



Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports Date of Production: July 2015

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 14, 2015 meeting in Harris, MI.

Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator: Stacy Welling Haughey

DNR Public Meetings

July 9	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing
July 14	Forestry Compartment Review, Baraga Unit, Baraga DNR Office, 9am
July 14	Western UP Citizens Advisory Council Meeting, Island Resort & Casino, 5:30pm
July 21	UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Goetzville (Raber Area Sportsmen's Club), 6:00pm
July 22	Forestry Compartment Review (for Mackinac County), Ostego Lake Township Hall, 9am
Aug 11	Forestry Open House, Escanaba Unit, Stephenson Field Office, 3-6pm CST
Aug 13	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Augusta, MI
Aug 26	Forestry Compartment Review, Escanaba Unit, 305 Ludington, Escanaba, 9:30am
Aug 27	Eastern UP Citizens Advisory Council Meeting, Little Bear Arena, St. Ignace, 6:30pm

U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities

July 14	The Ongoing Quest for the Wreck of the Griffon, Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee
July 15	Indian Lake State Park - UP Raptor Rehab Program
July 17	Indian Lake State Park - Bill Jamerson "Up in the UP"
July 17	Iron Ore Heritage Bike Tours, Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee
July 18	Fayette Historic State Park - A Paranormal Event
July 21	Making Waves: Michigan's Boat-Building Industry, Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee
July 22	Indian Lake State Park - "Outdoor Stories" with John Walker
July 24	Iron Ore Heritage Bike Tours, Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee
July 24	Baraga State Park - 10th Annual Christmas in July
July 24	Indian Lake State Park - Ice Cream Social
July 25	Mackinac Island - Michigan Historical Marker Dedication
July 28	Decolonizing Diet Project, Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Negaunee
July 29	Indian Lake State Park - RV Towing & Safety Clinic
July 30	Indian Lake State Park - Indian Lake Honey Bee's

Upcoming U.P. Recreation Events

July-August	For a host of summer recreational events around the UP, go to www.uptravel.com (too many to list!)
July-August	Seney Wildlife Wednesdays Auto Tour, 7pm, http://www.fws.gov/refuge/seney/events/wildlife_wed.html#sthash.6IJEDrhE.dpuf
July-August	Seney Wildlife Thursdays Photo Tour, 8am, http://www.fws.gov/refuge/seney/events/photo_tour.html#sthash.6IJEDrhE.dpuf
July 10-11	UP Trappers Convention, UP State Fairgrounds, Escanaba, 906-399-1960
August 17-23	UP State Fair, Escanaba (Sign up to volunteer at the DNR Pocket Park!)

Grant Contacts

For other grant information, to go: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-58225---,00.html>

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant	Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov
Recreation Passport Grant	Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, carlockm@michigan.gov
Aquatic Habitat Grant	Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, parkerk4@michigan.gov
Michigan Invasive Species Grant	Kammy Frayre, 517-284-5970, frayrek1@michigan.gov
Wildlife Habitat Grant	Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957, parkerk4@michigan.gov
U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant	Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, scullonh@michigan.gov

From: Creagh, Keith (DNR)

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

Subject: Director Update: Public Lands

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

The value of public lands

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

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

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

Current status

Seeking support: The Michigan Public Land Strategy was completed and submitted to the Legislature for approval in October 2014. The strategy was requested by the governor, and required by Public Act (PA) 240 of 2012. The DNR continues to work closely with legislators to seek approval of the strategy. PA 240, places a cap on the amount of state-managed public land the department can maintain in its portfolio. This was once a state-

wide cap, but after May 1, 2015, the cap is restricted to north of the Mason-Arenac County line in keeping with the statute. The acquisition restrictions for north of this line cannot be lifted until the Legislature approves the strategic plan and amends the law to remove this prohibition.

Payment in Lieu of Taxes: Legislation has recently been proposed to prohibit the DNR from buying any land in years where Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) is not fully paid.

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

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

- Meet with county administrators to discuss the intersect between natural resources and regional prosperity in terms of both economic and social benefits;
- Incorporate information about public land values into presentations and discussions with stakeholder organizations;
- Expand our information distribution about public land values to new audiences; and
- Increase dialogue with elected officials to resolve issues of difference to ensure adoption of the land strategy.

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

July 2015 Natural Resources Commission Meeting Agenda

NRC Marketing, Partnership, Youth and Outreach Advisory Committee

1. DNR Youth Engagement Program Highlights
 - a. Youth Conservation Council
 - b. Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts U.S.A.
2. Partner Youth Enrichment Programs
 - a. Wayne Memorial High School Nature Ventures Program
 - b. Youth Enrichment-Urban Recreation
 - c. 4H Great Lakes Camp

NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

1. Fisheries Division Update
2. Wildlife Division Update
 - a. Migratory Game Bird Regular Season Regulations
 - b. Sharonville State Game Area Special Hunting Days
 - c. Deer Management Update

NRC Committee of the Whole

1. Director's Report
2. Legislative Report (see separate section below)

3. Committee Reports
 - a. NRC Marketing, Partnership, Youth and Outreach Advisory Committee
 - b. NRC Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries

Partners in Conservation Awards: Dr. Charles Nelson & Dr. Norman Fred

Public Appearances Before the NRC

Natural Resources Commission – For Information Only

1. Sharonville State Game Area Special Hunt, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 7 of 2015
2. Waterfowl and Other Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations for 2015-2016, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 8 of 2015
3. Chronic Wasting Disease Response Measures for Deer in Clinton, Ingham and Shiawassee Counties, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 9 of 2015

Natural Resources Commission Action

1. Approval of Minutes: June 11, 2015 Natural Resources Commission meeting
2. Migratory Game Bird Early Season Regulations, Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 6 of 2015

Director – For Information Only

1. Seasonal Closure of Certain Roads, Gladwin Forest Management Unit, Midland County, Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 4 of 2015

Director's Action

1. Order to Regulate Off-Road Vehicle Use at Bewabic State Park, Iron County, Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 3 of 2015
2. Proposed Nonmetallic Mineral Lease Auction, Development with Restrictions
3. Land Transactions (None in the U.P.)

Commissioner's Reports

July NRC Meeting Summary by Ed Golder

The Natural Resources Commission met on July 9th in Lansing. The significant decisions:

- The Commission approved early season regulations for migratory game birds.
- Director Keith Creagh approved a land order to allow limited off-road vehicle use at Bewabic State Park in Iron County. This marks the fifth state park where ORV use has been approved since 2009.
- In addition, the director approved a nonmetallic mineral lease auction for 40 acres in Cheboygan County.

The day began with a meeting of the Marketing, Partnership, Youth and Outreach Advisory Committee. Marketing Chief Kristin Phillips told the committee about a number of youth engagement efforts the DNR conducts with partners.

Ray Rustem of Marketing and Outreach gave an overview of some specific DNR youth engagement programs. He highlighted the Boy Scout and Girl Scout hike that took place along the Iron Belle Trail on June 6 to celebrate National Trail Day and to promote Michigan as the trail state. More than 2,200 scouts hiked a cumulative 14,000 miles that day, sharing their hikes on Instagram with the hashtags #MITrails and #GetOutdoors. The Youth Conservation Council held a meeting June 26-28, the last meeting for nine council members. Ray is preparing for new council members to join the group this fall and participate in the council with a new format. Ray shared photos from the "Playdate on the Capitol

Lawn," an annual event in which the department participates with partner groups. There, more than 1,500 youth from across the state participated in outdoor recreation activities.

Jon Gray from Wayne Memorial High School and Safari Club International, Novi Chapter, discussed the Nature Ventures Program. This program provides scholarships and educational opportunities for underprivileged college students from Wayne Memorial. As part of the program, the students attend the DNR's Academy of Natural Resources and learn outdoor skills, science, biology, conservation and environmental education. The majority of these youth end up being first-generation college attendees.

