

**Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
3/22/09 – 4/4/09**

DISTRICT 1

COs Jason Niemi and Marv Gerlach contacted a group of ten ORVs operating illegally in Menominee County. The contact revealed that four of the operators were suspended. One of the subjects was wanted on a felony warrant for failing to pay child support and was lodged.

CO Brian Bacon contacted an ORV operator who was operating in a closed area. The operator had driven past closed area signs and was causing damage to a wetland area. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Matt Eberly checked 50 snowmobile operators on Saturday who were taking advantage of the last snow.

CO Dennis Gast caught a group of young operators riding around on the berms and dikes of Arnheim Waterfowl Management area. Along with trespass and registration violations, two of the three failed to wear helmets.

CO Dennis Gast conducted an investigation of a pile of litter near Chassell. CO Gast found identification (ID) after sifting through the debris and issued a ticket for litter. The subject has cleaned up and disposed of his garbage.

DISTRICT 2

CO Derek Miller was patrolling the lakes in west Mackinaw County when he came across an angler fishing with too many lines and without a license. The subject stated his buddies had gone to get more bait. CO Miller checked a few more anglers, then returned and waited with the cold youngster for the return of his friends. It was well after dark before the friends, who also did not have fishing licenses, returned. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Gerald Thayer issued a ticket for the illegal feeding of deer. CO Thayer had visited the subject multiple times over the course of several weeks, encouraging voluntary compliance. A ticket was issued after the subject failed to comply with the feeding ban.

DISTRICT 3

CO Matt Theunick and Sgt. Greg Drogowski worked spring fish spawning runs and observed a subject land a fish on the Pigeon River. He was overheard stating "I'm going to go hide it". The COs observed the subject take the fish to his truck and hide it. Upon contact, the COs found a 22 inch closed season brown trout in a bag and under

other materials in the bed of the truck. The subject had six prior DNR arrests, most of them for fishing violations.

CO Michael Feagan responded to a dead elk complaint. After investigation, it was determined the elk broke its neck as it attempted to jump a fence. The elk was salvaged and donated to a local food bank.

CO Matthew Theunick responded to a midnight Report All Poaching (RAP) complaint involving two road kill elk on I-75. Both elk were unsalvageable.

Sgt. Greg Drogowski observed dark black smoke and found a subject burning a tire and other trash. A LEIN check revealed the subject had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. He had just returned to Michigan after spending six years out of state. The subject was arrested and lodged.

CO Bill Webster, while patrolling in southern Alpena County, observed smoke and located an unattended brush fire. While he was trying to find the landowner, a strong gust of wind started the grass on fire. CO Webster called 9-1-1, who sent out the local fire department and DNR fire personnel to put out the blaze. Nearly an acre was burned. CO Webster returned the next day and the owner confessed to starting the fire. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Joe Molnar and Bill Webster worked a trapping case and found two novice trappers to be in violation of several laws. The youngsters had just visited the Alpena Outdoor Show on Sunday and had stopped by the trapping display and got excited about the sport of trapping. They placed three traps out on their property and caught two otters and a beaver. The two COs went to their property and investigated the incident. COs Molnar and Webster explained the laws and the reason for them, and taught the youngsters some trapping techniques. Warnings were given for their violations.

CO Bill Webster, while working in Alpena County, observed a local subject trap a beaver. Upon further investigation it was determined that the trapper was in possession of untagged traps and did not have a valid fur harvester's license. CO Webster followed the subject back to his ORV, which was being operated illegally on state land. CO Webster issued tickets for trapping without a license and for possessing untagged traps.

CO Andrea Erratt had finished checking anglers on the Boyne River and saw a black plume of smoke nearby. CO Erratt found the source of the smoke and discovered that a subject was burning his barn that had collapsed during the winter. An illegal burning ticket was issued.

DISTRICT 4

CO Troy VanGelderren caught a subject using a gaff to take steelhead out of an Oceana County trout stream. When the man was told that he would be losing his gaff hook, he

commented how much he would miss it. The sentimental value went all the way back to 1988 when retired CO Mike Rademacher had arrested him for using the same gaff to take fish on another stream.

