



## Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

Date of Production: April 2025 (information current as of 4/7/25)

This documentation is provided by Michigan DNR staff as supplemental information to Eastern UPCAC members.

### Meetings/Events/Press Releases

#### Upcoming DNR Public Meetings

For virtual or conference call meeting information, please go to the DNR website at: [DNR Meetings](#) and click on the appropriate meeting and/or agenda for instructions.

April 9	Lake Michigan Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee, 10:30am (616-490-5090)
April 10	Natural Resources Commission, 9am ( <a href="mailto:nrc@michigan.gov">nrc@michigan.gov</a> )
April 10	Michigan Wildlife Council, 10am (517-388-1748)
April 10	Tribal Co-Management Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee, 10am (231-350-8654)
April 15	Eastern UP Citizens Advisory Council, Newberry, 6pm (906-225-1331)
April 16	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, 9am (517-284-5954)
April 16	Lake Superior Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee, 10am (231-350-8654)
April 16	Forest Management Advisory Committee, 1pm (517-582-3220)
April 18	Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council, 8:30am (517-582-3204)
April 23	Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee, 2pm, (517-284-6135)
April 28	Board of Foresters, 3pm (906-458-6965)
April 29	Michigan State Waterways Commission, 9am (517-285-0747)
April 29	Upper Peninsula Habitat Workgroup, 10am (906-226-1331)

#### UP State Park, State-Sponsored & Other UP Activities

Please check with the state park before attending activity for any scheduling changes. For all activities: [DNR Things to Do Calendar](#)

**Check out these links regularly for upcoming Spring/Summer nature events held at these state parks:**

- [Van Riper State Park Explorer Guide Program Schedule](#)
- [McLain State Park Explorer Guide Schedule](#)
- [Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park Explorer Guide Schedule](#)
- [Wells State Park Explorer Guide Schedule](#)
- [DNR Pocket Park-Escanaba Program Schedule](#)
- [Indian Lake State Park Explorer Guide Schedule](#)
- [Tahquamenon Falls State Park Explorer Guide Schedule](#)

#### Recent DNR Press Releases

For full details, go to: [DNR Press Room](#)

- Purchase your Michigan ORV license and trail permit (3/27/25)
- DNR's Ron Olson honored by Michigan United Conservation Clubs (3/27/25)
- Register now for May wood residuals summit (3/26/25)
- Plan now for spring treatment of hemlock woolly adelgid (3/25/25)
- Now is the time to get hunter safety-certified (3/25/25)
- Ensure your forest's future: Apply to Forest Legacy Program by May 2 (3/24/25)
- Showcasing the DNR: The moose are loose (3/21/25)
- Wildlife, fisheries and parks on the agenda for DNR's April meetings (3/20/25)
- Michigan's 12,000 bears are waking up. It's time to pull the bird feeder (3/20/25)
- Portage Lake Lift Bridge snowmobile crossing closed for season (3/19/25)

- Signs of spring: Birding tours at Michigan’s Wetland Wonders (3/19/25)
- Leftover spring turkey licenses and Hunt 0234 on sale now (3/17/25)
- Natural fish kills may be common during spring thaw (3/17/25)
- First cougar cubs verified in Michigan in more than a century (3/13/25)

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## Grant Contacts

For grant information, to go: [DNR Grants](#)

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| ▪ Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant   | Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, <a href="mailto:carlockm@michigan.gov">carlockm@michigan.gov</a>                             |
| ▪ Recreation Passport Grant                     | Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, <a href="mailto:carlockm@michigan.gov">carlockm@michigan.gov</a>                             |
| ▪ Michigan Spark Grants (Public Recreation)     | Merrie Carlock, 517-284-5931, <a href="mailto:carlockm@michigan.gov">carlockm@michigan.gov</a>                             |
| ▪ ORV Trail Improvement Fund                    | Richard Kennedy, 517-284-7275, <a href="mailto:kennedyr@michigan.gov">kennedyr@michigan.gov</a>                            |
| ▪ Fisheries Habitat Grant Program               | Chip Kosloski, 517-281-1705, <a href="mailto:kosloskic3@michigan.gov">kosloskic3@michigan.gov</a>                          |
| ▪ Michigan Invasive Species Grant               | Erin Campbell, 269-300-9698, <a href="mailto:campbelle6@michigan.gov">campbelle6@michigan.gov</a>                          |
| ▪ Wildlife Habitat Grant                        | Chip Kosloski, 517-281-1705, <a href="mailto:kosloskic3@michigan.gov">kosloskic3@michigan.gov</a>                          |
| ▪ UP Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant | Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, <a href="mailto:scullonh@michigan.gov">scullonh@michigan.gov</a>                               |
| ▪ Forestry Grants                               | <a href="http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/forestry">www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/forestry</a> |
| ▪ Land & Water Conservation Fund                | Christie Bayus, 517-242-8737, <a href="mailto:bayusc@michigan.gov">bayusc@michigan.gov</a>                                 |
| ▪ Waterways Program Grants                      | Curt Wemple, 231-444-8029, <a href="mailto:wemplec1@michigan.gov">wemplec1@michigan.gov</a>                                |
| ▪ Law Enforcement & Safety Grants               | <a href="https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/le">https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/le</a>    |

## Western UPCAC Update

The **Western UP Citizens Advisory Council** met on March 18, in person in Baraga. The Council received proposed bylaw revisions for quorum and voting by a council committee for review and heard about Fisheries Division’s coffee and conversations fisheries regulation proposals. Notable committee activity included a review of two proposed resolutions by the wildlife committee (#1-recommend a 1-buck rule for the entire UP and #2 recommend changes to the deer harvest reporting app). Resolution #1 failed and #2 passed. Additional business included reports from various division staff, old business items, and subcommittee reports. The next meeting of the group will be on May 1 in Menominee County.

More information on both the Western and Eastern CACs can be found at [www.michigan.gov/upcac](http://www.michigan.gov/upcac).

## March NRC Meeting Recap – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Michigan Natural Resources Commission met at the Blandford Nature Center in Grand Rapids on March 13, 2025. The Commission approved:

- An amendment to the Wildlife Conservation Order for property in Cheboygan County known as Gete Mino Mshkiigan. Acquired in 2013, the property underwent a management planning process that was completed in 2023. The plan changed the property designation to state park land with associated land use rules. The revision to the Wildlife Conservation Order allows for hunting to continue on this land under this new designation.
- Bear regulations for the 2025-2026 seasons, including a number of other regulatory recommendations detailed in a presentation at last month’s Natural Resources Commission by Cody Norton from the Wildlife Division.

Director Scott Bowen approved five land transactions. Details can be found in the NRC agenda.

### **Committee of the Whole, Directors Report**

Dustin Isenhoff of the Wildlife Division presented his division’s 2024 annual report, highlighting a number of important milestones achieved by the Wildlife Division.

