

Jan-Mar 2008

Volume 2 Issue 2



COURAGEOUS CONSERVATION INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>EAB in the UP</i>	2
<i>Workforce Planning</i>	2
<i>Courageous Archaeology</i>	3
<i>Team Highlights</i>	3
<i>Calendar & Parting Shots</i>	4
<i>NEPA Summary</i>	4

Keeping You Informed

R9 Regional Foresters and Directors:

It's been a busy winter with the influx of winter sports enthusiasts, winter field work, and the paperwork that comes with processing last summer's field data. Now with spring just around the corner, prep-work for the snow-free season is also in full swing. So much for winter being a downtime! This edition mirrors the work of the winter season: it's a mix of reporting accomplishments from an earlier season and looking ahead to the season to come. Enjoy!

Tom



HUMAN RESOURCES HIGHLIGHTS

- Dan Reynolds, Forestry Technician, Rapid River/Manistique Ranger District, has accepted a 120-day detail to the St. Ignace/Sault Ste. Marie Ranger District.
- Lynn Hyslop, NEPA Coordinator, St. Ignace/Sault Ste Marie, has accepted a detail as Assistant Ranger for Recreation on the District.

Recent Success Stories

Achieving Aquatic Passages: The Lone Pine Project

In the fall of 2007, the Lone Pine Road crossing of the Pine River was reconstructed in order to achieve multiple objectives. First, the reconstruction addressed the deteriorated condition of the 1950 structure. Additionally, stream restoration and the new design improved aquatic habitat for fish and other creatures inhabiting the river.

Teaming up with LSSU Students for Soil Monitoring

In a mutually beneficial agreement, 12 students from a Lake Superior State University Soil Science class spent a day in the field with soils and hydrology specialists from the Hiawatha.



Water System Improvements

In the fall of 2007, the Hiawatha's East Unit engineering staff implemented a project at three recreation facilities on the St. Ignace and Sault Ste. Marie Districts — Big Pines Picnic Area, Carp River Campground, and Soldier's Lake Campground. Improvements included solar wells and accessibility.

For more details, visit the R9 SSRS intranet website!



The delimitation process is hands-on and time-consuming.



*Protecting Ecosystems: **EAB in the UP***

Emerald ash borer (EAB), a non-native invasive insect that attacks ash trees, was discovered in the Upper Peninsula in October 2007 within the boundaries of the Hiawatha National Forest near Moran. Since EAB was first identified in North America in 2002, it has killed more than 25 million ash trees in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, in Ohio and Indiana, and in Ontario. EAB larvae live in the inner bark, or phloem, of the species *Fraxinus*, or true ash trees. Phloem is the tissue in the tree that conducts water and nutrients taken in by the tree's roots from the soil up to all the rest of the tree. When EAB larvae eat the phloem, this girdles the tree and it dies from the lack of water and nutrients.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) conducted intensive surveys to determine the extent of the infestation.

Thousands of acres were surveyed on both public and private lands, and only 14 trees were discovered to be infested with EAB. From the time that EAB was first discovered in October, throughout the survey process, agencies including the Hiawatha National Forest, MDA, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry shared information about this infestation and discussed options for treating it. Soon after the survey process concluded, the Hiawatha decided to undertake a project on the National Forest lands included in the survey area to reduce the food supply for EAB in hopes of slowing the rate at which the EAB population would be likely to increase and spread.

Project planning and design was completed in February, and the project was completed on the

ground by the middle of March. The project took place on National Forest lands between half a mile and a mile from the infested trees. In keeping with recommendations in current research, larger ash trees were felled and cut into pieces so the phloem would dry out and deprive EAB of a food source. Although a great number of smaller ash trees remain alive in this area, one large ash tree can support more EAB larvae to maturity than several smaller trees.

Surveys will continue in the area surrounding the Moran infestation in 2008, to determine whether any additional EAB remain. The Hiawatha will continue to cooperate with other state and federal agencies so that if more EAB are found, all of the agencies will again consider what each can contribute to a combined control effort.