CO Mike Wells caught three subjects snagging walleye on an Oceana County stream at 3:30 a.m. The men were using treble hooks below a bell sinker and slapping about four feet of line down on top of the fish. The hook would wind around the fish and hook them in the belly. Four fish were recovered. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Bomay and Sgt. Scott Wilk caught a subject netting steelhead on a closed Newaygo County stream. The man was quite despondent as he was celebrating being released from the Kent County jail the day before. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Angela Greenway was patrolling a closed section of the Little Manistee River in Lake County and observed a vehicle parked at a locked gate to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) campground on the Little Manistee River. CO Greenway walked in along the river and found two subjects fishing the closed stream. When contacted, the subjects were very proud of the steelhead they had caught. They had no idea the river was closed in that section. After talking with the subjects and showing them the fishing guide, they admitted they didn't bother to look at a guide. They did state they thought it was funny that no one else was fishing there and the gate was locked. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Steve Converse of Manistee County has been trying to make contact with a subject for approximately a year and a half on an illegal burn issue. While he was patrolling this week he went by the subject's house and found the same individual outside burning diapers and other illegal trash in an open pit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Sam Koscinski ticketed a subject in Wexford County for illegal disposal of solid waste. The subject was burning debris from the house he was tearing down.

COs Angela Greenway and Carolyn Dice were patrolling central Lake County when they encountered a person in a pickup truck climbing hills on a power line. The driver stated that he thought he could operate freely anywhere under the power lines where others had left tire marks. A ticket was issued for operating in a closed area.

CO Steve Converse was patrolling closed streams in northern Manistee County when he received a complaint that there was a person fishing on a closed stream nearby. He located the angler and asked why he was not fishing on a portion of the river that was open approximately one quarter of a mile away. The angler stated that he thought he was on the open portion of river system but could not explain why he had several undersized rainbow trout on his stringer.

DISTRICT 5

CO William Cherry reports a guilty plea in a case of taking a goose out of season. The subject shot the goose with a .22 caliber firearm in a safety zone and without the proper licenses. The subject was ordered to pay \$600 in fines, restitution for the goose, and lost his hunting privileges for one year.

CO Mike Hearn was first on the scene of a personal injury accident where a single car rolled over and two subjects were pinned in the vehicle. CO Hearn administered first aid until the fire department and emergency medical personnel arrived.

CO Rebecca Hopkins investigated a complaint of illegal dumping of building materials. Upon locating two truckloads of building debris and household junk, she recalled that a residence she passes by daily had similar items on their property from a recent remodel. Finding evidence of origination on personal items in the pile, CO Hopkins obtained a confession from the property owner. A ticket was issued and arrangements were made to clean up the debris.

CO Brian Engelhard investigated a scene where two dozen live trees had been cut on state land and were being cut into lengths on adjacent private property. With the assistance of DNR FMFM personnel, CO Engelhard was able to match pieces of the wood from state land to logs on the adjacent private property. He also documented tracks and drag marks leading from the state land to the private property. CO Engelhard interviewed a subject who admitted to cutting standing timber and removing wood from state land without a permit.

DISTRICT 6

CO Jay Person assisted the Midland County Sheriff's Office Dive Team with the recovery of a car that was submerged in the Tittabawassee River. Four teens were driving on a wet muddy road along the river when the driver lost control and skidded into the river. All occupants were able to escape. The driver had to be pushed out the sun roof by the passenger, as the current had the driver pinned to the roof. The vehicle was removed without incident and no fluid leaks were observed.

While conducting a foot patrol of the Rifle River during the annual Omer Sucker Festival, CO Larn Strawn heard an explosion from one of the several campsites on state land. While investigating the source of the explosion, the CO contacted several campers who explained the noise came from a cannon that had been a nuisance at the festival for several years. The campers stated that the subjects have consistently evaded local law enforcement's attempts to capture and seize the illegal device. After two more deafening cannon blasts, CO Strawn was close enough to the second blast to see the flash and feel the concussion of the blast. The cannon and black powder was seized and the responsible individuals were ticketed and evicted from the state land.

CO Jeremy Payne received a complaint of a fresh deer carcass located in a driveway in Bay County. When the CO arrived the deer was tied to the bumper of a truck. CO Payne contacted the owner of the vehicle and was informed the deer was a road kill and

he had dragged the deer to his house with his truck. After confirming the deer was a road kill, CO Payne issued a road kill permit to the owner and discussed the proper way of transporting a deer.

