



Hiawatha Highlights

As winter fades ...

Spring 2016

... Spring begins to seep in!

With the change in season, it seems an appropriate time to pass along an update on winter doings on the Forest. Natural resources managers know that every season has its particular focus. Winter is always a busy time of year for Forest Service employees. Attached you'll find a few brief updates regarding Hiawatha National Forest topics that I hope will interest you and give you a taste of the work we're doing to sustain the Hiawatha's ecosystems, deliver a range of benefits to the public and ensure our workforce represents the American people. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us for more information. Have a great spring!

Cid H. Morgan
Forest Supervisor

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40 Years of Working Together

Hiawatha National Forest staff were among the recipients of the 2016 Wings Across the Americas award for the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team's +40 years of effort.



Sustain Our Nation's Forests and Grasslands

Hiawatha East Resource Advisory Committee

FOCUS on
Tribes

Hiawatha National Forest staff will represent the agency at the Menomonee Nation's upcoming Bioblitz/Earth Day event.

The event was funded by the agency through the MOU Partnership at the College of Menomonee Nation and will be held on April 21 in Wisconsin. The event supports the USFS Every Kid in a Park, Outdoor experiences for Kids, and Citizen Science/ Bioblitz.

Hiawatha East Resource Advisory Committee (HERAC) met in April to fulfill its role in supporting the Secure Rural Schools Act's Title II program. The committee reviewed seven proposals, recommending and prioritizing six of them. The projects include:

- Invasive species management along the North Country Trail
- Re-route of North Country Trail around a beaver dam
- Volunteer Forest Clean-up events
- Trail maintenance along the Iron Belle/North Country Trail
- A Story Board mapping project
- ORV trail informational signing
- ORV trail informational map

This was the first meeting for several new members of the HERAC who were appointed last summer to fill vacancies. The RAC's current slate

includes: Nathan Marra (organized labor); Martin Cottle (off-highway vehicle users); Ralph Wilcox (commercial fishing); Chad Radka (commercial timber industry); Gary Gorniak (non-industrial private forest land owners); Dr. Tina Hall (national environmental organization); Carol Ward (local environmental organization); Charlene DeWitt (dispersed recreational activity); Wanda Perron (historical interests); Aubrey Golden (watershed group); Stacy Haughey (state office); Tim McKee (county office); Eric Clark (tribe); Michelle Walk (citizen at large); and Marcia Malloy (education).

The group anticipates meeting in a few months for a monitoring trip.

**Forest Greenhouse Update**

Hiawatha National Forest's native plants greenhouse is an important piece of the Forest's native plants program. With the pending sale of the agency's Marquette facility, the Forest is in the process of relocating its greenhouse operations. For the upcoming growing season, operations will temporarily be relocated to the Borealis Seed Company nursery north of Marquette, MI. Volunteers will continue to play a critical role. Work days are scheduled for April 27, May 2, 4 and 11. Got a green thumb?! Contact botanist Deb LeBlanc dleblanc01@fs.fed.us for more information.



Deliver Benefits to the Public: Abundant Clean Water

Roxbury Ponds Habitat Improvement Partnership

In mid-March, east zone wildlife technician Jon Reattoir coordinated with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to complete a habitat improvement project on two ponds located within the Hiawatha National Forest in Chippewa County. The work resulted in additional and improved aquatic habitat for fish and riparian wildlife species. Truly an interdisciplinary project, Forest and DNR employees from fire, silviculture, timber and fish/wildlife all pitched in.

Benefiting wildlife include waterfowl, turtles, salamanders, mink, muskrat, and great blue heron.

Created in the 1970s, the man-made Roxbury Ponds had been managed for Brook Trout for over 30 years. But

with declining reproduction, trout stocking was ceased. Specialists recommended transitioning the ponds to more suitable warm-water fisheries including Largemouth Bass, Bluegills and Black Crappies.

According to Reattoir, although it wasn't a huge or complicated project, it will reap many ecological benefits. The interagency team placed brush bundles and tree drops in Roxbury Pond East and Roxbury Pond West. Both structure types will provide cover and benefit fish and riparian wildlife species using the habitat.

"We are pleased to have worked with our partners to improve the watershed and provide habitat," said District Ranger Robert West.

FOCUS on
Good
Neighbor
Authority

The three Michigan national forests have been working closely with the State Forester to finalize Supplemental Project Agreements covering 2016 and 2017 GNA projects. The Forests anticipate a joint announcement in the near future.



