

Camp Grayling Proposal Fact Sheet

(June 2014)

Camp Grayling, managed by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA), is the largest military installation east of the Mississippi River, training on approximately 147,000 acres of state-owned land in Crawford, Kalkaska and Otsego counties.

Camp Grayling History/Facts

- DMVA currently has a management agreement in place with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) covering approximately 42,000 acres of the total 147,000 acres to allow for low-impact military training.
- Camp Grayling is comprised of the following types of ownership: Military Board Lands, Hanson Reserve Lands, Long-Term Lease Lands, and Short-Term Management Agreement Lands.
 - **Military Board Lands** – DMVA has full jurisdiction.
 - **Hanson Reserve Lands** – Lands deeded in 1913 to the state providing for military use with DNR to have control over game, fish, fire and forestry. DNR and DMVA are joint managers of this land with the primary purpose of military training. Per Attorney General opinion, DMVA controls the recreational rights on these lands.
 - **Long-Term Lease Lands** – Long-term lease of DNR-managed lands for usage by the military with no permanent buildings or improvements to be erected. DNR maintains control over resource management as long as management is compatible with military use.
 - **Short-Term Management Agreement Lands** – Agreement entered into between DNR and DMVA in 1984 for 20 years to allow for use of state-managed lands for specific types of low-impact military training. Renewed in 2004 for 10 years. Currently up for renewal. Includes following:
 - DNR has ultimate jurisdiction
 - Allows for military camping and maneuvers (foot infantry)
 - Prohibits use of heavy equipment and tracked vehicles
 - Wheeled vehicles are restricted to existing trails, no cross-country use
 - No high-intensity live ammunition firing
 - No training to occur during firearm deer season
 - Requires annual joint meeting
 - Arranges for reimbursement of Payment in Lieu of Taxes from DMVA
- The recent interest from DMVA in expanding the area for training at Camp Grayling would fall under the Short-Term Management Agreement Lands category described above. Specific requirements included in this agreement may change depending on the potential resources and areas involved in a proposal.

Camp Grayling Proposal – Background

- DMVA approached the DNR in January 2014 about expanding its current management agreement area.
- The DMVA and DNR met in the Upper Peninsula in February and March to discuss training area needs in the U.P.
- DMVA and DNR met in April to discuss training area needs and the potential for expanding the Camp Grayling lease lands by roughly 54,000 acres.
- The DNR generated maps to identify lands that are located adjacent to the existing camp that are currently not under any type of military agreement to facilitate feasibility scoping. The maps do not illustrate any finalized plans for DMVA use of state-managed land.
- DMVA and DNR plan to meet again to discuss the feasibility of a potential expansion of the management agreement.
- DNR expects DMVA to make a determination by July as to whether or not it will formally submit an application proposal for expansion.
- If the DMVA chooses to submit an application, the DNR will review the application from environmental, legal and social perspectives (see review process on the following page).
- Any potential future management agreement between the DMVA and DNR would continue to protect the natural resources and recreational values of the area.
- At this time, no formal proposal has been made and no decision has been made on lands that would potentially be included in a proposed expansion of the management agreement.

The DNR Process for Reviewing a DMVA Proposal

(Note: This process – with the exception of holding a public meeting – is used for all land transactions.)

DNR utilizes a review process that considers the following perspectives:

- Environmental (DNR staff - resource/recreation review)
- Legal (Attorney General's office)
- Social (public comment/input)

1. Final proposal is submitted to the DNR by DMVA.
2. DNR's Real Estate Section processes the application and prepares a review packet and posts the information online for public review (see process below).
3. Legal review is initiated with Attorney General's office and continues throughout review process
4. Real Estate distributes the proposal for review to local field staff.
5. The DNR's Forest Resources Division (FRD) will be appointed as the lead reviewer (which means it coordinates the review). (FRD will take the lead because the request affects state forest land)
 - Additional reviewers include Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks & Recreation divisions (including state trails coordinator).
 - Field review is completed. Lead reviewer compiles review and forwards to FRD's eastern Lower Peninsula (ELP) district supervisor.
 - The ELP district supervisor evaluates the review from a regional perspective and provides a recommendation to the FRD forest land administrator.
6. Forest land administrator evaluates the review from a statewide perspective and makes a recommendation to the Land Exchange Review Committee (LERC).
7. LERC, chaired by the DNR Deputy Director, reviews the recommendation from a statewide, DNR-wide perspective and makes a recommendation to the Director. Recommendation options include: approve, modify, table or deny.
8. DMVA will receive notice of the LERC recommendation.
9. If recommended for approval or modification, the DNR will host a public meeting in the Grayling area in order to offer the public an opportunity to provide comments on the proposal, which the DNR Director will use to help inform his decision.
10. The proposed transaction will go before the DNR Director for review and a decision at a public NRC meeting. The public will again have an opportunity to provide comments on the proposal at this meeting.
11. The Director will make a final decision.
12. If the Director approves of the proposed management agreement, the document will be prepared for final signature.

Public Review Process

- All materials received in an application from DMVA will be posted on the DNR website for public review. The DNR will host a public meeting in the Grayling area in order to offer the public an opportunity to provide comments on the proposal.
- DNR will meet with interested parties and groups to discuss the proposal.
- Comments and input will be accepted at Natural Resources Commission (NRC) meetings.
- In addition to holding a public meeting, the DNR will also accept public comment via email. A specific email address will be established once a formal proposal has been received.
- The DNR Director will make the final decision at a public NRC meeting, which provides another opportunity for public comment.

To learn more about the DNR's priorities for state-managed land, please visit www.michigan.gov/dnrlandstrategy.