger District office and at the Supervisor's Office and the forest website: <http://fs.usda.gov/hmnf>.



Be responsible when and where you ride. Know where you can ride, know when you can ride.

Motorized Trails Regulations

Motorized vehicles may only be operated on roads, trails or areas designated open to that use. To find what roads and trails are open to a vehicle type, visitors should obtain a Motor Vehicle Use Map.

- Any road or trail that does not appear on the MVUM is not open to motorized vehicles.
- Some counties in Northern Michigan have authorized the use of ORVs on county and township roads. This does not apply to state or federal roads and highways. Forest Service roads are federal roads.
- ORVs cannot be driven cross-country for game retrieval.

For a full list of regulations consult the MDNR ORV Handbook or visit their website at www.michigan.gov/dnr

Snowmobile Trails

Many opportunities exist for snowmobilers to enjoy their sport during the beautiful winter season. The Manistee National Forest offers more than 390 miles of snowmobile trails. Trails begin north of Newaygo, continuing north through the Cadillac and Manistee areas. You could plan a multi-day vacation while riding on your snowmobile the entire time!

Snowmobiles may only be operated on roads, trails or areas designated open to that use. To find what roads and trails are open to snowmobiles, contact a Forest Service office.



Mesick Trail

- Snowmobiles must have a Michigan snowmobile sticker to operate on the National Forest.

For a full list of snowmobile regulations consult the MI-DNR Snowmobile Handbook, or visit their website at www.michigan.gov/dnr for information on regulations and to get a trail map.



Picnic Areas and Beaches

Spend a day swimming in the warm waters of Sand Lake, picnic at Peterson Bridge or stop to spend an afternoon at Nichols Lake relaxing on the beach and using the fishing pier.

Disc Golf

There is an 18-hole disc golf course at the Udell Rollways Day Use Site. Here you will find challenging opportunities to “throw a disc,” have a picnic, and enjoy a family outing for the day! The site is located in Manistee County at the end of Horseshoe Bend Road and above the Manistee River. At the site is a stairway for angler access to the Manistee River as well.

Fishing and Hunting

The Huron-Manistee National Forests are famous for outstanding fishing. The lakes range from warm to cold with plentiful fishing in the spring and fall. Anglers looking for salmon, steelhead and trout annually visit the many forest rivers and streams each year.

The forest adheres to State licensing regulations, including size and quantity limits. The MDNR website will also provide information about special fishing restrictions that may apply such as catch and release periods and “do not consume” warnings.

Many hunters return to the Huron-Manistee each spring and autumn to hunt wild turkey and white-tailed deer. The woods also offer hunting opportunities for species such as grouse and bear.

MDNR’s hunting regulations apply on all National Forest lands; Check their website, www.michigan.gov/dnr, or annual guidebooks for licensing and restrictions.

There are additional restrictions that you should know when you plan a hunting trip to the Huron-Manistee. For example, you may not build a permanent hunting blind on the National Forest. No food plots are permitted on federal lands. You may not drive an ORV cross-country to retrieve game. Check the MDNR’s hunting regulations for rules about hunting on public lands.



Udell Rollways Disc Golf Course



High Bridge, Manistee National Recreation River



Turkey Hunting



Eastern Box Turtle - hatchling



Wildflowers



Black Bear



Eastern Kingbird

Watchable Wildlife

The ultimate wildlife viewing experience is watching animals in their habitat.

On the Huron-Manistee National Forests, you might see white-tailed deer, wild turkey, bald eagles, trumpeter swans, and many other species.

Here are some helpful tips to become a wildlife friendly viewer:

- Use the right tools - A field guide, a pair of binoculars and a camera.
- Dress for Success - Wear clothing that is appropriate for the season and activity.
- Watch at dawn and dusk - This is the time when most wildlife species are active enough to view.
- Keep your distance - Maintain a distance that is comfortable for the wildlife.
- Stay quiet - Move slowly and quietly to increase your chances of viewing wildlife, and to avoid stressing the animals you wish to watch.
- Do not feed wildlife - There is plenty of food available in the wild. Feeding wildlife can alter their feeding habits and decrease their fear of humans.

Walkinshaw Wetlands

Walkinshaw Wetlands is a small area south of Walkerville where visitors will be able to see many species of wetland wildlife. This area is particularly good for bird watching. There is an abundance of wetland plant life, particularly cattails.