HUMAN RESOURCES HIGHLIGHTS, CONTINUED

- Linda Peterson, Hydrological Technician on Rapid River/Manistique Ranger District has accepted a detail as Fire Dispatcher at the S.O.
- Mike Joyce, Zone Fisheries Biologist, Huron-Manistee National Forest, has accepted a 120-day detail as Acting Deputy District Ranger on the St. Ignace/Sault Ste. Marie Ranger District effective March 30, 2008. Welcome, Mike!

*Being an employer of Choice: **Workforce Planning***

In past issues of Hiawatha Highlights, we've shared with you the process of our Workforce Planning effort. Spurred on by decreasing budgets (present and predicted), the Forest Leadership Team (FLT) has worked with Hiawatha employees to develop a draft workforce plan which went to the Union for official review at the end of February.

In February, Tom visited each unit to share the draft workforce plan with em-

ployees and begin dialogue about the implementation process. At this point, he views the Workforce Plan primarily as a guide to filling vacancies — ideally placing forest employees in those vacancies when possible.

In mid-March, the FLT met with the Extended FLT (which includes supervisors and program managers) to brief them on the status of current vacancies and provide guidance on how best to counsel their employees.

Employees have begun to

respond to the optional Employee Skills and Interests database. The information in the database will help the Implementation Team and decision makers develop and utilize employees' skills efficiently as we operate with a smaller workforce.

No one is excited about what a smaller workforce will mean for the Forest, but it only takes a quick look at budget trends to see that it's a necessary step if we're to balance our budget.

Connecting Citizens to the Land: **Archaeology**

Some people think of archaeology as a stuffy science concerned with cryptic artifacts. Maybe they even smell moth balls when they hear the word!

On the Hiawatha, archaeology is anything but stuffy! Over the years, the Forest’s Heritage program has done an exemplary job of using science to bring the past to life for the public. This past year was

no exception. Among the highlights of the Forest’s program were the Sandtown Historical Project and the Grand Island Archaeology Project.

In the Sandtown project, archaeologist/SCEP student Eric Drake investigated the daily life and labor of an early 20th century Anishinaabe logging camp with a volunteer crew of descendents of the camp’s

operator.

Now in its 8th year, the Grand Island project is a partnership with Illinois State University. The project offers public archaeology and youth workshops while exploring ancient Native American sites on Grand Island..

For more information about these projects, visit the SSRS.



Team Highlights

Public Service

Facility Master Plan – The Forest is on schedule to provide its FMP to the Regional Office for approval by June 1st.

Recreation Facility Analysis – The Forest submitted its RFA Program of Work to the Regional Office in March and will initiate further public involvement when the plan of work has been approved.

Hanley Field – The Forest is continuing dialogue with local government and individuals interested in trading parcels in order to acquire the Hanley Field Airport.

Ecosystem

Emerald Ash Borer – Working with other agencies, the Forest recently implemented treatment on 700 acres near Moran in order to reduce the risk of further infestation.

WATA Honor – The Hiawatha has been selected to receive the Wings Across the Americas award being present in Phoenix in April.

Administration

Safety – The work of the winter season was completed without any personal injuries! Hurray!

Grand Island National Recreation Area

GI Strategic Plan -- As part of its ongoing public involvement strategy, the Forest will team with a local business to provide a “Business After Hours” event highlighting the Grand Island Strategic Plan.

Public Affairs

Website – The Forest is among several nationwide that will be “early adopters” of the new web format. We’re scheduled to migrate in

June.

Friends of the Hiawatha – We meet semi-annually with our Friends group. Our next meeting will be April 18th. Planned topics include Aquatic Passages, EAB, Soil Monitoring, Stewardship Contracting, and Trails.

OHV/TMR Field Visit – Increased OHV use combined with the recent Motor Vehicle Use Mapping has resulted in increased public comment about related Forest policies. In order to help our Congressional contacts answer questions, the Forest is hosting a field visit this summer.

