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USDA FOREST SERVICE, OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST, HOUGHTON, IRON, AND ONTONAGON COUNTIES, MICHIGAN; EASTERN OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE CONNECTOR ROUTE PROJECT. An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Eastern Off-Highway (OHV) Vehicle Connector Route Project has been prepared and is available upon request at the Ottawa National Forest Supervisors office, E6248 US 2, Ironwood, Michigan 49938, and at the following libraries: Gogebic Community College, Ironwood, Michigan; Northern Michigan University, Marquette, Michigan; and Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan, as well as, the Ottawa National Forest website: <http://fs.usda.gov/goto/ottawa/projects>. Additional information regarding this project can be obtained from Susanne Adams, Ontonagon District Ranger at 906-884-2085 ext. 14 or e-mail smadams@fs.fed.us. This project would designate additional OHV access on roads and trails managed under Forest Service jurisdiction, used in conjunction with other routes open to OHVs, to provide connections to the State of Michigan Multi-Use trails. Design criteria, such as hazard tree removal, and road shoulder brushing and/or mowing, are proposed where necessary, in addition to trail and road construction activities as needed to ensure a safe riding experience. Pursuant to 36 CFR 215.6(1) comments must be submitted or postmarked within 30 days, beginning the day after this publication in the **Ironwood Daily Globe**. If the comment period ends on a Saturday, Sunday or Federal holiday, comments will be accepted until the end of the next Federal working day. No comments will be accepted after the 30-day comment period ends. Comments should be submitted to Forest Supervisor, Ottawa National Forest, by one of the following methods; mail: E6248 US 2, Ironwood, Michigan 49938, telephone: 906-932-1330, facsimile: 906-932-0196, or email: comments-eastern-ottawa@fs.fed.us (please put "Comments on East OHV Connector Project" in the subject line) in order to be considered when making the final decision. Office hours, for those who wish to hand deliver their comments or provide them orally, are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday (except Federal holidays). Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office or by telephone during those hours. Acceptable formats for electronic comments are text or html e-mail, Adobe portable document format, and formats viewable in Microsoft Office applications. Comments must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on the closing date of the comment period. It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted. The final decision on this project will be subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.11; unless no comments expressing concerns (or only supportive comments) are received during this 30-day comment period (36 CFR 215.12(e)(1)). Only

those who provide timely comments or otherwise express interest during this comment period, through one of the methods described above, will have standing to appeal, as specified in 36 CFR 215.11(a) (1993 version). In order to have standing to appeal, each individual or representative of a group or organization that submits comments must sign or provide for verification of identity according to the requirements of 36 CFR 215.6(3)(iv) and (v). Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Part 215. Comments that are received on this proposal are part of the public record and therefore, are available for public inspection upon request. The USDA Forest Service is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.