

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
12/27/10 – 1/9/11**

DISTRICT 1

CO Mark Leadman checked a small group of anglers on Harlow Lake. He observed them littering, smoking marijuana and fishing with too many lines. Contact was made and it was discovered that one of the subjects had a no bond warrant issued out of the Marquette area. The subject was lodged and action was taken on the other violations.

COs Trey Luce, Mark Leadman, Jason Niemi, Todd Thorne, Dave Painter and Sgt. Pete Wright conducted interviews regarding a subject who reportedly shot a moose during the 2009 deer season in Marquette County. Confessions were obtained from two subjects. Seizures were made of moose parts and the rifle used to kill the moose. Charges are pending once the complaint is completed and turned into the prosecutor's office.

CO Trey Luce followed up on a possible tagging violation that came to light during a routine meat processor's inspection near Crystal Falls. He interviewed a subject who confessed to buying multiple firearm deer licenses and borrowing a tag from another. Tickets were issued.

CO Brian Bacon stopped a snowmobile operator traveling down the center of a county road. The operator was not wearing a helmet, driving an unregistered machine and had a suspended driver's license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ryan Aho wrapped up a theft investigation from this past fall. A landowner bordering state land reported his gate lock and chain had been cut three times and that there was now a new lock and chain on the gate. The thieves had also stolen a trail camera put out to capture who was responsible for the gate damage. Two individuals were interviewed and confessions were obtained regarding the cutting of the locks and also to stealing the trail camera.

CO Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy set up surveillance on two anglers fishing on a remote section of an Iron County lake, and upon checking the fishermen tickets were issued for fishing with more than three lines each, undersized fish, and no license.

CO Brian Bacon and Sgt. Marc Pomroy contacted the operator of an ORV on a Dickinson County Lake who was transporting more people than the machine was designed for, no helmets and no registration. Enforcement action taken.

CO David Miller and Sgt. Steven Burton checked a remote lake in the very east end of Baraga County. Five anglers were checked which resulted in one being ticketed for fishing with five tip-ups, and one fishing without a license.

CO Brett Gustafson and Sgt. Steven Burton spent several hours on two arrests with a group of Wisconsin anglers fishing Lake Gogebic. After ascertaining two of the three subjects didn't have licenses, the COs transported each subject to the ATM in Bergland to post bond on their tickets. After the arrests were complete, the COs had to pull the parties broken ORV and fish shack off the ice.

DISTRICT 2

CO Kevin Postma was enjoying a quiet New Years Eve with family when a call for help came in from Munuscong Bay. An angler and his nine year old son had become disorientated in a heavy fog and were lost. They broke through the ice becoming wet and cold as the sun went down. The adult angler attempted to start a fire with the dry portion of his insulated bibs. After a three hour search and rescue, CO Postma located the lost anglers and guided them to a nearby Chippewa County Sheriff hovercraft. The lost anglers were given warm clothing and were happy to be back on shore just before midnight. The US Coast Guard and a few volunteers also assisted with the search.

CO Kevin Postma responded to a deer poaching complaint and found the deer in question hanging in a garage as two subjects were busy processing the animal. Nervously, one of the subjects claimed that a friend shot it and it's not illegal because their friend was tribal. Upon contact with "the friend" it was explained that she did not shoot the deer and that her tribal tag was missing. The CO returned to the scene, at which time the original suspect finally admitted that he shot the deer illegally. The suspect was charged with an illegal deer.

In another case CO Kevin Postma encountered two subjects hunting small game. Neither of the two hunters had a small game license and neither were wearing hunter orange. Enforcement action taken.

CO Mike Hammill stopped by the Newberry Operation Service Center and noticed a very nice 10 point buck that was brought to the deer check station. The CO called to congratulate the hunter and during the call the subject said some things to arouse the CO's suspicions. CO Hammill then proceeded to the subject's residence where he was able to get a full confession that the deer was illegally taken. The 10 pt was confiscated and the poacher is being charged with an illegal deer.

CO Kyle Publiski was checking anglers who were ice fishing when he contacted two subjects who had three northern pike in a bucket. The CO asked the pair if that were all they'd caught, and they nervously hesitated before answering, "Yes, just three fish". The CO asked again if they just had the three fish and they again said yes. The CO then observed a small pile of snow that he dug into and located an undersized pike. The subjects became embarrassed and didn't argue over the tickets.

CO Derek Miller was conducting a fish patrol when he came upon some unattended tip ups and jig poles. After a long period of time the CO observed a subject returning to the shanty. As the CO approached the subject quickly pulled up the jig poles in the shanty.

He then swore to CO Miller that he didn't have lines in the water in the shanty and that he just set up. CO Miller then explained that he was there earlier and watched as he returned. The subject realized he was caught red-handed with too many lines and unattended lines. He explained that he went to dinner and to use the restroom. Enforcement action taken.

In another case CO Derek Miller received a complaint of a subject who routinely left unattended tip-ups out overnight. The CO located the tip-ups and the suspect. Further investigation revealed that the tip-up had been left out for three days. Enforcement action taken.

