



Photo: Steve Chadde

Finding Our Pole Star: A UPEC Vision of Sustainable Forests

With a new editor and a new year, the UPEC Board has decided to initiate a yearlong dialogue on the state of the U.P. forests. This issue contains the Introduction to a UPEC vision of where we are as a region and what priorities should govern our thoughts and actions. Future issues will deal with the three principles listed at the end of the Introduction. We are sending out complimentary copies of this issue to professional foresters and media representatives, with the hope of enlisting participants in this dialogue. We welcome your responses and insights throughout this year. **(Jon Saari, UPEC President)**

As residents of the U.P and the State of Michigan, we need vision if our forests are to remain special places. These forests cover 85 percent of the landscape and together with the Great Lakes are signature natural features of the Upper Peninsula. They provide the green backdrop for our farms, towns, and cities and the deep green of the continuous forested area so visible in satellite images.

But appearances are deceiving. During the Great Cutover (1880-1920), the original forests of the Upper Peninsula were changed dramatically, with little forethought for the consequences. First timber companies culled the magnificent pine stands, using the streams and rivers as transport corridors. Then railroad spurs were extended into less accessible areas, allowing the virgin hardwood forests to be cut and delivered to distant markets or used as charcoal for local iron-making furnaces.



"We need a vision if our forests are to remain special places."

(Continued on page 4)

Pictured Rocks to Consider Banning Jet-Skis

By Katie Alvord

Sculpted by wind and waves into caves, arches, and castle-like formations, stained by minerals in varying hues, the sandstone cliffs of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore provide a fine example of nature's artistry. Stretching 42 miles along the Lake Superior shoreline in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Pictured Rocks includes beaches and dunes as well as the spectacular cliffs, and encompasses more than 70,000 acres of northern hardwood and conifer forest, superb wildlife habitat, waterfalls, inland lakes and streams.

Whether the roar of Jet Skis will be allowed to echo amongst these natural canyons and cliffs is now at issue. The National Park Service (NPS) is currently deciding

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Make Your Voice Heard On...

- *Jet Skis in the National Parks*
- *Sustainable Forestry Practices in the U.P.*
- *Preserving Open Spaces*
- *Wolf De-listing*
- *Coal-Fired Power Plants & Michigan Energy policies*



Take Action! Report Abuse of Motorized Vehicles

The Natural Trails & Waters Coalition is currently creating a website that highlights stories of ORV abuse and gives information about the organizations and activists working to stop this ecological damage.

They are collecting information and photos regarding the use and abuse of off-road vehicles on state, federal, and private land. These stories will be used to illustrate the damage natural areas have sustained due to ORVs.

If you know a story of ORV abuse, you can participate in this project. Contact:

Jessica Cohen
Natural Trails and Waters Coalition
c/o Wildlands CPR
PO Box 7516,
Missoula, MT 59807
Ph: (406)543-9550
E-mail: orv@wildlandscpr.org

whether to allow the use of personal watercraft (PWCs, popularly called jet skis) within Pictured Rocks. Effective April 20, 2000, PWCs were banned in 66 of 87 NPS parks, recreation areas and seashores where they had been allowed. This included Isle Royal National Park and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Michigan. Ten recreational areas throughout the country were directed to continue allowing PWC use. The remaining 11, including Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, were granted a two-year "grace period" and directed to perform an environmental review of PWCs. As a result of that environmental review, each park unit must decide either: 1) to ban PWC use on all waters under their jurisdiction, or (2) to manage their use with such means as limiting the hours or areas within which PWCs can be operated.

Personal watercraft are already essentially banned from all of the inland lakes of Pictured Rocks, on some due to horsepower limits and others because they are non-motorized. However, PWC use is currently permitted on Lake Superior within areas adjacent to Pictured Rocks and under NPS jurisdiction.

According to Pictured Rocks new superintendent, Karen Gustin, Pictured Rocks has yet to begin its review, but is facing a deadline of April 22, 2002. On this date, a ban on PWCs will automatically become effective on all waters under the lakeshore's jurisdiction, including on Lake Superior, until lakeshore administration can complete its review, collect public comments, and make a permanent decision on the future of PWCs within its boundaries.

Several groups, including UPEC and the Natural Trails and Waters Coalition (see accompanying article), hope to see a permanent jet-ski ban imposed on all waters within Pictured Rocks. The official public comment period is expected later this spring. Look for more information in the next newsletter.

Coalition Seeks Limits on Motorized Recreation

Compiled by Katie Alvord

The Natural Trails and Waters Coalition, now becoming active in the Upper Midwest, is a new national effort to reform management of motorized recreation on public lands. The Coalition works to protect and restore all public lands and waters from the severe damage caused by dirt bikes, jet skis, snowmobiles, and other off-road vehicles.

Growing out of the recognition that motorized recreation--both on land and water--is fast becoming a major threat to natural resources and social values on public lands, the

coalition was formed to bring together and strengthen independent, local efforts to limit so-called "industrial recreation". To achieve its mission, the Coalition uses a variety of legislative, administrative, legal, media, and grassroots strategies targeted at those who manage or make decisions or policies regarding our state and federal public lands.

