

PRD - STANDARD MANAGEMENT ZONES

3/2012 - PNC

Introduction

Critical to the Management Planning process is the identification and delineation of “Management Zones”. These are areas with defined characteristics and qualities, for which there are related user expectations, management guidance, and defined levels of development.

In the order presented, these zones reflect a progression from that of the ‘Ecologically Sensitive Zone’ which is highly restrictive for use, and totally focused on attaining and maintaining a pristine natural resource environment, to the other end of the spectrum where the ‘Developed Recreation Zone’ reflects conditions focused on development and visitor use, with the natural resources still important, but secondary.

Incorporated in each zone description is direct guidance as to how the four primary components of our Mission Statement are addressed in each zone. Those components are: “...Acquire, protect and preserve (1) Natural Resources, and (2) Historic and Cultural Resources, and provide (3) Recreation Opportunities, and (4) Educational Opportunities.

Additionally, for each zone there will be descriptors of (5) Visitor Experience, (6) Management Focus, and (7) Development Guidance.

The general language found within these descriptions will be used to establish the zones of the park in Phase 1 planning. Once established, these zone descriptions will then be written in the General Management Plan to be specific to the park and sensitive to the park’s significance, unique attributes, and qualities.

Zone Descriptions

(1) “ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE ZONE” - *The purpose of this zone is enhancement and protection of the native community and natural process over and above any other uses (including recreational) that might be contemplated. This zone restricts public use and development. An example for the use of the Ecologically Sensitive Zone is when critical habitat must be protected, such as an area of ‘Lakeplain Prairie’, or one where federally protected species are found, such as the Lake Huron tansy or the piping plover.*

There are instances where this zone can be “Seasonal”. An example of this a heron rookery, where restrictions would be in-place for a portion of the year while the rookery is active. Then, when the birds vacate the area, use could revert to that allowed in the surrounding zone.

1. Natural Resources:

- Native species and natural processes predominate and the overall character is *pristine*.
- Pre-European ecosystem components and processes maintained, restored and protected.
- Elimination of human-caused habitat fragmentation.
- Exotic species are contained or removed.
- This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease.

2. Historic/Cultural Resources:

- Cultural resources preserved, removed or allowed to waste away.

3. Recreation Opportunities:

- None, unless classified as a “Seasonal Zone”. In that case, hunting and other low-impact dispersed recreational use can occur if/when the site is open (ie. a heron rookery).

4. Education Opportunities:

- Off-site only for general public. Researchers/scientists allowed hands-on access by permission.

5. Visitor Experience:

- *Highly restricted* visitor use.
- No interpretation on-site; off-site interpretation focused on resource.
- Ecological research and monitoring.

6. Management Focus:

- Protection of the resource.

7. Development:

- *No development* except as needed for resource protection.
- Very little evidence of human activity.

(2) “PRIMITIVE ZONE” – *This zone reflects a desired condition that emphasizes the natural resources. It is managed to only allow dispersed and low frequency use in the zone for low impact recreational purposes. Attaining and maintaining a high quality natural resource condition dictates the extent to which recreational improvements or uses are allowed.*

1. Natural Resources:

- Native species and natural processes take precedence over visitor accommodation.

- Pre-European ecosystem components and processes maintained, restored and protected.
- Human-caused habitat fragmentation eliminated.
- Exotic species are contained or removed.
- Water quality maintained or restored.
- This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease.
- Where agricultural fields currently exist, a strategy should be developed to bring these areas into compliance with the intent (nature/character) of the zone. This strategy should be in the form of an 'Ecological Restoration Plan' developed by the Stewardship Unit with input from staff.
- New agricultural fields may be allowed in the zone but only as a specific and limited phase of an 'Ecological Restoration Plan' or as a critical component of a plan for managing species of greatest conservation need.
- Haying may be used as a long-term vegetation management treatment.
- Prescribed burns can be allowed.

2. Historic/Cultural Resources:

- Cultural resources preserved, removed or allowed to waste away.

