

TO: Lee Evison, Forest Planner, Huron-Manistee National Forest
DATE: 17 January 2011
RE: Forest Plan SEIS

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to the Forest Plan for the Huron-Manistee National Forest. These comments are generated by a review of the Federal Register notice of 28 December 2010.

The wildlife conservation organizations listed below represent the interests of millions of hunter conservationists across the nation. We strongly urge the Huron-Manistee National Forest to select the No-Action alternative and, thereby, continue to allow firearm hunting on all Semiprimitive Nonmotorized Management Areas and the Nordhouse Dunes Primitive Area.

Language from the Circuit Court decision that prompted the development of the SEIS suggesting that nonhunters who recreate on lands open to public hunting should be able to do so “without ducking the occasional gunshot” demonstrates a complete lack of understanding of what transpires as hunters venture afield. In addition, the decision ignores the many decades of harmonious coexistence between hunters and other recreationists on public lands throughout Michigan and across America.

The proposal to discriminate against sportsmen and women by eliminating their opportunity to pursue their passion in the relatively secluded nature of the areas identified in the SEIS is inappropriate and unnecessary. The opportunity to hunt with a firearm exists for only approximately 5 months annually in Michigan and substantial hunter activity occurs literally for only a handful of days each year in association with the gun deer season (mid November) and several weekends during other popular seasons.

As our nation works to introduce a greater proportion of our citizens to the outdoors, it would be counterproductive to create artificial barriers to do so by establishing zones where well-supported and long-practiced recreational uses are no longer allowed. We strongly urge the Huron-Manistee National Forest to aid in sustaining our hunting heritage by selecting the No-Action Alternative as outlined in the SEIS.

Thank you for your time.

Archery Trade Association – Mitch King – mitchking@archerytrade.org
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies – Gary Taylor – gtaylor@fishwildlife.org
Bear Trust International – Melissa Reynolds-Hogland – mejor1@yahoo.com
Boone & Crockett Club – Steve Mealey – stevemealey@msn.com
Catch-A-Dream Foundation – Jimmy Bullock – jbullock@resourcemgt.com
Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation – Gary Kania – garyk@sportsmenslink.org
Conservation Force – John Jackson – jjw-no@att.net
Dallas Safari Club – Ben Carter – ben@biggame.org
Ducks Unlimited – Scott Sutherland – ssutherland@ducks.org
Houston Safari Club – Chris Susilovich – chris@houstonsafariclub.org
International Hunter Education Association – Wayne East – exdir@ihea.com
Mule Deer Foundation – Miles Moretti – miles@muledeer.org
National Association of Forest Service Retirees – Darrel Kenops – dkenops@msn.com
National Rifle Association – Susan Recce – srecce@nrahq.org
National Shooting Sports Foundation – Larry Keane – lkeane@nssf.org
National Trappers Association – Jim Curran – jcurran@cccomm.net
National Wild Turkey Federation – James Earl Kennamer – jkennamer@nwtf.net
North American Bear Foundation – Brian Bachman – nabf@brainerd.net
North American Grouse Partnership – Ralph Rogers – rrogers@grousepartners.org
Orion-The Hunters’ Institute – Eric Nuse – ericnuse@gmail.com
Pheasants Forever – Dave Nomsen – dnomsen@pheasantsforever.org
Pope & Young Club – Mike Schlegel – mws1941@gmail.com
Quail Forever – Dave Nomsen – dnomsen@pheasantsforever.org
Quality Deer Management Association – Kip Adams – kadams@gdma.com
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation – Blake Henning – bhenning@rmef.org
Ruffed Grouse Society – Larry Visser – rgsviss@gmail.com
Safari Club International – Larry Rudolph – lrudolph@safariclub.org
The Wildlife Society – Laura Bies – laura@wildlife.org
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership – Tom Franklin – tfranklin@trcp.org
Tread Lightly! – Lori McCullough – lori@treadlightly.org
United States Sportsmen’s Alliance – Bill Horn – whorn@dc.bhb.com
Whitetails Unlimited – Peter Gerl – petegerl@whitetailsunlimited.com
Wild Sheep Foundation – Gray Thornton – gthornton@wildsheepfoundation.org
Wildlife Forever – Tim Richardson – trichardson@wildlifeforever.org
Wildlife Management Institute – Steve Williams – swilliams@wildlifemgt.org