



Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: June 2014

This documentation is provided by Michigan DNR staff as a supplement to verbal reports which will be given to the Eastern UPCAC at the April 17, 2014 meeting in Newberry.

Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator: Stacy Welling Haughey

Public Meetings

June 12	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing
June 19	Eastern U.P. Citizens Advisory Council Meeting, City Community Center, Manistique
June 24	Waterways Program Grant Workshop, 9am-12noon, Days Inn, Marquette, 906-225-1393
June 25	Open House-Forest Treatments for Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw & Ontonagon Counties, Baraga DNR Office, 3-7pm
July 10	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Detroit
July 16	Forestry Compartment Review for Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw & Ontonagon Counties, Baraga DNR Office, 9:30am
July TBD	Western U.P. Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting
August 14	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, MUNISING
August 21	Eastern U.P. Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting, Newberry



Recreational Activities

Jun 21	Van Riper State Park - Yuletide in the Park
July	Tilden Mine Tours, Michigan Iron Industry Museum, pre-registration required, 906-226-6591
July 4-5	Wells State Park - 4th of July Celebration
July 4	Baraga State Park - 4th of July Festivities
July 4	Van Riper State Park - 4th of July Jubilation
July 8	Michigan Iron Industry Museum - A Report on Local Miners and Mining during the Great Depression and World War II
July 11	Michigan Iron Industry Museum - Iron Ore Heritage Trail Bike Tour
July 12	Baraga State Park - Rec 101: Intro to Kayaking
July 15	Michigan Iron Industry Museum - Michigan Gold & Silver: Mining in the Upper Peninsula
July 18-19	Bewabic State Park - Christmas in July
July 18	Michigan Iron Industry Museum - Iron Ore Heritage Trail Bike Tour
July 22	Michigan Iron Industry Museum - A Most Unpleasant Circumstance: Personality and Provocation at Fort Wilkins
July 25-26	Wells State Park - Christmas in July
July 25-26	Baraga State Park - Christmas in July
July 25-27	Fort Wilkins - Civil War Era Artillery Encampment
July 25	Michigan Iron Industry Museum - Iron Ore Heritage Trail Bike Tour
July 29	Michigan Iron Industry Museum - Freighters of Destiny
August	Tilden Mine Tours, Michigan Iron Industry Museum, pre-registration required, 906-226-6591
August 2	Fort Wilkins - Copperman Triathlon

August 5	Michigan Iron Industry Museum - History of Blaney Park
August 9	Wells State Park - Corn Roast
August 9	Fayette Historic State Park - Fayette Heritage Day, including Children's Sack Race
August 9	Wells State Park - Corn Roast Potluck
August 9	Tahquamenon Falls State Park - 2014 Tahqua Trail Run
August 9	Baraga State Park - Rec 101: Intro to Kayaking
August 9	Van Riper State Park - Smokey in the Park
August 10	Van Riper State Park - Meteors & S'mores
August 12	Michigan Iron Industry Museum - Lost and Found: Historic Structures in the U.P.
August 15	Baraga State Park - Meteors & S'mores
August 16	Baraga State Park - Baraga County Kids OUT-FIT
August 16	Van Riper State Park - 5th Annual Moosic & Arts Festival
August 19	Michigan Iron Industry Museum - Locking Through the Soo, 1796 to Today
August 23	Van Riper State Park - Rec 101: Kayaking
August 23	Van Riper State Park - Rec 202: Kayaking
August 31	Wells State Park - Cedar River Bridge Walk

Upcoming U.P. Recreation/Sporting Shows

July 24-27	National Trappers Convention & Outdoor Expo, Escanaba (VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!)
August 11-17	U.P. State Fair, Escanaba (SIGN-UP TO VOLUNTEER AT THE DNR POCKET PARK!)
August 30	Marquette Marathon (Michigan Iron Industry Museum is starting point for Half Marathon)
September 18-21	Toyota Bassmaster Angler of the Year Championship, Escanaba, Bays De Noc

Biodiversity Update: There has been no new information since the March Joint and April EUPCAC meetings.

June Natural Resources Commission Meeting

NRC Meeting Summary by Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

Following is a recap of happenings at the Natural Resources Committee meeting in Lansing on June 12th.

The meeting began with the Policy Committee on Finance and Administration. Erik Eklund from the Finance and Operations Division gave an update on the DNR Budget. The budget, which promises significant investment in natural resources, received final passage from the Legislature today. A separate note on the outcome of the budget will be coming to you from the director once it is signed by the governor and has become law. But today's legislative action is great news for the department and for citizens who value natural resources in Michigan.

Finance Chief Sharon Schafer, along with Eric Sink from the Finance Division, gave the committee a primer on Pittman-Robertson funding. Established in 1937, the Pittman-Robertson program levies a federal excise tax on hunting equipment -- firearms, ammo, bows, quivers, broad heads, pistols, handguns and arrow shafts. Revenue from that tax is then granted to states, including Michigan. Together with the Dingell-Johnson program, a similar tax applied to fishing equipment, Pittman-Robertson is a key source of funding for natural resources management in the United States. Michigan has received \$303.5 million in Pittman Robertson dollars since 1937, ranking us fourth among states in revenues received from the program. In 2014 alone, we are slated to receive \$25 million. This is one of the reasons the hunters and anglers who contribute to these funds with their tax dollars and license purchases are so critical to conservation across the country.

Deputy Director Bill Moritz discussed the types of data the department hopes to collect regarding the significant economic impact of natural resources in Michigan. The department is looking to develop better numbers on the economic impact of natural resources and wants to better communicate that impact to Michigan citizens.

