



## Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council

### DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: July 2014

This documentation is provided by Michigan DNR staff as a supplement to verbal reports that will be distributed to the Western UPCAC at the July 21, 2014 meeting in Baraga, MI.

### Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator: Stacy Welling Haughey

#### Upcoming Events/Public Outreach

##### **Public Meetings**

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| July 10          | Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Detroit   |
| July 14          | Public Meeting on Proposed Bass Fishing Regulations, Iron Mountain (Dickinson County Library), 6-7:30pm CST |
| July 15          | Public Meeting on Proposed Bass Fishing Regulations, Newberry (Tahquamenon Area Public Library), 6-7pm EST  |
| July 16          | Forestry Compartment Review for Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw & Ontonagon Counties, Baraga DNR Office, 9:30am  |
| July 21          | Western U.P. Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting   |
| July 23          | Public Meeting on Proposed Bass Fishing Regulations, Ishpeming (Ishpeming Town Hall), 7-9pm EST             |
| July 24          | Public Meeting on Proposed Bass Fishing Regulations, Houghton (Portage Lake District Library), 7-9pm EST    |
| <b>August 14</b> | <b>Natural Resources Commission Meeting, MUNISING</b>   |
| August 21        | Eastern U.P. Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting, Newberry   |

##### **State Park & State Sponsored Activities**

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| July 22    | Michigan Iron Industry Museum - A Most Unpleasant Circumstance: Personality and Provocation at Fort Wilkins |
| July 25-26 | Wells State Park - Christmas in July  |
| July 25-26 | Baraga State Park - Christmas in July   |
| July 25-27 | Fort Wilkins - Civil War Era Artillery Encampment   |
| July 25    | Michigan Iron Industry Museum - Iron Ore Heritage Trail Bike Tour   |
| July 29    | Michigan Iron Industry Museum - Freighters of Destiny   |
| August     | Tilden Mine Tours, Michigan Iron Industry Museum, pre-registration required, 906-226-6591                   |
| August 2   | Fort Wilkins - Copperman Triathlon  |
| August 5   | Michigan Iron Industry Museum - History of Blaney Park  |
| August 9   | Wells State Park - Corn Roast   |
| August 9   | Fayette Historic State Park - Fayette Heritage Day, including Children's Sack Race                          |
| August 9   | Wells State Park - Corn Roast Potluck   |
| August 9   | Tahquamenon Falls State Park - 2014 Tahqua Trail Run  |
| August 9   | Baraga State Park - Rec 101: Intro to Kayaking  |
| August 9   | Van Riper State Park - Smokey in the Park   |
| August 10  | Van Riper State Park - Meteors & S'mores  |
| August 12  | Michigan Iron Industry Museum - Lost and Found: Historic Structures in the U.P.                             |
| August 15  | Baraga State Park - Meteors & S'mores   |
| August 16  | Baraga State Park - Baraga County Kids OUT-FIT  |
| August 16  | Van Riper State Park - 5th Annual Moosic & Arts Festival  |
| August 19  | Michigan Iron Industry Museum - Locking Through the Soo, 1796 to Today                                      |

August 23 Van Riper State Park - Rec 101: Kayaking  
August 23 Van Riper State Park - Rec 202: Kayaking  
August 31 Wells State Park - Cedar River Bridge Walk

### **UP Recreation Events**

July 24-27 National Trappers Convention & Outdoor Expo, Escanaba (**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**)  
August 11-17 U.P. State Fair, Escanaba (**SIGN-UP TO VOLUNTEER AT THE DNR POCKET PARK!**)  
August 30 Marquette Marathon (Michigan Iron Industry Museum is starting point for Half Marathon)  
September 18-21 Toyota Bassmaster Angler of the Year Championship, Escanaba, Bays De Noc

## **Graymont Land Transaction Update**

The Graymont Land Transaction continues to remain between steps 7-8 of the 14-step review process developed for this proposal. The Land Exchange Review Committee (LERC) met on April 17<sup>th</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup>, and a decision was tabled at both meetings citing a need for more information. It has been a very intensive and thorough field review; staff are moving slowly and deliberately through this process. Graymont has completed a hydrology study and the full report, along with other information, is available on Graymont's project website: <http://rextonproject.com>.

In June, Graymont, Inc. submitted a proposal to exchange more than 1,700 acres of mineral rights with the DNR near the Rexton area in the eastern Upper Peninsula. The offered minerals are under state-managed surface and the desired minerals are located under federally owned surface within the Hiawatha National Forest. This proposal will receive a similar review and decision process as the original Graymont land transaction application.

For a full review of all information regarding this proposal, visit the website at : [www.michigan.gov/graymontproposal](http://www.michigan.gov/graymontproposal)

## **July 2014 Natural Resources Commission Meeting**

### **AGENDA**

#### **Wednesday**

##### Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee

1. Recreation Passport and Camping Metrics
2. Resolution in Support: Tippy Dam State Recreation Area Management Plan
3. Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Overview
4. Update on Blue Ribbon Plan and Initiatives

#### **Thursday**

##### NRC Marketing, Partnership and Outreach Advisory Committee

1. Data Report
2. Pure Michigan Update
3. Update on the Play Date on the Capitol Lawn
4. Youth Conservation Council

##### Special Session-Little River Band of Ottawa Indians-Wolf Dispute

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

1. Fisheries Division Update
2. Wildlife Division Update
  - a) Late Waterfowl Seasons
  - b) Antler Point Restriction Assessment Update

