

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item**

SUBJECT: Request approval of clean-up revisions to previous Board determinations (December 2012, June 2013) under 2011 Act 168. Clarify that a state park archery hunting opportunity previously offered at Rock Island State Park will continue to be available. In addition, re-instate the previous hunting area available for the nine-day gun deer hunt at Newport State Park.

FOR: September 2013 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Dan Schuller, Bureau Director, Wisconsin State Park System

SUMMARY:

The department requests adoption of a revision to policy on hunting in state parks by approving an October 15 start for archery hunting at Rock Island. Rock Island State Park would be added to the list of exceptions the board has already approved for hunting opportunities that vary from standard state park-system-wide policy. This revision to current policy is for a hunting opportunity which existed prior to the enactment of 2011 Act 168. Safety related concerns with this archery hunting opportunity have not been identified.

This park is a primitive island off the tip of the Door County Peninsula and northeast of Washington Island in Lake Michigan. It offers hiking trails, the oldest lighthouse in Wisconsin and 2,000 feet of beach. Vehicles are not allowed on the 912-acre island, making for an experience unlike any other Wisconsin state park. Public use of the property is generally very low in October. A ferry to the island runs Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day. After October 12, access is only by personal boat.

At its December 2012 meeting, the board adopted a plan for implementing 2011 Act 168. The plan generally restricts hunting and trapping to November 15 to December 15 and April through the end of the third spring turkey hunting season with an additional period for archery hunting only from December 16th through the Sunday nearest January 6. In addition, the board generally approved one plan per property indicating where hunting and trapping would be allowed to take place during the duration of the hunting and trapping seasons, with the area displayed on a map.

The department requests adoption of a revision to this policy on hunting in state parks by approving the re-instatement of the previous nine-day deer hunting area which would be in use only during that period of time at Newport State Park. The revision to current policy is for a hunting opportunity which existed prior to the enactment of 2011 Act 168. Safety related concerns with this gun deer hunting opportunity have not been identified.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval a of clean-up revision to previous Board determinations (December 2012, June 2013) under Act 168, to clarify that a state park archery hunting opportunity previously offered at Rock Island State Park continue to be available. In addition, re-instate the previous hunting area available for the nine-day gun deer hunt at Newport State Park.

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (check all that are applicable):

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Background memo | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |

Approved by	Signature	Date
Dan Schuller, Bureau Director	<i>Kimberly Currie for Dan Schuller</i>	9/4/13
Kurt Thiede, Administrator	<i>[Signature]</i>	9/4/13
Cathy Stepp, Secretary	<i>[Signature]</i>	9/6/13

DATE: September 24, 2013
TO: Natural Resources Board Members
FROM: Cathy Stepp, Secretary

SUBJECT: Clean up revisions to existing department policy for state park hunting opportunities which were in place prior to the enactment of 2011 Act 168 related to archery hunting at Rock Island State Park. In addition, the department requests the board to re-instate the previous hunting area available for the nine-day gun deer hunt at Newport State Park.

The department requests adoption of a revision to policy on hunting in state parks by approving an October 15 start for archery hunting at Rock Island. Rock Island State Park would be added to the list of exceptions the board has already approved for hunting opportunities that vary from standard park-system-wide policy. The department further requests the adoption of a second set of property hunting maps at Newport State Park. This map would only be in effect during the nine-day gun deer hunting season and would re-instate the hunting opportunity available prior to 2011 Act 168.

These revisions to current policy are for hunting opportunities or a deed restriction which existed prior to the enactment of 2011 Act 168. Safety related concerns with these hunting opportunities have not been identified.

Background:

At its December 2012 meeting, the board adopted a plan for implementing 2011 Act 168. The plan generally allows hunting at state park properties but restricts it to November 15 to December 15 and April through the end of the third spring turkey hunting season with an additional period for archery hunting only from December 16 through the Sunday nearest January 6. In addition, the board generally approved one plan per property indicating where hunting and trapping could safely take place during the duration of the hunting and trapping seasons, displayed on a map.

