



## Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

**Date of Production: June 2015**

This documentation is provided by Michigan DNR staff as supplemental information to the Eastern UPCAC members via email on June 11, 2015.

### Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator: Stacy Welling Haughey

#### ***DNR Public Meetings***

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|---------|---|
| June 18 | Eastern UP Citizens Advisory Council Meeting, Newberry or St. Ignace TBD, 6:30pm  |
| June 23 | Forestry Open House, Baraga Unit, Baraga DNR Office, 3-7:00pm                     |
| June 24 | UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Marquette (DNR Office), 6:00pm                    |
| June 25 | UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Escanaba (DNR Pocket Park), 6:00pm                |
| June 26 | Invasive Species Grant Workshop, Munising Township Hall, 10:30-12:30pm            |
| July 10 | Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing                                     |
| July 14 | Forestry Compartment Review, Baraga Unit, Baraga DNR Office, 9am                  |
| July 14 | Western UP Citizens Advisory Council Meeting, Island Resort & Casino, 5:30pm      |
| July 21 | UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Goetzville (Raber Area Sportsmen's Club), 6:00pm  |
| July 22 | Forestry Compartment Review (for Mackinac County), Ostego Lake Township Hall, 9am |

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#### ***U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities***

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| June 21  | 26 <sup>th</sup> Annual Antique Auto Exhibit, Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee                             |
| June 27  | Tahquamenon Falls State Park - 2015 Two Hearted Trail Run   |
| July 3-4 | 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 4   | Copper Harbor State Dock - 4th of July Fireworks  |
| July 7   | The Kawbawgam Cases: Native Claims & the Discovery of Iron Ore in the UP, Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee |
| July 9   | Indian Lake State Park - RV Maintenance & Safety Clinic   |
| July 10  | Iron Ore Heritage Bike Tours, Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee   |
| July 11  | Beyond BOW Kayak Workshop at Grand Island Landing near Munising   |
| July 11  | Baraga State Park - Rec 101 and 202: Intro to Kayaking  |
| July 11  | Palms Book State Park - Native American Drum Ceremony   |
| July 11  | Bewabic State Park - Go Get Outdoors  |
| July 11  | Wells State Park - Bounce House Bonanza   |
| July 14  | The Ongoing Quest for the Wreck of the Griffon, Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee                           |
| July 15  | Indian Lake State Park - UP Raptor Rehab Program  |
| July 17  | Indian Lake State Park - Bill Jamerson "Up in the UP"   |
| July 17  | Iron Ore Heritage Bike Tours, Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee   |
| July 18  | Fayette Historic State Park - A Paranormal Event  |

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#### ***Upcoming U.P. Recreation Events***

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|-------------|---|
| June-August | For a host of summer events around the UP, go to <a href="http://www.uptravel.com">www.uptravel.com</a> |
| July 10-11  | UP Trappers Convention, UP State Fairgrounds, Escanaba, 906-399-1960                                    |

### **Recent DNR Press Releases**

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

- DNR aims to rear more steelhead at Thompson State Fish Hatchery (5/28/15)
  - Opportunity to share ideas on state forest planning for Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw and Ontonagon counties (5/28/15)
  - Opportunity to share ideas on state forest planning for ...Mackinac and Otsego counties (5/28/15)
  - Wildlife habitat grants available through Michigan DNR (5/27/15)
  - DNR fisheries research vessels are out on the water to expand knowledge of Great Lakes (5/27/15)
  - Angler input sought on Upper Peninsula rivers for brook trout research (5/26/15)
  - Michigan confirms state's first case of chronic wasting disease in free-ranging white-tailed deer (5/26/15)
  - Grant workshops for invasive species projects offered in Detroit, Hastings, Mackinaw City and Munising (5/20/15)
  - DNR produces map of 2014 burned areas to give folks a hand in the hunt for morels (5/14/15)
  - DNR to host May 19 ribbon-cutting ceremony for new Ishpeming to Republic ORV Route (5/13/15)
  - Michigan Iron Industry Museum adds forge artifacts to permanent exhibit (5/12/15)
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### **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, <a href="mailto:carlockm@michigan.gov">carlockm@michigan.gov</a> |
| Recreation Passport Grant                       | Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, <a href="mailto:carlockm@michigan.gov">carlockm@michigan.gov</a> |
| Aquatic Habitat Grant                           | Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, <a href="mailto:parkerk4@michigan.gov">parkerk4@michigan.gov</a>   |
| Michigan Invasive Species Grant                 | Kammy Frayre, 517-284-5970, <a href="mailto:frayrek1@michigan.gov">frayrek1@michigan.gov</a>   |
| Wildlife Habitat Grant                          | Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, <a href="mailto:parkerk4@michigan.gov">parkerk4@michigan.gov</a>   |
| U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant | Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, <a href="mailto:scullonh@michigan.gov">scullonh@michigan.gov</a>   |

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**From:** Creagh, Keith (DNR)

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 27, 2015 11:40 AM

**Subject:** Director Update: Public Lands

Dear Colleagues,

Michigan is among the states in the nation with the most state-managed public lands, a valuable resource for citizens of our state. These lands contain significant natural and cultural resources that need protection and serve as a gateway to recreation for everybody regardless of their means. In addition, the lands provide important wood materials, mineral reserves and energy to our economy and generate revenue to fund public land management. For all of these reasons and more, public land is an ongoing and important conversation in our state and across the country. As people throughout the state prepare for warm-weather recreation on our public lands, I wanted to take an opportunity to provide you some information about this asset we as a department are privileged to manage.

#### **The value of public lands**

DNR-managed public lands are central to the state's quality of life and economy. These lands support Michigan's reinvention by:

- Serving as the backbone of Michigan’s \$22.2 billion tourism industry;
- Providing more than 12,000 miles of trails and 2,623 miles of rail-trails—the most rail-trails miles of any state;
- Offering 1,300 boating access sites and 84 public harbors/marinas, which support Michigan’s \$4 billion boating industry;
- Supporting hunting and fishing opportunities that generate \$4.7 billion annually for Michigan’s economy, much of that driven by easy access to public lands;
- Providing reliable, sustainable harvest for the Michigan timber industry, an industry that last year generated \$16 billion for the state’s economy; and
- Containing 13 percent of Michigan’s 1.1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas storage capacity in old oil fields, the greatest volume of storage of any state.

Michigan has 4.6 million acres of state-managed public lands and 6.4 million acres of state-managed mineral rights. Of this 4.6 million acres, 3.9 million acres are designated state forests, 325,000 acres are designated state parks or recreation areas and 360,000 acres are designated state game areas. These lands came into the state’s portfolio through a variety of mechanisms, more than half through tax reversion.

### **Current status**

**Seeking support:** The Michigan Public Land Strategy was completed and submitted to the Legislature for approval in October 2014. The strategy was requested by the governor, and required by [Public Act \(PA\) 240 of 2012](#). The DNR continues to work closely with legislators to seek approval of the strategy. PA 240, places a cap on the amount of state-managed public land the department can maintain in its portfolio. This was once a state-wide cap, but after May 1, 2015, the cap is restricted to north of the Mason-Arenac County line in keeping with the statute. The acquisition restrictions for north of this line cannot be lifted until the Legislature approves the strategic plan and amends the law to remove this prohibition.

**Payment in Lieu of Taxes:** Legislation has recently been proposed to prohibit the DNR from buying any land in years where [Payment in Lieu of Taxes \(PILT\)](#) is not fully paid. PILT is State of Michigan payments to local units of government in lieu of property taxes for the public land administered by the DNR. The Legislature appropriates the money to pay PILT. The department can pay only what is appropriated by the Legislature for this purpose. Trust Fund, Game and Fish funds and other restricted funds administered directly by our department pay full PILT.

### **Moving forward**

**Protecting special places:** Some lands in Michigan are so extraordinary that they should be preserved and available for everyone in perpetuity. We’ll continue to protect those places for current and future generations. This is a critical part of our mission.

**Acquiring, selling and exchanging land:** We want to make sure that we have the right public lands in the right places. This means acquiring some public lands in areas of the state where it’s needed, in particular population centers such as southeast Michigan. This also means acquiring extraordinary lands throughout the state when opportunities present themselves. It means selling and exchanging some of the land that does not serve the public interest. The DNR has committed to meeting regularly with counties that have 40 percent of the land in state-managed public ownership and working cooperatively on a plan for those public lands.

