

Appendix E
Public Involvement
and
Collaboration Information

Hiawatha National Forest’s Public Engagement for Travel Management Subpart A – Travel Analysis

The following summarizes the public engagement that Hiawatha National Forest implemented throughout the Subpart A - Travel Analysis Process (TAP) of Travel Management. It is imperative to keep people educated, informed and included with respect to the Travel Analysis Process. Our unit used key messages, strategies and other materials that were developed by the Eastern Region of the USDA Forest Service. This helped us (and neighboring units if applicable) communicate a consistent message regionally with all audiences throughout the process. See below for an overview of our unit’s public engagement:

Internal Audience

Before any communication is shared with the public, Hiawatha National Forest spoke with all employees and the adjacent National Forests. Employees can be an organization’s greatest ambassadors and it is not necessary to develop new communication materials, just keeping employees informed on who, what, where, when and why.

All employees and the adjacent National Forests were kept informed throughout the process. Information was provided through regular forest, zone and district leadership meetings and notes. Study team members were updated at meetings held throughout the process.

TAP IDT Meeting Dates

West Zone TAP IDT Meeting 1 at Munising	March 18-19, 2014
West Zone TAP IDT Meeting 2 at SO	April 23-24, 2014
East Zone TAP IDT Meeting 1 at St. Ignace	April 28-29, 2014
West Zone TAP IDT Meeting 3 at Rapid River	May 5-6, 2014
West Zone TAP IDT Meeting 4 at Rapid River	June 10, 2014
East Zone TAP IDT Meeting 2 at St. Ignace	June 24-25, 2014
West Zone TAP IDT Meeting 5 at Rapid River	July 10, 2014
West Zone TAP IDT Meeting 6 at Rapid River	September 16, 2014
West Zone TAP IDT Meeting 7 at Rapid River	October 21-22, 2014
East Zone TAP IDT Meeting 3 at St. Ignace	February 24, 2015
West Zone TAP IDT Meeting at Rapid River	March 3, 2015
Law Enforcement Meetings by telecon	March 23 and March 24, 2015
Rapid River Ranger District Ranger Meeting with Joanne Sanfilippo to go through results	June 18, 2015
East Zone District Ranger Meeting with Robert West to go through results	June 26, 2015
Munising Ranger District Ranger Meeting with Charlie Marsh to go through results	July 7, 2015

External Audience (Public included citizens, stakeholders, adjacent landowners, interest groups)

It is imperative that the communications instill trust and confidence with the public. Efforts were made to make sure that the Hiawatha National Forest engaged with the public about this process.

- Information sharing has been ongoing and included the following:
 - Press releases
 - National Forest Begins Road Study released May 27, 2014
 - Public Input Sought for Road Study released July 15, 2014
 - Public Input Sought for Road Study released August 13, 2014
 - Public Input Reminder for Hiawatha National Forest Transportation Analysis – Two Weeks Remaining to Provide Comments, Deadline September 30, 2014
 - Events (*i.e.* open houses) along with a comment form
 - April 25, 2014 9-3 Friends of the Hiawatha National Forest meeting – 20 participants
 - June 11, 2014 3-6 pm St. Ignace District Office – 11 participants
 - June 12, 2014 3-6 pm Sault Ste. Marie USDA Service Center – 7 participants
 - June 18, 2014 3-6 pm Rapid River District Office – 2 participants
 - June 23, 2014 3-6 pm Munising District Office – 1 participant
 - May 15, 2015 9-3 Friends of the Hiawatha National Forest meeting – 20 participants
 - External Forest/Prairie website
 - Road Study Online comment form
 - Road Study Mail-in comment form
 - Road Study Poster Set
 - News Release May 27, 2014
 - USFS Guidelines for Road Maintenance Levels 2012
 - Draft East Zone Map part 1
 - Draft East Zone Map part 2
 - Draft West Zone part 1
 - Draft West Zone part 2
 - Draft West Zone part 3
 - Draft West Zone part 4
 - CARA link to submit comments electronically
 - E-mail mailing
 - 92 E-mails were sent out prior to the May 27, 2014, press release to the regular Forest mailing list
 - 92 E-mails prior to the press release announcing the two-week reminder

The comment period was from May 27 through September 29 to provide the public ample time to comment. News releases were sent out each month. Letters describing the TAP process and encouraging representatives to comment were sent to each County and Sheriff Department on July 28, 2014. Reminder letters were sent to the tribes on September 12, 2014.

