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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Power Island Open for Deer Hunting Archery Seasons

Traverse City, Michigan – To continue the effort to control the deer population, and upon recommendation by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation has opened Power Island (and connected Bassett Island) for deer hunting during the MDNR’s established archery seasons, October 1 to November 14, 2020 and December 1, 2020 to January 1, 2021. Firearm hunting is not permitted.

For over a decade, the island has been open to bow hunters to prevent the destructive over-browsing that results from an unmanaged deer herd. This year, according to Power Island Park Ranger Fred Tank, "our security cameras show that the antlerless deer herd is plentiful, and there are some bucks, as well."

According to County Parks and Recreation Director Kristine Erickson, the process for hunting on the island is simple. There is no need to register to hunt, but anyone who successfully harvests a deer on the island is asked to report it to Parks and Recreation by calling 231-922-4818. "We also want hunters to share stories about their experiences on the island," said Erickson, "because the unique location makes it an unusual recreational opportunity." To recount a hunting experience that Parks and Recreation may post on social media, write an e-mail to the Parks Director at kerickson@gtcountymi.gov.

Bow hunters may use the island campsites on a first-come, first-served basis, but restrooms and the well will be closed. Fires are only allowed in the established fire-rings found in the picnic area and at the campsites. The use of off-road and all-terrain vehicles is not permitted.

Erickson reminds hunters to carry appropriate deer licenses, follow all DNR guidelines, and follow all laws related to hunting.

Power Island is a public park, open to visitors throughout the year. Visitors are asked by the Parks Director "to be cautious at all times, pack out all trash, and respect the sensitive island environment so that the natural beauty of the park can continue to be enjoyed for years to come."

For more information, call 231-922-4818.

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