Next, the Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries met. Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter updated the committee on an Aquatic Invasive Species Landing Blitz that Fisheries conducted last weekend with the Department of Environmental Quality. Staff demonstrated boat-cleaning techniques and helped educate the public and raise awareness about the important problem of aquatic hitchhikers. Jim talked, too, about Free Fishing weekend, which occurred last weekend and was a great success. June 12-14 is the Grand American Fish Rodeo in Lansing, another great fishing event. The long-awaited draw-down of the Golden Lotus impoundment on the Pigeon River began in May, Jim reported, following a court settlement regarding that dam that was approved in April. Finally, the Department of Community Health has completed its analysis of the impact of the 2010 Enbridge oil spill on the Kalamazoo River, finding no lasting human health impacts from the spill. This is great news for this popular recreational corridor.

Wildlife Chief Russ Mason Russ told the committee about the Upper Peninsula Habitat Workgroup. This group will act in an advisory capacity to assist the department with recommendations on how to achieve more sustainable conservation of the 80 percent of deer wintering complexes that exist on private lands. He also told the committee about a technical change to the Fall Turkey Management Units that adds add Beaver Island, which had been removed in a clerical error. Russ also discussed proposals regarding trapping on dams and deer management assistance permits. The Wildlife Division is reviewing the UP Regional Deer Advisory Team and the frequency of meetings, travel required and topics discussed to see if that process -- which is working well -- can be improved.

Barb Avers of the Wildlife Division updated the committee on early migratory game bird regulations. Significantly, Michigan will likely have an opportunity this fall for a teal season, Barb said, the first one in Michigan in 40 years. The department will recommend a teal season from Sept. 1 through Sept. 7. This would be an experimental season and would be evaluated over a three-year period.

Brian Frawley of Wildlife reported on the results of the 2013 Deer Harvest Survey Report. In total, 712,404 people purchased a deer license in 2013. Deer licenses were up 1 percent in 2013 over 2012. Mentored Youth Hunt licenses were up a significant 20 percent during that same period. Despite the slight increase on over-all licenses in the last year, the ten-year trend shows a 10 percent decline in licenses, Brian said. However, regulations changes have helped boost the number of youth hunters by 30,215 since 2006, a welcome trend for hunter recruitment. This year saw lower hunting success (43 percent in 2013 versus 46 percent in 2012) and an 8 percent decline in the same period in deer harvested, perhaps related to a severe late-winter in the UP in 2013.

Brent Rudolph and Ashley Autenrieth from Wildlife talked about proposed antlerless deer license quotas. The long harsh winter will result in low over-winter survival and productivity in deer populations, especially in the UP where this year's winter followed a severe late winter the previous year. The result will be a reduction in antlerless quota recommendations from the department for 2014-2016, as follows:

-- Upper Peninsula: Decrease quota by 70 percent. (Here all but 3 of 22 DMUs will be closed, based on action by the commission today).

-- Northern Lower Peninsula: Decrease quota by 3 percent.

-- Southern Lower Peninsula: Decrease quota 10 percent.

During the report from Director Keith Creagh to the Committee of the Whole, Parks Chief Ron Olson told the commission about receiving the Governor's Historic Preservation Award for work his division did on rehabilitating the Lake Michigan Beach House at Ludington State Park. Ron also updated the commission on progress at the Outdoor Adventure Center at the refurbished Globe Building in Detroit. The building is nearing completion and the department will assume ownership soon. Marketing Chief Kristin Phillips told the committee about a recent trip the World Fishing Journal television show made to Michigan. The journal recorded Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter accompanying Gov. Rick Snyder on a fishing trip on the Detroit River. The show, which appears on the World Fishing Network, will be a great opportunity to showcase the state's world-class fisheries. Kristin also updated the commission on the newly appointed Wildlife Council. The Council will be charged with overseeing the campaign to educate Michigan citizens about the importance of hunting and fishing in natural resources management. Money generated by a dollar surcharge on hunting and fishing licenses under the new license structure will fund this effort.

Forestry Chief Bill O'Neill talked about this year's fire season, which has been mild compared to last year. There have been 135 fires this year, compared to 174 during the same time period last year. This is the result of the late spring.

One notable fire this year broke out at a Co-Gen plant near Grayling. A U.S. Forest Service CL-415 water bomber helped extinguish the blaze -- with 22 water drops -- keeping the fire from burning out of control. Those efforts contained the fire to 10 acres. Timber sales are up, Bill said, with April the highest revenue month ever in timber sales from state-managed public land, generating \$5.43 million in revenue.

Mary Uptigrove of the Minerals Management Section told the commission about the May 1 Oil and Gas Lease Auction, which raised nearly \$400,000 for investment in public recreation in Michigan.

Director Keith Creagh recognized Finance Chief Sharon Schafer for receiving the Financial Manager of the Year award from the Greater Lansing Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants. Steve Sutton of Real Estate told the commission about a recent successful land auction of six parcels of land in Ogemaw County.

The Shikar Safari Club gave its Officer of the Year Award to Officer Greg Patten, a 28-year veteran of the Law Enforcement Division. Officers for this award are selected by their peers for bravery, superior accomplishment and high character that goes above and beyond the call of duty. Chief Hagler praised Officer Patten for his knowledge and expertise. Officer Patten has also this year received Officer of the Year awards from the Law Enforcement Division and the Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers.