Chad Stewart from the Wildlife Division along with Law Enforcement Division Chief Jason Haines talked about dog training limits on bears. Current regulations limit to eight the number of dogs that can be trained on a bear at any one time. A proposal had been advanced to increase that number to 10, in part to train dogs more efficiently. The department did not support that proposal. A new proposal – a compromise between DNR and stakeholder groups -- would limit the

number of dogs on a bear to eight, allowing for an additional two dogs to be brought to a tree on a leash after the chase has ended and a bear has been treed. The department is neutral on the proposal.

Kaitlyn Barnes from the Wildlife Division presented recommendations for upcoming waterfowl seasons, which include a number of mostly small changes to last year's regulations.

A report on legislation affecting the department was given to commissioners and is listed below.

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### ***How to Participate in the NRC Meetings***

- If you're unable to attend the meeting but wish to submit written comments on agenda items, please write to: Natural Resources Commission, P.O. Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909 or email: [nrc@michigan.gov](mailto:nrc@michigan.gov).
- If you would like further information or would like to address the Commission, please contact [nrc@michigan.gov](mailto:nrc@michigan.gov). Persons registering on or before the Friday preceding the meeting will be allowed up to five (5) minutes for their presentation. Persons registering after the Friday preceding the meeting or at the meeting will be allowed up to three (3) minutes. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the NRC Assistant.
- Look for the agendas and other Natural Resources Commission items at the Natural Resources Commission webpage ([www.michigan.gov/NRC](http://www.michigan.gov/NRC)).

### ***March Legislative Updates – Chris Semrinec, Legislative & Legal Affairs Office***

**HB 4013 – Modifies the Responsibilities of Property Owners Under the Recreational Trespassing Law – Rep. Slagh:** This bill amends the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require property owners to post signs at an interval of not more than 250 along the boundary of the property.

- The bill was referred to the House Committee Natural Resources and Tourism and the committee took testimony on the bill on March 5, 2025.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

**HB 4029 – Requires Postings of Rule and Regulation Change by a Certain Date – Rep. Slagh:** This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require any regulation changes or orders issued for the taking of game by the Natural Resources Commission to be issued by August 15th. Orders issued after this will not be valid until the following year.

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

**HB 4044 – Designates Official State Duck – Rep. Farhat:** This bill designates the Wood duck as the official duck of the state of Michigan.

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

**SB 63 – Modifies Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Recipients – Sen. Hoitenga:** This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to modify the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant recipients to include state departments, counties, and road commissions.

- This bill has been referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this bill.

**SB 65 – Creates Deer Baiting License – Sen. Hoitenga:** This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to create a deer baiting license for private property, except in management units where wildlife diseases affecting deer or elk have been found.

- This bill has been referred to the Senate Natural Resources and Agriculture Committee.
- The Administration has not yet taken a position on this bill.

**SB 67 – Requires Postings of Rule and Regulation Change by a Certain Date – Sen. Hoitenga:** This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require any regulation changes or orders issued for the taking of game by the Natural Resources Commission to be issued by August 1st. Orders issued after this will not be valid until the following year.

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

**HB 4073 – Remove the Open Field Doctrine for DNR Employees – Rep. Markkanen:** This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to restrict DNR employee’s ability to enter upon private property unless they have permission from the landowner or lessee or if they are a DNR peace officer or park and recreation officer with a warrant, reasonably believes evidence of a crime will be destroyed or they are in hot pursuit of criminal suspect.

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

**HB 4074 – Requires Body Cameras for DNR Law Enforcement Officers – Rep. Prestin:** This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to require all conservation officers to wear body cameras while exercising their duties.

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

**HB 4118 – Allows for Drain Assessment Levies – Rep. Schuette:** This bill would amend the Drain Code of 1956 to allow lands under the ownership of the Department of Natural Resources to be levied for drain assessments.

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

**HB 4176 – Allows Purple Paint Marks to be Used as No Trespassing Signs – Rep. VanderWall:** This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to allow for the use of purple paint marks to be used in lieu of posted signage indicating private property.

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

*If you would like to learn more about any bills listed, you can access the Michigan Legislature website at <https://www.legislature.mi.gov>.*

## Division Updates

### **Marketing & Outreach Division: Jon Spieles, Chief**

- **Nature Awaits:** Following an active outreach program through the winter, reaching thousands of fourth grade students in their classrooms, the summer field trip season is poised to get into high gear. More than 10,000 students have already been registered for field trips this spring, as registration for these field trips is outpacing our first year by a wide margin. Continuing marketing efforts include a featured presence at the June 1 Lansing Lugnuts baseball game, where our 30-second commercial will be played.
- **Michigan Science Teachers Association:** Education Services Section and Law Enforcement Division had exhibits and engagement at the annual science teachers’ conference in Lansing March 7-8. Every DNR presentation was well-attended. **Tracy Page**, DNR’s aquatic education specialist, was awarded Informal Educator of the Year by MSTA.
- **Salmon in the Classroom:** SIC applications are open and rolling in for the 2025-2026 school year, with an April 15 deadline. We currently have over 25 excellent applications. Tracy Page will attend at least 20 school salmon releases (among more than 300 this year!), including several in the Upper Peninsula.
- **Project WILD:** WILD facilitators have trained 90 teachers in recent weeks.
- **Becoming an Outdoors Woman:** Marketing and Outreach Division has recently taken responsibility for the BOW program, with Natalie Elkins as the program manager. A flurry of new BOW programs is in the works, with a turkey workshop posted for May 15-16 and a summer weekend session scheduled at the RAM Center in June.
- **Explorer Program:** The Explorer Program is preparing to provide a full summer of daily, nature-based programming in more than 25 Michigan state parks and is now in full-on hiring mode. See the [Educator opportunities webpage](#). Explorer guide training week is May 18-22 at the RAM Center.

