

	Comments
	Forest Cover and Wildlife Habitat Management
1	might need to add more oversight as the state has been invaded by emerald ash bore & pine wasp.
2	Forest Cover and Wildlife Habitat Management The riparian area surrounding and including Pickerel Lake and its outlet should be included as a Natural Area/Special Conservation Area. Loons nest each year on the Lake. Bald eagles frequent the area and osprey have nested there. Yellow and pink Ladyâ€™s Slippers bloom along the hiking trail in the spring as does the rare Rams Head Orchid. This area should be preserved! Timber sales for income should not be permitted within one-half mile of the surrounding wetlands
3	<p>We have been backcountry camping in PRC for almost 20 years, every year the wildlife is decreasing drastically!! The days of multiple herds of elk are now gone. The fields that were planted and tilled in the past are now nothing but weeds and blown sand. One of the other contributing factors in my opinion in the decrease in the elk population is the multiple hunts that take place every year. When you do get the rare opportunity to see an elk in the wild it has probably been shot at in the past because the once majestic elk that you use to be able to sit and watch endlessly now runs for cover at the slightest movement. Unfortunately the best elk viewing is no longer in PRC but in Gaylord a short drive away...behind a fence!!! My hat is off to the City of Gaylord.</p> <p>The decrease in critters isn't just the elk, you rarely see anything except the occasional white tail, where in the past the PRC was full of porkies, coons, badgers, all sorts of critters.</p>
4	We need these areas left open to help our failing economy. The area brings tourists for its serene beauty. Not only does it pull in money from within the state it also draws from out of state tourists.
5	I'm a little concerned about the statements about bicycling in this Pigeon River management concept. Can the text be clarified to state that all on-trail biking is acceptable use? I ride the High Country Pathway at least twice a year and I personally have put lots of my own time into maintaining the trail. Creating disputes over the rights of cyclists on this internationally recognized epic trail would be a loss for those that visit this wonderful section of Michigan.
6	You constantly refer to this area as "The Wild", when it is so evidently a park with all the cutting and roads so carefully planned. If this were truly wild, wouldn't you let it be? I am not saying what you are doing is wrong but characterizing it in this way is disingenuous.
7	The comment I am making here refers both to this category and the following, Aquatic Resources. There was an incident at Song of the Morning/Golden Lotus in Vanderbilt, MI, in 1984. Unsubstantiated statements are being made about Song of the Morning's part in this, stating much greater culpability than court documents show to be the case--which is that Song of the Morning was only minorly culpable in the incident and the MDNR had the greatest culpability. Song of the Morning has been responsible with wildlife and forest management--and efforts to show this is not so are inaccurate. Song of the Morning's (Golden Lotus') efforts should be supported as they have shown themselves to be responsible and they have the right of private ownership of these lands. History of private ownership of these lands have a long history. Let us not use a heavy hand of government to make life difficult for responsible private land owners.
8	I have been camping in the Pigeon River for over 20 years and this spring I was super upset on the way your current management is allowing the trees to be removed. I am not against select cutting, but total destruction of the forest around the trees you are removing should not be allowed. Why do you allow someone to leave total destruction when they are removing the selected trees?. This spring was the worst I have ever witnessed in all my 20 years. Who wants to hike through a forest where the brush is so thick from the removal of trees you cannot enjoy the walk. It saddens me very much to see this happening. There is another area where we camp where they have left completely good logs piled high to rot and never removed them. It appears who ever is managing the removal of the trees does not care about how the forest looks & is only interested on how much profit they can make from the lumber. My father was a forester and he taught me all about selective cutting & with the modern equipment removal is not that difficult and can be accomplished without leaving total destruction in its path. If this continues I will not camp anymore in this forest & I will advise more people on what is happening
9	No one likes to see logging, but I understand it is necessary for a healthy forest. Current logging practices are ok with me. Road conditions should be maintained during logging operations.

