



Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: October 2015

This documentation is provided by Michigan DNR staff as supplemental information to the Eastern UPCAC members via email on September 29, 2015.

Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator: Stacy Welling Haughey

DNR Public Meetings

October 1	Forestry Open House (Shingleton Mgmt Unit), Wyman Nursery, 4-7pm
October 6	Forestry Open House (Crystal Falls Mgmt Unit), DNR Field Office, Crystal Falls, 3-7pm CST
October 6	Forestry Compartment Review (Soo Mgmt Unit), Top of the Lakes Snowmobile Museum, Naubinway, 9:00am
October 8	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Clark Township Hall, Cedarville
October 8	Eastern UP Citizens Advisory Council Meeting, Clark Township Hall, Cedarville, 6:30pm
October 13	Forestry Open House (Newberry Mgmt Unit), Newberry Field Office, 3-6pm
October 15	Forestry Compartment Review (Shingleton Mgmt Unit), DNR Shingleton Office, 9:00am
October 20	Forestry Compartment Review (Crystal Falls Mgmt Unit), MDOT Office, Crystal Falls, 8:00am CST
October 27	Forestry Compartment Review (Newberry Mgmt Unit), Newberry Correctional Facility Training Room, 9:00am
November 3	UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Dafter (Bruce Township Hall), 1:30pm
November 4	UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Shingleton (DNR Shingleton Office), 6:00pm
November 5	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing
November 9	Western UP Citizens Advisory Council Meeting, Iron County, 5:30pm EST
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

U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities

October 1	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park - Artist in Residence Presentation - Steve Thorpe
October 2-3	Brimley State Park - Annual Harvest Festival Weekend
October 3	Iron Ore and the Civil War, Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee
October 3	Fayette Historic State Park - Fayette Fall Fest
October 3	Straits State Park - Trek the Mighty Mac Mackinaw Bridge ATV Crossing
October 10	Tahquamenon Falls State Park - Harvest Festival 2015

Upcoming U.P. Recreation Events

October	For a host of events around the UP, go to www.uptravel.com
October 2-3	Trek the Mighty Mac Mackinac Bridge 1 st Historical ATV Crossing, St. Ignace, www.trekthemightymac.com (over 1,100 ATV's registered to date!)

Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- DNR, partners to dedicate new GEMS hunting location in Iron County (9/17/15)
- Gray wolf confirmed to be present in northern Lower Peninsula (9/17/15)
- DNR receives first corporate donation, \$25,000 for Iron Belle Trail development (9/16/15)
- Deadline approaching to refund deer license purchases (9/15/15)
- DNR duck banding showcased on 'Discovering' (9/15/15)
- DNR land transactions in the Upper Peninsula to benefit public (9/14/15)
- Share ideas on state forest planning for Luce and portion of Chippewa counties (9/11/15)
- Fall color chairlift rides start the season at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park (9/11/15)
- UP Focus: DNR, Girl Scouts bring new camping experience to Luce County (9/10/15)
- Still time to enroll in hunter education classes before deer season (9/9/15)
- Trapping workshop set for Sept. 26-27 in Ontonagon County (9/8/15)
- Share ideas on state forest planning for Dickinson and Iron counties (9/8/15)
- New boating access site at Lake Angeline, Marquette County, to open Friday (9/3/15)
- DNR to host open house Sept. 12 on draft Drummond Island plan (9/3/15)
- Share input on Algonquin Pathway, Ski Trail proposals at Sept. 14 meeting (9/3/15)

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

September 2015 Natural Resources Commission Meeting Agenda & Stacy's Informal Notes

NRC Work Session (Wednesday, September 9)

A work session was held to establish goals and a calendar of events/meeting focus for 2016:

Fisheries

- August 2020 Consent Decree discussions, the UP will be greatly involved
- Fish production: expanded walleye rearing
- Additional steelhead production (trial period)
- Lake Michigan Fisheries Management Plan (Michigan specific)
- Commercial fishing statute, which dates back to 1929

Wildlife

- Revision of the deer plan
- Results from the UP Habitat Workgroup
- Partnership agreements

- \$950,000 from Dept. of Agriculture for the Northern Lower Peninsula
- Co-op position with Autobahn Society
- GEMS program may be expanded to turkey trails
- Drummond Island Recreation Plan
- Blue Ribbon Panel for state game areas

Parks & Recreation

- Prioritize trail inventory list
- Added 23 additional projects into ORV projects, \$2.4 million
- Getting the snowmobile easement program up and running/implementation
- State park & harbor infrastructure needs, \$313 million in projects identified
- Waterways- looking at the long term planning, \$88 million dollars in project identified
- Align the forest recreation lands working with Forest Resource Division by implementing a dedicated plan
- ORV-trying to get to 4,000 miles of trails, we are at 2,000; we are concerned about gaps, more than specifics

Law Enforcement

- 2016 will be the first year of LED Strategic plan, it will be provided at the November NRC meeting
- Plan to hire, train and have 20 new officers after the January academy
- Increase investigative unit
- Training and education with partner agencies to prevent the spread of invasive
- Increase on-line trainings courses (can do from home)
- Hold the Youth Conservation Academy in urban areas
- Roll out additional modules to increase technology in the field
- 40 officers could retire at any time, succession planning (234 total, including all levels)

Finance and Operations

- Shooting ranges were added to their division, \$3 million was added in Pittman-Robertson funding
- Hosier Valley & Rose Lake site work

Forest Resources

- Timber sales, fire suppression
- Good Neighbor Authority
- Forest health initiative-spruce budworm & others
- Increased marketing of forest products industry & did it pay off?
- Technology improvements to vegetation management system
- Mobile work force

Marketing and Outreach

- Investment in time, research and technology (the RSS system is over half of the budget)
- Continue to work with trail inventory (pilot project in Marquette)
- Continue to work with Pure Michigan
- Continue to assist other divisions
- Economics of natural resource use
- Invasive education (include reaching out to millennials with video)
- Commissioner Schlaybaugh would like a presentation on organization of the division (budget, etc.)
- Possible presentation of how the division is structured and funded

Minerals Management

- Environment management & stewardship of the lands we own (need a dedicated person to oversee)
- Example-production pipelines, where are they? Need an inventory
- Purchased property-what is on it, before we accept it

- 14,000 active leases, need to step up the monitoring and ensure compliance
- Geologic survey and data collection has not been done in approximately 30 years
- Chairman Matonich-structure oil and gas sales around the market?

Other

Summary of Pittman-Robertson & Dingell Johnson funding

October: Possible aquaculture update

DRAFT/TENTATIVE 2016 Calendar of Events

- January (Detroit): Joint meeting with Travel Commission, Pure Michigan update, calendar year license sales report
- February: UP Habitat Workgroup update, Good Neighbor Authority update, budget update
- March (Holland): Lake Michigan fish plan, Minerals Management section overview, waterfowl regulations
- April: Waters & wetlands, deer season survey updates
- May: Turkey trails, furbearer regulations, OAC update
- June (Gaylord): Possible forestry issues, budget update
- July: Pheasant restoration initiative, joint meeting with Agriculture Commission, hunter access and private lands, forest health, agriculture topics
- August: Invasive Overview
- September (Ironwood): Trails update, camping report, Copper Peak, Retail Sale System update, efforts of UP habitat, Western UPCAC update
- October: Fish production, forest health update (Timber Summit also held at Kellogg Center)
- November: Statewide trail plan
- December: TBD

NRC Meeting (Thursday, September 10)

NRC Marketing, Partnership, Youth and Outreach Advisory Committee

1. Overview of DNR K-12 Education Programs and Goals
2. DNR Visitor Centers and their Impact
3. Lessons Learned from the Bald Eagle; The Value of Partnerships
4. A Look at Salmon in the Classroom from a Teacher's Perspective
5. DNR Teacher Training: Project WILD and Learning Tree
6. The Impact of ANR in the Classroom
7. Additional DNR Education Programs
8. Questions for the Panel of K-12 Presenters

NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

1. Fisheries Division Update
 - a. Fishing Regulations
2. Wildlife Division Update
 - a. Wildlife Action Plan and Strategic Plan Update
 - Updating the GPS (Guiding Principles and Strategies)
 - Chief Mason Update
 - Blue Ribbon Panel-September 29
 - Hunter Access Grant \$950,000
 - Update on agricultural damage issues in the Northern Lower Peninsula-the process is working
 - Disease Update-All good news (721 animals tested, under 50 positive)
 - b. Coyote Management