CO Jeremy Payne located evidence from a dump site on state land in Isabella County. The subject admitted to dumping and cleaned up the dump site. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Chad Foerster and Phil Hudson worked the Saginaw, Cass, and Tittabawassee River system and came into contact with numerous anglers violating the law. The COs found smallmouth bass and walleye that were taken out of season, and numerous subjects attempting to take same with illegal lures. One subject also had outstanding warrants for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken and the subject with the warrant was transported to the Saginaw County jail.

COs Chad Foerster, Nick Atkin, Seth Rhodea, Jason Smith, Ken Lowell, and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly worked the Omer Sucker Festival dip net opener and contacted hundreds of anglers. One group was in possession of walleye that were taken out of season. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Larn Strawn and Ken Lowell stopped by a trailer near state land where the occupant was illegally burning. The individual stated that he was just having a campfire and that he could burn anything he wanted. The campfire included two mattresses, an old door, and plastics. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Lee received a complaint of people fishing for walleye during the closed season in the Shiawassee River State Game Area. The CO proceeded up the Shiawassee River by boat to locate any violators. CO Lee located five subjects from a distance and proceeded on foot to observe. One subject was using illegal lures to fish. The subject had thrown his pole into the woods when a boat passed by and then quickly recovered the pole when the boat passed. When the subjects packed to leave, CO Lee contacted them and located two walleye in the tackle box. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Lee responded to a complaint of subjects shooting geese. Upon arrival, the CO heard shots from a small caliber firearm and saw bullets bouncing off the surface of a pond. He also observed two subjects with a goose. The CO contacted one juvenile and one adult with a .22 caliber rifle, a Canada goose, and a fox squirrel. Neither subject was wearing orange, squirrel season and goose season were both closed, and one subject did not have any licenses. The adult was issued tickets and the juvenile was taken to his parents.

COs Jason Smith and Seth Rhodea worked a patrol on the Rifle River in Arenac County for the dip net opener. The COs ticketed two anglers for taking walleye out of season and fishing without a license after watching them for several hours with night vision equipment.

CO Holly Pennoni received a RAP complaint of a subject shooting a duck with a bow and arrow. Upon contacting the subject at his residence and locating the duck with the arrow still in it, the subject confessed and a ticket was issued for taking waterfowl out of season.

CO Holly Pennoni worked the Rifle River in Arenac County for the dip net opener with CO Jeremy Payne and issued two tickets for no fishing license. One individual said he didn't need a license because he was only 17 years old. This individual was surprised when CO Pennoni informed him that he needed a license once he turned 17 years of age. The subject then admitted he was 20 years old and didn't think a 17 year old needed a license.

CO Joshua Wright received a RAP complaint of overlimits of crappie being taken at Shay Lake. Upon contacting a group of anglers crappie fishing, he found one of the anglers in possession of 25 crappie in his fish basket and an additional 30 crappie in a bucket he had stashed in his vehicle. The fish were seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright was attempting to clean up some local DNR bench warrants, and upon leaving one residence, contacted a subject who was rabbit hunting nearby. CO Wright determined that the rabbit hunter had an outstanding warrant, no hunting license, and was intoxicated. The subject was arrested and lodged on the bench warrant and charged with hunting while intoxicated.

CO Seth Rhodea received information from the district Fisheries Biologist that sublegal steelhead were planted in the Lexington Harbor. Upon working surveillance on the fish that are easy prey for poachers, CO Rhodea watched a group of anglers take several steelhead with hand nets and hide them in their vehicle. The fish were seized and returned back to the harbor and tickets were issued for taking the sublegal trout.

DISTRICT 7

COs Patrick McManus and Jeff Rabbers were on patrol near Bear Creek when they observed two subjects with a fishing rod and a landing net. When contacted, one subject was tying on a treble hook as the COs advised them this was a closed trout stream. Tickets were issued for possession of fishing gear along a closed stream.

COs Patrick McManus and Jeff Rabbers responded to a complaint taken initially by the Michigan State Police (MSP). The complaint involved a subject who had just left the water in a canoe after shooting two mute swans with a centerfire rifle. The COs gathered evidence from the waiting trooper and took enforcement action related to the killing of the swans.

CO Chris Holmes received a complaint of trash that was dumped at an access site in Kalamazoo County. His investigation led to a mother who had paid her son and a friend to take the trash for proper disposal. CO Holmes obtained admissions to the offense

and ticketed both for litter violations. One of the subjects was a reported missing person from the State of Florida. Law enforcement notification was made to Florida of his current location.

