

STATE FOREST AND FOREST RECREATION AREA MANAGEMENT SUBDIVISIONS

All state forest and forest recreation area properties will be delineated into compartments and tracts to facilitate management, planning and record-keeping. This includes areas that have recreation facilities, administration facilities, and lakes.

The forest recreation areas are part of the state forest land base. There is no boundary between the recreation areas and the state forests. Forest recreation areas will be incorporated into the compartment and tract system of the state forests. The recreation areas are the set of intensive facilities (campgrounds, buildings, swimming facilities, picnic areas), and extensive facilities (trails) maintained by the recreation areas. The recreation areas are responsible for maintaining the set of facilities and associated programming. Resource management activities related to these facilities are coordinated with and can utilize the assistance of the state forest staff. The state forests have oversight for the general resource management activities on all property of the state forest land base, and will provide resource management assistance to the recreation areas. There will be coordination of management activities when the activities of one affect the area/facilities administered by the other. Recreation areas provide excellent opportunities for forestry demonstration due to the large, concentrated user numbers. State forests with adjoining forest recreation areas will provide property line and property ownership record assistance to the forest recreation area. The management staffs of the forest recreation areas and the state forests will cooperatively work on resource management projects that may impact recreation area facilities.

Land Administration Units

Compartments comprise the largest land administration unit below the property level. Compartments should typically comprise 500 to 1500 acres of relatively contiguous holdings. There may be occasions where parcels of a compartment may not be contiguous because of dispersed landholdings. Also, the scattered ownership of property may result in compartments smaller or larger than the typical. Generally, compartments are not used for specific site planning and recordkeeping, but may be used for broad activity planning. Typical compartment boundaries will be property lines or major, linear physical features.

Tracts are the primary land administration unit for management activity planning, monitoring and recordkeeping. Tracts are subdivisions of compartments. Typically tracts will contain 30 to 120 acres of contiguous holdings. Geographic isolation, distinct community types, identifiable boundaries, or other factors may result in tracts that vary from the typical size. Most inventories, activities, planning, and recordkeeping will be based on this unit. An individual tract will generally contain similar vegetative communities and terrain. There will be exceptions where non-similar features are not large enough to be considered a stand-alone unit. Tract boundaries will primarily be delineated for contiguous geographic areas for ease of administration. They will not necessarily follow timber or vegetation types that create physically

unmanageable units. Tract boundaries will generally follow discernible minor or major physical features or property lines. Tracts can include bodies of water.

The stand or stand type is a subunit of the tract. This can be an area of just a few acres up to the entire tract in size. The stand type will have a fairly homogeneous community of species, soils, size, slope and aspect. Stand type condition is the basis for many biological resource manipulation activities. Because it follows the biological features and physical features, a stand type can cross administrative boundaries into other tracts.

Section Bullet Summary

- All portions of state forests and forest recreation areas will be laid out on the state forest compartment/tract system.
- There are no set boundaries between state forests and adjacent forest recreation areas. State forests comprise the underlying land base. Forest recreation areas are the set of intensive and extensive facilities and programming utilizing a portion of that land base.
- State forests and forest recreation areas will coordinate activities and provide assistance to each other.
- Compartments are the largest land administration unit. Tracts are subunits of compartments and are the basis for most management planning, activities and record keeping. Stand type is a subunit of the tract encompassing similar biological and physiological features.