NRC Committee of the Whole

1. Director's Report
 - a. Climate Effects on Michigan Fisheries

- b. Parks and Trails Update
- c. Shooting Range Update: USFWS Shooting Range Development Grant (improve existing, new ranges, expanding services, provide public ranges). Gaining input, sound testing, environmental assessments, local and regional partnerships, public input, mirco-range design template, additional NRA \$25,000 grants, construction, maintenance and improvement
- d. Oil and Gas Lease Auction Update
- e. Fire Update: Cooperative wildlife effort-since the 70's, over 1,000 DNR employees have assisted; it provides much needed assistance and training for our team. In 2015, there were 328 wildfires, 2890 acres, and 135 prescribed burns.
- f. Proposed Drummond Island Management Plan
 - 57% is state owned-recreational destination and natural resource based economy
 - Management plan needed to organize multiple uses and keep in balance with the natural resources
 - Conflict existed due to past use of public land and new trends
 - Public issue scoping meeting June 2011
 - Public meeting September 12, 2015
 - Would need Directors approval and then implementation
 - "For the island, by the island"
 - Charge: provide recommendation regarding the future management
 - The following goals were the focus:
 - 1-Forest Management
 - 2-Wildlife Management
 - 3-Fisheries Management
 - 4-Public Recreation
 - 5- Partnership in Management
 - Public comments will be accepted until October 16th
 - Steve Sutton (Real Estate Division) upon realization that some of the lands had shifted from their original intended uses. We worked with the USFWS to alter 8,000 acres of property.
- 2. Legislative Report (see below)
- 3. 40-Year Hunter Safety Awards: James Russell and Edward Becker
- 4. Committee Reports
 - a. NRC Marketing, Partnership, Youth and Outreach Advisory Committee
 - b. NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

Partners in Conservation Awards: Meridian Township

Public Appearances Before the NRC

FOR INFORMATION ONLY – NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

- 1. Michigan-Wisconsin Boundary Waters Regulations, Fisheries Order 205.16: Extend harvest protection on Lake Sturgeon upstream from the Hattie Stream Dam in the Menominee River. Beginning in the spring of 2015, adult Lake Sturgeon exceeding 60 inches were transported upstream pas the Park Mill Dam via a fish elevator at the Hattie Street Dam.
- 2. Special Fishing Regulations for Warmwater Species on Select Waters, Fisheries Order 206.15A: This order covers special fishing regulations for warmwater species on select waters. Eleven new waters are recommended to be added and one water reference is proposed for removal from the waters. UP Specific:
 - Modification of the minimum size limit for Walleye on Lake Gogebic in Gogebic County to allow the possession of two (2) Walleye from 13-15 inches as part of the daily possession limit of five Walleye.
 - Modification to the minimum size limit for muskellunge in the Tahquamenon River and Tributaries (upstream from Upper Falls) in Luce County from 42 inches to a 38 inch minimum size regulation on Muskellunge.

3. Statewide Warmwater Regulations for Bass, Pike, Catfish, Yellow Perch, Sunfishes, and White Bass, Fisheries Order 215.15A
 - Requiring the registration of all bass tournaments
 - Instituting a new Catch and Delayed Release bass fishing season on 12 waters for registered bass tournaments only (none in the UP)
 - Expanding Walleye fishing opportunities while reducing Yellow Perch possession in Saginaw Bay and River
 - Restructuring the combined daily possession limit set on Bass, Walleye, Northern Pike, and Flathead Catfish
 - Increasing the protection of large Walleye in Little Bay de Noc
 - Increasing the daily possession limit of Northern Pike in St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair and Detroit River
 - Modification of Lake Erie Walleye information process
 - Removal of duplicate regulation and consolidate FO-208 into this order
4. Regulations on the Take of Freshwater Mollusks, Fisheries Order 228.15: This order governs regulations placed on freshwater Mollusks. Native freshwater mussels are protected from harvest (including the shell or parts) as they are considered to be one of the most imperiled groups of animals in America.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ACTION

1. Approval of Minutes: August 13, 2015 Natural Resources Commission meeting
2. Cornish State Game Area: Designation and Additional Rules, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 10 of 2015
3. Spawning Closures, Fisheries Order No. 204.16: Governs spawning closures placed on specific locations to protect vulnerable fishery resources. One provision in Benzie County would be removed from the previous order. This includes waters in the Upper Peninsula in Alger, Baraga, Chippewa, Delta, Mackinac, Marquette, and Ontonagon.
4. Designated Trout Streams for Michigan, Fisheries Order No. 210.16: Changes to this order only occurred in the Lower Peninsula

FOR INFORMATION ONLY – DIRECTOR

1. Comprehensive Resource Management Plan for Drummond Island
2. Re-designation of the Management Requirements on State-Managed Land, Drummond Island – Chippewa County, Land Transaction Case #20150120

DIRECTOR'S ACTION

1. Proposed October 28, 2015 Oil and Gas Lease Auction
2. State-Licensed Commercial Fishing, Fisheries Order 243.15A: This amendment addresses an administrative issue impacting management of the state-licensed commercial fishery. It addresses ambiguities in the legislation using the authority providing to the Director, to clarify commercial fishing law for the better protection, preservation, maintenance and harvesting of the fish.
3. Order to Regulate Use of Cornish State Game Area, Van Buren County, Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 6 of 2015: This order relates to Van Buren County and land use orders to prohibit several activities on all managed state game areas and wildlife areas. One recommendation is no watercraft with motors, except those using electric motors to be used on Grass Lake due to its shallow and highly vegetated make up.
4. Land Transactions (U.P. Specific Listed Here)
 - a. Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land, Sault Ste. Marie Management Unit – Mackinac County, Land Transaction Case #20140072: One acre sale of surplus land to Robert Blevins in Garfield Township.
 - b. Conveyance of DNR-Managed Land for Public Use, Sault Ste. Marie Management Unit – Mackinac County, Land Transaction Case #20130165: Conveyance of DNR managed land for public use by Hendricks Township, 16 acres, Strouble Lake in Central Mackinac County.

- c. State Trail Easement Acquisitions, State Line Trail – Gogebic County, Land Transaction Case #20150051, State Line Trail, 1.40 miles of permanent trail rights purchased by the trust fund. This is being purchased from 7 families.
- d. State Trail Acquisition, Keweenaw Trail – Houghton County, The Evans Tract, Land Transaction Case #20150013

September 10th NRC Meeting Summary - Public Information Office

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission met on September 10th in Lansing. Among the major actions taken:

- The Commission approved [rules for the Cornish State Game Area](#) in VanBuren County that establish non-toxic shot restrictions because of the area's proximity to the Kinney Waterfowl Production Area. This regulation protects waterfowl nesting and brooding habitat from lead-related hazards.
 - The Commission [lifted a spawning closure on the Betsie River in Benzie County](#). In 2012 the closure was put in place when the Betsie experienced historically low water levels that left fish stranded and created opportunity for illegal harvest of fish. Water levels have improved and closure is no longer necessary.
 - The Commission approved [an order](#) modifying two sections of designated trout streams and removing one stream from the designated list.
 - Director Keith Creagh approved an [Oct. 28 Oil and Gas Lease Auction](#). The auction will offer approximately 22,000 acres of leasing rights in 20 counties.
 - Director Creagh approved [an order regarding state-licensed commercial fishing](#). The order clarifies regulations on wholesale reporting, conflicting Lake Whitefish closures and catfish and suckers.
 - The director approved [an order to regulate certain uses in the Cornish State Game Area](#) in VanBuren County. The order prohibits the use of watercraft with motors, except for electric motors, in Grass Lake within the game area because of the damage that could be done to vegetation in the lake. In addition, the order restricts parking to designated areas because of safety concerns.
 - The director approved seven land transactions. You can find information about these land transactions through the [online meeting agenda](#).

The day began with a meeting of the Marketing, Partnership, Youth and Outreach Advisory Committee. Marketing and Outreach Division Chief Kristin Phillips introduced a presentation on the department's extensive educational efforts. The goals of these programs is to impart knowledge to people about natural and cultural resources, instill an understanding of the public trust and get people involved in outdoor recreation. The hope is to develop more natural resource stewards. Jon Spieles from Marketing told the committee about DNR visitor centers around the state. DNR Interpreters at these centers not only teach youngsters and the public about natural resources generally, but help people understand critical natural resource issues in Michigan, such as invasive species. Michelle Bruneau from the Department of Health and Human Services talked about her department's partnership efforts in educating youngsters about safe fish consumption.