The board observed that there are some existing hunting opportunities offered at state parks which occur outside of the general framework adopted at the same meeting. Department staff reviewed those hunting opportunities and returned with a plan to address ones that could be retained because there have not been issues related to safety. The plan was adopted at the board's June, 2013 meeting. Since June, the department has identified an additional state park location where archery hunting had been occurring earlier than the November 15 start approved by the board for most parks. Archery hunting had been occurring at Rock Island State Park beginning on October 15.

The department reviewed its approved hunting and trapping areas which, in the case of Newport State Park, further restricted the allowable hunting areas during the traditional nine-day gun deer hunt. The department has determined that a return to the previous allowable hunting area during this period of time at Newport State Park would not cause a safety-related issue and thus should be re-instated.

Rock Island State Park is a primitive island off the tip of the Door County Peninsula and northeast of Washington Island in Lake Michigan. It offers hiking trails, the oldest lighthouse in Wisconsin and 2,000 feet of beach. Vehicles are not allowed on the 912-acre island, making for an experience unlike any other Wisconsin state park. Public use of the property is generally very low in October. A ferry to the island runs Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day. After October 12, access is only by personal boat.

Newport State Park is near the tip of the Door County Peninsula and is Wisconsin's only formally-designated wilderness park. The property encompasses 2,373 acres and 11 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline with 30 miles of hiking trails. Vegetation includes evergreen and hardwood forests, wetlands and upland meadows. Public use of the property is generally very low in November, specifically during the nine-day deer hunting season.

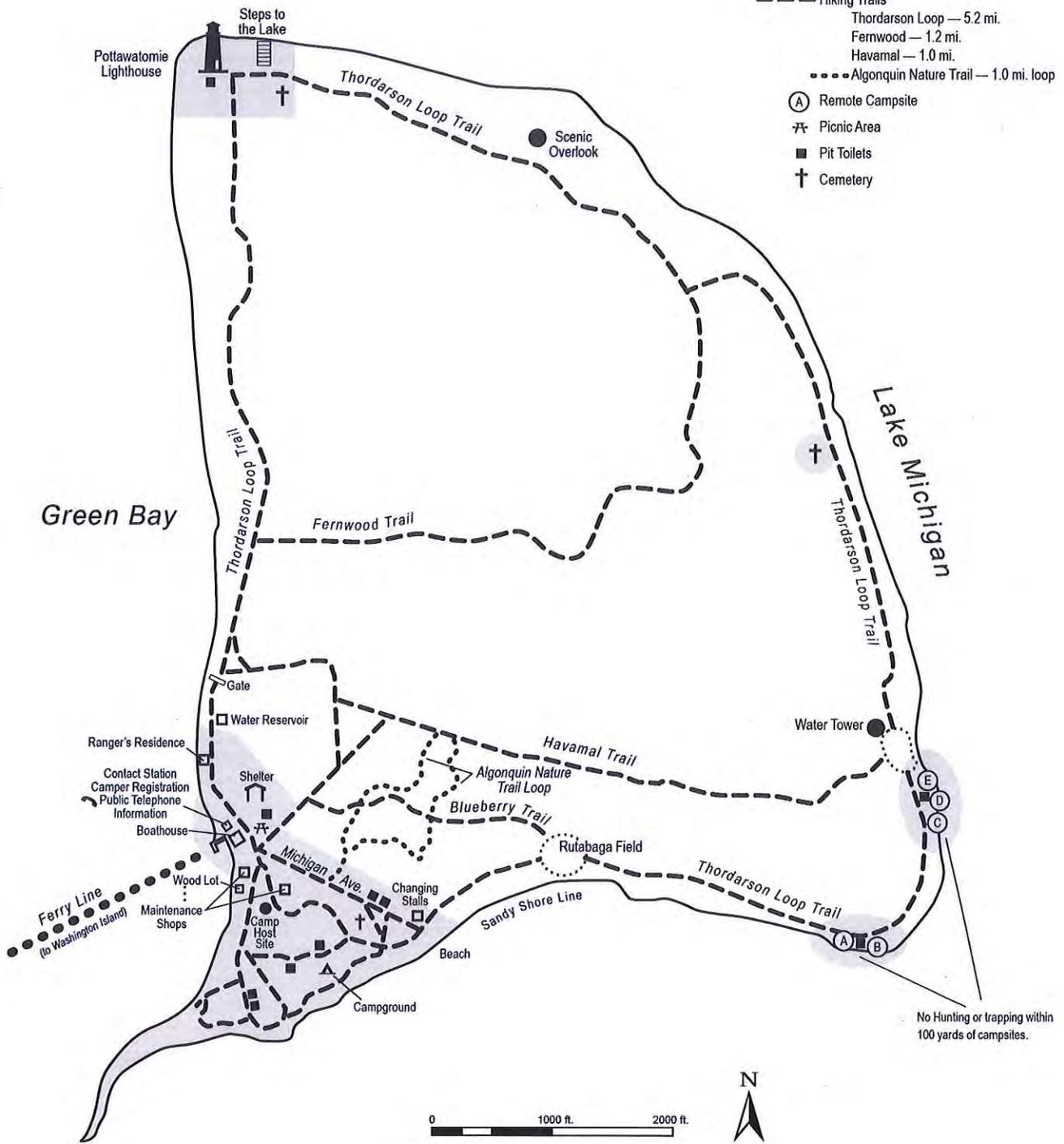
Recommendation:

