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## Keeping You Informed

R9 Regional Foresters and Directors:

Welcome to the first issue of Hiawatha Highlights. It's been a busy summer, and we wanted to let you know about it! We've designed this newsletter to help keep you abreast of current affairs on the Hiawatha. We hope you'll find the contents useful. Please let us know if you have questions, or if you have suggestions for making these updates more useful to you in the future.

I look forward to hearing from you.

*Tom*



### Human Resources Highlights

- Munising District Ranger, Teresa Chase, on detail as DR in Washburn. Acting: Dave Maercklein
- Rapid River/Manistique District Ranger, Dave Silvieus, on western fire detail. Acting: Louise Congdon
- Sault Ste Marie/St. Ignace Deputy, Martie Schramm, has accepted a District Ranger position on the Kaimabab
- Laurie Heupel joins the Forest Service as Executive Director at Clear Lake Education Center
- Dean Karlovich is Acting Fire Staff Officer/FMO following retirements of Mike Miller and Ralph Winkler.

## Recent Success Stories

### HNF Hosts Ecological Restoration Classes

The Hiawatha NF helped plan and host the first Northern Michigan University undergraduate class in ecological restoration. NMU students spent 4 of their 6 field days in the Hiawatha where they had first-hand experience in wetland restoration, invasive species removal, and planting native species plugs.

### Fiber, Feathers and Friends

The Hiawatha received a grant from the Arbor Day Foundation in 2006. The grant was used this spring to create and/or restore Kirtland's Warbler habitat. Over 900 acres were densely planted with jack pine to create optimal nesting habitat.



### Cooperative Project Improves Hiawatha Fish Habitat

Wildlife Unlimited of Delta County and Plum Creek Timber Company recently joined with the Hiawatha to improve spawning habitat for steelhead and salmon in Eighteenmile Creek in eastern Delta County. Matching contributions of \$2500 from WU and PUTC this spring helped fund the construction of 6 gravel riffles.

For more details, visit the R9 SSRS intranet website!

## *Protect Ecosystems Across Boundaries: Jug Lake Fire*

On June 29, the Jug Lake Wildfire was reported on the Hiawatha National Forest near Manistique, MI. The 15-acre fire, which appears to be human-caused, was located on private land in young, scattered aspen and pine adjacent to Forest Service lands. Inter-agency firefighters cooperated to control the fire. The fire was declared out on July 9.

### Walk the Talk

Daryl Ulberg and Brad Cromell received the 2006 Regional Forester's Green Award for promoting use of biofluids in Hiawatha's engineering fleet.

## *Walk the Talk For Sustainability: Green Operations*

As the Forest aims to increase its "green" purchasing and decrease its ecological footprint, Acting Munising District Ranger Dave Maercklein recently participated in a "greening

the workplace" session sponsored by Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Information gleaned at this workshop was specific to the needs of our resource management agency and will

be applied on the Forest in coming months. Topics included cleaning supplies, soy-based fluids, appliance efficiency, insulation, paints and overall ecological footprint/energy audit.

## *Connect Citizens to the Land: Grand Island Marathon*



Hundreds of runners await the starting gun near Williams Landing

Sunny skies and a cool north breeze greeted the approximately 700 people (including 544 racers) who traveled to Grand Island this weekend for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual GI Trail Marathon. Two-hundred eighty-three marathoners and one hun-

dred sixty one 10k runners started enjoyed the challenge and scenic beauty of the National Recreation Area's cliff-top and beachside trails. The cooperative efforts of the race staff, volunteers, concessionaires, local businesses, the com-

munity and Forest Service staff combined to make the race a success for all involved. For more information visit [www.greatlakesendurance.com](http://www.greatlakesendurance.com)

## *Revolutionize Effectiveness & Efficiency: Workforce Planning Team*

In light of current and predicted budgets, the Forest has been working to update its Workforce Plan. Recently, as we looked at Transformation and other change initiatives, the For-

est initiated a Workforce Planning Team consisting of seven employees representing various disciplines, units and the union. The team will develop at least two balanced workforce

plan alternatives for the Forest by September 2007.

## Be An Employer of Choice: Leadership Training Continues

As we look to the future of the agency as a whole, Hiawatha’s forest leadership team recognizes the importance of preparing the “pipeline” for leadership succession. Last year, our forest leadership team mentored several individuals through a leadership train-

ing effort. Motivated by the experience, at least one of these individuals has continued to pursue leadership experience, taking a 4-month District Ranger detail out west. This fiscal year, the program includes leadership training opportunities, facilitation experience, and

details. We are working with other forests to provide other detail opportunities and experience.