Bruce Ross from Ross and Contemporaries, LLC, shared his experiences working with enrichment programs for young people from Detroit. His core mission is to expose urban youth to the benefits of, and careers in, natural resources and engineering. He recently coordinated a group of young Detroit students -- most of whom had never left the city -- in a program at Michigan Technological University. There, the youngsters had the experience of being "scientists" in biology and engineering.

Brandon Schroeder from Sea Grant discussed the variety of youth engagement programs his organization coordinates. He shared information about the Great Lakes Education Program and the variety of programs provided through 4-H and MSU Extension. The 4-H Great Lakes Camp runs for a week every year and provides hands-on learning on a variety of subjects for participants. The youth take what they learn and share it in their schools and communities.

Next, the Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries met. Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter updated the commission on a number of issues, including the meeting of the Fisheries Management Team in June. The team met at the Outdoor Adventure Center in Detroit and had an opportunity to tour Belle Isle Park and look at fishing opportunities there. Jim also updated the committee on a commercial fishing opportunity for lake whitefish on southern Lake Huron. The pilot project is going well, Jim said, and there have been low catch rates for non-target species. Jim said the DNR -- working with the departments of Environmental Quality and Agriculture and Rural Development -- continues to evaluate proposals for commercial net pen aquaculture in the Great Lakes. Last month a scientific advisory panel evaluating these proposals met and took public comment.

Russ Mason told the committee about the award the Wildlife Division received from Michigan United Conservation Clubs for being the Conservation Organization of the Year. Nik Kalejs of Wildlife was honored as the MUCC Conservationist of the Year. Russ also updated the commission on various wildlife diseases, including epizootic hemorrhagic disease in deer, chronic wasting disease in deer and highly pathogenic avian influenza in waterfowl.

We have had no cases of EHD in Michigan this year, which is good news. After discovering a single case of CWD in Ingham County, the department has tested an additional 200 deer and has found no further cases of the disease. Surveillance continues in the area where that CWD-positive deer was discovered. Russ lauded the cooperation of Meridian Township authorities for their help discovering the CWD case and with continued surveillance of the disease. Avian influenza will have no impact on the waterfowl seasons, Russ said, where prospects are very good. That point was underlined by Barb Avers of Wildlife, who talked about regulations for regular waterfowl season dates. She said there would likely be no recommended major changes in season length and bag limits, and there would likely be a liberal season -- 60 days with a six-duck bag limit -- with similar opportunities for canvasbacks, scaup and pintails.

Kristin Bissell from Wildlife told the commission about a special hunt area proposal at Sharonville State Game Area, where the department has partnered on a special program for hunters with disabilities, including veterans.

Brian Frawley of Wildlife reviewed the results of the hunter survey for the 2014 deer hunting season. The number of deer hunters was down about 7 percent across the state and hunting success was down as well. There was about a 15 percent decrease in harvested deer. There were a number of reasons for these results, including successive severe winters that have taken their toll on the deer population in the Upper Peninsula. Indicators are that deer populations are down, most severely in the U.P. However, Wildlife recommended no changes in regulations for the fall deer seasons, outside of the change that has already been made in the Upper Peninsula.

During the Committee of the Whole, Director Keith Creagh introduced two new DNR staff members. Mark Sweatman has been appointed director of the Office of Mineral Management. The director also introduced John Pepin, the department's new deputy public information officer, who is based in Marquette.

Jon Allan, director of the Office of the Great Lakes, briefed the Commission on the draft Water Strategy that was just released. The strategy provides a roadmap to achieve a 30-year vision to ensure Michigan's water resources support healthy ecosystems, citizens, communities and economies. The Strategy was developed in collaboration with the departments of Environmental Quality and Natural Resources, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

Adam Wygant of the Department of Environmental Quality reported to the commission on a recent Environmental Protection Agency Report on hydraulic fracturing in the United States. The report found no widespread systematic impacts on drinking water due to hydraulic fracturing. Adam said Michigan continues to be a leader in fracking regulations.

Forestry Chief Bill O'Neill spoke to the commission about forest management in the state. About 61,000 acres a year of state forest land is prepared for harvest, Bill said. That number is based on a scientific assessment of sustainable harvest. About 27,000 acres of that land is clear cut. The remaining acreage is thinned or selectively harvested.

Of the 27,000 clear-cut acres, about 5,000 acres are replanted and the remainder are allowed to regenerate. Although these clear cuts don't look pleasant, the department does clear cutting for good reasons, Bill said, including optimal regeneration of species that thrive in ample sunlight. This timber management has benefits not just for a variety of tree species but for wildlife species, as well, including deer and upland game birds. This is why the Wildlife Division and the Forestry Division work so closely together on timber management.

Parks Chief Ron Olson talked about the Outdoor Adventure Center in Detroit, which opens to the public on July 20. Ron talked about various events happening at Belle Isle Park in Detroit. He said the Parks Division will soon be posting job listings for non-motorized and motorized trail specialists. Ron also talked about 95 percent occupancy at state campgrounds over the July 4 holiday weekend, an increase over last year.

Dan Lord from the Finance and Operations Division talked about how the department is managing facilities across the state for the benefit of employees and to provide better service to the public.

Chuck Nelson, a professor at Michigan State University, received a Partners in Conservation Award for his career-long dedication to outdoor recreation. Norman Fred, a retired dentist and chairman of the board of Boardman River Clean Sweep, was honored with a Partners award for a long career of leading volunteer efforts to beautify the Boardman River corridor.

That's the news from Lansing. I hope you are having a great summer. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. -Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

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

HB 4721 – Provides for a Waiver of the Recreation Passport for Gold Star License Plates – Rep. Hooker: This bill seeks to amend sections 74116 and 78119 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to waive the recreation passport registration fee for vehicles that possess a Gold Star vehicle registration plate (license plate). Tie barred with HB 4722.

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

HB 4722 – Exempts Gold Star License Plates from Recreation Passport Fee – Rep. Kesto: This bill seeks to amend section 805 of the Michigan Vehicle Code, PA 300 of 1949 to specifically exempt the recreation passport fee from the vehicle registration renewal form for Gold Star vehicle registration plates. Tie barred with HB 4721.

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

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

HB 4239 – Allows Hunting from a Personal Assistive Mobility Device – Rep. Smiley: This bill seeks to amend section 40111 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow individuals, who possess a valid permit for hunting from a standing vehicle, to transport and possess an uncased loaded shot gun, if the action is open, and to also discharge the firearm from a personal assistive mobility device (PAMD) to take game.

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

HB 4534 – Requires a Flag to be Flown at All Times when a Person is in Tow – Rep. Kesto: This bill seeks to amend section 80152 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require a flag to be mounted and visible from all direction and displayed at all times that a person is in tow on a vessel.

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

HB 4564 –Modifies the Requirements for the Transportation of a Firearm – Rep. Dianda: This bill seeks to amend sections 40111 & 43513 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to modify the requirements for transportation of a firearm and would specifically require that for transportation the firearm must be unloaded.

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

HB 4682- Provides for First Hunting Preference to Veterans- Rep. Kosowski: This bill seeks to amend section 43536 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protections Act by adding 43536b to modify that if a license to take game under this part is issued through a lottery, the department shall give first priority in that lottery to any veteran who submits an application in that lottery.

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

SB 244 – Provides for Increased Reimbursement and Restitution Values for the Illegal Killing or Possession of Certain Game Species– Sen. Pavlov: This bill seeks to amend Section 40119 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide for increased reimbursement and restitution values for the illegal killing or possession of certain game species. These species include elk, moose, bear, eagle, hawk and waterfowl.

