



Western Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports Date of Production: July 2016

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, 2016 meeting in Calumet, MI.

Upper Peninsula Regional Coordinator Update – Stacy Haughey, UP Regional Coordinator

DNR Public Meetings

July 12	DNR/DEQ Retirees Picnic, Presque Isle Pavilion, Marquette, 11:00am
July 14	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing
July 14	Forest Compartment Review (Baraga Management Unit), DNR Baraga Office, 9:00am
July 19	UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, Raber Area Sportsmans Club, Goetzville, 6:00pm
July 21	Western UP Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting, Calumet, 5:30pm
August 4	Forestry Open House (Delta & Menominee Counties), DNR Stephenson Office, 3:00pm CDT
August 11	Natural Resources Commission Meeting, Lansing
August 24	UP Sportsman Coalition Meeting, DNR Shingleton Field Office, 6:00pm
August 25	Eastern UP Citizen's Advisory Council Meeting, Newberry, 6:30pm
August 25	Forest Compartment Review (Delta & Menominee Counties), State Office Building, Escanaba, 9:30am

U.P. State Park & State Sponsored Activities

July 15/22/29	Jackson Mine Site, Michigan Iron Industry Museum-Iron Ore Heritage Trail Bike Tour
July 16	Baraga State Park - Kayaking 101 & 202
July 16	Indian Lake State Park - Street Chalk Art
July 19	Michigan Iron Industry Museum-Inside Elden's True Army Tales
July 20	Indian Lake State Park - Stories by Sgt. John A. Walker
July 22-23	Wells State Park - Christmas in July
July 22	Indian Lake State Park - Ice Cream Social & Musician Bob Hausler
July 23	Fayette Historic State Park - A Paranormal Event
July 23	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park - Letting Loose with Watercolors (All Day)
July 26	Michigan Iron Industry Museum-The Italian Hall Disaster: What Has Been Learned a Century Later
July 27	Indian Lake State Park - Hilltop RV Maintenance Clinic
July 28-29	Straits State Park - Turkey talk with the National Wild Turkey Federation
July 28	Indian Lake State Park - Indian Lake Honey Bees
July 29-30	Baraga State Park - Christmas in July
July 29-31	Fort Wilkins Historic State Park-Battery D, 1st Michigan Light Artillery Civil War Encampment
July 30	Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park - Beach Art & Mirror Frame
July 30	Palms Book State Park - Family Fun Day

Upcoming U.P. Recreation Events

For a host of events around the UP, go to www.uptravel.com

August 15-21 UP State Fair Week, Escanaba—**Consider volunteering at the DNR Pocket Park!**

Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- DNR recruiting applicant to serve on Snowmobile Advisory Workgroup (6/29/16)
- DNR to reopen Union Bay boat launch (6/28/16)
- Bergland Dock boating access site to temporarily close starting July 11 (6/28/16)
- Showcasing the DNR: Recovering the past at Copper Harbor (6/28/16)
- Help kids hunt and shoot Aug 15-21 at the UP State Fair (6/27/16)
- State urges travelers to leave firewood at home (6/21/16)
- DNR opens 18-hole disc golf course at Porcupine Mountains (6/17/16)
- Showcasing the DNR: Five years of Recreation Passport progress (6/16/16)
- Johnson Lake Boating Access Site to temporarily close for renovations (6/15/16)
- Ride off-road vehicles safely and legally this summer (6/13/16)
- Anglers asked to complete online muskellunge survey (6/9/16)
- DNR seeks input on updated Michigan Deer Management Plan (6/7/16)
- Time for homeowners to spray for spruce budworms (6/6/16)
- Michigan DNR graduates 16 new conservation officers (6/3/16)
- DNR partners with residents on road project (6/3/16)

Grant Contacts

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

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

June 9, 2016 NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met June 9th at Jay's Sporting Goods in Gaylord. Here are the major actions taken:

- The Commission approved new furbearer regulations.
- The Commission delayed until next month a decision on chumming regulations in order to gather more public input. Most members of the public who spoke at the commission meeting addressed the chumming issue. Commissioners asked the department to draft a proposed chumming regulation that would continue to allow the practice but limit the amount of chum used.
- The director approved the results of the May Oil and Gas Lease Auction. More than 11,000 acres of mineral rights were leased in 13 counties, raising more than \$797,000 for the State Parks Endowment Fund.
- The director approved six land transactions. Details of these transactions can be found in the NRC agenda.

The day began with a new initiative the NRC has undertaken dubbed "Coffee and Commissioners." The event allows the public to interact directly with commissioners, ask questions and make suggestions outside the formal venue of public comment at

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

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

NRC meetings. Commissioners plan to hold these informal get-togethers when they have meetings outside Lansing. The first Coffee with Commissioners event was held in February in Detroit.

Next was a meeting of the **Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee**. The following items were covered:

- Belle Isle Public Survey Results: Parks and Recreation Chief Ron Olson reported to the committee on this survey of people in the metro Detroit area. The results showed high satisfaction with the park among those who visited and high satisfaction with state management of the park. The survey also showed that two-thirds of those surveyed thought that Belle Isle is an appropriate venue for large-scale events, including the Chevrolet Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix, which took place last weekend.
- Pet Friendly Lodging Pilot Program: Seventy-seven percent of travelers have a pet that influences their travel decisions. Parks is piloting pet-friendly lodging in select destinations across the state. Parks has selected four pilot locations -- Lime Island cabin, Cheboygan State Park Lodge, Harrisville State Park cabin and Lelenau State Park cabin, said Maia Turek of Parks. Each location would continue to have pet-free options available to guests during the course of the pilot. The pilot is scheduled to be conducted June 2017 through October 2017, with evaluation and final recommendations by Dec. 15, 2017.
- Finance sub-committee update: Jackie Blodgett of Parks gave an overview of the budget for state parks, recreational boating and trails. Revenues for these programs totaled \$106.4 million in Fiscal Year 2016. Of that, \$64.2 million went toward state parks funding, \$22.7 million to state forest and trails funding (including grants), \$17.2 million to recreational boating funding, and the remainder to the RAM Center and Sterling State Park revenue bonds.
- Paul Yauk and Anna Sylvester of Parks gave a report on rail-trail corridors and land administration of those corridors. That administration has been a matter of discussion within the department since the 2012 transfer of forest recreation from Forest Resources Division to Parks and Recreation Division. The divisions are working together to clarify administration of these trails.
- Jason Fleming of Parks reported to the committee on the scoring and pricing of events in state parks. Scoring is a tool to gauge impacts of events on park resources. The Parks Division plans to establish a policy on scoring and pricing, with the hope of simplifying the process for local staff. The policy will recognize that some events, such as commercial and for-profit events, should be treated differently than community, local government or school-related events.

The Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries met next. The following issues were covered:

- Fisheries update: Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter reported on the issue of chumming, the practice of using organic material, primarily fish eggs, to attract fish. The practice is currently allowed in Michigan. The department has collected nearly 100 comments on whether the practice should continue. The comments are evenly split in support of and in opposition to chumming. Jim emphasized that regulatory recommendations to the commission always look at biological impacts, social impacts and economic impacts. In addition, Jim said the department is working with the National Parks Service -- which manages Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore -- to develop an additional boating access site for access to Platte Bay. On June 22, there will be a joint meeting of the Lake Michigan and Lake Huron advisory committees to focus on Chinook salmon in those fisheries. Jim also announced the discovery of New Zealand mud snail in the East Branch of the Au Sable River near Grayling. The invasive species was found last year in the Pere Marquette River near Baldwin. The department is informing the public and distributing information through fly shops to enlist anglers in stopping the spread of the species.
- Wildlife update: Wildlife Chief Russ Mason, reported that the Wildlife Habitat Grant application period has begun. Proposal applications are due by COB on July 20, 2016. Successful applicants will be notified on or about October 1, 2016. The Division is replacing a siphon tube at the Shiawassee River State Game Area and should have that completed by September. In mid-July Kelly Straka will become the DNR's new wildlife veterinarian. Kelly currently serves as wildlife veterinarian for the state of Missouri. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering listing moose as a threatened or endangered species. The department will work with the Service and other states to inform evaluation of this proposal.