- **Sport Shows:** Show season has wrapped up for the big three ShowSpan shows. It was an unusually busy fishing show and an unusually slow Outdoorama. Fishing show: 2,200 visitors; Outdoorama: 1,667 visitors; Ultimate Sport Show Grand Rapids: 1,719 visitors; total DNR booth interactions: 5,586. Marketing and Outreach Division appreciates the help provided to cover booth shifts throughout the show season (one shift equals four hours at the show). The breakdown of slots filled by division: MOD: 41 shifts, PRD: 13 shifts, Fisheries: 17 shifts, Law Enforcement: 23 shifts, Wildlife: 1 shift, Finance and Operations: 4 shifts, Forest Resources: 4 shifts, including Smokey Bear on Saturday of Outdoorama.
- **Renovation and construction** continue at many of our visitor center locations, including:
  - Porcupine Mountains Visitor Center – demolition complete, interior rebuild occurring now. Our staff is designing and fabricating exhibits for installation prior to reopening in June 2025.
  - Tahquamenon Falls State Park – demolition of brink stairway (94 steps to the Upper Falls) complete; currently pouring concrete footers. Our staff is designing wayside interpretive displays for installation prior to reopening in August 2025.
  - Michigan Fisheries Visitor Center at Oden State Fish Hatchery – repaving parking lot half complete, will finish in mid-April. Funding to replace visitor center doors and windows is in place – construction will take place in summer 2025. Repainting rail car to occur in summer 2025.
  - Gillette Visitor Center at Hoffmaster State Park – improvements to the visitor center are underway. The fire suppression system has been updated, and some masonry repair work has been completed. In the upcoming weeks, flooring will be replaced, the elevator will be upgraded and the main staircase railing will be updated to meet modern code standards.
  - Eddy Discovery Center at Waterloo Recreation Area – demolition of the interior is complete, thanks to the combined sweat equity from Education Services Section and Parks and Recreation Division – filling multiple dumpsters prior to the construction crew arriving on March 17. Construction is slated to continue through mid-August, and then the exhibit construction will begin.
  - Archery and pellet gun pavilion at Yankee Springs State Recreation Area – the project bid package is complete, and bidding will begin late March. Construction will begin in late spring 2025.
  - Hartwick Pines Visitor Center – phase 1 and phase 2 are funded, including replacing the roof, remodeling the auditorium and renovating the exhibit hall. Construction should begin in summer 2025.
  - Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery Visitor Center – procurement of a sturgeon touch tank and drawing plans for renovation of the office area/exhibit space to accommodate growing staff and upgrade 20-plus-year-old exhibits are underway.
  - Archery and pellet gun pavilions at Bay City and Waterloo sites have been selected, and the projects are entering the design process.
- **Shooting range activities:** Ranges had extended days/hours and saw intensive use for the fall sight-in season leading up to firearm deer season opener. Construction of Ortonville and Pontiac Lake storage facilities reached substantial completion in February 2025.
- **Echo Point and Barry shooting ranges** will be open as staffed ranges for the first time this spring and will be open year-round. Improvements at these facilities and several additional major range maintenance projects are currently out to bid.
- **Audit** is now underway concerning the lease agreement and concession operation at Island Lake and Bald Mountain shooting ranges. Additionally, the DNR’s R3 coordinator is working with National Wild Turkey Federation and Pheasants Forever to revise cooperative agreements.
- **Technology teams** have distributed 1099 tax forms to 1,500 license sales agents around the state and facilitated an ongoing upgrade of sales channels to a new, accessibility-compliant software version.
- **The DNR virtual townhall** meeting was supported by our Technology Team, including SharePoint management, video editing and captioning, and document accessibility updates.
- **Ongoing technology projects** include work on the digital deer kill tag project in 2026 with Law Enforcement and Wildlife divisions, the development of Power BI reports that allow easy data visualization for various divisions and the successful 2025 auto-renewal process for license buyers that opted in, showing a 21.9% increase over the previous year. Tech also completed a number of system security plans that will enhance security and efficiency across several software solutions.
- **“Wardens”** entered its ninth season with the Michigan DNR in February. Each of the show’s 16 episodes each season showcases the work of our Michigan conservation officers with a secondary story line that features all kinds of DNR natural resource management efforts. Since it began featuring the DNR in 2016, “Wardens” viewership has risen each year. This doesn’t include television outlets other than the Outdoor Channel carrying the show, including Animal Planet, the Discovery Channel and MAX. On these channels, two episodes are edited into one hourlong episode and rebranded

as “Wardens of the North,” bringing the content to cable and streaming services around the world. This success is largely due to participation from all the officers and DNR employees who give us a glimpse into their work, and to all of those who review and suggest new content for episodes!

▪ **Hunt Fish mobile app updates:**

- The app has 475,000 downloads; 75% are Apple users.
- The app is moving to a new operating system platform call React Native. This new version, which will allow for greater flexibility in how we develop features within the app, will go live this spring. Users will pick up the new version through normal software updates.
- Numerous changes to the app to further inform customers of eHarvest tags and how they’ll be delivered:
  - We’re working on adding a feature to the map layer called “Trout & Salmon Regs Where You Stand.” This will allow a connected customer to see the following information associated with the stream they are standing next to such as stream type, fishing season, possession season, minimum size limit for species, daily possession limit and gear restrictions.
  - Changes going into the conservation officer app will allow searching on a customer’s license number. This will help officers afield when they want to identify, for example, a deer that was tagged with an eHarvest tag/duct tape to see whose deer it is.

▪ **License sales point-of-sale system updates:** We are planning work to increase the license number size on eLicense and point-of-sale kill tags, per a request from Wildlife Division.

▪ **Harvest reporting updates:** A new question will be asked of all deer hunters who are reporting a harvest, whether they wish to have their deer tested for disease. If they answer yes, a new map will be displayed and they will be asked to drop a pin on the exact location of the kill. If they say no, we will present the normal map to select a town, range and square. This new feature will decrease the time it takes the average hunter to report a harvest; below are our average hunter response times per year.

- License year 2022, 3.72 minutes.
- License year 2023, 2.86 minutes.
- License year 2024, 2.63 minutes.
- License year 2025, 1.47 minutes (so far; these are crop damage permits, and we ask fewer questions for those).

▪ **Hunters Feeding Michigan updates:**

- The Food Bank Council of Michigan is fully on board and will start moving venison from processors to x-ray facilities, then for subsequent donation to more than 2,800 hunger relief agencies in Michigan.
- 75,000 pounds of venison have been donated so far this fiscal year.
- We are working with the Cook Family Foundation to help raise \$140,000 to purchase an x-ray machine to be housed and staffed by Feeding America staff to help defray cost and logistical challenges with hauling venison to Holland, Michigan, for x-raying.
- We are in the final stages of awarding a bid for six refrigerated trailers, with a tentative delivery date of June 1.

▪ **Spring turkey license sales as of 3/26/2025:** Total sales – 21,196. Point of sale (POS) – 9,808. eLicense – 5,542 (kill tag mailed). DNR Hunt Fish app – 5,846 (eHarvest tag).

▪ **Social media updates:**

- Educational videos on Instagram continue to do well. Our video on black squirrels currently has 196,000 views, and our video on black-capped chickadees has 146,000 views. Both videos reached more nonfollowers than followers. We are nearing 108,000 followers on Instagram.
- Ads are currently running promoting the [Spanish translation of the 2025 fishing regulations](#). We have over 300 clicks and a couple of messages from Spanish-speaking individuals asking for when they need to renew their license, which we’ve answered.
- We are seeing strong engagement in recent content, increasing our average social media reach on Facebook from 32,000 per post to over 56,000 per post. Pieces highlighting work of our staff and photos from the field are doing the best.

▪ **Web updates:**

- The [MiBFF boating app](#) was released in February. This new app replaces MRBIS and provides location and facility information on over 1,000 boating access sites.

