



Eastern & Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Councils DNR Division Reports for Annual Joint Meeting

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This documentation is provided by Michigan DNR staff as a supplement to verbal reports which will be given to the Eastern & Western UPCAC at the March 3, 2016 Joint Meeting in Marquette.

Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator: Stacy Welling Haughey

Welcome to the 8th Annual Joint Meeting of the Eastern & Western U.P. Citizen's Advisory Councils!

Public Meetings

- March 3 Joint UP Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting, Marquette Township Community Center, 5:30pm
- March 8 DNR UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD, Bergland, 6:00pm
- March 9 DNR UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Ottawa Sportsman's Club, Pelkie, 4:00pm
- March 9 DNR UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, DNR Marquette Office, 6:00pm
- March 10 Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Holland, MI
- March 14 DNR UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, DNR Crystal Falls Office, 6:00pm Central
- March 22 DNR UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Bruce Township Hall, Dafer, 1:30pm
- March 22 Future Historians Meeting, Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee, 7:00pm
- April 14 Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing
- April 21 Eastern UP Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting, Newberry, 6:30pm



U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities

- March 5 Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park - Kidski
- March 5 Straits State Park - Winter Family Fun Day
- March 11 Van Riper State Park - Lantern Lit Snowshoe
- April 4-10 Van Riper State Park - International Dark Sky Week
- April 4-10 Tahquamenon Falls State Park - International Dark Sky Week
- April 4-10 Fayette Historic State Park - International Dark Sky Week

Upcoming U.P. Recreation/Sporting Shows

- March 4-5 UP Ice Golf Scramble & Glow Ball Challenge, St. Ignace, www.stignace.com/event/u-p-ice-golf-scramble-glow-ball-challenge#sthash.JZRhL3Sa.dpuf
- March 5 Great Bear Chase, Calumet, www.greatbearchase.com
- March 16 Superior Snowshoe Walks-Wolverine Ski Trails, Ironwood, www.facebook.com/Superior-Snowshoe-Walks-302440296466730/
- March 18-20 UP Boat, Sport & RV Show, Superior Dome-Marquette **(Come see us at the DNR Booth!),** www.upboatshow.com

Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- DNR and volunteers work to improve snowshoe hare habitat (2/11/16)
- State awards \$3.6 million in grants to combat invasive species (2/11/16)
- DNR urges anglers to take precautions on lake and river ice (2/10/16)
- DNR continues investigation of dead cougar found in Dickinson County (2/10/16)
- DNR temporarily closes snowmobile trail segment in NW Chippewa County (2/8/16)
- DNR asked public to report moose observations online (2/8/16)
- DNR offers snowmobile sound testing Feb. 20 in Marquette, Newberry, Gaylord (2/4/16)
- Showcasing the DNR: School forests provide legacy of learning (2/4/16)
- DNR seeks information on dead cougar found in Dickinson County (2/1/16)
- The wild turkey: January's Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial featured bird (1/27/16)
- Fireworks-free Fourth of July offers veterans quieter camping options (1/25/16)

Upcoming March 10th NRC Meeting Agenda

NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

1. Fisheries Update
 - a. Fish Disease Control
 - b. Lake Michigan Management Plan
2. Wildlife Update
 - a. Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons; Managed Wetland Area Regulations/Order to Regulate Use of Certain State Game and Wildlife Areas
 - b. Elk Regulations and License Quotas
 - c. Coyote Regulations
 - d. Bear Harvest Allocation
 - e. Bear Population Trend Analysis Update
 - f. Feral Swine Research Area

NRC Committee of the Whole

1. Director's Report
2. Legislative Report
3. Committee Reports
 - a. NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

Public Appearances Before the NRC

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1. Migratory Game Bird Hunting Seasons; Managed Wetland Area Regulations, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 2 of 2016
2. Elk Regulations and License Quotas, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 3 of 2016
3. Coyote and Nighttime Predator Hunting Regulations, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 4 of 2016
4. Bear Harvest Allocation in Newberry & Red Oak Bear Management Units; Red Oak Bear Management Unit Bow and Arrow Only Season, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 5 of 2016
5. Fish Disease Control, Fisheries Order 245.16

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ACTION

1. Approval of Minutes: February 11, 2016 Natural Resources Commission Meeting

DIRECTOR – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1. Order to Regulate Use of Managed State Wildlife and Game Areas, Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 2 of 2016
2. Order to Open Riding Opportunities for Equestrians within the Pigeon River Country State Forest, Cheboygan and Otsego Counties, Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 3 of 2016
3. Order to Regulate Certain State-owned Lands, Gladwin, Arenac, Bay, Midland, and Ogemaw Counties, Feral Swine Research Area, Defined, Prohibited Conduct, Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 4 of 2016

DIRECTOR'S ACTION

1. Launch of Motorized Watercraft Prohibited from State Lands onto Ely Lake, Little Tom Lake and Crooked Lake; Clyde Township, Allegan County, Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 1 of 2016
2. Land Transactions (U.P. Specific Only Listed Here)
 - a. Sale of Surplus DNR-Managed Land, Crystal Falls Management Unit – Iron County, Land Transaction Case #20140251
 - b. Forest Resources Land Acquisition. Newberry Management Unit – Chippewa County, The Tandy Trust, Land Transaction Case #20150160
 - c. Parks and Recreation Land Acquisition, Fort Wilkins State Historic Park – Keweenaw County, The Granger Tract, Land Transaction Case #20150089

February 2016 Legislative Updates (March Update not yet available)

Submitted by: Trevor VanDyke, Director, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office

PA 1 of 2016 (HB 4983) – Free Recreation Passport on Free Fishing Weekends – Rep. Rendon

This Act amends Section 74116 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to waive the recreational passport requirement at state operated public boating access sites or a state park where there is an opportunity to fish on a day that the Department has designated as a free winter fishing day. This Act was given immediate effect.

SBs 521 & 522 – Michigan Historical Commission – Sens. Horn and O'Brien

These bills would codify existing laws and Executive Orders to create the Michigan Historical Act and the Michigan Historical Center Act.

- These bills were referred to the House Committee on Appropriations.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

SB 523 – Native American History – Sen. Schmidt

This bill seeks to add a new Section 72117 and amend 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 and would also require the Department to issue an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature on its activities under Section 72117.

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

SB 588 – Tribal Conservation Officers – Sen. Casperson

This bill seeks to amend section 43516 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require an individual who has been issued a hunting, fur harvester's or fishing license to exhibit the license upon the demand of a tribal conservation officer who complied with certain requirements.

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

SBs 651 - 653 – Transitional Qualified Forest Property – Sens. Booher and Casperson

These bills seek to create the Transitional Qualified Forest Property Specific Tax Act, to Amend Section 51108 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, to amend Section 7jj and add Section 7vv to the General Property Tax Act to allow property enrolled in the Commercial Forestland program to be withdrawn, without penalty, and enrolled in the new Transitional Qualified Forest Program and receive property tax benefits for the enrolled property.