- **Hunter Access Program:** Mike Parker of Wildlife reported on the state's Hunter Access Program (HAP), by which the department leases private lands to increase hunting opportunities for everyone. The number of enrolled HAP acres has declined significantly since the early 1980s, primarily because of a reduction in program funding. The 2010 Farm Bill created Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program grants that have helped revive the HAP. Surveys of property owners show they are very satisfied with their participation in the program. Surveys of hunters show that HAP is meeting a need for increased access to hunting lands. This year for the first time the department will be doing habitat enhancement on HAP lands.
- **Deer Harvest Survey Report:** Brian Frawley of Wildlife presented the results of the 2015 Deer Harvest Survey. The number of kill tags issued for 2015 was roughly 1.3 million, down about 2 percent from 2014. The number of individual hunters in 2015 was 654,579, down about 1 percent. Antlerless harvest was 137,073 deer in 2015, down 5 percent from the previous year. Antlered buck harvest totaled 191,608, an increase of 8 percent from the previous year, a significant jump. All told in 2015, 42 percent of hunters were successful, a 1 percent increase over the previous year. Hunter satisfaction was up this year across all categories measured -- number of deer seen, number of bucks seen, overall hunting experience and deer harvested.

During the **Committee of the Whole** Director Bill Moritz and staff gave a report that included the following items:

- **Arauco and forestry update:** Acting Forestry Chief Deb Begalle reported that the fire season has been relatively light, despite very dry conditions at times. The state experienced about half the wild fires on about one fifth of the acreage this year compared to last year. Forestry has planted 7 million seedlings this year on 7,200 acres, an increase over last year. The department is close to signing three Good Neighbor Authority agreements with the U.S. Forest Service to promote collaborate management of national forest land in Michigan. We are the second state in the nation to sign such an agreement. Finally, ground should be broken this fall for the Arauco particleboard plant in Grayling, which will be a boost to the local economy and to timber markets.
- **Parks and Trails:** Parks Chief Ron Olson said that lodging reservations are up 10.3 percent this year over last at state parks. Recreation Passport sales are up 1.8 percent. Harbor reservations are up 12 percent. ORV license sales are up 1.5 percent and ORV trail stickers are up 13.2 percent. More than half-a-million dollars was raised for the Belle Isle Conservancy at the Grand Prixmiere on Belle Isle last weekend. The division will cut the ribbon this week on the first five miles of a 15-mile mountain bike trail at Waterloo State Recreation Area. Tom Paquin, Eastern Upper Peninsula district supervisor for the Parks Division, is retiring at the end of the month.
- **Arctic Grayling Initiative:** Fisheries Chief Jim Dexter talked about a new program to return the Arctic grayling to Michigan. The Arctic grayling is a native and iconic fish species in the state. The slate-blue fish has a sail-like dorsal fin and was at one time virtually the only native stream salmonid in the Lower Peninsula. Michigan's native grayling population died off nearly a century ago due to statewide logging efforts of the 1800s, over-fishing and general habitat destruction. Reintroduction efforts have occurred in Michigan, the most recent one 30 years ago. While unsuccessful at that time, lessons were learned and significant strides have been made to establish a better strategy to move this initiative forward. The goal is to establish a self-sustaining population of the fish throughout its historic range in the state. The state will work in partnership with the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians on this project.
- **Department Budget:** Erik Eklund of the Finance and Operations Division said the DNR budget has been passed by both chambers of the Legislature and is awaiting a signature by the governor. Although the department saw a slight decrease in its General Fund request, the budget largely mirrors Gov. Snyder's recommendation for DNR funding.
- **Conservation Officer Academy Graduation:** Law Enforcement Chief Gary Hagler said that 16 conservation officers have graduated from the most recent Conservation Officer Academy, bringing the number of COs in Michigan to 227. The officers completed the 22-week academy and now enter 18 weeks of field training.
- **Lifesaving Award:** Chief Hagler presented the award to Conservation Officer Kyle Bader of Ogemaw County. In March of this year, CO Bader was dispatched to help a man who was believed to be suicidal. CO Bader was able to locate the man on state-managed public land, traveling part of the way on foot to find him. The man was in his truck, which was running and had a hose connected from the exhaust pipe to the cab of the truck. CO Bader was able to pull the

man from the truck. Although pale and groggy, the man revived and is doing much better since the incident, according to his family.

- Steve Schmitt Retirement: Wildlife Chief Russ Mason honored Dr. Steve Schmitt, retiring state wildlife veterinarian, for his 38 years of service to the department and to natural resources in Michigan. Steve has overseen a variety of big issues for the department, from tranquilizing moose in Algonquin Park in Canada for transfer to Michigan, to responding to the finding of chronic wasting disease in Michigan's free-ranging deer population. Russ praised Steve for his outstanding work through the years.

July 14, 2016 NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met Thursday, July 14, at the MSU Diagnostic Center in Lansing. Here are the major actions taken at the meeting:

- The Commission approved Fisheries Order 200.16A, regulating statewide trout, salmon, whitefish, lake herring and smelt and adopting Option 3 of the chumming regulations. Option 3 prohibits chumming with organic materials on all Type 1, 2, 3, and 4 streams.
- The director approved two land transactions. Details of the transactions can be found in the NRC agenda.

The day began with "Coffee with the Commissioners" at the Lansing Customer Service Center where several members of the public met with commissioners to ask questions and make comments outside the formal public comments venue of the NRC meeting.

Beginning at 1 p.m., the **Policy Committee on Wildlife and Fisheries** met.

- Fisheries update: Fisheries Division Chief Jim Dexter reported on a trip to the U.P. two weeks ago when he and Nick Popoff met with several different fishing groups and organizations as well as representatives from the Wisconsin NRC. Meetings were held in Iron Mountain and Ontonagon with the U.P. Sportsmen's Alliance and the Copper Country Walleye Association. Jim and Nick also attended a public meeting in Ludington at the request of state Senator Darwin Booher to discuss issues of fish stocking in the Great Lakes and concerns about the reduction of stocking salmon and lake trout. Jim said a decision won't be made until probably late September or early October. Chief Dexter also reviewed the issue of chumming, the practice of using organic material, primarily fish eggs, to attract fish, and is currently allowed in Michigan. He explained that the only time chumming was regulated in Michigan was between 2007 and 2011 when the use of fish eggs was restricted due to viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) being discovered in Michigan waters. Once the disease was gone, the restrictions were lifted in 2012. He went on to say that there are five options regarding chumming for action by the Commission today, and the DNR is recommending either Option 3 (prohibiting chumming with organic materials on all Type 1, 2, 3, and 4 streams) or Option 5 (restricting possession of chumming and organic material to one pint per non-vessel angler per day with no more than one quart per vessel per day on all Types 1, 2, 3, and 4 streams). He indicated a majority of input at public meetings and written responses favored a chumming ban. He also noted there is no regulation of fish eggs coming into the state, and there is no way to track, which causes a concern that there may be other diseases as well as VHS coming into the state. Lastly, Dexter reported that New Zealand Mudsnails, a prohibited species in Michigan, were detected in 2015 on the Pere Marquette River and in 2016 on the East Branch Au Sable River. He indicated that surveillance patrols, and outreach and education efforts are being ramped up to deal with the problem.
- Wildlife update: Wildlife Division Chief Russ Mason reported that human habituated bears continue to be a problem, especially in the northwestern Lower Peninsula, and it's an important problem to look at. Mason also reported that there has been no confirmed cases of epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) this year in white-tailed deer, yet, but typically the biting fly, or midge, that causes the disease is more active in late summer/early fall. He said drought conditions and high temperatures this year have affected a slowdown. Mason also said

there have been no reports of Avian influenza in birds yet this year, however, three cases of West Nile disease have been found in grackles and crows, and type C botulism has been confirmed in dead waterfowl in Grand Traverse Bay in northern Michigan and in Wayne County in southeastern Michigan. Mason further noted that oral arguments in the wolf litigation are scheduled for October 18 in federal court. Further, in connection with the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, a bill has been introduced in Congress to provide \$1.3 billion toward wildlife conservation. Two land use orders are on the today's agenda for action by the director. One, LUOD No. 5 of 2016, is a list of all state game areas and wildlife areas. The second one, LUOD No. 6 of 2016, sets regulations for target shooting across all state game and wildlife areas, including shooting hours, fire hazard materials and equipment prohibited, handheld devices only, shot-size/caliber limits, target provisions, and banning of alcohol.

