

	Comments
	Recreation and Law Enforcement
1	Please leave the snowmobile regulations as they presently are. This is one of the most remote regions of lower Michigan to ride with very little snowmobile traffic.
2	Please DO NOT restrict snowmobile usage in the Pigeon River State Forest to only county roads. The trail system seems to be continually reduced and removing more and more portions of the trail system can make routing more difficult and less enjoyable. Snowmobiling is a great sport that brings people in contact with the great beauty of our state, not to mention contributes dramatically to the tourism industry.
3	I feel there is a need for more aggressive enforcement of snowmobiles and four wheeler use of the forest. Many regulations are ignored. Horse access should be restricted to specific trails within the forest.
4	<p>"The activity should not create the likelihood of user conflicts."--> Who is to determine the likelihood? Who will resolve the conflict? On what basis will the conflict be resolved? It seems to me that all users should have equal rights. No user group should have more "right" to use the area.</p> <p>"Snowmobiles shall be allowed only on roads identified as open on the Pigeon River Country State Forest Vehicle Access Map." --> Snowmobiles can cover a large area during an outing. This helps to keep the concentration low. Also, the impact is minimal since they are traveling over a significant layer of snow. There is also no mention of allowing snowmobiles full access to the current allowed areas and "re-evaluating" periodically the impact to the area.</p> <p>"improvements, such as boardwalks or bridges, should be made only to protect the resource, for public safety and not for the sole convenience of the user."--> Does this mean you won't install paved paths for the use of wheelchair users?</p> <p>"Horse droppings from non certified hay users potentially can spread destructive non native plant species." --> Horses are given full range of the area, are somewhat destructive of the terrain and have the ability to spread "destructive non native plant</p> <p>"Off road or off trail biking shall be prohibited." --> Why? How much area can a bicyclist cover in a day? What is the environ</p>
5	Leave the snowmobile access as it is. No marked trails, but access for responsible recreational riding with law enforcement patrol. This area offers a break of the heavy traffic on the trail system and is an experience sought by few, but enjoyed very much.
6	good as is.

7	<p>The draft management plan addresses the use of snowmobiles in the forest. Under the draft management plan, snowmobiles would be limited to only those roads on which motorized vehicles are allowed in the Pigeon River Country State Forest Vehicle Access Map. This map is out dated and would greatly reduce the roads on which snowmobiles could operate. Even with an updated plan not all the two tracks would be listed. We feel that if a hunter or fisherman has the ability to drive a 4X4 to his or her favorite spot in the spring, summer, and fall, a snowmobiler that has 80% less impact on the resource should be allowed access in the winter</p> <p>Presently snowmobiles are allowed to operate on all of the two tracks created by cars and trucks and not plowed by the county or department, unless closed by order. These two tracks and roads provide an experience that the average trail ride does not get. These trails are not groomed and allow snowmobilers to view and enjoy the winter wonderland. The number of snowmobiles using these trails is in the minority, tend to have their families with them, do not go off trail and because the trail is not groomed enjoy the ride at a much slower pace.</p> <p>Unlike the snowmobilers that are using the county road system to pass through the Pigeon, these snowmobilers are the quite</p>
8	<p>I would prefer the continued use of snowmobiles throughout the forest area, not just seasonal roads. Snowmobiles leave leave minimal footprint on the forest becasue they require snow to operate. This creates a barrier between the machine and ground. Since there are no designated trails, speed of motion would be kept to a minimum. If speed is low then the noise level of the machine would also be lower compared to running 35+ mph on a normal trail system. The number of snowmobilers that would travel the PRSF would be more experienced since there are no trails. This would keep traffic volume to a minimum.</p> <p>Please maintain the continued use of snowmobiles unrestricted in the PRSF so we can enjoy the wild character of what is Michigan.</p>
9	<p>This appears to violate the basic right of free assembly. If put into effect as stated, there is little doubt it would be used against the private land owners.</p>
10	<p>I am an avid outdoor recreational user and would just like to state that I hope the area continues to be available for access. To me this includes backpacking, rustic car camping, horseback riding and camping, mountain biking, canoeing and canoe camping. I understand that some of these activities may be considered "high impact" but that is a relative term. With assistance from various user groups I believe the area can be nurtured for use by all of them.</p>
