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For Immediate Release

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Baraga Bump Fire – Media Information Sheet 5:00PM. Day 5 – May 3, 2007

This was a good day for progress on firelines around the Baraga Bump Fire. The containment estimate remains at 90% and the acreage estimate remains at 1122 acres. Fire crews continue mopping up 200 feet in from the fireline, eliminating all smokes and hotspots within that zone. Initial field reports indicate that all divisions along the fireline are reporting much less activity today than yesterday. However, there continues to be mop-up concerns in the Sturgeon River corridor, particularly in the southeast portion of the fire south of the river.

The weather today came close to predictions of sunny, 61 degrees, 30% humidity, and east winds of 6-11 mph. This weather will continue for the next few days and become even warmer, drier and windier. Potential for fire activity will continue to increase through the weekend. An updated fire weather forecast will be available later this evening. Fire crews will have to monitor wind conditions for fire activity and dead snags blowing down in the fire. Any residual hotspots will start to become visible, and continual patrol will be necessary to eliminate these as they arise.

Today, 135 personnel worked on the fire, along with 6 water units and 1 dozer. About 85 of these firefighters currently are from out of state, including crews and single resources from Colorado, Missouri, New Hampshire, Indiana, Illinois, Montana and Idaho.

No structures were reported damaged from the fire today. No further evacuations have been needed since those ordered and released on the first day. No injuries were reported today to personnel today. Fire suppression efforts remain ongoing in the area. Residents and the general public should still avoid the fire area and allow firefighters and their equipment to accomplish necessary fire suppression tasks. This will be especially critical this weekend as fire danger increases this weekend.

Agencies who continue to be involved in the fire include the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), US Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Covington Volunteer Fire Departments, Covington Ambulance, Baraga County Emergency Management, American Red Cross as well as local volunteers. Incident Commander Paul Gaberdiel has headed up the effort and led a DNR fire overhead team in suppression efforts on this fire through today.

Fire danger will be very high this weekend, please remember that burn permits are required for any outdoor burning, and will not likely be allowed during such high fire times. Check to see if burn permits may be obtained online at the website [www.michigan.gov/burnpermit](http://www.michigan.gov/burnpermit) or by phone at 1 800 922 2876. Even with issued burning permits, residents are reminded to use extreme caution with any outdoor burning. Residents are also reminded that there are a number of activities that they can accomplish around their properties to protect their dwellings. Firewise activities and concepts can be adopted by residents that can increase their personal safety and the safety of their homes and buildings. More Firewise information can be obtained from Michigan State University Extension Offices and from the Firewise website at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org).