- These bills were referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 5275 – Forest Roads, Pack & Saddle and ORV Use– Rep. Cole

This bill seeks to add a new Section 72117 and amend Section 72115 of Part 721 and amend Section 81133 and repeal Section 81126 of Part 811 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow pack and saddle animals and ORVs to be used to retrieve legally harvested large game, to require that an inventory of forest roads be created, and to require that forest roads be open to motorized use by the public unless designated otherwise.

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

Aquaculture Bills

SB 526 – Aquaculture – Sen. Jones

This bill seeks to add a new Section 6a to the Michigan Aquaculture Development Act to prohibit a net pen aquaculture facility within the Great Lakes or its connecting waters, or any water body that is openly connected to the Great Lakes or its connecting waters.

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

HBs 5166 - 5168 – Aquaculture – Reps. McBroom and Cole

These bills seek to amend the Michigan Aquaculture Development Act, sections of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, and the Animal Industry Act, to provide that an aquaculture facility includes both a land-based and water-based aquaculture facility and remove any permit requirement for an aquaculture facility if it is registered under the Michigan Aquaculture Development Act. These bills would allow aquaculture facilities to be located within all waters of the state.

- These bills were referred to the House Committee on Agriculture.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

HB 5255 –Aquaculture – Rep. Bumstead

This bill seeks to add a new Section 6a and amend Section 2 of the Michigan Aquaculture Development Act to prohibit a net pen aquaculture facility within the Great Lakes or its connecting waters, or any water body that is openly connected to the Great Lakes or its connecting waters. The bill would take effect 90 days after the date it is enacted into law.

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

If you would like to learn more about these and other bills, you can access the Michigan Legislature website at www.legislature.mi.gov.

Finance & Operations Division: Christina Hammill (Eastern UP)

2017 Pure Michigan Hunt applications go on sale on March 1st! Individuals may purchase \$5 PMH applications at all license agent locations or on the DNR's E-license website. PMH application purchases are unlimited, so you can enter as many times as you wish to be entered into the drawing. You can also purchase them for others under their driver's license or sports card number or transfer a license/s to another individual if you win and choose to do so. The 2016 drawing had a total of 35,336 applications purchased by 13,055 individuals, which generated more than \$176,000 to help wildlife habitat restoration and improvements in Michigan.

Dates to Remember

- 3/1 – New Year licenses go on sale (most licenses expire 3/31)
- 3/1 – Can apply for 2017 Pure Michigan Hunt

- 3/1 – Hand netting opens (smelt, suckers, bowfin, carp, gar, shad, goldfish); see digest for exceptions
- 3/1 – Squirrel and Fox seasons close; also Fox, Coyote, Muskrat, Mink trapping close
- 3/1 – Bobcat hunting season closes (Units A, B, C)
- 3/1 – Tree stands and raised platforms must be removed from all public lands
- 3/1 – Pike and Walleye closes on the Boundary Waters
- 3/1 – Drawing Results posted for Spring Turkey hunts
- 3/8 – Leftover Turkey & Hunt 234 on sale (unsuccessful applicants, rest on 3/15)
- 3/11 – Last day to register Bobcat (hunting season Unit A, B, C)
- 3/15 – Walleye, Pike, Muskie seasons close on Inland Waters
- 3/20 – Dip netting opens (smelt, suckers, bowfin, carp, gar, shad, goldfish); see digest for exceptions
- 3/31 – Hunting, Fishing, and ORV licenses expire (also Watercraft Registrations)
- 3/31 – Last day for ice shanties in the Upper Peninsula
- 3/31 – Crow and Rabbit/Hare seasons close

Parks & Recreation Division: Bill Doan, Western UP District Supervisor

➤ **State Park/Recreation Area/Scenic Site/Forest Recreation Units**

- **Baraga State Park:** Staff worked on hiring/rehiring of seasonal and STW staff. A door and lighting were replaced between the headquarters office and shop to address safety/noise concerns. The process to get a pull-thru site (as part of the electrical study and park right-sizing) into Camis and reservable is complete. The site/map updates are now online and reservable for the 2016 season.
- **Bewabic State Park:** There has been approximately 20 visitors a day during the week, either snowshoeing or skiing, or accessing the lake for fishing - attendance higher on weekends. The access site slower this year than last year (bad ice conditions early in the winter). ADA shower stall conversion is in the design phase - hopefully we can complete construction summer 2016.
- **Bond Falls Scenic Site:** The site has been fairly quiet with a few inquiries about winter hiking and one from a veterans snowmobiling group. Hiring of STW staff has begun to prepare for the 2016 season.
- **Craig Lake State Park:** Yurt nights are up by 7 nights YTD. Twin culvert replacement to a box culvert to improve water flow and beaver dam issues is at 50% review.
- **Fort Wilkins Historic State Park:** Our campground is closed for the season. In January, our cabins were only used twice. Now in February, both cabins are used every weekend with several camps staying three nights. We have had a lot of snow so the cross country trail is being groomed and used daily. Our snow fall to date is 170+ inches. We have plans for starting on the Range Keepers dwelling as soon as our seasonal rangers return and the spring weather arrives. We will be re siding the building. There is no funding for moving the electric telephone pole to a new location or for placing the electric lines underground. We are meeting with History Division about some of the future projects that we want to do and so that we are both doing the same projects. There is cross country and snow shoeing use on the park trails.
- **Lake Gogebic State Park:** On February 9th, we conducted a burn of the large brush pile that has not been burned for several years. This was a joint effort with the Marenisco Township Fire Department.
- **McLain State Park:** Cabins have been very popular. Lack of staff has made it challenging to keep up with demand.
- **Menominee State Recreation Area:** Closed for the winter. Bewabic staff is prepping for recall for seasonal staff and STW hiring.
- **Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park:** Toilet shower building at U.B.C.G. completed with the exception of punch list items. Union spring dam removal planning continues and is on track for August removal. Funding was approved for chalet roof repairs. North Country Trail park staff working in conjunction with regional planning on a potential reroute of the trail entering the park. Damaged bridge removal at P.I. slated for spring.

- **Twin Lakes State Park:** Lodge rentals have been good, early reservations were cancelled due low snow which is no longer a problem.
- **Van Riper State Park:** In the planning process for the new playground purchased by the Friends of Van Riper and Craig Lake State Parks. Van Riper rustic cabin nights are up by 2 nights YTD; Little Presque Isle cabin nights are down 17 nights YTD. January lantern lit snowshoe had 225 participants and the February lantern lit snowshoe had 312 participants.
- **Wells State Park:** Cabin and lodge reservations have gone down from years past. Staff attended the Escanaba RV show in February.
- **Escanaba Field Office:** Picnic tables were repaired and stained for several sites in SFCG units. Refabrication of two state forest campbround toilets is in process.