CO John Wenzel worked an ongoing problem area for recreational trespass. He was able to locate and ticket one subject for driving an ORV around a locked gate. The incident involves an area where the ORV operators access the ice of Lake Michigan through private property rather than driving a quarter mile up the county road to a public access route.

DISTRICT 3

Antrim County CO Steve Speigl received a complaint of a person hunting over bait during the late muzzleloader season. When CO Speigl located the subject, he found the bait along with an uncased firearm being transported on an ORV and three other ORV violations. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling Antrim County snowmobile trails, CO Steve Speigl overheard radio traffic of a personal injury rollover vehicle accident with a subject trapped inside. CO Speigl was first on scene and provided first aid and security until Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and fire personnel arrived on scene.

CO Steve Speigl observed a subject operating a snowmobile on the Charlevoix High School athletic fields. CO Speigl walked out to contact the subject who fled the area. After a successful tracking effort, the operator was ticketed for illegal operation on a closed area.

CO Andrea Erratt received a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint about a hunter riding a snowmobile off of a designated trail in Fishermans Island State Park who was possibly chasing deer with the sled. CO Erratt stopped two hunters coming out of the park. The operator was ticketed for failing to purchase a trail permit and both hunters were warned for no helmets and for having uncased muzzleloaders on a snowmobile

After stopping a 16 year old who was spinning and doing donuts with a snowmobile on a public road, CO Andrea Erratt followed the youth home and talked with his parents. They were warned for failing to purchase a trail permit and for failing to register the snowmobile. The father agreed to register the sled and purchase a trail permit.

Working with Sgt. Greg Drogowski on a litter case involving a large quantity of household trash dumped on state land, CO Andrea Erratt met with the subject and his wife. CO Erratt obtained a confession from the husband that he had dumped the garbage on state land while in the process of moving. He was ticketed for litter and he and his wife will clean up the garbage in the spring after the snow melts.

While patrolling back roads for hunters in Charlevoix County, CO Andrea Erratt observed black smoke near a residence and found a man burning a large pile of old carpet and padding. The subject was ticketed for burning illegal materials.

While patrolling Antrim County during the late antlerless season, CO Andrea Albert and Sgt. Mike Borkovich observed a subject dragging out a doe with a family member's tag on the deer. A hike into the snowy woods revealed that the deer had been shot over a bait pile from a blind. CO Albert warned the two subjects for loaning and borrowing tags and ticketed one of the subjects for hunting over bait.

CO Carl Vanderwall ticketed two subjects who had illegally killed a bear during the closed season, and for borrowing a SSM Band Tribal bear tag and tagging the bear as a tribal kill. Enforcement action is being taken by the Tribal Wardens in regard to the tribal member who loaned the tag to the individuals who poached the bear.

While at the field office, CO Michael Feagan observed a snowmobile go by operating on a state highway. The operator was not wearing a helmet, and a four year old passenger was also not wearing a helmet. CO Feagan followed and stopped the snowmobiler, and issued a ticket for careless operation.

CO Matt Theunick and Sgt. Greg Drogowski followed up on a road hunting, recreational trespass complaint, in which the landowner obtained a vehicle description and license plate number. Interviews with the vehicle occupants were conducted and confessions regarding transporting a loaded firearm and recreational trespass were obtained. Warrants will be sought.

CO Matt Theunick contacted a subject burning illegal materials, who CO Michael Feagan and Sgt. Greg Drogowski had been attempting to catch in the act for several months. The subject would pile up, and then burn, furniture, household materials, and construction materials at a location that was not his residence. Both CO Feagan and Sgt. Drogowski responded to the scene, as the subject's stories began to differ from the evidence obtained over the last six months. The subject admitted to burning several large piles of illegal materials and was ticketed for illegal disposal of solid waste and open burning.

CO Eric Bottorff patrolled Burt Lake, contacted several anglers, and issued tickets for too many lines and snowmobile violations. One subject who had no helmet and an expired registration on his snowmobile had been issued a careless operation ticket on his snowmobile only a couple weeks before by CO Michael Feagan – partially due to not wearing a helmet.

CO Mark DePew was patrolling on Otsego Lake when he located an ice shanty which had blown over and scattered litter and debris across the ice. There was no name and address on the ice shanty. CO Depew was able to locate a receipt in the litter and tracked the owner down, who admitted to fishing all season and had yet to buy his fishing license. He was ticketed for his violations and directed to clean up the litter.

CO Mark DePew received a complaint of people keeping short splake on Clear Lake and after watching the anglers he observed two subjects catch numerous fish. CO Depew contacted the subjects and checked the catch, noting they had four short fish. When asked, the anglers stated they thought the size was 10 inches. CO Depew informed them the fish were nine inches and issued tickets for their short fish.

CO Bill Webster located illegal snares around Fletcher Floodwater that had been recently checked. CO Webster set up surveillance on the location and when the trapper checked snares the CO contacted him and ticketed him for not having operable swivels.

