

July—September 2008

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## Keeping You Informed

### Greetings!

Once again summer is winding down, and autumn is in the air. Leaf-lookers, hunters, hikers and other fall sports enthusiasts are taking to the woods. I hope you'll take a few minutes to enjoy the leaf color and read a few highlights from the Hiawatha's summer.

*Tom Schmidt*

Forest Supervisor



### HUMAN RESOURCES HIGHLIGHTS

- **Jim Ozenberger**, Bridger-Teton NF, has accepted the East Unit Deputy District Ranger position.
- **Lyn Hyslop**, East Unit NEPA Team Leader on the Hiawatha, has been reassigned to the East Unit Recreation Program Manager position.
- **Daryl Ulberg**, East Unit Engineering Tech, has accepted the East Unit Equipment Operator position.
- **Bobby Caldwell**, Position, has accepted the West Unit Equipment Operator position.

## Recent Success Stories

### Interpretive Association Sponsors Art Workshop

One goal of interpretation is to create tangible connections between citizens and their public lands. Art is a wonderful way to make those connections. This summer, Hiawatha Interpretive Association continued its support of art on the Forest by sponsoring an all-day workshop called The Illustrated Journal: Lake Superior and the North Woods" lead by Artist Phyllis Northup .

### Partnership Helps Piping Plover on the Hiawatha

Piping plover management has proven to be a success on the Hiawatha National Forest. In 2008 nesting pairs of Great Lakes piping plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) fledged 14 young. Part of that success can be attributed to work performed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Michigan employees on the forest.. The work involved hundreds of hours, often on the weekends and holidays, times when



forest visitors were likely to be using the same beaches occupied by piping plovers. The collaborative effort has paved the way for additional partnership work in the future.

For more details on these stories, visit the Success Story Reporting Website.



*Kids in the Woods participants enjoyed trying many outdoor recreation pursuits, including mountain biking & rock climbing.*

## Connecting Citizens: Kids in the Woods

Nationally, kids are gravitating away from active outdoor experiences toward sedentary, indoor pursuits. As part of the Forest's effort to combat this trend, this summer the Hiawatha National Forest teamed up with Delta County's YMCA Summer Day Camp to provide an 8-week "Kids in the Woods" program.

During the course of the program, 400 youth were bussed to various locations on the Forest where they participated in a wide

range of activities such as hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, archaeology, orienteering, journaling and building nest boxes.



Participants also studied cultural resources through Native American culture and

archaeology units. According to Forest Service project coordinator, Anne Okonek, "The youngsters learned about conservation management, about the value of public lands, about stewardship, about giving back, about careers in natural resources. They also participated in a "volunteer" project, to learn about "giving back, by transplanting native plants, picking up trash, and fixing a hiking trail."

### MORE HUMAN RESOURCES HIGHLIGHTS

- **Teresa Chase**, Munising District Ranger, will be on detail as Midewin's Prairie Supervisor, Oct—Dec.
- **Kirk Piehler**, Wildlife Program Manager, has accepted a detail as Munising District Ranger, Oct—Dec..
- **Gunnar Moody and Alex Wieczorek** have accepted positions as Sale Prep Forestry Techs on the East Unit.
- **Leslie Neubert**, East Unit GIS technician, has accepted a position as Sale Prep Forest Tech on the East Unit.
- **Marjorie Allmaras**, Umatilla NF, has accepted a position as Reforestation Forester on the East Unit.

## Connecting Citizens: OHV Field Visit

In recent months, the Forest has seen increased contacts from Congressionals related to Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs). In response, the Forest hosted local Congressional staff on a September field tour of sites related to Forest OHV management opportunities and challenges.

Following an introductory presentation,

we headed to the



field where our district recreation staff did an outstanding job explaining key messages at each site.

Following a full day in the field, the group returned to the district office for a roundtable discussion with our OHV partners, including representatives of several Sportsmen's Off Road Vehicle Associations (SORVAs).

At the end of the day, we hope that participants felt more informed.

## Protecting Ecosystems: Superior Watershed/NFF Partnership

The Superior Watershed Partnership (SWP) was recently awarded a Matching Award Program grant from NFF in order to conduct invasive weed inventory, mapping and eradication in the Hiawatha's Rock River and Big Island Lake Wildernesses. The project kicked off spring and

summer.

Carl Lindquist, SWP director, expressed his enthusiasm for the cooperative project. The Forest Service is also excited about this opportunity to get a jump on non-native, invasive species within two of its congressionally designated Wildernesses.

According to Ted Schiltz, Recreation and Wilderness Program Manager, Hiawatha NF, "This is a great opportunity for the forest to work with our partners to achieve the NNIS goals of the 10 year wilderness challenge."