➤ Boating Reports

- **Baraga Field Office:** Serviced equipment, worked on skid piers, and plowed snow. Planning for upcoming projects at Craig Lake, Bergland Dock, Porcupine Mountains and other sites began. Staff also unloaded playground equipment at Van Riper and assisted with the installation of a new door in at Baraga State Park.
- **Cedar River State Harbor:** Replaced a blower motor at the harbor. With the late start to winter this year we started the blowers later than years past, this will result in a savings of \$5,000 in electric costs.
- **Copper Harbor State Harbor:** The access sites are snowed in with a few fishermen parking on the highway and walking in. We plow the Lake Fanny Hooe boat launch parking lot, so there are usually several cars of fishermen on the weekend. No reports of any fish being caught. Copper Harbor had fishermen using the open water from the pier during January but the area is now snowed in with poor ice conditions.
- **Escanaba Field Office:** Ford River and Kipling boating access site ramps were blocked off and signed for ramp protection from frost. Unit has been completing equipment inspections and repairs in preparation for upcoming use season.
- **Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park:** BAS Union Bay Dredging and rock removal complete, tree removal and most grading complete ...slated for 6/2016 total completion.

➤ Planning and Trail Reports

• **Trails**

- **Fort Wilkins Historic State Park** Lots of snowmobilers are driving into Copper Harbor. We have had cold temperatures and lots of new snow. We have completed use permits for the Copper Dog Race and Antique Snowmobile / 5 K race weekend, both groups are using state land and snowmobile trails for their event.
- **Twin Lakes State Park** is in the process of setting up the spring and fall ORV rides for next season.
- **Baraga State Park** There has been heavy snowmobile traffic in February with a lot of enforcement coverage from Baraga County Sheriff's Department.
- **Escanaba Field Office** Staff assisted a private contractor and trail sponsor with trail and bridge repairs on trail #32 in Marquette County.
- **Fort Wilkins Historic State Park** Trails are being used heavily.
- **McLain State Park** Snowmobile traffic needs to attend reading classes, large number of them do not understand the meaning of STOP. More enforcement is needed on the trail system. State needs to address the speed limit on trails.
- **Twin Lakes State Park** Snowmobile traffic needs to attend reading classes, large number of them do not understand the meaning of STOP. More enforcement is needed on the trail system. State needs to address the speed limit on trails.

- **Pathways**
 - **Escanaba Field Office** Staff were finally able to set track at Anderson Lake and Days River Pathway's the first week of February.
 - **Bewabic State Park** A volunteer group is grooming Lake Mary Plains Pathway. Average approximately 10 daily visitors - many positive comments from the public!
 - **Wells State Park** Use for the cross country ski trail had an increase in use due to better snow conditions. Snowshoeing has also had an increase.
 - **Van Riper State Park** Grooming at Blueberry Ridge is in full swing, donations are down however- mainly due to the late arrival of winter. Ongoing multi-division discussions regarding trail use at Little Presque Isle.

- **Trespass and Acquisition:** Staff have researched ownership and are securing easement rights for both motorized and non-motorized trails in Gogebic County and continuing to work on acquiring the former RR grade from Union Pacific (also in Gogebic County). Other work includes trespass resolution along the Felch Grade and implementation of the permanent snowmobile easement program.

- **Planning**
 - **Porcupine Mountains:** Porkies toilet/shower building is substantially complete (Punch list & finishing touches - paving & host site). Ski Chalet Roof Replacement is 90% complete design (additional structural inspection scheduled March 2nd) - Construction proposed summer / fall 2016. Porkies parking lots and roads-statewide parking lot and roadway analysis - 100% complete - priorities being recommended to District Supervisors at February 24, Field Ops meeting then Section Chiefs at Feb. 29th meeting.
 - **Union Bay Boating Access Site:** Dredging is 100% complete; site is fully prepped for paving & ramp installation. Open to the public post June 30, 2016.
 - **McLain State Park:** Master Plan & Phase 1 design of critical infrastructure relocations - Design contract awarded to Sanders & Czapski & Associates - Goal of having a master plan & design complete so that construction can occur in Summer / Fall of 2017.
 - **Craig Lake State Park:** Design of box culvert - 50% complete design
 - **Baraga State Park:** Statewide electrical study - 50% complete design
 - **Bergland Boating Access Site:** 90% complete design - Public input session at Bergland Township Hall on February 18 - Construction proposed July 11 - August 15.
 - **Union Spring Dam:** 50% complete with design - Construction proposed August 15 - September 30, 2016
 - **Wells State Park:** Stone toilet building renovations
 - **Bewabic State Park:** Toilet/shower building renovations
 - **Van Riper State Park:** Day use playground, Simar Wasas Equestrian & ORV Campground, Blueberry Ridge Warming Hut
 - **Eastern UP Areas:** Fayette toilet/shower building, Fayette Furnace Stacks, Fayette Dock Replacement, Palms Book toilet bldg., Seul Choix Pte. HSR, LWFF - Stair Structure, Wagner Falls improvements)

Parks & Recreation Division: Thomas Paquin, Eastern UP District Supervisor

➤ **Brimley State Park/Detour Harbor/Lime Island**

- Just starting the paperwork process for removal of cabins on purchased property next to Lime Island State Dock
- Working with local electrician on pricing/ideas for replacement of lights at Algonquin Pathway.
- Updating Unit Safety Data Sheets and required written safety plans
- Seasonal Ranger, Louise Hunt, was selected to assist with the PRD Law Academy February 29th-March 8th 2016.
- Recently installed a trail counter at Algonquin Pathway...149 skiers counted first weekend in February. This counter and software will provide useful data into our user's habits and trends.
- The Unit Supervisor attended the Lake Superior State University Parks and Recreation Caucus on February 5th. The LSSU Parks and Recreation Department invited alumni currently working for the Michigan DNR to talk to LSSU staff and students about what we do and how we got here. The main topic of the caucus was "Trails". PRD and U.S Forest Service representatives presented an overview of Trails within their agencies. Approximately 25 PRD LSSU Alumni attended.

➤ **Muskallonge Lake**

- Bids will be received this week for Phase I of the campground electrical project. If an awardable bid is received a target completion date for electrical upgrades to the center section of the campground will be June 24th. Phase II, which includes upgrades to the east and west sections will take place in the fall and/or spring of 2017.
- All seasonal staff is currently on layoff until mid-March

➤ **Indian Lake/Palms Book**

- We have a well company coming over to run a camera down our well to see if they can see any issues with the well casing.