3. Recreation Opportunities:

- Dispersed, low density off-trail or trailed, *self-reliant* (no bicycle or equestrian use) outdoor activities (ie. Hiking, backpacking, primitive camping, cross-country skiing, hunting/trapping/fishing, nature observation).

4. Education Opportunities:

- Primarily off-site. Interpretive signage allowed at trail heads and low frequency on the trail and at overlooks.

5. Visitor Experience:

- *Low visitor encounters* maintained.
- Visitors engaged in high solitude, off-trail or trailed, *self-reliant* (no bicycle or equestrian use) outdoor activities (ie. Hiking, backpacking, primitive camping, cross-country skiing, hunting/trapping/fishing, nature observation).
- High time commitment.
- High challenge and adventure.
- 'Discovery' area with minimal on-site interpretation.
- Low noise tolerance.
- Low interaction with DNR staff.

6. Management Focus:

- Maintain low-impact character of this zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality.

7. Development:

- *Very low level* except for visitor accommodation (ie. foot trails).
- Site hardening only allowed to protect sensitive resources (ie. boardwalk).
- Little evidence of human activity.
- Low accessibility

(3) “BACKCOUNTRY ZONE” - *The character of this zone is natural, with minimal evidence of human impact. While the ‘Primitive Zone’ is highly restrictive for recreational use and human impact, this zone allows for increased use, including bicycle and equestrian, and modifications of the landscape (ie. trail development) to accommodate that use.*

1. Natural Resources:

- Natural resources modified slightly to support visitor use, but tolerance for natural resource impacts is low.
- Pre-European ecosystem components and processes maintained, restored and protected.
- Human-caused habitat fragmentation minimized.
- Exotic species are contained or removed.
- Water quality maintained or restored.
- This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease.
- Where agricultural fields currently exist, a strategy should be developed to bring these areas into compliance with the intent (nature/character) of the zone. This strategy should be in the form of an ‘Ecological Restoration Plan’ developed by the Stewardship Unit with input from staff.
- New agricultural fields may be allowed in the zone but only as a specific and limited phase of an ‘Ecological Restoration Plan’ or as a critical component of a plan for managing species of greatest conservation need.
- Haying may be used as a long-term vegetation management treatment.

2. Historic/Cultural Resources:

- Cultural resources preserved, rehabilitated, removed or allowed to waste away.

- Historic structures could be adaptively used for operational uses or educational purposes.

3. **Recreation Opportunities:**

- Moderate levels of recreation compatible with natural character of the zone.
- *Non-motorized* outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings (ie. hiking, backpacking, back-country camping, bicycling, equestrian use, canoeing, kayaking, nature observation, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hunting/trapping/fishing).

4. **Education Opportunities:**

- Interpretive signage at trail heads, on the trail, and at overlooks.

5. **Visitor Experience:**

- *Moderate visitor encounters* accommodated
- Visitors engaged in self-reliant, *non-motorized* outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings (ie. hiking, backpacking, back-country camping, bicycling, equestrian use, canoeing, kayaking, nature observation, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hunting, trapping, and fishing).
- High time commitment.
- Moderate challenge and adventure.
- Discovery area with minimal on-site interpretation.
- Moderate off-site interpretation.
- Low noise tolerance.
- Low interaction with DNR staff.

6. **Management Focus:**

- Maintain low-impact character of this zone, with emphasis on natural resource quality.

7. **Development:**

- *Low level of development* to support visitor access to outdoor activities (ie. trails, trailhead parking, marked routes, designated backcountry campsites, pit toilets, water pumps) and educational opportunities.
- Development would be *unobtrusive* and would blend with natural environment.
- Site hardening (ie. boardwalks, fencing, pedestrian paths) may be necessary to protect sensitive resources.
- Low accessibility.

(4) “CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ZONE” – *This zone addresses the overall setting in which is found not only historic structures, but also non-structural evidence of the traditions, beliefs, practices, lifeways, arts, crafts and social*

institutions of any community. For example, a location associated with a particular culture, such as a Native American sacred burial ground, or an abandoned mine town site, representative of a bygone era, would qualify as a 'Cultural Landscape Zone'.

