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For Immediate Release

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Baraga Bump Fire – Media Information Sheet 9:00AM. Day 6 – May 4, 2007

Crews continued to put out smokes burning within the interior of the fire lines on the Baraga Bump Fire. Firefighters are using hand-held heat finders and visual techniques to locate interior spots that still hold fire. Fire crews continue mopping up 200 feet in from the fire line, eliminating all smokes and hotspots within that zone. . The containment estimate remains at 90% and the acreage estimate remains at 1122 acres. Reports from firefighters indicate that all divisions along the fire line are reporting ½ to ¼ fewer smokes than they found on Thursday. 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 forecast for today calls for extremely low relative humidities in the 15 to 20% range, this combined with southeast winds at 9 to 14 miles per hour and temperatures at 68 degrees have caused the National Weather Service to call for a Red Flag warning from noon to 9 p.m. EDT on Friday. 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. 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, 130 personnel worked on the fire, along with 4 water units and 1 dozer. Four hand crews will continue to do the bulk of the mop-up work. Firefighters will be available for initial attack on any new fires in the area. The management of the fire transferred from the Michigan DNR Type 2 overhead crew to a Type 3 Ottawa National Forest team. This change reflects the decreasing complexity of the incident. Jo Reyer, Ottawa National Forest Supervisor, commended the DNR team at the morning briefing for the great job they had done in the suppression effort.

No structures were reported damaged from the fire yesterday. No further evacuations have been needed since those ordered and released on the first day. 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. With the high forecast fire danger the public should be extremely careful with fire through the 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.

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 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.