- Dan Eichinger, executive director of Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) and Amy Trotter, MUCC's deputy director, reported on conservation policy resolutions presented at the 2016 MUCC Convention held recently in Big Rapids. Eichinger thanked Commissioner Pontz for attending the convention, as well as Directors Keith Creagh and Bill Moritz, and DNR staff members Russ Mason, Todd Grischke and Pete Kailing. Delegates elected officers for the MUCC board of directors, including Tom Heritier, president and Jim DeClerck, treasurer, both of the Saginaw Field & Stream Conservation Club. Amy offered an overview of the 20 resolutions that were passed, four that failed, and three that were postponed until the organization's September 1 meeting. More details and a full report can be found on MUCC's website at www.mucc.org.

Committee of the Whole

- Commissioner Tim Nichols introduced Patrick Lindemann, Ingham County Drain Commissioner, who gave a presentation on a project that has been in the works for quite a while – the Montgomery Drain Project. Commissioner Lindemann gave a field tour for NRC members earlier in the day. He said the goal of the project is to manage storm water by capturing, treating, cleaning, polishing and discharging it into the Red Cedar River. When completed, the project will eliminate 94-97 percent of pollutants that go into the Red Cedar River through the Frandor watershed and will reduce flooding in the Frandor area. He said the project will prove that both economic development and a clean environment can exist. So far, grants in the amount of \$3,118,417 have been awarded and several more have been applied for. Commissioner Lindemann also explained Art in the Wild that will enhance environmental restoration through art and human imagination. Construction should be well underway within the next year.

Director Moritz and staff reported on the following items:

- Parks and Trails: Parks and Recreation Chief Ron Olson said lodging and camping reservations at state parks are up 10.3 percent from last year, and harbor reservations are up 20 percent. Over 20,000 volunteers came together to take part in the Metro Youth Sports Day on Belle Isle last Wednesday. The event drew approximately 35,000 youth. Beach flags and warning signs for Great Lakes beaches have changed to include shapes as well as colors to help identify dangerous conditions. Olson reported that there has been good progress made on restoring the Snail Shell Harbor dock at Fayette Historic State Park and renovation of the parking lot and ramp at the Union Bay boating access site at Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. On the first annual Paul W. Smith harbor tour on WJR, Ron participated and was interviewed by Paul W. Smith at the Alconac Harbor Club in Alconac and the Detroit Boat Basin, talking about Belle Isle, Michigan waterways, and boating opportunities in Michigan. The William Field Memorial Hart-Montague Trail State Park ribbon-cutting ceremonies and celebration for the million dollar renovation are set for Monday, July 18. Ron reported on the severe rain and wind damage in Gogebic County that resulted in the temporary closing of ten campsites and cabins, washed out bridges and flooded the boardwalk on the Lake Superior Trail. He also noted there were several deaths at state parks during the season, including two suicides – one at Belle Isle State Park and one at the Brighton Recreation Area – as well as a heat-related death of an elderly woman.
- Scorecard Update: John Cherry provided the first presentation of the year and an overview of how to read and utilize the scorecard. John highlighted quarterly reports on the number of state park visits per capita, percentage of hunting and fishing licenses sold online – indicating that between 35 and 55 percent of online license sales are made on mobile devices – and the number of process improvement initiatives being completed.

- **Water Strategy:** Dr. Tammy Newcomb gave a brief update on the water strategy framework for the DNR, DEQ and MDARD. She talked about the five priorities Governor Snyder listed for his administration, including ensuring clean and safe drinking water for all Michiganders, achieving a 40-percent phosphorous reduction in the western Lake Erie basin, preventing the introduction of a new invasive species, supporting investments in commercial and recreational harbors, and developing and implementing Michigan's water trails system.
- **Invasive Carp Stakeholder Project:** Dr. Meredith Gore, MSU Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, School of Criminal Justice, joined Dr. Tammy Newcomb for a report on aquatic invasive species management. Dr. Gore indicated that the federal government plans to spend \$57.3 million in 2016 to stop the threat of aquatic invasive species to the Great Lakes Basin. She highlighted what would happen if Asian carp become established and gave a summary of the 2014 Michigan Applied Public Policy Research Study results. She also mentioned that two watersheds at risk for Asian carp invasion have been selected for the 2016 DNR study, those being the St. Joseph and Raisin rivers.

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

SB 39 – Restrictions on Land Acquisitions, Land Sales and Land Management by the Department– Sen.

Casperson: This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by prohibiting the Department from acquiring land north of the Mason-Arenac line if any state PILT payments, commercial forestland payments, or payments on tax-reverted land are not paid in full and on time. Further, the bill provides local units of government the ability to prohibit the Department from acquiring land where 33% of that local jurisdiction's land is either owned by the state, federal government, or in commercial forestland. The bill also urges the Department to provide motorized public access to all lands under the control of the Department, modifies the process for land exchanges, sales and appraisal valuations, and requires for each forest management area the establishment of an allowable sale quantity, a minimum sale quantity, and management goals.

- This bill is before the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration opposes this legislation.

SB 40 – Expands the Acceptable Uses of the Land Exchange Facilitation Fund to Pay Certain Costs – Sen. Booher:

This bill seeks to amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by amending Sections 2135, 2154 and 51106 to expand the acceptable uses of the land exchange facilitation fund to pay for maintenance and natural resource management costs, special assessments on lands owned by the Department, payments for the exchange of lands with the United States under section 2150, PILT payments under section 2154, and payments on commercial forestlands under section 51106. The bill further increases the payment amount per acre on commercial forestlands.

- This bill is before the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.
- The Administration opposes this legislation.

SBs 651 - 653 – Transitional Qualified Forest Property – Sens. Booher and Casperson: These bills seek to allow forestland to move from the Commercial Forest Program to the Qualified Forest Program, with the tax increase associated with the transfer to the QF program phased in over five years. SB 651 would create a new act, the Transitional Qualified Forest Property Specific Tax Act, which would allow forestland in the Commercial Forest Program to be considered "transitional" forest property for up to five years and be subject to a new annual specific tax. SB 652 seeks to amend the General Property Tax Act by amending Section 7jj and adding Section 7vv. SB 653 seeks to amend Section 51108 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act by adding the requirement that the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the DNR, within 30 days of the amendatory act, establish in writing a basis of interdepartmental cooperation when an owner of forestland seeks to withdraw forestland from the CF program without penalty.

- These bills were referred to the full House for consideration.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

SB 816 – Exempts all Veterans from the Recreation Passport Requirement – Sen. Colbeck: This bill seeks to amend Sections 74116 and 78119 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA 451 of 1994, to exempt all military veterans who possess a valid, government-issued veteran identification, from the recreation passport requirement for entry into any state park, recreation area and/or state-operated boating access site.

- This bill is before the Senate Committee on Veterans, Military Affairs and Homeland Security.
- The Administration opposes this legislation.

SB 817 – Free Fishing License for Honorably Discharged Veterans or Active Duty Military – Sen. Colbeck: This bill seeks to amend Section 43537 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA 451 of 1994, to allow an honorably discharged veteran or active member of the military to obtain an all-species fishing license free of charge.

- This bill is before the Senate Committee on Veterans, Military Affairs and Homeland Security.
- The Administration opposes this legislation.

HB 5146 – Possession of a Deer or Elk Carcass from a State Listed as Containing CWD – Rep. Kivela: This bill seeks to amend Section 40118 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to establish as a misdemeanor and prescribes penalties against an individual who imports deer or elk carcasses from a state or providence detected to have CWD in free-range deer or elk populations. While these restrictions are currently contained in WCO, this bill would increase the penalty up to not less than \$500 or more than \$2000 and/or up to 90 days imprisonment.