Next, the Safari Club International presented its Biologist of the Year Award to Dr. Steve Schmitt, who has worked for the department since 1978. Steve has led the diagnostic lab since 1996 and was praised for his knowledge and ability to handle difficult situations with thoughtfulness and balance. Among other things, Steve was closely involved with the capture and transfer of moose to the Upper Peninsula in 1985 and 1987.

The NRC approved regulations for the upcoming deer season, including:

- Deer management units (DMU) that will be open for antlerless deer hunting.
- Use of rifles with straight-walled cartridges in the shotgun zone.
- Deer baiting and feeding.
- Muzzleloader season and early and late archery seasons.
- Hunter's choice options in the Upper Peninsula and DMU 487.
- DMU boundaries.
- Elimination of the crossbow stamp.

The commission also approved furbearer regulations.

The director approved the results of the May 1 Oil and Gas Lease Auction. In addition, he approved nine land transactions.

Legislative Report by Trevor VanDyke, Director, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

- **PA 145 of 2014 (SB 869) – Provides Flexibility in Establishing the Bass Season Dates – Sen. Hansen:** This act amends section 48716 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to eliminate the prescribed statutory open season dates for black bass.
- **PA 146 of 2014 (SB 59) – Expands Deadline for Landowners to Transfer from CF to QF– Sen. Booher:** This act amend Section 51108 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow landowners until September 1, 2015, to withdraw forestland from the classification of commercial forest (CF) in order to enter the qualified forest (QF) program without penalty.
- **PA 147 of 2014 (HB 5191) – Remove ORV Helmet Requirement for Private Property Owner on Own Land – Rep. Rendon:** This act amends sections 81133 and 81147 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to exempt individuals 18 years and older from the helmet requirement for operating or riding an ORV on property they own, are a family member of the owner and reside on the property, or when they are an invited guest of the property owner. This exemption does not apply to individuals under the age of 16; and, an ORV operator or passenger between the ages of 16 and 18 would require parental or guardian consent to operate or ride an ORV without a helmet.

- **SB 613 – Allows for Salvaging of Game Killed, or Injured and Euthanized, Following a Collision with a Motor Vehicle – Sen. Booher:** This bill seeks to add Section 40115 to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow individuals to possess game killed, or injured and euthanized, following a collision with a motor vehicle without the need to possess a valid license or permit.
 - This bill is currently before the House Committee on Natural Resources.
 - The Administration has concerns, but has not taken a position on this legislation at this time.
- **SB 759 – Removes the Prohibition on a Person Holding a Fur Dealer’s License from Also Holding a License to Trap Beaver – Sen. Casperson:** This bill seeks to amend section 42501 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow a person who holds a fur dealer’s license to now also hold a license to trap beaver.
 - This bill was presented to the Governor for his consideration.
 - The Administration supports this legislation.
- **SB 774 – FY 2015 DNR Budget – Sen. Michael Green:** The General Fund Target agreement between the Executive, House, and Senate allocated \$48.6 million to the DNR, of which \$43.8 million is ongoing and \$4.75 million is one-time. This General Fund allocation represents \$23.5 million in new investments, of which \$18.75 million is ongoing and \$4.75 million is one-time.
 - Ongoing Investments - \$18.75 million GF:**
 - Invasive Species: Added \$5 million GF (\$1 million less than Exec)
 - Forest Economy/Wildfire Protection: Added \$3.92 million GF (\$80,000 less than Exec)
 - State Park Infrastructure: Added \$3.75 million GF; \$12.25 million total (same as Exec)
 - Conservation Officers: Added \$3.5 million GF (same as Exec)
 - Non-Motorized Trails: Added \$2.5 million GF (same as Exec)
 - Great Lakes Research Vessel Chinook: Added \$1 million GF; \$2 million total (same as Exec)
 - Hart-Montague Trail: Added \$530,000 GF (NEW)
 - Cormorant Population Mitigation: Increased by \$50,000 GF (NEW)
 - Michigan Conservation Corps/Summer Youth: Reduced by \$1.5 million GF (\$2.5 million less than Exec)
 - One-Time Investments - \$4.75 million GF:**
 - River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation: Added \$2 million GF (NEW)
 - Flint River Dike Repair: Added \$1 million GF (NEW)
 - City of Alma/Alma College Public Safety Land Improvements: Added \$1 million GF (NEW)
 - Hart-Montague Trail: Added \$470,000 GF (NEW)
 - Saginaw River Feasibility Study: Added \$280,000 GF (NEW)

The full House and full Senate are required to vote on it before it can be presented to the Governor for his consideration.
- **SB’s 795-797 & 799-800 – Increases Penalties for Prohibited Species Violations and Adds Additional Prohibited Species – Sen’s. Kowall, Meekhof, Pavlov, Green, Casperson, Walker, Moolenaar, and Hansen:** These bills seek to amend various sections of the Michigan Compiled Laws to increase penalties for violations of introduction of prohibited, restricted, genetically engineered or nonnative aquatic species and also includes “insect” and “aquatic plant” in the prohibited list. To include additional criminal penalties; forfeiture of property; suspension or revocation of licenses or permits.
 - These bills were referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
 - The Administration supports this legislation.
- **SB’s 873, 875, 876,877, HBs 5553 & 5559 – Provides for Pure Michigan Trails, Water Trails and Trail Towns – Sen’s. Moolenaar, Meekhof, Hildenbrand, Hansen and Casperson & Rep’s. Franz and Pagel:** These bills seek to amend various sections of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow for the designation, definition, construction, operation and funding of Pure Michigan Trails, Pure Michigan Water Trails and Pure Michigan Trail Towns.
 - These bills were referred to the full House for consideration.
 - The Administration supports this legislation.
- **HB 5226 – Expands Crop Damage Permits to Include Bear– Rep. McBroom:** This bill seeks to amend Section 40114 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to include bear as a species for which a crop damage permit can be issued. The bill establishes specific deadlines for responding to a request for a permit and also requires that only a person with a valid bear hunting license shall be allowed to shoot the nuisance bear.
 - This bill was referred to the full Senate for consideration.