Josh Nichols from Stockbridge Public Schools talked about the DNR's Salmon in the Classroom program that teaches youngsters about the life cycle of salmon. Josh said the program provides his students opportunities for learning in other arenas, such as robotics. The program, managed by Natalie Elkins in the Marketing Division, began in the mid-1990s and today about 200 schools are involved. Natalie also talked about ProjectWILD, a wildlife-focused K-12 conservation education program, and Project Learning Tree, a K-12 environmental education program. Both programs are for teachers and students. This year the DNR trained nearly 700 educators through ProjectWILD alone. These educators work with 30-150 students each, which gives you a sense of the scope and reach of the program. Last November the DNR's efforts went international, when Natalie traveled to Japan and taught educators there about the program. Kevin Frailey of Marketing then spoke about the Academy of Natural Resources, an intensive program the department runs for teachers during the summer months. This year, 60 teachers went through the Academy, which is held at the Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center in Roscommon. Tom Kelly from Grandville Public Schools, a graduate of the Academy of Natural Resources, told the committee about how what he learned there has enriched his work as a teacher. Hannah

Schauer of the Wildlife Division talked about Wildlife's work in K-12 education, including a program that educates youngsters about the life cycle of the black bear.

Mark Harvey of the Michigan Historical Center talked about how Historical Center employees interact with the tens of thousands of K-12 students who go through the center each year. Just one creative example is the Governor's Decision Room, a program geared toward high school students. The program lets youngsters imagine themselves as a governor or cabinet member during critical moments in Michigan history, and helps them appreciate what decision-makers of those times faced.

During the Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries, Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter updated commissioners on the finding of two new invasive species in Michigan waters: Didymo (also known by the colloquially charming name "rock snot"), discovered in the St. Mary's River; and the New Zealand Mudsail, discovered in the Pere Marquette River near Baldwin. Fisheries is working to make people aware and enlist anglers in helping the DNR prevent the spread of the species. Todd Grischke from Fisheries talked about walleye and yellow perch on Saginaw Bay. The growth rate of walleye is declining and yellow perch populations are at a very low level in the bay. The department is considering a number of management actions on Saginaw Bay, developed in consultation with the public. The department is recommending changing walleye regulations to a 13-inch size limit, with an 8-fish daily bag limit. For yellow perch, the department is recommending reducing the daily bag limit from 50 to 25. Nick Popoff from Fisheries informed the committee of proposed regulations for the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary waters and for warmwater species. He also talked about proposed statewide coolwater regulations, and proposed regulations for take of freshwater mollusks.

Wildlife Chief Russ Mason updated the committee on the Blue Ribbon Panel on State Game Areas, which is holding its next meeting Sept. 29. Among other things, the panel will talk about the importance of these areas to the business community. The department has received a new hunter access grant for \$950,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to expand access for the hunting public. An experimental program in the northwest Lower Peninsula to address agricultural damage from deer is going well, Russ said, and the department is making refinements to the process. Russ said no further cases of Chronic Wasting Disease have been found in Ingham County or the surrounding area besides the three cases already discovered, in spite of ongoing surveillance efforts. Amy Derosier of Wildlife updated the committee on the Wildlife Division's Guiding Principles and Strategies, its strategic plan. Amy also informed the committee about an update to Michigan's Wildlife Action Plan. The update is required every 10 years in order for the state to be eligible for State Wildlife Grants, the largest source of funding the agency has for nongame species. Amy highlighted the broad benefits of managing non-game species for natural resources in Michigan and told the committee about some of the priorities of the updated plan.

Adam Bump from Wildlife talked about coyote management in the state. Michigan has permissive regulations to manage nuisance coyotes, a long hunting season for the species, and multiple methods of take. Harvest of coyote has been increasing since the 1990s. Adam presented four options for increasing take of coyote, noting that these options were unlikely to result in a measurable impact on coyote populations or on nuisance coyotes.

During Director Creagh's report to the Committee of the Whole, Chelsea Maupin of Gud Marketing presented the results of the baseline survey her company conducted for the Michigan Wildlife Council. As I mentioned in my note on the recent DNR Management Team meeting, this information will be used to help shape a statewide information campaign on the critical role hunting, fishing and trapping play in conservation. In broad terms, the survey results showed stronger support for hunting and fishing in Michigan than exists nationally. There is much, much more data in the [Gud results](#) that can help us better understand general public attitudes about these recreational activities.

Jason Fleming of Parks and Recreation told commissioners about recent increases in Recreation Passport sales, increased campground use during this Labor Day weekend (there were 1,400 more campsites used this year than last year), and continued high customer satisfaction in state parks. Law Enforcement Chief Gary Hagler told the Commission about the success of the recent [Youth Conservation Academy](#), held in Detroit. Dan Lord from the Finance and Operations Division updated the commission on shooting ranges. The Department manages 13 designated ranges. There

are an additional 70-plus locations on state-managed public lands where there is a history of shooting. The DNR plans to embrace the shooting sports, assure access to shooting ranges and address issues of noise and safety where they occur.

Mark Sweatman of the Office of Mineral Management briefed the commission on the upcoming Oil and Gas Lease Auction, scheduled for Oct. 28.

Forestry Chief Bill O'Neill informed the Commission about the assistance the department has given other states to fight wildfires. So far this year the department has dispatched 56 people to fires in other states to help with what was a very tough fire season elsewhere. In Michigan our department this year has suppressed 328 wildfires on 2,890 acres and has conducted over 135 prescribed burns on nearly 9,258 acres.

Terry Minzey of Wildlife and Steve Sutton of Real Estate gave commissioners an overview of the [Drummond Island Resource Management Plan](#). Some 57 percent of Drummond Island is state-managed public land. A management plan was needed to organize multiple uses and maintain balance with natural resources. Public comment on the plan, which was developed through a public engagement effort, is being accepted until Oct. 16.

Legislative Liaison Trevor VanDyke updated the commission on legislation affecting the department.

Next Chief Hagler recognized two Hunter Education volunteer instructors. Edward Becker, a Navy veteran, began teaching hunter education through the City of Dearborn. He was recognized for teaching at least two hunter education classes a year for the past 40 years. James Russell began teaching hunter education through Novi Community Education in 1974. He, too, has taught a minimum of two hunter education classes a year for the past 40 years.

Officials from Meridian Township were recognized with a Partners in Conservation Award for the support they have offered the department in managing the outbreak of Chronic Wasting Disease in their township. Safari Club International presented a gun and a bow to two hunters who participated in DNR hunter surveys. The gear was given to the hunters, who were selected randomly among survey respondents, as thanks for providing valuable information to DNR biologists.

That's the news from Lansing. Please let me know if you have any questions. -Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

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

SB 446 – Recreational Baiting Ban – Sen. Jones

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 Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

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 of the whole.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 4824 – Allows Individuals with Developmental Disabilities to Obtain a Free All-Species Fishing License– Rep. Hovey-Wright

This bill seeks to amend section 43537 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow individuals with developmental disabilities to obtain a free all-species fishing license.

- This bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.
 - The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.
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Eastern UP Fisheries Division: Steve Scott, Eastern UP Field Units Supervisor

Field Units (Steve Scott, Unit Manager)

- Steve Scott and other DNR staff participated in the Enbridge Oil Spill Drill in the Straits on September 24-25. The drill was conducted to demonstrate the company's capacity to respond to an actual oil spill of Line 5 event if it were to happen. Many federal, state, county agencies as well as private contractors participated in the drill, over 600 people in all. The drill went very well.
- Lake Superior water levels are very high and property owners along the shore are now facing significant shoreline erosion problems. More shoreline protection applications are being submitted to DEQ.
- Staff have been conducting lake and stream surveys to complete before the end of the field season. Staff have also been assisting in salmon egg take projects to assist hatchery operations

Marquette and Thompson Fish Hatcheries (Jan VanAmberg, Manager)

Marquette Hatchery

- 200,000 yearling lake trout destined for the Great lakes in 2016 were clipped and tagged by USFWS using the mass marking trailer
- Broodstock lake trout health vaccinations completed
- Yearling lake trout, brook trout and splake inventories are on schedule to meet spring stocking assignments
- Hatchery Fisheries Technicians provided labor for equipment repair, field crews, and spawning preparations
- Final phase of enclosing the outside raceway building gable ends with security fencing to be completed this fall

Thompson Hatchery

- Thompson Creek and Williams Creek dam removals and stream restoration project completed in July with help from Parks and Recreation Equipment crew, Habitat Manage Unit (FISH) and Northern Lake Michigan Fisheries Management Unit and volunteers from Schoolcraft County Sport Fish Association
- Steelhead fingerlings for stocking in 2016 are growing very well with sufficient inventory to meet stocking assignments in 2016
- Hired a new Fisheries Technician, Kevin DUBY (former Lake Gogebic creel clerk)
- Losing a Fisheries Technician (Dan Operhall) by a transfer to Platte River State Fish Hatchery
- Prepping for Chinook salmon egg take in early October
- Large construction project to enclose the outside raceway buildings gable ends on-track to be completed this fall

