

## COMPARTMENT REVIEW RECORD OF CHANGES AND DECISIONS

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Pigeon River Country Forest Management Unit

2018 Year-of-Entry (YOE)

Pigeon River Country Headquarters, Vanderbilt

September 21, 2016



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The following document details the changes and decisions made at the Compartment Review to the Inventory database, reports, and compartment maps presented at the Open House for the Pigeon River Country Management Unit. This document is the official record of changes and decisions. Proposals originally presented were approved unless noted below.

### **Attendees**

Dan Heckman, FRD; Lindsey Henski, FOD; Kerry Fitzpatrick, WLD; Brian Mastenbrook, WLD; Dana Pelton, FRD; Tim Greco, FRD; Paige Perry, PRD; Steve Milford, FRD; Kerry Wieber, FRD; Jason Stephens, FRD; Greg Rekowski, FRD; Scott Whitcomb, FRD; Rick McDonald, FRD.

### **Comments from Stakeholders**

#### **Brad Garmon – Environmental Council**

A few comments from Michigan Environmental Council.

Note, these all approach or exceed the Concept's 40-acre clear cut max.

#### **Comp 37** Stands 67 and 101 combined treatment acreage = 53.9 acres.

*Stand 67 has 90- year old planted red pine, in an even-age class. If the goals it to replace it with a "Fully stocked stand of planted red pine" after clear cut and regeneration (see above), would say instead look at the desired treatment would not be a clear cut that requires planting post harvest. What alternatives exist to address thee acknowledged problems with successful regeneration in adjacent stands, i.e., "Desirable natural regeneration has not been obtained in seed-tree cuts in stand 46 adjacent to the east so this stand is being prescribed for a planting post-harvest"? Alter the proposed treatment to a thinning or select harvest to improve chances of natural regeneration (as per Concept of Management) and make the outcome a mixed age and mixed species stand with some of the significant older red pine retained (i.e., more than "one tree per acre" should be retained).*

*Would say the same about stand 71 (13 acres) and Stand 101.*

#### **Comp 43** STAND 46 (39.3 acres of 90-year old mixed upland forest being converted to even-aged aspen), slated for clear cut. Some reference made to disease in this stand but not noted in the prescribed treatment. Would ask for alternative to a clear cut, especially since goshawk have been sighted.

**Comp 13** Stand 34 is along Fisherman Trail. Very scenic area, popular drive. What are the “larger diameter deciduous trees” that are in there, and could more of them be retained? Could goal be mixed age mixed species rather than even age aspen? Also impacts the “trail” and some concern about steep slopes, apparently? Consider the approaches that don’t impact these to the degree that a clear cut would (i.e., erosion, etc.) Why eliminate the existing components of “mixed deciduous” and “mixed conifer” in these stands and go to even-aged aspen (post clear cut)?

Thanks,

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**Drew YoungeDyke – PRCAC, Wildlife Committee**

Hi all,

Per our discussion today, here is the recommendation of the Wildlife Committee:  
**The Wildlife Committee of the Pigeon River Country Advisory Council accepts the treatment recommendations with the exceptions noted below:**

**Compartment 37, Combined Stands 67 & 101: Seek alternative forest management treatment not requiring red pine seed replanting, encouraging natural regeneration per the Concept.**

**Compartment 13, Stand 34: Consider roadside buffers 34, consider aesthetic perception and slopes.**

**In future compartment reviews, when a proscribed cut approaches 40 acres, please provide reasoning consistent with the exceptions in the Concept of Management per a template the Council will develop.**

Thank you all.

Yours in Conservation,

**Drew YoungeDyke**  
*Chief Information Officer*  
**Michigan United Conservation Clubs**  
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**Barb Curtis**

I had planned on being able to come up to your open house, but I am still having trouble with my knee (tore some cartilage earlier this month).

Hope it all goes well and you have a good crowd. I just wanted to express my concerns about having some trees left along the trails. It is real easy to plan to do it, but if they aren't marked, it is also real easy for the loggers to go just a little further for a couple good trees and miss some of our newer trails. Yes, I realize this plan isn't to be cut til 2017, but there will be logging this winter and some of our newer equestrian trails are not on the maps and hard to see if you are just looking thru the woods (as it should be).

Thanks for keeping us horse folks in your mind, just pass it on to the forester. If the forester does happen to need a couple people who follow instructions to help with identifying the trail etc we can probably find a few without inviting everyone.

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**Kerry Mase**

Greetings ! Hope your summer has been great. I imagine the forest is tinder dry as it is here. Makes me nervous and I am not on call to fight fires. Hope we get lots of rain soon.

The reason I am writing is to ask a question that I know you can answer. I was looking over the 2018 forest treatment plan and see that several stands within sections 13, 14 and 15 of compartment 37 have horse trail/connectors within them and the plan calls for " Add appropriate trail specs for the horse trail connectors in the area". Can you please tell me what the "appropriate trail specs" are exactly?

Also I think the DNR web page for Pigeon River Country Forest (where I found the plan) is in need of an update. It still has the 2010 Proposed equine access map and nothing more recent. Lots of new stuff like the Discovery Center and the interpretive hiking trail not on the page.

**Compartment specific changes made during the Compartment Review:**

**Compartment 013 (Stand Examiner – Rick McDonald)**

- Stand 34 – Reshape the NW portion of treatment, by 16 acres, to reduce visual impact from road. Add specific recreation spec's referring to limited crossings and signage. Focus retention along trail and road to reduce visual impact.
- Compartment 14, Stand 52, is being approved this YOY to be treated in conjunction with Stand 34. Add specific recreation spec's referring to limited crossings and signage. Focus retention along trail to reduce visual impact.

**Compartment 021 (Stand Examiner – Rick McDonald)**

- Compartment 12, Stand 16, is being approved with Stand 56. Add trail protection spec's.
- Compartment 20, Stand 51, is being approved with Stand 56.
- Compartment 20, Stand 68, is being approved with Stand 38.

**Compartment 037 (Stand Examiner – Greg Rekowski)**

- Stand 2 – Change cover type objective to mixed upland deciduous.

### **Compartment 043 (Stand Examiner – Greg Rekowski)**

- No changes.

### **Compartment 046 (Stand Examiner – Greg Rekowski)**

- Compartment 47, Stand 52, is being approved with Stand 35.

### **Compartment 061 (Stand Examiner – Rick McDonald)**

- Stand 24 – Motorcycle symbol needs to be removed from the map.
- Stands 34, 38 & 79 – Protect MCCC trail and trail markers.

### **SCA Recommendations**

All recommendations regarding the reclassification and removal of stands previously coded as “Potential Old Growth” (POG) under the Operations Inventory Protocol have been reviewed and approved as part of this compartment review.