



## Eastern Upper Peninsula Citizen Advisory Council DNR Division Reports

**Date of Production: August 2023** (information current as of 7/26/23)

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

### ***DNR Pocket Park – UP State Fair in Escanaba August 14 through August 20, 2023***

In a few weeks, the DNR Pocket Park will be swirling with thousands of parents and children wanting to learn how to catch a fish or hit the bullseye with a bow or pellet gun. And we can't provide these activities without volunteers like you! Volunteers make the park one of the top destinations to visit during the UP State Fair each year. **We hope we can count on you to volunteer this year!**



Please help us NOW by considering a few things below.

1. Look at your calendar and please consider volunteering some time during the week of August 14-20. Your family member(s), friends and coworkers (and mature younger kids too!) are also more than welcome to volunteer. Make it a fun group effort. Remember, there are concerts and other events scheduled at the fair...coordinate your shift with those you want to see (<https://www.upstatefair.net/entertainment/grandstand-events/>).
2. There are so many slots to fill! If you have a favorite activity and/or slot you'd like, tell us and we will slot you in. You get first choice as a former volunteer! No prior experience is necessary—we will train you! And you receive FREE entry to the fair on the day(s) you volunteer!
3. Call or email Kristi Dahlstrom ([dahlstromk@michigan.gov](mailto:dahlstromk@michigan.gov) / 906-226-1331) for volunteer slots.

#### **Pocket Park Fair Week Open/Volunteer Shift Hours**

- Monday, August 14 - 5:00pm-8:00pm
- Tuesday, August 15 - 11:30am-3:30pm & 3:30-7:00pm
- Wednesday, August 16 - 11:30am-3:30pm & 3:30-7:00pm
- Thursday, August 17 - 3:30-7:00pm (2<sup>nd</sup> shift only)
- Friday, August 18 - 11:30am-3:30pm & 3:30-7:00pm
- Saturday, August 19 - 11:30am-3:30pm & 3:30-7:00pm
- Sunday, August 20 - 12:00pm-3:00pm

#### **Activities/Stations**

- Fishing Pond (7 per shift per day)
- Archery Range (4 per shift per day)
- Pellet Gun Range (4 per shift per day)
- Fire Tower (1-2 per shift per day)
- Greeters (2 per shift per day)
- Smokey Bounce House! (2 per shift per day)
- Hospitality Host (Cook and serve volunteer food items/volunteer assistant – 1 per shift per day)
- Rounder (Make rounds around park, delivering water and tending to volunteer needs, etc. – 1 per shift per day)
- Fish Repair Shack Helper (To repair fishing/archery equipment Wednesday-Saturday – 1 per shift per day)



**Please feel free to share this list of events with everyone!! With all the amazing things happening in the U.P., let's help spread the word. 😊**

### 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.

- August 2 Eastern UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, 6pm, Munising, 906-226-1331
- August 10 Michigan Natural Resources Commission, Grand Rapids, 9am, [NRC@michigan.gov](mailto:NRC@michigan.gov)
- Sept 6 Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, 6pm, Houghton, 906-226-1331
- October 11 Joint UP Citizens' Advisory Council Meeting, 3-5pm, Escanaba, 906-226-1331
- October 12 Michigan Natural Resources Commission, [Escanaba](#), 9am, [NRC@michigan.gov](mailto:NRC@michigan.gov)

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### U.P. 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](#)

- August 1 Michigan Iron Industry Museum (Negaunee) – Saving our Theater Documentary Screening/Q&A
- August 8 Michigan Iron Industry Museum (Negaunee) – The UP Teams That Played the Packers Documentary Screening/Q&A
- August 14-20 DNR Pocket Park - UP State Fair in Escanaba – **PLEASE SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER!**
- August 15 Michigan Iron Industry Museum (Negaunee) – Women of the Watch: Keepers of the Light
- August 19-20 Free ORV Weekend
- August 25-26 Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Music Festival
- August 27-29 Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Intermediate Backpacking in the Porkies
- Aug 30-Sep 1 Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park – Beginning Backpacking in the Porkies
- Sept. 15-16 Fayette Historic State Park – A Paranormal Event
- Sept. 15-17 Van Riper State Park – Harvest Fest Weekend
- Sept. 22-24 Van Riper State Park – Harvest Fest Weekend
- Sept. 22-23 Wells State Park – Harvest Festival
- Sept. 23 Brimley State Park – Harvest Festival
- Sept. 29-30 Tahquamenon Falls State Park – Harvest Festival

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### Recent DNR Press Releases

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

- August DNR Meetings, plus vacancy on Equine Trails Subcommittee (7/18/23)
- 2023 deer hunting access permit application period opens today (7/15/23)
- Brown needles on jack pine likely due to budworm outbreak (7/13/23)
- Charcoal Grade Road in Luce County to close for bridge, culvert work (7/12/23)
- NotMISpecies webinars: Real-world invasives solutions (7/11/23)
- Cicada killer wasps, bald eagles, CCC celebration, Porkies backpacking (7/10/23)
- Porkies backpacking classes offer true wilderness experience (7/10/23)
- 'Wildtalk' podcast July episode now available (7/8/23)
- Showcasing the DNR: Quick action (7/7/23)
- DNR Events/Get Involved: volunteering, outdoor recreation programs, more (7/7/23)
- First ARPA-funded state park projects cross the finish line (7/7/23)
- We need your help! Submit wild turkey brood sightings in July and August (7/1/23)

## 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>                                      |
| ▪ Aquatic Habitat Grant                           | Chip Kosloski, 517-284-5965, <a href="mailto:kosloskic3@michigan.gov">kosloskic3@michigan.gov</a>                                   |
| ▪ Fisheries Habitat Grant Program                 | Chip Kosloski, 517-284-5965, <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                          | Clay Buchanan, 517-614-0918, <a href="mailto:buchanenc1@michigan.gov">buchanenc1@michigan.gov</a>                                   |
| ▪ U.P. Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Grant | Bill Scullon, 906-563-9247, <a href="mailto:scullonh@michigan.gov">scullonh@michigan.gov</a>  |
| ▪ Forestry Grants                                 | <a href="https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/forestry">https://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                        | Linnea Dawson, 517-290-2200, <a href="mailto:dawsonl@michigan.gov">dawsonl@michigan.gov</a>   |

## Western UPCAC Update

**Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council:** The WUPCAC met on July 10 in Baraga. A tour of the proposed Michigan Highlands forest legacy project was held earlier in the day. Reports provided by western U.P. divisional staff were reviewed. Meeting discussion topics and updates included cormorant control and funding, a review of the proposed Michigamme Highland forest legacy project by Ms. Kerry Heckman, DNR forest land administrator, an in-depth overview of the Parks and Recreation Division and Western U.P. parks system, an update on the trail project status in Lake Linden, moose survey results, and approved deer regulations from the June NRC meeting. Several questions were fielded by divisional staff on these topics. Reports were provided by the Fisheries and Wildlife subcommittees regarding the submission of potential resolutions on northern pike regulations and positive feedback regarding the recently UP deer regulations, respectively. A member of the public thanked the DNR, council members, and staff for the progress on the Lake Linden trail projects. The next meeting will be held on September 2 in Houghton.

### Upcoming meetings:

Western UP Citizens' Advisory Council	September 6 in Houghton
Joint UPCAC Meeting	October 11 in Escanaba
UP Natural Resources Commission Meeting	October 12 in Escanaba

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

## July NRC Meeting Summary – Ed Golder, Public Information Officer

The Natural Resources Commission met on July 13<sup>th</sup> on the West Campus of Lansing Community College.

Acting Director Shannon Lott approved:

- An order to regulate target shooting at the Cornish State Game Area, Dr. Gordon Guyer Augusta Creek State Wildlife Area, and Three Rivers State Game Area. The order prohibits target shooting at these three locations to minimize impacts of lead on nesting waterfowl and grassland birds, align habitat management goals at each location, resolve issues with private landowners, and ensure other wildlife-focused recreation activities can occur without conflict. People will still have access to nearby shooting ranges at Barry State Game Area, where a range is currently under construction, and Allegan State Game Area.
- Two land use orders making a variety of changes in state parks operations, including a change to a DNR-managed boating access site name that is offensive to Native American people. Details of these changes can be found [in a presentation made at last month's NRC meeting](#).
- Six land transactions. Details of those transactions can be found in [the NRC agenda online](#).