➤ **Tahquamenon Falls State Park**

- The park is currently weighing its options for the ADA bathroom remodel in Lodge #2. Only 1 bid came in for the project and it was well over budget.
- The Lower Falls Capital Outlay project continues to move forward toward Final Design, Phase 500. Focus items are the replacement of the primary viewing deck, improve the canoe/kayak launch, and repair/replacement of the mainland boardwalk.
- The park management plan continues to move forward. The next planning meeting is on March 3rd.
- Ken Golat, New Lead Ranger "A" began his duties today. Ken's previously held seasonal Ranger position should be posted for transfer soon.
- "Saturday's in February" at TFSP are off to a good start. Visitors have enjoyed groomed skiing & snowshoeing opportunities & the lantern lit trail in the evening, as well as a bonfire with refreshments. Attendance has been great so far.....98 snowshoers/skiers enjoyed the lantern lit trail on Feb. 13th.
- Winter camping has been popular at TFSP so far this winter with 166 camp nights so far for the season.
- Snowfall is well behind average with 95" so far for the season.....We would normally be around 150" by this time.

➤ **Fayette Historic State Park**

- Historic Townsite: Repaint four rooms in jotel – reopen to visitor entry for first time since 2013. Furnace stacks restoration began construction September 28, 2015. The east stack is nearly complete and on hold until spring 2016. The Michigan Cares for Tourism (MC4T) staff follow-up included finishing coats of paint applied to building #9 and superintendent's fence, brushing chipped and hauled away from townsite, finished entrance sign, and cleaned, inventoried and repacked equipment trailer.
- Harbor: The contract was awarded for a new dock system. The electric conduit & water lines installed, and old dock was removed from the harbor.
- Campground: Continuing to work with PSC to complete plans for the toilet/shower building, dump station and onsite sewage treatment. The pre-bid meeting was held December 11, 2015. Bids received February 10, 2016. Planned construction 2016.
- Emergency plan and safety plan updated.
- Entire permanent staff to Parks & Recreation Division Meeting at Grand Traverse Resort Dec. 8-10, 2015.
- Supervisor, Leadworker and Site Historian met with new representatives of the Friends of Fayette Historic Townsite.
- Event Report:
 - Christmas in June held June 13: Day Use (Saturday Only 2014 vs 2015) Down 6% - Camp nights (Friday & Saturday nights 2014 vs 2015) Up 15%
 - A Paranormal Event held July 18: First year event, Day Use (Saturday Only 2014 vs 2015) Up 47% - Camp nights (Friday & Saturday nights 2014 vs 2015) Up 40%
 - Recreation 101 held July 25: First year event, Day Use (Saturday Only 2014 vs 2015) **Down 20%** - Camp nights (Friday & Saturday nights 2014 vs 2015) **dead even**
 - Heritage Day held August 8: Day Use (Saturday Only 2014 vs 2015) **Down 14%** - Camp nights (Friday & Saturday nights 2014 vs 2015) **Down 3%**
 - Fall Fest held October 3: Campground Full both Friday & Saturday Nights, Day Use for the day UP by 30% when compared to 2014
 - MC4T held October 5: 135 volunteers here for the day, Projects tackled included paint Supt's House fence & building #9, Brush removal from several locations, Install lath in upstairs of Hotel, Reconstruct Entrance Sign, Clear Race Track, Siding portion of building #18

- Lantern Light XC Ski/Snowshoe/Hike held January 8: Lack of snow (only about 1" base on trails) did not hamper participation; 153 people showed up!
- Slow deer season in park; only two camps & few deer spotted

➤ **Straits State Park**

- Toilet shower building construction continues in the lower campground
- Straits held a stomp the park snowshoe event on January 9th and family fun day February 6th. Weather was nice and with very little snow snowshoes were not needed. There was a very good turnout. Our next Family Fun Day I March 5th 2-7pm.
- Attendance numbers seem consistent with previous years with many folks coming out to hike and snow shoe around the campground roads and pathways.
- Planning process is underway to start the next process in the planning phase for Father Marquette unit using the money donated from Enbridge as the funding source.
- Steps are taking place to start the phase in of the 5 year implementation plan for Straits management plan.
- Many small projects are underway to prep Straits for the upcoming season.

Forest Resources Division: Jeff Stampfly, Eastern UP Supervisor & Don Mankee, Western UP Supervisor

- The 2018 Year of Entry (YOE) inventory is underway with staff gathering field information. The next open houses will be in the Baraga Unit on June 16th in WUP and in the Sault St. Marie Unit on September 13th and 14th in the EUP. Other Unit open house and compartment review schedules are posted online, along with other state forest inventory information at: Michigan.Gov/Forestry.
- Forester have been working on the 2016 timber sale plan of work. While the extended fall weather helped with completing activities on drier sites this fall, the lack of snow has been hindering inventory and sale prep work that is normally completed in wet areas during frozen conditions.
- The division is finishing up work on the review of stands that are at high risk for loss due to the current outbreak of Spruce Budworm. Once this review is complete, salvage sales will be set up to utilize the trees before mortality occurs. For more information on this and other forest pests go to Michigan.gov/ForestHealth.
- Snowmobiling season is in full swing. FRD Staff have been working with PRD and Snowmobile clubs to ensure safety as well as assisting with operational issues. Due to the abundance of wet areas and lack of snow many trails are not freezing up and are in poor condition. Poor conditions in some areas are making it difficult to keep trails in prime condition. For more information on the Snowmobile trail system Visit: Michigan.gov/Snowmobiling
- The division is continuing to work with the USFS on the Good Neighbor Authority. Work is almost complete on the Special Project Agreements for the three individual national forests (Hiawatha, Ottawa and Huron-Manistee). Currently work is being done on methods for transfer of computer data between FRD and USFS operating systems.
- As of January 13th, 534 timber sale contracts are open UP Wide. This represents 913,365 cords of timber on 62,639 acres, valued at approximately \$48.7 million.
- Timber sales recently offered were sold with low to moderate competition (many with only one or two bidders) and a few sales have gone "no bid".
- Chip markets continue to shrink as fossil fuel prices drop further, making it cheaper for energy producers to burn natural gas instead of wood chips for energy. State timber sales with chipping restrictions are being monitored for lack of bidding in some locations.
- Pine pulp markets are softening due to an unusual increase in receivables into mills this winter. The warm winter prevented many loggers from reaching their winter sales and they relied on a higher volume of pine sales than normal this winter

- The Resource Protection Program staff has been busy with winter training courses. Upcoming training includes section leader academy. Plans are being finalized for the upcoming Spring Tactical Fire Meetings, which cover changes and updates to the resource protection program, and the Unit Spring Refresher trainings, which all firefighters must attend before active fire duty.

Fisheries Division: Eastern & Western U.P.

➤ Field Units (Steve Scott, Unit Manager)

- Staff are continuing to repair boats and equipment. Data entry and aging fish are also being completed. Ice conditions are improving but are still very slushy.
- Staff attended coordination meeting with tribes and federal agencies concerning work plans for the next field season. We also attended forest certification meetings and review Aquatic Habitat Grant applications. The Lake Superior basin team is in the process of developing criteria for any new stocking locations for Splake in the future.