10	It appears you want fish and game preserved for the purpose of the sport of killing them. This is not a very advanced spiritual conscious. Most people come here to get out of the city, camp ,ski,hike, and enjoy the sites--not to kill!
11	It appears that it is the desire of the DNR to preserve the lives of fish and game in order to eventually kill them. It is our position here at Golden Lotus that the animals should be appreciated and preserved, not murdered.
12	<p>I appreciate the opportunity to comment.</p> <p>Page 14 para 2 comment on population goal for elk should be clarified to say for total elk population not just for the PRC. Is there a PRC goal?</p> <p>There is an oddly worded para 6 on page 14. The first sentence is OK, but the second sentence makes no sense. What is meant in the last sentence of this thought on page 15 para 1-are your getting at variability? Why not just say that.</p> <p>page 15 para 2 great opportunity to talk about snags, retention of down wood for drumming logs and hiding cover, or even mention retention guidelines; no mention of leaving live pockets. No mention of treatment size restrictions here. 40 acres may mean only 2 pairs of grouse, and it focuses elk browsing.</p> <p>page 15 para 3 what is herpetofauna-who is your audience?</p> <p>page 15 para 4 and 5 what was the original opening goal what do we have now and what % or acres do you desire? More clarity.</p> <p>page 16 mast production. No mention of beech or Beech Bark Disease. NO mention of other mast species only oak. There is no black oak in the PRC. There is no pin oak. There is Northern Pin oak. This is based on research findings with stem and</p> <p>page 16 para 3 in times of budget worries the PRC would be well advised to keep the best red pine areas in red pine for future</p> <p>page 16 para 7 only 40 acres limits grouse breeding success and may focus elk browsing damage.</p> <p>page 17 para 8 I think you meant economic not economical.</p> <p>page 18 did not mention the value of retention of live pockets in stands, nor retention of down dead, standing dead and retenti</p>
13	Please continue to allow snowmobilers to use this area. It is so refreshing to be able to go off trail and enjoy the nature offered there.

14	<p>Objectives Age Class Distribution</p> <p>Page 14: First paragraphs REMOVE last sentence and REPLACE with the following. The cover type where even-age management will be applied are aspen, jack pine, low quality hardwoods (red maple, etc.) red pine, lowland poplar, swamp conifers, paper birch, spruce-fir and white pine. REASON: "Forest Management Guidelines for Michigan" by the Michigan Society of American Foresters 1998. General Technical Reports- North Central Forest Experiment Station Manuals U. S. Forest Service and the 1973 Concept of Management.</p> <p>Regeneration of northern hardwood types and oak for wildlife is usually managed in an uneven-age system. A modified shelterwood treatment or the selection system of harvesting is a method that aims to develop a stand with a range of tree-age classes, from saplings to mature trees that will sustain the stand indefinitely. Developing large crown oaks will significantly increase acorn production as a wildlife food source.</p> <p>Openings and Upland Brush</p> <p>Page 15: Second paragraph " REMOVE the remaining portion of the paragraph starting with - The 1973 goals were largely i Following the 1964/65 hunting seasons the elk herd in the 300 mile primary range was estimated at 777 animals per the DNR Having today's DNR comparing elk reproduction relative to openings on the Pigeon is ridiculous and shows little knowledge With 600 square miles of habitat and food sources, including private farmlands, it was a natural happening for the elk population Page 15: Third paragraph " REPLACE the third sentence The combination of upland brush and grass opening cover should (Identical to the request submitted to Mindy Koch by the MRS on March 20, 2007.) Goals are what stimulate progress in all aspects of life's encounters. A second option is to follow the 1970 Deer Range Improvement Program (DRIP), requiring not less than 6 percent of the upland Page 16: First sentence " REMOVE but is sensitive to aesthetic values expressed as objectives elsewhere in this document</p> <p>Mast Production</p> <p>Red, white, black and pin oak should be maintained or increased to the extent feasible within the PRC etc. REMOVE maintain</p>
15	<p>Agree as outlined in the Draft.</p>
16	<p>As you stated the lands in Michigan are coming under increased stress.(Development & ATV use) With less & less land every year it only makes sense to start managing the remaining lands we have more effectively. WE HAVE WAY TOO MUCH OLD-GROWTH FORESTS IN MICHIGAN TODAY.</p> <p>Most of the birds and animals in the Pigeon River area require thick young growth, medium growth, forest edges or openings to thrive. Dozens of songbirds, ruffed grouse, deer, elk and especially the struggling Woodcock all need this patchwork mosaic of forest cover. They simply cannot live in the vast, continuous old-growth forest types.</p> <p>If lumber isn't worth what it once was,"OH-WELL". Then I guess you cut or control burn and leave the treetops to create fertilizer on the forest floor. Forest management must be stepped up!!</p> <p>The jackpine like the aspen is another species that must be cut or burned every 60 years or it becomes useless to wildlife. The Kirtlands Warbler especially needs young jackpine forests. Grouse and deer also much prefer smaller jackpine.</p> <p>I know everyone wants to preserve this area for its pristine beauty (so do I) But we must never forget about the wildlife that de</p>