

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
10/15/12 – 10/28/12**

DISTRICT 1

CO Dave Painter worked the grouse decoy in an area known for road hunting. A truck pulled up with three bird hunters who stuck the gun out the window to try to shoot the grouse decoy. The hunters had bird dogs in the bed of the truck, and three loaded, uncased shotguns in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dave Painter contacted an ORV operator driving without seatbelts or a helmet. The ORV was unregistered and open intoxicants were found in the cup holders. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund was working an early morning shining patrol when he responded to a 911 call of a man having a heart attack. The CO arrived and administered first aid until paramedics arrived on scene. As the paramedics were tending to the victim, the CO observed a large marijuana grow operation in the bedroom of the house. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Marvin Gerlach contacted two subjects in a pickup stopped on a rural county road. The father and son explained that their bird dog had gotten sick inside the cab of the truck and they were trying to clean it up. They did not, however, have a good explanation for the two loaded, uncased shotguns they had in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking an area regarding a complaint of stolen traps, CO Matt Eberly contacted a subject walking out of the woods and to his truck. The subject was carrying a loaded shotgun and had no hunting license. After interviewing the subject about the stolen traps, a confession was obtained on the trap theft as well. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

While on patrol, CO Robert Crisp came upon homeowners who had just witnessed the poaching of a deer near their residence. They explained that the suspect vehicle had driven down a road nearby and gave a detailed description of the vehicle. CO Crisp drove down that road and shortly thereafter contacted the suspects who still had the rifle uncased along with open intoxicants. The deer and firearm were seized and tickets were issued for taking a deer out of season, transporting an uncased firearm, recreational trespass and transporting open intoxicants.

While driving down an unpaved county road, CO Robert Crisp had to swerve to avoid being hit by an oncoming truck. CO Crisp turned around and initiated a traffic stop. Prior to pulling over, the subject was observed to lean over towards the passenger seat

of the vehicle. Upon contact with the driver, it was discovered that there was an uncased firearm in the vehicle. The subject was ticketed for the firearm violation and warned for the careless driving.

CO Robert Crisp contacted two unsupervised youth hunters hunting small game. He brought the two back to their parents where a warning was given for allowing under aged hunters to hunt without supervision.

CO Kyle Publiski received a complaint of a deer being illegally shot with a firearm during the bow season. The CO proceeded to the suspect's residence and made contact. Upon answering the door the suspect was covered in fresh blood which he claimed was red paint. When asked what he was painting at such a time of the night, he didn't have an answer. He then showed the officer a deer hanging in the garage that he claimed he shot with a bow. A closer inspection determined that the hole in the deer was clearly from a bullet hole. After being caught in several more untruths, the subject admitted to shooting the deer with his rifle from his blind. The deer and gun were seized and a ticket was issued for the illegal deer.

CO Kyle Publiski heard talk of a subject who was bragging about shooting a nice 10 point buck during the closed season. When contacted, the subject blamed the whole thing on his girlfriend. He tried to explain how she used his gun and his truck, field dressed the deer and hung it in his garage without any of his assistance. CO Publiski wasn't impressed with the story and neither was the girlfriend. The subject has been arrested in the past for poaching deer and other various fish and game violations. The gun and deer were seized and warrants are being sought for the boyfriend in the case.

DISTRICT 3

CO Michael Feagan was in his patrol truck watching anglers at the Cheboygan River dam, when two subjects pulled up next to him, got out and started fishing. CO Feagan moved his patrol truck, and then watched the pair snag and keep several fish. Both were ticketed and later stated, "We must be the dumbest fishermen alive".

CO Matt Theunick contacted a bear hunter who failed to seal his bear within the required 72 hours after the kill. In fact, it was over two weeks after he shot the bear. The subject stated he had only four days left during his vacation after shooting the bear, and it just wasn't enough time. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Carl Vanderwall followed a dirt bike running down the middle of a paved road at 70 mph. The driver did not have a driver's license, the cycle was not licensed and he was not wearing a helmet. Enforcement action was taken.

While en route to a night shining patrol, CO Michael Feagan and Sgt. Greg Drogowski stopped to assist an elderly lady walking down the highway in her pajamas. The COs learned that she had been assaulted by her husband, and sustained injuries. The local

police agency was called and COs assisted in contacting and eventually arresting the husband for domestic violence.

CO Andrea Albert responded to a complaint of two lost hikers in the Jordan Valley. The hikers planned a three mile hike but ended up miles away from their car and were lost and disorientated in the dark. Local agencies assisted in pinpointing the hikers' general location. CO Albert hiked two and a half miles into their location and led the hikers and their dog back to safety.

CO Bill Webster received a complaint of an ORV trespassing on private property and was able to follow tracks to a nearby hunting camp. While following the tracks, CO Webster located a food plot which had been augmented with sugar beets. The CO contacted the camp owner and his son who admitted to riding his ORV on the neighbor's property, and the father admitted to putting out the sugar beets. The father was issued a ticket for the bait and his son will be restoring the damage he did with his ORV.