CO Greg Patten completed a long term investigation of a subject who purchased a fishing license while prohibited by court order. The subject had moved several times and was avoiding contact with CO Patten. CO Patten requested the assistance of local law enforcement agencies in locating the subject. The subject was located by MSP troopers, who arrested the subject on outstanding warrants and seized the illegal fishing license. CO Patten obtained an arrest warrant for the fishing license violation.

CO Dave Rodgers apprehended three subjects fishing on a closed trout stream. All three had been caught before by CO Rodgers and given verbal warnings when they were juveniles. Tickets were issued this time around as they were now adults.

COs Steve Orange and Ivan Perez investigated information from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) concerning a subject who was stopped at the U.S. border with illegal animal skins and antlers. The COs followed up with the subject at his residence and issued a ticket for practicing commercial taxidermy without a state license. Evidence was seized and will be returned to Ontario MNR Officers for their investigation.

CO Ken Cerny found approximately 20 bags of trash dumped in the Three Rivers State Game Area. CO Cerny located the responsible subject through information in the debris. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 8

CO Rich Nickols assisted three local fire departments at the scene of a wildfire. A subject was burning trash in an open field when the fire escaped and burned about 20 acres of grasslands. The subject was burning illegal materials without a permit. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nickols received information that a subject was illegally tapping maple trees on state land. CO Nickols seized numerous buckets partially filled with sap. The investigation continues.

CO Rich Nickols received a RAP complaint about two subjects shooting and killing a sandhill crane. CO Nickol's investigation led him to two subjects and a sandhill crane hidden under hay bales in a barn. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Peter Purdy and Dan Prince investigated a complaint of two subjects shooting a sandhill crane on state land. The investigation led the COs to a subject in Dearborn. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Shane Webster located a large pile of garbage left on state land. CO Webster's investigation led him to two juveniles who were given money to take the garbage to the landfill. Enforcement action was taken which included a thorough clean up of the area where the garbage was dumped.

CO Dan Bigger was the only law enforcement officer available to assist the MSP with a search for subjects involved in a crime who had fled into an abandoned warehouse complex. The subjects were not located and the investigation continues.

In separate instances, COs Peter Purdy and Damon Owens contacted juveniles illegally operating ORVs on the roadways. In both instances the supervising adult knew that they were illegally operating ORVs on the roadway, unsupervised. Enforcement action was taken in both incidents.

DISTRICT 9

CO Mark Papineau and Sgt. Tom Wanless ran the jet boat on the Flint River and issued five tickets for gear restriction violations and made one LEIN arrest. Numerous anglers were surprised to see the COs by boat.

COs Mark Papineau, Kris Kiel and Al Schwiderson, along with Sgt. Tom Wanless, conducted a group patrol along the Flint River in Genesee County. Though the weather was not favorable for fishing, a few anglers had ventured out onto the river. Three tickets were issued for gear restriction violations.

CO Mark Papineau contacted the operator of a dirt bike stopped along the road who was not wearing a helmet. While CO Papineau was checking the subject and ORV, the subject jumped on the bike and took off. CO Papineau pursued the subject, but was unable to catch the operator. Unfortunately for the subject, he had already provided the CO with ID. He had a suspended driver's license and a warrant for his arrest. The CO found that the bike was stolen from a Mt. Pleasant dealer in 1994. CO Papineau, working with the local auto theft team, executed a search warrant on the subject's residence and found the subject hiding under a bed. He was interviewed and provided information on the location of the dirt bike. A consent search of a shed recovered the stolen bike from 1994 and a second stolen dirt bike. The investigation continues.

CO John Borkovich responded to a complaint of a subject who had shot a turkey out of season. CO Borkovich contacted the subject, who admitted to shooting the "Tom" claiming that it was the turkey's fault because its beard was so long. The bird weighed 25 pounds and had a 14 inch beard. The subject had purchased the shotgun one hour before illegally shooting the turkey.

CO Dan Walzak assisted an Indiana DNR officer with the investigation of a Michigan resident who allegedly shot a deer in Indiana using an Indiana resident license. The Indiana officer will notify CO Walzak when his investigation is completed.

CO Brandon Kieft, along with a DNR Wildlife Biologist, worked on a captive cervidae complaint. A ticket was issued for operating an unregistered cervidae facility.