Marquette Fisheries Research Station

Surveys

- Lake trout survey work was completed on 9/3, captains are now working on maintenance of research vessel Char, including finishing up hydraulics upgrade and generator auto-start fix
- Survey work in nearshore Lake Superior waters (Keweenaw and Huron bays) was completed in August and survey effort is now directed at northern Lake Michigan nearshore waters from Cedar River to Naubinway as part of walleye/perch project
- Commercial whitefish sampling continues for Lake Superior and northern Lake Michigan ports
- Upper Peninsula sturgeon rearing trailers were successful and 819 lake sturgeon were stocked in Ontonagon River, 970 were stocked in Cedar River and 470 were stocked in Whitefish River. Some fish remain in trailers on Cedar and Whitefish rivers and will be tagged and stocked in mid to late September
- Research work continues at the Black River field site
- Stream electrofishing was completed in July as analysis of 10 brook trout daily bag limit regulation continues

- Fall electrofishing work will begin in late September as part of 20" minimum coaster regulations evaluation project

Meetings Attended

- Shawn Sitar attended the American Fisheries Society meeting in Portland and gave an invited presentation on lake trout reproduction in Lake Superior

Office/Lab/Workshop/Building Activities

- Staff continues to work on net building/repair, equipment maintenance, etc. in between field efforts

Forest Resources Division: Jeff Stampfly, Eastern UP Supervisor

- The 2017 Year of Entry (YOE) inventory is nearing completion. All Eastern UP (EUP) Field Management Unit (FMU)'s held their internal pre-reviews this summer. The Sault FMU held their open houses in September. The Shingleton FMU open house is on October 1 at Wyman Nursery and the Newberry FMU open house is on October 13 at the Newberry field office. Open house and compartment review schedules are posted online, along with other state forest inventory information at www.michigan.gov/forestry. All three EUP compartment reviews will be held in October. The 2018 YOE inventory will be starting at the end of October.
- Foresters/technicians are busy finishing the timber sale preparation plan of work for fiscal year 2015. The expected EUP 2015 timber sale acreage is approximately 13,000 acres. Plans are being made to get started on the fiscal year 2016 timber sale plan of work in October.
- As of September 9th, there were 270 open timber sale contracts in the EUP. This represents 34,430 acres of timber valued at approximately \$24.3 million. Currently, there are approximately 30 active timber sales in the EUP.
- Recently, there were 14 sales offered in the EUP with varying results. Sales in the Sault sold with high prices for winter wood, while three winter sales in Shingleton went without bids. The remainder of the sales were sold with decent competition. Pulpwood markets are appearing to slow down a bit due to mills being full of wood and changing market conditions. Local loggers are seeing a reduction in mill quotas.
- ARAUCO North America announced plans to build a new particleboard mill located in Grayling, Michigan. This \$325 million investment will be the single largest continuous particleboard press in North America, and one of the highest capacity presses in the world. Ground-breaking is estimated for late 2016; the mill will generate approximately 250 direct permanent jobs. This is a real coup for Michigan and the forest products industry. The importance of our state forest system as the largest landowner in the area, our positive role in managing natural resources and timber supplies, and having a comprehensive state forest plan with predictable volumes for a minimum of a decade or more, gave them the confidence Michigan was the right place to invest.
- On October 13th, the 15% tariff on imports of Canadian softwood lumber will no longer exist. There will be a drop in American sales of softwood lumber due to a glut of softwood lumber moving across the border. Reports note that many US mills, even those owned by Canadian firms, have curtailed operations until conditions stabilize and improve in 2016. Throughout the US, hardwood lumber markets have stabilized and slightly improved in some areas.
- Harvest treatments are proposed in the area of the Algonquin Ski Trail near Sault Sainte Marie in the 2017 YOE compartments. FRD and PRD staff held a public open house to discuss the proposed treatments along and near the ski trail corridor. Local stakeholders were happy with the results of this meeting and supportive of the work to be done.
- Efforts are underway to identify and salvage timber that is at risk due to the current outbreak of Spruce Budworm. 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.

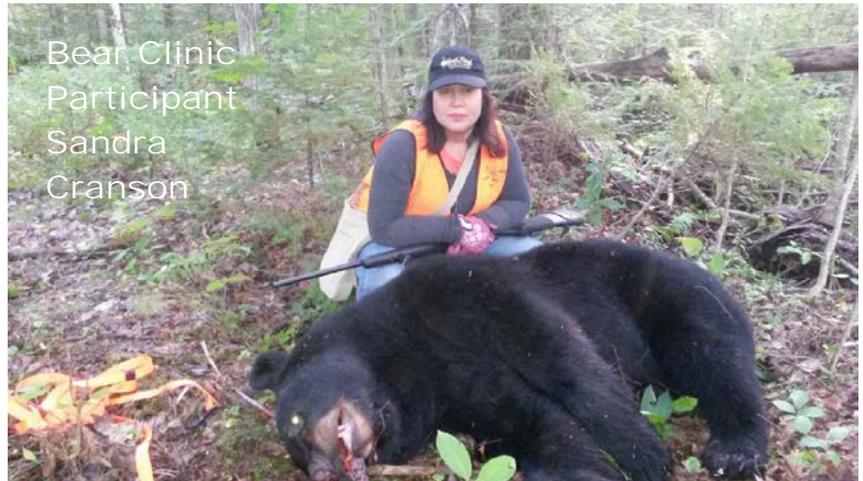
- Seasonal cultivation works continues with over 700 acres of trenching and 300 acres of scarification to complete this fall. The trenching will be done with a newly purchased skidder/trenching unit operated by local personnel.
- Forestry communication is one of the major goals cited in our new Strategic Plan. We entered into a contract with IMG Inc. to publish articles and communications regarding sustainable forestry and natural resources management. The first two stories have been published – *Vacationing in the trees: How forests are helping to grow Michigan's tourism economy* and *All about the (real) green: How forestry is about community impact, not financial.* They are informative articles that have been picked up state and nationwide.
- Eleven EUP staff members were sent to the western states to assist in fire suppression activities this summer. These employees provided support to areas that were experiencing depleted resources. We were also able to gain valuable experience on large fire incidents and by doing so that experience will equate to better and more efficient firefighting ability here in state.
- Fire activity here in state was at a minimum and the EUP only experienced one reportable fire in the Newberry area; although, we did run on a non-statistical fire in Naubinway. Drought codes are still high in the UP, but with shorter days, the land mass doesn't warm up as fast and also cools off at faster rates come nightfall. This limits the hours that fires can build magnitude. October usually brings some limited fire potential, so we will still need to be vigilant on warmer and drier periods.
- Michigan hosted the Annual Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact Meeting this year which brought people from Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Ontario, and Manitoba here to share technological advancements and discuss our continued cooperation and coordination in our neighboring fire communities. The compact has an executive committee that oversees and guides the following committees: Operations and safety, Prevention, Training, Law enforcement, Communications and Air operations. The building of these partnerships allows for successful sharing of resources for fire response.
- DNR staff met with the Governor at the mouth of the Two Hearted River on August 10th. The Governor was here that day to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the 'The Big Deal' land acquisition by the Nature Conservancy.
- FRD has been working with the U.S. Forest Service on the Good Neighbor Authority. The program allows states to prepare and administer timber sales and other restoration work on federal lands. All three of the national forests in Michigan are interested in partnering with us. We are moving ahead to discuss some of the details that will be included in the formal written agreements. 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.
- CFM Foresters have been busy inspecting new Commercial Forest enrollment applications. The deadline for the grace period for switching from CF to QFP ended September 1. A number of CF landowners took the opportunity to switch primary to stop public hunting access.
- 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 to facilitate general vehicle/ORV traffic for year round use, 2 new culverts and road upgrades in a perennial beaver problem area on the Camp 6 Road, and the McLeod Road is getting a new culvert installed to repair an old one.
 - Sault FMU – several road projects including the Bay City Lake Road project.
 - Shingleton FMU – pulled a portable bridge from the South Stutts Truck Trail.
- FRD staff reviewed and approved several land use permits this past summer, including: runner related events, motor-cycle event permits, a snowmobile trail permit and forestry related research permits. Burt Township has submitted the lease agreement for the Gun Range.

- The new roof on Seney garage was completed last week and Thompson roof was completed in August.