- The Administration is neutral on this legislation at this time.
- **HB 5361 – Allows Hunting from a Personal Assistive Mobility Device – Rep. Smiley:** This bill seeks to amend sections 40111 and 81133 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow individuals, who possess a valid permit for hunting from a standing vehicle, to transport and possess an uncased loaded shot gun, if the action is open, and to also discharge the firearm from a personal assistive mobility device (PAMD) to take game.
 - This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
 - The Administration supports this legislation.
- **HB 5432 – Provides for a Change in the Definition of Native Swine– Rep. MacMaster:** This bill seeks to amend sections 41301 and 41302 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to restrict livestock from being added or deleted to the list of prohibited species; it adds native swine as a type of livestock and defines native swine to mean, “swine born and raised in this state or legally imported into this state.”
 - This bill was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.
 - The Administration is opposed to this legislation.
- ****SBs 963-966 – Provides for a Change in the Definition of a Firearm– Sen’s Hildenbrand, Pavlov, Hune, and Jones:** These bills seek to modify the statutory definitions of “firearm” to exclude guns that fire a projectile by spring, gas, or air. These bills could affect several current regulations regarding taking of game.
 - This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.
 - The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

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

- The Graymont Inc. Land Transaction Application (LTA) to acquire more than 10,000 acres of state forest land in Mackinac County remains under review. The case is scheduled for discussion at the June 19 Land Exchange Review Committee (LERC) meeting. The LTA and several supporting documents are located at: <http://www.michigan.gov/graymontproposal>.
- Forest inventory field work will be wrapping up on the 2016 YOE compartments within the next month. 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 house in the eastern UP (EUP) is for the Sault FMU in September.
- 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 will be an internal audit in the Shingleton FMU in July. 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. To address the CARs, a Plan of Action has been developed and submitted to the certification auditors. Potential areas to address the requirements of the certification standards have been assembled and are being reviewed by DNR staff, with a public review of the potential areas to occur later this summer.
- Planting this spring in the EUP resulted in 2,000,000 trees on 2000 acres. This represents an investment of \$375,300.00 in the forests of the future. In the Duck Lake Fire area a grand total of 916,000 jack pine trees were recently planted in 4 days; 678,000 of which were planted through Kirtland’s Warbler (KW) funding. (Last year 1,001 acres in the Duck Lake fire area were planted with 1.2 million trees.) Some portions of the fire area are regenerating naturally. Both plantation and natural regeneration success will be monitored across the entire Duck Lake fire area in the coming years.

- Forest Regeneration surveys are being conducted by forestry staff this spring and will continue into the summer. These surveys are conducted in areas that were harvested in the past 5 years to ensure the forests are successfully regenerating.
- Timber harvesting activity has picked up with the onset of spring, and approximately 30 sales are active in the EUP at this time. As of May 7th, we have 310 open timber sale contracts in the EUP. This represents 44,888 acres of timber valued at approximately \$26 million.
- In the EUP 31 timber sales were offered for bid in April and May; 28 of these sold. There is strong interest in sales located on upland sites. The sales not selling were lowland conifers with winter only access and winter roads needed. Approximately 20-30 firewood permits have been issued since April 1st.
- As road restrictions have been lifted, staff are gearing up to do project work on roads and culverts, along with ORV restoration work. Many of these projects are identified through our Resource Damage Reporting system (RDR). The projects are being prioritized to start making repairs as funding allows.
- There are plans to conduct 10 prescribed burns in the EUP this summer; several of which are for wildlife habitat. If completed, these burns will total well over 2,000 acres. While 2 of the burns are expected to be completed this week, due to the long winter and wet spring, several of the burns will have to wait until late summer or early fall.
- Fire danger has recently become elevated and FRD is staffing accordingly. There have been small fires throughout the state this spring fire season, with 3 non-stat fires and 2 stat fires in the EUP so far. In Chippewa County, fire personnel assisted Law Division with the investigation of a debris burning fire that destroyed 3 mobile homes, a two-car garage and a vehicle.
- The EUP sent eight fire qualified personnel downstate this spring to conduct prescribed burns, mainly for wildlife habitat. Each person spent at least one week helping with prescribed burns in southern Michigan near Plainwell, Rose Lake, Allegan and Cass City.
- Under land use, the Adopt-a-Forest program maintains a listing of illegal trash sites on state forest land. This spring volunteers picked up 8 of these trash sites in the Newberry FMU. The Sault FMU is working on completion of a long term lease for Scott Point Day Use site with Newton Township.
- Forest Resource Division held five training sessions across the state for resource professionals that participate in the Forest Stewardship Program; one of the meetings was held in Newberry. One hundred eighteen people attended the five meetings. Resource professionals were provided information on the Forest Stewardship Program and other federal cost-share programs that their clients may be eligible for. Mike Smalligan, FRD's new Forest Stewardship Coordinator, participated in the meetings.
- In May, representatives from public land agencies in the EUP met for the annual Eastern Upper Peninsula Partners in Ecosystem Management (EUPPEM, revisited) meeting. The group met to discuss broad landscape level issues that occur across the EUP. This year's meeting focused on the ongoing effects of Beech Bark Disease (BBD) across ownerships.

