



Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: August 2016

This documentation is provided by Michigan DNR staff as supplemental information to the Eastern UPCAC members via email on August 18, 2016.

Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator: Stacy Haughey

DNR Public Meetings

August 23	Menominee River State Recreation Area Management Plan Public Meeting, Norway, 6:00pm CDT
August 24	UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, DNR Shingleton Field Office, 6:00pm
August 25	Eastern UP Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting, Newberry, 6:30pm
August 25	Forest Compartment Review (Delta & Menominee Counties), State Office Building, Escanaba, 9:30am
August 30	Freshwater Mussel Workshop, Gwinn, 9:00am
August 30	UP Wildlife Habitat Workgroup Meeting, Red Rock Lanes-Ishpeming, 9:30am
September 6	UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Bergland, 6:00pm
September 7	Western UP Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting, GCC-Ironwood, 5:00pm EDT/4:00pm CDT
September 7	UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Ottawa Sportsman's Club-Pelkie, 4:00pm
September 7	UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, DNR Crystal Falls Office, 6:00pm CDT
September 8	UP Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Gogebic Community College, Ironwood, 1:00pm CDT
September 8	UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Great Lakes Sportsman's Club-Escanaba, 6:00pm
September 8	UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, DNR Marquette Office, 6:00pm
September 13	Forestry Open House-Sault Ste. Marie Unit, Naubinway Field Office, 3:00pm
September 14	Forestry Open House-Sault Ste. Marie Unit, Kinross Township Hall-Kincheloe, 3:00pm
September 14	Forestry Open House-Alger/Marquette Counties, Chocolay Township Hall-Marquette, 3:00pm
September 20	UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Chippewa County Shooting Assn, Soo, 1:30pm
September 29	Forestry Open House-Shingleton Unit, Wyman Nursery-Manistique, 4:00pm
September 29	Forestry Open House-Crystal Falls Unit, Crystal Falls Field Office, 3:00pm CDT

U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities

August 18-21	Lake Gogebic State Park - Kayaking 101
August 19-21	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park - Russian Leaf Bead Weaving
August 20	Van Riper State Park - 7th Annual Moosic & Arts Festival
August 20	Indian Lake State Park - Ice Cream Social
August 23	Michigan Iron Industry Museum - Prohibition in the Upper Peninsula
August 25-27	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park - Porcupine Mountain Music Festival
August 27	Van Riper State Park - Kayaking 101 & 102
September 3	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park - Fun with Tie Dyeing
September 3	Palms Book State Park - The Big Spring
September 3	Indian Lake State Park - 'I Need Mummy'
September 3	Indian Lake State Park - Scavenger Hunt
September 4	Cedar River State Harbor - Cedar River Bridge Walk
September 4	Indian Lake State Park - Creepy Campfire
September 9-11	Baraga State Park - 10th Annual Harvest Festival
September 9-11	Van Riper State Park - Harvest Festival
September 10-11	Muskallonge Lake State Park - 9th Annual Rock On! with Lake Superior Agates Show
September 10	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park - Willow Tension Tray
September 11-12	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park - Initial Journal (2 Day Class)

September 16-18	Bewabic State Park - Harvest Festival
September 16-18	Van Riper State Park - Harvest Festival
September 17-24	Michigan Trails Week www.michigan.gov/trailsweek
September 17	Fort Wilkins Historic State Park - Geocaching
September 17-18	Porcupine Mountains State Park – Fall Color Chair Lift Rides
September 20-22	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park - Create a Cutting Board (2-3 Day Class)
September 22	Twin Lakes State Park - MI-TRALE Fall Senior ORV Ride
September 23-25	Wells State Park - Spooktacular (Harvest Festival)
September 23-25	Lake Gogebic State Park - Fall Fest
September 23-25	Van Riper State Park - Harvest Festival
September 23-25	Beyond BOW Fall Workshop - Backpacking, Fishing, Waterfalls at Porcupine Mountains State Park
September 24	Brimley State Park - Harvest Festival
September 24	Tahquamenon Falls State Park - Hike Between Da Falls
September 24	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park - Landscape and Waterfall Photography Basics
Sept 29-Oct 1	Michigan Iron Industry Museum - Iron Ore and the Civil War

Upcoming U.P. Recreation Events

For a host of fall events around the UP, go to www.uptravel.com. Here are just a few...

August 20	Aspirus Great Deer Chase Mountain Bike Race, Calumet, www.greatdeerchase.org
August 20	Tour de Dickinson Bike Race, Iron Mountain, www.tourdedickinson.com
August 25-28	Gogebic County Fair, Ironwood, www.gogebiccountyfair.com
August 25-28	Houghton County Fair, Hancock, www.houghtoncountyfair.com
August 26-27	Mackinac Island Festival of the Horse, www.mackinacislandfestivalofthehorse.org
August 26-Sept 1	Chippewa County Fair, Kinross, www.chippewafair.com
August 27	Moose on the Loose Family Fun Run, Marquette, www.michigannature.org/home/how_help/calendar.html
August 27	Step Into History: Swedetown 5K Trail Run/Walk, Calumet, www.nps.gov/kewe
August 31-Sept 5	Dickinson County Fair, Norway, www.dickinsoncountyfair.com
September 3	St. Mary's Salmon Slam Tournament, Sault Ste. Marie, www.saultstemarie.com
September 3	Marquette Marathon Events, Marquette, www.marquettemarathon.com
September 3	Grand Marais Triathlon, Grand Marais, www.grandmariasmichigan.com
September 3-4	Bells' Beer Copper Harbor Trails Festival, Copper Harbor, www.copperharbortrails.org
September 5	Mackinac Labor Day Bridge Walk & Run, St. Ignace, http://michiganfitness.org/labor-day-bridge-run
September 5	Portage Health Bridge Walk, Houghton, www.portagehealth.org
September 9-11	Lake Gogebic Fall Walleye Tournament, Lake Gogebic, www.lakegogebicarea.com
September 10	Mackinac Island 8-Mile Run/Walk, www.runmackinac.com
September 10	Bryophyte Field Trip at Estivant Pines Nature Sanctuary, Copper Harbor, www.michigannature.org
September 10	Wakefield Marathon, Wakefield, www.uprrc.org
September 10	Off the Vine 5k Run/Walk, Bark River, www.heartofthenorthlions.org
September 10	Iron Mountain Road & Trail Half Marathon & Minithon, Iron Mountain, www.imrthalfmarathon.org
September 17	Cliff D'Arcy Last Chance Walleye Tournament, Cedar River, 906-235-7783
September 17	Tahquamenon Wilderness Canoe Race, Paradise, http://TahquamenonWildernessCanoeRace.org
September 17	Porcupine Mountains Trail Marathon & Half Marathon, www.greatlakesendurance.com

Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- September 14 state forest planning open house in Marquette (8/16/16)
- DNR compares fall webworms and tent caterpillars (8/16/16)

- ❑ DNR to honor former division chief with patrol boat dedication (8/15/16)
- ❑ Looking for a new hunting adventure? Make a GEMS stop this fall (8/15/16)
- ❑ Share ideas on forest planning for Chippewa, Mackinac counties (8/15/16)
- ❑ Bureau of Indian Affairs issues update on Poverty Island wildfire (8/12/16)
- ❑ Bergland Dock reopened in Ontonagon County (8/12/16)
- ❑ Showcasing the DNR: Trust Fund 40th Anniversary Top 10 List (8/11/16)
- ❑ Registration now open for K-12 wildlife programs (8/10/16)
- ❑ Michigan's waters: Not a good home for pet fish (8/9/16)
- ❑ Showcasing the DNR: Nongame Wildlife Fund aids species comebacks (8/4/16)
- ❑ Take a free ride during Free ORV Weekend Aug. 20-21 (8/4/16)
- ❑ Help prevent the spread of oak wilt; don't move firewood (8/2/16)
- ❑ DNR remind personal watercraft users not to harass waterfowl (7/29/16)
- ❑ DNR boat launches affected by Houghton County dam project (7/29/16)
- ❑ August full of adventure in western UP state parks (7/29/16)
- ❑ Keep a lookout for aquatic invasive plants (7/29/16)
- ❑ Turkey Talk, trail run, fishing fun and more at eastern UP state parks (7/29/16)
- ❑ Experience 19th century arts and crafts Aug. 6-7 at Iron Industry Museum (7/28/16)
- ❑ State forest planning open house Aug. 4 in Stephenson (7/28/16)
- ❑ Wildlife habitat improvements in the eastern Upper Peninsula (7/28/16)
- ❑ Most backcountry cabins and campsites reopened at Porcupine Mountains (7/27/16)
- ❑ DNR invites pre-proposal for aquatic habitat improvement grants (7/25/16)
- ❑ Electric power restored to several state parks in the UP (7/22/16)
- ❑ Storm damage cleanup continues in western UP (7/21/16)
- ❑ Storm damage forces temporary closures in Houghton County (7/21/16)

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

August NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met in Lansing on August 11th. Director Keith Creagh approved:

- An order to designate State Game Areas and State Wildlife Areas -- lands which are managed by the Wildlife Division.
- An order that regulates target shooting on these wildlife and game areas. This order prescribes, among other things, the hours target shooting can take place, the types of targets that may be used and the caliber of guns that may be used.
- An order that designates Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve as a state park.
- Mineral Audit Program Fees, which are collected for the purpose of examining whether the state is receiving its proper economic share under the terms of leases for oil and gas extraction on state-managed public lands.
- Eight land transactions, the details of which can be found in the NRC agenda online.