- Work on the new Recreation Search continues, as park staff were solicited to provide feedback to make sure the data is accurate. This feedback is currently being incorporated. The site is anticipated to launch before summer.
- **DEI update:** The Spanish version of the 2025 Fishing Regulations Summary has been created and is now available online and on the DNR Hunt and Fish app.
- **Staff updates:**
  - New hires: Brandon Griffith, park interpreter 9, Ludington, 12/07/2024.
  - Departures/transfers/retirements: Alan Wernette, park interpreter 12, Ludington, retired 12/31/2024.
  - Working out of class: Michelle Gotts from Finance and Operations Division is working out of class as a procurement tech.

**Parks & Recreation Division-Eastern UP Trails: PJ Costa-Eastern UP Trails**

<b>Project Name: Trail 8 – 3 Bridges</b>	<b>Project Name: Haywire Grade – 11 Bridges</b>
Description: Engineer and replace 3 bridges	Description: Engineer and replace 11 bridges
Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use: ORV/Snowmobile
Anticipated Completion: 2025	Anticipated Completion: TBD
<b>4/25 Update:</b> The Melstrand culvert mtgs for summer construction are scheduled and contractor has agreed on a price.	4/25 Update: Waiting on approval and NEPA process from the USFS.
<b>Project Name: Grass Creek Bridge Snow Trail #8</b>	<b>Project Name: Betsy River Bridge Snow Trail #452</b>
Description: Bridge failing on the sunrise grade. Design and replacement needed.	Description: Large bridge failing north of Paradise. Design and replacement needed.
Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use: Snowmobile
Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: TBD
4/25 Update: Waiting on funding.	4/25 Update: Waiting on funding.
<b>Project Name: Sunrise Grade Snow Trail #8 LFRHW Crossing</b>	<b>Project Name: Trail #49 – 12 Mile/Gaines Hwy</b>
Description: Failing bridge on Snow Trail #8. Design, engineering and construction needed to replace	Description: 4.2 miles of roadbed and a failed bridge. Design, engineering and construction needed to build up roadbed and replace the crossing.
Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use: Snowmobile
Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: TBD
4/25 Update: Funding needed.	4/25 Update: Looking at options with EGLE due to wetland mitigation costs.

**Finance & Operations Division: Becky Randazzo, Eastern UP**

Season Dates to Remember

- 4/10 Last day to register non-incident Otter (see p. 57 in Fur Digest, for all deadlines)
- 4/15 Dog training closes (also no hunting with dogs)
- 4/15 Coyote season closes
- 4/19 Spring Turkey opener (for the early hunts, see digest for various unit dates)
- 4/25 Beaver trapping closes for Units B&C, Unit A closes on 4/30/25
- 4/27 Trout opener (inland waters)
- 4/27 Walleye and Pike season open for lower peninsula inland (except: note 3, p.13)
- 5/1 May apply for Bear and Elk hunts; Fur Harvester licenses go on sale
- 5/1 Can obtain kill tags for Otter, Bobcat, Marten, and Fisher (Residents Only)  
Also, deadline for returning incidental trapping seals to DNR
- 5/5 Last day to register incidental Otter taken in April – see p. 57 for details
- 5/15 Walleye and Pike open in UP inland / UP Great Lakes / St. Mary’s River

- 5/25 Bass Opener (catch and keep season)
- 5/31 Frog, Toad, Salamander seasons open (until 11/15) – see p. 22
- 5/31 Hand Net & Dip Net seasons close
- 6/1 Deadline to apply for Bear and Elk hunts
- 6/1 Muskie possession season opens
- 6/7-8 Free Fishing and ORV Weekend and Rec Passport
- 6/15 Bass possession season opens on Lake St. Clair, St. Clair R, Detroit R, Boundary Waters

- New Manager: The Northern Michigan Administrative Area would like to welcome Aaron Crawford to the team as the replacement for Dave Graham. Aaron's first day was March 17. We are excited to have him as a part of this area.
- A ribbon-cutting event for the new mass-timber Newberry Customer Service Center will be held on April 16.



## **Fisheries Division-Eastern UP – Cory Kovacs, Fisheries Biologist**

### **Field Management Update**

1. Northern Lake Michigan staff held a public meeting in Curtis on March 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss proposed walleye regulations for Manistique Lake and Milakokia Lake. Attendance was very good (n=33) with very good feedback received from the audience and overall general support was received for the proposals.
2. Northern Lake Michigan staff continue to work with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and US Army Corp of Engineers to acquire land parcels within the footprint of the proposed sea lamprey barrier on the Manistique River. The new barrier would replace the current dam that is not effectively blocking sea lamprey from migrating into the upper Manistique River watershed. The new dam is proposed for construction in 2026.
3. District 2 Law Enforcement staff met with Fisheries Division staff from the Northern Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, Northern Lake Huron, and Tribal Coordination units. Officers from Area 1 and 3, and the Great Lakes Unit, participated in the meeting. This meeting has been held each of the last 4 years to increase communication with the officers on what they are hearing, observing and encountering in the field regarding fisheries. Topics include fishing reports, regulation reviews and feedback, and issues Fisheries Division needs to be aware of.
4. This winter, the Newberry field crew has conducted several limnological profiles on area lakes to monitor dissolved oxygen concentrations. Low dissolved oxygen concentrations in inland trout lakes result in poor performance and survival of stocked trout. Having this data is helpful when making management decisions for these lakes.
5. The Newberry field crew is wrapping up maintenance work on survey and sampling equipment. With pending weather conditions, the crew is adjusting accordingly and awaiting triggers in conditions to begin spring surveys. Spring surveys on the work plan include walleye adult abundance estimates on Pike Lake (Luce County) and South Manistique Lake (Mackinac County).
6. The Tribal Coordination Unit is planning to conduct a walleye population estimate on Round Lake (Delta County) this spring. This lake has been selected as part of a larger walleye monitoring program and more information can be obtained by contacting Fisheries Biologist Emily Martin [EmilyMartinE13@michigan.gov](mailto:EmilyMartinE13@michigan.gov).
7. Jarron Masuga was hired as the new Fisheries Assistant for the Munising and Grand Marias creel survey route. Jarron started on March 31 and will be working through the end of October.
8. Audrey Baetz was announced as the new Fisheries Biologist for the Lake Superior Management Unit in Newberry. Audrey will be responsible for the eastern portion of the unit from Lake Independence east to Sault Ste. Marie. Audrey began her position on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

9. The Lake Superior Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee is holding a meeting on April 16th in Harvey at the Chocolay Township Hall. The Lake Superior Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee is a citizen-based committee charged to review and provide input and advice relative to fishery goals, objectives, and management plans for Lake Superior. Members assist Fisheries Division in charting the future course of fisheries management by providing voice to and for the diversity of citizens' interests in the Lake Superior basin. Topics for the April 16th meeting in Harvey included Isle Royale 2025 creel, coaster brook trout regulation ideas, angler harvest summaries, 2025 stocking plans, and splake and lake trout research. Meeting minutes are available on the Michigan DNR website.