**Next steps:** Public land is an important conversation and the opportunities and issues it presents will require active engagement with stakeholders and legislators. As next steps, we will:

- Meet with county administrators to discuss the intersect between natural resources and regional prosperity in terms of both economic and social benefits;

- Incorporate information about public land values into presentations and discussions with stakeholder organizations;
- Expand our information distribution about public land values to new audiences; and
- Increase dialogue with elected officials to resolve issues of difference to ensure adoption of the land strategy.

There has been more and more discussion on the role of public lands in Michigan in recent years, and it's our responsibility to help positively shape and move this discussion forward for the public good. Thank you for your time and interest in continuing this important conversation. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to raise them.

## ***June 11<sup>th</sup> Natural Resources Commission Meeting-Agenda***

### **Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee**

1. Stewardship Program Updates
2. Outdoor Adventure Center Update
3. Michigan Tourism Cares 2015 Projects
4. Parks and Recreation Financial Updates FY2015
5. Parks and Recreation Update

### **NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries**

1. Fisheries Division Update
  - a. Fish Stocking Where and Why
  - b. Lake Erie Walleye Management Plan
2. Wildlife Division Update
  - a. Deer Harvest Survey Report 2014 Seasons
  - b. Migratory Game Bird Early Season Regulations

### **NRC Committee of the Whole**

1. Director's Report
  - a. Parks and Trails Update
  - b. Western Lake Erie Regional Conservation Partnership Program
  - c. Detroit Area Conservation Partnership
  - d. Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Update
  - e. Conservation Officer Academy Update
  - f. Enbridge Settlement
  - g. Wildfire/Prescribed Burn Update
2. Legislative Report (see separate section below)
3. Committee Reports
  - a. Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee
  - b. NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

### **Partners in Conservation Award**

Stoneco – Rick Becker

### **Public Appearances Before the NRC**

### **Regular Meeting of the Natural Resources Commission**

1. Natural Resources Commission – For Information Only
  - a. Migratory Game Bird Early Seasons Regulations, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 6 of 2015
2. National Resources Commission – For Action
  - a. Approval of Minutes: May 7, 2015 Natural Resources Commission meeting
  - b. Deer Harvest Reduction Regulations in the Upper Peninsula, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2015
3. For Information Only – Director
  - a. Order to Regulate Off-Road Vehicle Use at Bewabic State Park, Iron County, Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 3 of 2015
4. Director's Action
  - a. Wolf Management Plan Update
  - b. Oil and Gas Lease Auction
5. Commissioner Reports

## ***June 11<sup>th</sup> NRC Meeting Summary - Ed Golder, Public Information Officer***

The Natural Resources Commission met on June 11<sup>th</sup> in Monroe. The primary decisions made:

- The Commission approved changes to deer regulations for the upcoming season in the Upper Peninsula. Commissioners eliminated the harvest of antlerless deer during the archery season for hunters using deer or combination deer licenses in the Upper Peninsula (UP). Details are contained in the press release at the bottom of this message.
- Director Keith Creagh approved the update to the Michigan Wolf Management Plan.
- The director also approved the results of the May 4 Oil and Gas Lease Auction. More than 73,000 acres of state managed public mineral rights were leased at the auction, generating \$1.26 million in revenue to enhance public recreation in the state.

The day began with a meeting of the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee. The committee heard a presentation about the general management plan for Coldwater Lake State Park. The committee approved a resolution supporting the plan.

The committee reviewed the status of the Outdoor Adventure Center near Milliken State Park and Harbor in Detroit. Vicki Anthes and Scott Pratt from the Parks Division talked about the status of the OAC. Most of the exhibits are completed and the facility will open to the public July 20, bringing up north downtown for all of Southeast Michigan.

Ray Fahlsing from Parks reviewed stewardship efforts at William C. Sterling State Park in Monroe. Through a grant from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Parks has been able to restore emergent and subemergent Great Lakes marsh, restore lakeplain prairie, repair dikes and install water control, and control phragmites.

Maia Turek of Parks talked about the work of Michigan Cares for Tourism. Parks partners with the group to undertake big volunteer efforts throughout the state. This year, the group helped clean up Sturgeon Point Lighthouse in Alcona County. Maia also told the committee about the partnership between the Parks Division and Chateau Grand Traverse. The winery has created three custom label wines and is donating proceeds to benefit state parks, trails and waterways.

Ron Olson, chief of Parks, updated the committee on happenings on Belle Isle. Damage to grass on the island from parked cars during the Grand Prix is being repaired by the Grand Prix, in keeping with the organization's contract, Ron said. Recreation Passport sales this April are up somewhat throughout the state compared to last April. Total lodging reservations for April statewide are up 17 percent year-to-year. Paul Yauk from Parks told the committee about the celebration of National Trails Week in Michigan on June 6. The department organized a big event focused on Michigan's Iron Belle Trail, in which some 2,100 hikers from 130 scouting units covered a total of 14,000 miles of the trail.

The Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries met next. Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter told the committee about expanding commercial fishing in Saginaw Bay. He also talked about a creel survey on the Detroit River, which expanded this year to include the Ministry of Natural Resources in Ontario, making the effort international. The Division has concluded 12 "Conversations and Coffee" meetings across the state that drew a good number of people to talk about fishing in Michigan.

Jim Francis of Fisheries then told the committee about fish stocking -- where fish are stocked, why, and how the stocking is done in a way that makes sense for the resource. Fish stocking is a significant effort in the department. The Fisheries Division spends \$10.1 million annually on fish stocking, about a third of the division's over-all budget. About 30 percent of all recreational fishing in the state depends on stocked fish, Jim said. Stocking is a critical component of the state's \$4.4 billion sport fishery.

Next, Jim reviewed Lake Erie Walleye Management. The lake is managed jointly by Michigan, Ontario, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. A joint advisory group works together to determine how the quota will be divided among the jurisdictions.

Wildlife Chief Russ Mason and Marketing Chief Kristin Phillips updated the commission on customer service in light of today's decision on deer regulations. The State Game Area Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel is moving forward, Russ said. In addition, the Safari Club International Deer Habitat Workgroup is working to identify deer wintering complexes and has hired a part-time data analyst and wildlife biologist, Russ said. The group is supported by funding from Safari Club International.

Barb Avers of Wildlife told the committee about hunting regulations for early waterfowl seasons. Barb said there will be no expected impact on waterfowl seasons or populations because of the recent announcement that highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been found in free-ranging geese in Macomb County.

During the director's report in Committee of the Whole, Steve Schmitt of Wildlife talked about the recent finding of CWD in a deer in Meridian Township in Ingham County. Chad Stewart of Wildlife outlined the department's response to this finding.

Next, James Averill of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development informed the Commission about the recent highly pathogenic avian influenza finding in Canada geese. Barb Avers of Wildlife talked about the state's response to that disease.

Mark Sargent of Wildlife talked about the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The RCPP is a new conservation program authorized by the 2014 Farm Bill. The objective of the program is to address priority agriculture conservation needs by delivering conservation practices to agricultural producers. Michigan partners submitted seven RCPP proposals and five were funded for over \$30 million. Examples of funded projects include the Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Phosphorus Reduction initiative and the Michigan/Indiana St. Joseph River Watershed Conservation Partnership. Both of these projects include practices such as buffer strips and wetland restorations that benefit wildlife.

Marc Miller of the Executive Division talked about the Detroit Area Conservation Partnership. This new partnership, still in its infancy, involves bringing together 42 different organizations to collaborate on conservation in Southeast Michigan. The Partnership has formed a working group, is undertaking a survey and is conducting an inventory of everything these groups are doing in the region.

Erik Eklund of the Finance and Operations Division gave an overview of the Fiscal Year 2016 budget for the department, which will take effect Oct. 1 and is on the governor's desk awaiting his signature. The department had to absorb some cuts because of unanticipated business tax credits that forced reductions in most areas of state government. Nevertheless, the DNR has seen significant investment in recent years. In Fiscal Year 2013, the Department's total budget was \$338 million, Erik said. The anticipated budget for Fiscal Year 2016: \$404 million.

Law Enforcement Chief Gary Hagler updated the commission on the recently completed conservation officer training academy. Thirty-seven new conservation officers graduated on June 5. Those officers have now moved to field assignments for additional training.

