



Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: December 2015

This documentation is provided by Michigan DNR staff as supplemental information to the Eastern UPCAC members via email on November 25, 2015.

Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator: Stacy Welling Haughey

DNR Public Meetings

December 3	Eastern UP Citizens Advisory Council Meeting, Newberry, 6:30pm
December 7	UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Sagola (Sagola Comm. Bldg), 6:00pm CST
December 8	UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Bergland (Antonio's Restaurant), 12:00pm
December 8	UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Pelkie (Ottawa Sportsmen's Club), 4:00pm
December 9	UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Marquette (DNR Marquette Office), 6:00pm
December 10	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing
December 10	UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Escanaba (DNR Pocket Park), 6:00pm
January 14	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing
January 21	Western UP Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting, Baraga, 5:30pm

U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities

Stay tuned for more winter activities held in our State Parks!

December 26	Porcupine Mountains State Park Lantern-Lit Ski & Snowshoe Hike
December 31	Porcupine Mountains State Park Shoe Year's Hike
January 9	Straits State Park Stomp the Park Snowshoe Event
January 9	Van Riper State Park Lantern Lit Snowshoe Hike
February 6	Tahquamenon Falls State Park Guided Snowshoe Hike
February 13	Tahquamenon Falls State Park Lantern-Lit Ski and Stroll
February 20	Tahquamenon Falls State Park Lantern-Lit Ski and Stroll
February 27	Tahquamenon Falls State Park Guided Snowshoe Hike & Lantern-Lit Ski & Stroll

Upcoming U.P. Recreation Events

For a host of events around the UP, go to www.uptravel.com

January 9	Tahquamenon Country Sled Dog Race, Newberry, www.tcsdr.org
January 29-31	Paradise Winter Carnival, Paradise, http://paradisemichigan.org/calendar.html
February 6	International 500 Snowmobile Race, www.i-500.com
February 11-14	Snowsfest – Les Cheneaux Islands, www.lescheneaux.net
February 11-14	Labatt Blue UP Pond Hockey Championship, St. Ignace, 800-338-6660
February 19-20	Top of the Lake Snowmobile Show & Ride, Naubinway, www.snomobilemuseum.com
February 20	Tahquamenon Snowshoe Race, Paradise www.greatelakesendurance.com
February 25-28	Paradise Ice Festival, Paradise, http://paradisemichigan.org/

Recent DNR Press Releases

For full details, go to: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnrpressroom>

- Showcasing the DNR: Working to eliminate CWD in Michigan (11/20/15)
- Iron Belle Trail second-round grants now available (11/17/15)

- ❑ U.P. Focus: Firearm deer season opens with improvement over last year (11/16/15)
- ❑ Conservation officers remind hunters to follow off-road vehicle laws (11/13/15)
- ❑ DNR check stations ready for firearm deer season in the U.P. (11/12/15)
- ❑ U.P. Focus: DNR launches 'Keep the U.P. CWD Free!' campaign (11/10/15)
- ❑ Showcasing the DNR: National Guide unit's training helps trails (11/9/15)
- ❑ DNR Bear Forum to meet Dec. 9 in Mackinac County (11/9/15)
- ❑ NRC approves special Lake Gogebic walleye regulations (11/6/15)
- ❑ New fishing regulations adopted at Thursday's NRC meeting (11/6/15)
- ❑ State to host Great Lakes aquaculture meeting Nov. 19 (11/5/15)
- ❑ Summit continues discussion on adding value to Michigan's forest products industry (10/30/15)
- ❑ Planning meetings on future of Ontonagon's waterfront set for Nov. 5-7 (10/30/15)
- ❑ U.S. Forest Service, DNR sign Good Neighbor Authority agreement (10/28/15)
- ❑ NRC's Richardson talks deer hunting, other topics on 'The Ryan Report' (10/28/15)
- ❑ DNR reminds deer hunters of license structure (10/26/15)

Grant Contacts

For other grant information, to go: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-58225---,00.html>

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant	Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov
Recreation Passport Grant	Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov
Aquatic Habitat Grant	Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, parkerk4@michigan.gov
Michigan Invasive Species Grant	Kammy Frayre, 517-284-5970, frayrek1@michigan.gov
Wildlife Habitat Grant	Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, parkerk4@michigan.gov
U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant	Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, scullonh@michigan.gov

Western UPCAC Update

The **WUPCAC Meeting** was held on November 9th at the Crystal Falls Township Hall. Agenda items included:

- U.P. Trails Program Update by Ron Yesney, DNR UP Trails Coordinator
- Council Agenda/Issues Survey Results by Council Member Jim Lorensen
- U.P. Wildlife Habitat Workgroup Update by Council Member George Lindquist & DNR Terry Minzey
- Chronic Wasting Disease Update/Outreach by DNR Terry Minzey & John Pepin
- Bear Season Update by DNR Terry Minzey
- Committee Reports (Trails/Recreation/Law, Forestry, Fisheries, Wildlife/Field Operations)
- DNR Response to Requested Information (Trust Fund Breakdown of Non-Motorized vs Motorized Trail Funding and Copper Harbor (State Harbor) Dock Fishing Regulation)
- 2016 Meeting Dates for Approval

The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 21 in Baraga.

November 5th Natural Resources Commission Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, PIO

The Natural Resources Commission met on November 5th in Lansing. Following are the significant actions taken:

- The Commission approved new [statewide trout, salmon, whitefish, and lake herring regulations](#), which take effect April 1, 2016.
- The Commission approved [special fishing regulations for warmwater species on select waters](#). This order, which affects the Ontonagon River in Ontonagon County, takes immediate effect. The commission chose Option B in the

order. That option limits harvest of walleye to no more than one walleye of 25 inches or greater in the daily limit of five.

- The Commission approved [fishing regulations for the Sylvania Wilderness Area in Gogebic County](#). The order takes effect April 1, 2016.
- The Commission approved [criteria for selection of trout streams with gear restrictions](#). This order, unchanged from current regulations, takes immediate effect.
- The Commission approved [gear restrictions for fishing](#), which take effect April 1, 2016.
- The Commission approved new [possession limits for fish](#). The limits take effect April 1, 2016.
- The director approved a [comprehensive resource management plan for Drummond Island](#).
- The director also approved four land transactions. Included among those transactions was the [sale of 600 acres of state-managed public land in Grayling for the new Arauco North America particleboard plant](#).

The day began with a meeting of the Marketing, Partnership, Youth & Outreach Advisory Committee. Jody Simoes of Marketing and Jason Fleming of Parks told the committee about a recent electronic survey of parks customers. Of 228,814 survey invitations sent, more than 28,000 responded. Most respondents (67 percent) stay in motor homes or trailer or pop-up campers, and the average stay for campers is four nights. The top consideration for people in choosing a park is the park quality, including amenities, cleanliness and staff. Satisfaction with Parks staff is high, and 88 percent say the over-all park experience is "good" or "very good."