The Coalition is directed by a seven member steering committee, including representatives from the American Lands Alliance, Bluewater Network,

Friends of the Earth, Sierra Club, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, The Wilderness Society, and Wildlands Center for Preventing Roads. TWS and Wildlands CPR (which is now in Missoula, but was co-founded in Houghton by a former UPEC president) co-chair the steering committee.

Katie Alvord is a writer and former UPEC newsletter editor. Katie has authored the book, Divorce Your Car: Ending the Love Affair With the Automobile (2000 New Society Publishers www.newsociety.com)

Sierra Club Aspen Lawsuit Stirs Controversy: UPEC Responds

Ed. Note: Earlier this winter, Marquette Mining Journal correspondent Marty Kovarik published an article criticizing the Sierra Club's lawsuit to halt aspen logging in the national forests of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin. He argued that a "forest is nothing more than a garden [and] it is better that man use the timber constructively than to have it rot into the ground." He added that halting logging will "undeniably have a negative effect on our upland game bird, whitetail deer and even songbird populations in the Great Lakes region." He urged "wildlife lovers" to oppose the Sierra Club's lawsuit. David Allen, a UPEC board member responds.



The issue is not whether we should log a forest before it goes to waste, but how many trees need to be left so that the soil is replenished?

How Much Aspen is Just Right?

By David Allen

Mr. Kovarik started his article with a tale of the old logger claiming that a tree left to rot on the forest floor is a tree wasted. Wasted for conversion to toilet paper, perhaps. But it is not wasted with regards to restoring the soil and supporting other necessary forest processes.

There is a spectrum of human belief about our relationship with nature. On one end of this spectrum is a belief that we humans are but part of nature, while at the other end is a belief that nature is there primarily for the use of humans.

But neither position implies, necessarily, abuse of the natural world. Good stewards are found at both ends of the spectrum. The issue is not whether we should log a forest before it goes to waste, but how many trees need to be left so that the soil is replenished? We know we need to leave some, but how many? There is much we still don't know about forest processes.

The Sierra Club's suit con-

cerns this issue. Current National Forest management encourages a higher proportion of aspen stands than existed historically. Left to themselves, stands of aspen convert over time to other species, such as white pine. So managing for aspen at these levels reduces other species, and the animals and plants that depend upon them. There has been little attempt to determine the effects of this alteration of natural processes, and the Sierra Club is asking that such a determination be made.

As a remedy, the Sierra Club is asking that aspen harvest on National Forestlands be stopped until this determination is completed. This request, of course, has no impact on private or state forest land. Nor is this an attempt to halt timber harvest on the National Forests of our region. It is a specific request for a specific relief in response to a specific biological question.

Why sue? The Sierra Club

has been asking the Forest Service about the impacts of their aspen management for over 5 years. The Forest Service admits that they do not know the effects of this large amount of aspen, and that they should. And yet they continue to act without knowing the consequences. After a while one begins to lose patience and moves on to stronger action--action that the Sierra Club would prefer to have avoided.

Will this result in less aspen, less deer, less grouse? It could. But it might not. A determination will give us a better scientific basis for making decisions about management of the region's National Forests. This scientific knowledge will be useful for managers of state forests and private forestland owners as well.

In the long run, it will help us all understand the long-term consequences of decisions we make about managing our public lands, rather than proceeding without really knowing how things will turn out.

Learn More about this important issue at UPEC's Annual Meeting!

Aspen Management Panel Discussion

**Saturday, May 11
7:30 p.m.
Northwoods Supper Club
Marquette**



Why sue? Because the Forest Service continues to act without considering the consequences.

David Allen is an Associate Professor of Management at Northern Michigan University. He is an active hiker, skier, mountaineer and fisher. He has been involved in conservation issues, particularly so since moving to the UP about 16 years ago.

Finding Our Pole Star continued from page 1

After the original forests were eliminated, the U.P. forests became less productive, due to soil erosion, fire damage, and short-term market thinking. The three state and two national forests that now cover thirty-five percent of the land were rescue operations in the 1920s and 1930s; government took over stewardship for abandoned and wasted forestland that companies no longer wanted.



"We need people prepared to do crossover work, to listen, take in and respond to the differing view of others."

What we have now are the secondary and tertiary forests that have grown up since the Great Cutover. They are pulpwood and saw log forests, harvested by rubber-tire lumberjacks with chainsaws and processors. In this industrial forest, trees are fortunate to grow over 16" in diameter or to live longer than 60-80 years.

Who speaks for the forest today? In the 1990s almost everyone (including corporate "persons" like Mead and Champion/ International Paper) adopted the label of environmentalist. All proclaimed concern about clean air, good water, and stewardship of our natural resources.

But labels are also deceiving. The modern environmental movement that began in the 1960s has actually spawned two different subcultures in the Upper Peninsula. One has embraced a new vision and championed the new federal and state laws de-

signed to implement that vision; UPEC in the past has advocated this new way of viewing the U.P. landscape.

