



Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports Date of Production: August 2014

This documentation is provided by Michigan DNR staff as supplemental information to the Eastern UPCAC via email on August 15, 2014.

Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator: Stacy Welling Haughey

Public Meetings

- August 14 Natural Resources Commission Meeting, MUNISING
August 21 ~~Eastern U.P. Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting, Newberry~~ Cancelled
September 9 Public Input on Chippewa & Mackinac County Forest Plans, DNR Naubinway Office, 3-6pm
September 10 Public Input on Chippewa & Mackinac County Forest Plans, Kinross Township Hall, 3-6pm
September 11 Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing
September 15 Western U.P. Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting, MTU, Houghton
October 2 Formal Compartment Review for Chippewa & Mackinac County Forest Plans, Top of the Lakes Snowmobile Museum, Naubinway, 9am

Recreational Activities

- August Tilden Mine Tours, Michigan Iron Industry Museum, pre-registration required, 906-226-6591
August 31 Wells State Park - Cedar River Bridge Walk
September 6 Van Riper State Park - Harvest Festival
September 12-13 Wells State Park - Yooper Days
September 12-13 Baraga State Park - Annual Harvest Festival
September 13 Van Riper State Park - Harvest Festival
September 13-14 Muskallonge Lake State Park - "Rock On! with Lake Superior Agates" Rock Show
September 19-20 Bewabic State Park - Harvest Fest (campground-only event)
September 20 Van Riper State Park - Harvest Festival
September 20 Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park - Trail Race
September 20 Fort Wilkins Historic State Park - Fall Spoo-tacular with Geocaching!
September 20-21 Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park-Fall Color Chair Lift Rides
September 26-27 Wells State Park - Spooktacular
September 26-27 Wells State Park - Annual 'Spooooktacular' Halloween Celebration
September 26-27 Wells State Park - Spooktacular
September 26-27 Beyond BOW Salmon Fishing September, Carp River near St. Ignace

Upcoming U.P. Recreation/Sporting Shows

- August 30 Marquette Marathon (Michigan Iron Industry Museum is starting point for Half Marathon)
August 30 "Future Angler" Fishing Clinic with NPAA Pros, Ludington Park Harbor, Escanaba, 4:15pm (sponsored by the National Professional Anglers Association (NPAA) as part of the Cabela's National Walleye Tour)
September 18-21 Toyota Bassmaster Angler of the Year Championship, Escanaba, Bays De Noc
-

August Natural Resources Commission Meeting

NRC Meeting Summary by Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met in Munising Thursday (August 14) in the picturesque Upper Peninsula (Munising). Here are the highlights.

The meeting started later than usual because of the Governor's Luncheon at the Upper Peninsula State Fair in Escanaba. The Governor has been making prominent mention of natural resources during his trip this week through the UP, much of it involving recognition of the work being done by the DNR. On Wednesday, the Governor planted trees at a habitat event in southern Marquette County to promote the Grouse Enhanced Management Systems (GEMS). GEMS are a series of walk-in access hunting trails intensively managed for ruffed grouse production. There are currently seven GEMS in the state, ranging in size from 1,000 to 7,000 acres each. Five are in the Upper Peninsula and two are in the northern Lower Peninsula. The event generated some good coverage in local media and some praise for the work of the department from the Governor.

Thursday's meeting started with the Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries. Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter told the committee about a recent table top exercise Fisheries conducted with other states and agencies on Asian carp. Jim also discussed Aquatic Habitat Grants.

Kelsey Schlee, a graduate student at Michigan State University, briefed the commission on work she has done on how brook trout are being affected by changing climate. Brook trout are important to the natural resources economy and are canary-in-the-coal-mine indicators of broader environmental health. Kelsey's work details how changes in water temperature will negatively affect optimal brook trout habitat.

Wildlife Chief Russ Mason updated the committee on Michigan Operation Freedom Outdoors, which continues to expand access for veterans and others with limited mobility who love to hunt.

Barb Avers from the Wildlife Division told commissioners about department recommendations for the regular waterfowl season. The division has federal frameworks for waterfowl and has set limits and dates.

Mike Donovan from Wildlife detailed upgrades to Mi-Hunt, the Web-based software that helps people find places to hunt throughout Michigan. The agency has added 7 million acres of cover-type data to the software, along with other information. The site has been made compatible with mobile devices, so hunters in the field can access it on a smart phone or tablet. The improvements allow hunters to locate favorable areas for, say, grouse hunting and get turn-by-turn directions to those locations.

During the Director's report, Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator Stacy Haughey told the Committee of the Whole about activities going on in the UP, including upgrades at facilities around the UP, as well as significant habitat work that is occurring. Among other facts Stacy reported that nearly \$30 million in Natural Resources Trust Fund money has gone to the Upper Peninsula during the life of that fund.

Resource Deputy Bill Moritz updated the commission on Graymont, the limestone mining company that has proposed a land transaction involving state-managed public land near Rexton in the UP. The Land Exchange Review Committee, the DNR body that reviews proposed land transactions, met earlier this week and voted to continue to table the application from Graymont to purchase public land for the purpose of underground mining and some surface mining. The department will continue to work with Graymont to address concerns raised in 870-some comments the DNR has received from tribes, local units of government and other interested parties regarding the company's proposal. Among issues that need further discussion are environmental protections, recreational access, whether a land sale is the right construct for this transaction and further analysis of the value of the minerals.

