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**\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\***

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**Deer Bow Hunting Permitted on Power Island, Starting October 16**

**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 16 and November 14, 2017, and between December 1, 2017 and January 1, 2018.

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.” Prior to exiting his Power Island post this week, Parks and Recreation Ranger Fred Tank reported seeing between 15 and 20 deer.

Earlier this year, 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 16, rather than the DNR’s opening day of October 1. Said Erickson, “We wanted to wait for the official camping season on the island to end, because keeping park patrons safe is our department’s and commission’s first priority.”

Power Island received a record number of camping reservations this year, according to the Director, with sites busy from Memorial Day weekend through October 8. Because fee-based camping season has ended, Erickson explained that hunters may use the campsites on a first-come, first-served basis. There are ten sites, five on each island.

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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