11	<p>Please review your section concerning Horseback riding and it's impact on the environment and conflict with other recreational users.</p> <p>I have been visiting the PRC for 12 years now and have seen a steady increase in horseback riders and their interference with other area users. The main concern is in wildlife viewing. On multiple occasions (mainly the last several years) I have waited at a elk viewing field (with many other people) to "waste" a couple of hours. Right at that magical time at dusk when deer and elk appear in the fields I was completely shocked when I saw a line of horses walking thru the opposite side of the field where the elk ususally appear. Thus, I and about 15 to 20 other viewers left without seeing anything due to the free range of these horseback riders. With most people only able to be there on the weekend, chances are the only elk they will be able to view is by pure accident when driving down tin shanty or other roads in the area and they happen to catch a glimpse.</p> <p>If these "viewing" areas where originally set up for elk viewing, then the access by horseback or anything else should be limited in some fashion to provide the "optimal" environment for viewing the majestic elk in its "natural" surroundings.</p> <p>Thanks,</p>

12	<p>We just spent 6 days camping in PRC and much to our dismay, saw more vehicles running their dogs (bear) than elk. The presence of all of these dogs running at all hours of the day and night can not be healthy for the native wildlife. In the past you could sit around the campfire with your family and listen to whiperwils, coyotes, and any other type of critter in the woods and it was one of the most beautiful places in Michigan to camp, now you get some idiot chasing after his barking dogs in the middle of the night racing down a two track only to turn around and race past your camp once again when he can't find his dogs, this of course occurs several time a night and into the early morning hours.</p> <p>Then you get to listen to the proud horseman and his 10 riding buddies who ride down the middle of the ROAD, (not the horse trail mind you) who then tells their story of how they are confident they will find the elk and get as close as possible even if they have to chase after them. The horses have their place and I am sure most of them do exactly what they are suppose to do but there are a growing number that feel they are on horse and can go where ever they want to. While we were there seven</p> <p>We have camped at the same backcountry sight for as long as I can remember and there use to be a no horses signs at the e</p>
13	<p>As a member of the Michigan Mountain Bike Association I agree with the plan for biking. As long as there is access to several trails such as the High Country Pathway, the Shingle Mill, etc., there is no reason any one needs to be riding off-trail in the Pigeon River Forest. The MMBA will continue to work with the DNR in maintaining these trails.</p>
14	<p>In regards to the Management Plan for the Pigeon River Country Special Management Unit. This Plan is currently confusing and ambigious. While I wholeheartedly support conservation of our states natural recources I believe that to consider the exclusion of a legitimate and responsible group of users such as mountain bikers is unacceptable.</p>
15	<p>Have a cabin up there and I wish I could ride the ATV and sled through here and see all the wildlife</p> <p>I don't think a ban should be placed on state land</p>
16	<p>My family has been using the Pigeon River State Forest for 4 generations for hunting fishing and snowmobiling. I would like to see snowmobile access left as it is with no restrictions except for the Green Timbers area. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
17	<p>I live in Indian River and am a year round user of the PRSF (trout fishing, small game hunting and snowmobiling). I oppose any further restriction on snowmobiling in the Forest. I do not support opening up the Forest to a designated trail, but the Forest has appeal to a select group of riders that are looking for a backcountry riding experience, that focuses on quality site seeing and getting into the winter wilds, rather than on high speed touring. I can see no compelling reason to further limit the use of the Forest, thereby excluding the forest to this group. This activity, by its nature, is not concentrated and there is no evidence that the activity ever took place once the snow melts. In my experience, there is very little competing use of the Forest in the winter. Thank you.</p>