Marketing and Outreach Chief Kristin Philips told the commission about the Michigan Wildlife Council, which was formed by statute to educate the general public on the critical role hunting and fishing play in conservation in Michigan. Carol Rose, new chair of the nine-member council, talked about the group's first meeting, which occurred in Lansing earlier this month. The council is moving quickly to issue a request for proposals to start the general public education campaign. The council's activities are being funded by a \$1 surcharge on hunting and fishing licensees that was created by the new license structure.

Russ Mason talked about the recognition of the right of people to trap on commercial forest lands. Russ also talked about a new winter habitat workgroup that will map winter deer complexes across the Upper Peninsula and develop best management practices around these complexes to help reduce winter mortality. The department will work with private landowners to implement these practices.

JR Richardson, chair of the NRC, updated the commission on the Timber Advisory Council, which he also chairs and which met in Marquette Tuesday. Among other things the TAC is working to develop more precise peer-reviewed numbers regarding the economic value of forest products to Michigan.

Chief of Staff Dennis Knapp reported on legislation affecting the DNR. Wednesday the state Senate passed by a vote of 23-10 the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act. The proposed law, which came to the Legislature through a citizen petition initiative, would among other things return to the NRC the authority to name game species, guided by the principles of sound science; allocate funding for invasive species control; and provide free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses to active members of the military. The initiative now goes to the state House for consideration. If the House approves the measure before Sept. 2, it becomes law without needing the signature of the governor. In that case two anti-wolf-hunting referendums on the November ballot would be rendered moot. If the House does not pass the initiative, all three questions would be on the ballot and the one receiving the greatest number of votes would prevail.

During its regular meeting, the commission approved 2014-2015 waterfowl and other migratory bird hunting regulations. The director approved a land use order that brings rules at state park lands in line with state statute regarding fireworks in Michigan. The director also approved 11 land transactions.

U.P. Commissioner John Madigan announced today that he is leaving the NRC after 12 years of service on the commission. He decided to use this meeting in his hometown of Munising to inform the commission and the public of his decision. His last day on the commission was today.

Director Creagh has been traveling the UP this week, meeting with staff and reviewing the good work being done in this part of the state where the department has such a large footprint and where natural resources play such a prominent role in people's day-to-day lives. The trip has included meetings with numerous stakeholders and members of the public, participation in events involving the governor and helpful discussions with staff, formal and informal. I have been traveling with the Director and appreciate all the hospitality extended to us as we dropped in on offices (in some cases unannounced!) throughout the UP. Thanks -- and enjoy what's left of summer!

Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

Legislative Report

See paragraph above (4th paragraph up from this section) which explains the brief legislative report provided at the NRC meeting.

Forest Resources Division: Jeff Stampfly, Acting Eastern UP Supervisor (prepared by Kristen Matson)

- Forest inventory field work for the 2016 Year of Entry (YOE) compartments is complete. The 2016 YOE information for the Eastern Upper Peninsula (EUP) Forest Management Unit (FMU)'s will be posted to the internet by the first week of September. Open house and compartment review schedules, along with other state forest inventory

information are located at: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_30505---,00.html. The first open houses in the EUP are for the Sault FMU on September 9th at Naubinway and September 10th at Kinross.

- Since 2005 Michigan's 3.9 million acres of State Forest have been certified by both the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). Forest Certification has developed as a way to verify sustainable forest management practices. There was an internal audit in the Shingleton FMU in July. Internal audits help us prepare for the external audits this fall. Both Shingleton and Newberry will have external audits in October. For more information on Michigan's Forest Certification Program go to: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-30301_33360---,00.html
- During the October 2013 Certification Audit, the DNR received two Corrective Action Requests (CARs) regarding conformance to the FSC and SFI standards concerning the conservation of biological diversity at the landscape level. A proposed update of Ecological Reference Areas (ERA) and Dedicated Habitat Areas (DHA) has been reviewed internally, and is now available for public review. The public review will run through August 22, 2014. For more information on the public review of the proposed ERAs and DHAs go to: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_33360-333691--,00.html
- Personnel from the Newberry Management unit lead a tour of the Duck Lake Fire for the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team. Over 60 participants learned about the progression of the fire as well as regeneration efforts. It was informative for the participants to see how different the jack pine grows in the UP versus the Lower Peninsula.
- Plans are underway for a helicopter aerial herbicide application for red pine. Over 700 acres are scheduled for either release or site prep. This is an annual project that improves the quality of red pine by reducing plant competition.
- Timber harvesting activity is strong. As of July 9th, we have 317 open timber sale contracts in the EUP. This represents 44,169 acres of timber valued at approximately \$26.7 million. Approximately 30 sales are currently active.
- Ten sales were offered in June and July, and all sold. At least 16 more will be offered in August. There is strong interest in sales located on upland sites, and moderate to low interest in lowland sale where access is an issue and/or winter roads needed.
- As of August 5th, 4 people statewide (2 from the EUP) have been dispatched to wild fires in western states to assist in fire suppression efforts. This is an opportunity for staff to provide support to other states as well as gain knowledge and qualifications while on assignment to bring back to Michigan. In addition, EUP fire qualified staff have assisted the Seney National Wildlife Refuge with several prescribed burns in the last month. A 'hand crew' with 4 people from the EUP will be sent out west in the next few days.
- The UP fire activity has been down compared to previous years with only 27 fires for 46 acres occurring through the week of August 5th. Statewide we have had 153 fires for 521 acres. However rain this summer has been spotty and there are areas where drought codes are beginning to climb and there is still a threat of wild fire. (USFS in the EUP had two fires this week.)
- While fire activity has been down, we have accomplished over 10,280 acres of prescribed burning across the state this year. Much of this has been in Southern Lower Michigan for a variety of wildlife and recreational values. There have been a few burns conducted in the Upper Peninsula and there are some planned for the Sault and Newberry FMU's should weather conditions become favorable.

