



Michigan National Forests

USDA FOREST SERVICE

Eastern Region

Michigan National Forests

Your National Forests: Informational Briefing

Michigan has over 2.8 million acres of national forests within the State. This acreage is comprised of three National Forests: the *Hiawatha National Forest*, located in the eastern half of Michigan's Upper Peninsula; the *Ottawa National Forest*, located in the western half of the Upper Peninsula; and the *Huron-Manistee National Forest* (two separate forests combined in 1945), located in northern lower Michigan.

Each of these national forests are located within an easy day's drive for over 25 million people. The national forests in Michigan are multiple-use forests. This means they are used for commodity production, recreation, and a multitude of other uses. These are public forests and are open for all to enjoy.

Recreation opportunities are varied and Michigan national forests log over 8 million recreation visitor days yearly. Visitors come to enjoy:

- 2,500 miles of rivers (259 miles of Congressionally designated Wild & Scenic Rivers)
- Over 1,000 lakes
- Over 1,000 campsites
- Nearly 100,000 acres of Congressionally designated wilderness
- Over 2,000 miles of trails (hiking, snowmobiling, x-country skiing, mountain biking, etc.)
- The entire area is open to hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, berry picking, etc.

Timber harvest is managed to accomplish numerous objectives: the production of raw materials; to provide habitat for wildlife, plants and fish; and to restore the forests to more vital and healthy ecosystems. Logging is done on the forests with over 120 million board feet of timber harvested annually.

Receipts from activities on the national forests in Michigan are returned to the U.S. Treasury, with 25 percent of them being returned to the State. In addition, the counties with national forest lands within their boundaries receive Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payments for each acre of federal land within the county to help offset the loss of property tax revenue.

The forests maintain many District Offices in a variety of communities throughout Michigan, as well as visitor centers, developed recreation areas, an extensive road system, and over 4,000 historic and prehistoric sites.

Forest Service employees are vital members of the communities in which they live and the forests themselves aid local communities and counties in many areas, including economic development, seeking grants, and natural resource educational help with schools and community groups.

All of the above make the Hiawatha, Huron-Manistee and Ottawa National Forests a vital part of Michigan.

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Forest Contacts

- *Hiawatha National Forest*
906-789-3329
- *Huron-Manistee NF*
231-775-5023
- *Ottawa National Forest*
906-932-1330,

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Benefits to Michigan Residents in 2001



Michigan has the largest number of hunters of any state and is 4th in fishing.



- Receipts from activities on the national forests are returned to the U.S. Treasury, with **25 percent** of them being returned to Michigan. In 2001, this return totaled: **\$3,038,937**.
- Payment in Lieu of Taxes (**PILT**) payments to counties totaled **\$1,734,396**
- There are **394** National Forest **employees** living in Michigan with an estimated **payroll of \$15 million**. These employees live in and aid the local communities paying taxes, purchasing homes and goods, etc.
- Michigan has the largest number of **hunters** (nearly 1.1 million) of any state and is 4th in fishing (1.8 million **anglers**) and has over 2.4 million people who participate in **wildlife viewing/bird watching**.
- Approximately **37% of all hunting** within Michigan is done on national forest lands. **Retail sales** related to hunting on national forest land alone are estimated at **\$150 million** with over **3,200 jobs** created as a result. Statewide, hunters spend over \$800 million.
- The number of people participating in **hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing increased 63%** from 1980 to 1990. This number is expected to increase an additional 150% by the year 2040.
- Approximately **35% of all wildlife viewing/bird watching** is done on national forest lands within Michigan. **Retail sales** for these activities on national forest lands are estimated at **\$118 million** with over **2,600 jobs** created as a result.
- Michigan National Forests log over **8 million recreation visitor days** yearly. Visitors come to recreate at the developed camp sites (**1,000 campgrounds**) and in our serene, natural settings (**100,000 acres designated wilderness**). Other visitors prefer to fish, canoe and kayak (**2,500 miles of rivers and 1,000 lakes**); or hike, bike and ski (**over 2,000 miles of trails**). This is just a sampling of the many activities people can enjoy on their forests.
- Over **\$9.9 million in receipts** were generated through **harvesting 115 million board feet of timber**. (In spite of this, Michigan remains a major importer of timber from Ontario and southern states).
- **Timber sales employ directly 1,500** people and **indirectly employ over 10,000** people through related jobs (mills, equipment, trucking, etc.)
- Michigan boasts **more snowmobilers than any other state**. Residents and non-residents alike enjoy recreating on **6,000 miles of maintained trails** throughout the State.