CO Bill Webster assisted local law enforcement with a civil dispute between neighbors and while there, observed a baited deer blind on one of the properties. CO Webster contacted the landowner, who admitted to bow hunting over the bait; it was also discovered he had not purchased a hunting license this year. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Bill Webster responded to a complaint of people snagging salmon at the Ninth Street dam in Alpena. When he arrived the suspects had already left. CO Webster checked all the motels in the area for the suspect vehicle and eventually found it. CO Webster then contacted three subjects who admitted to keeping 14 Chinook Salmon of which, 10 that had been snagged. Two of the subjects each had five prior DNR violations and are being charged again with retaining foul hooked fish. Reimbursement will be sought for approximately 100 pounds of illegal fish.

CO Mark DePew received a complaint of a deer being shot at night with the aid of a spotlight. It was reported that the suspect vehicle had a loud exhaust. CO DePew was able to develop a suspect and arranged an interview. The subject admitted that he and a friend shot the deer at night with a rifle. Both subjects have been arrested for various fish and game violations in the past and charges are being sought for their most recent activities.

CO Kelly Ross and Sgt. Joe Molnar assisted local deputies and the Michigan State Police (MSP) with a subject in the woods with numerous firearms. The subject had been arrested earlier in the day for shoplifting and stated he would not be taken alive. He was apprehended without incident.

DISTRICT 4

CO Brian Brosky responded to a complaint of a subject trespassing while bird hunting. The trespasser left the scene after being confronted by the landowner and informed that the DNR had been called. A local deputy was in the area and located and detained the suspect for CO Brosky. The landowner, who has been experiencing trespassing issues for some time, was hesitant to prosecute the subject until he learned that the subject claimed he had been hunting the location for the past 20 years. A warrant will be sought for recreational trespass.

CO Brian Brosky was working along the Pere Marquette River when he observed three subjects attempting to snag salmon. CO Brosky was unable to reach the subjects due to the offenders being on the other side of the river. Later in the day, CO Brosky was able to contact the subjects at their camp and warned them about their illegal activity and advised them regarding the legal way to fish for salmon. The following weekend CO Brosky contacted the same group just as they arrived. CO Brosky walked away as if leaving and then returned to observe their activity. CO Brosky observed two of the subjects as they were attempting to foul hook fish and depositing litter along the riverbank. Two of the subjects were ticketed for snagging and the littering violation.

CO Angela Greenway responded to a complaint of a subject trespassing and depositing excessive deer bait. Upon inspecting the hunting location, CO Greenway located approximately 10 gallons of carrots near the suspect's hunting blind. CO Greenway and a local deputy contacted the subject at his residence and obtained a confession for the trespass and excessive bait. The officers also discovered that the subject was wanted on a felony warrant out of the City of Grand Haven. He was ticketed for the resource violations and lodged in the Lake County Jail on the warrant arrest.

CO Angela Greenway responded to a complaint of an oil-like substance flowing into the Little Manistee River near the Village of Luther. CO Greenway's investigation revealed that someone had removed boards from a water control structure of an impoundment attached to the river by a small feeder stream. CO Greenway returned the next day with personnel from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and located a person who admitted to removing the boards without a permit. The incident has been turned over to DEQ personnel for disposition.

Sgt. Kevin Hackworth responded to a complaint from a bow hunter in Lake County regarding two subjects who were operating an ORV and who had just built a permanent blind on USFS property. Sgt. Hackworth located the subject's camp and contacted the two subjects. One subject admitted to building the blind and the ORV operation while the other admitted to placing deer bait. Neither possessed a hunting license of any type. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Troy Mueller was on patrol when he came across two subjects dragging a deer out of the woods. CO Mueller contacted the subjects and determined that one of the subjects had harvested the buck with a crossbow without a license. CO Mueller seized

the deer and crossbow and ticketed the subject for the illegal deer. The subject stated he couldn't afford to buy a license even though he had several bags of bait in the bed of his truck.

CO Troy Mueller was on patrol and made a traffic stop of a vehicle driving erratically and reckless through state land. During the traffic stop, a loaded .22 cal. handgun was located. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jeff Ginn and Mike Wells have been investigating illegal charters on the Muskegon River. The COs contacted a subject taking passengers for hire on an uninspected boat and ticketed the captain for the violation. Contact was made with a second subject operating an unlicensed vessel containing two fishing clients. Both clients were ticketed for fishing without a license. The captain was ticketed for operating an illegal charter.

CO Mike Wells received a complaint of a subject hunting at night behind a residence. CO Wells located a subject hunting with a crossbow, still in his blind hunting after hours and without a deer hunting license. CO Wells issued a ticket for the license violation and provided warnings on excessive bait and other violations observed.

CO Mike Wells received a complaint of an illegal camp on state park property. CO Wells walked into the illegal campsite and observed a large amount of litter spread about due to the evening's partying activity. CO Wells had to wake the multiple subjects and then had them pick up the entire area including putting out the fire. Enforcement action was taken to address the trespass and other violations.

CO Mike Wells was contacted by a landowner reporting a suspicious vehicle on his property. CO Wells had received multiple complaints of trespass in this area and of a vehicle matching the description of the suspicious vehicle in this current complaint. CO Wells patrolled to the area and contacted a subject dressed in full camouflage and in possession of a shotgun. The subject was trespassing and claimed to be attempting to shoot at a flock of turkeys that had crossed the road. The subject was ticketed for recreational trespass.

DISTRICT 5

CO Chuck McPherson responded to a complaint of illegal wood cutting. When he arrived, he found the wood cutters' truck back in the woods off the road. The subjects had taken standing timber and had no fuelwood permit. Two others subjects on scene were taken into custody for bond violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz located a vehicle traveling cross country on state land. After stopping the SUV, he found all three occupants with open intoxicants in the vehicle. The driver was operating on a suspended license and the other two occupants were not licensed to drive. CO Liestenfeltz also located a loaded .22 caliber rifle next to the front

seat passenger. In the rear of the vehicle, he located a doe that the passenger admitted to shooting with the rifle. The subjects were lodged in the county jail, had their vehicle impounded and both the firearm and the deer were seized.

CO Bobbi Lively and a U S Forest Service (USFS) law enforcement officer contacted a subject driving from deer camp whose hunting privileges were revoked. The driver was also driving on a suspended driver's license. The subject told CO Lively he was not hunting but his wife had been and they had not placed any bait at their hunt location. CO Lively quickly checked a nearby hunting site with an illegal stand that was baited and found a second blind that was also baited. When she returned to the subject and told him of her findings, they admitted to placing the bait, and the subject whose hunting privileges were revoked admitted he had been archery hunting at the second stand. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hearn contacted a subject who was driving down a back road and quickly pulled his vehicle off when he observed the patrol truck. The subject, who was drinking while driving, was found to be operating on a suspended driver's license. The subject also admitted to CO Hearn he had marijuana in his possession and had a felony warrant for his arrest. The subject was lodged in the county jail.

COs John Huspen and Chuck McPherson assisted local deputies with an investigation of a trophy buck being killed and removed from a privately owned deer enclosure. The owners found where their fence had been cut and located a drag mark leading from the fence. The owners reported seeing two subjects hunting with firearms earlier on the private land adjacent to the enclosure. The investigation focused on these subjects. Both subjects were felons who were not able to possess firearms. The COs was able to locate the antlers and the deer. With the assistance of the Michigan State Police, the officers were also able to locate the firearms used. The owners estimated the value of the buck to be \$30,000. Multiple warrants will be sought through the prosecutor's office.

CO Jon Warner was observing anglers when a subject came down the riverbank and started asking anglers to sell him their fish. The potential buyer finally located a subject willing to sell him his salmon. CO Warner discreetly followed the subjects back to the parking lot and observed the exchange of money and fish. He then contacted both subjects who confessed to what CO Warner had already observed. Tickets were issued to both subjects.

CO John Warner issued a ticket to a hunter who was hunting over a bait pile the size of a pick-up truck.

CO Steve Lockwood contacted a hunter who told him he had shot a doe; however, the subject was still in possession of his hunting licenses. Further investigation revealed that the subject had shot a doe and tagged it with someone else's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason McCullough located a litter pile on state land and was able to get some names out of the trash. The CO contacted the subject who confessed to dumping the garbage. It was the second time the subject had been ticketed for the same type of litter offense.

CO Brian Olsen received a complaint of litter dumped on private land. The CO checked the pile and located a name and address. He then went to the address and discovered that the name he found in the trash was that of the previous owner who had since moved out of state. The new owner had hired a subject to remove some garbage from the premises. CO Olsen contacted the subject hired to do the cleaning and obtained a confession to dumping the garbage on private land.

DISTRICT 6

CO Seth Rhodea contacted two subjects late at night who were dragging two deer out of the woods. Upon asking the subjects if both deer were tagged, the subjects replied that they had heard coyotes in the woods and were just trying to get out as fast as they could so they did not have time to tag the deer. Tickets were issued for failing to immediately validate and attach kill tags.

On opening day of waterfowl season, CO Seth Rhodea contacted a group of waterfowl hunters in Sanilac County. Upon checking the hunters' ammo, two of the hunters were found with toxic shot in their possession as well as chambered in their firearms. A third hunter had a firearm capable of holding more than three rounds of ammo. Tickets were issued to the subjects for the violations.

CO Seth Rhodea contacted three duck hunters shortly after shooting hours ended on the second weekend of the waterfowl season. One hunter had an unplugged shotgun and had failed to purchase any hunting licenses for the 2012 hunting season. Tickets were issued for the unplugged gun and failing to have licenses along with several warnings for other violations.

CO Seth Rhodea was contacted at home and advised that several people had heard a gunshot and then witnessed a vehicle leave the area of the shooting. The witnesses were able to get the license plate number from the car, and the occupants were initially contacted by local deputies. CO Rhodea responded to the suspect's house and upon questioning them, both claimed to have shot a raccoon. A deer with a bullet wound was later located in the area where the shooting had taken place and a second round of interviews resulted in the subjects confessing to shooting the deer. Charges are being requested through the prosecutor's office.