- Training of personnel continues within the management units for the fire line qualified personnel. Two fire specialists were trained for railroad engine investigation. The fire simulator team was in the UP in June to provide training to several units along with other training to other divisions as well.
- Recently issued Event Permits include: a permit for the Cycle Conservation Club of Michigan for the 30th Annual 6 Days of Michigan motor cycle event in July on several DNR designated ORV and cycle trails across the state, and a permit for the Magnum Opus Pro Rally auto race recently held on June 21st in the Newberry area. The race brought in many racers and spectators from all over the country. Event organizers did a fine job making the event a success. Plans are being made to host another race in the area again next year. An event permit application for the International Boy Scout Jamboree on September 19 thru 21 near Bay City Lake north of Hessel is currently under review.
- Staff are working on roads and culverts, along with ORV restoration work. Many of these projects are identified through our Resource Damage Reporting system (RDR). Field training for staff on resource damage identification occurred during July. The Sault FMU has started an ORV restoration project to block access to illegal streams crossings by ORV's.
- Shingleton FMU is currently working with Alger County Road Commission on widening the Chapel Road. The Sault FMU completed road repairs on the Caffey Road, the Carp River Truck Trail, and a road project in the Dafter area. In addition, FRD is working with Wildlife Division to complete a road project for the Munuscong Flooding Wildlife Management Area. The Charcoal Grade, which also serves as a major snowmobile trail north of Newberry, was recently improved. DNR staff in conjunction with a local logging contractor worked collaboratively to get nearly 5 miles of this road upgraded. Some culverts were replaced, fill material replaced and the roadbed reshaped and graded. In addition encroaching trees immediately adjacent to the road were harvested, and there are plans to install a bridge over Penny Creek in the near future.
- The Federal Bridge Inspection Program, administered by MDOT, has resulted in load limits being placed on several department bridges including Star Creek and Mead Creek.
- Shingleton FMU is working with Burt Township to resolve the issues with the airport and gun range that are currently on State Forest land.

EUP Wildlife Division: Terry Minzey, Wildlife Supervisor (Prepared by KC Swanson, Wildlife Biologist)

- **Bear Tetracycline Survey-** All UP Region Wildlife staff are spending much time afield while conducting the tetracycline survey. 682 baits were placed across the entire peninsula on a 5-mile grid spacing during the latter part of July, these baits are currently being collected and assessed for a bear "hit". Nine tetracycline capsules are placed in each bait, if the bait is consumed by a bear the tetracycline serves as a permanent biomarker, which aids the Division in our population estimation model. Hit rates are compared every other year and serve as one of many indicators used by biologists to determine bear population growth or decline. During this demanding survey, staff are also able to learn more about habitat and the abundance of ripening soft mast.
- **Beech Bark Disease (BBD) Update-** BBD continues to ravage our beech resource in the eastern UP. Forest Resources Division has and will continue to carry out aggressive beech salvage harvests while retaining snags for wildlife. The loss of beech and associated hard mast production is very alarming to wildlife and forest managers. Numerous game and non-game wildlife species consume beech nuts and research suggests that hard mast availability is directly tied to black bear sow reproductive success rates. Wildlife Division staff will continue to be persistent in seeking funding to facilitate the planting of red oak saplings, which is an attempt to at least partially offset the loss of beech long term. With passage of the new license fee package, we continue to ramp up our "More Bang for your Buck"

projects which will include more robust oak plantings within BBD stands. Additional stands are slated to be planted with oak this fall.

- **2014 Bear License Drawing** – Results of the drawing were posted in June, with a total of 30,068 hunters seeking a bear tag statewide. To be assured of obtaining a 1st period tag, resident hunters needed to have 4 or more preference points in Bergland, 4 or more points in Baraga, 7 or more points in Amasa, 4 or more points in Carney, 5 or more in Gwinn and 7 or more in Newberry.
- **FY 2015 Budget Proposals**- Biologists have recently submitted habitat budgets for next year. Wildlife management project proposals, as part of the new license package More Bank for Your Buck initiative, includes opening maintenance and enhancement, soft and hard mast plantings, and much habitat and infrastructure work associated with the new Grouse Enhanced Management Systems (GEM). GEM kiosks are currently being built and will be installed at four GEM's by September 15.
- **Antlerless Quotas**- Quotas were recently approved by the NRC and were greatly reduced throughout the UP Region, as a result of two severe winters in 2012-13 & 2013-14. Wildlife staff continue to assess and improve habitat within winter range which is a long term investment and may take decades to realize. Agricultural lands in some areas continue to attract deer, damage to crops has been documented and crop damage permits continue to be issued.
- **Sportsman Coalition Groups** –Biologists continue to meet with sportsman clubs and non-affiliated hunters and trappers in their respective Units. These meetings are typically held during a weekday evening to accommodate busy schedules. Interesting discussions are prompted by these meetings which are open to the public, where common outdoor enthusiasts convey their opinion in an informal setting. This also gives biologists an opportunity to highlight MDNR habitat work, population trends and other important issues such as the recently completed bear tetracycline survey. August and September Coalition meetings will be well attended because of the excitement about the upcoming bear, waterfowl, and small game seasons.