A TAP process interview was televised September 2, 2014, on Channel 6 out of Marquette. More information is available at:

<http://www.uppermichiganssource.com/news/story.aspx?id=1091478#.VAh9C0aKBdg>

Tim Kobasic, Executive Producer of Trails and Tales Outdoors Radio, also broadcast an interview with Gerry Reese, Vice-President of the Schoolcraft County Motorized Trails Association, titled “Hiawatha

Trail Association Working to Expand Motorized Riding In Hiawatha Forest,” September 13, 2014. The following Saturday an interview with Ginger Molitor, titled “Your Last Chance to Add to TAP,” was broadcast. More information on Trails and Tales Outdoors Radio is available at: <http://kmbroadcasting.com/trails/index.php?home>. Tim’s summaries of the interviews are available at: <O:\NFS\Hiawatha\Project\EA\EATap\Public Outreach\Communications>

The HIF received 66 pieces of correspondence in response to the request for public input. All of the pieces of correspondence are in the project record and are available upon request.

Local/County/State/Other Federal Agencies

Local and Regional Business Management & Partners

It is imperative that the communications instill trust and confidence. Efforts were made to make sure that the Hiawatha National Forest has made every opportunity to inform them about this process.

- Information sharing has been ongoing and included the following:
 - On-going, two-way, meaningful and in-person/face-to-face conversations that occur as early as possible in the process – several people came into the District offices asking questions throughout the public input process – the number of these occurrences was not recorded
 - Small group meetings
 - Motorized Trail Proposal Evaluation Meeting on July 16, 2015 in Manistique, Michigan – 22 participants
 - E-mails
 - June 29, 2015 e-mail sent out to 10 contacts to invite people to the motorized trail proposal evaluation meeting

Tribal Relations

The tribal audience is separate and distinct from other audiences; information received from tribes should not be aggregated with input from other groups. The Forest PAO worked with the Regional Tribal Relations Specialist and Forest Tribal Liaison to keep information sharing an ongoing process with tribes. It’s imperative to work with tribes from the beginning of the process, in a collaborative manner, through the completion of the report to overcome perceptions of the restricted access to traditional places and protected activities. Information sharing included the following:

- Engaging in early meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials, leaders, members and traditional practitioners
 - On-going, two-way, meaningful and in-person/face-to-face conversations that occur as early as possible in the process that may affect treaty rights and access to treaty resources, traditional practices, and access to Sacred Sites and Sacred Places. These conversations are held on a regular basis and are not generally recorded.
 - Events (*i.e.* open houses and small meeting designed for tribal leaders and members only)
 - Meeting with Hannahville Indian Community Chairman Kenneth Meshigaud May 14, 2014
 - Meeting with Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Chairman Aaron Payment, Transportation Planner, Wendy Hoffman, and Membership Liaison, Clarence Hudak May 15, 2014
 - Meeting with Bay Mills Indian Community Chairman Levi Carrick May 15, 2014

- TAP presentation for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Inland Conservation Committee June 9, 2014
- Meeting with Bay Mills Indian Community Chairman Levi Carrick, Transportation Planner, Justin Carrick, and tribal member, Joe Carrick September 2, 2015
- Meeting with Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians Department Heads and tribal members September 2, 2015 – 10 participants
- Meeting with Hannahville Indian Community Chairman Kenneth Meshigaud and Public Works Program Director, Betty Draze, September 4, 2015
- E-mails were sent out prior to each of these meetings to set them up and reminder e-mails were sent.

Communication materials used included the following:

- Frequently Asked Questions & Answers (internal)
- Comment form for open houses
- Postcards (announcing opening house, tours, small meetings, etc.)
- E-mails (mailings announcing open house, tours, small meetings, etc.)
- Press Releases
- Internal & External Forest/Prairie websites
 - External website (Portal)
 - Background information of the travel analysis
 - Public comment form
 - Updates on the process in a timely manner
 - Dates of open houses, tours, etc.
 - Press Release/s