



## MICHIGAN SOYBEAN PROMOTION COMMITTEE

# a new release



**For IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT:** Gail R. Frahm, Executive Director  
Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee  
888.SOY.MICH (888.769.6424) or  
[gfracm@michigansoybean.org](mailto:gfracm@michigansoybean.org)  
William C. Doan,  
Parks and Recreation Supervisor 1  
Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park  
PH: 906-885-5275 or [DOANW@Michigan.gov](mailto:DOANW@Michigan.gov)

### **Porkies helps green Michigan's environment**

“Earth Day, a day dedicated to the environmental health of our planet, seems to be an appropriate time to salute Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park in Ontonagon, MI for their efforts to help ‘green’ the earth,” says Gail R. Frahm, Executive Director of the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee. Earth Day is most often celebrated on April 22, but some people observe it on March 20, the first day of spring. Frahm continued, “Bill Doan penned the following article about their involvement and commitment to soy-based product use at the Porkies.”

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### **The grass is even “greener”**

By William C. Doan

On a clear summer day here at the Porkies you may spot one of our seasonal workers mowing the grass in the Union Bay campground and from all outward appearances nothing has changed.

It still is the green-suited employee riding a DNR-labeled mower back and forth, back and forth, spilling out noise that cannot be drowned out by even the best that the Bose Acoustic Wave® has to offer.

And though this scene appears no different than the countless times you may have been distracted by the mower's presence in the past, there is, in fact, one major change.

Beginning in 2005, staff at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park made some changes that will make everyone's grass a little greener. The park's diesel-powered equipment, including that riding mower, has been converted to use B20 biodiesel which is a 20% blend of bio-soy product with traditional diesel fuel.

The benefits of this conversion are twofold: First, the emissions emitted from these mowers are drastically reduced. Second, because biodiesel is made almost exclusively from soybean oil it is a reliable, renewable and environmentally friendly alternative which helps reduce our dependency on petroleum-based products.

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In addition to running on biodiesel, the mowers also are being lubricated with soybean oil instead of petroleum motor oil. And because the hydraulic cylinders and the transmission now derive their pleasure from the “bean,” you might even find the little green man munching on a bag of soy nuts just so he feels a bit more in tune with his machine.

The Porkies has converted from petroleum-based products to “crop neutral” bio-soy alternatives in all aspects of park operations. Going beyond the use of biodiesel, motor oil and hydraulic fluid, the park also is using variety of other bio-soy products, including two-cycle oil, bar and chain oil, penetrating oil, parts cleaning solution, bearing grease, air compressor fluid, degreaser, 80/90 gear lube and fuel conditioners.

The park also has incorporated the use of environmentally preferred products in cleaning the bathroom-shower buildings. Gone are the corrosive and acidic products of the past. In fact, the park has reduced the number of cleaning products from nearly a dozen of those Mr. Hyde, unfriendly solutions, to three Dr. Jekyll, good-to-be-with, put-your-arms-around, kind of products. So these “green” initiatives are saving money as well.

So, the next time you hear the constant moan of the grass mower or the whine of a chainsaw, you now know that these necessary pieces of maintenance equipment are, at least here at the Porkies, a bit less intrusive than they have been in the past.

It’s all part of our commitment to make Michigan’s premier green spaces even more “green.”

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The MSPC, organized in 1976, is a farmer created organization which operates under state and national law to research, promote, educate and communicate information about soybeans to farmers, consumers, health professionals, researchers and more. The Mission Statement of the MSPC is to efficiently and effectively leverage checkoff resources to increase profit opportunities for Michigan soybean producers while enhancing a positive public image of the soybean industry. The MSPC is led by a group of seven, governor appointed farmers from across predetermined districts based on equality of soybean acreage in each.

For more information on the products mentioned by Mr. Doan, you may contact him directly at 906.885.5275 or the Michigan Soybean Office at 989.652.3294. Visit our web site at [www.michigansoybean.org](http://www.michigansoybean.org) for a list of multiple soy-based products and their suppliers.

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