Finance & Operations: Christina Hammill, Eastern UP

Effective 7/17/14, the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp, also known as the Duck Stamp, can be purchased on-line at www.mdnr-elicense.com.

Dates to Remember

- 8/1 – Deadline for Fall Turkey applications
- 8/10 – May place bear blinds and bear baits in U.P.
- 8/15 – Deadline for Antlerless Deer applications
- 8/12 – Fall Turkey Drawing results posted on website
- 8/18 - Leftover Turkey licenses on sale (for unsuccessful applicants, rest on 8/25)
- 8/26 – Elk Hunt period #1 opens in Unit L (ends 9/29)
- 9/1 – Early Goose season opens in North Zone (through 9/10)
- 9/1 – May place tree stands, ladders, steps, and ground blinds on public lands
- 9/1 – Early Teal season opens (through 9/07)
- 9/4 – Antlerless Deer drawing results posted on website
- 9/10 – Bear hunting begins in the U.P.
- 9/11 – Leftover and OTC Antlerless licenses on sale at 10:00 am EDT
- 9/11 – Regular Goose season opens in North Zone (through 12/11)
- 9/13 and 9/14 – Youth Waterfowl Hunt
- 9/15 – Small Game Opener (Rabbit, Hare, Ruffed Grouse, Fox/Gray/Black Squirrel)
- 9/15 – Kill Tags for Otter, Bobcat, Marten, and Fisher available
- 9/15 – Fall Turkey season opens (through 11/14)
- 9/15 – Turtle seasons close (Snappers and Softshells)
- 9/15 – Legal to bait for deer and elk (see digest for exception counties)

9/20 and 9/21 – Liberty Hunt for youth and 100% Disabled Veterans (Deer)
9/21 – Woodcock season opens (through 11/4)
9/27 – Duck season opens in North Zone (through 11/23; 11/27-11/30)
9/30 – Trout season closes on most inland waters
9/30 – Snowmobile licenses expire

Parks & Recreation Division: Tom Paquin, Eastern Supervisor

- Fayette Historic State Park: Work continues on the toilet/shower, sanitation station & sewage treatment project; continued hazard tree removal; shingled machine shop roof; second floor of superintendent's house completed and re-opened to public. Events included Surfin' Into Summer Event held June 14, 2014, and Kids in the Woods Programs with Alger and Delta Counties. Thru July, camp nights were down 8% from last year. Total attendance was down 11% during the same period.
- Brimley State Park: Brimley State Park is working with Superior Township on the development of a township park/harbor. We have been working with DHS to provide a Foster Care Family fun day at Brimley State park on August the 16th. The park will be providing outdoor educational classes, a live band, and archery for the families. Campground attendance has been high due to great weather. The park is currently testing the water weekly for Chippewa county health department due to lack of funding from DEQ. This season we have had zero beach closures which I believe has also contributed to the increase in camping nights.
- Muskallonge Lake: Lake Superior shoreline erosion update: The archeological study of the proposed new Park Headquarters site has been completed. The original site location has been ruled out due to archeological findings. An alternate site has been reviewed and cleared by archeologists for construction. _Park staff has worked with the Superior Shoreline Chapter of the North Country Trail Association (Tim Hass) in re-routing the North Country Trail through the Park due to the Lake Superior shoreline erosion. Thanks to Mr. Hass and his crew for all their hard work on this section of trail. The park ranger position currently vacant. The 7th annual Lake Superior agate festival will be held at Muskallonge Lake on September 13-14. Camping slowed down the week after the 4th of July, but has picked up again with attendance numbers being average for the season thus far.
- Headquarters Lake Equestrian Campground and Day Use Update: There has been a lot of progress to this unit including: a new vault toilet, new registration station, new fire rings, new picnic tables, road work, new signage, the well has been chlorinated and tested, and some minor campsite improvements. A DEQ campground inspection was conducted on August 5th. It is anticipated that a license will be issued very soon!
- Newberry Field Office: Projects included two new culverts were installed at South Manistique Campground/boating access site (BAS) road; a maintenance dredge was completed at Milakokia Lake BAS; two sand trap dredges were completed in the Tahquamenon River, and a major maintenance crew has installed new vault toilets at Tahquamenon Falls archery range, Rivermouth, High Bridge, Headquarters Lake, Bass Lake, Bodi Lake. State Forest Campground use for this unit has picked up substantially in July and early August with Big Knob and South Manistique Lake being the busiest.
- Indian Lake/Palms Book: The shoreline erosion project for Indian Lake is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2014. The Palms Book toilet building replacement project soon will be put out for bids. It's scheduled to be completed before the 2015 use season. The waterline replacements at Palms Book & the West shore have been completed. _ABC 10 from Ishpeming did a story on Palms Book & Indian Lake State Parks. Pat Nelson did the interview & it aired on Thursday, July 3rd. Historian Bill Jamerson performed here with songs & logging tales from the early era of logging. This event was sponsored by our Friend's Group. Camping for the season has picked up with camping numbers up for the last 4 weeks. Camping at our State Forest Campgrounds has also been up.
- Straits State Park: Camping has been very busy with the warm dry weather. We are about .03% higher for camping over last year. Staff has been painting the exterior of the old shop and replacing the shingles on the roof. Most of