Sterling Marsh

The Sterling Marsh area is a birdwatcher's paradise, with hundreds of species of birds migrating through the area during the spring. There is also a wide variety of native plants in the area.

A 1/2 mile of raised, barrier-free boardwalk along the 1 1/2 mile portion of the North Country National Scenic trail makes the area navigable for most of the year.

Karner Blue Butterfly

The nickel-sized Karner blue butterfly thrives in oak savannah and pine barrens and other open areas with sandy soil. These habitats are some of the rarest in the world. Restoration of these areas benefits not only the federally endangered Karner blue, but many other species, such as turkey, that use these openings.

Male Karner blues are silvery or dark blue with a narrow black band. The female is grayish brown to blue on the topside, with irregular bands of orange crescents inside the narrow black border. The underside of both males and females is gray with a band



Karner blue butterfly on butterfly weed

of orange crescents along the edges of both wings.



Piping plover with chick

Piping Plover

The piping plover is a relative of the Killdeer. Piping Plovers are smaller, and lighter colored. Breeding adults have a single black band around the neck, while the Killdeer has two. The Great Lakes population of piping plovers is endangered — they are in danger of extinction. The “piping” part of the name is a description of its call, a sweet, soft whistle. Plovers are a group of shorebirds that feed with run-stop-peck movements, somewhat like the way an American robin feeds.

Loda Lake Wildflower Sanctuary

Loda Lake is home to a variety of native plants and wildflowers. The short trail give visitors a chance to view a wide array of wildflowers, many of them identified with small signs.

The wildflower sanctuary is an area that includes a small spring-fed lake, a bog-like wetland area, a creek and riparian marshy areas, oak forest, pine plantations, and an early successional old farm site. Loda Lake is the only wildflower sanctuary in the National Forest System, a project supported both financially and botanically by the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan for over seventy-years.



Indian Pipe

Panning for Gold and Metal Detecting

Gold Panning

Recreational gold panning is allowed on most National Forest System lands, if it is done by hand and does not involve undercutting stream banks. No permit is required for casual gold panning. The use of sluices and portable dredges is not considered casual and requires a permit.



Peterson Creek

Metal Detecting

Forest Service policy allows the use of metal detectors; however, there are limitations. Legal activities involving the use of a metal detector might include using the device on a beach or in a recreation area to collect contemporary coins, jewelry, and other metal objects less than 50 years old.

The following metal detecting activities require a Special Use Permit.

- using metal detectors for mineral prospects,
- archeological survey.

If you have questions, contact a Forest Service Office.



Loda Lake National Wildflower Sanctuary

Rock-Hounding/Fossil Collecting

In most areas “rock hounding” does not require special permission or a fee, when done as recreation. Contact a Forest Service office to make certain no permission or fee is necessary in the area you wish to “rock hound.”

Target Shooting

Target practice with a rifle, handgun or bow and arrow is permitted provided you abide by all state and federal regulations. All trash must be packed out, including shell casings and targets. Glass targets and target shooting with a rifle, handgun or shotgun 5 days prior to Michigan deer rifle season are prohibited.

Geocaching

Those who enjoy orienteering or solving mysteries may enjoy the adventure sport of geocaching. Individuals have set up caches all over the world and post the cache coordinates on the internet. Using the coordinates, people use a global positioning system (GPS) device and trek by vehicle and on foot to find the caches. A cache may be a marked container including a logbook, or a specific spot such as a historic or scenic location that is reported once found. The fun is in the discovery and having minimal impact in the hunt. Minimal impact in finding or placing a cache avoids disturbing the ground or surroundings.

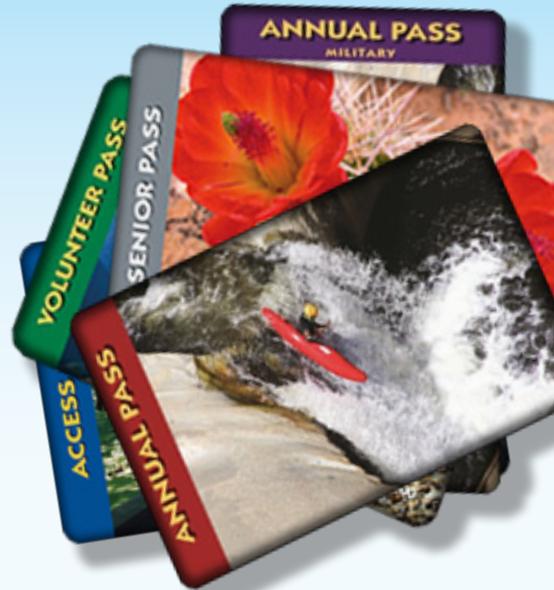
Passes and Permits

The Huron-Manistee National Forests offers many camping and day-use opportunities. The forests' personnel strive to provide quality recreation facilities for the comfort and enjoyment of visitors.