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

HB 5275 – Forest Roads, Pack & Saddle and ORV Use – Rep. Cole: This bill seeks to add a new Section 72117, amend Section 72115 of Part 721, amend Section 81133, and repeal Section 81126 of Part 811 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow pack and saddle animals and ORVs to be used to retrieve legally harvested large game, to require that an inventory of forest roads be created, and to require that forest roads be open to motorized use by the public unless designated otherwise.

- The bill was referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole.
- The Administration supports this legislation.

HB 5484 – Allow Hunter Pink as a Hunting Apparel Color– Rep. Lyons: This bill seeks to amend Section 40116 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Natural Resource Commission (NRC) to determine by October 1, 2017, whether any additional colors, including hunter pink, are effective and safe for individuals to wear while hunting. Based on the determination made by the NRC, they shall then issue an order authorizing any additional safety garment colors may be worn while hunting.

- This bill was passed by the full House.
- The Administration has not taken a position on this legislation.

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

- This bill was passed by the full House.
- The Administration opposes this legislation.

HB 5665 – Specify additional qualifications for membership of NRC, and update duties based on executive reorganization orders – Rep. Howrylak: This bill seeks to amend Section 501 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to specify educational qualifications and impose term limits for members of the NRC. The bill also proposes to update Section 501 to reflect the changes found within Executive Orders 2009-45 & 54 and 2011-1 & 2 regarding the appointment of the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by the Governor and the advisory role of the NRC.

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

HB 5682 – Require the Department of Natural Resources to verify zoning classification – Rep. Glenn: This bill seeks to amend Section 6 of the Privately-Owned Cervidae Producers Marketing Act to require the Department, upon receipt of an application, to verify if use of the property for a cervidae livestock facility is allowed within the property's zoning classification.

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

HB 5683 – Require the Department of Natural Resources to confirm consistency with zoning classification – Rep. Glenn: This bill seeks to amend Section 42702 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require the Department to confirm with the local unit of government that a premises applying for propagation of game is zoned agricultural.

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

HB 5702 – Provide for issuance of permits to prevent or control damage, disease, or nuisance caused by animals – Rep. Bumstead: This bill seeks to amend Section 40114 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to expand the issuance of permits for the taking of animals to include disease. In addition, this bill establishes that the taking of animals pursuant to permits issued under this section is not considered hunting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eastern UPCAC Update

The EUPCAC met on June 16th in Munising with a packed room of public attendees. Agenda items covered a Furbearer Regulations Update, Mandatory Deer Check (why it is not required), a North Country Trail Update, Naubinway Marina Update, a New Subcommittee Proposal (Education Subcommittee based on the work of the Michigan Wildlife Council), Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Update, Cormorant Update, Good Neighbor Authority Update, Township Designated ORV Trails, and a Deer Subcommittee Update. The Deer Subcommittee had met prior to the meeting and prepared several resolutions pertaining to deer management to present to the Council. The Council reviewed each individual resolution (4 of them) with much discussion. Two passed unanimously and two passed by majority. The final resolution document will be forwarded to the Director and NRC Commissioners the week of July 11th.

Division Updates

Fisheries Division: George Madison, Western Lake Superior Management Unit

The following are the Western UP Fisheries Division highlights for the period of March 4–May 18, 2016.

Escanaba Field Office (Darren Kramer)

- Completed fisheries community and Status and Trends surveys on a variety of U.P. inland waters in the NLMMU and WLSMU. Waters included: Hamilton Lakes chain, McDonald Lake, Camp 41 Lake, Little Duck Lake, Hermansville Impoundment and Parent Lake.
- Assisted USFS fisheries staff with surveys in the Hiawatha National Forest. Waters included Council Lake and Minerva Lake.
- Staff attended annual Boundary Waters meeting with the Wisconsin DNR to discuss management of the Menominee River and associated waters.
- Staff attended the annual UPSA Fisheries Committee meeting in Iron Mountain to discuss various fisheries management topics.
- Participated in the Iron Mountain Middle School Field-trip day at the Pine River, Dickinson County. Demonstrated electrofishing techniques, macroinvertebrate surveys, and overall watershed health.
- Continued to weekly fertilize and monitor spring fingerling walleye rearing ponds and prepped for walleye harvest at the end of June.
- Harvested spring fingerling walleye the last week of June and first week of July. Stocked 15 U.P inland waters and Little Bay de Noc.

Baraga Operations Service Center (George Madison)

- Deployed additional temperature loggers in western UP streams.
- Attended Torch Lake watershed planning meeting and subsequent discussions about evaluating a walleye movement study proposal.
- Field reviewed Cooks Run (Iron County) chara algae situation.
- Attended an open-house ceremony at the Watersmeet Trout Hatchery.
- Attended annual Boundary Waters meeting with the Wisconsin DNR to discuss management and regulation topics.
- Attended the annual UPSA Fisheries Committee meeting in Iron Mountain to discuss various fisheries management projects and regulation proposals.
- Attended Upper Peninsula Sports Fishermen meeting (Ontonagon)
- Attended Michigan DNR Lake Superior Basin Team meeting and reviewed splake stocking proposals.
- Hosted a Michigan DNR Fisheries Rare Species Society meeting.
- Assessed the results of adult pre-spawn bluegill stocking in Marquette's Tourist Park Impoundment and saw good numbers of juvenile produced offspring.
- Met with Calumet City Manager to investigate the opportunities to improve shorefishing at Swedetown Pond.
- Met with stakeholders of Lake Gogebic to participate in a MSU Quantitative Fisheries Center review of Lake Gogebic's fishery and associated management practices.

- Met with staff at Porcupine Mountains Mirror Lake to review fish stocking opportunities at this lake.
- Participated in a land survey at Houghton County's Otter Lake dam to delineate a parcel of land that includes the dam and fish ladder, for a possible land ownership transfer to Houghton County.
- Met with City of Bessemer officials to review opportunities to enhance fish habitat at the local Massie Park Pond.
- Participated in a Forest Resources Division internal audit of the Gwinn Forest Management Unit.
- Assisted in a project to improve fish passage at Marquette County's Compeau Creek.

Marquette & Thompson State Fish Hatcheries (Jan VanAmberg)

- Annual spring fish planting activities at both hatcheries are completed. No major problems were encountered and there were no significant shortages of fish at either hatchery.
- There were small surpluses of steelhead, and splake and a significant surplus of walleye fry.
- Summaries of fish stocking activities can be found on the DNR's website at:
<http://www.michigandnr.com/fishstock/>.

Marquette State Fish Hatchery

- The crew disinfected the outside raceways and moved all the splake, brook trout and the Lake Superior lake trout outside. The Seneca Lake lake trout are still inside and will be clipped and tagged in July and moved outside.
- Maintenance staff has been helping the Research Station with remodeling the Research lab across the creek and insulating the isolation building.
- We are losing our trades helper (Jordan Farmer) who is leaving to take over his father's family business.
- Penny Bacon, office specialist, is retiring at the end of July.

Thompson State Fish Hatchery

- Statewide fish planting was completed with our staff down to only one licensed driver from Thompson and some outside assistance. Thanks to Eastern Lake Superior, Southern Lake Huron, Marquette Hatchery and Marquette Research station for all the help.
- Little Bay de Noc walleye incubation went well even though the egg quality was average to below average this year. We shipped 2.7 million fry to rearing ponds, 1 million to Portage Lake and had 1.9 million surplus to stock in Little Bay de Noc.
- We experimented with different marking methods for walleye fry and found some very promising leads. We found the standard 700 ppm concentration we have been using for oxytetracycline (OTC) doesn't kill the fry but it is stressful for the fry. Fry marked at 500 ppm survived and looked much better. When the fingerlings are harvested later this summer we will see if the marks produced at 500 ppm are readable. We are working with Research Section on an informal study design and will report our findings at the next walleye committee meeting.
- The vacant fisheries technician position has been filled. The new employee will start in late July.
- The outside raceways are empty and cleaned up.
- Next year's steelhead fry are doing well in the inside tanks.
- Maintenance staff has begun working on replacement of all aluminum aeration cans with PVC which will last indefinitely.
- We had an emergency break down of our largest shallow well in June. It has been repaired and is current ready to be put back on-line.
- Making preparations and planning for mass marking steelhead (AD-CWT) in 2017.