The day began with a meeting of the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee. The committee reviewed the results of a recent camper survey. The survey showed that 91 percent of campers had a good or very good experience at state parks. Seventy-one percent of campers stay in motor homes, trailers or pop-up campers, and 28 percent stay in tents. The average stay at Michigan campgrounds is 4.25 days.

The committee learned that mineral revenues to the Park Endowment Fund for Fiscal Year 2016 have been less than projected. The committee reviewed the highlights of five parks projects currently under way, which include efforts to improve efficiency and contain costs at state parks. The committee heard about a unique partnership to develop emergency preparedness facilities in state parks using funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Paul Yauk of Parks presented a general update on state trails -- motorized and non-motorized -- including the Iron Belle Trail.

The committee approved a resolution to support the management plan at Yankee Springs State Recreation Area. The next step will be to develop a detailed stewardship plan and review recommendations for implementation. Parks Chief Ron Olson reported that representatives from the City of Flint will present a plan for park and river enhancement in their city at the October meeting of the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee.

Next, the Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries met. Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter talked about a study that looked at catch-and-release mortality of lake trout. There is an important relationship between the mortality of released fish and water temperature: the warmer the water, the greater the mortality. The study showed that mortality for released fish is 41 percent. The department plans to do outreach with anglers to educate them about the effects of catch-and-release on lake trout populations, encouraging them to fish fewer lines, keep smaller trout and stop fishing when they have achieved their bag limit.

Jim updated the committee on the department's response to the finding of New Zealand Mudsnails in Michigan rivers. The harmful invasive species has been discovered in the Boardman River, the Pere Marquette River and the south, main and east branches of the Au Sable River. Other rivers have been sampled and no mudsnails have been found in those locations. The department continues its sampling efforts and is conducting a threat analysis of the effects of the species on Michigan waters. The hope is to have that threat analysis done this fall sometime.

The state is recommending that the director extend for one year commercial fishing regulations. The extension will allow the department to work with the industry to undertake a more thorough rewrite of the regulations.

Wildlife Chief Russ Mason introduced Dr. Kelly Straka, the new veterinary supervisor for the DNR's Wildlife Health Section. Kelly, who held a similar job in Missouri, replaces Dr. Steve Schmitt, who recently retired from that post.

Russ informed the committee about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's discussions about possibly listing the northwest moose as a threatened or endangered species. The DNR has informed the Service that -- to the best of our knowledge -- moose in Michigan are of the eastern subspecies, not the subspecies under consideration for listing by the Service.

The State Game Area Blue Ribbon Panel, which focuses on game areas in southern Michigan, will present its report to the commission at the October NRC meeting.

The department is doing work at the Otsego Dam along the Kalamazoo River and must manage PCB contamination in the process. The department is recommending an order to restrict motorized vehicles along specific Grouse Enhanced Management System (GEMS) trails in Menominee County, Delta County and Alger County.

**2016 U.P.
NRC Meeting
September 8, 2016
Gogebic Community
College
Ironwood, MI**

**WUPCAC Meeting
September 7, 2016
Gogebic Community
College
Ironwood, MI**

During the Committee of the Whole, under the director's report, Yu Man Lee and Rebecca Rogers from the Michigan Natural Features Inventory told the NRC about the organization's work tracking and mapping species and natural communities in Michigan and creating databases to inform natural resource management. The MNFI, housed in the Michigan State University Extension office, is an important partner with the DNR.

Parks Chief Ron Olson told the committee about a July 27 event at Interlochen State Park marking the release of the second part of Michigan's Water Strategy. The second phase touched on water trails and commercial and recreational harbors.

Ron reported on storms that occurred in the Upper Peninsula on July 10 and July 20. The storms enlisted a number of divisions and state departments in a coordinated response. The storms left damage at campgrounds, cabins, trails and bridges at Porcupine Mountain Wilderness State Park, as well as damage at Oman Creek Boat Access Site. The later storms caused damage at Emily Lake Forest Campground and Twin Lakes State Park. The storms also left a floating debris field from Saxon Harbor, WI which made its way to Michigan shores and required clean-up by DNR staff.

Ron presented to Susan Lackey a Partners in Conservation Award. Susan was executive director of the Legacy Land Conservancy in Ann Arbor from 2005 to 2016. A long-time advocate for public land and for striking the proper balance between nature and commerce, Susan was instrumental in helping to create Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve, Michigan's newest state park.

The Michigan Wildlife Council reported to the commission on its efforts to inform the public about the central role hunting, fishing and trapping play in conservation. The council's campaign launched in April with a goal of reaching 85 percent of targeted audiences in West and Southwest Michigan nine times with campaign messages. The council has thus far dramatically exceeded that goal, reaching 95 percent of the targeted audience 17 times with messages. The campaign has relied on television advertisements, print advertisements, billboards, radio messages, bus wraps, social media advertisements, digital display ads and sponsored articles in publications. The first phase of the campaign introduced the public to the council and included broad messages about natural resources. The next phase will include more direct messages about hunting and fishing.

Resource Deputy Bill Moritz said the department continues to move ahead on recruitment, retention and reactivation of hunters, anglers and other outdoor recreation users. There was a meeting last week of partners to advance the state's R3 efforts.

July 2016 Legislative Update - Trevor VanDyke , Director, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

PA 247 of 2016 (SB 523) – Native American History – Sen. Schmidt: This new act amends Section 72117 and Section 72114 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Department to provide signage and recognition to places of significant Native American history, to require the Department to work collaboratively with tribal governments, educators and other departments and agencies to promote and preserve Native American history in the state. In addition, the act also requires the Department to issue an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature on its activities under Section 72117.

PA 248 of 2016 (HB 5631) – Modify Allowable Uses of the Forest Development Fund – Rep. Pscholka: This new act amends Section 50507 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to transfer \$3 million from the Forest Development Fund to the First Responder Presumed Coverage Fund for fiscal year 2015-2016 only. The First Responder Presumed Coverage Fund is to be used to fund workers' compensation benefits for eligible firefighters diagnosed with various forms of cancer that are ineligible for or denied other disability pension benefits.

PA 260 of 2016 (SB 651) – Transitional Qualified Forest Property – Sen. Booher: This new act is part of a package that allows forestland to move from the Commercial Forest Program to the Qualified Forest Program, with the tax increase associated with the transfer to the QF program phased in over five years. PA 260 of 2016 creates a new act, the Transitional Qualified Forest Property Specific Tax Act, which allows forestland in the Commercial Forest Program to be considered "transitional" forest property for up to five years and be subject to a new annual specific tax.

PA 261 of 2016 (SB 652) – Transitional Qualified Forest Property – Sen. Booher: This new act makes amendments (complementary to PA 260 of 2016) to the General Property Tax Act by amending Section 7jj and adding Section 7vv.

PA 262 of 2016 (SB 653) – Transitional Qualified Forest Property – Sen. Casperson: This new act makes related amendments to Section 51108 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by adding the requirement that the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the DNR, within 30 days of the amendatory act, establish in writing a basis of interdepartmental cooperation when an owner of forestland seeks to withdraw forestland from the CF program without penalty.

There was no legislative update for August 2016.

Western UPCAC Update

The WUPCAC met on **July 21st** in Calumet at the Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne's. Agenda items included: a UP Wildlife Habitat Workgroup and CWD update, Cabela's Tournament Update, vote on an officer title change in the bylaws, Invasive Species Update by Doug Barry, McLain State Park Update by Doug Rich, Metallic Minerals Management Process and the US Fish & Wildlife's Evaluation of Moose Status by Stacy, and committee reports. In addition, Council Member Horst Schmidt arranged for a tour of the Quincy Smelter in Hancock for Council members and DNR staff prior to the meeting. The next meeting will be on **September 7th**, the day prior to the UP NRC Meeting on September 8, both in Ironwood.