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

SB 245 – Provides for Increased Penalties for the Illegal Killing, Possessing, Purchasing or Selling of a Bear or an Antlered White-Tailed Deer– Sen. Zorn: This bill seeks to amend Section 40118 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide for increased penalties for the illegal killing, possessing, purchasing, or selling of a bear or an antlered white-tail deer.

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

SB 371 – Provides for Prohibition on the Sale, Purchase, Barter, or Possession with Intent to Sell Ivory or Rhinoceros Horns– Sen. Bieda: This bill seeks to create a new act prohibiting the sale, purchase, barter or possession with intent to sell ivory or rhinoceros horns or products. And further, provides for the power and duties of the state governmental officers and agencies to require the seizure of certain items. While interstate commerce is federally regulated, intrastate commerce is not. This bill is identical to HB 4509.

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

SB 133 – Omnibus FY 2016 Budget: FY 2016 Target Agreement between the Executive, House, and Senate allocates \$39.6 million General Fund to the DNR, of which \$38.5 million is ongoing and \$1.1 million is one-time. This FY 2016 General Fund allocation is \$175,000 less than the Executive, \$1.8 million more than the House, and \$75,000 more than the Senate versions of the DNR’s FY 2016 budget.

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

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

Fisheries Division

The following are fisheries division highlights for the period of May 19 through July 13, 2015:

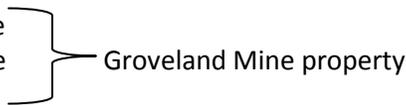
Baraga Operations Service Center

- DNR Lake Superior Basin Team meeting, Marquette
- Deployed numerous temp loggers for brook trout study streams and various lakes throughout the western UP.
- Hosted a lower Ontonagon River estuary field review with US Fish and Wildlife Service, DNR Fisheries, and KBIC Natural Resources.
- Surveyed Ontonagon Camp Josh pond (pond dedicated for fishing for accessibility groups).
- Surveyed Massie Park Pond, Bessemer.
- Collected Chinook salmon samples from the three West UP Chinook net rearing pens, for fish health testing at Thompson Michigan.
- Loaned minnow nets to the Dead River Camper’s Inc. (Hoist Basin, Marquette), for their June forage fish study.
- Baraga OSC had a three day operations-audit during the end of June.
- Loaned minnow nets to Duck Lake Association, Gogebic County, for their early July forage fish study.
- Set test nets in Kandy’s Pond (near Bruce Crossing) to evaluate bluegill rearing.
- Participated in an acoustic telemetry workshop for Lake Superior sturgeon movements.

Escanaba Field Office

- Staff attended the joint Lake Huron and Lake Michigan Basin Team Meeting in Gaylord.
- The Crystal Falls biologist participated at the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Council meeting in June.
- Unit staff joined staff from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to begin operations of the lake sturgeon lift at the Menominee Dam to pass sturgeon above the Menominee and Park Mill dams on the Menominee River in late May.

Crystal Falls Field Operations Shop

- Lake Surveys completed include:
 - Teal Lake
 - South Lake
 - Island Lake
 - West Lake

Groveland Mine property
- Squaw Lake
- Bluegill transfers have been completed by stocking:
 - Manganese Lake
 - Rockland Pond
 - Massie Park Pond
- Walleye Fry were stocked:
 - Portage Lake = 1.5 million fry
 - Ontonagon River = 1 million fry
- Creel is taking place at the following locations:
 - Lake Gogebic
 - Copper and Eagle Harbors
 - Lake Superior

- Walleye fingerling harvest and stocking went well. A report of all waters that received walleye stocking will be compiled for the next CAC meeting
- Carp collection on Manistique River (for contaminant analysis) took place and will continue this fall in October for two days.
- Northern pike collection (for contaminant analysis) took place at Deer Lake Basin, Marquette

Marquette and Thompson Fish Hatcheries (Jan VanAmberg, Manager)

- Michigan DNR Hatchery Section completed spring fish stocking activities in the Upper Peninsula in early June. The bulk of the activity occurred in April and May. The cold spring delayed commencement of spring stocking a week or two but completion in early June is normal timing. A total of 196 fish plants were made throughout the UP originating from Marquette, Thompson (Manistique), Oden (Petoskey) and Platte River (Honor) State Fish Hatcheries. A total of 8,123,954 fish were stocked during this period, in the UP comprised of 1.57 million salmonids (Atlantic, Coho and Chinook salmon, steelhead, rainbow and brown trout) and 6.6 million walleye fry. Harvest of walleye ponds occurred during the end of June with production results looking strong. A report including fingerling walleye stocking will be available at a later date. Summaries of fish stocking are available on the web (<http://www.michigandnr.com/fishstock/>). A summary of UP stockings for this spring are embedded below (see online version of the division report sent via email on July 7 for access):



UP CAC stocking
update for July 2015.x

- Marquette Hatchery
 - All spring stocking assignments were met. The fish were healthy although slightly smaller than recent years due to the cold summer of 2014.
 - The outside raceways have been cleaned and disinfected and the crew is currently moving fingerlings from inside to outside raceways.
 - The crew is assisting Eastern Lake Superior Management Unit in the operation of their two walleye rearing ponds. Harvest occurred in late June.
- Thompson Hatchery
 - Steelhead eggs were received from the Little Manistee Weir and walleye eggs were collected from Little Bay de Noc in April.
 - All spring stocking assignments were met. The steelhead were record size this year (average 8.6 inches) due to upgrades made to water supply pumps which allowed use of warmer water.
 - Outside raceways are currently empty and ready for stocking with fish later this summer.
 - Thompson Hatchery and Northern Lake Michigan Management Unit received a grant in 2014 from the Aquatic Habitat Management Grant Program to remove two dams in the Thomson Creek watershed. The crews have been clearing the area of the work in anticipation of earthworks in early July.

Marquette Fisheries Research Station

- Inland, Troy Zorn: Crews jaw tagged 900 walleyes in Little Bay de Noc this spring.
- Great Lakes, Shawn Sitar: Transmission problems on the Research Vessel Char gave some trouble for the crew to adhere to the spring index netting schedule, however repairs have been made and the vessel is back on schedule again. The Vessel visited Stannard Rock for the fifth year of index sampling on this submerged rock mount. Research sampling will begin at Big Reef (north of Munising) for a five year assessment of offshore lake trout resources. The Vessel visiting Isle Royale this spring to tag lake trout with popup satellite tags as part of a Great Lakes Fishery Commission funded study to assess habitat use by lake trout. Staff also finished the field portion of a study at Isle Royale to assess the reproductive biology of lake trout forms.

Forest Resources Division: Don Mankee, WUP District Supervisor (prepared by John Hamel, Inventory Planning Specialist)

- The 2017 Year of Entry (YOE) inventory is underway with staff gathering field information. Open house and compartment review schedules are posted online, along with other state forest inventory information at:

www.michigan.gov/forestry. Upcoming Open Houses and include the Escanaba Forest Management Unit on August 11th at the Stephenson Field Office and the Gwinn Forest Management Unit on September 10th at the Sands Township Hall.