## **Fisheries Committee**

Matt Diana from Fisheries gave a presentation on the department's Northern Pike Management Plan. Matt reviewed the history of pike regulations, dating back to 1865, and talked about trends, including population declines because of imperiled habitat. Matt reviewed the goals of our management plan. Matt gave an overview of muskellunge management, including the biology of that iconic sport fish, our efforts to stock inland lakes and the long distances muskie are capable of moving. Matt also reviewed the goals of our muskie management plan.

Jeff Jolley of Fisheries told the committee about Saginaw Bay Fisheries Management. There has been a growing walleye population on Saginaw Bay, even with more liberal harvest regulations. The abundant walleye population has, however, meant that recruitment of yellow perch – a prey base for walleye -- has been less robust. Jeff reviewed walleye management goals and yellow perch management goals for Saginaw Bay. He concluded that Saginaw Bay continues to have a high quality walleye population. Yellow perch reproduction remains high but there is low survival for perch past age 1.

Seth Herbst from Fisheries gave a presentation on understanding steelhead angler dynamics, perceptions and preferences. A 2022 email survey of anglers – representing 42 states – revealed that our steelhead fisheries are a destination for many. Nearly half of those surveyed (46 percent) indicated that steelhead are the most important species they target. The survey showed that anglers are satisfied with the state's diverse steelhead fisheries, regardless of their preferred fishery type – whether Great Lakes or connecting tributaries. The survey showed that 80 percent preferred fishing for steelhead on rivers. Seth detailed management conclusions drawn from the survey.

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

Law Enforcement Chief David Shaw presented the 2022 Hunter Education Instructor of the Year Award to Doug Hastings of Bath Township near Lansing. Doug has been a certified hunter safety instructor since 2001 and became a bow instructor in 2005. In 2022, he taught approximately 700 students, organized 16 field day classes and one traditional class, all held at the Rose Lake Shooting Range. Doug promotes hunter safety classes through several organizations, such as Lions Club, Boy Scouts, 4-H, and the Demmer Shooting Sports and Education Center at Michigan State University. He recruits and mentors new hunter education instructors and truly cares about his students and the state's hunting tradition and heritage.

Nick Buggia, chair of the Michigan Wildlife Council, and Jill Holden of GUD Marketing talked about the work of the Michigan Wildlife Council. The Wildlife Council is funded by a dollar surcharge on hunting and fishing licenses with the goal of informing the public about the critical role hunting and fishing play in conservation. Since the council began public surveys in 2015 there have been marked increases in the percentage of the state's population that approve of hunting and fishing. The surveys also showed a growing understanding of the economic impact of hunting and fishing, the importance of wildlife management and a recognition that hunting and fishing license sales fund this management. Nick and Jill shared some of the billboards, radio ads, television ads and other marketing materials used to educate the public. They also talked about the 2023 goals of the campaign.

A report on legislation (below) affecting the department was presented to commissioners.

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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 the NRC Assistant at 517-331-7792 or email: [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)).

**SB 52 – Eliminate Penal Code Violation for Not Reporting a Deer Harvest within 72 Hours – Sen. Cherry:** This bill amends Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to eliminate the misdemeanor penal code violation for not reporting a deer harvest or not retaining a deer harvest confirmation number.

- The bill has passed the Senate and House and is awaiting the Governor's signature.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

**SB 59 – Modify Definition of a Peace Officer in the Mental Health Code – Sen. Cherry:** This bill would amend the Mental Health Code, Act 258 of 1974, to modify the definition of a peace officer by adding an officer or agency who is licensed under the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES), Act 203 of 1965. The changes to this bill would allow an expansion of officers, including Conservation Officers, able to engage with a person requiring treatment under the Mental Health Code.

- The bill has passed the Senate and House and is awaiting the Governor's signature.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

**SBs 103, 104, 105 – Provide Regulations for Commercial Hunting and Sport Fishing Guides – Sens. Cherry, Daley and McCann:** These bills would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to provide for the licensure and regulation of commercial hunting and sport fishing guides and to provide the Natural Resources Commission with the exclusive authority to regulate hunting and fishing guides.

- The bill has passed the Senate, and has been referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation
- The Administration is in support this legislation.

**HB 4515 – Removes sunset on ORV License Fees – Rep. Hill:** This bill would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to remove the sunset on ORV License Fees.

- The bill passed the House and was referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
- The Administration is in support of this legislation.

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

## ***Division Updates***

### **Executive Division: Stacy Haughey, UP Field Deputy**

*From the June 8, 2023 Natural Resources Commission Meeting:*

#### **Wildlife Conservation Order #7 with Amendments**

Commissioners passed WCO #7 with amendments 6 and 7 on a 5-1 vote. Votes on each individual amendment are below. Those in yellow pertain to the Upper Peninsula.

- **Amendment No. 1 – Commissioner Walters, *amendment dies for lack of a second.***
  - Antlerless only harvest during the Liberty and Independence Hunt
- **Amendment No. 2 – Commissioner Walters *amendment dies for lack of a second.***
  - Antlered or antlerless deer on a single deer license.
- **Amendment No. 3 – Commissioner Walters (*Withdrawn*)**
- **Amendment No. 4 – Commissioner Walters *amendment dies for lack of a second.***
  - Changing opening day dates for all seasons to begin on a Saturday.
- **Amendment No. 5A – Commissioner Walters *fails 4-2 after a Commissioner Nyberg amendment to exempt age 70+ hunters from APRs.***
  - Antler point restrictions, core Tb and CWD zone.
- **Amendment No. 5B – Commissioner Walters *amendment dies for lack of a second.***

- Antler point restrictions.
- **Amendment No. 5C – Commissioner Walters fails 5-1.**
  - Antler point restrictions, DMUs 022, 055, 121, 122, 155, and 255.
- **Amendment No. 5D – Commissioner Walters amendment dies for lack of a second.**
  - Antler point restrictions, Upper Peninsula.
- **Amendment No. 6 – Commissioner Anthony passes 5-1.**
  - Retain existing antlerless structure in the Upper Peninsula.
- **Amendment No. 7 – Commissioner Anthony passes 5-1.**
  - Retain existing restrictions on crossbows in the Upper Peninsula.

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

- **Web:** DNR Web Administrator Julie Ellsworth will be participating in user acceptance testing for the new search tool for the Mi.gov websites coming up in August. A search bar within any agency website with keywords will now list relevant webpages and documents across state government.
- **Social media:** Threads, a new social media platform by Meta, has been embraced by the Michigan DNR. The platform has gained over 100 million users within five days, and it operated in a similar way to Twitter but with more conversational direction in how people use it. We have been developing a strategy on the platform in real time.
- **ARPA communications:** We are continuing to work on ARPA communications, including outreach to inform users about projects that were recently completed. CAMIS, the [closures page on the DNR website](#), and associated park/trail pages have all been updated with messaging on the status of projects.
- **License Sales and Customer Service**
  - The 2024 Snowmobile permits have been printed and were received at the MAI warehouse, where they will be put into inventory and be ready for sale on September 1.
  - The contract for Snowmobile permit distribution between DNR and the Michigan Snowmobile and ORV Association (MISORVA) has been signed by all parties and is in place for 2024. It was finalized after MISORVA's 2023 sales were reconciled and final payment to DNR was made.
  - We will begin offering refresher training for license sales agents twice each year. The training will be similar to the training provided to new agents, though the refresher sessions will be optional for agents who think they would benefit from a procedural review or for their new employees.
- **Shooting Sports and R3 Section Updates**
  - Updating Operational grant to shift funding and provide additional educational/R3 positions
  - Updating Memorandums of Agreement with National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf) and Pheasants Forever (PF). Both partners holding numerous events at state parks this summer.
  - Archery programs' coordinator at numerous events including archery & nutrition event in Detroit, Boys and Girls Club Sports Sampling Event.
  - Partner with Michigan Shooting Centers holding community outreach event July 21 – 23
  - Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies R3 meetings in progress.
  - Virtual attendance at the Internal Hunter Association Education Conference held in Boise, Idaho.
  - Installation of new brass deflectors and tile floor at Sharonville.
  - Installation and outreach are 90% complete for a new Americans with Disability Act trigger mechanism available at Rose Lake.
  - Construction at Barry SGA Range and Porcupine Mountains Shooting Complex is 90% complete.
  - Design for Roscommon Range is 95% with demolition contract being bid and timber removed this fall.
  - Additional sound abatement work at Echo Point Shooting Range in Allegan County 90% complete.
- **Finance and Administration Section**
  - Compiling FY23 third quarter spend plan reports and FY24 spend plans.
  - Completing FY23 purchases within purchasing deadlines.
- **Education Services Section**
  - Bay City State Park Visitor Center renovations proceeding with exhibit installation completed for soft re-opening to occur in early August.