Division Updates

Eastern UP Fisheries Division

Field Units (Cory Kovacs, Acting Lake Superior Management Unit Manager)

- Field staff assisted the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on Lake Superior netting for Lake Sturgeon. This is an index netting effort which occurs every 5 years. Netting was conducted off of the mouth of the Tahquamenon River. A total of two Lake Sturgeon were captured. Biological data recorded and fish were returned safely to the water.
- Walleye rearing ponds were harvested at the end of June. A total of six area lakes were stocked with 119,202 two inch Walleye. Lakes stocked in the Eastern Lake Superior Management Unit include in Alger County, Au Train Basin, Au Train Lake, Deer Lake, and Grand Marais-West Bay, and in Luce County Pretty Lake and Muskallonge Lake.
- Newberry field staff is completing summer field work. Currently the crew is conducting surveys on area streams. Streams of note are the Tahquamenon River, East Branch Fox River, Rock River, and Chocoley River.
- Newberry field staff completed repairs to the fishing pier located at the Dollarville Flooding dam. The 26 year old wooden pier was vandalized in mid-June.
- Newberry field staff (2) attended a Cisco identification workshop in Sault Ste. Marie provided by the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. The workshop overviewed Cisco species native to Great Lakes, as well as some specimens from Lake Nipigon in Canada. This workshop was created to help guide field staff identify species and subspecies when performing sampling activities on the upper Great Lakes.
- Staff attended Michigan DNR Lake Superior Basin Team meeting and reviewed splake stocking proposals.
- Staff participated in multiple area outreach events with youth and the public over the past couple of months covering such topics as fishing, fish biology, and natural resources career paths.
- Staff floated the Au Train River below Au Train Lake. During the float, the invasive plant species Flowering Rush was identified in various locations. Flowering Rush has found in many mid-western states and is already established in lower Michigan. Michigan DNR has collaborated with partners within the Central Upper Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area (CUPCWMA) out of Marquette in order to understand the severity of this observation. Mapping and further detection efforts were made by Michigan DNR and partners on August 1, 2, and 5. The crews surveyed Au Train Lake and the entire Au Train down to Lake Superior. Plans for trial treatments are currently underway and CUPCWMA partners are investigating what funding is available for additional treatment efforts.

Marquette Research (Ed Baker, Station Manager)

Surveys

- Lake sturgeon rearing is continuing in the Cedar, Whitefish, and Ontonagon river rearing trailers. Fish are feeding on blood worms and doing well. There was a significant mortality of sturgeon, presumably disease-related, in the Ontonagon trailer which resulted in loss of approx. 50% of fish.
- The R/V Lake Char was out of service for approximately three weeks due to failure of the e-troll on the starboard transmission. The vessel has been repaired and has started summer survey work. The breakdown resulted in lost survey time and MFRS was not able to participate in the lake-wide juvenile sturgeon index netting as was planned.
- Lake sturgeon work is continuing at the Black River field site.
- Data collection from commercial whitefish fisheries on lakes Michigan and Superior continues.
- Survey work has started in nearshore Lake Superior waters at Grand Marais and Munising and will continue in northern Lake Michigan waters once L. Superior work has been completed.

Meetings

- Biologists Sitar and Baker attended the Lake Superior Tech Committee meeting July.
- Biologists Zorn, Baker, Sitar, and Technician Sanford attended Basin Committee meetings.
- Biologist Baker attended the Sturgeon Committee meeting in July.

Office/lab/workshop/building activities

- Staff is busy with field work and has less time available for processing samples (otoliths, fin rays, scales, stomachs) collected during 2015 field surveys.
- Biologists are working on data analysis, reports, manuscripts for journal publication, and proposal preparation for GLFT and GLFWRA funding sources.
- Staff continues to work on net building/repair, equipment maintenance, etc. in between bouts of lab and field work.
- Lab repair work is complete and staff is now making full use of repaired space.

Outreach Activities

- Technician Sanford participated in an outreach event at the local public library for area schools.

Marquette and Thompson Fish Hatcheries (Jan VanAmberg, Manager)

Marquette State Fish Hatchery- Marquette

- Penny Bacon (Secretary for UP Hatcheries and Marquette Research Station) retired at the end of July. Her absence has left a big hole in administrative functions with many people around Fisheries Division stepping up to help while we wait for word on replacement.
- Outside raceways have been restocked with fingerlings to be stocked next spring. Fish inventories are sufficient to meet all stocking requests this fall and the following spring.
- Lake trout for Great lakes stockings have been mass marked (clipped and tagged) by the USFWS (see video segment at from Discovery show at : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUoUJLjiMTc>)
- Technicians have been assisting Research Section on stream and Great Lakes surveys.
- Maintenance projects include adding insulation to the isolation building and replacing doors to aid in energy conservation efforts.
- Jordan Farmer resigned in July leaving our trades helper position vacant. Waiting on approval to refill position.
- Three staff members attended a fisheries genetics course in Lansing.

Thompson State Fish Hatchery- Manistique

- Maintenance staff have been busy fabricating new raceway screen frames that allow interchange of screen size.
- Several energy conservation projects have been undertaken to reduce energy costs. Several old windows were replaced with modern, energy efficient windows.
- An emergency well repair was necessary to get our biggest coldwater well back up and running. Pump and motor and drop pipe were replaced.
- Power quality problems from the utility have been causing equipment failure recently. Staff is monitoring our equipment and working with the power company to remedy.

- Ryan Lytle has been hired as a new fisheries technician bringing us back to full staff.
- Provided a few hundred yearling steelhead for annual kids fishing events in collaboration with DNR Parks and Recreation and US Forest Service.
- Three staff members attended a fisheries genetics course in Lansing.
- Matt Bach, fisheries technician, represented Fisheries Division at the RAM Center providing a fisheries job overview and his personal background as part of a Detroit youth initiative (2nd annual Green Corps field trip).

EUP Wildlife Division: Terry Minzey, Wildlife Supervisor

Waterfowl Surveys

- Wildlife Division staff band ducks and geese annually to monitor these populations.
- The UP region's goal is to band 300 geese, 100 mallards, and 100 wood ducks to contribute to statewide banding goals.
- 423 Canada geese were captured and leg-banded by DNR staff and volunteers at several locations across the UP in early summer.
- 115 mallards and 79 wood ducks have been banded to date, and duck banding efforts continue.
- Reports of banded birds are used to calculate mortality rates, migratory timing and harvest information that is useful for planning future hunting seasons.

State Forest Management Planning

- Each year, ~10% of the state forest land is inventoried, and management plans developed to guide management activities for the next 10 years.
- Most wildlife habitat management takes place as a result of this management planning or compartment review process, and Wildlife Division staff are heavily involved in this process.
- Management activities can range from timber harvests to management of openings and protection of sensitive habitats.
- Draft management plans for each compartment will be posted on-line for public review and comment, and staff will be available to discuss these plans at open houses in each unit as follows:
 - Sault Ste. Marie Unit – Sept. 13th @ the Naubinway Field Office (3-6PM); Sept. 14th @ the Kinross Twp. Hall in Kincheloe (3-6PM)
 - Shingleton Unit – Sept. 29th @ Wyman Nursery in Manistique (4-7PM)
 - Newberry Unit – Oct. 11th @ the Newberry Field Office (3-6PM)
- The plans will be finalized with any necessary changes at compartment review meetings following the open houses and comment periods.
- Complete information for each unit is available on the DNR's web site at www.michigan.gov/forestry.

GEMS

- Drummond: Work is expected to start soon to improve a portion of the main trail for better walking and management access. Three mature aspen stands are expected to be harvested soon to encourage regeneration and improve grouse habitat.
- Garden Grade: On August 27th, an MUCC On-The-Ground volunteer event will be held to plant wildlife shrubs that will provide additional food and cover at the site. The project is also supported by Wildlife Unlimited of Delta County.
- Halifax: Gravel has been placed for 2 parking lots, 2 berms in trails have been removed in cooperation with FRD, and 2 gates are being installed to improve access. Numerous trails have also been mowed.
- Melstrand: 10 acres of trails and openings are being planted with clover and rye. Oak will be planted in the GEMS this fall, as well. These projects are being done in partnership with the Ruffed Grouse Society and UP Whitetails of Alger County.
- Strickler: Road improvements are expected by early fall in in cooperation with FRD to improve access to the GEMS.

