

Monday, May 7, 2007

For Immediate Release

Contact: Bob MacGregor
Ottawa National Forest
Baraga Bump Fire Information Officer
Tel: 906-355-2751

Baraga Bump Fire – Media Information Sheet 9:00AM. Day 9 – May 7, 2007

High winds and low humidities on Sunday tested how well fire crews had “buttoned up” the Baraga Bump Fire. The only hot spots found were far in the interior of the fire demonstrating the great work done by firefighters over the last week. Fire managers feel comfortable enough with condition of the Baraga Bump Fire to release three of the 20 person hand crews, these crews are in route to the Ham Lake Fire near Grand Marais, Minnesota. Incident Commander Bob Garrison commented the crews at the morning briefing for their excellent work and their commendable safety record. The weather has taken a turn that favors suppression of the fire with cloudy, cool conditions and humidities in the 40’s. Today’s scaled down work force will consists of two hand crews, three engines and a dozer that will be patrolling the fire lines and rooting out any remaining hot spots. The total number of personnel on the fire on Monday is approximately 55. The containment estimate is 100% and the latest GIS acreage estimate is 1127 acres. Containment of 100% signifies that there is a fire line around the entire fire perimeter although hot spots may remain in the interior.

A Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team headed by Ontonagon District Ranger Darla Lenz will be on the fire area today looking at immediate rehabilitation needs that could prevent long term environmental damage.

Fire suppression efforts remain ongoing in the area. There are no road or area closures but residents and the general public should still avoid the fire area and allow firefighters and their equipment to accomplish necessary fire suppression tasks. The Baraga Plains ORV loop remains closed.

Everyone associated with the firefighting effort would like to thank the citizens of Covington for all their support during this difficult time. The local residents were unfailingly gracious and no firefighter went hungry due to all the baked treats from local kitchens. Crews from Northern Colorado and the White Mountains of New Hampshire tried to repay some of this goodwill by taking down and storing the local ice rink and setting up the stage for the upcoming Finn Fest, which is a big yearly event for the local community.

The fire season is not over, please remember that burn permits are required for any outdoor burning, and will not likely be allowed during high fire times. Check to see if burn permits may be obtained online at the website www.michigan.gov/burnpermit or by

phone at 1 866 922 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.



Indiana Hand Crew mops up hot spots.