- Nature Awaits, DNR's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade initiative planning has jumped into high gear with hiring, transportation grant design, reservation system design, curriculum development, site selection and marketing planning all in process.
- Despite ARPA construction challenges (closed visitor centers, day-use areas and roads), interpreters rocked the spring school group season with over 14,000 students participating in an interpretive program during a 4-week span.
- The State Park Explorer Program is having a great summer, providing education, experiences and memories for park visitors. We have had a couple of themed weeks this year including "Feathered Friends Weekend" June 16-18 and "Michigan Mammals Week" July 10-18. Our fabulous team of Explorer Guides and Visitor Center staff offered over 85 bird-themed programs during Feathered Friends Weekend and over 175 mammal-themed programs during Michigan Mammals Week, which drew hundreds of program participants. Explorer Guides are busy planning for "Stop the Invasives Week" July 31 – August 6 which will highlight Michigan's Invasive Species and how to prevent their spread.

**Fisheries Division-Eastern UP – Neal Godby, Fisheries Biologist**

- Newberry field staff completed a routine fish community assessment on the Tahquamenon River between Dollarville Flooding and the Upper Falls. This was the first fish community assessment since 2013. A total of 9 stations were surveyed. The crew used an electrofishing boat and surveyed each station for one hour of shocking time. Species captured included northern muskellunge, northern pike, yellow perch, walleye, pumpkinseed sunfish, rock bass, smallmouth bass, white sucker, brown bullhead, golden shiner, common shiner, and an assortment of minnow species. The survey report will not be completed until data is summarized and aging structures are read this winter.
- Walleye rearing ponds were harvested, and walleye were stocked out. Spring fingerling walleye were stocked in the following Eastern Lake Superior Management Unit waters: Bodi Lake (12,000), Little Lake Harbor (3,900), Muskallonge Lake (11,792), and Pike Lake (10,308). Walleye swim-up fry were stocked in the lower Tahquamenon River in May (500,000). The walleye were a St. Marys River strain and were provided in cooperation with Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians.
- Fisheries managers have participated in Forest Resources Division pre-review meetings as part of the compartment review process. The Eastern Upper Peninsula is split into three Management Units for Forest Resources Division (Sault, Newberry, and Shingleton). Fisheries Biologists review timber management proposals and provide comments for surface water protections and appropriate buffers in riparian management zones. Pre-review meetings take place in July and August as part of the compartment review process.
- Gaylord field staff surveyed the Little Rapids area of the St. Marys River as part of an evaluation of a habitat improvement project. In 2016, a bridge was installed in the causeway at the Little Rapids to restore flow to this historic rapids site. We evaluated the subsequent change in the fish community in 2018, and this year we are following up to look at the fish community longer-term.
- A number of waterbodies in the Eastern Upper Peninsula were stocked this spring/summer. See the attached list of waterbodies and fish species. Not yet included in this list are the 124,000 walleye stocked in Potagannissing Bay in a cooperative effort between the DNR, Soo Tribe, and Drummond Island Sportsman's Club. Soo Tribe also stocked walleye in other parts of the St. Marys River.

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

Project Name: Haywire Grade – 11 Bridges	Project Name: Trail 8 – 3 Bridges	Project Name: Bissel Creek Culvert	Project Name: 20 <sup>th</sup> Street Culvert
Description: Engineer and replace 11 bridges	Description: Engineer and replace 3 bridges	Description: Engineer culvert replacement	Description: Replace concrete culverts
Trail Use: ORV/Snowmobile	Trail Use: Snowmobile	Trail Use:	Trail Use: Multi Use
Anticipated Completion: TBD	Anticipated Completion: 2025	Anticipated Completion: 2022	Anticipated Completion: 2023

Q4: Onsite inspection of the bridges with USFS and Engineer complete. Engineer recommends replacing one bridge and redecking the other 10 at a wider width to give more room for grooming operations. Engineer to provide the plans to USFS by early August for their approval.	Q4 Update: The Bear Trap Crossing may be delayed in construction due to the bridge delivery date being in December, the Ionia Crossing should be completed late summer early fall. The Melstrand crossing has not been awarded due to lack of funds. Should be able to award after Oct. 1.	Q4 Update: Project completed, and final inspections and paperwork submittal is currently in process.	Q4 Update: Project awarded; project start date early September.
<b>Project Name: Headquarters Lake Equestrian Signs</b>	<b>Project Name: Millecoquins River Bridge</b>		
Description: Signs and reroute needed.	Description: Snowmobile bridge footing replacement		
Trail Use: Equestrian	Trail Use: Snowmobile		
Anticipated Completion: 2022	Anticipated Completion: 2022		
Q4 Update: Local volunteers are working on completing the signing and the reroute.	Q4 Update: Funding acquired, and the contract is being awarded. Construction should begin early fall.		

**Finance & Operations: Dave Graham, Eastern UP**

2023 Antlerless Access Map – Note changes from 2022, CWD areas removed



All CSC’s will be receiving posters promoting the Hunt and Fish app with a QR code. These will be displayed at every location.

**Season Dates for August & September 2023 (See guides on pages noted for more detail)**

- 8/1 Crow season re-opens (open dates are 8/1 – 9/30 and 2/1 – 3/31)
- 8/1 Deadline for Fall Turkey applications
- 8/1 May apply for Reserved Waterfowl hunts
- 8/1 Hook & Lure size/weight restrictions begin on all streams (through 5/31)
- 8/10 May place bear blinds in Zone 1 and may place bear baits in Zone 1
- 8/14 Fall Turkey Drawing results posted on website
- 8/15 Deadline for U.P. Antlerless Access Permit applications (also Reserved Deer Hunts)

- 8/17 May place bear blinds in Zone 2 (see Bear Digest for baiting dates)
- 8/19-20 Free ORV Weekend (<https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/orv-riding/free-orv>)
- 8/21 Leftover Turkey Licenses on sale (for unsuccessful applicants; OTC for all on 8/28)
- 8/28 Deadline to apply for Reserved Waterfowl
- 8/28 Drawing Results for U.P. Antlerless Access & Reserved Deer posted online
- 8/29 Elk Hunt #1 opens (see Elk Digest for all hunt period dates)
- 9/1 Goose, Teal, Snipe, Rail seasons open (see Waterfowl digest for periods/limits)
- 9/1 May place tree stands, ladders, steps, and Type 3 deer blinds on state land
- 9/2 Sturgeon opens on the Boundary Waters (closes 9/30)
- 9/5 Leftover Deer Access Permits & leftover Reserved Hunts on sale at 10:00 am
- 9/6 Bear hunting begins in the U.P.
- 9/9-10 Liberty Hunt for deer
- 9/9 Bear hunting opens in Lower Peninsula units (no dogs opening weekend; bait only)
- 9/15 Small Game Opener (Rabbit, Hare, Ruffed Grouse, Fox/Gray/Black Squirrel)
- 9/15 Fall Turkey season opens (through 11/14)
- 9/15 Woodcock opener (through 10/29)
- 9/15 Turtle seasons close (Snappers and Softshells)
- 9/15 Can place bait for Deer in U.P. (except in no-bait areas)
- 9/16-17 Early Antlerless Firearm Deer season (see digest for areas)
- 9/16-17 Youth Waterfowl Hunt – includes Veterans and Active Duty personnel
- 9/19 LP Bear firearm seasons end (Note: closes four days prior for bait hunters)
- 9/30 Duck Hunting opens in the North Zone
- 9/30 Crow season closes; Sturgeon closes on Lk. St. Clair, St. Clair R. and Boundary Waters
- 9/30 Trout Season closes on most inland streams
- 9/30 Snowmobile licenses expire

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

Officers have been busy working fish, marine and ORV enforcement, the great weather this summer seems to have elevated all the activity. The Division continues to move forward with the hiring process for new officers with September still being the targeted start date. Below are some of the activity's officers have been involved in since our last CAC.

