

Operating Plan

for

A Peaceful Assembly and Expression of Free Speech¹

Huron-Manistee National Forests
June & July 2015

6/27/2015

Copies of the Operating Plan will be available at the gathering information center and at other locations.

This Operating Plan has been developed to mitigate potential resource impacts associated with the above-stated assembly on the Huron-Manistee National Forests. It is designed to follow the Standards and Guidelines of the Huron-Manistee Forest Plan, and the Code of Federal Regulations (CFRs) applicable to National Forest Service System Lands. Copies of existing applicable Forest-wide and local closure orders will be included as part of this Plan. These closure orders will be enforced by the Forest Service.

Regularly scheduled meetings between the Forest Service and those gathering in the above-stated assembly will occur to address concerns that arise.

The primary goals of this Operating Plan are to:

- **Ensure public health and safety**
- **Minimize impacts to the resources and leave the site at or near pre-gathering conditions**
- **Minimize impacts and disruptions to local communities**

¹ The Assembly is also known as the 2015 Michigan Rainbow (Rainbow Family of Living Light) Gathering and environmental workshop.

HEALTH and SAFETY

- 1) Individuals are responsible for their own health and safety.
- 2) The Forest Service will be notified of any contagious outbreaks.
- 3) Biological hazards generated at the first aid medical tent or elsewhere, will be disposed of at an appropriate medical waste disposal facility. No biological waste will be buried, remain on the site, or disposed of with other trash.
- 4) Those gathering will establish contacts with local agencies, businesses, and organizations to arrange services (i.e., garbage, recycling, medical) and supplies as needed.
- 5) Those gathering will be responsible for emergency medical coordination and evacuation with area medical facilities.

PARKING/TRAVEL

- 6) All four wheels of parked vehicles must be off the road and parked within one car length of the road. Those gathering are solely responsible to provide personnel to organize, direct, and provide security for the parking area(s), and will strongly encourage the parking guidelines. Site specific needs will be addressed by those gathering to provide for shuttle, supply, route closures, etc. Vehicles parked in areas specifically closed for parking, or parked in a manner that interferes with ingress/egress of emergency vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense. Local travel management restrictions will be adhered to and followed at all times.
- 7) Administrative parking areas are identified by the Forest Service. These areas will be signed and marked. If the area markings are removed, anything stored in that area will be confiscated, and any vehicles parked in that area will be towed. It is the responsibility of those gathering to ensure these areas remain accessible to the Forest Service.

CAMPING

- 8) Sensitive areas (wetlands, sensitive species, archeological sites, etc.) will be flagged by the Forest Service. Those gathering are responsible for not camping or congregating within these areas and for not removing items from these areas (plants, items over 50 years old such as bottles, cans, etc.).
- 9) The Forest Service rules state there will be no camping within 100 feet of surface water, or where posted. Thus camps must be on dry or hardened sites that are not creating resource damage such as mud bogs or trampling of plants, particularly in riparian zones.

KITCHENS

- 10) Gray water and compost pits should be at least 100 feet from surface water (unless otherwise agreed upon by the Forest Service Resource Advisors) and should not be located in areas that contain riparian vegetation. They should be covered when filled to approximately 5 inches from the surface.

- 11) If ground water appears while digging any holes (slit trenches, gray water, compost pits, etc.) the site should be immediately refilled, abandoned and moved to a different location, generally uphill.
- 12) Those gathering will monitor all activities to ensure that soap, disinfectants, medical waste, or any other foreign material will not be introduced into lakes, streams, or other surface waters.
- 13) Avoid excavating or digging out around drinking water sources.
- 14) Kitchen washing procedures are recommended to be a three bucket system. A hand washing station is recommended for each kitchen area.
- 15) Drinking water should be filtered, boiled, and/or treated.

SLIT TRENCHES

- 16) Those gathering are advised to maintain approximately one functioning latrine per 100 people. The treatment of human waste is dependent upon numerous factors. Therefore, to assure health and safety of visitors the following actions should be followed:
 - Slit trenches or earth pit privies will be used.
 - They should be constructed on upland, dry sites.
 - They should be located at least 100 feet from surface waters, kitchens and down slope from any drinking water sources unless agreed upon with Forest Service Resource Advisors.
 - Trenches should be approximately 12-18 inches wide (i.e. shovel width or better) and of an adequate length for the anticipated number of people.
 - Buckets of lime or wood ash shall be available at all trenches or privy sites.
 - Trenches or pits shall be closed when they fill to approximately 15 inches of the surface.
 - A hand wash station should be provided at each location.

TRASH

- 17) All trash will be removed from the site. Only paper and wood trash will be burned on site.
- 18) Those gathering are cautioned that there is a healthy black bear population in the area. Those gathering should minimize food odors to minimize bear encounters and follow the attached "Be Bear Aware" recommendations.