The Cultural Landscape Zone can be a subset of one of the 'Resource' zones, and as such, the guidance for that zone will also apply.

1. Natural Resources:

- This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management focused to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to enhance education/interpretation uses which can include non-native species specific to the era and/or location, and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape that is sensitive to the historical resource and interpretation of the zone.
- Where agricultural fields currently exist as part of the cultural history, a strategy should be developed to preserve them. This strategy should be in the form of an 'Ecological Restoration Plan' developed by the Stewardship Unit with input from staff.
- New agricultural fields may be allowed in the zone but only as a specific and limited phase of an 'Ecological Restoration Plan' or as a critical component of a plan for managing species of greatest conservation need.

2. Historic/Cultural Resources:

- Includes historic buildings, structures, and other landscape characteristics and features which represent the evolution of the cultural resource, temporal change, and the continuum of time.
- Cultural resources preserved or rehabilitated for visitor understanding and/or for compatible adaptive use by DNR or partners.
- Historic structures could be adaptively used for operational uses or educational purposes.

3. Recreation Opportunities:

- Visitors engaged in sightseeing, recreational, and educational activities in a cultural setting (ie. automobile, bicycle, walking, hiking tour), compatible with and sensitive to the setting.

4. Education Opportunities:

- Interpretive signage at trail heads, on the trail, overlooks and other points of interest.
- Off site interpretation as well.

5. Visitor Experience:

- *Moderate visitor encounters* are accommodated.
- Visitors engaged in sightseeing, recreational, and educational activities in a cultural setting (ie. automobile, bicycle, walking, hiking tour).
- Moderate time commitment.
- Moderate on-site interpretation.
- Moderate off-site interpretation.
- Moderate noise tolerance.
- Moderate interaction with DNR staff.

6. Management Focus:

- Maintain cultural character of the zone, and if a sub-set of a resource zone, maintain emphasis on natural resource quality.
- Keep development consistent with the zone.

7. Development:

- Non-historic development and activities that do not conflict with the cultural landscape are tolerated.
- *Moderate level of development to support visitor access and use* (ie. interpretive media, walks, trails, small picnic areas, and restrooms).
- Development compatible with the cultural landscape.
- Moderate accessibility.

(5) “EDUCATION ZONE” – *The emphasis of this zone is “Education” and Natural/Cultural/Historic resources are protected and interpreted for visitor understanding. Higher levels of development are common in this zone for historic preservation/restoration and management/control of people. Both passive and active education and interpretation is the focus of this zone designation.*

In some cases, the Education Zone can be an overlay of one of the ‘Resource’ zones, and as such, the guidance for that zone will also apply.

1. Natural Resources:

- Natural resources that have been identified as important or significant are managed to perpetuate those qualities. This can include non-native and non-invasive species specific to the era and/or location (e.g. as relates to a historic/cultural landscape) and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape that is sensitive to the historical resource and interpretation of the zone.
- This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management focused to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to enhance education/interpretation uses.

2. Historic/Cultural Resources:

- *Cultural and natural resources* (including historic buildings, structures, and landscapes) may be *restored to specific time period(s)* if essential for the visitor understanding of historic period(s) OR rehabilitated to support visitor and staff activities for in-depth interpretation of historic period(s).

3. Recreation Opportunities:

- Visitors engaged in sightseeing and educational activities in a natural and/or cultural setting.

4. Education Opportunities:

- Structured interpretive/educational activities related to the natural and historic/cultural resources (e.g. guided, brochure or audio tape tours, pod casts, in-depth history exhibits, media, and programs.)
- Interpretive signage at trail heads, on the trail, overlooks and other points of interest.
- Some off-site interpretation as well.

