



**COURAGEOUS  
CONSERVATION  
INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

<i>MOU Supports Fishery</i>	2
<i>Employees Celebrate</i>	2
<i>Stupak Celebrates Nahma Project</i>	3
<i>Team Highlights</i>	3
<i>Calendar &amp; Parting Shots</i>	3
<i>NEPA Summary</i>	4

## *Keeping You Informed*

### **Greetings!**

Winter is in full swing here in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. As the snow piles grow, we've been busy in many arenas, including collaboration, workforce transition, Secure Rural Schools, EMS, and reflection on last year's accomplishments. We hope you'll take a few minutes to review this update covering our October, November & December, and let us know if you have questions or ideas! Happy New Year,



*Tom Schmidt*

## *Recent Success Stories*

### Cooperative Cormorant Control Improves Fishery

A cooperative effort involving six organizations is restoring a depleted sport fishery and expanding knowledge about how an avian predator influences fish populations. Walleye populations had dropped from 8,500 to 1,200 over a ten year period. Following the cormorant control project, the population has rebounded to about 7,800, according to HNF Fisheries Biologist Chuck Bassett.

### Dedicated Fans of Lyman Lake

This past season, Marcella and Fred Tryan enjoyed their 40+ year tradition of camping at beautiful Lyman Lake Dispersed Campsites. "We've stayed elsewhere, but nothing compares!"



### Generations Make 'Plug' for Native Plants

This summer Hiawatha National Forest botanical staff, volunteers and partners transplanted 6,912 native wildflower and milkweed plugs in the "old farm field" on Grand Island NRA. According to botanist Deb LeBlanc, all the native plugs were raised at the Forest greenhouse located in Marquette, Michigan and actually got their start from many of the same volunteers who came out to do the four day plantings on the island.

For more details on these stories, visit the [Success Story Reporting Website](#).

### **HUMAN RESOURCES HIGHLIGHTS**

- ◆ **Jim Evers** — Forester, East Unit, Retired
- ◆ **Steve Wherrit** — Forestry Technician, East Unit, Retired



*With the MOU signed, the agencies look forward to a long future of collaboration.*

### FOREST SUPERVISOR'S HONOR AWARDS 2008

- Protecting Ecosystems Across Boundaries: EAB Suppression Project
- Walk the Talk: Dukes Implementation Team
- Best of Best: Ken Guillard

### FOREST SUPERVISOR'S APPRECIATION AWARDS 2008

- Protecting Ecosystems Across Boundaries: Nahma Bridge Project
- Connecting: Munising Volunteer Program
- Connecting: Hiawatha Plant Program
- Best of Best: Doug Born

## *Protecting Across Boundaries: MOU supports Great Lakes Fishery*

On the afternoon of December 2, 2008, a group gathered at the Sullivan Creek National Fish Hatchery to celebrate the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Hiawatha National Forest and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The agreement combined and revised MOU's between the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service that were originally developed in 1950 and 1959.

The new document updated the cooperative management agreement between the Hiawatha National Forest and the Pendlills Creek/Sullivan

Creek NFH Complex.

"With both hatcheries on or surrounded by Hiawatha National Forest land, our agencies have a shared desire to protect and conserve the Great Lakes lake trout restoration efforts," noted Forest Supervisor Thomas Schmidt.

The streams and associated watersheds that serve the Hatcheries lie within the National Forest boundary.

According to Hatchery Manager, Curt Friez, "This ceremony is the culmination of several years of discussion between the Hiawatha National Forest and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service. We look forward to continued collaboration."

At the ceremony, Mr. Schmidt and Mike Weimer, US FWS Assistant Regional Director, signed the finalized agreement, which outlines a process for collaboration on projects within the designated areas. The agencies have jointly identified watershed health as their foremost management objective.

Following the ceremony, the group toured the Sullivan Creek National Fish Hatchery's facilities.

## *Being an Employer of Choice: Forest Awards Event Gets Greener*

The Hiawatha's Employee Awards Event, a Forest tradition, just got 'greener'! In addition to our usual efforts to carpool, the Green Team made sure that and this year's event included an array of green non-monetary awards and a Marquette Food Coop speaker who shared information and samples to help employees green their

lives at work and home.

Per tradition, Tom Schmidt opened the Awards Presentation with a summary of Forest achievements for 2008. First, he recognized the Hiawatha's Regional Forester's Honor Award winners. Then, he presented Forest Supervisor Honor Awards and Appreciation Awards to the em-

ployees whose dedicated effort carried several important projects forward this past year (see lists at left).

Ranger Silvius presented the first annual Forest Safety and Wellness Award to Dick Anderson.

Also presented during the event were length of service and Green Team awards.

## *Protecting Across Boundaries: Nahma Bridge Project Celebrated*

On Friday, November 14, Hiawatha Forest Supervisor Tom Schmidt joined Representative Bart Stupak, Rob VanEffen (Delta County Road Commission) and others for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Nahma Bridge. Also present were representatives of the Hannahville Tribe, which is re-using the old Nahma bridge in its nearby golf course.