#### Fish Production Section Update

1. Muskellunge are being overwintered in one pond at Thompson State Fish Hatchery. Muskellunge rearing was conducted entirely at Thompson hatchery in 2024 due to repairs being completed at Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery. Overwintering of muskellunge is normally completed at Wolf Lake hatchery and this is a first run at holding them through the winter at Thompson. So far, these fish are doing well and these larger fish (yearlings) are destined to be stocked into our broodstock lakes (Lake Hudson and Thornapple Lake).
2. Following retirements and recent vacancies, the Upper Peninsula (Thompson and Marquette) hatcheries now welcome a few familiar and new faces. Dan Korhonen is the new Maintenance Supervisor for UP hatcheries, Noah Rumney and Ryan McHugh are Fisheries Technicians at the Marquette hatchery, and Isaac Smalley is the new Trades Helper. Welcome to the team fellas!
3. Marquette and Thompson hatchery staff are slowly preparing for the spring stocking season. Between brook trout, splake, steelhead and Chinook, there are close to 1.5 million fish to put into public waters. This activity starts in April.

### **Forest Resources Division (FRD): Scott Lakosky, Eastern UP**

#### ***Timber Sales***

- Newberry FMU
  - Newberry had 1 scheduled timber bid during Feb – March offering 2 separate timber sales. 1 of these sales went No Bid. The other sale was withdrawn and will be offered later.
  - Some winter timber sales were completed this winter under favorable weather conditions. Snow and cold weather helped loggers get work completed. County load limit restrictions went into effect in the second week of March for Chippewa and Luce Counties. Loggers have now mostly moved out of the low ground due to spring break up and into sales with Class A road access. Markets continue to not be strong for many loggers in the EUP particularly in pulp markets. Many loggers switched gears and went south this winter to assist with storm damage clean-up being their wood markets have been fickle.
  - 2025 timber sales are being prepped by DNR staff and contractors. Work is also being done on the Hiawatha National Forest under the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA). Staff attended the recent UP Wood Producers Meeting in Marquette.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU
  - The Sault Unit offered 6 sales for bid, 5 of which sold and 1 was withdrawn. 6 sales are advertised for bid in early April.
  - Logging activity on state land has been on the low side. There are 4 active sales on the Sault side of the unit and 2 sales on the Naubinway side of the Unit.
- Shingleton FMU
  - No sales offered since last report.
  - Logging has picked up significantly with the early break-up. Currently there are 11 active jobs with one being a GNA sale.
  - Although winter was cut short there were several low ground sales that were able to be completed.

**Forest Inventory:** Forest inventory is well underway with many staff completing all the necessary field work. Quality control on field data has begun.

#### ***Cultivation***

- Cultivation field staff attended a preseason meeting in Marquette in preparation for the upcoming season. All units hope to have equipment running in the field as soon as the snow melts.
- The Newberry FMU has approximately 1,000 acres planned to trench, scarify, and roller chop. They are also planning a slash burn in northern Luce County.

**Fire:** All fire involved staff attended the UP Fire Tactics Meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

- Newberry FMU
  - Annual equipment maintenance continues. Equipment is being readied for the upcoming fire season. Fire staffing begins April 13<sup>th</sup>. Rx burning teams being put together to conduct burns throughout the state. One employee from the unit was sent to North Carolina to assist in wildfire suppression efforts.
- Sault Ste. Marie FMU
  - SO-56 (Type 6 Engine) and one unit employee were dispatched to North Carolina to assist with wildfires.
  - A large amount of Unit fire equipment has been serviced and ready for dispatch. Other equipment will be done when the weather warms up.
  - SO-50 attended the EUP Fire Association meeting to discuss DNR fire updates and meet with majority of EUP fire chiefs.
- Shingleton FMU
  - Several Fire Officers rotated through ICC to assist with equipment repairs.
  - Fire Officers are working to complete quarterly PMIs.
  - 1 Fire officer was dispatched to Texas with a dozer unit for initial attack.
  - 1 Fire Officer was dispatched to North Carolina on an engine crew.

### **Road & Bridge**

- Shingleton FMU: One road project is planned to be finished this summer on Ecklund Road.

**Facilities:** Annual facility and equipment inventories were completed.

**Good Neighbor Authority:** 3 timber sales are active on the East Zone of the Hiawatha National Forest.

### **Land Use**

- Newberry FMU reviewed, and issued use permits involving upcoming soil research, migratory bird banding, plant collection, and seismic survey. Also reviewing fiber optic easement permits.
- Shingleton FMU is reviewing 1 LTA, 1 easement for cathodic pipeline protection, and 1 road use permit was issued for logging.
- The Sault FMU completed the Blair Review, reviewed several utility easements, worked to resolve several trespass cases, and completed an exchange that started years ago with the Drummond Island Quarry.

**Research:** The Sault FMU issued a research permit for the University of Tennessee to continue looking at the mycorrhizal fungal community in the soil and how they are shifting with a changing climate.

**Forest Health:** Staff and partners have been continuing to survey hemlock for hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) across land ownerships in the UP, focusing on areas near the lake Michigan shoreline considered to be at highest risk for infestation. Winter is the best time to survey for HWA. No detections of HWA have ever been found in the UP, however, the closest area of known infestation in Antrim County is about 60 miles from the shoreline of the EUP. Early detection of any infestations allows us to slow establishment and spread, protecting our valuable hemlock resource.

### **Commercial Forest**

- District Service Forester
  - Landowner questions via phone & email.
  - Working with new CF Program Lead.
  - Working with new West UP Service Forester.
  - Reviewing Forest Management Plans.
  - Performing compliance checks in the field.
  - Reviewing Deer Habitat Improvement applications.

### **Training**

- RT-130 Training was conducted across the EUP.
- Forestry staff attended Mifi training.
- Fire Staff attended CAT dozer training.
- Several Staff attended CPR recertification training.
- IQS review was completed for all staff involved with fire.
- 4 staff attended S290- Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior.
- Staff attended the Eastern Area IMT preseason meeting.
- 1 Shingleton employee completed CDL training, and 1 Sault employee started the training course at the end of March.

- Field staff attended invasive species refresher training.
- One employee attended 800Mhz Radio Train-the-Trainer conducted by the Michigan Public Safety Communications System.

#### ***Vacancies/New Hires***

- Offers were made for two Non-career Fire Officer positions in the EUP
- Newberry will have a student forestry intern this summer starting mid-May.
- Avi Shalom, Forest Fire Supervisor, was promoted to Fire Specialist at the ICC in Marquette. The unit is working swiftly to backfill the position.
- The Shingleton GNA Forester resigned, the unit is working on a backfill and the Manistique Lead Tech vacancy is on hold.
- The Sault FMU will not be getting a non-career fire officer or a forestry summer student this year.

#### **Wildlife Division: Dave Lemmien, Northern Michigan Regional Manager**

- **Staffing Update:** The UP region is pleased to announce that Don Brown is the new Shingleton biologist. Don Brown attended Central Michigan University where he earned a BS in Biology/Natural Resources with a minor in GIS, graduating in 2010. He has been a senior wildlife technician stationed at the Shingleton Field Office. He has been employed by the Wildlife Division (WLD) as a wildlife technician since October 2010. Don has had multiple formal acting stints as Shingleton biologist (Oct 2014 to April 2015; June 2019 to April 2021) and several informal acting periods successfully covering biologist vacancies as well. He has extensive experience with managing wildlife habitat, co-managing state forest lands with the Forest Resources Division, budget preparation and administration, conservation planning, habitat program implementation, species regulation management, partnership facilitation, and community conservation leadership. Don has served as the UP region black bear program point person and recently spearheaded the development of a digital data collection / reimbursement program for bear registration stations across the region. He also sits in the team that facilitates the bear regulation forum.

Don is an avid outdoors person with an extensive background hunting and recreating including producing and independent outdoors / hunting media channel. He has long expressed a strong interest in growing his role and influence within WLD in the UP where he resides with his family. He spends much of his personal time taking his kids hunting, fishing, and sharing his passion for the outdoors. Please wish Don well and join us in welcoming him to his new role in Wildlife Division. Don officially started in his new role March 2nd.

- **Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI):** HPAI cases are now confirmed in domestic birds, wild birds, and wild mammals throughout most of North America. Since late February 2022, Michigan has experienced die-offs in wild birds and mammals across the state due to HPAI. Monitoring of sick and dead wildlife for HPAI continues and the disease is considered widespread and endemic across Michigan and North America. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development continues to take swift action in response to this disease and is closely monitoring and responding to reports of sick domestic birds and HPAI throughout the state. HPAI has caused extensive illness and death in a range of wild bird species across North America. In particular, waterfowl, raptors, scavengers, gulls and terns have been affected. The DNR is focusing its surveillance efforts by prioritizing testing dead birds from die-offs of six or more birds, as well as bald eagles, and abnormal acting hawks, owls, and wild mammals. Please visit the HPAI section within the MIDNR website including the Frequently Asked Questions portion. <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/wildlife/wildlife-disease/disease-monitoring/avian-influenza-updates>
- **Moose Capture Project Update:** Phase 1 of the moose capture project has been completed. The goal was to collar 20 moose targeting 5 bulls, 10 cows, and 5 calves. This goal was completed within less than 2 days. While collaring the moose, WLD staff collected biological and genetic samples from each animal. Staff will begin analyzing the samples as well as begin tracking animal movement. Staff will investigate all mortality signals moving forward. After calving season, staff will locate each of the collared cows to determine reproductive status with a keen interest on twinning rates.
- **2025 Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative (DHIPI):** The Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative (DHIPI) is a competitive grant program offered by Wildlife Division and focuses on cooperative projects enhancing deer habitat on private lands in the UP. Now in its' 17<sup>th</sup> year, over \$1,250,000.00 of deer hunting license dollars have been invested into UP deer habitat through the DHIPI program, with an additional \$900,000 of matching funds contributed through partners in over 148 projects, enhancing thousands of acres of deer habitat in nearly all UP counties. The request for grant proposals opened on Monday, February 3, with a total of \$100,000 available to award as grants through the DHIPI program. Grants awarded in 2025 will range from a minimum of \$2,000 to a maximum of \$15,000 and require a 25% project match from partners in the form of financial or in-kind contributions. Completed applications must were due by

close of business on March 14. Final notification of project selection process will occur by April 4. Complete grant materials are available online at DNR Wildlife Grants page or type [www.michigan.gov/dnrgrants](http://www.michigan.gov/dnrgrants) then follow the Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative link.

- **Winter Conditions and the Impact on Deer:** Winter conditions so far have been tracking near historic (past 20 years) averages. As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, the average region-wide snow depth is 17 inches, while the long-term average snow depth is 11 inches. The accumulated number of days with snow on the ground greater than 12” deep is now 71 days, while the long-term average for this time of year is 78 days. Staff will opportunistically monitor deer wintering complex activity this winter as snow conditions allow.
- **UP Aerial Moose Survey:** UP staff recently completed an aerial winter moose survey to estimate population size. WLD conducts this survey every two years. Despite unfavorable weather grounding DNR aircraft for several days at a time, we were able to complete the survey on Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. WLD Research Staff will be analyzing the data and will have results available later this summer. When results become available, WLD will report to the WUPCAC at a future meeting.
- **UP Deer Camp Survey:** Deer hunters from across the UP contribute data from the 16-day firearm season to provide DNR staff and hunters with feedback on the status of the deer herd and hunting satisfaction soon after the season ends. Data from camps across the UP was collected and is being analyzed with results expected to be released soon. WLD will present results at the next EUPCAC meeting. Thanks to all the participants for their interest in deer and deer hunting.
- **2024 Bear Season Summary:** Please see the tables below for preliminary harvest numbers for the 2024 bear season. In general, the western UP had good hunter success rates and resulting harvest levels that are relatively consistent with what they have been for several years. The eastern UP had very good success rates that reflect the increasing harvest and trends in abundance we’ve seen in recent years. The NLP rebounded after the dip we saw in harvest and success last year (likely due to abundant natural foods last season), and harvest levels were

**PRELIMINARY**  
2024 BEAR HUNT - REGISTRATION RESULTS Page 2

TRIBAL	Bears Registered
Baldwin	3
Baraga	0
Drummond	1
Gladwin	0
Gwinn	12
Newberry	45
Red Oak	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>

**PRELIMINARY**  
2024 BEAR HUNT - REGISTRATION RESULTS Page 1  
State Licensed Hunter Harvest

very similar to previous years.