Marketing & Outreach Division: Jon Spieles, Education Services Section

Following are highlights of our work over the last couple months:

- An archery equipment trailer is now at the Marquette Customer Service Center and is available for use at state parks or events where DNR staff is participating. Agency staff must either be a certified instructor or have a certified instructor participating in the event or program in order to use the trailer.
- Education Services worked with Wildlife Division and Law Division to conduct four Bear Hunting Clinics at the Hunt and Fish Center in Cadillac and at the Upper Peninsula Pocket Park in Escanaba. Just over 150 participants learned bear biology, law enforcement, hunting techniques for bear, tree stand safety and other aspects of bear hunting. The stories and pictures are piling up showing how successful these participants have been this season.
- School program reservations for fall programming around the state are up nearly 20 percent to date as teachers and schools adjust to spring testing and great weather persists. In past years, schools were immediately preparing students for the statewide and mandatory MEAP testing when school resumed in the fall which dampened fall field trip numbers. The Department of Education has moved testing to the spring freeing up time for teachers to incorporate field study into the educational plan. Sunny, warm weather also makes for a great field trip.
- DNR education staff has begun programming at the Boardman Weir, Platte River Weir and Little Manistee Weir where school groups and public tours help citizens understand the natural history of Great Lakes salmon, the impact invasive species are having on salmon populations around the basin and the role of the DNR in managing Michigan fisheries.



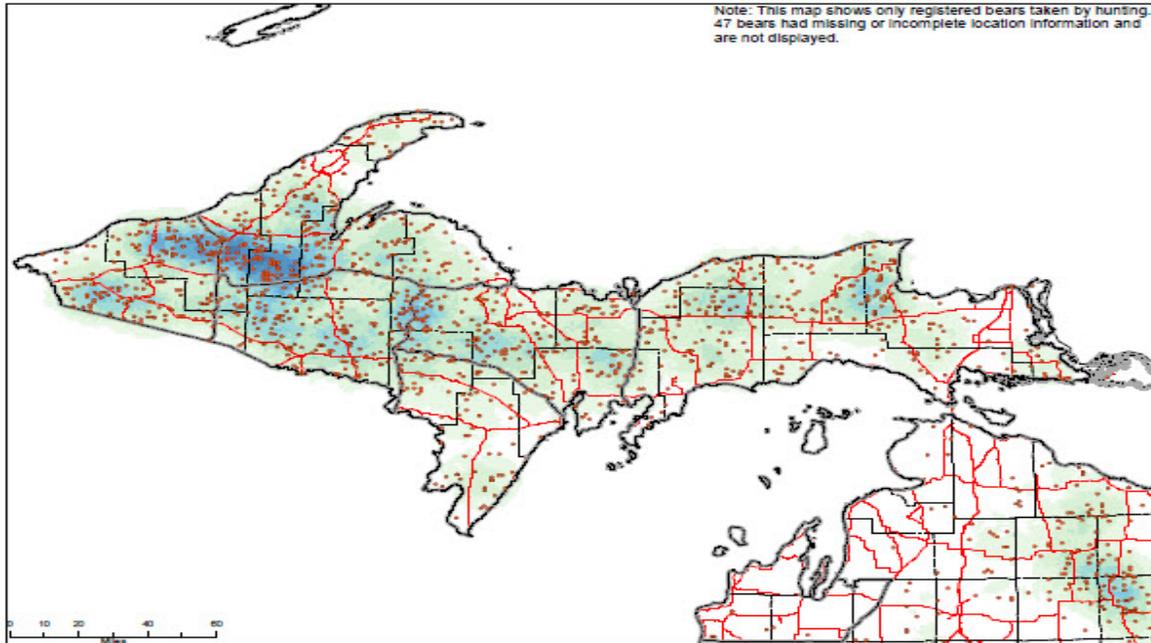
Bear Clinic
Participant
Sandra
Cranson

EUP Wildlife Division: Terry Minzey, Wildlife Supervisor

- **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)**
 - CWD is a neurological disease that affects cervids (deer, elk, and moose) and was first detected in free-ranging deer in Michigan in May 2015.
 - CWD surveillance as of September 23rd has tested 909 deer and a total of three have tested positive, all from Meridian Township in Ingham County.
- **Grouse Enhanced Management Sites (GEMS)**
 - GEMS are concentrations of intensively managed grouse habitat intended for walk-in access for hunters.
 - The Halifax GEM, located in northern Luce County halfway between the towns of Newberry and Paradise, is newly available as a functional grouse hunting location with parking areas, trails and an informational kiosk. More trails will be developed and prepared as continued timber harvest occurs.
 - Two other GEMS are being developed in Alger (Melstrand GEM) and Delta (Garden Grade GEM) counties with parking lots, gates and kiosks being positioned.

➤ **Bear Hunting Season**

- The Newberry Bear Management Unit consists of the entire east UP (excluding Drummond Island).
- Preliminary (as of September 28th) harvest data for the Newberry Unit appears to be ~21% greater during the first 2 ½ weeks of season than in 2014 and 2013 seasons. This is not surprising due to a poor soft mast production year across much of the area.
- The following map shows the UP locations of bear harvest for the previous year, 2014. Dots indicate harvest locations and shaded areas indicate regions of higher harvest density.



➤ **UP Habitat Workgroup Update**

- The UP Habitat Workgroup was reactivated with a new mission of improving and conserving UP winter deer habitat and to produce individual strategic deer wintering complex (deeryard) management plans.
- To date, one plan in Gogebic County has been completed and six others are in draft form. Completed plans are available on the following website <http://bit.ly/uphabitatworkgroup>
- Newberry Unit Open House
- The Newberry Forest Management Unit will be hosting their annual Open House on October 13th at the Newberry Field Office to showcase the proposed timber sale areas and habitat work that is being scheduled for 2017. The Halifax GEM will also be showcased at this open house. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

➤ **Local Office Projects**

- Newberry- 55 large oaks were planted to promote hard mast for deer, bear and other wildlife species in Luce County, two parking lots, a gate and informational kiosk and directional signs were placed at the Halifax GEM, participation in the family fun event in Newberry to get youth and families into the outdoors and in a 4H event teaching youth about owl food resources and track ID.
- Shingleton- opening maintenance on deer breakout areas in Alger and Schoolcraft Counties, preparation for infrastructure (gates, kiosks parking lots) at GEMs, participation in hunter safety courses, participation in Marquette and Alger County Agri-palooza event to engage fifth graders in outdoor activities.
- Sault Saint Marie- opening maintenance at Munuscong potholes to benefit waterfowl and grassland species, establishment of additional HAP acres for sharp-tailed grouse hunting (3500 total), road/trail improvement on the Drummond GEM.

Finance & Operations: Christina Hammill, Eastern UP

Dates to Remember

10/1 – Archery Deer season opens
10/1 – Raccoon hunting season opens
10/10 – Sharp-tailed Grouse season opens (through 10/31, see maps in digest)
10/15 – Raccoon trapping season opens in Zone 1, and Fox/Coyote trapping statewide
10/15 – Gray & Red Fox hunting season opens statewide
10/15-10/18 – Independence Hunt for disabled individuals (Deer)
10/21 – Bear hunt period #1 closes in the U.P.
10/25 – Beaver, Otter, Muskrat & Mink trapping season opens in U.P. (for residents)
10/26 – Bear hunt period #2 & #3 closes in the U.P.
11/2 – Woodcock season closes
11/14 – Fall Turkey season closes
11/14 – Archery Deer season closes; reopens on 12/1
11/14 – Ruffed Grouse season closes; reopens 12/1
11/15 – Firearm Deer season opens
11/15 – Frog, Toad, and Salamander seasons close
11/22 – Duck season closes in North Zone; reopens on 11/28 & 11/29
11/30 – Firearm Deer season closes
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

Parks & Recreation Division: Tom Paquin, Eastern Supervisor

➤ Straits and Brimley State Parks

- Toilet shower building construction has begun at Straits State Park in the lower campground. The lower campground closed on the Tuesday following Labor Day and the demolition began that afternoon with salvage activities. To date, both foundations are in place and things are moving forward.
- The BAS at Conely point is nearing completion and by the time of this meeting should be open for use.
- Both sewage pumps failed at Brimley prior to Labor Day weekend. One pump was repaired and in place for the holiday weekend and the other was removed and is awaiting repairs.
- Elizabeth Lehman was hired as the Ranger for Detour Harbor.
- Brimley Supervisor was vacated by Scott Slavin when he transferred to Mitchel State Park. Interviews have been scheduled and by this meeting a candidate will be chosen and awaiting approval.
- Native American Powwow was held at Straits State Park Father Marquette unit.
- Summer concert series and river fest week went well at Detour Harbor.
- Brimley is preparing for its annual Harvest Festival weekends.
- Area truck show and tractor ride across Mackinac Bridge brought in a lot of campers to Straits.
- Straits State Park is preparing for Trek the Mac October 3, which is an ORV ride across the Mackinac Bridge that will go through a park trail. As of the last meeting, there were over 1100 ORV's registered. So far, however, camping is very slow for that weekend.
- Many users attending Powwow at the Straits State Park failed to use self-registration and purchase recreation passport. As staff attended to restrooms and facilities, they issued many violation notices to get users in compliance. There were many complaints about this and 1 letter written to Representative Chatfield requiring a

response. Powwow is a chamber-sponsored event and a meeting was held after the event to discuss future events to assure this doesn't happen in the future.