18	<p>i Think That snowmobileing should be allowed the same as it was last winter. one of the reasons vanderbuilt is such a good place for family and friends alike is the snowmobiling is so free and nice. so many miles of land for us to come and it is not likely to run into another group of snowmobilers. snow mobiles do not degade the land at all. they ride on top of the snow which is a renewable resource. if thee reason for the proposed ban is noise for the residents of the forest, then you should also be banning hunting. a snowmobile is just as much a peace disturber as a gunshot is. yu wont have people riding in the zones illegally if you dont restrict them. i have enjoyed the pigeon river forest for three years and it would be a great dissapointment if i cant ride there with my family in the spots where we are used to.</p>
19	<p>im new to the sport but have been riding in the Pigeon River forest for a few years. i would like to keep it that way. i understand that we would be able to ride on the "identified map roads" but i know that would greatly restrict uson our riding.</p>

20	<p>I find it appalling that in these hard economic times the DNR would even consider administering more restrictions which has the potential to discourage tourists coming to Michigan to enjoy a quiet ride in The Pigeon River State Forest. Why should the entire snowmobile industry be punished for the offenses of a few who might abuse this privilege to ride in such a beautiful surroundings? This is similar to closing I-75 because some drivers go over the speed limit and loose control.</p> <p>Michigan should be expanding access to wilderness areas to attract those who would come to see the beauty of this State, from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Ontario, and to encourage Michigan residents to stay home and ride.</p> <p>Please consider this letter to be a no vote on more restrictions to the Pigeon River State Forest, and a yes vote to tourist dollars, and income production for the businesses whose very survival are at stake with each restriction that gets enacted by the DNR, and legislature.</p>
21	<p>Being originally from Michigan, and with my family owning property in the Pigeon River Forest, I still try to stay aware of what is happening there as well as in other areas such as Yosemite, Yellowstone and the Coconino National Forest here in Arizona. I have read many articles and letters that talk about your potential changes in the laws governing where snowmobilers can ride. No one has ever changed my feelings. Big Government wants to make more laws that won't have the funding to be able to be enforced. Big Government can't even enforce the laws that are in effect now and keeps cutting the funding for our National Parks and Forests and wonders why the American public complains about our shoddy maintained wilderness areas, National Parks and National Forests. Look at how many of our parks and forests have had to charge the public extra dollars to maintain their existence. Then take a look around at all of the Government wasted dollars like the \$23MM "bridge to nowhere" in Alaska. How much more attractive and interesting could our parks and forests be with just that \$23MM? All of our major TV networks, like NBC's "Fleecing of America", report on the millions of dollars that are allocated by</p>
22	<p>Please do not close the Pigeon River area to "off-road" use by snowmobiles. Being from Ohio, I appreciate the chance to experience the winter travel on the back trails. Thanks. ps We ride out of Indian River at the StarGate Motel.</p>
23	<p>I find it disheartening that the section on bicycling within the PRC is rife with ambiguous language .</p> <p>Having been a mountainbiker for many years I am painfully aware of the bias that other user groups have for this activity . This bias is routinely based on nothing more than anecdotal evidence as to the detriment of bicycles in wilderness areas .</p> <p>While other user groups ie. hikers , mushroom hunters, hunters etc. have unfettered access to the PRC to roam where they please off trail and in a sense bushwacking through the PRC . Bicycling is to be closely monitored for "negative affect on the resource or the use or others should be prohibited" which leaves the door wide open for the banning outright of bicycle on any of the PRC trails .</p> <p>As a mountanbiker the idea that we would go offtrail and bushwack are way around the PRC like the above groups I mentioned is ludicrous in the extreme and borders on total ignorance of the activity in the least .</p> <p>Given the ambiguis bias stated in the Recreation and Law Enforcement portion of the draft , it sets a stage to embolden other user groups with an overt bias towerd cyclists to intiate an outright ban of bicycles on any trail within the PRC.</p> <p>I think it is incombant upon the agency that they take the opportunity to avail themselves of more informed opinions about the</p> <p>As a user group , mountainbikers are active in trail stewardship throughout the state of Michigan . That stewardship not only in</p> <p>As a user group we have are own method to expeariance nature and we beleive it to be no more detrimental to the wild areas</p> <p>Thank you for this opp0rtunity to respond to this current draft .</p>