EUP Wildlife Division: Terry Minzey, Wildlife Supervisor (Prepared by Kristie Sitar, Wildlife Biologist)

- **Spring wildlife surveys:** Wildlife division staff survey numerous species during spring to get a rough index of population levels. Species surveyed annually during April and May include American woodcock, ruffed grouse and sharp-tailed grouse. Kirtland's warbler is also being surveyed in the Upper Peninsula this year during the month of June. Several surveys were delayed this year due to the very late spring and roads not being accessible. Survey results are currently being analyzed and summaries will be available soon.

- **Wildlife seasons and application periods:** Spring turkey season recently ended in the UP and the fall turkey application period is just around the corner (July 1- August 1). Bear and elk application periods have recently closed and drawing results will be available online beginning June 30th. Antlerless deer quotas will go before the NRC for approval soon and the antlerless deer application period is coming up July 15th-August 15th.

The arrival of summer weather has staff outdoors working diligently on a variety of projects:

- **YOE 2016 Compartment planning:** Staff in all areas of the east UP are working closely with Forest Resource Division staff to determine the management direction of state land parcels. Joint decisions are made that benefit timber harvest and wildlife habitat protection, enhancement and creation. Each year, one tenth of all state land undergoes this careful scrutiny to evaluate management options. Treatments are presented at open house meetings for the public in each of the State Forest Management Units prior to final decisions.
- **More Bang for your Buck projects:** Staff are tackling some Bang for your Buck projects by planting trees and various other plants for wildlife benefit including oak, apple, and wild calla. In addition, opening enhancement to benefit wild turkey and white-tailed deer (as well as other species that utilize openings) will be occurring in upcoming summer months.
- **Goose banding efforts:** Canada goose banding will begin in late June across the entire UP. Banding efforts are important for estimating harvest and survival rates, in addition to studies of harvest distribution. In addition, Canada goose banding is needed throughout the Mississippi Flyway (including Michigan) to properly assess the impacts of anticipated liberalization of hunting season frameworks.
- **Fawns and other young wildlife:** The winter of 2013-2014 was extreme in the east UP and impacts to deer are anticipated, including the expectation of fewer fawns being born this summer. People are reminded to leave unattended young wildlife alone. Oftentimes the adult is nearby or has left the young alone for a certain reason. For instance, adult deer will leave fawns alone for the entire day when they are young so they will not draw a scent to them. Fawns are born without much scent which enables them to survive predation when they are very young. Young fawns and other wildlife are better left for the adult deer to care for them than being raised in a pen by a rehabilitator.

Marketing & Outreach Division: Jon Spieles, Statewide Interpretive Manager

- Education staff have wrapped up the spring school program season (mid-April through the end of May) hosting almost 30,000 school children for field trips and conservation education programming at 10 DNR Visitor Centers around the state.
- 52 Seasonal Interpreters (State Workers) have been recruited, hired and trained to support Visitor Center operations around the state.
- The Explorer Program is in full swing at 45 State Parks around the state. Seasonal Interpreters were hired and spent a week training at the Ralph McMullan Center in Roscommon learning the fundamentals of leading all kinds of nature-based campground programs for summer visitors. Through the summer, this group of energetic employees will present about 3,300 programs for more than 50,000 visitors.
- The Pocket Park at the State Fair Grounds in Escanaba is open for business with 1,500 bluegill already in the pond. Like every other year, we are looking for volunteers to help teach archery, shooting sports and fishing during the State Fair Week August 11-17.
- Marketing and Outreach Division has recently wrapped up seven shipboard education trips on Lake Superior out of Marquette Harbor. The trips were funded with private and non-profit dollars and designed to connect 4th grade students to Lake Superior and the Great Lakes.

- “Arrows Away” - The department’s archery education program offers introductory programming every week through Labor Day weekend at 10 sites around the state. Details can be found at Michigan.gov/arrowsaway
- Detroit River Days (June 20-22) The DNR, through Marketing and Outreach Division will offer an archery experience and other programming and information to the huge River Days audience.
- The 2014 Academy of Natural Resources is set to take place July 13-18 at the Ralph A. McMullan (RAM) Center in Roscommon where we will be teaching teachers how to engage students around conservation themes. Make sure teachers that you know are aware of this opportunity. DNR is partnering with Safari Club International again this year to provide scholarships. Ferris State University will provide continuing education credits for interested teachers.
- “Hook, Line and Sinkers” programs are again placing a weekly emphasis on fishing this summer at more than twenty sites around the state. Details can be found at: michigan.gov/hooklineandsinker
- We continue to work with Parks and Recreation Division to develop exhibits, messaging and programming for the Outdoor Adventure Center in Detroit. The building is now open as a DNR Service Center and will be open for programming by spring 2015.
- Twenty five new schools have been added to the Salmon in the Classroom program for the 2014-2015 school year bringing the new total to well over 200 classrooms. Teachers new to the program must complete a mandatory training program before the fall.