By the shores of Gitche Gumee,  
By the Shining Big-Sea-Water...  
From Longfellow’s “Song of Hiawatha”

## Team Highlights

### Public Service

#### Vandalism: Pete’s Lake & Indian Wild & Scenic River

– Two Districts on the West Unit recently experienced significant incidents of vandalism. On the Munising District over \$400 worth of damage was done when an individual removed from Pete’s Lake Fishing pier a section of railing in order to make the accessible pier into a diving platform. The perpetrator was ticketed. On the Rapid River/Manistique Ranger District, several individuals tore a wall off an outhouse and burned the removed portion, after having felled numerous live trees onto the campsite and finding they didn’t make good firewood. Several suspects have been identified and are under investigation.

#### Hiawatha Summer Culture

**Tour activities**– Thousands of visitors to the Forest have been enjoying the many summer programs sponsored by

Hiawatha Interpretive Association through a grant with Michigan Humanities Council. Programs vary but so far have included culturally interpretive musical performances, historical reenactment, storytelling, Native American dance performances, and archaeology presentations.

### Ecosystem

#### Non-Native Invasive Species

– The Forest was recently notified that its Non-Native Invasive Species (NNIS) EA cleared its 30-day appeal period without appeal. We’re excited that as a result, the Forest will be able to use herbicides as a tool against stubborn pest species such as spotted knapweed.

#### Grand Island National Recreation Area

**Grand Island Archaeology Project**– For the 7th consecutive year, our Illinois State University partner, Dr. Jim

Skibo, is spending July on the island engaged in archaeological study with the help of a team of field school students. This year, the group is excavating a site that dates back approximately 3000, making it among the oldest in the Lake Superior basin. Numerous artifacts have been documented at the pre-pottery site, including several copper artifacts. In addition to research, the team provides daily public tours of the dig site for visitors, assists with Youth Archaeology Workshops, and provides archaeological services for other projects on the Island.

#### Grand Island North Light

**Congressional**– The Forest has been working with the RO and WO in response to Congressional activity regarding a land exchange/museum proposed by two Grand Island property owners. We’ve appreciated the outstanding work of RO and WO staff involved in the responses.



*Grand Island’s North Light is privately owned, situated on a premier piece of National Forest land.*

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## On the Calendar

Date	Event
August	The annual butterfly migration begins at Peninsula Point
Aug 2	Presentation by Dr. Jim Skibo, summarizing the 2007 Grand Island Archaeology project
Aug 14-19	HNF booth at the U.P. State Fair
Aug 18	2007 Hiawatha Artist in Residence exhibit
Sept 8	National Public Lands Day event
October	Semi-annual Hiawatha Friends Meeting

For more information about these and other events, call us or visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/hiawatha/events/>

A gathering of volunteers



They're ripe!



Adopt-A-Forest Road volunteers



Hiawatha Artist In Residence

## Parting Shots

## NEPA Summary

**Westside (Rapid River, Manistique, and Munising Ranger Districts)** Westside (Rapid River, Manistique, and Munising Ranger Districts)

*Name of Project:* Large Opening Assessment CE

*Description:* Routine wildlife maintenance activities. 700 acres/year for 5 years

*Date of Public Release:* Estimate initial scoping in late August

*Likelihood of appeal:* Low

**Rapid River/Manistique Ranger District Rapid River/Manistique Ranger District**

*Name of Project:* Stockyard Jack Pine Stewardship CE

*Description:* Joint Kirtland's war-

bler/fuels reduction project. Stewardship and partnerships. Estimated 1.4 MMBF

*Date of Public Release:* To be determined

*Likelihood of appeal:* To be determined

**Rapid River/Manistique Ranger District Rapid River/Manistique Ranger District**

*Name of Project:* Single Track Motorcycle Trail EA

*Description:* Construct a 26-mile single track motorcycle trail.

*Date of Public Release:* Scoping and 30-day notice & comment combined

Decision expected in August

*Likelihood of appeal:* High

**Rapid River/Manistique Ranger District Rapid River/Manistique Ranger District**

*Name of Project:* Dutch Mill EA

*Description:* Vegetation Management

*Date of Public Release:* This project is on the back burner until FY08

*Likelihood of appeal:* High

**St. Ignace/Ste. Marie Ranger District St. Ignace/Ste. Marie Ranger District**

*Name of Project:* Sand Clay EA

*Description:* Large vegetation management project (and some non-timber-related activities). 49,000 acre analysis area with alternatives ranging from 17-19

MMBF

*Date of Public Release:* 30-day notice and comment period to begin sometime in August

*Likelihood of appeal:* High

**St. Ignace/Ste. Marie Ranger District St. Ignace/Ste. Marie Ranger District**

*Name of Project:* Sprinkler EA

*Description:* Large vegetation management project (and some non-timber-related activities). 54,000 acre analysis area with 15.8 MMBF

*Date of Public Release:* Decision notice signed June 29. Appeal period ends August 16

*Likelihood of appeal:* High