the park ranger's time has been spent on toilet building cleaning and grass cutting. A motor home from Florida lost its tow car at the Father Marquette unit and the people drove all the way up to the Sault Ste. Marie looking for it, where they were last. The tow car skidded into a grove of Cedars and was hard to see. Staff also painted the campsite numbers on the road and we have completed most of the staining at H.Q exterior siding. Our host and rangers have been doing coffee, crafts and evening face painting, drawing about 50 kids total. The forest campgrounds are quite busy and we have had a lot of out of state visitors. We put up the two new class 1 signs over on Lime Island, and added a few more bumpers for boat parking along the coal dock break wall. Both the Straits State park and Lime Island switched their hosts to new ones for the month of August.

- Tahquamenon Falls State Park: Projects included two ADA vault toilets were completed at Bodi Lake Campground; cement poured to correct safety issues in front of Upper Falls toilet shower building; two new ADA accessible picnic tables/sidewalks installed at upper falls day use; new ADA accessible vault toilet installed at archery range; new ADA toilet installed at Rivermouth Campground; and a design firm was selected for the lower falls boat docks and viewing area reconstruction project. This \$500,000 capital outlay investment will improve visitor services, and safety. The Great Lakes Relay started at the upper falls—85, 10 person teams started the 3-day race to Empire. The park is nearing 300,000 in visitors this year. Camping season started slow with a big increase in July. State forest campgrounds are very busy. Upper Falls day use has been extremely busy, requiring traffic control up to six days per week. Current staffing levels do not accommodate this additional workload. The stairway in the Toonerville Trolley concession area was damaged by falling rock, making it un-usable this season.

Eastern UP Fisheries Division: Steve Scott, Eastern UP Field Units Supervisor

- Field Units (Steve Scott, Unit Manager)
 - The field season is now in full swing and crews are out conducting surveys. The early summer was focused on lake surveys and the staff are now focusing on stream surveys during low flow periods.
 - Harvest of our walleye ponds across the U.P. went relatively well this year. We operated seven ponds this year and a total of 883,000 fingerling walleye were stocked in lakes and streams across the U.P. this summer. A total of 23 water bodies received walleye.
 - The Newberry field crew of the Eastern Lake Superior Management Unit (ELSMU) along with volunteers of Michigan Unit Conservation Clubs (MUCC) cooperatively completed a fish habitat improvement project at Kingston Lake in Alger County. The purpose of this project was to increase the amount of woody structure in the lake to serve as fish habitat in order to improve the quality of the fishery. A total of 6 MUCC volunteers assisted the Fisheries Division crew in conducting the project. The crew constructed a total of 21 tree bundles and placed them in various locations throughout the lake. A special thanks goes to the volunteers of the MUCC for their hard work and efforts. The project was made a success with their assistance.
- Marquette Research Station (Ed Baker, Manager)
 - The Lake Superior survey season got off to a late start due to the persistent winter weather that kept ice on the lake into late May. The Lake Char started the survey season with a weeklong trip to Isle Royale in late May to survey lake trout around the island. The Lake Char concluded the spring survey in mid-July with a 3-day sampling effort at Stannard Rock. The vessel is now conducting the summer lake trout survey covering south shore waters from Ontonagon to Grand Marais. The Lake Char will be making two more survey trips to Isle Royale, one in August and again in mid-September.
 - Walleye tagging was completed in northern Little Bay de Noc in conjunction with the walleye egg take. Marquette Research staff measured, tagged, and released 900 walleye as part of ongoing assessment of the walleye population in the bay. Staff also sampled the zooplankton in the bay in an effort to assess food availability for newly hatched walleye. The summer survey work in bays de Noc will begin later this month and focuses on measuring year class strength of walleye.
 - Stream fish and habitat surveys associated with evaluating the 10 brook trout bag limit on selected streams have been completed.

- Lake sturgeon tagging and egg collections were conducted on the Sturgeon and Menominee rivers this spring. Egg collections support the streamside rearing and restocking efforts on the Ontonagon, Cedar, and Whitefish rivers.

Law Enforcement Division (LED): Lt. Skip Hagy, District 2

- The great summer weather has allowed many people to get out and enjoy all our area has to offer including boating, fishing, ORV riding, camping and many other activities. All this has been keeping our District CO's busy along with the numerous safety classes, kids fishing and ORV days, fishing tournaments and public presentations such as the National Trappers Convention and currently the UP State Fair.
- We also have our 3 new CO's going through the Field Training Program PCO's Jon Busken Mackinac County, PCO Robert Watson Luce County and PCO Robert Freeborn Schoolcraft County have all just completed their first step here in the District and are now in step 2 out of the District. We also currently have 2 PCOs working here on step 2. We are as happy to have the new officers as they are happy to be here!
- The Division is also moving forward with the hiring process for the next CO Academy which is slated for January 2015 with Backgrounds currently being conducted on prospective candidates.
- Our Strategic Planning process is still moving forward towards completion and when all is completed the final results will be shared

