

indicate that you are referencing the Ottawa National Forest's proposed changes and specific items/areas where you are in agreement with the proposal or wish to express a concern or alternative approach. Your rationale for agreeing or providing different viewpoints will assist the Forest's concern in understanding your position, developing alternatives, and/or addressing your concern. Again, please clearly indicate the Ottawa National Forest, your viewpoints, and your rationale. Additional detail on the revision topics is available on request, in the form of the document titled "Need for Change, Description of Proposal for Revising the Forest Plan of the Ottawa National Forest". You are encouraged to review this additional document before commenting on the Notice of Intent. You may request the additional information by calling the phone number listed above, by writing or e-mailing to the addresses listed in this notice, or by accessing the Forest web page listed in this notice. See the schedule of public meetings that appears in the section "Inviting Public Participation".

*Range of Alternatives for Revising the Forest Plans:* A range of alternatives will be considered when revising the Forest Plan for each of the Michigan National Forests. The alternatives will review different options to resolve the revision topics. A "no-action alternative" is required, meaning that management would continue under the existing Forest Plan.

Goals and standards and guides may be proposed to address portions of revision topics and typically will not vary between alternatives. Forest Plan objectives, management area direction, and other recommendations may vary by alternatives. Other minor changes may be made particularly in the guidance chapter of the Forest Plan, to reflect changes made when addressing the above revision topics.

*Tribal Consultation and Collaboration with Government Agencies:* The

Michigan National Forests will continue to meet trust responsibilities with Native American Tribes by working collaboratively through the consultation process as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Tribal—USDA Forest Service relations on National Forest System Lands and with Tribes in the Territories Ceded in Treaties of 1836, 1837, and 1842 (Sec. VI.B). Treaty rights are exercised by tribes and tribal members in various ways such as hunting, fishing and gathering. The Forest Service recognizes treaty rights as a matter of national policy and consults with tribes to ensure that Agency decisions do not adversely affect these rights.

In acknowledgment of the Federal Government's obligation to consult effectively with federally recognized Indian tribes, the three Michigan National Forests will conduct government-to-government consultation with tribal governments for all tribes located near or having rights in the Forests, particularly those which retain rights through treaties. Forest Service officials will meet with tribal governing bodies, representatives, and agencies to discuss tribal interests, needs and concerns regarding National Forest management.

The Forest Service will also continue the ongoing relationships with state and federal agencies. This will be accomplished jointly between the three Michigan National Forests and the appropriate State and local agencies to provide for more consistent management and better service to the public.

*Inviting Public Participation:* Comments and suggestions are now solicited from federal agencies, state and local governments, individuals, tribes, and organizations on the scope of the analysis to be included in the DEIS for the Revised Forest Plan (40 CFR 1501.7). Comments should focus on: (1) The proposal for revising the Forest Plans; (2) possible alternatives for addressing issues associated with the proposal; and

(3) identify any possible impacts associated with the proposal based on an individual's civil rights (race, color, national origin, age, religion, gender, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status). Public participation throughout the revision process is encouraged.

With the publication of this NOI, the Forest Service will host a series of public meetings to (1) establish multiple opportunities for the public to generate ideas, concerns, and alternatives, (2) present and clarify proposed changes to the Forest Plan; (3) describe ways that individuals can respond to this NOI; and (4) accept comments from the public on this proposal for revising the Forest Plan.

In the year 2004 work on alternative development and issue validation will be done. Many types of public involvement including public meetings, tribal and governmental consultation, written comments, website, and e-mail will be conducted.

In the year 2005 the proposed Revised Forest Plans and DEISs will be released. Many types of public involvement including a 90-day formal comment period, public meetings, tribal and governmental consultation, and written comments will be conducted. During 2006 the final Revised Forest Plan, EIS, and Record of Decision will be released.

Informational meetings to explain the decision on the final Forest Plan will be held. General notices on opportunities to participate through mailings, news releases, public meetings, consultations and website will be provided. In addition to formal opportunities for comment, comments will be received and considered at any time throughout the revision process.

A representative from each of the three Michigan National Forests will be in attendance at the series of meetings listed below in the schedule titled "Michigan National Forests."

#### MICHIGAN NATIONAL FORESTS (Huron-Manistee, Hiawatha, and Ottawa)

Date	Time	Comment	Location
10/20/2003 .....	12–6 p.m. ....	Open House .....	Muskegon, Michigan—Comfort Inn, 1675 E. Sherman Road.
10/21/2003 .....	6:30–9 p.m. .... 12–6 p.m. ....	Listening Session. Open House .....	Grand Rapids, Michigan—Howard Johnson's, 255 28th Street, SW.
10/22/2003 .....	6:30–9 p.m. .... 12–6 p.m. ....	Listening Session. Open House .....	Lansing, Michigan—Clarion Hotel/Conf. Center, 3600 Dunckel Drive.
10/23/2003 .....	6:30–9 p.m. .... 12–6 p.m. ....	Listening Session. Open House .....	Livonia, Michigan—Embassy Suites, 19525 Victor Parkway.