Parks & Recreation Division: Tom Paquin, Eastern Supervisor

- Regarding Mr. Caswell’s concern at the April EUPCAC meeting, of the Newberry to Rexton ORV route using CR403, the designated route will come from Cut River to Canada Lakes trail head and then they will connect to the designated city route which includes CR403.
- Fayette Historic State Park: Projects include a kick-off meeting for work on toilet/shower, sanitation station & sewage treatment project, 50% review complete on Snail Shell Harbor Project, visitor center bathroom remodel complete, finish remodel of interior of Contact Station except for floor covering, and hazard tree removal. A ranger position has been filled. 35 campers for Memorial Weekend, which equates to about average use.
- Brimley State Park: A sewer line repair project has been completed the sewer system is up and running. The explorer guide has been putting on programs for Brimley and Pickford schools. Up to 250 students have attended. Brimley State Park campground attendance was high for Memorial Day weekend.
- Indian Lake/Palms Book: The shoreline erosion project for Indian Lake is scheduled to begin in 2014 and is in the engineering phase. The Palms Book toilet building replacement project is now funded and is in the engineering phase; it is scheduled to be completed before the 2015 use season. We are currently replacing the waterline at the West Shore Unit. All short term workers were hired for the season. Camping for the season is down mainly due to the weather & the late opening of the campgrounds.
- Muskallonge Lake: Lake Superior shoreline erosion continues to be a high priority for staff. Safety fence has been installed along the bluff at the Headquarters and informational signage put up. The gas storage shed has been demolished. The archeological study of the proposed new Park Headquarters site should be starting soon. All seasonal summer staff is hired and working. There will be an ORV Safety 101 class at the Park day use on June 8, 2014. Camping was down slightly for the Memorial Day Holiday weekend. But overall has been average for the spring thus far. There has been a site meeting at Headquarters Lake and some processes have begun to re-opening this location as an equestrian campground.

- Newberry Field Office: A new skid pier was installed at Munuscong River BAS. The heavy snow load this winter has resulted in some major limb and tree clean up this spring on several BAS roads and State Forest Campgrounds. The major maintenance crew has been busy with this clean-up and removal of hazardous trees. A maintenance dredge is scheduled for Milakokia Lake BAS the end of June. All seasonal staff is hired and working. State Forest Campground use for this unit has been slow thus far. BAS use on the Manistique Lakes has been fair. High water this spring has created some challenges at the river BAS's, especially McPhee's Landing on the Tahquamenon River. The parking area at this site, at one point, was several feet under water.
- Straits State Park:
 - Father Marquette Unit: Removed the old shingles and replaced with new shingles on the Father Marquette Memorial. Removed the 35 year old Juniper bushes that were overgrown all around the Memorial Building. Then the tall spires and fascia boards were stained. We are currently repairing and staining one of the Kiosks in the parking lot.
 - We are currently painting the exterior on North #1 campground toilet building. We had an underground water line leak in the lower West campground that was repaired. The Straits State Park had 75 camps over the Memorial Day weekend.
 - Both units, Straits and Detour Harbor, are bringing on the Short Term Workers and held their annual training sessions. The Camis computers are running at both units and the bugs are being worked out. Main duty at this time is grass cutting. The bugs in all units are terrible.
 - State Forest Campgrounds: Two wells had to be repaired. One at Hog Island and the other at Little Brevort Lake. The use has been about the same as last year. We had 20 camps over the Memorial Day weekend. The piers were pushed in at all of our access sites and the toilets are cleaned from over the winter. Several had to be pumped out.
 - Lime Island: Crews from both the Straits and Detour Harbor have been busy taking down the window shutters, cleaning the inside of the cabins and cutting grass. The John Deere Gator and also John Deere 725 lawn mower are broke down. The new boat is working good. The crew stays dry on trips over and the boat can handle the wind and waves.
 - We have had many meetings. The Father Marquette Initiative meeting. The park toilet buildings upgrade. A snowmobile meeting in Hulbert. The park management planning meeting for the 10 and 20 year plans. And staff meetings.

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

- Field Units (Steve Scott, Unit Manager): The field season has finally arrived and crews are now out conducting surveys. So far this spring we have surveyed the following waters in the Eastern U.P.: Lake Independence, Grand Marie Harbor, Sid Lake, Pratt Lake, and Brockies Pond. We have also transferred walleye fry to our production rearing ponds. This year we are operating two ponds in the Au Train area.

Even though we experienced a winter for the record books, we did not observe any fish die-offs this spring in the Eastern U.P. Fishing reports have been favorable this spring for the most part so it looks like the fisheries made it through the winter well.

- Marquette and Thompson Fish Hatcheries (Jan VanAmberg, Manager): No report.
- Marquette Research Station (Ed Baker, Manager): No report.

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

- Academy Graduation: On June 13th 2014, our Conservation Officer Academy graduation will occur with 23 recruits successfully completing the very extensive and intense 22 week long academy. The class started with 31 recruits and 23 made it through the training. The really exciting part of this is 3 of the PCO's Probationary Conservation Officers will be assigned to District 2 with one going to Mackinac County one to Luce County and one to Schoolcraft County.

They will now go through the FTO Field Training Officer process with senior officers for 12 additional weeks. Be sure to say hi when you see the new officers and welcome them to our area.

- Additional Co's: Law Division is very actively recruiting for the round of hiring and the planned Academy tentatively scheduled for January 2015. If you know of a good candidate have them go to the DNR website and click on becoming a Conservation Officer. We also have recruiters available to help them through the process and they can also speak with any CO to help point them in the right direction.
- Equipment: Other positive news we have a few new and very badly needed snowmobiles heading our way, the bid process is currently underway and we should have them by this fall!!
- Strategic Planning: The Division is in the process of compiling all the information and feedback that was received from the Strategic Planning Survey and it will likely take at least a few more months before we have a finished product. Again thank you to those of you that took the time to participate and give us your thoughts we gained some very valuable information and insights into what user groups are thinking and hope to see from us.