Marquette Research (Ed Baker, Station Manager & Troy Zorn)

- Finished sampling zooplankton for the spring for a project looking at dreissenid effects on food availability for larval walleye, to look at whether this may be limiting walleye populations in the Bays de Noc.
- Starting our electrofishing for 10-brook trout bag streams.
- Worked on revisions to Inland Trout Management Plan and am working with an MSU Ph-D student on the report for the inland trout angler survey.
- Worked with other DNR Fish Division staff to get survey data assembled for a statewide decision support tool for managing stream fish populations and habitat.

- Worked with a MSU MS student on a SWG-funded project looking at effects of stream type, flow levels, and air temperatures on warming rates of streams. This work is to better understand these relationships which are important for addressing water withdrawal issues and a component of Michigan’s Water Withdrawal Assessment tool and process.
- Attended various presentations and meetings.
- The RV Lake Char and crew finished the spring lake trout survey on June 1. The spring survey samples lake trout from Whitefish Point in the east to the Porcupine Mountains in the west. The vessel crew is now attending to vessel maintenance issues in preparation for the summer lake trout survey that will begin in July.
- Walleye tagging efforts were completed in Little Bay de Noc in mid-April. Staff tagged nearly 1,000 walleye and worked with hatchery personnel to collect eggs in support of walleye stocking efforts.
- Lake sturgeon rearing is underway in streamside hatchery trailers on the Cedar, Whitefish, and Ontonagon rivers with fish scheduled to be stocked in these rivers in late August or early September.
- Staff also retrieved archival tags that were placed on lake trout in 2015. The tags record data continuously and after a pre-programmed period of time pop off the fish and surface. The location of the tag is picked up by satellites and transmitted to the office so crews can then retrieve the tags and data.
- Stream survey work has commenced and will continue into October.

Northern Lake Michigan
Management Unit
Walleye Fingerling Stocking
Summary

Priority	Water Body		# Stocked	stocking source
1	Ontonagon River	Ontonagon		
2	Hannah (Webb) Lake	Iron		
4	Hoist Basin	Marquette	10,000	Warren Pond
5	Portage Lake	Keweenaw	110,677	Warren Pond
6	Duck Lake	Gogebic	15,400	Warren Pond
7	Sunday Lake	Gogebic	5,000	Warren Pond
8	Lake Independence	Marquette	10,000	Warren Pond
9	Worm Lake	Baraga	10,000	Warren Pond
10	Lac Labelle	Keweenaw	17,750	Warren Pond
low	Huron Bay	Baraga	48,104	Warren Pond
1	Chicagon Lake	Iron	30,000	Moss (28,000), WP (2,000)
2	Crystal Falls Impoundmer	Iron	7,000	Warren Pond
3	Carney Lake	Dickinson	3,510	LF (1,000) WP (2510)
1	Round Lake	Delta	19,000	NBY 7/25 (10,000) Moss (9,000)
2	Goose Lake	Marquette	26,000	Moss Lk Pond
3	Mehl Lake	Marquette	2,730	Moss Lk Pond
4	Fish Lake	Marquette	5,100	Moss Lk Pond
5	Camp 7 Lake	Delta	1,500	Moss Lk Pond
6	Little Bay De Noc	Delta	272,919	Pet (157,455) Moss (28,480) GH (86,984)
7	Indian Lake	Schoolcraft	22,988	Ger (11,600), Moss (11,388)
	Total Fingerlings			
	Total Stocked		617,678	

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

Recruit School 7 graduated with 16 new probationary officers on June 3rd. I hear it is an outstanding class of officers. They are several weeks into their field training and can be expected to hit the field right around the first week of November. District 1 will be receiving 3 of these officers (1 in Gogebic County and 2 in Menominee County.) This will put District 1 LED personnel at 15 officers and 3 Sergeants going into deer season. We will have 2 vacancies remaining (1 in Marquette and 1 in Gogebic Counties.) At this time, the next planned academy is slated for August of 2017.

Here are some of the recent activities the local officers have been involved with:

- **CO Ethen Mapes** assisted in a search party in Ontonagon County. An elderly man had walked away from home in the middle of the night and collapsed in a nearby swamp. The man was found alive and brought to the hospital.
- **CO Denny Gast** checked two fishermen fishing below Prickett dam in a closed area. The two individuals walked by two signs warning of the closure and neither one of them had a valid fishing license. Law enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Shannon Kritz** attended the Aspiring Women in the Outdoors event held at Bewabic State Park. CO Kritz along with **Cpl. Dave Painter** utilized the departments laser shot educational equipment to educate participants in safe hunting practices. Over 250 people participated in the event.
- **CO Shannon Kritz and CO Brian Bacon** observed a side by side that did not appear to have Michigan ORV stickers attached and neither occupant was wearing a seatbelt. The CO’s conducted a stop of the side by side to address the

violations. When CO Bacon asked the driver about having Michigan ORV stickers, he pointed to his Wisconsin ORV registration sticker. CO Bacon asked the subjects for their driver's license, and as the driver was obtaining his license, he kicked over his drink that he had hid on the floor of the side by side. Both subjects were found to have open alcohol on the ORV. Enforcement action was taken with both occupants of the ORV.

- **CO Brett DeLonge** conducted a marine patrol on the impoundments of the Menominee River and contacted several boaters and fisherman. For the most part, compliance was high during the patrol however multiple life jacket violations were found and enforcement action was taken.
- **CO Jared Ferguson** was patrolling the Menominee River area for marine safety issues when central dispatch radioed to all local units of a B&E in progress. CO Ferguson was able to determine the address was about 3 miles from his location and responded. CO Ferguson was first on scene and made contact with a male outside of the residence. After securing the area, CO Ferguson determined that the male was the home owner's step-son and he was locked out of the residence. The subject stated he was meeting his stepfather for 18 holes of golf and forgot his keys, so he went into the house through the window. After confirming the subject's story with his father he was released to continue his day on the course.
- **CO Brian Bacon, CO Shannon Kritz and Sgt. Marc Pomroy** conducted a group marine patrol in connection to BUI enforcement. Windy conditions limited marine activity, but checks of the boaters contacted found good compliance with marine safety regulations.

Parks & Recreation Division: Doug Rich, WUP District Supervisor

State Park/Recreation Area/Scenic Site/Forest Rec Units

- **Baraga State Park:** Season started off slow with lots of rain in May and early June, but camping picked up in mid-June and is about even with 2015. Mini-cabin and tepee rentals are up from 2015. Some fountain replacements were completed along with a water hookup for the campground host site. A generous donation from Baraga Friends of the Park improved the park's Wi-Fi service to campers, increasing the number of amplifiers from one to three, which increased the signal and range throughout the park. State Forest Campgrounds were busy as well; some improvements were done to information kiosks. Nearly 400 people attended the park's Free Fishing Weekend event at the Baraga County Lake Trout Festival. Of the 150 trout provided by the Keweenaw Bay Tribal Hatchery, there were 130 successful kids at the park's free fishing pond!
- **Bewabic State Park:** Camping numbers so far have been in line with 2015. We have had a few very busy nights at the State Campgrounds, but all numbers seem to be in line with previous years. In June, we had a park hosted and community supported youth fishing event on June 11th which brought in approximately 30 participants and their families; we partnered with Iron and Baraga County Conservation District as well as Wildlife Unlimited of Iron County. Also on June 11th, we had our first annual S.P.O.R.T. (State Park Off-Road Trek) ride bringing in approximately 26 riders who are a part of the local Chippewa SnoKats ORV/Snowmobile Club. The club provided food. We also had a sponsored event, Aspiring Women in the Outdoors, on June 21st which brought in 204 participants! Aspirus Hospital in Iron River puts on the event with support from the park staff and local community members. The DNR hosted 4 informational stations: Conservation Officers had a hunting/fishing education trailer, Bewabic state workers taught Kayaking 101, and the Lead Ranger and the Explorer Guide from the Porkies were both in attendance and hosted a wilderness first aid booth and an interpretive program about bears. The ORV connector trail into Bewabic was completed 6/29/16; we now have a safe, legal crossing for riders to/from the Stateline Trail into the park.
- **Bond Falls Scenic Site:** Area has been busy and the two new vault toilets are an improvement. Repairs had to be made to the toilets after some winter vandalism. Some upgrades were also done to improve the booth.
- **Craig Lake State Park:** Camping, yurt nights, and rustic cabins have seen an increase in attendance compared to 2015. Day use is down assuming it is from a spring that was very wet with many, many bugs. Baraga County has fixed the 3-year washout of a bridge next to Beaufort Lake State Forest Campground so there are once again two access roads to the campground.
- **Fort Wilkins Historic State Park:** Camping night totals for May and June are up 15% as compared to 2015. The rainy spring has slowed us down on our grass mowing and we can't seem to keep up this year.
- **Lake Gogebic State Park:** Attendance has been up slightly this season over last.