Below are some of the activities CO's have been involved in this summer.-

- CO Kevin Postma responded to a fire which burned down three occupied trailer homes, a garage and a car. It was determined that an outside burn was the cause of the fire. Fortunately no lives were lost; however several pets were lost in the blaze. The fire is still under investigation and charges are being sought.
- CO Kevin Postma assisted several agencies with the search of a missing 82 year old woman with dementia. After numerous hours searching the 82 year old woman was found alive after spending almost 36 hours in the woods.
- CO Jerrold Fitzgibbon, while working a boat patrol on Ogontz Bay, contacted anglers with an overlimit of smallmouth bass. The subjects complained that the CO wasn't in the boat the local officer uses, nor did he launch from the usual place where the local officer launches from. A ticket was issued for the overlimit.
- CO Jerrold Fitzgibbon contacted two young anglers fishing from shore near the Nahma access site. They had a nice stringer full of smallmouth bass that they were very proud of. When asked if they knew the size limit for bass the kids knew it was 14", and showed the CO how they measured them. Upon seeing that two of the fish were less than 13" long, they felt bad. Officer Fitzgibbon demonstrated how to properly measure a fish and explained the reasons we have size limits. The undersized fish were given to an elderly angler who was heading home, and the youths were encouraged to keep fishing.
- CO Jeff Panich was conducting a marine patrol in the Cedarville area when he observed a boat that appeared to be sinking. Upon contact the two anglers expressed anger at the number of speedboats driving close to where they were fishing. CO Panich observed a substantial amount of water in the boat and asked the occupants if they were sinking. They replied, "No, it just takes on water while fishing". A safety check revealed that they only had one PFD which was in poor condition, a fire extinguisher that had already been discharged on a previous trip and no throwable device on the boat. CO Panich told the anglers he would meet them on shore at the boat launch and followed them to make sure of their safety. Enforcement action was taken upon reaching land.
- COs Mike Hammill, Jeff Panich and Sgt. Gerald Thayer, were conducting a marine patrol on the St. Mary's River. As the three left the dock to start the patrol, they observed a sailboat come into the Detour Harbor with no registration on the boat. Contact was made with the captain of the boat who stated he was documented through the Federal Government and didn't see a reason to be registered, because the boat travels around a lot. Further investigation revealed the boat has not been registered by the current owner in 14 years and has been kept in the waters of Michigan while the owner resided in Florida. Directions on how to obtain a current registration were given to the owner of the boat, as well as enforcement action being taken for the registration violation. After receiving the ticket, the owner explained that he had been stopped several times by other agencies and action was never taken. The owner thanked the COs for their professionalism while on the stop.

- CO Kevin Postma responded to a complaint of a fire in progress on Sugar Island. Upon arrival it was determined that a truck transporting a load of hay caught fire resulting in a complete loss of the truck and trailer. CO Postma investigated the incident, gathered information and then turned it over to the Michigan State Police (MSP) for follow up.
- CO Brett Gustafson and PCO Jon Busken were traveling in Mackinac County when a vehicle passed their fully marked patrol truck in a no passing zone at a high rate of speed. PCO Busken stopped the vehicle and spoke to the driver, who stated he was not paying attention. Enforcement action was taken.
- Sgt. Gerald Thayer was on marine patrol when he encountered a subject operating an unregistered watercraft. The subject swore that the vessel was just registered and the current registration was up at the house. The subject could not find the current registration and a check revealed that the vessel registration was indeed expired. A ticket was issued for the unregistered watercraft and warnings given for other marine safety violations.
- CO Brett Gustafson and PCO Jon Busken patrolled several inland lakes in Mackinac County during the 4th of July holiday and checked several anglers. CO Gustafson and PCO Busken checked one vessel in which two individuals were fishing without a license and a 19 year old had been drinking alcohol. The vessel operator stated, "We have one coming". Enforcement action was taken.
- While on routine fish patrol PCO Bobby Watson and CO Mike Hammill contacted occupants of a vessel trolling in a local walleye hotspot. When PCO Watson asked the anglers for their fishing licenses, one of the anglers provided a fishing license and the other, an Ohio resident, replied that the nonresident fishing licenses are too expensive to buy. Several days later on the same body of water PCO Watson and CO Hammill made contact with a different angler with the same story. Tickets were issued.
- PCO Bobby Watson and CO Mike Hammill contacted a large group of campers at a local state forest campground (SFC). Approximately 12 campers crammed themselves onto one site and proceeded to target practice with a .22 long arm and shoot off potato guns into the evening. They continued to provide other forms of entertainment for the neighboring campsites resulting in complaints. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Michael Evink was assisting the MSP with a domestic violence situation when a second domestic violence situation occurred a few miles away. Because the MSP troopers were tied up on the first complaint, CO Evink broke away and responded to the second. While en route the CO heard that Emergency Medical Services (EMS) had been dispatched but were waiting for police officers to arrive before entering onto the premises. Once on scene CO Evink contacted an elderly male and his son who were arguing. Medical personnel were then able to tend to the elderly man's wife.
- CO John Wenzel was called about a burning mobile home on a property in Delta County. Officer Wenzel responded along with the local fire department to the scene. No one was around the still burning debris. As the fire department was putting out the fire, the homeowner arrived on scene. He was very upset that his fire had been put out. Enforcement action was taken for improper disposal of solid waste.
- While on routine patrol PCO Bobby Watson and CO Mike Hammill observed an angler fishing on a Luce County lake. While the COs launched their vessel to check the angler they observed the angler peddling the paddle boat as fast as he could toward shore. The COs contacted the angler and found he had no fishing license. Ticket issued.
- PCO Bobby Watson and CO Mike Hammill were following fresh ORV tracks on a remote forest road when they encountered a pickup truck with three occupants operating toward them. Upon making contact with the occupants of the vehicle it was obvious something wasn't quite right. The driver and passengers all had loaded pistols and open intoxicants in the vehicle. Enforcement action taken.
- COs Brett Gustafson, Jeffrey Panich and PCO Jon Busken were patrolling Cedarville Bay when they observed an inflatable watercraft experiencing engine failure. Examination of the vessel revealed a registration that had expired in 2004. The operator also did not have enough PFDs for all parties onboard. The vessel was towed to the owner's home and enforcement action was taken.
- CO Brett Gustafson and PCO Busken contacted the operator of an unregistered watercraft underway in Mackinac Island Harbor. When asked, the owner claimed he did have a registration for the inflatable on his sailboat. When PCO Busken asked him to