The other subculture, more deeply rooted in U.P. communities, has recoiled from the environmental movement's perceived excesses and feels its traditions and way of life threatened. Signs declaring DNR KEEP OUT are its emblems, and private property rights its mantra. The face-off between these two sub-cultures has seldom been ugly and violent, but a deep gulf still divides the two sides.

The visionaries see new ways of thinking about the forests as fundamental achievements – the establishment of wilderness areas (1964 nationally, 1987 in Michigan), the adoption of a national forest planning process with public input (1970), and the legal recognition of the rights of endangered plants and animals (1972). They mourn the Great Cutover, applaud the creation of the state and national forests, and see the future as an urgent opportunity to stop abuse and to promote land healing and restoration.

The traditionalists have a different perspective: they see the new laws as intruding upon – even "taking away" – their private property rights as landowners, perceive wilderness as areas locked away from public access and use, and experience the new ecological perception of the forest and its inhabitants as a threat to logging and hunting. They identify with the older tradition of resource conservation, and feel that loggers and hunters understand the woods best. They honor the pioneering struggles of Yankees and immigrants as miners, settlers, and lumberjacks, and they see the future of the Upper Peninsula as a defense of a threatened way of life.

Who Speaks for the Forest Today?

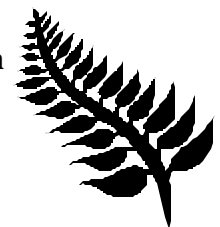
Finding Our Pole Star: Visionaries & Traditionalists

Is there any way out? We all need to look at where we are and not simply dismiss the opposition with an offhand "What do THEY know!" We need people and organizations that are prepared to do *crossover* work: not to give up their own views, but to listen, take in, and respond to the differing views of others, with the hope of discovering some common ground. Sportsmen who appreciate the need for research natural areas. Loggers who learn how to identify and respect endangered plants. Botanists who help design motorized recreational trails. Snowmobilers who understand the concerns of residents in neighborhoods. Timber producers who listen to Native Americans talk about the land. Ecologists who learn the economics of communities and the marketing of forest products.

The UPEC vision of sustainable U.P. forests is being written in this crossover spirit. Our organization, the Upper

Peninsula Environmental Coalition, was founded in 1975 as a grassroots volunteer group. At times it has been allied with corporations and sportsmen's groups; now it is a mixture of concerned citizens, professional foresters, academic researchers, historians, and environmental educators. Unlike industrial foresters or the managers of our public lands, we are not beholden to a bottom line for shareholders or to any legislative mandate for producing timber. Yet, like anyone worth listening to, we stand for some principles.

These principles are our bottom line: (continued on page 5)



Finding Our Pole Star: UPEC's Principles of Sustainable Forests

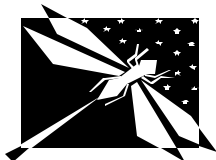
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1. Ecological Sustainability.

The only credible definition of *sustainability* is the survival and viability of the entire regional ecosystem, of the natural processes that govern its changes, and of the historic diversity of native plants and animals that have come to inhabit it. Our human manipulation of the natural world is no longer on a harmless scale, as we are throwing away and endangering whole parts of it through our activities. In our industrial activities we should approximate complex natural cycles; we should view our economies as subordinate parts of the natural ecology of the planet, and abandon thoughts and practices that shortsightedly destroy, diminish, and simplify natural systems.

2. Protected Natural Core Areas Interwoven with Multiple-use Forests.

Some natural areas need to be preserved from all development and further man-made disturbances, but many areas should be managed for other values, including timber production. Historically timber production has been the dominant value on our public lands and industrial forests. This has been changing, slowly, as other values – wildlife habitat, clean water, recreation, wilderness, protection of endangered species, ecosystem sustainability – have come to be part of the dialogue over our forested land.



3. Adaptive Management.

To keep pace with the new scientific understanding of the complex interactions of natural forest systems and processes, we need to become more cautious in our public natural resource policies and in our individual decisions as landowners. We should employ the precautionary principle (as government agencies or forest product companies) by carefully evaluating broad scale activities whose long-term effect on the forest ecosystem is uncertain. We should not discount the cumulative effect of small actions on our private woodlots. And we should practice what foresters call “ground-truthing,” that is, testing our definitions and assumptions and measuring our actions by their actual effects on the ground in the forest.

Finding Our Pole Star: Conclusion...

At the start of this new millennium we are actively shaping the future forest in Michigan. What will it look like? What policies should govern its creation? How will we as individuals, groups, and communities help bring this future forest into being?

While the outcome is far from certain, UPEC is committed to a democratic, open, and non-violent process as vari-

ous stakeholders struggle to negotiate differences and find common ground. The crossover spirit and the art of listening should guide our discussions, just as the diversity and vitality of the forests must be our pole star.

This vision was developed by the members of the UPEC Forestry Committee based on a draft by Jon Saari. UPEC's Vision of Healthy U.P. Forests will be continued in upcoming newsletters.

