

June 12, 2017

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DNR wants to hear your ideas on state forest planning for Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Manistee counties

Whether you're interested in healthy forests, quality wildlife habitat or a strong forest products industry, don't miss the chance to get involved in state forest planning.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources currently is making plans for the forest for 2019. These management plans include harvesting timber, planting trees, prescribed burning and maintaining fields and open areas – activities that help to provide wildlife habitat, control invasive species and improve the overall health of the forest.

This year, areas under review include Inland Township in Benzie County; Long Lake, Green Lake, Grant, East Bay, and Paradise townships in Grand Traverse County; Clearwater, Kalkaska, Blue Lake, Bear Lake, Oliver, and Garfield townships in Kalkaska County; and Maple Grove and Marilla townships in Manistee County.

Some of the treatments being proposed are near popular recreational sites on state forest lands. These sites include the Vasa Pathway, Lost Lake Pathway, and Lake Dubonnet State Forest Campground and Trail Camp.

The DNR also is seeking public input regarding management plans for Ecological Reference Areas, rare or high-quality natural communities that have been relatively undisturbed by human intervention. The DNR's long-term goal is to maintain these areas as examples of Michigan's biodiversity. ERA plans have been prepared for three sites this year, including the northern fen and rich conifer swamp natural communities within Skegemog Lake Wildlife Area in Kalkaska County, a northern hardwood swamp community at Selma Swamp in Manistee County; and Lost Lake Bog in Grand Traverse County.

You're invited to look over proposals, view maps of the affected areas and provide feedback. Come to the following public meetings:

- **Traverse City – July 12**
4 – 7 p.m. at the Traverse City Customer Service Center, 2122 S M-37
- **Kalkaska – July 13**
4 – 7 p.m. at the Kalkaska Field Office, 2089 N. Birch St.

DNR staff will approve final plans at a meeting **Aug. 3** at 9 a.m. at the Traverse City Customer Service Center.

If you can't make any of these meetings, you can find maps and information online at www.michigan.gov/forestry. Select the "Find a Forest" button and click the "Traverse

2017 Inventory Compartments (2019 Year of Entry) DNR Traverse City Forest Management Unit