DISTRICT 4

CO Sean Kehoe reported on a disposition on a hunter harassment investigation that occurred this fall involving a subject who removed another hunter's tree stands. The subject paid over \$700 in fines and costs and will lose his hunting privileges for the remainder of this year and next hunting season.

Sgt. Robert Torres responded to a complaint of a deer being taken within the Village of Kingsley after the close of the archery season. Upon investigating the complaint it appeared a deer was taken but no longer at the residence. Sgt. Torres did observe a bait pile consisting of hay and corn behind the residence. During the interview, the resident admitted to placing the bait out but denied taking a deer over it. Enforcement action was taken for the baiting violation while the possible illegal deer investigation continues.

CO Steve Converse noticed the smell of burnt marijuana after stopping to speak with the occupants of a vehicle driving down a narrow two-track road in Manistee County. CO Converse discovered that the vehicle was unregistered and lacked insurance. Along with the traffic violations, two of the passengers were arrested on outstanding arrest warrants.

CO Steve Converse worked a bait flight with Tribal Officers from the Little River Band, Manistee County. When CO Converse was on the ground after the flight he proceeded to check on a couple of the observed illegal bait sites. At one of the sites, CO Converse contacted a subject actively dumping shell corn in a field. At another site, a second subject was contacted hunting over bait. This subject had previously been arrested in 2008 for illegal deer baiting. Both subjects were ticketed for the baiting violations.

CO Steve Converse located a subject illegally hunting deer with the aid of bait. During the contact, CO Converse observed fresh blood and deer hair near the stand. When

questioned, the subject stated his friend had hunted the blind the previous day and was successful. After questioning the friend, it was determined that a deer was taken illegally over the bait by a 13 year old. Enforcement action was taken for the baiting violation.

CO Steve Converse questioned a subject about purchasing a combination license and an archery license. CO Converse requested to see any unvalidated deer tags the subject still possessed. CO Converse was handed three valid tags, one of which had blood on it. When questioned about the bloody tag, the subject took CO Converse to an untagged doe hanging in the garage. A ticket was issued for the tagging violation.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling near Tippy Dam Pond when he observed persons fishing on the ice in an isolated location. For a period of time, CO Converse watched the group of four fishing and tending tip-ups. The group was checked when they packed up to leave. Two subjects were ticketed for fishing without a license and a third was ticketed for an undersized northern pike that was located hidden in the gear.

While working a routine snowmobile patrol in Lake County, CO Angela Greenway stopped two sleds for apparent registration violations. Both snowmobiles were without trail permits and one subject was operating on a suspended license. Enforcement action was taken for the snowmobile violations.

CO Troy Mueller received a RAP complaint the day after Christmas from an individual snowshoeing in Wexford County who came across a fresh blood trail. CO Mueller responded to the complaint and followed the blood trail and footprints to a nearby residence. The CO interviewed the homeowner and received a confession from the subject of taking a deer over a bait pile during the closed season. The subject was ticketed for the illegal deer and forfeited the deer and a rifle.

COs Brian Brosky, Troy Vangelderren and Mike Wells contacted occupants of a parked vehicle along a rural county road. The subjects in the vehicle were coyote hunting and had hounds out running when contacted. CO Vangelderren observed an uncased firearm next to the passenger and when checking the gun, found it was loaded. The driver of the vehicle had an outstanding arrest warrant and was lodged in the Newaygo County Jail.

CO Mike Wells observed a vehicle parked adjacent to posted private property. CO Wells observed open gun cases in the vehicle and waited until the subjects exited the woods. CO Wells then contacted the subjects and determined that they were hunting antlerless deer during the closed season. The subjects also admitted to trespassing on the private property. Tickets were issued to address the hunting violations.

COs Jeff Ginn and Brian Lebel responded to a complaint of a blood trail in a subdivision. City police officers were able to follow the blood trail and footprints to a residence, where for some time the homeowner refused to answer the door. COs Ginn and Lebel were able to convince the subject to come outside where he was questioned.

The subject admitted to shooting a deer over a lighted bait pile behind the house with a crossbow. Three additional illegally taken deer were recovered from the garage. The subject, who has three prior DNR violations on his record, was ticketed for the poaching activity. All deer along with the crossbow were seized from the scene.

DISTRICT 5

CO Chris Bowen located a snowmobile injury accident in a remote area and was first on scene. The snowmobile operator broke her leg when she lost control of her machine while crossing a creek and crashing into a tree.

CO Bobbi Lively reports that fines in Oscoda County for second offense baiting violations are \$750.00.

CO Jon Warner announced his presence outside an ice shanty and two anglers emerged from the shanty while a third remained inside. After being asked to check his fishing license, the subject inside the shanty indicated he did not have time to purchase a license before coming out to fish. When CO Warner asked where the subjects had purchased their minnows that morning, he was told from a nearby bait shop that also sells hunting and fishing licenses.

CO Mike Hearn has concluded an investigation involving a subject who entered his deer in a big buck contest. The buck was taken with a rifle during the firearm deer season but the subject is a convicted felon and ineligible to use or possess a firearm.