CO Brandon Kieft assisted a game warden with the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Department. A Michigan resident was investigated for purchasing resident hunting and fishing licenses in Montana when he was no longer a resident there. CO Kieft interviewed the individual and obtained written and verbal confessions. The information was forwarded to Montana for further follow up.

CO Ben Shively responded to a complaint of a John Deere Gator found abandoned on state land. CO Shively responded and located the Gator hidden in the trees. He was able to locate a VIN and model number and found that the Gator had been stolen one month earlier from a construction site on the University of Michigan campus. The Gator was impounded and held until the rental company could reclaim it.

CO Ben Shively issued a ticket for ORV trespass to a subject who was operating a motorcycle on City of Pontiac property.

While on foot patrol along the Flint River near Montrose, CO Linda Scheidler contacted three subjects fishing for walleye during the closed season. The subjects had five walleye on a stringer. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Ben Lasher and Ken Kovach assisted the MSP in the pursuit of a stolen vehicle. The subjects got the vehicle stuck and took off on foot. A perimeter was set up and a few hours later the subjects were caught and arrested.

Sgt. Arthur Green and COs Ben Shively and Brandon Kieft conducted a group patrol on the Huron River in the Proud Lake Recreation Area, focusing on the 2,600 trout that had been planted. The COs contacted 55 anglers and two vessels along the river. One ticket was issued for fishing without a license and five verbal warnings were given.

COs Mark Ennett, Jonathan Sklba, and Sgt. Arthur Green worked a group patrol at the Edison Fishing Pier in Monroe. They checked approximately 50 anglers and issued five tickets and six verbal warnings.

CO Mark Ennett checked an angler who claimed he did not speak English very well and had his 10 year old son translate for him. He originally claimed he did not have his ID with him and gave a false name when CO Ennett checked for fishing information. After the subject admitted he drove to the location, CO Ennett had him return to his car that was in the parking lot; and once at his vehicle, produced a valid driver's license. CO Ennett checked him through RSS and found he had not purchased a fishing license since 2006. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Ennett was checking anglers in the early evening when one angler complained because she had just been checked by another officer. As CO Ennett turned to speak to other anglers, she attempted to cover a 17 inch smallmouth bass that

was in a plastic shopping bag with her jacket. She then gave her fishing license and ID to CO Ennett and stated "just hurry up and write the ticket". She was issued a ticket for possession of a smallmouth bass during the closed season.

CO Jonathan Sklba completed his investigation of an illegal deer case stemming from a taxidermy inspection. CO Sklba had obtained a confession from an individual who shot three bucks during the 2008 season. The subject took two bucks during the archery season then took a seven point buck on opening day of the firearm season. Charges are pending.

CO Jonathan Sklba contacted an individual in Pointe Mouillee State Game Area after hours. The subject had been fishing and left his poles in the water as he went back to his RV to warm up. CO Sklba found the subject had three warrants and was able to post bond. He was issued a ticket for fishing with line not in immediate control and he was given verbal warnings for no minnow receipt and for occupying Pointe Mouillee after hours.

CO Jonathan Sklba was checking anglers at the Edison Pier when a subject gave him another person's fishing license. Upon asking to see his ID, the subject handed CO Sklba the ID that went with the license. The subject then looked away and attempted to cover his face with his hand. When CO Sklba interviewed the subject, he seemed confused. The fishing license and ID were confiscated and he was issued a ticket for fishing without a license. The subject stated that he was on parole and didn't have an ID of his own to buy a license.

CO Kris Kiel checked the 9 mile pier on Lake St. Clair just before sunset. The park has not opened for the spring season but there were eight cars parked outside the gate. After driving to another location to get a better look at the pier, CO Kiel counted 13 people fishing. As the first few started to leave, CO Kiel drove back around and started checking them. Of the 13 anglers, six were fishing without a license. These six had either never bought a license or they did not have one for 2008 or 2009. Three warnings were given for not having the 2009 license or for not having it with them. One subject said that he had not been fishing but changed his answer when CO Kiel told him that he had been watching him from across the small bay. All 13 anglers were given verbal warnings for trespass. They all parked their cars directly in front of a no trespassing sign and all made their way around a 10 foot high fence by walking on top of a seawall for 200 feet to get to the end of the fence.