- The Graymont revised Land Transaction Application was approved by the Director at the March 19th Natural Resource Commission meeting in Roscommon. Although the transaction itself has not yet occurred, staff in the DNR's Real Estate Section is continuing to work with Graymont to complete it. These parcels will be thoroughly reviewed by DNR staff and will be available for public review and comment prior to the director making a decision about the acceptance of these parcels. For more information and further details of the proposal, go to www.michigan.gov/graymontproposal.
- FRD continues to fill vacancies across the state. Currently there are three full time vacancies in the WUP. The Baraga Forest Unit Manager, the WUP Timber Management Specialist, and a Field Technician position in the Gwinn Unit.
- As of June 10th, there are 300 open timber sale contracts in the WUP. This represents 32,421 acres of timber valued at approximately \$28.4 million.
- Timber markets and sale competition is strong. There were 28 sales sold in April and May in the WUP, and there are upcoming bid dates for additional sales in July.
- There are approximately 28 active timber sales in the WUP at this time totaling about 3000 acres. Loggers have been steadily moving around to cut wood that mills are demanding.
- The Wyman State Forest Nursery lifted 2,252,000 red pine, 2,338,000 jack pine and 21,000 oak this spring for planting throughout the UP and the NLP. The nursery just finished sowing seed to grow 4 million red pine and 1.5 million jack pine.
- Since May 21st there have been 8 wildfires in the WUP totaling 10 acres, The last fire occurred on June 5th. This season in the entire UP there have been 37 wildfires for a total of 178 acres.
- The Division conducted 3 prescribed fires in totaling 250 acres in Menominee, Iron, and Marquette counties. These burns were conducted with a wildlife habitat objective and were very successfully executed. Participation from several divisions made it possible to see these burns through to completion. FRD is very grateful for the support that the other divisions have given.
- The UP will likely see low to moderate fire dangers over the next few months due to the recent rains and predicted precipitation. Fuels are very green and lush. Although no one is currently out of state on fire assignments, preparations are being made to prioritize assignments as they come up. Due to the ongoing drought in many western states Fire activity is expected to be high nationally. Currently the National Preparedness level is 3.
- The Department will continue to conduct several nationally recognized fire courses to enhance our firefights capabilities. Several foresters and fire officers received single resource/engine boss training. Other fire training sessions are scheduled yet this summer.
- FRD staff attended other training classes this spring, including training for upgrades in the forest inventory computer programs.
- The 2014 Farm Bill created a nation-wide initiative called the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA). This authority will create a collaborative relationship between DNR and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to allow the DNR to act as an agent of the USFS for conducting land management projects on national forest lands. Lansing staff have attended a workshop in Wisconsin regarding the authority and the Department is beginning to discuss possibilities. Much of the revenue from the timber sales would be retained by the state to fund the additional work. The Huron-Manistee, Hiawatha, and Ottawa National Forests are interested in implementing GNA agreements.

- The Forest Resources Division established a partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with a new project called “Training Foresters to Enhance the Sustainable Management of Private Forest Land.” The DNR will train staff about private forest land issues, and also continue to provide training to local conservation district foresters, and other foresters and wildlife biologists in the private sector who work with forest landowners. Mike Smalligan, the Forest Stewardship program coordinator in Lansing, will manage the grant and help schedule training for DNR staff and other foresters in the private sector. This five-year, \$1 million project is funded through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, a new 2014 Farm Bill program.
- Cooperative Forest Management specialist Foresters are gearing up for field inspections of new Commercial Forest (CF) list applications. Each has 2,000 to 3,000 acres of various size parcels that private landowners have applied to enroll in the Commercial Forest program this year. For more information on the Commercial Forest program go to <http://Michigan.gov/commercialforest>.

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

- **Planting Events:** This year the Gwinn Wildlife unit held 3 volunteer planting events (Ruffed Grouse Society, MUCC, and the Marquette Alternative High School). We would like to give UP Whitetails and George Lindquist a special thank you for rounding up 18 volunteers on a holiday weekend which allowed us to plant 140 oak trees in two hours. The combination of DNR staff, the volunteer events and contract tree planters the Gwinn unit planted over 1,500 trees and shrubs.
- **Wolf Management Plan Update:** On June 11th the NRC endorsed the 2015 wolf management plan and along with Director Creagh’s signature the updated plan is complete. This new plan is an update to the 2008 Plan. Not a complete revision. The 2008 Plan was developed with extensive public input. The process to update the 2015 Wolf management Plan included two opportunities for public comment and a meeting with the Michigan Wolf Management Forum. We expect that this Updated Plan will continue to successfully guide wolf management in Michigan for at least the next 5 years.
- **Peregrine Falcons:** UP DNR staff recently banded 7 peregrine falcon chicks (3 in Houghton and 4 in Sault Ste. Marie). Three other chicks were banded in Marquette by a contract bander for Wisconsin Electric. Peregrines are considered endangered in Michigan, though they are no longer federally endangered. During the 1960s, the peregrine falcon population declined steeply. The shells of peregrine falcon eggs became extremely fragile because adult birds had accumulated DDT, a pesticide that interfered with calcium metabolism. By 1968, the entire United States peregrine falcon population east of the Mississippi was gone. Today, Michigan is home to only 46 nest sites in the entire state and 38 of them are on artificial structures.
- **Winter Deer Habitat Work Group:** The group continues to make progress on improving critical deer wintering habitat on private lands. Also, the SCI Foundation announced they will provide \$40,000 to help support Steve Carson's work. Steve is the contract biologist who is organizing this group and providing the data needed to keep this group moving forward.
- **Antlerless Deer Hunting Restrictions:** The Michigan NRC on June 11th decided to eliminate the harvest of antlerless deer during the archery season for hunters using deer or deer combo licenses in the Upper Peninsula. The restriction, which does not affect the firearm deer season, will be in effect for the 2015-2016 season. Roughly 5,000 to 6,300 antlerless deer are harvested in the U.P. by archers over each of the past four years. Although deer regulations currently are on a three-year cycle, elements such as weather and disease can cause regulations to be reviewed mid-cycle and adjusted when appropriate.
- **Chronic Wasting Disease:** The MDNR and MDARD on 5/26/15 confirmed that a free-ranging deer in Meridian Township (Ingham County) has tested positive for chronic wasting disease, a fatal neurological disease that affects white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk and moose. This is the first time the disease has been found in Michigan’s free-ranging deer population. The animal was observed last month wandering around a residence and showing signs of illness. Testing occurred at the DNR Wildlife Disease Laboratory and after initial tests were positive, samples were

forwarded to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, for final confirmation. The confirmed positive finding triggers several actions in the state's surveillance and response plan for chronic wasting disease. The plan is available on the DNR web site at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

- **Avian Influenza:** The MDNR and MDARD on 6/8/15 confirmed the state's first cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N2 in the state. The disease was found in free-ranging Canada geese in Macomb County. Avian influenza is a virus that can infect both free-ranging and domestic poultry such as chickens, turkeys, quail and geese. Three goslings collected in Sterling Heights and were tested at the Wildlife Disease Laboratory. These tests were positive and the samples were forwarded to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Lab in Ames, Iowa, for final confirmation. The state's wildlife HPAI plan was developed by DNR's Wildlife Division in 2006. The plan is available on the DNR web site at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Finance and Operations Division: Tim Melko, Administrative Area Manager

- No report.

Law Enforcement Division (LED): Lt. Pete Wright, District 1 Law Supervisor

37 probationary conservation officers graduated from the academy on June 5th and are currently 4 weeks into their first step of training. 4 of the PCO's are training in Gogebic, Menominee, Marquette, and Dickinson Counties. They are progressing very well with many positive comments being generated from the field. The following are some of the activities encountered by the new officers in the western Upper Peninsula during the past 4 weeks:

- CO Mark Leadman and PCO Shannon Kritz contacted two subjects on ORVs operating on a public road closed to ORV operation. One of the subjects was operating with a revoked operator's license. Enforcement action was taken.
- Sgt. Ryan Aho and PCO Shannon Kritz contacted a subject trolling in a remote section of the Greenwood Reservoir. The subject was alone in his boat with 4 lines out. A check for DNR prior violations revealed that the subject was arrested for fishing with more than 3 lines in 2009. Enforcement action was taken.
- Sgt. Grant Emery and PCO Chad Baldwin checked several anglers at McDonald's Dam in Gogebic County. While checking a boat with three anglers, the subjects stated they had a fishing basket full of bluegills. The driver of the boat quickly walked up the boat launch to his truck and avoided any conversation with the officers. Upon further investigation the officers located a second fishing basket that contained an undersized northern pike that was hidden behind some PFDs. Enforcement action was taken.
- Sgt. Grant Emery and PCO Chad Baldwin were assisting the local fire department with a house fire when a call came out that there was a fawn severely entangled in a chain link fence. The COs responded to the call where they located the fawn, which was surrounded by several adults and children. It was determined that when the fire trucks from the house fire passed by with the sirens on, the fawn panicked and entrapped itself in the fence. The children were educated on the proper handling of the fawn and shown how to keep the fawn calm during the rescue. The fawn was then returned to a nearby wooded area to await the arrival of its mother.
- CO Brian Bacon and PCO Chris Lynch contacted a subject who was observed fishing on Bad Water Lake in Dickinson County. The officers made contact with the boat operator and asked the occupants how fishing was going. All but one subject produced a fishing license, with the one subject stating he was not fishing. The officers explained to him that they had observed him fishing, and fortunately for him he did not need a license due to the free fishing weekend.
- CO Brian Bacon and PCO Chris Lynch observed an angler fishing from the dock at an access site. As the officers approached, the subject began to walk away from the dock. When contacted, the subject stated he was not fishing, even with a pole and tackle in hand. The officers explained they had watched the subject fishing. Enforcement action was taken for fishing without a license.
- CO Brian Bacon and PCO Chris Lynch were patrolling a state land road in Dickinson County when they observed a subject pass them at a high rate of speed in a careless manner. The officer turned around and proceeded to try and catch up to the vehicle. The vehicle was traveling carelessly through the road, cutting corners and failing to stop at intersections. The subject was contacted as he entered his driveway, with enforcement action taken.
- A young bull moose was struck and killed by a vehicle on M-95 in Dickinson County. Sgt. Marc Pomroy, CO Brian Bacon and PCO Chris Lynch assisted local deputies with the removal of the moose.

- CO Marvin Gerlach and PCO Brad Silorey conducted a Great Lakes patrol out of Cedar River Harbor. One subject was contacted pre fishing for an upcoming tournament. He was fishing with more than the allowable three lines. Enforcement action was taken.
- PCO Brad Silorey and CO Marvin Gerlach contacted 2 subjects fishing on the Menominee River. Both subject had 3 lines out but neither subject possessed a fishing license. Enforcement action was taken.
- PCO Brad Silorey and CO Marvin Gerlach observed a subject operating his side by side ATV at a high rate of speed down the center of a lane on a state highway in Menominee County. Upon getting the subject stopped about two miles down the highway, the subject stated he was on his way to a family reunion. The stop occurred within sight of the facility hosting the reunion so any relatives present got the opportunity to be educated on the illegal actions taken by the subject. Enforcement action was taken.
- PCO Brad Silorey and CO Marvin Gerlach contacted a husband and wife enjoying an afternoon ride in their side by side ATV on a rural county road. They were enjoying their ride a little too much as was evidenced by the open beers they tried to hide when contacted by the officers. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Mark Leadman and PCO Shannon Kritz noticed an increased number of people on the water on Marquette County inland lakes. Numerous contacts were made. One of the subjects contacted was operating an unregistered watercraft. Appropriate enforcement action was taken.
- CO Brian Bacon and PCO Christopher Lynch were on ORV patrol when they observed a side by side operating without the required ORV permit. The officers conducted a stop of the ORV and contacted the driver. The driver claimed he did not need a Michigan permit because the machine was registered in Wisconsin. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Brian Bacon and PCO Christopher Lynch were just getting ready to launch their patrol boat at an access site when they observed kids on a tube being pulled behind a boat without an observer. Contact was made with the driver and the officers explained the requirement for having an observer present. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Brian Bacon and PCO Christopher Lynch conducted numerous marine patrols in Dickinson County during the past week. The officers addressed violations for failing to register a boat, improper display of registration numbers and fishing with unattended lines.
- CO Dave Painter and PCO Chad Baldwin received a call from a local agency requesting help tracking down a suspect who stole two ORV's. CO Painter and PCO Baldwin investigated the theft the day prior and knew the area that the suspect was last seen. The officers arrived at the scene to find the victim of the crime chasing the suspect down a recreation trail. Contact with the victim was made by CO Painter and PCO Baldwin chased the suspect into a heavily wooded area. A local K9 unit arrived on scene and the pursuit was terminated to ensure the K9 could perform a proper search of the area. The suspect was flushed out of the woods and arrested later that evening. The investigation is ongoing.
- CO Dave Painter and PCO Chad Baldwin were patrolling Fortune Lake when they spotted a suspicious individual sitting in a boat by himself, not actively fishing, and with the motor turned off. The officers made contact and the subject stated that he was trying to get cell reception to call his dad and have him picked up at the boat access. The subject had no PFD's in the boat and had a warrant for his arrest. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Dave Painter and PCO Chad Baldwin were patrolling the Michigamme River when they contacted a boat with an out of state registration and two subjects who had been trolling. One subject did not have a license but stated he was not fishing even though he just reeled in two lines in front of the officers. The other subject who claimed to be the owner of the boat produced a Michigan ID and was asked about the out of state boat registration. She claimed that she did not have a title and could not register the boat. Enforcement action was taken.
- CO Dave Painter and PCO Chad Baldwin received a complaint about several baby raccoons sitting on the side of the road. The officers investigated the complaint and found 3 raccoons too scared to move and no sign of their mother nearby. The officers inspected the raccoons, made sure they were healthy enough to survive, and then relocated them about 150 feet off the road where the mother could pick them up when she returned.