COs Steve Lockwood and Joel Lundberg observed occupants of a truck shining during the last weekend of muzzleloader deer season. The COs stopped the truck and found the passenger with a loaded .22 caliber rifle and open intoxicants. They also stopped another car suspected of road hunting and found an uncased, loaded muzzleloader in the front seat.

COs Steve Lockwood and Joel Lundberg located a truck parked on state land with blood in the bed. Contact with the hunter who was driving the truck led the COs to a residence where they recovered a deer with a tag belonging to the shooter's wife. The shooter confessed to using his wife's tag so he could continue hunting.

CO Joel Lundberg observed a truck leaving a camp loaded with scrap metal. CO Lundberg was familiar with the camp owners and didn't recognize the driver of the truck. He stopped the truck and discovered the two occupants had just burglarized the camp. Inside the truck, he found burglary tools and items that had just been stolen from the camp. He was able to confirm by telephone that the items belonged to the owner of the camp. The prosecuting attorney's office charged the thieves with breaking and entering and possession of burglary tools. One subject had prior convictions for B&E.

CO Brian Engelhard was on patrol when he observed a dark plume of smoke coming from the rear of a salvage yard. Subsequent interviews indicated that a fire may have

started when the owner of the salvage yard was cutting out a frame from a mobile home. CO Engelhard documented a large fire consisting of a mobile home, insulation, plywood, and a boat. Although the owner claimed he had accidentally started the fire, he allowed it to burn from morning until mid afternoon without attempting to suppress it until CO Engelhard arrived. Charges are being sought through the prosecuting attorney's office for unlawful disposal of solid waste.

DISTRICT 6

CO Phillip Hudson responded to a trespass complaint and during the investigation located an untagged deer in the subject's garage. The subject admitted to shooting the deer and later purchasing his deer license. The complainant was not willing to press charges for trespass but the CO took enforcement action for taking a deer without a license.

CO Nick Atkin responded to a recreational trespass complaint and located three minors fishing. All of the minors were in possession of alcohol and two were fishing without licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Robert Hobkirk obtained a warrant for a subject who had shot a large eight point during the early antlerless deer season. The hunter met with the CO and posted \$350 in bond.

CO Seth Rhodea received a complaint of large bait piles on a piece of property in Sanilac County. Upon checking the location, the CO located over half a dozen bait piles on the property. The lease holder for the property was contacted and admitted to knowing that bait was on the property. A ticket was issued for baiting deer.

COs Seth Rhodea, Jason Smith and Joshua Wright took advantage of the recent snowfall in the thumb area to patrol the state snowmobile trails in Sanilac County. Numerous violations were encountered over several patrols and tickets were issued for failing to have valid trail permits and expired registrations.

In the fall of 2009 CO Chris Bowen arrested a hunter for taking a turkey illegally in Roscommon County. The sentence included a license revocation through 2012. CO Bowen learned that the man had purchased a deer license in 2010 in Saginaw County. CO Bowen contacted CO Dan Lee in Saginaw who tracked the man down. When asked about the deer license he purchased the man hesitated and then explained that he didn't hunt but likes to collect licenses. CO Lee asked to see his collection and the man produced the 2010 deer tag from his wallet. He was ticketed for purchasing a license while revoked.

CO Vicki Goss, while on patrol during muzzleloader season, observed a hunter exit the woods with a firearm. Upon seeing the CO the hunter quickly made it to his parked vehicle. The subject was standing outside his vehicle when the CO approached. When asked about his success, the hunter told CO Goss that he wasn't hunting. The CO

advised she had seen him with a firearm and he reached down and pulled out his shotgun from underneath the vehicle. The hunter also had shotgun slugs in his coat pocket. The hunter quickly claimed he was hunting for coyote but couldn't produce a license for that either. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chad Foerster received a RAP complaint reference a large bait pile and possibly a deer that had been shot off the bait pile the night prior. The CO arrived on scene and located the bait but the subject didn't return until several hours later. The subject admitted to the bait pile and stated that he knew it was illegal and even told the CO the correct penalties involved. He stated that he was going to bait until he got caught and that now that he had been caught, it was time to stop. He also admitted to shooting a buck off the pile just prior to the CO's arrival and was in the process of going to get it. Enforcement action was taken

CO Chad Foerster received a complaint reference a subject possibly shooting at deer and failing to retrieve them. The CO patrolled the area and located the subject driving. Further investigation revealed that the subject had a loaded firearm in his motor vehicle. Enforcement action was taken and he was educated on several laws of hunting and safety issues.

CO Chad Foerster received a phone call from a local deputy investigating a recreational trespass complaint who found a deer that had been shot. The CO arrived on scene and was briefed on the investigation. The CO interviewed the subject and got a confession on the trespass issue. The subject also confessed to shooting and tagging a buck illegally earlier in the year. Both the current deer and the processed deer were seized and enforcement action was taken on both incidents.