CO Joshua Wright was checking duck hunters on Saginaw Bay when he encountered a subject with an odor of alcohol on his breath. During his investigation, the CO found five empty beer cans and a partially burned marijuana cigarette. The subject's firearm was seized and further enforcement action was taken.

Working off a tip from a local hunter of excessive deer bait, CO Joshua Wright located a subject in his tree stand, sitting over the excessive bait pile. When the CO watched the subject climb down from the tree, he observed a handgun holster on the backpack of the subject. CO Wright located a loaded .45 cal revolver in the subject's backpack and the subject did not possess a CPL. The subject is facing various charges including a felony for carrying a concealed pistol.

CO Chad Foerster received a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint reference waterfowl hunters possibly hunting after the close of legal shooting hours. The CO was able to set up on the hunters and observed them for several hours. When the hunters finally called it quits and unloaded, it was dark and more than 30 minutes past legal hunting hours for waterfowl. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster was working late night in Bay County for shining activity when he had a vehicle go head-on with him nearly running him off the road. The CO was able to turn around on the vehicle and catch up to it where he found it stopped in the middle of the road. When CO Foerster activated his blue lights signaling the vehicle to pull over, the suspect vehicle took off at a high rate of speed. The CO pursued the vehicle for a short distance before it came to a stop again. Upon contacting the driver, the driver stated he did not see the blue lights, only "really bright lights" before hearing the siren and stopping. When asked why he crossed the center line, he said that he did not remember doing so, nor did he remember seeing the CO when he ran him off the roadway. When asked why he stopped in the middle of the roadway, he claimed that he was texting and that he'd had too much to drink to text and drive at the same time and figured it was unsafe to do so. The subject was arrested for OUIL and had his vehicle towed.

CO Nick Atkin contacted a duck hunter who had illegally driven his ORV through the marsh. During the contact, the CO also found the operator transported more passengers than the ORV was designed, and both the operator and rider failed to have helmets. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Phil Hudson was assisting a local deputy with a complaint of a subject trespassing and stealing firewood. As the officers were walking the property line investigating the complaint, they observed a large object in a tree on the adjoining property. It was approximately one hour after legal shooting hours had ended. CO Hudson and the deputy went to investigate and discovered a person with a loaded crossbow still in his tree stand. The subject was also hunting without a license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Phil Hudson observed several subjects fishing in a marina when one of the subjects pointed out the patrol truck to the others and one subject began acting suspicious. CO Hudson hid his patrol truck and went into the marina store and continued to watch the subjects. After about a half hour, the suspicious subject walked around the building to see if CO Hudson left the area. The person then baited a line and began fishing. CO

Hudson went back to his truck and drove up to the anglers as the subject dropped the fishing pole, walked away and sat in a chair. As CO Hudson checked licenses, the subject stated he was not fishing and only helping watch poles. A ticket was issued for fishing without a license.

CO Dan Lee received information regarding subjects shining and shooting deer. The subjects are well known by the CO from previous contacts. The CO set up in the area and stopped a vehicle shining at midnight. When contacted, the officer found that the driver and passenger were the suspects from the earlier complaints. Located in the bed of the truck was an uncased bow. The driver had been previously arrested by the CO when he was 17 for shining and shooting a deer from a vehicle. Charges are pending for shining with weapon in possession and after 11:00 p.m.

While patrolling the Shiawassee River SGA after shooting hours, CO Dan Lee observed a truck parked in a lot. The CO waited until 10:30 p.m. when the hunters returned. One hunter was carrying a crossbow with a bolt still on the cocked string. Neither had permits for the area in their possession. One did not have his kill tag with him and the driver had a suspended driver's license. Tickets were issued.

CO Joel Lundberg was out patrolling late night hunting activity when he contacted five people coming out of the woods with dogs and a firearm. The individuals stated they were raccoon hunting. The hunters advised they did not have any luck that evening. The CO then checked for hunting licenses only to find out that nobody possessed a license. A raccoon was also located in one of the vehicles. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Joel Lundberg and Steve Lockwood were on patrol when they received a call to assist CO Mark Papineau who was responding to gunshots at 2:00 a.m. The COs responded to the area and located a residence with floodlights on in the back yard. It appeared the lights were being used to help see deer at night. Upon investigation, the COs located three subjects in a garage conducting an illegal marijuana grow. The individuals were intoxicated, had 114 marijuana plants and a loaded assault rifle inside the garage. One of the intoxicated subjects also had a loaded concealed handgun on him. After a lengthy search of the woods, a five point buck was located that had been shot with the assault rifle. The individuals were lodged and ticketed, and the deer and plants were seized.

COs Joel Lundberg and Jay Person were out patrolling when they heard a gun shot after hours. The COs narrowed down the homes in the area to a few to where the shooter might return. Surveillance of the properties revealed that one of the homes had a freshly skinned six point buck hanging in the doorway of a barn. Contact was made and a subject was interviewed, which resulted in a confession that the deer was shot twice with a rifle. The buck was seized and enforcement action was taken.

While inspecting a local deer processor, CO Ken Lowell checked a buck that had a kill tag that was purchased on October 16th. The tag was also notched out for October

16th. The CO contacted the suspect and after a lengthy interview the hunter admitted to hunting without a license. The hunter admitted shooting the buck and then buying her tag after the fact. The deer was seized and enforcement action was taken.