Parks & Recreation Division: William Doan, WUP District Supervisor

CATEGORY & UNIT	ISSUE/HIGHLIGHTS
<p>PUBLIC USE-- PRD (day use, camping)</p>	<p>Baraga State Park Camping is beginning to return to normal summer use. Bond Falls day use was average. Craig Lake State Park Rustic camping even with numbers from FY14. Fort Wilkins Historic State Park Camping picking up with the school year ending; Free fishing weekend brought in lots of fishermen. Menominee State Recreation Area 75% of attendance at Piers Gorge is non-resident. Twin Lakes State Camping usage increasing daily, no sites left for holiday, day-use numbers good with shelters being rented and increased swimming with warmer temps. Good camping numbers considering the poor weather we have had. Van Riper State Park Mem Day Weekend; Modern filled; rustic campground was half full; LPI cabins were booked; issued over 100 Recreation Passport Violation Notices at Little Presque Isle. Rustic cabin nights up 45% compared to YTD FY14 Wells State Park all rustic cabins were full for the memorial weekend We were 95% for memorial day and the cabins and lodge were full</p>
<p>OTHER DNR RECREATION (Pathways, BAS, DUA, campgrounds, ORV)</p>	<p>Baraga Field Office (Construction Crew) Construction Crew installed two new vault toilets and sidewalk at Bond Falls Scenic Site. Baraga State Park SFCG sites varied: Big Eric's, King Lake and Big Lake had good use, Deer Lake was average. Bewabic State Park BAS had average. Crew mapped Glidden trail system with GPS in order to update trail maps. Craig Lake State Park Boating Access Sites were busy. Escanaba Field Office (Recreation) State Campground occupancy is comparable to last FY with the exception of Bass Lake which is up considerably. Ford River BAS continues to receive very high use from both boating public and shoreline fishing. Escanaba Field Office (Construction Crew) Complete Indian Lake State Park Headquarters septic system replacement. Road repair in Indian Lake State Park campground to improve water drainage. Maintenance dredge at Indian Lake State Park boat launch. Fort Wilkins Historic State Park Eagle harbor Boathouse is progressing. The roof is mostly done, but our progress meeting was cancelled. McLain State Park- Replaced 500 feet of sewer line and installed an exit road which enabled us to keep most of the campsites open to the public and the day use toilet building open. Menominee State Recreation Area BAS sites average use. Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park Big iron BAS sand removal again. Twin Lakes State Park Misery bay BAS use good with river and Lake Superior fishermen enjoying the area. Orv traffic up, with nice weather. Usual fishermen using BAS, more over the free fishing weekend. BAS usual fishing traffic, more blue gill/Crappie fishermen, buggy conditions remain for shoreline fishermen, Fishermen picking up a few nice lake trout from last year's planting. Good catches of bluegills, Bass and perch being taken at twins lakes and surrounding BAS sites. Van Riper State Park Boating Access Sites busy. Trail cleanup at Thunder Valley Equestrian Trails LPI Cabins: Cabin nights are up 78 nights compared to this time in FY14. BAS staff was writing violation notices at BAS sites (they are experienced staff from downstate), after some quick re-education they are now all squared away about recreation passports required at our UP sites. More trail work is planned in the near future for Harlow Lake. Trail work at Harlow Lake has been scouted by Supervisor Barry and new ranger Brian Krease. Material has started to be staged at the Harlow Lake BAS site to repair some wet areas along the trail. Miss Dig was called and the ticket number was checked on already for the go ahead on digging for the LPI Category 2 entrance signs. We are still waiting on the county to put up the brown and white HDO signs along CR 550. Blueberry Ridge: Supervisor Barry had a meeting this past week regarding the well and septic at the Warming Hut. Progress is moving along well with that project. FRD from Gwinn is looking to do the installation of the septic. Wells State Park Due to the amount of water in the campground there are multiple ruts that need fixing. The Copper harbor area held its annual Longest day fishing tournament on Saturday, despite an all- day rain. There were 13 boat trailers in the Copper harbor marina lot in the morning. Lac Le Belle was very busy.</p> <p>Rail-Trail Projects: Menominee River Bridge: A \$70,000 grant was attained through a RTP grant for engineering on the Menominee River Bridge. Efforts are still underway to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Wisconsin and then put new decking and railing on the bridge to accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, equestrians, ORV's, etc. Wisconsin DNR was not willing to enter into an MOU to share to costs of construction so we are looking at partnering with Florence County. Stateline Trail Connector – Kopela Road to Wakefield: We are working on purchasing easements to complete the segment of rail-trail between Kopela Road and Wakefield. Our goal is to complete the Stateline rail-trail from Iron Mountain to Ironwood. We've attained written agreements with 5 landowners and are waiting on two. Houghton to Chassell rail-trail: Brushing</p>

was completed this fall on portions of the trail. Brushing will resume this spring with some drainage work being accomplished as well. Additional grant dollars will be sought this spring. We are working on a lease arrangement where Portage Twp. and the City of Houghton would lease the segments of rail-trail in their respective municipalities. **Rockland to Ontonagon:** This segment was purchased last summer. We are in the process of designating this as a multi-purpose trail. The ownership that we attained in the Village, where the old rail-yard was, will be leased to the Village for use as a park. **Washouts:** We have had several washouts on our rail-trails this spring. The two most notable are: Lake Linden: Involves about 100' of missing trail. Repair is two faceted either rebuild the trail or remediate the damage to the stream bed AND Ishpeming to Republic ORV route: 40' of missing trail. Repair will involve a new box culvert, four cross drainage culverts, and remediation. **Bridge/Trestle Grants:** We have many trestles in the West U.P. that need rehabilitation. Grants are being sought and engineering and construction are occurring on trestles on the - Stateline rail-trail, Baraga to Arnheim rail-trail, Bergland to Sidnaw rail-trail, Felch Grade rail-trail, Lake Linden Rail-Trail and Houghton to Chassell rail-trail. We have identified the highest 15 priorities and we are focusing on them. Total costs associated with rehabilitation of top 15 priority structures will be over 10 million dollars. **Esanaba to Hermansville:** This rail-trail is under construction and is being resurfaced and three bridges are being redecked and railed. This is occurring as part of an agreement with the utility company ATC who is also installing an overhead powerline on the rail-trail. This construction project is planned to be completed by 2017 at which time the rail-trail will be designated as a multi-purpose trail. **Little Lake to Chatham:** Work just beginning on acquiring the segments of this rail-trail that the State does not own. A snowmobile grant has preliminarily been approved to fund key acquisitions. Letters will be going out to key landowners this month. If these acquisitions can be completed, this corridor would help connect the eastern and western U.P. with multi-purpose trail.

Snowmobile Trail Updates:

Trail 11 South from Wakefield to Winchester WI Remains Closed: Logging continues on this trail, it's been closed the last two winters - it will be closed until logging winds down. **Trail 2 Between Wakefield and Bessemer is Closed until Further Notice:** A key land permit has been lost and currently a reroute is not available. The Gogebic Range Trail Authority and Convention and Visitors Bureau are exploring possible reroutes and hopefully have something for next winter. The DNR will be meeting with the CVB and Wakefield Twp to look at a possible reroute on July 6th. **Trail 11N between Wakefield and the Porkies is Closed until Further Notice:** A key land permit has been lost. Reroutes are being explored. **Trail 8 Near Eben Junction:** Closed due to loss of key land permit. A reroute has been identified but involves a new MDOT crossing, construction work, and permission to use Alger County Road. A trail proposal is in process. MDOT has approved the crossing. Things are looking promising. **Trail 14 Crossing of US-41:** Land control at the existing US-41 crossing site near Best Buy has been lost. We are exploring new places to cross US-41 in this congested area. A meeting with MDOT, Big Bay 550 Snowmobile Club, Hiawatha Snowmobile Club, DNR, and Lindberg Construction occurred this week. Hopefully a solution can be reached.

Equestrian Trail Projects:

New Signage: We have developed some new signing for shared use trails in Marquette County. **Simar Campground Proposal:** This campground proposal has been approved. Work is ongoing now to identify money for construction and develop a Directors Order allowing us to require Recreation Passport and collect money for camping. **Thunderberry Trail Proposal:** This is a proposed connector trail in Sands Township, Marquette County. The proposal needs permission from private landowners in order to be approved.

Pathway Projects:

Keweenaw Bike/Hike Pathway – Copper Harbor to High Rock: This proposal has been entered in the trail proposal database and is being reviewed. This would be a bike and hike trail from Copper Harbor to High Rock Bay developed mostly on State lands. **LPI Project:** There is a mountain bike trail that is being proposed for the Little Presque Isle tract north of Marquette.

INFRA-STRUCTURE

Baraga Field Office (Construction Crew) Lake Angeline BAS to begin construction third week in July. Site layout and preparation underway. Many minor construction projects through the spring. Baraga FO worked on site prep at Bond Falls for vault toilet replacement and hazard tree removal, road grading, and built BAS kiosks. Construction crew assisted with install of fire rings at Deer Lake SCG; replaced skid pier at Greenwood Reservoir; hauled gravel/stone to Harlow Lake. **Bewabic State Park** Found electrical problem with site 94 – frost affected an electrical pedestal causing lines to pull away from the outlets. Spoke with an electrician regarding the repair. Having issues with the drain field for the sanitation station. The issues with the electrical and septic pumps were caused by

	<p>the drain field which was not allowing the liquid we were discharging to drain. Cedar River State Harbor Infrastructure reduction spring pole removal, ice damage. Copper Harbor We also had a leaking toilet at the Copper harbor Marina. Craig Lake State Park Roof at Craig Lake Large Cabin looks really good and held up well for its first winter. Floor at Teddy Lake Yurt got its last coat of polyurethane and the table inside was refinished and is now back open for rentals. New futon was taken up to the Large Cabin. A couple of staff members at Van Riper who are interning through NMU are doing a feasibility study on the potential locations to put in a new trail from the Keewaydin Yurt to the north and around the area where there is currently nothing. The hope is to provide for more recreational opportunities and spread out impact on the Craig Lake area. LPI road grading was done by Jon from the Baraga FO Escanaba Field Office (Recreation) Three BAS vault toilets removed due to vandalism or environmental concerns. Brushing and Road maintenance continue. Parking lot curbing re-configured at Bass Lake ORV trailhead for improved user parking. Pike Lake BAS was repaired from winter logging damage. Bass Lake SFC day use and launch area were improved for reduced staff maintenance and improved visual presentation. Picnic table repairs in process for State Campgrounds. New site marker posts installed at Bass Lake SFCG. Escanaba Field Office (Construction Crew) Completed site work at Greenwoods Reservoir; Removed vault toilet and cracked tank at Lake Ellen; SFCG brushing/trimming. Completed harbor dock repairs at Fayette Historic State Park. Complete Indian Lake State Park Headquarters septic system replacement. Road repair in Indian Lake State Park campground to improve water drainage. Maintenance Dredge at Indian Lake State Park boat launch Fort Wilkins Historic State Park Several water line leaks in the campground toilet buildings. All were repaired. Eagle Harbor Boathouse; Contractor continues on the roof shingle replacement substantial completion expected on 7-2-15. Baraga maintenance crew is dug out the old boat railroad tracks at the Eagle River boathouse. Continued with the rebuilding of the Cemetery fence in the Historic Complex. Staff painted the underside of the overhanging porch on the west Officer quarters barracks. Replace five of the Fort stockade posts. F.W. Natural History Association purchased two new clothes dryers for our East toilet building. Lake Gogebic State Park. DEQ (review of sewage lagoon system). Working on placement of interpretive signage on park trail. Continuing with cleanup of scrap metal at headquarters- with two ten yard dumpsters filled so far. Working on clearing out culverts of debris for better campground drainage. Hazard tree removal throughout park. Updates to the playground equipment. New water heater installed and operational in the north bathroom building. Hazard tree removal throughout park. Sand box and Tether Ball installed at playground. McLain State Park No problems with the new sewer, one way road was opened. Menominee State Recreation Area Ground around the vault at Lake Ellen BAS caved in; damage to vault and part of the road. Worked on cutting fallen trees off the trail at Piers Gorge between the first 4th pier sign and the 2nd 4th pier sign. Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park Aged mowers down off and on. Road improvements into Yurts (L.C and LUR) ongoing. Porkies T/S building construction building begins 7-6-2015. Trail project continues. 3 trail heads, 15 culverts, 15 miles of x-country trail improvements. UB BAS- received DEQ and CORPS permits, bid packet ready to be posted and construction anticipated for this fall. Initiating contract with consultant for removal of Union Spring Dam removal. Toilet building review hardware selections continued; Construction began on Big Carp Composter east; Stumping underway in campgrounds. Stumping completed at Union Bay; ongoing at Presque Isle. Hazard tree project completed at Presque Isle with contractor. Construction near completion on Big Carp Composter east. Old deck taken off back of folk school and damaged roads cold patched at Union Bay. Solar tubes installed at Presque Isle. Twin Lakes State Park No problems with new sewage pumps. Work continues on water standard which has developed a leak, working on 40 year old equipment is quite trying. Van Riper State Park \$12,000 upgrades to water treatment building. All buildings are open and operating well at this point. BBR warming hut 80% complete with construction. Anticipated to be open for public use this coming use season. Started replacing powerboxes that needed it around the park. Invasive Burdock has been found in various locations around the park. Identified by park staff. Sanitation Station seems to keep backing up after it rains and not to mention when it gets busy. All mowers were down at one point this week however we are making progress on getting a couple up and running and purchasing a new one. Fire rings were delivered from Cadillac Culvert. Park staff placed the poles, landscaped and put the new rubber chips in the main area of the playground. New fall protection is a great thing and will help to keep kids safer while playing. Wells State Park Many sites are underwater due to continued rain causing many ruts to be filled. The beach house shelter was shut down due to plumbing issues.</p>
<p>SPECIAL EVENTS</p>	<p>Baraga State Park Park staff held a free fishing pond for kids at the Baraga County Lake Trout Festival (L'Anse) for Free Fishing Weekend. The brook trout were donated by Keweenaw Bay Tribal Hatchery. Over 175 kids and 90 adults participated. Youth Fishing Derby held at the park in honor of Free Fishing Weekend. Had 48 youth participants brave the rain and a few nice fish caught.</p>

	<p>Lots of prizes awarded and good comments from participants. Partnered with Wildlife Unlimited of Iron County, Iron County Conservation, and the Fortune Chain of Lakes Association. On 6/16/15 Northstar Health System hosted their annual Total Woman event and counted 186 participants, record year! OUTFIT Event with partner Baraga County Memorial Hospital; bad weather led to poor attendance. Fort Wilkins Historic State Park Fort Wilkins Historical Park held its 18th annual Memorial Day program put on by the grade school children from the Copper Harbor school. About 80 people attended the event. We had to move inside the West barracks due to the heavy rain. Usual attendance is 200-300 people. Summer Interpreters started their annual role playing in the Fort Complex. Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park Ranger Farley worked fishing derby in Ontonagon; Ranger Newkirk worked ATV ride at county park. Ranger Knack and two stw's participated in BOW event. Twin Lakes State Park 4th annual Park to Park ride, held on Saturday June 13th, over 50 ORV and side by sides rode from Twin Lakes State Park to the Ontonagon Township park. The Pre-meeting was held in the enclosed shelter at the park where everyone enjoyed coffee and donuts. The event did have its problems with some riders having flat tires, but with trail side repairs the riders were able to make their way to the Park. Van Riper State Park Very quiet start to the season. District Supervisor Bill Doan, Supervisor Doug Barry and Lead Ranger Debra Gill conducted Ranger interviews for the new ranger position at Little Presque Isle. Explorer Guide Heather did an off-site program that was requested of her at Peak Gymnastics where she took the fur kit and did a program for the public and another off-site program at Camp Michigamme for the youth group program going on there this past week. Her numbers have been pretty good and her programs are going well. Wells State Park Welcome back campers event (friends group).</p>
<p>ENFORCEMENT/ INCIDENTS</p>	<p>Baraga State Park Park Registration Office broken into through an opened window. Cash drawer keys stolen and drawer insert removed. MSP notified for report. Nothing else disturbed or stolen. Had some trash and beer cans left on a site at Big Eric's Bridge SCG and 15 cars around one site at Baraga SP Bewabic State Park A handful of "quiet hour" reminders. Cedar River State Harbor Lost/stray dog at the harbor. Owner was found and reunited. Craig Lake State Park Complaints were taken and 1 reservation moved from the Keewaydin yurt to the Peshekee cabin at Van Riper, due to being stuck in the road because of the wet conditions and the logging trucks making ruts in the road. The yurt visitor moved also because of the noise from the logging trucks. The road has since been graded by the logging company and is passable. Escanaba Field Office (Recreation) Gene's Pond SFCG boat launch continues to be full with poor recreation passport compliance. Violation notices are being written.contact – one family set up on more than one site without paying for two sites, and a couple quite hour reminders. Gene's Pond SFCG boat launch recreation passport compliance is improving. Several Bass Lake SFCG users were contacted for rule compliance. Multiple noise complaints at Bass Lake SFCG. Motor Vehicle Permit Compliance increasing, Violations written declining. Dogs off of leashes continue to be a problem at Bass Lake SFCG as well as ultiple Noise and controlled substance complaints. Fort Wilkins Historic State Park Staff was kept busy enforcing the two car rule on the campground campsites. Several complaints from our lighthouse tour contractor, about fishermen using the Copper harbor boat piers for fishing. We had to remind several groups of fishermen at the Copper Harbor Docks about, no fishing on the Harbor piers. This is an on- going problem. Rescue boat was removed by someone but later found on shore in the campground. Ranger Kimbell talked to one camper from Washington State who drove across Canada and came to Michigan by way of Maine. We were the first one who inspected their firewood and they had Ash logs but never had a campfire during their camping time. She confiscated their firewood. There was a loud group on the trails on the south side of Fanny Hoe Lake on early Saturday morning at 1:00A.M. Park Officer Kimmell went over and told the group to leave, and they left. Lake Gogebic State Park Warnings for power loading at boat launch within park /basic enforcement up significantly this week. Dogs off leash, speed, and parking warnings. McLain State Park Staff had to remind people that the traffic flow is one way. Staff told people when they checked in, but people still had the tendency to travel the wrong way. Majority now have the system figured out, and it ran smoothly. Ticket written for parking in a non-designated area. Menominee State Recreation Area Working on getting better compliance at Self Registration station at Piers Gorge by adjusting booth hours and violation notices Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park One S/R to Mirror Lake for broken ankle. Warnings for dog off leash within park. Rescue assist on stuck car near lost creek. 1 S/R 3 hikers extracted from government peak area. State police called to deal with rowdy camp site over weekend. Van Riper State Park A few noise warnings given out. Seem to be getting a lot of younger groups in that are starting to be a problem. The crummy weather helps to keep visitors from getting too rowdy. ORV's somehow getting on the beach at Harlow Lake. Reported from concerned visitor to booth staff at LPI. Law Enforcement: Lots of dogs off their leashes, quite a few noise warnings given out, 1 site of minors drinking where alcohol was dumped and they left the park, that's it for now. Boaters/</p>

	<p>jet-skiers are starting to get too close to the swim buoys. Staff on Saturday spent some time educating boaters as they beached about the required distance from the buoys when boating. Wells State Park EAB wood confiscated from many campers(6)</p>
<p>COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (contacts/meetings with other agencies/governments)</p>	<p>Baraga State Park Continued planning for County Disaster Drill. The partnership project with the L'Anse 5th grade class concluded with the planting/installation of two 3' x 5' native species planter boxes in the park and small open house for the students. Meeting with MRS to start two workers on 6/15. BSP participated in their second county wide disaster drill. The drill was simulated a severe weather event and tornado passing through the park. Employees were critiqued on notification, reaction, evacuation, and park security. Staff did an excellent job working as a team and utilizing the developed plans. Other agencies involved were Bay Ambulance, Baraga and L'Anse FD, County Road Commission, Sheriff and MSP, Baraga County Memorial Hospital. Bewabic State Park Four staff members attended a boat washing demonstration at the Crystal Falls Township Hall 6/18/15. Craig Lake State Park Supervisor Barry has been in contact with NCT folks and they are planning a trail work day on 05/28/2015. Ranger Coron and a couple of STW staff from Van Riper assisted some NCT volunteers on some trail clearing at Craig Lake State Park. After the record rainfall we received, the boardwalks they had hoped to repair were under water. Trail clearing was done. More trail clearing on the NCT with NCT volunteers and assistance from staff and our equipment. Escanaba Field Office (Recreation) Timber Harvest proposal was discussed and added to 2017 inventory at Escanaba FRD pre-review for the PRD administered Felch Grade Rail Trail. Proposal was initiated by PRD Supervisor due to severe forest health decline from multiple forest pests. Fort Wilkins Historic State Park Meeting with the Eagle Harbor Museum leaders regarding the removal of soil / fill from the front door near the boat railroad tracks by the Baraga Construction crew. Met with two landowners about the state purchasing their property that is next to the park. Meeting w/ the Copper Harbor Chamber of Commerce about our mutual events and area. Sent a letter out for the Anderson Sawmill property, to see if the owner is interested in selling. Menominee State Recreation Area Contact with rafting company manager from WI regarding Verso property gate and MRSRA management plan. Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park School group hike on the escarpment with USFS / Merk Farley and Knack attended camp 911 with S/R boat. Twin Lakes State Park Meet with local township and give event schedule for season and fish plants. Park hosted the National Park service in May for their Law enforcement officer training. DNR staff from Twin, Baraga and the Porkies were able to help and participate in some of the exercises. Special volunteer project occurred with boy scout group. Van Riper State Park Supervisor Doug Barry assisted with interviews for the MARESA- Summer Youth Works Crew help hired our 2 new crews this season that will be assisting us at Van Riper State Park. Supervisor Barry attended the International Mountain Bike Symposium last week and made some good contacts. One of our STWs that is interested in the biology field attended the CUPCWMA meeting in Chatham. Little Presque Isle: Cabins and day use has been fairly busy. On average there have been around 75 violation notices written a weekend with a decent return on people actually purchasing their passports. Road into the main parking lot was graded by Baraga Construction Crew. Blueberry Ridge (BBR): The Superiorland Friends Group is moving along with the warming hut. Planning and permitting on the septic system and well for the Warming Hut are making forward progress. Supervisor Barry met with folks from the Lake Superior Watershed Conservancy who are on involved with the Michigan Water Trails. They were looking for information about where they could stay along the Lake Superior shoreline.</p>
<p>MARKETING/ DIVERSITY (the good, the bad, the bizarre)</p>	<p>Baraga State Park. Kelly Somero assisted with final preparations for Twin Lakes SPORT Ride and planning for Summer Reading in the Parks event at Bewabic State Park. Staff had an interview with the Mining Gazette on 4th of July activities and was also contacted by a writer wanting to include the park history in a book about Bishop Frederic Baraga. Bewabic State Park Had a camper at a state forest campground haul their ice fishing shanty to the site and camped in it over the weekend ... talk about finding uses outside of the normal operating season!! On 6/15/15 Crystal Falls Township added large rocks to the end of a free public access site on Fortune Lake to prevent boat trailer access (still allowing carry-in carry-out). Craig Lake State Park Brian from Discovering is staying in the Keewaydin Lake Yurt this Monday night to do a story/show on Craig Lake and what that area has to offer. We are excited to see the outcome ☺ Discovering is doing a 2 part series on Craig Lake and is doing a segment on back country camping. ☺ Escanaba Field Office (Recreation) Providing assistance with project cost estimation and STW project oversight at UP Pocket Park. Fort Wilkins Historic State Park Lots of out of state visitors this past week. Menominee State Recreation Area The BAS crew went out to Carney Lake SFC earlier in the week to find only 1 van in the campground and a woman leaning on the water pump waving them down. She was camping in the van by herself when she stepped out at midnight to watch the northern lights and accidentally</p>

locked herself out of the van. She was pretty shook up and bug-bitten by the time the guys came along. They gave her a cell phone to call for help as well as bottled tea from their lunchbox. They told her they wouldn't leave her alone, but had to get some work done in the campground. As they were walking away she yelled at the top of her lungs, "God bless the DNR!!!" **Porcupine**

Mountains Wilderness State Park UTR Michigan television show filmed on Tuesday with Bob Wild and Dave Merk @ LOC and PI. **Twin Lakes State Park** Flyers in local business, radio ads and newspaper articles promoting the ride from Twin lakes to the township park in Ontonagon. Newspaper article on park in local paper and of upcoming events Park to park ride (lots of radio coverage). **Van Riper State Park** Lots of interviews with the local TV stations lately, Supervisor Barry did a live onsite visit with TV6. The local TV stations and newspapers are very interested in the newest Friends Group- Friends of Harlow Lake. Supervisor Doug Barry met with ABC 10 at Harlow Lake at Little Presque Supervisor Barry did a live onsite visit with TV6 this morning about moose. Accounting Assistant Melanie Brand had a conference call for the upcoming Touch the truck event. She also had a TV interview with ABC10 about general Recreation Passport information Accounting Assistant Brand had a conference call for marketing this past week. Both Craig Lake and Van Riper's Facebook pages have been fairly active. Staff removed Invasive Japanese Knotweed. Wild Parsnip is next on our invasive species management list.