

Huron-Manistee National Forests

ACTION ALERT!

SNOWMOBILERS AND HUNTERS:

You need to comment to help fight proposed closures to snowmobiling and hunting with guns on the Huron-Manistee National Forests!

The Huron-Manistee National Forests has released a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for public review and comment. The SEIS proposes to ban snowmobiling and gun hunting within 13 Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Areas on these forests as the result of a legal decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals. Your participation in this process is critical!

To Obtain Additional Information about this process:

1. Call the Huron-Manistee NF at 231-775-2421 to request a CD of the SEIS documents
2. Visit the Forest Service website at www.fs.fed.us/ ; select Huron-Manistee from the 'By Name' menu at the top right of the page and hit 'Go'; once the Huron-Manistee page opens, click on 'Forest Plan SEIS' under Quick Links at the top right of the page; the Land and Resources Management page will open which contains the 'Draft SEIS PDF Suite' files with all SEIS documents.
3. Visit the Michigan Snowmobile Association website at www.msasnow.org/ to obtain updates, comment information, and links to this process

Comment Deadline: mid-December, 2011

You Can Provide Comments by:

Mail: Huron-Manistee National Forest, Attn: Ken Arbogast, 1755 S. Mitchell St., Cadillac, MI 49601

Fax: 231-775-5551

E-Mail: comments-eastern-huron-manistee@fs.fed.us ; the subject line should state: Forest Plan SEIS

Huron-Manistee National Forest s

Or Fax to: 231-775-5551

ATTN: Kenneth Arbogast

1755 S. Mitchell Street

Cadillac, MI 49601

Dear SEIS Planning Team:

Please consider the following as you make decisions related to the Forest Plan SEIS and uses allowed in Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM) Areas of the Huron-Manistee National Forests:

- **I am opposed to your Proposed Action Alternative 2.** It would be wrong to ban snowmobile use and firearm hunting in existing SPNM areas on these forests.
- **I support Alternative 3.** The areas in question should be defined as Semi-Primitive Motorized areas and thereby keep all existing areas open to snowmobiling and firearm hunting.
- The Proposed Action ignores the SEIS analysis which shows that less than 27% of existing SPNM areas are located beyond a ½ mile from open public roads; therefore these areas clearly fail to meet 'remoteness' conditions expected to be found in true SPNM areas.
- The Forest Service made a serious mistake when it classified the 13 parcels of lands in question as SPNM in 2006 based purely upon ill conceived wishes for unrealistic future 'desired conditions.' Proper forest management should instead be based upon a realistic interpretation of existing and future conditions, i.e. facts and proper application of agency standards, rather than merely hoping a sow's ear may eventually become a silk purse for SPNM advocates.
- If Alternative 2 is selected, the 2006 SPNM classification error will only be proliferated and likely lead to additional litigation, while choosing Alternative 3 can properly correct this mistake.
- All snowmobile trails which would be closed by the Proposed Action are located on open public roads and should therefore remain open for winter snowmobile trail use.
- The SEIS improperly minimizes the cumulative effects of Alternative 2. While the Proposed Action will close 'only 14.3 miles' of the 525 miles of snowmobile trail in this area, this closure will effectively eliminate important small links within the overall trail network and consequently eliminate connectivity for significantly larger portions of the trail system.
- While the Proposed Action would eliminate snowmobile trails across the SPNM areas, it would not close summer ORV trails across the same parcels of land. This defies logic and further demonstrates the flawed reasoning and motivations behind choosing Alternative 2 as the Proposed Action.
- The SEIS clearly proves there is no duplication of efforts in providing snowmobiling or firearm hunting opportunities in Michigan; therefore all existing opportunities are important and should be continued.
- Michigan has the largest number of registered snowmobiles in the United States yet, on a per capita basis, the fewest miles of snowmobile trails. All existing trails on these forests are critical to meeting the high demand for snowmobile trails in Michigan. We need more opportunities, not less.
- National Forests are to be enjoyed for multiple recreation uses; be very cautious about excluding public use based upon subjective positions or bias of a few toward other legitimate recreation use.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please add me to your contact list as you continue this SEIS process.

Printed Name

Signature

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

E-Mail: _____

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