## NRC Committee of the Whole

1. Director's Report
2. Legislative Report
3. Partners in Conservation Award: Michigan Cares for Tourism
4. Hunter's Safety Instructor's Award

## Public Appearances Before the NRC (registered prior to the meeting)

- Amy Trotter, MUCC, MUCC Annual Convention Update
- Chauncey Moran, Land Use Issues

## NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1. Deer Management Assistance Permit Regulations, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 10 of 2014
2. Late Waterfowl Seasons, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 12 of 2014

## DIRECTOR – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1. Fireworks Regulation, Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 8 of 2014

## NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ACTION

1. Migratory Game Bird Regulations; Early Seasons, Managed Waterfowl Area Regulations, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 8 of 2014
2. Antlerless Deer License Quotas 2014-2016, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 9 of 2014
3. Fall Turkey Management Unit Technical Change. Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 11 of 2014

## DIRECTOR'S ACTION

1. Mineral Audit Program Fees
2. Land Transactions (U.P. Specific Listed Here)
  - a. Sale of DNR Managed Public Land, Newberry Management Unit-Chippewa County, Land Transaction Case #20130176

## ***Natural Resources Commission Meeting Recap from Ed Golder, July 10, 2014***

The Natural Resources Commission met Wednesday on Belle Isle and Thursday at the Outdoor Adventure Center (OAC), both in Detroit. Following is a recap of those meetings.

The Michigan State Park Advisory Committee met Wednesday at the Casino Building on Belle Isle. The committee toured Belle Isle and saw the many improvements that have taken place there since state management began in February. The committee convened and received an update on Recreation Passport and camping metrics for the year. The committee also reviewed the proposed updated General Management Plan for Tippy Dam Recreation Area. Committee members unanimously passed a resolution recommending that the department adopt the plan. Next, Parks Chief Ron Olson detailed the highlights of the 2015 budget recently signed by the governor. The budget funding for parks and other department priorities was recently outlined in a note to the department from Director Creagh. The committee also reviewed the overall report from the Blue Ribbon Panel on State Parks and Outdoor Recreation, along with updates on additional intersecting department plans -- the State Trails Implementation Plan, the Managed Public Land Strategy and the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The goal is to integrate these blueprints for department activities.

The meeting shifted Thursday to the OAC. The OAC is now owned by the department -- purchased from the developer with Natural Resources Trust Fund grants -- and DNR staff from Southfield have moved in to the building. If you haven't had a chance to see it, the OAC is a spectacular place that will introduce people to the outdoors. The building is located near Milliken State Park and Harbor, the Detroit Riverfront and Belle Isle. The building was recently used as the staging ground for the Grand Bargain bill signing by Gov. Rick Snyder -- a big event that put Michigan and the OAC on the national stage.

At the OAC, the Marketing, Partnership and Outreach Advisory Committee met first. Christine Schwerin, the new marketing manager of the Marketing and Outreach Division, along with Dennis Fox of Marketing, ran through statistics

on hunting and fishing license sales. Hunting and fishing license sales are better than expected given the resistance levels -- expected decline -- that were built in to the new license structure. Hunting licenses are up over last year, year to date. Deer licenses are up. Spring turkey licenses are down, probably because of a late spring. Small game licenses are up dramatically -- 150,157 this year versus 64,444 last year. This reflects the new license structure that requires a base license for purchase of other hunting licenses, where the base license also functions as a small game license. Recreation Passport sales are up in Detroit as a result of state management of Belle Isle. In Detroit 34 percent of registered vehicles have the Passport, compared to 27 percent of registered vehicles statewide. Lodging reservations at state parks are up slightly over last year. Snowmobile license sales were up this year over last because of the long and snowy winter. ORV license are down somewhat over last year, probably because of a new license structure and the late spring.

Kelly Wolgamott from Pure Michigan talked about the multi-state joint campaign Pure Michigan is running with the DNR to promote hunting and fishing and camping in Michigan. The efforts are extensive and encompass a variety of media and means to reach audiences.

Ray Rustem from Marketing told the committee about Play Date on the Capital Lawn, an event involving 1,200 kids in Lansing. The DNR works with the Michigan Parks and Recreation Association on this event. Ray reported also on the Michigan Youth Conservation Council, the group established by the NRC to engage young people in the outdoors and nurture the next generation of conservation leaders. The group consists of 24 young people and is a year into its existence.

Next the Commission held a special session in which it heard from the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians regarding wolf hunting in Michigan. The session was part of a formal dispute process initiated by the Little River Band under the 2007 Inland Consent Decree between the State of Michigan and five Michigan tribes that are covered by the 1836 Treaty of Washington. The decree defines hunting and fishing rights for the tribes. The Little River Band through its attorney and biologists laid out its concerns regarding wolf hunting in Michigan.

Next the Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries met. Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter told the committee about regulations that will be before them in September and October for review. He also updated the committee on bass regulations and lake trout regulations. Fisheries has stocked 4 million walleye this year throughout the state, Jim said. And Jim told the committee about two new state records: A 3.77 pound brown bullhead caught in Alcona Pond in Alcona County and a 41.24 pound black buffalo that was taken through bowfishing on Bear Lake in Muskegon County. Wildlife Chief Russ Mason told the committee about the UP Habitat Workgroup, Wildlife Habitat Grants and a co-op position the department is funding together with the Michigan United Conservation Clubs and other conservation groups.