### **DISTRICT 2 BIWEEKLY REPORT 6-10-2023**

- **COs Steve Butzin and Rob Freeborn** assisted the Northern Michigan University Public Safety Institute police academy in teaching police recruits how to conduct traffic stops. Recruits were taught general motor vehicle, criminal law, and natural resource law as it relates to conducting traffic stops.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was patrolling near Grand Marais when he observed two ORVs approaching him. CO Maki observed the lead ORV operator was not wearing a helmet, so he initiated a stop. The operator stated he was probably being stopped because he wasn't wearing a helmet. CO Maki confirmed his hunch and issued a ticket for failing to wear a helmet before clearing the scene.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was dispatched to a remote camp to assist with an elderly male who was unconscious and unresponsive. CO Maki arrived at the camp and assisted deputies and medical personnel with life saving measures. Unfortunately, the life saving measures taken were unsuccessful.
- **Cpl. Brett DeLonge and CO Andrea Dani** taught a boating safety course at the BOW event on Big Bay. Students learned the rules of the water and were given the opportunity to practice boat operation, docking, trailering, and driving with a trailer.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was patrolling Chippewa County when he encountered a large group of anglers on the Saint Mary's River fishing from shore. Upon checking several licenses, he observed an angler a short distance away set her pole down and walk away. CO VanOosten continued checking anglers until he came across the fishing pole the angler had set down on shore with the line still in the water. CO VanOosten walked to the angler and asked her if the pole was hers which she stated it was not. When confronted with the fact that he had observed her fishing, she finally stated that she had been fishing but stated she didn't know you needed a fishing license to fish. Based on her observed evasive behavior, CO VanOosten was confident that the angler knew better and issued a ticket for failure to display a fishing license. A warning was issued for unattended lines.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on late night marine patrol in Chippewa County when he encountered a vessel returning from a day of fishing well after dark. The boat did not have any navigation lights illuminated. Additionally, the occupants of the vessel were unable to provide any PFDs for the three individuals on board. A ticket was issued for failure to provide PFDs.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on late night marine patrol in Mackinac County when he encountered a group of anglers returning to shore from an evening of fishing. Upon contact, the anglers provided a cooler of walleyes for inspection. Upon measuring the walleye, it was determined that one of the fish was less than 15 inches. Two of the anglers agreed that the fish was indeed under 15 inches and that they should have measured

it better. The owner of the boat disagreed and began taking extreme measures to manipulate and stretch the fish into being 15 inches to no avail. Additionally, the owner of the boat did not have any PFDs aboard the vessel and had failed to display navigation lights at nearly 11:15 PM. A ticket was issued to the owner of the vessel for failure to provide PFDs and a lesson on the proper way to measure fish was given.

- **CO Cole VanOosten** responded to a complaint of a nuisance sow bear and cub that was being fed in Chippewa County. It was reported this couple has been feeding and habituating bears for several seasons. Upon contact with the subjects, they denied any feeding of the animal. CO VanOosten located a large hay feeder in the yard of the residence with residual feed from feeding deer the previous winter. CO VanOosten observed bear scat on the ground and believed the bear was being fed in this location. CO VanOosten advised the couple it would be in the best interest of the bear to remove any potential food sources around. Upon leaving the residence, CO VanOosten observed the bear approaching him and the homeowner. The homeowner called the bear by name. The bear displayed aggressive behavior, charging at the CO and homeowner numerous times. The bear showed very little fear of humans and walked within a few feet of the homeowner. The bear eventually left the location and was reunited with its cub a short distance away. CO VanOosten educated the couple on the dangers of feeding bears, especially when a cub is involved, advising them by feeding the bear and having it lose its fear of humans they are creating a very dangerous situation where the bear may have to be put down. The food sources were cleaned up the following day and no additional complaints have been received.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on patrol in Chippewa County when he observed a motorcycle operating carelessly by riding a wheelie down the state highway. CO Olesen conducted a traffic stop of the motorcycle and ticketed the individual for the offense.
- **Sgt. Calvin Smith** responded to a residence near Sault Ste. Marie where a homeowner had fallen nearly 15 feet to the ground after doing some repair work to his roof. The man was knocked unconscious from the fall but was breathing. Sgt. Smith assisted the Michigan State Police (MSP) Motor Carrier Division and the Sault Ste. Marie Fire Department with transporting the homeowner, who had regained consciousness, to the waiting ambulance.

#### **DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 6-26-2023**

- **COs Steve Butzin and Rob Freeborn**, along with **Escanaba DNR Secretaries JoAnn Alexander and Kari Diffenderfer** conducted a hunter safety field day at the Pocket Park in Escanaba, MI. The class led to 17 students successfully completing the course and receiving their hunter safety certificate.
- **CO Steve Butzin** received a complaint of an individual who was believed to have taken several turkeys out of season. A search warrant was sought on the individual which uncovered several wildlife violations. After collection of evidence and several interviews it was determined that three individuals were involved in taking a total of four turkeys out of season, one 8-point whitetail buck without a license, and loaned or borrowed several whitetail deer hunting licenses. A report is being submitted to the prosecutor's office in both Delta and Dickenson Counties where these violations occurred. If found guilty, these individuals could face a restitution amount totaling \$10,000.
- **CO Steve Butzin** was off duty when he received a complaint from DNR Dispatch around midnight regarding a car v. moose accident near Shingleton, MI. Michigan State Police Troopers from the Schoolcraft post handled the traffic crash. CO Butzin responded to the location and was able to field dress the moose with the help of an MSP Trooper. CO Butzin's winch was not strong enough to pull the moose onto a trailer to transport the animal. CO Andrea Dani responded and was able to assist. With the use of two winches the animal was placed on a trailer and transported to a local meat processor where the animal will be processed and donated to families in need. The driver of the vehicle was treated at the local hospital and released.
- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** were on patrol west of Grand Island when CO Maki noticed an angler reeling in a hidden fourth fishing line. The officers contacted the angler and cited him for fishing with more than three lines.
- **CO Andrea Dani** observed two anglers reeling in their fishing lines as she approached their vessel. She then observed the vessel had an expired registration decal of 2022. The vessel was a rental, and a return of the MC numbers showed it was actually expired three years prior in 2019. Neither angler had a Michigan fishing license. Both anglers were cited for fishing without a license and given a warning for the unregistered vessel.
- **Sgt Mark Zitnik and CO Andrea Dani** were on patrol in Munising Bay when Sgt Zitnik observed a vessel without legible MC numbers/decal. The officers followed the vessel to the dock, where the vessel did not come off of plane until approximately 50' from the dock. The officers found the vessel to have an expired registration for which the operator was cited. The operator was also warned for operating greater than no wake speed within 100' of a dock on the Great Lakes.
- **Sgt Mark Zitnik and CO Andrea Dani** were on patrol near the Pictured Rocks National Park when they observed a PWC operating at high speeds very close to the rocky shoreline. The officers stopped the jet ski, and the operator admitted to travelling at speeds of 50mph within 50' of the shoreline. The operator was cited for operating a PWC at greater than no wake speed within 200' of Great Lakes shoreline.
- **COs Mike Evink, Cole VanOosten, and Andrea Dani** attended Search and Rescue training presented by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC) in Houghton, MI. The officers learned more about Incident Command details, primary search areas, and human behavior and it relates to lost or missing persons, as well as the assets available upon request from the AFRCC.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** assisted MSP in a fugitive arrest who had fled from local officers on several occasions and had several misdemeanor and felony warrants. The subject was even tased weeks prior during an attempted arrest and was able to break free of the probes. The officers received a tip on his location and surrounded the house. The suspect was apprehended shortly after without incident this time.
- **COs Robert Freeborn and Steven Butzin** taught a hunter safety class at the Escanaba pocket park. All students did an outstanding job and were excited to receive their certificates.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** was advised by dispatch of a sinking vessel on Indian Lake. The fisherman was reportedly in the water with a life jacket. CO Freeborn coordinated efforts with the local city police who brought their rescue boat. CO Freeborn located the fisherman in distress and confirmed that the vessel was sinking in large waves, but the fisherman was still in the boat bailing water. A good Samaritan observed the vessel in distress and towed it to the launch. CO Freeborn and the local city police assisted the fisherman load his boat on the trailer.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** was asked by MSP to assist in a welfare check on an individual who lived in a remote section of Schoolcraft County. The officers eventually located the subject's residence and found him in good health. Since the subject lived in such a remote location off the grid, his extended family was unable to make contact with him.