BMU	DESIRED HARVEST	BEARS		License	% of QUOTA
		REGISTERED	QUOTA	REGISTERED	REGISTERED
Bergland	200	253	920	28	
Baraga	300	353	1540	23	
Amasa	165	177	500	35	
Carney	116	159	550	29	
Gwinn	150	212	885	24	
Newberry	260	328	1005	33	
Drummond Island	5	5	6	83	
<b>Zone 1</b>	<b>1196</b>	<b>1487</b>	<b>5406</b>	<b>28</b>	
Red Oak	317	345	685	50	
Baldwin	185	151	395	38	
Gladwin	26	43	100	43	
<b>Zone 2</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>1180</b>	<b>46</b>	
<b>Total*</b>	<b>1724</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>6586</b>	<b>31</b>	

SEX DISTRIBUTION BY UNIT OF HARVEST (State Licensed Hunter Harvest)

UNIT	UNKNOWN	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	% FEMALES
BERGLAND	0	146	107	253	42
BARAGA	0	204	149	353	42
AMASA	0	100	77	177	44
CARNEY	0	100	59	159	37
GWINN	0	121	91	212	43
NEWBERRY	0	183	145	328	44
DRUMMOND	0	4	1	5	20
<b>ZONE 1*</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>1487</b>	<b>42</b>
RED OAK	0	183	162	345	47
BALDWIN	0	69	82	151	54
GLADWIN	0	18	25	43	58
<b>ZONE 2*</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>TOTAL*</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1128</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>2026</b>	<b>44</b>

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

- The 26 weeklong Conservation Officer Academy #13 which began on January 5<sup>th</sup> is going well. As of this writing, we are down to 15 recruits still in training. The assignments have not yet been finalized, but we will be receiving some of the new officers in District 2 upon the completion of the training process.
- The recent ice storm that hit the state has had our officers involved in assisting with some of the emergency situations. The northern lower was impacted much worse by the storm with officers running nonstop with emergency responses and relief efforts.

District 2 Bi-Weekly Report 2-16-2025

- While on snowmobile patrol, **CO Robert Freeborn** was getting gas at a local gas station with his snowmobile, when he was informed that a snowmobile was on fire at the pump on the other side of the gas station. The snowmobiler asked CO Freeborn if he had a tow strap with him. CO Freeborn gave the snowmobiler his tow strap and went to assist. As CO

Freeborn arrived at the other side of the gas station, bystanders had extinguished the fire. The snowmobile was towed away from the pumps in case it reignited. Luckily no injuries were sustained from the fire.

- While on a group patrol, **CO Robert Freeborn** and **Acting Sgt Andrea Dani** along with local deputies and a Forest Service Officer, patrolled a busy area due to an Antique Snowmobile show. Overall, compliance was good. The officers did issue two citations for operating without helmets to spectators of the show.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was patrolling at a snowmobile trail where the trail crosses a roadway. CO Maki observed pedestrians walking their dogs, motor vehicles, and a tractor use this road where the trail crosses. CO Maki observed a snowmobile slide past the stop sign, through the roadway, and finally came to a stop at the other side of the road. CO Maki initiated a stop and contacted the rider. The rider stated he lost his group and was trying to catch up. A citation was issued for the careless operation, and CO Maki gave the rider directions to the area his group described to him over the phone.
- **CO Brandon Maki** stopped a group of snowmobiles and while finishing up his contact observed 4 more snowmobiles go by two of which had expired trail permits. CO Maki concluded his contact and caught up to the rear rider. CO Maki attempted to pass in a straight section of the trail and was cut off as the rider was failing to ride right. CO Maki eventually passed the two snowmobiles and initiated a stop. Upon closer inspection it was discovered one of the snowmobiles registration was also expired by 3 years. CO Maki cited one operator for failing to display his trail permit and careless operation while warning the other for failing to register his snowmobile. CO Maki cleared the scene after enforcement action was taken.

#### District 2 Bi-Weekly Report 3-3-2025

- **CO Steve Butzin** was conducting an evening patrol of Little Bay de Noc when he observed a vehicle stationary on the ice for some time. After watching it was observed that the operator turned the hazard lights on. CO Butzin walked to the vehicle and discovered that it had fallen through the ice. There were no injuries, and the vehicle was able to be recovered by a local towing service.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was on patrol and traveling west bound on US-2 when he was passed by a vehicle doing speeds well over 100 MPH. The vehicle was eventually stopped, and the operator was cited for careless operation.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a complaint of a burned ice fishing shack with garbage on a local inland lake. CO Freeborn determined the owner and is currently trying to track them down to clean it up.
- **CO Michael Evink** assisted MSP during the closing of State Highway M-28 between Seney and Shingleton. Road conditions were poor, and visibility was worse. CO Evink escorted numerous vehicles through the Seney stretch. He returned to assist MSP until all vehicles were cleared from the roadway.
- **CO Mike Evink** assisted MSP with a larceny investigation that involved an individual who was cutting trees on private property in the right-of-way. CO Evink located the suspect and assisted MSP with the follow-up investigation. MSP is submitting a report to the Schoolcraft County Prosecutor.
- **CO Andrea Dani** was on patrol when she observed a snowmobile with an expired trail permit that also did not have a registration displayed. The operator was stopped and cited for failing to display a trail permit and warned for failure to display a registration decal and certificate.
- **CO Jason Ruth** was on snowmobile patrol in Mackinac County when he observed a snowmobiler who was operating without a trail permit. A stop was made, and a citation was issued.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on snowmobile patrol when he stopped at a stop sign where numerous serious accidents have happened over the years. While stopped, CO VanOosten observed a snowmobiler drive through the adjacent stop sign at a high rate of speed, skidded sideways in front of the CO and exit the trail on the opposite side. A traffic stop was conducted. The driver was shaken up and stated he didn't expect to see someone at the other stop sign. CO VanOosten sternly reminded the individual that all stop signs are there for a reason and should be taken seriously. The man was issued a citation for careless operation of a snowmobile.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was returning home after a day of snowmobile patrol when he observed a snowmobiler driving on the state highway. A traffic stop was conducted, and a citation was issued for operating on the state highway.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on snowmobile patrol in Chippewa County. Contacting many snowmobilers throughout the patrol leading to citations being issued for operating snowmobiles without trail permits and careless operation.
- **CO Scott Pankow** worked a snowmobile patrol near Trout Lake trail 47. CO Pankow observed multiple individuals operating snowmobiles carelessly, citations were issued to those individuals for their careless operation of a snowmobile.

#### District 2 Bi-Weekly Report 3-17-2025

- **CO Jason Ruth** was traveling on US-2 when he observed the vehicle in front of him pass a Semi on the right shoulder of the highway. CO Ruth conducted a stop and contacted the driver who was from Minnesota. A citation was issued for improper passing on the shoulder.
- **CO Jason Ruth** was on snowmobile patrol when he observed two snowmobilers that were displaying expired trail permits. CO Ruth issued both operators citations for the violations.