- Campground attendance is up and final numbers will be tallied the beginning of October.
- Work with the Friends of Straits State Park Father Marquette continues. It is a challenge to get them all on the same page and to understand the management plan that was implemented.

➤ Tahquamenon Falls State Park

- Reroofing both vault toilets at the Upper Falls.
- Reroofed the Deere barn storage building
- The Lower Falls capital outlay project continues to move forward & is in the design phase currently.
- Most of our state worker 4's have been laid off for the season due to budget constraints.
- The "Hike between the Falls" was held on 9/27 with approximately 200 people making the trip.
- The Harvest Festival will be October 9, 10, & 11.
- Camping has slowed since Labor Day but is now picking up again with the fall color season.
- Staff performed traffic control on 9/27 at the Upper Falls. We have logged 151 staff hours into traffic control this summer. Our infrastructure (Buildings & Roads/Parking lots) cannot handle this kind of use year in & year out without upgrades.
- We are seeing an abundance of non-resident visitors this fall.
- The mouth of the Two-Hearted Campground has been full (35 sites) or very close to it every day in September (Salmon Fishing).
- Heavy park use is putting a strain on park infrastructure. Staff has dealt with sewer pump & water pump issues, as well as the usual toilet, shower, water heater, & sink issues.

➤ Indian Lake/Palms Book

- Phase one of the shoreline erosion project at Indian Lake State Park has been completed.
- The construction of the new toilet building at Palms Book State Park has been completed.
- We had a couple water samples test positive for coliform which resulted in having to supply drinking water to our campers. The issue has been resolved.
- Most of our state workers have been departed for the season.
- We had a Vintage Trailer and Motor Coach Club here on Friday 8/7. There were 34 antique trailers & motor coaches.
- Our Friends Group held their 2nd annual Family Fun Day on 8/1 at Palms Book. The event was very well attended.
- The Friends of Indian Lake/Palms Book held their annual fishing tournament on Saturday with 32 people participating. This tournament is growing every year.
- We had a group of 17 vintage airstream campers visit the park on 8/26-8/29.
- Camping was up 13% for August & September. Day Use was up 14%; attendance has been up quite bit at Palms Book.
- Our State Campground attendance is up 24% for June & July.
- We need to find a better way to get our visitors to purchase their passport at the Secretary of State office. It may be time to start charging more to purchase at the park?

➤ Fayette Historic State Park

- Historic Townsite: Furnace Stacks Restoration - September 28, 2015 begin construction.
- Harbor: Contract awarded for new dock system - spring/summer 2016 construction.
- Campground: Continuing to work with PSC to complete plans for the toilet/shower building, dump station & on-site sewage treatment - planned construction 2016.
- Upcoming: Fall Fest – October 3, MI Cares – October 5
- Camping (August 1-31, 2015 vs August 1-31, 2014) Up 19%
- Lodge (August 1-31, 2015 vs August 1-31, 2014) Up 12%
- Day Use (August 1-31, 2015 vs August 1-31, 2014) Up 9%

- Labor Day weekend
 - Camping (2015 vs 2014) – Friday thru Sunday nights up 78%
 - Lodge (2015 vs 2014) – Friday thru Sunday nights up 50%
 - Day Use (2015 vs 2014) – Friday thru Monday up 19%
- Preparing for MI Cares Volunteer Event

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

Fall is in full swing and keeping the District officers extremely busy, the new officers are in the next step of the training process and things are progressing well. Below are some of the cases officers have been involved in since the last CAC meeting.

- **The State Fair** in Escanaba was well attended again this year with several officers from Districts 1 and 2 covering 4 shifts a day providing information, answering questions and working recruitment efforts at the pocket park. Many positive contacts were made with several hundred visitors.
- **CO Rob Freeborn** received an ORV trespass complaint earlier this spring involving a couple ORV's trespassing in order to get access to a private lake. After several tips throughout the summer, CO Freeborn was able to locate the residence that was responsible. After a brief conversation with the residence, it was determined it was their grandkids that had been operating the ORV's when they come up on vacation. CO Freeborn educated the grandparents of the ORV trespass as well as basic ORV laws.
- **CO Rob Freeborn** received a complaint of a couple illegal bear baits. The complainant stated the hunters have several illegal baits out on state land and one of the baits has a large amount of corn that has not been made inaccessible to deer. Investigation is ongoing.
- **CO Kevin Postma and PCO Justin Muehlhauser** were conducting fishing license checks on the lower St. Mary's river. Upon contact with one of the vessels it was discovered that there were no PFD's at all on board. The owner was cited for failing to provide PFD's and the vessel was escorted to shore.
- **Chippewa County animal control requested the assistance of CO Kevin Postma and PCO Justin Muehlhauser** to respond to a complaint of a 13 foot snake at a residence. The officers arrived and assisted animal control in looking for the snake but it could not be found. The man was advised to watch for the snake in the future and take pictures so it could be identified and removed if needed.
- **CO Kevin Postma and PCO Justin Muehlhauser** investigated an early bear bait located in the back yard of a residence. The officers contacted the home owner, who happened to have a 3rd season bear tag. The owner advised that he wasn't intentionally feeding the bear but did notice that some were coming in. The COs questioned the home owner about the tree stand overlooking the bear bait and also inquired about what type of animals (other than bear) he was hoping to attract with gallons of raspberry pie filling. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Bobby Watson** was patrolling a local hotspot for ORV activity when he observed a four-wheeler and a dirt bike approaching him. As the four-wheeler came closer CO Watson observed two riders riding one machine. The riders immediately pulled over as they passed CO Watson's patrol truck and contact was made with the group. CO Watson explained why riding double on a machine that was not intended to hold two passengers was a potential safety hazard. Enforcement action was taken.
- **While on a night patrol with a ride-along, CO Bobby Watson** was dispatched to assist an MSP trooper and local deputy on an SUV that had been customized with a roughly 8 foot lift kit driving down a side road within city limits. The driver claimed that the vehicle was an "ORV" and only required the proper ORV trail sticker and registration. The driver had failed to register the vehicle with Secretary of State and lacked proper insurance. It was explained to the driver that the vehicle was in fact still considered a motor vehicle due to its current location within the city and therefore required motor vehicle registration and insurance. The large vehicle was towed and MSP officers took action.
- **CO Brett Gustafson** has been receiving complaints of dead geese floating near several seasonal cabins in the Cedarville area. CO Gustafson responded to the complaint and interviewed several subjects in the area quickly realizing this was clearly a case of the landowners feeling that the geese are a nuisance. Not all of the neighbors feel this way and the investigation continues.
- **CO Jeff Panich and PCO Jacob Griffin** were patrolling the Pine River after receiving numerous complaints of unattended lines in the river. The officers had just launched their boat when they spotted unattended fishing lines in the water. CO Panich and PCO Griffin observed the lines for several minutes verifying that no one was tending to them. After documenting the equipment used and the observation time the two officers contacted the fisherman at his residence. The fisherman admitted to setting the lines and leaving them unattended, he stated that everyone on the river does this and thought that it was ok; PCO Griffin explained the statute and why the law was in effect. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Jeff Panich and PCO Jacob Griffin** received a complaint of a cormorant shot on Drummond Island from the RAP line and CO Jon Busken. CO Busken contacted the complainant who witnessed two suspects shoot a cormorant after the complainant had just moments earlier taken several photos of it on a beaver lodge. The complainant then took photos of the suspects, the vessel

and their vehicle and called in the complaint. The complaint was then turned over to CO Panich and PCO Griffin who work the area on a regular basis. CO Panich and PCO Griffin finally contacted the suspects involved after several unsuccessful attempts. Upon meeting the suspect he stated that he may need to talk to a lawyer. After presenting the evidence at hand, the suspect confessed to illegally shooting the cormorant and verified the accusations presented in the investigation. Enforcement action initiated.