Peter Manning of the Attorney General's office talked about recently announced settlements with Enbridge Energy due to a 2010 oil spill along the Kalamazoo River. Peter also talked about the recent decision from the Michigan Court of Appeals supporting the DNR's Invasive Species order on swine.

Forestry Chief Bill O'Neill reported about wildfires in Michigan this season. Bill highlighted how quickly the department moves to put up timber for salvage in the wake of large fires, such as the 331-acre St. Helen Trail fire in Ogemaw County in early May.

Next, the NRC and department presented a Partners in Conservation Award, to Stoneco, the state's largest supplier of construction aggregate. A long-time partner with the DNR on conservation projects in the southeastern Michigan, Stoneco most recently supplied more than 700 tons of gravel and a road-grading crew to fix roads and parking areas in the Pte. Mouillee State game Area. The DNR estimated the recent donation's value at nearly \$11,000.

Those are the highlights from Monroe. Below is the press release about today's decision on Upper Peninsula deer regulations.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 11, 2015**

**Contact: Chad Stewart, 517-641-4903 or Ed Golder, 517-284-5815**

## **NRC approves 2015 U.P. antlerless deer hunting restrictions**

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission today decided to eliminate the harvest of antlerless deer during the archery season for hunters using deer or deer combo licenses in the Upper Peninsula.

The restriction, which does not affect the firearm deer season, will be in effect for the 2015-2016 season. The NRC made the decision at its monthly meeting in Monroe, Michigan, in an effort to aid the Upper Peninsula's struggling deer population, which has declined to a level comparable to the early 1980s following three successive winters with severe conditions.

There have been roughly 5,000 to 6,300 antlerless deer harvested in the U.P. by archers over each of the past four years.

Although deer regulations currently are on a three-year cycle, elements such as weather and disease can cause regulations to be reviewed mid-cycle and adjusted when appropriate.

"The NRC asked the DNR Wildlife Division to present options to address the decline in deer in the U.P. and associated concerns by hunters," said DNR deer management specialist Chad Stewart. "In May we brought forward six possible options, and the NRC chose to concentrate on two of those options."

The NRC's decision makes deer and deer combo licenses used in the archery season "buck-only" licenses. The other option considered by the NRC was to maintain the current regulations.

"Deer hunting is an important tradition in Michigan's U.P. and a big economic driver for the entire state," said Natural Resources Commission Chair John Matonich. "This decision by the NRC will ensure that tradition continues while also providing prudent protections for the U.P. deer population."

The winter of 2014-2015 brought significant snowfall before the start of the firearm season, which persisted to depths of 20-30 inches across much of the region. Additionally, temperatures of -10 to -20 degrees arrived in February, further stressing animals that had limited mobility because of the deep snow.

These latest wintry conditions followed the winters of 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, which were extremely hard on the U.P. deer population.

The DNR Wildlife Division polled neighboring states on their recent and future deer seasons, and found those states also are reducing antlerless quotas or opportunities to take antlerless deer during specific seasons.

"We will be working to communicate this information to all who hunt in the Upper Peninsula," Stewart said. "We'll need to make sure hunters everywhere are aware of the change because once they cross the Mackinac Bridge the rules for their 2015 deer licenses will change."

Antlerless harvest still will be permitted through the allotment of private-land antlerless licenses in deer management units where it was decided that antlerless harvest should be maintained. This includes DMUs 055, 122 and 155.

Deer and deer combo licenses can be returned for a refund and new licenses could be purchased prior to the start of the deer seasons. After Sept. 20, the licenses are considered "used" and cannot be returned. To learn more about the process for returning licenses, contact DNR licensing staff at 517-284-6057 or MDNR-E-License@michigan.gov.

For more information on hunting seasons and regulations, visit: [www.michigan.gov/hunting](http://www.michigan.gov/hunting).

To stay up to date on regulation changes like this, sign up for DNR email updates to get important natural resource news sent directly to you, when it's happening.

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

**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.

- This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

**HB 4534 – Requires a Flag to be Flown at All Times when a Person is in Tow – Rep. Kesto**

This bill seeks to amend section 80152 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require a flag to be mounted and visible from all direction and displayed at all times that a person is in tow on a vessel.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Regulatory Reform.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

**HB 4564 –Modifies the Requirements for the Transportation of a Firearm – Rep. Dianda**

This bill seeks to amend sections 40111 & 43513 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to modify the requirements for transportation of a firearm and would specifically require that for transportation the firearm must be unloaded.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Judiciary.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

**HB 4682- Provides for First Hunting Preference to Veterans- Rep. Kosowski**

This bill seeks to amend section 43536 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protections Act by adding 43536b to modify that if a license to take game under this part is issued through a lottery, the department shall give first priority in that lottery to any veteran who submits an application in that lottery.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

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

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

**SB 371 – Provides for Prohibition on the Sale, Purchase, Barter, or Possession with Intent to Sell Ivory or Rhinoceros Horns– Sen. Bieda**

This bill seeks to create a new act prohibiting the sale, purchase, barter or possession with intent to sell ivory or rhinoceros horns or products. And further, provides for the power and duties of the state governmental officers and agencies to require the seizure of certain items. While interstate commerce is federally regulated, intrastate commerce is not. This bill is identical to HB 4509.

- This bill was referred to Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

**SB 133 – Omnibus FY 2016 Budget**

FY 2016 Target Agreement between the Executive, House, and Senate allocates \$39.6 million General Fund to the DNR, of which \$38.5 million is ongoing and \$1.1 million is one-time. This FY 2016 General Fund allocation is \$175,000 less

than the Executive, \$1.8 million more than the House, and \$75,000 more than the Senate versions of the DNR's FY 2016 budget.

- The bill has passed both the Senate and the House.

If you would like to learn more about these and other bills, you can access the Michigan Legislature website at [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov).

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

- **Deer hunting regulations:** The UP deer population has experienced increased mortality due to recent severe winters. The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) is currently considering two options for changing/maintaining deer hunting regulations in the UP in response to this increase in mortality. The NRC will decide which option to adopt at the June 11<sup>th</sup> NRC meeting. Those options are:
  - Maintain the current season and license structure in the UP
  - Eliminate the antlerless option during archery season for hunters hunting on deer licenses, including the combination license
- **Tree planting/break-out areas:** Red and bur oak trees are being planted in areas where diseased beech trees were recently harvested. These oak trees are being planted to try to provide an alternative hard mast source to beech nuts. In order to provide deer with food soon after they break out of thick conifer cover in spring, forest openings in deer wintering complexes are being planted with rye, clover, and crabapple trees.
  - Shingleton: Wildlife staff planted about 1,000 bur oak and 7,000 red oak saplings in recently-harvested stands of diseased beech. Many of these stands were within the Big Springs deer wintering complex.
  - Sault Ste. Marie: Wildlife staff planted about 1,000 red oak saplings in a hardwood stand in deer wintering complex in western Mackinac County this month.
  - Trees are also being planted in other WLD units across the UP on state and private lands as additional deer and wildlife habitat improvement projects
- **Grouse/woodcock surveys:** Spring breeding bird surveys have been completed. Surveys for sharp-tailed grouse, ruffed grouse, and American woodcock are conducted to inform management about the distribution and abundance of these upland birds.
- **Grouse Enhanced Management Sites (GEMS):** Wildlife staff has begun working on GEMS. Rye, clover, and crabapple and other trees are being planted in forest openings and along walking trails. Parking lots, gates, and kiosks will also be erected and walking trails will be cleared soon.
  - Shingleton: Wildlife staff planted about 500 crabapple trees around openings in the Melstrand GEMS. Infrastructure is being ordered and will be implemented soon.
  - Sault Ste. Marie: On April 30<sup>th</sup>, students from the Drummond Island school planted a variety of trees and shrubs in the Drummond GEMS to improve habitat for ruffed grouse and other wildlife. The event was the result of collaboration between the schools, Drummond Island Sportsmen's Club, Ruffed Grouse Society, Michigan Sharp-tailed Grouse Association, Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac Conservation District, and DNR. RGS provided 250 trees and shrubs ranging from oaks to dogwoods for the event. Members of the DISC, RGS, MSGA, and DNR staff were present to help with the planting and mentor the students.
- **Personnel update:**
  - Shingleton: Cody Norton is the new wildlife biologist in Shingleton. An assistant will be working throughout the summer to help mainly with tree planting, opening planting, and GEMS.
  - Newberry: An assistant recently came on-board for the summer. He will be helping with breeding bird surveys, wolf research trapping, and brushing GEMS trails.
  - Sault Ste. Marie: An assistant recently came on-board for the summer. She has been helping with sharp-tailed grouse surveys, and will be helping with other surveys and projects through the summer.