CO Quincy Gowenlock received a call from Gratiot County Central Dispatch regarding shots fired from a vehicle and a confirmed dead deer in a farm field. The CO responded to the scene and met with deputies who had stopped the vehicle. The driver was intoxicated and uncooperative and was placed under arrest for operating while impaired. The passenger was also uncooperative. Further investigation revealed fresh blood dripping from the trunk. The truck was opened and found to contain blood, hair and corn but no deer. The CO then interviewed the passenger who started talking. The passenger told the CO that he and two other passengers and the driver were driving around shooting deer. The passenger advised that he and the other two passengers each shot a doe. The CO asked the passenger where the other two were. He advised that they were retrieving the deer when the deputies pulled up and they were now hiding in the woods. Several days later CO Gowenlock met with all four of the subjects who confessed to the killing of the deer. All four were issued tickets for taking deer illegally and possessing loaded firearms in a motor vehicle.

DISTRICT 7

CO Ken Cerny responded to a RAP complaint of a hunter trespassing in VanBuren County on the last day of the muzzleloader deer season. Upon meeting with the

complainant, CO Cerny was able to follow the drag marks where the subject had dragged an illegally taken deer behind an ORV. CO Cerny contacted the subject and obtained a confession for taking the deer while trespassing and found that the subject was a felon in possession of a firearm. A warrant has been issued for the violations.

CO Mike McGee obtained a warrant for a subject who had taken a turkey over bait during the closed season. CO McGee had received a complaint about the violation and was able to follow the tracks in the snow to the subject's residence, where a confession was obtained.

CO Mike McGee responded to a trespass complaint where the complainant was a lawful hunter on the property. CO McGee followed the tracks in the snow approximately six miles, even though the trespasser tried to hide his tracks by walking in various deep ditches. CO McGee finally located the subject's residence and obtained a confession.

CO Mike McGee received a report of a shipwreck being exposed on the shoreline of Grand Mere State Park and that a subject was illegally taking items from the protected shipwreck. A citizen provided CO McGee with photographs and video tape of the subject removing the items. The shipwreck has since been re-covered with sand, due to heavy wave action and the investigation continues into the theft of the items from the shipwreck.

CO Andy Bauer and Sgt. Zach Doss spent a large part of the week investigating a hunter conflict which happened on New Years Day. Two different parties of duck hunters had a conflict. Berrien County Sheriff's Deputies had responded twice to the location over the holiday, the investigation continues.

While on patrol, CO Mike McGee passed a vehicle going in the opposite direction. CO McGee observed an uncased bow in the interior of the vehicle and subsequently stopped the driver. The driver stated that he always transported his bow uncased in the vehicle.

While on patrol in the Three Rivers State Game Area (SGA), CO Ken Cerny came upon a subject cutting firewood on state land without a permit. Enforcement action was taken.

Sgt. Jeff Rabbers wrapped up an investigation regarding subjects fishing along a closed trout stream in Dwight Lydell Park during the fall salmon run. Based on video footage provided by park staff, the subjects were located and confessions were obtained. A warrant was issued for one subject for fishing a closed stream, fishing without a license, and for catching salmon by illegal methods - their hands.

CO Gary Raak responded to a warrant request for a subject living on Cloverdale Lake who was wanted in the illegal taking of a deer from this fall. The subject was involved in a nighttime road hunting incident and had outstanding charges of being a felon in possession of a firearm, possessing an untagged deer, using an artificial light to take

game, hunting without a license, possessing a loaded firearm in a motor vehicle, and trespassing. CO Raak was able to locate tracks from the subject's residence out onto the lake where the subject was apprehended.

Sgt. Jeff Rabbers assisted several law enforcement agencies on parolee residential searches for weapons in response to identifying that the subjects had purchased firearm deer hunting licenses. Two arrests were made for weapons violations, as well as a marijuana grow operation that was located hidden in a residence. Charges also are pending for a deer tagging violation.

While on patrol for hunting activity in an area where numerous complaints have been received for illegal trespass activity, CO Cary Foster located a vehicle with a gun case and followed tracks along an old railroad bed. Contact was made with a deer hunter who denied trespassing along the river. CO Foster had the subject follow along with him as they entered onto the complainant's property to identify more of his tracks. A confession was obtained and the subject was ticketed for the violation.

CO Gary Raak responded to a shots fired complaint where a witness observed a subject in a vehicle shoot multiple times at deer prior to shooting hours. The subject vehicle was located along with a loaded muzzleloader and a second subject in a field. Enforcement action was taken on the loaded firearm, including confiscation, and charges will be requested for the trespassing incident. No deer were located.

COs Chuck Towns and Mike Mshar handled multiple complaints of deer stranded on Lake Allegan during New Year's weekend. Seven deer had traveled onto poor ice that had further degraded as water flowed into the impoundment. Two deer remained trapped on the ice which led to multiple calls from concerned citizens. Ice conditions did not allow the COs to approach or render assistance to the animals. One deer was dispatched from shore after it was determined it had a broken leg and could not be approached. A second deer remained far off shore, broken through the ice and in a position that was unsafe for euthanization by firearm, due to homes along the lakeshore. A private citizen came forth to assist the COs with an airboat as ice conditions improved, allowing recovery of the animal. DNRE Wildlife and Law Division staff concurred the deer should be euthanized based on diminished condition and low probability of survival after several days on the ice or partially submerged. The animal was forwarded to the lab for further analysis.

COs Chuck Towns, Mike Mshar and Patrick McManus conducted snowmobile patrols along the Allegan County trail systems and ticketed several subjects for no registrations or trail permits. CO McManus also ticketed a subject for towing three children, between the ages of three and eight years of age, eleven miles along county roads in a sled with no helmets and an unregistered snowmobile. The operator advised he just wanted to go to the store and "get some chew". The children's mother was called to the scene to transport the children safely home.

CO Patrick McManus was patrolling Barry County when he observed a subject standing along a road. After a short period of questioning he admitted to being involved in a deer drive. CO McManus searched on foot and located two hunters on the property hunting without licenses during the late antlerless season.

CO Patrick McManus was walking onto a lake to check four anglers ice fishing when they suddenly began kicking their fish back into their holes as he approached. Upon contact, two were ticketed for fishing without licenses.

CO Mike Mshar investigated a complaint of a subject shooting a mute swan during the late waterfowl season. The swan was not recovered but the subject was ticketed for hunting without a waterfowl license and failing to tag a deer during the deer season.

CO Mike Mshar conducted a taxidermist inspection and located a tag purchased at 10:00 a.m. on November 15, and validated that day. His investigation determined the deer had been harvested at 7:00 a.m. The subject was ticketed for taking deer without a license.

CO Mike Mshar investigated a complaint with CO Steve Mooney in Van Buren County during the firearm deer season of a deer shot and left in a field at night. While at the scene the following morning, the subjects returned and were detained and interviewed by CO Mshar. Warrants were issued for the two subjects with charges that included taking game from a motor vehicle, shine with a weapon, loaded firearm in a motor vehicle and taking deer during closed hours.

DISTRICT 8

DISTRICT 9

CO Lacelle Rabon investigated a baiting complaint in Sumpter Township. He contacted the property owner who went to the rear of the property with him. They found two tree stands; one was old and looked as if it had not been used in a while. The second stand was newer and contained hunting gear and a heater. Below this stand was a bait pile of apples, corn, and carrots. CO Rabon canvassed the houses in the area and found the owner of the tree stands. The subject walked out to the tree stand with CO Rabon and they passed a third tree stand that also belonged to the subject. When asked about the bait pile the subject responded "I only put down a small amount of food for the deer". The CO explained the ban on baiting/feeding deer and issued a ticket for the violation.

As he was approaching an intersection to make a turn, CO Todd Szyska was nearly hit broadside by a driver who disregarded a red light. CO Szyska made a traffic stop and the driver produced a state identification card when he was asked for his license. A LEIN check showed the driver was denied and revoked. The subject was issued tickets for disregarding a red light and for driving while license suspended.

CO Todd Szyska contacted a subject who had been antlerless deer hunting and asked to check his license. The subject showed the regular part of his combination license and CO Szyska asked if he had any other licenses. The subject hesitated and opened his wallet and pulled out an antlerless license for private land that belonged to his father. The subject was issued a ticket for hunt deer without a license and a ticket for borrow the license of another.

CO Todd Szyska observed a group of waterfowl hunters pull their boat across the ice to get to open water. As he watched one hunter drive through a big raft of ducks, he watched as the subject pulled out a shotgun and shot some ducks. CO Szyska tracked the subject to a house and contacted him as he was loading the boat onto a power winch. The subject was issued a ticket for an overlimit of bluebills and given a verbal warning for having a loaded shotgun in a moving vessel.

While on patrol, CO Mark Papineau received a complaint in regard to a subject who had just shot a buck with a shotgun on property in Lapeer County during the late antlerless season. The complainant advised that he went to investigate several gunshots near his property line when he observed a subject with a shotgun walking away from a dead buck. CO Papineau walked into the woods to locate the downed buck and observed flashlights in the woods. The CO approached the flashlights and contacted two subjects in the process of field dressing a seven point buck. One of the subjects confessed to shooting the deer earlier with his shotgun. CO Papineau also learned that the subject had been hunting the property without a valid antlerless deer license. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett contacted a subject who was driving along railroad property. The subject said he was going to help a friend who was broken down in a field. CO Ennett explained the violation of railroad trespass and advised he was getting a break because he was not issuing a ticket for driving while license suspended and towing his vehicle. The subject was happy to receive a ticket for railroad trespass.

CO Dan Walzak was following up on a deer baiting / feeding complaint and was unable to locate any bait. He interviewed the subject who was convinced that someone was trying to get back at him for wrongdoing in his past. CO Walzak ran the subject through LEIN and found that the subject did have a criminal bench warrant out of a local court for failing to appear on a probation violation hearing. The subject was arrested on the warrant.

