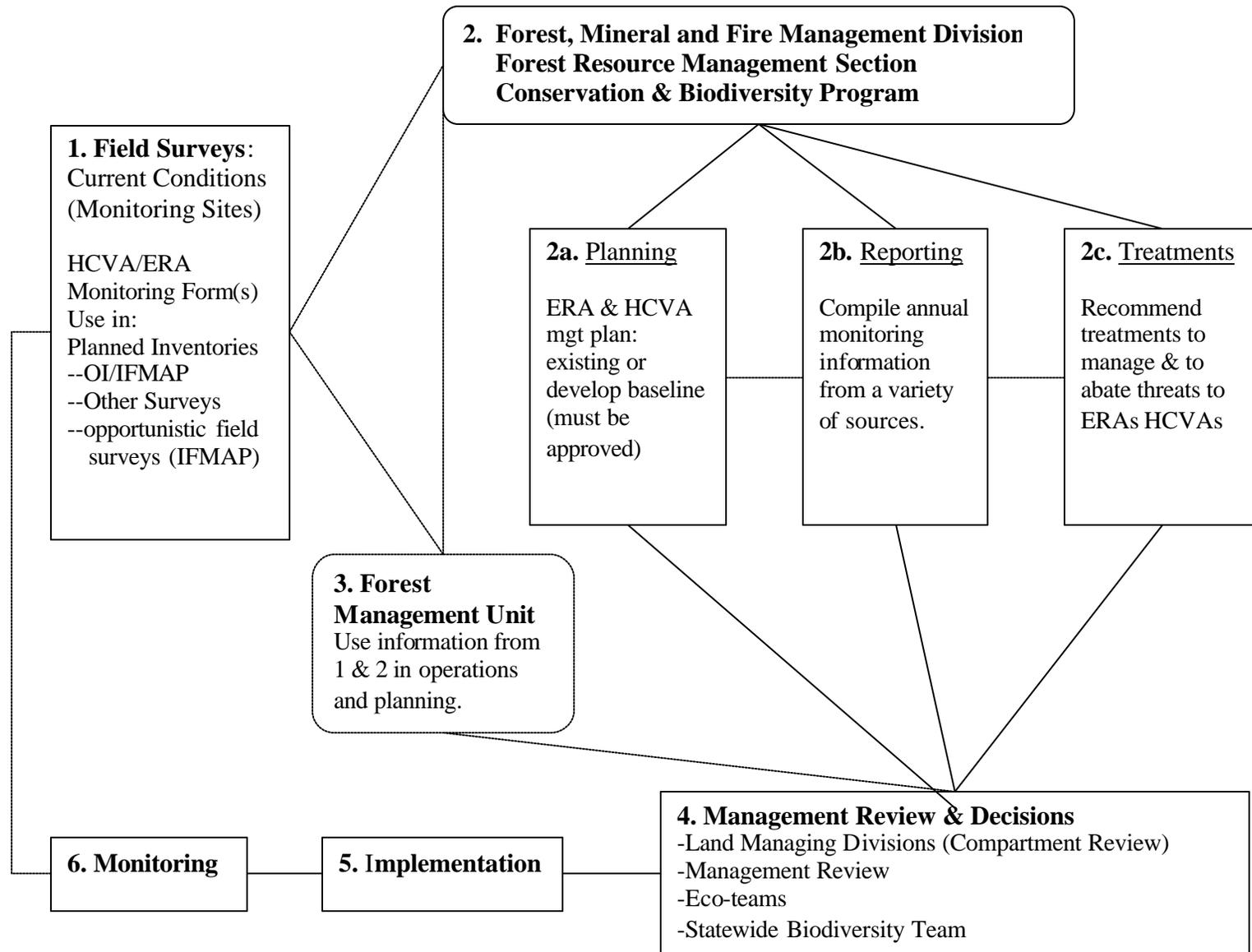


**Conservation Monitoring Process for High Conservation Value Areas (HCVAs) and Ecological Reference Areas (ERAs)*
June 26, 2006**

Figure 1: Conservation Monitoring Process for HCVAs and ERAs Flowchart



*and SCAs as appropriate

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These written steps correspond with Figure 1 (above): Conservation Monitoring Process for HCVAs and ERAs Flowchart.

Flow Chart Step #	Description
1.	<p>Field Surveys : Current Conditions (Monitoring HCVA and ERA Sites) During Planned Forest Inventories (OI/IFMAP), Forest Management Unit (FMU) staff and/or Wildlife Division (WLD) staff will visit HCVAs and ERAs at a minimum once every ten years to assess current (baseline) conditions of HCVAs and ERAs. During this field visit, threats will be assessed using the HCVA/ERA Threats Monitoring form. The Forest, Mineral, and Fire Management (FMFM), Conservation and Biodiversity Program will assist each FMU in filling out Baseline Information and Management Summary form if an existing management plan does not already exist (Step 2a).</p> <p>Opportunistic Field Surveys or other surveys will be assigned, as needed, to the FMU Manager/Wildlife Biologist and/or Staff Specialists, and/or contracted to, and/or completed by volunteer(s). An example of a survey by contract is Michigan Natural Features Inventory ecologists conducting baseline field surveys for each ERA on state forest -land in 2006 and 2007.</p>
2.	<p>Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division (FMFM), Forest Resource Management Section, Conservation & Biodiversity Program The FMFM Forest Resource Management Section, Conservation and Biodiversity Program staff will work with and support the FMFM, Forest Management Unit (FMU) staff and Wildlife Division staff on management planning, reporting and treatments for ERAs and HCVAs.</p>
2a.	<p><u>Planning:</u> Several HCVA types have existing management plans. Conservation and Biodiversity Program staff will assist in developing management plans on HCVAs where none exist including legally dedicated State Natural Areas, Biodiversity Stewardship Areas (BSAs) and ERAs. Approval via Step 4 (below), Management Review and Decisions Process, is required for all new HCVA management plans.</p>
2b.	<p><u>Reporting:</u> The Conservation and Biodiversity Program will annually compile monitoring information from a variety of sources to determine the status of each HCVA and the overall system of HCVAs and ERAs.</p>
2c.	<p><u>Treatments</u> The Conservation and Biodiversity Program will assist in recommending treatments to manage for the conservation and enhancement of and to abate threats to ERAs HCVAs.</p>
3.	<p>Forest Management Unit FMU and WLD staff will use information reported from and/or compiled from Steps 1 and 2 above in both operations and planning functions for HCVAs and ERAs.</p>
4.	<p>Management Review & Decisions All management recommendations for HCVAs and ERAs will be approved through one or</p>

*and SCAs as appropriate

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	more of several department and land management division review processes. These processes include the standard Compartment Review process, and review by Eco-teams and/or the Statewide Biodiversity Team.
5.	Implementation: Once management decisions are agreed upon they are implemented. Tasks are assigned and carried out per the management decision making process (Step 4 above).
6.	Monitoring HCVA and ERA monitoring will be done to insure management decisions were implemented and effective. HCVAs and ERAs will be evaluated at a minimum once every 10 years as part of the compartment review. Every three years, as part of the internal audit process, HCVA and ERAs will be considered. Additional surveys will be completed as needed depending on the criteria and indicators related to each HCVA/ERA management goals and objectives.