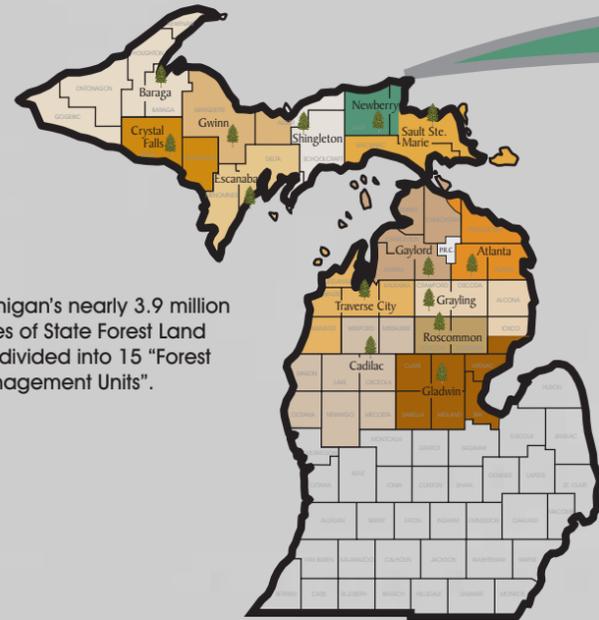




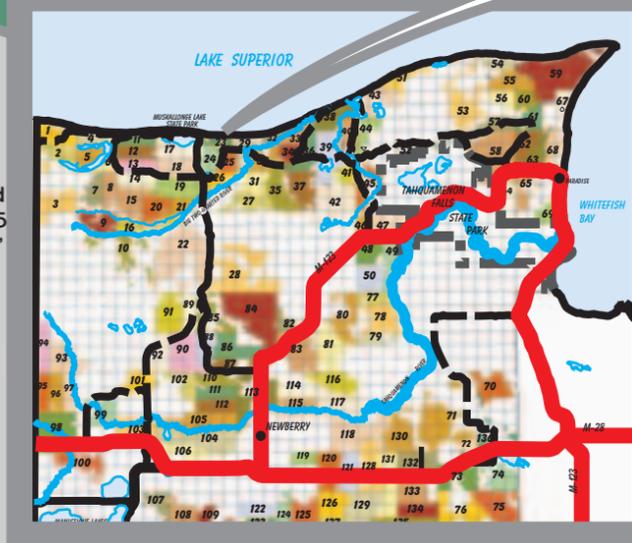
# MANAGING MICHIGAN'S STATE FORESTS: YOUR GUIDE TO PARTICIPATION

Michigan's State Forests are managed to provide for the conservation, protection, integrated management, and responsible use of healthy and productive trees, forests, and ecosystems for the social, recreational, environmental, and economic benefit of the people of the State.

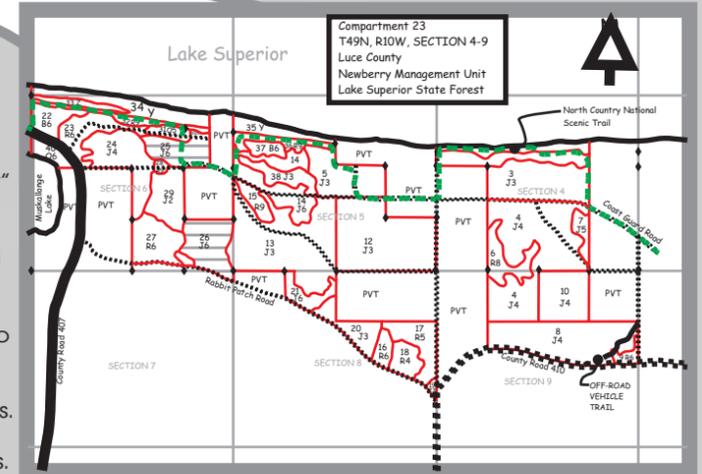


Michigan's nearly 3.9 million acres of State Forest Land are divided into 15 "Forest Management Units".

Like the Newberry Forest Management Unit pictured right, each of the state's 15 "Forest Management Units" are divided into blocks called "compartments". Each forest compartment is formally reviewed once every ten years.



Every forest "compartment" throughout the state, like *Newberry Forest Unit Compartment 23* pictured right, is subdivided according to the type of trees in the forest. The map also shows non-forested areas like lakes, marshes, grasslands, or shrub thickets. This map also illustrates proposed forest treatments.



## 1 The Inventory: *Compiling Field Information*

Using aerial photographs, land surveys, and other site specific information, Foresters visit, record biological data and map by tree species all the state-owned land in the compartment. Based on this information, foresters make initial recommendations for treatments including clear cutting, selective thinning, prescribed fires, tree planting or no treatment at all.

## 2 Multi-Disciplinary Input: *The Big Picture*

The inventory and draft recommendations are then reviewed by Forest Ecologists, Foresters, Recreation Specialists, Wildlife Biologists, and often Fisheries Biologists. This review results in management recommendations that have an ecosystem or holistic land management perspective. A broad range of biological, economic and social values and benefits are considered, including: campground management, fish habitat and river corridor protection, game species management, gas, mineral, oil, and timber management, historic and cultural resources, insect, disease, and invasive species management, rare or fragile species and natural community protection, soil protection, trail location and maintenance, wildfire control, and others.

## 3 The Open House: *Your Opportunity to Participate*

These management recommendations are then presented at "Open Houses". As the name implies, Open Houses are informal sessions that give citizens an opportunity to speak with foresters, wildlife biologists, and other resource professionals. The inventories, compartment maps, and recommended management actions are available for the public to look at and provide suggestions to MDNR staff.

## 4 The Compartment Review: *The Final Plan*

Modifications to the management recommendations are then incorporated into a finalized compartment plan to be presented at the "Compartment Review". The Compartment Review is a formal presentation that incorporates information from the initial inventory, the multi-disciplinary input period, and the open house. The presentation outlines the formal management plan for the compartment and includes an explanation of forest treatments if any are proposed.