5. Visitor Experience:

- *High visitor encounters* accommodated.
- Visitors engaged in structured interpretive/educational activities related to the natural and historic/cultural resources (e.g. guided, brochure or audio tape tours, pod casts, in-depth history exhibits, media, and programs).
- Moderate time commitment.
- Low to moderate exertion.
- High on-site interpretation.
- Some off-site interpretation.
- Moderate noise tolerance.
- High interaction with DNR staff.
- High level of accessibility

6. Management Focus:

- Maintain natural/historic/cultural integrity of the zone, and if an overlay of a resource zone, maintain emphasis on natural resource quality.
- Keep development consistent with the zone.
- Strive for quality visitor experience of natural/historic/cultural interests.

7. Development:

- Developments *necessary for visitor understanding* and/or staff support are compatible with the natural resource and historic period(s) or are accommodated off-site.
- Restored or rehabilitated areas or structures include necessary protection, security and HVAC (heating and cooling) systems and visitor/staff support uses, such as restrooms and offices.

- Development, including interpretive media, is consistent with historic period(s).

(6) “SCENIC ZONE” - The *Scenic Zone* recognizes that there are aesthetic qualities to be preserved and protected in our state park and recreation areas. Examples of this type of zone could include a “scenic viewscape”, such as the overlook escarpment feature at the Lake of the Clouds in Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. Another type of could be a linear component such as a “scenic road” or a “scenic river”. A designated “Natural River” would fall into this category.

1. Natural Resources:

- Natural resources modified slightly to support visitor use and viewing, but tolerance for natural resource impacts is low.
- Human-caused habitat fragmentation minimized.
- This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to enhance the viewscales of the zone.

2. Historic/Cultural Resources:

- Cultural resources preserved, rehabilitated, or removed.
- Historic structures could be adaptively used for operational uses or educational purposes.

3. Recreation Opportunities:

- Moderate levels of recreation compatible with the purpose of viewing.
- Non-motorized activity in trail and observation point access, and motorized activities in the form of scenic road designations.

4. Education Opportunities:

- Interpretive signage at key viewing points, trail heads, overlooks, and parking areas.
- Moderate off-site interpretation

5. Visitor Experience:

- High visitor encounters.
- Visitors engaged in transit or sightseeing activities by hiking, car, bicycle, watercraft, or other conveyance.
- Moderate time commitment.
- Moderate off-site interpretation.
- Moderate noise tolerance.
- Low interaction with DNR staff.

6. Management Focus:

- Maintain the quality of the viewsapes on which the zone is based.
- Public safety.
- All activities or developments in this zone must be compatible with the overriding purpose of view quality.

7. Development:

- *Moderate level of development* to support visitor access, transit, interpretive activities, and sightseeing (ie. roads, trails, parking, restrooms, overlooks, small picnic areas, interpretive media).
- Development blends with the natural and cultural environment.
- Site hardening (ie. boardwalks, barriers, fencing, surfaced pedestrian paths) to protect sensitive resources.
- High accessibility.

(7) “NATURAL RESOURCE RECREATION ZONE” – *Active recreation with medium to high density of use conducted in natural areas. There is still an emphasis on resource quality over recreation, but in this zone, higher levels of use are allowed.*

1. Natural Resources:

- *Natural resources support visitor activities* with only moderate impacts.
- Natural resources managed or modified to support visitor activities, but protected to the degree possible and appear natural.
- Human-caused habitat fragmentation minimized.
- Exotic species are contained or removed.
- Water quality maintained or restored.
- This zone will reflect natural processes, with vegetative management only allowed to restore and maintain natural ecological structure and processes (such as removing of invasive species), to address hazard trees, and to manage pests and disease. Vegetation may also be managed to facilitate recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape.
- Where agricultural fields currently exist, a strategy should be developed to bring these areas into compliance with the intent (nature/character) of the zone. This strategy should be in the form of an ‘Ecological Restoration Plan’ developed by the Stewardship Unit with input from staff.
- New agricultural fields may be allowed in the zone but only as a specific and limited phase of an ‘Ecological Restoration Plan’ or as a critical component of a plan for managing species of greatest conservation need.
- Haying may be used as a long-term vegetation management treatment.

2. Historic/Cultural Resources:

- Cultural resources preserved, rehabilitated, removed or allowed to waste away.
- Historic structures could be adaptively used for operational uses or educational purposes.