That the Board adopt a revision to its policy on hunting in state parks by approving an October 15 start for archery hunting at Rock Island State Park and re-instate the previous hunting area available for the nine-day gun deer hunt at Newport State Park.

Rock Island State Park

Hunting and Trapping Map

PUB PR-2220
DRAFT - Rev. 9/4/2013



No Hunting or trapping within 100 yards of campsites.

- Closed
- Open

Fall/Winter: Gun and archery hunting and trapping are allowed in the open areas of the property from Nov. 15 - Dec. 15., except that hunting with legal archery methods is allowed from Oct. 15 through the Sunday nearest Jan. 6. Trapping is not permitted in closed areas as noted on this map or within 100 yards of any designated use area, including trails.

Spring: Gun and archery hunting and limited trapping are allowed April 1 through the Tuesday nearest May 3. Updates will be posted at the park office. *Map not to scale.*

Newport State Park Hunting and Trapping Map

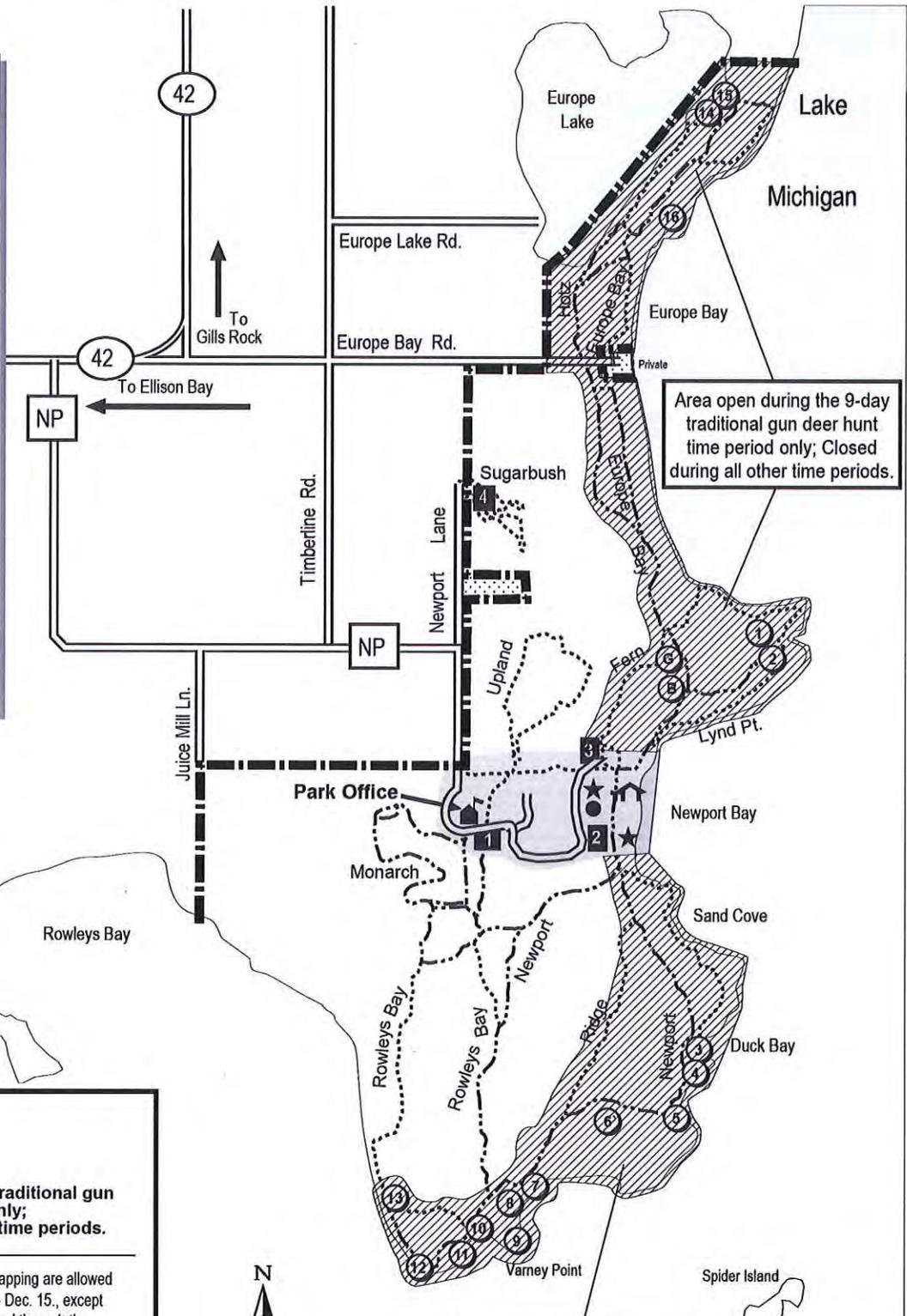
PUB PR-2185
DRAFT - Rev. 9/4/2013



Designated Use Areas

LEGEND:

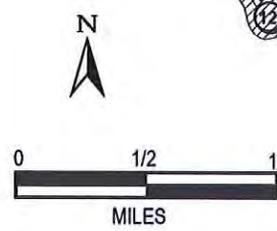
- Park Office
- Parking
- Hiking Trail
- Offroad Bicycling/Hiking
- Campsites (Wilderness Only)
- Picnic Area
- Toilets
- Drinking Water
- Shelter
- Park Boundary
- Private Land / Inholding



- Closed
- Open
- Open during the 9-day traditional gun deer hunt time period only; Closed during all other time periods.

Fall/Winter: Gun and archery hunting and trapping are allowed in the open areas of the property from Nov. 15 - Dec. 15., except that hunting with legal archery methods is allowed through the Sunday nearest Jan. 6. Trapping is not permitted in closed areas as noted on this map or within 100 yards of any designated use area, including trails.

Spring: Gun and archery hunting and limited trapping are allowed April 1 through the Tuesday nearest May 3. Updates will be posted at the park office. *Map not to scale.*



Area open during the 9-day traditional gun deer hunt time period only; Closed during all other time periods.