24	<p>The draft management plan includes a section that addresses the use of snowmobiles in the forest. Currently snowmobiles may operate on the roads, two tracks open to vehicles, two tracks not opened to vehicles and trails. Using those two tracks not currently open to vehicles allows those of us riding snowmobiles to travel many miles into the forest. Under the draft management plan, snowmobiles would be limited to only those roads on which motorized vehicles are allowed. This would greatly reduce the roads on which snowmobiles could operate.</p> <p>Apparently, the reasoning behind the proposed limits on snowmobile use is because the noise of snowmobiles interferes with others' rights to recreate. However, it is rare that a snowmobiler, many miles from the main roads, will encounter anyone, not even another snowmobiler. I would be very surprised to find a cross country skier or snowshoer more than 8 miles from the trail head. Therefore, chances are that they are not enjoying the peacefulness of the forest in the same area I am.</p> <p>Snowmobiles deep in the forest operating on two tracks are not going fast. One rides very differently in the forest, on unmarked tracks.</p> <p>Snowmobiles that are manufactured today are quieter than ever. The four-stroke machines now available are not whiney as the two-stroke machines were.</p> <p>A very different group of snowmobilers rides in the forest. The forest does not offer gas stations or restaurants for frequent pit stops.</p> <p>There is concern that snowmobiles disturb wildlife. I have found that wildlife does not care about snowmobiles. We encountered many tracks in the forest.</p> <p>If there is concern that snowmobilers are operating in areas that are off limits, then we need to enforce the land orders already in place.</p> <p>Finally, I am concerned that emotions are making decisions, rather than sound science. Just how great or little is the noise associated with snowmobiles?</p> <p>Snowmobiles should not be allowed on footpaths or hiking trails in the Pigeon River State Forest. Snowmobiles should continue to be allowed on roads.</p>
25	<p>I would like to comment on limiting the use of snowmobiles in the PRC. I have ridden there many times in the past, and I see no environmental impact on the land, or the wildlife therein. I will not say there are not some who will give all snowmobilers a "black eye", but we (snowmobilers) for the most part, have no effects on the PRC. I would like to see the area patrolled, so anyone with a "loud pipe" could be disciplined. But that holds true for "Harley" motorcycles as well. I believe any tracks that are made by snowmobilers will be gone once the spring melt comes. An advantage to having snowmobiles in the PRC is many times the tracks made by snowmobiles are used by animals to make travel easier. Animals would much rather, and will, travel in tracks made by snowmobilers, to forage for food. The sound levels are actually minimal compared to other times of the year, as snow being a natural insulator, absorbs much of the noise that is created by snowmobiles.</p> <p>I ride quads as well as snowmobiles. They can be very erosive to the precious lands. I would not recommend opening more roads for quads. I would recommend however, leaving the area as a whole, open to snowmobilers. The few "bad apples" that do ride are the problem.</p> <p>Not all snowmobilers are "bad". Many of us like to ride in this area with our families. It is less congested, and safer for young people.</p> <p>Please keep PRC open for snowmobiles. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Member of Michigan Snowmobile Association, and active believer in "Zero Tolerance".</p>
26	<p>Please keep the trails open to bicycles.</p>

27	<p>I am writing on behalf of our organization with comments regarding the 2007 Draft Pigeon River Country Revised Management Plan. Unfortunately, we have some serious concerns relating to the Plan syntax pertaining to the bicycling user group. Specifically, our concerns pertain to the following Recreation and Law Enforcement, Management Objectives section of the Plan:</p> <p>Bicycling</p> <p>In keeping with the management objectives of wild character and low impact, the Department shall monitor resource impacts and user conflict that could result from bicycling. Bicycles will be restricted to open roads, trails, pathways and management roads. Off road or off trail biking shall be prohibited. At least every five years the Department shall determine if changes are necessary to ensure bicycling is not degrading the resource or causing unacceptable user conflicts.</p> <p>Our concerns are as follows:</p> <p>1.) <input type="checkbox"/> Implied Unjustifiable Biases Against the Bicycling User Group</p> <p>The bicycling user group is singled-out for monitoring in order to assess the user group's potential adverse resource impacts and user conflicts. Despite the fact that significant independent scientific research has been completed over the past</p> <p>2.) <input type="checkbox"/> Ambiguity in Wording</p> <p>This passage is rife with ambiguity. To wit, the sentence stating, "off road or off trail biking shall be prohibited" is confu</p> <p>3.) Lack of Scientific Method</p> <p>The primary charge of the MDNR is the protection of Natural Resources. This is a charge that, by necessity, can really only be</p> <p>In addition, since Pigeon River Country has nonmotorized trails that are designated "multi-use", how exactly will the De</p> <p>Before the Michigan Mountain Biking Association can support these revisions to the Pigeon River Management Plan, the conc</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