Marketing Chief Kristin Phillips talked about an initiative this year to partner with convention and visitors bureaus to promote fishing. Using postcards, the department's website, e-mails and Facebook ads, the department targeted nonresident anglers in specific states to try to increase out-of-state fishing license sales. The campaign promoted the discounted annual non-resident fishing license. The program provided valuable data by which to benchmark future fishing promotion efforts, Kristin said. The department plans to expand the promotion to other regions, and expand beyond fishing to other recreational pursuits such as trails.

Kristin also updated the committee on a number of other marketing initiatives. The department is promoting deer hunting, as a tradition and for the benefits it brings to the Michigan economy. The department is undertaking an awareness campaign in the Upper Peninsula on chronic wasting disease. The department recently celebrated the [1 millionth camp night this year](#), the first time we have hit that milestone in three years. She talked about the use the department is making of a new social media platform, Periscope. The recent [record smallmouth bass](#) went viral on social media, Kristin said, garnering more than half-a-million views on Facebook. The department is [undertaking a fun event to promote men's health](#) by holding a beard competition among staff during the month of November. The winner will be announced at a Detroit Pistons game. Kristin also updated the committee on the size of the audiences our messages reach. We saw a total of 18.3 million Web hits for Fiscal year 2015. Our Facebook page has 89,000 likes. Our email subscribers through GovDelivery have topped the 1 million mark.

During Director Keith Creagh's report to the Committee of the Whole, Parks Chief Ron Olson said camping is up 8.9 percent this year, and we are up double digits in camping in state forest campgrounds. Recreation Passport sales are up to 30.4 percent of registered vehicles. Parks recently conducted snowmobile meetings with all regions of the state. John Cherry of the Executive Division updated the Commission on the department scorecard, There has been positive movement on measures of employee engagement. The department is making progress on Lean Process improvements, John said.

Mark Sweatman, director of the Office of Minerals Management, reported to the Commission on the Oct. 28 Oil and Gas Lease Auction. This was a relatively small lease auction in terms of number of acres nominated and number of acres leased. In fact 58 percent of the properties available for auction did not receive bids. Mark said he is investigating the reasons some parcels were nominated but did not receive bids.



Ed Eisch of Fisheries Division updated the Commission on commercial net-pen aquaculture. The Quality of Life agencies have responded to proposals from two companies for commercial netpens in lakes Michigan and Huron by undertaking a review of the regulatory, economic and scientific aspects of netpens in the Great Lakes. The reviews [can be found on the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's website](#). A public meeting [has been scheduled for Nov. 19 in Gaylord](#), and other opportunities are available for public input on these reports. The departments are accepting public comment through Dec. 4.

Erik Eklund of Finance and Operations gave commissioners a report on the budget process. Creating the department budget is a 14-month task, Erik said, that involves multiple steps, starting with the State Budget Office and ending with the Legislature and governor. Natural Resources receives just .4 percent of Michigan's over-all \$9.9 billion General Fund budget. Ninety percent of the department's budget comes from restricted sources of revenue, whether federal or state sources. The DNR's 2016 budget is \$404 million. The department has been successful in increasing the General Fund contribution to our budget, seeing General Fund rise by more than 100 percent between fiscal years 2013 and 2016.

Ray Rustem of Marketing and Outreach told commissioners about Sportsmen Against Hunger. Dean Hall of Sportsmen Against Hunger said there has been "phenomenal" success in garnering increased donations to the program, which provides donated game – primarily venison – to families in need. Changes in the licensing process have helped increase the number and total dollar amount of donations. The program is now focused on increasing the number of participating processors, promoting venison donations and increasing hunter support for other food programs, such as food drives at sports shows.

Wildlife Chief Russ Mason gave a brief update on chronic wasting disease in deer. There are still just three cases of CWD, found in a small area of Ingham County, with all three CWD-positive deer genetically related. Deer check in the Core CWD Area is mandatory, Russ said, but once a deer is checked, hunters can take the carcass home while the animal is being tested.

Law Enforcement Chief Gary Hagler unveiled his division's strategic plan. The plan has seven goals, each with specific objectives. With the plan complete, the division is developing metrics to measure progress on these goals, Gary said. Forestry Chief Bill O'Neill talked about the [recent successful Forest Products Summit](#), which followed up on the 2013 summit called by the governor. The forest products industry in Michigan now provides \$17.8 billion in annual economic benefit to the state. Job numbers are up, exports are up and regional economies have been improved, Bill said. Bill talked about the [signing at the summit of a Good Neighbor Authority](#) with the U.S. Forest Service to improve management of federal forest lands. The Michigan Forest Products Council [gave the Tuebor Award to Director Keith Creagh](#), recognizing him for his leadership in forestry. Bill also talked about the central role state-managed public forest lands played in bringing Arauco North America to Michigan. The company's particleboard plant in Grayling will provide 250 jobs to the state.

The Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs received a Partners in Conservation Award for that organization's partnership in fighting wildfires in Michigan. Bill Forbush, chief of the City of Alpena Fire Department, received the award on behalf of the Association.

November 2015 Legislative Update - Trevor VanDyke , Director, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

SB 244 – Provides for Increased Reimbursement and Restitution Values for the Illegal Killing or Possession of Certain Game Species– Sen. Pavlov

This bill seeks to amend Section 40119 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide for increased reimbursement and restitution values for the illegal killing or possession of certain game species. These species include elk, moose, bear, eagle, hawk and waterfowl.

- This bill is currently before the Governor for consideration.

SB 245 – Provides for Increased Penalties for the Illegal Killing, Possessing, Purchasing or Selling of a Bear or an Antlered White-Tailed Deer– Sen. Zorn

This bill seeks to amend Section 40118 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide for increased penalties for the illegal killing, possessing, purchasing, or selling of a bear or an antlered white-tail deer.

- This bill is currently before the Governor for consideration.

SB 246 - Updates the Criminal Procedure Code to Reflect Poaching Penalty Updates- Sen. Zorn

This bill would make a complementary amendment to Section 13e of Chapter XVII of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by updating a reference to the applicable section of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act amended by Senate Bill 245.

- This bill is currently before the Governor for consideration.

SB 446 – Recreational Feeding Ban – Sen. Jones

This bill seeks to amend Section 40111a of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to move the sunset to 2020 of the Commission’s authority to regulate deer and elk feeding in the state.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

SB 588 – Allows Tribal Conservation Officers to Request Licenses from Individuals for Hunting, Fishing, or Fur Harvesting in the Ceded Territory- Sen. Casperson

This bill seeks to amend Section 43516 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require Tribal Conservation Officers to be in uniform, display proper credentials, and be on duty within the ceded territory. The bill also defines a Tribal Conservation Officer.