Barb Avers from Wildlife previewed the department recommendation for Late Waterfowl Seasons. Habitat conditions and duck populations look very good for spring going into summer, Barb said. The department will recommend increasing the mallard hen daily limit from 1 to 2. However, she anticipates no major changes in season length or bag limits. Final recommendations will be before the NRC for action in August.

Brent Rudolph of Wildlife updated the committee on the status of a broad review of antler point restrictions. The commission had expressed an interest in exploring the effectiveness of APRs through this more comprehensive approach. The study will assess such things as population impacts, disease risk, hunter participation, hunting-related economic impacts and damage to crops and forests. The review is expected to be completed next year.

During the Committee of the Whole, Parks Chief Ron Olson informed the commission about the Outdoor Adventure Center. The 40,000-square-foot building is gradually being filled with exhibits and will open to the public early next year. Ron's presentation included officials from the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and the Belle Isle Conservancy -- critical partners in revitalizing the riverfront and Belle Isle -- along with staff from Milliken Park, Belle Isle Park and the OAC.

Next, officials from DNR Law Enforcement, along with the Michigan State Police and the Detroit Police Department, talked about the importance of partnerships for enforcement on the island. The vast majority of contacts by law enforcement on the island have been positive and resulted in no enforcement action. Law enforcement on the island is focused on creating a safe, family-friendly atmosphere so everyone can enjoy the park.

Ed Deeb, chairman of Metro Detroit Youth Day, told the committee about the event which was held on Belle Isle yesterday . The event started in 1980 with 1,100 kids and 100 volunteers. This year's event saw 32,000 young people and 1,600 volunteers. Marketing Chief Kristin Phillips updated the commission on the department's role in River Days in Detroit and previewed a very good Pure Michigan Business video that gives a prominent place to the role of natural resources in Michigan's economy. Here's the link so you can watch it yourself:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=T1JCyDaZnGQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=T1JCyDaZnGQ)

Law Enforcement Chief Gary Hagler introduced new conservation officers, who just completed a 22-week law enforcement academy and are now taking part in 18 weeks of field training. We are preparing for our next academy now. Legislative Liaison Trevor VanDyke updated the commission on legislation affecting natural resources.

Next the department gave a Partners in Conservation Award to Michigan Cares for Tourism for its help in restoring historic natural resources facilities in Michigan. In 2013, the group kicked off its campaign by helping rehabilitate the buildings at Mill Lake Camp at the Waterloo Recreation Area. This year, more than 350 volunteers showed up for an event at Belle Isle, where they worked on seven sites, ranging from painting picnic shelters to installing trash bins. Patty Janes, an associate professor of hospitality and tourism at Grand Valley State University and coordinator of Michigan Cares for Tourism, accepted the award along with Dave Lorenz from Pure Michigan, a partner in the event, and James Sawyer from Indian Trails, which provided buses for the event.

Larry E. Jeziorski then received a Hunter Safety Instructor Award for his 43 years of service in that program, which has been critical to safe hunting seasons in Michigan.

The NRC approved early migratory game bird season and managed waterfowl area regulations, set antlerless license quotas for the upcoming deer season, and made a technical change to a fall turkey management unit. Director Creagh approved mineral audit program fees and three land transactions.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

### ***July 2014 Legislative Update***

*by Trevor VanDyke , Director, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office*

#### **PA 201 of 2014 (HB 5085) –Pistol Safety Training – Rep. Phil Potvin**

The new act amends Section 2 of the Handgun Licensure Law to remove the requirement that an individual under the age of 18 be in the physical presence and supervision of a parent or guardian, and instead, require the person to be in the physical presence and under the direct supervision of any of the following: the person's parent; the person's guardian; or, with parental consent, an individual who is 21 years of age or older and has successfully completed a pistol safety training course or class that meets the requirements of Section 5J of the act.

#### **PA's 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, & 215 of 2014 (SB's 873, 875, 876, 877, HBs 5553 & 5559) – Provides for Pure Michigan Trails, Water Trails and Trail Towns – Sen's. Moolenaar, Meekhof, Hildenbrand, Hansen and Casperson & Rep's. Franz and Pagel**

These new acts amend various sections of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow for the designation, definition, construction, operation and funding of Pure Michigan Trails, Pure Michigan Water Trails and Pure Michigan Trail Towns.

**PA 255 Of 2014 (SB 613) – Allows for Salvaging of Game Killed Following a Collision with a Motor Vehicle – Sen. Booher**

The new act adds Section 40115 to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow individuals to possess deer, bear, and small game species including fur bearer species with no bag limit killed by, or injured and euthanized, following a collision with a motor vehicle if specific criteria are met.

**PA 252 of 2014 (HB 5313) – Omnibus Budget – Rep. Haveman**

The new act provides the General Fund Target agreement between the Executive, House, and Senate allocated \$48.6 million to the DNR, of which \$43.8 million is ongoing and \$4.75 million is one-time. This General Fund allocation represents \$23.5 million in new investments, of which \$18.75 million is ongoing and \$4.75 million is one-time.

**Ongoing Investments - \$18.75 million GF:**

- Invasive Species: Added \$5 million GF (\$1 million less than Exec)
- Forest Economy/Wildfire Protection: Added \$3.92 million GF (\$80,000 less than Exec)
- State Park Infrastructure: Added \$3.75 million GF; \$12.25 million total (same as Exec)
- Conservation Officers: Added \$3.5 million GF (same as Exec)
- Non-Motorized Trails: Added \$2.5 million GF (same as Exec)
- Great Lakes Research Vessel Chinook: Added \$1 million GF; \$2 million total (same as Exec)
- Hart-Montague Trail: Added \$530,000 GF (NEW)
- Cormorant Population Mitigation: Increased by \$50,000 GF (NEW)
- Michigan Conservation Corps/Summer Youth: Reduced by \$1.5 million GF (\$2.5 million less than Exec)

**One-Time Investments - \$4.75 million GF:**

- River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation: Added \$2 million GF (NEW)
- Flint River Dike Repair: Added \$1 million GF (NEW)
- City of Alma/Alma College Public Safety Land Improvements: Added \$1 million GF (NEW)
- Hart-Montague Trail: Added \$470,000 GF (NEW)
- Saginaw River Feasibility Study: Added \$280,000 GF (NEW)

**SBs 481 & 484 and HBs 4379 & 4380 – Dissolution of the State Forestry Registry – Sen. Jansen and Rep. Crawford**

These bills, following a recommendation from the Office of Regulatory Reform (ORR), would have dissolved the state foresters registry. While the Governor agreed with ORR in the need for reform of the registry, he disagreed with its total elimination, and instead felt that improving the Michigan Licensed Forester Statute was necessary. Therefore he vetoed the bills and is encouraging the legislature to resubmit the bills after working with the DNR to develop a system that modernizes and elevates Michigan's regulatory system for professional forestry.

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

**Parks & Recreation Division: William Doan, WUP District Supervisor**

- **Baraga State Park** camping has been slow, but the Fourth of July holiday usage was up 15%. The park was the host site for a mock meth lab explosion for a Baraga County Emergency Disaster Drill. Many local emergency response agencies, including the park and the MSP and MDOC participated. The park also had its free fishing pond on free fishing weekend at the Baraga County Lake Trout Festival. Approx. 225 children and parents participated. Staffing is the number one challenge at the current time.
- **Bond Falls Scenic Site** had average day use and one wedding so far. Use is beginning to pick up and return to normal figures.
- **Baraga Field Office** installed booths at Little Presque Isle, Piers Gorge and Porkies. They also repaid wood and local skid piers. Work was done on the turnaround at McLain SP and parking lots at the Porkies.
- **At Wells State Park**, Stephenson Elementary school had a picnic in the day use area approx. 200 children. Crafty camper weekend on June 14 went well. Hannahville Indian Community had a guided hike of the park on trails day. Campground attendance was same as last year down 1%, cabins were rented the same as last year, harbor use was about the same also.
- **Cedar River State Harbor** is still on track for dock removal in the fall of this year.

- **Lake Gogebic State Park** Porkies Ranger Ellis Fryer is continuing to work out of class as the Lead Ranger for Lake Gogebic. Seasonal Ranger Braden Beaver transferred to Hoelt SP. Porkies Ranger Justin Farley is covering until we can complete the hiring process for a new ranger. Campground attendance has been lower due to late spring and weather conditions. Staffing has been a struggle with no Lead Ranger, Ranger transfer and difficulty filling STW4 position.
- **Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park** Speakers Cabin was reroofed. Began work on our capital outlay trail project - in June we started widening several trailheads to increase parking areas and better maneuverability. Covering a staff shortage at Lake Gogebic - both the Lead Ranger and Seasonal Ranger positions are vacant and are being temporarily filled with Porkies staff until permanent hiring is complete. Attendance was down in cabins and campsites, we had a very late spring and South Boundary Road was closed for most of the month of May which caused us to cancel many reservations for the trout fishermen. We had a very rainy and buggy June which caused a lot of customers to leave early. Union Bay Toilet Shower building project came in over budget and we are now back into the initial planning stage for improvements to be made to the existing building.
- **Van Riper State Park** PRD and FRD have been meeting with user groups for Blueberry Ridge Pathway regarding timber harvesting. Met with the Marquette Township planner regarding reclassification of Little Presque Isle to be zoned Forest Recreation. Van Riper State Park sewer lift station issues- pump housing broke, the company was able to get in to get it fixed within a week. Songbird Trail Hike for National Trails Day/Did a dedication for the new interpretive trail signage- 30 participants; Van Riper's National Trails Day hike was in the evening and it was quite gloomy and rainy- 2 participants; Memorial Weekend Dutch Oven Gathering event has 32 participants and June 7<sup>th</sup> Paws in the Park/Dutch Oven Gathering event had 52 participants; June 21 Yuletide in the Park:75-100 participants. Van Riper State Park Attendance: May had 195 more camp nights in 2014 than 2013, however June had 456 less camp nights in 2014 than 2013 and the rustic, mini, and camper cabins are all down in attendance for the month of June- the mosquitoes have been outrageous in June, the worst people have seen in 15 years. Little Presque Isle Rustic Cabin Attendance: May was down 7 nights compared to FY2013, and June was up 19 nights. On average we have been writing 100 violation notices a weekend at Little Presque Isle Recreation Area. The mosquitoes this year have been driving the campers away. No concession at the beach this year has brought many complaints, but we are selling ice cream, firewood, and ice out of the contact station.
- **Craig Lake State Park** Work on bridges that cross the Peshekee River that are located on the North Country Trail. Landscaping and cleanup for bridge #3 that was installed Fall 2013. Yurt attendance for May increased 4 nights compared to May 2013, rustic cabin nights were up by 8 and backcountry camping was up 11 nights from May 2013. For June the backcountry camping nights were down by 52 nights, rustic cabin nights were down 16 nights, and yurt nights down 12 nights. Mosquitoes played a large part in the backcountry camping attendance decrease. Beaufort State Forest Campground was flooded until the end of May, we were about a month behind on getting it cleaned up and ready for the season.
- **Bewabic State Park's** New electric and new sites are getting positive feedback from campers. Ranger position still Vacant. Kids Fishing Derby- Low numbers due to bad weather. Northstar women's day event had good number 180 women participated. It remains a challenge being short staffed at Bewabic State Park.
- **Menominee River State Recreation Area** New booth at Piers Gorge is already making an impact on Recreation Passport numbers. Ranger position still Vacant. Public meeting were held in Michigan at Faithorn Township, and also in Green Bay Wisconsin. Good numbers at Piers Gorge. It remains a challenge being short staffed at Menominee River State Recreation Area.
- **Escanaba Field Office** Waterlines were replaced at Indian Lake West Shore Unit and at Palms Book State Park. Maintenance dredges were completed on Ford River Boat Launch Indian Lake Boat Ramp. Hazard tree removal at several state campgrounds. Site grading and boat launch area repairs are ongoing within district. Field office has four state campgrounds it now administers. Use has been increasing each week and weekend fee collection by staff has improved revenue collection.
- **Fort Wilkins Historic State Park** The Historic Life Saving Station Boathouse at Eagle Harbor will be getting a new cedar roof this fall. The design phase of this project is complete and the project will be going out to bid shortly with a mandatory on site pre-bid meeting scheduled for August 1st. The Gift and Acceptance for a mountain bike trail to be located on the South side of Lake Fanny Hooe has been finalized. The Copper Harbor Trail club will be constructing this trail. The DNR has awarded a \$10,000 partnership grant for materials to be used on the project. There will be a boardwalk constructed through a low area located to the east of Mudd Lake. We have submitted a DEQ joint permit application it is currently out for public review/comment. Fort Wilkin's installed a new cedar roof

on half of the west barracks and will be completing the other half after Battery D (Large Event). The west barracks is an original building constructed in 1844. Funding for this historic preservation project has been provided through the Recreation Passport. MTU has been awarded a bid for an archeology project inside Fort Wilkins Historic State Park pertaining to the Pittsburg and Boston Mining Company. Work will begin in July. A Historic Structures Report (planning document) for the Copper Harbor Range lights is being prepared by SANDERS & CZAPSKI ASSOCIATES, PLLC. A 75% draft has been completed. Memorial Day Ceremony on the Fort Parade Grounds. An estimated 450 people attended. The Copper Harbor Trail Club also hosted a Mountain biking event of the trail system on May 25th (Use Permit FWHSP-2014-05). We lost a few weeks of camping due to the late arrival of spring. We couldn't open the Campground until mid-May. Our current use is typical of this time of year. We filled for the fourth of July weekend on Thursday morning (only a few non-reservable sites left on Wednesday).

- **Twin Lakes State Park** welcomed a new Ranger Jared Spencer. Jared replaces Kari Panske who took a job at the Baraga OSC. June 7 was the date of the 2014 Sport ORV ride, even with rainy weather the groups ride, on the new OC trail connector was a success. The group rode a round trip total of 125 miles. Plans are being made for next year's ride. Slow start to the camping season has been expected as the winter held its grip on Twin lakes till June. With that in mind campground spring clean-up was longer and harder than most recent years. Another problem associated with the hard winter is the fact that most Schools in the area had to make up many snow days, this year our local children did not finish until June 12. This in turn pushes the camping season later for visitors with children. The harsh winter we had made getting the campground ready even harder. The park had broken or entire tree's damaged by the winter snow, snow on the ground later than usual, damage to roof and gutters etc. With this we are dealing with less staff, no program personnel, and no older workers (experience works). Along with this our equipment is another year older and in constant need of repair.
- **McLain State Park** Completed cabin road turnaround. Camping and day use are down slightly. Cooler weather and bugs may be the cause.

### **Wildlife Division: Terry Minzey, Wildlife Supervisor (prepared by Bill Scullon, Wildlife Biologist)**

- **Canada Goose Management** - Each year around July 4, WLD staffers work with volunteers to capture and band Canada geese as part of continental efforts to study waterfowl migration and hunting impacts. At this time of the year adults with young of the year will molt their flight feathers and essentially are flightless for about 10 days. This makes them much easier to capture safely. As recent research indicates, we also have a burgeoning MI population of molt migrant geese which are young adults that did not successfully pair bond this spring in the Hudson Bay area and have returned for the summer. They appear often as large groups on area water bodies. These molt migrants will also undergo a season molt but often it's not as succinct making capture more problematic. During this banding window staff has been banding geese in the Sault, Bays De Noc, and Baraga areas. The UP regional goal is 300 banded geese and the number is rapidly approaching that goal. Banding geese often entails volunteer participation and involvement from other DNR divisions, such as LED.