A Great Team

The cooperation with the DNR and the interdisciplinary effort from the FS employees is a testament to what we can/must do in the future, given our declining workforce and budgets in both agencies. Individuals implementing the project were:

Jon Reattoir, Terry Cece, Kyle Sommers, Cory Kovacs (DNR), Carl Christiansen (DNR), Wayne Heinzman (DNR) and Shawn Sapp (DNR).

Deliver Benefits to the Public: Strengthen Communities

Every Kid in a Park Grant Implementation



Hiawatha National Forest continues to lead the way with innovative, collaborative approaches to education outreach. The Forest recently partnered with the National Park Service to hire an interagency (Service First) Environmental Education

Coordinator, Melissa O'Donnell. In addition to guiding the agencies' environmental education outreach and the Forest's Clear Lake Education Center (CLEC) partnership, O'Donnell is currently implementing the Every Kid in a Park (eKIP) grant received from the National Parks Foundation in March.

Originally written by Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, the grant will bring over 400 area youth on field trips to National Forest and

National Lakeshore locations.

O'Donnell and CLEC staff are currently making pre-trip visits to the following schools: Big Bay de Noc, Holy Name, Mid Peninsula, Rapid River, Newberry Elementary, Lincoln Elementary, Pickford Public School, Mather Elementary, Ojibwe Charter School, Soo Township Elementary, Mackinac Island and Washington Elementary. Field trips, which will occur in May, will also include post-site classroom visits to each awarded school.

Deliver Benefits to the Public: Connect People to the Outdoors

Lake Superior Kayak Safety Collaborative



The state of Michigan's "Pure Michigan" tourism campaign has achieved worldwide recognition as one of the most successful travel promotions ever. And this year, the campaign is slated to expand into China, among the world's most influential economies.

In Michigan, communities are feeling more than just the economic impacts of this success. Last year, for instance, a dramatic rise in visitation to Michigan's UP overwhelmed some communities' infrastructure and visitor service capacity.

The US Forest Service is engaged in working locally to be more prepared for 2016 and future years. For instance, Hiawatha National Forest staff are part of a committee concerned about the safety implications of exponential increase in kayaking on Lake Superior. The Forest is working with a cross-section of state, local and international partners to develop solutions. One example: a joint publicity campaign that will educate kayakers about safety and trip planning.



Excel as a High Performing Agency

Performance and Employee Relations Trainings



FOCUS on Recruitment

In addition to supporting outreach through Detroit Urban Connections, Hiawatha National Forest has been recruiting actively in local communities.

For instance, staff from St. Ignace Ranger District recently participated in a Job Fair sponsored by the State's "Michigan Works!" agency. The annual job event allows the Forest Service to be part of the local community and reach out to its high school students and other job seekers.

Because of the agency's field-oriented mission, the snow season is often the best time of year for us to address employee training and development initiatives. This year, Hiawatha National Forest employees recently partook in a series of two trainings. The first was a refresher on

the federal employee performance system, and the second was an ethics refresher.

Forest Supervisor Cid Morgan noted, "Understanding the performance and ethics systems helps us be more successful as individuals and as an agency."

Section 508 Compliance

Hiawatha National Forest is providing its employees with Section 508 Compliance awareness training this fiscal year. Presentations will be made at each unit this spring so that all employees will understand the importance of Section 508 for accessibility. Employees are encouraged to take advantage of self-training resources compiled on the Forest's Sharepoint page. The Forest Leadership Team is also exploring additional employee training for next fiscal year, including the possibility of a hands-on session for all employees.

Hiawatha National Forest

Calendar

Parting Shot



Planning your gardening? Native plants are already adapted to the soil and climate of the Upper Peninsula. They also provide food and shelter butterflies, birds and bees. Give them a try!

#plantmeinstead
fs.fed.us

Nannyberry photo by Keith Kanoff, Maine Forest Service, Bugwood.org

NNIS Social Media Campaign — Hiawatha botany staff created monthly “tweet cards” promoting NNIS awareness.

Date	Event
April 10	Volunteer Appreciation Week
April 30	Forest Clean-up @ St. Ignace
May 2	Monitoring Comments Due
May	Hiawatha Friends Meeting
May	eKIP field trips
June 11	Kids Fishing Day @ Camp 7
June 11	Kids Fishing Day @ Castle Rock
July 11-13	Youth Archaeology Workshop-
July-Aug	Visitor Programming

Questions? Look us up!
www.fs.usda.gov/hiawatha
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