CAMPFIRES/FUEL WOOD

- 19) Fires will be attended to at all times. All community fire hearths/pits will be no larger than approximately 10 feet in diameter unless agreed upon. It is recommended that a shovel and at least one 3 gallon container of water be placed at each campfire location.

- 20) Fire rings will utilize rock or mud linings to prevent spread. Do not dig out fire pits in the meadows. In other areas, the immediate surface material should just be removed.
- 21) Only dead and down firewood may be used. No cutting of green trees or standing dead trees will be allowed. Standing dead trees provide roosting and nursery sites for the federally threatened Northern Long-Eared Bat. With Forest Service Resource Advisors' specific approval, individual standing dead trees may be removed on a case by case basis.

ANIMALS

- 22) To ensure wildlife safety, protect natural resources and minimize negative impacts to public health, animals must be under leash control at all times.
- 23) Animal waste will be cleaned up immediately and disposed of in slit trenches, compost pits or in another environmentally responsible manner.
- 24) All domestic animals will be removed by those gathering.

SITE REHABILITATION


- 25) Unless areas are identified and excluded by the Forest Service Resource Advisors, all parking areas, bus villages, trails, and areas of concentrated use will be scarified and seeded with annual ryegrass or other grass mix approved by the Forest Service. Brush, limbs and other dead and down material may be used as mulch on slopes greater than 30 percent. Seeding will be accomplished by the end of cleanup of the gathering, if necessary.
- 26) Slit trenches, latrines and fire pits will be filled and covered with native material from the surrounding area or native material originally removed from the pit and mounded with excess material to allow for settling. Rocks will be scattered to give a natural appearance to the landscape except within fields/meadows where they must be scattered outside of the field/ meadow area.
- 27) All trash will be removed and disposed of at recognized sanitary landfills, transfer stations, or local trash hauling companies.
- 28) All human made structures not previously existing at the gathering location (bridges, non-natural materials, swings, lean-to's, ovens, "art" etc.) will be dismantled, removed, or scattered to achieve a natural appearance.
- 29) Any user created trails will be obliterated. Existing trails will be returned to a width specified by the Forest Service, with the appropriate water controls to avoid concentrations of water and prevent erosion and gully formation.
- 30) All water lines will be removed from the gathering site.
- 31) All vehicles abandoned by those gathering will be removed from the National Forest at the owner's expense and at no cost to the Forest Service.
- 32) Site specific rehabilitation needs will be identified at a walk through with those gathering and the Forest Service Resource Advisors after July 4, at a time to be pre-determined.

DEVELOPED RECREATION FACILITIES

- 33) Only paying campers are permitted to use the facilities at the Seaton Creek Campground, and other developed campgrounds.

PRIVATE LAND

- 34) Private land occurs to the west of the gathering site and has been posted by the Forest Service with orange stakes. Those gathering should refrain from trespassing onto these lands. The boundary may be enhanced by those gathering and posted to avoid unintentional trespass.


Leslie Auriemma
Forest Supervisor

6/28/15
Date



**ORDER OF THE FOREST SUPERVISOR
SETTING FORTH RESTRICTIONS AND CONDITIONS
FOR POSSESSION, STORAGE OR TRANSPORTATION OF
ALCOHOL AND DRUGS WITHIN THE
HURON-MANISTEE NATIONAL FORESTS**

Under the authority of the Act of Congress of June 4, 1897, as amended (16 USC 551), and the Secretary of Agriculture's Regulations 36 CFR 261.50(a) and or (b), the following acts and omissions are prohibited on the Huron-Manistee National Forests.


- A. For the protection of public safety it is prohibited to Possess, utilize, and/or distribute a controlled substance (as defined by Title 21 of the United States Code, Chapter 13, Subchapter I, Part B, Section 812) or any associated paraphernalia. 36 CFR 261.53 (e)**
- B. Possessing or consuming an alcoholic beverage in violation of any State of Michigan statute is prohibited. 36 CFR 261.58(bb)**

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions in 36 CFR 261, Sub-part A.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions set forth in 36 CFR 261, Subpart A. This order will be reviewed every five years to determine if the regulations are still applicable for proper management of the area described. The prohibitions will be in effect from the date of this order until specifically withdrawn by termination order of the Forest Supervisor.

Violations of these prohibitions are punishable by a fine of not more than \$5000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or both. (16 U.S.C.551 and 18 U.S.C. 3559 and 3571).

Dated this 24th day of October, 2014 at Cadillac, Michigan.



Leslie Auriemma
Forest Supervisor
Huron-Manistee National Forest