Large concentrations of geese can also cause problems for lakefront property owners, and the DNR works with them to alleviate those issues. Landowners, lake associations, and municipalities can petition WLD early in the spring to have nuisance geese captured and relocated. The process requires a permit, fee, and the requesting group to attend a goose round up/handling training or hire a qualified professional animal damage specialist. The DNR no longer conducts the roundups and relocations; WLD coordinates the activities. This season the city of Sault Ste. Marie and Munising each rounded up and removed nuisance geese from public beaches. The birds were moved to isolated but suitable UP habitats where human interactions would be minimized.

- **Bear Biomarker Survey** - UP WLD staff is beginning the 2014 bear tetracycline study. This is a mark recapture study that WLD performs typically every two years to index the bear population in the region. Hundreds of special bacon baits laced with Tetracycline (a common antibiotic) are placed across the UP during the month of July and then recovered several weeks later. The baits are spaced at regular intervals in remote locations to minimize multiple bears consuming more than one bait. Biologists assess if a bear or something else has consumed the bait. The tetracycline will create a stain inside the bone and teeth of a bear which consume the baits. Hunters who harvest a bear are asked to turn in a tooth which is used to age the bear as well as look for tetracycline staining (fluoresces under UV light). This information gives WLD an idea of what proportion of the bear population was 'marked' and is used to model the overall population. This year a number of trail cameras will be added to the random bait stations

to study accuracy of field assessments. The tetracycline study will involve nearly all WLD UP staff and run into August to complete.

- **North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) Grant** - UP WLD and Lansing staff recently completed a field visit with Ducks Unlimited engineers and UP RC&D staff to assess next steps in implementing the recently approved NAWCA grant from the USFWS. WLD will be receiving significant financial funds to rebuild a water control structure at Munuscong Bay State Wildlife Management Area on the St. Mary's River in Chippewa County. At the Sturgeon River

Sloughs in Arnheim on the Houghton/Baraga County line, another project is being looked at to improve water control and movement capability within the impoundment system. Both DNR projects are aimed at wetland restoration and enhancement of waterfowl habitat and have a total grant value in excess of \$500,000. Engineers were onsite to discuss construction options and develop implementation timelines. Some work may begin as early 2015. UPRC&D is administering the grants including those to other land conservancies and tribal partners.

- **Filling of WLD Vacancies** - UP WLD staffers are in the process of interviewing and hiring a WLD Technician for the Crystal Falls office and a WLD Biologist for the Baraga office. Candidate pools were extensive (>100) and were narrowed down to a handful of interviews. Positions are expected to be filled before the end of summer.

### **Forest Resources Division: Jeff Stampfly, WUP District Supervisor**

- Forest inventory field work will be wrapping up on the 2016 YOE compartments within the next few months. Open house and compartment review schedules, along with other state forest inventory information are located at: [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301\\_30505---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-30301_30505---,00.html). The Next open house in the Western UP (WUP) is for the Escanaba FMU in August 20th.
- Since 2005 Michigan's 3.9 million acres of State Forest have been certified by both the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). Forest Certification has developed as a way to verify sustainable forest management practices. There will be an internal audit in the Escanaba FMU in July. For more information on Michigan's Forest Certification Program go to: [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-30301\\_33360---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-30301_33360---,00.html)
- During the October 2013 Certification Audit, the DNR received two Corrective Action Requests (CARs) regarding conformance to the FSC and SFI standards concerning the conservation of biological diversity at the landscape level. To address the CARs, a Plan of Action has been developed and submitted to the certification auditors and was recently approved. Potential areas to address the requirements of the certification standards have been assembled and are being reviewed by DNR staff, with a public review of the potential areas to occur later this summer.
- Forest Regeneration surveys are being conducted by forestry staff this spring and will continue into the summer. These surveys are conducted in areas that were harvested in the past 5 years to ensure the forests are successfully regenerating.
- As of June 11th, there are 301 open timber sale contracts in the WUP. This represents 20,074 acres of timber valued at approximately \$22.6 million.
- Staff are working on roads and culverts, along with ORV restoration work. Many of these projects are identified through our Resource Damage Reporting system (RDR). The projects are being prioritized to start making repairs as funding allows. Field training for staff on resource damage identification occurred during July.
- The UP fire activity has been down compared to previous years with only 24 fires for 45 acres occurring through the week of July 7<sup>th</sup>. Statewide we have had 147 fires for 513 acres.
- While fire activity has been down, we have accomplished over 10,280 acres of prescribed burning across the state this year. Much of this has been in Southern Lower Michigan for a variety of wildlife and recreational values. There

have been a few burns conducted in the Upper Peninsula and more are planned should weather conditions become favorable.

- Timber harvesting around the Blueberry Ridge Ski Trail is generating some interest. A liaison committee between the Superiorland Ski Club, Forest Resources, and the Park and Recreation Divisions has been formed to work through the issues in a collaborative way.
- Training of personnel continues within the management units for the fire line qualified personnel. Two fire specialists were trained for railroad engine investigation. The fire simulator team was in the UP in June to provide training to several units along with other training to other divisions as well.

### **Law Enforcement Division (LED): Lt. Pete Wright, District Law Supervisor**

The 3 PCO's assigned to District 1 have just about completed Step 1 of their field training. Each step is 6 weeks long and consists of completing training tasks, getting experience working with a field training officer, and learning department policies and procedures. The PCO's are slated to attend a week long marine training school at the RAM before traveling to another part of the state to begin their Step 2 of training.