retrieve the registration the owner said it may not be on his boat. The owner then admitted to not having a registration for his inflatable. Enforcement action was taken.

- COs Jeff Panich, Mike Hammill and Kevin Postma responded to a distress call when central dispatch advised that there was a stranded boat in Raber Bay with five people on board. CO Panich asked dispatch to tell the occupants to don their life jackets and set their anchor. COs Panich and Hammill were first on scene and were able to locate and assist the disabled vessel. CO Postma arrived with the 20' Mako patrol boat and navigated into the shallow bay where seas were upwards of four feet. All occupants were safe and thanked the three officers several times.
- CO Jeff Panich was working with CO Brett Gustafson and PCO John Buskin in the Les Cheneaux Islands conducting safety inspections on the waterways. During their patrol numerous verbal warnings were given and a few large fish were shown to the COs as they checked licenses and live wells. The COs observed a woman trying to pull start a motor on a life raft with a small child on board. The motor appeared to not be getting fuel. After a quick safety check of the vessel it was noted that the child had a life jacket; however, the mother did not have a life jacket of her own. The vessel was safely towed and docked and enforcement action was taken. The COs were thanked for their help and professionalism.
- CO Kevin Postma was patrolling the St. Mary's River near Sault Ste. Marie when he encountered a Canadian vessel preparing to fish near the Cloverland Powerhouse. The angler was asked for a license and provided an Ontario license. CO Postma informed the angler that he was fortunate he wasn't fishing yet because his Ontario license wasn't valid in Michigan. CO Postma explained to the non-resident where the border was and that he needed to motor north. Roughly two hours later CO Postma received a tip that the above mentioned individual was again fishing in U.S. waters. CO Postma made contact a second time and observed the individual clearly fishing in U.S. waters. Contact was made and the individual claimed he thought he was in Canadian waters. CO Postma explained to the angler that he was quite clearly in U.S. waters, stating he was in the same location where he was just given the warning that he should have taken. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Kevin Postma ticketed an individual for operating an ORV on a suspended license. The individual advised that he couldn't afford to pay the \$2,000 fine to get his Michigan driver's license back, but was more than happy to show CO Postma his \$10,000 side by side that he purchased last year.
- CO Michael Evink was able to assist a Sault Tribal Officer with the recovery of a stolen dirt bike. After receiving information about the possible location of the dirt bike, CO Evink contacted several individuals in the area. A short time later the officers were able to locate the bike. Officer Evink transported the bike to Manistique Public Safety for further investigation.
- CO Robert Crisp responded to a complaint of a lost 12 year old girl in the Ackermen Lake area. Once in the area, CO Crisp located a woman who identified herself as the high school cross country coach. The woman stated that the missing 12 year old had become separated from the group on the trails around the lake. CO Crisp was familiar with the network of trails in the area and knew of a two track that went behind Ackermen Lake and to the trails. CO Crisp checked the dead end two track and located the hysterical girl. The girl was fine other than several mosquito bites and was returned to the rest of her group.
- Conservation Officer John Wenzel assisted Rampart EMS with a subject who was out on a logging job and had a tree fall on him. The subject suffered a broken leg and shoulder. Due to the location in the woods, the ambulance was not able to make it back to the victim. Officer Wenzel transported the EMS crew to the victim and then transported the victim out to the waiting ambulance.
- Conservation Officer Michael Evink and Forest Service LEO David Tembrell were working an injured deer complaint when Manistique Public Safety called for assistance in looking for a suspect of a domestic violence incident. The two officers joined the search that included Manistique Public Safety, MSP, Sault Tribal Law Enforcement and the Schoolcraft County Sheriff's Dept. Information was received as to the direction of the suspects travel. Officer's Evink and Tembreull used knowledge of the local ORV trail system to locate the suspect, victim and their child picking blueberries along a section of Railroad tracks in Manistique. Officer Evink took the suspect into custody and turned him over to Manistique Public while LEO Tembreull stayed with the victim and child.
- CO Jared Ferguson was called to Boney Falls campground due to a nuisance bear that was harassing local campers. CO Ferguson was able to deter the bear in the early morning hours and the bear hasn't been back. Cracker shells and sirens were used to thwart his deviant attitude.

