

FOREST SERVICE
HURON-MANISTEE NATIONAL FORESTS
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The Huron-Manistee National Forests is making **available for comment** a *Recreation Facility Analysis* and *5-year Proposed Program of work*. The Recreation Facility Analysis is not a decision document but a guide to help forest managers implement goals, objectives, guidelines, and standards defined in the Huron-Manistee National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan at developed recreation sites.

The purpose of the Recreation Facility Analysis and five-year Program of Work is to provide direction to assure that developed recreation sites are consistent with the Forest recreation niche, bring sites up to Regional standards for health and safety, and can be maintained over the long term within expected budgets.

The Forest Service operates and maintains 174 developed recreation sites in the lower peninsula of Michigan. The sites include campgrounds, horse camps, group camps, river access sites, picnic sites, beaches, overlooks, interpretive sites, and trailheads. The majority of National Forest System recreation facilities were constructed between 1930 to 1965. Many facilities are obsolete or have deteriorated to non-repairable conditions because of the age of original building materials or changes in visitor use patterns. Due to the amount of deferred maintenance, some facilities may need a significant investment in order to meet minimum standards. Other facilities receive little use, or no longer serve the demand that existed in years past. The Recreation Facility Analysis is designed to move us toward having environmentally and financially sustainable recreation sites. The program of work is designed to be flexible enough to be adapted annually to any changes in demand, available resources, and opportunities.

During the analysis process, a team reviewed 174 recreation sites on the forests, looking at each to determine what actions or changes are needed to meet forests' Land and Resource Management Plan objectives, provide outstanding public service, reduce maintenance costs, bring the facility up to standard, appropriately meet public demand, and support the Forest's recreation niche. This included a range of possible actions from closing a facility to changing the length of time facilities are open to offering more or different services, which are outlined in this 5-year Proposed Program of Work. Implementing this proposed plan will result in better public service through higher quality and more efficiently managed recreation sites.

The Recreation Facility Analysis is a guide to help focus implementation efforts of the Forests Land and Resource Management Plan. While not a decision document, the public is being asked to comment on the Proposed Program of Work. Site-specific environmental analysis and public involvement will occur at the project level as appropriate for any site change decisions.

For the Recreation Facility Analysis and Proposed Program of Work document, please visit our web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/hmnf/index.shtml> or request a copy from Forest Service Supervisor's Office in Cadillac. Please send your comments by July 25, 2008 to Huron-Manistee National Forest, Recreation Program Manager, 1755 S. Mitchell Street, Cadillac, MI 49601. To comment on line, please email us at r9_hmnf_website@fs.fed.us with a subject line of *ATTN Recreation Manager Re Facility Analysis*. Questions related to this topic may be directed to Carol Boll or Rose Ingram at 231-775-2421,-1-800-821-6263, or TTY 231-775-3183.