28	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>I find it appalling that in these hard economic times the DNR would even consider administering more restrictions which has the potential to discourage tourists coming to Michigan to enjoy a quiet ride in The Pigeon River State Forest. Why should the entire snowmobile industry be punished for the offenses of a few who might abuse this privilege to ride in such a beautiful surroundings? This is similar to closing I-75 because some drivers go over the speed limit and loose control.</p> <p>Michigan should be expanding access to wilderness areas to attract those who would come to see the beauty of this State, from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Ontario, and to encourage Michigan residents to stay home and ride.</p> <p>Please consider this letter to be a no vote on more restrictions to the Pigeon River State Forest, and a yes vote to tourist dollars, and income production for the businesses whose very survival are at stake with each restriction that gets enacted by the DNR, and legislature.</p>

29	<p>I have come to know Pigeon River Country and respect it's history and meaning through only one pastime, snowmobiling. I can say the same for many of it's supporters. I know personally at least a dozen other snowmobilers who had no idea what the PRSF was until I showed them. I know that these same people have told others about it and it's history. The snowmobiling community typically are outdoorsmen/women and understand the sanctity of such a place. Yes there are a few jackasses but the same can be said for fishermen, hunters, and city-folk too. I support the continued use of PRSF as it is, a thoroughly enjoyable and educational wintertime journey back in time via snowmobile. My children and my riding-friend's children have been positively influenced by it's primitiveness and scenery.</p>
30	<p>Recreation should be left as it has in the past with the land uses the same as it has been for all users. I agree with keeping ATV's and dirtbikes out as they do destroy the land. I also support keeping access to snowmobiles open as we run on top of the snow and ice and do not destroy the plantlife beneath and sometimes aid the wildlife in deepsnow situations with a path to ease thier way.</p>
31	<p>Please keep the Pigeon River Country trails open to snowmobiles. This is a very exciting way my family can enjoy this beautiful area and all it's wildlife without harming the land or wildlife. The snowmobile community/clubs take care to make sure trails are posted to stay in the designated trail areas.</p>
32	<p>First I would like to thank you for providing access to the horse trails in Pigeon River and the use of the camping facilities at Elk Hill.</p> <p>I can't tell you how much it means to me to go to Pigeon River two times a year and enjoy the trails, enjoy the companionship with my horse and enjoy the beautiful environment.</p> <p>I can assure you that my horse is his happiest and most cooperative when we are camping at Pigeon River.</p> <p>I hope that you will continue to welcome horses in the Pigeon River area. As a horse person, I am concerned about the loss of available trails for horses. I am beginning to feel like I (and my horse aren't welcome anywhere.) We are not welcome on the snowmobile and ATV trails. The hikers and mountain bikers don't want us either. It's nice to know that we are still welcome in Pigeon River. With the loss of horse trails & horse camping in other areas (such as Stoney Creek), horse riders are being forced into larger numbers in a confined area, which will increase damage to the soil and may lead to soil-erosion. As a horse-person, I am very concerned about the environment. I am also a hiker, backpacker and I cross-county ski in the w</p> <p>I am concerned that the "off-site" camps available to horse people has been greatly restricted. This again forces more people</p> <p>I do appreciate the new bunkers that have been put in the horse camps at Elk Hill. They are easy-to-find and convenient to us</p> <p>Finally, please realize that the horse industry is a big part of Michigan's economy. If there aren't funds necessary to maintain t</p> <p>I am a member of the Alpena County Horseman's Club, in Alpena, Michigan. I would like to volunteer my services and those of</p> <p>Thank you for reading my comments and concerns.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>

