



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Huron-Manistee National Forests

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File Code: 1950

Date: May 4, 2007

Dear Stakeholder,

Enclosed is a copy of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for updating the comprehensive river management plan (CRMP) for the Pere Marquette National Scenic River. The EA is being sent to those who provided input during scoping and those who have requested to receive copies of project proposals on the Huron-Manistee National Forests.

The EA is strategic and alternatives analyzed place an emphasis on the protection and enhancement of the Pere Marquette River's Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs), water quality, and free-flowing conditions as required by the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (P.L. 90-542). The decision to be made by this EA applies only to National Forest System lands within the river corridor and does not authorize implementation of any ground-disturbing actions. Decisions on site-specific, ground disturbing actions would be made through subsequent environmental analysis and public involvement.

Four alternatives were evaluated in detail in the EA:

Alternative 1 – No Action, Continuation of 1983 Pere Marquette CRMP

This alternative continues management of the Pere Marquette National Scenic River and its corridor under the amended 1983 Pere Marquette CRMP. There would be no change from current direction.

Alternative 2

The theme of the Proposed Action, Alternative 2, is providing a balance between recreation use and demands and the protection and enhancement of river resources.

Alternative 3

The theme of this alternative is to enhance river resource protection with minimal change to existing facilities and expansion of the watercraft management system. This alternative is the most restrictive to the recreation user.

Alternative 4

The theme of this alternative is to provide for the highest level of recreation use and demand while protecting and enhancing river resources. This alternative is the least restrictive to the recreation user.

I have selected Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative at this time.



Public participation is an important part of the analysis and, as such, I encourage you to take a look at the enclosed document. To ensure that I have an opportunity to consider your comments before I make a final decision they must be postmarked or received within 30 days beginning the day after publication of the legal notice in the *Cadillac Evening News*. When the comment period would end on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday comments will be accepted until the end of the next Federal working day. To have standing and for your comments to be used in the development of the final EA your comments need to be received during the 30-day comment period.

Although I am the Decision Maker for this project, I would like you to send your comments to: Les Russell, District Ranger, at P.O. Box Drawer D, Baldwin, MI 49304. Office hours, for those who wish to hand deliver or provide oral comments, are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday (except Federal holidays). Oral comments must be provided at the above office or by telephone at 231-745-4631 during those hours. Alternatively, comments may be submitted by facsimile at 231-745-2345, or email to comments-eastern-huron-manistee-baldwin-white-cloud@fs.fed.us (please put "Comments on Pere Marquette EA" on the subject line).

If you wish to reference scientific literature in your comment letter I request that you send a copy of the reference you have cited and include rationale as to how you feel it is pertinent to the specific project at hand. This will allow me to fully evaluate your comments; if I do not receive a copy of the literature I may not be able to utilize it in making my decision.

The alternatives presented in this Draft EA reflect, to the best of our ability, consideration of the comments, issues, and concerns raised by the public through letters, phone conversations, and e-mails we received over the last four years. In addition, we have consulted with and heard from local and state governments, and local tribes on the issues addressed in this document.

The final decision on this project will be subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217.3. Copies of the decision will be mailed to those who request it and those who comment on the project. Comments that are received on this proposal are part of the public record and, therefore, are available for public inspection upon request.

For additional information visit our website at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hmnf/pages/PlanningandProjects/bwc.htm#pmplan>. From there, you may view documents electronically, make additional copies, and learn more about our planning activities. If you have additional questions, please contact Les Russell or Diane Walker at 231-745-4631.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mary Doke (for):
LEANNE M. MARTEN
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure