

**Law Enforcement Division  
Bi-Weekly Field Report  
11/29/10 – 12/12/10**

**DISTRICT 1**

CO Mark Leadman reported that a subject who was arrested this fall for shooting two illegal bears finally had his case adjudicated. He paid over \$2000 in restitution and fines, had his hunting privileges suspended for three years and lost both bear pelts that he had mounted.

CO Marv Gerlach investigated a trespass complaint and discovered a subject who had shot an eight point and a nine point buck. The subject had only purchased an archery deer license. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Jason Wicklund and Brian Bacon spent the last days of firearm deer season deploying the deer decoy in high complaint areas. One individual was arrested for shooting the decoy from inside the vehicle. The individual was surprised to see the DNR had a decoy, which would explain why he shot it three times before the COs could get to him.

CO Jason Wicklund received a complaint from the Iron County Sheriff's Department about an individual who had shot a deer in the front yard of a residence. CO Wicklund and CO Brian Bacon contacted the complainant and obtained information about the vehicle and shooters. The COs, along with Sgt. Marc Pomroy, searched the area and stopped a vehicle matching the suspect vehicle heading from where the deer was shot. The suspect, who was covered in blood and in possession of a rifle, admitted to shooting a deer but said he had just ran home and dropped his muzzleloader off and that is why he had a rifle with him. The COs showed him the spent shell casing still in the rifle and also pointed out the rifle rounds in his pocket and on the floor of the truck. The subject admitted to taking the deer illegally with a rifle and agreed to show the COs where the deer was. The deer was hanging at a friend's camp with the subject's daughter's antlerless tag on it. Enforcement action was taken.

While investigating a trespassing complaint CO Grant Emery had an individual drive up on an ORV to see what the CO was up to. This individual drove up to CO Emery on his ORV without a helmet along with a loaded and uncased rifle slung over his shoulder. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Grant Emery was checking illegal deer blinds from the previous season. One of the blind owners currently had a warrant for her arrest. As he approached the blind he heard a shot from close range. CO Emery located the camp in which the shot came from and found two individuals trying to figure out which combination license to attach to the deer. One individual explained that he'd shot a spike horn from his camp and called his friend to help him, as he thought that he might have screwed up. He was informed that with his combination deer license he was allowed to shoot a deer with at least three

points on one side and another with at least four points on one side. He was not allowed to shoot a spike horn. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Grant Emery was called by the Michigan State Police (MSP) reference a trespassing complaint that he had investigated earlier in the day. The trooper had contacted a subject in the illegal blind and it was determined that the suspect was trespassing and that he had already shot a three point several days prior with his regular firearm deer license and was out trying to shoot another deer with the previously used deer tag in his pocket. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Marc Pomroy received a call from the Iron Mountain Police Department of a deer shot from the road within the city limits. Sgt. Pomroy responded to the scene and recovered the seven point buck. Later that night the suspect vehicle was stopped for speeding by the City Police, and deer recovery items were found in the vehicle. A check of the area where the deer was shot found fresh tracks in the heavy snow that was falling. Officers from the Iron Mountain Police Department and Sgt. Pomroy tracked the subjects in the snow and found two subjects hiding in the woods. They had been dropped off by the subject driving the vehicle and were searching for the buck that was picked up earlier. Confessions were obtained and enforcement action was taken.

CO Matthew Eberly checked a hunter at dark on Saturday night who was coming from his deer blind and subsequently arrested him for hunting while intoxicated. The subject's blood alcohol content was well above the legal limit and he was lodged at the Keweenaw County Jail.

CO Mark Leadman and Sgt. Pete Wright contacted a subject road hunting in the Gwinn area on the last weekend of the muzzleloader deer season. When checked he did not have any kill tags left for his combination deer license and claimed to be merely hunting coyote under authority of a small game license. Further investigation revealed that his muzzleloader was illegally loaded. Enforcement action was taken and the firearm was seized.

CO Mark Leadman and Sgt. Pete Wright worked a complaint of hunter harassment south of Watson. Apparently several subjects ran off a couple of hunters attempting to muzzleloader hunt on public land. One of the subjects was located and interviewed. In addition to addressing the hunter harassment incident, it was discovered that the subject was unlawfully transporting a loaded pistol and was driving on a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken and the firearm was seized.

CO Jason Niemi and PCO Todd Thorne had another busy week with an assortment of incidents. They assisted a MSP unit in which a distraught subject had stabbed herself with a large hunting knife. Once the scene was secure, they also assisted Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel with getting the subject carried out to an awaiting ambulance.

CO Jason Niemi and PCO Todd Thorne worked a complaint in which a couple of dead bucks were found in the woods without any meat removed. When the subjects were contacted, many violations were unearthed. One subject was discovered to be a felon in possession of a firearm, not wearing hunter orange, hunting over illegal bait, and didn't have an ORV license on his ORV. The second subject had shot a spike horn and tagged it with an antlerless license and was carrying a loaded .22 derringer in his vehicle without a concealed pistol license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Jason Wicklund responded to a complaint of a subject who failed to return from a Christmas tree cutting trip at 3:00 p.m. The subject's vehicle was located after dark near his camp, but there was no sign of the subject at the camp. A search effort involving numerous agencies resulted in finding the 89 year old subject at 3:00 a.m., bleeding from wounds and nearly unconscious. CO Wicklund used his AVL system and a chainsaw to get his patrol truck close to the subject and drive him out to the waiting ambulance. With the severe cold conditions the subject was suffering from exposure and frostbite, but was reported in stable condition at the hospital.

## **DISTRICT 2**

CO Kyle Publiski reports that a subject charged with an illegal deer pled guilty and was ordered to pay over \$1400 in fines, costs and restitution, and lost his hunting privileges for three years.

While on routine patrol, COs Derek Miller and Mike Hammill observed fresh drag marks from a deer that was loaded onto an ORV and hauled away. The COs located the ORVs and contacted the owners who were tracking another deer. CO Miller followed a blood trail back to the tree stand where the deer was originally shot. The distance between where the deer was shot and the tree stand was more than 50 yards, indicating that the subject may have shot the deer with a firearm. When asked, the subject swore that he shot the deer with his bow. After some time he finally admitted that he and his friends decided to begin their muzzleloader season a day early. The deer was located and found to have a gunshot wound consistent with the hunters' muzzleloader. The hunters led the COs back to their camp where another deer was located and the responsible subject admitted to taking the deer with his 12 gauge shotgun. Both subjects were charged with the illegal taking of a deer.

CO Derek Miller caught two subjects road hunting. As CO Miller approached the vehicle they were busy trying to unload and case their firearm. The subjects were charged with transporting a loaded/uncased firearm.

In another incident CO Derek Miller observed a crew road hunting with a fresh cut pine tree in the back of their truck. Upon contact the subjects were in possession of loaded/uncased firearms and admitted to road hunting. Further investigation revealed that they illegally cut the pine tree off of state land to use as a Christmas tree.

COs John Wenzel and Reid Roeske conducted taxidermy inspections and at one establishment found several violations, including untagged specimens and lack of records. During the investigation the COs contacted the kill tag owner of a nine point buck and found he had loaned his tag to a relative who lives in Wisconsin. After obtaining a confession from the Wisconsin resident, warrants are being sought for parties involved.

CO Reid Roeske contacted a hunter who was participating in the muzzleloader hunt, but was hunting with a .308 rifle. A ticket was issued.

### **DISTRICT 3**

CO Matt Theunick responded to a complaint of a bobcat caught in a leg hold trap by mistake. CO Theunick was able to successfully release the bobcat unharmed.

After checking two illegal ground blinds in the Pigeon River Country State Forest throughout the fall and deer season and never finding either used, CO Eric Bottorff removed both of them.

### **DISTRICT 4**

CO Sean Kehoe completed an investigation into the larceny of several tree stands and a set of climbing sticks. CO Kehoe located a subject who had permission to hunt the same property as the victim. While at the subject's residence for an interview, CO Kehoe recovered several stands and the set of climbing sticks from the subject's vehicle.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling in the Manistee National Forest in an area with several road hunting complaints. While driving two-track roads, CO Converse encountered two separate vehicles whose occupants were driving with uncased firearms. One subject had a .243 cal. rifle lying across his lap. A second subject was driving a vehicle with an uncased shotgun and possessed slugs and buckshot. Tickets were issued for transporting an uncased firearm.

CO Steve Converse was checking on a feeding complaint in Manistee County when he observed the neighbor drive in with what appeared to be an untagged deer. While checking the deer, CO Converse discovered partially chewed shell corn in its mouth. A short conversation with the hunter resulted in an admission that it was taken over bait. A warrant was sought for hunting over bait.

CO Steve Converse stopped to speak with two subjects cutting firewood on US Forest Service (USFS) property. The CO inspected the wood cutting permit they possessed and determined that they were attempting to get away with cutting the wood on an expired State of Michigan permit. CO Converse called in a USFS officer who issued a ticket for the Federal violation.

CO Jeff Ginn of Newaygo County was investigating a hunting complaint when he came across a parked vehicle in the area of the complaint. CO Ginn tracked two sets of footprints in the snow back to the subjects who were deer hunting over illegal baits. CO Ginn issued each subject a ticket for hunting deer with the use of bait.

While on patrol, CO Mike Bomay observed a vehicle with a deer strapped to the roof stopped along a two-track on state owned land. Upon contacting the occupants of the vehicle, CO Bomay observed that the deer only had one antler and was quite stiff. CO Bomay asked the owner of the deer as to the whereabouts of the tag that was missing. The driver of the vehicle provided the other half of the rack that he claimed pulled off as he dragged the buck from the woods. The deer tag attached to the free antler was not validated. The subject claimed he shot the buck two days ago and was just heading home. CO Bomay located an uncased and loaded firearm in the back seat of the vehicle. The driver admitted to "looking" for one more deer on his way home. Tickets were issued for the firearm and tagging violation.

## **DISTRICT 5**

A property owner heard a shot coming from his property and observed two hunters walking away from the area to a nearby parked vehicle where he was able to get the license plate number. A state trooper arrived on scene and located a doe that had just been shot and left on the private property. COs Chris Bowen and Chuck McPherson located the two hunters and interviewed both, one of whom admitted he had shot the doe but thought it was a big buck that had been seen in the area.

CO Matt Liestenfeltz received a complaint from a landowner who had observed a vehicle shine past legal hours and then pull into his field and shut off the lights. The complainant located a dead deer in the field the following morning. CO Liestenfeltz followed up on a lead he received from the complainant and located the driver of the vehicle who admitted that he and two others had been shining and shot the deer that night. They left the deer and went to hunt from a blind for the rest of the night and never returned to pick up the deer.

CO Chuck McPherson received a complaint of a subject possibly shooting a deer with a firearm. CO McPherson arrived on scene and tracked a subject into the woods. The subject told the CO he had just shot at a partridge with his rifle. The hunter was not wearing hunter orange, had no hunting license, and was a convicted felon in possession of a firearm.

While patrolling for archery hunters on federal land, CO Brian Engelhard came across a suspiciously parked vehicle. Upon further inspection, he discovered all of the vehicle's windows had been smashed, the interior stripped, and the steering column cracked. After requesting an officer from the Oscoda Township Police Department, they also found the battery removed and narcotics paraphernalia inside. The case was turned over to the Township PD for further investigation.

CO Rebecca Hopkins followed illegal ORV tracks across state land to a hunting blind occupied by the operator who was hunting over an illegal bait pile.

CO Jason McCullough responded to a shots fired complaint in an area where there has been suspected poaching activity. CO McCullough walked back into the area where he suspected the shots had come from and found a subject quartering a deer. The subject was still in possession of his .12 gauge shotgun which he had used to shoot the deer during the closed season. The hunter was not wearing hunter orange.

CO Steve Lockwood found a truck parked on a two-track. He came back at dark to check the hunters. When he returned, he found two subjects standing beside the truck with a freshly killed doe and a shotgun. The subject confessed to shooting the deer with the shotgun. He also told the CO that he heard him coming down the two-track and was trying to load the deer and get out of there when he realized he had locked himself out of his truck. The subject is a repeat offender on various poaching charges.

COs Steve Lockwood and Joel Lundberg checked several subjects ice fishing in the morning. They returned to the same spot that evening and found one of the same subjects now in possession of a substantial catch of panfish. After talking with the subject, he confessed to catching an overlimit. The subject had caught a partial limit in the morning and then returned in the evening but kept more than he should have. The COs followed him back to his house and confirmed he was seven fish over his limit when they stopped him. While the COs were there, the subject also confessed to shooting a deer during deer season and not tagging it.

## **DISTRICT 6**

While checking on a bait complaint CO Seth Rhodea contacted a hunter using a shotgun during the muzzleloader season. The hunter also had sugar beets, corn and apples in front of his blind. Tickets were issued for the violations.

While patrolling in the Minden State Game Area (SGA), CO Seth Rhodea contacted a hunter and his nephew who were both hunting without hunter orange, in tree stands without their name and address on them and neither had their license in possession. Tickets were issued for the violations.

CO Holly Pennoni was talking to the occupant of a vehicle parked on the roadway and who was suspected of road hunting when another vehicle drove past with the driver and passenger drinking beer. The CO stopped the vehicle and found that the driver had outstanding warrants and had just gotten his drivers license reinstated that day for previous alcohol charges. The driver was taken to jail and both were issued tickets for possession of open intoxicants.

CO Holly Pennoni was working the opening day of the muzzleloader hunt at Nayanquing Point SGA when she contacted three snowmobiles in the game area that were operating unregistered, no trail permits and in a prohibited area.

CO Vicki Goss responded to a safety zone complaint in Montcalm County. When she arrived in the residential neighborhood she located four hunters inside a shed within 35 yards of the neighboring house. Further investigation turned up several piles of corn in the yard where the hunters were sitting. Tickets were issued.

## **DISTRICT 7**

COs Chuck Towns and Mike Mshar contacted a subject parked along a road, who appeared to be preparing to go hunting. Further investigation found the subject was attempting to conceal a loaded shotgun. The subject is currently on parole and is being charged with felon in possession of a firearm and is also facing parole violations.

CO Mike Mshar contacted a subject trapping within the Todd Farm of the Allegan SGA. Upon investigation it was discovered that the trapper was setting 220 conibear traps on dry land, fully exposed, in violation of the trapping laws. A ticket was issued and the traps were removed. This violation exposed hunting dogs and non-target species to the risk of being caught in these illegal sets.

COs Mike Mshar and Chuck Towns were called to a hunting incident which resulted in a fatality during the firearm deer season in Allegan County. The investigation indicated the victim was attempting to pull a lever action rifle which was loaded and possibly cocked into an elevated stand using a bungee cord. It appeared that while the rifle was being raised into the stand, the rifle discharged striking the victim in the head.

COs Mike Mshar and Chuck Towns, while on patrol, observed two subjects carrying half of a deer from a building to a vehicle where it was determined they intended to dump half of the deer with no effort made to utilize the meat. Upon contact with four persons at this location, COs found six deer, all untagged except one animal tagged with an archery license but taken with a firearm. All subjects were ticketed for taking deer without licenses or tagging violations.

CO Mike Mshar was called to investigate a trespass complaint where he contacted a hunter who was released from prison 14 months ago. The hunter was found in possession of a firearm in violation of his parole. The subject was lodged and turned over to probation and parole with charges pending.

CO Mike McGee received a complaint of two guys in a boat in a VanBuren County lake shooting at deer. When CO McGee finally caught up to the subjects he found the guns still loaded and hunting in a safety zone. No dead deer were located.

CO Mike Mshar contacted a subject at a residence where two untagged deer were located. An older male subject initially claimed to have taken the deer and was interviewed by CO Mshar at the scene. This subject had difficulty walking and would not have likely harvested these two animals in recent days with both a bow and firearm. While at the residence, CO Mshar contacted the son in the garage who was hiding

firearms under a vehicle. The son was a felon in possession of firearms and was lodged at the county jail while the father was ticketed for possession of two untagged deer.

COs Mike Mshar and Chuck Towns and Sgt. John Jurcich received a complaint of numerous untagged deer at a farm south of Holland. After piecing together parts of 14 deer that were initially found untagged, COs ticketed three subjects for taking deer without licenses and failing to immediately tag deer.

CO Mike Mshar and Sgt. John Jurcich contacted a subject "slow rolling" the border of the refuge at the Allegan SGA. The traffic stop found the driver in possession of a loaded 12 gauge shotgun and a loaded and cocked .50 cal muzzleloader on the front seat of the vehicle. The driver commented he was "just being stupid" as COs completed tickets and seized his firearms.

CO Mike Mshar located a subject in possession of a loaded firearm after hours hunting in the Allegan SGA. The subject had harvested a large number of turnips planted on the Todd Farm property and stood there eating the turnips while being issued tickets, claiming all along he intended to use the turnips for his own human consumption because he loves turnips so much.

CO Mike Mshar investigated a light in a field one night which led to a deer found hanging at the property. The deer carcass was still steaming but the hunter claimed he had taken the deer the day before. When asked about the steam, the hunter advised he had been pouring boiling water on the deer to wash it out. The real story eventually became the hunter had harvested the deer several hours earlier and ran to town and bought a license.

CO Mike Mshar, while on patrol, observed a subject with a gun walking across a road in full camo to join two men already in the truck. Further investigation found uncased firearms in the vehicle, three persons without licenses and several deer hind quarters at a residence and no licenses or explanations for their origins. Several tickets were issued for the violations and one subject was found to be on probation.

While on patrol, a rural Van Buren County CO observed a van backed up to a residence with rear doors open. The CO investigated the vehicle and occupant as a suspicious situation, possibly a burglary or a person loading a deer. It was determined the person was in the process of loading 49 marijuana planting pots to the back of the van. Assistance was requested of the Van Buren County Sheriff's Department, which resulted in a search warrant being conducted at the location. A sheriff's department investigation resulted in the discovery of a large grow house type operation which led to the seizure of 390 marijuana plants and equipment used for production found in the residence. COs assisted with the search and removal of items from this location.

CO Chris Holmes worked another trespass complaint from the Report-All-Poaching (RAP) line where information given was initially incorrect but computer and license plate

records identified a well known subject for deer violations. When contact was made, CO Holmes concluded his investigation with charges involving two antlerless deer taken while trespassing, tagging violations, and a felon found in possession of firearms.

COs Dave Rodgers and Cary Foster checked five subjects standing around a truck with a deer in the back. After talking with the subjects for a few minutes, the COs learned that one of the subjects had purchased too many deer licenses, the tag on the deer was not validated, another subject did not have a hunting license and a juvenile was hunting with a .22 caliber rifle.

CO Cary Foster checked a subject hunting who did not have his hunting license with him. When they got back to the subject's deer camp there were seven deer hanging. Two antlerless deer that the initial subject had shot were tagged illegally and a buck shot by another subject had a tag which was not validated.

CO Cary Foster had received a complaint of frequent shining activity on a farmer's field. COs Steve Orange and Cary Foster set up surveillance in the area and observed a vehicle shining the field. When the COs stopped the vehicle they contacted three individuals. There was an uncased .22 caliber rifle lying in the back seat and the driver was covered in blood. The subjects claimed that they had shot a deer earlier in the day. Upon further investigation COs Foster and Orange located a doe at the residence of one of the subjects. After questioning the subjects it was learned that they had shot the antlerless deer earlier that evening with the .22 rifle and the aid of the spotlight.

CO Gerard Goulette observed an ORV exiting a field after shooting hours. CO Goulette contacted the individual and observed a loaded uncased firearm on the ORV as well as an untagged doe. Further check showed that the individual had never purchased a hunting license.

CO Greg Patten and Lt. Dave VanSumeren responded to a bait location that was spotted by plane and observed deer hair and tissue on the bait. Later CO Patten contacted the property owner and learned that he had shot an antlerless deer over the bait pile and did not have a license for the deer. Enforcement action was taken for the bait and illegal deer.

CO Jeff Rabbers responded to a complaint of someone hunting too close to a residence. When CO Rabbers arrived he contacted three subjects. Through CO Rabbers' investigation he learned that all three subjects were trespassing; two of the subjects were within the safety zone; one of the subjects had shot a doe with no license; another subject had tagged the deer for him and there were three deer that had been shot and not taken to a check station as required in the Kent County surveillance zone.

CO Jeff Rabbers received a complaint from an individual that he had shot a deer and someone else had taken it. CO Rabbers located the subject who had taken the deer and upon checking the complainant's license learned that he had bought the deer license after shooting the deer.

CO Chuck Towns reported obtaining a three count warrant for a subject who entered private property where a hunter was seated in a tree stand. Charges were filed for hunting within a safety zone, trespassing and reckless discharge of a firearm.

COs Chuck Towns and Mike Mshar were conducting a deer processor inspection where a follow up investigation led them to a local taxidermist. During an inspection of this business they discovered improper records and a deer which had been imported from Illinois whole, in violation of CWD regulations. The operator of the business was ticketed for these violations but further investigation found five deer similarly imported and accepted in violation of CWD regulations. While inspecting the business, COs documented numerous additional racks and skulls which were brought to the business with no records or licenses to verify their origin.

CO Mike Mshar investigated a trespass case near the Todd Farm where he located evidence of a deer kill, a drag mark and spent rifle cartridge. CO Mshar tracked the subjects to their residence and located two bucks the subjects had killed. An eight point buck had been killed with a centerfire rifle and another buck was taken with a shotgun. Each deer was taken during the December muzzleloader season. Tickets were issued for these illegal kills.

COs Paul Higashi and Chris Holmes were called to investigate a fully camouflaged hunter with a bow near a light industrial area in Kalamazoo County. Upon investigation they located the hunter in a tree stand hunting over bait while trespassing.

CO Paul Higashi was called to a Wal-Mart where someone had just netted a duck with a hand net. CO Higashi located the subjects at a residence and found they had netted two ducks and clipped their flight feathers to add the Mallards to their domestic ducks and other domestic fowl. CO Higashi relocated the ducks to a local rehabilitator and ticketed the subject for taking the waterfowl from the wild illegally.

CO Chris Holmes reported the disposition of a recent illegal deer case in Kalamazoo County with a disposition of four years no hunting and \$1340 in fines and restitution paid.

COs Jeff Robinette and Andy Bauer stopped four snowmobiles with expired registrations and no trail permits displayed. Further investigation found that three of the four operators had just been released from prison and were currently on parole. Two of the subjects were suspended drivers.

## **DISTRICT 8**

CO Rich Nickols received information that a subject killed a deer on state land and tagged it with his son's license. After an extensive investigation, CO Nickols tracked down the subject and received a full confession of the illegal activity. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols received information that a subject was shooting deer illegally from a golf cart at a local golf course. CO Nickols interviewed one of the maintenance employees, received a full confession, and recovered a loaded shotgun from the golf cart. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Damon Owens received a call from the Jackson City Police (JCP) that a deer had been killed illegally within the city limits of Jackson. CO Owens, assisted by JCP, located the site of the illegal killing which was on private property. The deer was also taken over bait, which is illegal in the Lower Peninsula. A suspect was identified and interviewed by the officers. The suspect stated "you ain't got nothing, so prove we shot a deer". The officers located the illegally shot deer in a relative of the suspect's garage. DNA evidence was recovered from the site of the killing, from the suspect's vehicle, and from the deer itself. The COs did prove the suspects shot a deer and enforcement action was taken.

CO Damon Owens and Sgt. Troy Bahlau contacted two subjects leaving a wooded area after hunting. The subjects' firearms were still loaded well after shooting hours ended, they were not wearing hunter orange, and neither had a hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Damon Owens and Sgt. Troy Bahlau responded to a trespassing complaint in progress. The subject was located and was also baiting illegally, was in possession of illegal marijuana and wanted on a warrant for larceny. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dan Prince and Pete Purdy contacted two 16 year old subjects hunting well after shooting hours had ended. The juvenile hunters were not supervised and one was not wearing the required hunter orange. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Prince received three separate complaints of illegally baiting for deer. CO Prince contacted subjects on all three of the complaints. In one complaint the subject stated, "Off the record, I have been baiting for ten years". Enforcement action was taken in all instances.

Following up on a baiting complaint, CO Dan Bigger located a subject illegally hunting over bait. When CO Bigger asked the subject about the ORV tracks near his hunting location, the subject stated they weren't his and tried to steer CO Bigger's attention to other issues. CO Bigger followed the tracks and located the subject's father, also illegally hunting over bait. Enforcement action was taken in both instances.

CO Dan Bigger responded to a trespass complaint and located a truck parked in the complainant's field. After numerous unsuccessful attempts to locate the trespasser the abandon truck was towed. Within an hour of the truck being towed the owner of the vehicle contacted CO Bigger and confessed to the illegal trespassing activity. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Bigger received a complaint of a deer being illegally shot on school property. Upon arrival on scene at the school, CO Bigger determined that only the head was removed from the buck. After an intensive investigation, CO Bigger located the suspect vehicle and interviewed a subject who confessed to trespassing, possessing an untagged deer, and wanton waste of the meat. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster located an antlerless deer hanging at a residence. Upon further investigation, CO Webster noted that the antlerless deer had been tagged with an antler only license. CO Webster contacted the license holder who admitted that he shot the antlerless deer and had never purchased an antlerless license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster observed a vehicle shining a field with headlights shortly after shooting hours had ended. Further investigation revealed that there were two uncased firearms in the vehicle but only one gun case. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols located a buck that was tagged with an unvalidated antlerless license. CO Nickols contacted the subject who failed to validate the tag and tagged the deer with the wrong license. The subject stated that he didn't have his glasses with him so he couldn't see the tags. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Pete Purdy, Dan Price, and Jeff Walker responded to a RAP complaint about illegal deer hunting activity. A subject was located and the following violations were observed: hunting over bait, afield without any kill tags, hunting with a shotgun during the muzzleloader only season, and hunting without wearing the required hunter orange garment. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Pete Purdy contacted a subject who was hunting over bait on private property near state land. The subject told CO Purdy that he thought he could get away with the violation as he thought the COs were too busy patrolling state land to worry about private property. The subject was also wanted on an outstanding arrest warrant. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Dan Prince and Pete Purdy assisted the Wyoming Department of Natural Resources, Law Enforcement Division, on an antelope poaching case. The Michigan COs interviewed a Michigan resident who was connected to the Wyoming poaching incident. The investigation continues.

CO Shane Webster observed a vehicle shine a field and contacted the occupants. CO Webster's investigation found a loaded firearm in the vehicle, the vehicle's registration and insurance were expired, the driver had a suspended license and was a felon in violation of his probation, and the female passenger was in violation of a personal protection order placed on her by the driver of the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Prince received a complaint that an 11 year old subject was bragging in a computer chat room about illegally killing a deer during the hunting season. CO Prince's investigation found that the 11 year old shot a buck with a .308 rifle in the shotgun zone and was not old enough to purchase a firearm license. The juvenile was with his father who condoned the illegal activity. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols observed an untagged antlerless deer hanging in a barn. Upon contact with the homeowner it was determined that the subject who shot the deer was "just getting ready to tag it"; however the subject did not possess an antlerless deer license. Enforcement action was taken.

## **DISTRICT 9**

CO Brandon Kieft was checking a complaint of a subject hunting in a closed area. As he approached the location he heard a clanking noise and located a hunter who was climbing down from a tree stand that was placed in an area closed to hunting. The stand did not have a name or address on it, and the subject was hunting over bait. A ticket was issued.

CO Kris Kiel and PCO Michael Drexler watched a group of waterfowl hunters and followed them as they motored their boat back to shore. The hunters maneuvered into a canal and the COs stopped them and conducted a check. The subjects had 17 ducks and two rounds of lead shot in a "community" ammo box. One subject was issued a ticket for possession of lead shot, and it turns out that he was ticketed by COs Kiel and Szyska one month ago for an overlimit of geese.

CO John Borkovich received a RAP complaint of a subject hunting over a large bait pile. The following day, CO Borkovich drove past the property and observed a subject in the blind with what appeared to be a scoped long gun. CO Borkovich was able to sneak up to the blind and contact the subject, who had a scoped 12 gauge shotgun with slugs loaded in it, no hunter orange, and was hunting over a large bait pile. Tickets were issued for the baiting and hunting with a firearm out of season violations.

CO John Borkovich received a complaint of baiting and hunting after hours, and contacted two subjects behind a residence. The subjects had shot two deer, one with a bow and the other with a crossbow. Both deer were taken between 11:00 p.m. and midnight, over a lighted bait pile 15 yards behind the residence. Enforcement action was taken.

CO John Borkovich received a complaint of a subject who shot a deer at night in St. Clair County. CO Borkovich contacted the subject and obtained a confession. The subject had shot a four point buck at night with a rifle while trespassing. The subject never purchased a deer license for 2010. He was also on probation and one of the conditions of his probation was that he could not own or possess a firearm. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett responded to a complaint of hunters entering a refuge at Pointe Mouillee SGA late in the afternoon. CO Ennett arrived after dark but was able to contact the Monroe County helicopter, "Raptor" that was conducting a training mission nearby. CO Ennett directed them to the area of the reported violation and they conducted an aerial search using their on-board equipment. CO Ennett contacted every hunter in the area, but it was determined that the hunters they were searching for had left prior to the search.

CO Jonathon Sklba responded to a RAP complaint where subjects were hunting ducks out of season. CO Sklba contacted the group who admitted to hunting ducks, and they asked if they were in trouble. CO Sklba asked them what they call it when somebody shoots a deer out of season, and they replied poaching. He then asked the group what they were doing and they replied, "I guess we're poaching." CO Sklba seized the ducks and firearms and issued tickets to all.

CO Ben Shively responded to a complaint of two untagged does hanging in a barn in Oakland County. CO Shively contacted the homeowner who stated that he had shot one of the antlerless deer two days earlier and had failed to put his antlerless license on the deer. CO Shively located a rifle wound on the neck of the second doe that was hanging. The homeowner stated that a friend from the bar had given him the doe to make into sausage. CO Shively obtained the shooter's information from the first subject and issued him a ticket for failing to validate and attach kill tag and the rifle shot doe was seized. CO Shively left the residence and went to a local car wash to use the lighting to examine the neck and recovered a small caliber rifle round. An interview was set up for the following day with the shooter. CO Shively met with the suspect and obtained a written and verbal confession on the taking of the doe. The subject took the doe without a license, took a deer during the closed firearm season, used a rifle in the shotgun zone, transported an untagged deer, and failed to wear hunter orange. Warrants will be sought and the .223 caliber rifle was seized for condemnation.

After leaving an interview on an illegal deer, CO Ben Shively heard a gunshot very close to his vehicle and observed a doe running on the vacant land. CO Shively saw a subject appear from behind a residence wearing a camouflage jacket, carrying a firearm and heading toward where the doe ran. CO Shively exited his patrol truck and followed the subject through the field to a wood line where he observed the subject raise the rifle and take a second shot at the doe. CO Shively quickly caught up to the individual who was beginning to climb down into a valley and ordered him to drop the rifle. The subject raised his arms in the air and stated "you got me." Just down from where the subject was standing was a bait pile with pumpkins and a salt block. The subject had attempted to take a deer with a firearm during the closed season, was hunting deer without a license, using a rifle in the shotgun zone, no hunter orange, baiting deer when prohibited, and was recreationally feeding deer behind his residence with corn from a spin cast feeder. The subject was ticketed for attempting to take a deer with a firearm during the closed season and using a rifle in the shotgun zone. The 30-06 rifle was seized for condemnation. The subject had not hit the deer on either shot.

CO Kris Kiel and PCO Mike Drexler were contacted by Metroparks officers who advised them of a tree stand and ground blind overlooking a bait pile on Metroparks property. The COs followed an ORV trail to a private residence and observed a deer hanging in the backyard. When they went to the residence, they saw the deer had no kill tag. The subject said he didn't want it to "blow away in the wind," and handed the COs an improperly validated tag. During the investigation deer hair was found around the bait pile. When questioned about where he shot the buck, the subject confessed to shooting it on Metroparks property. The deer was shot with a shotgun over bait during muzzleloader season while trespassing. The COs confiscated the buck and are submitting the report to the prosecutor seeking all charges and restitution.