- CO Jared Ferguson assisted Michigan State Police on a drowning that occurred on Lake Michigan (Little Bay De Noc) CO Ferguson was able to negotiate rough seas and bring the detectives to their point of investigation on the water. Investigation is still pending.
- CO Jared Ferguson made contact with an individual that requested his help to remove his tire. CO Ferguson assisted the individual and got him on his way towards Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His parting statement was "Thanks young fella, if it wasn't for you I'd be in some trouble.... probably DEAD!"
- Conservation Officer Evink had a busy weekend. He was able to work three large events in the central UP. Officer Evink worked the National Trappers Convention, Big Kids in the Woods ORV safety class and the Manistique Sport Fishing club fishing derby. He made 250 plus positive contacts in three days.
- Conservation Officer Michael Evink was on patrol in Lake Michigan when he located a vessel with too many lines. After a brief conversation the owner of the boat admitted they had too many lines. Enforcement action was taken.
- Conservation Officer Michael Evink was conducting a Marine Safety patrol on Indian Lake. He contacted more than 15 boats that were all in compliance with Marine Safety laws; however Officer Evink did find one person who was fishing without a license. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Crisp responded to a complaint of a poached deer in the area of Wood Rd and M94, in Schoolcraft County. CO Crisp made contact with the possible suspect and located a deer hanging in the back yard. Upon further investigation it was determined that the deer was a road kill. CO Crisp advised the individual on the proper procedure to obtain a road kill permit. .
- CO Jerrold Fitzgibbon and CO Rob Freeborn stopped a pair of ORV's travelling down M-94. They were lost and trying to find the quickest way back to their cabin. Directions were given along with a written reminder that ORV's aren't allowed on state highways.
- CO Mike Evink assisted with an ORV safety class held at the fairgrounds in Escanaba on Saturday. COs Mike Evink and Jerrold Fitzgibbon assisted with the groups trail ride from Christmas to Lakenland and back on Sunday. Volunteers and kids from Alger, Marquette, and Delta counties participated in the class and ride.
- CO Jerrold Fitzgibbon, CO Mike Evink, CO Rob Freeborn and Sgt. Darryl Shann worked several shifts at the National Trappers Convention that was held at the state fairgrounds in Escanaba. Officers were there to answer public questions. Rather than set up a booth, officers walked around the grounds, which led to more contacts. Lots of interaction and many positive comments were received about the officers being present. Also assisting at the convention were CO Rich Stowe and CO Joel Lundberg due to their wealth of knowledge. Their assistance was much appreciated.
- The 3 district PCO's attended a week long marine school at Higgins lake. They are now on to their step 2 assignments for the next 6 weeks.
- CO Jeff Panich was patrolling in Sault Ste. Marie when he was advised from the City PD that a dead loon was located at the powerhouse. The complainant stated someone must have killed the bird and placed it there to keep people from catching fish close to the pier head. CO Panich made several phone calls to locate a boat to retrieve the bird, after several attempts he was able to flag down a boat that had just unhooked from the powerhouse. The CO was able to recover the dead bird which had obviously been there for several weeks as it melted through the net. CO Panich then showed the fisherman that it was a Merganser that had become entangled in someone's thrown away fishing line and drowned. The complainant's thanked the CO for his quick and somewhat original recovery method.
- CO Jeff Panich was patrolling the Saint Mary's River and checking fisherman on a routine patrol. Upon returning to the launch he observed black smoke coming from the shoreline near a residence. CO Panich drove his patrol boat to the smoke and observed a large fire with black smoke. CO Panich made contact with the owner who addressed that he was only burning Christmas lights. The CO showed the man the giant ball of wire in the fire and pointed to the black smoke covering the river. The owner then acknowledged that he didn't expect that much smoke to come from the fire. CO Panich made the man put out the fire and issued him a citation, while the CO was writing, a neighbor yelled across the yard and thanked the CO for addressing what was apparently an ongoing issue. No further fires are expected.

- CO Gustafson and PCO Busken patrolled Mackinac Island Harbor during the Chicago to Mackinac Race. There were over three hundred and thirty vessels in this year's race. Multiple unregistered vessels were observed during the event. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Gustafson, Postma, and PCO Busken conducted a foot patrol of Mackinac Island during the Chicago to Mackinac Race. Early one morning a disorderly person was observed. The intoxicated person was ordered to return to his vessel and warned that future disturbances would result in enforcement action.
- PCO Bobby Watson and Conservation Officer Mike Hammill received a complaint of a stranded motorist in the middle of the woods. With GPS coordinates taken PCO Watson and CO Hammill were able to find the passenger car stuck deep in the forest. Assistance was rendered and the driver continued on his way.
- PCO Bobby Watson and CO Mike Hammill assisted the Michigan State Police with an individual who was under the influence and had voluntarily checked himself into the emergency room. PCO Watson and CO Hammill were released to go about their business when another Trooper showed up.
- Conservation Officer Mike Hammill caught up with an individual he had been looking for since snowmobile season. The complaint was the individual would get intoxicated then drive his snowmobile at a high rate of speed through the neighboring town. CO Hammill was in this area checking anglers and noticed the individual go by on an ORV, no ORV sticker was visible so the ORV was stopped. Upon further investigation the operator had no driver's license and no ORV sticker. Action was taken.