➤ Baraga Operations Service Center (George Madison)

- The Lake Superior Basin Team meeting was held on January 21st to discuss;
 - 2016 and 2017 work plans,
 - a land acquisition proposal,
 - inland creel census locations for 2016,
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service lead 2016 Lake Superior Coordinated Scientific Monitoring Initiative and Lake Superior AIS surveillance plans for July-August,
 - Lake Superior candidate stocking sites for 5,000 Tobin Harbor (Isle Royale) brook trout,
 - Lake Superior splake stocking locations,
 - Lake Superior 2016 Chinook net pens.
- West UP Wild Rice Partnership discussions.
- Meetings with Lac Vieux Desert Tribe, Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Ottawa National Forest, US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Resource Inventory Team meetings in Gaylord (coordinating and refining fisheries survey techniques across the State).

➤ Escanaba Field Office (Darren Kramer)

- The technicians have been steadily working on aging, data entry, net and equipment repair and covering creel for Lake Gogebic when needed.
- Staff have completed the initial review of the aquatic portion of the Back Forty Mine part 632 DEQ application and have submitted comments to the DEQ.
- Staff attended the Midwest Fish and Wildlife conference in Grand Rapids and Lake MI Basin Team meeting the 1st week of February.
- Staff have been working on site selections and write-ups for the central U.P. portion of the Trout Trails application (Fishdam, Indian, Sturgeon, Whitefish rivers), finalized the FY2017 workplan and approved prescriptions.
- Staff attended the annual Boundary Waters Muskie Club meeting in Iron Mountain on February 20th.
- Staff met with the USFWS and representatives from Eagle Creek Renewable Energy at the Menominee River Dam (aka Hattie Street Dam) in late January to review the Fish Passage budget, equipment and staffing needs for operation of the lake sturgeon lift for 2016.
- A new fisheries biologist (John Bauman) has been hired and will be stationed in Escanaba. His start date is February 29th.

➤ Marquette and Thompson Fish Hatcheries (Mr. James Aho)

- *Marquette State Fish Hatchery*
 - Expect to meet all spring stocking assignments at level 2
 - Working with Research Section on study (maxilla removal) using our captive brood lake trout.
 - Splake and both strains of lake trout fry have been inventoried into tanks. 2/3 of the BKT are inventoried down into tanks as swim-up fry
 - No disease issues with yearling fish and with warmer winter temps the size is ahead of where they were the last two years. On par with unit historical averages.
 - Working on a spec to have additional insulation added to the isolation building to save energy costs

- Basically a post spawn, feed, and grow period for the fish.
- *Thompson State Fish Hatchery*
 - Expect to meet all spring stocking assignments at level 2
 - Two new techs are getting trained in on weekend and on-call duties.
 - Chinook fry are doing exceptionally well. Possibly due to switching thiamine bath to the water hardening stage at the weirs.
 - Putting together Bid for Michigan documents for procurement of replacement PVC aeration cans. (converting existing aluminum cans to plastic).
 - Putting together parts and work assignment for egg enumeration containers for all hatcheries.
- MDNR Hatcheries (Jan VanAmberg, Manager, Marquette and Thompson Fish Hatcheries)
 - The Great Lakes net pen aquaculture discussion is continuing. Several pieces of legislation have been introduced – some in support of the concept and some in opposition.
 - HB 5255 was introduced by Rep. Bumstead of Newaygo. It seeks to amend the Aquaculture Development Act by specifically disallowing commercial aquaculture activity in the Great Lakes, Great Lakes connecting waters and Great Lakes tributaries up to the first dam that impedes upstream migration of Great Lakes fish. Comment on this bill was heard by the Natural Resources Committee twice in the past two weeks. Public comment, including that from several of our constituent groups, was overwhelmingly in support of this bill.
 - HB5166, HB5167 and HB5158 were introduced by Representatives McBroom and Cole. These are companion bills to the senate bills introduced by Senator Booher, et al. These bills seek to amend the Aquaculture Development Act, NREPA and the Animal Industry Act by specifically allowing commercial aquaculture to occur in the Great Lakes, establishing a general NPDES permit for aquaculture, establishing aquaculture GAAMPS, establishing an Office of Aquaculture Development in MDARD and in many other ways. Comment on this legislation was heard by the house Agriculture Committee at hearings held during the past two weeks. While the commercial aquaculture industry representative spoke in support of these bills, many of our constituents spoke in opposition.
 - Spring fish health inspections from all six state hatcheries on 26 lots (1,560 fish) to be stocked this spring began in mid-January, with the last lots submitted the end of March – inspection results are needed before fish can be stocked so this is a priority for the MSU fish health lab this time of year.
 - This is the second year in a row that there has been little to no early mortality syndrome (EMS) observed in Chinook and Coho during early rearing at Wolf Lake (Kalamazoo), Platte River (Honor) and Thompson (Manistique) Hatcheries. This syndrome is a product of heavy feeding on alewife in the Great Lakes by adult salmon and effects survival of salmon fry in the hatcheries. Mortalities from EMS are historically in the 10% to 35% range. It's likely that this is due to the change to thiamine treatment during water hardening at the weirs. There is currently a study going on at the LSSU ARL that is expected to confirm that this method of thiamine delivery will also work well with Atlantic salmon.
 - Marquette Hatchery (Marquette) staff has been working with research section staff on a lake trout maxilla removal study. The study is related to using maxilla for lake trout aging and for assessing mortality associated with maxilla removal.
 - The Homeland Security Agency's policy on dangerous materials storage is likely to force a change in how fish egg fungal treatments are handled in our UP Hatcheries. Currently, Marquette and Thompson Hatcheries use hydrogen peroxide as a fungicide during egg incubation. HSA has identified hydrogen peroxide as a potential bomb making material and has a strict set of security requirements that must be met if you store a quantity over some threshold amount.

Wildlife Division: Terry Minzey, UP Wildlife Supervisor (prepared by Brian Roell, Wildlife Biologist)

- **Losing a member of our WLD family and conservation community:** Bill Rollo, Wildlife Technician in Marquette, suddenly and unexpectedly collapsed at work January 21st. Despite effort of his colleagues, first responders, and emergency room staff at Marquette General Bill never recovered. Bill was a 16 year veteran of the Department and a devoted family man. He is survived by his Wife Andrea and his 8 month old son Landon and 3 year old daughter Elizabeth. Bill was a steadfast proponent of the outdoors and wildlife. A celebration of his life was held February 3 and was attended by many family,

friends, colleagues, and members of the greater conservation community. In recognition of Bill's devotion to conservation and his legacy the South Marquette GEMS will be renamed in his honor this summer in a ceremony to be announced. Those wishing to send thought, cards and/or financially contributions to Bill's families can do so directly at: E1661 State Highway M28, Deerton, MI 49822. Or they can send them to the Marquette OSC care of Sharon Pitz.

- **Chronic Wasting Disease:** Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease that affects white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk and moose. Currently it has not been detected in the Upper Peninsula, however it has been detected in five free-ranging deer in the southern Lower Peninsula and confirmed in a captive deer facility in Wisconsin about 28 miles from the Michigan border. In responses the DNR is taking public reports about deer that are showing signs of illness very seriously and we will make efforts to collect such symptomatic animals anywhere in Michigan. In the west central UP WLD staff has been assigned to spear head collection of samples for CWD monitoring through road kills, damage permits, hunter harvests, meat processors, and direct collection of any symptomatic deer. *More about CWD is available on the DNR web site at www.michigan.gov/dnr.*
- **UP Habitat Workgroup:** The severe winters in 2012-13 and 2013-14 raised concern regarding the condition of these deer wintering complexes (DWC's) and the UP Habitat Workgroup was reformed with the mission of improving and conserving UP winter deer habitat. One of the key deliverables of this effort is to produce individual DWC strategic management plans. These plans are intended to provide information and strategies for managing lands to benefit deer wintering within the DWC boundaries. As of February 14 plans are complete with 4 more in draft stage. As plans are completed they are posted and available for download on the workgroup's website. Other accomplishments of the workgroup include: collaborating with landowners and utility companies on potential habitat projects; developing a winter range conservation scoring process that can be used in evaluating deer winter habitat areas for potential purchases, trades, easements or other conservation actions; and outreach to private landowners in pilot DWC plan areas in conjunction with FAP Foresters and Conservation District partners.
- **Wolf Update:** The 2016 Upper Peninsula (minimum) wolf abundance survey is under way. The majority of field work will be completed from January 4, 2016 through March 31, 2016. Results will be available in mid to late April. Having accurate winter population estimate will be essential in future delisting efforts. Plus, after delisted the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is required to monitor wolves for (at least) five years. Our every other year abundance survey will help meet this requirement. Also, since wolves were added to the list of game species in early 2015 this survey is critical for developing harvest quotas in the event wolves are delisted and a season is approved by the Natural Resource Commission.

Law Enforcement Division: Lt. Pete Wright, District Law Supervisor (Western UP/District 1)

- District 1 conservation officers are keeping busy policing the snowmobiling activity. In response to increasing numbers of noise complaints, enhanced enforcement of snowmobile sound decibel violations have been taking place throughout the state. In the Upper Peninsula alone, nearly 50 tickets have been issued for sleds in violation of the 88 decibel maximum limit. Many sleds tested in the 98-100 decibel range. Officers have also been writing quite a few tickets for snowmobiles blowing stop signs and crossing highways at high rates of speed.
- Recruit school #7 recruits are into their 7 week of the 22 week academy. To date, there are 20 recruits remaining out of the 24 who started. You can follow the current recruits weekly progress at the academy via the following link: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-42199_67298---,00.html.
- You can expect to see some new faces in the district come November when the recruits get out on their own. I would imagine that by May/June I will have an idea of which of the District 1 vacancies will be slated to be filled. If possible, I am hopeful that we can get Marquette, Menominee, and Iron Counties back up to 2 officers.
- We are continuing to investigate the cougar that was found dumped on the side of the road just north of Iron Mountain. The only information I have to share at this point is that it was an 110 pound male cougar that had been caught in a snare. Once the person who handled the cougar is identified, we can hopefully start to get some additional questions answered.

Law Enforcement Division: Lt. Skip Hagy, District Law Supervisor (Eastern UP/District 2)

District officers continue to focus efforts on ice fishing activities and snowmobile enforcement. There have been a number of snowmobile accidents and fatalities across the District and we have stepped up our trail enforcement concentrating our efforts

on careless operation. We have also continued with our sound enforcement patrols and public awareness campaign including holding a public snowmobile sound test day at the Newberry, Marquette and Gaylord Customer Service Centers on Saturday February 20th. During this testing snowmobilers were invited to these designated locations to have any snowmobile they thought may have a questionable exhaust sound level tested in a non-enforcement setting. Even with the poor conditions many people attended to have their machines checked out.

Below are some of the cases officers have been involved in since the last CAC.

- CO's from Area 1 and 2 conducted group patrols during the I-500 International Snowmobile Race weekend in Sault Ste. Marie. Over the weekend COs Jon Busken, Bobby Watson, Brett Gustafson, Jeff Panich, Pat Hartsig, Calvin Smith, Mark Zitnik, Mike Evink, Kevin Postma, Sgt. Mike Hammill and Lt. Skip Hagy all participated in keeping the snowmobile trails safe. CO's made over 520 contacts with visitors during their snowmobile patrol efforts, the majority of which were positive interactions, During these contacts, officers answered questions, gave directions, assisted snowmobilers whose sleds had become stuck in snow or had broken down Over 20 citations were written for the weekend including 1 felony arrest. There were 57 verbal warnings and of the citations issued 9 were for snowmobile sound violations.
- CO Calvin Smith patrolled Alger County on snowmobile. Several contacts were made with many warnings given for minor violations. While on his way home CO Smith was notified by dispatch of a snowmobile accident several miles away. The directions to the accident were vague. The location was somewhere between M-94 and Forrest lake on Trail 8. CO Smith had a good idea of where the accident was and was first on scene. He provided first aid until EMS arrived. The snowmobiler had failed to negotiate a corner and hit a tree. CO Smith assisted the Alger County Sheriff Department and EMS crew with transporting the victim out to the ambulance.
- CO Calvin Smith was working at a busy snowmobile intersection when he observed a snowmobile without registration and a trail permit. When contacted and asked about the violations all the operator could say was that he knew better! Law enforcement action was taken.
- CO's Mike Evink and Calvin Smith were dispatched to a snowmobile accident where the involved party did not know there location. The CO'S were able to narrow the location and responded by snowmobile. Once on scene the CO'S provided first aid to the victim and investigated the accident. The victim was transferred out by local EMT'S and after the investigation the operator was issued a citation for careless operation.
- CO's Rob Freeborn and Calvin Smith were on patrol of Munising Bay when they observed a snowmobile that did not have any registration decals visible. After contacting the snowmobiler it was found that it was not registered. All the operator could say was that he knew he was taking a risk by driving it out on the bay. Enforcement action was taken.
- While on patrol, CO's Calvin Smith and Rob Freeborn noticed a fast approaching vehicle in the rear view mirror. The vehicle passed CO Smith's patrol truck in a no passing lane. A traffic stop was conducted and when contact was made, the driver of the vehicle said, "I can't believe I passed a Conservation Officer that was the dumbest thing I have ever done"
- CO Robert Freeborn was on patrol on Indian Lake when he came across a portable shack with a fisherman tending a tip-up. As CO Freeborn got off his snowmobile and asked the fisherman how many lines he had out, a second subject walked out of the shack a few seconds later. Both fishermen stated just the 6 tip-ups. CO Freeborn then asked if there were any lines in the shack. The subject that exited the shack when CO Freeborn arrived said, "Nope I don't" CO Freeborn then walked up to the shack and found a pole still fishing along with a pole that was lying next to the hole that had been reeled up with water still dripping off it. When asked about the poles, the subject that was still in the shack as the CO made the initial contact stated that he didn't have enough time to reel up his buddy's pole, only his. Enforcement action was taken for fishing with too many lines.
- CO Robert Freeborn was on snowmobile patrol checking snowmobiles at a popular intersection that crosses a plowed county road. CO Freeborn heard a group of sleds traveling at a high rate of speed towards his location. As CO Freeborn started to exit his patrol truck, the first several snowmobiles crossed through the intersection at a high rate of speed and failed to stop or even slow down for the stop sign. As CO Freeborn was walking up to the edge of the trail, the rest of the group went through the stop sign at a high rate of speed as CO Freeborn signaled them to stop he was nearly struck by one of the operators. CO Freeborn proceeded to the next trail crossing down the road but was again unable to get them to stop. CO Freeborn then advised other CO's in the area of the incident and proceeded to where the trail comes out at a local bar and grill parking lot. As CO Freeborn was sitting in the parking lot, CO Freeborn recognized 2 snowmobiles entering the parking lot from the trail. Both subjects looked at CO Freeborn and again took off this time down a busy county highway traveling against the flow of traffic and nearly striking 2 vehicles head on. The lead snowmobile then crossed the road onto a golf course and took off. The second snowmobile tried the same maneuver but struck the snowbank and rolled his snowmobile in the roadway. CO Freeborn was able to take the operator into custody, the snowmobile that took off across the golf course then came back to the scene, and CO Freeborn took him into custody as well. Both subjects were charged with felony flee and elude. One of the subjects was 15 years old and was lodged at a local juvenile detention center while the other was an adult and lodged at the county jail. Both snowmobiles were impounded as well. CO Freeborn was assisted with the arrests and transportation by CO's Calvin Smith, Pat Hartsig, and Mark Zitnik.
- While working a multi-agency OWI patrol on presidents day weekend with MSP and local Sheriff's Departments, CO's Robert Freeborn, Calvin Smith and Michael Evink worked between Munising and Grand Marais. The CO's made over 200 contacts with snowmobiles enjoying the large amount of fresh snow that had fallen the previous days. While overall compliance was good, the CO's did write 4 citations for the following: 2 registration violations, operate snowmobile with muffler exceeding 88 decibels, and a careless operation of a snowmobile where a snowmobiler was traveling too fast for conditions and struck a tree head on, amazingly sustaining only minor