3. Recreation Opportunities:

- Moderate to high levels of recreation compatible with natural character of the zone.
- Visitors engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings (ie. hiking, backpacking, back-country and rustic camping, bicycling, canoeing, kayaking, equestrian use, nature observation, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing).
- Hunting/trapping/fishing permitted in designated areas.
- Snowmobiling permitted on designated routes.

4. Education Opportunities:

- Interpretive signage at trail heads, on the trail, and at overlooks.

5. Visitor Experience:

- High visitor encounters accommodated.
- Visitors engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings for recreation and education.
- Hunting/trapping/fishing permitted in designated areas.
- Snowmobiling permitted on designated routes.
- Variable time commitment.
- Variable challenge and adventure.
- Moderate noise tolerance.
- Moderate interaction with DNR staff.

6. Management Focus:

- Maintain use of zone appropriate to PRD Mission.
- Public safety.
- Protection of resources.
- UNIVERSAL ACCESS accessibility

7. Development:

- Moderate level of development of facilities for support of visitor activities (ie. restrooms, concrete/asphalt/gravel walkways and parking, trails, benches, picnic tables, rustic campsites, cabins and shelters) for recreation and educational opportunities.
- Site hardening (ie. boardwalks, fencing, surfaced pedestrian paths) as necessary to protect sensitive resources.
- Moderate accessibility.

(8) “DEVELOPED RECREATION ZONE” - *Active recreation with high density of use conducted in areas not designated for natural resource significance. In this zone, recreation dominates with natural resource attributes enhanced as possible. Examples of this zone include modern campgrounds, day-use recreation areas, boating facilities, and highly developed mountain bike trail areas.*

1. Natural Resources:

- Natural resources actively managed and modified to support visitor activities.
- Water quality maintained or restored.
- Vegetative management in this zone will address hazard trees, invasive species, and pests and disease, and will also be allowed for purposes of facilitating development and recreational use and maintaining an aesthetically appealing landscape
- Where agricultural fields currently exist, a strategy should be developed to bring these areas into compliance with the intent (nature/character) of the zone. This strategy should be in the form of an ‘Ecological Restoration Plan’ developed by the Stewardship Unit with input from staff.
- New agricultural fields may be allowed in the zone but only as a specific and limited phase of an ‘Ecological Restoration Plan’ or as a critical component of a plan for managing species of greatest conservation need.
- Haying may be used as a long-term vegetation management treatment.

2. Historic/Cultural Resources:

- Cultural resources and structures preserved, adapted or rehabilitated to support visitor activities or educational opportunities.
- Non-utilized or stabilized structures are removed.

3. Recreation Opportunities:

- High levels of recreation in highly structured environment.
- Visitors engaged in recreation in diverse and modified land and water settings (ie. hiking, modern and semi-modern camping, bicycling, boating, canoeing, kayaking, equestrian use, nature observation, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, day-use beach, picnicking, and other day-use activities).
- Hunting allowed in only approved areas of this zone.
- Trapping and fishing permitted in designated areas.
- Snowmobiling permitted on designated routes.

4. Education Opportunities:

- Interpretive signage at campgrounds, day-use facilities, boating facilities, registration buildings, trail heads, on the trail, and at overlooks.
- Active programming at campgrounds and other areas where people congregate.

5. Visitor Experience:

- *High visitor encounters* accommodated.
- Visitors engaged in outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings for recreation and education.
- Hunting/trapping/fishing permitted in designated areas.
- Snowmobiling permitted on designated routes.
- Variable time commitment.
- Variable challenge and adventure.
- High interaction with DNR staff.
- Low to moderate exertion.
- High noise tolerance.

6. Management Focus:

- Maintain use of zone appropriate to PRD Mission.
- Management of people.
- Public safety.
- Protection of resources.
- High level of UNIVERSAL ACCESS accessibility

7. Development:

- *High level of development* of facilities for support of visitor activities (ie. restrooms, walkways and parking, trails, benches, picnic tables, picnic shelters, modern and semi-modern campgrounds, cabins and shelters) for recreation and educational opportunities.
- Site hardening (ie. boardwalks, fencing, surfaced pedestrian paths) as necessary to protect sensitive resources.
- High accessibility.