Each year, UPEC receives critically needed funding from Earth Share of Michigan. Earth Share allows working people to donate environmental organizations through workplace giving campaigns. With the renewed national Earth Share affiliation, employees can now make a single donation that will reach the full spectrum of conservation causes. To learn more about how you and your company can support UPEC through an annual Earth Share of Michigan payroll deduction plan, please call 1 (800) 386-3326 or view the website: www.earthsharemichigan.org



Earth Share
OF MICHIGAN

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UPEC will be on the web again, soon!

Send us your suggestions and helpful links.



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2001: An Open-Space Odyssey

By Kristine Bradof

On January 24, about 75 area residents gathered for "2001: An Open-Space Odyssey," a public forum to celebrate a landmark year for public lands and planning in the Keweenaw. The forum was sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Copper Country and Michigan Tech GEM Center for Science and Environmental Outreach. The presenters shared stories of partnership, persistence, patience, and public involvement behind last year's accomplishments. These significant land preservation actions include protecting 6,400 acres of land at the Tip of the Keweenaw, the Mouth of the Gratiot River, and Seven Mile Point.

The Places

Seven Mile Point (SMP)

One of the "gems of the Keweenaw," according to the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, Seven Mile Point is a 32-acre parcel with 1,506 feet of Lake Superior sand, cobble, and bedrock shoreline in Keweenaw County. In 2001, the nonprofit North Woods Conservancy (NWC) purchased Seven Mile Point from International Paper/Lake Superior Land Company for \$365,000.

The purchase was made with locally raised and borrowed funds, a \$100,000 grant from the Lake Superior Basin Trust, and a two-year loan from The Conservation Fund of Arlington, Virginia. The preserve will be open to the public for recreational activities such as



The tip of the Keweenaw contains several rare plant species, such as this heart-leaved Arnica. Photo: Steve Chadde

swimming, picnicking, fishing, and agate hunting. Preserve hours will be posted on the website (www.northwoodsconservancy.org). SMP is a small parcel of land surrounded by and accessed across private property.

Mouth of the Gratiot River

Five years after the Calumet-Keweenaw Sportsmen's Club first proposed purchasing the mouth of the Gratiot River for public use, 100 acres of land, including about 4,000 feet of Lake Superior shoreline and 3,000 feet along the river, are now in public ownership. Located a couple of miles southwest of Seven Mile Point, the land will be a Keweenaw County park for fishing, hunting, camping, and agate hunting.

Keweenaw County bought the land from Lake Superior Land Company for \$587,500—75 percent from the Michigan DNR Trust Fund and 25 percent from a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant, written by North Woods Conservancy with Keweenaw County, the Copper Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU), and Copper Country Audubon as partners. TU raised \$35,000 in contributions in case the NAWCA grant was not awarded.

Tip of the Keweenaw

"The Big Deal," as it is known locally, is one of the largest land purchases ever for the Michigan DNR Trust Fund. A long process, begun after land swap discussions between the State and Lake Superior Land Company faltered in 2000, will turn over the majority of the 6,275 acres to the State in February. The first parcels to "go public" are Schlatter Lake, West Schlatter Lake, Keystone Point West, Hoar Lake, and South Horseshoe Harbor. Phase 2, pending legislative approval, will add

Fish Cove, the Mouth of the Montreal River, West Montreal River, and Keystone Point East—more than 5 miles of Lake Superior shoreline in all.

More than 6,400 acres of land will be protected for their scenic, recreational, and natural habitat values!

(Continued on page 7)

Who Makes the Vision a Reality?

More than 6,400 acres of land will be protected for their scenic, recreational, and natural habitat values thanks to the efforts of these organizations and individuals and to the many others who contributed their vocal, written, or financial support:

Bill Deephouse, *Copper Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited*; John Griffith, *North Woods Conservancy*; Lori Hauswirth, *Western U.P. Planning and Development Region*; Don Keith, *Keweenaw County Com-*

missioner; Jeff Knoop, *The Nature Conservancy*; Greg Kudray, *Public Access Keweenaw*; Dana Richter, *Copper Country Audubon*; and Christa Walck, *Keweenaw Land Trust* and *Common Ground Initiative*.

Though not present at the forum, Walt Arnold of *International Paper*, Michigan DNR staff, and the DNR Trust Fund Board were also key players.

Heart and Hands Award

Celebrate a Copper Country person who has given of his/her heart and hands to promote

Peace, Justice or the Environment

Award will be announced on July 4th, 2002

Nominations due by June 7, 2002 to:

President of the Board
Heart & Hands Award
53044 Hwy M203
Hancock, MI 49930



the Heart & Hands of the Keweenaw award

Space Odyssey, *Continued from page 6*

Keystone Bay and Lost Lake were dropped from the purchase because of the added expense.

According to Jeff Knoop of The Nature Conservancy, "the Precambrian volcanic rocks that make up the Peninsula provide not only spectacular scenery, but a high diversity of moss, lichen and plants.... The reserve provides for an outstanding connective system of natural plant communities providing habitat for lynx, bald eagle, bear and moose." Knoop also added that the area contains rare plant species, at least one rare butterfly, and habitat used by migratory shore birds and song-birds.



Habitat for the Michigan-endangered Calypso orchid will now be protected. Drawing courtesy of Steve Chadde.