- injuries. Several snowmobilers thanked the CO's for being visible throughout the day and appreciated the concentrated effort in targeting loud and careless operating snowmobiles.
- CO Pat Hartsig followed up on processor inspections and interviewed a subject who had used a restricted tag on a 3 point buck. The subject was finally contacted after a month of attempts and admitted she allowed her son to shoot a sub-legal buck with a restricted tag. Enforcement action was taken.
 - While looking through RSS records, CO Pat Hartsig noticed a subject who had purchased two doe tags on November 12th. Then a single deer tag on the evening of opening day. The subject was contacted and interviewed regarding the deer tags. He initially stated he saw a buck come in on opening day, so he bought the license that night and shot the exact same buck on November 16th. After more questions, he admitted that he shot the buck without a tag, and then went and purchased the deer tag after the fact.
 - During a patrol of Escanaba Harbor, CO Pat Hartsig and CO Chris Lynch contacted numerous fishermen. During the patrol, a shack was found unoccupied with a tip-up in the water outside of it. CO Pat Hartsig flipped the flag on the tip up and continued checking fishermen. Approximately 25 minutes later a car drove onto the ice and a subject began reeling in the line. The fisherman was contacted about the unattended line. He stated he only left for 10 minutes to go get a new pair of boots at Wal-Mart because his feet were cold. Enforcement action was taken.
 - Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon and CO Chris Lynch conducted a patrol on Little Bay De Noc. Despite the subzero temperatures several contacts were made and several violations were addressed including fishing too many lines, unattended lines, unregistered snowmobiles, riding snowmobile with no helmet, and no name or address on shanty.
 - CO Chris Lynch conducted a snowmobile patrol during the week and despite the subzero temperatures several people were out riding. Several people said they were glad to see a Conservation Officer out and appreciated what they do. Compliance was good with only a few verbal warnings given for improper display of registration.
 - CO Chris Lynch received a snowmobile trespass complaint and responded to the scene. Tracks were followed back to a camp. After a lengthy search for the camp owner and multiple interviews throughout the week a suspect was finally identified. The investigation is ongoing until the suspect is interviewed.
 - CO Chris Lynch received a complaint of kids operating a motor vehicle in a careless manner within 5 feet of an ice shanty with young children inside. Multiple interviews were conducted and two suspects were identified. The investigation is ongoing until the two suspects can be located and interviewed.
 - Sgt. Jerrold Fitzgibbon, CO Pat Hartsig, and Cpl's Shannon VanPatten and Marv Gerlach from the Great Lakes Enforcement Unit attended a meeting of the Great lakes Sport fishermen club. A presentation on the GLEU operations was given along with a question and answer session with the group. Over 50 members were in attendance.
 - CO Kevin Postma received a trespassing complaint involving a trapper. A surveillance camera was set up and roughly two weeks later a suspect was caught on camera checking his trap. CO Postma spoke with former District 2 CO Kyle Publiski about the complaint. CO Publiski recognized the suspect from when he worked the area and relayed his identity. CO Postma then contacted the trapper and obtained a confession. A report is being sent to the Prosecutor's Office for review
 - CO Kevin Postma was checking fishermen on Munuscong Bay. As he approached an angler sitting on a bucket, he noticed him reel up a 4th line. The angler advised CO Postma that he was just trying out a lure for just a minute. CO Postma then observed a walleye on the ice that was obviously well undersized. CO Postma questioned the angler who quickly pointed to his fishing buddy walking towards the two. The second angler admitted catching the 13" walleye and advised that he thought that was the legal size limit. Enforcement action was taken.
 - CO Kevin Postma was approaching a fishing shanty on Munuscong Bay when he noticed an individual standing outside his shanty with the door open. The door then closed as CO Postma got closer. CO Postma quickly made contact with a second individual in the shanty that was just hanging up his rod holder. CO Postma noted the 6 tip-ups outside of the shanty and questioned the individual about fishing a 4th jig pole in the shanty. The angler denied the accusation and said he was just enjoying some coffee. CO Postma then observed a jig pole tucked away with water still dripping off the lure. The angler did not admit he was fishing with the 4th pole and had several explanations. What the angler couldn't explain is why he didn't have his fishing license with him and why his snowmobile registration was expired, enforcement action was taken.
 - CO Bobby Watson was on snowmobile patrol when contact was made with a group of snowmobiles. Upon making contact it was discovered that one rider had a registration which expired in 2011. Enforcement action was taken.
 - COs Watson & Busken and Sgt. Hammill were taking part in a group snowmobile patrol when contact was made with a group of riders. One rider had failed to obtain a trail permit. Action was taken.
 - CO John Wenzel assisted the USFS as a guest instructor for an off trail snowmobile/ winter survival class. Students were taught shelter building, fire starting and how to operate a snowmobile in deep snow. Students were from several agencies including the US Park Service, USFS and the MI DNR.
 - CO John Wenzel was instructing a snowmobile class with a group of students when they observed a snowmobiler who was operating too fast and failed to negotiate a curve in the trail. The operator left the trail and crashed into a small group of trees. One of the students, an EMT, checked the operator for injuries while others removed his sled from the trees. Enforcement action was taken for the careless operation.
 - CO Jon Busken was patrolling for snowmobile activity in Mackinac County when Schoolcraft County Dispatch broadcast a BOL for careless snowmobile operation. The officer was not able to locate the snowmobiles in question but did come across an individual operating an unregistered snowmobile without a trail permit. Enforcement action was taken.