(9) “VISITOR SERVICES ZONE” – *This zone encompasses the developed areas required for program administration and operations. Typically it will include offices, contact stations, maintenance facilities and all related land base required to conduct the business of running a state park or recreation area.*

1. Natural Resources:

- Natural resources actively managed and modified to support administrative and support activities.
- Vegetative management (primarily tree removal for safety), is allowed.
- No hunting.

2. Historic/Cultural Resources:

- Cultural resources and structures preserved, adapted or rehabilitated to support administrative activities.
- Historic structures used before new construction where possible.
- Non-utilized or stabilized structures are removed.

3. Recreation Opportunities:

- None

4. Education Opportunities:

- Person to person contact at park headquarters for general information, both verbally and written (brochures, maps, and etc.)
- Informational Kiosk (etc.)

5. Visitor Experience:

- Business and information only.
- High noise tolerance.

6. Management Focus:

- The business of running a park.
- Appropriate facilities for staff, equipment and materials.
- Employee safety.
- Public access to office (UNIVERSAL ACCESS)

7. Development:

- *High level of development* of facilities for support of administrative activities (ie. office space, meeting rooms, employee locker room, employee eating area, shop space, storage space and related)
- High accessibility.

EXISTING MANAGEMENT TOOLS

In addition to these Standard Management Zones, there exist other related tools to incorporate into our application of Management Zones to State Park and Recreation Areas. Where they fit in will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

The most stringent of these tools are those with legal standing. Following are “Natural Area” definitions as defined in State Law in Part 351 of Act 451 of 1994, “Wilderness and Natural Areas”:

BY LAW

“NATURAL AREA” – A tract of land or water which has the following characteristics: (NOTE: for all of these, there is a prohibition on mechanized vehicles for any use other than management (ie. mountain bikes, snowmobiles, ATV’s & ORV’s), and no easements or ROW’s of any kind are allowed)

- Has retained or reestablished its natural character, or has unusual flora and fauna or biotic, geologic, scenic, or other similar features of educational or scientific value, but **it need not be undisturbed**.
- Has been identified and verified through research and study by qualified observers.
- May be coextensive with or part of a wilderness area or wild area.
- Does not have any minimum or maximum area requirement.

“WILD AREA” – A tract of **undeveloped** land or water which has the following characteristics:

- Is less than 3,000 acres of state land.
- Has outstanding opportunities for personal exploration, challenge, or contact with natural features of the landscape and its biological community.
- Possesses one or more of the characteristics of a wilderness area.

“WILDERNESS AREA” – A tract of **undeveloped** land or water which has the following characteristics:

- Has 3,000 or more acres of state land or is an island of any size.
- Generally appears to have been affected primarily by forces of nature with the imprint of the work of humans substantially unnoticeable.
- Has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.
- Contains ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, scenic, or natural history value.

Any area (Natural/Wild/Wilderness) which has been **“PROPOSED FOR DEDICATION”** is protected under the act, and must be managed as a Natural/Wild/Wilderness Area until the dedication is final. An area is considered “proposed for dedication” when the area nomination has been approved by either:

- The Wilderness and Natural Areas Advisory Board, or
- The Director of the Department of Natural Resources

BY AGREEMENT

In addition to these legal tools, there are cooperative agreements in-place that further define our land management for resources through The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Division, and National Parks Service, as follows:

“THE NATURE CONSERVANCY NATURAL AREAS REGISTRY SITES” – These are cooperative agreements between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and The Nature Conservancy. They are developed for ‘critical areas’ in which the DNR has recognized the need to manage in a manner which will protect, preserve, and perpetuate the elements of the area. The DNR has agreed to manage these areas in a manner that will sustain and foster the continued protection of the elements in voluntary preservation through cooperation with The Nature conservancy.