There was a request to have the raw data released that we received, at the onset of the process we assured everyone that their responses would be kept confidential therefore we cannot share their actual surveys. The finished product will be shared with everyone when it is complete. Any of the members that participated in the survey and wish to share their responses with each other may do so if they desire.

- Fishing Activity: Fishing has been very good just about everywhere the past few weeks with many people enjoying the nice weather after a very long winter. Smelt runs were rather late and short but productive while they were happening.

Below are some of the bi-weekly reports from District 2 CO's since the last CAC meeting.

- CO Jerrold Fitzgibbon was travelling west on M-28 when he observed a vehicle attempting to pass the vehicle behind him, with a vehicle coming in the other lane. All three vehicles had to brake and swerve to avoid a collision. The vehicle then attempted to pass the CO's vehicle on a hill and was alongside the CO when another vehicle appeared too close to avoid. CO Fitzgibbon had to brake and swerve off the roadway to avoid an accident. Upon immediately stopping the vehicle the CO discovered the driver's license has been suspended since the late 1990s and there was no insurance on the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO John Wenzel was checking fresh truck tracks in the snow when he heard several shotgun blasts. Officer Wenzel contacted the occupant of a truck leaving the area and located an uncased shotgun in the rear of the truck. The subject stated he had just purchased the shotgun and was testing it out. The subject was warned about transporting an uncased firearm and sent on his way.
- CO John Wenzel was checking the Gladstone shoreline when he observed three ORVs driving on a railroad track in the area. The ORVs crossed a highway and were heading to an area where ORV operation is prohibited. Officer Wenzel made contact with the ORVs and discovered that the subjects were all under the age of 15, all ORVs were displaying expired registrations and only one of the operators had attended ORV safety classes. The kids advised that all their parents knew where they were, but upon calling all the parents, it was found the kids had gone riding while the parents were still at work. The not-so-happy parents were called to the scene to retrieve their children and ORVs. The kids were warned about their violations and turned over to their parents.
- CO Jared Ferguson was checking ice shacks left at local boat launch site and left on the ice. Officer Ferguson located several without names and several with names on them. Follow-up is being done to locate the owners of the shacks.

- CO Michael Evink was called out on Easter morning to assist the Michigan State Police (MSP) and Manistique Public Safety. It appeared a few individuals had stolen two trucks and used them to tear up the state-owned Wyman Nursery and left both trucks at the site. The drivers of the trucks did extensive damage to the Nursery irrigation system and to fields. The joint investigation is ongoing.
- CO Michael Evink responded to a situation where an individual made comments to dispatchers that he was afraid he was going to hurt himself or his elderly father. Once on scene CO Evink made contact with the individual, and when a local deputy arrived, the individual was secured in the patrol car. The two officers then made contact with the father who was unhurt. The first individual was willing to check himself into hospital for evaluation.
- CO Jeff Panich observed two ice shanties on Caribou Lake, and upon walking out to the shanties, the CO discovered that the names on both shanties had been removed and they were in danger of being engulfed into the ice. The CO observed that one shanty had a name permanently written on it and then black paint was painted over the name so as to hide ownership. Fortunately for the CO, the old wood shanty allowed for the name to be read and photographed clearly. CO Panich then made contact with the person whose name was on the shanty and the suspect was amazed that the CO had located him. The suspect questioned the CO numerous times as to how he was able to identify the shanty as his, and figured a homeowner had observed him and gave the CO his name. The CO further discovered the other shanty was also owned by the suspect. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Mike Hammill made contact with a group of anglers on a local bluegill lake. While speaking with the anglers one individual started walking away toward a vehicle. When CO Hammill asked to check the angler's fishing license he provided a 2010 license. A quick check of the computer license system revealed nothing had been purchased for several years. Enforcement action was taken
- CO Kevin Postma received information of a subject who took too many bobcats. The CO was able to locate and interview the suspect, and receive a full confession that an extra bobcat was indeed harvested. Warrants are being sought in the case.
- CO Jared Ferguson and Sgt. Darryl Shann assisted Sault Tribal officers with the investigation of an illegal gill net. The investigation was turned over to Sault Tribal officers for further investigation and enforcement action.
- CO Jerrold Fitzgibbon received a complaint of a coyote in a trap after the snow melted last week. Trapping season had been closed for several weeks. Further investigation revealed three additional traps in the immediate area. CO Fitzgibbon contacted the trapper which led to an additional five traps being pulled. The traps were set in the fall before the snow arrived. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Robert Crisp responded to a complaint of two individuals catching and keeping walleye out of season on Au Train Lake. CO Crisp arrived at the area and found both subjects at the mouth of the Au Train River and in possession of three walleye. Neither subject had a good explanation for the violations. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Jeff Panich was observing anglers on the Carp River. The CO was working near the mouth of the river when he observed two men cross the river from the opposite side to the CO's location. As the anglers approached CO Panich, they yelled to him, "If you want to catch fish, go to the other side of the river." CO Panich told the men he was doing fine; at this the men explained that he needed to come and look at their fish. The CO obliged them and walked to the shore where the two men showed him two five gallon buckets of smelt. The CO told them that they seemed to be having a good night. One subject recognized the voice, and asked to see the CO's face. CO Panich lifted his hat and the man's shoulders slumped and he said, "Oh no." The other man asked what was wrong. His partner then explained that they just showed their overlimit of smelt to the "Game Warden". They both then said they knew better, since they were just checked the night before by the same CO. Enforcement action was taken.