- While on routine ORV patrol on local trails, **CO Robert Freeborn** observed a SUV in front of him with an expired plate. CO Freeborn confirmed the expired plate through dispatch. A citation was issued for the violation.
- **CO Robert Freeborn** received a complaint about a possible Indian burial site on state land. CO Freeborn located the site which appeared to be a memorial site of some kind and did not appear to be that of a burial location. CO Freeborn notified the local Tribal Police for further investigation.
- **COs Rob Freeborn and Cole VanOosten** assisted local law enforcement in the annual St. Ignace Car show. While patrolling the area the first day the COs observed a large group of vehicles impeding traffic and drag racing on I-75. The COs were unable to contact the vehicles because of their high rate of speed down the highway. The following evening, the COs set up a discrete stationary patrol to observe the stretch of interstate. At approximately the same time the group returned and began drag racing. Two vehicles were observed drag racing northbound before exiting and returning southbound where they stopped traffic right in front of the COs vehicle and again started a drag race down I-75. The COs immediately initiated a traffic stop on the two vehicles and citations were issued.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** responded to a call of a boat that had washed ashore on Lake Michigan and item floating out in the lake. Upon arriving the item spotted by the reporting party was determined to be a piece of driftwood. Contact was made with the owner of the vessel who stated the boat had floated away from where it was moored.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on patrol in Chippewa County when two ORVs were observed operating on a State Highway. A stop was conducted on the ORVs which were also observed not operating to the far right and were operating their ORV's at speed greater than 25 mph. Citations were issued for failing to operate their ORV's to the extreme right and verbal warnings were given for the other violations.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on patrol in Chippewa County when he observed smoke coming across a roadway. CO Olesen approached the area and observed the open burning of debris in a yard adjacent to a State Highway. CO Olesen contacted the owner of the residence who said that they were just burning old wood. When asked what they had to put the fire out in case it escaped, the homeowner pointed towards a five-gallon bucket of water. They were informed about the current burn restrictions put in place and that burn permits were not being issued. A citation was issued for burning without a permit and the homeowner was directed to extinguish the fire which took several buckets of water.

#### **DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 7-10-2023**

- **CO Andrea Dani** was on patrol in Grand Marais when she observed an ORV on State Highway M-77. CO Dani stopped the side-by-side and found the occupants were not wearing their safety belts. CO Dani cited the operator for the safety belt violation and gave him a warning for operating an ORV on a public highway.
- **CO Andrea Dani** observed three anglers brook trout fishing the AuTrain River. Upon contact, one angler was found to not have purchased a fishing license. The angler admitted to just purchasing the bait they were using at a nearby store that sells fishing licenses. The angler was cited for fishing without a license.
- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** were on patrol on Lake Superior near Grand Island when CO Maki observed a boat with an expired registration. The COs stopped the boat and verified the registration was expired through SOS. The operator was issued a citation for operating an unregistered watercraft.
- **CO Michael Evink** conducted a marine safety patrol of Indian Lake over the Fourth of July holiday weekend. CO Evink was concentrating his efforts on marine violations. While marine activity was high, so was compliance. CO Evink did issue a ticket for failing to display a fishing license.
- **CO Michael Evink** responded to a dead bear complaint. CO Evink conducted an investigation and was able to determine that the complainant had been having issues with bears and fired a shot. CO Evink is compiling a report to submit to the prosecutor's office to determine appropriate charges.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was patrolling towards Grand Marais on State Highway M77 when he observed a side by side operating on the shoulder of the highway. CO Maki initiated a traffic stop on the ORV and contacted the lone occupant. The gentleman stated he always drives his side by side from his camp down the highway into town. CO Maki informed the driver if he must go down the highway his ORV needs to be trailered to the destination. CO Maki issued the driver a citation for operating on a public highway and cleared the scene.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was at Grand Sable Lake in Grand Marais for an aquatic invasive species event when he observed a side by side come to the boat launch. The ORV had an expired 2022 sticker on the back. CO Maki waved the driver to come speak to him and at this time the side by side almost struck a parked boat trailer. CO Maki contacted the side-by-side driver who was a 15-year-old girl who had 3 passengers all of which were juveniles. One of the passengers wasn't wearing a seat belt. CO Maki called the juveniles father and followed the side by side back to town. CO Maki met with the parents of the juvenile and explained what had happened. CO Maki issued a citation for no ORV sticker and gave warnings for failure to supervise, no seatbelt, and careless operation. The parents were understanding and thanked CO Maki before he cleared the scene.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was patrolling Petes lake when he contacted a vessel with four people that had been fishing. CO Maki asked how fishing was and they replied that it was very good. They stated they had 5 pike that they had kept. CO Maki asked to see them, and they pulled a stringer out of a 5-gallon bucket. One fish appeared to be much shorter than the 24" minimum. CO Maki had them hand over the short fish which measured out at 18" inches. One of the fishermen stated that it had died before they could release it so they kept it so it wouldn't go to waste. CO Maki had the fishermen hand over the remaining fish. After measuring all the fish, the biggest was only 23". CO Maki cited one adult fisherman for the undersized pike. CO Maki gave the fishermen a 2023 fishing guide and cleared the scene after seizing the undersized pike.
- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** were patrolling past the Forest Lake Basin when they observed a vehicle parked near the dam. CO Dani and Maki walked up to the dam and observed 2 adults and one juvenile fishing in a canoe. CO Maki checked their fishing licenses and asked to see their PFDs. The Juvenile was wearing a PFD however the two adults stated they did not have any on board with them. CO Maki issued a citation to one individual for no PFD.
- **COs Brandon Maki and Andrea Dani** were patrolling around Grand Island when a vessel underway with an expired registration was observed. A stop was initiated and the operator was issued a citation for failing to register the vessel. On the same patrol two PWCs were observed

operating in Murrays Bay without any registration numbers. COs contacted the riders near shore and observed another vessel with a Wisconsin registration number and a Michigan registration sticker. A citation for failing to register the PWC was issued, and warnings given for the other two vessels before clearing the scene.

- **CO Justin Vinson** was patrolling the Les Cheneaux Islands when he observed a personal watercraft (PWC) being with an expired registration. A stop of the PWC was conducted revealing that the operator was 14 years old. Officer Vinson followed the juvenile to their residence. Once at the residence Officer Vinson cited the parent of the operator for allowing a juvenile under the age of 16 years of age to operate a PWC without supervision. A warning was given for operating a PWC with expired registration.
- **CO Justin Vinson** was patrolling north of Paradise for ORV activity when he observed a Jeep exit the roadway and drive into a sand pit on state land. The Jeep began doing donuts and a stop was conducted. After further investigation it was revealed, the Jeep was being operated with expired an expired registration. A citation was issued for operating on state land, and a warning was given for operating a motor vehicle with expired registration.
- **CO Justin Vinson** was patrolling outside of Grand Marias for ORV activity when he observed a side by side with individuals operating without seatbelts or a valid ORV license. A citation was issued for operating an ORV without a license and a warning was given for not wearing seatbelts.
- **CO Mike Olesen** patrolled Chippewa County over the holiday weekend for ORV violations. During the patrols many contacts were made, violations observed and cited during the patrol were fail to license ORV, operate ORV without a helmet, and operate a side-by-side without a seatbelt. Warnings were given for operate ORV on state highway and operate area closed to ORV traffic.
- **CO Mike Olesen and Sgt. Calvin Smith** patrolled the St. Mary's River checking anglers and boaters. During the patrol a vessel was checked on Lake Huron fishing for Lake Trout. During the check it was determined that the boat was not displaying proper registration along with their not being the required number of life jackets for the passengers on board. The operator of the vessel was cited for failing to provide PFD and a warning was given for not displaying a valid registration.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on marine patrol when he contacted two anglers fishing. Upon contact the angler stated that he was unable to purchase his fishing license because he lost his wallet which contained his driver's license. The man also stated that he always buys his license every year. Upon running a file on the man it was determined that he hadn't had a valid driver's license for over ten years and had not had a valid fishing license since 2016. CO VanOosten advised the man of his attempted deception and issued a citation for fishing without a license.
- **COs Justin Vinson and Cole VanOosten** were on marine patrol of Alger County when they contacted two anglers. Upon seeing the COs one angler reeled in and placed his fishing poles on the bottom of the vessel. Upon asking for fishing licenses the one man presented a non-resident license. The other man stated he had just renewed his but left it in his truck. A license check revealed that the man with the non-resident license did not have a valid fishing license. A citation was issued for fishing without a license.
- **COs Steve Butzin, Cole VanOosten, and Corporal Mike Hammill** were on marine patrol when they observed a man fishing. Upon approaching the COs watched the man reel in a fishing pole and put it on the bottom of the vessel. Upon contact, the man still had three fishing lines in the water and admitted to fishing more than three lines. A citation was issued to the man for fishing with more than three lines.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was returning from a marine patrol around Drummond Island when he encountered an ORV operating on a state highway. Additionally, the ORV did not display an ORV license. A traffic stop was conducted and upon contact, it was observed that the operator also did not have his seatbelt on. The operator was upset that he was even pulled over and stated that he hadn't needed an ORV sticker in the last three years and that he always sees people operating on the highway. CO VanOosten reminded the individual with a citation that he needed to purchase an ORV license to operate his ORV off private property. Warnings were issued for no seatbelt and operating on the state highway.