“WILDLIFE CO-MANAGEMENT ZONE” - This management agreement was initially signed in 1957, updated in 1978, and continues in effect today (although lacking in annual review and updating with the elimination of the “Region” structure of the field organization).

It recognizes the critical role PRD plays for wildlife management as a key landowner in southern Michigan. The agreement establishes a joint effort between Wildlife and PRD, providing for Wildlife management (for wildlife improvements) of PRD administered lands in Recreation Areas. There are three parks where lands are specifically dedicated to this co-management (Holly RA, Waterloo RA and Bass River RA), and other Recreation Areas are impacted as lands purchased through hunter funds (Pittman-Robertson (P-R)) and State Game or State Game and Fish funds have the potential for co-management opportunities.

Resource Conditions/Objectives:

- Southern Michigan Recreation Areas
- Lands purchased with state and federal hunter dollars (Pittman-Robertson, State Game, and State Game and Fish).

Visitor Experience:

- Limited visitor encounters accommodated, dependent on desired impact on wildlife.
- Visitors engaged in non-motorized outdoor activities in diverse land and water natural settings (ie. hiking, backpacking, back-country camping, bicycle trail use, equestrian trail use, canoeing, kayaking, nature observation, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, hunting/trapping/fishing).
- High time commitment.
- Moderate challenge and adventure.

Development:

- Primary purpose of the Wildlife Co-Management Zone is the restoration and upgrading of habitat for wildlife, including:
 - Tree and shrub planting
 - Herbaceous plantings
 - Brush shelters
 - Woodlot edge management
 - Floodings
- While an emphasis is placed on presenting as 'natural' an appearance as possible, the dominate role of wildlife management is to produce appropriate habitat for wildlife food and cover.
- Low level of development to support visitor access to outdoor activities (ie. trails and trailhead parking).
- Development would be unobtrusive and would blend with natural environment.
- Site hardening (ie. boardwalks, fencing, pedestrian paths) may be necessary to protect the Wildlife Co-Management Zone resources.
- Historic structures could be adaptively used for operational uses.
- Primary access for hunting and trapping where allowed, recreational trail use allowed where it does not conflict with wildlife management.

“NATIONAL NATURAL LANDMARK” (defined by the National Parks Service) – These are cooperative agreements between the National Parks Service and the public or private landowner on whose property the area occurs.

A National Natural Landmark is a nationally significant natural area that has been designated by the Secretary of the Interior. To be nationally significant, a site must be one of the best examples of a type of biotic community or geologic feature in its physiographic province. Examples of this natural diversity include terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, features, exposures, and land forms that record active geologic processes as well as fossil evidence of biological evolution. The goal of the National Natural Landmarks Program is to identify,

recognize, and encourage the protection of sites containing the best examples of geological and ecological components of the nation's landscape.

BY NRC DEDICATION

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION "DEDICATED" AREAS –

These areas were dedicated by the Michigan Natural Resources Commission prior to 1972, and remain in effect today. Following are the specific forms of dedicated areas under this NRC process:

- **"MANAGED TRACT"** – An area of land in which specific desired habitats are maintained or established by artificially regulating or manipulating the conditions which control the environment.
- **"NATURAL AREA PRESERVE"** – An area of land having distinctive natural characteristics, dedicated to the preservation of natural conditions for the lasting public enjoyment and educational benefits.
- **"NATURAL RESERVATION"** – An area of land having distinctive natural features set aside for maximum preservation of natural conditions consistent with the development and use of facilities for the enjoyment of nature and extensive types of recreation, and for the proper operation of the administrative unit.
- **"NATURE STUDY AREA"** – An area of land having special significance in natural history, dedicated for the preservation of natural conditions in combination with the development and use of facilities for conservation education, the study and enjoyment of nature, and/or research in the fields of conservation and natural science.
- **"NATURE STUDY PRESERVE"** – An area of land having special significance in natural history dedicated for the development and use of facilities for conservation education, the study and enjoyment of nature, and/or research in the fields of conservation and natural science.
- **"SCENIC SITE"** – An area of land having unusual scenic values, dedicated for the preservation and enjoyment of natural beauty.