Other Projects

- 20 acres of openings are being planted with clover and rye in the Sturgeon Hole Deer Wintering Complex in the Shingleton Unit to improve break-out areas for deer. The project is being done in partnership with UP Whitetails of Schoolcraft County.

- Large oak will be planted soon in the 8 Mile Corner Management Area to benefit deer and other wildlife species.
- Preparatory work is being done for construction of an easy access duck blind at the Dollarville Flooding in the Newberry Unit.
- A road improvement is being conducted in the Sault Unit to improve access to Munuscong Bay in cooperation with the Chippewa County Road Commission.
- Garlic mustard, an invasive plant, was recently found during forest inventory between Cedarville and Detour. Sault Unit staff and the Three Shores Cooperative Invasive Species Management Association (CISMA) surveyed the area and pulled garlic mustard found in hopes of containing the occurrence. DNR staff and the Three Shores CISMA will continue monitoring the site in future years and controlling garlic mustard where it is found. Invasive species can threaten wildlife habitat by outcompeting native vegetation.

Outreach

- Shingleton Unit staff recently participated in Family Fun Day at Big Springs State Park with Friends of Indian Lake State Park to educate children and adults about furs, skulls, tracks, & deer aging.
- Shingleton Unit staff will host the annual meeting of the Michigan Sharp-tailed Grouse Association in Seney on August 19.
- Staff are preparing to make an animal survival adaptations presentation at a 4H day camp in the Newberry area later this month.

Forest Resources Division: Jeff Stampfly, Eastern UP Supervisor

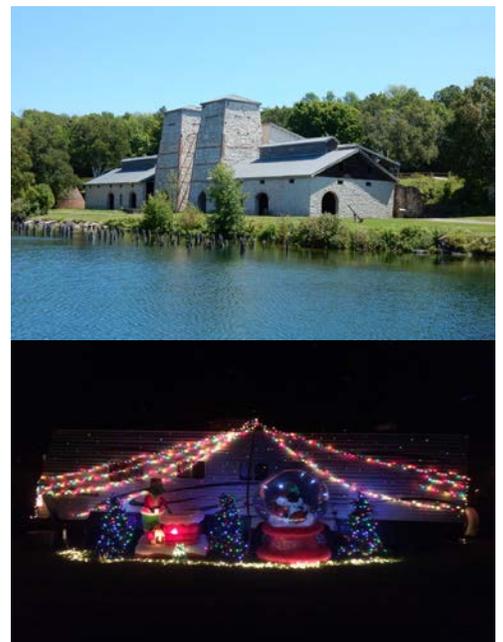
- As of July 8th, 287 timber sale contracts are open in the EUP. This represents 477,128 cords of timber on 35,261 acres, and is valued at approximately \$24.8 million. Timber sale preparation has been on-going, with foresters and technicians trying to finish up their 2016 work. The three summer forestry students will be returning to college soon. They helped with timber sale marking, regeneration surveys and fire suppression.
- In the EUP, 9 sales were recently offered and two of those went “no-bid”. Sales with lowland conifers have been selling, but with very low interest. Pulpwood markets continue to cause concern. Mills are purchasing very little and quotas are very tight. There is a surplus of pulpwood decked and waiting for purchase around the state. Logging activity is quite high right now.
- Sault and Shingleton Unit staff have been working on the Hiawatha NF Good Neighbor Authority timber sale preparation. The Sault is nearing completion of 200 acres on the east portion of the Hiawatha National Forest.
- The Sault fire supervisor Mike Pine recently retired after 38 years of service, and the Seney lead fire officer recently transferred to Marquette. This has left vacancies in the EUP fire program. Fire and forestry staff have been shifting around to cover fires outside of their areas.
- The Sault Management Unit had 2 wildfire starts on the same day with resources already stretched thin, and was able to get them contained on the same evening with a lot of help from units and staff from across the UP. That same day, the Hiawatha National Forest had a 35 acre wildfire by Trout Lake discovered by the state aircraft. The state dozer from the Sault Field Office assisted on another Hiawatha NF wildfire of 56 acres by Raco in July.
- For the EUP this season there has been 19 reportable fires (280 acres), 17 Non-stat fires (115 acres), and two prescribed burns for wildlife at 513 acres total. One of the largest fires was the Munuscong Fire at 81.6 acres. There are drought conditions encompassing the entirety of eastern UP. These conditions are expected to continue through the fall season
- There has been a fire burning on poverty island since the end of June. Conditions on the Island are poor for access and heavy fuels and the Bureau of Indian Affairs has been battling the fire by using a variety of different method trying to contain it. More information is available by visiting this website: <http://inciweb.nwccg.gov/> and then select incident: Poverty Island.
- EUP staff has been busy preparing sites for regeneration, with the following accomplishments:

- 1200 acres have been scarified so far for natural jack pine
 - 562 acres have been trenched in preparation for spring planting with another 500 to go
 - 313 acres have been sprayed to reduce the herbaceous competition for new plantings
- Staff have been working on road projects, including a bridge replacement on Star Creek and a large road project with culvert replacement and gravel on Cal's Drive (Shingleton). An emergency repair was completed on the Batty Doe Lake Road for a large water hole. A culvert was installed on Big Knob Road and grading is occurring to pull material back onto the road and widen the road edge.
 - The 2018 Year of Entry (YOE) inventory is nearly complete. Pre-reviews for Sault and Shingleton have been held, and Newberry's will be in mid-August. The first open houses in the EUP are in Sault St. Marie Unit on September 13th and 14th. The complete schedule is at: www.michigan.gov/forestry.
 - An external certification audit was held in the Sault Ste. Marie FMU on August 9th. It was a Surveillance Audit for both Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Forest Stewardship Council (SFI) forest management standards. There were absolutely no findings to report from either the SFI or FSC auditors in the Sault! Great work Sault staff!
 - Staff working on the Michigan State University hardwood research project have started to identify the areas to be studied out in the woods. Timber marking is expected to happen this fall.
 - Prevention activities include: 4th of July Parades in Munising and Curtis, Folkfest in Manistique, Germfask 150 Year Celebration, Career Day at Palmsbook State Park, and a school prevention program at Tahquamenon Public Schools.
 - In forest health news:
 - There is little expansion in spruce budworm activity from last year. Still impacting many of the same areas, but defoliation was down from last year.
 - Black knot in black cherry is heavy in crowns of even larger trees this year due to late cool wet spring. Infections are not systemic, so uninfected branches will persevere this year.
 - There are lots of fall webworm reports. They web the ends of branches of 80 species of hardwood trees and shrubs. This is a native insect which does not impact tree health and has many parasites and predators, so it doesn't persist more than a year or two.
 - Given the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) infestations in many areas of Muskegon and Ottawa Counties, we need to be on the lookout for HWA in all our UP hemlock, to try to determine if we have it in any other part of the state.

Parks & Recreation Division: Eric Cowing, Eastern Supervisor

➤ Fayette Historic State Park

- Construction Projects: Historic Townsite-furnace stacks restoration completed; Harbor-dock in water, work progresses; Campground-work continues on building, sanitation station & sewage treatment area.
- Had a difficult time filling summer staff positions.
- June 18th Christmas in June: 84 day users and 71 camps.
- June 29th Kids in the Woods: About 50 kids from Alger County were in the park for the day as part of their day camp program in association with the Hiawatha National Forest – staff played old time baseball, kayaked, gave tours of historic town site & mountain biked with the kids!
- July 23rd A Paranormal Event: 637 Day Users and 114 camps.
- July 30th "Sit Less & Play More": Staff hosted kickball, mountain biking and kayaking all day long – kayaking was well received (45 participants), biking & kickball.
- August 4th Kids in the Woods: About 60 kids from Delta County YMCA in park for the day as part of their day camp program in association with the Hiawatha National Forest – staff played old time baseball,



kayaked, gave tours of historic town site & mountain biked with the kids!

- Attendance about average, same for campground – a few complaints and early departures due to construction.
- Sheer amount of construction in park and lack of dock has left some visitors a bit “grouchy,” but it will be worth it when all the projects are complete.