The Michigan Chapter of The Nature Conservancy was a vital partner in negotiations and in purchasing the land on behalf of the State. The Legislature approved payment of \$5 million this year toward the total purchase price of \$12.5 million. TNC purchased the first parcels and will buy the remaining acreage in December 2002, pending Legislative approval for the State to reimburse the remaining \$7.5 million in late summer 2003. TNC has also committed \$500,000 in interest payments, which it must raise from members and donors. A local group, Public Access Ke-

weenaw (PAK), spearheaded a highly successful public letter-writing campaign and presentation to the Natural Resources Trust Fund Board. PAK representatives made the rounds of city, village, and county boards asking for resolutions of support, which were delivered in person at the decisive meeting in Lansing.

Kristine Bradof is the Community Programs Coordinator at the GEM Center for Science and Environmental Outreach at Michigan Tech and the natural resources chair for the League of Women Voters. She has helped build bridges in our region, performing the "crossover" work called for in the UPEC vision of a healthy environment.

How You Can Help!

Many opportunities still remain for public involvement in the issues that will shape the future of the Keweenaw. The DNR and Keweenaw County want the public to help determine how their new lands should be managed.

The newly formed Houghton County Planning Commission meets the third Thursday of the month at 4:00 p.m. in the Courthouse. They will be seeking input from the townships on developing a countywide plan, as Keweenaw County is doing.

Find out when your local government planning commission meets and make your voice count!

Ecologist Hired to Aid Working Forest Biodiversity Practices

By Greg Kudray

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has hired Randy Swaty as a forest ecologist in a cooperative position partially funded by Mead-Westvaco. Mr. Swaty is expected to assist Mead-Westvaco in meeting biodiversity objectives to fulfill requirements for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

He will work in landscape level planning and developing biodiversity indicators. Other duties will include assisting in site conservation planning for TNC, providing TNC input into the State Forest planning process, and acting as a liaison between academia and forest managers.

Randy Swaty has a BS in Biology and a recent MS in Soil Ecology from

Northern Arizona University. He is new to Great Lakes forest communities and lacks forestry experience, but Tina Hall, UP Director of Conservation for the Nature Conservancy, emphasized that Mr. Swaty was hired as an ecologist; the feeling was that Mead-Westvaco and other forest industries had lots of foresters. What was desired, according to Ms. Hall, was an ecologist with a good background in scientific literature who could use good communication skills to influence forest managers about biodiversity concerns in a working forest.

The position is funded totally by Mead-Westvaco in the first year then will be increasingly funded by

TNC. The hiring procedure included a joint TNC, Mead-Westvaco, and Shelter Bay Forests evaluation committee and a two-day interview/presentation process.

UPEC hopes to have an informal meeting with Mr. Swaty soon to address our ecological concerns in managed forests. Anyone interested in attending this meeting should contact Jon Saari or another UPEC board member.

Greg Kudray, Ph.D. is a UPEC Board Member and is interested in forestry, wetlands & ecology. He owns an ecological consulting company at www.ecologyusa.com.

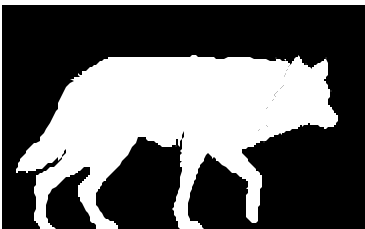
Living With our Neighbors: A Wolf Researcher Looks at an Ancient Conflict

By Rolf Peterson

- **Understanding Wolf Legislation:** Because wolf populations have exceeded Federal population target goals, wolves will be de-listed at the Federal level, most likely later this summer. For individual states to change the wolf's classification, state wildlife authorities must write a management plan that meets Federal approval, and then bring the issue before the public. Michigan's plan, which includes the provision of destroying problem wolves that prey on livestock or pose a threat to humans, has been approved.
- **DNR/Public Input in Delisting:** Michigan DNR has been soliciting public commentary on a plan to change state classification of the eastern timber wolf from endangered status to threatened. Though local wolf recovery efforts have succeeded with over 250 wolves now ranging the U.P., delisting the animal at the State level is still a matter of debate.
- **Mixed Public Response:** At a February 12 meeting in Marquette, public opinion was mixed. Some argued changing the status of wolves is premature, given current habitat destruction in the Ottawa National Forest and the decreased wolf habitat in the future as more land is developed. Several sportsman representatives argued wolves need to be managed by the State or residents will manage them on their own. Others urged that wolf education programs should be offered to ensure local residents understand how to co-exist peacefully with the wolf before de-listing occurs.

For more information see:

www.wolf.org (or)
www.midnr.com



Rolf Peterson is a professor of wild-life biology at Michigan Tech's School of Forestry and Wood Products. He is also chair of the Federal Wolf Recovery Team.

Note: Rolf Peterson wrote this letter to the editor to the Houghton Daily Mining Gazette in response to a resident's complaint that wolves killed her bear-hunting dog.