Clear Lake Education Center

Gearing Up! – Registration is in full swing for spring and summer programs at CLEC. To learn more about the facility and to peruse the 2008 program flyer, visit

GREEN TEAM

The Hiawatha has recently pooled its informal district Green Teams to form a Forest Green Team with the objective of further increasing the sustainability of our operations. Go green!

www.clearlakeinfo.org.

Hiawatha Interpretive Association

Another Great Year – Over the past 12 years since its inception, HIA has contributed significantly to the interpretive and environmental education programs on the Forest. For example, in 2007 the Association contributed over \$20,000 in benefits to the Forest.

Hiawatha National Forest
2727 North Lincoln Road
Escanaba, MI 49829

Phone: 906-789-3339 (Tom) or
906-789-3329 (Janel, PAO)
Fax: 906-789-3311
Email: taschmidt@fs.fed.us, or
jmcrooks@fs.fed.us



Native American logger Adam Lambert, at his logging camp with fellow loggers.

Lambert's grandchildren, Beverly Louis and Cliff Lambert, helped excavate the old camp.

On the Calendar

Date	Event
April 1	MICHNet call
April 2	WO Trust Fund Review field trip
April 16	Regional Forester's Visit to West Unit
April 18	Friends of the Hiawatha meeting
April 30-May 1	Hiawatha FLT Meeting
May	MICHNet call (to be announced)
May 28-29	Hiawatha FLT Meeting
June	MICHNet call (to be announced)
June 3-5	Regional Monarch Butterfly Workshop
June 19-20	Michigan NFs Meeting
June 24-25	Hiawatha FLT Meeting
June 26	Local Timber Producers Meeting

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



The new Lone Pine Road Crossing improves aquatic passage in the Pine River.



Water system improvements include solar wells.

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: Decision signed Dec 20, 2007
Appeal: One appeal, decision affirmed.

Name of Project: Beech Bark Disease EA
Description: Anticipated TPPS project
Date of Public Release: Collecting data FY08. Decision FY09.
Likelihood of appeal: Low/Medium

Munising Ranger District

Name of Project: Mirrorwood EA
Description: Vegetation Management
Date of Public Release: Decision FY09
Appeal: Unknown

Rapid River/Manistique Ranger District

Name of Project: Stockyard Stewardship CE
Description: Joint Kirtland's warbler/fuels reduction project. Stewardship and partnerships. Estimated 1.4 MMBF
Date of Public Release: Was a Category 10 CE, but now is an EA. Decision expected in June 2008.
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 & 30-day comment period ran concurrently in April 07. Decision expected in April 08
Likelihood of appeal: High

Name of Project: Dutch Mill EA
Description: Vegetation Management

Date of Public Release: Scoping completed March 2007. Decision expected in Jun 08
Likelihood of appeal: High

Name of Project: Gooseneck EA
Description: Vegetation Management
Date of Public Release: Initial scoping Mar 08. Decision expected in Sep 08
Likelihood of appeal: Unknown

Eastside (St. Ignace/Sault Ste. Marie Ranger District)

Name of Project: Permanent Opening CE—East
Description: Routine wildlife maintenance activities. Approximately 5,900 acres of existing openings
Date of Public Release: Decision made March 10, 2008.
Likelihood of appeal: Low

St. Ignace/Sault Ste. Marie Ranger District

Name of Project: Sand Clay EA

Description: Large vegetation management project. (49,000 acre analysis area with alternatives ranging from 17-19 MMBF)
Date of Public Release: Second 30-day notice and comment period began Nov 2007. Decision expected March 2008.
Likelihood of appeal: High

Name of Project: Niagara EIS
Description: Large vegetation management project
Date of Public Release: NOI in FR in Jan 08. Decision expected Feb 09.
Likelihood of appeal: High

Name of Project: Lake Superior Highlands EA Revision
Description: Addressing beech bark disease
Date of Public Release: Decision made Feb 08. Appeal period ends Mar 31, 08.
Likelihood of appeal: Low