While at a processor picking up an illegal deer, CO Ken Lowell saw a large eight point lying on the floor. The tag on the buck was purchased on October 21st after dark. After talking with the taxidermist it was determined that the deer was brought in on October 22nd. The hunter who shot the deer had admitted to shooting it the night before he brought it in. After a quick interview the hunter admitted to shooting the buck and then buying the tag. The deer was confiscated and enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Ron Kimmerly is working on a complaint where a deer was shot from a vehicle on October 19th, at 2:00 a.m. on Frandsche Road, just South of M-52 in Saginaw County. The suspect vehicle is reported to be a red, newer Chevy or Dodge Pick-up. The suspect most likely lives somewhere in south Saginaw County or north Genesee County. Anyone who may have information in regard to this case is asked to call the RAP HOTLINE at (800) 292-7800.

DISTRICT 7

While sitting surveillance along a closed trout stream, Lt. Tim Robson and CO Patrick McManus observed a subject retrieve a net hidden in a nearby log pile and attempt to net fish illegally. After numerous unsuccessful attempts, the subject returned the net back in its hiding spot for future use. The subject was then observed drinking alcohol and discarding the cans. Contact was made and the subject denied everything. After the hidden net was retrieved along with the discarded beer cans from a nearby hole, the subject admitted to his deeds. Enforcement action was taken.

While conducting surveillance along Otis Lake in the Barry SGA, CO Gary Raak observed three subjects shooting waterfowl after legal hunting hours. After all the birds left the area the subjects finally quit shooting and picked up their gear. Contact was made and tickets were issued for the violation.

CO Patrick McManus contacted a group waterfowl hunting in a closed area of the Yankee Springs Recreation Area. One subject had an unplugged shotgun, was using toxic shot and was unable to provide any personal flotation devices (PFDs) for their boat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Patrick McManus conducted surveillance along a closed trout stream and observed two subjects attempting to snag salmon. After contact was made, the CO watched as one of the subject's backpack's moved around on the ground. Two salmon were found hidden in the backpack. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Brewer was working the St. Joseph River at a spot that has been a problem area for people keeping overlimits of panfish. CO Brewer observed two men fishing, one of the men consistently catching panfish. After watching the subjects for an hour

and a half, CO Brewer contacted the subjects and found one man with 44 panfish, 19 over the limit. The second subject had only caught four fish. The subject was ticketed for taking an overlimit of panfish.

CO Andy Bauer and Sgt. Zach Doss received a complaint of a subject late shooting waterfowl. Upon contact with the complainant, it was discovered that the subject was already gone. On Sunday, both CO Bauer and Sgt. Doss returned before the end of shooting hours and subsequently located a father and young son, both shooting at waterfowl after hours. A number of other violations were observed, and enforcement action was taken.

CO Brad Brewer was on foot checking on some tree stand issues at Leidy Lake SGA and was walking back to his truck, when shots rang out and bullets began going through the brush within 20 feet of CO Brewer. CO Brewer took cover and could see the subjects through some brush at the other end of the field. CO Brewer yelled at the subjects, identifying himself and the subjects stopped shooting in his direction and began shooting in a different direction. CO Brewer carefully contacted the subjects, one adult and two juveniles. All three subjects were target shooting at a box that they placed in the crotch of a small tree, without regards for the fact that they had no backstop. CO Brewer warned the subjects for littering and issued the adult a ticket for reckless discharge of a firearm. The two juvenile's parents were contacted and informed of the incident.

CO Brad Brewer was following up on a baiting investigation at Lindy Lake SGA, when he spotted the vehicle believed to be involved in the complaint. The vehicle drove past the officer with a duck hunting boat in the back towards the access site. CO Brewer contacted the three occupants at the access site and discovered that one of the subjects did not have any type of hunting license and that there was an uncased bow in the vehicle. Additionally, another subject in the group had purchased two resident archery licenses, even though he was a non-resident. CO Brewer asked about the missing license, and the subject admitted that he had given it to another subject to tag a deer. Enforcement action was taken on the license and uncased bow violations, with many warnings issued. CO Brewer then followed up on the loaning of the license and contacted the subject who was provided the loaned license. An investigation and subsequent confession led to the discovery that the subject had shot two bucks and an antlerless deer and had tagged all of the deer with the licenses of others. All three deer were seized and enforcement action taken for the various violations, including the taking of illegal deer.

CO Andy Bauer received a RAP complaint of a subject duck hunting within the safety zone of houses on a Berrien County lake. CO Bauer responded and observed a man rowing around the edge of the lake wearing a red flannel shirt. Investigation led to the discovery that the subject was shooting coots and had shot within 100 feet of numerous houses and did not have any life preservers in the boat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jeff Robinette was in his driveway recording information at the end of his shift when an ORV with two people riding on it drove down the street directly in front of his house. CO Robinette stopped the ORV and asked if the subject knew that he had just driven by his house, and the subject admitted that he did. Both occupants of the ORV were not wearing helmets, were riding double on an ORV designed for a single person, and were operating on the road. Enforcement action was taken with numerous warnings issued.