The following is a sample of some of the situations officers have encountered over the past month:

- CO Marvin Gerlach and PCO Brett DeLonge investigated a complaint of a subject taking a bear out of season. The investigation is ongoing.
- CO Marvin Gerlach and PCO Brett DeLonge investigated a complaint of a subject buying both Michigan and Wisconsin resident hunting and fishing licenses for several years. The investigation is ongoing.
- CO Grant Emery and PCO Brian Lasanen received a call regarding 6 baby ducklings stuck in the spillway on Sunday Lake. The officers were able to locate the ducklings and safely return them to their mother.
- CO Grant Emery and PCO Brian Lasanen conducted a marine patrol on Lake Superior related to a local fishing tournament. Many boaters were contacted with tickets written for failure to provide pfd's and failure to purchase a fishing license.
- CO Dave Painter and PCO Michael Mansell conducted marine patrols on Iron County lakes. Many positive marine contacts were made, but officers did encounter 4 individuals who had failed to purchase fishing licenses. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Mark Leadman and PCO Brett DeLonge checked the Harlow Lake area of Marquette for an ongoing complaint of land use violations. The CO's encountered a group who were camping illegally right passed a "no camping" sign. The camp site was littered with trash and several of the campers were found to be minors in possession of alcohol. The group was advised of the regulations and asked to clean up the site. They were cited as well for camping where prohibited.
- CO's Ryan Aho, Mark Leadman, and PCO Brett DeLonge checked on a complaint of illegal marine activity at Pike Lake in the Gwinn area over the holiday weekend. While the reported activity was not observed at the time the officers checked, CO Aho did contact a subject who was fishing without a license. A citation was issued for the violation.
- CO Trey Luce and PCO Brett DeLonge conducted an on the water patrol of Lake Superior on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The CO's joined up with the Coast Guard later in the evening to assist with the fireworks show in Marquette's lower harbor. The joint operation, conducted off of the Coast Guard's 45' vessel, included marine safety checks as well as a check of fishing regulations. Several marine violations were encountered, including a vessel whose voyage was terminated for insufficient navigation lights after dark.
- CO Dave Painter and PCO Michael Mansell spoke at a local Total Women in the Outdoors Event. The event had nearly 150 participants. The officers presented on boating safety to the group participating in the kayak event.
- CO Dave Painter, PCO Michael Mansell and CO Jason Wicklund responded to the complaint of a stolen ORV located near Iron River. The officers located the ORV submerged in the Iron River and were able to safely remove the ORV from the River. The owner of the ORV was located and the ORV was returned. The investigation into the theft of the ORV is still ongoing.
- CO Dave Painter and PCO Michael Mansell responded to the complaint of deer blinds left out on state land. The camp responsible for the illegal blinds was located and contact was made with the camp owner. Enforcement action was taken.

- CO Brian Bacon and PCO Brett DeLong contacted a subject at Gene's Pond State Forest Campground. The subject had not registered for his campsite and did not have the required recreation passport. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Grant Emery and PCO Brian Lasanen conducted marine patrol on Cisco Chain Lakes on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Numerous boaters and anglers were contacted. The officers addressed violations for fishing without a license, failure to register a watercraft and failure to provide PFD's. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Grant Emery and PCO Brian Lasanen conducted a marine patrol on the Ontonagon River, contacting numerous anglers on the river. Fishing has been steady on the river with an occasional 30 inch Walleye being caught. They also received several complaints of anglers taking undersized and over limits of walleye.

I have had quite a few questions regarding ORV licensing and operation called into the office so I'd like to take a moment to clarify answers to the most common questions I've had.

- If you are operating on your own private property or as an invited guest on the private property, no ORV license is required.
- If you are operating on a trail, route, or area then you would need to have purchased the full \$36.25 license (\$26.25 "ORV license" + \$10 "trail permit"). These 3 types of state ORV trails will be designated/ identified by signage.
- To accommodate those who will be operating off private property but not on a trail, route, or area, you would need to have purchased the \$26.25 license.
- Plated vehicles, while operating on forest roads don't need any type of ORV license. As routes are located on roads, a plated vehicle would be exempt from the licensing while on a route.
- A forest road means a hard surfaced road, gravel or dirt road, or other route capable of travel by a 2-wheel drive, 4-wheel conventional vehicle designed for road use. Forest road does not include a street, county road, or highway.
- An individual who is operating or is a passenger on an ORV shall wear a crash helmet and protective eyewear that are approved by the United States department of transportation. This subsection does not apply to any of the following:
  - An individual who owns the property on which the ORV is operating, is a family member of the owner and resides at that property, or is an invited guest of an individual who owns the property. An exception under this subdivision does not apply to any of the following:
    - An individual less than 16 years of age.
    - An individual 16 or 17 years of age, unless the individual has consent from his or her parent or guardian to ride without a crash helmet.
    - An individual participating in an organized ORV riding or racing event if an individual who owns the property receives consideration for use of the property for operating ORVs.
    - An individual wearing a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt if the ORV is equipped with a roof that meets or exceeds United States department of transportation standards for a crash helmet.
    - An ORV operated on a state-licensed game bird hunting preserve at a speed of not greater than 10 miles per hour.
- You can access maps of Michigan state ORV trails at the following hyperlink: [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10365\\_15070-38330--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10365_15070-38330--,00.html)

### **Fisheries Division: Darren Kramer, George Madison, Jessica Mistak**

- Proposed Bass Regulation Changes: The options being discussed would increase the extent to which possession and harvest are allowed during largemouth and smallmouth bass spawning time periods. To gauge public opinion, anglers and non-anglers (particularly avid boaters and/or lake property owners) are encouraged to complete the DNR's bass regulations survey, available here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BassRegs>.