- **Waterfowl Banding:** All full-time U.P. wildlife division staff recently completed waterfowl banding training. Waterfowl banding is identified as a high priority action for the Wildlife Division. Banding goals include; 300 geese, 100 mallards and 100 wood ducks for the region.
- **Nuisance Bears/"Orphaned" Wildlife:** Springtime means that bears are hungry and looking for an easy meal as they leave their dens. Citizens should remove human sources of food like bird feeders, garbage, etc. to avoid problem encounters. Deer and other wildlife species are also producing offspring in spring. **Citizens that find a lone fawn or other young animal should leave it alone.** Deer and many other wildlife species leave their offspring unattended as a way to protect them from predators. These young animals are not orphaned/abandoned; the mother will return. Also, citizens shouldn't touch young animals, as their scent can draw predators to them.

### **Forest Resources Division: Jeff Stampfly, Eastern UP Supervisor**

- The 2017 Year of Entry (YOE) inventory is underway with staff gathering field information. Open house and compartment review schedules are posted online, along with other state forest inventory information at: [Michigan.Gov/Forestry](http://Michigan.Gov/Forestry).
- We have had some personnel movement since the last meeting. Vacant fire officer positions have been filled at Thompson and Shingleton. A vacant field technician position is being filled at Shingleton and Newberry FMU has two temporary fire officers working for spring/summer fire season. Long time fire supervisor Paul Gaberdiel has transferred into PRD's recreational analyst position in Newberry.
- Due to medical reasons the Sault continues to have a shortage of fire officers. Fire Officer Rob Shields went above and beyond to make sure that the fire staffing and fire equipment was ready for the fire season and was provided assistance by fire qualified foresters on the Unit. The Newberry FMU also went all out and provided needed fire support and assistance.
- Timber markets and sale competition is strong, especially for break-up sales. There were 15 sales sold in April and May in the EUP, and there are upcoming bid dates for additional sales in June. As of May 13th, we have 301 open timber sale contracts in the EUP. This represents 39,801 acres of timber valued at approximately \$26.8 million.
- There are approximately 35 active has timber sales in the EUP at this time. Loggers have been steadily moving around to cut wood that mills are demanding. Aspen is currently strong in the Newberry area. A couple of the recently sold timber sales in the Sault are already being harvested and are close to being completed.
- The Wyman State Forest Nursery lifted 2,252,000 red pine, 2,338,000 jack pine and 21,000 oak this spring for planting throughout the UP and the NLP. The nursery just finished sowing seed to grow 4 million red pine and 1.5 million jack pine for future planting.
- There were 1.5 million seedlings planted in the EUP this spring, 436,000 of these seedlings were planted in the Duck Lake fire area. FRD staff are currently conducting regeneration and seedling survival surveys throughout the fire area to determine the status of our regeneration efforts. A report of this will be available soon.
- FRD staff assisted Wildlife Division with planting of over 1,100 sapling sized oak trees in recently harvested beech salvage hardwood stands in the Batty Doe Deer Wintering Complex.
- For the EUP, the month of April brought us 7 reportable fires for 74.6 acres and in May there were 4 reportable fires for 28.6 acres. This season in the entire UP there have been 33 wildfires for a total of 180 acres.
- The first fire for the Sault Unit was on April 16<sup>th</sup> in Mackinac County. The largest fire occurred on April 30<sup>th</sup>, in Chippewa County and was 49.7 acres. The Pit Fire on April 18<sup>th</sup>, was notable because it started from a large brush pile that was in an old gravel pit. The brush pile was started in December, 2014 and the fire department put it out

on December 19<sup>th</sup>, after there were complaints of the smoke. It was deep enough that it held heat until re-ignited in April.

- US Forest Service Fire personnel and fire equipment cooperated on several fires in the Rudyard and Trout Lake areas.
- DNR staff moved around various parts of the state this spring to assist Wildlife Division in conducting numerous prescribed burns. Several staff members from the EUP volunteered to assist in the Southern Lower Peninsula. FRD staff also used the opportunity for training to enhance their firefighting skills in the event of a wildfire.
- In the EUP, Newberry FMU conducted 2 prescribed burns (along the Sage Truck Trail and on the Danaher Plains) for a total of 675 acres, and Shingleton FMU conducted one burn for a total of 725 acres at the High Rollaways. These burns were conducted with a wildlife habitat objective, were very successfully executed and involved multiple divisions.
- DNR Staff participated in hosting an Earth Day tree planting event which took place in early May near Newberry. Staff took 1<sup>st</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from Tahquamenon Area Schools out to a site on state land where a recent timber harvest took place. Students got to try their hand at planting red pine and white pine on the site to help in re-forestation efforts. Overall the day went good and was fun for all!
- A presentation by FRD and Wildlife is scheduled on the evening of June 9<sup>th</sup> on Drummond Island for the Lion's Club. Discussion of land and wildlife management on Drummond Island is the theme.
- Ten people from the Conservative Anabaptist Service Program (CASP), which is a federally recognized service program, are working in the EUP for one month doing tree planting and clean-up activities on state forest land.
- The 2014 Farm Bill created a nation-wide initiative called the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA). This authority will create a collaborative relationship between DNR and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and allow DNR to act as an agent of the USFS for conducting land management projects on national forest lands. Lansing staff have attended a workshop in Wisconsin regarding the authority and we are beginning to discuss possibilities. Much of the revenue from the timber sales would be retained by the state to fund the additional work. The Huron-Manistee, Hiawatha, and Ottawa National Forests are interested in implementing GNA agreements with us.
- The Forest Resources Division established a partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for a new project called "Training Foresters to Enhance the Sustainable Management of Private Forest Land." The DNR will inform NRCS staff about private forest land issues, and also continue to provide training to local conservation district foresters, and other foresters and wildlife biologists in the private sector who work with forest landowners. Mike Smalligan, the Forest Stewardship program coordinator in Lansing, will manage the grant and help schedule training for DNR staff and other foresters in the private sector. This five-year, \$1 million project is funded through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, a new 2014 Farm Bill program championed by Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow.
- Our Cooperative Forest Management specialist Foresters are gearing up for field inspections of new Commercial Forest (CF) list applications. Each has 2,000 to 3,000 acres of various size parcels that private landowners have applied to enroll in the Commercial Forest program this year. For more information on the Commercial Forest program go to <http://Michigan.gov/commercialforest>.

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

- Field Units (Steve Scott, Unit Manager)
  - Now that the ice is gone, field staff have been busy conducting lake surveys this spring. So far we have surveyed the following lakes: Bodi, Blind Sucker Flooding, Addis, Brucker, and Sporley Lakes in the Lake Superior basin.

Steelhead fishing was a bit slow this spring in most of our rivers. Walleye fishing has been fairly good from the reports we got.

- One of our technicians was promoted to a technician supervisor in Newberry (created by a retirement last fall) and we are in the process back-filling that technician position.

➤ Marquette and Thompson Fish Hatcheries (Jan VanAmberg, Manager)

*Marquette Hatchery*

- Hired a full time trades helper to assist with the hatchery maintenance program.
- Crew is in the midst of the fish planting season as of the week of April 28<sup>th</sup>. Most planting is occurring in the lower peninsula so far as we are waiting for access and roads to open up in the UP (see <http://www.michigandnr.com/fishstock/> for details).
- All fish to be stocked in the spring of 2015 are healthy and we expect all stocking assignments to be met.

*Thompson Hatchery*

- Crew is in the midst of the fish planting season as of the week of April 28<sup>th</sup>. Most planting is occurring in the lower peninsula for far as we are waiting for access and roads to open up in the UP. (See <http://www.michigandnr.com/fishstock/> for details).
- Received 1.7 million steelhead eggs from Little Manistee Weir on 4/22.
- Collected 20 million walleye eggs from Little Bay de Noc on 4/17 and 4/20.
- All fish to be stocked this spring are healthy and we expect all stocking assignments to be met.