To help address this issue, the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) was passed. The Act permits federal land management agencies to charge fees at campgrounds and at day-use sites that have certain facilities.

The recreation fees help pay for the facilities and services that you will be using. Some amenities the fees help to provide are toilets, picnic tables, site cleaning, security, parking areas, swimming areas, special tours and interpretive signing.

You can deposit the fee at each site and get a daily pass, good all day at any fee site, or you can choose to purchase from a variety of recreation passes. The two main types are the America the Beautiful Interagency Passes or the Huron-Manistee National Forests Recreation Passes.



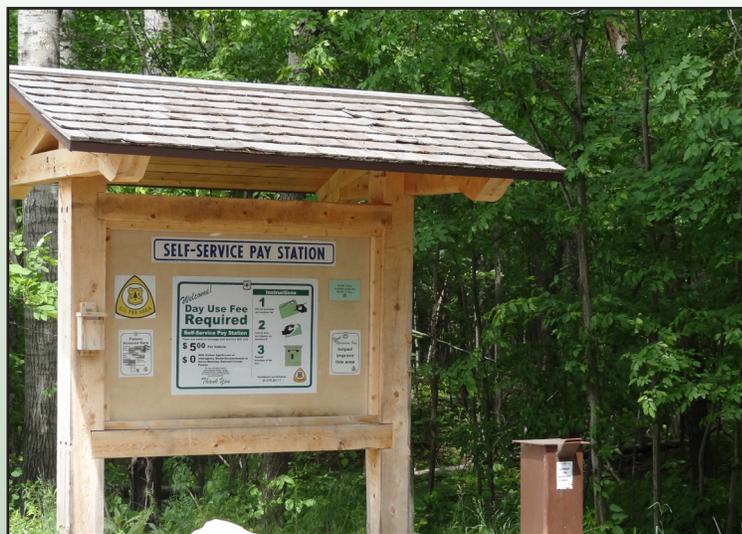
Interagency and Forest Recreation Passes

Which Pass Do I Need?

To make the best choice on which pass to purchase, you should think about your recreation plans for the next year. You have options such as buying a single-day pass, a weekly pass or even an annual pass that covers the entire Huron-Manistee National Forests. If you plan to recreate in many different sites across the nation, an Interagency Annual Pass may be your best value. You may also qualify for one of the Interagency Lifetime Passes (Interagency Senior Pass or Interagency Access Pass).

Available Passes

Interagency Passes	Cost
Annual Pass	\$80
Senior Pass	\$10
Access Pass	Free
Volunteer Pass	250 Hrs.
HMNF Passes	
Annual Pass	\$30
One Week Pass	\$15
One Day Pass	\$5
*Household Pass	\$45
* Household passes may only be purchased at Forest Service Offices	



When do I need a pass?

You can find a complete list of sites that require a pass on our website. You will also know that you are at a site that requires a fee when you see this sign:





Toll Free: 1-800-821-6263

Website: www.fs.usda.gov/hmnf/

Email: r9_website@fs.fed.us

Reservations: www.recreation.gov

Baldwin Ranger Station

650 N. Michigan, P.O. Box D Baldwin, MI 49304

Phone: (231) 745 - 4631

TTY: 711

Manistee Ranger Station

412 Red Apple Rd. Manistee, MI 49660

Phone: (231) 723 - 2211

TTY: 711

Supervisor's Office

1755 S. Mitchell St. Cadillac, MI 49601

Phone: (231) 775 - 2421

TTY: 711

Huron Shores Ranger Station

5761 N. Skeel Ave. Oscoda, MI 48750

Phone: (989) 739 - 0728

TTY: 711

Lumbermen's Monument

Phone: (989) 362-8961

Mio Ranger Station

107 McKinley Rd. Mio, MI 48647

Phone: (989) 826-3252

TTY: 711

Additional brochures are available at Forest Service Offices and the Visitors Center for: Pine River, Pere Marquette River, Nordhouse Dunes and Loda Lake.