➤ Indian Lake/Palms Book

- The Escanaba & Newberry construction crews installed 5 vault toilets in 3 of our state campgrounds.
- The Delta, Alger County Kids in the Woods program returned for another day of youth activities.
- Musician/story teller Bob Housler performed here with 80 people attending even though the weather was quite hot. This event was sponsored by our Friends Group.
- Our Friends Group held their annual family fun day at Palms Book. Activities included games for the kids, a Native American Drum Ceremony, a presentation by the Wheeling Sportsmen, crafts & local law enforcement were there with fire trucks & police cars.
- The Girl Scouts held their annual week long summer camp at Indian Lake SP again this year. There were several girls that participated.
- Camping and day use numbers for June/July: camping +15%, day use +8%, shelters +42%, state campgrounds +19%, mini cabins -4%, Palms Book +32%.
- Filling our summer state worker positions has been challenge this season. For the 1st time, we were unable to fill all of our positions & we have college students already leaving causing the park to be short staffed on a daily basis and requiring overtime to get through the rest of the busy season.
- The raft at Palms Book continues to give us problems. We are going to have to take a look & see what can be done to improve it. With the amount of people we are getting, the current design is not working.

➤ Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island

- Installation of Conely Point Boating Access Site (BAS) entrance sign and site information sign was completed.
- Privy permit was obtained from the health department to replace/relocate an old one at Munuscong rustic campground. Installation may be as early as next week.
- Unit supervisor has been working with District planner, DTMB and NDG to remedy a failed portion of shoreline stabilization at Conely Point BAS.
- An unused/old well was properly abandoned at Munuscong State Campground.
- Brimley has been very busy; camp nights have been up at least 100 per week compared to 2015.
- Detour Harbor slips have been up compared to 2015.
- Lime Island cabin nights were up by 20 nights in the month of July, compared to July 2015.
- The new BAS at Conely Point has been busy. The locals and general public are very pleased with this new addition.



- Brimley SP day use has been very busy....there has been many hot and humid “beach days” this summer.
- Brimley crews finished the summer this week. Brimley SP had two different crews this year; one group in the park and the other working on projects at Pine Bowl & Algonquin Pathways. The park crew assisted staff with campground/beach cleanup and other various duties, while the trails crew assisted staff with brushing pathways, replacing signage and general grounds cleanup. Everyone did a great job!
- Brimley unit supervisor has been attending Superior Township Parks & Recreation meetings.
- Brimley unit supervisor met with Detour Village to discuss issues/concerns in the area.
- Brimley SP has been working on identifying water points to be tested for lead. All info was submitted to the division safety officer. Sample collection will happen in near future for Brimley SP, Detour Harbor, Lime Island, Detour SFC and Munuscong SFC.
- Brimley staff has been dealing with a lot of toilet/shower building plumbing repairs due to the age of the infrastructure.

➤ **Straits State Park**

- The 2 lower toilet/shower buildings have been finished and were up and running for the summer. There are many punch list items that have to be taken care of, some that can be addressed during the use season while others will have to wait until fall.
- Staff are working on completing a handicap accessible viewing area in the Father Marquette area.
- It was difficult to find good temporary summer workers this year.
- The National Wild Turkey Federation came to Straits and set up their BB gun range for 2 afternoons and talked about turkey hunting. Attendance was a bit slow, but expected, on a hot day when visitors wanted to be on the beach and in the water.
- Registration is taking place for Trek the Mac the 2nd annual ORV ride across the bridge. Straits State Park is part of the ride and has been working with the committee.
- Mackinac Island Harbor hosted two sailing races (Chicago to Mackinac and Port Huron to Mackinac); 3 days each the last 2 full weeks in July. These events take a lot of staff time and close the harbor to general public use during the events.
- Attendance is up at Straits State Park approximately 18-20%.
- Hog Island, Little Brevort North and Black River State Forest Campgrounds are all up this year.
- A third meeting was held for development potential of the Father Marquette site. There were some team members who were unable to attend, not much headway made. There was discussion on who the core team should include and who should be pulled in at a later point.
- Some early customer complaints about the new toilet shower buildings have been resolved through punch list items.
- Straits State Park, Mackinac Island Harbor, and the City of Mackinac Island are working toward an agreement for a fire department vessel for its unauthorized slip usage at the harbor all summer. There is still work to be done.

➤ **Tahquamenon Falls State Park**

- The Lower Falls capital outlay project continues to move forward. Currently waiting on finalized permits from DEQ & the Army Corps. Of Engineer. Once the permits are in hand, the project will finally be ready to bid out.
- The cell tower project is also moving forward. The formal application has been submitted & is in the approval process within the Parks Division.
- The lodge #2 project is currently on hold, as park staff have focused their time on routine park needs & improvements.
- Recruiting, hiring, & retaining summer, non-career staff continues to be very challenging. We were thin all summer & now are losing most of our state workers to College. Minimum wage isn't idea for these positions.
- Hosted the Two-Hearted Trail run in late June & the Tahqua Trail Race on August 6th. Both events were well attended & went off without a hitch.
- All campgrounds have been full every night since the last weekend in June. Staff has performed traffic control 18 times so far this summer at the Upper Falls. The park continues to be over capacity, but the infrastructure has held up so far.

➤ **Muskallonge State Park**

- Phase I of the campground electrical upgrade construction has suffered some major problems. Failure to perform on behalf of the contractor has resulted in default and termination of the contract. Site closures (52) in the construction area have been extended now through the remainder of the 2016 camping season. The bonding company will now take over the project to see it to completion.
- Phase II design and engineering for the headquarters relocation continues. A 90% design review meeting was held on July 27th. Continued Lake Superior shoreline erosion at the current headquarters office building location is re-emphasizing the need for this relocation.

➤ **Newberry Field Office**

- Removed Zebra Mussel pile from Seul Choix Point Lighthouse.
- Dredged at Indian Lake State Park.
- Installed new culvert at Tahquamenon Falls State Park.
- Cleaned the fish sand trap dredge at Donaldson.
- Removed 6 large black ash trees and installed new sign at Conely Point Boating Access Site.
- Ramp repair at Twin Lakes Boating Access Site.
- Ramp repairs at Caribou Lake Boating Access Site.
- Removed 4 toilets and installed 2 new toilets at Mead Creek State Campground.
- Removed 3 toilets and installed 1 new toilet at Holland Lake State Campground.
- Removed 2 toilets and installed 1 new toilet Blind Sucker 1 State Campground.
- Removed stumps at Muskallonge Lake State Park.
- Installed concrete pad on new well at Milikokia Lake State Campground.
- Repaired finger pier at Whitefish Harbor.

➤ **Planning Report**

- Fayette Historic State Park: Structural repairs to the furnace complex-\$625,000 invested in design and construction of deep masonry repairs and brick corner reconstruction on both furnace stacks. The project was 100% complete on June 1, 2016, on time and under budget.
- Fayette Historic State Park: New toilet shower building, sanitation station, and on-site sewage disposal project-the sanitation station and gravity sewer are 100% complete. The on-site sewage disposal system is 70% complete. The toilet shower building is 20% complete. Overall, the project is approximately 60% complete. The project is tracking to be on schedule and budget at this time. The project budget is \$1,130,000.00
- Fayette Historic State Park: New floating dock with water, electric, and finger piers-the project is 90% complete with a substantial completion date of August 25, 2016 anticipated. The project is under budget at this time; however, the project is behind schedule by 3 weeks.
- Laughing Whitefish Falls State Park: Structural renovations of the stairway and observation platforms-the DNR will be requesting proposals from consulting firms to design the improvements. The project has received design and construction funding from a 2015 Michigan Natural Resources Trust fund grant.
- Wagner Falls State Park: ADA parking lot improvements-the MDOT permit has been approved. The DEQ permit application has not yet received a response. Improvements are anticipated to be constructed in the fall of 2016. ADA improvements include ADA compliance aggregate, ADA signage, and ADA compliant grades.
- Nahma Boating Access Site: Ramp replacement-the East UP has been allocated \$50,000 in funding to obtain professional services for the design of the ramp replacement. Professional services are requested for designing a cofferdam to remove and replace the ramp in the dry and to design a sub-base for supporting the new ramp given existing soil conditions. A request for proposals will be solicited in early fall.