- **CO Jon Busken** was patrolling Mackinac County for ORV activity when he observed a quad being ridden double. Contact was made with the occupants and a second rider in the area. It was found that in addition to riding double, neither ORV was registered and none of the young operators had taken ORV safety. The youths were returned to their residence and the father was contacted. Upon seeing the officer follow the riders into the driveway the father stated, "I knew it was only a matter of time until we got caught." Multiple warnings were issued and enforcement action was taken.
- **Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon** working the start of bear season came across a truck parked in the middle of a forest road blocking access to anyone else. A 5 minute walk in on the road led to a bear hunter set up within 100 yards of the end of the road sitting in his stand without wearing hunters orange. A walk back to his vehicle to remove it from the center of the road and a ticket for not wearing hunters orange followed.
- **Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon** came across an ORV parked directly in the middle of a forest road. Following the road on foot the Officer located a bear hunter near the end of the road. While walking back to remove his vehicle from the public roadway he was given an education on hunting on "public land". A ticket for blocking access to state land was issued.
- **Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon** has been busy setting up hunter safety classes. The first one started at Superior Central this week with several to follow the next 3-4 weeks.
- **Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon** stopped in at a bear hunting camp to talk with some nervous hunters. A bear was being unloaded from a pickup and a proud hunter had a story to share. After conversation a second bear was produced that was very small. The nervous hunter wasn't very proud of the small bear that had come in alone. And was scared that he'd shot a "cub". A check of the bear revealed it was not a cub, just very small.
- **Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon** pulled up to an intersection and watched as a dirt bike came to the intersection across from him. The young looking rider decided turning onto the state highway was a bad idea and decided to cut through the new lawn in someone's yard next to the road instead. When he turned the expired ORV license was observed and the officer pulled him over. While talking with the 14 year old youth about legal operation of his dirt bike the land owner came out to make sure that the officer and the youth knew how upset he was about the tracks in his freshly planted grass. The youth apologized to the landowner (who accepted it) and he was escorted home with a pamphlet on ORV laws to share with his parents.
- **CO Rob Freeborn and PCO Jacob Griffin** were on routine ORV patrol during the start of the Holiday weekend. Overall compliance was good. However the CO's did encounter an ORV Operator without an ORV license and another individual operating an ORV without a helmet on a state highway. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Rob Freeborn and PCO Jacob Griffin** received a complaint that a subject had a large fire the previous night and was seen throwing various furniture items in the fire along with a TV. The CO's located the vacant lot where the subject had been burning and located the glass tube of a TV along with other metal and glass objects in the smoldering pile. The CO's confronted the subject who admitted to burning last night but was confused how a TV had got into the fire. Enforcement action was taken for illegal burning.
- **CO Michael Evink** was conducting a Holiday marine patrol in the Fayette area when he came across a boat with an expired registration and noticed that it was loaded with camping equipment. The couple that lived nearby on the mainland had torn down the camp they had established on an island. Enforcement action was taken
- **CO John Wenzel** assisted MSP Troopers at the scene of an ORV accident. A 15 year old was operating a dirt bike on the right-of-way of a state highway. The operator was operating after dark without a headlight and without adult supervision. The operator struck a cable attached to a mailbox and crashed his dirt bike. The juvenile was transported by ambulance to the hospital for a possible broken collar bone. MSP Troopers are investigating the crash.
- **CO John Wenzel**, while on vacation hiking on Isle Royale, came across a hiker who had just fallen, striking her head on a rock, causing a severe laceration to her forehead. The hiker was several miles from the next campsite. The hiker had wrapped the wound with a bandana, but it was still bleeding heavily. CO Wenzel, being a first aid instructor, had come prepared for just such a medical emergency. CO Wenzel applied 4X4 sterile gauze to stop the bleeding, and then wrapped the hiker's head with 2 inch wrap to keep the gauze in place. The hiker and her companion then continued towards the next campground.
- **CO John Wenzel** spoke to a Criminal Justice class at Bay College. CO Wenzel spoke about a career with Law Division and answered student questions about the job of a Conservation Officer.
- **CO John Wenzel**, along with other D-2 CO's, worked a group ORV patrol along Lake Superior shoreline. CO Wenzel patrolled the shoreline in a vessel looking for ORV's on the beach. Other officers patrolled the area on ORV's. Many contacts were made and several citations were issued by officers.
- **CO Jon Busken** was on routine patrol when he observed a motor vehicle in front of him without a license plate. A traffic stop was initiated, the driver claimed he had just purchased the vehicle and provided a bill of sale from earlier that day. The driver

provided a 625G driver's permit from a .17 BAC DUI he received on the fourth of July. Further investigation revealed the driver did not have insurance on the vehicle. The driver stated that he was going to go to his insurance agent the next day to purchase insurance and then go to the Secretary of State Office to transfer the title. The next day was Labor Day Saturday and all Secretary of State Offices would be closed. Enforcement action was taken.

- **CO Jon Busken** participated in a Group Patrol in northern Luce County over the Labor Day weekend. The officer made contact with a hunter baiting for bear. During the contact a firearm was found to be in his vehicle, when checked it was discovered the firearm was loaded. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Jon Busken** participated in a Group Patrol in northern Luce County over the Labor Day weekend. The officer observed a quad being ridden double. Contact was made with the operator a father and daughter pair. The father told the daughter that he "Did not expect to see them (conservation officers) today." Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Jon Busken** participated in a Group Patrol in northern Luce County over the Labor Day weekend. The officer observed two unregistered quads being ridden double. Contact was made with the operators. It turned out the group consisted of a father, son, daughter and step son. The daughter told the officer that she had told her father to purchase ORV licenses because conservation officers "Would be out today." The father opted not to because he said he rarely saw a CO on the trails during holiday weekends. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Jon Busken** was on patrol when he observed a motorcycle being operated with an expired registration. Contact was made with the operator who was found to be a juvenile who in addition to operating the expired motorcycle was operating without a cycle endorsement and with no insurance. The juvenile told the officer who the motorcycle belonged to. The officer recognized the owner and had given him an ORV related warning several weeks before. The officer escorted the rider and bike back to the owner. When the owner saw the officer pull into the driveway he smiled and said, "I am going to get one this time aren't I?" CO Busken advised that his assumption was correct. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Jon Busken, John Wenzel, Kevin Postma, Bobby Watson, Robert Freeborn, Sgt. Mike Hammill and PCOs Jake Griffin and Justin Muehlhauser** worked together on a group ORV patrol in the Northern part of Luce county. The COs main focus was to keep ORV's off the shoreline of Lake Superior, and other critical dune areas. Numerous ORV violations were encountered during the patrol along with several fish and game violations.
- **CO Bobby Watson and Sgt. Mike Hammill** were on ORV patrol when they encountered two individuals fishing in an area known to produce fishing violations due to its remoteness. CO Watson conducted a routine license check and discovered one of the individuals had not purchased her 2015 fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Bobby Watson and Sgt. Mike Hammill** were out on patrol when they received a report from a local campground that a loaded rifle had been found by two young hikers who were very close to the campground. CO Watson and Sgt. Hammill collected the loaded 30.06 and remaining hunting equipment that was found and attempted to locate the owner. Hours later CO Watson received a phone call from the owner. Contact was made with the rightful owner of the rifle, and a discussion on why it is dangerous to leave a loaded rifle in the woods within feet of a popular walking trail where kids play was had. The hunter was happy to recover his equipment and claimed he would no longer be leaving his rifle in the woods.
- **PCOs Justin Muehlhauser and Jake Griffin along with CO Kevin Postma** contacted an angler fishing for Lake Trout. The PCOs inquired about the angler's success to which the anglers advised that they had one Lake Trout and one Atlantic Salmon. One of the anglers then asked, "what is the size limit is for lake trout?" The PCOs gladly informed the angler of the proper length and then proceeded to ask some questions of their own. The angler was eventually cited for a short Lake Trout.
- **COs Jeff Panich and PCO Jacob Griffin** spent the day patrolling Chippewa County and assisted in working the County Fair in Kinross. During their days patrol, the two officers assisted numerous law agencies with the following incidents, a domestic abuse case, a child abuse reported by an off duty police officer, and assisted a Trooper with an O.W.I. stop which resulted in the suspect being lodged.
- **CO Jeff Panich** worked the 1st season bear opener in Chippewa County. During the day, several hunters were checked, 3 illegal baits were located as well as 2 early deer baits and 2 illegal tree stands. CO Panich also located an illegal ORV trail while walking into the Gogomain swamp. The CO observed a foot trail leading to a group of hunters. A check of the hunters revealed no violations, but several tips of other hunters in the area with questionable ethics. The investigation continues.
- **CO Rob Freeborn** along with a US Forest Service Officer were advised of a possible meth dump site at a popular camping location. The officers responded along with members of UPSET. Once on scene it was determined that the bottle was that of a "one pot" gas generator used for the making of meth. The components were disposed of and investigation is ongoing.
- **CO Rob Freeborn** responded to a complaint of a hunter blocking a road with their parked vehicle. Upon arriving on scene, CO Freeborn recognized the truck as a bear hunter and noticed that just in front of the truck was a parking spot that would have allowed the truck to be completely off the road way. CO Freeborn made contact with the hunter who stated he didn't want anyone disturbing his hunt. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Rob Freeborn** was on routine patrol when he heard from local dispatch that a woman had fallen out of a moving vehicle and then was run over by the vehicle. CO Freeborn was only a mile from the incident and was first on scene along with a SSM Tribal officer. The officers provided medical assistance until EMS arrived on scene.

