



Volume 1, Issue 2

Courageous Conservation  
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## Keeping You Informed

R9 Regional Foresters and Directors:

Welcome to the second issue of Hiawatha Highlights. August and September have been busy, what with field and visitor activities. Now as we ease into autumn, we're focused on preparations for next fiscal year. We've assembled some highlights here, to keep you in touch with Hiawatha activities. As before, 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*



*Boy Scout Troop 323 played a lead role in the success of the Round Island Lighthouse Open House.*

## Recent Success Stories

### Human Resources Highlights

- Therese Reilly, East Unit, has accepted a GS-11 Forester position with the BIA, Ashland, WI. Reporting date: October 14.
- Kari Vanderheuel, East Unit Recreation Planner, is on detail to the Humboldt-Toiyabe's Spring Mountain NRA.
- Bob Hill (H-MNF) is detailed here as the East Unit's Recreation Planner.
- Autumn Jauck, Munising, competed successfully for an upgrade to GS-5/6 Visitor Info Assistant, Munising.

#### Volunteer Couple on GI

Randy and Jane Ryan. He is a retired veterinarian, and she is a retired teacher, but they are also Island Rangers! For the past several years, Jane and Randy have helped the Hiawatha National Forest provide a Forest Service presence on Grand Island National Recreation Area, during the busy season. "They are invaluable to the District and to the public who use Grand Island," says Dick Anderson of the Munising Ranger District. "They are my eyes and ears on the island. I just don't know what we would do without them."

#### 800 Gather for Kids Fishing

Over 800 people participated in this year's 16th Annual Kids Fishing Day at the Camp 7 Lake Campground, including 415 youngsters between the ages of 1-16. It was a record-breaking crowd! The event was made possible by partners: Thirty-five volunteers helped staff the event, and 74 businesses donated prizes and food.



#### Round Island Open House

Hiawatha National Forest, Boy Scout Troop 323 (Freeland, MI) and Friends of the Round Island Lighthouse, Inc. hosted an Open House at Round Island Lighthouse on Saturday August 18, 2007, from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Over forty individuals happily accepted the invitation, arriving in private boats to tour the well-known lighthouse, which is usually not open for viewing.

For more details, visit the R9 SSRS intranet website!

## Mission Results FY 2007

The Lands program has negotiated several acquisitions (particularly in-holdings) that conserve the integrity of undeveloped lands and protect habitat quality.



The Tour da Woods ride includes a youth event, Tour da Valley.

## *Protect Ecosystems Across Boundaries: Murphy Creek*

In August, the Hiawatha began implementation of the Murphy Creek Project, a cooperative effort with Schoolcraft County Road Commission to replace the aging culvert at Murphy

Creek on Schoolcraft County Road 437. The Forest worked with partners and the community to develop a construction timeline that minimizes inconvenience to residents. The

project, which is funded through Aquatic Passages, will replace the impassable culvert with a new arch that will reduce sedimentation and improve fish habitat.

## *Walk the Talk For Sustainability: Fleet*

Looking ahead to FY 2008, the Forest Leadership Team recently charted the course to improve the Hiawatha's fleet. The effort is aimed at reducing the number of general fleet vehicles and reducing the FOR cost of

specialized vehicles. Whenever possible, the Forest will also continue to increase the overall fuel efficiency of the fleet.

In order to meet this objective, Fleet Manager Toby Rhue is gathering input

from district representatives over the course of the next couple weeks. A recommendation will be presented to the FLT in October so the Forest will be positioned to implement by November.

## *Connect Citizens to the Land: Tour da Woods*

Mother Nature provided a lovely late summer day for the 4th annual "Tour da Woods" cross-country mountain bike race held Sept 8th near Munising. The event, sponsored by the Anna River Pedalers, consists of a 30-mile race and a 15-mile race,

held simultaneously. In all, 177 cyclists aged 12 to mid-60's registered, with 160 crossing the finish line.

The official purpose of the club is to introduce and promote "silent sports" in the Munising area. The race also raises funds for DARE and

breast cancer.

"It's a fun event that pulls people of all ages into the Forest," says Acting District Ranger Dave Maercklein, "another great example of how the Forest works with partners to benefit the community!"

## *Effectiveness & Efficiency: Partnership Floats Boats*

After years of trying to secure funding, a \$30,000 project to repair the Brownstone Boat Launch (located on NFS land on Lake Superior's shore) was completed

in August by the Hiawatha. The persistence and dedication of two local partners was critical to this success. "This site is a key asset in the Forest's recreation niche

of "Great Lakeshores, Great Lighthouses, Great Islands, Great Snow," said Assistant Ranger, Dick Anderson. "We're excited about such a successful partnership!"