For more details on this story, visit our Success Story Reporting System website.



*The Hiawatha and its volunteers take removal of non-native invasive plants very seriously!*

## Team Highlights

### **PUBLIC SERVICE**

**Stearns Donation Publicity** – In September, Tom Schmidt hosted Robert Gable for a photo opportunity related to the recent Stearns Mineral Donation.

**Recreation Residences** – Permit Holder and Appraiser meetings were held with the Moccasin Lake, Crooked Lake, Bay View, and Steuben Summer Home Groups. The purpose of the meetings was to describe the appraisal process to these permit holders, whose recreation residences are being reappraised currently. The remaining

seven recreation residence tracts on the Forest will be reappraised in 2009.

### **ECOSYSTEM**

**Emerald Ash Borer** – Last fall, Emerald Ash Borer was found in two populations near St. Ignace on the Forest's East Unit. Recently, EAB has been confirmed on the West Unit of the Hiawatha and in the Keweenaw Peninsula. It is still hoped that research being done on the Forest will help contain the spread to other states.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

**Workforce Transition Team** – The Forest's

Workforce Transition Team efforts toward its goal of helping employees navigate the Forest's impending workforce reductions. Activity over the last three months included a call for interest in off-forest details; approval of a training budget; and a budget validation process aimed at determining what work can be accomplished with the current workforce.

### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**Website** – The Hiawatha is a pilot forest for the new agency-wide www web template. At the end of September, the team migrated the contents of our website. Now, the Forest is

As we look forward to our annual Forest Awards Event and Potluck, the Green Team is working to make the event as "green" as possible — from the non-monetary awards to the menu to the special presenter and everything in between!



cleaning up and augmenting the content that was transferred.



Hiawatha National Forest  
2727 North Lincoln Road  
Escanaba, MI 49829

Phone: 906-789-3339 (Tom Schmidt,  
Forest Supervisor)  
906-789-3329 (Janel Crooks, PAO)  
Fax: 906-789-3311



Robert Gable, president of Stearns Company of Lexington, Kentucky, recently posed with Forest Supervisor, Tom Schmidt, in recognition of the company's donation of 42,000 acres of mineral rights.



## On the Calendar

Date	Event
Oct 1	Voight Tribal MOU Annular Meeting
Oct 4	Grand Island Half Marathon
Oct 7	Grand Island Strategic Plan Public Presentation
Oct 9	MICHNet call
Oct 17	Friends of the Hiawatha Meeting
Oct 21-23	Hiawatha FLT Meeting
Nov 4	MICHNet call (tentative)
Nov 7	1836 Tribal MOU Annual Meeting
Nov 19-20	Hiawatha FLT Meeting
Dec 2	MICHNet call (tentative)
Dec 3	Forest Potluck and Awards Event
Dec 16-17	Hiawatha FLT Meeting

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



Kids climbing the wall?! In this case, it was a GOOD thing! These Kids in the Woods had a great time at Clear Lake Education Center, including orienteering, the high ropes challenge course, and the climbing wall.

## Parting Shots

## NEPA Summary

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

*Name of Project:* Westside Gravel Pits  
*Description:* Development of several new gravel pits  
*Date of Public Release:* Decision expected March 09

*Name of Project:* Beech Bark Disease EA  
*Description:* Anticipated TPPS project  
*Date of Public Release:* Collected data FY08. Decision FY09.

### Munising Ranger District

*Name of Project:* Mirrorwood EA  
*Description:* Vegetation Management  
*Date of Public Release:* Decision FY10

### Rapid River/Manistique Ranger District

*Name of Project:* Stockyard Stewardship CE  
*Description:* Joint Kirtland's warbler/fuels reduction project. Stewardship and partnerships. Estimated 0.7 MMBF  
*Date of Public Release:* Was a Category 10 CE, but now is an EA. Decision signed June 2008.

*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 signed September 2008

*Name of Project:* Dutch Mill EA  
*Description:* Vegetation Management  
*Date of Public Release:* Scoping completed March 2007. Decision expected in December 08

*Name of Project:* Gooseneck EA  
*Description:* Vegetation Management  
*Date of Public Release:* Initial scoping Mar 08. Decision expected in March 09

### 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, withdrawn. New decision made July 2008.  
*Likelihood of appeal:* One appeal filed. Decision affirmed, 9/2008

### 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:* Decision signed July 2008.  
*Likelihood of appeal:* Two appeals pending.

*Name of Project:* Niagara EIS  
*Description:* Large vegetation management project  
*Date of Public Release:* NOI in FR in Jan 08. Decision expected March 09.

*Name of Project:* Huron Shores EA  
*Description:* Vegetation management  
*Date of Public Release:* Decision expected FY10