Finance & Operations: Christina Hammill, Eastern UP

Dates to Remember:

8/18 - Leftover Turkey licenses on sale (for unsuccessful applicants, others on 8/25)

8/30 – Elk Hunt #1 opens (see digest for all hunt periods)

9/1 – Goose, Teal, Snipe, Rail seasons open (see digest for periods and bag limits)

9/1 – May place tree stands, ladders, steps, and ground blinds on State land

9/1– Antlerless Deer drawing results posted @ www.michigan.gov/huntdrawings

9/8 – Leftover and OTC Antlerless licenses on sale at 10:00 a.m. EDT
 9/10 – Bear hunt period #1 opens in the U.P.
 9/10 and 9/11 – Youth Waterfowl Hunt
 9/15 – Small Game Opener (Rabbit, Hare, Ruffed Grouse, Fox/Gray/Black Squirrel)
 9/15 – Fall Turkey season opens (through 11/14)
 9/15 – Turtle seasons close (Snappers and Softshells)
 9/15 – Legal to bait for Deer (except in TB and CWD counties, see digest)
 9/15 – Bear hunt period #2 opens in the U.P.
 9/17 and 9/18 – Liberty Hunt for deer, see pgs. 27 and 30
 9/24 – Woodcock season opens;
 9/24 – Duck hunting opens in the North Zone
 9/25 – Bear hunt period #3 opens in the U.P.
 9/30 – Crow season closes
 9/30 – Trout season closes on most inland waters
 9/30 – Snowmobile licenses expire
 10/1 – Archery Deer season opens (through 11/14)
 10/1 – Raccoon hunting opens statewide
 10/10 – Pheasant opens in Zone 1, also Sharp Tailed Grouse (through 10/31, see maps)
 10/13 – Independence Hunt for deer opens (through 10/16, see p. 30)
 10/15 – Raccoon/Fox/Coyote trapping open statewide
 10/15 – Gray & Red Fox hunting opens
 10/21 – Bear hunt period #1 closes in the U.P.
 10/25 – Beaver, Otter, Muskrat & Mink trapping open in U.P. for residents
 10/26 – Bear hunt period #2 & #3 closes in the U.P.

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

District officers have been very busy this summer with the warm and dry weather bringing out lots of people to enjoy the UP. We will have one less officer in the District at the end of August as CO John Wenzel is leaving the division to become a Missionary in Taiwan. We wish John the best of luck in his calling; he will be missed. Below are some of the cases our officers have been involved in since the last CAC.

- **COs Michael Evink and Patrick Hartsig** participated in an interagency community event in the Hiawatha National Forest. The event was designed to highlight the fishing and outdoor opportunities available in the Hiawatha. The weather was wonderful and there was a very good turnout. The COs were able to interact with approximately 300 outdoor enthusiasts.
- **COs Michael Evink and Mark Zitnik** worked a joint patrol with the Pictured Rock National Lakeshore Rangers, the US Coast Guard, and the Alger County Sheriff Dept. The patrol included the entire length of the Pictured Rocks Lakeshore as well as Grand Marais and Munising Bay. The COs contacted fisherman, boaters, kayakers and anyone wanting to speak to them, compliance was very high. On CO Evink's return trip to Manistique he contacted an ORV operating along a state highway. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** was patrolling some remote lakes in Delta County when he came across an angler fishing with a boat that had not been registered since 1990. The angler thought since he was using a trolling motor he did not need his boat registered. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Mark Zitnik and Calvin Smith** conducted a patrol on Munising Bay. Many violations were addressed while patrolling the busy body of water. Violations included unregistered watercraft, operate PWC no wake less than 200 ft. from Great Lakes Shoreline, fail to display numbers/decal registration, fail to notify Secretary of State of sale within 15 days, and child less than 6 years old not wearing PFD.
- **COs Mark Zitnik and Calvin Smith** located two individuals fishing on a trophy trout lake. They COs watched the anglers for over an hour using worms as bait. The anglers had an undersized brook trout, an over limit of brook trout, and used non-artificial lures on prohibited waters (trout waters). Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Mark Zitnik and Calvin Smith** were on routine patrol when they received a complaint of an overdue person. When the COs arrived at the missing person's residence, he had just returned from a long day of cutting firewood. The couple thanked the COs and were very appreciative.
- **CO Calvin Smith** made contact with a fisherman who's boat was displaying an expired registration, upon further investigation it was also found that the fisherman were one PFD short. Law enforcement action was taken.

- **CO Calvin Smith** was in route to the Newberry Office when he observed a fast approaching vehicle in his rear view mirror. The vehicle passed CO Smith's patrol truck and was paced at over 75 mph. A traffic stop was made and contact was made with the operator. The driver stated to CO Smith that he had no idea why he was driving so fast and should not be in such a hurry.
- **CO Chris Lynch** was at Dam 3 Access Site checking boaters and anglers. One check resulted in a ticket for possessing an undersized small mouth bass.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Mike Evink** conducted a POC facility inspection on a facility that had let its license expire. Through the inspection it was discovered there were no deer at the facility. Upon interviewing the facility owner, he stated all 28 of his deer had escaped and he failed to notify the proper personnel. Charges are being sought through the Delta County Prosecutor's office.
- **CO Chris Lynch** received a complaint from the RAP Line of shots fired and a possible poached deer and two fawns that were located near where the shots were fired. CO Chris Lynch responded to the scene and discovered a dead doe. A necropsy was performed and a .20 caliber size hole was located in the deer. Several interviews were conducted and a suspect was identified. Upon interviewing the suspect, a full confession was obtained and the .22 caliber weapon used in the poaching was seized. The suspect stated he shot the deer because it was eating his flowers. Both of the doe's fawns died as a result of their mother dying. Charges are being sought through the Delta County Prosecutor's office for taking deer during closed season and discharging a firearm within the safety zone.
- **CO Pat Hartsig** was about to launch a boat on the Escanaba river when dispatch reported cattle getting loose and walking across the highway. The cows were only a half mile down the road; CO Pat Hartsig drove his patrol truck and blocked traffic while the cows were herded off the roadway. The farmer was contacted, and he was able to secure the cows without incident.
- **CO John Wenzel** was called to a local state forest campground by the Park Rangers for a subject who was not paying for the camping site. CO Wenzel made contact with the campers who stated that they had paid a Ranger the day before. Contact was made with the Ranger, who said they still had not paid. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO John Wenzel** was called to two different locations in Luce County to do an inspection for a nuisance beaver permit. Permits were issued.
- **CO John Wenzel and Sgt. Mike Hammill** were patrolling a local lake checking fisherman and boaters when they came across a subject fishing in a canoe. The subject had yet to purchase his new fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Jon Busken** was on routine patrol when he observed a vehicle being operated with a novelty plate in place of the state issued rear facing license plate. Contact was made with the operator who claimed that he did not need to display a license plate because he was a sovereign citizen. The operator was found to have a suspended driver's license and was lodged in the Mackinac County Jail for 4th offense driving without a valid license and felony resisting and obstructing.
- **Sgt. Mike Hammill and CO Jon Busken** were returning from a marine patrol in the Hessel area when they observed two ORVs being operated on a state highway. Contact was made with the operators and enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Bobby Watson** was on patrol checking local lakes for fishing activity. Contact was made with two anglers who stated they had only caught a few small blue gill and had not kept any yet. Before breaking contact, CO Watson asked one of the anglers if there were any fish in the boat at all. The man replied he did not know because it was his friend's boat. CO Watson checked the live well of the boat and discovered a 13" Largemouth Bass. CO Watson asked for the "friends" phone number so that he could conduct a quick interview, and the man replied that he would just take the ticket. After issuing a citation for possession of a short bass, the man admitted that it was his fish.
- **CO Bobby Watson** was patrolling the local state forest campgrounds when he came across a young man sleeping in a hammock. CO Watson noticed the man had not posted a camper registration card to indicate that the campsite was paid for. CO Watson woke the man up; he stated that he had not yet paid but intended to. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Bobby Watson and Sgt. Michael Hammill** participated in a Law Enforcement appreciation night along with two local Luce County deputies. The four law enforcement officers each threw the ceremonial "first pitch" at the local Little League fields. The four officers then mingled with the parents and spectators and were able to watch a few innings of baseball/softball.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** observed three anglers fishing. Two of the three anglers gladly produced their fishing license. When CO Zitnik asked the third angler for her fishing license she said, she doesn't fish very much and did not have a fishing license. She picked the wrong day to gamble she wouldn't be checked. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Jon Busken and Kevin Postma** received a complaint of a group of individuals taking over limits and short walleye on the Pine River near St. Ignace. The COs conducted a patrol on the river and made contact with two anglers coming off of the river. The fishermen appeared very nervous and stated they only caught one bullhead while on the river. The officers noted fresh blood and scales on the cooler and in the boat, they asked for permission to search the boat and noted bullhead don't have scales. The angler said, I really don't want you to do that. A search was conducted and three short walleye were found. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Jon Busken** was on routine patrol near Engadine when he saw an ORV being ridden by an operator who was not wearing a helmet. CO Busken tried to stop the ORV but he fled. The officer was able to follow the operator to his residence. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Jon Busken and Robert Watson** were on patrol near Andrus Lake when they observed an ORV being operated with a passenger, neither of the riders were wearing helmets. Contact was made and enforcement action was taken.