## Be An Employer of Choice: Recruitment Successes 07

In fiscal year 2007, the Hiawatha, Chequamegon-Nicolet and the Ottawa National Forests, joined forces to create the Lake States Recruitment Team. The Team aims to attract quali-

fied diversity students to apply for seasonal positions in the Great Lakes area and to identify potential candidates to recommend for participation in SCEP. In part as a result of the part-

nership, the Hiawatha hired 5 diversity students under STEP and enrolled one RO SCEP student. On a related note, the Forest once again hosted a New Employee Orientation for all seasonals.

## Team Highlights

### Public Service

**MVUM Map Release** – The Hiawatha’s MVUM maps will be available online by September 30. Hard copies are anticipated in October.

**Illegal ATV Trail Closed** – Utilizing Michigan DNR grant money, the Hiawatha has closed several illegal ATV trails this season. One of those sparked the ire of a citizen. Congressman Stupak’s office is tracking this issue.

**Recreation Facilities Analysis**– The Forest Leadership Team joined the Rec Team, led by Ted Schiltz, for a one-day Validation & Action Workshop. WO contacts, John Diefenderfer and Rachel Franchina, facilitated the process. Next Step: Review Proposed Program of Work with Public.

**Campground Prospectus** – The Hiawatha’s campground concessions prospectus is on the street—no small feat in light of the free tribal use issue. Forest Recreation Program Manager Ted Schiltz coordinated with the RO, the WO, Tribal officials, and the National Recreation Association to develop a prospectus that takes into account concerns of

concessionaires while honoring MOUs with tribes. The result of all this effort is a model prospectus that will help many Forests with expiring concessionaire permits.

### Grand Island National Recreation Area

**Schwalbach Exchange Congressional** – Owners of private land on the island’s Thumb have renewed interest in selling and exchanging parcels. They have involved Congressman Stupak’s office.

**Permittee Receives Mandatory Appearance** – An individual who holds a special use permit for a private structure located on NFS land was recently served a mandatory appearance for harassing and intimidating two Forest Service employees.

### Ecosystem

**Whitefish W&SR Congressional** – Senator Levin’s office recently contacted the Forest to obtain management plan information about the Whitefish W&S River. Citizens near the mouth of the river (which flows into Lake Michigan) are concerned about access and fishing issues related to low water.

### Clear Lake Education Center

**Health & Safety** – CLEC’s new executive director, Laurie Heupel, is off to a running start, and safety is at the forefront! In the midst of the busy fall school programming season, Heupel is charting new ground, certifying all staff in CPR and First Aid. In addition, partners at Delta– Schoolcraft Intermediate School District have purchased an Automatic External Defibrillator for the Education Center.

### Administration

**August MichNet Call** – The August Michigan Forests call included coordination & updates regarding Concessionaire prospectus, human resources, F&WS partnership, and the jointly issued EAB & fire restrictions orders.

### Lands

**Hanley Field Exchange** – The Forest continues to work with Alger County regarding possibilities for land exchange. The county is interested in acquiring the Hanley Field Airport. Senator Levin’s office is tracking this issue.



*Peninsula Point is a gathering place for Monarch Butterflies as they migrate south each August.*

Safety Culture FY 2007

**Your Great Lakes National Forest**

*Brought to you by a dedicated team of Great Employees!*

**Our safety culture is so strong that one employee made forest-wide presentations about a near-miss he observed, in order to raise awareness among all employees.**



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## On the Calendar

Date	Event
Sept	Clear Lake Education Center: school programs in session
Sept 18	Hiawatha Workforce Team Meeting
Sept 29/Oct 6	Friends of Valley Spur Work Days
Oct 16	MichNet Call
Oct 19	Semi-annual Hiawatha Friends Meeting
Oct 30	Lake States Recruitment Team Meeting
Nov	Clear Lake Education Center: Partnership Meeting
Nov 29	Annual Forest Employees Gathering

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



Jane and Randy Ryan are outstanding volunteers on Grand Island. (See story p.1)



Hiawatha Forest Planner Dave Maercklein recently had the opportunity to work in Madagascar through the agency's International Program. At left is one of the many captivating scenes of Madagascar's landscape.. (Visit the Success Story Reporting System for the rest of the story!)

## Parting Shots

## NEPA Summary

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

Name of Project: Permanent Opening 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

Name of Project: Stockyard Jack Pine Stewardship CE

Description: Joint Kirtland's warbler/fuels reduction project. Stewardship and

partnerships. Estimated 1.4 MMBF

Date of Public Release: Decision expected in September 2007

Likelihood of appeal: Medium

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 September 2007

Likelihood of appeal: High

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/Sault 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 August 2007

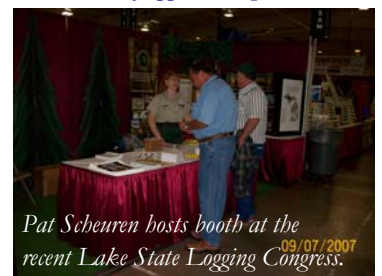
Likelihood of appeal: High

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: Two appeals received. ADO letter by September 17.

Likelihood of appeal: High



Pat Scheuren hosts booth at the recent Lake State Logging Congress.