- **CO Rob Freeborn** checked lots of bear hunters over the past week. Over all compliance was good except one hunter who was hunting bear with a firearm and was not wearing hunters orange. Enforcement action was taken.
- **While working opening day of waterfowl season, CO Rob Freeborn** contacted several hunters enjoying the unusually warm fall day. Many hunters were discouraged by the warm weather though as it was conducive to their hunt. Overall compliance was good however CO Freeborn encountered two hunters who were hunting with un-plugged shotguns and another hunter hunting waterfowl without a license. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Michael Evink** was working a complaint of bear hound hunters dragging roads in northern Schoolcraft County. Officer Evink was able to make contact with a large group of hunters camping and educated the group as to why the dragging law is in place and the damage dragging does to the roads. Officer Evink took photos of the drag and warned the group against using it.
- **Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon and CO Michael Evink** were working the Au Train basin on a very warm waterfowl opener. The two officers contacted numerous groups of hunters, most of who were in compliance with the laws. The officers did make contact with one hunter who had decided to use "lead shot" to try and save some money. He was educated on the fact that lead is toxic to waterfowl when they ingest it, and was given a ticket to remind him in the future.
- **Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon** while talking to a camper walking his dog in the campground observed another camper placing what appeared to be a bag of ducks into the garbage cans. Contact with the individuals revealed that they indeed had hunted that morning, had cleaned their ducks and had just thrown away 5 breasted out carcasses of the "teal" they had shot. Inspection of the birds resulted in an education on ID as the birds were all wood ducks (not teal). The hunters were also educated on the requirement to leave a wing attached to waterfowl, and the tagging requirements for waterfowl hunters.
- **Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon** taught Hunter safety classes in Eben and Munising this past week.
- **Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon** attended Agripalooza at the Chatham State Farm and presented on "the job of a Conservation Officer" to over 150 5th grade students over the course of the day. 5th grade classes from Alger and Marquette county schools attended and rotate through multiple presenters for 15 minute presentations. The day was attended by over 350 kids.
- **Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon** taught waterfowl ID and enforcement techniques at the week-long division "Waterfowl School" in Bay City.
- **CO Jeff Panich** worked in the Stalwart area of Chippewa County during the 1st and 2nd bear seasons. CO Panich was able to locate numerous illegal blinds, tree stands and baits prior to the 1st season hunt. After numerous attempts to contact the hunters, CO Panich finally made contact with almost all of the suspects with the illegal activity on the opening evening on the 2nd season. It was discovered after contacting the 3rd hunter that one large hunting party was responsible for all the illegal activity. Enforcement action was taken for no hunter orange, no names on stands and illegal bait along with numerous verbal warnings as well.
- **CO Jeff Panich** was working in the Hessel area checking bird hunters on State land, when he ran across a yellow go cart parked off the trail. CO Panich realized that the cart had been stashed off the trail in an attempt to hide it in the woods. CO Panich started making phone calls to area law agencies, when he had a return call from Mackinac County Sheriff's Office confirming they took a report of a stolen yellow go cart several weeks back. The property was turned over to the sheriff's office and returned to its original owner with only minor damage.
- **While on patrol in a remote area of Drummond Island, CO Jeff Panich** happened across the scene of a car crash. The vehicle had hit several trees while attempting to turn around at the end of a gated road. CO Panich confirmed no one had reported the crash with Central Dispatch and started to look for the operator of the vehicle. Concerned with the operator's well-being CO Panich used every bit of resources available including MSP K-9, Mackinac County Sheriff Dept. and Border Patrol Agents in attempt to find the operator. Hours later in the middle of the night, the search was called off until daylight. Upon arriving at his residence, CO Panich heard radio traffic indicating that the two Border Patrol Agents that continued searching for the missing driver had found a remote cabin approximately two miles further down the road. While approaching the cabin, the Border Patrol Agents took gunfire from inside. CO Panich, MSP Troopers and every other available agency responded to the Border Patrol Agents location. A long stand-off ensued through the early morning hours into the next afternoon when it was confirmed the suspect was deceased.
- **PCO Pat Hartsig and CO Brett Gustafson** responded to a complaint of a 26 year old man who was bitten and scratched by a bear while hunting in the Seney area. When the subject was interviewed, it was found that the bear hound hunters had shot and wounded a 400lb bear; the bear then grabbed one of the hounds. The houndsman reached to pull the dog from the bear's mouth when the bear bit his hand and scratched his arm. The patient received 8 stiches and a rabies shot.
- **While patrolling the morning of the Upper Peninsula waterfowl opener, PCO Pat Hartsig and CO Brett Gustafson** checked numerous parties in the Green Island area. While checking a group of six hunters, one individual was hesitant to make eye contact or answer questions. It turned out that he possessed an unplugged shotgun. A citation was issued, and a makeshift plug was given to the hunter so he could continue hunting with his group.
- **COs Jon Busken, John Wenzel and Brett Gustafson** taught a Hunter's Safety Class at the Engadine Consolidated School. More than 30 students attended the class. A field day was also conducted and students were able to shoot firearms, bows, pellet guns and learn how to safely set up a tree stand.

- **CO Jon Busken** observed a vehicle towing a boat trailer without a license plate on US-2. A traffic stop was conducted and the operator was contacted. When approaching the vehicle the officer smelt the strong odor of burnt marijuana. The operator admitted to smoking the marijuana just prior. The operator's driver's license was currently suspended. There was also no insurance on the vehicle and the registration was expired. The operator's field sobriety tests indicated he was operating under the influence. The operator consented to a blood test and was lodged in the Mackinac County Jail after the test. Changes are pending.
- **CO Jon Busken** received a phone call from an area resident in reference to an individual operating an ORV while intoxicated. The officer had recently arrested the subject for operating an ORV while administratively denied and revoked. The officer was not in the area but made contact with a local deputy who found the rider and initiated a traffic stop. The operator was visibly intoxicated but denied that he drank any alcohol that day. When asked if he would pass a PBT the operator indicated he drank some alcohol the night before. The PBT indicated a BAC of .27 – more than three times the legal limit for operating an ORV. The subject was arrested and lodged in the Mackinac County Jail.
- **CO Bobby Watson and Sgt. Mike Hammill** were patrolling the waterfowl opener on a local river when they rounded a corner and were greeted by the strong odor of marijuana. Two hunters were found and a short conversation led to the admission of smoking marijuana just moments before the COs arrived. Two flasks of liquor were found, along with a container and pipe with marijuana residue. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Bobby Watson** was checking a local GEMS (Grouse Enhanced Management Site) area when he observed three ORV's approaching a main highway closed to ORV traffic. A quick check of the hunting party revealed that they had travelled along the highway in order to access the hunting location. A conversation was had on the safety issues regarding ORV traffic along a busy highway and enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Bobby Watson** was on patrol when he was dispatched to a motor vehicle versus ORV collision. The ORV had crossed centerline, colliding with the passenger car before rolling over multiple times. Fortunately, nobody was injured in the collision. An accident report was taken.
- **CO Kevin Postma and PCO Mark Zitnik** were working a waterfowl trespass complaint. CO Postma heard some shots right at dusk but was unsure where they were coming from. It quickly became clear when he could hear voices and a horn honk. CO Postma was able to contact PCO Zitnik on the radio who was able to stop the suspect vehicle. It was eventually discovered that the suspects were actually deer hunting on a tribal license. It was discovered that they were hunting on land not owned by a tribal member and therefore in violation of the treaty rights. The COs took photos and a report will be generated and TOT the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.
- **CO Postma** received a complaint of a wild pig that had been seen in the area for several weeks. CO Postma responded to the location and located the young feral pig rutting up field. The nuisance animal was dispatched and turned it over to wildlife division.