Additional public input will be gathered via a series of public meetings. Dates, times and locations include:

- Monday, July 14 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. (CST) at the Dickinson County Library located at 401 Iron Mountain Street in Iron Mountain, hosted by the Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit.
- Wednesday, July 23 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. (EST) at the Ishpeming Township Hall located at 1575 US Highway 41 West in Ishpeming, hosted by the Western Lake Superior Management Unit.

- Walleye Spring Fingerling Stocking:
  - 23 million walleye eggs were collected from Little Bay de Noc for Upper Peninsula stocking needs.
  - The Northern Lake Michigan and Western Lake Superior management units ran 5 rearing ponds: Warren, Landfill, Grasshopper, Peterson, and Gerometta's.
  - Several million fry were directly stocked, including 3 million fry into Little Bay de Noc, 1.1 million into Portage Lake, and 1.3 million fry into our rearing ponds.
  - Within the Northern Lake Michigan and Western Lake Superior management units, over 737,955\* spring fingerlings were stocked including 154,523 fingerlings from the Inter-tribal Fisheries and Assessment Program (biological program administered by the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians). \*Please note that we are finishing harvest the week of July 6<sup>th</sup> so the final number will be higher.
  - The ratio of fry stocked in our rearing ponds to harvested spring fingerling was approximately 49%.

### **New website application shows fish population trends around the state**

Contact: Troy Zorn, 906-249-1611, ext. 308; Elyse Walter, 517-284-5839 or Ed Golder, 517-284-5815

Agency: Natural Resources

June 19, 2014

The Department of Natural Resources today announced that a new Web application designed to educate anglers and fisheries professionals on local and regional trends in abundance, growth and survival of important fish populations in selected streams across Michigan is available for public use. The application was developed by the DNR's Fisheries Division and incorporates data collected from a network of fish population survey sites, with data for some sites going back to 1947.

"The new Stream Fish Population Trend Viewer features more than 40 streams that represent a range of conditions in terms of stream size, temperature and Great Lakes access," said Troy Zorn, DNR fisheries research biologist. "The focus is on streams with long-term data and naturally reproducing populations of trout, Great Lakes salmonids or smallmouth bass to provide users with information on self-sustaining fish populations around the state."

Since trends in stream fish populations are largely influenced by regional climate and flow conditions, repeatedly going back to the same locations annually provides a clear understanding of trends in a stream. Users will be able to see what the population trends are in different areas of the state by comparing trends for key sites in each region. For fishery managers, understanding regional trends is critical to determine the best course of management on these streams, as well as interpreting survey data on streams that are surveyed less frequently. Understanding these trends is equally important to anglers, watershed or conservation groups, and the public.

Anglers, fisheries professionals and the public will be able to look up a river and see what the most recent trends are in terms of abundance, growth and annual survival of selected fish species. Information can be viewed in map, graph or table formats. Approximately half of the sites are sampled each year, and the new data will be added annually to the Trend Viewer app prior to spring.

The app was developed in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget and Michigan State University and funded by the Great Lakes Fishery Trust.

The Stream Fish Population Trend Viewer app can be found at [www.mcgi.state.mi.us/fishpop](http://www.mcgi.state.mi.us/fishpop).

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

## Clean boats help prevent introduction, spread of aquatic invasive species

Contact: Seth Herbst, 517-284-5830; Elyse Walter, 517-284-5839 or Ed Golder, 517-284-5815

Agency: Natural Resources

July 2, 2014

The Department of Natural Resources reminds anglers and boaters that as the holiday weekend approaches they should clean their boats, trailers and equipment before and after use to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species in Michigan.

Boats can unintentionally spread invasive species from one body of water to another, but most of these situations are avoidable by following a few, simple steps:

- Clean boats, trailers and equipment before you launch and again after.
- Drain water from bilges and livewells at the ramp before leaving.
- Dry trailers, boats, equipment and storage areas thoroughly before using them in a different body of water.
- Dispose of unused bait in the trash.
- Don't transfer live fish to water bodies, other than where they were originally caught.
- Disinfect livewells and bilges with a bleach solution comprised of one-half cup of bleach to 5 gallons of water.

Michigan laws prohibit placing a boat, trailer or other boating equipment into state waters with plant material attached.

For more information on the importance of cleaning boats and equipment to prevent aquatic invasive species, check out the video above, created by the Michigan Sea Grant program, with support from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

### **Debbie Munson Badini, Public Information Office**

The U.P. State Fair is rapidly approaching on August 11-17 and we are looking for volunteers to help out at the Pocket Park, teaching kids to fish, shoot a pellet gun and use a bow and arrow. All volunteers receive free fair admission, a t-shirt and lunch – plus get to pass on their love for hunting and fishing to the next generation! To sign up, contact Janet Canode at 517-284-6033 or [canodej@michigan.gov](mailto:canodej@michigan.gov) before July 31.

