



THE BAY CITY TIMES



Home News + Biz Local Sports Forums + Chat Cams + Radio Living + Travel Entertainment

**NEWS**

THE BAY CITY TIMES

Click here to subscribe!

» [More From The Bay City Times](#)

**Top Stories**

## Government sues second beachfront weed stopper

Monday, April 8, 2002

By Crystal Harmon  
TIMES WRITER

The United States government has sued a second Bangor Township homeowner, asking a judge to award up to \$25,000 per day for beach-grooming violations.

U.S. attorneys filed suit last month against Charles Groya, 741 Bay Road, claiming he illegally moved sand on his beach in violation of the federal Clean Water Act.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Bay City, claims Groya "tilled, graded or dozed" his beach in July 2000 and 2001 and ignored warning letters from the U.S. Corps of Engineers.

Federal law prohibits disturbing sand or vegetation in protected wetlands such as the former lake bottomlands, now exposed along the Saginaw Bay by dropping water levels.

The government brought suit last month against another Bangor Township beachfront resident, John Stuart. No court date has been set in that case.

Groya, contacted at home on Thursday, said he hadn't received word of the suit, but that a U.S. marshal had left a calling card on his door Wednesday.

"They're out of their tree," Groya said. "I look up and down the beach, and see what everyone's done. Why come after

### News

- » [Bay City Times](#)
- » [Town Talk](#)
- » [Local Photos](#)
- » [Statewide News](#)
- » [NewsFlash](#)
- » [Weather](#)

» [SEND THIS PAGE](#)

» [PRINT THIS PAGE](#)

SPEAK UP!

- » [News Talk](#)
- » [Town Talk](#)
- » [More Forums](#)
- » [Log On to ChatXtral](#)

Marketplace Classifieds

- » [Marketplace](#)
- » [Coupons](#)
- » [Auctions](#)
- » [E-Stores](#)
- » [Yellow Pages](#)
- » [All Classifieds](#)
- » [Find an AUTO](#)
- » [Find a HOME](#)
- » [Find a JOB](#)
- » [Place Your Ad](#)

» [Win \\$100 Cash!](#)



### FROM OUR ADVERTISERS

- » [You may be eligible for free computer related courses through MVU!](#)
- » [Michigan Festivals Auction. Click here to bid!](#)

» [Advertise With Us](#)

me?"

Groya said he planned to consult a lawyer before making further comment or detailing his efforts to maintain his beach.

"And then, I don't know if what I have to say will be fit to print in the newspaper," he said.

Geneva Halliday, assistant U.S. attorney in Detroit, said she can't discuss in detail why certain homeowners have been targeted for civil action.

"We have our own criteria," she said. "But if you look at the complaints, you will see that these are cases where people were warned that they had violated, and they did it again, and were warned again."

With Lake Huron water levels dropping in the past couple of years, the shoreline along the Saginaw Bay now includes what once was lake bottom.

That land is federally protected. Scientists say the delicate wetland ecosystem benefits the Earth by filtering out pollutants from the water.

Property owners may cut a path to the water and rake up debris, but need a permit for anything more drastic, according to provisions of the federal Clean Water Act.

In certain cases, violation of the act can be considered criminal, but Halliday said no criminal charges are being contemplated for beachfront actions now.

- Crystal Harmon covers Bay County courts and politics for The Times. She can be reached at 894-9643.

© 2002 Bay City Times. Used with permission

» [Send This Page](#) | » [Print This Page](#)

MORE NEWS

- » [Border Patrol boost is a long time coming](#)
- » [DEATHS](#)
- » [Rain is good for mosquito killers](#)

[More Stories](#) | [14-Day Archive](#) | [Complete MLive News Coverage](#)

MORE FROM THE BAY CITY TIMES

[Today's News](#) | [Bay City Times Links & Archives](#)

[User Agreement](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Help/Feedback](#) | [Advertise With Us](#)

© 2002 mlive.com. All Rights Reserved.