- **CO Scott Pankow** was on patrol checking fishermen on Munuscong Bay when he came across an individual who did not have his license on his person. A quick license check with station 20 revealed that he did in fact have a valid fishing license but also had a warrant out for his arrest for recreational trespass out of Novi Michigan. The individual was able to post the \$500 bond and was issued an appearance date and was released.
- **COs Scott Pankow and Mike Olesen** were patrolling near Kinross when they observed an individual was operating a dirt bike down the roadway without a helmet. The COs initiated a stop on the individual and also found the ORV was not properly licensed. The individual was cited for operating ORV without the helmet and was given a warning for no ORV license.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was completing admin work when a call of an active domestic assault was called out nearby. CO VanOosten responded to the area and assisted the Michigan State Police and Luce County Sheriff's Department with the investigation which ultimately involved in the arrest of the woman for assaulting her mother.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on patrol when a call of a hold-up alarm was reported at a local bank. CO VanOosten responded to the scene where two deputies had just arrested a combative male suspect who was actively resisting. Prior to the COs arrival, the deputies had deployed a taser on the man and struggled to get him in custody resulting in injuries to the subject and officers. After ensuring the man was safely in custody and no further medical attention was needed, CO VanOosten assisted the Sheriff's Department by gathering evidence and statements from inside the bank. The man was lodged in the Luce County Jail for attempted bank robbery and resisting and obstructing a police officer.
- **CO Justin Vinson** attended the annual eastern Upper Peninsula snowmobilers meeting in Hulbert. CO Vinson provided stats for the season and answered questions from the local clubs.

#### District 2 Bi-Weekly Report 3-31-2025

- **CO Steve Butzin** received a littering complaint in Escanaba Township where a mattress and a bag of garbage were dumped in an area that generates many littering complaints. Information was located which led the officer to interview several suspects. A citation was issued for littering, and the responsible person was instructed to clean up the mess.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a complaint of subjects fishing in closed streams for steelhead. COs Freeborn and Steve Butzin have increased surveillance in the areas and the investigation is ongoing.
- **COs Cole VanOosten, Justin Vinson, and Sgt. Mark Pomroy** conducted simultaneous interviews on three individuals in the Upper Peninsula who were suspected of fraudulent hunting license purchases in the state of Kansas. Following the interviews, the information was compiled and sent to Game Wardens in Kansas for use in their investigation.
- **COs Mike Olesen and Scott Pankow** assisted the United States Coast Guard with a vehicle and a Kubota tractor that fell through the ice on Munuscong Bay. Both the vehicle and tractor were removed with no environmental damage reported.
- Widespread power outages across the district have occurred after an ice storm hit on Sunday 3-30. This storm blanketed a large portion on the UP and Northern Michigan. As of Monday morning 3-31 there are over 10,000 outages in the eastern UP alone, with many trees down on roads and across power lines creating hazardous situations.

### **Parks & Recreation Division (PRD): Eric Cowing, Eastern UP District Supervisor**

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

- Brimley utility improvement (waterline/storm water replacement): Construction started September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Work has ceased due to snow, with remaining water connections, final grading, seeding/planting among other work items to resume in the Spring. Substantial completion is May 19<sup>th</sup> for Campground and June 15<sup>th</sup> for Day Use.
- DeTour Harbor Surge Protection System improvements: Construction started on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Work continues this winter but has been on hold the last few weeks trying to find proper electrical parts for above ground enclosures. Substantial completion is May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Lime Island Solar System replacement/upgrade (design build): Project was awarded and is currently at 90% review with mobilization at the end of April, or as conditions (ice) permit.
- Vacant DeTour Seasonal Ranger position- Currently setting up interviews for mid-April.
- Seasonal State Park Workers- Continuing to hire summer staff for all units
- Brimley: Has been closed to pedestrian and vehicular traffic since 9/3/24 to accommodate construction
- DeTour State Harbor: DeTour Harbor has been closed since 9/9/24 to accommodate electrical upgrades.
- Lime Island Recreation Area: Closed for the Season.
- Munuscong/DeTour SFCG: Snowed in for the Season
- Brimley Rangers have been keeping busy completing inside project work and reviewing/updating MIOSHA safety plans, maintaining winter off-site locations and planning Spring projects.
- Still 18-20" inches of snow (in spots) in Brimley State Park along with some very large drifts. Hoping for a Spring warm-up so contractors can finish remaining waterline, stormwater, Day Use & sanitation station construction project.

- The Algonquin cross-country ski season is pretty much over. The grooming equipment is still staged on-site for grooming but have not had good conditions to continue trail grooming. This season has seen good conditions for skiing, as Sault Ste. Marie is well over their 120" snowfall average (in the 190" 's the last time I checked).

#### ***Indian Lake State Park & Palms Book State Park***

- Indian Lake State Park has received Cultural Resource Funding for shingle replacement on the boat house and lighthouse keeper's residents at Seul Choix Lighthouse.
- Indian Lake State Park toilet building and lagoon replacement projects will be being reviewed by EGLE and LMAS in April.
- Palms Book State Park has received funding to install new electricity to the entry booth.
- All seasonal Rangers have returned to work.
- Interviews for summer rangers has taken place and currently all positions have been filled.
- Rangers have finished their cultural resources hours at Fayette State Park.
- Late winter storms may delay the start time to finish up the Shoreline Restoration Project.

#### ***Muskallonge Lake State Park***

- Warranty and punch list items at the new West Campground toilet/Shower building are being completed by the contractor the first week in April.
- The new boardwalk to Lake Superior is under construction with an anticipated completion date of mid-June. Progress has slowed due to winter weather conditions but is tracking to be done on time.
- The Campground Road paving project has a contract in place with Bacco and this project will begin on June 15, 2025. This project will force a closure of the campground and BAS site from June 15-October 1.
- Design and engineering (90%) is in progress for the wastewater/water distribution upgrades.
- Ranger staff have all been recalled from seasonal furlough.
- Short term worker recruiting, interviewing, and hiring for the upcoming season is in progress.
- Ranger Cottrell participated in stewardship projects over the past two months identifying and mapping hemlock trees at Tahquamenon Falls State Park and sever State Forest Campgrounds for invasive species controls and monitoring.

#### ***Tahquamenon Falls State Park***

- Lower Falls Portage Campground Electrical Improvements: Is almost complete, pending some final punch list items and campsite restoration, which will take place in May. The Portage campground will open on June 13, 2025.
- Upper Falls Brink Overlook: Continues to be under construction with a substantial completion date of July 31, 2025. The Brink viewing platform is closed during construction, but the Upper Falls Unit will remain OPEN, including the 3 main viewing areas from above and the Gorge steps.
- Lower Falls Boardwalk Repairs: Is on track for the May 3<sup>rd</sup> substantial completion date.
- Lower Falls Water Distribution Project: Is also on track to be completed in Mid-June. The Hemlock campground will open for the season on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- The Park is currently in the process of back-filling a Seasonal Ranger position that was vacated recently.
- The Park will again host several races this summer, including the Two-Hearted Marathon, Tahqua Trail run, and Wilderness canoe race. A new event will also be coming this year on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Yooper Running will be hosting the inaugural "Falls to Falls" race, which will feature a round-trip race beginning & ending at the Upper Falls.
- The park has received 222" of snowfall this season and Park Staff is hopeful Spring breaks soon so they can get to work preparing the park for summer visitors.
- Heavy spring runoff is also anticipated, which puts a strain on the Lower Falls boat rental infrastructure and will likely delay the opening of the boat rentals this season.