➤ Marquette Research Station (Ed Baker, Manager)

- Continued working on gear and net maintenance.
- Continued lab work on samples collected during 2014 field season and started on 2015 sample processing.
- Plankton sampling is being conducted in Little and Big bays de Noc to assess food availability for newly hatched walleye.
- RV Lake Char splashed April 28 and suffered a starboard transmission failure on the first day of the spring survey. The transmission has been rebuilt and the survey season has resumed but we lost 4 weeks of survey time while the transmission issue was being resolved.
- Lake sturgeon rearing is progressing well at Cedar, Whitefish, and Ontonagon rivers.

**Marketing & Outreach Division: Jon Spieles, Education Services Section**

- Education staff has 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.
- 46 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 including U.P. sites: Brimley State Park, Indian Lake State Park, Wells State Park, Van Riper State Park, Baraga State Park and McClain State Parks. 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 statewide.
- The Pocket Park at the State Fair Grounds in Escanaba has been busy with school kids over the last two weeks and will open June 16 for the summer. The park will be open Tuesday through Thursday 9-5 by appointment and Friday and Saturday from 12-7 at any time. Like every other year, we are looking for volunteers to help teach archery, shooting sports and fishing during the State Fair Week August 17-23.

- “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 [www.michigan.gov/arrowsaway](http://www.michigan.gov/arrowsaway).
- “Hook, Line and Sinker” programs are again placing a weekly emphasis on fishing this summer at more than twenty sites around the state. Details can be found at: [www.michigan.gov/hooklineandsinker](http://www.michigan.gov/hooklineandsinker).
- Marketing and Outreach worked together with Fisheries Division staff to secure grant funding to complete a new fishing pier at the Michigan Fisheries Visitor Center at the Oden State Fish Hatchery. The ribbon-cutting event took place Saturday, June 6.
- Thirty new schools have been added to the Salmon in the Classroom program for the 2015-2016 school year bringing the new total to over 230 classrooms. Teachers new to the program must complete a mandatory training program before the fall.

## **Finance & Operations: Christina Hammill, Eastern UP**

### **Dates to Remember**

- 6/1 – Deadline to apply for Bear and Elk hunts
- 6/13 & 6/14 – Free Fishing and Free ORV weekend
- 6/29 – Bear and Elk drawing results posted on-line
- 7/1 – May apply for Fall Turkey hunts
- 7/8 – Dog Training opens
- 7/13 – Leftover bear licenses (if available) on sale for unsuccessful applicants
- 7/15 – Coyote hunting season opens
- 7/15 – Turtle season opens (Snappers and Softshells)
- 7/20 – Leftover bear licenses (if available) on sale for any hunter
- 8/1 – Crow season re-opens (open dates are 8/1 – 9/30 and 2/1 – 3/31)
- 8/1 – Deadline for Fall Turkey hunt applications
- 8/1 – Hook & Lure size/weight restrictions begin on all streams (through 5/31)
- 8/10 – Bear blinds can be placed on State lands in the U.P. (Zone 1)
- 8/10 – Fall Turkey drawing results posted on-line
- 8/17 - Leftover Turkey licenses (if available) on sale for unsuccessful applicants
- 8/22 & 8/23 – Free ORV weekend
- 8/24 – Leftover Turkey licenses (if available) on sale for any hunter
- 8/25 – Elk Hunt #1 opens (see digest for all hunt periods)

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

Law Division’s latest Recruit School concluded On June 5<sup>th</sup> with 37 new officers graduating and beginning their Field training process around the state, no assignments have been determined at this time, as transfers and promotions must be completed first.

Included in this promotional process Sgt. Gerald Thayer has recently been promoted to Lt. of District 7 in Plainwell. Sgt. Thayer has been a very well know and familiar face within the District and will be missed by his coworkers and the public alike our loss is definitely District 7 gain.

Below are some of the activities our District offices have been involved in since the last CAC in April.

- CO Robert Freeborn was dispatched to a wildfire near Manistique. Several fire departments, including DNR personnel, were on scene fighting a 20 acre fire that threatened 12 structures. After a brief investigation and interview of a potential suspect, CO Freeborn determined that the fire had started from an unattended burn barrel behind the suspect’s house that did not have the required screen mesh on the chimney. The suspect was issued a ticket for allowing a fire to escape and will be held responsible

for reimbursement of suppression costs from the fire departments. CO Freeborn later learned that the same residence three years earlier started a forest fire in the same manner.

- CO Robert Freeborn was dispatched to a small wildfire that resulted in almost four acres being burned. After a brief interview with the landowner he admitted to burning a small pile of brush in his back yard. During the interview the suspect was very agitated that CO Freeborn was on his property and told him to leave. When CO Freeborn advised the suspect that he was not leaving and was going to be issuing him a ticket for allowing a fire to escape, he became even more agitated. The suspect told CO Freeborn that he had the fire under control the entire time. When CO Freeborn reminded the suspect that he was the one that called 911 asking for the fire department, the suspect grabbed his ticket and stormed into his house. Suppression costs will be requested.
- COs Michael Evink and Robert Freeborn participated in the annual Law Enforcement vs Manistique High School basketball game that raised money for the senior all night party. During the game, both COs were reminded why they never joined the NBA.
- CO Jerrold Fitzgibbon attended Background Investigation training, Firearms Instructor training, & Legal Update training. He also assisted CO Kevin Postma with the "Ask the DNR" program in Marquette.
- CO Jerrold Fitzgibbon, while working the trout opener, observed an angler on a type D trout lake. The CO watched the angler almost two hours and observed the subject using worms, keeping undersized fish, and smoking a marijuana pipe. He was also discarding his cigarette butts into the lake. Contact was made when the subject came to shore. He had also left his life jacket at home. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Mike Evink observed a vehicle parked near a trout stream prior to the trout opener, and waited for the subject to return to his vehicle. When the subject arrived he was carrying a spear and a spotlight. CO Evink contacted the subject, who stated he was unaware that he could not possess a spear on a trout stream. A ticket was issued for the violation.
- CO Robert Crisp came across five anglers fishing a closed section of the Whitefish River in Trenary. CO Crisp watched the anglers for a short time and then made contact with them. A few of the anglers claimed that they were unaware that the river was closed until the trout opener and others stated they were not fishing. CO Crisp explained to the anglers that he had been watching them for some time and that all five of them were actively fishing with their own individual poles. Enforcement action was taken for the fishing violations and a verbal warning was given for operating in a closed area with a vehicle.
- CO Jared Ferguson received a complaint of a fire that had gotten out of control and burned approximately 15 acres. The person had two leaf piles she was burning which she lost control of, the fire burned 10 acres of her property and five acres of her neighbor's property before it was extinguished by fire department personnel. Enforcement action was taken for allowing a fire to escape.
- After numerous complaints to CO Jeff Panich and several days of surveillance on Drummond Island, CO Brett Gustafson, along with a detective from the Special Investigative Unit, observed two subjects illegally spearing walleye and pike on the Potagannissing River. The suspects were very surprised to see the officers, especially since they had even attempted to determine if they were on the island by making phone calls prior to beginning their illegal activity. Enforcement action taken.
- COs Jeff Panich and Kevin Postma worked a smelt run patrol on the Carp River in Mackinac County which led to over 125 checks, resulting in numerous verbal warnings and two tickets - one for no fishing license and the other for no life jackets in a canoe.
- CO Kevin Postma received a Report-All-Poaching (RAP) complaint in reference to an individual who shot a deer last deer season and then bought a license after the fact. CO Postma followed up with the individual and questioned him about the deer. The individual was adamant that he had a valid deer license when the deer was shot. The subject's story changed drastically when CO Postma showed him a picture of the dead deer and the subject that was time stamped prior to him purchasing the license. Charges are being sought through the prosecutor's office.
- CO Kevin Postma responded to a recreational trespass complaint and was able to interview both the complainant as well as the suspect. It was determined that the suspect had entered onto the complainant's property from the back side of the field through the woods. According to the suspect, he did not see any "No Trespassing" signs which would indicate that the property was private. The suspect could not explain why he didn't notice that the turkey he shot was standing in a mowed hay field on the other side of an old fence row. The complainant confirmed the kill site, as he had watched the entire incident transpire

while he was enjoying his morning coffee the turkeys in his back yard. Charges are being sought through the Chippewa County Prosecutor's Office.