CO Chris Holmes received a complaint from a subject who was out archery hunting. The complainant advised the CO that he'd heard a shot before sunrise and then two more shots after daylight. After the subsequent two shots the complainant saw a buck running from the area with blood on its mouth. He then observed three men looking for what appeared to be a blood trail. CO Holmes responded to the area and went into the woods where the incident had occurred. The CO came across one subject looking for blood in the woods. CO Holmes detained this subject and then found another subject in the area. Both men stated they were bow hunting and had no clue what was going on. After interviews, CO Holmes determined both subjects were involved in the incident and asked them where the third person had gone. Officer Holmes followed them back to a house and found the third subject had fled to the house with a firearm after he saw the officer in the area. The subject who fled had shot at a doe at approximately 6:00 a.m. and then shot and killed a four point buck with a shotgun. Evidence was seized at the scene and enforcement action was taken for felon in possession of a firearm, taking a deer with a firearm and several other hunting related violations. A felony complaint will be forwarded to the prosecutor's office for review.

CO Greg Patten waited on a bow hunter one evening after verifying the subject had purchased both combination and archery deer licenses. Upon making contact well after dark, the hunter admitted to taking one buck already and was hoping to take additional deer beyond his limit. Enforcement action was taken for the hunter purchasing too many licenses.

CO Ivan Perez investigated a RAP complaint of a subject dragging a deer carcass down a gravel road with a pick-up truck. Arriving at the scene and following a drag mark, CO Perez located the carcass dumped in a field. After several interviews, the CO located the subject and vehicle at a residence and determined that his mother had found a road killed deer in Kent County, miles from the scene. Wanting coyote bait, the suspect dragged the deer miles by road to a field he did not have permission to access or hunt. CO Perez ticketed the subject for trespassing after contacting area property owners.

CO Ivan Perez located a subject sitting along a river with a shotgun. Further conversation and a check of the area confirmed the subject was attempting to take waterfowl. CO Perez conducted license and firearms checks, and noted the hunter was carrying a 410 bore shotgun. Officer Perez asked if all of the shells he possessed were non toxic and the hunter assured him they were loaded with steel. After continued questioning the subject's best disclaimer was that his father said the shells were steel shot loads. The CO ticketed the hunter for possession of toxic shot as the ammunition was in fact loaded with lead.

DISTRICT 8

CO Rich Nickols conducted a deer processor inspection and located two deer with tags bearing suspicious purchase times. CO Nickols followed up with investigations resulting in two hunters admitting to purchasing the licenses after shooting the deer. Warrants are being sought.

While on a deer shining patrol, CO Rich Nickols truck was lit up with a spotlight from a vehicle on the roadway. CO Nickols made a traffic stop and found the driver operating on a suspended license and also had a valid warrant out for his arrest. The driver was arrested and lodged.

CO Damon Owens received a complaint of a vehicle being operated in a closed area by subjects that appeared to be bow hunting for deer. The U S Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) received a similar complaint, within a wildlife protection area of illegal hunting activity taking place. The officers were able to coordinate patrol efforts which led to locating several suspects with numerous violations. Charges are being requested including illegal baiting for deer, operating a motor vehicle in a closed area and the illegal method of taking a deer.

CO Daniel Prince investigated a RAP complaint of a subject hunting deer at night in a field over an illegal bait pile with the use of a red spotlight. CO Prince set up in the area and finally located the subject who was on the track of a deer he had just shot. A warrant is being sought.

CO Dan Bigger finished the investigation and warrant request into a case involving several years of poaching violations. There were a total of 125 counts brought against the subject in 66th District Court in Shiawassee County. The count breaks down to 115 counts of take or possess overlimit deer, seven counts of take or possess wild turkey, two counts of baiting violations, and one count of hunting without a license. The subject was arraigned and is awaiting pretrial.

CO Dan Bigger's investigation is complete and a warrant was sworn out for a subject who took a deer illegally in August under a crop damage permit. The extremely large buck was still in velvet and a quick measurement gave a score of approximately 154 on the antlers.

CO Dan Bigger responded to a hunter harassment complaint where a subject was turning on a radio and facing the speakers towards the woods where the complainant was hunting. This was documented over a half a dozen times and this time the subject was caught in the act. Contact was made and the subject refused to identify herself and in turn let her dog out in the enclosed porch between CO Bigger and the residence door. CO Bigger contacted the prosecutor's office while still on scene and the loud music could be heard over the phone. CO Bigger requested to meet the prosecutor

with a report and two hours later a warrant was issued for interfering with the lawful hunt of another.

CO Todd Thorn swore to two felony charges against a man and woman who were found in the act of breaking and entering an abandoned home. The individuals were attempting to steal items from the home when they were contacted.

While on routine patrol, CO Todd Thorn observed a vehicle coming in the opposite direction on a busy county road quickly swerve and brake hard. CO Thorn was able to observe that there was a female driving and male passenger. The passenger was observed to make a fist as if to punch the female as she was driving. The driver was observed to be crying and trying to duck her head down. The vehicle was quickly stopped and the male arrested. A suspected heroin needle was found in the pocket of the male who was also wanted on an outstanding warrant. During a search of the vehicle, items used to make meth were found in the trunk. Charges will be sought against the male subject who was lodged in the county jail.