- This bill was referred to the Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

PA 185 of 2015 (HB 4239) – Allows Hunting from a Personal Assistive Mobility Device – Rep. Smiley

This bill seeks to amend Section 40111 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. In addition, the 150 yard safety zone applies to firearm hunting only.

HB 4908 – Recreational Feeding Ban – Rep. Kivela

This bill seeks to amend Section 40111a of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to eliminate the sunset of the Commission’s authority to regulate deer and elk feeding in the state.

- This bill was referred to the full House for consideration.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 4983 – Free Recreation Passport on Free Fishing Weekends- Rep. Rendon

This bill seeks to amend Section 74116 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to prohibit enforcement of a recreational passport on free fishing weekends at state parks, state recreation areas, or state boating access sites.

- This bill was referred to the full House for consideration.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 5023 – Dark Sky Preserve Program- Rep. Pettalia

This bill seeks to amend Section 75102 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to designate the state owned land encompassing Rockport State Recreation, Negwegon State Park, and Thompson’s Harbor State Park as dark sky preserves.

- This bill was referred to the full House for consideration.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

Upcoming December 10th Natural Resources Commission Meeting Agenda

NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

1. Fisheries Update
 - a. Climate Effects on Michigan’s Fisheries
 - b. Chumming

2. Wildlife Update
 - a. Preliminary Firearm Deer Season Results and CWD Update

NRC Committee of the Whole

1. Director's Report
 - a. License Sales Overview
 - b. Suppressors
 - c. Blue Ribbon Advisory Group Update
 - d. Grand River Water Trails Update
 - e. NASP World Champion Team—Hartland High School
 - f. Inventing the Outdoors-Webster Marble's World
 - g. Natural Resources Trust Fund Grants Update
2. Hunter Education Instructor of the Year – Timothy Pifer
3. Legislative Report
4. Committee Reports
 - a. NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

Partners in Conservation Awards: John Stockbridge

Thomas L. Washington Lifetime Conservation Award: Ron Lundberg

Public Appearances Before the NRC

Natural Resources Commission Action

1. Approval of Minutes: November 5, 2015 Natural Resources Commission meeting

Director's Action

1. October 28, 2015 Oil and Gas Lease Auction
2. Orders to Regulate Use of the Soo to Raco Railroad Grade, **Chippewa County**, Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 5 of 2015
3. Orders to Regulate Use of Belle Isle Park, Wayne County, Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 7 of 2015
4. Land Transactions
 - a. Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land, Minden City State Game Area – Sanilac County, Land Transaction Case #20060168
 - b. Conveyance of DNR-Managed Land for Public Use, Roscommon Management Unit – Roscommon County, Land Transaction Case #20150103
 - c. State Forest Land Exchange, Atlanta Management Unit – Presque Isle and Montmorency Counties, Hantz Exchange, Land Transaction Case #20140076

Finance & Operations: Christina Hammill, Eastern UP

Pure Michigan Hunt reminder: Applications are on sale until Dec. 31, and three winners will be randomly drawn in January 2016. Applications are \$5 each, in unlimited quantities, and can be purchased at any license agent or online at E-License.

Pure Michigan Hunt winners receive licenses including elk, bear, spring and fall turkey, and antlerless deer and first pick at a managed waterfowl hunt area, all to be used in the 2016 hunting season. Along with the hunting licenses, each winner will receive a hunting prize package valued at more than \$4,000.

All three Pure Michigan Hunt winners have the flexibility to hunt many different places. The selected winners also have the ability to transfer their license/s to someone else. Applications can be purchased for others as well with their driver's license or DNR sportcard number.

Visit www.michigan.gov/pmh for additional information and frequently asked questions.

Dates to Remember

- 12/1 – Archery Deer season re-opens (12/1 through 1/1)
- 12/1 – Ruffed Grouse season re-opens (12/1 through 1/1)
- 12/1 – Bobcat, Fisher, Marten trapping season opens in U.P.
- 12/1 – Pike & Muskie spearing season opens
- 12/4 – Muzzleloading Deer season opens in Zone 1 (through 12/13)
- 12/11 – Goose (regular season) closes in North Zone
- 12/15 – Fisher & Marten trapping season closes
- 12/31 – Last day to apply for 2016 Pure Michigan Hunt
- 1/1 – Can apply for Spring Turkey license
- 1/1 – Bobcat hunting opens
- 1/1 – Archery deer season closes
- 1/1 – Ruffed grouse season closes
- 1/8 – Last day for deer check/patch issuance
- 2/1 – Deadline for Spring Turkey license applications
- 2/1 – Bobcat trapping season closes (Unit A & B)
- 2/11 – Bobcat (trapping season) registration deadline (Unit A & B)
- 2/13 & 2/14 – Free Fishing Weekend

EUP Wildlife Division: Terry Minzey, Wildlife Supervisor (by Cody Norton, Wildlife Biologist)

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

- CWD is a fatal neurological disease that affects cervids (deer, elk, and moose)
- CWD was first detected in a free-ranging deer in Michigan in May 2015
- As of November 6th, 1,881 deer have been tested
- A total of 3 free-ranging deer have tested positive for CWD; all 3 were from Meridian Township in Ingham County
- A suspect positive deer was recently identified in Dewitt Township in Clinton County. A final test by the USDA will determine if the deer tests positive for CWD.
- Hunters who are concerned about CWD can have their deer tested by dropping the head off at any DNR office.

Bear Season

- The 2015 bear hunting season has come to a close, with preliminary check station data reporting 367 bears harvested in the EUP
- Harvest data and hunter opinion suggests that the bear population was up and soft mast production was down in much of the EUP, which resulted in a ~28% higher harvest than the previous two years.

Firearm Deer Season

- Hunters are reporting seeing fewer deer this season than an average season; a result of a decreased deer population in response to 3 consecutive harsh winters
- Most deer being observed are does, fawns, and older, mature bucks
- Preliminary numbers indicate main check stations have checked more bucks than last year (as of 11/18/2015), which is probably due to many hunters being unable to reach their hunting areas due to deep snow last winter, as well as warm weather this season allowing hunters to spend more time in the blind and requiring hunters to bring deer in to be processed sooner before they spoil.
- Deer check station information is used by the DNR for indexing hunter harvest and deer population levels, as well as mapping and controlling disease outbreaks
- A list of available deer check stations and hours is available on the DNR website at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/deercheck_439367_7.html

Forest Inventory and Management Planning

- Pre-inventory meetings have recently taken place for compartments in the 2018 year of entry (YOE)

- These meetings allow Wildlife and Forest Resources Division staff, as co-managers of state land, as well as staff from other divisions to discuss emerging disease issues, future habitat projects, and various other topics that will be important in the upcoming compartment review process
- Sault Ste. Marie: The DNR Director approved the Drummond Island Resource Management Plan at the November NRC meeting. This plan will guide management activities on the island ranging from forest and wildlife resources to recreation and public outreach.

