

## LITTLE RIVER BAND SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING

This was a Special Public Meeting among the Little River Community to discuss and provide input on the Manistee River Management Plan. The public meeting took place at the Old Town Restaurant on March 21, 1994. Chairman Daniel Bailey presided over the meeting. Guest Speakers were Gary Coles and John Hojnowski, Manistee Ranger District, National Forest Service. The following points were presented by the guest speakers:

Preparation of the Manistee River Management Plan will take three years to complete. The plan needs to define how we, the community as a whole, want the rivers and surrounding environment to look like. Presently there are four Alternatives that vary from, basically no change to significant change, in how the rivers are utilized.

The effect on the area communities (Wellston, Brethren and Manistee, for example) are a part of what the committee will look at for social and economic purposes. The committee or board is made up of National Forest Service staff - all non-users of the rivers and sites involved. This way the River Plan will be unbiased.

There are three basic river types:

1. Scenic: example is Bear Creek
2. Recreational: example is Manistee River
3. Wild: example would be a river in places like Alaska.  
There are no rivers in Michigan with this designation.

There are changes for Rainbow Bend this year such as:

1. To relocate the road coming into the site.
2. To decrease parking by 50%.

It is important that we voice our concerns, and be as specific as possible. For example, should we close roads or open new roads. Why? Where? Should camping be allowed at river access sites? Why/Why not? Which rivers? If there are any burial grounds or sites that should be protected, the committee should be informed.

It would be best if any or all comments be made by March 25, 1994. The following comments were contributed by the community:

1. Leave the access roads as they are.
2. No expansion of access landings.
3. No jet boats (too much noise).
4. No gas or oil exploration along the river corridor.
5. Limit the cutting of forest to select basis.

March 21, 1994  
Meeting at Old Town Restaurant  
Re: River Management Plan

This plan will take 3 yrs  
to complete.

The plan needs to be defined.  
What we want rivers to  
look like - change or leave

have 4 alternatives which  
range from basically no change  
to a big change.

The plan will take between  
5-10 yrs once it goes through.

The effect on communities  
(Wellston, Brethren, Manistee)  
are a part of what the committee  
looks at for social & economy  
purpose.

The board is made up of  
National Forest Service all  
non-users of the rivers & sites  
involved. This way the River  
Plan will be unbiased.<sup>(sp)</sup>

③

This is why our opinion is so important

Should camping be allowed at river access sites? Why / Why Not on which rivers

If any changes are to be made the radius<sup>(SP)</sup> will be a  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from the river be worked on.

It would be best if any or all comments be made by March 25. If there a little late this is also fine.

If there are any burial grounds or sites that show be protected they ~~so~~ should also be informed. They would not touch them

1. Leave access roads as they are.
2. No expansion of access landings.
3. No jet boats (too much noise).
4. No gas or oil exploration in river corridor.
5. Limit the cutting of forest to select basis.