CO Kyle Bader stopped an ORV that he witnessed operating on the roadway. The operator had a suspended operator's license, wasn't wearing a helmet, transporting an uncased crossbow, all the while driving down the road. After the violations were addressed, the conversation went to deer hunting. The subject's father, who had pulled up in a pickup, advised that his son had shot 12-13 does last year. A quick RSS check indicated that the subject only purchased five antlerless tags. The subject's father admitted that he tagged most of his son's deer, and "I knew it was illegal, but I figured as long as the state got their money." Enforcement action was taken.

While conducting a deer processor inspection, CO Jeff Goss located a buck that was tagged with a license purchased a few hours earlier. The subject advised the CO that he told the license agent he wanted his combination license and an antlerless license. The subject said he didn't realize that he didn't have a buck tag until after he'd shot the buck. After explaining to the subject that his story didn't add up, and that he would have realized that the license agent made a mistake when three deer tags only cost him \$15, he quickly confessed.

While conducting a deer processor inspection, CO Jeff Goss located a buck that had been shot with a firearm during archery season. Upon interviewing the subject that tagged the deer, he immediately told CO Goss that it was not his deer in the back of the patrol truck. CO Goss returned to the processor to figure out if they had made a mistake and mixed up owner of the deer. CO Goss was able to determine that the gun shot buck in the back of his truck did belong to the original subject. CO Goss returned a second time to talk to the subject, who now informed the CO that he had gotten rid of the antlers. CO Goss further noted that the subject had power washed his truck. After explaining the consequences for continuing to be untruthful, the subject confessed to shooting the deer with a firearm and reluctantly gave up the 30-30 he shot it with. A warrant is being sought for the illegal deer.

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CO Linda Scheidler received an anonymous complaint last year and two additional ones this year about a subject who was taking deer at night with a crossbow from the window of his house. The CO went to the subject's residence and asked him if he had gotten any deer. The subject then pointed to a fresh eight point deer head. CO Scheidler observed that the rack lacked a deer tag and asked to see the subject's deer licenses. The subject then produced all of his deer hunting licenses which had not been separated yet from when the license dealer printed them out. The subject then showed the officer the baited area from where he had harvested the deer which contained an excessive bait pile. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Szyska observed two suspicious vehicles parked near the railroad property in the Village of New Haven. CO Szyska spotted a hunter on the railroad grade bed and went after the subject on foot. The subject turned, saw the CO, and ran into the woods. CO Szyska encountered a second subject sitting in the ditch of the railroad property with a bow on his lap. CO Szyska escorted the one hunter off of the railroad property, and called for back up. While walking to the truck, CO Szyska talked the subject into calling his buddy on his cell phone to have him come out of the woods. The subject dialed up his cell phone and handed it to CO Szyska. CO Szyska explained to the subject to come out of the woods or face felony flee and elude charges. The subject did comply after some time, and stated the reason he ran was because he did not know who CO Szyska was. DNR priors confirmed the subject did know what a CO was, as he had been ticketed by CO Szyska three years prior for a fishing violation. CO Szyska ticketed the subjects for railroad trespass and turned them over to local police officers for enforcement of their no hunting ordinance.

CO Todd Szyska worked with CO Ken Kovach targeting illegal shining activity. While sitting surveillance in a field, a spotlight was cast over the tops of the trees. The COs were able to pinpoint the vehicle and follow it. The occupants were using the vehicle's headlights and also spotlights on both the driver and passenger sides. The COs pulled over the vehicle and found that the driver was a CPL holder and was carrying. Also in the search, a scoped and loaded .17 HMR rifle was located on the passenger floor of the truck. The weapon was loaded, the safety was off, and it was pointed at the door. None of the subjects had any deer hunting licenses. The driver admitted he was trying to get a deer and stated it figures that the first time he decided to try it (poaching) he got caught. The rifle was confiscated and will be condemned with tickets issued for the violation of shining while in possession of a firearm.

CO Ken Kovach received a complaint of a subject who shot a deer without having a license. The CO followed up and interviewed the subject who did have a license. The CO inspected the deer and kill tag at a local meat processor and everything was valid. While at the processor, CO Kovach introduced himself as the new local CO and conducted a brief inspection. The CO found an antlerless fawn which appeared to have been shot prior to the purchase of the license. The CO interviewed the subject who

admitted to hunting during an evening hunt and shot a small doe. The subject stated he purchased the antlerless license the following morning. Enforcement action was taken.

While working in the early evening hours for hunting activity in northern St. Clair County, CO Ken Kovach observed a vehicle shining a spotlight in fields. The CO followed the subject and stopped the vehicle. The subject had just got done hunting for the evening and was on his way home. The subject had his bow with him. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Linda Scheidler responded to a complaint in progress of waterfowl hunters shooting after legal hours. When the CO arrived the hunters were already packing up. The four adult and one juvenile hunting party had an overlimit of wood ducks. CO Scheidler also found one of the firearms was not properly plugged for waterfowl hunting. Though the hunting after hours could not be proven, the CO took enforcement action on the other violations.