The bridge was built through cooperative effort of the agencies involved. Among those recognized for their contributions to the project were Forest Service archaeologists John Franzen and Eric Drake, hydrologist Rich Corner, engineer Greg Gardiner and wildlife biologist Janet Ekstrum.

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



*Regional Forester's Honor Awards winners Anne Okonek, Jim Henderson and Jim Potvin.*

## *Team Highlights*

### **PUBLIC SERVICE**

**GISP Rollout** – About 50 public stakeholders, including staff from the offices of Representative Stupak and Senator Levin, attended the public presentation of the Grand Island Strategic Plan.

**EMS Audit** – The Hiawatha was one of several Forests that participated in the national review of 2008 EMS. We gained from the opportunity, sharing our successes and learning how we can improve EMS implementation in FY09.

### **ECOSYSTEM**

**Secure Rural Schools** – For the first time, we find ourselves in the exciting position of having Counties elect the State Payment including Title 2 funds. We hope to form a single RAC covering Delta and Chippewa Counties.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

**Workforce Transition Team** – The Transition team has been hard at work planning workshops to help employees adjust during this

time of workforce reductions. The team is planning two Employee Workshops for January. Topics will include applying for jobs, preparing for interviews, job performance, mental/physical well-being, and filing vacancies.

### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

**Success Stories** – In FY08, twenty-six individuals were recognized for contributing stories for the Success Story Reporting System.



### **Green Team**

In November, the Hiawatha's Green Team was one of 35 new Green Teams recognized at the Sustainable Operation Summit. With these new teams, the agency now has +60 Green Teams!



Hiawatha National Forest  
2727 North Lincoln Road  
Escanaba, MI 49829

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



The December FLT meeting was held at the Forest's Valley Spur Lodge. Front: Dave Silviens (Ranger, Rapid River/Manistique), Piper Desy (Administrative Officer), and Kirk Piehler (Acting Ranger, Munising), Second Row: Tom Eiseman (Executive Assistant), Janel Crooks (Public Affairs Officer), Bill Bowman (Public Service, Engineering and Lands), and Dave Maercklein (Ecosystem Mgmt, NEPA, Fire). Back Row: Jim Ozenberger (Deputy DR, East Unit), Steve Christiansen (Ranger, East Unit) and Tom Schmidt (Forest Supervisor).



## Calendar

Date	Event
Jan 6	MICHNet call (tentative)
Jan 10	Valley Spur Ski Bash Race
Jan 10	RR/M Winter Trails Day Event
Jan 13-14	FLT training
Jan 22	Hiawatha FLT Meeting
Jan 28-29	Workforce Transition Employee Workshops
Feb 3	MICHNet call
Feb 25-26	Hiawatha FLT Meeting
Mar 3	MICHNet call (tentative)
Mar 2-6	COR/COTR certification course
Mar 7	Taste & Glide Ski Event
Mar 10	Michigan forests' staff meeting
Mar 25-26	Hiawatha FLT Meeting

## Parting Shot

# NEPA Summary

### Recent Appealable Decisions (since last issue)

*Project:* Stockyard Jack Pine Stewardship EA

*Description:* KW habitat/fuels reduction, 0.5mmbf.

*Status:* Appealed and affirmed.

*Name of Project:* Single Track Motorcycle Trail EA

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

*Status:* Appealed and affirmed.

*Name of Project:* Permanent Opening CE—East

*Description:* Routine wildlife maintenance activities. Approximately 5,600 acres of existing openings.

*Status:* Appealed and affirmed.

*Name of Project:* Sand Clay EA

*Description:* Large vegetation management project. 19mmbf.

*Status:* Appealed and affirmed.

*Name of Project:* Stockpond Red Pine Thin CE

*Description:* 69 acres, 250mmbf.

*Status:* No appeal period (only supportive comments).

*Name of Project:* Sturgis Land Exchange EA

*Description:* Exchange of 50 NFS acres for 40 private acres.

*Status:* No appeal period (only supportive comments).

### 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:* Minimize loss of beech trees due to BBD while maintaining a

minor component of beech.

*Date of Public Release:* Collected data & developing PN/PA in FY09. Decision FY10.

*Name of Project:* Mirrorwood EA

*Description:* Vegetation Management.  
*Date of Public Release:* Collecting data and developing PN/PA in FY09. Decision FY10.

*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:* Soo Office NEPA/CRIA

*Description:* Close Soo Office and Reconstruct Raco facility.

*Date of Public Release:* Decision expected August 09.

*Name of Project:* Niagara EIS

*Description:* Vegetation management project (est. 25 mmbf).

*Date of Public Release:* NOI in FR in Jan 08. Decision expected May 09.

*Name of Project:* Shores EA

*Description:* Vegetation management.  
*Date of Public Release:* Collecting data and developing PN/PA in FY09. Decision expected FY10.

*Name of Project:* Red Pine III Surveys

*Description:* Vegetation management.  
*Date of Public Release:* Decision expected FY11.