- CO Jeff Panich was patrolling near the Carp River working late night smelt anglers, when central dispatch gave out a call of a drunken man with a gun who was in a rage. The caller reported several children in the house and feared for their safety. The CO responded, knowing that there were only two other units working that night. The officers stopped prior to the residence to figure out an approach. CO Panich was able to instruct the officers of the layout of the residence and the hazards associated with the house. The CO had contact there a few years earlier when the suspect poached three deer. This information was used to set up a perimeter for the officers' safety. Upon contact, the man appeared normal, stated he only had a "BB gun", which was located, and his four children were found sleeping in their beds. Officers cleared the scene shortly after making contact with the suspect.
- CO Mike Hammill contacted a group of ORVs that were lost and driving further away from their final destination. CO Hammill advised the group on the correct path of travel and also suggested that they pick up an ORV sticker when they come across the first gas station that sells them.
- CO Kyle Publiski came across an ORV traveling down Main Street in Hessel. Unable to see an ORV registration, CO Publiski stopped the operator and made contact. CO Publiski asked the operator if his machine was registered. The subject replied, "Yes it's on the back, but I don't have time for this, I'm in a hurry." CO Publiski walked around to the back of the ORV and located an expired registration from 2012. The operator then stated again, "I don't have time for this; I'm going to the store to get a drink!" The subject started to walk away. CO Publiski then explained to the subject that he was going to have to make time in his busy schedule to deal with operating an unregistered ORV. CO Publiski got the subject's driver's license and began issuing the operator a ticket for the violation. Figuring out that he was getting a ticket the subject became even more agitated and started yelling and making a scene. CO Publiski explained to the subject that he was going to get a ticket, but making a scene and yelling was only going to make the situation worse. The subject got the hint and was on his way after receiving his ticket.
- CO Jared Ferguson was patrolling the Eastern half of Indian Lake when he checked a fishing hole off the Copenhagen Bridge where he and Sgt. Shann had previously written tickets for fishing without a license. CO Ferguson made contact with one individual on the bank who said he was 17 years old and didn't need a license. Further investigation by CO Ferguson revealed the person was really 18 so he also provided false information and was advised even at 17 he still needed a license. Enforcement action was taken.
- COs Ferguson and Wenzel participated in the annual Honor Flight which takes veterans from Delta County airport to Washington D.C. for the day to tour the local memorials of past wars and conflicts. Ninety three veterans from WWII and the Korean War made the 18 hour total round trip and were welcomed back by a large crowd including family, friends, Senators, Representatives, and other Veterans.
- CO Ferguson attended the Hunters Safety course held at the DNR Pocket Park at the UP State Fairgrounds. Numerous volunteers stated that the students' favorite portion of the class is when local COs show up to teach.
- CO Ferguson was patrolling Little Bay De Noc on Memorial Day when he came across two individuals in a boat without proper registration. The individual stated that he was unaware he needed to register a 13 ft. boat with a motor. CO Ferguson educated the individual and enforcement action was taken.
- CO Fitzgibbon investigated a fire that had escaped a burn barrel near Sand Lake. The fire had burned a small area on the owner's property and crept onto the neighbor's property causing minor damages. It was a tough reminder of the dangers of fire in wooded areas.
- Sgt. Darryl Shann assisted Lt. Terry Short with a report of a net in the narrows on Little Bay DeNoc near Saunder's Point. The suspected net was reported by several anglers who had lost gear in the area and assumed it was from a lost net. Five hours of grappling the area found nothing.

- Sgt. Darryl Shann assisted with the Upper Peninsula Police Officer Memorial ceremony held in Escanaba on May 15th. COs John Wenzel and Mike Evink also attended. The yearly event is held in a different UP city each year, honoring fallen law enforcement officers from Michigan, Wisconsin and Canada.
- CO Mike Hammill was checking a local hotspot that has been producing some nice panfish. CO Hammill checked one angler who was doing a little too good and upon counting his catch realized that he was loading up an over limit for the afternoon. Action was taken.
- CO Mike Hammill was checking a local lake speaking with anglers and checking for fishing licenses. CO Hammill contacted one angler who had a nice mess of fish. When asked for his fishing license the angler said he had left it in his truck. The angler handed CO Hammill the correct color fishing license just several years old. Upon further checking it was determined that the angler was fishing without a license. Action was taken.
- While Patrolling Drummond Island, CO Kyle Publiski stopped two Jeeps operating on Johnswood Rd. Both Jeeps were stopped for failing to display a license plate. After further investigation it was determined that neither Jeep had been registered for several years and both were operating without insurance. Both drivers were issued tickets for their motor vehicle violations.
- COs Jeff Panich and Kyle Publiski came across a subject fishing. CO Panich asked the angler for his fishing license, which the angler explained was back at his cabin. Further investigation revealed that he had a fishing license but had a problem with his boat registration. Although the boat had valid registration stickers on both sides it came back expired since 2011 to a different subject. The angler was illegally using his valid registration from his smaller fishing boat to cheat the system and save money. After CO Publiski issued the angler a ticket for failing to register his boat, he explained the worst part was going to be explaining the ticket to his wife, who told him not to put the registration stickers on the larger boat.
- While out fishing, CO Kyle Publiski received a RAP complaint about a Jeep ripping up the shore line of Maud Bay on the St Mary's River. Unable to get to the complaint right away CO Publiski called MSP Trooper Rambo to assist. The Trooper found the vehicle stuck in the mud and abandoned. After clearing the water and checking in service, CO Publiski received another call from the complainant stating the subjects were now trying to get the Jeep unstuck and leave the area. Arriving on scene, CO Publiski made contact with the Jeep owner who was issued a ticket for illegal operation of a motor vehicle in a wetland.