Grouse Enhanced Management Sites (GEMS)

- GEMS are concentrations of intensively managed grouse habitat intended for non-motorized access for hunters
- Shingleton: Wildlife staff is currently preparing signs, kiosks, and parking areas for the Melstrand and Garden Grade GEMS. They are also working on partnerships with local organizations to help fund and plant clover and hard- and soft-mast tree species in the GEMS.

Other Items of Interest

- Newberry: Wildlife staff is in the initial stages of constructing an easy access duck hunting blind at the Dollarville Flooding. This project was made possible through the increased revenue generated from the recent hunting license restructure.
- Newberry: A wildlife technician will soon be hired to assist with wildlife management in the Newberry area.

Parks & Recreation Division: Tom Paquin, Eastern Supervisor

➤ **Fayette Historic State Park**

- Historic Townsite: Contractor work continues on the furnace stacks restoration. Michigan Cares for Tourism (MC4T) staff follow-up included finishing coats of paint applied to building #9 and superintendent's fence, brush chipped & hauled away from townsite, finishing the entrance sign and cleaning, inventory and re-pack equipment trailer
- Harbor: Contract was awarded for new dock system with construction to start in the spring/summer of 2016.
- Campground: Continuing to work with PSC to complete plans for toilet/shower building, dump station & on-site sewage treatment with planned construction 2016.
- October 3rd Fall Fest: Campground was full both Friday & Saturday nights, day use for the day was up by 30% when compared to 2014
- October 5th Michigan Cares for Tourism: 135 volunteers participated. Projects tackled included: paint the superintendent's house fence & building #9, brush removal from several locations, install lath in upstairs of hotel, reconstruct entrance sign, clear the race track and siding portion of building #18.
- October 1 – 31: Camp nights up by 85 nights when compared to 2014, lodge nights up by 13 nights when compared to 2014 and day use up by 926 people when compared to 2014.
- Staff did a fantastic job of doing Fall Fest and holding it together to get thru Michigan Cares for Tourism 2 days later! Two major events within days of one another would test anyone and the staff came through with flying colors! I am proud to have them as my crew.

➤ **Muskallonge Lake State Park/Newberry Field Office**

- State Park: New maintenance garage nearly complete, substantial completion meeting on 11/12/15. The campground electrical survey was completed, identifying safety concerns. Electrical service for portions of the modern campground will be eliminated until repairs/upgrades are enacted. Campground closed for winter.
- Newberry Field Office: New vault toilet at East Lake, bulldozer repairs underway.
- Full Time Ranger Corey Butcher accepted unit supervisor position at Brimley State Park. Seasonal Ranger Dan Smykowski accepted FT Ranger position at Newberry Field Office. Full Time Ranger Larry Erkintalo retired after 44 years of service.

➤ **Indian Lake/Palms Book**

- All of our seasonal employees have been departed for the season.

- Camping was +53%, day use +12%, state campground +53% & Palms Book was up substantially in the month of October.
- One of our sewage lift pumps at Indian Lake isn't working & is in Marquette for repair. We received 50 more fish at Palms Book from the Pendills Creek Fish Hatchery in Brimley.

➤ **Straits State Park**

- Toilet shower building construction continues in the lower campground
- Sewer line at Father Marquette unit that has been an issue for many years was replaced. A section of sidewalk was removed for this and will be replaced in the spring.
- Handicap-accessible sites are being built at Straits to coincide with the new toilet shower building.
- Straits State Park was involved with the Trek the Mac ORV ride which had 1400 ORVs ride across the Mackinac Bridge and through the park ending at Little Bear Arena.
- The semi-truck show and tractor shows locally were busy weekends for the park.
- Straits State Park is planning Stomp the Park Snowshoe Event for January 9th
- Straits is also planning Winter Family Fun Days for February 6th and March 5th.
- Camping was up 11% at Straits
- Enbridge presented a check for \$20,000 to Cindy Hales, director of the Michigan History Foundation. The funds are to be used to jump start partnership and planning efforts for the west unit of Straits State Park in St. Ignace.

➤ **Tahquamenon Falls State Park**

- The park has been totally winterized. Staff are preparing now for the winter use season.
- The Lower Falls Capital Outlay project continues to progress. We are currently reviewing proposed designs for the boat house/dock, viewing wall and canoe/kayak launch.
- Corey Butcher (Ranger E-8) accepted the Unit Supervisor position at Brimley State Park. We are in the process of filling his position.
- Harvest Festival was held on October 10th. The Lower Falls campgrounds were at capacity & the event went very well. This event fills a void when normally the campgrounds would only be partially occupied.
- The fall color season was fantastic! Camp nights & day use were up significantly from last year. We continued to see a lot of visitors from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, & Wisconsin through late October.
- The extended color season was fantastic but it shortened an already short "shoulder season". This has been a challenge as seasonal staff had to be laid off shortly thereafter, resulting in less project work being able to be completed this fall.

➤ **Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor**

- The boating access site at Conely Point is open for use with positive feedback from users.
- A previously repaired sewage pump failed prior to harvest fest weekend, the second pump was repaired and installed in time for the weekend.
- A water line break was repaired at BSP in Sept...this was not included on last report
- The Schaffer boat sank in Detour Harbor and was repaired
- Corey Butcher accepted the supervisor position at Brimley State Park and started on 10/26/15.
- The park held two back-to-back weekends of Harvest Fest activities. The campground was full for the first weekend and a third full the second.
- Camp nights were up with 159 nights in the month of October from last year.
- Continue to work with two friends groups and local units of government.

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

➤ **Field Units (Steve Scott, Unit Manager)**

- Staff have finished the field survey season and are now busy putting boats and equipment away for the winter. Data entry and aging fish will be the next business to complete. Creel clerks are also finished for the year. Salmon fishing was very slow this fall with poor catches in all three of the upper Great Lakes.

- A public meeting concerning aquaculture in Michigan was held in Gaylord on Nov. 19. The meeting was well attended and many members of the public provided input. Most of the public expressed opposition to moving forward with aquaculture net-pens in Michigan or at the very least expressed concern with moving forward.

➤ Marquette Fisheries Research Station

- Survey work on Lake Superior is complete and boat has been put up for winter.
- Commercial whitefish sampling is done for year, still some effort being directed at PSAT tag recovery, transitioning over to winter work-data analysis, report generation, gear maintenance and repair, etc.