- CO Jon Busken and Brett Gustafson were patrolling Newberry for snowmobile activity when they observed two unregistered snowmobiles. Contact was made with the operators from Ohio who stated they did not know that they needed to register the snowmobiles. An overview of snowmobile law was provided and enforcement action was taken.
- COs Jon Busken & Bobby Watson were conducting a snowmobile patrol on Big Manistique Lake when a radio call went out from Central Dispatch of a subject in cardiac arrest. The officers were the closest and responded to the residence on snowmobiles, they performed CPR on the male subject until EMS arrived unfortunately he did not survive.

Marketing & Outreach Division: Jon Spieles, Statewide Interpretive Manager

- The largest gathering of Michigan science teachers takes place this weekend in Lansing and the DNR will be front and center with an exhibits and information on invasive species. The **Michigan Science Teachers Association** provide the DNR to occupy one room solely dedicated to DNR staff presentations from 8-4 with expectations of several hundred teachers in attendance and thousands stopping by the booth.
- Salmon have now grown to an inch and a half in size in the 226 Salmon in the Classroom tanks across the state, including 16 tanks in the Upper Peninsula (2 in Alger, 2 in Chippewa, 5 in Delta, 3 in Dickinson, 1 in Gogebic, 1 in Houghton, 1 in Marquette, 1 Schoolcraft). Since teachers obtained eggs from the DNR in the fall, students have been caring for and maintaining the salmon in their classroom. The program culminates at the end of the school year with the release of the young fish in a local watershed that feeds one of the Great Lakes. Students and teachers participate in a program to follow the life cycle of salmon from eggs, to hatchling to smolt, starting in the classroom with specific lessons focused on Great Lakes ecology, the importance of high water quality, and the impacts of aquatic invasive species.

The program's goal is not about stocking the fish, or raising salmon numbers, but instead is to provide a place-based educational effort for third-grade and higher classrooms that ties right back to the kids' communities. Students get invested in and excited about their local rivers and streams, knowing that smolts they released may return to the very same spot in two to three years to spawn.

This connection encourages a long-standing appreciation for Michigan's natural resources and ecosystem health in students and teachers, which is the main goal of the educational team at the DNR

- The 2016 **National Archery in the Schools** State Tournament will be held again at Central Michigan University on March 11-12. This will be the 10th annual tournament and we are expecting approximately 600 archers to be competing from grades 4-12. There are about 75 schools participating in the National Archery in the Schools program in the Upper Peninsula.
- Staff from the DNR, DEQ and DARD have been working together on content for a new **Michigan Invasive Species website**. DNR Marketing staff designed and built the website, which went live on January 7. The site, www.michigan.gov/invasives, is intended to provide information to citizens and the media to help identify and report invasive species.
- Since the end of October, Education Services staff has completed programs for more than 18,000 participants. Programs include K-12 school groups visiting State Parks and state hatcheries, outreach programs for a wide variety of audiences, as well as ice fishing clinics, snowshoe-building classes and winter hikes, fishing rod building classes, winter survival courses, lantern ski events, owl prowls and other programming at our nine facilities now open around the state.
- Marketing staff together with eMichigan, Secretary of State and Yaffe Group, created a 30-second video to be played on Secretary of State monitors throughout the state starting January 20. The video promotes MiPage, a free mobile app that citizens can download to access a variety of DNR-specific applications including: Recreation Search, e-license, camping reservation system, hunting and fishing digests and guides, Mi-Hunt and more.
- The construction of a new fishing pier at the Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery is underway where we intend to begin regular introductory fishing programs in the spring. The pier and connecting walkways will allow visitor center staff to improve program quality and allow participants with disabilities access.
- Installation has begun on the educational exhibits at the newly renovated Ludington Beach House. The facility was built in the 1930's and will now house exhibits that help visitors to this popular park understand the ecology and risks to the Great

Lakes. Exhibits including live salmon and lamprey, ballast water, watershed health and more will be in place by spring 2016.

Public Information Office: John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer

- We are working to enhance and expand our Showcasing the DNR feature stories series. In addition to issuing stories each Thursday, another 30, with more in development, will be issued on various Tuesdays throughout 2016.
- As far as enhanced, we are including video clips, audio for radio and head shots for print media.
- We were afforded the chance to tape a Media Meet broadcast solely focused on emerald ash borer. The panel, which included Bob Heyd, John Diddams and Brenda Haskill, was fantastic.
- I am also working to assemble a studio set at the Marquette office to film media interviews. This will improve the presentation the department receives on television.
- Here are some upcoming press releases:
 - Showcasing the DNR - New archive collections: Statewide story – part of our weekly “Showcasing the DNR” series – highlighting two recent collection acquisitions at the Archives of Michigan – the Lansing State Journal collection and the Norris Ingells collection. (Feb. 25)
 - Press Release: Meeting notice: Joint meeting of the eastern and western Upper Peninsula Citizens’ Advisory Councils in Marquette. (Feb. 25)
 - U.P. Focus: “Media Meet” program on emerald ash borer and the recent quarantine expansion in the Upper Peninsula to air on WNMU-TV13 and Public Radio 90 the weekend of March 5-6. (Feb. 29)
 - Showcasing the DNR - Wolf status update: Statewide story – an addition to our weekly “Showcasing the DNR” series – providing an update on the biological, legislative and legal status of gray wolves in Michigan. (March 1)
 - Showcasing the DNR - Winter tracking: Statewide story – part of our weekly “Showcasing the DNR” series – focusing on winter animal tracking. (March 3)
 - Showcasing the DNR- Elk research: Statewide story – part of our weekly “Showcasing the DNR” series – highlighting recent elk research efforts in the Lower Peninsula. (March 10)