Upper Michigan is once again wolf country, an important milestone in the recovery of native wildlife that was long ago decimated by European immigrants and their offspring. The local recovery of wolves means many things—the restoration of a more “wild” Upper Michigan, the inevitability of removing wolves from federal jurisdiction under the Endangered Species Act, and a return of some ancient conflicts between humans and wolves.

Regarding Ms Newman's reported loss of a bear-hunting dog to three wolves, I can only sympathize. As every pet owner knows, animals sharing our households are members of the human families, so they are irreplaceable. In the few regions around the world where wolves are allowed to share the landscape with humans, we will find, as our ancestors did, that wolves will bring some problems and frustration. Wolves will kill some livestock as prey, and they will kill dogs they perceive as competitors. In the latter case, the victims are often left uneaten.

Ms. Newman asks two important questions: No. 1: Do we have enough wolves? And No. 2: Should they be kept on the Endangered Species list? Michigan residents will have an opportunity to weigh in on the first question, but only after all Americans answer the second. In 1996 the federal government began deliberate preparations for the eventual removal of wolves from the list of Endangered Species (a process known as “delisting”). In July 2000, a formal proposal was published to reclassify wolves in the lower 48 states; in Michigan and Wisconsin the wolf would be considered “threatened,” no longer “endangered.”

This proposal prompted 16,000 public comments. A revised proposal is now expected, possibly to immediately delist the wolf in the Great Lakes area. There will be another comment period and further review. Why the delays? Because we live in a democracy, and we don't all agree about exactly how we should live with wolves. We are a complicated species, and so are they.

After the federal government relinquishes its legal responsibilities for wolf recovery, state and tribal governments will determine the local ground rules for humans dealing with wolves, and we can expect greater legal options for local citizens who feel their personal well-being threatened in any way by wolves.

Why do wolves kill pet dogs? Probably for some of the same reasons that we humans choose to go to war. With wolves, maybe it's not quite so complicated. They consider the land they occupy to be theirs, and they aim to safeguard critical resources for themselves and their offspring—call it “homeland security” if you like. Any other animal that eats meat, or looks like it might, may be eliminated as an undesirable competitor, unless wolves consider it too big or too dangerous. Most dogs, especially single dogs in the woods, are at risk when they venture on their own into wolf territory.

An old Native American living in the Pacific Northwest was once asked why he didn't kill wolves more often, to make life simpler and easier. After a long silence, the veteran hunter shook his head and simply replied, “They're too much like us.”

Howling Wolves Sign of Hope

By Friederike Greuer

During a cold and snowy weekend in late November, I participated in a wolf educational program sponsored by the ESMIS (Educators' Science and Mathematics Institute Series) at the Wolf Ecology Institute. This was organized by Dr. Mary Hindelang of Michigan Technological University's Education Department. As part of the institute, a group of teachers and I drove to Ely, Minnesota, to the International Wolf Center. During the first night, the Information & Education Director Andrea Lorek Strauss greeted us. We also met the resident wolf pack at the center.

Mrs. Lorek-Strauss presented us with general information about wolves, their eating habits, how they live in packs, and addressed the de-listing issue. (See accompanying articles). We also learned that there is no record of an unprovoked, wild, non-rabid wolf in North America seriously injuring a person. Wolves only attack what they think that they can potentially eat. Wolves are only able to capture and eat sick or elderly animals.

Contrary to belief, wolves are not able to catch most white-tailed deer because most are simply too healthy for them to conquer. They largely exist on a feast or famine diet. Sadly, most wolves die due to starvation. I would like to add that wolves have been

known to capture and eat household pets (No, Fluffy usually isn't able to stand up to a wolf).

The next day, we learned about radio-tracking wolves and how to use telemetry to locate them on a map. We hiked through the Superior National Forest and visited an abandoned wolf den. It had snowed the night before so the scenery was beautiful. Two gray jays greeted us along the way, pestering and announcing our presence for all who would listen. The den had a very narrow opening. I couldn't believe that wolves could fit in there. The assistant did manage to get into the den. She said that behind the narrow opening there was bend that led to a larger, dug-out area. After visiting the wolf den, we later headed back to the center where we observed the pack being fed some road kill.

The most thrilling experience of all was when staff from the center took us into the woods to try our hand at making a wild wolf pack howl in response to our (simulated) wolf calls.

We tried this in several places. First one person would try imitating a wolf howl, then three, and eventually everyone howled together. For a long time, all we heard in return was the wind whistling through the trees.

After about four attempts, we stopped at one more spot. By this time,

I was thinking, "C'mon, I'm tired and cold. My nice warm bed is waiting. Why are we doing this?"

Despite my discouragement, I volunteered to be one of the howlers. Our first calls went unanswered until all of a sudden, we heard an alpha female return our call. Then we relocated to another spot and tried again. This time the alpha female answered, alpha male answered, and then all of the pups answered in quick succession.

What have I really learned from this experience? That when you have totally given up hope in something, faith has a way of surprising you. Often when I become discouraged, I think back to that cold winter night in Ely, Minnesota, and remember how the female alpha wolf answered our call when we had all given up hope in hearing any wolf calls.