- CO Bobby Watson was dispatched to a location where a subject had dumped a very large amount of household garbage on state land. After investigating the site further, a potential suspect was developed. The next day, contact was made with the subject who confessed to the violation. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Jon Busken responded to a complaint of burning without a permit. The suspect admitted to burning the day before, leaving the fire burning while he was sleeping and then continuing to burn the next day even though he knew no burning permits were being issued anywhere in the state. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Bobby Watson was beginning his daily patrol when a four-wheeler was observed travelling down a state highway. The driver was not wearing a helmet and had a very young child sitting on his lap who was also not wearing a helmet. Contact was made and enforcement action was taken.
- After receiving multiple complaints of an individual repeatedly hunting out of season, COs Bobby Watson and Rob Freeborn conducted a joint patrol to contact the suspect. CO Watson observed the suspect, who appeared to be hunting, walking down the road while his dog ran in and out of the woods. The individual was in possession of a .22 rifle and wearing a hunter orange hat. Upon making contact, it was discovered that the individual was also a convicted felon and was not allowed to be in possession of a firearm. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Kevin Postma investigated a wildfire that burned 50 acres which was started by a juvenile playing with fireworks.
- COs Kevin Postma, Jon Buskin and Mike Hammill instructed an ORV safety class certifying 20 students.
- CO Kevin Postma responded to a complaint of anglers keeping short splake that had been recently planted by DNR Fisheries Division employees. Fifteen anglers were checked, none of whom had any splake; however good numbers of perch were checked.
- CO Mike Hammill responded to a wildfire east of Newberry. Upon arriving on scene it was apparent that earlier in the day someone had attempted to burn a pile of trash without completely extinguishing the fire before they left. After a few quick phone calls and a short face-to-face interview, CO Hammill obtained a confession from an individual who had been at the property earlier in the day. The suspect stated, "I thought it'd burn itself out". Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Mike Hammill had numerous reports of traps being left on state land with half eaten and rotting animals left in them. CO Hammill responded to the area and found several traps with rotten muskrat and mink trapped earlier in the year. CO Hammill knew who the suspect was and contacted the individual. When faced with the violations and shown the rotten animals the suspect replied, "I must have forgotten about those". Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Mike Hammill contacted an individual at a State Forest Campground who was taking down his camp. The camper had not paid for his campsite for the past three days and stated that he usually pays just before he leaves the campground. The sign advising to register and pay before setting up was pointed out and the subject was ticketed.
- CO Jon Busken contacted an individual while following up on a complaint of the subject burning without a burn permit. The suspect admitted to burning the day before, leaving the fire burning while he was sleeping and continuing to burn the next day even though he knew no burning permits were being issued anywhere in the state. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Jon Busken was patrolling the St. Ignace area when a BOL was broadcast for a vehicle driving erratically on I-75. A Michigan State Police (MSP) trooper stopped the vehicle north of St. Ignace and requested assistance. The driver appeared to be intoxicated and had a valid felony warrant out of Dickinson County for carrying a concealed weapon. A search of the vehicle revealed marijuana and also prescription medication, for which neither the operator nor passenger had a prescription. The operator was transported to the hospital for a blood test and lodged in the Mackinac County Jail.
- CO Jon Busken was traveling on US-2 when he observed a vehicle behind him approaching at a high rate of speed. The vehicle passed the patrol vehicle continuing at a very high rate of speed. CO Jon Busken conducted a traffic stop and during the contact asked the operator if she had ever received a motor vehicle ticket before. The operator said she had only gotten a ticket for going through a yellow light. A driving record check revealed she had four prior moving motor vehicle violations, a driver

responsibility letter in her file and a prior suspension pending a driver responsibility fee repayment. Enforcement action was taken.

- CO Brett Gustafson received several complaints of household trash being dumped on public and private lands around St. Ignace. After searching through the trash piles, several items identifying a suspect were found. After speaking with the local US Forest Service (USFS) officer, it was discovered that several other dump locations were related to the same individual. The interview resulted in a statement by the elderly suspect, that he had paid an individual from St. Ignace to dispose of his garbage. The investigation continues.
- CO Rob Freeborn was dispatched to a forest fire near Garden. Upon arrival the DNR fire units had the fire nearly contained. After investigating the possible starting point of the fire, it was not clearly determined what had started the fire. No structures were damaged in the fire.
- CO Rob Freeborn received a complaint from DNR foresters regarding a timber theft on state land. CO Freeborn has a possible suspect and is continuing further investigation into the incident.
- COs Michael Evink and Rob Freeborn, along with MSP, Manistique Public Safety and local deputies, responded to the Manistique High School for a report of a student with a gun who was high on cocaine. After several searches of the building it was determined that no threat was present and that it was a false report. While the COs were still at the school, dispatch advised of a separate incident of a suicidal subject who was just involved in a trespass and had left the scene on foot. When COs located the subject he produced a knife and held it to his own neck. The COs were able to get the subject to drop the knife and proceeded to take him into protective custody to be evaluated by mental health staff. He was later turned over to the Manistique Public Safety. They also responded to a call of a subject who was involved in an altercation the previous night, reportedly heading to the other combatants residence with a gun. This complaint turned out to be unfounded.
- CO Jared Ferguson was working the Days River for steelhead anglers when he observed a car with items being thrown out of the vehicle windows. CO Ferguson made contact with the elderly couple and found that they were throwing raw hamburger in front of a fox den occupied by kits.
- CO Jared Ferguson and Acting Sgt. John Wenzel assisted with the removal of abandoned property interfering with the Kipling boat launch in Gladstone. Over the past several years both COs have made it a point to educate the public about leaving their ice shacks past April 1<sup>st</sup>. Due to the efforts of both officers the number of shacks has dropped from two to three dozen down to just two this year. Both owners were contacted and ticketed for leaving property on state land for more than 24 hours.
- CO Robert Crisp contacted occupants of a vessel returning fairly late to the Munising dock and found them in possession of two sets of fish fillets. CO Crisp advised the individuals that it was illegal to clean their catch while still on the water because it destroyed the ID and length of the fish. Both occupants knew that it was illegal, but stated there is not fish cleaning station at the Munising launch. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Robert Crisp was traveling on Hwy 13 when an ORV pulled out in front of him and accelerated to approximately 65 MPH. CO Crisp conducted a traffic stop on the ORV to find out why the subject was traveling on the roadway and at such a high rate of speed. Upon making contact with the driver it was clear that he was under the influence of intoxicants and had an open beer on the machine. CO Crisp gave the operator a PBT with a result of .15. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Mike Hammill was on routine patrol when he observed a vehicle in his rear view mirror approaching at a high rate of speed. The vehicle sped past CO Hammill and was paced at over 85 mph in a 55 mph zone. After conducting a traffic stop, the operator advised the officer that he was having a nervous breakdown and needed to drive fast. CO Hammill asked if there were any weapons in the vehicle, with a long pause the operator replied, "I don't think so". Upon further investigation a .12 gauge shotgun and a .22 caliber rifle were discovered. Enforcement action was taken.
- COs Kevin Postma, Bobby Watson and Sgt. Gerald Thayer held a hunter's education class in the Rudyard area certifying 18 new hunters.
- CO Kevin Postma investigated a wolf / cow depredation complaint. While traveling out to the scene a wolf was seen running away from the cow that was on the ground giving birth to a calf. The calf was partially eaten and the cow had to be put down due to severe injuries sustained from the wolf.