Marketing & Outreach Division: Jon Spieles, Education Services Section

- Staff set up an archery range at the Great Outdoors Youth Jamboree in early September at the Lake Hudson State Park. The event provides hands-on outdoor activities including a youth chukar hunt held on the state park grounds to showcase quality pheasant habitat. More than 35 vendors participated and provided activities and over 1,200 people attended the event!
- The Archery Education Coordinator has been certifying staff to run the archery range at the Outdoor Adventure Center. Archery equipment has been purchased with the help of SCI, LED and PRD.
- Marketing & Outreach staff is working on an Apprentice License promotion campaign with Wildlife Division, the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) and Southwick Associates. The focus of the campaign will be to entice existing deer hunters to take a non-deer hunter with them during the 2015 firearm deer season. NSSF is working with Michigan and two other states on this pilot project.
- Shooting range staff promoted our accessible hunting opportunities by demonstrating a hunting lift at the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 25th anniversary celebration on the lawn of the State Capitol.
- Interpretive exhibits are being installed at the Lake Michigan Beach House at Ludington State Park. The exhibits highlight threats to the Great Lakes with a focus on aquatic invasive species. The exhibits will include living lamprey and salmon in addition to 3-D topographical mapping, interactive ballast water exhibit and other technology-driven exhibits. Parks & Recreation Division and Marketing & Outreach Division collaborated on this project with funding coming from the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust.
- Work has begun to construct a new handgun range at the Sharonville shooting range. Work is expected to be completed early December.

- Marketing Section collaborated with the Michigan Historical Center to place digital ads aimed at drawing more visitors to the museum on the weekends over the summer months. Total spending on this campaign was \$1,800, resulting in 2,150 clicks to the MHC website. Weekend visitation increased by nearly 700 individuals during the campaign, from 1,700 in 2014 to 2,392 in 2015.
- Finance and administrative staff closed Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 records for Marketing & Outreach Division and the Michigan Historical Center. Staff completed FY 2016 spend plans and have developed and submitted requests and baselines for FY 2017.



- DNR and Meijer teamed up to position some of our conservation officers and wildlife biologists at select Meijer stores during the hunting season. This was part of Meijer hunting promo days and provided DNR an opportunity to engage with our hunting customer, answer questions and promote hunting.
- Marketing staff, along with communications personnel in several divisions updated and enhanced our email templates. All emails sent through GovDelivery are now optimized to display properly on mobile devices, tablets, and desktops across all email providers.
- The DNR website and email branding bars have been updated with new colors to adhere to accessibility standards and enhance brand recognition and consistency between the DNR website and GovDelivery emails.
- Education and outreach statistics for the 2015 season:
 - Attendance at our 10 Visitor Centers was up 8% to 326,984 over 2014.
 - DNR education staff delivered 1,799 school programs to 55,985 K-12 participants in FY 2015 representing a 4% decrease from 2014.
 - DNR interpretive staff delivered 2,763 nature-based public programs at our 10 parks and hatcheries in 2015 reaching 50,018 participants. These numbers represent a 5% decrease in programs and participants year over year.

Forest Resources Division: Jeff Stampfly, Eastern UP Supervisor

- The 2017 Year of Entry (YOE) inventory is complete, and the 2018 YOE inventory has been started. Open house and compartment review schedules are posted online, along with other state forest inventory information at: Michigan.Gov/Forestry.
- Recent personnel activity includes the filling of the Newberry Forest Management Unit (FMU) fire supervisor position (PJ Costa). We've had a forester from Newberry transfer to Baraga. Several promotions, transfers and retirements are happening throughout the state and we are working on several interview committees to backfill as staff movement continues.
- Foresters/technicians have started on the 2016 timber sale plan of work.
- As of November 11th, there were 270 open timber sale contracts in the EUP. This represents 34,360 acres of timber valued at approximately \$24.1 million. Currently, there are approximately 25 active timber sales in the EUP.
- Timber sales recently offered were sold with decent competition, but there are indications of softening prices in the markets. Reports from producers indicate that all markets (hardwood, aspen and softwood) are tight with mills having good supply in their yards. Prices received from the mill have dropped so producers will look at reducing their bid prices accordingly.
- Plum Creek Timber and Weyerhaeuser Corporation have announced a merger of their two companies. Weyerhaeuser stockholders will retain the larger share of stock. The combined equity value is predicted to be \$23 billion. Concern has arisen in Montana where it has been noted by state officials that the two companies manage their lands in different ways and particular concerns over easement rights are in question. No concerns have been raised in Michigan as it relates to the merger.
- Over the next few months, staff will be reviewing stands that are at high risk for loss due to the current outbreak of Spruce Budworm. Salvage sales will be set up to utilize the trees before mortality occurs. Budworm is a native insect that feeds on white spruce and balsam fir. Outbreaks of this insect occur every 20 to 30 years and can last many years. The last outbreak ended in the early 80's. In addition, the Sault FMU prepared approximately 500 acres of beech and ash salvage on Drummond Island this fall. For more information on this and other forest pests go to Michigan.gov/ForestHealth.

- The direct sale of three parcels of state forest land included in the Graymont transaction closed Sept. 18. This included 1,781 acres of surface and 7,026 acres of underground mineral rights. The land exchange portion of the Graymont transaction is still in progress. As part of the exchange, the DNR will have 120 days to review the parcels being offered by Graymont in the exchange. These parcels will be available for public review and comment prior to the director making a decision about the acceptance of these parcels.
- FRD is continuing to work with the USFS on the Good Neighbor Authority. EUP staff will be working with the Hiawatha National Forest to prepare and administer timber sales in areas that have already been approved through their review process. The master agreement between the DNR and the USFS was signed at the forestry summit this fall. Work is continuing on the Special Project Agreements for the three individual national forests (Hiawatha, Ottawa and Huron-Manistee).
- Wyman Nursery purchased 600 bushels of jack pine and 80 bushels of red pine cones this fall. The cones will be sent to our facility in Brighton, where they will extract the seed. Approximately ½ pound of seed is gathered per bushel of cones. In order to grow the 4 million red pine seedlings that FRD plants per year, 200 pounds of seed is needed.
- Cultivation work this fall included over 700 acres of trenching that will be planted in the spring and approximately 400 acres of scarification of sites for natural regeneration.
- Forestry communication is one of the major goals cited in our new Strategic Plan. The two latest stories with are IMG contract are [The Surprising Second Life of a Michigan Tree](#), and [Michigan's next generation of forestry talent](#).
- Wildfire occurrence is usually fairly light during the month of October. Through November 16th we've responded to 58 fires for 294 acres across the UP.
- The Resource Protection Program activities will now switch heavily towards training. There are many sessions planned again this winter starting with Intermediate Fire Behavior in mid-December. In addition to training, fire officers will be spending time servicing and winterizing equipment.
- Firefighter fitness testing for the coming year will be conducted during the month of December statewide. Testing for the UP should be completed before the holidays.
- EUP staff have been working on road and bridge projects including:
 - Newberry FMU - a new bridge over Penny Creek along the Charcoal Grade, upgrade on the cut across road between Camp 7 Road and County Road 500, 2 new culverts and road upgrades in a perennial beaver problem area on the Camp 6 Road, and a new culvert on the McLeod Road.
 - Sault FMU – completed a major road repair of a washout on the Bay City Lake Road in Cedarville, which included several hundred yards of rock/gravel and involved staff and equipment from all 3 EUP FMU's. In addition, emergency repair of a large washout on the Sand Lake/Hog Island Road/snowmobile trail was completed.
 - Shingleton FMU – placement of culverts and gravel, and removal of portable bridges.
- FRD staff reviewed and approved several land use permits, including a dog sledding permit and property exchange proposals.
- FRD/PRD staff has been working with the local snowmobile grant sponsors to ensure the trails are prepped and ready for the upcoming snowmobile season.

