

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

KURT J. MEISTER,	)	CIVIL ACTION
	)	No. 07-13008
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	
	)	
TOM VILSACK, SECRETARY,	)	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, <u>et al.</u> ,	)	
	)	
Defendants.	)	

**FOURTH DECLARATION OF JEFFERY G. PULLEN**

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury:

1. I am employed by the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and currently serve as the Planning and Natural Resources Staff Officer, Huron-Manistee National Forests (HMNF), Cadillac, Michigan. I currently supervise the Forest Planner, the NEPA Appeals and Litigation Coordinator, and other staff. I have been employed by USDA for approximately 33 years. My current responsibilities include ensuring that all of the natural and physical resources projects and programs conducted by the Forest Service on the Huron-Manistee National Forests are planned, analyzed, and implemented in accordance to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. ' 4321 et seq.; National Forest Management Act (NFMA), 16 U.S.C. ' 1600 et seq.; and all of the other applicable laws, regulations and policies. Previously, I was the team leader for the team that prepared the final environmental impact statement (FEIS), Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Huron-Manistee National Forests (2006 Forest Plan),

and the March 20, 2006 Record of Decision (ROD) which were challenged in the above-captioned case.

2. This declaration provides information to supplement and update the information in the previous declarations submitted on January 7, 2011; February 15, 2011; April 1, 2011; and May 29, 2011. It also describes the activities that have occurred since the prior declaration.
3. The Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) has met frequently over the last several months. They have formulated draft alternatives; reviewed these with the Forest Leadership Team, Regional Forester and Regional Directors; and updated the draft alternatives based on input provided. Currently, the IDT members are Lee Evison, Team Leader, Huron-Manistee National Forests (HMNF); Lauri Hogeboom, HMNF National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Coordinator; Arla Schumacher, HMNF Planning Assistant; John Hojnowski, HMNF Recreation Specialist; Ken Arbogast, HMNF Public, Legislative and Tribal Affairs Specialist; Kristen Thrall, HMNF Recreation Program Manager/Writer Editor; Dave Newhouse, HMNF Certified Wildlife Biologist and Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive Species Program Manager; Tracy Miller, HMNF Geographic Information Systems Specialist; Jimmie Mitchell, Natural Resources Program Director, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians; Tom Haxby, Forest Planner, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR); Rex Ainslie, Northeast Lower Peninsula Unit Supervisor and Acting Northwest Lower Peninsula Unit Supervisor, Michigan DNR; and Kurt Wadzinski, NEPA Specialist, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Department of Interior

(DOI). As noted previously, this team is the core group that will be working on preparing the SEIS and the supporting documentation. The team will draw on other personnel and resources as necessary to complete the SEIS.

4. The Forest Service's analysis team working on the supply and demand assessment has completed the preparation of the draft assessment. The draft has been reviewed by Forest Service specialists, experts from Michigan State University, and professionals at the Michigan DNR. We anticipate publishing the supply and demand assessment at the same time that the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) is finalized and made available to the public (on or before October 1, 2011).
5. The IDT prepared the first rough draft of the DSEIS. The rough draft is currently being reviewed by the IDT and by other personnel from the Forest Service and the cooperating agencies (Michigan DNR, BLM/DOI, and the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians). Once reviewed and assembled, the draft of the DSEIS will need significant editing before it can be finalized and sent to the printer. The DSEIS will also need to be reviewed by the Forest Leadership Team, Forest Supervisor and the Regional Forester. Once approved for publication, the DSEIS will be finalized for printing. We intend to have the finalized DSEIS delivered to the printer by mid to late August so that we can meet the publishing and distribution deadline of October 1, 2011.
6. On the timeline that is attached to this declaration, we have updated the information on the timelines that were provided with the previous declarations and noted the tasks where assignments have been made, any adjustments in the anticipated completion dates, and

the items that have been completed. See Exhibit A. To date, we have completed these tasks: initial consultation with the Tribes, published the Notice of Intent (NOI), finished the 45-day comment period, held eight public information meetings, and analyzed a total of 9,179 comments on the NOI. We have also updated the mailing list which now includes a total of 9,568 names and addresses. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS/DOI) was initiated by the Forest Service pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), 16 U.S.C. § 1536. We have also prepared and mailed an update letter to everyone on the mailing list and this letter was also posted on our website. Overall, we are on schedule to complete and publish our DSEIS by the October 1, 2011 deadline.

7. As noted previously, we are committed to completing the final SEIS in a timely and efficient manner. We have either dropped or put other HMNF projects on hold to achieve this goal. We have asked all of the cooperating agencies to do the same so that the final SEIS can be completed by the January 31, 2012 deadline.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing (Paragraphs 1-7) are true and correct.

Executed this 28<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2011.



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JEFFERY G. PULLEN  
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