

PASSED
Resolution #14
Requires Simple Majority

Submitted by: Patrick Hogan, Life Member
Passed: March 26, 2023 MUCC Annual Convention
Title: Reaffirm MUCC's opposition to Camp Grayling expansion

1. **WHEREAS:** Camp Grayling was founded in 1913 on an initial grant of land from Grayling
2. lumber baron Rasmus Hanson to the state for military training. It includes 147,000 acres in
3. Crawford, Kalkaska and Otsego counties. Troops first started training at Camp Grayling in 1914;
4. and,
5. **WHEREAS:** the Grayling area provides quality outdoor recreational experiences; and,
6. **WHEREAS:** expanded use of Camp Grayling in recent years has adversely affected and
7. impacted the natural environment of the Grayling area; and,
8. **WHEREAS:** past experiences demonstrates that a need exists to more closely monitor and
9. regulate the environmental impact Camp Grayling activities create; and,
10. **WHEREAS:** during 2016 and 2017 the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
11. (MDMVA) conducted a site investigation on the Grayling Army Airfield (GAAF) for the presence
12. of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the groundwater. It then determined that there
13. was an off-base human health concern; and,
14. **WHEREAS:** Sheri McWhirter of The Traverse City Record Eagle reports “State records show
15. more than 1,100 drinking water samples have been tested through spring this year. Of those,
16. nearly 300 tested positive for some level of PFAS contamination. Officials found 19 homes with
17. PFAS levels at or in beyond the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s health advisory
18. standard for lifetime exposure — 70 parts per trillion — 17 near the airfield and two near Lake
19. Margrethe. Hundreds more residential well samples returned levels between that concentration
20. and non-detection.” in an article from 2019;
21. (<https://www.record-eagle.com/users/profile/Sheri%20McWhirter>); and,
22. **WHEREAS:** Former Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda, MI has caused a “Do Not Eat Deer
23. Advisory” and a “Do Not eat Fish Advisory” due to toxic PFAS contamination
24. ([https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2018/10/19/dnr-do-not-eat-deer-military-base/](https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2018/10/19/dnr-do-not-eat-deer-military-base/1695100002/)
25. [1695100002/](https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2018/10/19/dnr-do-not-eat-deer-military-base/1695100002/)); and,
26. **WHEREAS:** Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) relies on a grassroots policy process
27. to set the organization’s directives. Our members dictate the positions of the organization. In

28. 1989, MUCC members passed a resolution opposing the expansion of Camp Grayling except
29. during a national emergency, as declared by the President or Congress; and,
30. **WHEREAS:** The National Guard is asking for an expansion to lease an additional 162,000
31. acres of Department of Natural Resources (DNR) lands that is currently open to various forms
32. of public recreation including hunting, angling, and trapping. This would be in addition to the
33. 147,000 acres they are currently leasing; and,
34. **WHEREAS:** Public Act 47 of 2009 requires the DNR: “2(a) Keep land under its control open to
35. hunting unless the department determines that the land should be closed to hunting because of
36. public safety, fish or wildlife management, or homeland security concerns or as otherwise
37. required by law. 2(b) Manage land under its control to support and promote hunting and fishing
38. opportunities to the extent authorized by law.”; and,
39. **WHEREAS:** The biggest state revenue source for the DNR is the Game and Fish Protection
40. Fund. The primary source of revenue for the fund is hunting and fishing license fees; and,
41. **WHEREAS:** No money would be exchanged with the proposed lease, as it would be an
42. agreement between two State of Michigan departments. An estimated years long review
43. process incorporating MI DNR staff and resources is expected to just be incorporated
44. into the plan of work for staff in each office and division that has proposed expansion lands
45. within their respective boundaries. This on top of already short staff and underfunded; and,
46. **WHEREAS:** Camp Grayling has a track record of degrading our natural resources They
47. currently have three open PFAS/PFOA investigations on going: Lake Margrethe, Army Airfield
48. and MATES at Range 30*; and,
49. **WHEREAS:** it’s important to update and/or reaffirm MUCC’s position on historical issues as new
50. information, threats, and members change; NOW,
51. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs seeks Camp
52. Grayling’s full and total compliance with all federal, state and local environmental laws by the
53. Department of Military Affairs; and,
54. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that MUCC reaffirms its commitment to opposition to Camp
55. Grayling expansion per resolution BR011089 and opposes any further expansion; and,
56. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** MUCC will work with the DNR and National Guard to minimize
57. environmental impact and maximize recreational opportunity and any expansion that may take
58. place will not negatively impact DNR budget; and,
59. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that in those instances where public lands can no longer be
60. managed as an environmental resource for public recreation, the department be compensated
61. for by some mitigation acceptable to the Natural Resources Commission, legislature, or

62. appropriate public entity.

63. *<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/investigations/sites-aoi/crawford-county/camp-grayling-lake-margrethe>

<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/investigations/sites-aoi/crawford-county/grayling-army-airfield>

<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse/investigations/sites-aoi/crawford-county/camp-grayling-mates>