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

As of this writing, we are midway through the firearm deer season. Both deer numbers and the number of hunters are down; however, officers are still encountering a number of violations and responding to many complaints. Below are some of the cases from across the district since the last EUPCAC.

- **CO Bobby Watson** was concluding a day of patrol when he encountered a vehicle driving erratically. CO Watson observed the vehicle narrowly miss multiple parked cars near a local high school. CO Watson performed a traffic stop on the vehicle and initiated contact with the driver. After a short conversation with the driver, he informed CO Watson that he was on his way to the liquor store to purchase more beer but decided he was too drunk to drink anymore, and chose to drive home. The driver then stated, "I guess you got me!" The driver of the vehicle was more than twice the legal limit. Enforcement action was taken.
- **While on routine patrol, CO Bobby Watson** observed a pickup truck driving unusually slow. CO Watson then watched as the truck's tail lights indicated that the vehicle had been put into park. CO Watson then sped up to the vehicle to make contact. Contact was made with the driver and a passenger. Upon greeting the individuals, CO Watson noticed an over-and-under shotgun tucked in between the two front seats. A brief interview with the suspects led to the discovery of another uncased and loaded shotgun in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Michael Evink** responded to a wolf caught in a coyote trap in the Germfask area. CO Evink met with the complainant and a DNR Wildlife Biologist. While attempting to tranquilize the wolf, even though only caught by the toes it pulled the trap free from the ground. It then took off through the woods. Officer Evink and the biologist gave chase, and were able to follow the track for a few hundred yards before losing the trail.
- **CO Jon Busken** observed an ORV operating on a county road but could not see a valid ORV license attached. Contact was made with the operator who was found to be administratively denied and revoked. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Jon Busken** made contact with two anglers coming off a lake in Mackinac County. The anglers were successful and told the officer about the pike and walleye they had caught. When checking the fish the officer noticed a bass in the live well. When questioned about the bass the anglers were quick to ask, "How big do bass have to be?" After measuring the fish all parties agreed that the 12 and ¾ inch bass was certainly short of the 14 inch requirement. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Jon Busken and John Wenzel** attended a career fair at Lake Superior State University. The officers met with multiple interested candidates and answered career related questions.
- **CO Jon Busken** made contact with two waterfowl hunters coming off of the Straits of Mackinac near St. Ignace. While contacting one hunter the officer noticed the second hunter was in a hurry to put the two shotguns in their vehicle. Contact was made with the second hunter who was hesitant to produce both firearms. One shotgun was found to be unplugged. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Rob Freeborn** received a RAP complaint regarding a deer that was just shot in a subjects yard just after 11:00pm. CO Freeborn responded from his residence shortly after receiving the complaint. Once on-scene, CO Freeborn immediately was able to locate a fired 12 gauge slug hull in the complainant's yard along with a fired slug that was recovered from the ground. CO Freeborn was then able to get a detailed description of the suspect vehicle. After several hours CO Freeborn and a SSM Tribal Officer were able to locate the suspect at a camp. Upon walking up to the camp, the officers located the suspected vehicle that was given by the complainant. The officers recovered a 12gauge shotgun that was still loaded with matching slugs that were found on-scene. When CO Freeborn asked the suspect if he knew why the officer were there, the suspect stated "because someone supposedly shot a deer from my truck!" CO Freeborn then asked the suspect why he would think that when the officers never mentioned that to him. CO Freeborn continued to interview the suspect who confessed that he was the one who shot the deer from his truck. Several charges are pending in court and the firearm used in the incident was seized.
- **CO Jeff Panich and PCO Mark Zitnik** responded to a complaint of duck decoys being left out overnight on the Straights in St. Ignace. When they arrived on scene they found the decoys were owned by a Waterfowl Guide who was guiding 7 hunters without his guide license or charter inspection. Enforcement action was taken.
- **While working on Drummond Island CO Jeff Panich and PCO Mark Zitnik** contacted two ORV riders not wearing helmets and had failed to register their ORVs. Enforcement action was taken.
- **While patrolling to an illegal archery stand, CO Jeff Panich and PCO Mark Zitnik** encountered a Side by Side without an ORV registration sticker. After finding the unregistered ORV it was determined the driver of the vehicle was highly intoxicated. After failing Field Sobriety Tests the subject was lodged in the Chippewa County Jail for OWI.
- **CO Kevin Postma and PCO Mark Zitnik** were heading to Munuscong Bay to work waterfowl hunters when they received a call from a Michigan State Police Trooper that three college students had sunk their boat in the Bay and were saved by two Indiana hunters. When the COs arrived at the boat launch they found the three hunters in the ambulance suffering from severe hypothermia. After getting their statements and GPS coordinates of the sunken vessel the COs were able to salvage most of their equipment.
- **CO Brett Gustafson** had an extremely busy opening day of firearm deer season. CO Gustafson handled numerous baiting and blind violations, hunters orange violations and illegal ORV violations. Enforcement action taken on several violations.
- **CO Bobby Watson and Sgt. Mike Hammill** were conducting an administrative check on a local deer processor. After inspecting one particular deer, it was discovered that the individual who tagged the deer most likely did not shoot the deer. After interviewing the suspects, a confession was eventually obtained. The shooter of the 8-point buck did not possess a license at the time, and after shooting the deer, decided to use her son's deer tag. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Bobby Watson, Jon Busken, and Sgt. Mike Hammill** were conducting a deer decoy patrol when a vehicle was observed driving unusually slow as it approached the vicinity of the deer decoy. Upon observing the "decoy" standing in the field, the driver hit the brakes as the passenger jumped out to load his rifle and laid across the hood of the vehicle to prepare for a shot.