Accomplishments in FY 2001

Forest Roads and Watershed Health and Restoration

- Surveyed, designed and implemented 10 watershed protection projects, which involved a multitude of partners, to upgrade roads and trails that were contributing to degraded watershed conditions.
- Improved inland lake habitat and spawning through 125 miles of stream habitat restoration and/or enhancement and 1,165 acres of inland lake habitat and spawning improvement, incorporating multiple partnerships.
- Developed collection agreements, challenge cost-share agreements, cooperative agreements and public work agreements to help complete on-the-ground projects, management plans for specially designated areas, and forest plan implementation. Partnership agreements and grants contributed over \$2 million in cash and in-kind contributions to the Michigan National Forests

Sustainable Forest Management

- Offered and sold 115 million board feet of wood in support of ecosystem management and local communities valued at \$9.9 million.
- Accomplished reforestation of 65,988 acres of land.
- Completed silvicultural examination on over 90,000 acres.
- Provided extensive wildfire standby and response to 80 wildfires which burned 368 acres in Michigan.
- Over 50 staff assignments for Michigan Forest personnel in support of western wildland fires and to support recovery efforts in New York and Washington, D.C., after the September 11 attacks.
- Completed wildlife program of work and surveys in combination with multiple partners, volunteers and cooperating interest groups.
- Accomplished over 2,500 acres of hazardous fuels treatment within a xeric ecosystem to reintroduce fire into the system, simulate natural disturbance intervals, and maintain savannah/meadow systems.

Recreation

- Provided over 8 million visitor days of recreation activities, events, services and facility use to residents and visitors.
- Through the Rec Fee Demo Project, \$511,000 in revenues have been raised to help complete maintenance backlogs and support other recreation projects.
- Numerous construction/reconstruction efforts were completed, such as trail surface hardening, construction and bridge installation on the North Country Trail National Scenic Trail, installed playground equipment at the Lake Michigan Recreation Area, installation and replacement of toilets, installation of fire rings, installation of wells at Lake St. Katherine, Clark Lake and Langford Lake areas, just to name a few.
- Administration and management of 16 National Wild and Scenic Rivers statewide.
- Winter recreation snowmobile trails being maintained by partners and rights-of-way acquisitions sought for permanent trail system.



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FY 2001 Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Payments 25% Payments

OTTAWA NATIONAL FOREST

<u>County (Michigan)</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2001</u>	
	<u>PILT Fund</u>	<u>25% Fund</u>
Baraga County	\$ 32,934	\$ 52,887
Gogebic County	224,513	366,844
Houghton County	116,587	184,498
Iron County	140,696	210,765
Marquette County	17,096	14,379
Ontonagon County	<u>209,691</u>	<u>336,095</u>
TOTALS	\$741,517	\$1,165,468

HIAWATHA NATIONAL FOREST

Alger County	\$ 134,802	\$ 137,169
Cheboygan County	0	34
Chippewa County	122,545	228,128*
Delta County	154,196	257,715
Mackinac County	34,437	162,182
Marquette County	-above-	6,256
Schoolcraft County	<u>53,180</u>	<u>130,659</u>
TOTALS	\$499,160	\$ 922,143

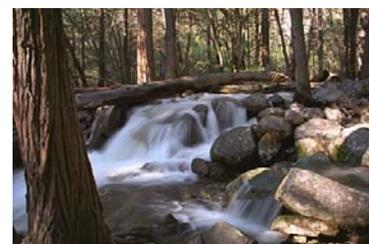
HURON-MANISTEE NATIONAL FOREST

Alcona County	\$ 37,843	\$ 140,503*
Crawford County	28,249	30,414
Iosco County	47,777	90,953
Ogemaw County	1,599	24,818*
Oscoda County	58,819	186,189*
Barry County	11,538	10
Genesee County	0	7
G. Traverse County	0	2
Lake County	65,666	99,152
Manistee County	52,975	77,393
Mason County	41,241	53,561
Mecosta County	1,690	3,052
Montcalm County	1,702	1,553
Muskegon County	11,303	11,072
Newaygo County	57,756	97,349
Oceana County	28,219	49,993
Otsego County	0	4
Wexford County	<u>47,342</u>	<u>85,301</u>
TOTALS	\$ 493,719	\$951,326

* Elected to receive full payment amount

The PILT Payment. Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) are Federal payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable Federal lands within their boundaries. The key law that implements the payments is Public Law 94-565. The Law recognizes that the inability of local government to collect property taxes on Federally-owned land can create a financial impact. Payment in Lieu of Taxes (**PILT**) payments to counties totaled **\$1,734,396** in fiscal year 2001.

Fiscal year 2001 PILT payments and other general information regarding PILT can be obtained at the Bureau of Land Management's website: www.blm.gov



The 25% Payment. Each year the Forest Service returns 25 percent of all revenues to the State Of Michigan for distribution among the counties whose borders overlap with national forests. These funds are distributed to counties based on the amount of national forest receipts within each county, and are to be used for school and road programs.

In Fiscal year 2001, under new Public Law 106-393(the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000), counties had the option to stay with traditional 25% payments or to receive a stable "full payment" option based on an average of the three highest payments between 1986 and 1999.

In 2001, **\$3,038,937** were returned to the counties in Michigan.