#### **DISTRICT 2 BI-WEEKLY REPORT 07-24-2023**

- **CO Steve Butzin** received a complaint of several dumped deer carcasses. When the CO responded to the location it was discovered that the remains were skeletonized. After a search of the area evidence was discovered as to who one of the carcasses belonged to. Further investigation found that one individual shot a 4-point whitetail buck and used the license of another. A report has been submitted to the 94<sup>th</sup> District Court of Delta County.
- **CO Andrea Dani** was returning from Survival Tactics Training in Marquette County when she observed two four-wheelers operating south-bound on M-95. CO Dani initiated a traffic stop on the four-wheelers. One of the riders did not have a helmet, and neither had ORV licenses. CO Dani issued the first a citation for operating an ORV without a helmet and gave him a warning for operating on the public highway as well as no ORV license. CO Dani issued the second a citation for operating an ORV without an ORV license and warned him for operating on the public highway.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was patrolling the Au Train River for life jackets, litter, and excess alcohol. CO Maki was speaking with a group of kayakers and canoers and asked if they had all their PFDs with them. They replied they had them, however, CO Maki could clearly see only one life jacket in a canoe that was occupied by two men. After confirming there was only one life jacket in the canoe, the intoxicated man became irritated and tried to paddle down the river to get away. CO Maki suggested it would be in the man's best interest to come back to shore or he wouldn't be finishing the rest of his canoe trip. CO Maki issued the man a citation for failing to carry a PFD in his vessel and then cleared the scene.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was patrolling along M28 near Shingleton when a vehicle passed him at a high rate of speed. CO Maki accelerated to 88 MPH and the vehicle was still pulling away. CO Maki initiated a traffic stop and issued a citation for speeding before clearing the stop.
- **CO Brandon Maki** was on his way to check a trout lake when he met a side by side traveling at a high rate of speed. CO Maki observed expired ORV stickers on the rear of the vehicle and turned around. After a short time, CO Maki caught up to the side by side where it had stopped on the side of the road. CO Maki informed the occupants that the ORV stickers were expired, and they explained that they must have fallen off. CO Maki was in the process of issuing a citation when the driver held out a valid ORV sticker out the window. The sticker had been bought in April and never made its way onto the machine. CO Maki issued a citation for failing to display their decal and made them attach it to the machine before clearing the scene.

- **COs Rob Freeborn and Brandon Maki** patrolled Lake Michigan near the Fairport area and contacted approximately 100 boaters/fishermen. COs Freeborn and Maki issued two citations for fishing with too many lines and one citation for failing to display a fishing license.
- **COs Justin Vinson, Mike Oleson, Cole VanOosten, Mike Evink, Rob Freeborn, Cpl. Todd Sumbera and Sgt. Calvin Smith** conducted several patrols for the 99<sup>th</sup> annual Bayview Yacht race that started in Port Huron and ends at Mackinac Island. No major issues were encountered or reported during the race.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on marine patrol when he encountered a group of young trout fishermen. Through conversation it was determined that one of the fishermen had caught and kept 6 Brook trout and was continuing to fish. The young anglers appeared to be uncertain of the law. CO VanOosten educated the angler that the daily limit for Brook trout was 5 fish, and the minimum size limit was 7". The young anglers were appreciative of the warning they were given.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on marine safety patrol of the Pretty Lake quiet area when he encountered two anglers fishing and a third individual standing near a fire at the campsite. The occupants of the campsite had failed to pay and post their rustic campsite registration. CO VanOosten contacted the individual on shore regarding the camping violations. While contacting the man, one of the men fishing bent over and put his fishing pole in a patch of cattails before coming out to greet the CO. The other angler continued fishing. Upon asking for their fishing licenses, the man that had hid his fishing pole stated that he was not fishing. The other man stated he did not have a fishing license and it was his first time ever fishing. When questioned about hiding his fishing pole, the man admitted to hiding it and retrieved it from the weeds. The man eventually admitted to fishing without a license, which had already been observed by the CO. A citation was issued to the man who hid his fishing pole for fishing without a license and a warning was given to the first-time fishermen who was honest about the infraction. CO VanOosten gave him 24 hours to purchase a fishing license.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were on marine patrol of the St. Mary's River when they encountered a man fishing for Atlantic Salmon. Upon inspection of the cooler, it was determined that the man had caught four Atlantic Salmon, one over the daily limit. The man received a citation for taking overlimit of Atlantic Salmon. The fish were seized and donated to a local family.
- **CO Cole VanOosten** was on ORV patrol when he encountered a man fishing a trout lake. After observing the angler catch several trout over the course of an hour and a half, the angler returned to his vehicle as a storm was approaching. CO VanOosten contacted the man, and it was determined that the man had kept four Brook Trout over 15". A citation was issued to the angler for taking an overlimit of Brook Trout in a class A lake.
- **CO Cole VanOosten and Sgt. Calvin Smith** were on marine safety patrol of Chippewa County when they observed a boat towing a tube of children after sunset. The boat did not have any navigation lights illuminated and had an expired registration. A stop was conducted, and it was determined that the driver did not have a personal floatation device (PFD) aboard. A citation was issued to the man for failure to provide PFD.
- **CO Mike Olesen** was on patrol of the lower St. Mary's River when he observed a vessel operating with an expired registration. A stop was conducted of the vessel to address the violation. During the stop the vessel was checked for proper safety equipment and a citation for operating an unregistered vessel was given to the captain.
- **CO Mike Olesen** received a complaint of individuals snagging Atlantic Salmon off the old fishing pier in Sault Ste. Marie. CO Olesen responded to the scene where he observed two individuals casting silver spider snagging hooks in an attempt to snag fish. They were contacted and determined to be members of the Sault Sainte Marie Tribe. They were checked for proper subsistence licensing to be using the current technique it was determined neither possessed the proper licenses. A citation was issued for one individual into the Sault Tribal Court and a report is being submitted to cover the violations.

## **Wildlife Division: Dave Lemmien, UP Wildlife Supervisor (submitted by Heather Shaw, Wildlife Biologist)**

### **Projects and Outreach**

- Work is being done to enhance 1.5 miles of the Blind Sucker Pathway into a Wildlife Activity Trail with interactive stops along the trail and activity backpacks that can be checked out. An event is planned for Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at the Blind Sucker Campground where there will be guided hikes and prizes for those who attend.
- A tree planting event in partnership with MUCC and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers is being planned for August 26<sup>th</sup> at the Garden Grade GEMS, volunteers still needed and lunch is provided, register here: [Michigan United Conservation Clubs \(neoncrm.com\)](http://neoncrm.com)
- Staff conducted goose banding and worked together with partners to band 93 geese in the far eastern UP, with the 213 birds banded on the west side, staff met our UPR quota with 306 birds total!
- Research team collared a male bear on Drummond Island (first in the past ~30 years) and set out cameras as an alternative for Drummond bear abundance survey.
- WLD staff completed their annual bear bait index survey to monitor species presence/abundance across Drummond Island.
- Three Shores CISMA, Sault Tribe and The Nature Conservancy partners conducted European Frog bit removals, and invasive species treatments across the Maxton Plains (high quality alvar glade community) where very rare plant species are present.