Sgt. Hammill interrupted the suspect's shot before any damage was done to the decoy. The suspect was not wearing any hunter's orange clothing, was shooting into private property which he did not obtain permission to hunt, and had not purchased a deer hunting license. Enforcement action was taken.

- **CO Jon Busken and Brett Gustafson** made contact with two individuals riding in a vehicle in a remote area of Luce County. CO Busken observed an open beer can in the passenger compartment. When Officer Busken asked how much beer was left in the can the operator stated it was empty. The operator then proceeded to spill beer from the full can on himself while he handed it to CO Busken. A search of the vehicle revealed a spot light and a shotgun with slugs. Enforcement action was taken on the open container violation and for possessing slugs during the quiet period.
- **CO Jon Busken** observed a vehicle operating with malfunctioning taillights. A traffic stop was initiated. Upon contact the vehicles passenger immediately demanded to know why they had been stopped and claimed that they had been pulled over three times in the last several days for a variety of equipment violations. The vehicle was found to not have valid insurance. CO Busken showed the subjects the taillights at the end of the stop. The passenger agreed that the lights were not working. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Jon Busken and Robert Watson** were on patrol in Mackinac County when a vehicle stopped in the roadway in front of their patrol truck. Upon contact the distinct odor of intoxicants was noted. CO Busken asked the operator how much he had had to drink that day. The operator responded, "a couple beers." Sobriety tests indicated that the operator was intoxicated. He then admitted to drinking alcohol all day while setting up blinds. A PBT revealed a BAC of .121. The operator was placed under arrest. The remote location of the contact resulted in the ride to the jail taking more than one hour.
- **CO Jon Busken and Lt Skip Hagy** were on patrol in Mackinac County. They made contact with three individuals outside of a vehicle and noted the distinct odor of marijuana coming from the individuals and vehicle. One of the subjects failed to disclose he had a loaded handgun, he did have a CPL. Two of the individuals were found to be improperly transporting medical marijuana and one was found to be in possession of and have used marijuana. One individual had a DNR warrant for hunting waterfowl with an unplugged shotgun. \$250 cash bond was collected and a court date was given for the prior violation. Enforcement action was taken on a variety of other violations.
- **CO Jon Busken** made contact with a hunter walking down a set of train tracks in Mackinac County. Contact was made with the hunter who stated that he did not know that he could not be on the train tracks. The officer and hunter returned to where he had been hunting that day. The blind he had been using had been left out for several nights and did not have his name on it. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Jon Busken** observed a pickup truck with defective taillights leaving an area frequent by deer hunters. Contact was made with the operator and two passengers. None of the occupants had been hunting. However, the operator's driver's license was suspended. The vehicle did not have insurance and the registration was expired. The occupants agreed to exit the vehicle so CO Busken could search it. It was raining out and the 7 year old passenger thought it was very cool that he was able to wear a Conservation Officer rain jacket to stay dry. The search also revealed that the operator had marijuana in his possession. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Jeff Panich** was working a continuous complaint of over baiting at a residence that has been an issue for several years. CO Panich was notified by sources that over 15 tons of sugar beets had been dumped in the fields throughout the property. CO Panich investigated the complaint and soon located several large piles of beets each over 50 gallons or more. CO Panich made contact with the property owner and explained the issue and that steps that were going to need to be made to remedy the situation. Enforcement action was taken the night prior to season as well as numerous follow up visits throughout the firearm season.
- **CO Jeff Panich** was working a heavily trafficked backroad on Drummond Island when a traffic stop was made after shooting hours had ended. After checking the hunters' licenses and firearms, CO Panich addressed the two open beer cans in the center console of the vehicle. The hunters both admitted to being in possession of the alcohol in the vehicle. They discussed the dangers of drinking and driving, along with the safety of themselves and the public when firearms are involved, the two men both stated it was stupid to be driving with any alcohol and guns in the vehicle. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO John Wenzel** attended a meeting put on by the USFWS about the feral pigs in the area. CO Wenzel along with DNR Biologists and a USFWS Agent spoke to the crowd of approximately 100 people regarding the feral pigs. Questions were asked about the legality of shooting the pigs.
- **CO John Wenzel** was working with a Forest Service Officer when they checked an illegal blind in the Hiawatha National Forest. The two officers had checked the blind in the past years, but had not found anyone hunting there. The blind had a very elaborate suspension bridge build across a river to access the blind, with poles being sunk in the ground and heavy duty wire for the bridge. Upon contacting the hunter in the blind, he admitted he knew the blind was illegal and thought he would likely get caught someday. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO John Wenzel, along with a Forest Service Officer**, made contact with a subject who had left a camper on the Hiawatha National Forest for several years. The subject stated the bearings had gone out of the camper, so he decided to leave it there. The subject was advised to remove the camper by the end of deer season, or it would be towed out at the owner's expense. The subject stated it would be removed ASAP. He was also cited by the Forest Service Officer for leaving property on Forest Service lands.