Friederike Greuer is a UPEC board member serving on the education committee.

Visit the International Wolf Center!

1396 Highway 169
Ely, MN 55731
www.wolf.org

Or Contact Friederike for More Information: 482-6257



Send a Letter to Your Legislators

Senator Carl Levin

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Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-6221
Fax: (202) 224-1388
senator@levin.senate.gov

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State Senator Don Koivisto

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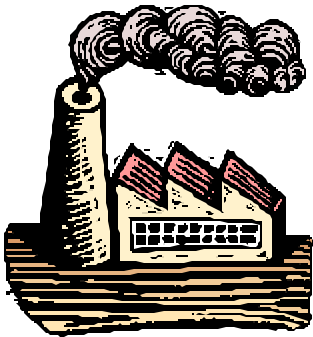
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Hannahville Announces Plans for Coal-Fired Power Plant

By Marcel Potvin

- In 1999, the U.S. used 97 Quads of energy—97 billion British Thermal Units
- Over 68% of all electricity produced in this country is “rejected” due to electrical system energy losses. Most energy is lost on-site at the power plants or in transfer, before it ever reaches the consumer.
- Over half of all electrical energy (56%) is produced by the dirtiest power source of all, coal.

Sources: *Annual Energy Review 1999*, information from *Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory*, and *Home Power Magazine*, Feb/March 2002



A typical coal plant wastes 2 out of every 3 units of energy it produces.

The Hannahville Tribal Council recently announced plans for a 1,100-acre industrial park on tribal land 15 miles west of Escanaba. The major industries comprising the industrial park would be four, 250 megawatt, coal-fired power plants and an ethanol plant. The combined power plants would be the largest in the UP and comparable to large power plants downstate.

The entire project would be owned and operated by outsiders with the Tribal Council acting as landlord. Developers from Chicago and Wisconsin will plan the project and outside investors will provide the \$1.3 billion needed for construction.

The economic benefits to the region could be substantial. Well over 1,000 jobs are expected but the big payoff would be rent paid on the land to the Tribal Council. The life of the lease for the power plant is expected to be 50 years and worth over \$100,000,000.

These benefits come at a considerable cost both to the surrounding environment and human health. Coal is the dirtiest power source that we know of. Coal fired power plants emit large amounts of atmospheric pollutants (SO₂ and NO_x which cause acid rain), carbon dioxide (which contributes to global warming) and ash particulates (which increase rates of asthma, chronic bronchitis, and lung disease). They are also THE leading source of atmospheric mercury (a neurotoxin which can cause serious problems in children).

Research at Harvard University showed the particulate emissions of a coal burning power plant in a densely populated area of Massachusetts to be responsible for 53 premature deaths, 14,400 asthma attacks and 99,000 upper respiratory problems every year. The affected were mostly the elderly and children.

Emissions of pollutants from coal-fired power plants are still much greater than those from other energy sources (such as natural gas) even after applying the most recent so-called Clean Coal Technology (which can decrease emissions of SO₂ and NO_x). Mercury emissions, however, have not been significantly reduced. Mercury is a potent neurotoxin, which can cause a range of effects from mild developmental retardation to severe cerebral palsy. Less than a teaspoon of mercury can contaminate a 25-acre lake to the point at which the fish are unsafe to eat. This new power plant could emit from 280-1,000 lbs. of mercury every year.

Coal fired power plants are so dirty and polluting that most new power plants are

natural gas fired. In 1999 (the last year with complete figures) coal fired-power plants comprised only 2 percent of new power plants whereas 45 percent of the retired power plants were coal-fired.

The problems do not end with emissions. The Tribal Council has not publicly addressed many logistics of the power plant which could have significant environmental and social consequences. Some of these issues include: 1) where will the enormous amounts of water for the power plant come from (Lake Michigan 15 miles distant?); 2) how will the coal be transported to the facility (new railroad?); and 3) how will the electricity be transmitted to market (new transmission line?).

The final problem is that this project would be owned and operated by outside corporations. Depending on how the land is classified, these corporations may not be required to abide by state wetland regulations on tribal lands, which could have significant impacts on 1,100 acres. The situation is alarmingly similar to an agreement between the Hopi, Navaho and Peabody Energy in Arizona. Peabody reached a deal with a controversial tribal council and attorney in the 1960's to use water from tribal lands for a coal mine that is also on tribal lands. Now the sacred, ancient aquifer is drying up, as are the Hopi and Navaho wells. The Hopi and Navaho want Peabody to stop pumping water but are bound by the agreement with Peabody and have become dependent on the royalties from the mine and water (see Time magazine, Nov. 5, 2001).

However great the economic impact of this industrial park, it is not worth the consequences. The tribe already has a booming casino. Certainly we need jobs but we must evaluate each economic opportunity as it comes, not run willy-nilly chasing every option as it presents itself. This project would sacrifice our clean air, clean water, and health. The Hannahville Tribal Council must be convinced to return to the ideas of sustainability and reverence for the earth passed down by their ancestors.

