Form 1100-001N (Rev. 10/12)

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item

Item No.
4.B.3.

SUBJECT: Joseph Neimon Eagle Scout Project Recognition at Kettle Moraine State Forest - Lapham Peak Unit

FOR: April 2015 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Cathy Stepp, Secretary

A candidate for the Eagle Scout rank with the Boy Scouts of America, Joseph Neimon, worked with Property Manager Brett Johanen at the Lapham Peak Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest to create an identification system and later install trail intersection numbers.

Joseph Neimon provided the Lapham Peak Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest and its users with an outstanding product as the result of his efforts as an Eagle Scout candidate. Joseph installed the "Trail Intersection Numbers" on all trail intersections at Lapham Peak. He developed the numbering system in conjunction with the Lapham Peak Property Manager Brett Johanen. His work included identifying each intersection using a specific number that referenced which side of Hwy C it is located.

Examples:

W3 is intersection #3 west of Hwy C

E10 is intersection #10 east of Hwy C

After the creation and install of the trail identification signs, Joseph and his brother Alex worked with Lapham Peak staff to create a park map for trail users that has the identifying intersection numbers included. This resource has proven to be very valuable for users and park staff. The Department commends Joseph Neimon for has valuable work in helping create and post a trail intersection identification system at Lapham Peak. (Joe Neimon was later awarded the honor of Eagle Scout for his work at Lapham Peak).

SUMMARY:

RECOMMENDATION: "Information only"

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (check all that are applicable):
- ☒ Alex Neimon Article
- ☐ N/A
- ☐ N/A
- ☐ N/A

Approved by	Signature	Date
Dan Schuller, Bureau Director	Kimberly Currie for Dan Schuller	3/12/15
Kurt Thiede, Administrator		3/16/15
Cathy Stepp, Secretary	Michael J. Bell for	3/16/15

cc: Board Liaison – AD/8

Joey Neimon Finishes Eagle Project at Lapham

Joey Neimon, 14, from Troop 49, Summit, wanted his Eagle Project to be one that would have a big long lasting positive impact on his community. He wanted it to be something that would help people. When he contacted Lapham State Park Ranger Brett Johanen about project opportunities he knew right away the project the Ranger had in mind was exactly what he was looking to do. When you went into the park there were maps you could read, which had some intersection numbers on them and showed the trail system throughout the park. The problem was that the numbers on the map did not have corresponding signage in the park and did not include all the intersections. Furthermore, all that was in the park were some signs indicating whether or not you were on a blue, green or black trail. If you were lost, hurt or in need of attention these signs were of no use.

The project initially was to add about 60 intersection signs (give or take) to assist staff and emergency personnel locate individuals who are in need throughout the park. The task required that Joey modify the existing park map by creating a new numbering system, therefore creating a new map for the park. Since the park is over 1,000 acres this alone was a large project and undertaking. However, the Ranger had bigger plans that required adding new informational signs and replacing old signage on the west side of the park.

Just like all big projects there was a hidden agenda. Joey's goal was to complete this project before the end of summer so that he did not have the stress of a an Eagle Project looming over his head as he started his freshman year of high school at Kettle Moraine. The plan was to work with a small group on the west side to figure out all the problems and develop work procedures for what was thought to be the tougher assignment on the east side of the park. In early July Joey completed the west side of the park. He identified, mapped and installed 15 intersections. The adding of new information signs and replacing old signage bumped that total to about 155 signs. So much for the west side being the easiest. Mr. Johanen said that Joey had done enough, that he could stop and not have to do the east side. Joey told the Ranger that he did not want to stop. He did not want to tell people later on that for his Eagle Project he replaced intersection signs for "only half of the park". He was determined to install intersection signs throughout the whole park.

So after additional planning and a slight delay in work, so that he could go on a two week 100 mile high adventure trek in the mountains of New Mexico at a scout camp called Philmont, he was back on the job. On August 24th , and with a grand total of 200 signs, he completed the entire park. In addition to the signs, he has renumbered the map for the entire park and created an informational sheet about the signs for park users. Though the signs were initially intended for emergency personnel it had not taken long for park users to rely on them to help navigate the park. "We would have people come up to us while we were working asking how to get to a location" said Michael Neimon, Joey's dad and Scoutmaster for Troop 49, "we would tell them which numbered signs to look for and it would show them the way." They thought that was really cool.

As for Joey he said he is really proud of the project he has done. "It was a big project that will help a lot of people and maybe save someone's life someday." That certainly sounds like a project that will have a long lasting positive impact on his community.

Joey Neimon working with Lapham State Park Ranger Brett Johanen on sign installation

Joey Neimon gives instruction to work crew. left to right: Eric Nelson, Joey Neimon, Alex Fuehrer, Ed Marek, John Fuehrer, Lucas Nelson, Jennifer McCarthy, Charlie McCarthy, Karl Marek and Hunter Hollenbeck (back to camera).

Ranger Brett Johanen reviews Joey Neimon's draft numbering sequence for park map.

Joey with his brother Alex Neimon, 12, in front of sign they had just installed