CO Jonathon Sklba contacted a subject hunting on the railroad tracks and who advised the CO that he was just out for a walk. When asked about the BB gun he had, he replied that he would shoot the blackbirds. CO Sklba asked for his hunting license and ID as he admitted to hunting. The subject commented that he heard the DNR has had issues with people hunting in the area. CO Sklba told him that was true, as he was trespassing and hunting without hunter orange on. The subject was ticketed and advised not to return to the property.

CO Lacelle Rabon assisted local law enforcement with a subject who was baiting and shooting animals in his backyard. The local officer had confiscated three weapons from the residence and the officers found several tree stumps in the backyard that had numerous bullet holes in them. The three stumps also had corn cobs stuck in them for bait. The subject had been shooting squirrels from his residence; CO Rabon found a dead squirrel in the backyard. The subject was within 450 ft. of several dwellings, was not wearing hunter orange and was discharging firearms within the city limits. The case was submitted to the prosecutor's office for a warrant.

CO Lacelle Rabon responded to a RAP complaint in reference to a deer laying in a backyard. Upon arrival, CO Rabon saw that the deer had been field dressed and was not tagged. CO Rabon contacted an occupant of the home who stated that his roommate shot the deer up north and was not at home because he was at work. CO Rabon left his contact information and the following day the shooter told CO Rabon that the kill tag kept blowing off the deer. He was advised of his violation and issued a ticket.

COs Brandon Kieft and Mark Papineau responded to a complaint of possible deer poaching in Oakland County. When the COs pulled up the driveway, they observed an untagged antlerless deer hanging in the garage. As they approached the door of the house, the homeowner came out holding a butcher knife, surprised to see the COs. Further investigation revealed blood all over a bait pile of sugar beets in the backyard. Enforcement action was taken.

While working a shining patrol, CO Brandon Kieft witnessed a vehicle moving slow with a lot of quick stops along a dirt road that is not highly traveled. Catching up to the vehicle, CO Kieft observed the driver come to a complete stop in the roadway and the passenger exit the vehicle to urinate in the middle of the road. A traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle and contact was made with the two occupants. The driver appeared intoxicated, was operating on a suspended license and two open containers of alcohol were located in the vehicle. Sobriety tests were conducted on the driver and he was arrested for the three violations. There was also a misdemeanor warrant for his arrest. He refused all breath tests and a search warrant was obtained for a blood draw. Eventually, the individual was transported to the Oakland County Jail and lodged on the violations.

CO Brandon Kieft was checking a vehicle along the side of the road when he noticed a bag of corn in the bed of the truck. He followed footprints in the snow to a hunter who was sitting in a tree stand over a bait pile of corn. After the hunter exited the tree stand and saw CO Kieft, he dropped his head and looked toward the ground. CO Kieft recognized the hunter as someone he had ticketed for a baiting violation a couple of years ago. The subject was issued a second baiting ticket and ordered to clean up the bait.

CO Kris Kiel and PCO Michael Drexler contacted three anglers coming off of the ice. One subject was carrying a heavy bucket of fish; a closer check revealed 75 perch. The angler claimed his friend had placed some of the fish in the bucket the day before. A call

was made to the friend who said he put about six fish in the bucket. The subject was issued a ticket for the overlimit.

CO Todd Szyska responded to a complaint of a subject who was catching small perch and throwing them on the ice and not retrieving them. When contacted, the subject would not admit doing it. He then told CO Szyska that he put some of the fish on the ice the day before. Witnesses told CO Szyska the subject was putting the fish on the ice because he did not want to keep the small fish and he did not want to keep catching them. There were 55 one and two inch perch on the ice. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Todd Szyska responded to a complaint of a property owner who found a gut pile and ORV tracks on his property. CO Szyska met the property owner and walked the area; he followed the ORV tracks to a nearby pole barn. CO Szyska went to the house and the person who answered the door said his son shot the deer. The subject showed CO Szyska two deer hanging in the pole barn. One tag was not validated and the other had a tag from Alcona County. The shooter admitted to shooting the deer in his back yard. Enforcement action was taken and the deer were seized and donated to the hungry.

While patrolling in Davison Township, CO Mark Papineau observed a deer on top of a vehicle in a driveway and he could not see a kill tag. The CO pulled in and observed a large pile of shelled corn next to the vehicle. No one was home and the CO looked around in the back yard and found a large pile of bait with blood on it. As he was getting back into his vehicle, a vehicle pulled in and a woman informed CO Papineau that her dad shot the deer two days prior in the back yard. After getting the subject's name, the CO checked the license system and found the subject had not purchased a hunting license in two years. The subject was not home. A follow up interview is planned and enforcement action taken.

CO Mark Papineau received a tip that a subject he arrested for two illegal deer last year and whose hunting privileges were revoked was hunting behind a business in Atlas Township. With the assistance of CO Al Schwiderson and Sgt. Tom Wanless, CO Papineau responded and located the subject who was out with his 11 year old son hunting deer. The subject was not hunting; however, his son was not wearing the required hunter orange.