- **CO Jon Busken and Robert Watson** were patrolling the Tahquamenon Falls State Park when they received a complaint of ORVs being operated on M-123. Contact was made with the operators and passengers of six side-by-sides being ridden illegally on the state highway. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Bobby Watson** assisted in controlling traffic flow throughout a 50k/marathon race through the Tahquamenon Falls State Park. At the finish of the race, CO Watson was returning to his normal patrol duties when he encountered an ORV operating in the driving lane, travelling down Highway M-123. A traffic stop was conducted and enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Bobby Watson and Jon Busken** were conducting a joint patrol in the Tahquamenon Falls State Park area over the Fourth of July weekend. Many contacts were made. Violations encountered included ORV registration violations, riding double on an ORV not intended for a passenger, operating ORV on a public highway, operate ORV without helmet, and no fishing license.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Pat Hartsig** attended Advanced Marine School in Port Huron. The week-long school taught the COs how to conduct search and rescues, use navigation equipment, night time operations, towing boats in distress, and operation of large vessels.
- **COs Pat Hartsig and Rob Freeborn** used 2 separate vessels to shuttle a crew of firefighters and their gear from Fayette State Park to Poverty Island in Lake Michigan. A wildfire had occurred on the uninhabited island, and was still burning. The crew will be spending a few days camping on the island mopping up the fire before being picked up early next week.
- During a patrol on Little Bay de Noc, **CO Pat Hartsig** checked many fishermen and recreational boaters. When CO Hartsig approached one boat with people fishing, the captain stated nobody had a fishing license. When questioned why, the captain stated they only went out once or twice a year and didn't think they needed one this year. RSS showed the last time the captain purchased a fishing license was in 2009. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Calvin Smith** inspected a boat livery on Drummond Island and issued a nuisance beaver permit.
- **Sgt. Mike Hammill and CO Calvin Smith** were on routine patrol when a tree fell across a power line, causing the lines to fall across a busy highway. The COs blocked traffic until the utility company arrived and removed the live wires.
- **CO Calvin Smith** was on patrol when he noticed an ORV being operated without an ORV license. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Calvin Smith** checked a popular dispersed camping area in Alger County and found a couple who had failed to post a camp card. Upon further investigation, it was discovered one of the camping party had a warrant out for their arrest. The warrant was for Marquette County only and the camper was advised and released.
- Area 1 COs conducted a group patrol on the AuTrain River over the weekend. The beautiful and scenic river attracts hundreds of canoers and kayaks every day over the summer. COs addressed complaints of careless driving, OUI, open intoxicants, drunk and disorderly conduct, underage drinking, lude conduct, no PFD's, and littering. Several violations were encountered with a few tickets being issued. More patrols will take place throughout the summer.
- While driving up to the bridge over the AuTrain River, **Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon** observed 2 diesel pickup trucks stopped window to window on the busy bridge. Dozens of people were standing on both sides of the vehicles trying to walk by with some using the bridge to jump into the water. As the CO approached both trucks squealed their tires and fishtailed away with tires smoking, narrowly missing bystanders. A stop was made on the vehicle coming toward the officer. The driver was not wearing a seat belt, had an expired plate and had had too much to drink. Enforcement action resulted.
- **CO Robert Freeborn and CO Mark Zitnik** were checking salmon fishermen on Lake Michigan several miles off shore when they came across a fishing boat without adequate PFD's or a fire extinguisher on board. Enforcement action was taken
- **CO Robert Freeborn and a Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Officer** responded to an abandoned net complaint approximately 10 miles south of Manistique on Lake Michigan. The officers were able to locate section of the net that was partially floating. The officers pulled approximately 1 mile of gill net from the lake. The net did not have any markings. Sault Tribe will be investigating further.
- While on routine patrol, **CO Robert Freeborn** encountered an ORV operator wearing a paint ball mask instead of a proper helmet. After stopping the ORV, CO Freeborn determined that the operator was not of age to be operating alone. The CO followed the subject back to a camp. Once at the camp, the CO located the juvenile's parent. CO Freeborn educated the parent on the ORV laws and a citation was issued to the parent as well.
- **CO Evink** received a burning complaint from a state forester. The forester stated that the individual was burning brush and other debris and no burn permits were issued for the day. The forester made contact with the individual who became irate and didn't want to put the fire out. When the CO arrived, the individual again became unruly. He was issued a ticket for burning without a permit and did put the fire out.
- **CO Kevin Postma** checked an individual fishing from shore at the Charlotte River. After a short conversation about how beautiful the scenery up here was, the individual was asked for a fishing license. The individual advised that he must have left it down state and that it might be an Ohio license. A check with RSS revealed the individual had not purchased a MI license in several years, enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Kevin Postma** was working ORV's out of his patrol vehicle in the Strong's area. While sitting at an intersection CO Postma heard some people yelling loudly. CO Postma could see four individuals in two side-by-sides, yelling and taking pictures of each other preparing to leave a gas station. One of the individuals was holding a beer can. CO Postma repositioned his vehicle out of sight and waited roughly one minute for the side by sides to pass. Contact was made with the four individuals and open intoxicants were discovered. Enforcement action was taken.

- **CO Kevin Postma** is investigating an 82 acre fire that was the result of a debris fire that was left unattended. A suspect was identified and the case is being submitted to the Prosecutor.
- While on routine patrol on a local lake, **CO Robert Freeborn** checked a boat full of fishermen. After checking the first 2 fishermen, CO Freeborn asked the third fisherman for his license. The fisherman stated that he had left it back at his campsite and was adamant that he did purchase one and stated that the new ones were orange. After checking his fishing status, it was determined that he had not purchased a current fishing license. A citation was issued.
- **CO Robert Freeborn along with Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon and Forest Service Officer Dave Tembreull** were working the surrounding area of a popular canoeing river along the highway to make sure no one was blocking the road while loading their canoe. As the COs watched the area, two lifted pick-up trucks proceeded to do a burn out on a bridge overlooking the river that was full of pedestrians. As a result of the burn out, one of the trucks proceeded to slide sideways in the roadway putting several pedestrians in danger. The officers were able to stop one of the pick-up trucks. The operator was given a ticket for careless operation of a motor vehicle.
- **COs Robert Freeborn, Michael Evink, Mark Zitnik, Pat Hartsig, along with help from Commercial Fish Specialist Shannon VanPatten and USFS Officer Dave Tembreull** worked the AuTrain River trying to address complaints stemming from the heavy use of the river. At the end of the day, the COs issued several tickets for use of marijuana, minor's in possession of alcohol, littering, and fail to provide PFDs. Numerous warnings were also given out.
- While working salmon fisherman out of Manistique, **COs Robert Freeborn and Jon Busken** contacted several boats. Overall compliance was good except for 2 boats that were fishing with too many lines. Citations were issued
- **CO Michael Evink** performed a Marine patrol of Schoolcraft County lakes. During his patrol CO Evink checked numerous individuals. While most people were respectful of the law, he did issue a couple of tickets for fishing without a license and no life jackets.
- **CO Michael Evink** received a complaint of a large junk pile on state land. The pile contained TV's, Toilets, tables and much more. CO Evink was able to identify some of the Garbage. After talking to a few people CO Evink Issued a ticket to the responsible party.
- **COs Pat Hartsig, Chris Lynch and Calvin Smith** patrolled the waters of Little Bay De Noc looking to address fishing and marine violations. Many contacts were made and citations were issued for fish without a license and warnings for minor Marine Safety violations.
- While patrolling a busy inland lake over the Fourth of July holiday, **CO Calvin Smith** observed a vessel towing a person on a tube without an observer present. A stop was made and it was also found that the vessel had not been registered in many years. Law enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Mark Zitnik and Calvin Smith** patrolled from Munising Bay to Grand Marais on the Fourth of July. The COs contacted several boats and noted a high compliance on regulations. The COs then participated with the USCG and National park service and enforced a 600 foot no boating zone around the City's firework display.
- **COs Kevin Postma and Calvin Smith** checked several anglers trying their luck behind the Soo power house. On one of the contacts a fisherman told CO Smith that he just told his fishing partner that you never know when a CO will show up and low and behold here you are!
- **CO Mark Zitnik** was patrolling a local lake when he came across an angler who was operating an unregistered watercraft. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Mark Zitnik and Christopher Lynch** were on patrol when they came across an ORV operator who was not wearing a helmet. Upon contact with the operator he failed to disclose he had a CPL and firearm until further into the conversation. Enforcement Action was taken.
- **CO Chris Lynch** was on patrol when he observed three anglers fishing. Upon making contact with the anglers one of the anglers didn't purchase a 2016 fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Chris Lynch and Mark Zitnik** were on patrol on the AuTrain River. The COs where watching one group of kayakers that were taking a brake on shore when the odor of marijuana became present. CO Lynch noticed a lone kayaker paddling up river to meet the group of kayakers on shore. The COs made contact with the lone kayaker and discover he was in possession of marijuana. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Kevin Postma** investigated an 82 acre fire that was ignited due to an individual burning a debris pile during a high fire danger / no burn period. The individual responsible for the fire came forward and was extremely cooperative. The responsible party advised he thought the debris pile was extinguished before leaving the property however, due to the extreme fire weather it must have re-kindled itself over night. Just an example of how easy a forest fire can start during dry times.
- **CO Jon Busken** was on routine patrol near a campground when he observed an individual who he had arrested a month earlier for driving with a suspended license. At that time the man had resisted arrest and was charged with a felony. This time, the operator was found to have a restricted license. Contact was made as the operator sat down by a bonfire. The operator originally claimed he was there on business but later admitted to being there for a family gathering. Enforcement action was taken for violating license restrictions.