- CO Kevin Postma investigated a wild fire that was likely intentionally set. Approximately 2.1 acres of state land burned before fire crews could suppress it. The investigation is ongoing at this time.
- CO Kevin Postma worked ORVs in the Paradise area over the Memorial Day weekend making numerous contacts and issuing many warnings and tickets for various infractions.
- CO Jeff Panich worked on Drummond Island over the Memorial Day weekend. Over 100 contacts were made, most being very positive. Unfortunately, a few riders were operating in closed areas, with open intoxicants, and not wearing helmets. One operator of a motor vehicle decided he didn't need to license his truck figuring an ORV sticker on the bumper would cover the requirements of licensing. CO Panich discussed the issues with all; enforcement action was taken with several individuals.
- CO Jeff Panich was working ORVs in the Kinross area when he received a complaint of dirt bikes operating on the shoreline of a local lake. CO Panich responded and was able to locate the operator of the dirt bike. It was determined that the individual was a juvenile who decided to go riding without his parents' consent. While trying to locate the operator's parents, CO Panich observed another dirt bike riding on the road also being operated by a juvenile and doing so without a helmet. The operator spotted the CO and fled. CO Panich opted not to pursue the dirt bike; he was able to follow the tracks and set up surveillance. A short time later he observed the same dirt bike and juvenile operator. This time the officer was able to stop the dirt bike. Both juveniles' parents were contacted and enforcement action was taken.
- CO Jon Busken observed a motorcycle with an expired registration as he was fueling up at a local gas station. A traffic stop was conducted after the operator left the station. Upon approaching the cycle the operator indicated that he was in a rush to get to his destination so the traffic stop would have to be quick. In addition to the expired registration the operator did not have a cycle endorsement. Midway through the stop the operator told the officer that he was going to leave the traffic stop because CO Busken "Was out of time". CO Busken told the operator that he would advise him when the stop was over. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Busken observed a vehicle blow through a stop sign from M-48 to M-129 at approximately 30 mph. A traffic stop was conducted. When asking the operator about his driving record the operator described it as good. A driving history check revealed 14 traffic tickets in the last eight years. Enforcement action was taken.
- COs Jon Busken and Bobby Watson were patrolling South Manistique Lake when they observed a vessel with an expired registration. While contacting the owner it was discovered that the owner had never transferred the vessel into his name. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Bobby Watson was patrolling a local river when he discovered a large illegal dump site. The suspect had dumped several trash bags of household refuse and dirty diapers which had been torn open and spread throughout the area. After investigating the site further a suspect was found. Contact was made with the suspect who alleged that they believed the site to be an established landfill. Enforcement action was taken.
- While checking a local trout stream for trout anglers, CO Watson contacted a pair of anglers coming off the water at the access site. A quick check inside of the anglers' cooler revealed an overlimit of brook trout. Enforcement action was taken.
- COs Bobby Watson and Mike Hammill worked the walleye opener together. Numerous verbal warnings were given and tickets issued. One group of lucky anglers had over 20 walleyes and northern pike in a live well at their cabin. Upon measuring the fish it was discovered that several were undersized. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Brett Gustafson reports a relatively slow walleye opener in the Straits area. Anglers on Brevort Lake, Pine River and Cedarville had some success on pike and perch, but few walleye. Fishing activity was high this past weekend in Cedarville, with good compliance.
- CO Brett Gustafson is working on two separate litter investigations. Suspects have been identified, with continuing efforts to locate them.
- CO Brett Gustafson worked ORV operators over the Memorial Day holiday weekend. Compliance was high, activity low.
- CO Brett Gustafson handled a nuisance beaver complaint in Cedarville. Upon arriving on scene it was apparent a permit would be issued. The beaver had the landowner's property badly flooded.

- CO Robert Freeborn and Acting Sgt. John Wenzel were patrolling Little Bay De Noc during walleye opener when they came across anglers who had some luck fishing. When asked how big the fish were, the subject stated one was definitely a keeper and the other measured just 15". Upon measuring the walleye, it was determined that it was significantly shorter than the 15" requirement. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Robert Freeborn received a complaint regarding a domestic dog caught in a snare in a river. After CO Freeborn located the snare using the GPS coordinates given, it was determined that it was a coyote caught in the snare, not a domestic dog. Upon further investigation it was determined that the snare was tagged with a Sault Ste Marie tribal tag. CO Freeborn was able to get ahold of the tribal police and turn the investigation over.
- While working Memorial Day weekend CO Robert Freeborn located a boat on Indian Lake with faded registration and MC numbers. Upon further investigation it was determined that the boat was last registered in 2001. Enforcement action was taken.
- Also during the Memorial Day weekend, CO Robert Freeborn located a vehicle parked along a local trout stream. When CO Freeborn exited his patrol truck it was determined that two of the subjects had poles in their hands while the third was observing. After a brief conversation with the subjects, they were asked for their fishing licenses. The subject who didn't have a pole in his hand stated he didn't have one and wasn't fishing, the second was obviously under age and the third stated that it was back at the motel. CO Freeborn asked again if they had one because he would be double checking the computer. The subject replied that it was back at the motel. After a quick check on the computer it was determined the subject had not purchased a license this year. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Robert Freeborn contacted occupants of several boats on a local lake. Overall compliance was good except for two boats that did not have any PFDs on board. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Robert Crisp checked several anglers on Grimes Lake over the holiday weekend. CO Crisp found that two of the anglers were fishing without licenses and one of their vessels was unregistered. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Robert Crisp passed a vehicle traveling on a dirt road in southern Alger County. CO Crisp observed two young children hanging out of the passenger window and estimated the truck's speed at approximately 40 mph. CO Crisp conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and contacted the driver who was also not wearing a seatbelt. Enforcement action was taken due to the circumstances and two verbal warnings were also given.
- CO Robert Crisp responded to a personal injury ORV accident in Grand Marais near Au Sable Lake. CO Crisp assisted first responders with first aid and transportation of the victim to a waiting Emergency Medical Services (EMS) unit. From the scene it appeared that the side-by-side had struck or jumped a large sand hill causing the driver to be ejected from the vehicle. Unfortunately it was later found that the accident was fatal.
- CO Jerry Fitzgibbon conducted a hunter safety class to a group of students in Munising.
- COs Jared Ferguson and Mike Evink stopped to check on a vehicle that was stuck on a railroad right-of-way. A friend showed up to help and it was found that the friend was driving while suspended and was on bond for operating while under the influence of drugs. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Jared Ferguson received a call from central dispatch regarding an airboat operating in the Portage Marsh Recreation Area. CO Ferguson responded to the scene at midnight and waited for the boat to come into shore. CO Ferguson contacted the boat a short time later and found that the individuals were operating without life jackets readily accessible. CO Ferguson educated the boat operator on marine safety and warnings were given to the occupants.
- CO Jared Ferguson and Acting Sgt. John Wenzel worked Little Bay De Noc on the walleye opener. The COs battled poor weather all day and were still able to make over 150 contacts and cover the entire bay. No tickets were written and compliance was high.
- Acting Sgt. John Wenzel and a Detective from the SIU worked a problem area in Delta County. The area has been a dumping ground for fish guts and carcasses for many years. Contact was made with the subject who admitted dumping the fish parts. Enforcement action was taken.

