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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Deer Bow Hunting Permitted on Power Island, Starting October 20

Traverse City, Michigan – In an effort to control the deer population, and upon recommendation by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation, which stewards ten parks, has opened Power Island (and connected Bassett Island) for deer bow hunting between October 20 and November 14, 2018, and between December 1, 2018 and January 1, 2019. Firearm hunting would not be permitted.

According to County Parks and Recreation Director Kristine Erickson, “It makes sense to open Power Island to bow hunting every year to help prevent the deer there from starving due to lack of vegetation. It also provides a recreational opportunity in a unique location.” Ranger Fred Tank reports seeing and also hearing from campers that there is a healthy deer population this year, including some bucks, which is unusual compared to years past.

Last month, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commissioners passed a motion to open Power Island to hunters this fall and winter during archery seasons only (not during firearm seasons), but starting later than the DNR’s defined first season. Commissioners voted to permit hunting on the island beginning October 20, rather than the DNR’s opening day of October 1, because the official camping season on the island ends and the ranger leaves in mid-October. “Keeping park patrons safe is our department’s and commission’s first priority,” said Erickson, who also noted that signs about the island’s defined bow hunting season will be posted to warn other visitors.

Power Island camping reservations have more than doubled since six sites were added to the existing four in 2016. This year, according to the Director, 177 reservations were fulfilled between Memorial Day weekend through October 9. In 2017, there were 99 reservations. Because fee-based camping season will have ended by October 20, Erickson explained that hunters may use the campsites on a first-come, first-served basis.

Power Island is a public park, open to visitors throughout the year. Hunters are asked to exercise caution at all times while there. On behalf of Parks and Recreation, Erickson asks all visitors respect the sensitive island environment, so that the natural beauty of the park can continue to be enjoyed by all. The use of off-road and all-terrain vehicles is not permitted.

Although this year individuals are not required to register with County Parks and Recreation Department to hunt on Power Island, Erickson reminds all hunters to carry appropriate deer licenses and follow all DNR guidelines and laws related to hunting. Hunting antlerless, she says, is encouraged.

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