CO Mark Papineau responded to a request for assistance from local law enforcement with subjects who were trespassing and hunting with rifles in the shotgun zone. When he arrived on scene, the CO found both subjects on Consumers Energy property. One of the subjects had a .30-06 rifle and claimed he was hunting coyotes and his partner had a muzzleloader and admitted to deer hunting. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Linda Scheidler was requested to assist local law enforcement with an ORV accident. The owner of the side-by-side allowed his juvenile son to ride the ORV down to the end of the road and back. When the juvenile was turning around, he turned too

sharp and rolled the ORV causing him to get injured. The juvenile had a broken leg. CO Scheidler investigated the accident and listed all of the numerous violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher received a complaint of two subjects possibly taking deer illegally in the managed unit on Harsens Island. The complainants heard gunshots and a few minutes later saw two subjects coming out of the woods without any deer. The complainants saw the subjects leave, but a few minutes later the subjects returned, went back into the woods and a short time later emerged dragging two small deer. CO Lasher contacted the subjects, who were a father and adult son, and found out that both subjects shot a deer. The son did not have a license for the antlerless deer, so they left the deer in the woods, went up to the field office and purchased a license, then came back and tagged the deer. Enforcement action was taken.

While patrolling in northern St. Clair County, CO John Borkovich observed a large group of deer grazing on both sides of a desolate road. One of the deer was a four point buck. The CO left the area for a few minutes then returned to work surveillance on road hunters in the area. Before the CO could get set up, a van came slow rolling down the road and stopped near the buck. CO Borkovich pulled up behind the van and just as he was about to stop the vehicle, the CO observed a muzzleloader rifle come out the driver's window pointing toward the buck. CO Borkovich activated his emergency lights and there was no response. He then activated his siren and the firearm quickly disappeared into the vehicle. As CO Borkovich approached the passenger side of the vehicle, the driver said, "Hi John." The CO contacted the two occupants of the vehicle who were laughing. The CO secured the firearm and recognized the pair. He explained this was no laughing matter. The driver told the CO that just before he stuck the firearm out the window he told the passenger, "I bet you that John Borkovich is watching us right now." The CO asked him if they thought the CO was watching them why would they still do it. The driver admitted he was in the wrong but stated the opportunity was too good. Enforcement action was taken.

Following up on an illegal deer investigation from firearm deer season, CO Ken Kovach was able to track down a subject and obtained a full confession. The subject shot a 10 point buck without a license or wearing hunter orange. He shot the deer with a firearm in a school zone and safety zone of several houses. He was also trespassing. A warrant will be sought.

CO Mark Papineau received a call from a subject that there were three subjects trespassing on his property. The three subjects had an ORV and a small boat that they were dragging with waterfowl hunting gear. The subjects drove through the complainant's property and launched the boat onto a lake on the complainant's property. CO Papineau contacted the subjects and noted several ORV, marine, and hunting violations. The subjects were escorted off the property and enforcement action was taken.

While checking anglers on Otter Lake, CO Linda Scheidler witnessed several motorcycles operating on a makeshift "track" on the ice in front of the boat launch. Three of the five "ice-bikes" did not have an ORV license. One of the subjects stated that his ORV license was on the motorcycle he rides in the summer. Another subject informed the CO that a friend of his received a ticket from the CO for the same thing on another lake and that the subject was at two ORV dealers since and had forgotten to get a license at both. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Linda Scheidler received a complaint of deer baiting. The complainant saw the hunter enter the woods, lay down his gear near an empty plastic bait bag, then spray scent on the trees surrounding the bait. The hunter sat down by his gear and the complainant approached him about trespassing. Immediately after the hunter left the area, the complainant took photos with his cell phone and emailed them to the CO. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher wrapped up a joint investigation with Indiana authorities where a juvenile shot an overlimit of bucks in Indiana. The juvenile was related to a subject in Michigan who owns a taxidermist shop. The 10 point buck's rack the juvenile shot was brought into Michigan to be mounted. CO Lasher conducted interviews and seized the rack which will be turned back over to the Indiana authorities.

CO John Borkovich and Sgt. Tom Wanless observed two pickup trucks slow rolling on a country road in western St. Clair County. The subjects, who had dogs in the back of the vehicles, appeared to be hunting. The COs turned around in an attempt to contact the vehicles which turned down another road and sped up. As the COs closed the gap, one of the vehicles pulled into a small parking area and the other pulled off the side of the road. As the COs attempted to contact the occupants of the two vehicles, the passenger of the truck in the parking area opened the door and attempted to throw a long gun under another truck in the parking lot. Once the subjects were secured, a search of the vehicles ensued. The COs found open alcoholic containers and a bag of suspected marijuana. One subject did not have a hunting license and admitted to taking a rabbit. One of the vehicles had expired out-of-state plates. Another subject had a concealed pistol license and was carrying a pistol and failed to inform the COs. Enforcement action was taken and a warrant is being sought for the marijuana.

CO John Borkovich responded to a trespassing complaint called in by the property owner who is a police officer. CO Borkovich and the landowner contacted the subjects who were hunting. Enforcement action was taken.