- Acting Sgt. John Wenzel was checking anglers at the Ford River access site. One subject stated his license was back in his truck. Upon checking, it was found the subject had not purchased a license for some time. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Kevin Postma was working fishermen on Munuscong Bay. While slowly approaching a group of 20 boats, CO Postma used his binoculars to observe any possible violations before his presence was known. CO Postma observed one fisherman trolling with three plainer boards. The fisherman grabbed a fourth rod and casted it behind his vessel in the "prop wash". Upon contact, the fisherman was asked how many lines he had out. He advised that he actually had four however, had just put out this one here and pointed at the one out the back. He went onto explain that he was just trying a lure out just for a minute. He then proceeded to reel in the line which now had an undersized pike on it. The fisherman again argued that he was just trying the lure out. CO Postma asked the fisherman, "would you have kept that fish if it was a legal walleye", the fisherman replied "yes". Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Jeff Panich was working an ORV patrol on Drummond Island when he observed a ORV exiting a closed section of trail. CO Panich caught up with the operator and asked if he knew he was on a closed trail? To the officers' surprise, the man said yes, and explained he was just approached by a girl walking down the trail. She explained that her boyfriend's jeep was stuck in the mud. The ORV operator went for help after seeing that he couldn't pull the jeep out with his ORV. CO Panich then followed the ORV to where the jeep was stuck. Upon arriving on scene, CO Panich observed a jeep with only the cab sticking out of the mud. Approximately an hour later and two other jeeps with winches pulling, the operator of the stuck jeep was finally free. While speaking with CO Panich, the operator of the jeep stated, "I realize why this section of trail is closed now". Enforcement action was taken.
- CO John Busken observed an ATV operating in West Mackinac County. A traffic stop was conducted since the officer was unable to verify that the ATV had a 2015 ORV registration attached. Contact with the operator revealed that he had only purchased the less expensive ORV Trail Permit. When asked if he had his driver's license on him the operator replied he did not. He then stated that he did not have a current driver's license. Further investigation revealed that the operators driving privileges were suspended. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO John Busken has been busy lately meeting with local schools. CO Busken gave a presentation to over twenty 6th graders. Topics covered included what a conservation officer does, how to prepare for a career in law enforcement and a tour of the officer's patrol truck. CO Busken also spoke at a hunter's safety class. Students and parents, had questions pertaining to game laws, ORV regulations and motor vehicle law.
- CO Jon Busken was dispatched to a domestic in progress to assist a Mackinac County Deputy. Three individuals had injuries on scene. Despite conflicting accounts of what occurred, the officers' investigation pointed to one suspect being the guilty party. The subject was lodged in the Mackinac County Jail.
- COs Mike Hammill and Bobby Watson patrolled a local walleye lake this past weekend and noticed the fishing was picking up. Upon contacting one angler, CO Watson noticed one walleye that was perhaps a bit undersized. The angler measured the walleye in front of CO Watson hitting the 15" mark on the head. CO Watson explained the proper way to measure a walleye and gave the angler a quick demonstration. The walleyes true measurement was 14.5", a verbal warning and a hand shake ended the contact with the angler.
- CO Michael Evink was on his way back from a patrol in Northern Schoolcraft County when he heard radio traffic about shots being fired in the city of Manistique. Officer Evink responded to the area to assist the City and State police with the investigation. A suspect was identified and it was believed he may have fled using an ORV and local trails. Officer Evink and a Trooper jumped in the CO's Patrol truck and ran the trails heading out of town looking for the suspect or evidence.
- COs Robert Crisp, Jared Ferguson, Rob Freeborn, Jeff Panich and Brett Gustafson worked the Grand Prix race on Belle Isle. Numerous positive contacts were made and many compliments on the "new" Belle Isle were received. CO Crisp, Ferguson, Freeborn, Panich and Gustafson also responded to a shooting in the City of Detroit near the entrance to Belle Isle. The area was secured by numerous CO's and MSP troopers while detective's from Detroit PD investigated the scene. Days later, a suspect was arrested.
- CO Jerry Fitzgibbon responded to the scene of a woman with a gun call. Upon arrival it was found that the woman had committed suicide. CO Fitzgibbon cared for the woman's four small children until a family member arrived to take the kids.

- Acting Sgt. John Wenzel attended the Delta Force Citizen Academy as a panel member to respond to questions about law enforcement in Delta County.
- Acting Sgt. John Wenzel represented Law Division at a meeting of the Off-road Advisory Workgroup held in Delta County. Questions were asked about sound enforcement for ORV's and the legalities of carrying a firearm on an ORV.
- CO Mike Hammill along with multiple other COs gave instruction on ORV operation and laws this past weekend at the RAM center. A good number of individuals participated and completed the training allowing them to teach youth and adults in their communities on how to be safe, responsible ORV operators.

## **Parks & Recreation Division: Tom Paquin, Eastern Supervisor**

- Naubinway
  - The engineering grant is still active and a time extension grant addendum is being applied for. Also the consultant (UDA) sent additional DEQ permit application information to MR. Ryan McCone on 4/16/2015 in continuing effort to secure the DEQ permit for the Breakwater project. I have heard nothing from DEQ since UDS's 4/16/2015 information submittal. Garfield Township already has the corps permit (good until 12/31/2017).
  - At this time, the project plans/specifications look good.... Just waiting for the DEQ permit. Once the DEQ permit is obtained the plan set cover page will acknowledge the DEQ permit and expiration, seal/stamp cover page, and the DEQ permit will be added to specification manual.
- Brimley State Park
  - Conley Point BAS is under construction and on Schedule.
  - We are conducting interviews for a vacant ranger position in June. All STW4s have successfully completed orientation.
  - Camping is average. Brimley and Pickford school systems have been conducting field trips to the park and utilizing our explorer guide program.
  - Brimley has some electrical issues at the shelter building we are moving forward to identify the problem.
- Fayette Historic State Park
  - Historic Townsite: Continuing to work with PSC to complete plans, for Furnace stack reconstruction/restoration. Best value selection proceeding ad board July 7, 2015, summer/fall 2015 construction. Repaint four rooms in hotel – reopen to visitor entry for first time since 2013.
  - Harbor: Bids \$200,000(+) over budget. Fixed adjustable dock on hold. Exploring design build for floating dock with electric service. Currently, dock is closed – pending repair.
  - Campground: Continuing to work with PSC to complete plans for T/S building, dump station & on-site sewage treatment. Planned construction 2016.
  - Seasonal opening of all water systems, buildings, etc.
  - Finish Contact Station interior remodel
  - Selected six new SW4's. Spring orientation held May 26 and 27
  - Camping and attendance was average for Memorial Weekend
  - Supervisor working with core team for Maximo Pilot Project
  - Rangers to chainsaw and hazard tree training
- Straits State Park
  - Lower Campground Toilet Shower Buildings  
A preconstruction meeting has been held to remove and rebuild 2 toilet shower buildings in the lower campgrounds. Construction will start the day after Labor Day 2015 and the lower campsites will be closed until the project is completed in June 2016
  - Major painting is taking place at the father Marquette memorial with all displays casing and structures receiving a facelift. The map in the memorial will also be painted in the next few weeks by historic staff.
  - Pine River BAS site construction is completed and the launch is open and ready for use.

- Wayne Burnett Straits supervisor transferred to Fort Wilkins
- Charlie Maltby transferred from Otsego Lake supervisor to Straits
- Most of the STW staff for Straits and Detour have been hired. There may be an opening at each location yet.
- A lead ranger position is approved to fill at Detour Harbor. Transfer opportunity was offered with nobody applying to transfer. The position should be posted soon.
- Camping was up about 10% from 2014 for memorial weekend
- Passports are required at the father Marquette unit of Straits State Park and a required sign has been posted for 2 years. A new self-registration station and fee pipe was installed there to purchase the passport and staff will now start writing violation notices if vehicles do not have the passport.
- Straits supervisor is continuing to meet with the Straits State Park Friends Group. At the last meeting they were getting set up with their 501 c3 nonprofit status.
- A 5 year use permit has been signed for the Jeep Jamboree on Drummond Island
- A 5 year use permit is almost complete for Detour Harbor for the city to have its 4 summer concerts.
- A meeting was held on Drummond Island to start the use permit process for a winter ORV event.

➤ Indian Lake/Palms Book

- Phase one of the shoreline erosion project at Indian Lake S.P. is under construction. The project is going well & is scheduled to be completed on 6/25.
- The construction of the new toilet building at Palms Book State Park is under way with the new pre-fabricated building to be set in place on Tuesday 6/9.
- The permit is in place for the new septic system at the Indian Lake State Park headquarters. Construction is scheduled for the week of 6/15.
- All of our STW's have been hired for the summer season.
- The Schoolcraft County Sport Fishing Association held their 1<sup>st</sup> annual Indian Lake Fishing Derby at Indian Lake State Park.
- Camping was +12% for the Memorial Day weekend compared to last year. Attendance at Palms Book was also up from last year. Our State Campground attendance was just a little above last year.
- We've had road & well issues at Forest Lake State Campground in Alger County. The well issue has been resolved. The road is in rough condition due to a logging operation going on. We are looking into who actually owns the road, easements & who is responsible for the maintaining the road.

➤ Tahquamenon Falls State Park

- On-Site review for Lower Falls boathouse and Island trail improvements.
- Cement will be poured to repair upper falls walkway.
- Vacancy opened, posted, and interviews scheduled for a non-commissioned seasonal ranger.
- Summer Staff hired and spring orientation/training completed June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Paradise spring business expo May 14<sup>th</sup> decreased attendance from last year.
- We are prepping for the Two Heart 50K, Marathon, and ½ marathons on June 27<sup>th</sup>. There are high water and beaver issues on North Country Trail.
- Memorial weekend was busy due to the decent weather and bugs not real bad!
- Passport compliance continues to improve with increased signage & enforcement.
- The campgrounds, trails, and buildings are open for the season.
- There were Commercial tribal fishing vessels at Whitefish Harbor without Cora permits.