- **McLain State Park:** McLain had approx. 4030 day-use visitors, 452 camp nights, 45 mini cabin nights, 10 rustic cabin camp nights, and 3 shelter rentals for May. For June, McLain had approx. 14,690 day-use visitors, 1304 camp nights, 143 mini cabin nights, 21 rustic cabin nights, and 17 shelter rentals.
- **Menominee State Recreation Area:** Piers Gorge has had average use pulling in \$700-\$1000 in Recreation Pass sales every week (very busy site for out of state use). Squaw Lake and Carney Lake State Campgrounds have had average use; about 17 and 10 nights a week respectively. One busy weekend brought in double that at each site (reason for the sudden influx unknown).
- **Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park:** Union Bay Campground Office area facelift has been completed with a new ADA ramp, flowerbed, pay pipe, info, paving, etc. New backcountry check-in procedure working thus far capturing use numbers will help with stewardship/ future directions. Garlic mustard reported in new location; will confirm or debunk this week.
- **Twin Lakes State Park:** Camping has been slow for June and picked up for the holiday weekend. Campground was full until the 5th after weekend camping has been below normal which is usually full for the week. Many openings throughout the campground and it seems most people went back to work for the rest of the holiday week. 4th of July weekend was busy with lighted boat parade on the 3rd and the annual kid's parade and picnic on the 4th. Numbers for both events were average.
- **Van Riper State Park:** Opened the campground late due to water building issues; there are still ongoing water pressure issues. A new playground was purchased via the Friends of Van Riper and Craig Lake State Parks. This evolved into an amazing partnership with Michigan National Guard volunteers who came out on their personal time and constructed this quarter of a million dollar playscape. Community involvement and collaboration between agencies and FRD staff took place to construct three life-saving stations at Little Presque Isle after a drowning.
- **Wells State Park:** Our overall numbers for camping to date are up 10% from this time last year, 6% higher for rustic cabin rental, and down 70% for the lodge (23 vs 7 rentals). Shelter rental are the same. Attendance for events is higher than last year. For May-June, the park is up 9% for camping and 9% for rustic cabins.
- **Escanaba Field Office:** State Forest Campground occupancy continues to be higher than last fiscal year for nearly all weeks. Site improvements include new vault toilets installed at Bass Lake SFCG, campground site numbers replaced, and maintenance of roads and fire rings.

Boating Reports (BAS = Boating Access Sites)

- **Bewabic State Park:** All skid piers we requested to have refurbished have been delivered to their sites - Indian Lake and Bewabic State Park. Bewabic ramp has been VERY busy - all other sites have had average use.
- **Lake Gogebic State Park:** A press release has been issued for the closing of Bergland BAS for construction and upgrades beginning in July.
- **Menominee State Recreation Area:** The skid pier at Norway Reservoir that we requested to have refurbished has been delivered and the vault toilet is due to be replaced soon. The vault toilet at Lake Ellen was "replaced" in May - spring 2015 (the side of the vault caved in, probably due to plowing the site, driving frost into the ground, and then damaging spring runoff). The vault was too close to the water, so after a meeting with the health department a new location was decided on. There was no vault for the summer of 2015 and users of the site were very vocal about getting a vault toilet put back at the site and were very appreciative once the work was completed.
- **Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park:** Union Bay BAS complete and open to the public. Some punch list items remain. Big Iron BAS been dredged three times with springtime assistance from fire officer staff.
- **Baraga Field Office:** Worked on sidewalks and fountains at Baraga State Park, helped install new flooring in the Bond Falls booth, assisted with site preparation for Van Riper's playground, graveled road at Engman Lake BAS, put in 5 skid piers and installed ramp at Johnson Lake BAS, and assisted FRD with a culvert project on Baraga Plains.
- **Cedar River State Harbor:** Up two boaters from last year.
- **Copper Harbor/Eagle Harbor/Lac LaBelle:** The overnight stays at Copper Harbor marina are down as compared to last year. 2016 had 5 boats stay for 6 nights to date while last year we had 9 boats stay for 12 nights at this time. The weather has been cooler and we have had more rainy days this year. The longest day fishing tournament did real well with about 37+ boats fishing at Lac Le Belle, 12 at Gratiot Lake and 7 at Copper Harbor. The Copper Harbor Lighthouse Tours took 401 people out to the Lighthouse in June.

- **Escanaba Field Office:** Johnson Lake BAS ramp has been replaced by staff during the week of June 20th, with added winter access. Staff assisted Baraga Field Office with resurfacing Engman Lake BAS Road. Staff replaced vault and toilet building at Lake Ellen BAS for Bewabic State Park.

Other Issues, Challenges or Items of Note

- **Baraga State Park:** The wet weather in May and early June has left two campsites very wet where a fountain repair was done and they are still closed. Trying to get them to dry up and get the grass to grow.
- **Bewabic State Park:** Having a hard time finding workers - still one short.
- **Lake Gogebic State Park:** Issued four citations in a two-week period for infected ash wood alone. After the second case of Eastern Ash Borer, staff put a message up in the online system that the call center must read to customers and online users have to agree to in order to complete their registration warning them not to bring ash wood to the park if it has bark on it and that rangers at the park will strictly enforce that rule in order to protect one of the last stands of uninfected ash trees in the U.P.
- **Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park:** Short one permanent staff currently, with our maintenance mechanic. One staff member is on medical restrictions. Staff is being pulled from other duties to cover. Lack of smaller maintenance boat has hindered backcountry crew effectiveness. Replacement boat repairs should be completed in July with engine, steering, and controls salvaged from condemned boat.
- **Twin Lakes State Park:** Volunteers to help with events are lacking due to staffing shortages.
- **Wells State Park** During rain events, 10-20 campsites are flooded and unusable. Revenue lost during high volume weekends.
- **Escanaba Field Office:** DNR Pocket Park maintenance at the UP State Fairgrounds continues to be a challenge, as one MOD division employee provides all customer service as well as all maintenance needs with the help of EFO staff.
- **Copper Harbor/Eagle Harbor/Lac LaBelle:** We had a storm in late May that caused electric problems with the Copper Harbor Marina hot water heater controls which cost \$2100. It also damaged a marine radio converter which had to be replaced.

Multi-Use Trails

- **Rail-Trail Projects**
 - **Menominee River Bridge – 475’ Trestle in Dickinson County:** Engineering on this proposed multi-use bridge has begun. Dive team will be inspecting the piers this month. We’re hopeful that construction of new decking and railing will occur in 2017.
 - **Stateline Trail Acquisition – Korpela Road to Wakefield – 4 miles:** Seven private easements have been purchased. We now have a signed agreement with Union Pacific Railroad to purchase the remaining private ownership that will enable us to extend trail into Wakefield.
 - **South Branch of Ontonagon River Trestle – 400’ Trestle in Ontonagon County:** Engineering is complete. Reconstruction work on this trestle is set to begin this summer.
 - **Escanaba to Hermansville – 26 mile rail-trail:** This rail-trail is under construction and is being resurfaced with limestone. Three bridges are being re-decked and railed. This work is set to finish in August.
 - **Little Lake to Chatham – 25 miles of trail:** Work just beginning on developing this rail-trail into an ORV route. DNR trails staff are working with Rock River Twp, Village of Chatham, and others to develop a plan for working with landowners and filling in gaps in ownership.
 - **Alpha Spur – 4 miles:** Partnering with MI National Guard to provide a training opportunity and improve a new section of ORV/snowmobile trail near Alpha, MI. The DNR is providing the gravel and the National Guard will brush, shape and gravel 2.3 miles of old rail grade beginning this month.
 - **Sault to Raco:** Land use order has been approved to allow 65” ORV’s on route. We are working on changing gates to accommodate larger ORV’s.
 - **St Louis Box Culvert, Very Large Box Culvert North of Lake Linden:** St. Louis Box Culvert repair has been bid. Construction bids are in hand. Construction will begin soon.
 - **Lake Linden Washout, Hammel Creek, and DEQ Violation:** Working to get easements from private landowners to access area to do streambed remediation.
- **Iron Belle (IBT) Projects**
 - **Escanaba to Gladstone:** Working on a route to get the IBT off of US-2 in this busy area.

- **Iron County:** Working with Iron County Heritage Trail group on connecting the Heritage Trail between Crystal Falls and Iron River.
- **Gogebic County, Ironwood to Bessemer – 6 miles:** Construction is beginning on hike/bike path this month. This will be a paved trail. Construction includes new deck and railing on 3 historic railroad bridges.
- **North Country Trail – Hiking Portion of IBT:** Working on improving communications between NCT volunteers and DNR. This was prompted by a Forest Certification audit in Baraga. In order to comply with Forest Certification, a new form is being developed.
- **Craig Lake State Park:** Partnering with NCT working on a trail reroute through a marshy area.
- **Fort Wilkins Historic State Park:** The bicycle trails in the park are heavily used. The mountain bicycle use from Copper Harbor is very busy this year, especially on the weekends.
- **Twin Lakes State Park:** Over 1200 ORV used the Nicholls trail in the month of June, every year traffic increases.
- **Van Riper State Park:** Working on Little Presque Isle trail proposals with FRD and Wildlife. Potential trail proposal to reroute at Tyoga pathway.

ORV Trails

- **2017 grants:** Trail maintenance and special maintenance projects have been submitted by sponsors and are currently being evaluated by Trails Specialists.
- **ORV route, Marenisco to Korpela Road – 16 miles:** Recently approved. The Western U.P. Trail Association will begin improving the trail this summer.
- **ORV route, Ishpeming to Negaunee – 6 miles:** City of Ishpeming passed an ORV ordinance to enable the Iron Ore Heritage Trail and the DNR to extend the ORV route through Ishpeming and Negaunee. Trail proposal is under review.
- **Champion to Michigamme Route – 9 miles:** DNR staff are working with ORV club TEAM and townships on developing an ORV route in western Marquette County. This is in very early stages.
- **Gwinn to Arnold ORV Route – 26 miles:** DNR staff from FRD, WLD, and PRD worked together to develop arecommendation for establishing this route. Proposal is under review, but near approval stage.
- **Sault Ste. Marie Trailhead Proposal:** Multi-use trailhead waiting on one private land owner permission. Excellent partnering from city; they are willing to plow snow and perform maintenance of the site. We will be installing a toilet for the site.
- **Trail Inspections:** DNR Trails Specialists are out inspecting work being done by ORV grant sponsors.
- **East U.P. Connector:** ORV proposal to connect St. Ignace, Brevort, Trout Lake, Epoufette, Rexton, Naubinway, Engadine, Gould City, Curtis and Newberry is being entered as a trail proposal today. Mackinac County Road Commission has given approval to designate trail on county roads where necessary to make the connections.
- **ORV Free Weekend and Sport Rides:** Three sport rides were held on June 11th, free ORV weekend. These rides involved DNR trails staff riding with clientele and State Parks staff hosting luncheons at those parks open to ORV's.
- **State Park Connectors:** The construction project to open Bewabic State Park to ORV's is now complete. The campground is now connected to the State Line ORV route. This is the 4th State Park in the Upper Peninsula to be opened to ORV camping.
- **Baraga State Park:** There has been a lot of ORV campers utilizing the ORV staging area and local trails so far this season.
- **Bewabic State Park:** ORV connector trail into Bewabic has been completed 6/29/16 - we now have a safe, legal crossing for riders to/from the Stateline Trail into the park.
- **Fort Wilkins Historic State Park:** Had lots of use through town and by the park on US #41 going out to the point.
- **Twin Lakes State Park:** Local project at Twin lakes is finished, trail is moved, barrier has been put up and 400 Red Pine trees have been planted to form a dust and noise barrier. Dust control has been put down on the trail and seems to be working as of now. Sport ride in June was a success with only one ORV breaking down. Park staff helped bring the broken machine back to Twin Lakes. Special thanks to the MI-TRALE and their great crew for their efforts on the SPORT Ride event.

Snowmobile Trails

- **Western U. P. SnowShakers – Gogebic County:** Working to improve the snowmobile trail system in Gogebic County. The DNR is assisting the club and community so the 2016/17 season will see improved grooming and communication. The DNR helped the club reform and there is a new board in place as of June.
- **Tri County Snowmobile Club – Dickinson County:** DNR staff working with Tri-County Snowmobile and ORV Club on additional ORV and snowmobile development in Dickinson County.
- **Prout Road Bridge, Near Cut River:** Met with DTMB selected engineer and other DNR staff. Working on replacing bridge with bottomless culvert. Design and cost estimates are in hand. Construction to begin soon if additional grant dollars are secured.
- **Murphy Creek Bridge – Alger County:** 65’ bridge to be installed soon, contractor in place.
- **Sunken Lake Bridges, North of Seney:** Working on funding to do the first bridge, contractor selected for installation, cost \$148,000.
- **GPS Tracking in Groomers:** Working to implement process for installing GPS units in groomers. Will use to collect data and streamline grooming reimbursement request process and grooming reporting. Evaluating contractors now.
- **Brimley Highway 221 proposal:** Ditches, topography and private land ownership are the challenges to this reroute. We now have permission to evaluate private land for new trail construction. This is a work in progress.
- **Alger Co. SORVA:** This club will become the official Grant Sponsor for the Munising area trails for the next season. Alger Co. SORVA will be changing their name to “Snowmobile & ORV Association of Alger County”.
- **Moose Country and Baraga Convention and Visitors Bureau:** Working to reroute 8 miles of trail # 8 in Baraga County that frequently cannot be groomed due to hills and wet areas. Received some positive feedback from Baraga County Road Commission regarding a temporary reroute.
- **Permanent Easement Program:** DNR trails staff are working with MSA and others on implementing the Snowmobile Easement Grant program. Many grant applications were submitted last fall and we are working through implementation process. A request for proposals (RFP) to bring on Land Company to help with the work has been sent through the Bid for Michigan system.
- **Trail 11N and 11S Gogebic County – 46 miles:** These trails are still closed due to loss of land permissions. DNR and club continue to look at options. Nothing will be in place for this coming year.
- **Trail 160 North of Ironwood, Mud Creek Bridge (45’):** This bridge is being replaced. Engineering is underway right now. We hope to have enough grant money to proceed with construction this fall, if not trail will be closed.
- **Twin Lakes State Park** is looking at an increase in beaver problems, with low fur prices not enough trappers are keeping beaver numbers down. This causes problems with blocked culverts and flooding of trails, year round monitoring of trails is needed.

Equestrian Trails

- **Thunderberry Trail Proposal, Marquette County – 4 miles:** This is a proposed connector trail in Sands Township. The last remaining private land permit was submitted last week. Trail proposal is in process.
- **Lake Superior Trailhead:** There is a proposal to develop an equestrian trailhead east of Marquette. The proposal has been approved. Funding has not yet been found.
- **Headquarters Lake Equestrian Campground – Luce County:** Additional toilet has been built, working on permit to install. We are evaluating trail plan for this area. An additional three drive through campsites are being constructed.
- **Wells State Park at Cedar River North campground:** The equestrian group (Bay Area Mounted Search and Rescue) had received a grant for the 6 remaining horse corrals. Grant was given to them by Hannahville Indian Community.

Pathways

- **Keweenaw Bike/Hike Pathway–Copper Harbor to High Rock:** This proposal has been entered in the trail proposal database and is being reviewed. There have been some concerns but we are working through them.
- **Little Presque Isle (LPI) Pathway Project:** This is a project to properly designate and sign approximately 20 miles of bike trail at LPI. The DNR divisions have worked together to develop recommendations for specific trails. A public input process will be developed soon to get feedback on the recommendations.
- **Pathway sign upgrade project:** Our State Forest Pathway signs will be upgraded soon. The new signs will have intersection markers; you are here maps, and information stations.

- **Bewabic State Park** is mowing the Lake Mary Plains Pathway for summer use.
- **Van Riper State Park:** BBR paving estimates and bidding completed.

Trespass and Acquisition Report

- Rail-Trail trespasses continue to be a major concern.
- **Fort Wilkins Historic State Park:** The purchase of the Granger property is moving along slowly. It was surveyed in mid-June and several encroachments were found, notably, the Fanny Hoe Resort.

Planning Report

- **Baraga State Park:** The study of the campground electrical system is 100% complete. Design and construction funding will be requested in subsequent years.
- **Bewabic State Park:** Conversion of two non-compliant showers into one ADA complaint shower is planned to take place after Labor Day weekend - district planner has been getting plan approvals. Haz-Mat survey has been completed. LARA plan review has been completed and permits have been submitted for the State of Michigan Building permit & DEQ Campground Construction permit.
- **Blueberry Ridge Pathway:** The parking lot will receive asphalt paving for 5 accessible parking spaces, 3 accessible aisles, and sidewalk to the building. Pavement markings and signage will complete the project. Scheduled for July, 2016.
- **Fort Wilkins State Historic Park:** An engineering contract has been awarded for masonry repairs to the lighthouse and light keepers residence. Design will proceed through fall and winter.
- **F.J. McLain State Park:** The Master plan development is 40% complete and will be 90% complete for a public open house scheduled for August 13, 2016. Phase 1 design of critical infrastructure relocations will continue after the successful completion of the master plan.
- **Menominee State Recreation Area:** Menominee Rec Area Management planning process is almost complete - public meeting to be held on August 24th for Wisconsin, and on August 23rd for Michigan. DNR representatives for each state will be present at both meetings.
- **Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park:**
 - Union spring Dam Removal planning continues and is on track for August removal.
 - The ski chalet roof replacement project is out for bid. Construction is planned for fall / spring.
 - The Union Bay Campground toilet shower building project is 100% complete and has been open for public use since April of this year.
 - The Union Bay boating access site is 100% complete and re-opened for public use on July 1, 2016.
- **Van Riper State Park:** A new playground has been constructed in the day use area of the park. The construction is 90% complete. An accessible path and landscaping is proposed for July / August 2016.
- **Wells State Park:** A design contract has been awarded for the historic stone toilet shower building to complete the design to renovate the structure into a ranger classroom / indoor activity center. Design is anticipated to be completed during the fall and winter of 2016.
- **Escanaba Field Office:** Planning continues for Felch Grade resurfacing, which is planned for late August/ early September in cooperation with Fire Division employees and trails specialists. Upcoming projects include assisting the eastern UP district with vault replacements at state forest campgrounds administered by Indian Lake State Park (7/11), as well as site improvements at Wagner Falls scenic site.

Public Information Office: John Pepin, Deputy Public Information Officer

- With summertime activities in full swing, including construction projects, several press releases have been generated recently on boating access site work.
- Meetings are continuing with private landowners on available cost-sharing programs in the ongoing effort to conserve and improve deer wintering complexes. News releases have aided in getting good attendance at the meetings, which have occurred so far in western counties of the Upper Peninsula.
- Preliminary work has begun on an Upper Peninsula 40th anniversary commemoration of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. More information on this should be available soon.

- Our feature series, “Showcasing the DNR,” continues to attract positive attention with media outlets producing stories from our releases or reproducing the releases themselves in their entirety. The calendar for the first six months of 2017 is now being developed. We continue to solicit ideas. Please feel free to contribute.
- Several media requests were handled on recent fires in the eastern Upper Peninsula, especially the Munuscong Fire, which burned 82 acres, and a blaze battled by U.S. Forest Service personnel north of Trout Lake, which blackened roughly 35 acres.

Wildlife Division: Terry Minzey, Wildlife Supervisor (prepared by John DePue, Wildlife Biologist-Baraga)

- **Furbearer Regulation Changes Pertinent to the UP**
 - Fur harvester licenses will be valid from May 1 to April 30 of the following year. This change was made to alleviate confusion with otter tags and the otter season, otter tags and fur harvester license will now align in the same season.
 - The hunting season for taking raccoons for both residents and nonresident will be from October 1 to January 31.
- **Wildlife Health Population and Health Monitoring**
 - At the end of June wildlife staff were out banding geese throughout the U.P. Wildlife staff banded 423 geese in total; 90 from the Sault St. Marie region, 115 from the Baraga region, 218 from the Escanaba region.
 - CWD collection has started and a non-career wildlife assistant has been hired to collect deer heads from participating farmers operating under the deer damage permit system, state police, county highway departments, and MI DOT in counties along the Wisconsin border.
- **Habitat**
 - In cooperation with our FRD fire partners, the U.P. region, conducted 6 prescribed fires, burning 1,543 total acres this spring burning season to improve habitat for wildlife.
 - Several meetings for Deer Wintering Complex management on private lands have been held throughout the Western U.P. (Crystal Falls, Marenisco, Alberta, Greenland). Almost 400 land owners and members of the public have attended these meetings and the outcome has been extremely positive.
- **Wildlife Division Staffing Update**
 - On June 20th, Caleb Eckloff was hired as the new wildlife technician for the Marquette office (on right in picture).



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

- The 2018 Year of Entry (YOE) inventory is nearly complete with staff finishing the final touches on treatment recommendations. The next open houses will be in the Escanaba Unit on August 4th, the Gwinn Unit on September 14th, and the Crystal Falls Unit on September 29th. Other unit open house and compartment review schedules are posted online, along with other state forest inventory information at www.michigan.gov/forestry.
- Foresters have been working on the 2016 timber sale plan of work. While the extended fall weather helped with completing activities on drier sites last fall, the mild start to winter has hindered inventory and sale prep work that is normally completed in wet areas during frozen conditions.
- The division is continuing to monitor stands that are at high risk for loss due to the current outbreak of Spruce Budworm. Aerial detection flights are being used to detect the hardest hit areas. These areas will be reviewed in the context of the whole resource and salvage sales may be set up to utilize the trees before mortality occurs. For

more information on this and other forest pests, go to www.michigan.gov/foresthealth. To date nearly 3,000 acres of stands affected by Spruce Budworm have been identified for treatment.

- Our Forest Marketing and Utilization Specialist reports:
 - Chip markets are non-existent except for very specific producers with very specific customers.
 - Softwood material (logs, bolts, pulp, & chips) is increasingly hard to sell and many loggers are choosing to hold off on harvesting softwood sales. Requests for extensions on state sales are ongoing and taken case by case.
 - Green hardwood lumber prices continue to drop as peak summer months are upon us. Things should level off and then gradually increase as we move into fall. This is a normal cycle of pricing activity.
- The division is continuing to work with the USFS on the Good Neighbor Authority. Work is being done to treat approximately 300 acres of timber on the Ottawa National Forest in south Houghton and Iron Counties this year.
- As of June 8th, 301 timber sale contracts are open western UP-wide. This represents 509,897 cords of timber on 32,796 acres, valued at approximately \$28.7 million.
- The Resource Protection Program staff have reported 7 fires burning approximately 42.2 acres in the month of June. The remainder of the month of July is looking to be dryer than normal and this trend will extend into August as well. Drought codes are expected to increase which means even small fires will take longer to extinguish with more fuels becoming available as they dry out. We are expecting fires in remote locations as lightning has been a concern for the past few weeks. Lightning fires can smolder for several days before they are discovered. To date, no UP fire personal have been dispatched out of state.
- Three out of our four units report 18 active timber sales in the western UP totaling about 1,800 acres. This is expected to rise as bark slippage restrictions are lifted July 15th.
- Additional projects include road grading and improvement, bridge and culvert replacement work, ORV and recreation project assistance to the Parks and Recreation Division.