- Wildlife staff and partners from Luce County MSU Extension and the Zellar Meadows Trail hosted 2 community bird house decorating nights and an event for those in the community to walk the Zellar Meadows Trail and see the decorated bird houses that were installed along the trail system.
- Duck banding will be occurring into August with a regional goal to band 100 mallards and 100 wood ducks.
- Staff are busy checking and maintaining wildlife floodings, GEMS, and other wildlife areas.

### **Nuisance Wildlife Complaints**

- Nuisance complaints have been very active as tourism peaks and available food sources from the public increase. We hope that complaints begin to slow as woodland food sources become readily available.
- Bear calls are one of the top nuisance wildlife complaints received this time of year. To avoid bear problems, we encourage people to take down bird feeders, remove or secure any other items that could attract bear including garbage and pet foods, and keep grills clean and unavailable. Encourage neighbors to do the same!

### **State Forest Management**

- Wildlife staff are conducting forest inventory in the field during spring and summer months in concert with the foresters. Watch for open house opportunities to become familiar with forest treatments later this summer and fall.
- Land transactions, state forest boundary reviews, and other land use reviews are ongoing in all units.
- These plans can be viewed, and comments can be made in the interactive MI State Forest Map through the DNR's web site:  
<https://midnr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=43579d040c7d4860b125e405f531d465>

### **Habitat Management**

- Continued opening maintenance is occurring throughout the region, herbaceous plantings within openings, GEMS and deer wintering complexes are completed throughout July-Aug and typically include clover and rye to benefit the annual needs of deer and upland game birds.
- Hunter walking trail improvements continue prior to small game opener Sept 15.

## **Forest Resources Division: Scott Lakosky, Eastern UP Supervisor**

### **Timber Sales**

- Newberry Forest Management Unit
  - 10 sales offered for bid since last report. 8 sales have been offered at the time of this report and 2 more at the end of July. Upland pine drew the most interest. 2 sales went no bid, they were mixed stands in remote areas.
  - Timber sale harvesting activity has been below average for this time of year. Markets have been volatile and have recently seen a slowdown in most every local mill.
  - All staff have been involved in preparing annual timber sales and much work has been accomplished thus far by both DNR staff and contractors.
- Sault Ste. Marie Management Unit
  - 2 sales offered since last report. 1 sold while the other went “no bid”. 3 sales scheduled for August bid dates. Generally poor markets for most species with most activity occurring on pine sales.
- Shingleton Forest Management Unit
  - 2 sales offered since last report. Both sales went “no bid” but were subsequently purchased at minimum bid price. Both sales were good quality pine with good access. The lack of interest in these sales is likely a result of the current market conditions. Both hardwood and softwood pulp continue to be difficult to sell.

### **Forest Inventory**

- Field work for the 2025 planning year is nearly complete. Staff are finalizing forest treatment prescriptions and preparing for the review cycle of these treatments to begin.
- Open House dates: Sault Ste. Marie – September 7<sup>th</sup>, Shingleton – September 21<sup>st</sup>, Newberry - October 5<sup>th</sup>

## **Cultivation**

- Trenching
  - Approximately 400 acres of trenching completed with an additional 900 acres planned. Work done by DNR staff.
  - Roller Chopping
  - 400 acres to be roller chopped by DNR staff. Some equipment delays impacting the schedule.
  - Scarification
  - 800 acres scheduled to be scarified utilizing contract labor and equipment. The contractor is currently in the West UP with plans to be in the East UP starting August 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Herbicide Application – All spraying done through contract.
  - Site Preparation: Aerial application – 648 acres completed; ground application – 352 acres completed.
- Release – Planned for August and September
  - Aerial application – 280 acres planned; ground application – 50 acres planned.
- Red Pine Seed Orchard – Schoolcraft County
  - Mechanical preparation is complete.
  - Fertilizer application planned for Spring 2024
- Red Pine seed production project – Luce County: Delayed until Spring 2024 due to logistical challenges.

## **Fire**

- Staffing and Fire Response
  - Daily staffing thru June/July for Fire Danger as needed. Staffing needs continued much further into June and July due to lack of significant rainfall.
  - DNR Staff responded to 8 fires in the EUP since last report. 3 required suppression action and totaled 13.3 acres burned.
  - 6 EUP Staff assisted with wildfires and prescribed burns in the Lower Peninsula.
- Prescribed Burns
  - Planning efforts continue for prescribed burns. Both FRD funded site preparation burns and Wildlife funded opening maintenance burns planned.
- Training
  - Delivered several fire refresher courses to local Fire Departments
  - 1 Fire Officer attended the Power line and Railroad Fire Investigation Training in Duluth Minnesota.
  - 4 Staff completed necessary training and experience to advance their fire qualifications. Qualifications earned included Engine Operator, Advanced Firefighter, Incident Commander, Firing Boss, Heavy Equipment Boss, and Crew Strike Team Leader.
- Prevention
  - Participated in Luce County Emergency Management Planning Meeting
  - Completed Lake Superior Dunes Subdivision Fire WUI Assessment
  - Participated in Independence Day Parades: Curtis, Sault Ste. Marie, Munising, Manistique
  - Participated in Curtis Library Touch a Truck Day for Prevention Programming
  - Smokey Bear Appearances/Presentations: Chippewa, Mackinac, Luce Community Action, 24 children, ages 1-3 years old
  - Curtis Library, 20 elementary school aged kids
- Equipment
  - Quarterly preventative maintenance inspections were completed on all fire equipment in the EUP.
  - Rebuilt 2 irrigation pipe trailers.
  - The Sault Ste. Marie Office received a new F-350 pickup to replace an aging brush truck.
- Assisted in interviews for Non-Career Fire Officer positions.

## **Road and Bridge**

- DNR Staff repaired portions of forest roads that were damaged from spring runoff. One large washout in Mackinac County was repaired as a joint effort between Parks and Recreation Division and Forest Resources Division at a cost of \$42,000.

- 4 Luce County stream crossing upgrades along the Charcoal Grade and Camp 7 Road are scheduled to be replaced this summer: Ottobrandt Bridge, Penny Creek Bridge, Savage Creek Bridge, Linton Creek Culvert.
- Replacement of the Murphy Creek Bridge along Murphy Creek Trail in Luce County is currently being conducted, old bridge has been removed, new bridge is being installed.
- The Beaverview bridge site in Schoolcraft County is prepped for the new bridge to be installed later this summer. The crossing will be used to access a large block of state-owned land for timber harvest operations.
- The Mint Farm Road in Schoolcraft County is being prepped for pit run gravel to repair large mud holes.
- The Portage Bay Road in Delta County was graded.
- Construction has begun on Spile Dam Rd in Chippewa County to install 6 equalization culverts, gravel, and perform brushing to improve nearly 2 miles of road.
- New bridge construction has begun near the Stanley Lake Wildlife Flooding in Schoolcraft County.

### **Facilities**

- Construction continues on the new Fire Shop in Manistique.
- Graded Newberry Field Office driveways and parking areas.
- Arranged for removal of scrap metal at various offices.
- Improvements to the Shingleton Fire Shop are wrapping up.

### **Land Use**

- Working to resolve a few recently discovered trespass cases involving timber and roads. Also reviewing applications for various uses and easements on state land.

### **Vacancies**

- Filled Vacancies
  - Fire Officer Supervisor at Newberry.
  - Forester at Shingleton.
- In process to fill
  - Fire Officer vacancy at Newberry.
  - 2 Foresters, 1 each in the Newberry and Sault Ste. Marie Units.
  - 2 Forest Technicians, 1 each in the Shingleton and Sault Ste. Marie Units.
  - Inventory and Planning Specialist in the EUP.
- Other
  - A Forester in the Sault Ste. Marie Unit accepted a limited-term assignment as a Statewide Cruise Protocol Implementation Specialist.
  - The current Sault Ste. Marie Unit Manager will be retiring at the end of August.
  - A Fire Officer in the Sault Ste. Marie Office was promoted to a lead Fire Officer in Brighton and will start in his new position August 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Commercial Forest**

- Field inspections for land exams of new Commercial Forest enrollments.
- Field compliance checks of existing Commercial Forest lands.
- Reviewing management plans and discussing with landowners and consultants.