- **CO Kevin Postma** was patrolling in the Trout Lake area on the day before the firearm opener when he checked a group of individuals cutting pine boughs on Federal land. CO Postma accompanied one of the individuals back to his vehicle to retrieve his driver's license. CO Postma noticed an uncased / cocked crossbow in the back seat. CO Postma also noted a quiver of cross bow bolts in the front seat. The owner of the vehicle advised the he must have forgot to take it out after his hunt on the previous afternoon. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Kevin Postma** followed a juvenile riding an ORV unsupervised to the location where his father was. His father happened to be working on a deer blind that was heavily over baited. The youth and father were warned and arrangements were made to meet with the property owner about the bait.
- **CO Kevin Postma** checked a hunter on opening day to discuss a large bait pile. After several minutes of discussion about the bait and the illegal blind CO Postma detected the unmistakable odor of marijuana. The subject eventually handed a marijuana joint to CO Postma. The subject was warned about the bait and blind and a warrant will be sent to the Prosecutor's Office for review with regards to the possession of marijuana.
- **Sgt. Mike Hammill** received a tip of a potential deer tagging violation from a Luce County Sheriff Deputy. Sgt. Hammill followed up on the complaint and made contact with the individual from the Deputies traffic stop earlier in the day. Sgt. Hammill was able to eventually get a confession from the hunter. As it turned out, the hunter took his daughters hunting license from home before heading to the UP for deer season. When the 3" spike horn buck presented itself for a shot, he killed the deer and placed his daughters tag on it. The suspect continued to hunt for his next two bucks on the combination license that he was also in possession of. Enforcement action was taken.
- **During the firearm deer opener, CO Pat Hartsig** followed-up on a large over bait he and Sgt. Fitzgibbon had discovered. When the owner of the bait was asked what the legal limit to bait was, he said, "5 gallons". His pickup truck load was well over that. Enforcement action was taken.
- **During a patrol, CO Pat Hartsig** noticed a trailer parked in front of a gated area on CFR land. There were ORV tracks leading around the gate onto the land. After following the trail, an ORV was met head-on. The driver and his passenger were riding double, without helmets, had no ORV sticker and operating illegally on CFR land. The driver stated he came to the U.P to teach his daughter how to hunt correctly, the officers helped with that lesson. Enforcement action was taken.
- **While working firearm deer opener CO's Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink** worked an ongoing complaint of local camps using zip lines to cross a river to where their ORV's were staged in a closed area on state land. The CO's traveled several miles on the network of illegal ORV trails that mostly traveled through swamp land and located all of the responsible party's involved. Several violations were found including: Operate ORV in closed area, failure to remove blind after season, no hunters orange, hunt deer with no license on person, and over baiting. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Michael Evink and USFS Law Enforcement Officer Dave Tembruell** were on patrol in southern Schoolcraft County when they observed an ORV being operated on a public roadway without a helmet. The officers made contact with the operator and noticed the uncased Crossbow strapped to the front of the ORV. After a lengthy chat the Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO's Robert Freeborn and Michael Evink** doubled up on the opening morning of firearm deer season. While dealing with an illegal ORV trail network they came upon a camp that had a bait pile that was clearly a dump truck of bait that had been spread around using a front end loader and a previously unidentified Illegal ORV trail through State land. Enforcement action resulted.
- **CO Michael Evink and USFS LEO Dave Tembruell** were patrolling adjacent to Forest service land when they made contact with a vehicle that was "late" heading out to the blind. Upon contact Officer Evink saw a gun case that was not zipped up in the front passenger seat of the vehicle. In the process Officer Evink noticed a Bottle of Crown Royal next to the operator. The driver admitted to have a nip or two of the bottle. Enforcement action was taken.
- **While on patrol, CO Robert Freeborn** contacted a hunter that was hunting alone that appeared to be quite young. The hunter stated that he was 15 years old. CO Freeborn asked if he had anyone else in the area that was hunting with him. The hunter stated that he did not and thought he was of age to hunt alone with his hunter's safety card. The CO walked the hunter back to his truck where the hunter was able to call a family member to pick him up. CO Freeborn explained the youth hunting and driving law to both the hunter and family member and advised next time he goes out hunting he needs to have an adult present.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and Cpl. Steve Martin** were on routine patrol when they heard local dispatch advised of a hunter in cardiac arrest only a few miles from where they were currently at. The CO's located a family member that was waiting out at the end of a Forest Service road to direct the responding units to where the hunter had walked into the woods. It was determined that the hunter was with 2 other hunters and were walking ridge lines through a very remote location and were several miles into the woods with no trails leading to them. The CO's along with MSP walked in on foot through the dense forest and swamp and after nearly an hour located the group where CPR was in progress. The CO's took over CPR until EMS arrived at their location with an AED. Unfortunately the hunter was pronounced dead shortly after. Due to the well below freezing temperatures and loss of day light, the CO's were able to get a fire started to warm and dry out the responding units while they waited for additional man power including CO Michael Evink, CO John Wenzel and CO Pat Hartsig to arrive on scene to carry out the deceased hunter. After several hours and very late into the night the hunter was removed from the woods to the waiting ambulance.

- **CO Mark Zitnik and Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon** worked a waterfowl patrol on Forest lake Basin on Veterans Day. 5 groups of hunters were checked. A ticket was issued for possess toxic shot, and 2 tickets and several warnings were given for marine safety violations.
- **CO Calvin Smith** responded to a trapping complaint on a lake in the Hiawatha National forest. Once on scene no violations were observed and the two trappers were very happy to see Law enforcement in the area.
- **CO's Mark Zitnik and Calvin Smith** did several shining patrols in areas where complaints came in from in the past.
- **While on patrol, CO's Mark Zitnik and Calvin Smith** came across two individuals who were operating ORV's without helmets and had failed to purchase ORV registration. Enforcement action was taken.
- **On the opening day of firearm season, Cpl. Shannon VanPatten and CO Calvin Smith** came across a group of bough cutters, the individuals did not have a permit to cut the boughs and one of the individuals had two warrants out for his arrest. The subject was lodged in the local jail and a warning was given for cutting Bough's without a permit.
- **Cpl. Shannon VanPatten and CO Calvin Smith** came across a group of hunters preparing for the evening hunt. One of the individuals was quick to point out he was not hunting only dropping his buddies off. A gun in a case was located in the back of the truck that belonged to the individual that wasn't hunting and when asked to produce his deer license and he claimed he forgot it at camp. A check of the RSS system revealed he had failed to purchase one, his changed his story and now he had forgotten to buy one. Enforcement action was taken for being afield with a firearm without a deer license.
- **Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon and CO Calvin Smith** came across several illegal ORV trails on public land. They followed the trails and located an illegal stand at one of them and a large bait pile at the next. Later on in the day the responsible hunters were found and enforcement action was taken.
- **Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon and CO Mark Zitnik** worked opening day contacting over 40 hunters. Several violations were encountered including: uncased gun in motor vehicle, non-resident possess handgun without CPL, open intox, illegal ORV trails, too much bait, and illegal blinds. The day resulted in 5 tickets and several warnings being given.
- **Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon** came upon a vehicle parked sideways across a road into a wildlife opening on state land. A ¼ mile walk on the road into the hunter found him in an illegal constructed blind. Enforcement action resulted and the hunter was made to remove his vehicle from blocking the state road.
- **CO's Calvin Smith and Mark Zitnik** had a complaint of a wolf caught in a trap. They responded to the location and it was found to be a coyote. They contacted the owner of the trap. The trapper was very happy he caught a coyote. No violations were found.
- **CO's Calvin Smith and Mark Zitnik** were patrolling the day before deer season when they came upon two ORV riders without helmets or ORV Registration stickers. Enforcement action was taken.
- **While patrolling Lake 25 Fields, CO Mark Zitnik** came upon a hunter stalking without hunter orange on. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO's Mark Zitnik and Patrick Hartsig** were checking hunters in the areas around Grand Marais. They encountered several ORV violations for no helmets, no ORV license, and operating over berms on CFR land. Several warnings and a few tickets were given.
- **CO Mark Zitnik and Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon** found ORV tracks in the snow driving through the woods, making their own trails. While driving to a nearby camp they saw a four wheeler coming up behind them. The ORV rider was not wearing a helmet and admitted to driving through the woods. Enforcement action was taken.