



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Baldwin/White Cloud
Ranger Station
P.O. Box "D"
Baldwin, MI 49304

231-745-4631 (Voice)
231-745-2345 (Fax)
231-745-8297 (TTY)

File Code: 1950

Date: December 11, 2008

Dear Friends of the Forest,

An Environmental Assessment has been prepared for the Mast Lake Project and is enclosed for your review. This letter provides you notice of the opportunity to comment on the activities proposed in the Mast Lake Environmental Assessment in accordance with 36 CFR 215.

The following table is a summary of the alternatives:

		Measure	Alternative 1 (No Action)	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Objective: Vegetative Treatments					
Type	Treatment(s)				
Red Pine	Thinning	Acres	0	286	349
Red Pine	Regeneration	Acres	0	0	23
Aspen	Clearcut	Acres	0	116	116
Jack Pine	Regeneration	Acres	0	40	40
Scotch Pine	Removal	Acres	0	23	23
Total		Acres	0	465	551
Objective: Wildlife Habitat Creation					
Type	Treatment(s)				
Mixed Oak	Habitat Creation Cut	Acres	0	35	35
Opening	Maintenance	Acres	0	44	50
Opening	Expansion	Acres		63	63
Aspen	Non-commercial	Acres	0	24	24
	Expansion	Acres	0	38	38
Total			0	204	210
Objective: Roads Management					
All Roads Left Open in the Project Area (County, Forest Service, and Unauthorized User-created Roads)		Miles	38.2	20.4	25.4
Classified Road Closures (Forest Service Roads)		Miles	0	5.9	5.3
Unclassified Road Closures (Unauthorized User-created Roads)		Miles	0	11.9	7.5
Resulting Road Density (County, Forest Service, Unauthorized User-created)		Miles	6.1 mi/mi ²	3.3 mi/mi ²	4.1 mi/mi ²
Permanent Forest Road Improvements		Locations	0	9	9
Temporary Road Improvements		Locations	0	6	6



Objective: Herbicide NNIS						
Type	Number of Sites					
Marsh Thistle	1	Acres Identified	0	0.1	0.1	
Barberry	6		0	0.6	0.6	
Autumn Olive	9		0	0.9	0.9	
Leafy Spurge	12		0	1.2	1.2	
Garlic Mustard	3		0	0.3	0.3	
Honeysuckle	16		0	1.6	1.6	
Bull Thistle	1		0	0.1	0.1	
Hoary Alyssum	5		0	0.5	0.5	
Smooth Brome	1		0	0.1	0.1	
Spotted Knapweed	11		0	3.0	3.0	
St. Johnswort	7		0	0.7	0.7	
Sweetclover	2		0	0.2	0.2	
White Sweetclover	1		0	0.1	0.1	
Total	75			0	9.4	9.4
Objective: Prairie Restoration						
Tree Removal, Stump Removal, Prescribed Burning, Site Preparation, Seeding	Forested Stands	Acres	0	≤145	≤59	
	Openings		0	≤32	≤26	
Herbicidal Treatment of NNIS	Forested Stands	Acres Anticipated	0	≤14.5	≤5.9	
	Openings		0	≤3.2	≤2.6	
Other Activities						
Trash Removal		Sites	0	20	20	
ORV Restoration		Sites	0	2	2	
Change in Land Suitability Class		Acres	0	149	57	
Stand Boundary/Area Adjustments						
Number of Stands with Decreased Area		Each	0	5	5	
Number of Stands with Increased Area		Each	0	2	2	
Number of New Stands Created		Each	0	3	3	
Number of Stands Combined		Each	0	7	7	
Easements Required		Yes/No	No	Yes	Yes	

Alternative 3 has been identified as the preferred alternative for implementation. A final determination of the selected alternative will be made after public input is received and considered. Based on this input, a different alternative or a modified Alternative 3 may be selected.

Comments or project information requests should be submitted to Christopher Frederick, at Baldwin-White Cloud Ranger District, P.O. Box Drawer D, 650 N. Michigan Ave., Baldwin, Michigan, 49304; Telephone: 231-745-4631x3138; TTY/TDD: 231-745-8297 (hearing impaired); Fax: 231-745-2345; email: comments-eastern-huron-manistee-baldwin-white-cloud@fs.fed.us.

Comments on the proposed action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of this notice in the Lake County Star newspaper. However, when the comment period ends on a Saturday, Sunday, or a Federal

holiday, it is extended to the close of business of the next Federal working day. To ensure consideration in the decision-making process, comments must be postmarked or received prior to the close of the comment period at the office indicated on the letterhead. I will consider all timely comments in making my decision.

If you decide to comment on the proposed action, you must include the following information:

1. Your name, address, and (if possible) telephone number;
2. The title of the project you are submitting comments on; and
3. Specific facts or comments, along with supporting reasons that you believe I should consider in reaching a decision.

Comments received in response to this solicitation will become a matter of public record. To preserve one's appeal rights under 36 CFR 215, comments or an otherwise expressed interest in a particular proposed action must be made prior the close of the comment period. Copies of the resulting decision will be mailed to those people who have submitted comments prior to the close of the comment period and to those who request a copy.

Sincerely,

/s/ Leslie E. Russell

LESLIE E RUSSELL
District Ranger

Enclosure