### **Forest Health**

- Limited Spruce Budworm defoliation has been observed from the ground with a few small pockets of intense defoliation mapped during aerial surveys.
- A few small pockets of Spongy Moth defoliation were mapped in West Mackinac and South Luce Counties. Additional aerial surveys are planned in Luce and Schoolcraft Counties.

## **Snowmobile**

- Field Staff are working with local snowmobile clubs to prepare grant applications for the upcoming snowmobile season.

## **Wyman State Forest Nursery**

- Development of the process for hardwood production continues.
- Deer exclusion fencing has been installed around the hardwood production area.
- Red Pine Seed Orchard activities continue with grub infestation posing significant challenges.

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

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

- Lime Island Harbor upgrade project: Substantial completion for this project was in May. Still waiting on a couple items for final closeout.
- Brimley utility improvement (waterline/storm water replacement): On May 15<sup>th</sup>, a 90% design meeting was held.
- Brimley Restroom/Shower Building Project: Contractor continues to address punch list items.
- A pre-bid meeting for the development of a Lime Island Cultural Resource plan was held on July 21<sup>st</sup>.
- All units have hired state worker summer staff-all units fully staffed or close to it.
- DeTour Ranger vacancy: Screened candidates sent to HR for approval to interview.
- Brimley PI Ranger position-waiting for approval to offer.
- Brimley: Modern campground has been full every weekend since June 30<sup>th</sup>, with 30-40 sites available during the weekdays.
- DeTour State Harbor: Seasonal slips are full and transient boating numbers are comparable to 2022 to date.
- Lime Island Recreation Area: Cabin rentals are comparable to 2022 to date.
- DeTour & Munuscong State Forest Campground: Both campgrounds have been busy on the weekends with a few vacancies during the weekdays.
- Brimley & DeTour Rangers and state worker have been busy serving/accommodating visitors, making minor repairs, mowing, and keeping facilities clean.
- Brimley State Park had an electrical issue on 5-27-23, which was causing low voltage to Campground Office, headquarters building and pump station. A break in one of the underground primaries was located and repaired on 6-15-23.
- Lime Island has been hosting a LSSU student this summer to observe and collect data on the Common Tern nesting season. This arrangement is through a grant with DNR Wildlife.

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

- New Hand Pump well locations have been determined for Kingston and Canoe Lake State Campgrounds. New wells will be drilled towards the end of August.
- Consultant firm has been selected for the new toilet shower buildings, lagoon upgrade, waterlines, and dump station upgrades at Indian Lake State Park.
- Contractor is working with Coleman Engineering to come up with a solution for the pump seals failures at Palms Book State Park lift station.
- Straight Stitch is working to complete the new canopy on Palms Book raft.
- Barker Construction was awarded the bid to install new shingles on the gift shop roof at Seul Choix Lighthouse.
- Lake Gogebic Construction Crew will be working on fixing a section of board walk at Wagner Falls possibly towards the end of August if time permits.
- Hired one additional state worker 4 to help with staff shortage.
- Had vandalism damage to the vault toilet at the Thompson boating access site and had several complaints with littering. Along with park staff, the Michigan State Police will help with extra patrols at this site.
- Palms Book State Park was extremely busy over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend with raft wait times nearing 2.5 to 3 hours.

### **Muskallonge Lake State Park**

- Underground Utilities: Design and engineering is in progress for an upgraded wastewater sanitary system including a new lagoon system. Sanitary line replacement currently anticipated for late summer/fall of 2024.
- West Campground Toilet/Shower Building: A pre-bid meeting for the west toilet/shower replacement was held on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Several contractors were onsite for the meeting. Bids for this project are currently being accepted with an awardable bid this project could start Mid-September 2023.
- Campground Road Paving: Currently in design phase but looking at a possibility of late summer/early fall of 2024 for construction.
- Jeff Freeborn has been promoted to Ranger A Lead Worker. Jeff has been a long-time Ranger at Muskallonge Lake and brings great leadership and knowledge to this position.
- Explorer guide programs having been well attended so far this season with educational programs occurring 4 days a week.
- The campground at Muskallonge Lake has been busy with attendance at average to slightly above.
- The Lake Superior Overlook Day Use has been extremely busy with above average attendance. Rock hunters are exploring Lake Superior shoreline 24 hours a day.
- A Land Use Order has been approved by the NRC to allow parking and 24-hour access to the Lake Superior beach within the park to accommodate the current popularity of “Yoopers lite” hunters.
- State Forest campground use was average with Lake Superior and Blind Sucker 2 with the highest attendance.
- County Road 407 construction has closed the roadway just west of Blind Sucker 1 campground. All facilities remain open but can only be accessed from the east.

### **Newberry Field Office**

- Received new JCB 4CX backhoe.
- Received new Mean Green electric zero turn lawn mower.
- Sign repair and replacement at boating access sites and state forest campgrounds.
- Ramp erosion repairs at unit boating access sites.
- Site improvement at Seul Choix Point boating access site.
- The state forest campgrounds overseen by the field office were approximately 90% full for Fourth of July weekend and week.
- Milakokia Lake state forest campground was the busiest site over the holiday.

### **Straits State Park & Mackinac Island State Harbor**

- Straits upper toilet shower buildings reached a partial substantial completion and opened on July 21 with temporary doors.
- Mackinac Island Harbor toilet shower building opened for the season July 12. The building is well received but there have been warranty issues ongoing.
- Prebid meeting was held for replacement of the sanitary lift station at Father Marquette. Bids are due in a couple of weeks.
- Campsite improvements have been ongoing in campground.
- Straits is short 2 state worker positions as staff resigned part way through the year.
- Mackinac Island Harbor still has state worker positions to fill.
- With the new toilet shower buildings still under construction and the upper campground not open, the National Wild Turkey Federation program was cancelled.
- Mackinac Island hosted the Port Huron to Mackinac finish and the Chicago to Mackinac race will come in on July 23.
- The Native American POW WOW is scheduled to happen August 25-27 at the Father Marquette Memorial.
- Lower campground has been full as it is the only section of park open for camping. The entire campground is full for the July 21 opening of the upper toilet shower buildings.
- State forest campground use was steady and picking up as we move into later July.
- With all of the ARPA money and projects out there it is difficult to work with contractors as they are spread thin and trying to do more than they can.

- Even with the higher wage it is still difficult to fill state worker positions. When staff leave mid-summer, there are no applications in standby.

### **Tahquamenon Falls State Park**

- Lower Falls Concession Store Remodel/Replacement project: The new parking lot and pedestrian walkways were paved and are now open for public use. The project is close to substantial completion.
- Lower Falls Boat Concession/Island Redevelopment project: Hiking trail work around the island was completed and the project reached substantial completion. A few punch list items still need to be completed.
- Whitefish Point State Harbor Phase 1 Improvements: This project is in design with the project team looking at baseline improvements that allow the site to meet ADA guidelines and allow for the new docks to be adjustable as lake levels change. This project is awaiting capital outlay funds for construction.
- Lower Falls Hemlock Toilet/Shower Building Replacement: Is currently out for construction bids, with construction slated to start on October 1<sup>st</sup> and be completed on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2024.
- Lower Falls Portage Campground Electrical Upgrades: Working thru design right now with construction anticipated in late summer/fall 2024.
- Rivermouth Employee Maintenance Garage: In design with anticipated construction occurring during 2024.
- Upper Falls Brink redevelopment: In the early planning stages with the goal to make the brink viewing experience accessible via a switch backed boardwalk system replacing the aging stairway structure. Construction is anticipated to occur in 2025.
- Lower Falls Water Distribution Upgrades: Will include new water wells for the Lower Falls Unit. Design has not started yet.
- Upper Falls Wastewater: The design consultants have initiated soil borings as a first step to identify a location for an additional wastewater lagoon. No timetable for potential construction has been identified yet.
- Upper Falls/Lower Falls Traffic Congestion Study & Lower Falls Boardwalk Repair: Have not begun yet.
- Interviews were conducted June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> for a seasonal park ranger position. John Clark was the chosen candidate and will be starting work August 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The annual Two Hearted Trail Marathon took place June 24<sup>th</sup>. The race was successful with over 120 runners participating.