Marcel Potvin is a self-described “disillusioned wolf biologist trying to hitchhike back from Honduras.” He is also a graduate student at Michigan Tech, where he earned a bachelor's degree in applied ecology and environmental science in 2000.

Energy Policy in the Making...Make Your Voice Heard!

Instead of allowing the construction of another coal-fired power plant here in the U.P., local environmentalists should urge lawmakers to increase energy efficiency at existing power plants, promote conservation, and encourage the use of renewable power.

Local Action:

1) Contact the Hannahville Tribal Chairperson—Tell him your feelings about the proposed coal-fired plant (see accompanying article).
Ken Meshigaud
Hannahville Indian Community
N14911 B1 Road
Wilson, MI 498962

2) Urge State Reps to Invest in

Michigan's Alternative Energy Sources. Wind corridors along Lakes Superior and Michigan have been identified as some of the best sources of wind power in the Midwest. Urge lawmakers to support policies that encourage clean energy, and give incentives for residential use of alternative energy, such as net metering.

National Action:

Watch for and support the following National legislation: (adapted from the PIRGM Winter 2002 Newsletter)

1) The Clean Power Act (SB556 in the U.S. Senate and HR 1256 in the House) would reduce CO2 emissions from power plants to 1990 levels.

2) The Renewable Energy Act (SB 1333 in the Senate and HR 3037 in the House) would increase renewable energy to 20% of U.S. electricity sources



by 2020; would increase energy efficiency, saving consumers \$70 billion annually and cutting one-third of all U.S. carbon dioxide.

The potential power generation of wind, solar and geothermal resources in the U.S. is many times greater than our total electricity consumption ...yet only two percent of our energy comes from wind, solar, and all other clean sources combined." Kate Abend, global warming associate for PIRGIM (the Public Interest Research Group in Michigan)

About UPEC

The Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition has a 27-year track record of protecting and seeking to maintain the unique environmental qualities of the U.P. by public education and by watchful monitoring of industry and government. UPEC seeks common ground

with diverse individuals and organizations, in order to promote sound planning and management decisions for all the region's natural resources.

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, dues and contributions are tax deductible.

The *Upper Peninsula Environment* is published four times per year. Contributions and correspondence should be sent to Editor: P.O. Box 673, Houghton, MI 49931 or e-mailed to:svandam@chartermi.net.



Yes! I Want to Help UPEC Make a Difference!

Name: _____

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City/State/Zip: _____

When available electronically, I would like to receive UPEC information via:
 regular mail e-mail

I would like to support the goals of UPEC by enclosing a contribution for: (Please check one)

- Regular Membership (\$20)
- Supporting Membership (\$50)
- Student/Low-Income (\$15)
- I'm already a Member! Here is an additional contribution

Mail to:
 UPEC, Box #673
 Houghton MI 49931

_____Contribute to the UPEC Endowment Fund.*

*If you make your check out to the Marquette Community Foundation (MCF) and put UPEC FUND on the memo line, you can take a 50% tax credit on your Michigan state income tax (up to \$200 for individuals, \$400 for couples). OR, you can make a contribution directly to UPEC and take a regular tax break.



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*Protecting and maintaining the unique
environmental qualities of the Upper Peninsula of
Michigan by educating the public and acting as a
watchdog to industry and government.*

Join Us for UPEC's Annual Meeting!



The UPEC Annual Meeting will be held at the Northwoods Supper Club in Marquette on Saturday, May 11.

Saturday, May 11, 2002

A special panel on Aspen Management is being organized for the evening program, which begins at 7:30 P.M. and is open to the public.

The Board will have its quarterly meeting beginning at 3:00 P.M. in the Tamarack Room at the Northwoods, and then will adjourn for supper in the Embers Room at 5:30 P.M.

All members are welcome to attend the Board meeting, the supper, and the evening program.

Training Opportunities for Environmental Educators!

Many environmental educator training programs are available at the Western U.P. Center for Science, Mathematics and Environmental Education. These programs serve K-12 teachers, as well as educators from state and national parks, cooperative extension programs and nature centers throughout the U.P.

Upcoming highlights include:

- **Teaching with the Outdoors:** May 3 & 4 at MTU Ford Forestry Center, Alberta. At this 2-day workshop, participants can choose from geology, orienteering, butterflies and more.
- **Stream Monitoring:** June 11-14 at MTU Ford Forestry Center, Alberta. Learn the skills and receive the equipment necessary to perform physical, chemical, and biological monitoring of local streams with your students using Michigan protocols for stream monitoring.
- **Great Lakes Ecology:** July 7-13 Aboard the research vessel "Lake Guardian." Educators learn about the physical, chemical and biological components of the Great Lakes ecosystem, using Lake Superior as the classroom. Participants live on the research vessel for an entire week, working alongside researchers doing hands-on data collection, using the ship's scientific labs for data analysis.
- **Outdoor Field Trips:** Available by arrangement, spring, summer & fall. Field trips are led by Center staff and cover a wide variety of ecological topics.

To request a registration, visit the Center's website at <http://emmap.mtu.edu/gem/wupcsmee.html> or contact Joan Chadde at jchadde@mtu.edu or call (906) 487-3341.