33	<p>we all know a few negligent riders can ruin a good thing for others. Hopefully employees of the dnr realize that without the income of snowmobiles and atvs from tickets permits ect... you would not have a job. Many weekends during snowmobile season I stay away from areas where the dnr patrols just in fear they will make up a violation. The days when you would view the dnr as an asset in the woods seem to be over, their presence always increases during the holidays when they know they can write lots of tickets. When ever I see a dnr officer they are trying to generate income not protecting and preserving our environment. Maybee a suggestion would be to penalize the few violators with stiffer fines. I met last year an orv rider in his mid 40's that takes an extra hundred dollars for his weekend rides in case he gets a ticket for driving in unauthorized areas he cares little if dnr is present in the woods. Snowmobiles and atvs are my passion If you limit their use in Michigan I will go somewhere else.</p>
34	<p>I would like to see snowmobile use continue as before. Restrictions to the vehicle access plan is too much. There are many great areas to explore on a snowmobile. Manufacturers continue to meet federal guidelines for noise and pollution. Enforcement of such strict travel would be difficult. Green Timbers provides a large area for non motorized recreation, and the hiking trails are off limits. Better signage is needed.</p>
35	<p>Having lived here for 30 years and down state and my family going back to the 1850's the snow mobiles and all terrain vehicles are noisy and a nuisance to most residents. They also tear up the land and scare the wildlife. This is also true of the hunters.</p>
36	<p>Having lived in the area for 30 years, It is my feeling that the snow mobiles and terrain vehicles tear up the land as well as being an auditory nuisance to the residents and animals.</p>
37	<p>The High Country Pathway is the most unique non-motorized trail system in the state. The sheer length and wild nature makes for an unforgettable mountain biking or hiking adventure.</p> <p>Thunder Bay Trails Association, (501C Non-Motorized Trails Advocacy Association), along with the Northern Chapter of the Michigan Mountain Biking Association has participated in several trails maintenance projects on the High Country Pathway. TBTA would hate to see the existing non-motorized trail system diminished in any way.</p> <p>In future timber cuts encompassing the HCP it would be nice if a buffer of forest would be left for a short distance on both sides of the pathway.</p>
38	<p>1) <input type="checkbox"/> I believe that the historical record of the area should be mentioned also so that current users can better identify why the PRC is the way it is. This should include photographs from the early days, a description of P.S. Lovejoy's efforts, photos of the PRC as a second growth forest and DNR decisions to add floodings and the High Country Pathway to the PRC, the Michigan Environmental Protection Act with its impact on oil and gas exploration in the PRC, etc.</p> <p>2) <input type="checkbox"/> The importance of Forest Headquarters as an educational institution should be better recognized. It is more than just a public interface and its role in showing and explaining animal and plant relationships should be emphasized. It provides an opportunity to show curious Michigan residents how plant and animal systems coexist and interact.</p> <p>3) <input type="checkbox"/> The Wildlife Viewing section should prohibit camping within ¼ mile of designated wildlife viewing areas. Then designating a place in the PRC as a wildlife viewing area would give the Unit Manager a tool to restrict camping that disturbs the wildlife.</p>

39	<p>page 21 para 4 3rd bullet point has to do with outlawing shooting sports doesn't it? I don't think you meant that but you may want to re-write this with hunting in mind. Also make the statement positive, not negative-same comment for all of these points. What is the wild character you speak of? Lawless frontier?</p> <p>page 21 para 5 should offer an exception for management purposes and emergencies.</p> <p>page 21 para 7 should the last "should" be "shall"?</p> <p>page 22 para 2 speaking of no clearing of waterways, don't you want some management descretion on that? Say ...unless approved by unit manager.</p> <p>page 22 para 4 personal use means I can pick it and sell it right? If you don't mean that, do you want to say no commercial use or no picking for re-sale or something similar.</p> <p>page 23 para 2 what about guiding, ecotours, elk hunts or tours, not unless permitted by manager?</p> <p>page 23 para 4 first we have heard of these areas yet no explantion as to why the are special or what the special management might be.</p>