COs Todd Szyska and Kris Kiel were conducting an evening patrol and received a RAP complaint in progress regarding the illegal catching and keeping of a lake sturgeon during the closed season. The anonymous complainant stated that a subject had caught a large lake sturgeon at the fishing pier in Clay Twp. The complainant stated that the suspect beat the fish over the head on the dock before dragging it back to his vehicle, where he continued to slam the trunk hatch on the sturgeon's head to try to kill it. The COs contacted the local police department and asked for a unit to respond to the scene to hold the vehicle until the COs arrived. When CO Szyska and Kiel arrived on scene, two local police officers had found the suspect and his vehicle and verified that he had a sturgeon in the back of his vehicle. In the rear area of the SUV was a large lake sturgeon wrapped in a jacket with plastic shopping bags around its head and tail. The lake sturgeon was confiscated at the scene and measured 61.5 inches. The sturgeon was taken during the closed season, was over size, the subject did not have a sturgeon tag, and the subject was fishing without an all species fishing license. Enforcement action was taken, and the subject's heavy sturgeon poles were confiscated.

While patrolling Lake St. Clair Metro Park, COs Todd Szyska and Kris Kiel encountered several anglers fishing on the banks of the Black Creek. The COs watched the subjects with binoculars and noted that they were catching blue gills and crappies one cast after the other. The COs approached and conducted fishing license checks and creel counts. CO Szyska found one angler who had a five gallon pail loaded to the top with blue gill and crappies. When the angler was asked how many he had he stated he had no idea and didn't know there was a limit. After counting the amount of fish it was determined the angler had 43 bluegills and crappie in his possession; 18 over the limit. The angler also had two traffic warrants out of the 36th District Court. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher received information from Wildlife Division personnel regarding duck populations in the managed area on Harsens Island. While checking particular hunting

zones CO Lasher encountered a subject in possession of more shells than allowed. After taking enforcement action on that subject, CO Lasher observed a hunter shoot two hen mallards. The hunter took one of the hens and hid it in some corn at the edge of the hunting zone. He then kept the other with the rest of his taken game. When the CO contacted the hunting party, they showed him the birds they had taken. When the CO confronted the hunter who hid the additional bird, the subject admitted taking an over limit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher received two separate complaints of the same two hunters who were hunting within the buffer zone between the managed hunting area and the refuge on Harsens Island. The CO contacted the subjects as they were collecting their decoys. When CO Lasher checked the hunter's bag, he found that they were both over their limit of hen mallards. Enforcement action was taken and an explanation was given to them regarding the safety issues of hunting in the buffer zone.

CO Mark Ennett encountered two people operating ORVs in a residential area adjacent to the Pointe Aux Peaux SGA. CO Ennett ticketed one operator for operating without a helmet and warned both for operating on the roadway. While giving radio information to the Monroe County Dispatch, the Dispatcher thanked CO Ennett over the air for the information, as the complaints about the ORVs from this location come in on a daily basis.

CO Mark Ennett was checking Pointe Mouillee SGA just after legal waterfowl shooting hours had ended when he located two pedestrians inside the Refuge area. As he was pointing out the numerous closure signs they had passed, a shot was fired from a vessel in the water nearby nearly 20 minutes after legal hunting hours. CO Ennett released the pedestrians with warnings, and went after the vessel. He was able to hail the vessel to come over to him at the dike and he commenced a check on the pair of hunters. The hunter in the bow readily admitted to shooting at a coot and confessed the shooting times were unknown to them. The hunters had an unsigned Federal Waterfowl Stamp and no Michigan waterfowl hunting license. The boat operator's firearm was still loaded after legal hunting hours and he was transporting it in a moving motor vessel. CO Ennett used a thermal imaging device on both shotguns to confirm which of the two guns had been recently fired. The thermal imager showed the visible results of the temperature changes in the fired gun barrel. Each hunter received a ticket, the shooter for hunting waterfowl during closed hours and the other for being afield with a loaded firearm during closed hours.

COs Mike Drexler and Dan Walzak assisted the Special Investigation Unit with a buy/bust operation where a subject sold a stuffed screech owl. A ticket was issued and \$1000 restitution will be sought.

CO Brandon Kieft was checking an Oxford Township gravel pit near a state game area when he observed a male subject carrying a bag of bait. When contact was made with the subject, he stated that he knew that he was on private property, but didn't think the owners cared. CO Kieft pointed out that there are a number of "No Trespassing" signs posted along the adjacent roadway where the subject had parked. The subject also had

a backpack full of corn and a 50 lb. bag of carrots with him at the time. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Ben Shively and Kris Kiel contacted two hunters who had just taken shots at a flock of geese in the Holly Recreation Area. When asked for their licenses, the subjects stated that they had small game licenses which allowed them to hunt waterfowl. The subjects did not have a state waterfowl license, or a federal stamp. Both subjects had unplugged shotguns, were using toxic shot and was using a single projectile for waterfowl. Enforcement action was taken.