



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Huron-Manistee National Forests  
Manistee Ranger Station  
412 Red Apple Road  
Manistee, MI 49660

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File Code: 1950/2600  
Date: March 10, 2011

Dear Interested Parties:

The Baldwin-White Cloud Ranger District of the Huron-Manistee National Forests is preparing a categorical exclusion for the **2011 Syers Creek Channel Restoration** project. The proposed activities include removal of in-channel alder, addition of wood in the channel, and planting of riparian conifers to meet the objectives of narrowing channel width, increasing sinuosity, greater depth and pool habitat, and adding wood to the channel along with restoring conifer species in the riparian habitat.

Comments and suggestions on this project would be appreciated by **April 11, 2011**. Your comments will become part of the Project Record and will be considered during the environmental analysis and decision making process. In the past, similar projects have resulted in a Categorical Exclusion documented by a Decision Memo not subject to appeal. This proposal falls under the following Categorical Exclusion:

- 31.2(6). Modification or maintenance of stream or lake aquatic habitat improvement structures using native materials or normal practices.

### Background

The proposed activities will treat about 400 feet of stream, beginning at the confluence of Syers Creek with the Little Manistee River and proceeding upstream to the M37 culvert outlet. The proposed activities are located in Lake County, T19N R13W Section 10. Figure 1 shows the location of the site.

### Purpose and Need for the Proposal

The purpose of this proposal is to meet the following Forest Plan Natural Resource objectives:

“Cooperate with individuals, organizations and local, state, Tribal and federal governments to promote ecosystem health and sustainability across landscapes” (Forest Plan page II-5).

Wildlife and fisheries habitats and plant communities shall be managed to maintain viable populations of existing native and desired non-native species (Forest Plan page II-4).

The need is to improve watershed conditions by restoring channel morphology, and improving riparian habitat conditions, including:

Forest Plan Desired Condition for Large Wood: Minimum of six to nine pieces of large wood per 300 feet of first to second order channel (Forest Plan page II-7)

Forest Plan Watershed Guideline: In stream channels deficient of wood, placement of trees is a preferred method to fixed structures (Forest Plan page II-18).

### Proposed Action

The treatments would occur during the summer season and include placing large wood material such as tree tops, logs, and brush in the channel at strategically placed locations to influence the deposition of fine



sediments and the creation of point bars. Point bar formation will narrow the channel, resulting in increased channel sinuosity and water velocity. Increased water velocity will promote scour and pool formation, particularly across from point bars. Scouring will also sort and expose gravels that are important habitat for salmonid spawning and various invertebrate species. Tree tops, logs, and brush would be obtained by purchase and/or from available Forest Service timber harvest or wildlife management units as appropriate.



Figure 1. Red line depicts the proposed treatment reach in Syers Creek, bounded by M37 on the right and the Little Manistee River on the left.

Additional information regarding this action can be obtained from: Chris Riley, U.S. Forest Service, 412 Red Apple Road, Manistee, MI 49660, (231) 723-2211, ext. 3122 or email at criley01 at fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

*Leslie E. Russell*  
/s/ LESLIE E. RUSSELL  
District Ranger

Enclosure

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**From:**

**Place  
Postage  
Here**

**TO: Manistee Ranger District  
Huron-Manistee National Forests  
412 Red Apple Road  
Manistee, MI 49660**

**Attention: Chris Riley**