- **COs Michael Evink, Calvin Smith, Brett Gustafson and PCO Nick Sink** worked the waters of Mackinac County for the Chicago to Mackinac Yacht races. Boats came in early and the party started, all in all the racers and support crews were well behaved. The group of officers did issue some tickets for unregistered vessels.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** responded to an ORV Property Damage Accident that was reported near a popular ORV trail. Upon arrival it was determined that a Polaris Ranger came up to a large mud hole and didn't want to cross it. When the driver attempted to back up, he fell off a large dike system and dropped approximately 4 feet and rolled the Ranger on its side. Since the occupants were wearing their seat belts no one sustained injuries.
- While on routine patrol, **CO Robert Freeborn** happened to be near a domestic disturbance in progress that MSP and a Sault Tribe Officer were being dispatched too. CO Freeborn responded as well and along with the other officers were able to calm down the belligerent subject and determine that the argument was verbal and not physical. During their investigation it was determined the suspect had driven an ORV to the residence just as officers were arriving. After a sobriety test it was determined that the suspect was almost 4 times the legal limit. The suspect was arrested for OWI as well as Driving While License Suspended.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Pat Hartsig** worked the annual trout and salmon derby in Manistique. The COs checked nearly 100 boats enjoying the nice weather. While the fishing had slowed down a bit since the previous weeks, there were still a few nice catches. Overall compliance was good except for 2 boats that were fishing with too many lines. Citations were issued, the names of the subjects and boats were turned over to the officials running the derby.
- **CO Calvin Smith** was on patrol in the Cedarville area when he observed a vessel being operated with an expired registration. A stop was made and when asked about the vessels registration, the operator said, I'm sure it's registered, my dad always takes care of that stuff. A check with dispatch revealed that the vessel was indeed expired. Law enforcement action was taken.
- **COs Brett Gustafson and Calvin Smith** were checking on some local ship wreck dive sites when they were notified by dispatch of a capsized vessel with a person clinging to the side of the boat. The COs were first on scene and searched the area for the vessel. The COs were joined in the search by the USGC, Mackinac County Sheriff Department, and Mackinac Island Search and Rescue. An extensive search was conducted and no capsized vessel was located, the call came from a passing motorist that was crossing the Mackinac Bridge. It was determined that a buoy that marks one of the ship wrecks was the reported capsized vessel.
- **COs Brett Gustafson and Calvin Smith** were on Marine patrol when they observed a trio of fisherman trying their luck on the St. Mary's river. A check was made and through questioning it was determined that the operator was guiding an unlicensed charter boat. Law enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Calvin Smith** was on marine patrol when he observed a PWC operating less than 200 feet from Great lakes shore line at greater than slow no wake speed, operate within 100 foot of a dock and towing a tuber without an observer on board. A stop was made and it was also found that the PWC did not have a tether cord. Law enforcement action was taken for towing without an observer and warnings were given for the other violations.
- **CO Calvin Smith** assisted MSP with a domestic in progress call. CO Smith secured the scene until other agencies arrived.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** was on patrol when he observed an ORV traveling down a paved highway. CO Zitnik made a traffic stop and advised the operator of the violation along with failing to display an ORV decal. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Mark Zitnik** attended a week long Hunter Education Academy held at the RAM Center.
- **CO Chris Lynch** was on patrol when he encountered a large group of ORV riders. Several violations were encountered with the group including riding double on machines not designed for more than the operator; not wearing helmets, operating against the flow of traffic, and no eye protection. Enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Chris Lynch** was on marine patrol on Little Bay De Noc. Several contacts were made with enforcement action being taken on violations including no PFD's, fishing to many lines, and fishing without a license.
- **CO Chris Lynch** was on patrol when he observed an ORV operating down the middle of the roadway at a high rate of speed. CO Lynch turned around and followed the ORV. CO Lynch observed the ORV continue to operate down the middle of the roadway at a high rate of speed. A traffic stop was conducted and contact with the operator was made. CO Lynch asked the operator how fast he was going and the operator stated 65 mph. CO Lynch advised the operator that he had to operate at the extreme right of the county road at 25 mph. The operator was ticketed for careless operation and lodged in the Delta County Jail on a warrant he had out for his arrest.
- **CO Chris Lynch** successfully served an arrest warrant on a subject who shot a doe with a .22 caliber rifle during the closed season within the 150 yard safety zone, for eating his flowers. The doe's two fawns which were only a few days old, died near the doe as a result of their mother not being able to nurture them. The suspect was lodged in the Delta County Jail on his warrant.
- **COs Pat Hartsig and Mark Zitnik** attended a canine depredation training at the RAM center. Depredation training details the investigative aspects of livestock depredation from predators such as Coyotes, Wolves, Cougars, and Bears.
- **CO John Wenzel** received a complaint of reckless ORVs in the Betsy Lake area. CO Wenzel checked the site, but was unable to locate the ORVs.

- With the Port Huron to Mackinac and Chicago to Mackinac Yacht races concluded it proved to be another busy year of Marine patrol for the local COs. Numerous unregistered vessels were contacted and cited for registration issues. Several stranded vessel complaints were also handled.
- **CO Bobby Watson** handled a wolf/bear dog complaint in the western Mackinac County area. Several hunters were participating in training season for black bear. When the hunters heard their hounds indicating that they had a bear treed they hurriedly attempted to see the bear. Upon arriving at the tree they noticed they were missing one dog. Using their GPS tracking units they found their dog a short time later almost completely eaten by wolves.

Marketing & Outreach Division: Jon Spieles, Education Services Section

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

- Education staff have completed four Bear Hunting Workshops as a part of the “Outdoor Skills Academy” at the Carl Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center in Cadillac. There were almost 200 participants in these classes that focused on black bear natural history, techniques and tips for hunting bear, applicable laws and common mistakes, field dressing and fur handling and more.
- The 21st annual Saginaw Bay Waterfowl Festival was held again at the Saginaw Bay Visitor Center at Bay City State Recreation Area on August 6 and 7. The festival was sponsored by Cabela’s, Northwoods Wholesale Outlet. Arts, crafts, duck and goose calling competition, and other duck-related games round out the weekend. Participation is measured in the thousands.
- Beginning August 15, we will again coordinate the 2016 Pocket Park activities during the U.P. State Fair in Escanaba. More than 160 volunteers and 45 state employees will have helped children try archery, fishing and pellet gun shooting by the time the fair winds down. Partners included the Escanaba Noon Kiwanis Club, National Forest Service, Escanaba RSVP Organization, NASP Instructors and the NORMENCO sportsmen club.
- DNR education staff are wrapping up a huge summer at our ten visitor centers in State Parks and Fish Hatcheries across the state. Since Memorial Day Weekend, when we transitioned from school programs to our summer season, we have presented nature-based programs for more than 42,000 participants in our visitor centers, state parks campgrounds and fish hatcheries. Included in these numbers, the Interpretive Program and Explorer Program conducted more than 700 introductory fishing programs and 150 introductory archery programs through the same period.
- The 9th annual DNR Academy of Natural Resources welcomed 60 participating teachers to natural resource education and science-based natural resource management through a week-long experience at the RAM Center in Roscommon. An additional program we called “ANR North” was piloted at the Ford Center just South of Baraga on August 8 -11. The program is a great example of collaboration as biologists, foresters and conservation officers shared their expertise with teachers around the state. The program in the UP also included great partnerships with Michigan Technological University, Keweenaw Bay Tribes and the National Park Service.