40	<p>I would like to request you keep the forest open for snowmobile usage in the winter season. As an out-of-state rider the forest is one of the drawing points to get me to come to this area to ride. Here in Ontario snowmobiles and wildlife co-exist quite agreeably. I often see turkeys and deer when out riding and like to see them when I rider other areas. Deer tend to like the snowmobile trails in the winter when the snow gets deep as it makes it easier for them to move around. Please consider snowmobilers as a partner in the management of the forest and continue to give us access.</p>
41	<p>Please do not restrict snowmobile access in the forest. It is not needed. Most snowmobilers stay on the main roads anyway. The ones who use the back trails in my experience are families and people who own land in the forest. I have always found them respectful of the forest and wildlife.</p> <p>Do not punish those of us who truly enjoy and respect the forest becuase of a few who don't.</p> <p>As snowmobilers we pay alot of taxes and fees that support state land. We should have access to it. Thank you.</p>

42	<p>Page 21: First three paragraphs, no recommended changes. Recreational Use Criteria</p> <p>â€œIn the eight listed activities REMOVE should and replace with SHALL. The word should means probability to happen, therefore the meaning of the word should is â€œIt would be nice If.â€œ Is this what we want the policies for the Pigeon-- to be, NO ENFORCEMENT? Management Objectives</p> <p>Wheeled Motorized Vehicles: No recommended changes</p> <p>Snowmobiles: REMOVE the existing paragraph and REPLACE with the following.</p> <p>Snowmobiles shall be restricted to the 175 miles of identified county roads.</p> <p>No roads or trails shall be used as a designated snowmobile route. The Department reserves the right to use these vehicles outside the above guideline for management purpose. (Similar to the request submitted to Mindy Koch by the MRS on 03/20/07.)</p> <p>INFORMATION: The following snowmobile regulations are taken from, â€œThe 2006 Land and Resource Management Planâ€™ for the Huron-Manistee National Forests.</p> <p>â€œRestrict Off-Highway Vehicle travel, including snowmobiles, to designated trails or areasâ€œ .</p> <p>â€œRestrict snowmobile travel to designated trails or open unplowed roadsâ€œ .</p> <p>â€œRelocate or abandon snowmobile trails on roads when concurrence cannot be obtained from local road authorities to elim</p> <p>Camping: No recommended changes</p> <p>Pathways (non-motorized trails): No recommended changes. Canoes, Kayaks, Tubes and Other Watercraft:</p> <p>Page 22: First sentence, REMOVE on the Forest and REPLACE it with in the Pigeon River Country. This agrees with other us</p> <p>Information and Education: No recommended changes.</p>
43	<p>I find it discouraging that the DNR would even consider administering more restrictions which have the potential to discourage tourists coming to Michigan to enjoy a quiet ride in The Pigeon River State Forest. This is one of my favorite areas to ride with my family on the busy weekends to avoid the congestion of the marked trails. Why should the entire snowmobile industry be punished for the offenses of a few who might abuse this privilege to ride in such a beautiful surroundings? This is similar to closing I-75 because some drivers go over the speed limit and loose control.</p> <p>Michigan should be expanding access to wilderness areas to attract those who would come to see the beauty of this State, from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Ontario, and to encourage Michigan residents to stay home and ride.</p> <p>Please consider this letter to be a no vote on more restrictions to the Pigeon River State Forest, and a yes vote to tourist dollars, and income production for the businesses whose very survival are at stake with each restriction that gets enacted by the DNR, and legislature.</p>

44	<p>Strongly oppose snowmobiles be restricted to road use only. Agree that no road or trail be used as a designated snowmobile route.</p> <p>Strongly oppose camping equipment be restricted to a certain size rig.</p> <p>Disagree with "Recreational Use Criteria" that pertains to created noise. Any noise, such as gun shots during hunting or even talking can be an interruption of solitude of the forest.</p>
45	<p>This is a problem all over Michigan and unfortunately will only get worse with more ATV trails scheduled and fewer CO's and Sheriffs in northern MI to patrol for these "slobs" who think they can create a road or mud-pit anywhere they damn well please. (YES, on State and Federal lands)</p> <p>I also ride my ATV - I love riding trails and finding new places to hunt. But I am appauled at the amount of garbage left along the trails. Everytime I ride the carton on my ATV is full of cans/bottles I pickup. The next week there is more.</p>
46	<p>My comments are regarding specific wording in the plan as pertaining to mountain bike activities. Some wording comes across as ambiguous, and could possibly be construed as the singling out of a group of recreational participants. Please dont shut out mountain bikers.</p>